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Irregularities in relation to International Rescue Committee, Syria

Reference is made to the previous report dated 12 August 2025 regarding suspicions of irregularities on a grant to International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Syria with the purpose of promoting the health and economic wellbeing of at-risk communities in Northern Syria. A total of DKK 30 million was granted and disbursed for the period 2021-2023. In January 2022, the IRC Syria's monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEAL) team conducted a Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) exercise, which found potential beneficiary economic exploitation under the IRC's Cash for Work (CFW) Programme in Yaarob village, Raqqa, from December 2021.

The investigation concluded that the IRC dispersed all cash distributions to eligible beneficiaries, however, a local council representative requested that beneficiaries should share a portion of their cash entitlement with non-beneficiaries, and visited the homes of beneficiaries on the distribution day to collect USD 50 from each beneficiary. The investigation found no evidence of IRC staff involvement in the misconduct.

Following the first distribution and the concerns documented in the post-distribution monitoring exercise, the IRC took several steps to address the matter. The IRC temporarily suspended the activities and met with beneficiaries to inform them that they are not required to share their cash entitlements with any party. Also, the IRC contacted the local council, which then instructed all the Komins in the area to cease from requesting beneficiaries to share their cash with other community members. For the second payment cycle, IRC adjusted the distribution amount to reflect the actual working days completed rather than a flat amount of USD 150 per beneficiary. IRC's post-distribution monitoring process was adjusted to include specific questions to identify third-party interference. The IRC withdrew from the village on 30 March 2022 due to the reported concerns.

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