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

Monthly Report: November 2015



December 5, 2015

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COMET II PROJECT

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
CC	Community Coordinator
CDA	Child Development Agency
CDC	Community Development Committee
CBO	Community Based Organization
CBSI	Caribbean Basin Security Initiative
COMET II	Community Empowerment and Transformation Project II
COP	Chief of Party
CRC	Community Resource Centers
DoD	Dean of Discipline
DRF	Dispute Resolution Foundation
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DTC	Drug Treatment Court
JCC	Jamaica Chamber of Commerce
JCF	Jamaica Constabulary Force
KSA	Kingston and Saint Andrew
LED	Local Economic Development
NIA	National Integrity Action
ODPP	Office of the Director of Public Prosecution
REC	Review and Evaluation Committee
RFA	Request for Application
SDC	Social Development Commission
SRO	School Resource Officer
UWI	University of the West Indies

COMPONENT ONE

Capacity Building and Social Enterprise Workshops/Trainings

On November 5, 2015, the Rockfort Community Resource Centre (CRC) was officially opened by USAID's Mission Director Denise Herbol. The opening saw a large contingency of community members, groups and other civil society bodies led by Commissioner of Police Dr. Karl Williams, Minister Noel Arscott, Minister Phillip Paulwell, and Permanent Secretary Saunders.



Left: Rockfort CRC opening by Ms. Denise Herbol, USAID Mission Director. Right: Linstead CRC ground breaking

On the morning of November 12, 2015, the Linstead community square came alive with musical sounds from the local community Marching Band. The hard working Linstead Community Development Committee (CDC) team in close collaboration with the police, political representatives, local civic groups, and COMET II ensured that the ground was ready to be broken by USAID's Mission Director and long standing Member of Parliament Robert Pickersgill. Work now continues as preparations are in place for the construction of the CRC.



Gregory Park CRC opening on November 18, 2015

Since ground was broken earlier in the year by Mission Director Denise Herbol and Hon. Peter Bunting, Minister of National Security, the Gregory Park community has waited in curious anticipation for the actual opening of the first ever community space to be erected. This time around, the CRC was opened by the US Ambassador Mr. Louis Moreno to a capacity filled audience inclusive of the Police High Command, Member of Parliament, local spiritual groups, and other Government and private partners.

As part of efforts to support and strengthen legitimate local governance structures including Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and CDCs, constitution-development training was held for Rae Town CDC on November 19, 2015. The training was aimed at formally registering that group. This collaborative effort was led by representatives from the Rae Town CDC as well as experts from the Social Development Commission's (SDC) Governance team and COMET II's Community Coordinator (CC).

On November 11 and 18 respectively, governance training pre-assessment was conducted in Clarendon and St. Catherine. This assessment was held with the following six community organizations:

Clarendon:

1. Beulah Church of God Seventh Day Evangelical Inc. Ltd,
2. Mocho Citizen Association
3. The Jamaica Association of General Baptist Church

St. Catherine:

4. Mighty Gully
5. Knollis
6. Enos Barrett Disabled Group

The assessment was conducted by COMET II's Civil Society Coordinator and CC. A cohort of executive members from all groups made representation with available governance documentation.

A series of activities were held to support youth empowerment in communities and create youth-centered spaces and activities. These included:

- November 2, 16, and 18 – Social Enterprise training for three groups i.e. Hanna Town Cultural Group, Positive Youth in Action, and Mount Charles Luna. Office of Social Entrepreneurship of the University of West Indies (UWI) continued with its series of business development training in areas of capacity building, business planning, and scenario planning and strategic planning. Each CBO was assigned an individual capacity development trainer who focused more on the specifics of the individual organization's social enterprise plan and its core objectives under the grant agreement.
- November 13 and 18 – A stakeholders meeting was convened with the SOS Children's Village and St. James Community Coordinator. This was aimed at exploring potential partnerships. SOS is an NGO located in Barrett Town, a community within the COMET II target parishes.
- November 15 – COMET II supported the Peace and Love Football competition between Kingston Eastern Police and Residents. More details on this event are provided in Component 4 of this report.
- November 20 – Meeting held to forge partnership with St. Catherine South Police, SDC, and CBO's to host a cultural showcase aimed at stemming recent violent outbreaks.
- November 21 - Support given to SDC Clarendon for Business Expo with CBO's. As a part of COMET II's mandate to support social enterprise development partnering support was given to SDC LED initiative in the parish of Clarendon.

