

What People Are Saying About MCC

“One such ‘smart aid’ program is the Millennium Challenge Corp., which is going strong in 11 countries in Africa -- and especially in Ghana. By 2011, Ghana will have received \$547 million to pay for roads, rural development and training tens of thousands of farmers in commercial agriculture, growing crops that might someday be exported to the U.S. Obama’s budget request calls for \$1 billion to fund Millennium Challenge for the 2010 fiscal year, a significant commitment during a recession. Congress’ passage of a budget this year that puts the U.S. on course to double foreign assistance by 2015 is a promising sign that this dedication will continue.”

Los Angeles Times editorial: *American Aid to Africa*
July 15, 2009

“The administration would be well-served to strengthen programs, like the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), that infuse accountability, transparency and risk management into the delivery of foreign aid.”

Gerald Grinstein and William D. Ruckelshaus

The Seattle Times: U.S. foreign assistance’s effectiveness should be held to rigorous standard
July 21, 2009

“I’m going to work as hard as I can in the days, weeks, and months ahead to get the resources that you need to do your jobs better. As part of this process, we will of course be including PEPFAR and MCC.”

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton

July 13, 2009

“...the most promising innovation in aid policy for inducing democratic accountability and responsible governance [is] the Millennium Challenge Account. The MCA moves away from the failure of policy conditionality to a new and much more promising concept of selectivity. Instead of imposing specific economic policies on countries that feel no ownership of them and no real commitment to implementing them, the MCA rewards countries that have already invested in human well-being and put in place the types of political and economic institutions that get developmental results.... We should reorganize international aid flows more boldly and comprehensively around the MCA’s selective approach.”

Larry Diamond

Boston Review: Instead of imposing policies, reward states that invest in well-being and institutions
July/August 2009

“Ghana is clearly on the right track. It is helped along that track by aid done right, such as the five-year \$547 million commitment by the Millennium Challenge Corporation designed to turn subsistence farmers into producers of high-value crops, to harness the power of the marketplace to lift them out of poverty. I sit on the board of the MCC, which is designed to make aid a potent and effective force, fighting not just poverty but also corruption and policies that stifle economic growth.”

Ken Hackett

Huffington Post: Obama in Ghana: Pay Attention to Africa
July 10, 2009

“Both cases (MCC and Recovery Act reporting) are examples of pioneering new approaches that could well have a far broader impact. Putting measures of results out there will likely touch off discussions, and possible adoption, of common standards for how to measure the results of a range of programs. In the foreign aid community, this might reach across different aid agencies and different countries and non-profits providing aid.”

John Kamensky

IBM Center for the Business of Government blog
entry: *Real-Time Results Reporting*
July 15, 2009

“I have to be honest and admit that I was initially not someone who was certain that MCC was a good idea; I’ll be very honest with you. I am now one of your biggest supporters.”

Ambassador Sally Shelton-Colby

July 29, 2009

“Cape Verde is an African success story. It is a country which is democratically run, well managed, and a country which has used the economic assistance that it has received from the United States, including a large Millennium Challenge Account Grant, extraordinarily well.”

Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs

Johnnie Carson

July 30, 2009

“[MCC Acting CEO Rodney] Bent and his staff proudly unveiled MCC’s new online Monitoring and Evaluation analysis tool to track the progress of MCC projects in countries around the world. Props to MCC for the emphasis this places on transparency and open monitoring of project success.”

Norah Mallaney

Global Integrity Commons blog entry:
*Spreadsheets and Transparency at the Millennium
Challenge Corporation*
July 15, 2009

“Of particular interest in our conversation was the pursuit and prioritization of transparency within the MCC’s various programs. Mr. Bent walked us through a new web feature on the MCC’s website on ‘Monitoring and Evaluation.’ While still a work in progress, this feature is part of a larger desire... for greater transparency in foreign assistance efforts amongst governments and organizations. While obviously a risk in part, foreign assistance can be greatly enhanced and improved with our willingness to admit what doesn’t work and share what does. We really appreciated the candid conversation and are excited about the MCC’s work both offline and online.”

Virginia Simmons and Chris Scott

ONE blog entry: *MCC Unveils New Transparency Tools*
July 14, 2009

“The MCC says many of the right things. Publishing economic rates of return for their projects, providing M&E data for each MCC country in two formats, adding in data visualization and more collaborative feedback tools (all currently available or in the works over the next few months) is MUCH more than many other aid agencies are willing or able to do at the moment.”

Laura Freschi

Aid Watch blog entry: *Are the best aid agencies
the ones about to die?*
July 20, 2009

“In his programs to assist Africa, [President Obama] is also taking advantage of the work done by the previous administration. Take, for example, the president’s decision to strengthen the Millennium Challenge Corp. (MCC), a Bush administration initiative. The MCC enters into contracts with governments that promise specific improvements in public representation, accountability, openness and honesty. In exchange it provides economic development grants and loans... Mr. Obama has marked the MCC for a 39 percent increase in his budget. Ghana is a major partner in the program.”

**Charleston Post-and-Courier editorial: Obama
talks straight to Africa**

July 15, 2009