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JAMAICA COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND TRANSFORMATION PROJECT II (COMET II)

QUARTERLY REPORT

April 1, 2015 – June 30, 2015



July 2015

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

BRACED	Building Resilience and Capacity for Emerging Disasters
CBO	Community Based Organization
CBP	Community Based Policing
CDC	Community Development Committee
CDMP	Community Disaster Mitigation Plan
CEDAR	Communities Empowered for Disaster and Adaptive Resilience
CJSDI	Central Jamaica Social Development Initiative
COL	Culture of Lawfulness
COMET II	Community Empowerment and Transformation Project II
COP	Chief of Party
CRC	Community Resource Centre
CRiSTAL	Community Risk Screening Tool – Adaptations and Livelihoods
CSSB	Community Safety and Security Branch of the Jamaica Constabulary Force
DRF	Dispute Resolution Foundation
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DTC	Drug Treatment Court
FPC	Family and Parenting Centre
FSFL	Forward Step Foundation Limited
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GCC	Global Climate Change
GoJ	Government of Jamaica
KSAFA	Kingston and St. Andrews Football Association
ICMA	International City/Country Management Association
JCF	Jamaica Constabulary Force
JRC	Jamaica Red Cross
LEDSP	Local Economic Development Support Program
LETR	Law Enforcement Torch Run
LGBT	Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender
LOA	Letter of Agreement
MOCA	Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency
MP	Member of Parliament
NCDA	National Council on Drug Abuse
NCU-MEC	Northern Caribbean University – Morris Entrepreneurship Centre
NIA	National Integrity Action
NFJ	Netball Foundation of Jamaica
NHW	Neighbourhood Watch Council
NNN	Nationwide News Network
PASSA	Participatory Approach to Safer Shelter Awareness
PSA	Public Service Announcements
PYC	Police Youth Club

PYCNC	Police Youth Club National Council
RFA	Request for Application
SDC	Social Development Commission
SE	Social Enterprise
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SRO	School Resource Officers
UFC	Unite for Change
USAID	United States Agency of International Development
UWI	University of the West Indies
WROC	Women's Resource and Outreach Centre

INTRODUCTION

The Community Empowerment and Transformation Phase II project (COMET II) is a five-year USAID-funded project which began on December 2, 2013. The objectives of COMET II are to strengthen community and civil society organizations, increase citizen cooperation and accountability, strengthen juvenile justice and youth at-risk programs, and further support community-based policing practices. The project also supports improvements in the adaptive capacity of communities to prepare for the impacts of extreme weather events and to address global climate change (GCC) adaptation issues. Cross-cutting development themes are interwoven through COMET II activities—including gender equity and disability rights—by integrating specific targeted interventions across the wider suite of programmatic activities.

For the period beginning April 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2015, referred to as the third quarter of the COMET II Year 2, work continued in relation to the targets set at the close of the preceding quarterly reporting period.

I. COMMUNITY DRIVEN CRIME PREVENTION

Small Grants Program (Activity 1.1)

The COMET II grants program continued its mandate to deliver small grants to community based organizations (CBOs) in this quarter. COMET II has awarded seven grants in this quarter. Following is the list of grant awards for the period:

1. Kingston and St. Andrew Football Association (KSAFA)
2. Family and Parenting Centre (FPC)
3. Dispute Resolution Foundation (DRF)
4. Bull Bay Football Club Ltd.
5. Mount Charles\Luna\St. Job's Heights Benevolent Society
6. St. John's Heights Citizen Association Benevolent Society
7. Central Jamaica Social Development Initiative (CJSDI)

Update on Requests for Applications (RFAs)

During this period, COMET II received grant applications in response to RFAs 12 through 31 and they are currently in the pre-award stage. RFAs 12 to 23 and 31 are pending the selected applicants' submission of necessary pre-award documents, a pre-award risk assessment, and further negotiations with the COMET II grants team on budgets and other details. RFAs 24 through 30 have not yet been evaluated due to incomplete application submissions. These evaluations will proceed once applications are complete.

Please see Annex C for further details.

Strengthening Community Based Organizations (Activity 1.2)

COMET II continued to support capacity building work in this period through workshops and training sessions with organizations throughout the project's geographic areas. Governance and capacity building subcontractor Pivot Consulting concluded four workshops with Cluster 1 and held two workshops with Cluster 2.

Pivot Consulting's Cluster 1 workshops focused on organizational structure, policy development, and financial management. The two capacity building workshops conducted with Cluster 2 on June 10 and June 27 covered Revising Organizational Mission, Mandate and Objectives, and Revising Organizational Structure and Governance Framework. There were a total of 66 participants.



One of the many capacity building workshops held during the period

Robert Underwood, Tetra Tech DPK's Director of Technical Programs, presented certificates of completion to 11 organizations that completed the entire series of workshops.



Tt DPK Technical Director Robert Underwood (second from left) poses with Kerene James (left), Kathleen White (2nd right); and Marcia Spencer (right) from the Harbour Heights Citizens Association after handing over capacity building training certificates.

Pivot Consulting also assisted with the legal registration process for all previously unregistered CBOs in both clusters. Their new registration status enables these groups to further build their capacity and provides them a better platform to secure future grant funding.

