

## SPEAKERS

*listed alphabetically*



**DR. AGNES ABUOM** was elected unanimously by the World Council of Churches (WCC) 10th Assembly on November 8, 2013, to serve as moderator of the WCC Central Committee. She is the first woman and the first African in the position in the

history of the World Council of Churches. Abuom has served on the WCC Executive Committee, representing the Anglican Church of Kenya. She is also a development consultant serving both Kenyan and international organizations coordinating social action programs for religious and civil society across Africa.

From 1999 to 2006, Abuom was the Africa president for the WCC. She has been associated with the All Africa Conference of Churches and WCC member churches in Africa. She is a co-president of the Religions for Peace and the National Council of Churches of Kenya. Her areas of work include economic justice, peace, and reconciliation.



Born and raised in Chicago, **TAYLOR AMOS** completed her undergraduate studies at Howard University in Washington, D.C., in 2014. After she graduated, Amos joined the U.S. Peace Corps and moved to Senegal to serve as a Community Health Volunteer. She

spent her time in Senegal focused on nutrition and water sanitation, issues vital to the development and long-term future of the West African nation. Upon her return, she accepted the Art Simon Fellow position at Bread for the World. In this capacity, she works on foreign assistance policy and plays an integral role in the organization's effort to support development-based U.S. foreign aid. Her experience in the Peace Corps informs her current work at Bread for the World, as she continues to work on policies encouraging self-sufficiency and progress in developing nations.



**DR. OLUWAKEMI LINDA BANKS** is one of three Presidents of the Caribbean Conference of Churches. As the Caribbean Executive Representative of the Latin American and Caribbean Religions for Peace and Women's Network, a

founding member of the Anglican Church Women's Association, and a licensed Anglican lay reader, Banks embraces spirituality as she seeks to be a transformative agent for change in this troubled world.

Banks is also the Caribbean representative on the International Committee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin (ICFLC), an ecumenical prayer organization that was founded over 50 years ago in Asia, based on a vision of global justice, peace and reconciliation. ICFLC raises funds to make annual grants to groups around the world that are involved in projects that improve the lives of women and families. Banks has made a difference through her professional life's commitment as a clinical psychologist and an educator. As she reaches out to her fellow human beings around the world and advocates for them, she continues to make a difference.



**REV. DAVID BECKMANN** has been President of Bread for the World and Bread for the World Institute since 1991, leading large-scale and successful campaigns to strengthen U.S. political commitment to overcome hunger and poverty in the United States and

around the world. Beckmann also founded and serves as president of the Alliance to End Hunger. He appears regularly in the media and most recently authored *Exodus from Hunger: We Are Called to Change the Politics of Hunger*.

Beckmann is a Lutheran pastor as well as an economist. He earned degrees from Yale University, Christ Seminary, and the London School of Economics. Six universities have awarded him honorary doctorates. In 2010, he was named a World Food Prize laureate.



**REV. DIONNE BOISSIERE** is the Chaplain of the Church Center for the United Nations (CCUN). She is the first woman of African descent to hold this significant position in the history of this New York ecumenical and

inter-faith landmark. CCUN exists to expand the ecumenical community's capacity and access to the United Nations in order to bring greater voice to the broad moral and ethical concerns of the church in international affairs, peacemaking, and global advocacy. Owned and operated by United Methodist Women, it is the home to over 50 denominational offices, religious, and secular non-governmental organizations that are commissioned to liaison with U.N. officials and governmental delegates. As the chief steward of the CCUN, Boissiere ensures that the Church Center provides sacred space, worship, hospitality, community services, and a forum for partners and civil society

to engage in transformative education that seeks to empower and build the things that make for peace.



**REP. ANDRÉ CARSON** (D-Ind.), now in his fourth full term in the U.S. House of Representatives, has established himself as an influential leader and respected public servant, fighting for good paying jobs, economic growth, and safer communities for Indiana's working

families.

Carson consistently fights for the middle class, securing hundreds of millions of dollars for investments in public safety, education, infrastructure, and the creation and protection of thousands of good paying jobs. Additionally, he has made accessibility a priority for his office, holding regular meetings around the district and hosting "Congress on Your Corner" events to ensure constituents have easy access to the resources and information they need.



