HAITI (Country Practice)

[Haiti]
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A. Background

1. Which UNCT members have collaborated on this case study?

- UNDP
- UNWOMEN
- IOM
- MINUJUSTH

2. Which national partners (governmental and non-governmental) were involved in developing this case study and how?

- **Government partners:** National Police, CSPJ, CSCCA, OPC, Direction de l 'Administration Pénitentiaire, Ministries (MJSP, MICT, MJSAC, MCFDF), OMRH, and selected municipalities including Jérémie
- **Non-governmental partners:** The National Federation of Mayors (AGLDT), Terre des Hommes (JRoLP), youth organisations of Jérémie, the Chamber of Commerce for the Grand'Anse, Unité de recherche et d'action médico-légal (URAMEL), Bureau des droits humains en Haïti (BDHH), Calvary Chapel (psycho- social assistance), Alliance Française, University of Grand'Anse

3. Does the case study illustrate one or several phases or levels?

☐ Adapting SDG 16 ☐ Implementing SDG 16 ☐ Monitoring & Reporting on SDG 16
☐ National level ☐ Regional level ☐ Local level

B. Case Study

OPTION 1 (pre-structured)

4. **Country context for the achievement of SDG 16**

Already fragilized by the earthquake of January 2010, Haiti has been, during these past two decades, characterized by recurrent political and governmental crisis. The country is facing an increasingly challenging political context with democratic gains threatened by widespread demonstrations that turn violent demanding improved governance and by calls, from some in the opposition, for the President to step down. The result is a situation of insecurity, economic instability and violence, for which young people are often seen as initiators and victims, which mostly affects women and girls (Gender Based Violence), and which has been aggravated by the devasting hurricane Matthew, in October 2016.
Grand'Anse was one of the departments which has been the most affected by the cyclone, while prior to that his habitants have always felt discriminated and excluded by public policies, because of the regional distance with the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince.

This year again has been marked by a raise of social demands regarding the management of State funds and public affairs; particularly the management of the Petro Caribe funds and the inflation of the local currency. This situation has incurred in a ten-day period of violent demonstrations in the whole country. Furthermore, Haiti is in a pre-electoral period and the tensions between political parties continue to raise, maintaining the climate fragile, despite progresses that have been made at a local level.

This set of circumstances has induced adverse consequences on the department's social life; and particularly on the city of Jérémie, the department capital. Jérémie was not exempted by those disorders and according to our observations, young people (more than 54% of the Haitian population is less than 25 years old) are involved in these disturbances. Moreover, young girls and women are in a continuous fight for the respect of their rights and express their need to feel protected from public institutions, since there are places in the city where they feel vulnerable and insecure. Even if isolated, we still register in Jérémie some cases of criminality, banditry, and rubbery.

Against this backdrop, the activities of the Peace Building Fund (PBF) project remain extremely relevant. Indeed, a persistent factor that characterizes tensions in the city of Jérémie is idleness, or unemployment; an aspect, which affects the young people even more, since there are no spaces of leisure and recreation, or socio-cultural centers where they can express their talents. The PBF offers a safe space of dialogue and exchange between young women and men for the construction and better management of a peaceful city.

5. Efforts to achieve SDG 16

To mitigate the degradation of the relations between youth and the community, while promoting a culture of peace, peaceful management of conflicts and social cohesion, the United Nations system, with the mediation of UNDP, UN WOMEN, and IOM, supported the municipality of Jérémie and its local partners with the implementation of the project "Support to conflict resolution and social cohesion promotion through youth organisations in the city of Jérémie".

The objective of the project is to create a culture favorable to peace between young people and local actors, particularly the municipality, and reinforce young women and young men participation in public affairs. This would increase the community's social cohesion.

The partners of the project: Haitian Government, Municipality of Jérémie, Haitian National Police (PNH), Office for the Protection of Civilians (OPC), ministries (MENFP, MJSAC, MCFDF, MPCE, MAST), civil society (youth and women associations); private sector; universities and high schools; UNDP, UN WOMEN, IOM.

The project consists of two main activities:

1. Reinforcement of youth capacities, allowing their active and equal participation in public affairs;
2. Raising awareness with local authorities and local community to decrease violence (including Gender Based Violence) and promote a culture of peace.

