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PROGRESS REPORT

United Nations Development Programme

Istanbul Regional Hub for Europe and the CIS

Project Title: Support to the Implementation of the Roadmap for a Sustainable Solution to the Illegal Possession, Misuse and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their Ammunition in the Western Balkans

Reporting Date: 29 February 2020



Reporting Period	14 May - 31 December 2019 ¹
Donor	Government of Germany
Geographic scope	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, Republic of Serbia
Project Title	Support to the Implementation of the Roadmap for a Sustainable Solution to the Illegal Possession, Misuse and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their Ammunition in the Western Balkans
Project ID (Atlas Award ID) Outputs (Atlas Project ID and Description) Strategic Plan and/or CPD Outcomes	00117813 Small Arms Control Roadmap Implementation 00114727 Small arms control roadmap implementation Outcome 3 (RPD): Building resilience to shocks and crises through enhanced prevention and risk-informed development
Implementing Partner(s)	UNDP Offices in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, Republic of Serbia
Project Start Date	14 May 2019
Project End Date	31 December 2021
Work Plan Budget	USD 6,257,110
Total resources required	EUR 5,500,000
Revenue received	Government of Germany represented by the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany: EUR 5,500,000 (USD 6,257,110)
Unfunded budget	-
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¹ Activities implemented with the support of the Government of Germany contribution started on 14 May 2019, the date of signature of the UNDP Project Document.

* References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

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I. Background

The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in 2015, affirmed that sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security and that illicit arms flows are amongst the factors which give rise to violence, insecurity and injustice. SDG target 16.4. explicitly calls for the reduction of illicit arms flows and 16.1. to the reduction of all forms of violence and related deaths everywhere. The UN Member States undertook to strengthen, as appropriate, partnerships and cooperation at all levels in preventing and combating the illicit trade in SALW, in particular with border control; stockpile management and security; destruction and disposal; marking, record-keeping and tracing; and illicit brokering. They also undertook to strengthen regional and sub-regional coordination at the third UN conference to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in June 2018. At the same time, the Secretary General launched the new disarmament agenda entitled, *Securing Our Common Future*, recognising that protracted conflicts continue to cause unspeakable human suffering, warning from proliferation of armed groups who are equipped with a vast array of weapons and reminding us that global military expenditure is at its highest since the fall of the Berlin wall.

Due to extensive periods of instability, as a result of armed conflict, as well as security/defence strategies that used to rely on stockpiling of weapons and ammunition, the Western Balkans continues to be a concern from the perspective of SALW control and non-proliferation. The EU Strategy to combat illicit accumulation and trafficking of SALW and their ammunition ('the EU SALW Strategy') recognises that while significant progress has been made in recent years, the scale of accumulation of SALW and ammunition, inadequate storage conditions, large illicit possession, and policymaking and implementation-capacity gaps continue to limit the effectiveness of SALW control efforts in parts of the Western Balkans. To ensure continuous progress, secure the gains made and pave the way for a long-term sustainable development that includes full harmonisation with the EU legislative and regulatory framework and compliance with international standards, continued support is needed to combat the threat posed by the spread and illicit trafficking of SALW in and from the Western Balkans.

Illicit possession and misuse of firearms is directly associated with interpersonal and gender-based violence and poses a serious risk on the safety of citizens of South East Europe. Over 90% of all firearm-related criminal offences are committed with illegal firearms and every second homicide in the Western Balkans is committed with firearms. The misuse of firearms is highly gendered. Men account for more than 95% of perpetrators and over 80% of victims of firearm-related incidents. Women, on the other hand, own only a minor share of firearms, make up only a minor share of perpetrators, but are disproportionately represented among victims.² On the other hand, illicit arms trafficking poses a threat to the safety of citizens of the wider region.

To address these challenges, the *Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW and their ammunition in the Western Balkans* was developed envisaging measures to further address: 1) the level of harmonisation of legal frameworks on arms control in the Western Balkans with the EU legislation, the Arms Trade Treaty and the Firearms Protocol; 2) use of data in policy making and intelligence led policing; 3) number of adjudications of misuse and trafficking of firearms, ammunition and explosives compared to the number of criminal charges; 4) illicit trafficking across borders; 5) diversion of arms exports; 6) operational cooperation at regional and international level; 6) effect of misuse of firearms on community security; 7) illegal possession; 8) management of confiscated or surplus firearms; and 9) capacities for safe and secure storage of seized, surplus and confiscated firearms, ammunition and explosives.

The project thus contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies, and secondly to SDG 5, Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Specifically, it is linked to SDG target 16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime. It aims at supporting countering the illicit trafficking and misuse of firearms through improved SALW control

² According to data collected by UNDP SEESAC from the authorities in the region for the Regional SALW survey.

legal frameworks and evidence-based policies, increased national capacities for detection, seizure and confiscation of misused firearms, increased public awareness about the dangers of firearms misuse, and strengthened capacities for inspection and implementation of life cycle management of SALW and ammunition. Additionally, the project contributes to the following targets: 16.1. Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere. The project supports measures with the intention to contribute to a safer Western Balkans with fewer intentional homicides committed by firearms and increased public feeling of safety in relation to armed violence across the region; and 5.2. Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation. The project acknowledges that the misuse of firearms can have differentiated effects on women, men, girls and boys, and encourages gender responsive polices that address the specific needs of women and girls in terms of safety and security.

II. List of acronyms

AF	Armed Forces
AISP	Albanian Institute of Scientific Police
BCP	Border Crossing Point
BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
BP	Border Police
CIAT	Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking
CIRAM	Common Integrated Risk Analysis Model
CSI	Crime Scene Investigation
EU	European Union
FFP	Firearms Focal Point
GCC	Group for Cooperation and Coordination
IAT	Illicit Arms Trafficking
IMS	Information Management System
ITA	Indirect Taxation Authority of BiH
LIMS	Laboratory Inventory Management System
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MOFTER	Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BiH
MoD	Ministry of Defence
MoI	Ministry of Interior
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoS	Ministry of Security of BiH
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MLRS	Multiple Launch Rocket System
NABIS	UK's National Ballistics Investigation Service
OCF	Open Case File
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEESAC	South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons
SIPA	State Investigation and Protection Agency of BiH
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
UK	United Kingdom
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WG	Working Group
WRSM	Weapons Registration and Stockpile Management Software

III. Executive summary

The following represents an overview of the implementation of the activities under this Project, for the period 14 May – 31 December 2019.

Output 1 (*Mechanism for efficient coordination of the Roadmap projects developed and put in place*). A coordinated approach to the implementation of projects by UNDP offices supporting the achievement of the Roadmap goals is ensured through a well-established mechanism for fund allocation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation. In 2019, the mechanism for the efficient coordination of the Roadmap projects was put in place through the competitive selection of the sub-projects funded within the regional project's framework and by establishing a solid mechanism for monitoring and reporting. As such, a call for project proposals addressed to UNDP Offices in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia was launched as part of this regional project. The call was accompanied by the *Guidance note on the submission, selection and implementation of the initiatives to be funded through the Regional Project* previously developed by UNDP SEESAC. Following a thorough technical evaluation conducted by the UNDP SEESAC team, 8 project proposals meeting the evaluation criteria were approved for funding by the project board. Throughout the reporting period, UNDP SEESAC maintained a close relation with the UNDP Offices in order to monitor the projects' implementation and provide any required assistance.

Output 2 (*Roadmap projects delivered by UNDP Offices*) delivers small arms and light weapons (SALW) control projects implemented by selected UNDP offices in support of the implementation of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap. By the end of 2019, all 8 projects were initiated, while 1 project, **Urgent Action on Ammunition Destruction - Project EXPLODE+**, implemented by UNDP BiH, successfully achieved its planned results. Through this project, 1,439 pieces of ammunition were destroyed, contributing to BiH's efforts to remove the threat of unsafe ammunition posed to its citizens.

Also, in **BiH**, the project Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking (CIAT) was initiated with an assessment of the green border enabling an increased understanding of the existing gaps and needs of the Border Police (BP) of BiH to conduct an effective and efficient surveillance of the green border. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) covering three main areas related to the fight against illicit arms trafficking - data collection, tracing of weapons and running an investigation - were developed by 14 BiH police agencies, based on the SOPs of the BP that were developed during a previous CIAT project.

In **Kosovo**, the capacities of the border police and customs officers to detect weapons and their essential components, ammunition and explosives were increased through specialized training, as well as the surveillance capacities of border police officers from the green line border.

In **Serbia**, the project related to reducing the misuse of SALW in the domestic violence context focused on preparatory activities that helped increase understanding of the key gaps in the procedures and practices related to firearms licenses approval/denial/revocation and surrender and in the risk-assessment and risk-management practices of the relevant institutions in Serbia in the cases of SALW misuse. The findings of these analyses will be used in the future project activities.

In addition, in **Serbia**, the project aiming at increasing the capacities of the Ministry of Interior (MoI) in the field of custody chain, ballistic and crime scene investigations (CSI) was initiated with a desk research that facilitated a better understanding of the existing institutional capacities in the three areas. The analysis will guide the project's course of action in 2020.

In **Montenegro**, the project kicked off with an assessment of the Rogame ammunition storage, which identified the works that are required at the storage. The design of works was initiated, while the infrastructure works will be conducted in 2020.

In **North Macedonia**, the project aimed at supporting the Mol to improve its weapons registration platform and the Information Management System used for collecting, analysing and sharing SALW-related data, was initiated with activities focused on identifying experienced project staff. Following the its recruitment, the project team conducted several meetings with the relevant stakeholders to initiate the project activities in 2020.

In **Albania**, the project, whose objective is to enhance the capacities of the Albanian State Police to operate with higher standards and more effective procedures in the area of criminal investigation faced several delays in implementation. These were caused by challenges in identifying experienced project staff, the November 2019 earthquake that damaged the premises of the project beneficiary, and changes of management in the beneficiary institution. The project is planned to accelerate its activities in 2020, following a revision of the annual work plan considering the new project implementation timeframe and the immediate needs of the beneficiary institution.

IV. Progress review

Output 1: Mechanism for efficient coordination of the Roadmap projects developed and put in place	
Total budget³: US\$336,853.16	Spent 14 May-31 December 2019: US\$6,021

Under output 1, the project ensures a coordinated approach to the implementation of the projects implemented by the UNDP offices supporting the achievement of the Roadmap goals, through a well-established mechanism for fund allocation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation.

Key results achieved, and activities implemented during the reporting period:

- The mechanism for the efficient coordination of the Roadmap sub-projects was established;
- A call for project proposals was launched on 29 May 2019, addressed to UNDP Offices in the Western Balkans. The call included a guidance note on the submission, selection and implementation of the Roadmap projects;
- Following a thorough technical evaluation, 8 project proposals meeting the overarching criteria were approved for funding;
- UNDP SEESAC maintained a close relation with the UNDP Offices in order to monitor the projects' implementation and provide any required assistance.

³ Throughout the report, the *Total budget* refers to the budget for the entire duration of the project.