The newly registered CBOs are:

1. Belle Plains
2. Brixton Hill
3. Fathers United
4. Four Paths
5. Gordon Town
6. Gregory Park
7. Kitson Town
8. Linstead
9. Stony Hill
10. Old Harbour Community Council
11. Sigarney Citizens Neighbourhood Watch

12. St. Michael Steppers Marching Band
13. Kintyre Citizens' Association
14. Chapelton Community Development Committee (CDC)
15. Racecourse Police Youth Club (PYC)

In addition to obtaining official registration, the CBOs received training on the responsibilities and liabilities of registered organizations, the roles and responsibilities of company directors and secretaries, and compliance with the Office of the Registrar of Companies regulations. The other CBOs within the cohort (Central Jamaica Social Development Initiative, St. John's Heights Benevolent Society, Mt. Charles Luna Benevolent Society, Hannah Town Culture Group, Rockfort Football Club, Bull Bay Football Club, and Progressive Youth In Action Ltd.) were already registered entities.

Social Entrepreneurship

During the period, Dr. K'adamawe K'nife of the University of the West Indies (UWI) Office of Social Entrepreneurship conducted social enterprise (SE) training sessions with the first cohort of CDCs and CBOs. The training focused on assisting these groups in developing strategic business plans.

Subsequently, four CDCs (Rockfort, Gregory Park, Linstead, and Kitson Town) prepared and submitted grant proposals that included the establishment of a sustainable livelihood project and the construction of a community resource center (CRC). Fathers United for Change, a CBO, was also a recipient of the SE training model. The UWI team delivered a total of nine sessions to Rockfort Development Council (five), Linstead Development Committee (two), and Trench Town Development Committee (two). The topics covered included strategic management/business models, incubator plan development, and proposal and business planning. The number of attendees ranged from 7 to 17 per session.

Community Resource Centers (CRCs)

In April, a four-member evaluation COMET II panel comprised of the GCC Coordinator, Civil Society Specialist, Finance and Administration Manager, and the Engineer STTA convened to review the CRC proposal submissions. The Contracting Officer's Representative was invited as an observer. Three of the four prospective subcontractors submitted bids. Of the three bids, two failed to submit all the required documentation and were therefore ineligible. The one remaining bidder's cost exceeded the budget per CRC by more than four million Jamaican dollars. The bidder reduced the amount in negotiation rounds but not enough to fit within the project's predetermined budget. Since then, intensive meetings have been held to determine a lower cost alternative to constructing the CRCs.

Due to the excessive cost of subcontracting construction of the CRCs, COMET II mapped and embarked on an alternative strategy to accomplish the project's objective. Under the new approach, COMET II will give grants to the CDCs to construct the CRCs themselves. Consequently, COMET II redrafted the non-competitive grant RFAs to provide the CDCs with the specific requirements for the CRCs.

In this reporting period COMET II received non-competitive grant applications from five CDCs for the development of the CRCs and to create SEs. The CDCs that have submitted applications are:

- Gregory Park CDC
- Rockfort Development Council
- Linstead CDC
- Kitson Town CDC Ltd.
- Cambridge Benevolent Society.

As a result of discussions with USAID on the matter of establishment of CRCs, the project determined that building renovations can be considered as an option. Therefore, COMET II conducted additional site visits and consultations in Kintyre and Gordon Town. Updates from those site visits are as follows:

- Among the five sites in Cluster I, the project decided at the end of this quarter to focus retrofitting of containers on Kitson Town, Gregory Park, Rockfort, and Cambridge. Stony Hill faced challenges that precluded it from being included in this first cluster of sites.
- In an effort to work through the difficulties in Stony Hill, the project convened meetings with stakeholders and the Member of Parliament (MP) for the constituency in which Stony Hill falls. The purpose of these meetings was to (a) address concerns raised by the MP about location-appropriateness and (b) help the Stony Hill CDC deal with the resulting internal matters. Although an alternate site has been proposed by the MP, the CDC is still not fully in agreement with what has been proposed especially since there seems to be the danger of political interference.
- Four Paths, Kintyre, and Gordon Town have been confirmed as the three sites for the first CRCs to be established. They are going through the planning steps similar to the sites in which retrofitting of containers will be done.



Members of the Kintyre CDC pour over the proposed building drawings

To complement those planning efforts, COMET II held three workshops in specific communities in order to facilitate the development of a communications strategy. These were two (2) held in Rockfort; one (1) held in Four Paths; and plans are advanced for one (1) more to be held in Four Paths in the next reporting period. The intent of the communications strategy is to (a) strengthen the capacity of groups to manage the CRCs in their communities and the related resources, and (b) support the SE and governance components of the project. The indicators of success for the communications strategy will be the transition of the CDC from a voluntary organization to a fully functioning SE utilizing internal and external communication tools including, but not limited to, the setting up of a Facebook page, Twitter and Instagram accounts, and a WhatsApp group in the community. This brings the number of communities developing communication strategies to four (Rockfort, Trench Town, Hannah Town, and Rae Town).

