

Niger Program Summary

The three-year, \$23 million Niger Threshold program focuses on reducing public corruption within the health and education sectors, streamlining the process of starting a business by establishing the administrative, legal and regulatory structures required to implement business facilitation reforms, reducing the time and costs associated with land ownership transfer, land valuation, building permitting and notarization and bolstering girls' education by building "girl-friendly" schools.

Threshold Status	
Status.....	Implementation, Year 1
Threshold Information	
Total Amount.....	\$23 million
Agreement Signed.....	March 17, 2008
Country Information	
Population.....	13,736,722*
GNI Per Capita Income.....	\$280*

Program Highlights

- ★ In mid-September 2008, implementation began for the IMAGINE (Improve the Education of Girls in Niger) project. The first request for bids for construction has been published and baseline data collection has started.
- ★ In parallel, MCC hired Mathematica Policy Research (MPR) to conduct an impact evaluation of program results. In December, the random selection of the sites of the projected 68 school complexes (including a three classroom block, latrines for girls and boys, a water source, female teacher housing, and a school canteen) was completed under the guidance of MPR to ensure conditions permit a randomized roll out scheme for an impact evaluation of the education component.
- ★ The proposal for implementation of the program's anti-corruption reforms (including improved public procurement, auditing, and civil society engagement), as well as the business start-up and land registration activities is currently being reviewed. Project start-up is anticipated in February 2009.

*World Development Indicators, World Bank, 2005