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## **Suspicion of irregularities with PlanBørnefondens's local partner in Lebanon**

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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (MFA) has a strategic partnership agreement with PlanBørnefondens, who receive an annual grant of DKK 43 million. PlanBørnefondens disbursed approx. DKK 3.1 million to Plan International Lebanon in 2023. Plan International Lebanon partner with a local NGO called Nabad for Development (Nabad) with the aim of providing safe, inclusive, and gender-responsive education in emergencies for children impacted by the Syrian Refugee Crisis in Lebanon. Nabad received DKK 1.6 million in funding in 2023.

PlanBørnefondens received a notice from Plan International Lebanon in November 2023 concerning suspected contract violations by their partner Nabad. This specifically referred to the dismissal of formal tender processes of procurements above DKK 71,000 as well as splitting of procurement requisition. The amount under suspicion was DKK 79,657.

Plan International's Counter Fraud Unit confirmed the allegations in January 2024 through an audit. Plan International Lebanon found that the issue was related to mismanagement, lack of awareness of procurement rules, and not done deliberately. The audit did not disclose further issues with Nabad. The suspected amount was disallowed and Nabad returned the funds. Plan International Lebanon conducted internal anti-corruption refresher courses for its active partners and revised compliance clauses for all forthcoming partnership agreements. For the second phase of the programme, Plan International Lebanon selected another partner and the collaboration with Nabad has ended for the time being.

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