



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

## Monthly Report: October 2016



November 5, 2016

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by Tetra Tech DPK.

# USAID/JAMAICA

# COMET II PROJECT

**CONTRACT NO.: AID-OAA-I-13-0036 / AID-532-TO-14-0001**

**CONTRACTOR: Tetra Tech DPK**

**DATE: November 5, 2016**

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

Cover Photo: USAID Mission Director to Jamaica, Maura Barry-Boyle (center) poses with members of Hannah Town Cultural Group after a visit to the location of their social enterprise – a dehydrated fruit business – on October 27, 2016.

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

CBO	Community-Based Organization
CBP	Community Based Policing
CDC	Community Development Committee
COMET II	Community Empowerment and Transformation Project - Phase II
COP	Chief of Party
CRC	Community Resource Centers
CSSB	Community Safety and Security Branch
DRF	Dispute Resolution Foundation
DTC	Drug Treatment Court
EMMP	Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation Plan
JCF	Jamaica Constabulary Force
JRC	Jamaica Red Cross
HEART NTA	Human Employment and Resource Training Trust, National Training Agency
KSAFA	Kingston and St. Andrew Football Association
NHT	National Housing Trust
NIA	National Integrity Action
NLA	National Land Agency
PET	Polyethylene Terephthalate
PIOJ	Planning Institute of Jamaica
PSA	Public Service Announcement
PYC	Police Youth Clubs
RDC	Rockfort Development Committee
REC	Review and Evaluation Committee
RFA	Request for Application
SDC	Social Development Commission
USAID	United States Agency for International Development



## **I. COMPONENT ONE: COMMUNITY DRIVEN CRIME PREVENTION**

### **Activity 1.1 – Administer small grants to provide support for community-based organizations (CBO) and community based projects**

In October, the COMET II grants portfolio continued its mandate to deliver small grants to community-based organizations. COMET II awarded the first grant in Year Four to Chapleton Community Development Committee (CDC) Ltd.



*USAID COMET-II Grants Assistant Roxanne Wanliss-McKnight and George Williams from the Chapleton CDC prepare for the implementation of grant activities in the community.*

This month, COMET II made strong headway on two of the community resource center (CRC) grants. Kitson Town CDC finished the installation of the containers on the CRC site in September. In October, the grantee focused on the finishing and furnishing of the CRC to include cosmetic details such as beautifying the external structure, adding grills to the windows and doors, smoothing out steps and ramps, etc. The official opening is expected to take place in mid-November. Cambridge CDC also made progress on its CRC, with the containers installed and the roof affixed to the building. The CRC will be completed by the end of November.

The grant to Four Paths CDC Ltd. for a CRC and social enterprise project in Four Paths, Clarendon, is currently in the pre-award phase. Following a request for proposals (RFP) for a subcontractor to renovate the building which will house the CRC, a preferred subcontractor was selected by a COMET II Review and Evaluation Committee (REC) and subcontract negotiations are currently underway. COMET II expects to sign the subcontract in early November and renovation work will commence at that time.

In late spring, COMET II received a non-competitive application from the Bogue CDC for a CRC in Bogue, St. James. The application has been evaluated and is currently in the pre-award phase, pending the registration of the organization. This grant has faced a delay due to the lengthy registration process which has been pending approval from the Railway Corporation. The COMET II Civil Society Specialist has been in dialogue with the Railway Corporation with an aim to resolve the issues leading to the delay in registration for the prospective grantee.

The grant award for a CRC and social enterprise for the Linstead CDC was approved in March but had been on hold due to the unsuitability of identified land for holding a standard CRC structure. Following an extensive negotiation process in which alternative sites were pursued, Linstead CDC and COMET II determined that the original site could house a smaller CRC and secured by adding a perimeter wall. The

quantity surveyor is drafting a revised bill of quantities that will reflect these modifications in order to move forward with the grant.

