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Suspicion of irregularities in relation to Danish Red Cross's activities in Mali

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark provides a grant under the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) 2022-2026 to Danish Red Cross of 10 million, which in turn cooperates with Mali Red Cross (MRCS) with the aim of providing mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS) in Mali. DKK 300,000 has been disbursed to MRCS.

During the preparatory review for the annual project audit in October 2025, MRCS detected anomalies in the bank reconciliations. These anomalies raised suspicion of embezzlement. MRCS notified DRC that about DKK 576 (50,600 CFA) of Danish funding appears to have been embezzled. An internal investigation by MRCS confirmed the issue.

DRC requested all accounting documents from the partner from Q1 2024 through Q3 2025 to conduct an independent review. Furthermore, DRC supported MRCS in strengthening its processes, particularly in procurement, where multiple layers of compliance and oversight are applied before funds are released. MRCS' procurement and financial policies are robust and strict, but due to the fragile and conflict-affected setting, financial controls require continual reinforcement. To address this, MRCS is in the process of recruiting an Internal Controller to enhance internal audit capacity. The MRCS employee has admitted to the embezzlement, has been suspended by MRCS, and MRCS has returned the amount to DRC. The MRCS employee is subject to a case at the national Mali labour commission for adjudication of rightful or wrongful termination. DRC continues to follow up with MRCS for investigation updates regularly.

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