

What People Are Saying About MCC

"I look at the Millennium Challenge Account as perhaps one of the greatest experiments we'll have in foreign assistance. It takes all of the lessons of development effectiveness—whether it be country ownership, country implementation, transparency—focused on a small number of well-governed countries, because the logic is that they will use the money better, and very results-based, so a heavy evaluation element to the MCC, and multi-year funding... it's a five-year compact between the U.S. and the beneficiary government to do largely economic growth programs. And, so, I think it's a great program."

Sheila Herrling
Center for Global Development,
Senior Policy Analyst
July 13, 2009

"We would like to thank MCC for insisting that married women should be given equal opportunity to participate fully in the economic development of Lesotho."

MCA Lesotho Chief Executive Officer
Sophia Mohapi
June 24, 2009

"Assistance to foreign nations from the MCC is linked to greater responsibilities from those nations. The new responsibilities those developing nations accept in exchange for the funds ensure that the assistance we provide does not go to waste and has the greatest possible impact on those who need the help the most."

Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart
July 9, 2009

"... the beauty of the MCA program is...the right of our individual countries to share in the grants and the abilities to bring either direct dividend of good governance, democratic rule, internalized economic freedom and sustained investments in the welfare of the people by the governments of our countries. The MCA program also rigidly enforces new ways of doing things and the responsible use of the grant funds to realize sustainable results within the defined five-year time frame. The program enforces best practices in environmental and fiscal accountability and a commitment of our countries to continued eligibility for grant funds. For these legacies, we shall all remain forever grateful to the government and the people of the United States of America for their generosity and genuine partnership in fighting the global challenge of poverty."

MCA Ghana (MiDA) Chief Executive Officer
Martin Eson-Benjamin
June 24, 2009

"From his bully pulpit, the president can take aim at the bullies. Without accountability — no opportunity. If that's not a maxim, it ought to be. It's a truism, anyway. The work of the American government's Millennium Challenge Corporation is founded on that principle, even if it doesn't put it that bluntly. United States aid dollars increasingly go to countries that use them and don't blow them. Ghana is one. There's a growing number of others."

Bono
The New York Times:
Rebranding Africa
July 9, 2009

"This bill includes \$1.4 billion for the expanded work of the Millennium Challenge Corporation... a very important program that underlines the key point, you can't have long-term development without policy reform."

Rep. Mark Steven Kirk
July 9, 2009

"And it's great to have you here... for a program that, when it was first initiated, my immediate reaction was this makes a tremendous amount of sense, sort of a criteria-based determination involving the people of the country in terms of priorities on our valuable tax dollars going for foreign assistance in a fashion that would demonstrate the greatest capacity to produce results. And that's what I think MCC is doing and is trying to achieve, and so I am a strong supporter of it... a lot of the ideas of MCC, to me, are a prototype for what should sort of take hold in our whole foreign assistance program. So not only is this important in terms of what it's doing in the countries it's now active in, but as a good indicator and a good instructor of directions we might go in with the whole foreign assistance program."

Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee
Howard L. Berman (D-California)
June 24, 2009

"... this MCC model. It's helping countries like Honduras to be more competitive, to be prepared for these challenging times in this economic crisis. But more than investing in roads and infrastructure, these programs are for the people. And we have incredible examples of farmers, poor farmers, that have been accustomed to producing basic grains and, with the technical assistance provided through the MCC funding, these farmers, men and women, have been able to transform into high-value horticulture crop producers... using MCC as a transformational tool. Through the MCC model, we've been able to challenge our systems and become more competitive."

MCA Honduras General Director
Martin Ochoa
June 24, 2009

"I like the Millennium Challenge Corporation... I think it is a great example of how we can provide foreign assistance in a smart way. No longer do we just simply write a blank check to some country and never know where the money is going to go or what the results are. Now we enter into a compact, a contract, if you will, between the country receiving the money and our country. If they want to build a power plant or build a dam... in return, they agree to try to meet certain standards in terms of openness and democracy and transparency and accountability and human rights. So they have an incentive to follow through on this contract. It is smart aid, in my view. It's the right way to give assistance."

Rep. Ander Crenshaw
July 9, 2009