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

Monthly Report: December 2015



January 5, 2016

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USAID/JAMAICA

COMET II PROJECT

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CDC	Community Development Committee
CBO	Community Based Organization
COMET II	Community Empowerment and Transformation Project II
COP	Chief of Party
CRC	Community Resource Centers
CSSB	Community Safety and Security Branch
DRF	Dispute Resolution Foundation
DTC	Drug Treatment Court
EU	European Union
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
JCC	Jamaica Chamber of Commerce
JCF	Jamaica Constabulary Force
KSA	Kingston and Saint Andrew
KSAFA	Kingston & St. Andrew Football Association
MOCA	Major Organized Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency
NHW	Neighbourhood Watch Movement
NIA	National Integrity Action
OCG	Office of the Contractor General
PIOJ	Planning Institute of Jamaica
PSA	Public Service Announcement
PYC	Police Youth Club
REC	Review and Evaluation Committee
RFA	Request for Application
SDC	Social Development Commission
SBP	School Based Professional
UKAID	United Kingdom Department for International Development (formerly DFID)
UNDP	United Nations Development Program

COMPONENT ONE

CAPACITY BUILDING AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE WORKSHOPS/TRAININGS

GRANTS

In December, the COMET II grants portfolio continued its mandate to deliver small grants to community-based organizations. Four grants have been awarded in Year 3 with the most recent awards made to Mocho Citizen Association of Clarendon Ltd. and Race Course Police Youth Club. Please note that these awards are on hold pending USAID waiver for live animals, fertilizer, and various seedlings.

Applications submitted by Linstead CDC Ltd., Kitson Town CDC Ltd., and Cambridge Benevolent Society for non-competitive, in-kind grants for the development of community resource centers (CRCs) and social enterprises have been recommended by the COMET II Review and Evaluation Committee (REC) and are currently in the pre-award phase.

Non-competitive proposals have been received from the Kintyre Citizen Association and Four Paths CDC Ltd. for the renovations of local buildings to create CRCs and social enterprise projects. These applications have also been reviewed by the REC and are now in the pre-award phase.

On Thursday December 3, 2015 the Kitson Town community under the leadership of the Community Development Committee (CDC) hosted a groundbreaking for their CRC. Activities took place on the grounds of the local Baptist Church which has been instrumental in granting use of land for this community project. USAID Mission Director Denise Herbol presented the keynote address and other dignitaries included JLP Councilor Dr. Christopher Tufton, members of the Police High Command, Social Development Commission, Charmain Muirhead representing the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), and the Rev. Norva Rodney Pastor of the Kitson Town Baptist Church. An estimated 700 persons turned out for this groundbreaking activity inclusive of residents, students, and civil society groups.



USAID Mission Director Denise Herbol (centre) is joined by representatives from various stakeholder groups from Kitson Town to present the sign at the groundbreaking of the Kitson Town CDC.



Mission Director Ms. Herbol (right) receives a metal craft depiction of the Jamaican Coat of Arms specially made by community-based artisans Mr. and Mrs. Napier from the Kitson Town Central Citizen Association.

COMET II also has six applications in the post-REC, pre-award phase. These include:

- Mighty Gully Youth Project Foundation Ltd. (RFA No. 20)
- Enos Barrett Disabled Group (RFA No. 21)
- 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)
- Barrett Town Police Youth Club (PYC) (RFA No. 24)

The application for Enos Barrett Disabled Group is on hold pending company registration of the group and participation in capacity building training.

Governance Training pre-assessment:

On December 14 and 21, a Governance Training pre-assessment session was held in St. James in the following 6 community organizations:

1. Mount Carey CDC
2. Ramble Hill Citizens Association
3. Lilliput Rovers Youth Club
4. Barrett Town PYC
5. Cambridge CDC
6. Bogue CDC

The assessments were conducted by COMET II's Civil Society Coordinator and the St. James Community Coordinator. A cohort of executive members from all groups made representation with available governance documentation. A final report of governance training pre-assessments across St. James, Clarendon, and St. Catherine is now being prepared for review and will determine the next steps for activities going forward.

