



Priorities for the US-Africa Leaders Summit

The US-Africa Leaders Summit hosted by President Biden December 13-15, 2022 is the administration's first opportunity to set America's strategy for and with Africa. The ONE Campaign will be looking for tangible signs that the United States is responsive to the immediate challenges facing the continent while also shaping a long-term relationship built on mutual interest and informed by Africa's economic aspirations and potential. In addition to reaffirming its commitment to Africa, the administration should use this summit as an opportunity to create and build on strategic initiatives that will increase cooperation on major transnational issues including health, trade, debt, food security, and the continent's rising political weight on the world stage. How we build this partnership could be one of the most important things the US could do for global prosperity in the coming decades and the stakes are high.

Below is a list of initiatives and outcomes the administration should prioritize for the upcoming summit.

A Presidential visit

A US president has not visited Sub-Saharan Africa since 2015. President Biden should commit to visiting key partners in Sub-Saharan Africa by the end of 2023. A state visit from the President of the United States is not only the highest form of diplomacy in action, it signifies a commitment to the region, its people, and confidence in a long-term partnership.

Invest in Africa

Over 1 billion Africans are under the age of 25, and by 2030, Africa's youth will represent 42% of the global youth population. Africa needs about 15 million new decent jobs every year to harness its demographic dividend and, when asked, African citizens' greatest priority is Sustainable Development Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth. **It's imperative that a US-Africa partnership create investments that will tap into the booming potential of Africa's youth, in turn creating growth, stability, and prosperity.** This investment can be supported by:

- Encouraging private sector investments through the Development Finance Corporation that are focused on growth in Africa. The DFC should make smarter use of investments in the region, with a specific focus on managing risk and prioritizing job creation. The DFC helps American businesses invest in and sell to new markets, and helps build infrastructure, increases first-time access to electricity, and creates jobs in the US and Africa.
- Opening up new markets and opportunities through the renewal and expansion of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, which expires in 2025. Opening up new markets is beneficial to economic growth in the US and with African trading partners. In fact, [11 of](#)

[the top 15](#) US export markets are former recipients of US foreign assistance. But, trade with Africa and the US has [declined](#) over the past decade, and in 2020, US-Africa trade accounted for less than [2 percent](#) of imports and exports. In contrast, China has strategically become Africa's biggest trading partner and committed to investing \$300 billion dollars to increase African imports by 2025. The US needs to do more to break down trade barriers and partner with African countries economically to remain competitive in the region.

- Supporting the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

[Accelerate and modernize the global economic response](#)

A recent report from the World Bank found 70 million more people were pushed into extreme poverty in 2020, the largest one-year increase on record. Sub-Saharan Africa now accounts for 60% of all people in extreme poverty. Economic aftershocks from the pandemic as well as the war in Ukraine and rising inflation rates have compounded many African countries' struggles with unsustainable debt and slow economic growth. High inflation and interest rates are leading to currency devaluation and capital flight, and make it both more expensive for countries to borrow money and more costly to service existing debts. The debt crisis in Sri Lanka has shown how quickly an economic crisis can undermine stability and security. **If Africa's 16 most debt vulnerable countries fall into debt distress, another 20 million people [will be at risk of falling into extreme poverty](#).**

The G20 and financial institutions like the World Bank and International Monetary Fund are key to providing African countries the resources they need to cushion the blow and leverage funds for economic growth, education, health, and other needs. ONE has asked the Biden administration to show leadership on the world stage and push other wealthy countries to:

- Unblock the Common Framework to incentivize countries to apply for debt relief, make the process for applying for debt relief more transparent, and bring private creditors to the table to make progress on debt relief.
- Modernize multilateral development banks, like the World Bank, so that they are more efficient with the resources they have and can leverage up to \$1 trillion in new lending without putting their triple-A credit rating at risk.

Read more at ONE's Data Dive on [Debt](#).

[Push for an AU seat at the G20 by 2023](#)

Right now, South Africa is the only African nation with a seat at the G20 - meaning more than 16 percent of the global population has no representation in the body tasked with achieving global economic stability and growth. At the G20 gathering in November 2022, the body showed support for candidacy, but membership will not be considered until next year. **The Biden administration should throw its full support behind the AU's admission at next year's G20.**

[Global health resiliency](#)

US leadership through support of development and global health programs over the past 30 years have helped lift [one billion people](#) out of poverty and [cut in half](#) the number of preventable

deaths in children. But the unprecedented aftershocks of the COVID-19 pandemic have set back global progress in fighting preventable disease. **The US and other donor countries must continue to robustly fund global health programs and work to support pandemic preparedness by creating resiliency and infrastructure in Africa.** That includes:

- Accelerating the response to the global HIV/AIDS crisis to end AIDS by 2030, including robust support of PEPFAR and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.
- Leveraging the role the US plays on the boards of key multilateral global health funding institutions - like the Global Fund and Gavi - to increase the impact and sustainability of investments, such as strengthening co-financing mechanisms and building regional and local capacity.
- Supporting efforts to build manufacturing capacity in Africa that will create the long-term and fit-for-purpose infrastructure needed to ensure access to vaccines and other health commodities. This could include leveraging purchasing power to incentivize investments in vaccine and medical manufacturing in Africa or by contributing towards an Advance Market Commitment to signal future demand and maximize investment impact.
- Providing ample funding for the Pandemic Fund at the World Bank, to ensure developing countries have the resources and capacity necessary to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the next pandemic.

Food security

Rising prices, environmental shocks and Russia's war in Ukraine have exacerbated an already dangerous and growing food crisis in the Horn of Africa. **The statistics are staggering, yet the world is not giving the crisis the attention and resources required.**

- [20 percent](#) of people in Africa are facing chronic hunger.
- [1 in 3 children](#) in Sub-Saharan Africa are stunted.
- One child every minute is being [admitted to the hospital](#) for malnutrition in Somalia.

The UN's \$1.5 billion response plan to avert famine in Somalia is [just two-thirds funded](#). While the administration has allocated [\\$870 million](#) to help fight this crisis, totaling half of all humanitarian funding committed to Somalia, it will take US leadership on a global stage to get wealthy countries to step up and pay attention to this crisis.

Feed the Future harnesses the power of public-private partnerships to fight global hunger and poverty. Since being created, Feed the Future has formed partnerships with more than [60 US companies](#) and has helped lift [millions of families](#) out of hunger. The Global Food Security Reauthorization Act of 2022 would renew the US commitment to Feed the Future and play a key role in addressing the root causes of food insecurity. It's imperative that this legislation is signed into law before the year's end.

Read more at ONE's Data Dive on Food Security [here](#).