



MCC ANNUAL PARTNERSHIPS REPORT 2022



MILLENNIUM
CHALLENGE CORPORATION
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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LETTER FROM CEO

The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is proud to present the 2022 Annual Partnerships Report, highlighting partnerships that reflect MCC's mission to reduce global poverty through sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

The development landscape has significantly changed, with increased global political and economic volatility, vulnerability, and competition. MCC's partnerships with donors, foundations, businesses, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, and other U.S. Government agencies are driving innovation and creating meaningful impact in compact, threshold, and regional programs. I continue to be inspired by the transformational progress and results achieved when MCC and our partners combine respective strengths to solve problems that no one organization or entity can solve on its own.



Partnerships are core to how MCC achieves its mission. In FY22 MCC intensified its efforts to form partnerships for the development and implementation of compact and threshold programs. MCC is using co-creative partnering approaches for the design and implementation of the Solomon Islands Threshold Program and for the Coastal Climate Project in the anticipated Mozambique Compact, for example. Partnerships are also integral to MCC's corporate strategies, including our work to address climate change, integrate inclusion and gender, and catalyze private investment.

The four featured partnerships in this year's report reflect MCC's and our partners' commitment to increase employment opportunities and workforce participation for women; to build new methods of identifying and addressing constraints to growth; and to enhance the monitoring and evaluation of agriculture sector projects. This report also provides updates on three partnerships that were introduced in the inaugural 2021 Annual Partnerships Report. Finally, we showcase new partnerships to watch that will expand MCC's access to knowledge, resources, and data analysis tools and deliver projects and activities as part of MCC country programs.

Transparency and accountability have been part of MCC's core DNA since the agency was founded in 2004— from country selection to program development to project implementation to post-project evaluation. This report helps to tell the MCC story of how partnerships are driving impact.

We hope this report will encourage future partnerships with organizations with which we share common goals: to promote economic growth, to reduce poverty, and to strengthen institutions. By working together, we rise to meet the challenges presented before us— supporting stability and prosperity around the world.

Sincerely,

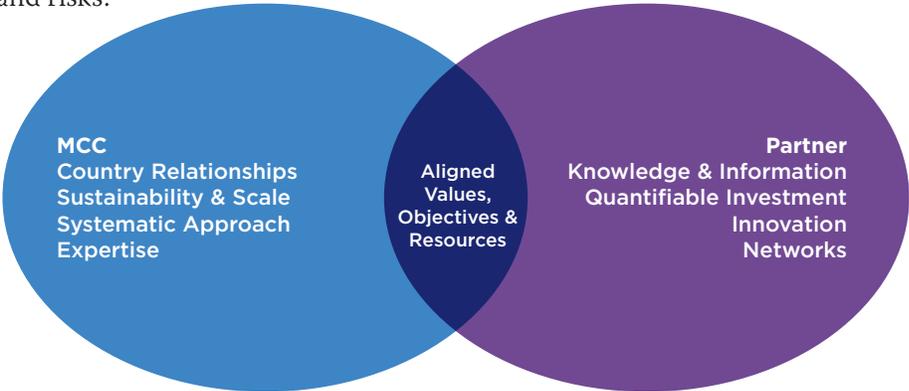
Alice Albright
 Chief Executive Officer
 Millennium Challenge Corporation

ABOUT US

MCC partnerships take many forms and benefit both MCC and our partners by increasing our respective access to cutting-edge research, knowledge, data, funding, networks, and expertise. Partnerships also benefit the public by helping to open new markets, scale programs, and drive innovation.

MCC defines a partnership as a collaborative relationship in which two or more entities work together to:

- ★ Achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task;
- ★ mutually determine goals, structure, governance, roles, and responsibilities of their collaboration;
- ★ share responsibilities, resources, and competencies;
- ★ share benefits and risks.



