



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Monthly Report: July 2015



August 5, 2015

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by Tetra Tech DPK.

USAID/JAMAICA

COMET II PROJECT

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

CONTRACTOR: Tetra Tech DPK

DATE: August 5, 2015

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

ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
CCCCA	Caribbean Community Climate Change Action Plan
CDC	Community Development Committee
CEDAR	Communities Empowered for Disaster and Adaptive Resilience
COMET II	Community Empowerment and Transformation Project II
CRC	Community Resource Centres
CRiSTAL	Community Risk Screening Tool-Adaptations and Livelihoods
DRF	Dispute Resolution Foundation
DTC	Drug Treatment Court
GCC	Global Climate Change
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GPS	Global Positioning System
JCF	Jamaica Constabulary Force
MOCA	Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency
PSA	Public Service Announcement
PYC	Police Youth Clubs
RFA	Request for Application
SDC	Social Development Commission
SRO	School Resource Officer
UWI	University of West Indies
WROC	Women's Resource and Outreach Centre

COMPONENT ONE: CAPACITY BUILDING AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE WORKSHOPS/TRAININGS

In July, COMET II held six technical capacity building meetings in the communities of Linstead, Kitson Town, and Rockfort. The objective of these meetings was to aid grant applicants in the DUNS & SAMS registration process. Additionally, COMET II engaged groups in the communities of Manley Meadows, Gordon Town, and Kintyre to apply for the re-issued grant requests for application (RFAs).

Post award meetings were held with St. John Heights, Bull Bay, Central Jamaica and Mount Charles Luna. Further, during the period 12 members of the Barrett Town Youth group participated in a one-on-one meeting in Kingston in support of their own social enterprise activities.

In July, Pivot Consulting conducted two governance training sessions on organizational structure review and policy development, respectively.

Table 1: Governance Training in Organizational Structure Review

Date	Parish	Community groups present	Total number of Attendees	Age of Attendees	Gender of Attendees
July 8, 2015	St. Andrew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kintyre Citizens Association • Central Jamaica Social Development Initiative • St. John's Heights Citizens Association • Mount Charles/Luna/Jobs Hill Benevolent 	37	(a) 16-29: 11 (b) 30-60: 22 (c) Over 60: 3 (d) Not recorded: 1	Males: 22 Females: 15

Table 2: Governance Training in Policy Development

Date	Parish	Community groups present	Total number of Attendees	Age of Attendees	Gender of Attendees
July 28, 2015	St. Andrew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sirgany Neighbourhood Watch • Kintyre Citizens Association • Central Jamaica Social Development Institute • Hannah Town Cultural Group • Mount Charles/Luna/Jobs Hill Benevolent Society • St. John's Heights • Bull Bay FC • Old Harbour Community Development Committee (CDC) • Chapelton CDC • Racecourse Police Youth Club (PYC) 	35	(a) 16-29: 9 (b) 30-60: 26 (c) Over 60: 0	Males: 19 Females: 15 Not Recorded: 1

GRANTS PROGRAM

By July, COMET II awarded 12 grants in Year 2 with the most recent awards made to Fathers United For Change Ltd. and St. Michael's Steppers Marching Band Ltd for community based sustainable livelihood programs. Five grant applications are in pre-award phase: Positive Youths in Action Ltd. (Request for Application (RFA) 16), Race Course Police Youth Club (PYC) (RFA 31), Hannah Town Cultural Group (RFA 15), Mighty Gully Youth Project Foundation Ltd. (RFA 20), and Enos Barrett Disabled Group (RFA 21).

RFAs 14, 17, and 19 (Sustainable Livelihoods Projects in Gordon Town, Harbour Heights (formerly known as Bayshore), and Kintyre, St. Andrew, respectively) were cancelled due to organizations not being ready to respond to the RFAs. However, these RFAs along with RFA 22 (Sustainable Livelihood Projects in Bog Walk, St. Catherine) were reissued on July 8. A RFA workshop has been scheduled to assist the applicants for RFAs 24-27 (Sustainable Livelihood Projects in Barret Town, Lilliput, Bogue, and Mount Carey, St. James, respectively), to complete missing items in their submitted grant applications after which these applications will be evaluated. Applications received for RFAs 28-30 (Sustainable Livelihood Projects in Brixton Hill, Osbourne Store, and Chapelton) are currently being evaluated by the Review and Evaluation Committee.

Applications submitted by Rockfort Development Council, Gregory Park Community Development Committee (CDC) Ltd., Linstead CDC Ltd., Kitson Town CDC Ltd., and Cambridge Benevolent Society for the non-competitive grants for the development of community resource centers (CRCs) and social enterprises are currently in the pre-award phase.

To lend greater support to and ensure smoother implementation of COMET II activities in communities, COMET II and Social Development Commission (SDC) team members attended a two day workshop on July 9-10 at the Cardiff Hotel in St. Ann. The workshops included interactive presentations on the governance capacity development work being done by Pivot Consulting, the social entrepreneurship work being done by the University of the West Indies, the COMET II grants program, and the CRC developments. USAID Contracting Officer's Representative Allan Bernard and SDC Executive Director Dr. Dwayne Vernon detailed the development and key components that led to the partnerships between COMET II and SDC. External facilitator Patricia Phillips conducted a team building exercise aimed at helping both teams to work together harmoniously.



SDC team members give a presentation during the retreat

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

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 Stony Hill. On July 4 and 11, COMET II conducted two additional workshops in collaboration with the SDC at the Golden Spring United Brethren Church. These sessions involved broad community participation from the Stony Hill Development Area with an average of 12 persons in

attendance. This major activity involves a series of meetings over two months and the outputs will be a climate adaptation plan and network.

Table 3: Attendance at CEDAR Follow up Workshop for Stony Hill

Date	Parish	Community groups present	Total number of Attendees	Age of Attendees	Gender of Attendees
July 4, 2015	St. Andrew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rocky Valley Citizens Association Stony Hill CDC Stony Hill PYC Brooks Level Citizens Association Old Golden Spring Road Citizens Association Carpenters Memorial / Golden Spring Church 	13	(a) 16-29: 7 (b) 30-60: 5 (c) Over 60: 1 (d) Not recorded: 0	Males: 9 Female: 4 Not recorded: 0



CEDAR training participants presenting their findings

From July 27 to 31, COMET II facilitated a safer house training by the JRC for 15 Rockfort community members at the Rockfort Development Council. The training involved three days of theory sessions and two days of practical, which included retrofitting five houses in the community. Participants were given a handbook as a reference.

Table 4: Attendance at Safer House Workshop for the Rockfort Community

Date	Parish	Community groups present	Total number of Attendees	Age of Attendees	Gender of Attendees
July 27 – 31, 2015	St. Andrew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rockfort Development Council Rockfort PYC 	17	(a) 16-29: 11 (b) 30-60: 5 (c) Over 60: 0 (d) Under 16: 1	Males: 9 Females: 8



The JRC trainer demonstrates the use of a saw

From July 6-10, COMET II facilitated the JRC training of St. Catherine PYC and Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) members in Caribbean Community Climate Change Action Plan CCCCCA. The trainees were also exposed to geographical information systems (GIS), global positioning system (GPS) technology and the Community Risk Screening Tool-Adaptations and Livelihoods (CRiSTAL) tool.

Table 5: Attendance at Training for St. Catherine PYC and JCF members in CCCCCA

Date	Parish	Community groups present	Total number of Attendees	Age of Attendees	Gender of Attendees
July 6 – 10, 2015	St. Andrew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linstead PYC • Bog Walk PYC • Benberry PYC • Caymanas PYC • Old Harbour PYC • JCF (Old Harbour) • JCF (Caymanas) 	24	(a) 16-29: 21 (b) 30-60: 2 (c) Over 60: 0 (d) Under 16: 1	Males: 10 Females: 14



(l) Trainees in Gregory Park conducting a vulnerability assessment interview, and (r) Trainees exploring the use of the GPS units



Mrs. Lois Hue, Deputy Director General of the Jamaica Red Cross (JRC), presents a certificate of participation to one of the participants

Other Activities:

Kwame Emmanuel, the Global Climate Change (GCC) Coordinator also presented at the Central Kingston PYC Summer Camp at the Kingston Technical High School camp on July 9 and at the Dispute Resolution Foundation (DRF) camp held at the Boy's Brigade on July 29.

