

# AML Webinar for Money Lending Industry

Suspicious Transaction Reports, Introduction of STREAMS 2, Common Typologies and Case Sharing

Presented by:

Ms. Julia LEUNG

(Senior Inspector of Police)







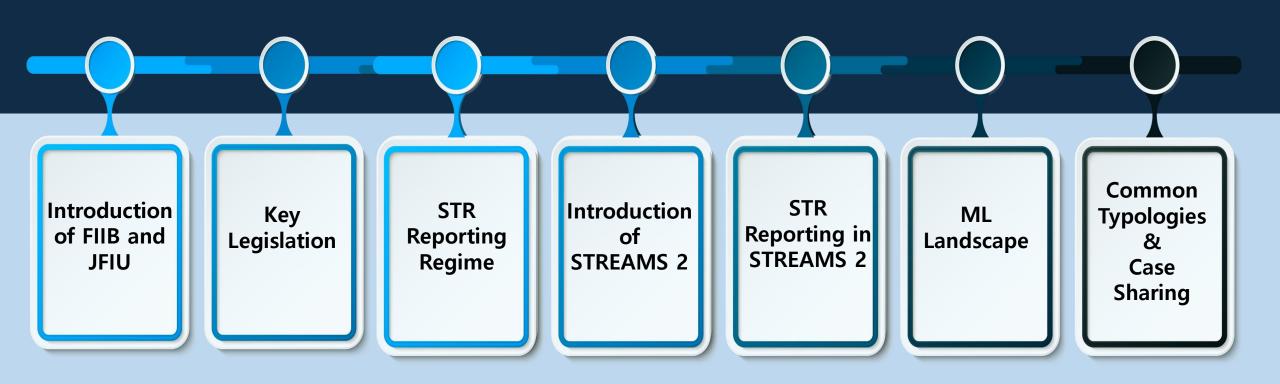
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### Agenda of FIIB's Sharing



### 01. About FIIB & JFIU





**Expansion of FID and JFIU** 



**Features of JFIU** 



Co-staffed by HKPF and **C&ED** and based in Police **Headquarters** 



Sole Agency in HK

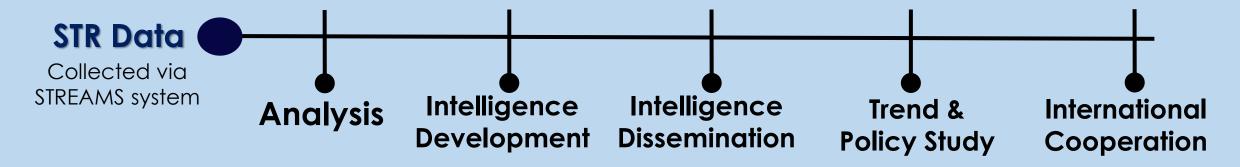
**Managing Suspicious Transaction Reporting Regime** 



**Financial Intelligence Exchange with LEAs and FIUs worldwide** 

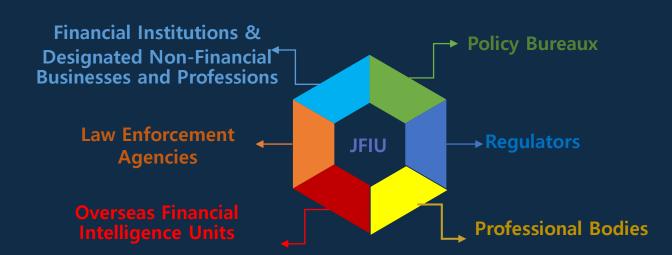
### 01. About FIIB & JFIU

#### **Functions of the JFIU**



Public-Private Partnership







#### Cap. 405

Drug Trafficking (Recovery of Proceeds) Ordinance 販毒(追討得益)條例

Cap. 455
Organized and Serious Crimes
Ordinance
有組織及嚴重罪行條例

Cap. 575

United Nations (Anti-Terrorism Mesaures) Ordinance 聯合國(反恐怖主義措施)條例

Cap. 615

AML &CFT Ordinance and Amendment 打擊洗錢及恐怖分子資金籌集 (金融機構)條例及其修訂



#### Anti-Money Laundering (AML)

(s.25 of Cap. 405 - DTROP and s.25 of Cap. 455 - OSCO)

#### **Any person**

- Knowing or having reasonable grounds to believe
- Any property
- In whole or in part directly or indirectly represents proceeds of drug trafficking / indicatable offence
- Deals with that property

#### 任何人

- 知道或有合理理由相信,
- 任何財產
- 全部或部分、直接或間接代表任何人的販毒/從可公訴罪行得益
- 而仍處理該財產
- 即屬犯罪



# FINE OF HKD 5 MILLIONS & 14 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT

#### Counter Financing of Terrorism (CFT)

(s.7 of Cap. 575 - UNATMO)

#### Any person

- Provide or collect by any means directly or indirectly
- Any property
- (1) With the intention that the property be used or (2) knowing that the property will be used
- In whole or in part to commit one or more terrorist acts

#### 任何人

- 不得在下述情況以任何方法直接或間接提供 或籌集財產:
- (1) 懷有將該財產的全部或部分用於作出一項 或多於一項恐怖主義行為的意圖(不論該財產 實際上有否被如此使用);或
- (2) 知道該財產的全部或部分將會用於作出一項/多於一項恐怖主義行為(不論該財產實際上 有否被如此使用)

MAXIMUM PENALTY



FINE & 14 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT

#### Suspicious Transactions Reporting

(s.25A(1) of Cap. 405 - DTROP; s.25A(1) of Cap. 455 - OSCO; and s12(1) of Cap. 575 - UNATMO)

#### Any person

- Knows or suspects any property
- (1) represents / was used / is intended to be used in connection with the proceeds of drug trafficking / indictable offences or
- (2) is terrorist property
- Should disclose that knowledge or suspicion to an authorized officer (i.e. JFIU)

#### 任何人

- 知道或懷疑任何財產
- (1)全部或部分、直接或間接代表任何人的販毒/從可公 訴罪行得益曾在與販毒/可公訴罪行有關的情況下使用 ;或擬在與販毒/可公訴罪行有關的情況下使用;或
- (2) 是恐怖分子財產;
- 該人須在合理範圍內盡快把該知悉或懷疑,連同上述知 悉或懷疑所根據的任何事宜,向獲授權人披露 (i.e. JFIU)

