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

Monthly Report: September 2014



October 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
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 September, 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. Activities that were not completed during September will continue into Year Two and have been included in the Year Two Work Plan. A revised Year Two Work Plan and Performance Monitoring Plan were submitted on September 19 incorporating comments received from USAID.

On September 23, COMET II hosted an event at the Planning Institute of Jamaica which included a grants signing, social media launch, and partners sensitization seminar. The seminar was used to stage the formal signing of the first grants awarded between the USAID COMET II program to the grantees:

- New Horizons Christian Outreach Ministries: To design a youth skills and trade vocational program for at-risk youth ages 15-29
- Netball Foundation of Jamaica: To design and implement a sports program that creates opportunities for youth to participate in community safety initiatives
- PALS Jamaica: To design and implement an at-risk youth crime prevention program
- Institute of Capacity Building and Community Affairs: To conduct capacity building workshops, augment the Jamaican Constabulary Force (JCF) ethics programs for police offices from the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) and the Community Safety and Security Branch (CSSB).

The total value of grants awarded this year is US\$195,000. COMET II will work continually with grantees over the life of their respective grants to ensure they are successful in their endeavors.

Following the grants signing, COMET II launched three public services announcements (PSAs) to support Component 2, Culture of Lawfulness, activities. The PSAs aim to encourage Jamaican youth to:

- Know their rights and demand that they are respected
- Understand, appreciate, and follow the law
- Collaborate effectively with institutions, particularly local governments and security forces.

The COMET II project Facebook page (www.facebook.com/USAIDCOMETII) was also launched. In addition to being aired on television, the PSAs can be played from the Facebook page.

To develop greater partner sensitization, COMET II Chief of Party Doug McCaffery presented an overview of the COMET II Year One and Year Two Work Plans. This was followed by presentations of the COMET II capacity development and governance program, led by STTA Governance Specialist Tania Chambers, and the social entrepreneurship model, led by Dr. Kadamawe Knife of the Office of Social Entrepreneurship at the University of West Indies Mona School of Business, demonstrating the synergies between the two activities. The day concluded with the USAID Contracting Officer Representative providing the framework for all of the day's presentations and explaining their context in the COMET II program.

COMET II continues the planning process to award grants for the placement of community resource centers (CRCs). However, land acquisition and community development committee (CDC) capability continue to 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 Expert 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.

The Steering subcommittees continue to meet:

- **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 existing Subcommittee to advise on COMET II activities and not to direct or re-direct COMET II activities. These TORs will ensure that all organizations represented in the sub-committee have an idea of the direction that the group should take.

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

- **Culture of Lawfulness (CoL):** This Steering Committee will now meet on an as needs basis. The two key players, COMET II and NIA continue to meet on synergized activities.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- **Human Resources:** Two new Community Coordinators, Timothy Markes (Kingston) and John Meeks (Clarendon) joined the team to replace those that left in September. Both attended a Tetra Tech DPK-funded staff retreat on Friday and Saturday, September 26 and 27 and demonstrated they will be valuable members of the team.
- **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. The SDC presented a plan for COMET II on CDC capacity building however COMET II will continue using the Governance STTA to build the capacity of CDCs and CBOs to the required level. The SDC have nominated a governance person to work alongside the Governance specialist to assist building their capacity.

4. CONCLUSION

Attached is the Monthly Activity Report for September 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. The next Quarterly Report will give an overview of the Year One achievements.