SDC Kingston & St. Andrew Micro Business Fair

The Micro Business Fair was held on December 2, 2015 in the St. William Grant Park in the center of Kingston's business district. It saw over 30 community enterprises under SDC's Local Economic Development Program 'LED' being showcased. Displays came from many groups, including:

- Swallowfield IMPACT Candle-making Project
- Vineyard Town CDC Facility Rental
- Franklyn Town/Greater Browns Town Beekeeping Project
- Jacks Vale Benevolent United Alabaster Craft in Bull Bay
- Greater Browns Town CDC Beekeeping and Honey Production
- Trench Town Ceramics & Art Centre
- Dallas Castle Producers

COMET II's Civil Society Coordinator Miguel 'Steppa' Williams brought greetings on behalf of Chief of Party Ian McKnight on the partnerships forged in social enterprise development and sustainable livelihoods programming. Additionally, COMET II was lauded for its strategic partnership and contributions to community development by both SDC and PIOJ.

Other activities:

On Tuesday December 8, 2015 a meeting was held at the Rockfort Community Centre to get an update on the status of the CRC since its opening as well as to discuss overdue deliverables and project output quality. The meeting was attended by persons from the Rockfort CDC Executive, SDC, Local Police and COMET II Team.

On Friday, December 11 2015, the Bull Bay Football Club had the official opening of their Club House. The facility will not only house the Football Club, but also the Bull Bay Community Development Committee. Specially invited guests and speakers were as follows: Keith Reynolds, President of the Bull Bay CDC; Sandra Goldbourne, Social Development Commission (SDC); Charmaine Muirhead, PIOJ; Inspector Sophia Perry, JCF; Ian McNaughton, Barita Investments Limited; Paul Hibbert, President of the Bull Bay Football Club; Denise Herbol, USAID Mission Director to Jamaica.

Under the COMET II project, the targeted CBOs and Community Groups have the opportunity to apply for small grants that are issued to undertake Sustainable Lively Projects in their communities. The Bull Bay Football Club was one such Grantee that was successful in their application and received a small grant of Three Million Eleven Thousand Six Hundred and Forty Eight Jamaican dollars (JA \$3,011,648). This grant has been used to renovate a building that will house activities surrounding their Football Club.

International Anti-Corruption Day Activities:

COMET II's Civil Society Coordinator Miguel 'Steppa' Williams, at the invitation of Contractor General Dirk Harrison, hosted a Youth Forum on Anti-corruption on December 9, 2015 at the Cornwall College in St. James. Simultaneously, COMET II participated in the Youth Forums in Kingston at Edith Dalton Secondary School. The Youth Forums were preceded by the unveiling of anti-corruption billboards in both Kingston and St. Andrew as well as on two public transport buses



The team of student designers from Edith Dalton James High School, whose poster was selected, pose next to one of the buses outfitted with the anti-corruption campaign message

The objectives of the Youth Forum were:

1. To identify and discuss corrupt practices within different segments of our society and the links that form the chain of corruption
2. To identify the relationship between gender and corruption
3. To discuss appropriate measures that can be taken by youth to reduce their vulnerability to corrupt practices within our society

Other partners included the Ministry of Justice, MOCA, Canadian Embassy, UKaid, European Union, UNDP, IDB, and NIA.

For the Cornwall College Youth Forum, participants came from several secondary education institutions and various civil society groups, including:

- Irwin High
- Spot Valley High
- St. James High
- Green Pond High
- Montego Bay High
- Petersfield High
- Cambridge High Continuing Education
- Montego Bay Boys and Girls Club
- Cornwall College

For the Edith Dalton Youth Forum, participants came from:

- Pembroke Hall High
- Merl Grove High
- Hydell High
- Duhaney Park PYC

- Duhaney Park Citizens Association
- New Haven Citizens Association
- Calabar High School



COMET II St. James Community Coordinator Dax Pessoa (left), students, and their teacher (right) pose with the winning anti-corruption poster at the Youth Forum held in St. James to mark international anti-corruption day 2015

COMET II also used the occasion to launch, in partnership with the Office of the Contractor General (OCG), Talk Up Youth, and Forward Step Foundation, an initiative that will see youth recording anti-corruption messages in the form of creative jingles by uploading them to the social media networks of the partner agencies. This is being piloted as a way of highlighting the greater possibilities of Objective 3 of the Youth Forum, i.e., to discuss appropriate measures that can be taken by youth to reduce their vulnerability to corrupt practices within our society. An assessment of the pilot will be conducted, with intentions to formally roll out a creative competition in the new school term.

Global Climate Change (GCC) Monthly Activity Status Report

The main Global Climate Change activity pursued in December was supporting the United States Embassy's waste management initiative, "Operation Clean Sweep: For plastic free communities". Other activities in December included initial planning for upcoming activities in January 2016, in particular, an extension to the Gabion Basket project and the rainwater harvesting initiative related to the climate walk. There was also a review meeting for the trainings by Abacus in Emergency Telecommunications that were conducted in Cambridge and in Race Course with the view of planning for implementation in other communities.

