

Procedures for Classifying Labor Surplus Areas

The Department of Labor (DOL) issues the LSA list on a fiscal year basis. The list becomes effective each October 1, and remains in effect through the following September 30. The reference period used in preparing the current list was January 2022 through December 2023. The national average unemployment rate (including Puerto Rico) during this period is rounded to 3.66 percent. Twenty percent higher than the national unemployment rate during this period is rounded to 4.39 percent. Since this percent is below the floor rate, the qualifying rate is 6 percent.

To ensure that all areas classified as labor surplus meet the requirements, when a city is part of a county and meets the unemployment qualifier as a LSA, that city is identified in the LSA list, the balance of county, not the entire county, will be identified as a LSA if the balance of county also meets the LSA unemployment criteria. The data on the current and previous years' LSAs are available at www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/lsa.

Petition for Exceptional Circumstance Consideration

The classification procedures also provide criteria for the designation of LSAs under exceptional circumstances criteria. These procedures permit the regular classification criteria to be waived when an area experiences a significant increase in unemployment which is not temporary or seasonal and which was not reflected in the data for the 2-year reference period. Under the program's exceptional circumstance procedures, LSA classifications can be made for civil jurisdictions, Metropolitan Statistical Areas or Combined Statistical Areas, as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. In order for an area to be classified as a LSA under the exceptional circumstance criteria, the State Workforce Agency must submit a petition requesting such classification to the Department of Labor's ETA.

The current criteria for an exceptional circumstance classification are:

1. An area's unemployment rate is at least 6 percent for each of the three most recent months; and
2. A projected unemployment rate of at least 6 percent for each of the next 12 months because of an event.

When submitting such a petition, the State Workforce Agency must provide documentation that the exceptional circumstance event has occurred. The State Workforce Agency may file

petitions on behalf of civil jurisdictions, Metropolitan Statistical Areas, or Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

State Workforce Agencies may submit petitions in electronic format to arbulu.lucas.w@dol.gov, haughton.donald.w@dol.gov, or in hard copy to the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Workforce Investment, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Room C-4514, Washington, DC 20210, Attention Lucas Arbulu. Data collection for the petition is approved under OMB 1205-0207, expiration date May 31, 2026.

José Javier Rodríguez,
Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training Administration.

[FR Doc. 2024-20162 Filed 9-6-24; 8:45 am]

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MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION

[MCC FR 24-04]

Millennium Challenge Corporation Candidate Country Report for Fiscal Year 2025

AGENCY: Millennium Challenge Corporation.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Millennium Challenge Act of 2003, as amended, requires the Millennium Challenge Corporation to publish a report that identifies countries that are "candidate countries" for Millennium Challenge Account assistance during Fiscal Year 2025. The report is set forth in full below.

(Authority: 22 U.S.C. 7707(a))

Dated: September 3, 2024.

Peter E. Jaffe,
Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary.

Millennium Challenge Corporation Candidate Country Report for Fiscal Year 2025

Summary

This report to Congress is provided in accordance with section 608(a) of the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 7701, 7707(a) (the Act).

The Act authorizes the provision of assistance for global development through the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) for countries that enter into a Millennium Challenge Compact with the United States to support policies and programs that advance the progress of such countries to achieve lasting economic growth and

poverty reduction. The Act also authorizes the provision of assistance to countries for the purpose of assisting such country to become compact eligible. The Act requires MCC to take a number of steps in selecting countries to which MCC will seek to provide assistance, including determining the countries that will be eligible countries for fiscal year (FY) 2025 based on (a) a country's demonstrated commitment to (i) just and democratic governance, (ii) economic freedom, and (iii) investments in its people; (b) the opportunity to reduce poverty and generate economic growth in the country; and (c) the availability of funds to MCC. These steps include the submission to the congressional committees specified in the Act and publication in the **Federal Register** of reports on the following:

- The countries that are "candidate countries" for FY 2025 are based on their per capita income levels and their eligibility to receive assistance under U.S. law and countries that would be candidate countries but for specified legal prohibitions on assistance (section 608(a) of the Act);

- The criteria and methodology that the MCC Board of Directors (the Board) will use to measure and evaluate the relative policy performance of the "candidate countries" consistent with the requirements of subsections (a) and (b) of section 607 of the Act in order to determine "eligible countries" from among the "candidate countries" (section 608(b) of the Act); and

- The list of countries determined by the Board to be "eligible countries" for FY 2025, identification of such countries with which the Board will seek to enter into compacts, and a justification for such eligibility determination and selection for compact negotiation (section 608(d) of the Act).

This report is the first of three required reports listed above.

Candidate Countries for FY 2025

The Act requires the identification of all countries that are candidate countries for purposes of eligibility for MCC assistance for FY 2025 and the identification of all countries that would be candidate countries for purposes of eligibility for MCC assistance but for specified legal prohibitions on assistance. Qualification as a candidate country is defined in sections 606(a) and (b) of the Act, under which:

A country will be a candidate country in the low income category for FY 2025 if it:

- has a per capita income that is not greater than the World Bank's lower middle income country threshold for

such fiscal year (\$4,515 gross national income per capita for FY 2025);

- is among the 75 countries identified by the World Bank as having the lowest per capita income; and

- is not ineligible to receive United States economic assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (the Foreign Assistance Act), by reason of the application of the Foreign Assistance Act or any other provision of law.

A country will be a candidate country in the lower middle income category for FY 2025 if it:

- has a per capita income that is not greater than the World Bank's lower middle income country threshold for such fiscal year (\$4,515 gross national income per capita for FY 2025);

- is not among the 75 countries identified by the World Bank as having the lowest per capita income; and

- is not ineligible to receive United States economic assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act by reason of the application of the Foreign Assistance Act or any other provision of law.

Under section 606(c) of the Act as applied for FY 2025, a country with per capita income changes from FY 2024 to FY 2025 such that the country would be reclassified from the low income category to the lower middle income category or vice versa will retain its income status in its former category for FY 2025 and two subsequent fiscal years (FY 2026 and FY 2027). A country that has transitioned to the upper middle income category does not qualify as a candidate country.

Under section 616 of the Act, the Board may select countries from this list of candidate countries for the purpose of assisting such country to become an eligible country (traditionally referred to as threshold programs) if such country demonstrates a significant commitment to meeting the requirements of subsections (a) and (b) of section 607 of the Act but fails to meet such requirements.

Pursuant to section 606(d) of the Act, the Board identified the following countries as candidate countries under the Act for FY 2025. In so doing, the Board referred to the prohibitions on assistance to countries for FY 2024 under the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2024 (FY 2024 SFOAA) contained in Division F of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Pub. L. 118-47).

Candidate Countries: Low Income Category

1. Afghanistan *

2. Angola
3. Bangladesh
4. Benin
5. Bhutan
6. Bolivia
7. Burundi
8. Cabo Verde
9. Cambodia *
10. Cameroon
11. Central African Republic
12. Chad
13. Comoros
14. Congo, Dem. Rep.
15. Congo, Rep.
16. Cote d'Ivoire
17. Djibouti *
18. Egypt, Arab Rep.
19. Eswatini
20. Ethiopia
21. Gambia, The
22. Ghana
23. Guinea-Bissau
24. Honduras
25. India
26. Kenya
27. Kiribati
28. Kyrgyz Republic
29. Lao PDR
30. Lebanon
31. Lesotho
32. Liberia
33. Madagascar
34. Malawi
35. Mauritania
36. Morocco
37. Mozambique
38. Nepal
39. Nigeria
40. Pakistan
41. Papua New Guinea *
42. Philippines
43. Rwanda
44. Sao Tome and Principe
45. Senegal
46. Sierra Leone
47. Solomon Islands
48. Somalia
49. Tajikistan
50. Tanzania
51. Timor-Leste
52. Togo
53. Tunisia
54. Uganda
55. Uzbekistan
56. Vanuatu
57. Vietnam
58. Yemen, Rep.
59. Zambia

* This country was ranked Tier 3 in the 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report issued by the U.S. Department of State. If, consistent with section 110 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, the President determines that the United States will not provide non-humanitarian nontrade-related assistance to the country, then it would no longer be a candidate country for FY 2025.

