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

Monthly Report: May 2015



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USAID/JAMAICA

COMET II PROJECT

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CBO	Community Based Organization
CBP	Community Based Policing
CDC	Community Development Committee
CEDAR	Communities Empowered for Disaster and 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
EARS	Emergency Affiliated Radio Service
FSFL	Forward Step Foundation Limited
GCC	Global Climate Change
JCF	Jamaica Constabulary Force
JRC	Jamaica Red Cross
ICMA	International City/Country Management Association
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender
LEDSP	Local Economic Development Support Program
MOCA	Major Organized Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency
NHW	Neighborhood Watch Program
NIA	National Integrity Action
PYC	Police Youth Clubs
PYCNC	Police Youth Club National Council
REC	Review and Evaluation Committee
RFA	Request for Application
RFP	Request for Proposal
SDC	Social Development Commission
SE	Social Enterprise
SRO	School Resource Officer
USAID	United States Agency of International Development
UWI	University of the West Indies

I. PROJECT SUMMARY

COMPONENT ONE

CAPACITY BUILDING AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE WORKSHOPS/TRAININGS

On May 14, COMET II hosted the last in the series of capacity building workshops, focusing on monitoring and evaluation, at the community center in Central Village, St. Catherine. The table below provides details on the workshop attendees.

Date	Location and Parish	Community Groups Present	Total number of Attendees	Age categories of Attendees	Gender of Attendees
May 14, 2015	Central Village Community Center St. Catherine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Harbour Heights Citizens Association• St. Michael's Steppers Marching Band *• Gregory Park Community Development Committee (CDC)• Gordon Town Citizens Association Ltd.• Kitson Town CDC• Trench Town CDC• Fathers United For Change• Stony Hill CDC• Brixton Hill Citizens Association Ltd.• Belle Plain Citizens Association Ltd• Linstead CDC• Police Youth Club National Council (PYCNC)	51	(a) 16-29 11 (b) 30-60 30 (c) Over 09 No Response 1	Males 26 Females 25

Robert Underwood, Tetra Tech DPK Director of Technical Programs, presented certificates of completion to eleven (11) organizations who completed the entire series of workshops.

There are three organizations that for a variety of reasons, started the workshop series but did not complete the trainings. These are:

- St. Michael's Steppers (to be completed in cohort 2) *
- Neighborhood Watch (NHW) National Movement (to be completed in cohort 2)
- Hannah Town Community Development Committee (CDC) Benevolent Society (to be completed in cohort 3).

On May 20, the COMET II Community Coordinators and Community Policing Coordinator met with Tania Chambers of Pivot Consulting, the governance capacity building subcontractor, to begin preparation for the next set of organizations to undergo this training series.



Tt DPK Technical Director Robert Underwood (left) poses with PYCNC Executive Member Shanna Thomas (center) and PYCNC General Secretary Steve Tyndale

Also in May, Dr. K'adamawe K'nife of the University of the West Indies (UWI) Office of Social Entrepreneurship conducted the final social enterprise (SE) training sessions with the first cohort of six CDCs and community based organizations (CBOs) which focused on assisting these groups with developing strategic business plans. Five CDCs (Rockfort, Stony Hill, Gregory Park, Linstead, and Kitson Town) are now preparing their grant proposals that will include the establishment of a sustainable livelihood project and the construction of a community resource center (CRC). Fathers United for Change, a CBO, also participated in the SE training model.

During this month, COMET II began planning for the next set of organizations to undergo the SE training model.

GRANTS PROGRAM

The COMET II grants program continued its mandate to deliver small grants to CBOs. COMET II has awarded five (5) grants in Year 2, with the most recent awards to Family and Parenting Centre (FPC) and Dispute Resolution Foundation (DRF) this month.

