



28 October 2014
Third Formal Regional Meeting of SALW Commissions
Pristina

SALW Data Collection

Some best practices

Mihaela Racovita,
Associate Researcher, Small Arms Survey



The Small Arms Survey

- Source of public information on all aspects of small arms and armed violence
- Resource centre for governments, policy-makers, researchers, and activists
- Inter-disciplinary field research in over 100 countries



SALW Research areas

- Safety & Security
- Experiences of Crime & Violence
- Firearm Ownership
- Perception of Small Arms and Light Weapons
- Stockpile management and diversion
- Security Providers
- Disarmament



SAS experience on surveys

AFRICA

- Burundi (2008)
- Côte d'Ivoire (2009)
- Liberia (2010)
- Kenya (2011)
- Libya (2013)
- Somaliland (with DDG, 2008/2009)
- Sudan, Eastern Equatoria
(with DDG, 2009)
- Uganda, Karamoja (2011)

AMERICAS

- Guatemala (2008)

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

- Nepal (2011)
- Timor Leste (2009)

CENTRAL ASIA

- Kazakhstan (2010)



Small Arms Baseline Assessments

- Country specific assessments:
 - context adapted
- Multi-method assessments:
 - Qualitative data collection tools (e.g. desk research, interviews, focus group discussions)
 - Quantitative/mixed data collection tools (e.g. household or targeted surveys, media reviews)
- Multiple sources of data
 - Government, ministries, army, police
 - Population, civil society, media
- Varied audiences and stakeholders



What is a Survey?

- Tool for data collection
- Qualitative & quantitative data
- Comes in many shapes and sizes:
 - What we want to ask – SALW
 - Who we want to ask
 - Where, when, about what period...



Survey of ...

- Households (HH): Individuals eating from same kitchen/pot
- Civil Society Organizations (CSO): NGOs, faith-based organizations, community-based organization
- Local Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA): Officials from different Police forces



Best practices....

For Data Collectors

- Background & context research
- Designing Instrument
- Train enumerators and supervisors
- Adapt and distribute data collection instrument
- Record data and Follow up

For Data Analysts

- Data entry, cleaning, checking and validating
- Preliminary analysis (weights, confidence intervals, response rate, guide to generalization)
- Triangulation
- Draft, review, fact-check, publish

For Data Providers

- Understanding background and context of data request
- Provide accurate and consistent data
- Check and submit



1.1. Background and context research

- Do research to understand: what data is available, and what are the gaps beforehand!
- What data collection instruments are more feasible given the financial, time, and operational limitations
- Who is the most appropriate person/ institution to collect this data, what if any additional training is required
- Strategies to reduce the burden of data provision (minimize compliance costs)

