



SALW Survey Protocol 5

2nd Edition

‘Question Bank’



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Foreword

On 08 May 2003 the development of regional micro-disarmament¹ standards and guidelines (RMDS/G) was discussed during the RACVIAC-sponsored seminar on '**SALW: A year after Implementation of the Stability Pact Plan**'. The consensus was that such standards and guidelines were desirable, and SEESAC agreed to develop a framework and take subsequent responsibility for the future development of regional standards. It was agreed that RMDS/G would be designed to support work at the operational level, and would go further than the more generic 'best practice' documents currently available. The RMDS/G² reflect the development of operational procedures, practices, and norms that have been applied over the past five years in the area of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)³ control.

As part of the RMDS/G development, a standard on SALW Survey was developed (RMDS/G 05.80). These subsequent Survey Protocols comply with RMDS/G 05.80 and provide further operational guidance for the conduct of SALW Surveys in support of SALW interventions.

A SALW Survey is defined by RMDS/G as: '**a systematic and logical process to determine the nature and extent of SALW proliferation and impact within a region, nation or community in order to provide accurate data and information for a safe, effective and efficient intervention by an appropriate organisation**'.

The work of preparing, reviewing, and revising these Survey Protocols is conducted by the Small Arms Survey, with the support of international, governmental, and non-governmental organisations and consultants. The latest version of each protocol, together with background information on the development work, can be found at www.seesac.org. The Survey Protocols are reviewed at least every three years to reflect developing SALW control norms and practices, and to incorporate changes to international regulations and requirements.

¹ Defined as: 'The monitoring, collection, control and final disposal of small arms, related ammunition and explosives and light weapons of combatants and often also of the civilian population. It includes the development of responsible weapons and ammunition management programmes.' Often used interchangeably with SALW control.

² The layout and format of RMDS/G are based on the highly successful International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). The cooperation of the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) is acknowledged by SEESAC during the development of RMDS/G and the related Survey Protocols. The fourth editions of the RMDS/G are now available on SEESAC's website, and are recommended in all work on SALW control.

³ There is no agreed international definition of SALW, although the UN has developed a list of SALW types. For the purposes of RMDS/G the following definition will apply: "**All lethal conventional munitions that can be carried by an individual combatant or a light vehicle, that also do not require a substantial logistic and maintenance capability**".

SALW Survey Protocol 5 – ‘Question Bank’

1. Scope

This document covers a range of key questions that may be selected from whilst conducting a comprehensive SALW Survey, including questions related to:

- a) Distribution of SALW (SADS);
- b) Impact of SALW (SAIS);
- c) Perceptions of SALW (SAPS) (including demand for SALW);⁴ and
- d) Capacity to control SALW (SACS).

This Protocol builds on lessons learned from SALW Surveys conducted in the field, in particular how questions posed in different parts of the SALW Survey can be cross-referenced for analysis for the data to be more meaningful. It is important to examine all aspects of the Survey (SADS, SAIS, SAPS and SACS) to better ‘analyse’ the threat that SALW pose in any one community and therefore be able to identify what kind of SALW control intervention(s) is needed, what indigenous capacities exist to support the intervention, and what resources, operational capability and local conditions are needed for the intervention to be a success (i.e. that the intervention has a positive impact as opposed to no impact or a negative impact). At a national level, SALW control practitioners will be able to identify priority communities for SALW control interventions and plan for the necessary resources.

In the table of questions, the practitioner can see which aspects of a comprehensive SALW Survey each question contributes to, but this needs to be used in conjunction with the other Protocols. These questions are for use in questionnaires, focus groups and key informant interviews but this Protocol also suggests other sources that should be consulted, as indicated in the table. Protocol 5 may also be of use to a wider range of practitioners who are looking to include perceptions of security in a broader security-type survey. Those conducting the SALW Survey should take note of existing data collection and data analysis mechanisms in the country or region concerned so as to identify information gaps.

As specified in previous Protocols, this table of questions is not a definitive, exhaustive list, but has been developed based on experience obtained during previous SALW Survey work. The particular questions selected for use in a SALW Survey will be dependent on:

- a) Local conditions;
- b) Programme goals and objectives;
- c) Previous data availability;
- d) Requirements for comparison with data obtained from previous SALW Surveys; and
- e) Available resources.

To be most effective, it is important that the SALW Survey component is included during the strategic, operational and detailed mission planning phases of programme development. The financial costs of a SALW Survey are low when compared to total programme costs, yet they have the potential for high impact on programme success.