The grant award for a CRC and social enterprise for the Kintyre Citizen Association Ltd. has been approved but is currently on hold pending the permission from the National Land Agency for Kintyre Citizen Association to use the land for the CRC. The COMET II Civil Society Specialist has been in dialogue with the National Land Agency (NLA) to resolve this issue. Since these discussions have been initiated, COMET II has conducted a survey of the land and submitted it to NLA for review and feedback.



*View from outside the Kitson Town CRC as it approaches completion.*

COMET II social enterprise grants continue to be implemented in the five parishes, with grantees making headway on their projects this month. Highlights include:

- Kingston and St. Andrew Football Association (KSAFA) conducted three sessions with employees in poultry rearing;
- Mighty Sculptors Youth Project continued its practical training in papier mache, wood sculpting, and ceramics and held a graduation for its participants on October 28;
- Fathers United for Change Ltd. purchased and retrofitted a sea container to start its social enterprise, a wholesale and retail business selling consumer goods; and
- Positive Youths in Action Ltd produced several trial building blocks for inspection by the Bureau of Standards which will test the quality of the blocks before full scale production can begin for its construction block social enterprise.

Also this month, the following grantees received their USAID waivers to procure restricted goods and are now able to implement their social enterprise in agricultural activities:

- Race Course Police Youth Club Ltd.
- Mocho Citizen Association of Clarendon
- The Jamaica Association of General Baptists (Bethel)

Enos Barrett Disabled Group (RFA No. 21) and Mount Carey Citizen Association (RFA No. 27) applications are currently in the pre-award phase. Please note however, the application for Enos Barrett Disabled Group is currently on hold pending company registration.

The grants team continues to monitor the implementation of ongoing grants by conducting site visits and reviewing reports submitted by the grantees.

## **Activity 1.2 – Support and strengthen legitimate local governance structures including CBOs and CDCs**

### **Activity 1.2.3 – Provide technical assistance to CDC’s and other key stakeholders to develop CRC strategic plans designed to mainstream community development and community-based policing (CBP) activities**

*Work with Police, Rockfort Development Council (RDC) and Social Development Commission (SDC) to Streamline Operations at Rockfort Community Resource Center*

To support the long-term integration of the CRCs within the communities, COMET II hosted several sessions with the Rockfort CRC to develop CRC strategic plans that mainstream community development and CBP activities. Prior to these sessions, both the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) and the RDC had expressed the need to improve CRC operations and better coordinate activities between the two entities. COMET II facilitated sessions designed to build synergy between the two critical organizations and improve the services offered by the CRC to the Rockfort community. In October, two working sessions were held with the RDC and the police from the Rockfort Police Station and the Kingston East Divisional CSS senior staff. The SDC and COMET II provided technical support to kick-start the process.

The topics addressed during these sessions were: CRC management, program activities, and to a lesser extent, the social enterprise. The sessions were facilitated by COMET II CBP Coordinator Donaree Muirhead and Alicia Bowen-McCulskie of the SDC. COMET II Chief of Party (COP) Ian McKnight attended the first session and set the tone for the extremely productive work sessions that ensued. The sessions were supported by Timothy Marks, Community Coordinator- Kingston and Max Mendez Beck, Tetra Tech DPK Intern at COMET II. The working sessions produced a schedule of activities for the first quarter of Year 4. The main events will include: Health and Information Fair to commemorate the one year anniversary of the CRC; town hall meeting that will bring stakeholders together to address issues of safety and security, and a “treat” for the children and elderly which will serve as a means to mobilize the community to access the services offered at the CRC.

In addition, the sessions helped to cement the day-to-day activities at the center. These will include the police working from the CRC on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays; a Justice of the Peace working out of the Police Post during the week; career development session being hosted at the CRC on Wednesdays; Constable Brian Grossett continuing his math tutoring on Saturdays; and the homework program remaining a constant activity throughout the week. The Office Administrator will implement a register to capture the usage of the CRC, which will aid the CRC management team to understand the patterns of usage and to use empirical data to plan for the community.

