

## **THE BORGEN PROJECT**



**RE: IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Congress Must Pass Global COVID-19 Funding**

**TACOMA, Washington** — On May 19, 2022, Congress passed a second supplemental funding package to help address the conflict in Ukraine. The Borgen Project applauds its passage and emphasizes the importance of investing in a strong humanitarian response, especially as millions of Ukrainians endure displacement and face dire crises in areas under Russian assault. The consequences of the conflict continue to reverberate across the globe, causing staggering spikes in food and fuel prices. However, the passage of global COVID-19 funding is particularly critical as these ramifications disproportionately impact vulnerable people in the most disadvantaged areas across the globe.

Even before the conflict in Ukraine, those living in low-income countries faced increased adversity due to the primary and secondary impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and other conflicts. For example, due to food shortages, global hunger is on the rise, with 193 million people facing acute food insecurity in 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic is far from over, and without a robust global response, the world will face further detriment.

Because of this, The Borgen Project believes Congress missed a critical opportunity last week by not providing funds to help combat the global pandemic, especially as USAID Administrator Samantha Power testified to Congress in early May that global COVID-19 funding is expected to be exhausted in just two months, by July 2022.

Today, less than 16% of people in low-income countries have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. This number is alarming considering that vaccines stand as the world's first line of defense against pandemics. Now more than ever, funding is critical to ensure low-income countries have the resources to successfully administer vaccines once they are delivered. This call for funding includes coverage for PPE, cold storage, syringes, COVID-19 vaccine education campaigns to combat vaccine hesitancy and training for frontline health care 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, the world will lose countless more lives. For this reason, Congress must pass \$5 billion to address the global response to COVID-19, which covers funding for last-mile efforts in vaccine delivery. The time is now.

### **About The Borgen Project**

The Borgen Project is a nonprofit working at the political level to advance international development policies and programs to alleviate global poverty. Founded in 2003 by Clint Borgen, The Borgen Project has mobilized people around the world to make anti-poverty efforts a political priority, building awareness of global poverty and its effects on the international community to U.S. Congressional leaders and citizens alike. The Borgen Project currently has campaigns and volunteers in more than 1,813 cities and continues to expand its reach.

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