

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 – 28 February 2023
Country / Region:	Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo *, 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 2022 – 31 December 2022
Contact Person/s:	Gerd Trogemann – Manager, UNDP IRH Email: gerd.trogemann@undp.org , cc: bojana.balon@undp.org

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

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Acronyms

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

Progress against outputs and outcomes

In 2022, the regional project provided a comprehensive framework for a timely and tailor-made support to the authorities in the Western Balkans in the implementation of the [Roadmap for SALW Control](#). The project helped improve technical capacities for crime scene and ballistic investigations, ensured a more effective and standardized approach in countering of illicit arms trafficking, improved firearm-related data collection and management, enhanced operational information exchange, and ensured development of knowledge products and resources for a longer term and sustainable effect. Apart from delivering results on the ground, the project also paved the way for scaling up of assistance to the authorities in Roadmap implementation through the [Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund](#).

The regional project entered its fourth and final year of implementation in 2022. The Project Board approved the extension of the project's duration until 28 February 2023, to ensure completion of the project's final evaluation and its successful closure.

Under **Output 1** of the regional project (*Mechanism for efficient coordination of the Roadmap projects developed and put in place*), SEESAC maintained close relations with the UNDP Offices to monitor the implementation of their sub-projects and provided required assistance.

- SEESAC team members supported the implementation of the sub-projects by providing technical advice, facilitating sub-project revision requests, and reviewing draft knowledge products. All sub-projects required final adjustments and extension of the implementing period within the year, which was reviewed and approved either directly by the regional project manager or by the Project Board, in line with the Guidance note.
- The annual project board meeting was organized in February 2022, to review the progress made in 2021, take note of the project risks and mitigation measures, and approve the 2022 regional work plan. In the second half of the year, UNDP successfully contracted a company to conduct the final evaluation of the regional project, which is due to be completed by February 2023.

Under **Output 2** (*Roadmap projects delivered by UNDP Offices*), four projects out of the original eight remained under implementation in 2022: in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and North Macedonia. More specifically, in 2022:

- In **Albania**, the sub-project *Support Albania's Law Enforcement Authorities to Strengthen Firearms Criminality Evidence Management and Investigation Capacities* supported the Albanian State Police and the Albanian Institute of Scientific Police (AISP) to further enhance their capacities and operate with higher standards in the area of criminal investigations. In 2022, this was achieved through the provision of additional specialized equipment for improved functioning of the crime scene investigation (CSI) units, the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS), and of the Ballistic Sector. Likewise, the project further increased the technical resources and capacities in the field of crime scene investigations of the Tirana Police Directorate. Due to equipment for DNA analysis provided by the project, AISP was able to identify five victims of murder cases and solve related crimes dating back to 2015. 1500 DNA examinations of criminal cases were conducted using the kits provided through the project.
- In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, the sub-project *Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking (CIAT)* contributed to enhanced capacity of the Border Police and of 14 entity and cantonal Police Agencies in combatting illicit arms trafficking and strengthened cooperation and information exchange between the BiH Ministry of Security and other institutions at national and regional level. In 2022, the sub-project consolidated the National Database of SALW Transport Licenses, leading to strengthened 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. Capacities of approximately 30 administrators and end-users of the Database were enhanced through provision of training delivered by the IT company that developed the software. The sub-project supported further development of the SALW identification tool and its rollout to police agencies, accompanied by the delivery of equipment for the use of the tool. Additional specialized equipment was provided to the Federation BiH and Republika Srpska

authorities, as well as to the Border Police of BiH and 11 other law enforcement agencies to enhance their capacities for detecting illicit firearms. 1,199 police officers (1,078 men and 121 women) throughout the country were trained in the use of relevant standard operating procedures (SOPs) and specialized detection equipment. The project organized joint exercises on detecting and investigating smuggling of firearms, ammunition and explosives for police officers from 15 agencies and with the active participation of BiH Prosecutor's Office, thus contributing to better internal cooperation, and improved efficiency in processing and prosecuting SALW related crimes.

- In **Kosovo**, the sub-project *Support to Counter Illicit Arms Trafficking (CIAT)* strengthened the capacities of the Kosovo Police and the border authorities to better prevent and respond to illicit arms trafficking and better conduct border crossing control and efficient surveillance of the green border lines, through specialized training and provision of necessary equipment. The project successfully completed the development of a new Weapons Registration Software (WRS). The new WRS enables the Ministry of Interior to collect and exchange the required information on firearms with the relevant institutions and agencies, as prescribed by the Law on Weapons and respective regulatory frameworks. The project delivered specialized equipment to Kosovo Police to improve the detection of arms trafficking. Using this specialized equipment, the project supported a joint exercise between 18 police and customs officers (17 men and 1 women) at the boundary crossing points and the green boundary lines. In addition, 40 police officers and customs officials (9 women and 31 men) were trained on the detection of firearms, their components, and ammunition in postal and fast parcels. As a result, the Kosovo Police boundary department conducted numerous intelligence-led operations, increasingly detecting and confiscating illegal firearms and ammunition. The police confiscated 1,473 firearms in 2022 as compared to 1,280 in 2021 and 1,135 in 2020. To further inform intelligence-led policing and advance practice, the project delivered to the authorities three knowledge products tackling the border vulnerability assessment, problem profile and trend analysis, as well as the use of canine capacities (K9) for countering illicit arms trafficking.
- In **North Macedonia**, the sub-project *Improving national SALW-related practices and building violence-resilient communities* supported the Ministry of Interior in improving firearm-related data collection, analysis, and exchange, by developing the Weapons Registration and Stockpile Management Software (WRMS) and an Information Management System, and delivering related training and hardware equipment to this end. In 2022, the work for the improvement of the Information Management System (IMS) of the Ministry of Interior was successfully finalized. The sub-project developed a user's manual and trained 200 police officers on the IMS use, to also serve as trainers for their colleagues in the Mol on a continuous basis. The technical support for the new Information Management System and the upgraded Weapons Registration and Stockpile Management Software (WRMS) was ensured throughout 2022.

Under **Output 3** of the regional project (*Mechanism for efficient programmatic coordination and monitoring of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF in place*), UNDP SEESAC in its capacity as Trust Fund Secretariat continued to support the Trust Fund Steering Committee in all its decision-making processes, including by facilitating and organizing Steering Committee meetings. The Secretariat was also responsible with monitoring the projects under implementation, reviewing project revisions, and consolidating quarterly and annual progress reports submitted by the Participating UN Organizations, UNDP and UNODC. It regularly liaised with the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office to ensure the accuracy of all processes and documents prepared. In addition, the Secretariat maintained the partnerships with donors, including for resource mobilization purposes.

- The Trust Fund's Steering Committee convened seven times throughout the year to review and decide on the Fund's direction and operations, new project proposals and project revisions. Seven ongoing projects were granted non-cost extensions. Six new project proposals were approved for funding by the Steering Committee in the second half of 2022, to respond to the immediate needs by the Western Balkans authorities before the next call for proposals in 2023. This brought the total number of projects funded by the Trust Fund to 16.
- In 2022, the Trust Fund received contributions of US\$2.3 million. With these, the overall Fund portfolio rose to USD 24.1 million, with contributions from six donors (Germany, Sweden, UK, France, the Netherlands, and Norway).
- A company was contracted in the last quarter of 2022 to conduct the mid-term evaluation of the Trust Fund, assess the progress made thus far through the Fund's contribution and provide recommendations for the Fund's future governance.

Key challenges and risks

The project continued to be implemented under a **challenging environment** created by the COVID-19 pandemic, though at a lesser extent as compared to the previous period. The quarterly updates provided by the UNDP Offices on the evolution of pandemic in each jurisdiction showed that jurisdictions continued to impose measures to stop and prevent the spread of the virus in the first half of 2022. As of the second half of 2022, the restrictive measures were largely lifted across the jurisdictions and the sub-projects largely resumed in-person capacity development and operations. The pandemic, although with reduced impact most of the year, continued to create delays in the implementation of the Roadmap projects' activities. The UNDP Offices and SEESAC have been closely monitoring the pandemic-related and other developments in each jurisdiction as it affected activities and results. Worth noting though is that the project beneficiaries (Ministries of interior and police primarily) were largely available for project activities, except in circumstances surrounding elections in BiH, or security tensions in some areas of the region.

The remaining ongoing projects continued implementation without any major challenges. Certain delays were nevertheless encountered due to issues with the procurement or delivery of equipment, slow pace of planned software development, or insufficient human resource capacity on occasions.

Lesson learned and recommendations

Across the sub-projects, regular communication with counterparts to ensure common understanding and adapt activities to accommodate competing priorities proved essential to mitigate risks of insufficient or ineffective engagement in project activities. Participation of project beneficiaries as co-facilitators and trainers strengthened ownership and effectiveness of results.

The combination of carefully embedded new procedures into the work of law enforcement, provision of practical cases and knowledge products, as well as running of (joint) operations while using the specialized equipment provided through the project, ensured stronger effects of the project results and their sustainability. Nevertheless, this required more time than initially envisaged across the sub-projects. For a similar comprehensive engagement in the future, the project teams identified that longer timeframes need to be envisaged to reach planned results.

Lack of human resource capacity and changes in management structures within the beneficiary institutions are risks that are likely to materialize. Establishing internal resources in terms of SOPs, manuals and trained trainers, mitigates the risks of ineffective results or short-term gains.

The fact that the sub-projects were managed by project teams on the ground, with direct and frequent access to key partners and beneficiaries, and the existence of project boards and local coordination platforms with the active engagement of authorities and partner organizations and institutions, was critical for success; Investment in trust-based relationship yields results.

Utilization update

By the end of 2022, the cumulative utilization of the regional project budget was \$6,438,011, representing 98.9% of the total project budget of \$6,512,155. Specifically in 2022, out of the total approved budget of \$1,722,172, expenditure amounted to \$1,672,289, or 97%.

Catalytic interventions

The regional project proved its catalytic value and was instrumental in scaling up or multiplying existing initiatives. Across the board, the progress and achievements realized through the sub-projects have been built up with the funding from the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF. The good practice and experience from individual UNDP offices continued to be replicated in neighbouring jurisdictions due to established specialized exchanges managed or promoted by UNDP SEESAC.

II. Introduction / Background

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

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

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

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

The project thus contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, *Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies*, and secondly to SDG 5, *Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*. Specifically, it is linked to SDG target 16.4 *By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime*. It aims at supporting countering the illicit trafficking and misuse of firearms through improved SALW control legal frameworks and evidence-based policies, increased national capacities for detection, seizure and confiscation of misused firearms, increased public awareness about the dangers of firearms misuse, and strengthened capacities for inspection and implementation of life cycle management of SALW and ammunition. Additionally, the project contributes to the following targets: SDG target 16.1. Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere, and SDG target 5.2. Eliminate all forms of violence

¹ According to data collected by UNDP SEESAC from the authorities in the region for the Regional SALW survey.