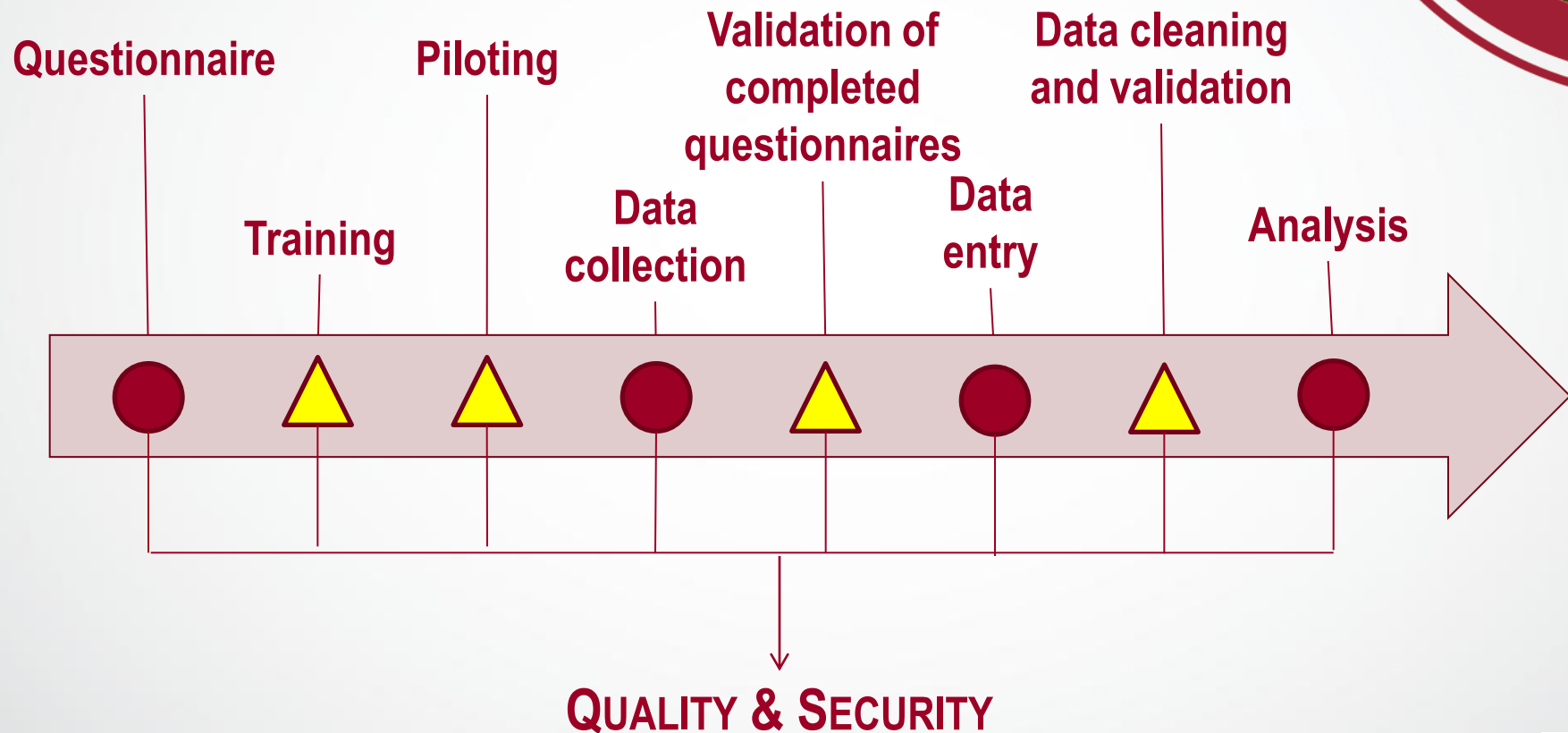


Survey sampling and stratification

- Best sampling strategy is the one adapted to specific goals and needs (eg. SRS, convenience or purposive sampling, etc.)
- Stratified sampling
 - First stratum: identification of location (city/village) according to first set of categories
 - Second stratum: identification of individual respondent in the household based on gender and age



Survey process



1.2. Designing the Instrument

– Survey Questionnaires



- Provide clear instructions for filling in the questionnaire (e.g. SKIP functions)
- Glossary and Definitions (e.g. define key and specialized terminology – ensure respondents operate with the same definition)
- Explain purpose of data collection, use and get Informed consent from interviewees
- Determine appropriate length, specificity
- Use best instruments/ ensure comparability



1.3. Training the Survey Team



- Survey Teams and their Management: Research coordinators, Supervisors, Enumerators, Data enterers
- Training in ethics, validity, tools, processes
 - understanding questionnaire; ability to explain glossary if needed;
 - check for clarity, explain conventions, shortcuts, notations
- Exercises and PILOT survey, amend if necessary

Good team training is a predictor of the quality of the survey...



1.4. Adapt the questionnaire

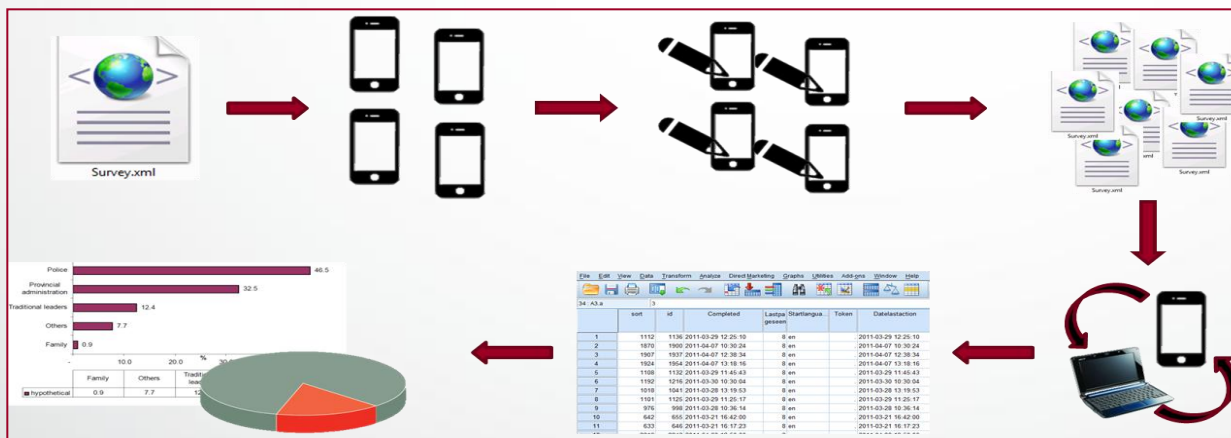
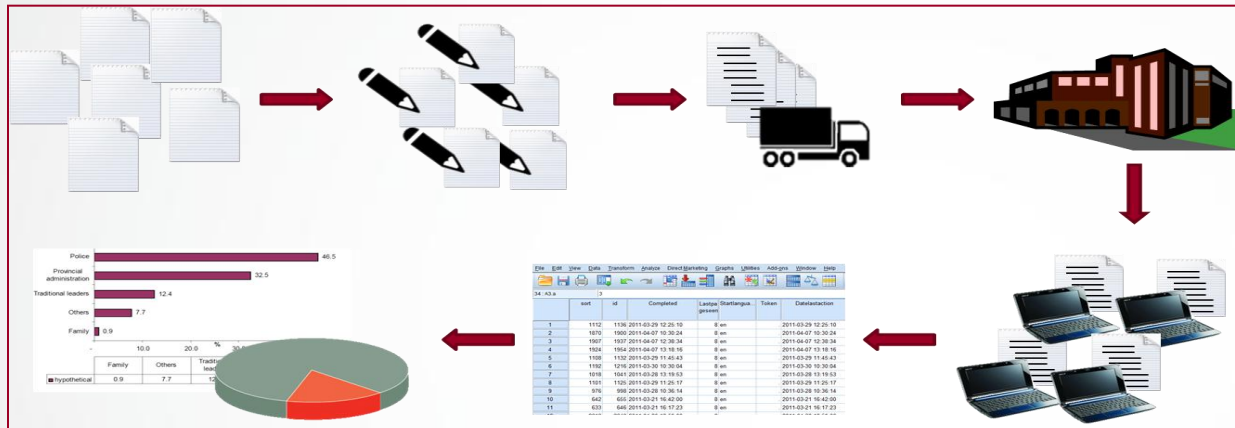
- Adapt questionnaire:
 - Language and translation
 - Cultural and emotional sensitivity
- Training and piloting (contextual appropriateness, relevance, clarity) and changes if needed
- Post data-gathering



