



## Suspicion of irregularities in relation to Fojo and IMS' activities in Ethiopia

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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (MFA) provides support to a media reform programme by the Swedish media institute, Fojo, and the Danish NGO, International Media Support (IMS), with the aim of strengthening the media sector in Ethiopia. DKK 15,250,000 has been granted and disbursed for programme activities involving a number of local partners for the period 2019-2023. The Fojo-IMS consortium has supported the local partner in question since 2020 and disbursed approximately DKK 119,862.

In November 2023, the Fojo-IMS consortium was informed by their local partner that disagreements between their executive director and board had led the executive director to leave the country and the board to suspend him. In a subsequent email, the local partner informed that the former director had left his office with approximately DKK 7,200 and office equipment including a laptop and a camera. Moreover, following his suspension, the director had made counter-accusations against the board and made these public on the local partner's online media platforms.

The current amount under suspicion related to the funding from Fojo amounts to approximately DKK 32,693.

Following the departure and potential theft by the former director, the local partner has reported the incident to local police who are currently investigating. In the meantime, the board has appointed a new executive director to lead operations. Finally, Fojo has taken charge of the final project audit to ensure that the auditors contracted for the assignment will conduct a thorough investigation into the incident and provide the local partner with constructive feedback on how to avoid similar incidents in the future.

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