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

## Monthly Report: January 2015



February 5, 2015

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# USAID/JAMAICA

# COMET II PROJECT

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

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
COP	Chief of Party
CRC	Community Resource Centres
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	Neighborhood 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
SRO	School Resource Officer
STTA	Short Term Technical Assistance
UFC	Unite for Change
USAID	United States Agency of International Development
UWI	University of the West Indies

## **I. PROJECT SUMMARY**

In January, COMET II continued to make progress on its planned Year Two activities. In particular, COMET II dedicated considerable efforts to accelerating implementation of the grants program. This month, COMET II released four requests for applications (RFAs) for grant activities related to community based school suspension programs and sustainable livelihood projects for at-risk youth in Stony Hill, St. Andrew; Four Paths, Clarendon; and Cambridge, St. James. To assist prospective grantees with their applications, COMET II held four applicant workshops during January in Kingston, Stony Hill, Four Paths and Cambridge. The purpose of the workshops was to explain the application procedures, respond to questions on the scope of work, explain USAID grant procedures and requirements, and answer other questions posed by attendees.

Under Component 1, Community Driven Crime Prevention, COMET II finalized the second subcontract with the Office of Social Entrepreneurship (OSE) at the University of West Indies Mona School of Business Management to provide technical assistance to six community based organizations (CBOs) in the creation of social enterprises. This technical assistance includes capacity building training with the CBO, support with the creation of a strategic plan and a business plan/proposal, and business development training. The social enterprise work performed by OSE will be complimented by organizational capacity building that will be provided by through the governance capacity building subcontract. COMET II resubmitted its request to proceed with the governance capacity building activity in late January and it is currently awaiting USAID approval. Once approved, the social enterprise creation and governance capacity building for CBOs can continue in tandem.

Also under Component 1, COMET II finalized the technical specifications and scope of work for the request for proposal (RFP) that will be launched to identify a subcontractor to build the community resource centers (CRCs). COMET II is prepared to advertise the RFP once the contract modification, which has been under discussion over the last few months, is received from USAID. In addition, COMET II has developed a timeline for the CRC implementation process for five CRCs to be completed in five pilot communities by the end of September.

Under Component 2, Culture of Lawfulness, COMET II continues to collaborate with other key stakeholders committed to improving the safety, security, and integrity in Jamaica. In January, COMET II held meetings with the Social Development Commission (SDC), Unite for Change (UFC), and National Integrity Action (NIA) to continue planning opportunities to work together on community events and public messaging. For example, COMET II will provide support where possible to UFC, a movement initiated by the Government of Jamaica to create a safer society, with their public outreach campaigns. COMET II is currently working with NIA to develop joint public service announcements that will be broadcast in traditional and social media platforms.

Under Component 3, Alternative Programs for At-Risk Youth, COMET II is continuing discussions with the Chief Justice and the Drug Treatment Court (DTC) stakeholders to understand how the project can support in the near future and in coming years. COMET II has attended court sessions to learn more about the DTC program and plans to visit Montego Bay DTC on February 5 and Half Way Tree DTC on February 11. Following the February visits, COMET II will meet again with the Chief Justice to finalize support for the DTC program which will be formalized through a memorandum of understanding.

The Component 4, Community Policing, team continues to work with the Jamaican Constabulary Force (JCF) on expanding some of its activities to engage the community. In January, COMET II continued its support of the police station visitation program in participating communities and the concept is growing in popularity within the JCF. COMET II also conducted a workshop for 10 JCF

school resource officers (SROs) from January 27-29 to develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) for SROs to execute their duties under the Safe Schools Program. As a result of the workshop, a draft SOP is in the final phase of development so it can be shared with the Policy Unit of the JCF for review and approval.

COMET II is also engaging the Neighborhood Watch (NHW) groups at a national level and community level to improve community safety and to promote community-police partnerships. In January, the COMET II Community Policing Coordinator attended the National Executive Meeting of the NHW and made a presentation on the COMET II program objectives. She also provided insights on how the organization can re-energize and re-brand itself for greater impact in communities.

## **2. ADMINISTRATIVE CONCERNS**

In December, the Chief of Party (COP) submitted his resignation due to personal reasons but agreed to remain with COMET II until April to allow for management continuity until a new COP could be identified and on-boarded. The goal is to have the new COP arrive in Jamaica with sufficient period to ensure a smooth transition of leadership and introduction to the counterparts.

In anticipation of the finalized contract modification, COMET II continues to implement the expected FY 2015 Work Plan activities. Final updates to the FY 2015 Work Plan will be submitted in February and the Performance Monitoring Plan will be revisited to ensure that its indicators and outputs reflect any changes to the COMET II contractual scope of work.

## **3. THREATS AND MITIGATION**

There are no changes to the Risk Matrix at this time.

## **4. CONCLUSION**

Please find attached the January 2015 Monthly Activity Status Report which provides a status update and a percent completed for each COMET II activity and uses traffic light indicators to give a visual overview of the current risk associated with the completion of each activity.