1.5. Distribute Qs and means of recording data



MANUAL



DIGITAL



Data collection means: differences

	Digital data collection	Manual data collection
Personnel	Enumerators, supervisors, data analyst	Enumerators, supervisors, data entry, data analyst
Tools / Infrastructure	Tablets/Mobiles and batteries; Charge, back-up and upload plus storage and replacement devices	Paper, print-outs, pencils; Printing, transportation, storage and replacement copies
Training	Both on device and questionnaire (exposure to mobile technology)	On questionnaire and on data entry
Data quality	Data collection = data entry Real-time validation Settings to control invalid scorings	Manual data entry (personnel and training) Validation post data collection
Timeliness	No time for data entry	Time for data entry to be factored in
Security	Applies to personnel, device and flow of data	Applies to personnel, filled questionnaires and flow of data

Security

“DO NO HARM”

Who?

Enumerators,
supervisors,
researchers

Respondents and
communities

Data

What?

Awareness and
protection

Anonymity and
confidentiality

Data storage and
protection
measures

How?

Risk
assessments and
assistance

Informed consent
No identification
of respondents
nor HH

Encryption
Safe storage
Destruction



2.1. Best Practices for Data manipulation and analysis

- **Data entry, cleaning, checking and validating**
- **Preliminary analysis**
- **Triangulation**
- **Draft, review, fact-check, publish**



2.2 Validation

- Printed/uploaded questionnaires must be checked for typos, ID numbers, etc.
- On the field, supervisors must check filled questionnaire (typos, uncompleted, invalid scorings, etc)
- On the headquarter, data entry must be checked for typos and uncorrect coding rules



2.3. Analysis

- SALW trends and patterns
- Estimates of household ownership
- Indicators of the impact of SALW:
 - Gun deaths and injuries
 - Trafficking
- SALW sources, proliferation and costs



Table 2.3 Estimation of HH firearms possession across Kenya (figures rounded to the nearest 10,000)

		Self-reported		Opinion about how many HHs own firearms in the area					Average	
County	Total number of HHs*	%	Self-reported count	HHs	LEAs	CSOs	Highest estimate	Highest estimate count	Average	Average count
High	2,159,115	4.7	100,000	13.3%	20.9%	16.8%	20.9%	450,000	12.8%	280,000
Medium	2,389,231	1.0	20,000	4.6%	5.1%	11.5%	11.5%	270,000	6.3%	150,000
Low	1,571,364	2.4	40,000	10.2%	7.5%	7.9%	10.2%	160,000	6.3%	100,000
Sub-total	6,119,710	2.7	170,000	9.1%	14.5%	12.4%	14.5%	890,000	8.6%	530,000
Not surveyed	2,648,244	1.6	40,000	6.5%	6.1%	9.9%	9.9%	260,000	5.8%	150,000
Total	8,767,954	(2.4)**	210,000				(13.1%)**	1,150,000	(7.8%)**	680,000

2.4. Triangulation

- Bring in findings from various data collection tools and methods....
- Hold validation workshops locally
- Draft, revise, redraft...



3.1. Best practices for Data providers

- **Understanding background and context of data request**
- **Determine comparability, definitions**
- **Provide accurate and consistent data**
- **Check and submit**





any questions?

www.smallarmssurvey.org

