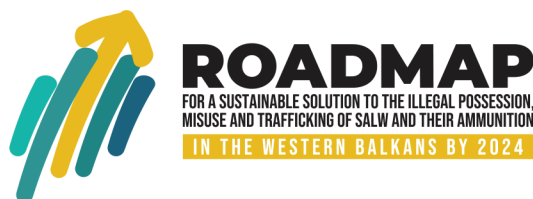


WESTERN BALKANS SALW
CONTROL ROADMAP
MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND

2022
ANNUAL REPORT

United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund for the implementation of the Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons and their ammunition in the Western Balkans



The United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund in support of the implementation of the Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons and their ammunition in the Western Balkans

CONTRIBUTORS:



PARTICIPATING UN ORGANIZATIONS:



ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT:



SUPPORTED BY:



Supported by the European Union

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ROADMAP

FOR A SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION TO THE ILLEGAL POSSESSION,
MISUSE AND TRAFFICKING OF SALW AND THEIR AMMUNITION
IN THE WESTERN BALKANS BY 2024

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AEA	Arms/Explosion/Accident
AEL	Arson and Explosives Laboratory
AF	Armed Forces
BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
BCP	Border Crossing Points
BP	Border Police
CEPOL	European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training
CIAT	Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking/Trade
CL	Chemical Laboratory
CoE	Council of Europe
CSI	Crime Scene Investigations
CTST	Counter Terrorism Search Training
EMPACT	European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats
ENFSI	European Network of Forensic Science Institutes
EU	European Union
EUFOR	European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina
EUROPOL	The European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation
FAE	Firearms, ammunition, and explosives
FC	Forensic Centre
FFP	Firearms Focal Point
FRONTEX	European Border and Coast Guard Agency
GFP	Global Firearms Programme
GSR	Gun Shot Residue
iARMS	Illicit Arms Records and Tracing Management System
IBM	Integrated Border Management
ILP	Intelligence Led Policing
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
ITA	Indirect Taxation Authority of BiH / BiH Customs
JIT	Joint Investigation Teams
LCMSMS	Liquid Chromatograph with Mass Spectrometer
LIMS	Laboratory Information Management System
MoD	Ministry of Defence
MOFTER	Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BiH
MoI	Ministry of the Interior
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoS	Ministry of Security of BiH
MOTC	Ministry of Transport and Communications of BiH
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
NABIS	UK's National Ballistics Intelligence Service

NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PAD	Police Administrative Directorate
PUNO	Participating United Nations Organization
RPG	Rocket-Propelled Grenade
RS	Republika Srpska
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SEESAC	South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of SALW
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIPA	State Investigation and Protection Agency of BiH
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNTOC	United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
USA	United States of America
WB	Western Balkans

FOREWORD

It is my great pleasure to introduce you to the fourth annual report of the United Nation's Multi-Partner Trust Fund in support of the [Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illicit possession, misuse and trafficking of small arms and light weapons \(SALW\) and their ammunition in the Western Balkans by 2024](#). The report marks the fourth year of the Trust Fund's existence and consolidates its support to the Roadmap's implementation.



in the Fund's
existence

The Western Balkans jurisdictions and UN agencies have worked hand in hand in these recent years to promote peace and inclusiveness in the region in supporting sustainable development, reducing illicit arms flows and arms-enabled crime and violence. Despite the delayed progress due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the authorities in the region have persisted and persevered in their commitment towards a sustainable solution to the illicit possession, misuse, and trafficking of SALW. All jurisdictions in the Western Balkans have continued to invest in efforts to achieve the seven goals of the Roadmap, represented in the [Roadmap progress reports](#). It was rewarding to see that the Mid-Term Review of the Roadmap implementation, conducted from October 2022 to January 2023, recognized the progress stemming from these efforts. The review confirmed the effectiveness and the relevance of the Roadmap, both to tackling SALW possession, misuse, and trafficking, and to wider security challenges within the Western Balkans region and the European Union. The review further reaffirmed that the Roadmap serves as a strong sign of cooperation between Western Balkans jurisdictions and a broad array of partners.

The UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund remains invested in supporting the Roadmap implementation, along with various local, regional, and international partners. The mid-term evaluation of the Trust Fund itself, conducted in parallel with the review of the Roadmap implementation, acknowledged the good overall strategic performance of the Trust Fund, and found it essential to sustaining the momentum of both political and technical commitment to SALW control in the region. The Trust Fund was recognized as providing synergies and interlinkages with other funds and initiatives which collectively contribute to the implementation of the Roadmap, therefore increasing the overall impact.

The Trust Fund ensured a donor coordinated approach in supporting the authorities. Through its Participating UN Organizations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Trust Fund has advanced efforts in countering the illicit trafficking of firearms, strengthened criminal justice responses to firearm-related crimes, increased the quality and accuracy of firearm-related investigations, and furthered the integration of the gender perspective while tackling SALW

threats. Furthermore, the Trust Fund supported outreach to communities and awareness raising activities to strengthen the engagement of women and men, and girls and boys, in these efforts.

The work will continue, taking into account the data at hand. The [2022 data](#) on firearm incidents in the Western Balkans gathered by SEESAC's [Armed Violence Monitoring Platform](#) call for continued efforts to address the challenge. The platform recorded 3,297 incidents involving firearms in the Western Balkans, as compared to 3,100 in 2021. Approximately 1,537, or 47%, of these incidents represented weapons seizures, followed by 487 incidents related to criminal activity. While organized crime incidents and undetermined shootings remained at a similar level as in 2021, there were noted increases in incidents related to celebratory shootings (163 cases, or a 29% increase) and undetermined explosions (83 cases, or a 32% increase). Armed robberies and accidental shootings were seen to decrease, with 189 cases of armed robberies (37% decrease) and 65 cases of accidental shootings (17% decrease). Out of 4,054 documented perpetrators, less than 2% were women, while about 47% were young men aged 19-35.

The joint action and coordinated support were reaffirmed in 2022, as demonstrated by the new funding contributions to the Trust Fund from Germany, France, Sweden, and Norway, and by the unwavering strategic and political support from the European Union. Thanks to this and financial support from the other key donors, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, the Trust Fund has mobilized more than \$24.1 million. \$13.5 million were distributed to the Participating UN Organizations by the end of 2022, and new allocations are planned in 2023.

The current report represents an informative read about the Trust Fund's contribution to the achievement of the Roadmap goals and the specific activities conducted by the Participating UN Organizations. It also presents the challenges encountered and lessons learned, partnerships established and strengthened, and the work of the Trust Fund governance bodies.

The results highlighted in this report demonstrate that with a joint vision, commitment, partnerships, and support, we are coming ever closer to achieving our shared common goals.

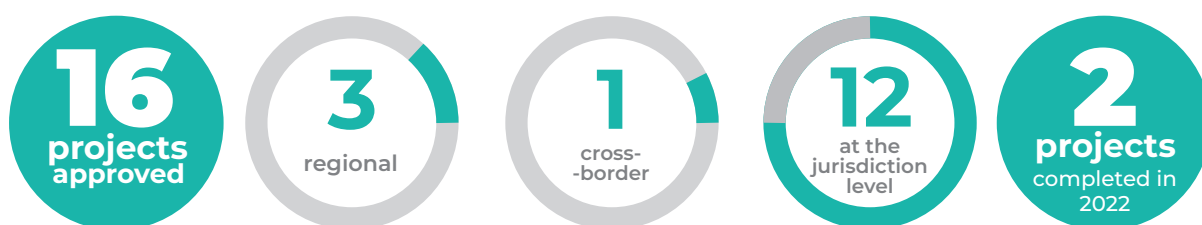
GERD TROGEMANN

Chair of the Steering Committee

Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF and
Manager of the UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2022, the Trust Fund and its two Participating UN Organizations, UNDP and UNODC, further consolidated their comprehensive support to the authorities in the Western Balkans in addressing specific priority areas of the regional [SALW Control Roadmap](#). This included support for countering the illicit possession and trafficking of firearms, strengthening criminal justice responses to firearm-related crimes, advancing firearm-related investigations and operational exchanges, enhancing data collection and management, reducing stockpiles of surplus ammunition, engaging in outreach to communities and the population at large on addressing arms-enabled crime, and for integrating the gender perspective in tackling these issues.



16 projects approved / 3 regional / 1 cross-border / 12 at the jurisdiction level
/ 2 projects successfully completed in 2022

In 2022, out of the 10 ongoing projects, two were successfully completed, one in Kosovo* and one in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). The completed project in Kosovo contributed to increased investigative and operational capacities of the Kosovo Police to tackle illicit arms trafficking and firearms criminality, paving the way for the next phase of support through the Trust Fund, which was approved by the Steering Committee to commence as of January 2023. The completed project in BiH supported the respective authorities with the disposal of unsafe ammunition in a controlled environment, including the environmentally friendly disposal of scrap materials deriving from the technical processes of disposing of ammunition. This brought BiH closer to the achievement of Roadmap Goal 6, which aims to systematically decrease the surplus of and destroy seized small arms and light weapons and ammunition. Six new projects were approved by the Trust Fund's Steering Committee in the second half of the year, following the direct solicitation of proposals modality, thus further enhancing funding support across the seven Roadmap Goals. The total number of projects approved for funding by the Trust Fund was thus increased to 16, with an overall budget of \$14.6 million.

With the new batch of projects stemming from the direct solicitation, the Trust Fund has ensured that it has responded to the immediate needs of the authorities prior to the next open call for proposals after the mid-term evaluation. Relatedly, the mid-term evaluation

was successfully launched in October 2022 with a plan for its completion by February 2023. The findings of the mid-term evaluation are intended to guide the next call for proposals in 2023, as well as the future direction of the Fund’s strategic and operational support.

The Trust Fund ensured a conducive environment for replicating, scaling up, and consolidating initiatives, demonstrating its catalytic investment. Across the relevant jurisdictions, the projects ensured solid foundations to further build upon and consolidate progress. In Serbia, the Trust Fund enabled UNDP to build upon its findings from the previous phase of the Reduce Risk-Increase Safety project and bridge the gaps identified under Goal 4 of the Roadmap, which focuses on decreasing the number of suicides and cases of firearms misuse for domestic violence. In BiH, the Fund enabled further advancement of efforts and strengthening of achievements towards a more efficient and effective fight against illegal SALW trafficking, as well as further institutionalization of gender mainstreaming in SALW control within BiH Customs. In Albania, the Fund ensured support for the authorities in expanding the number of weapons storages that will be improved and refurbished in line with international standards and best practices, guaranteeing the maintenance, safety, and administration of firearms, ammunition, and explosives throughout their entire life cycle. In Kosovo and North Macedonia, the Fund ensured scaling up the support for SALW related investigations. On the regional level, the Fund enabled the UNODC to replicate the good practice implemented in BiH on the detection of firearms and components in express courier and postal parcels to other Western Balkans jurisdictions in line with the respective needs assessments.

Overall, the Trust Fund continued its steadfast support to the Western Balkans authorities as they strove to achieve the Roadmap Goals. The MPTF funded projects cumulatively contributed to all seven Roadmap Goals, and brought the Western Balkans jurisdictions closer to the commonly agreed vision for a safer region.

PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ROADMAP GOALS

The Trust Fund managed to deliver important results, supporting the Western Balkans authorities in continuing to advance towards achieving the Roadmap goals. In 2022, **the Trust Fund contributed to all seven goals of the Roadmap**, with some highlights presented here:

It supported the advancement and harmonization of relevant legislation across the six jurisdictions, as well as the standardization and international accreditation of procedures in two jurisdictions, Montenegro and Serbia [1 regional and 2 jurisdiction-level projects].

- Two jurisdictions – Montenegro and North Macedonia – are in the final stage of adopting or amending relevant criminal legislation to bring it in line with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the UN Firearms Protocol. The remaining four jurisdictions established working groups that continue to look into such harmonization.

It enhanced analytical capabilities, evidence-based and intelligence-led operations, and policy making, including the collection and sharing of consolidated criminal justice data on firearms as well as regional and inter-institutional operational exchange of experience and data across all jurisdictions [2 regional and 7 jurisdiction-level projects].

- Notably, the BiH law enforcement agencies undertook a series of joint exercises under the lead of the prosecution office, while the Kosovo Police boundary department conducted numerous intelligence-led operations, increasingly detecting and confiscating illegal firearms and ammunition. The Kosovo Police confiscated 1,473 firearms in 2022, as compared to 1,280 in 2021 and 1,135 in 2020.
- 100 court cases on firearms trafficking from the Western Balkans were selected, translated, analyzed, reviewed, and published online in the SHERLOC database of UNODC. As a result, the WB jurisdictions have the largest number of firearms cases available in the database compared to any other region, establishing the foundation for comparative analysis and the harmonization of court practices in the region in the long term.

It helped strengthen capacities, measures, operational and policy approaches, and technical infrastructure towards countering illicit arms trafficking, and regional and international exchange to this end across the jurisdictions [2 regional, 1 cross-border, and 4 jurisdiction-level projects].

- Guidelines and standard operating procedures were developed on the investigation and prosecution of firearms trafficking cases, covering all stages of the investigation cycle.
- Through three tailored and coordinated bilateral operations, border officials of BiH, Montenegro, and Serbia enhanced their understanding and capacities for more effective operations to counter illicit arms trafficking, while one bi-lateral Memorandum of Understanding between BiH and Croatian Customs was signed on operational cooperation.

It increased awareness, education, and advocacy among relevant practitioners and professionals across all six jurisdictions, and in particular among the citizens and local communities in BiH, Kosovo, and North Macedonia [1 regional, 1 cross-border, and 4 jurisdiction-level projects].

- More than 1,550 practitioners and professionals from law enforcement, prosecution, and the judiciary across the region enhanced their knowledge and skills in various aspects of SALW control, including by integrating the gender perspective and enhancing women's participation in these efforts.
- Awareness raising campaigns in BiH, Kosovo, and North Macedonia reached over 1,4 million people. In BiH, 142 outreach events were held across the country in all 12 jurisdictions during the implementation of an awareness raising campaign addressing celebratory shootings, reaching approximately 350,000 people. 18,200 students were reached through events in high schools.

As a cross-cutting thread across jurisdictions, it helped authorities in decreasing firearms in illicit possession, increasing seizures, and in more efficiently detecting, investigating, and countering the proliferation of illicit firearms, ammunition, and explosives [1 regional, 1 cross-border, and 5 jurisdiction-level projects].

- Through enhancing capacities to address new trafficking modalities – the trafficking of firearms, their parts, and ammunition through express courier and postal parcels, counterparts in BiH conducted operations that resulted in 30 seizures of firearms and their parts from postal parcels.

It supported the systematic reduction of the surplus and the destruction of seized SALW and ammunition in BiH [2 jurisdiction-level projects].

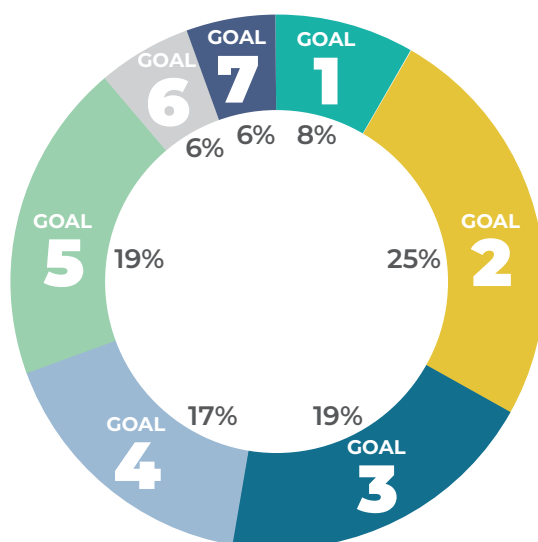
- Through a controlled and environmentally safe action, it supported the disposal of 2,667 pcs of the rocket propelled grenade M80-64mm “Zolja,” 833 pcs of white phosphorus, and 1,000 pcs of RPG ammunition.

It enabled authorities to decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition, and explosives in two jurisdictions, BiH and Albania [2 jurisdiction-level projects].

- Upgrades were successfully initiated for 10 weapons storages in Albania, encompassing Tirana, Elbasan, Mat, Puka, Tropoja, Lushnja, Berat, Fier, Saranda, and Pogradec.

Overall, in 2022, 11 projects actively contributed to the Roadmap implementation in a coordinated manner, with three projects contributing to the achievement of Goal 1, nine to Goal 2, seven to Goal 3, six to Goal 4, seven to Goal 5, and two each to Goal 6 and Goal 7, as illustrated in the chart below.

2022: MPTF PROJECTS' CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS



GOAL 1

By 2023, ensure that arms control legislation is in place, fully harmonized with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations and standardized across the region.

By **2023**

The Trust Fund supported activities aimed at **harmonizing the national criminal laws and criminal procedure laws** of the Western Balkan jurisdictions with the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the UN Firearms Protocol, thereby contributing to the standardization of the arms control legislation in the Western Balkans and thus to **Goal 1 of the Roadmap**. Furthermore, the **regulatory frameworks for crime scene and ballistics investigations** were strengthened in Montenegro and Serbia, paving the way towards international accreditation, also in line with Roadmap Goal 1.

By 2024

By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence-based and intelligence-led.

GOAL
2

In contributing to **Roadmap Goal 2**, Trust Fund resources enabled the law enforcement and prosecution personnel in all Western Balkans jurisdictions to enhance their **analytical capacities for information gathering**, sharing, and analysis, as well as for weapon categorization, while also strengthening the knowledge and capacities of law enforcement officers for improved firearms investigations. To achieve this goal, the Roadmap also envisions that the police services of the Western Balkans provide regular input to INTERPOL's iArms. Towards this mission, the Trust Fund facilitated increased cooperation with INTERPOL and a new agreement with INTERPOL to extend the iArms database in Albania, BiH, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia. Furthermore, the Participating UN Organizations continue to support the **integration of the gender perspective into arms control policies** and the tackling of gender-based crime. More notably, the BiH Customs authority was supported in strengthening the meaningful participation of women in arms control and in further contributing to Goal 2 of the Roadmap.

GOAL
3

By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition, and explosives into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.

By 2024

To support the achievement of **Roadmap Goal 3**, the Trust Fund provided support in three directions. Firstly, it helped strengthen and implement **legal, policy, and procedural frameworks** for containing firearms trafficking. Developed case law collections of firearm offences in all jurisdictions serve as a tool for harmonizing court practices. Also, the implementation of the criminal procedure law in firearms trafficking cases was strengthened in Western Balkans jurisdictions through facilitated information exchange between the relevant institutions - the judiciary, prosecution offices, criminal and border police, and customs. All jurisdictions were equipped with new standard procedures to enhance detections, investigations, and convictions of SALW related crimes. Secondly, the Trust Fund resources contributed to **improved technical and operational capacities** through the provision of specialized equipment and the training of targeted law enforcement units to prevent and counter the trafficking of firearms, ammunition, and explosives. Thirdly, the Trust Fund enabled the **strengthened local, regional, and international cooperation** to counter illicit arms trafficking. Under this line of interventions, the greater focus in 2022 was placed on facilitating joint or bilateral operations and inter-agency and cross-border collaboration among police, prosecutors, and customs officers.

By 2024

By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand, and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach, and advocacy.

GOAL
4

To reduce the misuse of firearms in line with **Roadmap Goal 4**, a series of learning sessions were delivered to relevant practitioners and professionals across the region. General and targeted **awareness-raising** campaigns on the dangers of celebratory shooting and on the misuse of firearms were implemented in BiH, Kosovo, and North Macedonia, directly reaching more than 368,000 people in BiH and the population at large in the other two jurisdictions. Also, activities funded by the Trust Fund resulted in the raising of the awareness of the postal services and private courier companies in BiH with regards to the illegal trafficking of firearms and how to tackle it, thereby further contributing to Roadmap Goal 4.

GOAL
5

By 2024, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans.

By 2024

To decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans in line with **Roadmap Goal 5**, the **awareness-raising** raising efforts in BiH also addressed this aspect in its outreach campaigns designed and conducted closely with the community police. The efforts implemented in Albania, BiH, Kosovo, North Macedonia, and Serbia to enhance detection and **arms-based crime investigation** and related records management cross-cuttingly contributed to reducing the amount of firearms in illicit possession and to their seizure.

Systematically decrease the surplus and destroy seized small arms and light weapons and ammunition.

GOAL
6

The Trust Fund contributed to **Goal 6 of the Roadmap** in supporting the Ministry of Defense (MoD) and the Armed Forces (AF) in BiH to reduce the stockpiles of unsafe ammunition by facilitating the **disposal of** 2,667 pcs of the rocket propelled grenade M80-64mm “Zolja,” 833 pcs of white phosphorus, and 1,000 pcs of RPG ammunition.

GOAL

7

Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives.

Finally, the Trust Fund contributed to **Goal 7 of the Roadmap** through its support in Albania of the launched **upgrades of ten weapon and ammunition storage facilities** in line with international standards. Its contribution was also reflected through the support provided to the Ministry of Defense (MoD) and the Armed Forces (AF) in BiH in conducting disposal of ammunition..

TRUST FUND GOVERNANCE

The Trust Fund's Steering Committee convened seven times throughout the year to review and decide on the Fund's direction and operations, new project proposals, and project revisions. The Steering Committee approved the launching of an open call for a mid-term evaluation of the Trust Fund, with its conduction planned for the second half of 2022. In the meantime, the Steering Committee agreed to proceed with the direct solicitation of small-scale proposals from the Participating UN Organizations to respond to the immediate needs of the authorities before the next call for proposals, which was scheduled to follow the evaluation's completion. As a result, six new project proposals were reviewed and approved for funding by the Steering Committee in the second half of 2022, bringing the total number of projects approved for funding by the Trust Fund to 16. Seven of the ten ongoing projects were granted non-cost extensions, while two successfully completed respective operations in the course of the year.

The Secretariat, whose functions are ensured by UNDP SEESAC, continued to provide support to the Steering Committee, facilitating the decision-making, coordination, monitoring, and reporting of the Trust Fund's results, as well as enabling the technical assessment and processing of the project proposals submitted within the direct solicitation for proposals modality. The Secretariat also reviewed project revisions and consolidated quarterly and annual progress reports submitted by the Participating Organizations, UNDP and UNODC.

The Secretariat regularly liaised with the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office and the two worked together to ensure the accuracy of all processes and documents prepared. A company was successfully contracted in the last quarter of 2022 to conduct the mid-term evaluation of the Trust Fund, assess the progress made thus far through the Fund's contribution, and provide recommendations for the Fund's future governance.

CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTATION

In 2022, the projects continued to be implemented in the challenging environment created by the COVID-19 pandemic, though to a lesser extent when compared to the previous observed period. The quarterly updates provided by the Participating UN Organizations (PUNOs) on the evolution of the pandemic in each jurisdiction showed that the jurisdictions

continued to maintain measures to stop and prevent the spread of the virus in the first half of 2022. As of the second half of 2022, the restrictive measures were largely lifted across the jurisdictions and the projects largely resumed in-person capacity development and operations. The pandemic, although with reduced impacts for most of the year, continued to create delays in the implementation of the projects' activities and to affect implementation costs.

Other challenges were posed by the tense political environment in BiH, aggravated to some extent by the electoral campaigning for the general elections scheduled for October 2022. This further delayed some of the activities and the availability of project beneficiaries in this jurisdiction. The project HALT, implemented jointly by UNDP BiH and UNODC, had to be thus extended twice in the course of the year. Also in BiH, the project EXPLODE+ implemented by UNDP BiH experienced difficulties in the cooperation with the Ministry of Defense of BiH. Because of the inconsistencies in the MoD's 2021 and 2022 Plan of Operations on Ammunition Disposal, the project could not proceed with disposal of ammunition as initially planned. The project received a non-cost extension from the Steering Committee to complete the ongoing three disposal operations.

Difficulties and delays were also encountered in identifying qualified project staff and expert consultants, in procuring technical equipment, in new software development, and in enabling timely decision-making by project partners. These challenges, along with the delays and health concerns caused by the pandemic, called for the non-cost extension of two regional projects implemented by UNODC, of one cross-border project implemented jointly by UNDP Kosovo and North Macedonia, and of the projects implemented by UNDP Montenegro and Albania – all efficiently processed by the Trust Fund Governance structure.

Worth noting here is that the Albanian State Police Systems suffered a major cyber-attack in 2022, which additionally affected activity implementation in the jurisdiction and required a significantly prolonged implementing period, which was granted by the Steering Committee due to the circumstances.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND TRANSFERS

In 2022, the Trust Funds' total contributions exceeded US \$24.1 million, with \$2.3 million mobilized in 2022 from four principal donors: Germany, France, Sweden, and Norway. \$1.6 million were allocated by the end of the year to the Participating UN Organizations for four of the six projects approved within the direct solicitation of proposals modality.



NARRATIVE REPORT

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This Narrative Report covers the period from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022 and describes the activities of the Participating UN Organizations, UNDP and UNODC, and of the governance bodies of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF. The narrative report begins with an overview of the Trust Fund, followed by an update on the activity of the Trust Fund governance bodies. The report continues with a presentation of contributions made towards achieving the Roadmap goals and the Fund's outcomes, and an update on the work of the Participating UN Organizations. The subsequent chapters are dedicated to an overview of the key challenges and lessons learned, partnerships, sustainability aspects, and the communications and visibility activities undertaken in 2022.

THE NARRATIVE REPORT IS FOLLOWED BY A FINANCIAL REPORT.



1. OVERVIEW

1.1. Set Up and Key Features of the Trust Fund

*The **TRUST FUND** contributes to a donor coordinated approach to the implementation of the Roadmap for arms control in the Western Balkans.*

The Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF was established by UNDP, UNODC, and the MPTF Office in March 2019 as a key funding mechanism supporting the implementation of the **Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illicit possession, misuse and trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and their ammunition in the Western Balkans by 2024**. The Roadmap was jointly developed by the six Western Balkan jurisdictions - Albania, BiH, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia, under the auspices of the Governments of Germany and France, in coordination with the EU, and with the technical support of the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC). The Roadmap is the most comprehensive arms control exercise in the Western Balkans, covering all key aspects of SALW Control, from weapon destruction to mainstreaming gender in security policies and countering arms trafficking. It was adopted at the Western Balkans London Summit in July 2018, representing a firm commitment to addressing the threats posed by the misuse and illicit possession of weapons in the Western Balkans and Europe at large.

The Trust Fund enables a platform aiming to strengthen coordination, planning, and communication among the donors, implementing partners, and national authorities, and to develop synergies among different actors involved in this programmatic area. It also aims to reduce risks to governments and financial contributors through a comprehensive risk and results-based management system. The Western Balkan SALW Control Roadmap MPTF supports concrete projects and activities in the area of SALW control that should contribute to the achievement of the Roadmap goals and that are in line with the priorities of the targeted jurisdictions.

KEY FEATURES OF THE WESTERN BALKANS SALW CONTROL ROADMAP MPTF



CONTRIBUTION TO IMPROVED COORDINATION AND BEST USE OF RESOURCES

SALW control activities are implemented in a coordinated manner and the multiple partners' priorities are aligned through regular dialogue and strong monitoring and reporting mechanisms. This helps avoid duplication of efforts, reduces fragmentation, and ensures complementarity and coherence with other similar activities.

ENSURED RELEVANCE

Funded projects must adhere to the goals of the Roadmap and must be developed in close cooperation with the beneficiaries, thereby ensuring that projects effectively respond to the priorities of the targeted jurisdictions.



INCREASED EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

A comprehensive results-based framework ensures delivery of results, while the pass-through mechanism minimizes implementation delays and transaction costs.

HIGHER IMPACT

Donor contributions are commingled as part of the pooled funding mechanism, enabling the implementation of broader interventions with more sustainable results and greater overall impact.



INCREASED OWNERSHIP

Authorities in the Western Balkans are enabled to steer the implementation of the funded projects based on their SALW control needs and priorities, and to coordinate efforts on the ground.

INCREASED ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

Financial data related to the Trust Fund's contributions and transactions, as well as key documents related to its administration, are publicly available on the MPTF Office Gateway, thereby preserving important institutional knowledge and facilitating knowledge sharing.



