

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

Kizaliwa Irumbo¹

Abstract

The article focuses on challenges to achieving sustainable peace in Democratic Republic of Congo, and specifically examines North Kivu Province from 1996 to 2017. It explores factors affecting peace-building process in order to ensure sustainable peace in DRC at the structural level. Qualitative research indicates that there is peace in DRC but not what DRC people look ahead to. People are experiencing negative peace. Quantitative data has 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 local population, civil society activists and political leaders. The results indicate that 90.94% of respondents realized that key challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC include but not limited to bad governance, democratic deficit, deficit of judicial system and dictatorial regime. Up to 84.41%, they have reported that those challenges resulted into rebellion and uncontrolled armed groups, unequal distribution of national resources, weak participation of the population in decision-making, illicit exploitation of natural resources and political instability among others. To handle the situation, unanimously, respondents realized that the fact is possible through national dialogue, good governance and institution building resulting into united nation, good governance indicators and institutions functioning. Finally, the study recommended the following policies: coalition to struggle for good governance, struggle for rule of the law and education for democracy.

Key words: Challenge, achieving, sustainable, peace, sustainable peace, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

1. Introduction

This article focuses on Challenges to achieving sustainable peace in Democratic Republic of Congo examining the North Kivu Province from 1996-2017. The study is motivated by a deep observation of factors associated with the lack of good governance, democratic deficit, lack of rule of law and dictatorial regime among others since 1996. Although DRC has been defined as being a post-conflict country (McCloskey and 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) and DRC's people are still experiencing, rebellions and uncontrolled armed groups, illicit exploitation of natural resources, poor participation of the population in decision-making, poor access to basic services and national resources. 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 Assistant of Lecturer at Université Evangélique en Afrique based at Bukavu, DRC. PhD Student, Makerere University, College of Humanities and Social Sciences

2. Research Questions

In this regard, the study sought to know: (1) what are key challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC at the structural level? (2) What are related far-reaching consequences? And (3) what are effective strategies for the promotion of sustainable peace in DRC?

3. Methodology

The researcher used both qualitative and quantitative approaches for investigation. The qualitative aspects consisted of interview and Focus Group Discussions with the selected key respondents including NGOs, armed groups and North Kivu leaders. This enabled the researcher to learn from the opinions, experiences and knowledge of respondents on the subject of the study. Quantitative approach consisted of a questionnaire, which was designed to address particular thematic related to the study.

The sample population was selected from the North Kivu, mainly from Rutshuru, Masisi and Walikale Territories. The entire sample size entail 384 respondents, 200(52.08%) were selected from the local population; 120(31.25%) from civil society activists, while 64(16.66%) were drawn from political leaders. The selection was based on the respondents' capacity to understand the questionnaire and their competence on the topic and the weight they are feeling.

4. Result and Discussion

The results of this article focused on three major themes:

1. Key challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC at the relational level of peace-building;
2. Key far-reaching consequences originating from key challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC at the relational level;
3. Effective strategies needed to promote sustainable peace in DRC at the relational level.

Objective 1: key Challenges to achieving sustainable peace in the DRC

The study also sought to present and discuss key challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC at the personal level. It starts by respondents' knowledge on peace.

Respondents' knowledge on peace

Table 1: Respondents' knowledge on peace

Category of respondents	Do you think that there is peace in DRC?			
	Yes		No	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
North Kivu local population:	120	60	80	40
Civil society activists	75	62.5	45	37.5
Political leader	55	85.9	9	14.06

Source: Field data

The above table shows that 60% from North Kivu local population indicate that there is peace in DRC while 40% did not believe that there is peace in DRC. Approximately, 62.5% from civil society activists reported that there is peace in DRC against 37.5% who denied this claim. However, 85.93% of the political leaders declared that there is peace in DRC against 14.06% who denied it.

In fact, the majority of respondents stated that there is peace in DRC arguing that elections were held in 2006 and 2011, schools are functioning and people are busy trading. Those who have denied it argued that they are still significant levels of violence. People are still suffering from factor associated with the lack of good governance, democratic deficit and lack of rule of law among others. This reflects the finding of an interview with MSF, an international organization working at Walikale Territory, they posit:

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.

