



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Monthly Report: August 2014



September 5, 2014

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by Tetra Tech DPK.

USAID/JAMAICA

COMET II PROJECT

CONTRACT NO.: AID-OAA-I-13-0036 / AID-532-TO-14-0001

CONTRACTOR: Tetra Tech DPK

DATE: September 5, 2014

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.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACB	Anti-Corruption Branch (of the Jamaican Constabulary Force)
CBO	Community Based Organization
CDMP	Community Disaster Mitigation Plan
CEDAR	Communities Empowered for Disaster & Adaptive Resilience
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
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
ODPEM	Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management
PIOJ	Planning Institute of Jamaica
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
RFA	Request for Application
SDC	Social Development Commission
SE	Social Enterprise Model
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

During August, COMET II continued to explore opportunities to consolidate activities and sub-activities with a focus on achieving project Year One expected outcomes and laying the foundation for next year's activities. With one month remaining in Year One, it is clear that not all of the targeted Outcomes will not be achieved by the end of September. Explanations for this have been covered in previous reports. Suffice to say, while disappointing, those Outcomes can smoothly move into Year Two and will be achieved. Considering that Year One is in fact an abbreviated year comprised of 9 months, completing all of the outcomes into that time frame was going to be a challenge.

One grant was awarded in August to New Horizons Christian Outreach Ministries to design and implement a youth skills and trade vocational program that creates an opportunity for youth ages 15 to 29 to participate in Community Safety Initiatives. A second grant is expected in early September, and potentially two more grants will be awarded before the end of Year One. COMET II re-advertised one grant request for applications (RFA) as the earlier responses did not meet the required outcomes and it is anticipated that the new RFA will result in additional responses.

Unfortunately, no grants have been awarded for the placement of community resource centers (CRCs) as land acquisition and community development committee (CDC) capability still pose challenges. COMET II is pressing ahead with planning for the placement and procurements required for the CRCs and we expect that these challenges will be addressed, particularly in light of the continued support of the Governance short term technical assistance (STTA) to build capacity of the CDCs. The project anticipates that a number of CDCs will be prepared to assist in the management of CRCs and to contribute to have them on the ground in the coming year.

In addition to the extension of the Governance STTA's contract in August, COMET II also signed a subcontract with the University of West Indies' Office of Social Entrepreneurship to develop the social enterprise (SE) model and implement the model with a pilot community based organization (CBO). The cost of the model presents a significant budgetary impact and COMET II is working closely with the USAID Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) to ensure all project goals are met.

COMET II partnered with the Community Safety and Security Branch (CSSB) of the Jamaican Constabulary force (JCF) and mounted to Police Youth Club National Council (PYCNC) Summer Camp from July 27 to August 2, 2014. One of the main objectives of the camp was to foster a better relationship between youth and the JCF. Approximately 140 youths from police youth clubs in communities across Jamaica, including the COMET II targeted communities, were exposed to the major principles of global climate change (GCC), culture of lawfulness and citizen journalism, social entrepreneurship, dispute resolution, and sports and development. There were also workshops in gender, empowerment, personal development, and deportment.

Two steering subcommittees continue:

- **Global Climate Change (GCC):** Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) has asked for the GCC Coordinator to develop TORs for the Subcommittee to explain the relationship of the Subcommittee existing to advise on COMET II activities and not to direct or re-direct COMET II activities.

The Subcommittee has been apprised of the Year Two DRR activities and they will continue to be updated on progress.

- **Culture of Lawfulness (CoL):** The CoL Subcommittee did not meet this month, however National Integrity Action (NIA) has continued to be involved in discussion on CoL activities and will be further engaged throughout Year Two.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- **Human Resources:** In August, two COMET II staff resigned to move on to other vocations: Romel Gordon, Community Coordinator for Clarendon, and Andrea King, Civil Society Coordinator. Interviews were held for the two vacant Community Coordinator positions (in Kingston and Clarendon) and recommendations are being progressed. It has been decided not to replace the Civil Society Coordinator and Component One leadership role has been shifted to the Civil Society Specialist. Recognizing the increased workload, reporting protocols have been adjusted accordingly.
- **Procurements:** Nothing significant to report.

3. THREATS AND MITIGATION

No additional threats have been added to the Risk Matrix. The capacity of our key partner organization, the SDC, still remains a significant threat but strategies instigated by COMET II to have the SDC more inclusive in all project activities and to assist building their capacity are being advanced. This comes at a cost with COMET II having to maintain the Governance STTA to build the capacity of CDCs and CBOs to the required level so they are able to manage implementation of the SE model.

4. CONCLUSION

Attached is the Monthly Activity Report for August 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.