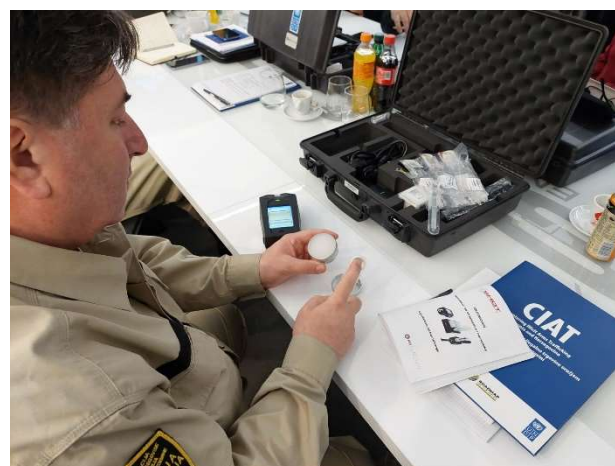


## FINAL REPORT

### Regional Project:

**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**



**Federal Foreign Office, Germany**

<b>Implementing Agency:</b>	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
<b>Atlas Project ID:</b>	00114727 Small arms control roadmap implementation
<b>Project Title:</b>	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
<b>Project Duration:</b>	14 May 2019 – 31 August 2023
<b>Country / Region:</b>	Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo *, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, Republic of Serbia)
<b>Funding Partner/s:</b>	Federal Foreign Office, Germany
<b>Responsible Parties:</b>	UNDP Albania, UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNDP Kosovo, UNDP Montenegro, UNDP North Macedonia, UNDP Serbia, UNDP SEESAC
<b>Reporting Period:</b>	14 May 2019 – 31 August 2023
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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

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

## I. Executive Summary

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### I.1 Achievements against outputs and outcomes

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 in the Western Balkans](#), 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 project produced significant results towards achieving the Roadmap Goals. Project results were delivered by the UNDP Offices in each of the Western Balkans's jurisdictions – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia, under the coordination of UNDP SEESAC.

The project enabled UNDP to kick off in a timely manner comprehensive support in addressing specific priority areas of Roadmap implementation in each of the Western Balkans jurisdictions in 2019, within the first year of Roadmap implementation. UNDP SEESAC in its coordination role liaised with the SALW commissions and assisted the UNDP Offices in identifying the specific gaps that could be addressed through this project in a way to complement the ongoing initiatives or build on previous efforts implemented in support to SALW control. The project positioned Germany as the key donor providing support for the Roadmap implementation, enabling a quick and strategic response to the governments' priorities in the implementation of the Roadmap. Furthermore, through this project, UNDP demonstrated its thought leadership in SALW control and capacities to promptly develop and deliver assistance in line with governments' priorities in a timely manner, in close cooperation with the beneficiaries and tailored to the particular needs and gaps of each jurisdiction.

The project thus enabled more effective and efficient control and response to firearms-related threats in the region. Apart from delivering results in line with project strategy and theory of change, 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 \(MPTF\)](#).

Under **Output 1** of the regional project (*Mechanism for efficient coordination of the Roadmap projects developed and put in place*), the mechanism was established and efficiently maintained throughout the project's duration.

- The mechanism for efficient coordination of the Roadmap projects was put in place in 2019 through the selection of sub-projects that received funding from the regional project, and through the establishment of a solid mechanism for monitoring and reporting. The sub-projects were selected through a call for project proposals addressed to UNDP Offices in the Western Balkans, which was accompanied by a *Guidance note on the submission, selection and implementation of the initiatives to be funded through the Regional Project* developed by UNDP SEESAC. Following a thorough technical assessment conducted by the UNDP SEESAC team, eight project proposals meeting the evaluation criteria were approved for funding by the Project Board.
- Throughout the project's duration, UNDP SEESAC maintained close relations with the UNDP Offices to monitor the implementation of their sub-projects and provided required assistance and technical advice to all eight sub-projects. It organized regional coordination meetings and Project Board meetings to ensure a coordinated approach to project implementation. It facilitated regular information exchange and knowledge sharing across the UNDP Offices, reviewed draft knowledge products and compiled regular quarterly and annual reports. SEESAC also facilitated sub-project revision requests, as necessary or required and in line with the Guidance note.
- Three annual Project Board meetings were organized, to review the progress made, take note of the project risks and mitigation measures, and approve regional work plans. The Project Board meeting in February 2022 also acknowledged the findings of the final evaluation of the project and endorsed the [Final Evaluation Report](#).

Under **Output 2** (*Roadmap projects delivered by UNDP Offices*), eight Roadmap projects were successfully implemented: in Albania, BiH, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia.

- The portfolio of sub-projects supported in the framework of the regional project covered all seven Roadmap goals, and all six jurisdictions of the Western Balkans, addressing respective Roadmap priorities.

- In the course of 2019, all eight projects were initiated. One sub-project was then successfully completed in 2019, three were completed in 2021, and the remaining four were successfully completed in 2022.

More specifically on the achievements of sub-projects per jurisdiction:

- In **Albania**, the sub-project “Support Albania’s Law Enforcement Authorities to Strengthen Firearms Criminality Evidence Management and Investigation Capacities” enhanced the capacities of the Albanian State Police and in particular the Albanian Institute of Scientific Police (AISP) to operate with higher standards and more effective procedures in the area of criminal investigation.
  - It ensured that the AISP operates with **a set of new or upgraded standard operating procedures** and trained 80 CSI units’ staff on these.
  - The AISP was equipped with **a comprehensive set of specialized equipment**, which increased the quality and efficiency of the **crime scene investigations and DNA examinations**, resulting in more reliable and accurate evidence. As a complementary support, the sub-project increased technical resources in the field of crime scene investigations of the Tirana Police Directorate.
  - The work of the **ballistic sector** of AISP was likewise well advanced through the project. The ballistic sector received specialized equipment and the staff were trained on the use of the new equipment and the required standards of work.
  - The sub-project supported the **development and installation of the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) and Open Case File (OCF) database in the AISP**, which will improve the evidence-management system, including accuracy and efficiency of internal data acquisition, management and reporting. Necessary equipment for effective LIMS functioning was provided as well, and 148 police officers from the AISP and regional CSI units trained on the system’s use.
  - Notably, due to the 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. 1,500 DNA examinations of criminal cases were conducted by the end of 2022 using the provided kits. The ballistic work as well increased in efficiency and accuracy due to the provided equipment. In 2023, 1200 ballistic examinations were conducted, 20% more than the previous year.

*[Contribution to Roadmap Goals 1, 2, 5]*

- In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, the sub-project “Urgent Action on Ammunition Destruction - Project EXPLODE+” contributed to the jurisdiction’s efforts to further reduce overall ammunition stockpiles to a manageable level, decrease the risk of diversion or uncontrolled explosion of munition sites and enable safer development opportunities.
  - The project supported the **disposal of 1,439 pieces of Multiple Launch Rocket System ammunition**, in a safe and environmentally sensitive manner.
  - The efficient action paved the way to the next initiative of ammunition destruction, which was supported through the SALW Control Roadmap MPTF (reference to Output 3)

*[Contribution to Roadmap Goals 5, 6, 7]*

- Also, in **BiH**, the sub-project “Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking (CIAT)” enhanced the capacity of the border police and of 13 entity and cantonal police agencies in BiH to combat illicit arms trafficking, and it strengthened inter-institutional cooperation to this end.
  - The sub-project developed and consolidated the **National Database of SALW Transport Licenses**, which strengthens supervision capacities of legal trade and it primarily serves to monitor transport of SALW, enabling data collection and exchange of information among the institutions involved in the process of legal trade of SALW.
  - The sub-project supported further **improvement of the SALW Identification Tool** and its deployment to all police agencies, accompanied by the delivery of equipment for its use. The upgraded SALW identification tool is used by the BiH Border Police and other law enforcement agencies in the identification of firearms and ammunition during inspections and seizures.