As polysemic concept, peace has many meanings. 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 (Galtung, 1963:23). There exist two kinds of peace: negative and positive peace. The first one refers to the absence of direct violence. Positive peace can be understood as the absence of both indirect and direct structural and violence. This is when there is good infrastructure, development, schools, trade, good health, good governance and agreement in the country (Galtung, 1975).

Key challenges to achieving sustainable peace in Democratic Republic of Congo(DRC)

The study also sought to present and discuss key challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC at the structural level.

Table 2: Key challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DR Congo at structural level

<i>Challenge</i>		<i>North Kivu local</i>	<i>Civil society activists</i>	<i>Political leader:</i>
		<i>population:</i>		
Bad governance	Frequency	12	5	0
	Percentage	6.0%	4.16%	0.0%
Dictatorial regime	Frequency	5	3	0
	Percentage	2.5%	2.5%	0.0%
Democratic deficit	Frequency	11	4	0
	Percentage	5.5%	3.33%	0.0%
Deficit of rule of law	Frequency	3	2	00
	Percentage	1.5%	1.66%	00.0%
All	Frequency	169	106	64
	Percentage	84.5%	88.33%	100%

Source: Field data

Table 2 shows that local population indicated up to 84.5% that key challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC are numerous. These include but not limited to bad governance, dictatorial regime, democratic deficit and deficit of rule of law. Up to 88.33%, civil society activists as well as political leaders have not hesitated to say the same.

Percentages attributed to each particular factor by respondents are just an indicator that the factor is more destabilizing in the area where they live. Furthermore, the respondents have identified bad governance as the most challenge to achieving sustainable peace in DRC from which others originated. This finding is in accordance with the result of Gilbert (2006:34) who declares that since 1990, the North Kivu Province experienced political instability due to bad governance whose the population paid a heavy price between 1991 and 2003 by experiencing: looting of goods, interethnic conflicts, massive afflux of Rwandese refugees including *genocidaires Interahamwe*.

For their best understanding, each factor is separately explained below.

Bad governance

Bad governance reduces the rule of law power, collapses economy and permits misappropriation of national resources and power. Briefly, bad governance has a negative impact on the DRC sectors. Ruwa(2001:33) underscores that bad governance is not accountable and transparent. It manipulates electoral process, abuses human rights, does not promote national unity but mismanages resources which develops corruption and a weak economy that leads to the state being unable to meet its intended and external financial obligations.

These findings are also consistent with the view of Wael (2013:13) when urging:

Bad governance contributed to the fall of Mubarak regime in three fundamental ways: first, it created the conditions that served to inspire public action against the rulers; second, it led to the breakdown of core elements

critical for regime stability and third, it catalyzed the middle-class who played a key role in agitating for the uprisings via Face-book and other social media.

Similarly John (2003) underscored that in the second DRC's rebellion the rebels pledged their commitment to some objectives such as to bring to an end any form of bad governance characterized by dictatorship regime by establishing the rule of law and good governance.

Likewise, the World Bank(2012)adds that bad governance is characterized by corruption and absence of accountability, the lack of effective institutional control, predatory coalition between the ruling part and business, lack of transparency of rules, laws and processes, ...absence of the rule of law and economic privatization.

Dictatorial regime

Dictatorial regime was pointed out by 2.5% from local populations and 2.5% from civil society activists. Mbilizi(1993) underlines that DRC rulers who are dictators usually access to power by force through corruption, killing or coup d'Etat and they usually maintain themselves in power through: authoritarianism, threats, compulsion and punishment. These factors result always into fear, hypocrisy, passivity and unwillingness of DRC citizens. They access to the wealthy status by force through stealing (theft), economical misusing, fraud; and earning money through stealing (theft) of country's properties, economical misusing, fraudulent traffic and this result generates passivity, unwillingness and laziness of DRC citizens. They usually prove their ruling knowledge by force, falsehood and misinformation. Demagogy and misinformation are among methods that they use to get more money. This state of things leads DRC citizens in laziness, passivity and unwillingness in country concerns.