### **Activity 1.3: Support youth empowerment in communities and create youth-centered spaces and activities**

COMET II continued its efforts at boosting youth empowerment by supporting the hosting of a Local Economic Initiatives Village at the Linstead Ackee and Jerk Cultural Festival on October 17. The village showcased entrepreneurs from the wider Linstead development area and was aimed at increasing local knowledge of and demand for their products, as well as to demonstrate to other members of the community, particularly youth, the possibilities arising from entrepreneurship. Chief of Party (COP) Ian McKnight was interviewed by local media during the festival, highlighting the work that COMET II has done with partners to support sustainable livelihood initiatives in Linstead.

This month COMET II also supported the Old Harbour Cassava, Seafood and Cultural Fest. This event was aimed at highlighting small scale producers (farmers, fishermen, culinarians) and the impact of key issues such as health, unemployment, training and education and crime, on the community. COP Ian McKnight was interviewed by Khadine ‘Miss Kitty’ Hylton from the ‘Miss Kitty Live Show’ which was broadcast live on Nationwide 90 FM during the festival, highlighting COMET II’s work with grantees in Clarendon.



*COMET II Chief of Party Ian McKnight engages with Nationwide 90 FM host Miss Kitty during an outside broadcast at the Old Harbour Cassava, Seafood and Cultural Fest.*

Twenty-nine youth who were trained in wood carvings, ceramic, and papier mâché under the Mighty Sculptors Youth Project, supported through a COMET II sustainable livelihood grant, graduated on October 28, 2016. Media personality Elise Kelly was the Guest Speaker for the graduation ceremony supported by COMET II and implored the youth to use their skills to develop the nation. Partners present included the JCF, the SDC, the CDC, the Planning Institution of Jamaica (PIOJ), the HEART Trust NTA, and the National Housing Trust (NHT). USAID Mission Director to Jamaica, Maura Barry-Boyle, visited and met with the graduates before the ceremony exercise as part of her visit to COMET II grantee sites in the parish of St. Catherine.



*Guest Speaker, media personality Elise Kelly, presents graduation certificate to a participant in the Mighty Sculptors Youth Project.*

#### **Activity 1.4 – Enhancing Community Capacity to Adapt to Global Climate Change**



**Activity 1.4.1 Conduct activities designed to promote environmental consciousness of Jamaican youth and empower them to act as change leaders in their communities**

*Operation Clean Sweep*

Activities under the subcontract with Idea Factory's Operation Clean Sweep Project began in September 2016 and will continue through July 2017. Despite some delays caused by the threat of Hurricane Matthew, three workshops were held on September 24 and October 8 and 12 for communities in Clarendon, St. James and St. Catherine respectively. A total of 231 persons from all 15 of the parishes' targeted communities received six hours of training on the impact, effect, and business of plastic bottle recycling. Of those individuals, 140 were trained in October (please see the tables below for more detailed information). The workshop is aimed at preparing the communities for the Operation Clean Sweep competition which will challenge the communities to design and implement a polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottle collection system for their communities.

During the workshops presentations were made on a range of information on plastics and recycling, including:

- The health effects of plastics
- The business of recycling
- The collection and storage of plastics
- Net Zero Energy building techniques

In addition, the workshop allowed the communities to begin planning their community approach to the competition and select leaders, not only for the competition but also for the creation of business opportunities and social enterprises that may arise from the collection of the plastic bottles.

This activity is expected to create or improve job opportunities for the community members and groups involved. Prizes will be given to the winning community and parish based on three major criteria:

- Weight of PET bottles collected (60 points)
- Recruitment/Community involvement (20 points)
- Reporting (20 points)

In addition, as part of COMET II's emphasis on sustainable livelihood initiatives, the communities will be free to sell the bottles to recyclers once the bottles have been weighed (as the competition rules only ask for proof of the weight collected).



