

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.

From 2012 to 2016, health-related research in the region focused on agriculture and functional foods, environmental health, sanitation, and development. The region also started to look into the field of Halal industry and health, and the emerging concern of illegal drugs and other substance abuse. While political and technical leaders and research institutions prioritized health service delivery and development, the identified weak areas in health-related research and development included alignment of research agenda and emerging problems, and the weak networking and collaboration mechanisms for health research.

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 XII was held at East Asia Royale Hotel, General Santos City on 27-28 April 2017 facilitated by the Alliance for Improving Health Outcomes, Inc. The consultation was attended by 25 participants. 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 two categories: academe and non-academe. Both groups came up with suggested research topics which were grouped under 12 general themes. These themes were prioritized using criteria with designated scoring weights established by the stakeholders. The themes were ranked using the following criteria:

- impact on health at 40%,
- magnitude of problem at 30%,
- capacity and feasibility at 20%,
- political will or commitment at 5%, and
- ethical and moral issues at 5%.



Substance abuse

Researches on causes, effects, and interventions on substance abuse



Environmental and occupational health

Researches on environmental health issues and risk factors at the workplace



Food and nutrition

Researches on health and nutrition



Health service delivery and capacity building

Researches on policies and programs that affect service delivery



Mental health

Researches on the status of mental health and services offered



Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in health

Researches for a more resilient health system



Halal in health

Researches on building and institutionalizing the Halal industry



Neglected tropical diseases

Researches on effective mechanisms of reduction of neglected tropical diseases



Health governance

Researches on the effectiveness of health policies and service delivery



Ethno-botanical studies

Researches on development of medical products and medicines from local plant sources



Healthcare financing

Researches on the impact of PhilHealth and Department of Health services in achieving financial risk protection



Health information

Researches on health promotion activities, especially those in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas