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

Monthly Report: August 2015



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COMET II PROJECT

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CCCCA	Caribbean Community Climate Change Action
CDC	Community Development Committee
CEDAR	Communities Empowered for Disaster and Adaptive Resilience
CJSDI	Central Jamaican Social Development Initiative
COL	Culture of Lawfulness
COMET II	Community Empowerment and Transformation Project II
CRC	Community Resource Centers
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
FSFL	Forward Step Foundation Limited
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GCC	Global Climate Change
JCF	Jamaica Constabulary Force
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender
MOCA	Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency
NCDA	National Council on Drug Abuse
NIA	National Integrity Action
OSE	Office of Social Entrepreneurship
PSA	Public Service Announcement
PYC	Police Youth Clubs
RFA	Request for Application
SDC	Social Development Commission
UFC	Unite for Change
UWI	University of the West Indies

COMPONENT ONE: CAPACITY BUILDING AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE WORKSHOPS/TRAININGS

On August 24 and 25, COMET II held meetings in the communities of Stony Hill and Hannah Town regarding the future of CRCs in both locations. These meetings were mandated by the USAID Mission Director and produced the outcome of both communities reiterating their commitment to continuing the process of being trained in good governance and social enterprise; avoiding the perception of partisan political involvement and to continue the plans specifically for their CRCs.

The planning for the Social Enterprise workshops has been completed following the signing of the new sub-contract with the Office of Social Entrepreneurship (OSE), University of the West Indies (UWI) on August 20, 2015. The mobilization of groups for the Social Enterprise Training to be conducted by Dr. K'adamawe K'nife, Director, OSE, UWI is slated to take place over the period of September 2 – October 23. There will be two clusters from the total batch of eight groups which consist of Bull Bay Football Club, St. John's Heights Benevolent Society, Rockfort Football Club, St Michael's Steppers Marching Band, Central Jamaica SDI, Hannah Town Cultural Group, Mt. Charles Luna Benevolent Society, and Positive Youths in Action.

During the reporting period COMET II initiated plans with the Social Development Commission, St. James to work with at-risk youth in three communities (Bogue, Barrett Town, and Lilliput) through the staging of an educational and outreach expo. This activity was originally scheduled to take place on August 28-29, 2015 but has had to be postponed to early September and will involve the SDC, local police, and service providers. Along the similar vein, COMET-II gave support to activities in the community of Mauldon in the parish of St James.



Community members from Mauldon pay keen attention during the COMET-II activity.

Additionally in support of small-grants and community based activities, the COMET II Civil Society Specialist and Coordinator conducted a series of site visits and meetings in Bogue, Barrett Town, and Mount Carey in the parish of St. James from August 27-28, 2015. For COMET II this represented a solid medium for building community synergies and sustained partnerships.

Support was also provided to Rockfort and Gregory Park CDCs to complete their NCAGE and SAM registration with on-going support being provided to all other grantees that require support in this area. The acquisition of these numbers is an important step in qualifying for a grant.

In August, Pivot Consulting conducted two governance training sessions on Organizational Policy Development and Accounting Procedures, respectively. The tables below show the community groups present at these training sessions.

Table 1: August 11 – Governance Training for Cluster 2 – Policy Development

Date	Parish	Community groups present	Total number of Attendees	Age of Attendees	Gender of Attendees
August 11	St. Andrew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kintyre Citizen’s Association Ltd. • Mt Charles Luna Benevolent Society • Race Course PYC • Old Harbour CDC • Chapelton CDC • Hannah Town Culture Group • Positive Youths in Action • St. John’s Heights Benevolent Society • Bull Bay FC • Central Jamaica SDI • Chapelton CDC • Sigany Neighbourhood Watch • Good Hope Partners 	43	(a) 16-29 12 (b) 30-60 28 (c) Over 60 2 (d) no response 1	Males 22 Females 21

Table 2: August 13 – Governance Training for Cluster 2 – Accounting Procedures/Graduation for 12 successful groups:

Date	Parish	Community groups present	Total number of Attendees	Age of Attendees	Gender of Attendees
August 13	St. Andrew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapelton CDC • Race Course PYC • Central Jamaica SDI • Old Harbour CDC • St. John’s Heights Benevolent Society 	43	(a) 16-29 15 (b) 30-60 27 (c) Over 60 1	Males 28 Females 15

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kintyre Citizen's Association Ltd. • Mt Charles Luna Benevolent Society • Hannah Town Culture Group • Positive Youth in Action • Rockfort FC • Bull Bay FC • St. Michael's Steppers Marching Band • Positive Youths in Action 			
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GRANTS PROGRAM

In August, the COMET II grants portfolio continued its mandate to deliver small grants to community-based organizations. Thirteen grants have been awarded in Year 2 with the most recent award made to Rockfort Development Council. Positive Youths in Action Ltd. (RFA No. 16), Race Course Police Youth Club (RFA No. 031), Hannah Town Cultural Group (RFA No. 15), Mighty Gully Youth Project Foundation Ltd. (RFA No. 20), Enos Barrett Disabled Group (RFA No. 21), Mocho Citizen Association (RFA No. 028), Beulah Church of God Seventh Day (RFA No. 29) and The Jamaica Association of General Baptist Bethel applications are currently in the pre-ward phase. RFAs 14, 17, 19, and 22 (Sustainable Livelihood Projects in Gordon Town, Harbour Heights (formerly known as Bay shore) Kintyre, St. Andrew and Bog Walk, St. Catherine respectively are currently being evaluated by the Review and Evaluation Committee (REC). An 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 their applications submitted, after which these applications will be evaluated.

Applications submitted by Gregory Park CDC Ltd., Linstead CDC Ltd., Kitson Town CDC Ltd, and Cambridge Benevolent Society for the non-competitive in-kind grants for the development of community resource centers (CRCs) and to receive the social enterprise model are currently in the pre-award phase.



Rockfort Development Council Chairman, Samuel Buchanan, signs the organization's grant agreement and is witnessed by Comet-II Chief of Party Ian McKnight and Grants Manager, Nardia Pessoa-White



St. Michael's Steppers Marching Band receives their first grant disbursement from Grants Analyst, Roxanne McKnight



Members of the Gregory Park community meet with Civil Society Specialist and the Grants Manager

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

The main activities pursued in August included training of Kingston PYC and JCF members in Caribbean Community Climate Change Adaptation (CCCCA) by the Jamaica Red Cross (JRC); Safer House training in Rae Town (and continuation of Rockfort training) by the JRC; and Emergency Telecommunications for DRR (Basic Radio Communication) training by Abacus in Race Course, Clarendon.

From August 10 – 14, 2015, COMET II facilitated the training by the JRC of Kingston PYC and JCF members in CCCCCA. The trainees were also exposed to Geographical Information Systems (GIS), Global Positioning System (GPS) technology and the CRiSTAL tool.

Table 3: Registration information for August 10-14

Date	Parish	Community groups present	Total number of Attendees	Age of Attendees	Gender of Attendees
August 10-14	St. Andrew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rockfort PYC • Newton Square PYC • Trench Town PYC • Rose Town PYC • Manley Meadows PYC • Owa Banks PYC • Rollington Town PYC • CEDAR Working Group (Rae Town) • JCF (Elletson Road Police Station) 	24	(a) 16-29 21 (b) 30-60 3 (c) Over 60 -	Males 9 Females 15

Scenes from the workshops:



From August 17 – 21, COMET II facilitated Safer House training by the JRC for Rae Town community members at the Elletson Road Police Station. The overall aim of this training is to equip community members with basic knowledge and skills in building practices aimed at improving disaster risk reduction. It involved 3 days of theory sessions and 2 days of practical, which included retrofitting 4 houses in the community. Participants were given a handbook as a reference.

