

Insights on Haiti's Information Ecosystem–Trust in and Coverage of Governance- and Elections-Related Information

A collaborative study by Internews, Institut Panos, and Pôlicité
February – May 2024



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Internews, in collaboration with the independent non-governmental organization (NGO) Institut Panos (Panos), and the non-governmental, non-partisan think-and-do tank Pôlicité, conducted an information ecosystem study in different geographical areas of Haiti. The study aims to contribute to a better understanding of the supply of and demand for information on issues related to governance and elections, with special attention to the “demand side” of the information ecosystem, i.e., the citizens receiving the information. This study leverages a mixed-method research methodology to primarily study Haitians’ confidence in their media to provide them with trustworthy and useful information on governance and elections-related issues, and secondarily, to understand the practices of information providers¹ regarding coverage of these topics. A quantitative survey was completed by 110 journalists and information providers (the “supply side” of the information ecosystem) across all 10 departments in Haiti. A sample of 93 journalists were selected for analysis after data processing. Ten focus groups were conducted in eight departments to gather qualitative data for the demand side. The focus groups entailed a total of 116 participants and 1,200 minutes of discussion.

¹ Please note that for the purposes of this study, “information providers” and “journalists” are used interchangeably.

Demand side main findings include:

- **Established security policy during election periods:** Security emerges as a principal topic of interest before and after an election period.
- **Mixed preferences of information channels:** Some respondents prefer to get their information from the traditional media because of what some agree is “the downward spiral of social media” and because “the information disseminated by the traditional media is more reliable.” Among respondents preferring social media, they note it is due to “the possibility of streaming the information live,” such as real-time videos.
- **Participants have high levels of distrust toward information broadcasted on social media in general, and especially information disseminated via Facebook:** They noted that information published on social media does not undergo the same type of review process as traditional media.
- **Obstacles to access information:** Lack of electricity, internet access, and security provisions were listed as key obstacles for citizens seeking to obtain reliable information during election periods.
- **Candidates’ profiles and election debates:** Citizens indicate these two subjects as most of the interest for the media to provide during an election period.
- **Participants are generally inclined to check information before sharing it:** Aware of the increasing proliferation of “fake news” on social media and/or some partisan media, participants indicated that most of them check information with relatives, friends, or even neighbors before sharing it more broadly.
- **Media favoritism leading up to the 2016 elections:** In general, participants perceived the media’s inclination toward a particular candidate during the 2016 elections, tipping the scales toward that candidate’s election.
- **The role of the media is paramount:** Participants expressed the need to be kept informed of the government’s actions, whether incoming or outgoing. According to them, the media must also educate the population. Participants stressed that the media should also be part of participatory democracy by investigating and documenting the government’s actions, and above all carrying out comparative analyses between achievements and campaign promises and ensuring that the government’s actions remain lawful. Per one respondent, “The media are the eyes of the people and must help the population by monitoring government action. The population is unaware of its rights. The media must also play an educational role.”

Supply-side main findings include:

- At the time of the survey, 33% of respondents were covering topics related to governance, democracy, and elections, while 68% of them had previously covered issues related to governance, democracy, and elections.
- 67% of the respondents expressed their intention to cover the upcoming elections with an absolute “yes.” However, 32% conditioned their coverage on factors such as availability of resources (13%), the country’s security situation (12%), editorial interests (5%), and public interest (2%), while 1% held that the topic of elections is too polemic and dangerous and did not plan to cover it.
- Journalists report facing four major challenges around covering governance, democracy, and elections: difficulty accessing individual sources due to physical access, security, or other problems (28%); personal safety - fear of reprisals, threats, and intimidation (20%); lack of audience/ interest in these subjects (15%); and the fact that it’s hard to know what’s really going on (13%).
- Cross-checking with multiple sources is the main approach leveraged by 84% of the information providers to validate their information before reporting.
- When asked if they had the tools and resources needed to mitigate the spread of dis- and misinformation, 34% of the respondents mentioned that they had very few or no tools and resources to mitigate the spread of disinformation, while 40% of all respondents emphasized the need for more resources and training.
- 27% of the information providers surveyed have not received training on tools and resources to mitigate the spread of misinformation and disinformation.
- 67% of journalists surveyed report having already experienced political pressure or threats while covering topics related to democracy, governance, and elections in Haiti.
- 40% of survey respondents are convinced that Haitian media do not play a sufficiently effective role in raising public awareness of governance, democracy, and elections, while 16% believe they are not effective at all.
- Among different news media channels, survey respondents found radio broadcasts (42%) and radio reports (23%) to be the most effective ways to share information about governance, democracy, and elections with the public.

According to the respondents, promoting media pluralism (42%) and guaranteeing the safety of journalists (43%) are the main measures that the government should adopt to enable the press to provide good coverage of the pre-election, election, and post-election periods.

1. CONTEXT OF THE STUDY

Since its return to democracy in 1990, Haiti has been plunged into a series of profound socio-political crises. These crises are fuelled by persistent political instability characterized by frequent changes of government and recurrent social tensions due to disputed elections. The proliferation of armed groups over the past five years further worsens the situation, particularly in the greater Port-au-Prince area, where gang violence has led to the displacement of over 85,000 people and caused the deaths of more than 1,554 individuals² since the beginning of 2024.

Since July 2021, following the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse, an interim Prime Minister, Ariel Henry, has led the executive branch without a president. On April 24, 2024, at the time of writing this study, Prime Minister Henry resigned and transferred power to a transitional political council composed of nine representatives of most political parties, a variety of civil society organizations, a coalition of political actors, and members of the private sector.

In this period of uncertainty, violence, and increased polarizations, Haitian citizens are in urgent need of access to credible information. The media has a key role to play in helping to strengthen citizen participation, promote government accountability, and support democracy in Haiti. Free and fair elections require communicating vital and verified information to the population. In general, the information providers should enable citizens to have access to a wide range of diversified opinions and information on key social issues. This is critical, especially during electoral periods as media's coverage and monitoring, in addition to disseminating evidence-based information on candidates and electoral issues, are paramount for an informed and enlightened public debate.

² United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2024, March 28). Situation of human rights in Haiti - Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (advance edition). <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/country-reports/ahrc5576-situation-human-rights-haiti-report-united-nations-high>

2. METHODOLOGY

This study is based on the Internews Information Ecosystem (IE) framework. The framework is a conceptual model that helps describe the big picture of the information landscapes in certain communities, understand the dynamic relationships between people and their information supply, and design context-specific information solutions.

This study investigated the following two research questions:

→ **Demand side:** To what extent do the people of Haiti have confidence in their media to provide them with trustworthy and useful information on governance and election-related issues?

→ **Supply side:** How do journalists, communications professionals, and media outlets cover issues around governance and elections in Haiti?

The demand side, which is the primary focus of this study, includes qualitative data collected through focus groups with Haitians across different geographical areas of the country. The supply side, addressed to journalists, media professionals, and other information providers, gathered quantitative data through a multiple-choice/close-ended questionnaire to assess how and when they share information on governance and election-related issues, and what challenges they may face.

2.1. LIMITATIONS OF THIS STUDY

This study is not exhaustive. Due to the current situation in Haiti, many important voices and communities were not included. Therefore, the generalization of the findings across the country cannot be fully guaranteed. Nevertheless, in designing the study, Internews and Panos Caribbean ensured that the sample of groups could illustrate Haitians' access to governance and elections-related information, as well as information providers' capacity to provide that information

2.2. Demand Side: Information Consumers

The research approach that was used for the demand side of the IE study aims to provide a better understanding of the population's confidence in their media to provide them with trustworthy and useful information on governance, democracy, and election-related issues. To this end, 10 focus groups were conducted to gather data on people's perceptions, opinions, and experiences in consuming information from the media on the aforementioned topics.

The focus groups were conducted across eight of Haiti's ten departments: West, South, South-East, Grand-Anse, Artibonite, North, North-West, and North-East. Each focus group included ten to fourteen participants, of which at least 50% were women.

The focus groups were conducted using an interview guide developed jointly by Panos and Internews. The questions in the interview guide included, among others, questions on preferred media types, perceptions of media coverage of the last elections and obstacles preventing the media from disseminating reliable information, mis and disinformation, communication between the population and the government, relations between the government and the media, and information specifically for the lead-up to, during, and after next elections. The focus groups were conducted in Haitian Creole by trained facilitators, and participants of all ages and genders were generally engaged and participative. The analysis of the data mainly focused on identifying important statements and synthesizing divergent and convergent points of view.

2.3. Supply Side: Information Providers

110 information providers throughout Haiti's ten geographical departments responded to an online survey from February to March 2024, and 93 responses were used for the analysis. The distribution of the sample according to the journalists' department of residence is as follows: Ouest (31%), Sud (15%), Artibonite (16%), Grand-Anse (12%), Nord (11%), Centre (5%), Nord-Ouest (4%), Nord-Est (3%), Nippes (1%), and Sud-Est (1%).

Using a 26-question survey disseminated through online means, Panos surveyed respondents around their voting history, practices in covering topics related to democracy, governance, and elections in Haiti, and the perceived challenges they have in covering such topics. The survey also sought to understand the tools and resources that are available, or lacking, for media houses and information providers to verify the quality of the information. Initially prepared in English, the questionnaire was disseminated in Haitian Creole to facilitate respondents' understanding and encourage organic responses. KoboToolbox³ was used to collect the data.

³ Kobo Toolbox is a free and open-source suite of tools for field data collection.

3. DEMAND-SIDE RESULTS

3.1. Information of Interest to the Participants Before, During, and After Elections Periods

Focus group participants were keenly interested in information related to security, politics, and the economy, whether before, during, or after an election period.

