

## PROGRESS REPORT

Annual Project Progress Report

Federal Foreign Office, Germany



Implementing Agency:	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Atlas Project ID:	00114727 Small arms control roadmap implementation
Project Title:	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
Project Duration:	14 May 2019 – 30 September 2022
Country / Region:	Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo <sup>*</sup> , Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, Republic of Serbia)
Funding Partner/s:	Federal Foreign Office, Germany
Responsible Parties:	UNDP Albania, UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNDP Kosovo, UNDP Montenegro, UNDP North Macedonia, UNDP Serbia, UNDP SEESAC
Reporting Period:	01 January 2021 – 31 December 2021
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Photo cover page: UNDP Albania

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<sup>\*</sup> References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

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## Acronyms

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AF	Armed Forces
AISP	Albanian Institute of Scientific Police
ASP	Albanian State 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
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

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### Progress against outputs and outcomes

In 2021, the project delivered important results supporting the Western Balkans authorities in their efforts towards achieving the goals of the [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 continue to provide comprehensive support in addressing specific priority areas of the Roadmap implementation in each of the Western Balkans jurisdictions.

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 promptly, in close cooperation with the SALW Commissions, beneficiaries and tailored to the particular needs and gaps of each jurisdiction.

Under Output 1 of the regional project, Mechanism for efficient coordination of the Roadmap projects developed and put in place, in 2021, SEESAC remained in close relation with the UNDP Offices to monitor the implementation of the sub-projects. SEESAC team members supported the implementation of the projects by reviewing draft knowledge products and providing technical advice to other activities prepared or implemented during the reporting period. In 2021, 26 knowledge products and communication materials were developed within the Roadmap sub-projects.

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 2021, the project helped improve the collection, analysis, and storage of firearm-related crime ballistic evidence, strengthen capacities for preventing and responding to illicit arms trafficking, improve data collection and analysis on firearms, and increase the security of a SALW storage facility. The project thus enabled more effective and efficient control and response to firearms-related threats. The project also helped improve practices and procedures related to criminal justice response to SALW misuse in the context of domestic violence, set up the basis for evidence-based policy making, and increase awareness on the impact and risk of firearms in domestic and gender-based violence. The project thus contributed to the Roadmap goals 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7.

The most significant results of 2021 in each jurisdiction are listed below:

- In Albania, the project supported the Albanian State Police (ASP) and the Albanian Institute of Scientific Police (AISP) to enhance their capacities in operating with higher standards and more effective procedures in the area of criminal investigations. This was achieved through the provision of specialized ballistic equipment that will help generate more reliable and accurate evidence. The project also finalized the development of an evidence management system in the AISP, comprised of a Laboratory Inventory Management System and an Open Case File database, that will improve the accuracy and efficiency of internal data acquisition, management, and reporting.
- 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 provision of equipment and training. 774 police officers throughout the country were thus trained in the use of relevant standard operating procedures (SOPs) and specialized detection equipment. The project

also continued the development of the national database of SALW transport licenses, which will help strengthen 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 development of the SALW Identification Tool for the 14 police agencies was initiated. The project team also supported the development of the concept for the joint trainings and practical exercises in detecting and investigating the smuggling of firearms, ammunition, and explosives, to be conducted in 2022.

- In Kosovo, the project strengthened the capacities of the Kosovo Police to better prevent and respond to illicit arms trafficking. This was achieved through the upgrade of the weapon registration system, which will enable the Ministry of Interior (Mol) to improve data collection on firearms. The upgrade will also facilitate the exchange of information with relevant institutions and agencies. The project also provided training and IT equipment to increase the Mol capacities for preventing and responding to illicit arms trafficking.
- In Montenegro, the project initiated and finalized the reconstruction works at the two magazines and guard house of the Rogame storage, reducing the risk of proliferation of firearms and potential accidents at the storage.
- In North Macedonia, the project contributed to strengthen the collection, analysis, and sharing of firearm-related data by focusing on the development of the Information Management System (IMS) of the Mol, which has been now completed. Training and hardware equipment were also provided to support the use of the IMS. As part of the efforts to streamline the organizational process and improve the work of the Mol, the project completed and published a study on femicides in North Macedonia covering the period 2017-2020, which also show the extent of firearm use in the cases of femicide. The project also dealt with mitigation of the legal, administrative, and technical issues for putting into production of the upgraded weapons registration management software. This resulted in the software entering production in 2021.
- In Serbia, the project helped develop several analyses and research papers to ensure a resource and information base that will enable monitoring of practices and evidence-based policy making on issues related to firearm use in domestic violence, as well as improve criminal-justice response towards ensuring the safety of victims of violence committed with firearms. The project has also contributed to improved access to continuous capacity development for judiciary, police, and other professionals on firearms misuse in the context of domestic violence. This was achieved through comprehensive e-learning that will be available beyond the project completion, as well as guidelines for collecting evidence and ensuring adequate protection and prosecution of cases of domestic violence. The project also worked on exploring the role of the healthcare system in the prevention of firearm misuse in domestic violence and conducted prevention activities contributing to deconstructing gender stereotypes and greater public awareness on the dangers of firearms misuse in the context of gender-based violence, including improved educational and preventive media reporting. A critical result of the project is the integration of firearm-enabled violence in the new strategy for combating gender-based violence in Serbia for 2021-2025, adopted in spring 2021. At the invitation of the Government of Serbia, the project contributed to the development of the new strategy taking stock of the findings of its knowledge products. This will enable the implementation of specific recommendations developed within the project through the Strategy action plan.
- Also, in Serbia, the project provided training and equipment for further increasing the capacity of the crime scene investigation (CSI) units in Serbia, to enable reliable and consistent forensic evidence in support of fair legal procedures and efficient cross-border exchange of ballistic evidence. The CSI units were also supported through the elaboration of a guiding document in collecting evidence and conducting criminal investigations in reported cases of domestic violence. Additionally, the project continued to support the central level ballistic laboratory with the installation of a Laboratory Inventory Management System and an Open Case File database, and related equipment.

## Key challenges and risks

The project continued to be implemented under extraordinary circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Governments' imposed measures to stop and prevent the spread of the virus remained in place, however to a lesser extent given the improvement of the situation in certain periods of the year. The availability of the project beneficiaries (Mols and Police primarily) to participate in the project activities continued to be affected, as key staff was hospitalized or in quarantine with COVID-19 particularly during

peak months. Activities that involved the organization of trainings, meetings with the beneficiaries, and on-site field visits continued to be affected, albeit to a lesser extent. The pandemic, although smaller in impact, created nevertheless delays in the implementation of the Roadmap projects' activities. The UNDP Offices and SEESAC have been closely monitoring the evolution of the pandemic in each jurisdiction.

A further challenge was posed by the elections that took place in Kosovo and North Macedonia, which delayed some of the activities there, due to the unavailability of the project beneficiaries to participate in the planned activities. Additionally, in the second half of 2021, UNDP BiH identified as a risk the deteriorating political climate caused by the decision of Republika Srpska to boycott participation and decision-making at the state-level. UNDP will continue to engage the concerned authorities in the project activities, to the extent possible.

Other challenges included the cumbersome communication with the project beneficiaries in some of the jurisdictions, difficult procurement processes and delays in the delivery of procured equipment, and the unfavourable weather conditions, which affected in particular the activities conducted in Montenegro.

Although expected to be completed in 2021, the delays caused primarily by the COVID-19 pandemic could not be completely reduced, and three of the UNDP projects needed 3 to 6 months no-cost extensions into 2022 (BiH, Kosovo, North Macedonia). Other projects completed in 2021 also required short-term extensions to finalize specific activities, e.g. procurement processes and delivery of equipment, software development, organization of final project events (Albania, Montenegro, Serbia). In Albania, the project was extended with 6 months, to allow sufficient time for the procurement of additional equipment with the unspent funds that were left after the completion of all planned activities.

#### Utilization update

By end 2021, the cumulative utilization of the budget was \$4,698,997 representing 75.1% of the total project budget of \$6,257,110.35 (\$2,336,959 was spent in 2021). The remaining budget will be implemented by the four UNDP projects that will remain under implementation in 2022.

#### Catalytic interventions

The existing CO projects have shown their significant potential for scale-up and replication and will contribute to the standardization of approaches across the region. The project component implemented by UNDP Serbia in forensics and crime scene investigation stepped into a second phase. Also, the experience from this project and the forensics activities in Albania have been replicated into a similar project initiated in Montenegro in 2021. Both projects are funded through the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF). Additionally, some of the activities successfully implemented by UNDP Serbia are being replicated by SEESAC in other jurisdictions.

## II. Introduction / Background

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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.<sup>1</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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 on 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 is planned to be conducted in 2022, the project’s final year.

### III. Progress Review: Key Activities and Results, 1 January 2021 – 31 December 2021

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#### Section 1: Overall progress against outcomes

In 2021, 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, analysis, and storage of firearm-related crime evidence, strengthen capacities for preventing and responding to illicit arms trafficking, improve data collection and analysis on firearms, and increase the security of a SALW storage facility. The project thus enabled more effective and efficient control and response to firearms-related threats. The project also helped improve practices and procedures related to criminal justice response to SALW misuse in the context of domestic violence, set up the basis for evidence-based policy making, and increase awareness on the impact and risk of firearms in domestic and gender-based violence.

The project thus contributed to the achievement of the 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 7: Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.

By capacitating the ballistic laboratories in Albania and Serbia to achieve standardized procedures and practices for international accreditation, and operate with higher standards for delivering forensic evidence, the project contributed to Roadmap goals 1 and 2. This was achieved through the provision of specialized training, equipment, and evidence management systems for improving the collection, analysis, and storage of firearm-related crime evidence.

Also, by supporting the Mols in Kosovo and North Macedonia to standardize and institutionalize the collection, analysis, and exchange of firearm-related data, the project contributed to Goal 2 of the Roadmap. This was achieved through the development of a Police information management system in North Macedonia, and weapons registration management software systems in the two jurisdictions that enable easier identification and tracing of firearms. Also, in line with Roadmap goal 2, progress was made in BiH for the development of a national database for SALW transport licenses, which will strengthen the supervision capacities for legal trade, data collection, analysis, and exchange of information of the institutions involved in the process of supervision of legal trade of SALW, associated ammunition, and dual-purpose goods.

Furthermore, the project's contribution to Roadmap goal 2 can be seen in the extensive component dedicated to better integrating gender in SALW control in Serbia. Specifically, the project helped improve practices and procedures related to criminal justice response to SALW misuse in the context of domestic violence and set up the basis for evidence-based policy making through research, analysis, and training, and increase awareness on the impact and risk of firearms in domestic and gender-based violence, and awareness-raising campaigns.

By capacitating the border authorities in Kosovo and BiH and the law enforcement agencies in BiH in preventing and responding to illicit arms trafficking, the project contributed to Roadmap goal 3. In Kosovo, this was achieved through training and equipment that facilitates the increased collection of information,

better risk analyses, and the production of intelligence reports, as well as equipment for better detection of explosives. In BiH, equipment was provided, and an extensive training programme for police officers was initiated to enable better detection of illicit firearms.

By contributing to the increased awareness of the media, public authorities, and the public in Serbia, and to a lesser extent in North Macedonia, about the impact and risk of firearms in domestic and gender-based violence, the project contributed to Roadmap goal 4.

By providing security upgrade reconstruction works at the Rogame SALW storage of the MoI/Police Directorate, in line with international best practices and standards, the project contributed to reduced risk of firearm proliferation and thus to Roadmap goal 7.

Furthermore, the project maintained in 2021 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 by the UNDP project teams. At the regional level, the project was monitored quarterly, based on information collected from the UNDP Offices. Progress reports were shared with the donor quarterly and annually, providing updates on the progress in the implementation of the UNDP sub-projects, challenges in implementation, risks, and plans for the next reporting period. Monitoring was also ensured through regular communication with the project teams in each UNDP Office, through contacts with the beneficiaries and local and regional Roadmap coordinaton meetings.

At the level of the sub-projects, the UNDP Offices conduct their own monitoring and verification actions. In all jurisdictions, the project teams held regular coordination meetings with the project beneficiaries, to discuss project activities, results, and next steps in implementation. Feedback was also collected after training sessions. The delivery and installation of equipment were monitored by the project teams, while the work of the selected vendors and experts was closely assessed through regular meetings and reports, as required. In North Macedonia specifically, the project team monitored the development of the Police IMS in several workshops and meetings with the selected company and the project beneficiary, which served to discuss the necessary functionalities, as well as to test its functioning and operation. In Montenegro, the project team organized field visits to the Rogame storage together with the contracted companies, the counterparts from the Police Directorate, and the project engineer to ensure a common understanding of the expectation of the project design that was to be developed. During the ongoing reconstruction works, regular monitoring visits were also organized. A field visit was also conducted by the project team in Serbia at the ballistic laboratory that was being equipped. Also in Serbia, apart from consultation meetings, the team implementing the gender and SALW project conducted thorough reviews of the knowledge materials developed within the project to ensure the quality and accuracy of the information presented. In BiH, UNDP provided regular reports on the project activities and the progress made to the BiH SALW Coordination Board, allowing better monitoring of activities by the project beneficiaries. Local project board meetings were organized in BiH and North Macedonia with representatives of the project partners and donor countries. The meetings facilitated the review of the implemented activities and analysis of the overall progress of the project implementation. Results achieved and project plans were also discussed in high-level meetings between the UNDP Resident Representatives and the Ministers of Interior in Serbia, and North Macedonia.

### Section 3: Progress against each output

Output 1: Mechanism for efficient coordination of the Roadmap projects developed and put in place	
Total budget <sup>2</sup> : \$336,853.16	Spent 14 May 2019-31 December 2021: \$258,839

Output indicators	Targets	Progress against targets since the beginning of the project
Number of project proposals meeting the overarching criteria and approved for funding	5	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.
Existence of a guidance note on the submission, selection, and implementation of the Roadmap projects	Yes	A guidance note was prepared in 2019 and shared with the UNDP COs as part of the call for project proposals.
Number of knowledge products and visibility and communication materials released	11	44 knowledge products and communications materials were prepared: nine (9) publications on gender and firearms; fourteen (25) knowledge sharing products and working materials in the form of, analyses, policy papers, training concepts, and standard operating procedures (SOPs); and three (10) visibility and communication materials, in the form of videos, news articles, press releases, and social media campaigns.

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 the Roadmap coordination meeting supported by UNDP SEESAC where UNDP project managers are invited to present the results and plans of their projects, bilateral meetings, and regular communication with the UNDP project managers.

<sup>2</sup> Throughout the report, the Total budget refers to the budget for the entire duration of the project.

ACTIVITY 1.1	Coordination of implementation of Roadmap projects
Total budget: \$336,853.16	Spent 14 May 2019 – 31 December 2021: \$258,839

1. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period

- In 2021, SEESAC project team continued to maintain a close relationship with the UNDP Offices to monitor the implementation of the projects and provide any required assistance. SEESAC thus monitored the projects' implementation and provided any required assistance as needed. As such, in 2021, SEESAC team members provided inputs to the preparation of procurement processes, reviewing terms of reference, contributing to drafting knowledge products, and providing technical advice to other activities prepared or implemented during the reporting period. Also, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, SEESAC continued to liaise with the UNDP offices to assess the situation of the pandemic in each jurisdiction and its impact on the implementation of each project.
- In its capacity as coordinator of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap, SEESAC made sure that the project managers of the sub-projects implemented in the framework of this regional project take part in the local and regional Roadmap coordination meeting, to share their project results and work plans with the authorities in each jurisdiction, donors, and other international organizations engaged in this area.

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.

4. Work plan for Q1 2022

Planned activities	Budget
• Monitor and report on the progress in the implementation of the UNDP SALW control projects.	\$12,000

Output 2: Roadmap projects delivered by UNDP Offices	
Total budget: \$5,920,257	Spent 25 July 2019-31 December 2021: \$4,440,158

Output indicators	Targets	Progress against targets since the beginning of the project
Number of Roadmap projects that have achieved their planned results	7	Four (4) of the eight (8) projects approved for funding by the Project Board were completed achieving their planned results: one project (1) in 2019, and three (3) in 2021. The other four (4) projects are under implementation, due to be finalized in 2022.

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 upgrades 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:*

- Improved collection, analysis, and storage of firearm-related crime evidence through the development of evidence management systems in the ballistic sectors in Albania and Serbia, and provision of training and equipment.
- Strengthened capacities for combating illicit arms trafficking, through the provision of specialized equipment and training in BiH and Kosovo.
- Improved collection and analysis of firearm-related data by the Mol, through the upgrade of the weapon registration system in Kosovo, and the development of an information management system in North Macedonia.
- Reduced risk of firearm proliferation and potential accidents at the Rogame storage of the Mol Montenegro, through reconstruction works that increased the security of the storage.
- Improved practices and procedures related to criminal justice response to SALW misuse in the context of domestic violence, set up a basis for evidence-based policy making, and increased awareness on the impact and risk of firearms in domestic and gender-based violence in Serbia through research, analysis, training, and awareness campaigns.

Sub-project 1. Reduce risk - Increase safety – Towards ending SALW misuse in domestic violence context	
Project number:	2019SRB01
Implemented by:	UNDP Serbia
Contributes to Roadmap Goal:	Goal 4: By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy.
Implementation period:	September 2019 – March 2021
Total budget: \$294,462 Approved budget for project continuation: \$150,000	Spent 25 July 2019 – 31 December 2021: \$420,756 <sup>3</sup>

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 the 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 the 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 the 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 the effectiveness of the interventions, which is a precondition for preventing the 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 firearm 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).

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<sup>3</sup> Last payments are expected beginning of 2022, for activities conducted by 31 December 2021. The project is expected to utilize its entire current balance.

## OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS TOWARDS RESULTS

<u>PROJECT OUTPUT</u>	<u>PROJECT OUTPUT INDICATOR</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>STATUS OF PROJECT RESULTS</u>	<u>ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST INDICATORS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE PROJECT</u>
Output 1.1. Improved practices and procedures related to criminal justice response to SALW misuse	No. of practices and procedures reviewed	At least 2	Achieved	Procedures were prescribed by 11 laws and bylaws relevant for SALW and domestic violence reviewed, and potential gaps and challenges identified.
	Policy and procedures recommendations submitted to Mol (Yes/No)	Yes	Achieved	Proposals for amendments to the Law on Weapons were submitted to Mol. A proposal of the guidance for preventing firearm misuse and improving the concrete response to the use of SALW in the domestic violence context, during the procedures of approval/denial of firearms licenses was developed.
	Evidence based tool for judiciary on risks of firearms misuse in place (Yes/No)	Yes	Achieved	Research on judicial practice and response of the criminal-justice system related to detecting and misuse of firearms in the cases of domestic violence was conducted and published.
Output 1.2. Setting up the basis for evidence-based policy making	Methodology for gender-sensitive data collection in place (Yes/No)	Yes	Achieved	Analysis of administrative data collection practices on domestic and intimate partner violence, including femicide with recommendations for improvement of existing practices of data collection was conducted.
	Checklist for risk assessment developed (Yes/No)	Yes	Achieved	Checklist for risk assessment was developed and used in the analysis of cases of femicide committee with firearms. A proposal of measures to prevent the risk of firearms related violence was submitted to the Mol and included into the training programme for all the police officers in Serbia.
	No. Mol officials informed on gender-sensitive evidence-based policy making	At least 5	Achieved	7 Mol representatives were continuously informed on the progress achieved via meetings, briefs and reports.

<p>Output 1.3. Increased awareness among the general population, both women and men, on the danger of misuse and illicit SALW possession through joint actions and cooperation of media, institutions and CSOs</p>	<p>No. of gender-sensitive media reports on SALW misuse</p>	<p>At least 5</p>	<p>Achieved</p>	<p>30 media reported in an educational and preventive manner on the problem of SALW misuse for violence against women and the need for improving media reporting regarding SALW misuse for domestic violence (according to available press clippings).  Recommendations to media on how to report ethically on SALW misuse and its effects on violence against women were added to the guidelines on media reporting on violence against women of the Group Journalists against Violence.  Training module for media reporting on violence committed with firearms was developed by the group Journalists against Violence.  Social media campaigns on dangers of firearms misuse in the context of domestic violence and risk of femicide were implemented with a significant reach and media attention.</p>
<p>Output 1.4. Knowledge packages for risk reduction of firearms misuse in the context of GBV developed and implemented</p>	<p>Knowledge packages for risk reduction of firearms misuse in place (Yes/No)</p> <p>No. of professionals trained on risk assessment and risk reduced</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>At least 250</p>	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Partially achieved</p>	<p>E-learning trainings will be available via the Judicial Academy e-learning platform developed. E-training on domestic violence and procedures for the police were developed and available to all police officers via the Mol's E-classroom learning platform.</p> <p>186 professionals from the prosecution, courts, police, social welfare centers and civil society organizations informed on the key risks of firearms misuse in the context of domestic violence.</p>

Output 1.1	Improved practices and procedures related to criminal justice response to SALW misuse
Total budget: \$31,200	Spent 25 July 2019 – 31 December 2021: \$31,200

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.

2. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period

- In 2021, the 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 was completed and the in-depth analysis was published in print and [online](#). 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. The analysis was distributed to national partners, professionals from police, social welfare centers, courts, public prosecutor’s offices, women’s CSOs – participants of expert meetings on firearms misuse organized as part of the project, experts on violence against women, members of the group “Journalists against violence”, representatives of Republic Prosecutor’s Office. Some of the findings have been incorporated in the text of the new strategy for combating gender-based violence against women.
- The project team also completed the research on the judicial practice and response of the criminal-justice system related to the misuse of firearms in cases of domestic violence in Serbia. The research represents a monitoring exercise of judiciary practices in processing and prosecuting gender-based violence enabled by SALW. Additionally, it provides recommendations for establishing regular monitoring practices and identifies data that need to be collected through the judiciary system to enable evidence-based policy making and contribute to the effectiveness of the criminal-justice response to domestic violence enabled by firearms. In addition to this, research findings represent a basis for improving the knowledge of the judiciary on the risks and consequences of firearms misuse in the context of domestic violence. The research published in print and online was distributed to national partners, professionals from police, social welfare centers, courts, public prosecutor’s offices, women’s CSOs – participants of expert meetings organized as part of the project, experts on violence against domestic violence, members of the group “Journalists against violence”, representatives of Republic Prosecutor’s Office. The research serves as a baseline for further capacity building of criminal-justice system professionals to improve judicial response and practice in these cases.
- In Spring 2021, the new [strategy](#) for combating gender-based violence in Serbia for 2021-2025 was adopted. At the invitation of the Government of Serbia, the project contributed to the development of the new strategy taking stock of the in-depth analysis and other knowledge products developed. This will enable the implementation of the specific recommendations developed within the project through the action plan for the Strategy.

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

- In the first half of 2021, the project implementation was affected by the cumbersome communication with the Mol, and their delay in response. The project adjusted to the situation and managed to successfully finalize its planned activities.

4. Achievements

- Increased understanding about the gaps, potential obstacles, and steps to be taken 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.
- An improved strategic approach to combating gender-based violence in Serbia through the integration of firearms-enabled violence in the new strategy for combating gender-based violence in Serbia for 2021-2025, adopted in Spring 2021, based on the findings of the in-depth analysis and other knowledge products developed within the project.

- Increased understanding of the criminal-justice response and prosecution of the cases of gender-based violence enabled/committed with firearms through the research on judicial practice.

5. Work plan for Q1 2022

Planned activities	Budget
• N/A	-

Output 1.2	Setting up the basis for evidence-based policy making
Total budget: \$10,500	Spent 25 July 2019 – 31 December 2021: \$10,500

#### 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 Mol 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 2021, the project team completed the analysis of administrative data collection practices on the misuse of SALW in domestic and intimate partner violence. This is the first comprehensive analysis that addresses difficulties related to case-management, exchange of data and statistical data on domestic violence, with a particular focus on firearms misuse. The project team has particularly enabled a participatory process, involving the MoJ, as well as representatives of the Mol, National Prosecution Office, National Police Academy, Ministry of Health, National Institute for Public Health, and the Coordination Body for Gender Equality. As the analysis responds to the Government's need to set up a universal register of cases of domestic violence (envisaged in the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence), findings were shared with the above-mentioned stakeholders, to provide a basis for further work on ensuring full implementation of legislation addressing domestic violence and firearms misuse.
- Furthermore, an analysis of the cases of femicides committed with firearms was developed, against risk indicators developed by the project. **The analysis was conducted by the women's NGO Autonomous Women's Center, based on media reports on femicide published in the period June 2017 to June 2020.** The analysis examines the circumstances prior to femicide, shows the importance of gender-sensitive data collection on SALW and domestic violence, informs and contributes to the development of risk-assessment checklists, and advocates for the establishment of the femicide review and femicide watch body. The analysis and its findings were presented to civil society organizations and media, as well as to representatives of the police, prosecutor's offices, and courts and members of the Groups for Coordination and Cooperation consisting of representatives of the police, social welfare center, and prosecutor's office. The findings of the analysis fed into other project activities, such as the work with media and gender-sensitive reporting on femicides (reported under Output 1.3), the proposal of the guidelines for preventing firearm misuse, and improving the concrete response to the use of SALW in the domestic violence context, during the procedures of approval/denial of firearms licenses, and the knowledge packages (see Output 1.4).

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

- Due to newly established and time-consuming procedures within the Mol, requiring all communication to be submitted in writing and approved by several sectors, including the cabinet of the Minister, the completion of the analysis on data collection experienced delays, but was completed.

#### 4. Achievements

- Capacities for improved evidence-based policy making and case management increased through the analysis of administrative data collection practices on the misuse of SALW in domestic and intimate partner violence.
- The importance of the revision of existing data collection practices has been further recognized by the National Prosecution Office which has agreed to lead and further coordinate the process of adjusting the administrative data collection practices and establish the universal register of cases of domestic violence.
- New work on addressing difficulties related to case-management, exchange of data, and statistical data on domestic violence, with particular focus on firearms misuse was achieved with the first comprehensive analysis addressing these issues.

#### 5. Work plan for Q1 2022

Planned activities	Budget
• N/A	-

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 media, institutions and CSOs
Total budget: \$27,000	Spent 25 July 2019 – 31 December 2021: \$27,005

1. Description of the output

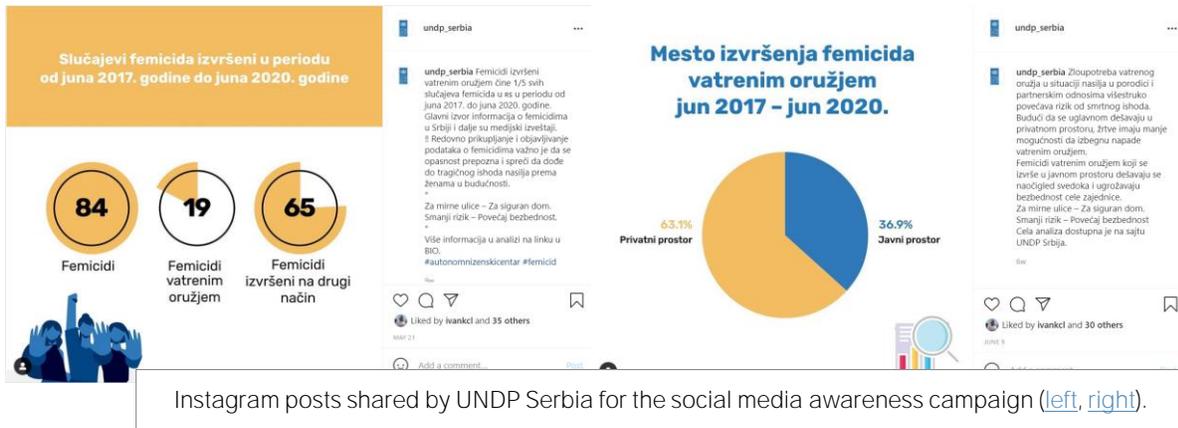
- Output 1.3 aims at developing and implementing prevention programmes that will contribute to deconstructing gender stereotypes and lead towards greater awareness among men and women on the danger of firearms misuse in the context of gender-based violence. Partnership with the group “Journalists against 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 2021, the project organized a joint learning session of media, civil society organizations, and institutions to discuss different models of establishing a multiagency femicide review and to present the findings of the analysis of cases of femicides committed with firearms. The joint learning session was organized to foster partnership and increase the understanding and interest of the media in the issue of firearms misuse in domestic violence, and in adequately reporting on this issue<sup>1</sup>. The event was also an opportunity to advocate for this topic to be covered during the National Remembrance Day for Women Victims of Violence, marked on 18 May. The topic of femicide, including the findings of the analysis of cases of femicide committed with firearms published online on 17 May, and National Remembrance Day, were thus covered by several media outlets, as listed in the Communications and visibility section. A session on rape and sexual violence, including that through firearms misuse, was also organized to inform media on various forms of violence, the situation of survivors of this violence, and prosecution and court procedures in such cases.
- In line with the communication strategy developed in 2020, the project implemented a social media campaign on the dangers and consequences of firearms misuse, which took stock of the findings of the analysis of cases of femicides committed with firearms (described under Output 1.2). The awareness-raising activity highlighted the risk of fatal outcome in cases of firearms misuse in the context of domestic violence, the challenges to reporting and providing support to victims of firearms-enabled domestic violence, and the impact of such violence on the community. These activities led to remarkable media coverage of the topic and media interest in firearms misuse and domestic violence.
- In cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, the project organized presentations of the key findings and recommendations of the 3 analyses conducted within the project: 1) the in-depth analysis of the procedures and practices related to SALW license denial, removal, and revocation in the context of domestic violence, 2) the research on the judicial practice and response of the criminal-justice system to misuse of firearms, and 3) the analysis of cases of femicides committed with firearms. The events were organized in person, adhering to all epidemiological measures related to COVID-19. Four presentations were held in four different cities in Serbia: Novi Sad, Belgrade, Kragujevac, and Niš. These events included brief presentations followed by discussions. The events reached 186 participants from the prosecution, courts, police, social welfare centers, and civil society organizations.

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<sup>1</sup> The joint learning session is part of a series of regular events organized by UNDP Serbia across its gender-focused projects, bringing together the group of Journalists Against Violence, representatives of CSOs and various institutions. The joint learning sessions and closed events that allow participants to express themselves openly, and off the record. The purpose of these meetings is to enable journalists to get insight and knowledge on different problems/practices etc. related to domestic violence and violence against women, and to get answers they would usually not receive during the regular interviews or reporting. Journalists can schedule interviews with the participants after the meeting or contact them for any needed clarifications. This has proved to be a good practice, as journalists have become better prepared to conduct interviews and cover the issue of domestic violence and violence against women more responsibly.



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

- Despite the great interest of professionals to attend the events related to domestic violence and firearms, the planning and organization of these events were affected by the current epidemiological measures, limiting the number of participants at the in-person events.

### 4. Achievements

- Increased understanding of the media about the dangers of firearms misuse in the context of domestic violence, achieved through preparatory learning sessions with media and dissemination of this information to the media. This led to an increased number of ethical media reports with prevention and educational purpose, especially on the occasion of the National Remembrance Day for Women Victims of Violence.
- Increased understanding of professionals about the gaps, potential obstacles, and steps to be taken in the effective enforcement of existing laws and institutional procedures and practices related to the use of firearms in cases of domestic violence, as well as on risks and consequences of firearms misuse, including the risks for femicides, gained through learning events.

### 5. Work plan for Q1 2022

Planned activities	Budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	-

Output 1.4	Knowledge packages for risk reduction of firearms misuse in the context of GBV developed and implemented
Total budget: \$95,350	Spent 25 July 2019 – 31 December 2021: \$95,345

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 project completed the development of three modules for the Mol e-training programme. One module refers to the roles and responsibilities of different police departments in detecting and responding to cases of domestic violence focusing on gender-based violence committed with firearms. The second module covers the procedures at the crime scene, while the third module deals with recognizing, preventing, and reducing the risk of escalation of domestic violence. Following the approval of the Mol, the content was digitalized and was submitted to Mol. The training modules have become available to all police officers via the E-classroom learning platform.
- Also, an e-training programme to improve multi-agency case management for increased safety of victims and reduced risk of firearm violence in the domestic violence context was developed. The Judicial Academy approved the training content and is now responsible to upload the content on their e-learning platform, once they complete all the technical requirements regarding the platform. The content will be available to different professionals such as judges, prosecutors, and police officers via the Judicial Academy.
- in cooperation with the MoJ, the guidelines for prosecutors, judges, and multi-agency groups for cooperation and coordination on the collection of evidence and ensuring adequate protection and prosecution of cases of domestic violence and [published](#). The publication will be further disseminated through the MoJ’s webpage dedicated to combating domestic and gender-based violence. In addition to this, it will be included in suggested readings within the Judiciary Academy platform for e-learning. The MoJ also distributed the guidelines to all prosecutor’s offices and courts in Serbia, as well as during trainings of professionals organized by the Ministry and the Government Council for Combating Domestic Violence outside of this project.

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

- N/A

4. Achievements

- Increased awareness and knowledge of police officers, judges, and prosecutors on reducing the risks of firearm use in domestic violence enabled through the development of related training curricula to be implemented by the Mol and the Judicial Academy.

5. Work plan for Q1 2022

Planned activities	Budget
• N/A	-

Output 1.5	Preconditions for evidence-based policy making on domestic violence and firearms misuse ensured	
Total budget: \$42,000	Spent 1 April 2021 – 31 December 2021: \$36,597	

### 1. Description of the output

- Output 1.5 is part of the project continuation phase and follows up on the activities implemented under the Output 1.1. – more specifically to analysis of administrative data collection practices. It aims to ensure that the preconditions for evidence-based policy making on domestic violence and firearms misuse are in place. The activities under this Output include the elaboration of an analysis on SALW and domestic violence in the period of the implementation of the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence (2017-2019), development of the model for a monitoring framework to track reported cases of domestic violence with firearms use, including victims and perpetrators and institutional response to these cases in the context of the implementation of the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence, and development of an informative guide for applicants of firearms license applicants and their family members on key facts on domestic violence and firearms misuse, with information on the referral pathways for survivors of domestic violence (April-September).

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

- As a follow up to the Analysis of administrative data collection practices on the misuse of SALW in domestic and intimate partner violence, a meeting was organized with the deputy National Prosecutor and the representative of the MoJ in charge of the implementation of domestic violence-related legislation to present the recommendations for the improvement of the current system of data collection within individual systems of protection and prosecution. Having in mind that the analysis **responds to the Government's need to set up a universal register of cases of domestic violence**, the National Prosecution Office agreed to lead this process. Further steps in the development of the monitoring framework have been defined, including meetings, presentations of the analysis and recommendations, discussions on what should and what is possible to change in the existing systems of data collection within individual institutions, the definition of tasks, timeframe and costs for making the system operational. Following the proposal of the National Prosecution Office, another meeting was organized with the participation of representatives of the Mol, National Police Academy, MoJ, Ministry of Health, the National Institute for Public Health, and the Coordination Body for Gender Equality, including representatives working on administrative data collection and analytics. The project thus supported discussions with other relevant institutions and governmental bodies to ensure a participatory process and ownership of the governmental bodies and institutions.
- Furthermore, data on SALW and domestic violence for the period of the implementation of the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence (2017-2019) was collected and analyzed. Besides providing information on domestic violence, the analysis also provides insight into the data that should be collected by institutions to advance gender-responsive policymaking and improve monitoring practices related to firearm use in the context of gender-based violence. The analysis also identifies key data producers (institutions that collect data relevant for SALW and domestic violence) and diverse data users (institutions and organizations that use these data for different purposes, such as policy planning, monitoring of institutional response, reporting following ratified national conventions and strategies adopted, information of public interest etc.).
- Finally, the project developed an informative guide for firearms license applicants and their family members on key facts on domestic violence and firearms misuse, with information on the referral pathways for survivors of domestic violence. Inputs were collected through consultative meetings, interviews, and focus groups with beneficiaries and stakeholders to explore the main concerns and obstacles in reporting on the perpetrators who possess firearms and identify key knowledge and information gaps that need to be addressed. Meetings were also held with representatives of institutions in the healthcare system, including those working with victims of violence and those working with firearms applicants, prosecution, organizations such as hunting and sport shooting associations, and support services including women NGOs working with survivors of domestic violence to explore how the identified knowledge gaps of the target group can be addressed. Part of these activities was particularly focused on the healthcare sector to examine the possibility for distribution of information and the type of information that could be distributed within different sectors of the healthcare system, including private healthcare providers.

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

- N/A

#### 4. Achievements

- A participatory process insured to enable the improvement of the current system of data collection within individual systems of protection and prosecution regarding SALW misuse in domestic and intimate partner violence.
- Existing data on domestic violence, including those committed with firearms collected and available.
- Basis for public information achieved to address challenges in reporting violence involving SALW misuse.

#### 5. Work plan for Q1 2022

Planned activities	Budget
• N/A	-

Output 1.6	Niches for a more coordinated approach in the prevention of misuse of firearms in DV and role of health-care system explored
Total budget: \$20,250	Spent 1 April 2021 – 31 December 2021: \$8,220

1. Description of the output

- Output 1.6 is part of the project continuation phase and seeks to strengthen the role of the healthcare system in the prevention of firearms used in domestic violence. This was achieved through the development of a policy paper that will map the relationship between domestic violence, SALW misuse and public health and create a foundation for short- and long-term actions.

2. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period

- In 2021, a policy paper was developed that maps the relationship between domestic violence, SALW misuse and public health and creates a foundation for short- and long-term actions. The paper explores the coordination between the healthcare system and other institutions, particularly the police and the prosecution, procedures, and their implementation to prevent misuse of firearms in cases of domestic violence. Exploring these niches is also focused on the exchange of information between different branches within the healthcare system (selected general practitioners, teams for prevention of domestic violence within the healthcare system, branches for medical examination of firearms licence holders) and public and private healthcare entities. The policy paper also seeks to standardize medical check procedures related to the mental health of firearms licence applicants/holders and possible checks related to risks of committing domestic or gender-based violence. At the same time, the paper reviews the needs for capacity building of healthcare professionals regarding the dangers of SALW misuse in a domestic violence context.

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

- N/A

4. Achievements

- Developed recommendations for gender-sensitive healthcare procedures regulating civilian and professional possession of firearms, with a view to preventing domestic and gender-based violence.
- Developed basis for further actions related to the role of the healthcare system in the prevention of SALW misuse for DV.

5. Work plan for Q1 2022

Planned activities	Budget
• N/A	-

Output 1.7	Media contributes to prevention of firearms misuse and domestic violence
Total budget: \$28,030	Spent 1 April 2021 – 31 December 2021: \$23,096

#### 1. Description of the output

- Output 1.7 is part of the project continuation phase and aims to contribute to further 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. It is implemented in partnership with the group “**Journalists against Violence**” composed of more than 70 female journalists and media editors to increase awareness of the media on the importance of adequate reporting on firearm misuse and firearm-enabled violence and to tackle the “**gun culture**” stemming from incoherent and benevolent media reporting. Activities refer to continuation of a qualitative analysis of media reporting on SALW misuse and domestic violence and implementation of media focused activities to increase partnership with and awareness of media on the importance of adequate reporting on firearms misuse and firearms-enabled violence. Activities under this output also envisaged the implementation of a campaign and advocacy activities towards greater awareness among men and women on the danger of firearm misuse in the context of gender-based violence and to address attitudes about masculinity that promote the use of firearms. Media focused activities are based on the communication and media strategy to firearms-enabled violence developed within the project.

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

- In 2021, the project developed the [guidelines](#) for ethical and gender-sensitive media reporting on domestic violence committed with firearms, as a follow-up to the recommendations provided by the qualitative analysis of media reporting on SALW misuse published in 2020. The guidelines are integrated into the revised version of the Journalists against Violence group’s general guidelines on ethical media reporting on violence against women.
- A [training module](#) for the media on gender-sensitive media reporting on domestic violence committed with firearms was prepared, as part of the group’s training curriculum on ethical media reporting on violence against women. The module will be available to journalists, photo-reporters and journalism students and applications will be received through the group “**Journalists against Violence**” webpage, currently being finalized.
- The group Journalists against Violence completed the analysis of media reporting on SALW and domestic violence for the first half of 2021 and is finalizing the analysis for the second half of 2021. The analysis shows that in the first half of 2021, 24% of the media reported with an educational and preventive purpose, while 17% of the media clearly points out that violence against women is a social issue and the result of the unequal position of women and men in the society. While in 2019 none of the analysed media reports contained a critical approach to firearm misuse in the domestic violence context, in the first half of 2021, this has increases to 4% of the media reports. Monitoring the quality of media reporting on the cases of domestic violence committed with firearms has now become a regular practice to the Journalists Against Violence group. Monitoring is conducted by the journalists themselves, and is also a way of raising awareness on the violation of ethical standards in media reporting and an eye-opener in terms of necessity for moving from a sensational to an educational and preventive reporting.
- Additionally, the project implemented a social media [campaign](#) on the dangers and consequences of firearms misuse, with the participation of journalist Maja Nikolić, drawing public attention to the dangers and lethality of firearms misuse for violence against women.

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

- N/A

#### 4. Achievements

- Strengthened capacities of the media to report on cases of domestic violence committed with firearms in an accurate and ethical way, leading to greater public awareness on the danger of firearm use in the context of gender-based violence.
- Increased understanding of the use of firearms in cases of domestic violence gained through the analysis of media reporting on SALW and domestic violence for the first half of 2021.

#### 5. Work plan for Q1 2022

Planned activities	Budget
• N/A	-

## Partnerships and Sustainability

In 2021, partnerships continued to be strengthened with implementing national partners, civil society organizations, and experts. This represents a solid basis for continuing the joint efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the legislative framework addressing domestic and gender-based violence and SALW control. Working on the development of the e-learning tools, the project team strengthened the partnership with the MoI and MoJ, as well as the Judiciary Academy. Existing cooperation with relevant women's NGOs, such as the Autonomous Women's Centre and FemPlatz was further strengthened through the development of relevant research. Activities contributed to greater visibility of the joint efforts. Cooperation was also established with health experts, through the work on exploring the role of the healthcare sector in preventing SALW misuse in domestic and intimate partner violence.

By focusing on administrative data collection practice on SALW misuse for domestic violence and violence against women, the project team established cooperation with the National Prosecution Office, which agreed to lead the process of improving the system of data collection within the systems of protection and prosecution. Furthermore, the National Prosecution Office suggested further stakeholders to be included in this work, such as the High Court Council. In this way, the project has contributed to broadening the pool of stakeholders involved, providing a basis for future cooperation, as well as ensuring a participatory process and ownership of governmental institutions.

