



**#STRONGERTOGETHER**

GLOBAL STRATEGY 2023–2027





## A COOPERATIVE RESPONSE FOR THE RIGHT TO FOOD AND ADEQUATE HOUSING

We Effect's mission is to enable people living in poverty to improve their living conditions, defend their rights and contribute to a just society. We work together with our member organisations in Sweden to support cooperative and other member-owned organisations in our programme countries.

We Effect supports the right to food and adequate housing, increased resilience and sustainable livelihoods. This is done with a strong focus on advancing gender equality, climate justice and tackling corruption.

### MAIN GOALS





## INCREASING INEQUALITIES AND GROWING HUNGER

**We are living in times** of multiple crisis that are rapidly changing the preconditions for We Effects development cooperation. Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, the world has seen the number of people living in extreme poverty and hunger multiply. The negative developments are exacerbated by the escalating climate crisis. Women and girls are disproportionately affected.

**International commitments** on climate and biodiversity are threatened by weak global leadership. Governments across the globe use increased security as an excuse to shut down popular protests and further shrink democratic space.

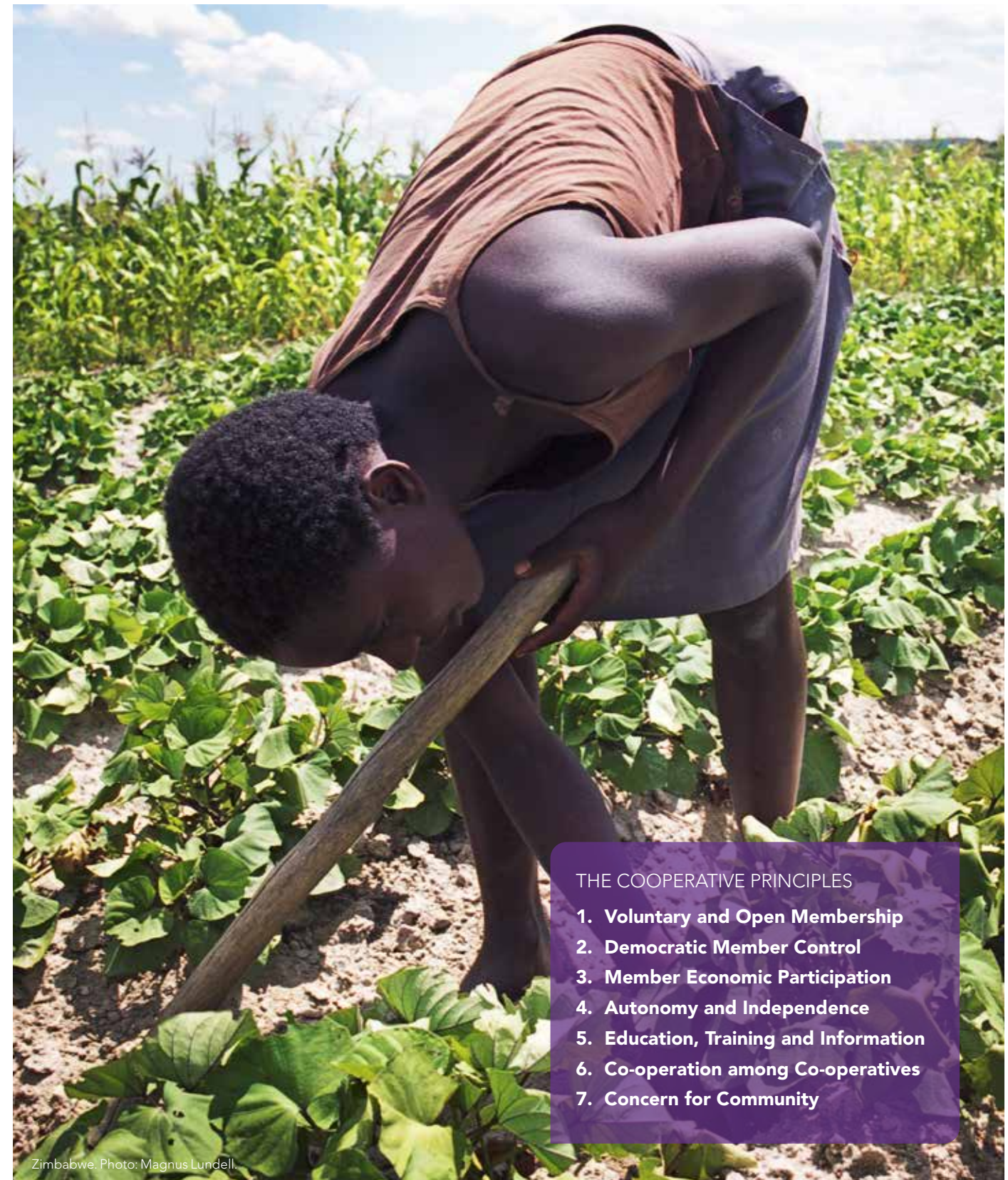
**It is a time of enormous** challenges, but we also see opportunities. We Effect is a respected voice in the Swedish development debate and we are a strong development partner. We are an active member of global networks where we join forces with likeminded organisations fighting for common goals. We have seen that the cooperative principles that We Effect was once founded upon, remain more relevant than ever, both in the countries where we work, but also in Sweden.