ACTIVITY 1.1	Coordination of implementation of Roadmap projects
Total budget: US\$ 336,853.16	Spent 14 May-30 September 2019: US\$6,021

1. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period

- In the first months of project implementation, the project focused on the selection process of projects supporting the implementation of the Roadmap to be funded from the Regional Project. First, UNDP SEESAC developed a *Guidance note on the submission, selection and implementation of the initiatives to be funded through the Regional Project*, which described the procedures for submitting and evaluating the project proposals, the eligibility and technical evaluation criteria, as well as the key aspects that would guide the implementation and monitoring of the selected proposals. The *Guidance Note* was approved by the Project Board during a virtual project board meeting on 21 May 2019;
- Subsequently, on 29 May 2019, UNDP SEESAC launched a call for proposals addressed to UNDP Offices in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia and Republic of Serbia, in support of the Roadmap implementation. The invitation to submit proposals within the call was accompanied by the *Guidance note*;
- The submitted proposals were requested to meet the following eligibility and technical evaluation criteria:

Eligibility criteria

- The project contributes to the achievement of one or more of the Roadmap goals;
- The challenge identified is clearly articulated and fully in line with the SALW control priorities defined in the SALW Strategy/Roadmap Action Plan of the beneficiary and has been developed in close cooperation with the beneficiary;

Technical evaluation criteria

- The project demonstrates clear contribution and linkage to other relevant initiatives in the field of SALW control;
 - The project expected outputs are clearly defined, SMART and in line with the SALW control priorities of the targeted jurisdiction;
 - The project targets the most vulnerable/ poor/ disadvantaged people and communities (*Leaving No One Behind*);
 - The project activities are well planned within the regional project timeframe and contribute to the achievement of the expected results;
 - The project demonstrates sustainability of results;
 - The project demonstrates strong national ownership;
 - The project resources are allocated in an efficient and effective manner;
 - The project adheres to social and environmental standards;
 - The project integrates gender perspectives into its activities and expected results;
 - Project proposals provide catalytic support by leveraging partnerships, attracting other donors/resources, and have a strong potential for scaling up pilot initiatives;
 - The visibility plan is clear and appropriate for the proposed project, in terms of the communication and visibility materials to be produced, targeted audiences, messaging, activities, and donor visibility;
 - Knowledge management is appropriately ensured through relevant knowledge products and/or other actions;
- 9 project proposal were received by the deadline, which was set for 10 June 2019;
 - The technical evaluation of the received project proposals was conducted by the UNDP SEESAC team in two stages. In the first stage, project proposals were evaluated against the two eligibility criteria, while during the second stage, the projects that met the eligibility criteria were assessed against twelve technical evaluation criteria. All the submitted project proposals met the eligibility criteria. Following the technical evaluation, 8 proposals, receiving the highest scores, were recommended for funding to the project board. Given the available funding and the jurisdictions' priorities for SALW control, only selected project activities were recommended for immediate funding through this regional project, with the view that resources are mobilized from other sources for the remaining ones. Thus, UNDP COs were requested to adjust the proposals and budget in order to reflect the reduced projects' activities, as recommended by the evaluation team;
 - Following the meeting of the project board organized in Istanbul, on 25 June 2019, 8 recommended projects were approved for funding. The meeting was attended by the members of the project board represented by the Manager of the UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub (IRH), one representative of the German Federal Foreign Office, the UNDP IRH Integrated Country Office Support Team Leader, the

UNDP IRH Governance & Peacebuilding Team Leader, and the Regional Partnerships Advisor. Four UNDP SEESAC team members attended the meeting, with no voting rights;

- Following the approval of the project proposals, the UNDP SEESAC project team focused on adjusting the financial structure of the regional project in line with the budgets of the project proposals that had been selected for funding by the project board;
- Subsequently, on 25 July 2019, UNDP SEESAC informed the UNDP Offices about the decision of the project board. The selected projects could immediately start their implementation;
- Also, as of 25 July 2019, the UNDP SEESAC project team maintains a close relation with the UNDP Offices in order to monitor the initiation of the projects' implementation and provide any required assistance.

2. Difficulties encountered, and measures taken to overcome the problems

- N/A

3. Changes introduced in implementation

- N/A

4. Achievements

- 8 projects meeting the evaluation criteria were selected for funding, following a thorough evaluation process.

5. Work plan for Q1 2020

Planned activities	Budget (US\$)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and report on the progress in the implementation of the UNDP SALW control projects; • Organize a coordination meeting of the UNDP Offices implementing the SALW control projects. 	21,000

Communication and visibility

The UNDP projects selected for funded were publicized on [SEESAC's online information exchange platform](#), which also highlighted Germany's financial contribution to the regional project. Please see below a screen shot of the news item:

Friday, 20 September 2019

New SALW control projects are initiated in support of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap

UNDP Offices in the Western Balkans will implement new projects on topics ranging from countering illicit arms trafficking to mainstreaming gender in SALW control, in the framework of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap.

Eight new projects will be implemented by UNDP Offices in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo* in the area of small arms and light weapons (SALW) control, in the period 2019-2021, for a total budget of USD 5,714,887. The projects are funded by the Government of Germany through a EUR 5.5 million contribution to the [UNDP Funding Window Governance for Inclusive and Peaceful Societies](#) for arms control activities, for the period 2019-2021.

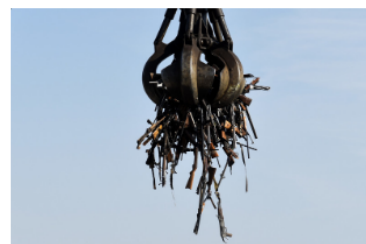
The projects, covering a wide array of topics from countering illicit arms trafficking to enhancing ballistic capacities, security upgrade of SALW storages, and mainstreaming gender in SALW control, were selected within a call for project proposals addressed to UNDP Offices in the Western Balkans.

The projects are implemented in the context of the regional project [Support to the implementation of the Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons \(SALW\) and their ammunition in the Western Balkans](#), implemented by UNDP SEESAC.

[Overview of the selected projects:](#)

Support Albania's Law Enforcement Authorities to Strengthen Firearms

Criminality Evidence Management and Investigation Capacities, will be implemented by UNDP Albania. The project will enhance the capacities of the Albanian State Police to operate with higher standards and more effective procedures in the area of criminal investigation, by developing standard operating procedures for crime scene investigations (CSI), improving the collection,



Output 2: Roadmap projects delivered by UNDP Offices	
Total budget: US\$5,920,257.19	Spent 25 July-31 December 2019: US\$245,715

Eight projects selected within the call for proposals are implemented by the UNDP Offices in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, Republic of Serbia. The projects cover a wide array of topics, from countering illicit arms trafficking to enhancing ballistic capacities, providing security upgrade of SALW storages, and mainstreaming gender in SALW control, and are implemented in support of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap. The projects are implemented in close partnership with the authorities to ensure national ownership and coordination of activities, making sure that the highest quality results are achieved in an efficient, time-bound and sustainable manner.

The following projects are implemented under Output 2:

1. **Reduce risk - Increase safety – Towards ending SALW misuse in domestic violence context**, implemented by UNDP Serbia. The objective of the project is to reduce the misuse of firearms in the context of violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence by improving practices and procedures related to criminal justice response to SALW misuse, setting up the basis for evidence-based policy making, increasing the awareness among general population on the dangers of illicit SALW possession and misuse, and developing knowledge packages for risk reduction of firearms misuse in the context of gender-based violence;
2. **Advancing the Capacities of the Ministry of Interior in the Field of Custody Chain, Crime Scene Investigations and the Ballistic Laboratory in the Field of Operations and Investigations in Trafficking of Firearms and Firearms Criminality**, implemented by UNDP Serbia. The objective of the project is to strengthen the regulatory framework for custody chain and CSI, increase the capacity of CSI units through specialized training, equipment and accreditation, and improve the management and storage of ballistic evidence, and ballistic testing;
3. **Support Albania's Law Enforcement Authorities to Strengthen Firearms Criminality Evidence Management and Investigation Capacities**, implemented by UNDP Albania. The objective of the project is to enhance the capacities of the Albanian State Police to operate with higher standards and more effective procedures in the area of criminal investigation, by developing standard operating procedures for CSI, improving the collection, management and storage of ballistic evidence, and providing necessary equipment for CSI and ballistic analysis.
4. **Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking (CIAT)**, implemented by UNDP BiH. The objective of the project is to enhance the capacity of the BP in BiH and of 14 entity and cantonal Police Agencies to combat illicit arms trafficking across BiH and beyond, by developing a database on the legal transport of weapons, improving the SALW Identification Tool, providing specialized border control equipment, and strengthening inter-institutional cooperation;
5. **Urgent Action on Ammunition Destruction - Project EXPLODE+**, implemented by UNDP BiH. The objective of the project is to assist the BiH authorities in the reduction of ammunition stockpiles to a manageable level, by supporting the disposal of 1,421 pieces of ammunition;
6. **Support to counter Illicit arms trafficking**, implemented by UNDP Kosovo. The objective of the project is to strengthen the capacities of border entities to detect firearms, ammunition and explosives and conduct detailed risk profiling through specialized training, improved weapons registration, provision of detection equipment, and development of knowledge products;
7. **Improving national SALW-related practices and building violence-resilient communities**, implemented by UNDP North Macedonia. The objective of the project is to support the Ministry of Internal Affairs of North Macedonia to improve its Weapons Registration and Stockpile Management Software and the Information Management System used for collecting, analysing and sharing SALW-related data, leading to a more effective and efficient control and response to firearms-related threats;
8. **Rogame SALW Storage Upgrade**, implemented by UNDP Montenegro. The objective of the project is to further improve the security of SALW and ammunition stockpiles in Montenegro by supporting the upgrade of two SALW storage magazines and guardhouse of the Ministry of Interior/Police Directorate SALW storage location Rogame, in line with international best practices and standards.

Key results achieved, and activities implemented during the reporting period:

- **All projects were initiated** by end of 2019;
- Projects started with the implementation of various preparatory activities, primarily concerning the recruitment of staff and technical experts;
- One project achieved its planned results and was successfully finalized:
 - **Urgent Action on Ammunition Destruction - Project EXPLODE+**, project implemented by UNDP BiH. 1,436 pieces of Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) ammunition were disposed of in a safe and environmentally conscious manner;
- Other implemented activities included:
 - **Reduce risk - Increase safety – Towards ending SALW misuse in domestic violence context**, project implemented by UNDP Serbia. Preparatory activities conducted during the reporting period included an initial inventory of the procedures and practices related to firearms license denial, removal and revocation in the context of domestic violence, and of the existing practices of the relevant institutions in Serbia related to risk-assessment and risk-management in cases of SALW misuse;
 - **Advancing the Capacities of the Ministry of Interior in the Field of Custody Chain, Crime Scene Investigations and the Ballistic Laboratory in the Field of Operations and Investigations in Trafficking of Firearms and Firearms Criminality**, project implemented by UNDP Serbia. A desk research in the area of CSI, chain of custody and laboratory inventory were prepared, based on which the following activities will be implemented. Other preparatory activities related to contracting of experts were also initiated in 2019;
 - **Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking (CIAT)**, project implemented by UNDP BiH. In 2019, the green border assessment was developed in close collaboration with the BP and the Ministry of Security of BiH (MoS). Draft SOPs in the areas of data collection, tracing of weapons and running an investigation were prepared during two workshops organized with representatives of 14 BiH police agencies;
 - **Support to counter Illicit arms trafficking**, project implemented by UNDP Kosovo. Two one-week trainings were organized in 2019, increasing the capacity of the border police and customs officers to detect weapons and their essential components, ammunition and explosives, as well as the surveillance capacities of the border police officials from the green line border;
 - **Improving national SALW-related practices and building violence-resilient communities**, project implemented by North Macedonia. The development of the Weapons Registration and Stockpile Management Software was initiated, and several meetings were conducted with relevant stakeholders in the project.
 - **Rogame SALW Storage Upgrade**, project implemented by UNDP Montenegro. An assessment of the works needed at the Rogame storage location was conducted together with the Mol. The design for works was initiated in 2019.

Sub-project 1. Reduce risk - Increase safety – Towards ending SALW misuse in domestic violence context		
Implemented by:	UNDP Serbia	
Contributes to Roadmap Goal:	Goal 4: By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy.	
Implementation period:	September 2019 – March 2021	
Total budget: US\$294,462		Spent 25 July – 31 December 2019: US\$19,709

The objective of the project is to reduce the misuse of firearms in the context of violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence by improving practices and procedures related to criminal justice response to SALW misuse, setting up the basis for evidence-based policy making, increasing the awareness among general population on the dangers of illicit SALW possession and misuse, and developing knowledge packages for risk reduction of firearms misuse in the context of gender-based violence.

The project addresses the main policy concerns identified in the [SEESAC's research on the impact of SALW on men and women](#) and necessity to improve institutional practices in responding to SALW misuse in the context of domestic and intimate partner violence against women.