Other Activities:

1. Community Coordinators partnered with the US Embassy recycling project in Gregory Park, Rae Town & Stony Hill. See details in the Global Climate Change section below.
2. Monthly CDC/COMET II meetings were held across KSA, St. Catherine, and Clarendon as mandated under the SDC/COMET II MOU. The purpose of these meetings is to ensure monthly updates and assessment of targets as well as broker new and arising initiatives. This set of meetings was focused on a pre-planning agenda and synchronizing of the work plans of the entities.
3. Broad participation in SDC Research Day Activities. The SDC has now created “Parish Research Day” being executed under the theme: “Research: The Building Block of Community Development” which is a forum designed to share and promote the usefulness of the data that is available at the parish level and to highlight the role and function of the Community Research and Database Program. Parish Research Day further looked at community data and its impact in the development of communities and by extension, Jamaica.
4. Participation in International End Violence against Women Campaign. This Campaign effort was led by Jamaica AIDS Support for Life and included a wide consortium of CBO’s/NGO’s including Eve for Life, AIDS Health Care Foundation, Color Pink, JFLAG, and several other groups. 15 entities participated in the Silent Protest and anti-violence Campaign. COMET II’s involvement saw inclusion of some 50 local community members from across Kingston and St. Andrew. An estimated number of 250 persons were in attendance and supported this Campaign.
5. Site visits by CCs to Dispute Resolution Foundation (DRF) Programs island-wide. Additional details are included in the Component 3 report below.
6. Broad participation in Police Week Activities. Additional details of these activities are included in the Component 4 report below.
7. Participation in Child Development Agency’s (CDA) commemoration and candle light vigil for campaign against child abuse. The CDA’s candle light vigil saw over 500 participants gathered in the St. William Grant Park in Down Town Kingston. Civil Society Coordinator brought greetings on behalf of COMET II who has been integral in lending support to various CBO’s/NGO’s that have the mandate of youth/child development and protection.
8. Participation in Respect Jamaica, Digicel Foundation, UNICEF’s YCLICK Forum. On November 21, the UWI regional Headquarters was abuzz with more than 800 youth participants/leaders all on board for Respect Jamaica/UNICEF/Digicel Foundation’s YCLICK Forum. COMET II’s Civil Society Coordinator was asked to speak on experiences as a successful advocate and Youth Worker as well as how youth are involved in COMET’s outreach.

Projections for December:

1. Kitson Town CRC's ground breaking will take place on December 3, 2015.
2. Governance Training Pre-Assessments to continue in St. James with Mount Carey, Ramble Hill, Lilliput, Barrett Town among other groups. Schedule to be finalized in the coming week. Tentative dates for training is the week of December 7, 2015.
3. Partnership with Contractor General's Office to implement activities for World Anti-Corruption Day on December 9, 2015.
4. Formalization of commitment with Social Welfare Unit in relation to Social Work Training scheduled for commencement in 2016 (January).
5. Finalization of plans for Governance Training.
6. Involvement in World AIDS Week activities.

Grants Program

In November, the COMET II grants portfolio continued its mandate to deliver small grants to CBOs. Two grants have been awarded in Year 3 with the most recent award made to The Jamaica Association of General Baptists (Bethel), pending a USAID waiver for the procurement of live animals.

Race Course Police Youth Club (RFA No. 031), Mighty Gully Youth Project Foundation Ltd. (RFA No. 20), Enos Barrett Disabled Group (RFA No. 21), Mocho Citizen Association (RFA No. 028), as well as applications on behalf of Good Hope Partners Benevolent Society (RFA 19), East Kingston Society/Link7teen Entertainment Events and Talent Management Agency (RFA 17), Knollis Community Benevolent Society (RFA 22), and Barrett Town Police Youth Club (RFA No. 24) are currently in the pre-award phase. One incomplete application was received for RFA No. 14, (Sustainable Livelihood Projects in Gordon Town), even though this RFA was issued twice. Discussions are currently being held to evaluate the possibility of a non-competitive grant to this community. Additionally, the application for Enos Barrett Disabled Group is currently on hold pending company registration of the group and completion of the capacity building training.

