

## 2 Country assessments

This report presents progress towards the Regional Implementation Plan (RIP) by country. Each country sub-section includes two background sections: 'Small Arms Problem', which details the SALW-related problems in each country, and 'Small Arms Policy and Practice', which gives an overview of current policy and practice on SALW.

These two sections are followed by a third section, 'Small Arms Progress', which gives a detailed assessment of progress made to date. In order to facilitate analysis of the wide-ranging areas in which progress towards the RIP and combating SALW proliferation has been made, a number of sub-sections have been used to categorise and present information for each country (largely based on the functional areas defined by SEESAC). These sub-sections of SALW control activities are:

- Legislative and regulatory issues – this section details countries' current legislative and regulatory control measures and progress made in the context of other agreements on arms control, such as the 2000 OSCE Document on Small Arms, 2001 UN Programme of Action, etc. (For more detail, see Annex H). In order to ensure consistency, all analysis and referencing of legislation in the report is based on English language translations of laws obtained from SEESAC.
- SALW transfers – this section provides an overview of each country's current and recent SALW transfers (exports, imports, transit, transshipment and re-export), focusing on exports, in as far as public information is available, and also details available information on SALW trafficking.
- SALW collection programmes and capacities – this section provides an overview of SALW collection initiatives in each country.
- SALW destruction programmes and capacities – this section provides details of SALW and SALW ammunition destruction projects in each country.
- SALW stockpile management programmes and capacities – this section provides an overview of the stockpile security and management situation in each country.
- SALW awareness activities – this section presents the awareness-raising activities and public information campaigns implemented in each country. (Seminars, conferences and other meetings are not generally included in this section, which concentrates on direct SALW awareness-raising or information campaigns).
- SALW survey activities – this section presents the results of any SALW or related survey conducted in each country. (Research reports, policy reports, needs assessments, small-scale surveys, opinion polls, etc, have not been included in this section as they do not fully correspond with a 'SALW Survey' as defined by SEESAC's regional standards).
- Civil society involvement in SALW interventions – this section provides an overview of civil society and NGO activities on SALW in each country, including a brief note on overall capacity.
- Cross-border SALW control initiatives – this section provides an overview of the situation in terms of border control and cross-border co-operation on SALW trafficking in each country.

- SALW management information and exchange systems and protocols – this section provides an overview of SALW-relevant information systems, both public and confidential; it should be noted that it is not possible to make any assessment of the value and efficacy of confidential information exchange mechanisms.
- Additional SALW-related activities – this section presents any additional activities that may be relevant to a country's efforts to combat SALW, for example, community-based policing initiatives or the development of national SALW action plans.

## Albania



### Small Arms problem

Following the end of the Second World War and the establishment of the totalitarian regime headed by Enver Hoxha, Albania became extremely isolated with virtually no contact outside its borders. During this period of isolation a very developed system of national and civil defence was established, implemented according to 'a policy of armed self-isolation': intricate defensive systems were created, including the network of around 800,000 pillbox shelters and thousands of ammunition and weapons depots.<sup>23</sup> Under the Hoxha Government, Albania produced significant amounts of SALW and ammunition, and when the regime imploded in 1997, the vast military stockpiles established for defensive purposes became a threat to internal security. The country's financial institutions collapsed along with a complex system of pyramid investment schemes: 'thousands were left penniless, and demanded compensation from the government – which was itself close to bankruptcy'.<sup>24</sup> The ensuing public outcry led to widespread civil disturbances and chaos within law enforcement and security structures led to the raiding of weapons and ammunition depots across the country, with apparently 'little resistance on the part of the police or the armed forces'.<sup>25</sup>

Estimates from the Albanian Government put the total number of SALW that were removed from government control in 1997 at approximately 550,000 small arms and light weapons and close to 900 million rounds of ammunition;<sup>26</sup> other estimates put the number of SALW looted at 650,000.<sup>27</sup> Of these, official estimates are that 200,000 weapons remain in the hands of civilians, following the trafficking out of the country of 150,000 weapons and the collection of 200,000 weapons from the civilian population between 1997 and 2002.<sup>28</sup>



A small portion of the SALW collected from Albania's citizens are pictured here in temporary storage during 2002.

23 BICC Conversion Survey 2002, p 128.

24 'Armed to the Teeth', David Quin, Vladimir Jovanovski and Ana Petrusseva in Macedonia, Naser Miftari, Artan Mustafa and Jeta Xharra in Kosovo, and Ilir Aliaj in Albania, Balkan Crisis Report No 470, 27 November 2003 (hereafter 'Armed to the Teeth, IWPR 2003').

25 BICC Conversion Survey 2002, p 130.

26 UNDP Albania SALW project website, [www.undp.org.al/salwc/?background](http://www.undp.org.al/salwc/?background).

27 BICC notes that, 'The exact number of weapons which entered private hands during this time remains a matter of dispute. While the Albanian authorities estimate that some 650,000 firearms, 3.5 million hand grenades, a million landmines and vast amounts of ammunition were stolen, other sources put the number of firearms closer to 517,000'. A table of weapons looted from military depots in 1997 based on Albanian Government sources in 2001 gives the following information: pistols, 38,000 taken, 170 recovered (0.4% recovered); AK-47 assault rifles, 226,000 taken, 17,522 recovered (7.7% recovered); ordinary rifles, 351,000 taken, 66,995 recovered (19% recovered); machine guns, 25,000 taken, 11,643 recovered (46% recovered); grenade launchers, 2,450 taken, 792 recovered (32.3% recovered); mortars, 770 taken, 242 recovered (31.4% recovered). 'Table T3.4 – Weapons taken from Albanian military depots in March 1997', BICC Conversion Survey 2002, pp 130–1.

28 Op cit, UNDP Albania SALW project website.

Despite the progress made on removing illicit weapons from the civilian population, there is still widespread public ownership of small arms in Albania, particularly in rural areas. Security is now reasonably good in most areas, but in some districts in the north of the country law enforcement control is weak, and local communities adhere to alternative frameworks of self-regulation. One example is the Kanun, a collection of traditional laws that support the strong cultural tradition of gun ownership that persists in many areas.<sup>29</sup> Armed crime and trafficking also present challenges to law enforcement and security within Albania and in neighbouring countries.<sup>30</sup> 'Guns still pose a number of challenges to public security', and public security is also threatened by the widespread activities of organised criminal networks, which developed during the country's, and region's, instability and 'benefited from the easy availability of weapons'.<sup>31</sup>

## Small Arms policy and practice

Since the 1997 crisis, Albania has made significant progress towards reform. Broader processes of institution-building have included several measures that have helped to strengthen SALW control. Through the Partnership for Peace (PfP) process, NATO has been significantly involved in supporting military reform in Albania, and a NATO cell has been established in Tirana to help co-ordinate activities between the various international and bi-lateral organisations working to assist security sector reform. In addition to the military, following the crisis of 1997, the Albanian police began 'the slow process' of creating a modern police force based on more democratic models. Organisations such as the OSCE, International Criminal Investigative Assistance Training Program (ICITAP) and the European Commission are involved in supporting this reform, and bi-lateral assistance has come from countries such as the US, Denmark, Italy and Greece.<sup>32</sup>

As party to the Stability Pact Regional Implementation Plan, the UN Programme of Action on SALW and the OSCE SALW Documents on SALW and Ammunition Stockpiles, Albania has made wide-ranging commitments to arms control. The Government recognises that the uncontrolled proliferation of small arms is a destabilising factor in terms of regional, as well as national security.<sup>33</sup> Albania's main policy focus in respect of small arms proliferation has been in initiating and supporting amnesty and collection efforts and in fighting illicit trafficking.

In terms of civilian possession, the Albanian Government has been among the most active in the region in responding to the problems created in 1997. A centralised and high-level weapons collection commission oversees ongoing government efforts to collect weapons from the civilian population through the police force, which have achieved substantial results. Albania has also been active in the field of combating illicit trafficking, acting as the proposer country for the SALW-specific Task Force within the SECI Regional Center for Combating Trans-Border Crime, and collaborating with several nearby countries on a bi-lateral basis.

