

# Milestones



MCA-Namibia CEO, Ms Penny T. Akwenye, explains what the MCC grant agreement between the US and Namibia means for the modernization of schools to students.

## Fiscal Responsibility and Foreign Aid

Country Ownership, Aid Predictability Pave Way to Smarter U.S. Assistance

During these tough economic times, a new focus on fiscal responsibility is changing how the U.S. Government operates. This includes how it awards development assistance to fight global poverty. The Millennium Challenge Corporation, a “*smart power*” tool in the toolbox of U.S. foreign aid options, is already translating fiscal responsibility into practice with partner countries worldwide.

One way is through “*country ownership*,” a concept MCC explored with Oxfam at a February 2009 public event. Tanzania’s Ambassador Ombeni Sefue described country ownership as “creating time and space for the developing countries to think for themselves, to identify obstacles to their development, and to see “*Responsibility*” on page 10

## Bridging the Gap to Reduce Poverty through Private Sector Participation

The efforts of donor countries and agencies alone will not alleviate global poverty. Private sector participation (PSP), grounded in efficiency and sustainability, is an important tool to bridge the gap between public needs and avail-

able resources.

Many MCC-funded projects involve some level of PSP, including aspects of the Benin port initiative, the Mozambique water program, and the Tanzania see “*Participation*” on page 10

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## Q&A: MCA-Honduras Director General Ochoa



**Q: How is Honduras leading its development through the MCC compact?**

Implementing the Compact calls for the executive, the legislative and the judicial branches of government to come to a consensus and to push necessary reforms to the country's often outdated legal framework. Bringing consensus requires government and civil society to discuss and agree to advance those reforms. A case in point is MCA-Honduras' involvement in the modification to Honduras' land titling framework and Honduras' Access to Credit framework. The former was a law enacted in 1921 and the latter a law enacted in 1954.

**Q: What has the government of Honduras done to leverage MCC funding to co-finance the additional costs and expanded improvements for the transportation project?**

MCC offers an incredible opportunity for HIPC (Heavily Indebted Poor Countries) like Honduras to leverage compact funding with loans from international financial institutions such as the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI). Under the HIPC Initiative, countries are limited to taking out loans with interest rates below market (concessionals). With MCC funding, Honduras was able to combine the MCC grant with the CABEI loan's interest rate, resulting in a loan on concessional terms, and leveraging up to a 2 to 1 ratio. This opportunity allowed MCA Honduras not only to cover the incremental costs of projects but to expand its investment in Honduras's main commercial artery, the CA-Highway, to allow for 4 lanes and for a concrete surface in certain locations.

**Q: What have been some of the biggest challenges you have faced during implementation?**

It was difficult inheriting a program already nine months into implementation with critical design issues still outstanding, administrative capacity to be built, and still fine-tuning the original compact. Gratefully, MCC and MCA Honduras came into the understanding that we are partners in the implementation of the Compact and, as such, have equal responsibilities. Our combined approach has helped reduce the gap encountered early on and to face ongoing challenges as the Compact is implemented.

**Q: What can you share about your experience working with beneficiaries of the program?**

When the opportunity arises, I always mention the case of Edras Mateo. Edras is a beneficiary receiving technical assistance from our Farmer Training and Development Program (FTDA). He lives in Belen Gualcho, a community 450 Km from Tegucigalpa. Edras is one of our more than 3,900 beneficiaries, and after receiving our technical assistance and incentives, is earning a net income of over US\$ 2,000 per hectare per year.

What makes Edras special is his background and the life changing experience he and his family have undergone with the help from our program. He comes from a family of five; his mother and father split when he was 14. Edras left his village for San Pedro Sula with no re-



*MCA-Honduras Director General Martin Ochoa*

sources and became a member of Mara (a Central American gang). Seven years later, Edras returned to Belen Gualcho, hiding from his past. He started working for a farm owner and looked for local NGOs that would lend him a hand. This proved difficult, since someone with Edras' past would have a hard time receiving credit from local providers.

Nevertheless, Edras was able to receive a pack of seeds and started growing lettuce in a small tarea ( $\frac{1}{8}$  of a hectare). Through the combined effort from our FTDA program and Proyecto Aldea Global, a local NGO in the area, Edras started increasing his crop production. In the first months he started receiving US\$ 400 every other week. This would normally take him four months to earn if he kept working for the farm owner.

