PROGRESS REPORT

Annual Project Progress Report

Federal Foreign Office, Germany
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Implementing Agency:</th>
<th>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Atlas Project ID:</td>
<td>00114727 Small arms control roadmap implementation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Title:</td>
<td>Support to the Implementation of the Roadmap for a Sustainable Solution to the Illegal Possession, Misuse and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their Ammunition in the Western Balkans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Duration:</td>
<td>14 May 2019 – 31 December 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country / Region:</td>
<td>Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, Republic of Serbia)</td>
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<td>Funding Partner/s:</td>
<td>Federal Foreign Office, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responsible Parties:</td>
<td>UNDP Albania, UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNDP Kosovo, UNDP Montenegro, UNDP North Macedonia, UNDP Serbia, UNDP SEESAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reporting Period:</td>
<td>01 January 2020 – 31 December 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact Person/s:</td>
<td>Gerd Trogemann – Manager, UNDP IRH Email: <a href="mailto:gerd.trogemann@undp.org">gerd.trogemann@undp.org</a>, cc: <a href="mailto:bojana.balon@undp.org">bojana.balon@undp.org</a></td>
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* Photo cover page: UNDP Kosovo

* References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).
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I. Acronyms

AF
Armed Forces
AISP
Albanian Institute of Scientific Police
BCP
Border Crossing Point
BiH
Bosnia and Herzegovina
BP
Border Police
CIAT
Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking
CIRAM
Common Integrated Risk Analysis Model
CO
(UNDP) Country Office
CSI
Crime Scene Investigation
ENFSI
European Network of Forensic Science Institutes
EU
European Union
FAE
Firearms, ammunition and explosives
FFP
Firearms Focal Point
GCC
Group for Cooperation and Coordination
IAT
Illicit Arms Trafficking
IOM
International Organization for Migration
IMS
Information Management System
IRH
(UNDP) Istanbul Regional Hub
ITA
Indirect Taxation Authority of BiH
LIMS
Laboratory Inventory Management System
MIA
 Ministry of Internal Affairs
MOFTER
Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BiH
MoD
Ministry of Defence
MoI
Ministry of Interior
MoJ
Ministry of Justice
MoS
Ministry of Security of BiH
MoU
Memorandum of Understanding
MLRS
Multiple Launch Rocket System
NFC
National Forensic Centre, Republic of Serbia
NGO
Non-governmental organization
OCF
Open Case File
SALW
Small Arms and Light Weapons
SDG
Sustainable Development Goal
SEESAC
South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons
SIDA
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SIPA
State Investigation and Protection Agency of BiH
SOP
Standard Operating Procedure
ToR
Terms of Reference
UK
United Kingdom
UN
United Nations
UNDP
United Nations Development Programme
WG
Working Group
WRMS
Weapons Registration and Stockpile Management Software
I. Executive Summary

Progress against outputs and outcomes
In 2020, the project delivered significant results supporting the Western Balkans authorities in their efforts towards achieving the goals of the regional Roadmap for SALW Control in the Western Balkans. Project results were delivered by the UNDP Offices in each of the Western Balkans jurisdictions — Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia, under the coordination of UNDP SEESAC. The project enabled UNDP to kick off in a timely manner comprehensive support in addressing specific priority areas of Roadmap implementation in each of the Western Balkans jurisdictions in 2019, within the first year of Roadmap implementation.

Through its development by the Western Balkans jurisdictions and adoption by the Interior and Security Ministers of the Western Balkans in the London Summit in 2018, the Roadmap secured the high-level political commitment of the Governments in the region to jointly work towards the achievement of the Roadmap goals. The Roadmap was developed by the SALW Commissions in the Western Balkans, with the support of Germany, France, the EU, and UNDP’s SEESAC. The Roadmap, and the new or amended SALW control Strategies and related Action plans that followed the Roadmap development, selected an array of needs and challenges that required immediate action. UNDP SEESAC in its coordination role liaised with the SALW commissions and assisted the UNDP Offices in identifying the specific gaps that could be addressed through this project in a way to complement the ongoing initiatives or build on previous efforts implemented in support to SALW control. The project positioned Germany as the key donor providing support for the Roadmap implementation, enabling a quick and strategic response to the governments’ priorities in the implementation of the Roadmap. Furthermore, through this project UNDP demonstrated its thought leadership in SALW control and capacities to promptly develop and deliver assistance in line with Government’s priorities in a timely manner, in close cooperation with the beneficiaries and tailored to the particular needs and gaps of each jurisdictions.

Under Output 1 of the regional project, Mechanism for efficient coordination of the Roadmap projects developed and put in place, in 2020, SEESAC continued to maintain a close relation with the UNDP Offices to monitor the implementation of the sub-projects, including the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the sub-projects. As part of the coordination mechanism put in place, a regional coordination meeting was organized in February 2020, with the staff responsible for the implementation of the UNDP sub-projects. The meeting contributed to a coordinated approach to the implementation of the project and facilitated information exchange and knowledge sharing across the UNDP Offices. As a follow-up, a repository of information was developed, with the purpose of enabling information and knowledge sharing among the UNDP Offices. Furthermore, SEESAC project members supported the implementation of the sub-projects in 2020, by providing inputs to the preparation of procurement processes and trainings, reviewing draft knowledge products, and providing technical advice to other project activities.

Under Output 2, Roadmap projects delivered by UNDP Offices, seven sub-projects were under implementation by the UNDP Offices, due to be finalized in 2021. Overall, in 2020, the projects helped improve the collection and analysis of firearm-related crime evidence, achieve a more effective and standardized approach in countering of illicit arms trafficking, improve firearm-related data record-keeping and collection facilitating thus the operational information exchange, and a better understanding of mainstreaming gender considerations into the policy and legislative framework of arms control as well as the impact of firearms use on domestic and gender-based violence. The project thus contributed to the Roadmap goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7.

The most significant results of 2020 in each jurisdiction are listed below:

- In Albania, the project supported the Albanian State Police and the Albanian Institute of Scientific Police to enhance their capacities in operating with higher standards and more effective procedures in the area of criminal investigations. This was achieved by developing/amending standard operating procedures (SOPs), delivering training on the revised and new SOPs to 80 crime scene investigations (CSI) police officers, and providing necessary equipment for more effective CSI and ballistic analysis.
- In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the project contributed to enhanced capacity of the Border Police and of 14 entity and cantonal Police Agencies in combatting illicit arms trafficking through the
development of SOPs on dealing with the detection of SALW. The SOPs were aligned with the relevant regulatory and legal frameworks of each police agency.

- **In Kosovo**, the project strengthened the capacities of the Kosovo Police and the border authorities to better prevent and respond to illicit arms trafficking and better conduct border crossing control and efficient surveillance of the green border lines. This was achieved by facilitating the procurement and training of dogs able to detect weapons made of polymer materials and delivering necessary equipment for firearm detection. Specialized training and IT software were also provided to enable police and customs officers develop quality risk, threat, and impact assessment at the border crossing points and the green border lines and intelligence reports on detecting illicit arms trafficking.

- **In Montenegro**, advancements have been made in the security upgrade of the two SALW magazines and guardhouse of the Ministry of Interior/Police Directorate SALW storage location Rogame, in line with international practices and standards.

- **In North Macedonia**, the project supported the Ministry of Interior to improve its Weapons Registration and Stockpile Management Software (WRMS), contributing to easier identification and tracing of firearms. More than 120 representatives of the MoI and firearms sales shops as well as import-export companies were trained in the use of the software. The project has also performed an in-depth analysis of the operational processes concerning firearm-related incidents and prepared a technical specification for the new Police Information System.

- **In Serbia**, the project supported strengthening the regulatory framework for custody chain and crime scene investigation through the development/amendment of necessary SOPs. The project also contributed to increased capacity of the CSI units in Serbia, with the aim of increasing the quality of forensic evidence necessary for efficient instigations, and cross-border exchange of ballistic evidence. This was achieved through procurement of equipment and support to accreditation of the CSI infrastructure according to international standards. Additionally, the project improved the ballistic laboratory through procurement of equipment for keeping ballistic evidence, and for ballistic testing.

- **Also, in Serbia**, the project focused on increasing understanding and awareness of the gender dimension in firearms misuse. In this regard, several analyses and publications were developed, including an in-depth analysis on the implementation of the legislative framework regulating civilian military and police possession/access to firearms and a qualitative analysis of the media reporting on SALW misuse in Serbia. Also, three social media campaigns were implemented to increase media attention on the issue of SALW misuse in the context of domestic violence, as well as to raise public awareness about gender aspects of SALW misuse.

**Key challenges and risks**

2020 was marked by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, which also affected the Western Balkans jurisdictions. Project implementation was faced with unprecedented challenges. The Governments imposed measures to prevent the spread of virus, including declaration of state of emergency, restrictions to the freedom of movement, public gatherings and downsizing of non-essential governmental and business processes. Furthermore, the state institutions, including project’s direct beneficiaries, have shifted their efforts to emergency response measures. Additionally, key staff of some of the beneficiary institutions were hospitalized or in quarantine with COVID-19, which hindered their participation in the project.

In addition to this, for most UNDP project staff the working from home arrangements were introduced in March 2020 that remained in place until the end of the year. These circumstances affected project implementation substantively. Project activities needed to be re-scheduled to focus on administrative and desk activities, converting some activities where possible into an online or hybrid setting format, or postponing activities until the situation allowed it, including to 2021. UNDP Offices maintained regular contact with the project beneficiaries, including through online means whenever necessary, in order to secure beneficiaries’ continued commitment and participation in the project, and coordinate and adjust project activities and timelines.

Furthermore, project implementation experienced delays due to parliamentary elections organised in Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia and subsequent changes in governments’ high and middle-level management, which lead to delays in decision-making processes.
Four non-cost project extensions between 3 and 6 months were requested in 2020, and the sub-projects were revised accordingly. Other sub-projects are expected to request non-cost extensions in 2021.

**Utilization update**
By end 2020, the cumulative utilization of the budget was $2,359,871, representing 37.7% of the total project budget of $6,257,110. The project delivery rate was particularly affected by delays in the procurement of equipment, or delays in the organization of trainings. The situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to improve in 2021, thus allowing projects to speed up implementation and complete the projects by end 2021. However, the project team takes into consideration that the COVID-19 crisis may remain at the same level or worsen, which may not allow sub-project to be finalized as planned. As the project coordinator, SEESAC will keep a close relation with the UNDP Offices to monitor the implementation of the projects and the delivery rate. Also, SEESAC will continue updating and informing the donor with regards to the project’s progress and risks this year, and in the event a project extension beyond December 2021 will be needed.

**Catalytic interventions**
The regional project was instrumental in scaling up of existing initiatives implemented by UNDP. The gender and SALW component implemented by UNDP Serbia takes from the extensive research conducted by SEESAC on gender and SALW in the Western Balkans, implementing and expanding the recommendations identified by SEESAC, in the Serbian context. Also, the project enabled piloting forensics projects in Albania and Serbia, following recommendations of the South Eastern Europe Firearms Expert Network (SEEFEN) network facilitated by SEESAC. Furthermore, the project enabled scaling up the work of UNDP BiH with the Border Police on combatting illicit arms trafficking.

Furthermore, the existing CO projects have also shown its significant potential for scale up and replication and will contribute to standardization of approaches across the region. The project component implemented by UNDP Serbia in forensics and crime scene investigation will step into a second phase. Also, the experience from this project and the forensics activities in Albania have been replicated into a similar project to be initiated in 2021 in Montenegro. Both projects are funded though the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF). Additionally, the lessons learnt from the gender-focused analysis of firearms-related legislation conducted by UNDP Serbia were integrated in the methodology of the regional gender screening of firearms legislations that is conducted by UNDP SEESAC. The gender screening is currently conducted in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, and North Macedonia.
II. Introduction / Background

The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in 2015, affirmed that sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security and that illicit arms flows are amongst the factors which give rise to violence, insecurity and injustice. SDG target 16.4. explicitly calls for the reduction of illicit arms flows and 16.1. to the reduction of all forms of violence and related deaths everywhere. The UN Member States undertook to strengthen, as appropriate, partnerships and cooperation at all levels in preventing and combating the illicit trade in SALW, in particular with border control; stockpile management and security; destruction and disposal; marking, record-keeping and tracing; and illicit brokering. They also undertook to strengthen regional and sub-regional coordination at the third UN conference to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in June 2018. At the same time, the Secretary General launched the new disarmament agenda entitled, Securing Our Common Future, recognising that protracted conflicts continue to cause unspeakable human suffering, warning from proliferation of armed groups who are equipped with a vast array of weapons and reminding us that global military expenditure is at its highest since the fall of the Berlin wall.

The Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW and their ammunition in the Western Balkans was developed by the Western Balkans jurisdictions, under the auspices of Germany and France, in coordination with the European Union (EU), and with SEESAC’s support, to address the challenges faced by the region in relation to firearms possession and use. The EU Strategy to combat illicit accumulation and trafficking of SALW and their ammunition (‘the EU SALW Strategy’) recognises that while significant progress has been made in recent years, the scale of accumulation of SALW and ammunition, inadequate storage conditions, large illicit possession, and policymaking and implementation-capacity gaps continue to limit the effectiveness of SALW control efforts in parts of the Western Balkans. To ensure continuous progress, secure the gains made and pave the way for a long-term sustainable development that includes full harmonisation with the EU legislative and regulatory framework and compliance with international standards, continued support is needed to combat the threat posed by the spread and illicit trafficking of SALW in and from the Western Balkans.

Illicit possession and misuse of firearms is directly associated with interpersonal and gender-based violence and poses a serious risk on the safety of citizens of South East Europe. Over 90% of all firearm-related criminal offences are committed with illegal firearms and every second homicide in the Western Balkans is committed with firearms. The misuse of firearms is highly gendered. Men account for more than 95% of perpetrators and over 80% of victims of firearm-related incidents. Women, on the other hand, own only a minor share of firearms, make up only a minor share of perpetrators, but are disproportionately represented among victims.¹ On the other hand, illicit arms trafficking poses a threat to the safety of citizens of the wider region.

The Roadmap envisages measures to further address: 1) the level of harmonisation of legal frameworks on arms control in the Western Balkans with the EU legislation, the Arms Trade Treaty and the Firearms Protocol; 2) use of data in policy making and intelligence led policing; 3) number of adjudications of misuse and trafficking of firearms, ammunition and explosives compared to the number of criminal charges; 4) illicit trafficking across borders; 5) diversion of arms exports; 6) operational cooperation at regional and international level; 6) effect of misuse of firearms on community security; 7) illegal possession; 8) management of confiscated or surplus firearms; and 9) capacities for safe and secure storage of seized, surplus and confiscated firearms, ammunition and explosives.

The project thus contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies, and secondly to SDG 5, Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Specifically, it is linked to SDG target 16.4. By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime. It aims at supporting countering the illicit trafficking and misuse of firearms through improved SALW control legal frameworks and evidence-based policies, increased national capacities for detection, seizure and confiscation of misused firearms, increased public awareness about the dangers of firearms misuse, and strengthened capacities for inspection and implementation of life cycle management of SALW and ammunition. Additionally, the project contributes to the following targets: SDG target 16.1. Significantly reduce

¹ According to data collected by UNDP SEESAC from the authorities in the region for the Regional SALW survey.
all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere, and SDG target 5.2. Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation. Aiming at supporting national efforts on arms control in the Western Balkans, the project also contributes to Outcome 3 “Building resilience to shocks and crises through enhanced prevention and risk-informed development”, output 3.3 of the Regional programme document for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (2018-2021). Regional cooperation enables national systems to ensure the restoration of justice institutions, redress mechanisms and community security, including armed violence reduction and SALW control.

The project is directly implemented by UNDP’s Istanbul Regional Hub for Europe and the CIS (IRH), through UNDP SEESAC. It is managed by the SEESAC Project Manager, who also acts as the manager of the regional project. The project is implemented in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia directly by the UNDP offices in their respective jurisdictions. UNDP offices are directly responsible for the implementation of projects at national level, meeting delivery rates and achieving the planned results of their proposed projects. SEESAC supports the overall coordination of the regional project and provides advisory support to the UNDP Offices implementing the project.

The project is governed by a Project Board, chaired by the Manager of the Istanbul Regional Hub, who serves as the Project Executive. The project board comprises of the UNDP IRH Manager, the UNDP IRH Integrated Country Office Support Team Leader, UNDP IRH Governance and Peacebuilding Team Leader, UNDP IRH Regional Partnerships Advisor, and the representative of the German Federal Foreign Office.

The project is monitored on a quarterly basis, based on information collected from the UNDP Offices. Progress reports are shared with the donor or a quarterly and annual basis, providing updates on the progress in the implementation of the UNDP sub-projects, challenges in implementation, and plans for the next reporting period. Knowledge, good practices and lessons are captured annually. The Project Board meets annually to assess project performance and progress against the Multi-Year Work Plan, as well as to ensure realistic budgeting over the life of the project. In the project’s final year, the Project Board shall hold an end-of project review to capture lessons learned and discuss opportunities for scaling up and to socialize project results and lessons learned with relevant audiences. A final project evaluation in planned to be conducted in 2021, the project’s final year.
III. Progress Review: Key Activities and Results, 1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020

Section 1: Overall progress against outcomes

In 2020, the project made significant progress towards the achievement of its objective - to contribute to the implementation of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap whose vision is that the Western Balkans become a safer region and an exporter of security, where comprehensive and sustainable mechanisms, fully harmonized with the European Union and other international standards, are in place to identify, prevent, prosecute, and control the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE).

Overall, the project helped improve the collection and analysis of firearm-related crime evidence, achieve a more effective and standardized approach in countering of illicit arms trafficking, improve firearm-related data record-keeping and collection facilitating thus the operational information exchange, and better understanding of mainstreaming gender considerations into the policy and legislative framework of arms control as well as the impact of firearms use on domestic and gender-based violence.

The project thus contributed to the achievement of following Roadmap goals:

- **Goal 1:** By 2023, ensure that arms control legislation is in place, fully harmonized with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations and standardized across the region.
- **Goal 2:** By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence based and intelligence led.
- **Goal 3:** By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.
- **Goal 4:** By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy.
- **Goal 5:** By 2024, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans.
- **Goal 7:** Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives.

By developing or amending SOPs for CSI and ballistics in Albania and Serbia, as well as SOPs for combating illicit arms trafficking in BiH and by supporting the accreditation process of the CSI infrastructure in Serbia, the project contributed to standardization of procedures and practices in the area of arms control and investigations, and thus to the implementation of Roadmap goal 1.

By capacitating police and the ballistic laboratories in Albania and Serbia to operate with higher standards for delivering forensic evidence, the project contributed to Roadmap goal 2. This was achieved through provision of specialized training and equipment. The project also supported the Ministry of Interior of North Macedonia to improve its Weapons Registration and Stockpile Management Software, for easier identification and tracing of firearms, thus also contributing to Roadmap goal 2. Furthermore, the project’s contribution to Roadmap goal 2 can be seen in the increased understanding of the gaps and potential blockages in the effective enforcement of existing laws and institutional procedures and practices related to the use of firearms in cases of domestic violence, and the proposed amendments to the Law on Weapons and accompanying bylaw to effectively address the use of firearms in domestic violence, in Serbia.

By strengthening the capacities of the Kosovo Police and the border authorities to better prevent and respond to illicit arms trafficking and better conduct border crossing control and efficient surveillance of the green border lines, the project contributed to Roadmap goal 3. This was achieved by facilitating the procurement and training of dogs able to detect weapons made of polymer materials and delivering necessary equipment for firearm detection. Specialized training and IT software were also provided to enable police and customs officers develop quality risk, threat and impact assessment at the border crossing points and the green border lines and intelligence reports on detecting illicit arms trafficking.
By focusing on increasing understanding and awareness of the gender dimension in firearms use in Serbia, through analysis and research, as well as through social media campaigns, the project contributed to Roadmap goal 4.

By advancing on the security upgrade of the Ministry of Interior/Police Directorate SALW storage location Rogame, in line with international best practices and standards, the project contributed to Roadmap goal 7.

Furthermore, the project created and maintained in 2020 a mechanism for efficient coordination of the UNDP projects, aiming at supporting national efforts on arms control in the Western Balkans, thus contributing to the Outcome indicator stated in the Regional programme document for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (2018-2021), **Number of regional cooperation forums that support redress mechanisms, justice institutions, and community security (including SALW control)**. The regional project represents a forum that facilitates initiatives for the improvement of SALW control in the Western Balkans.

**Section 2: Monitoring of activities**

Project monitoring was conducted both at the regional level, as part of the coordination activity implemented by UNDP SEESAC, and at the level of each sub-project. Overviews of the monitoring activities conducted by the individual projects are presented under the description of each sub-project.

At the regional level, monitoring was conducted through regular communication with the project teams in each UNDP Office, through a regional coordination meeting convened in February 2020 and the Project Board meeting organized in November 2020, both aimed at reviewing the progress in implementation and future plans, as well as through quarterly progress reports. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, monitoring field visits could not be organized.