Table 4: Registration information for Safer House Training Aug 17-21, 2015

Date	Parish	Community groups present	Total number of Attendees	Age of Attendees	Gender of Attendees
August 17 - 21	St. Andrew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Michael's Steppers Marching Band CEDAR Working Group 	14	(a) 16-29 11 (b) 30-60 3 (c) Over 60 -	Males 12 Females 2



Participants reinforcing the walls of a house in Rae Town



Participants with their certificates after a long day of work

Due to a delay in receiving GCT (tax) exemption related to procuring equipment and materials, the practical sessions for the Rockfort Safer House training, which were originally scheduled for July 30 – 31, were eventually implemented on August 7th and 8th. Pictures from fieldwork are presented below. The overall activity was reported on in the July report.



Trainers and trainees working on the roof of a house in Rockfort



Some of the participants in Rockfort with their certificates

From August 25 – 26, COMET II facilitated Emergency Telecommunications for DRR training by the Abacus for Race Course community members at the Race Course SDA Church. The training involved theory and practical sessions. Topics included (but were not limited to) voice procedure, phonetic alphabet, call signs, correction and repetition, and introduction to handheld radios. Participants were given a handbook as a reference.

Table 5: Registration information for August 25 Emergency Telecommunications for DRR training

Date	Parish	Community groups present	Total number of Attendees	Age of Attendees	Gender of Attendees
August 25 - 26	St. Andrew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Race Course PYC General Baptist Church Clarendon Parish Council Jamaica Fire Brigade (May Pen) 	30 (including COMET II)	(a) 16-29 15 (b) 30-60 15 (c) Over 60	Males 17 Females 13



Participants engaging in a practical session and the use of radios



Participants with their certificates

Other Activities

- August 10 – Meeting with US Embassy regarding possible partnership for Climate Change Competition.
- August 18 - GCC coordinator presented at the Jamaica Psychosocial Foundation Camp. Approximately 20 young persons were exposed to environmental concepts, climate change and climate change adaptation. The camp was conducted at the Maranatha Ministries International in Water House, St. Andrew.

COMPONENT TWO: PUBLIC OUTREACH & CULTURE OF LAWFULNESS

Following on last month's 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, 15 of those participants took part in a 3-day (August 22, 29 and 30) part residential workshop in Radio Production Techniques. They came from Kingston, St. Andrew, St. Catherine, St. James, and Respect Jamaica.

This workshop precedes an initiative that COMET II is spearheading with Community Radio Station Roots-FM under which community journalists will showcase the USAID/COMET II project on a weekly radio programme. The outcome of this workshop will be the production of a number of pilot programmes that will be broadcast on at least four community radio stations.



*Facilitator Kwasi Tingling makes a point during the Radio Production Techniques Workshop
While workshop participants collaborate to complete an assignment*



Workshop participants show off their certificates with Component Lead Jennifer Grant (centre, crouched), Facilitator Kwasi Tingling (centre, seated), and Chief of Party Ian McKnight (right).

PUBLIC OUTREACH & PUBLIC AWARENESS

Activities in this area during August were dominated by the COMET II's sponsorship and support of the SDC T/20 Community Cricket Competition. On August 9, a booth was mounted at the Semi-final match at the Ultimate Jerk Centre in Discovery Bay St. Ann which was supported by a large and enthusiastic crowd. On Sunday August 23rd the finals of the Competition were held at the Noranda Bauxite Company Cricket Ground in Discovery Bay St. Ann.

On this occasion the project mounted its most interactive booth to date with the project Facebook page going live with videos recorded and pictures taken at the booth. Giveaways were also handed out to the members of the audience who were able to answer correctly the questions posed by the master of ceremonies concerning COMET II project. There was also an interview done by the Public Outreach Specialist Jennifer Grant on Hitz 97-FM. This was supported by the unveiling of six (6) feather banners, 2 new retractable banners focusing on the project's Small Grants programme and the Social Enterprise Component as well as branded pens and pencils. The match itself was supported by a large and enthusiastic crowd with the Whitehouse cricket team from Westmoreland emerging the victors.

This sponsorship was a successful one in support of project stakeholder, the Social Development Commission. It also underpinned Community Development through sports and culture, fundamental pillars of the USAID/COMET II project.

