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Democratic Republic of Congo, Factor 14: Conflict Resolution

**Discouraging aggression, and encouraging collaboration and progress to end conflict and insecurity.**

Our world as we know it today is ridden with all sorts of issues. Everyday, we more fortunate hear about the fates of the less fortunate through the news, the media, television, or one of many other means of information. We hear about murders, devastating crimes, brutal governments, terrorism, and mass hunger, yet most remain indifferent, writing off the events as simply unavoidable tragedies. Hate, greed, prejudice, and corruption only begin to scratch the surface of the many causes behind the atrocities humans are capable - and sometimes willing - to carry out on each other. It seems as though we more fortunate, who live in places where food and safety is almost guaranteed, have - in general - decided that trying to help the less fortunate, by acting against these atrocities, is pointless. In this way, ignorance contributes just as much to prolonged evil as hatred, greed, prejudice, or corruption. This mindset of the more fortunate as a whole is what has allowed our global community to develop into such a defined separation between the more fortunate and the less fortunate. What I mean by this, is that there is an extremely clear, and easy to make distinction between those who have the privilege of leading secure and safe lifestyles, and those who lead a life of struggle and hardship. Obviously, the secure being the more fortunate, and the insecure the less fortunate. Both can be found virtually anywhere in the world, but for the most part the fortunate live in first world countries, such as America, and the less fortunate in third world countries, such as the Congo. The more fortunate all too often choose to remain ignorant and stagnant to atrocities around the world, and to only serve themselves, or no higher purpose. What needs to be changed, is the mindset of the more fortunate. We are more than able to help, and it is our civil responsibility to do so. Of course not everybody will be able or willing to comply - not everybody can afford to simply drop everything and shift all focus to problem solving - but assistance and aid is clearly needed around the world. The more movement that is taken towards this need, the more progress will be made. And that is exactly what needs to be made in order to solve our world's many problems.

This concept, that the more fortunate need to assume the responsibility to aid the less fortunate when able, should serve as a preface to the discussion of food insecurity and conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Certainly, the Congo is not the only area in desperate need of attention - as stated above, our whole world is plagued with more than a score of other problems - but it is the area whose issues I will attempt to explain and solve here in this paper.

Before any issues can be solved, the issues must first be fully understood. The reasons that the DRC is so incredibly insecure are as follows. The Democratic Republic of Congo is arguably one of the most dangerous places in Africa. This danger doesn't come from animals, or the climate. This danger stems from the blind aggression and greed of humans. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, a war involving most of Central Africa has been raging on for decades. In the late 19th century, what is now DRC was occupied by Belgium, the colony being named bluntly: The Belgian Congo. In short, the Belgians were notoriously cruel to the congolese. They were often tortured, mass-murdered, or worked to death. The era

became known as The Belgian Atrocity, (Achberger, 2015). Riots began to break out in 1955, Belgium lost control, and the Congo was independent by 1960, (BBC, 2015). While Congolese leaders followed a 30-year plan for increased self government written by Antoin Van Bilsen, the Congo seemed to be on track to become a firm, capable, independent country, (The Washington Post Company, 2015). This could have remained true, if it weren't for Joseph Mobutu. Joseph Mobutu led a coup on the independent government of Congo starting in 1965. by 1971, he had taken control of the country, renamed it Zaire, and renamed himself Mobutu Sese Seko. Mobutu became less and less popular among citizens, as he removed the multi partisan style of government, pushed for negative free market reforms, and as riots broke out in the capital concerning unpaid soldiers. It should also be noted that Mobutu was extremely irresponsible with Zaire's finances. He built himself an incredible palace, and used the country's money to pamper himself and his corrupt colleagues, while the average Congolese population suffered. Eventually, Rwandan backed rebels took action and invaded the Congo, in what later became known as the First Congo War, (BBC, 2015). They captured most of Eastern Congo, and the capital, Kinshasa. They then overthrew Mobutu, causing Laurent Kabila to rise to power along with a new democratic system, thus leading to the country's current name: The Democratic Republic of Congo. In a year's time, Kabila managed to restore very little order, so Rwandan rebels teamed up with other Ugandan and restless Congolese rebels against Kabila. Zimbabwe, Namibia, and Angola offered their support to the Congolese government, which officially started the Second Congo War in 1998, (BBC, 2015). A ceasefire was proposed and accepted in 1999, and was monitored by the United Nations. Peace was seemingly restored by the ceasefire, as there was much less violence in the area shortly after. However, this peace was extremely short lived. It was once again disturbed by a single devastating event 2 years later.