As the COVID-19 pandemic broke out in the Western Balkans, and in the context of the Governments’ restrictions to prevent and limit the spread of the virus, SEESAC reached out to the UNDP Offices to discuss the impact of the crisis on the implementation of their sub-projects. A preliminary assessment was conducted and shared with the donor on 31 March 2020, as more detailed information on the pandemic and its effects on the project implementation was available throughout the year, in the quarterly progress reports shared with the donor. See more in Chapter V Update on risks and mitigation measures, and Chapter VI Key challenges, lesson learned and recommendations.
Section 3: Progress against each output

Output 1: Mechanism for efficient coordination of the Roadmap projects developed and put in place

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<th>Output indicators</th>
<th>Targets</th>
<th>Progress against targets</th>
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<td>Number of project proposals meeting the overarching criteria and approved for funding</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8 projects that were submitted for funding during the call for proposals launched within the regional project met the overarching criteria and were approved for funding by the Project Board in 2019.</td>
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<td>Existence of a guidance note on the submission, selection and implementation of the Roadmap projects</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>A guidance note was prepared in 2019 and shared with the UNDP COs as part of the call for project proposals.</td>
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<td>Number of knowledge products, and visibility and communication materials released</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>17 knowledge products and communications materials were prepared: two (2) publications on gender and firearm misuse; fourteen (14) knowledge sharing products and working materials in the form of sets of standard operating procedures (SOPs), analyses, needs assessments and research papers; and three (3) visibility and communication materials.</td>
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Under Output 1, the project ensures a coordinated approach to the implementation of the sub-projects implemented by the UNDP Offices supporting the achievement of the Roadmap goals, through a well-established mechanism for fund allocation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation.

Key results achieved during the reporting period:

- Efficient coordination was ensured through regional coordination meeting that was convened to discuss the status of implementation of the UNDP sub-projects, and regular communication with the UNDP project managers.
- Knowledge and information sharing enabled through a regional meeting, regular contacts and repository of information that was developed and that is accessible by the UNDP Offices.
1. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period

- In 2020, SEESAC project team continued to maintain a close relation with the UNDP Offices in order to monitor the implementation of the projects' implementation and provide any required assistance. As the COVID-19 pandemic evolved in the Western Balkans and in the context of the Governments’ restrictions to prevent and limit the spread of the virus, SEESAC reached out and maintained regular communication with the UNDP Offices to discuss the impact of the crisis on the implementation of their sub-projects. A detailed account of the development of the Covid-19 pandemic in each jurisdiction and its effect on the progress of the sub-projects in presented under the description of each sub-project.

- On 10-11 February 2020, a regional coordination meeting was convened to discuss the status of implementation of the UNDP sub-projects, the challenges encountered and plan the year ahead. Held in Belgrade, before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was attended by representatives of the UNDP Offices in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia and members of the UNDP SEESAC team. The meeting also benefited from the presence of Senior Adviser of the German Foreign Office, as well as from the targeted interventions of UNDP’s Deputy Director of Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS and UNDP Serbia Resident Representative. At the end of the meeting, the participants agreed on a series of follow-up steps that range from organizing similar meetings potentially twice per year, establishing an online repository of information accessible to the UNDP Offices, to several financial, reporting and communication tasks. The meeting was overall very well received by all the participants who highlighted the importance and effectiveness of the mechanism established for the monitoring and coordination of the project.

- During 2020, SEESAC team members provided substantial technical support and assistance to the UNDP sub-projects in Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, such as:
- In Albania, technical advice was provided during the preparations for the procurement of the water tank.
- In Montenegro, SEESAC shared its experience related to obtaining necessary authorizations for works with the team of the Rogame SALW Storage Upgrade project and reviewed the tender documentation for reconstruction works and supervision.
- In North Macedonia, support was provided to the activities related to the weapons registration and management system update and development of the Information Management System, by reviewing the terms of reference of the experts to be engaged in these activities and providing input to the baseline assessment and concept note of the Information Management System. SEESAC also participated in a coordination meeting between UNDP North Macedonia, OSCE in North Macedonia and the MoI in order to coordinate activities.
- In Serbia, SEESAC provided support to the project Reduce risk - Increase safety – Towards ending SALW misuse in domestic violence, by reviewing the terms of reference for the experts to be engaged in the planned analyses, and the draft knowledge products elaborated within the project. A meeting with the consultant who is developing the methodology for research on judicial practice and response of the criminal-justice system to misuse of firearms in domestic violence was also conducted, while a presentation on the linkages between gender and small arms was delivered during the meeting with Journalist against Violence Against Women, organized by UNDP Serbia, in November 2020.
- Also in Serbia, SEESAC provided technical advice to the project in the area of forensics related to procurement of equipment, development of the SOPs, preparation of the technical specifications of the open case file room, procurement of LIMS, and preparation of design and supervision of the Belgrade Ballistic lab upgrade.

- Following the coordination meeting in February, an online repository of information was developed, with the purpose of enabling information and knowledge sharing among UNDP Offices. This repository has been populated with project documents and knowledge products and has been integrated in the secured area of SEESAC’s online knowledge exchange platform.

2. Difficulties encountered, measures taken to overcome the problems, and eventual changes introduced
- N/A

3. Achievements
- Strengthened coordination and monitoring of the regional project achieved through regular communication and technical assistance provided to the UNDP Offices, as well as through the regional meeting.
- Information and knowledge sharing among UNDP Offices enabled through the development of the online repository of information.

4. Work plan for Q1 2021

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<th>Planned activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monitor and report on the progress in the implementation of the UNDP SALW control projects.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Communication and visibility

Donor visibility was ensured during the coordination meeting organized in February 2020, through the participation of the donor’s representative at the meeting and by placing the German Cooperation logo on the materials prepared for the meeting, such as agenda, list of participants, and the support presentations used during the meeting.

Also, a video presenting snapshots of the results achieved by the regional project in 2020 was prepared and published online, on SEESAC’s knowledge exchange platform and Twitter account, at the end of 2020. The materials acknowledge Germany’s support to the project.

Tweet posted by UNDP SEESAC to communicate the 2020 key results of the regional project.
Output 2: Roadmap projects delivered by UNDP Offices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Output indicators</th>
<th>Targets</th>
<th>Progress against targets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Roadmap projects that have achieved their planned results</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>One (1) of the eight (8) projects approved for funding by the Project Board was completed in 2019, achieving its planned results. The other 7 projects are under implementation, due to be finalized in 2021.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Eight projects selected within the call for proposals are implemented by the UNDP Offices in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia. The projects cover a wide array of topics, from countering illicit arms trafficking to enhancing ballistic capacities, providing security upgrade of SALW storages, and mainstreaming gender in SALW control, and are implemented in support of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap. The projects are implemented in close partnership with the authorities to ensure national ownership and coordination of activities, making sure that the highest quality results are achieved in an efficient, time-bound and sustainable manner.

Key results achieved during the reporting period:

- In **Serbia**, provisions on how to effectively address the misuse of firearms in domestic violence in the Law on Weapons and accompanying bylaw were proposed to strengthen the SALW control legislative framework in this area. Also, the in-depth desk-review analysis of the procedures and practices related to the SALW license denial, removal and revocation in the context of domestic violence and existing procedures and practices related to the domestic violence committed by military and police officers was developed, showing its potential for scaling up and replication, by serving as a basis for a regional gender screening of firearms legislations and similar analyses in other jurisdictions. A qualitative analysis of the media reporting on SALW misuse and its effects on addressing the issue of gun-culture in Serbia was developed and published online, making it available to all those interested;

- Also in **Serbia**, an in-depth gap analysis in the area of crime scene investigations, chain of custody and ballistics laboratory inventory enabled better understanding of the capacities of the Criminal Investigation Directorate and the ballistic laboratory, supporting the implementation of the planned project activities. SOPs on the chain of custody of law enforcement, crime scene investigation, and packaging and tagging of evidence were drafted/amended and approved by the beneficiaries, leading to an improved regulatory framework for tracing evidence throughout the chain of custody. Preparations of the CSI infrastructure accreditation were facilitated through the development of the training curriculum for CSI units, and an analysis including guidance on the application of the ISO/IEC 17020 standard. CSI capacities were also improved through the provision of necessary specialized equipment, and related training. Furthermore, an analysis report on domestic violence was produced to enable increased understanding of the necessary capacities for the collection of evidence and for conducting criminal investigations in reported cases of domestic violence. Finally, the central level ballistic laboratory was equipped to better tag and file the evidence, improve reception of forensic evidence and temporary storage, as well as improve ballistic testing.

- In **Albania**, the capacities of the CSI units in the field of crime scene investigations and chain of custody were increased by supporting the development and amendment of relevant SOPs and providing related training. Equipment for the CSI units and the ballistic sector was procured to strengthen capacities in their lines of work. Also, five specialists employed in the Ballistic Sector were supported to work more efficiently by providing them with necessary IT equipment. Finally, the effectiveness of firearm and ammunition DNA tracing analysis was enabled through the procurement of specialized equipment, at the request of the project beneficiary.

- In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, SOPs for the 14 law enforcement agencies to be used when dealing with detection of illegal SALW were drafted, aligning them with the relevant regulatory and legal frameworks of each police agency.

- In **Kosovo**, five K9 dogs were selected, procured, trained, and handed over to the Kosovo Police for increased capacities in the detection of weapons made of polymer material, following a report on the existing capacities of the dogs owned by the Police, which was prepared within the project.
border police officers, Customs, and Centre for Border Management officials gained necessary skills and knowledge to prepare quality risk analyses, through a training on CIRAM 2, while 15 representatives of the Border Police, Customs, and the Centre for Border Management increased their knowledge for the development of a problem profile on illicit arms trafficking and at the green border through dedicated training. The capacities of the Kosovo Police and the Centre for Border Management in CIRAM2 were also strengthened and technologically upgraded through the acquisition of IT software (iBASE and Analyst Notebook) that will increase the collection of information, risk analysis at border crossing points and green border lines, and produce intelligence reports on detection of illicit arms trafficking. Moreover, the project team increased their understanding of the actual needs of the Border Police and the potential gaps in the effective and efficient border control and green border surveillance through the preparation of a border vulnerability assessment. Finally, specialized equipment for detecting firearms, and related training, were provided to the border police.

- In North Macedonia, the Weapons Registration and Stockpile Management Software (WRMS) was upgraded, enabling better registration and tracking of legal, registered weapons. The upgraded WRMS enabled the MoI for the first time to allow the exchange of information with other entities. More than 120 participants from different departments in the MoI and weapons-selling companies have been prepared to use the updated software, following a specialized end-user training. Increased cooperation between the Customs Administration and the MoI was achieved through the Agreement on Interoperability signed by the two institutions. Furthermore, in-depth understanding of the needs of the different departments in the MoI with regards to organisational practices related to data collection, dissemination and analysis of incidents and criminal cases including misuse and trafficking in firearms, their component parts and ammunition, was achieved through a detailed needs-based analysis detailing current organisational processes and organisational structure as it relates to criminal and firearm related data.

- In Montenegro, the project design for the security upgrade works to be conducted at the Rogame SALW storage was finalized and the bill of quantities prepared. As part of the project design development, a geodetical survey of the storage area was conducted for the purposes of registering the Rogame storage in the official Cadastre. The tender for the reconstruction and supervision of works on the two magazines and the guard house in the Rogame storage was finalized, and the companies selected.
Sub-project 1. Reduce risk - Increase safety – Towards ending SALW misuse in domestic violence context

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project number:</th>
<th>2019SRB01</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implemented by:</td>
<td>UNDP Serbia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributes to Roadmap Goal:</td>
<td>Goal 4: By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation period:</td>
<td>September 2019 – March 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The objective of the project is to reduce the misuse of firearms in the context of violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence by improving practices and procedures related to criminal justice response to SALW misuse, setting up the basis for evidence-based policy making, increasing the awareness among general population on the dangers of illicit SALW possession and misuse, and developing knowledge packages for risk reduction of firearms misuse in the context of gender-based violence.

The project addresses the main policy concerns identified in SEESAC’s research on the impact of SALW on men and women and necessity to improve institutional practices in responding to SALW misuse in the context of domestic and intimate partner violence against women.

The project works towards ensuring a resource and information base that will enable monitoring of practices, looking at correlation between gender-based violence and the misuse of SALW, and eventually, evidence-based policy making. Better data collection will enable managing the risks of SALW misuse in a domestic violence context. It will contribute to effectiveness of the interventions, which is a precondition for prevention of repetition of SALW misuse in the context of domestic violence. The specific component of the project is aimed at developing and implementing prevention programmes that will contribute to deconstructing gender stereotypes and will lead to greater awareness among men and women on the danger of firearms misuse in the context of gender-based violence. The project also improves existing protection practices, including criminal-justice response towards ensuring victims’ safety. This component of the project is focused on better risk management in addressing SALW misuse in the context of domestic violence performed by capacitated professionals through coordinated and integrated services.

The project also contributes to the implementation of the National Strategy on SALW Control, which was adopted by the Government in June 2019. The Strategy emphasizes the gender dimension of SALW misuse and prescribes measures for preventing SALW misuse in the context of domestic violence (Measure 5.4 of the Action Plan – Implementation of the gender perspective through Action Plan).

In November 2020, the Regional Project Board approved the allocation of $150,000 for the continuation of the project until December 2021, building on the lessons learnt and findings from the on-going phase of the project. More specifically, the proposed interventions are based on the findings of the Analysis of legal framework, procedures and practices related to SALW license denial, removal and revocation in the context of domestic violence and existing procedures and practices related to domestic violence committed by military and police officers, the knowledge on multi-agency response to reported cases of domestic violence with firearms presence/misuse, and key features of media reporting on firearms misuse in domestic violence and its consequences on the perception and attitudes of Serbian society. The project continuation aims to implement additional activities and research to ensure the preconditions for evidence-based policy making on domestic violence and firearms misuse, explore riches for a more coordinated approach in the prevention of misuse of firearms in domestic violence and the role of the health-care system, and strengthen media contribution to the prevention of firearms misuse and domestic violence.
## Overview of Progress Towards Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Output</th>
<th>Project Output Indicator</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Status of Project Results</th>
<th>Achievements Against Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Output 1.1. Improved practices and procedures related to criminal justice response to SALW misuse</strong></td>
<td>No. of practices and procedures reviewed</td>
<td>At least 2</td>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td>Procedures prescribed by 11 laws and bylaws relevant for SALW and domestic violence reviewed, and potential gaps and challenges identified. Set of policy-level recommendations (for amendment of the Law on Weapons) developed and submitted to MoJ. Development of recommendations for improvement of procedures related to firearms license approval to prevent SALW misuse in the context of domestic violence underway. Research on tool addressing risks of firearms misuse by judiciary in final phase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Policy and procedures recommendations submitted to MoJ (Yes/No)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Partially achieved</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Evidence based tool for judiciary on risks of firearms misuse in place (Yes/No)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Partially achieved</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Output 1.2. Setting up the basis for evidence-based policy making</strong></td>
<td>Methodology for gender-sensitive data collection in place (Yes/No)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Partially achieved</td>
<td>Indicators for gender-sensitive data collection on femicide cases developed, as part of wider methodology to be completed. Development of checklist for risk assessment underway. 5 MoJ representatives continuously informed on progress achieved via meetings, briefs and reports.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Checklist for risk assessment developed (Yes/No)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Partially achieved</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. MoJ officials informed on gender-sensitive evidence-based policy making</td>
<td>At least 5</td>
<td>Partially achieved</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Output 1.3. Increased awareness among general population, both women and men, on the danger of misuse and illicit SALW possession through joint actions and cooperation of</strong></td>
<td>No. of gender-sensitive media reports on SALW misuse</td>
<td>At least 5</td>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td>8 media stories published on the need for improving media reporting regarding SALW misuse in domestic violence. Stories published following the qualitative analysis of media reporting on SALW misuse in domestic violence context.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>media, institutions and CSOs</td>
<td>Output 1.4. Knowledge packages for risk reduction of firearms misuse in the context of GBV developed and implemented</td>
<td>Knowledge packages for risk reduction of firearms misuse in place (Yes/No)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Activities initiated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. of professionals trained on risk assessment and risk reduced</td>
<td>At least 250</td>
<td></td>
<td>Activities initiated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Description of the output

- Output 1.1 aims at providing a resource and information base for enabling monitoring of practices, looking at the correlation between gender-based violence and misuse of SALW, and eventually, evidence-based policy making.

- Activities include: a) Examination of the procedures and practices related to the SALW license denial, removal and revocation in the context of domestic violence, including existing procedures and practices related to the domestic violence committed by military and police officers; b) Research on judicial practice and response of the criminal-justice system related to detecting and misuse of firearms in the cases of domestic violence. The research represents a monitoring exercise of judiciary practices in processing and prosecution of gender-based violence enabled by SALW. Additionally, the research will provide recommendations for establishment of regular monitoring practice and will identify data that need to be collected through the judiciary system to enable evidence-based policy making and contribute to effectiveness of the criminal-justice response to DV enabled by firearms. In addition to this, research findings will be a basis for improving of knowledge of judiciary on the risks and consequences of firearms misuse in the context of domestic violence.

2. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period

- In 2020, an in-depth analysis of the procedures and practices related to the SALW license denial, removal and revocation in the context of domestic violence and existing procedures and practices related to the domestic violence committed by military and police officers was initiated and is currently in its final stages. The analysis maps the gaps and identifies potential obstacles to the effective enforcement of existing laws and institutional procedures and practices which lead to the high share of women murdered or threatened with firearms. Eleven laws, by-laws, practices and procedures were assessed within the first phase of the analysis. A second phase including validation interviews with MoI representatives, focusing on improvement of police procedures, will be conducted in 2021. Using the information collected, procedure-level recommendations will be proposed to improve concrete response to SALW misuse in domestic violence cases.

- Based on the analysis, a proposal of legislative provisions on how to effectively address the misuse of firearms in domestic violence in the Law on Weapons and accompanying bylaws was developed and submitted to the MoI.

- Moreover, the project is also taking stock of the findings of the analysis to contribute to the development of the new strategy for combating gender-based violence in Serbia for 2021-2025, specific section on prevention, protection and prosecution of domestic violence committed by firearms. The development of the strategy was initiated by the Government of Serbia on 29 December 2020.

- As an added value, the analysis also served as a basis for the regional gender screening of firearms legislation that is conducted by UNDP SEESAC and provided a model for similar analyses currently conducted by SEESAC in North Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

- Furthermore, the findings and recommendations of the analysis will be used as the basis for promoting evidence-based tools to inform relevant stakeholders and institutions on the key gaps and obstacles in implementing existing laws, as well as the institutional shortcomings of the practices and procedures related to SALW license denial, removal and revocation in the context of domestic violence, and to the domestic violence committed by military and police officers.

- In 2020, the project team initiated the research on the judicial practice and response of the criminal-justice system related to misuse of firearms in the cases of domestic violence in Serbia. The purpose of this research is to: 1) explore if and how the legislation captures the complexity and risks of domestic violence committed by firearms; 2) examine the practice of the criminal-justice system in the implementation of the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence focusing on cases of domestic violence in which firearms were detected/misused and the measures against perpetrators; 3) examine if there is a difference in processing cases of domestic violence domestic in which a firearm was used and whether they require expedited procedures, and 4) examine if there is a difference in the prosecution and court practices in relation to cases of domestic violence in which a firearm was used. This research will promote evidence-based tools to improve knowledge of criminal-justice system professionals on the risks and consequences of firearms misuse in the context of domestic violence. The research will be completed in Q1 2021.
3. Difficulties encountered, measures taken to overcome the problems, and eventual changes introduced

- Government’s measures to prevent the spreading of the COVID-19 pandemic and the stretched availability of institutions and professionals affected the dynamics of activities and their implementation modality. However, the project invested additional efforts to ensure successful implementation, particularly with regards to the research of judiciary practice in processing cases of domestic violence committed with firearms, which focuses on the examination of court cases and criminal reports and was initially planned as on-site research. The project established good cooperation with prosecution offices and courts and ensured that the cases are submitted to researchers. However, this caused a slight delay in the implementation of this activity. Additional delays in activities were caused by the limited availability of professionals targeted by activities to verify the findings and provide inputs related to institutional practices preceding judicial proceedings, but relevant for their outcome (namely professionals intended to participate in focus group discussions). Although scheduled, some of the focus groups and interviews had to be cancelled due to participants’ infection with the coronavirus or their engagement in emergency situations caused by COVID-19. Having in mind that the core work has been completed, this delay will not affect the finalization of the activity in Q1 2021.

- Also, the in-depth analysis was planned to be conducted in two phases, where the second phase included fact finding and validation interviews with the representatives of the key institutions, MoJ and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). However, due to the COVID-19 crisis, the MoJ and police representatives prioritized their work towards COVID-19 related activities, limiting their availability. Additionally, the parliamentary elections were held on 21 June 2020 and the new Government was formed only in Q4 2020. Elections affected not only changes in ministerial positions, but also in middle management, creating a vacuum which prevented government officials and officers, especially in MoJ, to participate in project activities, and in the planned interviews with the MoJ representatives who needed the official approval of the Minister to participate. Despite the inability to conduct interviews in 2020, the first phase of the in-depth analysis still provides a comprehensive overview of the legislative framework regulating civilian military and the police possession/access to firearms. Interviews with MoJ representatives will be conducted in 2021, for the completion of the second phase of the analysis. Once interviews are completed, it has been agreed that representatives of MoJ and MoJ who directly participate in the project will validate the findings and provide additional comments if necessary.

4. Achievements

- Increased understanding of the gaps and potential blockages in the effective enforcement of existing laws and institutional procedures and practices related to the use of firearms in cases of domestic violence gained through the in-depth analysis of procedures and practices related to SALW license denial, removal and revocation in the context of domestic violence and existing procedures and practices related to domestic violence committed by military and police officers.

- Provisions on how to effectively address the misuse of firearms in domestic violence in the Law on Weapons and accompanying bylaw proposed to strengthen the SALW control legislative framework in this area.