⁴ Survey Protocol 3 covers the categorisation of responses to questions posed in the Perception Survey (SAPS); Survey Protocol 4 covers the categorisation of responses to questions posed in the Demand Survey.

2. References

A list of normative references is given in Annex A. Normative references are important documents to which reference is made in this standard and which form part of the provisions of this standard.

3. Terms and definitions

A list of terms and definitions used in this Survey Protocol is given in Annex B. A complete glossary of all the terms and definitions used in the RMDS/G series of standards is given in RMDS/G 02.10.

In the Survey Protocols, the words 'shall', 'should' and 'may' are used to indicate the intended degree of compliance. This use is consistent with the language used in ISO standards and guidelines.

- a) 'shall' is used to indicate requirements, methods or specifications, which are to be adopted in order to satisfy the standard in full;
- b) 'should' is used to indicate the preferred requirements, methods or specifications; and
- c) 'may' is used to indicate a possible method or course of action.

The term 'national SALW authority' refers to the government department(s), organisation(s) or institution(s) in each SALW country charged with the regulation, management and co-ordination of SALW activities.

4. Table of questions and guidelines for use

The questions provided below are intended to serve as examples for researchers intending to carry out SALW research with a number of different informants, including, but not limited to, the general public, government officials, human rights groups, professionals in the police force or legal system, and parliamentarians. The table also lists other possible sources of information, including study and research reports by international organisations and research institutes, international databases, government reports on SALW agreements and media reports.

Researchers should select only those questions that serve their research objectives and should modify them for the purposes of their particular survey, taking into account local language, local (security) conditions, and cultural context, before including them in a suitable research instrument (e.g. household questionnaire, or guidelines for interviewers or focus group moderators). Comments made in the 'Remarks' column of the table should be read before proceeding. The ordering of questions in a questionnaire or when interviewing an individual is very important and should take into account the sensitivity of what is being asked, posing the most sensitive questions last by which stage the interviewer should have gained the trust of the interviewee. The sensitivity and complexity of a question will be major factors in determining how it is used.

Information collected during any aspect of a SALW Survey should be disaggregated according to gender, age, geographic location, ethnicity and any other relevant parameters to the greatest extent possible in order to provide the most accurate assessment of the SALW situation in a given country or area.

Since no one research technique in isolation will provide researchers with all the information they require, it is likely that a SALW Survey will use a number of different research tools when working with the general public. These may range along a continuum from highly formalised and quantitative tools such as questionnaires, through focus groups and interviews that provide deeper but more qualitative results. By deploying different tools a mixture of qualitative and quantitative information can be gathered, questions of varying complexity and sensitivity can be asked of different social groups and different professionals, and a richer understanding of the range of people's knowledge, attitudes, perceptions, motivations and insights can be reached.

As iterated in previous SALW Survey Protocols, all research tools must also be pre-tested before use, and require some training to use – particularly when the research subject is a sensitive one such as SALW.

NO.	QUESTION	INTERVIEWEE / SOURCE	SURVEY COMPONENT OR TYPE					REMARKS
			SADS	SAIS	SAPS ⁵	SACS	SECURITY	
1.	What legislative and regulatory framework exists for all aspects of SALW Control?	Official Gazette Government reports under International SALW Agreements Publications by International Organisations (e.g. SEESAC ⁶) Relevant Ministry / Governmental Department Officials				√		Including: Production and marking of arms; Record-keeping and tracing; Stockpile management and security; Licensing (exports, imports, transits, transshipments, and civilian possession); Customs authorities and border controls; Brokering activities; Verification and inspection (of weapon use and storage); and Responsible authorities.

⁵ Example responses to questions posed in the SAPS can be found in SALW Survey Protocol 3 <http://www.seesac.org/index.php?content=41§ion=6> accessed on 09 August 2006.

⁶ The South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons <http://www.seesac.org> accessed on 11 August 2006.

NO.	QUESTION	INTERVIEWEE / SOURCE	SURVEY COMPONENT OR TYPE					REMARKS
			SADS	SAIS	SAPS ⁵	SACS	SECURITY	
2.	Have any weaknesses in regulations and legislation governing SALW Control in [<i>insert country</i>] been identified?	National Commission on SALW ⁷ Relevant Ministry / Governmental Department Officials Government reports under International SALW Agreements Police Commissioners / Members of the Judiciary Individuals working in the arms industry General Public International Organisations (e.g. AI, ⁸ TI, ⁹ ICG ¹⁰). Media reports			√	√		Respondents in the SAPS may comment on licensing procedures for civilians. Individuals working in the industry might include gun factory or gun shop owners.
3.	What penalties and enforcement mechanisms exist for SALW Control measures?	Relevant Ministry / Governmental Department Officials Reports on International SALW Agreements				√		This should be cross-referenced with the number of SALW-related offences committed (from the SAIS) and take account of how much crime goes unreported.

