

# 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.

Health research has been vibrant and largely fueled by independent efforts of the academe. Studies on the improvement of health service delivery and discovery of new medicines and drugs were given focus. The challenge, however, was the local dissemination and application of the knowledge generated by health research.

## REGIONAL UNIFIED HEALTH RESEARCH AGENDA 2017-2022

## Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao



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# Regional Consultation

# Regional Health Research Priorities

The Regional Health Research and Development Consortium of each region was included in the identification process of health research priorities through the conduct of a consultation. The regional consultation for ARMM was held on 18-19 April 2017 facilitated by the Alliance for Improving Health Outcomes, Inc. The consultation was attended by 22 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: academe and non-academe. Both groups came up with suggested research topics which were grouped under 14 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 at 31%,
- alignment to the Regional Development Plan at 28%,
- practicality or feasibility at 21%, and
- cultural sensitivity at 20%.



## Environmental health and sanitation

Researches on challenges in urban sanitation, access to potable water, and access to sanitary facilities



## Halal in health

Researches on building and institutionalizing the Halal industry



## Family health

Researches to promote healthy families and healthcare for children and adolescents



## Health and climate change

Researches on environmental health issues and climate change impacts on health



## Health in emergencies

Researches for a more disaster resilient health system



## Nutrition studies

Researches to improve nutrition for all



## Studies on health systems

Researches on health infrastructure and processes at all levels



## Non-communicable diseases

Researches on predisposing factors related to non-communicable diseases prevalent in the region



## Mental health

Researches on psychological and psycho-social factors that affect the mental health of the community



## Health-seeking behavior

Researches on behaviors and practices of locals in the region



## Communicable diseases

Researches to improve service delivery and address the problem of notifiable and communicable diseases



## Studies on cultural and indigenous practices affecting health

Researches on health hazards in the workplace, particularly in relation to mining



## Health and digital technology

Researches on technology innovations and healthcare services



## Emerging and re-emerging diseases

Researches on prevention of emerging and re-emerging diseases