- Potential for scaling up and replication of the in-depth analysis shown by serving as a basis for the regional gender screening of firearms legislation that is conducted by UNDP SEESAC and provided a model for similar analyses currently conducted by SEESAC in North Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

5. Work plan for Q1 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planned activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Finalize the research on the judicial practice and response of the criminal justice system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop strategic measures for judiciary and law enforcement for addressing SALW misuse in the domestic violence context.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. **Description of the output**

- Output 1.2 aims at providing better data collection that will enable improved managing of the risks associated with SALW misuse in domestic violence contexts. This will be initially achieved through an analysis of MoJ data collection practices on SALW misuse, and the development of tools for improved risk management and prevention of SALW misuse in the context of gender-based violence.

2. **Description of activities implemented during the reporting period**

- In 2020, the project team initiated the **analysis of administrative data collection practices** on the misuse of SALW in domestic and intimate partner violence. The analysis is conducted in the context in which the lack of sex-disaggregated data on the linkages between gender and SALW persistently represents a hindering factor for the development of gender-responsive SALW policies and contributes to the insufficient recognition of the problem\(^1\). Gender-sensitive data collection should contribute to recognition of gender as an important policy issue needing to be adequately addressed. This activity will be completed in Q1 2021.

- Furthermore, an **analysis of the cases of femicides committed with firearms** was initiated, inclusive of information for the development of risk-assessment checklists related to the prevention of SALW misuse in the context of gender-based violence and risks induced by the presence of firearms in domestic violence context. The analysis is conducted by women’s NGO Autonomous Women’s Center based on media reporting on femicide. The analysis covers the period June 2017 - June 2020, given that the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence became effective as of 1 June 2017, and within this Law, the possession of legal firearms is recognized as one of the risks for committing domestic violence. The analysis is conducted against risk indicators developed by the project and its aim is to a) examine circumstances prior to femicide; b) show the importance of gender-sensitive data collection on SALW and domestic violence and the purpose of data collection; c) inform and contribute to development of risk-assessment checklists; d) advocate for establishment of femicide review. The analysis also includes a methodology for female homicide review. Analysis findings will be used also as an advocacy tool for establishment of femicide review and will be presented to institutions, CSOs and media within the joint learning sessions planned under Output 1.3. The analysis will be completed in Q1 2021.

3. **Difficulties encountered, measures taken to overcome the problems, and eventual changes introduced**

- Development of the risk-assessment checklists which will be used by criminal-justice system was delayed due to elections and changes within the MoJ. However, once the new senior management was established, necessity and support for this activity was confirmed by the MoJ. The activity was initiated in Q4 2020 and will be completed in Q1 2021.

4. **Achievements**

- Work in progress

5. **Work plan for Q1 2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planned activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continue the development of the analysis of administrative data collection practices on misuse of SALW in domestic and intimate partner violence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue the development of checklists related to the prevention of SALW misuse in the context of gender-based violence and risks induced by the presence of firearms in the domestic violence context.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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\(^1\) *Gender and SALW. Gender Aspects of SALW and How to Address Them in Practice*, UNDP SEESAC, 2018.
1. Description of the output

- Output 1.3 aims at developing and implementing prevention programmes that will contribute to deconstructing gender stereotypes and lead towards greater awareness among men and women on the danger of firearms misuse in the context of gender-based violence. Partnership with the group “Journalists against Violence” will be expanded to increase awareness of media on the importance of adequate reporting on firearms misuse and firearms-enabled violence and to tackle the “gun culture” by incoherent and benevolent media reporting.

2. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period

- In 2020, a qualitative analysis of the media reporting on SALW misuse and its effects on addressing the issue of gun-culture in Serbia was developed and published online. The analysis covers 590 media reports for the period July-December 2019. The analysis contributed to raising awareness of journalists with regards to the impact of firearms in domestic violence, having in mind the strong national context of gun-culture in which citizens, including media, are not aware of the danger of firearms possession and its consequences related to domestic violence. The analysis helped trigger greater media interest on SALW control, domestic violence and firearms related issues. The analysis serves as a basis for further work with the media and for the development of public awareness campaigns on the risks of firearms in civilian possession, focused on the misuse of firearms in the domestic violence context. An online presentation of the analysis to journalists was conducted.

- Using the findings of the qualitative analysis, the group Journalists against Violence developed an additional knowledge product, a general overview of media reporting on violence against women, inclusive of observations about reporting on practices on the firearms misuse in the context of domestic violence. The analysis, developed with the additional support of SIDA is available in Serbian, here.

- Also, three social media campaigns were implemented, to increase media attention on the issue of SALW misuse in the context of domestic violence, as well as to raise public awareness about gender aspects of SALW misuse. Two social media campaigns focused on awareness raising on media reporting on cases of SALW misuse for violence against women, and one focused on the dangers of SALW misuse in the home and was aimed at the general public. The campaigns focusing on media reporting were implemented in response to qualitative analysis findings that less than 2% of the total number of analysed stories addressed the problem of firearm misuse as a social phenomenon rather than as individual, self-contained incidents. The analysis found that violence and firearms are treated as a pressing topic by the media only insofar as it is necessary to convey the most basic information, with the inclusion of as many sensationalist details about the incident as possible, and those that do not require of journalists any further investigative work. Through educational and ethical reporting, the media could play a significant role in exposing the widespread, yet underexamined culture of violence and weapons in which the majority of victims are women. Screen shots from the media campaign are presented below.

- A communication strategy for further work with media is underway and will be completed in Q1 2021.
Novinarke protiv nasilja prema ženama

Mediji imaju ključnu ulogu u uticaju na smanjenje zloupotrebe vatrenog oružja u situacijama nasilja nad ženama. Nažalost, manje od 2% uk... See More

RS UNDP ORG
Zloupotreba vatrenog oružja za nasilje prema ženama izvan fokusa medija

You, Marina Illes and 8 others. 1 Share

Send Message

Novinarke protiv nasilja prema ženama

Mediji imaju ključnu ulogu u uticaju na smanjenje zloupotrebe vatrenog oružja u situacijama nasilja nad ženama. U Medijskoj analizi Novina... See More

Samo 6% medijskih objav o rodno zasnovanom nasilju bilo se zloupotrebom vatrenog oružja u širem kontekstu nasilja prema ženama, ali više stope učestva žena

Send Message


UNDp Serbia

Zloupotreba vatrenog oružja nikada ne ostaje bez posledica.

UNDp Serbia

Za mirne ulice.
Za siguran dom.

Smanji rizik.
Povećaj bezbednost.

Send Message

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www.rs.undp.org
3. Difficulties encountered, measures taken to overcome the problems, and eventual changes introduced

- N/A
4. Achievements

- Increased awareness of journalists with regards to the issue of firearm use in the context of domestic violence, and greater media interests on SALW control, achieved through the **qualitative analysis of the media reporting on SALW misuse and its effects on addressing the issue of gun-culture in Serbia.**

5. Work plan for Q1 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planned activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Continue advocacy and media related activities to increase the partnership with, and awareness of media on the importance of adequate reporting on firearms misuse.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Organize on-line presentation of the analysis of femicides committed by firearms and advocate for the female homicide review and joint learning sessions of media, CSOs and institutions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Output 1.4  
Knowledge packages for risk reduction of firearms misuse in the context of GBV developed and implemented

1. Description of the output
- Output 1.4 refers to the development of knowledge packages for risk reduction of firearms misuse in the context of gender-based violence, aimed at capacitating general and specialist service providers to effectively reduce the risks of SALW misuse and deliver an integrated and coordinated service for the protection of women and children survivors of violence. The knowledge packages include training material, training manuals and guidelines on the types of risks (static and dynamic risks), risk levels (low, medium and high) and imposing adequate measures for addressing and monitoring the risks in order to prevent the escalation and repetition of domestic violence and SALW misuse, including homicide. To target a wide range of professionals from the police and prosecution, it is planned that these knowledge packages are included in the police training curricula, as well as in the Judiciary Academy’s training programmes for prosecutors. Also, a set of capacity development activities aimed at improving multi-agency case management to increase victims’ safety will be implemented.

2. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period
- Within this output, the following materials were developed:
  - **Risk assessment and risk management process in the work of specialist SOS helplines for women victims of violence.** Besides capturing the practices of SOS helplines, this analysis was important for informing on cases of domestic violence involving SALW misuse not reported to institutions. One of the main findings of the analysis is that SALW misuse in the context of domestic violence, especially if the perpetrator’s profession involves carrying a weapon, is an obstacle to reporting the case to institutions due to fear, and therefore such high-risk cases remain unrecorded by institutions and out of their focus. Findings of the assessment are intended to be used in other activities with institutions, aiming to address this matter.
  - **Report with key findings and requirements for integrated multi-agency case management in the cases of domestic violence, including those with firearms presence.**
- The above materials will serve as a basis for development of knowledge packages as they include identified gaps and needs for knowledge of professionals- first line responders to cases of domestic violence. Additionally, the two above-described documents will be used for modification of procedures related to SALW license issuing, revoking and data collection on processed cases of domestic violence committed with firearms.
- Also, in 2020, a meeting with the newly appointed state secretary within the MoJ was organized to discuss the implementation of the **analysis to identify key gaps in capacities of multi-agency groups to assessment**. The meeting resulted in an agreement for the development of the new checklists for risk assessment of domestic violence, including risks by the presence of firearms in domestic violence context to be prepared under Output 1.2. Development of the risk assessment checklists will be based on learnings and findings from the analysis. Also, the development of training programs to address the key gaps identified by the analysis were also agreed upon.
- Additionally, consultations with the representatives of the MoL were organized to discuss opportunities to organize trainings for police officers on addressing domestic violence particularly domestic violence committed with firearms, having in mind the difficulties in the implementation of these trainings due to COVID-19. Two options were discussed: integration of the curriculum on domestic violence into the annual curricula for education of police officers and up-grading of the e-classroom – existing learning platform for police officers.

3. Difficulties encountered, measures taken to overcome the problems, and eventual changes introduced
- The development of the curriculum for the police on the detection of legal/illicit firearms was initiated in Q1 2020 with the organization of meetings with MoL representatives to agree on the purpose of the training curriculum and the implementation of the training. However, the COVID-19 pandemic shifted the priorities of the MoL representatives engaged in this activity towards addressing the crisis, which stalled the work on the curriculum and the organization of trainings on addressing domestic violence particularly that were committed with firearms. Additionally, a focal point from the MoL’s department for education of police officers who was crucial for this activity was transferred to another sector in the MoL. A new focal point is yet to be appointed. The project team organized consultations with the MoL to explore opportunities to integrate this curriculum into the MoL’s learning platform E-classroom which could enable the sustainability of the training programme and maximum coverage, as it could be available to all police officers across the country.
• Due to the COVID-19 crisis and the engagement of the professionals in COVID-19 related activities, and due to measures to prevent people’s gathering, the activity of developing a set of tools to ensure coordinated and integrated service, including multi-sectoral case management, could not be implemented in 2020. Consequently, the consultative support to the multi-agency groups could not be provided. UNDP Serbia supported, through UNDP’s COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund (RRF), 20 multi-agency groups for cooperation and coordination to organize on-line meetings for processing newly reported and on-going cases of domestic violence. To overcome the difficulties related to implementation of this activity imposed due to restricted physical contact, the project will offer in 2021 on-line consultancy to these groups that operate on-line to increase their capacities in risk assessment and risk management, particularly related to SALW misuse. The newly appointed senior management within the MoJ confirmed their interest and availability to provide support to this activity and their active involvement in the implementation of this activity.

4. Achievements
• Work in progress

5. Work plan for Q1 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planned activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Continue the development of the curriculum for the police on the detection of legal/illicit firearms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Develop the set of tools to ensure coordinated and integrated service, including multi-sectoral case management.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Provide on-line consultancy groups for cooperation and coordination to organize on-line meetings for processing newly reported and on-going cases of domestic violence.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Partnerships and Sustainability

The following new partnerships have been developed in 2020:

- Partnership with the Judiciary Academy in the development of e-learning programmes focusing on general and specialized training of professionals on criminal-justice system and gender-based violence, particularly committed with firearms. Having in mind that the Judiciary Academy is an official institution with the mandate to organize mandatory and specialized trainings for professionals, this will enable sustainability of knowledge packages and wide outreach.

- Partnership with the Autonomous Women’s Center (AWC)-women’s CSO on femicide review and analysis. AWC’s practice of femicide analysis based on media reporting is the only publicly available information on gender-based murders of women. The partnership contributed to the development of the analysis focused on femicide committed by firearms, including the exploration of circumstances and possible risks prior to these murders and is contributing to improvement of current practice of femicide monitoring.

- Partnership established with representatives of the participating ministries from the previous Government was confirmed by newly appointed decision makers, following elections.

Update on risks and mitigation measures

The overall implementation of the UNDP Serbia project Reduce risk - Increase safety – Towards ending SALW misuse in domestic violence context was particularly affected by the COVID-19 crises. In Serbia, the Government declared state of emergency in mid-March 2020, introducing several restrictive measures such as curfew, close of businesses and public institutions or their limitation to provision of essential services, closure of all border crossings for passengers, and banning of public gatherings. Any new arrivals from abroad were re-directed to isolation and quarantine facilities. The state of emergency was suspended at the beginning of May 2020, which caused intensive local transmission of the virus. A second spike in COVID-19 cases occurred during June-July, followed by a new set of measures by the Government, aimed at containing the spread of the virus. A new dramatic increase of new COVID-19 positive cases occurred in the period of October-December. As a consequence, measures imposed by the Government were evaluated and revised every few days, which made it difficult to predict the situation both in the short and in the long run. Some of the measures which have been in place since the state of emergency include limiting public gatherings, limiting gathering of more than five persons, both indoors and outdoors, mandatory physical distancing, closure of indoor and outdoor commercial spaces between set hours, as well as mandatory wearing of protective masks in all indoor public spaces and in public transportation. Additionally, elections at all levels were organized on 21 June 2020 and the new Government was elected on 28 October 2020. The elections affected the participation of representatives of the MoI and MoJ in projects’ activities, as elections did not only result in changes in ministerial positions, but also affected the middle management.

Measures to prevent local transmission of the virus, limited/remote work of Government offices, limited operation of institutions, limited digital connectivity in public institutions and the fact that a significant number of professionals who participate in the project have been infected with the SARS-COV2 virus and required hospitalization or have been in self-isolation, affected the dynamics of the project implementation and required modification of planned activities. Also, the COVID19 crisis in the country, along with the elections, stretched the availability of representatives from the MoI and MoJ for active participation in project activities due to their intensive engagement in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Serbia, and cooperation was also affected by the long gap between two governments and appointment of new decision-makers. This caused a delay in implementation of certain activities, particularly those whose implementation was planned to include physical contact (such as training and consultative support to professionals), on-site activities (research on judicial practice), as well as those aimed at changing the institutional practice. To respond to these challenges, the project invested efforts to modify activities to on-line mode of work and ensure support of newly appointed decision-makers.

Lessons learnt

1) Working with both the demand (NGO and media) and the supply side (institutions) simultaneously accelerated positive change. Through working with NGOs and media, the project has contributed to the visibility of the problem of SALW misuse, as well as gaps in institutional response and
Advocacy for improvement of institutional response by NGOs has improved readiness of institutions to work on overcoming identified gaps and obstacles. In addition, media can inform on positive institutional changes. The implementation of the project activities has contributed to the development of expertise and awareness within public institutions, media outlets and NGOs, which will remain after project completion.

2) The global COVID-19 outbreak and its effects were difficult to predict. Although being a serious challenge for implementation, it has encouraged development of new modalities and cooperation, such as e-learning, on-line collaboration of institutions, with a potential for greater sustainability and outreach. These new modalities will be put into practice in 2021.

In 2020, the below listed publications, and communication materials were developed within the project. The materials ensure the visibility of the donor through the use of the German Cooperation logo and mention the financial contribution of the German Federal Foreign Office to the project.

1. Reduce Risk. Increase Safety. Towards ending SALW misuse in domestic violence context, UNDP Serbia. [BCMS] [ENG]
2. A Portrait Against A Landscape: Analysis of Media Coverage of Firearm Misuse in Violence Against Women Committee by Men, UNDP Serbia. [BCMS] [ENG]
3. Analiza medijskih objava o problemu nasilja prema ženama (Analysis of media reporting on cases of violence against women), UNDP Serbia. [BCMS]
4. Blog on firearms misuse in DV context - Safer with a gun at home? – Women in Serbia say no [BCMS] [ENG]

The social media campaigns developed for increased public awareness with regards to the possession and use of firearms in domestic violence also enabled a strong visibility of the project. The short video posted on New Year’s Eve to raise awareness on firearms misuse reached 68,365 people on Instagram alone, with an additional 194,409 people reached by other posts on this social media. There was a total of 10,582 impressions on Twitter posts.

The anniversary of the Montreal massacre within the 16 days of activism global campaign was used as an occasion to draw public attention to the dangers of firearms use for the violence against women and the role of media in preventing and educating about firearms use and its consequences. A press release was published which presented the main findings of the analysis of the media coverage on firearm misuse in violence against women. There were 7 articles published online and 1 in print following the press release, including both national press agencies and local press, and containing analysis findings (links below):

http://www.radiostoplus.com/item/30459
https://srbijainfo.rs/najnovije_vesti?id_vest=376814

The findings and observations of the project publications attracted the attention of both electronic and printed media, agencies and local press, which published 13 media articles. Three journalists’ associations published the information on their website. Below are links to media reports available online:
Analiza medicinskih objava o problemu nasilja prema ženama u 2016. godini, koja je isdao grad Novi Sad.

**MEDIJI U SRBIJI SENZACIONALISTIČKI O NASILJU NAD ŽENAMA**

Obrazložena je pravilna predstava o nasilju prema ženama u novinama, ali je u vezi s neželjnom promocijom specifičnosti nasilja prema ženama. U vezi s ovoj temom je bilo izloženo, kako je novina materijal nasilja prema ženama na temelju socijalnih, okoliških i ekonomicnih faktora. Tim pristupom novina su neformalno promovirala svest o problemu nasilja prema ženama.

Ova situacija je kontroverzna i neželjna. U vezi s pravilnim predstavljanjem nasilja prema ženama, je neophodno da se u velikim novinarstvima postave specifičnosti nasilja prema ženama.

**Pokazalo se da su povod za izvještavanje miješajkih bili pojedinačni slučajevi nasilja, dok se u mediji mnogo reda bavili fenomenom nasilja prema ženama iz edukativnog ugla.**

**Primjetno je i često korištenje fotografija i video zapisa koji na nedelovanje i stereotipni način prikazivaju nasilje, poput svih gdje je isena upućena i potenata, s vidljivim fizičkim posledicama nasilja.**

Iako je to u vezi s većim redom, ali su u velikim novinarstvima postavljene specifičnosti nasilja prema ženama. Ovo je neophodno za to da se u novinarstvu postave specifičnosti nasilja prema ženama.

**Printed article published in the newspaper Danas.**

https://www.cenzolovka.rs/etika/uzvestajima-o-nasilju-nad-zena-2016

http://www.energyobserver.com/sr/post/25292


http://balkantv.rs/uzvestajima-o-nasilju-nad-zena-2016/mediji-otkrivaju-identitet-zrava

https://rs.ninfo.com/vesti/a627040/uzvestajima-o-nasilju-nad-zena-mediji-otkrivaju-identitet-zrava

https://www.un.org.rs/hr/vesti/uzvestajima-o-nasilju-nad-zena-mediji-otkrivaju-identitet-zrava.html

https://beta.rs/vesti/uzvestajima-o-nasilju-nad-zena-mediji-otkrivaju-identitet-zrava

http://www.ndnv.org/2020/08/06/uzvestajima-o-nasilju-nad-zena-mediji-otkrivaju-identitet-zrava/Rubrika

http://www.ndnv.org/2020/08/06/uzvestajima-o-nasilju-nad-zena-mediji-otkrivaju-identitet-zrava/Rubrika

http://www.radiostar.com/hr/item/29517
Sub-project 2. Advancing the Capacities of the Ministry of Interior in the Field of Custody Chain, Crime Scene Investigations and the Ballistic Laboratory in the Field of Operations and Investigations in Trafficking of Firearms and Firearms Criminality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project number:</th>
<th>2019SRB02</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implemented by:</td>
<td>UNDP Serbia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contributes to Roadmap Goals:

- **Goal 1:** By 2023, ensure that arms control legislation is in place, fully harmonized with the EU regulatory framework and standardized across the region.
- **Goal 3:** By 2024, significantly reduce the illegal circulation of firearms, ammunition and explosives (AME) towards, within and beyond the Western Balkans.
- **Goal 5:** By 2025, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans.

| Implementation period: | October 2019 – June 2021 |

The objective of the project is to strengthen the regulatory framework for custody chain and CSI, increase the capacity of CSI units through specialized training, equipment and accreditation, and improve the management and storage of ballistic evidence, and ballistic testing.

The project is supporting the Ministry of Interior (MoI) of the Republic of Serbia to improve its capacities for the investigation of illicit SALW misuse, trafficking and possession, focusing on strengthening the ballistic capacities of the MoI. The project will support the development of SALW-related SOPs, accredited procedures and methods, with a special emphasis on improving the chain of custody - that is the ability to positively guarantee the identity, integrity, and chronological history of evidence from the point of acquisition through to examination and testimony. By improving the quality of investigations of illicit SALW misuse, trafficking and possession through valid forensic evidence, the project will contribute to stronger legal proceedings and increased number of SALW-related convictions.