MAXIMUM PENALTY

FINE OF HKD 50,000 & 3 MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT



#### TIPPING OFF

(s.25A(5) of Cap. 405 - DTROP; s.25A(5) of Cap. 455 - OSCO; and s12(5) of Cap. 575 - UNATMO)

#### Where a person

- Knows or suspects a disclosure has been made
- The person shall not disclose to another person any matter
- Which is likely to prejudice any investigation which might be conducted following that first-mentioned disclosure

任何人如知道或懷疑已有任何披露根據第(1)或(4)款作出,而仍向其他人披露任何相當可能損害或者會為跟進首述披露而進行的調查的事宜,

即屬犯罪。

MAXIMUM PENALTY

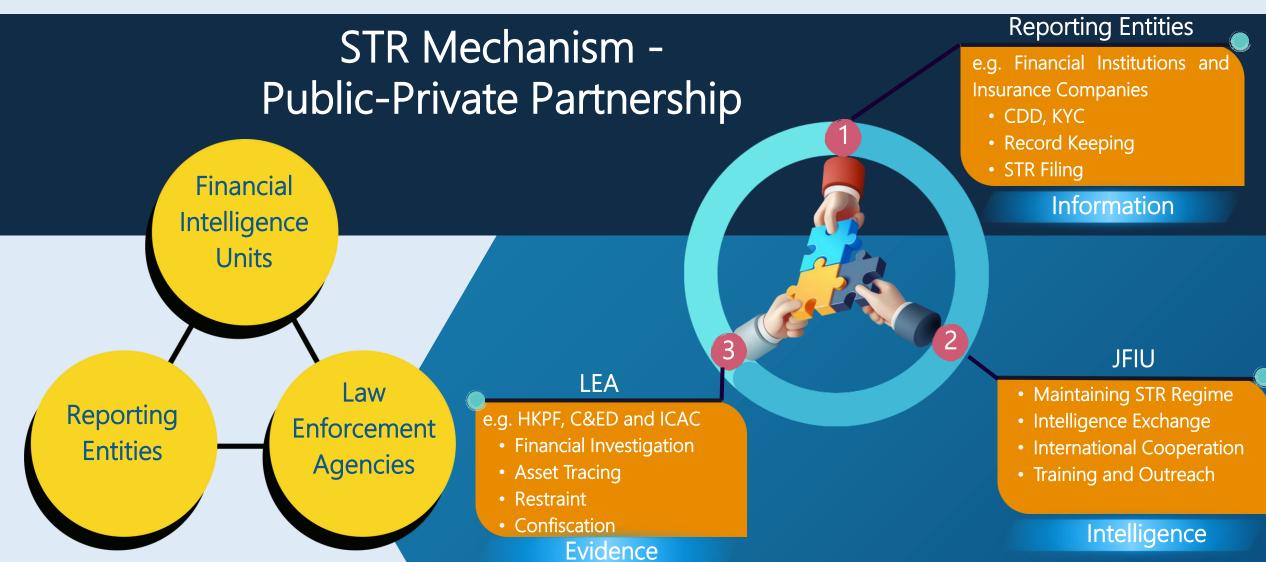
FINE OF HKD 500,000 & 3 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT





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# 03. STR Reporting Regime

### Why should you report STRs?









### What's more?

#### https://www.cr.gov.hk/en/Guidelines.htm



公司註冊處 COMPANIES REGISTRY

Guideline on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism

(For Licensed Money Lenders)

March 2025



公司註冊處 COMPANIES REGISTRY

打擊洗錢 及 恐怖分子資金籌集指引

(持牌放債人適用)

2025年3月

#### CONTENTS Chapter 1 Overview . Risk-based approach. Chapter 2 Chapter 3 AML/CFT Systems .. Customer due diligence... Chapter 4 Chapter 5 Ongoing monitoring. Terrorist financing, financial sanctions and proliferation Chapter 6 Suspicious transaction reports, law enforcement Chapter 7 requests and crime-related intelligence ..... Chapter 8 Chapter 9 Use of an independent and appropriate person to certify Appendix identification documents. Glossary of key terms and abbreviations..

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6分子資金籌集制度.



### What's more?

MLRO		
	7.9	A licensee should appoint an MLRO as a central reference point for reporting suspicious transactions and also as the main point of contact with the JFIU and law enforcement agencies. The MLRO should play an active role in the identification and reporting of suspicious transactions. Principal functions of the MLRO should include having oversight of:  (a) review of internal disclosures and exception reports and, in light of all available relevant information, determination of
	7.12	A licensee should establish and maintain clear policies and procedures to ensure that:
		<ul><li>(a) all staff are made aware of the identity of the MLRO and of the procedures to follow when making an internal report; and</li><li>(b) all internal reports should reach the MLRO without undue delay.</li></ul>
	7.12	777.11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11

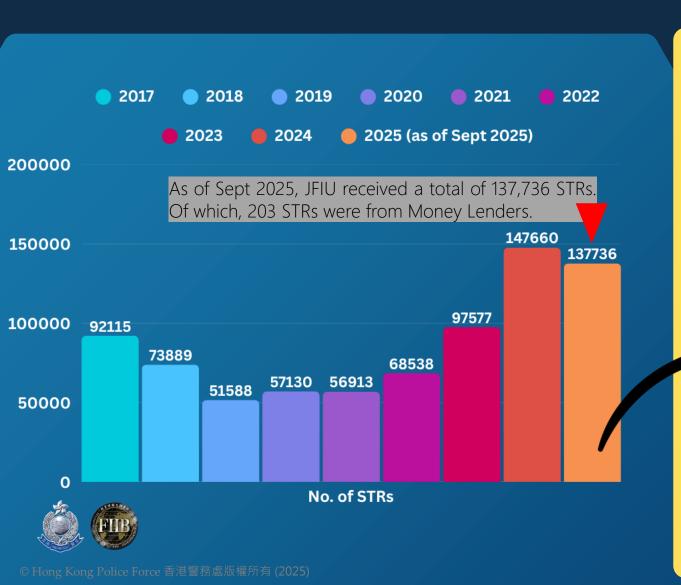
Reporting to the JFIU									
reporting to the 31	7.19	If after completing the review of the internal report, an MLRO decides that there are grounds for knowledge or suspicion, he should disclose the information to the JFIU as soon as it is reasonable to do so after his evaluation is complete together with the information on which that knowledge or suspicion is based. Dependent on when knowledge or suspicion arises, an STR may be made either before a suspicious transaction or activity occurs (whether the intended transaction ultimately takes place or not), or after a transaction or activity has been completed.							