Democratic deficit

Democratic deficit was pointed out by 5.5% from local population and 3.33% from civil society activists as the most challenge in their location area. Thomas(2009:32) has identified eight characteristics of a democratic deficit: (1) Fragile of social cohesion; (2) increase in the number and seriousness of incidents in which freedom of expression had been suppressed due to violence; (3) larger political parties are less rooted in society and losing popular support for their candidate and policy selection procedures; (4) political arenas are being displaced from representative and accountable departments of government to new administrative bodies; (5). overlapping administrative competencies are producing unnecessary complexity for citizens;(6) vulnerability to constant media exposure develops a political culture of risk avoidance; (7)internal procedures for overseeing country policy and legislation are inadequate; (8) poll findings show decreasing public confidence in politicians and government. These are similar to what DRC citizens are experiencing in their everyday life.

Deficit of judicial system

Deficit of judicial system was also pointed out by 1.5% from local population and 1.66% from civil society activists among key challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC. This is just an indicator that the factor is more experienced in their respective area than others. Dubois, Schurrer & Velicogna (2013:23) underline that a poor justice system can be associated with a weak State which can be viewed as less capable to enforce the law and encourages the development of corruption. However, effective justice system provides a safeguard for human rights.

The most challenge to achieving sustainable peace in DRC

The study also sought to present and discuss the most challenge to achieving sustainable peace in DRC at the structural level.

Table 3: The most challenge to achieving sustainable peace in DRC at the structural level

Most challenge		North Kivu local population	Civil society activists	Political leader
Bad governance	Frequency	196	120	64
	Percentage	98.0%	100%	100.0%
Democratic deficit	Frequency	3	0	0
	Percentage	1.5.%	0.0%	00.0%
Deficit of rule of law	Frequency	1	0	0
	Percentage	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%

Source: Field data

The above table informs that all respondents agreed that even if key challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC are many, bad governance is reported as the most predominant one from which others originated.

Objective 2: Far-reaching consequences

The study also sought to present and discuss the far-reaching consequences to achieving sustainable peace in DRC at the structural level.

Table 4: Far-reaching consequences to achieving sustainable peace in DRC at structural level

<i>Far reaching consequences</i>		<i>NorthKivu local population:</i>	<i>Civil society activists</i>	<i>Political leader:</i>	<i>Total</i>
Illicit exploitation of natural resources	Frequency	12	0	0	3
	Percentage	6.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.68%
Rebellion and uncontrolled armed groups	Frequency	8	0	14	1
	Percentage	4.0%	0.0%	21.9%	1.56%
Weak participation of the population in decision making	Frequency	9	0	8	1
	Percentage	4.5%	0.0%	12.5%	1.56%
Impunity	Frequency	7	0	0	9
	Percentage	3.5%	0.0%	0.0%	2.3%
unequal distribution of national resources	Frequency	6	0	18	44
	Percentage	3.0%	0.0%	28.1%	11.5%
Political instability	Frequency	14	0	15	4
	Percentage	7.0%	0.0%	23.4%	6.25%
All	Frequency	144	120	8	52
	Percentage	72.0%	100.0%	12.5%	81.25%

Source: Field data

Table 4 shows that all local population have considered that key challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC resulted into rebellions and uncontrolled armed groups, unequal distribution of national resources, weak participation of the population in decision making, illicit exploitation of natural resources and political instability among others. Percentage attributed to each factor is an indicator that the factor is more experienced by the population in the area. This is similar to the declaration of someone in a focus group discussion held at Walikale who underlined that “the most challenge to achieving sustainable peace is the political instability due to the presence of uncontrolled armed groups in the area.

Sometimes, those armed groups loot local population's properties and rape women in the field while looking for something to feed their family". Meanwhile, rebellions and uncontrolled armed groups were reported in Rutshuru by someone in a focus group discussion as the most challenge to achieving sustainable peace.

Up to 100%, all civil society activists as well as political leaders have reported that key challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC resulted into many consequences as listed by local population.

Others percentages attributed to other consequences are just an indicator that the factor is more experienced in the location area of respondents with an emphasis on political instability and illicit exploitation of natural resources.