Grant awards to Kingston & St. Andrew Football Association, Mount Charles/Luna/Job's Hill Benevolent Society, Central Jamaica Social Development Initiative, and Bull Bay Football Club involve construction activities or procurements of restricted commodities. These grants are pending either a contract modification for construction activities or other USAID approvals to proceed with the grant activities. Grants to Fathers United for Change and St John's Heights Citizens Association Benevolent Society are currently in the pre-award phase pending the submission of outstanding documents from the organizations.

The Review and Evaluation Committees (REC) are currently reviewing grant applications received in response to requests for applications (RFAs) 13, 16, and 31 (Sustainable Livelihood Projects in Rae Town, Spring Field, and Race Course, respectively). One applicant responded to RFA 15 (Sustainable Livelihood Projects in Hannah Town) that expired on May 19, however the application was incomplete and the REC recommended that the applicant be given until June 4 to submit their complete application. RFAs 14, 17, and 19 (Sustainable Livelihoods Projects in Gordon Town, Bayshore, and Kintyre, respectively) were cancelled due to organizations not being ready to respond to the RFAs, however they will be reissued in the near future. RFAs 20-22 (Sustainable Livelihood Projects in Old Harbour, Linstead and Bog Walk, respectively) that were

reissued last month expired on May 28, and the REC will evaluate applications from June 1 to 15. RFAs 24-27 (Sustainable Livelihood Projects in Barret Town, Lilliput, Bogue, and Mount Carey, respectively) were reissued this month as no applications were received and the new expiration date is June 12. RFAs 28-30 were reissued this month due to the following reasons and will expire on June 18:

- Application submitted for RFA 28 (Sustainable Livelihood Projects in Brixton Hill) was incomplete and RFA format was not used.
- Applicant that responded to RFA 29 (Sustainable Livelihood Projects in Osbourne Store) withdrew their application.
- No application was received for RFA 30 (Sustainable Livelihood Projects in Chapleton).

COMET II continues to plan the non-competitive grant process to award in-kind grants to CDCs for the development of CRCs and a social enterprise.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTERS

On May 5, COMET II hosted a ground-breaking ceremony at the site of the future CRC in Gregory Park, St. Catherine. Minister of National Security, Hon. Peter Bunting; USAID Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean, Ms. Sarah-Ann Lynch; USAID Mission Director, Ms. Denise Herbol; Member of Parliament for East Central St. Catherine, Hon. Arnaldo Brown; Councilor Oral Gunning, representing the Portmore Municipal Council; Mr. Gregory Prince, Social Development Commission (SDC) St. Catherine Parish Manager; and Mr. Baldwin Tracey, President of the Gregory Park CDC, attended the event.



Planning Institute of Jamaica's Charmaine Muirhead (left); COMET II Chief of Party Doug McCaffery; and Jamaican Constabulary Force's (JCF) Bishop Gary Welsh participated in the symbolic ground breaking in Gregory Park.

Having abandoned the strategy of hiring a subcontractor to build the CRCs because of the enormous proposed cost, COMET II mapped out and embarked on an alternative strategy. COMET II now plans to give cash grants to the CDCs for them to construct their CRCs

themselves. Consequently, COMET II redrafted the non-competitive grant RFAs to provide the CDCs with the specific requirements for the CRCs.

COMET has started facilitating meetings with the Building Sub-Committees of some of the respective CDCs; meetings were held in Gregory Park on May 11 and 25, and in Rockfort on May 22 and 28. It is important to point out that the new strategy began with Gregory Park and Rockfort, given the fact that they demonstrated a higher propensity to take on the CRCs. All other communities (Stony Hill, Cambridge and Four Paths) will be engaged later in the months leading up to the close out of Year 2.

It would be remiss not to mention that on May 13, COMET II facilitated another meeting with the Stony Hill CDC to address concerns regarding the best location for the CRC. The matter is yet to be resolved.

Additionally it should be noted that during the period other meetings were convened, most notably a meeting with the Member of Parliament for East Rural St. Andrew, Hon. Damion Crawford, to discuss CRC interventions in Gordon Town and Bull Bay.

