

1 . Reform electricity utility

The bad management of the electricity sector, in the last two decades, has greatly contributed to the deterioration of the socioeconomic situation in Haiti. In fact, no government has been able to tackle the problems met in the electricity sector and this has greatly affected the Haitian economy. This has caused great pressure on Haitian public finance. In fact, the ministry of finance has been given financial support to the public company on a yearly basis, at the level of 200 million US dollars although only 30% of the Haitian population got access to electricity for less than 12 hours a day.

A substantial decrease of the subsidies benefited by the state-owned electricity company, Electricity d’Haïti, will facilitate the allocation of more funds to sectors like education, health, environment,...

The structural reforms should not only focus on the increase of supply to improve access of electricity to more people, but should be on a legal part and also institutional. A new law should be adopted by the parliament in order to define the role of the different actors (private companies) that have emerged in the energy sector.

These reforms will facilitate not only access to electricity to more people but could improve the competitiveness of the economy that could lead to sustainable economic growth. The new government should put in place an energy policy taking into consideration the alternative energies that will be cleaner for the environment and more sustainable.

The new government should look for the establishment of a pact between different stakeholders (government, the union, the private producers and organizations in the civil society) in order to guarantee the stabilization of the electricity sector.

A great political will is needed to face the many challenges in the energy sector. In addition, political leaders should get the courage to concentrate on the national interest and leave aside the particular interests of some groups.

According to the study, improving of the regulatory framework to create the conditions for an autonomous, accountable and efficient electricity utility will substantially reduce the losses experienced by EDH. The costs are estimated to 2.25 billion gourdes while the benefits are worth 49.2 billion gourdes.

2. Wheat flour micronutrient fortification

The country is suffering of a high level of food insecurity that affects particularly women and children. The natural disasters that regularly hit Haiti in the recent years, greatly affecting the agricultural sector, have aggravated the food insecurity. According to recent surveys by the Conseil National pour la Sécurité Alimentaire (CNSA), the official organization collecting data about food insecurity in Haiti, more than 1 million people are suffering of this problem.

In fact, a study has shown that thousands of cases of severe (SAM) and moderate (MAM) acute malnutrition among young children go undetected and untreated every year; hundreds of these children died every year. It has revealed also that anemia and micronutrient deficiencies affect a large portion of the population in Haiti. It is estimated that 21% of children born in the last 3 years in Haiti had low birth weight, although birth weight was reported in only 26%. A recent survey has indicated that 49% of women of reproductive and 65% of preschool children were anemic.

Such a project will protect pregnant women and young children who are very vulnerable in the Haitian population. It could help reduce the infant mortality rate in the country which is the highest in the region. This will also protect Haitian children from life-long disabilities that some of them have suffered because of malnutrition.

Among all the projects presented to the eminent economists, this project has shown the highest BCA. Benefits, according to the report, are worth 7.9 billion gourdes.

3. Train first responders

Many international studies have indicated that emergency response is a real challenge for health systems in developing countries. Trauma account for 16% of the overall burden of disease and trauma patients are six-time more likely to die in low-income countries than in high-income countries. Researchers have declared that globally, medically preventable deaths could be cut in half by improving emergency response mechanisms.

With very low public spending in the health sector, Haiti faces a great challenge in solving this problem. The Haitian government only spends 12 dollars per inhabitant per year. 80% of health spending is made by citizen and international donors. With more 25% of the population living in extreme poverty and more than 60% living in poverty, people are in serious difficulties to get access to decent health services. This

easily explains that Haiti got the highest rates of child and maternal mortality rates in the western hemisphere. Haiti consequently has the lowest life expectancy - 63 years - in the American continent.

Statistics, collected in the health sector, have indicated that: of the 514,352 reported accidents and emergencies between 2013 and 2014, the Centre ambulancier national (CAN) responded to fewer than 2% of them, or 9,642 to be exact.

