

MCC's Commitment to Improving Land Tenure, Access & Property Rights

Well-functioning public and private services in support of access to secure and transferable rights to land and real property are a foundation for strong economic growth that reaches the poor. Creating a reliable, efficient, effective, accessible and understandable property rights system is essential for businesses and households, poor and non-poor around the globe, and is fundamental to good governance.

The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), a United States government agency, is deeply committed to supporting partner countries in their improvement of property rights systems in order to reduce poverty and stimulate economic growth. To date, MCC has invested approximately \$249 million in property rights and land policy reforms across 11 of its 20 Millennium Challenge Compacts.

MCC's Property Rights and Land Policy (PRLP) investments are designed to contribute to poverty reduction and economic growth by establishing secure and efficient access to land and property rights. PRLP support of legal and regulatory reforms, clarification and formalization of land and property rights, capacity building of national and local institutions, and land-related outreach and education are aimed at reducing transaction costs, increasing tenure security, decreasing land degradation and improving access to and use of land. This, in turn, will result in increased transactions and investment in land and property, and higher land productivity and value.

MCC is supporting three types of property rights and land policy activities

- ★ Projects aimed at strengthening property rights systems, including improvements to policy and legal frameworks, support to PRLP institutions and PRLP-related infrastructure, and capacity building and public outreach;
- ★ Actions that improve access to new or expanded rights (e.g. through improved land markets or allocation of state land); and

- ★ Activities to support other MCC-funded activities where lack of or poor property rights may act as a constraint (e.g. agriculture, infrastructure).

MCC's Investments Improve Property Rights Systems

Benin



Benin's MCC compact is providing \$36 million to assist in formulating land reform policy; modernizing the geodetic network and the administration of land documents and land information; transforming rural customary rights from an oral to a written and mapped system; and transforming weak administrative and contractual urban land rights into strong legal titles.

Burkina Faso



Burkina Faso's MCC compact includes \$59.9 million to support legal and procedural change; to build capacity of national, regional, and local authorities to execute existing and new land management responsibilities; and to complete participatory land use planning and clarification and registration of land rights in targeted locations in the country.

Ghana



Ghana's MCC compact provides \$3.5 million to pilot area-wide registration of rural land rights, improve court settlements of land disputes and increase public access to government land registry services.

Lesotho



Lesotho's MCC compact includes \$20.5 million to support new and improved land legislation, regularization and registration of land rights in urban and peri-urban areas, and establishment of a new land administration authority.

Madagascar



Madagascar spent \$29.7 million of its MCC compact to support legal and policy change relating to land tenure, modernization of regional land administration services, establishment of new municipal land registration offices, and formalization and regularization of land tenure¹.

¹ Madagascar's compact originally included \$37.8 million for land; however, not all funds were spent due to compact termination.

Mali



Mali's MCC compact provides \$2 million for allocation and titling of newly irrigated land parcels that will benefit family farmers and women market gardeners. Funding will also support public outreach to inform rural families of their land ownership rights and obligations.

Mongolia



Mongolia's MCC compact dedicates \$28.9 million towards increasing the security and capitalization of land assets in 9 cities and 5 peri-urban rangeland areas. The project will: strengthen property-related legislation and institutions, improve the efficiency and ease-of-use of the property registry, strengthen the geospatial infrastructure, register area urban land plots, lease rangeland to herders, provide wells to herders, and train herders on rangeland and animal management.

Mozambique



Mozambique's MCC compact provides \$39 million for the registration of communal and individual land rights and investments, development of a national land information system, and technical assistance to build the capacity of district land offices.

Namibia



Namibia's MCC compact includes \$21.1 million to support community based rangeland and livestock management, clarify and strengthen land rights, and build capacity among communal land boards and traditional authorities in Namibia's northern communal areas.

Nicaragua



Nicaragua's MCC compact provided \$6.7 million to strengthen the capacity of land administration, complete land registration and mapping, resolve disputes, and demarcate protected areas².

Senegal



Senegal's MCC compact includes \$3.8 million in funds for verification of existing land rights in irrigation perimeters to be supported with infrastructure investments; for development and implementation of procedures for allocation of land in those perimeters; and for strengthening the land management capacity of local authorities.

² Nicaragua's compact originally included \$26.5 million for land; however, not all funds were spent due to partial compact termination.