



Machakos Co-operative Union Ltd

—Together We Stand—

17<sup>th</sup> May 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, 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 Kenya, 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.

- A cut in the current budget will seriously affect the women and youth from the marginalised areas in Machakos where the project is being implemented. This region has gone without enough rains for several years resulting to food insecurity.
- Due to emergency of COVID 19, and the current war between Russia and Ukraine prices for basic products have sky rocketed thus affecting the purchasing power of the rural community. The project has been implementing alternative income generating activities and a cut in the Budget will seriously affect the targeted group of women and youth who live below 1 dollar in a day.
- Due to changing climatic conditions a cut in the budget will seriously affect implementation of activities that have been planned to sensitize farmers on climate change and mitigation measures

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.