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

From May 11-15, COMET II facilitated the Caribbean Climate Change Adaptation Training of Trainer Workshop for five Jamaica Red Cross (JRC) volunteers. The training was conducted at the JRC Headquarters in St. Catherine by two master trainers affiliated with the organization. This activity contributed to the number of stakeholders with increased capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate change as a result of United States Government assistance.

The content of the training included, but was not limited to:

- Climate change basics
- Observation of local climate change impacts, modelling, and projections
- Sector impacts
- Integrating climate change into the vulnerability and capacity assessment
- Adaptation measures
- Introduction to geographic information systems (GIS) and global positioning systems (GPS), including fieldwork
- Introduction to CRiSTAL (Community Risk Screening Tool – Adaptations and Livelihoods).

Each trainee and trainer also received a compact disc (CD) containing information and other materials on the vulnerability mapping of COMET II communities. Both trainers and trainees demonstrated a high level of understanding and competence and the participants were very interactive.



JRC trainees pose with their certificates

Follow-up activities will include two training workshops for fifty (50) Police Youth Club (PYC) members from Kingston and St. Catherine in July 2015. The JRC trainees will facilitate the two workshops.

Dates	Organization	Total Number of Trainees	Age Categories of Attendees	Gender of Attendees
May 11-15	JRC (volunteers)	5	(a) 16-29 1 (b) 30-60 4 (c) Over 60 -	Males 3 Females 2

As a follow-up to the Communities Empowered for Disaster and Adaptive Resilience (CEDAR) Training of Trainers workshop in October 2014, a group of facilitators embarked on developing an adaptation plan for Rae Town. One disaster risk reduction (DRR) proposal related to flood events was a community clean up to mitigate against mosquito infestation. Of concern to the residents was the problem of blocked drainage in their communities.

On May 25, COMET II supported a Labor Day exercise conducted by the CEDAR Working Group for Rae Town and supported by the SDC and the JCF. This small-scale activity involved the removal of solid waste from a drainage system in the community. Some activity highlights included:

- Participation by SDC, JCF, Salvation Army, and the community marching band
- Community participants achieving significant results with limited resources
- Cleaning the drain with engagement from a community plumber who repaired a leaking pipe on the Salvation Army property.
- Trained community members mobilizing the community and implementing an action from their CEDAR plan.

Dates	Community Group Present	Total Number of Trainees	Age Categories of Attendees	Gender of Attendees
May 25	Rae Town/ St Michael's Marching Band CEDAR Working Group Community Safety and Security Branch (CSSB), JCF	33	(a) 16-29 23 (b) 30-60 10 (c) Over 60 -	Males 21 Females 12



Rae Town clean-up day, May 25, 2015

The Portmore Municipal Council, acting on information provided by the COMET II Global Climate Change (GCC) Coordinator, applied to the International City/Country Management Association (ICMA) for a city-to-city climate partnership. The Portmore bid was successful and the municipality was selected as a partner city to Townsville, Queensland, Australia for the USAID CityLinks Climate Adaptation Partnership Program. The objective of the project is to improve climate-related governance and systems by pairing a city from a developing country with a resource city from a developed country. The project duration is between 9-12 months, during which time the city teams will work closely together to develop strategic recommendations and formulate an implementation plan.

The project began with a visit to Portmore by representatives from the ICMA, the City of Townsville and Urban Climate Change Research Network. The GCC Coordinator participated in an introductory meeting at the Jamaica Habitat for Humanity office, gave a summary on COMET II, and presented the visitors with posters and the vulnerability mapping CD.

COMET II is in the process of planning a bush fire prevention and hydrant management workshop in Race Course, Clarendon on June 24 in collaboration with the Jamaica Fire Brigade, the Clarendon Parish Disaster Coordinator, and SDC.