Laurent Kabila was assassinated in 2001, (Britannica, 2015). The assassin was one of Kabila's personal bodyguards, who also happened to be an enslaved child soldier, a common occupation for a Congolese child. This event demonstrates already how distraught the citizens of DRC were with their government. enough so that Laurent Kabila's own bodyguard would assassinate him. The abruptness of the assassination shows how little knowledge Laurent possessed on his citizens, as well. The most important outcome of the assassination, was the rekindling of the fire in the Congo and its surrounding areas. Various rebel groups responded with both support and disagreement with the assassination, picking the conflict right up from where it left off. The Congo and its surrounding areas were thrown back into danger. 10 days after the assassination, on January 26th, 2001, Laurent's son Joseph Kabila inherited the presidency, (Britannica, 2015). He tried to come to permanent peace with Rwandan and Ugandan presidents, and eventually did so in 2002. They promised to withdraw all troops, and end aggression, which from the outside seems like an immense step towards ending conflict in the Congo. And sure, it was a key step in the process of permanently liberating DRC, but it still came nowhere near ending conflict. In fact, conflict is still going on today, in 2015. At the point of J. Kabila's peace treaty with Uganda and Rwanda, 2.5 million Africans had died, and millions more would continue to die. Though peace between the three governments was met, the Congo still had a very big issue of its own, with various rebel groups and warlords. Both of the Kabila's were too occupied with outside conflict to pay necessary attention to their own country, allowing rebel groups to essentially take control of the country. As time went on and tension between citizens, the government, and rebels increased, things like food and water security started to deplete. The country which had been stricken with debt and conflict for decades simply could not afford to divide its attention so thinly between solving conflict, and providing the citizens with necessary support. Eventually, all of the government's time and effort was shifted to its civil

war, leaving citizens on their own, and in seek of support. Consequently, the support citizens were looking for was found within the only other option remaining: The rebels.

Most of these rebels' goals shifted from political reform, to prolonging the fighting so that they can reap the benefits of being in unregulated control of a country as vast and resource abundant as the DRC. During the many years of the conflict, various rebel groups were able to take control of the mining industry, still today strongly holding a sort of monopoly. The Congo's resources include gold, diamonds, and coltan, which are all necessary in the creation of cellular phones, among other things. These metals are extremely valuable, and are sold by rebels cheaply and irresponsibly to outside buyers. With the power and money that comes along with the mining industry, rebels are able to take a ridiculous amount of slaves to work in mines, to fight against the government or other rebels, or to fuel the simultaneous sex trade/human trafficking industry in the country. The government cannot afford to provide jobs, since all of its funding is pumped into conflict. So, Congolese citizens are faced with only 2 options: attempt to provide food, water, and security for you and your family while risking starvation, or being attacked or stolen from, or work for rebels who will provide you with a bare minimum of food and water, but risk being killed, tortured, or raped. As a result of the tumultuous insecurity in the country, 5.4 million have died, and 200,000 women and girls have been raped, (War Child UK, 2014). DR Congo's issues do not stop with just conflict and slavery, they reach to malnutrition, water scarcity, and even overcrowdedness. If these issues are to be resolved, action must be taken to meet political and economic compromise, and to end aggression.

A healthily operational country, in its most basic form, consists of simply three things: An honest government which serves the people and which the people serve in return, an honest economy based on necessity, choice, and education, and an absence of crime, violence, and insecurity of any kind. The Democratic Republic of Congo presently has none of these things, and has not for most of its history. Its issues are rooted all the way back to the late 1800's and early 1900's, and are still ever present, yet evolved, in 2015. The Congo seems to be going through an ever repeating cycle from insecurity, to revolution, to liberation, but then right back to insecurity. If we are to break the current cycle and solve DRC's issues with food and water security, conflict, and overall wellbeing, major policy changes will need to take affect, economic reform and compromise will need to be met, government programs such as education, healthcare, and transportation must be rebuilt, the government will have to reevaluate its distribution of attention between rebels and citizens, and ultimately, conflict of any kind must be eradicated.

