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Community Development Program for Caracol - EKAM Housing Project

Quarterly Report: July - September 2015





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FY 2015 Q4 PROGRESS REPORT
(JULY 1, 2015 to SEPTEMBER 30, 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

USAID/Haiti CDP PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT FOR Q4 FY 2015

CAEPA	Comité d'Approvisionnement en Eau Potable et Assainissement
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CDP	Community Development Program
CIP	Caracol Industrial Park
CIAT	Comité Interministériel d'Aménagement du Territoire
CMC	Community Management Committee
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CTB	Community Time Bank
DINEPA	Direction Nationale de l'Eau Potable et de l'Assainissement
ECAP	Emergency Capacity Assistance Program
EDH	Électricité d'Haïti
EPPLS	Entreprise Publique de Promotion de Logements Sociaux
FAES	Fonds d'Assistance Economique et Sociale
GOH	Government of Haiti
HFA	Host Family Assistance
HTG	Haitian Gourdes
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IFRC	International Federation of the Red Cross
JMRF	Joint Maintenance and Repair Fund
KAP	Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRECA	National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
PACE	Participatory Action for Community Enhancement
PMT	Program Management team
SMS	Short Message Service
STTA	Short Term Technical Assistance
TA	Technical Assistance
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	US Government

CDP Program: Executive Summary

Global Communities was awarded the Community Development Program (CDP) for Caracol, also known as the EKAM Housing Project, on August 7, 2013. This report covers the activities and achievements under CDP in the last quarter of fiscal year (FY) 2015 (July 1 to September 30 2015).

Qualitative Summary

The USAID-funded Community Development Program (CDP) aimed to develop a sustainable social housing village where residents, stakeholders and partners had an equal sense of ownership. Previously, the program concentrated on the management of the social housing village daily life; residents attended WASH trainings to improve hygiene and sanitation, elected the Community Management Committee (CMC) to oversee housing activities and developed land-use plans that would drive business and economic development in the village and surrounding areas. This quarter, CDP focused on resident capacity building and livelihood improvement as well as development of services.

Our partner, the Entreprise Publique de Promotion de Logements Sociaux (EPPLS), a government entity that manages social housing in Haiti, received 11 trainees in June who worked with us until the end of August. The administration used this greater transparency and interaction to encourage residents to pay their bills and start their own initiatives. In addition to supporting the CDP housing project, Global Communities continued to aid 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 and evaluating the program.

Quantitative Summary

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

- 2 trainings for 198 residents on social integration and use of toilets
- 2 technical trainings for 86 residents on construction and couture
- 2 training for 11 EPPLS trainees on PHAST and leadership
- 20 residents finding a job
- 4 septic tanks emptied
- 237 gas stoves distributed

Constraints and Opportunities

Global Communities and EPPLS continued to deal with issues that arose following the floods in November and December of 2014 in addition to the recent flooding in August 2015. They are waiting for the beginning of the work site by the firm selected by USAID to improve the flood mitigation infrastructure. However short term solutions were implemented in agreement with the residents. The engineers built culverts, gutters and bridge in the sensitive area.

World Diakonia, a Korean organization, has begun construction of a technical school on a plot of land provided to them by EPPLS. In order to develop a partnership in terms of livelihood, Global Communities provided them a list of residents who have technical skills in masonry, plumbing, carpentry, etc. This provides the firm with a range of qualified local workers.

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 the social housing village at all levels. The program intends to offer:

- PACE trainings
- Technical trainings for women and men in construction and for women in couture
- Social integration workshops for residents-with a technical training on how to use toilets
- Support for the CMC and EPPLS teams, particularly trainees

Other key activities for next quarter include:

- Renewing the CMC, platform committees and commission through democratic elections
- Improving livelihood opportunities
- Fostering public and private partnership
- Solving sewage and technical problems
- Allocating a market space to selected entrepreneurs
- Allocating a plot to individuals interested in building private houses

Beneficiary Training, Selection and Move-In

The beneficiaries finished moving into their houses February 2014. The 63 houses reserved for the students of the King Christophe's University have been occupied since November 2014. CDP outfitted the houses with gas stoves; subsequently the students and other beneficiaries attended a training on the use of those stoves.

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 rent and water payments. Additionally, the program highlighted the services available when residents paid their bills, including waste removal, security and public space maintenance.

This quarter the mobilization team was assisted by 11 trainees sent by EPPLS.

As a result of this support many residents who were 5 or 6 months late settled bills for several months. In July, 33.7% of residents paid their water bills on time and in-full, in August 24.8%, and September 29%. In summary, this quarter 20% of residents paid their water bills on time and in full. In comparison, on the previous quarter the average was 19%. Although the rate of water payments remained stable, the rate of rent payments increased slightly.