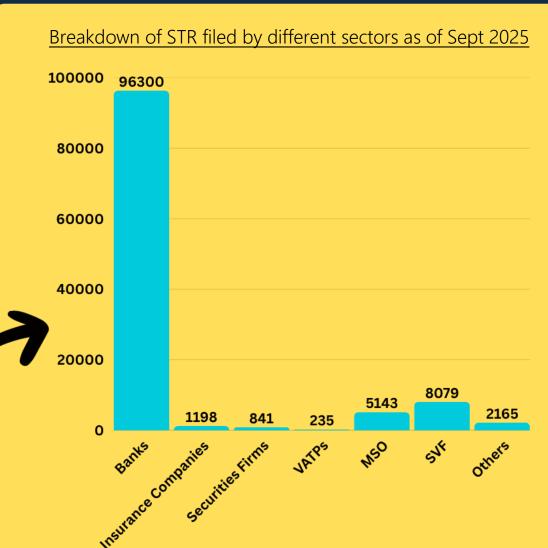




#### **STR Statistics**

#### - from 2017 to September 2025



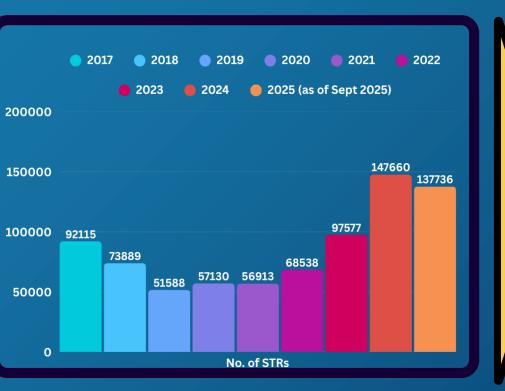




# STR Statistics - from 2017 to Sept 2025

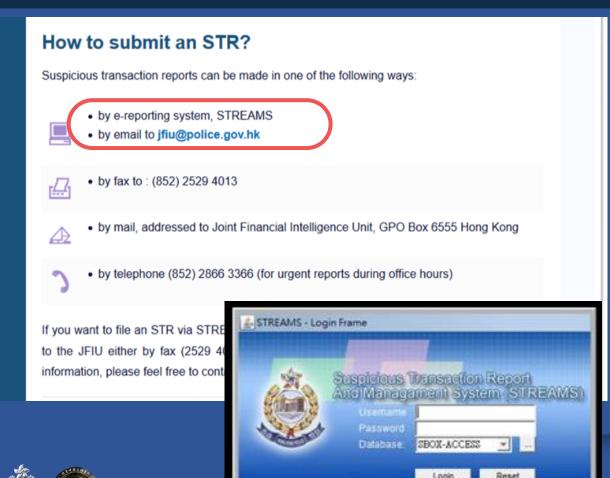


STRs filed by money lenders had a significant increase since 2022 with an average number of 421 STRs (0.13%) per year.





# Current STR Reporting Methods - by email and e-submission (STREAMS)



Susp	ected Crimes Suspicious Indicate	ors Open :	Source Info.	Entity Lists	$\overline{}$	Check Sa	ave Print		
REPORT MADE UNDER SECTION 25A OF THE DRUG TRAFFICKING (RECOVERY OF PROCEEDS) ORDINANCE OR ORGANIZED AND SERIOUS CRIMES ORDINANCE/ SECTION 12 OF THE UNITED NATIONS (ANTI-TERRORISM MEASURES) ORDINANCE TO THE JOINT FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT ("JFIU")									
STR									
STR	lumber:								
Submi	ission Number:								
Date o	of Submission:								
Ackno	wledgement Issue Date:								
Conse	ent Letter Issue Date:								
Conse	Consent:		O Yes	O No	10	Not Applicable			
Consent Remark:									
Specia	al Cases with Time Critical Nature:	:							
* Repo	ort Related to Existing Investigation:	O Yes	<ul><li>No</li></ul>						
Attach	nment:	,				+ (Re	fresh		
No.	No. File Name					File Size			
							кв		
	Total						KB		

# 04. INTRODUCTION OF STREAMS 2







# Enhanced Data Collection in STREAMS 2

Comprehensive scope of information collected

Facilitate big data analytics to identify network / trends effectively



Social Media

Capture relevant social media identifiers and activity



Digital Footprints

Collect IP, SSID, BSSID, Geohash Data, etc.



Address Format

Standardised address input



Cryptotransactions

Dedicated fields for cryptotransactions



#### **Benefits of E-submission**

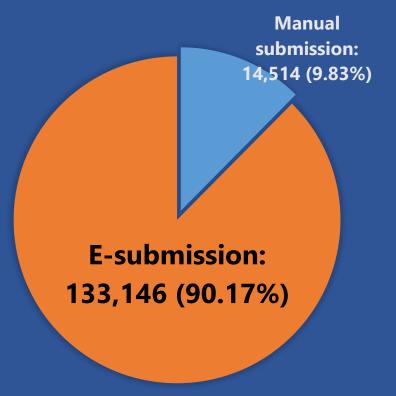
Free and secure system

**Instant Acknowledgement** 

Negate the need of paperbased reporting

Receive consent decision via STREAMS

Total submission of STRs in 2024: 147,660







#### Mode of STR Submission in STREAMS 2



PDF Form Structured PDF for offline completion and secure upload

Web Form User-friendly online forms with built-in validation

XML

Direct system-to-system reporting



#### **STR Form Enhancement in STREAMS 2**

#### **Comprehensive Data Fields**

#### **Mandatory Fields**

- Core information required for all sector
- e.g. Phone number (8 digits for Hong Kong numbers) and BR / CR No. for organisation