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29 'Short Mission Report - Clearinghouse Consultation in Albania June 2002', [www.seesac.org](http://www.seesac.org).

30 Crime does pose a serious problem in Albania: the recent open letter to the public of Albanian Police Chief Ndreu, which cited several high-profile assassinations in recent months, warned that organised crime is becoming a threat to democracy in the country. 21 November 2003, SEESAC SALW Weekly News Review, [www.seesac.org](http://www.seesac.org).

31 BICC Conversion Survey 2002, p 131.

32 'Albania', ICITAP Project Overview page, [www.usdoj.gov/criminal/icitap](http://www.usdoj.gov/criminal/icitap).

33 Statement by the Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations, HE Mr Agim Nesho, to the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, 07 - 11 July 2003 (hereafter 'Nesho, UN SALW 2003 conference statement').

According to research conducted by the Small Arms Survey, it is not known whether, or to what extent, SALW are manufactured in Albania at the current time.<sup>34</sup> However, in a statement on progress presented to the UN First Biennial Meeting of States on the Implementation of the Programme of Action, Albania stated that there is no production or manufacture of weapons in the country and no major exports have been registered in recent years.<sup>35</sup> This was confirmed by information from well-informed sources in Albania, which suggests that there was no production ongoing at the date of writing, February 2004, and that in fact, some progress had been made on converting former production plants into destruction facilities.<sup>36</sup> Through the PfP process, NATO is working closely with the Albanian Government on downsizing the military, and it is expected that this will result in a significant increase of surplus SALW and ammunition.

Although it is likely that Albania is not currently producing or exporting SALW, and the Government is prioritising efforts to combat arms smuggling, concerns remain about illicit trafficking (see SALW transfers below). Registration of SALW is another concern, particularly in light of the fact that a large number of forces are authorised to carry weapons (including the regular police, border police, forestry police, finance police, energy police, intelligence service, private security firms etc). The Albanian police force, part of the Ministry of Public Order (MoPO), is receiving training and support from a number of donors and agencies, but still has a rather outdated paper-based system of firearms registration. The military also lacks a computerised system of weapons registration, one of the goals specified under PfP.<sup>37</sup>

In terms of international obligations, Albania has submitted information exchange material to the OSCE and a letter in July 2003 to the Department of Disarmament Affairs comprising a short report in response to the UN Programme of Action. Albania has also been active within the Stability Pact framework, hosting the April 2003 Regional Steering Group meeting for the Pact's Regional Implementation Plan. The 2003 Law on Weapons Collection, passed in March 2003 notes that the Inter-Ministerial Commission for Weapons Collection also has the responsibility of designing a 'national strategy for small arms and light weapons control', to be discussed and approved by Council of Ministers, within a year of the law's entry into force.<sup>38</sup>

**Table 2 – Albania's commitments to arms or SALW control agreements**

ARMS OR SALW CONTROL AGREEMENT	ALBANIA'S COMMITMENTS
Stability Pact Regional Implementation Plan	November 2001
UN Programme of Action	July 2001
UN Firearms Protocol	-
OSCE Document on Small Arms	November 2000
OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition	December 2003
EU Code of Conduct	-
EU Joint Action on SALW	-
Wassenaar Arrangement	-

34 SAS notes that there is no information available on any current production, but refers to research conducted by the Omega Foundation in 2002, which lists three companies in Albania that have the capacity to produce small arms and/or ammunition. Development Denied, Small Arms Survey 2003, OUP 2003, p 43. The databases on the NISAT website indicate that Albania was producing rifles/carbines at the State Factory Gramsh in 2001, www.nisat.org.

35 Letter dated 08 July 2003 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the Department of Disarmament Affairs on the Programme of Action, A/CONF.192/BMS/2003/CRP.93 (hereafter 'Albania UN Letter, July 2003'), www.nisat.org.

36 Correspondence with Shqelqim Sina, National Technical Security Specialist, UNDP/SSSR Project, 04 February 2004.

37 Op cit, 'Short Mission Report – Clearinghouse Consultation in Albania June 2002'.

38 Article 10, Law No 9018, For Collection of Weapons, Ammunition and Other Military Materials, 06 March 2003.

## Small Arms progress

### Legislative and regulatory issues

Albania has several laws governing SALW, as noted below in Table 2, which provides an overview of the main features of the Albanian legislative and regulatory framework relating to SALW. Some aspects of the national legislative framework have necessarily been shaped by Albania's particular experiences in the last decade. There is for example, very sparse legislation governing the production, export and import of arms and military equipment, which is arguably a product of the country's recent history: a highly centralised system where the state conducted its own procurement based purely on military needs and production that was focused on equipping domestic security forces. Equally, in more recent years, national objectives have been less to import military equipment for its forces and rather to deal with the challenge posed by substantial stockpiles of mainly out of date equipment (hence provisions in the Council of Ministers' Decision No 365 of 06 June 1994, allowing for export of surplus or other stocks, but only for profits to be channelled into the modernisation of the Ministry of Defence (MoD)). Possession legislation is similarly affected by the recent past,<sup>39</sup> in particular the large-scale looting of military stockpiles in 1997, and the subsequent efforts by the Government to recover lost firearms and other weapons and ammunition.

Laws detailing structures and processes for collection of weapons for citizens, including amnesty provisions, feature large in Albania's legislative framework, and Law No 9018, For Collection of Weapons, Ammunition and Other Military Materials is the current law governing collection, passed on 06 March 2003. Civilian possession is severely restricted, primarily to state officials and other specific categories of civilians.

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<sup>39</sup> 'Arms Laws on Possession - Introduction', Materials, SEESAC Arms Law Roundtable November 2002, [www.seesac.org](http://www.seesac.org).

Table 3 – Features of Albania's legislative and regulatory framework

FEATURES OF LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY FRAMEWORK	ALBANIA
<b>National</b>	
National co-ordinating agency	No, however relevant agency(ies) exist to co-ordinate weapons collection. <sup>40</sup>
National point of contact	Yes <sup>41</sup>
<b>Laws &amp; Procedures on Production, Export, Import and Transit</b>	
Legislation	Some legislation exists on this area, but there is no comprehensive system, see below for further detail.
Production	Although the Government states no military production exists, there are some provisions governing production and repair of weapons. <sup>42</sup>
Export	Although the Government foresees no export, an MoD agency for military export/import exists. <sup>43</sup>
Import	Yes, regulations do exist on import and sale. <sup>44</sup>
Transit	Apparently governed only by a law on military administration. <sup>45</sup>

40 The 2003 Law on Weapons Collection establishes an Inter-Ministerial Weapons Collection Commission; Albania's 2003 Letter to the UN DDA notes that there is no National Co-ordinating Agency functioning on all SALW-related issues in Albania, but that in addition to weapons collection structures, there is also an illicit trafficking unit within the MoPO. Albania UN Letter, July 2003.

41 Albania UN Letter, July 2003.

42 'Being that the Republic of Albania does not manufacture weapons there is no any current policy or proper legislation relating to this issue'; Albania UN Letter, July 2003. However, production is covered by legislation, specifying that 'Production and repair of firearms shall be done in factories and specialized enterprises controlled by the state. Repair of firearms may be done in private workshops with special permit issued by the Public Order authorities.' Article 3, Law on Firearms, with Appendices, Decision No 7591, 29 April 1991.

43 'The Ministry of Defence has not signed any international agreement for exporting small arms and light weapons'; Albania UN Letter, July 2003. However, the Council of Ministers' Decision No 366 of 05 October 1991 on Founding the Import-Export Enterprise dependent on the MoD, establishes MEICO as the import/export agency to deal 'with export and import of goods and specific military objects' and as 'a part of the Ministry of Defence system and is dependant to it'. In addition, the Council of Ministers' Decision No 365 of 06 June 1994 'On Destroying or Selling of Ammunition the Shelf-time of which has expired or will soon expire, as well as on Selling of Surplus or Stocks of Firearms or Ammunition', authorises the MoD to sell military equipment in order to raise funds for the modernisation and re-structuring of the military or reconstruction of military factories.

