



Good Fortune

A film by Landon Van Soest and Jeremy Levine



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LETTER FROM THE FILMMAKER

NEW YORK, 2010

The concept for **Good Fortune** was born nearly seven years ago, when I was a student of economic development in Kenya. Like most Westerners, I was deeply affected by the extreme poverty I had seen traveling in the developing world and felt an overwhelming desire to help. Studying development in Africa represented an attempt for me to learn how I could use my energy and resources to help alleviate extreme poverty, but I found the situation to be far more complex than I had imagined, and I came away from the experience with more questions than answers.

As I spent more time in Kenya, I sensed a strong disconnect between the values of the people administering aid and the people targeted by it. Many of the people I visited felt completely disenfranchised by the international aid organizations working in their communities; not only were donors failing to meet the needs of the communities, often they were not involving them in the process at all. I became incredibly sensitive to a paternalistic attitude that many outsiders had when it came to development, and the role that played in dictating the futures of entire communities. As the film illustrates, not all efforts to alleviate poverty achieve their desired impact, and mismanaged projects pose a significant threat to the communities they aim to benefit.

This is not to say that all efforts to provide aid are fruitless, however. There are literally thousands of grassroots aid organizations around the world having a profound impact on the communities where they work. In fact, I believe that foreign aid has a crucial role to play in promoting human rights, equality and economic freedom around the globe when it is administered correctly.

Good Fortune is meant to serve as an entry point for discussion of alternative approaches to international aid. The mission of the film is to provide a platform for people like Jackson Omondi and Silva Adhiambo to bring their crucial voices into the discourse on international development and aid in the creation of more inclusive aid policies. It is my hope that this guide will help provide the background, context and resources to use the film as part of a meaningful dialogue.

Landon Van Soest

Filmmaker, **Good Fortune**



Landon Van Soest at Festival do Rio.
Photo courtesy of Bruno de Lima/Festival do Rio



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INTRODUCTION

Over the past 50 years, the West has sent some \$2.3 trillion in aid to Africa, the poorest of the world's continents. It would be difficult to find anyone who believes that money has significantly reduced poverty or succeeded in promoting social stability on the continent. Many, both inside and outside the international development community, are asking how so much money could be spent to so little effect. A more explosive question might be why some communities in Africa are not only disillusioned with aid projects, but even fighting to stop them. **Good Fortune** explores how massive international efforts to alleviate poverty in Africa may potentially undermine the very communities they aim to help. Through intimate portraits of two Kenyans battling to save their homes from organizations interested in improving the quality of life in Kenya, this feature length (73-minute) film presents a unique opportunity to experience foreign aid through the eyes of its intended beneficiaries.

In the rural countryside, an American investor who hopes to stimulate the economy by creating a multi-million dollar rice farm is flooding Jackson Omondi's farm. Across the country in Nairobi, Silva Adhiambo's home and business, located in one of Africa's largest shantytowns, are being demolished as part of a United Nations slum-upgrading project.

As an outreach tool, **Good Fortune** challenges viewers to see the good, the bad and the ugly of the processes of well-intentioned foreign aid projects by inviting them to re-think what might constitute success and sustainable development,



Filmmakers Jeremy Levine (left) and Landon Van Soest (with camera) on location in Kenya during the production of **Good Fortune**. Photo courtesy of Kate Sheppard

not just for some, but for all. Interweaving meditative portraits of its characters, the film portrays gripping stories of human perseverance and suggests that the answers for Kenya lie in the resilience of its people.

Source:

Easterly, William. *The White Man's Burden: Why the West's Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good*. New York: Penguin Press, 2006.



POTENTIAL PARTNERS

Good Fortune is well suited for use in a variety of settings and is especially recommended for use with:

- **Local PBS stations**
- **Groups that have discussed previous PBS and POV films and programs relating to Africa, economic development or anti-poverty initiatives, including *Promised Land*, *Iron Ladies of Liberia* or *Africa***
- **Groups focused on any of the issues listed in the Key Issues section**
- **High school students**
- **Faith-based organizations and institutions**
- **Cultural, art and historical organizations, institutions and museums**
- **Civic, fraternal and community groups**
- **Academic departments and student groups at colleges, universities and high schools**
- **Community organizations with a mission to promote education and learning, such as local libraries**

KEY ISSUES

Good Fortune is an excellent tool for outreach and will be of special interest to people interested in the following topics:

- **Africa**
- **Anti-poverty initiatives**
- **Charity/philanthropy**
- **Cultural competence**
- **Economic development**
- **Environmental issues**
- **Foreign aid**
- **Governance**
- **Human rights**
- **Hunger**
- **Kenya**
- **Land use policies**
- **Privatization**
- **Race relations**
- **Social justice**
- **Sociology**
- **United Nations**
- **Urban renewal**

USING THIS GUIDE

This guide is an invitation to dialogue. It is based on a belief in the power of human connection, designed for people who want to use **Good Fortune** to engage family, friends, classmates, colleagues and communities. In contrast to initiatives that foster debates in which participants try to convince others that they are right, this document envisions conversations undertaken in a spirit of openness in which people try to understand one another and expand their thinking by sharing viewpoints and listening actively.

The discussion prompts are intentionally crafted to help a very wide range of audiences think more deeply about the issues in the film. Rather than attempting to address them all, choose one or two that best meet your needs and interests. And be sure to leave time to consider taking action. Planning next steps can help people leave the room feeling energized and optimistic, even in instances when conversations have been difficult.

For more detailed event planning and facilitation tips, visit www.pbs.org/pov/goodfortune



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

**Kenya**

Kenya is located in eastern-central Africa on the coast of the Indian Ocean and comprises a land mass about twice the size of the state of Nevada. Kenya is bordered by Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Uganda, Lake Victoria and Tanzania. Both droughts and floods are common in the area, and only about 10 percent of the land is suitable for farming.

The area was first settled by northern Africans around 2000 B.C. and has changed hands several times. Arab, Persian, Nilotic and Bantu settlements all popped up over the first millennium A.D.; in the late 1400s, the Portuguese settled on the coast; in the 1600s, the Imam of Oman took control of the coastal strip; and in the 19th century the United Kingdom declared the region part of the East Africa Protectorate.

