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Suspicion of irregularities in relation to Fojo Media Institute and International Media Support (IMS) activities in Ethiopia

Reference is made to the previous report dated 17 August 2023 regarding suspicion of irregularities related to a local partner under the media reform programme implemented by Fojo Media Institute and International Media Support (IMS) in Ethiopia. In 2021, the local sub-partner in question received a project grant from the Fojo-IMS consortium of DKK 372,653 of which Denmark has contributed with DKK 164,079.

After being located and confronted by local police, the former Head of Finance returned all misappropriated funds to the sub-partner. Following the incident, the Fojo-IMS consortium asked for a revised audit report to further investigate the scope and character of the incident. This report found that no further funds had been misused and that the incident concerned the actions of an individual, not the sub-partner as an organisation. The amount under suspicion was DKK 27,600, of which DKK 12,152 were Danish funds.

The court case against the former Head of Finance continues. Following return of the misappropriated funds, the local partner chose to spend the funds instead of returning them to Fojo-IMS. Fojo-IMS informed the local partner that reallocating the misappropriated funds without prior approval constitutes a breach of contract and that the funds must be returned to Fojo-IMS. The local partner agreed to a one-year monthly repayment of all misappropriated funds to Fojo-IMS. The first payment was received in May 2024.

A new report will be forwarded when there are further developments in the case.