Candidate Countries: Lower Middle Income Category

1. Jordan
2. Micronesia, Federated States of
3. Samoa

Countries That Would Be Candidate Countries but for Legal Provisions That Prohibit Assistance

Countries that would be considered candidate countries for purposes of eligibility for MCC assistance for FY 2025 but are ineligible to receive United States economic assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act by reason of the application of any provision of the Foreign Assistance Act or any other provision of law are listed below. This list is based on legal prohibitions against economic assistance that apply as of July 29, 2024.

Prohibited Countries: Low Income Category

- *Burkina Faso* is ineligible to receive foreign assistance pursuant to the military coup restriction in section 7008 of the FY 2024 SFOAA.

- *Burma* is ineligible to receive foreign assistance as it is subject to numerous restrictions including for concerns relative to its record on human rights and pursuant to the military coup restriction in section 7008 of the FY 2024 SFOAA.

- *Eritrea* is ineligible to receive foreign assistance as it is subject to numerous restrictions including for concerns related to its record on human rights and its status as a Tier 3 country under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*).

- *Guinea* is ineligible to receive foreign assistance pursuant to the military coup restriction in section 7008 of the FY 2024 SFOAA.

- *Haiti* is ineligible to receive foreign assistance unless the Secretary of State provides a certification pursuant to section 7045(g)(2) of the FY 2024 SFOAA.

- *Korea, North* is ineligible to receive foreign assistance as it is subject to numerous restrictions including section 7007 of the FY 2024 SFOAA and its status as a Tier 3 country under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*).

- *Mali* is ineligible to receive foreign assistance pursuant to the military coup restriction in section 7008 of the FY 2024 SFOAA.

- *Nicaragua* is ineligible to receive foreign assistance as it is subject to numerous restrictions including under section 7047(c) of the FY 2024 SFOAA related to its recognition posture with respect to the Russian Federation

occupied Georgian territories of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia, and its status as a Tier 3 country under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*).

- *Niger* is ineligible to receive foreign assistance pursuant to the military coup restriction in section 7008 of the FY 2024 SFOAA.

- *South Sudan* is ineligible to receive foreign assistance as it is subject to numerous restrictions including for concerns relative to its record on human rights, and its status as a Tier 3 country under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*).

- *Sudan* is ineligible to receive foreign assistance as it is subject to numerous restrictions including the military coup restriction in section 7008 of the FY 2024 SFOAA.

- *Syria* is ineligible to receive foreign assistance as it is subject to numerous restrictions including section 7007 of the FY 2024 SFOAA and its status as a Tier 3 country under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*).

- *Zimbabwe* is ineligible to receive foreign assistance, including pursuant to section 7042(j)(2) of the FY 2024 SFOAA, which prohibits (with limited exceptions) assistance for the central government of Zimbabwe unless the Secretary of State certifies and reports to Congress that the rule of law has been restored, including respect for ownership and title to property, and freedoms of expression, association, and assembly.

Prohibited Countries: Lower Middle Income Category

- *Sri Lanka* is ineligible to receive foreign assistance pursuant to section 7044(c)(2) of the FY 2024 SFOAA, which restricts (with limited exceptions) assistance for the central government unless the Secretary makes certain certifications regarding actions taken by the Government of Sri Lanka and reports to the Committees on Appropriations.

Countries identified above as candidate countries, as well as countries that would be considered candidate countries but for the applicability of legal provisions that prohibit U.S. economic assistance, may be the subject of future statutory restrictions or determinations, or changed country circumstances, that affect their legal eligibility for assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act by reason of application of the Foreign Assistance Act or any other provision of law for FY 2025.