Jackson Omondi filling water cans behind Dominion's dam

Photo courtesy of Alexander Stikich

In 1920, Kenya became a British colony, which involved the transfer of substantial amounts of arable land into the hands of the British crown and white settlers, a move that induced both collaboration and resistance on the part of local Africans. Between 1952 and 1959, the oppression and land alienation by the British colonial government resulted in the famous Mau Mau uprising. This uprising contributed to Kenya's independence, which was formally declared on December 12, 1963. Jomo Kenyatta, a member of the Kikuyu ethnic group and head of the Kenya African National Union (KANU), became the first president of the newly independent country.

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For several decades, Kenya remained a one-party state, first unofficially, and then, after an attempted coup in 1982, through an amendment to its constitution. The amendment made it unconstitutional to have more than one political party. However, in 1991 this portion of the constitution was replaced, and by 1992 several new parties had formed. KANU continued to retain control of the country until 2002, when a coalition of opposition parties formed the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC) and the coalition's candidate, Mwai Kibaki, was elected president.

Today, the World Bank estimates the population of Kenya at 39 million. Kenya is home to at least 43 ethnic groups, with none having a distinct majority.

The breakdown is estimated as follows: 22% Kikuyu, 14% Luhya, 13% Luo, 12% Kalenjin, 11% Kamba, 6% Kisii, 6% Meru, 15% other African and 1% non-African (Asian, European, and Arab). Ethnicity and class play a large role in Kenyan politics, with leaders often appealing to diverse ethnic groups to mobilize support. Class plays a large role as well, as many of the most powerful leaders, such as the members of the Kenyatta family, are immensely wealthy and own large tracts of land.

Among the main challenges Kenya faces today are democratizing its institutions and addressing historical injustices, as well as changing policies to promote economic growth and address poverty and inequality. Varying opinions on how to address Kenya's progress factored into the violence that erupted during the 2007 elections.



Silva's home.

Photo courtesy of Landon Van Soest

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**Kibera Slum**

According to the United Nations, half of the world's population now lives in urban areas and one third of the world's population, or 930 million people, lives in slums. Worldwide, many families migrate from rural areas to urban ones for various reasons, including the opportunity to improve their economic situations. This type of movement, especially in Kenya, stresses already fragile infrastructure and services in large towns. The population of Nairobi is expected to double by 2025, and approximately 60 percent of its residents already live in slums and have little or no access to clean drinking water, proper sanitation, education and healthcare.

Kibera, located about four miles southwest of the center of Nairobi, is one of the largest slums in Africa and the third

Kibera Slum road.
Photo courtesy of Landon Van Soest

largest in the world, with a population estimated between 500,000 and 1 million people packed into about one and one half square miles, making it one of the most crowded places on earth.

Kibera developed during World War I, when the land was used as a temporary residence for Nubian (Sudanese) soldiers. Almost a century later, what began as an unofficial settlement has expanded to comprise 12 interlocking, ethnically diverse villages, one of them Nubian. About 90 percent of Kibera residents rent rudimentary homes from Kenyans who have built temporary structures on government land over



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Silva & Fred with Daughter.
Photo courtesy of Landon Van Soest

the last 30 years. Many of the structure owners in Kibera do not reside there. Since the dwellings are not legally sanctioned, landlords are not required to provide any services — plumbing, electricity, sewer systems or trash removal — and the area suffers from a lack of roads, sanitation services and other basic infrastructure. Unemployment, crime and disease are widespread. Many of the residents who are formally employed commute daily into central Nairobi, often on foot.

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Kenya Slum Upgrading Project

In 2000, the Kenyan government and the United Nations joined forces in a massive “slum upgrading” program that calls for Kibera to be demolished completely and replaced with modern housing and infrastructure. Called the Kenya Slum Upgrading Project (KENSUP), the \$300,000 project, according to UN-HABITAT, aims to “improve the overall livelihoods of people living and working in slums through targeted interventions to address shelter, infrastructure services, land tenure and employment issues, as well as the impact of HIV/AIDS in slum settlements.” The program is funded jointly by the Kenyan government, UN-HABITAT and the World Bank Cities Alliance.

In 2009, Prime Minister Raila Odinga, who also represents a

Kibera Temporary Housing.
Photo courtesy of Landon Van Soest

constituency in Kibera as a member of parliament, said the project would create a “modern, low income residential estate with modern schools, markets, playgrounds and other facilities.”

Officials expected that it would take two to five years to upgrade the slum. The process began in September 2009, when Kenyan authorities moved some 1,300 people to 300 newly built apartments located about a half-mile away from Kibera. According to official sources, rent for one room in one of the apartments is about \$7 a month; electricity costs \$4 and water \$2.50. Kitchen and bathroom facilities are

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Silva Adhiambo watching a bulldozer moving into Kibera.

Photo courtesy of Landon Van Soest

shared, unless a family takes three rooms, in which case it receives its own. Some of those who were relocated reportedly call the new community “Canaan” or “Promised Land.”

While many residents are eager to see the slum upgraded, some are against the project. Opponents say that the project does not include schools and disregards access to employment opportunities. Eighty landlords and residents went to court as a group to argue that the land belongs to them and that the government should not be allowed to demolish their shacks. Instead, they suggested that improvements be made to existing structures.

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Yala Floodwater.

Photo courtesy of Landon Van Soest

Yala Swamp

Located along Lake Victoria, the second largest freshwater lake in the world, Yala Swamp is an ecologically critical area that environmentalists say comprises one of the richest and most delicate ecosystems in East Africa.

The 75-square-mile (or 50,000-acre) swamp, located in the districts of Bondo and Siaya (home to Barack Obama's grandmother), supports many endangered species and about 500,000 people. Historically, the residents have lived by raising goats and cattle, planting crops and harvesting papyrus and sisal from the swamp to make mats and baskets. The swamp acts as a filter for the water that flows from the Yala River and the Nzoia River into Lake Victoria.

The swamp has long been an invaluable asset to the com-

munities that live in the region, and now outside investors see it as a great potential business opportunity. In 1954 the swamp attracted attention from the colonial government, and then a group of early investors from Britain reclaimed 2,300 hectares over 24 years in an initiative that was abandoned in 1970 due to lack of funds.

In 2003 an American corporation, The Dominion Group of Companies, moved into the area and secured a 25-year lease from the government of Kenya on approximately 17,000 contiguous acres of swampland in Nyanza province.

There are claims that locals have lost farms, houses, livestock



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Yala waterline.

