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COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND TRANSFORMATION PROJECT - PHASE II (COMET II)

Monthly Report: January 2016



February 8, 2016

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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: February 8, 2016

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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
DOD	Dean of Discipline
DRF	Dispute Resolution Foundation
DTC	Drug Treatment Court
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
INL	International Narcotics Law Enforcement
JBDC	Jamaica Business Development Corporation
JCC	Jamaica Chamber of Commerce
JCF	Jamaica Constabulary Force
KSA	Kingston and Saint Andrew
KSAFA	Kingston & St. Andrew Football Association
NIA	National Integrity Action
PERSUAP	Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan
REC	Review and Evaluation Committee
RFA	Request for Application
SBP	School Based Professional
SDC	Social Development Commission
SRO	School Resource Officer

COMPONENT ONE

CAPACITY BUILDING AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE WORKSHOPS/TRAININGS

GRANTS

In January, the COMET II grants component continued its mandate to deliver small grants to community-based organizations with four new grants awarded in Year 3.

The following applications are currently in pre-award phase:

- 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 (RFA No. 24)

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

RFAs 25-27 (Sustainable Livelihood Projects in Lilliput, Bogue, and Mount Carey, St. James) were reissued on January 7 with an application submission deadline of February 8.

Additionally, the following applications submitted for non-competitive, in-kind grants for the development of community resource centers (CRCs) and social enterprises are currently in the pre-award negotiation phase:

- Linstead CDC Ltd.
- Kitson Town CDC Ltd.
- Cambridge Benevolent Society

Non-competitive proposals were received from the Kintyre Citizen Association and Four Paths CDC Ltd. for the rehabilitation of buildings to house their CRCs and social enterprise projects, and these proposals are also currently in the pre-award phase.

Furthermore, the grants team continued to monitor the implementation of current grants by conducting site visits, reviewing grantee reports, and providing ongoing capacity building.

Highlights during this period:

- On January 18-22, the Dispute Resolution Foundation (DRF) conducted a five-day peer mediation training in St. James, with a closing ceremony held on the fifth day.
- St. John's Heights Citizen Benevolent Society received business training from the Jamaica Business Development Corporation (JBDC) that took place in several training sessions over the course of the month.
- The DRF conducted a one-day Rap Session (In-School Program) with School Resource Officers and Deans of Discipline from Clarendon College on January 28th.



Paul Hibbert, President of Bull Bay Football Club, received final disbursement from Jhana Harris, COMET II Alternative Programs Coordinator

Strengthening Community Based Organizations (Activity 1.2)

Suncity Radio/JCF High School Disc Jock Competition

On Wednesday, January 13, 2016, USAID COMET II's Civil Society Coordinator was asked to speak with youngsters at the Knutsford Court Hotel. The activity is a partnership between the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF)'s Community Safety and Security Branch (CSSB), Suncity Radio, and the Ministry of Youth & Culture. CSSB was represented by Dr. Bishop Gary Welsh, and the keynote address was delivered by Honorable Minister Lisa Hanna. The objective of the competition revolves around creative culture, expression, and the tag line of avoiding addiction to drugs/bad habits. The completion is slated to run across schools in St. Catherine and Kingston and St. Andrew.

Meeting with Stony Hill CDC, Police, and SDC

On January 20, 2016, a meeting was held to follow-up on the progress and status of the land for the Stony Hill CRC. After numerous delays in this process, COMET II saw it fit to once again address the community with support from the Social Development Commission (SDC) and the Stony Hill Police.

The community has identified land adjacent to the primary school and the principal will follow-up to acquire permission through the Commissioner of Lands. COMET II continues to follow the developments and will report further in February.

Meeting with Rockfort Development Council, Police, and SDC

COMET II continues to follow operations of the launched CRC's. On January 21, 2016 a meeting was called by the East Kingston Commander to outline plans for the police post as well as to synchronize operations with the Rockfort Development Council. From this meeting, COMET was made aware of the Police's intention to operate weekday shifts from 8am – 10pm and weekend shifts from 8am – 4pm, as well as other details to be approved for operations.

