"Challenges to Achieving Sustainable Peace in Democratic Republic of Congo": A Case Study of North Kivu Province.

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Abstract

The article focuses on "challenges to achieving sustainable peace in Democratic Republic of Congo": A Case study of North Kivu Province. It intended to explore factors affecting peace building process in order to ensure sustainable peace in DRC at personal level. Qualitative research indicates that there is peace in DRC but not what DRC people were expected to. People are experiencing negative peace. Quantitative data has yet been collected from individuals interested in peace building process. In this study, challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC are explored using survey data collected from 384 respondents including North Kivu local population, civil society activists and political leaders The results indicate that 71.11% of respondents realized that key challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC at personal level include social exclusion, misappropriation of national resources, partiality and negligence of culture in conflict resolution among others. 72.32% of respondents found out that the aforementioned factors resulted into murder and traumatisms, corruption, poverty, unemployment of DRC people and less understanding of the population culture. To handle the situation, 90.625% proposed the following actions: humanitarian assistances and sensitization which may result into healed persons and individual active participation in peace building process.

Keywords: Challenges, sustainable, peace, conflict, sustainable peace.

1. Introduction to the Study

The article focuses on "Challenges to achieving sustainable peace in Democratic Republic of Congo: A Case study of North Kivu Province. This topic resulted from a deep observation of the lack of good governance since 1885 and recurrent armed conflicts and civil wars in DRC. Although the DRC has been defined as being a post-conflict country (McCloskey & McBride 2010), and elections were held in 2006 and in 2011, there are still significant levels of violence and different armed groups persist in the eastern part of the country (Autessere 2010). Based on Galtung's peace building theory (1975), the study intends to explore factors affecting peace building process in order to ensure sustainable peace in DRC.

1.1. Background to the study

The history of the DRC has been characterized by serious human rights violations since colonial times and justice system has never been established to those responsible, or to rehabilitate and compensate the victims (BUHEREKO, 2004). Peace is one of the most important factors for a country to initiate national development programs in every sector and boost the well-being of its citizens. For this reason, citizens are encouraged to cooperate, to share ideas and undertake conflicts sensitive activities to promote positive peace among and within countries around the world. Many authors around the world have proposed different theories for conflict prevention, management, transformation for sustainable peacemaking and peace building.

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However, such efforts in conflict-prone countries like DRC often face many challenges such as social exclusion, misappropriation of national resources, partiality and negligence of population culture in conflict resolution among others.

These factors in many developing countries result into murder and traumatism, corruption, poverty, unemployment and less understanding of population culture among others which, in fact undermine all initiatives of peace building process. African countries, including Somalia, South-Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and the DRC among others are not an exception to this situation. By comparison, however, DRC has experienced the deadliest conflicts since the end of World War II (McCloskey &McBride, 2010).

Apart from the many geopolitical factors, the current political instability in eastern DRC is also associated with many internal issues, including social exclusion, misappropriation of national resources, partiality and cultural problems among others. The situation is more complicated in North-Kivu Province where the current conflicts have both a regional and local dimensions. At the local level, different self-defense militias such as Rai Mutomboki, Mai-Mai Kirikicho and the Mai-Mai Shetan persist in different areas. Whilst from a regional perspective, foreign armed groups such as the FDLR, the ADF-Nalu and the like still terrorizing the local population in different areas in eastern DRC. Raymond (2013) emphasizes that the unrest in eastern DRC continues to claim lives, fuel the illicit trade in minerals and timbers, constrain development and undermine prospects for peace. Similarly, Dagne (2008) argues that despite the fact that the DRC is wealthy in natural resources, vast populations continue to be politically and economically marginalized. Historical injustices contingent on the greed and manipulation of leadership structures that characterized the country's colonial history, which spilled over into post-independence arrangements, have not been tackled.

Given this background, there is an urgent need to explore different factors affecting peace building process in order to ensure sustainable peace in DRC.