*(Left) GCC Coordinator Karen McDonald-Gayle presenting certificates at the St. Catherine Workshop (October 12)*

Registration information for Operation Clean Sweep Workshop Hosted by Idea Factory at St. James Cultural Centre – October 8, 2016

Organization/ Community Represented	Performance Indicator(s)	Total	Disaggregation	
			Gender	Age Categories
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cambridge Benevolent Society</li> <li>• Cambridge PYC,</li> <li>• Lilliput Rovers,</li> <li>• Lilliput CDC,</li> <li>• Barrett Town PYC,</li> <li>• Ramble Hill Citizens Association,</li> <li>• Barrett Town Youth Empowerment,</li> <li>• Faith Marching Band,</li> <li>• Mount Carey Citizens Association</li> </ul>	P.I. #7; P.I. #8	58	Male: 25 Female: 33	(a) 16-29 41 (b) 30-60 15 (c) Over 60 2

Registration information for Operation Clean Sweep Workshop Hosted by Idea Factory at New Kingston Conference Centre – October 12, 2016

Organization/ Community Represented	Performance Indicator(s)	Total	Disaggregation	
			Gender	Age Categories
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kitson Town CDC,</li> <li>• Knollis Benevolent Society</li> <li>• Linstead CDC,</li> <li>• Mighty Gully Youth Project,</li> <li>• Old Harbour Bay CA,</li> <li>• Gregory Park CDC,</li> <li>• Bridgeport Progressive PYC,</li> <li>• Cedar Grove Youth &amp; Sports Club,</li> <li>• Forward Step Foundation,</li> <li>• Bog Walk CDC,</li> <li>• Knollis Benevolent Society,</li> <li>• Empowered for Health Committee</li> </ul>	P.I. #7; P.I. #8	82	Male: 34 Female: 48	(a) 16-29 38 (b) 30-60 36 (c) Over 60 8

*Upcoming events and planning:*

In anticipation of the approved Year Four work plan, the following activities were undertaken:

- Meetings to discuss COMET II's participation in the Jamaica Climate Walk 2016 - December 3, 2016
- Design and implementation of an improved Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (EMMP) tracker and site visit records process
- Finalization of the process of distribution for the Emergency Radio Systems (50 radios + 5 base units) procured

## **2. COMPONENT TWO: ESTABLISH AN ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTIVE OF THE RULE OF LAW**

### **Activity 2.1 – Civic Leaders and CSOs are involved in creating a culture-of-lawfulness (COL)**

#### **Activity 2.1.1 – Collaborate with National Integrity Action (NIA) and other partners to establish and/or support a Committee of “Integrity Champions” that can act as culture-of-lawfulness change agents in their communities**

Work in Component Two for the month of October was focused on the mounting of a two-day Integrity Champions Conference in collaboration with NIA on the weekend of October 29 and 30 at the Jewel Paradise Cove Beach Resort and Spa in Runaway Bay St. Ann. The event was originally scheduled for the weekend of October 1 and 2 but had to be postponed due to the threat of Hurricane Matthew. Two representatives from each of the 25 COMET II project communities were chosen to become Integrity Champions and attended the conference in that role. Following the conference, NIA will provide capacity building and training in Social Auditing and Culture-of-Lawfulness (COL) throughout Year Four to ensure the sustainability of the process.

The following presentations were conducted during the workshop:

- “*The Advocacy Road Map*”. - Dr. Patrece Charles, Deputy Executive Director NIA
- “*Safety in Communities, Anti- Informer Culture*” – ACP Bishop Dr. Gary Welsh, JCF CSSB
- “*Community engagement in the context of Integrity*” – Mr. Andre McCarthy, SDC
- “*Integrity Messaging through the Arts*” – Jamaica Youth Theatre
- “*Communicating Advocacy*” – Mr. Dennis Brooks, Social Media Manager, Broadcaster at Nationwide News Network
- “*Plot and Plan a Visual of Your Community Change*” - Dr. K'adamawe K'nife, Strategic Planning and Entrepreneurship Specialist