Operation Clean Sweep

COMET's contributions to Operation Clean Sweep included facilitating access to three project communities and the mobilization of participants for the workshops and the competition. The objective of the project was "to expose and train members of all participating communities in best practices as it relates to plastic bottle collection and recycling." Participating communities included Gregory Park, Stony Hill, and Rae Town. Workshops were conducted by the organizers in each community in November.

Communities then had four weeks to fulfil the requirements of a competition, which evaluated four criteria: weight of bottles collected, reporting, innovation, and recruitment. Over 2000 pounds of plastic bottles were collected in the four week period, primarily in two of the three communities. This equated to over 66,000 bottles (33 bottles weigh 1 lb). While the main indicator was fulfilled beyond expectation and was celebrated, the number of bottles collected also underscored how serious the waste management problem is in communities across Jamaica.

The eventual winner was Stony Hill, with Rae Town coming at a close second. Civil unrest in the Gregory Park environs drastically hindered participation in the competition phase of the recycling project.



(Left) COMET Community Coordinator for St. Andrew, Samantha Harvey is assisted with garbage collection by Sasheena Johnson, SDC Community Development Officer.

(Right) A community member assesses the volume of plastic bottles collected in the Stony Hill cleanup activity.

In the end, the recycling project focused on a worrying environmental problem, provided an opportunity for community members to work together, and introduced participants to a possible revenue stream. For COMET II, Operation Clean Sweep facilitated another opportunity to bolster social cohesion in three of our communities through the implementation of an environmental activity. The project also provided community members with a social entrepreneurship idea, which will help to tackle the waste management crisis.



Errol Paisley (2nd left) receiving the first prize on Stony Hill's behalf from Joshua Pelacheck (left), Counsellor for Public Affairs, The United States Embassy. Looking on are Project Manager Stephen Newland (centre), and Dr. Kwame Emmanuel from COMET II.

COMPONENT TWO **PUBLIC OUTREACH & CULTURE OF LAWFULNESS**

Work continued toward the establishment of a committee of Integrity Champions comprised of CSO and CBO leadership. In this regard, internal discussions were held between the Component Coordinator and the COMET II Chief of Party, and similarly, there was outreach to NIA to coordinate activities for 2016.

The COMET II sponsorship of and participation in the Roots-FM Youth Talk's *Politics or Politricks* program came to an end during the month of December. This will signal commencement in the sponsorship of another Culture of Lawfulness project – the sponsorship of the Election Debates – estimated to take place in the first quarter of 2016.

Topics covered in the *Politics or Politricks* series were as follows:

EPISODE DATE	TOPIC
September 14	What is Vote-buying
September 21	What is Politics? Types of Governments
September 28	How and Why to Vote
October 5	Reflecting on the 1980 General Election
October 12	Lessons Learnt from the 1980 General Election
October 19	Jamaica's Two Party System
October 26	Role of the CDC
November 8	Functions of the Arms of Government
November 30	Recap of Youth Talk Politics or Politricks Forum
December 7	How to Hold Your Politician Accountable
December 14	How to become a Political Candidate
December 21	Understanding the Electoral Process

The final episode of Youth Talk Politics or Politricks will be broadcast on January 4, 2016. The topic will be *How to Vote*.

Work has started on the planning and implementation of two journalism training seminars with 25 community journalists inclusive of community cable stations, bloggers, and our community journalists. This training is expected to take place by the end of Q1 (March 2016) and is expected to be done with our project partner NIA.

PROJECT	PARISH/COMMUNITY	IMPLEMENTATION DATE
Newsletter production - desktop publishing/ news gathering/ photography	Cambridge, St. James	By end of January 2016
Newsletter production - desktop publishing/ news gathering/ photography	Old Harbour, St. Catherine	By end of January 2016
Production of content about COMET II activities in Clarendon by community journalists for distribution at cable station(s) in Clarendon	Four Paths, Clarendon	By end of February 2016
Finalization of the pilot radio program that when approved will be distributed to at least three community radio stations	All project communities	Phase I by end of March 2016

The next tranche of culture of lawfulness Public Service Announcements (PSAs) will be produced and disseminated during the 2nd quarter of 2016. Next year, the emphasis for these PSAs will be on anti-corruption messaging, some of which are coming from youth who participated in the Office of the Contractor General-led Anti-corruption Day activities.

COMET II will be producing 1,000 calendars and 3,000 posters that will promote messaging in support of the Culture of Lawfulness. This will be completed by the end of January 2016.