44 'The Ministry of Defence does not export and import SALMI from countries that are under UN embargo and involved in regional conflicts'; Albania UN Letter, July 2003. However, 'Import of great quantities of hunting weapons and ammunition for trade purpose shall be possible only with licence issued according to the instructions of the Ministry of Public Order. The physical and legal persons can sell them in special shops meeting the requirements for the firearms protection.' Decision No 389 of 06 August 1993 on some Amendments to the Decision of Council of Ministers No 275 of 25 June 1992 'On regulations of management and control of the firearms for physical and legal persons', Decisions, Council of Ministers, No 275 of 25 June 1992.

45 'Transferring of weapons within the country is performed according to the Law No 8671, dated 26 October 2000 For the administration and commanding authorities of strategic plans of the Armed forces', Albania UN Letter, July 2003.

FEATURES OF LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY FRAMEWORK	ALBANIA
<b>National System of Export &amp; Import Licensing or Authorisation</b>	
<b>System</b>	A 'system' exists in that the MoD agency is the sole body authorised for SALW export and import. <sup>46</sup>
<b>Diversion risk</b>	No
<b>End-user certificate</b>	No, but end-user requested. <sup>47</sup>
<b>Retransfers</b>	No
<b>Verification (pre/post)</b>	Pre – yes, to a certain extent (see above on EUC).
<b>Brokering controls</b>	No
<b>Domestic Possession, Stockpiling &amp; Trade</b>	
<b>Legislation</b>	Yes <sup>48</sup>
<b>Manufacture</b>	NA, (see 'Production' above).
<b>Marking and tracing</b>	NA, in terms of production/manufacture. <sup>49</sup>
<b>Possession</b>	Yes <sup>50</sup>
<b>Stockpiling</b>	No <sup>51</sup>
<b>Trade</b>	Yes <sup>52</sup>

46 'The current legislation relating to export-import does not provide differences and preferences for different groups and countries. Export-Import of Small arms and Light Weapons and the respective technology is conducted by the Ministry of Defence, through the MEICO enterprise (Military Export Import Company) in compliance with the decisions of the Albanian Government. The MEICO Company has the authority to negotiate with foreign contractors. The MEICO Company performs its activities in the import-export area pursuant to the Law No. 7566 On Weapons, dated 25 May 1992; Decision No.366 of the Council of Ministers (CMD) For the establishment of import-export company owned by the Ministry of Defence; CMD Nr.365 For disposal and selling ammunition, which have expired and selling of surplus weapons and ammunition; CMD Nr.617, dated 04 December 2002 For taking out of use weapons and other techniques from the Armed Forces and for disposal or disassembling and selling them. There is no other authority for running these procedures for export-import of SALW.' Albania UN Letter, July 2003.

47 'The verification and the permission given to end-users are carried out by our Embassies in the receiving countries, where we request the identification of the end-users', Albania UN Letter, July 2003.

48 Albanian law governs possession and use of firearms by state (including police and military) officials and private individuals: Law on Firearms, with Appendices, Decision No 7591 dated 29 April 1991; Law on Usage of Firearms, Decision No 8290 dated 24 February 1998; Law No 8388, 05 August 1998 for SALW Collection.

49 As noted above, there is no current production or manufacture in Albania, and therefore no marking systems are employed. There also seems to be no post-production marking of weapons in current circulation within the country. However, the weapons previously produced in Albania were registered at the factory stage, according to 'quantities and pattern numbers', and although this marking did 'not always define the producing place' the 'documents of the armaments are preserved eternally'. Albania UN Letter, July 2003.

50 Only certain categories of state (or private security firm) employees or political or judicial officials are allowed to possess active firearms and ammunition; in addition, certain categories of citizens are allowed to possess firearms: Law on Firearms, with Appendices, Decision No 7591 dated 29 April 1991. However, a subsequent Law allows that two additional categories of civilian are allowed to possess and carry arms: 'a. Leaders of trade associations, national and international, that are registered and possess considerable capital, b. Habitants who leaves in border areas or considered problematic areas in terms of security'; Art 16, section 4, Law No 8388, 05 August 1998 for SALW Collection. Possession of firearms is regulated by a licensing system ('The combat, fire, sporting, hunting and cold firearms can be possessed only with the licence issued by a Public Order body. The firearms licence is an official document by which a citizen can prove that he/she has right to possess only the firearm described in it.'), which, along with further details on possession regulations, is detailed in Council of Ministers' Decision No 275 of 25 June 1992 'On Regulations of Management and Control of the Firearms for Physical and Legal Persons'.

51 There seems to be no legislation specifically governing stockpiles, although it is assumed this is covered by military regulations. However, there are regulations governing the storage, documentation and reporting duties for weapons collected under government programmes in Trial Agreement No 1214, dated 29 March 2000 'For Collection, Storage, secure, Administration of Armament-Ammunition and other Fighting Materials', Law No 8388, 05 August 1998 for SALW Collection.

52 Internal trade is regulated by the Ministry of Defence and its import/export agency: 'Import of great quantities of hunting weapons and ammunition for trade purpose shall be possible only with licence issued according to the instructions of the Ministry of Public Order. The physical and legal persons can sell them in special shops meeting the requirements for the firearms protection.' Decision No 389 of 06 August 1993 on Some Amendments to the Decision of Council of Ministers No 275 of 25 June 1992 'On regulations of management and control of the firearms for physical and legal persons', Decisions, Council of Ministers, No 275, 25 June 1992.

## SALW transfers

The Albanian Government states that there is no production in the country, and any official exports are therefore extremely limited and from the stocks already held by the authorities. Albania submitted a report in April 2003 to the UN Register of Conventional Arms on activities in the year 2002 – no exports were reported. Norwegian Initiative on Small Arms Transfers (NISAT) databases have no record of registered SALW export, but note imports from Denmark in 1999, for which no details were given.<sup>53</sup> No information on sales of SALW was available for 2003, but the Albanian Government is reported as having donated approximately 600 Kalashnikovs, mortars, machine guns and 10,000 pieces of ammunition to help equip the new national army in Afghanistan in November 2003.<sup>54</sup>

Unfortunately, however, Albanian criminal groups are involved in trafficking guns, drugs and people. These groups operate and impact across the Balkans and Europe and 'the country has emerged as an important transit stop in the trafficking of arms, drugs and human beings',<sup>55</sup> as seizures of imported weapons in 2001, when tensions were high in Macedonia, indicate.<sup>56</sup> Albania has in the past been implicated in cases of illicit arms smuggling. For example, Albanian arms were sold to the Former Rwandan Government Forces in Eastern Zaire through a UK brokering firm during and after the genocide of April to July 1994.<sup>57</sup> The Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC) notes that 'corruption is another threat to public security',<sup>58</sup> citing the scandal linked to certain units of the MoPO stockpiles, which, according to local press coverage in 2001, involved the theft and trafficking of a variety of weapons from official stockpiles, apparently worth over US\$9 million.<sup>59</sup> There have also been reports in the local press that the Albanian authorities have sold 'large amounts of pistols and Kalashnikovs' from army surplus to Lebanon.<sup>60</sup> Although various projects are underway to improve the capacity of the Albanian authorities, law enforcement efforts to combat smuggling and organised crime remain hindered by poor information systems and weak national infrastructure.<sup>61</sup>

Albanian Government officials interviewed recently by the Institute of War and Peace Reporting (IWPR) note that the level of trafficking has gone down. This is confirmed by the head of the counter-trafficking unit established in 2001, Avni Jashellari: 'one of the main reasons for the fall in arms trafficking is that the situation in neighbouring countries is now more stable and the chance of renewed armed conflict is lower'.<sup>62</sup> The regional police chief in the northern municipality of Kukes, Medi Canga, states he is

53 Reports were also submitted for the years 2000, 1995 and 1992, none of which recorded any exports. [http://disarmament.un.org:8080/UN\\_REGISTER.nsf](http://disarmament.un.org:8080/UN_REGISTER.nsf), and [www.nisat.org](http://www.nisat.org), referenced 13 February 2004.