⁷ Where there is one in place.

⁸ Amnesty International <http://www.amnesty.org> accessed on 11 August 2006.

⁹ Transparency International <http://www1.transparency.org/> accessed on 11 August 2006.

¹⁰ International Crisis Group <http://www.crisisgroup.org> accessed on 11 August 2006.

NO.	QUESTION	INTERVIEWEE / SOURCE	SURVEY COMPONENT OR TYPE					REMARKS
			SADS	SAIS	SAPS ⁵	SACS	SECURITY	
4.	What transparency and accountability mechanisms are in place?	Relevant Ministry / Governmental Department Officials Government reports under International SALW Agreements Parliamentarians Civil Society Groups				√		Including: Parliamentary oversight; Public access; and International commitments.
5.	What regional and international cooperation exists on SALW Control measures?	Relevant Ministry / Governmental Department Officials Government reports under International SALW Agreements International Organisations (e.g. INTERPOL, ¹¹ SEESAC, RACVIAC, ¹² SECI, ¹³ UNDP, ¹⁴ ICG) Research Institutes				√		Including: Partnerships and cooperation; Information exchange; and Training and assistance.
6.	Who are the legal weapons holders and how many are registered to them?	Ministry of Interior / Ministry of Defence	√					
7.	What are the holdings and stockpiles of the police and military?	Ministry of Interior / Ministry of Defence	√					Broken down into type of weapon and calculating any weapons that are surplus to requirement.

¹¹ <http://www.interpol.int/> accessed on 11 August 2006.

¹² Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre <http://www.racviac.org/index/Default.asp> accessed on 11 August 2006.

¹³ Southeast European Cooperative Initiative <http://www.secicenter.org/html/index.htm> accessed on 11 August 2006.

¹⁴ United Nations Development Programme <http://www.undp.org/> accessed on 11 August 2006.

NO.	QUESTION	INTERVIEWEE / SOURCE	SURVEY COMPONENT OR TYPE					REMARKS
			SADS	SAIS	SAPS ⁵	SACS	SECURITY	
8.	What is the level of weapons production in the country?	Ministry of Trade & Economy / Ministry of Foreign Affairs	√					Including: Production; Capacity; Actual production; Volume and value; Number of persons employed; Profitability; Ownership; and Importance of SALW industry for the domestic economy.
9.	Are there any illegal weapons production activities?	Ministry of Interior / Ministry of Trade & Economy	√			√		Either illegal production in factories or illegal factories.
10.	What legal arms trading activities exist (import, transfers and exports)?	Ministry of Trade & Economy / Ministry of Foreign Affairs NISAT ¹⁵	√					Including: Extent of legal trade, volume, value, both import and export; Main SALW trade partners; main exporting companies (among producers); Trading companies / brokers; Shipping companies; and Types of SALW traded.
11.	What smuggling / trafficking and other illicit transfers of arms have occurred?	Ministry of Interior / Ministry of Foreign Affairs Human Rights Groups (e.g. Amnesty International) INTERPOL Media reports Customs Service and Border Guard Service	√			√		

¹⁵ Norwegian Initiative on Small Arms Transfers <http://www.nisat.org> accessed on 11 August 2006.

NO.	QUESTION	INTERVIEWEE / SOURCE	SURVEY COMPONENT OR TYPE					REMARKS
			SADS	SAIS	SAPS ⁵	SACS	SECURITY	
12.	What is the capacity of the State to conduct safe weapons collections and how many weapons have been collected in the last <i>[insert time period]</i> ?	Ministry of Interior / Ministry of Defence	√			√		
13.	What are the State's destruction capacities for weapons and ammunition and how many weapons / ammunition have been destroyed in the last <i>[insert time period]</i> ?	Ministry of Interior / Ministry of Defence	√			√		
14.	Are there any arms control measures currently in place in the community?	Ministry of Interior/ Ministry of Defence Local Authorities				√		
15.	What weapon collections or destruction activities have taken place?	Ministry of Interior / Ministry of Defence	√			√		It is important to determine whether collected weapons are sold, donated, loaned or stockpiled rather than destroyed.
16.	In what ways have civil society been involved in SALW Control interventions and how successful have they been?	Relevant Ministries Civil Society Groups Donors / International Organisations				√		Including research, awareness and advocacy actions. When thinking in terms of how successful their actions have been, identify knowledge or skill gaps for targeted capacity-building measures.
17.	What is the quality, accuracy and sensitivity of media reports on security and SALW issues (including gun crime and SALW Control measures)?	Journalists and Editors Media reports				√		Taking into account what media training may have already taken place, and what follow up there may be by journalists on SALW crimes reported on in the media, which is important for (young) readers to see 'real life' repercussions of such gun misuse.