- The project supported the **development of SOPs** for all law enforcement agencies covering five (5) categories: risk analysis, tracing of weapons, data collection, running an investigation, and reacting in emergency situations.
- It provided **comprehensive specialized equipment** and organized an **extensive training program** for police officers from law enforcement agencies throughout BiH. 2,053 officers were trained countrywide on firearm detection using specialized detection equipment and developed SOPs (1,892 men and 161 women).
- Based on the developed and approved concept through inter-agency collaboration, the sub-project rolled out **three joint exercises on detecting and investigating smuggling of firearms, ammunition and explosives** for police officers, with the active participation of BiH Prosecutor's Office.
- Overall, the sub-project built the identification, prevention of diversion and criminal pursuit capabilities of BiH law enforcement, and strengthened the foundation in BiH for future initiatives supported through the SALW Control Roadmap MPTF, which further consolidate results towards effectively and efficiently countering arms trafficking along with the cross-border and international cooperation to this end (reference to Output 3).

*[Contribution to Roadmap Goals 2, 3, 5]*

- In **Kosovo**, the sub-project "Support to counter Illicit arms trafficking" strengthened the capacities of border entities to detect FAE and conduct detailed risk profiling.
  - It supported the Ministry of Interior (Moi) to develop and put in use a new **Weapons Registration software**. The software was interlinked with databases in different institutions, as prescribed by the Law on Weapons and regulatory frameworks, and enabled the Moi to collect and exchange information on firearms, including data on private companies that sell firearms, on the legalization process, destruction of firearms, etc.
  - The sub-project **strengthened the K9 capacities** at the borders. It provided five K9 dogs and trained the dogs along with 40 police officers during 380-hour training to detect weapons made of polymer materials. The trained dogs were distributed to K9 operators at the border crossing points and green border lines.
  - Specialized equipment and a series of training session with simulation exercises were provided for border police and customs, which **enhanced skills and knowledge on the FAE detection and on border surveillance**. A joint top table exercise followed on detecting, identifying, seizing potential illicit arms at border crossings, coupled with a real **joint operation**, relying on the specialized equipment provided by the project.
  - **Risk analysis capacities** at the border crossings were enhanced through a set of training courses based on the Common Integrated Risk Analysis Model (CIRAM 2.0) and through the provision of two sets of risk analysis package IBase and I2Analyst Notebook.
  - The delivered specialized training and equipment were accompanied by the development of **knowledge products** to ensure continuous resource for the law enforcement, including the border police vulnerability assessment, problem profile and trend analysis, and a report on the use of K9 in detecting firearms.
  - The project built upon and complemented the achieved results through the subsequent two projects supported through the SALW Control Roadmap MPTF (reference to Output 3).
  - The provided support contributed to numerous actions conducted by the Kosovo Police, resulting in 1,135 firearms and 32,747 ammunition pieces confiscated in 2020, 1,280 firearms and 42,031 ammunition pieces confiscated in 2021; 1,473 firearms and 29,903 ammunition pieces confiscated in 2022. In 2023, by the end of the project (August 2023), the police confiscated 771 pcs of weapons of various kinds and 23,940 pcs of ammunition.

*[Contribution to Roadmap Goals 2, 3, 5, 7]*

- In **Montenegro**, the sub-project "Rogame SALW Storage Upgrade" improved the physical security of SALW and ammunition stockpiles in Montenegro.

- It supported the **upgrade of two SALW storage magazines and a guardhouse** of the Ministry of Interior / Police Directorate SALW storage location Rogame, in line with international best practices and standards. 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 risks of potential accidents at the storage as well as the risks of firearms and ammunition diversion and proliferation.

*[Contribution to Roadmap Goal 7]*

- In **North Macedonia**, the sub-project “Improving national SALW-related practices and building violence-resilient communities” supported 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)** for collecting, analyzing 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 and the Law on Weapons, a new module for the WRMS was developed, allowing registered firearms dealers to keep a record of the firearms in their possession and the ones they dispose of, with specific details that enable a better identification and tracing of the firearms. 120 participants from all over the country (24 women and 96 men) were trained in the functionalities of the upgraded software, including the Mol IT Department, Sector for Weapons and Explosives, Border Police, as well as the weapons-selling companies. Mol was equipped with necessary hardware to ensure proper functioning and use of the WRMS.
  - At the same time, the project **designed and developed an Information Management System (IMS) for the Mol**. To this end, a needs-based analysis was developed, detailing current organizational processes and organizational structure as it relates to criminal and firearm related data; and guidelines and recommendations were produced for data collection in relation to management of SALW and other crime related incidents.
  - In addition, the project developed an **analysis of the cases of femicides** in the country in the period 2017-2020, which established a basis for further work on developing and integrating a module on gender-based violence within the IMS that will be pursued as part of the future projects within the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF (reference to Output 3).
  - Necessary equipment was provided as well for the police stations around the country, for the purposes of the new software use. The sub-project developed the user’s manual, and trained 200 police officers on the IMS use, to also serve as in-house trainers for their colleagues in the Mol.
  - The new IMS improves firearm-related data collection, analysis, and exchange, and it links up numerous databases across all institutions with a role in SALW control. It is a main tool for tracking firearms-related incidents in North Macedonia and it represents a key platform for modernizing and digitalizing the SALW control work, setting the foundation for future interventions in the area.

*[Contribution to Roadmap Goals 2, 4, 5, 7.]*

- In **Serbia**, the sub-project “Reduce risk-Increase safety–Towards ending SALW misuse in domestic violence context” set up the basis for gender-sensitive and evidence-based policy making, increased the awareness among general population on the dangers of illicit SALW possession and misuse, and developed resources and knowledge products to advance criminal justice response and reduce risks of firearms misuse.
  - A **series of analyses** developed within the project assessed the impact of firearms misuse on gender-based violence, which played a crucial role in shaping new policy documents, and in the design of training programs for first-line responders.
  - The project provided comprehensive **e-learning for judiciary, police and other professionals** on firearms misuse in the context of domestic violence, including the development of three



modules for the existing Mol e-learning platform, and an e-training to improve multi-agency case management for increased safety of victims.

- 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 domestic violence cases.
- The project's **risk assessment checklist** and proposed measures to prevent the risk of firearms misuse for violence, were used in the **police SOP for domestic violence cases**, especially those involving firearms misuse.
- A **policy paper** was developed, mapping the relationship between the domestic violence, SALW misuse and public health, as a foundation for short- and long-term actions.
- The sub-project organized **joint learning sessions of media, CSOs and institutions** to discuss models for a multi-agency approaches to femicides committed with firearms.
- **Two social media campaigns** were implemented on the dangers and consequences of firearms misuse, which led to remarkable media coverage and media interest in firearms misuse and domestic violence.
- To support media in educational and preventative reporting, the project delivered **an analysis** of media reporting on SALW and domestic violence, **guidelines for ethical and gender-sensitive media reporting** and a **training module for the media** on gender-sensitive media reporting on domestic violence committed with firearms.
- An **informative guide for firearms license applicants and their family members** was produced, outlining key facts on domestic violence and firearms misuse, with information on the referral pathways for survivors of domestic violence.
- A critical result of the project is the integration of firearms-enabled violence in the new strategy for combating gender-based violence in Serbia (2021-2025), adopted in 2021.
- Overall, the project produced a wealth of data and insights for further policymaking and advocacy efforts, and it served as a basis for new initiatives supported through the SALW Control Roadmap MPTF, which further strengthen the healthcare system's role in the prevention of firearms misuse (reference to Output 3).

*[Contribution to Roadmap Goals 2 and 4]*

- Finally, in **Serbia**, the sub-project “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” increased the capacities of the Ministry of Interior in the entire investigative cycle.
  - The sub-project upgraded the regulatory framework for the National Forensic Center through the **development of four SOPs** for: (1) chain of custody in law enforcement, (2) crime scene investigation; (3) packaging and tagging of evidence; (4) development of an open case file for ballistic examination.
  - It increased the capacity of the crime scene investigation (CSI) units through **specialized training and equipment**, in line with the requirements for the ISO 17020 standard. 120 forensic experts passed the required training.
  - In addition, to improve the capacities of the CSI units to collect evidence and conduct criminal investigations in reported cases of domestic violence, the project developed **an analysis on criminal investigations in cases of domestic violence** and prepared an **Instruction (guidelines)** for addressing criminal offences in the field of domestic violence, which 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 that work together with CSI teams on the crime scene.
  - The functions of the **ballistic laboratory** were improved through an improved information management system, reception and storage of ballistic evidence, and ballistic testing.

