



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

STANDARD DRG COUNTRY DATA PORTRAIT ON HAITI

DRG LEARNING, EVALUATION, AND RESEARCH (DRG-LER) ACTIVITY II

Prepared under Contract No.: GS-I0F-0033M / 7200AAI8M000I6, Tasking N009

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by Laura Maxwell and Valeriya Mechkova, University of Gothenburg, and Brigitte Seim, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, under a subcontract with NORC at the University of Chicago. The authors' views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

DRG LEARNING, EVALUATION, AND RESEARCH (DRG-LER) ACTIVITY II

TASKING N009

STANDARD COUNTRY PORTRAIT

HAITI

(APRIL 2019)

Prepared under Contract No.: GS-I0F-0033M/ 7200AA18M00016

Submitted to:

Brandy Witthoft

Prepared by:

Laura Maxwell, University of Gothenburg
Valeriya Mechkova, University of Gothenburg
Brigitte Seim, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Submitted by:

NORC at the University of Chicago
4350 East West Highway, 8th Floor
Bethesda, MD 20814
Attention: Renée Hendley
Tel: 301- 634-9489; E-mail: Hendley-Renee@norc.org

DISCLAIMER

The authors' views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.....	IV
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	I
INTRODUCTION.....	3
I. DRG STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK	4
CONSENSUS.....	4
INCLUSION	6
COMPETITION AND POLITICAL ACCOUNTABILITY.....	11
RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS	15
GOVERNMENT RESPONSIVENESS AND EFFECTIVENESS	20
II. KEY ACTORS AND INSTITUTIONS	25
III. FINANCING SELF-RELIANCE METRICS.....	38
DOMESTIC REVENUE MOBILIZATION (DRM).....	38
PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (PFM)	40
DOMESTIC ACCOUNTABILITY AND FISCAL TRANSPARENCY	41
ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR PRIVATE INVESTMENT.....	43
FULLY FUNCTIONING FINANCIAL MARKETS.....	45
IV. POSSIBLE ENTRY POINTS FOR DRG STRATEGY AND PROGRAMMING...	47
CONCLUSION	50
APPENDIX A, VARIETIES OF DEMOCRACY (V-DEM) PROJECT	51
KEY FEATURES OF V-DEM:	51
THE V-DEM DATABASE.....	51
THE V-DEM TEAM	51
METHODOLOGY	52
RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS.....	52
V-DEM DEMOCRACY NETWORK	52
FUNDING	53
APPENDIX B, INDICATORS AND INDICES FEATURED IN THE REPORT.....	54
APPENDIX C, REFERENCES	55

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.	Deliberative component index, Trends 1990 – 2017	5
Figure 2.	Deliberative components, Haiti v. Low income countries - 2017	5
Figure 3.	Political power distribution by groups, Trends 1990-2017	7
Figure 4.	Political power distribution, Haiti v. Low income countries - 2017	8
Figure 5.	Women's political empowerment, Trends 1990-2017, Part I	8
Figure 6.	Women's political empowerment, Trends 1990-2017, Part II	9
Figure 7.	Women's political empowerment, Haiti v. Low income countries - 2017	10
Figure 8.	Representation of disadvantaged social groups, Trends 1990-2017	11
Figure 9.	Electoral democracy index, Trends 1990 – 2017	13
Figure 10.	Electoral democracy index, Haiti v. Low income countries- 2017	14
Figure 11.	Diagonal accountability and its components, Trends 1990-2017	14
Figure 12.	Candidate restrictions and political party linkages. 1990-2017	15
Figure 13.	Rule of law and Judiciary independence, Trends 1990 - 2017	17
Figure 14.	Rule of law, Trends 1990-2017	18
Figure 15.	Rule of law, Haiti vs. Low Income countries - 2017	19
Figure 16.	Civil liberties index, Trends 1990 - 2017	20
Figure 17.	Civil Liberties, Haiti vs. Low income countries - 2017	20
Figure 18.	Equal distribution of resources, Trends 1990 - 2017	22
Figure 19.	Equal distribution of resources, Haiti vs. Low income countries - 2017	23
Figure 20.	Horizontal accountability index, Trend 1990 – 2017	23
Figure 21.	Political corruption index, Trends 1990 - 2017	24
Figure 22.	Political corruption, Haiti vs. Low income countries - 2017	24
Figure 23.	Commitment to separation of power, Haiti v. Low income countries, 2017	27
Figure 24.	Branches of government, Haiti v. Low income countries - 2017	27
Figure 25.	Branches of government, Haiti v. Low income countries - 2017	28
Figure 26.	Local and Regional government elected, Trends 1990-2017	30
Figure 27:	Commitment to Party System Competition, Trends 1990-2017	31
Figure 28.	Party system institutionalization, Trends 1990-2017	32
Figure 29.	Party system institutionalization, Haiti v. Low income countries - 2017	32
Figure 30.	Civil Society Capacity and Commitment, Trends 1990-2017	33
Figure 31.	Freedom of expression, Trends 1990-2017	34
Figure 32.	Freedom of expression, Haiti v. Low income countries - 2017	35
Figure 33.	State ownership of the economy, Trends 1990-2017	36
Figure 34.	Autonomy of the state, Trends 1990-2017	37
Figure 35.	Sources of Domestic Revenue, Trend 1990-2017	39
Figure 36.	Value added by Sector, Trend 1990-2017	40
Figure 37.	Inflation in Haiti, Trends 1990 - 2018	41
Figure 38.	Corruption Perceptions Index, Trends 1998-2016	43
Figure 39.	Economic Freedom Index, Trends 1990-2017	45

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.	Commitment and capacity for the key actors and institutions in Haiti.....	25
Table 2.	Goal Indicator: Government Censorship Effort – Media Relative to Region: World Contingent on Indicators: Civil Society	47
Table 3.	Goal Indicator: High Court Independence Relative to Region: World Contingent on Indicators: Elections.....	48

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CSO	Civil Society Organization
DRG	Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance
DRM	Domestic revenue mobilization
FH	Freedom House
FSR	Financial Self Reliance
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JSR	Journey to Self-Reliance
PFM	Public Financial Management
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
SAF	Strategic Assessment Framework
SES	Socio-Economic Status
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
V-Dem	Varieties of Democracy
WB	World Bank
WB WDI	World Bank World Development Indicators
WHO	World Health Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper offers an overview of key developments in democracy and governance in Haiti since 1990, with a particular emphasis on current levels. We discuss changes over time in Haiti and identify main features of democracy, human rights and governance that are performing well and need improvement compared to other countries in the same income class as Haiti, drawing on data from the Varieties of Democracy Project (V-Dem). This exercise yields several interesting patterns, outlined below based on the components of the DRG assessment framework.

Main Findings:

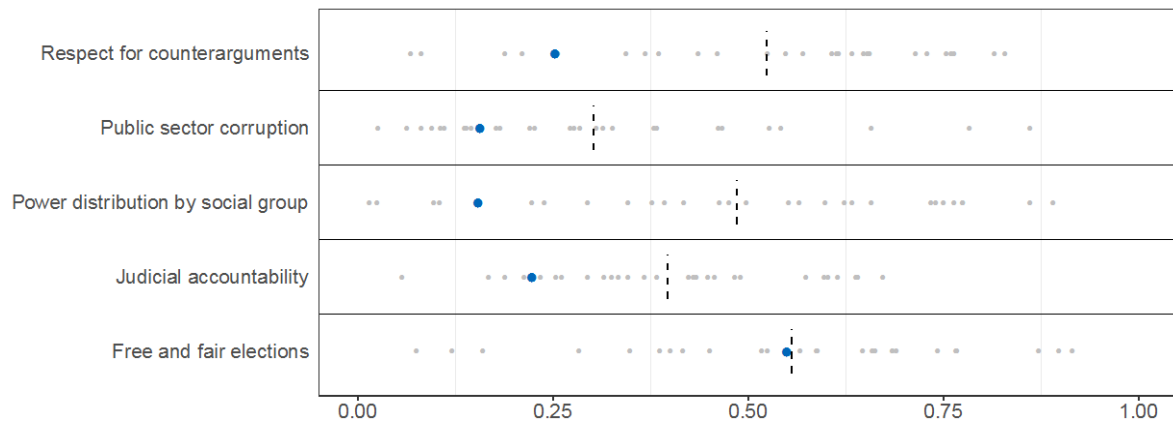
- **Consensus.** While many of Haiti's indicators of deliberation improved markedly during the 1990s, the recent regression in the respect for counterarguments and the range of consultation when policy changes are being considered has ensured that Haiti significantly underperforms compared to the average among its peers.
- **Inclusion.** Women, disadvantaged socioeconomic groups, the LGBTQ population, and disadvantaged social groups are heavily excluded from political power distribution. Although Haiti has quite high scores for indicators related to women's rights and freedoms, women remain very underrepresented in journalism and government.
- **Competition and Accountability.** Haiti performs approximately at or above the average among other low income countries on all components of the electoral democracy index, and the country has seen steady improvement in indicators related to diagonal accountability.
- **Rule of Law.** Haiti has struggled to improve the strength of its rule of law, and consequently, the country is underperforming compared to its peers on all components examined, especially within the area of judicial accountability.
- **Government responsiveness and effectiveness.** Haiti has seen very little progress in reducing corruption, and the country is below the average among low income countries on all indicators of political corruption, and is particularly poor performing in public sector corruption.
- **The analysis of commitment and capacity of key actors¹** (e.g., executive, legislature, judiciary political parties, civil society, and media) shows that Haiti scores medium-to-high on all measures for commitment. However, the country's capacity across actors and institutions is mostly at medium and low levels—only the capacity of the media is evaluated to be high.

Using the “Low Hanging Fruit” tool, we compare democratic development of Haiti to that of other countries, to identify which are the best points of entry (indicators that should be improved) to reach the highest score on three chosen indices. To reach the maximum score on the indicator for government censorship of the media, Haiti should improve the measure related to CSO consultation. For the measure of high court independence compliance with the judiciary, possible points of entry

¹ Country commitment relates to the extent to which a country's legal framework, policies, and norms enable the country to solve its own development challenges, while country capacity relates to how far a country has come in its journey to work across these sectors.

come from the election survey such as election turnout, free and fair elections, election boycotts, election vote buying, and EMB autonomy.

Main Findings: Haiti compared to low income countries - 2017



INTRODUCTION

The goal of the report is to showcase the progress Haiti has made in democratic governance and on its Journey to Self-Reliance, drawing primarily on data from the Varieties of Democracy Project (V-Dem), World Bank and other publicly available metrics in order to support USAID strategy and program development.² Present are visual summaries of democratic development and governance outcomes in total from more than 70 different indicators. Where data is available, line graphs start in 1990 and end in 2017.³

The standard data portrait includes four sections:

- metrics aligned with elements of USAID's Strategic Assessment Framework (SAF) for the Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance (DRG) sector;
- key actors and institution that drive changes in the above areas;
- financing self-reliance (FSR) metrics;
- possible entry points for DRG strategy and programming.

We hope that this comprehensive list of indicators will be useful to paint a picture of the past and current status of democratic development in Haiti, and will serve as useful tool to identify opportunities and risks for future strategies and plans.

² The full list of sources, indicators' questions and responses is (*will be*) available in the Appendix.

³ Data for 2018 will be available by May 2019.

I. DRG STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

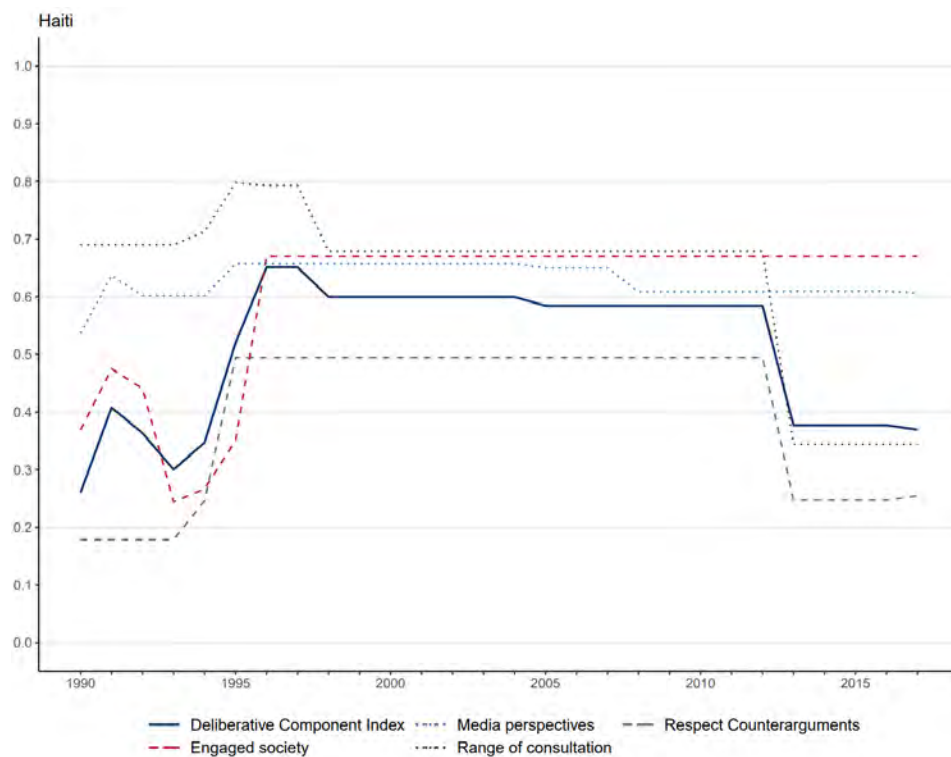
Following are select indicators that respond to each of the five elements of DRG identified by the Strategic Assessment Framework as foundational to democratic development.

CONSENSUS

The first element of the framework focuses on the extent to which there is basic consensus on questions of national identity, historical narrative, and fundamental rules of the political game. We use the following measures to capture this:

- Deliberative component index, which includes the following components:
 - Respect counterarguments: when important policy changes are being considered, to what extent do political elites acknowledge and respect counterarguments?
 - Range of consultation: when important policy changes are being considered, how wide is the range of consultation at elite levels?
 - Engaged society: when important policy changes are being considered, how wide and how independent are public deliberations?
 - Media Perspectives: do the major print and broadcast media outlets represent a wide range of political perspectives?
- Polarization of society and fractionalization of media (available in May).

Figure 1. Deliberative component index, Trends 1990 – 2017



Haiti's Deliberative Component Index and its measures of societal engagement and respect for counterarguments steeply improved in the mid-1990s. After remaining stable at a moderate level for almost two decades, though, these three indicators all significantly regressed after 2012, as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 2. Deliberative components, Haiti v. Low income countries⁴ - 2017

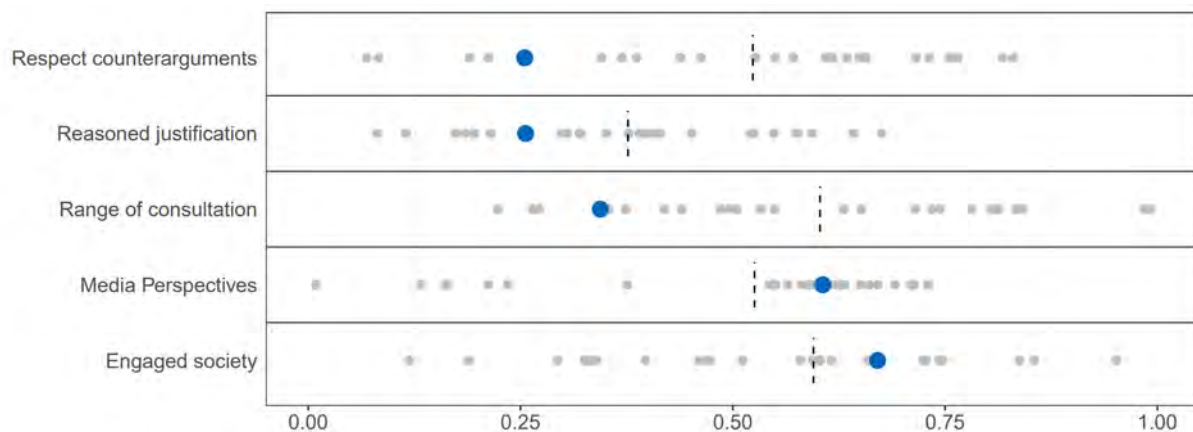


Figure 2 places Haiti in the context of other low income countries in 2017. The large blue dot represents Haiti, while the grey dots are all other countries and the vertical dashed line is the mean

⁴ Low income countries are based on the World Bank income class definitions in 2018.

value within this income class. Haiti slightly out-performs the average low income class country in indicators for media perspectives and societal engagement. However, Haiti underperforms the average on the measurement of reasoned justification by the country's political elites, and it is even further below the average on its respect for counterarguments and its range of consultation at elite levels during policy consideration.

