



What People are Saying About MCC

"The MCC not only expands assistance; it changes the way it's delivered, supporting leaders who deliver results by governing justly, investing in people, and encouraging economic freedom. The ...MCC compacts we have with African nations... are supporting projects tailored to individual countries' specific needs—from expanding educational opportunities for girls in Burkina Faso to improving transportation and energy and water supplies in Tanzania to strengthening legal institutions in Benin. What these projects all have in common is that they are laying the foundation for sustainable growth. They are also encouraging other nations, who see the benefits of MCC compacts, to move ahead with the tough economic, political, and social reforms necessary to compete for compacts of their own."

Deputy Secretary of State John D. Negroponte
Remarks at the Foreign Affairs Brain Trust
on Africa hosted by the Congressional Black
Caucus Annual Legislative Conference
September 26, 2008

"...the Millennium Challenge is one of the best things that the United States has done, and I have to give President Bush a lot of credit for... this public-private partnership, a combination of government emphasis and free-market approaches..."

Ambassador Andrew Young
Chairman of the Board, Leon H. Sullivan
Foundation and Co-founding Partner,
Goodworks International
October 15, 2008

"...the MCC's commitment to a five-year compact with a country is actually one of its greatest strengths. By the mere act of making multiyear compacts, the MCC is tackling three of the hallmarks of bad foreign aid: disregard the effective governments' own solutions, impatience with long-term investments like institutions, and inattention to the reforms that fight poverty. Addressing root causes takes time, but it produces lasting results from our aid dollars...If Congress wants an accurate measure of how US foreign aid fights poverty and promotes growth, members should look beyond disbursements to the value that the MCC delivers for our aid dollars. Country ownership, local institutions, and development policies are all key to making foreign aid a more effective tool for development. None are as easily measured as the number of dollars disbursed. But if valued as outcomes, the MCC's achievements more than justify the full support of Congress."

Oxfam America
"Measuring the right results: the real strength of
the Millennium Challenge Corporation"
October 8, 2008

"...MCC's threshold program fits well within our longtime vision for a democratic society built on a civil persuasion...the development of professional media, strong institutions, and rests on judicial independence and democratic principles."

Rwanda's Minister of Finance James Musoni
October 15, 2008

"...It's about governance, and as we know, that's an essential element of success in any kind of development program: the transparency of the actions of government and of contracting and procurement, the respect for property rights and the respect for the rule of law, the independence of the judiciary system, the strength of the legislative system, and perhaps most important of all, the willingness of the government to fight and tackle corruption, which we know can be a debilitating influence in so many countries. Now these criteria... are not certainly perfect, but we do at least use objective measurements for them, and that is something that really distinguishes the Millennium Challenge Corporation, I think, from anything else in the world that has been started to do this kind of development assistance, and so I believe the Millennium Challenge Corporation not only has been successful, is being successful, but will continue to succeed..."

Senior Transatlantic Fellow Jim Kolbe
German Marshall Fund of the United States
October 15, 2008

"The Millennium Challenge Corporation has made huge strides in the advancement of sustainable ways of development on a global scale. By working in conjunction with governments of all regions, it has created a means of quality control and accountability to ensure that every aspect of a country's insufficiency is tackled. Not only does the MCC work to diminish poverty by generating opportunities, it gives nations the incentive and tools to sustain themselves in a transparent, efficient, and low impact way that benefits every citizen. In its four short years, the Millennium Challenge Corporation has brought hope and results to over forty countries and is committed to continue to improve the quality of life of the underprivileged."

Canes International
University of Miami
International Studies
Journal
Blog entry: The Millennium
Challenge Corporation: A
Fight to End Poverty
October 16, 2008

"The eligibility criteria for the MCC could serve as the basis for new legislation. The MCC uses 17 indicators in three broad development categories—"ruling justly, economic freedom, and investing in people"—to determine a nation's eligibility to receive development aid. A new congressional mandate would make the executive branch accountable for results and provide a new framework for legislators who wish to earmark funds for specific purposes. The MCC is one of the United States' most innovative foreign aid programs; it is free of earmarks and promotes genuine partnership with recipient countries. The MCC should be protected from political pressures in Washington that might compromise its eligibility criteria."

J. Brian Atwood,
M. Peter McPherson, Andrew Natsios
From a Foreign Affairs article, Arrested
Development: Making Foreign Aid a More
Effective Tool
November/December 2008

"More predictable aid is more effective aid, for the recipient country and for the US taxpayer. Because of this, and the fact that economic growth takes time, the MCC's financing instrument is a multiyear agreement with an eligible country to fund specific projects. This is not charity; it is wise long-term investment in a safer, healthier, and more prosperous world."

Stephen P. Groff and Raymond C. Offeneheiser
"Fund the fight against global poverty: The Millennium Challenge
Corporation is a critical investment"
The Christian Science Monitor
October 3, 2008