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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 25 March 2026 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.

Fojo has informed the Embassy of Denmark in Addis Ababa of their decision to allow Editors Guild of Ethiopia (EGE) to default on their outstanding repayment of funds returned to them by the sub-partner under investigation. While the misappropriated funds were originally returned to EGE by the perpetrator, EGE chose to recirculate them into their general budget, instead of returning the funds to Fojo as previously agreed. Fojo's assessment follows from the continued funding constraints and operational challenges faced by EGE in Ethiopia.

Fojo is working on a new partnership agreement with EGE. Under this agreement, the misappropriated funding will be discounted, and EGE will receive training on financial management, corruption and whistleblowing, in part to avoid similar cases of misappropriation in the future.

Since the last report submitted, numerous attempts have been made by EGE to push local authorities to progress in their investigation into the allegations. Despite these attempts, the investigation has remained inactive. Following consultations with the Embassy of Denmark in Addis Ababa, Fojo then chose to hire a local lawyer to assess the likelihood of any further progress in the case.

Fojo has now received the local lawyer's final report and submitted it to the Embassy of Denmark in Addis Ababa. The local lawyer concludes that the case has effectively reached a state of procedural inactivity and that the likelihood of further progress in the investigation is limited. All misappropriated funds under the project have been reimbursed by Fojo and IMS as part of the project's financial closure.

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