Photo courtesy of Landon Van Soest

and livelihoods as a result of these actions, and they have suffered health problems that they believe are the result of chemicals in the water. An analysis of the water supply found dieldrin, a chemical in some pesticides that has been linked to breast cancer and Parkinson's disease and that the Environmental Protection Agency banned in the United States in 1987. Calvin Burgess, CEO of The Dominion Group, denies the use of pesticides, a claim a former Dominion manager contradicts.

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Landon shooting Jackson's mother harvesting maize
in the Yala Swamp.

Photo courtesy of Jeremy Levine

Dominion Farms

Dominion Farms is one of several companies owned by Calvin Burgess as part of The Dominion Group of Companies. Burgess began working as a contractor in 1977 and has built several government properties, including buildings for the Internal Revenue Service, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Army Corps of Engineers and several border patrol stations. He ran prisons in Colorado and elsewhere before divesting those endeavors to Corrections Corporation of America and he runs Airgo Systems, a manufacturer and distributor of a commercial tire monitoring, maintenance and

inflation system for the commercial trucking industry, and Dominion Farms, the group's only agricultural endeavor.

According to Dominion Farms, its mission in Kenya is "the production and sale of rice, other cereal grains and tilapia fish to the markets of Kenya and surrounding countries," and to "enable this country to reduce dependence on imported food, . . . serve as a demonstration of productive farming



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practices and . . . return a profit to Dominion.” The company aims eventually to produce 90,000 tons of rough rice each year.

In exchange for the land in Kenya, Dominion was to pay \$140,000 in rent annually. Burgess also told *BusinessWeek* that he paid \$100,000 to the Siaya County Council and \$120,000 to the local Lake Basin Development Authority; both sums vanished. Burgess also promised to reserve 300 acres of the land for residents to use communally and to rehabilitate at least one school and one health facility in each of the Siaya and Bondo districts.

Six years later, locals have lots of complaints about Dominion and its practices. It’s estimated that up to 300 families were displaced — and only 50 of those reimbursed — as part of the company’s occupation of the land. Dominion has renovated one health center, but residents say they must pass through Dominion’s farm to reach the facility and are sometimes denied access. No schools have been renovated, although Dominion has donated building materials for school projects. The land that was to be set aside for farming has not been used for that purpose.

In addition, while Burgess claims that Dominion employs up to 700 locals, villagers say that number is drastically inflated and that fewer workers are needed as the farm becomes mechanized. According to one report, the company laid off 100 workers in spring 2008, a decision politicians and religious leaders actively protested. Burgess halted work at the farm and stopped expansion of the investment there, saying he was considering moving the project and citing extortion and blackmail by civic leaders and residents as the reason for the move. In 2009, a *BusinessWeek* reporter visited the farm and saw only a few dozen workers, several of whom said they earned less than \$3 a day.

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2007 Kenyan Elections

In Kenya’s 2007 presidential elections, Raila Odinga, a 62-year-old native Luo, challenged incumbent president Mwai Kibaki, 76, a Kikuyu with almost 45 years in politics. Kibaki was seen to represent the establishment, which had traditionally favored the Kikuyu over the nation’s 40-plus other ethnic groups; Odinga, a wealthy businessman who has been a member of parliament since 1992, promised to fight for the poor and found strong support among Kenya’s less fortunate, particularly in Kibera.

The election was held as part of general elections on December 27, 2007. While Odinga had led in most of the polls leading up to the election and showed substantial leads in early vote tallies, Kibaki’s numbers began to catch up in the days following the election.

Many Kenyans and election officials and some members of the international community publicly questioned the results, which showed inexplicable increases of tens of thousands of votes in certain districts after initial results had been announced and turnout rates of more than 100 percent had been recorded in Kibaki-favoring areas. Odinga’s Orange Democratic Movement party rejected the results, declared victory for Odinga on December 29 and threatened to declare him “the people’s president,” a move the standing government warned would be treated as tantamount to a coup. The election chairman agreed to investigate the results but later changed his mind. A team of Western diplomats called for the votes to be recounted but the request was denied.

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On December 30, the election commission declared Kibaki the winner with 4,584,721 votes compared to 4,352,993 votes for Odinga, a margin of about 2 percent. It conceded that there were problems with the results, but said it was not its job to investigate them. Chairman Samuel Kivuitu said, "The judicial system provides peaceable avenues to address these complaints."

Violence erupted across Kenya after the announcement of the official numbers, especially in Western Kenya and in poorer areas such as Kibera, and then just an hour later Kibaki was sworn in. Live media broadcasts were prohibited

In production in Kibera
(Landon shooting, from L to R:
Production Assistant Godfrey Omondi,
Translator/Sound Recorder Michael Wanjohi,
Production Assistant Samson Namale.
Photo courtesy of Sophia Nafula

and a curfew was put in place and enforced with gun power. At least 1,300 civilians were killed during ethnic attacks and attacks by police in the following weeks. More than 300,000 people, including residents of Kibera, were forced to flee



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their homes. Investigations by numerous external organizations implicated six top Kenyans, who appeared to have orchestrated violent attacks. The International Criminal Court began an inquiry and believes it will have arrest warrants issued by the end of 2010.

In February, talks sponsored by the United Nations resulted in a power-sharing arrangement under which Odinga was granted the newly reinstated position of prime minister. The two parties also agreed to wide-ranging reforms, including constitutional change.

Later, local inquiries into the riots found that senior members in both Kibaki and Odinga's parties incited and financed ethnic killings. In March 2010, the International Criminal Court approved a request to investigate the violence.

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Overview of U.S. Foreign Aid

Foreign aid is most basically defined as assistance provided by one nation to another. Foreign assistance from the United States comes in a number of different forms, including humanitarian assistance, military and security aid and economic stabilization and development assistance.

The U.S. foreign aid program was born of political intentions. During and after World War II, when the Soviet Union seemed poised to append swaths of war-ravaged Europe and Asia to its growing Communist bloc, the United States began to rebuild crucial economies, including those of Germany, Britain, Japan and Italy, and to find constructive ways to deal with international, war-related debt.

In 1945, the United States joined with other nations to form the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (now the World Bank) in order to help with debt relief and economic development. In 1947, the United States announced it would launch the Marshall Plan (also known as the European Recovery Program), named after Secretary of State George C. Marshall, to rebuild shattered economies, contain communism and strengthen alliances within Europe. According to Marshall, the real enemies of democracy were "hunger, poverty, desperation and chaos."

