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Group 7

Policy Memorandum

Rural Aid Development in the Democratic Republic of Congo

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Policy Memorandum:

Action-Forcing Event

The inefficient delivery of aid funding to rural inhabitants of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is a situation that requires immediate attention. The under-served residents of these areas are not receiving adequate access to financial aid, which is a situation that must be rectified. The actions taken by the national government has exacerbated the crises in the DRC, and the delivery of aid lacks effectiveness and efficiency, specifically in rural communities.

Background/Analysis

President Mobutu Sese Seko was removed from power in then Zaire in 1994, leading to a civil war that lasted for the next decade. In 2006, the first democratic elections were held in the DRC, but issues of civil disorder have continued to persist. The centralized government structure has been ineffective in distributing aid funds properly, which has led to a situation

Recommendation

The current method of aid distribution in the DRC is in need of modification. The most effective option for achieving this goal is to encourage a process of decentralized aid delivery targeted towards rural provinces and peoples. The central government does not necessarily take care of the needs of the rural populations effectively, and thus rural communities must be empowered with their own aid delivery and distribution systems.

The system would begin with private donors a group of local representatives, knowledgeable citizens within a community, that come together to decide what will be the most beneficial to all. This representative group will include a mix of both community elders and younger populations, to provide a well-balance picture of the issues facing each rural community. The representatives will then write proposals giving an approximation of the cost of each project that will then be sent to trustees of a private donor fund. Provincial council groups will be developed to provide checks and balances on this process, and mediate the negotiations between individual stakeholder groups and the NGOs providing funding. The donors, in consultation with the provincial councils, will assess the cost of the project and allot an amount for each venture individually which would be distributed by the NGO. This process would effectively circumvent the centralized system of banking in the DRC, but allow for grassroots development of a new phase of banking based in the citizenry of the nation.

The development of an NGO capable of facilitating communication between the local communities and the private donor parties present. The goal of this project is to restore faith in the community and that through collective action true success can be achieved. The ideal outcome is to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of aid distribution, achieved through a coordination of representatives to foster capacity building in the rural areas of the DRC.

Group's Role

The role of the group in this project would be to help to establish a partnership between private donors and local NGOs. Members of the group could provide technical and logistical support to aid in this process, and help to establish a means to foster capacity building in the region.