Appendix: Candidate Countries and Prohibited Countries in the Event of Enactment of Millennium Challenge Corporation Candidate Country Reform Act Legislation or Similar Legislation

As of the date of this report, legislation known as the Millennium Challenge Corporation Candidate Country Reform Act is under active consideration by the United States Congress. If passed as currently drafted, the legislation would reform the income threshold for countries to be candidate countries for purposes of eligibility for MCC assistance by changing it to the World Bank threshold for initiating the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development graduation process for the fiscal year (\$7,895 gross national income per capita for FY 2025). It would also eliminate the distinction between lower income category and lower middle income category countries.

Should this legislation (or legislation that similarly reforms the income threshold for countries to become candidates) become law before FY 2026, the Board identified that the following countries would be qualified, based on their income status, as candidate countries for consideration under the Act for FY 2025:

1. Afghanistan *
2. Albania
3. Algeria
4. Angola
5. Armenia
6. Bangladesh
7. Belize
8. Benin
9. Bhutan
10. Bolivia
11. Botswana
12. Burundi
13. Cabo Verde
14. Cambodia *
15. Cameroon
16. Central African Republic
17. Chad
18. Colombia
19. Comoros
20. Congo, Dem. Rep.
21. Congo, Rep.
22. Cote d'Ivoire
23. Djibouti *
24. Ecuador
25. Egypt, Arab Rep.
26. El Salvador
27. Equatorial Guinea
28. Eswatini
29. Ethiopia
30. Fiji
31. Gambia, The
32. Georgia
33. Ghana
34. Guatemala
35. Guinea-Bissau
36. Honduras

37. India
38. Indonesia
39. Iraq
40. Jamaica
41. Jordan
42. Kenya
43. Kiribati
44. Kosovo
45. Kyrgyz Republic
46. Lao PDR
47. Lebanon
48. Lesotho
49. Liberia
50. Libya
51. Madagascar
52. Malawi
53. Marshall Islands
54. Mauritania
55. Micronesia, Federated States of
56. Moldova
57. Mongolia
58. Morocco
59. Mozambique
60. Namibia
61. Nepal
62. Nigeria
63. North Macedonia
64. Pakistan
65. Papua New Guinea *
66. Paraguay
67. Peru
68. Philippines
69. Rwanda
70. Samoa
71. Sao Tome and Principe
72. Senegal
73. Sierra Leone
74. Solomon Islands
75. Somalia
76. South Africa
77. Suriname
78. Tajikistan
79. Tanzania
80. Thailand
81. Timor-Leste
82. Togo
83. Tonga
84. Tunisia
85. Tuvalu
86. Uganda
87. Ukraine
88. Uzbekistan
89. Vanuatu
90. Vietnam
91. Yemen, Rep.
92. Zambia

If the Millennium Challenge Corporation Candidate Country Reform Act legislation or legislation that similarly reforms the income threshold for countries to become candidates were

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to become law, the following countries would be considered candidate countries for purposes of eligibility for MCC assistance for FY 2025, but are ineligible to receive United States economic assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act by reason of the application of any provision of the Foreign Assistance Act or any other provision of law are listed below. This list is based on legal prohibitions against economic assistance that apply as of July 29, 2024.

