

Statement from ACT Alliance Europe Forum

May 12, 2022

The ACT Alliance Europe Forum which gathered in Brussels on May 12, is concerned about the increasing pressure on development aid budgets in several donor countries, and states the following:

- We are deeply concerned about the multiple crises facing the most vulnerable people in the world today. Conflict, Covid-19 and the climate crisis have pushed more people into poverty, food insecurity and displacement. The number of people in need of humanitarian aid is rapidly increasing. The war in Ukraine is having extreme negative global effects, accelerating the bleak situation for poor and marginalised people.
- In this situation, we are very worried about a number of European countries that have reduced their development aid funding to countries and groups affected by poverty, or are planning to do so. The UK, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Denmark are among the countries that have either diluted the poverty focus of aid or cut back on Overseas Development Assistance (ODA). To an increasing degree, we are also seeing development aid allocated for domestic purposes such as covering national costs for refugee services. The use of aid budgets to meet international commitments on climate financing, is also placing additional pressure on ODA. These political actions are weakening trust in international commitments, and weakening the critical fight against poverty and the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals
- ACT Alliance Europe Forum urges the European Union as well as National Governments to keep up the ambitions and meet the targets they have set for humanitarian and development funding.