



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN'S ORGANISATION IN UGANDA

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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, in Uganda, 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.

- Livelihoods of communities will be adversely affected such as families of members of cooperative societies that have been deriving support from funding by We Effect.
- Advocacy initiatives on land and the protection of land rights. In Uganda over 75% of livelihoods depend on agriculture hence land remains a critical factor of production yet escalating land violations and grabbing mostly affects women and children. There is mounted pressure on state actors to put in place progressive laws and policies and this campaign has to be sustained.
- The efforts made towards enabling women to join and make progress in cooperatives will be cut short and we shall fall back on the gains made thus far. Disruption in funding and programming will erode the gains made on gender equality as a country and working with community structures / resource persons.

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.