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Suspicion of irregularities at Sebei Diocese Community Development and Empowerment (SD-CODE) in Uganda

Reference is made to the previous report dated 31 January 2022, regarding suspicion of fraud and misuse of funds on a grant to the implementing partner, Sebei Diocese Community Development and Empowerment, SD-CODE. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) has supported SD-CODE through a multi-donor facility, the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF). For the period 2016-2019, DGF has granted DKK 5,858,132 and disbursed a total of DKK 2,826,935 to SD-CODE, of which DKK 718,984 is the share of Danish funds disbursed.

A forensic audit conducted in June 2019 confirmed misuse of funds as indicated in the 2018 audit report. The misuse of funds concerned unsupported expenditure, potentially fraudulent expenditure, and expenditure incurred outside the contract period. Subsequently, SD-CODE refused to sign the 2018 audit and refused to be audited in 2019. Consequently, the total claimable amount is DKK 413,851 of which DKK 105,256 is the share of Danish funds.

DGF terminated the agreement with SD-CODE and requested the amount to be refunded, which SD-CODE did not agree to. The case is currently subject to an ongoing legal process in Ugandan courts. The case began with mediation efforts but has now proceeded to litigation.

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