



# What People are Saying About MCC

*“President Elect Obama supports the MCC, and the principle of greater accountability in our foreign assistance programs. It represents a worthy new approach to poverty reduction and combating corruption...The Obama Administration looks forward to working to build on the promise of the MCC as we move forward with modernizing U.S. foreign assistance programs.”*

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's response to a question for the record from Senator John Kerry during her confirmation hearing January 13, 2009

*“The Millennium Challenge Corporation, or MCC...is committed to helping partner countries reduce poverty and stimulate economic growth through improved property rights systems. To date...MCC has committed about \$291 million toward projects in poor countries worldwide, countries which have determined that secure land tenure is a necessary component of their long-term economic growth. These countries are working with MCC to improve their legal frameworks, property registries and client services such as mortgage finance and land registration administration.”*

VOA Editorial:  
“Poverty and Land Ownership”  
January 17, 2009

*“Many countries tie their aid, but the United States ties more of its aid than any other donor. The U.S. tied 54 percent of its aid in 2006, although this was down from 68 percent in 2005. The growth of two new U.S. aid programs that provide untied aid—the MCC and PEPFAR—will likely continue this untying trend...Untying aid is considered a positive trend...”*

Oxfam America's brief on Smart Development in Practice: The tied aid “round trip”  
January 15, 2009

*“During the campaign the President-elect promised to elevate development in U.S. Foreign policy. The Administration will promptly review whether fulfilling that objective will necessitate organizational changes. The MCC has been innovative in foreign assistance and we intend to review how its programs can best be managed.”*

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's response to a question for the record from Senator Dick Lugar during her confirmation hearing January 13, 2009

*“...MCC is getting off the ground and making real progress...”*

Jacob Lew  
Testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
January 22, 2009

*“The Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) is an innovative program and a pronounced break from the way the United States has traditionally provided development assistance...the MCA meets most of the components of effective development assistance... which are so often lacking from other U.S. development programs. At a time when the MDGs [Millennium Development Goals] and numerous independent studies of aid effectiveness call for greater country and local level “ownership” of foreign assistance, with the exception of the MCA, the U.S. government has been moving in the opposite direction...the MCA is being closely watched for its potential relevance as a new model for development assistance.”*

Bread for the World  
19th Annual Report on the State of  
World Hunger: Hunger 2009:  
Global Development: Charting a New Course  
(www.bread.org)  
January 2009

*“...the Millennium Challenge Corporation has created a new model of foreign assistance that encourages recipient states to build administrative capacity and to take ownership of large-scale projects designed to enhance economic growth.”*

Reihan Salam  
Forbes article  
A Whole New Third World  
January 26, 2009

*“..While it may be appropriate in some cases to work with governments, I think one of the lessons we’ve learned with the Millennium Challenge Corporation and others is that there are great partnerships to be had out there that not only lead to more successful programs on the ground but also create substantial goodwill for the United States.”*

James Steinberg  
Testimony before the  
Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
January 22, 2009

*“Over the course of the last eight years...a whole host of new development and humanitarian initiatives – including, among other programs, the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), and the President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI) – have positively demonstrated American commitment to Africa, strengthening the “soft power” links between America and the nations of the African continent. It is very much in the interests of the United States that the Obama administration to not only maintain these programs... but that, even in these troubled economic times, it finds the resources to keep them adequately funded to keep apace of the increasing need for them.”*

Dr. J. Peter Pham  
Family Security Matters:  
How President Obama Can Help Africa  
– and America as Well  
(http://www.familysecuritymatters.org/publications/  
id.2333/pub\_detail.asp)  
January 22, 2009

*“Some things are working in Africa. The Millennium Challenge Account, which is woefully underfunded, is one of President Bush’s best accomplishments and it is helping poor countries get off the ground.”*

Larry Diamond  
Stanford Hoover Institution  
Freedom House Panel  
at the Newseum  
January 27, 2009