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JAMAICA COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND TRANSFORMATION PROJECT II (COMET II)

QUARTERLY REPORT

January 1, 2016 – March 30, 2016



April 30, 2016

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CONTENTS

LIST OF ACRONYMS	2
INTRODUCTION.....	3
1. CAPACITY BUILDING AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE WORKSHOPS/TRAININGS..	3
2. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TO FOSTER A CULTURE OF LAWFULNESS (COL)Error! Bookmark not defined.16	
3. ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING AND PROGRAMS FOR AT-RISK YOUTH	20
4. COMMUNITY BASED POLICING	25
5. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT	28
6. PROGRAM CHALLENGES	28
7. UPCOMING PROGRAM EVENTS	28

ANNEXES

ANNEX A: FINANCIAL QUARTERLY REPORT (JULY - SEPTEMBER 2015)

ANNEX B: PROGRAMMATIC PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

ANNEX C: COMET II QUARTERLY GRANTS REPORT

LIST OF ACRONYMS

CBO	Community Based Organization
CDC	Community Development Committee
CEDAR	Communities Empowered for Disaster and Adaptive Resilience
COMET II	Community Empowerment and Transformation Project II
CRC	Community Resource Centre
CSSB	Community Safety and Security Branch
DRF	Dispute Resolution Foundation
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DTC	Drug Treatment Court
GCC	Global Climate Change
JaREEACH	Jamaica Rural Economy and Ecosystems Adapting to Climate Change
JCF	Jamaica Constabulary Force
KSAC	Kingston & St. Andrew Corporation
KSAFA	Kingston and St. Andrew Football Association
MOCA	Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency
NIA	National Integrity Action
OSE	Office of Social Entrepreneurship
PIOJ	Planning Institute of Jamaica
PSA	Public Service Announcements
PYC	Police Youth Club
SDC	Social Development Commission
SSP	Senior Superintendent of Police
SWOTT	Strong Women of Trench Town
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UWI	University of the West Indies

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 by integrating specific targeted interventions across the wider suite of programmatic activities.

This report presents the updates for the period beginning January 1, 2016 and ending March 31, 2016, referred to as the second quarter of COMET II Year 3 (Y3 Q2).

I. COMPONENT ONE: CAPACITY BUILDING AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE WORKSHOPS/TRAININGS

Small Grants Program (Activity 1.1)

The USAID COMET II grants program continues to engage in a series of activities aimed at awarding cross-cutting small grants to community based organizations (CBOs).

The highlights during this reporting period are:

- A. Issuance of five new grants to the following organizations:
 - Mocho Citizen Association of Clarendon Ltd.
 - The Jamaica Association of General Baptists (Bethel)
 - Race Course Police Youth Club
 - Good Hope and Partners Benevolent Society
 - Cambridge Benevolent Society.
- B. Approval of two social entrepreneurship activities through the establishment of community resource centers (CRCs) made from retro-fitted shipping containers to Linstead Community Development Committee (CDC) and Kitson Town CDC Ltd. Please note however the issuance of these awards is on hold pending site visits and preliminary assessments to be conducted by COMET II's CRC consultants. It is anticipated that Kitson Town will be awarded in May, while Linstead remains pending another site selection by the CDC as the original proposed site is unsuitable to house the CRC.
- C. Continued monitoring of fifteen grants currently being implemented by the following organizations:
 - Netball Foundation of Jamaica
 - Northern Caribbean University/Morris Entrepreneurship Centre
 - Kingston and St. Andrew Football Association
 - Family and Parenting Centre
 - Dispute Resolution Foundation

- Mount Charles\ Luna\ St. Job's Hill Benevolent Society
- Central Jamaica Social Development Initiative
- Bull Bay Football Club
- St. John Heights Citizen Association Benevolent Society
- Fathers United for Change Ltd
- St. Michael's Steppers Marching Band Ltd.
- Positive Youths in Action Ltd.
- Hannah Town Cultural Group Ltd.
- Rockfort Development Council
- Gregory Park CDC Ltd.
- Beulah Church of God Seventh Day Evangelical Inc. Ltd.

D. Continued preparation of additional grants to organizations seeking to implement sustainable livelihood projects, which will facilitate social entrepreneurship activities through the establishment of CRCs made from retro-fitted shipping containers or renovated buildings.

During Quarter 2, the COMET II grants team conducted frequent and regular site visits to the grantees, allowing for timely identification of issues that the grantees were having, and thus helping them to improve their adherence to grant guidelines and mitigating future challenges and risks in implementing the grant activities.

COMET II continues to improve its grants management systems and has targeted the scope of work of Community Coordinators towards supporting the grants program in facilitating collection of documentation from applicants and grantees, which has helped to speed up the grants award process and activities. It was also reinforced during this process of feedback that social enterprise training should be conducted before an applicant submits a grant application for a social enterprise, as this would reduce the delays in negotiating grants.

In Quarter 3 (April – June 2016), COMET II expects to award at least 9 Sustainable Livelihood Projects and Social Enterprises and 7 CRCs.

Strengthening Community Based Organizations (Activity 1.2)

Meetings with CBOs

During the month of January a meeting was held with Stony Hill CDC, police, and Social Development Commission (SDC) as a follow-up to the progress and status of the land acquisition for the Stony Hill CRC. After numerous delays in this process, COMET II saw it fit to once again address the community with support from the SDC and the Stony Hill Police. The community has identified lands adjacent to the primary school and the principal will now follow-up to acquire permission through the Commissioner of Lands.