# Optional Fields (Sector Specific)

 Additional data points tailored to specific industry needs and transaction types

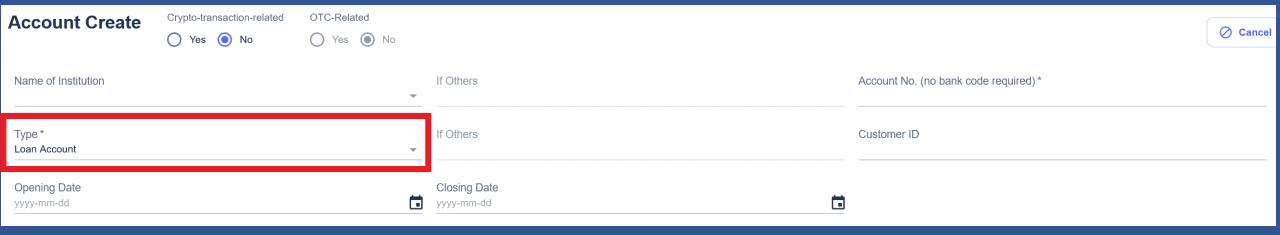




#### **STR Form Enhancement in STREAMS 2**

#### **Comprehensive Data Fields**

#### Example:



### **Optional Fields** (Sector Specific)

Additional data points

 tailored to specific industry
 needs and transaction types



# 05. STR Reporting In STREAMS 2



### How to identify suspicion?

<u>SAFE</u> approach

#### **SCREEN**

- Screen the account for suspicious indicators
- Adverse news, sensitive connections, method of payment etc

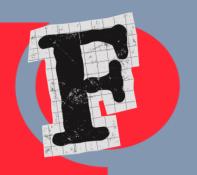




- Check and enquiry
- Clarify any suspicion, such as financial background, source of fund, purpose of transactions etc

#### **FIND**

- Find and review clients' previous records
- Analysis on clients' backgrounds





#### **EVALUATE**

- Evaluate the available information to determine if the transaction is suspicious
- If affirmative, file STRs



# 05. STR Reporting In STREAMS 2

Red Flag Indicators

#### **Clients**

- Politically Exposed Person (PEP)?
- Person / Corporate from highrisk country?
- No known nexus in HK?
- Suspected forged supporting document during applications?
- Virtual on-boarding

#### **Transactions**

- Payment from 3rd party / cash / cashier order?
- Transactions incommensurate with client's background?
- Repay the loan prematurely without reasonable explanation?
- Received LEA enquiries



### 05. STR Reporting In STREAMS 2

- Red Flag Indicators

**Further Enquiry** 

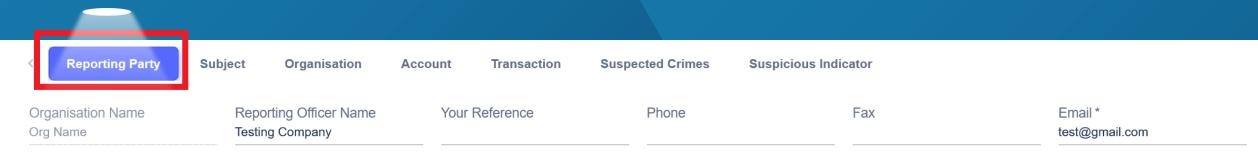
- Background check / open source research unveil adverse news / records
- Unwilling to respond to questions or answers are not convincing
- Unwilling to provide supporting documents

#### **Evaluation**

- Information from client is incommensurate with the record in hand
- Information from client could not be verified









Financial - Licensed Money Lender



Drug Trafficking (Recovery of Proceeds) Ordinance [Cap.405]

Organized and Serious Crimes Ordinance [Cap.455]

United Nations (Anti-Terrorism Measures) Ordinance [Cap.575]

Hong Kong National Security Law

Other Information:

Report related to previous / other disclosure



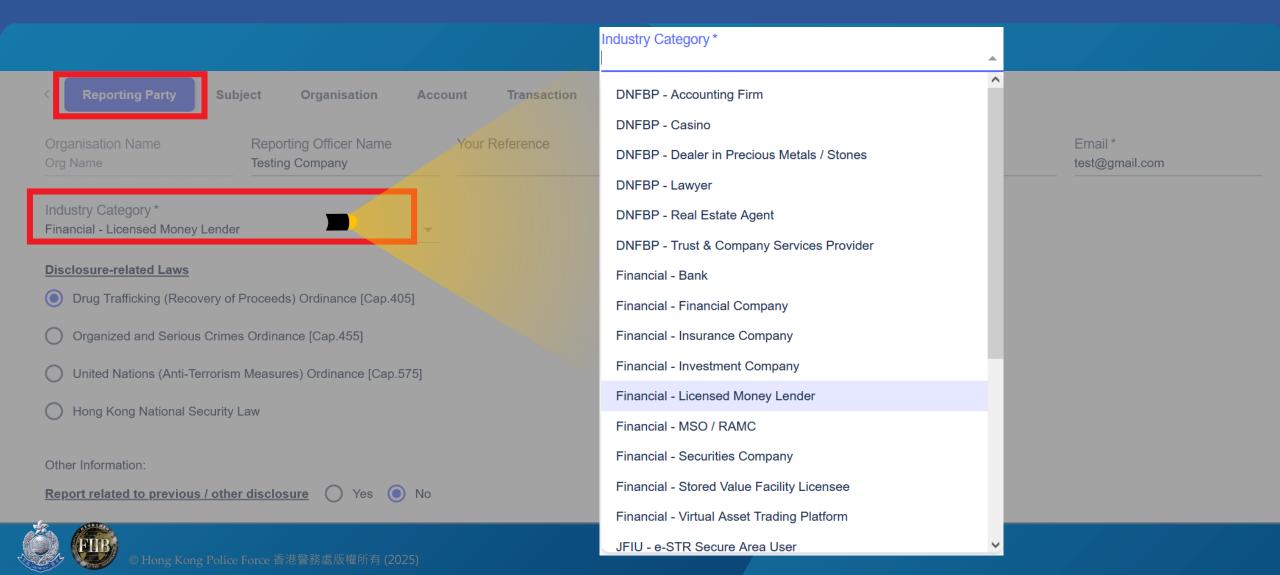




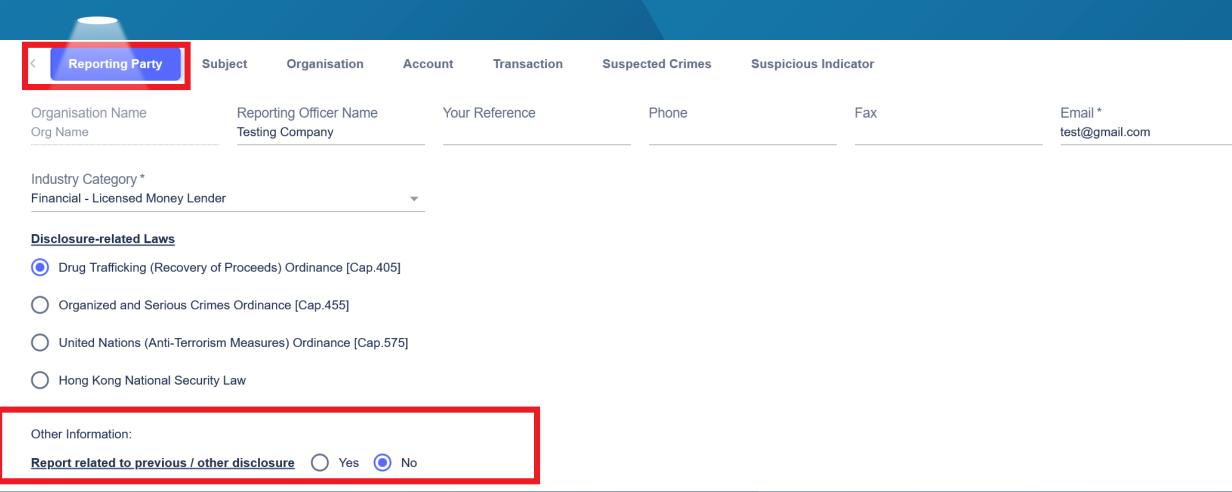
No















#### STR triggered by LEA enquiry / intelligence





#### STR triggered by internal monitoring system

#### **Disclosure-related Laws**

- Drug Trafficking (Recovery of Proceeds) Ordinance [Cap.405]
- Organized and Serious Crimes Ordinance [Cap.455]
- United Nations (Anti-Terrorism Measures) Ordinance [Cap.575]
- Hong Kong National Security Law

Other Information:

Report related to previous / other disclosure

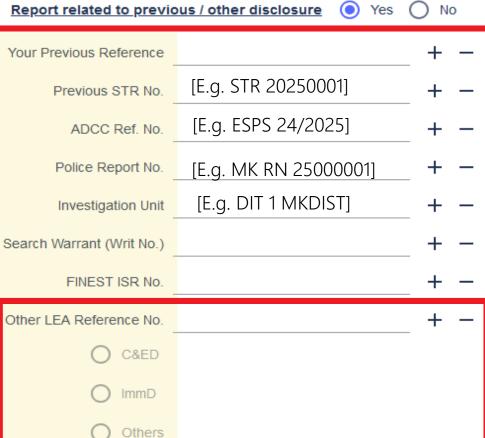














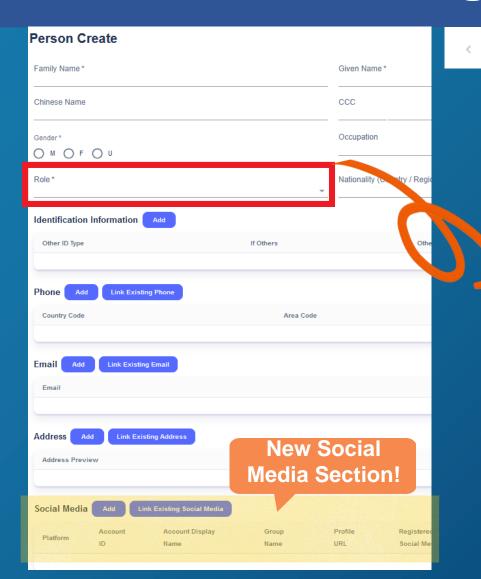
SFC Reference No.



Reporting Party

Subject

Organisation

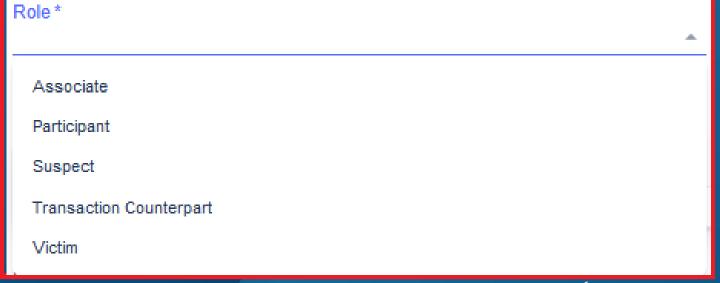


 Identification no., age, nationality, residential address, occupation, reported salary, source of wealth, etc.

Account

Transaction

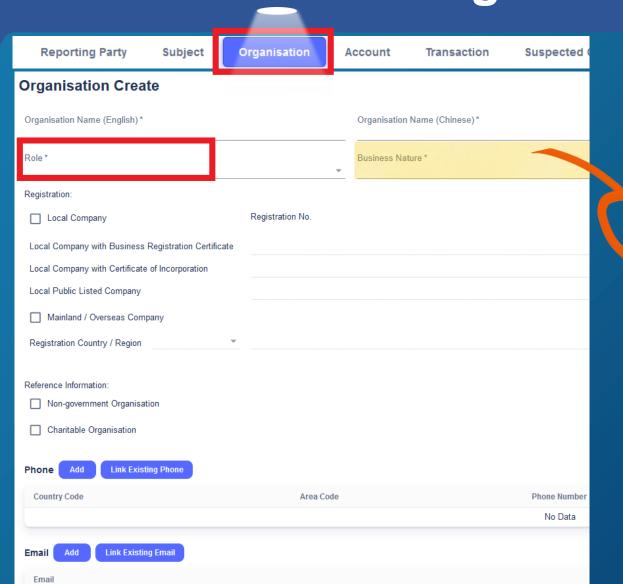
• Specify the roles of the reported entities (suspect, victim, transaction counterparty, etc.)



