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

Monthly Report: December 2014



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USAID/JAMAICA

COMET II PROJECT

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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
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DTC	Drug Treatment Court
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
NHW	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

December saw the slowing of activities as Christmas approached and stakeholders were winding down their activities. The Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), in particular, embarked on a major campaign require all police officers to 'take to the streets' in a show of strength to the public.

A number of new grant requests for application were prepared and published and a review and evaluation committee (REC) selected another grantee and recommended for pre-award review. Several other RFAs will be published early in 2015. With contract modifications and budget realignment still being considered by USAID and finalization expected early in calendar year 2015, processes such as selecting a preferred subcontractor for the retrofitting of sea containers and the grant process for the funding of the initiative and supporting elements can begin. COMET II continues to monitor the grants that have been awarded to date and they are being managed by the respective component leads.

In the lead up to the festive season, COMET II supported a number of Unite for Change events. The team continues to be flexible in their work hour approach as many of these events fall after hours (evenings and weekends) and the project is managing this.

A significant event for the month was the National Integrity Action (NIA) event at the Palace Cinema Complex. COMET II supported the event by mobilizing 130 community members and assisting the night to be a success.

Discussions are continuing with the Chief Justice and the Drug Treatment Court (DTC) stakeholders with COMET II continuing to attend the Court on sitting days. This is allowing COMET II to assess the approach and meet the stakeholder agencies and obtain an overview of the roles and functions carried out by respective stakeholders. COMET II is still focused on supporting post-graduation activities and discussions have been held with the JCF in this regard. The JCF has displayed significant interest in the program and the court attendances have noticed significant 'informal' activity supporting the program by local Commanders. Early in the New Year COMET II will continue to work with the JCF on how they will support the program. It is intended that this be a part of the formal engagement with the DTC program.

Component 4 continues to work with the JCF on formalizing some of its activities. The station visitation program is proving to be a popular concept with the JCF and they are adding value to the process and agree that the use of the Neighborhood Watch (NHW) groups is a good approach.

COMET II continues to work forward on what it perceives the final plan will be post the contract modification approval. The rewriting of the actual Plan and PMP will then be done by Mr. Glenn Crannage in his role of Short Term Technical Director. With the assistance of the M&E STTA the team is working to realign the performance indicators and contracted outputs to the plan and also the Activity Plan so that team members are well aware of the indicators and outputs they are working to achieve.

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 to proceed are on hold.

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.

Contractual modifications considerations still have the governance capacity building on hold until a new subcontract is issued.

While this is impacting on the roll out of the Social Enterprise model, COMET II and the SE subcontractors are working with earlier work done by the Governance specialist and minimal impact is being experienced.

2. THREATS AND MITIGATION

The Risk Matrix has been updated and is attached. Some Risks have been slightly downgraded however it is still of concern that seven (7) of them are deemed high risk, seven (7) medium and only two (2) are deemed low risk. All changes are highlighted in yellow on the Risk Matrix and the Display tool has been updated to reflect the changes. A further risk (16) has been added which covers the slow turnaround time on project decision making issues. Matters such as RFP and RFA appear to be cumbersome and bureaucratic. There are a range of factors in this and the CoP will be working with Home Office and the COR to see how the processes can be improved.

3. CONCLUSION

Please find attached the December 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.