

Plan International Counter Fraud Report FY16 - Quarter 2

Date	Location	Allegation	Resolution	Net loss (EUR)	Lessons learned and actions
21/08/2015	Eastern/Southern Africa	A staff member was suspected of retaining allowances meant for community training attendees	An investigation substantiated the fraud. Lost sum of EUR 500 recovered and the staff member was dismissed	0	The allowances were reimbursed to the rightful beneficiaries.
01/07/2015	West Africa	HR staff were accused of favouritism and manipulation of the payroll system.	An investigation exonerated the staff accused of any misconduct.	0	n/a
30/06/2015	Asia	Apparently high prices paid for some materials raised a suspicion of fraud in the procurement process.	A detailed market survey revealed a seasonal spike in prices caused by market forces. No fraud was identified	0	The importance of obtaining value for money in purchasing was reinforced.
09/07/2015	Asia	A building contractor falsely reported completion of works while construction remained unfinished	An investigation revealed that a local Plan International manager had requested the inaccurate report so that he could claim target deadlines were met. There were no financial losses or implications. The manager was subsequently subjected to disciplinary sanction	0	
07/07/2015	Eastern/Southern Africa	An anonymous email alleged corrupt practice by a local Plan International manager	There was insufficient detail provided, nor other corroboration, to justify an investigation. No action was taken	0	n/a
01/10/2015	Eastern/Southern Africa	An individual not connected to Plan International was using fake Plan International materials and registering local children in a bogus programme for a fee.	The individual was arrested by police and charged with fraud. The judicial process is continuing	0	Steps were taken to publicise that Plan International does not charge registration fees for sponsored children
02/11/2015	Europe	A number of scam attempts were made through email impersonation of the CEO to persuade the Chief Financial Officer to make money transfers to fraudsters	No money transfers were made and an alert was circulated to all Plan International offices. The matter was reported to the UK's Action Fraud reporting centre	0	This shows the need for all staff to be alert to email scams.
25/09/2015	Various	An individual impersonated a genuine member of UK based staff and attempted, by phone and email, to persuade a number of Plan International offices worldwide to purchase multiple air travel tickets	No tickets were purchased and an alert was circulated to all Plan International offices. The matter was reported to Action Fraud	0	Once again staff need to remain alert to the external risk from fraudsters.
01/06/2015	Eastern/Southern Africa	A contractor who was in dispute with Plan International claimed that he had been paying a 10% kickback to Plan International staff	In a subsequent investigation the contractor failed to substantiate, and withdrew the claim	0	n/a

29/09/2015	Eastern/Southern Africa	A staff member received a cash advance to pay for catering at a community event. However he misappropriated the funds and ran the event without food and drink provision	The staff member was dismissed. Efforts continue to recover the cash loss.	460	The zero tolerance policy has been reinforced at the location
01/06/2015	Eastern/Southern Africa	A Plan International driver transporting a consignment of solar radios claimed that the load had slipped off his vehicle while crossing a bridge and had been lost in a river.	An investigation revealed that the driver had sold the items for his personal benefit. The loss value (EUR 784) was recovered from him and he was dismissed.	0	Local community beneficiaries welcomed the prompt investigation and resolution of this case.
01/06/2015	Eastern/Southern Africa	An anonymous email claimed instances of vehicle hire involved unspecified fraud	There was insufficient information to justify an investigation due to lack of detail and the absence of any corroborating information.	0	n/a
18/08/2015	Eastern/Southern Africa	A Plan International accountant was found to be paying school fees from a Plan business account.	It was found that the school fees payment was allowable under his terms of contract. However the process used was contrary to procedure and he received a formal warning.	0	Due processes have been reinforced
12/05/2015	Eastern/Southern Africa	A Plan International driver was found to be reselling diesel siphoned from his vehicle.	The driver was dismissed and the loss value recovered	0	Vehicle logs and fuel usage need adequate oversight
01/01/2015	Eastern/Southern Africa	A director of an implementing partner was found to have embezzled Plan International funds.	The partner dismissed the staff concerned and is paying back the stolen funds (EUR 6,873)	0	This incident demonstrates the importance for effective partner monitoring
01/05/2015	Americas	An anonymous email claimed that senior country staff had manipulated the accounts to appear more successful	No anomalies were found in the audited accounts to justify further investigation	0	n/a
01/11/2015	Americas	A Plan International financial admin officer was found to have been forging invoices from contractors	An investigation revealed that the staff member had forged the invoices to cover for paperwork missing by her own negligence. There was no financial fraud or monetary gain involved. She was subjected to disciplinary sanction.	0	Financial systems have been reinforced through additional local training
01/10/2015	Americas	A sponsorship officer was found to be submitting irregular requests for payments to community members.	The requests were rejected and the matter investigated. The staff member was found to have been acting under pressure from the intended beneficiaries without personal gain for herself. She was given a formal written warning.	0	Staff have been given additional training on sponsorship payments

01/10/2015	Asia	A staff member was found to have submitted false receipt documents in relation to organising community level events.	An investigation revealed the expenses involved were genuine but that the staff member had failed to obtain receipts at the time and subsequently fabricated them.	0	Plan International procedures on accounting for expenses have been reinforced with staff
01/11/2015	Asia	An implementing partner was found to be charging for vehicle hire costs but using their own vehicles.	A value for money exercise was carried out which confirmed that the vehicle costs were at market rate and no financial loss or gain was involved. The partner was instructed to correct their financial liquidation procedures.	0	This incident demonstrates the importance for effective partner monitoring
01/11/2015	Europe and Americas	Several further ID fraud email scam attempts were made in some Plan International National Offices to have fraudulent payments made.	No irregular payments were made and further alerts were issued to Plan International offices.	0	Once again staff need to remain alert to the external risk from fraudsters.
01/11/2015	Eastern/Southern Africa	A number of local field staff retained payments intended for community beneficiaries under paid for work schemes	A total of 5 staff were initially suspended and their contracts (which were expiring within a period of a month) were not renewed. All funds (EUR 2,656) were recovered and correctly redirected	0	Prompt action demonstrated Plan International's commitment to zero tolerance of fraud
01/04/2015	Americas	A desk was found to have been forced in a Plan International office and cash stolen	The circumstances made it likely that a member of staff was responsible but no individual was identified.	256	local security was tightened