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

Monthly Report: June 2014



July 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
CEDAR	Communities Empowered for Disaster & Adaptive Resilience
COL	Culture of Lawfulness
COMET II	Community Empowerment and Transformation Project II
CRC	Community Resource Centres
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 June, following a month with efforts focused largely on two major public events, COMET II focused on achieving significant progress on activity outcomes. A number of factors have interfered with the project's progress including:

- Delayed start to CDC capacity building
- Inability of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) to progress alternative sentencing and diversion activities
- Limited support capability of key COMET II partners
- Delayed finalization of the baseline data file.

These impediments and risks will be addressed more fully in the May-June Quarterly Report that will be submitted at the end of July as they have implications on COMET II moving forward and they will influence Year Two planning. Despite these challenges, COMET II is confident that six of the eight Year One Progress Indicators can be achieved. The COMET II Chief of Party and Tetra Tech DPK will document and present recommendations to USAID for the two indicators that are at significant risk for a potential contract modification and amendment to the Year One Work Plan.

The application period for Grant Request for Application (RFA) 1 and 2 closed on June 9. The goal of RFA 1 is to identify grantees who will develop youth-at-risk prevention programs in support of COMET II Component 3. The recipients of the grants advertised under RFA 2 will support Component 1 activities to develop community cultural or sporting events for youth and youth skill, trade, and vocational programs. COMET II received 36 grant applications for the two RFAs, of which 27 applications were deemed compliant with the RFA requirements. The Review Evaluation Committees (REC) formed and will complete their evaluations of the grant applications by the first week of July. The final steps of the grant selection process will begin.

The three steering subcommittees continue to meet:

- **Community Resource Centers (CRCs):** The design and process was finalized and presented to the Steering Committee and final specifications have been documented. However, COMET II has determined that the Community Development Committees (CDCs) require more capacity building than originally expected which will require additional time before the CDCs are capable of managing a grant. Accordingly, the number of registered CDC will be (is) below what was planned. Only two of the five first year communities will be registered by the end of Year One.

Additionally, the inability of the SDC to identify and secure recommended sites for the CRCs is becoming an issue and has the potential to further slow down breaking ground on the CRCs.

- **Global Climate Change:** COMET II continues to integrate GCC cross-cutting initiatives into its activities and maintains a clear focus utilizing DRR as the key focus. The Red Cross has been identified as a partner that brings a lot of DRR experience to the table and can provide much of the required material in the area of training to assist COMET's progression.
- **Culture of Lawfulness:** This subcommittee brings together relevant agencies, including the National Integrity Action (NIA), to develop ongoing Culture of Lawfulness (COL) messages and to ensure coordination and a continuing working relationship is maintained. EWA Communications has been engaged as a subcontractor and is developing public service announcements (PSAs) which will promote the theme "Know your laws, know your rights". Three different messages are being progressed and these will also be drawn together to form a short video which will be distributed to professional media outlets for presenting.

COMET II continues to spread awareness of the project and its objectives. In June, COMET II met with the Commissioner of Police and his Executive. The Commissioner gave a presentation on “proximity policing” which encompassed strong messages of community engagement and harmony.

It is becoming evident as COMET II progresses that the Jamaican Constabulary Force (JCF) is seen by the community generally as the single support mechanism in communities for all problems. This is well evidenced in the review of the School Resource Officer (SRO) program where both students and deans of discipline state that the JCF is the only institution that supports the Safe Schools Program.

COMET II subcontractor UWI Mona School of Business (MSB) continues its work to collect, collate, and deliver a baseline data file along with a social value creation and vulnerability assessment tool. Progress has progressed slowly and the MSB indicates that with they underestimated the amount of material that would need to be collected to complete the surveys and the collation and recording of data is taking

longer than expected.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

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

3. THREATS AND MITIGATION

An additional threat has been added to the Risk Matrix. COMET II’s key partner organization, the SDC, is not in a position to adequately support COMET II’s endeavors. The Contracting Officer’s Representative (COR) and COP will discuss this issue in early July to develop solutions for the way forward. Please find the Risk Matrix attached.

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.