- The project supported the central level ballistic laboratory with the establishment of a **Laboratory Inventory Management System (LIMS)**, and an **Open Case File room and database**. The laboratory was also provided with necessary equipment to support the use of the LIMS and increase the efficiency and safety of work of the ballistic experts in the laboratory.
- To complement the installation of the water tank for test firing and support the experts with the daily use of the tank, a dedicated SOP was developed, and specialized equipment and training was provided to ensure the safety of all staff members when handling, inspecting and testing firearms and ammunition.
- Overall, the project ensured tangible upgrade of the crime scene investigations and ballistic work, which is further being expanded and consolidated through the SALW Control Roadmap MPTF (reference to Output 3)

*[Contribution to Roadmap Goals 1, 2, 3, 5.]*

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 supported the Trust Fund's governance, monitoring and evaluation.

- The Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF was set up in March 2019 by UNDP and UNODC, together with the MPTF Office, to contribute to a donor coordinated funding approach in the implementation of the Roadmap and provide a comprehensive risk and results-based management system. The Trust Fund has benefitted from a strong cooperation with Germany and France, as the initiators of the Roadmap, and were soon joined by the United Kingdom, Sweden, Norway, and the Netherlands. By August 2023, the Trust Fund received contributions in the cumulative amount of US\$ 24.4 million from the six donors. The pooled funds are entirely aimed at funding projects in the Western Balkans in support of the SALW Control Roadmap, as approved by the Trust Fund's Steering Committee.
- 24 Roadmap projects were approved within the Trust Fund through the first, second and third call for proposals and through a direct call for proposals. These projects build upon or expand upon the sub-project results that stem from the regional project. Four annual reports on Trust Fund projects were produced by 31 August 2023, depicting progress and impact towards the SALW Control Roadmap Goals stemming from the diverse set of projects. All projects were efficiently monitored, coordinated and technically supported by SEESAC, as the Trust Fund Secretariat.
- SEESAC as the Secretariat facilitated the Trust Fund's Steering Committee in all its decision-making processes, including by facilitating and organizing Steering Committee meetings, as well as by conducting assessment of new projects prior to review and decision-making by the Steering Committee. 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 February 2023, the Steering Committee approved extension of the Trust Fund until December 2025, to enable effective implementation of all the projects. By February 2023, the Trust Fund also went through a mid-term evaluation, to review the progress to date and receive recommendations for the next term. The [mid-term evaluation report](#) acknowledged the good overall strategic performance of the Trust Fund, and found it essential to sustaining the momentum of both political and technical commitment to SALW control in the region.

## **I.2. Cross-cutting themes, challenges and lessons learned**

Throughout the project's implementation, close coordination was applied with local authorities and partners, both with national and international and in particular with the SALW Commissions and Ministries of Interior in respective jurisdictions. Partnerships towards Roadmap implementation were strengthened across the region, including through the regional knowledge-exchange and coordination platforms organized by UNDP SEESAC. Local project boards ensured all relevant parties were kept informed of the progress on the ground and that local ownership was maintained. Other than advocating for participation of both women and men in project activities across all jurisdictions, specific efforts to promote gender-sensitive policymaking, data collection and practice, as well as to engage civil society were marked through sub-projects in Serbia and North Macedonia. These were then built upon and expanded through the spin-off projects funded by the SALW Control Roadmap MPTF.

Noteworthy is that the project was implemented under unprecedented circumstances due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. All sub-projects have been affected by the crisis, as Governments imposed measures to stop and prevent the spread of the virus, including various levels of restrictions in people's gathering and travel. The quarterly updates provided by the UNDP Offices provided overview of the pandemic evolution in each jurisdiction and risks were regularly monitored. The related challenging aspects encompassed more limited availability of the project beneficiaries to participate in the project activities (Mols and police primarily), the necessity to switch to online operations and training, and overall slower pace of project implementation and achievement of results. The UNDP Offices and SEESAC have been closely monitoring the evolution of the pandemic in each jurisdiction and adapted project strategies as necessary while maintaining focus on the set results.

Additional challenges were posed by the political tensions in jurisdictions and the change in counterparts following elections (across jurisdictions), the earthquake in November 2019 in Albania, cumbersome communication with the project beneficiaries, delays in the delivery of procured equipment, slow pace of planned software development (Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia), insufficient human resource capacity on occasions and the unfavorable weather conditions for reconstruction works (Montenegro).

The donor and the Project Board were kept abreast of the challenges, mitigation measures and the pace of progress, during the project board meetings and progress reports. The operational risks and difficulties have largely been addressed through non-cost extension of the projects' implementing period, which was granted by the Project Board or the regional project manager, in line with the endorsed Guidance Note.

Overall, despite all the challenges and owing to the extended timeframe, dynamic project management and adaptability, the regional project and sub-projects were successfully implemented and achieved planned results.

There were a number of lessons learnt and corresponding recommendations drawn from the project implementation. These include, among others, the importance of having project teams on the ground managing close coordination and relationship with the authorities and partners, the ability to adapt to and effectively manage online or hybrid operations during the pandemic, timely engagement with stakeholders to reaffirm priorities and cost-and result-effective approaches, smartly embedding the work in the strategic and regulatory framework of the stakeholders, and an added value brought by the engagement of a comprehensive set of actors and agencies across the region in a coordinated and structured manner through the established regional platforms managed by UNDP SEESAC. This, coupled with the continuous support through the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF, enabled continuous and steady progress that sustains beyond the project.

### **I.3 Utilization update**

By the end of the regional project, the cumulative utilization of the project budget was \$6,537,659, representing 98.4% of the total project budget of \$6,645,905.

### **I.4 Catalytic interventions**

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

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 and the continuous support from the SALW Control Roadmap MPTF. The project component implemented by UNDP Serbia in forensics and crime scene investigation stepped into a new phase. Likewise, the component on gender-sensitive approaches to risk reduction with regards to firearms misuse expanded through the next phase. Also, the experience from the forensics activities in Serbia and Albania have been replicated into a similar project initiated in Montenegro in 2021. Additionally, the lessons learnt from the gender-focused analysis of firearms-related legislation

conducted by UNDP Serbia were integrated in the methodology of the regional gender screening of firearms legislations that is conducted by UNDP SEESAC.

In November 2023, the UN [Secretary General Report](#) on Small Arms and Light Weapons acknowledged the impact of the Western Balkans Roadmap, as well as the development of new Roadmaps in the Caribbean and Central America that draw from the good practice and model of the Western Balkans Roadmap. The Secretary General encouraged States globally to develop and implement regional and subregional instruments, road maps and action plans to address region-specific challenges related to the diversion of small arms and light weapons and ammunition, as well as their proliferation and misuse, in accordance with international arms control treaties and political frameworks.

## II. Introduction / Background

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

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. Over 90% of all firearm-related criminal offences in the Western Balkans are committed with illegal firearms and every second homicide is committed with firearms. The misuse of firearms is highly gendered. Men account for more than 95% of perpetrators and over 80% of victims of firearm-related incidents. Women, on the other hand, own only a minor share of firearms, make up only a minor share of perpetrators, but are disproportionately represented among victims.<sup>1</sup> At the same time, illicit arms trafficking poses a threat to the safety of citizens of the wider region.

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. Official adoption of this document took place at the EU-Western Balkans Summit in London on 10 July 2018. The EU Strategy from 2018 to combat illicit accumulation and trafficking of SALW and their ammunition ([‘the EU SALW Strategy’](#)) recognized that while significant progress had 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 continued 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 harmonization with the EU legislative and regulatory framework and compliance with international standards, continued support was needed to combat the threat posed by the spread and illicit trafficking of SALW in and from the Western Balkans.

