

SEESAC

South Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons

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SEESAC ACTIVITY REPORT - AR22

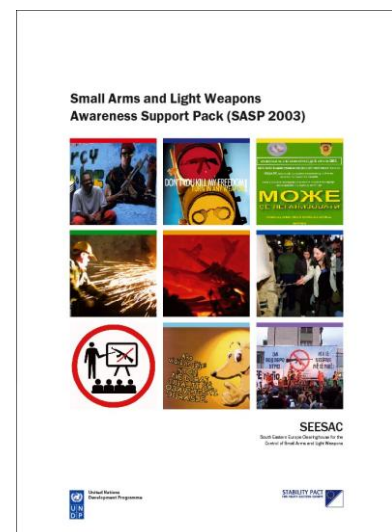
SALW AWARENESS SUPPORT PACK (SASP)

SEESAC FUNCTIONAL AREA	FA 4 - SALW Awareness and Communications Strategy
SEESAC OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY	SG 2 - Co-ordination Measures SG 3 - Information Management and Exchange Activities SG 7 - Training Activities

In view of the serious challenges posed to the region by Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), the South Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of SALW was jointly established by UNDP and the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe (SEE) to provide project support and technical assistance to all SALW control activities and interventions within SEE. Among its other responsibilities, SEESAC is mandated to provide technical advice on the crucial issue of SALW Awareness.

One of the key documents relating to SALW in SEE – the Stability Pact Regional Implementation Plan For SEE – specifically sets out a requirement for SALW Awareness programmes to be undertaken across the region.¹ Yet, SEESAC consultations with regional stakeholders during 2002 highlighted the low level of knowledge, skills and resources available to meet the pressing need for increased SALW Awareness in SEE.² In the young and developing field of SALW Awareness there are comparatively few examples for practitioners to draw upon, and up until early 2003 there had been no systematic attempt to capture emerging best (and worst) practices at the operational level.

For these reasons SEESAC initiated a process during mid-2003 which has culminated in the publication of the ‘SALW Awareness Support Pack’ (SASP). Consisting of a handbook and CD-ROM, SASP sets out the principles and procedures for safe and effective SALW Awareness programming, and provides a collection of supporting materials. It is for use by all stakeholders



¹ The RIP stipulates the following requirements for SEE states in relation to SALW Awareness: (a) Development and implementation of regional public awareness and confidence building programmes on the problems and consequences of the proliferation of SALW. (b) Development and implementation of specific national and community-based public information and awareness campaigns on the issues, especially security, surrounding the uncontrolled proliferation of SALW.

² See <http://www.seesac.org>, ‘SEE Country Assessments’.

preparing to develop or take part in SALW Awareness programmes, whether they are members of civil society, national SALW authorities, international organisations, donors, or security/peace-keeping forces.

The purposes of SASP can be summarised as follows:

- ❑ To determine, continually develop and make available emerging best practices in SALW Awareness throughout SEE, thereby maximising the chances that future programmes are safe and effective;
- ❑ To provide tools and methods for conducting programmes that will streamline projects, saving time and resources;
- ❑ To increase regional expertise with regard to SALW Awareness among all actors involved in such activities; and
- ❑ To outline mechanisms that enable SALW Awareness programmes to co-ordinate with, or be integrated into, micro-disarmament interventions.

The SASP package includes:

- a) An operational handbook: a set of logically structured guidelines for those conducting SALW Awareness programmes, illustrated with examples from the field; and
- b) A CD-ROM: with supporting materials and publications, including:
 - ❑ Introductions to SALW issues.
 - ❑ Materials for donors and fundraisers.
 - ❑ Reference documents.
 - ❑ Web links.
 - ❑ PowerPoint presentations for use by activists.
 - ❑ Photo galleries, presentations, movies and radio clips for use in SALW Awareness campaigns.

To ensure the relevance of SASP on the ground, a draft version of the pack was reviewed at a joint RACVIAC/SEESAC workshop in July 2003 by a representative group of stakeholders (staff from local and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs), international organisations and SEE governments) before being circulated to a wider group of commentators.

SASP 2003 is the final result of these consultations and research. It is a hybrid product that distils the views and experiences of the widest possible number of SALW activists and practitioners. SASP is now available free to all interested parties,³ but in order to maximise the chance that future SALW Awareness campaigns are undertaken with full knowledge of the tools and best practices included in SASP, it will be necessary to conduct widespread OUTREACH activities during 2004.

³ See <http://www.seesac.org>, 'SALW Awareness Support Pack (SASP)'. Hard copies of SASP can be obtained by contacting SEESAC, who will mail them on request.



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