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

Monthly Report: March 2016



April 5, 2016

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: April 5, 2016

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
CDC	Community Development Committee
CBO	Community Based Organization
CBP	Community Based Policing
COMET II	Community Empowerment and Transformation Project II
COP	Chief of Party
CRC	Community Resource Centres
CSSB	Community Safety and Security Branch
DoD	Dean of Discipline
DRF	Dispute Resolution Foundation
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DTC	Drug Treatment Court
JCF	Jamaica Constabulary Force
KSAFA	Kingston and Saint Andrew Football Association
NIA	National Integrity Action
PNP YO	People's National Party Youth Organization
REC	Review and Evaluation Committee
RFA	Request for Application
SDC	Social Development Commission
SRO	School Resource Officer
SWOTT	Strong Women of Trench Town
WFD	Workforce Development Program
WOO	Windows of Opportunity
UWI	University of the West Indies

COMPONENT ONE

GRANTS

During the month of March, the grants team continued to monitor the implementation of previously issued grants by conducting site visits as well as by monitoring reports submitted by the grantees. Eight grants have been awarded in Year 3 with the most recent awards made to the Linstead Community Development Committee Ltd., Cambridge Benevolent Society, and Kitson Town Community Development Committee Ltd.

Mighty Gully Youth Project Foundation Ltd. (RFA No. 20), Enos Barrett Disabled Group (RFA No. 21), 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) applications are currently in the pre-ward phase. Please note however the application for Enos Barrett Disabled Group is currently on hold pending company registration.

As reported in February Monthly report, RFAs 25-27 (Sustainable Livelihood Projects in Lilliput, Bogue, and Mount Carey, St. James respectively) were reissued on January 7th with a deadline of February 8th for applications to be submitted. One application was received for each RFA issued, and these applications were evaluated by the Review and Evaluation Committee (REC), after outstanding documents from the applicants were received. These applications are currently in the pre-ward phase.

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

Approval has also been received from USAID to receive non-competitive applications from the communities of Bogue, Chapleton, Brixton Hill, Race Course and Osborne Store.

As it relates to CRCs, the timeframe for issuing RFAs and the construction of the CRCs is currently being developed.

The grants team continues to monitor the implementation of the previous grants issued through site visits conducted and reports being submitted by the grantees.

Highlights During this period,

- The DRF Resolution Foundation (DRF) conducted a one day Rap Session (In-School Program) with School Resource Officers and Deans of Discipline from Spot Valley High School in St. James on March 15th and Kemps Hill High School in Clarendon on March 3rd.
- Family and Parenting Centre held their graduation ceremony on March 3rd for youths who participated in the training sessions held under the grant.
- Ground breaking ceremony held in Bogue and Cambridge, St. James for CRCs.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE WORKSHOPS/TRAININGS

After a lull of activities during the latter part of February because of tension and uncertainty surrounding the General Elections, activities in March set a productive course for the remainder of the period. Positive developments in March included the commencement of Governance Capacity Building Training for 19 community groups across three parishes. During the period, grantee Forward Step Foundation was invited to participate in the Commonwealth Conference on Youth Work in Pretoria, South Africa and to present on the USAID COMET II funded 'Liveli Up Yuhself

Programme, a youth development training and life-skills program fully funded by USAID COMET II. Other notable accomplishments during the month include the facilitation of a partnership between COMET II and The University of Technology in relation to their community intervention initiative dubbed 'UTECH CONNECT'.

In the first week of March, USAID Mission Director Denise Herbol commenced a tour of COMET II communities in the parish of St. James. The visit facilitated interaction with grantees and community members as she participated in groundbreaking ceremonies at the sites of CRCs in Cambridge and in Bogue, as well as speaking at the graduation ceremonies of several training groups.