The adopted Roadmap envisaged measures to further address: 1) the level of harmonization 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 regional project was thus developed to contribute 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 was 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*. Additionally, the project was linked to the 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 against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation*. The project aimed 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

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

management of SALW and ammunition. Aiming at supporting national efforts on arms control in the Western Balkans, the project also contributed 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 was directly implemented by UNDP’s Istanbul Regional Hub for Europe and the CIS (IRH), through UNDP SEESAC. The SEESAC Project Manager also acted as the manager of the regional project. The project was implemented in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia directly by the UNDP offices in their respective jurisdictions. UNDP offices were directly responsible for the implementation of projects at respective jurisdiction level, meeting delivery rates and achieving the planned results of their proposed projects. SEESAC supported the overall coordination of the regional project and provided advisory support to the UNDP Offices implementing the project.

The project was governed by a Project Board, chaired by the Manager of the Istanbul Regional Hub, who served as the Project Executive. The project board was comprised 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 as the Donor.

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 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 were captured annually. The Project Board met 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, an independent final project evaluation was completed, and the Project Board held an end-of project review to reflect on the evaluation findings and recommendations and determine final steps prior to project’s closure.



### III. Progress Review: Key Activities and Results

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#### Section 1: Overall progress against outcomes

The project achieved its objective as set - 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** supported through the project covered all of the Roadmap goals and was relevant to Roadmap implementation in a balanced way, reflecting Roadmap priorities. Overall, the project covered a wide array of issues, ranging from upgrading and standardizing procedures, collecting and analyzing relevant data, to destroying surplus of ammunition and upgrading storage facilities, as well as engaging relevant institutions, organizations, civil society and communities in preventing and addressing FAE-related misuse and crime. The project enabled more effective and efficient control and response to firearms-related threats.

The project thus **contributed to the achievement of all seven Roadmap goals**, as follows:

**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.* The project contributed to Roadmap Goal 1 through the improvement of regulatory framework and standardization of crime scene investigation and ballistic procedures in line with the EU requirements and international standards (ISO 17020 and ISO 17025), in two jurisdictions – *in Albania and Serbia.*

**Goal 2** – *By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence based and intelligence led.* It contributed to the Roadmap Goal 2 by improving data collection and analysis, providing specialized equipment, resources and training, enhancing inter-institutional operational exchange, as well as by producing a series of analyses, research and reports to inform gender-sensitive and/or evidence-based policymaking, in five jurisdictions - *in Albania, BiH, Kosovo, North Macedonia, and Serbia.*

**Goal 3** – *By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.* Contribution to the Roadmap Goal 3 was achieved through the enhancement of procedures, capacities and resources for law enforcement in three jurisdictions to tackle illicit flows, including through provision of specialized equipment and training, standardizing procedures, delivery of joint exercises and the development of knowledge products - *in BiH, Kosovo, and Serbia.*

**Goal 4** – *By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy.* The support for the Roadmap Goal 4 encompassed increased awareness, outreach and advocacy achieved in two jurisdictions regarding the misuse of firearms in the context of violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence - *in North Macedonia and Serbia.*

**Goal 5** – *By 2024, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans.* Contribution Roadmap Goal 5 entailed increased capacities and resources of respective authorities in four jurisdictions to identify, collect and manage data related to SALW and register firearms and thus work towards decreasing the firearms in illicit possession - *in BiH, Kosovo, North Macedonia and Serbia.*

**Goal 6** – *Systematically decrease the surplus and destroy seized small arms and light weapons and ammunition.* Contribution to the Roadmap Goal 6 was achieved through the disposal of ammunition in one jurisdiction in line with international standards and environmental safeguards – *in Bosnia and Herzegovina.*

**Goal 7** – *Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives.* The contribution to the Roadmap Goal 7 encompassed the upgrade of storage facilities in one jurisdiction and increase in administrative capacities of institutions in three jurisdictions for monitoring and oversight of the firearms and ammunitions stocks of legal entities and individuals - *in BiH, Kosovo, Montenegro, and North Macedonia.*

Furthermore, the project maintained and sustained 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 i) (2018-2021) *Number of regional cooperation forums that support redress mechanisms, justice institutions, and community security (including SALW control)*; and ii) (2022-2025) *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.

Worth noting is that the UN Secretary-General's policy brief on A New Agenda for Peace, issued in July 2023, called for renewed action on SALW control, addressing both the supply and demand of arms and ammunition. Further to this, the latest biennial UN [Secretary General Report](#) on Small Arms and Light Weapons, issued in November 2023, acknowledged the impact of the Western Balkans Roadmap, as well as the development of new Roadmaps in the Caribbean and Central America that draw from the good practice and model of the Western Balkans Roadmap. The Secretary General encouraged States to develop and implement regional and subregional instruments, road maps and action plans to address region-specific challenges related to the diversion of small arms and light weapons and ammunition, as well as their proliferation and misuse, in accordance with international arms control treaties and political frameworks.

## Section 2: Monitoring and Evaluation 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. 13 project quarterly progress reports were produced throughout the project implementation, starting from Q1 2019 to Q2 2023. Detailed progress, knowledge, good practices and lessons were captured in annual reports for [2019](#), [2020](#), [2021](#), and [2022](#). The progress was reviewed annually by the established Project Board.

Monitoring was also ensured through regular communication by SEESAC Project Manager with the project teams in each UNDP Office. It was performed as well through the local and regional SALW coordination meetings, organized bi-annually by the Western Balkans SALW authorities in cooperation with SEESAC, whereby relevant local and international actors gathered to reflect on the progress towards the Roadmap Goals and on contributions from projects and initiatives to this end. There were two of such meetings annually in each of six Western Balkans jurisdictions. At the level of the sub-projects, the UNDP Offices conducted their own monitoring and verification actions, including meetings with respective project boards.

In the final year of its implementation, UNDP contracted a company to conduct the **final evaluation of the project** and provide independent insights into the overall progress against the results and outcomes, assessed against the OECD-DAC criteria of impact, relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and coherence as well as cross-cutting principles and values, communications and visibility. The [final evaluation of the regional project](#) was completed in February 2023 and gave an overview of key findings; lessons learnt from the general implementation of both the UNDP project and sub-projects; and it provided recommendations for future approaches in the area. Overall, the evaluation found that excellent progress was made with a broad and relevant portfolio of sub-projects. Feedback from jurisdiction-level partners was assessed as very positive, with numerous examples of how funded sub-projects catalyzed broader interventions, demonstrating their relevance and showing some early signs of impact. Decisions on funding were found to be timely and that monitoring and reporting was on the whole efficient and appropriate. All eight sub-projects funded by the regional project were found to be relevant to the Roadmap and the broader context, and effective in terms of delivering the anticipated results. Both singly and taken together, the sub-projects were evaluated as important contributions to building momentum in the implementation of the Roadmap at the regional and jurisdiction levels. Despite the overall success of the regional project, the evaluation recommended areas for improvement in future funding arrangements, encompassing the need to deepen the principles of true partnership between authorities in the region and international actors, further development of project design and monitoring, evaluation and learning and greater emphasis on sustainability and cross cutting issues - including gender, human rights and the environment. The evaluation findings were presented to key stakeholders and the project board. The project board reviewed, discussed and approved the findings of the evaluation, the recommendations of which will be addressed primarily via the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF.

### Section 3: Progress against each output

Output 1: Mechanism for efficient coordination of the Roadmap projects developed and put in place	
Total budget <sup>2</sup> : \$338,337	Spent 14 May 2019 - 31 August 2023: \$338,337

Output indicators	Targets	Progress against targets
Number of project proposals meeting the overarching criteria and approved for funding	5	<b>8</b> 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	<b>A guidance note</b> was prepared in 2019 and shared with the UNDP COs as part of the call for project proposals. The guidance note ensured application of proper procedures, implementation, monitoring and coordination of all sub-projects funded through the regional project, as a complementary tool.
Number of knowledge products and visibility and communication materials released	11	<b>59 knowledge products and communication materials</b> were prepared in total since the project's beginning. <sup>3</sup> The extended timeframe of the regional project enabled richer portfolio of developed knowledge products.