INCLUSION

This chapter focuses on issues related to exclusion and discrimination of specific groups. Are parts of the population formally or informally excluded and disenfranchised from meaningful political, social, or economic participation, influence, or leadership? We use the following measures from the V-Dem data set:

- Equality of political power distribution by group. These four indicators pertain to political equality, that is, the extent to which members of a polity possess equal political power. It does not refer to the inevitable differentiation in power that occurs in all large societies between those who hold positions of power within the state (political elites) and lay citizens. It is, rather, about the distribution of political power among identifiable groups within the population.
 - Gender
 - Socioeconomic position
 - Social groups. Note: A social group is differentiated within a country by caste, ethnicity, language, race, region, religion, or some combination thereof. It does not include identities grounded in sexual orientation or socioeconomic status.
 - Sexual orientation
- Female political empowerment, which consists of the following indicators:
 - Access to justice for women: do women enjoy equal, secure, and effective access to justice?
 - Freedom from slavery for women: are adult women free from servitude and other kinds of forced labor?
 - Women's civil society participation: do women have the ability to express themselves and to form and participate in groups?
 - Freedom of discussion for women: are women able to openly discuss political issues in private homes and in public spaces?
 - Freedom of movement for women: do women enjoy freedom of movement within the country?
 - Women's property rights: do women enjoy the right to private property?
 - Proportion of the legislature that is female

- Proportion of journalists that are female
- Equality of political power distribution based on gender: (See above)
- What is the level of suffrage practiced?
- Representation of disadvantaged social groups: considering those social groups that are disadvantaged based on socioeconomic position, how well represented are these groups, as a whole, in the national legislature?

Figure 3. Political power distribution by groups, Trends 1990-2017



Exclusion can come in many forms, but Figure 3 highlights the ways in which segments of the population are included or excluded from political power. People from lower socioeconomic backgrounds went through rapid swings in their inclusion, with this indicator more than recovering from a steep decline in the early 1990s. Subsequently in the mid-2000s, Haiti began to exclude this group even more severely than in 1990. Other groups remained consistently excluded during the period, although this is recently worsening for women and disadvantaged social groups.

Figure 4 displays that power distributed by social group, socio-economic status and gender are currently below average for Haiti when compared to other low income countries. The indicator for inclusion of social groups is the furthest below average, although the LGBT community has been the most excluded in an absolute sense since 1990.

Figure 4. Political power distribution, Haiti v. Low income countries - 2017

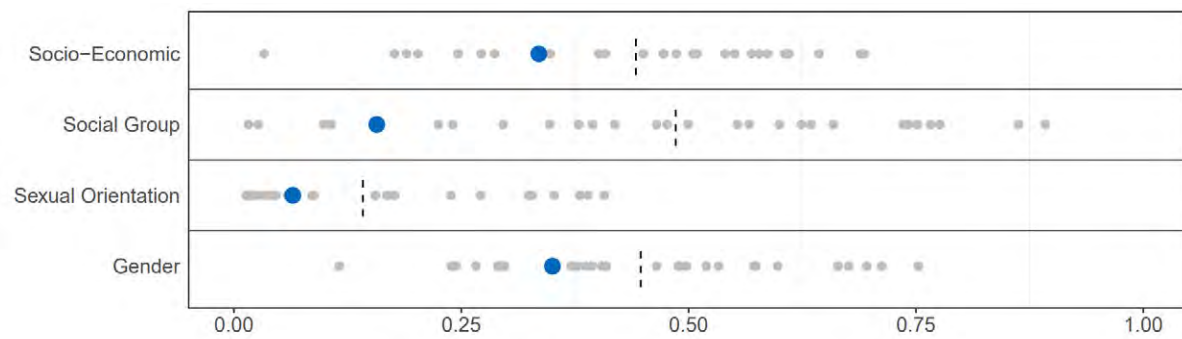


Figure 5. Women's political empowerment, Trends 1990-2017, Part I

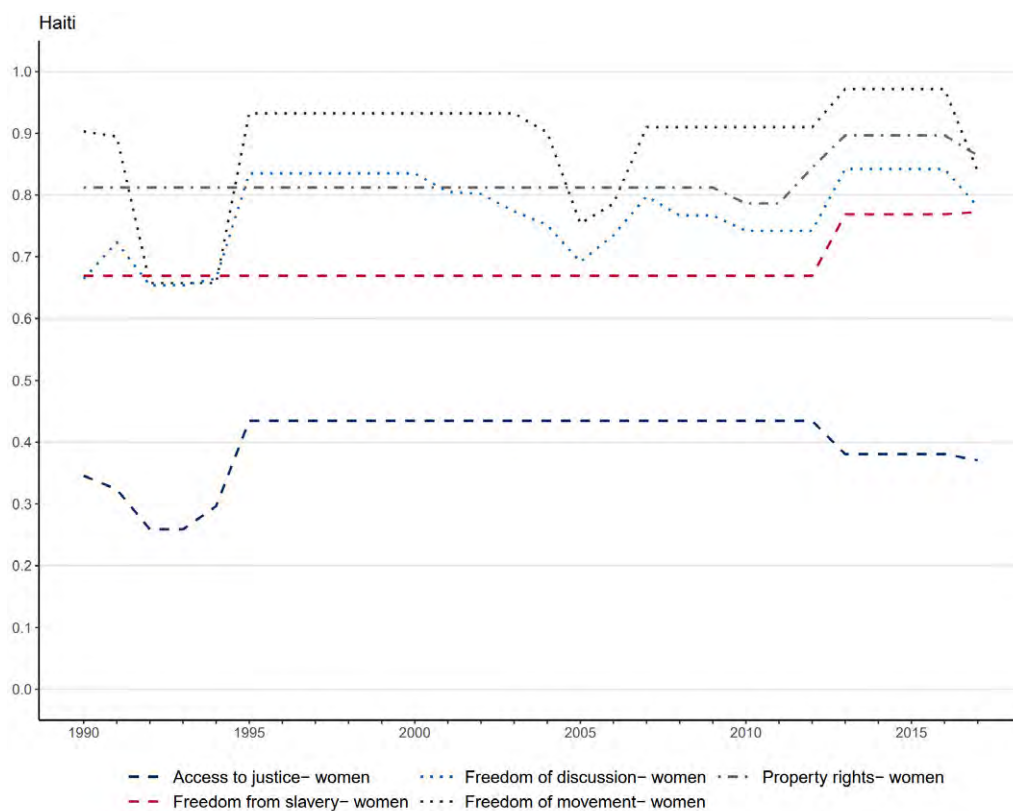


Figure 6. Women's political empowerment, Trends 1990-2017, Part II

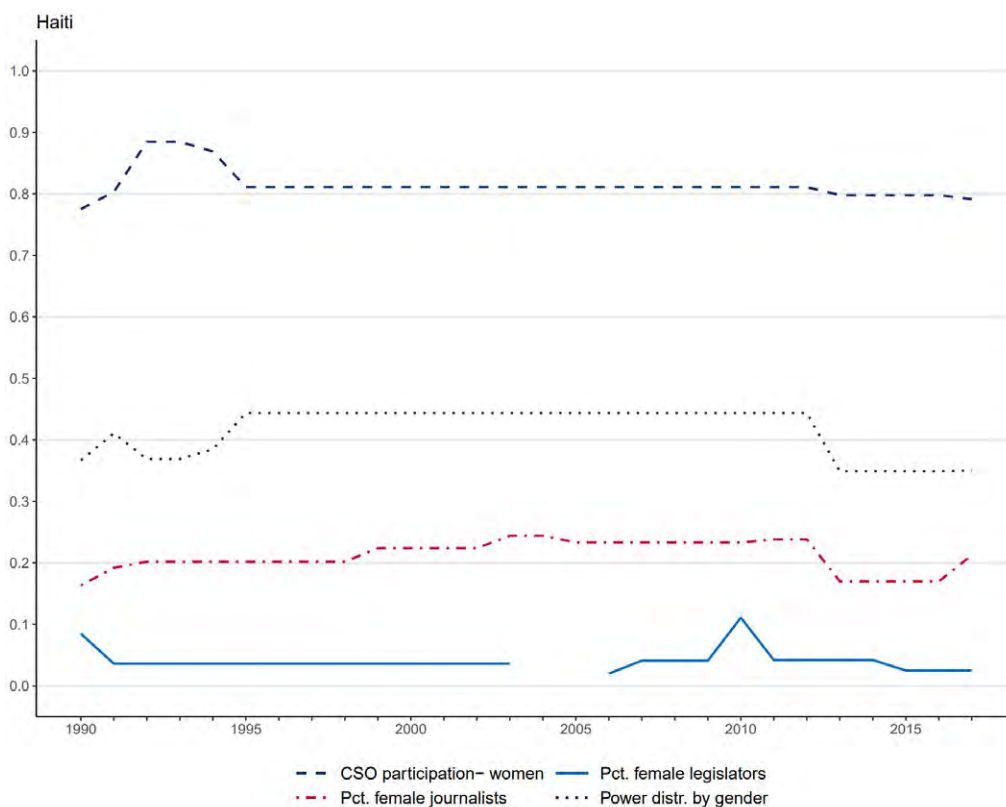
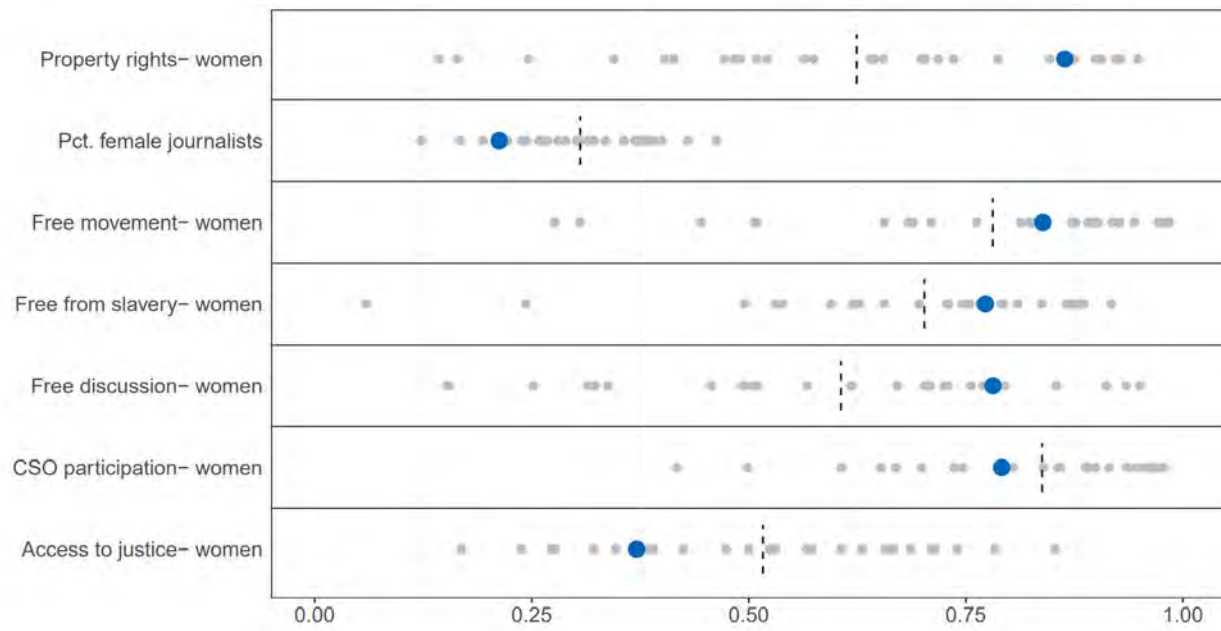


Figure 5 and Figure 6 depict, on the whole, little progress across measures of women's political empowerment. The only indicators not to suffer at least a slight decline in the last five years are women's freedom from slavery and property rights, although even the latter has slightly fallen in the past year. Notably, the percentage of female legislators has been consistently below 10 percent with few exceptions, and women's access to justice is significantly lower than other indicators of female political freedom.

Figure 7. Women’s political empowerment, Haiti v. Low income countries - 2017



Comparing the levels of the features of women’s political empowerment index in Haiti with all other low income countries in 2017 (Figure 7), we see that Haiti is performing above average on more indicators than not. On property rights, Haiti is the furthest above the average for low income countries, while the country is below average on the percentage of female journalists, women’s participation in civil society organizations, and women’s access to justice.

Figure 8. Representation of disadvantaged social groups, Trends 1990-2017

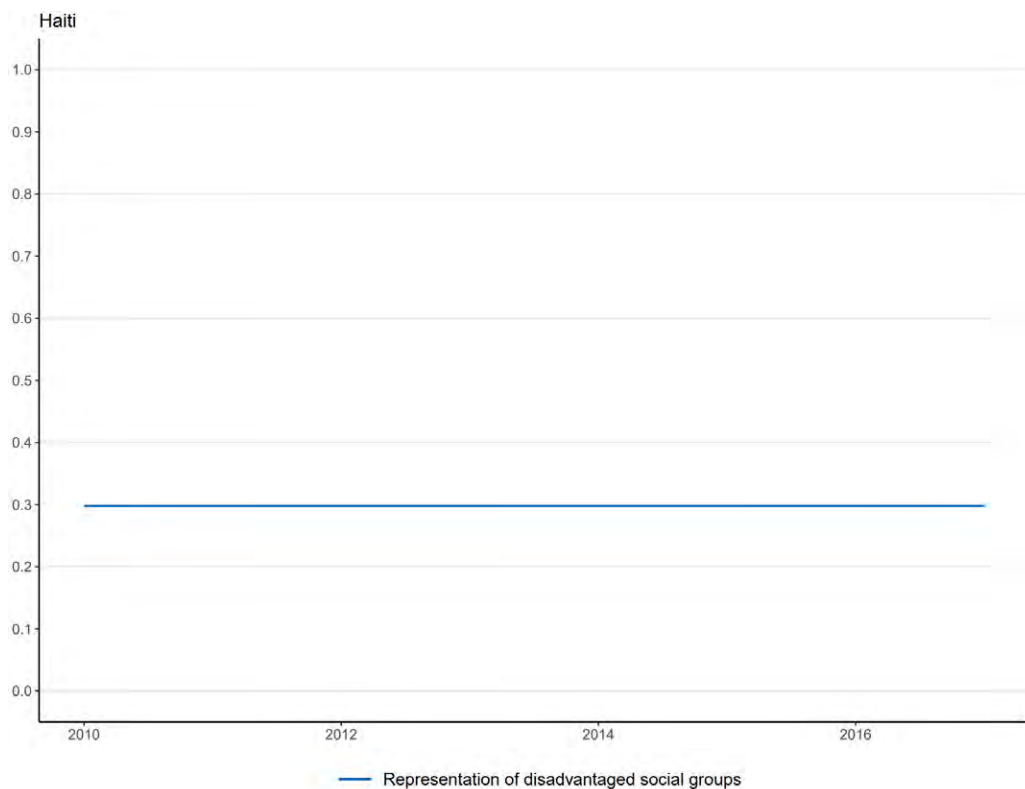


Figure 8 shows that there has been no change in the low representation of disadvantaged groups throughout the period for which data exists.

COMPETITION AND POLITICAL ACCOUNTABILITY

The third component of the SAF framework focuses on competition in the political system. In particular, this section describes the quality of elections, and other mechanisms that ensure the government delivers on its promises. The section also looks at whether there is competition of ideas, a free media, and a vibrant civil society. In other words, does the state broadly provide for adequate political rights and civil liberties? Is a healthy set of checks and balances present between branches of government or between levels of government? To measure these aspects of the political system we use the following indicators:

- V-Dem electoral democracy index, which consists of the following sub-indicators:
 - Free and fair elections: Free and fair connotes an absence of registration fraud, systematic irregularities, government intimidation of the opposition, vote buying, and election violence.
 - Elected officials index: are the chief executive and legislature appointed through popular elections?

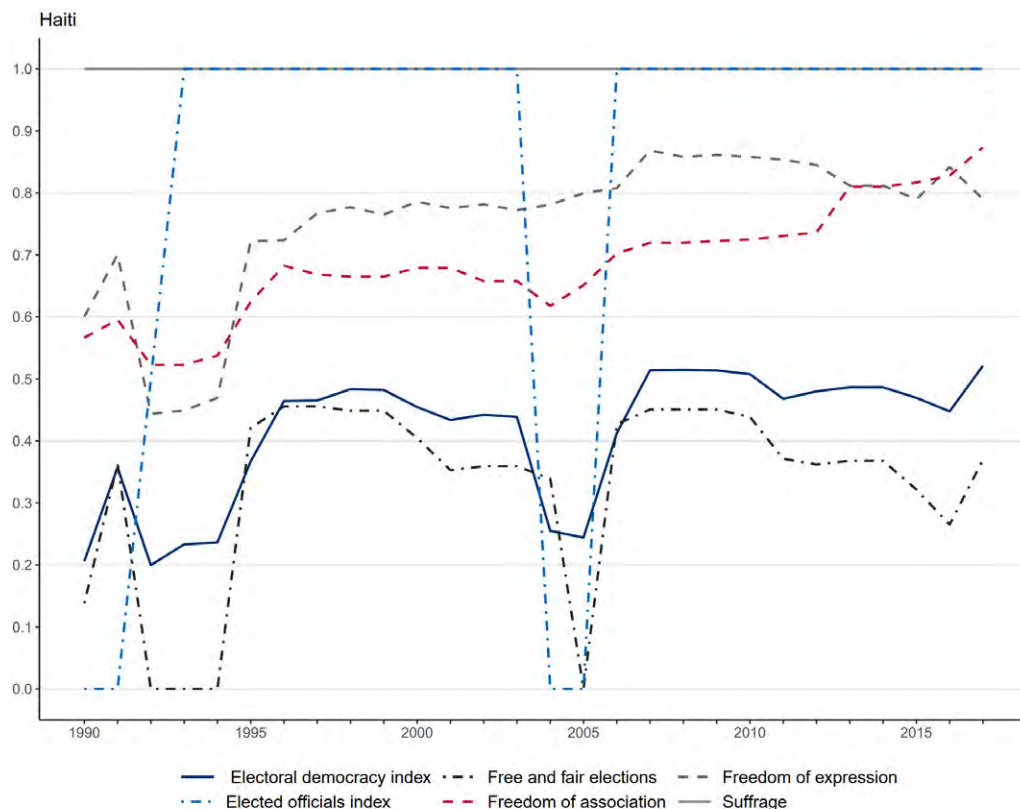
- Freedom of association: to what extent are parties, including opposition parties, allowed to form and to participate in elections, and to what extent are civil society organizations able to form and to operate freely?
- Freedom of expression: to what extent does government respect press and media freedom, the freedom of ordinary people to discuss political matters at home and in the public sphere, as well as the freedom of academic and cultural expression?
- Suffrage: what share of adult citizens as defined by statute has the legal right to vote in national elections?