MCC and our country counterparts collaborate with the public sector, private sector, and civil society organizations to reduce poverty through economic growth at the agency and country levels:

AGENCY-LEVEL PARTNERSHIPS

Agency-level partnerships afford MCC the opportunity to gain access to knowledge, data, resources, expertise, and visibility that is not easily procured via contracts. One way that MCC forms agency-level partnerships is via an Annual Program Statement (APS), which facilitates open, fair, and transparent competition of partnership opportunities. The APS enables MCC and prospective partners to co-create partnerships that make best use of each organization’s distinct knowledge, networks, innovations, investments, personnel, and resources.

COUNTRY-LEVEL PARTNERSHIPS

Country-level partnerships support the implementation of MCC’s investments in our partner countries. These partnerships are between an MCC partner country and one or more partners to achieve mutual objectives. The Program Partnership Solicitation (PPS) enables competitively selected partners to co-create, co-develop, and jointly implement MCC program activities with country counterparts. Country-level partnerships increase the sustainability of programs by involving external parties and increasing the funding leveraged via partner co-funding.

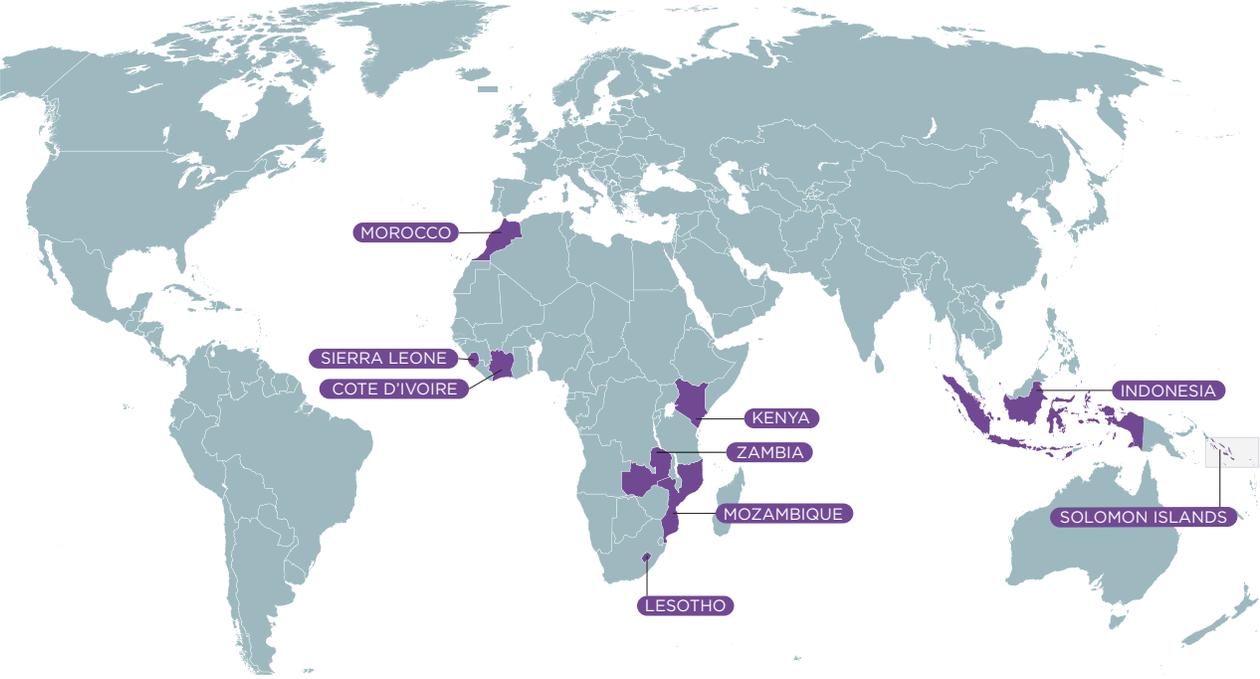
In addition, MCC seeks to catalyze funding from the private sector through our blended finance activities, targeting concessional funding to de-risk and leverage capital to propel private sector growth. MCC has an

array of blended finance tools – leveraged grant facilities, risk-based finance instruments, guarantees, and viability gap financing—that can be deployed to support projects and interventions that create new pathways for private capital and grow the private sector.