On May 5, COMET II hosted a ground-breaking ceremony at the site of the future CRC in Gregory Park, St. Catherine. Event attendees included Minister of National Security, Hon. Peter Bunting; USAID Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean, Ms. Sarah-Ann Lynch; USAID Mission Director, Ms. Denise Herbol; MP for East Central St. Catherine, Hon. Arnaldo Brown; Councilor Oral Gunning, representing the Portmore Municipal Council; Mr. Gregory Prince, Social Development Commission (SDC), St. Catherine Parish Manager; and Mr. Baldwin Tracey, President of the Gregory Park CDC.



USAID Mission Director to Jamaica, Denise Herbol (3rd left); Minister of National Security, the Honourable Peter Bunting MP (4th left); Junior Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Arnaldo Brown MP (3rd right); and USAID Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean Mrs. Sarah-Ann Lynch (2nd right) participated in the ground breaking at Gregory Park

The ground-breaking ceremony for the Gregory Park CRC garnered substantial publicity, as demonstrated by the media coverage listed in the table below.

DATE	MEDIA SOURCE
May 6, 2015	Loop Jamaica: http://loopjamaica.com/2015/05/06/jamaica-news-community-usaid-breaks-ground-on-gregory-park-community-resource-centre/
May 6, 2015	www.jis.gov.jm http://jis.gov.jm/us108000-resource-centre-built-gregory-park/ http://jis.gov.jm/media/Mid-Day-News-20150507.mp3 (The last story in the 4-minute radio package)
May 6, 2015	Television Jamaica Prime Time News
May 6, 2015	Jamaica Information Service (JIS) TV and radio programming across all stations
May 8, 2015	Jamaica Star online: http://jamaica-star.com/thestar/20150508/news/news16.html

Supporting Youth Empowerment (Activity 1.3)

Grantees Netball Foundation of Jamaica (NFJ) and Forward Step Foundation Limited (FSFL) in Gregory Park continued to support COMET II's youth empowerment efforts.

During the reporting period, NFJ trained and certified 9 junior umpires (1 male and 8 females) who are currently working in NFJ's leagues as umpires. Although they have been tested at the theoretical level, further training will allow them to be promoted to the next badge level.

FSFL in Gregory Park is now implementing their grant to develop a sustainable livelihood project for at-risk-youth. They initially had a total of 50 youth enlisted in their program, of which 26 are females and 24 males. Regrettably, one female has since left the program.



Members of the Forward Step Program proudly displaying jewelry items made by the group.

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

As a follow up activity to the Communities Empowered for Disaster and Adaptive Resilience (CEDAR) Training of Trainers workshop in October 2014, COMET II completed implementation of the CEDAR process in Rae Town and has begun preparations for the implementation in Stony Hill and Kitson Town.

On April 8, a letter of agreement (LOA) was signed between COMET II and the Jamaica Red Cross (JRC) to define the working relationship between the two entities to achieve global climate change specific objectives. Planned activities include: training youth club members from project communities in climate adaptation, providing support to manage disaster risk reduction (DRR) related activities and equipment at the CRCs, and implementing low cost adaptation measures identified in Community Disaster Mitigation Plans (CDMPs) already developed.

The LOA signing was attended by Yvonne Clarke, Director General, JRC; Lois Hue, Deputy Director General, JRC; Franc Kernjak, Mental Health Psychologist Consultant, International Committee of the Red Cross Geneva; Doug Mccaffery, Chief of Party, COMET II; Kwame Emmanuel, GCC Coordinator, COMET II; and Sharlene Hendricks, Intern, COMET II. At the signing, COMET II presented four framed COMET II GCC posters to the JRC.



Doug McCaffery, former Chief of Party of COMET II (2nd left) is joined by Kwame Emmanuel (left); Yvonne Clarke, Director General of the Jamaica Red Cross; and Lois Hue, Deputy Director General of the Jamaica Red Cross as they display one of the selected entries in the Global Climate Change poster competition.

On April 21 and 22, twenty-three young men from Gordon Town, St. Andrew participated in a two-day DRR training session organized jointly by COMET II and the National Works Agency. The men learned how to build and pack gabion baskets that are used to construct retaining walls to stabilize shorelines, river banks, or slopes against erosion or land slippage. Gordon Town is one of a number of communities across Jamaica that is very vulnerable to these hazards.



Participants proudly display their certificates after the two-day disaster risk reduction training

Community journalist Sharlene Hendricks, who is also an intern with COMET II, wrote an article that was published in the TEENage Observer focusing on the gabion basket construction workshop with the young men from Gordon Town, St. Andrew.

DATE	MEDIA SOURCE
April 22, 2015	http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/teenage/Career-Walk



Youth from the Gordon Town Citizens Association demonstrate how to make a gabion basket

From May 11-15, COMET II facilitated the Caribbean Climate Change Adaptation Training of Trainer Workshop for JRC volunteers. The content of the training included:

- Climate change basics
- Observation of local climate change impacts, modeling, and projections
- Sector impacts
- Integrating climate change into the vulnerability and capacity assessment
- Adaptation measures
- Introduction to geographic information systems and global positioning systems, including fieldwork
- Introduction to CRiSTAL (Community Risk Screening Tool – Adaptations and Livelihoods)

Follow-up activities will include two training workshops for 50 PYC members from Kingston and St. Catherine, which are scheduled for August 2015. The JRC trainees will facilitate these two workshops.