1.2. Statement of the problem

DRC faces many challenges to achieving sustainable peace such as social exclusion, misappropriation of national resources by the ruling class and partiality among others. This situation leads the country to a permanent deterioration of social peace and development. Despite efforts made by international community such as UN Security Council, MONUSCO, Save the Children, Oxfam, MSF; and national interventions such as inter Congolese dialogue, peace consultations between ethnic communities, the engagement of the church among others; DRC's people are still experiencing, murder and traumatism, corruption, poverty, unemployment, poor access to basic services and national resources among others. Feeling very concerned with investigation, I decided to carry this study out in order to find out why sustainable peace in DRC still wanting.

1.3. Research questions

The following questions guided the study:

1. What are the key challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC at personal level? (2) What are related far-reaching consequences? And (3) what are related strategies to promote sustainable peace in DRC?

1.4. Significance of the study

This study is very relevant. It will help to identify key challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC at personal level, related consequences and strategies to promote sustainable peace.

1.4. Methodology

The research used both qualitative and quantitative approaches for investigation. The qualitative aspects consisted of interview and Focus Group Discussions with the selected key respondents. Quantitative approach consisted of a questionnaire, which was designed to address particular thematic aspects related to the study. The sample population of study was selected from North Kivu Province using Giezendanner's formula (2012): $n=t^2.p.(1-p)/m^2$ where: n= Total Population; t= Value corresponding to confidence level. (The type value to confidence level of 95% will be 1.96); p= probability of realization of event; m= margin of error or $m = 0.98/\sqrt{n}$ and n= total of

population $=\frac{0.98}{\sqrt{3017240}} = 0.00056418464 \approx 0$. Which equal to 50% of margin of error (Cfr Table of margin of error). n= $(1.96)^2$x 0.5(1-0.5)/ $(0.05)^2$=384.16$\approx$ **384**.

On 384 of sample size, 52.08% were selected from local population; 31.25% from civil society activists and 16.66% from political leaders. Other key informants were selected from NGOs, armed groups and Political leaders. The selection was done depending on respondents' capacity to understand the questionnaire, their competence on the topic and the weight they are feeling.

2. Presentation of findings

2.1. Objective one: challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC

This section deals with presentation of findings on challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC at personal level.

2.1.1. Respondents' knowledge on peace

Asking on respondents' knowledge on peace in DRC (see table 2.1.1 at appendix**)**

Table 2.1.1: Respondents' knowledge on peace

North Kivu local population		
Answer	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Yes	120	60
No	80	40
TOTAL	**200**	**100**
Civil society activists		
Answer	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Yes	75	62.5
No	45	37.5
TOTAL	**120**	**100**
Political leaders		
Answer	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Yes	55	85.93
No	09	14.06
TOTAL	**64**	**100**

Source: Field work

Responses:

60% from North Kivu local population have attested that there is peace in the country against 40% who have denied it. 62.5% from civil society activists have also realized that there is peace in DRC against 37.5% who have confirmed the contrary. On the other side, 85.93% from political leaders have reported that there is peace in DRC against 14.06% who have denied it. What are now challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC?

2.1.2. Challenges to achieving sustainable peace in the DRC

This section deals with findings on key challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC at personal level. Asking on challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC (see table 2.1.2)

Responses:

Up to 78%, North Kivu local population has confirmed that there are many challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC. 6% suffer from social exclusion, 4% from misappropriation of national resources by the ruling class, 5.5% from partiality and 6.5% from negligence of culture in conflict resolution among others. The ruling class belongs to some people and others are socially excluded. This factor amplifies conflict. Everyone wants to determine himself as human being who must be respected and cooperate with others.   Up to 75.83% civil society activists have also reported as for North Kivu local population with an emphasis on misappropriation of national resources by the ruling class as shown by 13.33% by excluding no ruling class from management of the Country as expressed by 8.33%. Up to 62.5%, political leaders have joined North Kivu local population and civil society activists' report.

2.2. Objective two: Far-reaching consequences of challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC

This section deals with findings on far-reaching consequences of key challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC at personal level.

2.2.1. Far-reaching consequences of challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC

Asking on far-reaching consequences of challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC (see table 2.2.1.)

