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Suspicion of irregularities at partner organisation, Uganda Land Alliance (ULA), in Uganda

Reference is made to the previous report dated 31 January 2022 regarding suspicions of fraud and misuse of funds on a grant implemented by Uganda Land Alliance (ULA). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) has supported ULA through the multi-donor facility, namely the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF), Agricultural Business Initiative Trust and DanChurchAid.

A joint forensic audit covering funding from all three sources was conducted in September 2016. It concluded that approximately DKK 600,000 was subject to fraud and/or misuse. The MFA demanded a full refund of the amount as well as a return of all assets procured under the grants. Subsequent investigations by the police found evidence that DKK 317,050 was embezzled. There has been a commitment to pay back DKK 278,544. However, no funds have been recovered to date.

The MFA has engaged lawyers on possibilities of recovering all funds. Since the organization is no longer registered as an NGO in Uganda, the lawyers are currently undertaking an exhaustive analysis on avenues for the retrieval of funds, including the possibility of further legal proceedings.

A follow-up report will be forwarded when there are further developments in the case.