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

## Monthly Report: February 2016



March 4, 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:** March 4, 2016

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

CDC	Community Development Committee
CIB	Criminal Investigation Branch
COL	Culture of Lawfulness
COMET II	Community Empowerment and Transformation Project II
COP	Chief of Party
CRC	Community Resource Centres
CSSB	Community Safety and Security Branch
CTOC	Counter-Terrorism and Organised Crime Investigation Branch
DOD	Dean of Discipline
DRF	Dispute Resolution Foundation
DTC	Drug Treatment Court
GCC	Global Climate Change
JCF	Jamaica Constabulary Force
KSAC	Kingston & St. Andrew Corporation
MOCA	Major Organized Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency
NHW	Neighborhood Watch Program
NIA	National Integrity Action
NIB	National Intelligence Bureau
PYC	Police Youth Clubs
REC	Review and Evaluation Committee
RFA	Request for Application
RFP	Request for Proposal
SDC	Social Development Commission
SRO	School Resource Officer
SSIP	School Suspension Intervention Program
USAID	United States Agency of International Development
UWI	University of the West Indies

## COMPONENT ONE

### **CAPACITY BUILDING AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE WORKSHOPS/TRAININGS**

During the month of February, community activities were generally hampered, called off, or rescheduled due to the announcement of the General Elections. The uncertainty surrounding the announcement of the election date, followed by a short but intense period of campaigning, caused disruption. Despite some logistical difficulties, highlights for the period included the tour of the USAID Mission Director to several sites of sustainable livelihood grants in Kingston. Other notable events included planning meetings for the upcoming cohort of Governance trainees as well as Social Enterprise training. Strategic emphasis was placed on refocusing work outputs to meet the demanding and changing circumstances associated with the implementation of the project. Several meetings and strategic planning sessions were held with Home Office personnel and local COMET II team in anticipation of an improved way forward.



*USAID Mission Director Denise Herbol (centre) is joined by stakeholders on a site visit to the offices of COMET II grantee St. Michael Steppers Marching Band, during her visit to Kingston*

On February 5, 2016, USAID Mission Director Denise Herbol conducted a series of site visits to ongoing and potential sites for Sustainable Livelihood and Community Resource Centre (CRC) Grants across the Kingston belt. Visits generally included community members, Social Development Commission (SDC), Local Police, and Community Safety and Security Branch (CSSB) officials as well as in some instances Members of Parliament and Local Councilors. Visits took place in the following areas:

1. Trench Town (Site for CRC)
2. Rae Town/South Side (site for Steppers Marching Band Social Enterprise)
3. Elleston Road Police Station (Site for rain water harvesting construction)
4. Windward Road belt (site for Positive Youth In Action Block Making Social Enterprise)
5. Rockfort Community (CRC building)



*Member of Parliament, the Honourable Phillip Paulwell, engages with USAID Mission Director Denise Herbol at the Rockfort CRC*

The site visit to Rockfort in particular was joined by Member of Parliament Hon. Phillip Paulwell. Mission Director used the opportunity to raise concerns about the Social Enterprise grant to the Rockfort Football Club. At this meeting, preliminary discussions were brokered for a resumption of the project for a 6-month period pending confirmation from the KSAC. Up to the time of reporting COMET II had received word that the 6-month timeline would be considered once consensus has been achieved by way of written agreement for a strict 6-month timeline after which the site should be vacated.

Community Coordinators across the parishes continue ongoing work with grantees as it regards to obtaining the relevant paper work and documentation for the grant process through an updated work plan of site visits and week-by-week check-ins with grantees. This will improve the quality of grants operation as well as allow for greater acceleration on several matters pertaining to proper management and milestone deliverables.