Participants were exposed to environmental concepts, climate change, and climate change adaptation.



GCC Coordinator presenting at the Central Kingston PYC camp

COMPONENT TWO: PUBLIC OUTREACH & CULTURE OF LAWFULNESS

Over 120 participants from COMET II communities in Kingston and St. Andrew, St. Catherine, Clarendon, and St. James took part in a two-day community journalism workshop on the theme, “Developing Support for the Rule of Law: Creating A Culture of Lawfulness”, in collaboration with U.S. Embassy and Respect Jamaica on July 21 and 22 in Kingston and Montego Bay, respectively. The goal of the partnership is to support the ongoing efforts of COMET II, in developing the capacity of disenfranchised youths in all 25 project communities and in doing so foster widespread societal support for the rule of law. The guest speaker at both workshops was Matt DeRienzo, a celebrated and decorated journalist who has been recognized in the United States for leading newsroom innovation. The Kingston workshop, held at the Mona School of Business on the UWI campus, was oversubscribed with over 100 participants and the one in Montego Bay was held at the Western Campus of the University of the West Indies.



US Embassy of Jamaica Counselor for Public Affairs Joshua Polacheck conducts a highly interactive session during the Kingston workshop



US Journalist Matthew DiRienzo (at the podium) delivering an interesting and informative presentation at the Kingston community journalism workshop



An intense moment during the Community Journalism workshop at the Western Campus of the UWI in Montego Bay

PUBLIC OUTREACH and PUBLIC AWARENESS

The COMET II project received significant media publicity during July driven by the successful two-day community journalism workshop and the continued sponsorship of the SDC’s T/20 Community Cricket Competition.

DATE	MEDIA
July 11, 2015	Jamaica Gleaner - http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/lead-stories/20150711/inner-city-youth-empowered-social-career-skills
July 19, 2015	Irie-FM – Interview during the SDC T/20 match at the Four Paths Community Centre in Clarendon
July 21, 2015	RJR 94-fm – Interview on the programme “In the Guestroom” on the morning of the 1 st day of the workshop
July 22, 2015	Blog spot - https://yuhzeen.wordpress.com/2015/07/22/corruption-upstairs-vs-downstairs-aka-the-important-lesson-i-learned-from-usaids-community-journalism-forum/
July 30, 2015	Webpage - http://kingston.usembassy.gov/pe_07292015.html

COMET II’s continued sponsorship of the SDC’s T/20 Community Cricket Competition on July 19 in Four Paths, Clarendon, a COMET II target community.



USAID/COMET II Public Outreach Specialist Jennifer Grant (left) in discussion with Irie-FM’s Evon Hewitt during an Outside Broadcast during the SDC T/20 Community Cricket match at the Four Paths Community Centre in Clarendon on July 19, 2015



Minister of Local Government and Community Development the Honourable Noel Arsott addresses the teams before the start of the SDC T/20 Community Cricket match at the Four Paths Community Centre in Clarendon on July 19, 2015



Minister of Local Government and Community Development the Honourable Noel Arsott (centre) makes a point at the USAID/COMET II booth at the of the SDC T/20 Community Cricket match at the Four Paths Community Centre in Clarendon while Deputy Mayor of May Pen Uphel Purcell looks on

COMET II subcontractor EWA Marketing Communications finalized first drafts of the culture of lawfulness public service announcements (PSAs). Final steps include:

- Obtaining feedback/approval from COMET II stakeholders and
- Securing final edits of the PSAs in response to stakeholder feedback.

The PSAs are scheduled for completion and release by the end of August, 2015.