The Marshall Plan was considered a huge success, and several attempts were made to extend foreign aid after it ended in 1951. The issue was of great importance during the 1960 elections, and in the early days of his presidency, John F. Kennedy did much to improve foreign assistance, putting into place legislation, agencies and programs meant to increase and streamline foreign government aid.

In September 1961, Kennedy passed the Foreign Assistance Act (FAA), which reorganized existing programs and led to the creation of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). USAID allowed the United States to funnel aid to developing nations not in the service of military or political goals, but rather as part of long-range plans for economic and social development.

Early efforts included improving conditions in Central America, fighting communism in Asia and supporting newly independent countries in Africa.

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In the 1960s and 1970s, promoting peace in the Middle East joined containing communism as a top goal of foreign aid. Popular support for helping out abroad waned in the 1970s, however, both as a result of the unpopular Vietnam War and due to concern that aid was still too tied to military actions and was needed at home. In 1973, several amendments were made to the FAA that shifted the goal toward satisfying “basic human needs” abroad. With the aim of sharing American expertise and commodities rather than simply transferring money or goods, the new legislation focused on areas such as agriculture, family planning and education.

Recently, presidents George H.W. Bush and William Clinton tried to rewrite the FAA, but neither was successful. The FAA remains largely as it was in 1973.

In recent years, giving foreign aid to Africa has come under scrutiny, with critics arguing that despite the estimated \$1 trillion of foreign development-related aid that has gone to Africa over the past 60 years, per-capita income is less now than it was in 1970. Some claim that funds are being misappropriated and poorly distributed, causing larger problems for African nations.

In 2007 (the last year for which numbers are available), the United States distributed a total of almost \$14 billion in total economic aid — including aid under the FAA and through the Peace Corps, Food for Peace and other organizations — and about \$8.1 billion in military aid to Africa.



Silva Adhiambo riding the train through Kibera.
Photo courtesy of Landon Van Soest

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Selected People Featured in **Good Fortune****KIBERA**

Silva Adhiambo – Silva Adhiambo is a traditional midwife in Nairobi's Kibera neighborhood. She migrated to Kibera over 15 years ago from a rural area of Western Kenya to seek employment in Nairobi and a good education for her two young daughters. Since moving to Kibera, she reports greatly increasing her income, and she fears the upgrading project will threaten her business.



Fred Odhiambo – Silva Adhiambo's husband, Fred Odhiambo, came to Kibera from a rural area about a year before Adhiambo and brought the rest of his family to the area after finding employment as a security guard in one of Nairobi's wealthy neighborhoods.



Francis Omondi – Francis Omondi is another resident of Kibera who hails from Western Kenya. He was elected secretary of the Settlement Executive Committee, a group of Kibera residents who represent the community in the Kenya Slum Upgrading Project.



Sara Candiracci – Sara Candiracci is an associate human settlements officer for UN-HABITAT's water, sanitation and infrastructure branch. She was the United Nations representative for many portions of the Kenya Slum Upgrading Project.

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Selected People Featured in **Good Fortune****YALA SWAMP**

Jackson Omondi - Jackson Omondi is a second-generation farmer and schoolteacher in Yimbo Village on the southern edge of the Yala Swamp. His family home is threatened by a 1,100-acre reservoir being constructed by Dominion Farms to irrigate a major commercial rice farm.



Margaret Adhiambo - Margaret Adhiambo is Jackson Omondi's wife and a mother of two. She believes the pesticides used by Dominion Farms near the family's water supply are a possible cause of her recent miscarriage.



Mary Aware - Jackson Omondi's mother, Mary Aware, settled the family farm nearly 50 years ago and has been farming the land ever since. She is a widow who looks after several young orphans.



Calvin Burgess - Calvin Burgess is the founder and CEO of Dominion Farms, an American agricultural business based in Oklahoma in the United States. Dominion Farms has a 25-year lease on 17,000 acres in Western Kenya to be used to produce rice for the local market.



Graham Vetch - Graham Vetch is the former country director of Dominion Farms. He is a Kenya native, from the town of Naivasha. Vetch left Dominion Farms in 2007, but the circumstances of his departure were not made public.

GENERAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Immediately after the film, you may want to give people a few quiet moments to reflect on what they have seen. If the mood seems tense, you can pose a general question and give people some time to themselves to jot down or think about their answers before opening the discussion.

Unless you think participants are so uncomfortable that they can't engage until they have had a break, don't encourage people to leave the room between the film and the discussion. If you save your break for an appropriate moment during the discussion, you won't lose the feeling of the film as you begin the dialogue.

One way to get a discussion going is to pose a general question such as:

- **If you could ask anyone in the film a single question, who would you ask and what would you ask him or her?**
- **What did you learn from this film? What insights did it provide?**
- **What is the significance of the film's title?**
- **Describe a moment or scene in the film that you found particularly disturbing or moving. What was it about that scene that was especially compelling for you?**
- **Which character do you identify with the most and why?**



Jackson Omondi.
Photo courtesy of Landon Van Soest



DISCUSSION PROMPTS



Silva Adhiambo looking over Kibera from a balcony.

Photo courtesy of Landon Van Soest

Thinking About Poverty

- Before you viewed the film, what images came to mind when you heard “Kenya”?
 - In what ways did the film confirm or contradict those images?
 - What do you think the sources of those images were and where could you find consistent, credible information on the people of Kenya?
- Jackson Omondi says, “I am not poor. I have a resource where I can exploit and maybe make me become rich.” How does his view of being poor compare with yours?
 - In your view, what are the defining features of poverty?
- Silva says, “I am happy to stay in Kibera. There’s a lot of trash, but life is good.” Were you surprised to hear Silva say that life was good in Kibera?
 - Imagine yourself in Silva’s shoes. What parts of your life would you describe as good and what things would you want to change?
- Raila Odinga says that he wants to be “president of the poor.” He and his followers assume that the interests of rich and poor are mutually exclusive. Is this always the case, or can you imagine a political system that would adequately meet the needs of both?
 - What would that system look like?
 - Can you think of places in the world where such a system exists?
- In your view, is there a responsibility that human beings, regardless of national borders, have to one another to improve living conditions in places like Kibera or the Yala Swamp, or is this a task best left to sovereign governments? Why do you think so?

