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Suspicion of irregularities in relation to International Rescue Committee, Syria

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs provides support for the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Syria with the purpose of promoting the health and economic wellbeing of at-risk communities in Northern Syria. A total of DKK 30 million has been granted and disbursed for the period 2021-2023.

In January 2022, the IRC Syria's monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEAL) team conducted a Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) exercise, which found potential beneficiary economic exploitation under the IRC's Cash for Work (CFW) Programme in Yaarob village, Raqqa, in December 2021. As part of the PDM, 30 of the total 65 beneficiaries who received cash stated that they were asked by the local council to share a portion of the cash received from the IRC with other villagers. Specifically, beneficiaries stated that they were asked by the third-party Local Council to give USD 50 per distribution to other villagers selected by the local council or the project would not start. The amount under suspicion is anticipated to be DKK 9,924.

In light of the allegations, IRC have taken a number of steps, including an investigation, while also taking a number of immediate control and transparency measures to ensure better information to beneficiaries regarding registration requirements and conducting advocacy in concerned villages that no one should pay to participate in the CFW programme. Furthermore, complaints mechanisms have been established.

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