The government of Congo simply cannot divide its funding and attention between the common people, and the effort to put down rebel groups. Nearly everyone in the country is burdened with little to no pay, and little food. Malnutrition rates are as high as 16 percent in some regions, which is significantly higher than most places in the world. Malnutrition is especially a problem for young children, as 1 in 5 Congolese children will die of malnutrition before they turn 5, (Irin Foundation, 2014). On top of this, the government only pays \$2 of health care per person. Only 67% of the population is literate, and only 61% attend school, (World Factbook, 2014). The average family consists of 5.3 members, with 52% of the household population being under the age of 15, and 25% of families led by women, (ICF International, 2014). In most rural families, Men, women, and children work alongside on farms, making roughly 500 US dollars per year. This means that 95 percent of the country lives on less than \$2 per day, (Irin

Foundation UK, 2014). Farming is the DRC's number one internal industry, accounting for 66% of the honest workforce. There is a lot of food produced in the country, and the food isn't necessarily malnourished by any means, the main crops being Cassava, maize, peanuts, and rice, (ICF International, 2014). So how can food be a problem? The problem arises in transportation. Transportation systems are terribly underdeveloped, and underfunded in the DRC. There is absolutely no funding coming from the government for upkeep on roads, the only funding comes from volunteer work, or outside organizations. The work that is currently done on roads, or rather the lack of it, could not even stand up to regular conditions, let alone the constant warfare in the country. The lack of an operational transport system blockades farmers and consumers away from each other. Sure, some farmers can provide locally for some time, but say a drought happens in a certain area. That area will not be able to produce a sufficient amount of food, and also won't be able to get food from outside providers. That area is essentially trapped in malnutrition and starvation until the drought is over, or the rare occasion that capable outside aid steps in. Droughts are not the only factor to affect the DRC's restricted food supply either, there are countless others such as disease, poor farming strategies or inexperience, sabotage or larceny, etc. The transportation crisis doesn't exclusively affect agriculture however, it hinders every aspect of the economy. No long distance trade means no economic growth in any area, and this is especially true for a country as massive and diverse as the DRC. In the DRC's case, a practical transportation system could be the key to developing the economy and bettering food insecurity. Of course, this is not the only solution that should be set into motion, nor are the problems with DRC's current transportation system the only problems in the country. However, transportation would be an excellent place to start in the effort to improve the country's current condition.

Water scarcity and lack of urbanization pose major threats to the country's well being as well. At one point, DR Congo was one of the most water plentiful nations in Africa. The government was wealthy and organized enough not only to pump water to a majority of areas, but also to keep their pipe systems up to date and safe. When revolution struck and the government began to crumble, DR Congo's ability to provide clean water to its people began to diminish. A lack of infrastructure and funding means that over time, rusty pipes will multiply and not be repaired, leaving less and less of the population with no access to clean water. Currently, only 69% of Congolese people have access to clean, pipelined water, most of this percentage coming from major cities, such as Kinshasa, (Shore, 2015). People living in rural areas have 2 options to choose from: drink contaminated water from a rusty pipe, or take a risk and drink from a local spring which has a chance of being contaminated with waste, chemicals, or bacteria. In a recent study, the IRC found that a large percentage of deaths since the start of the revolution resulted from malaria and diarrhea, both water borne diseases. The country's inability to pump clean water to its citizens is worsened by its present state of urbanization. Currently, DRC is ranked 178th out of 257 countries in terms of urbanization, with only 34% of the country being urban. (Misilu, 2010). This is especially low for a country the size of DRC, and is becoming more and more of a problem. Villagers have gradually moved to major cities in seek of refuge, or better work opportunities. Since these villagers cannot afford to build or buy a real house, they are forced to live in shacks on the outskirts of the city. This is creating slum areas which stretch for miles in the surrounding area of cities. Overpopulation, crime, lack of resources, and simply chaos are becoming more and more of an issue for these large cities, and in particular, the capital, Kinshasa. Kinshasa poses an interesting threat to the government, as rioters would not have to travel far to reach the roots of their discontent. Solving the DR Congo's war problems will not

do much in the long run if these problems are not solved right along with it. It will take much more than peace to let the country reach its full potential.

The Democratic Republic of Congo is locked in a cycle, where citizens do not have time to attend school because they are working, most citizens cannot get skill based jobs because of a lack of education, people cannot make as much money, the government cannot bring in as much revenue, therefore the government cannot provide the people with services, or end conflict. The only way to break this cycle, is to add something into it. The addition that makes the most sense would be an updated transportation system. A transportation system would improve the economy and food situation by allowing long distance trade and growth, employment and income would increase, government revenue would increase, and finally the people would be granted government support through effective conflict resolution, and programs such as education and healthcare. It seems as if transportation is the key to solving the DRC's issues, but of course, it is easier said than done. There is no room in the DRC's current budget for a rehabilitated transportation system, however this is the direction in which the country should move. Making this funding available will be the challenge.

