

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 the current RUHRA, areas of highest priority are both communicable and non-communicable diseases, as well as maternal, adolescent, and child health. Others such as drug development, disaster risk reduction, and health governance are also included.

REGIONAL UNIFIED HEALTH RESEARCH AGENDA 2017-2022

REGION VII CENTRAL VISAYAS



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National Unified Health Research Agenda 2017-2022

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 VII was held at the Golden Prince Hotel, Cebu City on 11-12 May 2017 facilitated by the Alliance for Improving Health Outcomes, Inc. A total of 21 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.

In a plenary session, participants were tasked to raise the possible research priorities and perceived needs of the region. It was agreed upon to use the existing RUHRA 2016-2021 as the initial list, which was then modified according to consensus. Eighteen 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:

- importance or relevance and responsiveness (45%);
- feasibility and availability of resources (30%); and
- alignment to national and local directives, thrusts, and mandates (25%).



Non-communicable diseases

Researches on epidemiology and risk factors associated with various non-communicable diseases



Communicable diseases

Researches on baseline data, risk factors associated with, and utilization of research on communicable diseases



Maternal, adolescent, and child health

Researches on baseline data, risk factors, and possible interventions for issues concerning maternal, adolescent, and child health



Public safety and well-being

Researches on health hazards that affect the general public, including environmental health, food safety, and social media



Mental health

Researches on mental health issues such as violence and abuse across all life stages, suicide, and risky behaviors



Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation

Researches on disaster preparedness, interventions, and capacity building



Studies on vulnerable population

Researches on health status and quality of life of elderly, children with special needs, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable population



Health information and knowledge management

Researches that assess health promotion and data management programs



Functional foods

Researches that develop functional foods for use during emergency and disasters



Health governance

Researches on health governance strengthening, improving service delivery, efficiency, and evidence-based policies



Technology development

Researches on development of hospital and biomedical devices, including a mobile application for patient data



Health human resources

Researches on efficiency and evaluation of human resource performance and staffing patterns



Health policy and regulations

Researches on policy impact and evaluation



Health financing

Researches that evaluate and assess health care costs, funding capacity, and sustainable financing mechanisms



Drug discovery and development

Researches on development of natural products and adverse effects of commercially available alternative medicines



Health research ethics

Researches that review current research ethics policies and adherence of researchers to ethical protocols



Design thinking approach

Researches that evaluate implemented health technologies



Molecular technologies for health

Researches on advanced molecular technology