54 'Albanian Defense Ministry Confirms Donating Assault Rifles to Afghan Army', Paris AFP (North European Service) in English, 1701 GMT, 28 November 2002.

55 BICC Conversion Survey 2002, p 131.

56 In the summer of 2001 for example, Albanian police intercepted a van that had arrived in the port of Durres by ferry from Italy carrying four surface-to-air missiles destined for Macedonia; a few months before a similar shipment containing automatic weapons and ammunition had been seized in Durres. Albanian police seize arms shipment for Macedonia, ISN Daily News, 31 July 2001.

57 'Light Weapons Controls and Security Assistance: a review of current practice', William Benson, International Alert/Saferworld, September 1998, [www.international-alert.org](http://www.international-alert.org), p 9.

58 BICC Conversion Survey 2002, p 131.

59 scandal in Public Order Mini, Zile Feci and Anila Hoxhaj, Tirana Republika [in Albanian], 20 July 2001, and, scandal Reaches Military Investigators, Zile Feci, Tirana Republika [in Albanian], 26 July 2001.

60 scandal Explodes: Albanian Army Weapons Are Sold in Middle East, A Koka, Tirana Republika [in Albanian], 10 April 2002.

61 Op cit, 'Short Mission Report – Clearinghouse Consultation in Albania June 2002'.

62 Armed to the Teeth, IWPR 2003.

certain that there is no longer any trafficking across the border with Kosovo, primarily due to the 'very good co-operation with UNMIK'. However, Canga notes that police need to remain alert to the threat of trafficking, as 'we have information that many stashes of arms have been placed along the border. Criminal groups may not be trafficking these arms, but they have hidden them, maybe for later use'.<sup>63</sup>

## SALW collection programmes and capacities

The Albanian Government itself has undertaken substantial collection activities since 1997, establishing specific structures within the Ministry of Public Order to deal with the unique situation and establishing new staff and operating procedures.<sup>64</sup> A Central Weapons Collection Commission was established as the main body overseeing the recovery of the looted weapons and ammunition and was placed under the chairmanship of the Deputy Prime Minister and membership consisted of line ministers of Public Order (police), Defence (army) and Local Government. The police were put in charge of the collection of weapons, while the army has the responsibility to collect surrendered weapons from the police for storage in army depots for destruction.<sup>65</sup> Around 250 additional police officers were recruited specially for weapons collection activities in May 2000, although this force was subsequently reduced.<sup>66</sup> The Law on Weapons Collection passed in 2003 upgraded the Commission to an Inter-Ministerial Commission for Weapons Collection, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, and including the Ministers of Public Order, Defence, Justice, Local Government and Decentralisation and the head of the National Intelligence Service. The Inter-Ministerial Commission is supported by Weapons Collection Commissions at the prefecture and local level.<sup>67</sup>

Government efforts to collect weapons are ongoing, and have been supported since 1998 by the UNDP in Albania, which piloted the 'weapons for development' (WfD) incentive-based concept in the central district of Gramsh, setting important precedents for weapons collection best practice.<sup>68</sup> Following a 1998 Government appeal to the UN, the relatively quiet district of Gramsh, challenged by significant under-development, was picked as a pilot district due to the 'huge quantities of military weapons and ammunition' looted by communities from the large military bases in the area. The UN assessment delegation suggested a 'community incentive' collection approach based on experiences in West Africa.<sup>69</sup> During the Gramsh Pilot Project (GPP), from December 1998 to January 2000, development aid was offered in return for a reasonable number of surrendered weapons, with the targets for aid being identified by the community themselves, and the entire process supported by awareness-raising

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63 Ibid

64 Law No 8388, 05 August 1998 for SALW Collection sets out principles of weapons collection, outlines the establishment and structures of a Central Commission for Weapons Collection, Prefecture Commissions and Local Commissions, and also their responsibilities, method of reporting, and the roles of police specially assigned collection duties; the law also includes amnesty provisions ('giving up weapons voluntarily' and 'sanctions for opposing the disarmament process'). The processes of storage, documentation and administration for collected weapons are also outlined in Trial Agreement No 1214, 29 March 2000, 'For Collection, Storage, Secure, Administration of Armament-Ammunition and Other Fighting Materials'.

65 Background page, [www.undp.org.al](http://www.undp.org.al), and Article 9, Law No 9018, For Collection of Weapons, Ammunition and Other Military Materials, 06 March 2003.

66 IWPR notes that, 'officers have visited more than one million homes since 1997 asking people to hand over guns voluntarily or sign a declaration that they have none'. Armed to the Teeth, IWPR 2003.

67 Law No 9018, For Collection of Weapons, Ammunition and Other Military Materials, 06 March 2003.

68 'Regional Initiatives and the UN 2001 Conference - Building Mutual Support and Complementarity', Briefing 2, BASIC/International Alert/Saferworld, [www.international-alert.org](http://www.international-alert.org), p 14.

69 BICC Conversion Survey 2002, p 132.

campaigns. Weapons collection, and execution of development projects, took place throughout 1999 and as a result of the programme 5,981 SALW and nearly 138 metric tonnes of ammunition were recovered 'in return' for 12 small-scale community based development projects, which were awarded at a total cost of US\$800,000.<sup>70</sup> Overall project costs were about US\$1.2 million, plus the resources provided by the Albanian Government, and in addition to the infrastructure awarded to communities, the project budget also funded a nation-wide awareness raising campaign.

With the Gramsh project considered a significant success, both nationally and internationally, and at the request of the Albanian Government, the UNDP continued its efforts with a second phase of SALW activity in Albania, the Weapons in Exchange for Development (WED) project, funded with donations totalling US\$3.2 million.<sup>71</sup> From June 2000 to February 2002, the WED project was implemented in the districts of Elbasan and Diber using the same strategy employed in the GPP, but with an additional component for destruction of the collected weapons. The WED project assisted in the collection of nearly 6,000 weapons in the target areas, the destruction of 16,000 weapons, and the award of 23 development projects at a total cost of US\$1.8 million.

Following the WED project, the third 'phase' of UNDP's efforts in Albania, the Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Project (SALWCP), began in April 2002. Building on the approach of the GPP and WED projects, SALWCP introduced an element of competition for development aid incentives in order to address a much larger geographical remit (the five prefectures of Tirana, Shkodra, Lezha, Kukes, Vlora and three communities in the Tepelena district), financial limitations (a budget of US\$3.4 million<sup>72</sup>) and a tight timeline due to the expiry of the amnesty law on 04 August 2002 (See Legislative & Regulatory Framework above). Based on the number of weapons collected per family, the communities with the highest rates of surrender were awarded development projects. Additional new components of SALWCP were a greater focus on public information and awareness, the provision of logistical assistance to the government weapons collection teams (including for instance vehicles, metal detectors, etc) and the development of a pilot database weapons registration and control system. By the end of the amnesty period, on 04 August 2002, the SALWCP prefectures had surrendered a total of 6,453 weapons and received 46 development projects costing US\$964,000.<sup>73</sup> As of December 2003, the SALWC ended UNDP's direct support of weapons collection, with a total of just under 10,000 weapons surrendered in the project area and 66 development projects awarded at a total cost of US\$1.5 million.<sup>74</sup> As the next step in an effort to improve human security in Albania, UNDP has developed a new umbrella



2002: The SALWC project team at a weapons collection point alongside local leaders and police.

70 'Removing Small Arms from Society - A Review of Weapons Collection and Destruction programmes', Sami Faltas, Glenn McDonald and Camilla Waszink, Small Arms Survey, July 2001, p 18. Also, Background page, [www.undp.org.al](http://www.undp.org.al).