The project works towards ensuring a resource and information base that will enable monitoring of practices looking at correlation between gender-based violence and the misuse of SALW, and eventually, evidence-based policy making. Better data collection will enable managing the risks of SALW misuse in domestic violence context. It will contribute to effectiveness of the interventions, which is a precondition for prevention of repetition of the SALW misuse in the context of domestic violence. The specific component of the project is aimed at developing and implementing prevention programmes that will contribute to deconstructing gender stereotypes and will lead towards greater awareness among men and women on the danger of misuse of firearms in the context of gender-based violence. The project also improves the existing protection practices, including criminal-justice response to work towards ensuring victims' safety. This component of the project is focused on better risk management in addressing SALW misuse in the context of domestic violence performed by capacitated professionals through coordinated and integrated service.

The project also contributes to the implementation of the [National Strategy on SALW Control](#), which was adopted by the Government in June 2019. The Strategy emphasized the gender dimension of the SALW misuse and prescribes measures for preventing SALW misuse in the context of domestic violence (Measure 5.4 of the Action Plan – Implementation of the gender perspective through Action Plan).

Overview of progress towards results

<u>PROJECT OUTPUT</u>	<u>PROJECT OUTPUT INDICATOR</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>STATUS OF PROJECT RESULTS</u>	<u>ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST INDICATORS</u>
Output 1.1. Improved practices and procedures related to criminal justice response to SALW misuse	<p>No. of practices and procedures reviewed</p> <p>Policy and procedures recommendations submitted to Mol (Yes/No)</p> <p>Evidence based tool for judiciary on risks of firearms misuse in place (Yes/No)</p>	<p>At least 2</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	Activities initiated	Procedures and practices related to SALW license approval/denial/revocation and surrender overviewed and key gaps related to domestic violence identified;
Output 1.2. Setting up the basis for evidence-based policy making	<p>Methodology for gender-sensitive data collection in place (Yes/No)</p> <p>Checklist for risk assessment developed (Yes/No)</p> <p>No. Mol officials informed on gender-sensitive evidence-based policy making</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>At least 5</p>	Preparatory activities initiated	Overview of the check-lists in cases of domestic violence conducted; Risk-assessment and risk-management practice of the relevant institutions in Serbia (police, prosecution and social welfare centers) in the cases of SALW misuse examined;
Output 1.3. Increased awareness among general population, both women and men, on the danger of misuse and illicit SALW possession through joint actions and cooperation of media, institutions and CSOs	<p>No. of gender-sensitive media reports on SALW misuse</p>	At least 5	Activities initiated	UNDP CO Serbia Resident Representative raised awareness of the issue of the SALW misuse in the domestic violence context and SALW possession in her interview in the daily newspapers Blic as well as at the National broadcast RTS ; Qualitative analysis of the media reporting on SALW misuse in the domestic violence context underway;
Output 1.4. Knowledge packages for risk reduction of firearms misuse in the context of	<p>Knowledge packages for risk reduction of firearms misuse in place (Yes/No)</p>	Yes	Activities initiated	Desk-research of the practices and check lists on risks of SALW misuse and domestic violence completed.

GBV developed and implemented	No. of professionals trained on risk assessment and risk reduced	At least 250		Analysis of the practice of the police and multi-agency groups related to detecting and processing the SALW misuse in the domestic violence context completed.
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Output 1.1	Improved practices and procedures related to criminal justice response to SALW misuse
Total budget: US\$31,200	Spent: -

1. Description of the output

- Output 1.1. aims at providing a resource and information base for enabling monitoring of practices, looking at the correlation between gender-based violence and misuse of SALW, and eventually, evidence-based policy making.

2. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period

- In 2019, preparatory activities were initiated. To ensure that legal and institutional measures effectively address the complexity of domestic violence, intimate partner violence and gender-based violence, the initial inventory of the procedures and practices related to firearms license denial, removal and revocation in the context of domestic violence have been examined to identify the key gaps and focus of interventions. The Law on Firearms and Law on Police have been reviewed for this purpose;
- Based on the findings of this analysis, the interventions by the project will focus on improving the procedures related to firearms license approval, and the procedures for firearms surrender in the cases in which the firearm was previously confiscated;
- The key gaps identified during the procedure were shared with the representatives and project focal points from the Mol and will be subsequently shared with the working group responsible with the revision of the Law on Firearms;
- Consultative meetings were organized with the Ministry of Justice, to prepare the design of the research on the judicial practice and response of the criminal-justice system related to detecting and misuse of firearms in the cases of domestic violence. The scope of the research was discussed, as well as the best methodology for the implementation of the research. The terms of reference for the implementation of the research were drafted including the outline of the research, its scope and the main issues that need to be covered.

3. Difficulties encountered, and measures taken to overcome the problems

- Previously planned activity to create a working group for the improvement of the procedures and organize meetings of the working group could not be implemented in 2019, as further discussions were needed with the working group responsible with the revision of the Law on Firearms, which took a longer time than initially planned. The discussions are necessary to identify and agree on the best way to proceed with the implementation of this activity so that the improved procedures can be fully endorsed and used by the Mol;
- Although the research on the judicial practice and response in firearm-related cases was initially planned to cover the judicial system only, during the preparation of the outline and the scope of the research, it was considered that the scope should be expanded to also cover the police. To this purpose, given that the police could not participate in any research without the formal permission of the Mol, this activity was postponed to 2020 in order to be further discussed with the Mol.

4. Changes introduced in implementation

- N/A

5. Achievements

- Increased understanding of the procedures and practices related to SALW license approval/denial/revocation and surrender, and existing key gaps related to domestic violence.

6. Work plan for Q1 2020

Planned activities	Budget (US\$)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct in-depth analysis of the key gaps and challenges in applying existing procedures SALW license denial, removal and revocation; Create a working group for improvement of the procedures and organize meetings of the working group; Develop outline of the research on judicial practice and response of the criminal-justice system. 	7,200

Output 1.2	Setting up the basis for evidence-based policy making
Total budget: US\$10,500	Spent: -

1. Description of the output

- Output 1.2 aims at providing better data collection that will enable improved managing of the risks associated with SALW misuse in domestic violence contexts.

2. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period

- The development of the checklist related to the prevention of SALW misused in the context of gender-based violence was initiated with a desk-research of best practices and lessons learned. This activity was implemented under the Output 1.4, considering that checklists are the common tools for risk assessment in the cases of domestic violence. This overview will be used as material for the working group who will work on the improvement of the existing checklists on risk assessment for the police and judiciary;
- Additionally, the existing practices of the relevant institutions in Serbia (police, prosecution and social welfare centers) related to risk-assessment and risk-management in cases of SALW misuse were examined.

3. Difficulties encountered, and measures taken to overcome the problems

- Considering that this activity is implemented in cooperation with several sectors within the MoI, the analysis of the existing practices in data collection, planned for 2019, was slightly delayed due to complicated procedures within the MoI to gather all relevant sectors, as well as changes of personnel in the SALW commission responsible with coordinating this process. To ensure efficiency though, the project conducted an analysis of the institutional response in 366 cases of domestic violence to track the cases involving firearms, and the institutional response in these cases. This analysis highlights the importance of monitoring the use of firearms in domestic violence and helps identify the type of data that needs be collected and with which purpose.

4. Changes introduced in implementation

- N/A

5. Achievements

- Increased understanding of the risk-assessment and risk-management practices of the relevant institutions in Serbia in the cases of SALW misuse.

6. Work plan for Q1 2020

Planned activities	Budget (US\$)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct analysis of the existing practices of data collection; • Establish a working group on revision of risk assessment revision and organize meetings of the working group. 	2,400

Output 1.3	Increased awareness among general population, both women and men, on the danger of misuse and illicit SALW possession through joint actions and cooperation of media, institutions and CSOs
Total budget: US\$27,000	Spent 25 July – 31 December 2019: US\$ 2,000

1. Description of the output

- Output 1.3 aims at developing and implementing prevention programmes that will contribute to deconstructing gender stereotypes and lead towards greater awareness among men and women on the danger of firearms misuse in the context of gender-based violence. Partnership with the group “Journalists against Violence” will be expanded to increase awareness of media on the importance of adequate reporting on firearms misuse and firearms-enabled violence and to tackle spreading of “gun culture” by incoherent and benevolent media reporting.

2. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period

- During the reporting period, a qualitative analysis of the media reporting on SALW misuse and its effects on addressing the issue of gun-culture in Serbia was initiated. The analysis will cover the period January-December 2019, and will intend to capture the dominant narrative and explore potential thematic areas to be addressed through the “Journalists against Violence” group, including knowledge gaps, information needed, and key messages to be sent to the public via media reporting;
- Also, UNDP CO Serbia Resident Representative raised awareness of the issue of the SALW misuse in the domestic violence context and SALW possession in her interview in the daily newspapers [Blic](#) as well as at the [National broadcast RTS](#).

3. Difficulties encountered, and measures taken to overcome the problems

- The first meeting of the “Journalists against Violence” group, initially planned to be organized in 2019, was postponed so that the findings of the qualitative analysis of the media reporting can be presented during the meeting. This would help initiate a discussion on the relevance of the media reporting and what could be done differently to tackle gun culture;
- The methodology for the female homicide review, planned for 2019, was postponed due to further discussions with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), the initiator of and the main institution involved in this activity. The MoJ proposed that the methodology is based on information from court convictions as the most comprehensive source of information, and that the cases to be analysed include partner homicide, as well as cases that were reported to institutions prior to the murder, those which were not reported, mass murder with domestic violence background and son-mother murder. Two pilot cases were selected. However, it has been concluded that the process of their review is time-consuming and could not be implemented during the project implementation period, also having a low probability of becoming a regular practice. The new approach will be further discussed and designed in the following period.

4. Changes introduced in implementation

- N/A

5. Achievements

- N/A

6. Work plan for Q1 2020

Planned activities	Budget (US\$)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize informative meeting with “Journalists against Violence” group on gender aspects of SALW misuse in the context of domestic violence; Establish working group on female homicide review, and organize meetings of the working group; Initiate the methodology for the female homicide review. 	2,000

Output 1.4	Knowledge packages for risk reduction of firearms misuse in the context of GBV developed and implemented
Total budget: US\$95,350	Spent 25 July – 31 December 2019: US\$2,819

1. Description of the output

- Output 1.4 refers to the development of knowledge packages for risk reduction of firearms misuse in the context of gender-based violence, aimed at capacitating general and specialist service providers to effectively reduce the risks of SALW misuse and deliver an integrated and coordinated service for the protection of women and children survivors of violence. The knowledge packages include training material, training manuals and guidelines on the types of risks (static and dynamic risks), risk levels (low, medium and high) and imposing adequate measures for addressing and monitoring the risks in order to prevent the escalation and repetition of domestic violence and SALW misuse, including homicide. To target a wide range of professionals from the police and prosecution, it is planned that these knowledge packages are included in the police training curricula, as well as in the Judiciary Academy's training programmes, which address prosecutors.

2. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period

- In 2019, the project team conducted desk-research of the literature, best practices and lessons learned on checklists, risk assessment and risk management in the cases of SALW presence in the context of domestic violence, necessary for the development of the knowledge packages and the preparations of trainings;
- The existing practices of the relevant institutions in Serbia (police, prosecution and social welfare centers) related to risk-assessment and risk-management in cases of SALW misuse were examined. The analysis was based on the reports from the selected multi-agency groups for cooperation and coordination (GCCs)*, and was conducted to inform the development of further capacity building of the police and prosecution. The main findings include:
 - Risk assessment is performed in an arbitrary and informal manner, without in-depth understanding and assessing all security risks, including access to/possession of/misuse of firearms in the context of domestic violence, which has a negative impact on ensuring the safety of victims. Additionally, in the total number of cases considered at the GCCs meetings, in only a few cases the professionals have exchanged the information on the presence of firearms in the domestic context;
 - It has been noted that in most cases the police officers impose emergency measures arbitrary, without a clear understanding of all security risks and appropriate grading of the level of risk in terms of description and consequences of a violent behavior. For example, in two cases involving a combination of physical violence, injury to the victim and possession of firearms, the police imposed only emergency measures to the perpetrators, which were inappropriate in relation to the descriptions of the behavior and the consequences for the victim. In both cases there is no information on the police risk assessment, but the GCCs assessed both cases as high-risk cases. However, even after such assessments, no measures have been planned to ensure the safety and long-term protection of victims;
 - The deputy public prosecutors do not check security risks in consultations with the police officers, nor do they conduct additional security assessments subsequently, relying mainly on the police risk assessment when submitting a proposal to the court to extend emergency measures. This undermines the opportunity to adequately assess the level of risk and implement appropriate measures in all cases where emergency measures are not sufficient to ensure the safety of the victim, but other legal options need to be applied (e.g. qualifying a case as a criminal offence, detaining the perpetrator);
 - The GCCs members do not use checklists as a risk assessment tool and mostly assess the risk arbitrary, ignoring all security risks in cases with elements of violence, including the indications of the presence and misuse of firearms in the domestic context. Also, GCCs members do not have sufficient knowledge and understanding of risk factors, the dynamic nature of risks, the importance of a common risk assessment, and often lack comprehensive information based on which to assess the level of risk. In some cases, there is a disagreement among the GCCs members regarding the risk assessment, even in cases

* Multi-agency groups for cooperation and coordination are established in accordance with the Law on Preventing Domestic Violence with the task to process all the cases of domestic violence reported to the police (newly reported and on-going) and to develop individual plans for protection of victims.

- involving a combination of physical violence, injury to victims and the presence of firearms. Besides, if the victim does not want to testify, even when the entire GCC agrees on the assessment of high-risk cases, no other legal measures are applied, apart from emergency measures;
- The GCCs members do not usually plan adequate measures and do not adopt individual protection and support plans to ensure the safety of all victims, including children, even in cases with the clear evidence of violence (e.g. injuries, shelter, presence of firearms, etc.). This shortcoming is even more noticeable in situations when the victim rejects to testify and participate in criminal proceedings. In such cases, the professionals easily give up on further evidence gathering, even though domestic violence is a criminal offence prosecuted *ex officio*.

3. Difficulties encountered, and measures taken to overcome the problems

- N/A

4. Changes introduced in implementation

- During the consultative meetings with the stakeholders, a good practice of regular exchange of information on SALW presence between the police and the SOS help-line has been identified. This practice was identified in the municipality of Kikinda during a case in which the police were informed by the SOS help-line that a perpetrator who committed domestic violence possessed an illegal weapon. The victim was a client of the SOS help-line. This prevented not only the death of the victim, but also of the front-line responders. Having that in mind, it will be examined if this practice of exchange of information between relevant institutions, particularly the police and the SOS help-lines, could become a regular procedure.

5. Achievements

- Increased understanding of the risk assessment and risk management practices in the Police, social welfare centres and the prosecution, and of the existing gaps in the multi-agency response to SALW misuse in the domestic violence context.

6. Work plan for Q1 2020

Planned activities	Budget (US\$)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate the development of the curriculum for the police on the detection of legal/illicit firearms; • Conduct analysis to identify key gaps in capacities of multi-agency groups to assessment and manage the risks and ensure long-term safety of victims. 	7,000

Sub-project 2. Advancing the Capacities of the Ministry of Interior in the Field of Custody Chain, Crime Scene Investigations and the Ballistic Laboratory in the Field of Operations and Investigations in Trafficking of Firearms and Firearms Criminality		
Implemented by:	UNDP Serbia	
Contributes to Roadmap Goals:	Goal 1: By 2023, ensure that arms control legislation is in place, fully harmonized with the EU regulatory framework and standardized across the region. Goal 3: By 2024, significantly reduce the illegal circulation of firearms, ammunition and explosives (AME) towards, within and beyond the Western Balkans. Goal 5: By 2025, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans.	
Implementation period:	October 2019 – March 2021	
Total budget: US\$958,284		Spent 25 July – 31 December 2019: US\$16,989

The objective of the project is to strengthen the regulatory framework for custody chain and CSI, increase the capacity of CSI units through specialized training, equipment and accreditation, and improve the management and storage of ballistic evidence, and ballistic testing.

The project is supporting the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia to improve its capacities in the entire investigative cycle. The focus of the project is on the development of SOPs, accredited procedures and methods, with a special emphasis on improving the chain of custody. The project relies on an informal assessment of the custody chain conducted by UK's National Ballistics Investigation Service (NABIS) in the area of the chain of custody, which is expected to be finalized in February 2020.

Improved examination processes will also contribute to the discovery of criminal acts related to domestic violence, where the majority of victims are women.

Overview of progress towards results

<u>PROJECT OUTPUT</u>	<u>PROJECT OUTPUT INDICATOR</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>STATUS OF PROJECT RESULTS</u>	<u>ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST INDICATORS</u>
Output 2.1. Regulatory framework established	Standard operating procedure on the chain of custody of law enforcement drafted	Yes	Activities initiated	Desk research of relevant law and by-law conducted
	Standard operating procedure on crime scene investigation amended	Yes		
	Standard operating procedure of packaging and tagging of evidence amended	Yes		
	Standard operating procedure on the development of an open case file (OCF) for ballistic examination prepared	Yes		
Output 2.2. Increased capacity of CSI	Number of CSI units ready for ISO 17020 standard accreditation	31	Activities initiated	Preparatory activities for the training on CSI conducted;
	Number of CSI units that improved capacities for collection of evidence and for conducting criminal investigations in reported cases of domestic violence	27		
	Number of new equipment provided to all CSI teams	At least 7 per team		
Output 2.3. Central level lab equipped to better tag and file the evidence, improve reception at Forensic laboratory and temporary storage, as well as improve ballistic testing	Laboratory Inventory Management System (LIMS) installed	Yes	Activities initiated	Recommendations for improvement of the central ballistic laboratory and for the improvement of the reception room elaborated; Analysis for the purchase of the water tank for test firing conducted.
	Open Case File, storage and database in the Central Lab established	Yes		
	Reception room and transfer storage established	Yes		
	Number of new storing equipment provided	3		
	Water tank for test-firing installed	Yes		

Output 2.1	Regulatory framework established
Total budget: US\$14,000	Spent 25 July – 31 December 2019: US\$ 2,500

1. Description of the output

- Activities to be implemented under this output are aimed at developing the SOP on the chain of custody of law enforcement, SOP on the crime scene investigation, SOP of packaging and tagging of evidence and SOP on the development of an “open case file” for ballistic examination.

2. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period

- In 2019, a desk research analysis in the area of CSI, chain of custody and ballistics laboratory inventory was prepared, following a review of the existing relevant laws and by-laws, and meetings with representatives of the ballistic laboratory and the criminal police. The desk research provides an overview of the existing capacities in the three areas, as well as short recommendations related to the necessary legislation to be put in place, management and staffing of the CSI units and the ballistic laboratory, or the necessary equipment and infrastructure, in order to meet the European standards;
- The desk research will be followed in 2020 by in depth gap analyses for each of the three areas with specific and concrete recommendations;
- Preparatory activities related to contracting the experts who would develop the SOPs on the chain of custody, CSI, and packaging and tagging of evidence were initiated.

3. Difficulties encountered, and measures taken to overcome the problems

- N/A

4. Changes introduced in implementation

- N/A

5. Achievements

- Better understanding of the capacities of the Criminal Investigation Directorate and the ballistic laboratory, gained through a desk research in the area of CSI, chain of custody and ballistics laboratory inventory.

6. Work plan for Q1 2020

Planned activities	Budget (US\$)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare gap analyses in the areas of CSI, chain of custody and ballistics; Initiate the development of the SOP on the chain of custody of law enforcement; Develop the SOP in CSI in order to be fully harmonized with relevant EU guidance; Develop the SOP for packaging and tagging of evidence, including packaging manual; Organize consultations with NABIS and the MoI, following the finalization of the assessment of the custody chain conducted by NABIS; Initiate preparatory activities for developing the SOP on open case file for ballistic examination. 	12,600

Output 2.2	Increased capacity of CSI
Total budget: US\$10,000	Spent: -

1. Description of the output

- This Output is aimed at increasing the capacity of CSI units in the field of crime scene investigations by increasing their technical as well as knowledge capacity, including collection of evidence and investigation in the cases of domestic violence. This Output will also support the development of a database where all evidence collected will be gathered and documented in order to make it easier to follow the custody chain and the last owner.

2. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period

- In 2019, preparatory activities for the development of a training curricula were conducted.

3. Difficulties encountered, and measures taken to overcome the problems

- N/A

4. Changes introduced in implementation

- N/A

5. Achievements

- N/A.

6. Work plan for Q1 2020

Planned activities	Budget (US\$)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the curricula for the training addressed to the CSI units; • Prepare an analysis to identify the necessary equipment to be purchased for the CSI units; • Initiate the preparations for the CSI units' accreditation. 	0

Output 2.3	Central level lab equipped to better tag and file the evidence, improve reception at Forensic laboratory and temporary storage, as well as improve ballistic testing	
Total budget: US\$10,000		Spent 25 July – 31 December 2019: US\$1,500

1. Description of the output

- Activities to be implemented under this output include installing a Laboratory Inventory Management System, establishing an OCF at the central lab in Belgrade, setting up an adequate storage room and developing software for its evidencing, modifying the entrance and establishing a reception room of the ballistic lab in Belgrade. Reconstruction will be followed with an adequate storage room for surrendered evidence, as well as delivering and installing a water tank in the forensic laboratory in Belgrade in order to facilitate test firing.

2. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period

- The desk research conducted under Output 2.1. included recommendations for improvement of the central ballistic laboratory, as well as the recommendations for the improvement of the reception room. It was identified that the shooting range needs a new solution for ensuring safe and accurate reception of undamaged bullets necessary for a further ballistic investigation. It was also highly recommended the purchase and installation of the LIMS;
- In addition, an analysis was conducted with the aim to find the most suitable and cost-effective solution for purchasing the bullet recovery water tank for test firing. The analysis included a market analysis, as well as the technical specifications for the procurement of the bullet recovery water tank;
- Preparatory activities for the infrastructure works at the ballistic laboratory were initiated, with an inspection of the potential works needed.

3. Difficulties encountered, and measures taken to overcome the problems

- N/A

4. Changes introduced in implementation

- N/A

5. Achievements

- N/A.

6. Work plan for Q1 2020

Planned activities	Budget (US\$)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the necessary documentation and technical specifications for the procurement of the LIMS; Initiate the design of the reception room and the transfer storage in the ballistic laboratory in Belgrade; Initiate the procurement of the water tank for test firing. 	500

Sub-project 3. Support Albania's Law Enforcement Authorities to Strengthen Firearms Criminality Evidence Management and Investigation Capacities		
Implemented by:	UNDP Albania	
Contributes to Roadmap Goals:	Goal 1: By 2023, ensure that arms control legislation is in place, fully harmonized with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations, and standardized across the region. Goal 2: By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in Albania are evidence-based and intelligence-led.	
Implementation period:	September 2019 – February 2021	
Total budget: US\$1,185,471		Spent 25 July – 31 December 2019: US\$2,211

The objective of the project is to enhance the capacities of the Albanian State Police to operate with higher standards and more effective procedures in the area of criminal investigation, by developing standard operating procedures for CSI, improving the collection, management and storage of ballistic evidence, and providing necessary equipment for CSI and ballistic analysis.

By the end of the Project, updated SOPs will be adopted for the primary evidence management processes, CSI units will be equipped with basic working kits, benefit from training and be better prepared for their accreditation under ISO 17020, and the Ballistic Sector will be equipped with equipment for laboratory tests, putting an end to outdated and inaccurate practices of firearms analysis.

