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**Project proposal**

**Referendum on the constitution**

**Socio-demographic profile of citizens hostile to the Haitian government's new constitution project and the factors that influence them**

1. **Understanding the Goals of the Project**

1. **Define the problem**

**What trouble requires you to work on?**

The Haitian government, through its minister in charge of electoral matters, is commissioning scientific work on my part to help develop public policies aimed at getting people to accept the idea of the referendum and vote yes. The government, in need of popularity, is convinced that the referendum on the constitution represents an important element in their list of achievements. they do not intend to abandon this project under any circumstances. Their main concern is the possible discretization of the process. He wants to know the socio-demographic profile of those who are hostile to the referendum, why they are hostile to it, and then set up specific programs to convince them to vote and to vote YES.

**Why is this issue important ?**

It is important for the government in place to avoid its failure. The government considers itself failed if it does not succeed in passing the referendum project. It hired me, as data scientist, to avoid this failure predicted in the media and to show that some national and international organizations are wrong about this. They want it to show that they have some legitimacy and that the people support them in this initiative.

1. **Define The Countenance Of The Problem**

**In what context does the issue exist?**

In reality, the project does not appear to be inclusive, as part of the population claiming to be in opposition remains intransigent. Supported by interest groups, they intend to block the process anyway. We still intend to hold the referendum. What will be difficult is to attach credibility to the process. And to do that, we need to identify the characteristics of those who do not intend to vote or those who will vote and will vote no. The challenge for the government is to develop programs to stimulate them to vote.

**Are there alternative solutions to solve this problem?**

Given the constraints made by the sponsor of the work who wants to organize the constitutional referendum anyway, the only option is to mobilize the population around the issue. It is a matter of raising awareness and convincing people to vote.

**2. Project's Designable Templates**

1. **The Customer**

**Who are you proposing this solution to?**

1. The Haitian government

**Why is this problem important?**

To resolve the crisis in which Haiti has been immersed for almost two years. It is also important to give the government for which I work an honorable way out. The failure or invalidity of the referendum reflects the failure of the government. They have spent enormous resources to promote a change in the constitution that is not yet accepted by public opinion.

**Those impacted by this issue (Stakeholders)**

**Who is impacted by the problem?**

1. The Haitian government (client)
2. The Haitian population in general
3. The international community (donors)
4. National and international human rights organizations

**Key relationships (those impacted by this problem)**

**How this problem affects people and their activities**

The government is responsible for organizing the referendum. Cancellation or poor organization of this activity leads to discrediting the government. What to avoid.

The Haitian population is increasingly polarized over the referendum. Its constitutionality divides legal professionals. Many political actors are opposed to the referendum because they believe that the process is not inclusive.

The international community, which has a great deal of weight in political decision-making in Haiti, still cannot rule on the referendum. They have not definitively allocated their funds. The so-called friendly countries want to make sure that the referendum will take place and will be marred by the fewest possible irregularities that could invalidate it.

The national and international organizations that fight for the respect of the constitution and human rights are watching for the respect of every principle that can ensure or hinder the good conduct of the referendum vote. And probably proclaim themselves on the necessity of its realization.

**Measurement and performance**

**How does the issue affect the severity of this problem?**

The expected rate of participation

Generally, voter turnout in Haiti is low. Young people are increasingly reluctant to participate in political activities. The situation of insecurity suggests a very low participation of the population.

Recently, the European Union refused to finance the referendum because it considers that civil society is not very involved in this process.

**3. Strong Points, Weak Points, Opportunities, Threats**

**Strong points**

1. Haitian public opinion is weak and can be manipulated.
2. The final draft of the new constitution has not yet been presented. So there is still time to correct some things or to add some others that could encourage young people and women to vote.

**Weak points**

1. The insecurity in the streets makes it difficult for people to vote. You can always convince them, but they still decide to stay away from the polls. At the same time, the climate of insecurity should be calmed.
2. Some political actors supported by interest groups different from those of the client refuse to participate at all costs. They have electoral bases that are loyal to them and will try to boycott the process.
3. The survey we will have to conduct to produce our findings is done on a non-representative sample. The results found cannot be extrapolated to the whole population.

**Opportunity**

1. The fact that public opinion is weak can be exploited to change the momentum in favour of the referendum. In this sense, it will be necessary to identify the profile of the citizen who is against or who will vote no in the referendum.
2. We can identify the weaknesses of the draft constitution and make corrections.

**Threat**

1. Elections can lead to riots if the security situation is not conducive.
2. The flood of protests that can occur with the referendum.
3. Aggravation of the political crisis after the realization of the referendum.

To collect data that can help me propose solutions to my client, I have put online an electronic questionnaire accessible through this link:   
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1C4z7H0XIcVZ4yzFNA4fno4bX8tFYcbYZAm7JaerleCQ/edit#response=ACYDBNh2yium9X5U9w3imMwlr1gF7LktcB_ECEsB8iDwKmXYZt_H8Aw61q0MjVU1Rc7HuqA>