The project goes towards the implementation of a group of targets belonging to SDG 16, SDG 5 and SDG 11, which contribute to a peaceful and inclusive society. The link with these SDGs has been mentioned by the developing partners

of the project during its launch presentation; while the links between the activities and the specific targets have been analyzed by the partners during the year. Some examples include: **an online training for 50 participants and a university certificate on Leadership, Gender Equality and Human Rights for one 100 participants** (activity linked with targets 16.10: public access to information; and 5.1: put an end to all forms of discrimination towards girls and women); **a continuous follow-up on the construction, together with the municipality of Jérémie, of a safe recreational space for youth** (activity linked with targets 11.3: reinforcement of a sustainable urbanization for all and capacities of planification and participatory management; 11.7: Assure the access for all, particularly for women and children, old and disabled people, to green and safe public spaces; 16.1: Diminish all forms of violence and the death rates that are associated to those); **brainstorming workshop with youth, political parties, elected representatives and local authorities, with the participation of 131 young people, among which 57 girls** (16.7: decision-taking characterized by dynamism, openness, participation and representation at all levels; 5.1: put an end to all forms of discrimination towards girls and women).
Despite its role within society, Haitian youth is often excluded from public life. Its opinions, its points of view, and its ideas are rarely taken into account by politicians. In the frame of this project, the young people of Jérémie feel included in the discussions and exchanges around their worries and needs.

One of the project innovations, knowing the important role of the Haitian National Police (PNH) and of the Office for the Protection of Civilians (OPC) in the resolutions of conflicts and the promotion of social cohesion, is that it eases the dialogue of these institutions with youth. Indeed, Haitian youth does not have a very positive opinion about the police institution and has very little information about the role and responsibilities of the OPC. The workshops that are organized in the framework of the project offer a space for these institutions (PNH and OPC) to get closer to young people and clarify which is their role, their mission and their respective mandate.
Another innovation of the project is the fact that is doesn't only engage youth as beneficiaries, but also as actors of society change and transformation. Youth is very much implicated in the implementation of the project, which promotes and encourages engagement and participation of young women and men in the decision processes and in the management of the city. This will allow for the creation of a peace environment, encouraging the promotion of social cohesion.

In order to allow the participation of young people, women and youth associations, the majority of the activities are realized during the week-end. Young people are implicated in the elaboration of the cartography and of the baseline of the project, and youth associations are called whenever a new activity needs to be chosen.
The project team (consisting of a pool of experts from UNDP, UNWOMAN, IOM) meets every month with the steering committee (MPCE, MCFDF, MJSAC, Jérémie's municipality, youth and women associations and the project team) and every week with the mayors. Since the start of the project there have been more 5 meetings between the project team and the steering committee and more than 25 meetings between the project team and the mayors. These meetings take place at the local of Jérémie's municipality and also at the local of the Association of Mayors of the Grande 'Anse Department (AMAGA) or more informally in Port-au-Prince in order to monitor the progress of the project activities.

6. Results so far and Way Forward

Results obtained from activity #1:

Presently, 500 young women and men between 15 and 25 years old have the competencies to actively and equally participate in Jérémie's city public affairs in synergy with local authorities and actors. These young people have been trained in domains such as leadership, positive masculinity, community dialogue, etc. in order to become peace ambassadors within their community.
On 28 October a workshop has been organized between youth, the municipality, political parties, and elected representatives, in which the young people express their thoughts and ideas about the management of the city. An article about this workshop was published on the « Nouvelliste » (« Dialogue à Jérémie entre les jeunes et les partis politiques », 7 November 2018). As a continuation of this workshop, two meetings are still to be scheduled in order to follow up on the recommendations of these young men and women, and make sure that they will be taken into account during the next elections.

Youth, elected representatives and actors of the civil society have participated actively in the first activities of the project. A methodology based on working groups with little intervention of the trainers and followed by questions-debates has been adopted. This approach has facilitated learning and sharing of ideas and experiences between participants.
From February to November 2018, four big activities have been realized in the framework of the interventions of the PBF Project in the city of Jérémie: the launching ceremony, with the participation of 62 young people; the commemoration of the International Youth Day on 12 August 2018 with the participation of 84 young people (36 girls, 48 boys), the commemoration of the International Day of the Girl, the 13 October 2018, with the participation of 95 young people, out of which 85 girls, and a dialogue between youth, elected representatives and Jérémie's political parties, on the 28 October 2018, with the participation of 57 young girls and 74 young boys. Moreover, more than 65% of the TORs of the next activities have already been elaborated.