The project was initiated in Q3 2019, with several preparatory activities related to the recruitment of the project staff. Although first project activities were planned in Q4 2019, the earthquake of 26 November 2019 delayed the initiation of the activities. The earthquake caused damages to both the UNDP Offices (and therefore Project premises) and the premises of the Albanian Institute of Scientific Police (AISP), the Project counterpart and beneficiary. Also, the Director of the AISP resigned a few weeks later, in December 2019.

Contacts were re-established with the new interim Director in late December 2019. The project work plan for 2020 will be reviewed in early 2020 in consultation with the AISP focal points, prioritizing the development of the SOPs for the CSI units, and the acquisition of LIMS.

Overview of progress towards results

<u>PROJECT OUTPUT</u>	<u>PROJECT OUTPUT INDICATOR</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>STATUS OF PROJECT RESULTS</u>	<u>ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST INDICATORS</u>
Output 3.1. Capacity building for CSI Units	Number of Standard Operating Procedures revised, updated and adopted.	4	Activities not initiated	
	Number of training on the introduction, understanding and application of SOPs	8		
	Number of standard and specialized kits provided to CSI units at AISP and in the field	32		
	CSI Units equipped with mobile communicators with thermo-vision cameras	16		
	CSI Units use 3D scanners at the crime scene	3		
Output 3.2. Efficiency of the Ballistic Sector of AISP strengthened	Establishment of LIMS for the forensic workflow	1	Activities not initiated	
	Number of trainings on LIMS functionality and usage and beneficiaries	3		
	Ballistic sector has in place an OCF database	1		
	Purchase and installation of a Water Tank for bullet recovery	1		
	Ballistic sector upgrades its comparative microscope	1		
	Ballistic sector upgrades its stock of trinocular microscopes	5		
	Increased rate of resolved cases involving forensic analysis (ratio cases resolved/total cases), including gender disaggregation	+30%		

Sub-project 4. Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking (CIAT)		
Implemented by:	UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina	
Contributes to Roadmap Goals:	Goal 2. By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence based and intelligence led. Goal 3. By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.	
Implementation period:	July 2019 – December 2021	
Total budget: US\$1,071,283		Spent 25 July-31 December 2019: US\$71,794

The objective of the project is to enhance the capacity of the BP in BiH and of 14 entity and cantonal Police Agencies to combat illicit arms trafficking across BiH and beyond, by developing a database on the legal transport of weapons, improving the SALW Identification Tool, providing specialized border control equipment, and strengthening inter-institutional cooperation.

The fulfilment of the above objective will contribute to the achievement of strategic national priorities laid out in the national SALW strategy as well as the upcoming Action Plan for the Implementation of the Roadmap. Moreover, the framework pertaining to SALW transport between the licensing authority, the MoS, and police agencies which implement their decision will further be strengthened through a new national database of SALW transport licences which will be created within this project.

The project is based on the knowledge and lessons learnt during the previous CIAT project addressed to the BiH BP. The SOPs developed and the training rolled out for BiH BP are used as a role model and a good starting point in the process of providing the tailor-made support to other police agencies, in view to capacitating them to better fight illicit SALW trafficking.

Overview of progress towards results

<u>PROJECT OUTPUT</u>	<u>PROJECT OUTPUT INDICATOR</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>STATUS OF PROJECT RESULTS</u>	<u>ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST INDICATORS</u>
Output 4.1. Capacitated BiH Border Police and 14 entity and cantonal police agencies to more effectively combat illicit arms trafficking	Number of specific analysis contributing to the Green Border Assessment of BiH BP.	BiH Green Border Assessment finalized.	Result achieved	Green border assessment completed, verified and formally accepted by BiH BP;
	Number of databases developed on legal transport of weapons.	MOS database developed and in use.	Activities initiated	Preparatory meetings held with the MoS for the development of the MoS data base on legal transport of weapons;
	Number of beneficiaries trained for the proper functionality of the database	100 beneficiaries trained.	Activities not initiated	
	Extent to which the SALW identification tool has been improved.	SALW identification tool fully functional to respond to the needs of BP BiH and 14 police agencies to better identify seized arms.	Activities not initiated	
	Number of BP BiH and other police agencies' staff trained to use the SALW identification tool.	500 BP BiH and other agencies' staff trained to use the new SALW identification tool.	Activities initiated	BP SALW tool shared with all police agencies. Tool adjusted by the agencies to their specific competencies;
	Number of BP BiH and other police agencies' staff trained to effectively detect illicit arms trafficking by provision of specialized equipment and training	2000 staff trained to better detect illicit arms trafficking from 14 police agencies on detection methods using the procured equipment. 16 pcs of detections equipment procured for 14 police agencies. 4 pcs for surveillance of green border procured for BP BiH.	Activities initiated	Specification for equipment prepared and tender to be launched; Trainings conceptualised and the territorial schedule identified;

Output 4.2. Strengthened cooperation and information exchange between Ministry of Security and other institutions at national and regional level	Number of SOPs developed and institutionalized	70 SOPs	Result partially achieved	Police agencies developed drafts of three SOPs covering areas: tracing of weapons, data collection and running an investigation.
	Number of police agencies' which were given access to the MOS database on transport of SALW.	Up to 14 police agencies given access to MOS database.	Activities not initiated	
	Number of MoUs signed between BP BIH and other 13 police agencies on cooperation regarding combat of illicit arms trafficking.	Up to 14 MOUs signed between BP BIH and other 14 police agencies.	Activities not initiated	
	Level of cooperation between BP BIH and 13 police agencies strengthened through organization of joint trainings.	Organize training for up to 300 people from BIH BP and other 14 police agencies on better detection of illicit arms. Develop up to 3 joint SOPs.	Activities initiated	
	Number of joint SOPs developed.	Develop up to 3 joint SOPs.	Activities not initiated	

Output 4.1	Capacitated BiH Border Police and 14 entity and cantonal police agencies to more effectively combat illicit arms trafficking
Total budget: US\$587,764.18	Spent 25 July – 31 December 2019: US\$5,005.56

1. Description of the output

- Output 4.1. aims to enhance the capacities of the state, entity and cantonal police agencies through provision of trainings on how to apply SOPs relevant to processing SALW smuggling crimes, procurement of detection equipment, improvement of IT capacities and improved BiH BP capacities to better patrol the green border.

2. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period

- In 2019, the project team developed the green border assessment in close collaboration with the BP and the MoS, and following a workshop held in Vlasica, on 27-29 November 2019 with the two main stakeholders involved in the assessment. The green border assessment facilitated increased understanding of the existing gaps and needs of the BiH BP to conduct an effective and efficient surveillance of the green border. BiH border is 1,551 km long, of which the land border accounts for 905 km, the river border for 625 km, and the sea border for around 21 km;
- The final assessment report was verified and formally accepted by BiH BP. The conclusions and recommendations of the assessment will be used for procurement of specialized equipment for BP and development and conceptualization of trainings for 200-300 BP officers, to be conducted in 2020;
- In 2019, the project team held preparatory meetings with the MoS for the development of the MoS data base on legal transport of weapons. A task force was established to work on the scope of works for the database and to identify the processes and information flow among interested parties.

3. Difficulties encountered, and measures taken to overcome the problems

- The visit to Montenegro, initially planned for Q4 2019, was postponed to 2020 due to the unavailability of the partners to engage in the planned activity. On the last project board session, it was recommended that the visit occurs before the summer 2020. The project has communicated this decision to partners in Montenegro who tentatively accepted new dates.

4. Changes introduced in implementation

- N/A

5. Achievements

- Green border assessment finalized and officially approved by the BiH BP.

6. Work plan for Q1 2020

Planned activities	Budget (US\$)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conceptualize training for 200-300 BiH BP officers for green border surveillance; Continue work on development of the MoS data base on legal transport of weapons; Initiated tender for procurement of 2 detectors and 14 endoscopes for 14 police agencies. 	10,000

Output 4.2	Strengthened cooperation and information exchange between Ministry of Security and other institutions at national and regional level
Total budget: US\$160,498.42	Spent 25 July-31 December 2019: US\$21,217

1. Description of the output

- Output 4.2 aims to strengthen inter-institutional cooperation between MoS and BiH BP on the one hand and their national and regional counterparts through the promotion of activities of the working group on legal SALW trade at national and regional level, as well as through establishing links between prosecutors' offices, police agencies and forensic laboratories.

2. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period

- In 2019, the first drafts of the SOPs covering three main areas related to the fight against illicit arms trafficking - data collection, tracing of weapons and running an investigation - were developed by 14 BiH police agencies, with the support of two prosecutors of the Prosecutor's Office of BiH and UNDP. This has been the first initiative ever to institutionalize and standardize police work in this area. The SOPs will further improve communication among the agencies, standardize reporting on SALW related issues and enable efficient and effective prosecution;
- The SOPs were prepared during two workshops held with representatives from the 14 police agencies in Bihac, on 4-6 September 2019, and in Bijeljina, on 13-15 November 2019;
- During the workshops, representatives of the 14 police agencies were introduced to the SOPs of the BiH BP that were developed during the previous CIAT project, including the SOPs on risk analysis and reacting to emergency situations when arms and explosives unexpectedly emerged to be finalized in 2020, and discussed the applicability of the BP's SOPs to their own institutions.

3. Difficulties encountered, and measures taken to overcome the problems

- N/A

4. Changes introduced in implementation

- The only remaining police agency at the state level, the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies, which at the beginning meant not to participate, expressed willingness to join the project. The change was introduced in November 2019, at the second workshop with the police agencies. With this achievement, all Police Agencies in BiH are part of the CIAT project and actively participate in the coordination forums and events.

5. Achievements

- First drafts of SOPs covering following thematic areas: tracing of weapons, data collection and running an investigation were developed and presented during the workshop in November 2019. The project has a steady pace of implementation, and stakeholders are actively involved.

6. Work plan for Q1 2020

Planned activities	Budget (US\$)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize drafts of 2 remaining SoPs, (risk analysis and reacting in emergency situations); Initiate conceptualization of trainings for all police agencies on use of developed SOPs. 	21,706

Lessons learnt⁵

In spite the complex legal and institutional environment in BiH, the project staff was successful in communicating project activities with all national partners who were given an opportunity to actively participate in developing and designing project activities hence ensuring institutionalization, sustainability and continued communication. Consequently, apart from initially planned 14 law enforcement agencies, the project has been expanded to all 16 agencies in BiH. Furthermore, these achievements are building a platform for future harmonized and coherent approach to the overall SALW related activities.

The established communication channels, through formal and informal social media platforms (Viber messages platform, collaboration space at the google drive) have significantly increased coordination among stakeholders in the project implementation and contributed to the progress achieved.

Communication and visibility ⁶

The project has set the communication standards, by regularly updating on the project activities through social media (twitter) and providing media reports from the events, but also capturing relevant media reports from local web portals about stakeholders' involvement in SALW control and countering illicit arms trafficking.

Visibility was also ensured through the regular posts on the Tweeter accounts, tagging donors and partners on the published content, therefore providing live reporting about the project activities and achieved results.

Please see below several examples from tweeter and local web media:

- The **two workshops** held in Bihac, 4-6 September 2019, and in Bijeljina, on 13-15 November 2019, successfully managed to bring together the agencies and its practitioners in developing SOPs on countering illicit arms trafficking. The first workshop was opened by the Cantonal Prime Minister and Police Commissioner and received significant attention from the media.

⁵ Lessons learnt are provided where these are relevant.

⁶ The communication and visibility section is provided in those sub-projects where such activities were implemented and reported.

» U BIHAĆU JE DANAS ODRŽANA TREĆA RADIONICA O SPRIJEČAVANJU ILEGALNE TRGOVINE ORUŽJEM

- U organizaciji UNDP u BiH, kroz CIAT projekat koji finansiraju vlade Republike Njemačke i Francuske, u Bihaću je danas održana treća radionica o sprječavanju ilegalne trgovine oružjem



Media article on Radio-Televizija USK website, presenting the workshop in Bihac and mentioning the financial contribution of the Government of Germany.