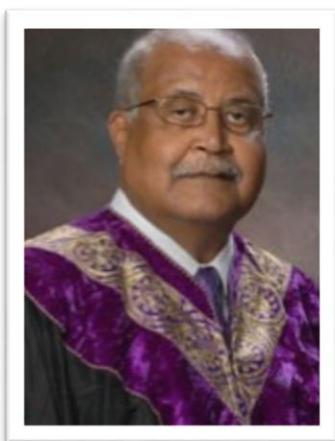
**LAVIDA DAVIS** is the Director of Organizing and Grassroots Capacity Building at Bread for the World. Davis brings more than 20 years of experience in creating grassroots

campaigns that engage community members, major stakeholders, and elected officials. Her successes include creating a voter registration and "Get Out the Vote" campaign targeting African American and Latina/o communities in Chicago for the National Organization for Women Foundation. Davis has also provided technical assistance and training for local community organizations around the country addressing affordable housing issues. She collaborated with housing leaders to develop national strategies and presented specific demands to the U.S. Secretary for Housing and Urban Development. These efforts led to victories for each of the organizations.



**DR. PATRICIA (PAM) MORRIS DEVEAUX** is the AME Supervisor in the nation’s capital area of the U.S. Her academic background includes matriculation and graduation from Howard University (B.A.), where she was

inducted as a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; George Peabody College (Master of Library Science); and Vanderbilt University (Ph.D.). Her vocational background includes positions as a high school librarian, medical periodical librarian, university adjunct professor, community college administrator, program manager, and program director at the United States Department of Energy. In these positions, much of her focus was concentrated on developing and implementing initiatives designed to strengthen historically Black colleges and universities. In 1996, upon the election of her husband, William Phillips DeVeaux, Sr., to the position of Bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, she joined him in serving in the 18th Episcopal District, which includes the countries of Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, and Swaziland. Later they served together in the 16th District, which encompasses the Caribbean as well as parts of South America and Europe. They currently serve in the nation’s capital area with the AME Church.



**WILLIAM PHILLIPS DEVEAUX SR.**, Presiding Prelate of the 2<sup>nd</sup> AME Episcopal District, served at Metropolitan AME Church from 1986 until his election to the office of Bishop. Using his personal leadership style, academic expertise, and diverse

ministerial experience, Bishop DeVeaux energized the church membership into active participants in community outreach efforts. On July 2, 1996, the Reverend William P. DeVeaux was consecrated as

the 113th Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Louisville, Kentucky, and was assigned to southern Africa where he lived and served for four years. He also served as the presiding bishop of the 16th Episcopal District of the AME Church which includes the following conferences: Guyana/ Suriname, Windward Islands, Virgin Islands, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, and London/Holland. He is the immediate past Bishop of the Sixth Episcopal District, the state of Georgia.



**DR. ALICE WALKER DUFF** is Managing Director of Bread for the World and Bread for the World Institute. She provides strategic direction for and oversight of the organization’s work including policy, advocacy, education, movement building, and organizational

effectiveness.

Walker Duff has dedicated her life to protecting and expanding children’s services. Currently, she chairs the board of The Alliance for Early Success. Previously, she served as Commissioner of the California First Five Commission and was an inaugural member of the Los Angeles County Children and Family First – Proposition 10 Commission and the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission. She has served on the boards of the National Center for the Child Care Work Force, the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, and the National Black Child Development Institute. She is a life member of the NAACP and is an Emeritus Trustee of Occidental College.

Walker Duff received her B.A. in sociology from Occidental College; her M.A. in sociology of education from the University of California, Los Angeles; and her Ph.D. in urban planning: social development policy, School of Architecture and Urban Planning, from UCLA.



**LINDA ETIM** was sworn in as the U.S. Agency for International Development’s (USAID) Assistant Administrator for Africa in December 2015. In this capacity, she is responsible for more than \$7 billion in assistance funding to 46 countries, in 29 regional and bilateral missions across sub-Saharan

Africa.

Most recently, Etim served as USAID’s Deputy Assistant Administrator for Africa, where she oversaw USAID’s support to the U.S. goals of stabilizing fragile states and promoting transformational development through the full range of foreign assistance programming. This includes promoting peace and security, democracy, good governance, agricultural development, free markets and economic integration, a sustainable environment, improved human health, education, and the delivery of humanitarian assistance in times of need.