Resolving DR Congo's conflict problem concurrent to its transportation issues would undeniably improve the country's food security, along with improving overcrowdedness, safety, and the economy. First, people would feel safe enough to leave their home, or travel to other towns, cities, or villages. They would not have to worry about walking through a war zone, or running into aggressive soldiers on the way to the market. These trips which Congolese citizens currently dread and fear, will be made safe, and completely possible. Not only will the travel be much safer with the absence of conflict, but also much more efficient with roads. Gradually, this would lead to more people shopping for food outside their neighborhood, in places with more of a selection, rather than trying to grow their own crops. The more people who buy food, the higher the demand for farm workers will rise, and the more people will be employed. As employment increases and war costs are levelled out, the government may start to take in more revenue. This money could go towards things other than the military, such as roads, or education. Once roads are improved, internal commerce, or long distance travel as a whole, will be made possible. This will further improve the economy, allowing Northern provinces such as Orientale, to trade with Southern provinces such as Katanga. Roads will also create a whole new industry in the Congo: Tourism. The absence of violence, accessible means of transportation, and unique geography of the area will attract tourists from all around the world. Over time, Congolese people will start going to school more regularly. Schools will no longer be used as refugee shelters, and the government and the people will be able to afford it. A more educated population will lead to a more employed population. In a study done by the Wall Street Journal, it was concluded that, "What stands out is that all the countries follow a nearly straight line that slopes upward—as (educational) scores rise, so does economic growth," (Shultz, Hanushek, 2012). On top of all of these long term advantages to resolving conflict, there are immediate gains as well. Women will become more of a respected part of the society. There will be no more animalistic soldiers who use rape as a weapon, and most women will have to join the workforce, giving them both their dignity, and their power back. The many valuable resources of DR Congo will go out of rebels' hands, and into the government's. The output and sale of these materials will be regulated, leading to a healthier environment, and mine workers will actually be paid, again leading to an improved economy. These chain-reactions are the goals, and hopefully the eventual realities of liberating the DRC. Conflict in DR Congo is seemingly its biggest issue, and solving it initiates a domino effect, knocking

down nearly all of the remaining problems in the country. But to arrive at the ultimate endpoint of chaos in the DRC, and to see the benefits of order, small problems must be attacked and resolved first. Transportation, educational and economic growth, and urbanization are the stepping stones to solving mass food insecurity and conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and initiating this domino effect.

The Democratic Republic of Congo's current president, Joseph Kabila, claims to be working diligently to find a way to solve the many issues in the DRC. Kabila is nearing the end of his third term as president, which is the maximum number of terms a president can serve in DR Congo. He and other government officials have moved to extend his time in office through a number of different disputable methods. They have tried to extend the voting process by using more local election results, and by splitting provinces in opposition. Kabila claims that the reason he is trying to stay in office is not so that he can resemble a dictator. He asserts that he needs to stay in office for the safety of all of Africa. Major African countries surrounding DR Congo are losing their former long term leaders soon, notably Rwanda. Rwanda's president, Paul Kagame is acting to extend his term as president unconstitutionally in a similar fashion to Kabila. Kabila claims that a shift in power across many nations at one time could cause another continental war, (Smith, 2015). As opposition to Kabila increases, so do protests, both violent and peaceful. The government was forced to respond quickly to these protests, and in a panic sent troops to act as police. So far, hundreds have been killed, including some but not many police officers. Protesters claim to be peaceful, but soldiers claim otherwise. One mother of a victim of police killings said, "May God forgive the police officer. I can't condemn him. I'm feeling pain. I feel in danger. I've lost all desire to live in my own country. The government is responsible now," (Smith, 2015). The people living in DR Congo are fed up with the government. They have failed to make their citizens feel safe, causing most Africans to fear a civil, or even a continental war centered around the Democratic Republic of Congo. Since the government or the people alone are unable to solve issues in food security and conflict, multiple outside forces will have to step in.