3.1.1. Before Elections, Public Safety Policies, and Haiti's Political Future Emerge as Primary Information Interests

Among the main topics of interest to the participants was information related to security, which emerged from all focus groups except the Northwest focus group. Specifically, participants are interested in policy decisions made by the government to curb the cycle of gang violence.

According to one of the participants: “With the situation that prevails in the country, everyone wants to know when the population will have a break from the gangs [...] the current state of insecurity poses enormous challenges to the country.”

As per another respondent: “I want to know when the police will eradicate these gangs who prevent citizens from circulating freely.”

One participant who attended the South focus group commented: “The information that everyone is impatiently waiting for is that pertaining to the unblocking of Martissant and Mariani, to enable the population to finally circulate freely.”

Another attendee of one the Greater South focus groups added: “I want to emphasize the hurdle the citizens from the Great South region face to go to Port-au-Prince.”

Although the Northwest focus group participants did not explicitly refer to security as one of the topics of interest, they indicated looking for more general information, such as education, healthcare, economy, and politics.

Another common topic of interest to the focus groups is

politics, and specifically the current political crisis.⁴ One of the respondents indicated: “As far as I am concerned, the most important information to me is the drama with Ariel Henry⁵ and his eventual resignation. I am also interested to know what will happen after Ariel Henry. What are the solutions?”

Other participants explained: “The first thing I want to know is when will the government resign and when the multinational forces⁶ will arrive in the country.”

A third respondent declared: “Information I am interested in is information related to politics, healthcare, and education.”

Interesting to note here is that while participants indicated an interest in politics, that interest centered around the unpopular Henry administration and the security situation; in that sense, elections are more often brought up implicitly or tangentially, in seeking a new and improved governance system. Participants are aware of this disconnect in some respects, and discuss the phenomenon in section 3.1.2.3, below.

⁴ Given the context of Haiti at the time of the focus group sessions, security and politics are seen as highly intertwined; however, security and politics are considered separately as part of demand-side data analysis in this study.

⁵ At the time of the data collection, Ariel Henry was Prime Minister. He has since resigned, and a Transitional Presidential Council has been installed.

⁶ Ariel Henry has asked for an international force to help dismantle the gangs; the force was approved by the United Nations Security Council and is expected to be led by Kenya with international support.

3.1.2. During Elections, Candidates' Profiles, and Election Debates are Primary Information Interests

The media have a crucial role to play during elections, and understanding the expectations and needs of the demand side of the information ecosystem can help the supply-side information providers better keep the population informed and contribute to improving public discourse.

The demand most cited by respondents is for the media to provide more information about candidates' backgrounds. As one participant noted: "The profile of candidates is very important, as well as their level of involvement in their community, their professional background as well as their daily job. This will give us an idea of whether they will truly defend the interests of the population."

One participant commented that the media should also help the population understand "the extent to which a candidate has contributed to the development of the country and the extent to which a candidate loves the country."

Participants also wanted the media to have a greater role in organizing candidates' debates. One of the focus group participants noted: "We would like for the media to dig deep into the political agenda of the candidate, for the media to organize debates between the candidates so that we can better understand to which extent they can bring solutions to problems that the population is facing. This would be a good way to prepare us to go to the polls."

Another respondent commented: "The traditional media must organize debates between the candidates to enable them to sell their political agenda to the population. It will

be better for the country if the population elects based on a political agenda."

This finding is consistent with one of the results of Internews' and Policité's recent Assessment of Citizen Needs and Understanding of the Political System in Haiti⁷: 45.68% of men and 42.92% of women identified information on policies and political agendas of different parties as a priority information need.⁸

Another aspect that participants from the West focus group raised is related to the source of campaign funds. In Haiti, there is little transparency around campaign funding for candidates. By article 130 of the Electoral Decree,⁹ candidates are required to report an exhaustive list of the donors, but it is widely known that this does not always occur. Information providers could help to fill this void by investigating the candidates' source of campaign funds.

The demand side also expressed interest in the supply side organizing a campaign during an election period to help Haitian citizens become more aware of some politicians' wrongdoings. This point was only raised in the North-East focus group where one participant stated: "The media should sensitize the population so that it stops monetizing its vote."

Although illegal by Article 201.2 of the Electoral Decree, there

⁷ Policité & Internews. (2024). Assessment of Citizen Needs and Understanding of the Political System in Haiti.

⁸ Idem

⁹ Haitian Government. (2023, December 10). Electoral Law with amendments of 2013. Published in Le Moniteur. Retrieved from <https://aceproject.org/ero-en/regions/americas/HT/haiti-loi-electorale-2013-2016/view>

have been reported¹⁰ cases of buying votes in past elections in Haiti. This electoral clientelism, among other things, undermines public confidence in the electoral process and is a violation of democratic principles. In 2012, only 18.5%¹¹ of the Haitian population said they had confidence in the country's electoral process, while this number was less than 2% according to 2024 Assessment of Citizen Needs and Understanding of the Political System in Haiti.¹²

3.1.3. Concerns with Mis and Disinformation During Elections

While some media strive to analyze and broadcast information with scientific rigor during elections, there is always the risk of the spread of mis and disinformation. Mis and disinformation can have a serious impact on the lives of an entire population. Data from all focus groups show a concern about the spread of dis and misinformation during electoral periods.

According to one focus group participant, "Misinformation is very worrisome, and can cause irreparable damage to a society."

Participants in the focus groups were very concerned about

¹⁰ Haiti Libre. (2010, November 22). Haïti - Élections : Jude Célestin Président ? Tous les moyens sont bons. Retrieved from <https://www.haitilibre.com/breve-1716-haiti-elections-jude-celestin-president-tous-les-moyens-sont-bons.html> <https://www.haitilibre.com/breve-1716-haiti-elections-jude-celestin-president-tous-les-moyens-sont-bons.html>

¹¹ Gélinau, F., Evans, C. G., Wilson, C., Boidi, M. F., & Zechmester, E. J. (2010). La culture politique de la démocratie en Haïti et dans les Amériques, 2016/2017: Une étude comparative de la démocratie et de la gouvernance [PDF document]. LAPOP, Vanderbilt University. Retrieved from https://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop/haiti/AB2016-17_Haiti_Country_Report_French_V2_W_08.27.20.pdf

¹² Policité & Internews. (2024). Assessment of Citizen Needs and Understanding of the Political System in Haiti.

the spread of misinformation. This misinformation emanates, according to them, from a variety of sources including politicians, partisan media, and social media users.

As per one participant: “We’ve experienced it before; misinformation comes from the partisan media. It depends on who they side with and how they want to steer the population’s vote.... Disinformation also emanates from candidates’ supporters and social media.”

Another respondent indicated: “Misinformation emanates from public actors with the objective to create diversion. It can also emanate from the media or other actors who are biased.”

This concern among information consumers regarding the spread of mis and disinformation appears well-justified, considering that 21% of the information providers surveyed in the study reported not having access to the necessary tools and resources to mitigate the spread of mis and disinformation, 12% said they had very few, and 40% indicated they had some but would like to receive more resources and training in this area. Therefore, the spread of mis and disinformation is a matter of concern for both information providers and consumers.

3.1.4. Lack of Infrastructure and Insecurity: Main Obstacles to Accessing Reliable Information During Elections

In discussing access to reliable information during elections with the focus groups, poor infrastructure, particularly for electricity, emerged as one the main impediments. Specifically, electricity rationing, and frequent power

outages were among the most common reasons. Relatedly, participants also indicated poor internet coverage as one of the obstacles to access reliable information during elections. This corroborates the findings from Internews’ 2020 Port-au-Prince Information Ecosystem Assessment (IEA), and 2023 Rooted in Trust IEA: Haiti, where access to electricity was one of the major obstacles that impede access to information in general.

Insecurity emerged also during the focus group discussions as one of the obstacles that impede access to reliable information during elections.

The demand side data indicated that citizens believe that the media has limited capacity to access information and to carry out investigations on topics that are of public interest, such as candidates’ backgrounds along with their campaign funds, which presents a major obstacle that prevents the population from accessing reliable information during elections. As per one respondent: “The media is also facing the problem of access to information.”

It is worth noting that participants did not expand on how the media capacity is limited. Previously, Internews’ 2023 IEA: Haiti, suggested inequitable access to information among media entities, as information emanated from official sources is not always available to all journalists, but only to a select few. Furthermore, as this current report demonstrated below, the supply side has pointed out challenges when reporting on governance and elections in Haiti: 8% indicated lack of resources or staff, while 9% suggested lack of access to up-to-date and accurate online information.

Finally, during the discussions, citizens revealed that they perceive an absence of qualified and competent journalists, coupled with a lack of objectivity and impartiality, in the media as a primary obstacle to accessing good information during elections.

3.1.5. Lack of Election-Related Information

As discussed above, participants of this study were acutely aware of the deterioration of the political and security situation in Haiti. The absence of elected leaders and increased insecurity marked by gang violence and kidnappings were topics that overshadowed some aspects of Haiti’s information ecosystem.

In this light, participants across focus groups highlighted a lack of information specifically related to elections.

According to one of the respondents: “It has been a while since the last time I heard the media discussing elections and the creation of the Electoral Council.”

Another participant added: “I do not think there is enough information about elections in the media. The media is not talking about that at all. I think they should talk about elections to raise awareness around the importance of elections for the country even though the current conditions are not conducive to elections.”

A third respondent commented: “The media is not doing a good job [talking about elections]. This might be because there are other urgent concerns such as the insecurity, the eventual coming of the international forces.”