Under Output 1, the project ensured 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:**

- The mechanism for the efficient coordination of the Roadmap sub-projects was established in 2019 and was maintained and sustained throughout the project's duration.
- A call for project proposals was launched on 29 May 2019, addressed to UNDP Offices in the Western Balkans. The call included a guidance note on the submission, selection and implementation of the Roadmap projects. Following a thorough technical evaluation, 8 project proposals meeting the overarching criteria were approved for funding.
- UNDP SEESAC maintained a close relation with the UNDP Offices in order to monitor the projects' implementation and provide any required assistance. Efficient coordination was ensured through regional coordination meetings supported by UNDP SEESAC, bilateral meetings, and regular communication with the UNDP project managers throughout the project's cycle. UNDP project managers

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

<sup>3</sup> 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. In **2022, six (6)** knowledge products and visibility and communication materials were released, including four (4) publications and two visibility materials. In **2023, the final evaluation** of the project was produced.

were invited to present the results and plans of their projects at annual Project Board meetings (13 November 2020, 21 February 2022, 21 February 2023).

- Knowledge and information sharing was enabled through project interventions, regional meetings and regular contacts. Repository of knowledge products and relevant information on SALW control was developed. The extended timeframe of the project enabled a richer portfolio of 59 knowledge products and communication materials to be developed since the project's beginning.
- UNDP SEESAC contracted a company to conduct the final evaluation of the project, The [final evaluation report](#) was successfully completed in February 2023, acknowledging the overall accomplishments of the regional project and its sub-projects, efficient coordination of the regional project, relevance to the regional context and to the implementation of the SALW Control Roadmap and mapping some lessons learnt and recommendations for the future.

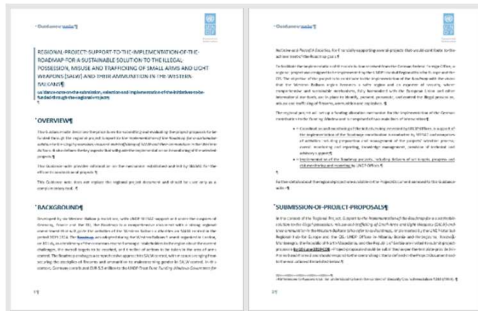
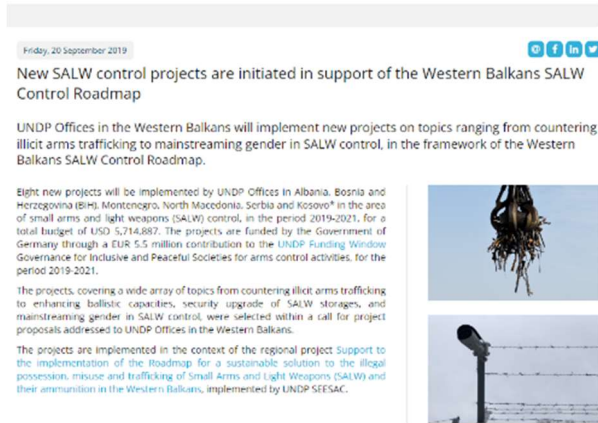


*Participants at the regional coordination meeting held in Belgrade, on 10-11 February 2020. Photo: UNDP SEESAC*



<b>ACTIVITY 1.1</b>	<b>Coordination of implementation of Roadmap projects</b>
<b>Total budget: \$338,337</b>	<b>Spent 14 May 2019 – 31 August 2023: \$338,337</b>

### Key activities implemented during the project's life cycle.

- In the first months of project implementation, the project focused on the **selection process of sub-projects** supporting the implementation of the Roadmap to be funded from the Regional Project. First, UNDP SEESAC developed a **Guidance note on the submission, selection and implementation of the initiatives to be funded through the Regional Project**, which described the procedures for submitting and evaluating the project proposals, the eligibility and technical evaluation criteria, as well as the key aspects that would guide the implementation and monitoring of the selected proposals. The *Guidance note* was approved by the Project Board during a virtual project board meeting on 21 May 2019;
 
- Subsequently, on 29 May 2019, UNDP SEESAC launched a **call for proposals** addressed to UNDP Offices in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia and Republic of Serbia, in support of the Roadmap implementation. The invitation to submit proposals within the call was accompanied by the *Guidance note*; Nine (9) project proposal were received by the deadline, which was set for 10 June 2019;
- The **technical evaluation** of the received project proposals was conducted by the UNDP SEESAC team in two stages. In the first stage, project proposals were evaluated against the two eligibility criteria, while during the second stage, the projects that met the eligibility criteria were assessed against twelve technical evaluation criteria. All the submitted project proposals met the eligibility criteria. Following the technical evaluation, 8 proposals, receiving the highest scores, were recommended for funding to the Project Board. Given the available funding and the jurisdictions' priorities for SALW control, only selected project activities were recommended for immediate funding through this regional project, with the view that resources are mobilized from other sources for the remaining ones. Thus, UNDP COs were requested to adjust the proposals and budget in order to reflect the reduced projects' activities, as recommended by the evaluation team;
 
- At the meeting of the Project Board organized in Istanbul, on 25 June 2019, **eight (8) recommended projects were approved for funding**. Subsequently, UNDP SEESAC informed the UNDP Offices about the decision of the Project Board. The selected projects could immediately start their implementation;
- As of 25 July 2019, the UNDP SEESAC project team **maintained a close relation with the UNDP Offices** in order to monitor the initiation of the projects' implementation and provide any required assistance.
- As the **COVID-19 pandemic** evolved in the Western Balkans and in the context of the Governments' restrictions to prevent and limit the spread of the virus, SEESAC reached out and maintained regular communication with the UNDP Offices to discuss the impact of the crisis on the implementation of their sub-projects. A detailed account of the development of the COVID-19 pandemic in each jurisdiction and its effect on the progress of the sub-projects was presented under the description of each sub-project.
- Throughout, SEESAC team members provided **substantial technical support and assistance to the UNDP sub-projects** such as: technical advice during the preparations for the procurement processes and review of ToRs and tender documentation, experience-exchange related to aspects of project's implementation, such as with the (re)construction works and supervision, support with the development

of SOPs or knowledge products, facilitation of coordination meetings and expert inputs at meetings, and providing technical advice to other activities prepared or implemented during the reporting period.

- 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.
- 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 on three occasions, ultimately until 31 August 2023, the Project Board or the Regional Project Manager, as applicable, approved non-cost extensions for sub-projects, and these were regularly reported on in the quarterly or annual reports, or project board meeting minutes.
- 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 which successfully completed in February 2023.
- Throughout, UNDP SEESAC along with the UNDP Country Offices also ensured visibility of the project results and milestones. The UNDP projects selected for funded were [publicized](#) on SEESAC's online information exchange platform, which also highlighted Germany's financial contribution to the regional project. Also, a **video** presenting snapshots of the results achieved by the regional project in 2020 was prepared and published online, on [SEESAC's knowledge exchange platform](#) and [Twitter account](#), at the end of 2020. Furthermore, the reports and relevant information on projects were provided and regularly updated on a dedicated [webpage](#) maintained by SEESAC.

#### Funding Mechanisms

UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund
<b>UNDP's Funding Windows Regional Project</b>
➤ Albania
➤ Bosnia and Herzegovina
➤ Kosovo
➤ Montenegro
➤ North Macedonia
➤ Serbia

#### UNDP's Funding Windows Regional Project

The regional project *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* was established in 2019 as a funding mechanism for addressing key challenges in the implementation of the Roadmap and for further supporting the progress made by the Western Balkans jurisdictions in this sense. The regional project provides the framework for a coordinated approach of the SALW control efforts conducted by the UNDP Offices in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, facilitating knowledge and experience sharing, and better guidance towards addressing the specific SALW control needs of the Western Balkans jurisdictions. The project covers a wide array of topics from countering illicit arms trafficking to enhancing ballistic capacities and security upgrade of SALW storages, and has enabled the implementation of pilot and flagship projects in the areas of gender and SALW control, ballistics, and countering illicit arms trafficking that can be scaled up or replicated in different jurisdictions through the [Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap Multi Partner Trust Fund](#).

The regional project is coordinated by UNDP SEESAC and funded by the Federal Foreign Office, Germany, through a EUR 5.5 million contribution provided through the [UNDP Funding Windows](#).