AUTOR: rtvusk 05.09.2019 - 16:33 314

Slobodan Tadic
@SlobodanTadic

Follow

How 🇧🇦 #BIH is countering
#IllicitArmsTrafficking ? All 🇧🇦 #PoliceAgencies
and relevant #BIH #Institutions together
developing #SOPs & establishing
#cooperation & #coordination modalities in
making 🇧🇦 #safe & #secure. #SALWcontrol
#SaferRegion #SDG16 #RoadMap2024
#Agenda2030 #SDG



12:29 AM - 14 Nov 2019 from Bijeljina

3 Retweets 14 Likes

Bogdan Živaljević, UNDP BiH, UNDP SEESAC and 2 others

Tweet communicating about second CIAT workshop for BiH Police Agencies.

- Also, the CIAT project supported UNDP SEESAC in the organization of the **visit of a delegation comprised of members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the national SALW Commissions in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire to BiH**, on 11 September 2019. The West African delegation was accompanied by representatives from the German Federal Foreign Office, Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC), and UNDP offices in Africa;
- Following meetings with the Coordination Board for SALW and the BP in Banja Luka, BiH, the West African delegation was invited to take part in a demonstration of the equipment acquired and the operating procedures developed by the BP for countering illicit arms trafficking at the BiH borders, with the support of the Government of Germany and UNDP BiH.



Slobodan Tadic
@SlobodanTadic

Application of #SOPs by the #BIH 🇧🇦 #BorderPolice on how to stop and process #illicit #arms #trafficking. #KnowledgeSharing with #ECOWAS @UNDP_SEESAC @GermanyDiplo @UNDPBiH and members of the 🇧🇦 #SALW Coordination Board. #SaferRegion #SALWcontrol #BorderSecurity #RoadMap2024



Bogdan Živaljević and 6 others

11:35 AM · Sep 11, 2019 · Twitter for Android

5 Retweets 7 Likes

Tweet communicating about the exercise organized by the BP BiH for the ECOWAS delegation, in Banja Luka, on 11 September 2019.

- A **green border assessment workshop** was held in Vlasica, on 27-29 November 2019. Germany's support to the development of the assessment was highlighted on social media.



Slobodan Tadic
@SlobodanTadic

Follow

Bringing 🇧🇦 #BorderSecurity to next level..@UNDPBiH #CIAT project gathering relevant experience from the 🇧🇦 #BorderPolice , 🇧🇦 #MinistryofSecurity and experts from #CRO to discuss #GreenBorder assessment in #BIH. Thanks @GermanyDiplo for supporting #SaferRegion in #WesternBalkans



12:48 AM - 28 Nov 2019 from Bosnia and Herzegovina

4 Retweets 11 Likes



Bogdan Živaljević, UNDP SEESAC and Susanne Baumann

👍 4 ❤️ 11

Tweet communicating about the CIAT Green Border Assessment workshop, and mentioning Germany's support to the project and hence, to creating a safer Western Balkans.

Sub-project 5. Urgent Action on Ammunition Destruction - Project EXPLODE+		
Implemented by:	UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina	
Contributes to Roadmap Goals:	GOAL 5. By 2025, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans. GOAL 6. Systematically decrease the number of surplus and seized small arms and light weapons and ammunition. GOAL 7. Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives.	
Implementation period:	July-December 2019	
Total budget: US\$55,066		Spent 25 July – 31 December 2019: US\$54,645

The objective of the project was to assist the BiH authorities in the reduction of ammunition stockpiles to a manageable level, by supporting the disposal of 1,421 pieces of ammunition.

Out of currently stocked 12,500 tonnes of ammunition of Ministry of Defence (MoD)/Armed Forces (AF) BiH, approximately 5,000 tonnes are surplus. Following the inspection of the ammunition stockpiles implemented by the AF of BiH from mid-2013 to end 2018, it has been confirmed that ammunition stock is in average over 35 years old. These facts, combined with lack of proper service records and unknown history of storage conditions in the past, called for immediate action for ammunition disposal of quantities that are unsafe for further storage. This was crucial measure in the attempt to avoid an Uncontrolled Explosion of Munition Site (UEMS).

The focus of UNDP's interventions was the concentrated support to ammunition reduction in order to enable sustainable stockpile management and thus provide for stable and risk-free development opportunities for local communities in the proximity of Ammunition Storage Sites, as well as for the country.

The project also assisted the MoD/AF in the reduction of ammunition stockpiles to a manageable level in order to create preconditions for the establishment of a sustainable ammunition stockpile management system owned by the MoD/AF BiH.

Overview of progress towards results

<u>PROJECT OUTPUT</u>	<u>PROJECT OUTPUT INDICATOR</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>STATUS OF PROJECT RESULTS</u>	<u>ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST INDICATORS</u>
Increased safety and security of entire BiH population, with a special emphasis on local communities through systemic and effective reduction of surplus ammunition stockpiles.	Quantity of pieces of Multiple Launch Rocket System Ammunition successfully disposed in 2019.	1,421 pieces	Result achieved	Project managed to surpass initially planned quantity of 1,421 pieces of MLRS ammunition by disposing additional 18 pieces, resulting in overall 1,439 pieces of MLRS ammunition disposed with available funds for activity implementation.

Output 5.1	Increased safety and security of entire BiH population, with a special emphasis on local communities through systemic and effective reduction of surplus ammunition stockpiles	
Total budget: US\$50,358.25		Spent 25 July – 31 December 2019: US\$50,598

1. Description of the output

- The output aimed at assisting the MoD/AF of BiH in removing the threat that unsafe ammunition presents for AF BiH personnel guarding the ammunition storage sites, as well as the communities and the people living in the vicinity of these locations.

2. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period

- 1,421 pieces of MLRS ammunition were disposed of in the period 2-27 September 2019, in the capacities of the Contractor, Vogošća, using industrial disposal that provided safe and efficient demilitarization. Additionally, 18 pieces of MLRS ammunition were destroyed with the available budget;
- Ammunition disposal was verified by the designated MoD/AF verification commission, along with the transportation and return of the scrap material derived from the ammunition disposal to the MoD/AF;
- The achievement of the output was a direct contribution to the significant reduction of unsafe ammunition quantities by disposing designated MLRS ammunition through safe and environmentally benign disposal process within the capacity of the national defence industry. As the MoD of BiH designated 3,355 pieces of MLRS ammunition (100.65 tonnes) for disposal to UNDP, disposal of 1,439 pieces represented a significant contribution to the overall MLRS quantity as well as to the overall ammunition disposal in 2019.

3. Difficulties encountered, and measures taken to overcome the problems

- N/A

4. Changes introduced in implementation

- As a result of the competitive and transparent procurement process and favourable exchange rates during this period, UNDP BiH managed to dispose additional 18 pieces of MLRS ammunition, resulting in a total of 1,439 pieces of MLRS ammunition disposed of with the available funds from the regional project.

5. Achievements

- 1,439 pieces of MLRS ammunition disposed of, contributing to the increased safety and security of the local community, as well as of the entire BiH population.

6. Work plan for Q1 2020

Planned activities	Budget (US\$)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As project activities have been completed and envisaged results achieved, no plans for the next quarter are applicable now. 	-

Lessons learnt

During the implementation period, several lessons learnt were identified that are structured into three groups according to the nature of the encountered issues (political, operational and budgetary) and that are presented below along with the recommendation for future programming and project implementation:

Lessons learned - Political

- Nominal political support from the stakeholders and decision makers in BiH consensually exist for ammunition disposal process. However, practical support to activities in this field has been slowly fading in the past two years, hampering the efforts of the international community to assist to BiH in reaching its commitments of disposing unsafe ammunition stockpile as a precondition to the establishment of sustainable ammunition life-cycle management system. It is of utmost importance to retain the momentum gained in previous years in order to decrease the total stockpile to manageable quantities by MoD/AF BiH or below 10,000 tonnes of total ammunition stockpile.

Lessons learned – Operational

- Data on ammunition types and quantities available for disposal tended to be incoherent in 2019, adversely affecting ammunition disposal plan for the year. It is indicative that this negative trend may continue in 2020, as the latest *Plan of operations with ammunition and explosive ordnances of MoD/AF BiH for 2020* proposed by the MoD/AF in December 2019 is also containing inconsistencies in planning of ammunition for disposal in 2020. Such occurrences affect the stakeholders supporting the disposal of ammunition, including UNDP. As a mitigation measure, it is important that the data on the ammunition that is planned for pitching to donors is crosschecked with other instances within the MoD and the Joint Staff of the AF BiH;
- The region's demilitarization capacities for the ammunition disposal that cannot be processed in BiH are shrinking as ammunition disposal momentum across the region is slowing down and going to its end. It is of great importance to push for additional engagement of demilitarization capacities within BiH for the disposal of different types of ammunition except for ammunition filled with white phosphorus and RDX explosive as such disposal capacities to process ammunition with these flammable and explosive charges do not exist in the country. Therefore, regional capacities will be used only for the items that request specialized technology for explosive melt out (ex.g. RDX explosive) or incineration facilities (ex.g. white phosphorus) that are not available in BiH;
- The slow decision-making process of the MoD BiH in ammunition disposal is often hampering the implementation of project activities. It is necessary to re-strengthen the commitment of the MoD and the AF BiH to honour deadlines and agreed timelines in order for UNDP to fulfil its commitments and retain donor's confidence for future activities implementation and financing;
- Multifunctional project platform in which different donors can choose upon scope and volume of intervention on a year-to-year basis is an innovative approach to project implementation and management that has been practically implemented through Project EXPLODE+ and can be used as one of the models for future projects funding and implementation.

Lessons learned – Budgetary

- Due to oscillations of exchange rates, the project experienced higher delivery of planned activities due to value of US dollar drop. On the other hand, the project also has opposite experiences when due to rise of US dollar value, the project had to reduce delivery from planned and projected implementation. Since it is hard to anticipate fluctuations in this field, the project introduced additional budget checks and revisions throughout the implementing year for the purpose of closely monitoring and timely awareness of possible negative trends.

Communication and visibility

- During the reporting period, the **17th Session of the Strategic Committee for weapons, ammunition and explosive ordnances*** was held on 9 September 2019. The Strategic Committee sessions are held bi-annually, and represent a forum where decisions are made, and obstacles pertaining to unsafe ammunition disposal process in BiH are addressed. UNDP BiH, among other involved partners in ammunition disposal, presented ongoing activities and results achieved in 2019. The presentation contained also the information about the MLRS ammunition disposal conducted in the framework of the present project.
- Links to 17th Session of the Strategic Committee:
 - http://www.mod.gov.ba/aktuelnosti/Rjesavanje_viskova_naoruzanja/?id=74102
 - <https://www.oslobodjenje.ba/vijesti/bih/uzivo-odrzana-17-sjednica-strateskog-komiteta-za-naoruzanje-municiju-i-minsko-eksplozivna-sredstva-488654>
 - <https://www.klix.ba/vijesti/bih/danas-sjednica-strateskog-komiteta-za-naoruzanje-prisustvuju-i-predstavnici-nato-a/190909008>
 - <http://www.federalna.ba/bhs/vijest/286961/sjednica-strateskog-komiteta-za-nmimes>
 - <http://ba.n1info.com/Vijesti/a376979/Sjednica-Strateskog-komiteta-za-NMIMES-u-Sarajevu.html>

* The Strategic Committee is the governing body for activities in the field of unsafe ammunition disposal in BiH and comprises of the most senior representatives of the following organizations/institutions: MoD BiH, JS AF BiH, EUFOR, EU/EUSR BiH, NHQSa, OSCE BiH, UNDP BiH, Embassy of Austria to BiH, Embassy of Sweden to BiH, Embassy of Switzerland to BiH, Embassy of the United States of America to BiH, Embassy of United Kingdom to BiH and Embassy of Federal Republic of Germany to BiH.