The next round of Governance Training will take place on a parish-by-parish basis and will include the support from a youth cohort of Governance & Capacity Building interns from across three parishes. The Social Enterprise Training team from UWI will also make the training days for introduction and to begin discussions around their trainings slated to run concurrently. After some delays in the commencement of the next cluster for the Governance Training, final dates have now been set as follows:

<b>DATES</b>	<b>PARISH</b>	<b>CBO / CDC</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
March 14, 15, 16, 2016	St. Catherine	Mighty Gully Youth Project Knollis Community Benevolent Society Enos Barrett Disabled Group Bog Walk CDC	Knollis Multi-Purpose Centre (Bog Walk)
March 22, 23, 24, 2016	Clarendon	Mocho Citizens Association The Jamaica Association General Baptist Churches - Bethel Beulah Church of God Seventh Day Evangelical Inc. Ltd. Osbourne youth group Race Course CDC Osbourne Store CDC	Venue in Clarendon TBD

March 30, 31, 2016	St. James	Barrett Town PYC Cambridge CDC Mount Carey Citizens Association Ramble Hill Citizens Association Bogue CDC	Venue in St. James TBD
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On February 8, 2016 a meeting was held with representatives from UTECH and COMET II team regarding possible partnerships along the line of community interventions titled 'UTECH Connect', ultimately decided to be held on April 6, 2016 in St. Andrew in observation of the UN's International Day of Sport for Development & Peace. The expectation is that there will be three themed conferences focused on community enterprise, climate change, and personal development as well as engaging the communities through a series of sporting activities, health fair, education fair, craft display and trading, cultural presentations, and entertainment.

Since the communities of August Town, Kintyre, and Gordon Town are all COMET II target communities participating in UTECH Connect, there have been ongoing discussions as to the best way of partnering. The Civil Society team is in discussions with UTECH about replicating similar activities in St. James.

Additionally, in the upcoming reporting period the USAID Mission Director will conduct a tour of COMET II activities in St. James.

**Grants Program**

In February, the COMET II grants portfolio continued its mandate to deliver small grants to community-based organizations with five grants being awarded in Year 3. The most recent grant award was made to Good Hope Partners Benevolent Society.

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 capacity building training to be done. We have taken note that most of these applications are held-up by administrative matters with the communities and have, therefore, refocused the work of our Community Coordinators to help move these grant applications along.

RFAs 25-27 (Sustainable Livelihood Projects in Lilliput, Bogue and Mount Carey, St. James respectively) were reissued on January 7 with a deadline of February 8 for applications. One application was received for each RFA issued; however, the grants team is awaiting outstanding documents from the applicants to complete their application, after which these applications will be evaluated by the Review and Evaluation Committee (REC). A deadline for final submission was set for February 15, 2016 however up to the time of reporting only one respondent had successfully submitted final documents.

Applications submitted by Linstead CDC Ltd., Kitson Town CDC Ltd, and Cambridge Benevolent Society for the non-competitive in-kind grants for the development of CRCs and to receive the social enterprise model are currently in the pre-award phase, pending final approval from Head Office. Kitson Town still requires further evaluation before it can be submitted to Head Office for review.

Non-competitive proposals have been received from the Kintyre Citizen Association and Four Paths CDC Ltd. for their CRCs and social enterprise projects, and these proposals are currently in the pre-award phase pending procurement of the services of a quantity surveyor to provide reliable budget figures for CRC renovations.

The grants team continue to monitor the implementation of the previous grants issued by conducting site visits and reviewing reports submitted by the grantees.

### **Highlights During this period:**

- St. John's Heights Citizen Benevolent Society received landscaping training.
- The Dispute Resolution Foundation (DRF) conducted a one day Rap Session (In-School Program) with School Resource Officers and Deans of Discipline from Osbourne Store Primary and Junior on February 4, Maldon High on February 16, Charlie Smith High on February 18, and Cambridge High on February 19, 2016.
- Family and Parenting Centre concluded their grant activities and are in planning mode for their graduation ceremony to be held on March 3.

### **Global Climate Change**

The main GCC activity pursued in February was related to activity 1.4.1 in the Year 3 work plan – Phase two of the Gabion Basket training in Gordon Town. February also included a planning meeting for the upcoming Telecommunications for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) training by Abacus; the distribution of prizes for the plastic bottle recycling project conducted in 2015; and routine drafting of EMMPs.