The lack of information about elections from the perspective of the demand side is corroborated by the supply side data which indicate that 33% of surveyed journalists were covering topics related to elections at the time of the study. This data suggests that while elections and governance issues may not be prioritized by the media due to more pressing concerns, which many citizens also share, citizens are generally aware of this lack of coverage. Worth noting is that, due to the more pressing security concerns that are often equated with the political crisis, participants were not able to discuss the specific election-related information that they might be missing—only that the media is not covering elections to their satisfaction, if at all.

3.1.6. High Demand for Information Related to Security

Despite awareness of the importance and lack of election-related media coverage, nearly all participants expressed the need to prioritize media coverage of the country's deteriorating security conditions.

One of the respondents was categorical: "Holding elections is not a topic of interest under the current context. It is simply not an option at the moment."

Asked about topics that seem to be more urgent for the media to discuss, one respondent emphasized: "I think the most important thing for the media to discuss is security. Since there is no security or free circulation, there is nothing else to discuss. The current state of insecurity is even preventing the media from making good reports."

In other words, the data suggests that some citizens connect the media's ability to supply information with the security context. Other participants drew connections between security and broader conditions such as the economy and freedom of movement.

Another focus group participant indicated: "As far as I am concerned, security is the most important topic for the media to discuss. The country should be safe to appeal to investors."

A third respondent stated: "The most important thing is for the press to discuss the country's current insecurity. The security situation is deteriorating, and citizens' rights to freedom of movement are being jeopardized. This must be the priority of the moment."

A fourth participant who attended the focus group held in Artibonite explained: "When I go to Pon Kenep,¹³ I should not see dead bodies in the street. Even if people cannot meet their basic needs, the most important thing is security."

Finally, through the focus groups, participants indicated several other topics that the media can consider covering: the (at the time, potential) resignation of the prime minister, inflation, and the emigration of university-educated individuals.

3.1.7. Security Policies and Economic Measures: Primary Information Interests after an Election

Focus group data suggests that citizens' expectations in terms of information after the inauguration of a new

¹³ An area in Gonaïves.

government are like the information they expect before an election. Specifically, participants would seek information on how a new government would address their concerns; the most common interest is to learn about the new government's security policy and measures to restore the rule of law.

One participant from the Artibonite focus group stated: "I want to know how the government intends to pull the country out of this quagmire. I want to know whether the new government can restore order in the country."

Artibonite is facing widespread gang violence. Although Port-au-Prince remains the epicenter of gang violence in Haiti, the daily lives of residents in Bas-Artibonite are marked by murders, kidnappings, rapes, and attacks on public transport vehicles. The UN reports 1,690¹⁴ people killed between January 2022 and October 2023 in Artibonite.

Another participant from the North focus group added: "The first thing I expect from the government is to bring stability in the country, and to make the country a safe place."

One respondent from the South focus group explained: "The government needs to communicate measures to eradicate lawless areas across the country so that the population can start circulating again as before." A second respondent from the South focus group declared: "The government needs to communicate its strategy to stem insecurity."

Another common information need is around the economy:

¹⁴ HCDH et BINUH. (2023). La violence criminelle s'étend au-delà de Port-au-Prince - La situation dans le bas Artibonite. Retrieved from <https://www.ohchr.org/fr/documents/country-reports/criminal-violence-extends-beyond-port-au-prince-situation-lower>

the focus group participants were interested to know how a new government would plan to tackle inflation and to relaunch agriculture.

One participant from the North Focus group explained: “The first measure I expect from the new government is to start the economic recovery of the country.”

A second participant from the North added: “We need to relaunch agriculture. Nowadays the country imports everything from the Dominican Republic. We need more farms and livestock, to generate income, because now, in the absence of all that, it’s misery and suffering.”

According to one respondent of the South focus group: “The government must start working from the bottom up, we must support national productivity, so that there’s enough food for the population. The country can’t move forward if it imports everything. Before, the country used to export quite a lot, but now it doesn’t.”

The demand side is also interested in information related to the education policies of a new government: “I would like the government to focus on education. I don’t like when the country is locked down¹⁵.” I hope this won’t happen anymore with the advent of a new government so that kids can go to school” explained one respondent. A second respondent added “I want to know if schools will go back to operating normally” and a third one is interested in “only education, and education can enable the population to choose wisely during

¹⁵ In the past years, the country experienced a shutdown as a way to protest against the government policies. During shutdown period, businesses are not running, schools are closed, and public transportations are not operating.

the elections.”

The respondents of the focus groups are also interested in receiving information related to the healthcare policy of the new government: “I would like to know more about the new government’s health policies,” one participant stated.

While acknowledging the lack of information from the media around elections and governance, in general, focus group participants are mostly interested in knowing how and when they can expect to return to a state of normalcy. Participants did not focus on discussing more specifically measures certain government ministries or officials may take, or ways that they can support a new government or be engaged in politics.

3.2. Staying Informed via Social Media: Advantages and Risks

The emergence and widespread use of social networks have revolutionized the way information is disseminated. Haiti is not immune to this upheaval, which has led to a change in user behavior about the way information is consumed. In 2022, there were 2.45¹⁶ million users of social networks in Haiti, and 2.15 million users of Facebook. The Internews 2023 IEA: Haiti report also revealed how vast the Haiti media landscape is: 700 radio stations and 150 television stations,¹⁷ 4.53 million Internet users, where 86.06% of them are connected via cell phone.

¹⁶ Digitale 2022: Haiti <https://datareportal.com/reports/digital-2022-haiti>

¹⁷ Unesco. (2022). Étude sur le développement des médias en Haïti. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000384411>

3.2.1. Information on Social Media is Accessible and Available

Focus group participants had clear ideas of what they see as advantages of using social media. First and foremost, participants indicated the availability and accessibility of information. According to one participant: “Even in rural areas without access to electricity, you can access information on social networks through your smartphone, no need to have a TV.”

Secondly, the speed with which information is conveyed on social media is seen as a real advantage. “Information is disseminated very quickly on social networks,” said one participant. Also, social networks offer the possibility of viewing the images that accompany the dissemination of information. “Social media provides images,” said one participant. “On social media, there’s sound but also images,” added another participant. “When you want live information, you can listen to it and watch it at the same time,” added a third participant. Finally, some participants prefer getting their news on social media, because of “the possibility of following the news live.”

While participants mentioned availability and accessibility as two main advantages of getting information from social networks, this availability and accessibility also exist for certain traditional media with digital versions of their reporting available online. In Haiti, some traditional media also broadcast live on popular platforms such as Facebook.

3.2.2. Social Media is Fertile Ground for Rumors and Mis and Disinformation

In parallel to recognizing the utility and accessibility of social media information, focus group participants also note the disadvantages of getting information via social media. The disadvantage that focus group participants overwhelmingly agreed on is the risk of the spread of misinformation, as well as the questionable reliability of the information. Specifically, participants mentioned that information available on social media “remains difficult to confirm and verify.” Furthermore, the data shows that participants are fully aware that social media are fertile ground for rumors and intentional or unintentional propagation of false information, especially in times of uncertainty. As a result, almost all participants expressed their distrust of information emanating from social media. In particular, participants are very cautious of information disseminated via Facebook and indicate their intent to remain vigilant.

As per one respondent: “I’m wary of information conveyed on social networks. Unlike traditional radio, social media platforms don’t have an editor-in-chief, a news director, who can validate information before broadcast. Social media users publish anything and everything.”

Moreover, to gain inflated views and followers, some social media content creators fabricate information or try to convey obsolete information that occurred in completely different contexts. As one participant put it, “The downside [of social media] is that some users publish information that never existed, or that doesn’t correspond to reality.” The data

indicates that there is a distrust of individuals or influencers in search of views, some of whom “go so far as to publish false information to increase their number of views and subscribers.”

3.3. Mixed Perspectives Regarding Traditional Media

With the widespread use of information and communication technologies, traditional media outlets in Haiti have been forced to reinvent themselves. They have adapted their business model by investing in online platforms such as websites and applications to better meet users’ needs. For example, users can now consult the content of *Le Nouvelliste*, a leading and longstanding Haitian newspaper, online and listen to Radio Vision 2000 broadcasts over the Internet.

Unlike most media that only exist on social media, traditional media have a well-established editorial structure, with a newsroom and an editor-in-chief. This favors the dissemination of more reliable information, which is perceived as an advantage by the participants: “The information disseminated by traditional media is more reliable.” However, the Haitian media landscape is characterized by fragmentation. As noted by participants “some media outlets are openly biased, disseminating information in a particular direction.” These “openly biased” media are perceived as instruments of power often used as propaganda tools in favor of some specific political groups. Respondents declared that they were suspicious of the information disseminated by these media. As per one participant: “Often, some commercial radio stations sell airtime, so people can buy it and do whatever

they want with it. These kinds of programs raise questions about the value of traditional media.”

3.3.1. Traditional Media’s Impartiality Before and During the Last Elections

Haiti lacks a body capable of monitoring the principles of pluralism. For the 2016 elections, there was a consensus among focus group participants that different political opinions were not always represented on air. Focus group participants’ perception is there was an inclination in favor of a particular candidate whose slogan was promoted. As a result, people had the impression that there was only one viable candidate, and so they had no choice but to vote for them.

As one participant explained: “Only one candidate received a lot of public attention, the media sold him as the bearer of hope... the media embraced his cause, and thereby promoted his accession to the country’s presidency.”

Focus group participants felt that the news broadcast during the previous presidential campaign was biased—the press had sided with certain candidates and each media outlet was associated with a candidate and aimed to influence votes in favor of their candidate.

Media plays a key role during elections, especially to inform voters about candidates’ platforms, so this sentiment of a lack of impartiality is a major obstacle to achieving trust. Given the pivotal nature of Haiti’s long-awaited next elections, the media have an even more important role to play in informing citizens of candidates’ platforms and ability to restore

democratic governance.