The COMET II team has started working with Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA) on strategies to improve internal and external communications in an effort to promote a culture of lawfulness. On July 23, the project met with MOCA management team, including the Director General Colonel Desmond Theodore Edwards and the Communications Advisor to the Ministry of National Security Mark Thomas. The meeting laid the groundwork for activities under Component 2.3.1 of the Year Three Work Plan.

COMPONENT THREE: ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

Dispute Resolution Foundation of Jamaica (DRF)

On June 9, COMET II awarded a grant to DRF to develop a community-based school suspension program. This grant activity seeks to:

- Build awareness and respect for the rule of law and social order
- Activate responsiveness of at-risk youth in reducing their vulnerabilities
- Facilitate positive relationships between suspended students, the school community and the school resource officers (police)
- Encourage and promote social improvement
- Equip school resource officers (SROs) and/or deans of discipline with youth-friendly alternative dispute resolution (ADR) techniques.

During July, DRF conducted a two-week summer program in COMET II's five target parishes. These sessions took place at the DRF's Peace and Justice Centers located in COMET II's five target parishes. This program lasted from July 20-31 for an expected audience of 100 youth between the ages of 14- 18 years.



DRF camp participants

Following the summer program, DRF will commence training for staff members (paid and volunteers) and continue procurement of necessary equipment. These activities are in an effort to enhance the quality of the training workshops with the SROs and deans of discipline in youth-friendly ADR techniques. The first training workshop is tentatively set for September 8, 2015 at the Flanker Peace and Justice Centre in St. James.

Drug Treatment Court Program (DTC)

The memorandum of understanding has been approved by the USAID legal team and presently COMET II is awaiting a date from the Ministry of Justice for a formal signing ceremony. In the interim, a "Stakeholders' One-Day Seminar for the Drug Treatment Court" will be facilitated by COMET II at the Jewel Paradise Cove Beach Resort and Spa, Runaway Bay on September 5, 2015.

This one-day seminar will be facilitated in order to:

- Identify and note the challenges of the DTC program, as outlined in the position paper compiled and presented by the Justices in St. James Resident Magistrate Court
- Garner feedback and updates vis-à-vis the major gaps/challenges of the DTC program
- Ascertain the methodology employed by the National Council on Drug Abuse and how the DTC program could adopt the framework
- Solidify a way forward regarding COMET II's support plan for the DTC program.

Women's Resource and Outreach Centre (WROC)

The grant activity of WROC ended on July 9, 2015. Youth from COMET II's Kingston and St Andrew target communities continue to receive knowledge and training in the areas of customer service, animation, remedial classes, and gender-based violence. Two days after the program ended, WROC's program with COMET II was featured in The Jamaica Gleaner on July 11, 2015.

DATE	MEDIA
July 11, 2015	Inner-City Youth Empowered With Social, Career Skills: http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/lead-stories/20150711/inner-city-youth-empowered-social-career-skills



Graduates of the WROC customer service program



Pastor Percival Palmer, director of the Professional Development Training Institute, who facilitated the animation certification program talking with students Rogina Chambers, Kimoi Shey, and Imhotop Sutherland

The WROC grant activities have achieved a few success stories already. One such story is that of WROC customer service student, Akayah Grant, who started her six-month internship with Jamaica's premier telecommunication company, Digicel, on July 16. This outcome of her participation in the training activity has given Akayah tremendous opportunities for her own personal and professional development but also serves to inspire others from her community.



WROC Customer Service student Akayah Grant poses for a picture during her internship with telecommunications company Digicel

Potential Opportunities

COMET II is currently seeking to subcontract organizations to carry out the following programs:

(1) *Alternative Programs for 200 at-risk youth in Clarendon and St. Catherine* - The activities will include training in remedial and vocational skills, training in disaster risk reduction, and training of emergency responders, for example by first aid. The successful organization will also engage participants in personal and family development and cultural activities. The primary goal of the activity is to improve the quality of life and prospects of the young people who have been exposed to and become marginalized by violence and have been alienated from social inclusion such as the formal education system.

