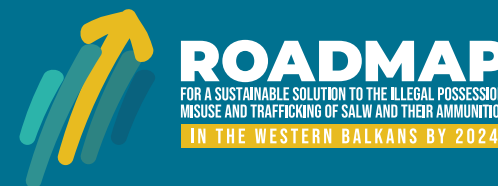


WESTERN BALKANS SALW  
CONTROL ROADMAP  
MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

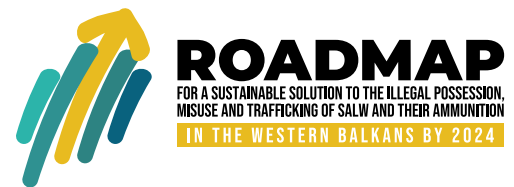
NARRATIVE REPORT · FINANCIAL REPORT



WESTERN BALKANS SALW CONTROL ROADMAP  
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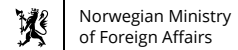
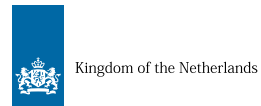
# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

NARRATIVE REPORT · FINANCIAL REPORT



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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# List of Abbreviations

<b>AEA</b>	Arms/Explosion/Accident
<b>AEL</b>	Arson and Explosives Laboratory
<b>AF</b>	Armed Forces
<b>BiH</b>	Bosnia and Herzegovina
<b>BCP</b>	Border Crossing Points
<b>BP</b>	Border Police
<b>CEPOL</b>	European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training
<b>CIAT</b>	Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking/Trade
<b>CL</b>	Chemical Laboratory
<b>CoE</b>	Council of Europe
<b>CSI</b>	Crime Scene Investigations
<b>CTST</b>	Counter Terrorism Search Training
<b>EMPACT</b>	European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats
<b>ENFSI</b>	European Network of Forensic Science Institutes
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EUFOR</b>	European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina
<b>EUROPOL</b>	The European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation
<b>FAE</b>	Firearms, ammunition and explosives
<b>FC</b>	Forensic Centre

<b>FFP</b>	Firearms Focal Point
<b>FRONTEX</b>	European Border and Coast Guard Agency
<b>GFP</b>	Global Firearms Programme
<b>GSR</b>	Gun Shot Residue
<b>iARMS</b>	Illicit Arms Records and Tracing Management System
<b>IBM</b>	Integrated Border Management
<b>ILP</b>	Intelligence Led Policing
<b>INTERPOL</b>	International Criminal Police Organization
<b>ITA</b>	Indirect Taxation Authority of BiH / BiH Customs
<b>JIT</b>	Joint Investigation Teams
<b>LCMSMS</b>	Liquid Chromatograph with Mass Spectrometer
<b>LIMS</b>	Laboratory Information Management System
<b>MoD</b>	Ministry of Defense
<b>MoFTER</b>	Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BiH
<b>MoI</b>	Ministry of the Interior
<b>MoJ</b>	Ministry of Justice
<b>MoS</b>	Ministry of Security of BiH
<b>MoTC</b>	Ministry of Transport and Communications of BiH
<b>MoU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>MPTF</b>	Multi-Partner Trust Fund

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

# Foreword



YEAR IN THE  
FUND'S EXISTENCE

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**It is with pleasure and honour that I introduce to you the fifth 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 fifth year of the Trust Fund's existence, running in parallel with the Roadmap's implementation.**

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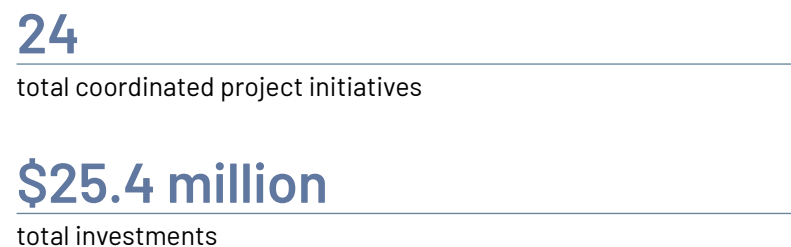
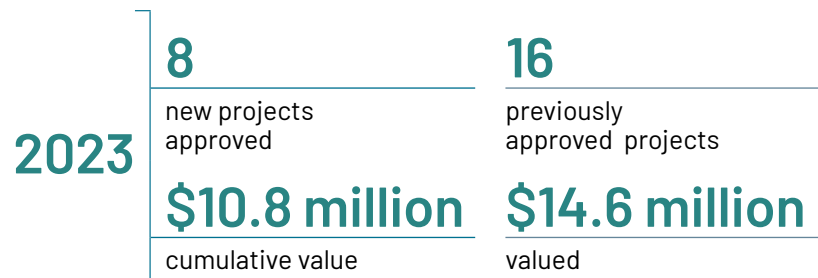
**T**he Western Balkans jurisdictions have all continued to invest in efforts to achieve the Roadmap Goals, as outlined in the [Roadmap progress reports](#). By persevering in their efforts to reach the Roadmap Goals for the fifth year in a row and actively engaging in developing the next phase of the Roadmap for the period 2025-2030, the Western Balkans jurisdictions have shown unwavering commitment to promoting peace and inclusiveness in the region through countering and preventing illicit arms flows and arms-enabled crime and violence. In this light, the overarching Roadmap vision still resounds: *Western Balkans is a safer region, and exporter of security, where comprehensive and sustainable mechanisms, fully harmonized with the European Union and other international standards, are in place to prevent, identify, investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate the illegal possession, misuses and trafficking of firearms, ammunition and explosives.*

The Trust Fund remains invested in ensuring a coordinated approach to the Roadmap implementation, along with various local, regional, and international partners. Through its Participating UN Organizations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and with the steady support from its contributors and donors, the Trust Fund advances, year after year, the efforts of jurisdictions in countering illicit arms

trafficking, strengthening criminal justice responses to firearm-related crimes, enhancing firearm-related investigations, and furthering the integration of the gender perspective while tackling SALW threats.

I highlight here some conclusions from the independent [mid-term evaluation](#) of the Trust Fund that was completed in 2023. The evaluation assessed the Trust Fund as essential to sustaining both political and technical momentum on SALW control in the Western Balkans. The Trust Fund was acknowledged as highly effective as a means of demonstrating support for the SALW Control Roadmap. It was also recognized for its key role in providing synergies and interlinkages with other funds and initiatives, which collectively contribute to the implementation of the Roadmap, therefore increasing overall impact. As established by the mid-term evaluation, the implementing organizations have, through the Trust Fund, forged new alliances and consolidated existing partnerships beyond those which are essential for project implementation, resulting in a broader constituency of actors engaged in SALW control.

The mid-term evaluation emphasized that achieving the Roadmap Goals is a multi-year effort. It put forward recommendations for further improvement of the Trust Fund operations, towards greater effectiveness and impact, enhanced ownership and public awareness, stronger integration of the gender perspective, and sustainability, which the Trust Fund is committed to pursuing in the upcoming period.



Despite the many significant results and achievements, the complexity and scope of the challenge, alongside regional and global threats, including the tragic mass shootings that shook the region in 2023, serve as a reminder against complacency, urging us to stay alert as important work is still ahead.

Here, let us take a moment and reflect on the data trends on firearm incidents in the Western Balkans gathered by SEESAC’s [Armed Violence Monitoring Platform](#) (AVMP), as presented in the graphs that follow below. Immediately evident is that the increase in firearm incidents has not wavered. Yet, while we must acknowledge that there is no downward trend in the number of reported incidents and that the misuse of firearms in domestic violence calls for a comprehensive response, it is positively noteworthy that weapons seizures have more than doubled since the Trust Fund’s establishment in 2019. It is in the capacities to detect, seize, and investigate illicitly possessed and used weapons, among other relevant activities, that the Trust Fund has invested, and I believe that our joint efforts have contributed essentially to this positive trend in the data.

In pursuing a greater impact, the Trust Fund’s Steering Committee in 2023 approved eight new projects, with a cumulative value of USD 10.8 million. This adds to the previously approved 16 projects valued at USD 14.6 million. The rich portfolio of 24 coordinated project

initiatives amounting to an investment of USD 25.4 million steers the progress firmly forward and provides concrete solutions. The new initiatives launched in 2023 place a strong emphasis on crime and misuse prevention, outreach to communities, and raising awareness to strengthen the engagement of women and men, and girls and boys, in these critical efforts.

I use the opportunity to highlight that good practices in the Western Balkans are gaining global recognition. The UN Secretary-General’s policy brief on [A New Agenda for Peace](#), issued in July 2023, in its Action 7, calls on reducing the human cost of weapons and recommends strengthening, developing, and implementing “regional, subregional and national instruments and road maps to address challenges related to the diversion, proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons and ammunition.” In addition to this, the latest biennial UN [Secretary General Report](#) on Small Arms and Light Weapons, issued in November 2023, acknowledged the impact of the Western Balkans Roadmap, as well as the development of new Roadmaps in the Caribbean and Central America that draw from the good practice and model of the Western Balkans Roadmap. The Secretary General encouraged States to develop and implement regional and subregional instruments, road maps, and action plans to address region-specific challenges related to the diversion of small arms and light weapons and ammunition, as well as their proliferation and misuse, in accordance

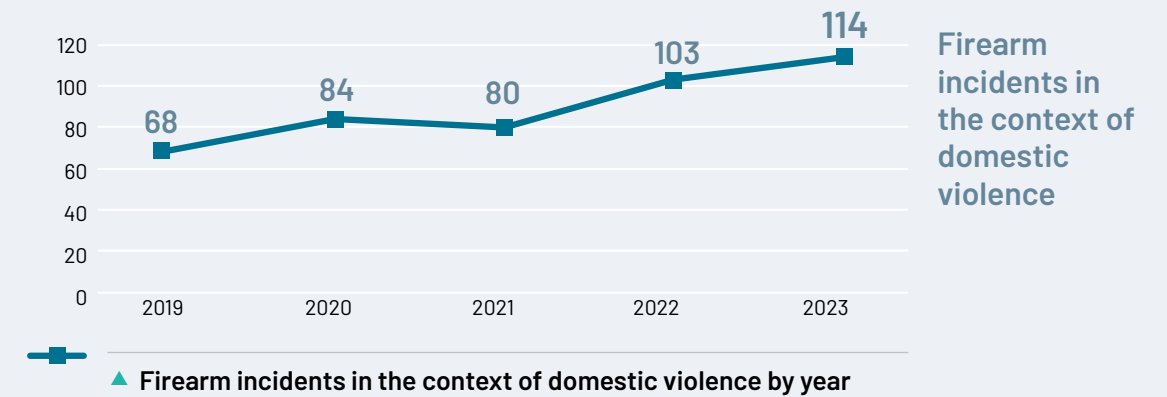
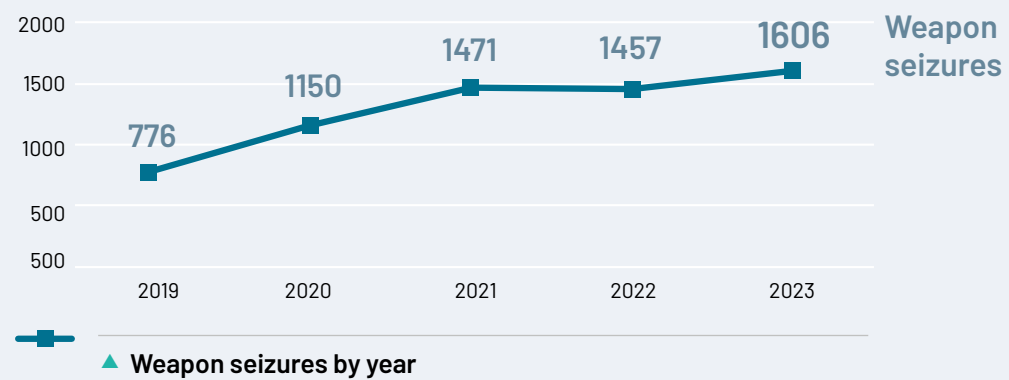
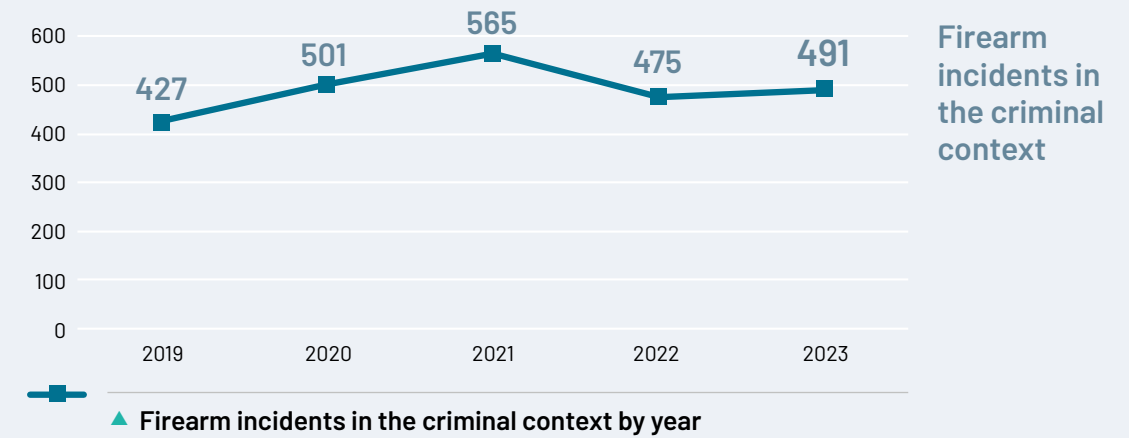
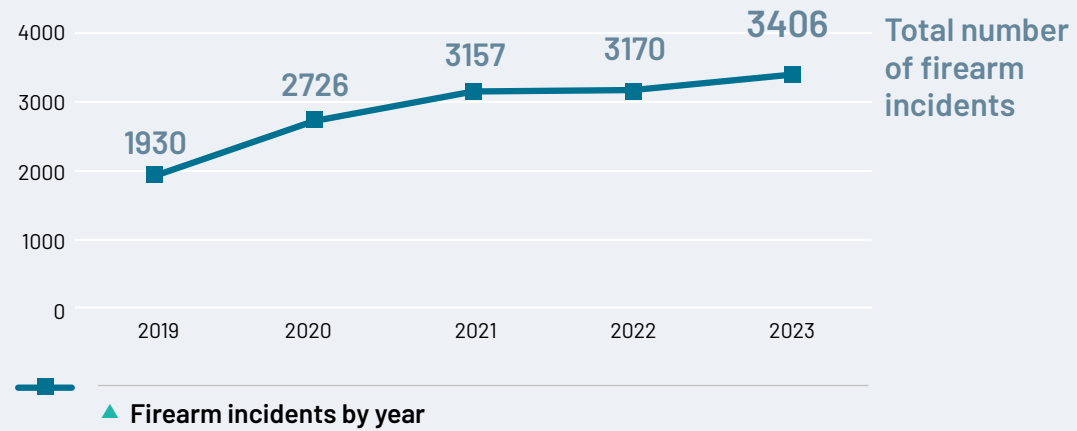
with international arms control treaties and political frameworks. Likewise, the importance of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund was emphasised in the [concluding remarks](#) of a [High Level Meeting](#) on Countering Firearms Trafficking in South East Europe, which took place in Brussels in May 2023.

On this positive note, I invite you to delve into this informative review detailing the Trust Fund’s contribution to the achievement of the Roadmap goals, including specific activities conducted by the Participating UN Organizations, the challenges encountered and lessons learned, partnerships established and strengthened, and the work of the Trust Fund governance bodies in 2023.

With joint commitment, partnerships, and support, we are steadily advancing towards achieving our shared vision for a safer region.

**Steliana Nedera**  
Chairperson of the Steering Committee  
Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF and  
Manager of the UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub

## Armed Violence Monitoring Platform<sup>1</sup>, Firearm incidents in the Western Balkans 2019-2024



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.seesac.org/AVMP>



# Executive Summary

**I**n 2023, 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 the improvement of legislative, operational, and institutional frameworks, the advancement of human, technical, and digital resources towards SALW control, the upgrading of investigative and data collection methods, as well as of gender-sensitive approaches to tackling arms-related threats and risks, and the engagement of a diverse set of actors and communities to these ends.

In 2023, out of the 14 ongoing projects at the year's beginning, 10 were successfully completed. The completed projects encompassed three regional, one cross-border, and 10 jurisdiction-level projects. The results of these projects span across six Roadmap Goals and were presented to and reviewed by the Trust Fund's Steering Committee at its two review meetings, together with the participating SALW commission heads. <sup>2</sup>Eight new projects at a value of US\$ 10.78 were approved by the Trust Fund's Steering Committee in October 2023, following the [3rd Call for Proposals](#). This brings the total number of projects funded by the Trust Fund to 24, with a cumulative budget of \$25.39 million.

<sup>2</sup> Five out of six SALW commission heads took part in two of the review meetings held in Q4 2023 and Q1 2024, dedicated to reviewing the progress stemming from the Trust Fund projects

**24** Projects approved

**5** Regional / cross-border projects

**19** Jurisdiction-level projects

**12** projects successfully completed, 2 completed in 2022 and 10 in 2023

With the new batch of projects stemming from the 3rd Call, the Trust Fund has ensured that it has responded to the priority gaps and needs of the authorities, capitalising on the previous work and investment, while remaining mindful of the recommendations from the mid-term evaluation aimed at strengthening local ownership and partnerships, community engagement, the integration of gender perspectives, and sustainability.

Across the projects approved in 2023, there is a cross-cutting effort to advance infrastructure and resources to counter illicit trafficking and FAE misuse, both physical and digital, upgrade data analysis and management, and improve operational exchange within jurisdictions and across borders. A strong focus on local ownership and alignment

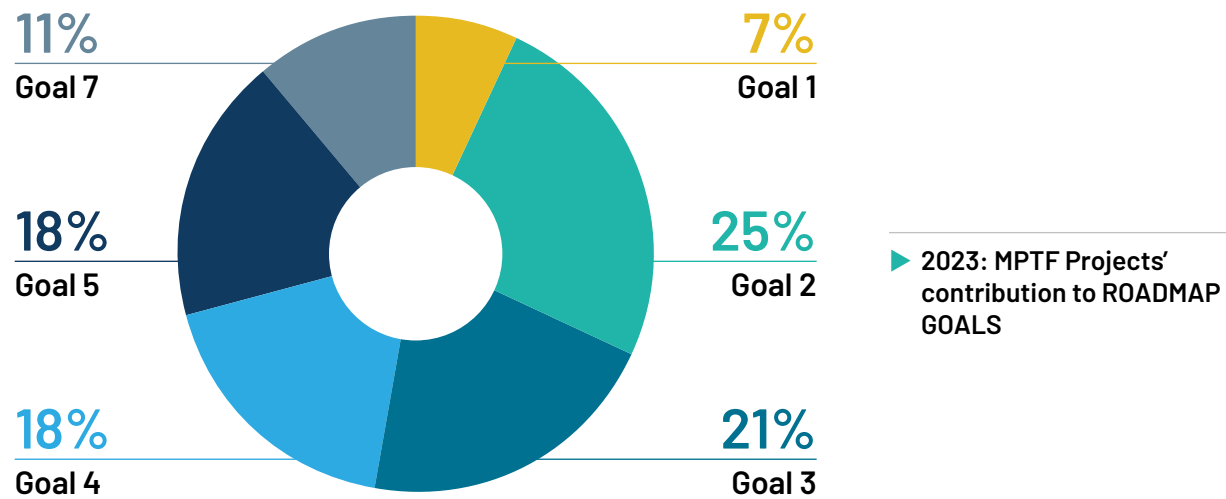
with the gaps and priorities identified by local authorities is evidenced through the applied consultative process, including through the incorporation of input by SALW commission representatives from each jurisdiction in the Steering Committee's decision-making on projects. All projects build upon and consolidate the progress made from the previously implemented projects and aim to scale up or multiply the results achieved towards a safer region.

As acknowledged by the independent [mid-term evaluation](#), conducted against the backdrop of continued threats from the use and proliferation of SALW, the Trust Fund projects have made relevant progress in support of the Western Balkans jurisdictions' efforts towards meeting the Roadmap Goals, as well as the specific needs/priorities of the relevant target groups and beneficiaries. Through the Trust Fund, the implementing organisations have established new alliances and consolidated existing partnerships beyond those which are essential for project implementation, resulting in a broader constituency of actors engaged on SALW control.

With the successfully concluded and newly approved projects, the Trust Fund continues in providing its steadfast support to the Western Balkans authorities as they strive to achieve the Roadmap Goals. The MPTF-funded projects individually and cumulatively have 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 2023, **the Trust Fund contributed to six out of seven goals of the Roadmap**. 14 projects at a value of US\$ 13.37 million actively contributed to the Roadmap's implementation in a coordinated manner, whereby each project contributed to multiple goals.<sup>3</sup> Three projects contributed to the achievement of Goal 1, eleven to Goal 2, nine to Goal 3, eight each to Goal 4 and Goal 5, and five to Goal 7, as illustrated in the chart just below. The eight newly approved projects initiated in the last quarter of 2023 are aimed at further solidifying progress made on these Roadmap Goals in the upcoming two-year period, through the end of 2025.



<sup>3</sup> Reference is made to Annex 2 - Trust Fund Projects, where contribution to Roadmap Goals per project is specified.

### By 2023

1  
GOAL

**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.**

The Trust Fund supported activities aimed at **harmonizing the 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 **Goal 1 of the Roadmap**. In 2023, as a result of the Trust Fund's project support, the parliaments of the Republic of **North Macedonia** and **Montenegro** adopted amendments to their respective criminal codes, including provisions in accordance with the UN Firearms Protocol. Progress to this end was also made in other jurisdictions, which will be followed up on by a newly approved regional project.

In line with Goal 1, further progress was made in the **standardization of procedures and practices** in the area of arms control and FAE investigations in Kosovo<sup>4</sup>, Montenegro, and the Republic of Serbia. The jurisdictions were supported in advancing towards international accreditation of crime scene and ballistics investigations. One ballistic method in **Serbia** received official accreditation in accordance with ISO 17025, two forensic methods in **Montenegro** were fully prepared for accreditation in accordance with ISO 17025, and two more methods in **Kosovo** were advanced for validation and accreditation as per ISO 17025. Additional support in standardizing the crime scene investigation procedure in accordance with ISO 17020 in Serbia and Montenegro ensued. Specialised equipment and training were also provided to forensic institutions in the three jurisdictions, coupled with three new SOPs for forensic experts in Serbia and eight new SOPs in Montenegro.

<sup>4</sup> References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

By 2024

2  
GOAL

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

In contributing to **Goal 2 of the Roadmap**, the Trust Fund resources enabled the authorities in the Western Balkans jurisdictions to further standardize and institutionalise data collection, increase analytical capacities and operational exchange, and better integrate gender concerns into policy making. **Regional** exchange of good practices and challenges among law enforcement and prosecution officials, as well as the harmonization of approaches towards stronger criminal justice responses, was also supported through regional-level projects supported by the Trust Fund. The developed baseline assessment report on firearms data in the criminal justice system of the Western Balkans was finalized and published.

As part of the efforts to have the police services of the Western Balkans connected to the INTERPOL's Illicit Arms Records, Tracing Management System (iARMS) and enable them to regularly input their data on lost and stolen firearms into iARMS, the INTERPOL Firearms Programme provided on-the-job training on iARMS in Albania, BiH, and North Macedonia, the impact of which should be further reinforced with the commitment of all participants to extend the iARMS users scope in the respective jurisdictions. The iARMS user manual was translated into the official languages of the Western Balkans and disseminated among the jurisdictions as a resource. 23 law enforcement officers (18 men, 5 women) from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia have passed the relevant training on embedding the use of INTERPOL tools and firearms data into broader investigative approaches and intelligence analysis work and will serve as certified trainers in their respective jurisdictions.

In **Kosovo**, the authorities were supported in establishing additional links between relevant databases for more efficient and effective countering of arms trafficking and proliferation, further reaffirming the Firearms Focal Point in Kosovo as the most advanced such mechanism in the region in terms of operationality and digitalization. The Kosovo Forensic Agency received specialised equipment that improves its analytical capacities and quality of evidence.

In **North Macedonia**, the new Police Information Management System (IMS) was provided with technical support to advance its use as a comprehensive resource for firearms-related data collection and analysis, among other priorities. A needs-based analysis on a domestic violence module for the new Police IMS was developed and confirmed by the Ministry of the Interior, based on which the module will be developed and integrated into the system in the upcoming period. In addition, North Macedonia's Forensic Department was equipped with a microscope for gunshot residue as a unique state-of-the-art piece of equipment which will improve the work of the Forensic Department in examining evidence from firearms-related incidents. In **Serbia**, the relevant improvements in the evidence recovery database of the National Forensic Center were completed, and crime scene investigation and gunshot residue analysis were advanced through specialised equipment and training.

Efforts to integrate gender concerns into SALW/firearms control policies and ensure the meaningful participation of women in SALW/firearms control marked progress in Serbia. A set of recommended and implementable gender-responsive measures and actions aimed at improving prevention of firearms-enabled violence were validated with relevant stakeholders and finalized in Serbia.

A comprehensive knowledge paper on suicide by firearms, exploring the various dimensions of suicide by firearms and their different patterns - including gender patterns - was developed in Serbia and should serve to provide practical information on how to approach and address this problem. Other relevant specific fields of interests were particularly explored, such as the circumstances of firearms-enabled femicide followed by the suicide of perpetrator. 31 women from the security sector, including members of the Network of Women in the Police, engaged in networking in regard to the topic of preventing domestic violence, including that committed through firearms misuse. Likewise, in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, gender equality advocacy workshops were held for 20 ITA staff (10 women and 10 men), among others, thereby raising awareness on sexual and gender-based harassment among the ITA employees. Two small-scale projects were also approved, with each implemented by one of the two associations of women police officials operating in BiH - Network of Women Police Officers and the Republika Srpska Women Police Officials Network (RS WPON) - to enhance the participation of women in SALW/security matters.

By 2024

3  
GOAL

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

To support the achievement of **Goal 3 of the Roadmap**, the Trust Fund projects worked in three directions: i) supporting the advancement and implementation of legal, policy, and procedural frameworks on the trafficking of firearms, ammunition, and explosives (FAE); ii) contributing 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 FAE; and iii) enabling the strengthening of local, regional, and international cooperation to counter illicit arms trafficking.

At the **regional level**, notable achievement was marked in the strengthening of regulatory frameworks to counter trafficking via express courier and postal parcels. Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed in each jurisdiction between customs agencies and designated postal operators (three in BiH and one each in Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia) and 10 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were developed on countering FAE trafficking in postal parcels, with seven of the SOPs adopted and three SOPs pending adoption, in Serbia and Albania, at year's end. The development of the regulatory framework was accompanied by a study visit to France and expert exchange with international partners. The adoption of these frameworks not only signals a regional commitment to unified standards and procedures, but also improves operational efficiency and inter-agency collaboration. A regional meeting enabled the exchange of firearms trafficking data among WB authorities and countries located along connected routes. In addition, a sub-regional report on firearms trafficking into, from, and through the Western Balkans was finalized, pending publishing.

In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, with the support of the Trust Fund projects, nine Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were officially approved by the Indirect Taxation Authority/Customs to advance operations in

countering firearms trafficking and illicit trade. The previously developed SALW Identification Tool application was improved in line with the feedback from law enforcement agencies, including an expanded catalogue of weapons and ammunition with 384 items and more than 1500 related high-resolution photographs. The new version of the Tool was installed on laptops that were distributed to 12 BiH law enforcement agencies, together with the Tool's source code, for further use in their day-to-day operations. A comprehensive set of specialized equipment was provided for the BiH Border Police and BiH Customs. To enhance operational efficiency in countering arms trafficking, four local joint exercises were organized in BiH, engaging BiH customs, cantonal, entity, and state level police officials, and the BiH Prosecutor Office.

In addition, BiH customs, law enforcement, and prosecution representatives were presented with the opportunity to tackle the illicit flows of firearms through two bilateral joint exercises with their peers, one with counterparts from **Serbia** and one from **Montenegro**. These exercises represented an opportunity for the specialized equipment that had been received to be put in practice as well as test the new SOPs developed as part of projects in support of the Roadmap.

In **Albania**, the Customs Administration was equipped with specialized detection equipment and training on its use, encompassing one unit of Smiths Detection HazMatID Elite and 10 hand-held metal detectors. Another 25 police officers (20 men and 5 women) from both **Kosovo and North Macedonia** completed a joint training on converted firearms. A notable development occurred in North Macedonia, where North Macedonia's Ministry of the Interior, the Public Prosecutor, and the Customs Administration signed a Memorandum of Understanding in November 2023 with the support of a Trust Fund regional project, enhancing cooperation on arms trafficking matters. This was complemented by the comprehensive implementation of plans focusing on training and capacity-building for stakeholders, in line with the recently amended criminal code that incorporates provisions aligned with the UN Firearms Protocol.

By 2024

4  
GOAL

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

Towards reducing the misuse of firearms in line with **Goal 4 of the Roadmap**, a series of awareness-raising, educational, outreach, and advocacy activities took place in 2023 across several jurisdictions. In **Albania**, a national awareness campaign was launched aimed at SALW control and reducing firearms misuse and illicit possession, building upon the results of the previously commissioned national survey. Close coordination took place with the Albanian State Police to agree on the communication strategy, campaign elements, and underlying messages and the campaign was scheduled to be rolled out in 2024.

In **BiH**, the second wave of a focussed awareness campaign “Firearms do not protect, firearms kill!” was carried out in Republika Srpska, resulting in 250 lectures involving 11,309 high school students, with approximately 70 RS police officials engaged for the purpose, most of whom perform duties of community policing. A general awareness campaign was launched in September 2023 across BiH: “Respect Life, Not Weapons!” Two out of three waves of the general campaign were successfully implemented by December 2023, addressing femicide and responsible SALW ownership in BiH, with the involvement and participation of 12 police agencies. The campaign encompassed TV, radio, digital channels, and OOH (Out-Of-Home/Billboards and LED screens) advertising. Additionally, outreach events were conducted in selected cities with the involvement of police agencies in the field. The campaign reached a high estimate of between 96% and 99% of the targeted group in the country, representing successful outreach to over 2.6 million individuals aged 18 and above. The third wave was scheduled to take place in the first quarter of 2024, focusing on the voluntary surrender of illicit SALW.

In **Kosovo**, officials from the Press and Public Information Offices of the Kosovo Police and the Ministry of Internal Affairs were trained on the gathering, analysis, and distribution of SALW-related information, as well as on taking a proactive approach in tackling misinformation and disinformation regarding FAE incidents and crime. In **Serbia**, over 250 stakeholders - representatives from different systems, were engaged and networked in regard to the topic of SALW misuse prevention, with a focus on domestic violence and suicide. A set of measures were developed jointly with relevant stakeholders aiming to improve the capacities, knowledge, and awareness of healthcare workers, and ensure their effective response to and prevention of firearms misuse for violence.

Serbia’s Mol representatives from the Department of Psychological Activities were supported in collecting inputs through focus groups with police staff (23 participants, 15 women and 8 men) regarding views and needs on the prevention of negative consequences of occupational trauma that could lead to domestic violence or suicide (including by firearms misuse). Based on this, a capacity-building training was organized for 29 representatives of Serbia’s Mol (27 women and 2 men) involved in the provision of psychological support to staff with the aim of improving suicide risk prevention and preventing violence by police officers (including by firearms misuse) through improved recognition of the risks of occupational trauma and the provision of appropriate psychological support.

To support the media’s ethical reporting on firearms misuse for violence in Serbia, a workshop with 50 journalists and editors of the Adria Media Publishing group (both online and print media) was organized, while representatives of the UNDP-supported group Journalists against Violence presented ethical standards for informative and educational reporting on the problem of firearms misuse. Guidelines for ethical media reporting and raising public awareness regarding the link between SALW misuse and suicides were developed and published to serve as a continuous resource for improving the media’s educational and preventive role. Worth noting is that the project enabled the networking of experts and media around the time of the May 2023 mass shootings in Serbia. This contributed to the placement of knowledge-based and evidence-based messages for the public, raising awareness and alleviating community trauma in the aftermath of the tragic events.

By 2024

5  
GOAL

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

The Trust Fund's projects in Albania, BiH, Kosovo, North Macedonia, and Serbia cross-cuttingly contributed to **Goal 5 of the Roadmap**. The specialised capacity development and equipment provided to law enforcement in BiH, Kosovo, and North Macedonia was focused on enhancing the detection of firearms and ammunition in illegal possession and their seizure.

In **Albania**, the State Police were provided with 100,000 digital cards, alongside specialized IT equipment and training to support the firearms re-registration process. Here, it is important to mention that due to a severe cyber-attack in 2022 in Albania and the subsequent overhaul of the existing weapons registration system, the re-registration has proceeded manually using the IT equipment, while the issuance of digital cards for weapons owners is to take place at a later stage.

Despite this difficulty, noticeable progress in re-registration process has been documented; with 55% of weapons re-registered in 2022 increasing to 81% by the end of 2023. In **BiH**, the comprehensive set of specialized equipment and training provided to Border Police and Customs are expected to enhance the detection of firearms, ammunition, and explosives in illicit possession. Likewise, the upgraded SALW Identification Tool deployed to all law enforcement agencies in BiH is to assist towards this end. In **Kosovo**, the police were provided with a ground penetration radar system to enhance the detection of weapons hidden underground. In addition, the Kosovo Forensic Agency was provided with specialised equipment that should improve the examination of seized firearms by the ballistic department. In **North Macedonia**, the Ministry of the Interior was equipped with a Laser Marking Machine for the marking of deactivated firearms and to help in the tracing and control of SALW in the jurisdiction. In **Serbia**, the Police Administrative Directorate was provided with the relevant IT equipment necessary for the new SALW-control registry system and 210 of their staff (146 women, 64 men) were trained on the use of the new registry system.

7  
GOAL

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 efforts in Albania and North Macedonia to ensure safe and secure SALW/firearms and ammunition storage facilities in accordance with international standards.

In **Albania**, technical designs for the reconstruction and refurbishment of 13 weapons and ammunition storage facilities (evidence rooms) commissioned by the UNDP received approval by the Albanian State Police, and the construction is to ensue on ten storage facilities in the upcoming period based on these designs.

In **North Macedonia**, based on a developed needs-based analysis of the physical security of the weapons warehouses at the Gjorche Petrov Police Center, UNDP supported the development of technical documentation for upgrading the safety and security of weapons warehouses and implemented interventions in line with the produced documentation, strengthening the security of the warehouses through improved electrical installations, new lighting, and a diesel generator for power outages.

## Trust Fund Governance

The Trust Fund completed its mid-term evaluation in February 2023. The [mid-term evaluation report](#) acknowledged the overall strategic performance of the Trust Fund and described it as essential to sustaining the momentum of both the political and technical commitment to SALW control in the region. The key findings and recommendations for improvement have been presented and discussed among the Steering Committee members, implementing organizations, partners, and contributors, as well as among the Western Balkans SALW Commissions. The evaluation recommendations were incorporated into the 3rd Call for Proposals that the Fund launched on 15 March 2023 and going forward will be followed up on in line with the approved management response.

The Trust Fund's Steering Committee convened six times during the year to: review the mid-term evaluation findings and recommendations and the related management plan implementation; decide on the Fund's direction, on the third call for proposals, on new project proposals, and on project revisions; and to review progress from the projects implemented and/or completed in 2023.

The Secretariat, whose functions are ensured by SEESAC<sup>5</sup>, 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 conducting the technical assessment and

<sup>5</sup> The Southeastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC), is a joint initiative of the governments in the region and UNDP, established in 2002 under the framework of Stability Pact for Southeastern Europe, with the mandate to facilitate regional cooperation on SALW control, provide technical and advisory support to the governments, implement projects, monitor progress and coordinate SALW control measures in Southeast and East Europe ([www.seesac.org](http://www.seesac.org)).

processing of the project proposals submitted as part of the third call for proposals. The Secretariat also reviewed project revisions and the 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, facilitate funds transfers to newly approved projects, and facilitate the new funding contributions to the Fund.

## Cross-cutting themes, opportunities, and challenges in implementation

Dynamic project management was applied in realizing the projects to maintain the relevance of their actions, address priorities of project partners and beneficiaries, seize offered partnership opportunities, and adjust the timelines and courses of action to ensure local ownership and effective results. The majority of projects continued to pursue respective project strategies and **theories of change** in 2023 with no major variations or challenges other than the slow pace of progress in some jurisdictions. Only in Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina did shifts occur in project beneficiaries' priorities that affected project plans. In Albania, the UNDP project team had to reassess and withdraw from its planned engagement on the upgrade of the weapons registration system SIMA following the decision of the Albanian State Police (ASP) to completely overhaul the existing system as a consequence of the aforementioned cyberattack in 2022. The ASP will pursue the upgrade of the system through other sources, with the

plan for the project adjusted accordingly. In BiH, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, a main project partner and beneficiary in one of the jurisdiction-level projects, decided to withdraw from a planned activity on upgrading its digital application on monitoring the legal trade of SALW, thus resulting in the activity's cancellation in the end.

Efforts to **effectively engage with local authorities and a diverse set of actors** and **strengthen local ownership** were observed across jurisdictions. In general, coordination with SALW Commissions, law enforcement agencies, and Ministries of the Interior and their active engagement in project activities and planning processes was applied across the region. The project teams engaged with SALW Commissions in determining priorities for new projects in support of the Roadmap as part of the third call for proposals and involved them in participatory dialogue in advance of the Steering Committee's decision-making on new projects that were being considered for funding in support of the Roadmap.

**Regular coordination and partnership with other international agencies** were maintained with the projects as necessary. UNDP Albania coordinated with OSCE in Albania regarding the implementation of the awareness-raising activities in the jurisdiction. INTERPOL continued to be involved as a tangible partner in the regional project implemented by UNODC. The UNODC maintained expanded partnerships for the activities on FAE detection in postal parcels, including cooperation with the Universal Postal Union (UPU), the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT Firearms), the United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS), and the World Custom Organization / Eastern and Central Europe, among others. Partnership was also established between the UNODC project Hermes and a project on pre-arrival information data exchange, implemented by the German

Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) for tackling illicit trafficking via postal parcels. Projects were reaching out to SEESAC with the aim to avoid duplication of efforts with this regionally owned initiative and largest programme on SALW Control in Southeast and East Europe, funded by EU, US State Department, Germany, Norway, Slovakia.

In addition to advocating for the participation of both women and men in project activities, the promotion of **gender equality** and advocacy for stronger women's engagement in security and SALW matters and against gender-based violence was particularly noteworthy in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, progress was achieved through collaborations with the associations of women police officers and awareness-raising activities on femicide. In Serbia, the relevant project activities placed a strong focus on gender-responsive policy making, with a broad range of stakeholders engaged in this respect, and a set of knowledge products developed to support the policy making. In addition, in North Macedonia, the relevant project saw a needs assessment completed for the development of a module on domestic violence to be integrated into the new Police Information Management System.

The **sustainability** aspects of the actions carried out across projects were considered in the implementation and progress reporting of all projects, and for project revision requests. There remains a higher risk to the sustainability of project investment in Albania following the major cyber-attack in 2022, which significantly affected the police system and thus planned activities.

The complexity of the upgrading of the Police Information Management System in North Macedonia required frequent adaptation of the project's plan, especially regarding its roll-out. The project team

regularly consulted and updated activities as per the needs of the key beneficiary, the Ministry of the Interior, striving for continuous ownership and enhanced sustainability. Technical support for the system was extended until the end of 2023 to further strengthen sustainability aspects. Cross-cuttingly, the new projects initiated as part of the third call for proposals contain efforts that intend to enhance sustainability of results achieved by the end of 2023.

A number of **challenges** were also observed. An increasingly tense **political environment** and harsh political rhetoric was reported in BiH. At the same time, there were some positive developments following the adoption of several laws by the BiH Parliamentary Assembly as required by the EU, which resulted in progressive developments towards EU harmonization.

The staff turnover and new political appointments following the elections in BiH, Montenegro, and Serbia have not impacted the projects in jurisdictions thus far. The tragic events of the mass shootings that occurred in Serbia in May 2023 alarmed local and regional stakeholders.

In BiH, this resulted in a stronger engagement of police agencies towards awareness-raising campaigns on firearms misuse and responsible ownership. From the **operational aspects**, a number of projects experienced delays or slow progress in the procurement of specialized equipment, in the development of IT/digital solutions (BiH, Kosovo, and North Macedonia), or in the upgrades and reconstruction of weapons storage facilities (Albania and North Macedonia), all of which required adaptation of the project activity timelines. The operational risks and difficulties have largely been addressed through **non-cost extensions of the relevant projects' implementing periods**, which were granted to nine projects during 2023.



## \$27.5 million

Trust Funds' total contributions

## Contributions and transfers

In 2023, the Trust Funds' total contributions amounted to US \$27.5 million, with \$3.4 million mobilized in 2023 from five principal donors: the Netherlands (\$1.6 million), Germany (\$0.5 million), Sweden (\$0.5), Norway (\$0.5), and France (\$0.3). US \$25.4 million were transferred in total to the Participating UN Organizations by the end of 2023, out of which \$10.8 million were allocated in 2023 for eight new projects approved within the 3<sup>rd</sup> Call for Proposals.



# I - NARRATIVE REPORT

This Narrative Report covers the period from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023 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 2023.

The Narrative Report is followed by the Financial Report.

## 1. Overview

### 1.1. Set Up and Key Features of the Trust Fund

**T**he 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.

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*The Trust Fund contributes to a donor-coordinated approach to the implementation of the Roadmap for arms control in the Western Balkans.*

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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 and transparency.

## 1.2. Trust Fund Governance Structure

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*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.*

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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 contemporary top three donors to the Fund. In 2023, these were Sweden, the Netherlands, and the UK. Other donors can also participate in the Steering Committee as observers, without voting rights. In 2023, this included Norway.

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 Combating the Proliferation and Impact of Small Arms and Light Weapons<sup>6</sup>, and in line with EU Council Decision 1788/2018 and 2321/2022, providing support to SEESAC for the coordination and monitoring of the overall implementation of the Roadmap.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> The South East Europe Regional Implementation Plan on Combating 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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 combating illicit arms trafficking in the Western Balkans, OJ L 293, 20.11.2018, p. 11.; and Council Decision (CFSP) 2022/2321 of 25 November 2022 at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2022/2321>.

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)<sup>8</sup> with the MPTF Office. Each Participating UN Organization assumes full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent.

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<sup>8</sup> 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



### 24 Projects

approved for funding by 2023

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*To date, the Trust Fund's Steering Committee has approved funding for twenty-four project proposals submitted by the Participating UN Organizations.*

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**F**ollowing 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 six additional projects, at a value of \$2.6 million, to bridge the gap between the second and third open call, to be initiated upon the completion of the mid-term evaluation of the Trust Fund.

Having completed the mid-term evaluation of the Trust Fund in February 2023, the third call for proposals was launched in March 2023, resulting in eight new projects approved by the Steering Committee in October 2023 at a value of \$10.8 million. This brought the total number of approved projects within the Trust Fund to 24, with a cumulative value of \$25.4 million. The projects cover areas such as legislative reform in line with the UN Firearms Protocol, the standardization of operations and practices in countering illicit arms trafficking, strengthening criminal justice responses to firearm-related crimes, illicit weapons seizure, the disposal of unsafe ammunition, improving ballistics and crime scene investigations through the provision of support to relevant units/agencies, SALW-related data collection and management, the upgrading of ammunition storages per international standards, the integration of the gender perspective into SALW-related policies and measures, 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 2023 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.

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**An additional 10 projects were successfully completed in the course of 2023, encompassing three regional projects, one cross-border project involving Kosovo and North Macedonia, and six jurisdiction-level projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2), Kosovo (1), Montenegro (1), and Serbia (2).**

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All eight new projects received funding allocations in the last quarter of 2023 and preparations for their respective activities were initiated.

## TRUST FUND PROJECTS

	Project	Implementing organization	Project budget	Implementing period
1 <sup>st</sup> call for proposals	<b>Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade (HALT) in Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	UNDP BiH and UNODC	\$2,200,000	21 February 2020 – 30 June 2023
	<b>Support to Combating Illicit Arms Trafficking in Kosovo for Criminal Police (CPIAT)</b>	UNDP Kosovo	\$660,000	21 February 2020 – 30 June 2022
	<b>Criminal Justice Response Against Arms Trafficking (regional project)</b>	UNODC	\$1,899,999	21 February 2020 – 30 March 2023
	<b>Urgent Action on Ammunition Destruction - Project EXPLODE+, in Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	UNDP BiH	\$583,546	21 February 2020 – 31 October 2022
2 <sup>nd</sup> call for proposals	<b>Strengthening Control, Administration, and Social Attitudes Towards SALW</b>	UNDP Albania	\$1,661,314	14 December 2020 – 31 March 2024
	<b>Advancing the Capacities of the Ministry of the Interior in the SALW Control-Related Field (Phase II)</b>	UNDP Serbia	\$1,429,520	05 January 2021 – 30 November 2023
	<b>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 the Detection and Trafficking of Explosives Criminality</b>	UNDP Montenegro	\$664,812	05 January 2021 – 04 October 2023
	<b>Cross-border Integrated Institutional Approach Towards Combating IAT and SALW</b>	UNDP Kosovo-UNDP North Macedonia	\$522,067	18 March 2021 – 31 March 2023
	<b>Prevention and Illicit Arms Reduction in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Project PILLAR+)</b>	UNDP BiH	\$769,406	05 January 2021 – 30 April 2024
	<b>Support for Increased International Cooperation in Criminal Matters</b>	UNODC	\$1,604,153	24 June 2021 – 31 December 2023

	Project	Implementing organization	Project budget	Implementing period
Direct Solicitation of proposals	Reduce Risk - Increase Safety II	UNDP Serbia	\$170,700	06 September 2022 – 31 May 2023
	Digitalization and Institutional and Regional Cooperation Project (DIRC)	UNDP BiH	\$309,412	25 October 2022 – 31 December 2023
	Increased Security of the Arms Depots Under the Administration of the Albanian State Police	UNDP Albania	\$474,770	30 November 2022 – 31 March 2024
	Improvement of Data and SALW Collection Practices and SALW Related Investigations	UNDP North Macedonia	\$513,600	16 December 2022 – 15 February 2024
	Support to Firearms related Investigations	UNDP Kosovo	\$350,318	24 January 2023 – 23 October 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 – 31 December 2023
3 <sup>rd</sup> call for proposals	Reduce Risk - Increase Safety III	UNDP Serbia	\$776,135	31 October 2023 – 29 October 2025
	Project Justitia: Support to the Criminal Justice Response to Counter Arms Trafficking in the Western Balkans	UNODC	\$2,390,815	03 November 2023 – 01 November 2025
	Integrated Institutional Approach and Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation to SALW Control (Phase I)	UNDP Kosovo	\$1,200,990	03 November 2023 – 02 November 2025
	Advancing the Forensic Capacities of the Police Directorate of Montenegro for Processing Firearms and Explosives-related Crimes	UNDP Montenegro	\$1,091,105	28 November 2023 – 22 November 2025
	Improving Capacities of the Ministry of the Interior in the SALW-Control related Field, Phase III	UNDP Serbia	\$1,512,540	28 November 2023 – 24 November 2025
	Law Enforcement Agencies' Development in Small Arms and Light Weapons Control (Project LEAD)	UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina	\$1,455,035	06 December 2023 – 04 December 2025
	Integrated Institutional Approach and Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation to SALW Control (Phase I)	UNDP Albania	\$1,205,490	06 December 2023 – 05 December 2025
Strengthening the Capacities of the Forensics and Crime Scene Investigation System to Improve the Criminal Justice Response to SALW	UNDP North Macedonia	\$1,149,180	18 December 2023 – 30 September 2025	

## 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 2023, the Trust Fund contributed to the achievement of six out of seven Goals of the Roadmap, corresponding to intended outcomes of the Trust Fund.

Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome	Roadmap targets / TF Outputs	Trust Fund contribution in 2023	
<b>GOAL 1:</b>  <b>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.</b>	Arms control legislation is fully harmonized with the EU legal framework and in line with international agreements/ standards.	The Trust Fund supported activities aimed at harmonizing the 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 (UN FP). With the Trust Fund projects' support, the parliaments of the Republic of North Macedonia and Montenegro adopted amendments to their respective criminal codes, including provisions in accordance with the UN FP. Progress to this end was also made in other jurisdictions, which is to be followed up on by a newly approved regional project.	
	Procedures and practices in arms control and FAE investigations are standardized.	The Guidelines on the Investigation and Prosecution of Firearms Offences that were finalized in 2022 were approved as an official UNODC publication and officially launched in May 2023. The Guidelines were translated into the official local languages of WB jurisdictions and customized for use in North Macedonia. Further customization of the Guidelines and their integration into training curricula for judges and prosecutors across WB jurisdictions is to follow.	Authorities in Kosovo, Montenegro, and the Republic of Serbia were supported towards international accreditation of crime scene and ballistics investigations.
		One ballistic method in Serbia received official accreditation in accordance with ISO 17025, two forensic methods in Montenegro were fully prepared for accreditation in accordance with ISO 17025, and two more methods in Kosovo were advanced for validation and accreditation as per ISO 17025.	Specialized equipment and training were provided to forensic institutions in Kosovo, Montenegro, and the Republic of Serbia, alongside the development of three new SOPs for forensic experts in Serbia and eight new SOPs in Montenegro.
	Good practices exchanged, with a specific focus on the areas defined in the Roadmap.	A series of peer-exchanges were supported, including operational exchange between the BiH ITA and Croatia's Customs Administration; a study visit to France for WB officials on countering arms trafficking via postal parcels; peer-exchange between the forensic experts of North Macedonia and Serbia, and between Kosovo and Croatia.	

**Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome**

**Roadmap targets / TF Outputs**

**Trust Fund contribution in 2023**

<p><b>GOAL 2:</b></p> <p><b>By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence-based and intelligence-led.</b></p>	<p>Data collection on firearms is standardized and institutionalized, including by gender and age, and regarding the systematic collection of criminal justice data across the criminal justice sector.</p>	<p>Regional exchange of good practices and challenges among law enforcement and prosecution officials, as well as the further harmonization of approaches towards stronger criminal justice response, was also supported through regional-level projects supported by the Trust Fund.</p>	<p>In Kosovo, the authorities were supported in establishing links between relevant databases for more efficient analysis and operations on SALW control. The linkage and its corresponding testing were successfully completed.</p>
		<p>The completed baseline assessment report on firearms data in the criminal justice system of the Western Balkans was finalized and published.</p>	<p>In BiH, an analysis was prepared of the digitalization needs in the relevant police bodies in FBiH and the RS MoI, which will be followed up on with additional relevant activities.</p>
		<p>In North Macedonia, a needs analysis on integrating a module on domestic violence within the IMS was developed and approved by the MoI.</p>	
	<p>National analytical capacities are increased, and firearms data analysis is institutionalized.</p>	<p>The Kosovo Forensic Agency received specialized equipment that improves its analytical capacities and quality of evidence.</p>	<p>20 Kosovo police officers (all men) were trained in information gathering, sharing, and analysis.</p>
		<p>North Macedonia's Forensic Department was equipped with a microscope for gunshot residue as a unique state-of-the-art piece of equipment which will improve examination of evidence from firearms-related incidents.</p>	<p>In Serbia, planned improvements in the evidence recovery database of the National Forensic Center were completed, while crime scene investigation and gunshot residue analysis was advanced through the provision of specialized equipment and training.</p>
		<p>The CSI units and forensic laboratories' staff in Serbia and Montenegro were equipped and trained with the aim of increasing the effectiveness of data analysis and the accuracy of the evidence produced.</p>	
	<p>All police services of the Western Balkans are connected and regularly input their data on lost and stolen firearms to INTERPOL's iARMS database.</p>	<p>INTERPOL's Firearms Programme provided on-the-job training on iARMS in Albania, BiH, and North Macedonia, with all of them committing to extend the scope of iARMS users in the jurisdictions.</p>	<p>23 law enforcement officers (18 men, 5 women) from five WB jurisdictions passed the relevant training on embedding the use of INTERPOL tools and firearms data into broader investigative approaches and intelligence analysis work and will serve as certified trainers in the respective jurisdictions.</p>
		<p>The iARMS user manual was translated into the official Western Balkans languages and disseminated among the jurisdictions as a resource.</p>	
	<p>Gender and age concerns are fully integrated into arms control policies, and the meaningful participation of women in arms control is ensured.</p>	<p>In Serbia, a set of gender-responsive measures and actions aimed at improving the prevention of firearms-enabled violence were developed and validated with relevant stakeholders.</p>	<p>In Serbia, 31 women from the security sector, including members of the Network of Women in the Police, were engaged in networking regarding the topic of preventing domestic violence, including that committed through firearms misuse.</p>
		<p>In Serbia, a comprehensive knowledge paper on suicide by firearms was developed, exploring the various dimensions of suicide by firearms and their different patterns - including gender patterns.</p>	
		<p>In BiH, 20 ITA staff (10 women, 10 men) took part in a gender equality advocacy workshop.</p>	<p>Two small-scale projects, implemented by the two associations of women police officials operating in BiH, were supported, thus enhancing the participation of women in SALW/security matters.</p>



Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome	Roadmap targets / TF Outputs	Trust Fund contribution in 2023	
<p><b>GOAL 3:</b></p> <p><b>By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.</b></p>	<p>The legal, policy, and procedural framework on the trafficking of FAE is implemented and monitored.</p>	<p>At the regional level, the regulatory framework was strengthened to counter trafficking via express courier and postal parcels. MoUs were signed in each jurisdiction between customs authorities and designated postal operators (three in BiH and one each in Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia) and 10 SOPs were developed on countering FAE trafficking in postal parcels, with seven of the SOPs adopted and three pending adoptions (in Serbia and Albania). The development of the regulatory framework was accompanied by a study visit to France and expert exchange with international partners.</p>	
		<p>A sub-regional Report on firearms trafficking into, from, and through the Western Balkans was finalized, pending publishing.</p>	
	<p>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.</p>	<p>A regional meeting enabled the exchange of firearms trafficking data among WB authorities and countries located along connected routes.</p>	<p>In Albania, the Customs Administration was equipped with specialized detection equipment and training on its use, encompassing one unit of Smiths Detection HazMatID Elite and 10 hand-held metal detectors.</p>
		<p>The previously developed SALW Identification Tool application was improved in line with the feedback from law enforcement agencies, including the expansion of the catalogue of weapons and ammunition with 384 items and more than 1500 related high-resolution photographs. The new version of the Tool was installed on laptops that were distributed to 12 BiH law enforcement agencies, together with the Tool's source code, for further use in their day-to-day operations.</p>	<p>To enhance operational efficiency in countering arms trafficking, four local joint exercises were organized in BiH, engaging BiH customs, cantonal, entity, and state level police officials, and the BiH Prosecutor Office.</p> <p>In addition, BiH customs, law enforcement, and prosecution representatives were provided with the opportunity to better tackle the illicit flows of firearms through two international (bilateral) joint exercises with their peers, one with their Serbian and one with their Montenegrin counterparts. These exercises were an opportunity to put into practice and test the specialized equipment that had been provided and the new relevant SOPs developed as part of projects in support of the Roadmap.</p>
		<p>A comprehensive set of specialized equipment was provided for the BiH Border Police and BiH Customs.</p>	<p>Another 25 police officers (20 men and 5 women) from both Kosovo and North Macedonia passed a joint training on converted firearms.</p>
		<p>In Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the support of the Trust Fund projects, nine Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were officially approved by the Indirect Taxation Authority/Customs to advance operations in countering firearms trafficking and illicit trade.</p>	<p>A notable development occurred in North Macedonia, where North Macedonia's Ministry of Interior, the Public Prosecutor, and the Customs Administration signed a Memorandum of Understanding in November 2023 with the support of a Trust Fund regional project, enhancing cooperation on arms trafficking matters. This was complemented by the comprehensive implementation of plans focusing on training and capacity-building for stakeholders in line with the recently amended criminal code that incorporates provisions aligned with the UN Firearms Protocol.</p>

**Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome**

**Roadmap targets / TF Outputs**

**Trust Fund contribution in 2023**

**GOAL 4:**

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

Awareness increased among the general population, both women and men, on the dangers of the misuse, illicit possession, and trafficking of FAE.

Education and advocacy increased to tackle misuses of firearms, including in violence against women, domestic violence, and other forms of gender-based violence.

To reduce the misuse of firearms in line with Goal 4 of the Roadmap, a series of awareness-raising, educational, outreach, and advocacy activities took place in 2023 across several jurisdictions.

In Albania, a national awareness campaign was launched aimed at SALW control and reducing firearms misuse and illicit possession, building upon the results of the previously commissioned national survey. Close coordination took place with the Albanian State Police to agree on the communication strategy, campaign elements, and underlying messages and the campaign is intended to be rolled out in 2024.

In BiH, the second wave of a focused awareness campaign “Firearms do not protect, firearms kill!” was carried out in Republika Srpska, resulting in 250 lectures involving 11,309 high school students, with approximately 70 RS police officials engaged for the purpose, most of whom perform duties of community policing.

In Kosovo, officials from the Press and Public Information Offices of the Kosovo Police and the Ministry of Internal Affairs were trained on the gathering, analysis, and distribution of SALW-related information, and on a proactive approach in tackling misinformation and disinformation on FAE incidents and crime.

In Serbia, over 250 stakeholders, representatives from different systems, were engaged and networked in regard to the topic of SALW misuse prevention, with a focus on domestic violence and suicide. A set of measures were developed jointly with relevant stakeholders aiming to improve the capacities, knowledge, and awareness of healthcare workers, and ensuring their effective response to and prevention of firearms misuse for violence.

A general awareness campaign was launched in September 2023 across BiH: “Respect Life, Not Weapons!” Two out of three waves of the general campaign were successfully implemented by December 2023, addressing femicide and responsible SALW ownership in BiH, with the involvement and participation of 12 police agencies. The campaign encompassed TV, radio, digital channels, and OOH (Out-Of-Home/Billboards and LED screens) advertising. Additionally, outreach events were conducted in selected cities with the involvement of police agencies in the field. The campaign reached a high estimate of between 96% and 99% of the targeted group in the country, representing successful outreach to over 2.6 million individuals aged 18 and above. The third wave was scheduled to take place in the first quarter of 2024, focusing on the voluntary surrender of illicit SALW.

Serbia’s MoI representatives from the Department of Psychological Activities were supported in collecting inputs through focus groups with police staff (23 participants, 15 women and 8 men) regarding views and needs on the prevention of negative consequences of occupational trauma that could lead to domestic violence or suicide (including by firearms misuse). Based on this, a capacity-building training was organized for 29 representatives of Serbia’s MoI (27 women and 2 men) involved in the provision of psychological support to staff with the aim of improving suicide risk prevention and preventing violence by police officers (including by firearms misuse) through improved recognition of the risks of occupational trauma and the provision of appropriate psychological support.

Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome	Roadmap targets / TF Outputs	Trust Fund contribution in 2023
<b>Goal 4: By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand, and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy.</b>	Increased partnership with, and awareness of media on the importance of adequate reporting on firearms misuse and firearms-enabled violence.	<p>In Serbia, to support the media's ethical reporting on firearms misuse for violence in Serbia, a workshop with 50 journalists and editors of the Adria Media Publishing group (both online and print media) was organized, while representatives of the UNDP-supported group Journalists against Violence presented ethical standards for informative and educational reporting on the problem of firearms misuse.</p> <p>Guidelines for ethical media reporting and raising public awareness regarding the link between SALW misuse and suicides were developed and published to serve as a continuous resource for improving the media's educational and preventive role.</p>

Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome	Roadmap targets / TF Outputs	Trust Fund contribution in 2023
<b>GOAL 5:</b>  <b>By 2024, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans.</b>	Number of seized firearms and pieces of ammunition and explosives increased.	<p>The Trust Fund's projects in Albania, BiH, Kosovo, North Macedonia and Serbia cross-cuttingly contributed to the Goal 5 of the Roadmap. The specialized capacity development and equipment provided to law enforcement in BiH, Kosovo, and North Macedonia was focused on enhancing the detection of firearms and ammunition in illegal possession and their seizures.</p> <p>In BiH, the comprehensive set of specialized equipment and training provided to Border Police and Customs are expected to enhance the detection of firearms, ammunition, and explosives in illicit possession. Likewise, the upgraded SALW Identification Tool deployed to all law enforcement agencies in BiH is to assist towards this end.</p> <p>In Kosovo, the police were provided with a ground penetration radar system to enhance the detection of weapons hidden underground. In addition, the Kosovo Forensic Agency was provided with specialised equipment that should improve the examination of seized firearms by the ballistic department.</p>
	Illegal firearms possession is reduced through deactivation.	In North Macedonia, the Ministry of the Interior was equipped with a Laser Marking Machine for the marking of deactivated firearms and to help in the tracing and control of SALW in the jurisdiction.

Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome	Roadmap targets / TF Outputs	Trust Fund contribution in 2023
<b>Goal 5: By 2024, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans.</b>	Administrative and technical capacities and targeted outreach are increased to complete re-registration of firearms.	In Albania, the State Police were provided with 100,000 digital cards, alongside specialized IT equipment and training to support the firearms re-registration process. Here, it is important to mention that due to a severe cyber-attack in 2022 in Albania and the subsequent overhaul of the existing weapons registration system, the re-registration has proceeded manually using the IT equipment, while the issuance of digital cards for weapons owners is to take place at a later stage. Despite this difficulty, noticeable progress in re-registration process has been documented; with 55% of weapons re-registered in 2022 increasing to 81% by the end of 2023.
	SALW-control records and registry systems are upgraded.	In Serbia, the Police Administrative Directorate was provided with the relevant IT equipment necessary for the new SALW-control registry system and 210 of their staff (146 women, 64 men) were trained on the use of the new registry system.

Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome	Roadmap targets / TF Outputs	Trust Fund contribution in 2023
<b>GOAL 7:</b>  <b>Significantly decrease the risk of the proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.</b>	Safe and secure SALW/firearms and ammunition storage facilities in accordance with international standards ensured.	In Albania, the reconstruction and refurbishment of seven weapons storage facilities (evidence rooms), in line with int'l standards, was initiated, encompassing Mat, Puka, Tropoja, Lushnja, Fier, Pogradec, and Tirana. The works are intended to be completed in 2024.
		In North Macedonia, based on a developed needs-based analysis of the physical security of the Gjorche Petrov weapons storage facility, the Trust Fund supported the development of technical documentation for upgrading the safety and security of weapons warehouses and implemented interventions in line with the produced documentation, strengthening the security of the weapons warehouses through improved electrical installations, new lighting, and a diesel generator for power outages.

## 3. Update on the Activity of the Trust Fund Governance Bodies

### 3.1. Steering Committee Decision-Making

In 2023, the Steering Committee convened six times during the year to review and endorse the findings of and the management response to the mid-term evaluation report, to review and decide on the Fund's direction and operations, to agree on the third call for proposals following the mid-term evaluation, and to review and approve new project proposals, as well as project revisions.

In Q1 2023, the Steering Committee convened for its annual meeting, whereby the Committee:

- Reviewed, discussed, and endorsed the Trust Fund's mid-term evaluation report;
- Endorsed the Fund's Activity Timeline for 2023. This entailed the launching of the 3rd Call for Proposals during Q1 2023, incorporating the findings of the mid-term evaluation;



- Approved a new extension of the Trust Fund, for another six (6) months, through 31 December 2025, to allow for the adequate culmination of projects stemming from the 2023 Call for Proposals, including relevant follow-up administration as well as their final evaluation.
- Approved an extension of the Secretariat to match the newly approved extension of the Trust Fund, through 31 December 2025.

- Approved the budget instalment for the Secretariat in 2023, in the amount of US\$ 133,750.

At the annual Steering Committee meeting, as well as in the subsequent online communication among its members, the Steering Committee reviewed the final text of the Call for Proposals and the related requirements, assessment criteria and templates, with the Call officially launched on 15 March 2023.

In Q2 2023, the Steering Committee convened virtually to review and decide on three project revision requests, which entailed non-cost extensions of the corresponding implementing periods for the three projects, two in Bosnia and Herzegovina and one in Serbia.

In Q3 2023, the Steering Committee convened three times, once in a hybrid format and twice online, to review and decide on new project proposals and on project revisions. Three ongoing projects were granted non-cost extensions, two implemented in Albania and one regional project. The Steering Committee approved all eight proposals received as part of the third call for proposals, seven of these in a reduced form due to funding constraints in line with the recommendations of a review panel established for the purpose of the technical assessment of new proposals. The Steering Committee also decided to invite SALW Commission representatives from each of the jurisdictions for better-informed decision-making on new proposals to hear their perspectives in this respect and partake in constructive dialogue.

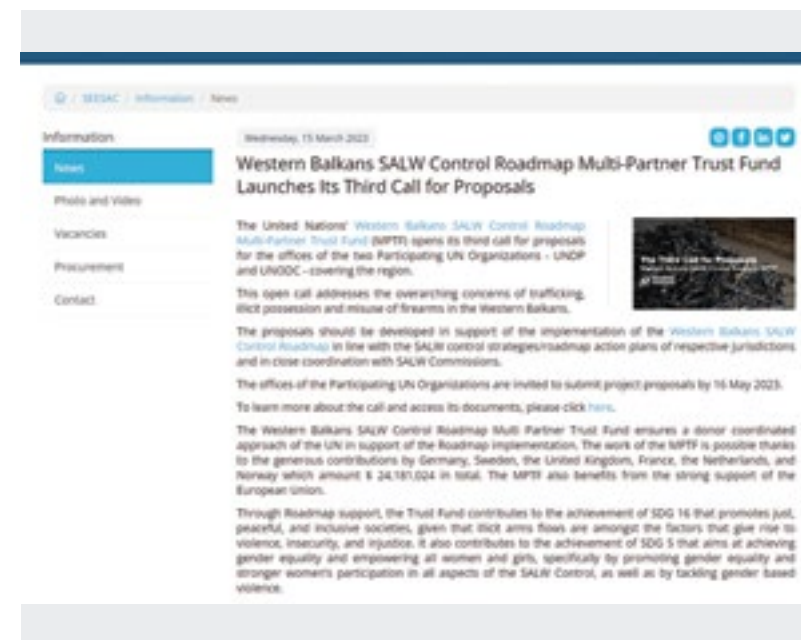
In the final quarter of the year, the Steering Committee convened to review the progress and results achieved through ongoing and completed projects in 2023, as well as to receive updates on the Fund's financial status, risks assessment, and the management response to the mid-term evaluation. On this occasion, SALW Commission representatives from the region were again invited to jointly review the projects' progress and present their viewpoints.

## 3.2. Activity of the Secretariat

**In 2023, 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. 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.**

Upon request, the Secretariat provided technical and advisory support for the implementation of Trust Fund projects. 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 recommendations. Four of the revisions were approved at the Secretariat level in line with the Operational Manual, pertaining to non-cost extensions of the implementing periods of up to three months for the respective projects implemented in Kosovo (1), Montenegro (1), North Macedonia (1), and Serbia (1).

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 contributors



and partners. In cooperation with the assigned evaluation manager on behalf of the UNDP, it supported the completion of the independent mid-term evaluation of the Trust Fund and the development of a management response to address the recommendations of the evaluation. The Secretariat also supported the subsequent implementation of the recommendations and provided an end-of-year update to the Steering Committee in this respect.

The Secretariat ensured the technical assessment and processing of the project proposals submitted within the third call for proposals. As the result of the call, the Trust Fund received eight (8) project proposals by the deadline of 16 May 2023. The eligible offices, UNODC and UNDP, put forward proposals that are aimed at building and expanding upon the solid progress already made in support of the SALW Control Roadmap, in line with the recommendations from the mid-term evaluation of the Trust Fund. In adherence with the MPTF Operations Manual, the administrative and technical review and assessment of the received project proposals was initiated by the Secretariat as of June 2023, conducted by a review panel comprised of four experts and supported by a secretary/quality assurance focal point appointed by the Secretariat. The findings and recommendations of the technical assessment were shared with the Steering Committee for final decision-making.

To improve the visibility of the Trust Fund donors in the communication of the funded projects, the Secretariat regularly liaised with the project teams to ensure appropriate implementation of the adopted visibility guidelines aimed at further facilitating more coherent and appropriate visibility for the Fund. These 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 their support via social networks and websites.

Finally, the Secretariat maintained an [online platform](#) that features projects supported by the Trust Fund and results stemming from them.

**Funding Mechanisms**

- UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund
- > Albania
- > Bosnia and Herzegovina
- > Kosovo\*
- > Montenegro
- > North Macedonia
- > Serbia
- > Regional

UNDP's Funding Windows Regional Project

### UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund

The Western Balkans Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) Control Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) was established by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the MPTF Office as a key funding mechanism for the implementation of the Roadmap. It enables a platform to strengthen coordination, planning and communication among the donors, implementing partners and national authorities, and develop synergies among different players involved in this programmatic area. It also reduces risks to governments and financial contributors through a comprehensive risk and results-based management system.

The Trust Fund supports projects implemented in the area of SALW control that contribute to the achievement of the Roadmap goals and are in line with the priorities of the partner jurisdictions. Projects can be implemented by the UNDP Offices in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, and by UNODC.

#### Key Features of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF

- Coordination and Best Use of Resources**  
SALW control activities are coordinated among partners, and priorities are aligned through regular dialogues, monitoring and reporting, avoiding duplication of efforts, reducing fragmentation, and ensuring complementarity and coherence.
- 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 website, thereby preserving important institutional knowledge and facilitating knowledge sharing.
- Higher Impact**  
Donor contributions are commingled as part of the pooled funding mechanism, enabling the implementation of broader interventions with more substantive results and greater overall impact.
- 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.
- Relevance**  
Funded projects must adhere to the goals of the Roadmap and must be developed with the beneficiaries, thereby ensuring that projects effectively respond to the priorities of the targeted jurisdictions.
- Effectiveness and Efficiency**  
A comprehensive results-based framework ensures delivery of results, while the pass-through mechanism minimizes implementation delays and transaction costs.

## 4. Update on the Activity of the Participating UN Organizations

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

**F**ourteen (14) projects were ongoing and eight new were launched in the last quarter of 2023. This section briefly features all of the 22 projects that were active or launched in the course of 2023. Detailed matrix of project activities and results is provided in Annex 2 of the annual report.

### 4.1. Regional and cross-border interventions

At the regional level, the Trust Fund supported four interventions, addressing several areas of the Roadmap: legislative reform in line with the UN Firearms Protocol, regional operational exchange, the harmonization of criminal justice responses and practices, and enhanced capacities to counter illicit arms trafficking. In the last quarter of 2023, a fifth project was launched, aimed at consolidating criminal justice responses to counter arms trafficking in the Western Balkans.



#### Criminal Justice Response to Firearm-Related Crimes

Trough the regional project “Criminal Justice Response Against Arms Trafficking” initiated in 2020, the Trust Fund and UNODC helped prevent and counter the trafficking of firearms by strengthening criminal justice responses to firearm-related crimes across the Western Balkans.

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 2023, UNODC continued to provide expert and technical support to jurisdictions with the aim of bringing their criminal legislation in line with the UN Firearms Protocol. As a result of UNODC’s support, the Parliaments of Montenegro and North Macedonia approved amended criminal codes with provisions harmonized with the UN Firearms Protocol. In addition, the Guidelines on the Investigation and Prosecution of Firearms Offences that were finalized in 2022 were approved as an official UNODC publication and published. The UNODC officially [launched the Guidelines](#) on 23 May 2023, in Vienna, at a side event of the 32nd regular session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Having translated the Guidelines into Albanian, Macedonian, and the BSCM languages, UNODC organized five meetings for the customization of the Guidelines with the legal frameworks in Serbia and North Macedonia, and for their incorporation into respective institutionalized training programs. Likewise, the completed baseline assessment report on firearms data in the criminal justice system of the Western Balkans was finalized and published.

The project completed its operations in March 2023. The final report will be published on the [SALW MPTF Gateway](#).



## 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 with the aim of reducing and overcoming existing knowledge on and skills gaps in SALW investigations and addressing and resolving 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 same SALW-related issues, as well as their underlying and driving factors.

In 2023, the project organized its final training sessions. In supplement to the completed series of 11 training sessions, an additional, 12th two-day training session was held as part of the project, focused on increasing knowledge on the legal framework on SALW control, information gathering, analyzing, and sharing for 20 Kosovo police officers (all men). As a result of the successful trainings and positive feedback from the police forces in both jurisdictions,



**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.**

a fourth training on converted firearms was organized in Kosovo for 25 police officers (20 men and 5 women) from both North Macedonia (10, 9 men and 1 woman) and Kosovo (15, 11 men and 4 women). Finally, the jointly developed Manual on the Investigation of SALW on the Internet was translated into the official local languages and disseminated among relevant law enforcement units.

The project completed its operations in March 2023. The final report will be published on the [SALW MPTF Gateway](#).

## 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 2023, in addition to delivering the relevant equipment to all five beneficiary countries as per assessed needs, the project made progress towards granting I-24/7 access to the Aircop unit in North Macedonia. Following the countersignature of the agreement between the NCB and the Customs Administration in North Macedonia, the process for granting I-24/7 access to the Aircop unit in Skopje was completed. INTERPOL's Firearms Programme organized on-the-job training on iARMS in North Macedonia, Albania, and BiH. In response to requests from the country users, INTERPOL translated the iARMS user manual into the five official Western Balkans languages and sent copies in the respective languages to Albania, BiH, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia. Furthermore, 23 law enforcement officers (18 men, 5 women) from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia completed the training-of-

trainers on embedding the use of INTERPOL tools and firearms data into broader investigative approaches and intelligence analysis work in their respective jurisdictions.

Efforts were invested into developing the sub-regional report on firearms trafficking into, from, and through the Western Balkans. The preliminary findings of the report were presented to relevant representatives from Western Balkans jurisdictions at a regional meeting in Belgrade, which gathered 17 representatives (7 women and 10 men) from Albania, BiH, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia, as well as from France, Bulgaria, Sweden, Belgium, and the Netherlands – the latter countries being identified in the report as having connected routes. The meeting was also bolstered by the participation of 9 civil society representatives (4 women and 5 men). Following the latest round of comments, the report was finalized and is scheduled to be published in 2024.

The project completed its operations in December 2023. The final report will be published on the [SALW MPTF Gateway](#).

### Countering trafficking in firearms in postal parcels

In February 2023, a new regional project of the UNODC GFP was launched, "Countering Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Ammunition in Express Courier and Postal Parcels: Project Hermes Phase I". Building upon the successfully implemented initiative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the project was aimed at supporting the six Western Balkans jurisdictions in enhancing the regulatory framework and the capacities of relevant

institutions to prevent and counter the illicit trafficking of firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition in express courier and postal parcels.

The project team organized inception meetings in Pristina and Belgrade in March 2023. The meetings gathered 113 participants (29 women and 84 men), representing customs administrations, designated postal operators, and law enforcement and prosecution services from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia. The Universal Postal Union (UPU), the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT Firearms), the United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS), and French Customs also took part in the meetings to contribute to the GFP's initiative.

In cooperation with French Customs, the project organized a study visit for representative from all the WB jurisdictions to Charles de Gaulle Airport, France, with 14 officials (1 woman and 13 men) taking part. The participants gained insight into the organization of work of French Customs, La Poste, and express courier companies and the application of risk analysis to identify parcels containing prohibited goods. They were provided with the opportunity to observe the work of their French counterparts in postal depots and the teamwork between French Customs and La Poste on inspecting suspicious parcels. Two sub-regional meetings followed in June 2023, one in Pristina

(for Kosovo, Albania, and North Macedonia) involving 24 officials (5 women and 19 men) and one in Sarajevo (for BiH, Montenegro, and Serbia) involving 29 officials (8 women and 21 men), respectively, with the aim of debriefing the officials on the study visit to CDG Airport, reviewing the progress achieved in drafting

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**The Trust Fund joins efforts with UNODC to counter trafficking in firearms, their parts, and ammunition in express courier and postal parcels.**

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SOPs and MoUs, and providing updates on Operation Armstrong regarding the detection of firearms in postal parcels.

The development of SOPs and MoUs in this field was initiated in collaboration with DPOs and customs administrations from all WB jurisdictions. For this purpose, UNODC organized 12 workshops gathering 116 representatives of customs and postal operators from the region (25 women and 91 men), with the active participation and cooperation of international bodies like GIZ, UPU, EMPACT Firearms, and various customs and police services. As a result, eight unique MoUs were developed, with all of them were signed and adopted by the respective customs agencies and DPOs (3 in BiH, and one each in the remaining jurisdictions). The development of SOPs ensued, with 10 SOPs developed through the project for countering trafficking in firearms in postal parcels across customs and designated postal

operators (DPOs) in the Western Balkans. Seven out of 10 were adopted by the end of the year (three were still pending at year's end, in Albania and Serbia).

UNODC equipped the Albanian Customs Administration with a hand-held explosives and drugs detector (SmithDetection HazmatID Elite), 10 hand-held metal detectors, and 3 laptops. It delivered a specialized training on the use of the HazmatID Elite detector to four Albanian officials (4 men) in the UNODC Laboratory. The equipment and new skills are expected to improve the effectiveness of postal security by enabling more accurate detection of explosives and metal firearms components.

The project completed its operations in December 2023. The final report will be published on the [SALW MPTF Gateway](#).

### Further advancing criminal justice response in the region

In November 2023, the Trust Fund initiated a new regional project of the UNODC GFP aimed at supporting the six Western Balkans jurisdictions in further enhancing the criminal justice response to counter arms trafficking in the Western Balkans.

The "Project Justitia: Support to the Criminal Justice Response to Counter Arms Trafficking in the Western Balkans" directly builds upon the previous project "Criminal Justice Response against Arms Trafficking in the Western Balkans," implemented by UNODC in 2020-2023, and represents a comprehensive effort to strengthen the criminal justice system's response to



organized crime and illicit firearms trafficking in the Western Balkans. By addressing gaps in legislation, enhancing the abilities of criminal justice practitioners, and harmonizing criminal legislation approaches across the region for better operational exchange, the project aims to

create a more effective and unified approach to combat these pressing issues and support the implementation of the Roadmap for SALW Control in the Western Balkans.

The project Justitia was [officially launched](#) on 14 December 2023 with an inception meeting, attended by 34 participants (11 women, 23 men) representing all six

WB jurisdictions. The inception meeting served as a vehicle for discussing the project objectives for 2024-2025, and it resulted in

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**The Trust Fund and UNODC work on further advancing the criminal justice response to counter trafficking in firearms and harmonize criminal legislation approaches in the region.**

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the endorsement of the project implementation workplan and the identification of potential risks to the project's success and strategies for their mitigation.

With support from the project, in November 2023, North Macedonia's Ministry of the Interior, the Public Prosecutor, and the Customs Administration [signed a MoU](#) on cooperation to counter firearms criminality. This represents part of a broader effort to strengthen the criminal justice response to arms trafficking, following pivotal amendments to the Criminal Code of North Macedonia adopted in September 2023.

## 4.2. Albania

In Albania, the Trust Fund supported two projects dedicated to strengthening SALW control, upgrading the safety and security of weapons storage facilities and raising awareness and increasing community engagement on firearms misuse. By the end of the year, a third project in this context was launched that is aimed at strengthening integrated approaches to SALW control and cross-border cooperation towards this end.

### Strengthening SALW Control and social attitudes

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" has had the aim of strengthening the analytical base and the efficiency and effectiveness of the SALW control practices of 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, and 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 2023, the project was forced to reassess its support to the upgrade of the weapons registry system SIMA as a result of a follow-up request made by the Albanian State Police. Namely, the ASP requested a complete restoration of the SIMA system to address security risks as a consequence of a severe cyber-attack in 2022 that affected the country's police systems, among others. As this goes beyond the scope and resources of the project, the SIMA upgrade will be addressed outside the bounds of the project, through separate resources, under lead support provided by SEESAC. Nevertheless, the delivery of the IT equipment for the issuance of digital cards for firearm owners was concluded, consisting of three special printers, holographic film, special ink and software. In addition, 100,000 digital cards were delivered, intended for registered firearms owners. The project supported the installation of the special printers for the issuance of digital cards and trained 11 police officers (9 men and 2 women) in their use. Given the new circumstances surrounding the weapons registration system, and the requested complete overhaul of SIMA by the ASP, the equipment is to be used by the ASP to enter necessary data manually until the SIMA overhaul and update with the module for issuing digital cards is complete.



The contracted design and supervisory company completed the designs for selected weapons storage facilities, and these were approved by the ASP. The procurement of an engineering company followed and a company was contracted in October 2023, after a lengthy process due to a lack of qualified applicants. After the ASP issued the clearance for the company to commence works in December, the project team, together with the company, conducted the relevant field visits. Taking into account that the authorities decided to have the Regional Police Directorates of Berat and Elbasan and the police station in Saranda completely renovated (including the evidence rooms) with financing from the state budget, the construction of works through the Trust

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**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.**

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Fund's support has begun for the other 7 evidence rooms (Mat, Puke, Tropoje, Lushnje, Fier, Pogradec, and Tirana).

Following an open call, the project contracted a company to carry out a national awareness campaign on SALW control, safer communities, and the dangers of SALW misuse, based on the results of a previously conducted national survey. The company developed a communications strategy for the national awareness campaign, and a launching event took place in June 2023 in cooperation with the SALW Commission/MoI and the OSCE Presence in Albania. The actions of both UNDP and OSCE on communication and awareness-raising in Albania are complementary to each other, and thus closely coordinated under the overall leadership and ownership of the MoI/SALW Commission. Following the launch event, the project team held meetings with the ASP to coordinate the implementation of the awareness campaign and consult on campaign elements and underlying messages (video scripts and posters). The materials to be used during the campaign were finally approved in December and the campaign was scheduled to be rolled out in the coming months. The activities related to public awareness are being implemented in collaboration with the ASP's Directorate of Public Order.

## Reconstruction and refurbishment of arms depots

**The Trust Fund supports UNDP in Albania in advancing the safety and security management of weapons and ammunition storage facilities across the country.**

The project "Increased security of the arms depots under the administration of the Albanian State Police" is a response to the expressed priority needs of the Albanian law enforcement authorities. It was operationally initiated in November 2022 as a small-scale project to improve and refurbish three top-priority weapons and ammunition storages of the Albanian State Police and furnish the ASP evidence rooms with 120 safes for SALW. Improvements are to follow international standards and best practices, guaranteeing the maintenance, safety, and administration of firearms, ammunition, and explosives throughout their life cycle.

In 2023, a company was selected to undertake the design and supervision works for the reconstruction of facilities in Kukes, Lezha, and Vlora. Site visits were concluded, and the final designs completed and approved by the Albanian State Police, while the construction works are to follow in 2024.

The training materials on physical security and stockpile management were compiled and are being consulted with the ASP, with an aim to print 100 booklets for police officers and conduct a refresher training for relevant police staff on the topic.

In cooperation with the ASP, technical specifications for the procurement of storage equipment for weapons were drafted, and the procurement process was initiated in line with the specifications agreed upon with the ASP. The project successfully concluded the procurement process for metal safes and these are expected to be delivered and distributed to the facilities across the country in 2024.

## Towards an integrated institutional approach to SALW Control

The project "Integrated Institutional Approach and Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation to SALW Control (Phase I)" was initiated in December 2023, in the framework of the third call for proposals.

The project builds upon the previous progress and efforts of the Albanian Ministry of the Interior and the State Police to enhance SALW control at the national level and beyond. It aims to strengthen the operational and technical knowledge of relevant institutions and reduce skill gaps in dealing with FAE detection and prevent their trafficking across borders.

This entails capacity development and strengthening of relevant national law enforcement institutions/departments, improving their inter-institutional collaboration in the field of FAE, and promoting and developing cross-border cooperation towards the final aim of adopting an integrated institutional approach to combating FAE trafficking. Project activities are to include: i) an institutional strengthening component; ii) a training component, inclusive of joint training, on

various FAE-related topics; iii) a cross-border collaboration component with Kosovo; and iv) procurement of identified equipment deemed necessary for improving the quality and outcomes of the border police operations along the green border with Kosovo.

The project is to start operationalizing its activities during 2024.

**The Trust Fund supports UNDP in Albania in solidifying the progress made and strengthening integrated institutional approaches and cross-border cooperation to SALW control in the country.**

### 4.3. Bosnia and Herzegovina

In BiH, the Trust Fund supported four projects addressing several areas of the Roadmap: countering illicit arms trafficking, enhancing inter-agency collaboration on SALW control, integrating the gender perspective into SALW control matters, and reducing the supply, demand, and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach, and advocacy.

#### Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking

The project “Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade (HALT) in BiH,” jointly implemented by UNDP BiH and UNODC, provided 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 was launched in February 2020 and was implemented in a context in which BiH continued 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.<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> SOCTA BiH <http://www.msb.gov.ba/PDF/strategy11122017.pdf>

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

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In 2023, as a follow up to the previously developed SOPs for BiH ITA, UNDP organized two meetings of the ad-hoc working group composed of middle managers from three relevant ITA sectors to further fine-tune developed SOPs and prepare them for official adoption. The ITA Director officially approved and signed nine SOPs on 13 June 2023, thus advancing the regulatory framework of the entity.

The BiH SALW Coordination Board was supported in organizing a strategic gathering to discuss priorities vis-a-vis the Roadmap implementation and combating illegal SALW trade. In addition to BiH Customs, the meeting included nearly all the members of the BiH SALW Coordination Board and was also attended by representatives of cantonal ministries of interior.

A final gathering of all lecturers that participated in a series of affiliated gender equality workshops for the BiH ITA took place in February 2023 with the aim of reflecting on the achieved results and lessons learned during the

workshops. Positive feedback from participants was conveyed, along with the sentiment that future similar activities should be implemented to encompass all ITA employees.

The Border Police and BiH ITA were provided with specialized equipment to further advance their efforts in arms control. UNDP provided the Border Police with 13 digital cameras, 8 sets of evidence packaging kits, 11 sets of number evidence markers, 33 sets of universal multitool kits, and 6 contraband detectors, while the BiH ITA was equipped with 6 contraband detectors by UNDP and two X-ray scanners and 45 explosive and drug field tests by UNODC.



UNDP organized a peer-exchange meeting between representatives of the BiH ITA and Croatia’s Customs Administration, with the additional participation of the UNODC. The meeting took place in Zagreb and gathered 7 ITA representatives (4 men and 3 women) and 5 representatives of Croatia’s Customs Administration (4 men and 1 woman). The meeting enabled exchange of experiences and inter-agency commentary on the organizational set up of both institutions, with a focus on fighting illegal SALW trade. As part of the exchange, Croatia’s Customs Administration organized a short study visit for the BiH ITA representatives to Zagreb International Airport and the main postal distribution center, presenting modus operandi between Croatia’s Customs and Border Police at these two locations, and emphasizing cooperation between the two institutions based on defined legal competencies. This was the final activity in a series of

exchanges of best practices and knowledge through bilateral meetings organized in Podgorica, Belgrade, and Zagreb.

As a result of the training on firearms x-ray image identification, tangible results continued to be noted in the seizures of illegal firearms and parts on behalf of BiH Customs. In addition to thirty seizures of firearms parts in postal parcels that took place in Q4 2022 at the Sarajevo Airport, an arrest of a suspect followed in 2023, with the UNODC project team supporting the ongoing investigation, leading to the identification of another 400 parcels which contained firearms parts and were ready for shipment. The UNODC monitored the situation and worked on further improving the training materials on detecting firearms through analysis of X-ray images. Training materials and copies of its Firearms X-ray Manual were disseminated among the designated postal operators and ITA for their continuous use.

On 30 June 2023, a Project Board meeting took place in Sarajevo (encompassing three Roadmap projects implemented in BiH – HALT, DIRC, and PILLAR). Relevant authorities, representatives of the international community, and donors endorsed the HALT project results and its successful completion.

The project completed its operations in June 2023. The final report will be published on the [SALW MPTF Gateway](#).

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

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## Raising Awareness about the Dangers of Firearms Misuse

The project PILLAR, “Prevention and Illicit Arms Reduction in Bosnia and Herzegovina,” supported by the Trust Fund in BiH, was initiated in 2021 with the aim of implementing a comprehensive effort to raise awareness among 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 2023, as part of the focused campaign “Firearms do not protect, firearms kill!” addressing high school students, the project supported the implementation of the remaining campaign activities in Republika Srpska. These activities were part of the ‘second wave’ of the focused campaign, building upon the first wave of the campaign implemented in 2022. The second wave of the campaign was conducted in May – June 2023, with 250 lectures involving 11,309 student participants and approximately 70 RS police officials engaged for the purpose, most of whom perform duties of community policing.

The project contracted a marketing agency to implement a general awareness-raising campaign in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Prior to the official launching of the campaign, the project organized three focused group discussions – in Sarajevo, Mostar, and Banja Luka. Upon completion of the focus group discussions, the project conducted coordination meetings with all jurisdictional police agencies (10 cantonal Mols, the RS Mol, and the Police of Brčko District BiH), to present and discuss the findings, as well as agree on visual solutions and slogans for the campaign in accordance with the findings.



All of the planning and coordination activities pertinent to general awareness-raising campaign were timely and regularly coordinated and agreed upon with the BiH SALW Coordination Board.

Agreement among representatives of the 12 police agencies was reached to name the campaign: “Respect Life, Not Weapons!” (Poštuj život, ne oružje!). Furthermore, it was agreed that the campaign, in bringing the project to its culmination, would be implemented in three waves:

- 1st wave in the period 25 September – 15 October 2023, focusing on femicide.

➤ 2nd wave in the period 30 October – 05 December 2023, focusing on responsible SALW ownership.

➤ 3rd wave in the period 31 January – 15 March 2024, focusing on the voluntary surrender of illicit SALW.

Two waves of the general awareness-raising campaign were successfully implemented by December 2023, addressing femicide and responsible SALW ownership in BiH, with the involvement and participation of 12 relevant police agencies – the RS Mol, 10 cantonal Mols, and the Police of Brčko District BiH. The campaign was impactfully realized through targeted manifestations on TV, radio, digital channels, and OOH (Out-Of-Home/Billboards and LED screens) advertising. Additionally, outreach events were conducted in selected cities with the involvement of police agencies in the field. The campaign reached a high estimate of between 96% and 99% of the targeted group in the country, representing over 2.6 million individuals aged 18 and above.

## Enhancing resources and cooperation for SALW control

In October 2022, a new project was initiated in BiH to address priority needs prior to the next open call. The project “Digitalization and Institutional and Regional Cooperation Project (DIRC)” was initiated with the goal of ensuring continuity in and the strengthening of the ongoing efforts and achievements of Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding SALW control. It aimed to establish a platform for bi-lateral and multilateral knowledge-sharing with neighboring countries pertaining to several aspects of SALW control, and to further promote gender equality and raise awareness on the detection and prevention of gender-based harassment within the Indirect Taxation Authority of BiH.

In 2023, the UNDP assessed possibilities for improving the existing digital capacities of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations (MOFTER). Unfortunately, before the contracted company could begin work on upgrading digital resources and applications as per initial plans, MOFTER decided to withdraw from the initiative and the activity was thus cancelled. The project team informed the Head of the SALW Coordination Board and the Trust Fund’s Steering Committee about this development. On the other hand, the project team hired a local expert to conduct an initial analysis of the digitalization needs in the relevant police bodies in FBiH and the RS Mol. The analysis was then completed and it is intended that the project team will follow up on its findings with a subsequent project funded through the Trust Fund (Project LEAD).

### The Trust Fund supports UNDP in BiH in further enhancing inter-agency and cross-border cooperation in BiH and advancing digital resources for SALW control.

Following the feedback from the law enforcement agencies on the application of the existing SALW Identification Tool, initially developed and advanced through previous Roadmap projects (CIAT and HALT), the project engaged national experts to further improve the Tool according to the requested standards and recommendations of the beneficiaries. A new and improved version of the SALW ID Tool application was subsequently finalized, fully compliant with the beneficiaries’ feedback and with an expanded catalogue of weapons and ammunition of 384 items and more than 1500 related high-resolution photographs that can be magnified to show the smallest details. The new version of the ID Tool also enables the end-users to search the catalogue based on 10 different criteria for ammunition and 14 different criteria for weapons.





The new version of the Tool was installed on laptops that were distributed to 12 law enforcement agencies in the country, together with the Tool's source code. Additionally, the UNDP project team organized a one-day training session to introduce the new Tool to the end-users and provide an overview of its features, functionality, and possible upgrades.