Applications received for RFAs No. 23-27 (Sustainable Livelihood Projects in Lilliput, Bogue and Mount Carey, St. James respectively) were not recommended by Review and Evaluation Committee (REC) to proceed to the next step of the grant cycle, in accordance with the evaluation criteria.

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

Non-competitive proposals have been received from the Kintyre Citizen Association and Four Paths CDC Ltd. for their CRCs, and social enterprise projects in Kintyre and Four Paths respectively are currently in the pre-award phase.

Global Climate Change

From November 5 – 11, the practical component for the Gabion Basket Training was implemented in Gordon Town, in the district of Dublin Castle. The site was located on a river bank and the objective was to provide protection for a property along the river. Fourteen males participated in the exercise. During the five days, the participants carried the large stones from the drop off point to the site, dug the foundation (1.5 feet x 4 feet x 30 feet), and tied and packed five baskets. By the end of the exercise, the

trainees gained a full appreciation of what is required to implement a gabion basket project. The main challenges faced were accessing the site and traversing the hilly terrain. COMET II is currently in discussions with the NWA to continue phase two for another five days to pack additional baskets.

Table I: Registration information for November 10 Gabion Basket Training Activity

Date	Parish	Community Groups Present	Total Number of Attendees	Age of Attendees	Gender of Attendees
November 5 – 11 (5 days)	St. Andrew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace Management Initiative • Cambridge District Area Council • Cambridge PYC • Temple of Praise 	14	(a) 16-29 10 (b) 30-60 4 (c) Over 60 -	Males 14 Females -



Gabion wall with one layer of five baskets

On November 11 and 12, COMET II facilitated an Emergency Telecommunications for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) training by Abacus in Cambridge, St. James. The exercise involved theoretical and practical sessions and topics included (but were not limited to) voice procedure, phonetic alphabet, call signs, correction and repetition and introduction to handheld radios. Participants were also given a handbook as a reference.

Table 2: Registration information for November 11 Emergency Telecommunications for DRR training

Date	Parish	Community Groups Present	Total Number of Attendees	Age of Attendees	Gender of Attendees
November 11-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. James Parish Council • Cambridge Gospel • Four Square Gospel • Cambridge Benevolent Society • Peace Management Initiative • Cambridge District Area Council • Cambridge PYC • Temple of Praise 	25 (including COMET II)	(a) 16-29 9 (b) 30-60 13 (c) Over 60 3	Males 6 Females 19	November 11-12

Other Activities:

COMET II is currently supporting the US Embassy’s Recycling initiative entitled Operation Clean Sweep. The objective of the project is “to expose and train members of all participating communities in best practices as it relates to plastic bottle collection and recycling”. Participating communities are Gregory Park, Stony Hill, and Rae Town. Workshops were conducted in each community by the organizers from November 13 and 14 and included an overview of the project and presentations on economics of recycling, storage, and collection of plastic bottles, health implications of improper solid waste disposal, and climate change. In Gregory Park, 28 community members (fifteen males) attended from a number of organizations including the CDC, Children of Hope Foundation, Yutes4change Foundation, Portmore Self Help, Forward Step Foundation, Portmore Catholic Partners and the Christian Meadows Youth Association.

At the Stony Hill meeting, 36 persons (twenty five males) attended from a number of organizations including SDC, Stony Hill CDC, Lawrence Tavern CDC, Temple Hall CDC, Stony Hill PYC, Brooks Level Citizens Association, Mount Luna Jobs Hill Benevolent Society, and the Stony Hill Football Association.

In Rae Town, 36 community members (fifteen males) attended the workshop. The SDC was also represented.



Project Manager, Mr. Stephen Newland, addressing the Stony Hill participants



(Left) Participants at the Gregory Park Workshop



(Right) Participants from Rae Town strike a pose

COMPONENT TWO **Public Outreach & Culture of Lawfulness**

During the month of November discussions commenced with National Integrity and Action (NIA) to coordinate activities going forward in relation to the establishment of a committee of Integrity Champions comprised of CSO and CBO leadership. Further details will be provided in future reports.

