

Putting Results at the Forefront: Where Transparency meets Smart U.S. Foreign Aid

MCC views increased transparency of program results as a key to enhancing aid effectiveness and ensuring accountability for taxpayer resources. The extensive body of MCC materials available on the internet demonstrates the agency's commitment to transparency. MCC's mission to reduce poverty through sustainable economic growth is furthered each time it impacts the lives of the poor in meaningful and measurable ways that are transparent and available for scrutiny and exploration.

The Challenge

Data and information related to the *results* of development programs are often inaccessible to the public, country partners and development practitioners. Where data is available, it is either difficult to locate or its publication is seriously lagged; a practice that undermines accountability for *results* and reduces the effectiveness of foreign aid.

The Solution

Furthering a commitment to *results* and accountability, MCC is increasing the transparency of its *results* data. Over the course of 2009, MCC undertook a project to make all of its program performance data publicly available on its website in a new *Results* section at <http://www.mcc.gov/results>. Both quantitative data and qualitative information are available. On the **quantitative** side, MCC publishes the following:

- ★ The economic analysis that justifies the investments MCC makes in each country. This data, available for *every* MCC program, includes interactive spreadsheets that can be manipulated for different scenarios.



*MCC is building
a one-stop resource
that compiles results
as they emerge
at every stage of
MCC's poverty reduction
partnerships worldwide.*

- ★ Targets and actual performance data against key performance metrics for each MCC program that are used to determine if it's on track to achieve its objectives. This data is updated *quarterly* and is available for *all* compact programs in implementation.
- ★ Actual performance against common indicators in *key* sectors such as roads, agriculture, irrigation and property rights where MCC has substantial investments. This data is also updated *quarterly* and additional sectors are being added as common metrics are finalized.
- ★ Detailed information on independent, rigorous impact evaluations that will be used to measure and document the actual impact MCC projects have had on local incomes.

Qualitative information includes success stories, quarterly status reports for each compact and fact sheets on a variety of topics.

The Benefit

Increasing transparency of *results* is expected to increase the incentive to achieve *results* and demonstrate MCC's own accountability for tax payer funds. And, over the long term it will contribute to increased development effectiveness as the lessons about what works and doesn't is widely shared and factored into decision making about future development projects.

See MCC's Results section at <http://www.mcc.gov/results>.