After receiving our technical assistance, Edras has been able to plant four hectares of lettuce, broccoli, carrots, and other crops, to provide full employment for his sister-in-law and his cousin. *see "Q&A" on page 11*



# Faith-Based Campaign Encourages Immunizations on Indonesia's Madura Island



By partnering with faith-based groups and health experts, MCC's Threshold Program in Indonesia is helping improve delivery of vital healthcare services in a remote part of the world.

After 10 years without a reported incident, a wild polio virus hit Indonesia with a vengeance in 2005. Especially hard-hit was a small community on Madura Island in East Java, where in that time period alone, 53 new polio cases emerged constituting 15 percent of all cases in Indonesia and 93 percent of all cases in East Java.

Despite reports that immunization coverage rates were above 90 percent, outbreaks of diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and measles occurred throughout the community, allowing officials to question the accuracy of available data. Some within the predominantly conservative Muslim community also expressed concerns that the vaccines being developed used pork derivatives and were not *halal*.

Indonesia's National Expanded Program for Immunization (EPI) identified the four districts of Madura Island for support under the Millennium Challenge Corporation's Indonesia Immuni-




Mothers wait to get their babies immunized in Sampang, Madura.

zation Project (MCC/IIP). MCC/IIP's two primary goals on Madura Island were to improve the quality of data on reported immunization coverage and implement programs to promote effective routine immunizations.

District health officials and community health center staff were trained to use local area monitoring tools for improved data-based decision making. MCC/IIP partnered with two Muslim faith-based community organizations,

Muslimat NU and Aisyiyah, to mobilize support of routine immunization. Muslim elders confirmed that vaccines were halal, using Friday prayers and loudspeakers at mosques to encourage families to immunize their children. A mass-media campaign was also launched to inform and educate the public about the benefits of proper immunization.

The four districts of Madura have now met their routine immunization targets for diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, measles and polio this year and reported cases of diphtheria and measles have been reduced significantly in the past two years. District leaders have committed funds to continue support for immunization activities beyond the life of the MCC project, reflecting Indonesia's commitment to improving the health of its children and giving hope for more prosperous lives.



Learn more about  
MCC's approach to  
Country Ownership  
on [mcc.gov](http://www.mcc.gov/countryownership):  
[http://www.mcc.gov/  
countryownership](http://www.mcc.gov/countryownership)

## Results In Brief



*Through the MCC, the United States Government's partnerships with countries worldwide are yielding positive results. Thousands of farmers have been trained and have better access to markets, citizens now have access to land titles, and water, roads, and irrigation is improved.*

### Roads

MCC's **transportation** projects reduce transport costs, improve access to public transportation and basic services and facilitate trade. Transportation projects also provide farmers better market access to sell their goods.

- \$37.7 million contracts for feasibility and/or design studies
- 40% disbursed, contracted feasibility and/or design studies
- 3,430 kilometers of roads under design
- \$425 million, contracts for roads design and/or works
- 906 kilometers of road under works contracts
- 18% disbursed, road works contracts

### Agriculture

MCC's agriculture projects help create jobs in the agriculture sector, increase farmers' capacity, produc-

tivity and access to markets, improve access to credit, and strengthen agribusiness activities.

- 74,015 farmers trained
- 1,190 agribusinesses supported
- 6,120 hectares in production
- \$8.6 million granted in agricultural and rural loans

### Irrigation

MCC's irrigation and watershed management projects contribute to raising farmer incomes and farm productivity.

- \$32.2 million, contracts for feasibility and/or design studies
- 33% disbursed, contracted feasibility and/or design studies for canals, pipes, and other water conveyance systems
- \$11.5 million, contracts for irrigation system construction
- 31% disbursed, irrigation system works contracts

### Property Rights and Land Policy

MCC's Property Rights and Land Policy (PRLP) projects contribute to poverty reduction and economic growth by establishing secure and efficient access to land and property rights. PRLP projects support legal and regulatory reforms, clarification and formalization of land and property rights, capacity building of local institutions, and land-related outreach and education aimed at reducing transaction costs, increasing tenure security and improving allocation of land.