Additionally, in this period, a group of facilitators initiated development of an adaptation plan for Rae Town. This plan was designed by community members in order for them to conduct a preliminary risk assessment of their communities so they can brainstorm ways and propose activities to adapt to climate change. One DRR proposal related to flood events proposed a community clean up to mitigate mosquito infestation, since the problem of blocked drainage in the community was highlighted by residents as a major concern.

As a result, on May 25, COMET II supported a Labor Day exercise conducted by the CEDAR Working Group for Rae Town and supported by the SDC and the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF). This small-scale activity involved the removal of solid waste from a drainage system in the community.

Activity highlights included:

- Participation by SDC, JCF, Salvation Army, and the community marching band
- Community participants achieving significant results with limited resources
- Cleaning the drain with engagement from a community plumber who repaired a leaking pipe on the Salvation Army property
- Trained community members mobilizing the community and implementing an action from their CEDAR plan



Rae Town Clean-Up Day, May 25, 2015

Additionally, during the reporting period, the Portmore Municipal Council, acting on information provided by the COMET II GCC Coordinator, applied to the International City/Country Management Association (ICMA) for a city-to-city climate partnership. The Portmore bid was successful and the municipality was selected as a partner city to Townsville, Queensland, Australia for the USAID CityLinks Climate Adaptation Partnership Program. The objective of the project is to improve climate-related governance and systems by pairing a city from a developing country with a resource city from a developed country. The project duration is between 9-12 months, during which the city teams will collaborate to develop strategic recommendations and formulate an implementation plan. The project began with a visit to Portmore by representatives from the ICMA, the City of Townsville, and Urban Climate Change Research Network.

On June 24, COMET II facilitated a multi-stakeholder training workshop in Race Course, Clarendon, in bush fire prevention and hydrant management by the Jamaica Fire Brigade. The training involved modules in disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate change and drought, qualification and role of community responders, chemistry of a fire, methods of extinguishing fires, specifications of a fire hydrant, use of a fire extinguisher, bush fire management, and home fire safety.



Successful participants proudly display their Certificates of Participation

CEDAR engagement and adaptation planning continued in Stony Hill, St. Andrew as a follow up to the October 2014 CEDAR Training of Trainers workshop. This major activity will result in a climate adaptation plan and network that will be developed through a series of meetings over a two month period. On June 20 and 27, COMET II and partners conducted two workshops at the Golden Spring United Brethren Church. These sessions involved broad community participation from the Stony Hill Development Area.

During the period, COMET II also supported the Jamaica Habitat for Humanity's Building Resilience and Capacity for Emerging Disasters (BRACED) project. BRACED was developed by Habitat International through collaborative partnerships with local actors, key informants at all levels of government, and the Portmore Municipality in the parish of St. Catherine. The project targets residents of urban settlements facing high levels of exposure to natural and man-made hazards in the neighborhoods of Gregory Park, Newlands, and Naggo Head. One of the initial initiatives under the project is the Participatory Approach to Safer Shelter Awareness (PASSA). To mark the close of the PASSA process, BRACED conducted close out fairs on June 13 and 29 in Naggo Head (at the bus and taxi stand) and Newlands (at the Newlands Seventh Day Adventist Church grounds), respectively. COMET II provided public awareness materials for the first engagement in Naggo Head and participated in the fair for Newlands.

2. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TO FOSTER A CULTURE OF LAWFULNESS

Involving Civil Society Organizations in a Culture of Lawfulness (Activity 2.1)

During the reporting period, activities to promote a culture of lawfulness (COL) were integrated into the curricula for CSO engagements for Kingston and St. Andrew, St. Catherine, and Clarendon and other public events.

Mass Media Campaigns to Foster a Culture of Lawfulness (Activity 2.2)

In April, COMET II began discussions with National Integrity Action (NIA), Unite for Change (UFC) and EWA Communications to finalize the focus and content of the Year 2 public service announcements (PSAs). The PSA messaging will be linked to driving a culture of lawfulness in the context of the upcoming local government elections, the culture of violence towards police informants, and child protection in the context of law enforcement. This will be done in collaboration with NIA and Unite for Change. EWA has produced three PSAs that are presently in circulation to the partners for their approval. EWA will also develop and implement an online presence via Facebook and Google to enable the dissemination of the COL messages developed in the PSAs. These PSAs will enhance the COMET II COL mass awareness campaign in the traditional media while the citizen journalism workshops provide impact at the community level through training in using social media to develop and disseminate positive messages. The Year 1 PSAs are being used vigorously to support COMET II's public outreach campaign. They were seen during the SDC's T/20 Cricket competition on match days at the community cricket grounds, between overs, and are in heavy rotation on air on the Public Broadcasting Corporation of Jamaica, which is seen on all cable stations in Jamaica.

During the period COMET II also finalized details for two one-day citizen journalism workshops under the theme “Developing Support for the Rule of Law: Creating a Culture of Lawfulness”. The workshops, planned in collaboration with U.S. Embassy, were held on July 21 in Kingston and July 22 in Montego Bay. Kingston’s workshop had eighty participants and in Montego there were thirty participants. The workshops support the ongoing efforts of COMET II to develop the capacity of disenfranchised youths in the 25 target communities and, in doing so, to foster widespread societal support for the rule of law. Both workshops were conducted in collaboration with Digicel and Respect Jamaica.