## A SUSTAINABLE AND JUST WORLD FREE OF POVERTY

**The target groups** for We Effects development cooperation are our partner organisations and their existing and potential members. Most of our partner organisations are member-based farmer organisations, housing cooperatives or savings and credit associations. We also work with technical and strategic partners, such as environmental organisations and women's' rights organisations.

**We Effect** applies a rights-based approach. This means that our development activities are developed in dialogue with our partner organisations, with strong local ownership, characterized by accountability, transparency, non-discrimination, and meaningful participation.



### THE COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

1. **Voluntary and Open Membership**
2. **Democratic Member Control**
3. **Member Economic Participation**
4. **Autonomy and Independence**
5. **Education, Training and Information**
6. **Co-operation among Co-operatives**
7. **Concern for Community**

Zimbabwe. Photo: Magnus Lundell.

## OUR STRATEGY

We Effect will work together with our partner organisations to address the root causes that limit individuals' and communities' right to food and adequate housing.

### The right to food

There are many reasons why people's right to food is not fulfilled. Situations are specific to their contexts, but the main root cause is linked to unjust food production and marketing systems and lack of government strategies to acknowledge and address the rights of the most vulnerable populations. Where these strategies exist, their weak implementation and lack of focus on smallholder farmers are challenges. In our work, we will address both the availability of food and that people have the means to access it.

From a farmer's perspective, challenges include denied right to land and water, limited access to extension and financial services, seeds and other agriculture inputs as well as unreliable and distorted markets. Climate change and decline in biodiversity pose further challenges. Government and trade policies often prioritise large-scale farmers and undermine production by smallholder farmers in general, specifically by female farmers. From a consumer's perspective, the main challenge is often the lack of income to buy food and the lack of access to and knowledge about nutritious food that enables a healthy diet.

#### THE RIGHT TO FOOD

We Effect adheres to the UN definition where the right to food is realised when every man, woman, and child, alone or in community with others, at all times has the physical and economic access to adequate food or means for its procurement.

(Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1999)

### The right to adequate housing

More than 1.8 billion people live in informal settlements or inadequate housing with limited access to essential services such as water, sanitation and electricity and are often under threat of forced eviction. Climate change and natural disasters lead to the displacement of millions of people every year. The global housing crisis is also linked to the conflict over land and territory, growing migration from rural areas and the development of housing "for the rich" and financial speculation purposes.

There is a clear relationship between having adequate housing and long-term, sustainable development, the right to food, and an end to poverty, social injustice, and gender inequality. Few development organisations are approaching housing, let alone with a rights-based perspective, providing We Effect with a particular added value in this sector. Using cooperative methods and principles is beneficial for sustainability, counteracting the use of housing as a commodity.

#### THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE HOUSING

We Effect adheres to the UN definition where the right to adequate housing is defined as having minimum standards of legal security of tenure, affordability, habitability, availability of services, accessibility, location, and cultural adequacy.



OUR RESULT AREAS



**Equitable food systems**

Increased sustainable, modern, and effective production and farming methods, including agroecology. Improved access to agricultural, financial, extension and advisory services. Strengthened right to land and habitat and other productive resources. Improved accessibility to food in vulnerable and marginalised communities.



**Adequate housing**

Increased access to collective and/or cooperative secure legal tenure for housing construction. Improved participation in housing-related decision-making at the national and community levels. Increased, equal and equitable access to relevant financial services for affordable access to adequate housing.



**Sustainable livelihoods**

Strengthened economic opportunities, purchasing power and sustainable livelihoods of people living in poverty. Strengthened participation of smallholder farmers in agriculture value chains, including post-harvest practices and crop and animal insurance.



**Strong organisations**

Improved economic and political environment for cooperatives and civil society organisations. Stronger integration of anti-corruption as a strategic development issue. Strengthened institutional capacity of partner organisations, including access to appropriate information and communication technology.



**Resilience, healthy environment, and climate**

Strengthened organisations’ and their communities’ climate and social resilience including disaster risk reduction and early warning systems. Advocate for climate justice.



**Gender equality**

Transformed gender norms to advance gender equality and women’s economic empowerment, including addressing the care work burden and gender-based violence. All work will have a strong focus on the rights of women.