**JOHN W. FRANKLIN** is Senior Manager, Office of External Affairs, at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture. For the past 29 years, he has worked on African American, African, and African Diaspora programs at the Smithsonian.

He began working with the Smithsonian in 1976. While he was living and teaching English in Dakar, Senegal, he served as a researcher and French language interpreter for the Smithsonian’s African Diaspora program of the 1976 Bicentennial Folklife Festival. From 1987-1992, Franklin developed symposia and seminars for the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies. At the Smithsonian’s Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, he curated Smithsonian Folklife Festival programs on

the Bahamas (1994), Cape Verdean Culture (1995), Washington, D.C. (2000), and Mali (2003).



**BISHOP JOSÉ GARCÍA** is the Director of the Church Relations Department at Bread for the World in Washington, DC. This non-profit organization is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's leaders to enact laws and policies to end hunger at home and globally. He leads

Bread’s work in developing and maintaining relationships with national and regional church leaders and agency staff across the denominational spectrum. The department also supports the spiritual aspects of Bread’s work among its staff, board, and members.

Previously, he served for 10 years as the Presiding Bishop for the Church of God of Prophecy in California. Prior to his appointment as Presiding Bishop, he supervised and directed the church’s World Language Department. He has served the church as assistant managing editor of its international magazine and as adjunct instructor at its Center for Biblical Leadership. He also served as Executive Director of the National Hispanic Religious Partnership for Community Health (NHRPCH), a nonprofit organization dealing with the numerous disparities in health, social, and economic status that U.S. Hispanics face, and on local and national boards such as “La Red” and the National Latino Evangelical Coalition.

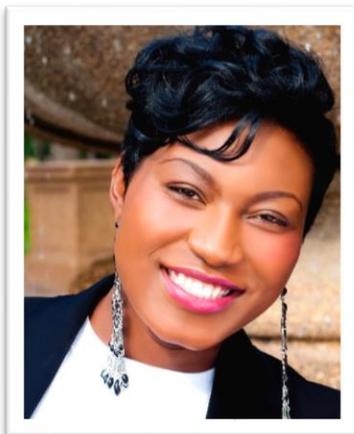
**EDWIN GASAWAY** is the Museum Operations Manager of the African American Civil War Museum. He is a graduate of Howard University and a native Washingtonian.



**REV. KARLENE GRIFFITHS-SEKOU** is a public theologian, pastor, women’s advocate, clinical therapist, public speaker, and global public health strategist. Griffiths-Sekou is the Director of the Boston Healthy

Start Initiative, a program of the Boston Health Commission to prevent infant mortality.

She earned a Master of Theological Studies from Vanderbilt University Divinity School and a master’s degree in public health from Boston University. Her work emphasizes pastoral and practical theologies; spiritual formation; public and mental health for women, communities, congregations, and clergy; and social justice advocacy. Griffiths-Sekou is a pastor's pastor and has been spiritual advisor to a new generation of clergy and leaders committed to personal ethics and social justice.



Native Washingtonian **ANGELA MARIE JONES** seeks to form a full-bodied faith legacy that promotes critical thought, ecumenism, and interfaith dialogue that may influence younger generations through areas of the arts, business, and

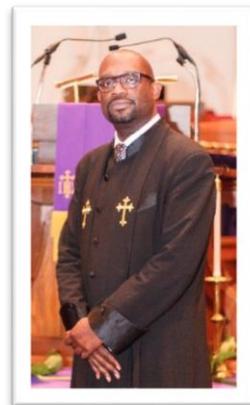
mentorship. Growing up in the household of a Word of Faith pastor, Jones gravitated toward the work of the ministry at an early age. She is a sought-after singer and songwriter who has been charming audiences since the age of 4. Her passion for singing took off in her adolescence, when she was a member of the Washington Performing Art Society’s Children of the Gospel. At the Duke Ellington School of Arts (DESA), she studied classical voice under Edward Jackson and became a member of the world-renowned DESA Show Choir. She was featured in productions and scenes for “Amahl and the Night Visitors,” “Black Not So

Blue,” and “Don Giovanni.” In the Gospel genre, she has sung with Marvin Sapp, Richard Smallwood, Nolan Williams, Kari Jobe, Darrell Evans, Yolanda Adams, Anthony Walker, Freddy Washington, Brandon Camphor and OneWay, and others.



