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## *Press Release*

### **International Consortium to Boost MCC Training & Capacity Building Efforts in Poorest Countries**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. December 12, 2008** –The US aid agency Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) recently awarded an Indefinite Quantity Contract worth up to \$17.5 million for Capacity Building, Training and Development projects to an international consortium led by the consulting firm Social Impact, Washington-based Emerging Markets Group and the Global Development Learning Network (GDLN). The consortium will be able to bid on projects under this contract for up to five years.

The projects will support MCC’s mission to reduce global poverty through results-based development. The program aims to increase the capacity of MCC’s partners and their effectiveness in implementing projects in developing countries. Specific training areas will include: financial management, accounting, auditing, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation, and procurement.

“This is a timely program. With the triple threat of food, fuel and now financial crises hitting the global economy, countries in the developing world will feel the impact much harder. This kind of training could help provide a buffer against these types of shocks if projects are strengthened and people are armed with the right skills,” noted Social Impact President Rolf Sartorius. “I am confident that with more than 40 years of combined experience, the consortium will be able to help MCC meet its objectives and ultimately improve the lives of poor people around the world.”

Social Impact is a global enterprise that helps development organizations improve their performance and effectiveness for social and economic change. Emerging Markets Group is a Cardno group company that applies business expertise to improve physical, economic and social infrastructure that underpins communities around the world. GDLN is a partnership of over 120 institutions in 80 countries that uses distance learning tools and information technology to help clients working in development deliver cost-effective trainings, consultations and dialogues.

For more information on the three companies in the consortium:

[www.socialimpact.com](http://www.socialimpact.com)

[www.emergingmarketsgroup.com](http://www.emergingmarketsgroup.com)

[www.gdln.org](http://www.gdln.org)

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