Data collected from information providers in this study corroborates these assertions. Only 14% of journalists surveyed consider the Haitian media to be impartial or very impartial.

3.3.2. Traditional Media's role in Monitoring a new Government

Focus group participants want access to information on the government's actions, so they can be better informed about the public policies that will impact their daily lives, but also to know their rights and duties, and possibly advocate for political change. Many participants express their desire for the media to act as a watchdog monitoring a new government's activity after its inauguration. The media can investigate and document the government's actions, and above all, produce comparative analyses between achievements and campaign promises, to help reduce the gap between these promises and concrete results.

"It's up to the media to monitor the government's actions concerning campaign promises and ensure that these are kept," explained one participant. Another participant added: "The elected authorities were elected based on an electoral agenda. The media must investigate and verify whether these promises are being honored. They must also involve citizens." In addition, according to participants, the press must investigate cases of corruption and "must help monitor all unnecessary travel, all unnecessary spending" by members of the new government.

3.4. Participants Seek Improved Participatory Democracy

Focus group respondents recognize that communication between the government and the population can be difficult, largely due to the lack of a platform for dialogue between state representatives and the local population. Respondents are aware of ways they can express themselves to the government, such as via the media, peaceful marches and demonstrations, and locally elected representatives. Nevertheless, they remain skeptical about the willingness of the government to take their demands into account. As per one respondent: "The people have no say." A disconnection between communities and local leaders¹⁸ was also noted in Internews' 2020 Port-au-Prince IEA, where 50% of respondents said they did not receive information from local leaders. Moreover, in that study 25% of respondents said they did not know their local leaders; 24% that their local leaders did not contribute to the community; 19% that they could not communicate with them; and 15% that they did not demonstrate real leadership.

In the present study, one participant stated: "There are means of communicating [with the government]. But the government doesn't care about the people's needs. When there are problems and citizens gather, the government always tries to discredit the motives of these citizens." According to the participants, social movements are the most effective way for citizens to communicate with the government in Haiti: "It is very complicated to communicate with the government. If we

¹⁸ Local leaders (magistrates, police chiefs, religious leaders, businessmen, other influential people).

denounce the government's actions on radios and with signs, our voices won't be heard. You must block the streets to make yourself heard. Erecting barricades remains very problematic, nevertheless, it's the only way to be heard."

Given participants' lack of satisfaction with ways to make their voices heard and their needs addressed, the role of the media becomes more relevant. In this vein, participants express a desire for the media to inform citizens about political updates, as well as investigate government actions considering relevant legal frameworks.

"The media represents the people and must help the population by monitoring government actions. The population is unaware of its rights under the constitution and is unable to force the government to respect them."

3.5. Citizens Try to Address Mis and Disinformation

Mis and disinformation are well-known as rampant issues in Haiti. Most of the participants recognize this and believe that social media contributes greatly to the spread of false information. Some also believe that partisan media is responsible.

Given the lack of integrated mechanisms to address mis and disinformation and hold those who willingly share it accountable, participants mention feeling the need to check information before sharing it. In the focus groups, citizens mentioned that they usually check with relatives, friends, or even neighbors to try to verify information before sharing it. As one participant from the Southeast focus group noted:

“It’s always important to check information, to know where it comes from, and to get an idea of its reliability.” As put by one participant from the Northwest focus group, “You have to check information first before sharing it, otherwise, some false information can have repercussions on an entire population.”

When it comes to verification methods, most participants prefer to cross-check information via multiple people, social media, and media sites. Some verify information with friends and family,¹⁹ or with information providers and journalists on social media who are known to be credible. Some participants mentioned making calls to trace the source of information before accepting its validity. Others mention checking multiple social media and traditional media sites to avoid misinformation.

This method of cross-checking information is also favored by 80% of the journalists surveyed on the supply side of the study. Still, some participants believe that they can’t prevent false information from reaching them or affecting them, but they can always try to verify it. Others indicate that they limit their engagement with political information altogether to avoid being affected by misinformation.

¹⁹ Internews’ 2020 Port-au-Prince IEA found that when in need of help to understand information, respondents turned to their family and friends and trust them greatly. When asked “Do you trust the person that helps you understand information?”, 80% said “yes” and 18% said “pretty much, yes.”

4. SUPPLY-SIDE SURVEY RESULTS

4.1. Social and Demographic Information

4.1.1. Geographical Location

The survey of information providers covered all ten of Haiti's geographical departments. Over 30% of the journalists interviewed were working in the West department at the time of the survey. The departments of Artibonite, South, Grand-Anse, and North are also well represented in the sample, with proportions of 16%, 15%, 12%, and 11%, respectively. In contrast, South-East and Nippes are the least represented, each accounting for just 1% of the sample.

4.1.2. Gender

Most media respondents were men, accounting for 84% of the total, while women represented only 16%.

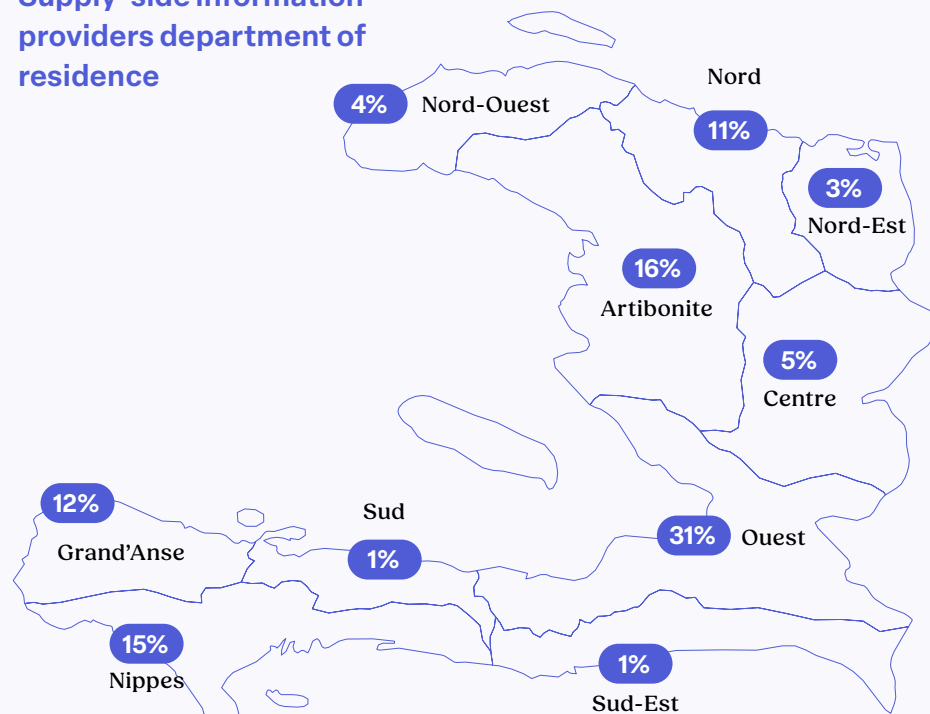
4.1.3. Age

The distribution of respondents by age revealed a strong predominance of young journalists in the sample, with around 71% of respondents aged between 18 and 39. The best-represented age groups are 30-34 and 35-39, accounting for 23% and 25% of respondents respectively, followed by 40-49, which accounts for 22% of respondents. In contrast, the 50-59 and over-60 age groups represent only 4% of respondents each.

4.1.4. Educational Level

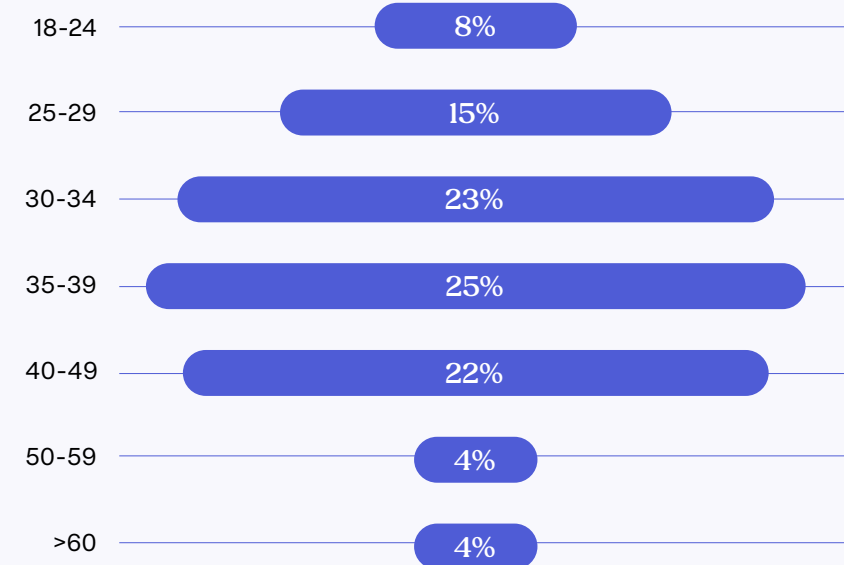
The distribution of respondents according to their level of education indicates that 41% were enrolled at university or had attended university at the time of the survey. 25% had a master's degree, 8% a bachelor's degree, and 1% a doctorate. 18% had attended a vocational school or had undergone vocational training. Furthermore, 5% had a vocational diploma, and 5% had a high school diploma.