*Panoramic view of gabion wall on final day*

From February 1-5 and again on February 16, unattached males in need of employment and skills training from the community of Gordon Town applied Gabion Basket theory in the practical component of the training. Overall, 16 males participated in the gabion wall exercise, but the daily attendance ranged from eight to 14 persons. During the first five days, the participants carried the

large stones from the drop-off point to the construction site; extended the foundation by six basket-lengths; tied and fully packed ten baskets; partially packed three baskets; and started backfilling. The operation also involved the use of a chainsaw to cut tree trunks. An additional day of training (February 16) was organized with only eight of the participants to complete the three partially packed baskets, plus an additional basket, and finished the backfilling. In total, 19 baskets were packed in 11 days of fieldwork (dating back to November 2015).



*Stone relay from drop off point to construction site*

**Registration Information for continuation of Phase 2: Gabion Basket Practical**

Date	Parish	Community groups present	Total number of Attendees	Age categories of Attendees	Gender of Attendees
February 1 – 5 & 16	St. Andrew	Residents of Dublin Castle, Gordon Town, St. Andrew	16	(a) 16-29 13 (b) 30-60 3 (c) Over 60 -	Males 16 Females -

**Other Activities:**

- A planning meeting was conducted with Abacus to discuss upcoming emergency telecommunication training in Trenchtown in March and Bull Bay in May. Participants from two communities, Race Course and Cambridge, have already been trained. The fifth community will come from St. Catherine and will benefit from the training that is tentatively planned for Year 3. The plan is also to purchase radios and other emergency telecommunication equipment for all five communities.
- Prizes for the US Embassy’s Plastic Bottle Recycling Project, “Operation Clean Sweep,” were delivered to the three beneficiaries in Gregory Park, Stony Hill, and Rae Town. Prizes included water tanks, recycling receptables, and LED lights. Handing-over activities for the prizes were conducted at the St. Michael’s Primary School in Rae Town. The

principal, staff, students, SDC, the newly formed CDC, and COMET II representatives were all present.



*The Vice President of the Rae Town CDC presents the recycling receptacles to the Principal of the St. Michael's Primary School*

## **COMPONENT TWO**

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH & CULTURE OF LAWFULNESS**

#### **ACTIVITY 2.1 - Civic leaders and CSOs are involved in creating a culture of lawfulness**

*Activity 2.1.1 – (CO #11) - Work with NIA to establish a Committee of Integrity Champions comprised of CSO and CBO leadership*

A meeting was held on February 3, 2016 between COMET II and National Integrity Action (NIA) at NIA offices to coordinate Culture of Lawfulness activities.

The following were discussed and agreed:

- There needs to be a coordinated approach between NIA and COMET II on the sharing of information under this component. It was agreed that going forward COMET II would share its weekly Calendar of Events with NIA.
  - Information will be shared on the following events: the ground breaking of the Cambridge and Bogue CRCs and the Retreat of the Old Harbour CDC
- NIA is presently going through a refunding exercise so it will not be able to outline concrete strategies before May 2016 as a result it will be involved in sensitization and relationship building until then.
- Another meeting is to be convened to pin down the following:
  - Membership of the Committee of Integrity Champions
  - Terms of reference and deliverables.
  - Deadlines and targets

*Activity 2.1.2 – Facilitate the establishment of community-centered culture of lawfulness projects*

As part of the continued training of the Community Journalists in radio production and presentation skills, a series of five pilot programs are in production that will be marketed to community radio stations in project communities. These programs will highlight the positive stories from the COMET II communities and the impact that COMET II has had in project communities through its grants program. These pilot programs showcase the skills that were gained in the collection and collation of stories within each of their communities to foster a culture of lawfulness.

#### 2.2.2 – Develop Public Service Announcements (PSAs) that promote a culture of lawfulness in Jamaica

Artwork has been produced and is being reviewed for approval for 3,000 posters that will promote messaging in support of the culture of lawfulness. Completion is slated for the end of March 2016.

