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Suspected irregularities in DanChurchAid's engagements with a local partner in Central African Republic

Reference is made to the previous report dated 21 August 2018, regarding suspected irregularities in DanChurchAid's (DCA) engagements with a local partner in the Central African Republic (CAR). The engagement is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) through the Strategic Cooperation with DCA with a total grant and disbursement of DKK 360,000,000 in the period 2018-2021.

In 2018, DCA discovered that a staff member of a local partner organisation embezzled and stole DKK 50,000. During January 2020, following several failed attempts to get in contact with the local partner, including with support from the national NGO forum and the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Cooperation, DCA decided to hand over the case to local authorities and take the case to court. The case was forwarded to the Public Prosecutor's Office, who in turn requested that local police carry out investigations. The investigations were unsuccessful for several reasons. Consequently, local police referred the case back to the Public Prosecutor's Office, where the case has been inactive since 2020.

In July 2022, DCA followed up on the case with the Public Prosecutor's Office, but to no effect. DCA's legal advisor in CAR has concluded that since members of management have disappeared, and the local partner has been declared bankrupt and has closed their offices, DCA will not be able to retrieve any of the misappropriated funds and should therefore not pursue the case any further. The Danish MFA has received extensive documentation from DCA about the case, including a letter of opinion from DCA's legal advisor in CAR. The legal advisor concludes that there are no more viable options to pursue the case.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs thus regards the case as closed with a loss of Danish funds amounting to DKK 50,000.