Teams across MCC and counterparts in partner countries develop partnerships to achieve objectives across a range of programmatic and analytical areas.

For more information on MCC partnership opportunities see <https://www.mcc.gov/work-with-us/partnerships>.

MAP OF CURRENT PARTNERSHIPS



Morocco

- Employment Lab with Harvard and MIT Poverty Action Lab
- Millennium Impact Infrastructure Accelerator with Africa 50
- Big Data Platform with Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, OCP Solutions and Atlas Cloud Services

Cote d'Ivoire

- DigiFemmes with USAID and Microsoft
- Gender Equality in the Economic Sectors with World Bank's Africa Gender Innovation Lab

Kenya

- Fiscal Incidence and Welfare Distribution of Eliminating Constraints to Growth with Tulane University

Lesotho

- Gender Equality in the Economic Sectors with World Bank's Africa Gender Innovation Lab
- Addressing Climate and Other Deep Uncertainties in Environmental Economic Analysis with University of Massachusetts

Mozambique

- Fiscal Incidence and Welfare Distribution of Constraints to Growth with Tulane University

Indonesia

- Financial Inclusion in Indonesia with Innovations for Poverty Action
- Fiscal Incidence and Welfare Distribution of Eliminating Constraints to Growth with Tulane University
- Shared Learning Agenda and Multi-stakeholder Collaboration with Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab

Sierra Leone

- Fiscal Incidence and Welfare Distribution of Eliminating Constraints to Growth with Tulane University

Solomon Islands

- Solomon Islands Tourism Investment Facilitation with International Finance Corporation
- Forestry Value Enhancement Project with Nakau/Live&Learn
- Community Engagement to Achieve Social License Agreements with Tourism Investors with Tetra Tech

Zambia

- Fiscal Incidence and Welfare Distribution of Eliminating Constraints to Growth with Tulane University

MCC KEY INITIATIVES

Furthering MCC’s mission to reduce global poverty through economic growth, MCC seeks to make climate-resilient, inclusive, and sustainable programs. The agency is prioritizing activities in three key areas: climate, social inclusion and gender, and blended finance.¹ Partnerships are a key objective and enabler for MCC’s aim to achieve impact in these areas.

CLIMATE

MCC recognizes that climate change, poverty, and economic growth are inextricably linked. Thus, MCC has invested \$1.5 billion in climate-related activities from fiscal year 2015 through 2020 and expects to invest over another \$1 billion in climate initiatives by 2024.

Climate change poses the greatest risk to developing countries, whose people, economies, and institutions are less able to adapt or afford its consequences. MCC seeks to partner in critical sectors like energy, water, transportation, and agriculture as part of a holistic approach to building climate resiliency, promoting low carbon economic development and supporting countries in their transition away from fossil fuels.

The *MCC Climate Change Strategy* details how the agency plans to integrate climate considerations and partnerships more fully across all programs, whether under development, in implementation, or post-implementation.

SOCIAL INCLUSION & GENDER

MCC recognizes that the structural exclusion of disadvantaged groups is a problem in all countries, and that sustainable growth must be inclusive and equitable. Research has made increasingly clear that the nature of that growth—its inclusiveness, ability to generate employment, and sustainability—is key to generating strong and lasting impacts on poverty reduction. MCC is increasing its efforts to design projects that expand access to programs for low-income and marginalized groups. MCC seeks to partner with entities that can help make inclusion and economic growth complementary.

The *MCC Inclusion and Gender Strategy* details how the agency plans to strengthen social inclusion and gender considerations and partnerships into its analytical approaches, program design and implementation.

BLENDED FINANCE

MCC recognizes that catalyzing private sector investments and using blended finance instruments maximizes opportunities that support sustainable, long-term economic development.

MCC has been practicing blended finance since its founding, through public-private partnerships (PPPs), grant facilities and investments targeted to catalyze private sector investment. MCC has harnessed private financial markets through a range of tools, including capital structure grants, grant facilities, parallel investments, co-investments, PPPs and catalytic investment strategies that improve investor confidence and help overcome some of the impediments to private sector investments.

