اللجنة الوطنية لمكافحة
غسل الأموال وتمويل الإرهاب
NATIONAL COMMITTEE
FOR AML&CFT

NRA

The Money Laundering Threat to the State of Kuwait

May 2025

Threat Assessment Report

Executive Summary

1. PPO, MoI, Nazaha and GAC detect a large number of crimes that meet the description of 'designated categories of offences' in Kuwait every year. However money laundering investigations and enquiries are instigated into relatively few of these offences, and those cases where such investigations and enquiries are initiated tend mainly to be financial in nature (fraud, usury, embezzlement etc). Historically, this has had the effect of skewing the assessment of the money laundering threat, as the only data and case studies available was for these types of cases. Nevertheless, the wealth of statistics and case studies provided confirms that the money laundering threat from fraud and bribery, corruption and other public funds offences is **HIGH**.

2. Information from sources other than prosecutions and convictions suggest that other types of predicate offences also pose a substantial money laundering threat to Kuwait. Credible and reliable reports from organisations such as UNODC, and press reports, suggest that drug trafficking is a significant issue in Kuwait, but there have been hardly any money laundering investigations liked to drug trafficking. Taking all available information into account, the money laundering threat from drug trafficking is also assessed as **HIGH.**

3. In respect of human trafficking, sources such as the US Department of State and the Global Organised Crime index suggest this is a major issue in Kuwait, but there have been no prosecutions for the predicate offence in the last 3 years and no linked money laundering investigations, so it is not possible to form a reliable conclusion of the nature and size of the threat. The same applies to most other types of offences listed in the FATF Glossary.

4. Kuwait faces a diverse range of cross border threats. However, the majority of money laundering investigations and enquiries involve the laundering of funds generated by criminal offences in Kuwait, by Kuwaiti citizens. The threat from both are rated as **HIGH**. Occurrences of funds generated from predicate offences that are brought into Kuwait are less common; this threat is rated as **MEDIUM-LOW**. Funds are laundered in Kuwait by non-Kuwaiti citizens (a **LOW** threat) and funds are also transmitted outside Kuwait as part of the laundering process, a threat rated as **MEDIUM-LOW**.

5. Information provided by the authorities has facilitated an assessment of which countries post a **HIGH** money laundering threat to Kuwait; these are Egypt, the UAE and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Türkiye, Jordan, Iraq pose a **MEDIUM-HIGH** threat; Iran, Syria and Lebanon pose a lesser but still significant threat, rated as **MEDIUM-LOW**.

6. The import and export of cash across Kuwait's borders poses a **HIGH** money laundering threat. Detections of falsely and non declared cash are very low compared to the number of passengers travelling and money laundering prosecutions linked to these detections are currently non existent, although GAC and MoI are currently working together to address this issue. Analysis of individual cash declarations suggests that a significant amount of foreign currency may be leaving Kuwait each year which is not being declared.