



Ministry of Health and Sports

Research Question Prioritization Criteria

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7 Criteria for prioritization of the research questions

- Relevance (widespread, who is affected, severity)
- Avoidance of duplication
- Feasibility (available resources)
- Political acceptability
- Applicability
- Urgency
- Ethical applicability



1. Relevance

- How large or widespread is the problem?
 - Who is affected?
 - How severe is the problem?
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- Score 1: Low relevance
 - Score 2: Somewhat relevant
 - Score 3: Moderate relevance
 - Score 4: Substantial relevance
 - Score 5: Highly relevant
- According to the priority problems as mentioned in NSP (in each domain)
 - Global & local trend





2. Avoidance of duplication

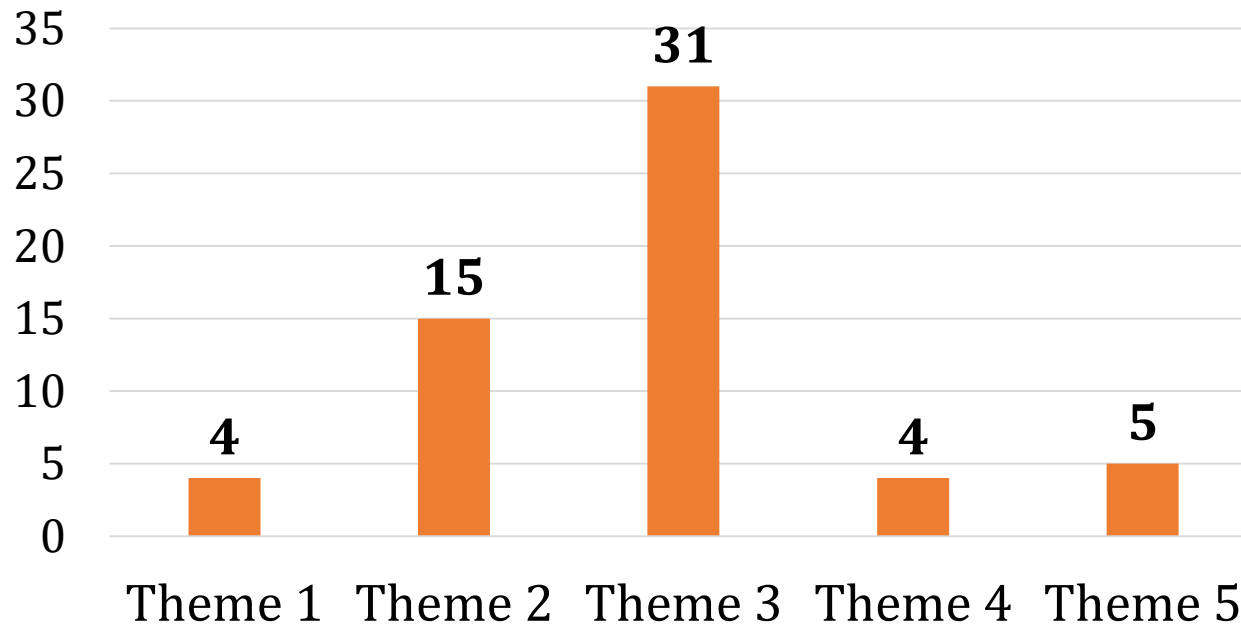
Find out whether the suggested topic has been investigated before either within the proposed study area or in another area with similar conditions

- Score 1: High duplication
 - Score 2: Substantial duplication
 - Score 3: Moderate duplication
 - Score 4: Little duplication
 - Score 5: No duplication
- To consider based on previous studies done under each theme
 - To consider sub-themes under each domain





Number of research studies conducted according to thematic areas during 2017-2020





3. Urgency of data needed (timeliness)

How urgently are the results needed for making a decision or developing interventions at various levels (from community to policy)?

Consider which research should be done first and which can be done later

- Score 1: No urgency
- Score 2: Somewhat urgency
- Score 3: Moderate urgency
- Score 4: Substantial urgency
- Score 5: Very high urgency





4. Political acceptability

Do research on a topic which has the interest and support of the local/national authorities

- Score 1: Very low chance of political acceptability
- Score 2: Some chance of political acceptability
- Score 3: Moderate chance of political acceptability
- Score 4: Substantial chance
- Score 5: Very high chance



5. Feasibility

Resources required to conduct the study

Manpower, time, equipment & money locally available

Possibility of obtaining technical and financial assistance from external sources

- Score 1: Not feasible at all
- Score 2: Somewhat feasible
- Score 3: Moderate feasibility
- Score 4: Substantial feasibility
- Score 5: Very high feasibility

- To consider funding opportunities: MOHS-IR grant, WHO/UN, INGO
- To consider global



6. Applicability of results/recommendations

Is it likely that the recommendations from the study will be applied?

- Score 1: Not applicable at all
- Score 2: Somewhat applicable
- Score 3: Moderate applicability
- Score 4: Substantial applicability
- Score 5: Very high applicability



6. Applicability of results/recommendations

- Responsibilities lie in both sides: program and researchers
- Most research results were indirectly taken up by the program
- Some were intermediate evidence
- Few research results were directly contributed to the program





7. Ethical acceptability

- Possibility that we may inflict harm on others while carrying out research
 - Benefits versus risks
 - Any physical, social & psychological risks
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- Score 1: Not acceptable at all
 - Score 2: Somewhat acceptable
 - Score 3: Moderate acceptability
 - Score 4: Substantial acceptability
 - Score 5: Very high acceptability





Example guideline for group work

1. Free list the research problems by brain storming within the group
2. In each group, let all participants prioritize the research problems by using a rating scale (“1” to “5”) applied to seven criteria
3. In each group, select the Research Problems which has highest score





Proposed topic	1. Relevance	2. Avoidance of duplication	3. Urgency	4. Political acceptability	5. Feasibility	6. Applicability	7. Ethical acceptability	Total no. of points

10





Thank You



Questions, comments and suggestion