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Suspicion of irregularities in relation to Fojo Media Institute and International Media Support (IMS) activities in Ethiopia

Reference is made to the previous report dated 31 March 2025 regarding suspicion of irregularities related to a local sub-partner under the media reform programme implemented by Fojo Media Institute and International Media Support (IMS) in Ethiopia. In 2021, the sub-partner in question received a project grant of DKK 372,653 through the Editors Guild of Ethiopia (EGE), a local partner under the Fojo-IMS consortium. The total amount under suspicion is DKK 27,600, of which DKK 12,152 were Danish funds.

EGE remains unable to make a repayment to Fojo after having reallocated misappropriated funds returned to them by the local sub-partner in question. EGE's inability to repay is due to sustained and severe funding constraints and operative challenges. Meanwhile, the police investigation and court case against the local sub-partner's former Head of Finance, accused of having misappropriated the funds, continues without any progress.

After having consulted the Embassy of Denmark in Addis Ababa, Fojo has decided to hire a local lawyer to look into the ongoing police investigation and court case against the local sub-partner's former Head of Finance. The lawyer will assess the likelihood of the case being processed by local authorities and offer recommendations in terms of legal options and follow-up action. Fojo has covered all losses in relation to this case towards their donors, including Denmark, and has decided to initiate a new phase of project support to EGE.

While Fojo and the Embassy of Denmark in Addis Ababa believe that the sub-partner has handled the case in an adequate and responsible manner, Fojo has assured that any new engagements with the sub-partner will be subject to a renewed partner assessment. Fojo has also committed themselves to providing training on corruption and whistleblowing.

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