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- What should concerned people be permitted to do when citizens suffer but governments won't act?
- Both Silva and Jackson have taken steps in their own lives that indicate a vision for a better future for themselves and their families (e.g., Silva moves to Kibera to increase her income and Jackson builds his herd to make it larger than his father's was). Why do you think Jackson and Silva would resist changes intended to improve their living conditions? Do you believe that the Dominion Farms and the United Nations projects will ultimately improve the living conditions of Jackson and Silva? Why or why not?



Jackson by the water.

Photo courtesy of Landon Van Soest

Economic Development Policy Design

- The United Nations project manager says, "So many institutions, small organizations or big organizations, go in there and do these small projects. But at the end the impact is very low." What are the pros and cons of micro versus massive projects? From whose perspective is the "very low" impact of small projects. How would you define small? One community? One person?
- What are the similarities and differences in approaches to aid represented by the Kibera project, funded by aid, and Dominion Farms, funded by private investment and intended to turn a profit? In your view, which has the best chance of improving economic opportunity for Kenyans and why? How does the source of funding for aid influence a project's relationship with the government or the role that the Kenyan government should play in the development or implementation of each project?
- Silva says that the United Nations would have built houses directly but "the government insisted that the money go through their hands, so they can profit from it." What can providers of foreign aid do to ensure that their funds are not siphoned off by corrupt (or even well-meaning) governments?
 - Presidential candidate Raila Odinga suggests that two specific conditions be placed on the UN-HABITAT effort in Kibera: that those who live there now will live in the new houses, and that the houses will not be more expensive than the current ones. Why might the Kenyan government reject those conditions?
 - Jackson observes that, "The ecosystem we have here is a very delicate one and the things he [Burgess] is intending to do will destroy it completely." In the film, where do you see examples of good and poor stewardship of the land and the environment?
 - What kinds of policies can or should be put into place to ensure that development proceeds in



DISCUSSION PROMPTS



Jackson's home.

Photo courtesy of Landon Van Soest

environmentally responsible ways?

- What role should environmental organizations play in establishing sound practice, especially in places where governments are slow to act?
- Jackson Omondi describes Calvin Burgess as “somebody who does not care for others.” How do you think Burgess would describe Omondi? In your opinion, are their views of one another accurate or complete? If not, what could organizers do to provide them with a clearer understanding of each other? Or is having a full and clear picture unnecessary? Would you have done anything differently if you were Burgess or if you were Omondi? If so, what?

Understanding Underlying Values and Assumptions

- United Nations worker Sara Candiracci says, “It’s not acceptable that Kibera exists.” However, it has existed for decades. Who finds it unacceptable and why?
- Do you see paternalism at work in the film? If so, where and how effective is it?
- Graham Vetch talks about the asset of 1,100 acres of water that Dominion Farms is creating, saying, “The benefits, in our opinion, way out-benefit any sort of detrimental effects that the locals may have, or the perceptions of detri-

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

mental effects.” Whose system of cost/benefit analysis is being applied here?

- Is it the right one for the situation? Why or why not?
- How do you determine who has expertise on issues relevant to economic development and land use policies? In your view, which people in the film are the most credible on these issues and why do you think so:

Housing
Preventing malaria
High-yield farming methods
Stabilizing land productivity in the face of drought
Flood control
Economic development
Sanitation

- In what ways do cultural differences or assumptions influence the way Jackson and his family see Burgess and other Dominion Farm managers and vice versa? What steps could be taken to account for the clash of cultures and improve communication?

- Compare and contrast these two comments:
- Jackson Omondi: *“My life is based on this soil. The life of my son is based on this soil. My grandson, his life will be based on this soil.”*

- Graham Vetch: *“What we’re finding is that people are going to have to slightly change their cultural practices of herding cattle and sheep and perhaps change their careers, as they were, into fishing and other pursuits.”*

In your view, must people sacrifice their culture in order to improve living standards to meet those typically present in developed nations? Do you think Omondi is giving up other things in addition to his culture? Why or why not? What do you think it would mean for the Omondi family if Jackson gave up working as a pastoralist and did another type of work?

- In your view, what role might race or racism have played in the implementation of and/or reaction to the aid projects depicted in the film? What difference, if any, does it make if aid providers and recipients are of the same race or of different races? If you were leading an aid project, what actions might you take to prevent racism, either personal or institutionalized, from influencing your work?



Jackson at home.
Photo courtesy of Landon Van Soest

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

Working With People

- Sara Candiracci of the United Nations acknowledges, “The infrastructure is the soft work. The hard work is dealing with people.” Use the following prompts to consider how aid initiatives might work with people rather than for them:
 - We see a meeting of the UN-HABITAT project in Kibera that includes representatives from the residents of the slum. In your view, does this structure give the people the kind of voice that the representatives were meant to provide? Why or why not? How else might project managers involve community members or help them feel that their voices have been heard?
 - What do you learn from the film about how people develop differing perspectives of the same event (e.g., the cause of the flood or the value of the UN-HABITAT project to the residents of Kibera)? Is one side right and the other wrong? What specific things can project and community leaders do to find common ground in the face of divergent points of view?
 - It is clear that there are community ties in Kibera, even ties that make businesses like Silva’s possible. How could a project improve living conditions in Kibera and keep social networks intact?
 - If you were Calvin Burgess, what would you want to say to Jackson Omondi? What might you want to ask him? How about if you were Jackson Omondi and you could sit down and have a conversation with Calvin Burgess? What would you say? Do these men simply disagree about how best to use the land, or is there something about each other’s positions that they are failing to understand or acknowledge? How does each man see “development”?
 - Both Silva and Jackson say that they do not oppose development, but they fear the current projects. What, specifically, are they afraid of? In Kibera, one official suggests, “They should follow what we are advising them because we are experts in development.” If you were Jackson or Silva, how do you think you would interpret that comment? Who do you think are the “experts” and what constitutes expertise in this case? If you were leading the projects, what kinds of specific things could you do to address people’s fears?



Good Fortune field translator Michael Wanjohi at a temporary housing site in Kibera. Photo courtesy of Landon Van Soest

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

Silva Adhiambo.

