

## 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 part of the foundation for strong economic growth that reaches the poor.

It is a prime area where good governance matters tremendously. Making the property rights systems- including, laws and regulations, land records such as titles and deeds, surveying and valuation, as well as search and recording practices, reliable, efficient and available is essential for businesses and households, poor and non-poor around the globe.

*"The United States can be a global leader in helping poor people by focusing on secure tenure, a foundation for reducing poverty."*

*"Shelter Report 2008: Building a secure future through effective land policies." Habitat for Humanity. p.7*

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 \$278 million in property rights and land policy reforms across 10 of its 18 Compacts.

These MCC investments aim to facilitate secure and efficient access to land and other real property by supporting reforms to law and policy, building institutional capacity and reducing red-tape, and working in selected sites to register land rights and resolve disputes.

### ***MCC is supporting three types of property rights & land policy activities:***

1. Projects that address problems across the property rights systems- policy, institutions and people;
2. Actions that facilitate access to new or expanded rights (e.g. the allocation of state land or facilitating land markets); and
3. 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's** MCC compact is investing \$36 million to improve land policy and administration, modernize the geodetic network and formalize property rights in rural and urban areas. Burkina Faso's MCC compact includes \$59.9 to support legal and procedural change, strengthen capacity of provincial, regional and local land services, and secure land rights and land use in select sites across the country.



**Ghana's** MCC compact provides \$10.7 million to increase the efficiency of land transactions, pilot area-wide title registration of rural land rights, and improve court settlements of land disputes.



**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 an efficient and modernized Land Administration Authority.



**Madagascar** is using \$37.8 million of its MCC compact to develop a national land program to institute legal land reforms, modernize the national and regional domain services, establish municipal land registration offices, and formalize land tenure through the issuance of land certificates.



**Mali's** MCC compact provides \$4.1 million for allocation and titling of newly irrigated land parcels that will benefit family farmers, women market gardeners, and farming companies. Funding will also support public outreach to inform rural families of their land ownership rights and obligations.



**Mongolia's** MCC compact dedicates \$23 million for legal and institutional reforms to improve land privatization and registration processes in peri-urban areas of the capital and eight other cities. The compact also supports peri-urban land leasing, privatization and registration of Ger Area land plots.



**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's** MCC compact includes \$21.1 million to streamline land registration, systematically clarify and register land rights, strengthen local land boards and support community-based rangeland management.



**Nicaragua's** MCC compact dedicates \$26.5 million to strengthen the capacity of land administration, complete land registration and mapping, resolve disputes, and demarcate protected areas.



**Niger's** MCC Threshold program includes a component to improve performance on the land rights and access indicator by reducing the time and costs associated land ownership transfer and land valuation.