## Update on risks and mitigation measures

The main risk during project implementation was the fact that the project was developed before the COVID-19 crisis. This forced the project team to conduct risk management and impose mitigation measures during the whole time of the project implementation, depending on the changing epidemiological situation. This affected mostly activities that were planned to be implemented in person/in the field. Some activities were shifted to the online, while in person meetings were still held in periods where national measures and epidemiological situation allowed it (e.g. presentations of research). The organization of in-person activities were held when supporting crucial institutions, such as the MoI and the Judiciary Academy, to ensure their full participation and ownership. Focus was on developing and using digital tools in their work, especially for digital learning. This ensures sustainability, wider availability and greater outreach of knowledge on domestic violence beyond project completion, addressing the fluctuation of professionals working in this area and enabling access to learning for professionals even in circumstances when on-site trainings cannot be organized.

## Lessons learnt

E-learning has been developed in the MoI and the Judiciary Academy for the first time. This will contribute to sustainability, cost-effectiveness, and greater outreach, with lasting results beyond the project duration. This was enabled through good cooperation with national partners and experts and ensuring national partner's active participation to ownership over processes.

Lengthy administrative procedures and strict communication rules of some national partners resulted in postponing some of the activities to a later stage during project implementation. More time should be planned for certain processes in future projects.

Shift from field to on-line activities is not possible in all the situations, especially when working with institutions. Most of them do not attend meetings and conferences on-line. The project has shown that it is useful to organize on site activities, when possible, while at the same time working to support crucial institutions, such as the MoI and the Judiciary Academy to develop and use digital tools in their work, especially for digital learning. This ensures sustainability, wider availability, and greater outreach of knowledge on domestic violence.

## 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.

## Web presence

The main communications actions implemented during the reporting period revolved around the publication of the Analysis of cases of femicides committed with firearms, and the dissemination of the analysis' findings and recommendations.

The analysis was published online on 17 May, one day prior to the National Remembrance Day of Women Victims of Violence, through a [press release](#) and posts on UNDP Serbia's social media channels - Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. The financial support of Germany to the project and the development of the analysis was duly acknowledged in the press release.

## Social media

The launch of the Analysis of cases of femicides committed with firearms was followed by a social media campaign using the findings of the analysis, which had a total reach of 4,598, 12,104 impressions<sup>1</sup>, 162 likes and 8 retweets.

Other activities communicated online were the expert meetings on firearms misuse in the context of domestic and intimate partner violence held in Novi Sad, Belgrade, Kragujevac and Niš, and attended by the members of the groups for cooperation and coordination - judiciary representatives, professionals from social welfare centers, as well as representatives of police.



Social media post shared by UNDP Serbia on its Facebook account, launching the analysis of cases of femicide committed with firearms. The launch was also communicated on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

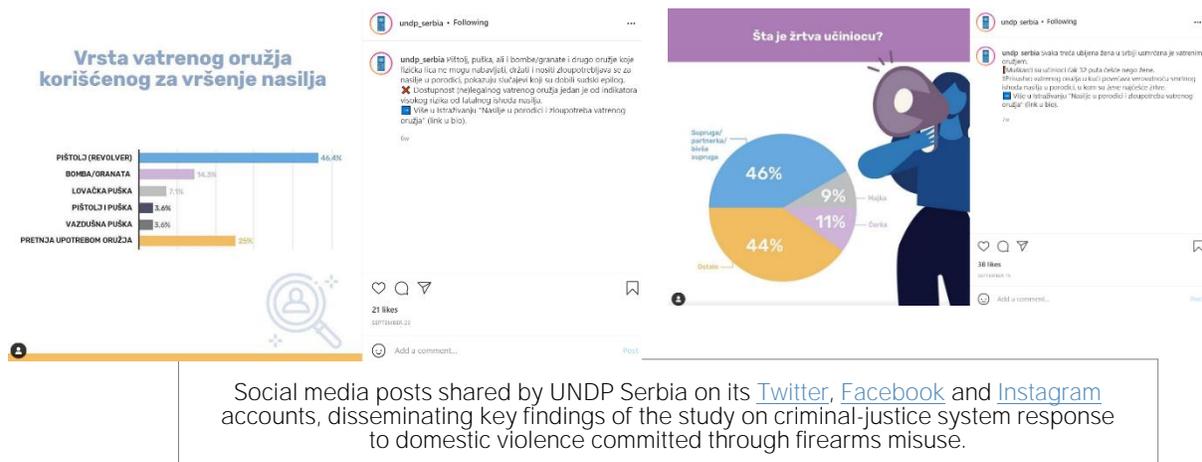


[Tweet](#) from the expert meeting held in Novi Sad, shared by UNDP Serbia.

Findings of the Study on the practice of institutions of the criminal justice system in response to domestic violence committed through misuse or threat of misuse of firearms were also disseminated on social media. Key findings of the study were shared through social media of UNDP (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) and

<sup>1</sup> Total reach refers to the total number of people who have seen the content, while impressions refer to the number of times the content was displayed, clicked or not.

those of the organization FemPlatz, which conducted the study. These had a total reach of 4,368, 6,153 impressions, 70 likes, and 6 retweets.



The project implemented a social media [campaign](#) on the dangers and consequences of firearms misuse, with the participation of journalist Maja Nikolić, drawing public attention to the dangers and lethality of firearms misuse for violence against women. The campaign included a video launched first by Maja Nikolić on her Instagram profile on November 21, followed by posts on UNDP's [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) pages and Youtube channel. This video had an outstanding reach on Twitter, making more than 17,000 impressions, through 17 retweets - making it one of the most successful posts UNDP Serbia account had during the year. The video's reach on Facebook and Instagram was nearly 41,000. On Instagram, the video was saved 65 times and reshared 45 times.



### Visibility in the local media

The analysis of cases of femicides committed with firearms also received significant media attention, as 21 media reports, including press, web portals and TV, national and local, were published on the availability of the analysis and its main findings. The list of media reports is presented below:

Rsn1info.com	<a href="https://rs.n1info.com/vesti/analiza-za-tri-godine-u-srbiji-ubijene-84-zene-cesto-korisceno-vatreno-oruzje/">https://rs.n1info.com/vesti/analiza-za-tri-godine-u-srbiji-ubijene-84-zene-cesto-korisceno-vatreno-oruzje/</a>
Danas.rs	<a href="https://www.danas.rs/drustvo/autonomni-zenski-centar-za-tri-godine-u-srbiji-ubijene-84-zene/">https://www.danas.rs/drustvo/autonomni-zenski-centar-za-tri-godine-u-srbiji-ubijene-84-zene/</a>
haber.rs	<a href="https://www.haber.rs/analiza-n1-za-tri-godine-u-srbiji-ubijene-84-zene/">https://www.haber.rs/analiza-n1-za-tri-godine-u-srbiji-ubijene-84-zene/</a>

autonomija.info	<a href="https://www.autonomija.info/analiza-za-tri-godine-u-srbiji-ubijene-84-zene-cesto-korisceno-vatreno-oruzje.html">https://www.autonomija.info/analiza-za-tri-godine-u-srbiji-ubijene-84-zene-cesto-korisceno-vatreno-oruzje.html</a>
vamedia.info	<a href="https://www.vamedia.info/2021/05/dsubistvo-valjevke-uoci-dana-secanja-na-zene-zrtve-nasilja/">https://www.vamedia.info/2021/05/dsubistvo-valjevke-uoci-dana-secanja-na-zene-zrtve-nasilja/</a>
valjevonadlanu.rs	<a href="http://valjevonadlanu.rs/2021/05/17/ubistvo-valjevke-uoci-dana-secanja-na-zene-zrtve-nasilja/">http://valjevonadlanu.rs/2021/05/17/ubistvo-valjevke-uoci-dana-secanja-na-zene-zrtve-nasilja/</a>
vesti.rs	<a href="https://www.vesti.rs/Vesti/Autonomni-zenski-centar-Za-tri-godine-u-Srbiji-ubijene-84-zene.html">https://www.vesti.rs/Vesti/Autonomni-zenski-centar-Za-tri-godine-u-Srbiji-ubijene-84-zene.html</a>
013info.rs	<a href="https://013info.rs/vesti/srbija/za-tri-godine-u-srbiji-su-ubijene-84-zene">https://013info.rs/vesti/srbija/za-tri-godine-u-srbiji-su-ubijene-84-zene</a>
Fonet.rs	<a href="https://fonet.rs/drustvo/35967317/ubijene-84-zene.html">https://fonet.rs/drustvo/35967317/ubijene-84-zene.html</a>
nova.rs	<a href="https://nova.rs/vesti/hronika/analiza-n1-za-tri-godine-u-srbiji-ubijene-84-zene/">https://nova.rs/vesti/hronika/analiza-n1-za-tri-godine-u-srbiji-ubijene-84-zene/</a>
021.rs	<a href="https://www.021.rs/story/Info/Srbija/274243/Za-tri-godine-u-Srbiji-su-ubijene-84-zene.html">https://www.021.rs/story/Info/Srbija/274243/Za-tri-godine-u-Srbiji-su-ubijene-84-zene.html</a>
naslovi.net	<a href="https://naslovi.net/2021-05-17/danas/autonomni-zenski-centar-za-tri-godine-u-srbiji-ubijene-84-zene/27941829">https://naslovi.net/2021-05-17/danas/autonomni-zenski-centar-za-tri-godine-u-srbiji-ubijene-84-zene/27941829</a>
Cemaforum.rs	<a href="https://www.cemaforum.rs/sr/vest/3478/Analiza:-Za-tri-godine-u-Srbiji-ubijene-84-%C5%BEene,-%C4%8Desto-kori%C5%A1%C4%87eno-vatreno-oru%C5%BEje/">https://www.cemaforum.rs/sr/vest/3478/Analiza:-Za-tri-godine-u-Srbiji-ubijene-84-%C5%BEene,-%C4%8Desto-kori%C5%A1%C4%87eno-vatreno-oru%C5%BEje/</a>
rtv.rs	<a href="http://www.rtv.rs/sr_lat/hronika/za-tri-godine-ubijene-84-zene_1239587.html">http://www.rtv.rs/sr_lat/hronika/za-tri-godine-ubijene-84-zene_1239587.html</a>
Novostiplus.info	<a href="https://novostiplus.info/analiza-n1-za-tri-godine-u-srbiji-ubijene-84-zene/">https://novostiplus.info/analiza-n1-za-tri-godine-u-srbiji-ubijene-84-zene/</a>
vamedia.info	<a href="https://www.vamedia.info/2021/05/dsubistvo-valjevke-uoci-dana-secanja-na-zene-zrtve-nasilja/">https://www.vamedia.info/2021/05/dsubistvo-valjevke-uoci-dana-secanja-na-zene-zrtve-nasilja/</a>
slobodnavojvodina.rs	<a href="https://www.slobodnavojvodina.rs/slobodna-vojvodina/analiza-za-tri-godine-u-srbiji-ubijene-84-zene-cesto-korisceno-vatreno-oruzje/">https://www.slobodnavojvodina.rs/slobodna-vojvodina/analiza-za-tri-godine-u-srbiji-ubijene-84-zene-cesto-korisceno-vatreno-oruzje/</a>
kolubarske.rs	<a href="https://www.kolubarske.rs/sr/vesti/valjevo/10779/Ubistvo-Valjevke-uo%C4%8Di-dana-se%C4%87anja-na-%C5%BEene-%C5%BErtve-nasilja.htm">https://www.kolubarske.rs/sr/vesti/valjevo/10779/Ubistvo-Valjevke-uo%C4%8Di-dana-se%C4%87anja-na-%C5%BEene-%C5%BErtve-nasilja.htm</a>
valjevskaposla.info	<a href="https://www.valjevskaposla.info/ubistvo-valjevke-uoci-dana-secanja-na-zene-zrtve-nasilja/">https://www.valjevskaposla.info/ubistvo-valjevke-uoci-dana-secanja-na-zene-zrtve-nasilja/</a>
Rtv.rs	<a href="https://media.rtv.rs/sr_lat/pravi-ugao/65237">https://media.rtv.rs/sr_lat/pravi-ugao/65237</a> , Right Angle Program hosted by multiply awarded journalist Ljubica Gojčić
K1 tv	Appearance of analysis author on K1 Television – Program on Firearms Misuse and Femicides: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SdCshQ3Yt44">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SdCshQ3Yt44</a>

The video developed within the [campaign](#) on the dangers and consequences of firearms misuse was aired on Nova S television’s morning show on 25 November 2021, with Jovana Netković, a member of the group Journalists against violence, as the guest who talked about the dangers of firearms misuse for domestic violence and responsible media reporting on the issue: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPKiRVhnc8s>

The regional foundation for the development of philanthropy Catalyst Balkans published an article on the occasion of 30 years of the “16 days of activism” campaign, in which the joint work of the Autonomous Women’s Centre and UNDP on prevention of firearms misuse and femicide was described and listed as one of the top feminist initiatives of 2021: <https://givingbalkans.org/srbija/content/16-dana-aktivizma-2021>

#### Presence in international events

UNDP’s work on combatting misuse of firearms in domestic violence was presented by the project manager Maja Brankovic Djundic at the international conference “Against firearm related violence in Sweden” on November 3, 2021, organized by Swedish educational company Piku: <https://www.bravetalk.se/wp-content/uploads/against-firearm-related-violence-program-43.2.pdf>

## Publications

Several publications were printed and published online during the reporting period. All publications mention the financial support provided by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, while the German Cooperation logo is visibly placed together with the UNDP and Roadmap logos.

1. Small arms and light weapons, gender-based violence and domestic violence: analysis of regulatory framework and practice [BCMS] [ENG];
2. Domestic violence and firearms use. A study on the practice of institutions of the criminal justice system in response to domestic violence committed through misuse of threat of misuse of firearms [BCMS][ENG];
3. Guidelines for prosecutors, judges and multi-agency groups for cooperation and coordination on the collection of evidence and ensuring adequate protection and prosecution of cases of domestic violence [BCMS]
4. Analysis of cases of femicide committed with firearms (June 2017 – June 2020) [BCMS][ENG]
5. Guidelines for ethical and gender-sensitive media reporting on domestic violence committed with firearms (co-funded through this project) [BCMS] [ENG]
6. Analysis of media reporting on SALW and domestic violence for first half of 2021
7. Informative guide for firearms license applicants and their family members on key facts on domestic violence and firearms misuse
8. Analysis of administrative data collection practices on the misuse of SALW in domestic and intimate partner violence
9. Analysis of data on SALW and domestic violence in the period 2017-2020
10. Policy paper mapping the relationship between domestic violence, SALW misuse and public health, as a foundation for short- and long-term actions, UNDP Serbia

Dissemination of the developed publications will continue beyond project implementation. As relevant, they will be included in suggested readings within the e-learning platforms of the Judiciary Academy, on the MoJ's website dedicated to prevention of domestic violence -www.iskljucinasilje.rs. The MoJ and the National Council for Combating Domestic Violence will continue to distribute relevant publications at their trainings for professionals organized outside of this project

## Additional donor visibility

The donor's and project's visibility were ensured through:

- the inclusion of the name and brief description of the project goal, as well as the name of the donor at the beginning of each published material and use of the donor's logo, including full publications, as well as factsheets and brochures.
- the use of the donor's logo on printed materials distributed at events to share findings of research and knowledge collected through the project (mask, usb stick, file, notebook, textile bag).
- use of project name and donor's and Roadmap logo on introductory slides of presentations at events implemented during the reporting period.
- communication of the donor's support in press releases and public communication.



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	
Project number:	2019SRB02
Implemented by:	UNDP Serbia
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 – November 2021
Total budget: \$958,284	Spent 25 July 2019 – 31 December 2021: \$957,633

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 supports 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 contributes to stronger legal proceedings and increased number of SALW-related convictions.

The project has equipped 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 thus started preparation for the accreditation 17025, and the CSI units for the accreditation 17020. The accreditation path is a long-term process, especially to achieve the 17020 standard. 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 supports 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.

## OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS TOWARDS RESULTS

<u>PROJECT OUTPUT</u>	<u>PROJECT OUTPUT INDICATOR</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>STATUS OF PROJECT RESULTS</u>	<u>ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST INDICATORS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE PROJECT</u>
Output 2.1. Regulatory framework established	Standard operating procedure on the chain of custody of law enforcement drafted	Yes	Achieved	SOP on the chain of custody of law enforcement was drafted and approved by the National Forensic Centre (NFC).
	Standard operating procedure on crime scene investigation amended	Yes	Achieved	SOP on crime scene investigation was amended and approved by the NFC.
	Standard operating procedure of packaging and tagging of evidence amended	Yes	Achieved	SOP for packaging and tagging of evidence was developed and approved by the NFC.
	Standard operating procedure on the development of an open case file (OCF) for ballistic examination prepared	Yes	Achieved	SOP on the development of an “open case file” for ballistic examination was prepared and approved by the NFC.
Output 2.2. Increased capacity of CSI	Number of CSI units ready for ISO 17020 standard accreditation	27 <sup>1</sup>	Achieved	27 CSI units have been prepared for ISO 17020 standard accreditation, though guidance for the application of the standard, and training.
	Number of CSI units that improved capacities for collection of evidence and for conducting criminal investigations in reported cases of domestic violence	27	Achieved	27 CSI units improved their capacities for collecting evidence and for conducting criminal investigations in reported cases of domestic violence by using the related analysis developed within the project.
	Number of new equipment provided to all CSI teams	At least 7 per team	Achieved	Specialized SALW-related equipment was procured and installed, including 37 basic CSI kits, three 3D scanners and software for animation and reconstruction for CSI and ballistic work, IT equipment, portable forensic UV/IR

<sup>1</sup> The figure has been correct compared to the project document, as in reality the MoI has 27 regional police directorates, and thus 27 CSI units.

				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, GSR stubs, gel-lifters, numeric crime scene markers sets, and numeric/alphabet crime scene labels and arrows
Output 2.3. Central level lab equipped to better tag and file the evidence, improve reception at Forensic laboratory and temporary storage, as well as improve ballistic testing	Laboratory Inventory Management System (LIMS) installed	Yes	Achieved	Software was developed and installed.
	Open Case File, storage and database in the Central Lab established	Yes	Achieved	OCF room was established, equipped and storage and OCF database was installed.
	Reception room and transfer storage established	Yes	Achieved	Reception room was established and equipment, and transfer storage was established.
	Number of new storing equipment provided	3	Achieved	More than 9 different items of the necessary equipment was provided and installed in the Reception room.
	Water tank for test-firing installed	Yes	Achieved	Water tank for test firing was installed and specialized training for eight ballistic experts was organized. Also, an SOP for the safety usage was prepared and adopted.

Output 2.1	Regulatory framework established
Total budget: \$72,000	Spent 25 July 2019 – 31 December 2021: \$28,416

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 2021, the project team finalized and completed the SOP on the development of an OCF for ballistic examination, which was also approved by the NFC.

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

- N/A

4. Achievements

- Storage and analysis of ballistic evidence improved through the SOP on the development of an OCF for ballistic examination.

5. Work plan for Q1 2022

Planned activities	Budget
• N/A	-

Output 2.2	Increased capacity of CSI
Total budget: \$341,000	Spent 25 July 2019 – 31 December 2021: \$363,832

### 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 2021, the project team organized a two-day online training on crime scene investigations and chain of custody. 60 participants from the forensic lines of work increased their knowledge and understanding of 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 prosecutors, courts, forensic medicine institutes, etc. The training provided 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 under Output 1.1
- To improve capacities for the collection of evidence and for conducting criminal investigations in reported cases of domestic violence, the project team supported the development of an instruction regarding the exact procedure in the area of domestic violence for the CSI officers, which was then adopted by the NFC. This guiding document proposes recommendations to improve the collection of evidence and strengthen the criminal justice response in order to reduce the number of dismissed criminal reports of domestic violence due to lack of evidence. The Instruction was printed and distributed to the NFC who shared with the Prosecutor's office and medical institutions and teams which are working together with CSI teams on the crime scene.
- In 2021, specialized SALW-related equipment for the CSI line of work was procured and installed, in addition to the initially planned equipment. At the request of the MoI, 27 CSI investigation kits, 3 special forensics blue lights, and 7 CSI cameras for 27 police directorates around Serbia were procured after the approval of the regional project manager. The project team was able to share the specialized forensic equipment with the forensic teams around Serbia, as the previous procurement activities were focused on the Belgrade team and the bigger teams in Serbia.



*Equipment procured for the use of the CSI units.  
Photos: UNDP Serbia*

- Furthermore, 60 participants from the CSI units across Serbia were trained on the accreditation of the CSI infrastructure according to ISO /IEC 17020. The training was organized online over two days, allowing police officers from different regions to gather at the same time and discuss about procedures and daily tasks that should be improved in order to accelerate the process of accreditation.

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

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the trainings on crime scene investigations and chain of custody, and on the CSI accreditation had to be organized online. In the online format, the training was able to bring together participants from all 27 regional police directorates in a space for sharing knowledge and experience.
- In agreement with the MoI, the project team decided to no longer organize the training on the collection of evidence and in conducting criminal investigations in reported cases of domestic violence, given the COVID-19 related restrictions. Instead, to ensure increased effectiveness and sustainability of this activity, the Instruction was printed and provided to MoI staff, as well as to the Prosecutor's Office and medical institutions that are involved in the investigation and collection of evidence in cases of domestic violence. Thus, the project has ensured relevant and adequate information for different parties, all involved in the investigation process related to domestic violence.
- The project also experienced certain delays in the delivery of the purchased equipment, due to supply chain issues present on the global level.
- Given that the training for CSI units and the training on the accreditation of the CSI infrastructure were organized online, the budget for these activities was not spent in full. The savings resulted were re-allocated to the procurement of additional equipment necessary for improving the quality of work of the CSI units, i.e. CSI kits, photo cameras, and special forensics lights. This budget revision was conducted in agreement with the regional project manager.

