

Plan International Counter Fraud Report FY20 - Quarter 3

Date	Location	Allegation	Resolution	Initial Loss (EUR)	Funds Recovered (EUR)	Net Loss (EUR)	Lessons Learned and Actions
Aug-18	Asia, Pacific	A local partner organisation was suspected of inflating prices for livestock in collusion with a supplier.	Fraud was substantiated. It was recommended that the partnership be terminated. Recovery of lost funds was unsuccessful.	10,866	0	10,866	A recommendation was provided to strengthen monitoring and provide finance and admin training to the partner organisation.
Sep-18	Middle East, Eastern and Southern Africa	A whistleblower email alleged mismanagement, procurement fraud and recruitment fraud by a Plan International staff member.	No fraud was substantiated but mismanagement and irregularities led to a loss.	23,000	0	23,000	Disciplinary, warnings and blacklistings were introduced and controls were remediated.
Mar-19	West and Central Africa	Two building contractors were suspected of selling construction materials from a Plan International project for personal gain.	The loss was substantiated and disciplinary measures for Plan International staff members were recommended for negligence.	109,343	0	109,343	One staff member was dismissed, another resigned and 5 warnings were given. Control remediations were also made based on identified weaknesses.
Jun-19	Americas	A vendor supplied sub-standard and faulty materials for the full price and then left the country when they were asked to return the money.	Two staff members were dismissed, the lost funds were recovered and remediations were made.	4,777	4,777	0	No further action was taken.
Jul-19	Global	It was discovered that a high number of sponsored children had been double-enrolled in multiple locations.	Audits and counter-fraud investigations were carried out in selected countries.	0	0	0	Plan International's sponsorship department are carrying out verification checks with IT support.

Jul-19	Asia, Pacific	It was suspected there was a cash transaction involved in the gifting of an old vehicle to a partner organisation.	No fraud was identified but correct procedures were not followed. Warnings were given to staff members and remediations were made.	0	0	0	Recommendations were made to enhance procedures on asset disposal.
Jul-19	Middle East, Eastern and Southern Africa	A whistleblower alleged overpayment for the extension of a latrine construction project.	Prices were inflated by the contractor to pay kickbacks to government staff members. No payments have been made to date.	0	0	0	Remediation measures were made by the local office.
Aug-19	Americas	A Plan International staff member was suspected of falsifying a list of beneficiaries.	Multiple falsifications were confirmed but no evidence of financial fraud was identified. The staff member was dismissed.	0	0	0	Remediation measures were made by the local office.
Sep-19	West and Central Africa	A partner organisation was suspected of submitting false activity reports.	The allegations were substantiated.	1,281	1,281	0	Lost funds were recovered and the partnership was terminated.
Sep-19	Asia, Pacific	A consultant was suspected of procurement irregularity and fraud.	There were no grounds for a fraud investigation but processes were improved.	0	0	0	No further action was taken.
Oct-19	Americas	A partner organisation reported that a Plan International staff member had a relationship with a beneficiary and provided them with extra food aid.	An inappropriate relationship and procurement irregularities were confirmed. Warnings were given to 2 staff members.	0	0	0	No further action was taken.

Oct-19	Middle East, Eastern and Southern Africa	It was suspected that duplicate payments had been made towards projects involving sponsored children.	Three schools were found to have overcharged Plan International in collusion with 2 staff members. Disciplinary measures were taken, the lost funds were recovered and remediations were made.	18,406	18,406	0	No further action was taken.
Oct-19	Asia, Pacific	There was suspected fraud in the hiring of boats.	No fraud was identified but separate issues of a conflict of interest and a breach of the code of conduct were identified.	0	0	0	One staff member was dismissed, 2 others were given warnings and control remediations were implemented on procurement, finance and HR processes.
Oct-19	Asia, Pacific	A Plan International staff member was suspected of procurement fraud in relation to construction tenders.	An initial review showed there was no need for a full investigation.	0	0	0	No further action was taken.
Nov-19	West and Central Africa	A community committee sold a generator that was supplied to them and kept the proceeds instead of procuring solar panels as per the project plan.	An investigation revealed that the generator involved was supplied by another donor. Plan International was found not to be accountable. Deficiencies by a consultant were identified. It was recommended that their contract should not be renewed.	0	0	0	No further action was taken.