Meeting with Social Development Commission's Kingston and St. Andrew (KSA) Team

The SDC and COMET II continue to have monthly parish meetings in a bid to keep the partnership fruitful and allow for feedback, planning, and updates. The January 13, 2016 Kingston & St. Andrew (KSA) meeting, among other things, highlighted the challenges and achievements on the ground in COMET II communities over the last two months.

Meeting with SDC's Governance Team

COMET II is in the process of embarking on a new cluster of training for community groups. SDC is a core partner in this process. The January 14, 2016 meeting was held to fine tune operations and schedules for Governance training in February 2016.

Bull Bay CDC Meeting

The January 14, 2016 CDC meeting was held at the recently opened "Bull Pen" renovated through a grant awarded to the Bull Bay Football Club. The meeting centered on plans for the new year and partnerships for execution.

Meeting with Office of Social Enterprise UWI

The January 13, 2016 meeting was for debriefing and designing next steps. It was particularly concerned with the next set of CBO's/NGO's to receive Social Enterprise training. Following from the meeting, SE training is tentative for March 2016.

Meeting with the Social Welfare Training Unit

In an effort to fulfill the task of engaging social workers to train community members in social work techniques that will allow them to respond to psycho-social issues that impact community safety, a team from COMET II met with the Social Welfare Training Unit (SWTU) on January 12, 2016 to fine tune the best way forward in achieving this task. Discussions were had around methodology, total time for training modules and budget.

Enhancing Community Capacity to Adapt to Global Climate Change (Activity 1.4)

January was spent planning for activities scheduled for the remainder of Year Three, in particular, the extension to the gabion basket training in Gordon Town and rainwater harvesting installation and training in Rae Town in February.

Other activities in January included:

- Drafting text for the joint Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan (PERSUAP) with the Jamaica Rural Economy and Ecosystems Adapting to Climate Change (JaReeach) project. Pesticide use is being considered by the grants program for the sustainable livelihood and social enterprise projects, and as such the necessary approval has been sought from USAID.
- Routine support for the grants program, including facilitating the preparation of Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plans (EMMPs) for the next site of CRCs in Linstead, Cambridge, and Kitson Town.
- Assisting the procurement process for prizes for the Operation Clean Sweep project.
- Discussions with Abacus about additional training in Year Three and procurement of radios for workshop participants.

COMET II also participated in a Project Advisory Team meeting for the Jamaica Habitat for Humanity project. The meeting gave an update on progress and challenges. COMET II intends to implement a joint activity in Gregory Park focusing on training in low cost climate adaptation measures as well as mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into the operation and management of the CRC.



Participants in the Gabion Basket training exercise held in Gordon Town, St. Andrew.

COMPONENT TWO

PUBLIC OUTREACH & CULTURE OF LAWFULNESS

Work with NIA to establish a committee of Integrity Champions comprised of CSO and CBO leadership (Activity 2.1.1)

USAID COMET II Chief of Party Ian McKnight and the National Integrity Action (NIA) Executive Director Professor Trevor Munroe are working to coordinate the activities in this area for 2016



USAID COMET II Citizens Journalists Tracy Ann Codlin (blue blouse), Kevin Donaldson (1st right), Rushane Morgan (2nd left, partially hidden), Sharlene Hendricks (2nd right standing) and Cyprian Comrie (left) pose in the studios of Roots-FM after appearing on the programme “Politics or Politricks”.

The COMET II sponsorship of and participation in the Roots-FM Youth Talk’s “Politics or Politricks” programme came to an end on January 4, 2016. USAID COMET II’s 3-month sponsorship of Roots FM’s Youth Talk ‘Politics or Politricks’ radio series sensitized 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 helped to close the gap of isolation between a targeted young audience and the political process.

As part of the continued training of community journalists in radio production and presentation skills, an intense two-day workshop/boot camp was mounted on January 15 and 22 at the new radio studios in the Archives at the University of the West Indies. This exercise provided community journalists with the tools to interrogate and present content that will be gathered for a COMET II Community Views Radio Program that is being mounted as a vehicle to promote and highlight activities undertaken by partners and beneficiaries of the USAID COMET II Project. A preliminary training workshop on radio production techniques was held in August 2015, out of which a pilot program was produced that served as the baseline that informed this workshop.