Table 2.1.2: Challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC

North Kivu local population		
Challenge	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Social Exclusion	12	6
Misappropriation of national resources	8	4
Partiality	11	5.5
Negligence of Culture in conflict resolution	13	6.5
All	156	78
TOTAL	**200**	**100**
Civil society activists		
Challenge	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Social Exclusion	10	8.33
Misappropriation of national resources	16	13.33
Partiality	01	0.83
Negligence of Culture in conflict resolution	02	1.66
All	91	75.83
TOTAL	**120**	**100**
Political leaders		
Challenge	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Social Exclusion	08	12.5
Misappropriation of national resources	14	21.875
Partiality	02	3.125
Negligence of Culture in conflict resolution	00	00
All	40	62.5
TOTAL	**64**	**100**

Source; Field work

Responses:

Up to 80%, respondents selected from North Kivu local population considered that consequences of challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC at personal level include murder and traumatisms, corruption, poverty, unemployment and less understanding of the population culture. However, murder and traumatisms, unemployment and poverty are the most consequences experienced in their location area of living. Up to 66.66%, civil society activists have reported the same. However, murder and traumatism, unemployment, corruption and poverty are the most consequences experienced in the area. Political leaders did not realize the contrary. Up to 70.31% have reported the same thing as North Kivu local population and civil society activists. However, those consequences are experienced differently in the location area of respondents as attested by 29.69%.

2.3. Objective three: Strategies to promote sustainable peace in DRC

This section deals with findings on strategies to promote sustainable peace in DRC at personal level.

2.3.1. Strategies to promote sustainable peace in DRC at personal level

Asking on strategies to promote sustainable peace in DRC (See table 2.3.1)

Table 2.1.3: Far-reaching consequences of challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC

North Kivu local population		
Far-reaching consequence	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Murder and traumatisms	16	8
Corruption	04	2
Poverty	08	4
Unemployment	10	5
Less understanding of the population culture	02	1
All	160	80
TOTAL	**200**	**100**
Civil society activists		
Far-reaching consequence	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Murder and traumatisms	14	11.66
Corruption	08	6.66
Poverty	06	5
Unemployment	10	8.33
Less understanding of the population culture	02	1.66
All	80	66.66
TOTAL	**120**	**100**
Political leaders		
Far-reaching consequence	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Murder and traumatisms	06	9.375
Corruption	06	9.375
Poverty	02	3.125
Unemployment	04	6.25
Less understanding of the population culture	01	1.56
All	45	70.31
TOTAL	**64**	**100**

Source: Field work

Responses:

Through table 2.3.1, respondents selected for the study have realized that the promotion of sustainable peace in DRC is possible through many actions. Up to 87.5% North Kivu local population have considered that they include but not exhaustive humanitarian assistances and sensitization with an emphasis on first one. DRC populations are in need of humanitarian assistances to be released in their everyday life. This was reported by 12.5%. On their side, all civil society activists, unanimously, found out that the promotion of sustainable peace in DRC is possible through humanitarian assistance and sensitization for individual active participation in peace building process. Political leaders, up to 84.375% have also reported the same. However, political leaders emphasized sensitization of affected persons by the conflict for participating in peace building process, for they are all discouraged by suffering from the consequences of conflict in their everyday life.

2.3.2. Outcomes of strategies to promote sustainable peace in DRC

This section deals with findings on positive outcomes of strategies to promote sustainable peace in DRC at personal level. Asking on outcomes to promote sustainable peace in DRC (See table 2.3.2)

Responses:

All respondents selected for the study, unanimously, have reported that humanitarian assistances in favour of suffering populations and their sensitization to peace building process might result into many positive outcomes. They include but not exhaustive healed people and individual active participation in peace building process in the area.

3. Results discussion

This section discusses, interprets and analyzes findings on challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC, related far-reaching consequences and effective strategies to promote sustainable peace in the country.