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

Details about the projects funded through the Regional Project are available in the sub-sections or in the links below:



## Output 2: Roadmap projects delivered by UNDP Offices

Total budget: \$5,920,257

Spent 25 July 2019-31 August 2023: \$5,873,063

Output indicators	Targets	Progress against targets since the beginning of the project
Number of Roadmap projects that have achieved their planned results	8	<b>Eight (8) of the eight (8) projects</b> 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 were 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. All projects were implemented in support of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap Goals and in close partnership with the authorities, ensuring national ownership and coordination of activities.

- 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.

Table: Overview of approved sub-projects

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

The following section outlines all sub-projects, including key results achieved, for a comprehensive overview of the contribution stemming from the Roadmap projects<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

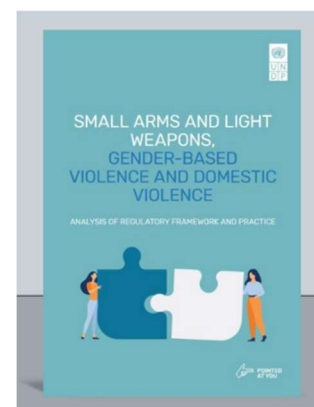
<sup>5</sup> There is a separate final report for each sub-project (eight), in line with the established reporting requirements.

Sub-project 1. Reduce risk-Increase safety–Towards ending SALW misuse in domestic violence context	
Project number:	2019SRB01
Implemented by:	UNDP Serbia
Contributed to Roadmap Goal:	<b>Goal 2:</b> By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence based and intelligence led. <b>Goal 4:</b> 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: \$444,462	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 (DV) and other forms of gender-based violence (GBV) 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.

#### Key results achieved:

- To support evidence-based and gender-responsive policy making, a **series of analyses** were developed assessing the impact of firearms misuse on GBV.<sup>6</sup> These included examination of the legal framework, femicides involving firearms, and institutional response, with a **focus on judicial practice and response of the criminal justice system related to misuse of firearms in cases of domestic violence**. All relevant stakeholders, both public institutions and non-governmental organizations, actively participated in knowledge development and dissemination. These knowledge products played a crucial role in shaping new legal and strategic documents, and in the design of training programs for first-line responders.
- The project contributed to an enhanced access to continuous training for judiciary, police and other professionals on firearms misuse in the context of DV, through **comprehensive e-learning**. It developed **three modules for the existing Mol e-training platform** on recognizing, preventing, assessing and reducing the risk of firearm use in DV. Also, the **e-training to improve multi-agency case management for increased safety of victims and reduced risk of firearm violence in the DV context** was developed and **launched** 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 DV**. In addition to this, the project's risk assessment checklist and proposed measures to prevent the risk of firearms misuse for violence, were utilized in the police SOP for domestic violence cases, especially those involving firearms misuse, developed and accepted by Mol.
- The project explored the **role of the healthcare system** in the prevention of firearm misuse in DV. A **policy paper was thus developed, mapping the relationship between DVe, SALW misuse and public health, as a foundation for short- and long-term actions**. Related insights served as a basis for a new project<sup>7</sup> that developed a set of recommended, implementable and sustainable actions to strengthen the healthcare system's role in the prevention of firearms misuse for domestic violence and contributed to a more in-depth understanding of the various dimensions (including gender) of suicide by firearms.

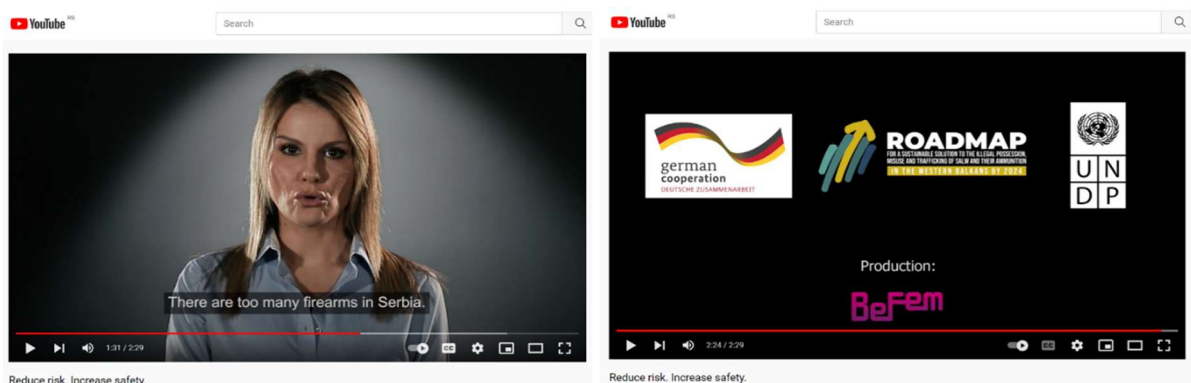


<sup>6</sup> 1) The [in-depth analysis](#) of the procedures and practices related to the SALW license denial, removal and revocation in the context of domestic violence, including existing procedures and practices related to the domestic violence committed by military and police officers. 2) The analysis 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.

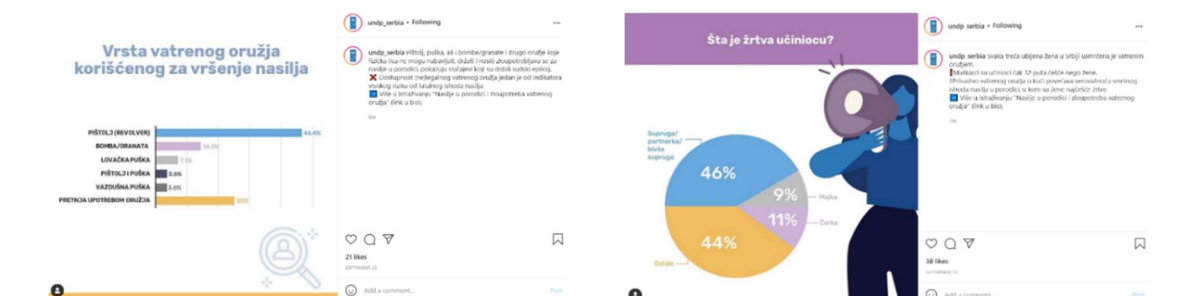
<sup>7</sup> Implemented in the period September 2022-March 2023 through the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund; reference to Output 3.

- The project contributed to deconstructing gender stereotypes and increased public awareness on the dangers of firearms misuse in the context of GBV, including improved educational and preventive media reporting. It organized **joint learning sessions of media, CSOs and institutions** to discuss different models for establishing a multi-agency 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.
- To support media in educational and preventative reporting, the project developed [Guidelines for ethical and gender-sensitive media reporting on DV committed with firearms](#), a [training module for the media on gender-sensitive media reporting on DV committed with firearms](#), and an [analysis of media reporting on SALW and DV for the first half of 2021](#) that helps monitor the quality of media reporting on the cases of DV 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 DV 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 GBV in Serbia for 2021-2025**, adopted in spring 2021. At the invitation of the Government of Serbia, the project contributed to the development of this strategy taking stock of the findings of its knowledge products. Key aspects related to police procedures were integrated in the **police SOP for DV cases**, and the SOP is utilized regionally to inform police checklists regarding response to DV, developed in the Western Balkan region through UNDP SEESAC activities. Developed online trainings ensure **sustainable access of professionals to knowledge on firearms misuse prevention**.

The sub-project was successfully completed in December 2021.



Screenshots from the video developed within the campaign tackling firearms misuse.



UNDP Serbia's social media posts on its [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts, disseminating key findings on criminal-justice system response to domestic violence committed through firearms misuse.

