



**Ministry for Foreign Affairs**  
Minister for International Development Cooperation

Dear Ms Sophie Dilmitis,

Thank you for your letter. I appreciate your support for Sweden's international development cooperation, and I agree with the many and difficult challenges you mention that the world currently must deal with, in particular related to global health and SRHR, gender equality and global sustainable development. Let me assure you of Sweden's commitment to international solidarity, which stands strong and steadfast.

We are witnessing an exceptional humanitarian and refugee crisis caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the displacement of millions of Ukrainian nationals throughout Europe. In accordance with the OECD-DAC approved model applied by the Swedish Government currently about SEK 9 billion are reserved on the ODA budget appropriations in order for the government and the Swedish society to be prepared for increased in-donor refugee costs. In total Sweden is budgeting SEK 57.3 billion for official development cooperation this year.

This government decision entails that certain planned payments are postponed or paused, some planned 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 outcome.

While increased in-donor refugee costs affect some of the planned aid activities for now, including the Global Fund, Sweden remains committed to allocating 1% of gross national income (GNI) for development assistance (ODA). This enables continued ambitious development aid, also in the

future. Even with in-donor refugee costs excluded from the aid budget, Sweden remains one of the largest donors in the world.

As one of the founding donors of the Global Fund, and one of its most generous contributors per capita, Sweden remains firmly committed to its objectives of ending AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, strengthening health systems and promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights for all.

Swedish core support to the UN has been largely unaffected by the increase of 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.

Also I would like to emphasize that gender equality is and will continue to be a key Swedish priority in all development cooperation. This is reflected, for example, by the fact that about 85% of Swedish bilateral development aid - around EUR 2,3 billion - is gender mainstreamed or has gender equality as a main objective. Sweden is also one of the world's largest donors of multilateral aid for gender equality.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matilda Ernkran". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matilda Ernkran