¹ *Executive Summary | Millennium Challenge Corporation (mcc.gov)*

MCC will deliver on three new blended finance strategies in partnership with the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), the Small Business Administration (SBA) and Africa50. These partnerships seek to maximize the overall impact of U.S. Government development efforts.

MCC'S FUTURE: MCC@20

The partnerships showcased in this report improve the capabilities of MCC to support the agency priorities, with several directly aligned with climate, inclusion and gender, and blended finance.

Looking toward the future, the progress achieved by our current partnerships will support and enable MCC@20—the agency's strategic vision for the next 20 years. Simultaneously building on previous impact and adapting to meet changing global economic needs, this new vision requires MCC to be innovative in its approach, while maintaining a model that is distinct and valuable to its partners and the U.S. Government.



PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS

PARTNERSHIP TO WATCH

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TO ACHIEVE SOCIAL LICENSE AGREEMENTS WITH TOURISM INVESTORS IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

The MCC Solomon Islands Threshold Program is partnering with Tetra Tech to implement the Accessing Land for Tourism Investment Facilitation (ALTIF) project, which seeks to promote new investment in land parcels that show a high potential for attracting tourists to Solomon Islands. Tetra Tech will focus on securing social license for potential investments by working with communities located near the sites to ensure they accept the presence and operations of investors, and to identify how the communities may participate in and benefit from the investment. Social license agreements between the investors and communities provide investors with long term land tenure security and provide communities with opportunities for permanent and temporary jobs and participation in the supply chain that supports operations with food, crafts, and other services. Social license agreements are key to sustainable tourism investments in Solomon Islands.

WEBSITE: tetratech.com/intdev

PARTNERSHIP UPDATES

DIGIFEMMES

DigiFemmes is a four-year partnership between MCC, the USAID Global Women's Economic Empowerment Fund, and Microsoft. It focuses on empowering women-led small and medium enterprises (W-SMEs) in Côte d'Ivoire with the data and digital literacy skills needed to grow their businesses and access opportunities in the accelerating digital economy. DigiFemmes features two participation tracks:



- ★ DigiFemmes Entrepreneurs for women who have already founded an SME
- ★ DigiFemmes Academy for women seeking software engineering skills or an entrepreneurial path. Each track, along with shorter training sessions, will have an initial duration of 3 years. The aim is to leverage the support of ecosystem stakeholders to benefit more than 1,500 participants in Côte d'Ivoire

WEBSITE: *DigiFemmes Cote d'Ivoire* | <https://www.linkedin.com/company/digifemmes/>

“It is a privilege to be at the forefront of what promises to be a revolutionary and innovative program.”

—Director of ENSEA, Dr Kouadio (DigiFemmes Academy program host)

MILLENNIUM IMPACT INFRASTRUCTURE ACCELERATOR

The Millennium Impact Infrastructure Accelerator (MIIA) is a joint effort between MCC and Africa50 that aims to catalyze project development to fill the more than USD 100 billion+ infrastructure investment gap in Africa by sourcing and developing technically sound, high impact infrastructure projects from concept to close, and connecting them with sources of finance. The MIIA concept is currently in the proof-of-concept phase with a focus on refining the project preparation facility model by screening high impact infrastructure projects and supporting the development of selected projects. MCC has funded a due diligence consultant to identify potential projects for development in partner countries and to conduct pre-feasibility studies on the most promising proposals. Africa50 will consider investing additional project development funds for qualifying projects in the MIIA-Africa pipeline, from the feasibility stage up to financial close. Several pre-feasibility studies have been completed in high-impact sectors such as renewable energy and health. Projects in other sectors such as transport, last mile ICT, and sanitation are being considered. The proof-of-concept phase is expected to last through October 2023.

