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Suspicion of irregularities in PlanBørnefondens local partner in Togo

The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) held a strategic partnership agreement (SPA) with PlanBørnefondens Denmark for the period 2018-2021. Under this agreement, the MFA supported PlanBørnefondens development activities with an annual grant of DKK 39 million. In 2021, the amount transferred to Plan International Togo under the SPA was DKK 2,265,350, of which an amount of DKK 820,855 was transferred to the local implementing partner in Togo, Construire Ensemble.

Suspicion of misuse of funds arose in November 2021 when Construire Ensemble did not deliver proper documentation for expenses to Plan International Togo. An internal investigation found suspicion of misuse regarding procurement processes. This led to the decision to conduct an external audit of the project. It concluded that Construire Ensemble's procurement procedures had not been properly followed in two cases of procurement amounting to DKK 68,462.

Plan International Togo looked into the case and found that Construire Ensemble's non-compliance actions in regard to procurement procedures was caused by lack of correct understanding of the rules, rather than bad intent, and therefore decided not to pursue with legal action. The collaboration between Plan International Togo and Construire Ensemble has been discontinued, the equipment which was purchased with the funds was returned to Plan International Togo, and the suspected amount of DKK 68,462 has been refunded to PlanBørnefondens.

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