



MCC University Brings Together Partner Countries to Exchange Best Practices

Over fifty representatives from partner countries worldwide gathered at the Millennium Challenge Corporation's (MCC) headquarters from 2-6 June to attend MCC University – MCC's annual event focused on learning through exchange of on-the-ground experiences among peers in the fight against poverty.

This initiative brought together leaders from Millennium Challenge Accounts (MCAs) – the organizations responsible for implementing MCC compacts in partner countries – as well as representatives of compact development and newly eligible countries to share best practices on the most effective ways to implement MCC-funded programs in their countries.

MCC's model places a premium on country-led development and focuses its efforts on helping partners find the most effective solutions to the impediments to growth in their countries. These meetings were designed to tap into the local knowledge and experience of experts from Armenia, Georgia, Benin, Mali, Ghana, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Mongolia, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Tanzania, Lesotho and Vanuatu, among others.



"It was very useful to interact with other 'further along' countries; it helped us see what to expect in the coming implementation of our compact."

— MCC U Participant in the final survey



MCC U participants at one of the working sessions

The first two days of the event, exclusively devoted to participants representing newly eligible countries, focused on issues relevant to those who are developing compacts. These discussions aim at helping countries who are developing their poverty reduction programs – or “compacts” – to define their priorities as well as to provide them with the knowledge and tools necessary to transition quickly into compact implementation once a compact is fully developed, approved and signed.

The second part of these meetings, which transpired over four days, concentrated on

countries in different stages of implementation and was also open to newly eligible countries and those developing compacts. The agenda included presentations by MCA managers and MCC staff about topics of interest to MCAs such as best practices in management and ways to increase effectiveness in areas such as infrastructure project management, procurement, and monitoring and evaluation of project results. Breakout sessions and open discussions allowed participants to share their own experiences and exchange ideas with their peers and MCC counterparts.

Of the meeting, MCC Deputy Vice-President Jonathan Bloom said, “These men and women are working hard to make a difference in their countries and thus welcome access to new information, resources and materials that will make them more successful. The MCC-U participants also found that they can help each other tremendously by exchanging experiences and best practices.”

Country representatives went home better equipped to successfully implement their compacts and continue fighting poverty and promoting growth in their countries.



“There is so much information available among member countries that, when tapped early, it can help countries improve planning and implementation.”

— MCC U Participant in the final survey



MCC University 2008 group photo