### **ACTIVITY 3 - Engaging police to promote a culture of lawfulness by example**

#### 2.3.1 – (PI #11 & 12/ CO #14) Provide culture of lawfulness seminars for the JCF in conjunction with activity 4.1.1:

A meeting was held on February 19, 2016 at the offices of the Major Organized Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA) to coordinate activities in this area. The meeting was attended by the following:

- COMET II:
  - Ian McKnight – Chief of Party
  - Kacee Ballew – Senior Operations Manager
  - Jennifer Grant – Public Outreach Specialist
  - Gillian Chambers – Consultant
- MOCA:
  - Colonel Desmond Edwards – Director General
  - ACP Selwyn Hay – Deputy Director General



*The COMET II team led by Ian McKnight Chief of Party (left) poses for a picture with Colonel Desmond Edwards (2nd right) and ACP Selwyn Hay (2nd left) at the conclusion of their meeting at the MOCA offices. They are joined by MOCA consultant Gillian Chambers*

The following were discussed and agreed:

- COMET II Consultant Gillian Chambers has been engaged to work with MOCA on the development of Policies and Procedures. This will include Communications Policies, Procedures, and Strategies, which will be done in tandem with Jennifer Grant.
- Strategies were also discussed on a number of options for the funding of other MOCA projects. Ms. Chambers will be in contact with Ms. Grant within the next two weeks to continue the process.

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH AND BRANDING**

Apart from activities in fulfilment of project indicators, February saw Component 2 also focusing on providing support for the second leg of the USAID Mission Director’s site visits to COMET II projects in Kingston. She visited the communities of Trench Town, Rockfort, Springfield, and Rae Town.



*USAID Mission Director Denise Herbol discusses future plans on her visit to the office of St Michael Steppers Marching Band during her tour of COMET II projects in Kingston*

### **COMPONENT THREE:**

#### **ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS FOR AT RISK YOUTH**

##### **Activity 3.1 – Preventing youth from coming into conflict with the law**

On February 4, 2016, the Dispute Resolution Foundation (DRF) facilitated an In-school Rap Session at the Osbourne Store Primary and Junior High School in Clarendon. The activity afforded school resource officers (SRO) and deans of discipline (DOD) to participate in DRF’s monthly interactive sessions with students who come in conflict with school authorities. It is hoped that the sessions will improve the relations between these vulnerable youth and DoDs and SROs. It is also hoped that this program will contribute to the improvement of the Ministry of Education’s National Safe Schools Program. Twenty-six students, six teachers, and three SROs were engaged in the rap session. Each school-based professional was assigned a few students to have one-on-one dialogue on issues they deemed important. When these group discussions were completed, the whole group reconvened and shared issues discussed.



*School Resource Officers having one-on-one sessions with students*

On February 18, 2016, the DRF facilitated a similar session at the Charlie Smith High School in St. Andrew. A majority of the students in this session reside in COMET II's community Trench Town. In this session, there were 20 students and four DODs.

Contrary to what was reported last month, 17 DRF staff members were assessed by a team from Ministry of Education, not trained. As an added outcome of the COMET II project, it was hoped that this assessment would ascertain their capability to administer the literacy and numeracy tests at the primary and secondary levels. A positive assessment would permit the DRF staff to assist students with homework in the School Suspension Intervention Program (SSIP). If and when achieved, this will further enhance the gains that have already been made in the COMET II/ DRF project and stands out as another potential area for collaboration.

### **Activity 3.2 – Alternative sentencing activities through the DTC program**

On February 1, 2016, the REC for subcontract regarding the DTC workforce development program were unable to come to a decision. It was found that two agencies submitted satisfactory proposals that met most of the solicited requirements in the RFP. However, the REC needed additional information from these entities in order to make a final decision. By February 12, 2016, both agencies had submitted revised proposals for consideration and on February 22, 2016, the REC reconvened. Upon completion of the review and evaluation of the proposals, it was decided that both agencies were still unable to fully satisfy the requirements. A further meeting will be held among COMET II to decide an alternate way forward for this activity.