The project will equip the ballistic laboratory and Crime Scene Investigation units around Serbia with better and modern equipment, followed by training in the use of provided equipment. The ballistic laboratory will thus be ready to apply for the accreditation 17025, and the CSI units prepared for the accreditation 17020. Also, given the high percentage of criminal reports of domestic violence are dismissed by the prosecution due to the lack of evidence and unwillingness of the victims to testify, the project envisages a combination of capacity building activities and development of relevant procedures for improving the collection of evidence related to domestic violence cases. By improving police capacities for collecting evidence and conducting criminal investigations in reported cases of domestic violence, the project will support the MoI to better tackle the cases of SALW-related domestic violence and contribute to fairer legal proceedings and merit penalties from the justice system for the perpetrators of these criminal offenses.

The project was extended in December 2020 with three months, until June 2021, in order to complete the planned trainings, which could not be organized in 2020 because of the COVID-19 related restrictions.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT OUTPUT</th>
<th>PROJECT OUTPUT INDICATOR</th>
<th>TARGET</th>
<th>STATUS OF PROJECT RESULTS</th>
<th>ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST INDICATORS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Output 2.1. Regulatory framework established</td>
<td>Standard operating procedure on the chain of custody of law enforcement drafted</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td>SOP on the chain of custody of law enforcement drafted and approved by National Forensic Centre.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Standard operating procedure on crime scene investigation amended</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td>SOP on crime scene investigation amended and approved by National Forensic Centre.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Standard operating procedure of packaging and tagging of evidence amended</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td>SOP for packaging and tagging of evidence developed and approved by National Forensic Centre.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Standard operating procedure on the development of an open case file (OCF) for ballistic examination prepared</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td>SOP on the development of an “open case file” for ballistic examination prepared.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output 2.2. Increased capacity of CSI</td>
<td>Number of CSI units ready for ISO 17020 standard accreditation</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Partially achieved</td>
<td>Guidance for the application of ISO/IEC 17020:2012 standard developed. Curriculum for the training for CSI units, necessary for preparation for accreditation elaborated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of CSI units that improved capacities for collection of evidence and for conducting criminal investigations in reported cases of domestic violence</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Partially achieved</td>
<td>Analysis of the police practices on the collection of evidence related to domestic violence cases were conducted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of new equipment provided to all CSI teams</td>
<td>At least 7 per team</td>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td>Specialized SALW-related equipment procured and installed, including basic CSI kits (17 items), three 3D scanners and software for animation and reconstruction for CSI and ballistic work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output 2.3. Central level lab equipped to</td>
<td>Laboratory Inventory Management System (LIMS) installed</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Partially achieved</td>
<td>Tendering process finalized and implementation of the contract started.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Notes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Case File, storage and database in the Central Lab established</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Partially achieved</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reception room and transfer storage established</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of new storing equipment provided</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water tank for test-firing installed</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Necessary storage equipment for the establishment of the OCF procured and delivered.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adaptation and installation of reception room and transfer storage in the ballistic lab in Belgrade finalized.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 9 different items of the necessary equipment provided and installed in the Reception room.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation and establishment of the water tank for test firing finalized and specialized training for eight ballistic experts organized.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Description of the output

- Activities to be implemented under this output are aimed at developing SOPs on the chain of custody of law enforcement, crime scene investigation, packaging and tagging of evidence, and the development of an “open case file” (OCF) for ballistic examination. An OCF is a collection of bullets, cartridge cases and wadding from unsolved gun crime scenes. These items are retained to enable comparison with items recovered at new crime scenes, which allows incidents to be linked by reference to the same firearm. The development of the SOPs, covering the entire period from the time the physical evidence is recovered till the time it is destroyed by court order, will facilitate the tracing of evidence throughout the chain of custody at all times, increasing thus the quality of investigations in cases of SALW—misuse, trafficking and possession.

2. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period

- In 2020, the project team conducted an in-depth gap analysis in the area of CSI, chain of custody and ballistics laboratory inventory with the support of an external expert. The document analyses the procedures and legal documents relevant for firearms and ballistic evidence, assessing their level of harmonization with the relevant EU documents, with the Serbian Criminal Procedure Code, and with other international standards and guidelines. It also includes recommendations for the upgrade of the Ballistic laboratory, reception room and equipment purchased under Output 2.3, according to international (ISO and ENFSI) standards. The analysis provides support in the development of the forensic work by the MoI, General Police Directorate and Criminal Police Directorate, identifies gaps in the accreditation process, and provides recommendations on how to improve the capacities of the Criminal Police Directorate and the National Forensic Center.

- Based on the findings of the analysis, four SOPs were developed or amended as necessary:
  - **SOP on the chain of custody of law enforcement** was amended taking into account the latest developments in the forensic work. The SOP has been approved by the National Forensic Centre, as part of the accreditation process of the CSI units.
  - **SOP on crime scene investigation** was amended and approved by the National Forensic Centre, enabling full harmonization with relevant EU guidance such as the ‘IAF/ILAC-A4:2004 Guidance on the Application of ISO/IEC 17020’ and ‘EA-5/03 Guidance for the Implementation of ISO/IEC 17020 in the field of crime scene investigation’ as well as the ISO 17020.
  - **SOP on packaging and tagging of evidence** was amended and approved by the National Forensic Centre, facilitating the tracing of evidence throughout the chain of custody at all times.
  - **SOP on the development of an OCF for ballistic examination** was prepared, defining all the details about OCF functioning and management. This SOP is expected to be approved in Q1 2021.

3. Difficulties encountered, measures taken to overcome the problems, and eventual changes introduced

- The adoption and approval of the SOPs were somewhat prolonged due to the COVID-19 situation and the parliamentary elections that took place in June 2020 and the subsequent formation of the new government. The project team switched to virtual and on-line meetings to coordinate with the MoI, and enable the successful implementation of the project thus far.

4. Achievements

- Better understanding of the capacities of the Criminal Investigation Directorate and the ballistic laboratory, gained through the in-depth gap analysis in the area of CSI, chain of custody and ballistics laboratory inventory.
- Tracing of evidence facilitated throughout the chain of custody through the amendment and approval by the National Forensic Centre of the SOPs on the chain of custody of law enforcement, CSI, and packaging and tagging of evidence.

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1 The subject of the SOP is defining and standardizing the procedures for establishing, keeping, updating, searching, and maintaining a physical collection of projectiles, cartridge cases, and other corresponding ballistic material, related to unsolved criminal cases and firearms seized by the police. The purpose of this collection is the establishing of connections between different criminal cases in sense of determining that the same firearm was used for committing these criminal acts and/or identifying the firearm which was used for committing a criminal act(s). The SOP was developed in line with the Serbian and international standard SRPS ISO/IEC 17025: 2017, and with the ILAC-G19:08/2014 Guidelines Modules in a Forensic Science Process.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planned activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Organize trainings on the implementation of the SOPs on the chain of custody and CSI.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Description of the output

- This output is aimed at increasing the capacity of CSI units in the field of crime scene investigations, through several activities. The project will strengthen capacities for collection of evidence and investigation in the cases of domestic violence. It will also support the development of a database where all evidence collected will be gathered and documented in order to make it easier to follow the custody chain and the last owner. Equipment for all CSI teams in Serbia will be also procured. The output is also aimed at supporting the accreditation process of the crime scene investigation infrastructure in Serbia, which will help prove that a forensic result and/or the related evidence has been retrieved in the most accurate and reliable way possible. This is essential for a transparent presentation of evidence within judicial proceedings, ensuring mutual trust related to the validity of evidence. Overall, this output will facilitate the CSI units to generate reliable forensic evidence in support of fair legal procedures and to enable efficient cross-border exchange of reliable and consistent ballistic evidence.

2. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period

- In 2020, the training curriculum on crime scene investigations and chain of custody for the CSI units was developed, based on the findings and recommendations of the in-depth analysis conducted under Output 2.1. The curriculum was approved by the National Forensic Centre to enable training in line with ENFSI guidelines, necessary for the accreditation of the CSI teams under the ISO 17020 standard. The training curriculum includes topics such as standardization of the ballistic terminology, as used by the forensic scientific and expert community, and communication with other stakeholders involved in criminal procedures, such as state prosecutors, courts, forensic medicine institutes, etc. The training will be organized in 2021 and will provide methodology, guidelines, principles, and approaches for the detection, recovery, documentation, collection, and packaging of firearms and other ballistic evidence during crime scene investigation, and their initial treatment and submission, in line with the amended SOPs.

- To improve capacities for the collection of evidence and for conducting criminal investigations in reported cases of domestic violence, an analysis and report on domestic violence was prepared. The analysis consists of four interrelated components: 1) Overview of police procedures related to the collection of evidence and analysis of possible gaps and challenges in domestic violence cases; 2) Examination and analysis of the current police practices in the collection of evidence related to domestic violence cases, particularly in the cases in which firearms were present/misused; 3) Interviews with the police officers responsible for crime scene investigation; 4) Findings on the shortcomings related to procedures and practice. Recommendations for overcoming the identified gaps and improvement of the practices and procedures have been also provided. The analysis will feed into the planned training for CSI and forensics staff, aiming at improving police capacities in the collection of evidence and in conducting criminal investigations in reported cases of domestic violence.

- In 2020, specialized SALW-related equipment for the CSI line of work was procured and installed. The equipment includes basic CSI kits (fingerprint equipment, casting equipment, photographic equipment, evidence packaging supplies, blood collection supplies, deceased print kit, hand tools, etc.), 3D scanners and software for animation and reconstruction, and other SALW-related equipment for the CSI line of work (portable forensic UV/IR search and capture device, handheld UV/VIS/IR device for detection, examination and capture of latent forensic evidence, video cameras, lenses for video cameras, quadcopter with a built-in camera for a recording of crime scenes, laptops, universal CSI investigation kits, GSR stubs, gel-lifters, numeric crime scene markers sets, and numeric/alphabet crime scene labels and arrows). The procurement was based on an assessment of the equipment needs of the 27 CSI units across Serbia, approved by the MoJ. Staff of the CSI units was trained in the use of the procured equipment.

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1 A 3D scanner enables a quick and accurate three-dimensional sketch of crime scene documentation, which supplements photographs, especially spatial relationships between objects and helps avoid contamination of the crime scene by field investigators. The 3D scanners will allow investigators to quickly document the scene of a crime without any subjective influence and in its original form. The software for animation and reconstruction has the possibility to present (animate) scenes in Virtual Reality (VR). It also poses ballistic reconstruction functionalities, such as bullet trajectory reconstruction.
• A separate analysis on the application of the ISO/IEC 17020 standard and documents necessary for the accreditation of the crime scene investigation in Serbia in line with ISO/IEC 17020 was prepared. This analysis includes guidance on the application of ISO/IEC 17020:2012 standard, which can be utilized both by the CSI units (and forensic authorities) and by the accreditation bodies. The guidance gives to the provisions of the standard a forensic meaning, adjusting the terminology, and generally customizing the standard for forensic purposes; the guidance is intended not only for the process of conformity assessment and accreditation, but also for performing and organizing the workflow and the entire infrastructure, the paperwork and the logistics, and for maintaining the quality management system within the accredited organization. Furthermore, the analysis also includes the concept of a training programme that will familiarize CSI professionals with the concept of accreditation, the benefits of accrediting the forensic services, particularly scene of crime methods, and the application of the ISO/IEC 17020 standard. The training will be organized in Q1 2021.
3. Difficulties encountered, measures taken to overcome the problems, and eventual changes introduced

- The organization of trainings initially planned in 2020 were postponed to 2021, due to delays in the approval by the MoJ management of the training curriculum and the restrictions triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic on the gathering of people. The project was also extended with three months, until June 2020, to allow the organization of the planned trainings.

4. Achievements

- Preparations of the CSI infrastructure accreditation facilitated through the development of the training curriculum for CSI units, and an analysis including guidance on the application of the ISO/IEC 17020 standard.
- Increased understanding of the necessary capacities for the collection of evidence and for conducting criminal investigations in reported cases of domestic violence achieved through the analysis and report on domestic violence.
- Better quality work of the CSI units gained through the provision of necessary specialized equipment, and training on the use of the procured equipment.

5. Work plan for Q1 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planned activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Organize training on crime scene investigations and chain of custody for the CSI units.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Draft instructions (procedure) on domestic violence for the CSI officers. Elaborate curriculum for training on the collection of evidence and in conducting criminal investigations in reported cases of domestic violence.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Description of the output

- Activities to be implemented under this output include installing a Laboratory Inventory Management System (LIMS), establishing an OCF at the central lab in Belgrade, setting up an adequate storage room and developing software for its evidencing, modifying the entrance and establishing a reception room of the ballistic lab in Belgrade. Reconstruction will be followed with an adequate reception and storage room for surrendered evidence, as well as delivering and installing a water tank in the forensic laboratory in Belgrade in order to facilitate test firing. LIMS will enable users to easily pull relevant information related to the typical forensic workflow including evidence receipt, analyst assignment, chain of custody transfers, the assignment of tests, results entry, and reporting and review. The establishment of the OCF will enable adequate storage and tracking of the bullets, cartridge cases and wadding collected from unsolved gun crime scenes. The proper reception and storage room will be installed in line with international and standards and the recommendations of UK’s National Ballistic Investigation Service (NABIS) experts, being the most important part of the chain of custody on the accreditation pathway. These activities will lead to strengthened capacities of the ballistic laboratory to collect, store, keep record, and analyse ballistic evidence for improved quality of SALW-related investigations, and support the CSI accreditation process in line with the ISO/IEC 17020 and 17025 standard.

2. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period

- In 2020, the project initiated the development and installation of the LIMS. The process is ongoing and will be finalized in Q1 2021.

- Also, the OCF in the Central ballistic laboratory was established through the procurement of the necessary storage equipment for the OCF, following previous consultations with the Mol ballistic experts and examiners. The equipment is in line with ENFSI standards, as well as the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 (6.3 Facilities and environmental conditions and 7.4 Handling of test or calibration items) and ILAC G19:2014 Guidelines “Modules in a Forensic Science Process”. It includes special lockers for exhibits and double-casted material, containers for bullets and cartridge cases, stereo microscope, ultrasonic cleaner, and electronic window blinds (for control of daylight influx).

- The reception room including transfer storage equipment was established in the Central ballistic laboratory for an adequate storage of surrendered evidence. The reception room will be the entry point for evidence tracing in the ballistic laboratory as well as for entering data into the LIMS. The transfer storage equipment is in line with international standards and includes stainless steel cabinets, counter for handover of evidence, work desk for receiving packages, office desk, and lockers and cabinets of different dimensions.

Equipment procured for the establishment of the OCF. Photo: UNDP Serbia
- The **water tank for test-firing** was procured and delivered to the Central ballistic laboratory, following **preparations of the site for the installation of the water tank** (i.e. construction of concrete base/slab for the placement of the test-firing water tank). The water tank will improve the effectiveness of firearm testing and increase the safety of the ballistic experts who use it. A specialized training was also delivered to the ballistic lab personnel on the use of the water tank.

**3. Difficulties encountered, measures taken to overcome the problems, and eventual changed introduced**
- Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the delivery of the purchased equipment in a timely manner was highly questionable, if not improbable, as the equipment had to be shipped across the ocean, which coupled with complicated and COVID-delayed customs procedures and transport restrictions. The project team coordinated with the project beneficiaries and vendor so that the goods could be delivered and installed on time.

**4. Achievements**
- Adequate storage and tracking of the bullets, cartridge cases and wadding collected from unsolved gun crime scenes enabled through the establishment of the OCF.
- Adequate storage room of surrendered evidence enabled through the installation of the reception room and provision of transfer storage equipment.
- Improved effectiveness of firearm testing and increased safety of the ballistic experts achieved through the installation of the water tank for test firing and delivery of related training.

**5. Work plan for Q1 2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planned activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Develop the open case database.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Continue the development of LIMS.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Monitoring and evaluation activities**

The project team conducted a field visit in October 2020, to assess the progress of the works at the Central ballistic laboratory and the OCF room, and to make sure that the allocated location for the water tank is appropriate and prepared for installation.

**Partnerships and sustainability**

The project maintained close cooperation with UNDP SEESAC and UK’s National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NABIS), which was of great value to the successful implementation of several project activities. Cooperation was also initiated with the Swedish police to avoid potential overlapping of activities, as the Swedish police has been implementing a project in the Mol and the National Forensic Centre for over 10 years.

What is also of highly significant importance is the existence of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) for the implementation of the SALW Control Roadmap, established by UNDP and UNODC. Thanks to the MPTF funds, a second phase the project will be initiated in 2021, with a duration of 30 months. The new phase builds on the results of the existing project, scaling them up to other focus areas. This will enable the continued support to the ballistic centre aiming at providing the accreditation for the central ballistic laboratory according to ISO 17025, as well as initiating activities in the field of explosive investigations, and the continuation of the preparations for the accreditation of ISO 17020 of the National Forensic Centre.

**Update on risks and mitigation measures**

A new risk had to be considered 2020, that is the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, the project did not suffer significant setbacks because of the pandemic. Only a number of tendering procedures had to be postponed until a later date, due to the fact that the goods and services to be procured included direct and in-person trainings of end users/beneficiaries.

Other than that, the political risk identified in risk matrix related to the change in government structures occurred in 2020, as parliamentary and local elections were held in June 2020, determining a long period for the new government to be established. This brought about certain delays in project implementation, especially in the process of SOP adoption by the Mol.

To mitigate the challenges triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic and the related Government restrictions, which affected the organization of the planned trainings, UNDP CO Serbia requested a 3 months no-cost extension of the project, to allow activities to be completed. The request was approved by the Regional Project Manager.

**Lessons learnt**

The main lesson learnt during 2020 was the importance of switching to virtual and on-line meetings to continue the good coordination with the Mol, which further enabled the successful implementation of the project thus far.

**Communication and visibility**

The project team took all the necessary measures to promote the project’s results and activities, ensuring the donor’s visibility on all communication materials. The main visual is based on the partner’s and donor’s logotypes and was applied on the procured equipment.

An article about the project’s achievements was published on UNDP Serbia website and distributed through social networks (Twitter and Facebook) followed by 14,500 people. The article is available both in [English](English) and [BCMS](BCMS).
Social media posts on Facebook (left) and Twitter (right), promoting Germany’s support to the implementation of the project and the achievement of results. The tweet posted by UNDP Serbia was retweeted by Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator, demonstrating the important work conducted by the project, and increasing the visibility of results. The picture in the article presents the main visual placed on the banner surrounding the water tank for test.
**Sub-project 3. Support Albania’s Law Enforcement Authorities to Strengthen Firearms Criminality Evidence Management and Investigation Capacities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project number:</th>
<th>2019ALB03</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implemented by:</td>
<td>UNDP Albania</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Contributes to Roadmap Goals:**

**Goal 1:** By 2023, ensure that arms control legislation is in place, fully harmonized with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations, and standardized across the region. 

**Goal 2:** By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in Albania are evidence-based and intelligence-led.

| Implementation period: | December 2019 – May 2021 |

The objective of the project is to enhance the capacities of the Albanian State Police to operate with higher standards and more effective procedures in the area of criminal investigation, by developing standard operating procedures for CSI, improving the collection, management and storage of ballistic evidence, and providing necessary equipment for CSI and ballistic analysis.

By the end of the Project, updated SOPs will be adopted for the primary evidence management processes, CSI units will be equipped with basic working kits, benefit from training and be better prepared for their accreditation under ISO 17020, and the Ballistic Sector will be equipped with equipment for laboratory tests, putting an end to outdated and inaccurate practices of firearms analysis.

The project was initiated in Q3 2019, with several preparatory activities related to the recruitment of the project staff. Although first project activities were planned in Q4 2019, the earthquake of 26 November 2019 delayed the initiation of the activities. The earthquake caused damages to both the UNDP Offices (and therefore Project premises) and the premises of the Albanian Institute of Scientific Police (AISP), the Project counterpart and beneficiary. Also, the Director of the AISP resigned a few weeks later, in December 2019. Contacts were re-established with the new interim Director in late December 2019.

