



Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Per Holmström
Head of the Department for International Development
Cooperation

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for your letter to the Government Offices in Sweden.

We appreciate your support for Sweden's international development cooperation, and your work in facing the many and difficult challenges that the world is currently dealing with. Let us also assure you that Sweden's far-reaching commitment to international solidarity stands strong and steadfast.

We are witnessing an exceptional humanitarian and refugee crisis caused by Russia's aggression against Ukraine, and the displacement of millions of Ukrainian nationals throughout Europe. Sweden and many other countries have responded swiftly to support Ukrainians in need. In accordance with the OECD-DAC approved model applied by the Swedish Government, a portion of the official development assistance (ODA) will cover increased in-donor refugee costs.

This means that certain planned aid payments are postponed or paused, some payments are reduced in size and some re-prioritisations are made. The number of people, mostly women and children, seeking protection in Sweden, and the extent of ODA-eligible costs for these, will together determine the final costs.

On 7 June, the Government revised its earlier decision and recommitted 1.3 billion SEK for development cooperation. In total Sweden is budgeting SEK 57.3 billion for official development cooperation this year. The recommitted 1.3 billion SEK will facilitate Sweden's important support to civil society and our support for democracy, human rights, and sustainable development.

Furthermore, while increased in-donor refugee costs will affect some of the planned aid activities for now, Sweden's substantial humanitarian aid will be

provided in full. It is essential to assist people suffering from humanitarian crises around the world, such as in Yemen, Afghanistan and in the Horn of Africa, as well as in Ukraine. The Swedish Government also prioritizes ODA to the least developed countries, many of them among the most fragile and conflict affected. Hence, the bilateral aid to Sub-Saharan Africa as well as to some other geographical areas is to a lesser degree affected by the current decision. A significant part of this aid is channelled through civil society organisations. In addition, the Swedish government remains committed to doubling our climate aid by 2025.

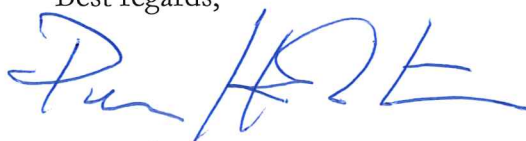
Swedish core support to the UN remains substantial, and largely unaffected by in-country refugee costs. With a total support last year of 1.5 billion USD to the UN system, Sweden was the fifth largest donor to the UN. In 2021, Sweden also signed new multi-annual finance agreements for core support to nine UN organisations and the ICRC, increasing both financing levels and predictability.

Furthermore, food security remains a priority. This is reflected, for example, by the fact that many of the strategies for development cooperation that the government has decided on this year highlight the importance of a reliable food supplies and/or sustainable agriculture. In response to the impact of the global hunger crisis on the most vulnerable, Sweden's total humanitarian support to the World Food Programme in 2022 so far amounts to almost SEK 1.5 billion. Sweden remains the top donor of core funding to WFP with an increased core contribution compared to last year. Sweden's support to FAO amounts to SEK 164 million so far this year.

Sweden remains committed to allocating 1% of the gross national income (GNI) for development assistance (for ODA). Sweden is one of the largest donors in the world, even with in-donor refugee costs excluded from the aid budget.

We thank you again for writing.

Best regards,



Per Holmström