**Suspected Crimes** 

Suspicious Indicator

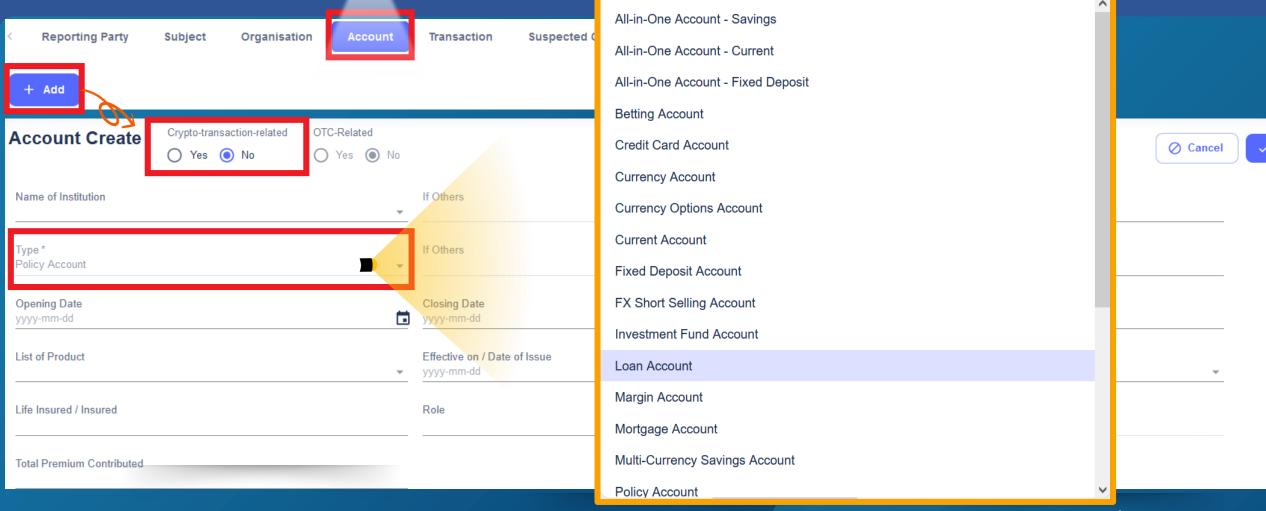




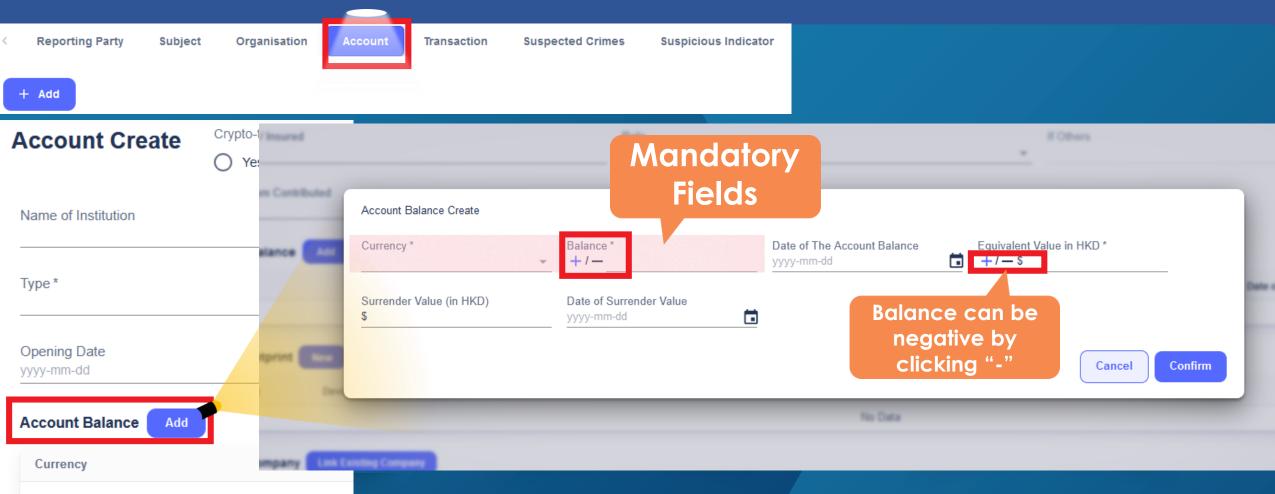


- unique identification no., place of incorporation, business nature
- details of connected parties (e.g. directors, shareholders and beneficial owners)