Community Meetings

Social integration training began in January for the platform committees and interested residents. In total 198 residents attended the two hour training this quarter provided by mobilizers at 18 platforms. The sessions focused on social integration and the vision for the village after the departure of Global Communities. The mobilizers emphasized the importance of organizing and identifying their resources and strengths to independently manage the village. The workshop also allowed the participants to discuss, share their point of view, and learn about each other. After this workshop the participants stayed to attend a short training on how to use hygienic toilets and learned techniques to unblock the toilets.

Meetings with Bloc Captains and platform committees occurred at least once a month in each platform to raise awareness of the importance of cleaning the platforms and paying water and rent.

Community Management Committee (CMC) Meetings

This quarter one commission formed by the EPPLS and Global Communities staff worked on the improvement of the CMC structure in order to improve the functioning of the committee. The committee will be renewed next month. CMC met the mobilization team to speak about their needs.

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, mobilized teams for rent and bill collection, supported initiatives and participated in every meeting, event and decision-making process. Global Communities and EPPLS also jointly updated the data on the number of occupied houses, payment status and percentage of on-time payments.

Towards the end of this quarter, the 11 trainees sent by the central office of EPPLS successfully finished their 3-month training. All of them were exposed to a minimum of three different offices such as administration, mobilization, M&E, and finance. They also supported the mobilization team with the efforts to sensitize the residents to pay rent and water.

On the previous quarter, in conjunction with EPPLS, two USAID-hired consultants designed the templates required to obtain authorizations to develop businesses on empty plots as well as develop private residences. Currently, they are waiting for legal authorizations from the Finance Ministry and are still working with EPPLS and Global communities to organize future meetings aimed at informing entrepreneurs and employees from the industrial park or the University of Limonade who are interested in building a house.

Conflicts and Issues

Mobilizers together with the security commission quickly resolved two minor issues between neighbors. The commission also intervened during the flash flood on September 18, 2015 to provide support to affected residents.

Site Management and Services

Grants for Services and Infrastructure

Services and infrastructure received no specific grants this quarter; however, they continued implementing directly from all the six commissions and the CMC.

Rent Payment and Eviction

Thanks to the mobilizers, block captains and facilitators the rate of the rent payment reached 33.7% for July, 23.8% for August and 29% for September and no eviction notice was issued.

Water and Sanitation Related Services

This quarter, the two engineers sent by the EPPLS home office replaced pipes for 14 platforms. The commission in charge of water and sanitation related services replaced defective valves.

Public Spaces

Last quarter, the EPPLS home office bought a truck for the village to collect and remove trash. Every month, the EPPLS hire between 15 and 20 residents to remove the trash and clean the public spaces. From the beginning (in June) until the end of September, 58 residents were hired for one month. The criteria of selection are a low payment rate and no current occupation. The objective is to help residents to pay their rent on time.

Septic Tank Maintenance

Four septic tanks were emptied by GOLSA, the firm recruited by EPPLS, this quarter; however, a new septic tank for four houses was built by the engineer team to replace one defective tank. After the flood more septic tanks were filled and will be emptied in the near future.

Education Commission

As it was summer holiday, the commission focused on children. The members organized a summer camp for 108 children during one month. The children were divided in three groups according their age. Manual activities alternated with theoretical classes. Volunteer teachers from the education commission supervised them. An exposition of their work was organized for the closing with the presence of their parents and teachers.

As a result of this camp, all of the children who participated, passed the admission test of the S&H School for the new academic year.

Health Commission

The Health Commission in partnership with the health center of Le Borgne organized a screening day to diagnose women affected by cervical cancer. The event was attended by more than 70. The ones who were diagnosed positive were given a consultation date to go to the health center and receive medical treatment. They also vaccinated children and adults and provided five doses of vitamin A supplements.

Social and Economic Capacity Building

Livelihood

After the first partnership for a technical training on a construction site for a jail, Global Communities, Local Enterprise and Value Chain Enhancement (LEVE) and DFS Construction agreed to implement a new training with 30 new residents for one month. After successful completion of the training the residents will be hired by DFS Construction.



The trainees during the security course on their first day

Women Associations Activities

56 women from the associations were selected to participate in a training in couture given by INDEPCO. The training will last three months and was implemented in partnership with LEVE. After the three months Global Communities will help them to find a job in the industrial park.

Challenges

Global Communities and EPPLS continued to deal with sewage and water issues and wait for the beginning of the site work by DFS Construction. USAID pre-selected four companies to propose long term solutions for sewage, drainage, water pipe and house defects. The selected firm should be known and begin soon.

Activities planned for next quarter:

- Organize CMC and platform committees' elections
- Allocate commercial spaces
- Host PACE trainings
- Solve sewage and technical problems
- Foster public and private partnerships by recruiting a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) officer
- Attribute empty plot for private residences
- Ensure clear communication between the residents, TetraTech and the firm chosen for the site
- Sensitize residents to pay water and rent