71 The total WED budget of US\$3,229,736 was composed of donations from the US, UK, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and UNDP. Correspondence with Shqelqim Sina, National Technical Security Specialist, UNDP/SSSR Project, 04 February 2004.

72 Donors included UNDP/BCPR, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Finland, Sweden and the EU. Correspondence with Shqelqim Sina, National Technical Security Specialist, UNDP/SSSR Project, 04 February 2004.

73 For comparison, nationwide weapons collection totals for the same period (including seven additional prefectures) were 11,864 weapons. Background and SALWC 2002 - 2003 pages, [www.undp.org.al](http://www.undp.org.al).

74 Correspondence with Lawrence Doczy, Project Manager, UNDP-SSSR Project, 02 March 2004.

programme under the name of Support to Security Sector Reform (SSSR), which focuses primarily on bringing communities and police closer together through community policing, building on the successes of the SALWCP. Work so far has included activities in schools and the establishment of community problem-solving groups.<sup>75</sup>

The total number of weapons collected in Albania, from January 1997 to January 2002, is estimated by SEESAC to be 134,681.<sup>76</sup> The Government and UNDP give a somewhat higher figure of approximately 150,000 SALW collected so far, probably based on recent collection totals.<sup>77</sup> The estimated collection statistics are summarised in Table 4 below:

**Table 4 – Summary of SALW collection in Albania 1997 – 2003<sup>78</sup>**

COLLECTION ACTIVITY	SALW	AMMUNITION (TONNES)	REMARKS
Albanian police activities and operations (1997 – 2003)	123,000		AK-47 assault rifles, 17,522; light machine guns, 11,643; medium mortars, 242; pistols, 170; bolt-action rifles, 66,995; grenade launchers, 792, and various SALW, 25,636.
Albanian police activities and Gramsh Pilot Project (1998 – 1999)	5,981	137	
Albanian police activities and UNDP WED Project (2000 – 2002)	5,700	137	
Albanian police activities and UNDP SALWC Project (2003)	6,452		
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>141,133</b>	<b>274</b>	

75 Background page, [www.undp.org.al](http://www.undp.org.al).

76 SALW Databases, [www.seesac.org](http://www.seesac.org).

77 See note above in Section 2, Albania – SALW Problem.

78 SALW Databases, [www.seesac.org](http://www.seesac.org), and correspondence with UNDP-SSSR Project staff.

## SALW destruction programmes and capacities

The NATO PfP Ammunition Storage and Disposal Implementation Team (ASDIT) identified the scale of the SALW and ammunition problems in Albania in 1998. This team was deployed by NATO to train the Albanian Armed Forces in explosive ordnance disposal procedures to enable them to safely clear the 15 ammunition



Berat, Albania 1997. UXO's litter the ground after an explosion at an ammunition depot. The site has since been cleared.

depots that had exploded during the events of 1997, resulting in over 60 fatalities. As a result of this mission, NATO deployed a follow-up NATO PfP Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Ammunition Support Training Team (EODASTT) during 1999 – 2002. The mission of this team was to enhance the Albanian Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) capacity and provide advice on safe ammunition storage and destruction. An Albanian EOD organisation was formed from the 12 students who qualified on the NATO course; however, at the time of writing, most of these officers are no longer with this organisation, and its current capability is unknown.<sup>79</sup>

Following initial reluctance, and indeed legislative obstacles to destroying SALW, the Albanian Government destroyed 16,000 weapons with UNDP's help under the WED project. In September 2000, Albania signed a Memorandum with the Governments of the United States, Norway and Germany reaffirming its commitment to destroy the SALW looted during the 1997 crisis, and committing to promoting the destruction of surplus weapons stocks.<sup>80</sup> Following this Memorandum, 40,000 SALW were destroyed with German funding and by a German military team between January and March 2001. The US- and Norwegian-funded destruction of a further 60,000 SALW began in April 2001, carried out by private contractor EOD Solutions Ltd. The project also included a local capacity-building component and developed a local demilitarisation site at the Elbasan military base, subsequently handed over to the Albanian Government and in use for ongoing destruction projects.<sup>81</sup>

A US State Department sponsored project implemented by EOD Solutions Ltd in 2002 saw the destruction of approximately 1,000 tonnes of SALW ammunition, ranging from 12.7mm to anti-aircraft bombs.<sup>82</sup> The US also funded the provision in 2003 by EOD Solutions Ltd of technical assistance to ammunition experts within the Albanian MoD, and the destruction of 352 tonnes of ammunition through a local contractor, the Albanian National Demilitarization Centre (NDC). This organisation was established by former military officers, and weapons, ammunition and explosives specialists, and is supported by the MoD.<sup>83</sup> By February 2004, an additional 12,500 weapons had

79 Interview with Adrian Wilkinson, Team Leader, SEESAC, 20 December 2003.

80 'Small Arms/Light Weapons Destruction in Albania memorandum', Bureau of Public Affairs, US Department of State, [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov).

81 Albania SALW Destruction project, [www.eod-solutions.com](http://www.eod-solutions.com); and, correspondence with Shqelqim Sina, National Technical Security Specialist, UNDP/SSSR Project, 04 February 2004.

82 Telephone conversation with Kenn Underwood, Operations Director, EOD Solutions Ltd, 17 February 2004.

83 This organisation receives significant administrative and operational support from the MoD, including office space. Contacts note that their professional training has been limited and one major problem that requires resolving is the insurance requirements for activities funded by the international community; the NDC is apparently insured through a local insurance organisation, and there are doubts whether benefits in the event of an accident during demilitarisation operations would be as comprehensive as those through insurance provided by NAMSA, EOD Solutions or any other international organisation. Correspondence between author and Adrian Wilkinson, SEESAC Team Leader, 16 February 2004.

been destroyed, and destruction of 1,200 tonnes of associated ammunition (mostly recovered from the civilian population) had begun, with the assistance of EOD Solutions Ltd and with support from the UK Government. With the end of this project, a further 12,500 SALW are scheduled for destruction in a similar manner by mid-2004 with US State Department funding, and possible contracts for future ammunition destruction are also being discussed with EOD Solutions Ltd.<sup>84</sup>

NAMSA has recently begun a project to destroy 11,651 tonnes of ammunition at a cost of 6.4 million over 4 years, utilising facilities at a military plant in Elbasan.<sup>85</sup> To date, this project has earmarked 1,500 tonnes for 2004, and is currently focusing on destruction of hand grenades as installation of incineration equipment is expected to be completed by early 2005. However, despite the Memorandum of 2000, not all the weapons collected through voluntary surrender programmes have been destroyed; the Albanian Government has given the reason as lack of financial support.<sup>86</sup>

Albania has implemented the Ottawa Agreement, and between April 2001 and April 2002 '1,683,860 mines or 2,874 tonnes' of anti-personnel mines were destroyed. In addition between 2000 and April 2003, the Albanian Armed Forces destroyed through detonation 1,500 tonnes of ammunition, a process that continues.<sup>87</sup> The estimated destruction statistics are summarised in Table 5 below.

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<sup>84</sup> Telephone conversation with Kenn Underwood, Operations Director, EOD Solutions Ltd, 17 February 2004.

<sup>85</sup> Albania UN Letter, July 2003; correspondence with Shqelqim Sina, National Technical Security Specialist, UNDP-SSSR Project, 04 February 2004.

<sup>86</sup> Albania UN Letter, July 2003.

<sup>87</sup> See also note above in Section 2, Albania – SALW problem; Albania UN Letter, July 2003.