As a result of the workshop, 50 people received training as watchdogs and acquired the skills to become leaders in their communities on issues of rule of law and COL. The participants were exposed to methods of using culture, music, drama, and social media to implement the Integrity and Culture-of-Lawfulness projects that they identified for implementation within their communities. These individuals were designated as Integrity Champions following the conference and will continue the Integrity Champion Watchdog initiative in their communities through collaboration with other key stakeholders such as CDCs, CBOs, and Police Youth Clubs (PYCs). COMET II expects that in the long-term, the projects that emerge from this workshop will contribute to the promotion of integrity and a culture-of-lawfulness in Jamaican society.

This conference would not have been possible without the cooperation of and collaboration with the following entities:

- National Integrity Action (NIA)
- Jamaica Constabulary Force – PYCs
- Social Development Commission



(Left) ACP Bishop Dr. Gary Welsh delivers a presentation entitled on Safety in Communities & the Anti- Informer Culture (Right) NIA Executive Director Dr. Patrece Charles makes a point during he presentation entitled 'The Advocacy Road Map'



(Above) Conference participants pose for the COMET II camera at the end of the two day conference

## MEDIA COVERAGE

DATE	MEDIA
October 14, 2016	NNN – COP interviewed by Radio personality Miss Kitty at the Cassava, Seafood and Cultural Fest at Port Esquivel Sports Complex in St Catherine.
October 17, 2016	IRIE FM - COP interviewed at the Linstead Ackee festival
October 20, 2016	Feature on Mighty Sculptors in Jamaica Gleaner - <a href="http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20161020/help-us-mighty-gully-youth-beg-intervention">http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20161020/help-us-mighty-gully-youth-beg-intervention</a>

**3. COMPONENT THREE: ENCOURAGE ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING AND OTHER PROGRAMS FOR AT-RISK YOUTH**

**Activity 3.1 – Preventing youth from coming into conflict with the law**

The Dispute Resolution Foundation (DRF) met its expected result of conducting 48 in-school rap-sessions with the staging of the final four sessions during the month of October, concluding on October 20. The initiative, which was originally planned to end several weeks earlier, was delayed as a result of the threat from Hurricane Matthew. Specifically, a few of the partner schools were used as shelters and it took a few extra days for regular activities to resume. These schools were located in St. James, Kingston and St. Andrew. The rap sessions are specifically geared towards engaging at-risk youth in cathartic dialogue with school authorities. Importantly, these mended relationships will eventually impact the Ministry of Education's Safe School programs designed to create safer school environs. The in-school rap session schedule for October is listed below.

In-School Rap Sessions held during the month of October:

Parish	School	Date	Time
St. Andrew	Holy Childhood High	October 6, 2016	10:00 am
St Catherine	Dinthill Technical High	October 12, 2016	12:00pm
Kingston	St. Hugh's High	October 19, 2016	10:00am
St. James	Maldon High	October 20, 2016	1:00pm



*Students at the St Hugh's High School in Kingston engaged in a Rap Session*

The month of October was also used by the DRF to collate the necessary monitoring and evaluation reports documents for COMET II in accordance with grant reporting requirements. Supervised peer mediation sessions are slated for November.

### **Activity 3.2 – Alternative sentencing activities through the Drug Treatment Court (DTC) program**

Much of October was used to prepare for the upcoming DTC Staff Training Workshop on November 5 and 6 at the Hyatt Zilara Rose Hall. The training workshop, which is in collaboration with the Jamaican DTC, will equip new members of the DTC staff with best practices that can inform the way in which they operate in their various capacities in the program. In addition, it will focus on improving the services offered by the drug treatment diversion program, with the goal of ultimately improving the lives of DTC participants.

The workshop is expected to include the following speakers:

- The Honorable Chief Justice
- The Honorable Minister of Justice
- Executive members of the NCDA
- The Honorable Stephane Jackson-Haisley
- Dr, Myo Oo and,
- International keynote speaker, Mr. Antonio Lomba from the Organization of American States.