Chart 1:
Supply-side information providers department of residence



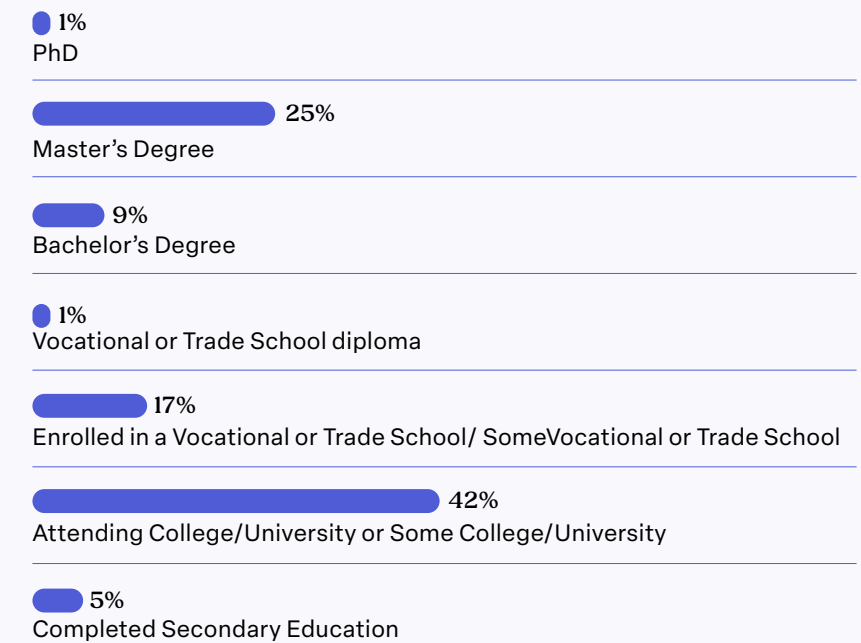
Source: IE study Survey, Internews & Panos, February - March 2024

Chart 2:
Age ranges of supply side survey respondents



Source: IE study Survey, Internews & Panos, February - March 2024

Chart 3:
Supply side survey respondents level of education

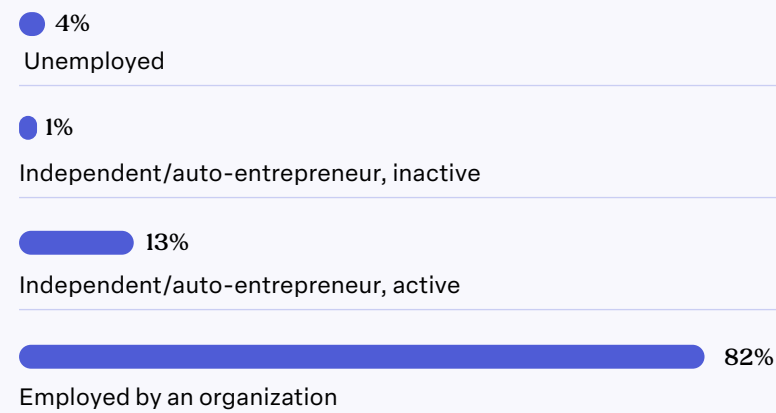


Source: IE study Survey, Internews & Panos, February - March 2024

4.1.5. Employment Status

80% of the media sector respondents were employed by an organization at the time of the survey. Approximately 12% were actively self-employed, while a minority (1%) were inactively self-employed. Finally, 7% of the respondents were unemployed.

Chart 4
Supply side survey respondents employment status

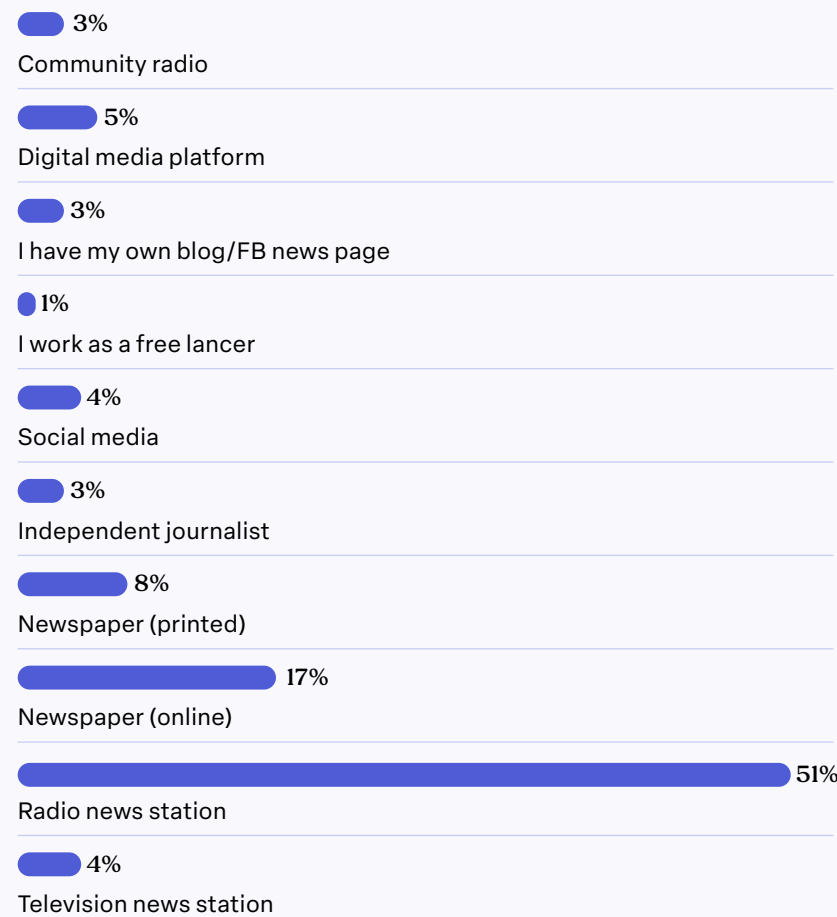


Source: IE study Survey, Internews & Panos, February - March 2024

Radio news stations emerge as the most prevalent employer of survey respondents, mentioned by 47% of the total sample, followed by online newspapers (16%) and printed newspapers (7%). Independent journalists, employees of social media platforms, and digital media platforms account for 3%, 4%, and 5% respectively. Small proportions of respondents were working as freelancers (1%) and managing their own blog or Facebook news page (3%) at the time of the survey.

Furthermore, those who were not employed within the information sector account for 6% of the sample. These findings shed light on the heterogeneity of employment structures in journalism in Haiti, ranging from traditional news outlets to independent journalists and those working on emerging digital media platforms.

Chart 5
Supply side survey respondents type of media employer



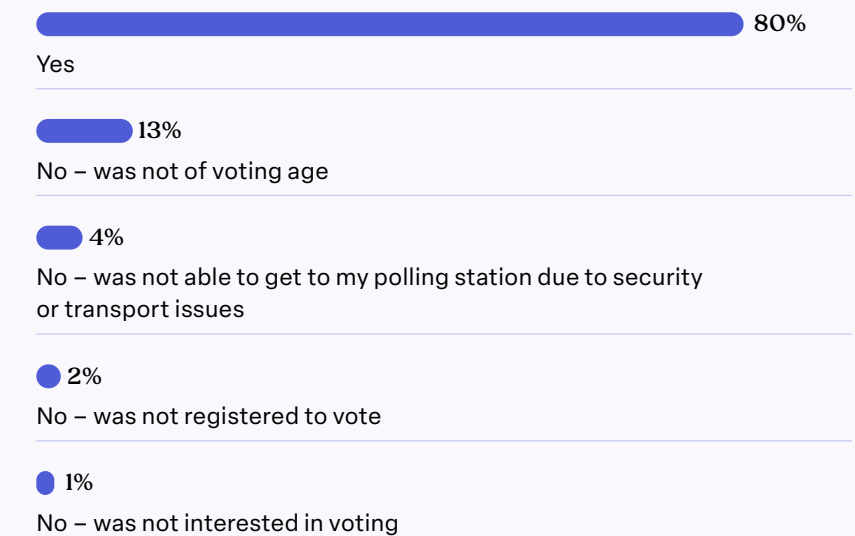
Source: IE study Survey, Internews & Panos, February - March 2024

4.2. Voting History and Participation Prospects of Supply Side in Haiti

4.2.1. Participation in the Last Election in Haiti

As shown in the chart below, 80% of information providers surveyed said they had voted in the last elections, while 13% reported that they had not. Out of the ones who did not vote, 63% were not of legal voting age at the time, 21% noted issues related to insecurity or transportation, 11% reported not being registered to vote, and 5% indicated a lack of interest in the electoral process.

Chart 6
Supply side survey respondents type of media employer

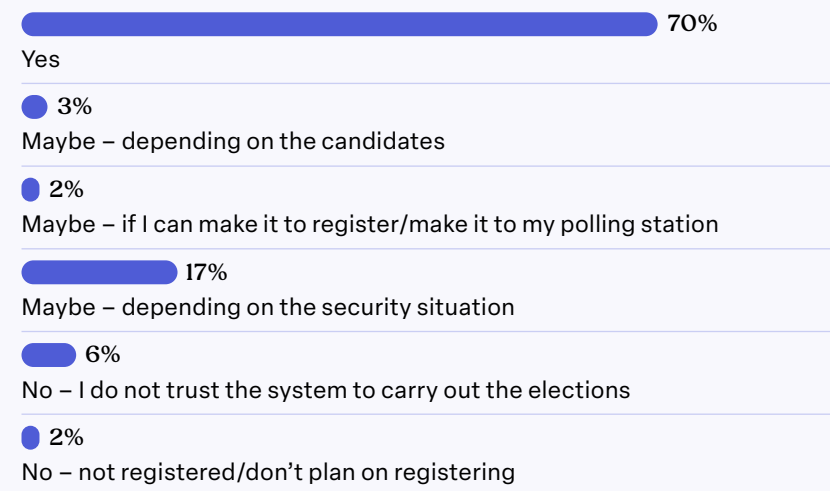


Source: IE study Survey, Internews & Panos, February - March 2024

4.2.2. Participation in Upcoming Elections

70% of the information providers surveyed noted that they intend to vote in the next elections, which is slightly lower compared to the percentage of respondents who indicated they had voted in the last elections (80%, chart 7). However, this proportion is far higher than the 13% obtained in the assessment of citizen needs and understanding of the political system conducted by Internews and Policit . As shown in the chart below, for 8% of information providers responding to the survey, voting in the next election is an absolute no, which is quite close to the proportion (9.5%) of respondents of the aforementioned assessment who mentioned they would not vote. Finally, 17% of the information providers conditioned their participation on the security situation, 3% indicated that their decision would depend on the profiles of the candidates, while 2% hinged their decision on the ease of registering to vote and/or getting to the polling stations.