**DR. NDUNGE KIITI** is Professor of International Development at Houghton College in Houghton, N.Y., and Adjunct Faculty at Emory University’s Rollins School of Public Health, Department of Global Health, in Atlanta, Ga. Currently, Kiiti is a Visiting Professor at the Cornell International Institute for

Food, Agriculture and Development (CIIFAD). With a key focus on Africa and Latin America, Kiiti’s work involves research, teaching, and publishing in the areas of communication, education, health, and development. Her research highlights the use and impact of mobile money technology by women’s micro-credit groups, the ‘Jua Kali’ or informal business sector, and smallholder farmers in Rwanda, Ethiopia, and Kenya. She has served on the boards of MAP International, CORE Group, and Jericho Road Community Health Center in the U.S. Kiiti has a Ph.D. in communication from Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., which included a one-year study in International Health at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, Baltimore, Md.



**REV. WILLIAM H. LAMAR IV** is pastor of Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C. He previously served Turner Memorial AME Church in Maryland and three churches in Florida: Monticello, Orlando, and Jacksonville. He is a former managing director at Leadership Education at

Duke Divinity School. Lamar is a graduate of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University and Duke Divinity School.



**ASMA LATEEF** has been director of the Bread for the World Institute since 2007. Lateef is responsible for implementing the Institute’s analysis and education on policy issues related to U.S. and global hunger,

malnutrition, and poverty. Since 2010, she has been involved in efforts to establish and support the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement. She now serves on the Steering Committee of the SUN Movement’s Civil Society Network and is also a member of the executive committee of the 1,000 Days Advocacy Working Group.

She has a master’s degree in economics from the University of Maryland, a post-graduate diploma in economics from the London School of Economics, and a bachelor’s degree in geography from McGill University. She has over 20 years of experience in public policy and extensive experience developing and implementing policy advocacy strategies. Prior to becoming Institute Director, Lateef worked as Director of Policy and Programs at Citizens for Global Solutions and as a senior international policy analyst in the Government Relations Department of Bread for the World. In 2003, she led Bread for the World’s campaign to support the establishment of the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) and the Millennium Challenge Corporation. She then co-chaired a national coalition that worked on the authorization, funding and implementation of the MCA. Earlier, she worked for the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.



**RAHEL T. LESLIE (MEMHERT TS'GIE)** is a church scholar and teacher who is completing her doctorate at Howard University. Memhert Ts'gie Mariam shares the knowledge that she has been privileged

to gain access to over the years about Kushitic – Ethiopian – African institutions and knowledge systems, including the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. She has spent years in both West and East Africa working on humanitarian projects, primarily in the area of conflict resolution and reconciliation. She has also worked with organizations such as Women in Nigeria, the African Union, and Save the Children as a short-term and middle-term consultant on projects that gave her the opportunity to learn about the barriers to development, wellbeing, and fullness of joy both in the developing world and in marginalized communities in the United States in particular. As a consultant with the African Union and with the U.N., she worked in Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation and began working on an appreciative approach to developing and organically modernizing endogenous African conflict resolution institutions. She developed a project for the African Union and the U.N. to study endogenous justice systems in order to explore how they could be used to solve and/or manage modern African disputes and challenges and solve problems that challenged western diplomatic systems and institutions.



**DOMINICAN FATHER ANIEDI OKURE** is the Executive Director of Africa Faith & Justice Network (AFJN) and an instructor at Loyola Marymount University’s Cultural Orientation Program for International Ministers (COPIM). He has a range of experience in teaching, campus ministry, and

working with migrant communities. With a Ph.D. in sociology from the Catholic University of America, he has done research on religion and social change, civil societies, identity in postcolonial societies, and cross-cultural encounters. Presently, he is leading AFJN in developing practical ways of applying Catholic Social Teaching to nurture Catholic civil societies in Africa and empower them to promote just governance and the common good throughout the continent. He served as Coordinator of Ethnic Ministries at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and has published works on the impact of immigrant communities and international priests on local churches in the United States and on intercultural competency. These include “Integration of African Immigrants in US Communities” (2013) and “Intercultural Competencies: Engaging African-Born Clergy and Religious in the United States” (2015). He is the co-author of *International Priests in America* (2006) and *African and Caribbean Catholics in the United States* (2008). He is a frequent guest on the Voice of America TV program “Straight Talk Africa” and a regularly invited speaker on intercultural competency, immigrant communities in the U.S., and Africa related policy issues. He serves on the Governing Board of Jubilee USA.