	PARTICIPANTS	GENDER	COMMUNITY
Way	Sharlene Hendricks	Female	Rae Town Kingston (Project Intern)
	Tracy Ann Codlin	Female	Bull Bay St. Andrew
	Cyprian Comrie	Male	Four Paths Clarendon
	Kevin Donaldson	Male	Respect Jamaica (Project stakeholder organization)
	Rushane Morgan	Male	Old Harbour St. Catherine

Forward:

- Five radio programs will be produced out of the workshops and will serve as pilots for a series of programs that will be marketed to community radio stations in project communities. These programs will highlight the positive impact that COMET II has had in project communities through its grants program.
- The radio programs will be presented for approval by January 29, 2016. The community journalists who participate will gain skills in collecting and collating stories within each of their communities to foster a Culture of Lawfulness.
- A relationship has been forged with the Archives of the University of the West Indies for future use of the radio studios for the production of the community radio programs that will be distributed to community radio stations in project communities.



Instructor Alma Mock-Yen goes through an exercise with one of her trainees

Develop Public Service Announcements that promote a Culture of Lawfulness in Jamaica (Activity 2.2.2)

Production continues on 3,000 posters that will promote messaging in support of the Culture of Lawfulness. This will be completed by the end of this reporting month.

COMPONENT THREE

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

The Dispute Resolution Foundation (DRF)

The DRF staff for the month of January undertook quite a few activities in tandem with their grant activity with COMET II.

On January 4, 2016 the DRF resumed the regular five-day School Suspension Intervention Program (SSIP) sessions, which equipped suspended students with techniques for violence prevention, anger management, conflict resolution, building self-esteem, emotional intelligence, goal settings, and dealing with peer pressure. These sessions are slated to end in March 2016.

On January 8, 2016, 17 staff members were trained in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. The training was centered on administering the literacy and numeracy test at the primary and

secondary levels. This proves beneficial to the DRF staff, especially when assisting students with homework in the SSIP.

From January 18 -22, 2016 the DRF conducted Peer Mediation Training for students in St. James, through which students were equipped with conflict resolution and peace building skills. On the final day, January 22, 2016, a closing ceremony was hosted to celebrate the students for completing their five-day training. It was held at the Faith Baptist Church, McKenzie Drive, Flanker, St. James. The guest speaker of the event was Dr. Beverly Scott.



Miss Tracy Ann Barclay , Program Manager -DRF hands a certificate to a proud student of the Spot Valley High School

The aim of this activity was to initiate these participants as student peace managers at the DRF within their respective school environments, where they will play the role of youth advocates capable of amicably resolving conflicts among their peers.

It is important to mention that suspended students (in the SSIP) who have committed themselves to the peace process are among those selected to have their leadership skills further developed through the Peer Mediation Training. This inclusion of suspended students clearly exemplifies an alternative approach that acquits a student of his or her past wrongdoing.

On January 28, 2016, the monthly networking Deans of Discipline (DoDs) and School Resource Officers (SROs) Rap Sessions in COMET II five parishes commenced. The first sessions were held at the Vauxhall High School and Clarendon College in Kingston and Clarendon, respectively. This activity is organized to have SROs and DoDs participate in monthly interactive sessions with youth who are averse to persons in authority. It is hoped that the sessions will improve the relations between vulnerable youth and DoDs and SROs. This grant activity, ending in December 2016, will equip at least 600 students with conflict resolution skills and at least 30 SBPs with youth-friendly alternative dispute resolution techniques. All this in an effort to improve the Ministry of Education's Safe School Programme and to reduce the number of cases regarding school violence.