3.1. Respondents' knowledge on peace in DRC

Referring to table 2.1.1, all respondents reported that there is peace in DRC; that is why elections were held in 2006 and 2011; schools are functioning; people are making trades. For those who have denied, there are still significant levels of violence. People are still suffering from poverty, unemployment, murder and traumatism among others. This is in accordance with NGANGURA's (2004) finding when arguing as follows:

> since the fall of the late field-Marshal Mobutu in 17 May 1997, the Congolese
> people have expected a new era of peace and prosperity. The Congolese people
> have never stopped their cries: we want peace, durable peace for a DRC more
> prosperous, more democratic and fairer. This will of the people to look for peace has
> encountered, during all this time, massive human rights violations.

Ngangura's citation shows that there is peace in the country but not what DRC people were expecting to. That is why they are still crying "we need sustainable peace. MSF, an international organization working at Walikale Territory have reported: "due to lack of sustainable peace in the area, our medical interventions are not reaching targeted persons suffering from malaria and HIV. Anytime we may leave even the area where we are operating due to the recurrence of ethnic war or rebellion tensions.

The concept of peace is analyzed here through thematic approach in purpose to help DRC stakeholders to understand its meaning. As polysemy concept, peace has many meanings. According to Galtung(1963), it can be understood as the absence of violence; tranquility and calmness of people; the presence of food, education, health for all in the society at large; harmonious living of all individuals in the society; total security both economical, political and social; basic needs fulfillment and equal distribution of resources to all individuals. In this sense, Galtung (1975) distinguishes two kinds of peace: negative and positive peace. The first one refers to the absence of direct/physical violence. Positive peace can be understood as the absence of both indirect and direct structural and violence. This is when there are good infrastructures, development, schools, good health, good governance and agreement in the country. In fact, respondents' view is that there is peace but negative ones that they are experiencing in their everyday life. In a focus group discussion held in Walikale, a member reported as follows: we are disappointed by DRC government due to its irresponsibility at different levels of the management of the country. We are completing teachers' salaries every year; we are experiencing corruption, unemployment, poverty and murder resulting into traumatisms.

3.2. Challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC

This section discusses, interprets and analyzes findings on key challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC at personal level. Referring to chart 2.1.2, most of respondents selected for the study reported that they suffer from social exclusion, misappropriation of national resources, partiality and negligence of population culture in conflict resolution. This was reported by respondents selected from North Kivu local population up to 78%; by civil society activists up to 75.83% and by political leaders up to 62.5%. The management of the country belongs to a ruling class hands. National resources and power are misused and privatized. Those who do not belong to the ruling class family are excluded or are given negligible positions. The access to national resources is also very difficult to them. Ruling class'tribes consider themselves more powerful. They think they are the only tribes to rule, to be respected and to have access to national resources while others are suffering from and experiencing poverty. Getting promotion depends not on competence and expertise. It is only required to belong to the ruling class obedience. This frustrating situation leads the country to complicated conflicts and furthermore the unrest of the DRC population. These findings have met the thinking of Cornelis (2016:32) when he declares as follows:

> The crystallization of power in many central African countries has resulted into
> the privatization of the state with a rigor willing of rulers gain .Thus, they find
> themselves at the head of all sectors of activities either public sector nor private
> sector, and this without following techniques competence rules or moral requirements
> attached to the exercise of certain functions.

The thematic approach is used to analyze each challenge.

3.2.1. Misappropriation of national resources

Referring to table 3.1.2, misappropriation of national resources was pointed out among the key challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC by 4% from North Kivu local population; by 13.33% from civil society activists and by 21.875% from political leaders. This happens when the DRC rulers who are entrusted to manage country's properties steal from it to boost their life by excluding others. Office of Public sector integrity Commissioner of Canada (2012:23) adds by saying:

Misuse of public funds includes expenditures that are made without proper authorization or that are unlawful or contrary to applicable legislation, regulations, policies and procedures…Misuse of public assets includes making inappropriate or unauthorized use of government property, and also includes a failure to safeguard such assets.

