



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Monthly Report: October 2014



USAID/JAMAICA

COMET II PROJECT

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

CONTRACTOR: Tetra Tech DPK

DATE: November 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

COL	Culture of Lawfulness
COMET II	Community Empowerment and Transformation Project II
CRC	Community Resource Centers
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
GCC	Global Climate Change
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
NCNWP	National Council of Neighbourhood Watch Program
NCPYC	National Council of Police Youth Clubs
NIA	National Integrity Action
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
USAID	United States Agency of International Development

I. PROJECT SUMMARY

During October, the Community Empowerment and Transformation Project II (COMET II) began its second year of implementation, continuing activities from the project's Year One Work Plan and laying the groundwork for activities outlined in revised Year Two Work Plan and Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) submitted to USAID on September 19. While the Year Two Work Plan and PMP are still pending final USAID approval, COMET II carefully developed both plans in close collaboration with the USAID Task Order Contracting Officer's Representative (TOCOR) and revised its indicator reference sheets to ensure that all activities are aligned with the COMET II Programmatic Performance Indicators and Contracted Outputs.

During Year One, COMET II began to plan and dedicate efforts towards achieving activities that are not currently reflected in the Task Order Scope of Work. The most significant of these were the introduction of the community resource center (CRC) concept and the social enterprise model, both of which will become pillars to the Component One community engagement activities. With COMET II moving into Year Two, Tetra Tech DPK held discussions with the TOCOR regarding the need for contractual amendments and a subsequent budget realignment to properly reflect the work which COMET II will embark.

At the time of writing this report, the contractual amendments are being reviewed by USAID and the resulting budget realignment discussion continues which is expected to take some time. In order to keep project implementation on track and moving forward, COMET II is following the draft Year Two Work Plan as it reflects the general direction of the contractual changes and, at this time, there does not appear to be any significant shift once the actual plan is formalized.

As reflected in previous reports, activities that could not be completed during Year One have flowed into Year Two and it is expected that they will be completed by November. These include completion of grant awards for all requests for application released in Year One and the Communities Empowered for Disaster and Adaptive Resilience (CEDAR) training workshop under the global climate change (GCC) cross-cutting component.

COMET II continues to monitor the four grants that were awarded during Year One which are being managed by the respective Component leads. There are no obstacles in the progression of grant activities at this stage.

In Year Two, COMET II's Component Two, Culture of Lawfulness (COL), will collaborate with the USAID-funded National Integrity Action program to guide messaging to the Jamaican public that will achieve good outcomes for both COMET II and NIA. Regular meetings are being held between the two programs to coordinate activities and messaging. COMET II is ideally placed to assist NIA in reaching out to the communities with their messages due to its wide coverage in communities across Jamaica.

In Year Two, Component Three, Alternative Programs, will have a significant shift from Year One activities. While activities will still focus on at-risk youth, COMET II support to alternative sentencing programs will be modified to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) Drug Court program through a contractual modification. This shift is prompted by a continued absence of a MOJ diversion policy which was anticipated to be in place for COMET II to support but progress has since stalled. COMET II meetings with the Justice Reform Implementation Unit have revealed that they are not yet ready to begin any work on alternative sentencing. The only viable program that COMET II can support is the Drug Court program, which is a program that offers treatment as an alternative to incarceration for youth who are first time drug users. This program comes directly under the Chief Justice and is primarily funded by the Department of

Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (Canada). COMET II will work collaboratively with both entities.

Component 4, Community Policing, activities will continue to provide assistance to the National Council of Police Youth Clubs (NCPYC) and the National Council of the Neighborhood Watch Program (NCNWP). Both organizations are well structured and are registered entities thanks to the strong guidance over the years from the Jamaican Constabulary Force. The two organizations have a combined membership of over 30,000 across Jamaica. While COMET II activities are primarily focused on five parishes, capacity building and social enterprise development for these two groups have a powerful potential for COMET II's intentions to be spread across Jamaica. Examples of this are COL messaging using youth through the citizens journalism concept and training NCPYC youth groups in disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities which can be replicated and have an enormous impact throughout Jamaican communities.

COMET II has identified two potential social enterprise concepts which the two organizations can support:

- **NCPYC:** A Plastic and newspaper recycling program. This concept not only creates a funding stream for the organization and involved youth clubs, but it also has DRR implications by contributing to a significant reduction of litter in drains.
- **NCNWP:** Block making. COMET II is exploring the opportunity to support a revolutionary new block making process which manufactures blocks that interlink with no need for a cement bond. The blocks are comprised of a modified blend of clay and limestone, both materials abundant in Jamaica, which will nearly half production costs. Unlike concrete, the blocks have a strong heat-inhibiting factor which allow for one side to be heated up to 150 degrees without conducting heat to the other side. The social enterprise concept is to sell the blocks at cost to people replacing zinc (metal) fences and the NCNWP will coordinate metal recycling of the old fencing. The outcome of this endeavor will reduce zinc fences, which are seen as hiding places for gangs and are crime facilitating. The blocks will contribute to environmental policing efforts while providing a more affordable alternative in a financially restricted environment.

Both these organizations are and will continue to be recipients of COMET II governance building and social enterprise models.

The steering subcommittees continue to meet:

- **Global Climate Change (GCC):** This steering committee will now meet on an as-needed basis.
- **Culture of Lawfulness (COL):** This steering committee will now meet on an as-needed basis. The two key players, COMET II and NIA, continue to meet on synergized activities.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- **Human Resources:** No changes.
- **Procurements:** Nothing significant to report.

3. THREATS AND MITIGATION

When the Year Two Plan is formalized, the Risk Matrix will be revisited and updated. It is anticipated that partner ability to support COMET II will remain weak, however mitigation strategies will continue to be implemented, such as COMET II taking a leadership role in building governance and management capability among community based organizations and community development committees. In addition, COMET II has now taken over the role of land acquisition, which is a fundamental first step in the CRC development, and is starting to deal directly with parish councils on land acquisition.

4. CONCLUSION

With the formalization of the Year Two Plan, COMET II will re-commence the Monthly Activity Report that provides a status update and a percent completed for each COMET II activity using traffic light indicators to give a visual overview of the current risk associated with the completion of each activity.