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Suspicion of irregularities in relation to PlanBørnefonden's partner in Burkina Faso

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) on activities regarding youth empowerment in West Africa. PIBF has signed an agreement with the local implementing partner Association Jonction des Actions pour Faire Avancer l'Afrique (JAFAA) to undertake activities related to this project. DKK 9.167.854 has been granted for PIBF for the period 2022-2023, of which DKK 1.747.312 has been disbursed to JAFAA.

In April 2024, PIBF received a draft audit report stating that JAFAA was non-compliant with the procurement rules for catering services. PlanBørnefonden and PIBF undertook a joint financial monitoring visit, which confirmed auditor's findings. It also confirmed that the ineligible costs were due to strong weaknesses in internal controls at the partner level, lack of good management of procurement processes, and lack of procurement training. The total amount under suspicion was DKK 92,380.

PIBF has developed a clear description of their own control mechanisms for incoming reports and financial documentation from local implementing partners, which will strengthen the monitoring and improved controls. In August 2024, PIBF conducted a financial capacity building training of the JAFAA staff with a focus on procurement. Plan International Counter Fraud Unit has been informed about the auditors findings and the actions taken. JAFAA reimbursed the amount declared ineligible to PIBF in August 2024. PIBF has decided to continue the collaboration with JAFAA based on the good collaboration and willingness to improve.

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