



BREAD FOR THE WORLD
INSTITUTE

50 Years of Impact

WORKING TO END HUNGER SINCE 1974



Bread for the World is a Christian advocacy organization urging U.S. decision makers to do all they can to pursue a world without hunger. Our mission is to educate and equip people to advocate for policies and programs that can help end hunger in the U.S. and around the world.

Bread for the World Institute provides nonpartisan policy research and analysis on hunger and strategies to end it. The Institute has been educating opinion leaders, policymakers, and the public about hunger in the United States and abroad since 1975.





50 Years of Impact on Hunger

1974-1977

Bread for the World Launches

In 1974, Rev. Art Simon and an ecumenical group of Christian leaders founded Bread for the World to build the political will to end hunger in the U.S. and around the world. • In response to Bread's first Offering of Letters, Congress passed a resolution in support of ending hunger and declaring that every human being has a right to food. • In 1976, the Bread for the World Educational Fund (later renamed Bread for the World Institute) was established to conduct research and education about hunger and strategies to end it.

1978-1982

Bread Members Help to Expand WIC and Other U.S. Nutrition Assistance

Bread helped persuade Congress to expand the Special Supplemental Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), which provides healthy foods and nutrition education. Bread has consistently advocated for funding for WIC, building bipartisan support. Nearly half of all babies born in the U.S. now benefit from WIC. • Bread contributed to Congress's decision to expand the school breakfast program, which now reaches 15.5 million children per day.

1983-1990

Child Survival and Other International Aid

Bread campaigned to establish the international Child Survival Fund, then pushed year after year for funding increases. This early emphasis on immunization means that now 100 million children are protected annually, and the number of children in developing countries who die every day

1991-1994

New Leadership, the Same Mission

Rev. David Beckmann became the second president of Bread. • Bread helped secure passage of the Horn of Africa Relief and Recovery Act, which encouraged the State Department to help negotiate a peaceful transition of power in Ethiopia and enabled resumption of development assistance. • Bread pushed to expand poverty-focused development assistance, which has now more than tripled. • Bread secured a \$2 billion increase for WIC, Head Start, and Job Corps, which is now the largest nationwide residential career training program in the country.

1995-1998

Making Hunger an Election Issue and Resisting Program Cuts

In Bread's first campaign to influence candidates running for Congress, Bread educated voters and candidates about childhood hunger and its solutions. Forty percent of the candidates who were elected made a commitment to work toward ending childhood hunger in America. • Bread won passage of the Africa: Seeds of Hope Act, which revived USAID's focus on agriculture and rural development and established the Bill Emerson Trust Fund. The Trust is still being used to speed up humanitarian aid in response to emergencies. • Bread helped win \$1.6 billion in funding for nutrition programs, keeping 400,000 people from losing WIC and food stamps, now called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP.

• has dropped from about 50,000 in the mid-1980s to 14,000 now. • Bread helped win \$800 million in emergency food aid to people in Ethiopia and other East African countries facing starvation. • Bread helped secure funding for the International Fund for Agricultural Development, which invests in business development for small-holder farmers in countries around the world.

1999-2004

◀ Jubilee for Africa and Building the Movement to End Hunger

Bread played a leadership role in the international Jubilee campaign to convince the U.S. government to write down debts for qualifying developing nations. In recognition of Bread's role, Rev. David Beckmann was invited to announce President Clinton at the bill signing ceremony. The Jubilee campaign reduced the debt burden of 36 poor countries by 90 percent and focused World Bank and IMF programs in low-income countries on poverty reduction. Debt relief allowed a generation of girls in countries across Africa to go to school and changed the politics of foreign aid going forward.

- Bread persuaded Congress to restore food stamp eligibility for some legal immigrants, enabling access to \$1 billion in groceries annually.
- Bread was instrumental in helping pass the Hunger to Harvest resolution, which urged the President to set forth multi-year strategies to reverse widespread and increasing hunger and poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Bread led a coalition to engage Congress on the Millennium Challenge Account, helped shape the legislation that created it, and helped establish criteria to direct its funding to governments that are using money well and committed to poverty reduction. Bread then helped secure funding for the account.
- In 2001, Bread established a sister organization, the Alliance to End Hunger, to engage diverse organizations, including Jewish and Muslim groups, charities, universities, and corporations.

2005-2010

◀ Funding Increases and the World Food Prize

Our Farm Bill campaign achieved the largest-ever funding increase for food stamps and food banks: \$10 billion over 10 years.

- Bread helped secure a \$1.4 billion increase in poverty-focused development assistance in response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic.
- Bread helped Bono and others launch the ONE Campaign.
- Amid the global hunger crisis of 2008, Bread helped secure a

2011-2019

◀ Budget Battles with a Surprisingly Good Outcome

When congressional leaders proposed to cut \$2 trillion from poverty-focused programs, Bread and other Christian groups formed the Circle of Protection, a coalition that led 36,000 people—including 24 members of Congress—in a fast to protest budget cuts. Leaders of the Circle of Protection met with the President and top congressional leaders in both parties who agreed to protect some of the largest poverty-focused programs from cuts.