### 4. Achievements

- 60 participants from the forensic lines in the 27 regional police directorates in Serbia were trained on crime scene investigations and chain of custody, advancing the CSI units in the accreditation process.
- Instruction on domestic violence adopted by NFC, contributing to the improved response of the law enforcement system regarding the collection of evidence and strengthening the criminal justice response in case of domestic violence involving firearms.
- Technical capacities of CSI units enhanced through the procurement and delivery of specialized SALW-related equipment.
- 60 participants from the CSI units across Serbia gained knowledge about the CSI accreditation process, including necessary documents, procedures and the roles of the CSI unit staff in this process.

### 5. Work plan for Q1 2022

Planned activities	Budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• N/A</li></ul>	-

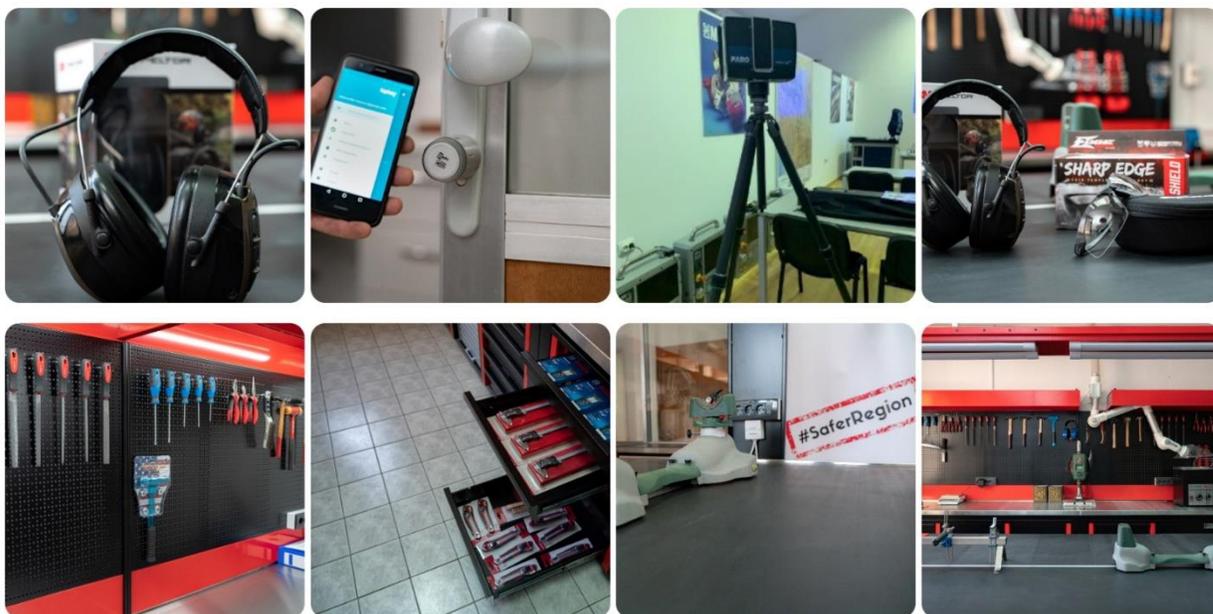
Output 2.3	Central level lab equipped to better tag and file the evidence, improve reception at Forensic laboratory and temporary storage, as well as improve ballistic testing
Total budget: \$350,000	Spent 25 July 2019 – 31 December 2021: \$370,134

### 1. Description of the output

- Activities 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 has been followed by 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. The proper reception and storage room has been 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 in line with the ISO/IEC 17025 standard.

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

- In 2021, the LIMS was developed and installed in the Central ballistic lab in Belgrade. The system enables 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. Training for the LIMS end-users was also provided.
- To enable the use of the LIMS, two laptops and two printers were also procured and installed in the lab, for the administrators of the LIMS.
- Also, the open case database was developed and installed in the Central ballistic lab in Belgrade. The open case database helps increase the investigative capacities of the Central ballistic laboratory in Belgrade and improve the methods of linking different gun-enabled crimes and identifying firearms used in committing crimes. The database was designed as an additional and compatible software with the LIMS. Training for the end-users was also provided.
- At the request of the NFC, additional equipment for the ballistic laboratory was procured and delivered to improve the efficiency of the ballistic experts' work. This includes 7 IT sets (3 laptops and 4 desktops), a bullet trap, 7 laboratory chairs, extractor fan, gunsmith tables with LED illumination and toolkits.
- Also, at the request of the project beneficiary, video surveillance support equipment (hardware and memory space) and control access system for the reception room were procured and installed.



*Equipment procured for ballistic laboratory. Photo: UNDP Serbia*

- A SNAIL bullet catcher was also provided to help check the functionality of firearms of different calibres and bullet's energies in laboratory conditions, without using the services of an external shooting range. The catcher meets the conditions that allow safe handling of equipment, as well as fire and environmental standards.
- To complement the installation of the water tank for test firing in 2020, and at request of the NFC, an SOP for Self-contained test firing laboratory using water tank was developed and approved by the ballistic lab. This procedure aims to ensure the safety of all staff members when handling, inspecting and testing firearms and ammunition. Also, special equipment (i.e., special clothes, lens kits, and shooter headsets) for the experts who are daily using the water tank were provided at the request of the NFC.
- Finally, the project team, UNDP and the ballistic lab met with NABIS continued to coordinate and discuss activities according to the Action plan for the accreditation of the Ballistic Laboratory. During their visits at the ballistic lab, NABIS representatives were impressed with the development of the ballistic lab and the plans for further development through the second phase of the project funded from the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

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

- Given the savings resulted from the implementation of other activities, and specifically the organization of trainings online instead of in-person, part of the budget savings was re-allocated to the procurement of additional equipment necessary for improving the quality of work of the ballistic laboratory, i.e. IT equipment, video surveillance equipment, and special equipment for test firing. The procurement was conducted in agreement with the regional project manager.

### 4. Achievements

- Strengthened capacities of the ballistic laboratory to collect, store, keep record, and analyse ballistic evidence for improved quality of SALW-related investigations achieved through the development of the LIMS and of the open case database, provision of specialized equipment, and development and approval of SOP.
- Better working conditions for examination of ballistic evidence gained through the gunsmith working ballistic room modernised and equipped with tables, toolkits, and proper illumination.

### 5. Work plan for Q1 2022

Planned activities	Budget
• N/A	-

## 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. Two meetings were organized, one online and one as a field visit of the NABIS experts to support ballistic laboratory through the update of the Action plan for the accreditation process. Cooperation was also continued 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.

An important partnership was organized in March 2021 during the [ceremony for handing over the equipment for CSI and forensic and ballistic examination](#) procured in 2020. The event was organized in Belgrade and was attended by the Ambassador of Germany to Serbia, the Minister of Interior of Serbia, and the UNDP Resident Representative. This was an opportunity to demonstrate UNDP's support to the Roadmap implementation achieved with Germany's financial support, and strengthen partnerships at the high level.

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 was initiated in January 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

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to be identified as a risk with high impact. To mitigate the risk and allow the project activities to be finalized as planned, UNDP CO Serbia requested for a 3 months no-cost extension of the project and then 2 months more, to allow activities to be completed. The request was approved by the regional project manager.

## Lessons learnt

The main lesson learnt during 2021 was the importance of switching to virtual and on-line meetings to continue the good coordination with the Mol, and swift replacement of the project budget from trainings into purchasing of the equipment which further enabled the successful implementation of the project thus far. A very important part was the swift reaction and flexibility of the regional project manager and donors who supported the changes during the implementation of the related activities.

## 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.

### Major events

An important event organized by the project was the [ceremony for handing over the equipment for CSI and forensic and ballistic examination](#) procured in 2020. The event was organized in Belgrade, on 19 March 2021. The ceremony was attended by Mr. Thomas Schieb, Ambassador of Germany to Serbia, Mr. Aleksandar Vulin, Minister of Interior of Serbia, and Ms. Francine Pickup, UNDP Resident Representative.



Photo from the handover ceremony.  
Photo: UNDP Serbia

### Social media

The project team prepared a video showcasing the results of the project. A short version of the video was distributed on UNDP Serbia’s social media accounts, while a longer version was posted on UNDP Serbia’s [YouTube channel](#). The materials were prepared in coordination with the department for media and communication in the MoI. The German cooperation logo has been visibly placed on the materials, while the Ambassador of Germany in Serbia has been also featured in the video, highlighting the support provided by Germany to this project.



Capture from the video material prepared by UNDP Serbia, showcasing the project results and featuring the German Ambassador to Serbia.



Facebook and Twitter posts about the handover of the equipment ceremony for handing over the equipment for CSI and forensic and ballistic examination.

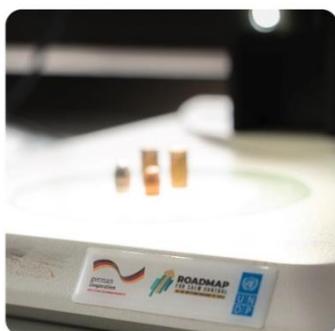
## Presence in local media

The handover ceremony was communicated in the local media, as seen in the table below:

RTV Vojvodina	<a href="https://www.rtv.rs/sr_lat/drustvo/vulin-u-srbiji-nijedan-zlocin-nece-ostati-nerasvetljen_1220106.html">https://www.rtv.rs/sr_lat/drustvo/vulin-u-srbiji-nijedan-zlocin-nece-ostati-nerasvetljen_1220106.html</a>
Novosti	<a href="https://www.novosti.rs/c/vesti/drustvo/976841/policija-resila-svih-pet-mafijaskih-ubistava-prosle-godine-ministar-vulin-srbiji-nijedan-zlocin-nece-ostati-nerasvetljen-foto">https://www.novosti.rs/c/vesti/drustvo/976841/policija-resila-svih-pet-mafijaskih-ubistava-prosle-godine-ministar-vulin-srbiji-nijedan-zlocin-nece-ostati-nerasvetljen-foto</a>
Danas	<a href="https://www.danas.rs/drustvo/vulin-reseno-pet-mafijaskih-ubistva/">https://www.danas.rs/drustvo/vulin-reseno-pet-mafijaskih-ubistva/</a>
Happy TV	<a href="http://happytv.rs/vesti/dru%C5%A1tvo/281411/vulin-u-srbiji-nijedan-zlo%C4%8Din-nerasvetljen?fbclid=IwAR3Qzxy4zrR4HSI3JlwWaZiZk4zSRkl8xMLYw_OH9VgsTAixT-BJNWPff_k">http://happytv.rs/vesti/dru%C5%A1tvo/281411/vulin-u-srbiji-nijedan-zlo%C4%8Din-nerasvetljen?fbclid=IwAR3Qzxy4zrR4HSI3JlwWaZiZk4zSRkl8xMLYw_OH9VgsTAixT-BJNWPff_k</a>
N1	<a href="https://rs.n1info.com/vesti/vulin-srpska-policija-resila-svih-pet-mafijaskih-ubistava-iz-prosle-godine/">https://rs.n1info.com/vesti/vulin-srpska-policija-resila-svih-pet-mafijaskih-ubistava-iz-prosle-godine/</a>
Glas srpske	<a href="https://www.glassrpske.com/cir/novosti/srbija/vulin-nijedan-zlocin-nece-ostati-nerasvijetljen/354763">https://www.glassrpske.com/cir/novosti/srbija/vulin-nijedan-zlocin-nece-ostati-nerasvijetljen/354763</a>
ATV	<a href="https://www.atvbl.com/vijesti/srbija/vulin-nijedan-zlocin-nece-ostati-nerasvijetljen-19-3-2021">https://www.atvbl.com/vijesti/srbija/vulin-nijedan-zlocin-nece-ostati-nerasvijetljen-19-3-2021</a>
Dnevnik.rs	<a href="https://www.dnevnik.rs/hronika/vulin-policija-resila-svih-pet-mafijaskih-ubistava-2020-19-03-2021">https://www.dnevnik.rs/hronika/vulin-policija-resila-svih-pet-mafijaskih-ubistava-2020-19-03-2021</a>
Vesti.rs	<a href="https://www.vesti.rs/Intervju/Vulin-Srpska-policija-resila-svih-pet-mafijaskih-ubistava-iz-prosle-godine.htmlq">https://www.vesti.rs/Intervju/Vulin-Srpska-policija-resila-svih-pet-mafijaskih-ubistava-iz-prosle-godine.htmlq</a>
Naslovi.net	<a href="https://naslovi.net/2021-03-19/n1-info/vulin-srpska-policija-resila-svih-pet-mafijaskih-ubistava-iz-prosle-godine/27539315">https://naslovi.net/2021-03-19/n1-info/vulin-srpska-policija-resila-svih-pet-mafijaskih-ubistava-iz-prosle-godine/27539315</a>
MUP	<a href="https://www.srbija.gov.rs/vest/529402/donirana-forenzicka-oprema-mup-u-srbije.php">https://www.srbija.gov.rs/vest/529402/donirana-forenzicka-oprema-mup-u-srbije.php</a>
TV Most	<a href="https://www.tvmost.info/post/vulin-sib-i-pikap-predstavili-opremu-doniranu-mup-u">https://www.tvmost.info/post/vulin-sib-i-pikap-predstavili-opremu-doniranu-mup-u</a>
Studio B	<a href="https://studiob.rs/vulin-sib-i-pikap-predstavili-opremu-doniranu-mup-u/">https://studiob.rs/vulin-sib-i-pikap-predstavili-opremu-doniranu-mup-u/</a>
MUP	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MnrrX9HMOBY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MnrrX9HMOBY</a>
Time.rs	<a href="https://time.rs/c/1e482f38d8/vulin-u-srbiji-nijedan-zlocin-nece-ostati-nerasvetljen.html">https://time.rs/c/1e482f38d8/vulin-u-srbiji-nijedan-zlocin-nece-ostati-nerasvetljen.html</a>
Pink	<a href="https://pink.rs/drustvo/285371/ministar-vulin-prisustvovao-prezentaciji-forenzicke-opreme-koja-je-donirana-nacionalnom-centru-za-kriminalisticku-forenziku">https://pink.rs/drustvo/285371/ministar-vulin-prisustvovao-prezentaciji-forenzicke-opreme-koja-je-donirana-nacionalnom-centru-za-kriminalisticku-forenziku</a>
Republika.rs	<a href="https://www.republika.rs/vesti/srbija/266767/ministar-vulin-prisustvovao-prezentaciji-forenzicke-opreme-koja-donirana-nacionalnom-centru-kriminalisticku-forenziku">https://www.republika.rs/vesti/srbija/266767/ministar-vulin-prisustvovao-prezentaciji-forenzicke-opreme-koja-donirana-nacionalnom-centru-kriminalisticku-forenziku</a>

## Donor visibility

Donor visibility on the equipment procured within the project was ensured through stickers containing the German Cooperation logo, which were visibility placed on the equipment.



Stickers placed on the equipment procured within the project. Photos: UNDP Serbia

## Publications

A brief presentation document showcasing the results of the project was developed. The document mentions the financial support provided by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany.

UNDP Serbia Project Factsheet

**ADVANCING THE CAPACITIES IN THE FIELD OF CUSTODY CHAIN, CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATIONS AND THE BALLISTIC EXAMINATIONS**



**Donor**  
Government of Germany

**Main Partner**  
Ministry of Interior (MoI)

**Funding**  
\$958,284

**Duration**  
2019-2021

**GOAL**

To assist the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia to efficiently perform crime scene investigations, analyze and store evidence, in line with international standards, within the wider support for tackling the misuse and illicit possession of Small Arms and Light Weapons.

**CONTEXT**

The EU Strategy Against Illicit Firearms, Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their Ammunition, identified that the scale of accumulation of SALW and ammunition in the Western Balkans, inadequate storage conditions, widespread illicit possession and gaps in implementation continue to limit the effectiveness of SALW control efforts. The Republic of Serbia adopted the regional Roadmap for SALW Control that envisages the Western Balkans as a safer region, where mechanisms fully harmonized with the EU and other international standards are in place to identify, prevent, prosecute, and control the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of firearms, ammunition and explosives. The Roadmap is a testimony of the consensus reached among all stakeholders in the Western Balkans about the current challenges, the overall targets to be reached and the timeline of actions to be taken. Under the scope of this project UNDP is implementing the activities within the framework of the Roadmap.

**FOCUS**

- Developing standard operating procedures in the area of crime scene investigation, chain of custody and ballistics
- Increasing the knowledge and skills of the crime scene investigators
- Improving laboratory inventory management system
- Procurement of the equipment for CSI teams and ballistic laboratory in line with forensic best practices



**RESULTS**

**NEW EQUIPMENT**

- Equipment for 27 Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) units in Serbia delivered – CSI investigation kits, special forensic UV lamps, 3D scanners
- Equipment for Ballistic Laboratory in Belgrade delivered - microscope, security lockers
- Open Case File Room (OCF) equipment delivered
- The water tank for test firing installed
- Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) software developed and installed




**RECONSTRUCTION WORKS**

- Reception room in the Ballistic Laboratory in Belgrade adapted




**SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE BUILDING**

- More than 60 officers trained for accreditation procedure in the field of custody chain and crime scene investigations
- More than 60 officers trained for accreditation in the field of crime scene investigation ISO 17020
- More than 570 officers trained for the usage of the donated equipment




**DIRECT PROJECT BENEFICIARIES**

550 Crime Scene Investigators in Serbia

20 representatives of the Ballistic Laboratory in Belgrade

**CONTRIBUTING TO SDGs**

**16** PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



**5** GENDER EQUALITY



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 Phone: +381 (0)1141553000

Sub-project <b>3. Support Albania’s Law Enforcement Authorities to Strengthen Firearms Criminality Evidence Management and Investigation Capacities</b>	
Project number:	2019ALB03
Implemented by:	UNDP Albania
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 – June 2022
Total budget: \$1,185,471	Spent 25 July 2019 – 31 December 2021: \$957,633

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.

## OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS TOWARDS RESULTS

<u>PROJECT OUTPUT</u>	<u>PROJECT OUTPUT INDICATOR</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>STATUS OF PROJECT RESULTS</u>	<u>ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST INDICATORS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE PROJECT</u>
Output 3.1. Capacity building for CSI Units	Number of Standard Operating Procedures revised, updated and adopted.	4	Partially achieved	Four SOPs were drafted for the OCF for ballistic examination, chain of custody of evidence, crime scene investigation, and tagging and packaging of evidence. Five other SOP 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. The SOPs are pending the approval of the AISP.
	Number of training on the introduction, understanding and application of SOPs	8	Achieved	80 staff members of CSI units from across Albania and AISP ballistics personnel were trained on the use of new SOPs. All staff trained during 8 training sessions of 10 police officers.
	Number of standard and specialized kits provided to CSI units at AISP and in the field	32	Achieved	32 basic and specialized kits were procured and delivered to the CSI units.
	CSI Units equipped with mobile communicators with thermo-vision cameras	16	Achieved	One thermo-vision camera was provided. As per ASP request, instead of the remaining cameras, 1 Thermal vision camera, 5 set of IT equipment, 1 Bone Grinder for DNA extraction, 1 Chronograph to measure the velocity of projectiles, 1 Ultrasonic cleaner for bullets, 1 Gun vise for capturing metal materials, 3 Electronic calibres for measuring bullets, 1 Electronic weight scale were provided.
	CSI Units use 3D scanners at the crime scene	3	Achieved	Three 3D scanners were procured and delivered to the AISP. Training on the use of the equipment was delivered.
Output 3.2. Development of Evidence Management Systems	Establishment of LIMS for the forensic workflow	1	Achieved	LIMS was developed and installed.

	Number of trainings on LIMS functionality and usage and beneficiaries	3	Achieved	148 Police Officers were trained on the use of LIMS, during 3 training sessions.
	Ballistic sector has in place an OCF database	1	Achieved	OCF database was developed and installed.
Output 3.2. Efficiency of the Ballistic Sector of AISP strengthened	Purchase and installation of a Water Tank for bullet recovery	1	Achieved	Water Tank was procured and delivered to the AISP.
	Ballistic sector upgrades its comparative microscope	1	Achieved	1 comparative microscope was delivered to the AISP.
	Ballistic sector upgrades its stock of trinocular microscopes	5	Achieved	5 trinocular microscopes were delivered to the AISP.
	Increased rate of resolved cases involving forensic analysis (ratio cases resolved/total cases), including gender disaggregation	+30%	Activities initiated	An assessment will be conducted in 2022.

Output 3.1	Enhanced capacities of CSI Units
Total budget: \$429,560	Spent 25 July 2019 – 31 December 2021: \$406,043

### 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 supports 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 includes 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 2021, the AISP was provided with necessary equipment to increase the quality and accuracy of the ballistic and DNA examinations, resulting in more reliable and accurate evidence. The equipment included 5 sets of IT equipment, 1 thermal vision camera, 1 bone grinder for DNA extraction, 1 chronograph to measure the velocity of projectiles, 1 ultrasonic cleaner for bullets, 1 gun vise for capturing metal materials, 3 electronic calibers for measuring bullets, and 1 electronic weight scale.
- Also, 7 State Police officers from the AISP and CSI Units from the Regional Police Directorates of Tirana and Durres were trained to use the 3D scanners provided in 2020, an effective tool to enhance the crime scene investigation capacities. The training was delivered by representatives of the Austrian Company who managed to travel to Tirana to complete the training.



