



2016 Election Platform

Getting on Track to End Hunger by 2030

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's leaders to end hunger at home and abroad. Bread for the World, its members, and partners are working to make hunger, poverty, and opportunity a priority for candidates.

We are moved by God's grace in Jesus Christ to work for justice for hungry people in our country and around the world. We believe that ending hunger by 2030 is a goal within reach, and we are taking action because our children, our neighbors—real people—are suffering. We want candidates to know that we will vote to end hunger.

Bread for the World is digitally engaged with 14 million voters, focused in 10 swing states. We are in conversation with the presidential candidates, and Bread's activists across the country are meeting with candidates for Congress.

We want the president and Congress who take office in 2017 to do their part to put our nation and the world on track to end hunger by 2030.

How
widespread
is hunger?

In the United States

- 1 in 5 children is food-insecure
- 1 in 4 active military families depends on SNAP (formerly called food stamps)

While the social programs that began in the 1960s have reduced poverty by about 50 percent, we can do better. To end hunger in the U.S., we need policies that enable people to provide for themselves and their families. We must disrupt discrimination and injustice.

Globally

The world is making unprecedented progress against hunger, poverty, and disease. The number of people in extreme poverty has dropped from 2 billion in 1990 to less than 1 billion people today. It now seems feasible to virtually end hunger and malnutrition in the world. In fact, all the nations of the world, including the U.S., agreed last fall to the Sustainable Development Goals, which include ending hunger by 2030 in the U.S. and around the world.

Government can't end hunger by itself, but our government needs to provide a framework in which states, local communities, churches, businesses, and families can work together to end hunger.



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

Ending Hunger in the United States

Bread for the World supports these policy strategies:

- 1. Create jobs that pay.** Millions of Americans make so little that even when both parents are working, they can't feed their family. The best way to end hunger is to ensure that people can get good, family-sustaining jobs.
 - Make growing the economy and reducing income disparities a high priority.
 - Raise the minimum wage, and expand access to job benefits, such as paid sick leave and retirement savings.
 - Improve the earned income tax credit for workers who don't have children.
- 2. Invest in people.** There is no higher calling for government than helping people reach their potential, and we know one of the biggest obstacles, especially for children, is hunger.
 - Ensure that everyone has access to good nutrition, health care, education, and housing.
 - Establish procedures that make voting easier, especially for people of color and low-income people.
 - Encourage public-private partnerships with community groups and coalitions that work against hunger and poverty.
- 3. Remove obstacles to earning a decent living.** To end hunger, we need to include everyone.
 - Enforce laws against racial, gender, and other discrimination, and end discriminatory practices.
 - Reform the broken immigration system to protect undocumented people, and allow a path to citizenship so they may contribute more fully to the economy.
 - Give people who have paid their debt to society in prison a chance to get a job when released.
 - Expand access to work supports, including quality child care and paid parental leave.
- 4. Strengthen the safety net.** Most people need some help at some point in their lives. On average, families who receive SNAP (formerly called food stamps) leave the program after 14 months.
 - Strengthen our national nutrition programs—school and summer meals, SNAP, WIC (for pregnant mothers and young children), and home-based meals for elders.
 - Maintain other safety-net programs too—Medicaid, for example.
 - Make federal assistance programs more efficient and accountable.
 - Adopt government budgets that give priority to people in poverty.

Ending Hunger Around the World

Bread for the World supports these policy strategies:

- 1. Provide U.S. leadership for international systems that reduce hunger and poverty.** U.S. government leadership on hunger and malnutrition helps mobilize attention and leverages additional resources from other countries and institutions, thus accelerating progress.
 - Lead the world in implementing global goals to reduce poverty and protect the environment—the Sustainable Development Goals.
 - Deepen efforts to promote peace and security, address the root causes of forced migration, and assist refugees and displaced people.
 - Help low-income countries affected by climate change cope with its impacts, and do our part to slow climate change.
 - Make the end of hunger and the reduction of poverty in our country and worldwide a purpose of U.S. agreements on international trade and investment.
- 2. Expand and improve development assistance focused on poverty.** We spend less than one percent of the U.S. budget on aid to help reduce global hunger, poverty, and disease. We benefit when children are educated and the struggling farmers can feed their families in very-low income countries.
 - Make U.S. aid more efficient and accountable.
 - Increase funding for health, development, and humanitarian assistance—especially for countries struggling with conflict.
 - Support local planning, institutions, and groups that are working directly with low-income communities.
 - Use U.S. assistance and diplomacy to promote equality for women.
- 3. Invest in global food security and nutrition.** 45 percent of all preventable child deaths is due to hunger and malnutrition. Every dollar invested in nutrition for mothers and children yields a return of \$16.
 - Invest in sustainable agriculture among smallholder farmers—more than 40 percent of whom are women.
 - Increase funding to improve the nutrition of mothers and children. There are proven, cost-effective, evidence-based ways to save lives.

Our Request of Candidates

We are praying for candidates—and asking them these questions:

1. **If elected, what will you do to end hunger, alleviate poverty, and create opportunity in the U.S. and worldwide?**
2. **Will you publicize your position on hunger, poverty, and opportunity on your website and in social media?**
3. **Will you meet with us within the first 30 days of taking office?**

The Bible teaches that government leaders have a responsibility to care for people who are hungry and in need. Psalm 72 offers this prayer for the head of state: “May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy...” Jesus said that God will judge the nations by how we treat people in need: “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat.” That same chapter of the Bible (Matthew 25) includes Jesus’ Parable of the Talents (property)—about good stewardship of our resources. We are using our gift of citizenship to elect officials who will put us on track to end hunger and poverty.

As a Christian organization, Bread for the World is guided by core values. We seek to be effective, civil, and bipartisan advocates with and for hungry people. We are committed to social justice, diversity, and servant leadership. Grounded in God’s love, we speak truth to power.

We look for evidence of these same values in candidates for public office:

- **Effective work for policies that promote help and opportunity for people who struggle with hunger and poverty;**
- **Respectful, decent treatment of all people, including those in need as well as political opponents;**
- **Collaboration with others of good will, including colleagues on both sides of the aisle;**
- **Commitment to the public good, with special attention to justice and opportunity for people in need;**
- **Love for all people, and courage to repudiate racism, sexism, and religious intolerance;**
- **Honesty; and**
- **Compassion and self-sacrificial service.**

We urge support for politicians who embrace these values and will help put our nation and the world on track to end hunger by 2030.



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