WEBSITE: www.africa50.com

TWITTER: @Africa50Infra

FACEBOOK: @Africa50Infra



SÉMINAIRE DE PARTAGE DES PREUVES

L'INCLUSION ÉCONOMIQUE DES JEUNES

Lundi 6 juin 2022 | 9h30 à 17h00 | Rabat, Maroc

DE L'EMPLOI MAROC

ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS

FEATURED PARTNERSHIPS

GROWTH DIAGNOSTICS: BUILDING NEW METHODS TO IDENTIFY AND ADDRESS CONSTRAINTS TO ACCELERATE GROWTH

PARTNER: Harvard Center for International Development, Growth Lab

DESCRIPTION

MCC and the Harvard Center for International Development are leading practitioners in the field of growth diagnostics and constraints analysis. The objective of the partnership is to take stock of both organizations' experience with diagnostic methods and techniques, to address commonly faced questions, and to advance new ideas on methodology.

HOW IT WORKS

The collaboration produced a set of co-authored papers on human capital, finance, and coordinating private sector movement into new industries. The papers presented practical guidance for assessing issues that represent a binding constraint to growth. A joint seminar was held to discuss the papers and provide feedback. The collaboration enabled originating authors and Growth Diagnostics method thought leaders to utilize MCC's vast experience putting method into practice.

IMPACT

- ★ The partnership expands and updates the theoretical foundations and practical guidance of the Growth Diagnostic framework, which underpins the Constraint Analyses MCC uses to target investments in partner countries
- ★ The collaboration offers MCC opportunities to document, analyze, and share its experience in constraints analysis with the international development community
- ★ Strengthening the constraints analysis framework helps ensure the effectiveness of MCC's efforts to identify priority issues impacting economic development in partner countries. Building a better approach helps MCC maximize billions of dollars in investments and supports its mission of poverty reduction through economic growth

WEBSITE: <https://growthlab.cid.harvard.edu/>

TWITTER: @HarvardGrwthLab

IMPACT EVALUATION INITIATIVE FOR LABOR MARKET POLICY AND PROGRAMS

PARTNERS: Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Evidence for Policy Design (EPoD) at Harvard University

DESCRIPTION

J-PAL and EPoD have joined forces and created the Morocco Employment Lab (LabEmploi). The initiative was launched to create a culture of evidence-based policy and ensure that labor market programs are informed by evidence in Morocco. The use of impact evaluations to create a culture of evidence in Moroccan government's decision-making aim to strengthen existing programs and improve the effectiveness of future programs and supporting policies.

HOW IT WORKS

The partnership is based on an innovative, multi-pronged strategy:

- ★ Providing opportunities for Moroccan policymakers to learn from global evidence on active labor market policy
- ★ Improving the capacity of Moroccan policymakers to use evidence in decision-making and planning
- ★ Generating collaborative research and impact evaluations with local policy partners that design and test labor market innovations in line with policy priorities

IMPACT

- ★ Fifty-five professors from key academic institutions were trained to implement the Building Capacity to Use Research Evidence (BCURE) program, which seeks to train academic and policymaking audiences to use data and evidence for smart policy design
- ★ Four Moroccan universities have integrated the BCURE program in their curricula to sustain an evidence-based culture
- ★ More than 160 decision-makers, researchers and practitioners from 22 institutions have been trained by J-PAL on impact evaluation methods, Evaluating Social Programs
- ★ Six impact evaluation studies are being implemented in collaboration with the employment lab researchers and public policy makers
- ★ Evidence on youth inclusion and policy insights are being shared with decision makers and researchers to inform policymaking in Morocco

WEBSITE: <https://www.povertyactionlab.org/fr/page/lab-de-emploi>

TWITTER: @lab-de-emploi

FACEBOOK: @lab-de-emploi | **LINKEDIN:** @lab-de-emploi

“Measuring impact in a scientific way is a big step forward compared to what we are used to doing ... That's huge... The partnership that we have with MCC and MCA-Morocco is trailblazing.

