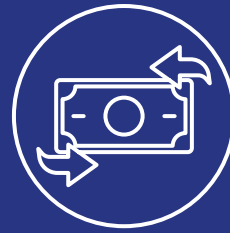


Building **Stronger** Partnerships for a More **Secure** World

Financial Integrity
and Inclusion



Financial transparency, accountability, and economic empowerment are critical tools in the fight against violent extremism

Illicit financial flows robbed developing countries of an estimated \$7.8 trillion in the last 10 years. More money was lost than was received from foreign direct investment and official development assistance combined. These losses undercut efforts to strengthen communities through education, health, economic empowerment, and infrastructure development.

Corruption and illicit finance magnify inequality, which fuels recruitment efforts by violent extremists. Frustration with their economic situation was a factor for more than half of those who voluntarily joined

terrorist organizations in Africa. Measures to combat the financing of terrorism have also restricted the operating space for civil society organizations and impeded the delivery of humanitarian aid.

The Global Center believes that strong institutions comprise the first line of defense against illicit financial activity. Advancing accountable and transparent financial systems and sound policies helps to address the conditions that drive violent extremism while avoiding negative consequences and supporting economic empowerment for communities.



Our Work

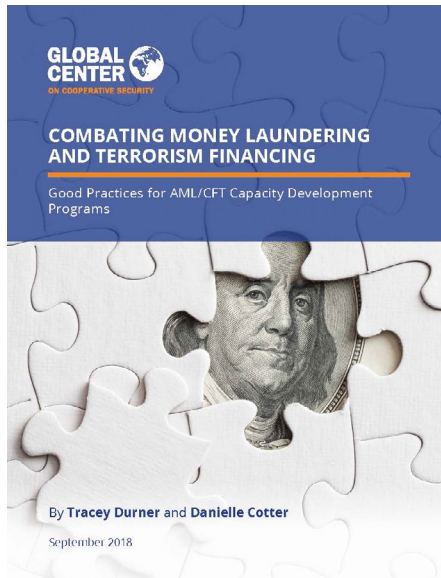
The Global Center combats illicit financial activity by advancing anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism policies, practices, and partnerships. We bring a unique perspective that considers the root causes of violent extremism and ensures that financial institutions and policies allow for economic empowerment, particularly of marginalized communities.

- We provide specialized training to enhance technical expertise and foster multiagency cooperation to prevent money laundering and combat terrorism financing. We have partnered with nine countries for programs ranging from two to six years, allowing for in-depth assistance that strengthens institutions and informs policies.
- We examine the gaps in current approaches to terrorism financing and financial investigations, working with police and prosecutors to increase the appropriate use of financial intelligence to understand and map networks of terrorist groups and associates.
- We analyze and advocate for solutions to harmful consequences of policies combating illicit and terrorism financing, including de-risking and financial exclusion, human rights abuses, restrictions on nonprofit and charitable activities, and challenges in the delivery of humanitarian aid.
- We integrate economic empowerment and financial inclusion in our programming, equipping youth with tools and skills to expand their employment options and advocating for job placement as part of the rehabilitation and reintegration process for violent extremist offenders and returning foreign fighters.



Advocating for Rights-Based Measures to Combat Terrorism Financing

Human rights, humanitarian aid, and marginalized populations can be negatively affected by efforts to counter the financing of terrorism. During a recent panel discussion in Washington, we debated these matters with a former U.S. assistant secretary for terrorism financing and financial crimes and a Canadian terrorism financing expert who served in various national security and intelligence capacities.



Sharing Capacity Development Good Practices

Successfully assisting institutions to tackle illicit financing requires strong program design and evaluation, an understanding of international standards and local contexts, and sustained partnerships. This report puts forward the Global Center's lessons learned from programs in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Somalia, Tanzania, and Uganda. It focuses on how to move past technical compliance and toward effective and robust systems to combat money laundering and terrorism financing.



Building Strong and Accountable Institutions

Strong institutions and robust interagency cooperation are critical to disrupting illicit financial activity. In Ethiopia, we delivered a six-year program with the Financial Intelligence Center and federal attorney general that contributed to the arrest of several senior officials for corruption. As a result, Ethiopia received international recognition for its progress and commitment to combating money laundering and terrorism financing.

Our Partners

The Global Center works with national, regional, and international practitioners to provide strategic guidance on how to interpret and implement financial transparency and accountability standards within their unique operating contexts.

- We engage financial intelligence units from 43 countries across the Middle East, East Africa, Southeast Asia, and Europe.
- We support police and prosecutors through trainings on financial investigations to identify, trace, and disrupt illicit and terrorism financing.

- We collaborate with private sector entities such as banks, lawyers, accountants, tax advisors, real estate agents, casinos, and mobile money providers to ensure the integrity of global financial systems.
- We work with international standard setters such as the [Financial Action Task Force](#) and its regional bodies, as well as the [Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units](#), [World Bank](#), and [International Monetary Fund](#), to ensure that policies support the advancement of anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism objectives while upholding human rights standards.



"The Global Center worked to understand the Ethiopian context and tailor technical assistance to our needs and priorities. Over the course of six years, they became trusted partners and are critical to the success of our efforts to increase financial transparency and combat illicit finance."

**Belayhun Yirga, Director,
Ethiopian Federal Attorney
General's Office**



"If not properly calibrated, efforts to combat terrorism financing can result in reduced access to financial services and restrictions on civic space, which in turn can contribute to radicalization to violent extremism. I am proud to work with the Global Center to ensure that issues of economic empowerment and financial inclusion are addressed across programs and policies."

**Mercy Buku, Kenyan Certified
Anti-Money Laundering Specialist
and Global Center Senior Fellow**



"The Central Bank of Iraq is grateful for its partnership with the Global Center, which has been a great sounding board for us as we continue to improve our anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism capacities. They supported the development of Iraq's national strategy to combat terrorism financing and corresponding action plan and helped us become an observer of the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units."

Ali Mohsen Ismail Al-Allaq, Governor of the Central Bank of Iraq