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 will 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 completed in 2023.

III. Progress Review: Key Activities and Results, 1 January – 31 December 2022

Section 1: Overall progress against outcomes

In 2022, the project consolidated 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).

The portfolio of sub-projects covered all of the Roadmap goals and was relevant to Roadmap implementation in a balanced way, reflecting Roadmap priorities. In 2022, the project improved the collection, analysis and storage of firearm-related data, advanced practices and procedures related to tackling SALW issues, and enhanced capacities and resources for preventing and responding to illicit arms trafficking. It enabled more effective and efficient control and response to firearms-related threats.

The project thus contributed in 2022 to the achievement of following 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.
- Goal 4: By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy.
- Goal 5: By 2024, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans.
- Goal 7: Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives.

Furthermore, the project maintained in 2022 a mechanism for efficient coordination of the UNDP projects, aiming at supporting national efforts on arms control in the Western Balkans. It contributed to the Outcome indicator stated in the UNDP Regional programme document for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (2018-2021 / 2022-2025), *Number of regional cooperation forums that support redress mechanisms, justice institutions, and community security (including SALW control) / Number of countries whose vulnerability to crisis and disaster risk has improved*. The regional project represented a forum that cultivated initiatives for the improvement of SALW control in the Western Balkans.

In the second half of 2022, UNDP contracted a company to conduct the final evaluation of the project. The final evaluation will provide independent insights into the overall progress against the results and outcomes, an overview of key findings; lessons learnt from the general implementation of both the UNDP project and sub-projects; and it will provide recommendations for future approaches in the area.

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 on a quarterly basis, based on information collected from the UNDP Offices. Progress reports were shared with the donor on a quarterly and annual basis, providing updates in the implementation of the sub-projects, challenges in implementation, risks, and plans for the next reporting period. Three project quarterly progress reports were produced in 2022. Knowledge, good practices and lessons were captured in an annual report. 2021 annual report was produced in the first quarter of 2022, capturing the progress for the previous year and follow up plan for 2022.

Monitoring was also ensured through regular communication with the project teams in each UNDP Office. Monitoring was performed as well through the local and regional SALW coordination meetings, organized bi-annually by the SALW authorities in Western Balkans in cooperation with SEESAC, whereby relevant local and international actors gather to reflect on the progress towards the Roadmap Goals and on contributions

from respective projects and initiatives to this end. In 2022, there were two of such meetings in each of six Western Balkans jurisdictions, 12 in total. At the level of the sub-projects, the UNDP Offices conduct their own monitoring and verification actions, including meetings with respective project boards.

Table: Overview of approved sub-projects

Project Title	UNDP Office	Impl. period²
1. Urgent Action on Ammunition Destruction - Project EXPLODE+	UNDP BiH	July 2019 – Dec 2019
2. Reduce risk - Increase safety – Towards ending SALW misuse in domestic violence context in Serbia	UNDP Serbia	Sep 2019 – Dec 2021
3. 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	UNDP Serbia	Oct 2019 – Nov 2021
4. Rogame SALW Storage Upgrade	UNDP Montenegro	Aug 2019 – Nov 2021
5. Support Albania's Law Enforcement Authorities to Strengthen Firearms Criminality Evidence Management and Investigation Capacities	UNDP Albania	Dec 2019 – Dec 2022
6. Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking (CIAT)	UNDP BiH	July 2019 – Dec 2022
7. Support to counter Illicit arms trafficking	UNDP Kosovo	Sep 2019 – Aug 2022
8. Improving national SALW-related practices and building violence-resilient communities	UNDP North Macedonia	Sep 2019 – July 2022

² Implementing period reflects non-cost extensions as approved by the Project Board or Regional Project Manager, in line with the Guidance Note for the project.

Section 3: Progress against each output

Output 1: Mechanism for efficient coordination of the Roadmap projects developed and put in place	
Total budget ³ : \$336,853.16	Spent 14 May 2019-31 December 2022: \$329,318.63

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	58 knowledge products and communication materials were prepared in total since the project's beginning. ⁴

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 meetings supported by UNDP SEESAC, bilateral meetings, and regular communication with the UNDP project managers.
- UNDP SEESAC contracted a company to conduct the final evaluation of the project. The company conducted the desk research and data collection with field visits in the last quarter of 2022. The final evaluation report is due in the course of February 2023.

³ Throughout the report, the *Total budget* refers to the budget for the entire duration of the project.

⁴ In 2019, two (2) knowledge products and communication materials were prepared: one (1) green border assessment in BiH; and one (1) visibility and communication material published by SEESAC on launching the SALW Control projects; In 2020, twenty-four (24) knowledge products and communications materials were prepared: two (2) publications on gender and firearm misuse in UNDP Serbia; eighteen (18) knowledge sharing products and working materials in the form of standard operating procedures (SOPs), analyses and needs assessments, developed by UNDP offices in Albania, BiH, North Macedonia and Serbia; and four (4) visibility and communication materials developed by SEESAC, UNDP Serbia and UNDP Kosovo; In 2021, twenty-six (26) knowledge products, and visibility and communication materials were produced, including seven (7) publications on gender and firearms developed by UNDP Serbia and UNDP North Macedonia; eleven (11) knowledge sharing products and working materials in the form of analyses, policy papers, training concepts, and standard operating procedures (SOPs) developed by UNDP BiH and UNDP Serbia; eight (8) substantial visibility and communication materials were published in the form of videos, news articles, press releases, and social media campaigns, by UNDP offices in Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia.

ACTIVITY 1.1	Coordination of implementation of Roadmap projects
Total budget: \$336,853.16	Spent 14 May 2019 – 31 December 2022: \$329,318.63

1. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period

- In 2022, SEESAC project team continued to maintain a close relationship with the UNDP Offices to **monitor the implementation of the sub-projects and provide any required assistance**. SEESAC thus monitored the implementation of four sub-projects active in 2022, and provided the required assistance as needed. SEESAC team members provided technical advice for the implementation of project activities and advised on project revisions for effective achievement of project results.
- SEESAC collected **knowledge products** and progress reports, and consolidated progress updates for the Donor and Project Board. SEESAC also supported decision-making by the Project Board on project revisions and non-cost extensions.
- In addition to extending the overall project's duration for five more months, until 28 February 2023, the project board approved non-cost extensions for three sub-projects. Furthermore, SEESAC project manager approved project revisions of a minor nature and non-cost extensions for all four sub-projects under implementation, in line with the project's Guidance Note. In 2022, **nine project revisions** were conducted, primarily tackling non-substantive adjustments and non-cost extensions.
 - In Albania, the sub-project was initially extended for 6 months, until June 2022, to allow enough time for the procurement of additional equipment for improving the crime scene and ballistic investigations. The Project Board then approved a cost-extension for the sub-project to expand on the technical support, allocating additional \$49,100 to it from available unallocated funds of the regional project and allowing the extension of the implementing period until the end of 2022. With the final cost extension, until 31 December 2022, an activity was added to further increase the technical resources and capacities in the field of crime scene investigations of the Tirana Police Directorate.
 - In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the sub-project required activity modification, budget reallocation and non-cost extension until the end of the year to successfully achieve planned results and ensure effective use of the funds. In Q1 2022, two activities were cancelled with the approval of the regional project manager and the funds reallocated to other activities (the budget changes were under 15% and thus the approval of the project board was not required). The extremely slow process of testing software modules of the supported database, as well as limited availability of project partners during summer, affected implementation of activities and prompted two non-cost extension requests of the project's duration, first granted by the project manager until 30 September 2022, and second by the Project Board, until 31 December 2022.
 - In Kosovo, the sub-project was extended twice to ensure delivery of the necessary equipment and the development of knowledge products. In Q1 2022, the Project Board approved a 3-month extension until June 2022. In Q2 2022, the sub-project was granted by the project manager another non-cost extension by additional 2 months, until 31 August 2022, to utilize remaining funds to procure additional equipment for the Border Police.
 - In North Macedonia, the sub-project was granted a 2-month non-cost extension by the project manager, allowing the project team to ensure proper promotion of the results of the project and provide final support to the beneficiaries with the development of the Police Information Management System (IMS).
 - At the same time, the Project Board approved the extension of the overall regional project by five months, until 28 February 2023. This additional period was needed to accommodate the extensions of the UNDP sub-projects and ensure that the final evaluation of the project is conducted within the project's timeframe.
- 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.
- In the second half of 2022, SEESAC supported the engagement of a company to conduct the final evaluation of the regional project, and it coordinated the process.

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

- The procurement process for engaging a company to conduct the final evaluation of the regional project took longer than envisaged. UNDP faced challenges to find qualified bidders. The process had to be relaunched and it was successfully completed after the second attempt. The Project Board approved the project's extension until the end of February 2023 to enable successful completion of the final evaluation.

3. Achievements

- Strengthened coordination and monitoring of the regional project achieved through regular communication and technical assistance provided to the UNDP Offices.
- The final evaluation of the project was successfully launched.

4. Work plan for 2023

Planned activities	Budget
• Monitor and facilitate closure of the UNDP SALW control projects.	N/A
• Support the finalization of the final evaluation of the regional project	\$7,966

Output 2: Roadmap projects delivered by UNDP Offices	
Total budget: \$5,920,257	Spent 25 July 2019-31 December 2022: \$5,872,988.76

Output indicators	Targets	Progress against targets since the beginning of the project
Number of Roadmap projects that have achieved their planned results	8	Eight (8) of the eight (8) projects approved for funding by the Project Board were completed achieving their planned results: one project (1) in 2019, three (3) in 2021, and four (4) in 2022.

Eight projects selected within the call for proposals have been implemented by the UNDP Offices in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia. The projects covered 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 have been implemented in support of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap. The projects have been 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.

Out of the eight approved sub-projects, one (1) sub-project was successfully completed in 2019, three (3) were completed in 2021, and the remaining four (4) were completed in 2022.

Key results achieved during the reporting period:

- **Improved technical capacities** for crime scene and ballistic investigations in Albania.
- Ensured a **more effective and standardized approach in countering of illicit arms trafficking** in BiH and Kosovo.
- Improved **firearm-related data collection and management** as well as the **operational information exchange** in BiH and North Macedonia.
- Ensured **development of knowledge products and resources** for a longer term and sustainable effect in Kosovo and North Macedonia.

The following section outlines both sub-projects that have completed prior to 2022, and those that continued implementation throughout 2022, for a comprehensive overview of the contribution stemming from the Roadmap projects.

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 2: By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence based and intelligence led. Goal 4: By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy.	
Implementation period:	September 2019 – December 2021	
Total budget: \$294,462 Approved budget for project continuation: \$150,000		Spent 25 July 2019 – 31 December 2021: \$443,404

The sub-project supported the reduction of 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. It set up the basis for evidence-based policy making, increased the awareness among general population on the dangers of illicit SALW possession and misuse, and developed knowledge packages for risk reduction of firearms misuse in the context of gender-based violence.