- 13,850 personnel trained in land registration, surveying, conflict resolution, land use planning, land legislation, land management and new technologies
- 20,570 rural hectares formalized
- 92,170 beneficiaries reached
- 7 legal and regulatory reforms adopted



# Transparency in Government Communications: A Cornerstone of Good Governance and Press Freedom

By Marguerite H. Sullivan,  
Guest contributor to Milestones

In emerging democracies, where for decades information may have been repressed or not well organized for access, being open with the public through the media and providing reliable information in a transparent, responsive and systematic fashion is often a new role.

It is a critical one. In a democracy, citizens must have factual, credible information to make informed choices. They get that from a free and independent media, serving as the citizens' watchdog over government.

A well-functioning, transparent and accessible government communication system is essential for both good governance and an effective enabling environment for the media. The government media operation becomes key as

## MCC Hosts First Communications College



*MCA Communications Specialists meet with Diana Page from the Foreign Press Center during MCC's December 2008 Communications College. MCA Communications Specialists from 13 Compact countries attended the first MCC Communications College, an intensive three-day workshop on communicating results and strategic communications.*

the daily conduit through which the media get much of their information on the

workings of government.

Too often in emerging democracies, being open with the media and giving out reliable information in a systematic and responsive fashion is misunderstood and neglected.

Government officials may not understand the news business – whether it be journalists' deadlines or that good reporters ask questions the officials may not want to answer and won't run government news releases verbatim. The officials may not have a communications officer on staff, tack the duties onto an already overburdened staff member or give the communications official no authority. Government officials may communicate primarily reactively in crisis mode, and not proactively explaining government's plans and policies and how they might impact citizens. Ministries may put out conflicting messages see "Transparency" on page 11

### How development communicators can help build government transparency and capacity

- Focus on setting up systems of government communication, not just messaging, which can lead to propaganda.
- Help government leaders understand why being transparent is important and why empowering government communicators to help them in this role is essential.
- Work to have the communications specialist be part of the organization's top team, with access to the senior executives and a role that is clearly understood by the rest of the staff.
- Help government and communication specialists learn to be proactive as well as reactive. Without a long-range strategy, all communication is "crisis communications".
- Implement coordination methods -- key within as well as among ministries.
- Understand and respect the role of the media. Journalists should be helped in getting their stories - not being stonewalled.
- Build up the profession of government communicator with ethics codes, networking and professional standards always with speaking the truth at the center.

## MCC Partners with Countries to Improve Healthcare



Human capital is an integral part of any country's long-term growth and development process. One crucial element of human capital is the health of the population – particularly important for the poor, for whom a productive asset is often their ability to perform physical labor. For developing countries, which depend on a healthy population to help boost the economy, budgetary constraints mean that growing expenditures for health must be well targeted and effective. The Millennium Challenge Corporation recognizes these linkages and includes health as an important element in economic growth and poverty reduction.

For example, the role of health in growth is reflected in two of MCC's 17 selection indicators used to determine access to MCC Compact funding: expenditure per capita for health and coverage with key childhood immunizations. The eligibility criteria also includes measures of access to water and sanitation, as well as child mortality. MCC-funded threshold programs in Peru and Indonesia assist the governments in expanding immunization coverage in hard to reach populations. In Moldova and Kenya, threshold funds helped the governments improve the quality of health expenditures by reducing corruption and waste in pharmaceutical and other procurements.

In Lesotho, the MCC Compact sup-



*MCC's Mongolia compact's health project will assist the Ministry of Health in designing and implementing programs to change poor dietary habits, lack of exercise, smoking, and overuse of alcohol.*

ports major improvements to the health system. The Government of Lesotho designed the project in the context of PEPFAR and other donors providing technical and medical inputs to assist the country in combating devastatingly high HIV/AIDS rates. Together with PEPFAR, MCC funds critical inputs for revitalizing health services nationwide.

In Mongolia, MCC provides nearly \$17 million to support improvement and expansion of the Mongolian national non-communicable diseases and injury prevention (NCDI) program. NCDIs are the major causes of death in Mongolia and are responsible for early deaths

from heart attack and stroke among working-aged adults. The grant will assist the Ministry of Health in designing and implementing effective programs to reduce risk factors, including reductions in risky behaviors such as poor dietary habits, lack of exercise, smoking and overuse of alcohol.

In Mali, where the MCC Compact focuses on the development of an irrigated perimeter in the Alatona zone, previously underserved villages also will benefit from the construction and rehabilitation of community health centers and a health education and awareness program to promote better health practices in the area.