COMET II is engaging Abacus to conduct Emergency Affiliated Radio Service (EARS) workshops in COMET II communities starting with Race Course, Clarendon in August. The main purpose of the Abacus' EARS program is "to enhance emergency telecommunications across 10 communities in Jamaica, leading to a reduction in the impact of natural and man-made disasters."

Abacus is a non-governmental organization advancing the interests of grass roots communities in developing countries. Areas of focus include:

- Project Development, Management and Implementation;
- Training and Capacity Building;
- DRR;
- Disaster / Humanitarian Response and Early Recovery;
- Roster Consultancy Services for a wide range of target sectors;
- Resource Mobilization;

COMPONENT TWO

PUBLIC OUTREACH & CULTURE OF LAWFULNESS

The ground-breaking ceremony for the Gregory Park CRC garnered substantial publicity as the following table indicates:

DATE	MEDIA SOURCE
May 6, 2015	Loop Jamaica: http://loopjamaica.com/2015/05/06/jamaica-news-community-usaid-breaks-ground-on-gregory-park-community-resource-centre/
May 6, 2015	www.jis.gov.jm http://jis.gov.jm/us108000-resource-centre-built-gregory-park/ http://jis.gov.jm/media/Mid-Day-News-20150507.mp3 (The last story in the 4-minute radio package)
May 6, 2015	Television Jamaica Prime Time News
May 6, 2015	JIS TV and radio programming across all stations
May 8, 2015	Jamaica Star online: http://jamaica-star.com/thestar/20150508/news/news16.html

On May 7, the SDC launched its Local Economic Development Support Program (LEDSP) with sponsorship from COMET II in the Irie-FM courtyard in Ocho Rios, St. Ann. Hundreds of people from CBOs and CDCs across the island attended in support of the LEDSP launch which was headlined by Prime Minister the Honorable Portia Simpson-Miller, Minister of Local Government Noel Arscott, and SDC Executive Director Dr. Dwayne Vernon. COMET II Chief of Party (COP) Ian McKnight also spoke at the occasion. The COMET II information booth attracted the interest of many visitors who were exposed to the work of the project including the presentation of products developed by CBOs that have benefited from COMET II funding:

- Forward Step Foundation Limited (FSFL) from Gregory Park, St. Catherine
- New Horizons Christian Outreach Ministries from Wynters Pen, St. Catherine
- Gordon Town Citizens' Association in St. Andrew.



Youth from the Gordon Town Citizens Association demonstrate how to make a gabion basket

On May 20, COMET II hosted a ceremony at the Police Officers' Club of St. Andrew to hand over a range of community based policing (CBP) materials to the Major Organised & Anti-Corruption Agency and Citizen Safety & Security Branches as part of COMET II's continued support to the Jamaica Constabulary Force in promoting a culture of lawfulness (COL). This event was featured in several media spots:

DATE	MEDIA SOURCE
May 21, 2015	Jamaica Observer http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/latestnews/Public-s-trust-in-JCF-has-improved--mdash--Trevor-Munroe
May 21, 2015	Jamaica Gleaner http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/lead-stories/20150521/no-time-panic-commissioner-seeks-assure-nation-spike-murders-not-yet
May 21, 2015	www.jis.gov.jm http://jis.gov.jm/publics-trust-jcf-improved-according-lapop/
May 21, 2015	www.jis.gov.jm http://jis.gov.jm/media/Jis-Evening-News-201505211.mp3

As part of its continued partnership with the SDC, COMET II was one of the major sponsors of the National T/20 Community Cricket Competition 2015 held on May 24 and May 31 at the Kensington Cricket Oval in Rollington, Kingston and Barnett Cricket Oval in St. James. COMET II raised public awareness about its program by mounting an information booth at selected matches and conducting media interviews highlighting the project and its achievements. At both matches, COMET II representatives were also featured on national radio broadcasts speaking about the project.