The Drug Treatment Court Program (DTC)

Support to the MoJ's DTC Program (Activity 3.2.1)

January 8, 2016 was the deadline for prospective subcontractors to submit their proposals for implementing the workforce development program for Phase 2 and 3 participants in the drug treatment program. The evaluation process should be completed by January 31, 2016. The Review and Evaluation Committee will include external evaluators, namely: Mr. Michael Tucker – Executive Director, NCDA and Ms Beverley Baugh – Probation Officer, DTC Program in Kingston.

On January 14, 2016, the first DTC subcommittee meeting for the year was conducted to discuss upcoming activities. These proposed activities include:

1. DTC Sensitization Workshop for JCF, slated for March 31, 2016
2. DTC Training for New Members of the DTC
3. COMET II giving monetary support for the hosting of graduation ceremonies for participants who have successfully completed the DTC program

Members were told about possible funding from the International Narcotics Law Enforcement (INL), which seeks to “*assist countries deliver justice and fairness by strengthening their police, courts, and corrections systems.*” The DTC sees two possible areas of support that will promulgate and enhance the services offered by the Drug Treatment Court:

1. A sophisticated PR campaign
2. Procurement for a reliable management information system

Kingston and St. Andrew Football Association (KSAFA)

This grant activity is still on hold until issues related to regulatory compliance are resolved. At the time of writing this report preliminary discussions had taken place between COMET's management, the KSAC, and the political representative with the intention of finding a window of opportunity to commence implementation.

COMPONENT FOUR

COMMUNITY POLICING

Community Based Police Training (Activity 4.1.1)

During January, 31 SROs received capacity development to manage the prevalence of bullying in schools. The training was conducted on January 28 – 29, 2016 at the Police Officers Club, St. Andrew, and was deemed critical based on a series of meetings and reports conducted over the last few years, including: feedback from a focus group conducted in 2014 with SROs; findings from a survey conducted in 2015 by the Child Development Agency; Ministry of Education revision of the Safe Schools Manual to include an Anti-Bully Policy. Several state departments partnered with COMET II to host the two-day training session with the Ministry of Education Safe School Unit, National Council on Drug Abuse, Child Development Agency, and Jamaica Constabulary Force. The areas of focus were detection, prevention and reduction of bullying, and drug use and gangs in schools. The SROs were also engaged in discussions and activities that gave insight into adolescent development and presented with tips on youth-friendly engagement.

The hierarchy of the JCF participated through the presence of Deputy Commissioner of Police Clifford Blake, who presented on the INDECOM Report on School Resource Officers; while Dr. Bishop Gary Welsh, Assistant Commissioner of Police, in charge of Community Safety Branch, introduced the course and set the tone for the training.

The 31 participants, 12 of which were females, represented 13 of the 19 police divisions, two area headquarters and the Community Safety and Security Branch (CSSB) HQ. The ranks ranging from Constable to Inspector provided a wide spread for transfer of knowledge to the SROs that were not able to participate in the training.

Updated CBP Material (Activity 4.1.2)

A consultant was engaged to format the Community Based Police Manual for printing using a print layout. The deliverables are monitored and approved by the Civil Society Coordinator, and the printed material should be completed by March 2016

Support JCF in Carrying Out Youth Engagements Designed to Improve Relationship between Police and Youth (Activity 4.1.4)

COMET II supported the Police Youth Club National Fun Day organized by the CSSB of the JCF on January 29, 2016 at the National Police College of Jamaica, Twickenham Park, St. Catherine. The activities included competitive activities between police and youth from across the island.

Rockfort CRC and the Proximity Police Post

The JCF Officer with immediate oversight for the Police Post at Rockfort CRC, Inspector Mark Harris, called a meeting on Thursday, January 21, 2015, to discuss matters pertinent to the management and operation of the CRC. The Inspector notified the meeting of the activities and programs to be implemented by the police at the CRC.

The post will have a minimum of two Community Police Officers at the station every day from 10am – 8pm. A sub-officer will be on location at the rank of Sergeant or above. He specifically stated that one constant police officer will serve the space/community to ensure familiarity and foster a trusting relationship between citizens and police. The post will serve also as a 'rest stop' for police on patrol in the East Kingston area.

