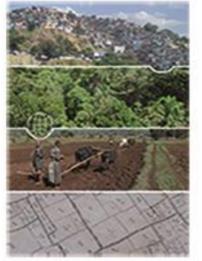


# Land Governance in an Interconnected World

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## Risk & Reconstruction: Assessing the Conditions of Poverty and Landlessness for Internally Displaced People

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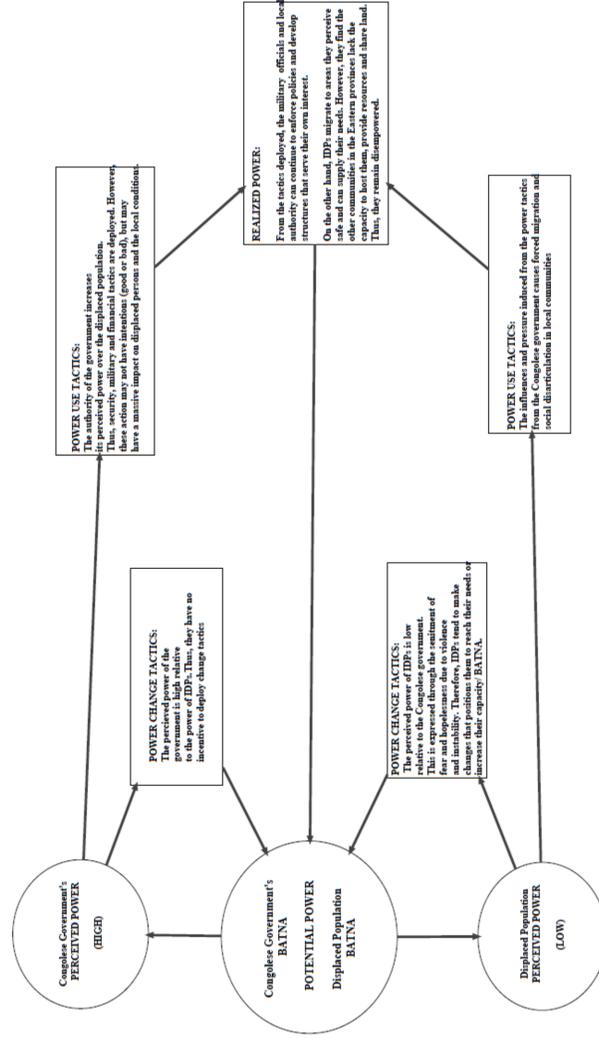
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### INTRODUCTION

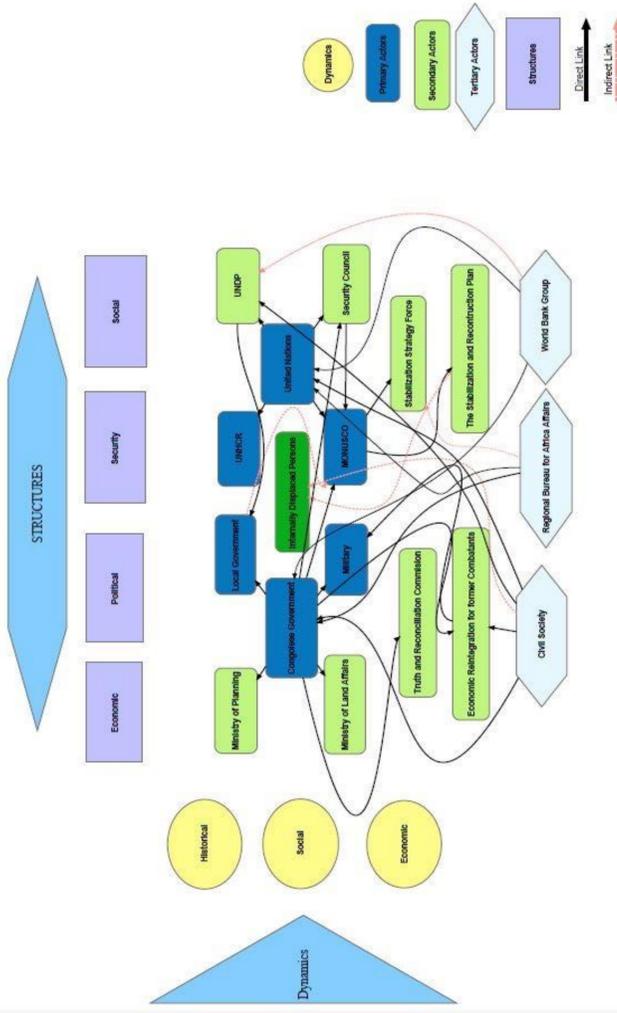
The population of the Eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of Congo has faced forced and prolonged displacement for decades. Land conflict and tension over scarce resources is at an all-time high. Over 70% of the population sits well below the poverty, and resilient systems are fading. The historical roots of violence, genocide, conflict and war shapes the social and economic landscape in the Democratic Republic of Congo today. The current population is roughly 79.7 million in the Democratic Republic of Congo (United Nations, 2017). There are 2,230,000 internally displaced people who are marred with violence and conflict. There were 130,000 new displacements in 2016 due to natural disasters and 997,000 due to conflict. The DRC in the second largest country in Africa, and is rich in minerals and natural resources which makes the region attractive to external actors. The colonial roots that invoked violence, ethnic tension, and mass immigration has particularly influenced the social & economic dynamics and drivers of conflict looming over the region today.