Additionally, USAID COMET II's three-month sponsorship of Roots FM's Youth Talk 'Politics or Politricks' radio series closed at the end the month having achieved the objective of this activity by sensitizing citizens, young people in particular, who listen to the radio station about issues related to the rule of law and their rights and responsibilities as citizens of Jamaica. This particular slot on Roots FM had strong listenership of young people living in surrounding inner city communities in the downtown Kingston area. By looking at issues surrounding politics and the real and/or perceived corruption of the political process, this series sought to close the gap of isolation between a targeted young audience and the political process. Plans are in place to organize a workshop with community journalists in St. James during the second week of December focusing on skills for production of Newsletters; Desktop Publishing/News Gathering/ Photography. Logistical details will be finalized in concert with the St. James Community Coordinator Dax Pessoa.

The Radio Production initiative with Community Journalists continued with an overhaul of the pilot program that was submitted for approval. A new program is being worked on incorporating the comments and suggestions and it will be submitted before the end of the calendar year. Additionally it should be noted that the next tranche of Culture of Lawfulness PSAs will be produced and disseminated during the 2nd quarter of Year 3. With respect to Public Outreach and Branding, the USAID/COMET II project achieved a number of major milestones in November with the opening of two CRCs and the breaking of ground for two others:

COMET-II NIA Training November 27-29, 2015

NIA and COMET conducted the Office of the Defender of Public Prosecution (ODPP) Anti-Gang Training Seminar for Government Officials at the Jewels Runaway Bay in St. Ann. The ODPP, Judges, and the JCF Anti-Gang Unit were critical stakeholders in this training. There were a total of 36 participants broken down as follows: 7 from the JCF; and 29 from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.



Director of Public Prosecutions, Paula Llewellyn C.D., Q.C addresses participants at the Seminar

Table 3: COMET II events held in November 2015

EVENTS	DATE
Opening of the CRC in the Rockfort Community	November 5, 2015
Ground breaking of the CRC in Linstead	November 12, 2015
Opening of the Gregory Park CRC	November 18 2015

The successful execution of these activities resulted in heightened public awareness about USAID COMET II activities especially the role that the CRCs will play in targeted project communities and the significant contribution that Community Policing will play.

Table 4: Media coverage received by COMET II in November 2015

DATE	MEDIA
November 5	US Embassy Facebook Page - https://www.facebook.com/USEmbassyJamaica/photos_stream JIS - http://jis.gov.jm/media/Evening-News-20151106.mp3 - 4th story in the bulletin COMET-II Exposure Photo Story Page: https://comet-ii.exposure.co/
November 19	1. JIS - http://jis.gov.jm/15-million-community-resource-centre-opens-in-gregory-park/ 2. JIS - http://jis.gov.jm/media/Mid-Day-News-20151119.mp3 - 3rd story in the bulletin. 3. JIS - https://youtu.be/WaQHTeLaMIE

COMPONENT THREE

Alternative Programs for At-Risk Youth

The Dispute Resolution Foundation (DRF)

Twenty-eight peer leaders were trained in conflict resolution and peace building skills over a five-day period, which was conducted from November 23- 27, 2015 at the UWI Open Campus, Kingston. The aim of this activity is to eventually include these participants as student peace managers for the DRF within their respective school environments. There they will play the role of youth advocates capable of amicably resolving conflicts among their peers. It is important to mention that suspended students who have committed themselves to the peace process are among those selected to have their leadership skills further developed through Peer Mediation Training. Students in this initial cohort are from COMET II target parishes of St Catherine, St. Andrew, Kingston, and Clarendon. The DRF has committed to ensuring that students in St. James receive the same training by January 2016.

At the end of this training series, 240 students will be equipped with conflict resolution and peace-building skills, which should over time assist in the reduction of violence in the chosen schools.