Additional Services to be provided by the police are:

- Mediation
- Counselling
- Conflict resolution
- Referral to Family Court, Rent Board, etc.
- Legal advice
- Visiting victims of crime

The Inspector also questioned the Rockfort Development Council (RDC) on the delay in operations, and through the discussion, it was recommended that a CRC Management Committee be established of which the police would play an integral role. This would allow for better planning of activities and service provision for the community.

The police indicated that they will be conducting CSEC Mathematics class at the CRC on Saturdays, 2pm – 5pm, as part of the youth development program by the police. This will be facilitated by Constable Brian Grosett who is one of the officers stationed at the Police Post. COMET II will be supporting this youth development program with learning supplies.

The Community Police Coordinator stressed the importance of proper documentation of all activities at the CRC and within the community. This should be done by both the police and RDC to help monitor and evaluate services, to track progress, and tell success stories of the outreach of the CRC. A session on documentation and reporting for the police and RDC is also on the table. The meeting was chaired by Inspector Mark Harris, attended by Richard Schloss, Chairman RDC; Ramona Dixon, Office Staff RDC; Constable Brian Grosett; Constable Troy Lewis, who also serves

on the RDC Board of Management; Donaree Muirhead, Community Police Coordinator COMET II; Miguel Williams, Civil Society Coordinator COMET II; and Timothy Marks, Community Coordinator, Kingston.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

- Jamaica Chamber of Commerce (JCC) Election Debates: General elections have now been scheduled for February 25, 2016 instead of late 2015 as originally anticipated. COMET-II's Financial and Administrative Manager continues working closely with the JCC to coordinate activities.
- The USAID Mission Director to Jamaica, Denise Herbol, visited three communities in Clarendon. Ms. Herbol visited a total of four community organizations that have been collaborating COMETII. The communities and organizations are as follows:

Community	Organisation
Four Paths	Four Paths Community Development Committee (CDC);
Belle Plain	Belle Plain Police Youth Club, Social Enterprise; Belle Plain CDC
Osbourne Store	Central Jamaica Social Development Initiative

Main Takeaways

1. Integrated approach to farming. Central Jamaica Social Development Initiative:

Representatives from the Central Jamaica Social Development Initiative took the Mission Director to the farm where the group has been planting red peas. The President of the group, Damian Young and Field Officer Oshane Jarrett, along with two of their farmers gave Ms. Herbol the tour of the farm. The group informed the Mission Director about their integrated farming methods, using crop rotation, and multi-cropping.

2. Belle Plain Police Youth Club to open Bag Juice Factory:

“The whole project is to help employ the young people in the community”, explained Llyod Johnson, the Pastor of the Beulah United Church and supervisor on site.

The Bag Juice, which will go by the catchy name *Juice 2 Joy*, will be distributed primarily to schools within and around the community.

3. Possible Heritage Tourism site in Belle Plain, Clarendon:

The Mission Director also met up with executive members of the Belle Plain Community Development Committee on the site where a CRC will be erected. The site also has historic meaning, being the location of the first bakery in Jamaica, as well as an Old Great House.

The Belle Plain CDC hopes, in the long term, to turn the location into a heritage site, thereby garnering some local and as well international tourism for the community.

4. **Old Market in Four Paths to be renovated and turned into a Community Resource Centre.:**

Minister of Local Government of Member of Parliament for Four Paths, met up with the Mission Director at the site of the Old Market in the community.

Accompanying Ms. Herbol were also Deputy Mayor Euphel Percel and Vice President Faye Morgan of the Four Paths CDC.

The tour culminated at the Social Development Commission Job Fair, held in Four Paths. The Mission Director spoke briefly to the audience about the following.

- CRCs to be built under the COMET II Project in Clarendon communities: Four Paths, Belle Plain, Osbourne Store, Chapelton and Racecourse
- Expanding agriculture, and particularly exploring the possibilities of expanding the cultivation of red peas in the parish.



Mission Director Denise Herbol (3rd left) visits the Red Peas Farm operated by grantee Central Jamaica Social Development Initiative in Fourth Paths Clarendon



Proposed site of CRC in Fourth Paths, Clarendon