At MCC, the environment and social assessment (ESA) team ensures that all projects are assessed for potential im-

pacts on human health and safety and that negative impacts are avoided or mitigated. Examples include actions to reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS transmission during the construction of roads, safeguards related to the handling of medical waste, and strategies to diminish risk for malaria and schistosomiasis related to large agricultural irrigation projects.

All of these efforts are taken to ensure that development and economic activities are beneficial for the lives and well-being of the people of our partner countries. MCC recognizes that investments in improving health care can make important contributions to growth.

# MCA-Mongolia Leads Donor Coordination Efforts on Diseases and Injury Prevention



Donor coordination is recognized as one of the most important aspects of effective assistance to combat poverty. When donors share information, they maximize the reach and impact of their resources and avoid any redundancies in a particular sector. While it may sound simple, such coordination requires careful planning and a mix of local know-how and leadership from the country partner. Through MCC's partnership with the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) Mongolia, which is the Mongolian entity responsible for implementing the \$285 million MCC Compact, has become a catalyst for groundbreaking donor coordination in the health sector.

On January 7, 2009, the health project unit of MCA Mongolia, hosted a meeting among donor agencies and international organizations involved in implementing relevant health sector activities. More than 10 health sector projects were represented. The purpose of the meeting was to encourage collabora-

tion between the donor community and the Ministry of Health on non-communicable diseases and injury prevention initiatives.

MCA-Mongolia introduced its Non-communicable Disease and Injury Prevention (NCDI) Project, the first major NCDI effort financed by a donor agency. Other presenters, including the World Health Organization, the Asian Development Bank, the United Nations, and World Vision, provided information on related health activities. Speakers focused on program scope, monitoring indicators, results, and lessons learned, highlighting common areas of activity and ideas for effective collaboration.

This MCA-Mongolia-initiated meeting was warmly received by the participants and resulted in agreement to develop a donor coordination framework for NCDI prevention and control in Mongolia. The MCA-Mongolia health unit agreed to lead the effort and provide updates to the group.



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# Jordan and MCC: Empowering Women Through Building Networks, Capacity and Ideas



During a recent address in Amman, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma of Jordan cited women's participation in local government as essential in any community and critical for local development. With support from the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), the Jordanian National Commission for Women, and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Jordan's Women's Knowledge Network was successfully launched in October 2008 as part of the country's \$25 million MCC Threshold Program.

The Network, focused on empowering female municipal council members nationwide, is strengthening the ability of women to perform effectively by providing a platform for sharing experiences and learning. To date, the program has conducted several regional meetings, with over 260 female council members from over 70 municipalities in attendance. Most recently, the Network hosted a workshop series focused on improving local government planning and capacity.

Working with Jordan's Ministry of Municipal Affairs, MCC and USAID continue to strengthen local gover-



*Local women engage at a workshop on Jordan's MCC compact development and consultative process in Amman. MCC is committed to ensuring that gender issues are considered and recognized in all stages of its work with partner countries*

nance and enhance the role of youth and women in local government. Soon, capacity and awareness-building activities for female council members will be conducted, and the Network will launch its official website.

Studies suggest that women pursue policy objectives distinguishable from those of their male colleagues because of differences in social roles, responsi-

bilities, and experiences. This brings to government important perspectives and priorities that have been frequently underrepresented in the policymaking process. For instance, studies suggest that women are more likely to prioritize public policies related to children and families, health care, education, environment, housing, and the elderly, and are more likely than men to facilitate citizen participation in the political process. Female representation in government positions also has an effect on the expectations of young women, who see them as role models.

The MCC Threshold Program in Jordan supports the principle that gender integration of local councils is important to development by ensuring that women have a valued voice in society.



Learn more about  
MCC's commitment  
to Gender  
on [mcc.gov](http://www.mcc.gov):

<http://www.mcc.gov/gender>



## Opening the Door to Zambian Business

Streamlining business registration boosts economic activity and transparency



After working for an employer for three years, Prosper Chanda, a Zambian entrepreneur in Lusaka, wanted to open his own sign company. However, he was unsure how to register his business. He had heard that the registration process could be long, expensive and frustrating. Many other Zambian entrepreneurs faced similar challenges, and although all businesses are legally required to register in Zambia, entrepreneurs have generally not done so. The time and costs associated with registering a business in Zambia—up to 11 days according to World Bank estimates - have dissuaded many would-be business owners.