Similarly, COMET II continues to follow operations of the launched CRC's, particularly in the community of Rockfort, where a meeting was held in January with Rockfort Development Council,

police and SDC to outline plans for the police post as well as to synchronize operations with the Rockfort Development Council. From this meeting COMET II was made aware of the police's intention to operate a weekly 8am – 10pm shift and other operational plans. Additionally it must be noted that the SDC and COMET II continue to have monthly parish meetings in a bid to keep the partnership fruitful and allow for feedback, planning and updates. Among other things, the meeting with (Kingston & St. Andrew Corporation) KSAC has highlighted the challenges and achievements on the ground in COMET II communities over the last two months.

Community Coordinators across the Parishes continue ongoing work with grantees as it regards obtaining the relevant paper work and documentation for the grant process. An updated work plan of site visits and week-by-week check-ins with grantees has now become systematic. This will improve the quality of grants operation and allow for greater acceleration on several matters pertaining to grantees' management ability and milestone delivery.

Mission Director Site Visits

On February 5, 2016 USAID Mission Director to Jamaica, Denise Herbol conducted a series of site visits across the Kingston belt. The Mission Director visited current and potential sites for Sustainable Livelihood and Community Resource Centre Grants. The trip included discussions with community members, SDC, local police, and Community Safety and Security Branch (CSSB) officials as well as some 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)

The site visit to Rockfort, in particular, was joined by Member of Parliament Hon. Phillip Paulwell. Mission Director strategically used the opportunity to discuss the implementation of the Social Enterprise grant at the Rockfort Football Club, aspects of which had raised concerns by the Mayor of Kingston stemming from the construction of chicken coops by the club for income generation. From this and a series of subsequent exchanges between the stakeholders, the club was granted 6 months to conduct the project in the interest of the grantee and the community at large. Thereafter operations must be relocated from the site.



USAID Mission Director to Jamaica, Denis Herbol (left) makes a point to Member of Parliament Hon. Phillip Paulwell during her site visit to the Rockfort CRC.

In March, Mission Director Herbol had a successful tour and interaction with grantees and community members as she participated in the CRC groundbreaking ceremonies for two St. James CRC sites – Cambridge and Bogue. Ms. Denise Herbol and COMET II Chief of Party Ian McKnight also represented the project at the graduation exercise for youth trainees at the Family and Parenting Centre in Cambridge. This was a key activity in the Family and Parenting Sustainable Livelihoods Grant which also includes the training and life skills development of at-risk youth.

The Cambridge CDC hosted several partners at its CRC groundbreaking ceremony on March 2 in the community inclusive of the USAID Mission Director, Cambridge Gospel Chapel, Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), SDC, St. James Police High Command and members of the Political leadership. The ceremony took place on the grounds of the Police Station with an estimated audience of 250 persons.

The following day in the community of Bogue, the Bogue CDC launched their own CRC under the patronage of the USAID Mission Director, SSP Steve McGregor and a number of local civil society partners such as SDC, PIOJ and community members. Attendance is estimated at some 200 persons.



The graduating class at the Family & Parenting Centre's Skills Training Programme.



(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.

Component I Trainings

During this quarter, COMET II re-launched the Governance Training sessions with SDC as a core partner in this process. The trainings are aimed at developing and strategizing organizational mission and visions, structure, and policies. Where groups are not registered, this will serve as a guide to achieving such. The final deliverable of a Policy Manual and a Development Strategy is also expected from this interaction.

A meeting was held in January involving COMET's civil society Specialist, civil society coordinator, SDC representatives, community coordinators, and governance training interns to fine tune operations and timelines for the implementation of these Governance Training series. This round of Governance Training took place on a parish-by-parish basis and included the support from a cohort of youth serving as Governance & Capacity Building Interns from across the five parishes. After some delays, mainly due to the General Elections that were held in February, Governance Trainings were held in three locations for a total of 14 CBOs, as detailed below:

PARISH	DATES	LOCATION	CBO / CDC	# of Participants
St. Catherine	March 14-16, 2016	Knollis Multi-Purpose Centre (Bog Walk)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mighty Gully Youth Project ▪ Knollis Community Benevolent Society ▪ Enos Barrett Disabled Group ▪ Bog Walk CDC 	23
Clarendon	March 22-24, 2016	Buelah 7 Day Church (Osbourne Store)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 	25
St. James	March 29-31 2016	St. Paul's United Church (Montego Bay)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Barrett Town PYC ▪ Cambridge CDC ▪ Mount Carey Citizens Association ▪ Ramble Hill Citizens Association ▪ Bogue CDC 	14

COMET II held a meeting with UWI Office of Social Entrepreneurship (OSE) regarding the next cohort of trainees for the Social Enterprise Workshops. The Social Enterprise Training team from UWI also attended the training sessions to introduce and begin discussions around their training slated to begin in May 2016.

The next round of Social Enterprise Training Workshops should include the following organizations:

- Beulah Church of God Seventh Day Evangelical Inc. Ltd.
- The Jamaica Association of General Baptists (Bethel)
- Enos Barrett Disabled Group
- Knolis Citizen Association
- Mighty Gully
- Good Hope Partners
- East Kingston Society
- Barret Town Police Youth Club
- Cambridge CDC
- Four Paths CDC
- Kintyre CDC

During March, a three-day Microsoft Desktop Publishing Workshop was held at the UTECH Campus in St. James. This three-day workshop was organized as a collaborative effort between CSSB, Police Youth Clubs, COMET II Components 1 & 2, and UTECH St. James Campus. The youth membership from Barrett Town and Cambridge Police Youth Clubs (PYCs) were recipients of this training to boost journalistic and writing skills in aid of documenting and reporting on

community issues. Its outputs centered on enabling youth to utilize skills for increasing awareness on the Culture of Lawfulness, Global Climate Change and other general community concerns.

