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Suspicion of irregularities in relation to Ubumi Prisons Initiative's activities in Zambia

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark provides support for a project under Civil Society in Development (CISU)'s pooled fund. The project is implemented by Ubumi Prisons Initiative (UPI) in cooperation with a local sub partner, Prisoners' Future Foundation (PFF), with the aim of promoting health in Zambian prisons. DKK 3,495,458 has been granted for the period 2024-2026, of which DKK 181,592 has been disbursed to PFF.

During a monitoring visit in February 2025, UPI was informed by some beneficiaries that irregularities in the food distribution programme administered by PFF may have occurred. There appears to be a noticeable decrease in the number of individuals receiving food aid compared to previous distributions. Furthermore, bags are reported by beneficiaries to weigh less than before and consequently do not last the full designated period. The amount under suspicion is currently unknown.

Preliminary findings suggest fraudulent activity. Based on these findings, UPI has launched a comprehensive investigation of the irregularities which suggest a lack of adherence to financial guidelines as well as irregularities in terms of actual deliveries. The investigation will result in a report, which will then be reviewed by an independent auditor. PFF has been informed about the suspicion. They have provided an explanation for how they see the case and have since accepted the investigation by UPI.

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