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# A New Agenda for Health Sector Reform

Strengthening Essential Public Health  
Functions and Scaling up Health Systems

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# USAID's LAC Health Sector Reform Initiative



- USAID funded partnership with PAHO
- Implemented by PAHO and 4 USAID Projects:
  - Quality Assurance Project
  - Partners for Health Reform Plus
  - Management and Leadership
  - Rational Pharmaceutical Management Plus

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# USAID's LAC Health Sector Reform Initiative



“To improve capacity in both the public and private sectors of LAC target countries to address and implement health reforms and to strengthen health system performance”

- Development of tools, methodologies and conceptual frameworks
- Studies, analyses and reports based on developments/trends in the LAC region
- Comparative analyses
- Translation and “tropicalization” of tools, methodologies, studies
- Regional experience sharing

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# Thematic Components of LAC HSR



- Health Care Financing
- Organization and Management of Health Care and Health Services
- The Human Component

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# Health Care Financing



- Regional network for developing National Health Accounts
- Comparative analysis of social insurance and Social Insurance Assessment tool
- Definition of packages of services
- Guide to prospective capitation
- AIDSTreatCost software model
- Master plan of investment in health
- Guide to case-based payment to hospitals
- Provider payment mechanisms and alternatives
- Targeting methodologies
- Methodology for crafting a business plan for social return on investment
- Evaluation of contracting out for health services

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# Organization and Management



- Monitoring and evaluating health sector reforms
- Policy analysis toolkit and trainer's guide
- Guidelines for enhancing the political feasibility of health reforms
- Political guide for making equity-based decisions on health reform
- Effects of HSR on pharmaceutical supply
- Strategic management
- Working with NGOs
- Stakeholder analysis
- Status assessment of organizational sustainability
- Health systems profiles and guidelines for preparation
- Decentralization Mapping Tool and studies on decentralization processes
- Steering role performance assessment
- Health sector analysis



# The Human Component



- “Forgotten Area of Health reform”
  - Outputs developed under the health financing and organization & management components also aim to strengthen capacity of health systems to respond to different parts of HSR
  - Framework for maximizing quality of care through HSR
  - Framework for the formulation of national policies on Human Resources in Health