Chart 7
Supply side survey respondents - factors influencing decision to vote elections



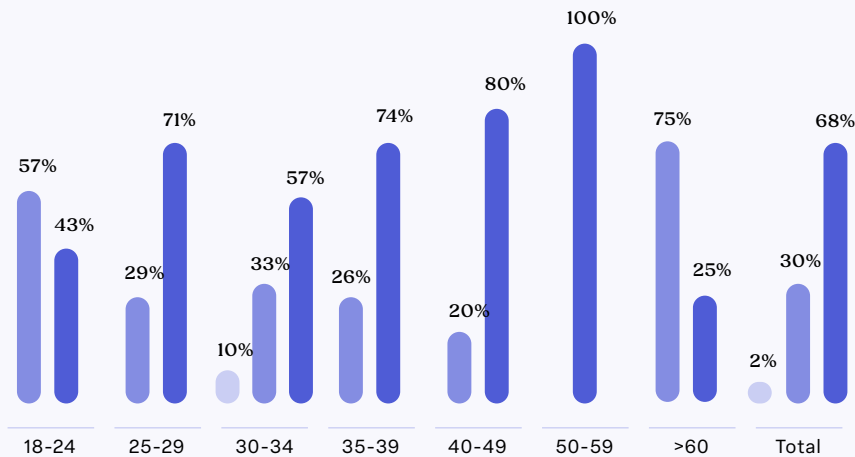
Source: IE study Survey, Internews & Panos, February - March 2024

4.3. Coverage of topics related to governance, and Elections in Haiti

4.3.1. Coverage of topics related to Governance and Elections in the past

As seen in the chart below, the supply side data shows that 68% of the journalists responding to the survey had already covered topics related to governance and elections at the time of the survey, while 30% did not have that experience. This result highlights an opportunity to work on reinforcing media coverage of key topics related to Haiti's governance and elections. Except for the "60 and over" age group, the percentage of respondents who have not yet worked on these subjects is logically higher among younger journalists. The younger a journalist is, the lower their chances of having covered these topics, all else being equal.

Chart 8
Supply side survey respondents who have previously covered governance, democracy and elections topics



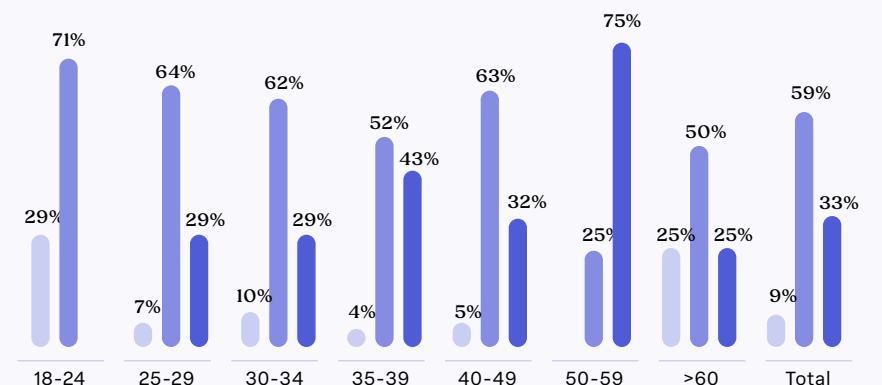
Source: IE study Survey, Internews & Panos, February - March 2024

Not sure No Yes

4.3.2. Coverage of topics related to Governance and Elections Today

33% of the information providers surveyed indicated that they were actively covering topics related to governance and/or elections at the time of the study. This percentage is similar across age groups. Subsequent sections of this study shed some light on possible reasons behind this low percentage.

Chart 9
Supply side survey respondents who were covering governance, democracy and elections topics at the time of the survey



Source: IE study Survey, Internews & Panos, February - March 2024

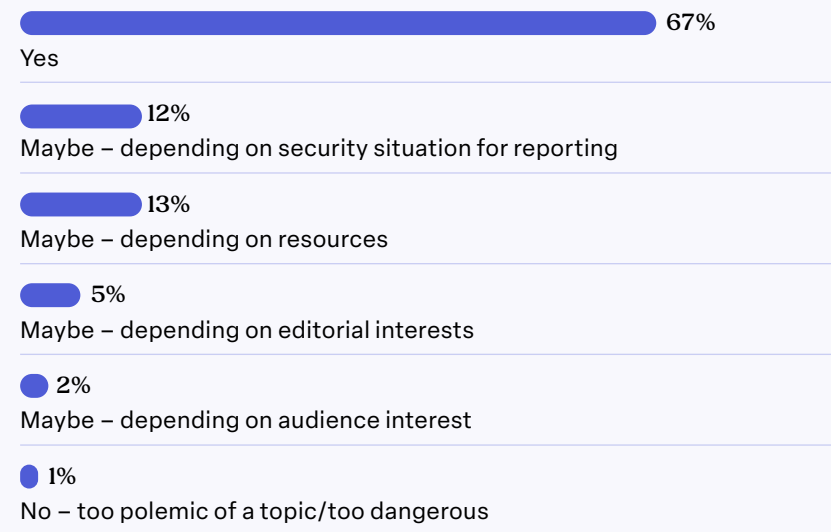
Not sure No Yes

4.3.3. Coverage of topics related to Governance and Upcoming Elections

As shown in the chart below, 67% of the supply side respondents expressed their intention to cover the next elections in Haiti. 32% of them conditioned their coverage of the next elections on various factors such as resource availability (13%), security conditions (12%), editorial interests (5%), and public interest (2%). Furthermore, 1% stated that they did not plan to participate in the upcoming elections because the topic is too controversial and dangerous. These data reveal a strong interest among the information providers to cover topics related to governance and elections, while acknowledging potential roadblocks.

Importantly, 61% of the information providers who had not previously covered topics related to governance and elections expressed a definite intention to cover the upcoming elections. For the remaining 39%, their involvement is contingent upon factors such as resource availability (21%), editorial priorities (11%), and security conditions (7%).

Chart 10
Supply side survey respondents willing to cover governance, democracy and elections topics in the future



Source: IE study Survey, Internews & Panos, February - March 2024

Chart 11
Supply side survey respondents who haven't previously covered governance, democracy and elections topics and willing to do so in the futures

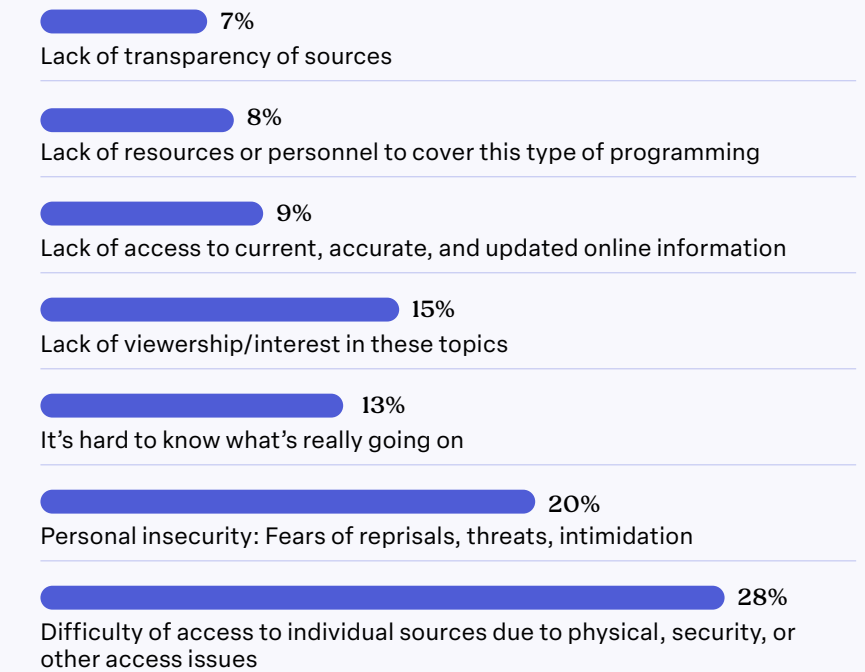


Source: IE study Survey, Internews & Panos, February - March 2024

4.3.4. Challenges related to Reporting on Governance and Elections in Haiti

When asked about challenges, supply side survey respondents highlighted: the difficulty of accessing individual sources due to security issues or other obstacles (28%); their physical safety, fearing reprisals, threats, and intimidation (20%); lack of audience or interest in these topics (15%); difficulty in obtaining accurate information about what's really going on (13%); lack of access to up-to-date and accurate online information (9%); lack of resources or staff (8%); and lack of transparency of sources (7%).

