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Fraud in activities funded via Danish Refugee Council in Uganda

Reference is made to the previous report dated 17 February 2023, regarding suspected fraud under the Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative (NURI) Programme implemented by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). The aim is to enhance resilience and economic development in areas of Northern Uganda, including for refugees and host communities. DKK 116,630,000 was granted for the period 2019-2022, of which DKK 115,467,338 was disbursed.

In May 2021, DRC reported a suspected case of fraud during execution of a contract for construction of rural infrastructure projects. The allegation was sent anonymously by email to DRC. An internal investigation led by DRC headquarters with support from its Regional Office and the Country Office estimated that KKK 77,500 should be considered lost due to generation of fraudulent figures pertaining to the time, distance, and frequency of the engagement of heavy machinery.

To prevent similar occurrence in the future, DRC dismissed the suspected staff and strengthened the enforcement of its policies, procedures, and internal controls on contract management processes. DRC's legal adviser counselled against taking legal action due to the limited chance of successfully prosecuting the case based on experience from a similar case, the risk of further loss of funds, and of disproportionate sanctions. DRC ensured all project activities were implemented and the project has been completed.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs thus regards the case as closed with a loss of Danish funds amounting to DKK 77,500.