National resources, power and illicit exploitation of natural resources of the country are in ruling class' hands. To access to these, militia are created by political leaders due to their exclusion on the everyday management of the country affairs. A Maimai ex-combatant reported as follows: "I joined an armed group when my father was withdrawn illegally from the management of Masisi sector. With my colleagues, we used to attack village especially Bihamwe, the village from where who replaced my father came from. I ended the rebellion when this leader was also withdrawn from its position as my father."

For their best understanding, each factor is separately explained below.

Rebellions and uncontrolled armed groups

Rebellions and uncontrolled armed groups were pointed out by 4% from local populations only and by 1.56% from political leader. Rebellion is an action undertaken by a group aiming to replace the government in a state or to secede from the state to form a new one. Afoaku(2003:18) underscores that to achieve their objectives, the members of Kabila's previous Alliance, now supported a new invasion by an anti-Kabila militia, the RCD. Congolese politicians for a wide variety of reasons and coming from very different political backgrounds united in Goma on 2nd August 1998 to form the political wing of the anti- Kabila movement, the RCD. As the result, the Country was divided into two parties: eastern and western. In fact, the rebellions and uncontrolled armed groups are the result of unsatisfactory of one group regarding interests that should be shared between all parties. Feeling that they are excluded or marginalized from the management of everyday country affairs, many DRC's political leaders usually resort to rebellion to access national resources and power.

Unequal distribution of national resource

Unequal distribution of national resources was reported by 3% from local population and by 3.12% from political leaders. It is a current game in DRC resulting from bad governance. Thinking on global sources of contemporary conflict, Rogers cited by Langholtz (2000:33) describes three interlinked trends:(1)deep inequalities in the global distribution of wealth and economic power;(2)human-induced environment constraints exacerbated by excessive energy consumption in the development world and population growth in the undeveloped world;(3)continuing militarization of security relations. These trends contribute to future unsatisfied exceptions such as coming of a generation of conflicts fuelled by global economic turbulence, environment deterioration, north-south(and other) political tensions, weapons proliferation, and international crime impacting on "weak states". A focus group discussion held at Rutshuru underlined that after gaining election like for the parliament by a person, all benefits are focused on himself/herself and his/her family members. This goes up to its family's promotion to a certain position. This amplifies ethnicism and leads to rebellion for seeking on how to get promotion by force for surviving. Only ruling classes access easily to national resources and power while others are excluded. Berman (2010) underscores that among characteristics of the democracy are freedom of expression, equal distribution of national resources and participation of the population in decision making. It failure has resulted into lack of freedom of speaking, unequal distribution of national resources and poor participation of the population in decision-making.

Weak participation of the population in decision-making

4.5% from local populations and 1.56% from political leader pointed out weak participation of the population in decision-making. It is mostly used as a mean to take long time in power and tentative of delaying election and changing the constitution. Respondents' analysis is that the populations are manipulated for the first time to elect a constitution that might also be used for the first time and become subject to any population unwillingness change by ruling class.

This is similar to what has happened in DRC since 2011 where the third democratic election could be held in 2016. All parliament members are supporting implicitly the delaying of election and in fact the tentative of constitution change in purpose to take more time in power due to no hope of gaining the following phase of election.

As the result in 30th October 2017, the North Kivu local population declared the voluntary demission of Joseph Kabila due to no respect of the constitution, reported a member of a focus group discussion held at Masisi.

Illicit exploitation of natural resources

Illicit exploitation of national resources is not an exception among consequences of key challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC. It was more experienced by 6% from local populations and by 4.68% from political leaders. Respondents' analysis is that excluded from equal distribution of national resources and power usually resorts in creating militia to destabilize ruling class in purpose to access to national resources.

Impunity

Impunity was also reported among consequences of key challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC by 3.5% from local population and by 1.56% from political leader in their location area. This does not mean that DRC does not have laws and constitution that help to manage the Country in everyday life of its citizens. They are not only followed and implemented by rulers. An international leader from MONUSCO based at Goma reported that DRC suffers also from the fact that the rule of law is not in practice due to DRC leader's greediness. After gaining an amount of money from an offender, judicial system is not taken into account.