A **series of analyses** were developed in the framework of the project to inform policy making.⁵ The publications were shared with all relevant stakeholders, both public institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In addition, a **research on judicial practice and response of the criminal-justice system** related to detecting and misuse of firearms in cases of domestic violence was completed. The project contributed to improved access to continuous training for judiciary, police and other professionals on firearms misuse in the context of domestic violence, through **comprehensive e-learning**. It developed **three modules for the existing Mol e-training programme** on recognizing, preventing and reducing the risk of firearm use in domestic violence. Also, the **e-training to improve multi-agency case management for increased safety of victims and reduced risk of firearm violence in the domestic violence context** was developed and approved by the national Judicial Academy. In cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, the project developed and published [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.

The project worked on exploring the role of the healthcare system in the prevention of firearm misuse in domestic violence. A **policy paper was thus developed, mapping the relationship between domestic violence, SALW misuse and public health, as a foundation for short- and long-term actions**.

The project 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. It organized **joint learning sessions of media, CSOs and institutions** to discuss different models for establishing a multiagency femicide review and to present the findings of the analysis of cases of femicides committed with firearms. In line with the **communication strategy** developed by the group “Journalists against Violence”, the project implemented two **social media campaigns on the dangers and consequences of firearms misuse**, which followed up on the findings of the analysis of cases of femicides committed with firearms. These activities led to **remarkable media coverage** and media interest in firearms misuse and domestic violence.

Supporting media in educational and preventative reporting, project results include development of [guidelines](#) for ethical and gender-sensitive media reporting on domestic violence committed with firearms, a [training module](#) for the media on gender-sensitive media reporting on domestic violence committed with firearms, and an analysis of media reporting on SALW and domestic violence for the first

⁵ 1) The in-depth analysis 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. 2) The analysis of administrative data collection practices on the misuse of SALW in domestic and intimate partner violence. 3) A methodology and analysis of data on SALW and domestic violence in the period 2017-2020. 4) An analysis of cases of femicides committed with firearms.

half of 2021 that helps monitor the quality of media reporting on the cases of domestic violence committed with firearms. To further raise awareness and improve availability of relevant information to the wider public, 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. This guide followed an extensive consultation process with a wide range of institutional and non-governmental stakeholders.

A critical result of the project is the **integration of firearms-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.

The sub-project was successfully completed in December 2021.

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:	<p>Goal 1: By 2023, ensure that arms control legislation is in place, fully harmonized with the EU regulatory framework and standardized across the region.</p> <p>Goal 2: By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence based and intelligence led.</p> <p>Goal 3: By 2024, significantly reduce the illegal circulation of firearms, ammunition and explosives (AME) towards, within and beyond the Western Balkans.</p> <p>Goal 5: By 2025, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans.</p>	
Implementation period:	October 2019 – November 2021	
Total budget: \$958,284		Spent 25 July 2019 – 31 December 2021: \$957,595

The sub-project increased the capacities of the Ministry of Interior in the entire investigative cycle. It established robust chain of custody procedures including systems that developed open case file data, ensured that laboratory handling and data management around exhibits and evidence complied with European standards and sped up ballistic analysis.

The sub-project improved and standardized crime scene investigations. It increased the capacity of the crime scene investigation units through specialized training, equipment and accreditation. The functions of the ballistic laboratory were improved through an improved information management system and storage of ballistic evidence, and ballistic testing. 60 participants from the forensic lines of work took part in a **training on crime scene investigations and chain of custody**, increasing their knowledge and understanding of 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. Also, 60 participants from the CSI units across Serbia **increased their knowledge about the accreditation of the CSI infrastructure according to ISO/IEC 17020**.

To improve the capacities of the CSI units to collect evidence and conduct criminal investigations in reported cases of domestic violence, the project team supported the elaboration of an **Instruction (guidelines) regarding the appropriate procedures in resolving criminal offences in the field of domestic violence**. The Instruction was shared with experts from law enforcement agencies dealing with the issue of prevention, suppression and prosecution of domestic violence, as well as the Prosecutor's office and medical institutions and teams which are working together with CSI teams on the crime scene. The project procured and installed **specialized SALW-related equipment for the CSI line of work** to further increase the efficiency of the CSI units, and the quality of their work.

Additionally, the project supported the central level ballistic laboratory with the installation of a **Laboratory Inventory Management System (LIMS) and an Open Case File (OCF) database**. The laboratory was also provided with necessary equipment to support the use of the LIMS, to generally increase the efficiency of work of the ballistic experts in the laboratory, and to ensure the security of the lab. To **complement the installation of the water tank for test firing** in 2020 and to further support the experts who are daily using the tank, a dedicated SOP was developed, and specialized equipment was provided to ensure the safety of all staff members when handling, inspecting and testing firearms and ammunition.

The sub-project was successfully completed in November 2021.

Sub-project 3. Support Albania's Law Enforcement Authorities to Strengthen Firearms Criminality Evidence Management and Investigation Capacities		
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 – December 2022	
Total budget: \$1,234,571		Spent 25 July 2019 – 31 December 2022: \$1,220,061

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.

In 2022:

- The sub-project continued with the **provision to the AISP of additional equipment**, complimenting the already provided items, to enhance the quality and efficiency of investigative operations. Firstly, this included additional pieces of equipment for the CSI Units, including seven specialized CSI kits, an UPS 20 Kva, and five laser distance measuring devices.
- As part of the latest cost extension of the project, an activity was added to increase the **technical resources in the field of crime scene investigations for the CSI Unit of the Tirana Police Directorate**. The CSI Sector of the Tirana Police Directorate received necessary equipment to improve the collection, management and storage of evidence. This included a polygon test firing, scanner for falsified documents, microscope, six toolkits for CSI, a video projector, two weapons racks, an ammo rack, five storage racks, 15 computer sets, 15 office tablets, a refrigerator for DNA, a safe, reception desk, metal door, 15 workstations (tables, chairs), five office cabinets.
- Secondly, the sub-project provided **additional equipment for the well-functioning of the LIMS**. This included one storage for the LIMS system, a licensed firewall software enabling online work of tablets for LIMS, and three IT equipment sets.
- Thirdly, the project delivered **additional equipment to the Ballistic Sector** to help improve the working conditions of the ballistic experts and quality of ballistic operations. This entailed four sets of office furniture, 12 metal shelves; two workbenches for ballistic examination with the respective tools; one electronic laser marker for marking ballistic material evidence; five earplugs and protective goggles for use during polygon shooting; five scaling sets (meters) to take photos of evidence, and the catalogue of weapons in the country – FRT and Cartwin Pro.

The sub-project was successfully completed in December 2022.

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	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 were approved by 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	3 training sessions on the use of LIMS were delivered as planned, encompassing 148 police officers.
	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.

In 2021, using the kits provided by the project, the AISP carried out 2000 DNA examinations of criminal cases, with around 1200 examinations being a backlog from the previous year. In 2022, 1500 DNA examinations of criminal cases were conducted using the provided kits. Due to equipment for DNA analysis provided by the project, AISP was able to identify five victims of murder cases and solve related crimes dating back to 2015.

Output 3.1	Enhanced capacities of CSI Units
Total budget: \$480,364	Spent 25 July 2019 – 31 December 2022: \$575,076

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 2022, the AISP was provided with **additional equipment to increase the quality and accuracy of the ballistic and DNA examinations**, resulting in more reliable and accurate evidence.
- Additional equipment comprised of 1 UPS 20 Kva and 5 laser distance measuring devices, 7 specialized kits for AISP, three sets of IT equipment, 1 polygon test firing, 1 scanner for falsified documents, 1 microscope, 6 toolkits for CSI, 1 video projector, 2 weapons racks, 1 ammo racks, 5 storage racks, 15 desktop computers/screens/keyboards, 1 refrigerator for DNA, 1 safe, 1 reception desk, metal door and lock, 15 office tables/chairs/cabinets.

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

- At the request of the AISP, the equipment needs were reassessed and the delivered equipment was as per updated needs.
- The project was unable to procure the Video Spectral Comparator because the offers that were received were much higher than the available budget.
- The project received approval by the Project Board for a cost-extension, until 31 December, to enable procurement of additional equipment as per updated needs of AISP.

4. Achievements

- Increased quality and accuracy of the ballistic and DNA examinations achieved through the new technologically advanced equipment provided through this project.
- Crime scene investigation capacities enhanced through the additional specialized equipment.

5. Work plan for 2023

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

Output 3.2	Development of Evidence Management Systems
Total budget: \$178,000	Spent 25 July 2019 – 31 December 2022: \$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 2022, the project team provided **additional equipment for the well-functioning of the newly installed LIMS** in the AISP. This included 1 storage for the LIMS system, 1 licensed firewall software enabling online work of tablets for LIMS, 3 IT equipment sets (computer, printer, barcode reader, barcode printer). The LIMS is a software that will help improve the accuracy and efficiency of internal data acquisition, management and reporting.

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.

4. Achievements

- Strengthened capacities of the AISP to collect, manage, and analyse large amounts of ballistic data through the developed and well equipped LIMS.

5. Work plan for 2023

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

Output 3.3	Equipment Upgrade for Ballistic Sector
Total budget: \$297,500	Spent 25 July 2019 – 31 December 2022: \$259,419

1. Description of the output

- Output 3.3 aims to support the upgrade of the Ballistic Sector operations through 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 2022, **the technical capacities of the Ballistic Sector were further enhanced through the provision of necessary equipment**, including 12 metal shelves, 2 workbenches for ballistic examination with respective tools; 1 electronic laser marker for marking ballistic material evidence; 5 earplugs and protective goggles for use during polygon shooting; 5 scaling sets (meters), to take photos of evidence, as well as a catalogue of weapons in the country Cartwin Pro software. In addition, working conditions for ballistic experts were improved through the provision of 4 sets of office furniture.

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

- N/A.

4. Achievements

- Improved quality of firearm-related investigations through the procurement of the specialized equipment for the Ballistic Sector.

5. Work plan for 2023

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

Partnerships and sustainability

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

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

Update on risks and mitigation measures

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to affect the project in the first half of 2022. The restrictive measures were lifted in the second half of 2022, enabling greater in-person engagement. The extension of the project's duration enabled successful completion of all activities.

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 2022, project results and activities were communicated online, via social media, acknowledging support of the German Government to the project.

Some examples are presented below.