As a follow-up to two joint exercises organized in Q4 2022, the project team managed to organize four additional joint exercises involving 93 customs and police officials in total (7 women and 86 men) from the ITA and various police agencies - cantonal, entity, and state level - in the presence of and with active participation by the BiH Prosecutor Office. Joint exercises, each lasting two days, were organized and carried out with an aim to introduce additional customs and police officials to the proper application of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that had been developed under the projects CIAT and HALT, regulating a step-by-step approach in the detection of illegal SALW in vehicles and compounds, as well as to convey the SOP's proper correlation with criminal procedure codes in BiH. In addition, each exercise included a presentation on the proper utilization of the specialized equipment for the detection of illegal SALW that had been donated through the projects CIAT and HALT, as well as of equipment for detecting sources of dangerous radiation.

UNDP also organized two bilateral meetings between the representatives of the prosecutor offices, law enforcement agencies, and customs from BiH and Montenegro and Serbia, respectively. Two joint cross-border exercises ensued, one between the representatives of prosecutor offices, law enforcement, and customs from BiH and

Montenegro, and another with counterparts from BiH and Serbia. Each of the events gathered 26 participants (3 women and 23 men in the former, and 4 women and 22 men in the latter). The exercises included the simulation of an attempted smuggling of illegal SALW at joint border crossings. The developed SOPs and specialized equipment were used for the exercise, which also involved relevant legal provisions and cross-border collaboration elements. All participants praised the exercise format and the content and emphasized the need for future similar scenario-based joint regional training activities involving law enforcement agencies and the judiciary.

The project team organized a gender equality workshop in February 2023 for 20 ITA staff (10 women and 10 men). Lecturers at the workshop were experts on gender issues from the BiH Agency for Gender Equality, two Associations of Women Police Officials, the BiH Ministry of Security, and the ITA itself. This workshop represented a continuation of gender equality advocacy, as well as awareness-raising on sexual and gender-based harassment among the ITA employees.

Upon UNDP's call for proposals, two projects of the associations of women police officials operating in BiH - Network of Women Police Officers, and the Republika Srpska Women Police Officials Network (RS WPON), were approved. The initiatives aim at promoting women's engagement in SALW/security matters. UNDP signed two low-value grant agreements with the associations to support the initiatives, and these were successfully implemented by the end of the year.

The project completed its operations in December 2023. The final report will be published on the [SALW MPTF Gateway](#).

## Furthering the law enforcement and community engagement on SALW control

### The Trust Fund joins hands with UNDP in BiH to solidify law enforcement capacities and resources, as well as community engagement in SALW control.

The latest project implemented in BiH by the UNDP was initiated as part of the third call for proposals. The project "Law Enforcement Agencies' Development in Small Arms and Light Weapons Control (Project LEAD)" was launched in December 2023 with the aim of enhancing the capacity and engagement of relevant national institutions and civil society in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as strengthening inter-agency and cross-border collaboration to advance the implementation of the National SALW Control Strategy and the SALW Control Roadmap. The project builds upon previous interventions and entails a series of activities that focus on inter-agency operational and strategic cooperation, as well as the provision of specialized resources, equipment, and knowledge and peer exchange to prevent and counter FAE-related crime. An inclusive approach to civil society organizations and outreach to communities and stakeholders will be ensured, with duly integrated gender and human rights perspectives. The expected result is a comprehensive strengthening of key stakeholders in the SALW control field, leading to increased ownership and sustainability.

In 2023, the project team compiled a list of specialized equipment needs for law enforcement that were to be further discussed and confirmed in Q1 2024 with the project partners before initiating a procurement process. In addition, preparations commenced for the roll out of activities in 2024, including bilateral exchange between the forensic experts of BiH with their counterparts in Serbia, and joint inter-agency exercises.

## 4.4. Kosovo

In Kosovo, the Trust Fund supported an initiative aimed at advancing investigations and data analysis towards more effective SALW control. By the end of the year, a new project was initiated as part of the third call for proposals, which will build upon and consolidate the progress made thus far in advancing integrated institutional responses to SALW control in the jurisdiction.

### Enhancing firearms related investigations

The project “Support to Firearms Related Investigations” was initiated in January 2023 with the aim of strengthening firearms investigations and the operations of the Firearms Focal Point (FFP) and the Forensic Agency in the jurisdiction. More specifically, the project aimed to: i) improve data collection and analysis by the FFP; ii) improve the detection of weapons hidden underground; and iii) improve the examination of seized firearms by the Forensic Agency’s ballistic department.

The project team cooperated throughout 2023 with the FFP to analyze and identify options for linking the existing iBase solution to the Traffic and Evofinder systems and digitalize and visualize info that FFP possesses, including the

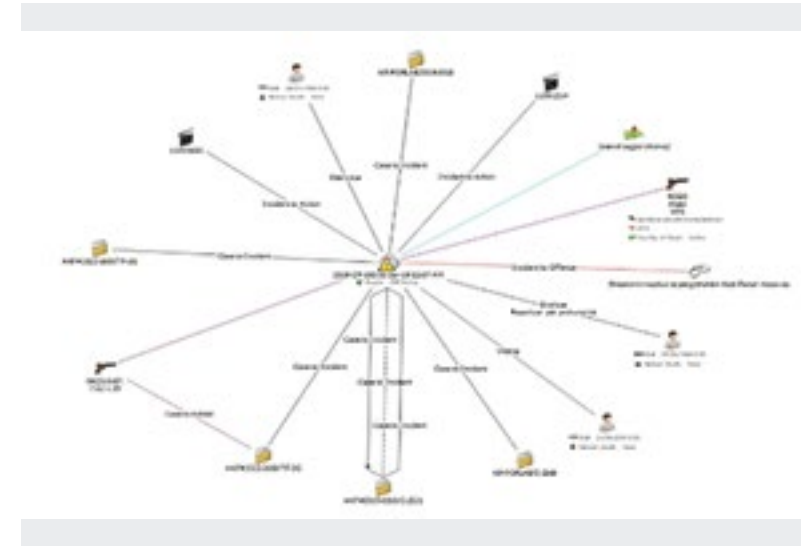
TABLEAU visualization platform. A local ICT expert was hired to prepare and implement the required linkages between the systems, and these were successfully completed. The digitalization of information held by the FFP was another critical aspect of these activities, with the purpose of improving data search, retrieval, and analysis and ultimately contributing to a better understanding of the SALW landscape. By converting physical or unstructured data into digital formats, this information becomes more accessible and easier to analyze and manage. The linking of iBase to the Traffic and Evofinder systems should allow for a more streamlined flow of information, while also enabling more effective and data-driven decision-making processes and operations.

In addition, the project purchased four licenses of CartWin Pro and provided one each to the FFP, Criminal Police Department, MoIA/ Firearms and Ammunition Division, and the Forensic Agency (FA). The licenses will enable the respective institutions to have enhanced access to data for the determination of ammunition.

The FFP was also provided with a TABLEAU visualization platform, which will ensure that data are presented in a clear, user-friendly, and interactive manner, empowering stakeholders to gain insights from the information gathered and take targeted actions in the SALW field.

One ground penetration radar system was procured and officially handed over to the Kosovo Police/ Improvised Explosive Device Disposal Unit. Five police staff (all men) were trained in using and maintaining the device.

The project equipped the Forensic Agency with specialized equipment, encompassing seven stereomicroscopes and five borescopes.



The provision of the specialized equipment represents a strategic investment in advanced tools that will improve the quality of investigation and evidence provided to the justice system. The stereomicroscopes will advance examinations of small objects or fine details, while borescopes will enhance inspection of the interior of objects or spaces that are otherwise difficult to access.

These tools will jointly enhance the forensic capacity of the Agency to conduct detailed and accurate examinations of evidence, potentially leading to more precise findings and contributing to more effective criminal investigations and court proceedings. In addition, the project provided two Firearms Trigger Scan systems to the Agency, as integral tools to support more effective investigation and analysis of firearm-related incidents. The Trigger Scan systems will aid the Agency in linking weapons to specific incidents, identifying patterns, and ultimately assisting in the resolution of criminal cases.

The project trained nine forensic experts (2 women, 7 men) to effectively utilize the new equipment, ensuring that the provided specialized tools are used to their full potential and that the forensic team can make the most of these resources. In addition, through expert support provided by the MoI of Croatia, the project assisted the validation and accreditation of two methods at KFA according to ISO 17025: i) serial number restoration; and ii) shooting distance determination with chemical methods. Two experts from Croatian Forensic Institute were engaged to deliver training for Kosovo Forensic Agency staff on the two methods, which are to be validated and accredited. The training equipped 15 forensic staff (5 women and 10 men) with skills and knowledge to perform with higher standards of work in accordance with the ISO 17025, and to ensure that they produce reliable forensic evidence.

The project completed its operations in October 2023. The final report will be published on the [SALW MPTF Gateway](#).



community engagement on SALW control. It is also envisioned that the project will further increase border control capacities to effectively prevent, detect, and counter illicit arms trafficking and enhance the investigation and analytical capacities of Kosovo law enforcement to investigate FAE-related crime. The project should also advance the handling, security, and storage of firearms, ammunition, and explosives (FAE).

In 2023, the project team conducted consultative meetings with the Kosovo Police to prepare for the development of an E-Learning Platform. Simultaneously, plans were made to organize a study visit in Q1 2024 to the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training, CEPOL, to gain further insights for a more informed and effective development process.

A three-day training took place in Q4 2023 for 12 officials from the Press and Public Information Offices of the Kosovo Police and the Ministry of Internal Affairs on Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) gathering, analysis, and distribution. The training equipped participants with the skills to sift through vast volumes of openly available data, enabling the identification of credible sources and information. The training also raised the participants' awareness of emerging trends, potential risks, and evolving narratives within the SALW landscape. Additionally, it fostered a proactive approach in tackling misinformation and disinformation.

## Comprehensive approach to SALW control

As part of the third call for proposals, the Trust Fund approved a project in Kosovo to comprehensively tackle SALW control. The project "Integrated Institutional Approach and Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation to SALW Control" (Phase I) was launched in November 2023 and builds upon the previous work in support of the Roadmap. The project's primary goal is to further advance institutional approaches and community engagement in Kosovo towards addressing FAE-related crime and misuse, and to strengthen bilateral cooperation between Kosovo and Albania in the field of SALW control. In this respect, the project is intended to strengthen community and intelligence-led policing and

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**The Trust Fund supports UNDP Kosovo to enhance integrated institutional approach and cross-border cooperation to SALW control, as well as raise awareness on the firearms misuse.**

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## 4.5. Montenegro

In Montenegro, the support of the Trust Fund has focused on advancing the forensic service. Having completed one project in the last quarter of 2023, a new one was launched by the end of the year to build and expand upon the previous progress made in the jurisdiction.

### Strengthening the investigative cycle and forensics

In 2021, UNDP in Montenegro 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 the Detection and Trafficking of Explosives Criminality” was developed to respond to the needs of the Police Directorate’s Forensic Center 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 2023, the project delivered specialized equipment for the Crime Scene Investigation unit, consisting of a quadcopter, video borescopes, post-blast crime scene investigation kits, an evidence vacuum sweeper, and tamper-evident sealing tapes. The project then

proceeded to train 8 CSI professionals (7 men and 1 woman) on using the provided quadcopter, on the issue of the forensic application of aerial photography in CSI and processing the recorded material.

The project worked closely with professionals from Forensic Center Quality Management and Arson and Explosives Lab (AEL) on preparing a method of AEL for accreditation in line with ISO/IEC 17025:2017. All accreditation documents were jointly finalized by the Forensic Center and the international consultant hired by the project and were approved by Forensic Center Quality Management. The process of validation was conducted as per the validation plan completed by the international consultant, and the method was made ready for official accreditation by the authorized body in Montenegro.

The project delivered a safety laboratory storage container to AEL and trained two lab professionals (men) on its use. In addition, the project delivered final small-scale equipment to the AEL, an ohmmeter and a rheostat, necessary for the accreditation process. Finally, the project’s international consultant delivered the end-user training to 2 AEL staff (2 men) for operating the instrument for measuring the detonation velocity VOD 815, as a follow-up to the delivery of this device.

Four SOPs for the Chemical Lab were finalized in close cooperation with the Chemical Lab professionals and were approved by Forensic Center Quality Management. The SOPs cover: i) sampling and analysis of explosives; ii) analysis of traces of explosive substances in the Chemical Laboratory; iii) analysis of substances by the LC-MS/MS method; and iv) putting into operation the LC-MS/MS device. The project delivered specialized equipment for the Chemical Lab, including a microcentrifuge with angular rotor, a thermo-shaker with thermos blocks, a combined refrigerator-freezer

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**The Trust Fund works with UNDP to support the Police Directorate of Montenegro in increasing the accuracy and quality of its investigations.**

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and upright freezer, a laminar flow cabinet, an orbital shaker, and an ultra-pure water system.

Documents for validating a method of the Chemical Laboratory were finalized in close cooperation between the professionals from the Lab and the project's consultant and these were approved by Forensic Center Quality Management. Four professionals from the Chemical Lab (1 man and 3 women) were trained on the method for the LC-MS/MS device and on measuring uncertainty calculations in LC-MS/MS quantitative analysis of TNT. With this, the project completed its envisaged support towards the expanded scope of accreditation of the Chemical Lab, pending official accreditation by the authorized body in Montenegro.

The project published a [success story](#), to give visibility to important results that have been achieved.

The project completed its operations in October 2023. The final report will be published on the [SALW MPTF Gateway](#).

## Further advancement of forensic capacities

By the end of 2023, the Trust Fund launched a new project with UNDP in Montenegro, “Advancing the Forensic Capacities of the Police Directorate of Montenegro for Processing Firearms and Explosives-

### The Trust Fund and UNDP in Montenegro work on further advancing the accuracy and quality of investigations of FAE-related criminality.

related Crimes.” The project is aimed at improving the crime scene investigation and laboratory forensic capacities of the Police Directorate of Montenegro for providing forensic

evidence and intelligence necessary for the investigation and judicial processing of the trafficking of firearms, their ammunition, explosives, and precursors, as well as other FAE-related criminal offences, including sexual and gender-based violence.

It is envisioned that the improved evidence and intelligence capabilities will serve the national criminal proceeding system and international investigations and proceedings. The project endeavors to accomplish this by delivering specialized training, supporting relevant international and regional peer-exchanges, procuring equipment, developing, and validating new methods, and developing standard operating procedures. The focus will be on standardizing

work processes in accordance with the policy and recommendations of the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI) and preparing for accreditation in line with the ISO/IEC 17025 and 17020 international standards. This implies the implementation of project standardization results in the regulatory framework of the Ministry of Interior of Montenegro, thus enabling the sustainability of the project’s results.

It is intended that the project will commence its activities in 2024.

## 4.6. North Macedonia

In North Macedonia, the Trust Fund supports the UNDP in enhancing the data collection and analysis of the Ministry of the Interior, as well as in advancing crime scene investigation and forensics work.

### Strengthening data collection and investigations

The project “Improvement of data and SALW collection practices and SALW related investigations,” implemented by UNDP North Macedonia, has built upon previously implemented activities in support of the Roadmap. It was initiated at the end of 2022 with the aim of improving the implementation of the Information Management System (IMS) of the Ministry of the Interior (MoI), enabling the gathering of SALW related data. The project is particularly focused on supporting data collection related to domestic violence involving firearms. The project has also aimed to 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 so as to decrease the risk of the proliferation of SALW and improve security.

In 2023, the project coordinated with the MoI on the development and implementation of a plan for the new Police Information Management System-IRDAM. Field visits were conducted to remote police stations – Berovo and Valandovo, in order to support the roll out of IRDAM. As part of the implementation plan for IRDAM, the project completed a classroom training session in Bitola in April 2023, covering the police stations of Bitola, Prilep, and Resen. 68 police officers (57 men and 11 women) were introduced to the functionalities of the IRDAM software. The training was led by the trainer of the software development company, and it was delivered in such a manner as to prepare the participants to be IRDAM trainers in their respective units.

During April 2023, the implementation plan was updated, as per the request from the MoI. Instead of the classroom trainings for the police officers from the pilot police stations originally intended, the focus was set on awareness-raising activities and meetings with the commanders and top management of the pilot stations, as well as on field visits and monitoring the use of the IRDAM software. In line with the updated implementation plan, the project organized coordination meetings to select pilot police stations that are to use IRDAM for all incidents, in addition to incidents where weapons were used. The police stations in Kavadarci, Probishtip, and Galate were selected as pilot units, thereby

including police units of various levels, from different parts of the country, and from areas with diverse ethnic demographics. A meeting with high-ranking officials of the pilot stations took place in November 2023, presenting the IRDAM system and its features to the relevant users (16 men and 5 women in total).

### The Trust Fund works with UNDP in North Macedonia to advance investigations and data collection on FAE-related crime.



The project developed a needs-based analysis on the domestic violence module for IRDAM, as a basis for the development of a module on domestic violence cases to be integrated into the IMS as part of the next project under the MPTF. This is expected to considerably assist in keeping track of first-time offenders, repeat offenders, victims of domestic violence, and actions taken by the police officers.

In addition, the project provided specialized equipment for the Forensic Department - a microscope for gunshot residue DESKTOP SEM-EDD, as a unique piece of state-of-the-art equipment that should improve the work of the Forensic Department in examining evidence from firearms-related incidents. It trained five forensic staff (2 women and 3 men) on the use of the equipment. In further support of the forensic work, the project organized a study visit for the Mol of North Macedonia to the National Forensic Center in Serbia in September 2023. A total of six Mol representatives participated (3 women and 3 men), including the Head of the Forensic Department and high-level forensic specialists, as well as representatives of the Mol's Department for EU and International Cooperation. The participants visited the ballistic laboratory in the Police Department of the City of Belgrade, the scanning electron microscope laboratory in the Ministry of the Interior, and the CSI Training Center in Zemun. The acquired knowledge and peer-exchange on applied forensic approaches in investigations will be used to design initiatives that will further strengthen the work of the Forensic Department, including through future projects implemented within the Trust Fund.

The Mol was equipped with a Laser Marking Machine, for the marking of deactivated firearms. The Laser Marking Machine was delivered and installed at the Mol, and staff members trained on its use. The Machine is envisioned to help in tracing and control of SALW in North Macedonia, compatible with relevant EU regulations.

Finally, the project supported the development of a needs-based analysis for the physical security of the Gjorche Petrov storage facility, and prepared technical documentation for the safety and security upgrade of the facilities. The project then proceeded to support several interventions aimed at improving electrical installations and lighting and providing a diesel generator for power outages.

### Support for crime scene investigation and the criminal justice response

A new project in North Macedonia was approved at the end of 2023 to build and expand upon the previous work in support of the Roadmap. The project "Strengthening the Capacities of the Forensics and Crime Scene Investigation System to Improve the Criminal Justice Response to SALW" was launched in December 2023 with the overall objective of modernizing the forensic and crime scene investigation (CSI) units in North Macedonia and improving the quality of crime scene investigations and evidence collection.

The project interventions will upgrade the ballistic facilities and operations of the Mol's Forensics Department, as well as enhance the analytical, technical, and investigative capacities of the CSI units. In addition, the project contains a gender perspective dedicated to preventing gender-based violence, focusing in particular on the

gender sensitization of CSI staff, as well as on improving the tracking of domestic violence cases that involve firearms through a separate module in the Police Information Management System (IMS) of North Macedonia.

The activities are planned to commence in 2024.

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**The Trust Fund is expanding its support to advancing investigations in North Macedonia and works hand in hand with the UNDP to this end.**

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## 4.7. Serbia

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

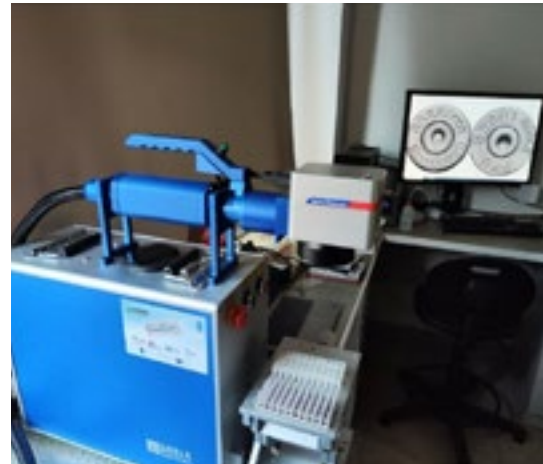
In Serbia, the Trust Fund has enabled UNDP to continue its work with the MoI of Serbia and the National Forensics Centre on improving their capacities for crime scene and ballistic examinations, a cooperative effort initially launched in the preceding years with the financial support of the German Federal Foreign Office. The project “Advancing the Capacities of the Ministry of the Interior in the SALW Control-Related Field (Phase II)” sought to further strengthen the capacities of crime investigation units and ballistic laboratories in Serbia on their way to accreditation. It also tackled investigations of arson and explosion incidents, strengthening the capacities of the relevant units for arson, explosion, and accident investigation. In addition to its focus on forensics, the project supported the Police Administrative Directorate in the area of SALW-control through the development of software databases and the provision of hardware infrastructure.

In 2023, UNDP, in close collaboration with the MoI, worked on completing the improvements to the existing evidence recovery database for the

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**The Trust Fund works have enabled UNDP in Serbia to continue supporting the National Forensics Centre to improve its investigative capacities for more accurate evidence and effective proceedings.**

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CSI Unit, through a contracted company. The software development for the evidence recovery database was completed along with necessary visuals to ensure its more efficient use. In addition, hardware components for the database were delivered to MoI. The MoI was also equipped with four multifunctional color laser printers, scanners, and copiers as the remaining components for the use of the database.

The project provided specialized equipment to the central ballistic laboratory in line with the requirements of the ISO 17025 accreditation process.

This encompassed the delivery and installation of: a metal evidence storage cabinet with 9 compartments for ballistic experts; a ballistic chronograph (for indoor and outdoor use); a laser engraving machine; a specialized vacuum cleaner; custom wooden boxes; a laboratory bottle for gun powder; a bullet trap (for rifle bullets); a bullet trap (for pistol bullets); an air gun pellet catcher; a gas ammunition firing chamber; and a mobile protective shield for the shooter. In addition, specialized

safety equipment and 36 bullet traps for safe firing were delivered to the MoI.

Specialized GSR training for 3 ballistic experts (1 woman and 2 men) took place in April 2023 in Wiesbaden, also enabling professional peer exchange with German colleagues. In addition, the NFC was provided with supplemental spare parts for the GSR-related equipment.

A collaborative ballistic testing exercise was organized for ballistic experts with their peers from an accredited ballistic lab in Skopje, as required for accreditation. Belgrade and Skopje ballistic experts exchanged experience and knowledge on cases and samples for the ballistic examination. The test was positive and successful, and the ballistic lab in Serbia used this test for the accreditation process.

In further support of the ballistic work, the project analysis for the shooting range and the water tank for safe usage in test firing in line with new SALW regulations was developed and approved by the NFC. Likewise, an SOP for using the ABIS systems (Arsenal, Evofinder, and

Traffic) in operating the open case file and the illegal firearms database and an SOP for ammunition delaboration were developed and approved by the NFC.

The project supported the processing of the application for the ISO 17025 accreditation of the Central Ballistic Lab in Belgrade. This entailed technical support to the NFC and their quality management team, as well as the Ballistic Lab experts to finalize the required accreditation materials (developed documents, SOPs), as well as support in the area of ballistic equipment needs as preparatory work for the ATS (Accreditation Body of Serbia) field visit. The process culminated in the Central Ballistic Laboratory in Belgrade being accredited by the ATS according to the ISO 17025 standard, for the method on comparative analysis of the identification of the cartridge case.

With regards to advancements in the arson-explosives-accident (AEA) unit, an SOP regulating the performance of forensic investigators on arson/explosion scenes was approved by the NFC and 5 AEA experts (1 woman, 4 men) passed an advanced explosive investigation training in line with the ISO 17020 standard.

Five post-blast training sessions were organized, enhancing the knowledge and capacities on the subject matter of 132 forensic technicians from across Serbia (117 men, 15 women).

To effectively utilize the funds savings achieved within the project, additional IT equipment (65 IT sets - computers, monitors, scanners, and printers) were provided to the Police Administrative Directorate (PAD) to further strengthen the use of the new SALW control system. The project trained 195 staff of the Police Administrative Directorate (121 women and 74 men) on the SALW control system and its use. This was followed by a training session for 15 high-level police officers (6

women and 9 men), bringing the total number of trained PAD staff to 210 (146 women, 64 men).

The project completed its operations in October 2023. The final report will be published on the [SALW MPTF Gateway](#).

## Further advancing investigative work and overall SALW control efforts

With the launch of the project “Improving Capacities of the Ministry of the Interior in the SALW-Control related Field, Phase III,” in November 2023, the aim is to further improve the forensic capacities of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Serbia throughout the entire investigative cycle in order to support criminal investigations and proceedings in the area of firearm/ammunition and explosive-related crimes, as well as in the Small Arms and Light Weapon (SALW)-control system. The project builds upon and consolidates results of the previous interventions that started with the first phase of the project in 2019 and continued with the second phase from 2021 to 2023.

In building upon these previous results, the project will concentrate on improving the capacities of the National Forensic Center, focusing on crime scene investigation, ballistic examinations, explosion examinations, and the capacities of the chemical laboratory for examinations of traces of explosives and of gunshot residues. The project is envisaged to further improve the validity and visibility of achieved forensic capacities in line with recognized standards. In addition, the project should further advance the SALW-control

capacities and handling of firearms of the police administrative affairs directorate.

The activities were scheduled to commence in 2024.

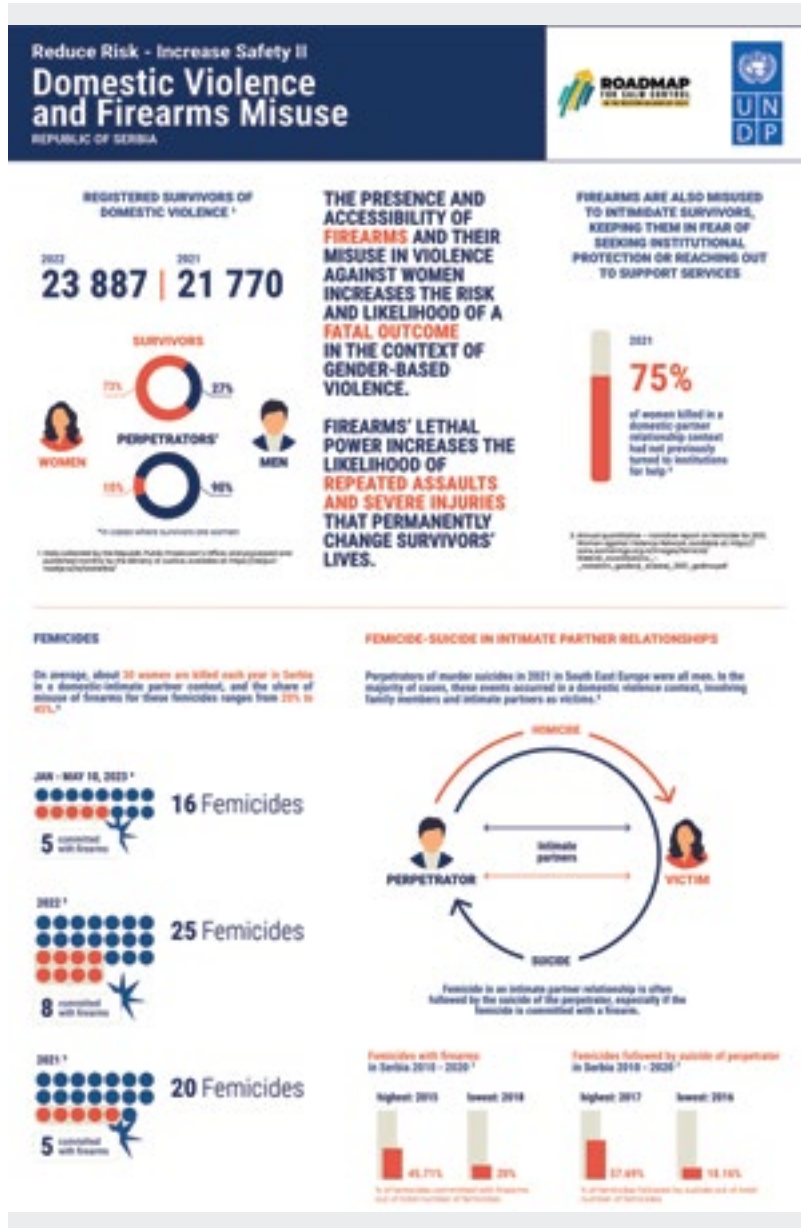
## Reducing risks and increasing safety

In Serbia, the Trust Fund in 2022 approved the project “Reduce Risk - Increase Safety II,” which enabled 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 aimed to create an environment in which the range of knowledge-attitude-behavioral challenges in preventing suicides could be explored, involving state institutions, private entities, communities, and individuals.

In 2023, the project continued to engage with stakeholder representatives from different systems around the topic of SALW misuse prevention, bringing the total number of engaged stakeholders to 250 - entities which are to be involved in further action based on jointly identified needs and priority areas.

**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.**





To this end, the project organized: i) two interactive workshops with 16 participants (14 women and 2 men) to analyze procedures of the healthcare system and mechanisms for the recognition and mapping of persons at risk of firearms misuse for domestic violence; ii) a set of three focus groups with 65 participants (57 women and 8 men) to strengthen cooperation of healthcare institutions in multi-sectoral responses to domestic violence; and iii) a meeting with the Violence Prevention Team of the Niš Healthcare Center to document examples of good practice.

The inputs collected from these activities were used for the development of feasible and implementable measures aimed at improving the capacities, knowledge, and awareness of healthcare workers, and ensuring their effective response to and prevention of firearms misuse for violence. The measures focus on the following areas: 1) procedures for firearms license issuance and the prevention of gender-based violence – filtration of persons who are perpetrators of violence; 2) work with survivors – challenges and solutions; 3) challenges and solutions regarding the digitalization of healthcare; 4) challenges and solutions to effective multi-sectoral cooperation; 5) solutions developed during the workshops; 6) documenting good examples in healthcare; and 7) recommendations regarding the development of a sustainable healthcare ecosystem in violence reporting and providing support to survivors.

To validate and further discuss collected findings with involved stakeholders and to pinpoint key areas of further action, a final

project event was organized in April 2023 in Belgrade. The event gathered nearly 100 representatives (80% women and 20% men) of the state government, institutions responding to DV cases, healthcare professionals (psychiatrists involved in assessing firearm holders, representatives of primary health protection, members of healthcare teams for DV prevention), the National Institute for Public Health, representatives of NGOs providing support to survivors of violence, media representatives, and independent experts.

The set of recommended and implementable measures and actions were then finalized, aimed at improving the capacities, knowledge, and awareness of healthcare workers, thus improving the prevention of firearms-enabled violence.

The consultative process with identified stakeholders was continued and involved the implementation of two workshops organized in February and March 2023, gathering 15 participants (13 women and 2 men). Based on previously identified main challenges, the aim was to: analyze procedures of the healthcare system and mechanisms for the recognition and mapping of persons at risk of firearms misuse for suicide; identify challenges in the risk assessment and response process; and develop multidisciplinary solutions regarding firearms misuse prevention. Additionally, interviews were conducted with healthcare beneficiaries – 3 persons (2 men and 1 woman) willing to share experiences regarding the risks of suicide and their interaction with healthcare with respect to this matter. The interviews provided insight into beneficiaries' perspectives and needs.

Mol representatives from the Department of Psychological Activities were supported to collect inputs through focus groups with police staff (23 participants, 15 women and 8 men) regarding views on and needs for preventing negative consequences of occupational trauma that might lead to domestic violence or suicide (involving also firearms misuse). The collected information was used as input for defining further training needs in terms of improved prevention activities and the provision of psychological support to staff. Based on this, a capacity building training was organized in March 2023 for 29 representatives of the Mol (27 women and 2 men) involved in the provision of psychological support to staff to improve suicide risk prevention and prevention of violence by police officers (including by firearms misuse), through improved recognition of risks of occupational trauma and the provision of appropriate psychological support.

Several research/analysis papers were completed focusing on specific dimensions of suicide (including that by firearms). These contributed to the development of a comprehensive knowledge paper. The knowledge paper was presented to relevant stakeholders, with a view to serving as a basis for further action in this field. Specific fields of interests were particularly explored, such as circumstances of firearms-enabled femicide followed by the suicide of the perpetrator and particular risks and opportunities for awareness-raising and prevention targeting the 45+ male population and firearms-carrying professionals.

In addition to this, to support the media's ethical reporting on firearms misuse for violence, a workshop with journalists and editors (50

participants, 60% women and 40% men) of the Adria Media Publishing group (both online and print media) was organized. Representatives of the UNDP-supported group "Journalists against violence" presented ethical standards in informative and educational reporting on the problem of firearms misuse. The project developed guidelines for ethical media reporting and raising public awareness about the link between SALW misuse and suicides, which were published and are intended to serve as a valuable resource for improving the media's educational and preventive role. The guidelines are available in print as well as in digital form through UNDP Serbia's [website](#), and as part of publications available through the [website](#) of the group "Journalists against violence".

Worth noting is that the project contributed to stakeholders' better understanding of the effects and causes of firearms misuse and enabled professional networking around the time of the May 2023 mass shootings. The project ensured better capacities of the relevant institutions to plan and issue measures in response to firearms misuse crises, including of the type that occurred on May 3rd and 4th, 2023. The project also enabled the networking of experts and media, which contributed to the placement of knowledge-based and evidence-based messages for the public, raising awareness and alleviating community trauma in the aftermath of the tragic events. Bearing in mind the severity of the recent mass shootings, the project results, accumulated knowledge, and consolidated partnerships represent building blocks for further work related to SALW misuse prevention and response, to be advanced through the "Reduce Risk - Increase Safety

III" project, supported by the Trust Fund (this project is described immediately below).

The project completed its operations in May 2023. The final report will be published on the [SALW MPTF Gateway](#).

## Further reducing risks and increasing safety

### The Trust Fund supports UNDP in Serbia to consolidate previous results in supporting the prevention of firearms misuse.

A new project that was launched in Serbia in October 2023 as part of the third call for proposals, "Reduce Risk - Increase Safety III" directly builds upon the previous results and aims to reduce the risk of firearms misuse for violence and suicide in the country.

The project is to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange between relevant stakeholders and enhance the community response to firearms-related crises and trauma. More specifically, the project aims to: i) review gender and age data collection practices, use lessons learned to facilitate evidence-based policy making, and mainstream firearms risks into domestic violence regulations; ii) enable networking and capacity-building of women to actively participate in SALW control



policies; iii) improve conditions for the improved detection of potential firearms misuse for domestic violence and suicides and ensure comprehensive prevention support; iv) make available information on the harmful effects of underlying practices and attitudes leading to firearms misuse and supportive mechanisms preventing suicides; V) enable best practice sharing with professionals, the media, and academia on effective mechanisms for the prevention of future firearms related incidents.

In 2023, a series of consultative meetings with SEESAC's Gender Specialist were held to exchange on data collected by SEESAC on SALW misuse in the Western Balkans, including data from the Mol of the Republic of Serbia. The plan is to synchronize the efforts of the project with those of SEESAC to enhance the impact of planned activities related to improving Mol data collection practices. A meeting with the Mol Sector for Analytics, Telecommunications, and Information Technologies (SATIT) is to follow to reach a consensus on data sets that should be improved and plan further steps in improving data collection practices.

The project also supported the Network of Women in the Police of the Republic of Serbia with a view to promoting the exchange of knowledge

and experience among women and men police officers dealing with DV cases in Serbia. To mark the "16 days of activism against gender-based violence" global campaign, the Network of Women in the Police and Mol organized a workshop facilitating experience/knowledge exchange and support to police officers responsible for processing DV cases. The workshop gathered 51 participants (31 women and 20 men). The workshop provided an opportunity for participating police officers from different police departments in the country to reflect jointly on challenges and suggest improvements in working conditions, procedures, and training needs to further enhance the DV response. Also, the workshop enabled the mobilization of women from the security sector towards more active participation in SALW control policies.

## 5. Catalytic Investment

**T**he 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 has provided essential support for replicating and scaling up previous initiatives, demonstrating the catalytic investment of the Fund. In Serbia, the Trust Fund has enabled UNDP to continue the support to the forensics and ballistics sector initiated in 2019,<sup>10</sup> and expand its intervention beyond firearms investigations and into explosives investigations, including support to the safe handling of firearms. Also in Serbia, the Fund has enabled

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**The Trust Fund has helped to enable a timely and strategic response to SALW control needs in the region, complementing on-going efforts, building on previous initiatives, replicating good practice, and multiplying achievements.**

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<sup>10</sup> 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. This support continued through the Trust Fund in 2021-2023, and will expand with the new project launched in 2023.

UNDP to build upon the data collected and progress made as part of previous projects and support the stronger engagement of health institutions in tackling arms-enabled crime, including gender-based violence and suicides, and trauma caused by firearms misuse. In Montenegro, utilizing MPTF funds, UNDP has launched a project in forensics, taking stock of the experience and lessons gained by UNDP in Serbia and Albania.<sup>11</sup> This work will expand and solidify achievements in the jurisdiction, with the new project approved as part of the third call for proposals. Furthermore, the UNDP in BiH and Kosovo were bolstered in expanding and further strengthening their support to the law enforcement agencies in the respective jurisdictions with regard to data collection and evidence-based and intelligence-led policing, while also adding a stronger focus on operational in-country and cross-border collaboration. Alongside these actions, UNODC has been replicating the methodology and needs assessment developed for Bosnia and Herzegovina 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. In

<sup>11</sup> 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.

addition, the UNODC's work on enhancing criminal justice responses will be solidified through the newly launched project at the end of 2023.

Also worth highlighting is the unforeseen achievement that occurred in Serbia through the implementation of the "Reduce Risks - Increase Safety Project II". The project contributed to stakeholders' better understanding of effects and causes of firearms misuse and enabled professional networking around the time of the May 2023 mass shootings. It ensured better capacities of the relevant institutions to plan and issue measures in response to firearms misuse crises, including of the type that occurred on May 3rd and 4th, 2023. The project also enabled the networking of experts and media, which contributed to the placement of knowledge-based and evidence-based messages for the public, raising awareness and alleviating community trauma in the aftermath of the tragic events. Bearing in mind the severity of the recent mass shootings, the project results, accumulated knowledge, and consolidated partnerships represent building blocks for further work related to SALW misuse prevention and response, to be advanced through the "Reduce Risk - Increase Safety III" project, approved by the Steering Committee as part of the third call for proposals.

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.

Trust Fund projects deliver valuable contributions to capacity and institutional building which otherwise would not be possible. Likewise, projects implemented in Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia help to ensure that crime scene investigations in these jurisdictions 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 or perform investigative works might have been accomplished without the projects' intervention, the quality of these SOPs, the ability to integrate best practices into their drafting, and the related training conducted to enable their successful realization was heavily reliant on and largely made possible through additional funding and the technical advisory support provided through the relevant projects.

The Trust Fund has 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 be largely marginalized. Particularly notable is the progress in Serbia and BiH in this respect. 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 Learned

### 6.1. Challenges

#### Political and security situation

Project teams monitored developments in the security or political landscape, which could affect activity implementation and project results. Despite existing tensions, notably in BiH following the election process and between Serbia and Kosovo, these issues did not directly impact the projects' progress in respective jurisdictions. The tension in Montenegro prior to and after the presidential elections in March 2023 affected the (non)appointment in the top management of Montenegrin customs, resulting in the cancellation of a planned exchange between the BiH and Montenegrin customs, however with no major impact on the overall results. Proactive communication and coordination with project partners were maintained to mitigate any potential adverse impacts. In BiH, the implementing organizations maintained continued communication with the project beneficiaries in both the Federation of BiH and Republika Srpska, enabling the continuation of all project activities within the BiH projects. The BiH MOFTER withdrew from the project activity that aimed at advancing its digital capacities to monitor legal trade. Political reasons were stated as the reason behind the decision by the MOFTER representatives, with no further details provided to the project team. As the affected project in BiH was coming to an end, the project team cancelled the respective activity and will shift its focus towards advancing the digital capacities of law enforcement agencies instead, as part of the new project launched in the jurisdiction. Otherwise, all other activities were carried out as planned.

#### Challenges related to new digital solutions and accreditations of work

The projects that aimed at offering new digital solutions or software upgrades to law enforcement agencies in the region faced difficulties in finding adequate IT expertise, or with the pace of development or implementation of new tools and solutions. The planned further development of SALW Identification Tool in BiH revealed additional requests and needs identified by relevant project partners. The review process itself by the law enforcement agencies took longer than initially planned. The received feedback then required additional resources to adequately address the needs and recommendations, which the team successfully executed by the end of the project thanks to the approved non-cost extension of the project's implementing period. Likewise, the effective linking of IBase in Kosovo with the Traffic and Evofinder systems, as well as proper visualization of data through the provided digital platform required additional resources and time within the project. In addition, the effective implementation of the new Police Information Management System in North Macedonia necessitated prolonged technical support from the project team. The acceptance of the software by all police officers (3,500) at different levels in the MoI proved to be a demanding process. All these challenges were addressed successfully through the extension of implementing periods.

## Challenges related to the procurement of technical equipment or construction works

Global economic conditions posed risks to the procurement and timely delivery of equipment due to disruptions in supply chains and increased transportation costs. 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 and necessitated prolonged procurement processes. In addition, the launch of Quantum operating system within UNDP introduced new processes that required additional time to adjust to and therefore caused delays in the procurement processes of UNDP-managed projects. Consequently, across the projects, there have been delays with regard to the procurement of technical equipment. The projects addressed the challenges by reviewing all procurement options, utilizing pre-approved vendors where possible, and considering extensions of the project's timeframe when necessary. Continuous monitoring and adaptive strategies helped mitigate these risks effectively.

In Albania, the work on the reconstruction and refurbishment of the weapons and ammunition storage facilities progressed very slowly. Difficulty in finding a qualified construction company, getting necessary clearances, or commencing with the work on the selected sites has all led to the slowing of the intended actions. Similar delays occurred with the works in North Macedonia. Non-cost extensions of projects' implementing periods mitigated the risks.

## 6.2. Lessons learned

The following lessons were recognized and will continue to be incorporated into projects' implementations:

▶ **Planning and implementation are to be carried out 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 ensure stronger ownership and the effectiveness of the project results and consequently their sustainability. Furthermore, enabling professionals to exchange information on actual practices, practical challenges they face and how they see possible solutions, proved to be a motivating factor for their participation. For example, the focus on internal practices helped pinpoint areas of intervention and opportunities for improving the assessment and response to domestic violence cases, including those with a firearm-misuse risk.

▶ **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. The participation of project beneficiaries as co-facilitators and trainers has strengthened ownership and the effectiveness of the results. Having one key point of contact for project purposes who is committed to following a project's implementation from the beginning through to the end and who fully grasps the project's scope and the relevant mandates of national authorities while possessing good knowledge of the subject matter at hand has proven 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 that the existence of project boards and local coordination platforms were actively engaged with the relevant 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 have required more time and effort 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 or projects that entail cross-border collaboration elements are beneficial not only to the jurisdictions involved, who share their experiences and knowledge productively, but also serve as excellent examples to other jurisdictions and can multiply the desired effects.

## 7. Partnerships

**T**he 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, as also acknowledged by the mid-term evaluation.

Throughout the Western Balkans jurisdictions, the Trust Fund has enabled the implementing organizations to strengthen their partnerships in SALW control with SALW Commissions, public authorities, donors, and civil society organizations. Partnerships were forged with the ministries of interior and relevant law enforcement structures across the region. The collaboration with private entities, the express courier companies, was an added value for tackling trafficking via postal parcels.

Alongside the regular 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), and representatives of the Embassies of Germany, France, the UK, Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, and the USA.

In 2023, there was an effort to expand the partnerships and collaboration on the ground. The UNDP project team in BiH facilitated an event with the parliamentarians who are members of security commissions of BiH Parliamentary Assembly, RS National Assembly and FBiH Parliament. The project team presented all achievements of completed and ongoing projects implemented by UNDP in its support to the overall implementation of the Roadmap, and also used

the opportunity to present the newly launched initiative in BiH (project LEAD) and expected outcomes. All parliamentarians expressed gratitude for the efforts conducted by the UNDP in the field of SALW and expressed their support for UNDP's endeavors in the upcoming period.

In Kosovo, the project team initiated the collaboration with the Press and Public

Information Offices within the Kosovo Police and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, among others to pave the way towards a more effective outreach to communities.

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**Partnerships with local, regional, and international actors strengthen the complementarity and effectiveness of actions.**

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The UNODC project team enhanced coordination efforts with the educational institutions in the region, including judicial academies, school for magistrates and centers for education of prosecutors and judges. Pursuant to the identified opportunities for synergies between the project Hermes and a project on pre-arrival information data exchange implemented by GIZ in the region, UNODC liaised and worked jointly with GIZ's representatives in the region. In addition, UNODC established contacts with Swedish Police and Swedish Customs to enhance activities on the investigation of firearms trafficking.

In BiH and Serbia, networks of women in the police were actively involved in the planning and implementation of activities, to ensure gender-responsive policy making. Also in Serbia, cooperation and partnerships were sought with stakeholders relevant for response to overcoming trauma and prevention of mass shootings, in the aftermath of the May 2023 events. This included meetings with the Ministry of Education, B92 Fund, Norwegian Embassy in Belgrade, to ensure synergetic action, as well as response to concrete needs of survivors and communities affected by the mass shootings. Cooperation was further strengthened and continued with the Journalists against violence group, through planning of activities that address current needs for media reporting improvements on firearms misuse.

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.

As a result of overall UNDP BiH efforts in BiH, on the occasion of the Una-Sana Canton Police Day on 12 June 2023, the Una-Sana Ministry of Interior awarded UNDP BiH with a plaque of appreciation for providing material means/equipment and expert trainings and thus advancing the work of police in the canton.

## 8. Sustainability

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 the embedding of the secured 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's project board meetings, local and regional coordination meetings, and other regional fora, which further strengthen continuous engagement and ownership of results. Correspondingly, the national counterparts are also included 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 longer-term engagement through a phased approach to projects, which further strengthens the sustainability of achieved results and results in higher-level outcomes.

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

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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 maintains as a mandatory element the (re)assessment of sustainability aspects

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 the sustainability of results is raised, the implementing partners reflect on approaches and remaining activities to steer the implementation in a 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. In this light, the project teams work with relevant stakeholders in jurisdictions to help ensure the adequate continuation of capacity-building activities 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 to help ensure greater effectiveness.