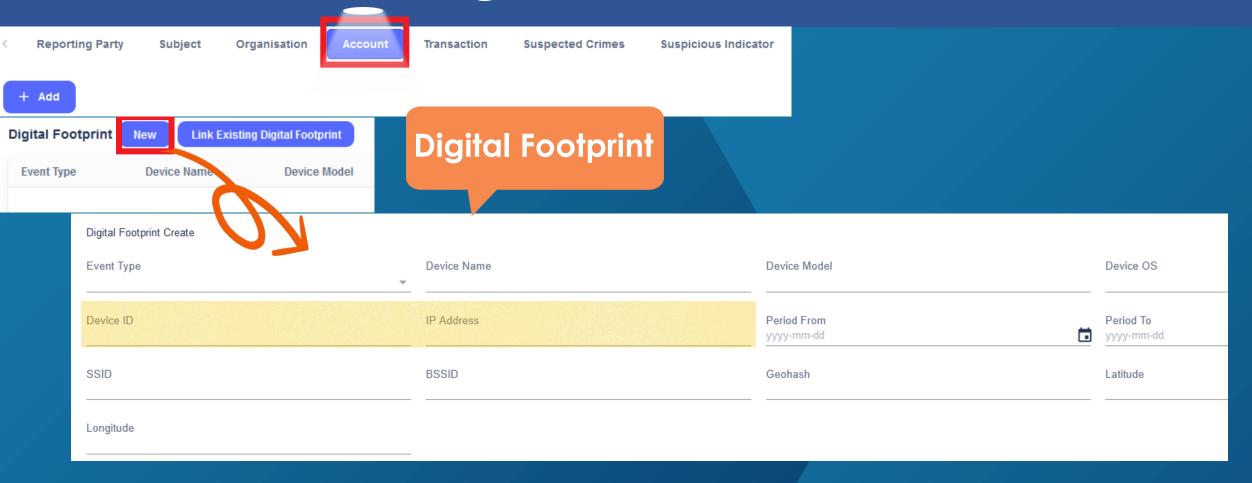




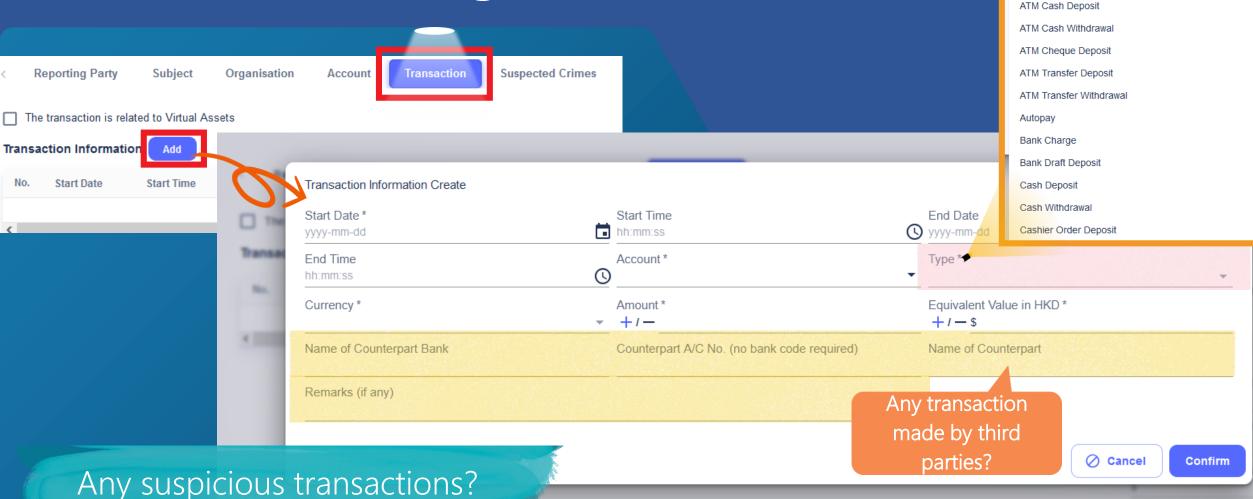












Type '



< Reporting Party	Subject	Organisation	Account	Transaction	Suspected Crimes	Suspicious Indicator				
<u>Suspected Crimes</u> Please put a " ✓ " in the appropriate box(es)										
<u>National Security</u>						Illicit Trade Activities				
Offence(s) Endangering National Security					Counterfeiting and Piracy of Products					
<u>Fraud</u>						Dealing in Precious Metals and Stones without a license				
Email Scam						Endangered Species Smuggling				
☐ Investment Scam										
Romance Scam					☐ Illicit Cigarettes					
Telephone Deception					Smuggling (including those related to customs and excise duties and taxes)					
Others (Please Specify)						☐ Trade Based Money Laundering				
						Unlicensed Money Service Operator (UMSO)				
Other Crimes										
Bookmaking						☐ Kidnapping, Illegal Restraint and Hostage-Taking				
Crime under Gambling Ordinance						Money Laundering				
Corruption and Bribery						Murder, Grievous Bodily Injury				
Counterfeiting Currency						Participation in an Organized Criminal Group and Racketeering				



< Reporting Party Subject Organisation Account Transaction Suspected Crime	Suspicious Indicator			
Please put a " ✓ " in the selected box(es).				
Fund Movement Pattern	Accounts			
Indirect Transaction / Transaction Intended to Break Audit Trail	Account Operated / Controlled by Third-Party Other Than Signatory / Account Holder			
☐ Large Cash Transaction	Non Resident Personal Account			
☐ Numerous Transaction Counterparties without Apparent Reasonable Cause	Offshore Account (e.g. BVI Bank Account)			
☐ Temporary Repository of Fund	Shell Company Account			
☐ Transactions Involving High-Risk Jurisdiction / Region	□ N/A			
Uneconomical Transaction / Transaction with No Business Purpose	National Security Related			
□ N/A	A person is suspected of committing an offence endangering national security			
Customer Background / Behaviour	☐ Transactions with specified absconders under Safeguarding National Security Ordinance			
☐ Civil Servant-related	☐ Transactions with prohibited organisations under Safeguarding National Security Ordinance			
□ Common IP Address	☐ Transactions with high NS risk counterparties			
Customer Evasive / Reluctant to Provide Information	Others (Please Specify)			
Customer Insisted to Use Less Secured Transaction Methods	□ N/A			
Politically Exposed Persons (PEP)	Other Suspicious Indicator			
Sanctions-related	Casino-related Suspicious Transaction			
	Charitable Organisation / NPO-related Suspicious Transaction			
Shared Device NEW	Others (Please Specify)			
Suspected Counterfeit Document Presented by the Customers	□ N/A			
Suspected Money Courier / Unlicensed Money Service Operator	_			





Narrative Comment about the Suspicious Transactions					
1. Triggering Factors					
Commission / Types / Association of Offence					
Evidence of Suspicious Transaction Patterns					
☐ Intelligence Received from LEAs					
Material from Publicly Available Information (e.g. adverse news, SFC alerts)					
Receipt of Search Warrant / Court Order					
Upstream Scam Intervention					
2. Background of Person / Organisation					
3. Details of Investigation / Transaction Analysis					
4. Conclusions / Action Taken / Way Forward					

**Suspicious Indicator** Reporting Party Subject Transaction **Suspected Crimes**  Offence (Fraud, Corruption, Sanction, Terrorist Financing, National Security, etc.) Suspicious Transaction Patterns (Substantial Cash Deposits, Temporary Repository of Funds, etc.) Intelligence / Enquiry from LEAs (e.g. JFIU, CSTCB, ADCC) Publicly available information (Adverse News, LEA Press Release, Sanction, etc.) Receipt of Search Warrant / Court Order Upstream Scam Intervention (Client is a victim)



## Narrative Comment about the Suspicious Transactions 1. Triggering Factors Commission / Types / Association of Offence Evidence of Suspicious Transaction Patterns ☐ Intelligence Received from LEAs Material from Publicly Available Information (e.g. adverse news, SFC alerts) Receipt of Search Warrant / Court Order ☐ Upstream Scam Intervention 2. Background of Person / Organisation Details of Investigation / Transaction Analysis 4. Conclusions / Action Taken / Way Forward

< Reporting Party Subject Organisation Account Transaction Suspected Crimes Suspicious Indicator

- Nationality
- Type of ID document HKID Holder, China Passport Holder, etc.
- Occupation / business nature, source of wealth, source of income
- Family / business background, if known e.g. coborrower (Ms. CHAN Xxx, HKID No.) or related entity also maintained business relationship with the money lender and displayed similar suspicion
- Date of commencing business relationship with the borrower





Exit relationship

Narrative Comment about the Suspicious Transactions						
1. Triggering Factors						
Commission / Types / Association of Offence						
Evidence of Suspicious Transaction Patterns						
☐ Intelligence Received from LEAs						
Material from Publicly Available Information (e.g. adverse news, SFC alerts)						
Receipt of Search Warrant / Court Order						
Upstream Scam Intervention						
2. Background of Person / Organisation						
3. Details of Investigation / Transaction Analysis						
4. Conclusions / Action Taken / Way Forward						