If progress is to be made on these stepping stones towards the audacious goal of an operational Congo, changes in government policy and leadership will need to be made. First, the government will need to listen to the majority of the population, and replace Joseph Kabila as president. Again, his 3rd and final constitutional term is nearing its end, but attempts are being made to increase the maximum terms. Joseph and his father Laurent have done all they were able to, and admittedly did find some success. But the Kabila family has been in power for decades, contributing to corruption all along the way. They both handed out huge amounts of power to their family, notably Joseph Kabila's twin sister Jaynet, and Joseph's wife Olive Kabila; who both play major roles behind the scenes of the Congolese government, (Riche, Berwouts, 2014). While the Kabila family is very reluctant to step out of power, it is time for the DRC to move in a different direction. A true democracy cannot operate as a dynasty, and the Kabila's will need to accept this and put trust into future leadership. Perhaps new leadership in both the DRC and Rwanda would bring new solutions to the situation rather than new problems. Alongside this, the Congolese people will need to work with honest government officials to remove corruption elsewhere. Ever since the Mobutu days, most of the government has depended on loopholes, private funding, and secret favors. Corruption is a main contributor to the prolonging conflict. An honest government can use morality and integrity to its advantage to help its people, which is something the DRC desperately needs out of its government. Purifying the government will lead to a system less centered around greed, and more centered around the people's needs and wants. Right now, in late 2015, it is too soon to say exactly

which new candidate is best for the Congo, or if there will even be an election. With Kabila's uncertainty on trying to stay in power, it makes it very hard to tell exactly what the best path is. But, either way, a candidate who is focused less on conflict and corruption, and more on morality and progress should be the general template.

Leadership change should be accompanied by policy change. In the past, the DRC's policy has broadly been to focus on eliminating conflict first, and then working on the other amounting problems. The logic behind this policy initially seems to make sense. Conflict is the most immediately dangerous of all of the Congo's problems, and without conflict the remainder of issues can be solved much quicker, and much easier. However, conflict is taking far longer to resolve than anticipated. Had the conflict been solved within one or two years, this strategy may have worked out, however this was not the case. The DRC has spent decades fighting conflict, has ignored countless other problems, and has allowed these problems to pile up for far too long. The DRC's new policy should again, focus more on the smaller steps and issues which lead towards a conflict-free, secure DRC, rather than using pure violence and direct combat to end conflict exclusively. Now, a shift into this new policy is not one that will be swift, or obstacle free. It will undoubtedly take time, and there will undoubtedly be obstacles to overcome. To start, I suggest that the government should negotiate with another outside country with strong economic and militant power for aid in the conflict. The DRC is extremely rich in valuable resources, and are very much capable of making an attractive offer for assistance and relief. China has showed great interest in a relationship with DRC, currently China is DRC's number one export partner, accounting for 43.7% of their exports, (The World Factbook, 2013). In fact, China plays a huge role in all of Africa's economy, including Rwanda - one of two countries which support Congolese rebels - who exports 24.2% to China, (The World Factbook, 2013). Uganda - the other country to support Congolese rebels - doesn't share a relationship with China, but they are closely tied with Rwanda both politically and economically. So, China could potentially play a major role in ending central African conflict. Military aid from China would first allow the official DRC military to gradually withdraw their troops and funding from the battle. This would give the government an opportunity to rebuild and redistribute their funding to other areas in need of immediate attention, such as the unkempt transit system. Along with this opportunity for reconstruction, China's expanding role in the conflict would take the Congolese government's image away from the fight. As Chinese forces become more and more prominent in battle, and Congolese forces decrease, the rebels will start to lose their motivation, and their support. Rebels won't be fighting the roots of their problems anymore, they will be facing a military which has no personal ties to the Congo, and which trumps them in numbers, and technology. The rebels will most likely lose their support from Rwanda, and consequently Uganda as well. Rwanda cannot risk losing their ever so important relationship with China, and to avoid this it is likely that they will have to cut support for the rebels. Uganda will most likely be forced to do the same, as being a lone country supporting guerilla rebels who are fighting most of Central Africa and China is not exceedingly wise. Once the rebels lose support, it is only a matter of time before they are either defeated by China, or simply fade away because of lost cause. Eradicating conflict is only half the battle, however, and it will come with its fair share of obstacles.

The first obstacle that the Congolese may face is getting China to agree to a pact for military support in exchange for an improved economic relationship. China has been notorious throughout the course of history for acting more on personal profit, and less on morality. All of the food insecurity, death, rape, disease, and horror in the country may be indifferent to China. The DRC will have to make an extremely

appealing offer in this case, perhaps extending a percentage of mining profits to China well after the conflict is solved, and well after China's role is completed. The DRC must however be simultaneously cautious with the relationship with China. Getting into an agreement that cannot be carried out fully could result in even more debt, conflict, and anarchy in the DRC's future. The relationship with China has a notable amount of risk in it, but it is risk that should be taken. Taking advantage of their bountiful resources, and China's influence and power is the smartest route for the DRC, though some may not see this right away. This is where the second obstacle comes in.