Nov-19	West and Central Africa	An internal candidate for a job post was suspected to have been given test questions before their interview.	No investigation was necessary but the recruitment exercise was rerun, resulting in the same appointment.	0	0	0	No further action was taken.
Nov-19	Middle East, Eastern and Southern Africa	A partner organisation was suspected of procurement fraud, resulting in overpricing.	A market rate check revealed no overpricing.	0	0	0	No further action was taken.
Nov-19	Asia, Pacific	Global Assurance revealed potential procurement fraud.	The imminent closure of the office in question made an investigation impractical.	0	0	0	No further action was taken.
Nov-19	West and Central Africa	Ghost allegations were made by beneficiaries.	The allegations were too unspecific to carry out further action. Recommendations from previous investigations to remediate the issue were made.	0	0	0	No further action was taken.
Nov-19	Americas	Allegations were made of overcharging in procurement for an emergency response.	No overcharge was identified but major irregularities in the process were identified. One staff member was dismissed. Others involved had left previously. Remedial actions were taken as a result of the recommendations that were made.	0	0	0	No further action was taken.
Nov-19	Asia, Pacific	A staff member was suspected of submitting falsified travel expenses.	Fraud was not substantiated but process deficiencies were identified and remediations were recommended as a result.	0	0	0	No further action was taken.

Dec-19	Middle East, Eastern and Southern Africa	A report from a partner organisation volunteer stated that a named third party was collecting money fraudulently, claiming it was for Plan International.	It was reported to a public finance investigation authority. Media messages were prepared.	0	0	0	No further action was taken.
Dec-19	Americas	A staff member circulated an email to several other staff members alleging corruption in the implementation of a project.	No fraud was identified but significant non-compliance with the required procedures was identified. A staff member was warned as a result and they later resigned. Remediation is underway following the recommendations made.	0	0	0	Remediation is underway as per the recommendations on weaknesses identified in the project implementation.
Dec-19	Asia, Pacific	A Plan International staff member was alleged to have charged beneficiaries for assistance.	The staff member was found to have charged beneficiaries as alleged. They were dismissed and Plan International facilitated the repayment of the beneficiaries. There was no direct loss to Plan International.	0	0	0	No further action was taken.
Dec-19	Asia, Pacific	A staff member's claim for an advance included a duplicate invoice that had already been paid.	The staff member was dismissed and control remediations were made.	267	267	0	No further action was taken.

Dec-19	Asia, Pacific	A partner organisation identified and investigated fraud by one of their staff members who resigned.	The partner organisation recovered the loss, subtracted the amount from expenses sent to Plan International, blacklisted culpable vendors and strengthened controls.	8,728	8,728	0	No further action was taken.
Jan-20	Asia, Pacific	A conflict of interest was identified involving a Plan International staff member hiring a car.	The staff member was dismissed for not declaring the conflict of interest.	0	0	0	No further action was taken.
Jan-20	Middle East, Eastern and Southern Africa	A whistleblower alleged that Plan International staff members were fining beneficiaries for misdemeanours and retaining the money. There were also allegations made of bullying among staff members.	Attempts to contact the whistleblower were unsuccessful. There was insufficient evidence to launch an investigation.	0	0	0	HR launched an investigation into the bullying allegation.
Feb-20	West and Central Africa	An external party was found to be impersonating Plan International staff to be registered for a conference in Italy.	The case was reported to the police and the other organisations on the fake CV were notified.	0	0	0	No further action was taken.
Feb-20	West and Central Africa	A Plan International staff member was alleged to be using work flights to and from the country to import materials for trade.	An initial fact finding review by the Counter Fraud Unit did not provide the basis for a full investigation.	0	0	0	No further action was taken.

Mar-20	Asia, Pacific	A partner organisation was suspected of donating Plan International-funded materials to a school outside the agreed programme under pressure from a local government official.	No fraud was evident.	575	0	575	A reminder was given to the partner on how to handle similar incidents in the future. The donor was also notified.
Mar-20	West and Central Africa	A Plan International associate was contracted on a project at the same time as being contracted by a partner organisation on another project in the same area.	The Plan International contract was terminated.	0	0	0	No further action was taken.