Equip 30 School Resource Officers (SROs) and Deans of Discipline (DoDs) with Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

The meeting convened on October 22, 2015 encouraged the DRF executives to revisit the drawing board. For November the DRF commenced monthly rap sessions for school-based professionals (SROs/DoDs) and students to respectfully and peacefully hash out concerns and challenges between the two groups. The sessions were hosted in COMET II five target parishes aimed at fostering better rapport between the groups.

These sessions were scheduled as follows:

Service Point	Parish	Scheduled Day	Time
The Boys' Brigade	Kingston/St Andrew	Every 4 th Tuesday	3:00pm
Spanish Town Peace and Justice Centre	St. Catherine	Every 4 th Thursday	3:00pm
Clarendon Peace and Justice Centre	Clarendon	Every 4 th Thursday	3:00pm
Flanker Peace and Justice Centre	St. James	Every 4 th Tuesday	3:00pm

It is important to note that the sessions will run from November 2015 through to November 2016 with the exception of December 2015 and August 2016. This is owing to the fact that school-based professionals and students will be on Christmas and Summer holidays respectively during those times and are unlikely to be available to participate.

COMET II was invited to visit both the Peer Mediation Trainings and SRO/DoD Rap Sessions within the week of November 24 -27, 2015. Accounts from the visits are below:

SRO/DoD Rap Sessions

COMET II CCs based in St. Catherine and Clarendon participated in the SRO/DoD rapport sessions held on November 26, 2015. The coordinators' respective feedback regarding each session confirmed that the sessions needed more effective planning. This would entail the development and implementation of a plan that will guarantee the success of the sessions, as ultimately indicated by an improvement in the relationship between the two groups. It was clear not much thought was put into the methodology. As such the program manager was later asked to gather her team, especially the youth facilitators, in order to glean youth- friendly and innovative ideas that will create a relaxing atmosphere that will encourage students to willingly share their thoughts.

These issues were expected to be rectified mistakes prior to the next sessions scheduled for January 26 and 28, 2016.

There is no fear or concern that SROs and DoDs would openly speak on issues; however DRF has to have a plan of action that will entice these school-based professional to attend the sessions.

Peer Mediation Training

On Friday November 27, 2015 COMET II staff members attended the final day of the five-day Peer Mediation Training hosted by the DRF. The session was shorter than the previous four days owing to the closing ceremony that was planned in the afternoon. It was evident that a lot more planning went into this activity. For instance, the selected venue was a more conducive and comfortable space to engage young people. Students were also found to be more disciplined, which may be due to the milieu or the fact that many were already student leaders at their schools and thus possess leadership skills. A closing ceremony to salute the youngsters who successfully completed the training was held subsequent to the day's session. COMET II COP brought greetings to the day's events by encouraging the youngsters to continue their advocacy for peace.



Abree Smith (right) from Kingston High School, Valedictorian for the 5-day peer mediation training, receives her certificate from Ms. Trace-Ann Barclay, Program Manager at the Dispute Resolution Foundation.

The Drug Treatment Court Program (DTC)

Upon the advice of COMET II sub-committee member Senior Superintendent Karina Powell-Hood, a series of sessions were conducted for the Jamaican Constabulary Force (JCF) from November 5 – 10. Each member of the COMET II Multi-Sectoral Sub-committee for the DTC chose and visited Tasking Meetings from various police divisions primarily those divisions located in COMET II target parishes: Kingston/St Andrew, St Catherine, and St. James. Other divisions visited were St. Thomas, Manchester, and St. Ann. The Tasking Meetings are weekly meetings held to update station managers on upcoming events, etc. An important fact to highlight is that divisions were chosen based on the fact that they had or will soon have DTCs in operation. It was also envisaged that with

the station managers being cognizant of the DTC, the information will have reliable means of promulgation to other policemen and policewomen who were not at those Tasking Meetings. It is important to mention that these sensitization sessions clearly satisfy Section 6 of the Drug Treatment Court Act; which speaks to the promulgation of the DTC to and among police officers.



Group photo of the participants and presentation of the certificates

The Sub-Committee had a meeting on November 11, 2015 to finalize plans pertaining to the “DTC Program Sensitization Workshop with the JCF” held on November 19, 2015 at the Council of Voluntary Social Services. The workshop was anticipated to reach thirty vetted police officers, however only thirteen showed up. Nonetheless, with the comprehensive and interactive presentations delivered by the DTC program practitioners on the proceedings and purposes of the program; the workshop could be deemed a success. COMET II through its COP has committed to hosting more sensitization sessions in other non-COMET parishes. This exercise will be undertaken in an effort to assist with the long-term buy-in of the DTC program.