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 newly approved projects in BiH and Serbia delve deeper into a more systematic or sustainable engagement of women in SALW/security matters, while the concurrent projects in Montenegro and North Macedonia look into more strongly institutionalizing progress achieved on tackling gender-based violence into crime scene investigation. In addition, cross-border or peer exchange has been a key focus of project teams, serving as a means to ensure the promotion of good practice among peers and longer-term effects.

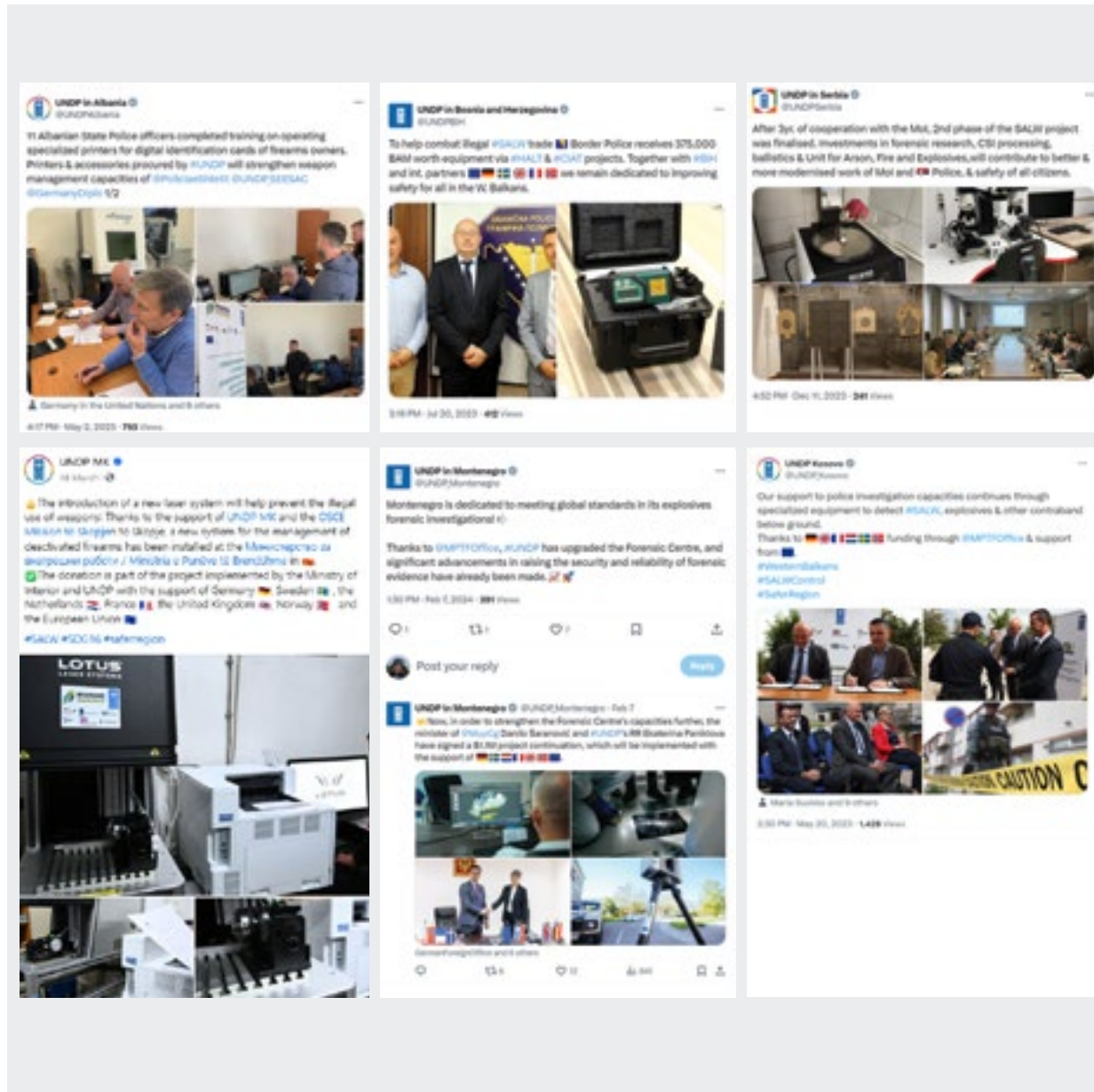
In general, sustainability elements have been integrated in stronger terms into the new proposals approved within the Trust Fund, as part of the third call for proposals. Cross-cuttingly, the projects look into ensuring the sustainability of previously achieved results, by, e.g., incorporating previously developed SOPs or guidelines into a continuous training program of police or judicial educational institutions or developing long term maintenance plans with the beneficiaries for equipment provided. These efforts will be further monitored and supported as necessary.

## 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, via visuals and 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 2023. Some examples are presented here.



## Online communication

Information about the Trust Fund, its 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 addition, INTERPOL, as an implementing partner of UNODC, features information about relevant project activities on a dedicated [webpage](#).



▲ Examples are provided here:

## Awareness-raising activities

Dedicated **awareness-raising activities** in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia 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:



In many instances, project beneficiaries and partners 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.



**Mreža žena u policiji RS**  
1. Oktobar 2023

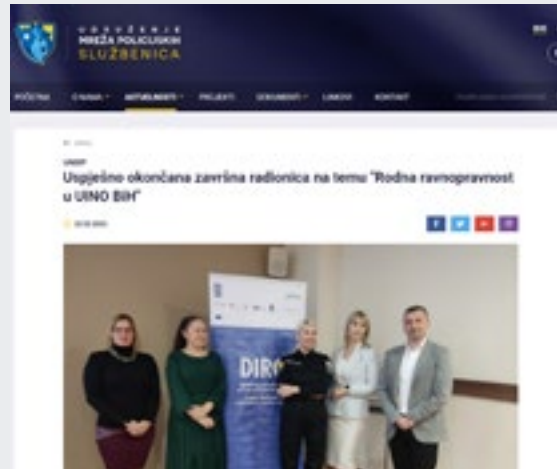
U okviru okupljanja "16 dana delinkvencija" Mreža žena u policiji Republike Srbije i Ministarstvo unutrašnjih poslova u podršku Kancelarije UNDP, održali su radionicu na kojoj su učestvovali predstavnici UNP-a iz cele Srbije i Odeljenja za suzbijanje kriminala i seksualnih delinkvencija i nasilja u porodici.

Na radionici su prikazane studije slučaja i razmislili su iskustva između policijske službenice koji su nedavno došli u službu nakon naučenja u porodici.

Odeljenje za psihosocijalnu delatnost je dalo uverenja na temu upravljanja stresom i pripremu za integraciju međusobne podrške.

Radionicu su otvorili Ilija Razić, zamjenik šefa Kabineta direktora policije, Nemanja Turpić, načelnik Službe za suzbijanje kriminala i Dragan Tupačić, načelnik Službe za ljudske resurse, Svetlana za podršku.

[Mreža žena u policiji RS](#)



**Министарство унутрашњих послова Републике Србије**  
1. Октобар 2023

У оквиру окупљања "16 дана делнквенција" Мрежа жена у полицији Републике Србије и Министарство унутрашњих послова у подршку Канцеларије УНДП, одржали су радionicu на којој су учествовали представници УНП-а из целе Србије и Оделjenja за сузбијање криминала и сексуалних делнквенција и насиља у породици.

На радницима су приказане студије случаја и размислили су искуства између полицијске службеница који су недавно дошли у службу након учења у породици.

Одељење за психосоцијалну делатност је дало уверења на тему управљања стресом и припрему за интеграцију међусобне подршке.

Радионицу су отворили Илија Разић, заменик шефа Кабинета директора полиције, Немања Турпић, начелник Србије за сузбијање криминала и Драган Тупаčić, начелник Србије за људске ресурсе, Светлана за подршку.

[Mreža žena u policiji RS](#)



## Selection of photos



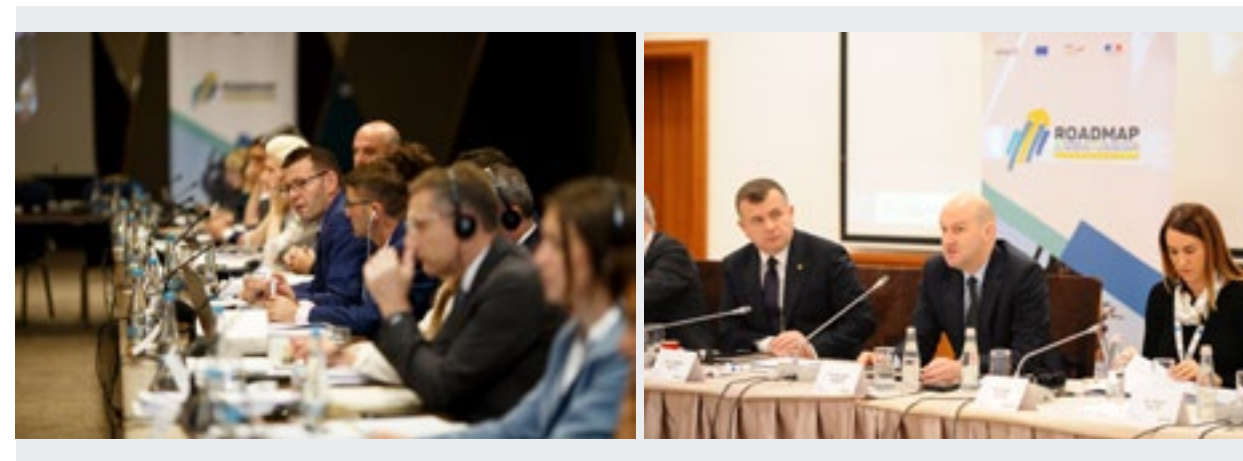
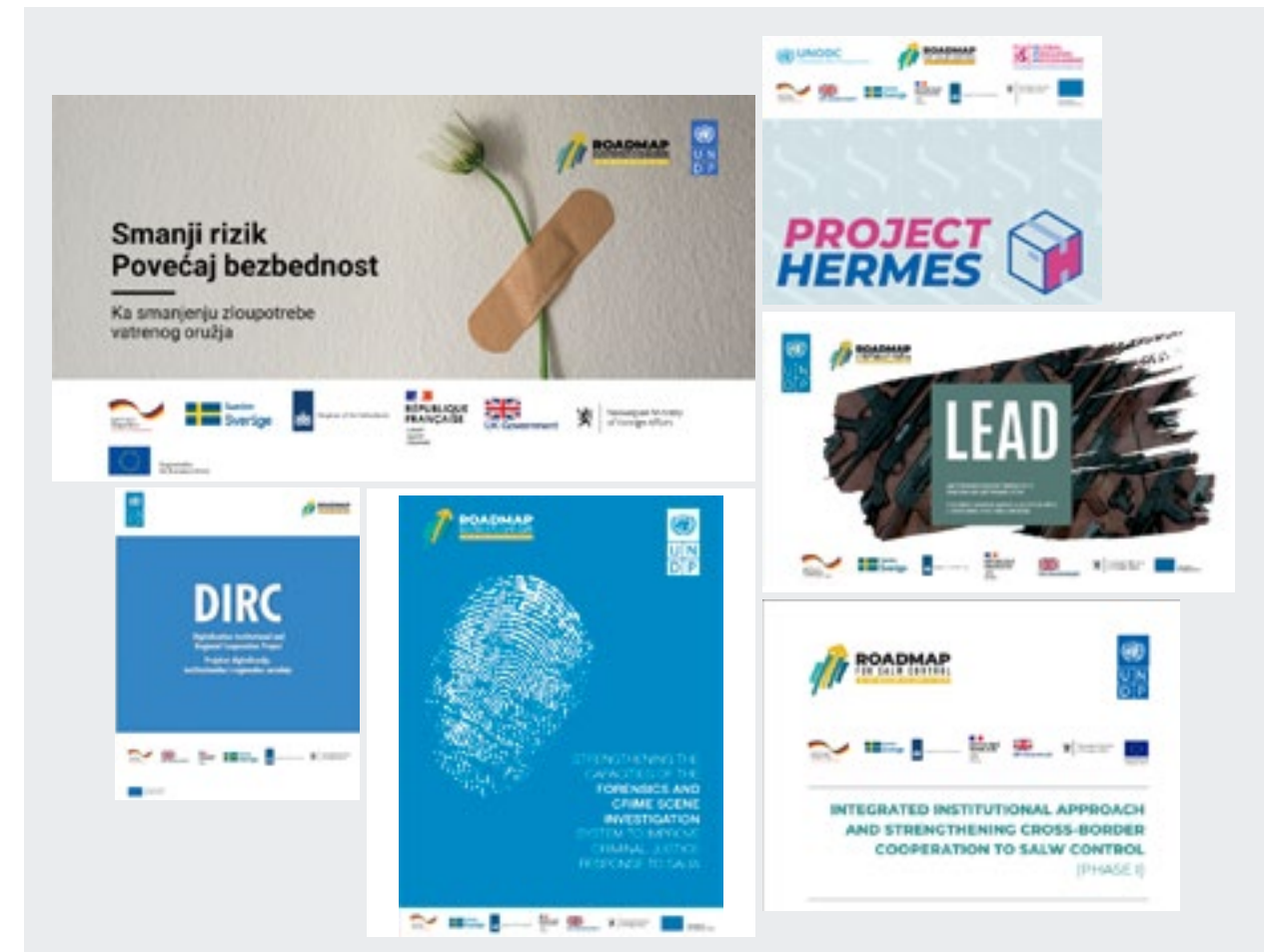
## Participation in regional events

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 2023, including representatives of the SALW Commissions of the six Western Balkans jurisdictions, key international organizations engaged in arms control in the region (UNDP Country Offices, UNODC, OSCE Missions, NATO, 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.



## Presence in the local media

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 Albania and BiH were promoted broadly across different media outlets (both local and major). Likewise, major events and equipment donations were reported via local media.

Some press clipping examples are presented here below.

### Albania:

- <https://lajme.rtsh.al/artikull/strategjia-per-armet-e-vogla-e-te-lehta-lamallari-pritet-amnisti-me-partneret-po-punojme-per-kuadrin-ligjor>
- <https://euronews.al/amnisti-per-armet-pa-leje-strategjia-kombetare-e-ndergjegjesimit-edukon-publikun/>
- <https://www.syri.net/kronike/598363/video-syri-tv-vrasjet-dhe-plagosjet-me-arme-te-ftohta-lamallari-te-rinjte-te-ndergjegjesohen/>
- <https://ata.gov.al/2023/06/06/prezantohet-strategjia-synon-te-ule-kerkesen-per-arme-te-lehta-dhe-keqperdorimin-e-tyre/>

### BiH:

- [Kampanja “Oružje ne štiti, oružje ubija” u školama Republike Srpske \(federalna.ba\)](#)
- [“Oružje ne štiti, oružje ubija” \(atvbl.rs\)](#)
- [Održana kampanja “Oružje ne štiti, oružje ubija” | BN \(rtvbn.com\)](#)
- [BHRT - Radiotelevizija Bosne i Hercegovine](#)
- [Edukativna predavanja za djecu u Prijedoru: “Oružje ne štiti, oružje ubija” \(BN TV 2023\) HD - YouTube](#)
- [Kampanja “Oružje ne štiti, oružje ubija” preventivnog karaktera \(rtrs.tv\)](#)
- [Info Bijeljina - Edukativna predavanja za djecu u RS: “Oružje ne štiti, oružje ubija”](#)
- <https://avaz.ba/vijesti/860142/oruzje-u-kuci-prijetnja-porodici-ukoliko-nasilni-partner-posjeduje-oruzje-vjerovatno-ca-da-ce-zena-bit-ubijena-povecava-se-pet-puta>
- <https://radiosarajevo.ba/metromahala teme/ukoliko-nasilni-partner-posjeduje-oruzje-vjerovatno-ca-da-ce-zena-bit-ubijena-povecava-se-pet-puta/516144>
- <https://n1info.ba/vijesti/oruzje-u-kuci-prijetnja-porodici-ukoliko-nasilni-partner-posjeduje-oruzje-vjerovatno-ca-da-ce-zena-bit-ubijena-povecava-se-pet-puta/>
- <https://bosnainfo.ba/svaka-sesta-smrt-u-bih-povezana-s-vatrenim-oruzjem-posljedica-je-nesretnog-slucaja-odgovornim-vlasnistvom-nad-oruzjem-sprjecavamo-tragedije/>



- <https://srpskainfo.com/svaka-sesta-smrt-u-bih-povezana-s-vatrenim-oruzjem-posljedica-je-nesrecnog-slucaja-odgovor-nim-vlasnistvom-nad-oruzjem-sprijecavamo-tragedije/>
- <https://bljesak.info/gospodarstvo/promo/svaka-sesta-smrt-u-bih-povezana-s-vatrenim-oruzjem-posljedica-je-nesrecnog-slucaja/437942>
- <https://tuzlanski.ba/infoteka/svaka-sesta-smrt-u-bih-povezana-s-vatrenim-oruzjem-posljedica-je-nesrecnog-slucaja-odgovor-nim-vlasnistvom-nad-oruzjem-sprijecavamo-tragedije/>
- <https://dobojski.info/drustvo-i-politika/crna-hronika/item/43062-doboj-lani-jedno-ubistvo-u-pokusaju-uz-upotrebu-vatrenog-oruzjat>
- <https://www.glassrpske.com/lat/drustvo/vijesti/u-77-slucaje-va-nasilja-u-porodici-pocinilac-posjedovao-oruzje/482568>
- <https://fena.ba/article/1540208/undp-urucio-opremu-granicnoj-policiji-bih-vrijednu-vise-od-375-000-km>

#### North Macedonia:

- <https://fokus.mk/mvr-ke-analizira-tragi-od-pukane-so-najsovremen-mikroskop-nabaven-od-undp/>
- <https://centar.mk/blog/2023/08/30/mvr-ke-analizira-tragi-od-pukane-so-najsovremen-mikroskop-nabaven-od-undp/>
- <https://vestiplus.mk/mvr-ke-analizira-tragi-od-pukane-so-najsovremen-mikroskop-nabaven-od-undp/>

#### Kosovo:

- <https://kallxo.com/lajm/policia-e-kosoves-pranon-nga-undp-donacion-pajisje-per-detektimin-e-eksploziveve/>
- <https://kosovanews.net/policia-e-kosoves-merr-donacion-nga-undp-ja-per-avancimin-e-kapaciteteve-ne-detektimin-e-eksploziveve/>
- <https://www.botasot.info/aktuale-lajme/1994476/policia-pranon-donacion-nga-undp-ja-pajisje-te-specializuar-per-detektimin-e-eksploziveve/>
- <https://telegrafi.com/policia-pranon-donacion-nga-undp-pajisje-te-specializuar-per-detektimin-e-eksploziveve/>

#### Serbia:

- <https://bif.rs/2023/05/kako-se-moze-unaprediti-postupak-izdavanja-dozvola-za-oruzje/>
- <https://www.rts.rs/lat/vesti/hronika/5184877/procene-psihijata-ra-ko-moze-da-dobije-oruzje---zasto-nedostaju-psiholozi.html>
- <https://n1info.rs/vesti/tragedija-u-skoli-da-li-je-kriv-zapad-ili-rijaliti-na-nacionalnim-tv/>
- <https://www.cenzolovka.rs/etika/odgovorno-izvestavanje-o-samoubistvu-moze-spasiti-zivote-neodgovorno-i-senzacionalisticko-ih-ugrozava/>
- <https://bif.rs/2023/05/kako-se-moze-unaprediti-postupak-izdavanja-dozvola-za-oruzje/>
- <https://www.telegraf.rs/vesti/hronika/3651069-radionica-smanjirizik-povecaj-bezbednost>



## 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.

## Stories

Towards more effective communication, online stories were published on UN websites.

### Serbia:

- <https://www.undp.org/serbia/stories/how-can-doctors-help-women-survivors-violence>
- <https://www.undp.org/serbia/stories/nis-heroes-and-heroines-white-coats>
- <https://www.undp.org/serbia/stories/media-training-step-towards-better-reporting-violence-against-women>
- <https://www.undp.org/serbia/stories/femicide-and-suicide-partner-relationships-social-problem-we-can-prevent>

### Montenegro:

- <https://www.undp.org/montenegro/stories/local-initiatives-global-standards>



## 10. Way Forward

**T**he third call for project proposals enabled a new batch of projects to be launched across the Western Balkans, which are to be implemented in the next two years. The projects should enable the Trust Fund to further consolidate results achieved thus far, integrate lessons learned, and ensure sustainability. The projects have incorporated the findings of the mid-term evaluation of the Trust Fund into their design, and their progress be carefully monitored and supported in the next term of the Trust Fund operations with a view towards achieving even greater impacts.

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 sometimes achieved at a slower pace than envisaged, for reasons already outlined in the challenges and risks section.

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 effort into enabling the sharing of experience and dedicated learning sessions to further advance project management within the Fund. The Secretariat will also facilitate learning from monitoring and evaluation.

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**The increasing focus on modernizing and digitizing solutions offers significant opportunities towards greater efficiency and effectiveness of operations. At the same time, however, this comes with risks of limited experience, expertise, and capacity in dealing with challenges, which can result in longer timeframes for successful implementation.**

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The Trust Fund Steering Committee and the Secretariat have made committed efforts to more actively engage with the SALW Commissions in relevant decision-making, thereby promoting partnership and ownership. There is a dedicated effort to better map results and achievements stemming from the Trust Fund projects – to identify higher level outcomes as per the mid-term evaluation recommendations.

There are ongoing efforts in the region to develop the next phase of the Roadmap, for the period 2025-2030. This process incorporates many lessons learned from the past six years of Roadmap implementation.

The concerted effort to achieve Roadmap Goals has yielded clear, concrete results and continues to feed into the new baseline of the Roadmap. The Trust Fund will aim to capitalize on all of the relevant ongoing processes and on the many stakeholders' continuous commitment to enable and ensure solid progress in the next phase.

# II - FINANCIAL REPORT

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

for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office

United Nations Development Programme

GATEWAY: <https://mptf.undp.org>

May 2024

## 1. Introduction

**T**his 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 donor agreement signed with contributors/donors.

The MPTF Office, as Administrative Agent, is responsible for concluding an MOU with Participating Organizations and donor agreements with contributors/donors. 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 2023 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/slww00>).

### 2023 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 2023. Financial information for this Fund is also available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY, at the following address: <https://mptf.undp.org/fund/slww00>.

## 2. Definitions

<b>Allocation/ Total Approved Budget</b>	Amount approved by the Steering Committee for a project/programme. The total approved budget represents the cumulative amount of allocations approved by the Steering Committee.
<b>Approved Project/ Programme</b>	A project/programme including budget, etc., that is approved by the Steering Committee for fund allocation purposes.
<b>Contributor Commitment</b>	Amount(s) committed by a contributor to a Fund in a signed donor agreement 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.
<b>Contributor Deposit</b>	Cash deposit received by the MPTF Office for the Fund from a contributor in accordance with a signed donor agreement.
<b>Delivery Rate</b>	The percentage of funds that have been utilized, calculated by comparing expenditures reported by a Participating Organization and Non-UN Organization against the 'net funded amount'. This does not include expense commitments by Participating Organizations.
<b>Donor Agreement</b>	Standard Administrative Arrangement and/or European Commission contribution agreement between contributor/donor and MPTF Office.
<b>Net Funded Amount</b>	Amount transferred to a Participating Organization less any refunds transferred back to the MPTF Office by a Participating Organization.

<b>Participating Organization</b>	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.
<b>Project Expenditure</b>	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.
<b>Project Financial Closure</b>	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. MPTF Office will report a project financially closed once the financial report(s) has been received and any balance of funds refunded.
<b>Project Operational Closure</b>	A project or programme is deemed operationally closed once all activities funded for Participating Organization(s) have been concluded, and the Steering Committee has approved the final narrative report.
<b>Project Start Date</b>	Project/Joint programme start date as per the programmatic document.
<b>US Dollar Amount</b>	The financial data in the report is recorded in US Dollars.
<b>Transferred Funds</b>	Funds transferred to Participating Organizations by the Administrative Agent in accordance with the Steering Committee's request.

### 3. Sources and Uses of Funds

**A**s of 31 December **2023**, **6** contributors deposited US\$ **27,545,816** and US\$ **466,354** was earned in interest. The cumulative source of funds was US\$ **28,012,170**.

Of this amount, US\$ **25,783,831** has been net funded to **2** Participating Organizations, of which US\$ **12,888,278** has been reported as expenditure. The Administrative Agent fee has been charged at the approved rate of 1% on deposits and amounts to US\$ **275,458**. Table 1 provides an overview of the overall sources, uses, and balance of the **Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF** as of 31 December 2023.

► **Table 1. Financial Overview, as of 31 December 2023 (in US Dollars)**

	Prior Years up to 31 Dec 2022	Financial Year Jan-Dec 2023	Total
<b>Sources of Funds</b>			
Contributions from donors	24,181,024	3,364,792	27,545,816
<b>Sub-total Contributions</b>	<b>24,181,024</b>	<b>3,364,792</b>	<b>27,545,816</b>
Fund Interest and Investment Income Earned	232,469	233,885	466,354
<b>Total: Sources of Funds</b>	<b>24,413,493</b>	<b>3,598,677</b>	<b>28,012,170</b>
<b>Use of Funds</b>			
Transfers to Participating Organizations	13,463,299	11,931,737	25,395,036
Transfers to Participating Organizations for Direct Cost - Fund Secretariat etc	255,045	133,750	388,795
<b>Sub-Total Transfers</b>	<b>13,718,344</b>	<b>12,065,487</b>	<b>25,783,831</b>
Administrative Agent Fees	241,810	33,648	275,458
Bank Charges	713	291	1,005
<b>Total: Uses of Funds</b>	<b>13,960,868</b>	<b>12,099,426</b>	<b>26,060,294</b>
<b>Change in Fund cash balance with Administrative Agent</b>	<b>10,452,626</b>	<b>(8,500,749)</b>	<b>1,951,876</b>
Opening Fund balance (1 January)	9,632,759	10,452,626	-
<b>Closing Fund balance (31 December)</b>	<b>10,452,626</b>	<b>1,951,876</b>	<b>1,951,876</b>
Net Funded Amount (Includes Direct Cost)	13,718,344	12,065,487	25,783,831
Participating Organizations Expenditure (Includes Direct Cost)	8,045,645	4,842,633	12,888,278
<b>Balance of Funds with Participating Organizations</b>	<b>5,672,700</b>	<b>7,222,854</b>	<b>12,895,553</b>

## 4. Partner Contributions

**T**able 2 provides information on cumulative contributions received from all contributors to this fund as of 31 December 2023. The **Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF** is currently being financed by 6 contributors, as listed in the table below.

► **Table 2. Contributions, as of 31 December 2023 (in US Dollars)**

Contributors	Total Commitments	Total Deposits
Government of France	2,873,163	2,873,163
Government of Germany	13,335,578	13,335,578
Government of Netherlands	3,250,341	3,250,341
Government of Norway	2,074,401	2,074,401
Government of the United Kingdom (Home Office)	2,611,396	2,611,396
Sida	3,400,937	3,400,937
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>27,545,816</b>	<b>27,545,816</b>

## 5. 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 **2023**, Fund earned interest amounts to US\$ **466,354**. Details are provided in the table below.

No interest was received from Participating Organizations.

► **Table 3. Sources of Interest and Investment Income, as of 31 December 2023 (in US Dollars)**

Interest Earned	Prior Years up to 31-Dec-2022	Financial Year Jan-Dec-2023	Total
Administrative Agent			
Fund Interest and Investment Income Earned	232,469	233,885	466,354
<b>Total: Fund Interest Earned</b>	<b>232,469</b>	<b>233,885</b>	<b>466,354</b>
Participating Organization			
<b>Total: Agency Interest Earned</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>232,469</b>	<b>233,885</b>	<b>466,354</b>

\*The expenditures reported represent payments made against obligations made by PUNOs prior to the operational closure of projects

## 6. Transfer of Funds

**A** llocations to Participating Organizations are approved by the Steering Committee and disbursed by the Administrative Agent. As of 31 December **2023**, the AA has transferred US\$ **25,783,831** 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 up to 31-Dec-2022			Financial Year Jan-Dec-2023			Total		
	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded
UNDP	9,125,253	-	9,125,253	8,874,543	-	8,874,543	17,999,796	-	17,999,796
UNODC	4,593,091	-	4,593,091	3,190,944	-	3,190,944	7,784,035	-	7,784,035
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>13,718,344</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,718,344</b>	<b>12,065,487</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12,065,487</b>	<b>25,783,831</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25,783,831</b>



## 7. Expenditure and Financial Delivery Rates

**A** ll 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 2023 expenditure data has been posted on the MPTF Office GATEWAY at <https://mptf.undp.org/fund/slw00>.

### 7.1 Expenditure reported by participating organization

In **2023**, US\$ **12,065,487** was net funded by Participating Organizations, and US\$ **4,842,633** was reported in expenditure.

As shown in table below, the cumulative net funded amount is US\$ **25,783,831** and cumulative expenditures reported by the Participating Organizations amount to US\$ **12,888,278**. This equates to an overall Fund expenditure delivery rate of **49.99** percent.

**Table 5.1. Net Funded Amount and Reported Expenditures by Participating Organization, as of 31 December 2023 (in US Dollars)**

Participating Organization	Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure			Delivery Rate %
			Prior Years up to 31-Dec-2022	Financial Year Jan-Dec-2023	Cumulative	
UNDP	17,999,796	17,999,796	4,371,097	3,181,851	7,552,948	41.96
UNODC	7,784,035	7,784,035	3,674,548	1,660,782	5,335,330	68.54
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>25,783,831</b>	<b>25,783,831</b>	<b>8,045,645</b>	<b>4,842,633</b>	<b>12,888,278</b>	<b>49.99</b>

\* The expenditures reported represent payments made against obligations made by PUNOs prior to the operational closure of projects

## 7.2 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. In 2006 the UN Development Group (UNDG) established six categories against which UN entities must report inter-agency project expenditures. Effective 1 January 2012, the UN Chief Executives Board (CEB) modified these categories as a result of IPSAS adoption to comprise eight categories.

► **Table 5.2. Expenditure by UNSDG Budget Category, as of 31 December 2023 (in US Dollars)**

Participating Organization	Expenditures			Percentage of Total Programme Cost
	Prior Years up to 31-Dec-2022	Financial Year Jan-Dec-2023	Total	
Staff & Personnel Cost	1,573,908	938,950	2,512,858	20.85
Supplies, commodities and materials	1,094,292	84,756	1,179,048	9.78
Equipment, vehicles, furniture and depreciation	591,703	602,002	1,193,706	9.91
Contractual Services Expenses	1,720,218	1,409,972	3,130,190	25.97
Travel	687,392	408,355	1,095,747	9.09
Transfers and Grants	668,598	(34,209)	634,388	5.26
General Operating	1,182,866	1,122,506	2,305,372	19.13
<b>Programme Costs Total</b>	<b>7,518,977</b>	<b>4,532,332</b>	<b>12,051,309</b>	<b>100.00</b>
Indirect Support Costs Total <sup>1</sup>	526,668	310,301	836,969	6.95
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8,045,645</b>	<b>4,842,633</b>	<b>12,888,278</b>	<b>-</b>

<sup>1</sup> **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%.

## 8. Cost Recovery

**C**ost 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 2023, 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. Cumulatively, as of 31 December 2023, US\$ **275,458** has been charged in AA-fees.

**Indirect Costs of Participating Organizations:** A general cost that cannot be directly related to any particular programme or activity of the Participating Organizations. Participating Organizations may charge 7% indirect costs based on UNSDG policy, establishing an indirect cost rate as a percentage of the programmable costs for interagency pass-through pool funds. In the current reporting period US\$ **310,301** was deducted in indirect costs by Participating Organizations. Cumulatively, indirect costs amount to US\$ **836,969** as of 31 December **2023**.

## 9. Accountability and Transparency

**I**n 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 daily 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.

## 10. Direct Costs

**T**he 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'. Cumulatively, as of 31 December 2023, US\$ 388,795 has been charged as Direct Costs.

Participating Organization	Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure			Delivery Rate %
			Prior Years up to 31-Dec-2022	Financial Year Jan-Dec-2023	Cumulative	
UNDP	388,795	388,795	236,028	103,580	339,608	87.35
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>388,795</b>	<b>388,795</b>	<b>236,028</b>	<b>103,580</b>	<b>339,608</b>	<b>87.35</b>

## Annex 1. Expenditure by Project Grouped by Country

**T**he Annex displays the net funded amounts, expenditures reported and the financial delivery rates by Country by project/ joint programme and Participating Organization

► **Table Annex. Expenditure by Project, grouped by Country**

Country / Project No. and Project Title		Participating Organization	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %
<b>Albania</b>						
00125151	Strengthening control, administration and social attitudes towards SALW	UNDP	1,661,314	1,661,314	615,390	37.04
00134043	Increased Security of the Arms Depots Under the Administration of the Albanian State Police	UNDP	474,770	474,770	46,873	9.87
00140502	Integrated Institutional Approach and Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation to SALW Control (Phase I)	UNDP	1,205,490	1,205,490	-	-
<b>Albania: Total</b>			<b>3,341,574</b>	<b>3,341,574</b>	<b>662,263</b>	<b>19.82</b>
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>						
00120223	Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade (HALT) in Bosnia and Herzegovina	UNDP	1,111,061	1,111,061	1,098,708	98.89
00120223	Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade (HALT) in Bosnia and Herzegovina	UNODC	1,088,939	1,088,939	1,069,502	98.22
00120226	Urgent Action on Ammunition Destruction - Project EXPLODE+, in Bosnia and Herzegovina	UNDP	583,546	583,546	326,488	55.95

Country / Project No. and Project Title		Participating Organization	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %
00125390	Prevention and Illicit Arms Reduction in Bosnia and Herzegovina (PILLAR)	UNDP	769,406	769,406	603,637	78.45
00133688	Digitalization and Institutional and Regional Cooperation Project (DIRC)	UNDP	309,412	309,412	266,530	86.14
00140489	Law Enforcement Agencies' Development in Small Arms and Light Weapons Control (Project LEAD)	UNDP	1,455,035	1,455,035	-	-
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina: Total</b>			<b>5,317,399</b>	<b>5,317,399</b>	<b>3,364,865</b>	<b>63.28</b>
<b>Global and Interregional</b>						
00120225	Criminal Justice Response Against Arms Trafficking	UNODC	1,899,999	1,899,999	1,856,335	97.70
00120765	Secretariat - WB SALW Control Roadmap	UNDP	388,795	388,795	339,608	87.35
00127615	Support for increased international cooperation in criminal matters	UNODC	1,604,153	1,604,153	1,594,115	99.37
00140017	Countering Trafficking in Firearms, their parts and ammunition in Express Courier and Postal Parcels: Project HERMES, Phase 1	UNODC	800,129	800,129	787,316	98.40
00140411	Project Justitia: Support to the Criminal Justice Response to Counter Arms Trafficking in the Western Balkans	UNODC	2,390,815	2,390,815	28,062	1.17
<b>Global and Interregional: Total</b>			<b>7,083,891</b>	<b>7,083,891</b>	<b>4,605,436</b>	<b>65.01</b>

Country / Project No. and Project Title		Participating Organization	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %
Kosovo (As per UNSCR 1244)						
00120224	Support to Combating Illicit Arms Trafficking in Kosovo* for Criminal Police (CPIAT)	UNDP	660,000	660,000	638,672	96.77
00126411	Cross-Border Integrated Institutional Approach Towards Combating IAT and SALW (Kosovo and North Macedonia)	UNDP	251,293	251,293	235,496	93.71
00140012	Support to Firearms related Investigations	UNDP	350,318	350,318	336,329	96.01
00140409	Integrated Institutional Approach and Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation to SALW Control (Phase I)	UNDP	1,200,990	1,200,990	19,506	1.62
Kosovo (As per UNSCR 1244): Total			2,462,601	2,462,601	1,230,003	49.95
Montenegro						
00125391	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	UNDP	664,812	664,812	641,000	96.42
00140474	Advancing the Forensic Capacities of the Police Directorate of Montenegro for Processing Firearms and Explosives-related Crimes	UNDP	1,091,105	1,091,105	4,248	0.39
Montenegro: Total			1,755,917	1,755,917	645,248	36.75

Country / Project No. and Project Title		Participating Organization	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %
<b>North Macedonia</b>						
00126412	Cross-Border Integrated Institutional Approach Towards Combating IAT and SALW (Kosovo and North Macedonia)	UNDP	270,774	270,774	270,662	99.96
00134327	Improvement of Data and SALW Collection Practices and SALW Related Investigations	UNDP	513,600	513,600	502,403	97.82
00140522	Strengthening the Capacities of the Forensics and Crime Scene Investigation System to Improve Criminal Justice Response to SALW	UNDP	1,149,180	1,149,180	39	-
<b>North Macedonia: Total</b>			<b>1,933,554</b>	<b>1,933,554</b>	<b>773,105</b>	<b>39.98</b>
<b>Serbia</b>						
00125392	Advancing the Capacities of the Ministry of Interior in the SALW Control-Related Field (Phase II)	UNDP	1,429,520	1,429,520	1,428,384	99.92
00133163	Reduce Risk - Increase Safety II	UNDP	170,700	170,700	160,814	94.21
00140406	Reduce Risk - Increase Safety III	UNDP	776,135	776,135	18,160	2.34
00140475	Improving Capacities of the Ministry of the Interior in the SALW-Control related Field, Phase III	UNDP	1,512,540	1,512,540	-	-
<b>Serbia: Total</b>			<b>3,888,895</b>	<b>3,888,895</b>	<b>1,607,358</b>	<b>41.33</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>25,783,831</b>	<b>25,783,831</b>	<b>12,888,278</b>	<b>49.99</b>



## Annex 2. Trust Fund Projects

PROJECTS APPROVED FOR FUNDING IN THE FIRST CALL FOR PROPOSALS	CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS	CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP KPI
<p><b>Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade (HALT) in Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>            Implemented by UNDP BiH and UNODC            Implementing period: February 2020 – June 2023            Budget: \$2,200,000</p> <p>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.</p>	Goal 2 Goal 3 Goal 4 Goal 5 Goal 7	KPI 4 KPI 6 KPI 9 KPI 10 KPI 14
<p><b>Support to Combating Illicit Arms Trafficking in Kosovo for Criminal Police (CPIAT)</b>            Implemented by UNDP Kosovo            Implementing period: February 2020 – June 2022            Budget: \$660,000</p> <p>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.</p>	Goal 2 Goal 3 Goal 5	KPI 3 KPI 4 KPI 8 KPI 10 KPI 14

PROJECTS APPROVED FOR FUNDING IN THE FIRST CALL FOR PROPOSALS	CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS	CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP KPI
<p><b>Criminal Justice Response against Arms Trafficking (regional project)</b>            Implemented by UNODC            Implementing period: February 2020 – March 2023            Budget: \$1,899,999</p> <p>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.</p>	Goal 1 Goal 2 Goal 3 Goal 4 Goal 7	KPI 1 KPI 3 KPI 8 KPI 9 KPI 10
<p><b>Urgent Action on Ammunition Destruction - Project EXPLODE+</b>            Implemented by UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina            Implementing period: February 2020 – October 2022            Budget: \$583,546</p> <p>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.</p>	Goal 5 Goal 6 Goal 7	KPI 10 KPI 12 KPI 14

## PROJECTS APPROVED FOR FUNDING IN THE SECOND CALL FOR PROPOSALS

### CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS

### CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP KPI

#### Strengthening Control, Administration and Social Attitudes Towards SALW

Implemented by UNDP Albania

Implementing period: December 2020 – May 2024

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.

Goal 2

KPI 4

Goal 4

KPI 10

Goal 5

KPI 13

Goal 7

KPI 14

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

Implemented by UNDP Serbia

Implementing period: January 2021 – November 2023

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.

Goal 1

KPI 3

Goal 2

KPI 4

Goal 3

KPI 5

Goal 5

KPI 9

KPI 14

PROJECTS APPROVED FOR FUNDING IN THE SECOND CALL FOR PROPOSALS	CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS	CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP KPI
<p><b>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</b></p> <p>Implemented by UNDP Montenegro  Implementing period: January 2021 – October 2023  Budget: \$664,812</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Goal 1  Goal 2  Goal 3</p>	<p>KPI 3  KPI 9  KPI 14</p>
<p><b>Prevention and Illicit Arms Reduction in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Project PILLAR+)</b></p> <p>Implemented by UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina  Implementing period: January 2021 – April 2024  Budget: \$769,406</p> <p>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).</p>	<p>Goal 4  Goal 5  Goal 6</p>	<p>KPI 9  KPI 10  KPI 14</p>
<p><b>Cross-border Integrated Institutional Approach towards Combating IAT and SALW</b></p> <p>Implemented by UNDP Kosovo and UNDP North Macedonia  Implementing period: March 2021 – March 2023  Budget: \$522,067</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Goal 3  Goal 4  Goal 5</p>	<p>KPI 4  KPI 5  KPI 9  KPI 10  KPI 14</p>

**PROJECTS APPROVED FOR FUNDING IN THE SECOND CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

**CONTRIBUTION TO  
ROADMAP GOALS**

**CONTRIBUTION TO  
ROADMAP KPI**

**Support for Increased International Cooperation in Criminal Matters**

Implemented by UNODC

Implementing period: June 2021 – December 2023

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.

Goal 2

KPI 6

Goal 3

KPI 8

KPI 9

PROJECTS APPROVED FOR FUNDING THROUGH THE DIRECT SOLICITATION OF PROJECTS MODALITY	CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS	CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP KPI
<p><b>Reduce Risk - Increase Safety II</b>            Implemented by UNDP Serbia            Implementing period: September 2022 – May 2023            Budget: \$170,700</p> <p>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.</p>	Goal 2 Goal 4	KPI 2 KPI 9 KPI 10 KPI 14
<p><b>Digitalization and Institutional and Regional Cooperation Project (DIRC)</b>            Implemented by UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina            Implementing period: October 2022 – December 2023            Budget: \$309,412</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	Goal 2 Goal 3 Goal 4 Goal 5	KPI 2 KPI 3 KPI 4 KPI 8 KPI 9 KPI 14
<p><b>Increased security of the arms depots under the administration of the Albanian State Police</b>            Implemented by UNDP Albania            Implementing period: November 2022 – May 2024            Budget: \$474,770</p> <p>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.</p>	Goal 5 Goal 7	KPI 12 KPI 13

PROJECTS APPROVED FOR FUNDING THROUGH THE DIRECT SOLICITATION OF PROJECTS MODALITY	CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS	CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP KPI
<p><b>Improvement of data and SALW collection practices and SALW related investigations</b></p> <p>Implemented by UNDP North Macedonia</p> <p>Implementing period: December 2022 – February 2024</p> <p>Budget: \$513,600</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Goal 2</p> <p>Goal 4</p> <p>Goal 5</p> <p>Goal 7</p>	<p>KPI 2</p> <p>KPI 3</p> <p>KPI 8</p> <p>KPI 10</p> <p>KPI 13</p>
<p><b>Support to Firearms Related Investigations</b></p> <p>Implemented by UNDP Kosovo</p> <p>Implementing period: January 2023 – October 2023</p> <p>Budget: \$350,318</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Goal 2</p> <p>Goal 3</p> <p>Goal 5</p> <p>Goal 7</p>	<p>KPI 3</p> <p>KPI 4</p> <p>KPI 7</p> <p>KPI 8</p> <p>KPI 9</p>

PROJECTS APPROVED FOR FUNDING THROUGH THE DIRECT SOLICITATION OF PROJECTS MODALITY	CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS	CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP KPI
<p><b>Countering Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Ammunition in Express Courier and Postal Parcels: Project Hermes Phase I</b></p> <p>Implemented by UNODC</p> <p>Implementing period: February 2023 – December 2023</p> <p>Budget: \$800,129</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Goal 2</p> <p>Goal 3</p>	<p>KPI 3</p> <p>KPI 4</p> <p>KPI 5</p> <p>KPI 6</p> <p>KPI 9</p>



PROJECTS APPROVED FOR FUNDING IN THE THIRD CALL FOR PROPOSALS	CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS	CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP KPI
<p><b>Reduce Risk - Increase Safety III</b>            Implemented by UNDP Serbia            Implementing period: October 2023 – October 2025            Budget: \$776,135</p> <p>The project aims to reduce the risk of firearms misuse for violence and suicide in Serbia. It will foster collaboration and knowledge exchange of relevant stakeholders and enhance community response to firearms-related crises and trauma. More specifically, the project aims to i) Review gender and age data collection practices, use lessons learned to facilitate evidence-based policy making and mainstream firearms risks into domestic violence regulations; ii) Enable networking and capacity building of women to actively participate in SALW control policies; iii) Improve conditions for improved detection of potential firearms misuse for domestic violence and suicides and ensure comprehensive prevention support; iv) Make available information on the harmful effects of underlying practices and attitudes leading to firearms misuse and supportive mechanisms preventing suicides. V) Enable best practice sharing with professionals, media and academia on effective mechanisms for prevention of future firearms related incidents.</p>	<p>Goal 2 Goal 4</p>	<p>KPI 2 KPI 10 KPI 14</p>
<p><b>Project Justitia: Support to the Criminal Justice Response to Counter Arms Trafficking in the Western Balkans</b>            Implemented by UNODC            Implementing period: November 2023 – November 2025            Budget: \$2,390,815</p> <p>Project Justitia directly builds upon the previous project on “Criminal Justice Response against Arms Trafficking in the Western Balkans”, implemented by UNODC in 2020-2023, and represents a comprehensive effort to strengthen the criminal justice system’s response to organized crime and illicit firearms trafficking in the Western Balkans. By addressing gaps in legislation, enhancing the abilities of criminal justice practitioners, and harmonizing criminal legislation approaches across the region for better operational exchange, the project aims to create a more effective and unified approach to combat these pressing issues and support the implementation of the Roadmap for SALW Control in the Western Balkans.</p>	<p>Goal 1 Goal 3 Goal 4</p>	<p>KPI 1 KPI 3 KPI 8 KPI 9</p>

**PROJECTS APPROVED FOR FUNDING IN THE THIRD CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

**CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS**

**CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP KPI**

**Integrated Institutional Approach and Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation to SALW Control (Phase I)**

Implemented by UNDP Kosovo

Implementing period: November 2023 – November 2025

Budget: \$1,200,990

This project builds upon the previous work in support of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap and has as its main goal to further advance institutional approach and community engagement in Kosovo towards addressing FAE-related crime and misuse, and to strengthen bilateral cooperation between Kosovo and Albania in the field of SALW control. In this respect, the project will strengthen community and intelligence-led policing and community engagement on SALW control. It will further increase border control capacities to effectively prevent, detect, and counter illicit arms trafficking and enhance investigation and analytical capacities of Kosovo law enforcement to investigate FAE-related crime. The project will also advance handling, security and storage as related to firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE). Finally, the project will enhance police exchange and cooperation on SALW matters between Albania and Kosovo.