Other Notable Activities

On Wednesday, January 13, 2016, COMET II's Civil Society Coordinator represented the project at the Suncity Radio/ Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) High School Disc Jock Competition. The activity was a partnership between the JCF's Community Safety and Security Branch (CSSB), Suncity Radio, and the Ministry of Youth & Culture. CSSB was represented by Dr. Bishop Gary Welsh, and Hon. Minister Lisa Hanna brought the keynote address. The competition revolves around promotion of Jamaica's creative cultural expressions as a means for avoiding substance abuse. The competition is slated to run across schools in St. Catherine, Kingston, and St. Andrew until the finale on March 12, 2016.

Community activities during the month of February were generally hampered, called off, or rescheduled due to the announcement and subsequent implementation of the General Elections. COMET II used this time to focus on strategic planning to better meet the demanding and changing dichotomies associated with the project. Several meetings and strategic planning sessions were held with Tetra Tech DPK Home Office personnel and local COMET II team in support for an improved way forward. Other notables included planning meetings for the upcoming cohort of Governance training as well as Social Enterprise (SE) training.

During the month of February, however, a preliminary meeting was held with representatives from UTECH and COMET II team regarding collaboration in support of a series of community interventions titled 'UTECH Connect' to be held in April. The expectation is that there will be three themed conferences focused on: community enterprise, climate change, and personal development. The event is also expected to engage the communities through a series of sporting activities, a health fair, education fair, craft display and trading, cultural presentations and entertainment. The communities of August Town, Kintyre, and Gordon Town are all COMET II communities and as such there is much excitement about the importance of this collaboration. Talks are afoot about replicating activities in St. James communities. The Civil Society team is continuing these discussions.

Also during March, Sustainable Livelihood grant recipient Forward Step Foundation informed COMET II Civil Society team that the Foundation was invited to attend and participate in the Commonwealth Conference on Youth Work in Pretoria, South Africa at the University of South Africa. The presentation was solely on the 'Livli Up Yuhself Programme' a youth development training and life skills programme fully funded by USAID COMET II.

Key meetings during the quarter included:

1. Meeting with SSP McGregor re COMET II activities in St. James
2. Meeting with SDC, St. James re partnerships in the Parish
3. Meeting with Office of Social Entrepreneurship re the upcoming Social Enterprise Trainings scheduled for start in April.

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

A number of Global Climate Change (GCC) activities were successfully implemented during the second quarter of Year Three.

These accomplishments included:

1. Completion of Phase Two of the Gabion Basket training in Gordon Town, St. Andrew
2. CEDAR training in St. James using the methodology and materials
3. Implementation of the Emergency Telecommunication for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) training by Abacus in Trench Town, Kingston

These activities focused on:

- Increasing knowledge of climate change in project communities
- Skills training for DRR
- Building social cohesion

Gabion Basket Practical in Gordon Town

From February 1-5, 2016, the practical component for the Gabion Basket Training continued in Gordon Town in the district of Dublin Castle. Overall, 16 males participated in the exercise but the daily attendance ranged from eight to 14 persons. During the five days, the participants carried large stones from the drop-off point to the construction site; extended the foundation by six basket-lengths; tied and fully packed 10 baskets; partially packed three baskets; and started backfilling. The operation also involved the use of a chainsaw to cut tree trunk.

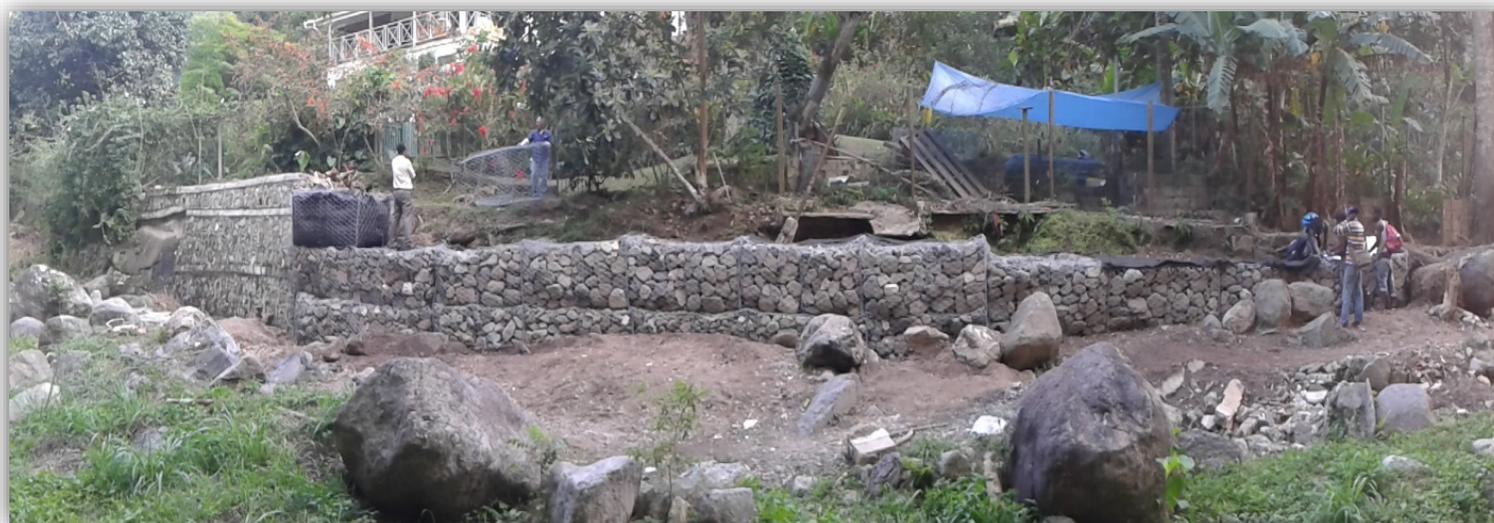
An additional day of training, February 16, was organized with only eight of the participants to complete the three partially packed baskets, plus an additional basket, and to continue backfilling. In total, 19 baskets were packed in 11 days of fieldwork (with the first five days in November 2015).



