

What People Are Saying About MCC

"The fight against global poverty is more important than ever, especially given the current economic climate, and the United States stands steadfast in its goal to reduce poverty through sustainable economic growth. Our aid to the world's poor must be as effective and transparent as it is generous. We will work to produce tangible results from every taxpayer's dollar we spend overseas, and we will partner with developing countries that take responsibility for their development needs and accept the highest standard of accountability for those dollars. That is the mandate of the MCC."

Secretary of State **Hillary Rodham Clinton**
June 10, 2009

"Countries seeking aid from MCC must rule justly, invest in their people and foster enterprise. The concept is that development assistance is most effective in countries held accountable for good economic policies and where governments are working to address corruption. Anti-corruption efforts are vital to safeguarding U.S. taxpayer funds and ensuring the success of this assistance. MCC policies require strict controls to check against corruption and support local efforts to tackle the problem."

VOA op-ed: *Helping Others Fight Corruption*
May 27, 2009

"...the Millennium Challenge account has been part of Africa's success story over the last 10 or 15 years...we're really proud that we've been involved in advocating for the MCA since the idea was in embryo. Now we're working on our broad reform of foreign assistance. Partly we want to get our government to use the various instruments of development in a more coordinated way, and partly what we want to do is draw lessons from the MCA's experience that can be applied to U.S. foreign assistance more generally."

David Beckmann
President, Bread for the World
May 28, 2009

"The U.S. Government's Millennium Challenge Corp., for example, is investing in every facet of the agricultural value chain. Millennium Challenge grants are training farmers, including women who make up the majority of farmers throughout the developing world; building the roads and bridges they need to get their crops to market; and bolstering a sound policy environment that secures land rights for farmers or expands the financial services agribusinesses need to flourish."

Ken Hackett
Des Moines Register: *Combat hunger by investing in agricultural development*
May 29, 2009

“Bi-lateral donors have also taken note, and are embracing culture as a way to more effectively deliver assistance in reducing poverty. The Millennium Challenge Corporation program, for example, has dedicated \$112 million in Morocco, to support the country’s centuries-old artisan sector in the Fez Medina area, including investing in clean-burning, environmentally-friendly kilns to assist poor potters produce the world famous Moroccan pottery in an attempt to boost their earnings while reducing their environmental impact. While these approaches are not new, they are more relevant than ever and deserve the attention of the world community.”

Ivonne A-Baki

The Huffington Post: *Where Poverty and Culture Intersect: Embracing Local Traditions to Better Fight Poverty*
June 10, 2009

“I know everybody would like to see the MCC spending money faster. Frankly, from my standpoint, as someone who comes out of the business world, I’m impressed by the fact that they’re exercising ultimate care in how money is dispensed and what benchmarks have to be met before the next funds are advanced...I have been extremely impressed by Secretary Clinton’s active involvement and total awareness of what the MCC is doing...And she has mentioned on several occasions that she wants to strengthen and better the MCC model as we continue to go forward in looking at the total American foreign assistance program. The commitment to transparency, accountability and responsibility, I think, are the benchmarks of what makes MCC such an exciting program.”

Alan Patricof

After MCC Board of Directors Meeting
June 11, 2009

Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs **Johnnie Carson**
Center for Strategic and International Studies event: *U.S. Africa Policy beyond the Bush Years: Critical Challenges for the Obama Administration*, June 11, 2009

“MCC is critical and important as well. It’s a new way of putting development assistance money into the hands of important and needy African states. We need to look at that, support it, and build upon it.”

“Secretary Clinton is aware of the finest details of this program... the secretary understands the fundamentals of MCC, which is the transparency and the standards... two other things she talked about. One was the ability to coordinate between different foreign aid mechanisms...That does not mean, and she was quite explicit about this, that she wants to see them all rolled into one. But I think she’s very interested in coordination between State, AID, MCC, et cetera. The other was...she very much views MCC as an instrument of foreign policy...”

Lorne Craner

After MCC Board of Directors Meeting
June 11, 2009

“... Water is one of the smartest poverty-fighting investments we can make. My friend Ben and I met with the World Bank and the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) in Tanzania, and we saw how a lack of good water infrastructure is holding back businesses. We talked to Prosper Mbarewoai of Allied Chemicals, who estimated his detergent-production business is operating at only 60% capacity because he spends anywhere from two hours to an entire day just getting water. The MCC in Tanzania is working to revamp the water treatment and supply infrastructure in two major cities, decreasing the risks of water-borne illness and enabling business productivity.”

Matt Damon

June 11, 2009
ONE blog entry: Matt Damon on the Water for the World Act