

What People are Saying About MCC

"The Millennium Challenge Account direct[s] new aid to nations willing to work as responsible partners, dedicated to reform and transparency."

Michael Gerson
Washington Post op-ed 'Dead Aid,' Dead Wrong
April 3, 2009

"We need to stand behind results-focused programs that deliver systemic change by partnering with countries to build their own capacity and reform their own policies to create the very conditions necessary for sustainable poverty reduction and long-term economic growth. The U.S. Government's Millennium Challenge Corporation is one such innovation, partnering with countries worldwide that pursue good policies, define and implement their own homegrown, antipoverty programs, and generate measurable results that count in the lives of the poor."

Michael Castaldo
Union Leader op-ed Even now,
we must continue giving to the world's poor
April 11, 2009

President of Burkina Faso Blaise Compaore
Washington Times op-ed *The entrepreneurial approach*
April 12, 2009

"Take, for example, U.S. government grants awarded through the Millennium Challenge Corp. It's right that MCC grants are awarded only to countries that rule justly, invest in their people and promote economic freedom. It's right that poor countries themselves are empowered to direct these grants to their development priorities. Consequently, nearly one-quarter of MCC's budget, almost \$1.4 billion, is invested in agricultural development, and approximately \$360 million more has been invested in education."

Senator George McGovern
Politico op-ed
Freedom from Hunger: Feeding Bodies, Minds
April 14, 2009

"Because of our deepening commitment to sound policies as well as our successful use of threshold funding to tackle such a fundamental roadblock to sustainable development, Burkina Faso secured a larger, \$480.9 million Millennium Challenge compact. The compact is evidence that Burkina Faso met the challenge of the corporation's stringent requirements for assistance and remains committed to ongoing reform to pave the way to sustainable development for the benefit of our citizens."

"An increasing percentage of U.S. development assistance should be conditioned on the criteria currently utilized by the Millennium Challenge Corporation."

Michael Cohen
Democracy Arsenal blog
A New Approach For Democracy Promotion
April 9, 2009

"If [MCC's] principles were used to drive the reform of the entire foreign aid system, we'd have one heck of a better system that is consistent with all good development practices we've developed over the last 30 years."

President of Oxfam America
Ray Offenheiser
GlobalPost.com article
*Millennium Challenge Corporation:
Change we don't need?*
April 3, 2009

"...We need a development agency that...has more flexibility to work with different kinds of countries... MCC is a terrific first step in that direction where in the better governed countries where there is less corruption we give longer-term commitments, we give those countries more say in making sure that what we're doing is consistent with their objectives, and we're working with their systems to try to build those systems up."

Center for Global Development
Senior Fellow Dr. Steven Radelet
Hearing of the Senate
Committee on Foreign Relations:
"USAID in the 21st Century"
April 1, 2009

"MCC's great potential and unique focus... should be recognized as one key tool in the overall effort to strengthen the impact of U.S. development assistance and improve the lives of those living in poverty around the world."

InterAction President and CEO
Samuel A. Worthington
in a letter to
Secretary of State
Hillary Rodham Clinton
March 24, 2009

"We welcomed...MCC's leadership in the development assistance community in making a commitment to anti-corruption an explicit requirement to qualify for assistance."

Transparency International President
Nancy Boswell
in a letter to
acting MCC CEO
Rodney Bent
March 20, 2009

"I've heard a lot about the Millennium Challenge Corporation. I've heard about how it's a "different kind of program" and how it works with other countries to make sure that U.S. funds are used for projects that are country-owned and will be sustainable in the future. Today, I saw a lot of that talk put to action."

Chandler Smith
ONE blog entry
while traveling in Ghana
March 5, 2009

"[R]oads and irrigation are necessary if rural areas are to be revitalized and agricultural productivity increased. It was only with the sizeable compacts of the Millennium Challenge Corporation that the value of building infrastructure was highlighted again. In many countries, MCC, working to support host countries' development plans, has built roads linking farms to markets, and markets to export facilities."

Report to Members of
the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations:
"Global Food Insecurity: Perspectives from the Field"
February 6, 2009