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Suspicion of irregularities in relation to Viva Denmark's activities in the Philippines

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 Viva Denmark in cooperation with a local partner, Philippine Children's Ministries Network, Inc. (PCMN). The aim is to reduce exploitation and abuse of children. DKK 22,680,000 has been granted for the period 2024-2027, of which DKK 1,041,746 has been disbursed to PCMN. PCMN works with local consortium partners, ECPAT Ph and Lingap Pangkabataan, Inc.

Since late 2024, PCMN has experienced challenges in the cooperation with consortium partner ECPAT Ph, which, among others, included delays in financial reporting. In August 2025, Viva Denmark was informed that the challenges involved missing expense verifications, double billing of activities and confirmed cases of fraud and embezzlement by ECPAT Ph's leadership. In January 2025, PCMN requested ECPAT Ph's annual financial report, which was not submitted. An expense verification was conducted by ECPAT Ph assisted by the PCMN Finance Manager. This involved reviewing invoices, vouchers, receipts, and bank records. The review showed an amount under suspicion of DKK 18,374.

Shortly after the review, the PCMN Finance Manager recommended that the PCMN board cancel the 2025 Partnership Agreement with ECPAT Ph. In May, 2025, ECPAT Ph informed PCMN of the dismissal of two staff members for fraud. The partnership between PCMN and ECPAT Ph has been terminated and will not be renewed.

Viva Denmark's cooperation with PCMN is expected to continue, as the fraud was committed externally through PCMN's consortium partner, ECPAT Ph. PCMN will issue a formal demand letter to ECPAT Ph for the return of the suspected amount. Moreover, Viva Denmark will conduct an in-depth financial investigation with the aim of resolving the case.

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