1.2. Trust Fund Governance Structure

*The **STEERING COMMITTEE** is the Trust Fund's decision-making body. It decides on all aspects related to the Trust Fund's management and implementation.*

The Trust Fund is governed by a **Steering Committee** consisting of representatives of the Participating UN Organizations (UNDP and UNODC), Germany, France, the EU, the MPTF Office (as ex-officio members), and of the other top three donors to the Fund. In 2022, these were Sweden, the UK, and the Netherlands. Other donors can also participate in the Steering Committee as observers, without voting rights. The Steering Committee provides general oversight and exercises overall accountability of the Trust Fund, approves the strategic direction of the Fund and its overall results framework, decides on the allocation of funds, and oversees the implementation of the funded projects and overall progress towards the planned results.

SEESAC, a joint initiative of the Regional Cooperation Council and UNDP, which has received steady and substantial funding from the EU since 2002, is responsible to act as the **Secretariat** of the Trust Fund, ensuring programmatic coordination, quality assurance, and monitoring of the Fund. This is in line with SEESAC's mandate, stemming from the South East Europe Regional Implementation Plan on Combatting the Proliferation and Impact of Small Arms and Light Weapons,¹ and in line with EU Council Decision 1788/2018, providing support to SEESAC for the coordination and monitoring of the overall implementation of the Roadmap.² The Secretariat is not part of the Steering Committee and has no voting rights.

The Trust Fund is administered by the MPTF Office in its capacity as **Administrative Agent** under the pass-through management modality. The MPTF Office is responsible for setting up and administering the Trust Fund, including the receipt, administration, and release of funds to the Participating UN Organizations in accordance with decisions made by the Steering Committee.

The **Participating UN Organizations** are UNDP and UNODC, which have signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)³ with the MPTF Office. Each Participating UN Organization assumes full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent.

¹ The South East Europe Regional Implementation Plan on Combatting the Proliferation and Impact of Small Arms and Light Weapons stipulates that the obligation to “provide project development, technical advisory, project monitoring and evaluation support to the EU, UNDP, OSCE and other stakeholders within South and Eastern Europe on request” is among SEESAC's essential responsibilities.

² Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/1788 of 19 November 2018 in support of the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC) for the implementation of the Regional Roadmap on combatting illicit arms trafficking in the Western Balkans, OJ L 293, 20.11.2018, p. 11.

³ The MoU is available on the MPTF Office Gateway, at the following address:
<http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/SLW00>

1.3. Trust Fund Projects

Following two calls for proposals launched in 2019 and 2020, respectively, the Steering Committee approved ten projects for funding, at a value of \$12 million. Using the direct solicitation of projects modality in 2022, the Steering Committee approved additional six projects, at the lower value of \$2.6 million, to bridge the gap between the second and third open call until the mid-term evaluation of the Trust Fund was to be completed. This brought the total number of approved projects to 16. The projects cover areas such as countering illicit arms trafficking, strengthening criminal justice responses to firearm-related crimes, the disposal of unsafe ammunition, support to ballistics and crime scene investigations, SALW related data collection and management, the upgrading of ammunition storages per international standards, the integration of the gender perspective into SALW-related threats, the enhancement of evidence-based and intelligence-led decision making, and community outreach and specific and general awareness-raising. Details about the projects and the results achieved in 2022 are outlined in the next sections of the report, and in the report annexes. Worth noting is that two projects from the first call successfully completed their operations in 2022, one in BiH and one in Kosovo. Out of the new batch of project proposals, only one began being implemented in 2022, three received funding and preparations were initiated in the last quarter of 2023, while the actual implementation of the remaining two is to start in 2023

**SIXTEEN
PROJECT
PROPOSALS**
*submitted by the
Participating UN
Organizations
were approved
for funding
by the Trust
Fund's Steering
Committee to
date.*

	PROJECT	Implementing organization	Project budget	Implementing period
1ST CALL FOR PROPOSALS	Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade (HALT) in Bosnia and Herzegovina	UNDP BiH and UNODC	\$2,200,000	21 February 2020 – 30 June 2023
	Support to Combating Illicit Arms Trafficking in Kosovo for Criminal Police (CPIAT)	UNDP Kosovo	\$660,000	21 February 2020 – 30 June 2022
	Criminal Justice Response Against Arms Trafficking (regional project)	UNODC	\$1,899,999	21 February 2020 – 30 March 2023
	Urgent Action on Ammunition Destruction - Project EXPLODE+, in Bosnia and Herzegovina	UNDP BiH	\$583,546	21 February 2020 – 31 October 2022
2ND CALL FOR PROPOSALS	Strengthening Control, Administration and Social Attitudes Towards SALW	UNDP Albania	\$1,661,314	14 December 2020 – 31 December 2023
	Advancing the Capacities of the Ministry of Interior in the SALW Control-Related Field (Phase II)	UNDP Serbia	\$1,429,520	05 January 2021 – 04 July 2023
	Advancing the Capacities of the Police Directorate in the Field of Custody Chain, CSI and the Forensic Laboratory in the Field of Operations and Investigations in Detection and Trafficking of Explosives Criminality	UNDP Montenegro	\$664,812	05 January 2021 – 04 July 2023
	Cross-border Integrated Institutional Approach Towards Combatting IAT and SALW	UNDP Kosovo-UNDP North Macedonia	\$522,067	18 March 2021 – 31 May 2023
	Prevention and Illicit Arms Reduction in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Project PILLAR+)	UNDP BiH	\$769,406	05 January 2021 – 03 July 2023
	Support for Increased International Cooperation in Criminal Matters	UNODC	\$1,604,153	24 June 2021 – 31 December 2023
DIRECT SOLICITATION OF PROPOSALS	Reduce Risk - Increase Safety II	UNDP Serbia	\$170,700	06 September 2022– 31 March 2023
	Digitalization and Institutional and Regional Cooperation Project (DIRC)	UNDP BiH	\$309,412	25 October 2022 – 23 July 2023
	Increased Security of the Arms Depots Under the Administration of the Albanian State Police	UNDP Albania	\$474,770	30 November 2022 - 27 September 2023
	Improvement of Data and SALW Collection Practices and SALW Related Investigations	UNDP North Macedonia	\$513,600	16 December 2022 – 31 August 2023
	Support to Firearms related Investigations	UNDP Kosovo	\$350,318	24 January 2023 – 22 July 2023
	Countering Trafficking in Firearms, their parts and ammunition in Express Courier and Postal Parcels: Project HERMES, Phase 1	UNODC	\$800,129	01 February 2023 – 29 October 2023



2. PROGRESS

TOWARDS THE ROADMAP GOALS AND TRUST FUND OUTCOMES



The Trust Fund results matrix is a representation of the regional Roadmap goals, overall targets, and key performance indicators, ensuring full coordination between the monitoring and implementation of the Roadmap and the monitoring and implementation of the Trust Fund. In 2022, the Trust Fund contributed to the achievement of all seven Goals of the Roadmap, corresponding to outcomes of the Trust Fund.

Relevant Roadmap goals/ Trust Fund outcomes

Relevant Roadmap targets/ Trust Fund outputs

Trust Fund contribution in 2022



Goal 1: By 2023, ensure that arms control legislation is in place, fully harmonized with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations, and standardized across the region.

Arms control legislation is fully harmonized with the EU legal framework and in line with international agreements/standards.

Technical and expert support provided towards the harmonization of national criminal law in all jurisdictions with the provisions of the UN Firearms Protocol, including through peer exchanges.

Procedures and practices are standardized in the area of arms control and FAE investigations.

Regulatory framework for crime scene and ballistic investigations in Montenegro and Serbia further strengthened in line with international standards.

Progress made in the accreditation of the investigation methods in line with ISO 17020 (CSI) and ISO 17025 (Ballistic) in both Serbia and Montenegro. Shooting range adapted and equipped in Serbia.



Goal 2: By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence-based and intelligence-led.

National analytical capacities are increased and firearms data analysis is institutionalized.

280 police officers from Kosovo and North Macedonia (140 each, (25 w, 255 m) trained in information gathering, sharing, and analysis and in weapons categorization.

76 police officers (64 m, 12 w) from Kosovo and North Macedonia trained in establishing trafficking routes, the integrated use of financial investigation during IAT cases, and firearms-conversion methods.

The CSI units and forensic laboratories' staff in Serbia and Montenegro were equipped and trained to increase the effectiveness of data analysis and the accuracy of the evidence produced.

Technical support provided to Albanian State Police to support the advancement of the firearms re-registration process.

121 customs officers (45 w, 76 m) from all 4 ITA Regional Centers trained on new SOPs and the practical use of specialized detection equipment.

All police services of the Western Balkans are connected and regularly input their data on lost and stolen firearms to INTERPOL's iARMS.

A series of assessment meetings and trainings were conducted to extend iARMS access and use across the WB. Necessary equipment provided to this end.

Gender and age concerns are fully integrated in arms control policies, and the meaningful participation of women in arms control is ensured.

130 ITA employees (64 w, 66 m) enhanced awareness and understanding on advancing women's position in the customs sector.



Goal 3: By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.

The legal, policy, and procedural framework on trafficking of FAE is fully implemented and monitored.

Inter-institutional exchange was strengthened in the WB on the application of the criminal procedure law in firearms related investigations.

Case law collection of firearm offences was developed in all jurisdictions, as a tool for harmonizing court practices.

Baseline assessment on firearms data in the criminal justice system in the WB finalized and endorsed by jurisdictions.

Improved processes, equipment, and training of targeted law enforcement units are in place to prevent trafficking (smuggling, illicit trade, and transit) of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.

47 staff of BiH Customs and the three public postal operators (12w, 35m) trained in analysis of x-ray images for the detection of illicit trafficking, and in risk-indicators for the detection of firearms.

153 criminal justice practitioners (78w, 75m) enhanced their knowledge and skills in investigating firearms trafficking in BiH, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia.

121 custom officers from BiH strengthened their capacities for detecting firearms and explosives using SOPs and special equipment.

BiH Customs was further equipped to support its firearms and explosives detection capacities.

One pilot and 10 joint exercises conducted with ITA, police, and customs officials, with the prosecution in the lead.

40 Kosovo police officers (all men) enhanced skills for firearms detections during house searches.

Technical capacities of Kosovo Police investigation department advanced through specialized equipment and training.



Goal 3: By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.

Strengthened bilateral, regional, and international mechanisms and new forms of good practice encouraged to counter the trafficking of firearms.

Cooperation between relevant public authorities and the private sector in BiH facilitated to enhance firearm detection in fast parcels.

.....
A series of five meetings brought together 227 criminal justice practitioners (104w, 123 m) to review ongoing practice and exchange experience on firearms offences in terms of gathering of e-evidence, investigative and prosecutorial strategies, and harmonization of the case law and related practice.

.....
100 court cases on firearms trafficking from the WB were selected, translated, analyzed, reviewed, and published online in the SHERLOC database of UNODC.

.....
BiH bilateral cooperation was strengthened through two bi-lateral operations - Tara 2022, between BiH and Montenegro, and Rijeka 2022, between BiH and Croatia, focused on detecting weapons and ammunition. An MoU on bilateral cooperation between CRO and BiH was signed.



Goal 4: By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy.

Enhanced awareness and practice to detect, investigate, and prosecute firearms trafficking.

Finalized comprehensive Guidelines on investigation and prosecution of firearms offences, encompassing all relevant stages of the criminal justice chain.

Licensed private and legal entities have increased awareness about the danger of the misuse and illicit proliferation of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.

50 representatives from 17 private companies enhanced knowledge on the risks associated with the import, transit, and export of firearms.

Increased awareness of the dangers of arms misuse as a major contributor to firearm-related death and injury.

The awareness-raising campaigns reached approx. 668,000 people in BiH through focused outreach in 2021-2022.

One general awareness and two targeted campaigns reached the population at large in both Kosovo and North Macedonia.

In Serbia, stakeholders mapped and consultations conducted towards strengthening the healthcare system's role in the prevention of firearms misuse.



Goal 5: By 2024, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans.

Records management and SALW-control records and registry systems upgraded.

The SALW-control registry system database in Serbia was finalized for the Police Administrative Directorate.

The IT equipment needed for the production of 100,000 digital cards for firearm owners was provided in Albania.

Licensed private and legal entities have increased awareness about the danger of the misuse and illicit proliferation of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.

The awareness of the BiH Customs, postal services, and private courier companies in BiH was raised with regards to the impact of firearms trafficking and how to tackle it.

Increased awareness of the dangers of celebratory shooting as a major contributor to firearm-related death and injury.

The awareness-raising campaigns and community outreach reached approx. 668,000 people in BiH.



Goal 6: Systematically decrease the surplus and destroy seized SALW and ammunition.

Systematically destroy all surplus stockpiles in an environmentally benign manner.

1,000 rocket-propelled grenades were disposed of in BiH, reducing the stockpiles of surplus ammunition. 2,667 pcs of the rocket propelled grenade M80-64mm "Zolja," 833 pcs of white phosphorus, and 1,000 pcs of RPG ammunition were destroyed.



Goal 7: Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives.

Upgrade weapons storage management.

Initiated the upgrade of 10 weapons storage facilities throughout Albania.

Licensed private and legal entities have increased awareness about the danger of the misuse and illicit proliferation of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.

The awareness of the BiH Customs, postal services, and private courier companies in BiH was raised with regards to the impact of firearms trafficking and how to tackle it.

Increased awareness of the dangers of celebratory shooting as a major contributor to firearm-related death and injury.

A series of community outreach and awareness campaigns organized in BiH, Kosovo, and North Macedonia. General campaign in preparation in Albania.



3. UPDATE

ON THE ACTIVITY OF THE TRUST FUND GOVERNANCE BODIES

3.1. Steering Committee Decisions



7 meetings

of the Steering Committee
held in 2022

In 2022, the Steering Committee convened seven times throughout the year to review and decide on the Fund's direction and operations, new project proposals, and project revisions. The Steering Committee approved the launching of an open call for a mid-term evaluation of the Trust Fund, to be conducted in the second half of 2022. In the meantime, the Steering Committee agreed to proceed with a direct solicitation of small-scale proposals from the Participating UN Organizations to respond to the immediate needs of the authorities before the next call for proposals. As a result, six new project proposals were reviewed and approved for funding by the Steering Committee in the second half of 2022, bringing the total number of projects approved for funding by the Trust Fund to 16. Seven of the ten ongoing projects requested non-cost extensions, which the Steering Committee reviewed and approved.

Furthermore, at the beginning of 2022, the Steering Committee members approved the annual allocation of funding to the Secretariat's operations, including for commissioning the mid-term evaluation of the Trust Fund. In addition, the Trust Fund's Terms of Reference and duration were revised, with the integration of clearer references on gender equality and against conflict of interest.

3.2. Activity of the Secretariat

In 2022, the Secretariat, in line with its responsibilities outlined in the Fund's Terms of Reference and Operations Manual, continued to support the programmatic coordination and monitoring of the Trust Fund. As the Participating UN Organizations submitted requests for project revisions, the Secretariat facilitated the Steering Committee decision-making process by reviewing the requests and offering commentary and feedback. The Secretariat also continued to monitor the implementation of the Trust Fund projects and to consolidate and submit quarterly and annual progress reports to the Steering Committee and other donors. The Secretariat ensured the technical assessment and processing of the project proposals submitted within the direct solicitation for proposals modality.

The Secretariat regularly liaised with the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office and the two worked together to ensure the accuracy of all processes and documents prepared. A company was successfully contracted in the last quarter of 2022 to conduct the mid-term evaluation of the Trust Fund, the process made thus far through the Fund's contribution, and provide recommendations for the Fund's future governance.

To improve the visibility of the Trust Fund donors in the communication of the funded projects, the Secretariat regularly liaised with the PUNOs to ensure appropriate implementation of the adopted visibility guidelines aimed at further facilitating more coherent and appropriate visibility for the Fund. The guidelines complement the communication and visibility requirements outlined in the Trust Fund's Operations Manual, providing specific examples for enabling greater visibility of the contributors on social media platforms, in publications, during events, on the equipment provided itself, or at the site of SALW storage centers reconstructed/refurbished with support from the Trust Fund. The Secretariat intensified communication with the Trust Fund donors to ensure greater outreach and visibility of the provided support via social networks and websites.

Sweden Pledges New Contribution to Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund

Sweden, one of the key contributors of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund, has confirmed the new contribution of 8,000,000 SEK (approximately 850,000 USD) to the Trust Fund. This is in addition to the previously contributed 2.2 million USD.

The Multi-Partner Trust Fund is a unique initiative established in 2015 to support the implementation of the Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund. The project is led by the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO) in Geneva, Switzerland, in cooperation with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

The MPTFO is a joint initiative of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). It is a unique initiative established in 2015 to support the implementation of the Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund. The project is led by the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO) in Geneva, Switzerland, in cooperation with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).



France Further Supports Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund with New Contribution

Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF - As one of the key contributors of the Western Balkans Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) Control Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF), France has provided a new contribution worth 400,000 euros to the pooled fund.

The MPTF is a unique initiative established in 2015 to support the implementation of the Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund. The project is led by the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO) in Geneva, Switzerland, in cooperation with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

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Norway Provides Significant Financial Support to Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund

As one of the six key contributors and partners, Norway has provided a new contribution worth NOK 5,000,000 (approximately USD 500,000) to the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund. This brings the total contribution from Norway to the Trust Fund to about USD 1.9 million.

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Germany Steps Up Support to Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) with New Contribution

Germany awards a new funding contribution of EUR 800,000 to the MPTF to support the full implementation of the Western Balkans Roadmap to strengthen the control of small arms, light weapons and ammunition (SALWA). Over the years, Germany has been the largest donor in support of the Roadmap through the United Nations. With the latest contribution, Germany has contributed over EUR 16.7 million, out of which EUR 11.2 through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

The MPTFO is a unique initiative established in 2015 to support the implementation of the Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund. The project is led by the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO) in Geneva, Switzerland, in cooperation with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

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4. UPDATE

ON THE ACTIVITY OF THE PARTICIPATING UN ORGANIZATIONS

Six new projects were approved in 2022 by the Steering Committee to be implemented by the Participating UN Organizations, UNDP and UNODC: one regional project and five projects targeting single jurisdictions. Out of these, only the project implemented by UNDP Serbia commenced with actual implementation in the last quarter of 2022. The remaining five launched preparations and will start with activities as of 2023. From the first 10 ongoing projects, two successfully completed their operations, one in BiH and one in Kosovo. This section features 11 projects that were active in the course of 2022.

4.1. Regional and cross-border interventions

CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE TO FIREARM-RELATED CRIMES

The Trust Fund and UNODC support the Western Balkans jurisdictions to strengthen their criminal justice response to illicit arms trafficking.

Across the Western Balkans, the Trust Fund and UNODC are helping prevent and counter the illicit trafficking of firearms by strengthening jurisdictions' criminal justice responses to firearm-related crimes.

Adequate legal frameworks are essential pre-requisites for effective and sustainable efforts to prevent, detect, and counter illicit firearms trafficking offenses and address their possible links to other crimes. They provide the necessary legal tools and normative frameworks to effectively control firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition, as well as to

prevent their diversion and trafficking. In 2022, UNODC continued to offer **support to the Western Balkans jurisdictions in harmonizing their respective criminal laws and criminal procedure laws with the UN Firearms Protocol**. Following the development of gap analyses in Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, and Serbia in 2020, the project team finalized the gap analysis for BiH in 2021. In 2022, the legislative gap analysis for BiH was endorsed by the relevant counterparts. This activity resulted in a baseline for the harmonization of the criminal codes in the Western Balkans with the UN Firearms Protocol and increased the capacity of the relevant parties for participating in UNODC's Review Mechanism. The recommendations of the gap analyses have already assisted policy makers and legal experts in identifying corresponding gaps and formulating new criminal provisions.

The project team organized **stakeholders' meetings of legal experts and practitioners** to discuss the **changes to the Criminal Codes** in Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia. In 2022, further progress was documented. The draft provisions on firearms in the Criminal Code of Montenegro, developed with the support of UNODC, were sent to the European Commission in October 2022 for review and comments prior to adoption. The draft Criminal Code of North Macedonia was adopted by the Government and shared with the public for review and comments. The working group under the Ministry of Justice of Serbia received support for the harmonization of the Criminal Code through the exchange of experience with jurisdictions that have made further progress in the harmonization process. UNODC also organized a wider exchange of experiences in the **harmonization of criminal legislation** through the participation of 30 criminal justice experts.

The bulk of the activities conducted in 2022 focused on increasing the capacities of the Western Balkans jurisdictions in the **detection, investigation, and prosecution of firearms trafficking** and its links to other serious crimes. UNODC finalized the development of **Guidelines on Investigation and Prosecution of Firearms Offences** after organizing two expert group meetings and collecting additional information from the criminal justice practitioners. UNODC supported prosecutors, law enforcement, and customs authorities through the organization of four **inter-institutional meetings** conducted on criminal procedural aspects of firearms cases. In addition, UNODC delivered eight trainings on **collecting electronic evidence in illicit firearms trafficking and firearms-related investigations and on the identification and tracing of firearms**, enhancing the capacities of 153 criminal justice practitioners in this respect. It organized **five community of practitioners meetings, gathering 227 criminal justice practitioners** to review ongoing work and exchange experience on firearms offences in terms of gathering of e-evidence, investigative and prosecutorial strategies, and the harmonization of case law. UNODC **published 100 court cases from the WB jurisdictions in the SHERLOC data base**, resulting in: 1) the WB jurisdiction having the largest number of firearms cases available online in the SHERLOC database, compared to any other region; 2) sharing of the best practices from the WB jurisdictions with the global community; and 3) establishing a foundation for the comparative analysis and harmonization of court practices in the WB jurisdictions.



The SHERLOC knowledge management portal is developed and maintained by the UNODC to facilitate the dissemination of information regarding the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols, as well as the international legal framework against terrorism. The database contains court verdicts in the English language on various crimes within the mandate of UNODC and the cases containing information about firearms offences are part of it. The database is populated with information about relevant case details, encompassing cross-cutting issues such as liability, offending, investigation, seizure and confiscation, international cooperation, defendants, gender, charges, the procedural history of cases, and sentencing.

In 2022, UNODC **finalized the baseline assessment on firearms data in the criminal justice system in the Western Balkans**, which was endorsed by the WB jurisdictions. To achieve this result, UNODC organized six meetings on firearms data collection and on the review and validation of the baseline assessment with 99 criminal justice participants and held continuous consultations for the incorporation of their comments in the final version.

CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION FOR COUNTERING ILLICIT ARMS TRAFFICKING

In 2021, the Trust Fund enabled the UNDP Offices in Kosovo and North Macedonia to kick off the cross-border cooperation project aimed at strengthening institutional approaches for combating illicit arms trafficking between Kosovo and North Macedonia.

The project “Cross-Border Integrated Institutional Approach towards Combating Illicit Arms Trafficking and SALW” was designed in close cooperation with the SALW commissions from both jurisdictions to reduce and overcome existing knowledge and skills gaps on SALW investigations and address and resolve the complexities and inconsistencies in the operational structures and working procedures between the two jurisdictions. As neighboring jurisdictions, Kosovo and North Macedonia share many of the SALW-related issues, as well as their underlying and driving factors.

In 2022, to further strengthen the capacities of the relevant institutions and police officers’ knowledge and understanding of the illegal possession, misuse, and trafficking of SALW, the joint project team initiated a complex training program targeting a total of 400 community police officers, patrolling officers, and analysts from police in Kosovo and North Macedonia. In addition to the first 120 police officers (11 women and 109 men) trained in 2021, the project trained another 280 police officers (25 women and 255 men) through seven training sessions covering two topics. One training focused on **information gathering, sharing, and analysis**, enabling the participants to better utilize information gathered from daily communication with citizens and to conduct more effective and precise information analysis towards enhancing qualitative knowledge and intelligence products. Another training session covered **weapons categorization, explosives and other handmade explosive devices, the possession and misuse of firearms, and community policing/intelligence-led policing**. In these tailor-made training sessions, the participants were instructed with the aim of increasing their knowledge of and their abilities in recognizing weapons categorization, legal instruments, the relevant frameworks for SALW control, various types of explosives and handmade explosives, potential explosives precursors, and police officers’ approaches in line with community policing standards and towards making contributions to intelligence-led policing. The participants submitted surveys and evaluations regarding their assessment of the trainings, which provided a very high level of average satisfaction of 93.73%.

The Trust Fund works with UNDP in Kosovo and in North Macedonia to advance an integrated approach to combating illicit arms trafficking in the two jurisdictions.

In addition, 76 police officers (64 men and 12 women) from both jurisdictions were trained on **converted-firearms investigations** through 3 sessions held in Kosovo. An additional 18 participants (11 men and 7 women) from both jurisdictions took part in a workshop on converted firearms in North Macedonia. As a result of the successful trainings and positive feedback from the police forces in both jurisdictions (average satisfaction rate of 96.86%), it was decided that a fourth training on converted firearms is to be organized, to take place in Kosovo in Q1 2023.

In 2022, the **Guidance Manual on Investigation of SALW on the Internet** was finalized. 19 police officers (7 women and 12 men) were then trained on this matter. In addition, a follow up training / coordination meeting related to internet investigation procedures and the collection of information through OSINT (open-source intelligence) was organized in Kosovo with 8 participants (3 women and 5 men) from the Kosovo Police Investigation Department, ILECU.

The project successfully **completed awareness raising campaigns on celebratory shootings** related to New Year’s Eve holidays in both jurisdictions. The campaigns were highly praised by the project beneficiaries in both jurisdictions and achieved excellent visibility within the targeted audiences.



Video views: **1.074.574**
 Engagements: **15.843**
 Total reach: **938.992**
 Impressions: **7.189.150**



Video views: **260.902**
 Clicks: **5.627**
 Impressions: **939.909**

INCREASING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The Trust Fund works with UNODC and INTERPOL to strengthen regional and international cooperation and information exchange, leading to more effective detection of illicit firearms trafficking.

In July 2021 the Trust Fund enabled UNODC GFP to initiate a new regional project **in partnership with INTERPOL** aimed at providing support to the Western Balkans jurisdictions for collecting and analyzing criminal justice data, facilitating and strengthening cooperation and information exchange between criminal justice practitioners, and more effectively detecting illicit firearms trafficking.

The project “Support for Increased International Cooperation in Criminal Matters” is based on the need of the law enforcement authorities to be able to request and obtain information and intelligence from other Western Balkans jurisdictions and beyond at different stages of firearms investigation, from the phase of gathering criminal intelligence to the phase of criminal investigation. Effective exchange of information is also an important pre-requisite for gathering evidence from abroad in order to support complex investigations and the prosecution of criminal networks and individuals engaged in firearms trafficking and related crimes.

In April 2022, the UNODC-INTERPOL project **inception meeting** took place at the INTERPOL General Secretariat in Lyon, gathering relevant agencies from beneficiary jurisdictions in the region and partner organizations.

In addition to the first assessment missions to BiH in the previous year on information exchange in criminal matters and on extending iARMS access to relevant national law enforcement agencies through the extension of the I-24/7 secure network, INTERPOL conducted the remaining four **assessment missions**: North Macedonia (24-25 March 2022), Albania

In addition to the first assessment missions to BiH in the previous year on information exchange in criminal matters and on extending iARMS access to relevant national law enforcement agencies through the extension of the I-24/7 secure network, INTERPOL conducted the remaining four **assessment missions**: North Macedonia (24-25 March 2022), Albania

(04-05 April 2022), Montenegro (07-08 April 2022), and Serbia (11-14 May 2022). In addition, INTERPOL provided beneficiary countries with equipment for the extension of I-24/7 (secure police communications system) and/or iARMS database access, as per assessed needs. A total number of 96 police officers have been **trained in the use of iARMS** and the iARMS team will be following statistical use of the database to monitor if there are new notable trends and/or increases to be reported on. Overall, the implementation of project activities in 2022 has been very productive and has seen the establishment of a relationship of trust among all implementing parties, overcoming some of the initial obstacles. The countries have expanded the number of iARMS users and created connections for agencies that had not previously been connected.

The consultant to develop the **Sub-regional Report on Firearms Trafficking into, from, and through the Western Balkans** has been recruited and has started conducting the research. The objective and expected outcomes of the study were presented to representatives of the Western Balkan jurisdictions during a regional meeting in December 2022, and the research is expected to be completed in the first half of 2023.

UNODC developed four needs assessments reports on countering firearms trafficking in express courier and postal parcels in Albania, North Macedonia, Kosovo, and Serbia. This will be used as a foundation to develop a new regional initiative on countering firearms trafficking in express courier and postal parcels.

4.2. Albania

The Trust Fund has enabled UNDP in Albania to implement a complex approach that supports the Albanian State Police to address firearm misuse more effectively in the jurisdiction.