Work continued with the COMET II M&E Coordinator and the Community Policing Coordinator to synchronize activities, which this month included training of government officials on the “Committal Proceedings Act: Improving the Administration of Justice.” A total of 68 persons received training: 38 males and 30 females. The legislation was passed in 2013 and is expected to come into effect early January 2016. The training prepared investigators from the JCF, MOCA, and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution in anticipation of this implementation. This was done in partnership with NIA and was conducted with support from the Ministry of Justice through the Justice Training Institute, the British High Commission, and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.



A cross-section of the participants at the Closing Ceremony of the Committal Proceeding taking place at the Jamaica Conference Centre on December 17, 2015

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND BRANDING

December saw the USAID/COMET II project continuing to achieve a number of major milestones with the groundbreaking for a CRC in Kitson Town and the dedication of the Bull Bay football clubhouse. The project also participated in a number of public awareness activities:

EVENT	DATE
Groundbreaking of the Kitson Town CRC in St. Catherine	December 3, 2015
Anti-corruption Day activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kingston – Unveiling of billboard at Pulse and a forum at the Edith Dalton School • Montego Bay – Forum at the Cornwall College in Montego Bay 	December 9, 2015
Dedication of the Bull Bay football clubhouse in Bull Bay, St. Andrew	December 11, 2015
Unite For Change (UFC) Unity Parks event in Montego Bay	December 12, 2015

The successful execution of these activities resulted in heightened public awareness about COMET II activities, especially the role that the CRCs will play in the project's target communities and the significant contribution that community policing will play.



USAID Mission Director Denise Herbol (2nd left) joins SDC Parish Manager for Kingston & St. Andrew Sandra Gouldbourne, (left), President for Bull Bay CDC Keith Reynolds (centre), President of Bull Bay Football Club Paul Hibbert (3rd right), Inspector Sophia Perry from Bull Bay Police Station in the Kingston Eastern Division (2nd right), and PIOJ Liaison Officer to USAID Oakley Coke (right) in unveiling the sign for the Bull Bay Football Club, 'Bull Pen'

MEDIA COVERAGE

DATE	MEDIA
December 4, 2015	JIS - http://jis.gov.jm/kitson-town-to-get-15-million-community-centre/
December 5, 2015	Loop Jamaica.com - http://www.loopjamaica.com/content/kitson-town-get-15-million-community-centre "
December 6, 2015	Oldharbournews.com - http://oldharbournews.com/index.php/news/item/800-kitson-town-to-get-15m-community-centre
December 9, 2015	https://comet-ii.exposure.co/international-anticorruption-day-2015 http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20151209/ocg-observes-international-anti-corruption-day-undertakes-awareness-activities http://www.moca.gov.jm/news-media/news/contractor-general-urges-jamaicans-work-towards-vision-2030
December 18,2015	Jamaica Gleaner newspaper http://jamaicagleaner.com/article/news/20151218/make-climate-change-personal-issue-us-diplomat



Members of the Jamaica Youth Theatre perform a theatrical presentation on corruption at the Youth Forum held at the Edith Dalton James High School in Kingston on International Anti-corruption Day 2015.

COMPONENT THREE

Alternative Programs for At-Risk Youth

The Dispute Resolution Foundation (DRF)

The month of December was a slow period for the Dispute Resolution Foundation's COMET II grant activities. This is principally due to the fact that the target groups – School-Based Professionals (SBPs) and students – were unavailable owing to specific reasons such as: (i) police personnel being deployed to street-based activities during the festive season; (ii) students and teachers being involved in internal school examinations in early December; and (iii) the closing of schools for the holiday period. The DRF staff however engaged in planning activities for the upcoming reporting period, which commences in January 2016.

The plan of action for the next DRF reporting period (January – March) includes:

- Equipping 193 students with peace-building, communication, leadership, anger management, conflict resolution training over a five-day period. This will be added to the previous 190 students who have been engaged through the five-day training period, for a total of 383 students trained.
- Training an additional 25 students as peer mediators, specifically in the western region –St. James. This will be added to the already 28 students trained in November, bringing the total to 53 of the 240 proposed to be trained in peer mediation.
- The hosting of *rap sessions* with SBPs and students on a monthly basis. The aim of these sessions is to engage the two groups in constructive dialogue that will see improvements to the Safer School Program.

At the end of this grant activity, which is programmed to end in December 2016, at least 600 students will be equipped with conflict resolution skills and at least 30 SBPs will be equipped with youth-friendly alternative dispute resolution skills. All this in an effort to improve the Ministry of

Education Safe School Program and to reduce the number of cases regarding school violence. The project expects DRF to accomplish these objectives by the end of grant activity.

