

May 27th, 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, the people, especially the poorest, are now suffering from skyrocketing food prices. The world is in the worst humanitarian situation since World War II.

We, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, bear witness to this. With this in mind and especially with still fresh memory of war in our country, we are certain that this historically tragic decision to cut the development assistance will impact our people in unprecedented ways. For our women, men and our children, the cut has drastic implications/effects.

In order to illustrate the scope of these tragic consequences, we would like to mention just some examples:

- Thousands of women from rural areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina will be left without institutional support from their associations and organisations which will consequently move them more deeply into poverty and hopelessness.
- Small farmers, and again especially women and young people, will be missing the needed technical advises and skills building education preventing them to reach self-sufficiency and food security for their families and communities.
- Youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina will be excluded from environment protection initiatives that were planned to be implemented in their local communities to cope with pressing climate change and pollution.
- Basic human rights such as right to food, right to health, right to education and decent job, right to housing and shelter will be threaten and violated as a result of weakened civil society that are fighting for those rights to be recognised and respected.

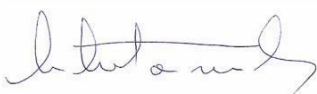
The above statements are just examples of overall human and society suffering that will be triggered by slowing down the development cooperation efforts and support of Swedish government in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Western Balkan region in general.

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.



Miodrag Matavulj
Director