

ONE VOTE 2012 PLATFORM

Preamble

During famines and after earthquakes – following floods or floods of refugees – America has always shown its good heart. Individual citizens, communities of faith and their government work in tandem to respond to crises with urgency and compassion. It is an expression of our values and a reflection of our national creed: Men and women are created equal and possess a dignity that is not determined by their nationality.

Since World War II, America has also been engaged in the world for other reasons. We have aided the economic recovery of defeated enemies, gaining friends and allies in the process. We have encouraged freedom and political reform, because accountable governments can foster peace, investment and growth. We have mobilized American exceptionalism in efforts such as the Peace Corps, gaining respect for our country in remote places. American leaders of both parties have believed that the advance of opportunity and prosperity in other countries benefits our own people. They have also recognized that a world of despair, instability and fear is a world of gathering danger.

The resources of the American government are now strained; its attention occupied by serious economic challenges. But the character, the values, and the interests of our country remain solid.

America is now engaged in lifesaving causes as inspiring as any in our history. Through effective programs, we are saving millions of lives from diseases like HIV/AIDS and malaria. Mothers have lived to love and raise their children. Children have been protected from death by mosquito bite and are attending school. Families can grow food and bring their crops to market. Republicans and Democrats cooperated to make these achievements possible – because improving and saving lives is not a partisan issue.

Many of the rapid and consequential political changes we are witnessing in North Africa and elsewhere can best be influenced by non-military tools of national power – support for economic reform, good government and the development of civil society. Many global problems – from violent radicalism to pandemic diseases – take root in impoverished, poorly governed parts of the world. And many growing markets are now found in the developing world, where American abdication becomes an opportunity for competitors.

Promoting both the health and economic progress of people in other nations must remain a central commitment of American foreign policy. Central to that policy must be adherence to measurable results through targeted programs that help individuals and countries become and remain economically self-sufficient.

The cost of continued American leadership is relatively low. Foreign assistance represents less than one percent of the entire United States budget. But the cost of American indifference can be high – measured in growing threats, lost economic opportunity, and needless suffering.

What has been true for 60 years remains true today: By listening to our conscience we also serve our country.

ONE's 2012 platform is not a partisan one. It is one reflective of America's role as a world leader and it is encouraging of the ongoing efforts by Africans and their partners to create constructive and optimistic new chapters for the men, women and children suffering from extreme poverty and preventable disease.

PLANKS OF ONE VOTE 2012

1. Cut in half the number of people suffering from chronic hunger and extreme poverty, in part through agriculture by 2015
2. Cut in half the number of children who die before age five by 2015
3. Stop the spread of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria through access to prevention, treatment and care
4. Cut in half the number of people without reliable access to clean water and sanitation
5. Ensure every child has the opportunity to complete a good, basic education
6. Fight corruption and promote transparency and accountability to achieve development results

PLANK 1 Cut in half the number of people suffering from chronic hunger and extreme poverty, in part through agriculture by 2015

Reliable access to nutritious food is essential to healthy, vibrant and productive communities. In sub-Saharan Africa, agriculture is the backbone of most economies and employs nearly two-thirds of the population, while accounting for an average one-third of GDP. Agriculture is central to the livelihoods of women in Africa, who represent around half of all farmers, and invest a large portion of the income they earn into their families' health and education. As a long-term economic growth strategy, agriculture is two to four times more effective at reducing poverty than investments in other sectors, like mining and manufacturing. In recent years, the U.S. Government has led global commitments to agriculture and small farmers. Plans are being executed now to reduce childhood stunting in seven million children and help 18 million farmers raise their incomes. Continuing our leadership is crucial as world food prices remain high, drought plagues several countries in Africa and nearly one billion people in the world's poorest countries still can't afford to buy or grow enough food to feed themselves, their families or their communities. Learning advanced farming techniques can help them turn that around.

PLANK 2 Cut in half the number of children who die before age five by 2015

Each year, 8.1 million children die before their fifth birthday. Pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria and measles – preventable, treatable diseases that are no longer widespread in the United States – are the leading killers of children across the developing world. While the number of child deaths

has been cut in half since 1960, progress remains uneven across regions. Sub-Saharan Africa's child mortality rate is 24 times that of industrialized countries.

The health of children is closely linked to that of their mothers. Children who lose their mothers are five times more likely to die in infancy than those who do not. Healthy children, meanwhile, are more likely to go to school, learn, and become contributing members of their communities.

No one wants to see a child die of a preventable disease. It is within our reach to cut child deaths in half by 2015. Simple, affordable interventions that save children's lives—including vaccines, oral rehydration salts, and micronutrients—could be widely available now with the appropriate commitment to success. Similarly, maternal health projects can deliver life-saving results. If women had access to basic health services, such as access to a trained health care worker during delivery, 80% of maternal deaths could be prevented. Investment in the health of mothers and children reaps widespread development returns that can benefit communities and countries, helping them to become financially independent.