The Project implementation period was revised in Q2 2020, from September 2019 - February 2021 to December 2019 - May 2021. The extension was necessary due to a lengthier process of recruiting a project manager (vacancy launched twice), the November 26 earthquake that hit Albania and the subsequent change in the leadership of the AISP, the project beneficiary. The non-cost extension was approved by the manager of the Regional project.
## OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS TOWARDS RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Output</th>
<th>Project Output Indicator</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Status of Project Results</th>
<th>Achievements against Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Output 3.1. Capacity building for CSI Units</strong></td>
<td>Number of Standard Operating Procedures revised, updated and adopted.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Partially achieved</td>
<td>Four SOPs drafted for the OCF for ballistic examination, chain of custody of evidence, crime scene investigation, and tagging and packaging of evidence. Five other SOP amended: SOP for processing and evaluating the crime scene and papillary traces, SOP for ballistic examination, SOP for the system “ARSENAL”, SOP for biological examination and DNA, and SOP for evidence administration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of training on the introduction, understanding and application of SOPs</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td>80 staff members of CSI units from across Albania and AISP ballistics personnel trained on the use of new SOPs. All staff trained during 8 training sessions of 10 police officers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of standard and specialized kits provided to CSI units at AISP and in the field</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td>32 basic and specialized kits procured and delivered to the CSI units.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CSI Units equipped with mobile communicators with thermo-vision cameras</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Activities initiated</td>
<td>Consultations conducted with the AISP on the procurement of the equipment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CSI Units use 3D scanners at the crime scene</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Partially achieved</td>
<td>Three 3D scanners procured and delivered to the AISP. Training scheduled for Q1 2020.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Output 3.2. Development of Evidence Management Systems</strong></td>
<td>Establishment of LIMS for the forensic workflow</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Activities initiated</td>
<td>Requirements for an international LIMS Consultant have been developed. The Consultant will be on board in January 2021.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of trainings on LIMS functionality and usage and beneficiaries</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Activities not initiated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ballistic sector has in place an OCF database</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Activities not initiated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Output 3.2. Efficiency of the Ballistic Sector of AISPs strengthened</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
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<td>---</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase and installation of a Water Tank for bullet recovery</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Partially achieved</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballistic sector upgrades its comparative microscope</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Activities initiated</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballistic sector upgrades its stock of trinocular microscopes</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Activities initiated</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased rate of resolved cases involving forensic analysis (ratio cases resolved/total cases), including gender disaggregation</td>
<td>+30%</td>
<td>Activities initiated</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Water Tank procured, to be delivered in Q1 2021.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Procurement initiated.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Procurement initiated.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Necessary SOPs developed, basic and specialized CSI kits, and 3D scanners procured and delivered, water tank procured; tender of other necessary equipment ongoing.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Description of the output
- Output 3.1 aims to increase the capacity of the CSI units in the field of crime scene investigations and chain of custody by supporting the development of SOPs in the areas of chain of custody, crime scene investigation procedures, tagging and packaging of evidence, and for the development of an "open case file" for ballistic examination. Complementary to this framework assistance, this output will support the provision of contemporary/upgraded equipment to all CSI teams in Albania to enable them to align with and adopt new forensic techniques and benefit from technological advancements. Such equipment will include basic kits, specialized kits as well as a couple of new tools that are new to the Albanian CSI practitioners to date (3D scanner and mobile communicator with thermo-vision camera).

2. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period
- In 2020, the project team reviewed and amended/drafted the necessary SOPs governing the activity of the AISP with the support of an international expert. The expert drafted the SOPs for the chain of custody, crime scene investigation, tagging and packaging of evidence, and for the OCF for ballistic examination. Other five SOPs were amended: SOP for processing and evaluating the crime scene and papillary traces, SOP for ballistic examination, SOP for the system “ARSENAL”, SOP for biological examination and DNA, and SOP for evidence administration. To complete this process, the international consultant conducted visits in Albania, at the AISP and the CSI Units in the Regional Police Directorates of Tirana and Durres.
- Following the amendment/drafting of the SOPs, 80 staff members of CSI units from across Albania and AISP ballistics personnel were trained in the use of new SOPs. Given the highly technical character of the training, the training was carried out in-person. Eight training sessions were conducted with 10 police officers each, respecting COVID-19 regulation.
- In 2020, CSI units were provided with necessary equipment to better and more efficiently conduct their work by improving and adopting new forensic techniques. The equipment included thirty-two basic\(^1\) and specialized\(^2\) CSI kits, three 3D scanners and IT equipment including computer, printer, scanner, barcode printer and barcode reader.

3. Difficulties encountered, measures taken to overcome the problems, and eventual changes introduced
- The COVID-19 pandemic and the strict social distancing measures introduced by the Government impacted the meetings and consultations with the project partners and beneficiaries planned in the beginning of the year, which had to be conducted online.
- Training for the procured 3D Scanners was planned in December 2020, to be delivered by representatives of the Austrian company who won the contract for this equipment. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, the representatives of the company could not travel to Albania in 2020, and thus the training was postponed for Q1 2021.
- The AISP has revisited its needs for the procurement of the 16 mobile communicators with thermo-vision cameras planned within the project and informed the project team that they will only need one thermo-vision camera. Instead, the AISP has identified other items necessary for their daily work that they would like to acquire, which they communicated to the project team. Cumulatively, the new equipment would remain within the budget costs. The list of new items will be submitted for approval in Q1 2021.

4. Achievements
- Increased capacity of the CSI units in the field of crime scene investigations and chain of custody achieved through the drafting of SOPs in the areas of chain of custody, crime scene investigation, tagging and packaging of evidence, and OCF for ballistic examination, and amended other five related SOPs, and provision of related training.
- Forensics techniques of CSI units improved through the procurement of specialized and IT equipment

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\(^1\) These kits facilitate the complete and systematic processing of the crime scene. They are Essential items for crime scene personnel, they include Latent Print Enhancement Kit, Evidence Collection Kit, Scales and Photography Kit, Biological Collection Kit, Special Light Torch and Camera.
\(^2\) The specialized kits are used for DNA amplification in Forensics.
5. Work plan for Q1 2021

**Planned activities**

- Organize training for the CSI units on the use of the 3D scanners.
Output 3.2  Development of Evidence Management Systems

1. Description of the output
   • Output 3.2 aims to develop evidence management systems through the adoption and implementation of a Laboratory Inventory Management System (LIMS), a basic necessity to any forensic laboratory, with the ability to offer process automation for tracking users who enter data; tracking samples arriving at the laboratory; generate, manage and distribute case reports; and manage workflows and data integrity throughout the process. Also, through this output, the project will enable the development of software for OCF evidencing and automation and improvement of physical storage.

2. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period
   • In 2020, the project team prepared the technical specifications for the development and installation of LIMS, in consultation with the AISP.
   • Requirements for an international LIMS and OCF database consultant were developed. The consultant will be on board in January 2021 to prepare the technical specifications of the OCF database and support the procurement and oversight of the LIMS development.

3. Difficulties encountered, measures taken to overcome the problems, and eventual changes introduced
   • N/A

4. Achievements
   • Work in progress.

5. Work plan for Q1 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planned activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Conduct procurement of LIMS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Conduct procurement of OCF Database.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Conduct procurement of storage equipment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Output 3.3 | Equipment Upgrade for Ballistic Sector

1. Description of the output
- Output 3.3 aims to support the upgrade of the Ballistic Sector equipment, though the procurement and installation of a water tank and other priority equipment for the Mol, such as comparative microscope for ballistic examination, Stereoscopic trinocular microscopes, and desktop computer sets. This output will enable the AISP to upgrade the tools and instruments used for conducting firearms-related criminal investigations, which will in turn improve the quality and effectiveness of the investigations conducted.

2. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period
- In 2020, a ballistics water tank was procured, to support the AISP eliminate the inconveniences caused by experimental open-air shooting that is currently practiced by the AISP. The water tank will be delivered in Q1 2021.
- Also, 5 desktop computers for the ballistic sector were procured and delivered to the AISP for increased efficiency of the work conducted by the five specialists employed in the Ballistic Sector. The employees were found to use over 15-year-old computers running under Windows XP, thus very slow and inefficient. These computers will be used by the Ballistic Sector employees in their everyday tasks.
- A Thermal Cycler PCR Machine was procured at the specific request of the project beneficiary in order to more effectively analyse DNA traces on firearms and ammunition under investigation. The PCR Machine was delivered to the AISP.
- Finally, technical specifications were drawn, and tender launched for the procurement of a comparative macrocope for ballistic examination and stereoscopic trinocular microscopes.

3. Difficulties encountered, measures taken to overcome the problems, and eventual changes introduced
- Delivery of the ballistic water tank was planned in December 2020 but due to COVID-19 circumstances it was postponed for January 2021. The contract for the ballistic water tank was won by a Turkish Company. Before its shipment, the water tank had to be tested as per the required specifications with a “12.7 x 0.99 mm- 50 BMG calibre” weapon, a special ammunition only a few government institutions have in Turkey. This required the company to request that Turkish Special Forces test fire the Water Tank. Due to Covid-19 staff reduction and internal governmental procedures it took a bit more time than expected to get the test done.
- The Thermal Cycler PCR Machine was added to the list of planned equipment, at the request of the AISP. The request was approved without extra costs, keeping the overall expenditures within the original budget envelope.

4. Achievements
- Increased efficiency of the work conducted by the five specialists employed in the Ballistic Sector through the procurement and delivery of IT equipment.
- Increased effectiveness of firearm and ammunition DNA trace analysis achieved through the procurement and delivery of the Thermal Cycler PCR Machine.

5. Work plan for Q1 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planned activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deliver the ballistic water tank to the AISP, organize related training.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finalize procurement of the Comparative Microscope and Stereoscopic Trinocular Microscopes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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3 A thermal cycler (also known as a thermocycler, PCR machine or DNA amplifier) is a laboratory equipment used to amplify samples of DNA via the polymerase chain reaction (PCR).
Monitoring and evaluation of activities

Weekly meetings were conducted with the four contact points from key AISP sectors and the Director of AISP. In consultation with the AISP, a workplan was prepared and technical specifications were drafted for the ballistic water tank, 3D Scanners, IT equipment, PCR Machine, basic CSI Kits, specialized CSI Kits, comparative microscope, stereoscopic trinocular microscopes and storage equipment.

In February 2020, a meeting was held with the Deputy Minister of Interior, also Chair of the SALW Commission in Albania, to discuss about the project’s goals and assigned tasks. Participants to the meeting were also the Director of Policy and Strategy of Public Security and the Director of Project Conception and Feasibility. Another meeting was held with the Deputy Minister of Interior to discuss about the progress of the project.

To evaluate existing SOPs of the AISP and regional CSI Units, a work plan was drafted to be able to study the context and state of play related to the assignment of drafting new SOPs and updating the SOPs in use. A three-day study visit to Albania was concluded by the international consultant who was contracted for this assignment, on 22 June 2020, with visits in the AISP and the CSI Units in the Regional Police Directorates of Tirana and Durrës.

In November 2020, an online meeting was held with NABIS, the Forensic Northern Ireland, Spanish Cooperation (FIAAP) and AISP. The purpose of this meeting was to coordinate and discuss about ongoing initiatives and the equipment planned to be procured for the AISP.

As the Deputy Minister of Interior left her position in July 2020, and a new Deputy Minister of Interior assumed the authority as Chair of the SALW Commission in Albania in November 2020, the project team met with the new Chair to present the progress of the project and the assistance provided by UNDP Albania for the implementation of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap.

Partnerships and sustainability

The project team liaised with other UNDP Office in the region to exchange experience and knowledge in the area and to keep consistency in the regional approach. Experiences were share with UNDP in Serbia who is implementing a similar project.

Partnerships were strengthened and coordination and communication maintained with other initiatives who have similar investments in the AISP, such as NABIS, the Forensic Northern Ireland and Spanish Cooperation (FIAAP).

Update on risks and mitigation measures

A new risk that emerged in 2020 was the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. As in the other Western Balkans jurisdictions, the pandemic has impacted Albania and strict social distancing measures were introduced by the Albanian Government. Lockdown measures were introduced in March 2020 and lifted at the beginning of June 2020. Since than there has been a spike in the number of COVID-19 cases. Events with more than 10 people are still not allowed and there is a curfew from 22:00 till 06:00.

Main activities impacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic include:
- Delay in the procurement processes, which led to late delivery of goods, like the IT equipment and ballistic water tank.
- Difficulties in organizing events and other project related activities, such as visibility actions, amidst the pandemic due to restrictions on people’s gathering.
- The timeline of the trainings on SOPs and 3D scanners has been shifted, affected by the health and travel restrictions in force in the countries where the trainers reside.
Lessons learnt

Some of the lessons learnt during project implementation include:
- Maintaining constant communication with counterparts to ensure understanding and adapt activities to new timelines.
- Maintaining constant communication with vendors to facilitate and incentivize the delivery process.
- Abiding to all preventive measures and safety protocols in facilitating the organization of in-person events.

Communication and visibility

In 2020, project results and activities were communicated online, via social media, always noting Germany’s support to the project. Donor visibility was also ensured through the stickers placed on the equipment procured within the project, which visibly showed the German Cooperation logo. Furthermore, all visibility materials placed at the venue of the trainings, such as roll-up, agenda etc., included the German Cooperation visual identity.

Twitter thread communicating about the training on the use of the SOPs.
Equipment procured within the project (from left to right, first row: 3D scanner, basic CSI kits; second row: specialized CSI kit and Thermal Cycler Machine, IT equipment). Photos: UNDP Albania
### Sub-project 4. Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking (CIAT)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project number:</th>
<th>2019BIH04</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implemented by:</td>
<td>UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Contributes to Roadmap Goals:** | **Goal 2.** By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence based and intelligence led.  
**Goal 3.** By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans. |
| **Implementation period:** | July 2019 – December 2021 |

The objective of the project is to enhance the capacity of the Border Police (BP) in BiH and of 14 entity and cantonal Police Agencies to combat illicit arms trafficking across BiH and beyond, by developing a database on the legal transport of weapons, improving the SALW Identification Tool, providing specialized border control equipment, and strengthening inter-institutional cooperation.

The fulfilment of the above objective will contribute to the achievement of strategic national priorities laid out in the national SALW strategy as well as the upcoming Action Plan for the Implementation of the Roadmap. Moreover, the framework pertaining to SALW transport between the licensing authority, the Ministry of Security in Bosnia and Herzegovina (MoS), and police agencies which implement their decision will further be strengthened through a new national database of SALW transport licences which will be created within this project.

The project is based on the knowledge and lessons learnt during the previous CIAT project addressed to the BiH BP. The SOPs developed and the training rolled out for BiH BP are used as a role model and a good starting point in the process of providing the tailor-made support to other police agencies, in view to capacitating them to better fight illicit SALW trafficking.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT OUTPUT</th>
<th>PROJECT OUTPUT INDICATOR</th>
<th>TARGET</th>
<th>STATUS OF PROJECT RESULTS</th>
<th>ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST INDICATORS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Output 4.1. Capacitated BIH Border Police and 14 entity and cantonal police agencies to more effectively combat illicit arms trafficking</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of specific analysis contributing to the Green Border Assessment of BIH BP.</td>
<td>BIH Green Border Assessment finalized.</td>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td>Green border assessment completed in 2019, verified and formally accepted by BIH BP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of databases developed on legal transport of weapons.</td>
<td>MOS database developed and in use.</td>
<td>Partially achieved</td>
<td>Technical specifications of the database prepared.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of beneficiaries trained for the proper functionality of the database</td>
<td>100 beneficiaries trained.</td>
<td>Activities not initiated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Extent to which the SALW identification tool has been improved.</td>
<td>SALW identification tool fully functional to respond to the needs of BP BIH and 14 police agencies to better identify seized arms.</td>
<td>Activities not initiated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of BP BIH and other police agencies’ staff trained to use the SALW identification tool.</td>
<td>500 BP BIH and other agencies’ staff trained to use the new SALW identification tool.</td>
<td>Activities not initiated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of BP BIH and other police agencies’ staff trained to effectively detect illicit arms trafficking by provision of specialized equipment and training</td>
<td>2000 staff trained to better detect illicit arms trafficking from 14 police agencies on detection methods using the procured equipment.</td>
<td>Activities not initiated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>16 pcs of detections equipment procured for 14 police agencies. 4 pcs for surveillance of green border procured for BP BIH.</td>
<td>Partially achieved</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Output 4.2. Strengthened cooperation and information exchange</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of SOPs developed and institutionalized</td>
<td>70 SOPs</td>
<td>Partially achieved</td>
<td>Procurement process for the acquisition of necessary equipment for the police agencies and BP BIH is ongoing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Police agencies developed drafts of all five SOPs covering areas: tracing of weapons, data collection,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>between Ministry of Security and other institutions at national and regional level</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of police agencies’ which were given access to the MOS database on transport of SALW.</td>
<td>Up to 14 police agencies given access to MOS database.</td>
<td>Activities not initiated</td>
<td>running an investigation, risk analysis and management of an emergency. 70 draft SOPs prepared in total. Finalization, endorsement and institutionalization of SOPs to be conducted in 2021.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of MoUs signed between BP BIH and other 13 police agencies on cooperation regarding combat of illicit arms trafficking.</td>
<td>Up to 14 MOUs signed between BP BIH and other 14 police agencies.</td>
<td>Activities not initiated</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of cooperation between BP BIH and 13 police agencies strengthened through organization of joint trainings.</td>
<td>Organize training for up to 300 people from BIH BP and other 14 police agencies on better detection of illicit arms.</td>
<td>Activities initiated</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of joint SOPs developed.</td>
<td>Develop up to 3 joint SOPs.</td>
<td>Activities not initiated</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Preparations for the development of an online training have been initiated.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Output 4.1 | Capacitated BIH Border Police and 14 entity and cantonal police agencies to more effectively combat illicit arms trafficking

1. Description of the output
- Output 4.1 aims to enhance the capacities of the state, entity and cantonal police through several actions. Firstly, a Functional Review and a Gap Analysis on sustainable development of BP BiH (2019-2024) was conducted including but not limited to Green Border Assessment. Secondly, the data collection, analysis, and exchange of information among the institutions involved in the process of supervision of legal trade will be strengthened through the development of the MoS database on legal transport of weapons and provision of related training. Also, further support to the Working Group (WG) on supervision of legal trade and the WG for control of postal parcels and unmarked shipments will be provided. Thirdly, the project will continue to support the advancement of data collection, analysis, tasking and coordination of the BP BiH through the further development of the SALW Identification Tool for its use in the official reporting and its rollout to other Police Agencies. Finally, equipment for 14 Police Agencies and equipment for BP BiH for the control of the green border, respectively, will be provided, as well and training of 2,000 police officers on detection methods using the procured equipment.

2. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period
- In 2020, the project team initiated the work on the development of the national database for SALW transport licenses, with the support of an IT expert contracted for this task. The national database is aimed at strengthening supervision capacities of legal trade, data collection, analysis and exchange of information among the institutions involved in the process of supervision of legal trade of SALW, associated ammunition and dual-purpose goods. The database will thus enhance inter-agency cooperation at national and regional level between the MoS, the owner of the database, and police agencies who will be given access to the software.

- As part of his assignment, the IT expert conducted an analysis of the legislation, of the existing software system in the MoS1, and of the user requirements, based on which the draft ToR for the software development was designed. Ten consultative meetings were conducted with the MoS BiH before producing the first draft of the ToR. Prior to finalization of the technical description of the database, the consultant presented the database to police agencies that are involved in securing and escorting the shipments of legal SALW through their respective jurisdictions. The meeting took place on 29 December 2020 in an online format.

- Procurement for the equipment for 14 Police Agencies and for the BP BiH was also initiated, and at the end of 2020 the equipment was in different stages of procurement:
  - **detectors** (2 pieces for police agencies at the entity level). Tender will be readvertised in Q1 2021, given that there were no offers received in the first bid launched.
  - **endoscopes** (19 pieces for police agencies at the entity and canton level). At the end of 2020, the procurement of endoscopes was ongoing, due to be finalized in Q1 2021. During the project implementation and after internal project assessment of the functional needs of the MoI Republika Srpska, primarily based on the size of the territorial jurisdiction of this administrative unit within BiH, the project consulted the MoI Republika Srpska and established that additional pieces of this equipment will be needed for this agency. Having the favorable price obtained through competitive procurement process at hand and the sufficient available funds for this purpose, altogether six endoscopes were procured (five additional pieces aside of initially one endoscope planned) for the benefit of this agency.
  - **remote surveillance cameras** (100 pieces for BP BiH), **binoculars** (60 pieces for BP BiH), and **augmented vision binoculars for long-range surveillance** (6 pieces for BP BiH). Tender will be readvertised in Q1 2021, given that there were no compliant offers received in the first bid launched. The agreed equipment for the BP BiH represents a change from what was initially planned (2 scanners and 2 thermal imaging binoculars). This change was conducted based on the green border assessment conducted in November 2019, in close collaboration with the BP BiH and the MoS.

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1 The MoS is in the possession of a software for electronic recording and evidence of issuance of legal SALW transport licenses, which was developed over 10 years ago. However, because of its numerous flaws, the software was never used. The IT expert contacted by UNDP analysed the unfunctional system as a solid base for avoiding similar mistakes, as well as to learn from the experience of MoS personnel who was engaged in supporting development of previous system. The MoS staff met with the IT consultant to present their first development experience and their expectations from the new system.
• Given the similarities between the equipment to be procured within this project and the equipment planned to be acquired for BiH Customs within the UNDP BiH HALT project funded through the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap Trust Fund, and considering the complexity of the tendering procedure, the procurement processes within the two projects were merged.

3. Difficulties encountered, measures taken to overcome the problems, and eventual changes introduced

• Due to COVID-19 pandemic, almost all the coordination meetings on the activity implementation had to be moved to virtual setting, utilizing the available online tools for communication.

• Due to complex technical specifications of the equipment to be procured for the Police Agencies and the BP BiH, the quality of offers received varied to a great extent. This caused few rounds of justifications with potential bidders that prolonged the evaluation of offers and ultimately delayed contracting and completion of procurement to 2021. The necessary re-advertisement of tenders was postponed to Q1 2021 to allow time for the beneficiaries to review and approve the changes introduced in the technical specifications, following the lack of technically compliant bids during the initial tender.

• Two changes to the initially planned procurement were conducted: the number of endoscopes was increased with 5 additional pieces to be delivered to the police agency in Republika Srpska, and the equipment for the BP BiH was revised following the green border assessment conducted within the project.

4. Achievements

• Work in progress.