Photo courtesy of Landon Van Soest

Activism

- What do you learn from the film about effective activism or community organizing strategies? Compare and contrast the strategies used by: Jackson Omondi and his community, residents of Kibera, the UN-HABITAT project and Dominion Farms. What kinds of things inspire people to action?
 - Do you think it is ever appropriate to act out in a violent manner?
 - If so, when?
- After what many in Kibera viewed as a rigged presidential election in which their candidate was defeated, Silva says, “I have made up my mind not to ever vote again. I don’t think I can do that again.” What would you say to her to acknowledge her experience and also encourage her to remain politically active?

Additional media literacy analysis questions are available on POV’s website: pbs.org/pov/educators/media-literacy.php

TAKING ACTION

- Choose a country that interests you and research its level of foreign aid assistance, how the funds are being used and whether or not the aid has measurably improved the lives of its citizens. Talk to different people from that country who live in the United States and, if possible, read online news reports about foreign aid. Use your findings to respond to the foreign aid debate and to determine how best to support your selected country.
- Make a direct impact by making a microloan through a microfinance organization. You can choose an appropriate microfinance organization based on the countries it serves or the types of entrepreneurship it supports. Visit www.topsite.com/best/microfinance to choose from among some of the microfinance organizations with the greatest impact.
- Partner with an aid or human rights organization in your area by volunteering for an event. Most organizations have newsletters that highlight events and fundraisers that need active participants and/or helping hands. For a comprehensive directory of development, human rights and aid organizations, visit: www.charitynavigator.org/index.cfm?bay=search.alpha
- Fred Odhiambo says that one of the problems is that people don't know where their money is going. Make a donation to an aid organization of your choice and try to monitor where the money goes. Read annual reports, blogs by staffers and local media reports from the location of the project (often available on the Internet). Use what you learn to decide either to recommend the group to others or to send future contributions elsewhere.



Nairobi Screening.
Photo courtesy of Landon Van Soest

- Read and discuss the Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network's report on modernizing foreign assistance, New Day, New Way (downloadable from www.modernizingforeignassistance.org/newdaynewway.html). Share your reactions with your elected representatives and other federal officials whose work involves foreign aid.
 - o United States Agency for International Development (USAID): <http://www.usaid.gov/contact.html>
 - o Write to your Representative: <https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>
- Support an existing Kenya aid project. Check out work being done in Kenya by the organizations that have signed on to the Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network's modernizing foreign aid strategy (available at www.modernizingforeignassistance.org/network/open_letter_to_obama.php).



RESOURCES

FILM-RELATED WEB SITES

Original Online Content on POV Interactive (www.pbs.org/pov)

POV's *Good Fortune* companion website
www.pbs.org/pov/goodfortune

To further enhance the broadcast, **POV** has produced an interactive website to enable viewers to explore the film in greater depth. The companion website to **Good Fortune** offers a streaming video trailer for the film; an interview with filmmaker Landon Van Soest; a list of related websites, organizations and books; a downloadable discussion guide; and the following special features:

- Experts watching and reacting to the film;
- Video interviews featuring Jeffrey Sachs, Columbia University economist and special advisor to the United Nations, discussing community involvement in the Millennium Villages Project; Kenyan Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai illuminating the relationship between environmentalism and poverty in the Greenbelt Movement; Ghanaian economist and acclaimed author George Ayittey describing the importance of African entrepreneurs in what he terms the "cheetah generation"; and Nobel Prize winner Amartya Sen outlining his philosophy of "development as freedom" in his discussion of FXB International.

Film Related

GOOD FORTUNE
www.goodfortunefilm.com

Visit the film's official website to view its trailer and to learn more about the film, the filmmakers and screening events.

What's Your POV?

Share your thoughts about **Good Fortune** by posting a comment on the *POV Blog* www.pbs.org/pov/blog or send an email to pbs@pov.org.

Organizations Working on International Development Issues

CENTER FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT
www.cgdev.org

The Center for Global Development is an independent, non-profit policy research organization that is dedicated to reducing global poverty and inequality and to making globalization work for the poor. Their website links visitors to additional information and blog posts about aid effectiveness: http://www.cgdev.org/section/topics/aid_effectiveness

MODERNIZING FOREIGN ASSISTANCE NETWORK (MFAN)
www.modernizingforeignassistance.org

Learn more about international development reform by visiting MFAN's website. MFAN's goal is to help build a safer, more prosperous world by strengthening the United States' ability to alleviate extreme poverty, create opportunities for growth, and secure human dignity in developing countries. Interested parties can get more involved here: http://www.modernizingforeignassistance.org/network/open_letter_to_obama.php

CENTER ON HOUSING RIGHTS AND EVICTIONS (COHRE)
www.cohre.org

Human rights organization COHRE campaigns for the protection of housing rights and the prevention of forced evictions. Their website hosts a report on Kenya's Kibera slum eviction: <http://www.cohre.org/kenya> as well as a library that contains country reports, thematic reports, documentaries and training materials: <http://www.cohre.org/library>



RESOURCES

Foreign Aid Efforts in Africa: Public and Private Initiatives

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)

www.undp.org

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) works in 166 countries and advocates for change and connects countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build better lives. Information about the UNDP's poverty reduction efforts can be accessed here: <http://www.undp.org/poverty/#>.

THE CORPORATE COUNCIL ON AFRICA (CCA)

www.africacncl.org

The Corporate Council on Africa (CCA) is at the forefront of strengthening and facilitating the commercial relationship between the United States and the African continent. CCA members believe that Africa's future success depends upon the ability of its entrepreneurs and businesspeople to create and retain wealth through private enterprise. Therefore, CCA programs are designed to bring together potential business partners and raise Africa's investment profile in the United States by developing critical contacts and business relationships and providing a forum for the exchange of information and ideas. Visit the site to learn more about successful projects such as:

South African International Business Linkages (SAIBL), a business linkage program supporting supplier diversity by promoting sustainable business linkages between large corporations and black suppliers and by helping corporations to identify and target more procurement opportunities for certified, competitive black suppliers;

Public Private Agriculture Initiative (PPAI), created by the CCA in partnership with USAID. PPAI is a three-year process designed to organize and implement Pillar 2 of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program.

THE INFRASTRUCTURE CONSORTIUM FOR AFRICA (ICA)

www.icafrica.org

The Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA) was launched at the G8 Gleneagles Summit in 2005. The ICA's role is to help improve the lives and economic well-being of Africa's

people by encouraging, supporting and promoting increased investment in infrastructure in Africa from both public and private sources. The ICA's work primarily focuses on water, energy, transport and information and communication technologies.