The second obstacle that must be faced, is setting the whole movement into motion. If the suggested path to a restored DRC is to be taken, it will need the support from Congolese citizens, the Congolese government, and any outside force capable to aid the effort. The first step towards full support should be within the citizens. The whole campaign - geared around relieving the common people - would be futile without the support of the common people. What the people need right now, is to be reunited, and reassured. They need something to give them back their power, and self reliance. An organization known as Development Media International, or DMI, could potentially do just that. DMI is a charity organization which uses money donated from around the world to broadcast constructive information regarding health, agriculture, and overall well being through radio and TV in developing, or insecure countries. In the past, DMI has worked against HIV/AIDS in India and Cambodia, Leprosy in Brazil, India, and Nepal, and maternal and child health in Kenya, India, and Cambodia, among many others. The organization sums itself up by saying, "DMI has a proven track record of delivering mass media that dramatically leads to more healthy behaviors, and has the potential to have much wider impact going forward," (DMI Associates, 2015). DMI has the power to effect and save lives across an enormous scale, and in an extremely cost effective way. In late May of 2015, DMI began their campaign in the DRC. Currently, DMI is broadcasting a child health campaign to 2.4 million people in 8 of 11 provinces, and a family planning campaign to 11 million people in Kinshasa alone, with plans to expand, (DMI Associates, 2015). As broadcasts widen, and the people become more informed, aware, and healthy, they will no longer be at the bottom of the Congolese food chain. They will be able to provide for themselves, no longer needing to seek help from rebels. Eventually, the DMI campaign should broaden to distribute information on how to effectively and peacefully protest the government. With this, the Congolese people's wants will transform from merely wishes, to demands. Improved protest techniques accompanied by the citizens' newly found power and independence will give the government no choice but to comply. So, the role of small communities and individuals in the DRC's future is to accept advice, information, and education from DMI - increasingly as it expands - until they get their power and autonomy back. Once the citizens are capable and secure, the government can be peacefully protested, until they either realize what the right path for the DRC is, or give in to the demands of the population. DMI should serve as a medium for rallying the Congolese together, by encouraging collaboration in agriculture and health, as well as in the effort to lobby the government. Mass communication and media could be the one addition that the Congolese citizens need to set the long awaited movement into action.

The DRC is undeniably one of the most misfortunate, chaotic, deadly, and insecure countries in the world. For its whole history it's been plagued with atrocity spanning from greed, to aggression, to poverty, and finally to hunger. It is far past due that aggression be put to rest within the Congolese. Ultimately, it is time that the country is permanently liberated, and maintained. We more fortunate must push the movement forward, by offering funding, or volunteer work to an organization such as DMI. The Congolese must become educated, aware, and self dependent, and will do just so with the assistance of



DMI and outside funding. Once the people have their own power, they can adequately politick for enhanced political action, which will ideally lead to a Chinese-Congolese relationship. In return for resources, China will help to swiftly eradicate the DRC's issues with conflict and violent rebellion. Once bloodshed is no longer a constant fear or hindrance, the government can begin to focus on other issues. First, working on taking in more revenue by improving the economy. The funding that would have normally gone towards conflict should shift to fund roads, and public transportation. This opens up possibilities for long distance economic growth, and availability. Not only will the government take in more revenue from this, but a vaster, more diverse selection of goods and food will be available to citizens living anywhere in the country. With its new influx of funding, the government should work towards an improved water system, healthcare system, and education system. Increased availability of clean water means less risk for disease and death, health care helps take care of disease when it does occur, and improved education leads to a more skill-based economy. With conflict out of the picture and money now in the picture, urbanization and overcrowdedness can be dealt with. Battle zones will no longer prevent citizens from moving freely throughout the country, and with time the population will become more evenly distributed. Along with this, more cities will be planned and eventually constructed and populated. When mapped out on paper, the path to a developed, more fortunate, atrocity free, and secure Democratic Republic of Congo seems simple, and easily managed. We must keep in mind, however, that as this path is taken, unexpected obstacles will certainly arise. This adversity will need to be dealt with enthusiastically, and without doubt. The road to the ideal future DRC will be long and challenging. Be that as it may be, as long as the vision of an empowered country is kept in mind, the goal will be reached. The liberation of the DRC is a crucial point in the long running fight against cruelty, immorality, and hunger, and in dissolving our world's plentiful, yet solvable issues.

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