
David Beckmann



David Beckmann is one of the foremost U.S. advocates for hungry people, leading large-scale and successful campaigning to strengthen U.S. political commitment to overcoming hunger and poverty. He founded the Alliance to End Hunger in 2001 as a platform for both secular and faith organizations to join together in the fight against hunger. Since then, the Alliance has grown to engage many types of diverse U.S. institutions – Muslim and Jewish groups, corporations, unions, and universities – in building political will to end hunger. When the U.N. agencies in Rome launched the International Alliance Against Hunger, they used the U.S. Alliance to End Hunger as one model for national alliances against hunger around the world.

Beckmann is also president of two sister organizations, Bread for the World and Bread for the World Institute. He has been president of Bread for the World, a U.S. Christian advocacy movement to end hunger that mobilizes a quarter of a million constituent letters to Congress each year, since 1991. Thousands of Bread for the World activists meet with legislators, get coverage in local media, and organize others in their communities against hunger. Bread for the World is one of the largest organizations in the world dedicated to building the political will to end hunger and has an impressive record of achievement under Beckmann's leadership.

Beckmann is also president of Bread for the World Institute, which does research and education on hunger-related issues, including agriculture, trade policy, health, climate change, and gender.

Beckmann is a Lutheran pastor as well as an economist. He earned degrees from Yale, Christ Seminary, and the London School of Economics, and six universities have awarded him honorary doctorates. In 2010, he was named a World Food Prize laureate. Beckmann proposed what has become the More and Better Campaign, an international coalition of NGOs that work for more and better funding for agriculture, rural development and nutrition. In 2005, Beckmann delivered the prestigious McDougall Lecture at the biannual meeting of the FAO Conference. His latest book is *Exodus from Hunger: We Are Called to Change the Politics of Hunger*.

Currently Beckmann serves on the President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, USAID's Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid, the Trade Advisory Committee on Africa of the office of the U.S. Trade Representative, the U.S. Department of State's Religion and Foreign Policy Working Group, and the Executive Committee of the Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network. Beckmann is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Previously, Beckmann served at the World Bank for 15 years, overseeing large projects and driving innovations to make the Bank more effective in reducing poverty.

Beckmann speaks Spanish. He has lived in Bangladesh and Ghana, overseen projects in Bolivia and Ecuador, and visited more than 70 countries.