Engaging the Police to Promote a Culture of Lawfulness (Activity 2.3)

In May COMET II hosted a ceremony at the Police Officers’ Club of St. Andrew to distribute a range of community based policing (CBP) materials to the Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA) and Citizen Safety and Security Branches as part of COMET II’s continued support to the Jamaica Constabulary Force in promoting a culture of lawfulness. This event generated significant media coverage, as presented below.

DATE	MEDIA SOURCE
May 21, 2015	Jamaica Observer: http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/latestnews/Public-s-trust-in-JCF-has-improved--mdash--Trevor-Munroe
May 21, 2015	Jamaica Gleaner: http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/lead-stories/20150521/no-time-panic-commissioner-seeks-assure-nation-spike-murders-not-yet
May 21, 2015	Jamaica Information Service (JIS): http://jis.gov.jm/publics-trust-jcf-improved-according-lapop/
May 21, 2015	Jamaica Information Service (JIS): http://jis.gov.jm/media/jis-Evening-News-201505211.mp3

On June 12-13 and 19-20, two groups of JCF and MOCA personnel (58 total) received training and certification on the JCF Diversity Policy. COMET and the JCF managed the planning of the workshop however the modules were delivered by experts in their respective fields.

The diversity of the training facilitators was recognized and appreciated by the participants. The presenters were experienced and known persons from the development arena who are leading voices for the diverse groups: Rochelle McFee, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist at WE Change (Jamaican LGBT CSO focusing on lesbian, bisexual and transgendered women in particular); Ms. Taitu Heron, Program Coordinator at UN Women Jamaica Program covering Gender issues; Ms. Gloria Goffe, Executive Director at the Combined Disabilities Association representing persons living with disabilities; and Miguel ‘Steppa’ Williams, former Program Development Specialist at the Ministry of Youth and Culture who is also a popular Jamaican poet. Mr. Williams later joined the Comet II team as Civil Society Coordinator.

Public Defender Arlene Harrison-Henry, the keynote speaker at the commencement of training, declared that this training was a great investment in the JCF that will bolster the protection of human rights through professional service delivery. USAID Mission Director, Denise Herbol was keynote speaker at the closing ceremony.

The objectives of the training sessions were to raise the awareness of participants on the nuances of the diverse groups in society; better understand the safety and security issues and challenges facing the diverse groups; increase the capacity of the JCF-CSSB to develop interventions that are inclusive or are specific to the needs of diverse groups; enable the participants to maintain professionalism in the discharge of duties; and treat with dignity and respect, uphold, and preserve the human rights of all, irrespective of who the individual is or to which group a person belongs.

Additionally, for the first time, COMET II coordinated an outside radio broadcast on the NNN from 6:00 to 9:00 a.m. on the morning of June 12. The broadcast showcased the work that COMET II is doing with the JCF and provided the public with insight into the Diversity Policy of the JCF which was the theme of the workshop.

During the broadcast, the following persons were interviewed:

- USAID Mission Director to Jamaica, Denise Herbol
- Public Defender, Arlene Harrison-Henry
- Assistant Commissioner of Police, Bishop Dr. Gary Welsh
- Assistant Commissioner of Police, Norman Haywood
- COMET II Community Policing Coordinator, Donaree Muirhead

The outside broadcast was bolstered by extensive media coverage of both the opening and closing ceremonies as detailed below. As a result of this positive media coverage of the first workshop, COMET II was asked to increase enrolment for the second workshop from 25 to 33 participants.



USAID/COMET II Police Coordinator Donaree Muirhead (left) and NNN Anchor George Davis smile for the camera after the Outside Broadcast at Jewel Paradise Beach Resort Runaway Bay St. Ann

DATE	MEDIA SOURCE
June 12, 2015	Outside Broadcast on Nationwide News Network, 6:00-9:00 a.m.
June 12,2015	“Public Defender Speaks on Diversity at USAID COMET II JCF Diversity Training”: http://www.opd.gov.jm/news/52-public-defender-speaks-on-diversity-at-usaid-comet-ii-jcf-diversity-training
June 12,2015	“Public Defender Pleased with Diversity Training for the Police” http://www.gayjamaicawatch.blogspot.com/
June 19, 2015	“Jamaican Cops Get Diversity Training Under USAID Programme”: http://www.loopjamaica.com/content/jamaican-cops-get-diversity-training-under-usaid-programme
June 21, 2015	“Police Diversity Training”: http://iriefm.net/police-diversity-training/
June 22, 2015	“Police Sharpen to Work with Vulnerable Groups”: http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/results/?operator=search&keyword=Police+diversity+training&sa=GO

The two workshop groups received similar training which included two days of intense theoretical and practical activities. The second training was oversubscribed, resulting in more participants than planned.

