



MENAFATF releases Bahrain's mutual evaluation report (MER)

As an FATF participant, Bahrain's AMLCFT measures have recently been assessed by an FATF team which visited Bahrain and had extensive discussions with all stakeholders, including financial institutions. Published in September 2018, Bahrain's mutual evaluation report (MER) analyses Bahrain's compliance with the FATF 40 recommendations, the level of its AML/CFT effectiveness and how AML/CFT measures might be strengthened.

Key findings:

- Bahrain's level of understanding of AML and CFT risks is rated as 'moderate'.
- Bahrain's National Policy Committee is currently leading an inaugural comprehensive national AML/CFT risk assessment.
- Bahrain should use its national risk assessment findings to further strengthen its AMLCFT environment.
- Bahrain has strong domestic coordination and related intelligence is rapidly exchanged.
- Financial institutions (FIs) immediately implement AMLCFT measures.
- The AMLCFT framework for DNFBPs needs further understanding and enhancement.
- While FIs have robust mitigating measures, beneficial ownership obligations need to be improved.
- Bahrain has strong controls to prevent criminals from beneficially owning significant or controlling interests in FIs.



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The exhaustive (227 pages) [report](#) gives readers an in-depth assessment of current AML programmes in Bahrain.