



**MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE
ACCOUNT - ARMENIA**
STATE NON-COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATION

PRESS RELEASE

September 18,
2009

The Stakeholder Committee of the Millennium Challenge Armenia Program Reports to the Public

Yerevan/Armenia- On September 18, 2009 the Stakeholder Committee (SC) of the Millennium Challenge Account Armenia Program held a press conference during which the members of the civil society represented in the SC talked about their involvement with and contribution to the Program in the past year. The SC report to the public focused on such aspects of their work as finalization of a number of key regulations governing the SC (including the Governing Council members delegation or the conflict of interest clause); stakeholders' representation at the Program's Governing Council or negotiations with the Armenian and U.S. government officials on issues related to the future of the program and its sustainability. SC members emphasized their belief that the MCA-Armenia model of civil society's involvement in large scope investment or development programs and in state funded initiatives is key for ensuring transparency, good governance and efficient program implementation.

The current membership of the SC is the third since the inception of the MCA-Armenia Program in 2006. Its 15 members were selected by more than 380 non-governmental organizations and represent the broader civil society including regional organizations, water user associations, human rights groups, development NGOs and others.

Through the Stakeholders' Committee, the civil society and local and regional communities get the opportunity to provide advice and input to MCA-Armenia regarding the implementation of the Program.

The MCA-Armenia Program is helping to reduce rural poverty in Armenia through investments that improve economic performance of agricultural sector. The Program interventions include rehabilitation of key irrigation infrastructure, support to strengthening water management entities, training and technical assistance for farmers, increased availability of rural credit and other related activities.

For more information regarding this event and the MCA-Armenia program, please visit:

www.mca.am

Millennium Challenge Account-Armenia (MCA-Armenia), a State Non Commercial Organization established by the Government of Armenia, is responsible for overseeing the transparent implementation of the Compact signed between the Millennium Challenge Corporation and the Government of Armenia.