Sponsors and cricket teams pose for the cameras at the start of the SDC T/20 Community Cricket match at Kensington Oval Rollington Town on May 24

COMPONENT THREE

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

The selected implementer Dispute Resolution Foundation (DRF) and the COMET II grants team are awaiting the final approval from USAID to commence RFA#008/COMP3/2015. This grant will see the DRF implementing community-based school suspension programs within COMET II target parishes/communities. This grant will seek to address the care and protection challenges Jamaican youth face through activities that encourage acceptable behaviors and attitudes. They also will engage Deans of Discipline or School Resource Officers (SROs) in youth-friendly alternative resolution techniques.

Collaboration with the Ministry of Justice in regard to support for the Drug Treatment Court program progressed with a May 28th meeting with Chief Justice McCalla, USAID Contracting Officer's Representative Allan Bernard, and COMET II COP Ian McKnight. The proposed resolution is to accelerate activities with an early June planning meeting. This partnership seeks to employ alternative programs as the first response to youth coming into conflict with the law, especially for those who have been charged with drug-related minor offences and have accepted rehabilitation through the Resident Magistrate Court.

On May 7, 2015, FSFL, a grantee under the alternative-programs component, accompanied the COMET II team to the grounds of Irie FM, Ocho Rios for the SDC - Local Economic Development (SDC-LED) launch. The SDC-LED is geared at building the capacity, creating networks and partnerships, giving direct support and implementing an incentive scheme; all of which will benefit community-based enterprises. The FSFL was hand-picked to showcase the work currently done with youngsters in Gregory Park under the COMET II Sustainable Livelihood Project for at-risk youth grant. They displayed finished products from the areas of jewelry-making, carpentry, and studio engineering.



Representatives from FSFL proudly display their craft items

The Women's Resource and Outreach Centre (WROC) under its ongoing grant with USAID/COMET II continues to afford youngsters training in the areas of customer service, animation, and remedial classes. WROC also provides pertinent knowledge on combating gender-based violence. These youngsters are from COMET II Kingston and St Andrew communities. This grant activity will end in July 2015.

On May 24, 2015 COMET II collaborated with the Rockfort CDC (RDC); community residents, members from several faith based organizations, Windward Road All age and Primary School, the JCF, Unite for Change, Citizens Security and Justice Program, SDC and the Child Development Agency to stage a march through the Kingston community of Rockfort. The march culminated in a rally at the Rockfort Police station.



Left: Members of the St. Michael's Steppers Marching Band lead the community march. Right: Some participants who took part in the march.

The theme of the march/rally “Let our children be children” focused heavily on issues facing children in Rockfort and in Jamaica in general. This came against the backdrop of the recent spike in violence, including murders, carnal abuse, etc., of Jamaican children. As part of its continued support to help make communities, such as Rockfort, safe and secure where young people can live and contribute to the overall development of their community and by extension the nation, COMET II was also instrumental in the day's event.

COMPONENT FOUR

COMMUNITY POLICING

COMET II continued to consolidate efforts with the JCF through the CSSB. On May 1st a meeting was held with Assistant Commissioner of Police Dr. Gary Welch; Senior Superintendent Karina Powell; COMET II COP Ian McKnight and COMET II Community Policing Coordinator Donaree Muirhead that highlighted the successes achieved through the COMET II project and how the respective work-plans of both organizations could be synergized. The meeting ended with a recommitment to continue collaboration on a variety of CSSB requirements despite new leadership at COMET and CSSB.

On May 20th in an event representative of USAID's support to the JCF, Ms. Denise A. Herbol - USAID Mission Director to Jamaica made a presentation to the Commissioner of Police Dr. Carl Williams a suite of community based policing (CBP) paraphernalia to support the communication and awareness building efforts of CSSB. The material included:

- 1000 CBP brochures
- 1000 Safe Schools Program brochures
- 1000 NHW handbooks
- 1000 Personal Safety Plan handbooks
- 100 Transforming to a COL handbook (produced under component 2 grant program)
- 2000 note books to support the Major Organized Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA) Anti-Lottery Scam Initiative in schools

The event was supported by the project partners and stakeholders including: Mr. Charles Clayton; Program Director - Community Renewal Program at the Planning Institute of Jamaica, Dr. Dwayne Vernon; Executive Director - SDC, Mr. Courtney Brown; Acting Chief Technical Director – Ministry of National Security and Prof. Trevor Munroe; Executive Director National Integrity Action (NIA).



