Partnerships for community health in divided societies

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Re-envision health systems in conflict zones

Photo: Diaa Al-Din Samout

Photo: Lilian Noeli/Sauti Dada   Twitter: @Lilly_Noeli

Communities are at the center of health systems

Challenge –

- Reductivist thinking
- Problems focus
- Resilience lens

Photo: Dana Smillie/World Bank

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Solutions are not always answers to problems

Negative health
- Health as the absence of disease or injury

Positive health
- Health as "A state of complete physical, mental and social well-being"
- Ability to achieve vital goals and achievement of a life that is minimally decent
- In practice at the local level, highly contextualized and reflects local goals and values

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Driven by and producing inequities and socially and environmentally unsustainable development:

Driven by and producing social justice and socially and environmentally sustainable development:

Environmental degradation and destruction
Social harmony within and between groups
Disasters including those influenced by climate change
Inclusive in/formal institutions and well-functioning governance
Food insecurity
Economic security and ability to meet needs
Lack of dignified livelihoods
Community leadership and participation in decision-making
Lack of education
Free flow of information derived from in/formal knowledge
Poverty
Equitable ownership and distribution of resources
Inequitable resource distribution and access to services
Social justice and human rights

Leveraging diversity and partnerships for innovation

Respect for human rights and pursuit of social justice

Environmental preservation and improvement

Disease/Injury/
Positive Health
Bodily Harm

Collective
Positive Peace
Violence

Divided societies are messier than we think

Illustration: David Foldvari

Cultivating "anti-resilience" to conflict systems

Photo: Lilian Noeli/Sauti Dada   Twitter: @Lilly_Noeli

Pursuing health-peace through partnerships

1. Build relationships with and between communities
2. Support community agency in pursuing their health goals and values
3. Challenge conflict systems through "anti-resilience"

Thank you for your attention!
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