



AR/088

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SEESAC ACTIVITY REPORT – AR/088

CHILDREN AND SMALL ARMS RESOURCE GUIDE: PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACHES

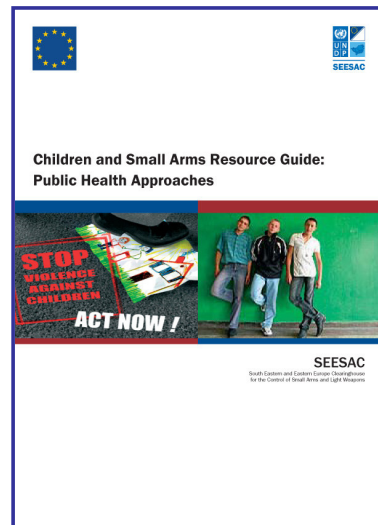
SEESAC FUNCTIONAL AREA	FA 4 - SALW Awareness and Communications Strategy
SEESAC OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY	OA 3 - Information Management and Exchange Activities OA 7 - Training and Research

In March 2006 SEESAC commissioned an Education Consultant to determine the need for a school curriculum on small arms throughout the Western Balkan countries through consultation with relevant stakeholders, a review of available literature on the subject of small arms, children and youth, and examination of evaluation reports from previous risk education projects conducted in South Eastern Europe (SEE). This report is one of a series of publications on this issue.

The public health approach is a particularly useful way of looking at the issue of small arms in relation to children and young people, as it is an evidence-based approach. One of the difficulties of developing policies and programmes on this issue is the lack of quality data on the impact of small arms on children and young people.

The advantages of the public health approach to the issue of children and small arms are:

- It is an evidence-based approach, which begins with data collection before decisions are made about the need for programmes or the kinds of programmes;
- There is already a large body of scientific and medical research on public health which can inform discussion of the particular problems posed by small arms;
- It attempts to ascertain why a problem occurs, the risk factors, and the factors that could be modified through targeted interventions;
- It adopts a scientific approach to designing, implementing and evaluating programmes;
- It works on multiple levels, individual, relational, communal and societal, and adopts an ecological approach, that is, that no single factor can account for the problem of violence, and there is an interaction of factors at different levels;
- It includes advocacy by medical organisations on the issue; and
- It focuses on the needs of survivors of small arms injuries, a still neglected issue.



The issue of violence and small arms as public health issues is a complex one, and this document aims to draw the attention of the wider group of professionals, NGOs and UN staff concerned with small arms and

children to some of the available literature and approaches, in the hope that a more scientific approach will benefit children and young people. It is also hoped that health professionals will take a leading role in responding to the problem of small arms in the region.

This report is now available on the Education and Small Arms section of the SEESAC website <http://www.seesac.org>. For more information please contact SEESAC Communications Officer Ana Martinovic: ana.martinovic@undp.org.



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