



## MCC Infrastructure Programs in African Countries

Poor infrastructure is an obstacle to private sector investment on the African continent, significantly driving up the cost of doing business, limiting new opportunities, and stunting economic growth. Additionally, research has shown strong links between improved infrastructure and poverty reduction, particularly in the areas of income, education, and health of the poor. As a result, the vast majority of countries eligible for Millennium Challenge Corporation funding have requested assistance in addressing local infrastructure needs. Among other initiatives, MCC projects include improvements to roads, bridges, energy facilities, water services, industries, and schools. Of MCC's sixteen approved compacts, nine are with African countries, totaling about \$3.8 billion. Thanks to the partnership between MCC and these countries, infrastructure improvements in Africa will help reduce poverty through sustainable economic growth.

*"Infrastructure is one of the most important driving forces for economic development."*

*-Atsushi Iimi*

*World Bank*

*policy research working paper*

*March 2008*

### Benin



Benin's \$307 million Compact, signed on February 22, 2006, features the improvement of operations and infrastructure of the Port of Cotonou. The Compact includes upgrades to the physical infrastructure of the port to provide easier access to gates, roads, facilities, and storage areas.

### Cape Verde



Cape Verde's \$110 million Compact, signed on July 4, 2005, will improve the country's physical infrastructure by upgrading roads and constructing bridges. The Compact also includes improvements to the Port of Praia to maximize its existing capacity and advance future expansion.

### Ghana



Ghana's \$547 million Compact, signed on August 1, 2006, includes infrastructure projects that will expand a key section of the National Highway; the upgrading of roads by either paving or laying gravel; and improvements to the Lake Volta Ferry system. The Compact also includes infrastructure projects for school construction, rural electrification, rural water supply, and household latrine construction.

## Lesotho



Lesotho's \$363 million Compact, signed July 23, 2007, focuses on infrastructure upgrades that will improve the reliability of water supply and sanitation for industrial and residential uses and rehabilitate and expand infrastructure in urban areas. The Compact also includes the renovation of nearly 150 health centers and the construction of a new central laboratory which will assist in blood sample collection, processing and storage.

## Mali



Mali's \$461 million Compact, signed on November 13, 2006, includes the renovation and modernization of the Bamako-Sénou Airport, including improvements to the runway. The project will address constraints to air traffic growth and increase the airport's efficiency in both passenger and freight handling through airside and landside infrastructure improvements. The Alatona irrigation project will improve farmer incomes through the development and the expansion of irrigated agriculture, increased access to financial services and the rehabilitation of the Niono-Goma Coura Road.

## Morocco



Morocco's \$698 million Compact, signed on August 31, 2007, includes a Fruit Tree Productivity Project aimed at stimulating growth in the agricultural sector and reducing volatility of agricultural production. In Morocco's oases, this project will support the upgrading of existing small-scale irrigation infrastructure and the rehabilitation of approximately 55,000 hectares of olive, fig and almond trees and the expansion of the same crops on approximately 120,000 hectares in rain-fed areas.

## Mozambique



Mozambique's \$507 million Compact, signed on July 13, 2007, focuses on water, sanitation, and transportation infrastructure. Both the municipal water supply and sanitation systems will be expanded to reach a wider distribution network in smaller towns and municipalities. In addition, MCC funding will rehabilitate 491 kilometers of key segments of the National Route 1, which forms the backbone of country's transportation network.

## Tanzania



Tanzania's \$698 million Compact, signed on February 17, 2008, will target strategic investments in transportation, energy, and water to reduce poverty and stimulate economic growth. High traffic roads on the mainland will be rehabilitated together with rural roads on Zanzibar.

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*Millennium Challenge Corporation, a U.S. government corporation designed to work with developing countries, is based on the principle that aid is most effective when it reinforces sound political, economic, and social policies that promote poverty reduction through economic growth. For more about MCC, visit [www.mcc.gov](http://www.mcc.gov).*