Training on the use of 3D scanners. Photo: UNDP Albania

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

- At the request of the AISP, the 16 thermal vision cameras initially planned in the project document were substituted with the other pieces of equipment. This change was conducted in agreement with the regional project manager.
- After all the planned activities were conducted, the project remained with unspent funds, primarily due to the fact that the offers received for the planned procurement had been lower than the initially planned budget that was developed in May 2019. Following discussions with the project beneficiaries, the project team identified additional equipment needs that could be addressed with the unspent funds. The additional equipment will contribute to the achievement of the project's objective, as these proposed purchases complement the already procured items for the project beneficiary. The Project Board approved the extension of the project with 6 months to allow sufficient time to complete the procurement procedures and delivery of the additional equipment.

#### 4. Achievements

- Increased quality and accuracy of the ballistic and DNA examinations achieved through the new technologically advanced equipment procured and delivered through this project.
- Crime scene investigation capacities enhanced through the training on the use of the 3D scanners.

#### 5. Work plan for Q1 2022

Planned activities	Budget
• Initiate procurement of additional equipment for the CSI units.	\$121,300

Output 3.2	Development of Evidence Management Systems
Total budget: \$178,000	Spent 25 July 2019 – 31 December 2021: \$160,401

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 enables the development of software for OCF evidencing and automation and improvement of physical storage.

2. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period

- In 2021, the project team supported the development and installation of the LIMS and OCF database in the AISP. The LIMS is a software that will help improve the accuracy and efficiency of internal data acquisition, management and reporting. It is an essential piece of data management software for any well-equipped laboratory that handles large amounts of data. Some important benefits include: the elimination / reduction of paperwork, expedited retrieval, regular / standard / custom reporting by user, instrument, customer, etc., processing time tracking of each process, tracking the location of each sample and its movement as part of the chain of custody, bidirectional linking with other instruments, high quality output of reports and statistics, etc. Training on the use of LIMS was concluded for 148 Police Officers - 48 Police Officers from the AISP and 100 Police Officers from the regional CSI units.
- Also, the AISP was equipped with storage equipment for storing bullets and cartridges.

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

- The successful development of the LIMS required more time than initially expected. Thus, a no-cost extension was requested and approved by the regional project manager in Q2 2021.

4. Achievements

- Strengthened capacities of the AISP to collect, manage, and analyse large amounts of ballistic data for achieved through the development of the LIMS and of the open case database.
- Conditions to store bullets and cartridges under examination improved through the storage equipment procured and delivered to the AISP.

5. Work plan for Q1 2022

Planned activities	Budget
• N/A	-

Output 3.3	Equipment Upgrade for Ballistic Sector
Total budget: \$312,000	Spent 25 July 2019 – 31 December 2021: \$256,979

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 enables 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 2021 the ballistics water tank procured in 2020 was delivered to the AISP to enhance the processing of firearm evidence to internationally recognized standards. The water tank protects the tracks left on fired bullets and cartridges and enhances the processing of firearm evidence to internationally recognized standards. Five police officers from the Ballistic Sector were trained and certified in the use of the ballistic water tank.
- Also, the AISP was equipped with 1 comparative macroscope for ballistic examination and 5 stereoscopic trinocular microscopes that will increase the efficiency of ballistic analysis, given that the AISP has been using 25-year-old microscopes. Five police officers from the Ballistic Sector were trained on the use of the comparative macroscope.



Trainings on the use of the water tank (left) and the comparative macroscope for ballistic examination (right). Photos: UNDP Albania

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

- The procurement of the microscopes was launched twice because of an insufficient number of offers received. More generic technical specifications were drafted, and procurement was launched again and successfully completed.

4. Achievements

- Enhanced capacities for processing firearms evidence achieved through the delivery of the water tank for test firing and related training.
- Improved quality and effectiveness of firearm-related investigations through the procurement of the specialized equipment for the Ballistic Sector.

5. Work plan for Q1 2022

Planned activities	Budget
• N/A	-

## 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).

Technical specifications of the basic CSI kits were also shared with PAMECA V Mission, who was trying to procure more basic CSI kits for the AISP.

## Update on risks and mitigation measures

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to affect the project because of the Government restrictions that remained in place. The impact of the pandemic includes delays in procurement processes, which led to late delivery of goods, affecting other subsequent activities as well; difficulties in organizing events and other project related activities; shifting in the timeline of the trainings, affected by the health and travel restrictions in force.

## 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 2021, project results and activities were communicated online, via social media, always noting Germany's support to the project.

### Major events

On 10 November 2021, the AISP organized a ceremony marking the completion of the initially planned activities within the project. The ceremony was attended by Mr. Gledis Nano, Director of the General State Police, Mr. Besfort Lamallari, Deputy Interior Minister, Ms. Monica Merino, UNDP Resident Representative in Albania, Ms. Bojana Balon, Head of SEESAC, Representative of the German Embassy in Tirana, Mr. Niko Brahimaj, Director of the Scientific Police Institute, and senior chief of the State Police.



Ceremony marking the completion of the project. Photos UNDP Albania

Deputy Interior Minister, Mr. Besfort Lamallari:  
 "The Albanian government and Prime Minister Edi Rama consider the fight against crime, of any nature and form, a priority over priorities. To this end, special attention has been paid to increased financial support for strengthening and treating human capacity and investments in advanced technology. On behalf of the Minister of the Interior, Mr. Çuçi conveys the appreciation for the cooperation and support given and further engagements on this approach by partners and donors. As chairman of the National Commission for Small and Light Weapons, I wish to emphasize the importance of the need for continued support in this regard. I thank the German Government for financing this project and the UNDP team for implementing it. I am glad that today we have more confidence from our partners in the State Police, successful joint operations, and *the attention and support of the State Police.*"

Director of the General State Police, Mr. Gledis Nano:  
 "Since the beginning of this project, standard procedures for the Scientific Police have been improved, new tools and equipment for crime scene investigations and various examinations have been provided, and standardized systems for the work processes have been installed. Thanks to the interventions realized by this project, the process of research, administration and examination of evidence is more effective and safer. We believe that involvement in such projects will continue in the future, which improve our capacities for detecting, documenting, and combating criminal activity. Thank you for your contribution and support. I would like to express my conviction that, thanks to this cooperation, we will further increase our results, thus becoming a worthy partner for the law enforcement agencies in the region and those of the Union European "

## Social media

The UNDP Albania Twitter account was used to communicate about the project activities and results. Some examples are presented below.



Tweets communicating about the training on use of water tank (left) and of the 3D scanners (right) that were delivered to the AISP.



Tweets communicating about the training on use of the microscopes (left) and of the LIMS (right) that were delivered to the AISP.

Apart from UNDP, the ASP also used its social media account to communicate about the ceremony marking the completion of the project.



[Tweet](#) by UNDP Albania from the project ceremony.



[Facebook post](#) by the Albanian State Police about the project ceremony.

### Presence in the local media

The ceremony marking the completion of the project was also communicated by one news outlet in the country, as well as on the ASP's website.

Ntv.al	<a href="https://ntv.al/permbyllet-projekti-mbeshtetja-e-autoriteteve-te-zbatimit-te-ligjit-te-shqiperise-per-te-forcuar-kapacitetet-e-menaxhimit-dhe-hetimit-te-provave-kriminale-te-armeve-te-zjarrit/">https://ntv.al/permbyllet-projekti-mbeshtetja-e-autoriteteve-te-zbatimit-te-ligjit-te-shqiperise-per-te-forcuar-kapacitetet-e-menaxhimit-dhe-hetimit-te-provave-kriminale-te-armeve-te-zjarrit/</a>
Asp.gov.al	<a href="https://www.asp.gov.al/permbyllet-projekti-mbeshtetja-e-autoriteteve-te-zbatimit-te-ligjit-te-shqiperise-per-te-forcuar-kapacitetet-e-menaxhimit-dhe-hetimit-te-provave-kriminale-te-armeve-te-zjarrit/">https://www.asp.gov.al/permbyllet-projekti-mbeshtetja-e-autoriteteve-te-zbatimit-te-ligjit-te-shqiperise-per-te-forcuar-kapacitetet-e-menaxhimit-dhe-hetimit-te-provave-kriminale-te-armeve-te-zjarrit/</a>

### Donor visibility

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.



*Photos showing the German Cooperation logo being visibly placed on the equipment procured within the project. Photos: UNDP Albania*

Sub-project 4. Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking (CIAT)	
Project number:	2019BIH04
Implemented by:	UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina
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 – June 2022
Total budget: \$1,071,283	Spent 25 July 2019 - 31 December 2021: \$415,748

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 MoS in BiH, 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.

## OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS TOWARDS RESULTS

<u>PROJECT OUTPUT</u>	<u>PROJECT OUTPUT INDICATOR</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>STATUS OF PROJECT RESULTS</u>	<u>ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST INDICATORS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE PROJECT</u>
Output 4.1. Capacitated BIH Border Police and 14 entity and cantonal police agencies to more effectively combat illicit arms trafficking	Number of specific analysis contributing to the Green Border Assessment of BIH BP.	BIH Green Border Assessment finalized.	Achieved	Green border assessment was completed in 2019, verified and formally accepted by BiH BP
	Number of databases developed on legal transport of weapons.	MOS database developed and in use.	Partially achieved	Database is under development. Inception report prepared, as well as several modules of the software.
	Number of beneficiaries trained for the proper functionality of the database	100 beneficiaries trained.	Activities not initiated	
	Extent to which the SALW identification tool has been improved.	SALW identification tool fully functional to respond to the needs of BP BIH and 14 police agencies to better identify seized arms.	Partially achieved	Coordination with beneficiaries was established.
	Number of BP BIH and other police agencies' staff trained to use the SALW identification tool.	<b>500 BP BIH and other agencies' staff trained to use the new SALW identification tool.</b>	Activities not initiated	
	Number of BP BIH and other police agencies' staff trained to effectively detect illicit arms trafficking by provision of specialized equipment and training	2000 staff trained to better detect illicit arms trafficking from 14 police agencies on detection methods using the procured equipment.  16 pcs of detections equipment procured for 14 police agencies. 4 pcs for surveillance of green border procured for BP BIH.	Partially achieved  Partially achieved	925 police officers were trained on firearm detection using specialized equipment.  19 videoscopes (endoscopes) were provided to 14 law enforcement agencies. Other pieces of equipment were procured, to be delivered in 2022.
Output 4.2. Strengthened cooperation and	Number of SOPs developed and institutionalized	70 SOPs	Partially achieved	Police agencies developed drafts of all five SOPs covering areas:

<p>information exchange between Ministry of Security and other institutions at national and regional level</p>	<p><b>Number of police agencies' which were given access to the MOS database on transport of SALW.</b></p>	<p>Up to 14 police agencies given access to MOS database.</p>	<p>Partially achieved</p>	<p>tracing of weapons, data collection, running an investigation, risk analysis and management of an emergency. 70 draft SOPs were prepared in total. Finalization, endorsement and institutionalization of SOPs will be conducted in 2022.</p>
	<p>Number of MoUs signed between BP BIH and other 13 police agencies on cooperation regarding combat of illicit arms trafficking.</p>	<p>Up to 14 MOUs signed between BP BIH and other 14 police agencies.</p>	<p>Activities not initiated</p>	<p>Work on the MoS database is ongoing, in close coordination with the MoS and the 12 law enforcement agencies.</p>
	<p>Level of cooperation between BP BIH and 13 police agencies strengthened through organization of joint trainings.</p>	<p>Organize training for up to 300 people from BIH BP and other 14 police agencies on better detection of illicit arms.</p>	<p>Partially achieved</p>	<p>Concept for the joint trainings and practical exercises in detecting and investigating the smuggling of firearms, ammunition and explosives was drafted.</p>
	<p>Number of joint SOPs developed.</p>	<p>Develop up to 3 joint SOPs.</p>	<p>Activities not initiated</p>	

Output 4.1	Capacitated BiH Border Police and 14 entity and cantonal police agencies to more effectively combat illicit arms trafficking
Total budget: \$587,764.18	Spent 25 July 2019 – 31 December 2021: \$113,130

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 is 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 is provided. Thirdly, the project continues to support the advancement of data collection, analysis, tasking and coordination of the Border Police 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 the Border Police BiH for the control of the green border, respectively, is provided, as well as training of 2,000 police officers on detection methods using the procured equipment.

2. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period

- In 2021, the project team continued 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 law enforcement agencies who will be given access to the software.
- The development process has been constantly coordinated with the 13 government entities involved – the MoS of BiH and 12 law enforcement agencies. This included weekly meetings with the project team and the IT company contracted for this task, several rounds of reviews of the Inception Report followed by its approval and adoption by the 13 stakeholders. The Inception Report includes a detailed review of the TOR, clarification of any questions regarding technical requirements, verification of the workplan with the MoS, end-users, and UNDP.
- In parallel to the Inception Report, the selected IT company developed other modules of the software as part the project task, including cover page, administrators’ module, and joint registries, which will enter the testing phase in Q1 2022. In addition, the IT company also developed two users’ manuals for administrators/sub-administrators and end-users which will be reviewed by the project team and beneficiaries in the following phases of the project.
- In 2021, the project team also initiated the improvement of the SALW identification tool and its rollout to other Police Agencies. Based on the experiences of the Border Police that firstly developed the SALW identification tool within the first phase of the CIAT project, it has been decided to firstly implement the tool in one law enforcement agency. This pilot activity would help adjust the tool to the law enforcement agencies’ operational, communication and institutional frameworks, which significantly differ from the ones within the Border Police. Once improved and adjusted, the tool would be replicated and installed in all other 14 law enforcement agencies. A coordination meeting was organized in Q1 2021 with the Police Commissioner of Zenica-Doboj Canton to discuss the potential of piloting the SALW identification tool in this canton, as well as the participation of this canton in other project activities. Following this meeting, the activities had to be put on hold based on the assessment of the Project team that the improved epidemiological situation in the country should be utilized to focus on the training-oriented activities of the Project.
- At the same time, the project provided 19 videoscopes (endoscopes) to 14 law enforcement agencies: State Investigation and Protection Agency – SIPA (1 videoscope), Federation Mol (1 videoscope), Brcko District Police (1 videoscope), 10 cantonal ministries of interior (1 endoscope for each cantonal ministry) and Republika Srpska Mol (6 videoscopes). Practical training on the use of the videoscopes was also provided to 98 police officers. In the next phases of the projects, these police officers will act as trainers for their respective agencies to conduct specialized training on the use of the SOPs and specialized equipment provided through the project under Output 4.2. According to the feedback from the participants, the training facilitated exchange of experiences as well as camaraderie among participants, which indirectly ensures more informal and easier cooperation during their day-to-day activities.

- The remaining equipment for 14 Police Agencies (2 detectors) and for the BP BiH (100 remote surveillance cameras, 60 binoculars, 6 augmented vision binoculars for long-range surveillance) was procured, but delivery was delayed to beginning of 2022 because of delayed in the issuance of the export licenses in the country of origin (Israel and Canada).



Practical exercise and use of UNDP donated videoscopes at the training held in Banja Luka on 1-2 July 2021. Photos: UNDP BiH

### 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.
- The activities pertinent to the further development of the SALW Identification Tool have been postponed to 202s as the project team decided to take advantage of the improvement in the COVID-19 situation during the reporting period and focus on the extensive field-based training component under Output 4.2.
- Due to the complex technical specifications of the equipment to be procured within the project, 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 process. Additionally, the issuance of the export licenses for detectors in the country of origin (Israel and Canada) lasted unexpectedly long pushing delivery of equipment to 2022.
- The activities will continue in 2022, following the extension of the project with 6 months until June 2022.

### 4. Achievements

- Capacities for detecting illicit firearms within the country increased through the provision of 19 videoscopes to 14 law enforcement agencies.
- 98 policed officers strengthened their skills on detecting illicit firearms by using videoscopes.
- Project sustainability strengthen by developing the capacities of the police officers trained on the use of the provided videoscopes to act as trainers for their respective agencies.

### 5. Work plan for Q1 2022

Planned activities	Budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue work on development of the MoS database for SALW transport licenses.</li> <li>• Continue the development of the SALW Identification Tool for its use in the official reporting and its rollout to other Police Agencies.</li> <li>• Deliver the procured equipment to 14 police agencies.</li> <li>• Deliver the procured equipment to the BiH BP.</li> </ul>	\$256,202

Output 4.2	Strengthened cooperation and information exchange between Ministry of Security and other institutions at national and regional level
Total budget: \$160,498.42	Spent 25 July 2019 - 30 December 2021: \$72,625

#### 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 is achieved through implementation of different and parallelly 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

- Under this output, the project team focused on the launch and organization of the extensive training program aiming to reach 2,000 police officers from 13 law enforcement agencies throughout BiH. In 2021, 774 police officers from 3 police agencies were trained during a one-day training to better detect illicit firearms by using the SOPs developed within the project and the specialized detection equipment.
- The project team decided to take an approach which ensures not only achieving the planned project results, but which directly feeds into the sustainability of the project results and promotion of cooperation, coordination and communication among the law enforcement agencies in BiH, developing common understanding, advanced technical knowledge and clarity of the procedures in the investigation of firearms, ammunition and explosives. In this sense, joint train-the-trainer sessions were organized which included 53 police officers from 14 law enforcement agencies.
- The project team also ensured that during the one-day trainings on the use of SOPs and specialized detection equipment solidarity among the participating agencies is promoted by ensuring that the agencies that had advanced in the project activities provided support to those agencies that are just starting. Following this pattern, the project team ensured that the Border Police Management fully supports these project activities. Thus, two border police officers facilitated and moderated the training and thus shared their experiences gained through the first phase of the CIAT project where approximately 1,500 border police officers received similar training. Also, the Police of Republika Srpska provided support to the Brcko District Police as they were preparing the training concept and plans.
- Under these activities aimed at strengthening cooperation between law enforcement agencies in BiH, the project team facilitated a meeting among the law enforcement agencies in Federation of BiH (10 cantonal Mols and Federal Police Directorate) to discuss SALW-related issues and activities within the CIAT Project, but also other projects implemented by UNDP BiH under the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund (HALT and PILLAR+). The meeting was also attended by the Assistant Minister of Security BiH and Chairperson of SALW Coordination Board.
- At the same time, the project team provided support to the SALW Coordination Board in BiH in finalizing the Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Strategy in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2020-2024, including proofreading, translation, design, and printing of the document. The Strategy was [endorsed by the Council of Ministers BiH](#) on 26 February 2021.
- The project team also developed a draft concept for the joint trainings and practical exercises in detecting and investigating the smuggling of firearms, ammunition and explosives to be organized in 2022. Two state prosecutors and the Head of Investigations within Prosecutor's Office participated in finalizing the training concepts and scenarios for the joint practical exercises, enabling strengthened internal cooperation within the country and improved efficiency in processing and prosecuting SALW related crimes. The representatives of the Prosecutor's Office will continue to participate in the implementation of these activities till the end of the project.



Meeting with the police agencies in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Photos: UNDP BiH

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

- The COVID-19 pandemic affected all project activities under this output, including the completion of the training programme, preparation of the MoU for improved operational cooperation between BP BiH, other police agencies and Customs Administration on prevention, detection and deterrence of smuggling of firearms, ammunition and explosives, and organization of joint training. The project team continued to coordinate with all project beneficiaries on a bilateral basis to mitigate the risks and adapt to the new implementation timeline. The activities were delayed to 2022, following the extension of the project with 6 months until June 2022.

4. Achievements

- Capacities of 774 police officers from 3 law enforcement agencies to better detect illicit firearms further increased through training on the use of the SOPs developed within the project and on the practical use of the specialized detection equipment.
- Project sustainability ensured through the train-the-trainer modules attended by 53 police officers who will replicate the training within their law enforcement agencies.
- Better internal cooperation, improved efficiency in processing and prosecuting SALW related crimes ensured through agreed participation of Prosecutor’s Office of BiH in finalizing the training concepts and scenarios for the joint practical exercises.

5. Work plan for Q1 2022

Planned activities	Budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depending on situation with COVID 19 pandemic, continue the one-day trainings on the use of SOPs and specialized detection equipment for 7 law enforcement agencies.</li> <li>• Organized joint trainings and practical exercises in detecting and investigating smuggling of firearms, ammunition and explosives.</li> <li>• Support the BP BiH staff outreach to all relevant prosecutors' offices and forensic laboratories in order to effectively use the SALW and ammunition identification database by relevant prosecutors and other institutions in all cases of seizure of firearms, ammunition and explosives.</li> </ul>	<p>\$49,780</p>

## 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 2021, including meetings geared towards the continued development of the national SALW control strategy 2020-2024. **A wide audience of stakeholders were included and actively participated with ideas and proposals for 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 arose during the year. For instance, during the preparatory phase of SALW disposal event that was held in October 2021 the project organized verification visits to 11 police agencies in BiH during which every piece of SALW for disposal was verified by type, serial number, and the quantity.

The project team promoted an approach which ensures not only achieving planned project results, but which directly feeds into sustainability of the project results and promotion of cooperation, coordination and communication among law enforcement agencies in BiH developing a common understanding, advanced technical knowledge and clarity of procedures for the investigations of firearms, ammunition and explosives. These have been achieved through organization of joint train-the-trainer sessions which included 53 police officers (49 men and 4 women) from 14 law enforcement agencies. The same approach was used in the specialized training for the use of donated videoscopes which again included organization of joint trainings for 98 police officers (94 men and 4 women). This approach, according to the feedback from the participants, ensured exchange of experiences as well as camaraderie among participants which indirectly ensures more direct and easier cooperation during their day-to-day activities.