SCENES FROM THE SDC T/20 COMMUNITY CRICKET FINALS ON AUGUST 23, 2015



In its continued support to the Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA) USAID/COMET II printed 2,352 branded exercise books that will be utilized by MOCA in its public Outreach programme in time for the 'Back-to-School' season in September. After a series of setbacks

due to scheduling and availability, a stakeholders meeting was held at the COMET II offices on August 20 to screen the 2015 public service announcements (PSAs). A report has been compiled and sent to EWA for editing. The date for dissemination of the PSAs has been put back to the end of September.



First viewing of PSA with SDC, PIOJ, Unite for change

COMPONENT THREE: ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM FOR AT-RISK YOUTH

The Dispute Resolution Foundation (DRF)

The DRF through its grant from COMET II, for the month of August sought to:

- engage in staff training and development
- procure relevant equipment and material, for example, branded t-shirts, laptops, flip chart stands etc.

This is all in an effort to enhance the human and technical resources needed in order to carry out the Community-based school suspension grant activity. During this time as well, the DRF proposed that contact will be made with participating school administrations, school resource officers, and deans of discipline.

Site Visit

An unplanned site visit was made on August 18, 2015 to observe training activities and also to assess the results of the procurement process. The visiting COMET II team was unable to observe the scheduled training activities because it had been rescheduled without advising COMET II of this decision. The occasion was used to reiterate the need to remain in regular contact with COMET II team members; to submit a report and supporting documents to validate claims; to submit an inventory report for all items purchased with grant funds; and to submit the preliminary design of the shirts to be purchased for participants.

Drug Treatment Court Program

Preparatory activities in regard to the “Stakeholders’ One-day Seminar for the Drug Treatment Court” on September 5, 2015 continued in the month of August. Activities included the following:

- Invitations were officially sent to the various stakeholders. This activity was delegated to the National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA).
- Drafting and approval of the agenda by COMET II.

- Procuring of items for participants' packages, for example, notepads, pens, brochures, etc., by COMET II.

It is expected that this seminar will result in the identification of activities on which COMET II and the Drug Treatment Court Program can collaborate in Year 3.

The Women's Resource and Outreach Centre (WROC)

The WROC grant officially closed on August 7, 2015. WROC received a grant completion certificate signifying completion of the grant activity that achieved the goal of certifying twenty-two (22) participants in such areas as customer service and animation. As a result, the employability of these young people has been significantly enhanced.

Forward Step Foundation Limited

The grant activity ended on August 10, 2015 and is expected to officially close on September 7, 2015. This grant equipped 25 youngsters in Gregory Park, St. Catherine in areas, such as: carpentry, studio-engineering, and jewellery-making.

Kingston and St. Andrew Football Association (KSAFA)

KSAFA, the selected implementer and parenting body for the Rockfort Football Club, has confirmed that the grant activity began on August 21, 2015.



Members of the Rockfort Football Club prepare the site of a chicken coop

This grant activity seeks to use sustainable livelihood projects as a vehicle to prevent and/or rehabilitate youth-at-risk from engaging in deviant behaviour. Participants will be trained in chicken rearing, a viable small-business activity in local communities throughout Jamaica. They will also assist in the construction of chicken coops; the chickens will be sold to persons in and around the Rockfort community. This enterprise will be used as an income-generating activity for the football club and its members.

Potential Opportunities

Currently, evaluations are underway for proposals submitted in response to two (2) Request for Proposals (RFP) issued on July 15, 2015. Each RFP seeks to engage suitable agencies to carry out innovative programs

that engage at-risk youth that are designed to prevent, provide alternatives and also mitigate their involvement in illicit activities.

The RFPs currently under review are as follows:

- I. RFP One - An Alternative Program in Clarendon and St. Catherine for 200 youth-at risk that includes training in remedial and vocational skills, disaster risk reduction and how to be an “emergency responder”.
- II. RFP Two - An Alternative Program through cultural and entertainment activities for 100 at-risk youth.

