Ethical Dilemmas in Business Practices amidst Conflict in DR Congo

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Abstract

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been experiencing prolonged conflict, which has significantly impacted its socio-economic landscape, particularly in business practices. The study employs a qualitative approach, drawing on interviews with business practitioners, legal experts, and civil society representatives who have experience working in conflict-affected regions within DRC. Data analysis focuses on thematic coding of interview transcripts. Findings indicate that businesses often struggle with balancing profit motives with ethical responsibilities towards local communities and affected parties during conflicts. The findings highlight the need for a more integrated approach to business ethics in conflict zones, including partnerships between businesses, civil society organizations, and governmental bodies to ensure compliance with international legal standards and norms. Recommendations include developing comprehensive ethical guidelines tailored specifically for DRC's unique context, fostering collaboration among stakeholders, and enhancing enforcement mechanisms.

Keywords: *Conflict-affected regions, Geographic determinants, Humanitarian crises, Conflict anthropology, Ethical decision-making, Development economics, Peacebuilding initiatives*

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