The above citation shows that when rulers of any country are misusing national resources, they did it without any authorization because they think that the country that they are ruling and its resources belong to them. That is why they do not make distinction between public affairs and private ones. In this reason, the Office of public sector integrity commissioner of Canada(2012) advises that if a country believes that the fraud is going on right now, it should: (1) contact the police for a criminal investigation;(2) contact action fraud to make a report;(3) immediately suspend the employee(s) involved in order to prevent further losses;(4) try and recover the stolen funds and start disciplinary or dismissal procedures;(5) try to estimate the direct losses your country has suffered and find out whether the same fraud is being carried out by other people. If so, this would indicate there is some kind of systemic failure across the whole country.

3.2.2. Partiality

Partiality was pointed out among the key challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC by all respondents. This is indicated by 5.5% from North Kivu local population; by 0.83% from civil society activists and by 3.125% from political leaders. To maintain itself in power, the ruling class selects their assistants among their relatives in achieving their mission. This favoring fact result into many consequences in DRC government such as promoting no competent persons at high level of Government and neglecting suffering persons in favor of their relatives. Kolodny(2010) declares that partiality involves seeing to it that both these relatives and our relationships to them fare well, as well as respecting both in our decisions. It also involves feeling certain positive emotions like (joy, relief, gratitude) when they fare well or are properly regarded, and feeling certain negative emotions like (grief, anxiety, resentment) when they fare poorly or are not properly regarded.

3.2.3. Negligence of population culture in conflict resolution

Negligence of culture in conflict resolution was also reported among the key challenges to achieving sustainable peace by all respondents selected in the study. Considering that DRC is a multicultural county with an estimated number of 450 tribes, many ruling classes face this challenge when neglecting cultural aspects to fulfill their mission. In some areas, even the President, Governor must attain the population through local leaders to be accepted. Therefore, there is an urgent need for culture respect for peace building process. Langholtz (2000:172)

Confirms this when he says:

The elicitive approach has important implication for peace building from below. In the peace building from below perspective, solutions are derived from cultural resources, relying on community actors and local knowledge, understanding of conflict and its resolution. It addresses the cultural uniqueness of the context and validates or employs the local techniques and strategies.

Langholtz's citation emphasizes that every peace building process must relay on local culture knowledge and expertise to be successful**.** Neglecting this aspect, many peacekeeping interventions in the world, in Africa and especially in the DRC failed. This is the case of MONUSCO in the DRC and others international agencies such as Oxfam, MSF, Save the Children among others. Their actions do not meet the needs of targeted persons due to lack of people cultures. Bokova(2012) considers that "Culture and heritage are not about stones and buildings but they are about identities and belongings.

They carry values from the past that are important for the societies today and tomorrow. We must safeguard the heritage because it is what brings us together as a community; it is what binds us within a shared destiny." Culture plays a big role in reconciliation process even in post-conflict situation as a symbol and mean for the rebuilding of communities in helping to break the circle of violence.

3.2.4. Social Exclusion

Social exclusion was also reported among the key challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC at personal level by 6% from selected North Kivu local population; by 8.33% from selected civil society activists and by 12.5% from selected political leaders. Social exclusion is similar to marginalization of others. Some of the DRC ruling classes think having all right to occupy all important positions in the Government by excluding minority people.

The access to power and national resources depend on belonging to ruling class obedience. Walikale administration has become for hunde tribe because the Head of territory administration is a Muhunde, as well as his assistant, the Head of all healthcares as well as the Head of all soldiers and policemen. They are replacing others by their family members in order to extend their administration and ruling power. Nyanga, Kumu and Kano tribes who are autochthons are excluded from power and local resources sharing. As a result, the presence of many Nyanga, lega and kumu militias called "Raia mutomboki"(meaning revolting people) to protect their local ethnic groups by destabilizing the ruling class, reported a civil society activist in a focus group held at Walikale. This copes with Degni-Segui's (1998) thought when he argues that the more scandalous is the opulent, luxurious life experienced by the clan in power and its allied in opposite to misery of other tranche of the population. They make prove of one state of heart that excludes the traditional social values of others. To better control and dominate, the ruling class in place practice one politic of tribalism in army, police and in certain corps of public functions, a recruitment in private sector or admission in certain schools/universities. The provinces from where rulers originate, are transformed in excellent poles or veritable metropolis. A big part of the population is marginalized, excluded from decision making centre, execution and control of the life and the destiny of the nation.