Tweet and Blog on Modernizing Albanian Institute of the Scientific Police

- <https://twitter.com/UNDPAlbania/status/1575436723726721026>
- <https://www.undp.org/albania/blog/modernizing-albanian-institute-scientific-police>

Ceremony event at the Tirana Police Directorate

- <https://www.syri.net/kronike/557831/donacioni-undp-i-dhuron-policise-se-tiranes-pajisje-per-njesine-e-csi-se/>
- <https://shqiptarja.com/lajm/dorezohen-pajisje-per-laboratorin-shkencor-te-policise-se-tiranes-donacioni-i-financuar-nga-undp>
- <https://www.vizionplus.tv/undp-dhuron-donacion-policia-e-shtetit-me-pajisje-te-reja/>
- Donacioni/ UNDP i dhuron Policisë së Tiranës pajisje për njësinë e CSI-së | Gazeta Telegraf
- DVP Tiranë Ditën e... - Drejtoria Vendore e Policisë Tiranë | Facebook
- https://twitter.com/UNDPAlbania/status/1606382662830039040?s=20&t=C_qfAgd83do5RSO2X541OQ



Sub-project 4. Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking (CIAT)		
Project number:	2019BIH04	
Implemented by:	UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina	
Contributes to Roadmap Goals:	<p>Goal 2. By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence based and intelligence led.</p> <p>Goal 3. By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.</p> <p>Goal 5: By 2025, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans.</p>	
Implementation period:	July 2019 – December 2022	
Total budget: \$1,071,283		Spent 25 July 2019 - 31 December 2022: \$1,048,838

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 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.

In 2022:

- The sub-project **consolidated the National Database of SALW Transport Licenses**. To this end, regular consultations were carried out with the 13 government entities involved in this process – the Ministry of Security as future owner/holder of the database, and 12 law enforcement agencies as end-users. Developed modules were tested by the end users prior to deployment.
- Throughout the year, the sub-project supported further **deployment of the SALW identification tool to police agencies**, accompanied by the delivery of equipment for the use of the tool. The upgrade of the tool in 2022 comprised of three phases, 1) detailed analysis of the system and implementation of the SALW catalogue, 2) registration of collected SALW and 3) reporting and final testing. To support the best use of the SALW identification tool, 23 laptops were delivered to the law enforcement agencies / end users with installed software. The upgraded SALW identification tool is used by the BiH Border Police and other law enforcement agencies to assist their identification of firearms and ammunition during inspections and seizures.
- **Additional specialized equipment** was provided to the Federation BiH and Republika Srpska authorities, as well as to the Border Police of BiH and 11 other law enforcement agencies to enhance their capacities for detecting illicit firearms. This entailed two mobile detectors for explosives and narcotics, 100 remote surveillance cameras, 60 binoculars to the Border Police, additional 30 videoscopes, six augmented vision binoculars. In addition, the project team accommodated the request for specialized equipped - two stereomicroscopes - for the forensic centers in Federation BiH and Republika Srpska to better support Border Police, Prosecutors' offices, and law enforcement agencies in their investigative efforts
- Additional **1,139 officers (1,022 men and 117 women) from throughout the country were trained in the use of the developed SOPs and specialized detection equipment**. Based on the previously developed and approved concept, the sub-project **rolled out joint exercises** on detecting and investigating smuggling of firearms, ammunition and explosives for police officers from 14 agencies and with the active participation of BiH Prosecutor's Office. Following a pilot exercise with 25 police officers from all agencies, two joint practical exercises were carried out with 56 police officers.

The sub-project was completed in December 2022.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS TOWARDS RESULTS

PROJECT OUTPUT	PROJECT OUTPUT INDICATOR	TARGET	STATUS OF PROJECT RESULTS	ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST INDICATORS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE PROJECT
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.	National Database of SALW Transport Licenses within the MOS developed and in use.	Achieved	Database developed, all modules tested, and delivered to the Ministry of Security.
	Number of beneficiaries trained for the proper functionality of the database.	100 beneficiaries trained.	Achieved, with lower outreach	30 administrators and end-users of the National Database of SALW Transport Licenses trained.
	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.	Achieved	New version of the SALW identification tool was developed and endorsed including additional features as per request of the end-users.
	Number of BP BiH and other police agencies' staff trained to use the SALW identification tool.	500 BP BiH and other agencies' staff trained to use the new SALW identification tool.	Partially achieved ¹	12 officers of the Border Police trained for the use of the Tool.
	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.	Achieved	2,053 officers were trained countrywide on firearm detection using specialized equipment (1,892 men and 161 women)

¹ The target of 500 BP BiH and other agencies' staff trained to use the new SALW identification tool has not been achieved due to delays and competing priorities of the BP. However, the work on the Tool continues in 2023 through the complementary project funded via the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund, "Digitalization and Institutional and Regional Cooperation Project (DIRC)". Additional officers shall be trained for the use of the Tool through *DIRC*. Despite the continuation of the activity, the number of 500 officers is not feasible any more, as the Tool is an investigative tool and, according to the latest assessment of the project partners, it will not be used by that number of investigators.

Output 4.2. Strengthened cooperation and information exchange between Ministry of Security and other institutions at national and regional level	Number of SOPs developed and institutionalized	70 SOPs	Achieved	70 SOPs were developed for 14 law enforcement agencies, covering five (5) categories: risk analysis, tracing of weapons, data collection, running an investigation, and reacting in emergency situations.
	Number of police agencies' which were given access to the MOS database on transport of SALW.	Up to 14 police agencies given access to MOS database.	Achieved	Apart from the Ministry of Security, 13 law enforcement agencies have been given access to the Database
	Number of MoUs signed between BP BiH and other 13 police agencies on cooperation regarding combat of illicit arms trafficking ² .	Up to 14 MOUs signed between BP BiH and other 14 police agencies.	Not achieved / Activity abolished	The activity has been abolished. The collaboration strengthened through complementary activities and platforms within this and similar projects on SALW control.
	Level of cooperation between BP BiH and 13 police agencies strengthened through organization of joint trainings.	Organize training for up to 300 people from BiH BP and other 14 police agencies on better detection of illicit arms.	Achieved	Concept for the joint trainings and practical exercises in detecting and investigating the smuggling of firearms, ammunition and explosives was developed. 240 officers from all agencies took part in the joint training.
	Number of joint SOPs developed.	Develop up to 3 joint SOPs.	Not achieved / Incorporated via other SOPs	Though joint SOPs have not been developed, all existing SOPs have been fully aligned among all agencies and Indirect Taxation Authority and tested through joint exercises.

Overall, the sub-project built the identification, prevention of diversion and criminal pursuit capabilities of BiH authorities and law enforcement. The efforts resulted in good engagement of all law enforcement agencies, including prosecution units. This ability to more frequently and more accurately identify SALW diversion from legal trade, traffic and smuggling via the post and at borders, as well as operationally exercised inter-institutional cooperation, paved the way to better identification, prevention and prosecution of firearms related crime.

² The activity dedicated to the 'Development of MoUs and SOPs and improved operational cooperation between BP BiH, other police agencies and Customs Administration on prevention, detection and deterrence of smuggling of firearms, ammunition and explosives' has been abolished. Overall work on strengthening cooperation between BP and other institutions has been strengthened through development of joint training concept and its implementation.

Output 4.1	Capacitated BiH Border Police and 14 entity and cantonal police agencies to more effectively combat illicit arms trafficking
Total budget: \$546,719	Spent 25 July 2019 – 31 December 2022: \$526,153

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) will be conducted including but not limited to Green Border Assessment. Secondly, the data collection, analysis, and exchange of information among the institutions involved in the process of supervision of legal trade will be strengthened through the development of the MoS database on legal transport of weapons and provision of related training. Also, further support to the Working Group (WG) on supervision of legal trade and the WG for control of postal parcels and unmarked shipments will be provided. Thirdly, the project will continue to support the advancement of data collection, analysis, tasking and coordination of the 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, will be 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 2022, the project team consolidated the **development of the national database for SALW transport licenses**, with the support of an IT company contracted for this task. The IT company worked continuously on developing relevant modules of the database, requiring for each module to be separately tested by all stakeholders. Once the Database development has been finished, the project supported **training of 30 administrators and end-users** from the Ministry of Security and 13 law enforcement agencies. The national database will 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 database will thus enhance inter-agency exchange of information and respective 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 project procured **additional thirty (30) videoscopes** that were delivered to the following agencies: RS Ministry of Interior (5), Una-Sana Canton (3), Brcko District (1), Tuzla Canton (4), Zenica-Doboj Canton (4), Sarajevo Canton (3), Herzegovina-Neretva Canton (3), Central Bosnia Canton (2), Canton 10 (1), West Herzegovina Canton (1) and Federation Ministry of Interior (3).
- Four iterations of additional training** on the practical use of donated mobile detectors of explosives and narcotics were organized, encompassing 60 police officers (56 men and 4 women).
- The **technical capacities of the BiH police were further enhanced** with the delivery to the BP of 60 binoculars and 100 remote surveillance cameras as well as 6 augmented vision binoculars. Likewise, capacities of crime scene investigations in the RS Ministry of Interior were strengthened through the provision of 5 digital cameras.

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

- Overall development process and testing of software modules of the National Database of SALW Transport Licenses (Database) turned out to be extremely slow due to significantly high number of national stakeholders (end-users) who often failed to complete their testing responsibilities. Furthermore, partners at the Ministry of Security often had to request postponing of various activities due to limited number of IT staff and their limited availability as the work on the Database has often overlapped and interfered with their day-to-day responsibilities.
- Due to some complex technical specification and varying quality of offers for specialized equipment, the procurement and delivery of equipment was often delayed. The non-cost extension of the project's duration helped mitigate the risks caused by the delays.
- After delivering specialized equipment to the Border Police BiH (augmented vision binoculars, binoculars and remote surveillance cameras), the project identified underspending of approximately \$20,000, which was used to accommodate an ad-hoc request for supporting crime technicians in Republika Srpska with procurement of 5 digital cameras for the needs of crime scene investigations.

4. Achievements

- SALW data management and sharing between the Ministry of Security and 13 law enforcement agencies has been increased through provision of the National Database of SALW Transport Licenses (Database). The Database has been successfully installed on the servers of the Ministry of Security in December 2022 allowing for digitized information sharing, granting of transport licenses and monitoring of transport of SALW throughout the country.
- Capacities of 30 administrators and end-users of the National Database of SALW Transport Licenses have been enhanced through dedicated training, ensuring in-house continuous capacity for the Database use.
- Technical capacities and resources of the BiH law enforcement were further strengthened through the procurement and delivery of specialized equipment.