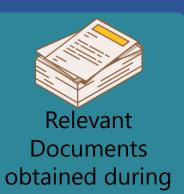
Reporting Party Suspicious Indicator Subject **Suspected Crimes**  Review Period • Transactions and linkage with suspicious counterparts / third party, if any • KYC / RFI result • Open source information / details of the adverse news / sanction list with website links • Findings on the digital footprints, if any Further review



# 05. STR Reporting in STREAMS 2 - Appropriate File Attachments

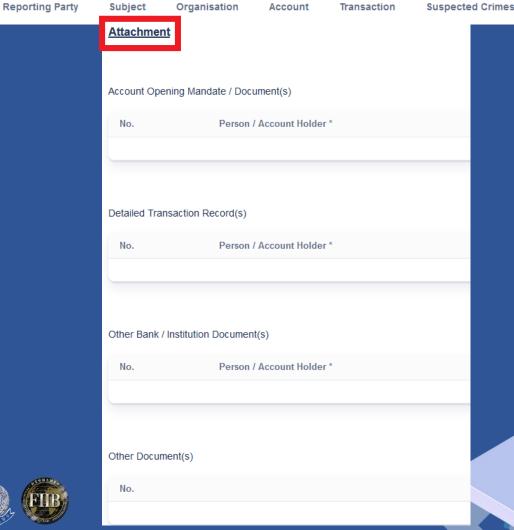






**CDD Process** 





Suspicious Indicator

## **Our Observations**

On STRs received from reporting entities

## **common pitfalls**



STR contains a group of **unrelated** subjects / did not specify their commonality in the narrative part

- If there is no correlation among the subjects, report STR separately for each subject;
- If syndication is observed, specify the commonality in the narrative part

Only mention "refer to Attachment" in the narrative part of the STR

- Narrative comment should be included in STR Form.
- Only transactions or supporting documents be provided in form of attachment

Report STR **solely** because other companies of the same group report STRs of the subject

 Compliance officers should critically review if the accounts of the same subject were used to channel illicit funds / related to terrorist financing





## Feedback from JFIU

Acknowledgement of Receipt

Consent / No Consent / Not Applicable

Quarterly STR Analysis published by JFIU

Meetings with stakeholders





## **Upcoming Arrangement for STREAMS 2**



#### **Final UAT**

- STR Submission
- Check STR status including consent decision
- Receive LNC and Notification Letters from Police



#### Seminar to different sectors

Starting from October / November 2025



#### Enquiry Hotline (General)

- Senior Inspector Owen TSE
- Tel: 3660 0533 / Email: owencytse@police.gov.hk



#### Enquiry Hotline (Technical)

- System Analyst Mr. Christopher CHAN
- Tel: 3660 9682 / Email: christopherchan@police.gov.hk © Hong Kong Police Force 香港警務處版權所有 (2025)





## TIMELINE OF LAUNCHING

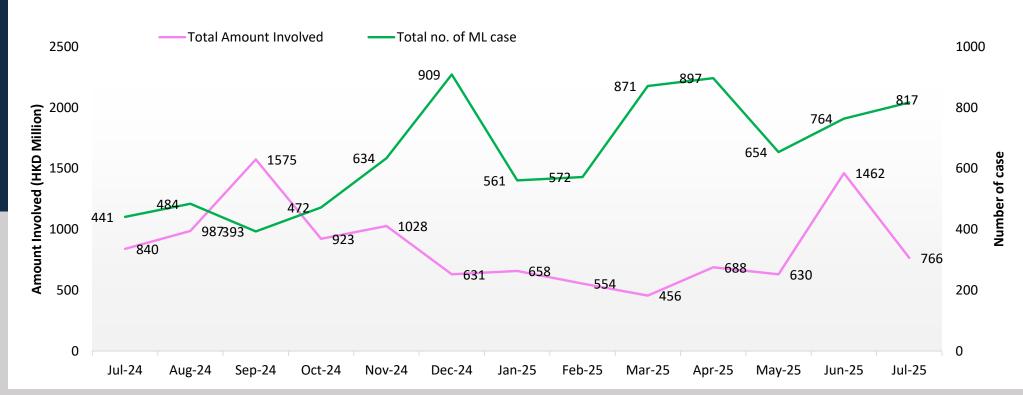
## STREAMS 2

#### Jan 2026 **Sept 2025** Oct - Nov 2025 02 04 (Tentatively) Deadline of submitting Seminars for Launch of email address for industries practitioners STREAMS 2 STREAMS 2 login during UAT Dec 2025 -Oct 2025 Jan 2026 Final UAT for Arrange account 05 01 reporting entity opening of STREAMS 2 03

## 06. ML Landscape



## **Hong Kong ML Landscape**



	Jan-Jul 2024	Jan-Jul 2025	Change
Total no. of ML case	3,808	5,136	<b>1,328</b> or 34.9%
Total Amount Involved (HKD)	8,651.4M	5,214.8M	♣ 3,436.6 or 39.7%

Fraud/Deception remains at top threat

**Domestic vs Other Jurisdictions** 





## **Hong Kong ML Landscape**

#### Predicate Offence

- Fraud/Deception Related
- Standalone ML
- Theft/Robbery/Burglary/Blackmail
- Organised Crime
- Gambling
- Loansharking
- Drug Related
- Vice
- Tax Related
- Corruption

#### Sector

#### Financial Institutions:

- Banking
- SVF
- Virtual Asset Service Provider
- Money Lenders
- Insurance
- Securities
- Money Service Operators

#### DNFBP:

- Dealers in Precious Metals and Stones
- Estate Agents
- Trust and Company Service Providers
- Lawyers
- Accountants



# 07. Common Typologies & Case Sharing





# Common Typologies & Case Sharing

## #1 Multiple suspicious applications were handled by the same agent



Agent assists in loan application



Use of forged documents



Bypass the CDD/KYC system





# **Common Typologies & Case Sharing**

## #2 Third Party Payment / Unknown Source of Fund



Paid by unrelated third party



Paid by cashier order / cash



Obscuring the true source of funds and Placing "dirty money" into financial system





# Common Typologies & Case Sharing

### **#3 Early one-off repayment**



Applied loans from various lenders



Paying off a debt | faster then income would support



Used in the layering and the integration stage of the ML process