THE AFRICA PROJECT

www.theafricaproject.com

The Africa Project works with local school and community agencies on the ground in Africa that provide a variety of programs, services and support for children and families. Its community partners include Sizanani Outreach, a home-based healthcare program with three teams of care workers, two nurses, two social workers and one medical doctor; Sizanani Children's Center, which provides care for up to 30 children, approximately half of whom have AIDS and are receiving antiretroviral treatment; and Velangaye High School, a rural school that is experiencing tremendous growth.

SAMSUNG REAL DREAMS

<http://samsungrealdreams.com>

A partnership led by Samsung and the International Youth Foundation (IYF) to increase economic activity in Africa, the Real Dreams project promoted job skills and prepared youth for successful, long-term careers. Visitors to the site can read more personal stories here: <http://samsungrealdreams.com/Story-tobias.html>

GUCCI FOR UNICEF

www.gucci.com

Since 2005, Gucci creative director Frida Giannini has designed an exclusive accessories collection dedicated to the Gucci Campaign to Benefit UNICEF. The campaign takes place during the holiday season in order to achieve maximum sales for the benefit of UNICEF. Gucci stores worldwide and [gucci.com](http://www.gucci.com) donate a percentage of sales from a special group of products devoted to the UNICEF partnership. The Gucci campaign has consistently supported UNICEF programs in Malawi and Mozambique, where over one million children have been orphaned by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. In this five-year period, Gucci has committed more than \$7 million to UNICEF, resulting in Gucci's current status as the largest corporate donor to UNICEF's Schools for Africa campaign.

RESOURCES

THE ACCENTURE FOUNDATION**www.accenture.com**

The Accenture Foundation was established in 2004 and is responsible for the management and distribution of funds received from Accenture (South Africa). The Foundation has a scholarship program that assists financially disadvantaged students with strong academic ability who intend to pursue careers in information systems, computer science, information technology, informatics or computers and electrical (light current), electronic, electro-mechanical or industrial engineering. It also supports 14 other organizations that work on issues ranging from alcohol and drug abuse to entrepreneurship.

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID)**www.usaid.gov**

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is an independent agency that provides economic, development and humanitarian assistance around the world in support of the foreign policy goals of the United States. USAID assistance to Africa works to help African governments, institutions and organizations incorporate good governance principles and innovative approaches to health, education, economic growth, agriculture and the environment. The site offers information about specific initiatives, regional programs and recent success stories.

AFRICARE**www.africare.org**

Africare is the oldest and largest African-American led organization in the aid field. Africare's programs address needs in three principal areas: health and HIV/AIDS; food security and agriculture; and water resource development. Africare reaches families and communities in some 25 countries in every major region of sub-Saharan Africa, from Senegal to South Africa and from Chad to Mozambique. Since its founding in 1970, Africare has delivered more than \$800 million in assistance — through more than 2,500 projects — to 36 countries Africa-wide. The group's website provides information about its programs, and a photo gallery.

AFRICA AID**www.africaaid.org**

Africa Aid builds innovative poverty-alleviation programs that empower African families, communities and countries. It also forges partnerships with American universities to support cutting-edge aid programs. Some of its programs include Skills Education and Microfinance, the School Lunch Program and MDNet, a low-cost, high-impact healthcare initiative built to improve the way healthcare professionals interact in African countries.

ONE**www.one.org/international**

ONE is a campaign and advocacy organization with more than 2 million members committed to the fight against extreme poverty and preventable disease, particularly in Africa. Cofounded by Bono and other campaigners, ONE is non-partisan and works closely with African policy makers and activists. Working with policy experts, African leaders and anti-poverty activists, ONE mobilizes public opinion in support of tested and proven programs to fight poverty. The group's website offers information about current policy analysis and key issues, as well as past campaigns.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL: "WHY FOREIGN AID IS HURTING AFRICA"**<http://online.wsj.com>**

In this article from The Wall Street Journal, Dambisa Moyo, a Zambian-born economist, critically examines the effect of foreign aid in Africa and explains why Africa is mired in more debt, corruption and poverty, even while aid money is pouring into the continent. (March 21, 2009)

NEWSWEEK: "HELPING AFRICA SAVE ITSELF"**www.newsweek.com**

This article from *Newsweek* responds to Dambisa Moyo's assessment of foreign aid in Africa. Witney W. Schneidman, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for African affairs in the Clinton administration, provides added perspective on some of Moyo's claims and points out some flawed statements, but also upholds the importance of Moyo's ultimate message. (June 27, 2009)

RESOURCES

THE NEW YORK REVIEW OF BOOKS: “AID: CAN IT WORK?”**www.nybooks.com**

In this article, Nicholas D. Kristof offers a comprehensive review of some of the most prominent voices speaking on aid in Africa. He weighs both extremes of the spectrum of aid in Africa, from the ideas of Jeffrey Sachs, a promoter of foreign aid, to those of William Easterly, a staunch skeptic, and offers a perspective that accounts for concerns from all sides of the foreign aid debate.

Effective Philanthropy**THE CENTER FOR EFFECTIVE PHILANTHROPY (CEP)****www.effectivephilanthropy.org**

The Center for Effective Philanthropy (CEP) is a nonprofit organization focused on the development of comparative data to enable higher performing funders. CEP's mission is to provide data and create insight so philanthropic funders can better define, assess and improve their effectiveness and impact. CEP pursues its mission through data collection and research that fuel the creation of assessment tools, publications and programming. The group's website provides an overview of the assessment tools offered and information about upcoming CEP events.

NONPROFIT GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE**www.npgoodpractice.org**

The Nonprofit Good Practice Guide was created in 2002 with the goal of capturing, organizing, disseminating and promoting knowledge useful in the nonprofit sector. With a strong focus on community service and the use of data in the decision-making process, it is dedicated to the study and teaching of philanthropy, volunteerism and nonprofit management. The philanthropy and grant-making section offers practice resources for foundation professionals and grant-makers, including evaluation of foundations, philanthropy and grant-making

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHILANTHROPY (AIP)**www.charitywatch.org**

The mission of the American Institute of Philanthropy (AIP), a nonprofit charity watchdog and information service, is to

maximize the effectiveness of every dollar contributed to charity by providing donors with the information they need to make more informed giving decisions. Of the more than 500 charities currently rated by AIP, only a select number qualify as top-rated charities. The website explains the rating criteria and offers a list of the organizations reviewed and the top-rated list.

