

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

Greetings,

**We, Economic and Social Development Center of Palestine (ESDC), 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, in Palestine, 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.

- Food security to our right holders will be compromised and will negatively affect our right holders in marginalized areas, due to the deterioration in the production and farming operations.
- Job loss/Employment, especially for women led cooperatives who depend mostly on working in their cooperatives and in agriculture. They are already hardly recovering from the negative impacts covid-19 had on them.
- Deteriorating the economic and social conditions of right-holders and families especially households headed by women.
- Women will be left behind facing the economic and social challenges and injustice all alone.
- Economic environment characterized by the lack of markets and opportunities.
- Less access to resources by women and farmers including water, land, and psychosocial support.
- Huge impact on the environmental mitigation practices we are delivering to our farmers/right holders.





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.

**Mahmoud Hussein**  
Chairman of the Board