



## What People are Saying About MCC

*"All of the research ... shows that if there is local ownership and local capacity and sustainability at the local level ... the chances of foreign aid programs being successful dramatically increases. If things are managed from Washington, they don't work too well. And the way in which we are now running most of our foreign aid programs, other than MCC, is highly Washington-focused."*

Andrew Natsios  
Professor of Diplomacy at Georgetown University and former USAID Administrator  
Panel on "The Future of U.S. Foreign Assistance" at University of Minnesota's Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, co-sponsored by Oxfam America and the German Marshall Fund of the United States  
September 1, 2008

*"...When you invest, like with the MCC, in long-term economic growth...infrastructure, legal changes, rights of women, all those things...it takes 10-20 years to see results. MCC, in my view, is absolutely essential—that kind of investment, working with partners for long-term economic growth..."*

Michael Gerson  
Impact '08 Event hosted by the Center for U.S. Global Engagement  
November 13, 2008

*"I've had a lot of uplifting experiences as the President. And one of the most uplifting has been to witness a new and more hopeful era dawning on the continent. Over the past eight years, it's been moving to watch courageous Africans root out corruption, and open up their economies, and invest in the prosperity of their people. The United States stands with these leaders as partners and friends and allies in hope through the work of the Millennium Challenge Account. On my trip to Africa this February, I joined President Kikwete of Tanzania to sign a five-year, nearly \$700 million Millennium Challenge Compact, which will help build up Tanzania's infrastructure. And as part of this compact, Africare is helping to extend electricity to homes and businesses in some of the most remote areas of the country. My fellow citizens need to hear what President Kikwete said. He said that the Millennium Challenge program is a "source of pride" -- "making it possible for the people of Tanzania to chart a brighter future." Notice he didn't say, making it possible for the American people to chart a brighter future for Tanzania. He said, making it possible for the citizens of Tanzania to chart their own future."*

President George Bush  
2008 Bishop John T. Walker Memorial Dinner  
November 12, 2008

*"...Given this new economic reality that we've been hearing about all day today, it is absolutely essential that U.S. assistance is strategic, effective and transparent. I think that the MCC represents the future of U.S. assistance and not the past."*

Ritu Sharma Fox  
President and Co-Founder, Women Thrive Worldwide  
White House Summit on International Development: Sustaining the New Era  
October 21, 2008

*“Just to note the Millennium Challenge Corporation that many others have referred to today, we would add our strong support for this new approach to development, two particular aspects. One, the focus on anticorruption. The hard hurdle has sent a very clear message of the link between development effectiveness and fighting corruption. And the second and final piece is the attention to civil society consultation. I go back to what the President of Liberia said about the importance of country ownership. Too often, donors and others have focused simply at the executive branch, and the importance MCC places on consulting with your own citizens sets a terrific model for future reform in countries.”*

Nancy Zucker Boswell  
 President and Chief Executive Officer,  
 Transparency International-USA  
 White House Summit on International Development:  
 Sustaining the New Era  
 October 21, 2008

*“...I would add a brief commendation for the Millennium Challenge Corporation. I repeatedly hear that the governments of Sub-Saharan Africa and elsewhere are taking serious steps to change a culture of corruption to implement measures to provide transparency in governance and to respect human rights and civil liberties, largely because they want to become or remain competitive for MCA funding and because they care deeply about their own people and good governance... and I believe it is important to note that the MCA in the context of country ownership is one of the vital tools to building the infrastructure so countries can rebuild, grow, and have sustainable development.”*

Congressman Chris Smith  
 White House Summit  
 on International  
 Development:  
 Sustaining the New Era  
 October 21, 2008

*“The MCC model has been a catalyst of policy reforms around the world that improve transparency, fight corruption and promote women’s rights. Maintaining one of the more innovative U.S. foreign aid programs will encourage a continuation of policy changes in governments interested in a relationship with MCC and the United States government.”*

InterAction Policy Brief  
<http://www.interaction.org>  
 November 2008

*“... MCC has had a transformative effect across the developing world. Responsible, reform-minded governments have set their sights on the MCC benchmarks, and this has accelerated the pace of reform while empowering governments to make decisions on their own path of development and the direction of their future.”*

Liberia’s President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf  
 White House Summit on International Development:  
 Sustaining the New Era  
 October 21, 2008