**DR. BARBARA PERKINS** is the President and Co-Founder of the International Black Women’s Public Policy Institute (IBWPPI). Perkins is also an executive coach, life coach, professional speaker, and author. As President and Co-Founder of IBWPPI, she leads the organization in connecting and advocating for Black

women globally through acts of kindness and public policy. The mission is to work in the U.S. and internationally to convene hearings and discussions to evaluate the impact of current public policies and to initiate new policies that address major threats to the well-being of Black women and families. Inspired by and building upon the legacy of Dr.

Dorothy I. Height, Chair Emeritus, National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), Perkins in 1995 made a decision to work with and on behalf of women around the world. She traveled as part of NCNW delegations to the Beijing Conference on Women 1995 and Cairo in 1994, and drew on those experiences to conceive and launch the IBWPPI in 2009. Over the past six years, a plethora of research, data, indicators, and direct engagement has guided and informed the focus of IBWPPI on the issues of education, women’s economic empowerment, and the health and wellbeing of Black women and girls nationally.



**REV. DR. BERNICE POWELL JACKSON** was the North American President of the World Council of Churches from 2004-2013, having been active in the ecumenical world for more than two

decades. She was the first pan- African woman from North America to serve in this role. During that same time, she served as Executive Minister for Justice and Witness Ministries of the United Church of Christ and as one of the five officers of that denomination. Currently she serves as pastor of The First United Church of Tampa, a 130-year old congregation of the United Church of Christ. She recently completed a three year term as co-President of the Hillsborough Organization of Progress and Equality, an inter-faith community organization that works for systemic change in Tampa. Prior to this, she was interim pastor of Beecher Memorial Congregational Church in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. Jackson has more than four decades of experience in working for racial justice, women’s rights, economic justice, and human rights around the world. During the 1980s she worked as Director of the Archbishop Desmond Tutu Scholarship Fund and as Archbishop Tutu’s U.S. representative.



**ROSE RAKAS** is currently the Director of the Office of Regional Sustainable Development in the Latin America Bureau of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). In this position, she oversees an extensive development

portfolio that implements programs throughout South and Central America and the Caribbean. She oversees regional projects in health, environment, economic growth, democracy and governance, and education. Before her current position, Ms. Rakas was Mission Director for USAID/Paraguay. She served as Deputy Mission Director in Guatemala and has also served as a Regional Legal Advisor in El Salvador and Bolivia. Before joining USAID, Ms. Rakas worked as a lawyer at the firm of Bryan Cave in Washington D.C., and as a trial lawyer with the U.S. Department of Justice Antitrust Division. She holds a Juris Doctorate from the George Washington University National Law Center, where she was an Articles Editor of the Law Review. Her undergraduate degrees are in political science and German from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.



**REV. CHRISTINA DAWN REED, M.DIV.** is the youngest of six children born to Rev. Dr. Rodger Hall Reed Sr. and Dr. Shirley Cason Reed. Born in Annapolis, Md., in 1977, she is a graduate of Richmond Community High School (Richmond,

Va.). Rev. Reed received her Bachelor of Arts degree in theatre theory and performance from Hampton University (Hampton, Va.). She received her Master of Divinity from the Turner Theological Seminary at The Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta. She serves as a Bread for the World Hunger Justice Leader (class of 2012). She currently serves as the pastor of Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church (The Mount), Duffields, W.V. Reed is the founder of Glorious Movement Ministries, a ministry focused on

performing arts (theatre, dance, mime, step) as well as counseling and mentorship to young women (D.I.V.A.S.S. InC.). She is also an educator in Prince George’s County (Maryland) Public Schools, a certified Zumba instructor, and a workshop presenter (Water Environment Studies, Theatre, Sexuality and The Black Church, Youth Ministry, and Maximizing Your Gifts). She is a firm believer in fighting on the side of “right” justice and the liberation of all people, and she believes that there are alternative ways in which to convey the Gospel besides the preached word. Her favorite hymn clearly expresses her desire for God to enrich her life: “Come thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace.....here I raise mine Ebenezer, hither by thy help I’m come!”



