

Changing MAPs, Bridging GAPs

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**Group discussions of Sept. 26
Environment Workshop**

Environmental Health

Changing MAPs, Bridging GAPs

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1. Do you have researches that have not been updated to OVCR/not in the database? Why?

- There are several researches that are not usually updated to OVCR especially those that are not funded by in-house budget. With regards to this, OVCRs should issue a memo in terms of collecting these researches.

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2. What are the areas that are not being addressed? How would we address this?

- a. Heavy metal pollution (e.g., lead and mercury)
- b. Pesticides
- c. Coliform/fecal contamination
- d. Ectoparasites (e.g., fleas, ticks, mites)
- e. Environmental hazards such as oil spills, refugees, evacuation centers, waste management
- f. Ecological problems like habitat disturbance
- g. Polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination (e.g., phthalates and plastics)
- h. Pharmaceutical and hormones that contaminate the environment
- i. Rodent control
- j. Vector control
- k. Molds and house dust mites
- l. Radiation

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2. Cont...

- The following topics may be addressed through:
 - a. Collaborative researches with medical health professions
 - b. Environmental awareness and education to stakeholders
 - Education at their level considering their culture and socio-economic status
 - c. Proactive instead of reactive approach
 - d. Identify measures that are not being enforced/implemented
 - e. Identify the key people (e.g., local legislation, advocacy group, civil society) when it comes to policy implementation

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3. What can we prioritize to come up with a policy paper/brief (considering the researches already completed)?

- a. Chemical contaminants in the environment
 - i. Pesticides (emphasis on proactive non-pesticide measures/ pest control alternatives)
 - ii. Heavy metals and mining wastes
 - iii. PCBs
 - iv. Estrogen and other hormones
 - v. Household chemicals and their hazards
 - vi. Molds
- b. Vector control
- c. Garbage disposal, sanitation, recycling
- d. Health concerns in natural disasters

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4. What possible collaborative themes can we work on starting with our baseline?

- a. Pesticide and heavy metal pollution research involving doctors, nurses, chemists and social scientists
- b. Fecal-coliform contamination of water bodies research which also involves medical health professionals
- c. Collaboration with mining industries
- d. Education of farmers, public health workers and other stakeholders who are involved in exposure to these pollution problems