Stone relay from drop-off point to construction site in Dublin Castle

Registration information for continuation of Phase 2, Gabion Basket Training

Activity/ Occasion	Host	Event Date	Organization Community Represented	Venue	COMET-II Representative	Component Activity #	Performance Indicator	Total	Disaggregation	
									Gender	Age Categories
Gabion Basket Practical	COMET II	February 1-5 and 16, 2016	Gordon Town	Riverbank in Dublin Castle, Gordon Town, St. Andrew	Dr. K. Emmanuel S. Harvey J. Maitland	1.4.1	PI #1, PI #2, PI #8, PI #9	16	Males 16 Females -	(a) 16-29 13 (b) 30-60 3 (c) Over 60 -



Panoramic view of gabion wall on final day

Climate Change Training in St. James

On March 3, 2016, 14 members from our St. James communities participated in a climate change workshop. The CEDAR methodology and materials were used to conduct the training, which included a farmer case study, hazard mapping, and a quiz.

Workshop objectives:

- 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

The CBOs that were represented at the workshop included the Cambridge PYC, Cambridge Development Area Committee, Retirement CDC, Barrett Town CDC, and Barrett Town PYC.



A group of workshop participants discuss the hazards impacting the Cambridge community

Registration for the Climate Change Training in St. James

Activity/ Occasion	Host	Event Date	Organisation/ Community represented	Venue	COMET-II Representative	Component Activity #	Performance Indicator	Total	Disaggregation	
									Gender	Age Categories
Climate Change Training	COMET II	March 3	Cambridge PYC	St. Paul's United Church, Montego Bay	Dr. K. Emmanuel	1.4.2	PI #1, PI #2	14	Males 8 Females 6	(a) 16-29 5
			Cambridge Development Area Committee							(b) 30-60 9
			Retirement CDC							(c) Over 60 -
			Barrett Town CDC							
			Barrett Town PYC							

Emergency Telecommunication for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) training by Abacus in Trench Town, Kingston

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, and 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, PNP Youth Organization (PNPYO), and Strong Women of Trench Town (SWOTT).



Participants displaying their certificates of participation at the end of the practical exercise

Table 3: Registration information for Emergency Telecommunication for DRR training, March 22

Activity/Occasion	Host	Event Date	Organisation/ Community represented	Venue	COMET-II Representative	Component Activity #	Performance Indicator	Total	Disaggregation	
									Gender	Age Categories
Emergency Telecommunication Training	COMET II	March 22 - 23	JCF SDC Fathers United for Change Trench Town CDC Youth with a Vision PNP YO SWOTT	Trench Town Multipurpose Centre	Dr. K. Emmanuel T. Markes	1.4.1	PI #1, PI #2, PI #8, PI #9	30	Males 16 Females 14	(a) 16-29 19 (b) 30-60 10 (c) Over 60 - One male did not report his age

Other Activities

COMET II drafted a response for the joint Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan (PERSUAP) in collaboration with the Jamaica Rural Economy and Ecosystems Adapting to Climate Change (JaREEACH) project. In the case of COMET II, pesticide use is being considered by the grants program for the sustainable livelihood and social enterprise projects. The PERSUAP was subsequently submitted by JaREEACH to USAID for approval.

Prizes for the US Embassy's plastic bottle recycling project, "Operation Clean Sweep" were officially delivered to the three beneficiaries selected by the communities of Gregory Park (Gregory Park Primary School), Stony Hill (Stony Hill Health Centre) and Rae Town (St. Michael's Primary School). Prizes included water tanks, recycling receptacles, and LED lights. Participating in the presentation were the principal, staff, students, representatives from the SDC, the newly-formed CDC, and COMET II.



Project organizers, participants and beneficiaries in Rae Town pose with prizes which include a 400 gallon water tank and recycling receptacles

2. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TO FOSTER A CULTURE OF LAWFULNESS (COL)

During the Y3 Q2, activities in Component 2 focused on public outreach and branding and on meeting COMET II's Performance Indicators.

Between January and March work in this component focused on creating the synergies between (National Integrity Action) NIA and COMET II that will result in achievement of the expected results of Establish an Integrity-champion committee pulled from CSO and CBO leadership to foster culture of lawfulness in CRP grassroots communities. By the end of the quarter, the following had been achieved:

- Discussions were held with NIA representatives on the possibility of USAID COMET II working with the group'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.

- A proposal was put to NIA for COMET II to coordinate a meeting, facilitated by NIA, that will bring together representatives from the SDC, PYCs, CDCs, COMET II Youth Journalists and representatives from Respect Jamaica with a view to establishing Integrity Champions. Two planning meetings have been conducted so far but at the time of reporting NIA is on operational hiatus pending the renewal of its contract with USAID. Once this process is completed, implementation discussions will resume.

Activity 2.1.2 – Facilitate the Establishment of Community-centered Culture of Lawfulness (COL) Projects

PROJECT	PARISH/COMMUNITY	PARTICIPANTS			IMPLEMENTATION DATE
		#	M	F	
Sponsorship and participation in the 3-month radio series on Roots FM entitled ‘Politics or Politricks’	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rae Town, Kingston • Bull Bay, St. Andrew • Four Paths, Clarendon • Old Harbour, St. Catherine • Respect Jamaica 	5	3	2	Ended January 2016
Workshop in Newsletter Production - Desktop Publishing	St. James: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambridge • Barrett Town • Bogue • Other non-project communities 	20	12	8	February 29 - March 2, 2016
Mounting of a 2-day workshop Radio Production and Presentation skills resulting four Pilot programs were produced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rae Town, Kingston • Bull Bay, St. Andrew • Four Paths, Clarendon • Old Harbour, St. Catherine • Respect Jamaica 	5	3	2	January 15 and 22

USAID COMET II sponsored and participated in the 3-month radio series on Roots FM entitled ‘Politics or Politricks’ with the objective of sensitizing citizens, young people in particular, who listen to the radio station about issues related to the Rule of Law (ROL) and their rights and responsibilities as citizens of Jamaica.