### ECONOMIC & SOCIAL DYNAMICS



The economy remains vulnerable to exogenous shocks such as the volatility of oil prices, declining oil production, and mining production delays. The economy is largely based on the oil industry, which accounts for 70 percent of GDP, 90 percent of exports, and 80 percent of revenue. Agriculture represents less than 10 percent of the economy and the country has to import 25 percent of its food. In order to begin the economic reconstruction process, the state must begin to diversify commodity production and leverage internal resource capacity. Economic instability exacerbates local conflict and confines the vast majority of the population within the corridors of poverty and social upheaval. According to the African Development Bank Group, economic growth averaged 7.7% between 2010 and 2015, but lower prices for export commodities (copper and cobalt) and political uncertainties hindered growth in 2016. Growth in 2017 was estimated at 3.3% due to the good performance of the extractive and manufacturing industries, construction and public works, and trade. The recovery is projected to continue into 2018 and 2019 with rising commodity prices and increased activity in the extractive industry. Although recovery is under way due to projected growth in extractives, increased exposure to sector volatility leaves uncertainty for shocks in the system that can erode resilience and security for the general population.

### CONFLICT MAP

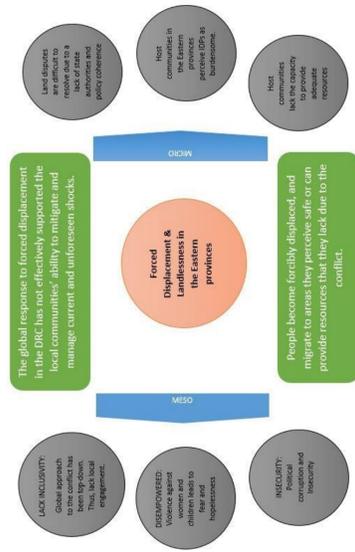


### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I dedicate this work to **Maryland Gholson**. She was a fervent proponent of economic and social development in the international community. Her persistence and hard-work laid the foundation for my drive to promote sustainable change.

### MACRO ANALYSIS

The Congo has enough land (ten million hectares), a well-developed water system, a favorable climate for agriculture, forests (covering nearly 22 million hectares), and oil and mining resources. However, towards the development of a meta-framework - I. Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology, 9(1), 1-37.



Fervent engagement from the international community is pertinent to achieve targets for stabilization and reconstruction in the DRC. Governments and multilateral institutions must position themselves to pursue a collective global mission for development and peace. The negative effects of the eroding conditions in the Democratic Republic of Congo is damaging to the economic, social and political global system. Thus, coherence and coordination among stakeholders should be top priority. Enhanced communication systems and fluent engagement between actors is the entry point to achieve development goals.

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