

# 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.

Recent published health research projects in the Bicol Region primarily revolved around the themes of *"herbal in various forms"* and *"environment and climate change."* Majority of published research, however, was not directly related to previously established research priorities. In the current RUHRA, the improvement of health service delivery is given the highest priority. Other research priorities include environmental health, venereal diseases, non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and human resources for health (HRH).

## REGIONAL UNIFIED HEALTH RESEARCH AGENDA 2017-2022

## REGION V BICOL REGION



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## Regional Consultation

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 V was held at Hotel Venezia, Legazpi City, Albay on 10-11 May 2017 facilitated by the Alliance for Improving Health Outcomes, Inc. Twenty-seven participants attended the regional consultation. Their input, together with technical papers and situationers defining 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 service providers, and government agencies. Groups suggested research topics and a representative from each presented these to the plenary. Ten general themes were established. These themes were prioritized using criteria with designated scoring weights established by the stakeholders. The themes were ranked using the following criteria:

- impact (40%),
- urgency (30%),
- feasibility (15%), and
- responsiveness to national and regional policies and goals (15%).

## Regional Health Research Priorities



### Health services

Researches on various aspect of health services, including health care delivery and human resources for health



### Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation

Researches on disaster management and climate change impact on health



### Policy and governance

Researches that assess policies on health professionals, service delivery, research, and human resources



### Food safety and related diseases

Researches on food and water safety, including preparation practices and implementation of vendors



### Environmental health

Researches on waste management, compliance to environmental regulations, and health hazards of mining



### HIV/AIDS

Researches on prevention, control, and management of human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome



### Lifestyle-related diseases

Researches on risk factors for lifestyle-related diseases



### Health technology development

Researches on drug and other natural product development using local resources and materials



### Migration and health

Researches on possible health risks and hazards posed by migration



### Substance abuse

Researches on substance abuse issues and effectiveness of interventions