5. Work plan for 2023

Planned activities	Budget
• N/A	-

Output 4.2	Strengthened cooperation and information exchange between Ministry of Security and other institutions at national and regional level
Total budget: \$196,377	Spent 25 July 2019 - 30 December 2022: \$195,861

1. Description of the output

- Output 4.2 aims to support strengthening inter-institutional cooperation between all police agencies in the country, BP BiH and Customs Administration on unifying the protocols for prevention, detection and deterrence of smuggling of firearms, ammunition and explosives on one hand, and the MoS and BP BiH and their national and regional counterparts on the other. This will be achieved through implementation of different and interdependent activities such as completion of unified SOPs for detection of illicit SALW for all police agencies across the BiH, conceptualization and training of the 2,000 police officers to be conducted under Output 4.1. Also, based on the positive experience with the BP 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

- The project team **implemented an extensive training program for police officers from 13 law enforcement agencies throughout BiH**. In 2022, the training encompassed 1,139 officers (1,022 men and 117 women). This entailed training of 1,019 officers (912 men and 107 women) for one-day trainings on the use of SOPs and specialized detection equipment. These included representatives of the following agencies: Brcko District Police (49), Herzegovina-Neretva Canton – Mostar (140), Bosnia-Podrinje Canton – Gorazde (26), Canton 10 – Livno (22), Central-Bosnia Canton – Travnik (33), Posavina Canton – Orasje (23), Sarajevo Canton (224), Una-Sana Canton – Bihac (182), West-Herzegovina Canton – Ljubuski (46) and Zenica-Doboj Canton – Zenica (274). In addition, 56 officers (50 men and 6 women) took part in joint trainings and 64 officers (60 men and 4 women) in additional training on the use of donated specialized detection equipment.
- Based on the previously developed concept, the project team organized **joint trainings and practical exercises in detecting and investigating the smuggling of firearms, ammunition and explosives**. Two state prosecutors and the Head of Investigations within Prosecutor's Office participated in the roll out of joint practical exercises, enabling strengthened internal cooperation within the country and improved efficiency in processing and prosecuting SALW related crimes.
- To effectively use the leftover funds, the project team accommodated the request for **specialized equipped - two stereomicroscopes - for the forensic centers** in Federation BiH and Republika Srpska to better support Border Police, Prosecutors' offices, and law enforcement agencies in their investigative efforts.

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

- The delays in training activities and joint operations, to adjust to the competing priorities of the BiH police, were addressed through the non-cost extensions of the project, until December 2022.
- Leftover funds were used to procure specialized equipment for the forensic centers, to facilitate further collaboration among the law enforcement agencies in investigations.

4. Achievements

- Capacities of 1,019 officers police officers from 13 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.
- Better internal cooperation, improved efficiency in processing and prosecuting SALW related crimes ensured through the joint training and practical exercises for law enforcement, with active participation of Prosecutor's Office of BiH.

5. Work plan for 2023

Planned activities	Budget
• N/A	-

Partnerships and sustainability

The field of SALW control in BiH remained well organized and managed by the SALW Coordination board in BiH. Thus, the project participated in all relevant meetings of the board held in 2022. 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. The project also held bilateral meetings with the beneficiaries of the project when the opportunity arose during the year.

The project team applied the approach which fed 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, sessions with embedded use of developed SOPs and provided equipment, and joint practical exercises encompassing various law enforcement agencies. 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 trainings on the use of SOPs and specialized detection equipment solidarity among participating agencies is promoted by ensuring that the agencies that had advanced in the project activities provide support to those agencies that are just starting.

Finally, better internal cooperation, improved efficiency in processing and prosecuting SALW related crimes was ensured through active 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, but at a lower effect. As the restrictive measures were largely lifted in the course of 2022, the project was able to resume in person activities.

Furthermore, the political climate in BiH continued to be tense in 2022, aggravated to some extent due to electoral campaigning. Nevertheless, the project team maintained continued and regular communication with the project beneficiaries, which resulted in undisturbed continuation of project activities. Lack of availability of police officers prior, during and immediately after the elections affected the activity timeline.

To successfully achieve planned results and ensure effective use of the funds, the project required non-cost extensions. In Q1 2022, two activities were cancelled with the approval of the regional project manager and the funds reallocated to other activities (the budget changes were under 15% and thus the approval of the project board was not required). The extremely slow process of testing software modules of the supported database, as well as limited availability of project partners during summer, affected implementation of activities and prompted two non-cost extension requests of the project's duration, first granted by the project manager until 30 September 2022, and second by the Project Board, until 31 December 2022.

Lessons learnt

The following lessons were recognized:

- **Strong partnerships and mutual trust with the project partners** ensured undisturbed continuation of the project activities. The competing priorities affected availability of project partners, and the flexibility in activity timelines and management proved necessary to ensure active and effective engagement.
- 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. It also paves the way for more efficient and effective operations of BiH law enforcement which the project team will further build upon.

Communication and visibility

In 2022, 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.

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



Edukacija policijskih službenika Uprave policije u okviru projekta "Borba protiv nezakonite trgovine oružjem - CIAT"

31.03.2022

Uprava policije MUP-a Kantona Sarajevo je, u sklopu implementacije projekta „Borba protiv nezakonite trgovine oružjem (Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking – CIAT), koji realizuje Razvojni program Ujedinjenih nacija u Bosni i Hercegovini (UNDP BiH), a finansira Savezna Republika Njemačka, organizovala i realizovala jednodnevnu obuku po "Standardnim operativnim procedurama" - SOP-a, za jedanaest grupa učesnika/polijskih službenika iz ciljnih organizacionih jedinica Uprave policije. Projekat je usmjeren ka ispunjavanju ciljeva utvrđenih Mapom puta za održivo rješenje u suzbijanju nedozvoljenog posjedovanja, zloupotrebe i trgovine malim oružjem i lakim naoružanjem i pripadajućom municijom, na Zapadnom Balkanu do 2024. godine.

Obuka organizirana po standardnim operativnim procedurama u pronalasku nelegalnog naoružanja, eksploziva i vojne opreme, uključujući i postupanje u tzv. „vanrednim situacijama“, je realizirana od strane predavača/trenera iz svake od pomenute oblasti, a sve s ciljem zakonitog i profesionalnog postupanja policijskih službenika prilikom primjene policijskih ovlaštenja i povećane operativnosti na terenu.

Obuka je bila interaktivnog karaktera, tokom koje su učesnici animirani da sudjeluju u teorijskom i praktičnom dijelu nastave kroz praktičnu, prethodno planiranu pokaznu vježbu.

Za uspješno provedene aktivnosti u okviru edukacije policijskih službenika dugujemo zahvalnost za pruženu logističku podršku UNDP-u BiH, kao i operativnu podršku konsultanta UNDP-a koji je u prvoj fazi obuke direktno učestvovao u realizaciji ovog značajnog projekta.

Prilog

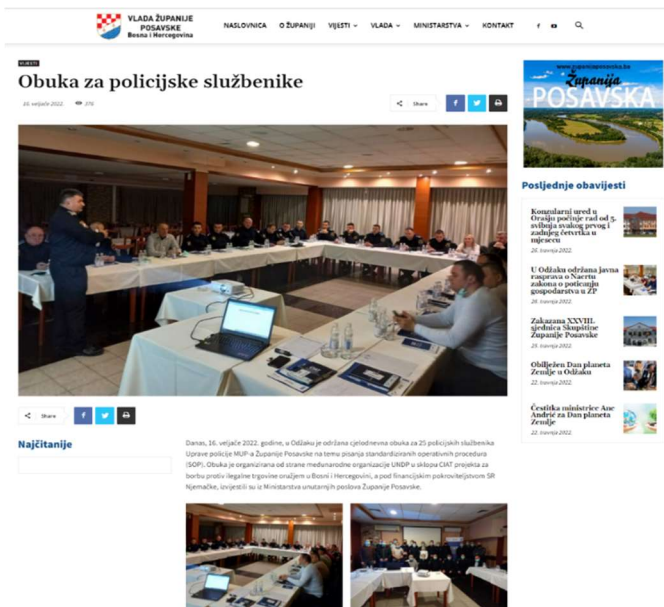
Velčina

 Baner projekta "Borba protiv nezakonite trgovine oružjem - CIAT"

2.68 MB



[Web article](#) on the official website of the Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior regarding the SOP's and specialized detection equipment training



[Web article](#) on the official website of the Posavina Government regarding the SOP's and specialized detection equipment training



[Web article](#) on the official website of the Bosnia Podrinje Canton Government regarding the SOP's and specialized detection equipment training



[Tweet](#) regarding delivery of specialized detection equipment and pertinent training, January 2022



[Tweet](#) regarding organization of the first joint exercise, March 2022



[Tweet](#) regarding delivery of specialized detection equipment to Border Police



[Tweet 1](#) and [Tweet 2](#) regarding organization of the joint exercise within CIAT and with participation of HALT project



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 2019 - December 2019	
Total budget: \$55,066		Spent 25 July – 31 December 2019: \$54,648

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).

Through this sub-project, UNDP in Bosnia and Herzegovina supported the **disposal of 1,439 pieces of Multiple Launch Rocket System ammunition**, in a safe and environmentally sensitive manner. This contributed to the jurisdiction's efforts to further reduce overall ammunition stockpiles to a manageable level, decreased the risk of uncontrolled explosion of munition sites and enabled safer development opportunities.

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:	<p>Goal 2. By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence based and intelligence led.</p> <p>Goal 3. By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.</p> <p>Goal 5: By 2025, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans.</p>
Implementation period:	September 2019 – August 2022
Total budget: \$987,412	Spent 25 July 2019 - 31 August 2022: \$985,749

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, fewer 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.

The project was developed in line with the Regional Roadmap for SALW Control in the Western Balkans, specifically to contribute to the achievement of Goal 3 but also indirectly Goals 2 and 5. It contributes to the effective implementation of the SALW and Explosives control strategy and action plan as well as the Integrated Border Management Strategy.

In 2022:

- **40 police and customs officials (9 women and 31 men) were trained on the detection of firearms**, their components, and ammunition in postal and fast parcels.
- **A joint top table exercise (TTX)** on detecting, identifying, seizing potential illicit arms at border crossings, followed by a real **joint operation were conducted** with 18 police and customs officials. The operation relied on the specialized equipment provided by the project.
- The newly developed **Weapons Registration software was successfully completed** and tested and put in use by the Ministry of Interior (Mol). 15 (9 men and 6 women) police officers and officials from the Mol and private entities who are dealing with import/export of firearms and ammunition were trained on the use of the new System.
- The police were provided with **additional specialized equipment** aimed to improve the detection of arms trafficking, consisting of two endoscopes and nine handheld scanners. The equipment was successfully used during the joint operation conducted with the project's support.
- Finally, **three knowledge products were finalized**, tackling the border police vulnerability assessment, problem profile and trend analysis including modus operandi, and a report on the use of K9 in detecting firearms.

The sub-project was completed in August 2022.

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 (30 men and 1 woman) 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 (all men) from green line border were trained on surveillance ¹ 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;	Achieved	40 police officers and customs officials (9 women and 31 men) trained on detection via fast parcels and postal services.
	Training K9 dogs in polymer detection;	Three K9 dogs and a training with 40 officials on polymer detection is provided;	Achieved	Five K9 dogs were procured, trained and certified in sniffing polymer material made weapons. 40 police officers trained along the 380 hours of dog training.
	Implementation of Joint simulated exercises;	Joined simulated exercise conducted between border police and customs;	Achieved	Conducted a tabletop exercise (TTX) coupled with practical joint exercise. 18 police and customs officials (17 men and 1 women) took part, using specialized equipment provided through the project.
	Upgrade of Weapon Registration software;	Weapon Registration software upgraded;	Achieved	Software was developed in close consultation with the Mol. The software was tested in 2022 and accepted for use by the Mol.
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

¹ Due to the political situation in Kosovo at the time, the Kosovo Police had limited human resources and was able to engage only 30 personnel instead of 40. All the assigned personnel that attended the training fit the needed profiles as assessed by project team.

