

Date: 24 May 2022

Dear Prime Minister,

**We, a partner organisation to We Effect, write to you to express our deep concerns of the decision to dramatically cut Sweden's official development assistance.**

The war in Ukraine has underlined how severely vulnerable groups are affected in times of crisis. Already enduring the economic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and the climate crisis, people in poverty are now suffering from skyrocketing food prices.

The Secretary-General of the UN warns that 1,7 billion people – one fifth of the world's population– are at risk of hunger and poverty. The world is in the worst humanitarian situation since World War II. Nearly half of humanity lives in the danger zone of climate crisis.

We, Palestinians, bear witness of the UN reports. With this in mind, the historic and tragic decision to cut the development assistance will impact us in unprecedented ways. For us, the cut has drastic implications/effects.

- 1- In 2021, we were able to reach out to 2,702 cooperative members and citizens in rural Palestine (84% women).
- 2- In our work, we focus on giving women and youth more representation and control in social and economic decisions that directly affect their livelihoods
- 3- We worked to protect cooperatives from fallouts of COVID-19 pandemic by covered their institutional (operational) costs in case of loss of membership fees and other sources of funding/income; sustained and adapted their operations in their core business areas of providing services to their members [and/or primary target group].
- 4- Promoted citizens' voice through using actual testimonies from women members of cooperative on billboards to influence the government to develop needed policies for the cooperative sector and demand more transparency
- 5- At least 200 members of agricultural cooperatives have increased their awareness on green and good agricultural practices

Dear Magdalena, as Sweden's prime minister and leader of your government, we know you are a strong believer in international solidarity. We can't thank you enough for the support your country has given in the past.

We now encourage you to stand with us in these desperate times and re-evaluate the decision to cut development assistance, to make sure that the consequences of the war in Ukraine and the climate crisis will be as limited as possible.

Show your full support to civil society organisations and people in poverty that we support. Your financial support is needed more than ever. It is a long-term investment in a more sustainable and just world.

We look forward to your reply.



Jad Isaac  
Director General