PLANK 3 Stop the spread of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria through access to prevention, treatment and care

HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria are three of the deadliest diseases in developing countries, causing a massive human and economic toll. In 2009, HIV/AIDS killed 1.8 million people—1.3 million in Africa alone. Malaria kills roughly 781,000 people every year—mostly children and pregnant women in sub-Saharan Africa—with millions still in need of effective treatment worldwide. And tuberculosis killed nearly 1.3 million people in 2009, with 90 percent of cases affecting the people living in the most desperate of circumstances—generally on less than \$1.25 a day.

Fortunately, and thanks in large part to bipartisan U.S. leadership, the tools to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria are affordable, effective and saving millions of lives each year. More than five million Africans—up from 50,000 in 2002—are now receiving antiretroviral treatment for HIV/AIDS, and treatment is available to prevent the transmission of HIV from mother to child. More than 500 million people have been reached with anti-malarial bed nets in the past two years alone, and 11 African countries have reduced their malaria cases or deaths by half. The Global Fund for AT&M treated more than 8.2 million people for tuberculosis, and new diagnostic tests have been developed to speed diagnosis and treatment efforts.

America's commitment has improved—and saved—millions of lives. With treatment costs declining and new prevention tools emerging, this is no time to stop.

PLANK 4 Cut in half the number of people without reliable access to clean water and sanitation

Today, nearly 900 million people lack access to safe drinking water and some 2.6 billion people—nearly half of the developing world—does not have access to adequate sanitation. In sub-Saharan Africa, 40% of people lack access to clean water and 69% lack access to proper sanitation.

Reliable access to water and sanitation services is essential to healthy and productive communities. Waterborne illness kills more children than HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria combined. Sustainable water and sanitation solutions also lay the groundwork for improvements in economic development, basic education, gender equity, and food security. In addition, investments in water and sanitation are effective in the mitigation of conflict, which adds to the stability and security of countries, regions and the world.

Water and sanitation are also cost-effective investments. For every dollar spent on clean water and sanitation, \$8 is saved in time, increased productivity and reduced health care costs.

PLANK 5 Ensure every child has the opportunity to complete a good, basic education

A good education is a central building block for development, with links to improved health, economic growth and democratic participation. In the last decade, developing countries have made progress in enrolling children in primary school. Since 1999, the number of out of school children decreased from 100 million to 67 million. 46.5 million kids went to school for the first time between 1999 and 2008. By re-prioritizing education, Universal Primary Education is possible.

In sub-Saharan Africa, however, 29 million children still haven't seen the inside of a classroom and more than half of the children out of school are girls. The link between education and child survival is clear. Child survival rates jump 40% if girls who grow up to be mothers are educated for five years. Education also has economic benefits. On a national level, each year of additional schooling leads to a one percent increase in economic growth. An extra year of primary school boosts a girl's eventual wages by 10-20%. Moreover, education is one of the central building blocks of a strong, cohesive society. Educating girls and reducing the gender gap helps promote democracy and each additional year of education, on average, reduces a country's chances of falling into civil war by 3.6%.

PLANK 6 Fight corruption and promote transparency and accountability to achieve development results

Leaders who clamp down on corruption are more successful in the fight against extreme poverty and disease, leading to more prosperous and stable nations. More stable nations lead to a safer world.

Transparent and accountable governance—where governments have an incentive to respond to people's needs—contributes to reduced corruption, greater investment, stronger growth, faster progress on poverty reduction, and more sustainable development. Less corruption allows businesses to grow, private investment and trade to flourish, and public resources to be used where they're most needed—all contributing to substantive progress.

While good governance depends largely on efforts within individual countries, world leaders like the U.S. have a role to play in promoting democratic, inclusive participation by civil society in developing countries, and through leading by example in providing transparency on aid and other resource flows.

Aid is most effective when it is open, clear, and predictable and delivered in partnership with responsible recipient countries. Understanding aid commitments and domestic budget resources is critical in allowing the citizens of developing countries to hold their governments to account—to ensure that funds are spent effectively on agriculture, health, education, and other essential services. Taken together, accountability and a focus on results build a circle of increasingly effective aid, which can help to put countries on the road out of poverty and, in time, beyond the need of aid.

.....
ONE is non-partisan organization backed by more than 2.5 million people dedicated to the fight against extreme poverty and preventable disease, primarily in Africa. We ask those who agree with our goals and understand the importance of continued American leadership to join with ONE. We don't ask for your money. We ask for your voice.