The project communities of Cambridge and Barrett Town in St. James have developed newsletters focusing on COL activities in their communities. This flows out of a workshop that was mounted with 20 community journalists from Cambridge, Barrett Town, Bogue and other non-project communities in St. James from February 29 to March 2, 2016 in association with UTECH focusing on the production of newsletters.

A 2-day workshop Radio Production and Presentation skills was held on January 15 and 22 out of which four pilot programs were produced that will be marketed to community radio stations in

project communities. 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. The delivery radio programs deemed by a qualified expert as “radio-worthy” will assist in two ways.

Firstly, it allows for the generation of content from communities by community members which can be made available to pre-existing radio stations that are interested in carrying such content. The COL stories are written and produced by community persons, using their own voices but in a professional form. It is anticipated that if some or all of the episodes are picked up by one or more existing stations then there may well be a sustained demand for similar content from other communities on a regular and consistent basis.

Secondly, the tools and techniques learned in producing the completed radio episodes can be easily used by community members to start their own internet-based community station. The episodes created could be the initial content for said web-based community stations or, at the very least, form the template for the suitable production of ongoing episodes, including standalone podcasts. There are several easy to use free services that facilitate the creation of online-radio stations that could allow for one per parish or even one per community, subject to the capacity and desires of the communities and the persons trained.

ACTIVITY 2.2. Mass Media Campaigns to Foster a Culture of Lawfulness

Activity 2.2.1 – Facilitate Journalism Training for Community Journalists

Work started on the implementation of two journalism training seminars with 25 community journalists targeting community cable stations, bloggers, and COMET II community journalists. This training will be held in collaboration with project partners NIA and Respect Jamaica, and is expected to take place by the end of Y3 (September 2016).

Activity 2.2.2 – Develop Public Service Announcements (PSA) that Promote a Culture of Lawfulness in Jamaica

The next tranche of PSAs will be produced and disseminated during Quarter 3 of Project Year 3. The emphasis for these PSAs will be on anti-corruption messaging, some of which will be coming from youth.

Activity 2.3.1 – Provide Culture of Lawfulness Seminars for the JCF in Conjunction with Activity 4.1.1

Activities in this area of Component 2 focused on the provision of capacity building for the Major Organised Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA). Throughout the quarter, Consultant Gillian Chambers has been engaged to work with MOCA on the development of policies and procedures for the newly formed agency. This will include communications policies, procedures and strategies.

Public Outreach and Branding

Quarter 2 of Year 3 focused on the following:

- Support for the USAID Mission Director’s site visits to COMET II projects in Kingston. Ms. Herbol visited the communities of Trench Town, Rockfort, and the CRC of Springfield and Rae Town.

- The groundbreaking of two CRCs in St. James communities of Cambridge and Bogue on March 2 and March 3, respectively.
- The graduation on March 3 of 16 youth from the nine-month long Cambridge Sustainable Livelihood Project, which took place in Unity Hall, St. James and was mounted by COMET II's small grantee, Family and Parenting Centre.
- Twenty community journalists from in St. James graduated from the workshop in Desktop Publishing from February 29 to March 2, 2016 on the Western Campus of the University of Technology in Montego Bay, St. James.
- COMET II and JCF's CSSB hosted the third Peace Day Concert at the Halfway Transport Centre on March 1, 2016.
- On Thursday, March 3, 2016, COMET II conducted GCC Training in Montego Bay for St. James communities.

MEDIA COVERAGE

DATE	MEDIA
March 3, 2016	http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/assets/12720143/189137_.jpg
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/



Graduates from the recently completed Skills Training Programme at the Family and Parenting Centre proudly display their certificates with Programme Director Dr. Beverly Scott (left) and USAID Mission Director to Jamaica Ms. Denise A Herbol (4th from left)

3. ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING AND PROGRAMS FOR AT-RISK YOUTH

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

Dispute Resolution Foundation’s (DRF) Crime Prevention Program

At the end of Quarter 2, The Dispute Resolution Foundation (DRF), COMET II’s “Community-Based School Suspension Program” grantee, conducted five trainings, where they equipped 109 youth in conflict resolution management skills – 25 students under the 2nd Peer Mediation training and 84 students under the 5-Day Intervention Program. This brings the number of youth equipped with conflict resolution management skills since June 2015 to 489 youth or 44% of the proposed total. According to the grant agreement, the DRF should equip at least 1100 youth in conflict resolution techniques by December 2016. (See table below)

Activities	June – Dec 2015		Jan – Mar 2016		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Regular Five-Day Intervention	124	66	43	41	274
Summer Program	68	25	N/A	N/A	93
Peer Mediation Training	19	7	7	18	51
In-School Rap Sessions with SBPs and students	N/A	N/A	43	28	71
Total number of youth equipped with conflict resolution management	211	98	50	59	489

Another significant aspect to this grant agreement was for the implementer to sensitize/train 30 school-based professionals and school resource officers in youth-friendly alternative dispute resolution. As reported in the last quarter 65 have received such sensitization. This means that the DRF has surpassed the requirement for this particular activity.

During the Peer Mediation Closing Ceremony in St. James on January 22, 2016, an opportunity was identified by a Dean of Discipline (DoD) for DRF to look into conflict resolution management techniques for school-based professionals. It is hoped that training will enhance relations among school employees and students. DRF CFO Mr. Paul Hines accepted the responsibility and promised to look into it for the future.

