

6. EMPOWERS TEAMS WITH KNOWLEDGE



The central hurdle in combatting money laundering persists: a fundamental lack of understanding among both public and private sectors regarding its nature and operational mechanics. Despite 35 years since the inception of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) tasked with this mission, money laundering still presents itself as a perplexing puzzle devoid of a guiding image. The pieces of this puzzle seem mismatched, as if forcibly assembled from disparate sources.

The absence of universally accepted criteria for its definition contributes to this confusion. For instance, if money laundering is 'the processing of criminal proceeds to disguise their illegal origin,' would legitimising illegally excavated artefact with fake documentation without selling it fit the criteria?

This ambiguity extends to estimating its scale, with figures ranging from \$30 billion to \$2.6 trillion annually, yet policymakers often gravitate toward the higher estimate without rigorous validation as long as it assists their agendas and secures more funding. This perpetuates a cycle where facts are regurgitated without scrutiny and eventually accepted as truth even if they are wrong.



While regulatory compliance practitioners are undoubtedly well-versed in anti-money laundering (AML) technicalities and policies, the FATF has yet to issue a typology report that would provide them with a thorough understanding of the step-by-step money laundering process, starting from a predicate offense, that would make banks AML mitigation strategies effective in combating the crime.

Without a comprehensive grasp of its nature and operational mechanics, anti-money laundering (AML) efforts remain fragmented and ineffective. Poor knowledge inevitably leads policymakers to misallocate public funds and resources, diverting valuable assets away from initiatives that could better serve society and protect civil security in today's precarious geopolitical dynamics.

Vortex Risk uncovers the step-by-step money laundering process and thus empowers individuals and regulated institutions with understanding of how criminals can launder dirty money through their organisations. This practical knowledge is necessary to combat money laundering effectively while fostering a safe and more inclusive global economy.

Vortex Risks unique Risk Analysis Merging Platform (RAMP) methodology is designed to alert on true money laundering actors who make risk-based decisions on how to best distance themselves from their dirty money. RAMP highlights steps, actions, tools, services, and parties that criminals might utilise depending on their money laundering needs. It also explains the criminal reasoning behind their choices, the risks to those involved, and the warning signs beyond what 'red flags' are ever likely to capture.

RAMP draws on tacit knowledge from individuals, theoretical and empirical research, and our professional experiences with money laundering. This collective insight informs our understanding of how criminals construct and sustain successful money laundering schemes, posing serious threats to societal well-being and undermining civil security.