Recognizing this problem, the Patents and Companies Registration Office (PACRO) committed to streamlining the business registration and annual update process. Now, Zambian business owners can register a new business or file annual registration updates in a single day at a new, fully-automated Customer Service Center in Lusaka. The facility was established with assistance from a two-year, \$22.7 million Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) threshold program in Zambia focused on reducing corruption and improving government effectiveness. The new transparent and automated process also reduces opportunities for corruption by clearly posting government fees for each transaction and is removing the dependence on intermediaries, who often charged high sums to navigate and expedite the old process. Because of the new process, the number of companies registering monthly in Zambia has risen 100 per-



*A prospective entrepreneur registers to start his own business in Zambia. MCC is helping improve business registration as a way to stimulate economic development.*

cent. To expand the benefits of this process, the MCC program has also helped PACRO open a branch office in Ndola and locate office space in Livingstone as part of an effort to open regional centers in three provinces.

At the new Customer Service Center, Mr. Chanda took less than a day to register his new company, Katetebo Enterprises. He also received clear, simple guidance on how to keep his registration current through annual updates. As a registered business owner, he now

has access to loans and business development services. By helping to improve the efficiency and transparency of government services for businesses in Zambia through its threshold program, thereby fulfilling its ultimate mission to boost economic growth, MCC is providing incentives to entrepreneurs like Mr. Chanda to legalize the status of their businesses through registration and join the growing ranks of Zambia's formal business sector.

See an up-to-date list of  
all MCC Compact Country  
procurements  
on [mcc.gov](http://www.mcc.gov/procurement):  
[http://www.mcc.gov/  
procurement](http://www.mcc.gov/procurement)



## Fiscal Responsibility and Foreign Aid: Smarter U.S. Assistance

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formulate appropriate ways to surmount those obstacles.” Country-led solutions empower governments to champion their own development and to be held accountable for delivering results. Newly-elected President of Ghana John Atta Mills, for example, referred to his country’s \$547 million MCC compact in his recent “State of the Nation” address, citing the implementation of MCC-funded road projects as integral to “accelerating our national development.” President Mills’ support for fast-tracking road improvements demonstrates Ghana’s ownership of the project and a willingness to be held accountable for its success.

To reinforce country-led development, “aid predictability” offers countries the assurance of knowing what to expect and when so they can plan their projects accordingly. This best practice in development assistance is at the core of the MCC model. As MCC grants are set aside in their entirety at the time of signing, partners can confidently pursue their self-identified development priorities, such as investments in infrastructure, education, or agricultural development for long-term food security.

At a time when every dollars counts, American taxpayers and recipient coun-

tires need and expect a smarter and more effective U.S. foreign assistance that country ownership and aid predictability deliver. MCC and other U.S.

agency programs built on these tools are already making sustainable strides in reducing poverty.



*On March 31, 2009 MCC in partnership with Business Council for Understanding (BCIU) held an event to highlight the upcoming MCA procurement opportunities in Africa and to provide interested firms with information on the MCA procurement process and discuss related issues, including standard bidding documents, payment process, and the bid challenge system. Presenters (l. to r.) MCC Managing Director Carol Hessler, Diane Willkens, President & CEO of Development Finance International, Inc., Jeffrey Donald, Senior Vice President at BCIU, Dr. Sudhir Wanmali, Senior Associate and Director of Agriculture and Rural Development at Sheladia Associates, MCC Director Barbara Hayes, and MCC Director Gerard Nash.*

## Reducing Poverty with Private Sector Participation

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energy project. To forge more public-private partnerships, MCC is exploring ways to facilitate capital market development and increase the supply of well-structured projects to attract debt/equity financing. MCC is analyzing opportunities for private sector partners to take advantage of investments associ-

ated with MCC-funded projects.

PSP generally requires certain preconditions at both country and project levels to succeed. At the country level, political commitment, a clear legal and policy framework, credible regulatory arrangements, and a favorable investment climate are needed. At the project level, strong sponsors and counter-

parts, an adequate revenue stream, and the efficient allocation and management of risks are needed.

By putting these elements in place, MCC partner countries are significantly increasing the potential impact of compact funding by leveraging private sector financing and expertise.



