



Irregularities relating to IBIS' (now Oxfam Denmark) activities in Liberia

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Reference is made to previous report dated 18 February 2022, regarding irregularities at IBIS' (now Oxfam Denmark) former country office in Liberia. The case dates back to 2011. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided a total of DKK 32 million for the period 2009-2011 in support to IBIS and its country programme in Liberia. DKK 17.4 million was disbursed to the project.

The case involved cheque fraud committed by six former employees within the country office of IBIS in both Monrovia and Zvedru and with a total defrauded amount of DKK 831,338. The bank offered to refund DKK 65,000, corresponding to the checks that were cashed without the bank contacting the issuer as agreed. The amount under suspicion thus became DKK 766,338. Over the years, court proceedings have been ongoing. In 2013, two staff members were found guilty, while one staff member had passed away and another had fled the country. Two staff members were acquitted. The two individuals who were found guilty chose to appeal the verdict to the Supreme Court.

Since 2013, Oxfam Denmark has pursued the case in an attempt to have the case taken to the Supreme Court. All its activities in Liberia have been closed, including the Oxfam office. Oxfam Denmark's lawyer has assessed that the case no longer has any chance of achieving further legal progress, as attempts have been made to have a judgment rendered in the appeal case since 2013, without any success. Furthermore, the lawyer also assesses that, based on Liberia's five-year statute of limitations, the case has become too old to be brought up in the legal system again.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs thus regards the case as closed with a loss of DKK 766,338.