The first project supported by the Trust Fund in Albania was operationally initiated by UNDP in March 2021. The project “Strengthening Control, Administration and Social Attitudes towards SALW in Albania” seeks to strengthen the analytical base and the efficiency and effectiveness of SALW control by the State Police while enhancing public awareness and behavior regarding the illegal possession, misuse, and trafficking of firearms.

The project was designed to respond to the significant number of incidents linked to firearms, especially armed street crime in urban areas, most particularly related to domestic violence, burglary, and clashes among criminal groups, through a three-pronged approach: improved weapons registration in accordance with EU Directive 2021/555 on firearms and national legislation; improved Albanian State Police weapons storage management; and increased awareness of the dangers and risks of the misuse of firearms.

In 2022, the procurement of **IT equipment** (58 PCs, 54 printers, and 2 Laptops) **was delivered to the Albanian State Police** to support the expanded police workforce involved in the firearms registration process. In addition, the procurement process of IT equipment needed for the production of 100,000 digital cards for firearm owners was completed. The delivery of the latter equipment is planned to be conducted in the first quarter of 2023, postponed from 2022 due to the large number of digital cards needed which the provider did not have in stock.

The works on the Weapons Registration System SIMA were stalled due to a major cyberattack that the Albanian State Police Systems suffered in 2022. The needs for support will be reassessed together with the project contact points and the engaged IT expert.

A design and supervision company was selected to prepare the upgrade designs and inputs for the procurement of works, as well as supervise the works execution, at 10 selected weapons storage facilities. The project has reconfirmed with the authorities that the project will upgrade the facilities in line with international standards. The design phase was initiated for the **rehabilitation of all 10 weapons storages** of Tirana, Elbasan, Mat, Puke, Tropoja, Lushnja, Berat, Fier, Saranda, and Pogradec. Site visits were concluded in 10 Police Commissariats, and the design inception report was completed for the first eight facilities (Mat, Puke, Tropoje, Lushnje, Berat, Fier, Sarande, and Pogradec). These are pending approval by the Albanian State Police. Once approved, the company will start the process of the final design for the facilities.

The **National Survey** to measure perceptions and attitudes towards small arms and light weapons was completed. The survey included 1,203 individuals aged 16 years old and above. It covered all the 12 regions of the country. It measured perceptions in country regarding the safety and use of SALW, and the level of knowledge of the people on laws or regulations on small arms and light weapons. The project is to engage a contractor who will carry out the **National Awareness Campaign** based on the survey.

The Trust Fund works with UNDP and UNODC to further strengthen BiH capacities for preventing and reducing illicit arms trafficking, including in postal and fast parcels.

4.3. Bosnia and Herzegovina



of arms control

In BiH, the Trust Fund supported interventions in three areas of arms control: countering illicit arms trafficking, reducing the supply, demand, and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy, and the disposing of unsafe ammunition.

COUNTERING ILLICIT ARMS TRAFFICKING

The project “Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade (HALT) in BiH,” jointly implemented by UNDP BiH and UNODC, provides targeted assistance to the Customs Authority in BiH (i.e., the Indirect Taxation Authority, ITA) for enhancing BiH capacities to fight illicit arms trafficking.

The project is being implemented in a context in which BiH continues to confront and resolve cases of the smuggling of firearms, ammunition, and explosive devices, their sale on the black market in BiH, and their often-illegal trade in the EU.⁴ As the authority responsible for the collection and allocation of customs duties, the ITA has an important role in the fight against illicit arms trafficking at border crossings through the inspection of shipments, working in close cooperation with the Border Police and the State Investigation and Protection Agency. In 2022, the UNDP project team continued with **one-day trainings on the use of developed SOPs and the practical use of specialized detection equipment** for a total of 121 customs officers (45 women and 76 men) through 9 one-day iterations in 4 cities covering all 4 ITA Regional Centers. The overall number of customs officers trained through the

⁴ SOCTA BiH <http://www.msb.gov.ba/PDF/strategy11122017.pdf>

UNDP component of the project reached 738 (191 women and 547 men). In addition, one-day **training for 32 ITA middle managers** was organized to stress the importance of the application of the developed SOPs and of proper and continued use of donated equipment. The developed SOPs are now being functionally applied by the customs officials in their everyday work.

The UNDP project team also organized five consultative workshops on strengthening the **promotion of gender equality and affirmation of women's role in ITA** in 5 different cities. 130 ITA employees (64 women and 66 men), of which 121 managers (59 women and 62 men) together with 9 other ITA employees (5 women and 4 men) participated at these workshops, co-facilitated by an ITA lecturer, the focal point on gender issues in ITA, as well as the lecturers from the Association "Network of Female Police Officials," the BiH Agency for Gender Equality and the BiH Ministry of Security.

The procurement of **SALW detection equipment** for BiH Customs and Border Police was re-initiated in 2022 and was largely completed. Four sophisticated mobile detectors for explosives and narcotics procured in 2021 were delivered to the ITA in January 2022 while corresponding training was provided for five ITA trainers. An additional 10 videoscopes (endoscopes) were procured and delivered to the ITA in July 2022. UNDP also completed procurement of the remaining equipment and delivered it to the ITA with increased quantities than originally planned due to favorable offers and sufficient funds available - 7 contraband detectors, 25 explosives and narcotics detection kits, 25 universal multitool kits, and 24 vehicle inspection kits. In November 2022, training for contraband detectors and explosives and narcotics detection kits was provided for 10 ITA employees on a training-of-trainers basis, while the entire batch of equipment was handed over to the ITA on 18 November 2022. Following a long-awaited letter from the BP management from October 2022 specifying their equipment needs, UNDP initiated a procurement process for part of the requested equipment and this equipment is expected to be delivered in 2023.

Four trainings on the **analysis of firearms X-ray images** and one training on risk assessment for 47 members of the ITA and public postal operators (12 women and 35 men), resulted in 30 seizures of firearms and their parts in postal parcels. The procurement and the delivery of X-ray scanners were finalized as was the procurement of detection kits for explosives and drugs. The three Public Postal Operators and three private courier companies were supported in the detection of firearms in express courier and postal parcels through dedicated mentoring visits.

As part of the efforts to strengthen cooperation and information exchange between BiH Customs and other institutions at the national level and with neighboring states, the UNDP project team organized one meeting of the Working Group (WG) at the operational level. The WG gathered representatives of 15 police agencies across all jurisdictions in BiH, of the ITA, and of the BiH Prosecutor's Office to discuss future joint exercises with the aim of increasing overall capacities in the country to more efficiently fight illegal SALW trade. The WG efforts resulted in a developed scenario for joint exercises involving all institutions. **One pilot joint exercise and 10 joint exercises** were then rolled out, engaging police and customs officials from 15 different police agencies and from the ITA, in the presence of the BiH Prosecutor's Office and with its participation. 307 police and customs officials took part and were trained on the use of the developed SOPs and their correlation with relevant provisions of the criminal procedure codes in BiH pertinent to the illegal possession and trafficking of SALW as well as in the use of equipment donated through the project. All participants were closely monitored and guided by representatives of the BiH Prosecutor's Office, who were present at each exercise.

Furthermore, a **working group at the strategic level** held a meeting in March in Vienna with the aim of improving the exchange of information on both legal SALW trade and on the continuation of activities pertinent to illegal SALW trade, as well as with the purpose of agreeing on upcoming activities. Finally, **international cooperation between the ITA and regional customs administrations** continued through the organization of meetings between ITA project focal points with counterparts from Serbia's and Montenegro's customs administrations. The UNDP managed to organize a meeting in Belgrade in March between BiH's ITA and Serbia's Customs Administration with the participation of 7 ITA officials and 4 officials from Serbia's Customs Administration. In addition, UNDP organized a regional meeting in Sarajevo in July gathering 15 participants - representatives of BiH's ITA, Montenegro's Administration for Revenue and Customs, and Serbia's Customs Administration. The meetings were used as a forum to exchange information of the distinct administrations' efforts to fight illegal SALW trade by presenting the organizational structure and capacities of each agency, best practices, and project HALT achievements, including the potential replication of the project in neighboring countries.

The UNODC project team supported the finalization of one bi-lateral **Memorandum of Understanding between BiH and Croatian Customs on operational cooperation**. It organized the **bi-lateral operations Tara 2021, Tara 2022, and Rijeka 2022** with the participation of 46 customs representatives (5 women and 41 men). The project team organized two trainings for 17 private companies (50 representatives, 15 women and 35 men) on the risks associated with the import, transit, and export of firearms, which increased their knowledge on compliance with the existing legal framework. Three Public Postal Operators and three private courier companies were supported in the detection of firearms in express courier and postal parcels through mentoring visits. The organization of the sub-regional meeting with 40 representatives (34 men and 6 women) on bi-lateral operations resulted in the identification of lessons learned and opportunities for improving operational activities between the Customs Administrations of BiH, Croatia, Serbia, and Montenegro.

One-day trainings organized throughout the year included **evaluation forms** developed to monitor and evaluate participants' satisfaction and comments regarding provided trainings. Over 550 evaluation forms were filled out by participants and a great majority evaluated organized trainings/exercises/workshops as highly satisfactory and useful and recommended the replication and extension of such activities in future UNDP programmatic interventions in order to deliver the benefits of such activities to as many employees as possible, especially given the chronic lack of sufficient funds for such activities in the budgets of the relevant institutions.

DISPOSAL OF UNSAFE AMMUNITION

The Trust Fund supports the disposal of surplus ammunition by UNDP BiH and the MoD/AFs of BiH to help further reduce the stockpiles of unsafe ammunition in BiH.

In BiH, UNDP is also implementing a new phase of its multifunctional project platform EXPLODE+, aimed at supporting the MoD and the AFs in BiH to further reduce ammunition stockpiles to a manageable level. This would enable the safekeeping of existing ammunition stockpiles, thereby providing stable and risk-free development opportunities for local communities in the proximity of ammunition storage sites, as well as for the country as a whole.

In 2022, the project completed the final verification report for the previously disposed 1,000 rocket-propelled grenades (RPG) and carried out the transport of the scrap material deriving from the disposal in October 2022. The project also completed the environmentally safe disposal of 2,667 pcs of RPG “Zolja” by 30 June 2022, and 833 pcs of WP (the entire quantity available) by 26 October 2022.

RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT THE DANGERS OF FIREARMS MISUSE

The Trust Fund works with UNDP in BiH to increase public awareness on the dangers of firearm misuse and illegal possession.

The most recent project supported by the Trust Fund in BiH is the project PILLAR, “Prevention and Illicit Arms Reduction in Bosnia and Herzegovina,” which seeks to implement a comprehensive effort to raise awareness amongst the population regarding the dangers of the illegal possession of firearms and to educate the public on how to recognize individual and collective threats to security.

In 2022, ahead of the awareness raising activities planned in 2022, the project organized meetings with all 12 partners of the project focusing on **collecting up-to-date information** on gender-disaggregated data pertinent to SALW related incidents in the past three years. Additionally, assessments conducted during the initial phase of the project showed that SALW-related incidents vary from one community to another, and the awareness raising was aimed at adjusting upcoming activities appropriately to address specific issues and problems within respective recipient communities.

The project then proceeded to conduct **two focused awareness raising** campaigns in 2022:

- “Firearms do not protect, firearms kill!,” addressing and informing the targeted population (primarily students of the 3rd and 4th grade of high schools) on the negative impact of illegal SALW, the potential consequences of the possession of illegal SALW, irresponsible possession of legal SALW, and overall threats posed by SALW; and
- “Celebrate responsibly, celebrate without firearms,” as a continuation of the project-initiated activity in December 2021 addressing the general public and raising awareness of the dangers that the usage of firearms for celebratory purposes around the holiday season pose to lives and property, particularly seeking to connect emotionally with the citizens through conveying the message that stray bullets can cause the loss of life, permanent disability, or a serious psychological trauma.

These focused awareness raising campaigns reached approx. 368,000 people in 2022 (approx. 350,000 people in the general population during the celebratory shootings campaign focused around the holiday season, while an additional 18,200 students were reached as targeted population in high schools).

4.4. Kosovo

The Trust Fund works with UNDP Kosovo to increase investigation capacities and police operations in combating illicit arms trafficking and illegal possession of firearms.

UNDP continued to work with the Kosovo Police to further strengthen their capacities to detect and confiscate firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition, and to improve the quality of related investigations.

The project “Support to Combating Illicit Arms Trafficking in Kosovo for Criminal Police (CPIAT)” was designed upon a background of on-going developments in the Kosovo Police, particularly centered around intelligence-led policing, with a Firearm Focal Point established as a center of excellence for gun crime-related data and an active Department of Investigations, which has confiscated about 1,400 weapons annually. Some of these seizures have been accomplished routinely while others

have been realized through intelligence-led operations. However, it was identified that further support is needed to better equip the Kosovo Police with IT equipment and skills that would advance efficiency, coordination, and decision-making in firearm-related investigations.

In 2022, to further increase the capacities of the Kosovo Police in firearms investigations, the project **trained 40 police officers (all men) on firearms detection during house searches**, through two training sessions.

Additionally, the technical capacities of the Kosovo Police Investigation Department were advanced through the **provision of special equipment**, including 8 thermal cameras, 3 videoscopes, and 2 flying observation cameras. A corresponding training of 22 police investigators (all men) was organized on the use of thermal camera and videoscopes.

4.5. Montenegro

The Trust Fund works with UNDP to support the Police Directorate of Montenegro to increase the accuracy and quality of its investigations of explosives-related criminality.

In 2021, UNDP initiated its work with the Police Directorate of Montenegro to strengthen its capacities across the entire investigative cycle and advance the custody chain, particularly in relation to cases involving the use of explosives. The project “Advancing the Capacities of the Police Directorate in the Field of Custody Chain, Crime Scene Investigations and the Forensic Laboratory in the Field of Operations and Investigations in Detection and Trafficking of Explosives Criminality” was developed to respond to the needs of the Police Directorate’s Forensic Centre to increase the accuracy and quality of its investigations of crimes committed with explosives, and thus produce the necessary evidence for fair and regular convictions.

In 2022, the project delivered necessary equipment for **upgrading CSI units’ work stations**. The procured 3D scanner and PC were delivered to the Forensic Centre. An advanced training on the application of 3D scanners and software for documenting the scene of an explosion, the use of firearms, and the morphological analysis of blood traces was conducted for six professionals from the Crime Scene Investigation Unit of the Forensic Centre. Packages

for explosives were also delivered to the Forensic Centre. 41 professionals from CSI units from all of the CSI centers were **trained on the developed or updated SOPs**, as well as on the use of 3D scanners in their work. The relevant consultant, together with professionals from the Forensic Centre, finalized the specifications for additional equipment to be procured in 2023. Finally, the project ensured that 14 professionals (one female and 13 male) from the CSI units and local security centers were **trained in crime scene investigation methods applicable to Gender Based Violence cases**.

With respect to increasing the capacity of the Arson and Explosives Laboratory (AEL) of the Forensic Centre, the project **delivered lab scales for arson and explosives**, which are now being utilized. Based on an internal review of the existing **SOPs which was presented to the consultant, the SOPs are being revised by the consultant to be approved by the beneficiaries**. The following **equipment has been purchased and delivered** to the Forensic Centre: a specialized container for storing explosive material, a device for measuring the speed of explosive detonation, anti-static clothes, an anti-static surface, an anti-contamination rug, a digital device for measuring voltage, a stopwatch for measuring time in this context. The engaged consultant coordinated with professionals from the Forensic Centre to finalize the specifications for additional equipment to be procured within the project in 2023. The consultant is working closely with professionals from Forensic Centre Quality Management and the Arson and Explosives Lab on the preparation for the accreditation of a method of AEL. Documents have been partially drafted, with the accreditation action plan and validation plan for the method intended to be finalized in Q2 2023. Seven professionals (one female and 6 male) from the Arson and Explosives Unit were trained on ISO Standards (ISO/IEC 17025:2017). A chamber for examining the validity of explosives was also delivered and professionals were trained in how to use it.

4.6. Serbia

The Trust Fund works has enabled UNDP in Serbia to continue its support to the National Forensics Centre to improve its investigative capacities for more accurate evidence and fairer proceedings.

In Serbia, the Trust Fund supported interventions in two areas of arms control: the advancement of investigative capacities for, and evidence-based processing of, SALW-related crime, and reducing the misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach, and advocacy.

ADVANCING INVESTIGATIVE CAPACITIES

In Serbia, the Trust Fund has enabled UNDP to continue its work with the Mol of Serbia and the National Forensics Centre on improving their capacities for crime scene and ballistic examinations, a cooperative effort initially launched in the preceding years with the financial support of the German Federal Foreign Office. The project “Advancing the Capacities of the Ministry of the Interior in the SALW Control-Related Field (Phase II)” seeks to further strengthen the capacities of crime investigation units and ballistic laboratories throughout Serbia on their way to accreditation. It will also tackle investigations of arson and explosion incidents, strengthening the capacities of the relevant units for arson, explosion, and accident investigation, while improving overall capacities for explosion/explosive investigation. In addition to its focus on forensics, the project supports the Police Administrative Directorate in the area of

SALW-control through the development of software databases and the provision of hardware infrastructure.

To increase the capacities of CSI units, the project aims to improve the evidence recovery database for CSI units and facilitate the accreditation of CSI teams in line with ISO 17020. In 2022, the tendering process for the **evidence recovery database** was finalized, and the database is in its finalization phase (Beta version approved by the National Forensics Centre). The UNDP team also completed the procurement of the IT equipment for hardware and server components as support for evidence recovery database users (printer, scanner, bar code reader, barcode printer) and the handover is scheduled to take place in 2023. **Advanced trainings on the ISO 17020 standard** were organized for 27 CSI units at the central and regional level, encompassing 92 (9 women, 81 men) forensic technicians.

A series of activities took place to facilitate the **accreditation process of the Central Ballistic Laboratory** according to the ISO 17025 standard. The project organized a study visit for Ministry of the Interior representatives to Wiesbaden counterparts for peer exchange. Awareness-raising and internal audit training in line with ISO 17025 were organized for 12 (1 woman, 11 men) ballistic experts. Nine ballistic experts (1 woman and 8 men) from 3 ballistic labs underwent advanced training for experts on the ISO 17025 standard. Open case file (OCF) training was also conducted for 8 ballistic experts, together with the lead ballistic consultant and mentor for the accreditation process. The project succeeded in adapting and equipping the shooting range as per the international standards. Finally, training for the ISO 17025 standard application and action plan for accreditation were organized for 10 ballistic experts (1 woman, 9 men), and the Central Ballistic Lab is now ready to apply for accreditation in 2023.

The **AEA (arms/explosion/accident) Investigation Unit** plays a significant role in the field of crime scene investigations, complementing the CSI teams' knowledge and technical capacities, including for the proper collection of evidence. To **strengthen its capacities and facilitate its accreditation process in line with the ISO 17020 standard**, the project completed the tendering procedure for needed equipment for the AEA unit and organized the handover of the equipment (endoscope, a quadcopter with a built-in camera, a mobile device – tablet and phones, a thermo-vision camera, handheld flashlights, a benchtop 3D scanner and printer, and a specialized set of toolkits).

An **upgrade of the SALW-control registry system** was also initiated. The project finalized the software for the SALW-control registry system database and handed it over to the Police Administrative Directorate. The project also completed the tendering procedure for the hardware and servers which will serve the SALW-control registry system and police officers in their daily work. Hardware and server components were handed over to the MoI and Police Administrative Directorate.

REDUCING RISKS AND INCREASING SAFETY

In Serbia, the Trust Fund approved in 2022 another project “Reduce Risk - Increase Safety II,” which enables UNDP to build upon the previous project and ensure the preconditions for planning a comprehensive approach to strengthening the healthcare system's role in the prevention of firearms misuse for violence. In addition, the project aims to create an environment in which the range of knowledge-attitude-behavioral challenges in preventing suicides, involving state institutions, private entities, communities, and individuals, shall be explored.

The Trust Fund enabled UNDP in Serbia to build upon its previous project and support a comprehensive approach to strengthening the healthcare system's role in the prevention of firearms misuse.

In 2022, the project held **consultative meetings** with MoI and MoH representatives and the Institute for Public Health of Serbia to ensure their buy-in and effective implementation of stakeholder mapping. A **Stakeholder Map** was then created through the application of design-thinking methodology, focusing on the needs of end beneficiaries, i.e., survivors of domestic and partner-relationship violence at risk of firearms-enabled violence and persons at risk of suicide committed with firearms. The project **identified, mobilized, and networked stakeholders** relevant for preventing (firearms-enabled) violence and suicides, involving a participatory approach, gathering state and private entities, communities, and individuals. It

also identified and recorded key challenges in strengthening the role of different systems, primarily that of healthcare, as well as stakeholders that should contribute to their solution, to serve as a basis for the development of recommendations and implementable and realistic actions to reduce risk of firearms misuse for violence.

At the same time, **stakeholders engaged in the prevention of firearms misuse for suicides** have been mapped. Through the engagement of identified stakeholders within the consultative process, the project defined the procedures and situations in which persons carrying firearms come into interaction with representatives of institutions and relevant organizations, particularly healthcare, with respect to detecting and responding to risk of firearms misuse for suicides. Areas for further analysis regarding suicide patterns and approaches to prevention have also been identified, which will be the focus of work in the next period. The development of several research papers has been initiated to contribute to a comprehensive knowledge paper focusing on the specific dimensions of suicide and opportunities for improving its prevention, including suicides committed with firearms.



5. CATALYTIC INVESTMENT

The financial assistance provided by the Trust Fund has allowed the Participating UN Organizations to support the Western Balkans authorities in implementing strengthened arms control policies in the Western Balkans and in maximizing their capacities and financial resources. The Trust Fund resources have also enabled the Participating UN Organizations and key donors to strengthen their position as important players and strategic partners for the governments in the region in implementing the Roadmap.

The Trust Fund provided essential support for replicating and scaling up previous initiatives, demonstrating the catalytic investment of the Fund. In Serbia, the Trust Fund enabled UNDP to continue the support to the forensics and ballistics sector initiated in 2019,⁵ and expand its intervention beyond firearms investigations and into explosives investigations. Also in Serbia, the Fund enabled UNDP to build upon its findings from the previous project and support stronger engagement of health institutions in tackling arms-enabled crime, including gender-based violence and suicides. In Montenegro, utilizing MPTF funds, UNDP launched a project in forensics, taking stock of the experience and lessons gained by UNDP in Serbia and Albania.⁶ The UNDP in BiH and Kosovo received support to expand and further strengthen their support to the law enforcement in respective jurisdictions with data collection and evidence-based and intelligence-led policing. Alongside these actions, UNODC has been replicating the methodology and needs assessment developed for Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in four additional jurisdictions to support regional capacities to detect and share information on firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition in express courier and postal parcels.

While the authorities of the Western Balkans jurisdictions involved in SALW control are making progress in the implementation of the Roadmap, the budgets of the institutions are often insufficient to cover activities that exceed regular, day-to-day financing of operations. Projects like HALT, implemented in BiH, deliver valuable contributions to capacity and institutional building which otherwise would not be possible. Likewise, projects implemented in Albania, Montenegro, and Serbia ensure that the crime scene investigations are conducted in line with international standards and that essential resources and equipment are in place to this end. While the development of SOPs to better control the illicit arms trade might have been accomplished without the project's intervention, the quality of these SOPs, the ability to integrate best practices into their drafting, and the related training conducted to enable their

The Trust Fund enabled a timely and strategic response to SALW control needs in the region, which complemented on-going efforts, built on previous initiatives, replicated good practice, and multiplied achievements.

⁵ UNDP Serbia implemented an initial project supporting the MoI of Serbia to increase its capacities for forensics and ballistic investigations in the period 2019-2021, funded by the German Federal Foreign Office through a different funding mechanism.

⁶ In 2019, UNDP Albania instituted support to the Albanian State Police in the area of forensics and ballistic investigation. The project was funded by the German Federal Foreign Office through a different funding mechanism and completed in 2022.

successful realization was heavily reliant on and largely made possible through additional funding and the technical advisory support provided within the project.

The Trust Fund also ensured that the gender perspective has been better integrated into efforts in the region, while securing stronger women’s engagement in tackling arms-enabled violence and crime, which would likely otherwise largely be marginalized in light of the priorities already established in the region. Notable is progress in BiH Customs in this respect, where the platform continues to be active in discussing and promoting gender equality in BiH Customs. Furthermore, project activities have expanded to enhance cooperation and coordination with other key actors in the region, propagating good practice and strengthening peer-exchange. The positive experiences from both past and ongoing projects are capitalized upon with the Trust Fund’s continuous support.

6. KEY CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNT

6.1. Challenges

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts, although reduced for large portions of the year, continued to create delays in the implementation of the Trust Fund projects in the first half of the year. Governments in the region maintained measures to stop and prevent the spread of the virus, though these measures were largely lifted in the second half of the year, allowing project teams to largely resume in-person activities. The availability of the project beneficiaries (the Mols and Police, primarily) to participate in the project activities remained restricted in certain periods, as key staff got infected and had to be in quarantine. This primarily affected activities that involved the organization of trainings. The implementing organizations monitored the development of the pandemic regularly and took the necessary measures to mitigate the negative impact of the crisis. Measures included rethinking the timelines of project activities together with project beneficiaries, conducting online or hybrid coordination meetings and trainings whenever possible, and respecting the health measures imposed by the government when organizing in-person trainings.

AFFECTED INTERNAL POLITICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL STABILITY

A further challenge was posed by the elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which aggravated the already tense political situation in the country. Project beneficiaries, primarily police, were not available around the elections period, which affected the activity timelines. This also affected the planned schedule for community outreach and general awareness raising in the jurisdiction.

In BiH, the political situation in general has not improved compared to the previous period. It has in certain aspects deteriorated, raising additional risks to the implementation of projects in BiH, though the decision of certain political parties in Republika Srpska to withdraw from their mandated participation and decision-making at the state-level (the BiH Presidency, Council of Ministers, Parliamentary Assembly) has not fully materialized the risks to the projects' implementation. The implementing organizations maintained continued communication with the project beneficiaries in Republika Srpska, enabling the continuation of all project activities within the BiH projects. Nevertheless, the project team was forced to halt the wide public awareness campaign that had been planned under the project PILLAR due to the realistic threat of misinterpretation by the media and the general public in the current political context.

Regional stability was also brought into question. Montenegro continued to experience political and security challenges during the reporting period over the establishment of a new ruling majority and turnovers in the government, triggering ethnic divisions and security incidents. A change of interlocutors in the government also delayed some of the project activities in Montenegro. The arrest of an official in Montenegro affected the planned bilateral peer exchange among the customs officials of BiH and Montenegro, necessitating postponement to a later date.

DIFFICULTIES IN IDENTIFYING QUALIFIED PROJECT STAFF OR EXPERT CONSULTANTS

Some of the projects also experienced difficulties in hiring qualified project staff and expert consultants, requiring vacancy deadlines to be extended and resulting in project activities being delayed. In particular, the UNODC project team operated with reduced staff for a significant period of time and a key replacement was recruited only in December 2022. In Albania, the deadline for the procurement of company services to implement the national awareness campaign had to be extended three times by UNDP due to a lack of applicants.

CHALLENGES RELATED TO THE PROCUREMENT OF TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT

Across the projects, there have been delays with regards to procurement of technical equipment. Due to the complex specifications of some of the technical equipment planned for procurement by the Trust Fund projects, the quality of bids and the responsiveness of potential bidders in certain situations did not meet the expected standards. This led to significant delays in the procurement process. Delays resulted in some jurisdictions from changes in the equipment needs and in the related specifications requested by the authorities. For example, the procurement process of IT equipment needed for the production of 100,000 digital cards for firearm owners in Albania was launched twice on account of changes in the technical specifications on the part of the beneficiary. The delivery of certain equipment also encountered delays. This occurred with the delivery of x-ray scanners to BiH, which was stalled for several reasons, including the producer of the x-ray scanner units postponing the date of delivery due to supply chain difficulties, which were followed by issues with the available transportation options. Also in BiH, the Border Police required changes in the equipment items that were to be procured for them, based on a reassessment of their needs and the practical use of the items in line with their functional role in crime scene investigation. The process of receiving necessary feedback from the BP to initiate the procurement process was unexpectedly long and affected the project's timeframe, which was resolved within the project through a non-cost extension. Furthermore, market prices of the equipment increased rapidly during 2021 and 2022 and affected the tendering process as well as the budget plans.