### **Activity 3.3 - Rehabilitation**

***Activity 3.3.1 – In order to support the DTC Workforce Development Program, provide vocational and technical skills training and other professional development opportunities for participants and/or graduates of the DTC***

#### *Workforce Development Program*

In October, a new participant was enrolled in the Workforce Development Program designed to assist at-risk youth with new opportunities. The goal of this program is to equip at-risk youth with the skills to seek new or better employment. The new participant, Odane Dempster was enrolled at Maths Unlimited, an academic institute that prepares individuals for the Caribbean Secondary Examination. Mr. Dempster was enrolled for five courses, and will sit for exams on those courses in May/June 2017.

COMET II's assistance to these participants also includes the provision of stipends which are disbursed after a weekly checkup is conducted by the Component Lead with either the treatment counsellor or practitioners at the institutions.

#### *Jamaica Red Cross (JRC) in St. Catherine and Clarendon*

JRC activities continued for the month of October despite delays in the timely submission of reports. One such key activity was the remedial training in literacy and mathematics. Also in October, COMET II Community Coordinators in Clarendon and St. Catherine conducted site visits at both JRC facilities to monitor implementation of activities.

#### **4. COMPONENT FOUR: COMMUNITY POLICING**

##### **Activity. 4.1: Support for the continued implementation and consolidation of the Community-Based Policing (CBP) strategy**

***Activity 4.1.1: Collaborate with PYCs to implement initiatives focused on community crime reduction activities, including internal strategic planning and organizational development for PYC, execution of community awareness and youth empowerment activities.***

On October 8, COMET II Component Lead Donaree Muirhead attended the Police Youth Club (PYC) National Council meeting at the Community Safety and Security Branch (CSSB) headquarters in Kingston. COMET II facilitated the working session and presented COMET II's activities for Year Four with the PYC. In addition, Ms. Muirhead facilitated a participatory activity with the group to brainstorm the issues driving crime and the types of criminal activities that are rampant at the community level. She used the session to outline the interventions that the PYC can spearhead to support the police in reducing the incidences and helped them to identify best practices undertaken by the clubs at the community level.

This session highlighted that the clubs at the community level are doing exceptionally well to raise funds and carryout activities that positively impact their communities: several PYCs offered scholarships to needy students at both the primary and secondary level to attend school for the 2016-2017 academic year; the Clarendon PYC Council conducts an ongoing elderly care program; the Manchester PYC donated a defibrillator to the Mandeville Hospital; and St. Ann PYC organized and executed a peace march and community outreach activity. It is important to note how the PYC is playing its part to positively engage the youth and impact the wider community without any support from COMET II in the implementation of these activities.

At the same time, while these activities are known, neither the National Executive nor the CSSB headquarters has data on these interventions and these successes have therefore become anecdotal at best. The organization was charged by COMET II's Community Policing Coordinator to gather the information in a programmatic inventory as this will place them in a better position to calculate the social return on investment for not just the organization but also the JCF.

The CSSB and the PYC will carry out the second staging of the social media protest against crime on October 31- November 5. COMET II will support this activity by providing to the PYC the public service announcement created for the JCF and by actively using the USAID COMET II Facebook page to spread the message and have COMET II staff making endorsements for **#Blackout4Peace**.

COP Ian McKnight conducted a workshop as part of the 'Power Sessions Series' for the May Pen PYC Divisional Council meeting which was held at the May Pen Police Station's Conference Room on 26 October 2016. Over 30 PYC members representing more than eight Police Youth Clubs across the parish were in attendance at the session.

## **ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES**

### **Windows of Opportunity**

#### ***Woman Inc.***

Through its Windows of Opportunity fund, COMET II is partnering with Woman Inc. to support the renovation of its women's shelter in New Kingston. The shelter is a first of its kind in Jamaica, servicing women and their children who are victims of domestic abuse. The immediate need for such a shelter precluded substantial construction on the building prior to Woman Inc. taking it over in 1987. As such, with the addition of almost 20 years, the building is now in need of significant renovation.