The Drug Treatment Court Program (DTC)

The Drug Treatment Court Study Tour to Miami from December 8-11, 2015 was successfully executed. The purpose of the study tour was to glean best practices that will inform the approach in expanding Jamaica’s Drug Treatment Court Program to include a Juvenile Court.



Members of the COMET II delegation participate in a discussion with officials at the Miami Juvenile Drug Treatment Court

The eight member delegation was hosted by Judge Orlando Prescott, presiding judge at the Miami-Dade Children’s Court. The delegation led by Machel Stewart, COMET II Civil Society Specialist engaged in the activities outlined in the table below:

Activity	Date
Inception meeting and briefing of study tour party hosted by officials of Miami Juvenile Drug Treatment Court	Wednesday, December 9, 2015
Attendance of tour party at official pre-court meeting	Wednesday, December 9, 2015
Attendance of tour party at Juvenile Drug Treatment Court session	Wednesday, December 9, 2015
Presentation from Treatment Providers on the various treatment modalities used in Miami	Thursday, December 10, 2015
Debriefing as per next steps	Thursday, December 10, 2015

A comprehensive report documenting the best practices gleaned, will be compiled. As noted above, these best practices will be culturally modified and employed in the expansion of the DTC Program and development of a Juvenile DTC. The data regarding the DTC Study Tour, as per participants and purpose of study were entered in USAID’s TraiNet.

Kingston and St. Andrew Football Association (KSAFA)

A meeting was held with authorities of the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation (KSAC) and representatives from Kingston and St. Andrew Football Association (KSAFA) regarding the construction of the poultry houses. The KSAC reiterated that these poultry houses need to be relocated to another section of the property. As such it cannot be firmly stated when the grant activity will re-commence. The decision to suspend or continue this grant activity is dependent on the outcome of ongoing discussions with the relevant state authority.

COMPONENT FOUR

COMMUNITY POLICING

At the request of the JCF Administrators of the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Movement, COMET II Component Coordinator Donaree Muirhead attended a meeting to discuss the way forward for the organization since the organization is currently without an executive and its national conference has been postponed until the first quarter of 2016. The Component Coordinator will provide technical support to the process leading up to the national conference in 2016. Two national discussions will take place prior to the conference, firstly with the JCF's personnel that are providing support to the program. This is to share the findings from the governance assessment conducted by the COMET II project to shape the strategy moving forward. The second discussion will engage the National Council of the NHW; this will include the divisional chairmen and the secretaries as well as the selected representative from the Community Safety and Security Branch (CSSB) of the JCF. The engagements will take place on January 14 and 16, respectively. The sessions will also allow for the preliminary planning for the six NHW crime-reduction programs to be achieved in Year 3.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

- Chamber of Commerce Election Debates: General elections have now been scheduled for 2016 instead of late 2015 as originally anticipated. The work has continued with the JCC and there are now strong indications that the General Election might be conducted in January 2016. COMET-II's Financial and Administrative Manager continues working closely with the JCC to coordinate activities.
- On Thursday December 17 COMET II conducted a series of staff development exercises covering areas of Monitoring & Evaluation, use of Microsoft Excel, and Photography. The session on photo documentation was facilitated by COMET II team members Sharlene Hendricks, Brian-Paul Welsh, and Errol Smith who had earlier participated in a USAID Photography Training Workshop on November 17.
- 17 Days of Activism: COMET II participated in a series of activities to mark 17 days of activism in the December period. This was coordinated along with various other stakeholders in the local and international development arena. On World AIDS Day, December 1, COMET II participated in various activities including testing day in the parish of St. James with NGOs including Jamaica AIDS Support for Life (JASL), Sex Workers Association of Jamaica (SWAJ), Eve for Life, and AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF). Additionally COMET participated in the National Candle-Light vigil with the same groups. COMET II also participated in a stakeholder breakfast meeting organized by J-FLAG, the island's premier LGBT human rights advocacy body. On International Human Rights Day, December 10, COMET II participated in the European Union's launch of 3 Human Rights projects for Jamaican NGO's: Rise Life Management, Standup for Jamaica, and Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition (CVC). Also on December 10, COMET attended the University of Technology's "Excellence of Humanity" Ubuntu Awards ceremony. This is a USAID-funded initiative that honors Jamaican citizens, residents, and organizations that have had unique, transformative, and enduring influence on the way that Jamaican society values diversity and displays social tolerance.