- Diagonal accountability

Subindicators:

- Core civil society index: to what extent is civil society robust? Understood as a civil society that enjoys autonomy from the state and in which citizens freely and actively pursue their political and civic goals, however conceived.
- Freedom of expression: to what extent does government respect press and media freedom, the freedom of ordinary people to discuss political matters at home and in the public sphere, as well as the freedom of academic and cultural expression?
- Candidate restrictions: To what extent are candidates restricted to run for office based on ethnicity, race, religion, or language.
- Party Linkages: Among the major parties, what is the main or most common form of linkage to their constituents (particularistic vs. programmatic)?

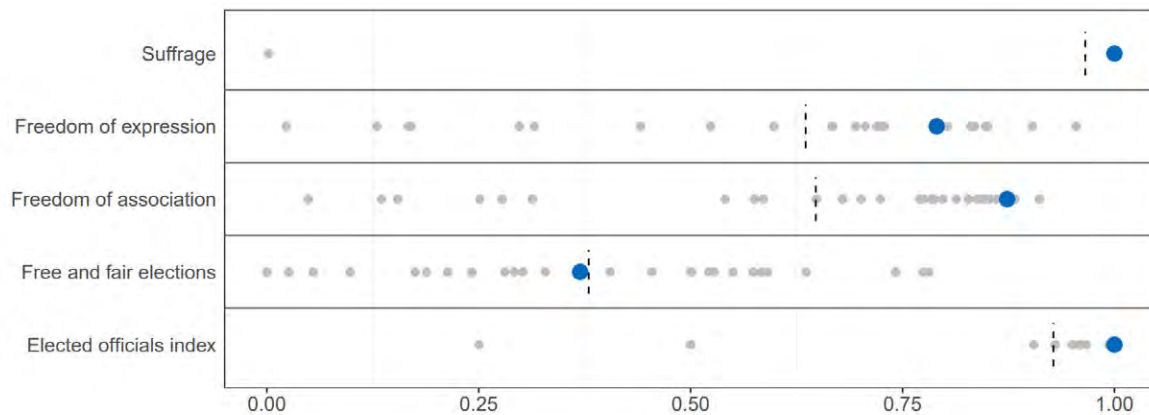
Figure 9. Electoral democracy index, Trends 1990 – 2017



Based on Figure 9, there has been slight improvement in the components of electoral democracy during the period despite many bumps in the road. The elected officials index shows that popular elections were not used to appoint the chief executive and legislature in the periods of 1990-1991 and 2004-2005, but outside of these brief windows, the indicator has been consistently at 1. Almost all indicators declined for a few years in the mid-2000s, associated with a coup that ousted the popularly elected president until new elections in 2006. However, all indicators (other than suffrage, which has been fully guaranteed for the entire period) are higher today than they were in 1990.

Compared to other low income countries, Haiti performs quite well. The country is above average on all indicators except that for free and fair elections, for which Haiti is just slightly below the mean (Figure 10).

Figure 10. Electoral democracy index, Haiti v. Low income countries- 2017



Delving deeper into the features of competition and accountability, Figure 11 and Figure 12 demonstrate Haiti's gradual improvement. Figure 11 shows that all three indicators suffered a steep decline in the early 1990s, and the core civil accountability index similarly collapsed about a decade later. However, each indicator has recovered, rising to about 0.8 or higher. Meanwhile, Figure 12 documents that candidate restrictions have stayed nonexistent for the entire period. It is a concern, though, that parties continue to concentrate on providing clientelist gifts to attract support rather than by relying on party platforms, and the indicator for party linkages has fallen since 2009.

Figure 11. Diagonal accountability and its components, Trends 1990-2017

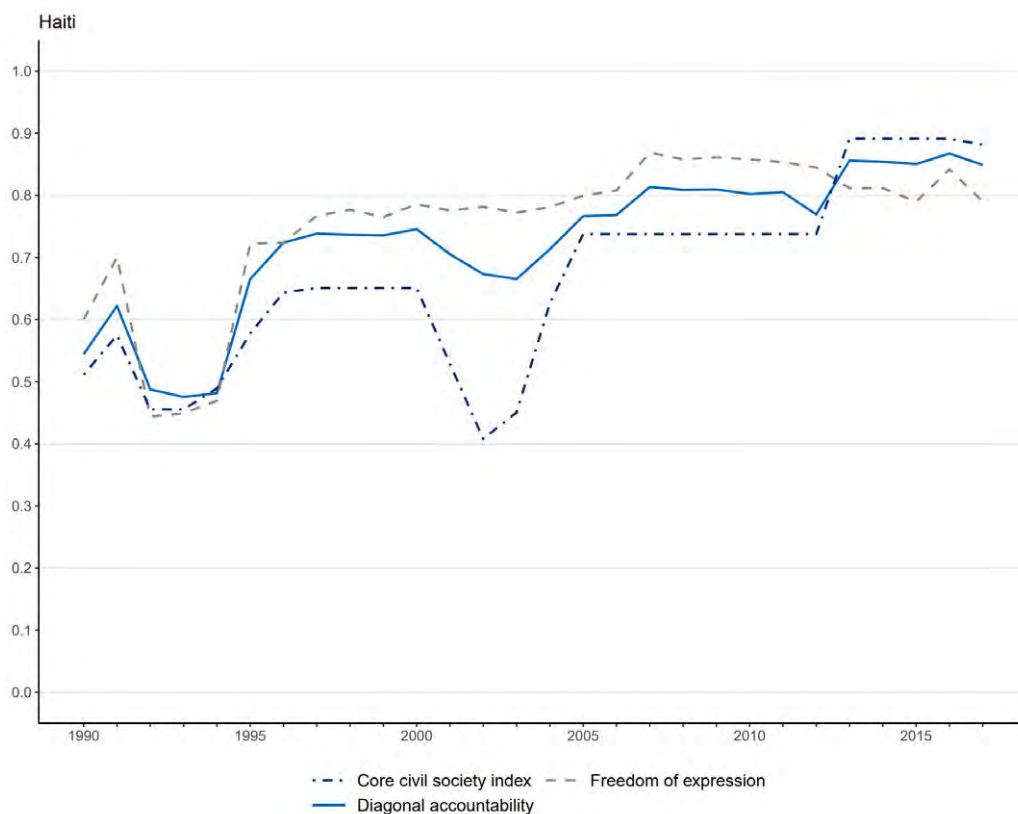
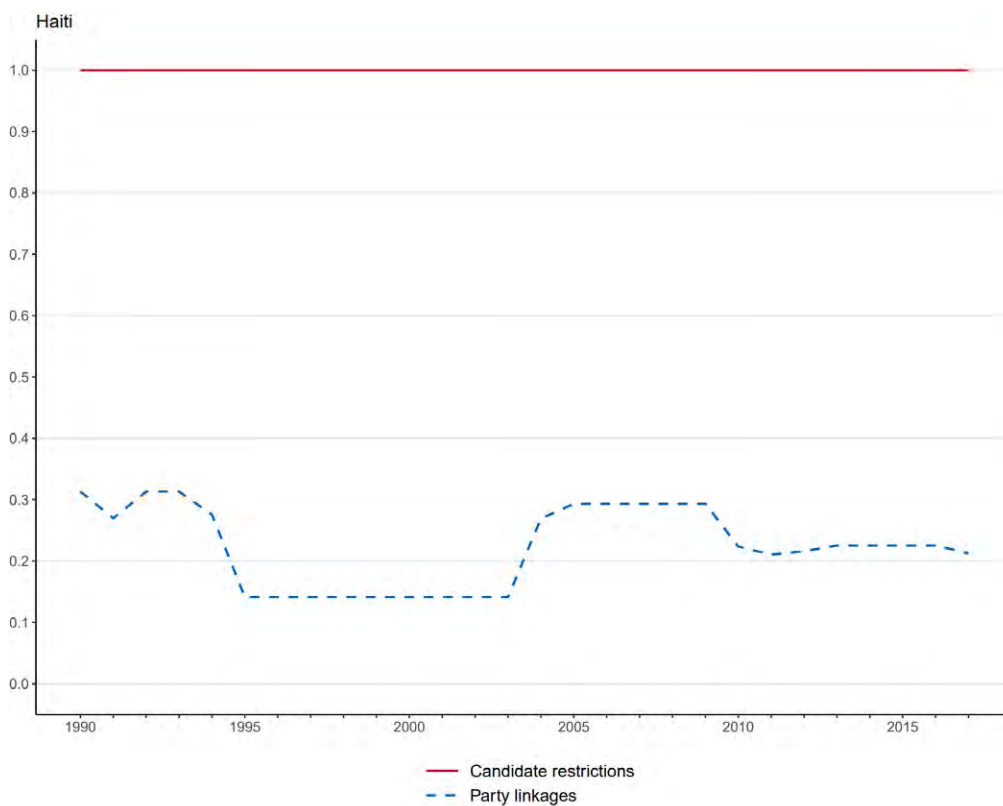


Figure 12. Candidate restrictions and political party linkages. 1990-2017



RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The fourth section focuses on the broad question whether political, economic, and social life is bound by a rule of law. Does the government apply the law equitably to all citizens, including historically marginalized and oppressed groups and individuals? Does it hold itself accountable for adhering to the rule of law? Does the law incorporate fundamental human rights and civil liberties? Does the government enforce, protect, and promote those rights? The following indicators are used in the analysis:

- Rule of law index and the following components⁵:
 - High court independence: When the high court in the judicial system is ruling in cases that are salient to the government, does it make decisions that merely reflect government wishes regardless of its sincere view of the legal record, or does it act independently?
 - Lower court independence: When judges *not* on the high court in the judicial system is ruling in cases that are salient to the government, does it makes decisions that merely reflect government wishes regardless of its sincere view of the legal record, or does it act independently?

⁵ Some components are omitted to reduce repetition of indicators throughout the report

- Compliance with the judiciary: How often the government complies with important decisions of any court with which it disagrees
- Compliance with the high court: How often the government complies with important decisions of the high court with which it disagrees.
- Judicial accountability: When judges are found responsible for serious misconduct, are they removed from their posts or otherwise disciplined?
- Access to justice for women: Do women enjoy equal, secure, and effective access to justice?
- Access to justice for men: Do men enjoy equal, secure, and effective access to justice?
- Executive respects the constitution: Do members of the executive (the head of state, the head of government, and cabinet ministers) respect the constitution?
- Impartial public administration: Are public officials rigorous and impartial in the performance of their duties?
- Transparent laws and enforcement of the law: Are the laws of the land clear, well publicized, coherent (consistent with each other), relatively stable from year to year, and enforced in a predictable manner?
- Civil liberties index and its sub-indices:
 - Political civil liberties index: To what extent are political liberties respected? Political liberties are understood as freedom of association and freedom of expression
 - Physical violence index: To what extent is physical integrity respected? Physical integrity is understood as freedom from political killings and torture by the government.
 - Private civil liberties index: To what extent are private liberties respected? Private liberties are understood as freedom of movement, freedom of religion, freedom from forced labor, and property rights.

Figure 13. Rule of law and Judiciary independence, Trends 1990 - 2017

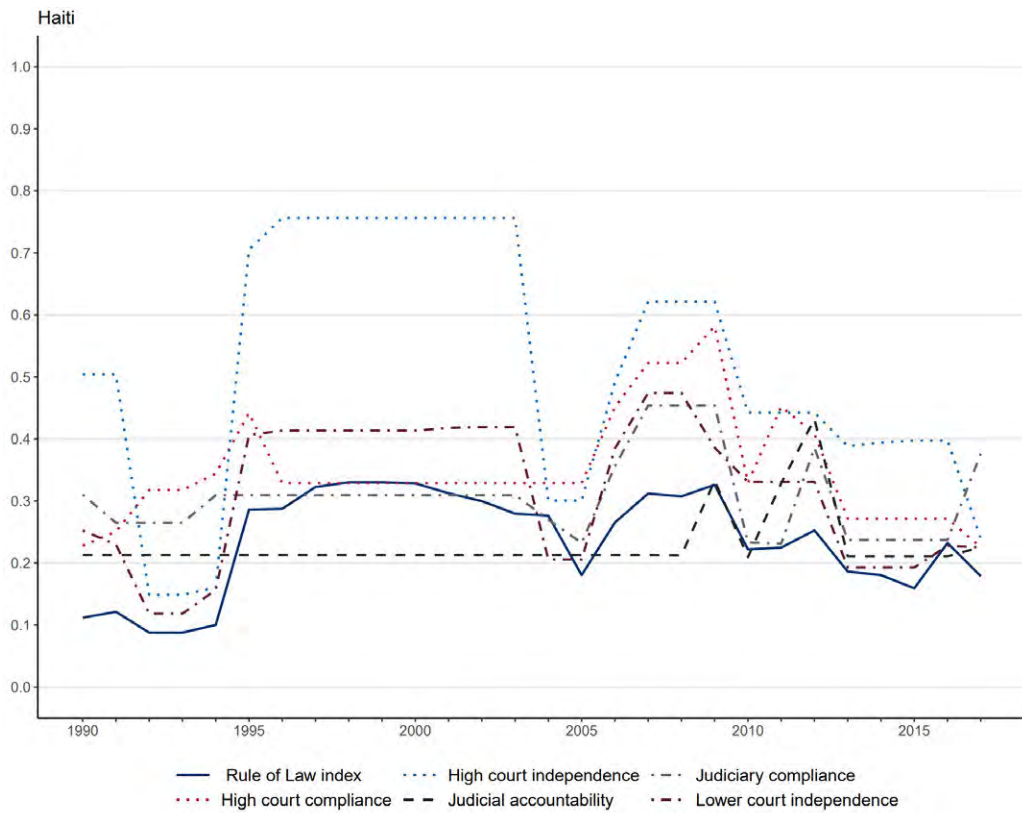
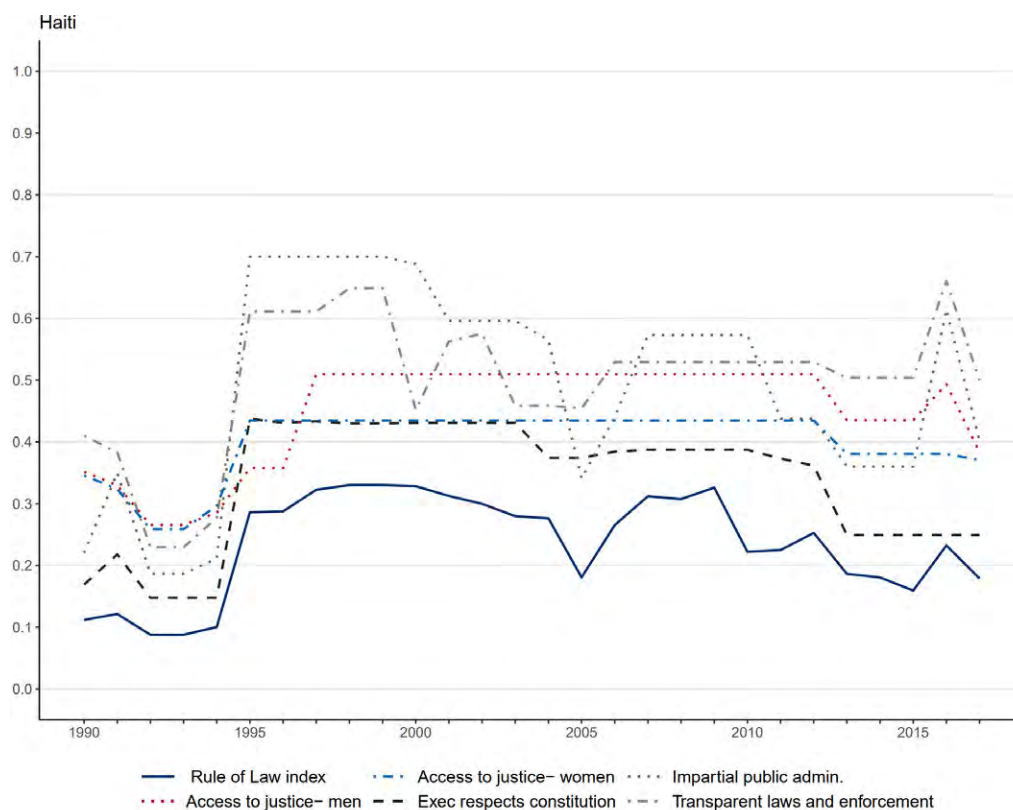


Figure 14. Rule of law, Trends 1990-2017



The state of the rule of law has stagnated of late in Haiti, as shown in Figure 13 and Figure 14. Despite large improvement during the early 1990s, most indicators in both figures have since been on a trend of slight regression. In particular, the high court's independence improved markedly between 1994 and 2003, this reversed in 2004 as a coup took down the country's government. Although the indicator recovered partially, this was exceeded by a subsequent decrease. Overall, both figures point to concerning developments for rule of law in Haiti.