The content and discussions from the training sessions were captured and have been developed into a draft of a user friendly guide for the CSSB which is currently at the pre-procurement stage. The implementation package will include a monitoring and evaluation component. The trained police officers, Area Commanders, and Station Managers will subsequently receive tangible products (e.g., brochures, monitoring and evaluation tools, and PowerPoint presentation) that will assist with professional service delivery to the public, continuous learning within the police force, and a means to monitor and evaluate the impact of the training received. As a result of the success of this series of workshops, COMET II has been asked to repeat this training to new recruits and to other members of the JCF.



USAID Mission Director Ms. Denise Herbol addressing the participants at the Closing ceremony of the JCF Diversity Training; Constable Raquel Young-Daley giving her testimony as a participant; and Deputy Commissioner of Police Clifford Blake sharing encouragement during the closing ceremony

3. ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING AND PROGRAMS FOR AT-RISK YOUTH

Prevent youth from coming into conflict with the law from the outset by addressing the care and protection challenges they face (Activity 3.1)

Dispute Resolution Foundation (DRF)

During the reporting period COMET II awarded DRF an 18-month grant for JMD \$16,845,000 (approximately USD \$146,287) to implement the Community-Based School Suspension Program. This program addresses the care and protection challenges Jamaican youth face through activities that encourage acceptable behaviors and attitudes. The grant seeks to build awareness and respect for the rule of law and social order; activate responsiveness of at-risk youth in reducing their vulnerabilities; facilitate positive relationships between suspended students, the school community, and school resource officers (police officers); encourage and promote social improvement; and equip school resource officers and/or deans of discipline with youth-friendly alternative dispute resolution techniques. DRF will implement this program across COMET II target parishes and communities to benefit an estimated 1,100 at-risk youth between the ages of 15-18 years through December 2016.

Forward Step Foundation Limited (FSFL)

FSFL continues to make great impact on the lives of youth in the Gregory Park community through its grant activity, “Livel Up Yuhself – a Come-Unity Sustainability Program” with at-risk youth in the areas of carpentry, jewelry-making, and studio engineering. The participants are also engaged in life skills activities such as conflict resolution and anger management. Over the last five months, participants have been actively engaged in skills training programs, in field trips to recording studios, and in opportunities at craft fairs and expos. Participants in the carpentry, studio engineering, and jewelry making courses have acquired skills in bed making, cupboard making, rhythm composition, carving pendants, and basic voice training. However, FSFL reports that the recent flare-up of violence in the community has severely affected attendance. There has been a 20 percent decrease in attendance, from the initial 25 down to 20 participants. The decreased turnout has not deterred facilitators from delivering the curricula.

On May 7, 2015, the SDC launched its Local Economic Development Support Program (LEDSP) with sponsorship from COMET II in the Irie-FM courtyard in Ocho Rios, St. Ann. Hundreds of people from CBOs and CDCs across the island attended in support of the LEDSP, including representatives of FSFL who accompanied the COMET II team to the event. The launch was headlined by the Prime Minister, Honorable Portia Simpson-Miller, the Minister of Local Government, Noel Arcsott, and the SDC Executive Director, Dr. Dwayne Vernon. COMET II Chief of Party (COP) Ian McKnight also spoke at the occasion. The FSFL was selected to showcase the work currently done with youngsters in Gregory Park under the COMET II Sustainable Livelihood Project for at-risk youth grant. They displayed finished products from the areas of jewelry-making, carpentry, and studio engineering.



Chief of Party Ian McKnight (left) shares the platform with Minister of Local Government the Honourable Noel Arcsott (2nd left, partially obscured); Prime Minister The Most Honourable Portia Simpson-Miller (centre); and Dr. Dwayne Vernon (1st left), Executive Director of SDC at the launch of the SDC's Local Economic Development Support Program (LEDSP)

On May 24, 2015, COMET II collaborated with the Rockfort CDC, community residents, members from several faith based organizations, Windward Road All Age and Primary School, the JCF, Unite for Change, Citizens Security and Justice Program, SDC, and the Child Development Agency to stage a march through the Kingston community of Rockfort. The theme of the march, “Let Our Children Be Children,” focused on issues facing children in Rockfort and throughout Jamaica. The march came against the backdrop of the recent spike in violence, including murders and carnal abuse of Jamaican children. The march culminated in a rally at the Rockfort Police station.



Left: Some participants who took part in the march. Right: Inspector of Police spends time with participants in the march.

Kingston and St. Andrew Football Association (KSAFA)

On June 1, USAID provided technical approval for COMET II to award a grant to KSAFA to use sustainable livelihood projects as a vehicle to prevent and/or rehabilitate youth-at-risk from engaging in deviant behavior. KSAFA will construct chicken coops to rear chickens for meat to be sold in and around the Rockfort community. COMET II received a waiver from USAID for the procurement of live chickens on June 29, which enables the grant activity to commence.

The Rockfort Football Club, which falls under the KSAFA parenting body, will receive governance and social entrepreneurship training from COMET II’s subcontractors Pivot Consulting and the University of West Indies (UWI) Office of Social Entrepreneurship.

Women’s Resource and Outreach Centre (WROC)

The Women’s Resource and Outreach Centre (WROC), under its ongoing grant from COMET II, continues to provide training for youth in the areas of customer service, animation, remedial classes, and gender-based violence (GBV). WROC also shares knowledge on combating GBV. The youth are from COMET II’s Kingston and St Andrew communities. As WROC’s grant activity comes to a close in July 2015, the program facilitators are wrapping up the delivery of skills training and certification.

