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TILSKUD

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Suspicion of irregularities in relation to Danmission's activities in Syria and Lebanon

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (MFA) supported Danmission through a Strategic Partnership for the period 2018-2021 and currently supports Danmission through a Strategic Partnership for the period 2022-2025. The partnership involves a yearly grant to Danmission of DKK 15 million. As part of the partnership, Danmission supports projects in Lebanon and Syria implemented by Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue (FD CD).

The suspicion was raised in February 2023 when FD CD staff was accused of embezzlement related to four Danmission-funded projects in Syria during the period 2019-2022. The full amount under suspicion was approximately DKK 350,000.

As a response Danmission initiated a special purpose audit. From March 2023, Danmission retained transfers of funds to FD CD while waiting for the outcome of the special purpose audit. The audit report found no evidence to substantiate the reported irregularities at FD CD. The audit report did note a need to strengthen FD CD's financial management. As a result, increased monitoring was conducted, including monthly financial monitoring visits by Danmission's regional finance manager in the period August to December 2023. A follow-up due diligence visit was conducted by Danmission in April 2024 which concluded that FD CD had followed up on the observations made by the auditor.

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