

May 25, 2022

Her Excellency Magdalena Andersson

Prime Minister
Kingdom of Sweden

Dear Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson,

We, **Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD)**, a partner organisation to We Effect, write to you to express our deep concerns on the decision to dramatically cut Sweden's official development assistance.

PLCPD is a non-stock, non-profit, membership type of organization, currently with 72 member-legislators in the Philippine Congress, and working for policy formulation and policy change on a diverse range of human development issues including population, public health, education, good governance, fiscal reforms, rural development, environment, women's rights, children's rights, and labor rights for 33 years.

We are well-aware of how the war in Ukraine has severely affected vulnerable groups, as we go through the same economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and the worsening climate crisis. More families suffer from being displaced and people in poverty endure skyrocketing food prices and human rights violations.

With this in mind, the historic and tragic decision to cut the development assistance will impact our work in unprecedented ways. For us, the cut has drastic implications/effects.

- **Impact on the conduct of advocacy campaigns.** As of mid 2022, the conduct of activities are now mostly hybrid (online and face-to-face) as Covid-19 restrictions ease. The huge budget cut will mean we will have to limit the amount of activities that engage both legislators and WE partners. Production of information, education, and communication (IEC) materials will be put on hold with not enough budget.
- **Impact on pushing for the Rural Development Legislative Agenda in the 19th Congress.** Due to budget limitation, there will be limitations in conducting campaign activities for the proposed bills to counter anti-marginalized sector and anti-human rights proposed measures. With the current political atmosphere in the Philippines, which is now dominated by political families, our legislative agenda for rural development is in grave threat.

- **Impact on administrative costs.** 80% of our administrative costs that include office rent, utilities, communications, and equipment, among others, depend on We Effect's support. Project staff salaries will also be greatly affected.

As Sweden's prime minister and leader of your government, we know you are a strong believer in international solidarity. We are more than grateful for the support that your country has given in the past years.

We humbly ask 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 mitigated.

Please show your full support to civil society organisations. Your financial support is needed more than ever to push for the success of our policy advocacies that will improve the lives of the 4.74 million Filipino families in poverty. It is a long-term investment for a more sustainable and just world.

We look forward to your reply. Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely,



ROMEO C. DONGETO
Executive Director, PLCPD