## Overview of sub-project achievements against indicators

PROJECT OUTPUT	PROJECT OUTPUT INDICATOR	TARGET	STATUS	ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST INDICATORS
<b>Output 1.1. Improved practices and procedures related to criminal justice response to SALW misuse</b>	No. of practices and procedures reviewed	At least 2	Achieved	Procedures prescribed by 11 laws and bylaws relevant for SALW and domestic violence reviewed, and potential gaps and challenges identified.
	Policy and procedures recommendations submitted to Mol (Yes/No)	Yes	Achieved	Proposals for amendments to the Law on Weapons were submitted to Mol. A proposal of the guidance for preventing firearm misuse and improving the concrete response to the use of SALW in the domestic violence context, during the procedures of approval/denial of firearms licenses was developed.
	Evidence based tool for judiciary on risks of firearms misuse in place (Yes/No)	Yes	Achieved	Research on judicial practice and response of the criminal-justice system related to detecting and misuse of firearms in the cases of domestic violence was conducted and published.
	<p><b>Activity 1.1.1</b> – Examined 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.</p> <p><b>Activity 1.1.2</b> – Conducted research on judicial practice and response of the criminal-justice system related to detecting and misuse of firearms in the cases of domestic violence. Research findings were used as the basis for developing evidence-based tool to improve knowledge of judiciary on the risks and consequences of firearms misuse in the context of domestic violence</p>			
<b>Output 1.2. Setting up the basis for evidence-based policy making</b>	Methodology for gender-sensitive data collection in place (Yes/No)	Yes	Achieved	Analysis of administrative data collection practices on domestic and intimate partner violence, including femicide with recommendations for improvement of existing practices of data collection was conducted.
	Checklist for risk assessment developed (Yes/No)	Yes	Achieved	Checklist for risk assessment was developed and used in the analysis of cases of femicide committed with firearms. A proposal of measures to prevent the risk of firearms related violence was submitted to the Mol and included into the training programme for all the police officers in Serbia.
	No. Mol officials informed on gender-sensitive evidence-based policy making	At least 5	Achieved	7 Mol representatives were continuously informed on the progress achieved via meetings, briefs and reports.
	<p><b>Activity 1.2.1</b> – Conducted analysis of administrative data collection practices on domestic and intimate partner violence, including femicide, and developed recommendations for improvement of existing practices of data collection with the focus on use and misuse of legal/illicit SALW, including victim-perpetrator relationship and type of violence committed, as well as institutional procedures and response;</p> <p><b>Activity 1.2.2</b> – Developed checklist related to the prevention of SALW misuse in the context of GBV and risks induced by the presence of firearms in domestic violence context, and implemented advocacy activities for integration of SALW related risks in the gender-based violence legislation and policy framework;</p>			

<b>Output 1.3.</b> <b>Increased awareness among the general population, both women and men, on the danger of misuse and illicit SALW possession through joint actions and cooperation of media, institutions and CSOs</b>	No. of gender-sensitive media reports on SALW misuse	At least 5	Achieved	<p>30 media reported in an educational and preventive manner on the problem of SALW misuse for violence against women and the need for improving media reporting regarding SALW misuse for domestic violence (according to available press clippings).</p> <p>Recommendations to media on how to report ethically on SALW misuse and its effects on violence against women were added to the guidelines on media reporting on violence against women of the Group Journalists against Violence.</p> <p>Training module for media reporting on violence committed with firearms was developed by the group Journalists against Violence.</p> <p>Social media campaigns on dangers of firearms misuse in the context of domestic violence and risk of femicide were implemented with a significant reach and media attention.</p>
	<p><b>Activity 1.3.1</b> – Supported the network “Journalists against Violence” to provide accurate and quality information on dangers of SALW use/misuse, particularly in the context of domestic violence and in the cases of female homicides by joint learning and informative activities with institutions, professionals and CSOs dealing with SALW and domestic violence;</p> <p><b>Activity 1.3.2</b> – Organized joint learning sessions of media, CSOs and institutions to initiate establishment of multiagency female homicide review.</p>			
<b>Output 1.4.</b> <b>Knowledge packages for risk reduction of firearms misuse in the context of GBV developed and implemented</b>	Knowledge packages for risk reduction of firearms misuse in place (Yes/No)	Yes	Achieved	E-learning trainings via the Judicial Academy e-learning platform developed. E-training on domestic violence and procedures for the police were developed and available to all police officers via the Mol's E-classroom learning platform.
	No. of professionals trained on risk assessment and risk reduced	At least 250	Partially achieved	186 professionals from the prosecution, courts, police, social welfare centers and CSOs informed on the key risks of firearms misuse in the context of DV through in-person training. Professionals have continuous access to online training through modules on the Mol and Judicial Academy e-learning platforms, available to police and judiciary, but also social workers and healthcare professionals.
<p><b>Activity 1.4.1</b> – Developed curriculum and on-line training programme for the police for detection of legal/illicit firearms and implementation of the procedures to reduce the risk of firearms misuse in the context of gender-based violence;</p> <p><b>Activity 1.4.2</b> – Developed guidelines, organized trainings and provided consultative support to improve multi agency case management to increase safety of victims and reduce the risk of firearm violence in domestic violence context;</p> <p><b>Activity 1.4.3</b> – Developed and supported implementation of the multiagency cooperation and tools that recognize and respond to the role firearms play in domestic violence context and increase safety of women and children;</p> <p><b>Activity 1.4.4</b> – Organized professional meetings to improve knowledge of judiciary on the risks and consequences of firearms misuse in the context of domestic violence.</p>				





cases in which firearms was present/misused; 3) interviews with the police officers responsible for crime scene investigation; 4) findings on the shortcomings related to procedures and practice. Once this was completed, the project supported the preparation of the **Instruction (guidelines) regarding the appropriate procedures in resolving criminal offences in the field of domestic violence**, which was approved by NFC. 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 functions of the ballistic laboratory were improved through an improved information management system, reception and storage of ballistic evidence, and ballistic testing. The project supported the central level ballistic laboratory with the installation of a **Laboratory Inventory Management System (LIMS) and an Open Case File (OCF) room and database** were established and equipped. 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** that was provided by the sub-project, and to further support the experts who are daily using the tank, a dedicated SOP was developed, and specialized equipment and training was provided to ensure the safety of all staff members when handling, inspecting and testing firearms and ammunition. Lastly, the project completely **equipped the gunsmith rooms** established in the central ballistic lab.

**The sub-project was successfully completed in November 2021.**



Modern forensic equipment to the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Serbia



Capture from the [video material](#) prepared by UNDP Serbia, showcasing the project results and featuring the Minister of Interior of Serbia, German Ambassador to Serbia, and UNDP Resident Representative.

## Overview of sub-project achievements against indicators

PROJECT OUTPUT	PROJECT OUTPUT INDICATOR	TARGET	STATUS	ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST INDICATORS
<b>Output 2.1. Regulatory framework established</b>	Standard operating procedure on the chain of custody of law enforcement drafted	Yes	Achieved	SOP on the chain of custody of law enforcement was drafted and approved by the National Forensic Centre (NFC).
	Standard operating procedure on crime scene investigation amended	Yes	Achieved	SOP on crime scene investigation was amended and approved by the NFC.
	Standard operating procedure of packaging and tagging of evidence amended	Yes	Achieved	SOP for packaging and tagging of evidence was developed and approved by the NFC.
	Standard operating procedure on the development of an open case file (OCF) for ballistic examination prepared	Yes	Achieved	SOP on the development of an “open case file” for ballistic examination was prepared and approved by the NFC.
	<p><b>Activity 2.1.1</b> – Supported drafting and approval of a standard operating procedure on the chain of custody of law enforcement, starting at the time the physical evidence is recovered till the time it is destroyed by court order. In order to make this an integrated response, a working group was formed with relevant actors such as legal experts, forensic experts, evidence and property keeping as well as prosecutors.</p> <p><b>Activity 2.1.2</b> – Supported the amendment of the standard operating procedure on crime scene investigation in order to fully harmonize with the ISO 17020 as well as the relevant EU guidance such as the ‘IAF/ILAC-A4:2004 Guidance on the Application of ISO/IEC 17020’ and ‘EA-5/03 Guidance for the Implementation of ISO/IEC 17020 in the field of crime scene investigation’.</p> <p><b>Activity 2.1.3</b> – Supported the amendment of the standard operating procedure of packaging and tagging of evidence, to facilitate the tracing of evidence throughout the chain of custody at all times.</p> <p><b>Activity 2.1.4</b> – Supported the preparation of the standard operating procedure on the development of an “open case file” for ballistic examination.</p>			
<b>Output 2.2. Increased capacity of CSI</b>	Number of CSI units ready for ISO 17020 standard accreditation	27 <sup>1</sup>	Achieved	27 CSI units have been prepared for ISO 17020 standard accreditation, through guidance for the application of the standard, and training.
	Number of CSI units that improved capacities for collection of evidence and for conducting criminal investigations in reported cases of domestic violence	27	Achieved	27 CSI units improved their capacities for collecting evidence and for conducting criminal investigations in reported cases of domestic violence by using the related analysis developed within the project.
	Number of new equipment provided to all CSI teams	At least 7 per team	Achieved	Specialized SALW-related equipment was procured and installed, including 37 basic CSI kits, three 3D scanners and software for animation and reconstruction for CSI and ballistic work, IT

