



Irregularities in relation to the World Food Programme's activities in Ethiopia

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Reference is made to the previous report dated 12 June 2023 regarding suspicions of irregularities in relation to a grant to World Food Programme (WFP). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) provided support to the WFP for humanitarian action in relation to food insecurity in Ethiopia. A total of DKK 26 million was granted for the period 2022-2023 of which the full amount was disbursed.

The irregularities involved diversion of food assistance items from humanitarian beneficiaries and sold in local markets across the Tigray region. WFP paused its food distributions in all of Ethiopia, and an investigation was established to ascertain the facts. Efforts were made in collaboration with relevant authorities to identify individuals involved in the aid diversion. Upon completion of the investigation, it was concluded that no WFP staff were involved in the diversion, but it was also concluded that WFP had not conducted sufficient monitoring visits with national partners. WFP confirmed in a written statement on 30 June 2023 that the Danish contribution to WFP in Ethiopia was not used to finance the diverted aid items as the funds were allocated as cash-based transfers only.

As a follow-up on the investigation, a special Task Force was established to ensure progress on implementation of recommendations, and to strengthen the country office with the necessary capacity building. The Task Force led to development and introduction of a new monitoring mechanism that guarantees independence, full supervision, evidence-based selection of recipients, and enhanced capacity to monitor activities, and address complaints from recipients. In 2024, the country office revised the criteria for recipient selection, distribution methods, and engagement with recipient communities. WFP finally terminated the case in September 2025 with the experiences from Ethiopia leading to an organisation wide introduction of the Global Assurance Framework.

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