LIMITED OPERATIONAL CAPACITIES AND DELAYED DECISION-MAKING OF PROJECT PARTNERS

The project EXPLODE+ under the implementation of UNDP BIH continued to face issues related to the delayed decision-making process of the MoD, which caused significant delays in the implementation of the project activities. Most importantly, the 2022 Plan of Op-

erations on Ammunition Disposal, which defined the types and quantities of ammunition available for disposal to UNDP and the methods of their disposal, continued to include differences from the quantities of ammunition previously agreed to be disposed of by UNDP. This stalled those activities which were the subject of changes in the Operations Plan. UNDP dedicated significant time and efforts to follow up with the MoD and to stimulate the institution to expedite its decision-making process.

In Albania, the substitution of certain weapons storage sites planned for upgrading delayed the completion of the design phase. In the end, the weapons storage site of the Shkoder Police Directorate was substituted for by the Tirana Police Directorate. Furthermore, the Albanian State Police Systems suffered a major cyberattack, which also affected the Weapons Registration System SIMA that the project aimed to upgrade. The needs for support are to be reassessed together with the ASP contact points and the relevant IT expert to determine the scope of support within the project and the next steps. The decision-making in this respect is pending.

In Serbia, internal procedures and approvals within the Ministry of the Interior have taken significant time and prolonged the timeframe planned by the project. Measures have been taken and the relevant plan has at this point been postponed, but not cancelled.

6.2. Lessons learnt



The following lessons were recognized and will be taken into consideration over the next phase of the projects' implementation:

- **Planning and implementation with a stronger presence of local ownership and sustainability perspectives.** The combination of carefully assessed needs and priorities, regular coordination and communication, stronger engagement in activity design and implementation by beneficiaries, the joint development of plans, new procedures embedded into the work of law enforcement, the provision of practical cases and knowledge products, and the running of joint operations utilizing the specialized equipment provided through the project should ensure stronger ownership and the effectiveness of the project results and consequently their sustainability.
- **The full buy-in by national counterparts and close cooperation and coordination with project beneficiaries are vital to achieving results in complex situations.** A climate of trust between the project implementers and stakeholders on the ground can be established by developing joint action plans for the implementation of activities and ensuring transparency through regular communication and information sharing. Regular communication with the beneficiaries ensures that project partners remain committed and engaged in the project implementation and enable the project team to navigate challenging contexts. Across the projects, regular communication with counterparts to ensure common understanding and adapt activities with new timelines to accommodate competing priorities proved essential to mitigating risks of insufficient engagement in project activities. Participation of project beneficiaries as co-facilitators and trainers strengthened ownership and the effectiveness of the results. Having one key point of contact for project purposes committed to following a project's implementation from the beginning through to the end and who fully grasp's the project's scope and the relevant mandates of national authorities while possessing good knowledge of the subject matter at hand proved beneficial.

- **Investment in trust-based relationship yields results.** This is closely interlinked with the point above. The fact that the projects were managed by project teams on the ground, with direct and frequent access to key partners and beneficiaries, and the existence of project boards and local coordination platforms with the active engagement of authorities and partner organizations and institutions, was critical for success.
- **A lack of human resource capacity and/or changes in management structure or priorities within the beneficiary institutions are risks that are likely to materialize and require proper management plans.** Establishing internal resources in terms of adequate project focal points and alternates, developing practical knowledge products and standard procedures, and engaging trained trainers help mitigate the risks of ineffective results or of gains being limited to the short-term. Nevertheless, these issues require more time than initially envisaged across the projects. To achieve similarly comprehensive engagement in the future, longer timeframes should be envisaged to reach planned results.
- **There is added value in cross-border engagement, despite the challenges.** Although requiring a longer implementing period and stronger coordination efforts, the results that arise from cross-border projects are beneficial not only to the jurisdictions involved, who share their positive experiences and knowledge, but also serve as excellent examples to other jurisdictions and can multiply the effect.
- **Adapted implementation modalities to address virtual operations remain relevant.** As a lesson learned from the previous year, the projects have recognized the risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and identified their functional impact. Some of the results of COVID-19 were manifested in new practices which have on some occasions proven to be effective, even as the only means possible, though certain weaknesses were also brought to light in the process. Although the need for virtual meetings subsided in 2022, such meetings increase efficiency and represent a practical tool for post-pandemic project implementation as well. Nevertheless, the dependance on information and communication technologies, which play an increasingly important role in business processes, cannot completely substitute for human interaction, in particular regarding certain activities that require peer-to-peer interaction.

7. PARTNERSHIPS

The Trust Fund has enabled the Participating UN Organizations to consolidate their partnerships with relevant institutions on the ground, as well as with other regional and international partners.

Partnerships with local, regional, and international actors have strengthened the complementarity and effectiveness of actions.

Throughout the Western Balkans jurisdictions, the Trust Fund has enabled the implementing organizations to strengthen their existing partnerships in SALW control with SALW Commissions, public authorities, donors, and civil society organizations. Among other collaborations, these partnerships have helped reduce and mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic by enabling stronger coordination with the relevant national authorities on the implementation of project activities and identifying and employing alternatives to those activities which could not be conducted as originally planned.

Furthermore, high-level meetings with project partners facilitated a more comprehensive understanding of project objectives, while fostering increased commitment to engage in project activities. For instance, UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Yakup Beris, met with the Minister of the Interior of Serbia, Mr. Bratislav Gasic, on 5 December 2022, to discuss, among other key issues, the comprehensive support provided by UNDP in combating illicit arms trafficking, including the projects implemented in the framework of the Trust Fund, and to examine further opportunities for extending the cooperation between UNDP and the MoI. The meeting was featured in the [local media](#), while the MoI prepared and shared a [video](#) from the meeting.



Alongside the constant communication with the respective SALW Commissions and other project beneficiaries, the implementing UN organizations also consolidated cooperation and synergized with other entities, such as the UK's National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NABIS), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the European Union delegations in the Western Balkans, the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT), EUFOR, and representatives of the Embassies of Germany, France, the UK, Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, and the USA.

The Roadmap coordination meetings organized at regional and local levels, and which gathered together all national and international stakeholders involved in SALW control in the Western Balkans, served as an important mechanism for information exchange and knowledge sharing with relevant partners. The Participating UN Organizations attended these meetings, as they presented key opportunities to highlight their projects' results, increase the visibility of their actions, and ensure coordination with other initiatives.

8. SUSTAINABILITY

Local ownership and sustainability of results remain cross-cutting guiding principles across the implemented projects.

All project activities and envisaged results remain firmly embedded in the assessed needs of the Western Balkans jurisdictions, linked to local policies and legislation, and in line with the Roadmap and other international commitments of the jurisdictions. Since the Trust Fund's inception, the need for local ownership, institutionalization, and the sustainability of project outputs and embedding the equipment and developed knowledge products into the day-to-day operations of the relevant authorities in a sustainable manner has remained relevant across projects. Some of the methods applied to strengthen local engagement and ownership entail

the appointment of focal points for project purposes, the engagement of project partners in the design and implementation of activities, the taking of a leading role in the design and implementation of some activity aspects, the transfer of knowledge through peer-to-peer engagement, and regular updates on the development of the pool of trainers or resources that can be used on a continuous basis.

Regular coordination and consultation meetings are therefore part of the daily work across projects and jurisdictions to ensure local ownership and sustainability aspects. SALW commissions, relevant institutions, and project teams alike take part in Trust Fund project board meetings, local and regional coordination meetings, and other regional fora, which further strengthen continuous engagement and ownership of results. The national counterparts are included also in the process of site and monitoring visits for project activities. An important added value that the Trust Fund brings to matters of sustainability is the possibility of a longer-term engagement through a phased approach to projects, which further strengthens the sustainability of achieved results and higher-level outcomes.

Despite having plans in place that help to ensure sustainability, there are risks that inevitably occur during projects' implementation that affect the operational plans. The Trust Fund Secretariat, in cooperation with the implementing organizations, assesses these risks as part of the reporting on and revision of projects' progress. The Secretariat enhanced its assessment of sustainability aspects in 2022 in cooperation with the Participating UN Organizations during the projects' revision request procedures. This updating of the risk matrix is a mandatory element of each project's revision, at which point the sustainability of actions is reassessed anew.

When the risk of sustainability of results is raised, the implementing partners reflect on approaches and remaining activities to steer the implementation in the direction that should generate greater effect and sustainability. In this context, it has been noted that the capacity development activities face risks of discontinuity after a project ends. Despite the frequently high level of interest and engagement among the beneficiaries, there is a

risk across jurisdictions that such activities may not be continued by the respective governments following the end of the project due to a lack of financial and human resources. The project teams work with relevant stakeholders in jurisdictions to help ensure the adequate continuation of capacity building activities in the future by establishing a pool of trainers among the existing operational staff, developing tools and resources that can be used beyond each project's duration, and producing knowledge products such as manuals or practical guides for a more sustainable effect.

Similarly, raised risks may concern the proper use and maintenance of procured equipment across the institutions and jurisdictions after a project's end. The implementing organizations are required to carefully assess the needs and capabilities linked to the equipment and its use and identify responsible parties for its further use and maintenance during the handover process. When procured equipment is provided to end users it is standardly accompanied by a dedicated training on its proper use, and it is linked to the developed standard operating procedures for greater effectiveness. Some good examples to this end have been identified in BiH, Kosovo, and Montenegro. In a recent example in BiH, the project team introduced training concepts for one-day training in the application of developed SOPs and in the use of procured specialized equipment, developed in concert with project focal points, while the management of the project's beneficiary has committed to include this training as a module for all incoming personnel. Another good example comes from Montenegro, where the Police Directorate/Forensic Center that has assumed responsibility for the maintenance of the specialized equipment provided by the relevant project and offered to share their experience in the region regarding the use of the equipment, as necessary. In Kosovo, the project team applied simulated exercises to enhance the use of the procured equipment in operations at the border crossings.

Issues with the continued and sustainable application and enhancement of the gender perspective in SALW control matters and/or in relevant institutions that projects have involved have also been raised. In this respect, the project HALT in BiH has dedicated continuous efforts to institutionalize gender equality principles within the BiH Customs/ITA. Gender issues in the ITA that have been addressed through workshops are to be addressed through a complaint mechanism that has recently been put in place in the ITA, i.e., through the ITA's relevant psychologist, who has been appointed as a focal point/advisor for the prevention of sexual and gender-based harassment. Moreover, the project activity provided necessary visibility to the ITA advisor who acts as a gender focal point in the ITA and thus serves as a proper avenue for addressing grievances on these issues, especially given that the vast majority of ITA employees who attended the project workshops on gender mainstreaming were not aware of the existence of a gender focal point in the ITA. Finally, the potential for further awareness raising and education of ITA employees on issues of gender inequality and discrimination, as well as on harassment based on sex or gender, was recognized through development of the 'Training of Trainers' modality and it is thus envisioned that relevant activities in this context can be incorporated into future programmatic interventions in order to ensure the sustainability of efforts on gender issues.

9. COMMUNICATIONS AND VISIBILITY

The visibility of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF, its contributors, and the activities supported was primarily ensured through promotional activities on social media, during relevant regional and global level events, on the Participating UN Organizations' and the Secretariat's websites, and through branding of the communication materials developed and presented at events.

SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

Social media was the main channel of communication used by the implementing organizations, as well as by their project partners and beneficiaries, to increase the visibility of the results achieved and activities implemented in 2021. Some examples are presented below.



[Tweets](#) posted by the project team members of the UNDP in BiH about the donation of specialized equipment to ITA.





Tweeter

@UNODC_Firearms

Tweets posted by the UNODC on the project activities.

Global Firearms Programme @UNODC_Firearms · Jun 14
@UNODC_Firearms conducts from 13 to 15 June back-to-back workshop with BiH, Montenegro and Croatian Customs on operations Tara 2022 & Rijeka 2022 on cross-border cooperation in detection of firearms & other illicit goods. Conducted in the framework of #Roadmap2024



GermanForeignOffice and 8 others

Global Firearms Programme @UNODC_Firearms · Mar 24
@UNODC_Firearms conducts training in Sarajevo, BiH, on using risk indicators for detection of firearms in postal parcels for Hrvatska Posta Mostar, Srpske Poste, BH Posta and Customs BiH. Activity conducted in the framework of #Roadmap2024 with the support of



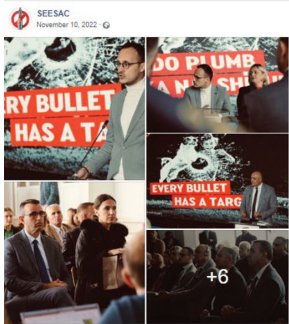
GermanForeignOffice and 7 others

Global Firearms Programme @UNODC_Firearms
@UNODC_Firearms conducts training for X-ray scanner operators of BH Posta, Sarajevo. Prevention of trafficking of tools for illicit manufacturing of ammunition brings added value to the course. Activity conducted in the framework of #Roadmap2024 with support of



GermanForeignOffice and 7 others

Dedicated awareness raising campaigns brought key SALW related issues to the attention of a broader audience and the targeted communities and raised the profile of the Trust Fund's support towards creating a safer region. Some examples are presented here:



UNDP Kosovo
November 9, 2022
As part of the campaign on the prevention of celebratory shootings and misuse of firearms with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, today an awareness raising activity took place in close cooperation with members of the Municipal Community Safety Council of the Municipality of Gnjani/Gnjane jointly with community members of Zhegër/Zegra village, religious leaders, youth and parents.

This interactive event was organized in the framework of the project on Cross-Border Integrated Institutional Approach Towards Combating Small Arms Trafficking (IAT) and Small Arms & Light Weapons (SALW) Control, implemented jointly UNDP Kosovo and UNDP North Macedonia, in close cooperation with Ministries of Internal Affairs from both jurisdictions.

The project is generously funded by the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, Sweden and Norway through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) and supported by the European Union.

#EveryBulletHasATarget #CelebrateWithYourHeart #RegionaRoadmap on #SALWcontrol #Balkanregion

UNDP MK SEESAC



In many instances, project beneficiaries have shared information about the activities conducted under the Trust Fund projects on their own communication channels. This shows their commitment to and ownership of the project results.



[Facebook post](#) post shared by the Deputy Minister of Interior / Head of the SALW Commission of Albania on the Project Steering Committee.

#HALT
Održana sedma radionica na temu "Unapređenje položaja žena u sektoru carina"



U periodu od 25. do 27. 05. 2022. godine na Jahorini je održana radionica na temu "Unapređenje položaja žena u sektoru carina" u organizaciji UNDP i UNODC. Radionica je organizirana u okviru projekta Sprječavanje ilegalne trgovine i prometa oružjem (HALT). Radi se o šestoj radionici ovog tipa u kojoj su učestvovali članice Udruženja "Mreža policijskih službenica". Polaznice radionice bili su rukovodilce službenice UINO BiH (šefovnice odsjeka i načelnice).

Imajući u vidu iskustvo Udruženja u smislu organiziranja i institucionalnog djelovanja, predsjednica Udruženja, Kristina Jozić, prezentirala je iskustva u umrežavanju žena u sektoru sigurnosti i povoljne prakse u promociji rodne ravnopravnosti. Također, prezentirano je stanje u pogledu ravnopravnosti spolova u policijskim strukturama u BiH, te aktivnosti Udruženja koje su preduzete posljednjih godina kao primjeri dobre prakse. Na radionici je razgovarano o diskriminaciji na radnom mjestu, sa fokusom na uzemiravanje na osnovu spola i seksualno uzemiravanje te postojećim mehanizmima zaštite. Također, kroz rad u grupama identificirani su aktuelni problemi u UINO BiH iz aspekta ravnopravnosti spolova i predložili za njihovo prevaziđanje.

Ova aktivnost ima za cilj ojačati promociju ravnopravnosti spolova u carinskoj službi BiH kroz seriju aktivnosti usmjerenih na afirmaciju žena u ovom sektoru i uspostavu odgovarajućih mehanizama za suzbijanje diskriminacije na radnom mjestu.

[News item](#) shared by the Association of the Network of Policewomen in BiH, on the workshop dedicated to the advancement of women in BiH Customs, as part of the HALT project.

SELECTED PHOTOS FROM EVENTS



[Serbia](#): Photos from the training for the application of the ISO 17025 Standard for 10 ballistic experts (first) and the ISO 17020 Standard for 45 forensics technicians.



[Montenegro](#): Photos of the donated equipment and the training provided to the Forensic Centre in Montenegro.



[Kosovo/North Macedonia](#): Photos from the joint capacity building events to enhance investigative capacities of law enforcement of Kosovo and North Macedonia.

ONLINE COMMUNICATION

Information about the projects and project activities are also available on the Participating UN Organizations' websites, on the [MPTF Office Gateway](#), and on the [SEESAC website](#).

Web stories on the project activities implemented by UNODC were also featured in [UNODC's Newsletter for South Eastern Europe](#), reaching a wider audience. In 2022, UNODC published 22 web stories on the Global Firearms Programme web page and on the web page of UNODC's Programme for South Eastern Europe and 33 tweets recognizing the contribution of the Trust Fund.

In addition, INTERPOL, as an implementing partner of UNODC, features information about relevant project activities on a dedicated [webpage](#). Examples are provided here:

UNODC supports Serbia in the collection of electronic evidence in firearms investigations

5-7 April 2022, Belgrade, Serbia: The UNODC Global Firearms Programme (GFP) conducted a training on collecting electronic evidence (e-evidence), in illicit firearms trafficking and firearms-related investigations.

During the three-day training, Serbian officials from the relevant law enforcement units and prosecutors' offices acquired knowledge on characteristics of e-evidence, digital forensics, cybercrime, new trends and challenges in handling e-evidence.

The practical part of the training was focused on the use of UNODC's Guide for Requesting E-evidence Across Borders. The experts also applied the existing legal procedures in the exercises and received information about the contact points that can assist practitioners requesting and producing the e-evidence needed for trial. The issues related to data protection laws, mutual legal assistance (MLA) procedures and admissibility of e-evidence were elaborated and considered through the prism of international human rights standards.

The Serbian experts were further familiarized with UNODC's Model Forms for interaction with internet service providers, various communication apps and social networks. The usefulness of Model Forms – for the purpose of filing an emergency disclosure request, preservation request and MLA request – was highlighted, and practical advice for its successful and timely drafting has been provided.

Additionally, the Serbian criminal justice practitioners practiced their skills by using the UNODC GFP case study, involving sub-regional illicit firearms trafficking and its resolving through the gathering of admissible e-evidence from social networks. They had an opportunity to utilize and effectively apply newly acquired knowledge on the subject-matter.

In the upcoming period, UNODC GFP will deliver e-evidence trainings in other Western Balkan jurisdictions and will continue to work on the topic, pursuant to the great interest of the criminal justice practitioners in the region.

This activity is implemented with the financial support provided by Germany, the United Kingdom, Sweden, France, the Netherlands, and Norway through the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap Trust Fund and supported by the European Union.

Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund Approves New Projects

Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF - The Steering Committee of the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Roadmap for SALW Control in the Western Balkans held a meeting in Skopje, on 4 July 2022 when it approved approximately \$1.5 million for four new projects. The newly funded efforts will address challenges that limit the effectiveness of firearms and SALW control efforts in parts of the region.

The Steering Committee approved three proposed projects, which will be implemented by UNEP Serbia, UNEP Bosnia and Herzegovina, and UNEP North Macedonia. The projects will, respectively, strengthen the healthcare system's role in the prevention of firearms misuse for domestic violence and of committing suicides, work on digitalization and institutional and regional cooperation, and improve of data and SALW collection practices and SALW related investigations.

The concept note submitted by UNEP Albania was also endorsed to be further developed into a full fledged project proposal to increase security of the arms depots under the administration of the Albanian State Police.

The Steering Committee also reviewed and approved the no-cost extensions for three projects: two implemented by UNODC – the first, supporting the increase of international cooperation in criminal matters, extended for a 12-month period, while the second, addressing the criminal justice response against arms trafficking, was approved with a 6-month extension; the third project, extended for a 12-month period is implemented by UNEP Montenegro, is advancing the capacities of the police directorate in the field custody chain, crime scene investigations and the forensic laboratory in the field of operations and investigators in detection and trafficking of explosives criminality.

The Western Balkans Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund ensures a donor coordinated approach of the UN in support to Roadmap implementation. The work of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF is possible thanks to the generous contributions by Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Sweden, the Netherlands, and Norway which amount \$ 22,232,597 in total.

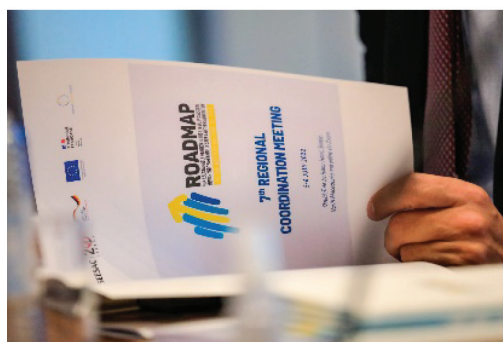
Through Roadmap support, the Trust Fund contributes to the achievement of SDG 16 to promote just, peaceful, and inclusive societies as illicit arms flows are amongst the factors that give rise to violence, insecurity, and injustice, and SDG 5 to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Originally published on www.unodc.org

PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL EVENTS

The Local and Regional Roadmap Coordination Meetings represented a key forum for publicizing the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF. Over 120 participants attended the two regional Roadmap coordination meetings organized by SEESAC in 2022, including representatives of the SALW Commissions of the Western Balkans six jurisdictions, key international organizations engaged in arms control in the region (UNDP Country Offices, OSCE Missions, NATO, UNODC, Interpol, EU Policy Cycle - EMPACT, the Regional Cooperation Council, the RACVIAC Centre for Security Cooperation, ITF Enhancing Human Security, the Small Arms Survey, GIZ, the National Ballistic Intelligence Service – NABIS, HALO Trust, and others), and key donors (the EU, Germany, France, Sweden, United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Norway).

Through these coordination meetings, the Trust Fund continued to gain high visibility among the international community as one of the primary funding mechanisms for supporting the implementation of the Roadmap.



BRANDING

To ensure the visibility of the Trust Fund donors, projects ensured that donor logos were visibly placed on the promotional materials distributed to the beneficiaries and placed prominently at the venues of the project events.



Albania: Photos of the IT equipment supporting the firearms registration process, with stickers.



BiH: Roll-up poster prepared for the HALT project.



PRESENCE IN THE LOCAL MEDIA

Several project results were also promoted in the local media – online, on TV, or on the radio. For example, the awareness-raising campaigns conducted by UNDP in BiH, Kosovo, and North Macedonia were promoted broadly across different media outlets (both local and major).

Some examples include:

- Podizanje svijesti među srednjoškolcima o opasnostima vatrenog oružja (msb.gov.ba)
- ZDK - Počelo provođenje kampanje 'Oružje ne štiti, oružje ubija' (federalna.ba)
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RrU-TMgp3_c
- <https://www.bl-portal.com/drustvo/u-banjaluci-odrzano-predavanje-srednjoskolci-ma-o-opasnostima-upotrebe-oruzja-oruzje-ne-stiti-oruzje-ubija/>
- <https://vecernjenovosti.ba/52063/vijesti/banjaluka-policija-predavanje-opasnost-oruzje-srednja-skola-najnovije-vijesti/>
- Slavi odgovorno, slavi bez vatrenog oružja! (msb.gov.ba)
- Najava kampanje "Slavi odgovorno - slavi bez vatrenog oružja" | MUP (ks.gov.ba)
- SLAVI ODGOVORNO, SLAVI BEZ VATRENOG ORUŽJA | MUP (mupzzh.ba)
- Kampanja "Slavi odgovorno, slavi bez vatrenog oružja" | Vlada Županije Posavske (zupani-japosavska.ba)
- Policija Distrikta: " Slavi odgovorno, slavi bez vatrenog oružja." - YouTube
- <https://telma.com.mk/2022/09/06/slavi-so-srce-ne-so-oruzhje-kampanja-na-mvr-i-undp-protiv-pukanjeto-na-veselbi/>
- <https://gazeta10.com/lansohet-fushata-festo-me-zemer-jo-me-arme/>
- <https://gazetascanner.com/policia-me-fushate-vetedijesuese-festo-me-zemer-jo-me-arme/>
- <https://www.rtklive.com/sq/news-single.php?ID=622564>
- <https://emagazin.mk/seko-kurshum-ima-meta-kampa-ata-protiv-puka-e-na-veselbi-prodolzhi-vo-opshtina-tearce/>

PUBLICATIONS

Additionally, the visibility of the Trust Fund donors was ensured by placing the contributors' logos on the knowledge products developed within the Trust Fund framework.





10. WAY FORWARD

The third call for project proposals was launched in the first quarter of 2023, incorporating results from the mid-term evaluation of the Trust Fund. There will be a new set of projects that the Trust Fund governance structure will review and approve for funding in 2023. For the second half of Trust Fund operations, the focus will be on encouraging projects that should firmly build upon the progress already made, solidify ongoing efforts, effectively address identified gaps, and ensure the sustainability of the overall endeavor.

Findings and recommendations from the mid-term evaluation will be incorporated in the future operations of the Fund to further upgrade governance and strengthen the effectiveness, coherence, efficiency, relevance, and sustainability of efforts. The implementation of the Trust Fund projects thus far has proven that continuous flexibility from the Participating UN Organizations and the Trust Fund Steering Committee is required, as progress is often achieved at a slower pace than envisaged, for reasons already outlined in the challenges and risks section. The growing attention on modernizing and digitizing solutions offers significant opportunities towards greater efficiency and effectiveness of operations. This, however, comes with risks of limited experience, expertise, and capacity in dealing with challenges, often resulting in longer timeframes for successful implementation. It is expected that the sharing of experience among the jurisdictions, both among the authorities and implementing partners, will facilitate processes and the replication of good practices. The Trust Fund Secretariat will invest efforts to enable the sharing of experience and dedicated learning sessions to further advance project management within the Fund. These are likely to entail dynamic project management and risk management. The Secretariat will also facilitate learning about the theory of change and learning from monitoring and evaluation.

Out of the four selected projects under the first call for proposals, two were completed in 2022, while the remaining two projects are expected to be completed in the first half of 2023. Likewise, the six projects approved under the second call, and all six bridging projects approved under the direct solicitation of proposals modality, are expected to largely have operations completed by the end of 2023. The Trust Fund will plan measures and approaches to ensure the successful closure of ongoing projects and the streamlining of all new upcoming projects in 2023 so that the catalytic investment is built upon further and greater impact is ensured.





FINANCIAL REPORT

.....
Consolidated Annual Financial Report of the Administrative Agent for
the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF

(FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2022 TO 31 DECEMBER 2022)



DEFINITIONS

Allocation

Amount approved by the Steering Committee for a project/programme.

Approved Project/Programme

A project/programme including budget, etc., that is approved by the Steering Committee for fund allocation purposes.

Contributor Commitment

Amount(s) committed by a contributor to a Fund in a signed Standard Administrative Arrangement with the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office), in its capacity as the Administrative Agent. A commitment may be paid or pending payment.

Contributor Deposit

Cash deposit received by the MPTF Office for the Fund from a contributor in accordance with a signed Standard Administrative Arrangement.

Delivery Rate

The percentage of funds that have been utilized, calculated by comparing expenditures reported by a Participating Organization against the 'net funded amount'. This does not include expense commitments by Participating Organisations.

Indirect Support Costs

A general cost that cannot be directly related to any particular programme or activity of the Participating Organizations. UNSDG policy establishes a fixed indirect cost rate of 7% of programmable costs for inter-agency pass-through MPTFs.

Net Funded Amount

Amount transferred to a Participating Organization less any refunds transferred back to the MPTF Office by a Participating Organization.

Participating Organization

A UN Organization or other inter-governmental Organization that is a partner in a Fund, as represented by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the MPTF Office for a particular Fund.

Project Expenditure

The sum of expenses and/or expenditure reported by all Participating Organizations for a Fund irrespective of which basis of accounting each Participating Organization follows for donor reporting.

Project Financial Closure

A project or programme is considered financially closed when all financial obligations of an operationally completed project or programme have been settled, and no further financial charges may be incurred.

Project Operational Closure

A project or programme is considered operationally closed when all programmatic activities for which Participating Organization(s) received funding have been completed.

Project Start Date

Project/ Joint programme start date as per the programmatic document.

Total Approved Budget

This represents the cumulative amount of allocations approved by the Steering Committee.

US Dollar Amount

The financial data in the report is recorded in US Dollars.

