PNUD
Haïti

Support to the Electoral Process in Haiti: Sustainability

The evaluation found that sustainability remains a critical issue given the lack of a permanent and independent CEP, needed electoral reforms and political stability. These are issues that surpass the project. There are however foundations being built within the CEP and with the institutionalization of its systems and procedures. The level of GOH commitment increased in 2016, making it the largest donor in the UNDP project. The cost of elections remains a concern and requires analysis at policy and technical levels for the country to be able to develop an electoral system and processes that it can afford and are sustainable.

SUSTAINABLE ELEMENTS

- ✓ Standardized procedures that are documented in manuals and approved officially by the CEP and published in *Le Moniteur*
- ✓ Trained personnel for as long as they remain within the institution
- ✓ On-line registration system for candidates, party pollwatchers and observers, and databases for temporary workers as long as IT support continues for its maintenance and adequate training is provided to CEP IT staff for its use and updating
- ✓ Good practices developed with project support, such as cross-checking the poll worker database with those of party agents and posting photos of polling site tally sheets, as long as the CEP remains independent

Voting in the 2016 elections

Photo: UNDP Haiti

Areas requiring continuing monitoring and/or action to ensure sustainability

- ✓ Project-funded assets such as computers, vehicles, and generators during their storage to ensure proper storage conditions, periodic maintenance, and use for electoral administration purposes
- ✓ Retention of trained staff by CEP and re-hiring of trained temporary workers including at BED and BEC levels for election periods
- ✓ Adequate funding for CEP in GOH budget
- ✓ Establishment of a credible, permanent and independent CEP
- ✓ In-service training for permanent CEP employees
- ✓ Civic education
- ✓ Electoral reform to develop a more stable and affordable electoral system

LESSONS LEARNED

- ✓ Importance of stability in national partners for a development project
- ✓ Ensuring a realistic timeframe and level of effort for support
- ✓ Addressing problems holistically, such as was done with the development of the candidate registration system, may take more time and effort, but can result in more durable institutional solutions that will provide greater impact
- ✓ Importance of embedding technical advisors within the institution to facilitate the transfer of skills, build counterpart capacity, and increase national ownership and mutual accountability
- ✓ Need to address the systemic issues that impact electoral assistance and the sustainability of its efforts as identified by election observers and experts through constitutional and legal reforms and through the establishment of permanent institutions

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