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Suspicion of irregularities in relation to Save the Children Denmark programme in Mali

Reference is made to the previous report dated 4 June 2024 regarding suspicions of falsified documents at the local partner Mali Enjeu regarding expenses of DKK 151,012. Save the Children Denmark (SCD) is a strategic partner of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and received approximately DKK 20.9 million during the period 2018-2021 for civil society interventions for the programme in Mali. Activities from SCD are implemented through Save the Children International (SCI) by Mali Enjeu who has received DKK 123,585 based on the exchange rate at the time of transfer.

Internal investigation revealed that the activities were not carried out according to the agreement and that the partner had provided false invoices. The partner denied the allegations, which made SCD hand the case over to the local court to recover the loss from the partner. Meanwhile, SCI have covered the loss while pursuing the case.

The court case has been officially closed by the local authorities in Mali, as the majority of the amount has been repaid to SCD. The accused CEO of Mali Enjeu has since left the country. Local lawyers have advised SCD against pursuing the case further, as the legal costs would exceed the remaining amount owed. Instead, SCD has opted to cover the outstanding balance directly from the partner. Consequently, SCD and SCI have ended their partnership with Mali Enjeu.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs thus regards the case as closed without loss of Danish funds.