

Challenges to AML/CFT Compliance

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Issues for Discussion

- Customer identification
- The STR Regime
- Senior management commitment
- Skills and resources
- Regulatory oversight and enforcement
- Low income countries
- Cash-based economies



Customer identification

- "Cradle to grave" relationship with customer
- Identifying beneficial owner
- Ongoing monitoring procedures
- Dealing with high-risk customers (including PEPs)
- Application of a risk-based approach



The STR Regime

- The basis on which reports are filed (subjective or objective)
- Systems to identify unusual and suspicious transactions
- Timeliness of reports
- Quality of reports
- Role of the FIU



Senior Management Commitment

- Requires top-down approach
- Board to establish policy and senior management to ensure implementation
- Senior management to receive regular reports
- Role of the compliance officer
- Commitment to compliance testing and audit
- Commitment to staff training



Skills and Resources

- Specialist resources in institutions
 - Compliance and audit functions
 - Staff awareness and training
- Cost of compliance
 - Management time
 - Systems and controls
 - Monitoring procedures
- Regulatory resources
 - Policy initiatives
 - Inspection specialists



Low Income Countries

- Overall capacity constraints
- Competing resource demands
- Political commitment
- Vulnerability/risk assessment
- Prioritised implementation
- Need to reconcile CDD measures and desire to develop banking habit



Cash-Based Economies

- Cash-based economies are not necessarily low-income countries
- What constitutes an unusual or suspicious transaction?
- What are reasonable reporting thresholds?
- Risk of FIU being overwhelmed with reports
- Cash leaves limited paper trail for investigators to follow
- Wide use of cash couriers and cross-border movements