NO.	QUESTION	INTERVIEWEE / SOURCE	SURVEY COMPONENT OR TYPE					REMARKS
			SADS	SAIS	SAPS ⁵	SACS	SECURITY	
18.	Do you think there are too many guns in your country?	General Public	√		√		√	Perceptions of arms proliferation influence perceptions of security. Asking respondents to estimate how many guns they think there are in their community or country can also be insightful as under-estimation and over-estimation influence the perceived impact of existing weapons.
19.	How would you describe the number of weapons in your community?	General Public	√		√		√	
20.	Compared to one year ago, how do you think that the number of weapons in your neighbourhood has changed?	General Public	√		√		√	
21.	On average, what types/makes of weapons do you think are the most common in your community?	General Public	√		√			
22.	What are the prices of the different weapons available in your community?	General Public	√		√			
23.	Has the price of weapons gone up or down compared to five years ago?	General Public	√		√			
24.	On average, how often do you hear weapon-shots in your neighbourhood?	General Public	√		√		√	
25.	Apart from official security forces how often do you see firearms in your neighbourhood?	General Public	√		√		√	
26.	At which times or places in your community would you say firearms are most visible?	General Public	√		√		√	
27.	Who do you think has the most guns (outside of the security forces)?	General Public	√		√		√	
28.	Which groups in your community are the most likely to possess guns?	General Public	√		√			

NO.	QUESTION	INTERVIEWEE / SOURCE	SURVEY COMPONENT OR TYPE					REMARKS
			SADS	SAIS	SAPS ⁵	SACS	SECURITY	
29.	Do both men and women own weapons?	General Public	√		√		√	
30.	In what age group are weapons most common?	General Public	√		√		√	
31.	Do you know how many households in your local area have firearms?	General Public	√		√		√	On the basis of these questions an estimate can be made of the number of illegally owned weapons. Q.33 should be asked at the end of the Survey since this is a sensitive question.
32.	On average, how many weapons do you think people have in their household?	General Public	√		√		√	
33.	Does your household own a gun and if so how many?	General Public	√		√		√	
34.	If a person from your neighbourhood, for whatever reason, needed a weapon, where do you think he could get one?	General Public	√		√		√	Perceptions of availability of weapons impact on perceptions of personal security. 'Weapons availability' covers borrowing, stealing, buying or finding (dumped) weapons.
35.	In your opinion, what are the worst problems your community faces at this time?	General Public Civil Society Groups Municipal Leaders			√		√	These questions are designed to allow the respondent to state whether security in general is a priority concern or not, and what aspects of security, perhaps unrelated to SALW.
36.	In your opinion, what types of municipal improvements are most needed by people in your neighbourhood?	General Public Civil Society Groups			√		√	
37.	What is the biggest cause of insecurity to you personally?	General Public			√		√	This aids the interviewer in identifying how crime (and gun-crime) rank alongside other community concerns amongst respondents.
38.	If violence, what kind of violence?	General Public		√	√		√	
39.	Do any inter-/intra-group tensions exist within your community, along racial, ethnic, religious, linguistic or other lines (or between a refugee/IDP population and the local community)?	General Public			√		√	

NO.	QUESTION	INTERVIEWEE / SOURCE	SURVEY COMPONENT OR TYPE					REMARKS
			SADS	SAIS	SAPS ⁵	SACS	SECURITY	
40.	Compared to one year ago, how do you think that the levels of security in your community have changed?	General Public			√		√	Ensure that the respondent lived in the community during the time period you are asking them to review.
41.	Compared to one year ago, how do you think that the level of your own personal security has changed?	General Public			√		√	Ensure that the respondent lived in the community during the time period you are asking them to review.
42.	Do you think your town / neighbourhood is safer, similar to, or more dangerous than other areas in <i>[insert local area/region]</i> ?	General Public			√		√	
43.	What would you most like to see done to improve security in your community?	General Public			√		√	
44.	What types of crime occur most often in this area nowadays?	General Public			√		√	From the different kinds of violent incidents it then needs to be determined whether guns are used in these acts.