Project Implementation Status and Progress during period

Based on reports last quarter of challenges with successful implementation of the Rap Sessions and hindrances to the engagement in dialogue of the DoD, School Resource Officers (SRO) and students, it was recommended by COMET II that the idea be revamped for Quarter 2. As such, in January 2016, the DRF initiated the In-School Rap Sessions that allow the DODs, SROs and students to put in practice the theory of conflict resolution.

Students that demonstrated acute behavioral problems were specially selected by the schools' administrations to receive these lessons in conflict resolution management provided by DRF as a final attempt before suspension or expulsion. Unlike with the first cohort, the decision was taken to facilitate these sessions within the schools. Thus maximizing the participation of DoDs, guidance counsellors, and students. The DRF executives confirm that this change in format has taken on a more practical approach in equipping youth with conflict resolution management skills.

To date, the DRF has conducted five rap sessions across three COMET II target parishes: Kingston (1 session), Clarendon (2 sessions), and St. James (2 sessions).

COMET II Community Coordinators were able to attend three of the five in-school rap sessions, specifically those conducted at the Charlie Smith High School, Osbourne Store Primary and Junior High School, and Maldon High School. The DRF has recorded participation from 71 students.

In the coming months, the DRF will seek to host more rap sessions in schools located in St. Andrew and St. Catherine. Additionally there will be follow-up sessions on the earlier sessions based on requests by the respective school administrations.

Further information specific to challenges and lessons learned for DRF is detailed in the attached Grants Report in the 'Grant Project Implementation Status and Challenges/Lessons Learned' section.

At the end of the Quarter 4, April- June 2016, DRF will aim to:

- Equip at least 180 suspended students with peace building, communication, leadership, anger management, and conflict resolution, social and critical thinking skills through the 5-Day Intervention Program.
- Conduct coaching and supervised peer mediation sessions in schools.
- Conduct monthly In-School Rap Sessions between students and SBPs.
- Implement plans for Summer Program 2016.

Activity 3.2. Diversion/Alternative Sentencing

Drug Treatment Court Program's (DTC) Diversion Program

The Drug Treatment Court (DTC) had two priorities for this quarter:

- Planning a new approach to the workforce development program and;
- Planning the first merged graduation for the four DTC programs.

On January 8, 2016, six prospective subcontractors submitted their proposals to oversee the COMET II Workforce Development (WFD) program for participants in Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the Ministry of Justice's DTC program. Unfortunately, the Review and Evaluation Committee (REC) was unable to make a definitive decision given the quality and prices of the proposals submitted.

Subsequently, on February 22, 2016, the COMET II team agreed on a new approach, whereby COMET II manages this activity in-house for which a project plan was put together by the Component Lead. The table below depicts the scope of work and persons necessary to make this come to fruition. At the end of Quarter 2, COMET II staff were awaiting a meeting with persons from the HEART/TRUST NTA to ascertain guidance and obtain a liaison from the agency to work closely with the COMET II and DTC personnel in enrolling participants. It is important to mention that this in-house approach is a three-month pilot aimed at solving the challenge of not receiving quality proposals from subcontractors.

Task	Responsibility	Timeline	Comment
Liaise with accredited training institutions	COMET II Alternative Programs Coordinator	2 weeks	Enables the coordinator to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ compile a menu of programs being offered ▪ 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 Phase 2 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.

While plans were being revamped for the WFD training program, the planning for the first-ever merged DTC graduation was also underway. The multi-sectoral subcommittee for the DTC met on several occasions throughout the quarter to plan the first of two country-wide graduations this year. A total of 14 participants will celebrate successfully completing the DTC three-phase program on April 8, 2016 at a central location, the Cardiff Hotel and Spa, Runaway Bay, St. Ann.

A marked difference with this graduation is the fact that all DTC programs will merge and host one graduation versus four separate graduations. This approach was suggested by the Component Lead in order to maximize cost effectiveness of the project's support. The DTC staff accommodated the idea; as such the procurement activities commenced.

Activity 3.3. Rehabilitation

Kingston and St. Andrew Football Association's (KSAFA) Rehabilitation Program

This social enterprise grant activity seeks to use poultry rearing and sports as vehicles to rehabilitate at risk youth in the Rockfort community from re-engaging in deviant behavior. This activity will also seek to prevent youth who have not yet been in conflict with the law from engaging in illicit activities. The proceeds from this enterprise will be used to strengthen the capacity of the Rockfort Football Club and its members through the procurement of sports gear and equipment. This activity will also provide employment for 14 youth within the community – four on a full-time basis and 10 on a part-time.

The 6-month grant, implemented by KSAFA on behalf of the Rockfort Football Club, commenced on August 21, 2015 and was slated to close in February 2016. However, the grant was placed on hold in the second month of implementation by authorities at the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation (KSAC), until a permit to construct poultry houses was obtained. As a result many of the objectives and milestones have not yet been achieved. The quarter closed with that permission being received for the group to resume activities from April-September 2016.

During the hiatus, KSAFA and the Rockfort Football Club were requested by the COMET II team to get particulars as to streamline activities for recommencement. These include:

- The submission of a no-cost extension request to the grants team for processing.
- Youth to be employed to work at the poultry house were to obtain food handler's permit to allow them to handle chickens to be sold to the community.
- The procurement of necessary equipment until issues were settled.

This experience was particularly challenging for the grantees who experienced much anxiety awaiting approval from the KSAC for this important venture. COMET II now plays a more active role to ensure grantees are compliant with all the necessary permits/permissions before commencing grant activities.

The following activities will take priority for the next quarter (April- June 2016):

- Completion of the poultry houses.
- Purchasing of the first batch of chicks and necessary supplies.
- Acquisition of purchase orders for poultry meat and procurement of a second batch of chicks.
- COMET II will conduct a site visit in April to see how the reinstated grant is progressing.