INTRODUCTION

This Consolidated Annual Financial Report of the **Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF** is prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) in fulfillment of its obligations as Administrative Agent, as per the terms of Reference (TOR), the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the UNDP MPTF Office and the Participating Organizations, and the Standard Administrative Arrangement (SAA) signed with contributors. The MPTF Office, as Administrative Agent, is responsible for concluding an MOU with Participating Organizations and SAAs with contributors. It receives, administers and

manages contributions, and disburses these funds to the Participating Organizations. The Administrative Agent prepares and submits annual consolidated financial reports, as well as regular financial statements, for transmission to stakeholders. This consolidated financial report covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2022 and provides financial data on progress made in the implementation of projects of the **Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF**. It is posted on the MPTF Office GATEWAY (<https://mptf.undp.org/fund/slwo0>).

2022 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

This chapter presents financial data and analysis of the **Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF** using the pass-through funding modality as of 31 December 2022. Financial information for this Fund is also available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY, at the following address: <https://mptf.undp.org/fund/slwo0>.

1. SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS

As of 31 December **2022**, **6** contributors deposited US\$ **24,181,024** and US\$ **232,469** was earned in interest.

The cumulative source of funds was US\$ **24,413,493**.

Of this amount, US\$ **13,718,344** has been net funded to **2** Participating Organizations, of which US\$ **8,045,645** has been reported as expenditure. The Administrative Agent fee has been charged at the approved rate of 1% on deposits and amounts to US\$ **241,810**. Table 1 provides an overview of the overall sources, uses, and balance of the **Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF** as of 31 December 2022.

Table 1.**Financial Overview, as of 31 December 2022 (in US Dollars).**

	Annual 2020	Annual 2021	Cumulative
Sources of Funds			
Contributions from donors	5,920,339	2,353,508	24,181,024
Sub-total Contributions	5,920,339	2,353,508	24,181,024
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income	21,048	113,619	232,469
Total: Sources of Funds	5,941,387	2,467,127	24,413,493
Use of Funds			
Transfers to Participating Organizations	4,989,958	1,468,482	13,463,299
Net Funded Amount	4,989,958	1,468,482	13,463,299
Administrative Agent Fees	59,203	23,535	241,810
Direct Costs	40,660	155,000	255,045
Bank Charges	171	244	713
Total: Uses of Funds	5,089,993	1,647,261	13,960,868
Change in Fund cash balance with Administrative Agent	851,394	819,867	10,452,626
Opening Fund balance (1 January)	8,781,365	9,632,759	-
Closing Fund balance (31 December)	9,632,759	10,452,626	10,452,626
Net Funded Amount (Includes Direct Cost)	5,030,618	1,623,482	13,718,344
Participating Organizations Expenditure (Includes Direct Cost)	2,628,172	4,558,966	8,045,645
Balance of Funds with Participating Organizations	2,402,446	(2,935,484)	5,672,700

2. PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS

Table 2 provides information on cumulative contributions received from all contributors to this fund as of 31 December **2022**.

The **Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF** is currently being financed by **6** contributors, as listed in the table on the next page.

The table includes financial commitments made by the contributors through signed Standard Administrative Agreements with an anticipated deposit date as per the schedule of payments by 31 December **2022** and deposits received by the same date. It does not include commitments that were made to the fund beyond **2022**.

Table 2.**Contributions, as of 31 December 2022 (in US Dollars).**

Contributors	Total Commitments	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2021 Deposits	Current Year Jan-Dec-2022 Deposits	Total Deposits
Government of France	2,597,722	2,185,307	412,415	2,597,722
Government of Germany	12,797,279	11,951,494	845,785	12,797,279
Government of Netherlands	1,650,341	1,650,341	-	1,650,341
Government of Norway	1,609,697	1,102,109	507,588	1,609,697
Sida	2,914,589	2,326,870	587,720	2,914,589
Government of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2,611,396	2,611,396	-	2,611,396
Grand Total	24,181,024	21,827,516	2,353,508	24,181,024

3. INTEREST EARNED

Interest income is earned in two ways: 1) on the balance of funds held by the Administrative Agent (Fund earned interest), and 2) on the balance of funds held by the Participating Organizations (Agency earned interest) where their Financial Regulations and Rules allow return of interest to the AA.

As of 31 December **2022**, Fund earned interest amounts to US\$ **232,469**.

No interest was received from Participating Organizations. Details are provided in the table below.

Table 3.**Sources of Interest and Investment Income, as of 31 December 2022 (in US Dollars).**

Interest Earned	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2021	Current Year Jan-Dec-2022	Total
Administrative Agent			
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income	118,850	113,619	232,469
Total: Fund Earned Interest	118,850	113,619	232,469
Participating Organization			
Total: Agency earned interest	-	-	-
Grand Total	118,850	113,619	232,469

4. TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Allocations to Participating Organizations are approved by the Steering Committee and disbursed by the Administrative Agent. As of 31 December **2022**, the AA has transferred US\$ **13,463,299** to **2** Participating Organizations (see list below).

Table 4 provides additional information on the refunds received by the MPTF Office, and the net funded amount for each of the Participating Organizations.

Table 4.

Transfer, Refund, and Net Funded Amount by Participating Organization
(in US Dollars).

Participating Organization	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2021			Current Year Jan-Dec-2022			Total		
	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded
UNDP	7,401,726	-	7,401,726	1,468,482	-	1,468,482	8,870,208	-	8,870,208
UNODC	4,593,091	-	4,593,091	-	-	-	4,593,091	-	4,593,091
Grand Total	11,994,817	-	11,994,817	1,468,482	-	1,468,482	13,463,299	-	13,463,299

5. EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL DELIVERY RATES

All final expenditures reported are submitted as certified financial information by the Headquarters of the Participating Organizations. These were consolidated by the MPTF Office.

Joint programme/ project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Participating Organization, and are reported to the Administrative Agent as per the agreed upon categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. The expenditures are reported via the MPTF Office's online expenditure reporting tool. The 2022 expenditure data has been posted on the MPTF Office GATEWAY at <https://mptf.undp.org/fund/slw00>.

5.1. Expenditure Reported by Participating Organization

In **2022**, US\$ **1,468,482** was net funded to Participating Organizations, and US\$ **4,420,578** was reported in expenditure.

As shown in table on the next page, the cumulative net funded amount is US\$ **13,463,299** and cumulative expenditures reported by the Participating Organizations amount to US\$ **7,809,616**. This equates to an overall Fund expenditure delivery rate of **58.01** percent.

Table 5.1.

Net Funded Amount and Reported Expenditures by Participating Organization, as of 31 December 2022 (in US Dollars).

Participating Organization	Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure			Delivery Rate %
			Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2021	Current Year Jan-Dec-2022	Cumulative	
UNDP	8,870,208	8,870,208	1,378,388	2,756,681	4,135,069	46.62
UNODC	4,593,091	4,593,091	2,010,651	1,663,897	3,674,548	80.00
Grand Total	13,463,299	13,463,299	3,389,039	4,420,578	7,809,616	58.01

5.2. Expenditures Reported by Category

Project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Participating Organization and are reported as per the agreed categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting.

Table 5.2.

Expenditure by UNSDG Budget Category, as of 31 December 2022 (in US Dollars).

Category	Expenditures			Percentage of Total Programme Cost
	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2021	Current Year Jan-Dec-2022	Total	
Staff & Personnel Cost	896,359	600,014	1,496,373	20.50
Supplies, commodities and materials	124,612	969,680	1,094,292	14.99
Equipment, vehicles, furniture and depreciation	358,235	233,468	591,703	8.11
Contractual Services Expenses	670,095	915,626	1,585,720	21.73
Travel	153,011	534,070	687,081	9.41
Transfers and Grants	668,202	396	668,598	9.16
General Operating	296,730	877,889	1,174,619	16.09
Programme Costs Total	3,167,244	4,131,142	7,298,386	100.00
¹ Indirect Support Costs Total	221,795	289,436	511,230	7.00
Grand Total	3,389,039	4,420,578	7,809,616	-

¹ **Indirect Support Costs** charged by Participating Organization, based on their financial regulations, can be deducted upfront or at a later stage during implementation. The percentage may therefore appear to exceed the 7% agreed-upon for on-going projects. Once projects are financially closed, this number is not to exceed 7%.

6. COST RECOVERY

Cost recovery policies for the Fund are guided by the applicable provisions of the Terms of Reference, the MOU concluded between the Administrative Agent and Participating Organizations, and the SAAs concluded between the Administrative Agent and Contributors, based on rates approved by UNDG. The policies in place, as of 31 December 2022, were as follows:

- **The Administrative Agent (AA) fee:** 1% is charged at the time of contributor deposit and covers services provided on that contribution for the entire duration of the Fund. In the reporting period US\$ **23,535** was deducted in AA-fees. Cumulatively, as of 31 December **2022**, US\$ **241,810** has been charged in AA-fees.
- **Indirect Costs of Participating Organizations:** Participating Organizations may charge 7% indirect costs. In the current reporting period US\$ **289,436** was deducted in indirect costs by Participating Organizations. Cumulatively, indirect costs amount to US\$ **511,230** as of 31 December **2022**.

7. ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

In order to effectively provide fund administration services and facilitate monitoring and reporting to the UN system and its partners, the MPTF Office has developed a public website, the MPTF Office Gateway (<https://mptf.undp.org>). Refreshed in real time every two hours from an internal enterprise resource planning system, the MPTF Office Gateway has become a standard setter for providing transparent and accountable trust fund administration services.

The Gateway provides financial information including: contributor commitments and deposits, approved programme budgets, transfers to and expenditures reported by Participating Organizations, interest income and other expenses. In addition, the Gateway provides an overview of the MPTF Office portfolio and extensive information on individual Funds, including their purpose, governance structure and key documents. By providing easy access to the growing number of narrative and financial reports, as well as related project documents, the Gateway collects and preserves important institutional knowledge and facilitates knowledge sharing and management among UN Organizations and their development partners, thereby contributing to UN coherence and development effectiveness.

8. DIRECT COSTS

The Fund governance mechanism may approve an allocation to a Participating Organization to cover costs associated with Fund coordination covering overall coordination, and fund level reviews and evaluations. These allocations are referred to as 'direct costs'. In the reporting period, direct costs charged to the fund amounted to US\$ **155,000**. Cumulatively, as of 31 December **2022**, US\$ **255,045** has been charged as Direct Costs.

Participating Organization	Current Year Net Funded Amount	Current Year Expenditure	Total Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure
UNDP	155,000	138,388	255,045	236,028
Total	155,000	138,388	255,045	236,028



ANNEXES

I TRUST FUND PROJECTS

II OVERALL PROGRESS REVIEW: DETAILED MATRIX OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

III UPDATED RISK MATRIX



ANNEX I. TRUST FUND PROJECTS

First call

PROJECTS APPROVED FOR FUNDING IN THE FIRST CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade (HALT) in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Implemented by **UNDP BiH and UNODC**

Budget: **\$2,200,000**

The project aims to enhance the capacities of the Indirect Taxation Authority (i.e., the Customs Authority in Bosnia and Herzegovina) to better combat illicit arms trafficking through the development of standard operating procedures, the provision of training, and the procurement of specialized equipment for the detection of smuggled firearms. The project also contributes to strengthened cooperation and information exchange between the Indirect Taxation Authority and other institutions at the national and regional levels through joint trainings, working visits, and cross-border operations. The Border Police, postal agencies, private companies, and the criminal justice sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina are also to be engaged throughout the project to increase the sustainability of the results.

CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS



CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP KPI



Support to Combating Illicit Arms Trafficking in Kosovo for Criminal Police (CPIAT)

Implemented by **UNDP Kosovo**

Budget: **\$660,000**

This project aims to increase the capacities of the Kosovo Police in the field of investigations and police operations in combating illicit arms trafficking and the illegal possession of firearms. The emphasis is on investigations against organized crime and criminal groups dealing with international arms trafficking using Kosovo as a transit route for illicit arms trafficking into Western European countries. Through the provision of specialized training and equipment, the project supports the Kosovo Police in strengthening their capacities to detect and confiscate firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition, and to improve the quality of investigations.

CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS



CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP KPI



Criminal Justice Response against Arms Trafficking (regional project)

Implemented by **UNODC**

Budget: **\$1,899,999**

The project supports the six Western Balkans jurisdictions to strengthen their criminal justice responses to firearms related criminality, particularly illicit arms trafficking, by facilitating the harmonization of the national firearms legislation and relevant criminal and procedural law provisions with the UN Firearms Protocol. The project also works with the Western Balkans authorities in strengthening their capacities to detect, investigate, and prosecute firearms trafficking and its links to other serious crimes through improved guidelines and standard operating procedures, specialized training, information exchange, and regional cooperation.

CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS



CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP KPI



Urgent Action on Ammunition Destruction - Project EXPLODE+

Implemented by **UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Budget: **\$583,546**

The project supports the Ministry of Defense of BiH in the destruction of unsafe ammunition, contributing to reduced stockpiles of surplus ammunition and thus to higher safety and security for storage facilities and adjacent local communities.

CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS



CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP KPI



Strengthening Control, Administration and Social Attitudes Towards SALW

Implemented by **UNDP Albania**

Budget: **\$1,661,314**

The project aims to improve and modernize the registration of legally possessed firearms in Albania by supporting the government initiative to re-register all legally possessed weapons and digitalize all firearms-related data within a single national database, in which the information is easily retrievable and appropriate for analytical work. The project shall also assist the Albanian State Police in bringing an additional 10% of its firearms and ammunition storage depots to acceptable standards, preventing the risk of the diversion and, hence, the illegal possession, misuse, and trafficking of these items. Finally, a comprehensive awareness campaign is to be carried out to reduce the demand for and the misuse of firearms, prevent gender-based violence and family crime, and increase confidence in security institutions.

CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS



CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP KPI



Advancing the Capacities of the Ministry of the Interior in the SALW Control-related Field (Phase II)

Implemented by **UNDP Serbia**

Budget: **\$1,429,520**

The project will build upon the progress made during Phase I and is aimed at improving the quality of investigations through valid forensic evidence. This will advance evidence-based decision-making and argumentation on the part of State Prosecutors, thereby contributing to increased fairness in legal proceedings and appropriate penalties within the justice system for the perpetrators of criminal offenses. Specifically, the project shall focus on further strengthening the capacities of the crime investigation units and the ballistic laboratories throughout Serbia on their way to accreditation. In addition to firearms examinations, this phase of the project is also to include investigations of arson and explosion-related incidents, strengthening the capacities of the new AEA Unit (arson, explosion, and accident investigation) while improving overall capacities for the investigation of explosion/explosive related incidents. Finally, the project shall include the development of the new Weapon Registry System through the provision of equipment and training.

CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS



CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP KPI



Advancing the Capacities of the Police Directorate in the Field of Custody Chain and Crime Scene Investigations and the Forensic Laboratory in the Field of Operations and Investigations in the Detection and Trafficking of Explosives Criminality

Implemented by **UNDP Montenegro**

Budget: **\$664,812**

The project aims to improve the capacities of the Police Directorate of Montenegro across the entire investigative cycle and in particular to advance the custody chain. This is expected to result in improved investigation of crimes committed with explosives, thereby further contributing to achieving regular convictions. Specifically, the project will enhance the expert competencies, professionalism, accuracy, and preciseness of the Forensic Centre's Chemistry and Fires and Explosions laboratories by supporting the development of standard operating procedures, by providing specialized equipment for the crime scene investigation units, and through training.

CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS



CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP KPI



Prevention and Illicit Arms Reduction in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Project PILLAR+)

Implemented by **UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Budget: **\$769,406**

The project seeks to comprehensively raise awareness amongst the population regarding the dangers of illegal firearm possession, contribute to behavioral change, and foster a more complete understanding of the threats posed by SALW within families, the community, and society in general. Specifically, the project is to work with the formal associations of women police officers in BiH, as “agents of change,” to strengthen their capacities to better address and enhance the limited understanding of the general population regarding SALW-related threats. The project shall also directly implement structured countrywide campaigns, outreach activities, and advocacy efforts addressing the impact and threats posed by illicit SALW to the general public, especially to vulnerable groups (women, children, and young men and women).

CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS



CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP KPI



Cross-border Integrated Institutional Approach towards Combatting IAT and SALW

Implemented by **UNDP Kosovo and UNDP North Macedonia**
Budget: **\$522,067**

The project aims to improve the cross-border cooperation between Kosovo and North Macedonia and lay the basis for an integrated institutional approach in combating illicit arms trafficking in the two jurisdictions through a series of closely coordinated activities. These include actions such as joint training and the sharing of experience and intelligence, joint investigative operations, and joint actions in combating converted weapons trafficking.

CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS



CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP KPI



Support for Increased International Cooperation in Criminal Matters

Implemented by **UNODC**
Budget: **\$1,604,153**

The project, implemented by UNODC's Global Firearms Programme, in partnership with INTERPOL, aims to provide support to the Western Balkans jurisdictions in collecting and analyzing criminal justice data, to facilitate and strengthen the cooperation and information exchange between criminal justice practitioners, and to support the detection of illicit firearms trafficking. The assistance by both organizations should lead to the Western Balkans jurisdictions achieving measurable results in the implementation of the Roadmap, including the connection of all police services to INTERPOL's Illicit Arms Records and Tracing Management System (iARMS), information exchange with countries located along connected routes, and improved understanding of the gaps in the detection of firearms in postal shipments.

CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS



CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP KPI



PROJECTS APPROVED FOR FUNDING THROUGH DIRECT SOLICITATION OF PROJECTS MODALITY

Reduce Risk - Increase Safety II

Implemented by **UNDP Serbia**

Budget: **\$170,700**

The project is built upon the findings from the previous phase of the Reduce Risk-Increase Safety project. It aims to accelerate the implementation of the normative and strategic framework and boost existing practices and partnerships related to protection from SALW misuse in the context of violence against women and domestic violence. In addition, it shall address the problem of suicides committed with firearms. Through its activities, the project aims to create a comprehensive approach to strengthening the role of the healthcare system in the prevention of firearms misuse.

CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS



CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP KPI



Digitalization and Institutional and Regional Cooperation Project (DIRC)

Implemented by **UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Budget: **\$309,412**

[Preparatory activities in Q4 2022; Actual start as of January 2023]

The project is to ensure continuity in and the strengthening of the ongoing efforts and achievements of Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding SALW control. It aims to establish a platform for bi-lateral and multilateral knowledge sharing with neighboring countries pertaining to several aspects of SALW control. Furthermore, the project shall ensure continuity of efforts in further institutionalizing gender mainstreaming in SALW control within the Indirect Taxation Authority of BiH.

The project is to introduce new digital tools and structured joint regional exercises to fight against illegal SALW trafficking. It shall support the gender network within the Indirect Taxation Authority to raise awareness on the detection and prevention of gender-based harassment and to reduce gender inequality within the institution.

CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS



CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP KPI



Increased security of the arms depots under the administration of the Albanian State Police

Implemented by **UNDP Albania**

Budget: **\$474,770**

[Preparatory activities in Q4 2022; Actual start as of January 2023]

The project is a response to the expressed priority needs of the Albanian law enforcement authorities. It aims to improve and refurbish three top-priority ammunition storages of the Albanian State Police and furnish 120 safes for SALW for the ASP evidence rooms of Priority I and, partially, Priority II depots. Such improvement is to follow international standards and best practices, guaranteeing the maintenance, safety, and administration of firearms, ammunition, and explosives throughout their entire life cycle.

CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS

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CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP KPI

12 13

Improvement of data and SALW collection practices and SALW related investigations

Implemented by **UNDP North Macedonia**

Budget: **\$513,600**

[Commencing in January 2023]

The project builds upon previously implemented activities as well as the identified risks, needs, and priorities of North Macedonia. It aims to improve implementation of the Information Management System (IMS) of the Ministry of the Interior that enables the gathering of SALW related data, with a particular focus on data collection related to domestic violence involving firearms. It should also improve the analytical capabilities of the Forensics Department through the provision of specialized equipment and training, as well as improve weapons warehouse management and tracing capacities leading to a decreased risk of the proliferation of SALW and improved security.

CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS

2 4 5 7

CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP KPI

2 3 8 10 13

Support to Firearms Related Investigations

Implemented by **UNDP Kosovo**

Budget: **\$350,318**

[Commencing in January 2023]

The project aims to strengthen firearms investigations and the operations of the Firearms Focal Point in Pristina through the provision of technical advice for enhancing the data collection and analytical capacities as well as through the provision of specialized equipment. More specifically, it aims to: i) improve data collection and analysis by the Firearms Focal Point; ii) improve the detection of weapons hidden underground; and iii) improve the examination of seized firearms by the ballistic department of the Kosovo Forensic Agency.

CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS



CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP KPI



Countering Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Ammunition in Express Courier and Postal Parcels: Project Hermes Phase I

Implemented by **UNODC**

Budget: **\$800,129**

[Commencing in February 2023]

The project, under the implementation of UNODC's Global Firearms Programme, is to support the six Western Balkans jurisdictions in enhancing the regulatory framework and capacities to prevent and counter the illicit trafficking of firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition in express courier and postal parcels. The project aims to improve the regulatory framework for countering trafficking in firearms, their parts and components, ammunition, and explosives through the development of specific standard operating procedures and memoranda of understanding to advance practice within customs administrations, designated postal operators, postal services regulators, and law enforcement services. In addition, the project shall support the customization and harmonization of procedures across the region by organizing regional meetings and study visits to support information exchange regarding good practices. The project activities are also to include the procurement of detection equipment for the Albanian Customs Administration to improve capabilities to detect the trafficking of firearms, their parts and components, ammunition, and explosives.

CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS



CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP KPI



ANNEX II. OVERALL PROGRESS REVIEW: DETAILED MATRIX OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

No. 1

1. PROJECT

HALTING ARMS AND LAWBREAKING TRADE (HALT) IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS: UNDP BIH AND UNODC

OUTPUT 1

Enhanced IBM capacity of BiH to better fight illicit SALW trafficking through targeted assistance to the ITA, Border Police, and three postal agencies.

Indicators	Baseline (2019)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
Level of functionality of the institutional platform of the ITA, BP of BiH, and three postal agencies to address illicit SALW trafficking.	Partial functionality of the institutional platform in terms of equipment, SOPs, SALW data management/processing and training.	Functional platform resulting in joint actions and concrete seizure results in the prevention and detection of SALW illicit arms trafficking.	SOPs developed; equipment procured; Cooperation between the ITA and postal operators established, resulting in 30 seizures of firearms and their parts in postal parcels in 2022.
# of specific analyses contributing to the assessment of needs in the ITA/Customs Sector.	0	2	2 analyses developed
# of developed and institutionalized standard operating procedures aimed at defining the actions carried out by customs' officials to more effectively combat illicit SALW trafficking.	0	6	8 SOPs developed. Training rolled out to institutionalize the SOPs.
% of ITA customs officers trained in the application of the developed SOPs and the usage of sophisticated detection equipment.	0	80%	74%
Existence of analyses aimed at affirming and promoting gender equality in the Customs Sector of the ITA.	Absence of analyses aimed at affirming and promoting gender equality in the Customs Sector of the ITA.	Analysis and Action Plan developed for better affirmation and career options for women in the Customs Sector of the ITA.	Analysis of the affirmation and career options for women in the Customs Sector prepared.

Indicators	Baseline (2019)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of BP of BiH inspectors trained and equipped to process illicit SALW trafficking cases.	0	35	0 / Activity has been removed with the project revision approved in 2022, following a reassessment of needs.
# of developed and institutionalized SOPs aimed at defining the actions carried out by customs' officials to counter shipments of firearms in postal deliveries.	0	At least 1	3 / SOPs on the detection of firearms in postal parcels developed for: i) for BiH Customs; ii) the 3 public postal operators; and iii) 4 private courier companies.
# of ITA and the Agency for Postal Traffic of BiH staff responsible for monitoring postal deliveries who have been trained in the application of the developed SOPs to better process crimes pertaining to illicit SALW trafficking and to address the detection of firearms by private courier companies.	0	At least 70	88 / Trained officials from BiH Customs and public postal operators.

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1.1: CONDUCT A NEEDS ASSESSMENT ANALYSIS OF BIH CUSTOMS (UNDP/UNODC).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2020] A needs assessment analysis of BiH Customs was prepared by UNDP, including recommendations for improving the work of BiH Customs. A needs assessment was prepared by UNODC on preventing trafficking in postal and express courier parcels.
ACTIVITY 1.2: STRENGTHEN BIH CUSTOMS' CAPACITIES TO BETTER COMBAT THE TRAFFICKING OF ILLICIT ARMS AND OTHER GOODS ON THE BORDER WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON GENDER ASPECTS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2020] Eight (8) SOPs supporting BiH Customs in combating illicit SALW trafficking were developed: 1) a SOP on data collection; 2) a SOP on risk analysis; 3) a SOP for monitoring the trade of firearms, military equipment, and dual-purpose goods; 4) a SOP for firearms tracing; 5) a SOP for investigations 6) a SOP for monitoring trade in dual-use goods; 7) a SOP for control; and 8) a SOP for emergency management. [2021] 14 ITA officials were trained in a ToT training related to the use of the developed SOPs and specialized detection equipment. [2021] 617 customs officers were trained during a comprehensive training program on the application of the SOPs for tackling illicit arms trade and the use of specialized detection equipment. [2022] 121 customs officers (45 women and 76 men) were trained through 9 iterations in 4 cities covering all 4 ITA regional centers. This brings the total number of trained customs officers to 738 (191 women and 547 men). [2020] A brief analysis of the affirmation and career options for women in the Customs Sector was conducted as part of the needs assessment analysis of BiH Customs. [2021] Three consultative workshops aimed at enhancing women's position and career prospects in the ITA and stressing the importance of gender equality were organized. 72 ITA employees from all organizational units of the institution, as well as 20 representatives of the association Network of Women Police Officers, the BiH Agency for Gender Equality, and the BiH Ministry of Security participated in the event. [2022] Five workshops were conducted, with the participation of 130 ITA employees (64 women and 66 men), of which 121 were ITA managers (59 women and 62 men). The workshops were aimed at enhancing women's position and career prospects in the ITA, identifying roadblocks in, contextual enablers of, and entry points for advancing women's position and career prospects in the customs sector while stressing the importance of gender equality and the prevention of sexual and gender-based harassment within the institution. In total, 208 ITA employees (130 women and 78 men) participated in 8 workshops, including 121 ITA managers (59 women and 62 men), covering all 4 regional centers as well as ITA HQ.

Activities	Results
<p>ACTIVITY 1.2: STRENGTHEN BIH CUSTOMS' CAPACITIES TO BETTER COMBAT THE TRAFFICKING OF ILLICIT ARMS AND OTHER GOODS ON THE BORDER WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON GENDER ASPECTS.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [2020] A SOP for ITA officials on the detection of firearms in postal parcels was developed. • [2021] SOPs on the detection of firearms in postal and express courier parcels, both for the ITA and for BH Pošta, Pošte Srpske, and Hrvatska Pošta Mostar were developed through three workshops attended by 25 experts. • [2021] SOPs on the detection of firearms in express parcels for private courier companies were developed. • [2021] 14 customs representatives attended a ToT training on detecting firearms and their parts and ammunition in postal shipments, with the focus on increasing efficiency and effectiveness in countering firearms trafficking through postal parcels. • [2021] 19 experts from the ITA were trained on the detection of firearms in express courier and postal parcels within the framework of Operation Armstrong. • [2021] 14 experts from the three postal operators in BiH were trained on the detection of firearms in postal parcels. • [2022] 34 experts (8 women and 26 men) from BiH Customs and the three public postal service providers in BiH (JP BH Pošta, Hrvatska Pošta Mostar, and Pošte Srpske a.d. Banja Luka) were trained in the analysis of x-ray images for the detection of illicit trafficking and the illicit manufacturing of firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition (four trainings). • [2022] Another 13 experts (4 women and 9 men) from BiH Customs and the three public postal service providers were trained on risk-indicators for the detection of firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition in express courier and postal parcels (one training). • [2022] <i>As a result of the delivered capacity building activities, in the period Oct-Dec 2022, 30 seizures of firearms in postal parcels took place.</i> • [2022] 6 visits to regional post distribution centers and 6 visits to private courier companies were conducted, providing support and expert advice for the implementation of the developed SOPs, and identifying areas for further improvement of the processes for the detection of firearms in express courier and postal parcels.
<p>ACTIVITY 1.3: PROCURE SALW DETECTION EQUIPMENT AND IMPROVE BIH CUSTOMS' AND THE BIH BORDER POLICE'S INFRASTRUCTURE AT BORDER CROSSINGS TO BETTER DETECT SMUGGLING OF ARMS AND OTHER GOODS.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [2021] 12 videoscopes were delivered to the ITA to enhance their capacities for firearms and explosives detection. • [2022] 10 additional videoscopes (endoscopes) were delivered to the ITA. In total, the ITA has been equipped with 22 endoscopes, thus significantly improving the ITA's illegal SALW detection potential and capabilities. • [2021] 5 laptops were provided to the Law Enforcement Section of the ITA to be used for record-keeping purposes and computer-based training. • [2022] 4 mobile detectors for explosives and narcotics were delivered to the ITA, along with accompanying training provided for 5 ITA staff, as a ToT training so that they may serve as trainers for their fellow custom officers. • [2022] The remaining relevant equipment was delivered to the ITA, with higher quantities than originally planned due to favorable offers and sufficient funds available in the project: 7 contraband detectors (instead of the 4 originally planned), 25 explosives and narcotics detection kits (instead of 20), 25 universal multitool kits (instead of 20), and 24 vehicle inspection kits (instead of 20). • [2022] 10 ITA employees passed the training-of-trainers training for contraband detectors and explosives and narcotics detection kits. • [2022] Having reassessed the needs for equipment for the Border Police, the procurement of digital cameras, number evidence markers, evidence packaging kits, a service trolley for a search at border crossings, and multitool kits was initiated. The equipment is to be delivered in 2023. • [2022] Three x-ray scanners and 30 explosives and 30 drugs detection kits were delivered to the relevant teams of customs and postal officials for the identification of potential threats in incoming and outgoing express courier and postal parcels.