Right-Left: St. James Social Development Commission Community Officer Ivel McLean, USAID Mission Director Denise Herbol, Sen. Superintendent of Police Steve McGregor, Community Safety and Security Branch JCF Representative Natalie Palmer, USAID COMET II Chief of Party Ian McKnight

On March 2, the Cambridge Community Development Committee (Cambridge CDC) hosted several partners at their groundbreaking – USAID Mission Director, Cambridge Gospel Chapel, PIOJ, SDC, St. James Police High Command, and members of the political divide. The ceremony took place on the grounds of the Cambridge Police Station and had attendance of an estimated 250 persons. Following on a fruitful groundbreaking in Cambridge, the next stop was on the following day, March 3, in the community of Bogue. The Bogue CDC took the reins and was joined by USAID Mission Director Denise Herbol and SSP McGregor as well as local civil-society partners, SDC, PIOJ and community members. Attendance was estimated at approximately 200 persons.



(Left) USAID Mission Director Denise Herbol is accompanied by Mayor of Montego Bay Glendon Harris in breaking ground for the Cambridge Community Resource Centre in the community of Cambridge, St James on March 2, 2016; looking on is Oniel Smith, President of the Cambridge Police Youth Club

(Right) SSP Steve McGregor, Senior Superintendent of Police in charge of the St. James Division is joined by Sharon Folkes-Abrahams, outgoing Member of Parliament for the Bogue Division, in breaking of ground at the site of the Bogue Community Resource Centre in the community of Bogue, St. James on March 3, 2016.

Also on March 2, Ms. Herbol spoke at the Family & Parenting Graduation exercise for youth trainees in Cambridge, St. James. USAID Mission Director and COMET II Chief of Party brought the official ceremonials to this key activity for the Family and Parenting Sustainable Livelihoods Grant which includes the training and life skills development of at-risk youth. Additionally, on March 3, 2016 Ms. Herbol participated in the Graduation Ceremony for 3-Day Microsoft Desktop Publishing Workshop held at UTECH's Western Campus in St. James. This 3 day workshop was organized as part of ongoing collaborative efforts between CSSB, Police Youth Clubs, COMET II, and UTECH, St. James. The youth membership from Barrett Town & Cambridge PYC were recipients of this training to boost journalistic and writing skills in aide of documenting and reporting on community issues. Its outputs are centered on how youth may utilize skills to increase awareness around the Culture of Lawfulness, Global Climate Change, and other general community concerns. The tour also facilitated the engagement of the Mission Director in a series of meetings and interactions with police personnel, including members of the JCF high command.

This month saw the completion of three series of Governance Trainings held in partnership with local branches of SDC. The three-day trainings are aimed at developing and strategizing mission and visions, structure, and policies and procedures. Where groups are not registered, this will serve as a guide to achieving such status. The final deliverables of a policy manual and a development strategy are also expected from this interaction.

St. Catherine – March 14-16, Knollis Multi-Purpose Centre, Bog Walk, a total of 23 participants from:

1. Mighty Gully Youth Project – Old Harbour
2. Knollis Benevolent Society – Bog Walk
3. Enos Barrett Disabled Group – Linstead
4. Bog Walk CDC – Bog Walk

Clarendon – March 22-24, Beulah Seven Day Adventist, Osbourne Store, a total of 25 participants from:

1. Osbourne Store CDC – Osbourne Store
2. Race Course CDC – Race Course
3. Mocho Citizens Association – Mocho
4. Beulah Seven Day Adventist – Osbourne Store
5. Bethel Baptist - Bethel
6. Belle Plain & Swansea PYC – Belle Plain

St. James – March 29-31, St. Paul's Anglican Church, Montego Bay, St. James, a total of 24 participants from:

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



Participants from Bog Walk CDC receiving their certificates at the end of the training session in Knollis, Clarendon from March 14-16, 2016.

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

The main Global Climate Change (GCC) activities pursued in March were Climate Change Training for St. James communities and Emergency Telecommunication Training for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Trench Town. These were related to activities 1.4.1 and 1.4.2 in the Year 3 Work Plan.

On March 3, 14 members from our St. James communities participated in a Climate Change Training. The CEDAR methodology and materials were used to conduct the training, which included a farmer case study, hazard mapping, and a quiz.

Workshop objectives included:

- To increase participants' knowledge of climate change
- To discuss the benefits and risks of various reactions to climate change through the review of local examples
- To identify and prioritize hazards impacting the community as well as areas and resources at risk from these hazards

Table 1: Registration for the Climate Change Training in St. James

Date	Parish	Community Groups Present	Total Number of Attendees	Age of Attendees	Gender of Attendees
March 3	St. James	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambridge PYC • Cambridge Development Area Committee • Retirement CDC • Barrett Town CDC • Barrett Town PYC 	14	a) 16-29 5 (b) 30-60 9 (c) Over 60 -	Males 8 Females 6



Participants with their certificates of participation at the end of Climate Change Training in Trench Town

From March 22-23, COMET II facilitated Emergency Telecommunication for DRR training by Abacus for Trench Town community members and stakeholders at the multipurpose complex in the community. The training involved theory and practical sessions. Topics included, but were not limited to, voice procedure, phonetic alphabet, call signs, correction and repetition, and introduction to handheld radios. The 30 participants were also given a handbook as a reference. A number of state agencies and CBOs were represented, including the JCF, SDC, Fathers United for Change, Trench Town CDC, Youth with a Vision, People’s National Party Youth Organization (PNP YO), and Strong Women Of Trench Town (SWOTT). Another Emergency Telecommunication for DRR training is scheduled for Bull Bay in May 2016.



Participants using the radio during the practical exercise

Table 2: Registration for the Emergency Telecommunication Training in St. James

Date	Parish	Community Groups Present	Total Number of Attendees	Age of Attendees	Gender of Attendees
March 22 - 23	St. James	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JCF • SDC • Fathers United for Change • Trench Town CDC • Youth with a Vision • PNP YO • SWOTT 	30	(a) 16-29 19 (b) 30-60 10 (c) Over 60 - One male did not report his age	Males 16 Females 14

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

Discussions continued with NIA representatives on the creation of synergies leading to the establishment of a Committee of Integrity Champions. The month ended with the following:

1. Consideration being given to the possibility of USAID COMET II working with the NIA's social auditing exercise of the National Water Commission. This follows the training of a number of people from COMET II communities in social auditing techniques last August.
2. A proposal has been put to NIA for COMET II to coordinate a meeting, facilitated by NIA, that will bring together representatives from the SDC, PYCs, CDCs, USAID COMET II Youth Journalists, and representatives from Respect Jamaica with a view to establishing Integrity Champions. This could be done at the parish level or one meeting in a central location.

The communities of Cambridge and Barrett Town in St. James have developed Newsletters focusing on Culture of Lawfulness activities in their communities. This flows out of a workshop in Microsoft Desktop Publishing skills that was mounted by USAID COMET II in collaboration with the UTECH Western Campus in Montego Bay from February 29 to March 2, 2016. Twenty community journalists from USAID COMET II and non-project communities attended the workshop and received certificates of participation. It is as part of COMET II's drive to empower communities by training a number youth from targeted project communities in the art of citizen journalism. This workshop supports a PYC newsletter program that will serve the Cambridge and Barrett Town PYCs and act as a pilot for other project communities. The newsletter will be an integral part of activities taking place at the Cambridge CRC. A laptop computer and printer were handed over to the Cambridge Police Station at the end of the workshop where they will be housed and used until the Cambridge CRC is built and operational.



Police Youth Club members from Cambridge and Barrett Town in St. James who were trained in citizen journalism by COMET II pose for the cameras after an interview with USAID Mission Director Denise Herbol inside Club House of the Cambridge Police Youth Club.

Four pilot radio programs have been produced out of an intense two-day workshop/boot camp on radio production and presentation skills that was held January 15 and 22. It is anticipated that these programs 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 stations that will be targeted for marketing of these programs are:

- Roots-FM - Kingston
- Sun City Radio station – St. Catherine
- Global Community Broadcasting Network – St. James

Work has started in engaging police to promote a *culture of lawfulness by example* with a series of meetings and consultations with project consultant Gillian Chambers and the staff of MOCA.

Mrs. Chambers is helping MOCA to draft a communications strategy/policy which falls within Contractual Indicator 14: Number of government officials receiving USG supported anti-corruption training.

The month of March was very busy with respect to public outreach and branding for the USAID COMET II project with the following events:

- USAID COMET II and JCF Community Safety and Security Branch hosted the third Peace Day Concert at the Halfway Transport Centre on March 1, 2014.
- On March 2, 20 community journalists from St. James graduated from the three-day workshop in desktop publishing skills on the Western Campus of the University of Technology in Montego Bay.
- The groundbreaking for two St. James CRCs – Cambridge, March 2, and Bogue, March 3.
- On March 3, USAID COMET II conducted GCC Training in Montego Bay for St. James communities.
- The graduation of 16 youth on March 3 from the nine-month Cambridge Sustainable Livelihood Project in Unity Hall, St. James. This activity was mounted by the Family and Parenting Centre, a small grantee under the USAID COMET II project.

MEDIA COVERAGE

DATE	MEDIA
March 3, 2016	http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/assets/12720143/189137_.jpg
March 3, 2016	http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/entertainment/Few-takers-for-peace-day-concert_53400
March 4, 2016	http://jis.gov.jm/ground-broken-community-resource-centre-cambridge/
March 4, 2016	http://iriefm.net/wp-content/uploads/SSP-MCGREGOR-ON-SCAMMING-1.mp3
March 4, 2016	http://iriefm.net/st-james-police-alludes-lottery-scamming-to-vast-youth-involvement/
March 4, 2016	http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/lead-stories/20160304/usaids-breaks-ground-bogue-community-resource-centre
March 7, 2016	http://jis.gov.jm/25-mobay-youth-trained-desktop-publishing/

Media Highlights:

Cambridge to get resource centre

• USAID funding project

Ground was broken last Wednesday (March 2) for the construction of the Cambridge Community Development Resource Centre in St. James. The facility, to be located in the Cambridge town square, is being built through \$20 million in funding from the United States Agency for International



GROUND BREAKING: Director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Denise Herbol (5th left) and Mayor of Montego Bay, Councillor Glendon Harris (5th right), breaks ground for the building of a Community Development Resource Centre in Cambridge, St. James on Wednesday, March 2. The centre is being built at a cost of just under \$20 million.

The building will provide space for community meetings, a homework centre, as well as educational and social events. A police post will also be established, as part of measures to improve police/community relations.

USAID Mission Director to Jamaica, Denise Herbol, who spoke to JIS News after the ground breaking said the centre will also

smart, with water catchment facilities, solar panels, and environmentally safe waste disposal capabilities. She said that ramps will also be built to allow for wheelchair access.

The USAID Mission Director told JIS News that the project involves partnership with the JCF, Social Development Commission (SDC), Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), and the

Community Development Committee (CDC). When completed, a management committee will be established for the running of the facility.



COMPONENT THREE **ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS FOR AT RISK YOUTH**

For the month of March the Dispute Resolution Foundation (DRF) continued its regular 5-day intervention program. This program was ongoing before the support from USAID COMET II and it seeks to equip youngsters with youth-friendly Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) services through training in conflict resolution management techniques. It is also important to mention that this program is delivered from the DRF's four Peace and Justice Centres, which are located in the COMET II target parishes.

On March 3, 2016 an in-school rap session was facilitated at the Kemps Hill High School in Clarendon. Like all other rap sessions, this session provided an outlet for school-based professionals and students to voice their issues and concerns. It also helped to generate an understanding and rapport between the two groups. There were 20 students and five school-based professionals in attendance.

On March 15, 2016 Spot Valley High School was the venue for the DRF's in-school rap session in St. James. At this session there were 22 students and two school-based professionals. COMET II St. James Coordinator in his site visit report lauded the dean of discipline present for his skill in interacting with the students. It should be pointed out that this dean was trained under the DRF SROs and DoDs youth-friendly ADR training program supported by USAID COMET II. He also assisted with the Peer Mediation training hosted in St. James back in January 2016.

Most activities undertaken during March were in regard to the upcoming Drug Treatment Court (DTC) graduation slated for April 8, 2016 at the Cardiff Hotel and Spa in Runaway Bay, St. Ann. A meeting was convened on March 10 to check-in on the progress with important exercises and to ensure that things were keeping within the budget. This included exercises such as: (a) preparation of an estimated budget; (b) procurement of the venue and refreshment provider; (c) procurement for vendors to design and engrave plaques that would be presented to participants for successfully completing the drug treatment program; (d) procurement of a vendor to print certificates and event programs; (e) compilation of the guest list, ensuring that it is aligned with the budget; etc.



Planning Meeting for the Drug Treatment Court Graduation. (Left to Right) Sislyn Malcolm representative from the National Council on Drug Abuse; Jhana Harris, COMET II Alternative Programs Coordinator; Renita Gordon, Clerk of Courts at the Drug Treatment Court; and Beverley Baugh, Probation Officer, Department of Correctional Services.

On March 17, 2016 site visits to prospective vendors in St. Ann were undertaken. As was previously mentioned the Cardiff Hotel and Spa was the chosen entity; this decision was made purely on the fact that this entity met all the requirements outlined by COMET II in the request for quotation.

Another area of focus was the Workforce Development (WFD) program for participants in the DTC program. Under this program participants will be engaged in vocational and remedial trainings; thus enhancing their employability. It is believed that this will assist to mitigate recidivism and recurring enrolment in the program.

COMET II had proposed dates for a meeting with executives from the HEART Trust/NTA to ascertain necessary information that would later be used to finalize an action plan in the development of the WFD program. However, the dates proposed were not convenient for the staff from HEART. We are seeking to reschedule for the soonest available date. The table below outlines the different aspects of the process, some of which still need to be finalized. It is hoped that the above-mentioned meeting with HEART Trust would have been able to clarify uncertainties; such as the dispensing of stipends.

Project Plan for the Workforce Development Program:

Task	Responsibility	Timeline	Comment
Liaise with accredited training Institutions	COMET II Alternative Programs Coordinator	2 weeks	Enables the coordinator: to compile a menu of programs being offered and to ascertain cost for courses and arrange payment of enrolment fees for participants
Compile list of participants and courses of interest	DTC staff	2 weeks	List should include participants in Phase2 and 3 of the DTC program along with past participants.
Dispensing of Stipends	To be decided	Throughout training	Should only be given to participants being supported by USAID COMET II workforce development program. Should be given upon the approval of COMET II personnel; who will liaise with DTC personnel.

The KSAFA grant activity was approved in March 2016 to resume activities for the next four months. As such the grant activity will now end on July 15, 2016. Youth in the community will benefit tremendously from this program as some youngsters will receive employment (either on a full-time or part-time basis) to assist with the operation of the poultry house. This is aimed to facilitate participants being able to sustain themselves and their families. Other young people will benefit from the profits of the social enterprise because profits will be used to purchase equipment and gears for use by the Rockfort Football Club as a means of engaging the youth in an alternate and positive activity through sports. At the time the grant activity was placed on hold, only one of the five objectives had been met. It was recommended that those objectives that could be achieved during the hiatus be so executed.

These include:

- Youth employed to the social enterprise project must obtain food handler's permit; in order to handle chickens to be sold to persons in and around the Rockfort community.
- The procurement of necessary equipment until things are settled.

With the reinstatement of the grant it is expected that the following activities will take priority:

- The completion of the poultry house construction.
- The purchasing of the first batch of chicks and necessary supplies.
- The acquisition of purchase orders for poultry meat and the procurement of the second batch of chicks.

A site visit is slated for the first week in April to gather progress after the one-month reinstatement.

On January 25, 2016 the Jamaica Red Cross entered into a subcontract with USAID COMET II with the following results expected at the conclusion of this year-long subcontract:

- At least 200 at risk youth in Clarendon and St. Catherine engaged in remedial training.
- At least 200 youth trained and certified in a vocational skill, example barbering, and cosmetology.
- Participants provided with training in disaster risk reduction activities, example by First Aid.
- Participants provided with psychological support.

The first of the five deliverables, an Inception Report and Training Plan, was submitted, reviewed and approved. This enabled the Jamaica Red Cross to receive its first deliverable payment.

This first tranche of payment is expected to allow the subcontractor to:

- Purchase equipment such as a multimedia projector, a printer, and a computer. These will be used to enhance the training programs.
- Provide meals for the participants.
- Support an existing Edu-cultural activity.

COMPONENT FOUR

COMMUNITY POLICING

During March, one Community Based Policing (CBP) training was conducted, the content of which was to engage personnel assigned to units and branches external to the Community Safety and Security Branch. This is in keeping with and ensuring that the principles of community based policing is practiced by all member of the Jamaica Constabulary Force. The core of the training focused on Proximity Policing; the supporting sessions focused on The Economic Value of Community Based Policing; Policing a Changing Society, and Community Engagement.

The Community Resource Centers being established by COMET II were also highlighted in the sessions and were introduced as a base to engage communities in a proactive way by the non-geographic formations within the Jamaica Constabulary Force.

Twenty seven police officers (10 females and 17 males) participated in the training on March 18, 2016. The branches/units represented are as follows: Centre for the Investigation of Sexual Offenses and Child Abuse (CISOCA); Counter Terrorism and Organized Crime (C-TOC); Traffic Division; Narcotics and Criminal Investigations Branch Head Quarters.

The training was conducted by Bishop Dr. Gary Welsh, Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge CSSB; Senior Superintendent of Police Karina Hood, second in command at CSSB; and Donaree Muirhead, Community Police Coordinator COMET II Project.

There are three remaining CBP trainings for Year 3, the next training is scheduled for April 6-7, 2016.



Sergeant L. Benjamin from Traffic (St. Elizabeth) and W/Con. N. Thorpe-Edwards during the group presentation at the CBP training session facilitated by USAID COMET II Community Policing Coordinator Donaree Muirhead

Also during March, the Clarendon Police Youth Club Council received support for their capacity development session held on March 12, 2016. A total of 55 members (21 males and 33 females) representing 15 PYCs participated in the leadership development session held at Central High School in May Pen, Clarendon. The training session was supported by seven members (three male and four females) of May Pen Community Safety Department.

The training was geared towards strengthening the capacity of the participants to better understand the governance, leadership, and management aspect of their individual clubs and the council; to develop better data collection and systems to manage their records for easy reference and evaluation; to plan their events and activities to support/achieve their strategic objectives; and to communicate more effectively both internally and with the wider community. The session had a heavy slant towards advocacy and the group was reminded that they have a responsibility as young people and members of the police youth club movement to purposefully engage their peers in positive interactions that will influence the safety and security of their social spaces.

The facilitators were Ms. Dania Beckford, marketing communications professional; Donaree Muirhead, community police coordinator; and Constable Winston Chambers.

The St. James Police Youth Club Council will be engaged on April 9, 2016 to participate in this activity; however, the format will be different.



Group shot with facilitators and participants at the end of the Clarendon PYCC Leaders Capacity development Activity March 12, 2016

During the period, COMET II's Community Police Coordinator met with the Community Safety Unit of St. James Police Division to discuss the overall operations of the Police Youth Club Council and the Neighborhood Watch in the parish. There is a clear indication that the organizations are in need of support to enhance their operations. A follow up meeting will take place with the Senior Superintendent in charge of the police division to discuss the way forward.