Sub-project 6. Support to counter Illicit arms trafficking		
Implemented by:	UNDP Kosovo	
Contributes to Roadmap Goal:	Goal 3. By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.	
Implementation period:	September 2019 – October 2021	
Total budget: US\$987,412		Spent 25 July-31 December 2019: US\$50,677

The objective of the project is to strengthen the capacities of border entities to detect firearms, ammunition and explosives and conduct detailed risk profiling through specialized training, improved weapons registration, provision of detection equipment, and development of knowledge products.

The project was developed on the best practices of the previous CIAT project implemented in BiH and was adapted to Kosovo's context. By using a holistic approach of people, process and technology, the project provides a business intelligence solution approach.

The project addressed various challenges related to illicit arms trafficking in Kosovo, including challenges in controlling the green border due to difficult accessibility in some seasons of the year and a lack of specialized equipment, few detections of firearms at the border compared to inland firearm seizures, and an increase in blank firing weapons (converted or not) showing that some trafficking routes are still open and illegal imports not always detected. An in-depth analysis of the latter problem is required in order to prevent this issue becoming a serious threat domestically and regionally. This process has started in Kosovo through the establishment of the Firearms Focal Point and the development of a problem profile, as well as the joint intelligence report developed by the Border coordination center. Furthermore, there is also a need to link or to increase the cooperation and coordination between the different departments of the Kosovo Police such as border police, uniformed police as well as criminal investigators in order to better address the illicit trafficking of firearms at the border.

The project was developed in line with the Regional Roadmap for SALW Control in the Western Balkans, specifically Goal 3, and contributes to the effective implementation of the SALW and Explosives control strategy and action plan as well as the Integrated Border Management Strategy.

Overview of progress towards results

<u>PROJECT OUTPUT</u>	<u>PROJECT OUTPUT INDICATOR</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>STATUS OF PROJECT RESULTS</u>	<u>ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST INDICATORS</u>
Output 1: Capacities of border entities on detection of firearms, components, ammunition and explosives increased	Detection training Border Crossing Point (BCP) - 17 borders posts including customs and border police;	Border police and customs officials at 17 BCP trained on detection;	Result achieved	31 border police and customs officials at 17 BCP were trained on detection;
	Training on green border surveillance;	40 border police officials from green line border are trained on surveillance and the SOP updated;	Results achieved	30 border police officials from green line border were trained on surveillance ⁸ and the SOP was updated.
	Training detection components in fast parcels and postal services;	40 officials trained on detection components in fast parcels and postal services provided;	Activities not initiated	
	Training K9 dogs in polymer detection;	Three K9 dogs and a training with 40 officials on polymer detection is provided;	Activities not initiated	
	Implementation of Joint simulated exercises;	Joined simulated exercise conducted between border police and customs;	Activities not initiated	
	Upgrade of Weapon Registration software;	Weapon Registration software upgraded;	Activities not initiated	
Output 2: Risk profiling based on CIRAM 2 in place	Training on CIRAM 2 include threat assessment, vulnerability assessment and impact assessment;	40 border police officials trained on CIRAM 2 and a handbook/guidance developed;	Activities not initiated	
	Guided training on development of problem profile on IAT;	Capacities increased for 10 KP officials on problem profile on IAT;		
	Guided training on Problem Profile at green border based on pull and push factors;	Capacities increased for 10 border police officials on problem profile based on pull and push factors;		

⁸ Due to the political situation in Kosovo at the time, the Kosovo Police had limited human resources and was able to engage only 30 personnel instead of 40. All the assigned personnel that attended the training fit the needed profiles as assessed by project team.

Output 3: Installation and higher detection of trafficking in the green border area	<p>Purchase and hand over of requested equipment;</p> <p>Operator training on new equipment;</p> <p>Intelligence led policing operations based on new equipment;</p>	<p>20 thermovisions and 10 scanners purchased and donated to the Kosovo Border Police and the detection of IAT in the green border increased;</p> <p>4 Operators trainings for total of 40 representatives trained in effectively using the new equipment;</p> <p>Operational plans and operations report produced;</p>	<p>Activities not initiated</p>	
Output 4: Development of knowledge products, including: problem profile, and trend analysis including modus operandi	<p>Develop knowledge products.</p>	<p>KP fully capable in developing knowledge products on IAT.</p>	<p>Activities not initiated</p>	

Output 6.1	Capacities of border entities on detection of firearms, components, ammunition and explosives increased
Total budget: US\$191,323.69	Spent 25 July-31 December 2019: US\$20,775

1. Description of the output

- Output 6.1 aims to improve border control capacities to effectively and efficiently screen cargo, vehicles, personnel and other goods of special interest, such as: weapons, ammunition, and explosives. This will lead to increase in detection at 17 border posts and the green border line, based on detailed risk profiling leading to adequate investigations of border seizures and linking (where possible) to regional traffic routes.

2. Description of activities implementing during the reporting period

- Two one-week trainings to increase the capacity of the border police and customs on detecting weapons and their essential components, ammunition and explosives were organized in 2019;
- The **Specialized training for Kosovo border police and customs officers on detection of firearms, components and ammunition as well as explosives (First- and second-line check)** was organized on 14-18 October 2019, with the participation of 31 police officers from various units such as border crossing points, K9 unit, operations and 5 Customs officials;
- The training was developed based on Croatian and BiH best practices, adapted to Kosovo's context, legal framework, and EU policies and regulations. Through this training, participants gained new skills that will support their daily work on identification and detection of different weapons, components, ammunition and explosives. Furthermore, participants were introduced to more innovative detection techniques, handling of crime scene and investigation process including cooperation with all bodies to ensure evidence is secured and processed efficiently. The training provided a hands-on simulation exercise where the participants were able to demonstrate newly learned skills on: detection of firearms; securing the area; securing detected or sized firearms, ammunition or explosives; securing the evidence; and use of specialized equipment and techniques (flexible cameras, scanners, K9 dogs);
- The **Specialized training for green border patrol on detection of firearms, components and ammunition as well as explosives** took place on 21-25 October 2019, with the participation of 30 representatives of the border police, K9 unit, Academy for Public Safety (Training Unit), Airport Unit of the Kosovo Border Police and Border surveillance patrols. The training was developed with the aim to increase the capacities of Kosovo Police Border officials on border surveillance and how to react in response to incidents during green border surveillance. Through simulated exercises, participants gained knowledge on surveillance of green borders and more specifically in early detection, identification and follow up, analysis of possible interception and coordination;
- Both trainings were very well received by the participants who appreciated the trainings' positive impact in increasing their performance at work;
- The activity served as an opportunity to assess existing SOPs to ensure that they are in line with terrain and existing risks and threats.

3. Difficulties encountered, and measures taken to overcome the problems

- The project team has revised in Q3 2019 the project's workplan given the August 2019 decision to hold extraordinary central elections in October 2019 which led to a caretaker government. Under the circumstances, the decision-making process had either slowed down considerably or halted, which hampered participation of beneficiaries in events (regardless of their nature). This political development had direct and indirect effects to the implementation of the project, beyond UNDP's control, particularly for activities that required coordination with the ministry and the National Coordinator on SALW. Therefore, the Activity 1.1: Detection training BCP - 17 borders posts including customs and border police and Activity 1.2: Training green border surveillance foreseen to be implemented in the Q3 2019 were postponed to be implemented in Q4 2019 and the Activity 4.1: Develop knowledge products will be implemented during 2020.

4. Changes introduced in implementation

- N/A

5. Achievements

- Border police and Customs officers have successfully completed the Specialized training on detection of firearms, ammunition and explosives, enabling them to more effectively identify and detect SALW smuggled in persons, vehicles, busses and trucks;
- Border police and Customs officers have successfully completed the specialized training on green border surveillance, enabling them to more effectively apply green border surveillance and use of the specialist equipment needed for this surveillance

6. Work plan for Q1 2020

Planned activities	Budget (US\$)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct procurement of 3 dogs to be trained in polymer detection.	0

Activities under Outputs 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4 will be initiated in 2020.

Lessons learnt

- 1) Key project successes and factors which supported these successes:
 - addressed Kosovo's priorities as listed in its SALW Strategy and Action Plan.
 - practical situations explained from the trainer and recorded;
 - active and serious participation from the participants;
 - explained (verbally and visually) methods for trafficking of weapons;
- 2) Analysis on what could have been done differently / better to attain the project results;
A total of 61 participants attended both trainings listed above, while each lasted 5 working days. Due to sensitive nature of the subject, the topics on border detection and surveillance, and due to voluminous material, participants recommended that future trainings should be longer, i.e. between 8 to 10 days. This will provide space to delve deeper on subject matter, linking the theory with practical exercises.
- 3) Recommendations to improve future programming;
 - Expand the training to include more police officers;
 - Provide training on global phenomenon of terrorism in relation to IAT;
 - In-depth addressing of the subject through extended duration of trainings (8-10 days).

Communication and visibility

UNDP Kosovo Safety and Security Programme in cooperation with UNDP's Communication Office took all the necessary measures to ensure that the project results and activities are well communicated and that the visibility of the donors is properly ensured.

The two training that were organized in 2019 were publicized on UNDP Kosovo Facebook account, highlighting the support of the German Federal Foreign Office to the project.

UNDP gathers police and custom officials for a specialised training on detection of weapons

UNDP's Kosovo Safety and Security Programme (KSSP), through the Support To Counter Illicit Arms Trafficking (CIAT) project, and together with the Kosovo Police and Customs is conducting a five-day detection specialised training on border of weapons, ammunition and explosives. Kosovo Police officials from border posts, operations, and K9 units together with the customs officers are attending the training which is organized at the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety in Vushtri/Vučitrn.

The training aims to improve border control capacities to effectively and efficiently screen cargo, vehicles, parcels, personnel, and other for goods of special interest, such as weapons, ammunition, and explosives. Besides the detection, the training will also focus on the actions of handling the crime scene to be taken upon detection in the first line or second line check and handing over the investigation to relevant bodies in order to not contaminate the evidence which would be an obstruction for further investigation.

UNDP Kosovo Safety and Security Programme (KSSP), through the Support To Counter Illicit Arms Trafficking (CIAT) project, aims to support the local stakeholders in achieving the goals deriving from the Regional Roadmap for SALW Control in the Western Balkans as well as contributing to the successful implementation of the Small Arms Light Weapons and Explosives control strategy and action plan as well as the Integrated Border Management Strategy.

This project is generously funded by the German Federal Foreign Office.



25

4 shares

UNDP's Kosovo Safety and Security Programme (KSSP), through the Support to Counter Illicit Arms Trafficking (CIAT) project, aims, in general, to support the local stakeholders in achieving the Goal 3 of the Roadmap which states: 'by 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the western Balkans'. This Goal derives from the Regional Roadmap for SALW Control in the Western Balkans as well as contributes to the successful implementation of the Small Arms Light Weapons and Explosives control strategy and action plan as well as the Integrated Border Management Strategy.

UNDP Kosovo Safety and Security Programme (KSSP) through the Support to Counter Illicit Arms Trafficking (CIAT) project, aims, in general, to support the local stakeholders in achieving the Goal 3 of the Roadmap which states: 'by 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the western Balkans'. This Goal derives from the Regional Roadmap for SALW Control in the Western Balkans as well as contributes to the successful implementation of the Small Arms Light Weapons and Explosives control strategy and action plan as well as the Integrated Border Management Strategy.

This project is generously funded by the German Federal Foreign Office.



17

1 share

Posts from UNDP Kosovo Facebook account communicating about the two specialized trainings, and highlighting Germany's contribution to the project.

TWO SPECIALIZED TRAININGS FOR BORDER POLICE AND CUSTOMS OFFICERS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

UNDP's Kosovo Safety and Security Programme (KSSP) through the Support to Counter Illicit Arms Trafficking (CIAT) project has successfully completed the capacity building training programme for border police and customs officers.

During these two weeks of the specialized trainings, 70 border police and customs officers participated and were certified in Border Detection of SALW, Ammunition and Explosives and Green Border Surveillance.