OUTPUT 2

Strengthened cooperation and information exchange between BiH Customs and other institutions at the national level and with three neighboring states.

Indicators	Baseline (2019)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of working groups, meetings held, and joint trainings rolled out.	0	1 Working Group formed. 8 meetings held during the reporting period. 8 joint trainings rolled out.	Working group at the operational level established. 3 meetings of the operational-level working group organized. Scenario for joint exercises involving all law enforcement agencies developed. <i>WG transformed into another activity with the rolling out of joint exercises through a complementary project.</i>
Existence of a working group on legal SALW trade under the auspices of the ITA, along with other institutions.	Joint working group on legal SALW trade under the auspices of the ITA not in place, hindering information exchange.	One functional working group formed and regularly convened.	Working group formed and 2 meetings of the strategic-level working group organized.
Existence of cross-border cooperation between the ITA and neighboring states customs services to jointly fight illicit SALW trafficking.	Cross-border cooperation between the ITA and neighboring states' customs services in need of improvement to jointly fight illicit SALW trafficking.	Cross border cooperation improved through the organization of six bilateral visits resulting in three cooperation protocols.	Organized: i) a bilateral meeting with Montenegro counterparts; ii) a bilateral meeting with Serbian counterparts; iii) a regional meeting with both MNE and SRB counterparts: exchanged information on SOPs, good practice, and achievements stemming from the HALT project.
# of bi-lateral operations conducted against firearms trafficking with the Customs Services of Croatia, Montenegro, and Serbia.	Operations conducted with the focus on the detection of drugs and trafficking in human beings.	Up to 4.	4 / Four bilateral operations organized: BiH/Serbia - Drina 2021, BiH/Montenegro - Tara 2021 and 2022, BiH/Croatia - Rijeka 2022).
# of private companies aware of the risks of firearms trafficking through postal shipments.	0	Up to 20.	21 / Twenty-one companies received training on the risks of firearms trafficking.

Activities	Results
<p>ACTIVITY 2.1: STRENGTHEN THE COOPERATION OF BIH CUSTOMS WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS AND THREE NEIGHBORING STATES.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [2021] A working group at the operational level was formed by gathering three key institutions responsible for control of the BiH borders and the processing of SALW-related and other smuggling cases, namely, the ITA, BP, and SIPA. • [2021] 2 meetings of the operational-level working group were organized. • [2022] One meeting of the operational-level working group took place, gathering 29 representatives of 10 cantonal police bodies, 2 entity police bodies, the BP and SIPA from the state-level, and representatives of the Brčko District Police. In addition, 3 representatives from the BiH Prosecutor's Office participated. A functional platform was established for future joint cooperation in the prevention and prosecution of illegal SALW trade through the development of a scenario for the organization of joint exercises. • [2022] A follow up meeting of 6 representatives from the BP, ITA, and RS MoI resulted in a detailed scenario for joint exercises. • [2022] One pilot joint exercise and 10 joint exercises were conducted, gathering police and customs officials from 15 different police agencies and the ITA, with the participation of the BiH Prosecutor's Office, in 9 different cities in BiH. In total, the capacities of 307 police and customs officials were increased. • [2021] A working group at the strategic level was formed by gathering representatives of the MoS, ITA, MOFTER, and MOTC. One meeting of the strategic-level working group was organized. • [2022] The strategic-level working group held another meeting to improve exchange of information on both legal SALW trade as well as on continuation of activities pertinent to prevention of illegal SALW trade and agreeing on upcoming activities. The meeting gathered 6 representatives of ITA, 2 representatives of MOFTER and a Chair of BiH SALW Coordination Board (2 women and 7 men). • [2022] Cooperation between the ITA and neighboring customs administrations was strengthened through two peer-exchange meetings: one meeting between the BiH ITA and Serbia's Customs Administration gathered 7 ITA officials/focal points (3 women and 4 men) and 4 officials from Serbia's Customs Administration, as well as representatives of UNDP SEESAC; a regional meeting gathered 15 participants (6 women and 9 men) – 7 representatives of the BiH ITA (3 women and 4 men), 5 representatives of Montenegro's Administration for Revenue and Customs (2 women and 3 men), and 3 representatives of Serbia's Customs Administration (1 woman and 2 men). • [2021] Two bi-lateral operations focused on detecting weapons and ammunition were organized with Montenegro (Drina 2021) and Serbia (Tara 2021). • [2022] An additional two bilateral operations took place with the participation of 46 customs representatives (5 women and 41 men): Tara 2022, between BiH and MNE, and Rijeka 2022, between BiH and CRO. • [2022] An MoU on bilateral cooperation between CRO and BiH was signed for the purposes of the project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [2021] A gap analysis on the cooperation framework between BiH Customs and commercial sector entities on the detection of firearms in fast parcels was prepared. • [2021] 18 participants from MOFTER, SIPA, the Prosecutor's Office, the Agency for Postal Traffic, the BP, the ITA, and private sector representatives were trained on cooperation between the private and public sectors on detecting firearms in express courier parcels. • [2021] 47 staff members of four private courier companies were trained in the implementation of the SOP on the detection of firearms in express courier parcels. • [2022] Two trainings for freight companies on risk assessment and the prevention of firearms trafficking took place, the first with 24 participants (7 women and 17 men) from 8 companies and the second with 26 participants (8 women and 18 men) from 9 companies. In total, 17 private companies enhanced knowledge on the risks associated with the import, transit, and export of firearms.

SUPPORT TO COMBATTING ILLICIT ARMS TRAFFICKING IN KOSOVO FOR CRIMINAL POLICE (CPIAT)

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION: UNDP KOSOVO

OUTPUT 1

Capacities of the Kosovo Police increased in the field of the detection and confiscation of firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition, as well as in the quality of investigations, leading to more effective convictions.

Indicators	Baseline (2019)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
Gaps in the Investigations Department identified (Yes/No).	No qualitative gap analysis report.	One gap analysis report prepared.	Yes / Gap analysis prepared.
Basic training for the crime investigations department on firearms investigations completed (Yes/No).	Lack of basic training on firearms investigations.	Basic training on firearms investigations is provided for 200 police officers from 7 police regions.	Yes / Basic training on firearms investigations provided for 201 police officers (177 men and 24 women) from 8 police regions.
Advanced training for the crime investigations department on firearms investigation completed (Yes/No).	Lack of advanced training on firearms investigations.	Advanced training on firearms investigations provided for 30 police officers.	Yes / Advanced training on firearms investigations provided for 30 police investigators (26 men and 4 women).
Increased capacity of the Kosovo Police Special Units for investigation (firearms detections, house searches, and the risks of firearms) (Yes/No).	Limited capacities of the KP Special Units regarding firearms detections, house searches, and the risks of firearm.	Specialized training on firearms detections, house searches, and the risks of firearms is provided for 40 police officers.	Yes / 40 police special unit officers (all men) improved their skills through two five-day training sessions on firearms detections during house searches and enhanced knowledge about the risks from firearms.
Enhanced technological capacity related to illicit arms trafficking.	Lack of specialized technology/equipment related to illicit arms trafficking.	Technological capacities for investigative measures against illicit arms trafficking vastly improved.	Yes / Technological capacities improved with the provision of IT equipment to the Kosovo Police Investigation Department, including 80 computers with monitors and docking stations, 40 multifunctional printers with 40 toners, 5 tablets, and 17 laptops.
Improved technological capacities of the Organized Crime Investigation Directorate (OCID) (Yes/No).	Lack of and outdated equipment required to effectively detect and investigate.	OCID has vastly improved technological capacities for investigative measures on SALW and other crimes.	Yes / Technological capacities improved through the provision of software for gathering, analyzing, and visualizing data, including one desktop, one server, and a training on using the relevant license. In addition, one dashboard/tableau visualization platform two explosive detectors, three endoscopes, eight thermal cameras, and two flying observation cameras were provided, with accompanying training for 44 (32 men and 12 woman) police investigators.

Indicators	Baseline (2019)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
Cross-cutting: • Knowledge products drafted.	No knowledge products on the investigation of explosives.	Improved effectiveness of interventions is evidenced through the drafting of progress and comparative reports (“before” and “after”).	Investigation of explosives gap analysis produced.

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1.1: CONDUCT A GAP ANALYSIS OF THE INVESTIGATIONS DEPARTMENT, ESPECIALLY IN THE FIELD OF INVESTIGATING AND COUNTERING ILLICIT ARMS TRAFFICKING (IAT).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2021] A gap analysis was carried out identifying the needs of the entities involved in the investigation of explosives, hand grenades, explosives precursors, and category 4 pyrotechnics to improve their coordination, communication, and human resources.
ACTIVITY 1.2: INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF THE CRIME INVESTIGATIONS DEPARTMENT THROUGH BASIC TRAINING ON FIREARMS INVESTIGATIONS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2020] 105 police officers (94 men and 11 women) in 8 Regional Police Directorates were trained in firearms investigations. [2021] An additional 96 police officers (83 men and 13 women) from Regional Police Directorates were trained in firearms investigations. In total 201 police officers (177 men and 24 women) from Regional Police Directorates were trained in firearms investigations, the legal framework of SALW, and the importance of local and international cooperation through the Firearms Focal Point/International Law Enforcement Cooperation Unit (ILECU) through 8 2-day training sessions.
ACTIVITY 1.3: INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF THE CRIME INVESTIGATIONS DEPARTMENT THROUGH ADVANCED TRAINING ON FIREARMS INVESTIGATIONS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2021] 30 police investigators (26 men and 4 women) from central-level investigation units and all 8 Regional Police Directorates were trained through the advanced training on firearms investigations, focused exclusively on the use of special investigative measures in the field of illicit arms trafficking and cooperation with law enforcement units - locally and internationally - for effective investigation of the smuggling of firearms, ammunition, explosives, drugs, immigrants, counterterrorism, etc.
ACTIVITY 1.4: INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF POLICE SPECIAL UNITS THROUGH SPECIALIZED TRAINING ON FIREARMS DETECTIONS, HOUSE SEARCHES, AND THE RISKS OF FIREARMS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2021] The expert to conduct the training was identified and the direct contracting process was ongoing at year's end. The police officers who were to attend the training were nominated by the Kosovo Police. The first training session was scheduled to take place on 16-20 May 2022, with the second to be held on 23-27 May 2022. [2022] 40 police officers (all men) trained on firearms detections during house searches, through two training sessions.
ACTIVITY 1.5: INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF CRIME INVESTIGATIONS DEPARTMENT THROUGH THE PROVISION OF IT EQUIPMENT.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2021] 80 monitors, 80 desktop computers, 17 laptops, 5 tablets, 40 multifunction printers, and 40 toners were delivered to the Kosovo Police Investigation Department.
ACTIVITY 1.6: PROCURE AND DELIVER SOFTWARE AND SPECIAL EQUIPMENT TO THE ORGANIZED CRIME INVESTIGATION DIRECTORATE OF THE KOSOVO POLICE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2020] MALTEGO XL and SOCIAL Links software licenses and one-day online training for ten (10) police investigators were provided. [2020] A Dashboard/TABLEAU data visualization platform was provided, and two (2) ICT officials were professionally trained in using the software licenses. [2021] 2 explosive detectors were procured and provided to the Kosovo Police Investigation Department. [2022] The technical capacities of the Kosovo Police Investigation Department advanced through the provision of special equipment, including 8 thermal cameras, 3 videoscopes, and 2 flying observation cameras. Training for 22 police investigators (all men) was organized on the use of thermal cameras and videoscopes.

3. PROJECT

CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE AGAINST ILLICIT ARMS TRAFFICKING

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION: UNODC

OUTPUT 1

National firearms legislation and relevant criminal and procedural law provisions are fully harmonized with the UN Firearms Protocol and its parent convention UNTOC and standardized across the Western Balkan countries.

Indicators	Baseline (2019)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of gap analysis reports in WB jurisdictions conducted to assess the harmonization of their national criminal law and criminal procedural law with the provisions of UNTOC and the Firearms Protocol.	2	4	4 / Gap analysis in Albania, BiH, Serbia, and Kosovo finalized and endorsed. In addition, 3 issue papers on the comparative analysis of the material and procedural regulation of illicit trafficking offences in Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia developed.
# of WB jurisdictions that receive support for harmonizing national firearms norms, criminal law, and criminal procedure law with the provisions of UNTOC and the Firearms Protocol.	1	Up to 6	4 / Working Groups facilitated for amending Criminal Codes in Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia.
# of regional meetings to promote the regional harmonization of criminal legislation to counter illicit firearms trafficking.	0	1	1 / A regional meeting took place on harmonizing the criminal legislation with the UN Firearms Protocol in the Western Balkans.

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1.1: SUPPORT LEGISLATIVE ASSESSMENTS AND GAP ANALYSIS OF NATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE LAW IN REGARD TO THE PROVISIONS OF UNTOC AND THE UN FIREARMS PROTOCOL.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2020] Gap analysis reports were developed for Albania, BiH, Serbia, and Kosovo and shared with relevant authorities. [2021] 3 issue papers containing comparative analyses on the material and procedural regulation of illicit trafficking offences in North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia were developed. [2022] The gap analysis of BiH was endorsed by relevant national authorities in January 2022. Nevertheless, the working group under the Ministry of Justice could not follow-up on the recommendations of UNODC's gap analysis because its work was blocked by the political crises in this jurisdiction.
ACTIVITY 1.2: SUPPORT THE HARMONIZATION OF NATIONAL FIREARMS NORMS, CRIMINAL LAW, AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE LAW WITH THE PROVISIONS OF UNTOC AND THE UN FIREARMS PROTOCOL.	<p><u>Albania</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2020] In Albania, the working group responsible for amending the Criminal Code was supported in the development of draft provisions on illicit firearms trafficking to be integrated into the Criminal Code. The amended provisions of the Criminal Code were presented to the MoJ. [2022] In 2021 and 2022, Albanian authorities conducted consultations with international counterparts. Further consultations with national counterparts are envisaged for 2023. <p><u>Montenegro:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2020] In Montenegro, discussions were held with the working group for amending the Criminal Code, established under the MoJ, highlighting the need for harmonizing relevant provisions with the UN Firearms Protocol. This resulted in including the relevant provisions on firearms within the scope of review of the working group.

Activities	Results
<p>ACTIVITY 1.2: SUPPORT THE HARMONIZATION OF NATIONAL FIREARMS NORMS, CRIMINAL LAW, AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE LAW WITH THE PROVISIONS OF UNTOC AND THE UN FIREARMS PROTOCOL.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [2021] Meetings were held with the MoJ and MoI in Montenegro, as well as with the established working group, to present and discuss the proposal for changes to the Criminal Code. • [2021] A workshop with members of the Parliament of Montenegro was organized to provide updates on the process of the harmonization of the criminal legislation in Montenegro with the criminalization provisions of the UN Firearms Protocol. The workshop followed another meeting with the Chair of the Legislative Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro. • [2022] In October 2022, Montenegro sent the proposal for amending the Criminal Code, developed with the support of UNODC, to the European Commission for comments, before adoption by the Parliament. <p><u>North Macedonia:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [2020] In North Macedonia, legal experts were supported in formulating draft criminal provisions for amending the Criminal Code, which resulted in the development of new draft articles on illicit firearms trafficking. • [2021] Several discussions on the proposed changes to the Criminal Code were organized with national stakeholders in North Macedonia, including representatives of the MoJ, academia, judges, prosecutors, and partner international organizations such as the OSCE. Meetings with the working group responsible for amending the Criminal Code were also organized to discuss the comparative analysis, which resulted in solutions being identified for the further harmonization of firearms provisions in the Criminal Code. • [2021] A workshop with members of the Legal Committee of the Parliament of North Macedonia was organized to promote UNODC's gap analysis on Macedonian criminal legislation and to acquaint the MPs with the draft amendments proposed to the Criminal Code. • [2022] A series of meetings were conducted with the Ministry of Justice of North Macedonia on the finalization of the proposed amendments to the Criminal Code. As a result, the new Criminal Code, which incorporates the amendments related to the Firearms Protocol, was adopted by the Government in September 2022, and published on the national electronic register of regulations - ENER, for public review and comments. <p><u>Serbia:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [2020] In Serbia, the gap analysis report was distributed to national counterparts (prosecutors and judges), as potential members of the working group, and to international counterparts (representatives of the EU Delegation, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, the US, Sweden, Norway, and the Netherlands), in order to advocate for amendments to the relevant criminal legislation. • [2021] A workshop on the harmonization of the Criminal Code with the UN Firearms Protocol was organized, with the participation of 11 representatives of the MoJ, the MoI, the Prosecutor's Office, the judiciary, the EU delegation, the Embassy of France in Serbia, and academia. • [2022] An expert group meeting took place on the harmonization of domestic criminal legislation with the UN Firearms Protocol between the representatives of North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia (Dec 2022). The meeting gathered 16 participants (6 women and 10 men) from the respective Ministries of Justice, Ministries of the Interior, and Prosecutor's Offices to review the progress achieved by Montenegro and North Macedonia, share good practices, and identify areas for further support for the Serbian authorities. In Serbia, consultations on the harmonization of firearms offences with the UN Firearms Protocol took place within the relevant institutions and proposals were submitted to the working group for consideration. It is expected that the working group will review the provided materials, including the drafts prepared by UNODC's experts, in 2023. • [2020]] In Kosovo, a conducted gap analysis demonstrated that the provisions of the Criminal Code have been almost fully harmonized with the criminalization provisions of the UN Firearms Protocol, even though Kosovo has not ratified UNTOC or the UN Firearms Protocol.

ACTIVITY 1.3: PROMOTE REGIONAL HARMONIZATION OF CRIMINAL LEGISLATION TO COUNTER FIREARMS TRAFFICKING.

- **[2022]** In April 2022 in Serbia, a regional meeting on the harmonization of criminal legislation with the UN Firearms Protocol in the Western Balkans gathered representatives of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), the Ministry of the Interior (Mol), and the Prosecutor's Offices of Albania, BiH, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia, in addition to partners from the EU and Germany (30 participants in total – 19 men and 11 women). Comparative legislative analysis of the domestic criminal legislation revealed a necessity for amendments regarding firearms offences in the Criminal Codes and provided recommendations for harmonizing the criminal legislation, taking into consideration the provisions of UNTOC and the UN Firearms Protocol. As per the update on the status of the harmonization of criminal legislation with the UN Firearms Protocol provided by relevant officials, the following actions were carried out in the respective WB jurisdictions (April 2022):
 - o Albania: legislative analysis conducted, working group (WG) formed, provisions for amending the firearms offences drafted, consultations with legal experts ongoing;
 - o BiH: legislative analysis conducted, WG formed - due to political developments, the WG could not reach a quorum and faced a stalemate at the time of reporting;
 - o Montenegro: legislative analysis conducted, WG formed, provisions for amending the firearms offences drafted; consultations at the national level finalized; Next step: initiation of the adoption procedure by opening the draft provisions for public debate;
 - o North Macedonia: legislative analysis conducted, WG formed, provisions for amending the firearms offences drafted; consultations at the local level finalized; Next step: initiation of the adoption procedure by opening the draft provisions for public debate;
 - o Serbia: legislative analysis conducted, WG formed, provisions for amending the firearms offences to be discussed;
 - o Kosovo: criminalization provisions harmonized.; no need for further legislative activities.
- Baseline established on the changes required for implementing the UN Firearms criminalization provisions. Methodology identified to be used for developing the amendments to the Criminal Codes, including the identification of best practices and a pool of criminal law experts.

OUTPUT 2

Increased capacity of WB countries to detect, investigate, and prosecute firearms trafficking and its links to other serious crimes.

Indicators	Baseline (2019)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
Investigative guidelines and standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the investigation and prosecution of firearms trafficking cases.	0	1	1 / Guidelines on the investigation and prosecution of firearms offences (Guidelines) developed, pending formal editing.
# of WB jurisdictions that have incorporated the investigative guidelines into the relevant trainings in magistrate schools and police academies, and in the workflow of the Prosecutor's Office.	0	3	- / Guidelines translated in the Albanian, Serbian, and Macedonian languages, presented and shared with counterparts in the training institutions of the WB jurisdictions. 1) Two Centers for the Training of Prosecutors and Judges in BiH, one Training Center for Prosecutors and Judges in Montenegro, and the Judicial Academies in North Macedonia and Serbia have included UNODC firearms trainings in their curricula for 2023.

Indicators	Baseline (2019)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of specialized trainings in the investigation and prosecution of firearms trafficking.	4	12	12 / 12 specialized trainings carried out on the identification and tracing of firearms and on electronic evidence, and one webinar for prosecutors on electronic evidence.
# of law enforcement officers and prosecutors trained.	0	300	268 law enforcement and prosecutors trained.
# of regular meetings in WB jurisdictions to promote the inter-institutional exchange of experiences in firearms trafficking cases.	0	Up to 14	14 / 14 inter-institutional meetings took place.
# of Joint Investigative Teams (JITs) for the investigation of firearms trafficking cases facilitated.	0	1 [cancelled]	-
# of bilateral task forces between neighboring countries established.	0	1 [cancelled]	-
# of Community of Practitioners (CoP) meetings organized.	2	5 [increased from 1]	- 5 / Five CoP meetings organized: two regional meetings on firearms-related case law, regional meetings on special investigative measures applicable to firearms offences, on the collection of electronic evidence from internet service providers / 2nd edition of UNODC's Practical Guide, and on the role of prosecutors in criminal justice responses to counter firearms trafficking.
# of national case-digests produced and presented to their respective Supreme Judicial Councils.	0	Up to 7	6 / Case law collections developed in BiH, North Macedonia, Serbia, Albania, Kosovo, and Montenegro.

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 2.1: DEVELOP INVESTIGATIVE GUIDELINES AND STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR THE INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF FIREARMS TRAFFICKING CASES (GUIDELINES), COVERING ALL STAGES OF THE INVESTIGATION CYCLE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2021] The first Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on the development of Guidelines on investigation and prosecution of firearms trafficking cases was organized. The EGM gathered 67 criminal justice practitioners from Africa, Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Western Balkans, international partners from law enforcement agencies and prosecution offices in Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Sweden, and the UK, and representatives of FRONTEX and INTERPOL. [2021] As a result of the meeting, the draft text of the Guidelines was developed and shared with criminal justice practitioners. [2022] Two more EGMs took place to discuss and review the draft Guidelines, resulting in the development of comprehensive Guidelines on the investigation and prosecution of firearms offences. The Guidelines have been developed based on the principles embodied in UNTOC and the UN Firearms Protocol, explaining all relevant stages of the criminal justice chain, including the normative framework, investigation, prosecution, and adjudication, and measures to increase international cooperation. By using illustrative case-based examples, the Guidelines lay out success stories and difficulties encountered by the relevant practitioners and provide advice on how to effectively tackle firearms offences globally. The Guidelines also highlight the relevance of inter-institutional, regional, and international cooperation as essential pillars for implementing effective crime-control policies.

Activities	Results
<p>ACTIVITY 2.2: INCORPORATE THE GUIDELINES AS PART OF THE NATIONAL TEACHING CURRICULA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [2022] (Linked to activity 2.5) At a regional meeting gathering WB criminal justice practitioners and representatives of judicial academies in the region, the UNODC GFP Guidelines on Investigation and Prosecution of Firearms Offences (Guidelines) were presented and the potential for including the Guidelines within the curricula of the Judicial Academies was discussed.
<p>ACTIVITY 2.3: STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PROSECUTORS TO INVESTIGATE FIREARMS TRAFFICKING CASES AND ADDRESS POSSIBLE LINKS TO TERRORISM AND ORGANIZED CRIME.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [2020] Consultations were held with the authorities in all jurisdictions to identify the main topics of capacity development: identification of firearms (training for prosecutors only), collection and admissibility of electronic evidence on firearms (for prosecutors and law enforcement), and investigation and prosecution of arms diversion (for law enforcement, customs, and prosecutors). • [2020] Tools for conducting the training were developed: a guide on the collection of electronic evidence, previously developed by UNODC, was translated into the languages of all jurisdictions, while a second training tool was initiated in the format of videos on the identification of firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition, as well as on the tracing of firearms. • [2021] A Practical Guide for Requesting Electronic Evidence across Borders was developed to assist investigators, prosecutors, judicial authorities, and national authorities responsible for the Mutual Legal Assistance (Central Authorities) of the UN Member States to preserve and produce electronic evidence from service providers located in foreign jurisdictions. • [2021] 50 criminal justice participants from the Western Balkans staff in law enforcement, prosecutorial services, and the ministries of justice attended a regional webinar "Introduction to UNODC's Practical Guide for Requesting E-evidence across Borders." • [2021] 65 prosecutors from Montenegro, Serbia, BiH, and North Macedonia were trained on firearms identification and tracing through four training sessions, one in each jurisdiction. • [2022] Through eight training sessions, 153 criminal justice practitioners enhanced their knowledge and skills in investigating firearms trafficking cases. i) Six three-day training sessions were conducted on collecting electronic evidence (e-evidence) in illicit firearms trafficking and firearms-related investigations, involving 108 participants (53 women and 55 men) from law enforcement and prosecutorial services: Montenegro (March 2022), North Macedonia (March 2022), Serbia (April 2022), Albania (April 2022), BiH/Banja Luka (May/June 2022), BiH/Sarajevo, for 13 participants (5 women and 8 men). ii) Two one-day training sessions took place on the identification and tracing of firearms (Feb/Sep 2022). Together, 45 prosecutors were trained (25 women, 20 men).
<p>ACTIVITY 2.4: SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL INFORMATION SHARING AND ANALYSIS OF FIREARMS TRAFFICKING CASES.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [2021] 11 inter-institutional information exchange meetings were organized with 151 criminal justice practitioners from the judiciary, prosecution offices, the criminal and border police, and customs. • [2022] 4 inter-institutional information exchange meetings with 61 participants (25 women and 36 men) (Montenegro - June, North Macedonia - April, September, and October). The practitioners were provided with a platform to exchange experiences on adjudicated firearms cases and review the implementation of the Criminal Procedure Code in firearms cases from various aspects and stages of the criminal justice response. • [2022] A bilateral meeting between Serbia and North Macedonia followed (Oct 2022), which gathered first-line responders and criminal justice practitioners. The practitioners from the two neighboring countries increased their mutual understanding and knowledge on the applicable material and procedural criminal legislation regarding firearms offences, leading to more effective suppression of cross-border firearms trafficking.
<p>ACTIVITY 2.5: FOSTER INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION IN CRIMINAL MATTERS ON FIREARMS TRAFFICKING AND RELATED CRIMES, INCLUDING THROUGH JITS, PARALLEL INVESTIGATIONS, OR BI-NATIONAL TASK FORCES.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [2020] The State Investigation and Protection Agency of BiH sent a written request for support on a case with an international element, once the travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic have been removed. • [2022] The focus of the activity shifted to the organization of five regional Community of Practitioners meetings to collect and exchange case-based experiences and progress achieved in dealing with transitional cases and highlight new developments in judicial cooperation practices.

