

## **Understand the objective of the project**

### **Define the problem**

#### **a) What problems do you have to work on?**

According to Britannica, the term "referendum" refers to the electoral devices by which voters may express their wishes concerning government policy or proposed legislation.

That is what the Haitian contest president wants to organize in Haiti in June. He wants the Haitians, through a referendum, to adopt or reject the new constitution. He wants the entire electorate to go and vote in favor or against it. Despite his commitment to change the constitution, many Haitians living in the country or abroad do not share his opinion on the issue.

The problem is that the opposition does not want to contest President Jovenel Moise to change the constitution. The reasons why for this position are multiple. They include the very fact that, in their opinion, the presidential term is over, the lack of faith in the government, and the controversial issue concerning the change methods of the constitution. If the President does his best to reach his goals, the opposition will use all the strategies to prevent the constitution from being changed.

I am asked to work on a strategy that will prevent the change of the constitution. The opposition wants to know how to convince the people that will participate in the referendum to vote against it. The emphasis is put on the people who will take part in the referendum. If those people vote against it, the President will have no choice but forget about it.

#### **b) Why is it important?**

The constitution determines the basic rules of a country. The entire population must abide by what it says. If a constitution is so important and concerns the whole population, it must be taken seriously. Therefore, a contest president cannot unilaterally want to change the constitution, especially when his name is associated with corruption issues. The problem is essential because it can have too many harmful consequences if it is not solved correctly. This problem is the fundamental issue that will determine the political future, the political stability in Haiti. If the problem is not solved correctly, it can result in a situation where there will be two constitutions in Haiti. Some people will recognize the new constitution, while other people will not. Such a situation will make things more complicated than they already are.

### **Define the context of the problem**

#### **a) In which context it exists?**

The problem exists in a troubled political climate. Since 2018, president Jovenel Moise is asked to abdicate. According to many political sectors in Haiti, the presidential term is over since February 7th, 2021. An increasing number of demonstrators go in the streets of the capital, demanding the President's resignation and the Petro Caribe process. The President demonstrates a terrible lack of popularity among the population, mainly because of all his unaccomplished promises. However, despite all this, the president endeavors to change the constitution through a referendum. He waits until the parliament is dysfunctional, mainly because he and his peers failed to organize the legislative election to propose the constitution change. So now the contested President is governing the country as a dictator. Even though the conditions are not met to organize the referendum, the President will make it happen.

The opposition has tried everything to force the President into resignation. All their efforts have been in vain so far. If we consider the history of rate participation in elections in Haiti, we will see that part of the population who go voting are decreasing over time. The Haitian population is less and less interested in politics. The opposition anticipates that the majority of the people will not go vote. Therefore, this majority will play no role in determining whether the new constitution will be adopted or rejected. Thus the target population is the people who will go and vote.

### Is there an alternative solution to solve this problem?

In the political history of Haiti, violence is systematic. So far, the methods that are effective in the political sphere in Haiti are violent. Maybe that is in connection with our history of slavery. So, yes, there is an alternative solution to solve the problem. This solution consists of sabotaging the referendum. The referendum will take place in June. The opposition could command its members and fanatics to go to vote centers and create a terrible atmosphere that prevents the referendum from occurring. That may sound Machiavellian, but it is the most effective method we know in Haiti so far. The government is aware of this alternative solution; therefore, many measures are taken to respond appropriately to such plans. However, there is one thing to remember: it is always easier to create trouble than maintaining peace.

Another alternative solution to solve this problem is finding an agreement between the government and the opposition to postpone the referendum date. Perhaps, for the first time, they could sit together and find a standard solution to this crucial problem. However, considering that the opposition does not want to discuss with the President and that the President will not ever accept to postpone the referendum, this alternative solution has an extremely low probability of occurring.

### The conceptual model of the project

#### Who do you offer this solution to?

This solution is offered to the opposition. Especially in the absence of the parliament to analyze and allow or not the President's decisions, the opposition is one of the critical sectors that can

prevent the President from imposing his own will on the country. The United States of America and the European Union will not provide financial support for the constitutional referendum in Haiti because they believe that the required conditions and atmosphere are not satisfied. The opposition may be an informal actor, but the future of Haiti depends on it. Thus, they are the first concerned about that solution to provide data-based information and strategy to avoid the constitution change in Haiti.

