

## **FAQ Answers**

These could potentially come up with your donors and you all should be well versed in these answers, but it's always nice to have them in front of you to be able reference them during your call or if you receive any emails back.

### **POVERTY IN AMERICA**

The Borgen Project is in 100 percent agreement that U.S. leaders should be doing more to address poverty domestically. Our focus, however, is on U.S. foreign policy. We're working to improve living conditions for those living in chronic hunger by making it a priority of U.S. foreign policy. Addressing poverty at home and abroad aren't competing interests.

### **CORRUPTION**

Corruption exists, but it's by no means a valid justification for not helping. There are several methods for helping people that bypass corruption, and we need to be investing in those. The Borgen Project is working through advocacy to help ensure that programs are put in place to get aid where it is most needed.

### **US ALREADY DOES ENOUGH**

The U.S. actually does embarrassingly little as compared to other wealthy nations. They are consistently ranked toward the bottom in international assistance. The US gives more money to our largest defense contractor than we give to all aid efforts combined. That means one company gets more money from tax-payers than the amount allocated toward reducing world hunger, helping people impacted by war and disaster, and all other programs aimed at assisting people internationally combined. The Borgen Project is working to increase international aid, and with your support we can help make that possible...

### **ALREADY SPENT BILLIONS WITH NO RESULTS**

Actually, over the past 20 years malnutrition has been cut in half. There are more children in school today than at any time in history. Widespread diseases such as smallpox and polio have nearly been eliminated. Considering we only give about \$28 billion per year (\$550 billion going to Defense, \$130 going to wars in Iraq and Afghanistan), the results have been pretty impressive. With your support, The Borgen Project can help maintain these positive trends.

### **AID IS BAD**

There's definitely good aid and less effective aid, but the success rate of investments in sustainable, long-term solutions has been phenomenal. There have been investments made in education, malaria-fighting bed nets, training poor farmers how to increase crop productivity, building wells and providing people access to clean water, all of which help to improve the lives of impoverished people.

### **POVERTY SHOULD BE ADDRESSED BY CHARITIES**

While it would be ideal if people would scale back their spending and allocate some of that money to helping those in need, unfortunately, most people don't. And for the problem to be widely addressed it's going to take business, government and everyday people fighting the good fight. The government also has the capability to allocate funds on a larger scale than the multitude of charities that work on smaller scales.

## **US CAN'T AFFORD TO HELP**

It is actually in our economic interest to help other nations financially. We've made investments in assisting the world's poor, and we've already seen a large return. For example, over 40 percent of U.S. exports now go to developing nations. Most of our top trading partners were once recipients of U.S. aid. We benefit when people in developing countries are thriving and becoming consumers. We don't benefit when they're barely surviving and living in slums

## **HOW ARE DONATIONS SPENT?**

The typical costs associated with building public and political support for poverty-reduction efforts include: technology, travel, web hosting, printing and general operating expenses. The Borgen Project operates from donated office space with an almost all-volunteer team.

## **IS THE BORGEN PROJECT INVOLVED WITH DIRECT AID?**

We chose to operate at the political level, where more can be accomplished for the largest number of people possible. The biggest relief agency in the world has a budget that is less than what the U.S. spends on two Stealth Bombers. We can accomplish more for the world's poor by influencing the foreign policy priorities of the US than we could by operating as a relief agency.

## **WHY SHOULD I DONATE TO THE BORGEN PROJECT?**

The Borgen Project is a vehicle for creating large-scale systematic change. It has become an influential ally for the world's poor. With a lean structure and a small budget, The Borgen Project manages to have a level of political access that rivals Fortune 500 companies. Even small donations have a major impact in fueling the cause and building a political powerhouse for the world's poor.

## **WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BORGEN PROJECT'S SUCCESSES? (Highlight 1 or 2)**

- We've created a new poverty-reduction base. Most people engaged in The Borgen Project's efforts have never been involved with a poverty reduction organization before. The Borgen Project has sparked mainstream interest in the issue and brought thousands of people to the cause who otherwise would not be advocating for the world's poor.
- In 2007, we played a key part in getting the Global Poverty Act passed in the House of Representatives. The bill didn't pass the Senate, but President Obama has incorporated the objectives of the bill into his foreign policy strategy and has made global poverty and development a greater component of U.S. foreign policy.
- We secured cosponsors for the following legislation: The Global Poverty Act; Newborn, Child and Mother Survival Act; Global Food Security Act; Stop TB Now Act; Water for the World Act; Congressional Commission on the Abolition of Modern-Day Slavery Act.
- We've elevated the [U.N. Millennium Development Goals](#). Through high-level meetings and targeted online buzz campaigns, The Borgen Project has drastically increased the profile of the Millennium Development Goals on Capitol Hill. The Borgen Project met with Obama's office in 2006 and encouraged his staff to make the Millennium Development Goals part of his then-anticipated presidential campaign. They did, becoming the only campaign to make the Millennium Development Goals part of its foreign policy platform.