ROCKEFELLER PHILANTHROPY ADVISORS (RPA)**<http://rockpa.org>**

Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (RPA) helps donors create thoughtful, effective philanthropy throughout the world. Originally developed as the private philanthropy service of the Rockefeller family, RPA is now an independent, nonprofit service that represents the cumulative knowledge and experience of more than a century of high-quality professional service to the most philanthropic family in the United States. Individuals, families, charitable trusts, foundations and donor cooperatives worldwide rely on RPA to develop, manage and monitor their philanthropy, from goals to grants and from research to results.

RESULTS**www.results.org**

Creating the public and political will to end poverty by empowering individuals to exercise their personal and political power for change, RESULTS combines the voices of passionate grassroots activists with strategic grass-tops efforts to leverage millions of dollars for programs and improved policies that give low-income people the health, education and opportunity they need to thrive. The group's website provides tips on how to get involved in advocacy work and ways to get involved in foreign aid reform at http://www.results.org/issues/global_poverty_campaigns/.

AID WATCH BLOG**<http://aidwatchers.com>**

The Aid Watch blog is a project of New York University's Development Research Institute (DRI) and maintained by professor and author William Easterly. Easterly offers his opinions on how foreign aid can be more effective.

RESOURCES

J-PAL**www.povertyactionlab.org**

Working to answer questions critical to poverty alleviations, the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) is a network of 46 affiliated professors around the world who are united by their use of Randomized Evaluations (REs) to assess foreign aid cost effectiveness. The site offers case studies on different topics such as education, health and governance: <http://www.povertyactionlab.org/policy-lessons>

Perspectives from Kenya**THE STANDARD****www.standardmedia.co.ke**

The Standard is an online East African newspaper that focuses on Kenyan news.

DAILY NATION**www.nation.co.ke**

The *Daily Nation* is East Africa's most widely circulated publication.

AFRICAFILES**www.africafiles.org**

AfricaFiles promotes human rights, economic justice, African perspectives and alternative analyses. The website's Africa Research section offers educational resources for middle and high school students and provides teachers (in elementary and secondary schools) with resources to assist them in presenting images and information about African people and cultures that are not frequently conveyed through mainstream media sources.

KENYA LAND ALLIANCE**www.kenyalandalliance.or.ke**

This nonprofit umbrella organization has opposed Dominion Farms. Its website offers examples of projects and resources designed to increase awareness of what is needed to secure and protect the land rights of the rural urban poor and other disadvantaged groups, including annual reports and policy papers that lay out equitable strategies for land use.

STATE HOUSE**www.statehousekenya.go.ke**

The official website of Kenya's president includes general background and historical information on Kenya, links to government ministries and the president's speeches, press releases and policies.

From PBS/NPR:**RELIGION & ETHICS NEWSWEEKLY:
"MAKING FOREIGN AID WORK"****www.pbs.org**

Religion & Ethics Newsweekly offers a report on the triumphs and shortfalls of foreign aid. A link (www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/episodes/february-19-2010/william-easterly-extended-interview/5719/) goes to an extended interview with William Easterly, professor of economics at New York University, on foreign aid. (February 19, 2010)

**MORNING EDITION: "ECONOMIST:
AID TO AFRICAN NATIONS NOT WORKING WELL"****www.npr.org**

Morning Edition host Steve Inskeep talks with Zambian-born economist Dambisa Moyo about her book *Dead Aid: Why Aid Is Not Working and How There Is a Better Way for Africa*. Moyo has been a consultant for the World Bank and an economic sub-Saharan Africa specialist for Goldman Sachs. She says American and European good intentions discourage innovation and breed corruption. (March 17, 2009)

**MORNING EDITION: "EXPERT:
AFRICA NEEDS MORE THAN FOREIGN AID"****www.npr.org**

Morning Edition host Renee Montagne interviews George Ayittey, a professor of economics at American University, who asserts that Africa's salvation doesn't lie in asking for more aid. Rather, Ayittey argues that African leaders have mismanaged their resources and should be held accountable for corruption. (July 6, 2005)



HOW TO BUY THE FILM

To order **Good Fortune**, go to <http://www.goodfortunefilm.com>



Produced by American Documentary, Inc. and beginning its 23rd season on PBS in 2010, the award-winning POV series is the longest-running showcase on American television to feature the work of today's best independent documentary filmmakers. Airing June through September, with primetime specials during the year, POV has brought more than 300 acclaimed documentaries to millions nationwide and has a Webby Award-winning online series, *POV's Borders*. Since 1988, POV has pioneered the art of presentation and outreach using independent nonfiction media to build new communities in conversation about today's most pressing social issues. More information is available at www.pbs.org/pov.

POV Interactive www.pbs.org/pov

POV's award-winning Web department produces special features for every POV presentation, extending the life of our films through filmmaker interviews, story updates, podcasts, streaming video and community-based and educational content that involves viewers in activities and feedback. POV Interactive also produces our Web-only showcase for interactive storytelling, *POV's Borders*. In addition, the *POV Blog* is a gathering place for documentary fans and filmmakers to discuss and debate their favorite films, get the latest news and link to further resources. The POV website, blog and film archives form a unique and extensive online resource for documentary storytelling.

POV Community Engagement and Education

POV works with local PBS stations, educators and community organizations to present free screenings and discussion events to inspire and engage communities in vital conversations about our world. As a leading provider of quality nonfiction programming for use in public life, POV offers an extensive menu of resources, including free discussion guides and curriculum-based lesson plans. In addition, *POV's Youth Views* works with youth organizers and students to provide them with resources and training so they may use independent documentaries as a catalyst for social change.

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American Documentary, Inc. www.amdoc.org

American Documentary, Inc. (AmDoc) is a multimedia company dedicated to creating, identifying and presenting contemporary stories that express opinions and perspectives rarely featured in mainstream media outlets. AmDoc is a catalyst for public culture, developing collaborative strategic engagement activities around socially relevant content on television, online and in community settings. These activities are designed to trigger action, from dialogue and feedback to educational opportunities and community participation. *Simon Kilmurry is executive director of American Documentary | POV; Cynthia Lopez is executive vice president.*

Front cover: Jackson Omondi on his flooded homeland in the Nyanza Province of western Kenya. Dominion Farms, an American company, is flooding his home as part of a massive development project in the region. Photo courtesy of Landon Van Soest