Goal 2

KPI 3

Goal 3

KPI 4

Goal 4

KPI 7

Goal 5

KPI 8

Goal 6

KPI 9

Goal 7

KPI 10

KPI 12

KPI 13

KPI 14

**Advancing the Forensic Capacities of the Police Directorate of Montenegro for Processing Firearms and Explosives-related Crimes**

Implemented by UNDP Montenegro

Implementing period: November 2023 – November 2025

Budget: \$1,091,105

The project aims at improving the crime scene investigation and laboratory forensic capacities of the Police Directorate of Montenegro for providing forensic evidence and intelligence necessary for investigating and judicial processing of the trafficking of firearms, their ammunition, explosives, and precursors, as well as other FAE-related criminal offences, including the sexual and gender-based violence. Improved evidence and intelligence capabilities shall serve the national criminal proceeding system and international investigations and proceedings. The project will do it by delivering specialized training, supporting relevant international and regional peer-exchanges, procuring equipment, developing and validating new methods, and developing standard operating procedures. The focus will be on standardizing work processes in accordance with the policy and recommendations of the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI) and preparing for accreditation in line with ISO/IEC 17025 and 17020 international standards. This implies implementation of project standardization results in the regulatory framework of the Ministry of Interior of Montenegro, thus providing sustainability of project's results.

Goal 1

KPI 2

Goal 2

KPI 3

Goal 3

KPI 9

KPI 14

**PROJECTS APPROVED FOR FUNDING IN THE THIRD CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

**CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS**

**CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP KPI**

**Improving Capacities of the Ministry of the Interior in the SALW-Control related Field, Phase III**

Implemented by UNDP Serbia

Implementing period: November 2023 – November 2025

Budget: \$1,512,540

The aim of the project is to further improve the forensic capacities of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia in the entire investigative cycle in order to support criminal investigations and proceedings in the area of firearm/ammunition and explosive-related crimes as well as the Small Arms and Light Weapon (SALW)-control system. The project builds upon and consolidates results of the previous interventions that started with the first phase of the project in 2019 and continued with the second phase from 2021 to 2023. Building upon previous results, the project will concentrate on improving capacities of the National Forensic Center, focusing on the crime scene investigation, ballistic examinations; explosion examinations; as well as capacities of the chemical laboratory for examinations of traces of explosives and of gunshot residues. The project will further improve validity and visibility of achieved forensic capacities in line with recognized standards. In addition, the project will further advance SALW-control capacities and handling of firearms of the police administrative affairs directorate.

Goal 1

KPI 3

Goal 2

KPI 8

Goal 3

KPI 9

Goal 5

KPI 13

Goal 7

KPI 14

**Law Enforcement Agencies' Development in Small Arms and Light Weapons Control (Project LEAD)**

Implemented by UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina

Implementing period: December 2023 – December 2025

Budget: \$1,455,035

The Project LEAD aims to enhance the capacity and engagement of relevant national institutions and civil society in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as strengthen inter-agency and cross-border collaboration to advance the implementation of the National SALW Control Strategy and the SALW Control Roadmap. The project builds upon previous interventions and entails a series of activities that focus on inter-agency operational and strategic cooperation, as well as provision of specialized resources, equipment and knowledge and peer-exchange to prevent and counter FAE-related crime. An inclusive approach to civil society organizations and outreach to communities and stakeholders will be ensured, with duly integrated gender and human rights perspectives. The expected result is a comprehensive strengthening of key stakeholders in the SALW control field, leading to increased ownership and sustainability.

Goal 1

KPI 2

Goal 2

KPI 3

Goal 3

KPI 4

Goal 4

KPI 8

Goal 5

KPI 9

KPI 12

KPI 14

**PROJECTS APPROVED FOR FUNDING IN THE THIRD CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

**CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS**

**CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP KPI**

**Integrated Institutional Approach and Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation to SALW Control (Phase I)**

Implemented by UNDP Albania

Implementing period: December 2023 – December 2025

Budget: \$1,205,490

The project builds upon the previous progress and efforts of the Albanian Ministry of Interior and the State Police to enhance the SALW control at the national level and beyond. It aims to strengthen operational and technical knowledge of relevant institutions and reduce skill gaps in dealing with FAE detection and prevent their trafficking across borders. This entails capacity development and strengthening of relevant national law enforcement institutions/departments, improving their inter-institutional collaboration in the field of FAE as well as promoting and developing cross-border cooperation with a final aim to adopt an integrated institutional approach to combating FAE trafficking. Project activities will include i) an institutional strengthening component, ii) a training component, inclusive of joint training, on various FAE-related topics, iii) a cross-border collaboration component with Kosovo, and iv) procurement of identified essential equipment for improving the quality and outcomes of the border police operations along the green border with Kosovo.

Goal 2

Goal 3

Goal 5

KPI 3

KPI 4

KPI 8

KPI 9

KPI 12

**Strengthening the Capacities of the Forensics and Crime Scene Investigation System to Improve Criminal Justice Response to SALW**

Implemented by UNDP North Macedonia

Implementing period: December 2023 – September 2025

Budget: \$1,149,180

The overall objective of the project is to modernize the forensic and crime scene investigation (CSI) units in North Macedonia to improve the quality of handling crime scenes and collecting of evidence thus leading to better investigations, strengthened bilateral/ international exchange of evidence and a more efficient criminal justice system. The project interventions will upgrade ballistic facilities and operations of MoI's Forensics Department, as well as enhance analytical, technical and investigative capacities of the CSI units. In addition, the project will contain a gender perspective dedicated to preventing gender-based violence, focusing in particular on gender sensitization of CSI staff, as well as improving the tracking of domestic violence cases that involve firearms through a separate module in the Police Information Management System (IMS) of North Macedonia.

Goal 1

Goal 2

Goal 3

Goal 4

KPI 2

KPI 3

KPI 9

KPI 10

KPI 14

## Annex 3. Overall Progress Review: Detailed Matrix of Project Activities and Results

### 1. Project: Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade (HALT) in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Implementing organizations: UNDP BiH and UNODC

COMPLETED in 2023

**Outcome 1: Further increased safety and security within and beyond the Western Balkans through targeted actions aimed at improving BiH capacities to combat illicit SALW trafficking.**

Output 1	Indicators	Baseline (2019)	Project target (2023)	Overall progress / Milestone
Enhanced IBM capacity of BiH to better fight illicit SALW trafficking through targeted assistance to the ITA, Border Police, and three postal agencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level of functionality of the institutional platform of the ITA, BP of BiH, and three postal agencies to address illicit SALW trafficking.</li> </ul>	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.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of specific analyses contributing to the assessment of needs in the ITA/ Customs Sector.</li> </ul>	0	2	2 analyses developed: i) a needs assessment analysis of the BiH Customs was prepared by UNDP, including recommendations for the improved work of Customs; ii) a joint needs assessment was prepared by UNODC and BiH Customs, public postal operators, and private courier companies on countering trafficking in firearms in postal and fast parcels.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of developed and institutionalized standard operating procedures aimed at defining the actions carried out by customs' officials to more effectively combat illicit SALW trafficking.</li> </ul>	0	6	Nine (9) SOPs developed and officially endorsed by the ITA Director. Training rolled out to institutionalize the SOPs.

<p>➤ % of ITA customs officers trained in the application of the developed SOPs and the usage of sophisticated detection equipment.</p>	0	80%	74%. 738 customs officers trained on the application of developed SOPs and usage of sophisticated detection equipment. Additionally, 32 ITA managers trained on the importance of the SOPs' use and proper use of donated equipment.
<p>➤ Existence of analyses aimed at affirming and promoting gender equality in the Customs Sector of the ITA.</p>	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.	<p>An analysis of the affirmation and career options for women in the Customs Sector was developed (as part of the needs assessment of the BiH Customs developed by UNDP).</p> <p>Eight consultative workshops addressing gender equality, the improving of career options in the ITA for women, and the prevention of sexual and gender-based harassment were held, encompassing 208 participants (130 women and 78 men), of which 121 were ITA managers (59 women and 62 men), from all four regional centers. Action plan developed, including a plan for further trainings within the ITA and ToT.</p>
<p>➤ # of BP of BiH inspectors trained and equipped to process illicit SALW trafficking cases.</p>	0	35	0 / Activity removed upon the project revision approved in 2022, following a reassessment of needs.
<p>➤ # of developed and institutionalized SOPs aimed at defining the actions to be carried out by customs' officials to counter shipments of firearms in postal deliveries.</p>	0	At least 1	3 / SOPs on the detection of firearms in postal parcels developed for: i) BiH Customs; ii) the 3 public postal operators; and iii) 4 private courier companies.
<p>➤ # 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.</p>	0	At least 70	88 / officials from BiH Customs and public postal operators trained.

**Activity 1.1:** Conduct a needs assessment analysis of BiH Customs (UNDP/UNODC).

Results:

[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.

- [2023] To further the impact of the completed needs assessment for BiH Customs on preventing trafficking of firearms, their parts, components, and ammunition through postal shipments, upon request from SALW Commission of Montenegro, UNODC facilitated in February 2023 an exchange of experience between the BiH authorities and their Montenegrin counterparts. The transfer of knowledge from BiH authorities resulted in the Montenegrin authorities endorsing a gap and needs analysis report, which the UNODC plans to follow up on through future initiatives within the Trust Fund (ref to Project Hermes).

**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.

Results:

- [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 for 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 brought the total number of trained customs officers in this regard 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 all, a total of 208 ITA employees (130 women and 78 men) participated in 8 workshops, including 121 ITA managers (59 women and 62 men), involving all 4 regional centers as well as the ITA HQ.
- [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 were developed for both the BiH ITA and for BH Pošta, Pošte Srpske, and Hrvatska Pošta Mostar 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 detecting the illicit trafficking and 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] As a result of the delivered capacity building activities, in the period Oct-Dec 2022, 30 seizures of firearms in postal parcels took place.
- [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 improving the processes for detecting firearms in express courier and postal parcels.
- [2023] As a further follow up to the previously developed SOPs for BiH ITA, UNDP organized two meetings of the ad-hoc working group (WG) composed of middle managers from three relevant ITA sectors to further fine-tune the developed SOPs and prepare for their official adoption.
 

The ITA Director officially approved and signed into effect nine SOPs on 13 June 2023: 1) the SOP for data collection, 2) SOP for risk analysis, 3) SOP for monitoring trade in firearms, military equipment, and dual-purpose goods, 4) SOP for monitoring trade in dual-use goods, 5) SOP for the collection and delivery of data and notification, 6) SOP for emergency management in cases of detection of radiological/nuclear materials, 7) SOP for emergency management in cases of the detection of mine and explosive ordnance/improvised explosive devices, 8) SOP for emergency management in cases of the detection of drugs and explosives, and 9) SOP for emergency management in cases of the detection of weapons, important parts of weapons, and ammunition.
- [2023] A final gathering of all lecturers participating at the gender equality workshops for BiH ITA took place in February 2023 to reflect on the achieved results and lessons learned during the workshops. Positive feedback from participants and encouragement to UNDP to support future similar activities to encompass all ITA employees were conveyed.
- [2023] As a result of the training on firearms x-ray image identification, tangible results continued to be noted in the seizures of illegal firearms and parts on behalf of BiH Customs. In addition to thirty seizures of firearms parts in postal parcels that took place in Q4 2022 at the Sarajevo Airport, an arrest of a suspect followed in 2023, with the UNODC Project Team supporting the ongoing investigation, leading to the identification of another 400 parcels which contained firearms parts and were ready for shipment. The UNODC monitored the situation and worked on further improving the training materials on detecting firearms through analysis of X-ray images. Training materials and copies of its Firearms X-ray Manual were disseminated to the designated postal operators and ITA for their continuous use.

**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.

Results:

- [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 was 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 ToT training so that they could 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 equipment needs of the Border Police, procurement was initiated for digital cameras, number evidence markers, evidence packaging kits, a service trolley for a search at border crossings, and multitool kits.
- [2022] Three x-ray scanners and 30 explosives and 30 drug 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.
- [2023] The UNDP provided specialized equipment for the Border Police as per their up-to-date needs, consisting of 13 digital cameras, 8 sets of evidence packaging kits, 11 sets of number evidence markers, 33 sets of universal multitool kits, and 6 contraband detectors.
- [2023] In addition, UNDP provided 6 contraband detectors to the ITA.
- [2023] UNODC organized the installation of two scanners and training on their use for BiH authorities and installed the remaining third scanner for the postal service Hrvatska Posta Mostar. Six consecutive meetings followed to ensure coordination among all units responsible for the installation. Furthermore, UNODC provided 45 explosive field tests and 45 drug field tests to BiH Customs.

Output 2	Indicators	Baseline (2019)	Project target	Overall progress / target
Strengthened cooperation and information exchange between BiH Customs and other institutions at the national level and with three neighboring states.	➤ # 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. <i>WG merged with joint exercises activity.</i> Scenario for joint exercises involving all law enforcement agencies developed. 1 pilot and 10 joint exercises organized.
	➤ 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 bilateral meeting between the ITA and Croatia's Customs Administration; and iv) a regional meeting with both Montenegrin (MNE) and Serbian (SRB) counterparts: exchanged information on SOPs, good practice, and achievements stemming from the HALT project.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ # of bi-lateral operations conducted against firearms trafficking with the Customs Services of Croatia, Montenegro, and Serbia.</li> </ul>	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).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ # of private companies aware of the risks of firearms trafficking through postal shipments.</li> </ul>	0	Up to 20.	21 / Twenty-one companies received training on the risks of firearms trafficking (17 freight forwarding and 4 express courier).

**Activity 2.1:** Strengthen the cooperation of BiH Customs with other institutions and three neighboring states.

Results:

- [2021] A working group at the operational level was formed by gathering three key institutions responsible for controlling the BiH borders and the processing of SALW-related and other smuggling cases, namely, the ITA, BP, and SIPA (State Investigation and Protection Agency).
- [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 Mol (Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Serbia) 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 (Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations), and MOTC (Ministry of Communications and Transport). One meeting of the strategic-level working group was organized.
- [2022] The strategic-level working group held another meeting to improve the exchange of information on both legal SALW trade and on the continuation of activities pertinent to the prevention of illegal SALW trade and to agree on upcoming activities. The meeting gathered 6 representatives of the ITA, 2 representatives of MOFTER and the Chair of the 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: a 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 Croatia (CRO).
- [2022] A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on bilateral cooperation between CRO and BiH was signed for the purposes of the project.
- [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 involving 24 participants (7 women and 17 men) from 8 companies and the second 26 participants (8 women and 18 men) from 9 companies. In total, the knowledge of 17 private companies was enhanced on the risks associated with the import, transit, and export of firearms.
- [2023] UNDP supported the BiH SALW Coordination Board to organize a strategic gathering to discuss priorities vis-a-vis the Roadmap implementation and combatting illegal SALW trade. In addition to BiH Customs, the meeting included nearly all members of the BiH SALW Coordination Board and was also attended by representatives of cantonal ministries of the interior.
- [2023] UNDP organized a peer-exchange meeting between representatives of BiH ITA and Croatia's Customs Administration, with the participation of UNODC as well. The meeting took place in Zagreb and gathered 7 ITA representatives (4 men and 3 women) and 5 representatives of Croatia's Customs Administration (4 men and 1 woman). The meeting enabled the exchange of experiences and organizational set-up of both institutions, with a focus on fighting illegal SALW trade. As part of the exchange, Croatia's Customs Administration organized a short study visit to Zagreb International Airport and the main postal distribution center, presenting modus operandi between Croatia's Customs and Border Police at these two locations, and emphasizing cooperation between the two institutions based on defined legal competencies. This was the last activity in a series of exchanges of best practices and knowledge through bilateral meetings organized in Podgorica, Belgrade, and Zagreb.
- [2023] On 30 June 2023, a Project Board meeting took place in Sarajevo (encompassing three Roadmap projects implemented in BiH – HALT, DIRC, and PILLAR). Relevant authorities and representatives of the international community and donors endorsed HALT project results and the project's successful completion.

### 3. Project: Criminal Justice Response against Illicit Arms Trafficking

Implementing organization: UNODC

COMPLETED in 2023

**Outcome: Enhanced criminal justice response to counter illicit firearms trafficking.**

Output 1	Indicators	Baseline (2019)	Project target (2023)	Overall progress / Milestone
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.	➤ # 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 analyses in Albania, BiH, Serbia, and Kosovo finalized and endorsed. In addition, 3 issue papers on the comparative analyses 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 criminal legislation with the UN Firearms Protocol in the Western Balkans.
<b>Activity 1.1:</b> 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.	Results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ [2020] Gap analysis reports were developed for Albania, BiH, Serbia, and Kosovo and shared with relevant authorities.</li> <li>➤ [2021] 3 issue papers were developed containing comparative analyses on the material and procedural regulation of illicit trafficking offences, in North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia.</li> <li>➤ [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.</li> <li>➤ [2023] Updated provisions to the criminal code of North Macedonia regarding incrimination on blueprints for 3D printed weapons were provided to the Macedonian authorities for incorporating into the respective criminal code prior to finalization. An Updated draft on the text of Article 518 to clarify the incrimination regarding blueprints for 3D printed weapons was provided to the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). With the updated version, the defined incrimination covers activities related to the possession of as well as control over 3D blueprints.</li> </ul>			

**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.

Results:

**Albania**

- 🔗 [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 were envisaged for 2023.

**Montenegro:**

- 🔗 [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.
- 🔗 [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.

🔗 [2023] As a result of UNODC's support, the Montenegrin Parliament approved amended criminal code with provisions harmonized with the UN Firearms Protocol.

**North Macedonia:**

- 🔗 [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, with the amendments related to the Firearms Protocol incorporated, was adopted by the Government in September 2022, and published on the national electronic register of regulations - [ENER](#), for public review and comments.

🔗 [2023] As a result of UNODC's support, the Macedonian Parliament approved amended criminal code with provisions harmonized with the UN Firearms Protocol.

**Serbia:**

- [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.
- [2020] In Kosovo, the 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.
- [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 Mol, 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.

**Activity 1.3:** Promote regional harmonization of criminal legislation to counter firearms trafficking.

**Result:**

- [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):
  - Albania: legislative analysis conducted, working group (WG) formed, provisions for amending the firearms offences drafted, consultations with legal experts ongoing;
  - 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;
  - 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;
  - 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;
  - Serbia: legislative analysis conducted, WG formed, provisions for amending the firearms offences to be discussed;
  - Kosovo: criminalization provisions harmonized; no need for further legislative activities.
- An overall baseline was established on the changes required for implementing the UN Firearms criminalization provisions. A methodology was 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	Indicators	Baseline (2019)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
Increased capacity of WB countries to detect, investigate, and prosecute firearms trafficking and its links to other serious crimes.	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 and published.
	# 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, Macedonian, and BCMS languages, presented and shared with the training institutions of the WB jurisdictions. Five WB jurisdictions have agreed to include the Guidelines in respective curricula as training material: two Centers for the Training of Prosecutors and Judges in BiH, one Training Center for Prosecutors and Judges in Montenegro, the Judicial Academies in North Macedonia and Serbia and the School for Magistrates in Albania.
	# 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	281 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; singular 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. 100 verdicts published in UNODC SHERLOCK's online database.

**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.

Results:

- [2021] The first [Expert Group Meeting](#) (EGM) on the development of Guidelines on the 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 first EGM 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 were 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.
- [2023] The Guidelines on the Investigation and Prosecution of Firearms Offences that were finalized in 2022 were approved as an official UNODC publication and published. The UNODC officially [launched the Guidelines](#) on 23 May 2023, in Vienna, at a side event of the 32nd regular session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.



**Activity 2.2:** Incorporate the guidelines as part of the national teaching curricula.

Results:

- 🔗 [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 the 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.

- 🔗 [2023] Having translated the Guidelines in Albanian, Macedonian, and BSCM languages, UNODC organized 5 meetings for the customization of the Guidelines with regard to the legal frameworks in Serbia and North Macedonia, and their incorporation into relevant institutionalized training programs.

**Serbia:** As a result of the meeting in Belgrade with officials from the educational institutions, prosecutor's offices, and law enforcement agencies, it was agreed that the Judicial Academy will use UNODC's Guidelines as part of its on-going training curriculum. It was also agreed how the Guidelines will be customized, which the UNODC will follow up on as part of the second phase of the project (ref to Project Justitia).

**North Macedonia:** UNODC organized workshops in four appellate jurisdictions of North Macedonia to reach out to the widest possible audience and collect feedback from the practitioners on the customization of the Guidelines to the legal framework of North Macedonia. The four events gathered 100 participants (68 men and 32 women). As a result, UNODC summarized the collected inputs and developed a local version of the Guidelines, in line with the material criminal and procedural criminal law of North Macedonia. As an additional result, the Judicial Academy agreed to use global version of UNODC's Guidelines as background training material in its curricula for prosecutors that will attend the Academy.

The two Centers for training of prosecutors and judges in BiH, the School for Magistrates in Albania and the Center for training prosecutors and judges in Montenegro agreed to include the Guidelines in the on-going training curricula.

**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.

Results:

- 🔗 [2020] Consultations were held with the relevant 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), and BiH/Sarajevo (June 2022). II) Two one-day training sessions took place on the identification and tracing of firearms (Feb/Sep 2022), gathering in total 45 prosecutors (25 women, 20 men).
- **[2023]** The UNODC developed a report on the Application of Special Investigative Measures to Counter Firearms Trafficking, Drug Trafficking, and Organized Crime: Legislative Framework and Case Law in the Republic of Serbia and shared the report with the Serbian judiciary to enhance their knowledge and practice regarding the subject matter.

**Activity 2.4:** Support for national information sharing and analysis of firearms trafficking cases.

Results:

- [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 were organized, involving 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.

**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.

Results:

- [2020] The State Investigation and Protection Agency of BiH sent a written request for support on a case with an international element, upon the removal of the travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic have been removed.
- [2022] The focus of relevant activities 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. 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 other materials, the UNODC GFP Guidelines on the 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 in the WB and identified priority areas for future engagement.

**Activity 2.6:** Harmonize court practices for sentencing in firearms trafficking cases.

Results:

- [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, involving 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 had, at the time of reporting, 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 was established.

**Activity 2.7:** Project coordination activities.

Results:

- [2020-2022] Meetings with various stakeholders and project beneficiaries were held.

Output 3	Indicators	Baseline (2019)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
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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.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ # 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.</li> </ul>	0	1	1 / Baseline assessment developed, endorsed, and published.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ # of meetings to support specific WB jurisdictions in assessing their needs for harmonizing the collection of firearms data.</li> </ul>	0	7	6 / Six meetings on firearms data collection and on the review and validation of the baseline assessment involving 89 (21 women and 68 men).

**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.

Results:

- [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 was finalized and endorsed by WB jurisdictions. Editing and publication was scheduled in 2023, following a last round of review.
- [2022] Five meetings were 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 could 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 could be improved in each jurisdiction – all with the aim of improving data collection and input for the annual UNODC Illicit Arms Flow Questionnaire (IAFQ).
- [2023] The completed baseline assessment report on firearms data in the criminal justice system of the Western Balkans was finalized and published. The report provides information regarding the statistical systems on collecting firearms related data, available statistics, geographical coverage and territorial aggregation of firearms data, time coverage, data flow procedures, data analysis, and performance indicators, data integration, and the dissemination of firearms data. It also identifies the capacity of the WB jurisdictions to produce information in response to UNODC's IAFQ questions and provides recommendations for improving the response rate.

## 5. Strengthening Control, Administration and Social Attitudes towards SALW, in Albania

Implementing organization: UNDP Albania

Strengthened control, administration and social attitudes towards SALW				
Output 1	Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target (2024)	Overall progress / Milestone
Improved weapons registration in accordance with the EU Directive on firearms and national legislation.	➤ % of registration of category "C" firearms.	55%.	At least 95%.	81% / Necessary equipment delivered for weapons re-registration [Jan 2022].
	➤ # of legal gun owners provided with digital card authorization for gun possession.	Not in place.	At least 80,000.	- / ASP provided with 100,000 digital cards for registered firearm owners, and necessary equipment for the issuance of digital cards.
<b>Activity 1.1:</b> Support the advancement and eventual completion of the firearms re-registration process.	➤ [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 (ASP) in January 2022 (58 PCs, 54 printers, and 2 Laptops).			
	➤ <i>The Albanian State Police Systems suffered from a cyberattack in 2022, which also affected the Weapons Registration System SIMA. The needs for support were 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.</i>			
	➤ <b>[2023]</b> The UNDP project team, along with its recruited IT expert, followed upon with the ASP regarding the planned upgrade of the weapons registration system (SIMA). The ASP established that the entire SIMA system suffered a great deal of damage, and it would have to be rebuilt in a more comprehensive manner. The ASP officially requested the total overhaul of the SIMA system and its complete restoration so that it would address all the identified vulnerabilities. The project reassessed the feasibility of the support given the latest request and concluded that it could not meet the request of the ASP for a complete restoration of the SIMA system, as this was beyond the scope and resources of the project. The SIMA upgrade will be addressed through separate resources, under the lead support provided by SEESAC.			

**Activity 1.2:** Support the development of a digitalized system and the production of firearms owners' digital cards.

- [2021] Technical Specifications were drafted for the equipment for 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 was scheduled 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.
- [2023] The delivery of the IT equipment for the issuance of digital cards for firearm owners was concluded, consisting of three special printers, holographic film, special ink, and software. In addition, 100,000 digital cards were delivered, intended for the firearms owners. The project supported the installation of the special printers for the issuance of digital cards and trained 11 police officers (9 men and 2 women) in their use. Given the new circumstances surrounding the weapons registration system, and the requested complete overhaul of SIMA by ASP, it was determined that the equipment will be used by ASP to enter necessary data manually until the SIMA overhaul and update with the module for issuing digital cards is complete.

Output 2	Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target (2024)	Overall progress / Milestone
Improved Albanian State Police weapons storage management.	➤ % of rehabilitated and standard compliant ASP arms & ammunition storages vs total.	48%	58%	- / The designs for the ten selected facilities were completed and approved by the ASP. Considering that the state undertook the full renovation of three of the ten sites, the project is intended to proceed with the reconstruction of the remaining seven sites: Mat, Puka, Tropoja, Lushnja, Fier, Pogradec, and Tirana.

**Activity 2.1:** Conduct the reconstruction technical design, assess equipment needs, and finalize the BoQ (Bill of Quantities) for each individual intervention.

- [2021] ToR were drafted for the selection of a design and supervision company. The procurement for the design and supervision was set to be initiated in 2022.
- [2022] The design and supervision company was selected, which was 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 weapons storage in Tirana, which delayed the completion of the design phase. Site visits were concluded in all 10 relevant 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 were to be produced in 2023, for Tirana and Elbasan. Once approved, the relevant company was to start the process of the final design for the facilities.
- [2023] The selected design and supervision company completed the designs for selected weapons storage facilities and the ASP approved these.

**Activity 2.2:** Conduct the reconstruction and refurbishment of selected interventions of Arms & Ammunition storage facilities.

🔗 [2023] The procurement of an engineering company followed after the ASP's approval of the designs for reconstruction. A company was contracted in October 2023, after a lengthy process due to a lack of qualified applicants. After the ASP issued the clearance for the company to commence works in December, the project team together with the company conducted the field visits. Taking into account that the authorities decided to have the Regional Police Directorates of Berat and Elbasan and the police station in Saranda completely renovated (including the evidence rooms) with financing from the state budget, the construction of works was to proceed for the other 7 evidence rooms (Mat, Puke, Tropoje, Lushnje, Fier, Pogradec, and Tirana).

Output 3	Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target (2024)	Overall progress / Milestone
Increased awareness of the dangers and risks of the misuse of SALW.	🔗 # 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.	/ Materials have been conceptualized and the outreach is to take place in 2024.
	🔗 # of police directorates/units involved in awareness-raising activities.	No data/none.	At least 20.	/ Activity not initiated.
	🔗 # 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.

**Activity 3.1:** Conduct an awareness-raising campaign about the dangers of the illegal possession, misuse, and trafficking of SALW.

- [2021] A desk review of the SALW Control Situation was completed and a National Survey on SALW Misuse was to ensue 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 the use of SALW, as well as the level of knowledge people had 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.
- [2023] Following an open call, the project contracted a company to carry out the national awareness campaign on SALW control, safer communities, and the dangers of SALW misuse, based on the results of the national survey. The company developed a communications strategy for the national awareness campaign, and a launching event took place in June 2023 in cooperation with the SALW Commission/MoI and the OSCE. The planned actions of both UNDP and OSCE on communication and awareness raising in Albania were envisioned to complement each other, under the overall leadership and ownership of the MoI/SALW Commission. Following the launching event, the project team held meetings with the ASP to coordinate the implementation of the awareness campaign and consult on campaign elements and underlying messages (video scripts and posters). The materials to be used during the campaign were approved in December. At the time of reporting (May 2024), activities related to public awareness are being implemented in collaboration with the ASP's Directorate of Public Order. Dedicated social media accounts for the awareness campaign have been opened by the contracted company and this is to be rolled out in 2024.



## 6. Advancing the Capacities of the Ministry of the Interior in the SALW Control-Related Field (Phase II), in Serbia

Implementing organization: UNDP Serbia

COMPLETED in 2023

### Outcome 1: Capacities of the CSI units increased in order to improve investigations

Output 1	Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target (2023)	Overall progress / Milestone
Increased capacities of the CSI units.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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).</li> </ul>	Low	High	High / CSI unit of NFC equipped with new specialized forensic equipment on fingerprint recovery, and staff trained on the technique. NFC also equipped with a comprehensive set of IT equipment for CSI - evidence recovery database users.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 (Laboratory Information Management System) at the central level Logbook (evidence recovery database) for CSI units.</li> </ul>	Low	High	High / Evidence recovery database for CSI units finalized, including the completion of software development and hardware provision.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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).</li> </ul>	Low to moderate	Moderate to high	High / 92 (9 women, 81 men) forensic technicians at the central and regional level were trained through advanced trainings on the ISO 17020 standard.
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**Activity 1.1:** Improve the evidence recovery database for the CSI units.

Results:

- [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 (Beta version approved by the National Forensic Centre/ NFC). Likewise, 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).
- [2023] UNDP, in close collaboration with the MoI, worked on improving the existing evidence recovery database for the CSI Unit, through the contracted company. The software development for the evidence recovery database was completed along with the necessary visuals to ensure a more efficient use. In addition, hardware components for the database were delivered to the MoI. The MoI was also equipped with four multifunctional color laser printers, scanners, and copiers as remaining components for the use of the database.

**Activity 1.2:** Prepare for accreditation in accordance with the ISO 17020 standard at the central/regional/local level.

- [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. Trainings for all 27 police directorates were thus successfully organized.

## Outcome 2: Ballistic laboratory accredited and arson, explosive, and accident unit established

Output 2	Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target (2023)	Overall progress / Milestone
Ballistic labs equipped, experts trained, and laboratories prepared for the accreditation according to ISO 17025 standard.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ # of laboratories fully equipped.</li> <li>➤ # of ballistic experts trained.</li> </ul>	<p>0</p> <p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10</p>	<p>1 / Central Ballistic Lab fully equipped.</p> <p>21 / 12 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.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Institutional shooting range reconstructed and equipped.</li> </ul>	Poor conditions and not properly equipped.	Shooting range reconstructed and equipped.	Yes / Shooting range adapted and equipped.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Accreditation of the Central Ballistics Lab.</li> </ul>	Certain activities conducted.	Central Ballistics Lab accredited.	Yes / The Central Ballistic Laboratory in Belgrade was accredited by ATS according to the ISO 17025 standard, for the method of comparative analysis of the identification of the cartridge cases.
<b>Activity 2.1:</b> Conduct study visit.	<p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ [2022] Study visit to Wiesbaden organized for two Mol and one UNDP staff.</li> </ul>			
<b>Activity 2.2:</b> Organize advanced trainings on the central and regional level.	<p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ [2022] Contracted a consultant to facilitate, mentor, and organize various trainings for ballistic experts through the ISO 17025 standard accreditation process.</li> <li>➤ [2022] Advanced training organized for 9 (one woman and 8 men) ballistic experts from 3 Serbian ballistic labs on the ISO 17025 standard.</li> </ul>			
<b>Activity 2.3:</b> Deliver equipment to the ballistics laboratories.	<p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ [2021] A comparative high-range microscope was procured and installed in the Central Ballistic Laboratory.</li> <li>➤ [2023] The project provided specialized equipment to the Central Ballistic Laboratory in line with the requirements of the ISO 17025 accreditation process. This encompassed delivery and installation of: a metal evidence storage cabinet with 9 compartments for ballistic experts; a ballistic chronograph (indoor and outdoor use); a laser engraving machine; a vacuum cleaner; wooden boxes; a laboratory bottle for gun powder; a bullet trap (for rifle bullets); a bullet trap (for pistol bullets); an air gun pellet catcher; a gas ammunition firing chamber; a mobile protective shield for the shooter. In addition, specialized safety equipment, 36 bullet traps for safe firing, were delivered to the Mol.</li> </ul>			

**Activity 2.4:** Prepare the Open Case File (OCF) in line with necessary standards and SOPs.

Results:

- [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.

Results:

- [2021] A GSR ashing device was procured and installed in the National Forensic Center (NFC).
- [2022] Preparations for a specialized GSR training at Wiesbaden were initiated.
- [2023] Specialized GSR training for 3 ballistic experts (1 woman and 2 men) took place in April 2023 in Wiesbaden, enabling professional peer exchange with German colleagues. In addition, the NFC was provided with some spare parts for the GSR-related equipment.

**Activity 2.6:** Reconstruct the Ballistics Laboratory shooting range.

Results:

- [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.

Results:

- [2021] An analysis and recommendations were prepared in order to start preparations 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] The action plan for accreditation was prepared and sent to NABIS (National Ballistics Intelligence Service) based on the final recommendations before the finalization of the document and before the application for accreditation according to the ISO 17025 standard.
- [2022] Training for application of the ISO 17025 standard and action plan for its accreditation was organized for 10 ballistic (1 woman, 9 men) experts, together with the ballistic consultant and mentor for the accreditation process who facilitated it.
- [2023] A collaborative ballistic testing was organized for ballistic experts with their peers from an accredited ballistic lab in Skopje, as required for the accreditation. Belgrade and Skopje ballistic experts exchanged experience on cases and samples for the ballistic examination. The test was positive and successful, and the ballistic lab in Serbia used this test for the accreditation process.
- [2023] The project analysis for the shooting range and water tank for safe usage in test firing in line with new SALW regulations was developed and approved by NFC.
- [2023] Likewise, the SOP for using the ABIS systems (Arsenal, Evofinder, and Traffic) in operating the open case file and the illegal firearms database, as well as the SOP for ammunition delaboration, were developed and approved by NFC.

**Activity 2.8:** Support accreditation according to the ISO 17025 standard.

➤ [2023] The project supported the processing of the application for the ISO 17025 accreditation of the Central Ballistic Lab in Belgrade. This entailed technical support to the NFC and their quality management team, as well as to the ballistic lab experts, to finalize the required accreditation materials (developed documents, SOPs), in addition to providing support in the area of ballistic equipment needs as part of preparations work for the ATS (Accreditation Body of Serbia) field visit. The Central Ballistic Laboratory in Belgrade was finally accredited by the ATS according to ISO 17025 standard, for the method of comparative analysis of the identification of the cartridge cases.

Output 3	Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target (2023)	Overall progress / Milestone
Increased capacity and establishment of an arson/explosion/accident (AEA) investigation Unit.	➤ AEA Standard Operating Procedure amended and approved.	No	Yes	Yes / SOP regulating the performance of forensic investigators on arson/explosion scenes was approved by NFC, and training for users organized.
	➤ Basic and advanced AEA trainings organized.	No	Yes	Yes / Awareness-raising training (online) on the ISO 17020 standard organized for 15 police officers; 5 AEA experts passed an advanced training on explosive investigation; 132 forensic technicians passed the post-blast training.
	➤ AEA equipment according to international standards provided and installed.	No	Yes	Yes / Equipment for AEA unit delivered to the MoI (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 3.1:** Amend and approve Standard Operating Procedures.

Results:

- [2021] A SOP regulating the performance of forensic investigators on arson/explosion scenes was drafted and submitted for approval.
- [2023] The SOP regulating the performance of forensic investigators on arson/explosion scenes was approved by NFC and a related one day training was organized.

**Activity 3.2:** Organize advanced Training of Explosion Investigators (TEI) and Advanced Counter Terrorism Search Training (CTST).

Results:

- [2022] Preparations for the post-blast training for the AEA unit and specialized advance training (CTST) was initiated with the MoI according to the training needs [CTST training was expected to take place in Sep 2022 at ILEA (International Law Enforcement Academy) but was postponed to a later date by the provider].
- [2023] In coordination with the MoI, the project team replaced the organization of the specialized advanced counter-terrorism search training (CTST) with additional post-blast training for forensic technicians (Activity 3.4). The CTST activity was therefore cancelled.

**Activity 3.3:** Deliver equipment for explosive device detection and explosion investigations.

Results:

- [2021] The tender for the procurement of equipment for the AEA unit was launched.
- [2022] The tendering procedure was completed and the equipment for AEA unit was delivered to the MoI (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.

Result:

- [2021] A guiding document was 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 were initiated, tackling the explosive investigation and post-blast courses.
- [2023] 5 AEA experts (1 woman, 4 men) were trained on explosive investigation in line with the ISO 17020 standard.
- [2023] Five post-blast training sessions were organized (in Šabac, Vrnjačka Banja, Fruška Gora, and Vršac), enhancing knowledge and capacities on the subject matter of 132 forensic technicians (117 men, 15 women).

### Outcome 3: SALW-control registry system upgraded and police personnel trained

Output 4	Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
Upgraded SALW-control registry system.	➤ 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 / SALW-control registry system – browser developed and installed at the Directorate, and necessary IT equipment procured and delivered to the MoI [hardware for the new SALW control registry system, consisting of 130 IT sets – computers, monitors, scanners, and printers].
	➤ # of police officers who completed ToT trainings on SALW control.	0	50	N/A
	➤ # of police officers who completed basic SALW control training.	0	200	210 police officers trained on the new SALW control registry system.

**Activity 4.1:** Conduct gap analysis of the necessary equipment.

Result:

- [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.

Result:

- [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 (PAD).
- [2022] The tendering procedure for the IT hardware (65 IT sets) and servers was completed, which are to serve the SALW-control registry system and police officers in their daily work, was completed. Hardware and server components were handed over to the Mol and Police Administrative Directorate.
- [2023] To utilize of the funds savings achieved within the activity, the project provided additional IT equipment (65 IT sets - computers, monitors, scanners, and printers) and specialized equipment (36 bullet traps for safe firing) for the Police Administrative Directorate (PAD), as per assessed needs and to further strengthen the output.

**Activity 4.3:** Organize training for police officers.

Result:

- [2021] Training curricula were prepared and approved by the Mol.
- [2022] Together with the Mol and Police Administrative Directorate, a training schedule for 2023 was prepared for 5 training groups. Training was planned to be rolled out in 2023.
- [2023] The project trained 195 staff of the Police Administrative Directorate (121 women and 74 men) on the SALW control system and its use. This was followed by a training session for 15 high-level police officers (6 women and 9 men) and users of the SALW-control browser/system, bringing the total number of trained PAD staff to 210 (146 women, 64 men).

## 7. 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

COMPLETED in 2023

### Outcome 1: Capacity Built for Crime Scene Investigation Unit

Output 1	Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target (2023)	Overall progress / Milestone
Standard Operating Procedures developed for CSI teams, for documenting the crime scene, and for taking and packaging evidence for explosives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SOPs developed in line with international standards, taking into account local experience and domestic legislation.</li> </ul>	No SOPs on explosives in place.	SOPs developed.	Yes / Four SOPs developed or revised: [newly developed] 1) Basic SOP for CSI, packaging and tagging of evidence, and chain of custody, [revised]; 2) SOP for the treatment of improvised explosive devices by crime scene officers; 3) SOP for forensic search of vehicles regarding explosives; 4) SOP for securing, packaging, and further handling of explosive substances and post blast traces intended for chemical laboratory analysis.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Officers have acquired knowledge through a series of trainings.</li> </ul>	Low	High	High / Three trainings organized for 61 participants from CSI units on the new SOPs and advanced methods.
<b>Activity 1.1:</b> Prepare SOPs for key processes.	<p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[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 was pending approval at year's end.</li> <li>[2022] Three other SOPs for CSI were revised and at year's end and were 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.</li> <li>[2022] 41 professionals (1 woman and 40 men) from CSI Units from all of the CSI centers trained on SOPs as well as on the use of 3D scanners.</li> <li>[2022] 14 professionals (1 woman and 13 men) from the CSI units from the Forensic Center and local Security Centers trained on Crime Scene Investigation applicable to Gender Based Violence cases.</li> </ul>			



**Activity 1.2:** Deliver equipment for CSI units.

Results:

- [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 (1 woman, 5 men), who are now enabled to use the equipment. Likewise, packages for handling explosives were delivered to the Forensic Center. The remaining equipment was to be procured and delivered in Q1/Q2 2023.
- [2022] Six professionals (1 woman, 5 men) 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.
- [2023] The project delivered specialized equipment for the Crime Scene Investigation unit, consisting of a quadcopter, video boroscopes, post-blast crime scene investigation kits, an evidence vacuum sweeper, and tamper-evident sealing tapes. The project then proceeded to train 8 CSI professionals (7 men and 1 woman) on using the provided quadcopter, on the issue of the forensic application of aerial photography in CSI and processing the recorded material.

## Outcome 2: Strengthened Efficiency of the Montenegrin Forensics in the field of explosives

Output 2	Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target (2023)	Overall progress / Milestone
Increased capacity of the Arson and Explosives Laboratory (AEL).	➤ SOPs for the Arson and Explosives Laboratory developed in line with international standards.	No SOPs in place.	SOPs developed.	Yes / Seven SOPs revised: 1) SOP for the reception, protection, and dispatch of explosive and post blast traces; 2) SOP for the handling, reviewing, sampling, and measuring of explosive and post blast traces; 3) SOP for the reviewing of pyrotechnic devices; 4) SOP for the reviewing of improvised explosive devices; 5) SOP for the reviewing of conventional explosive devices; 6) SOP for examining the correctness of the fuse regarding spark transfer and burning velocity; 7) SOP for examining the correctness of the electric detonator.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Necessary equipment for the laboratory acquired.</li> </ul>	No adequate equipment.	Capacity of the lab upgraded with technical equipment.	Yes / The lab was equipped with a container for storing explosive material, a 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, an ommeter, and a rheostat.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Professionals working in the Arson and Explosives Laboratory have acquired knowledge through a series of trainings on developed SOPs.</li> </ul>	Limited knowledge of the lab's professionals with regards to the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI) standards.	Lab's professionals trained on ENFSI standards.	Yes / Seven AEL staff (one woman and six men) trained on ISO standards (ISO/IEC 17025:2017). Two AEL staff (men) passed end-user training for operating the instrument for measuring the detonation velocity VOD 815. Additional staff were trained on the use of the received equipment that feeds into the revised SOPs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work processes accredited, making them recognized and valid internationally, thus enabling efficient information exchange and international cooperation in the fight against crime.</li> </ul>	Methods not accredited.	Methods for explosives accredited.	- / A method of AEL was prepared for accreditation in line with the ISO/IEC 17025:2017. All accreditation documents were finalized, validation was conducted, and an action plan was prepared for the accreditation. With this, the project completed the envisaged support towards the AEL method accreditation, pending official accreditation by the Montenegrin Accreditation Body (ATCG).

**Activity 2.1:** Develop SOPs for the Arson and Explosives Laboratory and prepare for accreditation.

Results:

- [2021] 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 preparations for the accreditation of a method of AEL. At year's end, documents had been partially drafted, with an accreditation action plan and validation plan intended to be finalized in Q1/Q2 2023.
- [2022] Seven (7) professionals (one woman and 6 men) from the Arson and Explosives Unit were trained on ISO standards (ISO/IEC 17025:2017)

- [2023] The project worked closely with professionals from Forensic Center Quality Management and the Arson and Explosives Lab on preparing a method of AEL for accreditation in line with the ISO/IEC 17025:2017. All accreditation documents were jointly finalized by the Forensic Center, and the international consultant was hired by the project, and these were approved by the Forensic Center Quality Management. The process of validation was conducted as per the validation plan completed by the international consultant. The additional small equipment was procured and delivered, including an ommeter and rheostat, necessary for the successful completion of the validation process (as part of the Activity 2.2). Finally, the consultant completed the validation report as well as the action plan for the accreditation. With this, the project completed the envisaged support towards the accreditation of the AEL method.
- **Note on Accreditation:** In line with the regular dynamics of the official (surveillance) visits of the Montenegrin Accreditation Body (ATCG) to the Forensic Center (FC), the next visit is planned for spring 2024, the FC shall in the meantime apply for the accreditation of the mentioned new method of examination of the electric detonator and the lab itself. According to the regular procedure, the ATCG is to conduct the assessment of the lab and the method (document review and on-site assessment, as part of the visit, including witnessing and interviews), supported by a technical assessor. Eventual non-conformities are to be identified by the ATCG (a regular and very frequent case) and eliminated by the lab. Finally, the ATCG accreditation committee shall evaluate the results of the assessment and decide on the granting of accreditation. UNDP will monitor the process and report on the final outcome within its final report.

**Activity 2.2:** Deliver technical equipment for the Arson and Explosives Laboratory.

Results:

- [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: a container for storing explosive material, a 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.
- [2023] The project delivered safety a laboratory storage container to AEL and trained two lab professionals (men) on its proper use. In addition, the project delivered final small-scale equipment to the AEL, including an ommeter and a rheostat, necessary for accreditation process. Finally, the project's international consultant delivered the end-user training to 2 AEL staff (2 men) for operating the instrument for measuring the detonation velocity VOD 815, as a follow-up to the earlier delivery of this device.

