



What People are Saying About MCC

...With the advent of the Millennium Challenge Accounts, we want to move the farmers on to more scientific and technological agriculture, and thereby empower them more and make agriculture worth pursuing for the youth. We are suffering [a] very serious drift of the youth from the rural parts to the urban areas...And so now in our streets in the big towns you have street children. We believe the success of the Millennium Challenge Account will help stem all this anti-social developments."

President John Kufuor of Ghana
In a Joint Statement with
President George Bush
at the White House September 15, 2008

"...there is a direct link between the broad security we have as Americans in the world... and whether the billion plus people who live on less than dollars a day have some hope for their future, and we can as a country be a beacon for that hope. And, President Bush through a very brave initiative—the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and the Millennium Challenge Corporation—has launched for the first time a way to help these people in very real ways over his administration."

Sam Worthington
President and CEO, Interaction
On the Kojo Nnamdi Radio Show
September 3, 2008

"Transparency...is one of the hallmarks, for example, of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and I think that is one of the reasons there is strong support for things like the MCC."

Jim Kolbe
Senior Transatlantic Fellow,
German Marshall Fund of
the United States
Presenting at an event on the
margins of the Republican
National Convention
September 1, 2008

"[MCC is] a kind of aid that is meant to create incentives for governments to do better. [A] wonderful example is that it's because of... Lesotho's desire to get access to [MCC funding] that it decided to ... [change] its legislation to ensure that married women, who earlier could not own property, [can] now ... own property. This is the kind of change that in the medium-term really makes a difference in people's lives: growth, better governance, and more democracy so people have voice. That's the sense in which the glass is really more than half full now in Africa. And I think the U.S. has played an important role in ... helping countries move in those good directions."

Nancy Birdsall
President, Center for Global Development
Presenting at an event on the margins of
the Democratic National Convention
August 27, 2008

“The Millennium Challenge Corporation is an outstanding example of the U.S. commitment to helping women escape poverty and build sustainable livelihoods...”

VOA News editorial
“Helping Women in Small Business”
July 27, 2008

“The uniqueness of the MCC model resides in its ability to identify and reward countries that are making significant progress on good governance, promoting economic freedom, and upholding the rule of law. As you know, the MCC’s mission enjoys bipartisan support and has been heralded by many development experts as a critical component of our foreign aid strategy, alongside existing diplomatic and humanitarian efforts.”

Congressman Adam Smith
and Congressman Christopher Shays
in a letter with 36 other co-signers
to the leadership of the
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
and the Subcommittee on
State-Foreign Operations
September 18, 2008

“...[R] rural women are becoming MCA-N[icaragua] clients and their economic condition is indeed improving. One example is Daniela Rivera, a producer from one of the poorest municipalities in Nicaragua. She comes from a family of 11 siblings. She found out about MCA thanks to the Consejo de Mujeres de Occidente’s activities disseminating information in rural areas. Today, Daniela is a model producer. Thanks to the growth of her business—a green house that sells seedlings for reforestation—she is the only one in her family to ever attend college. This is only one example of the many women are increasing their business skills thanks to MCA training programs.”

Imara Martínez
Consejo de Mujeres de Occidente
On receipt of her Women’s Thrive Worldwide
award for Nicaragua’s commitment to gender
as part of its \$175 million MCC compact
September 10, 2008

“Salvadorans are drawn to the MCC model of aid, which embraces ownership by the recipient country... they value how the MCC engages with the state and citizens—and welcome the departure from the status quo...The MCC brings with it a new paradigm on country ownership, unlike anything pursued by other US agencies. In El Salvador, the MCC builds on and reinforces a pre-existing national development plan that was developed using uncommonly consultative methods...That the MCC recognized the value of this autonomous process only adds to its strengths and shows its openness to working with locally grown institutions.”

Oxfam America
As reported in its July 21, 2008
“Smart development in practice:
Field report from El Salvador”

“America is using our foreign assistance to promote democracy and good government. We have more than doubled the federal budget for democracy and governance and human rights programs. And through the Millennium Challenge Account, we have transformed the way we deliver aid, so we can support developing nations that make important political and economic reforms.”

President George Bush in
his weekly radio address
July 26, 2008