



## Suspicion of irregularities in relation to PlanBørnefondens partner in Burkina Faso

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**Enhed:**  
TILSKUD

**Dato:**  
13-10-2025

**Sagsnummer:**  
23/00440/ 2706663

23/00440

**C-sag:**  
C2002

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (MFA) supports PlanBørnefonden through a strategic partnership for the period 2022-2025 with a yearly grant of DKK 43 million. PlanBørnefonden cooperates with Plan International Burkina Faso (PIBF), with the aim of promoting universal sexual and reproductive health and rights of vulnerable adolescents in West Africa. PIBF has signed an agreement with the local implementing partner 'Réseau Africain Jeunesse Santé et Développement' (RAJS) to undertake activities related to this project. DKK 2,956,381 has been granted for PIBF, of which DKK 556,606 has been disbursed to RAJS.

In June 2023, PIBF rejected several expenditures not sufficiently documented by RAJS. PIBF conducted an end-of-contract performance evaluation in September 2023, which concluded RAJS did not provide sufficient documentation, including key financial documentation. Unwillingness to share full documentation and bank statements raised the suspicion of fraud and of potential embezzlement. This led to decision not to continue the collaboration with RAJS. An investigation by Plan International's Counter Fraud Unit was established in April 2024, which concluded that the amount with insufficient documentation was DKK 50,869.

The investigation report conducted by Plan International's Counter Fraud Unit made six recommendations to PIBF, whereas five recommendations were immediately fulfilled. The sixth recommendation concerned reimbursement of the fraudulent amount. PIBF have requested reimbursement of the full amount and return of equipment from RAJS. There has been no response from RAJS and it appears there is an unwillingness to cooperate toward an amicable settlement of the case. PlanBørnefonden and PIBF, with support from Plan International's lawyer, continue to follow up on the case including seeking the opportunities to take the case to the court if necessary.

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