A lack of good infrastructure, road insecurity, bad access to healthcare,... are considered important factors causing death in Haiti. The absence of a decent transport policy has led to an increase of the use of motorcycles for the mobility of people, particularly in the urban areas. Many accidents have been registered on a daily basis and putting pressure on the medical facilities.

Three solutions have been proposed by the study made in Haiti Priorise: establishing an urban ambulance network to serve only urban areas, expanding the national ambulance network to serve all rural and urban areas, and leveraging “first responders” and allied health professionals (paramedics). The training of the human resources is vital for the investment in the ambulance network. In fact, the author of the study suggests that the safest option is to pair “first responders” with the “urban ambulance network” to widen the ground covered and save more lives, given resource constraints.

The study shows very good benefits from the training of first responders and paramedics like saving lives (700 every year), avoiding disability adjustment, improving productivity, and facilitating economic growth.

The BCA for the first responders is estimated at 15.8. By providing several days of first-aid training to volunteers across the country, this will cost 80 m gourdes and save 700 lives a year.

4. Immunization for children 0-1

Haiti has the highest infant mortality rate of the Caribbean region with 59 per 1,000 live births. The country has also a very low immunization coverage: 45 children out of 100 are immunized. To improve the situation, the health authorities have to invest in more health institutions and qualified personnel.

These investments in the health system would have positive impact on the socioeconomic situation. Studies have shown that each year of life gained can increase the GDP. In addition, a better immunization coverage will reduce the work time lost by parents because of a child illness that represents a great loss of earning. Preventing the child illness could have a positive impact on the productivity of the family with parents being available at work.

A better immunization process will help the health system save more than 16 million gourdes in curative care.

The study made for Haiti Priorise has shown that an investment of less than 2.5 billion gourdes will lead to advantages of almost 33 billion gourdes. This gives a good BCR of 13.

With the target of 90% of infant immunization by 2020, the government will spend 2.4 billion gourdes over 5 years. 864,000 additional children will be immunized, and 16,000 lives saved. This will create benefits of 32.3 billion gourdes.

5. Expand mobile broadband

The expansion of Internet has created many opportunities for developing countries as well in the private sector as in the public sector. International studies have found correlation between the installation of broadband and economic growth.

The study made for Haiti Priorise has shown the many advantages that the country can get from expanding mobile broadband. Among these advantages, one can say: starting a business, getting credit, property registration, and government digitization.

Haiti has faced for a long time the problem of starting a business, according to the ranking made by The World Bank in Doing Business. By implementing this project, the number of days to start a business can be reduced from triple-digit to more than 15 days. This could lead to the formalization of businesses and create higher productivity and economic growth.

Expanding mobile broadband could greatly improve access to finance that is one of the main constraints in economic development in Haiti. The study has indicated that access to finance will increase to 7.4%, for medium, small and microbusinesses and boost their potential by an average 10% annually. It could be considered as an important tool for financial inclusion that could facilitate the fight against poverty in the rural sector.

Haiti faces another great challenge with property registration. In fact, the lack of land titles and the lengthy or uncertain dispute resolution constitutes a constraint in the construction business, particularly in the housing sector. The study estimates that the number of days for registering a property transaction will be reduced to 14 days against more than 300 days currently.

Finally, the government digitization through training of all public employees could facilitate the implementation of the e-governance that will allow the national and local authorities to improve public services in many remote places in the national territory.

The BCA for Expanding mobile broadband is 12. To reach 50% of broadband penetration over 5 years and installing an undersea cable to support the increased traffic, 56 billion gourdes should be spent. The study expects a stimulus of economic growth and forecasts benefits of 685 billion gourdes.

6. Electronic registration of birth certificate

Haiti has been, among the countries in the Caribbean, being connected early to Internet in the 90S. However, the lack of vision of the political and economic leaders did not favor the adoption of public policies and investments to facilitate a greater access to people around the country. Internet coverage, according to the study remains very limited and expensive. The government has allowed the creation of duopoly in the communications sector, reducing competition in the market and consequently a certain deterioration of the quality of services. Around 10% of households have access and a much lower percentage are connected to broadband Internet. The study says this reduces opportunities for Haitians and slows down economic growth.