This month, COMET II entered into negotiations with the successful bidder for the renovation work. In response to the RFP published by COMET II, proposals from potential bidders were due on September 28 and only one company submitted a proposal. A REC met on September 30 and determined the bidder, Alfrasure Structure and Roofing, Ltd, met all criteria. Because the bidder was unable to visit the location prior to the successful bid due to security concerns, COMET II and Woman Inc. included the opportunity for the successful company to revise its bid based on a site visit. Following the visit on October 14, Alfrasure submitted a revised renovation plan to COMET II and Woman Inc. on October 26. COMET II will finalize the subcontract with Alfrasure pending Woman Inc.'s submission of the requisite documents needed for the renovation approvals (proof of ownership/land use, tax payments) and its final sign-off on the plans.

#### **USAID Mission Director to Jamaica Maura Barry-Boyle Site Visit to Kingston and St. Catherine**

On October 27 and 28, COMET II hosted the USAID Mission Director Maura Barry-Boyle on site visits to key partners in Kingston and St. Catherine. These visits afforded the Mission Director with perspective about the impact of COMET II activities at the community level. The CBP Coordinator engaged the JCF to provide security support for the Mission Director during these site visits.

On October 27, Ms. Barry-Boyle visited COMET II grantee Fathers United for Change in Trench Town, where organizers were in the process of renovating a retrofitted shipping container to house a wholesale and retail business supported through COMET II's sustainable livelihood grants. The social enterprise is designed to generate income for the group, as well as provide income and occupation for the community members that will be employed by the business.





*Site visit to Father's United for Change, October 27, 2016*

Also on October 27, the Mission Director visited St. John's United Church in Hannah town to meet with COMET II grantee Hannah Town Cultural Group for a tour of the grantee's fruit dehydration and packaging social enterprise. The grantee explained how they developed the idea to pursue this venture as well as their plans to develop it into a sustainable business that will provide benefits to themselves as well as their community.

Additionally, the USAID Mission Director visited the block making factory of COMET II grantee Positive Youth in Action, located toward the Windward Road area of Kingston. There she was given a demonstration of the quality building blocks the group has been able to produce since it began operations.

Other stakeholders involved in the visits included the JCF, the SDC, the CDC and the PIOJ.

On October 28, the USAID Mission Director visited the parish of St. Catherine to see the site of the newly installed Kitson Town CRC. The CRC is in its final stages of preparation for the opening on November 16.



*USAID Mission Director to Jamaica Maura Barry-Boyle poses outside the soon-to-be-completed Kitson Town CRC along with representatives from the PIOJ, SDC, CDC, JCF and COMET II.*

After time spent in dialogue with stakeholders from the Kitson Town community, the CDC, PIOJ, and the SDC, the Mission Director made her way to Old Harbour to visit the site of Mighty Sculptors, a COMET II grantee involved in the manufacture and trade of Jamaican craft items including wood carvings, ceramic, and papier mâché.

Following this visit the USAID Mission Director attended the graduation ceremony for participants of the Mighty Gully's Youth Project in which youth from surrounding communities were trained in wood carving, ceramic, and papier mâché, mentioned above.



*(Left and Right) Participants in the Mighty Sculptors Youth Project show off their creations and certificates at the graduation ceremony*

*(Centre) Graduates of the Mighty Sculptors Youth Project pose with their certificates of participation at the end of their graduation exercise.*

## **ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES**

- The GCC Coordinator submitted her resignation this month, effective mid-November. COMET II has commenced the process of recruiting a replacement candidate.
- Tetra Tech DPK Project Officers, Aekta Desai and Tenzin Dhonyo, visited COMET II this month to provide interim support in the absence of a Financial and Administration Manager (FAM).
- COMET II conducted first-round interviews for the FAM position in late October and is conducting second-round interviews with the top candidates. Selection of a candidate and negotiations are expected to be completed in November.