Activities	Results
<p>ACTIVITY 2.5: FOSTER INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION IN CRIMINAL MATTERS ON FIREARMS TRAFFICKING AND RELATED CRIMES, INCLUDING THROUGH JITS, PARALLEL INVESTIGATIONS, OR BI-NATIONAL TASK FORCES.</p>	<p>In this context, in a series of five meetings, 227 criminal justice practitioners were brought together to review ongoing practice and to exchange experience on firearms offences in terms of gathering of e-evidence, investigative and prosecutorial strategies, and the harmonization of case law and related practice. More specifically: i) in May 2022 in Belgrade, 42 judges and prosecutors (22 men and 20 women) from the Western Balkans jurisdictions, alongside representatives of national judicial academies, gathered at a meeting to exchange experience on the harmonization of firearms-related case law and practice; ii) also in May 2022, in Belgrade, Serbia, 40 prosecutors and MoI representatives from WB jurisdictions and partners from the international community (26 men and 14 women) exchanged experience on Special Investigative Measures (SIMs) applicable to firearms offenses; iii) in October 2022, 45 criminal justice practitioners (24 women and 21 men) from the WB reflected upon the 2nd edition of the UNODC's Practical Guide for Requesting E-evidence across Borders with the aim of facilitating exchange among criminal justice practitioners and identifying their needs for successfully acquiring, handling, and presenting e-evidence in firearms criminal proceedings; iv) in November 2022, 46 representatives (17 women and 29 men) of prosecution services and law enforcement agencies exchanged experience on the role of prosecutors in criminal justice responses to counter firearms trafficking; Among others, the UNODC GFP Guidelines on Investigation and Prosecution of Firearms Offences (Guidelines) were presented to criminal justice practitioners and the potential for including the Guidelines within the curricula of the respective judicial academies was discussed; and v) in December 2022, 54 participants (29 women and 25 men) representing the judiciary, prosecutor's offices, and judicial academies revisited the firearms case law and identified priority areas for future engagement.</p>
<p>ACTIVITY 2.6: HARMONIZE COURT PRACTICES FOR SENTENCING IN FIREARMS TRAFFICKING CASES.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [2020] Case law collections on firearms related offences were developed in Albania, North Macedonia, and Serbia. Work was initiated for case law collections in BiH, Kosovo, and Montenegro. • [2021] Case law collections on firearms related offences were developed in BiH, Kosovo, and Montenegro. • [2021] 7 case law workshops were organized in Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia, reaching 64 members of the judiciary. • [2022] 100 court cases on firearms trafficking from the Western Balkans were selected, translated, analyzed, reviewed, and published online in the SHERLOC database of UNODC. As a result: 1) the WB jurisdictions have the largest number of firearms cases available online in the SHERLOC database compared to any other region; 2) the best practices from the WB jurisdictions were shared with the global community; and 3) the foundation for the comparative analysis and harmonization of court practices in the WB jurisdictions has been established.
<p>ACTIVITY 2.7: PROJECT COORDINATION ACTIVITIES.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [2020] Meetings with various stakeholders and project beneficiaries.

OUTPUT 3

The WB countries have evidence-based arms control policies and practices through the systematic collection and analysis of criminal justice data across the Criminal Justice Sector.

Indicators	Baseline (2019)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of baseline assessments on criminal justice data and firearms data of WB countries to support their participation in the UNODC Global Illicit Arms Flows Monitoring Initiative.	0	1	1 / Baseline assessment developed and endorsed. Finalization pending the incorporation of the last round of comments.
# of meetings to support specific WB jurisdictions in assessing their needs for harmonizing the collection of firearms data.	0	7	6 / Six meetings on firearms data collection and on the review and validation of the baseline assessment with 99 criminal justice participants (21 women and 88 men).

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 3.1: SUPPORT THE PARTICIPATION OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES IN THE UNODC GLOBAL ILLICIT ARMS FLOWS MONITORING INITIATIVE THROUGH REGULAR COLLECTION AND SHARING OF THEIR CONSOLIDATED CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA ON FIREARMS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2020] The development of the baseline assessment on criminal justice data and firearms data was initiated. The consultant to conduct the research was identified, the methodology developed and approved, and the structure of the report and the interview guide for qualitative data collection were established. [2020] Data from various stakeholders in BiH were collected. [2022] Baseline assessment on firearms data in the criminal justice system in the Western Balkans finalized and endorsed by WB jurisdictions. Editing and publication is to follow in 2023. [2022] Five meetings conducted with the relevant authorities in Albania (5 April), BiH (26 January), North Macedonia (15 February), Montenegro (22 March), and Serbia (22 February) on firearms data collection, involving 60 criminal justice practitioners (12 women and 48 men). The participants reviewed the UNODC's illicit arms flows questionnaire and established the data that can be collected and shared on an annual basis. A final meeting with 29 participants (9 women and 20 men) took place in December 2022 to review and validate the baseline assessment on firearms data in the criminal justice system, the analysis of the data collection procedures, and the recommendations on how these procedures can be improved in each jurisdiction – all with the aim of improving data collection and input for the annual UNODC Illicit Arms Flow Questionnaire (IAFQ).

URGENT ACTION ON AMMUNITION DESTRUCTION – PROJECT EXPLODE+, IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION: UNDP BIH

OUTPUT 1

Sustained reduction of unsafe ammunition complex systems, enabling improved safety and security for storage facilities and adjacent local communities.

Indicators	Baseline (2019)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of realized actions under the MOD/AF BiH Plan of Operations for Ammunition and Explosives for 2020 of the MoD/AF BiH (contribution to overall reduction of the annual quantity of ammunition disposed of).	A Plan of Operations for Ammunition and Explosives for 2020 of the MoD/AF BiH under development.	Disposal of: 53,097 ammunition fuses; 2,461 pieces of white phosphorus ammunition; 22,800 pieces of rifle grenades; 2,667 pieces of Zolja-type rocket propelled grenades M80 – 64mm; 1,000 pieces of rocket propelled grenade ammunition of different types.	As per the Annual Plan of Operations for Ammunition and Explosives for 2020/2021/2022 - activities could not be initiated regarding the disposal of: 53,097 ammunition fuses; 1,495 pieces of white phosphorus ammunition; 22,800 pieces of rifle grenades. Disposal successfully completed for: 2,667 pcs of the RPG “Zolja;” 833 pcs of WP; 1,000 pcs of RPG.
Quantity of ammunition fuses, white phosphorous ammunition, rifle grenades, Zolja-type RPGs, and different types of RPGs successfully disposed of.	0		

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1.1: INDUSTRIALLY DISPOSE OF 76 TONS OF UNSAFE AMMUNITION.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2020] The procurement procedures were finalized for the disposal of 2,667 units of the rocket propelled grenade M80 – 64mm “Zolja,” with awarded contracts for disposal signed by the relevant international defense disposal facility. [2020] The procurement procedures were initiated for the disposal of 650 pieces of white phosphorus ammunition, which was prioritized by the MoD given that this type of ammunition is extremely volatile and represents a safety risk. [2020] The procurement procedures were finalized for the disposal of the 1,000 pieces of RPGs targeted for disposal. [2021] 1,000 pieces of RPG were disposed of, pending a final verification report. [2021] Contracts for the disposal of 2,667 pieces of Zolja-type RPGs and 833 units of white phosphorus ammunition were awarded. [2022] The project completed the environmentally safe disposal of 2,667 pcs of the RPG “Zolja” by 30 June 2022, 833 pcs of WP (the entire quantity available) by 26 October 2022, and 1,000 pcs of RPG by December 2021, with the transport of scrap carried out on 27 October 2022.

STRENGTHENING CONTROL, ADMINISTRATION AND SOCIAL ATTITUDES TOWARDS SALW, IN ALBANIA

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION: UNDP ALBANIA

OUTPUT 1

Improved weapons registration in accordance with the EU Directive on firearms and national legislation.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
% of registration of category "C" firearms.	55%.	At least 95%.	- / Necessary equipment delivered for weapons re-registration.
# of legal gun owners provided with digital card authorization for gun possession.	Not in place.	At least 80,000	- / Procurement process completed for IT equipment needed for the production of 100,000 digital cards for registered firearm owners. Pending delivery, in Q1 2023.

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1.1: SUPPORT THE ADVANCEMENT AND EVENTUAL COMPLETION OF THE FIREARMS RE-REGISTRATION PROCESS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2021] The procurement of IT equipment for weapons re-registration was concluded. The equipment was planned to be delivered in 2022. [2022] IT equipment to support the expanded police workforce involved in the firearms re-registration process was delivered to the Albanian State Police in January 2022 (58 PCs, 54 printers, and 2 Laptops). <i>The Albanian State Police Systems suffered from cyberattack in 2022, which also affected the Weapons Registration System SIMA. The needs for support will be reassessed together with the ASP contact points and the relevant IT expert to determine the scope of support within the project and the next steps. The assessment is pending, in 2023.</i>
ACTIVITY 1.2: SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A DIGITALIZED SYSTEM AND THE PRODUCTION OF FIREARMS OWNERS' DIGITAL CARDS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2021] Technical Specifications were drafted for the equipment of digital card production. Procurement was set to be initiated in 2022. [2022] The procurement process for the IT equipment needed for the production of 100,000 digital cards for registered firearm owners was completed [launched twice, due to changes in specifications required by the project beneficiary]. The delivery of IT equipment and 100,000 digital cards for registered firearm owners is to be conducted in due course in Q1 2023. Due to the large number of digital cards, the provider did not have them in stock at the end of 2022.

OUTPUT 2

Improved Albanian State Police weapons storage management.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
% of rehabilitated and standard compliant ASP arms & ammunition storages vs total.	48%	58%	- / Selection completed of a design and supervision company. The design inception report for the first eight out of ten selected facilities was completed: Mat, Puke, Tropoje, Lushnje, Berat, Fier, Sarande, and Pogradec.

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 2.1: CONDUCT THE RECONSTRUCTION TECHNICAL DESIGN, ASSESS EQUIPMENT NEEDS, AND FINALIZE THE BOQ (BILL OF QUANTITIES) FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL INTERVENTION.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2021] ToR drafted for the selection of a design and supervision company. The procurement for the design and supervision was to be initiated in 2022. [2022] The design and supervision company was selected, which is to prepare the upgrade designs and inputs for the procurement of works, as well as supervise the works' execution at 10 selected weapons storage facilities. [2022] The design phase was initiated for the rehabilitation of the selected 10 ASP weapons storages, encompassing Tirana, Elbasan, Mat, Puke, Tropoje, Lushnje, Berat, Fier, Sarande, and Pogradec. The weapons storage of Shkoder was substituted for by a storage in Tirana, which delayed the completion of the design phase. Site visits have been concluded in all 10 police commissariats. The design inception report was completed for the first eight facilities and sent to the ASP for approval, encompassing Mat, Puke, Tropoje, Lushnje, Berat, Fier, Sarande, and Pogradec. Two more inception reports are due in 2023, for Tirana and Elbasan. Once approved, the company is to start the process of the final design for the facilities.
ACTIVITY 2.2: CONDUCT THE RECONSTRUCTION AND REFURBISHMENT OF SELECTED INTERVENTIONS OF ARMS & AMMUNITION STORAGE FACILITIES.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities will be initiated after the technical design under Activity 2.1 is completed.

OUTPUT 3

Increased awareness of the dangers and risks of the misuse of SALW.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of community participants in structured awareness-raising activities on the dangers of the illegal possession and misuse of SALW.	No data/ none.	At least 2,000.	/ Activity not initiated
# of police directorates/units involved in awareness-raising activities.	No data/ none.	At least 20.	/ Activity not initiated

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of sessions disseminating curricula on the dangers of the illegal possession, misuse, and trafficking of arms.	Draft curricula developed by the Swedish Community Policing Programme.	At least 12 sessions targeting high school students, women and girls, youth, and gun owners.	/ Activity not initiated
# of national surveys on societal perceptions of the illegal possession and misuse of firearms and solutions to address its causes.	Surveys conducted by SEESAC in Albania in 2016 and 2017.	1 new national survey.	1 / The desk review of the SALW Control Situation and a National Survey on SALW Misuse has been completed.

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 3.1: CONDUCT AN AWARENESS-RAISING CAMPAIGN ABOUT THE DANGERS OF THE ILLEGAL POSSESSION, MISUSE, AND TRAFFICKING OF SALW.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2021] A desk review of the SALW Control Situation was completed and a National Survey on SALW Misuse was to completed in 2022. [2022] The National Survey was completed. The survey to measure perceptions and attitudes towards Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) included 1,203 individuals aged 16 years old and above. It covered all the 12 regions of the country. The survey measured perceptions of the country's safety and use of SALW, as well as the level of knowledge people have of laws or regulations on small arms and light weapons. [2022] Terms of Reference were drafted for the procurement/selection of a company to carry out the National Awareness Campaign based on the survey, published in November 2022.

No. 6

ADVANCING THE CAPACITIES OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR IN THE SALW CONTROL-RELATED FIELD (PHASE II), IN SERBIA

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION: UNDP SERBIA



OUTPUT 1

Increased capacities of the CSI units.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
Level of acquaintance with new CSI techniques (utilization of new equipment purchased) between training participants (after training) and between CSI staff (after dissemination/based on the training-of-trainers (ToT) concept, in order to encompass all 550 CSI officers in Serbia in the second phase).	Low	High	- / N/A

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
Technical level: 1. be able to trace evidence with improved accuracy and more useful details like the unique identifier (barcode), photo documentation, records; 2. document the chain of custody in a more precise way by implementing functionalities for unique marking (tagging) of every single piece of evidence (barcoding) and for reliable and unambiguous identification of tagged items; 3. be linked to the LIMS at the central level Logbook (evidence recovery database) for CSI units.	Low	High	- / Evidence recovery database for CSI units is in the finalization phase (Beta version approved by the NFC). The tendering process for the necessary IT equipment for the database users was procured and is pending delivery.
Level of acquaintance with the ISO 17020 Standard between training participants (after training) and between CSI staff (after dissemination/ based on the training-the-trainer concept, in order to encompass all 550 CSI officers in Serbia in the second phase).	Low to moderate	Moderate to high	High / 92 (9 women, 81 men) forensic technicians on the central and regional level trained through advanced trainings on the ISO 17020 standard.

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1.1: IMPROVE THE EVIDENCE RECOVERY DATABASE FOR THE CSI UNITS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2021] The technical specifications of the evidence recovery database for the CSI units were prepared and approved by the MoI and UNDP. [2022] The tendering process was finalized for the evidence recovery database, pending the development and finalization phase (Beta version approved by the National Forensic Centre/NFC). [2022] The tendering process was finalized for the hardware and server components as support for the CSI unit users of the evidence recovery database (printer, scanner, bar code reader, barcode printer). The handover is expected in 2023.
ACTIVITY 1.2: PREPARE FOR ACCREDITATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ISO 17020 STANDARD AT THE CENTRAL/REGIONAL/LOCAL LEVEL.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2021] Training curricula for the accreditation of advanced training at the central and regional level for CSI units as per the ISO 17020 Standard was prepared and approved by the National Forensic Centre (NFC). [2022] A company was selected, which facilitated advanced trainings according to the ISO 17020 Standard for 92 (9 women, 81 men) forensic technicians.

OUTPUT 2

Ballistic laboratory accredited and an Arson, Explosives, and Accident Unit (AEA) established.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of laboratories fully equipped.	0	4	- / 12 / Twelve experts trained on general awareness and internal auditing in line with the ISO 17025 Standard; an additional 9 ballistic experts passed advanced training on the ISO 17025 Standard.
# of ballistic experts trained.	3	10	

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
Institutional shooting range reconstructed and equipped.	Poor conditions and not properly equipped.	Shooting range reconstructed and equipped.	Yes / Shooting range adapted and equipped.
Preparations for the accreditation of the Central Ballistics Lab initiated.	Certain activities conducted.	Central Ballistics Lab accredited.	- / Awareness-raising training and internal audit training organized for 12 ballistic experts in line with the ISO 17025 standard. Action plan for accreditation prepared pending finalization of the document and before the application for accreditation to the ISO 17025 Standard. Training for the application of the ISO 17025 Standard and the action plan for its accreditation organized for 10 ballistic (1 woman, 9 men) experts.

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 2.1: CONDUCT STUDY VISIT.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2022] Study visit to Wiesbaden organized for two Mol and one UNDP staff.
ACTIVITY 2.2: ORGANIZE ADVANCED TRAININGS ON THE CENTRAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2022] Contracted a consultant who is to facilitate, mentor, and organize various trainings for ballistic experts through the ISO 17025 Standard accreditation process. [2022] Advanced training organized for 9 (one woman and 8 men) ballistic experts from 3 Serbian ballistic labs on the ISO 17025 Standard.
ACTIVITY 2.3: DELIVER EQUIPMENT TO THE BALLISTICS LABORATORIES.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2021] A comparative high-range microscope was procured and installed in the relevant ballistics laboratory.
ACTIVITY 2.4: PREPARE THE OCF IN LINE WITH NECESSARY STANDARDS AND SOPs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2022] Conducted OCF training for 8 ballistic experts, together with the ballistic consultant and mentor for the accreditation process.
ACTIVITY 2.5: IMPROVE GUNSHOT RESIDUE (GSR) ANALYSIS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2021] A GSR ashing device was procured and installed in the NFC. [2022] Preparation for specialized GSR training initiated at Wiesbaden.
ACTIVITY 2.6: RECONSTRUCT THE BALLISTICS LABORATORY SHOOTING RANGE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2021] Tender documentation was prepared and approved by the Mol. [2022] Shooting range adapted and equipped.
ACTIVITY 2.7: PREPARE THE BALLISTICS LABORATORIES FOR ACCREDITATION IN LINE WITH THE ISO 17025 STANDARD.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2021] An analysis and recommendations were prepared in order to start preparation for the accreditation process. [2021] Training curricula of awareness-raising training for ballistics laboratories in line with the ISO 17025 Standard was prepared. [2022] Awareness-raising training and internal audit training organized for 12 (1 woman, 11 men) ballistic experts in line with the ISO 17025 Standard. [2022] Action plan for accreditation prepared and sent to NABIS on the final recommendations before the finalization of the document and before the application for accreditation to the ISO 17025 Standard. [2022] Training for application of the ISO 17025 Standard and action plan for its accreditation organized for 10 ballistic (1 woman, 9 men) experts, together with the ballistic consultant and mentor for the accreditation process who facilitated it.
ACTIVITY 2.8: SUPPORT ACCREDITATION ACCORDING TO THE ISO 17025 STANDARD.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pending, in 2023. Project to request non-cost extension to ensure adequate support is ensured.

OUTPUT 3

Increased capacity and establishment of an arson/explosion/accident (AEA) investigation Unit.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
AEA Standard Operating Procedure amended and approved.	No	Yes	Partial / SOP drafted and approved.
Basic and advanced AEA trainings organized.	No	Yes	Partial / Awareness-raising training on ISO 17020 organized.
AEA equipment according to international standards provided and installed.	No	Yes	Yes / Equipment for AEA unit delivered to Mol (endoscope, a quadcopter with a built-in camera, a mobile device – tablet and phones, a thermo-vision camera, handheld flashlights, a benchtop 3D scanner and printer, and a set of toolkits).

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 3.1: AMEND AND IMPROVE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2021] A SOP regulating the performance of forensic investigators on arson/explosion scenes was drafted and approved.
ACTIVITY 3.2: ORGANIZE ADVANCED TRAINING OF EXPLOSION INVESTIGATORS (TEI) AND ADVANCED COUNTER TERRORISM SEARCH TRAINING (CTST).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2022] Preparations for the post-blast training for the AEA unit and specialized advance training (CTST) initiated with the Mol according to the training needs [CTST training was expected to take place in Sep 2022 at ILEA, but postponed to a later date by the provider].
ACTIVITY 3.3: DELIVER EQUIPMENT FOR EXPLOSIVE DEVICE DETECTION AND EXPLOSION INVESTIGATIONS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2021] The tender for the procurement of equipment for the AEA unit was launched. [2022] Tendering procedure completed and the equipment for AEA unit delivered to the Mol (endoscope, a quadcopter with a built-in camera, a mobile device – tablet and phones, a thermo-vision camera, handheld flashlights, a benchtop 3D scanner and printer, and a set of toolkits).
ACTIVITY 3.4: ORGANIZE TRAININGS AS PART OF PREPARATIONS TO WORK IN LINE WITH THE ISO 17020 STANDARD.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2021] Guiding document drafted on the application of the ISO 17020 Standard. [2021] 15 police officers from the AEA Investigation Unit attended an online awareness-raising training designed to build basic knowledge about the ISO 17020 standard and how to prepare for the accreditation of the explosion investigation method. [2022] Advanced training according to the ISO 17020 Standard for the AEA unit initiated, in line with explosive investigation and post-blast courses.

OUTPUT 4

Upgraded SALW-control registry system.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
Quality of the IT infrastructure of the Police Administration Directorate.	Moderate	High (up to 60 desktop computers, up to 30 printers and scanners, and necessary servers).	Yes / IT equipment procured and delivered to the MoI.
# of police officers who completed ToT trainings on SALW control.	0	50	-
# of police officers who completed basic SALW control training.	0	200	-

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 4.1: CONDUCT GAP ANALYSIS OF THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2021] Analysis of the IT infrastructure (software and hardware) of the Administrative Directorate and the General Police Directorate, respectively, was conducted for the proper functionality of the SALW-control registry system. [2021] Technical specifications and details for the software and hardware servers and working stations for the necessary equipment were prepared.
ACTIVITY 4.2: PURCHASE AND INSTALL THE RELEVANT HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE EQUIPMENT FOR THE POLICE ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTORATE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2021] The tender for the procurement of equipment was launched. [2022] The SALW-control registry system database (software) was finalized and handed over to the Police Administrative Directorate. [2022] The tendering procedure for the IT hardware and servers was completed, which is to serve the SALW-control registry system and police officers in their daily work. Hardware and server components were handed over to the MoI and Police Administrative Directorate.
ACTIVITY 4.3: ORGANIZE TRAINING FOR POLICE OFFICERS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2021] Training curricula were prepared and approved by the MoI. [2022] Together with the MoI and Police Administrative Directorate, training schedule for 2023 prepared for 5 training groups. Training to be rolled out in 2023.

No. 7

7. PROJECT

ADVANCING THE CAPACITIES OF THE POLICE DIRECTORATE IN THE FIELD OF CUSTODY CHAIN AND CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATIONS AND OF THE FORENSIC LABORATORY IN THE FIELD OF OPERATIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS IN THE DETECTION AND TRAFFICKING OF EXPLOSIVES CRIMINALITY, IN MONTENEGRO

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION: UNDP MONTENEGRO

OUTPUT 1

Standard Operating Procedures developed for CSI teams, for documenting the crime scene, and for taking and packaging evidence for explosives.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
SOPs developed in line with international standards, taking into account local experience and domestic legislation.	No SOPs on explosives in place.	SOPs developed.	Yes / Four SOPs developed by the relevant consultant in close cooperation with CSI teams.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
Officers have acquired knowledge through series of trainings.	Low	High	Partial / Three trainings organized for 61 participants from CSI units.

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1.1: PREPARE SOPS FOR KEY PROCESSES.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [2022] A new overall basic SOP for CSI, the packaging and tagging of evidence, and chain of custody, applicable to all CSI units in Montenegro, was drafted and is pending approval. • [2022] Three other SOPs for CSI have been revised and are being discussed with the beneficiary and awaiting approval: a SOP for the treatment of improvised explosive devices by crime scene officers; a SOP for the forensic search of vehicles regarding explosives; a SOP for the securing, packaging, and further handling of explosive substances and post-blast traces intended for chemical laboratory analysis. • [2022] 41 professionals from CSI Units from all of the CSI centers trained on SOPs as well as on the use of 3D scanners. • [2022] 14 professionals (one female and 13 male) from the CSI units from the Forensic Center and local Security Centers trained on Crime Scene Investigation applicable to Gender Based Violence cases.
ACTIVITY 1.2: DELIVER EQUIPMENT FOR CSI UNITS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [2021] Technical specifications for the equipment were finalized together with the beneficiary. A company was selected through a competitive process to deliver the necessary equipment. • [2022] A 3D scanner and PC were delivered to the Forensic Center. Training of personnel from the CSI Unit of the Forensic Center was organized for six professionals who are now able to use the equipment. Likewise, packages for handling explosives were delivered to the Forensic Center. The remaining equipment is to be procured and delivered in Q1/Q2 2023. • [2022] 6 professionals from the Crime Scene Investigation Unit of the Forensic Center passed an advanced training on the use of 3D scanners and software for documenting the scene of the explosion, the use of firearms, and the morphological analysis of blood traces.

OUTPUT 2

Increased capacity of the Arson and Explosives Laboratory.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
SOPs for the Arson and Explosives Laboratory developed in line with international standards.	No SOPs in place.	SOPs developed.	Yes / Seven SOPs developed by the relevant consultant in close cooperation with the beneficiaries.
Necessary equipment for the laboratory acquired.	No adequate equipment.	Capacity of the lab upgraded with technical equipment.	Partial / Nine pieces of equipment delivered; Remaining equipment to be delivered in 2023.
Professionals working in the Arson and Explosives Laboratory have acquired knowledge through a series of trainings in developed SOPs.	Limited knowledge of the lab's professionals with regards to ENFSI standards.	Lab's professionals trained in ENFSI standards.	Partial / Trainings organized for 7 participants from the Arson and Explosives Unit.
Work processes accredited, making them recognized and valid internationally, thus enabling efficient information exchange and international cooperation in the fight against crime.	Methods not accredited.	Methods for explosives accredited.	- / Preparation of documents for validation ongoing, to be finalized in Q2 2023.

Activities	Results
<p>ACTIVITY 2.1: DEVELOP SOPs FOR THE ARSON AND EXPLOSIVES LABORATORY AND PREPARE FOR ACCREDITATION.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SOPs for the Arson / Explosives Laboratory of the Forensic Center of Montenegro were revised by the competent consultant in cooperation with the beneficiaries. [2022] The following SOPs for the Arson / Explosives Laboratory of the Forensic Center of Montenegro were revised and approved by the beneficiaries: a SOP for the reception, protection, and dispatch of explosive and post blast traces; a SOP for the handling, reviewing, sampling, and measuring of explosive and post-blast traces; a SOP for the reviewing of pyrotechnic devices; a SOP for the reviewing of improvised explosive devices; a SOP for the reviewing of conventional explosive devices; a SOP for examining the correctness of fuses regarding spark transfer and burning velocity; a SOP for examining the correctness of electric detonators. [2022] The consultant engaged by the project worked closely with professionals from the Forensic Center Quality Management and Arson and Explosives Lab on preparation for the accreditation of a method of AEL. Documents have been partially drafted, accreditation action plan and validation plan to be finalized in Q1/Q2 2023. [2022] Seven (7) professionals (one female and 6 male) from the Arson and Explosives Unit trained on ISO Standards (ISO/IEC 17025:2017).
<p>ACTIVITY 2.2: DELIVER TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE ARSON AND EXPLOSIVES LABORATORY.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2021] The technical specifications for the relevant equipment were finalized together with beneficiary, and the tender was launched. [2022] The following equipment was purchased and delivered to the Forensic Center: container for storing explosive material, device for measuring the speed of explosive detonation, lab scales, anti-static clothes, an anti-static surface, an anti-contamination rug, a digital device for measuring voltage, a stopwatch for measuring time and a chamber for examining the validity of explosives. Professionals were trained on how to use the delivered equipment. The delivery of equipment is expected in Q1/Q2 2023.

OUTPUT 3

Increased capacities of the chemical laboratory.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
SOPs for the Chemical Laboratory developed in line with international standards.	No SOPs in place.	SOPs developed.	/ Four SOPs being developed by the competent consultant in close cooperation with the beneficiaries.
Necessary equipment for the laboratory acquired.	No adequate equipment.	Capacity of the lab upgraded with technical equipment.	Partial / One piece of equipment delivered.
Professionals working in the chemical laboratory have acquired knowledge through a series of trainings on developed SOPs.	Limited knowledge of the lab's professionals.	Lab's professionals trained.	/ Training under preparation, to take place in Q1 2023.
Work processes accredited, making them recognized and valid internationally, thus enabling efficient information exchange and international cooperation in the fight against crime.	Methods not accredited.	Methods for explosives accredited.	/ Preparation of documents for validation being finalized, to be approved in Q1 2023.

