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Community Development Program for Caracol - EKAM Housing Project

Quarterly Report – October-December 2015



A newly elected platform committee



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FY 2016 Q1 PROGRESS REPORT
(October 1, 2015 to DECEMBER 31, 2015)

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DISCLAIMER

The authors' views expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

CAEPA	Comité d'Approvisionnement en Eau Potable et Assainissement
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CDP	Community Development Program
CMC	Community Management Committee
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EPPLS	Entreprise Publique de Promotion de Logements Sociaux
GOH	Government of Haiti
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PACE	Participatory Action for Community Enhancement
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

Community Development Program (CDP): Executive Summary

Global Communities was awarded the Community Development Program for Caracol, also known as the EKAM Housing Project, on August 7, 2013. This report covers the activities and achievements under CDP in the first quarter of fiscal year (FY) 2016 (October 1 to December 31 2015).

Qualitative Summary

The USAID-funded CDP aims to develop a sustainable social housing village where residents, stakeholders and partners have an equal sense of ownership. Previously, the program concentrated on the management of daily life in the social housing village. With CDP facilitation, residents attended WASH trainings to improve hygiene and sanitation, elected the Community Management Committee (CMC) to plan and oversee housing activities (such as Carnival), to be spokesperson of residents and to represent them, and developed a land-use plan that would drive business and economic development in the village and surrounding areas. This quarter, CDP focused on renewing the organizational structures lead by residents, as well as development of services.

Our partner, the Entreprise Publique de Promotion de Logements Sociaux (EPPLS), in the Government of Haiti's social housing agency, continues to work with us in close collaboration.. The EPPLS administration used this and interaction to encourage residents to pay their bills by visiting them, calling them and raise their awareness on the importance to pay rent to benefit from services (trash removal, public lightening...). In addition Global Communities continued to support the EPPLS in managing the village. This support took various forms, including motivating the residents to pay their bills, improving security, evicting residents and monitoring the program.

Quantitative Summary

This quarter a number of trainings and activities took place, including:

- 34 platform committees renewed
- 7 residents elected in each platform committees
- 255 screenings for malnutrition (103 women, 152 children)
- 31 people vaccinated (25 children) and the distribution of Vitamin A and contraceptive methods
- 26.8% of residents paying their rent on time (14% between one and three months)
- 17.4% of residents paying water on time (20.3% between one and three months)

Constraints and Opportunities

Global Communities and EPPLS continue to sensitize residents on the need to improve the appearance of their platforms, for example through regular cleaning. However, it is important to keep in mind that upcoming site repairs make investments in the platform difficult due to the fact that some pipes and septic tanks situated in the middle of the platform will be replaced. Final drawings are not yet approved.

S&A, a Korean company operating in the industrial park, has begun construction of a secondary school on a plot of land provided to them by EPPLS. This school will open in September 2016 and will welcome the students who finished their primary education in the S&A village school. In order to develop a partnership for livelihoods development, Global Communities provided S&A with a list of residents who have technical skills in masonry, plumbing, carpentry, and other areas of construction. The selected residents will be hired this month in the same time with the construction.

Subsequent Quarter's Work Plan

In the subsequent quarter the CDP program intends to offer multiple technical trainings for residents. Depending on the target group, these trainings will offer technical, management or livelihood skills to build the capacity of social housing village residents at all levels. The program intends to offer:

- Training in clothing design and construction
- Social integration workshops for residents-with a technical training on how to use toilets
- Support for EPPLS teams

Other key activities for next quarter will include:

- Participatory Action for Community Enhancement (PACE) trainings to do...
- Improving livelihood opportunities
- Fostering public-private partnerships
- Solving sewage and technical problems
- Allocating a market space to selected entrepreneurs
- Allocating a plot to individuals interested in building private houses

Governance and Community Relations

Bill Payments

The community mobilizers continued sensitizing the residents to the concept of paid services. This process aimed to avoid eviction and disconnection of water services by emphasizing the importance of timely payment of service fees. Additionally, the program highlighted the benefits available when residents paid their bills, which include waste removal, security and public space maintenance.