Political instability

Political instability was also reported among consequences of key challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC by 7% from local population and 6.25% from political leaders in their location area. Excluding others from the management of the Country, ruling class sometimes face problems related to political instability: riot and rebellions among others, which undermine peace building process. International agencies might not have reached targeted persons by project. This finding is in accordance with what Olakounlé (2016:17) reports: 25% of African elections were accompanied by violence. After deadly post-electoral violence in Kenya in 2007, Côte d'Ivoire also experienced a civil war in early 2011 that officially claimed 3000 victims. Political crises are associated with various forms of violence that weaken states' legitimacy and capacity to protect peaceful coexistence. It was here underlines Stearns (2012:9) that the precursors to the Congo wars began with ethnic violence in 1993 and it is here that the most formidable challenges to stability in the country persist today.

Objective 3: Strategies to promote sustainable peace in DRC

The study also sought to present and discuss needed strategies to promote sustainable peace in DRC at the structural level.

Table 5: Strategies for the promotion of sustainable peace in DRC at the structural level

<i>Strategies</i>		North Kivu local population	Civil activists	society	Political leader:
<i>Good governance</i>	Frequency	10	0		0
	Percentage	5.0%	0.0%		0.0%
<i>Institutions building/Reforming</i>	Frequency	0	0		0
	Percentage	0.0%	0.0%		0.0%
<i>National dialogue</i>	Frequency	0	0		0
	Percentage	0.0%	0.0%		0.0%
<i>All</i>	Frequency	190	120		64
	Percentage	95.0%	100.0%		100.0%

Source: Field Data

Asking on strategies to promote sustainable peace in DRC, all respondents agreed that the fact is possible through but not limited to national dialogue, good governance and institutions building. Both aggressors and victims may seat together to discuss issues that disturb the Country and suggest appropriate solutions that could help to

promote sustainable peace. Victims may know the motivation of aggressors to do so and these may know the needs of victims.

This will help reach the sincere reconciliation and could be the foundation of good governance and institutions building in the Country. The 5% who have pointed out good governance thought on strategies to struggle against bad governance only.

However, local population has put more a particular emphasis on good governance as the most strategy to promote sustainable peace in DRC as reported by 5%. They have considered that DRC Country suffers more from bad governance. A MONUSCO leader based at Walikale declared that the fact is possible if DRC may become a right state in which good governance and democracy work, rule of law is implemented in everyday life of the population, armed groups are unified and work for the interest of all country instead of working for ruling class. For their best understanding, each factor is separately explained below.

National dialogue

According to Graduate institute of international and development studies (January 2016), National Dialogue is formally-mandated public forum with a clear structure establishing rules and procedures for dialogue and decision-making. It is convened over the course of several days...for addressing a broad range of social, political, or economic issues concerning the entire country. In addition, Hannes (2016:12) adds by saying that the most effective dialogue and peace structures are those that are carefully designed by national stakeholders themselves to collectively address their conflict and broken constitutional instruments. National dialogue processes shares some common elements including (1) Political representation and should reflect all major interest groups in society;(2) Non-constitutional entities that function best when linked to existing constitutional bodies or interim structures in order to guarantee implementation;(3) Development and decision on binding frameworks for political reform and constitutional change, and the process and decision-making and implementation mechanisms are determined by the parties themselves;(4) Mandate by participating political stakeholders to effect constitutional change.

In fact, if all DRC stakeholders follow the above procedures on national dialogue, the Country could heal its illnesses and grow up in different sectors.

Good governance

Ruwa(2001) underscores that good Governance is considered as the traditions and institutions by which authority in a country is exercised for the common good. In this context, people experience the rule of law, freedom of speaking, participation in decision-making, national resources and power sharing, the respect of human rights, political and economical stabilities among others. Eberhard (2005:24) emphasizes that most good governance definitions and approaches focus on the exercise of political, economical and administrative authority to effectively manage a society's affairs. As such these approaches seek to advance the rule of law, promote accountability and transparency, and enhance consensus with references to social and economic priorities, and the means of achieving development objectives.