Results obtained from activity #2:

The authorities, the local actors, and the community at large (45'000 beneficiaries) are aware and equipped with the knowledge to contribute to the reduction of violence (including Gender Based Violence) and promotion of a culture of peace. This thanks to the active implication of Jérémie's youth in building a culture of pacific resolution of conflicts, through activities, such as a participatory analysis of violence and community mechanisms of prevention; workshops with local authorities; the organisation of cultural and sporting events for the promotion of peace or competitions of social innovation lab. These social innovation labs, which will start in April 2019, are created with the purpose of getting young people to think about an innovative idea to respond to a social problem. Young women and men, with an entrepreneurial approach, compete with different ideas, and try to see how they could make money out of these (social innovative business models). The best ideas receive funds from partners to implement them.

All the activities of the project are related to training, raising awareness and transfer of knowledge around the project thematic areas, such as: peaceful resolution of conflicts, peace promotion, social cohesion and the social contract. The participation of PNH, OPC and elected representatives have been done in a logic of information sharing on the role and responsibilities of the state regarding the project thematic areas and the engagement of stakeholders in the implementation of the project for a better ownership and to guarantee the sustainability of achievements.

Results on the **consolidation of peace**:

A workshop between young women and young men, youth associations, political parties and elected representatives has given the opportunity for the participants (131, out of which 57 girls) to discuss the notion of peace, peaceful conflict resolution and social cohesion. During this workshop, representatives of the PNH and OPC explained the importance of working together, in a coordinated way, for the promotion of a culture of peace that encourages social cohesion, while working to reduce community violence. The commemoration of the International Girl Day was an opportunity to work with girls on their rights and obligations. The representatives of the PNH informed the young girls on the existent mechanisms to help themselves defend and react in case of violence.

The Ministry of Women Affairs has worked with the PNH to raise young people's awareness of and invite them to denounce violence by avoiding participating to non-peaceful demonstrations and promoting dialogue between conflicting parties. Their actions can serve as catalyst to reduce community violence. The 95 participants have interacted with a lot of energy and have made the commitment to participate in the implementation of the network for young girls to fight violent actions and promote a culture of peace.

Impact on the life of people in the country:

Due to their significant presence, young people represent the future and the present of the country. Moreover, the Haitian women, often excluded from decision-making and opportunities, have the potential of directing the country towards a more productive, inclusive and pacific future. Haitian women are the backbone of society, representing more than 75% of the informal sector workforce. Implementing a culture of non-discrimination (target 5.1), non-violence (target 5.2 and 16.1) and effective public participation of women and young girls at all levels of society (target 5.5 and 16.7), starting from an open dialogue in safe public spaces, is key in order to move towards a peaceful and inclusive society and key for the development of the country. By training the young women and men as leaders, this project builds on an inclusive approach to local governance, encouraging a culture of peace and the empowerment of vulnerable populations. This will not only increase the confidence and the capacity of youth but could serve as an example for other municipalities in the country; it could contribute to change progressively the way young women and men are perceived and thus transform them into actors of social positive change and peace promotion.

7. Lessons Learned

A number of challenges have been identified during this year: the lack of availability of certain local authorities; more specifically of Jérémie's municipality, who is a key actor for the implementation of the project; difficulties to have activities between Monday and Friday, because of the availability of the target public, who is at school or at University; delays in the implementation of the project (because of administrative burden, etc.); and financing expectations of youth associations (during the development of the project, a group of young people contacted/met for a focus group purposes in order to collect informations about the youth project goals in Jérémie. These focus groups have had the effect of creating a huge financial expectations. The project filed team met with these organizations to discuss the various misunderstanding and clarify with them that at the project level, only the organization selected for the microproject competition would be funded).

Despite the delays that have been registered in the implementation of the project, the level of achievement is significant.
Although some local authorities were not always available, the implication of other local authorities, particularly of the « Direction Départementale du Ministère de la Jeunesse, des Sports et de l'Action Civique » as well as the capacity of adaptation of the team constituted two important elements of risk mitigation.
In view of the occasional unavailability of the mayors for the activities of the project, and following a request of the project team, two focal points (including a young women) have been appointed from the mayors to ensure the participation of the municipal council, which is critical for the success of the project.

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