

## 1. Understand the objective of the project

- *Define the problem*
- What problems do you have to work on?

We can define a referendum as the direct participation of the population in the management of the public stuffs. Unlike an election, it is not meant to choose a candidate, but rather to answer "yes" or "no" to a question put to the vote. If the yes vote prevails, this text or decision will be adopted officially.

Based on a survey realized by BRIDES on November 2020, the president of the country, Mr Jovenel Moise said that, at least 87.2% of the population have agreed to do the referendum he proposed to endow the country with a new constitution... Only 14000 persons have participated in this survey. Despite of the survey, many people in Haiti don't want to vote the referendum... The real question is; how many won't be voting by June 27<sup>th</sup> for the referendum due to so many factors? Such as insecurity, instability, confidence in the current government and so one ...

They ask me to work on the problem of referendum that affects the political climate in Haiti. I want to know how I can increase the level of faith of the population so that the turnout for the referendum on June 27<sup>th</sup> 2021 will be significant...

- Why it is important?

The problem is important because we all know what amend a constitution means, and if we want to do this by a referendum we must have a significant part of the population to participate in the vote. Otherwise it won't really reflect what the population really want but what a part of the population wants. The referendum's problem is a national problem that affect the socio-political climates.

### *Define the context of the problem*

- In which context it exists?

The problem exists in different contexts. The first one, which is the most important one is because of the constitution of Haiti... The current Constitution, on which the President has been sworn in and which he has promised to respect, explicitly prohibits referendums to change it. Amendment procedures are defined in the parent law. But, since the parliament is absent, because the executive has not organized elections on time, the government of Jovenel Moise wants to go through with it.

Secondly, the context of instability that reign in the country since last February 7<sup>th</sup>. There were many manifestations in the streets to protest to the current government. For the public, the mandatory of the president were ended. That means he is no longer president of the country.

From this, the population have been divided in three or more groups... Some have agreed to vote on the referendum because for them it's necessary. Some don't agree with that based on the laws of the current constitution. And there is another group that contains the neutral... In the third group, contains the ones who don't even know the meaning of a referendum, why it's important...

- Is there an alternative solution to solve this problem?

Yes, there is an alternative solution. The process can be legal if they respect the constitution. The president can amend the new constitution in a legal manner. In order to do so, he must ensure that a draft constitution is sent to parliament, which they will have to vote on later.

### **The conceptual model of the project**

- *Customer*
  - Who do you offer this solution?

The solution I offer is to go to the population. Especially the ones who are no longer interested in voting on June 27<sup>th</sup>, because it represents a bigger part and try to convince them on its benefits for everyone. For that we have to organize conferences and to educate them about the meaning of a referendum, why it is important to endow the country with a new one.

I offer this solution to the government of Jovenel Moise because they want to know which part of the population are disagreeing with the project of amend the new constitution and to find a way to convince them to vote...

- Why it is important?

It is important because we're living a moment of trouble due to so many factors. First, many people in Haiti are complaining that they don't have their ID card. Others think that their ID card have been doubled so that the government can trick the vote. The population doesn't have faith on the actual president, Mr Jovenel Moise, and above all he is really interested in endowing the country with this new constitution.

- *People that this problem affects*
  - Who are the most affected by this problem?

The government of Jovenel Moise is the one which is the most affect by this problem. Because for him, this is one of the most important projects that he wants to do with the elections

- How this problem affects people with the activities that they are doing?

This problem affects people in our community. To begin, this problem creates a climate of insecurity in the whole country, where people use violence to fight the representatives of the government. We can watch some video where people showed publicly their opinion with anger. After that, it affects the democratic sector also called the opposition... they find the way of doing things by Jovenel Moise, not constitutional... For them it's a violation to the constitution of the country.

- ***Measure and performance***
  - How affected people measure the gravity of the problem?

For people who are affected, they are upset and angry. Specially the Haitians have a very bad history with referendum. It was during the American occupation that this practice was introduced in Haiti. The Americans wanted at all costs to introduce a new Constitution, that of 1918. They used the referendum method to pass on their wills. According to Savior Pierre Etienne, in his book "The Haitian Enigma", the occupier used this strategy, combined with others, to reduce the hostility of Haitians towards the accession of foreigners to property, and facilitate American investment in agriculture. This Constitution, which was forced by referendum, historian Suzie Castor reports, was written by Franklin Delano Roosevelt himself. He boasted about it during his election campaign to become President of the United States. This strategy was followed by Louis Borno, president between 1922 and 1930. In 1935, just a few months after the Americans left the country, President Sténio Vincent held a referendum to change the powers conferred on him by the Constitution. François Duvalier, on three occasions, and Jean Claude Duvalier, in 1985, used the referendum tool to give a semblance of popular legitimization to some of their decisions. For this reason, they are fighting the referendum.

## **2. Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats**

- ***Strengths***

I can exploit so many strength point to give a solution, such as I can realize a survey to understand the fear of the population and why they disagree with the referendum. And with the result I can define a solution that can help them and help them overcome their fear. After that I can organize conferences to educate them about what a referendum is and how important it is to change the constitution. During these conferences the government will extend their project explicitly so that they can apprehend easily the changes. After the conferences they will find by themselves that the actual one is obsolete.

- ***Weaknesses***

The constitution can compromise the solution. Because based on the constitution of 1987 we all know that it is illegal to do a referendum. If the opposition or the population comes with the article in the constitution that forbid the doing of referendum, this can compromise it.

- ***Opportunities***

If the president decides to amend a new constitution, it will be beneficial to the population in the future. There are so many rules what are obsolete and we have to correct them. If this government amends this constitution, they can't enjoy this new constitution. The next government will enjoy it. The new laws will be in effect to help the country grows.

- *Threats*

We all know that the actual constitution forbids the referendum. If the democratic sector uses this information to oppose to the referendum, it will be a threat to this solution.