Output 3	Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target (2023)	Overall progress / Milestone
Increased capacities of the Chemical Laboratory.	➤ SOPs for the Chemical Laboratory developed in line with international standards.	No SOPs in place.	SOPs developed.	4 / Four SOPs developed: i) for the sampling and analysis of explosives; ii) for analysis of traces of explosive substances in the chemical laboratory; iii) for analysis of substances by the LC-MS/MS method; and iv) for putting into operation the LC-MS/MS device.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Necessary equipment for the laboratory acquired.</li> </ul>	No adequate equipment.	Capacity of the lab upgraded with technical equipment.	Yes / Chemical Lab equipped with specialized equipment, including a liquid chromatograph with mass spectrometer (LC-MS-MS), a microcentrifuge with angular rotor, a thermo-shaker with thermos blocks, a combined refrigerator-freezer and upright freezer, a laminar flow cabinet, an orbital shaker, and an ultra-pure water system.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Professionals working in the chemical laboratory have acquired knowledge through a series of trainings on developed SOPs.</li> </ul>	Limited knowledge of the lab's professionals.	Lab's professionals trained.	Yes / Chemical Lab staff (4, 1 man and 3 women) were trained on the method for the LC-MS/MS device and on measuring uncertainty calculations in LC-MS/MS quantitative analysis of TNT.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work processes accredited, making them recognized and valid internationally, thus enabling efficient information exchange and international cooperation in the fight against crime.</li> </ul>	Methods not accredited.	Methods for explosives accredited.	- / Preparation of documents for validation finalized and approved; pending official accreditation by the Montenegrin Accreditation Body (ATCG) in 2024.

**Activity 3.1:** Develop SOPs.

Results:

- [2022] Four SOPs for the Chemical Lab were being developed by the engaged consultant in close cooperation with professionals from the Chemical Lab: FC UP CG HEM 308 for the sampling and analysis of explosives; FC UP CG HEM 330 for analysis of traces of explosive substances in the chemical laboratory; FC UP CG HEM 338 for analysis of substances by the LC-MS/MS method; and FC UP CG HEM 408 for putting into operation the LC-MS-MS device. Draft versions were sent to the beneficiaries for comments.
- [2023] Four SOPs for the Chemical Lab were finalized in close cooperation with the Chemical Lab professionals, and approved by the Forensic Center Quality Management. The SOPs cover: i) the sampling and analysis of explosives (FC UP CG HEM 308); ii) analysis of traces of explosive substances in the chemical laboratory (FC UP CG HEM 330); iii) analysis of substances by the LC-MS/MS method (FC UP CG HEM 338); and iv) putting into operation the LC-MS/MS device (FC UP CG HEM 408).

**Activity 3.2:** Organize training and prepare for accreditation.

Results:

- [2022] The preparation of documents for a method validation of the Chemical Laboratory was being finalized in close cooperation with professionals from the Chemical Lab with a consultant hired to support this activity.
- [2023] Documents for validating a method validation of the Chemical Laboratory were finalized in close cooperation between the professionals from the Lab and the project's consultant and were approved by the Forensic Center Quality Management. Four professionals from the Chemical Lab (1 man and 3 women) were trained on the method for the LC-MS/MS device and on measuring uncertainty calculations in LC-MS/MS quantitative analysis of TNT. With this, the project completed its envisaged support towards the expanded scope of accreditation of the Chemical Lab.
- **Note on Accreditation:** A new method for HPLC-MS/MS qualitative analysis of TNT was developed in the Chemical Laboratory. The method was based on procuring a sophisticated analytical device and other essential lab equipment, adequate training, and the development of SOPs bolstered by the project's consultant, who also established the method and prepared and led its validation. Since the Chemical Lab is already accredited, accrediting this new method will have the character of extending the accreditation scope, and it will be carried out simultaneously with and in the same way as it was explained above for the physical explosives/explosions lab.

**Activity 3.3:** Deliver equipment for explosive device detection and explosion investigations.

Results:

- [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 FC, and six professionals (5 women, 1 man) were trained on its use.
- [2023] The project delivered specialized equipment for the Chemical Lab, including a microcentrifuge with angular rotor, a thermo-shaker with thermos blocks, a combined refrigerator-freezer and upright freezer, a laminar flow cabinet, an orbital shaker, and an ultra-pure water system.

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

Implementing organization: UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Outcome 1: Further increased safety and security within and beyond the Western Balkans through targeted actions aimed at improving BiH capacities to raise awareness amongst the population regarding responsible possession of SALW and understanding dangers**

Output 1	Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target (2023)	Overall progress / Milestone
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Absence of needs assessment and conceptualized training curricula.	Needs assessment and conceptualized training curricula developed.	<p>Yes / Needs assessment and analysis focusing on a gender-balanced approach to SALW control and awareness were completed.</p> <p>Training materials for specialized trainings on strategic planning and project writing were developed.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of Women Police Officers in BiH (Networks) whose capacities in strategic planning and project development were increased.</li> </ul>	0	Up to 50	56 participants (53 from the two formal Associations of Women Police Officers and 3 participants from the MoS) were trained through six workshops on strategic planning and project development.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of micro-projects developed by Networks of Women Police Officers trained in project development.</li> </ul>	0	Up to 4	10 micro-projects developed as a result of the strategic planning and project writing training.
<b>Activity 1.1:</b> Conduct needs assessment and conceptualize specialized trainings.	<p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[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.</li> <li>[2021] Training materials for the specialized trainings on strategic planning and project writing for the two formal Associations of Women Police Officers were developed.</li> </ul>			
<b>Activity 1.2:</b> Conduct training of up to 50 members of the Networks focusing on strategic planning and project development.	<p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[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.</li> </ul>			

Output 2	Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target (2024)	Overall progress / Milestone
<p>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).</p>	<p>➤ # of thematic public events organized.</p>	<p>40 events organized in 2014.</p>	<p>At least 20.</p>	<p>34 outreach events were organized by 10 cantonal law enforcement agencies and by the Police of the Brčko District of BiH in 2021.</p> <p>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 focused awareness- raising campaign addressing celebratory shootings during the holiday season in 2022.</p> <p>250 lectures with high school students took place in RS in 2023, with approximately 70 RS police officials engaged for the purpose.</p> <p>11 outreach events held as part of the general awareness- raising campaign (13 additional events are planned for the third wave in 2024).</p>
	<p>➤ # of people reached through public outreach campaigns.</p>	<p>997,000 people reached during the 2014 campaign.</p>	<p>1 million.</p>	<p>Approx. 300,000 people were reached through an awareness campaign organized in December 2021.</p> <p>Approx. 368,000 people were reached through outreach events of focused awareness- raising campaigns in 2022.</p> <p>Altogether, focused awareness- raising campaigns implemented 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 additional students were reached as a targeted population through outreach conducted in high schools).</p> <p>11,309 additional students attended lectures conducted by RS police as part of the focused campaign in 2023, bringing the total number of engaged people to about 679,000.</p> <p>With the implementation of two waves of the general awareness- raising campaign, the project reached approximately 2.6 million individuals aged 18 and above, representing 78.8% of the BiH population (3.3 million of people).</p>

**Activity 2.1:** Implement an awareness-raising campaign including outreach and advocacy events.

Results:

- [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:
  - “Firearms do not protect, firearms kill!,” addressing the targeted population (primarily students of the 3rd and 4th grades of high schools) on the negative impacts of illegal firearms, the potential consequences of illegal possession of firearms, and the misuse 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 holiday season pose for lives and property, conveying the message that stray bullets can cause the loss of life, permanent disability, or a serious psychological trauma.
- [2023] As part of the focused campaign “Firearms do not protect, firearms kill!” addressing the targeted population of high school students, the project supported the implementation of the remaining campaign activities in Republika Srpska. These activities were part of the ‘second wave’ of the focused campaign and built upon the first wave of the campaign implemented in 2022. The second wave of the campaign was conducted in May – June 2023, realized through 250 lectures attended by 11,309 students across the jurisdiction. Approximately 70 RS police officials were engaged for the purpose, most of whom performing duties of community policing.
- [2023] The project contracted a marketing agency to implement a general awareness-raising campaign in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Prior to the official launching of the general awareness-raising campaign, the project finalized the methodology for conducting focus group discussions in coordination with the selected marketing agency. Following the adoption of the methodology, three focused groups were held, in Sarajevo, Mostar, and Banja Luka. Upon completion of the focus groups’ findings, the project organized coordination meetings with all police agencies (10 cantonal Mols, the RS Mol, and the Police of Brčko District BiH), to present and discuss the findings of the focus groups, as well as potential visual solutions and slogans for the campaign in accordance with the findings. Extensive coordination with police agencies continued in an online format in the following weeks until a visual identity and slogan were consensually selected and adopted by all participating police agencies. All of the planning and coordination activities pertinent to general awareness-raising campaign were timely and regularly coordinated and agreed upon with the BiH SALW Coordination Body.



- An agreement among representatives of 12 police agencies was reached to name the campaign: “Respect Life, Not Weapons!” (Poštuj život, ne oružje!). Furthermore, it was agreed that the campaign was to be implemented in three waves until the end of the project:
  - The 1st wave in the period 25 September – 15 October 2023, focusing on slogans and visuals related to femicide.
  - The 2nd wave in the period 30 October – 05 December 2023, focusing on responsible SALW ownership.
  - The 3rd wave in the period 31 January – 15 March 2024, focusing on the voluntary surrender of illicit SALW.
- Two waves of the general awareness-raising campaign were successfully implemented by December 2023, addressing femicide and responsible SALW ownership in BiH, with involvement and participation of 12 relevant police agencies – the RS MoI, 10 cantonal MoIs, and the Police of Brčko District BiH. The campaign was impactfully realized through targeted manifestations on TV, radio, digital channels, and OOH (Out-Of-Home/Billboards and LED screens) advertising. Additionally, outreach events were conducted in selected cities with the involvement of police agencies in the field. The campaign reached a high estimate of 96% and 99% of the targeted group in the country, representing over 2.6 million individuals aged 18 and above.

## 9. Cross-border Integrated Institutional Approach towards Combating IAT and SALW, in Kosovo and North Macedonia

Implementing organization: UNDP Kosovo and UNDP North Macedonia

COMPLETED in 2023

### Outcome 1: Strengthened cross-border integrated institutional approach in combatting illicit arms trafficking between Kosovo and North Macedonia through increased institutional capacities, improved police practices and information sharing

Output 1	Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target (2023)	Overall progress / Milestone
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.	➤ # 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, in 2021.
	➤ # 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.	12 trainings on information gathering, sharing, and analysis were provided for a total of 420 police officers in total from both jurisdictions, 220 from Kosovo and 200 from North Macedonia (384 men, 36 women).
	➤ # 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 (intelligence led policing) 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 [...], the possession and misuse of firearms, and community policing/ILP were provided for a total of 400 police officers in total from both jurisdictions, 200 from each jurisdiction (359 men, 41 women).
<b>Activity 1.1:</b> Conduct needs assessment and gap analysis in relation to illicit arms trafficking, SALW control, possession, and misuse, and weapons categorization.	Results:			
	➤ [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.			

**Activity 1.2:** Develop institutional capacities.

Results:

- [2021] 60 police officers from each jurisdiction (120 in total, 11 women and 109 men) were trained in information gathering, information sharing, and information analysis.
- [2021] 30 police officers from each jurisdiction (60 in total, 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] 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, 30 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.
- [2023] Expanding upon the completed series of 11 training sessions, the project conducted an additional, 12th two-day training session on increasing knowledge on the legal framework regarding SALW control and information gathering, analyzing, and sharing for 20 Kosovo police officers (all men), in Pristina [March 2023].
- Overall, 820 police officers from both jurisdictions (743 men, 77 women) enhanced their understanding and knowledge on the illegal possession, misuse, and trafficking of SALW.

Output 2	Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
Strengthened institutional capacities and improved operational information sharing between North Macedonia and Kosovo law-enforcement institutions in combating the trafficking of converted firearms.	➤ # of comprehensive trainings in illicit arms trafficking (IAT) of converted firearms developed and delivered.	0	3	4 / Four comprehensive trainings on IAT of converted firearms were developed and delivered, three in 2022 and one in 2023.
	➤ # of police officers that attended a converted firearm workshop.	0	12	18 / 18 police officers (11 men, 7 women) attended the relevant converted firearms workshop.
	➤ # of meetings between investigation teams and Firearms Focal Points (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.

<p>➤ # of JITs and SOPs on converted firearms investigations.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>At least one Joint Investigative Training (JIT) created, and one SOP developed on converted firearms investigations.</p>	<p>[modified] 1 / One JIO held. / The JIT activity was cancelled due to the complexity and procedural difficulties encountered in establishing JITs in both jurisdictions as per the legal requirements. Instead, a Joint Investigative Operation between Kosovo Police and North Macedonian Police took place in November-December 2022.</p>
<p>➤ # of knowledge products developed, printed, and disseminated.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>At least 5 knowledge products developed, printed, and disseminated aimed at helping law-enforcement institutions in their decision-making efforts.</p>	<p>5 / Two Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis Reports were produced, one each for both jurisdictions. One Practical Manual on the Investigation of SALW on the internet was developed. One Manual on explosives, handmade explosives, and precursors was developed. One Manual on community policing and intelligence led policing was developed. All knowledge products were disseminated among the relevant law enforcement institutions.</p>

**Activity 2.1:** Develop institutional capacities on converted-firearms investigations.

- [2022] A total of 3 trainings on established 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 18 participants (7 women and 11 men) in total, 10 participants from North Macedonia (5 women and 5 men) and 8 participants from Kosovo (2 women and 6 men).
- [2023] As a result of the successful trainings and positive feedback from the police forces in both jurisdictions, a fourth training on converted firearms was organized in Kosovo in Q1 2023, for 25 police officers (20 men and 5 women) from both North Macedonia (10, 9 men and 1 woman) and Kosovo (15, 11 men and 4 women).
- Overall, 119 police officers (95 men, 24 women) - representing border police, investigators, and community policing and traffic police officers from the police authorities in both jurisdictions - jointly enhanced their capacities and knowledge on converted firearms investigations, 59 from North Macedonia (46 men, 13 women) and 60 from Kosovo (49 men, 11 women).

**Activity 2.2:** Form JITs for converted-firearms investigations.

- [2022] This activity became complex to implement due to legal procedures governing the establishing of JITs in both jurisdictions. It was determined that 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 their 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, in close cooperation with beneficiaries in both jurisdictions, was organized and 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.

- [2022] The following knowledge products were produced as cross-cutting results stemming from project activities:
  - Two Needs Assessments and Gap Analysis Reports in both jurisdictions;
  - One practical Manual on the investigation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) on the internet;
  - One Manual on explosives, handmade explosives, and precursors;
  - One community policing and intelligence led policing manual.

Output 3	Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
Improved capacities of Cyber Crime Units and Firearms Focal Points (FFPs) to deal with illicit firearms trafficking on the Internet and Darknet.	➤ # of coordination meetings organized for the development of harmonized procedures for cybercrime 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 for 19 police participants - 7 women and 12 men. Several meetings were held between the focal points for cybercrime investigations in both jurisdictions.

**Activity 3.1:** Develop and harmonize operational procedures in Kosovo and North Macedonia.

- [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, 9 from Kosovo and 10 from North Macedonia (7 women and 12 men), including cyber-crime units, FFPs, and community policing and crime prevention officers.
- [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.
- [2023] The jointly developed Manual on the Investigation of SALW on the Internet was translated into the Albanian, Macedonian and BCMS languages, and disseminated among relevant law enforcement units.

Output 4	Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
Increased outreach and communication to citizens through mass-media and targeted awareness-raising campaigns.	➤ # 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, in 2022.
	➤ # 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, in 2022.

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**Activity 4.1:** Improve public awareness through campaigns and visibility events.

- [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 the 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, two on each side.
  - [2022] The project separately carried out a targeted campaign that focused on the dangers of celebratory shootings during weddings in the summer period. Leaflets and other promotional materials were distributed to citizens by police officers, in close cooperation with the Ministries of the Interior.
  - [2022] In addition, a separate campaign on the dangers of fireworks and pyrotechnics was organized in Dec 2022.
  - Overall, the project successfully completed two mass media awareness-raising campaigns (one in each jurisdiction) and four targeted campaigns (two in each jurisdiction) on the dangers of the misuse and trafficking of firearms with more than 1.3 million registered social media views and more than 8 million social media impressions.
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## 10. Support for Increased International Cooperation in Criminal Matters

Implementing organization: UNODC

COMPLETED in 2023

### Outcome 1: Enhanced cooperation in criminal matters to counter illicit firearms trafficking and related offences in the WB jurisdictions

Output 1	Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target (2023)	Overall progress / Milestone
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.	➤ # 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. Further extensions are underway in North Macedonia, Albania, and BiH.
	➤ # of national INTERPOL courses on the use of iARMS.	0	6	5 / Five training courses on the use of iARMS were 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.	Additional 3 trainings were delivered in a form of mentoring session using real data and case studies, to reinforce application of the procedures by officials, in a step-by-step approach. iARMS user manual was translated into 5 official Western Balkans languages and copies were sent to WB jurisdictions in the respective languages, as a continuous resource. 96 practitioners were trained on the use of iARMS use.
	➤ # of regional training-of-trainers sessions held on the use of INTERPOL tools and firearms data on broader investigative approaches and intel analysis.	0	1	1 / Training-of-trainers session conducted.
➤ # of trainers trained.	0	25	23 law enforcement officers from five jurisdictions were certified by INTERPOL as trainers on the use of INTERPOL tools.	

**Activity 1.1:** Organize joint UNODC-INTERPOL project inception meetings.

Results:

- [2022] An 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.

**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.

Results:

- [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).

**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.

Results:

- [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.
- [2023] In addition to delivering the relevant equipment to all five beneficiary countries as per assessed needs, the project progressed towards granting I-24/7 access to the Aircop unit in North Macedonia. Following the countersignature of the agreement between the NCB and the Customs Administration in North Macedonia, the process for granting I-24/7 access to the Aircop unit in Skopje was completed.



**Activity 1.4:** Deliver 6 national INTERPOL training courses on the use of the iARMS database.

Results:

➤ [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.

➤ [2023] The INTERPOL Firearms Programme (FP) has been in communication with the countries that have received the national firearms trainings in order to organize follow up training on iARMS in an on-the-job training format.

Follow-up missions have taken place in North Macedonia, Albania, and BiH:

- North Macedonia has maintained a high use of iARMS and it plans to extend access to iARMS even further, including to all 10 BCPs. These new users are to be trained by one of the users who have been previously trained by the INTERPOL FP. In addition, two new user accounts have also been created for the unit for the fight against violent crime.
- In Albania, at the time of reporting, there remains only one iARMS user in NCB Tirana, and access to other units has not yet been extended, although the readiness exists. The next step will be to create user accounts for the other two NCB officers who have been trained on the use of iARMS and then for the members of the NFFPs. Albania uses all functionalities of iARMS, but in a limited capacity, whereby the number of searches is much higher than the number of submitted trace requests (the number of hits are low), which shows the need for implementing further activities to enhance firearms tracing.
- In the scope of the follow-up mission to BiH, trainings were held with NCB Sarajevo, the Mols of the Sarajevo Canton, the Zenica-Doboj Canton, the Tuzla Canton, Canton 10, and the Central Bosnia Canton, the Federal Administration of Police, the Border Police, the State Investigation and Prosecution Agency, the Directorate for the Coordination of Police Bodies, and the Police of Brčko District. Furthermore, a meeting was held with the Ballistics Laboratory of Canton Sarajevo, to discuss the connection of their IBIS (Integrated Ballistics Identification System) to IBIN (Interpol Ballistic Information Network), and first steps have been agreed upon.
- With regards to Montenegro, following a discussion with NCB Podgorica, it has been agreed that this training will not take place as part of the planned follow up. This is due to the fact that despite iARMS user accounts being already created for new users outside of NCB, the extension has not yet been completed. The IT Department of the Ministry of Interior has not yet been able to establish a secure connection, and for these reasons the mission would not serve its purpose at this time.

➤ [2023] Based on the request from the country users, INTERPOL has translated the iARMS user manual into 5 official Western Balkans languages and sent copies in the respective languages to Albania, BiH, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia.

**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.

Results:

➤ [2023] 23 law enforcement officers (18 men, 5 women) from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia have passed the training-of-trainers on embedding the use of INTERPOL tools and firearms data into broader investigative approaches and intelligence analysis work in respective jurisdictions. The trained professionals are ready to train new users of iARMS database and enforce stronger day-to-day use of INTERPOL policing capabilities. The officers are also better prepared to collect firearms data and evidence, contributing to improved UN IAFQ (Illicit arms flows questionnaire) responses. All training participants received certificates as INTERPOL certified presenters and will be working as in-country trainers, for a broader and continuous dissemination of the knowledge gained through the project's implementation.

Output 2	Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target (2023)	Overall progress / Milestone
Increased capacity for regional and international cooperation to counter the trafficking of firearms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of a sub-regional report on firearms trafficking into, from, and through the WB.</li> </ul>	0	1	1 / Research finalized and pending publication in 2024.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of regional meetings with a transnational / transregional scope on the exchange of firearms trafficking data into, from, and through the WB.</li> </ul>	0	1	1 / Regional meeting implemented as planned, enabling useful exchange on the firearms trafficking data, legislative and policy developments, and the evolution of trafficking routes, including with CSOs.
<p><b>Activity 2.1:</b> 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 the World Customs Organization (WCO).</p>	<p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[2022] A consultant was engaged to work on developing the report development and was introduced to all jurisdictions. First deliverables were expected in Q1 2023. The final report was expected in Q3 2023.</li> <li>[2023] The hired consultant worked on the research for the sub-regional report on firearms trafficking into, from, and through the Western Balkans. The preliminary findings of the report were presented to the relevant representatives from all Western Balkans jurisdictions at the regional meeting [Activity 2.2]. The research findings and initial conclusions were well received. National representatives provided their feedback and additional information, which were integrated into the second draft. The second draft was then shared with relevant authorities in October 2023, for their written comments. The report has been finalized following the last round of comments and is being edited and designed for publication in 2024.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Activity 2.2:</b> Organize 1 regional meeting to support the exchange of firearms trafficking data among WB authorities and countries located along connected routes.</p>	<p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[2023] UNODC organized a regional meeting to present the sub-regional report preliminary findings for comments and to foster the exchange of firearms trafficking data among the Western Balkans authorities and countries located along connected routes. The meeting took place on 22 June, in Belgrade, and counted with the participation of 17 representatives (7 women and 10 men) from Albania, BiH, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia, as well as from France, Bulgaria, Sweden, Belgium, and The Netherlands – the latter countries being identified in the report as having connected routes. The presentation of the report's initial findings set the stage for the participants to share progress made and challenges faced in collecting firearms trafficking data and, legislative and policy developments and to discuss the evolution of trafficking routes. The meeting also included the presence of 9 representatives (4 women and 5 men) of the Belgrade Center for Security Policy (BCSP) and its network partners, who had conducted research for the report in their respective jurisdictions and delivered presentations accordingly. These network partners are CSOs working in the areas of governance and security, and thus the event was an occasion to foster engagement and meaningful exchanges between government representatives and civil society.</li> </ul>			

Output 3	Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
Increased capacity for regional and international cooperation to counter the trafficking of firearms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># 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.</li> </ul>	1 in BiH	4	4 / All planned needs assessments finalized.
<p><b>Activity 3.1:</b> Conduct needs assessment analysis for preventing the trafficking of firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition through postal and courier shipments in 4 jurisdictions.</p>	<p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[2021] 2 needs assessments were finalized (Albania and North Macedonia).</li> <li>[2022] The remaining 2 needs assessments were finalized (Serbia and Kosovo).</li> <li>[2022] After a series of consultations, all four jurisdictions endorsed the findings of the finalized assessments.</li> </ul>			

## 11. Project: Reduce Risk - Increase Safety II

Implementing organization: UNDP Serbia

COMPLETED in 2023

**Outcome 1: Strengthened system for the prevention system of firearms misuse through the mobilization, engagement, and cooperation of different stakeholders that have the capacities, knowledge, and awareness, as well as the responsibility, to prevent the risks of firearms misuse for domestic violence and suicides.**

Output 1	Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target (2023)	Overall progress / Milestone
Preconditions for planning a comprehensive approach to strengthening the healthcare system's role in the prevention of firearms misuse for violence ensured.	➤ Comprehensive stakeholder map developed (Yes/No).	No	Yes	Yes
	➤ # of workshops held.	0	6	6
	➤ # of stakeholder representatives engaged.	0	Up to 100 stakeholders engaged.	Over 250 stakeholders engaged.
	➤ Action plan to improve capacities, knowledge, and awareness developed (Yes/No).	No	Yes / Action plan developed.	Yes
<b>Activity 1.1:</b> 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 the procedures they follow.	<p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ [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.</li> <li>➤ [2022] A Stakeholder Map was 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.</li> <li>➤ [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.</li> <li>➤ [2022] Key challenges were identified and recorded in strengthening the role of different systems, primarily that of healthcare, as well as of 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.</li> <li>➤ [2023] The developed comprehensive stakeholder map served as a basis and guidance tool for the development of recommended and implementable actions to strengthen the healthcare system's role in the prevention of firearms misuse for violence.</li> </ul>			

**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.

Results:

- [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).
- [2023] Input collection from mapped stakeholders continued with a view to developing recommended and implementable actions. Since the project's initiation, over 250 stakeholder representatives from different systems have been engaged and have networked around the topic of SALW misuse prevention with their input to serve as a resource to be utilized in further action based on jointly identified needs and priority areas.
  - Two interactive workshops gathered 16 participants (14 women and 2 men) to analyze procedures of the healthcare system and mechanisms for the recognition and mapping of persons at risk of firearms misuse for domestic violence and identify challenges in the risk assessment process. Stakeholders worked in teams to provide solutions to the identified challenges: 1) active inclusion of physicians into the GBV prevention process; 2) redesigning the experience of patients that wish to report violence to the healthcare system.
  - A set of 3 focus groups sessions with 65 participants (57 women and 8 men) were organized took place to strengthen the cooperation of healthcare in the multi-sectoral response to domestic violence. Two of these gathered 27 psychiatrists (21 women and 6 men) from state and private healthcare involved in issuance of firearms permits. They discussed factors hindering firearms misuse risk assessment, as well as entry points for change, possible concrete changes in procedures, and tools that could be applied to improve existing practices.
  - A meeting with the violence prevention team of the Niš Healthcare Center took place to document examples of good practice.
    - The various forms of engagement helped to: a) analyze procedures of the healthcare system and mechanisms for recognition and mapping of persons at risk of firearms misuse for domestic violence and identify challenges in the risk assessment process; b) strengthen cooperation of the healthcare professionals engaged in the multisectoral response to domestic violence and discuss the main dilemmas of healthcare professionals pertaining to steps in violence prevention; c) discuss factors hindering psychiatrists, from state and private clinics that are involved in the processes related to firearm permits issuance or withdrawal, to identify/assess the risk of firearms misuse; d) Document and disseminate examples of good practice of healthcare institutions' response to DV at local level. Concrete questions of healthcare professionals regarding insecurities faced in response to DV, including that committed with firearms, were the basis of the [Guidelines](#) prepared to support healthcare staff in effectively responding to DV through a multi-sectoral approach.
- Inputs collected were used for the development of feasible and implementable measures aiming to improve the capacities, knowledge, and awareness of healthcare workers, and to ensure their effective response to and prevention of firearms misuse for violence. The measures focus on the following areas: 1) procedures for firearms license issuance and the prevention of gender-based violence – filtration of persons who are violence perpetrators of violence; 2) work with survivors – challenges and solutions; 3) challenges and solutions regarding the digitalization of healthcare; 4) challenges and solutions to effective multi-sectoral cooperation; 5) solutions developed during the workshops; 6) documenting good examples in healthcare; and 7) recommendations regarding the development of a sustainable healthcare ecosystem in violence reporting and providing support to survivors.

- To validate and further discuss the collected findings with involved stakeholders and to pinpoint key areas of further action, a final project event was organized in April 2023 in Belgrade. The event gathered nearly 100 representatives (80% women and 20% men) of the state government, institutions responding to DV cases, healthcare professionals (psychiatrists involved in assessing holders of firearms, representatives of primary health protection, members of healthcare teams for DV prevention), the National Institute for Public Health, representatives of NGOs providing support to survivors of violence, media representatives, and independent experts. Participants engaged in providing recommendations for improved cooperation in preventing domestic violence and suicide, as well as lowering the risk of firearms misuse for violence and suicide. Participants' feedback focused onto the following issues: 1) preferred practices and preconditions for the safe reporting and management of domestic violence cases – through the cooperation of healthcare, police, and public prosecutor's offices; 2) mental health protection in security services and healthcare institutions; 3) knowledge and networking needs of psychiatrists for improved risk detection and prevention of firearms misuse; 4) violence prevention teams in out-patient clinics – how to establish them and maintain an effective team; 5) police and healthcare – what information each system needs for better assessment during the issuance of firearms permits.
- The set of recommended and implementable measures and actions were validated and finalized, aimed at improving the capacities, knowledge, and awareness of healthcare workers were validated and finalized, thus improving the prevention of firearms-enabled violence.

Output 2	Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target (2023)	Overall progress / Milestone
Creating an environment in which the range of knowledge-attitude-behavioral challenges to prevent suicides is explored, involving state institutions, private entities, communities, and individuals.	➤ Knowledge paper developed (Yes/No).	No	Yes	Yes. / Knowledge paper developed tackling various dimensions of suicide through firearms, presented to a broad set of stakeholders, and disseminated.

**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.

Results:

- [2022] Stakeholders engaged in the prevention of firearms misuse for suicides were 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 were identified for be implementation 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.
- [2023] Using design thinking as the methodology, the consultative process with identified stakeholders was continued and involved the implementation of 2 workshops organized in February and March 2023, gathering 15 participants (13 women and 2 men). Based on previously identified main challenges, the aim was to analyze procedures of the healthcare system and mechanisms for the recognition and mapping of persons at risk of firearms misuse for suicide, identify challenges in the risk assessment and response process, and develop multidisciplinary solutions regarding firearms misuse prevention. Some of the mapped challenges and opportunities have been presented in an [infographic overview](#) of the problem of SALW misuse for suicide.
- [2023] Additionally, interviews were conducted with healthcare beneficiaries, 3 persons (2 men and 1 woman) willing to share experiences regarding suicide risks and their interaction with healthcare with respect to this matter. The interviews provided insight into beneficiaries' perspectives and needs.

- [2023] Mol representatives from the Department of Psychological Activities were supported to collect inputs through focus groups with police staff (23 participants, 15 women and 8 men) regarding views on and needs for preventing negative consequences of occupational trauma that might lead to domestic violence or suicide (involving also firearms misuse). The collected information was used as input for defining further training needs in terms of improved prevention activities and the provision of psychological support to staff. Based on this, a capacity building training was organized in March 2023 for 29 representatives of the Mol (27 women and 2 men) involved in the provision of psychological support to staff, to improve prevention of suicide risks and prevention of violence by police officers (including by firearms misuse), through improved recognition of risks of occupational trauma and the provision of appropriate psychological support.

**Activity 2.2:** Develop and present 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.

Results:

- [2022] The development of three research papers was initiated to contribute to the intended knowledge paper by focusing on specific dimensions of suicide, including by firearms.
- [2023] The knowledge paper addressing various dimensions of suicide through firearms was presented to relevant stakeholders, with a view to serving as a basis for further action in this field. Specific fields of interests were particularly explored, such as: 1) Challenges regarding procedures of firearms license issuance/revocation and recommendations for their solution; 2) Challenges and solutions regarding digitalization of healthcare and suicide prevention, 3) Roles and responsibilities and impact of healthcare system in suicide prevention; 4) Challenges of suicide risk assessment and possible solutions; 5) Cooperation with non-governmental sector and training of general physicians; 6) the healthcare centre waiting room as a supportive space for volunteering information on suicide risk.
- [2023] Several research/analysis papers were completed (serving part of the knowledge paper) focusing on specific dimensions of suicide (including that by firearms): a) [Research](#) on the phenomenon of intimate partner femicide-suicide cases committed with firearms; b) Research on mental health programs and interventions to prevent suicides committed with firearms, especially focusing on the 45+ male population and firearms carrying professions; c) analysis of the role and responsibilities of the healthcare system in suicide prevention and responding to suicide risks;
- [2023] In addition to this, to support the media's ethical reporting on firearms misuse for violence, a workshop with journalists and editors (50 participants, 60% women and 40% men) of the Adria Media Publishing group (both online and print media) was organized. Representatives of the UNDP-supported group "Journalists against violence" presented ethical standards in informative and educational reporting on the problem of firearms misuse.
- [2023] The project developed guidelines for ethical media reporting and raising public awareness about the link between SALW misuse and suicides, which were published and are intended to serve as a valuable resource for improving the media's educational and preventive role. The guidelines are available in print as well as in digital form through UNDP Serbia's [website](#), and as part of the publications available through the [website](#) of the group "Journalists against violence."
- [2023] **Unforeseen achievement:** the project contributed to stakeholders' better understanding of effects and causes of firearms misuse and enabled professional networking at the time of the May 2023 mass shootings. Thus, the project ensured better capacities of institutions to plan and issue measures in response to firearms misuse crises, including those that occurred on May 3rd and 4th, 2023. The project also enabled the networking of experts and media, which contributed to placement of knowledge- and evidence-based messages for the public, serving awareness raising and alleviation of community trauma in the aftermath of the tragic events.

**NB:** Bearing in mind the severity of the mass shootings in Serbia (May 2023), the project results, accumulated knowledge and built partnerships, presented the building blocks for further work related to SALW misuse prevention and response, to be carried forward through the "Reduce Risk - Increase Safety III" project, supported by the WB SALW Control Roadmap MPTF.

## 12. Digitalization and Institutional and Regional Cooperation Project (DIRC) Implementing organization: UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina

COMPLETED in 2023

**Outcome 1: Further increased safety and security within and beyond the Western Balkans through targeted actions aimed at improving BiH capacities to combat illicit SALW trafficking.**

Output 1	Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target (2023)	Overall progress / Milestone
Enhanced capacity of BiH to better fight illicit SALW trafficking through targeted assistance to the ITA, Border Police, and 14 law enforcement agencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of new databases for monitoring and recording issued foreign trade licenses.</li> </ul>	One National SALW Transport Database at the Ministry of Security developed and operational.	One [new] database for monitoring and recording foreign trade licenses at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFTER) developed, operational, and duly connected to the relevant databases within the Ministry of Security.	N/A / MOFTER withdrew from the activity.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of law enforcement agencies to which the SALW Identification Tool has been deployed.</li> </ul>	SALW Identification Tool improved and deployed within the Border Police of BiH.	SALW Identification Tool deployed to at least 12 law enforcement agencies.	Yes / A new and improved version of the SALW ID Tool application containing 384 items and more than 1500 related high-resolution photographs was produced and distributed to 12 law enforcement agencies together with the Tool's source code.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of joint exercises organized and implemented.</li> </ul>	Six (6) joint exercises organized within the CIAT and HALT projects.	At least four (4) local and two (2) bi-lateral (with neighbouring countries) joint exercises organized.	Six (6) local joint exercises organized, with BiH customs and cantonal, entity, and state level police officials, along with the active participation of the BiH Prosecutor Office; Two (2) international joint exercises organized, one between BiH and Serbia and one between BiH and Montenegro, with the involvement of the police, customs, and prosecution representatives from these countries.



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of analyses – assessments aimed at the digitalization of processes and systems within the law enforcement agencies.</li> </ul>	Absence of any targeted assessment regarding SALW related digital systems.	At least one in-depth assessment with relevant recommendations for follow-up interventions.	One assessment prepared, with an analysis of the digitalization needs in the relevant police bodies in FBiH and the RS MoI, including recommendations for follow-up interventions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of micro-projects developed within the PILLAR+ project financed and implemented.</li> </ul>	None of the projects developed during the training within the PILLAR+ project have been implemented.	At least one micro-project for each of the two Women Police Officers Networks (WPON) selected for financing through the Responsible Party Agreement (RPA).	Two (2) micro-projects financed and implemented, one by the FBiH Network of Women Police Officers and one by the RS MoI Women Network - RS WPON.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of women police officers completing specialized training in the safe handling of weapons and the provision of first aid for weapons inflicted injuries.</li> </ul>	0	At least 20 women police officers completed the training.	The RS MoI Women Network - RS WPON successfully organized a training session on “Firearms safety measures and firearm injury care,” with the participation of 15 women police officers from the RS MoI.

**Activity 1.1:** Improvement and development of the application for monitoring and recording issued foreign trade licenses – Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic (MOFTER).

Results:

- [2023] The UNDP project team met with the representatives of MOFTER to discuss current digital capacities for monitoring and recording issued foreign trade licenses for weapons and military equipment. Following the meeting, the project team assessed the market to map the availability of talents capable of providing the necessary services that would result in the improvement and development of the existing MOFTER digital capacities. In light of the limited available IT expertise for this matter, the UNDP BiH engaged internal IT expert capacities to complete an initial assessment of the existing MOFTER system. The initial assessment informed the development of ToR for the selection of an IT company to design, develop, and implement the application as per the needs of the Ministry. The final draft of the ToR was completed in August 2023 and finally then agreed upon by the relevant working group (thus endorsed by MOFTER) at the meeting held at the MOFTER's premises on 22 August 2023. Following the endorsement of the ToR, an IT company was selected. In the first introductory meeting among the representatives of UNDP, MOFTER, and the selected IT company held in November 2023, the UNDP project team and the selected IT company were informed by the relevant MOFTER representatives that the Minister had decided to suspend all projects with international partners “for political reasons” without providing any further explanation. The project activity was thus terminated. The contract with the selected IT company expired on 25 December 2023 without any financial or other related charges for UNDP BiH. However, there were expenditures in the preparatory phases of the process, including ToR development.

**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.

Results:

- [2023] Following the feedback provided by the relevant law enforcement agencies on the application of the existing SALW Identification Tool, initially developed and advanced through previous Roadmap projects (CIAT and HALT), national experts were identified and contracted to further improve the Tool to meet the standards and recommendations requested by the beneficiaries. The national experts produced a new and improved version of the SALW ID Tool application, fully compliant with the beneficiaries' feedback and expanded the catalogue of weapons and ammunition with 384 items and more than 1500 related high-resolution photographs that can be magnified to show the smallest details. The new version of the ID Tool also enables the end-users to search the catalogue based on 10 different criteria for ammunition and 14 different criteria for weapons. The new version of the Tool was installed on laptops that were distributed to 12 law enforcement agencies in the country together with the Tool's source code. Additionally, the UNDP Project Team organized a one-day training session to introduce the new Tool to the end-users and provide an overview of its features, functionality, and possible upgrades.

**Activity 1.3:** Organization of additional joint exercises – BiH Prosecutor's Office, BiH Customs, Law Enforcement Agencies.

Results:

- [2023] As a follow-up to two joint exercises organized in Q4 2022, the project team managed to organize additional four additional joint exercises involving 93 customs and police officials in total (7 women and 86 men) from the ITA and various police agencies – cantonal, entity, and state level – in the presence of and with active participation by the BiH Prosecutor Office. Joint exercises, each lasting two days, were organized and carried out with an aim to introduce additional customs and police officials to the proper application of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that had been developed under the projects CIAT and HALT, regulating a step-by-step approach in the detection of illegal SALW in vehicles and compounds, as well as to convey the SOP's proper correlation with criminal procedure codes in BiH. In addition, each exercise included a presentation on the proper utilization of the specialized equipment for the detection of illegal SALW that had been donated through the projects CIAT and HALT, as well as of equipment for detecting sources of dangerous radiation.
- [2023] UNDP also organized two bilateral meetings (one in Serbia and one in Montenegro) between the representatives of the prosecutor offices, law enforcement agencies, and customs authorities from BiH and Montenegro and Serbia, respectively. In these meetings, the concept of a bilateral joint exercise in the presence of prosecutor offices and involving law enforcement agencies and customs from BiH and Serbia/Montenegro was introduced and embraced by representatives of authorities from both countries. The UNDP project team successfully organized the first joint cross-border exercise between the representatives of prosecutor offices, law enforcement agencies, and customs authorities from BiH and Montenegro, involving 26 participants (3 women and 23 men). The next joint cross-border exercise followed, between the representatives of the prosecutor offices, law enforcement agencies, and customs authorities from BiH and Serbia. The exercise gathered 36 participants, of which 26 participants (4 women and 22 men) represented the prosecutor's offices, ministries of interior, border and criminal police, and customs administrations of the two countries. The exercises included simulation of an attempted smuggling of illegal SALW at joint border crossings. The developed SOPs and associated specialized equipment were used for the exercise, which also involved respective legal provisions and cross-border collaboration elements. All participants praised the exercise format and the content and emphasized the need for future similar scenario-based joint regional training activities involving law enforcement agencies and the judiciary.

**Activity 1.4:** Initial assessment and preparation of relevant analysis regarding the digitalization of processes and systems in the Federation of BiH and Republika Srpska

Results:

- [2023] The UNDP project team engaged a local expert to conduct the initial assessment. The initial assessment was completed and the expert has prepared an analysis of the digitalization needs in the relevant police bodies in FBiH and the RS MoI, which the project team is intended to follow up through the subsequent project funded by the Trust Fund (Project LEAD).

**Activity 1.5:** Further support to developing a gender network within the Indirect Taxation Agency (BiH Customs)

Results:

- [2023] The UNDP project team organized a gender equality workshop in February 2023 for 20 ITA staff (10 women and 10 men). Lecturers at the workshop were experts on gender issues from the BiH Agency for Gender Equality, two Associations of Women Police Officials, the Ministry of Security BiH, and the ITA itself. This workshop represented the continuation of gender equality advocacy as well as awareness raising on sexual and gender-based harassment among the ITA employees.
- Upon UNDP's call for proposals, two projects of the associations of women police officials operating in BiH -- the Network of Women Police Officers, and the Republika Srpska Women Police Officials Network (RS WPON), were approved. UNDP signed two low-value grant agreements with the associations.
  - As part of their project, the Network of Women Police Officers successfully organized a workshop on "Advocacy and women's activism in the security sector" involving 23 women officials from 13 different police agencies as participants. The purpose of this activity was to increase the participants' knowledge and awareness of advocacy and women's activism in the security sector and train active members in their coordinator role for future advocacy activities. The Network also organized a two-day meeting of its Steering Board with the participation of five (5) Steering Board members. The purpose was to define the necessary changes to the association's Statute and other relevant internal regulatory documents that would be subject to adoption at the Network's Assembly meeting in August 2023. Subsequently, the assembly of the Network of Women Police Officers was held to review and adopt the amendments to the Statute and other relevant internal regulatory documents. This assembly was attended by 22 members, who adopted the statutory amendments.
  - As part of its respective project, the RS MoI Women Network - RS WPON successfully organized a training session on "Firearms safety measures and firearm injury care," with participation of 15 women police officers from the RS MoI participating. RS WPON completed the design and distribution of a brochure aimed at assisting police officers with SALW misuse in domestic violence cases, including examples on how to prevent SALW misuse in domestic violence. 220 brochures were printed and distributed across the RS Ministry of Interior's organizational units. RS WPON also successfully designed a leaflet covering key legal provisions on SALW possession and statistics on SALW misuse in domestic violence cases. RS WPON members then distributed 2,000 leaflets in a street campaign format in Banja Luka, Doboj, and Istočno Sarajevo. As part of these campaigns, RS WPON members engaged with the local populations and media promoting the campaign materials.

### 13. Increased Security of the Arms Depots under the Administration of the Albanian State Police Implementing organization: UNDP Albania

#### Outcome 1: Increase the security and safety standards of Albanian State Police firearms, ammunition, and explosives (FAAE) storage locations

Output 1	Indicators	Baseline (2022)	Project target (2024)	Overall progress / Milestone
Improvement of the infrastructure of the SALW-AE storage environment in the Regional Directorates of Police in Lezha, Vlora, and Kukes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of rehabilitated and standard compliant ASP arms &amp; ammunition storages vs total.</li> </ul>	As of July 2022, 62% of ASP storages were, or were being, rehabilitated, refurbished, and made standard compliant.	65% of ASP storages are rehabilitated, refurbished, and standard compliant.	/ The Technical designs for the reconstruction of three weapons storage facilities have been completed, work pending in 2024.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PSSM training on SALW for 9 personnel of the 3 FAAE facilities supported by this proposal.</li> </ul>	Training in the field of Physical Security of SALW, was conducted in October 2019, funded by the US Department of State and implemented by UNDP SEESAC.	The estimated training session number is 3 / 9 staff to be trained (3 staff per facility)	/ The Training material prepared for publication. Training to take place in 2024.
<b>Activity 1.1:</b> Technical design of the reconstruction, equipment needs assessment, and finalization of cost estimates for each intervention.	<p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[2023] A company was selected to undertake the design and supervision for the reconstruction of the facilities of Kukes, Lezha, and Vlora. Site visits have been concluded and the final designs completed and approved by the Albanian State Police.</li> </ul>			
<b>Activity 1.2:</b> Reconstruction and equipping of weapons and ammunition storage depots selected for intervention.	<p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[2023] The project decided to engage the same construction firm that is working on the other project implemented by the UNDP Albania within the Trust Fund. This decision considered that the total Bill of Quantities estimate did not exceed 20% of the original contract of the construction firm, the scope is identical, and the firm's staff had already been cleared by the ASP for the works on the ASP security sites. Offers for the reconstruction of the 3 facilities have been obtained and a contract for the construction works will be signed following the approval of the project extension.</li> </ul>			

**Activity 1.3:** Refresher training on SALW physical security and stockpile management.

Results:

- [2023] The training materials on physical security and stockpile management were compiled and are being discussed in consultations with the ASP, with an aim to print 100 booklets for police officers. The ASP is about to update certain SOPs for the SALW physical security and stockpile management in the upcoming period and is considering the SOPs for inclusion in the material that is to be printed.

Output 2	Indicators	Baseline (2022)	Project target (2024)	Overall progress / Milestone
Equipment of State Police structures with adequate standard firearms safes.	➤ Completion of 62 Priority I ASP FAAE storage depots with the 120 safes intended for securing SALW.	Only a fraction of FAAE of Priority I storage depots are equipped with safes for SALW.	All 62 Priority I FAAE storage depots are equipped with safes for SALW.	/ 120 metal safes for SALW procured and to be delivered to ASP in 2024.

**Activity 2.1:** Procurement of 120 standard metal safes for the Police Commissariats weapon depots.

Results:

- [2023] In cooperation with the ASP, technical specifications for the procurement of storage equipment for weapons were drafted, and the procurement process was initiated in line with the specifications agreed upon with the ASP. The project successfully concluded the procurement process for metal safes and their delivery was expected in Q1 2024.

