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## Suspicion of irregularities in relation to UNDP's activities in Ethiopia

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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark has provided support to UNDP's SEEDS programme in Ethiopia with the aim of supporting a credible, inclusive and transparent electoral process in 2020 and beyond through support to relevant national institutions such as the National Election Board of Ethiopia. DKK 15 million was granted for the period 2019-2022, of which DKK 15 million has been disbursed.

In July 2021, the UNDP Country Office in Ethiopia received informal complaints regarding irregularities related to 'fraud with aggravating circumstances' involving a local contractor under the SEEDS programme. The amount under suspicion was approximately DKK 146,861.

UNDP initiated an internal investigation into the matter by the UNDP Office for Audit and Investigations (OAI). All payments to the contractor were immediately put on hold. Following the outcome of the investigation, the contractor under investigation has been placed on UNDP's suspended vendor list.

Following the investigation by OAI and subsequent consultations with UNDP, it has now been determined that there has been no loss of donor funding as a result of the incident. Finally, the SEEDS programme has undergone UNDP internal and external auditing following the incident with no critical comments.

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