The Border Detection Training aimed to improve border control capabilities to effectively and efficiently screen cargo, vehicles, personnel and other special goods such as weapons, ammunition and explosives. In addition to detection, it was focused further on the crime scene handling activities to be undertaken upon first-line or second-line detection and handing over to relevant investigation bodies in order not to contaminate evidence that would be an instruction for further investigation.

The Green Border Surveillance is specifically designed to focus on how to respond to the incidents during green border surveillance and the use of specialist equipment needed for this surveillance.

The project is generously funded by the German Federal Foreign Office.



Post from UNDP Kosovo Facebook account communicating about the completion of the two specialized trainings, highlighting Germany's contribution to the project.



👍 28

3 comments 3 shares

Sub-project 7. Improving national SALW-related practices and building violence-resilient communities		
Implemented by:	UNDP North Macedonia	
Contributes to Roadmap Goal:	Goal 2: By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence based and intelligence led.	
Implementation period:	September 2019 – December 2020	
Total budget: US\$1,000,908		Spent 25 July-31 December 2019: US\$21,790

The objective of the project is to support the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) of North Macedonia to improve its Weapons Registration and Stockpile Management Software (WRMS) and the Information Management System (IMS) used for collecting, analysing and sharing SALW-related data, leading to a more effective and efficient control and response to firearms-related threats.

In line with amended EU Directive 91/277/EC, a new module for the WRMS will be develop, allowing registered firearms dealers to keep a record of the firearms in their possession and the ones they dispose, with specific details that enable a better identification and tracing of the firearms. The necessary hardware to provide proper and uninterrupted functioning of the system will be acquired through the project, and post-deployment training to the end users will be delivered in a tailored, timely and task-oriented manner to ensure optimal results.

At the same time, the project will improve MIA's IMS which is currently outdated and cannot generate automated reports and analyses on the distribution and impact of firearms. Through a series of bespoke project activities, such as developing standardized methodology and streamlining organizational processes and upgrading necessary software and hardware, the MIA will be able to collect and analyse, on a regular basis, quantitative and qualitative information and suitably disaggregated data on incidents and criminal cases including misuse and trafficking of firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition.

Overview of progress towards results

<u>PROJECT OUTPUT</u>	<u>PROJECT OUTPUT INDICATOR</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>STATUS OF PROJECT RESULTS</u>	<u>ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST INDICATORS</u>
Output 7.1. Improved weapons registration in accordance with Amended EU firearms Directive 2017 and Law on Weapons	<p>WRMS module that allows arms brokers to maintain a register of firearms developed and introduced;</p> <p>Arms brokers' register of firearms created and populated with data;</p>	Completed and introduced WRMS module and register of firearms received or disposed of by the arms brokers;	Activities initiated	The procurement process for a software vendor that will develop WRMS module is ongoing; Meetings held with relevant stakeholders, for the development of the WRMS module.
Output 7.2. Improved and harmonized Information Management System (IMS) of the MoI	<p>Standardized methodology and a manual for streamlining organizational processes;</p> <p>Improved and upgraded IMS of MIA developed and deployed;</p> <p>IT equipment to support the use of the new IMS modernized;</p> <p>Package of operational guidelines, manuals and products developed to improve analytical capacities of MIA.</p>	<p>Upgraded and deployed IMS of MIA that supports the established standardized organizational process methodology, modernized IT equipment that can support effective use of the IMS;</p> <p>Developed and adopted organizational guidelines and procedures for integrated collection and analysis of crime and firearms related data at national, regional and international level.</p>	Activities not initiated	

Output 7.1	Improved weapons registration in accordance with Amended EU firearms Directive 2017 and Law on Weapons
Total budget: US\$24,661	Spent 25 July-31 December 2019: US\$5,250

1. Description of the output

- Under output 7.1, the project aims to improve and upgrade the current weapons registration system by developing a Weapons Registration and Stockpile Management Software (WRMS) and delivering the necessary hardware.

2. Description of activities implementing during the reporting period

- The reporting period saw the establishment of the cooperation with the relevant departments and persons in the Ministry of Interior. For that purpose, the project and its activities of output 7.1 were presented to representatives of the Weapons Registration Sector, the Information Technology Sector, the Telecommunications Sector, the International Cooperation Sector and the Border Police Unit. This resulted in the establishment of the ongoing project communication and the planning of all cooperative activities;
- As it was necessary to include legal entities who specialize in importing and selling weapons and ammunition in the upgraded WRMS module, a meeting was organized with the Economic Chamber of Macedonia (Weapons, Explosives and Dangerous Materials, Pyrotechnic Devices, Military and Equipment used by Civilians). The representatives of the companies applauded the initiative to implement an improved and upgraded WRMS module that will significantly enhance and accelerate their working procedures in the process of importing, storing and selling weapons;
- As the planned WRMS module will include data on the import, transit and export of weapons and ammunition, it was necessary to consult the IT Department within the Customs Administration which manages the EXIM system for registration of import, transit and export permits. The relation between WRMS and EXIM was agreed, eliminating the need for any duplication of data between the two systems;
- The software development procurement procedure was initiated in 2019 and is currently ongoing;
- In order to ensure the complete functionality of the WRMS module in all relevant departments of Mol, a hardware procurement procedure will be initiated. The project will procure desktop computers, printers and scanners for the Weapons Registration Sector in Mol, which is lacking suitable technical equipment for efficient use of WRMS.

3. Difficulties encountered, and measures taken to overcome the problems

- The communication and cooperation with the representatives of relevant departments in Mol is often slow and prevents a more efficient completion of all project activities. Additional issues could be caused by the establishment of a caretaker government before the April 2020 elections, which entails the appointment of a new Minister of Interior. The project staff is currently addressing these issues through strengthening the communication with the key employees, appointing focal points for relevant sectors and raising the awareness of the benefits from the project amongst Mol employees in general.

5. Achievements

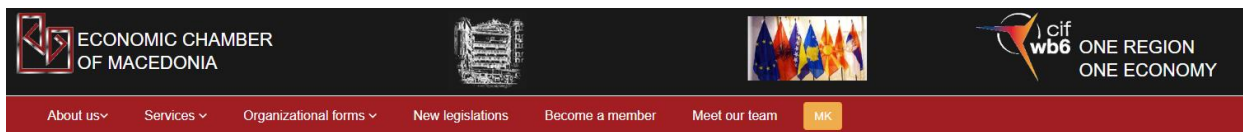
- N/A

6. Work plan for Q1 2020

Planned activities	Budget (US\$)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the software procurement procedure; Cooperate with the selected vendor on the development of WRMS module; Continue preparations of Mol personnel for the implementation of WRMS module; Initiate the hardware procurement procedure for the complete functioning of WRMS in Mol 	29,191

Activities under Output 7.2. will be initiated in 2020.

Communication and visibility



UNDP PROJECT FOR UPGRADING THE FIREARMS REGISTRATION SYSTEM

f in

Activities / 05.12.2019

Read: 112



The members of the Group for weapons, dangerous materials and explosives, pyrotechnics and equipment for military and civilian purpose within the Economic Chamber of Macedonia, held a working meeting with representatives of UNDP – Meri Atanasovski, project manager, Lijana Vodenicharska, IT expert and project consultant and Martin Nacevski, project assistant.

In the course of the working meeting, the problems that emerge during the registration and the electronic recording of the weapon and ammunition with MIA due to incomplete registration codebook were pointed out on behalf of the Group. To that end, the need for regular updates with the weapon models that are not listed thereof was highlighted...

Press release on the official website of the Economic Chamber of Macedonia announcing the project and a meeting with representatives of legal entities dealing in weapons and ammunition, available on the following [link](#).

Sub-project 8. Rogame SALW Storage Upgrade		
Implemented by:	UNDP Montenegro	
Contributes to Roadmap Goal:	Goal 7. Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives.	
Implementation period:	August 2019 – September 2020	
Total budget: US\$162,000		Spent 25 July-31 December 2019: US\$7,900

The objective of the project is to further improve the security of SALW and ammunition stockpiles in Montenegro by supporting the upgrade of two SALW storage magazines and guardhouse of the MoI/Police Directorate SALW storage location Rogame, in line with international best practices and standards.

The project builds on the recent work at the Rogame storage conducted by UNDP SEESAC in 2019.

Overview of progress towards results

<u>PROJECT OUTPUT</u>	<u>PROJECT OUTPUT INDICATOR</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>STATUS OF PROJECT RESULTS</u>	<u>ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST INDICATORS</u>
Output 8.1. Enhanced security at the 'Rogame' SALW and ammunition storage	Tender issued for the completion of project design	Project design firm selected/project design completed	Partially achieved	Project design firm selected. Design is ongoing.
	Tender issued for the construction and supervision of works/Contractors chosen/Contracts signed	Construction and Supervision companies selected/Contracts signed	Activities not initiated	
	Two magazines/guardhouse reconstructed in line with international standards	Magazines/guardhouse reconstructed	Activities not initiated	
	Upgrade works handed over and technical handover minutes signed	The works handed over to the beneficiary	Activities not initiated	

Output 8.1	Enhanced security at the 'Rogame' SALW and ammunition storage
Total budget: US\$129,476	Spent 25 July-31 December 2019: US\$1,196

1. Description of the output

- Through Output 8.1 will be achieved in several steps:
 - The project design for the security upgrade of the two magazines and the guard house is prepared;
 - Once the project designed is finalised, a tender for the upgrade works and their supervision is launched;
 - The upgrade works are executed and supervised;
 - A handover ceremony marking the completion of works at the storage location is organized.

2. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period

- In the first month of the project implementation, an assessment of the Rogame ammunition storage was conducted together with the MoI, which highlighted the works that are required at the storages' roofs that are currently in bad condition;
- The tender for the completion of the project design was launched and the project design company was selected. The work on completion of project design is ongoing, to be completed in Q1 2020.

3. Difficulties encountered, and measures taken to overcome the problems

- N/A

4. Changes introduced in implementation

- N/A

5. Achievements

- N/A

6. Work plan for Q1 2020

Planned activities	Budget (US\$)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize the project design; Issue tender for the reconstruction works and supervision of the works on two magazines and a guard house in the Rogame storage. 	8,000

V. Interim Financial Report

Project Title: Support to the implementation of the Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW and their ammunition in the WB through actions implemented by UNDP Country Offices
Project Duration: 5/14/2019 - 12/31/2021
Financial Report for the period: May-December 2019
Total Project Budget: 6,257,110.35
Total Project Budget Year 1: 559,825.00

Activity		Responsible Party	Approved Budget	Budget Year 1	Expenses	Budget Balance Year 1
Output 1: Coordination activities	Coordination of implementation of Roadmap projects	UNDP IRH	336,853.16	6,480	6,021	459
Output 2: Roadmap sub-projects delivered by UNDP Offices	Sub-project 1: Reduce risk - Increase safety	UNDP SRB CO	294,462.00	51,894	19,709	32,185
	Sub-project 2: Advancing the Capacities of the Ministry of Interior	UNDP SRB CO	958,284.00	43,740	16,989	26,751
	Sub-project 3: Support Albania's Law Enforcement Authorities	UNDP ALB CO	1,185,471.00	35,301	2,211	33,090
	Sub-project 4: Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking (CIAT)	UNDP BIH CO	1,071,283.00	123,275	71,794	51,481
	Sub-project 5: Urgent Action on Ammunition Destruction	UNDP BIH CO	55,066.00	55,066	54,645	421
	Sub-project 6: Support to counter Illicit arms trafficking	UNDP KOS CO	987,412.00	53,168	50,677	2,491
	Sub-project 7: Improving national SALW-related practices	UNDP MKD CO	1,000,908.00	152,630	21,790	130,840
	Sub-project 8: Rogame SALW Storage Upgrade	UNDP MNE CO	162,000.00	38,271	7,900	30,371
	Not distributed funds	UNDP	205,371.19			
TOTAL PROJECT FUNDS			6,257,110.35	559,825	251,736	308,089

Note: All figures are provided in US\$