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HAITI ELECTORAL SECURITY AND SUPPORT

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BACKGROUND

The Haiti Electoral Security and Support Program (HESSP) is a United States Agency for International Development (USAID)- funded five-year initiative to assist Haitian partner organizations to strengthen key democratic institutions and practices, including civil society, media, and government officials to increase trust, security, and inclusive participation in political processes and elections when conditions exist for them to be held.

Haiti continues to confront daunting political, economic, and security challenges with ongoing violence and instability. Since the 2015-2017 elections, the country has been locked in a political stalemate that has seriously challenged core democratic institutions. This includes the expiration of terms of office of Parliament and local government, a debilitated judiciary, and unsuccessful negotiations between Prime Minister Ariel Henry and civic and political leaders over leadership of the country following the 2021 assassination of late President Jovenel Moïse. Public skepticism of democracy and elections, and distrust of political parties, election authorities, and government are extremely high. Progress in Haiti will require returning to constitutional order and establishing a revised social contract led by Haitian leaders and engaging the Haitian people. Public confidence in democratic processes, institutions, and political actors through broader participation is critical.

OBJECTIVE ONE

To improve election administration and increase institutional capacity to support credible elections and peaceful transitions of power, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) partners with elections authorities in the pre-election, election, and post-election phases to sustain and consolidate gains that last beyond the elections process. IFES supports Le Conseil Electoral Provisoire (CEP) to improve election administration of key components of the electoral cycle, including legal framework design, voter outreach, results management, and electoral security, and increase institutional capacity through training and process improvement.

OBJECTIVE TWO

To enhance oversight and advocacy by civil society and other groups to improve the credibility of electoral and political reform processes, National Democratic Institute (NDI) addresses underlying challenges facing Haitian democratic institutions by helping diverse and inclusive Haitian civic partners to carry out activities to support citizen engagement in political life. HESSP activities engage citizens in advancing constitutional and legal reforms, improve the foundation for elections, and help prepare a national network of citizen observers to monitor when conditions exist for elections to take place.

OBJECTIVE THREE

To inform and strengthen the engagement of Haitian citizens and civil society groups in elections and political processes, the International Republican Institute (IRI) partners with civil society groups to strengthen Haitian citizens' ability to engage in electoral and political processes, with a focus on reaching marginalized groups, including women, youth, LGBTQI+ groups, and people living with disabilities.

ANTICIPATED RESULTS

The independence and oversight capacity of the CEP and other electoral institutions will be strengthened. CEP and other electoral institutions will improve transparency, engagement, and responsiveness with civil society to address citizens' needs. Electoral processes will be implemented efficiently and effectively within the electoral legal framework. CEP will engage more with stakeholders on critical electoral security issues.

Domestic observation and political monitoring groups will increase and sustain their capacity to hold electoral institutions and stakeholders accountable to electoral and reform processes and milestones. Constitutional and electoral frameworks will improve through revisions and reforms based on a thorough and collaborative review process between governing institutions, political monitoring groups, civil society organizations, and citizens. Public opinion research in Haiti will be conducted more reliably and distributed with increased regularity.

Citizens, especially marginalized groups, will better grasp electoral and political reforms and have more opportunities to participate in electoral and political processes. Media will improve its capacity to report on democratic and economic governance and electoral issues in an impartial and balanced way and increase audience engagement and trust, reduce mis- and disinformation, and enhance the media's ability to hold elected officials accountable. Youth will have increased engagement with government institutions and officials and greater exposure to government initiatives and employment opportunities.

USAID works to build a stable and viable Haiti, and provides life-saving humanitarian assistance to Haiti's most vulnerable and hard-to-reach people. <https://www.usaid.gov/haiti> and follow @USAID/Haiti on X and Facebook.