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

Reference is made to the previous report dated 26 June 2024 regarding suspicions of theft on a grant to a media programme implemented by the Swedish media institute, Fojo, and the Danish NGO, International Media Support (IMS), together with local media partners in Ethiopia. DKK 15,250,000 has been granted to Fojo and IMS for the period 2019-2023, of which DKK 119,862 has been disbursed to the local partner in question.

Disagreements between their executive director and board of the local partner led the board to suspend him. According to the local partner, the former director left office with approximately DKK 7,200 and valuable office equipment. Following his suspension, the director made counter-accusations against the board and left the country. Since then, the local partner has been suspended for several months and only recently regained a licence to operate from Ethiopian authorities. The suspension made it difficult for the local partner to follow up on the police investigation against the former director. The final project audit was completed on 29 January 2024 without any material irregularities or other points of concern raised by the auditor. According to the audit, the fraudulent behavior in question has not affected accounting for the project negatively.

After getting their licence back, the local partner in question has followed up and found that the police investigation has not progressed. Fojo has now urged the local partner to push for progress with the local authorities.

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