Figure 15. Rule of law, Haiti vs. Low Income countries - 2017

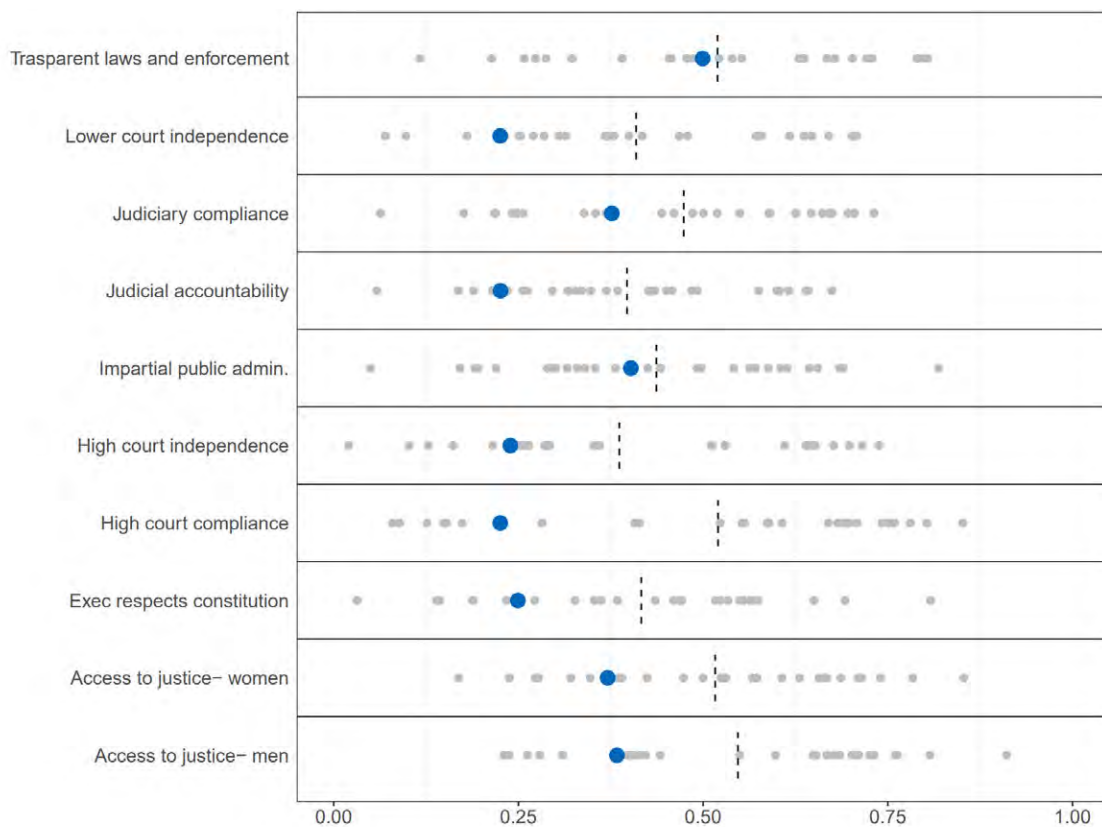


Figure 15 indicates that indicators for the strength of Haiti's rule of law are below average across the board compared to other low income countries. Compliance with the high court is furthest below the average, while the transparency of laws and enforcement and the impartiality of public administration are closest to the average.

Figure 16. Civil liberties index, Trends 1990 - 2017

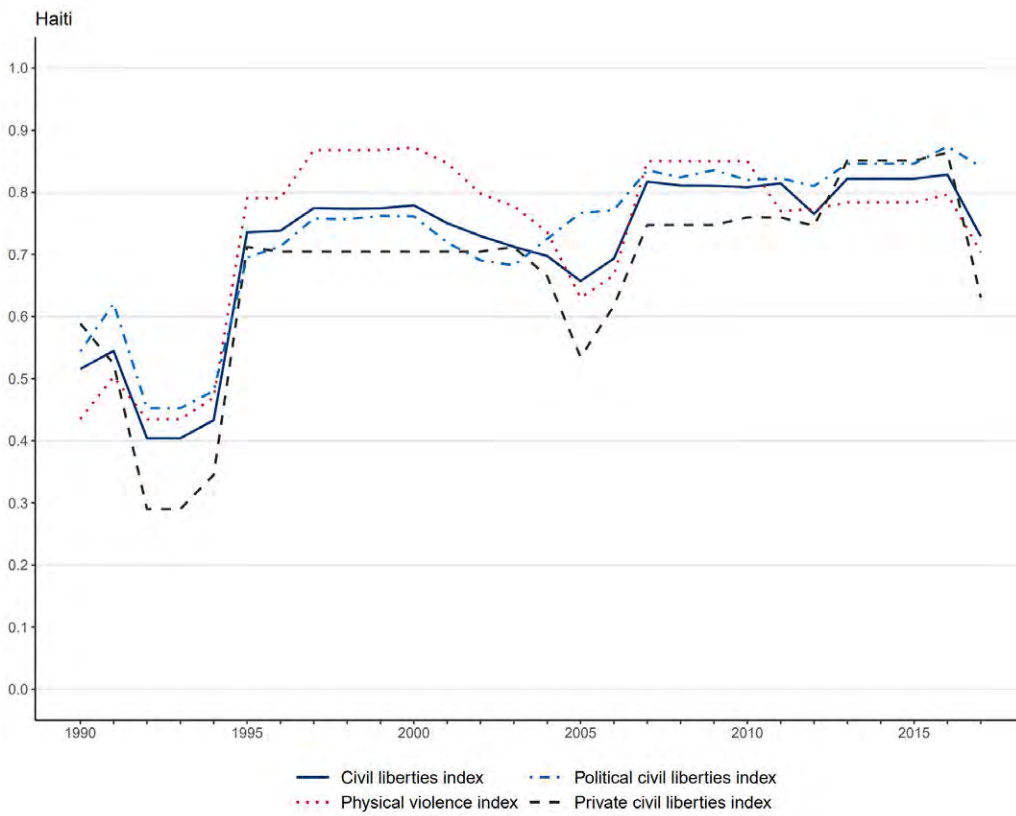
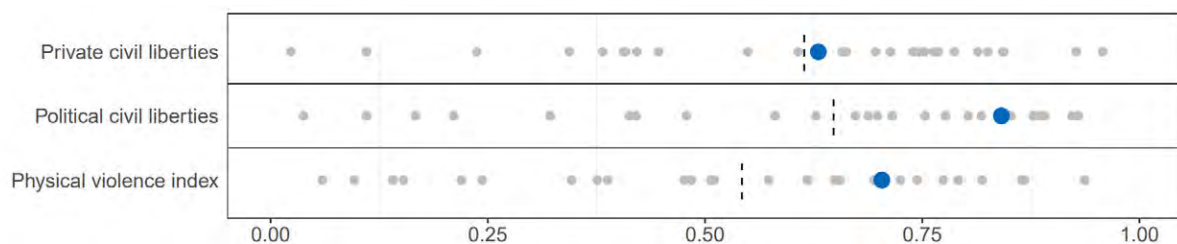


Figure 16 displays, in general, a slow improvement in civil liberties after a sharp improvement in the mid-1990s. The physical violence index, civil liberties index, and private civil liberties index all fell during the mid-2000s, corresponding with Haiti’s political turmoil, but interestingly, political civil liberties rose during the same time. In the last year, these indicators have all dipped, a worrying trend. Based on their scores in 2017, Haiti is above average in all three indicators shown in Figure 17, most notably in political civil liberties and the physical violence index.

Figure 17. Civil Liberties, Haiti vs. Low income countries - 2017



GOVERNMENT RESPONSIVENESS AND EFFECTIVENESS

The last pillar of the SAF framework focuses on the extent to which public institutions respond to public needs and provide socially acceptable services. Do those services reach all citizens equally or do certain groups or populations face barriers to accessing services? Do mechanisms exist for all citizens to

provide constructive feedback on government performance? Do robust internal mechanisms exist to hold government institutions accountable and guard against poor performance, fraud, and waste, as well as violations of human rights? We provide the following operationalization:

- Equal distribution of resources index

Components:

- Educational equality: To what extent is high quality basic education guaranteed to all, sufficient to enable them to exercise their basic rights as adult citizens?
- Health equality: To what extent is high quality basic healthcare guaranteed to all, sufficient to enable them to exercise their basic political rights as adult citizens?
- Encompassingness: Considering the profile of social and infrastructural spending in the national budget, how "particularistic" or "public goods" are most expenditures?
- Means-tested vs. universalistic: How many welfare programs are means-tested and how many benefit all (or virtually all) members of the polity?

- Horizontal accountability

Components:

- Executive oversight: If executive branch officials were engaged in unconstitutional, illegal, or unethical activity, how likely is it that a body other than the legislature, such as a comptroller general, general prosecutor, or ombudsman, would question or investigate them and issue an unfavorable decision or report?
- Legislature investigates in practice: If the executive were engaged in unconstitutional, illegal, or unethical activity, how likely is it that a legislative body (perhaps a whole chamber, perhaps a committee, whether aligned with government or opposition) would conduct an investigation that would result in a decision or report that is unfavorable to the executive?

- Clientelism Index: to what extent are politics based on clientelistic relationships?

- Political corruption index

Components:

- Judicial corruption: How often do individuals or businesses make undocumented extra payments or bribes in order to speed up or delay the process or to obtain a favorable judicial decision?
- Public sector corruption: To what extent do public sector employees grant favors in exchange for bribes, kickbacks, or other material inducements, and how often do they steal, embezzle, or misappropriate public funds or other state resources for personal or family use?

- Executive corruption: How routinely do members of the executive, or their agents grant favors in exchange for bribes, kickbacks, or other material inducements, and how often do they steal, embezzle, or misappropriate public funds or other state resources for personal or family use?
- Legislative corruption: Do members of the legislature abuse their position for financial gain?

Figure 18. Equal distribution of resources, Trends 1990 - 2017

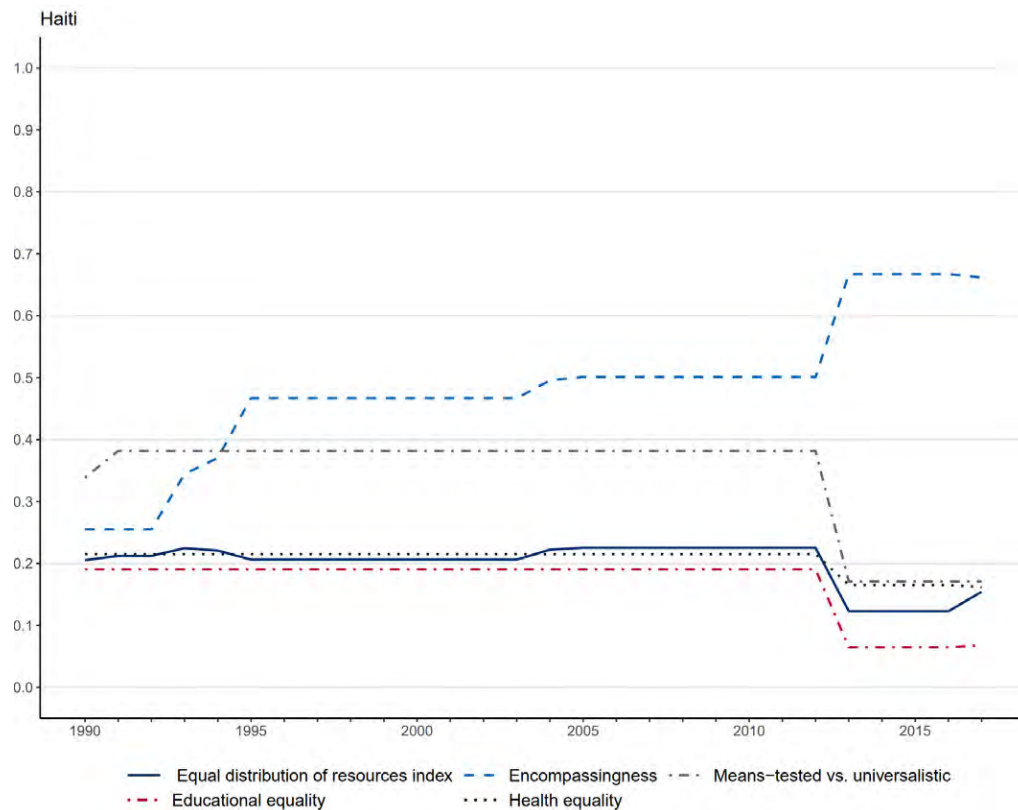


Figure 18 displays an interesting divergence recently in Haiti’s welfare program distribution. Programs have consistently become more encompassing, especially since 2012. All other indicators have remained mostly flat during the period, followed by a steep decline between 2012 and 2013. Only the equal distribution of resources index has seen a slight recovery, but every indicator save for encompassing remains very low. Compared to its peers, Haiti is significantly below average on most indicators, shown in Figure 19. However, Haiti’s expenditures lean slightly more toward “public goods” than those of other low income countries.

Figure 19. Equal distribution of resources, Haiti vs. Low income countries - 2017

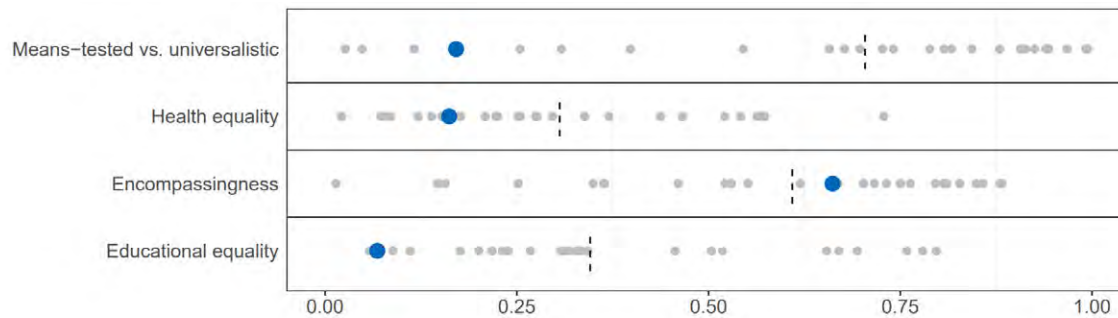


Figure 20. Horizontal accountability index, Trend 1990 – 2017



Figure 21. Political corruption index, Trends 1990 - 2017

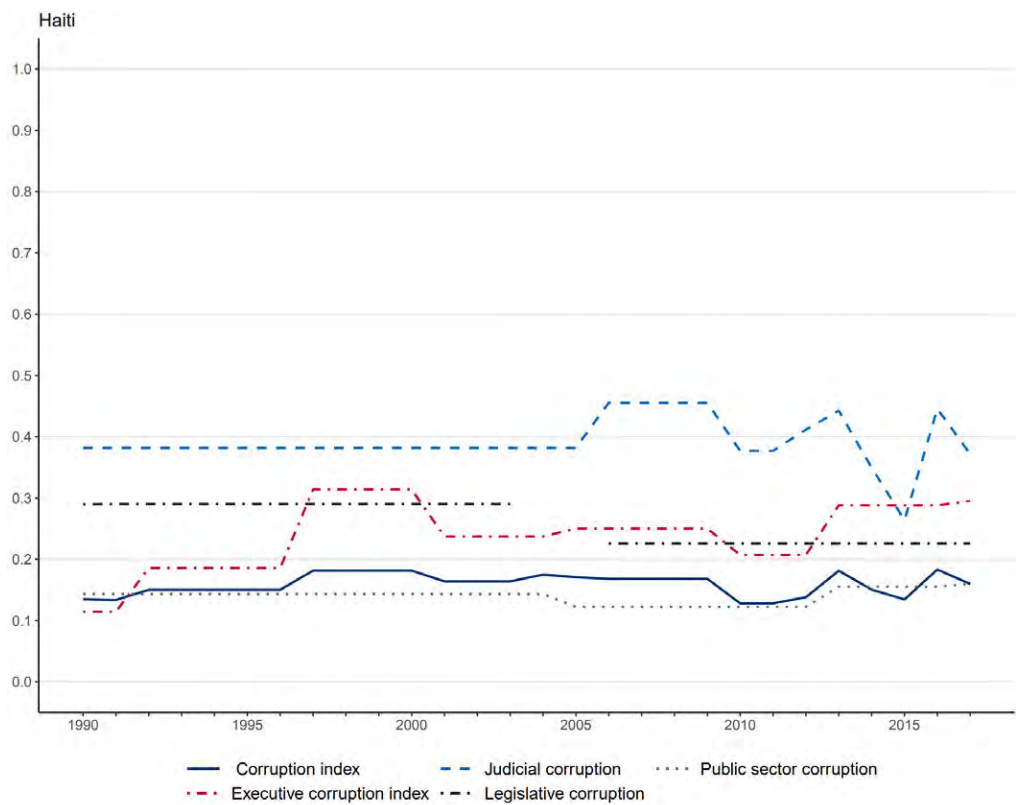


Figure 20 and Figure 21 show some slight progress in executive corruption, executive oversight, and the ability of the legislature to investigate in practice. Mostly, though, the indicators have remained flat. Interestingly, horizontal accountability collapsed during the political turmoil of the mid-2000s. It has since mostly recovered, but the horizontal accountability index has been on a slow downward trajectory in recent years.