USAID Mission Director to Jamaica Ms. Denise A. Herbol (right) makes a symbolic presentation to Commissioner of Police Dr. Carl Williams.

The Community Safety and Security Branch (CSSB) launched its Safe Schools Mentorship program on May 19th. The initiative completed its pilot phase and will now roll-out to the other schools identified under the program. Through the Community Policing Coordinator, COMET II endorsed the initiative at the well-attended event and committed continued support of the program and the SROs.



Donaree Muirhead; COMET II Community Policing Coordinator captured on national television speaking at the launch of the Safe School Mentorship Program

Twenty-five members of the PYCs in the five project parishes (St. James, Clarendon, St. Andrew, Kingston, and St. Catherine) participated in a leadership and administration workshop conducted by grantee Netball Foundation of Jamaica with support from the UWI Governance Society. The participants received training in proposal writing and drafted activities for implementation at the parish level during the summer months.



Participants at the Governance and Leadership Session conducted by Netball Jamaica at UWI

As outlined in preceding reports PYC members from the Kingston Eastern Division participated in a series of leadership workshop during which they were exposed to the NIA. As an outcome of that interaction, five participants received training and were certified as Social Auditors.

Planning is currently underway to host Diversity Training for the JCF in which fifty (50) members of the CSSB and Station Managers will be trained in a two-day residential training on June 12-13 and June 19-20, 2015. The training content will include but is not limited to issues dealing with People living with disabilities; The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) People; Marginalized Youth, and Gender.

WINDOWS OF OPPORTUNITY

On May 15, COMET II supported the 3rd Annual Larry Chang Human Rights Symposium hosted by the Jamaican Forum of Lesbians, All-Sexuals, and Gays (J-FLAG). This event celebrated the resilience of individuals from the Jamaican Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community. Another key purpose was to also raise awareness of the challenges and discrimination the LGBT community faces on a daily basis.



Executive Director – J-FLAG, Dane Lewis sharing the expected outcome of the symposium

On the invitation of the USAID Mission Director, Ian McKnight represented COMET II at two events hosted by the US Embassy and USAID for Mr. Randy Berry, US Department of State's Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBT Persons and Mr. Todd Larson, Senior LGBT Coordinator for USAID on May 21 and 22. Both occasions afforded the opportunity to share COMET II's work in the 25 communities.

MEETINGS AND TRAININGS

Seven members of the COMET II team participated in the Social Auditing two-day training sessions facilitated by NIA on May 26-27 and May 29-30. As a result, COMET II now has within its ranks persons trained to make thorough assessments of developments at community and national levels.

Another meeting was held with the Digicel Foundation to continue working on elements of this public-private partnership with COMET II. Already identified and agreed points of collaboration include supporting (a) community efforts through the CRCs and in particular the social enterprise and Global Climate Change components; (b) COMET II initiatives such as the JCF Diversity trainings and public education events such as the SDC 20/20 cricket; and (c) the training of community journalists in collaboration with the US Embassy's Office of Public.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE CONCERNS

- Ian McKnight replaced Doug McCaffery as COP on May 11.
- Machel Stewart was selected to replace Ian McKnight as Civil Society Specialist. He will take office on June 1.
- Romel Gordon was approved to replace Stacy-Ann Gavin as St. Catherine Coordinator. He will take office on June 1.
- Advertisements were placed for a new Administrative Assistant position.
- Recruitment is ongoing to hire a Civil Society Coordinator.