COMPONENT FOUR: COMMUNITY POLICING

During the reporting period the following activities were undertaken:

Culture of lawfulness Trainings – JCF Diversity Training

A total of 96 vetted members of the Jamaica Constabulary Force participated in the 3 JCF Diversity Trainings conducted over 3 consecutive weekends; August 7-9, 14-15 & 21-22. These training support community based policing efforts which are a force-wide responsibility, with the participants represented by different branches and units within the Jamaica Constabulary Force; Community Safety and Security Branch (CSSB), MOCA and Criminal Investigation Branch (CIB) and its units, the Major Investigation Task Force (MIT) and the Proactive Investigation Unit (PIU).

The objectives of the Diversity Trainings are as follows:

- To raise the awareness of the participants as it pertains to the nuances of diverse groups in society.
- To better understand the safety and security issues and challenges facing diverse groups.
- To increase the capacity of the CSSB to develop interventions that are inclusive or are specific to the needs of diverse groups.
- To enable the participants to maintain professionalism in the discharge of duties; to treat with dignity and respect, uphold and preserve the human rights of all, irrespective of who the individual is or to which group a person belongs.



Presenter Taitu Heron (centre) shares a moment with trainees in the JCF Diversity session

JCF Diversity Follow-up Session August 24, 2015

During the period participants from previous trainee cohorts returned for a follow-up session aimed at communicating and transferring learning. Participants prepared strategies to be implemented in their police divisions and units. The session was hosted at the Police Officers Club, Kingston.



Trainees pay keen attention in the JCF Diversity follow-up session held August 24, 2015

During this follow-up session participants shared their heightened sense of awareness when serving the public especially those who belong to . Participants expressed great appreciation for the education they received on the Jamaica Constabulary Force Policy on Diversity 2012.

Youth Camps

COMET II supported 6 youth camps during August, four of which were planned and executed by the JCF:

1. St. Catherine South Police Behavior Modification Intervention Program
2. St. Andrew South Police Div. Youth Camp
3. St. Catherine North Police Reintegration Camp
4. Youth Voice Camp
5. Jamaica Psychosocial Foundation Camp
6. Kingston Western Police Division Youth Camp



Participants from Kingston Western Police Division Youth Camp work together on a task.

The camps facilitated by the JCF were geared at building positive police-youth relations and enabling the campers to resist gangs and other anti-social activities.

Police Youth/Community Engagement – St. James

COMET II supported the Spring Mount Police & Maroon Town Development Area Youth Engagement & Entrepreneurship Activity. The activity was executed by the Social Development Commission and the local police. The Maroon Town Communities have over time experienced an increase in lottery scamming activities, consequently the Spring Mount Police and the SDC partnered in this venture as part-solution to the issue. Participants were engaged in sessions geared towards legal enterprise and anti-lottery scamming. Dr. Kadamawe K'nife and Constable Kevin Watson of MOCA engaged the community participants on entrepreneurship and anti-lottery scamming respectively.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

1. Kacee Ballew joined the COMET-II team as Senior Operations Manager on Monday August 17, 2015.
2. Final arrangements have been made to hire a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer.

Window of Opportunity:

Following on the heels of a successful launch on Saturday August 1, 2015 that was led by the Mayor of Kingston and which received national media coverage, Jamaica Forum of Lesbians, All-Sexuals and Gays (J-FLAG), continued the weeklong celebration at the Grand Caribbean Suite, Knutsford Court Hotel on Tuesday August 4, 2015. It was another historic moment earmarked in Kingston, Jamaica; J-FLAG, with the support from the USAID/COMET II Project hosted the island's first gay pride symposium.



Executive Director of JFLAG Dane Lewis (left) welcomes USAID's Director of the Office of Citizen Security, Andrew Colburn, to the symposium.

At the symposium, an opportunity was afforded to individuals from the LGBT community to share their stories, journeys, and experiences. The underlying message from the symposium was that everyone should live and embrace their truths, first and foremost as humans and then as members and allies of the LGBT community

COMET II began dialogue with the Debates Commission of Jamaica to lend support to its upcoming debates for the local parish council and general elections. Details will be revealed later.