



## Emergency Funding for COVID-19 Global Response

The latest relief package that passed in December 2020 and included \$4 billion for global vaccine funding is a critical first step in the global response to COVID-19. Global distribution of the vaccine is incredibly important but the needs from the pandemic continue to grow. For example, due to its impact on the global food system, 2020 and 2021 hunger levels could reach the highest they've been in over a decade. Additional resources are required now in order to limit the spread of COVID-19 and the evolving secondary consequences of the pandemic.

Admiral Stavridis and General Zinni (Ret.) said it best: "No matter how successful we are in fighting the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic at home, we will never stop it unless we are also fighting it around the world." The Borgen Project is especially concerned about the response in Africa, where the number of cases are on the rise while the wait for vaccines continues. Africa carries 23% of the global disease burden but only accounts for 1% of global health expenditure.

An investment in global health security is an investment in U.S. national security. **That is why Congress must pass the next relief package which includes \$11 billion in foreign assistance to fight COVID-19.** This funding is essential to U.S. leadership in combating the COVID-19 pandemic globally and to protecting the health, security and economic interests of all Americans.

### Global Emergency Needs

Development and global health experts have identified increased emergency needs and insufficient existing U.S. international affairs resources in the following areas:

In global health, there are urgent needs for greater surveillance, equipment, personnel, testing and laboratory capacity to save lives and contain the spread of the virus, while also not losing sight of the need for essential health services such as routine immunization, and efforts to address ongoing epidemics such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Funds would also increase the U.S. contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

Governor Beasley of the World Food Programme has warned that without additional resources, existing programs will be unable to meet the growing needs which will lead to famine. Hunger is on the rise and the number of people experiencing hunger and malnutrition will double to 265 million people just this year. Thus, the U.S. humanitarian response must be scaled up to protect vulnerable populations, and provide food, nutrition, access to local markets and community-based livelihoods programs to displaced populations. International financial institutions have established new funds to address the crushing economic and financial challenges. In addition, our frontline operational response to COVID-19 and protecting Americans abroad could be disrupted due to a severe shortfall in fee revenue to Department of State operations.

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