Youth have also received training in interview techniques, facilitated by WROC’s communications officer, as a means of preparing participants to efficiently deliver information learned about GBV issues on radio and television programs. As a result, these grant activities also contributed to COMET II’s public awareness and outreach efforts.



**Participants in the GBV workshop
radio interview**



WROC students involved in a

Diversion/Alternative Sentencing (Activity 3.2)

Drug Treatment Court (DTC) Program

Collaboration with the Ministry of Justice to support the Drug Treatment Court (DTC) program progressed with a May 28 meeting with Chief Justice Zaila McCalla, USAID Contracting Officer's Representative Allan Bernard, and COMET II COP Ian McKnight. This partnership seeks to employ alternative programs as the first response to youth coming into conflict with the law, especially for those who have been charged with minor drug-related offences and have accepted rehabilitation through the Resident Magistrate Court.

On June 15, COMET II met with the National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA) to reach a resolution to fast-track activities with the DTC program. At this meeting, COMET II and NCDA brainstormed ideas and delegated tasks for planning of a stakeholders' one-day seminar for establishment of a DTC to be facilitated by COMET II in Ocho Rios, St. Ann in September 2015.

The aim of the one-day seminar is to:

- Establish the gaps in the current DTC program and where COMET II could support;
- Gather and solidify ideas on the way forward from the standpoint of the Chief Justice and her magistrates, treatment counselors, and other stakeholders; and
- Ascertain the value of NCDA's monitoring and evaluation platform to the DTC program.

In addition to the Chief Justice and the NCDA, representatives from the parish-based magistrates, the JCF, probation officers, and other relevant stakeholders will attend.

4. COMMUNITY BASED POLICING

Support for the continued implementation and consolidation of the Community Based Policing Strategy (Activity 4.1)

During this period, the project supported development of the framework for the standard operating procedures (SOP) for the police post in CRCs. This framework is being shared with CDC representatives to receive community feedback on the intended operation and use of space by the police in the shared CRC. Gregory Park has been identified for the pilot as it will have the first CRC.

The project supported the St. Catherine North Police Youth Club Easter Camp through financial and technical assistance. The six-day residential camp, which engaged 50 youth club members from various PYCs in the parish, was held in St. Catherine from April 6-12, 2015. The major highlights from the camp were the inclusion of work sessions on gender, global climate change, and sports. The camp was also supported by other stakeholders including the SDC and the Institute of Sports.

COMET II provided financial and technical support for the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) 5k Walk/Run, organized by the Community Safety and Security Branch of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (CSSB) for the benefit of Special Olympics Jamaica. This sports activity was carried out with the

support of the other security state agencies and involved the PYCs, young JCF recruits, and the youth athletes who will participate in the 2015 Special Olympics Games. COMET II received tremendous public relations attention and recognition from this activity.



Police Commissioner Dr. Carl Williams (right) holds the torch while Minister of National Security, the Honourable Peter Bunting (2nd left) looks on. Both were among participants in the LETR 5k Walk/Run

COMET II's governance consultant, Tania Chambers, facilitated a workshop series on the Governance Strengthening Program for the Police Youth Club National Council (PYCNC). To allow for clearer understanding of the process and what is expected of the PYCNC, Ms. Chambers further met with the PYC National Executives, the PYCNC Governance Working Group, and the CSSB PYC National Coordinators and provided them with an overview of the governance capacity strengthening process and needed clarifications.

The second of the two-part leadership workshop for youth clubs in the Kingston Eastern Police Division was conducted on April 11, 2015. Project partner NIA provided support for the workshop, which focused on SE as a means for sustainable development, embracing and practicing integrity, accountability, and transparency in leadership, and observance of the rule of law. The discussions revealed that sports was a major pull factor for club membership, and several ideas of using sports as an economic activity for clubs came to the fore. The CSS Officers for the East Kingston Police Division actively participated in the workshop.

The Neighbourhood Watch Council (NHW) and the JCF came to a resolution on their relationship moving forward. NHW and the CSSB formally informed COMET II of this resolution. COMET II will now resume engagement with the organization.

The draft SOP for the police posts, which are to be a part of each CRC, was submitted to the CSSB for review and subsequent approval. The SOP will be inserted into the upgraded Community Safety and Security Manual. The manual was also submitted to the head of the National Police Training

College for review, who made a number of recommendations; the review team continues to work on the document in light of the new recommendations.

The scope of work to develop and deliver training for School Resource Officers (SROs) in the areas of dispute resolution, child rights, basic counseling, and social work is being developed. The CSSB is compiling a list of persons to be Trainer of Trainers, who will subsequently train the SROs island-wide.

Through Component 2, Anti-Lottery Scam paraphernalia in the form of approximately two thousand (2000) school notebooks were designed, printed, and disseminated in Western Jamaica.



USAID Mission Director, Denise Herbol, hands over anti-lottery scamming materials to Police Commissioner Dr. Carl Williams

Additionally during the reporting period COMET II COP Ian McKnight and COMET II Community Policing Coordinator Donaree Muirhead met with Assistant Commissioner of Police Dr. Gary Welch and Senior Superintendent Karina Powell. The discussion highlighted the successes achieved through the COMET II project and how the respective workplans of both organizations could be synergized. The meeting ended with a renewed commitment to collaboration on a variety of CSSB requirements despite new leadership at COMET and CSSB.