3.3. Far-reaching consequences to achieving sustainable peace in DRC

This section discusses, interprets and analyzes findings on far-reaching consequences of the key challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC at personal level. Table 2.2.1 informs that key challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC may resulted into murder and traumatisms, corruption, poverty, unemployment and less understanding of the population culture among others. Unanimously, all respondents have confirmed that murder and traumatisms, unemployment, poverty and corruption are more experienced in their location area than other factors (see table 2.2.1). Murder and traumatisms are caused by social exclusion from the management of national resources and power sharing in the country. Poverty is the result of misappropriation of national resources by the ruling class. And corruption is commonly practiced by excluded persons from the management of country everyday affairs in order to access to national resources and country management affairs. Through thematic approach, the above listed consequences are analyzed below.

3.3.1. Murder and traumatism

Murder and traumatisms are considered as the most consequences by all respondents in their location area of everyday living (See table 2.2.1). They result from social exclusion of others from the management of national resources and power sharing by the ruling class. These used inhuman acts that cause suffering to human being such as cutting hand, destroying eyes of enemies, assassinating or killing innocent people. Crocq (2006:13) confirms as follows:

> The traumatism is an ensemble of immediate or posts immediate psychics
> troubles and chronics developed in a person after traumatic events that threatened
> its physical or psychic integrity. These troubles may take long time such as months,
> years or all the life if there are no related assistances.

Crocq's citation shows that traumatism result from psychic troubles which have affected physical or psychic integrity of a person. These may take long time if they are no related treatment, they may result into many human sufferings. What about corruption in the context of this study?

3.3.2. Corruption

As an abuse of public affair power for private benefit, corruption was pointed out by all respondents selected to the study. Respondents' analysis is that corruption weakens country leaders' power to manage everyday affairs. It also reduces the implementation of law in the country. In fact, it develops the culture of impunity. Begovic (2015) underlines that since corruption decreases expected returns, corrupt countries receive less foreign direct investment and consequently record lower growth rates. Widespread corruption is a symptom of a severely ill society with a majority of resources and innovation allocated to the area of redistribution. In accordance to Begovic (2015) observes that corruption reduces the ability of the government to impose necessary regulatory controls and inspections for the market failures. When the government does not perform well its regulatory role on banks, hospitals, food distribution, transportation activities, financial markets and so on, it lose part of its basic reason to be. In fact, corruption is among major consequences that the DRC experiences.

3.3.3. Poverty

Poverty was also reported among consequences of the key challenges to achieving sustainable peace in the DRC by all respondents selected for the study (see table 2.2.1). It results from misappropriation of national resources and partiality by the ruling class. The access to national resources remains difficult to those who do not belong to the ruling class obedience. They suffer from the lack of enough income and therefore, wandering on the road looking for how to survive. Hoynes (2012) confirms this when he underlines that poverty is "pronounced deprivation in well-being." The conventional view links well-being primarily to command over commodities, so the poor are those who do not have enough income or consumption to put them above some adequate minimum threshold. ooking for how to get access to national resources, marginalized persons resort to creation of militia and seek for help outside in purpose to destabilize the ruling class and search for how to survive through looting local population properties, persecuting or murdering those who are resisting to handover their properties. This situation leads sometimes to tribe or clanic clashes in DRC.

3.3.4. Unemployment

Unemployment is not an exception among consequences of key challenges to achieving sustainable peace in the DRC at personal level (See table 2.2.1). Focusing on their ruling strategies which are the exclusion of minorities at the expense of their family or their ethnics' identity, the access to employment remains also difficult to those who do not belong to the ruling class. Being promoted depends less on the expertise. It requires belonging to the ruling class obedience. Therefore, many of excluded or marginalized persons are still wandering in streets by terrorizing people, stealing and looting local population properties for survival. Alfredo , Serrani and Sperotti (2012) underline that the difficulty in finding employment as a means for securing a livelihood experienced by young people is an ongoing issue, along with the sense of frustration arising from failing to meet their work expectations. Condition to access to power is not based on competences but on tribe/ethnic identity. Likewise, Nothwehr(2008) urges that tribalism is the attitude and practice of harboring such a strong feeling of loyalty or bonds to one's tribe that one excludes or even demonizes those 'others' who do not belong to that group.

