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## **Suspicion of irregularities in relation to local partner of Danish Refugee Council in South Sudan**

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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 DRC's field office in South Sudan with the aim of promoting economic integration for refugees and returnees in the Gambella region in Ethiopia and the Jonglei region in South Sudan. DKK 1,884,726 has been disbursed to DRC South Sudan for the project.

In March 2024, a report of suspected misconduct was forwarded to DRC's code of conduct reporting mechanism. The report addresses suspicions of fraudulent claims by staff related to medical services. DRC South Sudan provides staff health insurance through a third-party provider named IAA Healthcare Sudan. An initial assessment of the allegation determined that the potential irregularities occurred between July and November 2023, corresponding to a period during which no approved IAA health provider was available in the relevant area. During this time, staff who became ill were required to obtain prior approval from IAA to seek treatment from a provider of their choice. Upon receiving such approval, DRC staff would have their medical expenses funded and subsequently submit claims to IAA through DRC. Within this timeframe, five individuals submitted an unusually high volume of claims for themselves and their dependents. These claims are suspected to be fraudulent based on the excessive number of submissions within a short period, apparent inflation of invoices, and inconsistencies found in the supporting documentation. IAA rejected these claims, and as a result, the amounts claimed by these individuals remain unpaid, thereby preventing any financial loss in this case.

An internal investigation has been initiated, which includes interviews with the subjects and a final investigation report. The report is expected to be finalised at the end of November 2025.

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