Figure 22. Political corruption, Haiti vs. Low income countries - 2017

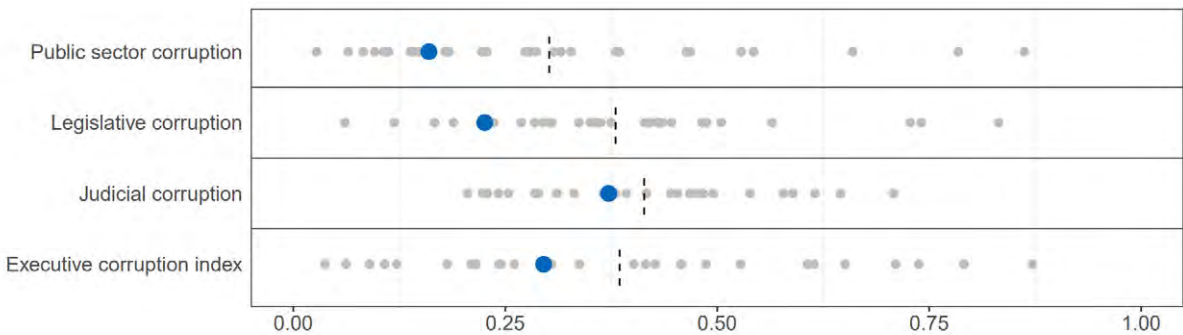


Figure 22 indicates that across all divisions of government, Haiti is underperforming in corruption compared to other low income countries. The country performs best in judicial corruption, both absolutely and relatively to the average, though it is still below average.

II. KEY ACTORS AND INSTITUTIONS

The framework identifies the following key actors and institutions that drive the changes in the governance areas used in SAF: executive, legislature, judiciary and legal professionals, national human rights institutions; security services; local governments, political parties and electoral institutions, civil society, media, key population groups, and international and global actors. Where that was possible, we have divided the indicators into country commitment and capacity.

More specifically, country commitment relates to the extent to which a country's legal framework, policies, actions, behaviors, and informal governance mechanisms—such as cultures and norms—enable the country to create and strengthen the institutions in order to solve its own development challenges. Country capacity, on the other hand, relates to how far a country has come in its journey across the dimensions of political, social and economic development, including the ability to work across these sectors.

Table I. Commitment and capacity for the key actors and institutions in Haiti

ACTORS AND INSTITUTIONS	COMMITMENT	CAPACITY
Executive	High	Low
Legislative	High	Medium
Judiciary	Medium	Medium
Media	Medium	High
Civil Society	High	Low
Political parties and Electoral Management Body	High	Low

- The Executive;
 - Commitment:
 - Is the executive elected?
 - Executive elections multiparty: the elections for the executive allow for meaningful competition between several parties.
 - Capacity:
 - Executive election free and fair: to what extent are elections for the executive free from irregularities?
 - Executive respects constitution: Do members of the executive (the head of state, the head of government, and cabinet ministers) respect the constitution?
 - Executive bribes: How routinely do members of the executive (the head of state, the head of government, and cabinet ministers), or their agents, grant favors in exchange for bribes, kickbacks, or other material inducements?

- Executive embezzlement: How often do members of the executive (the head of state, the head of government, and cabinet ministers), or their agents, steal, embezzle, or misappropriate public funds or other state resources for personal or family use?
- The Legislature;
 - Commitment:
 - Is there elected legislature in place?
 - Legislative elections multiparty: the elections for the executive allow for meaningful competition between several parties
 - Legislature controls its own resources
 - Legislature questions officials by law
 - Propose legislation by law
 - Capacity:
 - Legislative election free and fair: to what extent are elections for the executive free from irregularities?
 - Legislature corruption: do members of the executive abuse their power for financial gains?
 - Lower chamber legislates in practice: in practice, is the approval of the lower (or unicameral) chamber of the legislature required to pass legislation
 - Legislature investigates in practice
- The Judiciary and Legal Professionals;
 - Commitment:
 - Type of courts (see measure from Comparative constitution project, specifying the existence of different types of courts)
 - Government attacks on judiciary: Frequency of government attack the judiciary's integrity
 - Capacity:
 - Judicial reform: Were the judiciary's formal powers altered this year in ways that affect its ability to control the arbitrary use of state authority?
 - Judicial purges: are judges removed from their positions arbitrarily or for political reasons?

Figure 23. Commitment to separation of power, Haiti v. Low income countries, 2017

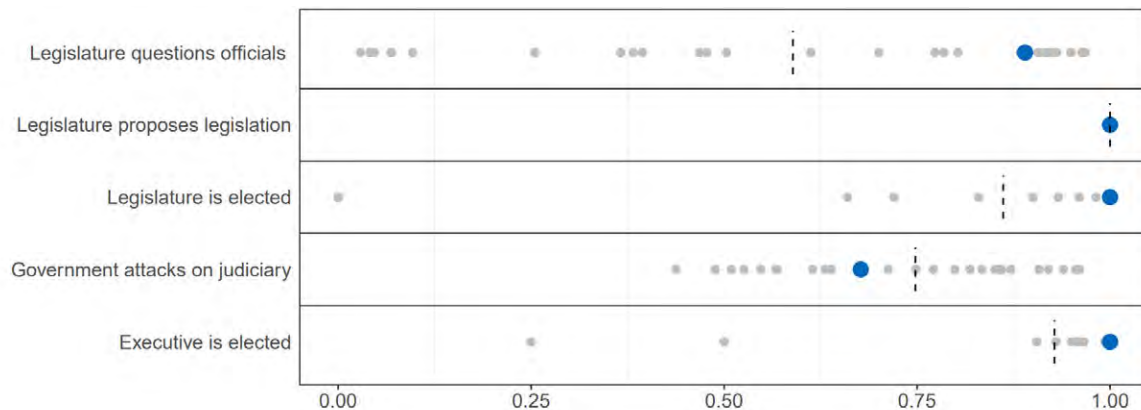


Figure 24. Branches of government, Haiti v. Low income countries - 2017

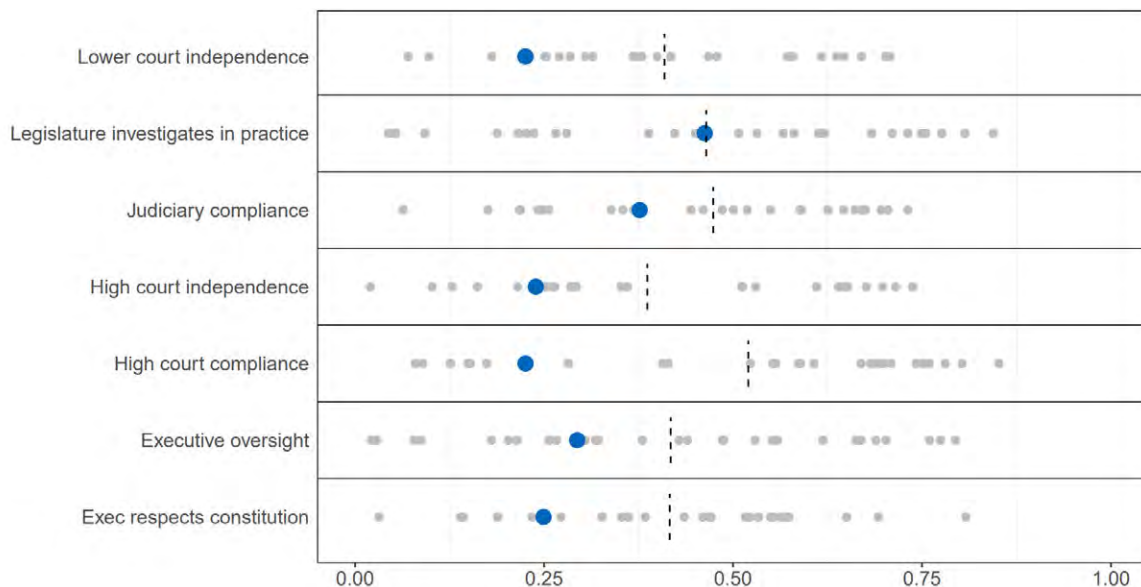
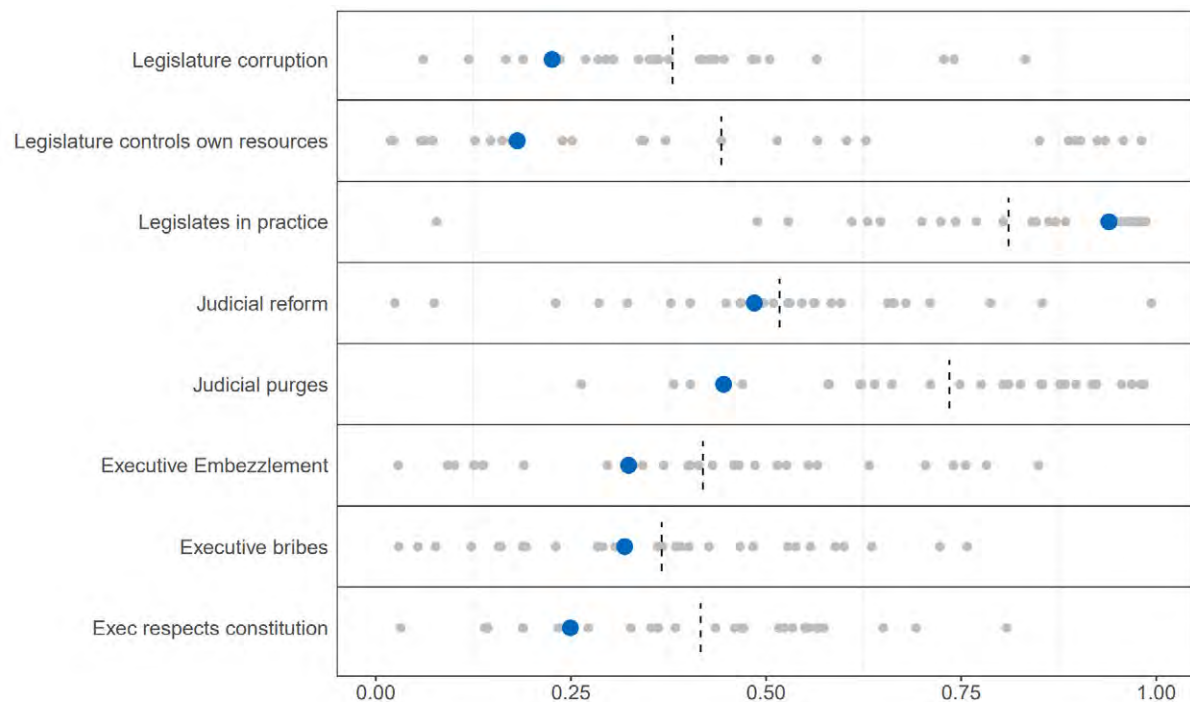


Figure 23 shows that Haiti mostly outperforms other low income countries when it comes to its commitment to separation of powers. Although the indicator of government attacks on the judiciary is below average, Haiti's legislature questions officials at a far higher rate than the country's peers. However, the indicators in Figure 24 are almost all below average. Haiti's legislature investigates the executive at an average rate, but the country underperforms significantly in all other indicators, especially compliance with rulings of the high court.

Figure 25. Branches of government, Haiti v. Low income countries - 2017



On all indicators in Figure 25 except for the legislature's ability to pass laws in practice, Haiti is below average compared to its peer group. While the country is very close to the mean for judicial reform and the rate of executive bribes, Haiti is far below average on the indicator of judicial purges. In fact, Haiti is in the bottom four of low income countries regarding its performance on this indicator.

- National Human Rights Institutions;
 - Commitment:
 - Is there freedom of religion?
 - Capacity:
 - Do men enjoy secure and effective access to justice?
 - Do women enjoy equal, secure, and effective access to justice?
- Security Services (including the Military, Police, and Intelligence Services);
 - Commitment:
 - Is there freedom from torture?
 - Is there freedom from political killings?
 - Did the country participate in an international armed conflict?

- Did the country experience an internal armed conflict?
- Capacity:
 - Do poor people enjoy the same level of civil liberties as rich people do?
 - Do all social groups, as distinguished by language, ethnicity, religion, race, region, or caste, enjoy the same level of civil liberties, or are some groups generally in a more favorable position?
- Local and Regional Government;
 - Local government index:
 - Commitment: Are there elected local governments;
 - Capacity: to what extent can they operate without interference from unelected bodies at the local level?
 - Regional government index:
 - Commitment: Are there elected regional governments;
 - Capacity: to what extent can they operate without interference from unelected bodies at the local level?

Figure 26. Local and Regional government elected, Trends 1990-2017

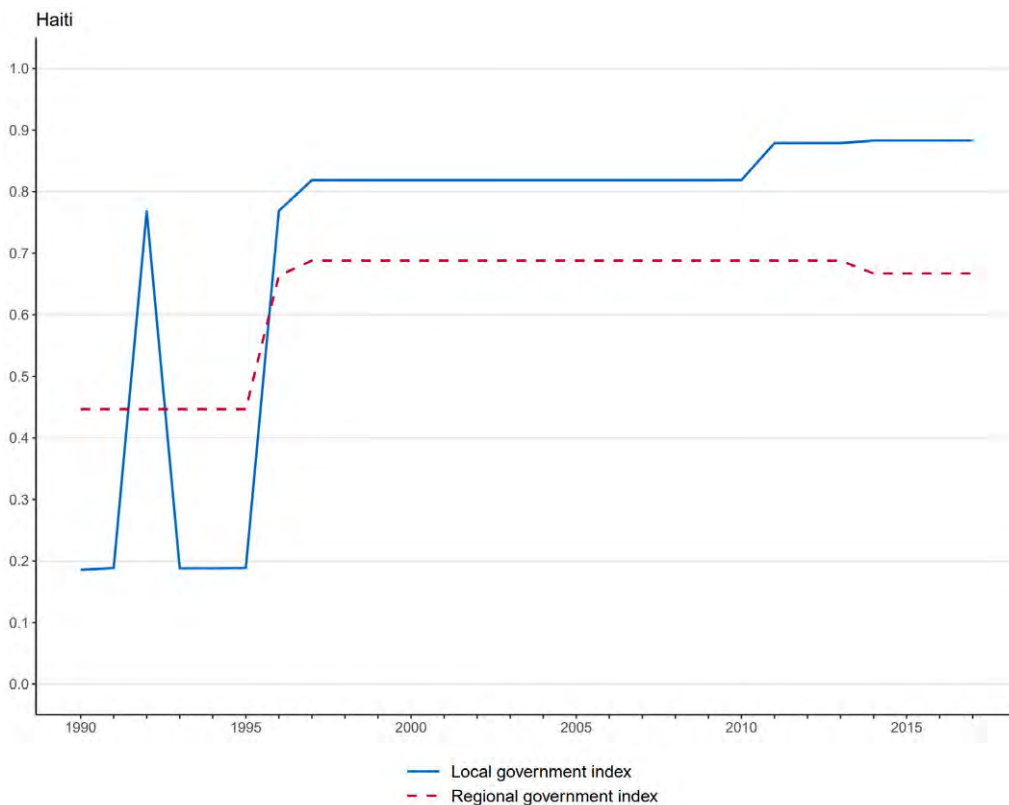
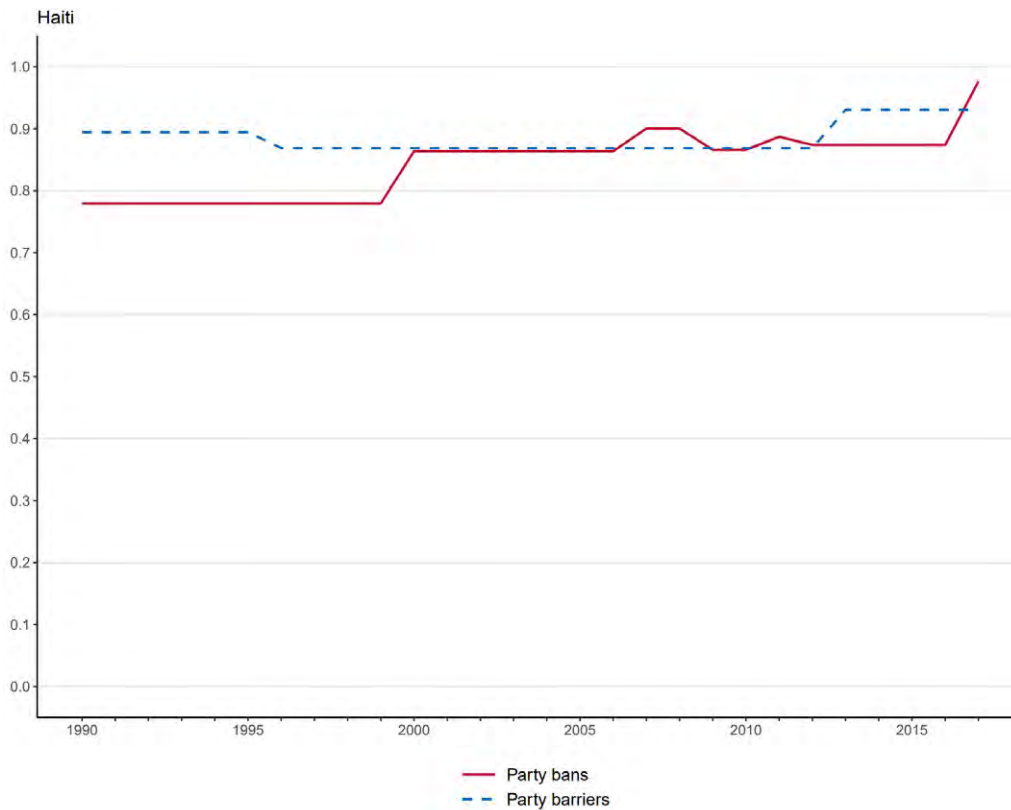


Figure 26 demonstrates improvements to indicators of Haiti's commitment to election local and regional officials and these governments' ability to act independently of the central government. There has been little progress since the late 1990s, but both indicators remain quite high.