—Younes Sekkouri, Minister of Labor, Morocco

PARTNERSHIPS TO WATCH

GENERATING EVIDENCE TO IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY GROWTH AND TRANSPORTATION LOGISTICS OF MSMEs IN INDONESIA

MCC's partnership with Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) aims to establish a shared learning agenda and platform for collaboration that engages multiple stakeholders in Indonesia in financial inclusion for MSMEs and transportation infrastructure planning and implementation. The stakeholders are intended to be relevant government ministries and agencies and academic institutions and other non-government entities such as business associations and NGOs. The collaboration and learning can be used to improve ongoing policy reform and program design questions in Indonesia and serve as a common platform for sharing knowledge and evidence generated by J-PAL and MCC's work in Indonesia.

WEBSITE: <https://www.povertyactionlab.org/>

TWITTER: @JPAL

FACEBOOK: @JPAL.Global

IMPLEMENTATION OF A LABOR MARKET INFORMATION PLATFORM BASED ON BIG DATA AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

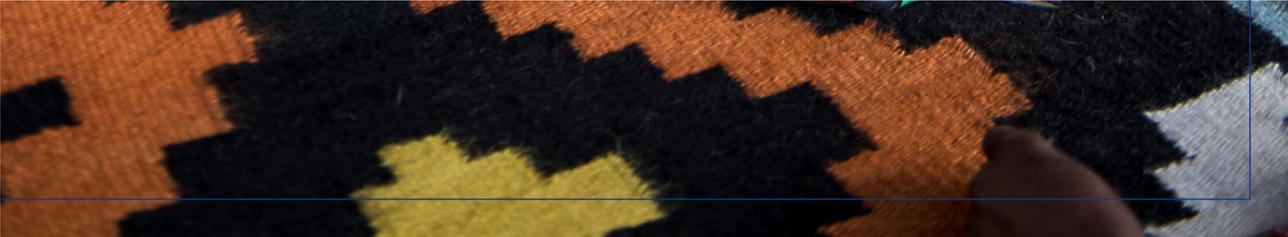
Millennium Challenge Account (MCA)-Morocco is partnering with the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, Atlas Cloud Services, and OCP Solutions to promote the use of data for evidence-based policy-making that supports labor market decisionmakers; particularly relating to training, employment, and labor market regulation. The partnership is based on an innovative and co-creative approach to:

- ★ Adopt innovations generated by technological advances pertaining to tools and platforms used to generate quantitative and qualitative insights based on artificial intelligence and big data
- ★ Aggregate existing labor market data – such as web, institutional, and crowdsourcing data – in order to produce new insights for policy makers, training organizations and job seekers

WEBSITE: <https://marssad.ma/>



NON-GOVERNMENTAL PARTNERSHIPS



FEATURED PARTNERSHIPS

PROMOTING WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN LESOTHO THROUGH WORKFORCE TRAINING AND IMPACT INVESTING: A SCOPING OF OPPORTUNITIES AND STRATEGIES

PARTNERS: International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) and the Lesotho Federation of Women Lawyers

DESCRIPTION

MCC's investments in Lesotho include commercial irrigated horticulture and other key productive sectors for MSMEs to offer critical opportunities for job creation and opportunities for women. However, without the right design, these investments could also pose risks to women and leave them further behind. This partnership leveraged ICRW Advisors' extensive experience in gender-smart investing strategies for emerging markets, and strategic approaches to gender equity in the workplace, to develop tailored strategies and tools for the Lesotho Compact, as well as for future MCC projects.



HOW IT WORKS

The partnership's co-creative process used the expertise of ICRW Advisors to analyze country- and sector-specific gendered constraints and opportunities. Its proven model for women's workplace empowerment programs was adapted for the productive sectors targeted by the Lesotho II Compact. The partnership approach was critical in enabling ICRW's work to adapt to the evolving needs of MCC's projects as they took shape during compact development, maximizing utility of the work. ICRW conducted a landscape analysis and identified barriers to women's economic participation in each sector. Using a collaborative approach, ICRW, MCC, and the Lesotho Millennium Development Agency (LMDA) identified opportunities to:

