

Regional Unified Health Research Agenda

The Philippine National Health Research System, with its goal to enhance health status through research, generates the National Unified Health Research Agenda (NUHRA) as one of its core areas, alongside ethics, utilization, resource mobilization, system monitoring and evaluation, and capacity building. While the NUHRA serves as the country's template for health research and development efforts, the Regional Unified Health Research Agenda (RUHRA) is more relevant to regional problems and gives direction at the regional level.

The RUHRA presents the identified health research priorities. It should guide researchers and funders alike in the development of more relevant health research in the region for the next six years.

In terms of technologies and innovative products, the region aims to become a hub for research, development, and innovations in Mindanao, as well as in the country. Various technological developments were evident due in part by the intensive collaboration between public and private sectors. There are also various sectoral organizations that aim to promote and address public health concerns. The health research priorities identified for Region IX are anchored on the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD) Regional Research Fund (RRF) and the Department of Health (DOH) Health Systems Research Fund (HSRF) Initiative.

REGIONAL UNIFIED HEALTH RESEARCH AGENDA 2017-2022

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Regional Consultation

Regional Health Research Priorities

The Regional Health Research and Development Consortium (RHRDC) of each region was included in the identification process of health research priorities through the conduct of a consultation. The regional consultation for Region IX was held on 15-16 May 2017 facilitated by the Alliance for Improving Health Outcomes, Inc. The consultation was attended by 30 participants. Their input, together with technical papers and situationers that defined the national and regional status of health research, was considered in the formulation of the NUHRA and RUHRA.

The research priorities and perceived needs of each representative were raised through small focus group discussions, with participants grouped into three categories: academe, health agencies, and line agencies. Groups suggested research topics, which were prioritized using criteria with designated scoring weights established by the stakeholders. The themes were ranked using the following criteria:

- impact at 25%,
- magnitude at 20%,
- applicability at 15%,
- relevance at 15%,
- urgency at 15%, and
- feasibility at 10%.

After the consultation, ZCHRD made final changes to the research topics in order to further cater to the health needs of the region and came up with 12 final themes.



Research utilization

Researches on research management and translation



Behavioral health and well-being

Researches on risk factors associated with mental health and substance abuse



Women and children

Researches that evaluate programs on maternal and child health



Indigenous and traditional medicine

Researches on existing knowledge on and efficacy of indigenous and herbal medicine



Drug development

Researches on drug development using locally available plants and other resources



Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation

Researches for a more resilient health system



Operational research projects

Researches to evaluate health programs and policies



Non-communicable, communicable, and infectious diseases

Researches on risk factors linked with emerging and re-emerging health issues



ICT, science, technology, and innovation

Researches on development of technologies for better health services



Health human resource and development

Researches on human resource policies, capacity, and capacity building



Health financing

Researches on PhilHealth case rates



Health and society

Researches on inequities that affect the population's health