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## Suspicion of irregularities in relation to local partner of Danish Refugee Council in Afghanistan

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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (MFA) provides support for Danish Refugee Council (DRC) through a strategic partnership for the period 2022-2025 with a yearly grant of DKK 179 million. DRC cooperates with the local implementing partner Rehabilitation Association and Agriculture Development for Afghanistan (RAADA) with the aim of improving well-being and resilience of conflict-affected communities in Afghanistan. DKK 2.112.002 has been disbursed to RAADA.

In May 2024, during a DRC workshop addressing localisation and partnership challenges, RAADA expressed concerns regarding delays in cash flow and liquidity transfers, which have hindered their ability to process staff salaries and other payments. As a result of these difficulties, RAADA was compelled to submit falsified documents to facilitate the release of outstanding installments from DRC to RAADA. This information was subsequently reported to DRC's regional office in July 2024. An internal investigation conducted by DRC's finance team examined the submitted financial reports and determined that these reports were prepared on an accrual basis rather than reflecting actual expenditures. However, this accounting method is an accepted practice by the DRC finance team. The financial review concluded that RAADA maintained transparency by adhering to the accrual-based approach recognised by DRC, and that outstanding payments were settled following the receipt of the final installments. Consequently, this finding mitigates the severity of the allegations, and there is no evidence of financial loss.

To prevent similar irregularities in the future, DRC has implemented capacity development initiatives, strengthened internal control mechanisms, and enhanced the review process and spot checks of financial documents submitted by partner organisations. The partnership between DRC and RAADA ended in December 2024. For future partnerships, the finance team will conduct regular spot checks to ensure compliance with organisational policies and grant agreements.

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