- Political Parties and Electoral Institutions;
 - Commitment:
 - Party ban
 - Capacity:
 - Party institutionalization index: To what extent are political parties institutionalized? This refers to various attributes of the political parties in a country, e.g., level and depth of organization, links to civil society, cadres of party activists, party supporters within the electorate, coherence of party platforms and ideologies, party-line voting among representatives within the legislature.
 - Party Organization: level and depth of organization
 - Party Linkages: links to civil society (clientelistic or programmatic)
 - Party Branches: local party branches are common
 - Party Platforms: coherence of party platforms and ideologies
 - Legislative Cohesion: party-line voting among representatives within the legislature.

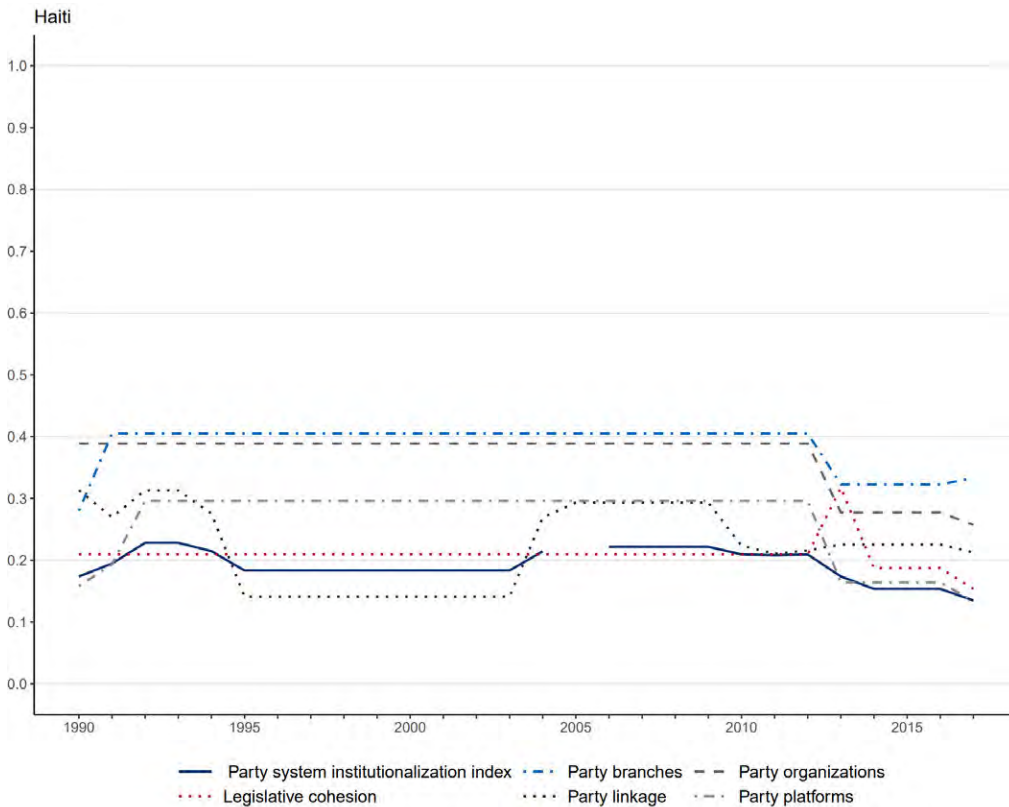
- EMB autonomy
- EMB capacity

Figure 27: Commitment to Party System Competition, Trends 1990-2017



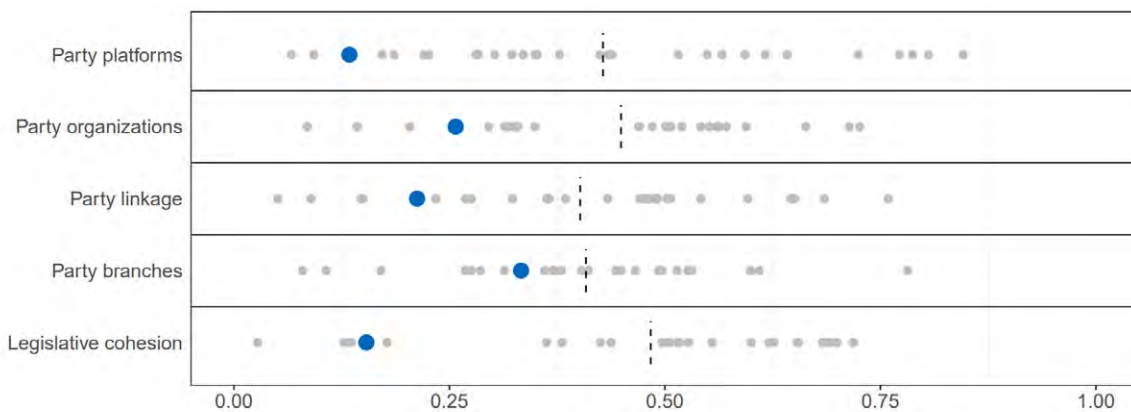
As shown by Figure 27, Haiti's commitment to robust party competition has stayed strong throughout the period, augmented by a recent reduction in party bans and barriers.

Figure 28. Party system institutionalization, Trends 1990-2017



Indicators of party system institutionalization in Figure 28 have fallen in the last five years after decades of relative stability. While, during the period, local party branches have become more common and party platforms have become more coherent, all other indicators are worse today than they were 27 years ago. Meanwhile, Figure 29 shows that Haiti performs below average on all indicators, with the greatest underperformance taking place on coherence of party platforms (in spite of its historical improvement) and the measure of legislative cohesion.

Figure 29. Party system institutionalization, Haiti v. Low income countries - 2017



- Civil Society;
 - Commitment:
 - CSO participatory environment: to what extent diverse CSOs exist and people participate actively in them.
 - CSO entry and exit: To what extent does the government achieve control over entry and exit by civil society organizations (CSOs) into public life?
 - CSO repression: does the government attempt to repress civil society organizations?
 - Capacity:
 - CSO consultation: to what extent major civil society organizations (CSOs) are routinely consulted by policymakers on policies relevant to their members

Figure 30. Civil Society Capacity and Commitment, Trends 1990-2017

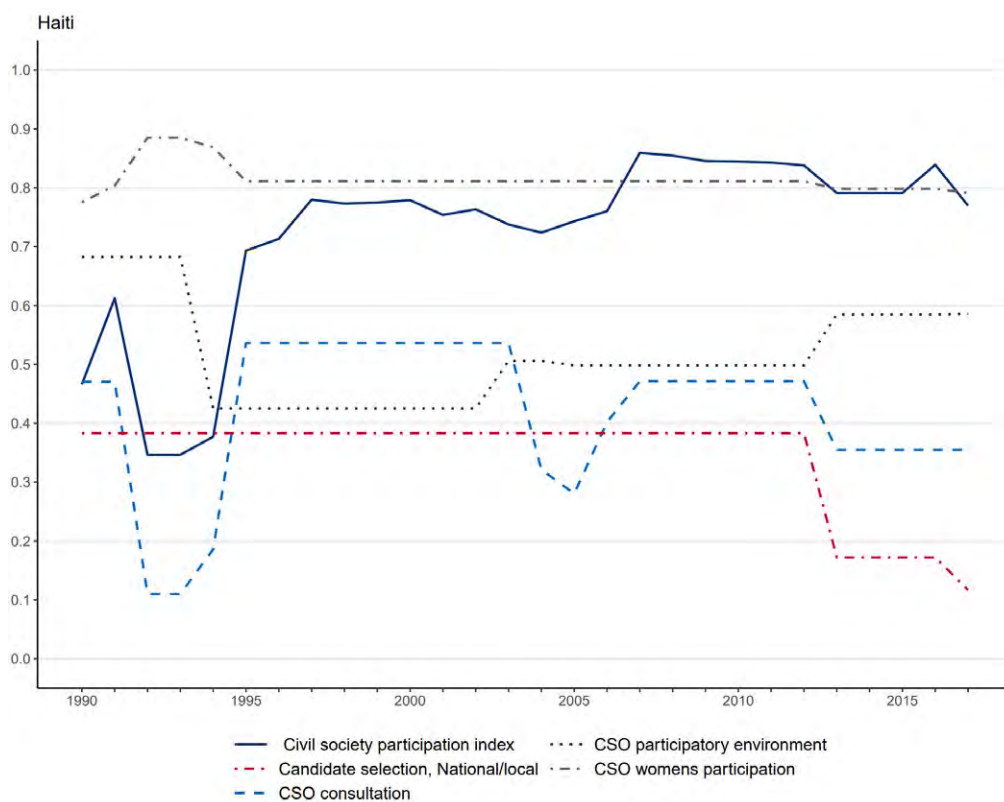


Figure 30 illustrates that Haiti's indicators for civil society participation have been wide-ranging and inconsistent. The Civil society participation index and the measure of CSO consultation both recovered from sharp drop-offs during the mid-1990s, but only the former is higher in 2017 than it was in 1990. The CSO participatory environment is also worse in 2017 than in 1990, but the trend since the turn of the century is one of gradual improvement. However, candidate selection at the national and local levels has become far less democratic since 2012.

- Media:
 - Commitment:
 - Harassment of journalists
 - Government censorship of the media
 - Capacity:
 - Freedom of discussion - men
 - Freedom of discussion - women
 - Media self-censorship
 - Academic and cultural freedom
 - Print/broadcast media perspectives

Figure 3I. Freedom of expression, Trends 1990-2017

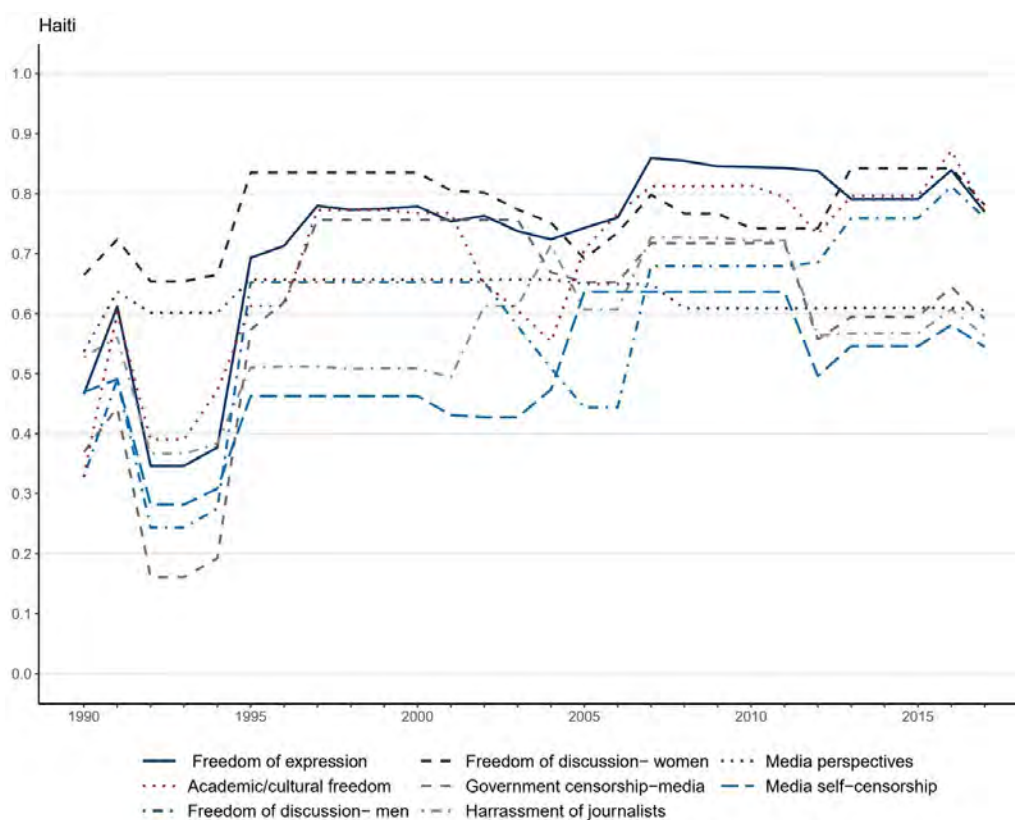
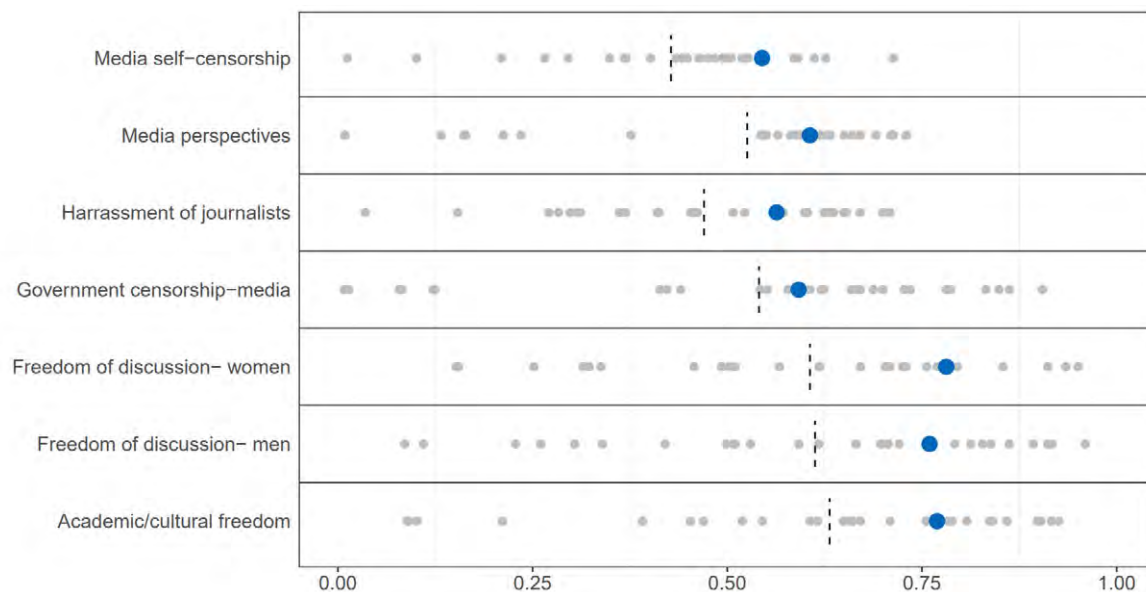


Figure 3I displays that, in the two decades following a steep decline, Haiti’s indicators of freedom of expression have been on a slow upward trend. Some indicators—especially men’s and women’s freedom of discussion, government censorship of the media, and harassment of journalists—have struggled to

maintain progress. And, most indicators have slightly declined in the last year. Nevertheless, Haiti is performing above average compared to other low income countries on all indicators shown in Figure 32.

Figure 32. Freedom of expression, Haiti v. Low income countries - 2017



- Private Sector Business Interests;
 - State ownership of the economy: Does the state own or directly control important sectors of the economy? (0 = state control, 1 = no state control)

Figure 33. State ownership of the economy, Trends 1990-2017

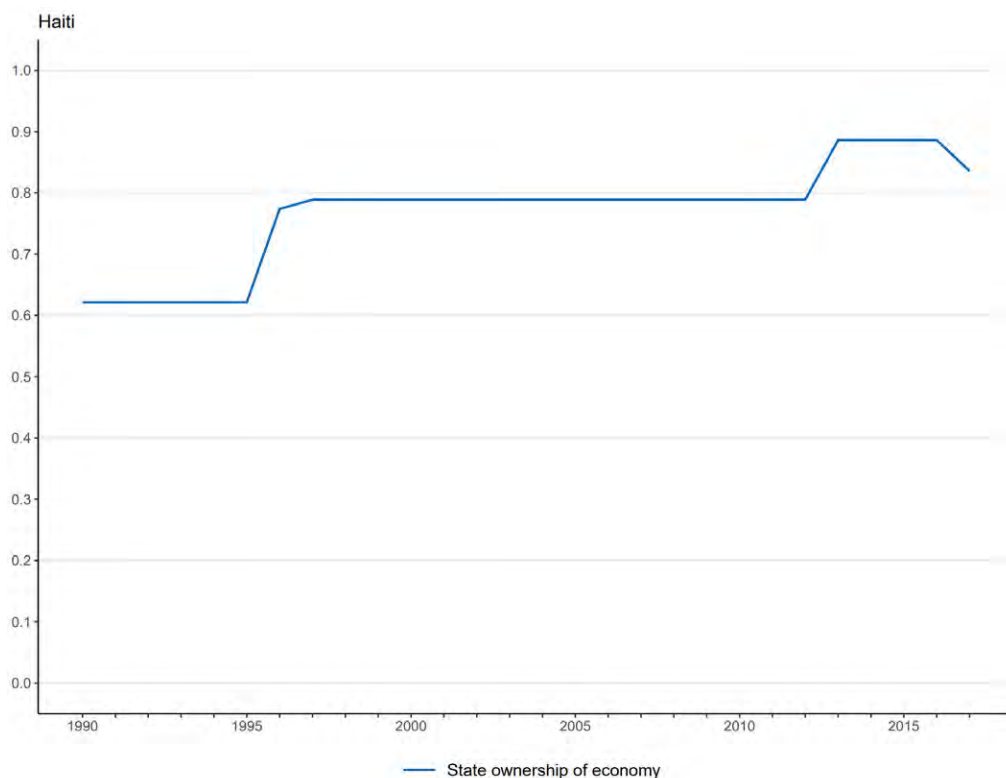
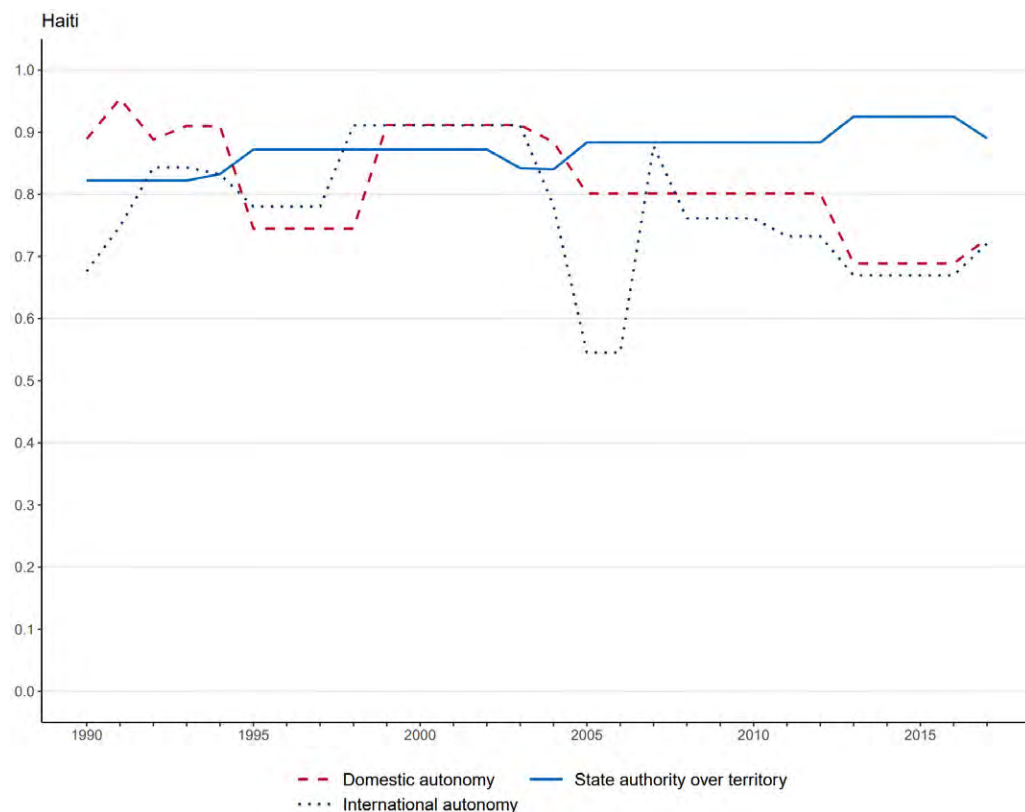


Figure 33 shows that the state has continued to reduce its ownership in the economy from an initially liberal position. However, the last year has seen a reversal of this trend.