NO.	QUESTION	INTERVIEWEE / SOURCE	SURVEY COMPONENT OR TYPE					REMARKS
			SADS	SAIS	SAPS ⁵	SACS	SECURITY	
45.	What types of crime have involved the use of SALW in the last <i>[insert time period]</i> : including robbery, assault, grievous assault, murder, intimidation and discharge of a firearm?	General Public Ministry of Interior / Police Judiciary / Courts National / local media International organisations (e.g. OSCE)		√	√		√	<p>Take into account the level of crime that may go unreported and cross-reference with the SACS on law enforcement capacities, and with the SAPS on the general public's trust in law enforcement.</p> <p>Where possible get information on age, gender and ethnicity of both the victim and the perpetrator, as well as the type of weapon used, the location of the incident, the injury sustained, the reason for / intent of the action, whether it was accidental/intentional, and the relationship between those involved.</p> <p>Additional data should be gathered on who treated the victims(s) and where, who alerted the police to the crime, and what became of the weapon used in the crime.</p> <p>Both this question and Q.46 below should also determine any continuing physical or psychological damage sustained from the SALW incident.</p>

NO.	QUESTION	INTERVIEWEE / SOURCE	SURVEY COMPONENT OR TYPE					REMARKS
			SADS	SAIS	SAPS ⁵	SACS	SECURITY	
46.	How many SALW-related injuries (non-fatal and fatal) have been sustained over [insert time] including: accidental injury, suicide / attempted suicide, and inter-personal violence involving firearms?	Ministry of Interior / Police The Courts Ministry of Health / Health Institutes / Hospitals Civil Society Groups (e.g. women and youth organisations) International Organisations (e.g. WHO) ¹⁶ Media reports		√				For this data to be able to show the at-risk groups, it should ideally be disaggregated according to gender, age, ethnicity and geographic location. Such data should follow the WHO's ICD-10 classification. ¹⁷ Key Informant Interviews with doctors, nurses, paramedics, coroners and forensic doctors may offer insight into the adequacy of existing data collection mechanisms and record-keeping practices, to have a better idea of how complete a picture the gathered data gives. It is important to also take into account incidents where individuals use guns to threaten others, where no injuries are sustained e.g. domestic violence.
47.	Do you think that the availability or use of SALW is an issue of concern to your community?	General Public Civil Society Groups Municipal Leaders Police Commissioners / Officers		√	√		√	Opinions on gun availability and gun visibility affect perceptions of personal security.
48.	How safe do you feel from firearm violence?	General Public		√	√		√	NB. These can be extremely sensitive questions and if posed during focus group discussion or Key Informant Interviews, i.e. in person,
49.	Have you ever been present in a situation where a firearm was used?	General Public		√	√		√	

¹⁶ World Health Organisation, <http://www.who.int/en/>, last accessed on 16 October 2006.

¹⁷ Please see the following for more information: <http://www.who.int/classifications/icd/en/>, accessed on 16 October 2006.

NO.	QUESTION	INTERVIEWEE / SOURCE	SURVEY COMPONENT OR TYPE					REMARKS
			SADS	SAIS	SAPS ⁵	SACS	SECURITY	
50.	Do you ever think of the possibility that either you or someone close to you might be injured by SALW?	General Public		√	√		√	should be asked according to best practices on interviewing (possible) victims of violence. Please see remarks for Qs.44 and 45.
51.	Have you or a member of your household been the victim of an armed crime/incident?	General Public		√	√		√	
52.	Do you know of an incident where someone was injured by weapons or explosives? If so please specify circumstances (age, gender, events).	General Public		√	√		√	
53.	In what situation was the gun fired?	General Public		√	√		√	
54.	What type of gun was used?	General Public	√	√	√		√	
55.	What has been the political, economic and social impact of conflict / SALW / general instability on tourism, investment, etc.?	Ministry of Economic Affairs / Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Ministry of Tourism Foreign Investors / Banks Individual Businesses Research Institutes / Civil Society Groups		√				The relevant Ministries may have data on investment and tourism figures, research institutes and civil society groups may have undertaken similar studies in this are, and Key Informant Interviews with members of foreign and national banks and businesses may offer an insight into how security concerns have influenced their investment strategies.
56.	What has been the impact of SALW on governance and the rule of law?	Police Commissioners/ Police Members of the Judiciary and the Courts						Have law enforcement agents and/or members of the legal profession been intimidated or even killed by armed individuals?
57.	What effect do you think that the presence of guns in your community has had on economic development and the standard of living?	General Public		√	√			Where respondents demonstrate an understanding of the negative impact guns have on their community, they are more likely to support initiatives to control or remove them from the community.

