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Suspicion of irregularities in relation to Civil Society in Development (CISU)'s partner Dreamtown's activities in Zimbabwe

Reference is made to the previous report dated 12 November 2024 regarding suspicion of fraud in a project under Civil Society in Development (CISU)'s pooled fund. The project is implemented by Dreamtown in cooperation with a local sub partner, House of Arts Association, with the aim of addressing the mental health crisis affecting young people in slum communities. DKK 2,576,778 has been disbursed to Dreamtown for the period 2022-2023, of which DKK 1,167,876 has been disbursed to House of Arts Association.

Dreamtown was informed that the management of House of Arts Association was involved in a fraud case with another organisation, in which they also had a managing role. The case included suspicion of fraud, conflicts of interest, and financial mismanagement. It was suspected that similar irregularities involving the management of House of Arts Association could have taken place in the project with Dreamtown. The amount under suspicion was DKK 1,167,876.

An external audit of House of Arts Association was conducted covering the project implementation period. It found certain issues regarding the financial management of the organisation, including proper handling of cash, as well as issues with the organisational structure. The latter because there was no management at the time. Because of the fraud case with the other organisation, the management had been suspended. In spite of these critical findings, no actual fraudulent cases could be identified within House of Arts Association. Dreamtown subsequently chose to continue its collaboration with House of Arts Association and has worked with House of Arts Association to solve the issues during 2024 and will be following up closely on the progress in 2025.

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