

A Century of Black History, A Future of Global Solidarity

Black History is domestic and global. In February 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, son of a formerly enslaved African American family, developed the idea for Negro History Week to promote the history, culture, and achievements of African Americans and related peoples worldwide. It was designed to coincide with the designated birthday celebrations of President Abraham Lincoln and Mr. Frederick Douglass. In February 1970 following advocacy from students at Kent State University years prior, the University led the movement to change the week to a month which was followed by the Federal government in February 1976.

This year provides new opportunities to acknowledge this history—and herstory—as well as a growing Pan-African spirit and advocacy leadership both globally and domestically from Africa and the African diaspora. This Centennial, the 250th anniversary of the United States, and the G20 convening in the United States following the G20 in South Africa offer unique opportunities for engagement. Advocacy with the U.S. Congress and institutions such as the [African Union](#), which includes the sixth region of the African Diaspora in the U.S. and, globally, the [Caribbean Community](#) (CARICOM); the [Congressional Black Caucus](#); and the United Nations, with its eight mechanisms addressing People of African Descent and the Africa Group, is strategic for our advocacy to end hunger.

We also find hopeful advocacy opportunities in the recent bipartisan passing of the [Africa Growth Act \(AGOA\)](#) in the House of Representatives. We remain prayerfully engaged as Bread for the World continues its long-standing leadership on AGOA, from its inception through its reauthorizations, and we advocate for its successful passage in the Senate.

The Debt Crisis, Climate Change, and Hunger Challenge

The debt crisis in Africa fuels hunger by forcing governments to cut spending on agriculture, healthcare, and social programs, while diverting funds to debt servicing. Rising costs and climate shocks worsen food insecurity, creating a vicious cycle of poverty, underinvestment, and instability, leaving millions unable to afford basic food. This crisis leads to increased malnutrition and reliance on food aid, as resources for local food production and infrastructure remain scarce.

Historic Pan-African Significance of COP30 and G20

Recently, Bread for the World participated in the G20 held for the first time in Africa—South Africa—and COP30, held for the first time in Brazil, home to the second most populous place of African peoples after Nigeria. Both gatherings emphasized inclusive voices and processes at local, national, and global levels. The G20 represents 85% of the world’s gross domestic product and two-thirds of the world’s population. COP30 includes 198 parties (countries and the European Union).

A Way Forward

The historic [G20 South Africa Presidency](#) and [COP30](#) significantly advanced food security efforts by linking food systems with climate action, promoting sustainable agriculture (including agroecology), supporting vulnerable populations—women, youth, and people living in poverty—and reforming financial mechanisms for resilience. These efforts build on South Africa’s leadership, including the Task Force on Food Security and the Belém Declaration’s call for people-centered climate action. G20 leaders pledged “to work together to strengthen agriculture, aquaculture, and food systems for the benefit of present and future generations, while reaffirming our support for the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty as an important platform for addressing poverty, hunger and inequality in an integrated and sustainable manner.”

2026 Advocacy Actions

Bread for the World urges the following actions during Black History Month and throughout 2026:

1. Join us in [prayers to end hunger](#) during Black History Month, addressing the issues of debt relief and climate action.
2. Raise your voice by [writing to Congress](#) and calling for policies rooted in justice, global solidarity, and a shared commitment to end hunger.
3. Partner with us and global allies through the Jubilee campaign to [“Turn Debt Into Hope”](#) and mobilize policymakers for stronger international debt relief.