Prohibited Countries

- *Azerbaijan* is ineligible to receive foreign assistance pursuant to section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act (22 U.S.C. 5801).
- *Belarus* is ineligible to receive foreign assistance as it is subject to numerous restrictions including for concerns relative to its record on human rights and its status as a Tier 3 country under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*).
- *Burkina Faso* is ineligible to receive foreign assistance pursuant to the military coup restriction in section 7008 of the FY 2024 SFOAA.
- *Burma* is ineligible to receive foreign assistance as it is subject to numerous restrictions including for concerns relative to its record on human rights and pursuant to the military coup restriction in section 7008 of the FY 2024 SFOAA.
- *Eritrea* is ineligible to receive foreign assistance as it is subject to numerous restrictions including for concerns relative to its record on human rights and its status as a Tier 3 country under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*).
- *Guinea* is ineligible to receive foreign assistance pursuant to the military coup restriction in section 7008 of the FY 2024 SFOAA.
- *Haiti* is ineligible to receive foreign assistance unless the Secretary of State provides a certification pursuant to section 7045(g)(2) of the FY 2024 SFOAA.
- *Iran* is ineligible to receive foreign assistance as it is subject to numerous restrictions including section 7007 of the FY 2024 SFOAA and its status as a Tier 3 country under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*).
- *Korea, North* is ineligible to receive foreign assistance as it is subject to numerous restrictions including section 7007 of the FY 2024 SFOAA and its status as a Tier 3 country under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*).

- *Mali* is ineligible to receive foreign assistance pursuant to the military coup restriction in section 7008 of the FY 2024 SFOAA.

- *Nicaragua* is ineligible to receive foreign assistance as it is subject to numerous restrictions including under section 7047(c) of the FY 2024 SFOAA related to its recognition posture with respect to the Russian Federation occupied Georgian territories of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia and its status as a Tier 3 country under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*).

- *Niger* is ineligible to receive foreign assistance pursuant to the military coup restriction in section 7008 of the FY 2024 SFOAA.

- *South Sudan* is ineligible to receive foreign assistance as it is subject to numerous restrictions including for concerns relative to its record on human rights, and its status as a Tier 3 country under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*).

- *Sri Lanka* is ineligible to receive foreign assistance pursuant to section 7044(c)(2) of the FY 2024 SFOAA, which restricts (with limited exceptions) assistance for the central government unless the Secretary makes certain certifications regarding actions taken by the Government of Sri Lanka and reports to the Committees on Appropriations.

- *Sudan* is ineligible to receive foreign assistance as it is subject to numerous restrictions including the military coup restriction in section 7008 of the FY 2024 SFOAA.

- *Syria* is ineligible to receive foreign assistance as it is subject to numerous restrictions including section 7007 of the FY 2024 SFOAA and its status as a Tier 3 country under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*).

- *Zimbabwe* is ineligible to receive foreign assistance, including pursuant to section 7042(j)(2) of the FY 2024 SFOAA, which prohibits (with limited exceptions) assistance for the central government of Zimbabwe unless the Secretary of State certifies and reports to Congress that the rule of law has been restored, including respect for ownership and title to property, and freedoms of expression, association, and assembly.

The countries identified above that would be candidate countries should the legislation pass; as well as countries that would be considered candidate countries but for the applicability of legal provisions that prohibit U.S. economic assistance, may be the subject

of future statutory restrictions or determinations that affect their legal eligibility for assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act by reason of application of the Foreign Assistance Act or any other provision of law for FY 2025.

[FR Doc. 2024–20132 Filed 9–6–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9211–03–P

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Agency Information Collection Activities; National Survey of College Graduates

ACTION: Correction.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) published a document in the **Federal Register** of September 4, 2024, concerning a request for public comment on the 2025 National Survey of College Graduates with the wrong survey title.

Corrections

In the **Federal Register** published September 4, 2024, in FR Doc. 2024–19850 (Filed 9–3–24), on page 71938, first column, under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Title of Collection, please change the title to 2025 National Survey of College Graduates. All other details remain unchanged.

Dated: September 4, 2024.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,
Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.

[FR Doc. 2024–20233 Filed 9–6–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555–01–P

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Advisory Committee for Environmental Research and Education; Notice of Meeting

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463, as amended), the National Science Foundation (NSF) announces the following meeting:

Name and Committee Code: Advisory Committee for Environmental Research and Education (9487).

Date and Time:

November 7, 2024; 10 a.m.–5 p.m. (EDT)
November 8, 2024; 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m. (EDT)

Place: National Science Foundation, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Room W–2210/W–2220, Alexandria, VA 22314 | Hybrid.