Focusing on ethnicism, a military may become a President of the Country, an economist, a head of law ministry or a medicine doctor a minister of security in the DRC. This situation usually leads to unemployment of literate persons. By passing this situation, formation of militia and rebellions are current money in DRC. And the situation undermines most of the time peace building processes.

4.4. Strategies to promote sustainable peace in the DRC

Table 2.3.1: Strategies to promote sustainable peace in DRC at personal level

North Kivu local population		
Strategy	Frequency	Percentage
Humanitarian assistances	25	12.5
Sensitization	00	00
All	175	87.5
TOTAL	**200**	**100**
Civil society activists		
Strategy	Frequency	Percentage
Humanitarian assistances	00	00
Sensitization	00	00
All	120	100
TOTAL	**120**	**100**
Political leaders		
Strategy	Frequency	Percentage
Humanitarian assistances	00	00
Sensitization	10	15.625
All	54	84.375
TOTAL	**64**	**100**

Source: Field work

This section discusses, interprets and analyzes findings on strategies to promote sustainable peace in DRC at personal level. Referring to table 2.3.1, all selected respondents have realized that strategies to promote sustainable peace in DRC are many. According to the context of this study, humanitarian assistances and sensitization of affected persons by the conflict are helpful. However, North Kivu local population put a particular emphasis on humanitarian assistances. This was confirmed by 12.5%. People experience displacement due to civil wars, looting of their properties, and murder of certain families' heads among others. This situation provoked diseases, starvation, traumatisms among the local population. Therefore, local population still needs humanitarian assistances. Political leaders on their side put an emphasis on sensitization as reported by 15.625%. For DRC local populations are discouraged to engage in peace building process due to bad experiences originated from social exclusion, misappropriation of national resources, partiality and negligence of population culture in conflict resolution. This does not mean that sensitization is the most efficient strategy to promote sustainable peace in DRC but an indicator that people are more discouraged and unmotivated to involve themselves in peace building process. There is therefore a need for them to be sensitized in order to motivate them for their active implication in peace building process.
As signified in methodology section, the thematic approach is used here to analyze terms, humanitarian assistances and sensitization for the best understanding of the study.

3.4.1. Humanitarian assistances

Humanitarian assistances are actions to release affected persons by conflict. They were pointed out by all respondents selected for the study as one of strategies to promote sustainable peace in DRC. Respondents' view is that without dealing with affected persons through humanitarian assistances, there is no peace reconstruction process. ZAHINDA (2004) explains that no reconstruction is sustainable unless factors which have fuelled, supported or started the war are also addressed. Similarly, Smock(2005), adds by saying that conflict has scarred people's lives, robbed them of dignity, and shattered economies, livelihoods and vital infrastructure, including health facilities and schools. Releasing affected persons is among stones core of reconstruction process.

3.4.2. Sensitization

As for humanitarian assistances, sensitization was also pointed out by all selected respondents selected for the study as one of the strategies to promote sustainable peace in DRC. However, political leaders' emphasis is that after assisting people humanitarianly, another important factor is the sensitization of affected persons who lose their hope

to live as human beings. Actions such as citizen education, education for peace, pacific cohabitation, might be helpful to encourage them for peace building process.

3.5. **Positive outcomes of strategies to promote sustainable peace in DRC**

This section discusses, interprets and analyzes findings on positive outcomes of strategies to promote sustainable peace in DRC at personal level. Referring to table 2.3.2, humanitarian assistances and sensitization might result into healed nation and individual active participation in peace building process among others. Focusing interventions on humanitarian assistances (including social, economical, psychological among others) for local populations who are suffering from the effect of conflict, these will heal psychologically, socially , culturally and economically people who were affected by conflict.

After being healed, respondents' view is that humanitarian assistances might be followed by sensitization of affected persons by conflict to be actively implicated in peace building process. Using thematic approach, terms such as healed nation and individual active participation in peace building process deserve to be analyzed.