Jamaica Red Cross's (JRC) Alternative Program for At-risk Youth in St. Catherine and Clarendon

On January 25, 2016, COMET II entered into a subcontract with the Jamaica Red Cross. At the end of the year-long subcontract, the expected results are as follows:

- 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; i.e. barbering and cosmetology.
- Participants provided with training in disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities; i.e. first aid.
- Participants provided with psychological support.

During this quarter, the Jamaica Red Cross was expected to complete their first deliverable – the submission of a comprehensive inception report along with a training plan. After revisions on the first submission, the Civil Society Specialist approved the deliverable and the first payment of was authorized on March 11, 2016 and provides the JRC with working capital to launch the training programs.

Jamaica Red Cross faced a delay in submission of the first deliverable as they needed additional support at the launch of the activity to ensure they understood the quality requirements of the subcontract. At the end of the next quarter (April – June 2016), the Red Cross should have submitted their first progress report, including training materials and list of participants. This submission is due on May 31, 2016. COMET II will not only monitor the quality of the reports, but will also implement site visits to training facilities to observe COMET II-funded activities.

4. COMMUNITY BASED POLICING

Activity 4.1.1 Community Based Police Training

During Year 3, Quarter 2, two Community Based Police trainings were conducted with a total of 59 police officers receiving training – 23 females and 36 males. The focus of the trainings was different in terms of content and the targeted participants.

The first training conducted on January 28-29, 2016 was geared towards developing the capacity of School Resource Officers (SRO) to manage the prevalence of bullying in schools and the associated factors. Several state departments partnered with COMET II to host the two-day training session – Ministry of Education Safe School Unit, National Council on Drug Abuse, Child Development Agency, and Jamaica Constabulary Force. The areas of focus were (i) detection, prevention, and reduction of bullying, (ii) drug use, and (iii) gangs in schools. The SROs were also engaged in discussions and activities that gave insight into adolescent development and provided tips and advice on how to engage in youth-friendly dialogs that generate trust and lasting relationships.

The second training occurred on March 18, 2016 and engaged police officers that work outside of the Community Safety and Security Branch (CSSB). The branches/units represented included the Centre for the Investigation of Sexual Offenses and Child Abuse (CISOCA), Counter Terrorism and Organized Crime (C-TOC), Traffic Division, and Narcotics and Criminal Investigations Branch (CIB) Head Quarters. The objective was to entrench CBP-practices throughout the JCF, reminding the participants that community safety is the primary objective of all sworn members of the Force and to provide officers with skills to become more effective in their community engagements. The training also allowed participants to examine the changing social environment in which the police operate and the approaches to community engagement that will yield greater partnership and better results.

The training was conducted by Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge Community Safety and Security Branch Bishop Dr. Gary Welsh; Senior Superintendent of Police Karina Hood, second in Command community Safety Branch; and COMET II's Community Police Coordinator Donaree Muirhead.

Activity 4.1.2 Updated CBP Material

COMET II Consultant Mrs. Latoya West-Blackwood was officially engaged by the project and a meeting between Mrs. West-Blackwood and component lead Donaree Muirhead was held on Wednesday March 23, 2016 to ensure common understanding regarding the production of the updated Community Based Policing Manual and to work through some specifications regarding the acquisition of files from the JCF. The manual is due to be produced mid-May 2016. The consultant has indicated that printing outside of Jamaica is usually more cost effective, with a turnaround time of maximum two weeks for printing and shipping. The project is now working to make a determination of the volume to be printed.

Activity 4.1.3: Support NHW and PYC Crime Reduction Activities

The project provided technical and financial support to the Clarendon Police Youth Club (PYC) Council to develop the capacity of their leadership at the community level through a one-day training 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 was supported by seven police members (three male and four females) of May Pen Community Safety Department.

The training exercise facilitated by Ms. Dania Beckford, a marketing and communications professional; Donaree Muirhead, Community Police Coordinator; and Constable Winston Chambers gave young leaders strengthened capacity to appreciate and exercise good governance, lead and manage their individual clubs, and the council in a transparent and accountable way. Participants are now more equipped to collect data and 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 PYC movement to purposefully engage their peers in positive interactions that will influence the safety and security of their social spaces. The St. James PYC Council will be engaged in a similar activity on April 9, 2016.

During the period, COMET II's Community Police Coordinator met with representatives of the Community Safety Unit of St. James Police Division to discuss the overall operations of the Police Youth Club Council and of the Neighbourhood Watch in the St. James. There is a clear indication that both organizations could do well with support to make them more attractive to the youth in the parish. A follow-up meeting with the senior superintendent in charge of the police division to discuss the way forward is scheduled for the upcoming quarter.

Activity 4.1.4 Support JCF in carrying out youth engagements designed to improve relationship between police and youth

COMET II supported the JCF in carrying out two activities designed to improve youth and police relationship during this quarter. These two activities achieved the expected results for year 3 under Component 4, specifically in relation to the number of activities carried out between the police and youth.

First, the Police Youth Club National Fun Day organized by the CSSB on January 29, 2016 at the National Police College of Jamaica, Twickenham Park, St. Catherine. The Police and Youth participated in friendly competition in a friendly atmosphere. Most participants represented PYCs from across the island. The venue for the Fun Day was purposefully decided on as it allowed the young people to access the grounds upon which the police are trained; this serves to breakdown negative perceptions and encourage recruitment and service to the JCF.

Secondly, the JCF CSSB, with the support of USAID COMET II, to hosted the 3rd Annual Safe Schools Peace Day Concert on March 2, 2016 at the Halfway Tree Transport Centre.

