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Expert Talk



Al-Shabaab's Tentacles Extend West: a Geospatial View

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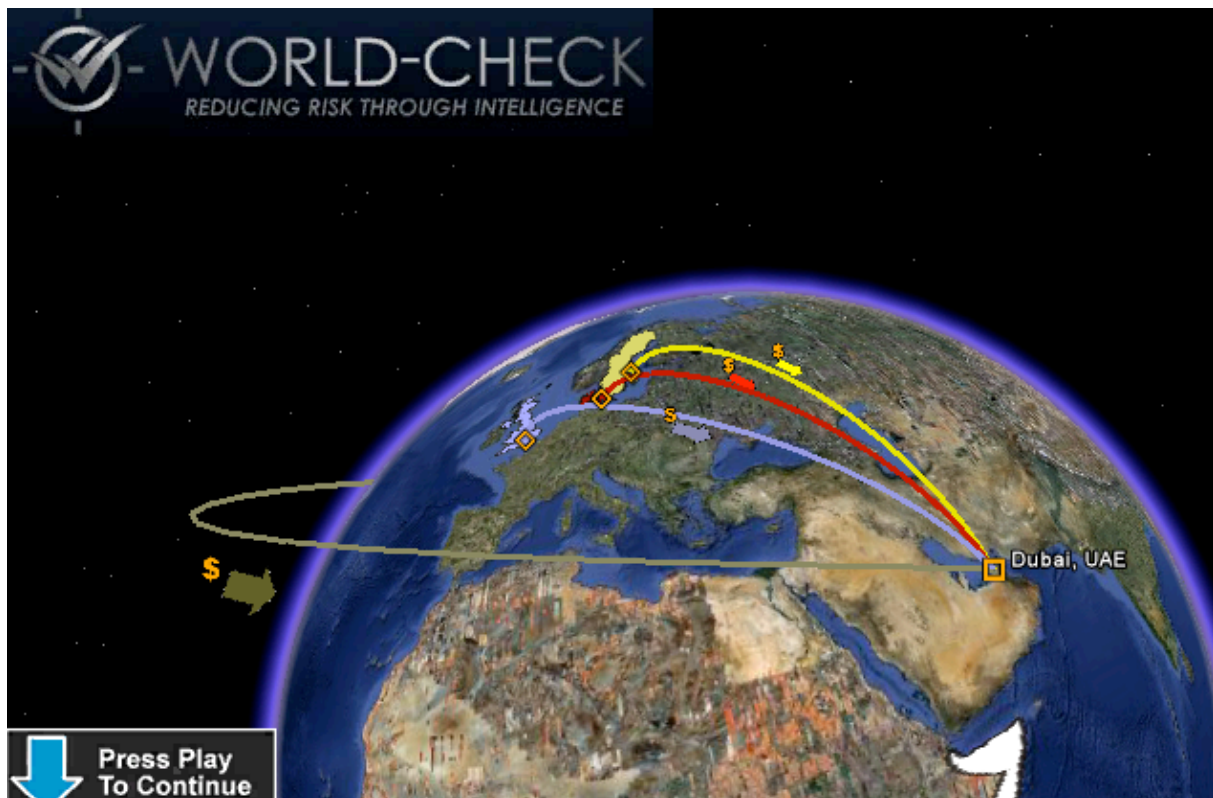
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The terrorist supply chain comprises two primary components: money and recruits. For security, intelligence and compliance professionals with counter-terrorism responsibilities, understanding the geographic dimension of these components is mission critical.

This month's edition of Expert Talk is a geospatial model of the al-Qa'ida-linked al-Shabaab movement's recruiting and financing methods. Al-Shabaab is a designated terrorist group that poses a significant threat to many of the Western countries from where it sources manpower and money. For more background on al-Shabaab's tentacles in the West, please see September's *Expert Talk*.

To view this Terrorism and Insurgency Research Unit spatial product, please download the latest version of Google Earth. It can be found [here](#). After downloading Google Earth, the al-Shabaab terrorist finance map can be downloaded [here](#). Please note this is a zipped file. Please extract and click on the kzm file to launch Google Earth.



This interactive spatial product shows the flow of money and recruits from terrorist financiers and recruits embedded in Somali communities in the west.

The first part shows flows of money from Western cities via hawala networks to Dubai where value is exchanged for cash or goods. Then cash is either bulk cash smuggled into Somalia by air or the value is transferred using trade based mechanisms.

Recruits then travel by land into Somalia to join al-Shabaab to train and fight. The fear in many Western countries is that the Western recruits will return to their home countries and conduct suicide attacks.