*The result areas are quantified and followed-up within the development programmes. In 2023, We Effect was implementing 10 national and regional development programmes in 20 countries.*





Moçambique. Photo: Kajsa Johansson.



## OUR APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT

**Member-based organisations**, including cooperatives, are at the heart of our development programmes. The right to organise, mobilise and influence towards a common goal is central. Supported organisations are playing a crucial role to address the right to food and housing, both at production and community level, and in voicing the interests of their members towards decision-makers and other actors.



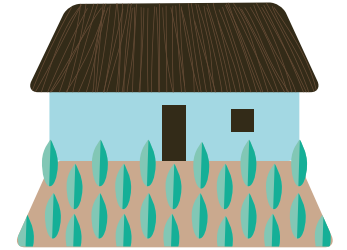
**We will strengthen** our focus on the environment and the rights of women and girls by ensuring a gender transformative approach and a strong focus on climate justice to ensure that we put the people most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change at the heart of our work. We will include young people in our programming.



**The people** most vulnerable to hunger are the most marginalised including minority groups, female or child headed households, and indigenous people. In many cases, the most marginalised are less likely to be active members of an organisation or cooperative. We therefore commit to strengthening our focus on the local community, beyond the members of partner organisations. We do this based on the Agenda 2030 principle of leaving no one behind and on the cooperative principle of caring for the community.



**The right to adequate housing** and the right to food are interconnected. Access to housing is key, not only for food security but also for water and sanitation, safety, and economic opportunities. Partner organisations working for the right to adequate housing are central to affirming the right to food for their members and other marginalised groups, including informal settlements.



**Corruption poses** a serious threat to development and deepens poverty and injustice; We Effect puts strong emphasis on anti-corruption in all aspects of our work. We also know that the risk of corruption increases in times of crisis and particularly when institutions are weak and public trust is low. We will therefore strengthen our expertise to work with anti-corruption at all levels.



**We Effect recognises** that our partner organisations operate in a variety of political contexts, in most cases in countries where governments are increasingly restricting democratic space for civil society organisations. This implies working together with our partner organisations to defend the right to organisation and freedom of expression. It also includes considering and planning for conflicts at all levels. This means it is critical to take a conflict sensitive approach in all programmes.





## STRONGER VOICE FOR COOPERATIVE SOLUTIONS

**We Effect will advocate** for the right to food and adequate housing with a strong focus on gender equality, climate justice and anti-corruption. The point of departure is that people are stronger together – and that cooperative solutions are key to a sustainable future. We seek to work together with our member organisations.

**Our advocacy** is rooted in our partner organisation's policy-asks and guided by strengthening their members rights to food and adequate housing. We Effect will work to strengthen the influence of cooperatives and other member-based organisations and communities in local, national, regional, and global development processes.

## INCREASED AND BROADER FUNDING

**Fundraising will primarily** be done together with our member organisations, where we will continue to develop long-term, mutually beneficial partnerships. The aim is to increase the commitment by strengthening the member organisations contribution to the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals set out in Agenda 2030 – and as a result, boost employee engagement and customer satisfaction.

**Grants from** institutional donors such as Sida and the EU will remain essential for the implementation of the strategy. We will continue to strengthen and diversify our institutional funding. Likewise, partner organisations will be supported to strengthen their resource mobilisation.

## MORE ROBUST, EFFECTIVE, DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE ORGANISATION

**The purpose of We Effect** is to deliver highest quality development cooperation that enables people living in poverty to improve their living conditions, defend their rights and contribute to a just society. During the strategy period, we will focus on growing current operations rather than expanding to new countries.

**We will strengthen** our capacity to work strategically and effectively by continuous investment in organisational development and by ensuring strong and inclusive leadership. We will continue to put the growth of our employees in the forefront, recognizing that they are our most important asset. We will actively work to strengthen diversity across the organisation and inclusion in all aspects of our work.



Placida Odencio, a farmer in the Philippines, feeds her chickens. Photo: Nana Buxani.



## THE WORLD'S LARGEST COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION

We Effect was founded in 1958 by the Swedish cooperative movement. The core philosophy was solidarity and support to self-help. More than half a century later, our focus remains the same. The cooperative movement's values and focus on sustainable development through member-based democracy, long-term economic thinking, social responsibility, and transparency, forms the basis for our work.

More than 60 of Sweden's largest cooperative and customer owned companies and organisations are members of We Effect. Together we support more than 200 partner organisations in 20 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Europe.

We Effect is the world's largest cooperative development organisation.



**PO Box** 11148 | **Postal address:** 100 61 Stockholm | **Visiting address:** Östgötagatan 90  
**Fundraising:** Pg 90 10 01-8 | Bg 901-0018 | [info@weeffect.se](mailto:info@weeffect.se) | [www.weeffect.se](http://www.weeffect.se)