NO.	QUESTION	INTERVIEWEE / SOURCE	SURVEY COMPONENT OR TYPE					REMARKS
			SADS	SAIS	SAPS ⁵	SACS	SECURITY	
58.	What effect would you say that weapons possession has on different areas and aspects of the community?	General Public		√	√		√	
59.	What impact do SALW have on youth and children?	General Public School Principals / Teachers Civil Society Groups (e.g. youth groups) Parents / Youth		√	√		√	Cross-reference with crime and injury data from Qs.45 and Q.46, the presence of firearms in schools, their visibility in the community, gun ownership and use by youth, etc.
60.	For each of the following areas, do you think that they have any influence on people's attitudes (especially the youth) towards guns?	General Public / Youth		√	√			Such sources of influence might include different kinds of media, computer games, certain role models, particular use of weapons in public life etc. It is important to consider the ways in which incidents of armed violence are reported on in the media, especially in terms of the outcomes for both victims and perpetrators.
61.	What are the 'customary controls' or 'social norms' associated with demand and control of weapons in your community?	General Public			√			Most cultures have a set of prevailing norms associated with weapons possession and misuse. It is essential to understand the role of tradition and culture and how this can relate to arms control, particularly in times of social unrest.

NO.	QUESTION	INTERVIEWEE / SOURCE	SURVEY COMPONENT OR TYPE					REMARKS
			SADS	SAIS	SAPS ⁵	SACS	SECURITY	
62.	Ideally, who do you think should be responsible for security?	General Public			√		√	In a post-conflict environment this should be the police force rather than any militarised group. Respondents may comment on the role of the community in security provision e.g. neighbourhood watch schemes can be very effective.
63.	How efficient do you judge the police to be in solving crime and protecting people?	General Public			√	√	√	These questions are key in determining the state of law enforcement in the community and whether there is a link between a demand for weapons and weak law enforcement.
64.	Do you always report criminal activities to the police?	General Public			√		√	This can be cross-referenced with the number of crimes reported to the police (Q.45) to get a better sense of how much crime is un-reported.
65.	Do you think that the police lack adequate resources and manpower to carry out their duties?	General Public Police Commissioners / Officers			√	√	√	These questions aim to determine the source of any negative evaluation of police performance and efficiency and may be useful in identifying any shortcomings which could be fed back to the Ministry of Interior for future police training / additional resource provision.
66.	Do you think that the police differ in their treatment of community members because they accept monetary incentives and/or do favours for friends and relatives?	General Public			√	√	√	

NO.	QUESTION	INTERVIEWEE / SOURCE	SURVEY COMPONENT OR TYPE					REMARKS
			SADS	SAIS	SAPS ⁵	SACS	SECURITY	
67.	Have there been any human rights violations by police (or other state forces, or organized insurgent forces) involving the misuse of their weapons, either to threaten or to assault?	General Public Human Rights Groups (e.g. Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch) Media reports Civil Society Groups Police Commissioners / Officers			√	√	√	There may be particular minority groups that are mistreated so this question should be adapted accordingly.
68.	In your opinion, do people who commit violent crimes receive adequate punishment?	General Public Police Commissioners / Officers Members of the Judiciary / Prosecutor's Office			√	√	√	
69.	How fair do you consider the Judiciary to be?	General Public			√	√	√	
70.	Do you know of any civil society groups that have tried to improve safety in your community?	General Public			√	√	√	Consult with individuals currently or previously involved in any such activities in order to use local structures and identify key informants to gain a more in-depth understanding of the local situation.
71.	What do you think could be done to improve the security situation?	General Public Civil Society Groups Police Commissioners / Officers			√	√	√	
72.	How much would you pay for more safety from firearm violence?	General Public			√		√	Taking local salaries and cost of living into account.
73.	Who/which groups do you think would have the most to gain from civilian arms control measures in your community?	General Public			√			This question will help to identify potential supporters of arms control measures.