- ★ Promote workforce development from a systems perspective
- ★ Advance gender equity in the private sector through policy reform
- ★ Promote gender-lens investment appropriate to the market context and business stage ICRW, MCC, and LMDA then selected three growth-oriented entrepreneurs in the horticulture value chain for case studies. These case studies, co-created with the owners, established gender-smart business growth plans that serve as models for the type of interventions that can be supported by the compact

IMPACT

- ★ The landscape analysis and ex-ante case studies produced important recommendations that are reflected in the designs of the Market-Driven Irrigated Horticulture (MDIH) Project and the Business

Environment and Technical Assistance (BETA) Project under MCC's Lesotho II compact. Findings from this partnership also provided data that supported MCC's position on the importance of the passage of legal reforms to provide labor protections in the agriculture sector

- ★ Gender-smart investment tip sheets were produced for the agriculture, manufacturing, and tourism & hospitality sectors. These tools will be used by businesses supported by the MDIH and BETA projects to develop policies and take actions that promote gender equity in the workplace.
- ★ The landscape analysis and ex-ante case studies developed evidence and frameworks that can be used to advance women's economic security in future MCC projects

WEBSITE: <https://www.icrw.org/icrw-advisors/>

TWITTER: @ICRWAdvisors

“Enhancing women's economic empowerment and unlocking women's potential within Lesotho's nascent horticultural value chains requires holistic solutions. Approaches must be both responsive to the market and meet the specific needs of women as entrepreneurs, suppliers, producers, customers, and community members.”

Gender Smart Business Solutions for Lesotho, ICRW Advisors, 2021

WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP: VALUE CHAIN MAPPING FOR KEY PRODUCTS IN LESOTHO'S CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

PARTNERS: Creative Learning, Inc./Aid to Artisans

DESCRIPTION

In Lesotho, the creative sector is dominated by women artisans and youth entrepreneurs and designers, offering work that many can do in their own homes. These businesswomen create beautiful and functional products, yet, at best, most of just break-even. In contrast, products in neighboring countries have thriving domestic and global markets. MCC partnered with Creative Learning to analyze each stage of the value chain to understand what is required to transform the Lesotho creative sectors into viable, sustainable industries, linked to local and global buyers.



HOW IT WORKS

The partnership's co-creative process brought the expertise and interests of Creative Learning to shape the research questions that would serve MCC's compact development needs. The partnership also leveraged

Creative Learning’s extensive and comprehensive networks across the value chains—in Lesotho and globally. The partners conducted 395 key informant interviews across 22 categories across the value chains, including artisans (over 90% women), processors, aggregators, shippers, government officials, local, regional and international buyers, and others. These data were used to develop value chain maps for each sector, and included value-added activities, product transformation, supporting environment, and cost trajectory. The studies demonstrated the potential economic impact of a robust artisan sector, and the collaborative process enabled periodic tailoring of the work to adapt to MCC’s evolving project’s focus and needs.



IMPACT

- ★ Findings and recommendations from the partnership are reflected in the design reports for the Business Environment and Technical Assistance (BETA), related to approaches for incubation, acceleration, mentoring, marketing and finance
- ★ Creative Learning established linkages between Lesotho artisans and the international company West Elm
- ★ A full action plan for developing the creative industries sector now exists, with reports available to private sector actors, government and other development actors
- ★ Value Chain Mapping <https://ata.creativelearning.org/lesotho-value-chain/>
- ★ A 2021 Handmade Buyers Research Report <https://ata.creativelearning.org/handmade-buyers-survey/>

WEBSITE: ata.creativelearning.org

TWITTER: @aidtoartisans

FACEBOOK: @aidtoartisans

“The goal is having more groups selling with Basotho Hat. The more societies there are the more people are able to make a living by crafting and selling their work. There is opportunity for growth if young people come in with new ideas and designs, work for themselves and contribute to the craft sector.”

—Manager, Basotho Hat

“Broomgrass/ Mosea is another valuable resource in Lesotho just like mohair and wool except one does not have to buy any land or pay maintenance costs. If approached carefully it can create a lot more sustainable jobs. There is a lot of market abroad; Basotho need[s] help accessing these markets so they can make lives for themselves through [the] export of grass and basketry.”

