



2020 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 alongside people experiencing hunger in our country and around the world.

Bread for the World's network includes 1.8 million people, broad denominational partnerships, thousands of active congregations, 315,000 activists, and ten thousand core supporters who lead Bread's network in prayer, activism, and giving. As Christians, participating in elections is an extension of our calling to "speak out for those who cannot speak... [and] defend the rights of the poor and needy" (Proverbs 31:8-9).

As you consider candidates in the 2020 election, we urge you to consider what it will take to end hunger in the United States and around the world, raise hunger-related issues with candidates and give time, money, and votes to candidates who will help to end hunger.

How
widespread
is hunger?

In the United States

- 1 in 7 children are at risk of hunger.
- Nearly 1.4 million veterans experience food insecurity.
- People of color experience hunger at higher rates than the general population. 1 in 5 African Americans, 1 in 4 Indigenous Americans and 1 in 6 Latinos live in hunger.
- Female-headed households are three times as likely to live in hunger as the general U.S. household. Female-headed households of color are estimated to experience hunger at three to four times the rate of the typical U.S. household.

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

Globally

The world is making unprecedented progress against hunger, poverty, and disease. The number of people suffering from hunger has dropped from close to 1 in 4 people in 1990 to 1 in 9 in 2018.

It now seems feasible to virtually end hunger and malnutrition in 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.

To End Hunger in the United States

- **Create jobs that pay.** Millions of people 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 that provide opportunity.
 - Make growing the economy and reducing income inequality a high priority.
 - Raise the minimum wage and increase training opportunities.
 - Expand access to work supports such as sick and parental leave and child care.
 - Improve tax credits for working families.
- **Invest in people.** There is no higher calling for government than empowering people to reach their potential.
 - Ensure that everyone, regardless of race, gender, and class, has access to nutrition, health care, education, and housing.
 - Establish procedures that limit the influence of money in elections and that make voting accessible and 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.
 - Target assistance to communities of concentrated poverty.
- **Remove obstacles to earning a decent living.** To end hunger, we need to include everyone.
 - Enforce laws against racial, gender, and other forms of discrimination, and end discriminatory practices.
 - Reform the immigration system to protect undocumented people and allow a path to citizenship so they may contribute more fully to the economy and society.
 - Reform our criminal justice system, including measures to help people who have been incarcerated return to society and get jobs.
- **Strengthen the safety net.** Most people need some help at some point in their lives. On average, families who receive SNAP leave the program after 14 months.
 - Strengthen our national nutrition programs—school and summer meals, SNAP, WIC, and home-based meals for senior citizens.
 - Maintain other social safety-net programs—Medicaid, for example.
 - Make federal assistance programs more efficient and accountable.
 - Adopt government budgets that give priority to people in poverty.

To End Hunger Around the World

- **Provide U.S. leadership for international systems that reduce hunger and poverty.** U.S. government leadership mobilizes attention and leverages additional resources from other countries and institutions, thus accelerating progress.
 - Lead the world in implementing global goals to end hunger, reduce poverty, and combat climate change—the Sustainable Development Goals.
 - Deepen efforts to promote peace and security and address the root causes of forced migration.
 - 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.
- **Expand and improve development assistance focused on poverty.** Less than one percent of the U.S. budget goes to programs that reduce global hunger, poverty, and disease. The world is a better, safer place when all children have a chance to go to school access to education and people around the world can feed their families.
 - Make U.S. aid more efficient, accountable and locally-owned.
 - Increase funding for health, development, and humanitarian assistance—especially in countries struggling with conflict. Fragile states now account for almost half of world hunger.
 - Use U.S. assistance and diplomacy to promote equality for women.
- **Invest in global food security and nutrition.** Forty-five percent of all preventable child deaths are 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 allow all babies to develop their God-given mental and physical potential.

Our Request of Candidates

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

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

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 should use our gift of citizenship to elect officials who will put us on track to end hunger and poverty.

