

# 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.

Majority of recent health research in the region were basic and clinical research-related projects, which are mostly done by academic institutions. Research areas have included emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, traditional medicines and drug development, and local knowledge, attitudes, and practices on health. In the current RUHRA, areas of highest priority are both communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), as well as child and adolescent health. Others such as food and nutrition, drug development, and health governance are also included.

## REGIONAL UNIFIED HEALTH RESEARCH AGENDA 2017-2022

## REGION VI WESTERN VISAYAS



### Western Visayas Health Research and Development Consortium

Lapaz, Iloilo City  
Tel: (033) 330-1565 loc. 103  
Fax: (033) 320-0908  
wvhrdc@gmail.com  
region6.healthresearch.ph



### Philippine National Health Research System

DOST-PCHRD  
Bicutan, Taguig City  
(02) 837-7535; (02) 837-7536  
info@pchrd.dost.gov.ph



# 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 VI was held at the Iloilo Midtown Hotel, Iloilo City on 25-26 April 2017 facilitated by the Alliance for Improving Health Outcomes, Inc. A total of 17 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 randomly divided into two groups. Groups suggested research topics and a representative from each presented these to the plenary. Twenty-six 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:

- magnitude and burden of the problem (20%),
- social relevance and impact (20%),
- feasibility (20%),
- research utilization (15%),
- opportunity for partnership or collaboration (15%), and
- national and international alignment (10%).



## Infectious diseases

Researches on prevalent, emerging, and re-emerging diseases



## Child and adolescent health

Researches on high risk behaviors of children and adolescents



## Non-communicable disease

Researches on prevention/management of NCDs



## Maternal and child health

Researches on reducing maternal/infant mortality



## Substance abuse

Researches on causes of and interventions for substance or drug abuse



## Expanded program on immunization

Researches on utilization and program management of the immunization program, including procurement and service delivery



## Food and nutrition

Researches to discover and develop functional foods, including foods which can be utilized for disasters and emergencies



## Drug discovery and development

Researches on drug discovery and development for various illnesses, focusing on locally available plants and materials, local mapping of protocols/guidelines for preservation of resources



## Geriatric health

Researches on baseline data on the elderly and assessment of health services



## Traditional and alternative medicine

Researches on the development of alternative medicines for common diseases



## Mental health

Researches on mental health status of the population and evaluation of current programs



## Climate change mitigation and adaptation and disaster risk reduction

Researches on health impact of disasters and climate change



## Special groups

Researches on utilization of health services by the indigenous population, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations



## Pharmacoeconomics

Researches on pharmaceutical industry and health economics, including policies, marketing channels, costing, and marketing



## Health governance

Researches on health facility management and governance



## Health research and utilization

Researches to address research management and translation, i.e. resource mapping, policies



## Health technologies

Researches to develop diagnostic kits to support service delivery



## Human resources

Researches to evaluate current human resource programs



## Healthcare policy and regulation

Researches on service delivery, health facilities, and provision policies and regulations



## Environmental health and sanitation

Researches on sanitation, waste disposal, and health impact of environmental disasters



## Health service delivery and referral system

Researches to improve health service provision, including procurement and supply



## Medical devices

Researches to develop medical devices for improved health services



## Occupational safety and health hazards

Researches to evaluate occupational hazards in health, i.e. business process outsourcing industry



## Health financing

Researches on health financing policies and fund management for sustainability



## ICT applications in health

Researches on the development and application of information and communications technology as an aid in health service delivery



## Accidents and injuries

Researches on trends including causes, health service utilization, and prevention measures on accidents and injuries