



# Millennium Challenge Albania

## Threshold Agreement PROJECT FACT SHEET Improving Accountability, Transparency, Public Access, and Efficiency



*This empty box is meant to hold taxpayers' complaints—The project is working with the government of Albania to make citizens' inputs work more effectively.*

PHOTO: CHEMONICS INTERNATIONAL

### MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ALBANIA THRESHOLD AGREEMENT PROJECT OFFICE

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PROJECT DURATION :  
September 2006-September 2008

U.S Agency for International Development  
[www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov)

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### OVERVIEW

In order to limit the opportunity for corrupt practices and improve conditions for investment, the Government of Albania entered into a two-year \$13.85 million program with the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC, [www.mcc.gov](http://www.mcc.gov)) to improve performance in three component areas: tax administration, public procurement, and business registration, through IT solutions and legislative enhancements. This project will address the lack of transparency and public scrutiny that have defined many economic activities in Albania and fueled the large informal economy. Progress in the following three components will advance Albania in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and help qualify for MCC compact status.

**Tax reform:** Pilot reform efforts in the Tirana Tax Office and Large Taxpayers Office will upgrade tax collection and customer service, improve transparency and effectiveness, and better inform taxpayers of their rights and responsibilities.

**Public Procurement:** Activities will improve the capacity of the Public Procurement Agency to conduct transparent public procurements, promote active private sector engagement in the process, and increase awareness of the new public procurement legal framework.

**Business Registration:** Activities will build upon the newly proposed business registration law and the creation of a National Registration Center that will reduce entrepreneurs' time and costs required to register a new business.

### RESULTS TO DATE

- The new public procurement law, which entered into effect on January 2007, authorizes for the first time electronic procurements and independent oversight;
- More than 310 public procurement officials received orientation training from the Public Procurement Agency on the new law and regulations;
- The new law on National Registration Center has been drafted, simplifying the number of procedures and establishing the process for one-day, one-stop business registrations;
- An analysis of the current IT and legal situation of the General Directorate of Taxation has been completed, providing the basis for upgrading the IT tax system for improvements in the transparency in the collections and other taxpayer services.