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USAID/JAMAICA COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND TRANSFORMATION PROJECT - PHASE II (COMET II)

Monthly Report: May 2014



June 5, 2014

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USAID/JAMAICA

COMET II PROJECT

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACB	Anti-Corruption Branch (of the Jamaican Constabulary Force)
CBO	Community Based Organization
CoL	Culture of Lawfulness
COMET II	Community Empowerment and Transformation Project II
CRC	Community Resource Centers
CSSB	Community Safety and Security Branch
DRF	Dispute Resolution Foundation
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EMPR	Environmental Mitigation Plan and Report
GCC	Global Climate Change
JASW	Jamaican Association of Social Workers
JCF	Jamaica Constabulary Force
JRIU	Justice Reform Implementation Unit
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAPDEC	National Association of Parish Development Committees
NIA	National Integrity Action
PIOJ	Planning Institute of Jamaica
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
RFA	Request for Application
SDC	Social Development Commission
SRO	School Resource Officer
STTA	Short Term Technical Assistance
USAID	United States Agency of International Development
UWI	University of the West Indies

I. PROJECT SUMMARY

In early May, COMET II accomplished successful implementation of two major public events. The first event, held on May 2, was the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between USAID, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of National Security, and the Ministry of Local Government. This auspicious occasion formalized the partnership of these key stakeholders through their representative agencies— the Social Development Commission (SDC), the Jamaican Constabulary Force (JCF) and the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ)— with COMET II to work in unison to achieve their common goals as outlined in the COMET II Work Plan and the Government of Jamaica (GoJ) 2030 objectives.

The second event, the launch of the COMET II grants program and the Global Climate Change (GCC) Sensitization Day, achieved its three main objectives:

- The USAID Mission Director presented 20 youths with their birth certificates. For youth to be enrolled in school, they need to present a copy of their birth certificated which are not available to many Jamaican families and cause a significant obstacle for many disadvantaged youth across Jamaica. A birth certificate serves as entry into the education system which is the gateway This presentation was symbolic of the 1,400 birth certificates that the US Government has provided funding for Jamaican youth.
- The launch of the COMET II grants program was an important occasion for USAID to publicly state their intentions for COMET II grants activities over the next five years. An expected audience of 150 people turned into 250 people who were given a comprehensive overview of the grant application process and requirements. To coincide with this event, COMET II released two grant requests for applications (RFAs) and advertised them in local newspapers.
- The afternoon session provided an overview and presentation to stakeholders and community member on how COMET II, a Democracy, Human Rights and Governance project, intends to inculcate GCC awareness into its primary objective of community safety and security. This marks the first time a USAID program has attempted such collaboration, and there is a keen focus on COMET II from other USAID programs. Professor Anthony Clayton, a GCC specialist from the University of the West Indies (UWI), was the keynote speaker and presented on Jamaica climate challenges and the necessity of rigorous disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities, which is a key focus of COMET II.

Two RFAs were released coinciding with the launch of the grants program. The Grant Manager will begin reviewing received grant applications on June 9 for compliance purposes. The Review Evaluation Committees (REC) have been established and will convene in mid-June to conduct their evaluation of grant applications.

The three steering subcommittees continue to meet:

- **Community Resource Centers (CRCs):** The design and process for retrofitting the CRCs will be finalized and presented to the Steering Committee on June 3.
- **Global Climate Change:** The GCC subcommittee is currently looking at higher level outputs and targets for COMET II GCC activities. The goal is to ensure that, at the end of the project, a real, measurable impact can be demonstrated against individual activities for which it would be hard to quantify for their singular outcomes and impacts.
- **Culture of Lawfulness:** This subcommittee brings together relevant agencies, such as National Integrity Action (NIA), to develop ongoing Culture of Lawfulness (CoL) messages and to ensure coordination, and a continuing working relationship is maintained. Sensitization sessions are now including the roles and functions of the CoL Component of COMET II.

COMET II subcontractor, UWI Mona School of Business continues its work to collect, collate, and deliver a baseline data file along with a social value creation and vulnerability assessment tool. Their progress is not moving as quickly as anticipated and COMET II management team is holding discussions with the Mona School of Business to address this situation.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- **Human Resources:** Nothing significant to report.
- **Procurements:** Nothing significant to report.

3. THREATS AND MITIGATION

No issues requiring attention have arisen this month.

4. CONCLUSION

Attached is the Monthly Activity Report for May 2014 that provides a status update and percent completed for each COMET II activity. Traffic light indicators give a visual overview of the current risk associated with the completion of each activity.