



AHEAD-HPSR

Advancing Health through Evidence-Assisted Decisions
with Health Policy and Systems Research

The Vision

A vibrant community of health policy and systems researchers and decision-makers committed to producing and using the best available evidence in all policies, plans and programs towards the attainment of health system goals.



General Objectives



To inform the health sector's global and national administrative and legislative policy agenda



To create an equitable and enabling environment for health policy and systems researchers all over the country



To ensure the progressive realization of the envisioned HPSR ecosystem

Specific Objectives



Resource

To mobilize financial and non-financial resources from within the DOH, attached agencies, other government agencies, development partners and the private sector



Datasets

To build and maintain nationally- and locally-representative datasets and facilitate access to this and other health data sets by health researchers.



HPSR

To generate ethical, timely, high quality health policy and systems research to support systematic sectoral planning, monitoring and evaluation activities.



Evidence

To facilitate appreciation and generate demand for evidence by policymakers, program designers, planners and decision-makers.



Capacity

To design and support activities that increase individual, institutional and sectoral capacity in health policy and systems research, policy and data analysis, research methods innovation, research communication, policy entrepreneurship and research management.



Research Management

To adopt streamlined and accountable research management processes and eliminate red tape.



Contributor

To position the Philippines as a contributor to the regional and global health systems knowledge.

Program Components



RESEARCH PROJECTS

The Program shall provide grants for research projects, which can be categorized as institutional or non-institutional research projects.

Institutional Research Projects

institutions submit a proposal in their field of expertise, with the proposed research topic supporting MTRA (institution/investigator-initiated). These require between 1 to 3 years of completion and have four main components: research Implementation, research capacity development, research communication, and policy support.

Non-Institutional Research Projects

deals more on proposed studies that originated from DOH units and programs (program-initiated). These are narrower in scope - usually tackling only one research question - and require maximum of 9 months to complete.



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The Program aims to widen the local bench of health policy and systems researchers, develop young and emerging cadre of professional HPSR, and strengthen institutional capacities thru partnerships with regional research consortia and international universities and think tanks. Moreover, AHEAD-HPSR aims to undertake initiatives such as internship for undergraduate students, fellowship for young professionals, HPSR scholarships, and capacity development for health R&D regional coordinators.



RESEARCH DISSEMINATION AND POLICY SUPPORT

The Program shall make available online relevant project documents and research project outputs. It shall also invest in strategic, appropriate, and high-impact research communication activities. Likewise, it shall support projects and activities that facilitate adoption of research output into national policies, plans, programs.

National Health Research Forum for Action - event hosted by the Department of Health – Health Policy Development and Planning Bureau (DOH-HPDPB) every 2 years. It is a forum that brings together stakeholders involved and interested in research for health policy making, and provides a platform to showcase research studies in relevant fields.



RESEARCH ETHICS REVIEW STREAMLINING

The Program shall facilitate the streamlining of ethics review processes, including the establishment of a joint single review for studies requiring multiple sites and development of public health research-specific ethical guidelines, with the PNHRs Philippine Health Research Ethics Board.



RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND ALLOCATION

The Program shall finance research projects and activities in support of research capacity development, complete and comprehensive data sets, research communication, research translation/policy support and streamlining of research ethics review.

The Program will primarily source its funding from the Health Research Line Item Budget of DOH Central Offices, equivalent to 2% of their MOOE.

Moving forward, not only that it should tap funds from the national budget but also the Program must be a capable recipient of grants or funds from other sources such as NGOs, international NGOs, and other philanthropic organizations for better flexibility.

Contact Information

For more information, please visit the DOH and PCHRD websites at www.doh.gov.ph and www.pchrd.dost.gov.ph or call (02) 651-7800 local 1326-1328 for DOH and (02) 837-7537 for DOST-PCHRD.