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 3.1: DEVELOP SOPS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2022] Four SOPs for the Chemical Lab are being developed by the engaged consultant in close cooperation with professionals from the Chemical Lab: FC UP CG HEM 308 sampling and analysis of explosives; FC UP CG HEM 330 analysis of traces of explosive substances in the chemical laboratory; FC UP CG HEM 338 analysis of substances by the LC-MS/MS method; and FC UP CG HEM 408 putting into operation the LC-MS-MS device. Draft versions have been sent to the beneficiaries for comments. This is expected to be finalized and approved in Q1 2023.
ACTIVITY 3.2: ORGANIZE TRAINING AND PREPARE FOR ACCREDITATION.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2022] Preparation of documents for a method validation of the Chemical laboratory is being finalized in close cooperation with professionals from the Chemical Lab with a consultant hired to support this activity. The training of relevant professionals and the validation of the method on the LC-MS-MS device is to take place in Q1 2023.
ACTIVITY 3.2: DELIVER EQUIPMENT FOR EXPLOSIVE DEVICE DETECTION AND EXPLOSION INVESTIGATIONS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2021] The technical specifications for the relevant equipment were finalized together with the beneficiary. A company was selected through a competitive process to deliver the necessary equipment. [2022] A liquid chromatograph with mass spectrometer (LC-MS-MS) was delivered to the Forensic Center. Six professionals trained to use the LC-MS-MS.

No. 8

8. PROJECT

PREVENTION AND ILLICIT ARMS REDUCTION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (PROJECT PILLAR+) IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION: UNDP BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

OUTPUT 1

Capacitated law enforcement agencies in BiH foster better understanding within the general population of the threats of SALW by building capacities within the formal Associations of Women Police Officers in BiH as “agents of change,” as well as through thematic community policing activities.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
Availability of needs assessment and conceptualized training curricula for the Networks of Women Police Officers in BiH (Networks) focusing on a gender-balanced approach to SALW control and awareness.	Absence of needs assessment and conceptualized training curricula.	Needs assessment and conceptualized training curricula developed.	Yes / Needs assessment and analysis focusing on a gender-balanced approach to SALW control and awareness were completed. Training materials for specialized trainings on strategic planning and project writing were developed.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of Women Police Officers in BiH (Networks) whose capacities in strategic planning and project development were increased.	0	Up to 50	56 participants (53 from the two formal Associations of Women Police Officers and 3 participants from the MoS) were trained.
# of micro-projects developed by Networks of Women Police Officers trained in project development.	0	Up to 4	10 small projects were developed as a result of the training on strategic planning and project writing.

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1.1: CONDUCT NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND CONCEPTUALIZE SPECIALIZED TRAININGS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2021] Needs assessment analysis focusing on a gender-balanced approach to SALW control and awareness was initiated and completed, identifying the key messages, target groups, and promotional materials for the awareness campaigns to be conducted within the project. [2021] Training materials of the specialized trainings on strategic planning and project writing for the two formal Associations of Women Police Officers were developed.
ACTIVITY 1.2: CONDUCT TRAINING OF UP TO 50 MEMBERS OF THE NETWORKS FOCUSING ON STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2021] 56 participants were trained in strategic planning and project writing (53 from the two formal associations of women police officers and 3 participants from the MoS). The participants were divided in three groups, each of which attended two training modules.

OUTPUT 2

Raised awareness through structured countrywide campaigns, outreach activities, and advocacy addressing the devastating impact and threats posed by illicit SALW to the general public, especially to vulnerable groups (women, children, young men).

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of thematic public events organized.	40 events organized in 2014.	At least 20.	34 outreach events were organized by 10 cantonal law enforcement agencies and by the Police of the Brčko District of BiH in 2021. 142 additional outreach events were held across the country in all 12 jurisdictions (10 cantons in the Federation of BiH, the Brčko District of BiH, and Republika Srpska) during the implementation of an awareness raising campaign addressing celebratory shootings during the holiday season in 2022. General awareness raising campaign to continue in 2023 and 2024.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of people reached through public outreach campaigns.	997,000 people reached during the 2014 campaign.	1 million.	Approx. 300,000 people were reached within an awareness campaign organized in December 2021. Approx. 368,000 people were reached through outreach events of focused awareness raising campaigns in 2022. Altogether, focused awareness raising campaigns launched in 2021 and 2022 reached approx. 668,000 people (approx. 650,000 people during the celebratory shootings campaign around the holiday seasons in the two years, while an additional 18,200 students were reached as targeted population through outreach conducted in high schools).

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 2.1: IMPLEMENT AN AWARENESS-RAISING CAMPAIGN INCLUDING OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY EVENTS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2021] The awareness-raising campaign “Celebrate responsibly, celebrate without firearms” was planned and organized in coordination with the SALW Coordination Board in BiH and conducted in cooperation with 10 law enforcement agencies from the Federation of BiH and the Brčko District of BiH during the period 23-31 December 2021. The campaign reached approximately 300,000 people. [2022] Ahead of the awareness raising activities planned in 2022, the project organized meetings with all 12 partners of the project focusing on collecting up-to-date information on gender disaggregated data pertinent to SALW related incidents in the past three years. Additionally, assessments conducted during the initial phase of the project showed that SALW-related incidents vary from one community to another, and the awareness raising was aimed at adjusting upcoming activities to the specific issues and problems within the respective recipient communities. [2022] The project conducted two focused awareness raising campaigns in 2022: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Firearms do not protect, firearms kill!,” addressing the targeted population (primarily students of 3rd and 4th grade of high schools) on the negative impacts of illegal SALW, the potential consequences of the possession of illegal SALW, and the irresponsible possession of legal SALW and overall threats posed by SALW; and “Celebrate responsibly, celebrate without firearms,” as a continuation of the project-initiated activity in December 2021 addressing the general public and raising awareness of the dangers that usage of firearms for celebratory purposes around holiday season pose for lives and property, particularly seeking to connect emotionally with the citizens through conveying the message that stray bullets can cause the loss of life, permanent disability, or a serious psychological trauma.

CROSS-BORDER INTEGRATED INSTITUTIONAL APPROACH TOWARDS COMBATING IAT AND SALW, IN KOSOVO AND NORTH MACEDONIA

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION: UNDP KOSOVO AND UNDP NORTH MACEDONIA

OUTPUT 1

Strengthened institutional capacities and enhanced police officers' knowledge and understanding of the illegal possession, misuse, and trafficking of SALW through specialized trainings and the use of innovative IT tools.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of needs assessments and gap analyses in relation to IAT, SALW control, possession, and misuse, and weapons categorization.	No qualitative gap analysis report.	One gap analysis report prepared per jurisdiction.	One gap analysis report was prepared per jurisdiction.
# of trainings on information gathering, information sharing, and information analysis.	No training on information gathering, information sharing, or information analysis.	12 trainings on information gathering, information sharing, and information analysis are provided for 200 police officers per jurisdiction.	11 trainings on information gathering, information sharing, and information analysis were provided for 200 police officers per jurisdiction.
# of trainings on weapons categorization.	No training on weapons categorization and their essential parts, explosives and other handmade explosives, the possession and misuse of firearms, or community policing/ILP activity.	12 trainings on weapons categorization and their essential parts, explosives and other handmade explosives, the possession and misuse of firearms, and community policing/ILP are provided for 200 police officers.	11 trainings on weapons categorization and their essential parts, explosives and other handmade explosives, the possession and misuse of firearms and community policing/ILP were provided for 200 police officers per jurisdiction.

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1.1: CONDUCT NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND GAP ANALYSIS IN RELATION TO ILLICIT ARMS TRAFFICKING, SALW CONTROL, POSSESSION, AND MISUSE, AND WEAPONS CATEGORIZATION.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2021] Needs assessments and gap analyses were prepared in both jurisdictions to better understand the necessary institutional approach in community policing, information gathering, information analysis, and producing intelligence products in illicit arms trafficking, SALW, ammunition, and explosives. [2021] Several meetings and workshops were organized to prepare or present the findings of the gap analyses.

<p>ACTIVITY 1.2: DEVELOP INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [2021] 120 police officers (60 from each jurisdiction, 12 women and 98 men) were trained in information gathering, information sharing, and information analysis. • [2021] 60 police officers (30 from each jurisdiction, 9 women and 51 men) were trained in weapons categorization, explosives and other handmade explosive devices, the possession and misuse of firearms, and community policing/intelligence-led policing. • [2022] One hundred and forty (140) police officers from each jurisdiction (280 in total – 25 women and 255 men) were trained during 7 combined trainings on information gathering, information sharing and information analysis (2-day training), weapons categorization, explosives and other handmade explosive devices, the possession and misuse of firearms, and community policing/ILP (3-day training). In addition, thirty police officers from each jurisdiction (60 in total – 7 women and 53 men) were trained in weapons categorization, explosives and other handmade explosive devices, the possession and misuse of firearms, and community policing/ILP in Kosovo.
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OUTPUT 2

Strengthened institutional capacities and improved operational information sharing between North Macedonia and Kosovo law-enforcement institutions in combating the trafficking of converted firearms.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of comprehensive trainings in illicit arms trafficking of converted firearms developed and delivered.	0	3	3 / Three comprehensive trainings on IAT of converted firearms were developed and delivered; due to positive feedback in the police forces, a fourth training is to be organized during 2023.
# of police officers that attended a converted firearm workshop.	0	12	12 / 12 police officers attended the relevant converted firearms workshop.
# of meetings between investigation teams and FFPs, across the border and between the agencies.	0	Two workshops and at least two meetings held on improved coordination.	1 / One workshops on converted firearms was held, with a large number of participants from both jurisdictions, whereby two foreseen meetings were merged into one.
# of JIAs and SOPs on converted firearms investigations.	0	At least one JIA created, and one SOP developed on converted firearms investigations.	[modified] One JIA / The JIA activity was cancelled due to the complexity and procedural difficulties encountered in establishing JIAs in both jurisdictions as per the legal requirements. Instead, a Joint Investigative Operation between Kosovo Police and North Macedonian Police took place.
# of knowledge products developed, printed, and disseminated.	0	At least 5 knowledge products developed, printed, and disseminated aimed at helping law-enforcement institutions in their decision-making efforts.	5 / Two Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis Reports have been produced, for both jurisdictions. One Practical Manual on the Investigation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) on the internet has been produced. One Manual on explosives, handmade explosives, and precursors has been produced. One Manual on community policing and intelligence led policing has been produced/

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 2.1: DEVELOP INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES ON CONVERTED-FIREARMS INVESTIGATIONS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [2022] A total of 3 trainings on establishing trafficking routes, the integrated use of financial investigation during IAT cases, and firearms-conversion methods and table-top exercises were held in Kosovo. A total of 76 participants attended the trainings, 39 (32 men and 7 women) from North Macedonia and 37 (32 men and 5 women) from Kosovo. • [2022] A separate workshop on converted weapons was held in North Macedonia, attended by 10 participants from North Macedonia (5 women and 5 men) and 8 participants from Kosovo (2 women and 6 men). • As a result of the successful trainings and positive feedback from the police forces in both jurisdictions, it was decided that organize a fourth training on converted firearms shall be organized, to take place in Kosovo in Q1 2023.
ACTIVITY 2.2: FORM JITS FOR CONVERTED-FIREARMS INVESTIGATIONS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [2022] This activity has become complex to implement due to legal procedures governing the establishing of JITS in both jurisdictions. In order to establish JITS between Kosovo and North Macedonia, legal amendments and harmonization in both jurisdictions must be first assessed in order to enable the formation of JITS. Therefore, instead of undertaking a potentially overly complex undertaking, in close cooperation with beneficiaries in both jurisdictions, a Joint Investigative Operation between the Kosovo Police and North Macedonian Police was conducted to tackle a potential organized crime group dealing in illicit arms trafficking. This Joint Investigation Operation was conducted and completed during November and December 2022.
ACTIVITY 2.3: DEVELOP KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [2022] The following knowledge products were produced as cross-cutting results stemming from project activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Two Needs Assessments and Gap Analysis Reports in both jurisdictions; o One practical Manual on the investigation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) on the internet; o One Manual on explosives, handmade explosives, and precursors; o One community policing and intelligence led policing manual.

OUTPUT 3

Improved capacities of Cyber Crime Units and Firearms Focal Points (FFPs) to deal with illicit firearms trafficking on the Internet and Darknet.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of coordination meetings organized for the development of harmonized procedures for cyber-crime investigations.	No clear and harmonized procedures for cybercrime investigations between both jurisdictions.	One workshop and at least two meetings organized.	A workshop/training on dealing with illicit firearms trafficking on the Internet and Darknet was organized. Several meetings were held between the focal points for cybercrime investigations in both jurisdictions.

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 3.1: DEVELOP AND HARMONIZE OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES IN KOSOVO AND NORTH MACEDONIA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [2022] During the reporting period, the Guidance Manual on the Investigation of SALW on the Internet was finalized. A training on this matter was held in Skopje for 19 participants - 7 women and 12 men. • [2022] A training / coordination meeting related to internet investigation procedures and the collection of information through OSINT (open-source intelligence) was organized in Kosovo with 8 participants (3 women and 5 men) from the Kosovo Police Investigation Department, ILECU.

OUTPUT 4

Increased outreach and communication to citizens through mass-media and targeted awareness-raising campaigns.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of press stories on the dangers of the misuse and trafficking of SALW published.	0	At least 6.	More than 6 press stories/ instances of coverage of the awareness-raising activities on the dangers of the misuse and trafficking of firearms were published per jurisdiction [links provided in the Comms and Visibility section].
# of public awareness campaigns on the dangers of the misuse and trafficking of SALW carried out.	0	2	2 / Two mass media campaigns (one in each jurisdiction) and four targeted campaigns (two in each jurisdiction) on the dangers of the misuse and trafficking of firearms were carried out.

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 4.1: IMPROVE PUBLIC AWARENESS THROUGH CAMPAIGNS AND VISIBILITY EVENTS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [2022] A marketing agency was contracted to implement the public awareness campaign in close consultation with the beneficiaries of both jurisdictions. The campaign, launched in October 2022, targeted celebratory shootings related to the New Year's Eve holiday. The campaign activities included development of a communication strategy, opening events with travelling exhibitions, the production of communication materials (video, radio, web banner, posters, flyers, TV, radio and web media paid promotions, etc.), and the organization of targeted border events in both jurisdictions. • [2022] A targeted campaign that focused on the dangers of celebratory shootings during weddings in the summer period was organized. Leaflets and other promotional materials were distributed to citizens by police officers, in close cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior. • [2022] In addition, a separate campaign on the dangers of fireworks and pyrotechnics was organized in December 2022.

SUPPORT FOR INCREASED INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN CRIMINAL MATTERS

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION: UNODC


OUTPUT 1

Increased capacity to formulate evidence-based arms control policies and practices through the systematic collection and analysis of criminal justice data across the criminal justice sector.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of needs assessments on information exchange in criminal matters, and on extending iARMS access through the I-24/7 secure network.	0	5	5 / Five needs assessments finalized (Albania, BiH, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia).
# of WB jurisdictions that incorporate technical assistance and equipment for the extension of the I-24/7 network and access to iARMS.	0	Up to 5	2 / Access to the I-24/7 network and iARMS was extended to the Agency for Forensics of BiH and the AIRCOP Unit, North Macedonia.
# of national INTERPOL courses on the use of iARMS.	0	6	5 / Five training courses on the use of iARMS have been delivered.
# of trained practitioners.	0	Increased capacity of trained officers to correctly identify firearms and use the iARMS databases for the record-keeping of lost and stolen firearms, for tracing illicit firearms, and for publishing firearms-related INTERPOL notices.	96 practitioners trained
# of regional training-of-trainers trainings held on the use of INTERPOL tools and firearms data in broader investigative approaches and intel analysis.	0	1	/ Activities not initiated. Train-of-trainers to be conducted in February 2023.
# of trainers trained.	0	25	0

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1.1: ORGANIZE JOINT UNODC-INTERPOL PROJECT INCEPTION MEETINGS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2022] The UNODC-INTERPOL project inception meeting took place on 20-21 April 2022, at the INTERPOL General Secretariat in Lyon, gathering relevant agencies from beneficiary jurisdictions in the region and partner organizations.

Activities	Results
<p>ACTIVITY 1.2: ORGANIZE JOINT UNODC-INTERPOL NEEDS ASSESSMENT MISSIONS TO ALBANIA, BIH (BIH FEDERATION AND REPUBLIKA SRPSKA), MONTENEGRO, NORTH MACEDONIA, AND SERBIA ON INFORMATION EXCHANGE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS, AND ON EXTENDING IARMS ACCESS TO RELEVANT NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES THROUGH THE EXTENSION OF THE I-24/7 SECURE NETWORK.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2021] Initial assessment missions were conducted in BiH on information exchange in criminal matters, and on extending iARMS access to relevant national law enforcement agencies through the extension of the I-24/7 secure network. [2022] INTERPOL conducted the remaining four assessment missions: North Macedonia (24-25 March 2022), Albania (04-05 April 2022), Montenegro (07-08 April 2022), and Serbia (11-14 May 2022).
<p>ACTIVITY 1.3: PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND EQUIPMENT TO INTERPOL MEMBER COUNTRIES FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE I-24/7 NETWORK AND ACCESS TO IARMS.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2022] INTERPOL provided beneficiary countries with equipment for the extension of the I-24/7 network (secure police communications system) and/or iARMS database access, as per the needs assessed during the assessment visits (under 1.2). The following equipment was purchased and delivered during the reporting period: Albania – State Police: 4 desktop computers with monitors; Bosnia and Herzegovina – State Investigation and Protection Agency and INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB): 2 desktop computers with monitors, 4 laptops, 2 DVD readers/writers, and 2 external hard drives; Montenegro – Police Administration: 10 desktop computers with monitors; North Macedonia – Ballistic unit, Criminal Police, Criminal Department, AIRCOP Unit and INTERPOL NCB: 5 desktop computers with monitors, 2 laptops, and 1 FTP cable; Serbia – Service for Criminal Analysis, Service for Crime Prevention, Department for Combating Organized Crime, Service for Criminal Intelligence, National Centre for Crime Forensics and Administrative Affairs: 21 desktop computers with monitors and 4 laptops. The I-24/7 extension to the AIRCOP Unit in Skopje, North Macedonia is pending the validation of a national agreement between the NCB and the Customs administrations.
<p>ACTIVITY 1.4: DELIVER 6 NATIONAL INTERPOL TRAINING COURSES ON THE USE OF THE IARMS DATABASE.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2022] 5 national firearms trainings were delivered, encompassing 96 participants (80 men, 16 women) / BiH-20, Serbia-22, Montenegro-24, North Macedonia-24, Albania-6.
<p>ACTIVITY 1.5: DELIVER 1 JOINT UNODC-INTERPOL REGIONAL TRAINING-OF-TRAINERS SESSION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF EMBEDDING THE USE OF INTERPOL TOOLS AND FIREARMS DATA INTO BROADER INVESTIGATIVE APPROACHES AND INTELLIGENCE ANALYSIS WORK.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned for Q1 2023.

OUTPUT 2

Increased capacity for regional and international cooperation to counter the trafficking of firearms.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
Development of a sub-regional report on firearms trafficking into, from, and through the WB.	0	1	Research ongoing. Expected to be finalized in Q2 2023.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of regional meetings with a transnational / transregional scope on the exchange of firearms trafficking data into, from, and through the WB.	0	1	Activities not initiated. Meeting scheduled for Q2 2023.

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 2.1: DEVELOP A SUB-REGIONAL REPORT ON FIREARMS TRAFFICKING INTO, FROM, AND THROUGH THE WESTERN BALKANS USING NATIONAL AND GLOBAL DATA, AS WELL AS DATA FROM PARTNERS SUCH AS INTERPOL AND WCO.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2022] Consultant engaged to work on the report development and introduced to all jurisdictions. First deliverables expected in Q1 2023. Final report expected in Q3 2023.
ACTIVITY 2.2: ORGANIZE 1 REGIONAL MEETING TO SUPPORT THE EXCHANGE OF FIREARMS TRAFFICKING DATA AMONG WB AUTHORITIES AND COUNTRIES LOCATED ALONG CONNECTED ROUTES.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2022] Regional meeting planned for Q2 2023, along with the presentation of the draft report (activity 2.1).

OUTPUT 3

Increased capacity to detect firearms trafficking and its links to other serious crimes.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of needs assessments conducted on the detection of firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition in postal and express courier shipments in the WB jurisdictions.	1 in BiH	4	4 / All planned needs assessments finalized.

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 3.1: CONDUCT NEEDS ASSESSMENT ANALYSIS FOR PREVENTING THE TRAFFICKING OF FIREARMS, THEIR PARTS AND COMPONENTS, AND AMMUNITION THROUGH POSTAL AND COURIER SHIPMENTS IN 4 JURISDICTIONS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [2021] 2 needs assessments were finalized (Albania and North Macedonia). [2022] The remaining 2 needs assessments were finalized (Serbia and Kosovo). <p>All four jurisdictions endorsed the findings of finalized assessments after a series of consultations.</p>


OUTPUT 1

Preconditions for planning a comprehensive approach to strengthening the healthcare system's role in the prevention of firearms misuse for violence ensured.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
Comprehensive stakeholder map developed (Yes/No).	No	Yes	Yes
# of workshops held.	0	4	2
# of stakeholder representatives engaged	0	Up to 100 stakeholders engaged	26 stakeholders engaged.
Action plan to improve capacities, knowledge, and awareness developed (Yes/No).	No	Yes / Action plan developed	No

Activities	Results
<p>ACTIVITY 1.1: CONDUCT STAKEHOLDER MAPPING TO IDENTIFY ALL ACTORS ENGAGED IN SITUATIONS OF DV PREVENTION, FIREARM LICENSING AND MISUSE, AND THEIR ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES, PRACTICES, CAPACITIES, AND AWARENESS REGARDING DV AND SUICIDES AND EXISTING INFORMATION EXCHANGE WITHIN THE SYSTEM AND WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS AND PROCEDURES THEY FOLLOW.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [2022] Consultative meetings with MoI and MoH representatives and the Institute for Public Health of Serbia were held to ensure their buy-in and effective implementation of stakeholder mapping. • [2022] A Stakeholder Map was created through the application of design-thinking methodology, focusing on needs of end beneficiaries, i.e., survivors of domestic and partner-relationship violence at risk of firearms-enabled violence and persons at risk of suicide committed with firearms. • [2022] Stakeholders relevant for preventing (firearms-enabled) violence and suicides were identified, mobilized, and networked, involving a participatory approach gathering state and private entities, communities, and individuals. • [2022] Identified and recorded key challenges in strengthening the role of different systems, primarily that of healthcare, as well as stakeholders contributing to their solution, to serve as a basis for the development of recommendations and implementable and realistic actions to reduce the risk of firearms misuse for violence.
<p>ACTIVITY 1.2: COLLECTION OF INPUTS FOR DEVELOPING A SET OF RECOMMENDED AND IMPLEMENTABLE ACTIONS TO IMPROVE THE CAPACITIES, KNOWLEDGE, AND AWARENESS OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS THROUGH THE ORGANIZATION OF 4 WORKSHOPS AND IN-DEPTH INTERVIEWS WITH SELECTED HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [2022] Inputs were collected from stakeholders with a view towards developing recommended and implementable actions. This was implemented through one interactive workshop, gathering 26 representatives from different sectors of the MoI, women's organizations specializing in support to survivors of violence, NGOs specializing in support to persons at risk of suicide, the Coordinator for GBV in the Higher Prosecutor's Office in Belgrade, the National Institute for Public Health, local institutes of occupational health, out-patient clinics from several cities in Serbia – esp. professionals from occupational health departments and units for supporting survivors of violence, hunters' associations, media representatives, independent psychologists, and experts. • [2022] Further information on the different processes was collected through two follow-up interviews with several of the workshop participants (those from the health and social care systems).

OUTPUT 2

Creating an environment in which the range of knowledge-attitude-behavioral challenges to prevent suicides, involving state institutions, private entities, communities, and individuals, is explored.

Indicators	Baseline (2022)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
Knowledge paper developed (Yes/No)	No	Yes	Not achieved (activities initiated)

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 2.1: ORGANIZE CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS WITH IDENTIFIED STAKEHOLDERS, TO DETERMINE (GENDER) PATTERNS AND INITIATE INNOVATIVE UNIFIED APPROACHES TO MENTAL HEALTH PROMOTION AND THE PREVENTION OF FIREARMS MISUSE FOR SUICIDES, INCLUDING THOSE COMMITTED IN THE CONTEXT OF FEMICIDE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [2022] Stakeholders engaged in the prevention of firearms misuse for suicides have been mapped. • [2022] Procedures and situations in which persons carrying firearms come into interaction with representatives of institutions or other relevant stakeholder institutions were identified through a consultative process involving the implementation of one workshop and follow-up interviews. • [2022] Further input was collected from the identified stakeholders and further required steps have been identified to be implemented in the next period, focusing on shedding light on the phenomenon of suicide and the effects of the health system's response and challenges in recording and exchanging data on suicide risks.
ACTIVITY 2.2: DEVELOP A KNOWLEDGE PAPER EXPLORING THE VARIOUS DIMENSIONS OF SUICIDE BY FIREARMS AND THEIR DIFFERENT PATTERNS (INCLUDING GENDER PATTERNS) TO PROVIDE IDEAS AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPROACH AND ADDRESS THE PROBLEM.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [2022] The development of three research papers has been initiated to contribute to the knowledge paper by focusing on specific dimensions of suicide, including by firearms.

ANNEX III. UPDATED RISK MATRIX

Risk type	Risk description	Risk management response	Risk level (low, moderate, high)
Financial	Insufficient capitalization of the Trust Fund	The Trust Fund capitalized \$21.8 million in less than three years, and an additional \$2.3 million in 2022, thus demonstrating the continuous contributors' commitment and support. Two open calls and a direct solicitation of proposals resulted in 16 projects approved by the Steering Committee, demonstrating the continuous need for and commitments to SALW Control Roadmap implementation. The third call for proposals is to be issued in the first quarter of 2023 which is intended to bring about a new batch of projects funded by the Trust Fund. The Steering Committee, with the support of the Secretariat, plans and regularly monitors the Fund's resources.	LOW
Political/ strategic	Lack of internal political and institutional stability in the jurisdictions targeted by the Trust Fund	The Participating UN organizations have strong knowledge and understanding of the situation on the ground. They ensure close cooperation with their counterparts and diligently monitor the situation in order to plan and respond to changes in a timely manner. In particular, the political climate in BiH continues to be fragile and is regularly monitored. UNDP BiH maintains regular contacts with the concerned authorities to ensure engagement, to the extent possible. In addition, SEESAC maintains regular contacts with all the jurisdictions in the region and supports their strengthened engagement through established platforms.	MODERATE
Operational	Complexity in ensuring coordination of the projects funded through the Trust Fund	The Trust Fund Secretariat, i.e., SEESAC, is responsible for the programmatic coordination and monitoring of the Fund, providing technical and management support. SEESAC has over 20 years of experience in successfully implementing regional projects in the area of arms control, as well strong relationships with national counterparts and with the Participating UN Organizations. SEESAC organizes regular regional coordination meetings and supports local coordination meetings to ensure the effective coordination of activities in support of the Roadmap's implementation, including of the MPTF-funded projects.	LOW

Risk type	Risk description	Risk management response	Risk level (low, moderate, high)
Operational	Insufficient operational capacity within national counterparts, often due to a lack of human and financial resources to respond to specific, time-constrained activities	The frequent insufficient operational capacity of the national counterparts is mitigated through careful and realistic planning processes. The long-term relationships of both the Participating UN Organizations and the Secretariat with the beneficiary institutions provide a good basis for capacity assessment and respective planning. Nevertheless, the progress relies on a limited cohort of specialized practitioners and the pool is thus intended to be expanded, as feasible, to ensure comprehensive engagement and the continuity of efforts across the jurisdictions.	HIGH
	Covid-19 pandemic and related government restrictions	To counter the negative effects of the pandemic on the implementation of the Trust Fund projects, the Participating UN Organizations will continue to monitor the evolution of the pandemic and related government restrictions and adjust their projects to any new developments. The measures taken thus far that will continue to be implemented should the need arise again include: conducting online coordination meetings with the project beneficiaries and partners, organizing online trainings whenever possible, and respecting the health measures imposed by the government when organizing in-person trainings.	LOW

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