Table 5 – Summary of SALW destruction in Albania 1997 – 2003<sup>88</sup>

DESTRUCTION ACTIVITY	SALW	AMMUNITION (TONNES)	REMARKS
Albanian Military (2000 – 2003)		1,500	
UNDP WED Project (2000 – 2002)	16,000		Destroyed by Albanian agency
Germany/Norway/US Project (2001 – 2002)	40,000		Destroyed by German Military Team
Germany/Norway/US Project (2001 – 2002)	60,000		EOD Solutions Limited
NATO PFP APM Destruction Project (2001 – 2002)		2,874	NAMSA
US funded-destruction (2002)		352	Albanian National Demilitarization Center
US funded-destruction (2003)		1,000	EOD Solutions Limited
UK funded-destruction (2003 – 2004)	12,500		EOD Solutions Limited
UK funded-destruction (2004)		1,200	<i>EOD Solutions Limited – ongoing</i>
US funded-destruction (2003 – 2004)	12,500		<i>EOD Solutions Limited – ongoing</i>
NATO SEE Initiative Project (2004)		11,651	NAMSA Project – ongoing
<b>TOTAL (NOT INCLUDING ONGOING PROJECTS)</b>	<b>128,500</b>	<b>5,726</b>	

88 Statistics drawn from SEESAC SALW Database, and from recent correspondence with destruction actors in Albania.

## SALW stockpile management programmes and capacities

The Albanian army is described as having moved from an 'emergency' phase into an 'operational' phase, and is anticipating a process of re-structuring under PfP, planned to be completed in 2010. It is expected that additional stocks of SALW will be rendered surplus as part of this process.<sup>89</sup>

Stockpile security is defined, regulated, implemented and inspected by the Ministry of Defence (the safety measures employed are researched and designed by the Defence Design institute); no information is available on any relevant legislation. 'There is a national policy on centralisation of the locations for explosive storage buildings, based on the long term Armed Forces restructuring plan. In 1997 there were 167 ammunition storage site with 917 explosive storage buildings. In 2002 these figures were reduced down to 87 ammunition storage sites with some 606 explosive storage buildings'.<sup>90</sup>

It is estimated that the Albanian stockpile of ammunition of all types is in the region of 180,000 to over 200,000 tonnes.<sup>91</sup> The Albanian Armed Forces currently have approximately 42,000 tonnes of SALW ammunition stocks that they wish to destroy, with the remainder, an undisclosed quantity, to be retained for normal use. An overview of the situation and destruction recommendations was developed by EOD Solutions Ltd during 1999. This was funded by the UK Department for International Development (DfID), and formed the basis for the 2003 NATO SEE Initiative Ammunition Destruction Project implemented by NAMSA.

EOD Solutions provided guidance to the Albanian MoD on the process of moving towards a more NATO-based structure of ammunition management planning, achieved using NATO guidelines on ammunition storage combined with the current Albanian system, as a stepping stone to full integration with NATO systems. The company also 'licensed' six storage sites in accordance with NATO and UK guidelines to assist the Albanian MoD in planning the future storage of ammunition, but these sites will not conform fully with NATO/UK standards until the backlog of surplus ammunition is reduced to allow re-distribution of the remaining ammunition.<sup>92</sup>

The sheer amount of surplus ammunition in Albania means that the process of upgrading storage sites to international standards is likely to take some time – quite simply, the lack of funds and resources to destroy the surplus are insufficient, and, although very positive progress is being made, much more needs to be done. The approximate amount of all types of ammunition requiring destruction is 92,000 tonnes, much of which is shelf-life expired and some of which may be chemically unstable; over half of this is estimated to be artillery and anti-tank and anti-aircraft ammunition, as well as SALW ammunition, and over 91 percent is over 30 years old.<sup>93</sup> This is

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89 Op cit, 'Short Mission Report – Clearinghouse Consultation in Albania June 2002'.

90 Albania UN Letter, July 2003.

91 Other informal official estimates are of approximately 150,000 tonnes of ammunition, including SALW and artillery rounds, 100,000 of which have been slated for destruction; correspondence with Shqelqim Sina, National Technical Security Specialist, UNDP/SSSR Project, 04 February 2004.

92 Email correspondence with Kenn Underwood, Operations Director, EOD Solutions Ltd, 12 January and 04 February 2004.

93 Informed sources confirm that in terms of safety, the most unstable stored material is larger artillery, anti-aircraft, anti-tank ammunition, and other ammunition with propellant; research conducted in 1999 by academics from the UK Royal Military College in Shrinvenam concluded that the stabiliser used in such ammunition is likely to be degraded by age, and that the high temperatures during the summer in Albanian storage depots will increase the chances of auto-catalytic decomposition, and consequent explosion. Interview with Adrian Wilkinson, Team Leader, SEESAC, 20 December 2003; and, telephone conversation with Kenn Underwood, Operations Director, EOD Solutions Ltd, 17 February 2004.

particularly necessary as the stockpile security and accounting practices are also said to be below acceptable standards and many are located close to residential areas. While a great deal of goodwill and commitment to improving practices exists in Albania, much additional support from the international community will be required.

## SALW awareness activities

Several awareness-raising (AR) activities and campaigns have been conducted in Albania and substantial progress has been made in this area since 1998. Awareness-raising is even mentioned in government legislation, as a responsibility of the Weapons Collection Commissions at Prefecture Level to encourage voluntary surrender<sup>94</sup> and the Government has been active in giving press interviews and statements and attracting media coverage, as well as distributing AR and campaign promotional material produced by UNDP small arms collection projects.

Awareness-raising was also a significant part of the UNDP projects, GPP, WED and SALWCP. Networks of local NGOs were used in the Gramsh and WED projects, to deliver promotional campaign and information materials such as posters, leaflets and T-shirts, and also to undertake face-to-face awareness-raising with communities. The media played a significant role in promoting the collection campaigns, and the Gramsh project in particular attracted a huge amount of coverage for its 'ground-breaking' activities.<sup>95</sup>



The 'Disarmament Education in Schools' project was undertaken with support from SEESAC and SALWC by NGOs SaferAlbania and Movement for Disarmament.



The SALWCP public awareness and information (PAI) campaigns used similar methods, building on the work started by the GPP and WED. Awareness-raising campaigns utilised and involved the media (both electronic and print) and door-to-door delivery mechanisms, and targeted school pupils, women and the general public. Local PAI teams, composed of teachers and other community and NGO representatives, distributed posters and pamphlets to inform on the dangers of weapons, the deadline for voluntary surrender and the rules for competition and award of development projects. Roundtables and discussion on weapons collection were also organised on national television, and the programme was presented at a local level to local authorities and municipalities.<sup>96</sup> The Assessment of the SALWC project undertaken in October 2003 concluded that the PAI component of the project was successful: 'Across the spectrum... people agreed that SALWC had a major impact at changing the "mentality" of the Albanian population towards firearms ownership and thereby has contributed towards and increase in public safety'.<sup>97</sup>

94 Article 8, Law No 8388, 05 August 1998 for SALW Collection.

95 Author's conversations with Nora Kushti, UNDP Albania and former GPP staff, June 2002.

96 SALWCP 2002 – 2003 page, [www.undp.org.al](http://www.undp.org.al).

97 'You have removed the Devil From Our Door' – An Assessment of the UNDP Small Arms and Light Weapons Control (SALWC) project in Albania', BICC, SEESAC APD 20, October 2003.

SALWCP, now SSSR, is funding a new phase of awareness-raising, linked to its move towards community policing. Previous NGO partners, the Movement for Disarmament and Safer-Albania, undertook a pilot Disarmament Education and Peaceful Culture (DEPC) project for the introduction of SALW awareness education in four schools from 15 May to 15 July 2003. The main aim of the project was 'to establish pillars for a permanent collaboration between police education officers and schools in order to disseminate a culture of peace to the younger generation'; interactive communication strategies, such as group discussions and electronic media, were used to cover a range of issues, including drug and human trafficking as well as SALW.<sup>98</sup> Over 2,200 teachers, students and pupils participated in the DEPC project and an effective model has now been developed for further project implementation, currently dependent on funding.

