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Suspected irregularities under UNDP Funding Facility for Stabilization in Iraq

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (MFA) has been supporting the UNDP Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS) in Iraq as part of the Danish Peace and Stabilisation Programme, since 2016. The FFS supports the Government of Iraq to stabilise areas liberated from the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL) through four focus areas: Public Works and Light Infrastructure Rehabilitation, Livelihood, Capacity Support and Social Cohesion. Under the Danish Peace and Stabilisation Programme (PSP) for Syria-Iraq, Denmark has contributed with DKK 352,343,750 to FFS, from 2015 to 2021.

As of 31 December 2022, the programme still had DKK 6,570,490 unspent funds from the Danish contribution, which it was agreed to carry forward to finalise planned activities within the first three months of 2023. Currently, the full amount of the Danish contribution is at risk until UNDP provides further details.

An independent Baghdad-based journalist has written an investigative article published by the Guardian on 22 January 2024. Prior to the publication, UNDP had informed donors in writing about the upcoming article and the overall areas of accusations as well as UNDP's responses to these. The journalist's accusations included allegations of bribes, unapproved subcontracting, and poor results management.

UNDP has engaged their Office of Audit and Investigation (OAI) in the matter, and informed donors as well as Iraqi authorities. However, the accusations lack details regarding not only amount, but also specific projects and partners. The MFA has made contact with the UNDP's OAI and will ensure a continued dialogue. Close contact will also be maintained with other donors to assess if additional and coordinated measures will be necessary.

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