

What People Are Saying About MCC

“The Millennium Challenge Corporation is an essential partner as we work to combat global poverty...”

President Barack Obama

November 6, 2009

“I think back to a phone call I got a couple of years ago from Gen. James Jones. At the time, he was retiring from the top job at NATO; the idea of a President Obama was a wild flight of the imagination. General Jones was curious about the work many of us were doing in economic development, and how smarter aid — embodied in initiatives like President George W. Bush’s Emergency Program for AIDS Relief and the Millennium Challenge Corporation — was beginning to save lives and change the game for many countries.”

Bono

New York Times: *Rebranding America*
October 18, 2009

“We have MCC people engaged in the QDDR and will definitely be learning from and considering its experience in how we integrate diplomacy and development.”

State Department Director of Policy Planning **Anne-Marie Slaughter**, discussing bolstering interagency cooperation through the Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review (QDDR) process
October 22, 2009

“Another mechanism that’s been used for broad development grants is the Millennium Challenge Corporation. And, here you actually have to qualify on a number of criteria before you’ve even eligible to get the aid. You write a[n] overall compact; you show how it’s going to have a strong return; how it can be sustainable. And, so this rewards good governance; it rewards economic freedom. And, in fact, there’s many countries—even before they got the pact or even who didn’t get the pact—who looked at these measures and were able to take what would otherwise be unpopular measures and drive them through and therefore benefit their country, even independent of their opportunity to get aid.”

Bill Gates

October 27, 2009

“In April 2005, the Millennium Challenge Corporation signed a four-year, \$110 million compact with Madagascar, the very first compact of the MCC, to assist poor rural farmers in transition from subsistence agriculture to a market economy while promoting environmental sustainability. By all accounts, great progress was being made in reducing rural poverty while promoting conservation. Unfortunately, much of that progress has been dashed since March of 2009, when an illegal coup displaced the elected president of Madagascar...”

Representative Ted Poe (R-Texas, 2nd District)

November 3, 2009

“...through the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the Export-Import Bank and the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. is investing heavily in infrastructure – from Cape Verde, to Togo, to Tanzania... Tanzania continues to score well relative to its peers in the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation’s (MCC) ratings. Recognizing the progress made in Tanzania, the U.S. is supporting the country’s efforts to improve its infrastructure with a \$698 million MCC grant, the largest in the world. These funds support Tanzania’s investments in roads, energy, and water. Deficiencies in those areas today present significant barriers to growth.”

Deputy Secretary of the Treasury Neal S. Wolin
University of the Witwatersrand,
Johannesburg, South Africa
November 4, 2009

“The Millennium Challenge Corporation... is a great example of an outcomes-based, results-oriented, very accountability-driven organization that results or is a product of country ownership, planning, partnering with countries—this new type of development aid, instead of a top-down command structure where, in the past, to be honest, we’ve wasted so many billions of dollars. The MCC focuses on infrastructure. It focuses on health and health systems. It focuses on education—all the sorts of things that lift a people up—by providing infrastructure of health, wellness that allows society and productive civil society to flourish.”

Senator Bill Frist
Center for Strategic and International Studies
(CSIS) *Global Health Interview Series*
October 7, 2009

“We have invested \$700 million in Morocco through a Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact. And this is an approach that we are working on that grows and has a partnership between our government and the government of people of a country – in this case, Morocco – where we say we’re not here to tell you what you need from us; we’re here to ask you what we can do to help you realize your own goals. In this case, we are supporting two agricultural sectors – fruit tree farms and small-scale fisheries – as well as artisan craft and strengthening financial services and enterprise support. Over and over, we hear from small and medium-sized businesses that cannot get the financial assistance, they can’t get the technical support that would grow their business. So working with the Government of Morocco, we are hoping to really help to see blossom a lot more economic activity at the lower level that will then, from the bottom up, build prosperity.”

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton
Forum for the Future in Marrakech, Morocco
November 3, 2009