Another education project has been funded by the UN DDA (United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs) and the Hague Appeal for Peace: the 'Peace and Disarmament Education Project', implemented by the Albanian Center for Peace and Disarmament Education. This involved the development and implementation of a peace education curriculum for high school students in two schools in Gramsh and Shkoder, reaching a total of 1586 pupils.<sup>99</sup> Work focused on extra-curricular activities and projects such as debates and public discussions, literature and art competitions, and workshops on conflict and gender issues. Teachers were also trained in peace and disarmament education, and support was provided for the establishment of a school newspaper focusing on relevant issues and computer lab to allow exchange of experience between educational institutions.

The Albanian Women Journalists Forum (AWJF) undertook two training events on campaigning for women community leaders in the towns of Shkoder and Lezhe in July 2003. Fifty women identified as influential and well-respected by their communities (civil society activists, local politicians, journalists, teachers and artists) were trained on awareness-raising and advocacy on SALW control. Since the training, participants have undertaken various activities: several became involved in a UNDP SALWC local project; two joined a group working against the practice of blood feuds; small information centres encouraging women to take part in work for a community without weapons were created in the rural Lezha region; and a local community project against domestic violence and in support of children's rights has been established. The project was given significant coverage by Albanian media, which helped to get publicity for the issues and fed into the debate about the role of women in the process of civilian disarmament.<sup>100</sup>

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98 'UNDP Albania Security Sector Reform Project SALW Awareness Programme for Schools', SEESAC Activity Report AR/012, 31 July 2003, [www.seesac.org](http://www.seesac.org).

99 'Peace and Disarmament Education Project' page, [www.peace.undp.org.al](http://www.peace.undp.org.al), referenced 21 January 2004.

100 'Albanian Women Journalists Forum (Albania)/Saferworld (UK): Workshops for Women in Albania', Saferworld project report, available from Dana Plavcova ([dplavcova@saferworld.org.uk](mailto:dplavcova@saferworld.org.uk)).

101 Correspondence with Shqelqim Sina, National Technical Security Specialist, UNDP/SSSR Project, 04 February 2004.

102 'Making Global Public Policy: The Case of Small Arms and Light Weapons', p 17, Edward Laurance and Rachel Stohl, SAS Occasional Paper No 7, December 2002.

103 'You have removed the Devil From Our Door' – An Assessment of the UNDP Small Arms and Light Weapons Control (SALWC) project in Albania', BICC, SEESAC APD 20, October 2003.

Table 6 – SALW awareness activities

CAMPAIGN AND IMPLEMENTER	DURATION	TARGET GROUP	METHODS	INDICATORS OF SUCCESS	DONOR
Albanian Government	1998 to date	General public	AR is undertaken by the authorities; besides official announcements and regular media work, activities primarily consist of dissemination of UNDP AR materials such as posters, T-shirts, etc. <sup>101</sup>	NA	NA
Gramsh Pilot Project (1998 – 1999)	1998 – 1999	General public	Promotion of the initiative on TV and radio, as well as discussions and advertisements, leaflets, T-shirts, posters, etc.	The Gramsh AR campaign is widely regarded as a success, alerting communities across the country as well as the pilot area.	NA, as a breakdown of total project costs.
WED (2000 – 2002)	2000 – 2002	General public	TV and radio promotion through discussions and advertisements, leaflets, T-shirts, posters, etc.	NA	NA, as a breakdown of total project costs.
UNIFEM <sup>102</sup>	2000	Women and youth.	Campaign and conference 'Women of Diber Say No to Guns, Yes to Life, Yes to Development'.	NA	UNIFEM
UNDP SALWCP	2002 – 2003	School pupils, women, general public	Posters, pamphlets, discussions, delivered through media and local door-to-door teams.	Evaluation: 'major impact at changing mentality towards firearms'. <sup>103</sup>	US\$100,000
UNDP SSSR	15 May – 15 July 2003	School pupils	Interactive briefings and discussions, electronic media and distribution of T-shirts	Messages reached the 2,200+ individuals who participated.	SEESAC funds of US\$30,500
Albanian Women Journalists Forum	July 2003	Women community leaders	Two trainings on SALW campaigning in Shkoder and Lezhe.	50 women were trained and AR projects have resulted from the project.	Saferworld funds of US\$7,000
Albanian Center for Peace and Disarmament Education NGO	2003	Secondary school pupils	Teacher trainings, participatory activities and discussions and support for resource-creation.	NA	UN DDA and Hague Appeal for Peace

## SALW survey activities

Only one major survey has been conducted on SALW in Albania, the SALWCP's 'Socio-economic Analysis and Impact Survey',<sup>104</sup> which sought feedback from the population both within the area of intervention of the SALWC Project and outside with respect to the:

- 'Situation of public order and security;
- Impact of the project on weapons surrender and collection, and insaturation of a better security situation;
- Identification of ideas, options and strategies regarding the future; and ways and possibilities for the instauration and strengthening of public order and security situation'.<sup>105</sup>

Implemented in the second half of 2002, the study employed both qualitative and quantitative methodologies involving questionnaires, interviews and consultation with beneficiaries, representatives of main institutions involved and local/central public structures to help identify problems, options, strategies and milestones achieved from the point of view of people affected by the SALWCP. The main conclusions of the survey were that the SALWCP had conducted a very good SALW awareness-raising and information campaign, that the general security situation has significantly improved, and that communities considered the impact of the SALWCP to be significant.

Smaller-scale surveys or opinion polls have also been undertaken by local NGOs: on women's perceptions of SALW and collection, by the Albanian Women Journalist's League, and on school student's attitudes towards violence and weapons, by the Albanian Center for Peace and Disarmament Education.<sup>106</sup>

## Civil Society involvement in SALW interventions

There has been significant involvement of local NGOs and civil society in SALW control projects in Albania. This involvement has occurred primarily through the UNDP's projects, starting with the use of local NGOs and community representatives (as noted above) in the GPP and continuing in the WED, SALWC and SSSR projects.

During the GPP a network of NGOs was established, which continued to work with the UNDP during the WED project, and some members continued similar activities with the SALWCP. The SALWCP employed several NGOs to assist in the delivery of the project's awareness-raising messages, providing an additional channel of information delivery. NGOs worked on a voluntary or contractual basis, producing materials, organising events and implementing development projects. In some areas of the project, NGOs worked as a partner, based on principles and goals acceptable to both organisations.<sup>107</sup> As part of UNDP's SSSR project, educational activities are being undertaken in schools

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104 'Socio-economic analysis and impact assessment', SALWCP 2002, Reports, Surveys and meetings page, [www.undp.org.al](http://www.undp.org.al).

105 Ibid

106 UNDP SALWC funded the Albanian Women Journalist's League, and the UN DDA and Hague Appeal for Peace funded the Albanian Center for Peace and Disarmament. Full results are available from the AWJL and the peace and disarmament education project website respectively. AWJL project documents submitted to Saferworld and 'Peace and Disarmament Education Project' page, [www.peace.undp.org.al](http://www.peace.undp.org.al), referenced 21 January 2004.

107 SALWCP 2002 - 2003 page, [www.undp.org.al](http://www.undp.org.al).

to begin broader work on security and peace education linked to community policing development.

Further work is being undertaken in schools by the Albanian Center for Peace and Disarmament Education on small arms and disarmament issues within a broader framework of peace education, focusing on developing older students' awareness of problems through debates and 'shadow' public policy work, and the capacity-building of teachers to undertake longer-term activities. Training was also undertaken by the Albanian Women Journalists League in the summer of 2003, when women community leaders and decision-makers were given SALW awareness and campaigning training with support from Saferworld. As noted above, small-scale research or survey activities have been conducted by these two NGOs.

The Albanian media continue to play an important role in raising awareness of SALW projects and collection, although general capacity for reporting on SALW remains relatively low; representatives of various Albanian media outlets participated in media training events in Belgrade in December 2002 and Skopje in May 2003, organised by SEESAC and SEESAC, Saferworld and IWPR respectively.