The project team also ensured that during the one-day trainings on the use of SOPs and specialized detection equipment solidarity among participating agency is promoted by ensuring that the agencies that had advanced in the project activities provide support to those agencies that are just starting. Following this pattern, the project team ensured that the Border Police Management fully supports these project activities. Two border police officers facilitated and moderated the training and thus shared their experiences gained through the first phase of the CIAT project where approximately 1,500 border police officers received similar training. Also, the Police of Republika Srpska provided support to Brcko District Police as they were preparing training concept and training plans.

Finally, better internal cooperation, improved efficiency in processing and prosecuting SALW related crimes was ensured through agreed participation of Prosecutor's Office of BiH in project activities.

## Update on risks and mitigation measures

The COVID-19 pandemic in BiH continued to affect the project. At the beginning of 2021, the number of infected persons were dropping which allowed for initiation of some activities. However, some of the delays accumulated since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020 could not be recuperated, and the project required a six-month no-cost extension to achieve the planned results. The extension was approved by the Project Board.

Furthermore, the political climate in BiH has deteriorated since July 2021 with the decision of political parties from Republika Srpska to boycott participation and decision-making at the state-level (BiH Presidency, Council of Ministers, Parliamentary Assembly) following the adoption of amendments to the BiH Criminal Code outlawing denial of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and glorification of war criminals, imposed by the former High Representative to BiH. Consequently, Republika Srpska National Assembly passed the Law on Non-Implementation of the Decision of the High Representative. The leading coalition in Republika Srpska has since engaged in divisive and dangerous rhetoric of secession and transfer of competences from the state to entity level, which caused a crisis in the functioning of the country. Nevertheless, the project team has timely reacted by maintaining continued communication with the project beneficiaries in Republika Srpska which resulted in undisturbed continuation of all project activities within the Project.

## Lessons learnt

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 by the 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.
- Timely planning and re-scheduling of the project activities - the reporting period showed that the project team has successfully adopted to the situation created by the pandemic. In that light, the periods with very low-level of COVID-19 virus activity were used to intensify project activities that required live contact and travelling while other periods were used for administrative activities that could have been completed either from the office setting or during work-from-home periods.
- Strong partnerships and mutual trust with the project partners ensured undisturbed continuation of the project activities during the moments of more acute political crisis.
- When selecting project staff, it is important to consider competencies pertinent to political sensitivity and strong grasp of political dynamics in BiH.
- The joint trainings organized gathering representatives from all law enforcement agencies were highly appreciated by the participants for facilitating exchange of experiences as well as camaraderie among them, which indirectly ensures more informal and easier cooperation during their day-to-day activities.

## Communication and visibility

In 2021, the project team continued to take all the necessary measures to promote the project’s results and activities, ensuring the donor’s visibility on all communication materials.

### Social media

Twitter was the main social media channel used to communicate the activities and results of the project. Some examples shared by the project team are presented below.



*Tweets from the training on the use of the SOP and specialized detection equipment, addressed to police officers in the Mol of Republika Srpska (left, right).*



*Tweets from the training on the use of the SOP and specialized detection equipment, addressed to police officers in the MoI of Republika Srpska (left) and Tuzla Canton (right).*

Presence in the local media

Project activities were also communicated by the project beneficiaries, and by the local media, as seen in the links below.

Federalna Uprava Policije Federalna.ba	<a href="http://fup.gov.ba/?p=23203">http://fup.gov.ba/?p=23203</a> <a href="https://www.federalna.ba/federalna-uprava-policije-provodila-aktivnosti-u-sklopu-projekta-ciat-gbqzy">https://www.federalna.ba/federalna-uprava-policije-provodila-aktivnosti-u-sklopu-projekta-ciat-gbqzy</a>
MoI Tuzla Canton	<a href="http://muptk.ba/prezentacija-realizovanih-aktivnosti-projekta-ciat/">http://muptk.ba/prezentacija-realizovanih-aktivnosti-projekta-ciat/</a>

Recognition

On 7 June 2021, the Border Police of BiH celebrated the Day of the Border Police marking its 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary. On this occasion, UNDP BiH was presented with the Certificate of Appreciation by the Director of Border Police for the great contribution and support to the development of the Border Police capacities through the three projects implemented by UNDP BiH with the support of Germany, and of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund, respectively.



*Tweet by the UNDP BiH Deputy Resident Representative highlighting the recognition received from the Border Police for the important work conducted by UNDP on SALW control.*

Sub-project 5. Urgent Action on Ammunition Destruction - Project EXPLODE+	
Project number:	2019BIH05
Implemented by:	UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina
Contributes to Roadmap Goals:	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.
Implementation period:	July-December 2019
Total budget: \$55,066	Spent 25 July – 31 December 2019: \$54,645

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.

Sub-project 6. Support to counter Illicit arms trafficking	
Project number:	2019KOS06
Implemented by:	UNDP Kosovo
Contributes to Roadmap Goal:	Goal 3. By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.
Implementation period:	September 2019 – March 2022
Total budget: \$987,412	Spent 25 July 2019 - 31 December 2021: \$504,128

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 addresses 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

<u>PROJECT OUTPUT</u>	<u>PROJECT OUTPUT INDICATOR</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>STATUS OF PROJECT RESULTS</u>	<u>ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST INDICATORS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE PROJECT</u>
Output 1: Capacities of border entities on detection of firearms, components, ammunition and explosives increased	Detection training Border Crossing Point (BCP) - 17 borders posts including customs and border police;	Border police and customs officials at 17 BCP trained on detection;	Achieved	31 border police and customs officials at 17 BCP were trained on detection.
	Training on green border surveillance;	40 border police officials from green line border are trained on surveillance and the SOP updated;	Achieved	30 border police officials from green line border were trained on surveillance <sup>1</sup> and the SOP was updated.
	Training detection components in fast parcels and postal services;	40 officials trained on detection components in fast parcels and postal services provided;	Activities not initiated	
	Training K9 dogs in polymer detection;	Three K9 dogs and a training with 40 officials on polymer detection is provided;	Achieved	5 K9 dogs were procured, trained and certified in sniffing polymer material made weapons. 40 police officers were also trained during the 380 hours of dog training.
	Implementation of Joint simulated exercises;	Joined simulated exercise conducted between border police and customs;	Partially achieved	Draft operational plan was drafted. Joint exercise will be organized in 2022.
Upgrade of Weapon Registration software;	Weapon Registration software upgraded;	Partially achieved	Software was developed in close consultation with the Mol. The software will be tested in 2022.	
Output 2: Risk profiling based on CIRAM 2 in place	Training on CIRAM 2 include threat assessment, vulnerability assessment and impact assessment;	40 border police officials trained on CIRAM 2 and a handbook/guidance developed;	Achieved	43 representatives from FFP, Border Police, Customs and Centre for Border Management were trained on CIRAM 2 during specialized training. Other 11 representatives trained on EU

<sup>1</sup> 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.

	<p>Guided training on development of problem profile on IAT;</p> <p>Guided training on Problem Profile at green border based on pull and push factors;</p>	<p>Capacities increased for 10 KP officials on problem profile on IAT;</p> <p>Capacities increased for 10 border police officials on problem profile based on pull and push factors;</p>	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Achieved</p>	<p>Integrated Border Management and detailed CIRAM 2.0 model (risk, threat, impact) as well as online practical exercises.</p> <p>15 border police analysts, customs officers, and representatives of the border coordination were trained during back-to-back trainings on problem profile on IAT, including at the green border based on pull and push factors.</p>
<p>Output 3: Installation and higher detection of trafficking in the green border area</p>	<p>Purchase and hand over of requested equipment;</p> <p>Operator training on new equipment;</p> <p>Intelligence led policing operations based on new equipment;</p>	<p>10 thermovisions and 10 scanners purchased and donated to the Kosovo Border Police and the detection of IAT in the green border increased;</p> <p>4 Operators trainings for total of 40 representatives trained in effectively using the new equipment;</p> <p>Operational plans and operations report produced;</p>	<p>Partially achieved</p> <p>Achieved</p> <p>Partially achieved</p>	<p>5 specialized endoscopes, 3 explosive and drug detector, 1 handheld Thermal camera procured, and 2 handheld explosive and narcotics detectors were provided. The change in equipment followed the vulnerability assessment conducted within the project.</p> <p>40 border police officers were trained in using the new equipment.</p> <p>This activity is interlinked with activity 3.1 and 3.2.</p>
<p>Output 4: Development of knowledge products, including: problem profile, and trend analysis including modus operandi</p>	<p>Develop knowledge products.</p>	<p>KP fully capable in developing knowledge products on IAT.</p>	<p>Partially achieved</p>	<p>Testing exercise was conducted and a Report on K9 Dog Sniffing and Equipment Detection Test on polymer made weapons was produced.</p>

Output 6.1	Capacities of border entities on detection of firearms, components, ammunition and explosives increased
Total budget: \$191,324	Spent 25 July 2019 – 31 December 2021: \$59,808

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 is 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.

2. Description of activities implementing during the reporting period

- In 2021, the project team continued the work on the upgrade of the weapon registration software in close cooperation and consultation with the Mol/Department for Public Safety. Joint meetings between the contracted IT company, UNDP, and representatives of the Mol were regularly organized to coordinate the effective development of software. While the development of the software was completed and interlinked with the required databases in different institutions, the software will be tested in 2022, to be then accepted and put in use by the Mol. The new weapon registration software will enable the Mol to collect and exchange the required information on firearms, including data on private companies that sell firearms, on the legalization process, destruction of firearms, etc., with the relevant institutions and agencies by connecting other databases prescribed by Law on weapons and respective regulatory frameworks.

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

- The software development process was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the fact that the Mol staff were not always available to participate in the coordination meeting. The project team organized online meeting to facilitate the participation of the Mol.
- Additionally, due to the COVID-19 restrictions and the elections held in February and October 2021 respectively, as well as the full engagement of the beneficiaries in the implementation of the preventive measures established by the health authorities and in ensuring a safe election environment prior, during and after the election certification, the training on the detection of firearm components in fast parcels and postal services could not be organized in 2021 and was postponed to 2022.

4. Achievements

- The weapon registration software upgraded and interlinked with the required databases in different institutions, contributing to a more effective collection and sharing of firearm-related data.

5. Work plan for Q1 2022

Planned activities	Budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test and put the upgrade of Weapon Registration software in use.</li> <li>• Organize training on the detection of firearms components in the fast parcels and postal services.</li> </ul>	\$110,397

Output 6.2	Risk profiling based on CIRAM 2 in place
Total budget: \$63,403	Spent 25 July 2019 – 31 December 2021: \$61,521

#### 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 2021, a new [training on CIRAM 2.0](#) was organized for 11 representatives from the FFP, Border Police, Customs, and the 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. Although the project met its targeted number of trained officers already in 2020, the first CIRAM 2.0 training was very well received by the participants. Thus, the Head of the Border Department in the Kosovo Police requested that an additional training is organized to expand the knowledge in using CIRAM 2.0 to other border police officials.
- Following the training on CIRAM 2.0, one additional risk analysis package comprised of IBase and I2Analyst Notebook was procured and handed over to the Kosovo Police Border Department, respectively the Risk Analysis Unit. The iBase and Analyst Notebook has helped increase the collection of information, enabled risk analyses at border crossing points and green border lines and helped produce intelligence reports on detection of illicit arms trafficking. iBase is an intuitive intelligence data management application, that enables capture, control, and analysis of multi-source data in security-rich workgroup environments.

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

- An additional training on CIRAM 2.0 was organized at the request of the Head of the Kosovo Police Border Department. The training had no impact on the budget since the balance from the same activity was utilized.
- In order to further strengthen the analysis capacities at the Kosovo Police, two additional risk analysis packages comprised of IBase and I2Analyst Notebook were provided to the Kosovo Police Border Department and respectively its Risk Analysis Unit, **at the beneficiaries' request**. The procurement did not impact the budget of this activity.

#### 4. Achievements

- 11 FFP, Border Police, Customs, and Centre for Border Management officials gained necessary skills and knowledge to prepare quality risk analyses, through the training on CIRAM 2.0 including threat assessment, vulnerability assessment and impact assessment.
- Analytical capacities of the Kosovo Boarder Police Department to swiftly produce quality reports strengthened through the additional risk analysis package comprised of IBase and I2Analyst Notebook.

#### 5. Work plan for Q1 2022

Planned activities	Budget
• N/A	-

Output 6.3	Installation of equipment and higher detection of trafficking in particular at the green border
Total budget: \$248,053	Spent 25 July 2019 – 31 December 2021: \$221,653

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 additional equipment for the BCPs and the green border line. 2 handheld explosive and narcotics detectors were thus procured and handed over to the Kosovo Police Border Department to assist the border police officers to effectively increase the detection of explosives and various narcotics at border crossing points and green border lines. 10 border police officers were trained in using the new equipment.
- The procurement of 3 endoscopes and 7 handheld scanners is ongoing. The equipment will enable border police officers to detect firearms, ammunition, and explosives hidden in vehicles, and which are being potentially trafficked through the border crossing points and at the green border lines.
- Also, a two-day training on theory and practice on using the specialized handheld thermal camera procured in 2020 was organized for 5 border police officers.

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

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent disruption in the global supply chain, the purchase and transport of equipment was delayed. The team worked closely with procurement unit in UNDP to ensure that the delays were managed.

4. Achievements

- Detection of explosives and various narcotics at border crossing points and green border lines strengthened through the procurement and handover of two handheld explosives and narcotics detectors, and related training.

5. Work plan for Q1 2022

Planned activities	Budget
• Contract companies to deliver the 3 endoscopes and 7 handheld scanners.	-

Output 6.4	Development of knowledge product: problem profile and trend analysis including modus operandi
Total budget: \$13,348	Spent 25 July 2019 – 31 December 2021: \$0

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

- There were no activities conducted under this output in 2021. Knowledge products are planned to be developed in 2022.

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

- N/A

4. Achievements

- N/A

5. Work plan for Q1 2022

Planned activities	Budget
• N/A	-

## Partnerships and sustainability

The project team remained in close cooperation with the project beneficiaries to coordinate and properly plan the implementation of activities in compliance with the new pandemic circumstances. 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) on organizing in-person trainings by strictly respecting and implementing measures imposed by health authorities towards preventing the infection with COVID-19.

The sustainability of the project was monitored virtually by the project team. The team thus learnt that the Kosovo Police distributed the specialized equipment procured in 2020 and 2021 to several A category border crossing points and green border line police stations in order to regularly conduct the second line check through problem and person profiling. Also, the border police analysts that were trained in using the Common Integrated Risk Analysis Model (CIRAM 2.0) are regularly providing qualitative analysis to the BCPs and the green border lines in terms of illicit arms trafficking and ammunition, demonstrating the impact of the project results and their sustainability.

## Update on risks and mitigation measures

The most important risk identified in 2021 was the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic. All beneficiaries' personnel were fully engaged in managing the pandemic, limiting their availability to participated in the project activities. Large number of infected officials, including key decision makers, affected timely decision making and coordination. Mol's **feedback on the technical** specifications of the weapon registration software was delayed due to the imposed measures restricting in-person gatherings, as well as the lack of institutional counterparts who were tasked with provide essential services only. This has slightly pushed the project's deadline for finalizing the software upgrade.

Also, the parliamentary elections in the jurisdiction, as well as the full engagement of the beneficiaries in the implementation of the preventive measures established by the health authorities and in ensuring a safe election environment prior, during and after the election certification, postponed some activities in 2022.

Apart from the COVID-19-related restrictions, **the delay in the shipment of the equipment from the supplier's** country of origin (Israel) delayed the handover of the equipment to the beneficiaries. This also impacted the organization of the training for border police officers on the use of the new equipment, which took place in Q3 2021.

## 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 and 2022.

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

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, including on social media and at the venue of the meetings organized within the project (on roll-ups and presentations).

### Social media

In 2021, 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. Some examples are presented below.

UNDP Kosovo  
February 23 · 🌐

UNDP's Kosovo Safety and Security Programme (KSSP) through the Support to Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking – Border (CIAT) project in close cooperation with the Kosovo Police Training Department is committed to strengthen individual and institutional capacities in the field of risk analysis at the border crossing points and the green border lines.

A 5-day training on Common Integrated Risk Analysis Model (CIRAM 2.0) for border police analysts has begun focusing on the conceptual framework which will assist the law enforcement agencies in the preparation of effective risk analyses. The CIRAM 2.0 promotes a common understanding of risk analysis while simultaneously explaining how this tool can contribute to greater coherence in the management of border crossing points as well as border surveillance.

The CIAT project is implemented in close cooperation with the Kosovo Police under the Regional 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 by 2024.

The project is generously funded by the government of the Federal Republic of Germany through UNDP's Funding Window (FW).

Maria Suokko - UNDP Resident Representative in Kosovo  
German Embassy Pristina

SEESAC  
Kosovo Police  
UN Kosovo Team  
Marta Rodiqi  
Mentor Cakolli  
Luanda Domi  
Dafina Selimi



You, Marta Rodiqi, Buqe Shehu Dobranja and 26 others

4 Shares

*Facebook post published during the training on CIARM 2.0.*

UNDP Kosovo  
June 23 at 10:27 AM · 🌐

Proudly supporting the Kosovo Police 🇰🇲 border department through the advancement of #technology and equipment in combatting illicit arms trafficking and controlling small arms and light weapons at border crossing points and green border lines.

The equipment include hand-held specialized devices that will serve the border police officers to effectively increase the detection of explosives and various narcotics at border crossing points and green border lines. Furthermore, the technological upgrade of the border police through the iBASE and Analyst Notebook (ANB) will increase the collection of information, risk analysis at border crossing points and green border lines and produce intelligence reports on detection of IAT. iBase is an intuitive intelligence data management application, that enables capture, control, and analysis of multi-source data in security-rich workgroup environments.

The UNDP CIAT project is generously funded by German Embassy Pristina through UNDP's Funding Window (FW) under the framework of Regional Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their ammunition in the #WesternBalkans by 2024



*Facebook posts from the handover of the mobile explosive and narcotics detectors (up, down).*

UNDP Kosovo  
@UNDP\_Kosovo

Proudly supporting the #KosovoPolice 🇰🇲 border department through advancement of #technology and equipment in combatting illicit arms trafficking and controlling small arms and light weapons at border crossing points and green border lines.



You and 6 others

*Tweet from the handover of the mobile explosive and narcotics detectors.*

Kosovo Police  
June 22 at 1:55 PM · 🌐

Pristinë 22.06.2021

Policia e Kosovës sot ka pranuar donacion nga UNDP në Kosovë përmes përkrahjes financiare nga Qeveria Gjermane, dy (2) pajisje të specializuara për detektimin e eksplozivëve dhe llojeve të ndryshme të narkotikëve dhe një (1) kamerë të avancuar termike me qëllim të një kontrolli më efikas kufitar dhe mbikëqyrje të vijës kufitare.

Gjithashtu në kuadër të këtij donacioni është pranuar edhe një softuer i avancuar në mbështetje të fushës së policisë kufitare për analizën e riskut dhe profilizimin e problemit. Ky donacion është në vazhdim të mbështetjes së çmuar që UNDP ofron për Policinë e Kosovës në fusha të ndryshme por edhe në fushën e kontrollit të armëve të vogla dhe të lehta. Policia e Kosovës falenderon UNDP-në dhe Qeverinë Gjermane për këtë mbështetje.



Jeton Rexhepi, Visar Pacolli and 277 others

2 Shares

Sub-project 7. Improving national SALW-related practices and building violence-resilient communities	
Project number:	2019NMK07
Implemented by:	UNDP North Macedonia
Contributes to Roadmap Goal:	Goal 2: By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence based and intelligence led.
Implementation period:	September 2019 – May 2022
Total budget: \$1,000,908	Spent 25 July 2019 – 31 December 2021: \$891,484

The objective of the project is to support the 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 is designing and developing 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.

## OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS TOWARDS RESULTS

<u>PROJECT OUTPUT</u>	<u>PROJECT OUTPUT INDICATOR</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>STATUS OF PROJECT RESULTS</u>	<u>ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST INDICATORS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE PROJECT</u>
Output 7.1. Improved weapons registration in accordance with Amended EU firearms Directive 2017 and Law on Weapons	<p>1. WRMS module that allows arms dealers to maintain a register of firearms developed and introduced;</p> <p>2 Arms dealers' register of firearms created and populated with data;</p>	Completed and introduced WRMS module and register of firearms received or disposed of by the arms dealers;	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Partially achieved</p>	<p>1.WRMS module <b>that</b> allows arms dealers to maintain a register of firearms has been developed and has entered production.</p> <p>2. Arms dealers' register of firearms has been created and will be populated with data in accordance with internal processes in project beneficiary.</p>
Output 7.2. Improved and harmonized Information Management System (IMS) of the MoI	<p>1. Standardized methodology and a manual for streamlining organizational processes;</p> <p>2. Improved and upgraded IMS of MIA developed and deployed;</p> <p>3. IT equipment to support the use of the new IMS modernized;</p> <p>4. Package of operational guidelines, manuals and products developed to improve analytical capacities of MIA.</p>	<p>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;</p> <p>Developed and adopted organizational guidelines and procedures for integrated collection and analysis of crime and firearms related data at national, regional and international level.</p>	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Achieved</p> <p>Achieved</p> <p>Achieved</p>	<p>1. Standardized methodology and manual for streamlining organizational processes created.</p> <p>2. The IMS of the MoI has been developed and will be officially launched in the beginning of 2022.</p> <p>3. IT equipment to support the use of the new IMS has been procured and delivered to beneficiary.</p> <p>4. Package of operational guidelines, manuals and products has been developed alongside the process of development of the software.</p>

Output 7.1	Improved weapons registration in accordance with Amended EU firearms Directive 2017 and Law on Weapons
Total budget: \$185,726	Spent 25 July 2019 - 31 December 2021: \$197,021

#### 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 was procured through the project. Also, training of the end users was delivered in a tailored, timely and task-oriented manner to ensure optimal results.