One paper published in Haiti Priorise by Dr Pantelis Koutroumpis has indicated what Haiti needs is a holistic National Broadband Plan with targets for coverage, capacity, and competition. In its absence, he proposes improving the infrastructure that powers Haiti's Internet, along with the government's processes.

Another paper by Moïse Cécicourt focuses on digitization of birth registration. He noted that nearly 30% of children aged under 4 do not have a certificate of birth registration. This deprives children of fundamental rights and risks condemning them to exclusion. The fact that the majority of Haitian mothers give birth at home, registering a child can be a time-consuming process involving repeated travel to registry offices. In fact, more than 340,000 young children have no birth certificates.

To solve this problem, Cécicourt proposes to make the registration electronically. He thinks that the government could computerize the birth registration process in order to provide birth certificates to all newborns, and children up to the age of four. He reminds that the civil registry has already started undergoing a process of modernization, which culminated in the creation of the National Identification Office, whose mission is to identify all Haitians from birth. This proposal could affect 2 million children.

Many benefits, according to the study, will be reached.

- Digitization would save the applicants time and transportation costs, and would save the government money. In financial terms, these benefits would each be worth around \$3-4 million dollars.
- The benefits would continue throughout the children's lives: they would be guaranteed the right to education, and to vote and access the formal financial system as adults.

The benefits vary depending on access to education. Education regulations stipulate that students cannot sit for state exams without a birth certificate every gourde spent achieves around 2 gourdes of benefits and if it is a widespread practice then that increases to 10 gourdes.

7. Distribution grid extension and upgrade

With less than 20% of the population living in the rural sector having access to electricity, the Haitian leaders should look for solutions to increase the connection throughout the national territory. The lack of electricity in the rural sector has led to low economic growth, poor job creation and high poverty levels. This has encouraged people to move to the city, creating great pressure in the urban areas for housing, and other public goods and services.

The national electricity market is badly organized with no interconnection. The market is not well regulated by the State creating market failures. The long political and economic crisis that the country has faced in the last decades has aggravated the situation in the electricity sector. This has led to the incapacity of the state-owned company to cover the financial costs and causing substantial subsidies from the national budget.

The bad management of the company, the weak institutional environment and the great number of people living in poverty represent the main factors of the bad development of the electricity sector in Haiti. These problems have reduced the capacity of EDH to generate funds to make the needed investments in order to satisfy the demand of a continuous growing population in the urban areas.

With the goal to get 24-hour electricity to 50% of the population by 2030, one should be built a distribution network of 1,920 km of medium voltage and low voltage lines, connecting around 750,000 new subscribers with electronic meters that can be read remotely, and updating the billing system.

The costs for updating the billing system are estimated at 8.9 billion gourdes (\$100 million), making about half of the overall set-up cost of 15.7 billion gourdes (\$228 million). The study reveals that operations and management and with transmission losses over the next 30 years will reach 45 billion gourdes (\$657 million)

On the benefit side, the study expects that the rate of access to electricity will pass from 25% to 50% of the population with the distribution network. It adds that it will reduce theft as well as the costs of electricity production. Consequently, the economy will grow at a higher rate that could lead to job creation and reduction of poverty.

The financial benefits are estimated to 829 billion gourdes (\$12 billion).

8. Decentralized government

Despite many efforts made different governments during the last decades, the country is still strongly centralized with power concentrated in the central government. This has encouraged many people to move from other departments to the great metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince for better job opportunities, causing a strong concentration of people in the western department. Almost 40% of the total population resides in the western department, causing great difficulty for city managers in the great metropolitan area to provide decent public services to the communities.

