



**Foundation for Agrarian Reform Cooperatives in Mindanao
(FARMCOOP)**

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Dear Prime Minister,

Greetings of Peace and Solidarity!

We, Foundation for Agrarian Reform Cooperatives in Mindanao, a partner organization to We Effect and works directly with more than 1,000 Indigenous People and small-scale women and men farmers in Mindanao, 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, 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 on:

- Helping the farmers that we work with in addressing poverty that impacts on their capacity to meet basic needs including food, clothing and shelter. This situation, if not resolved, further results in different issues faced by the farmers including increasing debt of farmers as they can no longer cope up with their expenses including farm operation.
- Addressing climate change issues and disasters specifically drought, flash floods, extreme rain and strong wind which greatly affect farm production.
- Building capacities of youth, women, and men to participate in building their organizations to give them space to voice out their concerns and how to address their needs.

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 appeal to 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.

Kindly show your full support to civil society organizations and people in poverty that we support. Your development fund is needed more than ever. It is a long-term investment in a more sustainable and just world.

We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely yours,

KORONADO B. APUZEN
FARMCOOP-Executive Director