—Evergreen Brooms and Baskets

PARTNERSHIPS TO WATCH

FOREST VALUE ENHANCEMENT PROJECT PARTNERSHIP IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

MCC, Nakau Programme, Live & Learn Environmental Education, the Natural Resources Development Foundation (NRDF), and Live & Learn Solomon Islands are partnering to scale up an economically viable Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) program. The program will be aligned with customary uses of forest services in Solomon Islands to generate environmental, economic, and social benefits in participating jurisdictions. Anticipated results include delivery of accredited PES projects in 6,000+ hectares of forest from which payments for ecosystem services can be derived to support alternative, non-logging livelihoods for communities and lessons learned to inform opportunities for incremental regulatory and enforcement reforms.

WEBSITE: <https://www.nakau.org/>, <https://livelearn.org/>

FACEBOOK: @NakauProgramme @LiveandLearnEnvironmentalEducation

INSTAGRAM: @the_nakau_programme @LiveAndLearnInternational

“One of the messages that we’ve heard loud and clear from Pacific Island leaders is that building resilience is about more than equipping communities to adapt to the effects of the climate crisis, which for many of you is an existential threat; it’s also about preparing communities to weather a wide range of interrelated shocks that we know have caused cascading effects.”

—Antony Blinken, U.S. Secretary of State

LEVERAGING REMOTE SENSING FOR ENHANCED MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF AGRICULTURE SECTOR

MCC is partnering with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (satellite technology), RTI International (drone technology), and Mathematica (independent evaluator) to use high-resolution drone imagery to identify crops, whose locations are then used to train satellite models. This, along with crop yield data, allows the models to predict and test accuracy of crop identification and agricultural yield in other locations. NASA will then develop approaches and tools to use satellite data to continuously monitor and evaluate the impacts of irrigation infrastructure and land restoration investments on pastureland quality, crop density, and yield. Ultimately, these innovative approaches and tools will be added to Mathematica’s data collection and analysis toolkit for delivering detailed results and learning about MCC’s Irrigation and Market Access Project in Niger.

WEBSITE: www.rti.org

TWITTER: @RTI_intl

FACEBOOK: @RTI_International



GOVERNMENT AND MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATION PARTNERSHIPS



PARTNERSHIPS TO WATCH

SOLOMON ISLANDS TOURISM INVESTMENT FACILITATION

MCC has designed and signed a first of its kind partnership with IFC. The IFC's Solomon Islands Tourism Investment Facilitation (SITIF) Program supports the objectives of the Accessing Land for Tourism Investment Facilitation (ALTIF) Project of MCC's Threshold Program with the Solomons Islands Government. The SITIF Program aims to unlock the tourism sector's potential to contribute to sustainable and inclusive growth. It will initially focus on facilitating investment in Western Province but may evolve to include other provinces of Solomon Islands.

WEBSITE: <https://www.ifc.org>

TWITTER: @IFC_org

FACEBOOK: @IFCwbg

PARTNERSHIP UPDATES

AMERICAN CATALYST FACILITY FOR DEVELOPMENT

MCC and the U.S. Development Finance Corporation (DFC) developed the American Catalyst Facility for Development (ACFD), a new MCC-funded blended finance mechanism to provide strategic grants that DFC will use in support of catalytic investments. ACFD is designed to leverage the strengths of both agencies to enable coordinated investments aimed at crowding-in the private sector and maximizing the impact of U.S. development efforts, furthering American strategic interests abroad. MCC and DFC intend to initiate the ACFD in at least six MCC country programs currently in development- Indonesia, Tunisia, Malawi, Kosovo, and Lesotho. As MCC and DFC gain experience in the initial countries, the agencies will assess results, refine the approach and mechanisms, and maximize the impact of the ACFD as new countries are added.

WEBSITES: www.dfc.gov | www.mcc.gov/news-and-events/feature/acfd

TWITTER: @DFCgov

FACEBOOK: @DFCgov

Reducing Poverty Through Growth



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