**REV. DR. CHERYL J. SANDERS** has served as Senior Pastor of the Third Street Church of God in Washington, D.C., since 1997, and as Professor of Christian ethics at Howard University School of Divinity since 1984. She has published more than 100 articles and the following

books: *Ministry at the Margins* (InterVarsity Press, 1997); *Saints in Exile: The Holiness-Pentecostal Experience in African American Religion and Culture* (Oxford, 1996); *Empowerment Ethics for a Liberated People* (Fortress, 1995); and *Living the Intersection* (Fortress, 1995). From 2000 to 2007 Sanders was a contributing guest editor for *Leadership*, a journal for pastors.

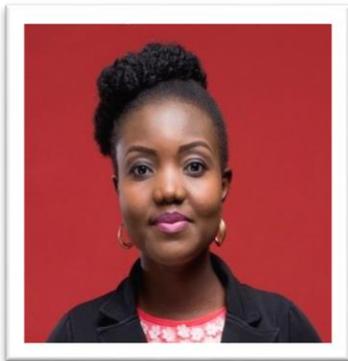
Sanders is a graduate of the Sidwell Friends School, Swarthmore College (B.A. in mathematics), and Harvard Divinity School (M.Div., *cum laude*, and Th.D. in the field of applied theology). She has been awarded two honorary Doctor of Divinity degrees; the first by Asbury College in 2002, and the second by Anderson University in 2007.



**U.S. SENATOR TIM SCOTT (R-S.C.)** was sworn in to the U.S. Senate in January 2013. He launched his Opportunity Agenda, which includes robust initiatives that give students and workers the greatest chance to succeed. Scott knows that

success is created in studio apartments and garages, at kitchen tables, and in classrooms across the nation, not in government conference rooms in Washington, D.C.

His agenda seeks to empower Americans through economic freedom and high-quality education. Scott will work with anyone committed to building a better future to develop bold ideas that break away from our past failures. This includes tax reform to increase economic freedom, expanding school choice so every child has a chance at a quality education, and providing alternatives for single parents to work full-time by allowing wider use of compensatory time.



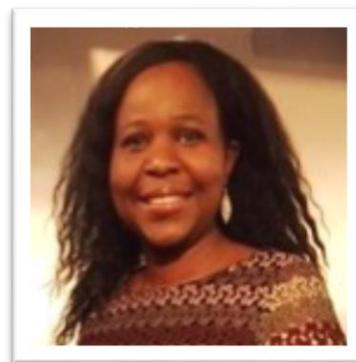
**PRINCESS SEKYERE** is a corporate communications professional with over five years of experience in public, media, and community relations. Sekyere is currently the Director of Kingdom Concepts

Consult (KCC), a media communications company

in Ghana that specializes in corporate communications and social responsibility, where she advises, designs, and implements strategies and campaigns for companies and individuals.

Sekyere was among the few young leaders chosen to represent her country, Ghana, as a participant in President Obama's 2015 Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) program in the U.S.

She founded and leads Princess Sekyere Mission (PSM), a nonprofit organization that focuses on youth mentoring of both privileged and underprivileged youth, with specialized programs in communities and on radio.



**FAUSTINE WABWIRE** is Bread for the World Institute's Senior Foreign Assistance Policy Analyst, based in Washington, D.C. Bread for the World Institute provides policy analysis on hunger and

strategies to end it. The Institute educates U.S. policy makers, opinion leaders, and the public about hunger and poverty in the United States and abroad.

At the Institute, Wabwire provides policy leadership on issues including social protection; the need for strong institutions and local capacity; global poverty, hunger, and malnutrition; climate change; trade; and the role of effective U.S. and multilateral assistance in providing solutions. She worked with Institute colleagues on the 2015 Hunger Report, *When Women Flourish... We Can End Hunger*, which explores why women's empowerment is essential to ending global hunger.