- Key Population Groups;
 - Capacity:
 - Election turnout: what percentage (%) of all registered voters cast a vote according to official results?
 - What is the level of suffrage practiced?
 - Is there a national-level gender quota for the lower (or unicameral) chamber of the legislature?
 - Is there a national-level quota for any social groups in the lower (or unicameral) chamber of the legislature?
 - Commitment:
 - See indicators from section on Inclusion.

- International and Global Actors:
 - Domestic Autonomy: Is the state autonomous from the control of other states with respect to the conduct of domestic policy?
 - International Autonomy: Is the state autonomous from the control of other states with respect to the conduct of its foreign policy?
 - State authority over territory: Over what percentage of the territory does the state have effective control?

Figure 34. Autonomy of the state, Trends 1990-2017



Haiti has struggled to increase its autonomy and authority, as shown by Figure 34. The country's domestic autonomy has steadily declined, and its international autonomy collapsed in the mid-2000s during the country's political turmoil. While international autonomy quickly recovered, it, too, has been on a downward trajectory since 2007.

III. FINANCING SELF-RELIANCE METRICS

Evaluating the financial self-reliance of a country is a key component in the general framework for journey to self-reliance. Financing Self-Reliance (FSR) refers “to the approaches and interventions that support a country’s ability to achieve balance between foreign assistance, domestic public resources, and private capital necessary to move toward determining and financing their own inclusive development.” FSR consists of five core areas, presented below. In this report we present a list of indicators, which could be used to operationalize each area, and we illustrate this operationalization with a few graphs.

DOMESTIC REVENUE MOBILIZATION (DRM)

Domestic revenue mobilization refers to the design, administration, and collection of taxes and other sources of public revenue.

- Agriculture, forestry, and fishing, value added (% of GDP) (WB WDI)
- Industry (including construction), value added (% of GDP) (WB WDI)
- Imports of goods and services (% of GDP) (WB WDI)
- Services, value added (% of GDP) (WB WDI)
- Foreign direct investment, net inflows (% of GDP) (WB WDI)
- Oil rents (% of GDP) (WB WDI)
- Total natural resources rents (% of GDP) (WB WDI)
- See Efficiency in the collection of taxes across national territory
<http://www.cepii.fr/institutions/EN/ipd.asp> (also part of government capacity)
- See General government tax revenues (% of GDP) World Bank (also part of government capacity)
- Tax capacity, tax effort, and tax productivity USAID’s Collecting Taxes database

Figure 35. Sources of Domestic Revenue, Trend 1990-2017

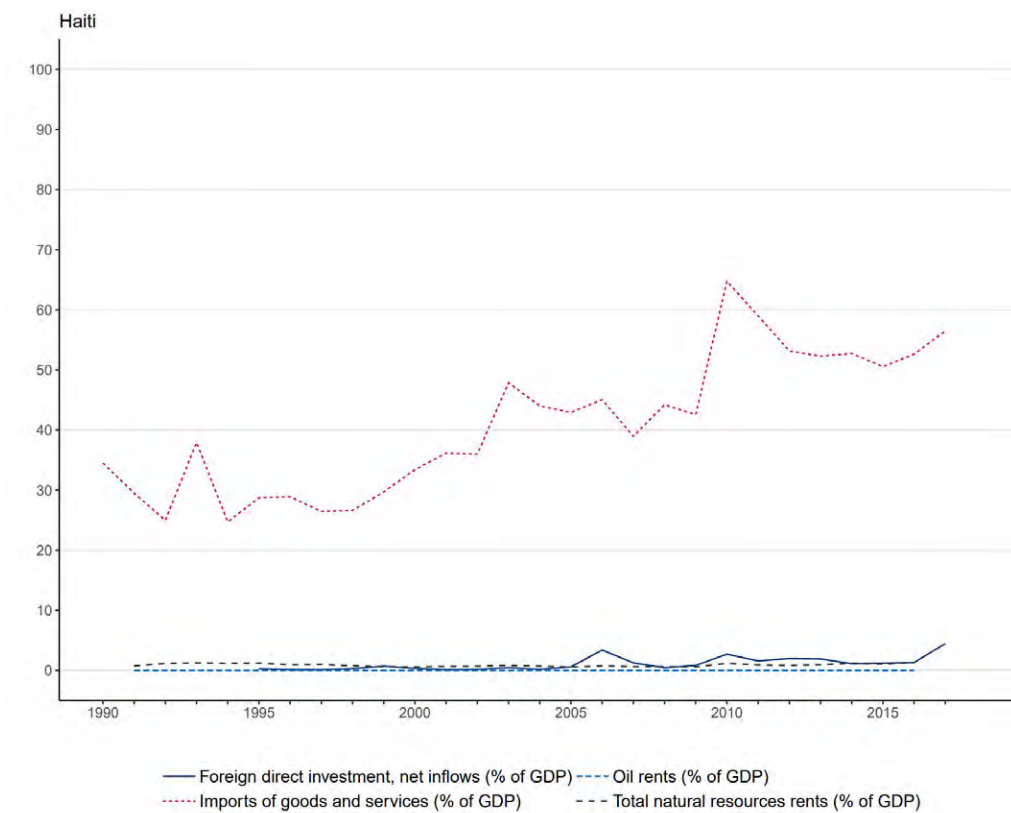
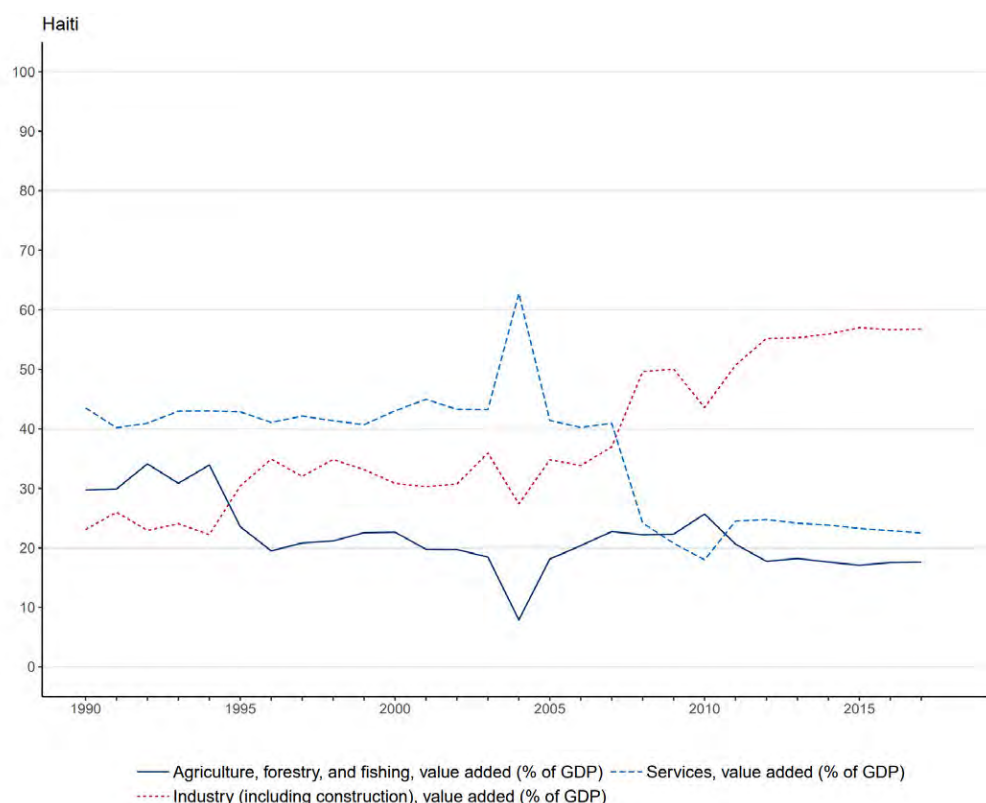


Figure 35 indicates that Haiti depends heavily and increasingly on imports of goods and services but very little on FDI and natural resource rents.

Figure 36. Value added by Sector, Trend 1990-2017



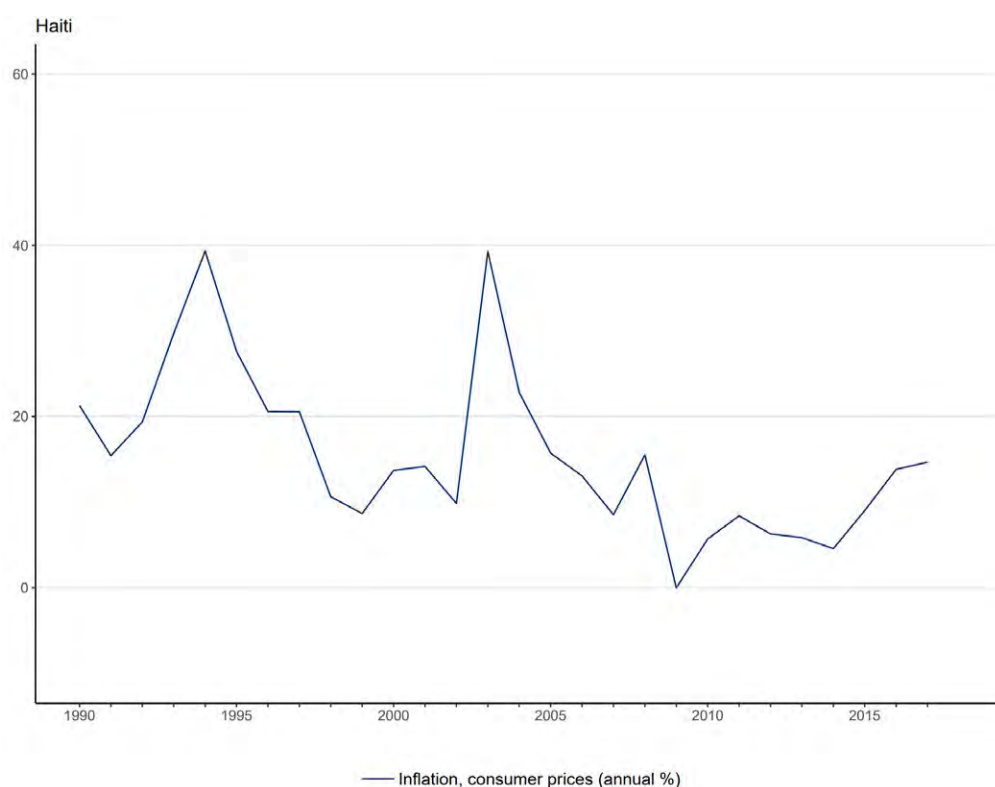
As industry has risen as a percentage of GDP, the value added from services has declined (**Figure 36**). Industry now accounts for a majority of Haiti's GDP, although the rate of change in GDP composition has started to level off in the past five years.

PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (PFM)

PFM activities ensure governments spend and manage their resources in an efficient, transparent, and effective manner. This includes formulating and executing strategies and budgets, managing procurement and assets, and monitoring and reporting to oversight institutions and the public-at-large, and building the capacity to manage public sector debt in a fiscally sustainable manner.

1. See Efficiency of government spending <https://www.weforum.org/reports/the-global-competitiveness-report-2017-2018>
2. Central Government Debt, total (% of GDP) (WB WDI)
3. Inflation, consumer prices (WB WDI)
4. Practice: the independence of supreme audit institution is guaranteed (Global Integrity, 2018, available only for Africa)
5. Size of Government: Expenditures, Taxes and Enterprises (Fraser Institute)

Figure 37. Inflation in Haiti, Trends 1990 - 2018



Haiti's level of inflation has mostly been very high since 1990, with two spikes approaching 40 percent annual inflation. While inflation was more moderate between 2009 and 2014, it is again on the rise (Figure 37.).

DOMESTIC ACCOUNTABILITY AND FISCAL TRANSPARENCY

Financing self-reliance requires the political buy-in of a multitude of actors in society. Robust oversight systems ensure governments are accountable for allocating and spending public funds transparently, effectively and inclusively. This requires capacity and commitment of government oversight agencies in the executive, legislature and judiciary. It also requires that sub-national governments and non-governmental stakeholders (including civil society, the private sector, faith-based organizations, and the media) have the ability and opportunity to participate in the policy and budget process, have access to information concerning public expenditures, and freedom of expression and association to hold government accountable for the use of public resources.

- **Accountability.** (Global Integrity, 2018, available only for Africa) This sub index from 0 to 100 is composed of:
 - In law, the independence of the judiciary is guaranteed.
 - In practice, the independence of the judiciary is guaranteed.

- In practice, national-level judges appointments (justices or magistrates) support the independence of the judiciary.
- In practice, national-level judges give reasons for their decisions/judgments.
- In law, there is a supreme audit institution.
- In law, the independence of the supreme audit institution is guaranteed.
- In practice, the independence of the supreme audit institution is guaranteed.
- In practice, appointments to the supreme audit institution support the independence of the agency.
- In practice, the supreme audit agency releases frequent reports that are accessible to citizens.
- See Open budget index from International Budget Partnership and Public participation in the budget process from Open budget survey <https://www.internationalbudget.org/open-budget-survey/open-budget-index-rankings/>
- See Freedom on the net (FH)
- See vertical, horizontal and diagonal accountability
- Transparency International Corruption Perception Index
- See Global Open Data Index – Open Knowledge International
- <https://index.okfn.org/place/>

Figure 38. Corruption Perceptions Index, Trends 1998-2016

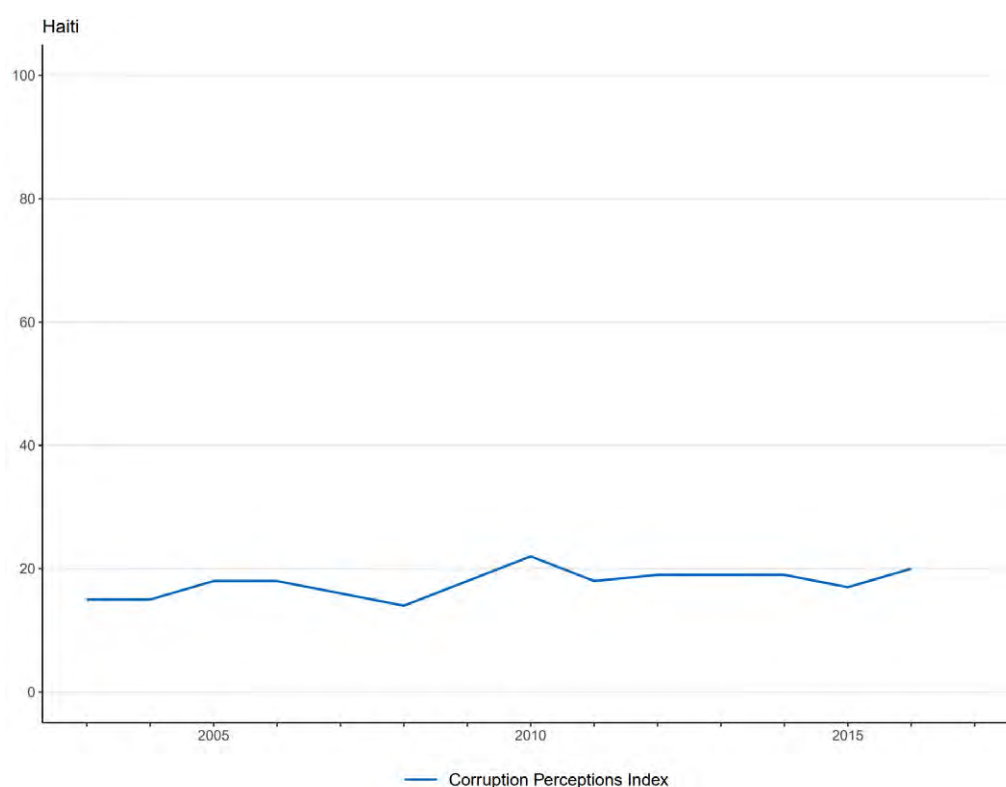


Figure 38 shows that the perception of corruption Haiti has remained consistently concerning throughout the period.