5. Work plan for Q1 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planned activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Continue work on development of the MoS database for SALW transport licenses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Initiate the development of the SALW Identification Tool for its use in the official reporting and its rollout to other Police Agencies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Complete the procurement of equipment for 14 police agencies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Complete the procurement of additional equipment for the BiH BP.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Description of the output

- Output 4.2 aims to support strengthening inter-institutional cooperation between all police agencies in the country, BP BiH and Customs Administration on unifying the protocols for prevention, detection and deterrence of smuggling of firearms, ammunition and explosives on one hand, and the MoS and BP BiH and their national and regional counterparts on the other. This will be achieved through implementation of different and parallely interdependent activities such as completion of unified SOPs for detection of illicit SALW for all police agencies across the BiH, a prerequisite for the conceptualization and training of the 2,000 police officers to be conducted under Output 4.1. Also, based on the positive experience with the Border Police from the initial phase of the CIAT project in terms of development of SOPs on processing of SALW-related crimes as well as rollout of related training, multiple trainings will be replicated to other 14 police agencies providing thus for a synchronized country-wide approach to processing these crimes. The strengthened inter-institutional cooperation will contribute to increased effectiveness in countering illicit arms trafficking.

2. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period

- In 2020, the package of five SOPs to be used when dealing with detection of illegal SALW was completed, with the remaining two SOPs being drafted (i.e. SOPs on risk analysis and management of an emergency situation when arms and explosives unexpectedly emerge). The first three SOPs on data collection, tracing of weapons, and running an investigation were completed and reported in 2019. The completion of the remaining SOPs was conducted through the facilitation of bilateral meetings between the 14 Police Agencies and UNDP, instead of a joint workshop that was regular practice during the SOP adoption process, and which could not be organized because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Also, the Ministry of interior of Una-Sana Canton was the first agency to complete all five SOPs and willingly shared their work with other police agencies as a guide. This accelerated the development of the SOPs of the other police agencies in BiH, as due to the administrative structure of BiH each police agency must adopt their own set of SOPs on detection of illicit SALW. This strengthened cooperation among the police agencies in BiH is expected to continue outside of this project, within the field of SALW control.

- In 2020, the project team initiated the conceptualization of trainings for all police agencies on use of developed SOPs. Given the COVID-19 pandemic and the related restrictions, the concept note developed includes training methods and a curriculum appropriate to the virtual/online training environment. The project team thus conducted preparatory and coordination meetings with the project beneficiaries for the development of an online platform that would replace or complement the planned in-person trainings for all police agencies. The planned training refers to the use of the SOPs developed within the project to be used when dealing with detection of illegal SALW, and to the use of the equipment to be procured under Output 4.1.

- An online platform will be based on the open-source platform “Moodle” and will be used not only for these specific trainings, but also for the trainings planned within the UNDP BiH HALT project funded through the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap Trust Fund. The development of the training platform will benefit from the hands-on experience of the UNDP BiH Acceleration Lab. The online training would not completely substitute the practical training for using the equipment that will be provided through the project. While tutorials would be part of the training depicting the use of the equipment, once the COVID-19 situation improves, all police officers certified through the platform would be given the opportunity to be trained in-person in the use of the equipment. However, such trainings would be much shorter.

- In 2020, the project team participated in the initiative of the UNDP Office in BiH to prepare an assessment report about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the security sector in BiH. The report is also analysing the impact of the pandemic on the CIAT project and identifies the necessary mitigation measures to ensure continuation of the planned project activities, including identification of alternative means of organizing meetings and workshops (Zoom, MS Teams, and similar) as well as identifying the need for introducing alternative means of learning, such as an online learning platform. The report contains recommendations on immediate response with anticipated security risks, ensuring that the security system in the country provides adequate response to ongoing crisis and the challenges in the security field in foreseeable future.

- The project team also provided support and expertise to the SALW Coordination Board in BiH to design and develop the Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Strategy in Bosnia and Herzegovina
2020-2024 and prepared the organization of a SALW disposal event for 12 police agencies in BiH that was scheduled on 17 October 2020. In order to support the SALW disposal event, the project team conducted verification missions across BiH to check the quantities of SALW reported for disposal by the 12 police agencies. The missions were particularly complex to organized due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. Difficulties encountered, measures taken to overcome the problems, and eventual changes introduced
   • In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the project team explored modalities for overcoming current implementation challenges pertinent to training activities by adjusting the training methods and curricula of the training for all police agencies to the virtual / online training environment. Due to the complexity of the requirements for the online platform, the development of the platform’s specifications and procurement process for contracting the company that will develop the platform were postponed to 2021.

4. Achievements
   • SOPs for the 14 law enforcement agencies drafted, aligning them with the relevant regulatory and legal frameworks of each police agency;
   • Strengthened cooperation among police agencies in BiH highlighted during the SOP development process, to be replicated in other SALW-control related initiatives outside this project.

5. Work plan for Q1 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planned activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Develop the online training platform for all police agencies on use of developed SOPs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Organize workshop for the conceptualization of the training with all participating law enforcement agencies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Monitoring and evaluation of activities

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all field related activities such as meetings, trainings, workshops and practical exercises with project beneficiaries were delayed. The project focused only on desk and office activities that considered minimal exposure to pandemic risk of project staff. Therefore, no monitoring and evaluation activities took place in the absence of field activities in 2020. However, the project, within the Justice and Security sector of UNPD BiH had a lead role in the conceptualizing and conducting the Impact assessment of the COVID-19 pandemic on the security sector in BiH. The assessment was successfully completed in Q4 2020 and, as a comprehensive study, has resulted in findings and several recommendations for the way ahead in the security field in BiH.

Partnerships and sustainability

As the field of SALW control in BiH is well organized and managed by the SALW Coordination board in BiH, the project participated in all relevant meetings of the board held in 2020. The meetings were mostly geared towards the development of the national SALW control strategy 2020-2024. The meetings benefited from a wide audience of stakeholders who actively participated with ideas and proposals on how to improve the field of SALW control in BiH. Aside of the active role taken in the strategy development, the project also held bilateral meetings with the beneficiaries of the project when the opportunity aroused during the year. For instance, during the preparatory phase of the SALW disposal event that was held on 17 October 2020, the project organized verification visits to 12 police agencies in BiH during which every piece of SALW for disposal was verified by type, serial number, and the quantity. This unique opportunity to meet the beneficiaries in these dire straits was also utilized to briefly share information and discuss on the CIAT project implementation as well as to retain strong partnerships with the beneficiaries of the project. During the verification visits, following Ministries of interior/Police agencies were visited: Una-Sana Canton, Canton Sarajevo, Police of Brčko District, Zenica-Doboj Canton, Bosnian-Drina Canton Goražde, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, Tuzla Canton, West Herzegovina Canton, Canton 10, Republika Srpska, State Investigation and Protection Agency, and the Border Police of BiH.

In addition, on 23 December 2020, the project held an online Annual coordination meeting session with all beneficiaries of the project, presenting the achievements for 2020 and plans for 2021. Those Ministries of interior/Police agencies that are project beneficiaries and did not participate in the SALW disposal event (Federation BiH Police Directorate and Sava Canton) participated in the meeting and were informed of the progress in the project activities.

Update on risks and mitigation measures

An important new risk identified and realized in 2020 was the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in BiH, an unprecedented risk that could not be envisaged at the beginning of 2020. It struck badly the economy as well as healthcare system. Also, BiH is the only country in Europe that has not started yet the population vaccination programme and has not endorsed a clear and comprehensive plan for the commencement of this activity. Therefore, relaxation of the measures to counter the pandemic may not be expected very soon and currently imposed restrictive measures will certainly remain in place in BiH throughout Q1 2020. Such setting will additionally complicate the implementation of the project activities focused on a robust training programme planned with the beneficiaries of the project that aims to train 2,000 officers in the country.

Furthermore, the migration crisis in BiH, identified as one of the risks in the project’s risk matrix, worsened in 2020. The unbalanced weight of the crisis, affecting mostly only two cantons in the Federation BiH, is causing political unrest in the country with uncertain outlook of the crisis for 2021. The project is monitoring the risk and is ready to adjust its operations should the migrants’ crisis effect aggravate the situation.

On the grounds of the above-described risks, a request for no-cost extension beyond December 2021 may be requested, considering the significant impact on the project implementation. The decision is yet to be made, pending a review of the COVID-19 situation at the end of Q1 2021.
Lessons learnt

The new situational context imposed by the COVID-19 crisis caused overall unexpected experience that shaped lessons learnt in 2020. Even though, exposure to newly imposed practices proved to be effective and efficient on the one end, it also exposed its weaknesses. The following lessons and changes were recognized that will be taken into consideration for the remaining time of the project implementation:

- **Need for virtual meetings, contacts and training** – due to restrictions of movement and gathering imposed in 2020 by UN Country team and crisis teams across the country, the need for virtual meetings emerged at the beginning of the pandemic. This practice, on the positive side increased efficiency of the meetings related to everyday contact with partners and beneficiaries and imposed itself as a practical tool for post-pandemic project implementation as well. On the negative side, it increased the dependence on information and communication technology, which plays an important role in business processes these days but cannot completely substitute human interaction.

- **Re-scheduling of the project activities to focus on administrative and desk activities** - the new context of working-from-home arrangements and virtual setting of work directed the scope and dynamics of implemented activities in 2020. This refers mostly to activities that were administrative and office based, therefore project focused itself on online meetings, coordination with the project partners and beneficiaries, procurement of envisaged equipment for the beneficiaries etc. Focus on administrative and office work completely pushed the planned live trainings and practical exercises with police agencies for better days in 2021, once the pandemic effects are expected to slow down.

- **Need to adjust training plans to accommodate law enforcement agencies strained with migrant crisis** – first responders to every emergency are police agencies along with other emergency services like healthcare and firefighting services. Despite segmented and multi-layered security system in the country with clearly defined jurisdictions, the police agencies responded very well to the pandemic request. However, police agencies are also heavily engaged with the increased violence because of migrant crisis in the country. Once training can be conducted in 2021, it will be coordinated in a fashion to accommodate law enforcement agencies responding to both, pandemic and migrant crisis.

Communication and visibility

In 2020, the CIAT project was presented at the 2nd high-level meeting of the Franco-German coordination initiative on the implementation of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap, held in Berlin, on 31 January 2020. The meeting, hosted by the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany and the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France was attended by Ministers of Interior and Foreign Affairs of the Western Balkans, key international organizations and donors. The project was presented as part of a gallery walk, where participants had an opportunity to get familiar with the project activities and the results achieved since September 2017 when the first phase of the CIAT project was initiated. A backdrop banner was prepared and used as the main visibility element. Also, project partners were invited to participate in the event and to provide their perception on the CIAT implementation and achieved results. Visibility was also ensured through regular posts on the Twitter, tagging donors and partners on the published content. Please see several examples below:
Tweets communicating about the participation of the CIAT project at the High-level meeting for the implementation of the Roadmap.

Other project activities were also promoted by the project team on their social media accounts. A few examples are provided below:

Tweets from the coordination meetings with the project beneficiaries for the development of the online training platform.
A visual identity displaying the German Cooperation logo was agreed with the project beneficiaries.
Sub-project 5. Urgent Action on Ammunition Destruction - Project EXPLODE+

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project number:</th>
<th>2019BIH05</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implemented by:</td>
<td>UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributes to Roadmap Goals:</td>
<td>GOAL 5. By 2025, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans. GOAL 6. Systematically decrease the number of surplus and seized small arms and light weapons and ammunition. GOAL 7. Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation period:</td>
<td>July-December 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The objective of the project was to assist the BiH authorities in the reduction of ammunition stockpiles to a manageable level, by supporting the disposal of 1,421 pieces of ammunition.

Out of currently stocked 12,500 tonnes of ammunition of Ministry of Defence (MoD)/Armed Forces (AF) BiH, approximately 5,000 tonnes are surplus. Following the inspection of the ammunition stockpiles implemented by the AF of BiH from mid-2013 to end 2018, it has been confirmed that ammunition stock is in average over 35 years old. These facts, combined with lack of proper service records and unknown history of storage conditions in the past, called for immediate action for ammunition disposal of quantities that are unsafe for further storage. This was crucial measure in the attempt to avoid an Uncontrolled Explosion of Munition Site (UEMS).

The focus of UNDP's interventions was the concentrated support to ammunition reduction in order to enable sustainable stockpile management and thus provide for stable and risk-free development opportunities for local communities in the proximity of Ammunition Storage Sites, as well as for the country.

The project also assisted the MoD/AF in the reduction of ammunition stockpiles to a manageable level in order to create preconditions for the establishment of a sustainable ammunition stockpile management system owned by the MoD/AF BiH.

All project activities were finalized by December 2019.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-project 6. Support to counter illicit arms trafficking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project number:</strong> 2019KOS06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Implemented by:</strong> UNDP Kosovo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contributes to Roadmap Goal:</strong> Goal 3. By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Implementation period:</strong> September 2019 – October 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The objective of the project is to strengthen the capacities of border entities to detect firearms, ammunition and explosives and conduct detailed risk profiling through specialized training, improved weapons registration, provision of detection equipment, and development of knowledge products.

The project was developed on the best practices of the previous CIAT project implemented in BiH and was adapted to Kosovo’s context. By using a holistic approach of people, process and technology, the project provides a business intelligence solution approach.

The project addressed various challenges related to illicit arms trafficking in Kosovo, including challenges in controlling the green border due to difficult accessibility in some seasons of the year and a lack of specialized equipment, few detections of firearms at the border compared to inland firearm seizures, and an increase in blank firing weapons (converted or not) showing that some trafficking routes are still open and illegal imports not always detected. An in-depth analysis of the latter problem is required in order to prevent this issue becoming a serious threat domestically and regionally. This process has started in Kosovo through the establishment of the Firearms Focal Point and the development of a problem profile, as well as the joint intelligence report developed by the Border coordination center. Furthermore, there is also a need to link or to increase the cooperation and coordination between the different departments of the Kosovo Police such as border police, uniformed police as well as criminal investigators in order to better address the illicit trafficking of firearms at the border.

The project was developed in line with the Regional Roadmap for SALW Control in the Western Balkans, specifically Goal 3, and contributes to the effective implementation of the SALW and Explosives control strategy and action plan as well as the Integrated Border Management Strategy.
OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS TOWARDS RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Output</th>
<th>Project Output Indicator</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Status of Project Results</th>
<th>Achievements Against Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Output 1:</strong> Capacities of border entities on detection of firearms, components, ammunition, and explosives increased</td>
<td>Detection training Border Crossing Point (BCP) - 17 borders posts including customs and border police; Training on green border surveillance; Training detection components in fast parcels and postal services; Training K9 dogs in polymer detection; Implementation of Joint simulated exercises; Upgrade of Weapon Registration software;</td>
<td>Border police and customs officials at 17 BCP trained on detection; 40 border police officials from green line border are trained on surveillance and the SOP updated; 40 officials trained on detection components in fast parcels and postal services provided; Three K9 dogs and a training with 40 officials on polymer detection is provided; Joined simulated exercise conducted between border police and customs; Weapon Registration software upgraded;</td>
<td>Result achieved</td>
<td>31 border police and customs officials at 17 BCP trained on detection; 30 border police officials from green line border are trained on surveillance and the SOP was updated. 5 K9 dogs procured, trained and certified in sniffing polymer material made weapons. 40 police officers also trained during the 380 hours of dog training.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Output 2:</strong> Risk profiling based on CIRAM 2 in place</td>
<td>Training on CIRAM 2 include threat assessment, vulnerability assessment and impact assessment;</td>
<td>40 border police officials trained on CIRAM 2 and a handbook/guidance developed;</td>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td>43 representatives from FFP, Border Police, Customs and Centre for Border Management</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1 Due to the political situation in Kosovo at the time, the Kosovo Police had limited human resources and was able to engage only 30 personnel instead of 40. All the assigned personnel that attended the training fit the needed profiles as assessed by project team.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Output 3: Installation and higher detection of trafficking in the green border area</th>
<th>Guided training on development of problem profile on IAT; Guided training on Problem Profile at green border based on pull and push factors;</th>
<th>Capacities increased for 10 KP officials on problem profile on IAT; Capacities increased for 10 border police officials on problem profile based on pull and push factors;</th>
<th>Achieved</th>
<th>trained on CIRAM 2 during specialized training. 15 border police analysts, customs officers, and representatives of the border coordination trained during back-to-back trainings on problem profile on IAT, including at the green border based on pull and push factors.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Purchase and hand over of requested equipment; Operator training on new equipment; Intelligence led policing operations based on new equipment;</td>
<td>10 thermovisions and 10 scanners purchased and donated to the Kosovo Border Police and the detection of IAT in the green border increased; 4 Operators trainings for total of 40 representatives trained in effectively using the new equipment; Operational plans and operations report produced;</td>
<td>Partially achieved</td>
<td>5 specialized endoscopes, 3 explosive and drug detector, and 1 handheld Thermal camera procured. The change in equipment followed the vulnerability assessment conducted within the project. 40 border police officers trained in using the new equipment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output 4: Development of knowledge products, including: problem profile, and trend analysis including modus operandi</td>
<td>Develop knowledge products.</td>
<td>KP fully capable in developing knowledge products on IAT.</td>
<td>Partially achieved</td>
<td>Testing exercise conducted and a Report on K9 Dog Sniffing and Equipment Detection Test on polymer made weapons produced.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Description of the output

- Output 6.1 aims to improve the control capacities of the border authorities to effectively and efficiently screen cargo, vehicles, personnel and other goods of special interest, such as weapons, ammunition, and explosives. This will lead to increase in detection at border posts and the green border line, based on detailed risk profiling leading to adequate investigations of border seizures and linking (where possible) to regional traffic routes. This output will be achieved through training on detection of firearms, ammunition and explosive, green border surveillance, and detection in fast parcels and postal services, training of K9 dogs in detection of polymer, implementation of joint simulation exercises, and the upgrade of the Weapon Registration software. The Weapon Registration software contains all SALW-related data, including data on private companies that sell firearms, on the legalization process, destruction of firearms, etc. The Weapon Registration Software is interconnected with most databases of the relevant institutions, including the Firearms Focal Point (FFP). The FFP regularly feeds the Weapon registration Software with information related to firearms and related penal cases where firearms are used, being those legal or illegal ones. Upgrading the current Weapon Registration Software will enable the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) to collect and exchange the required information on firearms among the relevant institutions and agencies.

2. Description of activities implementing during the reporting period

- One of the main results of 2020 was the selection, procurement, testing, and training of five K9 dogs to detect weapons made of polymer materials. This activity was conducted following a report on the existing capacities of the dogs owned by the Police, which showed that the existing dogs are not capable of sniffing polymer-made weapons.
- The dogs were selected by a three-member panel created by the Kosovo Police who travelled to Croatia together with two members of the project team to test the dogs. 24 dogs were tested by the Kosovo Police K9 Instructors and 5 of the best dogs were selected. Given that the price for a dog was less than initially planned, the budget was sufficient to procure five dogs instead of three.
• A ceremony for the handover of the five dogs to the Kosovo Police was organized on 30 June 2020, in the presence of the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Kosovo, the representative of the European Union Office in Kosovo, the Minister of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the General Kosovo Police Director, and the UNDP Kosovo Resident Representative. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of participants during the ceremony was minimized and the project team ensured full implementation of the measures and recommendations from the local authorities responsible with managing the pandemic.

• In close cooperation with the Kosovo Police training division, the Police’s K9 unit prepared a pilot programme designed to train the dogs in sniffing polymer material made weapons. The dogs were trained by K9 instructors during 380 hours of training. At the completion of the training, the dogs were certified by a 5-member inspection/monitoring panel, then distributed to K9 operators at the border crossing points and the green border lines. 40 police officers were also trained during the 380 hours of dog training.

• In 2020, the project team initiated the work for the upgrade of the Weapon Registration software to enhance its productivity and functionality. Several consultation meetings were organized with the MIA/Department for Public Safety to identify and analyze the gaps of the existing software used by MIA and discuss the software upgrade. At the end of August 2020, MIA Secretary General issued a decision, which established a professional technical group to assess and analyze the functionality of the software and prepare a report with recommendations on the required functionalities of the weapons Registration software. The tender documents were prepared based on the technical specifications listed in the report. The tender will be launched in 2021.

3. Difficulties encountered, measures taken to overcome the problems, and eventual changes introduced
• The procurement and training of the K9 dogs suffered delays during 2020, due to the restrictive measures taken in Kosovo and the other Western Balkans jurisdiction, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly the ban on all non-essential travels. UNDP was in regular contact with the Kosovo Police for the implementation of the activities as soon as it was possible.
• Due to large number of COVID-19 infected personnel in the MoI and the imposed measures on banning people gatherings (meetings or working groups), the activities related to the upgrade of the Weapon Registration software were delayed throughout 2020. To push activities forward, the project team organized and facilitated several online meeting/consultations with the relevant departments in the MIA on assessing the functionality of the current Weapons Registration Software.
• Given that the Police personnel was fully engaged in managing and implementing the imposed measures regarding the COVID-19, the joint simulated exercise could not be organized in 2020 and has been postponed until the COVID-19 situation improves, in 2021.

4. Achievements
• Strengthened capacities of the Kosovo Police in the detection of polymer-made weapons, through the procurement and training of five K9 dogs, handed over to the Kosovo Police.

5. Work plan for Q1 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planned activities</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continue work on the upgrade of Weapon Registration software.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Description of the output
   • Output 6.2 aims to increase the capacities of the border authorities in preventing and responding to illicit arms trafficking through training on firearm-related threat assessment, vulnerability assessment and impact assessment and on development of problem profile on illicit arms trafficking, including at the border and green border.

