Operational definition
Research is fundamental to informing policy development and service delivery. This function refers to the generation of research that aims to increase knowledge to support decision-making at various levels.
Communication for public health aims at improving the health literacy and status of individuals and populations by informing, influencing, and motivating individuals, institutions, and public audiences about important health problems and determinants.
Health communication encompasses several areas including health journalism, entertainment, education, interpersonal communication, media advocacy, organizational communication, risk and crisis communication, social communication and social marketing.
This communication function offers the public a way to counter the active promotion of hazardous products and lifestyles; e.g. tobacco, and is a two-way information exchange activity which requires listening, intelligence gathering and learning about how people perceive and frame messages on health.
Scope of the function
Communication strategy incorporated into priority public health programmes
Vision, measurable objectives, clearance procedures, methods of evaluation \Box
Seeking community opinion
Message framing based on target audiences
Utilization of different media (from traditional media to mobile applications and online social media)
Countering unhealthy marketing campaigns

Organization of communication and social mobilization
Responsibilities of various staff and networking
Partnership with private media and marketing firms
Interaction with civil society promoting public health issues
Evaluation of the communication and social mobilization efforts/activities
Linkage and synergy with relevant/key stakeholders.
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