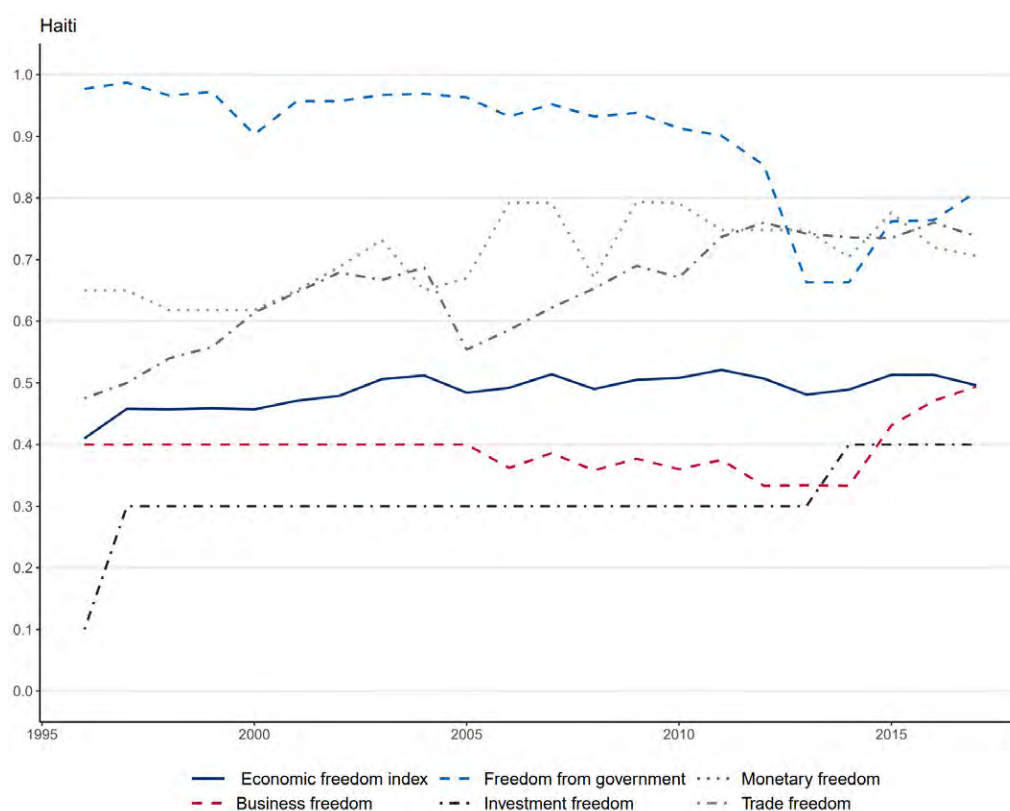
ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR PRIVATE INVESTMENT

Private sector investment can be a primary driver of countries' economic and social development, but this requires that countries create a rules-based, predictable, transparent, non-discriminatory and open enabling environment conducive to such investment, including secure property/ownership rights, strong rule of law and enforcement of contracts, transparency, inclusive competition policies, efficient public-private partnership (PPP) systems⁶ and institutions, robust anti-corruption enforcement, and reasonable risk mitigation. Trade policies and agreements that set rules for modern customs and border management and allow the private sector to participate in international commerce and foreign direct investment are also an important contributor to inclusive and sustainable economic development.

⁶ As defined by the World Bank, Public Private Partnerships are “long-term contract[s] between a private party and a government entity, for providing a public asset or service, in which the private party bears significant risk and management responsibility, and remuneration is linked to performance.”

- See rule of law index, political corruption index and civil liberties index
- The Economic Freedom index uses 10 specific freedoms, some as composites of even further detailed and quantifiable components:
 - Business freedom
 - Trade freedom
 - Fiscal freedom
 - Freedom from government
 - Monetary freedom
 - Investment freedom
 - Financial freedom
 - Property rights
 - Freedom from corruption
 - Labor freedom
- See Regulatory Quality - Captures perceptions of the ability of the government to formulate and implement sound policies and regulations that permit and promote private sector development. (WB)
- Trade (% of GDP) (WB)
- Legal Structure and Security of Property Rights (current) (Fraser Institute)

Figure 39. Economic Freedom Index, Trends 1990-2017



Most indicators shown in Figure 39 have slightly improved during the period. Investment freedom has increased by about 0.3 units, but it is still the lowest of all the indicators measured in the figure. Business freedom, trade freedom, and the economic freedom index all increased as well. However, monetary freedom has made little progress, and freedom from the government has fallen overall despite a recent trend of improvement.

FULLY FUNCTIONING FINANCIAL MARKETS

- Liquid, diverse, transparent and well-regulated local financial markets provide the critical function of pooling savings in the form of capital, and allocating that capital in the form of financing to productive investment across all sectors of the economy, including health, education, infrastructure, agriculture and housing. Free and fair local financial markets require appropriate financial sector regulation and oversight, empowered oversight institutions, strong financial institutions and intermediaries, well-developed financial market infrastructure and supporting systems (e.g., settlement systems, credit bureaus, rating agencies, securities exchanges, etc.), and effective risk mitigation tools and other financial instruments.
- Government expenditure on education, total (% of GDP) (WB)
- Government expenditure on health, total (% of GDP) (WB)
- IMF Financial System Stability Assessment (FSSA) and Financial Sector Assessment Program (FSAP)

- Fraser Institute Economic Freedom of the World Dataset:
 - Regulation of Credit, Labor and Business
 - Access to Sound Money

IV. POSSIBLE ENTRY POINTS FOR DRG STRATEGY AND PROGRAMMING

In the next tables we use the “Low Hanging Fruit” tool,⁷ which allows you to determine which are the best individual components to target for the improvement of one specific indicator. In the following three tables we compare Haiti to the developments worldwide. We have selected the following three goal indicators: the V-Dem clean elections index, women civil liberties index, and legislature investigates executive in practice. The comparison categories are as follows: all the questions from the V-Dem Civil Society survey for the first goal indicator, and all the questions from the Civil Liberties survey for the second goal indicator. The tables list what the minimum value required in each comparison category is to achieve the maximum value of the goal indicator worldwide. The third column will list the current value for Haiti in that indicator. The fourth column highlights “low hanging fruit” by putting a gold star next to indicators that Haiti is only 1 value away from meeting. Checkmarks appear next on the list, which are ones that Haiti has already met. Then black x's next to ones that Haiti hasn't met, and is more than one value away from.

The first table in this section compares Haiti to the world, and shows which the contingent indicators are among the Civil Society survey in order to achieve the highest score on the government censorship effort – media indicator. The only “low hanging fruit” is CSO consultation—Haiti has reached the minimum threshold for all other indicators.

**Table 2. Goal Indicator: Government Censorship Effort – Media
Relative to Region: World
Contingent on Indicators: Civil Society**

INDICATOR	MIN VALUE	CURRENT VALUE IN HAITI	STATUS
CSO repression	3	3	☑
Religious organization repression	3	4	☑
CSO entry and exit	3	4	☑
CSO consultation	2	1	★
Religious organization consultation	1	2	☑
CSO womens participation	3	3	☑
CSO anti-system movements	0	2	☑
CSO participatory environment	2	2	☑
Core Civil Society Index	3	3	☑

⁷ <https://www.v-dem.net/en/analysis/lowhangingfruit/>

In the last table of this section we have chosen high court independence as a target indicator. The relative region here is the world, and the Elections survey is the comparison category.⁸ Haiti has already achieved the minimum threshold on most components of this indicator. However, the “low hanging fruit” indicators that still need to be improved to reach the highest score on the target indicator are election turnout, election free and fair, election boycotts, election vote buying, and EMB autonomy.

**Table 3. Goal Indicator: High Court Independence
Relative to Region: World
Contingent on Indicators: Elections**

INDICATOR	MIN VALUE	CURRENT VALUE IN HAITI	STATUS
Election turnout	2	1	★
Election free and fair	3	2	★
Election boycotts	4	3	★
Election vote buying	1	0	★
EMB autonomy	3	2	★
Election VAP turnout	0	0	☑
Legislative or constituent assembly election	0	0	☑
Election paid campaign advertisements	0	2	☑
Lower chamber election seat share won by largest party	1	1	☑
Minimum voting age	2	2	☑
Elections multiparty	4	4	☑
Election assume office	4	4	☑
Election free campaign media	0	1	☑
Presidential election	0	0	☑
Election voter registry	3	3	☑
Election paid interest group media	0	2	☑
Lower chamber election seat share won by second largest party	1	1	☑
Regional offices relative power	2	2	☑
Public campaign finance	0	1	☑
Disclosure of campaign donations	0	1	☑
Percent of population with suffrage	2	4	☑
Local government index	3	3	☑
Regional government index	0	1	☑
Local offices relative power	3	3	☑
Suffrage level	2	3	☑

⁸ We originally wanted to examine Compliance with the Judiciary because we know that some USAID programming has surrounded access to justice in Haiti. However, there are fewer coders for Haiti in this area, preventing the use of the Low Hanging Fruit tool to evaluate Compliance with the Judiciary. As a result, we're using “High Court Independence,” a related concept, instead.

Hereditary dimension index	0	0	☒
Military dimension index	0	0	☒
Ruling party dimension index	0	1	☒
Direct election dimension index	0	2	☒
Confidence dimension index	0	2	☒
Local government elected	2	4	☒
Local government exists	4	4	☒
Regional government exists	0	4	☒
Election government intimidation	4	2	☐
Election other electoral violence	4	2	☐
Election losers accept results	4	1	☐
Election other voting irregularities	3	1	☐
EMB capacity	3	0	☐
Clean elections index	3	1	☐
Subnational elections free and fair	4		☐
Subnational election unevenness	4		☐
Regional government elected	2	0	☐

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we contextualize the findings we present above by discussing the broader implications of the findings of this report. We selected more than 70 indicators of democracy, governance, and human rights, and considered how Haiti has fared on these indicators from 1990-2017 as well as how it stacks up to other low income countries in 2017. The findings present a clear picture of areas of democracy that merit further consideration beyond the scope of this report, either because of significant advancement or because of potential for improvement.

Out of the areas we considered, Haiti's levels of civil liberties have shown strong improvement. Following restrictions on political and private civil liberties and an increased vulnerability to physical violence during the 1990s, these indicators rose substantially throughout the period. A recent reversal of this trend is concerning, but civil liberties have recovered from brief downturns before in Haiti. All indicators of the country's civil liberties still outperform the average among low income peers. Sustaining this progress will no doubt be an important goal for Haiti as the country moves forward.

However, there are still components in the DRG and FSR agenda that are worth considering for future programming. Although diagonal accountability, the core civil society index, and the civil society participation index have all improved greatly during the period, the level of CSO consolation remains noticeably low and an area of potential growth according to the low hanging fruit tool in section four of this report. Other broad areas in which Haiti has room to improve are the rule of law and corruption. Components of these areas have stagnated after some improvements during the 1990s, and most remain low relative to the average for other low income countries. While many of the indicators for strength of the rule of law are on a slow trend of decline, this means they were once higher. Returning to—and eventually exceeding—their previous levels will be a major challenge for continuing Haiti's development.

APPENDIX A, VARIETIES OF DEMOCRACY (V-DEM) PROJECT

KEY FEATURES OF V-DEM:

- One of the largest social science databases, with 450 indicators on democracy and political systems;
- World-wide coverage from 1789 to the present;
- Transparent and reliable indicators based on the knowledge of 3,000 international experts;
- Free and easy online access;
- An independent Institute producing high-quality research on democracy and policy outreach.

Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) is a new approach to conceptualizing and measuring democracy. We adopt a multidimensional and disaggregated approach acknowledging the complexity of the concept of democracy as a system of rule that goes beyond the simple presence of elections. The V-Dem distinguishes between seven high-level principles of democracy: *electoral*, *liberal*, *participatory*, *deliberative*, *egalitarian*, *majoritarian* and *consensual*, and collects data to measure these principles.

THE V-DEM DATABASE

V-Dem is one of the largest-ever social science data collection efforts with a database containing over 19 million data points. In 2016, V-Dem received the most prestigious award for comparative datasets in political science: the Lijphart/Przeworski/Verba Best Dataset Award presented by the American Political Science Association, Comparative Politics Section.

With the 8th version of the data released in April 2018, the dataset now covers 201 countries from 1789 to 2017. For the very first time, data from ‘Historical V-Dem’ is now integrated into the data – extending the coverage to 228 years of political development (from 1789 to 2017). Out of the total 450 indicators, 260 indicators across 91 countries are included in the historical data. The V-Dem dataset is available for download, free of charge. Users are also able to explore the V-Dem data through online analysis tools with which they can create and save their own graphs.

In addition to its more than 400 indicators, V-Dem aggregates indicators into mid- and high-level indices designed to measure important dimensions of democracy. High-level indices measure the major types of democracy and mid-level indices capture concepts such as *clean elections*, *women’s political empowerment*, and *civil society participation*. The database enables highly detailed analysis of virtually all aspects of a country’s political system as well as comparisons of countries on the aggregate level. Governments, development agencies, and NGOs can thus benefit from the nuanced comparative and historical data when researching critical decisions such as selecting country program priorities, informing program design, and monitoring the impact of their programs.

THE V-DEM TEAM

The V-Dem project is a truly collaborative international effort that unites thousands of social scientists working in the spheres of democracy and governance. The V-Dem project has recruited approximately

3,000 local and cross-national experts from over 170 countries to provide their knowledge on various indicators of democracy. The project is managed by leading scholars in the study of democracy: four Principal Investigators, four Program Managers, fifteen Project Managers with topical expertise, more than thirty Regional Managers, almost 170 Country Coordinators, and several Assistant Researchers.

METHODOLOGY

V-Dem draws on theoretical and methodological expertise from its worldwide team to produce data in the most objective and reliable way possible. Approximately half of the indicators in the V-Dem dataset are based on factual information obtainable from official documents such as constitutions and government records. The other half consists of more subjective assessments on topics like democratic and governing practices and compliance with de jure rules. On such issues, typically five experts provide ratings.

V-Dem works closely with leading social science research methodologists and has developed a state of the art measurement model that, to the extent possible, minimizes coder error and addresses issues of comparability across countries and over time using Bayesian latent variable models. V-Dem is continually experimenting with new techniques and soliciting feedback from experts throughout the field. In this sense, V-Dem is at the cutting edge of developing new and improved methods to increase both reliability and comparability of expert survey data.⁹ V-Dem also draws on the team's academic expertise to develop theoretically informed techniques for aggregating indicators into mid- and high-level indices.¹⁰ The indices not only allow us to revisit familiar research questions but also open up new lines of inquiry about the types of democracy and democratic trajectories throughout the world.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

One of V-Dem's core activities is producing high-quality research that provides insights on crucial questions such as the relationship between democracy and development, the conditions that make democracies endure, and the dynamics surrounding women's political empowerment. As of May 2018, 66 Working Papers have been published on the V-Dem website covering a wide range of topics.

In addition to article-length working papers, V-Dem regularly produces a range of publications targeting a wider audience. The V-Dem Country Briefs outline the most important democracy development trends in a specific country. The Policy Briefs summarize key policy-relevant findings on particular topics such as how to measure accountability and the role of a strong legislature in curbing executive corruption.

V-DEM DEMOCRACY NETWORK

As part of its policy outreach program, V-Dem is cooperating with a number of international organizations that work in the sphere of democracy and development, thus creating a network of democracy experts both from academia and the policy world. We have published and contributed to a number of publications, organized and participated in conferences, workshops, and capacity-building

⁹ For more details see Pemstein et al (2018).

¹⁰ See Coppedge et al (2018).

trainings. Some of these collaborations include USAID, International IDEA, World Bank, European Commission.

Each May, V-Dem organizes a policy dialogue conference to enhance the cooperation between researchers and democracy practitioners. The conference features not only V-Dem researchers, but also counts among its speakers leading experts on democratization, democracy, good government and corruption from over 50 organizations.

FUNDING

V-Dem has been or is currently funded by: Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, Knut & Alice Wallenberg Foundation, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs-Sweden, the Swedish Research Council, the European Commission/EuroAID, Marianne & Marcus Wallenberg Foundation, International IDEA, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs-Denmark, the Danish Research Council, the Canadian International Development Agency, NORAD/the Norwegian Research Council, Aarhus University, Fundação Francisco Manuel dos Santos, Mo Ibrahim Foundation, Knut & Alice Wallenberg Foundation and the Quality of Government Institute, with co-funding from University of Gothenburg and University of Notre Dame.

APPENDIX B, INDICATORS AND INDICES FEATURED IN THE REPORT

To ensure full transparency, this appendix provides detailed aggregation information for each index and indicator referenced in this analysis. For each index, we list each indicator that makes up that index, as well as the question text and answer categories that correspond to these indicators. When an index is an aggregation of other indices, the component indicators of the sub-indices are listed alongside their question texts and answer categories.

INDICATORS INCLUDED IN FIGURE I	QUESTION TEXT	ANSWER CATEGORIES
---------------------------------	---------------	-------------------

APPENDIX C, REFERENCES