Chart 12
Supply side survey respondents challenges in reporting on governance, democracy and elections topics

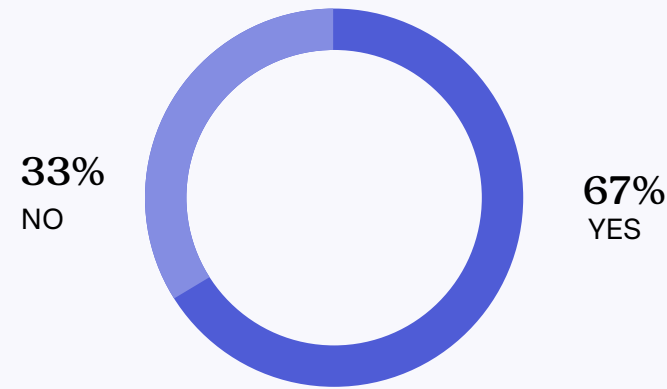


Source: IE study Survey, Internews & Panos, February - March 2024

4.3.5. Political Pressure and Threats when covering Topics Related to Governance and Elections

67% of the respondents conveyed that they had been subjected to political pressure or threats when covering topics related to governance and elections in Haiti. This could partly explain why only 33% of information providers surveyed currently cover these subjects. These numbers are also consistent with the conclusions of the demand-side study, where citizens participating in focus groups expressed concerns about “potential retaliation” and “pressure” as significant obstacles for media outlets in addressing certain sensitive topics.

Chart 13
Experience of political pressure or threats faced by supply-side survey respondents upon coverage of topics related to democracy, governance, and elections.

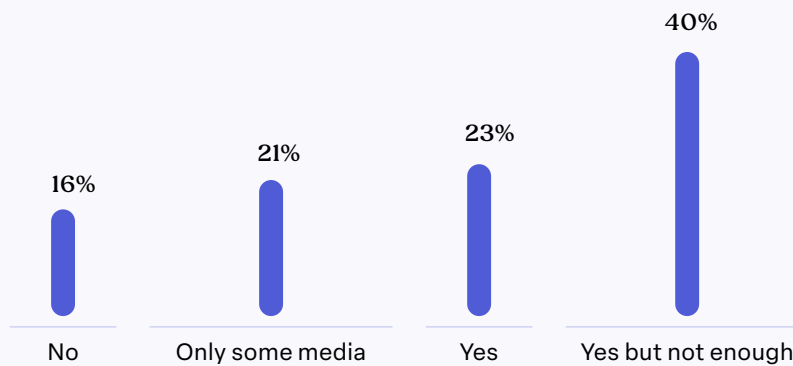


Source: IE study Survey, Internews & Panos, February - March 2024

4.3.6. Perceived Role of Haitian Media in raising awareness on Challenges related to Governance and Elections

23% of information providers surveyed believe that Haitian media contribute effectively to raising public awareness of issues relating to governance and elections, and 40% of them think that the media do not play a sufficiently effective role in this area. In addition, 21% of respondents consider that only some media outlets are effective in fulfilling this role, while 16% are adamant that none of the media are effective. These results highlight mixed opinions among journalists about the effectiveness of the Haitian media in raising awareness of issues about governance and elections. These findings are reinforced by those of the demand-side study, with surveyed citizens generally stating that the media’s endeavor to inform the public about political matters lacks effectiveness.

Chart 14
Statements from supply-side survey respondents regarding the assertion that Haitian media effectively raise public awareness about issues related to governance, democracy, and elections



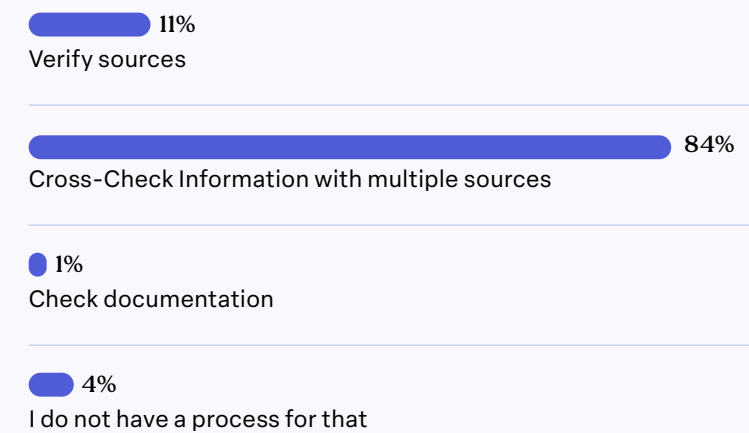
Source: IE study Survey, Internews & Panos, February - March 2024

4.4. Resource and Verification Tools

4.4.1. Verification Approach to Validate Information prior to Publication

Most supply-side respondents (83%) stated that they rely on the “information cross-checking method” as their primary means of validating information before reporting it. 10% mentioned “source verification” as their preferred approach, a minority (1%) highlighted “documentation verification,” and 4% acknowledged having no process in place to ensure information accuracy before release. These results underline, to some extent, a good practice used by most respondents on verifying information prior to publication, while also indicating that there is room for improvement.

Chart 15
Supply side survey respondents main fact-checking method used.



Source: IE study Survey, Internews & Panos, February - March 2024

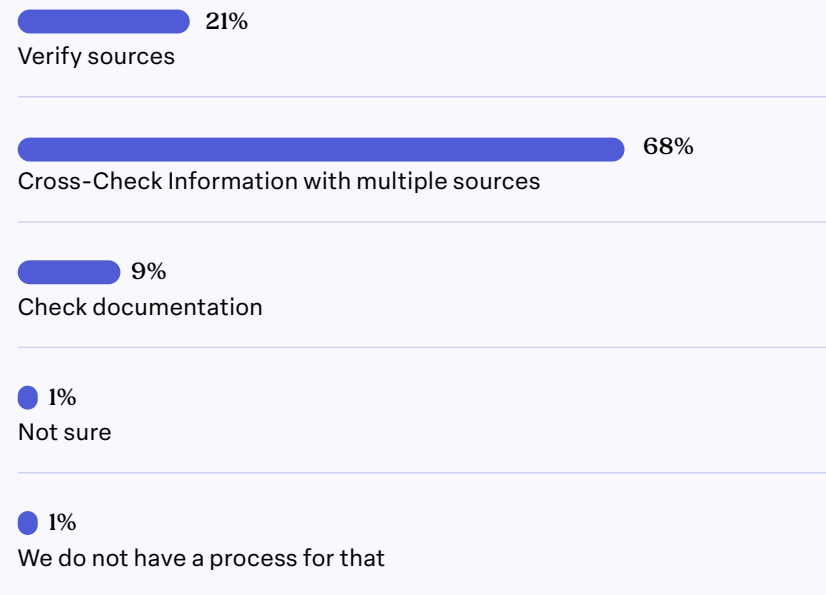
This trend of cross-checking information remains consistent across the media outlets with which the surveyed information providers collaborated. Specifically, 68% of respondents partnering with media outlets indicated that the most common method used by these organizations was “cross-checking of information.” Additionally, 21% mentioned “source verification,” while 9% cited “document verification.” Only 1% of the respondents reported collaborating with media companies that did not have processes in place for information verification.

4.4.2. Tools and Resources Necessary to Mitigate the Spread of Mis and Disinformation

Only 26% of the information providers responding to the survey stated that they had sufficient tools and resources to mitigate the spread of mis and disinformation. Moreover, 40% of the respondents mentioned having some tools but also emphasized the need for more resources and training, while 22% of them indicated not having the necessary tools and resources and 12% had very few at the time of the survey. These results highlight the need for additional support to journalists and media outlets through ongoing training processes and improved access to necessary tools.

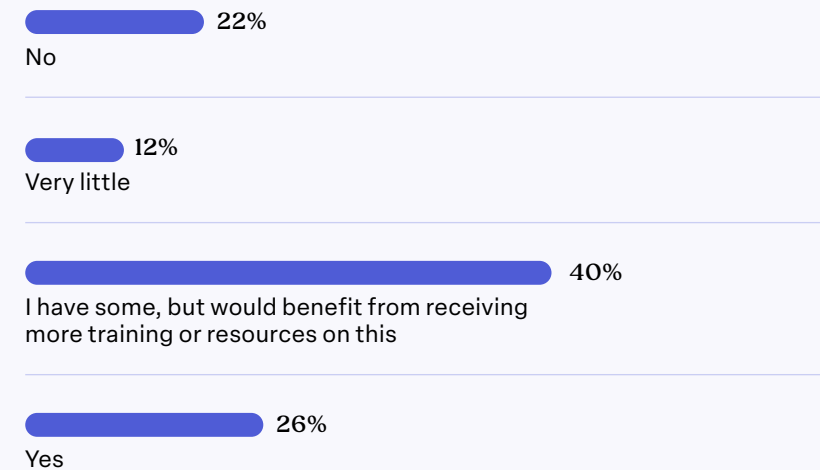
Furthermore, the study reveals that 73% of the respondents have previously received training (although 16% of them indicate that it was more than five years ago) on tools and resources to limit the spread of mis and disinformation. However, 27% of them have never received such support.