NO.	QUESTION	INTERVIEWEE / SOURCE	SURVEY COMPONENT OR TYPE					REMARKS
			SADS	SAIS	SAPS ⁵	SACS	SECURITY	
74.	Who/which groups do you think would have the most to lose from civilian arms control measures in your community?	General Public			√			This question will help to identify potential opponents of arms control measures.
75.	What do you think is an appropriate age to start handling weapons?	General Public			√			Qs. 75 – 88 seek to understand the respondent's attitudes towards gun possession and gun use.
76.	Do you believe that possessing weapons makes you safer or less safe as a family?	General Public			√		√	
77.	Do you think disputes can sometimes only be resolved with the use of a weapon?	General Public			√			Determine what conflict-resolution strategies may exist in the community.
78.	Do you think that improving the control of firearms in [insert location] would increase security?	General Public			√		√	
79.	Under what circumstances is it acceptable to own a gun?	General Public			√		√	
80.	Do you feel it is less legitimate to possess military style weapons, ammunition and explosives (as opposed to pistols etc.)?	General Public			√			
81.	Do you think that laws governing civilian possession of guns are strict enough?	General Public Police Commissioners / Officers			√			Cross-reference this question with Q.89 as respondents may not know the law.
82.	How much do you think registration of, and licensing for legal firearms possession increases security?	General Public Police Commissioners / Officers			√		√	This question is only useful if the respondent understands existing State regulations on civilian weapon possession.
83.	Why do you think people keep firearms (those not working for state security forces or private security companies)?	General Public Police Commissioners / Officers			√		√	Individual motivations for possessing and using firearms are explored in more detail in SALW Survey Protocol 4 on Assessing Demand for SALW.

NO.	QUESTION	INTERVIEWEE / SOURCE	SURVEY COMPONENT OR TYPE					REMARKS
			SADS	SAIS	SAPS ⁵	SACS	SECURITY	
84.	Why do you think people might NOT register their guns?	General Public Police Commissioners / Officers			√		√	Important to determine whether there are a high number of illegally-held weapons that are in fact legal to own. Respondents may comment on the State's methods of controlling legal weapons in civilian possession.
85.	If your household could own a gun legally, would you choose to do so, and why?	General Public			√		√	Individual motivations for possessing and using firearms are explored in more detail in SALW Survey Protocol 4 on Assessing Demand for SALW.
86.	Why would your household choose NOT to own a weapon?	General Public			√		√	
87.	How much would you pay for a firearm if it were available?	General Public			√		√	This data is only meaningful when taken in relation to local salaries and cost of living.
88.	How do individuals and groups finance the acquisition of weapons in your community? Through cash or assets?	General Public	√		√			This question will establish the kinds of assets that gun owners/demanders have at their disposal.
89.	Do you know who is legally allowed to keep weapons at home under the current law?	General Public			√			Qs. 89 – 95 seek to determine the respondent's knowledge of SALW and laws governing civilian possession of SALW.
90.	Is there a weapon amnesty currently in place? If not, what do individuals do with guns (legal and illegal) that they don't want?	General Public			√			Cross-check this answer against any existing gun amnesty and procedures for dealing with voluntarily surrendered illegal guns. This is also to determine how often guns are dumped, a practice that poses risks to children.

NO.	QUESTION	INTERVIEWEE / SOURCE	SURVEY COMPONENT OR TYPE					REMARKS
			SADS	SAIS	SAPS ⁵	SACS	SECURITY	
91.	Are you aware that there are ways of reducing risks in SALW handling and storage?	General Public			√			These questions seek to determine the impact of any training or SALW Awareness activities aimed at promoting safe behaviours around weapons, and can be applied to both the general public and police officers. ¹⁸ Where there have been no SALW Awareness activities, these questions may serve to determine the nature of existing behaviours around weapons.
92.	How would you describe the levels of understanding within your community of the importance of safe behaviour when storing or handling weapons and explosives?	General Public			√			
93.	Can you recall any of the necessary safety measures to take when surrendering weapons?	General Public			√			
94.	Compared to one year ago, do you believe that weapon owners are adopting safe behaviours?	General Public			√			
95.	Do believe that, overall, levels of risky behaviour are increasing or decreasing?	General Public			√		√	
96.	Do you believe that national / local authorities are taking the issue of SALW more seriously compared to one year ago?	General Public			√	√		Respondents may further qualify their answer by stating their views on why the State is or isn't taking SALW issues seriously.
97.	How much do you think each of the following will increase security in [<i>insert location</i>]?	General Public			√			Different SALW Control measures are rated from 1 – 5 by respondents.
98.	Are there any individuals or groups in your community that oppose arms control (namely regulations governing the possession and use of weapons by civilians)?	General Public			√			
99.	Are there any individuals or groups that promote security and control of guns in your community?	General Public			√			

¹⁸ See SEESAC's Safety Guides for the Civil Community, <http://www.seesac.org/index.php?content=12§ion=2>.