More development has been made with regard to the study tour slated for Miami. The tour has been confirmed to take place from December 8-11, 2015. The intent and purpose of which is to glean best practices that will inform the approach in expanding Jamaica’s Drug Treatment Courts to include a Juvenile Court. The tour will see an eight member delegation venture to Miami over the four-day period and visits will be made to the Miami-Dade Children’s Courthouse and a juvenile treatment facility. Machel Stewart has been selected to represent COMET II. He is expected to not only glean the best practices, but also seek to culturally modify those practices into impactful technical programs and support for the Juvenile DTC program.

Other team members include representatives from: (i) The Ministry of Justice (ii) Drug Treatment Court (iii) Ministry of Health (iv) Jamaica Constabulary Force (v) National Council on Drug Abuse and (vi) USAID. The delegation will be hosted by Judge Orlando Prescott and his team and is broken down as follows:

- Mr. Machel Stewart – COMET-II – Civil Society Specialist
- Ms. Nicole Wright – MOJ – Attorney-at-law
- Senior Superintendent of Police Karina Powell-Hood – JCF
- Her Honour Mrs. Paula Blake-Powell – DTC
- Mrs. Kadia Baugh-Williams – DTC – Clerk of Court

- Dr. Michele Henry – MOH – Child Psychiatrist
- Mrs. Colette Kirlew-Browne – NCDA – Director of Client Services
- Mr. Allan Bernard – USAID- Contracting Officer’s Representative

Kingston and St. Andrew Football Association (KSAFA)

The chicken coop project has been put on hold by authorities at the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation (KSAC) owing to the fact that the correct procedure was not adhered to specifically in relation to approval for construction and proximity to neighbouring residential structures. Currently, measures from COMET II Grants Team and the grantee are being put in place to rectify the issue and get the grant activity proposed to close in 2016 on track. The proceeds from the sales will be used to purchase necessary equipment and gears for the Rockfort Football Club and its members, who are the direct beneficiaries of this grant activity.

COMPONENT FOUR

Community Policing

The Component Coordinator actively participated in the CBSI Technical working Group on Preventing Crime by Focusing on At-Risk Youth and Vulnerable Populations on November 3-5, 2015, Kingston Jamaica.

The coordinator was part of a team that made presentation to the CBSI-TWG on “Community Oriented Policing: Building Safer Communities”. The team comprised of Allan Bernard, USAID COR; Ian McKnight, COP USAID COMET II; Bishop Dr. Gary Welsh, Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge Community Safety and Security Branch; Karina Hood, Senior Superintendent of Police second in command at the Community Safety and Security Branch; and Donaree Muirhead, Community Police Coordinator USAID COMET II. The Coordinator spoke specifically to Proximity Policing and how it is that the CRCs implemented through the COMET II project support this concept through a model that has Police and the CDC acting as co-managers of the space working jointly to secure the community.



Left to Right: Allan Bernard - USAID COR; Ian McKnight - COP USAID/COMET-II; Bishop Dr. Gary Welsh - Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge Community Safety and Security Branch; Karina Hood - Senior Superintendent of Police second in command at the Community Safety and Security Branch; and Donaree Muirhead - Community Police Coordinator USAID COMET II.

Additionally, COMET II mobilized community members, stakeholders, grantees, and young people with disabilities to participate in this conference.

During the period several meetings were held with the police and two CDCs that received CRCs, the purpose of these meetings were to address the management and operations of the CRCs; this included but was not limited to utility cost, management responsibilities, the security of the CRC, and the sensitive nature of the proximity posts and the type of policing duties that will be carried out from that space. Meetings were held with the Rockfort Development Council and the Rockfort Police represented by Inspector Mark Harris on November 2, 2015. Similarly on November 2015 a meeting with Gregory Park CDC and the JCF represented by Deputy Superintendent of Police Narda Simms; Ian McKnight, COP COMET II, Jennifer Grant, and Romel Gordon, was also held. A number of issues were brought to the fore in the two meetings that are critical to the Proximity Post. Chief among them being human resources, it was clearly stated that the Divisions will require increased manpower to provide service from the CRCS.