### Why is it important?

The solution is essential because it provides a legal and peaceful way to solve the problem. The other solution that includes violence will not benefit the population. It can have too many dire consequences, such as material and life loss. However, if we convince the people who will vote to vote against the constitution, the government will know the population's will and have no choice but to abandon their project. The solution is also crucial because it helps understand the people who will participate in the referendum and their attempts. If the opposition understands their reasons and wants, it can propose an alternative solution to the referendum. Perhaps, a solution that takes their wants can significantly influence their decision.

### People that this problem affects

#### Who is the most affected by this problem?

From a political view, I can divide the Haitian population into four categories: the politicians, the private sector, the mass, and the diaspora. The opposition is the most affected by the problem. It is the one who wants to prevent the constitution change. For the opposition, the presidential term is over, and the President has become a dictator. How can it let a dictator change the constitution by himself, violating, thus, the current constitution?

### Relationship between stockholders

The leaders of the opposition can significantly influence the population into participating or not in the referendum. So the mass and the diaspora rely on the leaders of the opposition to give them political bits of advice and political directions to make better political decisions. The opposition depends on the mass to get elected during the next elections. The government makes sure the country is running correctly. It has power that the mass gave him through elections. The mass depends on the diaspora's money to survive. All those parties share Haiti as their country that they deeply love.

### Measure and performance

#### How affected people measure the gravity of the problem?

The opposition makes the hypothesis that less than 50 % of the population will participate in the referendum. The problem is grave in the opposition's opinion. If the opposition never accepts

that constitution change, things can worsen if people vote in its favor. If people vote for the new constitution the situation can evolve into one where we have two contested constitutions. This situation also reminds the opposition of Duvalier's dictatorship. A president cannot by himself change the constitution, especially when his presidential term is over and when he failed to organize the legislative elections, which would prevent him from governing the country alone. It's only 35 years since the Haitian population put an end to Duvalier's dictatorship. The opposition cannot let a dictator impose his will on the whole country. Furthermore, the government is involved in corruption scandals and can manipulate the constitution. So the problem is of the uttermost importance.

The leaders of the opposition can significantly influence the population into participating or not in the referendum. They can also influence them into creating horrible conditions so that the referendum cannot occur. So the population relies on the leaders of the opposition to give them political advice and political directions to make better political decisions. The government makes sure that the institutions are working correctly. He has the power that the population gave him through elections. He makes decisions on behalf of the people. The opposition relies on the people to get elected during the next elections.

### **Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats**

#### **Strength**

My solution has many strengths. The survey is the best way to know the motivation and expectations of the voters objectively. It also helps to see the profile of the typical voters for the referendum. Data never lies. That constitutes the strength of my solution.

#### **Weakness**

The subset of the chosen population during the survey may not be representative. We have used the internet to do a study. However, a considerable portion of the population does not have access to the internet. Also, more than 39 % of the population is illiterate. The very method of collecting the information prevents some people from participate in the survey. Many people are afraid to participate in the study because they do not feel if they are secured. Those facts can be considered as the solution's weaknesses.

#### **Opportunities**

I can use the information collected during the survey to design an efficient strategy to know the voters, reach them, and influence their decisions. We save several data from the participants, including their age, their occupation, the place they are from. Those data are actual and can be used to solve the problem efficiently.

## Threats

There exist some situations that can influence the vote result. For instance, gang members can influence the decisions of individuals in voting "yes" or "no." The political instability does not help the referendum process. Currently, the government uses many marketing techniques to convince people to vote in favor of the constitution.

If my subset is not representative of the population, perhaps, their reasons for voting and their expectations will differ from what I have so far. That could alter my strategy's effect.

## Reference :

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jdY0WgrGRJrpRzCcYeVwboVJ5pu7M9lgoij0gwADmLE/edit?resourcekey#gid=617772685>