	<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>representatives trained on EU 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>
Output 3: Installation and higher detection of trafficking in the green border area	<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>Achieved (modified, as per updated needs)</p> <p>Achieved</p> <p>Achieved</p>	<p>7 specialized endoscopes, 5 handheld explosive and narcotics detectors, 1 handheld thermal camera procured, and 9 handheld scanners were provided. The change in equipment followed the vulnerability assessment conducted within the project.</p> <p>40 border police officers (36 men and 4 women) were trained in using the new equipment.</p> <p>Activity merged with the Joint simulated exercises (above). The final operational meeting assessed the operation as well coordinated, using the gained knowledge. There was no detection of IAT during the operation</p>
Output 4: Development of knowledge products, including: problem profile, and trend analysis including modus operandi	<p>Develop knowledge products.</p>	<p>KP fully capable in developing knowledge products on IAT.</p>	<p>Achieved</p>	<p>Three knowledge products produced during the project implementation. The KP was directly involved in preparing all knowledge products, through providing statistics, analysis and modus operandi related to IAT.</p>

Output 6.1	Capacities of border entities on detection of firearms, components, ammunition and explosives increased	
Total budget: \$165,565		Spent 25 July 2019 – 31 August 2022: \$165,565

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 implemented during the reporting period

- 40 border police and customs officials (9 women and 31 men) took part in the **training on the detection of firearms, their components and ammunition in fast parcels and postal services**, thereby further developing respective capacities and knowledge on detecting illicit trafficking of firearms. During the training, various topics were elaborated, including case studies and best practice approaches in the EU. The experience of Slovenia was highlighted in particular as there are similarities in the composition of the law enforcement agencies with Kosovo and the approach can be potentially replicated.
- A **tabletop exercise (TTX) and a practical joint exercise were conducted** at the boundary crossing points and the green boundary lines by police and customs officials during July-August 2022. Problem profiling was discussed and prepared by the joint team Police-Analyst Unit/Customs-Analyst Section. The aim of the exercise was to enhance joint work between police and customs in potentially identifying and detecting illicit arms trafficking, ammunition and explosives. During the joint exercise, 18 police and customs officials (17 men and 1 woman) used the specialized equipment provided by the project. The joint exercise consisted of various detection activities at the second line check at the boundary crossing points. 21 vehicles were analyzed and profiled. Although no illicit arms trafficking, ammunition or explosives were identified, the awareness among the police and customs officers was increased. The final operational meeting between the involved parties assessed the operation as well coordinated, using appropriately the gained knowledge and equipment during the operation.
- The work on the **upgrade of the weapon registration software** was successfully completed in close cooperation and consultation with the Mol/Department for Public Safety. The developed software was interlinked with the required databases in different institutions, and was successfully tested and put in use by the Mol. The activity enhanced the productivity and functionality of the existing weapons registration system of the Mol. In addition, 15 (9 men and 6 women) police officers, Mol officials, officials from private entities who are dealing with import/export of firearms and ammunition were trained on the use of the software. The new software enables 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 took longer than expected. The non-cost extension of the project enabled successful completion of the activity and the testing of the software before its deployment.

4. Achievements

- 40 border police officers and customs officials (9 women and 31 men) enhanced their knowledge and capacities to detect firearms, their components and ammunition in fast parcels and postal services.
- A tabletop exercise (TTX) and a practical joint exercise were conducted by police and customs officials, enhancing their collaboration in detecting and countering firearms trafficking at the border crossings.
- The weapon registration software was successfully deployed, interlinking the required databases in different institutions, contributing to a more effective collection and sharing of firearm-related data.

5. Work plan for 2023

Planned activities	Budget
• N/A	-

Output 6.2	Risk profiling based on CIRAM 2 in place
Total budget: \$61,521	Spent 25 July 2019 – 31 August 2022: \$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 implemented during the reporting period

- N/A

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

- N/A

4. Achievements

- N/A

5. Work plan for 2023

Planned activities	Budget
• N/A	-

Output 6.3	Installation of equipment and higher detection of trafficking in particular at the green border
Total budget: \$550,067	Spent 25 July 2019 – 31 August 2022: \$550,067

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 implemented during the reporting period

- Following the recommendations of the border vulnerability assessment conducted under Output 6.2, the project team delivered **additional specialized equipment** (2 endoscopes and 9 scanners) to the Kosovo Police/Boundary Department. The new equipment will be used to assist boundary police officers during the second-line check in the detection of illegal firearms trafficking, ammunition and explosives, fully in accordance with the EU IBM strategy guidelines. 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.

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

- The delays in the procurement and delivery of equipment were mitigated through the non-cost extension of the project.

4. Achievements

- Detection of explosives and various narcotics at border crossing points and green border lines strengthened through the procurement and handover of additional specialized equipment entailing endoscopes and scanners.

5. Work plan for 2023

Planned activities	Budget
• N/A	-

Output 6.4	Development of knowledge product: problem profile and trend analysis including modus operandi
Total budget: \$1,792	Spent 25 July 2019 – 31 August 2022: \$1,792

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 implemented during the reporting period

- Three knowledge products and published in 2022, comprising of i) Report on K9 Dog Sniffing and Equipment Detection Test on polymer made weapons, based on the conducted testing exercise; ii) Boundary police vulnerability assessment report, and iii) Problem profile of small arms and light weapons (SALW) in Kosovo. The police was directly involved in preparing all knowledge products, through providing statistics, analysis and modus operandi related to IAT. The knowledge products are to guide further actions of the authorities in tackling illicit arms trafficking and ensure the long-term effect of produced results.

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

- N/A

4. Achievements

- The development of three knowledge products that will guide the work of the Kosovo police and ensure long-term effects of achieved progress.

5. Work plan for 2023

Planned activities	Budget
• N/A	-

Partnerships and sustainability

The project team closely cooperated with the project beneficiaries to coordinate and properly plan the implementation of activities, and in the development of knowledge products. The joint operation planned and executed in the framework of the project further brought closer the border police and customs officials and promoted collaboration and joint action in tackling the illicit arms trafficking.

The activities and their sustainability were closely monitored by the project team. The Kosovo Police distributed the specialized equipment 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. The equipment is in regular use by the border police, while the project team will continue to follow up on the use of both equipment and developed resources and delivered training through next projects and ensure that all the results are further consolidated and sustained. In addition, the findings and recommendations stemming from the developed knowledge products will guide further work of the Kosovo Police and the project team will support this accordingly in its follow up projects. The border police analysts that were trained in using the Common Integrated Risk Analysis Model (CIRAM 2.0) regularly provide 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 risk related to COVID-19 pandemic remained relevant in the first half of 2022 and gradually subsided in the second half of 2022. Although the beneficiaries' personnel remained engaged in managing the pandemic, the availability for project activities was not greatly affected.

Apart from the COVID-19-related restrictions, the delay in procuring some of the equipment affected the timeline of project activities. Nevertheless, the non-cost extension of the project's duration mitigated the effect of delays and all the activities were successfully completed at the end.

Lessons learnt

Implementing a practical joint operation in 2022, with embedded pre- and post-assessment of performance, proved very useful for assessing and advancing performance of border officials in tackling the illicit arms trafficking. Coupling the practical operations with the delivered specialized equipment ensures greater effectiveness of results.

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 tailored responses remained valid throughout the 2022 work.

Communication and visibility

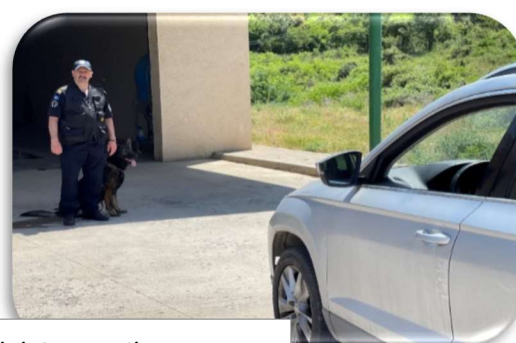
The project team took all the necessary measures to promote the project's results and activities, ensuring the donor's visibility on all communication materials, including on social media and at the venue of the meetings organized within the project (on roll-ups and presentations).

In 2022, 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.

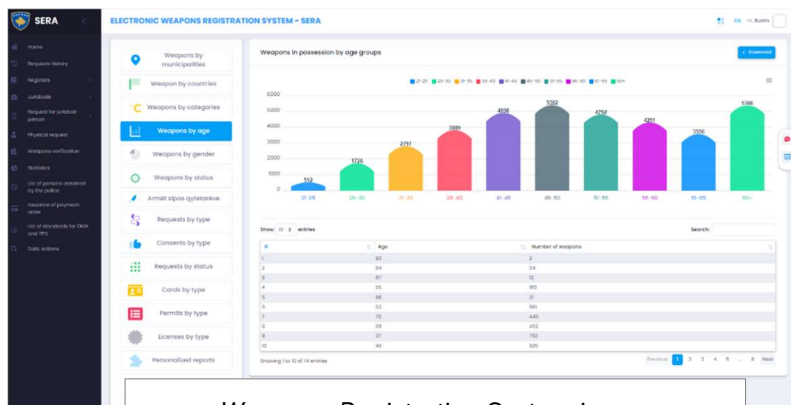
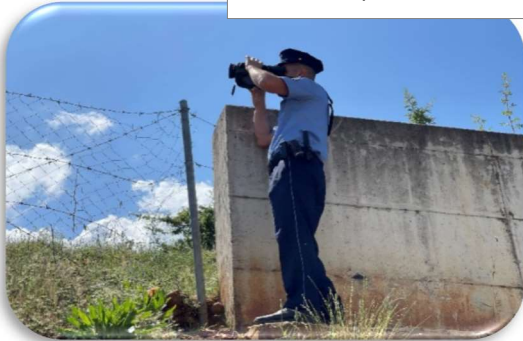
- UNDP Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/UNDP.Kosovo/posts/5966648713350397>
- Exposure story: https://undpkosovo.exposure.co/global-goals-local-action?fbclid=IwAR0uAgYxO2pAKhZOj8X0J8x0W0SHSyhvTPI9wGy3zSUmstgpyVY_8pY1ag



Training organized on detection components in fast parcels and postal services



Implementation of joint operations



Weapons Registration System in use

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:	<p>Goal 2: By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence based and intelligence led.</p> <p>Goal 4: By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy.</p> <p>Goal 5: By 2025, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans.</p> <p>Goal 7. Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives.</p>	
Implementation period:	September 2019 – July 2022	
Total budget: \$1,000,908		Spent 25 July 2019 – 31 July 2022: \$ 1,000,580

The objective of the project is to support the Mol 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 Mol'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 Mol 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.