Support for the continued implementation and institutionalization of the Jamaica Constabulary Force anti-corruption strategy (Activity 4.2)

Through its Consultant Gillian Chambers, COMET II continued to lend support to the historic merger of two branches of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), namely the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) and the Major Organized Crime and Anti-Corruption Task Force (MOCA TF). The result of this merger will be the single such agency of its kind in Jamaica: The Major Organized Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA). This proposed new law enforcement agency requires a completely new structure of new positions, departments and Units designed to reflect the new expanded mandate for MOCA

COMET II has been able to bring support to that process in the following areas:-

Human Resources: The vision and mission of the new agency requires a significant increase from the current 156 to 700 members of staff. Consequently, significant time and focused energy has been

spent in the writing of new policies and procedures as well as updating existing ones. That has been a collaborative, iterative process that involves a team within MOCA as well as technical experts from the Ministry of National Security. Meetings are being held on a regular basis that include recommendations based on GoJ guidelines as well as best practice in both public and private sector organisations.

Additionally, in supporting the development of Policies and Procedures it has been realized that many new policies and procedures need to be written to reflect the needs of the new Agency many resource documents are being used as well as meetings and discussions with staff to map out the processes currently being used. One of the priorities is the Vetting and Polygraph Unit where the development of a Policy as well as two Procedures is far advanced.

That process has also highlighted new procedures not originally thought of having to be drafted based on existing and new requirements. An example of this is a procedure or checklist for attached staff such as consultants. MOCA equipment and security features are assigned to persons therefore this should be noted and signed for and upon completion of the assignment or period of work, this should be revisited and the items collected and returned.

COMET II's contribution is also being complimented by DFID and a planning meeting is being arranged to include the DFID legal consultant, MOCA staff and the USAID COMET consultant.

In support of its communication strategy, a transformation team has been identified and meets regularly. They have developed a transformation-plan, drafted priorities, and assigned roles and responsibilities. Subsequent to that various meetings were held to update staff regarding latest developments and meetings were also held with the Ministry of National Security staff regarding the changes.

In support of the Leadership and Management components, COMET II's consultant has executed a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis of both the Executive and Middle Management Teams and is an integral part of briefings/updates on current events regarding the transformation process at various levels were conducted on a continuous basis.

Resulting from that SWOT Analysis, COMET II has been approached to facilitate and support a two day working group session in July to discuss requirements and concretize the needs for the new JDs for the new MOCA Agency.

Additionally it is important to reiterate that during the period, through Component 2, Anti-Lottery Scam paraphernalia in the form of approximately two thousand (2000) school notebooks were designed, printed, and disseminated in Western Jamaica.

5. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

Effective Management of Program Staff (Activity 5.1)

- Ian McKnight replaced Doug McCaffery as COP on May 11, 2015
- Machel Stewart was selected to replace Ian McKnight as Civil Society Specialist. He took office on June 1, 2015.
- Romel Gordon was approved to replace Stacy-Ann Gavin as St. Catherine Coordinator. He took office on June 1, 2015.
- Miguel 'Steppa' Williams, Civil Society Coordinator, commenced work on July 1, 2015
- Brian-Paul Welsh, Administrative Assistant, commenced work on July 2, 2015.

Monitoring and Evaluation (Activity 5.2)

Please find COMET II programmatic performance indicators attached in Annex B.

6. PROGRAM CHALLENGES

During the period, COMET II was able to incrementally accelerate and maintain its burn rate. This is so despite the fact that the major item of expenditure, the establishment of the CRCs, is yet to be triggered. The COMET II team however has stuck to its strategy of continuing its focus on rolling out other programmatic and administrative activities and related costs.

Despite the hitches encountered in executing the activities with the Drug Court under Component 3, during this period, COMET II experienced the most progress to date. It is envisioned that the September 5th planning meeting with the Chief Justice and her magistrates will map a concrete strategy to move the collaboration forward.

The table below lists a selection of program activities scheduled for the months of July and August.

DATE	ACTIVITY
July 18	MOCA Working Group Session
July 19-25	Police Youth Club National Camp
July 20-31	Kingston East Police Youth Camp
July 21	Community Journalism Workshop Theme: <i>“Developing Support for the Rule of Law: Creating A Culture of Lawfulness”</i>
July 22	Community Journalism Workshop Theme: <i>“Developing Support for the Rule of Law: Creating A Culture of Lawfulness”</i>
July 25	CBO Capacity Building Policy and Procedures Workshop Day 1 – Policy Development
July 27-31	Safer House Training for Rockfort Community by Red Cross
July 28	CBO Capacity Building Policy and Procedures Workshop Day 2 – Accounting Procedures
August 1-13	Clarendon YIC HEADS UP Camp
August 14	JCF Diversity Training
August 15	JCF Diversity Training
August 10-16	St. Catherine South Behavior Modification Intervention Programme
August 10-21	Youth Voice Camp Fletchers Land
August 17-21	Jamaica Psychosocial Foundation Camp