By giving more power to the municipal governments and insuring a better local governance, people could get access to better public goods and services. The reinforcement of the local public administration is greatly needed to assist the elected mayors in the management of the “communes”.

Assistance should be given to local governments in order to improve the capacity building of the leaders and managers. This assistance will help the Office du management des Ressources Humaines (OMRH), a public institution linked to the Prime minister office, to establish the local public administration that is crucial for the support to be given to the mayors in order to give better public services to the communities.

In order to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) for which Haiti has engaged itself with more than 190 countries to eliminate poverty in the world by 2030, the central government got to give more power to the municipal governments

The study recommends the establishment of technical councils at the municipal level that will cost 5.5 billion gourdes, the training of special units for 18.7 million gourdes and allocations for these units for 6.4 billion gourdes. Total costs will reach 10.3 billion gourdes.

The study says that the fiscal decentralization will generate more spending at the local level and the power to realize projects. The empowerment of the local people will make people happier and more productive and could lead to economic growth.

The decentralization process leads to benefits of 105.6 billion gourdes, has concluded the study.

9. National power transmission grid

Haiti is ranked in the Latin America and Caribbean region as the last country in terms of people having access to electricity. In fact, only 30% of Haitians are connected to the network owned by the state owned company, the Electricité d'Haïti (EDH). A great number of people living in the rural sector are not connected to the national network. The socioeconomic costs are thus very high for those people kept outside of the network.

The national transmission network consists of connecting Port-au-Prince, Jacmel, Jérémie, Gonaïves, Cap-Haïtien, Môle Saint Nicolas, Fort-Liberté and the Péligre plant. This would require the construction of approximately 1,079 km of high-voltage power lines connecting the country's main cities, the extension of 12 substations across the country, and the construction of a national energy control center.

The study estimates that the cost of the most expensive component of the project, the lines, will be around 69 billion gourdes (\$1 billion). The overall investment will reach 110 billion gourdes (\$1.6 billion).

Such an investment will create a more competitive electricity market that could greatly benefit the private firms in reducing their costs. The low-income people in different departments will also benefit from the integration of cleaner renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind turbines. A greater access to electricity, particularly in the rural areas, will facilitate better public services and could alleviate poverty.

Adding all the benefits, the project could reach 891 billion gourdes (\$13 billion).

10. Local content procurement

The lack of competitive advantage of the local firms has created great opportunity costs for the Haitian economy. In fact, 70% of the local procurement has been under the control of external firms leaving only 30% for the local ones. Some 50 firms participate in the process and the amount is about 15% of the Gross domestic product (GDP) of the country.

The study recommends the adoption of a legal measure to request external firms to outsource 20% of the contract with local ones could benefit to the Haitian economy with more money spent locally and the increase of jobs in many communities. This will also contribute to a better knowledge transfer for the local firms.

The Haitian procurement process is also affected by corruption generated by weak institutions. Thus, important reform in the management of public finance is required in order to strengthen the institutions involved in the procurement process.

One of the main sources of corruption in Haiti is the procurement process. The bad use of public funds in the country has contributed to the increase of poverty. Important reform in the management of public finance is needed to strengthen the institutions.

Known as the “marchés publics”, the process is affected by weak institutions and a lack of coordination between them. The “Conseil National des Marchés Publics” (CNMP) needs a greater autonomy from the central government. The financial authorities should practice a better transparency by publishing all the projects that are supposed to be executed in the national budget during the fiscal year.

Authorities at the municipal level should be involved in the process in order to create opportunities for local firms. The participation of these firms in the procurement process will create more job opportunities in the local communities and could cause regional economic growth.

The reform in the local procurement process will facilitate the integration of the country in the Caricom process and will open a bigger market for the local firms.

The study estimates a low RAC of 0.95 for the project but it increases when taking the multiplier effect into consideration to reach 4.5.

An improvement of the procurement process will create economic growth and contribute to reduce poverty.