3.5.1. **Healed person**

 In accordance with Schreiter and Jorgensen (2010:25), "Healing" refers to overcoming or coping with evil and suffering, whatever the cause is. In such a perspective, healing will be the more general term and reconciliation a specific case. This has met Langholtz's (2003:151) findings when highlighting as follows:

> Healing the personal and social scars of war has always been central to the work
> of conflict resolution field. … It is integral to every other enterprise. One of the main
> obstacles to social and psychological healing is the accumulated hurt and hatred suffered
> by hundreds thousands if not millions of victims. …Psycho-social assistance to victims
> of war is now seen to be a part of a long-term healing process. And despite trauma, the
> end-point of a successful process of peace building is reconciliation. t is, undoubtedly,
> the most difficult part of conflict resolution and cannot be achieved in short-time.

Langholtz's citation shows that healing is a central work of conflict resolution and cannot be separated from post-settlement peace building process. However, the main obstacles to social and psychological healing is the accumulated hurt and hatred suffered by hundreds thousands of victims of conflict. And the end point of a successful process of peace building is reconciliation between divided societies by the conflict. This requires much time to be achieved.

In fact, through DRC conflicts, Congolese are most traumatized and have internal wounds which need special healing for their implication of everyone to seeking sustainable peace in the country. ZAHINDA (2004) adds by saying that a special focus on war victims is essential. Given the competition for increasingly scarce resources, the issue of compensation and rehabilitation of victims should be looked at. Direct war victims in particular the most vulnerable, such as war widows, ex-child soldiers, war orphans, the sick, should be taken into account in any reconstruction planning. This facilitates the social reintegration and reconciliation process. However, consider Raymond, Helmick and Petersen (2001) traumatized people require at least a rudimentary feeling of security for healing to begin. When there is continued threat from the other, depending on circumstances, healing may be difficult or even impossible. Theory, research and practical experience in working with traumatized individuals suggest that prolonged avoidance of memories of painful, traumatic experiences limits healing.

3.5.2. **Individual Active participation in peace process**

Respondents' view is that humanitarian assistances and sensitization to affected persons by conflict might stir up DRC people to be implicated actively in peace building process for their happiness in everyday life**.** ZIHINDA (2004:23) urges by saying: Involving everyone in the reconstruction process is crucial because without meaningful reconstruction, the effects of the war could be a new source of conflict, according to the theory of the conflict cycle that a conflict starts, develops, ends, but could start again.

ZIHINDA's citation shows that the reconstruction process must include everyone affected by the conflict. This helps to avoid or prevent the reemergence of the conflict according to the theory of conflict cycle.

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

4.1. Conclusion

The article was focused on "challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC. It dealt with the personal level of peace building process only.

The following questions guided the study:

(1) What are factors impeding sustainable peace in DRC at personal? (2) What are related far-reaching consequences? And (3) what are related effective strategies to promote sustainable peace in DRC? The research used both qualitative and quantitative approaches for investigation involving 384 respondents. The thematic approach was used to analyze themes related to the study.

4.1.1. Research findings

The research findings revolved around three main themes through which the article topic on challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC was explored: (1) key Challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC at personal level; (2) far-reaching consequences; (3)Strategies to promote sustainable peace in the DRC.

4.1.1.1. Challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC

This section responded to question one. Selected respondents realized that challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC at personal level are many; but the key ones include social exclusion, misappropriation of national resources, partiality and cultural problems.

4.1.1.2. Far-reaching Consequences of challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC

This section responded to question two. Respondents found out that consequences of challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC are many. These include murder and traumatism, poverty, unemployment and corruption among others.

4.1.1.3. Strategies to promote sustainable peace in DRC

This section responded to question three. All respondents considered that the factor is possible through humanitarian assistances and sensitization of affected persons by the conflict which might result into healed persons and their active participation in peace building process.

4.2. Recommendations

In additional to strategies proposed by respondents to promote sustainable peace in DRC at personal level, I recommend also the following: psychological, physical, social and economical assistances for most affecting persons by the conflict.

5. Acknowledgements

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