#### 2. Description of activities implementing during the reporting period

- In 2021, the efforts of the project team focused on addressing the administrative, legal and technical issues related to putting the developed Weapons Registration Management System (WRMS) into production. This resulted with the successful beginning of production of the software during December 2021. UNDP is currently providing technical support as a warranty of the completed software. The technical support will continue until June 2022.
- As part of the communication efforts to increase public awareness of the project achievements in Activity 1.1, as well as to further promote the upgraded software within the Ministry of Interior, the project has developed a promotional video, which will serve to inform the general public of the importance of using the developed software. The video was published during November 2021.
- Following feedback from the Weapons Registration Department that the donated personal computers during 2020 were too slow and did not run the software sufficiently, an independent hardware consultant was contracted by UNDP to look into this matter. The consultant advised that the computers needed an upgrade of the RAM memory. Following this, RAM memories were procured and together with an extended warranty of the donated equipment, were donated to the Mol, to ensure proper functioning of the upgraded software.

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

- The software usage has been delayed by administrative, legal and technical reasons. Namely, the Legal Department within Mol advised that a Rulebook regulating the software's usage needed to be enacted in order for software to be put into production. The Legal Department also requested that all weapon selling companies sign individual contracts with the Mol which would regulate their entity's responsibilities for software usage and allow them to connect to the system. In addition, the IT department also advised that they needed an internal guidance document to ensure consistent administrative use of the software. These documents have now been enacted and contracts signed. The software vendor, together with the IT and Telecommunications Department in the Mol as well as representatives from the Customs Office, were working on enabling the internal web servicing platforms which should enable exchange of data between the EXIM system (hosted by Customs office) and the WRMS (hosted by the Mol). These issues have been now resolved.

#### 4. Achievements

- Improved registration and tracking of legal registered weapons enabled through the upgrade WRMS, which has been now put in production.

#### 5. Work plan for Q1 2022

Planned activities	Budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide technical support for client satisfaction.</li> </ul>	-

Output 7.2	Improved and harmonized Information Management System (IMS) of the Mol
Total budget: \$558,346	Spent 25 July 2019 - 31 December 2021: \$428,996

### 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 the new Police 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 new 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 2021, the project team continued the work for the improvement of the IMS. As of the end of 2021, 3 of the 4 software development phases have been completed, in close coordination with the relevant stakeholders on the project beneficiary side:
  - Phase 1 – Initialization (Project plan and Business analysis)
  - Phase 2 – System development and testing
  - Phase 3 – System installation and configuration
- The software has been thus fully developed and the necessary technical documentation has been submitted. The training of end-users and putting into production will be conducted in 2022.
- Necessary personal hardware for the functioning of the new IMS (computers, printers and scanners) was procured. The present equipment was found to be significantly outdated. A general lack of hardware for the end users was also noted. The procurement of adequate hardware is thus essential for ensuring full functionality of the developed software. The hardware equipment was donated to the Mol during a high-level event, which was attended by the Deputy Head of Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany, the UNDP Resident Representative, the Minister of Interior, the Deputy Director of the Bureau of Public Security and UNDP Programme and Project managers. The handover ceremony was organized by the Cabinet of the Minister of Interior and was covered by national and social media. The hardware consultant contracted by UNDP organised spot-checks of the donated equipment in several locations around the country, to make sure that the hardware has been properly distributed and installed and that it is running without any issues.
- The consultations with the project beneficiary identified the need for providing specialised trainings for the IT personnel in the Mol, which entail OpenShift trainings for system support of the new software solution when it is handed over for maintenance in the Mol environment, as well as SCRUM trainings for IT project/product management. These trainings ensure that the appropriate staff members possess the intended knowledge and practical skills that are necessary to provide sustainability of project results.
- To better familiarise the management of the Mol with the progress on developing the new software, the benefits from the Police IMS, and communicate the roll-out plan, two high-level presentations were organised in September 2021. During these events, Assistant Directors of the Bureau of Public Security, Superintendents of the Regional Sectors of Interior and other high-level officers of the Mol were informed in detail of the benefits of the system for the institution as well as plans for its implementation.
- As part of the efforts to streamline organizational process and improve the work of the Mol, the project developed a Study on Femicides committed with firearms in the Republic of North Macedonia in the period 2017-2020, in cooperation with the National Network to End Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, a local NGO. The study is also relevant as it looks at data which will need to be captured by the new Police IMS in terms of gender-disaggregated data. The study was [discussed](#) with relevant representatives from the Mol, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and Ministry of Health. As a result of the generated interest, it was also promoted during a high-level event in November 2021.
- Finally, A promotional video for the new software was developed, with the aim of introducing police officers in the Ministry of Interior with the benefits of the new Information Management System. The video has been completed and will be published to police officers in the beginning of 2022.

3. Difficulties encountered, measures taken to overcome the problems, and eventual changes introduced
- The UNDP team has been following the progress of the development of the software very closely. During regular coordination meetings, the UNDP project team has noted delays in implementation. The software development company has confirmed this delay in performance of activities, which were supposed to be finalised on 31 October 2021. Following intensive consultations, including with the top management of the company/contractor, who advised that the development process is complex and requires more time than they had anticipated, it was concluded that the activities for software development would be finalised by the end of December 2021, which was duly accomplished.
  - As a result of the local elections taking place in October 2021, as well as further last-minute changes to the software functionalities and the abovementioned delays in development, the project beneficiary requested that the user trainings to be organised during February 2022.

4. Achievements

- Improved collection, analysis and sharing of firearm-related data achieved through the successful development of the Police IMS.
- Mol management better familiarized with the IMS and its benefits through the two high-level meetings organized, contributing thus to the increased local ownership of the project results.
- Full functionality of the developed IMS and increased work efficiency of the Mol personnel ensured through the delivery of the end-user hardware for the Mol, and specialized trainings.
- Increased understanding of relevant institutions of the issue of femicides committed with firearms gained through the Study on Femicides committed with firearms published within the project.

5. Work plan for Q1 2022

Planned activities	Budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete trainings for end-users of the IMS on a 'train the trainer' basis.</li> <li>• Initiate technical support for developed software.</li> <li>• Initiate production phase of the IMS and support project beneficiary through this phase.</li> <li>• Organize a promotional event.</li> </ul>	\$6,200

## Partnership and sustainability

The reporting period saw further strengthening of the partnership with the MoI as project beneficiary, which plays a crucial role in the implementation of all project activities. The previously built strong cooperation and partnership with over 10 separate departments in the Ministry continued to be maintained, which resulted in the successful implementation of the project activities in Outputs 7.1 and 7.2. As a result of this partnership, the project has managed to complete the process of entering production of the upgraded WRMS in the first project output, as well as to achieve significant progress in developing the IMS in the third project output. At the same time the MoI was prepared for the upcoming digitalisation of the work process. The aforementioned achievements will play a crucial role in ensuring the sustainability of project results following the end of the project. A number of high-level officials including the Minister of Internal Affairs have praised the work of the UNDP team on several occasions throughout the year. A testament to the professionalism of the team is a request for further support from the MoI in the area of SALW, but also in other areas of police work which require attention and development.

The partnership with the Customs Administration, which plays an important role in the first project output, was maintained. This collaboration was crucial for the alignment of the upgraded WRMS with the Customs Administration's software EXIM.

Several meetings were held with the aim of sharing information and developing a more harmonised approach to activities with SEESAC, OSCE, UNODC etc. In addition, in the development of the Study on Femicides in the Republic of North Macedonia in the period 2017-2020, the project team collaborated with a local NGO, the National Network to End Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.

During this year, the project has contracted a national hardware consultant with an excellent level of expertise in his field and has continued cooperation with the three software development companies which are renowned not only nationally, but also on a regional and European level. A professional and productive cooperation was maintained with all involved parties.

## Update on risk and mitigation measures

In 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to be the key risk for project implementation. In the first half of 2021, some of the project activities were impeded by government-imposed restrictive measures, as well as the occasional absence of key staff members in UNDP, the project beneficiary, and the vendors due to mandated isolation. However, the project had successfully mitigated most of these challenges through a flexible organisation of activities both in-person and online, which resulted in the prompt completion of planned activities despite the risks. During the second half of 2021, the rising vaccination rates in the country aided in lowering the impact of this risk and most of the activities could be performed as originally planned.

A further risk was posed by the local elections which took place during October 2021. The trainings for end-users of the IMS were originally planned to take place during September and October, however due to the local elections and the official electoral campaign preceding them, a very large number of police officers were occupied with providing the necessary security, so the project team was informed that no such activities could be held during this time.

Due to the impacts on project implementation caused by the COVID-19 situation, as well as the political situation in the country, the increase in scope of project activities and the need to ensure proper sustainability of project results, a 6-month no-cost project extension was requested and approved by the Project Board.

## Lessons learnt

During 2021, the project team managed to complete the majority of activities in project outputs despite the presented challenges. All phases of the development of the new IMS took place in the period 1 January – 31 December 2021. The process will be finalised with the trainings for end-users and the official launch of the system in the first half of 2022.

A special emphasis needs to be placed on the organisation of a significant number of events, including workshops, presentation events, planning sessions, meetings and trainings, in accordance with all COVID-19 measures and protocols. Through the intensive collaboration between the project team, the Mol, and the software development vendors, all aspects of the new software were planned and implemented appropriately.

The Mol has proven itself as a valuable partner in project implementation, which provides the necessary support and assistance in order to achieve the project objectives, which are beneficial not only to the institution, but to the country as a whole. Through this project, the UNDP in North Macedonia has positioned itself as crucial to the implementation of development initiatives in the Mol, while collaborating with a large number of stakeholders from different departments within the Ministry. The positive results from the project activities have built a strong partnership between UNDP and the Mol of North Macedonia, including a valuable network of highly experienced professionals in the Ministry, which will be of great significance for the implementation of further projects in the country.

Finally, it is important to repeat the conclusion from 2020 that large-scale project activities, such as the development of a new IMS for the Mol (a large institution with complex processes and with over 12,000 employees), 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.

#### Major events

In August 2021, UNDP organized a high-level meeting for handing over the hardware equipment procured to support the use of the Mol's IMS. The event was attended by Mr. Otto Graf, Deputy Head of Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany, Ms. Narine Sahakyan, UNDP Resident Representative<sup>1</sup>, Mr. Oliver Spasovski, Minister of Interior, the Deputy Director of the Bureau of Public Security, and UNDP Program and Project managers. A [press release](#) was issued by UNDP on this occasion.



*Photo from the donation of the hardware equipment for the Mol.  
Photo: UNDP North Macedonia*

<sup>1</sup> As of 8 October 2021, UNDP Resident Representative in North Macedonia is Mr. Armen Grigoryan. The event took place before that date and therefore Ms. Narine Sahakyan was present at the ceremony as the UNDP Resident Representative.

Also, two high-level presentations of the newly developed Police IMS were held for the Superintendents and Assistant Directors in the Bureau of Public Security (Central Police Services), increasing their awareness of UNDP's work conducted with the financial support of Germany.



*Photo from the high-level presentations of the newly developed Police IMS, held for the Superintendents and Assistant Directors in the Bureau of Public Security (Central Police Services). Photo: UNDP North Macedonia*

Finally, the project team participated in a high-level meeting between the Mol, the UNDP Office in North Macedonia, and UNDP SEESAC, where UNDP presented their planned activities in this jurisdiction.



*Photo from the High-level meeting between UNDP SEESAC, UNDP North Macedonia and the Ministry of Interior. Photo: UNDP North Macedonia*

### Social media

UNDP communicated about the handover ceremony on its Facebook account, while on Twitter the event was mentioned by the UNDP Resident Representative. Both posts noted the financial support provided by the German Federal Foreign Office.



Ja поддржуваме борбата против нелегалната трговија и незаконското поседување мало и лесно оружје. Денеска дониравме компјутерска опрема, која на [Министерство за внатрешни работи](#) ќе му овозможи да го надгради полицискиот информациски систем и на тој начин побрзо и попрецизно да собира и анализира податоци за малото и лесно оружје во државата. Благодарност до Министерството за надворешни работи на СР Германија [Auswärtiges Amt](#) за поддршката при реализацијата на проектот.

Прочитajte повеќе: <https://www.mk.undp.org/.../donation-computer-equipment.../>  
 #SaferRegion #SDG16 #SALW



Facebook post by UNDP North Macedonia from the handover ceremony.



Pleased to hand over the IT equipment to [@o\\_spasovski](#) as part of the “Improving National SALW-related Practices” project implemented under [@UNDP\\_SEESAC](#) initiative. [@UNDPMK](#) supports the efforts against illicit arms trade. [@GermanyDiplo](#) [@GERMANYonUN](#) thanks for the support. #SALW



Tweet by UNDP North Macedonia Resident Representatives from the handover ceremony.

Also, as part of the communication efforts to increase public awareness of the project achievements, and to further promote the upgraded WRMS software within the MoI, the project has developed a promotional [video](#), which will serve to inform the general public of the importance of using the developed software. The video was published on UNDP’s Facebook account.

**Подобрување на националните практики  
за контрола на мало и лесно оружје  
и градење на отпорни заедници**



15 November 2021 · 🌐



Целосната, брза и ефикасна евиденција на секое парче легално поседувано оружје ја олеснува борбата н...  
 See more

Most relevant ▾



Snezana Serafimovska  
 That’s how you work with dedication. Congratulations ...

Like Reply See original (Macedonian) 13 w

Translate all comments

Screen shot with the first instance of the video shared on [Facebook](#).

## Presence in the local media

The event was also covered in the local media. A total of 25 media announcements were published, as well as publications in the official UNDP North Macedonia and SEESAC social media accounts and websites.

1) Mia.mk	<a href="https://mia.mk/undp-i-germanskata-ambasada-i-doniraa-komp-uterska-oprema-na-mvr-za-poefikasna-kontrola-na-maloto-i-lesno-oruzh-e/">https://mia.mk/undp-i-germanskata-ambasada-i-doniraa-komp-uterska-oprema-na-mvr-za-poefikasna-kontrola-na-maloto-i-lesno-oruzh-e/</a>
2) Sitel.com.mk	<a href="https://sitel.com.mk/undp-i-germanskata-ambasada-i-doniraa-kompjuterska-oprema-na-mvr-za-poefikasna-kontrola-na-maloto-i-lesno-oruzh-e/">https://sitel.com.mk/undp-i-germanskata-ambasada-i-doniraa-kompjuterska-oprema-na-mvr-za-poefikasna-kontrola-na-maloto-i-lesno-oruzh-e/</a>
3) Opserver.mk	<a href="https://opserver.mk/politika/undp-i-germanskata-ambasada-i-doniraa-kompjuterska-oprema-na-mvr-za-poefikasna-kontrola-na-maloto-i-lesno-oruzhje/">https://opserver.mk/politika/undp-i-germanskata-ambasada-i-doniraa-kompjuterska-oprema-na-mvr-za-poefikasna-kontrola-na-maloto-i-lesno-oruzhje/</a>
4) Biznisvesti.mk	<a href="https://www.biznisvesti.mk/undp-i-germanskata-ambasada-doniraa-kompjuterska-oprema-vo-mvr-za-poefikasna-kontrola-na-maloto-i-lesno-oruzhje/">https://www.biznisvesti.mk/undp-i-germanskata-ambasada-doniraa-kompjuterska-oprema-vo-mvr-za-poefikasna-kontrola-na-maloto-i-lesno-oruzhje/</a>
5) Lokalno.mk	<a href="https://lokalno.mk/undp-i-germanskata-vlada-doniraa-kompjuterska-oprema-vo-mvr/">https://lokalno.mk/undp-i-germanskata-vlada-doniraa-kompjuterska-oprema-vo-mvr/</a>
6) A1On.mk	<a href="https://a1on.mk/macedonia/undp-i-germanskata-ambasada-i-doniraa-kompjuterska-oprema-na-mvr-za-poefikasna-kontrola-na-maloto-i-lesno-oruzhje/">https://a1on.mk/macedonia/undp-i-germanskata-ambasada-i-doniraa-kompjuterska-oprema-na-mvr-za-poefikasna-kontrola-na-maloto-i-lesno-oruzhje/</a>
7) Novamakedonija.com.mk	<a href="https://www.novamakedonija.com.mk/makedonija/hronika/%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B0%D1%86%D0%B8%D1%98%D0%B0-%D0%BE%D0%B4-%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BC%D0%BF%D1%98%D1%83%D1%82%D0%B5%D1%80%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%BE%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%BC%D0%B0-%D0%B2%D0%BE-%D0%BC%D0%B2/">https://www.novamakedonija.com.mk/makedonija/hronika/%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B0%D1%86%D0%B8%D1%98%D0%B0-%D0%BE%D0%B4-%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BC%D0%BF%D1%98%D1%83%D1%82%D0%B5%D1%80%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%BE%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%BC%D0%B0-%D0%B2%D0%BE-%D0%BC%D0%B2/</a>
8) Mkd.mk	<a href="https://www.mkd.mk/makedonija/politika/mvr-od-undp-i-germanija-dobi-oprema-za-otkrivanje-na-malo-i-lesno-oruzhje">https://www.mkd.mk/makedonija/politika/mvr-od-undp-i-germanija-dobi-oprema-za-otkrivanje-na-malo-i-lesno-oruzhje</a>
9) Nezavisen.mk	<a href="https://nezavisen.mk/undp-i-germanskata-ambasada-i-doniraa-kompjuterska-oprema-na-mvr-za-poefikasna-kontrola-na-maloto-i-lesno-oruzhje/">https://nezavisen.mk/undp-i-germanskata-ambasada-i-doniraa-kompjuterska-oprema-na-mvr-za-poefikasna-kontrola-na-maloto-i-lesno-oruzhje/</a>
10) Libertas.mk	<a href="https://libertas.mk/undp-i-germanskata-ambasada-i-doniraa-komp-uterska-oprema-na-mvr-za-poefikasna-kontrola-na-maloto-i-lesno-oruzh-e/">https://libertas.mk/undp-i-germanskata-ambasada-i-doniraa-komp-uterska-oprema-na-mvr-za-poefikasna-kontrola-na-maloto-i-lesno-oruzh-e/</a>
11) Centar.mk	<a href="https://centar.mk/blog/2021/08/26/undp-i-germanskata-ambasada-doniraa-kompjuterska-oprema-vo-mvr-za-poefikasna-kontrola-na-maloto-i-lesno-oruzhje/">https://centar.mk/blog/2021/08/26/undp-i-germanskata-ambasada-doniraa-kompjuterska-oprema-vo-mvr-za-poefikasna-kontrola-na-maloto-i-lesno-oruzhje/</a>
12) Makfax.com.mk	<a href="https://makfax.com.mk/makedonija/%d0%b4%d0%be%d0%bd%d0%b0%d1%86%d0%b8%d1%98%d0%b0-%d0%be%d0%b4-%d0%ba%d0%be%d0%bc%d0%bf%d1%98%d1%83%d1%82%d0%b5%d1%80%d1%81%d0%ba%d0%b0-%d0%be%d0%bf%d1%80%d0%b5%d0%bc%d0%b0-%d0%b2%d0%be-%d0%bc%d0%b2/">https://makfax.com.mk/makedonija/%d0%b4%d0%be%d0%bd%d0%b0%d1%86%d0%b8%d1%98%d0%b0-%d0%be%d0%b4-%d0%ba%d0%be%d0%bc%d0%bf%d1%98%d1%83%d1%82%d0%b5%d1%80%d1%81%d0%ba%d0%b0-%d0%be%d0%bf%d1%80%d0%b5%d0%bc%d0%b0-%d0%b2%d0%be-%d0%bc%d0%b2/</a>
13) Mtm.mk	<a href="https://mtm.mk/makedonija/77507-donacija-od-kompjuterska-oprema-vo-mvr-za-poefikasna-kontrola-na-lesnoto-oruzhje">https://mtm.mk/makedonija/77507-donacija-od-kompjuterska-oprema-vo-mvr-za-poefikasna-kontrola-na-lesnoto-oruzhje</a>
14) Tocka.com.mk	<a href="https://tocka.com.mk/vesti/386399/donacija-od-kompjuterska-oprema-vo-mvr-za-poefikasna-kontrola-na-lesnoto-oruzje">https://tocka.com.mk/vesti/386399/donacija-od-kompjuterska-oprema-vo-mvr-za-poefikasna-kontrola-na-lesnoto-oruzje</a>
15) Zoom.mk	<a href="https://zoom.mk/63894/">https://zoom.mk/63894/</a>
16) Lider.mk	<a href="https://lider.mk/mvr-kje-go-nadgradi-informaciskiot-sistem-so-kompjuterska-donacija-od-undp/">https://lider.mk/mvr-kje-go-nadgradi-informaciskiot-sistem-so-kompjuterska-donacija-od-undp/</a>
17) 24info.mk	<a href="https://24info.mk/%D1%83%D0%BD%D0%B4%D0%BF-%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%80%D0%B0-%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BC%D0%BF%D1%98%D1%83%D1%82%D0%B5%D1%80%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%BE%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%BC%D0%B0-%D0%B2%D0%BE-%D0%BC%D0%B2/">https://24info.mk/%D1%83%D0%BD%D0%B4%D0%BF-%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%80%D0%B0-%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BC%D0%BF%D1%98%D1%83%D1%82%D0%B5%D1%80%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%BE%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%BC%D0%B0-%D0%B2%D0%BE-%D0%BC%D0%B2/</a>
18) Utrinskivesnik.mk	<a href="https://utrinskivesnik.mk/%d0%b4%d0%be%d0%bd%d0%b0%d1%86%d0%b8%d1%98%d0%b0-%d0%be%d0%b4-%d0%ba%d0%be%d0%bc%d0%bf%d1%98%d1%83%d1%82%d0%b5%d1%80%d1%81%d0%ba%d0%b0-%d0%be%d0%bf%d1%80%d0%b5%d0%bc%d0%b0-%d0%b2%d0%be-%d0%bc%d0%b2/">https://utrinskivesnik.mk/%d0%b4%d0%be%d0%bd%d0%b0%d1%86%d0%b8%d1%98%d0%b0-%d0%be%d0%b4-%d0%ba%d0%be%d0%bc%d0%bf%d1%98%d1%83%d1%82%d0%b5%d1%80%d1%81%d0%ba%d0%b0-%d0%be%d0%bf%d1%80%d0%b5%d0%bc%d0%b0-%d0%b2%d0%be-%d0%bc%d0%b2/</a>
19) Vecer.mk	<a href="https://vecer.mk/makedonija/donacija-od-kompjuterska-oprema-vo-mvr-za-poefikasna-kontrola-na-lesnoto-oruzhje/">https://vecer.mk/makedonija/donacija-od-kompjuterska-oprema-vo-mvr-za-poefikasna-kontrola-na-lesnoto-oruzhje/</a>
20) Vesnik.com	<a href="https://vesnik.com/node/213270">https://vesnik.com/node/213270</a>
21) Kumanovskimualeti.mk	<a href="https://kumanovskimualeti.mk/undp-donira-kompjuterska-oprema-vo-mvr-za-poefikasna-kontrola-na-malo-i-lesno-oruzhje/?utm_source=rss&amp;utm_medium=rss&amp;utm_campaign=undp-donira-kompjuterska-oprema-vo-mvr-za-poefikasna-kontrola-na-malo-i-lesno-oruzhje">https://kumanovskimualeti.mk/undp-donira-kompjuterska-oprema-vo-mvr-za-poefikasna-kontrola-na-malo-i-lesno-oruzhje/?utm_source=rss&amp;utm_medium=rss&amp;utm_campaign=undp-donira-kompjuterska-oprema-vo-mvr-za-poefikasna-kontrola-na-malo-i-lesno-oruzhje</a>

