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## **Suspicion of irregularities in relation to IPPF Africa Union Liaison Office in Ethiopia**

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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) provides support for International Planned Parenthood Foundation (IPPF). IPPF receives an annual grant of DKK 50 million as a core grant. In 2021, the MFA provided additionally DKK 20 million to IPPF. IPPF allocates the core funding to its 120 member associations and regional offices.

In December 2021, as part of an IPPF regular risk based internal audit cycle, an internal control weakness was found at IPPF Africa Union Liaison office. This failure included retaining documentary evidence of expenditure and not following the guidelines for approval of staff contracts and competitive procurement processes. A legal firm was commissioned to examine the evidence from the internal auditors. In March 2022, they delivered the final report, which pointed to a weak internal control environment, but there was insufficient evidence to establish if any fraudulent incidents had taken place. A total value of around DKK 361,215 was deemed ineligible as the documentation for expenditure was missing. Denmark's share amounts to around DKK 8,162.

As the auditors had been unable to establish if fraud or other financial wrongdoing had occurred, it is not possible to hold the office management legally accountable. However, as part of the governance reform of the IPPF, the liaison office has been closed down, and the office management will no longer work for IPPF. All projects and grants will be managed from the IPPF Africa Regional Office. As part of the IPPF new global assurance network, IPPF will continue to audit all IPPF offices. IPPF has reimbursed the lost amount to Denmark.

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