On February 4, 2016, the subcommittee for DTC met to discuss the graduation ceremony for participants who have successfully completed the DTC program. The initial date decided on was March 31, 2016; however after consultation with the office of the Chief Justice, the committee has now decided to plan for April 8, 2016. A central location is currently being procured in order to

equalize the distance for guests and graduates travelling from the five parishes: St. Catherine, St. Thomas, Kingston, St. Andrew, and St. James.

### **Activity 3.3.1 – Rehabilitation**

There have been recent developments with the Kingston and St. Andrew Football Association (KSAFA) grant activity, as noted in Component I above. Although activities have not yet resumed, COMET II made requests to the Rockfort Football Club to get certain particulars in order in preparation for the resumption of implementation. These include:

- The program manager is expected to submit a no cost extension to the grants team for processing.
- Youth employed to the social enterprise project must obtain food handler's permits to handle chickens sold to persons in and around the Rockfort community.
- Procure necessary equipment until final consensus has been achieved on the revised timeline.

This grant activity will employ 14 youth; four full-time and 10 part-time. In addition, profits from the social enterprise will be used to buy equipment and gears for the football club.

## **COMPONENT FOUR**

### **COMMUNITY POLICING**

#### **Activity 4.1.1: Community Based Police Trainings**

The two trainings for this period that sought to enable SROs with the skills to manage the prevalence of bullying in schools were postponed due to insufficient number of vetted officers to participate and the conflicts with the general elections.

The period was however used to identify Community Based Police (CBP) Trainings that are also suited for units external to the Community Safety and Security Branch (CSSB); these are MOCA, CIB, CTOC, and NIB. The strategy of the CSS Branch is to share the philosophy of community-based policing and to entrench the paradigm of policing a changing society through a people-centered approach. The strategy of proximity policing and the joint-up approach of working with legitimate CBOs out of the USAID COMET II CRCs will be explored. The new dates identified for the remaining training sessions are March 17-18, March 31, April 1, April 7- 8, April 14-15, or April 21-22. The sessions will be facilitated by senior officers in the CSS Branch, UWI's Dr. Kadamawe K'nife, and Donaree Muirhead, COMET II's Community Police Coordinator.

#### **Activity 4.1.3: Support Police Youth Club Crime Reduction Activities**

The planning of a leadership development session for the Clarendon Police Youth Club (PYC) Council is currently in progress. COMET II is providing technical and financial support to the PYC Council as part of their crime reduction program. It is recognized that PYC executives with strong leadership capacities are better able to design activities that minimize the involvement of their peers in criminal activities. The Clarendon Police Youth Club Council will invite 90 club members to participate in this activity on March 12, 2016 at Central High School in the parish. The police will play an integral part of this activity.

#### **Activity 4.1.5 Engagements designed to improve the relationship between Police and Youth**

The CSSB, through its Safe School Unit, will support and plan a cultural event to commemorate National Peace Day in schools. St. William Grant Park in Kingston will provide the backdrop to this activity on March 2, 2016. Approximately 400 students from the designated Safe Schools will be in attendance.

**Other Activities during this period:**

Component Coordinator liaised with the JCF to provide support to USAID Mission Director Denise Herbol on her visits to the USAID COMET II project sites in the parishes of Kingston, Clarendon, and the upcoming one in St. James. These particular activities require a level of coordination between the police and COMET II to ensure that the required traffic escorts, when necessary, are in place and that the local police are abreast of the visit.

**Administrative Updates:**

- The political debates did not occur prior to the general elections despite various interventions from multiple stakeholders. The political environment devolved considerably in the days leading up to the February 25 polls, with the leaders of both political parties threatening defamation lawsuits against each other, and with notable acts of violence at each of the party's political rallies. The operation of this grant had to be adjusted significantly because of refusal of one of the political parties to participate in the debates.
- There was a visit from the Head Office during the month of February by Tetra Tech DPK Director Robert Underwood and Tetra Tech DPK Project Officer Aekta Dessai who both of whom participated in meetings with team, stakeholders and USAID.
- The Annual Performance Appraisals of team members has started and will continue steadily until completed.