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# The Regional Forum



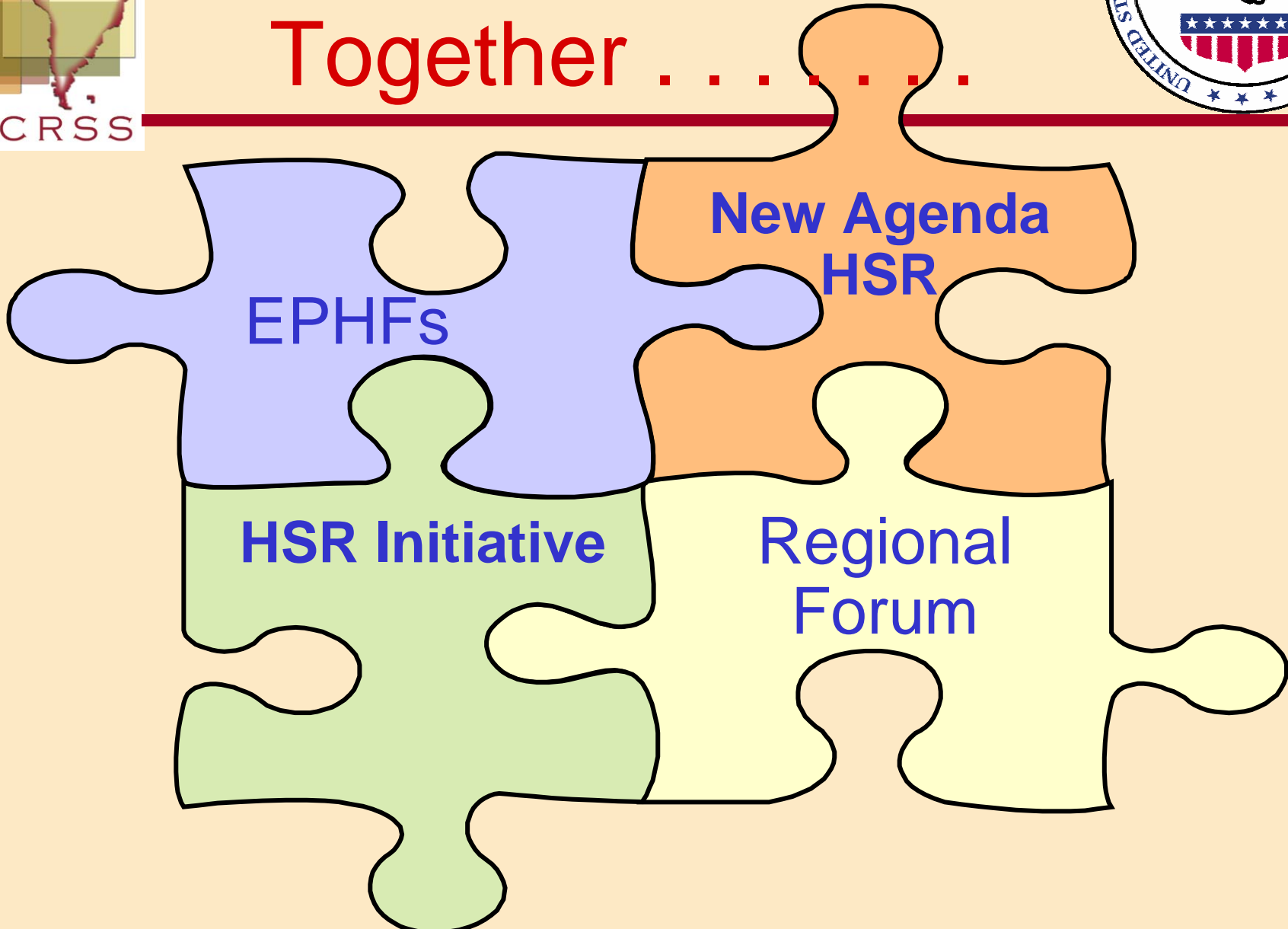
- Provide a forum for discussion within the region regarding:
- A new agenda for health sector reform
- Strengthening the Essential Public Health Functions
- Re-introduction to the outputs of the LAC HSR initiative within the changing contexts of health sector reforms

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# Putting the Pieces Together . . . . .



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# Essential Public Health Functions



- Outline of 11 EPHFs developed by *Public Health in the America's Initiative* as a response to health sector reform processes
- Measurement of the EPHFs in all countries of the region
- Plan to provide an agenda for technical cooperation
- Provides a framework for incorporating “the Human Component” of health sector reform



# A New Agenda for Health Sector Reform



- Diminishing public health capacities
  - Lack of full realization of intended outcomes of health reform
  - Weak central level steering role
  - Increasing decentralization
  - Changing international agenda requiring the scaling up of systems to meet needs
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- Focus on Public Health within HSR to:
    - Ensure that reforms increase access, quality and sustainability of health services
    - Incorporate vertical programming into the reform dialogue and processes
    - Create systems and management units that can respond to changing situations
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# LAC HSR Initiative Tools and Methodologies



- Developed to address key health systems reform/strengthening needs
- Also address key areas identified within the Essential Public Health Functions
- Tools are final products – available to the public in LAC for use, however they need increased visibility on the part of regional health institutions

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How can we put to better use the tools developed and information learned through the LAC Health Sector Reform Initiative within the changing context of health reform?

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# Forum for Discussion



- **Plenary Panels and Discussion**
  - Emphasize research and findings related to initiative work on health sector reform
  - Provide different perspectives on strengthening Essential Public Health Functions
- **Knowledge and Experience Sharing Sessions**
  - Provide more concrete information on specific instruments/methodologies to strengthen EPHFs or scale up health systems