## 14. Improvement of Data and SALW Collection Practices and SALW Related Investigations

Implementing organization: UNDP North Macedonia

**Outcome 1: Enhanced police operations and improved criminal justice response in the field of possession, misuse and trafficking of small arms and light weapons through improved data gathering process.**

Output 1.1	Indicators	Baseline (2022)	Project target (2023)	Overall progress / Milestone
Improved implementation of the Information Management System (IMS) that allows the gathering of SALW related data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation plan related to the Police Information Management System developed.</li> </ul>	No implementation plan (0)	Implementation plan developed.	Yes / Implementation plan developed and implemented. In addition, technical support for the Police IMS was provided at the request of the Mol, ensuring the sustainability of the system.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technical documentation for upgrading of the Police Information System has been prepared, particularly related to firearms investigations, specifically to the domestic violence context.</li> </ul>	No final documentation (0)	Phases for the development of new functionalities of the system have been introduced (related to domestic violence in the context of firearms).	Yes / Needs based analysis has been prepared and confirmed by the Mol. Based on this, a new module on domestic violence will be developed and integrated into the new IMS (as part of the new relevant project funded by the Trust Fund).

**Activity 1.1.1.:** Preparation of an implementation plan for the Police IMS (IRDAM).

Results:

- [2023] The project inception meeting was held in January 2023, where the representatives of the Mol implementation project team for IRDAM were informed about planned project activities. During February, three separate meetings were held with the Mol focal points and the Implementation Plan for IRDAM was adopted as a working document, based on which further work ensued. Field visits were conducted to remote police stations - Berovo and Valandovo, in order to monitor the Mol's trainers for IRDAM, who were trained in 2022, as part of the training-of-trainers activity.
  - [2023] As part of the implementation plan for IRDAM, the project completed a classroom training session in Bitola in April 2023, covering the police stations of Bitola, Prilep, and Resen. 68 police officers (57 men and 11 women) were introduced to the functionalities of the IRDAM software. The training was led by the trainer of the software development company, and it was delivered in such a manner as to prepare the participants to be IRDAM trainers in their respective units.
  - [2023] During April 2023, the implementation plan was updated with a new timetable. Instead of the classroom trainings for the police officers from the pilot police stations originally intended, the focus was set on strengthening the awareness of the new software and its benefits among Mol personnel. This will be conducted through meetings with the commanders and top management of the selected pilot stations, as well as on field visits and monitoring of the use of the IRDAM software.

- [2023] In line with the updated implementation plan, the project organized coordination meetings to select pilot police stations that are to use IRDAM for all incidents, in addition to incidents where weapons were used. The police stations in Kavadarci, Probishtip, and Galate were selected as pilot units, thereby including police units of various levels, from different parts of the country, and from areas with diverse ethnic demographics. A meeting with high-ranking officials of the pilot stations took place in November 2023, presenting the IRDAM system and its features to the relevant users (16 men and 5 women in total).
- The work on the Implementation Plan was subsequently finalized.

**Activity 1.1.2:** Needs - based analysis for module on domestic violence.

Results:

- [2023] During a project inception meeting held in January, the representatives of the Mol team for IRDAM provided initial information for the purpose of developing analysis on a domestic violence module for IRDAM. A focal point was assigned on behalf of the Mol for the coordination regarding the DV module. During February, two different meetings were held with the assigned Mol focal point, and related analysis was conducted on the relevant legislation, Mol's SOPs, and related documents, such as the "Police report in domestic violence cases" and "Risk assessment." The UNDP Country Office's gender specialist also participated in the meetings, ensuring that valuable expertise on gathering gender-sensitized data was provided.
- [2023] The postponement of the official use of Police IMS/IRDAM, affected the timeline of the remaining interviews and plans for the needs-based analysis. Nevertheless, the needs-based analysis was prepared by the end of 2023 and subsequently approved by the Mol. The needs-based analysis is to serve as the basis for the development of a module on domestic violence cases, which is to be integrated into the IMS as part of the next relevant project under the MPTF. This is expected to assist law enforcement officers considerably in keeping track of first-time offenders, repeat offenders, victims of domestic violence, and associated actions taken by the police officers.

Output 2	Indicators	Baseline (2022)	Project target (2023)	Overall progress / Milestone
Improved analytical capabilities of Mol's Forensics Department to improve criminal justice response.	➤ Successful procurement of the specialized equipment for the Forensic Department.	N/A (0)	Upgraded Forensic Department with modernized equipment that can support effective forensic work.	Yes / Forensic Department equipped with a microscope for gunshot residue - DESKTOP SEM-EDD.
	➤ Guidance document developed, and training implemented in the Forensics Department, related to the usage of the new equipment.	No training and no guidance document related to the usage of the new equipment (0).	Upgraded Forensic Department with modernized equipment that can support effective forensic work.	Yes / 5 forensic staff were trained on the use of new equipment.
	➤ Exchange of knowledge, experiences, and information with colleagues from UNDP Serbia completed.	N/A (0)	Completed as planned.	Yes / Mol's Forensic Department representatives participated in a peer-exchange with Serbia Mol specialists.

**Activity 1.2.1:** Procurement of specialized equipment.

Results:

- [2023] The project team held several meetings with the MoI Forensic Department to determine the steps and requirements for specialized equipment meant to address the Department's needs. In order to ensure expert assistance in the process, the project engaged an international consultant. The consultant provided technical specifications for the procurement of the specialized equipment, the Desktop SEM-EDD, and market research on potential bidders. Based on this, the project procured specialized equipment for the Forensic Department, a microscope for gunshot residue - DESKTOP SEM-EDD, and it was delivered to and installed at the MoI premises in July 2023. The donation was publicized through social media and mass media, as a unique state-of-the-art equipment which will improve the work of the Forensic Department in examining evidence from firearms-related incidents. A [video](#) was created and published on several social media platforms.

**Activity 1.2.2:** User training.

Results:

- [2023] Following the delivery and installation of the specialized equipment for the Forensic Department, the project organized in August 2023 a training of 5 forensic staff (2 women and 3 men) on the use of equipment.

**Activity 1.2.3:** Exchanging experience with other UNDP offices.

Results:

- [2023] In coordination with the UNDP Serbia, the project organized a study visit for the MoI of North Macedonia to the National Forensic Center in Serbia in the period 26-29 September 2023. A total of six MoI representatives participated (3 women and 3 men), including the Head of the Forensic Department and high-level forensic specialists, as well as representatives of the MoI's Department for EU and International Cooperation. The participants visited the ballistic laboratory in the Police Department of the City of Belgrade, the scanning electron microscope laboratory in the Ministry of Interior and the CSI Training Center in Zemun. The acquired knowledge and peer-exchange on applied forensic approaches in investigations will be used to design initiatives that will further strengthen the work of the Forensic Department, including through future projects implemented within the Trust Fund or through SEESAC support



Output 3	Indicators	Baseline (2022)	Project target (2024)	Overall progress / Milestone
Improved weapons warehouse management and tracing capacities that leads to a decreased risk of the proliferation of SALW and improved security.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analysis of the current processes and procedures governing firearms for official use, as well as of the necessary equipment, software, and hardware required for the tagging, barcoding, tracing, and record-keeping of firearms for official use, is developed.</li> </ul>	No analysis (0)	Organizational guidelines and procedures for warehouse management and SALW-tracing capabilities in the Mol have been developed and adopted.	Yes / A needs-based analysis for the physical protection of the warehouses at the "Gjorche Petrov" Police Center was completed by the engaged security expert and endorsed by the Mol.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technical documentation for video and physical security of the storage facility at "Gjorche Petrov" Police Center is developed in accordance with international standards and in line with national construction legislation and regulations.</li> </ul>	No technical documentation (0)	Technical documentation developed and endorsed as planned.	Yes/ Technical documentation for physical security and video surveillance of the warehouses at the "Gjorche Petrov" Police Center was developed in line with the needs-based analysis and endorsed by the Mol.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marking machine is procured and installed.</li> </ul>	No marking machine (0)	Installed.	Yes / A Laser Marking Machine was delivered and installed at the Mol, and Mol staff were trained in its use.

**Activity 1.3.1:** Needs-based analysis for official firearms.

Results:

- [2023] The project engaged a local expert in the physical security of weapons warehouses to prepare a needs-based analysis for the physical security of the “Gjorche Petrov” Police Center’s storage facility. A set of visits to Gjorche Petrov Police Center took place, and the consultant successfully completed the needs-based analysis, including the final review and acceptance of the technical documentation produced by the contracted companies, based on which the upgrade of facilities shall ensue.

**Activity 1.3.2:** Technical documentation for the storage facility of the “Gjorche Petrov” Police Center

Results:

- [2023] Based on the needs-based analysis for the physical security of “Gjorche Petrov” Police Center storage facility, two procurement procedures were conducted, and technical documentation suppliers were selected – one company for video surveillance and one for construction work. The work of the contracted companies was monitored by the consultant (1.3.1). Both the video surveillance technical documentation and the construction technical documentation were approved and accepted by the Mol.
- [2023] With the non-cost extension granted by the Steering Committee, and the approval of the changes to this activity to include the strengthening of certain security elements of the storage facility in line with the produced technical documentation, the project initiated procurement processes: i) for the upgrade of the electrical installations in the storage facility at the “Gjorche Petrov” Police Center; and ii) for the supervision of the construction activities. The construction interventions will aim to strengthen the security of the weapons warehouses through improved electrical installations, new lighting, and a diesel generator for power outages. These works began in early November 2023 and were scheduled to be completed in Q1 2024.

**Activity 1.3.3:** Procurement of a marking machine

Results:

- [2023] In coordination with SEESAC’s Chief Technical Advisor, the project team prepared the procurement of a Laser Marking Machine, for the marking of deactivated firearms. The Laser Marking Machine was delivered and installed at the Mol, and staff members were trained in its use. The Laser Marking Machine is envisioned to help in tracing and controlling of SALW in North Macedonia, compatible with relevant EU regulations.

## 15. Support to Firearms related Investigations

Implementing organization: UNDP Kosovo

**Outcome 1: Strengthened investigative capacities to detect and reduce the use of illicit firearms for the purpose of combatting organized crime as well as strengthened accredited ballistic methods as per the relevant ISO standards.**

Output 1.1	Indicators	Baseline (2022)	Project target (2023)	Overall progress / Milestone
Improved data collection and analysis by the Firearms Focal Point.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established link between the existing iBase solution and Traffic: this will result in a deeper look into ballistic intelligence.</li> </ul>	No linkage between iBase and ballistic Traffic system (0).	iBase and Ballistic Traffick software linked by the end of the project's duration.	Linkage between iBase and Traffic ballistic system successfully completed and tested.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established link between the existing iBase and Evofinder: this will again make ensure that ballistic intelligence can be linked to criminal intelligence.</li> </ul>	No linkage between iBase and Evofinder (Evofinder is the new system in place) (0).	iBase and Evofinder software linked by the end of the project's duration.	Linkage between iBase and Evofinder Ballistic Identification system successfully completed and tested.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established link between the existing iBase and head stamp information in the Forensic Agency.</li> </ul>	No linkage between iBase and head stamp information in the Forensic Agency (0).	iBase and head stamp information in the Forensic Agency linked by the end of the project duration.	Linkage of CartWin Pro head stamp information database has been completed in the MoIA, Kosovo Forensic Agency, FFP, and Police Investigation department. These licenses enabled the four entities to more efficiently identify aspects of ammunition.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established dashboard solution in the FFP which will enable the digitalization and the visualization of info that FFP possesses and the planning of precise operations targeting the SALW field in general.</li> </ul>	No dashboard solution in the FFP (0).	Dashboard solution established in FFP.	Yes / A dashboard solution was established via the TABLEAU visualization platform. The established links between the IBase solution with Traffic and Evofinder enable the digitalization and the visualization of info that FFP possesses, feeding into the dashboard solution.

**Activity 1.1.1:** Linking existing iBase solution to Traffic.

Results:

- [2023] The UNDP project team cooperated throughout 2023 with the FFP to analyze and identify options for linking the existing iBase solution to Traffic and Evofinder and digitalize and visualize info that FFP possesses, including the TABLEAU visualization platform. The local ICT expert was hired to prepare and implement the required linkages between the systems. The linkage was successfully completed and was scheduled to be tested during Q1 2024.
- The digitalization of information held by the FFP was another critical aspect of these activities. By converting physical or unstructured data into digital formats, it becomes more accessible and easier to manage. This digitalization should significantly improve data search, retrieval, and analysis, ultimately contributing to a better understanding of the SALW landscape.
- The linking of iBase to the Traffic system is expected to result in better data collection and analysis with regards to ballistic intelligence, while the linkage with the Evofinder system will help to ensure that ballistic intelligence can be linked to criminal intelligence. The interconnected systems should not only enable a more streamlined flow of information but also enable more effective and data-driven decision-making processes and operations.
- The digitalization of the Kosovo Police's FFP has revolutionized their data management capabilities, enabling the accurate documentation of seized weapons, trafficking routes, and criminal networks. This comprehensive database aids law enforcement in planning targeted operations against the proliferation of SALW, enhancing their ability to combat illegal arms trafficking effectively. The FFP in Kosovo stands out as the most advanced among Western Balkan jurisdictions in terms of operability and digitalization.

**Activity 1.1.2:** Linking the existing iBase system to Evofinder.

Results:

- [2023] Linked to 1.1.1. The activities were implemented concurrently.

**Activity 1.1.3:** Linking the existing iBase to head stamp information in the Forensic Agency. A study implemented.

Results:

- [2023] The project purchased four licenses of CartWin Pro and provided these to the FFP, Criminal Police Department, MoIA/Firearms and Ammunition Division, and the Forensic Agency (FA). These licenses enable the respective institutions to operate and collaborate more effectively, perform better data analysis and conduct other relevant activities related to ammunition.

**Activity 1.1.4:** Establish a Dashboard solution in FFP.

Results:

- [2023] The project provided the TABLEAU visualization platform to FFP, which will help to ensure that data are presented in a clear, user-friendly, and interactive manner, empowering stakeholders to gain insights from the information gathered and take targeted actions in the SALW field. The adoption of TABLEAU as the visualization platform also emphasizes the importance of presenting data in a clear, user-friendly, and interactive manner, empowering stakeholders to gain insights from the information gathered and take targeted actions in the SALW field. This activity, having been completed, is under testing mode towards its full functionality.

Output 2	Indicators	Baseline (2022)	Project target (2024)	Overall progress / Milestone
Improved detection of weapons hidden underground.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ KSP (Kosovo State Police) operates with a ground penetration radar to detect hidden SALW, ammunition, and explosives.</li> </ul>	No ground penetration radar (0).	Ground penetration radar provided and functionalized.	Yes / One ground penetration radar (GPR) was provided to the KSP and 5 police operators were trained in its use and maintenance.
<p><b>Activity 1.2.1:</b> Procure the specialized ground penetration radar equipment; and</p> <p><b>Activity 1.2.2:</b> User training.</p>	<p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ [2023] One ground penetration radar was procured and officially handed over to the Kosovo Police/Improvised Explosive Device Disposal (IEDD) Unit. Five police operators (all men) were trained in using and maintaining the device.</li> </ul>			
Output 3	Indicators	Baseline (2022)	Project target (2024)	Overall progress / Milestone
Improved examination of seized firearms by the Ballistic Department at the Kosovo Forensic Agency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Delivered specialized equipment to the Kosovo Forensic Agency.</li> </ul>	No stereoscopes, borescopes, or Trigger Scan systems in the Kosovo Forensic Agency.	Stereoscopes, borescopes, and Trigger Scan systems provided and functionalized.	Yes / Seven (7) stereomicroscopes, five (5) borescopes and two (2) Trigger Scan systems were provided to the Kosovo Forensic Agency - Ballistic Division.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Completed user training of the new equipment.</li> </ul>	N/A	Training completed for fully utilizing the new equipment.	Yes / The training for 9 officials (2 women and 7 men) were trained to professionally utilize the new equipment.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Validation and accreditation of the Kosovo Forensic Agency as per ISO 17025.</li> </ul>	N/A	Validation and accreditation of ISO 17025 implemented.	The preparation process for accreditation as per ISO 17025 has been completed. 15 KFA officials were professionally trained on: i) shooting distance determination; and ii) serial number restoration methods provided. 15 KFA officials professionally trained.

**Activity 1.3.1:** Provision of specialized equipment for the Kosovo Forensic Agency.

Results:

- [2023] The project equipped the Kosovo Forensic Agency (KFA) with specialized equipment, encompassing seven (7) stereomicroscopes and five (5) borescopes. The provision of the specialized equipment represents a strategic investment in advanced tools that will improve the quality of investigation and evidence provided to the justice system. Stereomicroscopes will advance examinations of small objects or fine details, while borescopes will enhance the inspection of the interior of objects or spaces that are otherwise difficult to access. These tools will jointly enhance the forensic capacity to conduct detailed and accurate examinations of evidence, potentially leading to more precise findings and contributing to more effective criminal investigations and court proceedings. In addition, the project provided two Firearms Trigger Scan systems to KFA, as integral tools to support more effective investigation and analysis of firearm-related incidents. The Trigger Scan systems are to aid KFA in linking weapons to specific incidents, identifying patterns, and ultimately assisting in the resolution of criminal cases.

**Activity 1.3.2:** Provision of specialized equipment for the Kosovo Forensic Agency.

Results:

- [2023] The project trained nine (9) forensic experts (2 women, 7 men) to effectively utilize the new equipment, ensuring that the provided specialized tools are to be used to their full potential and that the forensic team can make the most of these resources.

**Activity 1.3.3:** Provision of specialized equipment for the Kosovo Forensic Agency.

Results:

- [2023] The MoI of Croatia supported the validation and accreditation of two methods at KFA according to ISO 17025: i) serial number restoration; and ii) shooting distance determination with chemical methods. Two experts from the Croatian Forensic Institute were engaged to deliver training for Kosovo Forensic Agency staff on the two methods, which that are to be validated and accredited. The training equipped 15 forensic staff (5 women and 10 men) with skills and knowledge to perform with higher standards of work in accordance with the ISO 17025, and to ensure that the results they produce are accurate and dependable, providing reliable forensic evidence.

## 16. Countering trafficking in firearms, their parts, and ammunition in express courier and postal parcels: Project HERMES, Phase 1

Implementing organization: UNODC

### Outcome 1: Enhanced national and regional capacities to prevent and counter the illicit trafficking of firearms, parts, components and ammunition in express courier and postal parcels.

Output 1.1	Indicators	Baseline (2022)	Project target (2023)	Overall progress / Milestone
Improved regulatory framework for countering trafficking in firearms, their part, components, and ammunition, and explosives through the development of SOPs and MOUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of SOPs and MOUs developed to counter firearms trafficking in postal parcels across the WB jurisdictions.</li> </ul>	4 SOPs developed in BiH; No MOUs developed.	10 SOPs and 6 MOUs developed.	<p>Yes / 10 SOPs were developed and seven signed by the end of the project (3 are also pending in Albania and Serbia).</p> <p>8 MoUs were developed and signed (3 MoUs in BiH between Customs and the 3 DPOs, 1 in Albania, 1 in Kosovo, 1 in Montenegro, 1 in Serbia, and 1 in North Macedonia).</p>
<b>Activity 1.1.1.:</b> Organization of a project inception meeting.	<p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[2023] In the period 20-24 March 2023, UNODC GFP launched in the Western Balkans the project Hermes in the Western Balkans. The project team organized inception meetings in Pristina (21 March) and Belgrade (23 March), which gathered 113 participants (29 women and 84 men), representing customs administrations, designated postal operators, law enforcement, and prosecution services from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia. The Universal Postal Union (UPU), the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT Firearms), the United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS), and the French Customs sent representatives to contribute to GFP's initiative. The inception phase achieved the following results: the stakeholders' commitment for the implementation of the project activities; agreement on the timeline of the activities; the identification of a project governance structure; support from the French Customs to act as a host for one of the project's activities; and added value for WB representatives through the participation of UPU, EMPACT Firearms, and USPIS.</li> </ul>			

**Activity 1.1.2:** Organization of study visits for DPOs and Customs to EU countries.

Results:

- [2023] The UNODC in cooperation with the French Customs organized in the period 22–26 May 2023 a study visit for all WB jurisdictions to Charles de Gaulle Airport, France (14 officials, 1 woman and 13 men). The WB experts received information about the organization of the work of French Customs, La Poste, and express courier companies and the application of risk analysis to identify parcels containing prohibited goods. They had the opportunity to observe the work of their French counterparts in the postal depots and the teamwork between French Customs and La Poste on inspecting suspicious parcels.
- [2023] As a result of the study visit, in Albania, both Albanian Customs and Albanian Post initiated a review of their procedures for inspecting incoming parcels based on the observations from CDG Airport. In Serbia, the Serbian Post benefited not only by increasing their understanding on how to improve their internal process, but the visit has impacted their overall approach towards security. In Kosovo, the Kosovo Post and Kosovo Customs updated the draft MoU for exchange on data between them, taking into consideration the observations from CDG Airport on the pre-arrival information. Similarly in North Macedonia and BiH, the designated postal operators (DPO) initiated a review of their internal procedures on risk analysis. Furthermore, the WB jurisdictions invited experts from French Customs to visit the postal depots in the region and continue with transferring knowledge with a focus on risk assessment.

**Activity 1.1.3:** Organization of a regional meeting to support regional information exchange on good practices in developing regulatory frameworks on countering firearms trafficking in express courier and postal parcels.

Results:

- [2023] The UNODC organized two sub-regional meetings – on 8 June 2023 in Pristina (for Kosovo, Albania, and North Macedonia) involving 24 officials (5 women and 19 men) and on 13 June in Sarajevo (for BiH, Montenegro, and Serbia) with 29 officials (8 women and 21 men), respectively – with the aim of debriefing participants on the study visit to CDG Airport, review the progress achieved in drafting SOPs and MoUs, and to provide updates on Operation Armstrong on the detection of firearms in postal parcels. The meetings included representatives of the French Customs and EMPACT Firearms. The meeting supported the exchange of good practice and challenges and the harmonization of approaches towards tackling firearms trafficking in postal parcels, and identified areas for further cooperation with French Customs and Operation Armstrong.

**Activity 1.1.4:** Organization of 12 workshops to support customs, designated Postal Operators (DPO's), CA, postal services regulators, and law enforcement services in establishing and drafting Standard Operational Procedures (SOP's) and MoUs for detecting firearms trafficking in postal parcels.

Results:

- [2023] The UNODC initiated the development of SOPs and MoUs in collaboration with DPOs and customs administrations from all WB jurisdictions, to enhance and formalize collaboration and operational exchange between the parties towards tackling firearms trafficking in postal parcels. For this purpose, UNODC organized 12 workshops, gathering 116 representatives of customs and postal operators from the region (25 women and 91 men), including the active participation of and collaboration with international bodies like GIZ, UPU, EMPACT Firearms, and various customs and police services. As a result, the jurisdictions established working groups for cooperation between customs and DPOs that reviewed the existing regulation frameworks, and with UNODC's support, they prepared drafts of MoUs and SOPs for further internal review, consultations, and comments. In this process, UNODC cooperated with GIZ, which implements a project on pre-arrival information for postal parcels. GIZ supports the development and deployment of software in DPOs and customs for the collection and sharing of data on postal parcels. Furthermore, UNODC cooperated with French Customs, Swedish Customs, Swedish Police, WCO, UPU, and USIPS through soliciting their feedback on the process and sharing their best practices with the WB jurisdictions. As a result of the work and support provided, the following took place:
- [2023] The project increased and formalized the cooperation between customs and DPOs through Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs), adapted to the legal traditions of each jurisdiction. 8 MoUs were developed and all of them were signed and adopted by the relevant customs and DPOs (3 in BiH, and one each in remaining jurisdictions).
- [2023] The main expected output was the development of SOPs for countering trafficking in firearms in postal parcels across customs and designated postal operators (DPOs) in the Western Balkans. 10 SOPs were developed through Project Hermes. Thus far, 7 were adopted so far by customs and DPOs (three pending, in Albania and Serbia)



Output 2	Indicators	Baseline (2022)	Project target (2023)	Overall progress / Milestone
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amount of detection equipment procured and delivered to the Albanian Customs Administration.</li> </ul>	No equipment provided to Albanian Customs Administration.	At least one unit of detection equipment procured and delivered.	1 unit of Smiths Detection HazMatID Elite was delivered to ACA and training on its use was provided. 10 hand-held metal detectors were also provided.
<b>Activity 1.2.1:</b> Procurement of detection equipment for Albanian Customs.	<p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[2023] UNODC and the Albanian SALW Commission, in cooperation with the Albanian Customs Administration and Albanian Post have identified the equipment needed to support the detection capacity of the Albanian stakeholders. Within the framework of this project, UNODC procured a hand-held explosives and drugs detector (SmithDetection HazmatID Elite), 10 hand-held metal detectors, and 3 laptops. From 11-13 December 2023, UNODC delivered specialized training on the use of the HazmatID Elite detector to 4 Albanian officials (4 men) in the UNODC Laboratory. The equipment is expected to improve the effectiveness of postal security by enabling more accurate detection of explosives and metal firearms components.</li> </ul>			

**17. Reduce Risk - Increase Safety III**  
 Implementing organization: UNDP Serbia

NEWLY LAUNCHED in 2023

**Outcome 1: Increased capabilities for integrating a meaningful gender perspective into SALW/firearms control policies through the reinforcement of networking and empowerment of women in the security sector, as well as the enhancement of gender-sensitive and evidence-based policymaking.**

Output 1.1	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Gender and age data collection practices reviewed, and lessons learned used to facilitate evidence-based policy making and mainstream firearms risks into domestic violence regulations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The data collection practices of the Ministry of Interior (MoI) related to firearms misuse in the context of domestic violence have been reviewed to incorporate missing sex and age disaggregated data.</li> </ul>	No [In the previous project phase, UNDP had prepared an analysis of data related to DV and GBV, as well as recommendations of data sets to be added to existing records.]	Yes	Partial progress. The project synchronized the relevant approach with UNDP SEESAC and a meeting was to ensue in Q1 2024 with the MoI Sector for Analytics, Telecommunications, and Information Technologies (SATIT) to reach a consensus on data sets for improvement and further steps in improving data collection practices.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence-based recommendations to improve the effectiveness of legal solutions for preventing and reducing the risk of firearms risk in gender-based violence have been developed and endorsed.</li> </ul>	No	Yes	N/A
<b>Activity 1.1.1.:</b> Provide technical and consultative assistance in analyzing current data collection methodologies related to gender and age and revise of missing gender and age-related data.	Results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[2023] Q4: A series of consultative meetings with SEESAC's Gender Specialist took place to exchange experience on data collected by SEESAC on SALW misuse in the Western Balkans, including data from the MoI of the Republic of Serbia. The plan is to synchronize the efforts of the project with those of SEESAC to enhance the impact of the planned activities related to improvement of MoI data collection practices. A meeting with the MoI Sector for Analytics, Telecommunications, and Information Technologies (SATIT) was set for early 2024 to reach a consensus on data sets that should be improved and plan further steps in improving data collection practices.</li> </ul>			

**Activity 1.1.2:** Development of evidence-based recommendations to improve the effectiveness of legal solutions for preventing and reducing the risk of firearms misuse in gender-based violence.

Results:

- The activity was set to start in Q1 2024 with the contracting of experts to provide recommendations on legal solutions for enhancing the prevention of firearms misuse for GBV.

Output 1.2	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Networking and capacity building of women to actively participate in SALW control policies is enabled.	➤ Number of women police officers, including members of the Network of Women in the Police capacitated to mainstream gender into SALW control policies and actively participate in SALW control.	SALW control policies do not adequately involve women and women's participation in SALW control is limited.	At least <b>50</b> women from the security sector have been trained on issues relating to the development and implementation of gender sensitive SALW control policies.	Partial progress. <b>31</b> women from the security sector, including members of the Network of Women in the Police, engaged in networking regarding the topic of preventing of DV, including that committed through SALW misuse.
	➤ Improved regional experience exchange and networking of the women police officials in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina on gender mainstreaming in SALW control policies and SALW control.	No regular interaction or knowledge sharing among the regional networks of women police.	a) Up to 100 participants at the regional level have been involved in experience- exchange and networking meetings. b) Up to 21 members of the regional networks have been introduced to different international best practices during a study visit to a sister network in an EU country.	N/A

**Activity 1.2.1:** Enabling the networking of women in the security sector and facilitating their participation in the development, policy advocacy, and implementation of gender-responsive SALW control policies.

Results:

- 🔗 **[2023]** Q4: The project supported the Network of Women in the Police of the Republic of Serbia to promote the exchange of knowledge and experience among women and men police officers dealing with DV cases in Serbia. To mark the “16 days of activism against gender-based violence” global campaign, the Network of Women in the Police and MoI organized a workshop facilitating experience/knowledge exchange and support to police officers responsible for processing DV cases. The workshop gathered 51 participants (31 women and 20 men). Police officers from different police departments in the country presented local police statistics regarding domestic violence and complex cases they had dealt with (including cases involving SALW misuse and those committed by fellow officers), their successes, and good practices, as well as activities regarding community outreach. The workshop provided an opportunity for participants to reflect jointly on challenges and make suggestions for improvements in working conditions and procedures, and for trainings needs to further enhance responses to DV response. Also, the workshop enabled the mobilization of women from the security sector towards more active participation in SALW control policies.

**Activity 1.2.2:** Continued support to associations of women police officials in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia for facilitating regional experience exchange and networking regarding the topic of SALW misuse prevention (joint activity of UNDP CO Serbia and UNDP CO BiH).

Results:

- 🔗 The activity was scheduled to start in Q1 2024.

**Outcome 2: Firearms misuse for violence and suicides is prevented and addressed through the multi-sectoral engagement of institutions and the involvement of the civil sector.**

Output 2.1	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Conditions for the improved detection of potential firearms misuse for domestic violence and suicides and comprehensive prevention support are ensured.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of healthcare professionals trained to identify risks and effectively implement procedures for reporting and addressing the suspected risk of firearms related domestic violence.</li> </ul>	Healthcare professionals have little to no knowledge on how to identify risks and effectively implement procedures for reporting and addressing the suspected risk of firearms misuse.	At least 180 health care professionals trained to better detect and manage cases of violence in collaboration with the police and prosecutor's office.	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommendations on improved connectivity and data sharing between state and private healthcare institutions for the Prime Minister's Working Group on eHealth developed and considered by the working group (Y/N).</li> </ul>	No connectivity or data sharing between state and private healthcare institutions.	YES Recommendations on improved connectivity and data sharing between state and private healthcare institutions for the Prime Minister's working group on eHealth have been developed and considered by the relevant working group.	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommendations for the new Rulebook on determining natural persons' ability to hold and carry weapons within the healthcare system has been developed and endorsed by the MoI (Y/N).</li> </ul>	In the previous phase of project, numerous flaws within the existing Rulebook were identified.	YES Recommendations for the new Rulebook on determining natural persons' ability to hold and carry weapons within the healthcare system have been developed and endorsed by the MoI.	N/A

- Exchange of knowledge, dialogue, and learning on the implementation of gender-sensitive security vetting and reporting of firearms license holders to prevent the misuse of firearms in domestic violence context has been facilitated.

No exchange of knowledge, dialogue, or learning on the implementation of gender-sensitive security vetting and reporting of firearms license holders to prevent the misuse of firearms in domestic violence context exists.

- a) Up to 150 professionals take part in the dialogues/ knowledge exchange/ learning sessions.
- b) Up to 4 CSOs supported to develop and implement community-based actions targeting women whose family members have access to firearms and collaborate with institutions.

N/A

**Activity 2.1.1:** Improving healthcare workers' capacity to identify risks and effectively implement procedures for reporting and addressing the suspected risk of firearms misuse.

Results:

- The activity was planned to start as of Q1 2024, with the contracting of experts and the implementation of training for healthcare professionals.

**Activity 2.1.2:** Assistance for healthcare digitalization to enable better insight into patients' health status and firearms possession.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of 2024.

**Activity 2.1.3:** Preparation of recommendations for the new Rulebook on determining natural persons' ability to hold and carry weapons within the healthcare system.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of 2024.

**Activity 2.1.4:** Organize exchange of knowledge, dialogue, and learning on the implementation of gender-responsive security vetting and reporting of firearms license holders to prevent the misuse of firearms in the domestic violence context.

➤ Activity to start as of 2024.

Output 2.2	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Information on the harmful effects of underlying practices and attitudes leading to firearms misuse and supportive mechanisms preventing suicides available	➤ Mol media communication capacities and campaigns to prevent firearms misuse in the community and domestic violence context in place.	Low level of awareness related to firearms misuse for domestic violence and gender-based violence across most Mol sectors, departments, and bodies.	YE SAt least 20 media reports containing information about the consequences of firearms misuse as well as critical reviews of firearms (mis)use for domestic violence and gender-based violence.	N/A
	➤ Professionals providing psychological support within the Mol capacitated and police officers informed on supportive mechanisms to prevent negative consequences of professional trauma.	Low level of information and utilization of services to prevent negative consequences of professional trauma of professionals involved in violent events with firearms.	a) At least 25 professionals from Mol's Department of Psychological Activities trained. b) YES - informative activities conducted by the Department among different police units.	a) N/A b) YES - Informative activities were conducted by the Mol Department of Psychological Activities among different police units: 51 Mol representatives (31 women and 20 men) were informed by Department representatives through a workshop and focus group discussion. [involving 29 local police departments, and representatives of the Mol Minister's Cabinet, the Police Directorate, the Directorate for Crime Investigation, the HR Directorate, the Department for the Prevention of DV, the Department for Psychological Activities, the Ministry of Justice, and the Network of Women in the Police).

- Development of a training curriculum, as well as the training-of-trainers, aimed at strengthening healthcare system capacities to identify and support individuals at risk of suicide.

No Inadequate information and knowledge of general practitioners to recognize and provide further support to persons at risks of committing suicide.

- a) YES  
ToT curriculum developed on how to recognize and provide further and adequate support to persons at risks of committing suicide.
- b) Up to 15 trainers from the healthcare system trained on how to recognize and provide adequate support to persons at risks of committing suicide.

N/A

**Activity 2.2.1:** Support Mol communication activities to prevent firearm misuse in the community and domestic violence context.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024

**Activity 2.2.2:** Support institutional capacity building and the implementation of activities to prevent firearms misuse for domestic violence and suicides among police officers.

Results:

- [2023] Q4: On 30 November, a workshop and focus group took place on stress management for police officers dealing with DV cases, led by representatives of the Mol Department of Psychological Activities. The workshop and focus group gathered 51 participants (31 women and 20 men) and tackled the effects of professional stress and response to trauma, while providing stress – relief and stress management techniques. The workshop also served as an opportunity to gather insight into professionals’ further needs in regard to overcoming professional stress, including regarding risks of negative consequences such as firearms misuse. The workshop and focus group represent the first of a series of activities to be implemented in course of the project’s implementation.

**Activity 2.2.3:** Support for learning and community-based activities to prevent firearms misuse for suicide.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024.



Output 2.3	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
<p>Best practice sharing with professionals, media, and academia on effective mechanisms for preventing of future firearms related incidents enabled.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International best practices on post-tragedy/mass shooting community reintegration are mapped and shared with professionals, media, and academia.</li> </ul>	<p>Professionals, media, and academia have little knowledge on preventing of firearms- related mass shooting incidents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Effective practices that have been implemented internationally, that are aimed at changing masculine stereotypes that lead to harmful incidents with firearms are mapped.</li> <li>b) At least 200 participants participate at the relevant best- practices and knowledge- sharing conference and are introduced to best practice mechanisms for firearms related incidents.</li> </ul>	<p>Partial progress.</p> <p>Meetings with the Norwegian Embassy in Belgrade were held to map knowledge and expertise from Norwegian experts. A meeting with the Ministry of Education was held on the development of prevention programs to reduce the risk of recurrence of mass murders among youth. Meetings with Fund B92, an organization involved in communicating with and providing support for the survivors and families of victims of two mass shootings, were organized to identify specific needs and expertise for effective healing and the prevention of future occurrences.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of journalists with increased capacities and networking opportunities to engage in preventive and ethical reporting on firearms-enabled gender-based violence, including mass shootings.</li> </ul>	<p>Sensationalist reporting continues to thrive in Serbia, contributing to the spreading of panic, rather than educating the public and acting to prevent the risk of future firearms misuse. risks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Analysis of media reporting on firearms-related incidents conducted.</li> <li>b) Up to 10 journalists have participated in a study trip to a European media hub to exchange specialist knowledge on the most challenging of media issues and encourage media networking related to ethical reporting on violence and trauma. will be organized</li> <li>c) Up to 100 participants/ women journalists from the region have participated in events that encourage networking and preventive reporting related to firearms-enabled gender-based violence, including mass shootings.</li> </ul>	<p>Initiation.</p> <p>Plans were made with the group Journalists Against Violence to initiate media activities.</p>

**Activity 2.3.1:** Identification of international best practices on post-tragedy/mass shooting community reintegration and improved mass shooting prevention.

Results:

- **[2023]** Q4: Meetings were held with representatives of the Norwegian Embassy in Belgrade to map knowledge and expertise from Norwegian experts to on the development of preventive programs to reduce the risk of future mass murders to assist the Government of Serbia in its efforts in this regard, as well as to provide ongoing support to the Government of Serbia, which is focused on development of preventive programs to reduce the risk of future mass murders on these issues. Additionally, a meeting with the Ministry of Education, responsible for coordinating the Government's expert working group on the development of prevention programs for reducing the risk of the recurrence of mass murders among youth, was conducted to assess the need for assistance and learn from countries with comparable experiences. Furthermore, several meetings with Fund B92 were held, as this organization is involved in communicating with and providing support for the survivors and families of victims of the two mass shootings that occurred most recently in Serbia (in 2023). The aim of these meetings was to identify specific needs and expertise for effective healing and the prevention of future occurrences.
- In the upcoming period, experts will be contracted to collect international best practices on post-tragedy/mass shooting community reintegration and improved mass shooting prevention.

**Activity 2.3.2:** Continued support to the group Journalists against Violence in its efforts to mobilize national and regional media and promote learning and partnerships that leads to ethical and preventative media coverage of incidents involving SALW.

Results:

- **[2023]** Q4: Plans were made with the group Journalists against Violence regarding the initiation of media-related activities. This involved the definition of the methodology to be used for analyzing media reporting in response to mass shootings to identify unethical narratives, which is to serve as the foundation for subsequent work with the media on preventive and educational reporting regarding such incidents.
- As of Q1 2024, the project was to start analysis implementation.

## 18. Project Justitia: Support to the Criminal Justice Response to Counter Arms Trafficking in the Western Balkans

Implementing organization: UNODC

NEWLY LAUNCHED at the end of 2023

### Outcome 1: Enhanced capabilities of criminal justice institutions to counter organized crime and illicit firearms trafficking.

Output 1.1	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Criminal justice institutions have improved their abilities and resources to draft effective legislation, conduct thorough investigations, and successfully prosecute cases involving illicit firearms and organized crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of criminal codes in the WB region amended in line with the UN FP.</li> </ul>	4 jurisdictions have developed draft criminal code provisions harmonized with the UN FP.	6 jurisdictions have criminal code provisions harmonized with UN FP.	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of training courses on the investigation and prosecution of firearms offences developed and endorsed across WB on the basis of the UNODC Guidelines.</li> </ul>	North Macedonia (Sep 2023) and Montenegro (Dec 2023) adopted amended Criminal Codes, harmonized with the UN Firearms Protocol.	6 training courses on the investigation and prosecution of firearms offences developed on the basis of the Guidelines.	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of knowledge management products on the application of special investigative measures to counter firearms trafficking developed.</li> </ul>	0 training courses developed. Need for knowledge management products identified.	6 knowledge management products (5 more) on the application of special investigative measures to counter firearms trafficking developed.	N/A
<b>Activity 1.1.1.:</b> Organization of a project inception meeting.	Results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[2023] On 14 December 2023, the Project Justitia was <a href="#">officially launched</a> with an inception meeting, attended by 34 participants (11 women, 23 men) representing all six WB jurisdictions. The inception meeting served to discuss the project objectives for 2024-2025, and it resulted in the endorsement of the project implementation workplan, the identification of potential risks to the project's success, and strategies for their mitigation. The meeting was also used to discuss communication among the stakeholders, and how progress and challenges will be reported to the project team.</li> </ul>			

**Activity 1.1.2:** Organization of meetings on the harmonization of criminal legislation with the UN Firearms Protocol and two local legislative workshops in BiH.

Results:

- [2023] With support from the project, on 17 November 2023, North Macedonia's Ministry of the Interior, the NM Public Prosecutor, and the NM Customs Administration [signed a MoU](#) on cooperation to counter firearms criminality. This is part of a broader effort to strengthen the criminal justice response to arms trafficking, following pivotal amendments to the Macedonian Criminal Code adopted in Sep 2023.
- [2023] Further preparations for the activity commenced in December, with the first meeting on legislative harmonization planned for 30 January 2024. Invitations were sent to the relevant institutions.
- [2023] The ToR for a consultant to support the legislative harmonization in BiH were drafted.

**Activity 1.1.3:** Development of training courses for the investigation and prosecution of firearms offences, based on the UNODC's Guidelines.

Results:

- [2023] Q4: Preparations were initiated for a regional meeting on the development of training courses for the investigation and prosecution of firearms offences (Feb 2024). Invitations were sent to the relevant institutions. A draft outline of the training course was developed. The ToR for consultants to support the development of the training courses were drafted.

**Activity 1.1.4:** Provide support for the application of special investigative measures (SIMs) in firearms investigations, joint operations, and application of international cooperation measures.

Results:

- [2023] Q4: Preparations were initiated for the organization of a regional workshop on the application of special investigative measures in firearms investigations, joint operations, and international cooperation measures. The workshop was scheduled to take place in April 2024 and the ToR for its organization were developed.

## Output 1.2

### Indicators

### Baseline (2023)

### Project target (2025)

### Overall progress / Milestone

The judiciary in WB jurisdictions has improved its access to information and expertise related to the adjudication of cases involving illicit firearms.

- Number of developed training materials.
- Number of judges with enhanced skills and knowledge on adjudicating firearm-related cases.

0 training materials.  
0 judges trained.

**1** training material developed.  
**120** trained judges across all WB jurisdictions.

N/A

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of second editions of Firearms Case Law collections developed and validated in each WB jurisdiction.</li> </ul>	N/A First editions of Firearms Case Law collection developed and disseminated.	<b>6</b> second editions of Firearms Case Law collections developed and validated.	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level of understanding among the judiciary in the WB on sentencing practices, information sharing on sentencing practices, and evidentiary requirements and procedures in firearms-related cases.</li> </ul>	Low	Moderate	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of judges with enhanced knowledge of the relationship between human rights and firearms issues</li> </ul>	0 Knowledge of human rights not currently sufficiently connected to firearms issues.	<b>24</b> judges with enhanced knowledge.	N/A

**Activity 1.2.1:** Provide support for the development of training materials and the delivery of capacity-building for the judiciary on illicit firearms.

Results:

- [2023] Q4: The draft outline of the training course on illicit firearms for the judiciary was developed. The draft outline will be shared for comments with the representatives of the judiciary across the WB region. UNODC held several meetings with representatives of the educational institutions from BiH and Kosovo presenting the scope of its capacity building initiative for judges and prosecutors under the Project Justitia. As a result, the Academy of Justice of Kosovo, and the Centers for the Education of Prosecutors and Judges in Republika Srpska and the Federation of BiH included UNODC's training for the judiciary in their curricula for 2024. Similarly, the Centre for Training of Judges and Prosecutors in Montenegro and the Judicial Academy in Serbia agreed to integrate the training course for the judiciary, as a topic, in respective curricula and the collaboration with these institutions is to ensue accordingly in 2024.

**Activity 1.2.2:** Support for the development of Firearms Case Law collections and the organization of local meetings for their validation.

Results:

- The activity is planned to start as of Q1 2024, coupled with the regional meetings under Activity 1.2.3, whereby the meetings will serve to determine the scope of the case law and judicial practices to be integrated into the 2nd edition of the Firearms Case Law collections.

**Activity 1.2.3:** Organization of regional meetings for the harmonization of judicial practice.

Results:

- [2023] Q4: Preparations were initiated for the organization of the first regional meeting on the harmonization of judicial practice. The meeting was planned to take place in February 2024 and the ToR for its organization were developed.

**Activity 1.2.4:** Organization of a study visit for the judiciary.

Results:

- [2023] Q4: The preparation of the judiciary study visit was initiated, which was tentatively planned for March 2024. The relevant institutions in France were contacted through the French Liaison Magistrate, based in Belgrade.

## 19. Integrated Institutional Approach and Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation to SALW Control (Phase I)

Implementing organization: UNDP Kosovo

NEWLY LAUNCHED at the end of 2023

**Outcome 1: Institutional Approach and Community Engagement in Kosovo towards addressing FAE-related crime and misuse are advanced, and bilateral cooperation between Kosovo and Albania in the field of SALW control is strengthened.**

Output 1.1	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Community policing/ILP, education, and community engagement on SALW control is strengthened.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of training curricula developed and approved by the KP's Training Department on SALW control and the misuse of firearms, including preventing domestic violence, for community policing officers and police cadets.</li> </ul>	No training curricula on SALW control in general for community policing officers and police cadets.	<b>1</b> training curriculum developed and approved by the KP's Training Department.	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of police instructors trained to train on the SALW Control training curricula.</li> </ul>	No ToT training organized regarding SALW Control training curricula.	<b>10</b> police instructors trained to train regarding SALW Control training curricula.	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of community policing officers, members of Local Public Safety Committees (LPSC) and Municipal Community Safety Councils (MCSCs) trained regarding SALW Control, regular inspection of legal entities dealing with firearms, and legal ammunition legal trade, including in regard to the prevention of firearms used in domestic violence.</li> </ul>	No training regarding SALW Control for community policing officers and the members of Local Public Safety Committees (LPSC) and Municipal Community Safety Councils (MCSCs).	<b>580</b> community police and members trained: <b>400</b> police officers, and <b>100</b> LPSC members, and <b>80</b> MCSC members trained (through 16 training sessions).	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>E-Learning Platform and modules on SALW Control in place for the Kosovo Police. (Y/N)</li> </ul>	No. E-Learning Platform on SALW Control exists in the Kosovo Police.	<b>Yes.</b> E-Learning Platform developed and in place.	N/A

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ # of officials from the MoIA and KP Press and Public Information Office trained in OSINT gathering, analyzing, and distributing.</li> </ul>	No training on OSINT gathering, analyzing, and distributing for KP PPIO exists.	<b>10</b> officials from the MoIA and KP PPIO trained.	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ # of mass media and targeted awareness-raising campaigns implemented regarding SALW control, preventing the misuse of firearms, and increasing reporting of firearms related incidents.</li> </ul>	Lack of a continuous ongoing comprehensive integrated awareness-raising campaign. Activities of the Currently ongoing campaign implemented by SEESAC are organized for a certain period of time, respectively, during July and August and November and December.	<p><b>Two</b> mass media campaigns.</p> <p><b>Three</b> smaller targeted awareness-raising campaigns for gun owners.</p> <p><b>50</b> lectures/public debates on preventing the misuse of firearms.</p>	N/A

**Activity 1.1.1:** Develop training curricula on SALW control and the misuse of firearms, including preventing domestic violence, for community policing officers and police cadets.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024, with the establishment of a working group among the SALW Commission/KP/KFA to look into the curricula on SALW control in general and on the misuse of firearms, including preventing domestic violence, for community policing officers and police cadets.