In 2022:

- the sub-project **finalized the work on the Information Management System of the Mol**. It developed the user's manual, and **trained 200 police officers on the IMS use**, to also serve as trainers for their colleagues in the Mol. The new IMS improves firearm-related data collection, analysis, and exchange. It improves information management via the Mol across all institutions with a role in SALW control, linking up numerous databases.
- The technical support for both the new Information Management System and the upgraded Weapons Registration and Stockpile Management Software was ensured throughout 2022.

The sub-project was completed in July 2022.

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>Achieved</p>	<p>1. WRMS module that allows arms dealers to maintain a register of firearms has been developed and has entered production.</p> <p>2. Arms dealers' register of firearms was created and populated with data in accordance with internal processes in the Mol.</p>
Output 7.2. Improved and harmonized Information Management System (IMS) of the Mol	<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 Mol.</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 Mol has been developed and officially launched in 2022.</p> <p>3. IT equipment to support the use of the new IMS has been procured and delivered to beneficiary as per established needs.</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: \$201,059	Spent 25 July 2019 - 31 July 2022: \$201,059

1. Description of the output

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

2. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period

- In 2022, the technical support continued to be provided throughout the year to the **developed Weapons Registration Management System (WRMS)**.

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

- N/A

4. Achievements

- Upgraded WRMS, allowing registered firearms dealers to keep a record of the firearms in their possession and the ones they sell or dispose, with specific details that enable a better identification and tracing of the firearms.

5. Work plan for 2023	Budget
Planned activities	Budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	-

Output 7.2	Improved and harmonized Information Management System (IMS) of the Mol
Total budget: \$479,130	Spent 25 July 2019 - 31 July 2022: \$481,914

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 implemented during the reporting period

- The new Police **Information Management System was finalized, tested and deployed**. The developed system software represents a custom digital tool which is to record all incidents in the country, with a focus on incidents involving small arms and light weapons. The software captures structured data allowing for easy reporting and analysis as well as the opportunity for future upgrades.
- 200 police officers were trained in its use**, based on the 'train the trainer' model. A comprehensive **user's manual was developed** by the project and handed over to the Mol, ensuring proper use of the system beyond the project's duration.
- The technical support for IMS continued to be provided by the project throughout the year.

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

- The Mol IT Department advised of a changed user management structure after the system was developed and installed, due to changes in Mol's IT systems. After coordination with the vendor and the project beneficiary, it was decided that the user management structure of the software had to be adapted to Mol needs. This has been successfully completed and reflected in the developed user's manual.

4. Achievements

- Improved collection, analysis and sharing of firearm-related data achieved through the successful development of the Police IMS.
- Full functionality of the developed IMS and increased work efficiency of the Mol personnel ensured through the delivery of the end-user training for 200 participants.

5. Work plan for 2023

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

Partnership and sustainability

The reporting period saw further strengthening of the partnership with the Mol, which plays a crucial role in the implementation and sustainability of all project activities. As a result of this partnership, the project has managed to complete all project activities and achieve results as planned, as well as pave the way for further possible follow up activities within the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund, to build upon or consolidate the progress made.

The achieved partnership with the Customs Administration had an important role in the effectiveness of the WRMS. The Agreement on Interoperability signed between the Mol and the Customs Administration for the cooperation on WRMS and the Customs' EXIM systems, as well as other agreements forged by the Mol with the private entities regarding the WRMS, will ensure proper use of the system beyond the project's duration. Likewise, the installed new IMS within the Mol was finalized in close coordination with the Mol and it is embedded within the Mol structure. The trained Mol staff, who can act as future trainers, as well as the developed user's manual, contributes to the long-term effect and sustainability of the new system.

The project team continued to share information and coordinate with other relevant actors in the field, such as with SEESAC, OSCE, UNODC etc. This further strengthened partnership and coordinated approaches in support of the SALW Control Roadmap implementation.

Update on risk and mitigation measures

In 2022, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to pose the risk for project implementation, though to a lesser extent than in the previous year. The project activities were planned and implemented with due respect to the restrictive measures required by the authorities.

The project was granted a non-cost extension of two months, which allowed the project team to ensure proper promotion of the results of the project and provide final support to the beneficiaries with the development of the Police Information Management System.

Lessons learnt

During 2022, the project team completed the remaining activities, including the training for end-users of the IMS at the Mol, and the official closure of the project through a visibility event. A dedicated event at the end to ensure visibility to what was achieved proved valuable for both the partner institution and the project team to successfully close the project.

An intensive collaboration between the project team, the Mol, and the software development vendors was required and maintained throughout to ensure all aspects of the new software development and implementation were finalized appropriately. The prolonged process of software development and related coordination calls for careful planning and longer timeframes in future similar initiatives.

The Mol remained a valuable partner in project implementation, providing necessary support and assistance in order to achieve the project objective. This has strengthened partnership and a trust-based relationship. Through this project, the UNDP in North Macedonia consolidated its position as an important actor in supporting the authorities to tackle SALW control matters, and this will be further built upon with further complementary projects in the country.

Communication and visibility

The project team took all the necessary measures to ensure the visibility for project results and of the donor's support to this end. This was mainly ensured by visibly placing the German Cooperation logo at the venue of the events, or by acknowledging the Germany's financial support in the opening of events.

Major events

Following the completion of all project activities, a press conference was held as a final event which promoted the results achieved under the project. The press conference was chaired by the Minister of Interior, Mr Oliver Spasovski, the Deputy Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in North Macedonia, Mr Otto Graf and the UNDP Resident Representative, Mr Armen Grigoryan. The event was covered by journalists from over 10 media outlets, and the event was reported in the mass and social media.

A promotional video detailing the achievements of the project was developed and it was promoted during the final press conference. The video is available at the following [link](#).

Some photos from the events and postings on social media and shown below:



Training of trainers for the new Police Information Management System



Final press-conference to present the results of the project



Facebook post by the Mol for final press-conference to present the results of the project

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 sub-project improved the physical security of SALW and ammunition stockpiles in Montenegro by supporting the upgrade of two SALW storage magazines and guardhouse of the Ministry of Interior / Police Directorate SALW storage location Rogame, in line with international best practices and standards.

The project finalized the **reconstruction works at the two magazines and guard house of the Rogame storage**. The works included 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.

As such, the project successfully reduced the risk of firearms and ammunition proliferation, and potential accidents at the storage.

The sub-project was completed in November 2021.

IV. Partnerships and sustainability

In 2022, the UNDP Offices continued to strengthen partnership with key relevant stakeholders. There was a constant communication with the SALW Commissions and other project partners and beneficiaries. The UNDP Offices also synergized with other organizations such as the OSCE, UNODC, EU, as well as local institutions and NGOs.

Building up on the initiated exchange in 2021, the UNDP SEESAC continued to exchange on good practice and lessons learnt with the UN Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) to advance the approaches of both Caribbean and Western Balkans jurisdictions to preventing and combating illicit arms trafficking in their respective regions, and respective Roadmaps.

The Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF has provided an excellent opportunity for sustainability and scaling up of SALW control initiatives supported through the regional project. For example, the projects on crime scene investigation implemented by UNDP Serbia was scaled up with funding from the MPTF. Likewise, some of the results of the gender and SALW implemented in Serbia have been already replicated and expanded in other jurisdictions by UNDP SEESAC, and a new phase of project launched under the MPTF. Also, the experience from forensics-focused projects implemented by UNDP Serbia and Albania was replicated into a similar project in Montenegro, with Trust Fund funding. North Macedonia and Kosovo, joined forces for a cross-border project to enhance operational exchanges and more effective law enforcement work.

The sustainability was ensured through close cooperation and engagement of the Western Balkans authorities in the development as well as implementation of projects, the SALW Commissions in particular, grounding projects in identified needs and building on the progress already made in SALW control. Activities have been developed and implemented in a way to enhance knowledge, develop in-house capacities, and institutionalize procedures and practices that should remain in place after the end of the project. Furthermore, policy making and practice has been aligned with international standards and EU requirements, thus ensuring coherence and alignment with international commitments and EU approximation goals. The sustainability of the UNDP sub-projects has been also ensured through the development of knowledge products to be used by the beneficiaries beyond the projects' implementation timeframe.

V. Update on risks and mitigation measures

In 2022, three of the risks identified in the regional project risk matrix continued to be managed and updated:

1. **Covid-19 pandemic and related government restrictions.** The risk fluctuated in terms of its impact during 2022. The pandemic continued to 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 throughout 2022. Measures included conducting online coordination meetings and events with the project beneficiaries and partners, adjusting the activity timelines, 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 monitored in relation to the political climate in BiH. UNDP BiH continued to identify risks with regards to the tense political climate in BiH, aggravated to some extent by the electoral campaigning for the elections that took place in October 2022. This affected the availability of police offices for project activities in the time prior and during the elections, as a large number of police officers (the targeted trainees) were occupied with providing the necessary security. UNDP team mitigated the risk through constant communication and consultation with authorities, adjustment of activity timelines, and non-cost extension of the project duration, thus ensuring active engagement in project activities of all sides despite the circumstances.
3. **Insufficient operational capacity within national counterparts.** This risk materialized in terms of insufficient capacities to promptly respond to some technical specification requirements or software development testing, affecting the timelines of some of the project activities. The risk was addressed through non-cost extension of sub-projects, with no major impact on the overall project's duration.

The updated risk matrix is available in the Annex II.

VI. Key challenges, lesson learned and recommendations

The project continued to be implemented under a **challenging environment** created by the COVID-19 pandemic, though at a lesser extent as compared to the previous period. The quarterly updates provided by the UNDP Offices on the evolution of pandemic in each jurisdiction showed that jurisdictions continued to impose measures to stop and prevent the spread of the virus in the first half of 2022. As of the second half of 2022, the restrictive measures were largely lifted across the jurisdictions and the sub-projects largely resumed in-person capacity development and operations. The pandemic, although with reduced impact most of the year, continued to create delays in the implementation of the Roadmap projects' activities. The UNDP Offices and SEESAC have been closely monitoring the pandemic-related and other developments in each jurisdiction as it affected activities and results. Worth noting though is that the project beneficiaries (Ministries of interior and police primarily) were largely available for project activities, except in circumstances surrounding elections in BiH, or security tensions in some areas.

UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina continued to operate in a tense political climate and faced challenges in terms of the availability of police offices for project activities in the time prior and during the October elections. The well-established relationship with the authorities and the adjustment of activity timelines ensured active engagement in project activities of all sides despite the circumstances.

The remaining ongoing projects continued implementation without any major challenges. Certain delays were nevertheless encountered due to issues with the procurement or delivery of equipment, slow pace of planned software development, or insufficient human resource capacity on occasions.