Institutions building

Pointing out institutions building among strategies to promote sustainable peace in DRC does not mean that there exist no institutions in DRC.

They are not only functioning as they could for the welfare of the population. They are weakened and manipulated by ruling class at different levels of the Country. There is a need to empower all existing institutions technologically and scientifically. Doig, Watt, Williams (2006) posits that most of theoreticians of modernism propose solutions to underdevelopment. They support that North Countries may play a role to the development of South Countries. The North may thus sustain the South from transition to attitudes and adequate institutions. Their technical assistances may help South Countries to reform their political and economic institutions.

Positive Outcomes of strategies to promote sustainable peace in DRC

The study also sought to present and discuss positive outcomes of strategies to promote sustainable peace in DRC at the structural level.

Table 6: Positive outcomes of strategies to promote sustainable peace in DRC at the structural level

Positive outcomes		North local population	Kivu	Civil society activists	Political leader	Total
Institutions functioning	Frequency	0		0	0	0
	Percentage	0.0%		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Good governance indicators	Frequency	0		0	0	0
	Percentage	0.0%		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Unified nation	Frequency	0		0	0	0
	Percentage	0.0%		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
All	Frequency	200		120	64	384
	Percentage	100.0%		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Field data

The table above shows that all respondents have realized that strategies to promote sustainable peace in DRC at the structural level may result into many positive outcomes but not limited to unified nation, institutions functioning and good governance indicators.

Respondents' analysis is that these factors might help DRC Country to grow up and help its citizens live peacefully and in abundance by being implicated actively in peace building process.

Below, we discuss each of the strategy in detail.

Unified nation

Respondents' analysis is that unified nation permit all persons live in peace, which 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. It encourages citizens to cooperate, to share ideas and undertake conflicts sensitive activities to promote positive peace among and within countries around the world.

Institutions functioning

Knight (1992) underlines that institutions enable ordered thought, expectation, and action by imposing form and consistency on human activities. Institutions both constrain and enable behavior.

Asking on why no functioning of DRC institutions as they could, one of political leader in a focus group held at Walikale has observed that DRC institutions have good job description but the problem is located on the right man at the right place. Most of those who are ruling are lacking expertise needed in their position.

Good governance indicators

Good governance indicators were reported among positive outcomes of strategies to promote sustainable in DRC at structural level. Afoaku (2003) considers that to enhance good governance manifestation in DRC, the following strongholds are needed: transparency, partnership and decentralization, accountability, administrative reforming, financial reforming, legislative and legal reforming, institutional reforming and restructuring reforming.

Namegabe(2010:34) identifies characteristics of good governance: (1) active participation of the population,(2) respect of human rights,(3) transparency ,(4) rule of law,(5) equity,(6) capacity and efficacy on administration,(7) freedom of media and freedom of opinion,(8) struggle against corruption,(9) power sharing through election, (10)good management of army,(11) separation and independence of different powers such as executive, legislative, judicial among others,(12) link theory to practice and (13) good management of public affairs.

5. Conclusion

The article has focused on challenges to achieving sustainable peace in Democratic Republic of Congo examining the North Kivu Province. It dealt with the structural level of peace building only. It aimed establish: Key factors impeding sustainable peace in DRC at the structural level. Secondly, it set out to find out related far-reaching consequences. It also set out to suggest effective strategies needed to promote sustainable peace in the country.

The researcher used both qualitative and quantitative approaches of investigation involving 384 respondents. The research findings revolved around three main themes. The study found out that challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC at the structural level include but not limited to bad governance, democratic deficit, dictatorial regime and lack of rule of law. Secondly, the far-reaching consequences to achieving sustainable peace in DRC include rebellions and uncontrolled armed groups, unequal distribution of national resources, weak participation of the population in decision-making, illicit exploitation of natural resources and political instability among others. Lastly, all respondents agreed sustainable could be achieved through national dialogue, good governance and institutions building, which might lead to unified nation, institutions functioning and good governance indicators.

The study recommends that all DRC's stakeholders should engage in coalition to struggle for good governance, rule of the law and education for democracy.

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