## Cross-border SALW control initiatives

Albania participates in various regional initiatives dealing with issues of cross-border illicit trafficking and organised crime, including Interpol, the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, the Black Sea Economic Co-operation Organisation (BSEC), the Central European Initiative (CEI) and the SECI Regional Center for Combating Trans-border Crime, to which it seconded a liaison officer. In addition, Albania has sent law enforcement liaison officers to Greece, Italy, Macedonia and Kosovo to co-ordinate and exchange information with their counterparts. An agreement has also been concluded between Albania, Greece, Italy and Germany on the establishment of an international anti-trafficking centre in Vlora, Albania, and the Government has signed bi-lateral agreements on combating organised crime with Italy, Romania, Malta and Egypt.<sup>108</sup>

In terms of specific SALW counter-trafficking activities, Albania has taken various measures. The Penal Code has been amended to increase the penalties for arms trafficking as a high-risk crime (in addition to other amendments to laws and regulations aimed at wider organised crime)<sup>109</sup> and a special structure has been created within the police for preventing arms trafficking.<sup>110</sup> Albania also acted as the proposer country for the SECI Center Task Force on SALW, established in December 2001, and its first initiative, 'Operation Ploughshares'.<sup>111</sup> Commencing work in the summer of 2002, Ploughshares established an information-sharing system between participating countries with the aim of improving effectiveness in apprehending arms smugglers. Operation Ploughshares has co-operated with various countries and actors, including the NGO Saferworld, which funded a workshop with Task Force officers in 2002 to discuss and assess their work plan and strategies, and the Firearms Unit of

108 Albania UN Letter, July 2003.

109 'Albanian Justice Minister Briefs EU With Measures For Fighting Crime', Daily SALW Media Review, 28 November 2003, [www.seesac.org](http://www.seesac.org).

110 Nesho, UN SALW 2003 conference statement.

111 'Task Force - Combating Trafficking in Small Arms, Light Weapons and Explosives: Project I, Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms, Light Weapons and Explosives, Operation Ploughshares', Project document, SECI Regional Centre and Ministry of Public Order, Republic of Albania, Tirana 2002, referenced in SEESAC files.

the UK's National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS), which was instrumental in the development of a SEESAC-organised weapons and firearms intelligence training course to support individual countries at the SECI Center.<sup>112</sup>

Reform of border management systems has been ongoing for some time, and is now under civilian control, as the Albanian Border Police have the responsibility for controlling the state's borders and combating illegal crossing and trafficking of contraband: the service co-operates with several international organisations, including the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM), International Organization for Migration (IOM), and ICITAP.<sup>113</sup> ICITAP has also conducted training with marine and border police and helped to create a dedicated organised crime unit within the Ministry of Public Order.<sup>114</sup> The Border Police also co-operate with their equivalent structures in neighbouring countries, including the Italian Guardia di Finanza, local Greek police, KFOR, local Montenegrin police and Macedonian authorities, under the framework of a number of different protocols, memoranda and agreements.<sup>115</sup> As one of the countries supporting the Ohrid Common Platform, Albania has undertaken several activities within the framework of the Ohrid Border Security and Management Common Platform: in February 2003, the Government adopted a national strategy on border control and integrated management, to be carried out between 2003 and 2006. The goal of the national strategy is to enhance the functioning of the national bodies dealing with border control, and objectives include completing the necessary legal framework for border control, and assisting organisation of border control and co-operation between national, regional and international agencies.<sup>116</sup>

Various border control activities are ongoing in Albania, including capacity-building and equipment provision support from various organisations and bi-lateral donors. Limited cross-border co-operation projects at the operational level, such as that co-ordinated by the OSCE involving KFOR in relation to the Kosovo border, are also underway, and the Albanian customs and border services continue to improve their capacity to combat smuggling of all contraband, including arms.

## SALW management information and exchange systems and protocols

Albania is active in the international and regional systems with which it has made commitments, such as the UN Programme of Action, OSCE and Interpol mechanisms; the country is also in the process of negotiating a co-operation agreement with Europol.<sup>117</sup> However, it remains outside the EU Code and Joint Action framework and has not produced an annual report on SALW, and other areas of data remain opaque. There appear to be no functioning mechanisms for parliamentary or public oversight of SALW imports or exports and limited public input into decision-making on issues in this area.

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<sup>112</sup> This included training in deployable weapons intelligence units, the intelligence cycle, the Interpol Weapons and Explosives Tracing System (IWETS), a national intelligence model for SALW, a one-day participatory exercise and the detection of concealed bulk ammunition and weapons. Students from 11 countries in the region attended the course, representing national intelligence agencies, police criminal intelligence units and customs services, attended the workshop at the SECI Center in September 2003.

<sup>113</sup> 'Border Control' page, Albanian Government website, [www.mpo.gov.al](http://www.mpo.gov.al), referenced 03 February 2004.

<sup>114</sup> A main focus of ICITAP's activities is to improve the Albanian authority's ability to combat trafficking or illegal movements of humans, drugs and weapons. 'Albania', ICITAP Project Overview page, [www.usdoj.gov/criminal/icitap](http://www.usdoj.gov/criminal/icitap).

<sup>115</sup> Op cit, 'Border Control' page, Albanian Government website.

<sup>116</sup> 'Way Forward Document', Ohrid Regional Conference on Border Security and Management, 22 – 23 May 2003.

<sup>117</sup> 'Europol annual report and work programme for 2004', News article May 2003, [www.statewatch.org](http://www.statewatch.org), referenced 22 January 2004.

Table 7 – Information and exchange progress

INFORMATION AND EXCHANGE SYSTEMS AND PROTOCOLS	ALBANIA
<b>International</b>	
Reporting to the UN DDA on the Programme of Action	Yes <sup>118</sup>
Reporting to the UN Register of Conventional Arms	Yes
Reporting to other international regimes, if appropriate (eg Wassenaar Arrangement)	-
Interpol	Yes
<b>Regional</b>	
Information exchange with OSCE	Yes
Annual reporting to EU (if relevant)	-
SECI Regional Center intelligence exchange	Yes
<b>National</b>	
Transparency – on SALW imports, exports and decision-making	No
Publication of national reports on arms/SALW transfers	No
Publication of SALW national strategy	No

## Additional SALW-related activities<sup>119</sup>

Through its SSSR project, the UNDP is planning to support the implementation of community-based policing (CBP) in a number of pilot sites in Albania, designed to contribute to public safety and security by improving relations and collaboration between the police and the public they serve. So far, a resource document on the principles and philosophy of community-based policing<sup>120</sup> has been developed by the NGO Saferworld – supported by SEESAC and in consultation with UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) (New York) and the UNDP Albania Country Office – which sets out the aims and objectives of this style of policing as well as how it links to SALW work. Although this document is designed to be applicable worldwide, it will in the first instance serve as reference for the UNDP and local stakeholders in Albania as they plan and implement the envisaged CBP work.

The decision to move from SALW collection to CBP was based on the acknowledgement that disarmament and wider confidence- and security-building efforts require trust in the police and a collaborative relationship between the police and the public. As the police undertook the collection of weapons in Albania, this provided a useful basis to build on for moving into CBP. In addition, some targeted capacity-building work for the police has already been undertaken in order to contribute to the transformation process of the Albanian State Police from a military to a civil organisation able to maintain law and ensure public safety and security.

<sup>118</sup> A letter reporting on progress achieved so far was delivered by the Albanian Government representative at the First Biennial Meeting of States in July 2003; Albania UN Letter, July 2003.

<sup>119</sup> This section was drafted by Hesta Groenewald, Project Co-ordinator on Saferworld's Conflict Prevention Programme and member of the Saferworld team undertaking community policing consultations and resource development with UNDP/SSSR Project and SEESAC 2003-04.

<sup>120</sup> The document can be found at [www.seesac.org/reports](http://www.seesac.org/reports).

The links between SALW work and improving policing are clear when one considers the impact of the unregulated presence of SALW on society – including the increased opportunities for criminals to use firearms. Moreover, CBP has the potential to drastically improve the long-term sustainability of SALW collection activities as the public will only give up their arms when they feel safe and perceive the police as effective protection agents.