As a matter of concern the Community Policing Coordinator Donaree Muirhead brought the matter to the attention of SSP Karina Hood of the CSSB, who then requested a meeting with the JCFs Area and Divisional Commanders. The meeting served as a re-sensitization about the COMET II project and in particular the partnership with the JCF; similar concerns were further echoed by the hierarchy of JCF Area 5 lead by ACP Derrick Knight. Area 5 has command and control for geographic locations that will house six CRCs i.e. Gregory Park, Linstead, Kitson Town, Old Harbour, Bog Walk, Linstead, and Stony Hill.

It therefore will require of COMET II to engage in talks with the Commissioner and or the Minister of National Security around the training and or deployment of additional personnel to operate the Proximity Post at the CRCs.

Police Week 2015

COMET II supported/participated in a number of activities during November 22-28, 2015. Ian McKnight COP served as panelist at a Town Hall Meeting on November 24, 2015 in Seven Miles; speaking on the impact of deportees on the safety and security of a community. The Town Hall meeting was coordinated by the East Kingston Police Division Community Safety and Security Unit.

Donaree Muirhead brought greetings on behalf of COMET II at the Induction Ceremony of Police Chaplains on Tuesday November 24, 2015. The Police Chaplains are attached to the CSSB, through the Ministry of Education, support of the Safe Schools Program. That Programme forms part of COMET-II's work. A total of 31 Deans of Discipline and Guidance Counsellors were trained and inducted in this ceremony. A third group from the Transport Authority was also inducted. It was an important to note that a part of the services provided by the chaplains is designed to respond to critical incidents of crime and in instances prevent possible retaliation. Special mention was made of the effectiveness of the chaplaincy programme in trauma counseling following these critical incidents and also in conflict resolution at the community level following such incidents.

Additionally it should be noted that the 'Police in Schools' activity took place across the island on November 25, 2015.

COMET II supported the St. Catherine North Police Division with their intervention at the Tredegar Park All Age School. The Police conducted devotional exercise and handed over an HP printer and copier to the school; the equipment was donated by USAID. This activity is part of the continued efforts by the JCF to maintain presence and build relationship in the once volatile community. The operations by the JCF have restored relative calm in the community.



Component Lead Donaree Muirhead oversees the unveiling of the new printer in Tredegar Park

COMET II was visible at the JCFs Best Station Awards event held in Clarendon on November 26, 2015. Along with the other state agencies COMET II established an information booth and interacted with youth participants and disseminated DRR material.

On Sunday November, 15, 2015 the COMET II participated in an event- “Peace and Love Football Competition”- in Rae Town between community residents and members of the JCF. According to the event’s coordinator “its mandate was to consolidate the social cohesion between community residents as well as to maintain their affable relationship with members of the JCF”. A total of 35 members—12 members from the Elletson road police station and 13 community residents—participants participated in the event.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

- Chamber of Commerce Election Debates: General elections have now been scheduled for 2016 instead of late 2015 as originally anticipated. Work continues with the JCC to concretize logistical and administrative details.
- COMET II received an award from the SDC for its ongoing partnership in business and community development particularly in light of the SDC’s Local Economic Development (LED) program. Under the LED Program, local authorities are expected, in collaboration with local stakeholders and relevant national external partners, to formulate and execute appropriate strategies and programs for maximizing local economic growth with impact on job creations and poverty reduction. The SDC chose to celebrate COMET II for its contribution to the success of the program thus far.



COMET-II Community Coordinator for St. Andrew, Samantha Harvey (right), receives the award on behalf of the organization from Ms. Sandra Goulbourne Parish Coordinator for Kingston & St. Andrew at the Social Development Commission (SDC).

- Habitat for Humanity: COMET II continues its partnership with this organization, especially where there is an overlap with the communities in which we operate. Both groups intend to continue in this collaboration as we proceed with the implementation of our respective projects particularly with respect to Global Climate Change (GCC) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).