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

Monthly Report: November 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
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
GCC	Global Climate Change
JCF	Jamaica Constabulary Force
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOCA	Major Organized Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NWP	Neighbourhood Watch Program
NIA	National Integrity Action
PIOJ	Planning Institute of Jamaica
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
PYC	Police Youth Clubs
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

As noted in the October monthly report, COMET II has begun its second year of implementation based on the Year Two Work Plan and the Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) submitted to USAID on September 19, 2014. However, there are substantial changes to the direction of the program that are not currently reflected in the Task Order Scope of Work. As such, Tetra Tech DPK has held discussions with the Task Order Contracting Officer's Representative (TOCOR) requesting a number of contract modifications. At the time of writing this report, the contractual final amendments are being forwarded to USAID for review. Once the contract modifications to the Scope of Work are finalized, a budget realignment will be required to facilitate these changes and the Year Two Work Plan and PMP will need to be revised to ensure they are properly aligned. This will require the return of Mr. Glenn Crannage in his role of Short Term Technical Director to contribute a complete rewrite of the Year Two Work Plan, the PMP, performance indicators and contracted outputs.

In order to keep project implementation moving on track and moving forward, COMET II is working towards what is reasonably anticipated to be the outcomes of the contract modifications to ensure the program does not experience too much slippage. Some slippage can be expected, however, as subcontracts and other formal requirements for the programs are under consideration at the time of writing this report.

The Monthly Activity Status Report is attached and it reflects the expectations of the contract modifications. However, the performance indicators and contracted outcomes may be inaccurate at this time and they will be updated when the Work Plan and PMP are rewritten.

COMET II continues to monitor the grants that have been awarded to date and they are being managed by the respective Component leads. There are no impediments in the progression of grant activities at this stage. There are three grant requests for application (RFAs) currently active and grant awards are expected in late December and early January.

In Year Two, COMET II's Component Two, Culture of Lawfulness (COL), will collaborate with the USAID-funded National Integrity Action (NIA) program to guide messaging to the Jamaican public that will achieve good outcomes for COMET II. Regular meetings are being held between the two programs. COMET II is mobilizing 100 community members for the NIA event scheduled for December 9 at the Palace Cineplex. COMET II is also beginning to facilitate introductions between NIA and the Police Youth Club and Neighborhood Watch movements with the goal of integrating the Integrity Champion and the National Integrity Ambassador concepts.

Component Three has shifted its focus from the JRIU to assistance to the Drug Court program under the guidance of the Chief Justice. COMET II aims to assist with post-graduation activities for participants to give them a focus after completion of the program. Discussions are ongoing with the Drug Courts themselves and the Chief Justice with a view to formalizing COMET II assistance through an MoU. In this process COMET II is facilitating other stakeholder assistance such as the JCF who have demonstrated a willingness to be a part of any process of assistance to Graduates from the Drug Court. Once a better understanding of the COMET II intervention activities is understood then the MoU will be written and hopefully in place by the end of February 2015.

Contractual challenges have seen the necessity to put the governance capacity building on hold until a new subcontract is issued. This is impacting on the roll out of the Social Enterprise model. This hopefully will be resolved in December and allow a smooth transition going forward in January.

2. THREATS AND MITIGATION

When the Year Two Work Plan is formalized, the Risk Matrix will be revisited and updated. It is anticipated that partner ability to support COMET II will remain very weak. Accordingly, mitigation strategies will continue to be implemented such as COMET II taking the role and building governance and management capability in CBOs. COMET II is working closely with Parish Councils on land identification for the CRCs

3. CONCLUSION

Please find attached the November 2014 Monthly Activity Status Report which 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. As noted above, this tracker is based on current expectations of COMET II activities for Year Two and will be updated following the revision of the Work Plan and PMP in January.