## Q&A: MCA-Honduras Director General Ochoa



*Through the Farmer Training and Development Activity, farmers like Edras are learning crop management, business skills, marketing, and postharvest handling.*

He has also been able to purchase five milking cows, to sell his crop to Hortifrutti, a local subsidiary of Wal-Mart, and obtain a stand in a local market that his spouse manages. Most importantly, Edras has been able to put his



*Technical assistance provided by the MCC grant has taught Edras the value of diversifying his crops; he not only grows lettuce but also broccoli, cauliflower and carrots.*

kids in school, and has put a down payment on a house.

What makes Edras different from other beneficiaries I have met is the sense of pride he portrays. In his words, “yo se que puedo (I know I can)”.



*With the increase in his income, Edras has purchased a house for his family and 5.6 hectares to expand his farm production.*

Two years ago, buying a 25 pound bag of fertilizer meant not purchasing food for a day, with the income, skills and knowledge he has acquired, he now says “puedo comprar cien (I can buy a hundred!)”.

## Transparency and Accessibility in Government Communications

*continued from page 5*  
due to lack of communications coordination. The result: Citizens are left confused, mistrusting and misinformed.

Rather than understanding that transparency and information access can lead to greater public understanding and consensus building, many government officials lambast the press as being misinformed, slanted, even the enemy and see information as frightening. As one uncommunicative government official quipped: “If everything went out, it would lead to chaos.”

If governments are to truly be responsible to their people – especially on critical issues such as poverty reduction – open, transparent communications must be a priority. It is not only good

practice, but an essential part of good governance.

*Marguerite H. Sullivan is senior director of the Center for International Media Assistance at the National Endowment for Democracy and the author of*

*“A Responsible Press Office: An Insider’s View,” published by the Department of State. It is in 30 languages and is being used around the world to train on issues of transparency and information access.*



### MCC Effect

*Indonesia’s Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati has argued that the real draw of the MCC is its “good housekeeping seal of approval,” which sends a powerful signal to private investors. As she puts it, “It’s not about the money. It’s about the recognition that we’re doing the right thing.”*

*—Celebrating Reform 2007: Doing Business Case Studies.  
Washington D.C.: World Bank*

## Window to the Field: Muneera Salem-Murdock in Morocco



A Moroccan farmer prunes an olive tree. The Fruit Tree Productivity Project is expected to rehabilitate existing olive tree plantations.



In Morocco, Spring 2009 marks the beginning of planting in rain-fed areas as part of the MCC-funded *Fruit Tree Productivity Project*, which will stimulate growth in the agricultural sector by expanding olive-tree production and rehabilitate existing olive tree plantations.

From January 6-15, an unprecedented number of public consultations were organized to discuss the project among elected representatives, environmental and women's associations, the media,

and residents in seven of 19 provinces targeted for the expansion and rehabilitation of olive-tree plantations. Through these public consultations, Moroccan farmers experienced firsthand the MCC promise of transparency, accountability, and public participation. Most important, they clearly signaled that the voices of beneficiaries and other stakeholders are critical to the successful implementation of MCC-funded projects. It was nice to see the men and women debate such issues as the economic, social, health, and environmental benefits of the project and suggest ways to overcome the potential impediments – a true sign of “country ownership.” Indeed, with their commitment to the success of this project, Moroccan olive farmers can confidently say “the trees are coming!”

*Muneera Salem-Murdock is the Resident Country Director in Morocco.*

## A Crisis of Global Scale for the World's Poor

*by Acting CEO Rodney Bent*

No country is immune from the current economic recession in our interconnected global economy. Like the United States, the world's poorest countries are feeling the impact, which is all the more burdensome on them as they struggle to grow.

A March 2009 paper released by the International Monetary Fund paints a daunting picture. Low income countries are experiencing a drop in exports, especially for commodities. Remittances are dropping. The outlook for foreign direct investment is bleak. A potential humanitarian calamity looms as more families fall deeper into poverty. Aid flows to the developing world are under threat as donors face economic pressures at home.

MCC's commitment to 35 partners worldwide continues even in the wake of the global economic crisis. By setting aside entire grant amounts upfront at the time of their awarding, the predictability of MCC's assistance allows our partners to plan with confidence as they embrace reforms and build their capacity to implement sustainable projects to reduce poverty through economic growth. Many MCC partners are investing in their citizens' health and education, paving roads or building bridges to connect communities to markets and services, and training farmers to increase their agricultural production to fuel food security. Through policy reforms and country-sourced solutions, these countries are adopting conditions that will yield long-term growth.



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