22) Mnet.mk	<a href="https://mnet.mk/%d0%b4%d0%be%d0%bd%d0%b0%d1%86%d0%b8%d1%98%d0%b0-%d0%be%d0%b4-%d0%ba%d0%be%d0%bc%d0%bf%d1%98%d1%83%d1%82%d0%b5%d1%80%d1%81%d0%ba%d0%b0-%d0%be%d0%bf%d1%80%d0%b5%d0%bc%d0%b0-%d0%b2%d0%be-%d0%bc%d0%b2/">https://mnet.mk/%d0%b4%d0%be%d0%bd%d0%b0%d1%86%d0%b8%d1%98%d0%b0-%d0%be%d0%b4-%d0%ba%d0%be%d0%bc%d0%bf%d1%98%d1%83%d1%82%d0%b5%d1%80%d1%81%d0%ba%d0%b0-%d0%be%d0%bf%d1%80%d0%b5%d0%bc%d0%b0-%d0%b2%d0%be-%d0%bc%d0%b2/</a>
23) Info.mk	<a href="https://info.mk/makedonija/%d1%83%d0%bd%d0%b4%d0%bf-%d0%b8-%d0%b3%d0%b5%d1%80%d0%bc%d0%b0%d0%bd%d1%81%d0%ba%d0%b0%d1%82%d0%b0-%d0%b0%d0%bc%d0%b1%d0%b0%d1%81%d0%b0%d0%b4%d0%b0-%d0%b8-%d0%b4%d0%be%d0%bd%d0%b8%d1%80%d0%b0%d0%b0/">https://info.mk/makedonija/%d1%83%d0%bd%d0%b4%d0%bf-%d0%b8-%d0%b3%d0%b5%d1%80%d0%bc%d0%b0%d0%bd%d1%81%d0%ba%d0%b0%d1%82%d0%b0-%d0%b0%d0%bc%d0%b1%d0%b0%d1%81%d0%b0%d0%b4%d0%b0-%d0%b8-%d0%b4%d0%be%d0%bd%d0%b8%d1%80%d0%b0%d0%b0/</a>
24) lportal.mk	<a href="https://iportal.mk/makedonija/undp-donira-kompjuterska-oprema-vo-mvr-za-poefikasna-kontrola-na-malo-lesno-oruzhje/">https://iportal.mk/makedonija/undp-donira-kompjuterska-oprema-vo-mvr-za-poefikasna-kontrola-na-malo-lesno-oruzhje/</a>
25) Gragjanskizbor.mk	<a href="https://gragjanskizbor.mk/aktuelno/undp-donira-kompjuterska-oprema-vo-mvr-za-poefikasna-kontrola-na-malo-i-lesno-oruzhje/">https://gragjanskizbor.mk/aktuelno/undp-donira-kompjuterska-oprema-vo-mvr-za-poefikasna-kontrola-na-malo-i-lesno-oruzhje/</a>

### Additional donor visibility

Donor visibility was also ensured by visibly placing the German Cooperation logo on the equipment procured within the project, and on the promotional materials handed out during the events organized. Some examples are shown below.



*High-level presentation of the newly developed Police Information Management System, held for the Superintendents and Assistant Directors in the Bureau of Public Security (Central Police Services).*



*Photos showing the stickers containing the German Cooperation logo placed on the hardware equipment procured within the project.*

### Publications

Study on Femicides in the Republic of North Macedonia 2017-2020, UNDP North Macedonia [\[ALB\]](#) [\[ENG\]](#)[\[MKD\]](#)

Sub-project 8. Rogame SALW Storage Upgrade	
Project number:	2019MNE08
Implemented by:	UNDP Montenegro
Contributes to Roadmap Goal:	Goal 7. Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives.
Implementation period:	August 2019 – November 2021
Total budget: \$162,000	Spent 25 July 2019 – 31 December 2021: \$161,894

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 MoI/Police 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.

## OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS TOWARDS RESULTS

<u>PROJECT OUTPUT</u>	<u>PROJECT OUTPUT INDICATOR</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>STATUS OF PROJECT RESULTS</u>	<u>ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST INDICATORS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE PROJECT</u>
Output 8.1. Enhanced security at the <b>'Rogame' SALW and</b> ammunition storage	Tender issued for the completion of project design	Project design firm selected/project design completed	Achieved	Project design firm selected/project design completed.
	Tender issued for the construction and supervision of works/Contractors chosen/Contracts signed	Construction and Supervision companies selected/Contracts signed	Achieved	Tender for the reconstruction works and supervision of works issued, companies selected, and contract signed.
	Two magazines/guardhouse reconstructed in line with international standards	Magazines/guardhouse reconstructed	Achieved	Two magazines/guardhouse reconstructed in line with international standards
	Upgrade works handed over and technical handover minutes signed	The works handed over to the beneficiary	Achieved	Upgrade works handed over and technical handover minutes signed.

Output 8.1	<b>Enhanced security at the 'Rogame' SALW and ammunition storage</b>
Total budget: \$129,476	Spent 25 July 2019-31 December 2021: \$119,963

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.

2. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period

- In 2021, the reconstruction works at the Rogame storage were initiated following the long-awaited registration with the Ministry of Ecology, Urban planning and Urbanism. The works were finalized in Q3 2021, and comprised of changing of roofs, ceilings, providing extension of existing access ramps, strengthening exterior and interior walls, replacing doors and windows, installing outdoor lighting, and making the sewage/water/electricity installation in the guard house. The technical handover to the Mol was conducted.
- A handover ceremony was organized in November 2021.

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

- The project continued to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the fact that a new government was put in place following the elections in 2020. Thus, the process of registering the reconstruction works with the Ministry of Ecology, Urban planning and Urbanism took longer than anticipated, delaying the start of the works.
- Also, the prolonged rainy season hindered the project to finalize the works as planned, given that the **works envisaged reconstruction of the two magazines' roofs, which could not be conducted in rainy time.** As such, the project was extended with 3-months, approved by the regional project manager.

4. Achievements

- **Reduced risk of proliferation of firearms and ammunition from the Mol's Rogame storage achieved through the security upgrade work conducted within the project.**

5. Work plan for Q1 2022

Planned activities	Budget
• N/A	-

## 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 2022/2023. 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 COVID-19 pandemic continued to represent a risk to the project, as the public institutions engaged in this project were affected by it.

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 in the first part of 2021.

Finally, the unfavourable weather conditions were seen to pose a risk to the timely completion of the works, which envisaged the reconstruction of the two magazines' roofs, which could not be conducted in rainy time.

## Lessons learnt

Some of the lessons learnt throughout 2021 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.

## 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.

### Major events

The key communications activity of the project was the ceremony for the handover of works to the Mol. The event was attended by Mr. Thomas Meindl, first secretary of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Miodrag Bešović, Acting Director General for Protection and Rescue in the Mol, and the UNDP project team.

A [press release](#) was published on the website of the Mol of Montenegro, and shared by [UNDP](#).



Photos from the handover ceremony marking the completion of the upgrade works at the Rogame storage.  
Photos: UNDP Montenegro

## Social media

The handover ceremony was communicated by UNDP Montenegro on its Twitter account.



*Tweet about the upgrade works conducted at the Rogame SALW storage, mentioning the financial assistance of Germany.*

Rogami #SALW Storage was upgraded by adaptation of 2 storage buildings & a guard house, in accordance with international standards. In cooperation with @MupCg, @UNDP\_SEESAC and with financial assistance of 🇩🇪 Gov, we support 🇹🇷 in strengthening & implementing arms control policy.

2:03 PM · Dec 2, 2021 · Twitter Web App

2 Retweets 5 Likes

## Presence in the local media

The local media has also communicated about the work of UNDP and the handover ceremony. Relevant links are provided in the table below.

Vijesti.me	<a href="https://www.vijesti.me/vijesti/drustvo/578452/rekonstruisane-skladisne-zgrade-i-strazarnica-u-magacinu-rogami">https://www.vijesti.me/vijesti/drustvo/578452/rekonstruisane-skladisne-zgrade-i-strazarnica-u-magacinu-rogami</a>
portalanalitika.me	<a href="https://www.portalanalitika.me/clanak/rekonstruisane-skladisne-zgrade-i-strazarnica-u-magacinu-rogami">https://www.portalanalitika.me/clanak/rekonstruisane-skladisne-zgrade-i-strazarnica-u-magacinu-rogami</a>

cdm.me	<a href="https://www.cdm.me/hronika/ministarstvo-unutrasnjih-poslova-izvrшена-primopredaja-strazarnica-i-dvije-skladiske-zgrade-u-magacinu-rogami/">https://www.cdm.me/hronika/ministarstvo-unutrasnjih-poslova-izvrшена-primopredaja-strazarnica-i-dvije-skladiske-zgrade-u-magacinu-rogami/</a>
rtcg.me	<a href="http://rtcg.me/vijesti/drustvo/343435/rekonstruisane-skladiske-zgrade-i-strazarnica-u-magacinu.html">http://rtcg.me/vijesti/drustvo/343435/rekonstruisane-skladiske-zgrade-i-strazarnica-u-magacinu.html</a>
in4s.net	<a href="https://www.in4s.net/crna-gora-daje-doprinos-povecanju-sigurnosti-i-bezbjednosti-skladistenja-naoruzanja-i-neeeksplozivnih-ubojnih-sredstava/">https://www.in4s.net/crna-gora-daje-doprinos-povecanju-sigurnosti-i-bezbjednosti-skladistenja-naoruzanja-i-neeeksplozivnih-ubojnih-sredstava/</a>
borba.me	<a href="https://borba.me/crna-gora-daje-doprinos-povecanju-sigurnosti-i-bezbjednosti-skladistenja-naoruzanja-i-neeeksplozivnih-ubojnih-sredstava/">https://borba.me/crna-gora-daje-doprinos-povecanju-sigurnosti-i-bezbjednosti-skladistenja-naoruzanja-i-neeeksplozivnih-ubojnih-sredstava/</a>
aktuelno.me	<a href="https://www.aktuelno.me/crna-gora/mup-povecanje-sigurnosti-i-bezbjednosti-skladistenja-naoruzanja/">https://www.aktuelno.me/crna-gora/mup-povecanje-sigurnosti-i-bezbjednosti-skladistenja-naoruzanja/</a>
fosmedia.me	<a href="https://fosmedia.me/infos/drustvo/cg-daje-doprinos-povecanju-bezbjednosti-skladistenja-naoruzanja-i-neeeksplozivnih-ubojnih-sredstava">https://fosmedia.me/infos/drustvo/cg-daje-doprinos-povecanju-bezbjednosti-skladistenja-naoruzanja-i-neeeksplozivnih-ubojnih-sredstava</a>
kodex.me	<a href="http://kodex.me/clanak/246216/rekonstruisane-dvije-skladiske-zgrade-i-strazarnice-u-magacinu-rogami-uz-pomoc-njemacke">http://kodex.me/clanak/246216/rekonstruisane-dvije-skladiske-zgrade-i-strazarnice-u-magacinu-rogami-uz-pomoc-njemacke</a>
antenam.net	<a href="https://www.antenam.net/drustvo/224122-mup-povecanje-sigurnosti-i-bezbjednosti-skladistenja-naoruzanja">https://www.antenam.net/drustvo/224122-mup-povecanje-sigurnosti-i-bezbjednosti-skladistenja-naoruzanja</a>
standard.co.me	<a href="https://www.standard.co.me/drustvo/mup-povecanje-sigurnosti-i-bezbjednosti-skladistenja-naoruzanja/">https://www.standard.co.me/drustvo/mup-povecanje-sigurnosti-i-bezbjednosti-skladistenja-naoruzanja/</a>

### Additional donor visibility

The German Cooperation logo is visibly shown on the banner placed on the buildings renovated through the project. The text mentions the financial support provided by the German Federal Foreign Office.



## IV. Partnerships and sustainability

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Throughout the Western Balkans jurisdictions, the regional project enabled UNDP Offices to strengthen their existing partnerships on SALW control with the SALW Commissions, public authorities, the German Federal Foreign Office and other relevant donors, and civil society 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. New partnerships have also contributed to broadening the pool of stakeholders involved, providing a basis for future cooperation, as well as ensuring a participatory process and ownership of governmental institutions. Such is the case of the gender and SALW component implemented in Serbia. In several jurisdictions, high-level events were organized with the participation of the German Embassy, MoI, and UNDP to demonstrate UNDP's support to the Roadmap implementation that was achieved with Germany's financial support, and strengthen partnerships at the high level.

Apart the constant communication with the SALW Commissions and other project beneficiaries, the UNDP Offices also consolidated cooperation and synergized with other organizations such as UK's National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NABIS), OSCE, UNODC, ITF Enhancing Human Security, Forensic Northern Ireland, Spanish Cooperation. An important mechanism allowing information exchange and knowledge sharing with the relevant partners were the Roadmap coordination meetings organised at regional and local levels, gathering together all stakeholders involved in SALW control in the Western Balkans. UNDP SEESAC, as the project coordinator and the coordinator of the overall Roadmap, ensured that the UNDP project managers actively take part in these meetings. This was an opportunity for the projects to showcase their results, increase the visibility of their actions, and ensure coordination with other initiatives.

The UNDP Office have also exchanged experience and knowledge amongst themselves in areas of their concern and to keep consistency in the regional approach. Such an example is the exchange of experience and information between UNDP Albania and UNDP Serbia on improving capacities for CSI and ballistic examinations.

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.

Through its tailor-made interventions, UNDP was able to create visibility for the knowledge and lessons learned generated by the sub-projects, ensuring that key information is reach by all relevant parties. In 2021, 26 knowledge products and communication materials were developed within the Roadmap sub-projects. These included seven publications on gender and firearms, eleven knowledge sharing products and working materials in the form of analyses, policy papers, training concepts, and SOPs, and eight substantial visibility and communication materials in the form of videos, news articles, press releases, and social media campaigns. Information was mainly disseminated on UNDP's social media accounts, as well as on those of the project beneficiaries. The local media have also communicated about major events conducted within the projects in several jurisdictions.

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

## V. Update on risks and mitigation measures

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In 2021, three of the risks identified in the regional project risk matrix continued to be maintained and updated:

1. Covid-19 pandemic and related government restrictions. The risk fluctuated in terms of its impact during 2021. The pandemic continued to negatively affect the implementation of the project, albeit to a lesser extent. UNDP Offices have regularly monitored the development of the pandemic and took the necessary measures to mitigate the negative impact of the crisis and will continue to do so in 2022. Measures included 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.
2. Lack of internal political and institutional stability. This risk was updated in relation to the deteriorating political climate in BiH. In July 2021, The political parties in Republika Srpska decided to boycott their participation and decision-making at the state-level (BiH Presidency, Council of Ministers, Parliamentary Assembly). This decision followed the adoption of amendments to the BiH Criminal Code outlawing denial of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and glorification of war criminals, imposed by the former High Representative to BiH. Consequently, Republika Srpska National Assembly passed the Law on Non-Implementation of the Decision of the High Representative. The leading coalition in Republika Srpska has since engaged in divisive and dangerous rhetoric of secession and transfer of competences from the state to entity level, which caused a crisis in the functioning of the country. Nevertheless, the project team has timely reacted by maintaining continued communication with the project beneficiaries in Republika Srpska which resulted in undisturbed continuation of all project activities within the BiH sub-project. Also, elections took place in Kosovo and North Macedonia, delaying project activities. In Montenegro, the parliamentary elections organized in 2020 triggered changes in leadership, which affected the decision-making process within institutions. The project teams enhanced coordination with their partners on the ground to re-schedule activities, as needed. Political-related risks are expected to continue in BiH due to the planned elections and the continued changing political situation.
3. Insufficient operational capacity within national counterparts. This risk remained unchanged. Project beneficiaries continued to be challenged by the COVID-19 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 with a smaller probability and impact in 2022. UNDP will continue to plan in such a way to mitigate the potentially insufficient operational capacity of national counterparts.

The updated risk matrix is available in the Annex II.

## VI. Key challenges, lesson learned and recommendations

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The project continued to be implemented under extraordinary circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The quarterly updates provided by the UNDP Office on the evolution of pandemic in each jurisdiction showed that Governments continued to impose measures to stop and prevent the spread of the virus, however to a lesser extent given the improvement of the situation in certain periods of the year. The availability of the project beneficiaries (Mols and Police primarily) to participate in the project activities continued to be affected, as key staff were hospitalized or in quarantine with COVID-19 particularly during peak months. Activities that involved organization of trainings, meetings with the beneficiaries and on-site field visits continued to be affected, albeit to a lesser extent. The pandemic, although smaller as impact most of the year, created nevertheless delays in the implementation of the Roadmap projects' activities. The UNDP Offices and SEESAC have been closely monitoring the evolution of the pandemic in each jurisdiction.

A further challenge was posed by the elections in Kosovo and North Macedonia, which delayed some of the activities there, due to the unavailability of the project beneficiaries to participate in the planned activities. In Montenegro, the parliamentary elections organized in 2020 triggered changes in leadership, which affected the decision-making process within institutions in 2021.

Other challenges included the cumbersome communication with the project beneficiaries in some of the jurisdictions, difficult procurement processes and delays in the delivery of procured equipment, and the unfavourable weather conditions, which affected in particular the activities conducted in Montenegro.

Under these circumstances, three of the projects could not recuperate all the delays caused by the pandemic since its outbreak in March 2020 and needed 3 to 6 months no-cost extensions into 2022. These projects are Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking (CIAT), under implementation by UNDP BiH, which was extended with 6 months; Support to counter Illicit arms trafficking, under implementation by UNDP Kosovo, was extended with 3 months; and Improving national SALW-related practices and building violence-resilient communities, under implementation by UNDP North Macedonia, was extended with 6 months. The extensions were approved by the Project Board to allow sufficient time for the completion of all planned activities and the implementation of the remaining project balance. Other projects completed in 2021 also required short-term extensions approved by the regional project manager to finalize specific activities, e.g. finalizing procurement processes and delivery of equipment, finalizing software development, organizing final project events. This was the case of the projects implemented in Albania, Montenegro, and Serbia. Furthermore, the switch to online meetings instead of in-person resulted in unspent funding, which was redirected to other activities in line with the projects' objectives and the needs of the concerned authorities (Albania, Kosovo, Serbia). In the case of Albania, the project *Support Albania's Law Enforcement Authorities to Strengthen Firearms Criminality Evidence Management and Investigation Capacities* was extended by the Project Board with 6 months. The additional time will be used by the UNDP project team in Albania to procure additional equipment with the unspent funds that were left after the completion of all planned activities.

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 February 2022.

Some of the lessons learns drawn from the experience of these challenges include the importance of maintaining constant communication with counterparts to ensure understanding and adaptation of activities to new timelines; understanding that online trainings may not be as effective and efficient as in-person, and the beneficiaries are not always keen to participate - however they can contribute to sustainability, cost-effectiveness and greater outreach, with lasting results beyond the project duration; conducting early planning and negotiations to remove any political risks; regularly monitoring the developments of the pandemic and its effect on the beneficiaries and tailor responses; abiding by all preventive measures and safety protocols in relation to COVID while facilitating the organization of in-person events.