



Ethical Quandaries in Business Operations amidst South Sudanese Conflict

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Abstract

The South Sudanese conflict has had profound impacts on various sectors, including business operations. This background highlights the unique ethical challenges faced by businesses operating in a region characterized by instability and human rights abuses. The research employs a mixed-methods approach involving both qualitative interviews with business leaders and quantitative surveys of operational practices across different sectors. Data collection was conducted through structured questionnaires distributed among 150 randomly selected firms in conflict-affected areas, supplemented by semi-structured interviews with 20 key informants. The survey reveals a significant proportion (78%) of businesses have encountered ethical challenges related to labour rights violations and corruption. Over half of the respondents reported difficulties in ensuring fair wages and working conditions for their employees due to conflict-induced scarcity and insecurity. This study underscores the critical role that businesses can play in mitigating ethical issues during conflicts, particularly through adherence to international business ethics standards and collaboration with local authorities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Businesses should implement robust monitoring systems for labour practices and transparency measures regarding their supply chains. Collaboration with NGOs and government bodies is recommended to ensure compliance and support affected communities. South Sudan, Conflict, Business Ethics, Labour Rights, Transparency

Keywords: *African geopolitics, conflict management, stakeholder theory, moral disputes, business ethics, contextual analysis, qualitative methodology*

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