**Activity 1.1.2:** Deliver ToT for police instructors based on the developed SALW control training curricula.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q2 2024.

**Activity 1.1.3:** Deliver 16 training sessions regarding SALW control to representatives of community police, Local Public Safety Committees, and Municipal Community Safety Councils.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q3 2024.

**Activity 1.1.4:** Development of the e-Learning platform for the Kosovo Police.

Results:

- [2023] In Q4 2023, consultative meetings took place with the Kosovo Police to prepare a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the development of an E-Learning Platform. The meeting helped gather input from relevant stakeholders on specific requirements, objectives, and criteria for the platform, ensuring a comprehensive and well-informed RFP. Simultaneously, plans were made to organize a study visit in Q1 2024 to the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training, CEPOL, to gain further insights for a more informed and effective development process.

**Activity 1.1.5:** Advancing the human and technical capacities of the Press and Public Information Offices of the Kosovo Police and the Ministry of Internal Affairs on firearms-related communication.

Results:

- [2023] A 3-day training took place in Q4 2023 for 12 officials (9 men and 3 women) from the Press and Public Information Offices of the Kosovo Police and the Ministry of Internal Affairs on Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) gathering, analysis, and distribution. The training equipped participants with the skills to sift through vast volumes of openly available data, enabling the identification of credible sources and information. The training also raised awareness of emerging trends, potential risks, and evolving narratives within the SALW landscape. Additionally, it fostered a proactive approach in tackling misinformation and disinformation.

**Activity 1.1.6:** Organize an awareness-raising campaign regarding SALW control, preventing the misuse of firearms, and increasing reporting of firearms related incidents.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024, with the establishment of a working group within the SALW Commission to work on the terms of reference for the awareness-raising campaign.

Output 1.2	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Border control capacities further increased for effectively preventing, detecting, and countering illicit arms trafficking.	➤ # of border police officers trained on detection at border posts (first- and second-line check).	30 border police offices trained in the past through the project CIAT.	<b>80</b> more border police officers to be trained regarding the first- and second-line check through three trainings.	N/A
	➤ # of border police officers trained on firearms trafficking routes and trafficking 'modus operandi'.	35 border police offices trained in the past through CIAT.	<b>50</b> more border police officers to be trained on firearms trafficking routes and trafficking 'modus operandi' through two trainings.	N/A



<p>➤ # of border police officers trained on identifying the converted weapons as well as recognizing weapons parts.</p>	<p>35 border police offices trained in the past through CIAT.</p>	<p><b>160</b> more border police officers to be trained on identifying the converted weapons as well as recognizing weapons parts and on the legal framework for SALW Control through eight training sessions.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>➤ # of border and investigation department officers trained jointly on effectively investigating firearms trafficking.</p>	<p>No joint training between border and investigation department officers on effectively investigating firearms trafficking organized.</p>	<p><b>60</b> (30 border police, 30 investigators) officers trained on effectively investigating firearms trafficking through three joint training sessions.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>➤ Level of technological capacities of border police to effectively detect, prevent, and confiscate illegal firearms, ammunition, and explosives.</p>	<p>Insufficient equipment within the border police (category A, B, and C as well as green border line stations) to effectively detect, prevent, and confiscate illegal firearms, ammunition, and explosives.</p>	<p><b>High</b> level. Specialized equipment provided to the border police, alongside and together with the training for utilizing and maintaining the equipment, which should include and maintenance such as:  3 Thermal cameras;  2 Handheld Scanners (Mini Z);  3 Pairs of day binoculars;  25 Handheld light weight metal detectors;  25 Tactical hand flashlights;  20 sets of dismantling equipment/tools.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

**Activity 1.2.1:** Organize capacity development for border police in effectively conducting border control and green border surveillance and countering illicit arms trafficking.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q2 2024

**Activity 1.2.2:** Improve the technological capacities of border police to effectively detect, prevent, and confiscate illegal firearms, ammunition, and explosives.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024, with the procurement of specialized equipment for the KP (handheld scanners and thermal cameras).

Output 1.3	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Investigation and analytical capacities of Kosovo law enforcement enhanced for effectively investigating FAE-related crime.	➤ # of investigators trained regarding the crime scene investigation of terrorist attacks when firearms are used, including explosives and other relevant devices.	Lack of capacity development for investigators at the local and central levels regarding the crime scene investigation of terrorist attacks when firearms are used, including explosives and other relevant devices.	<b>20</b> investigators trained, through one training session, on the knowledge, skills, and tools to effectively investigate terrorist attacks when arms, explosives, and other relevant devices are used through one training session.	N/A
	➤ FFP operates with upgraded iBase and Analyst Notebook. (Y/N)	An old version of iBase and Analyst Notebook exists.	<b>Yes.</b> iBase and Analyst Notebook in the FFP fully upgraded with the latest version and the training for using it provided.	N/A

➤ KFA equipped with new tools and knowledge to identify and investigate firearms-related crime. (Y/N)

No tool mark devices in place.  
No WMD 560 Latent Fingerprint Development System with Water Chiller.

**Yes.** A tool mark device has been provided to the KFA and the identification of converted weapons successfully is enabled.  
The WMD 560 Latent Fingerprint Development System with Water Chiller has been provided to the KFA and the detection, evaluation, and identification of fingerprints on firearms and spent cartridges successfully is enabled. Knowledge exchange has been conducted between KFA experts with relevant developed laboratories.

N/A

**Activity 1.3.1:** Training for investigators of the crime scene of terrorist attacks when firearms, explosives, and other relevant devices are used.

Results:

➤ Activity planned to start as of Q1 2025.

**Activity 1.3.2:** Support to the Firearms Focal Point to enhance analytical capacities.

Results:

➤ Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024.

**Activity 1.3.3:** Support to Kosovo Forensic Agency to further strengthening ballistic examination capacities.

Results:

➤ Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024, with a preparations for a study visit for 4 KFA ballistic experts to the Forensic Centre in Zagreb, Croatia.

Output 1.4	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
FAE handling, security, and storage, as well as related detection equipment maintenance, are further advanced.	➤ # of new weapons storage rooms with metal cabinets in police stations established.	4 weapons storage rooms in four police stations with metal cabinets in compliance with international standards in four police stations.	<b>6</b> new weapons storage rooms with metal cabinets established, in the police stations: Ferizaj/Uroševac, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Pejë/Peč, Vushtrri/Vučitrn, Drenas/Gllogovac, Lipjan/Ljipljan.	N/A
	➤ MoIA operates with an up-to-date explosive database that is linked with required databases with the potential to provide efficient explosives control. (Y/N)	Poor existing explosives database with restricted connections to other databases and limited data produced regarding explosives control.	<b>Yes.</b> The MoIA has in place one explosives database fully developed and linked with the required databases with the potential to provide efficient explosives control.	N/A
	➤ National inspectors on explosives within the MoIA equipped with specialized equipment and PPEs for hazardous work with explosives. (Y/N)	No equipment for effective explosives control and protection.	<b>Yes.</b> Specialized equipment provided for hazardous work with explosives, encompassing: 5 explosive atmosphere safe lighting installations, 5 hygrometers, 5 temperature meters, and 5 sets of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE).	N/A

➤ Maintenance workshop established and functionalized within the Kosovo Police. (Y/N)

No maintenance workshop exists.

**Yes.**  
Maintenance workshop fully functional and equipped with: 3 working tables with an integrated electric system, 6 metal cabinets and working drawers, 3 workshop chairs, 3 soldering stations, 3 portable soldering stations, 1 oscilloscope, 3 signal generators, 3 fluke hand held voltmeters, 3 fluke handheld amperemeters, 3 working lights, 3 power supply variable electricity devices, 3 Dremel devices, 3 screw driver sets, 3 tool kit sets, 1 PC server, 3 laptops with a Docking station, and 1 color network printer.

N/A

**Activity 1.4.1:** Creating weapons storage rooms with metal cabinets in police stations across Kosovo.

Results:

➤ Activity planned to start as of Q3 2024.

**Activity 1.4.2:** Supporting the capacities of the MoA/ Department for Public Safety/Division for Firearms, Ammunition, and Explosives and the KPs Division for Improvised Explosives Devices (IEOD).

Results:

➤ Activity planned to start as of Q1 2025.

**Activity 1.4.3:** Support to the Kosovo Police in establishing the maintenance workshop for all SALW- related detection equipment.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q2 2025.

Output 1.5	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Police exchange and cooperation on SALW matters between Albania and Kosovo enhanced.	➤ # of police officers from Kosovo and Albania jointly trained in the field of Community Policing, and in the intelligence led policing approach towards SALW Control, explosives and explosives precursors, weapons conversion, and methods and tool marks used in conversion.	No joint capacity development sessions between Kosovo and Albania on SALW control.	<b>80</b> police officers from Kosovo and Albania jointly trained.	N/A
	➤ # of Joint police operations of Albanian and Kosovo border police at the Border Crossing Points (BCPs) and Green Border Lines (GBLs) in countering IAT.	N/A	<b>4</b> joint operations in areas such as: operationalization of the knowledge obtained from the joint trainings; joint patrolling at the border green line; joint information sharing and preparing problem profiling; and joint second line checks utilizing various detection equipment.	N/A

**Activity 1.5.1:** Joint training on community policing and the intelligence led policing approach towards SALW Control.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024.

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**Activity 1.5.2:** Joint training on the identification and prevention of explosives and explosives precursors.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024.

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**Activity 1.5.3:** Joint training on weapons categorization and the legal framework regulating the field of SALW Control.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q2 2024.

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**Activity 1.5.4:** Joint training on weapons conversion, methods, and tool marks used in conversion, including ballistic examination and potential data exchange.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q2 2024.

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**Activity 1.5.5:** Joint police operations at the BCPs and GBLs for increasing bilateral cooperation in countering IAT and increasing firearms confiscations.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q3 2024.
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## 20. Advancing the Forensic Capacities of the Police Directorate of Montenegro for Processing Firearms and Explosives-related Crimes

Implementing organization: UNDP Montenegro

NEWLY LAUNCHED at the end of 2023

### Outcome 1: Improved overall Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) capacities in Montenegro for investigating FAE-related crime, encompassing SGBV criminal cases.

Output 1.1	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Improved staff security and capacities in the on-site forensic investigation of explosives-related criminal cases and implementation of a QMS (Quality Management System) and advanced methods for visualizing specific forensic evidence.	➤ Number of post-blast crime scenes attended with an explosive detector over a 12-month period.	Post-blast crime scenes are attended without an explosive detector.	<b>10</b> post-blast CSIs	N/A
	➤ Number of fingerprints and micro-traces detected/captured/collected by utilizing the purchased device over a 12-month period.	Such types of evidence are currently not possible to be detected	<b>50</b> trace evidence	N/A
	➤ Number of new SOPs on CSI.	The SOPs to be drafted are not in place.	<b>10</b> SOPs	N/A
	➤ Number of CSI officers trained at an advanced level for 3D scanning and aerial photography crime scene documenting in 2024.	No CSI officers with such training.	<b>14</b> trained forensic/CSI officers	N/A
	➤ Number of CSI officers trained at an advanced level on practical aspects of ISO/IEC 17020 in CSI, evidence custody chain, packaging, and tagging, case-management solutions, and application of the relevant SOP(s).	No CSI officers with such training.	<b>20</b> trained CSI officers	N/A



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FC representatives participated in ENFSI SOC Working Group (WG) meetings, in regional peer exchange (RPE), and in international study visits (SV) in 2024 and 2025.</li> </ul>	FC representatives/CSI officers do not currently participate in such meetings.	Successful participations: [ for ENFSI: FC rep.(s) involved in at least one SOC WG activity; for SVs: specific relevant knowledge gained (stated in the activity report); for RPE: at least one relevant joint task established and jointly processed. ]	N/A
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**Activity 1.1.1:** Development of SOPs, specialized training, and knowledge-exchange for on-site forensic investigation.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q3 2024, with the preparation of the Terms of Reference for engaging an international consultant to conduct analysis and needs assessment.

**Activity 1.1.2:** Provision of specialized equipment for on-site forensic investigation.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024, with the preparation of a tender for specialized equipment with the expert support from 1.1.1.

Output 1.2	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Advanced methodologies for CSI processing of SGBV criminal cases as related to firearms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of delivered multisector panels during 2024.</li> </ul>	N/A. No such methodology is in place.	<b>2</b> multisector panels, with positive evaluations by all stakeholders (4+).	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of CSI officers trained in documenting injuries on/to victims during medical examinations in 2024.</li> </ul>	No CSI officers with such training.	<b>8</b> trained CSI officers.	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The protocol developed on interviewing techniques for CSI officers is developed in 2024.</li> </ul>	No such protocol is in place.	<b>1</b> protocol on interviewing techniques, developed and accepted by the beneficiary.	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of CSI officers trained in protocol implementation in 2024.</li> </ul>	No CSI officers with such training.	<b>20</b> trained CSI officers.	N/A

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**Activity 1.2.1:** Multi-sector Gender Based Violence (GBV) panels.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q3 2024.

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**Activity 1.2.2:** Training on documenting injuries on/ to victims during medical examinations.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q3 2024.

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**Activity 1.2.3:** Protocol development and training on interviewing techniques for CSI officers.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q3 2024
-

## Outcome 2: Improved ballistic capacities of the Forensic Center

Output 2.1	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Improved security and advanced preparation of the Ballistic Laboratory for ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Lab's gunsmith workshop and shooting range are fully operational through additional equipment and refurbishment.</li> </ul>	No. Not all necessary equipment and security measures in place.	<b>Yes.</b> Shooting range and gunsmith workshop fully operational.	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of proficiency tests successfully completed by FC Ballistic Lab in 2025.</li> </ul>	No PT done.	<b>1</b> successfully completed proficiency test.	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of forensic experts trained as internal auditors in 2025.</li> </ul>	No ballistic experts with such training.	<b>3</b> trained forensic experts.	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FC representatives participated in ENFSI Firearms/GSR Working Group meetings, in EAFS, in regional ballistic expert peer exchange, and in international study visits on ballistic labs in 2024 and 2025.</li> </ul>	FC representatives do not participate currently in such activities.	Successful participations: [for ENFSI]: FC rep.(s) involved in at least one Firearms/GSR WG activity; for SVs: specific relevant knowledge gained (stated in the activity report); for RPE: at least one relevant joint task established and jointly processed.]	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of new SOPs on ballistic methods (OCF, ABIS, and illegal firearms systems)</li> </ul>	The SOPs to be drafted are not in place. now	<b>3</b> new SOPs	N/A
<b>Activity 2.1.1:</b> Supporting ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation preparation of the Ballistic Laboratory	<p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activity to start as of Q3 2024, with the preparation of the Terms of Reference for engaging an international consultant to conduct analysis and needs assessment (joint with 1.1.1).</li> </ul>			

**Activity 2.1.2:** Provision of specialized equipment for improving security and operability of the shooting range

Results:

- Activity to start as of Q1 2024, with a preparation for a tender for specialized equipment with the expert support from 2.1.1.

**Activity 2.1.3:** Equipping and refurbishing the gunsmith workshop and the shooting range

Results:

- Activity to start as of Q3 2024

### Outcome 3: Improved capacities of the Arson and Explosives Lab for the physical examination of explosives/explosive devices

Output 3.1	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Advanced security and operability and extended scope of accreditation within the Arson and Explosives Lab.	➤ Equipment for improving health care and security purchased and installed: Number of transported explosive samples over a 12-month period; Quantity of stored explosives over a 12-month period.	Regarding the planned equipment, only one explosives storage container in place.	20+ samples transported and 10kg+ of explosives stored.	N/A
	➤ Number of new methods developed, validated, and implemented. [one method is to be selected during assessment from the following: reviewing conventional explosive devices, reviewing improvised explosive devices, examining the correctness of the fuse regarding spark transfer, and burning velocity, etc.].	N/A	1 new method implemented.	N/A
	➤ FC representatives participated in ENFSI Fire/Explosions Working Group meetings, in regional peer exchange with AE experts, and in international study visits to institution(s)/lab(s) in charge of physical examinations of explosives/explosive devices and explosions in 2024 and 2025.	Forensic experts do not participate currently in such activities.	Successful participations: [for ENFSI: FC rep.(s) involved in at least one Fire/Exp. WG activity; for SVs: specific relevant knowledge gained (stated in the activity report); for RPE: at least one relevant joint task established and jointly processed.]	N/A

**Activity 3.1.1:** Method development, validation, and additional support provided for accreditation.

Results:  
 ➤ Activity planned to start as of Q3 2024.

**Activity 3.1.2:** Provision of equipment for safe handling and examination of explosives.

Results:  
 ➤ Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024.

#### Outcome 4: Improved capacities of the Chemical Lab for the chemical examination of explosives and GSR

Output 4.1	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
New methods and procedures for analyzing explosives developed, and the scope of ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation for expert examination of explosive samples/ traces extended.	➤ Chemical lab equipment for implementing the new method for the chemical examination of explosives.	No such equipment in place.	<b>Yes.</b> Equipment put into operation.	N/A
	➤ Number of SOPs for processing explosives and traces and for anti-contamination measures developed.	The SOPs are not in place now	<b>4</b> SOPs	N/A
	➤ Number of new methods for chemical examination of explosives (traces) developed and validated.	No such method in place	<b>1</b> new method implemented.	N/A
	➤ FC representatives have participated in an ENFSI Explosives Working Group and in ENFSI annual meetings of directors, in regional peer exchange with chemical experts in explosives, and in international study visits to forensic chemical lab(s) analyzing explosive samples in 2024 and 2025.	Forensic experts do not participate currently in such activities.	Successful participations: [ <u>for ENFSI</u> : FC rep.(s) involved in at least one Explosives WG activity; <u>for SVs</u> : specific relevant knowledge gained (stated in the activity report); <u>for RPE</u> : at least one relevant joint task established and jointly processed. ]	N/A

**Activity 4.1.1:** Development of SOPs, validation of methods, and additional support provided for accreditation.

Results:  
 ➤ Activity planned to start as of Q3 2024.

**Activity 4.1.2:** Provision of specialized equipment for improved explosives chemical analysis.

Results:  
 ➤ Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024.

Output 4.2	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Improved Gunshot residue (GSR) analysis capacities	➤ GSR lab operating with modern equipment.	No. Current equipment old and based on somewhat outdated technology.	<b>Yes.</b> GSR Equipment put into operation.	N/A
	➤ Number of SOPs revised based on the new equipment revised.	Current SOPs based on current equipment.	<b>2</b> SOPs	N/A
	➤ Number of new methods for advanced GSR analysis developed, validated, and implemented.	Method in place based on current (outdated) equipment.	<b>1</b> new method implemented.	N/A

**Activity 4.2.1:** Development of SOPs and method validation.

Results:  
 ➤ Activity planned to start as of Q3 2024

**Activity 4.2.2:** Provision of equipment for improved GSR analysis.

Results:  
 ➤ Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024

## 21. Improving Capacities of the Ministry of the Interior in the SALW-Control related Field, Phase III

Implementing organization: UNDP Serbia

NEWLY LAUNCHED at the end of 2023

### Outcome 1: Forensic capacities in Serbia for the processing of firearms/explosives-related criminal cases are enhanced

Output 1.1	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Overall CSI capacities of the Serbian MoI/NFC increased.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSI unit better equipped, and experts trained accordingly.</li> </ul>	Moderate [SOPs developed and experts trained for basic CSI procedures.]	<b>High</b> [New methods and, specialized software in place, and expert training accomplished.]	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of NFC premises refurbished and modernized for preliminary processing and storing of forensic evidence.</li> </ul>	<b>0</b> Needs assessment; [general lack of adequate premises]	<b>2</b>	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of CSI officers trained on the implementation of the ILAC G19 Guidelines for crime scene investigation.</li> </ul>	<b>0</b> [Previously, CSI officers passed through ISO standardization trainings.]	<b>27</b>	N/A
<p><b>Activity 1.1.1:</b> Implementation of advanced methods for detecting and securing critical evidence and documenting the crime scene.</p>	<p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024, with the aim of contracting a SALW Control Consultant to prepare forensic analysis in the area of SALW control which should include recommendations, the preparation of SOPs, and relevant training curricula.</li> </ul>			

**Activity 1.1.2:** Refurbishing and equipping of relevant premises for preliminary processing and storing of forensic evidence.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q2 2024.

**Activity 1.1.3:** Advanced training on the implementation of the ILAC G19 Guidelines for crime scene investigation.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q2 2024.

Output 1.2	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Overall NFC capacities for ballistic examinations increased.	➤ Central Ballistic Lab prepared for new accreditation methods by 2025.	<b>No</b> [First method was accredited in October 2023.]	<b>Yes</b> [Two more methods prepared for accreditation.]	N/A
	➤ # of regional ballistic labs better equipped and modernized as per requirements for ISO 17025 accreditation.	<b>0</b> Expert report; [3 regional labs, poorly equipped.]	<b>Up to 3</b> labs modernized; [3 regional labs, moderately equipped.]	N/A
	➤ # of bilateral operational meetings organized for ballistic experts of Serbia with peers from BiH.	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	N/A

**Activity 1.2.1:** Extending the scope of ISO accreditation for the Central Ballistic Lab by including two new methods.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024.

**Activity 1.2.2:** Preparing the regional ballistic laboratories for ISO 17025 accreditation.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024.



**Activity 1.2.3:** Developing and implementing security policy in ballistic investigation procedures.

Results:  
 ➤ Activity planned to start as of Q2 2024.

**Activity 1.2.4:** Improving cooperation and knowledge exchange with prosecution and judicial authorities.

Results:  
 ➤ Activity planned to start as of Q2 2024.

**Activity 1.2.5:** Bilateral/ regional information- sharing meetings with BiH.

Results:  
 ➤ Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024, with a preparation for a meeting on an operational exchange between Serbian and BiH ballistic experts.

Output 1.3	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Overall NFC capacities for explosion examinations increased.	➤ # of AEA units equipped to meet relevant security and accreditation requirements.	<b>0</b> [General unsatisfactory conditions.]	<b>1</b> [Satisfactory conditions.]	N/A
	➤ # of forensic technicians trained on post-blast AEA training by 2025.	<b>50</b> [50 experts trained in SALW 2.]	<b>100</b> (50 new) [100 experts trained in total, covering all 27 police directorates.]	N/A
	➤ # of bilateral operational meetings organized between AEA experts of Serbia and BiH.	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	N/A

**Activity 1.3.1:** Provision of complementary equipment for the NFC AEA Unit.

Results:  
 ➤ Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024, with the engaging of a consultant to prepare an assessment on the necessary equipment for AEA.

**Activity 1.3.2:** Bilateral /regional meetings, trainings, and information-sharing expert

Results:  
 ➤ Activity planned to start as of Q2 2024.

**Activity 1.3.3:** Post-blast training

Results:  
 ➤ Activity planned to start as of Q2 2024.

Output 1.4	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Capacities of the NFC Chemical Laboratory for examinations of traces of explosives and of gunshot residues increased.	➤ # of methods for which the GSR unit received ISO accreditation.	2	3 (1 new)	

**Activity 1.4.1:** Expand ISO 17025 accreditation and establish a new method for analyzing of GSR within the Chemical Lab.

Results:  
 ➤ Activity planned to start as of Q2 2024.

**Activity 1.4.2:** Establishing a new method for specific sorts of explosives analysis within the Chemical Lab

Results:  
 ➤ Activity planned to start as of Q2 2024.

Output 1.5	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Improved validity and visibility of achieved NFC capacities in line with recognized standards.	➤ # of NFC representatives participated in the ENFSI WG.	0	16	

**Activity 1.5.1:** Participation of NFC and key representatives in PT and CE programs and in ENFSI activities.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024, with the assessing of possibilities for the participation of NFC experts in the ENFSI working groups for the autumn 2024 sessions.

**Activity 1.5.2:** Representation of achieved results and visibility of the project.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of January 2024, with the preparation of project branding visuals.

## Outcome 2: Administrative capacities in Serbia for firearms identification and handling are increased.

Output 2.1	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
SALW-control capacities increased and the Administrative Affairs Directorate improved in the handling of firearms.	➤ # of Administrative Affairs Directorate staff trained on the identification of the firearms and better equipped for safety handling of SALW.	0	200	
<b>Activity 2.1.1:</b> Firearms identification training.	Results: ➤ Activity planned to start as of Q2 2024.			
<b>Activity 2.1.2:</b> Provision of equipment for police administration officers/stations.	Results: ➤ Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024, with a meeting at the MoI to assess equipment needs.			

## 22. Law Enforcement Agencies' Development in Small Arms and Light Weapons Control (Project LEAD)

Implementing organization: UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina

NEWLY LAUNCHED at the end of 2023

**Outcome 1: Enhanced security in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Western Balkans Region through comprehensive capacity-enhancement, cooperation, and gender mainstreaming within relevant institutions involved in the SALW control field.**

Output 1.1	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Operational capacities of law enforcement agencies enhanced to better fight illicit SALW trafficking through targeted assistance to 14 police agencies, BiH Customs, and prosecutor's offices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level of the capabilities of the public security system for border management and combatting illicit SALW trafficking, including digital capacities to ensure the adequate functionality of digital records and facilitate electronic exchange of information on SALW. (Measured along a four-point scale: 4. Fully; 3. Partially; 2. Inadequately; 1. None)</li> </ul>	2. Inadequately.	3. Partially.	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of specialized detection, investigation, and ballistic equipment pieces procured and delivered for improving the illicit SALW processing capacities of Law Enforcement Agencies.</li> </ul>	<b>403 pcs</b> of detection equipment procured for LEA's during the period 2020-2023.	<b>435 pcs</b> of detection, investigation, and ballistic equipment procured for LEAs in total (32 more).	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number (gender disaggregated) of ballistic and arson-explosion-accident experts with enhanced capacities for ballistic examinations and arson-explosion-accident incidents enhanced through cross-border cooperation and the exchange of best practices, gender disaggregated.</li> </ul>	0	<b>Up to 20</b> experts (3 women) through up to 6 meetings as a joint activity with UNDP CO Serbia.	N/A

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of officials from law enforcement agencies with increased capacities increased for more advanced detection of illegal SALW.</li> </ul>	<p><b>435</b> customs and police officials from law enforcement agencies.</p>	<p><b>615</b> customs and police officials in total (180 more).</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of knowledge products in the field of SALW stemming from Roadmap projects available and institutionalized within police academies and faculties for security and criminal sciences.</li> </ul>	<p><b>0</b> SALW related knowledge products available as a part of regular curricula in educational institutions in the country.</p>	<p><b>1</b> handbook/manual for SALW investigations as a consolidated knowledge product [based on SOPs developed within the SALW Roadmap projects] institutionalized within relevant educational institutions.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of officials from the State Prosecutor's Office and law enforcement agencies whose knowledge and capacities of SALW-related investigative techniques, report writing, and collecting of evidence have been increased.</li> </ul>	<p><b>0</b> SALW-related training sessions organized covering investigative techniques, report writing, and the collection of evidence for officials from the State Prosecutor's Office and law enforcement agencies.</p>	<p><b>Up to 40</b> officials from the State Prosecutor's Office and law enforcement agencies whose knowledge and capacities of SALW-related investigative techniques, report, writing, and collecting of evidence have been increased.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

**Activity 1.1.1:** Provision of specialized equipment for police agencies in line with the needs identified through the BiH SALW Coordination Board.

Results:

- [2023] Q4: Based on initial input from police agencies conveyed via the BiH SALW Coordination Board, the project team compiled a list of specialized equipment needs that were planned to be further discussed and confirmed in Q1 2024 with the project partners before initiating a procurement process.

**Activity 1.1.2:** Provision of support to ballistic laboratories in Federation of BiH and Republika Srpska and operational cooperation with ballistic laboratories from neighbouring countries.

Results:

- [2023] Q4: The project team established initial contact with representatives of the two forensics laboratories in BiH – one within the Federation Police Directorate and the other one within the Republika Srpska Ministry of the Interior to assess the ideas and expectations regarding the project activity. Representatives of both laboratories reconfirmed their commitment to the activity as planned.
  - A preliminary meeting with the UNDP Serbia project team was scheduled for Q1 2024 to map out the sequence of activities for each project team. The first joint cooperation meeting between ballistic laboratories from both BiH entities - FBiH and RS - with the ballistic laboratory from Serbia was planned to take place in Serbia, in Q1 2024.
  - A visit to the two ballistic laboratories in BiH was scheduled for Q1 2024 to assess the list of necessary specialized ballistic equipment.

**Activity 1.1.3:** Cross-border operational collaboration among the relevant arson-explosion-accident (AEA) experts (joint activity with UNDP CO Serbia).

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024.

**Activity 1.1.4:** Enhancing the digital capacities and resources of the Law Enforcement Agencies.

Results:

- [2023] Q4: The project team scheduled an initial meeting with the representatives of the Federation Police Directorate for Q1 2024 to discuss the necessary improvements in the SALW-related digital capacities and resources.

**Activity 1.1.5:** Strengthening cooperation between prosecutors and law enforcement agencies through joint exercises.

Results:

- [2023] Q4: The project team scheduled a preparatory meeting in Q1 2024 with instructors from the relevant police agencies and the BiH Prosecutor's Office, to be involved in the joint exercises, to fine tune the joint exercise scenario based on lessons learned from six national and two international training sessions conducted under project DIRC.

**Activity 1.1.6:** Knowledge transfer and integration of knowledge products into relevant training and education institutions.

Results:

- [2023] Q4: The project team met with the Republika Srpska Ministry of the Interior to discuss the transfer of knowledge products (SOPs) from previous projects into police educational institutions, in this case the Republika Srpska Police Academy.
- [2023] Q4: Similarly, the project team visited the Police Academy of the Federation of BiH Ministry of Internal Affairs in Sarajevo to discuss the inclusion of the SOPs developed under previous projects in the Police Academy curriculum. Members of the cabinet of the FBiH Minister of the Interior stated that the MoU between the UNDP and the FBiH Mol of the Interior should be signed prior to official initiation of this activity. It was planned that the project team would initiate the preparation of the MoU between UNDP BiH CO and FBiH Mol in Q1 2024.

**Activity 1.1.7:** Provision of support to the law enforcement agencies and prosecutor's offices in improving operational cooperation and the quality of SALW-related investigation through specialized trainings.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q1 2025.

Output 1.2	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Strengthened strategic exchange and cooperation between state level agencies, prosecutor's offices, and relevant ministries to better fight illicit SALW trafficking.	➤ Number of small arms and light weapons strategic events held jointly with law enforcement agencies, prosecutor's offices, and other relevant institutions to clarify legal and operational issues existing between the institutions and to harmonize their field operations for more efficient SALW trafficking control.	2	5 in total.	N/A
	➤ Number of strategic and regulatory frameworks, measures, and mechanisms that contribute to truth seeking, justice, guarantees of non-occurrence and the rule of law, and countering organized crime that are designed in a collaborative, evidence-based, and gender-sensitive manner (UNSDCF BiH 2023-2025).	0	2 (new or updated SOPs and/or proposed or adopted MoUs.)	N/A

**Activity 1.2.1:** Enhancing cooperation and communication among national stakeholders to advance key strategic documents and policies.

Results:

- [2023] Q4: The project team prepared a schedule of activities aimed at supporting the inter-agency working group tasked to improve the existing MoU in order to clarify legal and operational issues between the two partner agencies and to harmonize their field operations to more efficiently prevent, detect, and prosecute illicit SALW trafficking.

**Activity 1.2.2:** Strengthening the exchange and transfer of good practices in prosecuting illicit SALW trafficking.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024, with initial activities aimed at producing a set of guidelines and best practices for police in investigating and documenting SALW-related crimes.

Output 1.3	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Raised awareness and community engagement achieved through countrywide campaigns, outreach activities, and advocacy addressing the negative impact and threats posed by illicit SALW to the general public, including groups at risk (women, children, young men).	Number of impact assessments on human rights from the perspective of SALW.	0 Assessments- pertinent to SALW- related issues non-existent.	1 Assessment developed with structured findings and recommendations.	N/A
	Number of CSO's, including those representing women and girls belonging to groups at risk, that have strengthened capacity to engage in addressing issues of illicit SALW possession and impact on vulnerable groups.	2 civil society organizations (CSOs) engaged in activities pertinent to the issues of illicit SALW possession.	Up to 8 CSOs engaged to jointly tackle the issue of illegal SALW with relevant government institutions.	N/A
	No. of gender-responsive, conflict- sensitive development institutions, policies, plans, or cross-border initiatives in place, with UN support, that, promote and protect gender equality and human rights to end all forms of violence, promote the rule of law, and ensure equal access to justice for all (UNSDCF BiH 2023-2025; global indicator 16.3).	0 - Limited functional mechanisms in place pertinent to gender equality and the empowerment of women in law enforcement.	5 gender related events promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women in law enforcement as a joint activity with UNDP CO Serbia.	N/A

**Activity 1.3.1:** Supporting the coordination body in charge of the implementation of the Law on Gender Equality and SALW Control Strategy.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024, with an initial meeting with the MoS representative on the activities pertinent to the implementation of the BiH Law on Gender Equality within the MoS.



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**Activity 1.3.2:** Joining Forces for a Safer Country: Strengthening the Role of Civil Society in Awareness-Raising and Outreach Efforts.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024, with the preparation and publishing of the public call for CSOs.

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**Activity 1.3.3:** Support to associations of women police officials in Bosnia and Herzegovina through cross-border cooperation (joint activity with UNDP CO Serbia).

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024, with an initial on-line coordination meeting with UNDP CO Serbia to agree on the sequence of activities to support exchange among associations of women police officials in BiH and Serbia.
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## 23. Integrated Institutional Approach and Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation for SALW Control (Phase I)

Implementing organization: UNDP Albania

NEWLY LAUNCHED at the end of 2023

### Outcome 1: Strengthened national and regional capacities for effective border management, the fight against firearms trafficking, and improved SALW control.

Output 1.1	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
National capacities for effectiveness in the fight against firearms-related crime and trafficking strengthened through knowledge and intelligence exchange and the use of technology advancements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of workshops, training sessions, or knowledge-gaining events conducted only with Albanian beneficiaries (border police, criminal police, FPI staff, Customs, etc.)</li> </ul>	none	<b>3</b> study or knowledge-gaining visits; 2 trainings; Up to 15 participants.	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of police staff trained on countering FAE trafficking at borders or online.</li> </ul>	none	<b>130</b> police staff trained, out of which at least 25% are women.	N/A
<b>Activity 1.1.1:</b> Study visit of Albanian forensic experts to gain knowledge from accredited similar institutions.	Results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024.</li> </ul>			
<b>Activity 1.1.2:</b> Participation of Albanian FPI in ENFSI conferences.	Results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activity planned to start as of Q2 2024.</li> </ul>			
<b>Activity 1.1.3:</b> Assessment of feasibility of "EVOFINDER" ballistic data sharing between Albania and Kosovo.	Results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activity planned to start as of Q2 2024.</li> </ul>			

**Activity 1.1.4:** Design and disseminate advanced training on countering FAE smuggling tailored to frontline staff.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q1 2025.

**Activity 1.1.5:** Darkweb training for law enforcement authorities to combat online firearms trafficking and transnational crime.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024.

Output 1.2	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
National operational capacities for border crossing FAE-related crimes are strengthened through investment in equipment, and its effective management and use.	➤ Number of equipment items procured for border crossing points/green borders.	none	<b>7</b>	N/A
	➤ Number of police staff trained in the use of the relevant equipment.	none	<b>At least 35</b> (at least two staff per piece of equipment.)	N/A
	➤ Number of police units benefitting from advanced technology in detecting and preventing FAE-related crimes.	none	<b>At least 6;</b> 4 BCPs and FPI Tirana and Kukës.	N/A

**Activity 1.2.1:** Provision of equipment for green border BMP patrolling.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of June 2024.

**Activity 1.2.2:** Provision of SALW-related investigation equipment for the Albanian FPI.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of February 2024.

**Activity 1.2.3:** Design an approach for basic standard equipment used for the detection of FAE and equipment maintenance planning and budgeting.

Results:  
 ➤ Activity planned to start as of March 2024.

Output 1.3	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Police exchange and cooperation on SALW matters between Albania and Kosovo enhanced.	➤ Number of joint training courses with balanced participation of Albanian and Kosovo police	none	<b>4</b>	N/A
	➤ Number of police staff that pass joint training, including at least (10%) women	none	<b>40 from Albania</b> / 10 women	N/A
	➤ Number of structured joint operations at the BCPs and GBLs in countering Illicit arms trafficking	none	<b>2</b>	N/A
	➤ Number of knowledge products developed	none	<b>At least 4</b>	N/A

**Activity 1.3.1:** Joint training on community policing and intelligence led policing approach towards SALW Control.

Results:  
 ➤ Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024.

**Activity 1.3.2:** Joint training on the identification and prevention of explosives and explosives precursors.

Results:  
 ➤ Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024.

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**Activity 1.3.3:** Joint training on weapons categorization and the legal framework regulating the field of SALW Control.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q2 2024.

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**Activity 1.3.4:** Joint training on weapons conversion, and methods and tool marks used in conversion, including ballistic examination and potential data exchange.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q2 2024.

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**Activity 1.3.5:** Joint police operations at the BCPs and GBLs in increasing bilateral cooperation in countering IAT and increasing firearms confiscations.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q3 2024.

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**Activity 1.3.6:** Joint launch of, concluding, and bilateral Project Board meetings.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024.
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## 24. Strengthening the Capacities of the Forensics and Crime Scene Investigation System to Improve the Criminal Justice Response to SALW

Implementing organization: UNDP North Macedonia

NEWLY LAUNCHED at the end of 2023

**Outcome 1: Enhanced police operations and improved criminal justice response in the field of the possession, misuse, and trafficking of small arms and light weapons through improved technology and strengthened analytical and investigation capacities of the forensics and crime investigation system of the Republic of North Macedonia.**

Output 1.1	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Ballistic facilities and operations of Mol's Forensics Department are upgraded.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technical specifications on the necessary interventions and upgrades to the ballistic facilities of the Mol's Forensic Department prepared.</li> </ul>	<p><b>No</b></p> <p>Needs-based assessment is in place, but no detailed technical specifications for the upgrades.</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>Completed technical specifications that will serve as the basis for the necessary upgrades.</p>	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indoor shooting range upgraded in line with international safety and security requirements for the forensic examination of ballistic evidence.</li> </ul>	<p><b>No</b></p> <p>The present shooting range does not fulfill international safety and security requirements for the forensic examination of ballistic evidence (0).</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>Upgraded shooting range fully meets international safety and security requirements for the forensic examination of ballistic evidence.</p>	N/A
<p><b>Activity 1.1.1.:</b> Preparation of technical specifications for relevant interventions and upgrades in the indoor shooting range.</p>	<p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024, with the drafting of technical specifications required for procuring essential equipment and intervention works to upgrade the indoor shooting range.</li> </ul>			

**Activity 1.1.2:** Interventions and upgrades in the indoor shooting range.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024, with preparations for the first procurements related to the shooting range.

Output 1.2	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Analytical, technical, and investigative capacities of the Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) units are enhanced.	➤ Availability of needs-based analysis for the necessary technical improvements to the CSI system.	<b>No</b> General needs assessment report on the gaps in the CSI system has been developed, but no detailed needs-based analysis for the necessary technical improvements (0).	<b>Yes</b> Completion of a needs-based analysis for the necessary technical specifications that will serve as a basis for improvements to the CSI system.	N/A
	➤ Training and simulation facility for the MoI's CSI system in place. (Y/N)	<b>No</b> No CSI training and simulation facility exists in the country (0).	<b>Yes</b> CSI training and simulation facility equipped and in use.	N/A
	➤ Level of technical capacities of the CSI system upgraded based on baseline assessment/specification (rating scale: Low, Moderate, High).	<b>Low</b> Expert assessment/specification; [Lack of adequate IT equipment software solutions, insufficient specialized CSI kits.]	<b>High</b> [The CSI system operates with modern IT equipment and software solutions. The CSI system has at its disposal individual CSI kits for its staff members.]	N/A

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of operational peer exchanges on modern CSI tools, equipment, and practices with CSI staff from the Ministry of the Interior.</li> </ul>	<p><b>0</b></p> <p>No specific exchange of experiences on modern CSI tools, equipment, and practices previously implemented.</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Successfully completed exchange of experiences and knowledge, which helps acquaint the CSI units in North Macedonia with the benefits and uses of modern CSI tools, equipment, and practices.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
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**Activity 1.2.1:** Preparation of a detailed needs-based analysis for necessary improvements to the CSI system.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024, with the aim to hiring of an international expert who will provide essential training and instruction sessions for CSI simulation forensic examinations.

**Activity 1.2.2:** Training and simulation facility for continuous learning on CSI.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024, with a coordination meeting with the relevant Ministry of the Interior representatives to deliberate on the placement of the CSI training and simulation facility.

**Activity 1.2.3:** Provision of equipment for enhanced connectivity and access to databases of CSI technicians.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q2 2024.

**Activity 1.2.4:** Advancing CSI evidence collection methods through the provision of specialized kits and strengthening gender awareness.

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024, with an assessment of necessary the materials necessary for enabling more advanced laboratory testing of firearms-related evidence.

**Activity 1.2.5:** Exchanging experience on CSI with other UNDP offices [Modified to: Peer-exchange and learning from good practice on CSI].

Results:

- Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024, with an assessment of the good models for peer-exchange and learning from good practice regarding the utilization and advantages of CSI equipment and training and simulation facilities.



Output 1.3	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
<p>The Police Information Management System (IMS) and data management, inclusive of firearms-related cases, are advanced through the implementation of a gender-sensitive approach.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Module on domestic violence developed and integrated into IMS.</li> </ul>	<p><b>No</b> Baseline assessment for the DV module developed.</p>	<p><b>Yes</b> DV module developed and integrated into the existing Police IMS.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Activity 1.3.1:</b> Development of a module on domestic violence and the related technical and expert support for the use of the Police IMS use.</p>	<p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activity planned to start as of Q1 2024, with the drafting of technical specifications to initiate a procurement process for the development of a module on domestic violence.</li> </ul>			

## Annex 4. Updated Risk Matrix

RISK TYPE	RISK DESCRIPTION	RISK MANAGEMENT RESPONSE	RISK LEVEL (LOW, MODERATE, HIGH)
<b>Financial</b>	Insufficient capitalization of the Trust Fund	<p>The Trust Fund capitalized more than \$27.5 million thus far, including the new contribution of \$3.3 million in 2023, thus demonstrating the continuous contributors' continuous commitment and support.</p> <p>Three open calls and a direct solicitation of proposals were issued, resulting in 24 projects with a cumulative value of US\$ 25.3 million, benefitting all jurisdictions of the region. This demonstrates a continuous need for and commitments to SALW Control Roadmap implementation.</p> <p>The Steering Committee, with the support of the Secretariat and the MPTF Office, plans and regularly monitors the Fund's resources and capitalization.</p>	LOW
<b>Political/ strategic</b>	Lack of internal political and institutional stability in the jurisdictions targeted by the Trust Fund	<p>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.</p> <p>The political climate in the jurisdictions varies and becomes fragile on occasions, particularly around the elections. The situation is regularly monitored. PUNOs maintain regular contacts with the relevant authorities to ensure engagement.</p> <p>The Secretariat maintains regular contacts with all the jurisdictions in the region and supports their strengthened engagement through established platforms.</p>	MODERATE
<b>Operational</b>	Complexity in ensuring coordination of the projects funded through the Trust Fund	<p>The Trust Fund Secretariat, i.e., SEESAC, is responsible for the programmatic coordination and monitoring of the Fund, providing technical and management support. The Secretariat has over 20 years of experience in successfully implementing regional projects in the area of arms control, as well as strong relationships with national counterparts and with the Participating UN Organizations.</p> <p>SEESAC organizes regular regional coordination meetings and supports local coordination meetings to ensure the effective overall coordination of activities in support of the Roadmap's implementation, including of the MPTF-funded projects.</p>	LOW

RISK TYPE	RISK DESCRIPTION	RISK MANAGEMENT RESPONSE	RISK LEVEL (LOW, MODERATE, HIGH)
	Insufficient operational capacity within national counterparts, often due to a lack of human and financial resources to respond to specific, time-constrained activities	<p>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.</p> <p>The Trust Fund also allows greater flexibility with regards to the projects' duration. Non-cost extensions are foreseen and applied in line with the Operations Manual, and these act as a risk-mitigation measure.</p>	MODERATE
	Covid-19 pandemic and related government restrictions	<p>To counter the negative effects of the pandemic on the implementation of the Trust Fund projects, the Participating UN Organizations monitored the evolution of the pandemic and related government restrictions and adjusted their projects to new developments. The measures implemented included: conducting online meetings and trainings whenever possible and respecting the health measures when organizing in-person events.</p> <p>On 5 May 2023, the head of the UN World Health Organization declared an end to COVID-19 as a global public health emergency. The COVID-19 thus has not represented any risk for the projects' implementation since then.</p> <p><b>NB: The risk will be removed from the risk matrix and further updates as of 2024, unless the situation calls for revisiting the matter.</b></p>	LOW
	NEW: Inflation and increased costs	<p>Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine, projects have incurred increased costs due to inflation; and experienced challenges with procuring of goods (increased prices, disrupted supply chains causing limited availability of goods, or extended timelines for delivery). Non-cost extensions have mitigated the risks to some extent, as have savings on other budget lines.</p> <p>The Participating UN Organizations and the Secretariat will closely monitor the situation and adapt activities and courses of action in line with the Trust Fund's Operations Manual, while maintaining a focus on results.</p>	MODERATE