2. Description of activities implementing during the reporting period
   • In 2020, the project team organized the planned trainings on CIRAM 2, development of problem profile on illicit arms trafficking, and Problem Profile at green border based on pull and push factors. The trainings were organized partially online given the COVID-19 pandemic (i.e. the trainees attended from a training venue respecting the distancing measures and wearing masks, while the organizers participated via Zoom);
   • The training on CIRAM 2 was organized on 7-10 September 2020, for 43 representatives from the Firearm Focal Point, Border Police, Customs and Centre for Border Management. The training covered EU Integrated Border Management and detailed CIRAM 2.0 model (Risk, Threat, Impact) as well as online practical exercises. After the completion of training, two sets of risk analysis package iBase and i2Analyst Notebook were handed over to the Centre for Border Management and the Border Police Risk Analysis Unit, which will further support the respective authorities to expand and conduct the detailed risk, threat and impact assessment according to the CIRAM2.0 model;
   • The training on development of problem profile on illicit arms trafficking and the training on problem profile at green border based on pull and push factors were organized back-to-back on 27-29 July 2020. The two trainings benefitted from the participation of 15 participants representing border police analysts, customs officers, and representatives of the Centre for Border Management. The trainings were tailored to fulfill the gaps and participants’ needs by: providing detail knowledge on crime trends or hot spots, providing a vehicle for the application of one or more analytical techniques to a problem which falls requires creative thinking and hypothesis generation; making sense of complex data, hypothesis testing, generation and evaluation of scenarios and other techniques, assisting in subject identification and selection (suspects or victims), assisting in prioritization, identifying intelligence gaps, highlighting prevention, intelligence, enforcement and reassurance opportunities, and providing justification for actions.

![Participants at the training on development of problem profile on illicit arms trafficking and the training on problem profile at green border based on pull and push factors, organized by UNDP Kosovo. Photo: Kosovo Police Facebook account](image)

1 iBase, an intuitive intelligence data management application, enables the capturing, control, and analysis of multi-source data in security-rich workgroup environments. iBase and Analyst Notebook combine rich analysis and visualization capabilities with dissemination tools enabling the Centre for Border Management to further expand its analysis of crimes related to illegal and illicit firearms trafficking.
Additionally, a border vulnerability assessment was conducted during the training to analyze and identify the actual needs of the border police and the potential gaps in the effective and efficient border control and green border surveillance, including the necessary equipment to be procured within Output 6.3 of this project. The main findings and recommendations deriving from the border vulnerability assessment refer to the potential threats at the border crossing points and green border lines, lack of police personnel at the border crossing points (mainly within A category), lack of specialized equipment at the border crossing points and border surveillance stations, and equipment that is in possession but outdated or not functional due to the lack of training on maintenance. These deficiencies seriously affect the productivity of the border police officers on their daily engagements at the border crossing points and border surveillance, especially in relation to the detection and confiscation of illicit firearms.

3. Difficulties encountered, measures taken to overcome the problems, and eventual changes introduced
   • Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the trainings were partially organized online (i.e. the trainees attended from a training venue respecting the distancing measures and wearing masks, while the organizers participated via Zoom).

4. Achievements
   • 43 border police officers, Customs, and Centre for Border Management officials gained necessary skills and knowledge to prepare quality risk analyses, through the training on CIRAM 2 including threat assessment, vulnerability assessment and impact assessment.
   • Capacities of the Kosovo Police and the Centre for Border Management in CIRAM2 strengthened and technologically upgraded through the acquisition of IT software (IBASE and Analyst Notebook) that will increase the collection of information, risk analysis at border crossing points and green border lines, and produce intelligence reports on detection of illicit arms trafficking.
   • 15 representatives of the Border Police, Customs, and the Centre for Border Management increased their knowledge for the development of a problem profile on illicit arms trafficking and at the green border through dedicated training.
   • Increased understanding of the actual needs of the Border Police and the potential gaps in the effective and efficient border control and green border surveillance gained through the preparation of the border vulnerability assessment.

5. Work plan for Q1 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planned activities</th>
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<td>N/A</td>
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</table>


Output 6.3 | Installation of equipment and higher detection of trafficking in particular at the green border

1. Description of the output
   • Output 6.3 aims to increase detection of the illicit arms trafficking at the BCPs and the green border line by providing necessary equipment.

2. Description of activities implementing during the reporting period
   • Following the recommendations of the border vulnerability assessment conducted under Output 6.2, the project team identified the necessary equipment for the BCPs and the green border line. Thus, the project team facilitated the procurement of one hand handled thermovision camera, five endoscopes, and three explosive mobile detectors, assisting thus border officers during the second line check in accordance with the EU Integrated Border Management strategy guidelines.
   • After handing over the procured equipment to the Kosovo Border Police Department, 40 border police officers were trained in using the new equipment, increasing thus the efficiency and productivity of the border police officers in detecting and confiscating illicit firearms at the BCPs points and the green border lines.

3. Difficulties encountered, measures taken to overcome the problems, and eventual changes introduced
   • The equipment procured represents a change from the project plan to acquire five thermovision cameras and five scanners in 2020, following the recommendations of the border vulnerability assessment. In 2021, as per the project plan, the project will further support the border police department to acquire additional equipment as identified through the border vulnerability assessment.
   • The COVID-19-related restrictions delayed the delivery of the necessary equipment for the BCPs and the green border line. Nevertheless, the project team managed to procure and hand over the equipment by end 2020. The equipment for BCPs and the green border line was changed in line with the needs of the Border Police as identified in the border vulnerability assessment conducted under Output 6.2.
   • Due to the COVID-19 imposed measures by the local Kosovo health authorities, the theoretical and practical trainings on using the new border equipment were organized online, in close cooperation with the Border Police Department and the Kosovo Police Training Division

4. Achievements
   • Increased efficiency and productivity of the border police officers in detecting and confiscating illicit firearms at the border crossing points and the green border lines gained through the procurement of specialized equipment and training of 40 border police officers on the use of the equipment.

5. Work plan for Q1 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planned activities</th>
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<tr>
<td>• N/A</td>
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</table>
Output 6.4
Development of knowledge product: problem profile and trend analysis including modus operandi

1. Description of the output
- Output 6.4 aim to enable the development of various knowledge products including the Problem Profile and the statistical data referring to detection and conviction, eventually to the determination of trends, and modus operandi.

2. Description of activities implementing during the reporting period
- In 2020, the project team and the Kosovo Police’s K9 unit developed a report on the existing capacities of the dogs owned by the Police. The report followed a practical exercise which proved that K9 dogs in the Kosovo Police are trained to smell weapons, explosives and ammunition but cannot smell polymer material.

3. Difficulties encountered, measures taken to overcome the problems, and eventual changes introduced
- N/A

4. Achievements
- Increased understanding of the needs of the Kosovo Police in terms of detecting firearms made of polymer materials.

5. Work plan for Q1 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planned activities</th>
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<td>N/A</td>
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</table>
Monitoring and evaluation of activities

UNDP Kosovo, KSSP, has the responsibility and accountability for the overall management of the Project, including monitoring and evaluation of interventions, trainings, achieving of the objectives and specified results, and the efficient and effective use of resources.

The project team, in close cooperation with the Kosovo Police Training Division, conducted training evaluations at the end of each training. In general, despite the fact that the trainings were conducted online due to the restrictions imposed, all participants were very satisfied with the professional and practical level of the lecturers, the examples presented during presentations, and the technological equipment that facilitated the development of the online training.

Monitoring and evaluation of the 5 K9 dogs was conducted by the KSSP Project Manager and the Head of Training Division of the Kosovo Police at the K9 unit. The Project Manager and representatives from Kosovo Police regularly monitored the progress of the K9 training. Furthermore, a 5-member monitoring and evaluation panel was established by the Kosovo Police and the KSSP Project Manager to assess and certify the dogs in sniffing weapons made of polymer material.

The activities regarding the handover of specialized equipment to the border police will be monitored and evaluated this year during which a precise report will be produced on the usage of the new equipment for each border crossing point and the green border line.

Partnerships and sustainability

The project team maintained a close cooperation with the project beneficiaries and key stakeholders on the ground to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on project implementation. This engagement included communicating with the local health authorities (Ministry of Health and Kosovo Institute for Public Health and the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety) with regards to organizing in-person trainings and introducing measures for preventing the spread of the virus.

Update on risks and mitigation measures

The main update in the risk matrix includes the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in Kosovo. Since the first case of COVID-19 in March 2020, the health, social, and economic sectors have been affected at both the individual and community levels very quickly. Measures restricting the travel and gathering of people were imposed by the competent authorities, which lasted until the beginning of June 2020. The Kosovo Police, as the main partner of the project was fully engaged in implementing the recommendations from the Ministry of Health and the Kosovo Institute of Public Health, working 12-hour shifts. The lifting of the prevention measures generated a rapid increase in the number of COVID-19 cases which also affected the beneficiary’s personnel. Many of the Ministry of Internal Affairs’ personnel and police officers were infected with the SARS-COV2 virus and were either hospitalized or self-quarantined. Under these circumstances, the decision-making process on behalf of the project partners has been slowed down considerably or halted, which has also hampered participation of beneficiaries in project events, trainings or working groups, regardless of the topic or the format of the trainings (whether they are offline or online).

The impact on the project implementation included:
- Constraints in organizing face to face meetings with beneficiaries to coordinate project implementation.
- All beneficiaries’ personnel engaged fully in managing the pandemic.
- Large number of infected officials, including key decision makers, which affected timely decision making and coordination.
- Limitations of online capacity development.
The mitigation measures carried out included the organization of online instead of in-person trainings, and regular and close communication (in-person where possible and virtually) with the project beneficiary to determine the best time to implement the activities and carry them out as soon as possible.

Lessons learnt

One of the lessons learnt during the COVID-19 pandemic is that online trainings are not as effective and efficient as in-person ones, and the beneficiaries are not keen to participate. This is the reason why the trainings that required in-person participation were postponed to 2021.

Other lessons learnt during 2020 include the need to be flexible and adjust, the need for greater coordination and cooperation with beneficiaries and other stakeholders, constant monitoring of the developments and the effect of pandemic on beneficiaries and tailor responses.

Communication and visibility

In 2020, the project results and activities were communicated primarily online, on the UNDP Kosovo social media channels, as well as by the partner institution, the Kosovo Police. Germany’s contribution to the project was ensured both in the social media posts and in the materials prepared and presented during the trainings, through the use of the German Cooperation logo as well as in the opening remarks. Examples of social media posts from the trainings are presented below.
Facebook posts published by UNDP Kosovo during the events for the handover of the two sets of risk analysis package IBase and I2Analyst Notebook, to the Kosovo Police Border Department and the Centre for Border Management.
Facebook posts published by UNDP Kosovo and the Kosovo Police, respectively, during the training on development of problem profile on illicit arms trafficking and the training on problem profile at green border based on pull and push factors.

Additionally, one high-visibility event was organized in 2020, as the ceremony for handing over the five dogs to the Kosovo Police. The ceremony was well communicated both through social media and the local media, highlighting Germany’s support to the project.

The handover event benefitted from the presence of high-level representatives of the donor, the implementing organization, project partners, and other international organizations. H.E. Christian Heldt, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Kosovo, Mr. Visar Bivolaku, representative of the European Union Office in Kosovo, Ms. Maria Suokko, UNDP Kosovo Resident Representative, Mr. Agim Veliu, Minister of Internal Affairs and Mr. Rashit Qalaj, General Kosovo Police Director attended the event.
Facebook post published by UNDP Kosovo raising the visibility of the project and highlighting Germany’s support to Kosovo through the CIAT project.

Ms. Maria Suokko, UNDP Kosovo Resident Representative, sharing the tweet posed by UNDP Kosovo from the handover ceremony.

The visibility of the donor was ensured by placing the German cooperation logo on the various promotion materials prepared for this event, and through massive media coverage of the activity (links from the local media are listed below). Furthermore, the project partners conveyed during their speeches their sincere appreciation to the German government and UNDP for supporting Kosovo in developing its capacities to tackle the illegal possession of firearms, detect illicit arms trafficking and confiscate SALW, explosives and ammunition, as well as in contributing to the successful implementation of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap and the National Strategy on SALW control.

Visibility was also ensured through the social media, particularly Facebook and Twitter. Please see examples below. A photo story about the role of the K9 dogs in identifying trafficked illicit arms made of polymer material, and about the handover ceremony was also published on the platform Exposure.
Tweet from the UNDP Kosovo account, highlighting Germany’s support to the CIAT project, in the context of the handover ceremony.

Links with the local media coverage of the handover ceremony:

UNDP Kosovo: https://undpkosovo.exposure.co/dogs-detecting-21st-century-weapons?source=share
RTK news 17:00 watch from 07:20 minute: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NCPYzPjrg5Y
RTK separate report on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BpfmfkyeVsY
Telegrafi video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihDUh5eu_4c
Kosova Post video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YyS-KmJ-sJQ
Lajmi net: https://lajmi.net/undp-i-dorezon-policise-se-kosoves-pese-qen-per-zbulimin-e-armeye/
Bota Sot: https://www.botasot.info/kosova/1322926/undp-i-dorezon-policise-se-kosoves-pese-qen-per-zbulimin-e-armeye/
Sub-project 7. Improving national SALW-related practices and building violence-resilient communities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project number:</th>
<th>2019NMK07</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implemented by:</td>
<td>UNDP North Macedonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributes to Roadmap Goal:</td>
<td>Goal 2: By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence based and intelligence led.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation period:</td>
<td>September 2019 – November 2021</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The objective of the project is to support the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoI) of North Macedonia to improve its Weapons Registration and Stockpile Management Software (WRMS) and to design, develop and implement the Information Management System (IMS) used for collecting, analysing and sharing SALW-related data, leading to a more effective and efficient control and response to firearms-related threats.

In line with amended EU Directive 91/277/EC, a new module for the WRMS was planned to be developed, allowing registered firearms dealers to keep a record of the firearms in their possession and the ones they dispose, with specific details that enable a better identification and tracing of the firearms. The necessary hardware to provide proper and uninterrupted functioning of the system will be acquired through the project, and post-deployment training to the end users will be delivered in a tailored, timely and task-oriented manner to ensure optimal results.

At the same time, the project plans to design and develop an IMS, as the current MoI’s system is outdated and cannot generate automated reports and analyses on the distribution and impact of firearms. Through a series of bespoke project activities, such as developing standardized methodology and streamlining organizational processes and upgrading necessary software and hardware, the MoI will be able to collect and analyse, on a regular basis, quantitative and qualitative information and suitably disaggregated data on incidents and criminal cases including misuse and trafficking of firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition.

Due to the impact on project implementation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the challenges brought on by the changes in the political situation in the country, as well as the lack of operational capacities in the project beneficiary, the project was extended for 11 months, until November 2021, in order to allow time for the successful implementation of the project.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT OUTPUT</th>
<th>PROJECT OUTPUT INDICATOR</th>
<th>TARGET</th>
<th>STATUS OF PROJECT RESULTS</th>
<th>ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST INDICATORS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Output 7.1. Improved weapons registration in accordance with Amended EU firearms Directive 2017 and Law on Weapons</td>
<td>1. WRMS module that allows arms brokers to maintain a register of firearms developed and introduced; 2. Arms brokers’ register of firearms created and populated with data;</td>
<td>Completed and introduced WRMS module and register of firearms received or disposed of by the arms brokers;</td>
<td>Partially achieved</td>
<td>1. WRMS module developed, to be introduced in 2021. 2. Arms brokers’ register of firearms created, to be populated with data in 2021.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output 7.2. Improved and harmonized Information Management System (IMS) of the Mol</td>
<td>1. Standardized methodology and a manual for streamlining organizational processes; 2. Improved and upgraded IMS of MIA developed and deployed; 3. IT equipment to support the use of the new IMS modernized; 4. Package of operational guidelines, manuals and products developed to improve analytical capacities of MIA.</td>
<td>Upgraded and deployed IMS of MIA that supports the established standardized organizational process methodology, modernized IT equipment that can support effective use of the IMS; Developed and adopted organizational guidelines and procedures for integrated collection and analysis of crime and firearms related data at national, regional and international level.</td>
<td>Achieved Partially achieved Activities initiated</td>
<td>1. Standardized methodology and manual for streamlining organizational processes created. 2. Development of the IMS of Mol initiated, to continue throughout 2021.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Description of the output

- Under output 7.1, the project aims to improve and upgrade the current weapons registration system by developing a Weapons Registration and Stockpile Management Software (WRMS) and deliver the necessary hardware. The upgrade to WRMS will entail allowing registered firearms dealers to input data into the system, thus registering the firearms in their possession, as well as the sale and disposal of these firearms, including specific features that help in identification and tracing (type, make, model, calibre and serial number thereof and the names and addresses of the persons supplying and acquiring it). The module will allow for an electronic connection to the WRMS and the data-filing system will be updated in real time. The necessary hardware for the proper and uninterrupted functioning of the system will be acquired through the project. Also, training of the end users will be delivered in a tailored, timely and task-oriented manner to ensure optimal results.

2. Description of activities implementing during the reporting period

- In 2020, the upgrade of the WRMS was completed. Technical support will be provided throughout 2021 in order to ensure proper functioning of the system.

- As part of the preparatory procedures for launching the WRMS system, necessary hardware was procured and delivered in two lots. The first lot included systems and licences that will host WRMS in the Information Technology Department and the Telecommunications Department, while the second lot was composed of desktop computers and specialised printers for the Weapons Registration Department, as well as workstations for the Border Police Department.

- In order to further prepare the Mol personnel for the implementation of WRMS module, a specialised end-user training was organized. During 10 days, over 120 participants from the Mol from all over the country, including the Sector for Weapons and Explosives, Boarder Police and the IT Department, as well as the weapons-selling companies were trained in the functionalities of the upgraded software, under strict COVID-19 protocols.
• As part of the planned cooperation with the Customs Administration’s software EXIM, an Agreement on Interoperability was signed between the MoI and the Customs Administration. This is the first time that the MoI has opened itself to exchange of information with another institution.

3. Difficulties encountered, measures taken to overcome the problems, and eventual changes introduced
• The cooperation with the MoI representatives, especially the Information Technology Department, can be slow, thus impeding the efficient implementation of project activities. However, the project team has made efforts to maintain regular cooperation through the working group established for this component in order to mitigate the consequences and successfully implement the project activities.
• The installation of the upgraded WRMS is dependent on the enactment of a new Rulebook in order to specify the new procedures arising from the upgraded WRMS. Due to delays and inefficiencies within the MoI, particularly in the IT Department, this Rulebook is yet to be enacted.
• The initial request for hardware procurement had greatly exceeded the project budget and intensive consultations were held to reach an optimal solution. As a result of these consultations, an agreement was reached and a budget revision procedure was initiated, ensuring necessary funds for completing the procurement.
• As a result of the COVID-19 situation, and the insistence of the MoI for the training to be conducted face to face due to lengthy procedures, the end-user training for the upgraded WRMS software had to be conducted under strict protocols, which took longer to organise and to conduct, as the number of participants in the room per day needed to be limited.

4. Achievements
• Better registration and tracking of legal, registered weapons in the future enabled through the upgrade of the WRMS.
• More than 120 participants from different departments in the MoI and weapons-selling companies are now prepared to use the updated WRMS, following a specialized end-user training organized in 2020.
• Increased cooperation between the Customs Administration and the MoI enabled through the Agreement on Interoperability signed by the two institutions.
• The upgraded WRMS enabled the MoI for the first time to allow the exchange of information with other entities.

5. Work plan for Q1 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planned activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Put the upgraded software into production environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Provide technical support for client satisfaction.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Description of the output

- Under output 7.2, the project aims to develop a standardized methodology and support streamlining of organizational processes, while developing and deploying improvements to the Mol IMS. Through this output, the Mol will be able to collect and analyse, on a regular basis, quantitative and qualitative information and suitably disaggregated data on incidents, criminal cases including misuse and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition. The upgrade to the police information system will allow for linking the SALW data and information to crime relevant factors (generators, enablers and attractors) from a wider societal context resulting in analytical and intelligence outcomes. These knowledge products will be available for intra-institutional cooperation and will largely contribute to creation of evidence-based policies.

2. Description of activities implementing during the reporting period

- In 2020, the project team initiated the work for the improvement of the IMS. Activities encompassed intensive consultations and interviews with members of the working group established within the Mol to provide support under this output, and with other relevant stakeholders in the Mol.

- A Police Business Intelligence Expert, contracted for this assignment, reviewed detailed information on standard operational procedures, legislature, staff, current technology, and analysis prepared by the UNDP project team. The international consultant also held semi-structured interviews with key Mol personnel, with the aim of acquiring detailed information regarding the work and operation of each department in the Mol. Through these interviews, the UNDP project team obtained relevant information on the challenges faced in the work of each Mol department and their suggestions for improvement. These preparations resulted in the completion of the following two documents:
  - Report/Needs-based analysis detailing current organisational processes and organisational structure as it relates to criminal and firearm related data.
  - Guidelines and recommendations for data collection in relation to management of SALW and other crime related incidents.

- The findings of the needs-based analysis and recommendations were presented at a workshop with members of the working group in the Mol.

- The technical specifications for the new Information management system in the Mol were developed based on the findings of the Police Business Intelligence Expert, and field analysis performed by the UNDP team and a national consultant. Based on the technical specification for the new IMS, which were approved by the Mol, a procurement procedure was initiated resulting in the signing of a Contract for Services with a consortium of two software development companies that will work on the new software.

3. Difficulties encountered, measures taken to overcome the problems, and eventual changes introduced

- The COVID-19 situation presented several challenges for the implementation of the activities. The crisis had not only delayed the organisation of meetings and workshops that were planned with the members of the working group but also impeded the working visit and field work of the international consultant. However, the project team has successfully overcome these challenges through analysing existing legislation and documentation and organising preparatory interviews with numerous departments with the project beneficiary, thus building a solid ground for the expert to be able to do his work entirely online using remote meeting platforms.