Chart 16
Supply side survey respondents and main fact-checking method used by collaborating media organizations



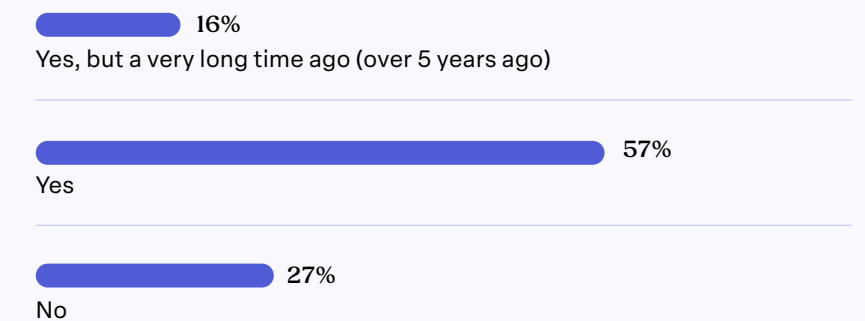
Source: IE study Survey, Internews & Panos, February - March 2024

Chart 17
Supply-side survey respondents' statements on the availability of tools and resources necessary to mitigate the spread of misinformation



Source: IE study Survey, Internews & Panos, February - March 2024

Chart 18
Supply-side survey respondents based on whether they have previously received training on tools and resources to mitigate the spread of misinformation



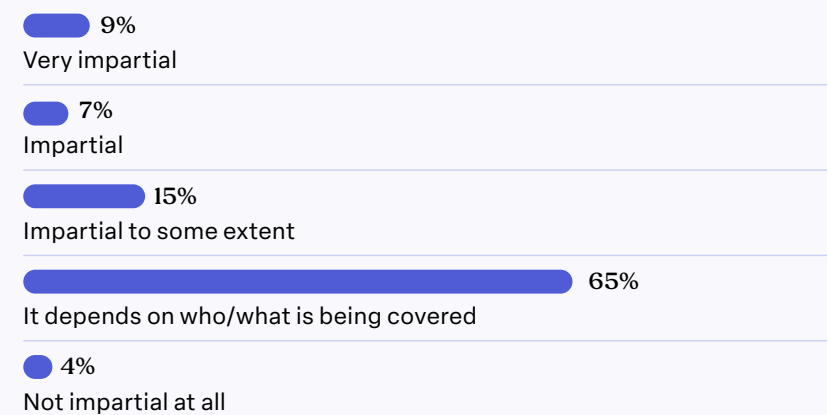
Source: IE study Survey, Internews & Panos, February - March 2024

4.4.3. Respondents Perceive the Haitian Media to be Occasionally impartial, at best

Only 9% of survey respondents consider the Haitian media to be very impartial, while 7% consider them to be impartial and 15% think they are impartial to some extent. 65% of respondents believe that the media's impartiality depends on the individual or the topic being covered while 4% believe that the media are not impartial at all. These data reveal a nuanced perception among journalists regarding media's impartiality in Haiti, with a majority considering that impartiality is conditioned by certain factors. These results are in line with the views of the citizens surveyed for the demand-side of the study, who generally perceive the Haitian press as partisan.

Chart 19

Statements from supply-side survey respondents on the level of impartiality of the media in Haiti



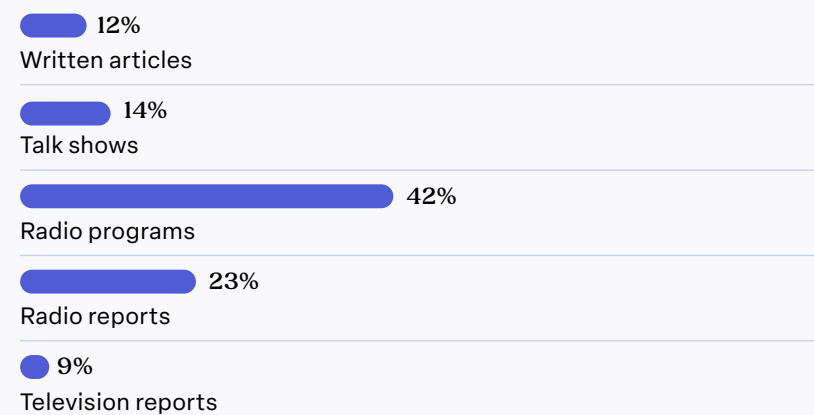
Source: IE study Survey, Internews & Panos, February - March 2024

4.5. Most Efficient Formats to inform the Public on Topics related to Governance and Elections

The chart below shows that radio programs represent the most effective format to inform the public about topics related to governance and elections, according to 42% of journalists. Radio reports come second, with 23% of journalists rating them as the most effective. Op-ed programs are also mentioned as an effective format by 14% of journalists surveyed. By contrast, written articles and television reports were less frequently cited, with only 12% and 9% of journalists, respectively, considering them to be effective.

Chart 20

Statements from supply-side survey respondents on the most effective media formats for informing the public about topics related to governance, democracy, and elections



Source: IE study Survey, Internews & Panos, February - March 2024

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Conclusion

In the preceding analysis of the Haitian information ecosystem on topics related to governance and elections for both information providers and consumers, several key findings emerge that could be relevant for Haitian information sector programming.

Haitian citizens are divided when it comes to their preferred type of media. While some prefer to get their information from traditional media because of the “downward spiral of social media” and the “possibility of accessing more reliable information” via traditional sources, others prefer to get their information from social media because content is often disseminated in the form of videos and images that users can view in real time. **However, among the information consumers, there is general agreement that traditional media outlets are more reliable and are more attentive about disseminating high quality information.** This is consistent with the findings of the quantitative study conducted among information providers, with the majority indicating that the media outlets they collaborate with have established processes to verify the quality of information before dissemination.

Owing to the reliability issue, **consumers have profound distrust about information published on social media in general, and Facebook in particular.** They argue that information on social networks is not as well analyzed and vetted as information from traditional media. Consequently, this situation prompts them to **verify the information they receive on social media before sharing it.** Cross-checking with multiple sources and checking with relatives, friends, and neighbors are the main strategies used by consumers to verify information. Important to note is that this does not eliminate the problem of mis and disinformation, as it is seen clearly across the media in Haiti, but it does suggest that Haitians are aware and, based on self-reporting, try to avoid spreading it.

There exists a growing interest from consumers to receive information addressing topics that include public safety policies before election periods, and security policies and economic measures after the elections. Despite consumers' awareness that governance-related media coverage is lacking, nearly all focus group participants **prioritized the need for media coverage of the country's delicate security situation.**

According to the study, Haitian information providers face challenges in covering topics related to governance and elections. Most of the information providers surveyed indicated fearing political pressure. Consequently, **according to them, promoting media pluralism and guaranteeing the safety of journalists are the primary measures the government should adopt to enable them to provide adequate coverage of elections before, during, and after elections.**

Both the demand and supply sides of the information ecosystem agree on the need for neutral media in the country. Information

consumers nearly unanimously stated that Haitian media was partisan and biased in its coverage of the 2016 elections and relevant election information. In addition, 80% of the information providers surveyed believe that the Haitian media is either impartial to some extent or conditionally impartial based on the information being shared.

According to information consumers, this issue of impartiality hinders the media in playing its crucial role of informing the population and bolstering the effective operation of the democratic system. Regarding this key role of the media, citizens also argued that the media should continually inform the public about governmental activities, while educating the population on topics related to governance and elections. Overall, participants expressed that the media should contribute to the promotion of a participatory democracy by assessing and reporting on the government actions, through, for example, comparative analyses between campaign promises and actual achievements. The information providers surveyed for this study similarly emphasized the need for the media to play a more effective role in bolstering democracy and providing accurate governance- and election-related information. They indicated that the media's current role in raising public awareness about topics related to governance and elections is either not effective at all or not effective enough.

5.2. Recommendations

This final chapter of the “Insights on Haiti’s Information Ecosystem – Trust in and Coverage of Governance- and Elections-related Information” study presents suggestions for local and international individuals and organizations working in the media and information sphere in Haiti, specifically those working directly with information providers. Recommendations are made to promote the availability and accessibility of reliable and high-quality information that meets the needs of consumers, while also helping to promote democracy in the country.

- **Support local media to provide good information:** Journalists, media organizations, and journalism educators in Haiti should be further trained on basic and advanced content verification tools and techniques. Internews’ 2020 Port-au-Prince IEA provides a thorough list of suggestions and tools freely available. Additionally, Internews and Panos developed a Thwarting Disinformation Toolkit, aimed at increasing the capacity of local groups to counter mis and disinformation. The toolkit provides needs-based, context-specific solutions to counter mis and disinformation for a diverse range of media organizations in Haiti and is available in Creole.
- **Support content production of trusted information providers:** It is important to ensure that trusted information providers, whether journalists or media, can participate positively in the information ecosystem, as they often lack resources and face various challenges, much as described by participants in this study.
- **Support investigative journalism:** Independent media and access to quality, impartial information serve a crucial watchdog

function, providing citizens with the information they need to hold the public and private sectors accountable. Training journalists in investigative reporting, and supporting content creation to encourage dialogue on campaign promises and results, could help expand freedom of information and empower Haitians.

- **Data journalism:** Train journalists in data-driven journalism to collect and analyze large datasets to better understand the problems faced by Haitians, as well as how to address them at the individual, community, and state levels. Data journalism harnesses data for public interest reporting, creates a support system for ensuring story quality, and develops local capacity for Haitian journalists to continue their important work long after the end of the program.
- **Improve security measures and policies:** Provide independent journalists, information providers, and media outlets with training on physical and digital security, tailored personal and organizational security protocols, and resources. Other support could include internal relocation expense reimbursement, medical cost coverage in case of injury on the job, mental health support, legal help, and other security needs of information providers to minimize obstacles to their continued reporting from Haiti.
- **Make media outlets' financial and programming models more resilient:** Provide media outlets and journalists with training, tools, and hands-on support to make their programming more adaptive and resilient and fortify and diversify their revenue streams to enable them to cover news independently.
- **Connect with the population and meet their information needs:** Media can benefit from engaging with their audience to receive feedback, implement collaborative programming, and identify the topics that information consumers want to learn and hear more about, adapting to new channels and formats as the information ecosystem continues to evolve.
- **Increase coverage of governance and elections topics according to the population's needs:** Provide workshops to build the media's capacity on how to report on topics of governance and elections, impartially and sensitively, that communities care about, as well as best-suited formats to do so.
- **Media pluralism:** Through legal mechanisms and social advocacy, encourage media pluralism in Haiti, particularly during election periods, to encourage a balanced representation of different political views in the media.

INSIGHTS ON HAITI'S INFORMATION ECOSYSTEM – TRUST IN AND COVERAGE OF GOVERNANCE AND ELECTIONS-RELATED INFORMATION



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