Human resources for health – who are they?

They are all the people, in different professions and occupations, who are trained and work to improve the health of the population. They include paid workers and volunteers in both the public and private sectors.

What is the objective of PAHO’s Strategy on Human Resources for Universal Access to Health and Universal Health Coverage?

This strategy guides the design of national policies on human resources for health, taking into account that the availability, accessibility, relevance, and competencies of health workers are key to achieving universal health and the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
Human resources for health, for all people, in all places

**INTERSECTORAL POLICIES**

Intersectoral policies are required to ensure the availability, accessibility, acceptability, and competence of human resources for universal health.

**INVESTMENT**

Increasing public investment in human resources for health promotes employment and improves people’s health, thereby contributing to national economic development.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Strengthening strategic planning and establishing information systems on human resources for health are vital for long-term planning.

**INTERPROFESSIONAL TEAMS**

Trained, motivated, and interprofessional teams are essential for addressing people’s health needs, wherever they live.

**JOBS**

Providing stable and decent jobs for health workers helps strengthen the health system and promotes national economic and social development.

**TRAINING HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ACCORDING TO WHAT COMMUNITIES NEED**

**EDUCATION WITH SOCIAL COMMITMENT**

The education of health teams requires changes, including training and working actively with the community.

**INTERSECTORAL AGREEMENTS**

High-level agreements between the education and health sectors facilitate the attainment of quality standards in training health workers to meet the needs of communities.

**HEALTH PROFESSIONALS**

The education of health professionals should be planned with a view to the present and future needs of health systems.

**REMOTE AREAS**

Implementing strategies that motivate health teams – through economic incentives, professional development, and quality of life – encourages retention and continued presence in remote and underserved areas.

**GENDER**

Incorporate a gender perspective in future models for organizing and contracting health services.

**HUMAN RESOURCES FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH**

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