Community Based Police Manual

The Community Based Police Manual is due to be produced by mid-May 2016. The consultant Mrs. Latoya West-Blackwood was on-boarded by the project this month. Mrs. West-Blackwood and component lead Donaree Muirhead met on March 23, 2016 to ensure both parties are on the same page regarding the production of the manual and to work through some logistics regarding the acquisition of files from the JCF.

COMET II supported the JCF CSSB to host the 3rd Annual Safe Schools Peace Day Concert on March 2, 2016 at the Halfway Tree Transport Centre.

This cultural event was designed to:

- (1) Commemorate the National Peace Day Activities.
- (2) Provide an avenue for the police to engage students through the cultural and performing arts while sending the message of peace.
- (3) Showcase the talents of students and police.
- (4) Partner with the wider community in sending a strong message about peace. The Women United group comprising female entertainers, led by Mitzie "Shuga" Campbell, have for the past three years supported the CSSB Safe Schools Program in their school engagement activities. The group was integral in getting the support of the entertainment community and the media to air the event on local TV and radio programs and to publish in print media.

The activity experienced some glitches due to the tense atmosphere resulting from the recently concluded general elections. The venue had to be changed from the St. William Grant Park in Downtown Kingston to the Halfway Tree Transport Centre as parents and schools had expressed their concern for the general safety of the students gathering in the park. This year, the activity did not see the usual level of participation from the ministries and state agencies, which we assume is a result of the changing political environment.

The overall activity met its objective of spreading the message of peace and the police engaging the students in an atmosphere that will foster positive relationships.



Group photo at the end of the CBP Training session held on March 18, 2016 at the Police Officers Club. The participants represented units external to the CSSB (C-TOC, Traffic Division, CISOCA, MID).

During the reporting period, logistical support was provided to the COMET II activities that required the police presence and participation. The events in Montego Bay received extensive support from the police both in the St. James Police Division and the CSSB headquarters. The COMET II Component Coordinator was also instrumental in contacting and getting the political representatives to attend and participate in the activities at the community level. Additionally, during the period the COMET II Component Coordinator conducted site inspections in Negril to scout suitable venues for the upcoming CBP trainings.

Administrative Updates

- COMET II has facilitated two Windows of Opportunity (WOO) activities this quarter. Specifically in March, COMET II focused on closing The Jamaica Chamber of Commerce grant activity titled Political Debates to Promote Good Governance and Accountability. The grant was designed to support the production of political debates for the General Election. However, in February, the two main political parties were unable to agree on a debate format and cancelled all public debates. The grant incurred some costs associated with in-kind support for debate preparations, much of which are supplies that can be repurposed for future election debates.
- COMET II is also working with Woman Incorporated Limited (Woman Inc.) to rehabilitate the only women's shelter in Jamaica. The building is in disrepair and will need a full technical

assessment of the structure and the procurement of a construction subcontractor. Woman Inc. continues to have difficulty managing the SAM registration process, which has held up their activities. This month, the organization signed a grant agreement with COMET II with the special condition that they receive the SAM registration by April 15. An initial site assessment has been conducted to guide the development of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a construction company.

- COMET II facilitated Tam Pham and her team of consultants from the Dexis Group, who were hired to undertake a USAID-funded capacity mapping exercise to better understand the strengths and weaknesses in the capacity of local organizations. Their scope included NGOs/CBOs as well as social enterprises in Jamaica, the capacity support system that is currently available to them and how they are (or not) utilizing it, and how best to enhance the capacity gaps identified. With COMET II's support, the assessment team was able to (over the course of the month of March), go to all five COMET II parishes, interview representatives from organizations that work with youth or marginalized groups and participate in focus group discussions in addition to other activities.