The value of health in the industrial activity

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THE PARADOX OF PLENTY

• Natural resources endowment has not always been positively correlated with economic development and social progress.
• Many resource rich countries experience poverty, environmental degradation and stark health disparities in the context of great resource wealth
• A complex web of national and international actors, including transnational oil companies, play a role in determining this situation
THE PARADOX OF PLENTY

• Many oil producing areas are also prone to internal conflicts

• The only way to secure those areas is:
  – to improve health, education and living standards,
  – guarantee democratic elections,
  – resolve resource conflicts, and
  – include residents as stakeholders as direct beneficiaries from oil revenues
THE PARADOX OF PLENTY

• Local communities scarcely benefit from oil exploitation

• Local communities experience devastating changes in their lives:
  – Deforestation, air and water pollution
  – Desertification and loss of arable land
  – High rates of disease and physical, mental and social ill-health.

• Local health systems are traditionally weak and incapable to provide appropriate response to needs and expectations of local communities
THE PARADOX OF PLENTY

• Frequent neglect of Transnational Oil companies of the environment and local communities
  – in spite companies' branding themselves as green or socially responsible corporate citizens

• Consequent dramatic social disarray has high costs also for oil companies
A HEALTHY ANSWER

• A more strategical approach….
  – attentive and respectful of the local context
  – Respectful of the environment
  – capable of associating the extractive activities to an integrated approach to local development

• …represents on the long run a competitiveness factor
  – increases the sustainability of their business
A HEALTHY ANSWER

• Contribute to local development action
• Contribute to the effectiveness of the local health system
  – Have a long-term vision
  – Contribute to the improvement of health conditions of local population
  – Have an integrated approach to health
    • Do not focus on disease-specific interventions
  – Align to local procedures
  – Promote local capacities
  – Interact with local, national and international institutions
    • Support local communities’ active participation and ownership
  – Prepare for long-term support and provide predictable resources