(2) *Alternative Programs through Cultural and Entertainment Activities* – The activities will include:

- Skills training and certification of 100 at-risk youth in cultural and entertainment activities such as digital recording, digital video making, photography, stage and live concert management, and artist management.
- Two one-week residential camps, preferably at the Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts, with weekly sessions in spaces within the selected COMET II target communities thereafter.
- Facilitation within clusters, which are as follows: (Cluster 1) St. Catherine, Kingston/St. Andrew; (Cluster 2) Clarendon; and (Cluster 3) St. James. This will be used to sensitize youngsters on various aspects of the training program, example by objectives and expectations, roles and responsibilities of all persons involved (facilitators and participants). Most importantly, this will allow for the youngsters and facilitators to achieve effective one-on-one interaction.
- Internship/networking with notable persons and institutions within the cultural industry.

COMPONENT FOUR

COMMUNITY POLICING

COMET II supported 8 youth camps during the month of July impacting the lives of 600 young people. The camps incorporated various activities including but not limited to sports, skills training, visual arts, cultural and performing arts, career development sessions, gender specific activities, personal development sessions, and field trips/excursions to meaningfully engage the participants. Site visits were also conducted for several summer camps across parishes during the period and were conducted by Community Coordinators and other component leads. These were conducted at the East Kingston, Central Kingston, Netball Jamaica, Life Yaad, and Shortwood camps.

Below are highlights from some selected camp activities.



Kingston Central Police Youth Camps

The Central Police Division hosted its annual summer camp for two weeks from July 6-17, 2015 at the Kingston Technical High School. The summer camp was held under the theme, “Make the Right Choice”, and accommodated over 100 children and adolescents between the ages of 10-24 from the Kingston Central PYC and inner city communities within the Kingston Central Police Division. The Children First/ Bashy Bus Kru were the main facilitators of this camp, with the support of six police officers and two youth club leaders. The aim of the camp was to encourage behavior change, making healthy life choices and promoted fun learning through life skills activities.

The camp received favorable coverage in one of the country’s leading newspapers:

DATE	MEDIA
July 20, 2015	“The Police Are Our Friends”: http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20150720/police-are-our-friends-inner-city-youth



Campers on excursion at Apple Valley Park St. Elizabeth



Campers during a session at the Kingston Technical High School



The mobile edutainment centre that created a buzz at the Kingston Central Police Youth Camp

Clarendon UT'z Shine Sports Camp

This two-week camp was jointly implemented by the Clarendon PYC Council and the Clarendon Netball Association. The camp engaged 115 youth 15-29 years old from Clarendon (50 males and 65 females) with 76 percent of the participants PYC Members. Training in sports development, technology, and behavior modification were the main themes of this camp.



Graphic designs created by participants during the IT session at the U'TZ Shine Camp



Robert Underwood, Tetra Tech DPK Technical Director, presenting a certificate of participation to a camper during the Closing Ceremony of the Clarendon UT'z Shine Sports Development Summer Camp in July



Proud campers display their certificates at the end of U'Tz Shine Summer Camp



Participants in the U'tz Shine Summer Camp pose with their football team

Kingston East Police Youth Camp: “MISSION MAKERS”

This camp used the visual and performing arts as a means to engage and empower the young participants during a two-week activity conducted at the Elleston Road Police Station. Eighty participants age 12- 18 participated in activities aimed at building their capacity for expression and advocacy through the arts. The Community Safety and Security officers at the camp conducted the day to day administration of the camp with technical expertise coming from facilitators invited to conduct the working sessions. The Correctional Services, Jamaica Defense Force, HEART TRUST NTA, MOCA ASHE Performing Arts Company, and Forward Step Foundation were the supporting entities in this crime reduction activity.



Campers displaying their T-Shirt Art

COMET II continued its support to MOCA through its short-term technical advisor Gillian Chambers. On July 2, MOCA convened a meeting to review the COMET II support. It was attended by COMET II Community Policing Coordinator Donaree Muirhead and Chief of Party Ian McKnight and facilitated by the MOCA Director General Col. Desmond Edwards and his deputy Selwyn Haye. It was reiterated that the COMET II support to MOCA was invaluable and emphasized the need for the program to be continued.