- Bread and our partners won increases in investments in global maternal and child malnutrition.

- supplemental appropriation of \$1.8 billion for emergency assistance and agricultural development.
- Bread educated partners and members about new evidence in the Lancet Series on the impact of maternal and child malnutrition and the cost-effective solutions that exist. We supported a new global effort to scale up nutrition (the SUN Movement).
- In 2009-10, Bread helped shape the Obama administration's response to the global food price and financial crisis, including the launch of the 1000 Days Partnership to support Feed the Future.
- The U.S. Senate passed S.Res.157, a resolution recognizing Bread for the World, on the 35th anniversary of its founding, for its faithful advocacy on behalf of people experiencing hunger in our country and around the world.
- Bread helped win passage of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, which expanded and improved the nutritional content of school meals and summer feeding programs, leading to a decline in childhood obesity. The Act authorized an increase of \$4.5 billion over 10 years, the largest increase of its kind.
- Bread expanded its thought leadership to address root causes of hunger and began publishing annual Hunger Reports.
- Rev. David Beckmann received the World Food Prize in recognition of Bread and our members' work to reduce hunger.

We encouraged the administration to develop a whole-of-government nutrition strategy, which led to the appointment of a Chief Nutritionist position at USAID. • Bread helped pass a reauthorization of the child nutrition programs which improved the nutritional quality of school meals. • Bread played a lead role in developing and piloting the racial wealth gap simulation, an interactive tool that helps participants understand the connections among racial equity, hunger, poverty, and wealth in the United States. Over 5,000 people in the private and public sectors have been trained in the simulation. • H.Res.378 was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives, a resolution honoring the life and legacy of Bread's founder Rev. Art Simon and strongly supporting the goal of ending hunger at home and abroad.

COVID-19 and Bread's Third President

Rev. Eugene Cho became President and CEO of Bread for the World. • Bread supported and shaped crisis measures to address the global pandemic. We pushed Congress to pass a series of massive response and recovery bills, which kept the economy functioning, helped families cope, and aided vulnerable groups. Poverty declined during the pandemic because of the American Rescue Act, especially the expansion of the Child Tax Credit, which reduced the child poverty rate to 5 percent – the lowest rate of child poverty in U.S. history. • Bread contributed to the successful passage of the bipartisan Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which provided additional resources for school meals so that children could continue to get the nutrients they needed during the global pandemic. • Bread successfully advocated for passage of the Keep Kids Fed Act, a bipartisan bill that authorized the provision of free summer meals for about 30 million kids in America, regardless of income.

- Bread lobbying helped convince President Biden to hold a White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, where the President announced a strategy to end U.S. hunger and reduce diet-related disease by 2030.
- Bread played a leadership role in winning permanent improvements to summer school feeding programs.
- Bread supported reauthorization of the Global Food Security Act, which supports and directs USAID investments in small-holder farmers and the nutrition of women and children.
- Bread initiated and built broad bipartisan support for congressional resolutions that recognized the importance of U.S. leadership to reduce global maternal and child malnutrition, and their passage set the stage for the Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act, which will improve U.S. nutrition assistance programs.
- Bread's efforts secured \$1 billion in supplemental aid for countries experiencing near-famines.
- 2023 brought a renewed assault in Congress against programs that help low-income people. Bread's work on the Farm Bill and related appropriations helped to block efforts to cut SNAP, WIC, and Food for Peace.
- Bread helped launch a bipartisan Financial Institutions Educational Caucus in Congress, which will focus on improving the work of international financial institutions in addressing global poverty.

Nourishing Our Future

After 50 years of proving strategies that work to feed billions, Bread for the World continues to advocate in a challenging political climate on behalf of people experiencing hunger in the United States and around the world. In 2024 and beyond, Bread's policy focuses on alleviating childhood hunger through the Nourish Our Future campaign that will work to secure programs to feed this generation and generations to come. ▾

Since 1974, Bread for the World has been gathering the voices of people of faith to prevent hunger from happening in the first place rather than just reacting to it by speaking out to their elected officials. Our bipartisan network includes hundreds of thousands of people and churches that are active in every congressional district. By changing policies, programs, and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist, we provide help and opportunity far beyond the communities where we live.



**We began with a tiny seed of an idea,
but the seed had life and, when planted,
God gave growth.”**

– Rev. Art Simon, Founder of Bread for the World

**320 Million /
7 Billion**

The policies and programs Bread advocates for have impacted **320 million** people in the U.S. and more than **7 billion** people around the world.

40 Million

40 million people in the U.S. have been directly impacted by the increases in access, eligibility, and benefits that Bread for the World has fought for in SNAP.



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