



## Millennium Challenge Corporation Makes Headway Achieving Results in the Fight Against Poverty

MCC represents an innovative approach to foreign development assistance focused on building local capacity to ensure that countries break the cycle of dependency on aid. While MCC is moving quickly to ensure that its funding gets to its intended recipients—the poorest countries of the world—it is important not to measure MCC merely by the yardstick of dollars disbursed. This standard has been the measure of many other assistance programs and the development failures of a “rush money out the door at all costs” mindset speak for themselves. The MCC approach begins producing results – greater civic participation, emphasis on transparency, mechanisms for accountability – even in the early stages of the grant development process.

Mcc has committed over \$5.5 billion through compacts with 16 countries to reduce poverty through economic growth. In 2008, MCC will see an unprecedented level of implementation activity related to these major infrastructure projects.

### Tangible, Measurable Results

MCC programs in partner countries are already delivering measurable, tangible results. Projected results of our work with compact and threshold programs by the end of 2007 are promising. A few notable examples:



In Armenia, thousands of participants have been trained in on-farm water management to ultimately increase agricultural production, of which—almost 23 percent—are female farmers.



In Georgia, the first round of emergency repairs to the North-South Gas Pipeline in Georgia are complete, improving the long term security of the country’s natural gas supply and providing Georgian citizens with electricity and heating as temperatures drop. Grants worth over one million dollars to new or expanding agribusinesses are helping them improve technologies and access markets.



In Madagascar, nearly one million documents have been inventoried to enable better land use. Agricultural Business Centers are now operational in five zones.



In Nicaragua, hundreds of beneficiaries have already received or are in the process of receiving land titles.



In Burkina Faso, 132 schools and 396 teachers' residences have been built.



Since its Threshold Program inception, Tanzanian print media have already published thousands of stories exposing corruption in their country as a result of professional training that emphasizes government accountability.

## Moving Forward

These projects are just the beginning. They illustrate the broad scope of our work across the globe and the need to work together with partner nations to combat poverty in new and creative ways.

MCC recognizes that country ownership, accountability, and taking the time to consult and plan projects carefully, but efficiently, are critical to the long-term success of the MCC model. Congress initially created the MCC to commit funding upfront and disburse in tranches based on results achieved. The MCC model is accountable to both the American taxpayer and the beneficiaries of our assistance. We share a responsibility to ensure that disbursements are based on performance, are free from corruption, and will help the people of these countries free themselves from poverty.

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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.*