NO.	QUESTION	INTERVIEWEE / SOURCE	SURVEY COMPONENT OR TYPE					REMARKS
			SADS	SAIS	SAPS ⁵	SACS	SECURITY	
100.	Have you ever participated in any weapon collection activities?	General Public			√			Participating in weapons collections may suggest a desire to rid the community of guns, especially if it has involved anonymously informing on others who are known to have weapons.
101.	Have you ever heard about any weapons destruction events?	General Public			√		√	Knowledge of weapons collected being destroyed can impact on improved perceptions of security.
102.	Under what conditions, if any, do you think people in your community would be willing to hand in their weapons, during an amnesty?	General Public			√			Qs. 102 – 107 seek to determine how successful a possible weapons collection would be in the community.
103.	There is an announcement for a collection of illegal weapons. In your personal opinion action is likely to be...	General Public			√			
104.	How likely do you think it is that people will hand in their weapons, if they have any, in exchange for community development projects in your municipality?	General Public			√			
105.	How likely do you think it is that people will hand in their weapons, if they have any, so that your community can compete against neighbouring communities to win funds for municipal development projects?	General Public			√			
106.	If a lottery were to be held, with winning individuals selected at random, which of these prizes in your opinion would ensure the highest number of participants?	General Public			√			
107.	If a voluntary weapons collection initiative were begun in your community, who would people in your community find most acceptable as weapons collectors?	General Public			√			

NO.	QUESTION	INTERVIEWEE / SOURCE	SURVEY COMPONENT OR TYPE					REMARKS
			SADS	SAIS	SAPS ⁵	SACS	SECURITY	
108.	Which of the following would be best placed to mobilise members of your community to participate in a programme of action against weapons?	General Public			√			This is important to know ahead of preparing for a SALW Awareness campaign in terms of choosing the right means of communication and influential community members to get on board.
109.	Which of the following is your main source for local news?	General Public			√			

Annex A (Normative) References

The following normative documents contain provisions, which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this part of the standard. Amendments and revisions of publications do not apply in the case of dated references. However, parties to agreements based on this part of the standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies. Members of ISO and IEC maintain registers of currently valid ISO or EN:

- a) RMDS/G 05.80 - SALW Survey;
- b) Survey Protocol 1 - General research guide;
- c) Survey Protocol 2 - Survey goals and objectives;
- d) Survey Protocol 3 - Guidelines for research work with the general public; and
- e) Survey Protocol 4 - SALW Survey – Assessing demand for SALW.

The latest version/edition of these references should be used. SEESAC holds copies of all references used in this standard. A register of the latest version/edition of the survey protocols is maintained by the Small Arms Survey, and can be read on the SEESAC website: www.seesac.org. National SALW authorities, employers, and other interested individuals and organisations should obtain copies before commencing SALW programmes.

Annex B (Informative) **Terms and definitions**

B.1.1

micro-disarmament

the collection, control and disposal of small arms, ammunition, explosives, light and heavy weapons of combatants and often also of the civilian population. It includes the development of responsible arms management programmes.

B.1.2

national authority

the government department(s), organization(s) or institution(s) in a country charged with the regulation, management and coordination of **SALW** activities.

B.1.3

Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)

all lethal conventional munitions that can be carried by an individual combatant or a light vehicle, that also do not require a substantial logistic and maintenance capability.

Note: There are a variety of definitions for SALW circulating and international consensus on a “correct” definition has yet to be agreed. For the purposes of this RMDS/G the above definition will be used.

B.1.4

Small Arms Capacity Survey (SACS)

the component of SALW survey that collects data on the indigenous resources available to respond to the SALW problem.

B.1.5

Small Arms Distribution Survey (SADS)

the component of SALW survey that collects data on the type, quantity, ownership, distribution and movement of SALW within the country or region.

B.1.6

Small Arms Impact Survey (SAIS)

the component of SALW survey that collects data on the impact of SALW on the community and social and economic development.

B.1.7

Small Arms Perception Survey (SAPS)

the component of SALW survey that collects qualitative and quantitative information, via focus groups, interviews, and household surveys, on the attitudes of the local community to SALW and possible interventions.

B.1.8

standard

a standard is a documented agreement containing technical specifications or other precise criteria to be used consistently as rules, guidelines, or definitions of characteristics to ensure that materials, products, processes and services are fit for their purpose.

Note: RMDS/G aim to improve safety and efficiency in micro-disarmament by promoting the preferred procedures and practices at both headquarters and field level. To be effective, the standards should be definable, measurable, achievable and verifiable.

**B.1.9
survey (SALW Survey)**

a systematic and logical process to determine the nature and extent of SALW proliferation and impact within a region, nation or community in order to provide accurate data and information for a safe, effective and efficient intervention by an appropriate organisation.