



Davao Federation of Farmers' Integrated Services Cooperatives, Inc. (DAFISCO)

Dear Prime Minister,

We, the Davao Federation of Farmers' Integrated Services Cooperatives, Inc. (DAFISCO), a secondary federation of 54 farmer cooperatives cultivating rice, cacao, coconut, and banana, operating in the Davao Region in the Philippines, a partner organization of We Effect, write to you to express our deep concern on the decision to 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, Philippine development organizations, 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.

- Drastic reduction on organizational development activities that would strengthen capacities of farmers' organizations to deliver critical services to farming households.



Women at BASCOFACO prepared a DRRM Plan for their community



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- Drastic reduction on organic and diversified farming interventions among family farmers that would improve their farm productivity.



A woman farmer doing care and maintenance activities in her cacao farm

- Drastic reduction on assistance on the development of agricultural financing and trading systems among farmer coops that would provide financial and trading services to farming households.



Women organized their GSLA to enhance access to needed financial services



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A farmer's coop consolidates corn produced in their community for collective marketing


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 organizations 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.


RAMON S. BIBERA
Executive Director


ELISEO G. OMILA
Chairperson