

Gayle E. Smith is President and CEO of the ONE Campaign. Drawing on decades of experience in government, nonprofits and journalism, Gayle is a leading voice and advocate for global health, development and democracy issues, and brings an extraordinary network of relationships across the African continent and around the world. She served as a top advisor on development issues for Presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton, as the [17th Administrator of the US Agency for International Development](#) (USAID) and is one of the world's leading experts on global development and on Africa.

During her time at ONE, the organization has rallied governments around the world to step up their commitments to fight poverty and preventable disease and create more economic opportunities for people living in the world's poorest countries. In the past three years, ONE has successfully advocated for governments and the private sector to: raise a record-[setting \\$14 billion for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria](#); [push for the passage of the BUILD Act to increase private sector investment in Africa](#); prevent billions of dollars in cuts to US foreign aid; launch a [Vote Your Future](#) campaign in Nigeria energizing young people to vote and promoting policy-based voting; [pass global anti-corruption laws](#); enact a law in Senegal fully [criminalizing rape](#); increase aid spending [by €1 billion in Germany](#) and increase of ₦55.1 billion in [health spending in Nigeria](#). To date, ONE has mobilized over [25 million actions](#) from engaged supporters in the United States, Europe, Africa, and Canada.

Prior to joining ONE, Gayle served as Administrator for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) from 2015-2017. At USAID, Gayle managed a [\\$23 billion budget and a staff of over 11,000 people](#) working to end extreme poverty and promote resilient, democratic societies all over the world. She oversaw a global food and hunger security initiative, [Feed the Future](#), and worked to secure the passage of the bipartisan [Global Food Security Act](#) which, to date, has lifted [23 million](#) people out of poverty and prevented [2.2 million children](#) from experiencing malnutrition. Gayle managed the scaling up of [humanitarian assistance and global health programs that fight AIDS, TB, malaria](#), and other infectious diseases. In 2016, she worked with Congress to pass into law [the Electrify Africa Act](#) - a public/private partnership launched as Power Africa with the goal of increasing access to cleaner, [more efficient electricity generation capacity and 60 million new home and business connections](#).

From 2009-2015, Gayle served on the National Security Council as the Senior Director for Development and Democracy where she led the Administration's work on global health and development and coordinated U.S. government responses to more than 15 major humanitarian crises around the world. She led the development of the first-ever [Presidential Policy Directive on Global Development](#) and also, while at the NSC, Gayle helped lead the U.S. response to the [2014 Ebola epidemic in West Africa](#), working with President Obama to allocate resources from countries across the world and successfully fight the epidemic. This work led to the creation of [the Global Health Security Agenda](#) and [the White House Directorate for Global Health Security and Biodefense](#) to prepare for future pandemics. Additionally, she helped create several Presidential initiatives including [Feed the Future](#), [Power Africa](#), and the [Open Government Partnership](#).

Prior to joining the Obama Administration, Gayle was a [Senior Fellow](#) at the Center for American Progress, where she led the Sustainable Security Project and [co-founded the ENOUGH Project and the Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network](#).

From 1998 to 2001, Gayle served as [special assistant to President Clinton and senior director for African affairs at the National Security Council](#).

Before her time in government, Gayle lived and worked in Africa for over 20 years, much of this time as a journalist [covering the wars in Eritrea and northern Ethiopia, the famine in Ethiopia, and other military, economic, and political affairs for the BBC, Associated Press, Reuters, and Financial Times.](#)

During this period, Gayle also consulted for a wide range of NGOs, foundations, and international organizations including [UNICEF, the World Bank, Dutch Interchurch Aid, Norwegian Church Relief, and the Canadian Council for International Cooperation.](#) [She received the World Journalism Award from the World Affairs Council and the World Hunger Year Award in 1991, and in 1999 received the National Security Council's Samuel Nelson Drew Award for Distinguished Contribution in Pursuit of Global Peace.](#)