Some of the **lessons learnt** drawn from the experience of project implementation include:

- Across the sub-projects, regular communication with counterparts to ensure common understanding and adapt activities with new timelines to accommodate competing priorities proved essential to mitigate risks of insufficient engagement in project activities. Participation of project beneficiaries as co-facilitators and trainers strengthened ownership and effectiveness of results.
- The combination of carefully embedded new procedures into the work of law enforcement, provision of practical cases and knowledge products, as well as running of (joint) operations while using the specialized equipment provided through the project, ensured stronger effects of the project results and their sustainability. Nevertheless, this required more time than initially envisaged across the sub-projects. For a similar comprehensive engagement in the future, longer timeframes are to be envisaged to reach planned results.
- Lack of human resource capacity and changes in management structure within the beneficiary institutions are risks that are likely to materialize. Establishing internal resources in terms of SOPs, manuals and trained trainers, mitigates the risks of ineffective results or short-term gains.
- The fact that the sub-projects were managed by project teams on the ground, with direct and frequent access to key partners and beneficiaries, and the existence of project boards and local coordination platforms with the active engagement of authorities and partner organizations and institutions, was critical for success; Investment in trust-based relationship yields results.

VII. Financial Summary¹

Table 1: Overview of available resources for the project duration

Donor	Opening Balance (US\$)	Contribution Received (US\$)	Available Resources (US\$)
Federal Foreign Office, Germany	6,257,110.16	6,257,110.16	54,802.77
Total	6,257,110.16	6,257,110.16	54,802.77

Table 2: Overview of allocation and utilization per output

Activity		Responsible Party	Approved Budget (US\$)	Cumulative Expenses (US\$)	Budget Balance (US\$)
Output 1: Coordination activities	Coordination of implementation of Roadmap projects	UNDP IRH	336,853.16	329,318.63	7,534.53
Output 2: Roadmap sub-projects delivered by UNDP Offices	Sub-project 1: Reduce risk - Increase safety	UNDP SRB CO	443,432.65	443,404.03	28.62
	Sub-project 2: Advancing the Capacities of the Ministry of Interior	UNDP SRB CO	957,505.48	957,595.35	-89.87
	Sub-project 3: Support Albania's Law Enforcement Authorities	UNDP ALB CO	1,234,571.00 ²	1,220,061.39	14,509.61
	Sub-project 4: Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking (CIAT)	UNDP BiH CO	1,071,283.00	1,048,837.62	22,445.38
	Sub-project 5: Urgent Action on Ammunition Destruction	UNDP BiH CO	54,647.96	54,647.96	0
	Sub-project 6: Support to counter Illicit arms trafficking	UNDP KOS CO	987,412.00	985,748.82	1,663.18
	Sub-project 7: Improving national SALW-related practices	UNDP MKD CO	1,000,908.00	1,000,799.32	108.68
	Sub-project 8: Rogame SALW Storage Upgrade	UNDP MNE CO	161,894.27	161,894.27	0
	Not distributed funds	UNDP	8,602.64	-	8,602.64
TOTAL FUNDS	PROJECT		6,257,110.16	6,202,307.39	54,802.77

¹ Disclaimer: Data contained in this financial report section is an extract of UNDP financial records. Financial data provided herewith are provisional. Certified financial statements will be provided separately.

² US\$49,100 were added to Sub-project 3: "Support Albania's Law Enforcement Authorities to Strengthen Firearms Criminality Evidence Management and Investigation Capacities", transferred from the unallocated funds, as per the decision of the Project Board from the online decision-making in the period 8-16 August 2022.

Annexes

Annex I: Progress Review: detailed matrix of activities and results

Output 1	Indicators [Final Target as per approved ProDoc]	Baseline (2021)	Annual target (2022)	Progress / Target [Final]
Mechanism for efficient coordination of the Roadmap projects developed and put in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of project proposals meeting the overarching criteria and approved for funding [Final Target: 5] 	8	n/a	n/a [8/5]
Total Budget: 336,853.16 Expenditure by end 2022: 329,318.63	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existence of a guidance note on the submission, selection and implementation of the Roadmap projects [Final Target: Yes] 	Yes	n/a	n/a [Yes]
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of knowledge products, and visibility and communication materials released [Final Target: 11] 	26	5	6/5 [58/11 ³]
Activity: Coordination of implementation of Roadmap projects	Regular communication and coordination with the UNDP Offices maintained throughout 2022. Six (6) knowledge products and visibility and communication materials released in 2022, including four (4) publications and two visibility materials.			
Output 2	Indicators	Baseline (2021)	Annual target (2022)	Progress / Target [Final]
Roadmap projects delivered by UNDP Offices Budget: 5,920,257.00 Expenditure by end 2022: 5,872,988.76	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of Roadmap projects that have achieved their planned results [Final Target: 5] 	4	4	4 / 4 [8/5 ⁴]
Activity: Implementation of Roadmap projects	Four (4) sub-projects were under implementation in 2022, by the UNDP Offices in Albania, BiH, Kosovo, and North Macedonia. All four successfully completed operations within 2022. Overall, all eight (8) sub-projects were successfully completed by the end of 2022.			

³ The list features key products and materials developed in a comprehensive manner, though not exhaustive. In 2019, **two** (2) knowledge products and communication materials were prepared: one (1) green border assessment in BiH; and one (1) visibility and communication material published by SEESAC on launching the SALW Control projects; In 2020, **twenty-four** (24) knowledge products and communications materials were prepared: two (2) publications on gender and firearm misuse in UNDP Serbia; eighteen (18) knowledge sharing products and working materials in the form of standard operating procedures (SOPs), analyses and needs assessments, developed by UNDP offices in Albania, BiH, North Macedonia and Serbia; and four (4) visibility and communication materials developed by SEESAC, UNDP Serbia and UNDP Kosovo; In 2021, **twenty-six** (26) knowledge products, and visibility and communication materials were produced, including seven (7) publications on gender and firearms developed by UNDP Serbia and UNDP North Macedonia; eleven (11) knowledge sharing products and working materials in the form of analyses, policy papers, training concepts, and standard operating procedures (SOPs) developed by UNDP BiH and UNDP Serbia; eight (8) substantial visibility and communication materials were published in the form of videos, news articles, press releases, and social media campaigns, by UNDP offices in Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia.

⁴ One (1) Roadmap project achieved its planned results in 2019; Three (3) Roadmap projects achieved their planned results in 2021; Four (4) Roadmap projects achieved their planned results in 2022.

Output 3	Indicators	Baseline (2021)	Annual target (2022)	Progress / Target [Final]
Mechanism for efficient programmatic coordination and monitoring of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF in place Budget: [MPTF] \$255,045 Expenditure by end 2022: 235,703.24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of project proposals meeting the evaluation criteria and approved for funding from the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF [Final Target: 10] 	10	n/a	n/a [16/10]
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of progress reports consolidated and submitted to the Steering Committee [Final Target: 2 annual progress reports] 	2	n/a	n/a [3/2 ⁵]
Activity: Coordination and monitoring of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF	Ten (10) projects continued being implemented in 2022 and were monitored and coordinated by SEESAC, as the Trust Fund Secretariat. Six (6) new projects were approved for funding by the MPTF Steering Committee in the second half of 2022, with the technical support provided by SEESAC. One (1) annual and four (4) quarterly progress reports were consolidated in 2022 based on reports received from the Trust Fund Participating Organizations, and were submitted to the Steering Committee, as well as to the other contributors to the Fund. Overall, three (3) annual reports and 11 quarterly reports were produced by the end of 2022.			

⁵ Refers to the MPTF annual progress reports only

Annex II: Updated Risk Log

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Mngt response	Owner	Submitted, updated by
1	Lack of internal political and institutional stability in the six Western Balkan jurisdictions	February 2019	Political/ institutional	<p>The lack of internal political and institutional stability in the six Western Balkan jurisdictions may lead to delays and deadlocks in the implementation of the Roadmap projects. The deteriorating political climate in BiH may affect the activities conducted in this jurisdiction.</p> <p>P =3 I = 4</p>	UNDP has strong knowledge and understanding of the situation on the ground, in all the targeted jurisdictions. UNDP COs will ensure close cooperation with their counterparts and observe diligently the situation to plan and respond to changes in a timely manner. UNDP in BiH will liaise with the concerned authorities and engage them in the project activities, to the extent possible.	UNDP COs	Project manager
2	Insufficient operational capacity within national counterparts	February 2019	Operational	<p>Insufficient operational capacity within national counterparts, often lacking human and financial resources to respond to specific, time-constrained activities may lead to delays and deadlocks in the implementation of the Roadmap projects.</p> <p>P =3 I = 2</p>	The long-term relationships of UNDP COs with the beneficiary institutions provide the basis for realistic capacity assessment and good planning that will mitigate the potentially insufficient operational capacity of national counterparts. The non-cost extension of project duration will be considered to further mitigate any risks in this respect, as feasible.	UNDP COs	Project manager
3	Covid-19 pandemic and related government restrictions	March 2020	Operational	<p>The risk will negatively affect the implementation of the project, by delaying the implementation of activities, and hindering the beneficiaries' participation in the planned activities.</p> <p>P =3 I = 2</p>	UNDP Offices will continue to monitor the development of the pandemic and take the necessary measures to mitigate the negative impact of the crisis. Measures include conducting online coordination meetings with the project beneficiaries and partners, organizing online trainings if possible, or respecting the health measures imposed by the government when organizing in-person trainings.	UNDP COs	Project manager

Annex III: Annual Work Plan for 2023

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
			Funding Source	Budget Description	2023
Output 1 <i>Mechanism for efficient coordination of the Roadmap projects developed and put in place</i> Indicator: <i>Number of knowledge products, and visibility and communication materials released</i> Baseline: 58 (2022) Target: 1 (2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closure of the Output 1 coordination (final evaluation) 	UNDP IRH	Funding Windows	Contractual services 72100 (US\$7,966)	7,966
Output 2 <i>Roadmap projects delivered by selected UNDP offices</i> Indicator: <i>Number of Roadmap projects that have achieved their planned results</i> Baseline: 8 (2022) Target: n/a (2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closure of the Roadmap projects by the UNDP Offices 	UNDP Offices	Funding Windows	Contractual services 72100	42,778
Output 3 <i>Mechanism for efficient programmatic coordination and monitoring of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF in place</i> Indicator: <i>Number of MPTF projects approved for the Trust Fund's funding by the Steering Committee</i> Baseline: 16 (2022) Target: 5 (2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination and monitoring of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF 	UNDP IRH	MPTF	Salaries 61400 and 71400 (USD\$78,000) Travel 71600 (US\$10,000) Contractual services 72100 (US\$37,000)	125,000
Subtotal Direct Project Costs					175,744
General Management Services					12,810
TOTAL PROJECT COST					188,564