The cultural event was designed to:

- Commemorate the National Peace Day Activities
- Provide an avenue for the police to engage with students through the cultural and performing arts, while also sending the message of peace
- Showcase the talents of students and police
- Partner with the wider community in sending a strong message about peace.

The Women United group comprising female entertainers lead by Mitzie "Shuga" Campbell have supported the CSSB Safe Schools Programme for the past three years in their school engagements. 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 publish in print

media: http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/entertainment/Few-takers-for-peace-day-concert_53400

The activity met its objective of sending the message of peace within schools and among students, and the police engaged the students in an atmosphere that will foster positive relationships.

Other activities during the period included:

Rockfort CRC and Proximity Police Post

The police post at the Rockfort CRC is fully operational and is provided with direct oversight by Inspector Mark Harris, Officer in Charge of the Rockfort Police Station. Inspector Harris has two police on duty every day from 10am-8pm, with at least one being at the rank of Sergeant or above.

The police have reported that since the establishment of the CRC in Rockfort that there are no reports of shootings in the community and that police community relations have improved. The police have extended themselves to conduct academic support through Const. Grosset, who tutors Mathematics session at the CRC on Saturdays.

There is a constant police presence in the community which is fostering trust between citizens and police. The post is also used as a 'rest stop' for police on patrol in the wider East Kingston Police Division.

Additional services provided by the police at the CRC are:

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

JCF Support for USAID Mission Director Ms. Denise Herbol during field visits to the project sites

Component Coordinator Muirhead worked diligently with the police to coordinate security logistics for the field visits conducted by Mission Director Herbol. This was not limited to coordinating route escorts, alerting police divisional commands of her visit to communities, requesting close support on-the-ground and perimeter checks, requesting the attendance and participation of rank-and-file police and senior officers at COMET II grant activities, ground breaking ceremonies, program activities, and site visits.

The police continue to provide high quality support for the COMET II project.

5. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

Effective Management of Program Staff (Activity 5.1)

Annual performance appraisals were conducted for eleven members of the COMET II Team in keeping with contractual agreements.

Monitoring and Evaluation (Activity 5.2)

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

6. PROGRAM CHALLENGES

- 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 Elections. However, in February, the two main political parties were unable to agree on a debate format and cancelled all public debates. The grant incurred costs associated with debate preparations, much of which are supplies that can be repurposed for future election debates.
- COMET II is also working with Woman Incorporated (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.

7. UPCOMING PROGRAM EVENTS

Date	Time	Activity	Persons Involved	Location	Objectives
Wed. Apr 6	10:30 am	UTECH Connect Seminar/Community Festival Presentation	M Williams, K Emmanuel, S Harvey	UTECH	The expectation is to have three (3) themed conferences focused on: Community Enterprise, Climate Change and Personal Development (morning session). In the afternoon we will engage the community through a series of sporting activities, health fair, education fair, craft display and trading, cultural presentations and entertainment.
Wed - Thur, Apr 6 -7	All Day	Community Based Police Proximity Policing Training	COMET USAID JCF: CIB, CSSB, Traffic CTOC	Couples Swept Away Negril	Conduct CBP Training focusing on Proximity Policing to JCF non-geographic units/branches namely CTOC, MIB, CISOCA Traffic.

Date	Time	Activity	Persons Involved	Location	Objectives
			MOCA		
Fri, Apr 8	11:00 am	Drug Treatment Court Graduation Ceremony	DTC NCDA USAID COMET	The Cardiff Hotel Runaway Bay	To support the DTC Programme as per the MOU Signed.
Fri, Apr 8	4:00-5:00 pm	Visit to Barrett Town Police Youth Club and CRC Sites	USAID: MD, COR COMET: COP	Barrett Town Police Station, St James	To allow the MD to meet with the Barrett Town youths, be officially presented with their newsletter and visit the CRC site.
Sat, Apr 9	8:00-9:00 am 9:00-4:30 pm	Launch of the radio Programme on MORE FM Community Crime Reduction Activity	USAID: MD, COR COMET: COP PYC JCF	MORE FM, Sunscape, Montego Bay	To launch the first COMET II radio programme. To grant programmatic support for PYC and other youth organisations in the parish of St. James.
Sun, Apr 10	10:00 am	UTECH Connect Sports Day	Communities: Kintyre and Gordon Town	Kintyre and Gordon Gordon Town	
Tue, Apr 19	2:00pm	Launch of JCF Special Olympics Torch Run	I McKnight, D Muirhead	Police Officers Club, St. Andrew	To launch the JCF's Torch Run to support persons with disabilities.
Mon-Fri May 2-13		USAID Regional Inspector General (RIG)	Project Team	COMET II Office	To be in the field talking with COMET II team members and examining its operations and activities.
May 2 – Jul 31	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Social Enterprise Training Capacity Building Training for Groups in Clarendon, St. James, St. Andrew,	Office of Social Entrepreneurship/UWI, COMET II, SDC	TBD	To provide Capacity Building in Social Enterprise Development for CBO's & CDC's in areas of business

Date	Time	Activity	Persons Involved	Location	Objectives
		St. Catherine			development & entrepreneurship.
Tue & Wed May 3 & 4	8:00 am - 5:00 pm	Bull Bay ABACUS Communication Training	S. Harvey K. Emmanuel	St. Benedicts Church St. Andrew	To initiate the ABACUS training in Bull Bay
May 26-27	9:00am- 5:00pm	Training of JCF members is community policing	Donaree Muirhead CSSB	TBD	To equip members of the police force with proximity policing skills

ANNEX A: FINANCIAL QUARTERLY REPORT

Please see separate attachment.

ANNEX B: PROGRAMMATIC PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Please see separate attachment.

ANNEX C: COMET II QUARTERLY GRANTS REPORT

Please see separate attachment.