- The Information Technology Department in the Mol insisted on limiting the software requirements to only one development platform, thus significantly restricting the range of possible vendors for software procurement. The project team successfully mitigated this significant obstacle through organising a pre-bid conference and providing extended support and information to all interested bidders. This resulted in the receipt of 5 offers and a very competitive process with strong proposals, despite the imposed limitations by Mol’s IT Department.

4. Achievements

- In-depth understanding of the needs of the different departments in the Mol with regards to organisational practices related to data collection, dissemination and analysis of incidents and criminal cases including misuse and trafficking in firearms, their component parts and ammunition, achieved through the detailed needs-based analysis.

5. Work plan for Q1 2021

<table>
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<th>Planned activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complete phase 1 of the software development procedure.</td>
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</table>
Monitoring and evaluation of activities

During the reporting period, several monitoring activities were undertaken in cooperation with the project beneficiary:
- The national Project Board Meeting was organised in December 2020, in order to review the implemented activities and analyse the overall progress of project implementation.
- High-level meetings with the Minister of Interior and the Director of the Bureau of Public Safety were held in order to discuss the achieved progress and overcome challenges in implementation.
- The work of the international consultant (Police Business Intelligence Expert), which resulted in two important documents for the second project output, was reviewed within a Workshop with the MoI Working Group, where participants discussed the consultant’s findings and accept his analyses.
- The development process of the WRMS was monitored in several meetings with the selected company and the project beneficiary, which served to present the upgraded system and discuss its functionalities with the relevant stakeholders and end-users, as well as to test its functioning and operation.
- The delivery of donated hardware for the project beneficiary was monitored by a member of the project team in three instances.

Partnership and sustainability

The reporting period saw the strengthening of the partnership with the MoI as project beneficiary, which plays a crucial role in the implementation of all project activities. As a result of the large scope of the third project output, it was necessary to build and maintain a strong cooperation and partnership with over 10 separate departments in the Ministry. This in itself required a high-level coordination given that the MoI is a complex institution with over 12,000 employees. At the suggestion of the project team, a working group was officially created in the MoI and a coordinating officer was appointed, with the objective of ensuring unimpeded implementation of all activities. The members of the working group and the coordinating officer are closely engaged in the planning and implementation of all activities, with the goal of creating a Police Information Management System that will be useful to all participating MoI staff. As a result of this, the objectives of the second project output were achieved on time and this partnership will continue in 2021 in order to ensure proper achievement of all results and sustainability of the developed solutions.

A new partnership was created with the Customs Administration, which plays an important role in the first project output. As part of the planned cooperation of WRMS with Customs Administration’s software EXIM, an amendment of the Agreement on Interoperability was signed between the MoI and the Managing Director of Customs Administration.

Several meetings were held with the aim of sharing information and developing a more harmonised approach to activities with OSCE. There also is an initiative to strengthen the cooperation with UNODC in order to ensure a more consistent and focused approach to different projects.

Finally, the project has contracted two consultants (international and local) with an excellent level of expertise in their field (police work and information technology, respectively), as well as a total of three software development companies which are renowned not only nationally, but also on a regional and European level. A professional and productive cooperation was built with all involved parties.

Update on risk and mitigation measures

The main changes on the risks and mitigation measures in the reporting period are due to the COVID-19 situation. Following the outbreak of the pandemic and the introduction of severe restrictive measures, COVID-19 was listed as a substantial risk to the implementation of project activities, with a level 4 of likelihood (highly likely) and impact (high impact).

The highest increase in number of COVID-19 cases was experienced in the period April-June 2020, triggering the introduction of severe restrictive measures by the Government. These included curfews after certain hours and quarantined weekends. In addition, the functioning of the MoI was significantly affected,
as its priorities were shifted towards implementing the management measures and controlling the situation. The President of the SALW Commission, also Deputy Director of the Bureau of Public Safety, was a critical member of the task force for managing the emerged crisis. Furthermore, clusters of infected employees quickly developed within the MoI, and many of the project contacts in the Ministry, which are key to implementing the project activities, were at one time in a two-week self-isolation, without access to their work e-mail. The restrictive measures were loosened towards the end of May 2020, although the number of daily cases of COVID-19 remained steadily high.

The impact of the COVID-19 situation on the cooperation with the MoI was twofold: first, the Ministry does not have the appropriate teleworking plans or procedures and was often reluctant to hold videoconference meetings with external stakeholders for security or technical reasons; secondly, the MoI is one of the main state institutions in charge of dealing with crises, so the majority of its capacities were focused on crisis management rather than project implementation. The President of the SALW Commission, as Deputy Director of the Bureau of Public Safety, was a critical member of the task force for managing the emerged crisis. Finally, the beginning of the work of the international consultant, who is crucial for all activities in project output 7.2, was also delayed as he could not travel to the country.

In order to mitigate the emerged risks, the project team carried out several measures. The majority of meetings and events were held online, although a number of workshops, trainings and interviews were held in a face-to-face setting while respecting the COVID-19 measures and protocols. The intensive communication and collaboration with the MoI continued despite the frequent unavailability of staff members due to self-isolation or prioritised tasks related to the crisis. The work of the international consultant was conducted entirely online and with the continued and intensive assistance and high level of involvement of the UNDP project team, he managed to successfully complete his deliverables as main driver of progress in project Output 7.2.

A further risk was the prolongation of the transition period in the MoI amid the caretaker government and the technical Minister of Interior, as a result of the postponement of the general elections from April to July due to the COVID-19 situation.

Due to the impacts on project implementation caused by the COVID-19 situation, as well as the political situation in the country, the lack of operational capacities in the project beneficiary and the increase in scope of project activities, an 11-month non-cost project extension was requested and approved by the Project Board.

### Lessons learnt

During 2020, the project team managed to complete the majority of activities in project outputs despite the presented challenges. A special emphasis needs to be placed on the organisation of the training for the upgraded WRMS software for over 120 participants, which was done in accordance with all COVID-19 measures and protocols, providing effective knowledge sharing while protecting the health and safety of all participants. A further success in this project output is the Agreement on Interoperability signed between the Ministry of Interior and the Customs Administration for the cooperation of WRMS and the Customs’ EXIM system. Both of these accomplishments were assisted by the productive cooperation with the Department for Weapons, Explosives and hazardous materials within the Ministry of Interior, as well as establishing professional working relationships with members of both working groups from numerous departments within the Ministry of Interior.

Shortly after commencing the activities in project Output 7.2, the project team realised that this component has a much larger scope than originally foreseen. The planned development of a new IMS in the MoI involves a large number of stakeholders from different departments within in the Ministry, which employ thousands of staff members. Therefore, it was necessary to extend the scope of planned activities which further led to the extension of the project duration in order to ensure completion of project objectives. The result of this was an intensive schedule of activities in this output, which finally resulted in a detailed technical specification which was the basis for the selection of a consortium of two renowned companies which are leaders in the software development market in North Macedonia and the region. This consortium has been tasked with developing the IMS in accordance with the needs and procedures of the Ministry of Interior.

The unimpeded implementation of project activities was assisted by the meetings and involvement of the highest-level officials in the Ministry of Interior, including the Minister of Interior and the Director of the Bureau of Public Safety, who extended their support to helping drive the progress of the project. In this regard, the
project team utilized high-level support in improving the project's implementation, even at operational and administrative levels that should normally not require high-level involvement. The project team will continue to utilize this avenue going forward, as necessary.

Finally, it is important to note that large-scale project activities, such as the development of a new, need more time to be envisioned, communicated, planned, developed and implemented. Therefore, it is a recommendation for future programming that such objectives are allocated more time in order to ensure a more sustainable implementation of all activities and provide long-lasting impact and quality results.

**Communication and visibility**

The project team took all the necessary measures to ensure the visibility of the donors during the implementation of the project activities. This was mainly ensured by visibly placing the German Cooperation logo on the equipment procured, and at the venue of the events, or by acknowledging the Germany's financial support in the opening of events.

*Donated hardware equipment in the Mol. Photo: UNDP North Macedonia*

*Local Project Board Meeting. Photo: UNDP North Macedonia*
### Sub-project 8. Rogame SALW Storage Upgrade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project number:</th>
<th>2019MNE08</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implemented by:</td>
<td>UNDP Montenegro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributes to Roadmap Goal:</td>
<td><strong>Goal 7.</strong> Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation period:</td>
<td>August 2019 – June 2021</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The objective of the project is to further improve the security of SALW and ammunition stockpiles in Montenegro by supporting the upgrade of two SALW storage magazines and guardhouse of the MoIPolice Directorate SALW storage location Rogame, in line with international best practices and standards.

The project builds on the recent work at the Rogame storage conducted by UNDP SEESAC in 2019.

The project was extended with 6 months in November 2020, due to several postponement of the execution of works caused by delays in the registration of the Rogame ammunition storage in the national Cadstre. A previous 3-month extension was approved in August 2020, also due to the delays in the registration process, as an effect of the COVID-19 pandemic.
### OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS TOWARDS RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Output</th>
<th>Project Output Indicator</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Status of Project Results</th>
<th>Achievements Against Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Output 8.1. Enhanced security at the ‘Rogame’ SALW and ammunition storage</strong></td>
<td>Tender issued for the completion of project design</td>
<td>Project design firm selected/project design completed</td>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td>Project design firm selected/project design completed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tender issued for the construction and supervision of works/Contractors chosen/Contracts signed</td>
<td>Construction and Supervision companies selected/Contracts signed</td>
<td>partially achieved</td>
<td>Tender for the reconstruction works and supervision of works issued, and companies selected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Two magazines/guardhouse reconstructed in line with international standards</td>
<td>Magazines/guardhouse reconstructed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Upgrade works handed over and technical handover minutes signed</td>
<td>The works handed over to the beneficiary</td>
<td>Activities not initiated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
1. Description of the output

- Output 8.1 aims at reducing the risk of proliferation through the enhancement of the Rogame weapons and ammunition storage. The outputs will be achieved in several steps:
  - The project design for the security upgrade of the two magazines and the guard house is prepared;
  - Once the project designed is finalised, a tender for the upgrade works and their supervision is launched;
  - The upgrade works are executed and supervised;
  - A handover ceremony marking the completion of works at the storage location is organized.

2. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period

- In 2020, the project design for the security upgrade works to be conducted at the Rogame SALW storage was finalized and the bill of quantities prepared. As part of the project design development, a geodetical survey of the storage area was conducted for the purposes of registering the Rogame storage in the official Cadastre.

- Following extensive delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the general low decision-making process of the institution, the storage was registered in December 2020. This was an essential step for receiving the approval for works from the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro.

- The tender for the reconstruction and supervision of works on the two magazines and the guard house in the Rogame storage was finalized, and the companies selected. Contracts are expected to be signed in Q1 2021, upon the approval of works by the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro. The upgrade works are expected to start in Q1 2021.

3. Difficulties encountered, measures taken to overcome the problems, and eventual changes introduced

- The registering of the Rogame storage in the official Cadastre was seriously delayed throughout 2020 primarily in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. This delay has affected the project implementation timeline as the works could not be initiated until the registration was obtained. A three-month non-cost extension was requested and approved by the regional Project manager, followed by a subsequent 6-month project extension approved by the Project Board, in order to allow time for the completion of works. The UNDP Office in Montenegro has been in frequent contact with the Ministry of Interior and the Chair of SALW Commission in trying to speed up the process.

4. Achievements

- Significant progress made towards the security upgrade works of the Rogame storage, through the completion of the geodetical survey, the design of works, and the registration of the storage in the official Cadastre.

5. Work plan for Q1 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planned activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initiate reconstruction of works and supervision of the works on two magazines and a guard house in the Rogame storage.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Monitoring and evaluation of activities

Field visits to the Rogame storage were organized with the companies working on project design development together with counterparts from the Police Directorate, and with the involvement of the Project Engineer. The visits were organised to make sure that understanding was reached on what was the expectation of the project design to be developed.

Since the work on the reconstruction of the Rogame storage has not yet started there was no monitoring of works done. Weekly monitoring by the Programme Manger and Project Engineer is planned once the works start.

Partnerships and sustainability

The project team has maintained a close cooperation with the organization ITF Enhancing Human Security as they are planning to start reconstruction of earth-covered magazines and roads within the Rogame Storage in 2021. The works that ITF will be implementing is complementary to UNDP’s intervention. The agreement between the two organisations is to work closely with the aim of achieving complete reconstruction of the Rogame storage.

Once both organisations finalise their planned interventions there are still four magazines to be reconstructed with additional budget needed of up to $500,000. The Rogame storage is the only storage of the Police.

Update on risks and mitigation measures

The main risks encountered in 2020 stemmed from the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Western Balkans in March 2020. The Government of Montenegro imposed measures to stop and prevent the spread of the virus, including various levels of restrictions in people’s gathering and travel. These restrictions affected the project activities that involved face-to-face meetings and forced the implementors to either organize the activities online, if possible, or postpone them. Authorities involved in the project (Ministries of interior and Police primarily) have also channelled all their efforts to responding to the pandemic, affecting their availability to participate in the project activities. Furthermore, key staff of some of the beneficiary institutions were hospitalized or in quarantine with COVID-19, which again hindered their participation in the project.

Another risk related to the political situation in Montenegro because of the parliamentary elections. As beneficiaries’ leadership changed, this affected the decision-making process within institutions, which delayed the timeline of project activities.

Lessons learnt

Some of the lessons learnt throughout 2020 included:

- Maintain constant communication with counterparts – beneficiaries and vendors/companies to ensure understanding and adapt activities to new timelines.
- Liaise with other UNDP COs in the region to exchange experience and knowledge.
- Constantly monitor the developments of the pandemic and its effect on the beneficiaries and tailor responses.
- Conducting early planning and negotiations to remove any political risks.
IV. Partnerships, visibility and sustainability

Throughout the Western Balkans jurisdictions, the regional project enabled UNDP Offices to strengthen their existing partnerships on SALW control with the national authorities, German Federal Foreign Office, NGOs, and other regional and international organizations. Amongst other, these partnerships helped reduce and mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, by allowing a stronger coordination with the national authorities on the implementation of the project activities and identifying alternatives to those activities which could no longer be conducted as planned. An important mechanism allowing information exchange and knowledge sharing with the relevant partners were the Roadmap coordination meetings organised at regional and local levels, in which the CO Project Managers actively took part.

The regional project enabled creation of new partnerships. For example, in North Macedonia a new partnership with the Customs Administration was established, for the development and operationalization of the weapons registration software. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNDP in Kosovo also established new partnerships with the Ministry of Health, Kosovo Institute for Public Health and the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety to facilitate the organization of in-person trainings with the project beneficiaries.

A detailed account of the partnerships strengthened or established in 2020 is presented in the dedicated section of each sub-project.

Through its tailor-made interventions, UNDP was able to create visibility for the knowledge and lessons learned generated by the sub-projects. Some of the visibility materials and actions prepared by the UNDP Offices include:

- In Kosovo, the procurement and handover of the K9s to the Kosovo Police was promoted through a photo story published online. The news about the handover ceremony was shared widely in the local media.
- In Serbia, social media campaigns were implemented to increase media attention on the issue of SALW use in the context of domestic violence, and to raise public awareness about gender aspects of SALW misuse, based on the findings of the research done within the project.
- A blog on firearms misuse in the domestic violence context - Safer with a gun at home? – Women in Serbia say no was also published to increase the visibility of the project research findings.
- Also in Serbia, the results in the forensics project were promoted on UNDP’s website.

Other examples of visibility actions were presented under the Communications and visibility section of each UNDP sub-project.

Sustainability of actions under this project was ensured through close cooperation and engagement of the Western Balkans authorities in the development as well as implementation of projects, in particular the SALW Commissions, grounding projects in identified needs and building on the progress already made in SALW control. Activities are developed and implemented in a way to enhance knowledge, develop capacities and institutionalize procedures and practices that should remain in place after the end of the project. Lessons learnt and good practices are replicated across the region, contributing to standardization of approaches in SALW control in the Western Balkans.
V. Update on risks and mitigation measures

The project activities were implemented against the backdrop of political tensions in the region, including newly generated tensions and legacy effects of conflicts during 1990s, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. In several cases state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic was introduced, and various other measures to slow down the spread of the virus, jurisdictions faced various levels of civil unrest and protests were brought to the streets.

In 2020, two of the risks identified in the regional project risk matrix occurred:

1. **Lack of internal political and institutional stability** in the six Western Balkan jurisdictions led to delays in the implementation of the projects. This was particularly relevant for Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia that went through parliamentary elections in 2020. Elections subsequently triggered changes in governments’ high and middle-level management, which caused delays in the decision-making process, and incapacity to commit to participating in project activities. The risk is expected to continue in 2021, with elections due to take place in Albania and Kosovo. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2020 marked the 25th anniversary of the Dayton Peace Agreement (DPA), with politically charged discussions and divisions about the need to revise the DPA. Serbia and Kosovo signed the Washington Agreement focusing on the normalisation of economic relations, however the progress to date has been slow, with numerous tensions and unresolved issues. Tensions escalated between Montenegro and Serbia, due to politization of the Law on Freedom of Religion and started to reduce with the new Montenegrin government coming to the office at the end of the year. In March, Macedonia became the 30th country member of the NATO. In September 2020 the Government of Serbia enacted decision to pull out of all international military cooperation. UNDP Offices will continue to maintain a close cooperation with their counterparts and observe diligently the situation in order to plan and respond to changes in a timely manner.

2. **Insufficient operational capacity within national counterparts**, often lacking human and financial resources to respond to specific, time-constrained activities. This risk was particularly exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, as project beneficiaries channelled all their efforts to responding to the pandemic, affecting their availability to participate in the project activities. Also, key staff of some of the beneficiary institutions were hospitalized or in quarantine with COVID-19, which again hindered their participation in the project. This has affected the implementation of the projects, with several activities being delayed. This risk is expected to continue in 2021. UNDP will continue to plan in such a way to mitigate the potentially insufficient operational capacity of national counterparts.

Another risk has been added in the project matrix:

3. **Covid-19 pandemic and related government restrictions**, which have negatively affected the implementation of the project in 2020. The occurrence of the risk is expected to continue in 2021, however with a potentially lower impact. UNDP Offices will continue to monitor the development of the pandemic and take the necessary measures to mitigate the negative impact of the crisis. Measures include conducting online coordination meetings with the project beneficiaries and partners, organizing online trainings if possible, or respecting the health measures imposed by the government when organizing in-person trainings.
VI. Key challenges, lesson learned and recommendations

The project was implemented under unprecedented circumstances. The key challenge faced by the project in 2020 was related to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Western Balkans, and the Governments’ restrictions to prevent and limit the spread of the virus. The preliminary assessment and the subsequent COVID-19 updates conducted by SEESAC revealed that all projects have been affected by the crisis, as Governments imposed measures to stop and prevent the spread of the virus, including various levels of restrictions in people’s gathering and travel. Authorities involved in the project (Ministries of Interior and Police primarily) channelled all their efforts to responding to the pandemic, affecting their availability to participate in the project activities. Furthermore, key staff of some of the beneficiary institutions were hospitalized or in quarantine with COVID-19, which again hindered their participation in the project. Activities that involved organization of trainings, meetings with the beneficiaries and on-site field visits were particularly affected. Project activities had to be re-scheduled to focus on administrative and desk activities or were postponed. Communication with project beneficiaries and partners switched to the online, as well as trainings and workshops, whenever possible. Four sub-projects requested non-cost extensions between 3 and 6 months and were revised accordingly during 2020, while other sub-projects are expected to request non-cost extensions in 2021.

Another challenge is represented by the unstable political situation caused by elections in Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, and related changes in political leadership. These changes have negatively affected some of the project activities which could not be conducted according to the planned timeline due to delayed decision making on the side of the project beneficiaries.

The challenges encountered in 2020 have also affected the overall delivery rate, which by end 2020 was below 50%. Particularly affecting expenditures are delays in the procurement of equipment (in some cases the equipment was procured late in 2020, and payments will be made in 2021, in other cases procurement was initiated but has to be finalized in 2021), or delays in the organization of trainings (trainings were in some cases postponed as the in-person format was mandatory for the successful implementation of the capacity building activities, or as in the case of BiH, an online platform is being developed for the implementation of online trainings). The situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to improve in 2021, thus allowing projects to speed up implementation and complete the projects by end 2021. The donor took note during the project board meeting in November 2020 of the fact that projects’ successful completion depends on the development of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021 and is fully aware of the risks that the projects are still facing. As the project coordinator, UNDP SEESAC will keep a close relation with the UNDP Offices to monitor the implementation of the projects and the delivery rate. Also, SEESAC will continue updating and informing the donor and the project board with regards to the project’s progress and risks this year, and in the event a project extension beyond December 2021 is needed.

Despite these challenges, overall, the UNDP projects achieved significant results and made substantial progress in implementation. UNDP’s ability to deliver under such circumstances was acknowledge by the Project Board members during their meeting in November 2020.

Some of the lessons learn drawn from the experience of these challenges include the need to constantly monitor the developments of the pandemic and political situation in the region, and their effect on the beneficiaries and tailor responses; re-schedule project activities to focus on administrative and desk activities; convert some activities where possible into an online or hybrid setting format; maintain constant communication with counterparts to ensure understanding and adapt activities to new timelines; synergize with other stakeholder who have similar actions as the project; coordinate with vendors to facilitate the delivery process; abide to all preventive measures and safety protocols in facilitating the organization of in-person events.