As a result of this support all residents who were 5-6 months late in payments settled bills that were several months. In October, 18.8% of residents paid their water bills on time and in-full, in November 21%, and December 12.4%. In summary, this quarter 17.4% of residents paid their water bills on time and in full. In comparison, the average for the previous quarter was 29%. Although the rate of water payments decreased the rate of rent payments remained stable. This is due to the celebrations of Christmas and New Year as residents spent their incomes on gifts, transportation, food, and other holiday items. Moreover the Global Communities staff focused on the capacity building (financial, data entry, monitoring, etc) of the CAEPA staff. They are working with a new system to register the payment of water bills that will provide quicker, more efficient access to information for the field team.

Community Meetings

This quarter, each platform held one meeting at the beginning of December to sensitize residents about the election of platform committees, commissions and CMC¹. The mobilization team highlighted the importance to be part of the community structures and be spokesperson for their platform. They also raised awareness on the importance of paying rent and water during these meetings.

1. Platform committee are responsible of their platform (cleaning, platform activities if they want). There is one committee for each platform. Commissions (water, gender, security, environment, health, sport, education)organize activities for the village. CMC is the representative of residents and will manage the village after the Global Communities departures



Elections

Community Management Committee (CMC) Meetings

This quarter no meeting happened as the committee will be renewed in January 2016. As planned the mandate of CMC was one year. It was time to organize elections to replace the members.

Operational Support for the EPPLS Site Team

EPPLS Trainings

Global Communities supported and collaborated with EPPLS from the beginning of the program. EPPLS communicated with CMC members and mobilization teams for rent not paid so the CMC and mobilization can motivate residents to pay and participated in all meetings, events and decision-making processes. Global Communities and EPPLS also jointly updated the data on the number of occupied houses, payment status and percentage of on-time payments.

In November, 3 of the 11 trainees who trained on the site from June to August were recruited by EPPLS. They work closely with the Global Communities team to sensitize residents to pay rent and they also served as rent bill collectors. They have also been involved in the platform committee and CMC election process.

Conflicts and Issues

Mobilizers together with the security commission quickly resolved three minor issues between neighbors.

Site Management and Services

Rent Payment and Eviction

Thanks to the mobilizers there were no evictions this quarter, but the payment rate remained low (42% for November and 27.1% for December). The number of families late in their rent payment increased due to the weakening national economy and political turmoil.

Public Spaces

Every day the EPPLS truck collects and removes trash from the village. This quarter 23 residents who have difficulties paying their rent were recruited to remove the trash and clean the public spaces. The criteria of selection, as mentioned, are a low payment rate and no current occupation. The objective is to help residents pay their rent on time.

Septic Tank Maintenance

This quarter 52 septic tanks were emptied by GOLSA, the firm recruited by EPPLS. The septic tanks fill very quickly every time rain falls due to poor percolation within the tanks. This issue will be fixed by the repairs made by DFS Construction.

Health Commission

The Health Commission in partnership with Partners of the Americas (a United States NGO funded by USAID) organized a two day screening to diagnose women and children affected by malnutrition. The event was attended by 255 residents. They also received a training on food categories and how to eat well. The commission also organized a vaccination campaign for children and adults and provided vitamin A supplements.



Screening on malnutrition and training on food categories and how to eat well.

Social and Economic Capacity Building

Livelihoods

DFS Construction, the firm which provided construction training for 40 residents during the past quarter, was selected by USAID for site repair. The firm previously recruited 11 residents to work in the village as unskilled worker to do the repairs. As soon as USAID gives them authorization to begin repairs, DFS Construction will recruit more residents.

Women's Association Activities

Out of 56 women trained by INDEPCO in sewing 41 women graduated in November. The training lasted three months and was implemented in partnership with RTI, which is implementing the USAID LEVE program. After the three months of training, Global Communities facilitated the job placements for 14 of these graduates in the industrial park. We are working with some of the women to create their own enterprise.

Challenges

Global Communities and EPPLS continued to deal with sewage and water issues and wait for the beginning of the repair work by DFS Construction.

Activities planned for next quarter:

- Renewal of commissions and CMC board members
- Allocation of remaining commercial spaces in the small market (2 were already allocate: water supply and restaurant)

- Host PACE trainings for newly elected officials and mobilization team
- Host technical trainings for platform committees and commissions
- Solve sewage and technical problems
- Attribute empty plots for private residences
- Ensure clear communication between the residents and DFS Construction
- Sensitize residents to pay water and rent