



Centar za terapiju i rehabilitaciju

Dear Prime Minister,

We, a partner organisation to We Effect Europe, 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, the people, especially the poorest, are now suffering from skyrocketing food prices. The world is in the worst humanitarian situation since World War II.

We, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, bear witness to this. 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.

- Rural women will stay neglected and isolated still. BiH is one of the most rural countries in Europe, with 57 % of total population being rural. Women account for just over half of the rural population and actively contribute to the development of the rural society. The infrastructure challenges related to gender mostly relate to women living in rural areas, and are reflected in poor access to various services, especially health care, while also facing limited employment opportunities, coupled with financial insecurity and dependence.
- Building the trust between two ethnic groups will be limited and possibility for new conflict will be stronger. Women will continue to live, side by side, without trust in another ethnic group, where their fear in new conflict will be stronger.
- Rural women in North East BIH will not be economically empowered. They will continue to live in poor condition, while their entrepreneurship skills will not be developed and they will continue to live on margins of BIH society.



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.



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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.

Jasna Zečević,
President of Vive Zene

