



**Achieving the Sustainable  
Development Goals in conflict-  
affected contexts**

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# Outline

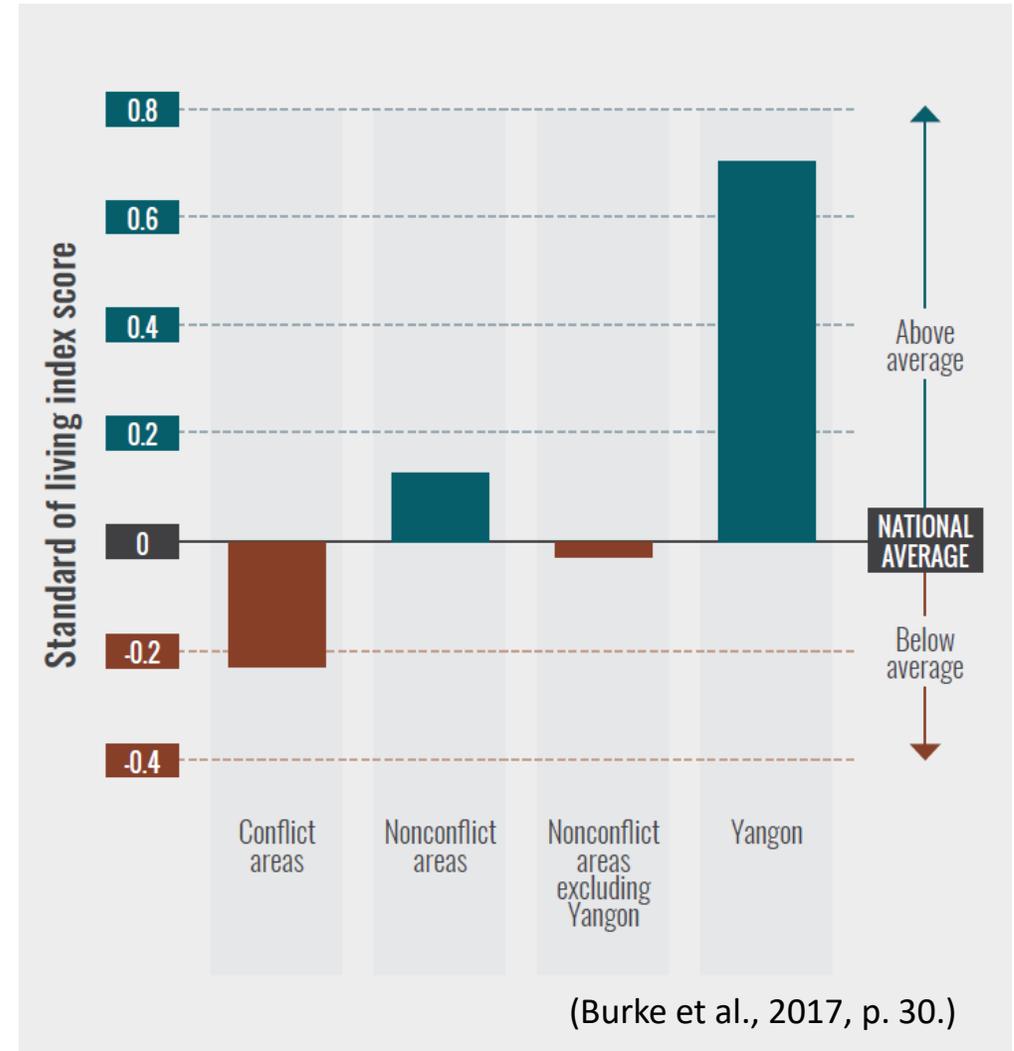
- Achieving the SDGs in conflict-affected contexts
- The context of Shan State, Myanmar
- The development of alternative health system capabilities
- Contradictions in partnership and limitations of context
- Conclusions

# Achieving the SDGs in conflict-affected contexts

- “Conflicts remain the biggest threat to human development” (United Nations, 2015).
- “By 2030, well over 60% of the global poor will be in fragile contexts” (OECD, 2016).
- “No low-income, fragile state has achieved a single MDG” (World Bank, 2011).
- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- Does an international focus on state- & peace-building activities help achieve the SDGs?

# Shan State, Myanmar

- Myanmar is defined as a “fragile state”.
- The standard of living is worse in conflict-affected areas of Myanmar.
- Didn't achieve any of the health-related MDGs.
- Infant mortality 40/1000 births.
- Ongoing conflict.



# The development of alternative health system capabilities

- Sen's capabilities approach – health workforce capabilities to achieve SDG 3.
- RCSS/SSA-S support structures for medics is a key resource.
- Partnership between the INGO and the SSA-S is a crucial conversion factor.
- Hybrid civil-military health system.



# Contradictions and limitations

- RCSS/SSA-S exhibits “state-like qualities” in the provision of healthcare services (South & Joll, 2016).
- BUT limited financial resources & understanding of healthcare despite management of medics.
- SSA-S confers protection AND endangers medics.
- Reduction in international donor funding constrains activities of RCSS/SSA-S and the INGO.

# Conclusions

- International community must find appropriate ways to engage with NSAGs in conflict-affected contexts to achieve the SDGs.
- Ongoing conflict hampers transition to civilian alternative health system.
- Recognise alternative development partnerships and work with “alternative capacities” provided by NSAGs (Denney et al., 2017).
- Prioritise programmes that focus on the SDGs, not only state- and peace-building.

# Thank you

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