The Urgent Need for Global COVID-19 Funding

The Borgen Project applauds Congress’ passage of a second supplemental package to address the conflict in Ukraine. However, lawmakers missed a critical opportunity to include funds to help combat the global pandemic, especially as USAID Administrator, Samantha Powers, testified to Congress in early May that the agency had already spent 95% of global COVID-19 funding and the rest is expected to be exhausted by July 2022.

Today, less than 16% of people in low-income countries have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. What is needed now more than ever is funding to ensure low-income countries have the resources to administer vaccines once they are delivered successfully. This requires funding for PPE, cold storage, syringes, education campaigns to combat vaccine hesitancy and training for frontline healthcare workers.

Millions of people have lost their lives due to COVID-19, including one million Americans. If global leaders do not address this pandemic now, more lives will be lost. This is why Congress must pass $5 billion to address the global response to COVID-19, which covers funding for last-mile efforts in vaccine delivery.

The Importance of U.S. Investments

By investing in a global recovery, the U.S. can also address the secondary impacts of the virus that affect us all.

- **On U.S. Leadership and National Security:** The U.S. military has warned that the spread of the virus and accompanying instability could lead to a resurgence of ISIS in Syria and elsewhere. Terrorism is already on the rise in sub-Saharan Africa. Retired military leaders have been vocal on this topic since the beginning of the pandemic—statement from the Co-Chairs of the National Security Advisory Council.

- **On Economic Recovery:** Providing foreign assistance is an investment that yields returns. Before the start of the pandemic, approximately 50% of U.S. exports went to developing countries. American export jobs are now at stake—Economic relief letter to Senate leadership.

- **On Humanitarian Response:** Showing global leadership is the right thing to do to save lives, end suffering and prevent future pandemics. Before the pandemic, global poverty rates were on the decline. However, due to the secondary consequences of COVID-19, an additional 97 million more people were pushed into extreme poverty in 2021—Faith-based leaders' letter.
### USAID Funding by Region

- **Asia**
- **Europe and Eurasia**
- **Sub-Saharan Africa**
- **Latin America and the Caribbean**
- **Middle East and North Africa**