



MILLENNIUM
CHALLENGE CORPORATION
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Fact Sheet

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What People Are Saying About MCC

Special Edition

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton visited the Millennium Challenge Corporation on Tuesday, November 27, 2012, to meet with staff and discuss the agency's role as a key part of the U.S. foreign policy agenda, where diplomacy and development are elevated alongside defense as part of a smart power framework.

Memorable quotes from Secretary Clinton's remarks include:

On supporting MCC

"For the past four years, and then before that as a senator, I've had the privilege of supporting MCC and seen the impact of the work that you do on the ground."

On the MCC model for development

"People around the world are eager to partner with MCC and even willing to try to meet the standards that have been devised for such a partnership. And that speaks volumes about the work that all of you and your predecessors have done to establish a new approach to development as part of America's foreign policy agenda."

"All of what you're trying to do really has pushed our development agenda, so I hope that you will continue to set a high standard, to produce results, to do tough evaluations, finding out what works and what doesn't work, what's worth funding and not worth funding, and continue to give me and my successor, whoever that might be, a good talking point. When I say, "You won't be eligible for an MCC compact if you don't do this," it actually does open eyes and get attention. So we will continue to do that so long as you continue to give us a good story to tell, and I'm confident that you will."

On MCC's role informing the Administration's development policy

"MCC's model showcases some of our best thinking about how to do development for the 21st century, and has helped to set the stage for the Administration's approach for development, because at a time when we must look for the way to maximize the impact of every dollar that we spend on development, we often turn to MCC for information and inspiration."

On MCC's role informing the Administration's development policy *(continued)*

"In this Administration under President Obama, we've tried to put forth a new policy on development that really focuses on results, and MCC has been one of the foundational institutions that has given us the base for moving forward."

"We look to MCC for helping to bring about that strategic shift that we're making in our development work from aid to investment and looking at the risk-reward calculation, literally expecting to be able better to calculate a rate of return."

"I think greater transparency, internally and externally, gives us a stronger platform to build on for the programs that we think are worth investing in, and MCC is certainly at the top of the line there."

On support for MCC's budget

"Part of the advantage that MCC has is it's viewed as a bipartisan institution started by George Bush. I think that gives you a built-in level of congressional support that has to be nurtured and tended all the time, but nevertheless is an important asset that MCC has. But we all know we're going into a difficult budget environment. Nobody will get everything they want. They just can't. That won't – it's just not fiscally possible. But I'm sure MCC will be given a very positive response by the Administration and the Congress. And part of the challenge is to keep being able to do as much as possible with the resources you have because you keep learning how to do it better. And that, in itself, is confidence building. So I think MCC's budget will be certainly given a positive hearing both in the Administration and the Congress, and the more MCC can be positioned as a leading development agency around the world and as one that has learned lessons that will hopefully benefit all development agencies, I think the argument for MCC's budget just gets stronger."

"Obviously, we in the State Department and I personally believe strongly that MCC is an important program that has proven itself and has to be adequately funded in order to continue the good work and to have the disproportionate impact on development theory and practice that MCC is having."

"We have no way to predict what's going to happen, what's going to be the final decisions on how the pie will be sliced and what will be cut off in order to meet the spending cuts that will have to be made in order to reach a deal in the Congress. It's going to be a very difficult negotiation, and I know that the President and the White House are doing everything they can to shape it in a way that reflects our values and our interests at home and around the world, and MCC will be a part of that."