MOCA Director General Col. Desmond Edwards (centre) is joined by his Deputy Director General Selwyn Haye (right) in a meeting at MOCA headquarters with Gillian Chambers, COMET-II Consultant (left), and COMET II Community Policing Coordinator Donaree Muirhead (2nd left)

The Director General made a formal request that COMET II facilitate and support a two day retreat for senior members of his team to be similarly exposed to the important technical and other knowledge being shared by COMET through its consultant. This represented part of a follow up action resulting from the SWOT analysis conducted by Gillian Chambers.

This Management Retreat took place on July 17, 2015 at the Morgan’s Harbour Hotel and was facilitated by COMET II consultant Gillian Chambers. At this meeting MOCA’s Management Team aimed at reviewing its new structure. Since receiving Cabinet approval to become an independent Law Enforcement Agency in March 2015, MOCA has been engaged in designing the structure with new units, departments, and positions. The number of persons needed to work in the new independent agency is significantly more than currently exists in order to fulfill their new mandate.



MOCA Deputy Director General Selwyn Haye (left); Office Director, Office of Citizens' Security at USAID/Jamaica, Andrew Colburn (2nd left); Gillian Chambers Facilitator (centre), MOCA Director General Col. Desmond Edwards (2nd right); and Machel Stewart (right) COMET II Civil Society Specialist pose outside the training room at Morgan’s Harbour Hotel

JCF Diversity Trainings

During the period discussions and planning went underway to conduct subsequent training for the police force. Subsequent to the initial training materials/paraphernalia were drafted to assist the JCF to disseminate within the organization to increase the awareness of diversity.

Other

During the period COMET II presented a J\$1.5 million block making machine to Rose Town Royal Building Products in Rose Town, Kingston. It is anticipated that this machine will drastically increase the number of blocks that are produced on a daily basis by over 100 percent. The presentation of this machine to Rose Town Royal Building Products is part of COMET II's thrust in the area of social entrepreneurship and community development. The presentation was made by USAID Director, Office of Citizen Security Andrew Colburn at the Rose Town offices of the Company.



The sign depicting donation of a block making machine to Rose Town Royal Building Products by the USAID COMET II project. This is proudly mounted on the fence of the entity in Rose Town Kingston.



Mr. Andrew Colburn (left) USAID Director, Office of Citizen's Security and Ms. Angela Stultz, Manager of the Rose Town Foundation for the Built Environment (right) shake hands beside the block making machine after it was handed over to the Rose Town Royal Building Products Company in Rose Town Kingston

Upcoming Events:

JCF Diversity Trainings

The success of initial training has spurred request for more trainings. As a result twenty five (25) vetted officers will participate in an upcoming training session on August 7, 8, 9, 2015 with two further trainings currently being planned for August 14-16 and September 11-13 respectively.

Community Based Police Manual

The revised manual was handed to the JCF for final review, after which it will go to USAID for final approval before printing and dissemination.

Clarendon YIC HEADS Up Camp: Aug 1-13

J-FLAG Pride Symposium: Aug 4

JCF Diversity Training: Aug 7-9

Kingston PYC training in Climate Change Adaptation: Aug 10 - 14

St. Catherine South Behavior Modification Intervention Program: Aug 10 -16

SDC T20 Community Cricket Match: August 23

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

- Miguel 'Steppa' Williams, Civil Society Coordinator, commenced work on July 1, 2015
- Brian Paul Welsh, Administrative Assistant, commenced work on July 2, 2015.
- Additional office space, furniture, and equipment had to be procured in order to ensure the COMET II office was fully equipped with enough resources for these additional staff members.
- The vacancy for the Monitoring & Evaluation Coordinator was advertised and received several applications which are currently under review.
- The post for the Operations Manager was advertised, applications were reviewed, and a candidate has been submitted to USAID for approval.
- COMET II is presently conducting several work plan sessions with input from USAID to complete the Year 3 Work Plan.