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

				equipment, portable forensic UV/IR search and capture device, handheld UV/VIS/IR device for detection, examination and capture of latent forensic evidence, video cameras, lenses for video cameras, quadcopter with a built-in camera for a recording of crime scenes, laptops, GSR stubs, gel-lifters, numeric crime scene markers sets, and numeric/alphabet crime scene labels and arrows
	<p><b>Activity 2.2.1</b> – Training of CSI (Crime Scene Investigations) units. Training was provided for all 27 crime scene investigations teams around Serbia, plus the 4 laboratories. This training was in line with the guidelines of ENFSI and aimed to lead to the accreditation of these teams under the ISO 17020 standard. Also, the training was organized for CSI units to improve capacities for collection of evidence and for conducting criminal investigations in reported cases of domestic violence. In parallel, a Standard Operating Procedure was developed to specify the situations where forensics team need to be involved in crime scene.</p> <p><b>Activity 2.2.2</b> – Equipment for CSI units. Equipment was provided to all CSI teams in Serbia in order to complete basic CSI kits belonging to the following categories: fingerprint equipment, casting equipment, photographic equipment, evidence packaging supplies, blood collection supplies, deceased print kit, hand tools and miscellaneous.</p> <p><b>Activity 2.2.3</b> – Accreditation in accordance to ISO 17020. This activity entailed support leading to accreditation of all CSI teams in accordance with the ISO 17020.</p>			
<b>Output 2.3. Central level lab equipped to better tag and file the evidence, improve reception at Forensic laboratory and temporary storage, as well as improve ballistic testing</b>	Laboratory Inventory Management System (LIMS) installed	Yes	Achieved	Software was developed and installed.
	Open Case File, storage and database in the Central Lab established	Yes	Achieved	OCF room was established and equipped, and OCF database was installed.
	Reception room and transfer storage established	Yes	Achieved	Reception room was established and equipment, and transfer storage was established.
	Number of new storing equipment provided	3	Achieved	More than 9 different items of the necessary equipment were provided and installed in the Reception room.
	Water tank for test-firing installed	Yes	Achieved	Water tank for test firing was installed and specialized training for eight ballistic experts was organized. Also, an SOP for the safety usage was prepared and adopted.
	<p><b>Activity 2.3.1</b> – Development of LIMS. This activity focused on installing a Laboratory Inventory Management System (LIMS) in the National Forensic Center's Central Lab, in line with the standard forensic workflow (including evidence receipt, analyst assignment, chain of custody transfers, the assignment of tests, results entry, and finally reporting and review).</p> <p><b>Activity 2.3.2</b> – Establishment of Open Case File, at the central lab in Belgrade, setting up an adequate storage room and developing a database software for its evidencing.</p> <p><b>Activity 2.3.3</b> – Installation of reception room and transfer storage. This activity focused on modifying the entrance of the ballistic lab in Belgrade and establishing a reception room linked to an adequate storage room for surrendered evidence which will be the entry point of the LIMS. The activity included provision of adequate storing equipment such as safes, cabinets and refrigerators.</p> <p><b>Activity 2.3.4</b> – Installation of water tank for test firing. This activity supported the delivery and installment of a bullet recovery system (water tank) in the forensic laboratory in Belgrade in order to facilitate test firing.</p>			

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:	<p><b>Goal 1:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Goal 2:</b> By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in Albania are evidence-based and intelligence-led.</p> <p><b>Goal 5:</b> By 2024, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans</p>	
Implementation period:	December 2019 – December 2022	
Total budget: \$1,234,571	Spent 25 July 2019 – 31 December 2022: \$1,220,061	

The sub-project enhanced the capacities of the Albanian State Police and its Institute of the Scientific Police to operate with higher standards and more effective procedures in the area of criminal investigation through new or upgraded standard operating procedures for CSI, improved collection, management and storage of ballistic evidence, and provision of necessary equipment for CSI and ballistic analysis.

**Key results achieved:**

- The sub-project ensured that the Albanian Institute of Scientific Police (AISP) operates with **a set of new or upgraded standard operating procedures**. Four standard operating procedures were developed, tackling the chain of custody, crime scene investigation, tagging and packaging of evidence and the development of an Open Case File (OCF) for ballistic examination. 80 staff members of CSI units from across Albania and AISP ballistics personnel were [trained on the use of new SOPs](#). In addition, other relevant SOPs were reviewed and amended relating to ballistic examination, biological examination and DNA and evidence administration.
- **The AISP was equipped with a comprehensive set of specialized equipment**, which increase the quality and efficiency of the crime scene investigations and DNA examinations, resulting in more reliable and accurate evidence. The provided equipment initially included 5 sets of IT equipment, 1 thermal vision camera, 1 bone grinder for DNA extraction, 1 chronograph to measure the velocity of projectiles, 1 ultrasonic cleaner for bullets, 1 gun vise for capturing metal materials, 3 electronic calipers for measuring bullets, and 1 electronic weight scale. This was complemented with additional pieces of equipment for the CSI Units, including seven specialized CSI kits, an UPS 20 Kva, and five laser distance measuring devices. Furthermore, [3D scanners](#) were provided to the State Police as an effective tool to enhance the crime scene investigation capacities, and seven (7) police officers from the AISP and CSI Units from the Regional Police Directorates of Tirana and Durres were trained on their use.
- The sub-project also increased **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.
- It supported the **development and installation of the LIMS and OCF database** in the AISP. The LIMS is a software that will help improve the accuracy and efficiency of internal data acquisition, management and reporting. Some important benefits include: the elimination / reduction of paperwork, expedited retrieval, tracking of each process and element in the chain of custody, bidirectional linking with other instruments, high quality output of reports and statistics, etc. [Training on the use of LIMS](#) was concluded for 148 Police Officers - 48 Police Officers from the AISP and 100 Police Officers from the regional CSI units. The sub-project also provided **necessary 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.

- Further, the work of the **ballistic sector of AISP was well advanced and equipped**. The AISP was equipped with storage equipment for storing bullets and cartridges. The ballistic sector of AISP was provided with a [ballistics water tank](#) to enhance the processing of firearm evidence to internationally recognized standards. The water tank protects the tracks left on fired bullets and cartridges and enhances the processing of firearm evidence to internationally recognized standards. Five police officers from the Ballistic Sector were trained and certified in the use of the ballistic water tank. In addition, the AISP was equipped with [1 comparative macroscope for ballistic examination and 5 stereoscopic trinocular microscopes](#) that will increase the efficiency of ballistic analysis, given that the AISP has been using 25-year-old microscopes. Five police officers from the Ballistic Sector were trained on the use of the comparative macroscope. 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, 20 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<sup>1</sup>.**



[Ceremony](#) marking the completion of the project. Photos UNDP Albania

#### Statements during project's official ceremony in November 2021

##### **Deputy Interior Minister, Mr. Besfort Lamallari:**

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

##### **Director of the Albanian State Police, Mr. Gledis Nano:**

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

<sup>1</sup> UNDP Albania Blog on Modernizing Albanian Institute of the Scientific Police: <https://www.undp.org/albania/blog/modernizing-albanian-institute-scientific-police>

### Overview of sub-project achievements against indicators

PROJECT OUTPUT	PROJECT OUTPUT INDICATOR	TARGET	STATUS	ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST INDICATORS
<b>Output 3.1. Capacity built for CSI Units</b>	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, provided were 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.
	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.
	<b>Activity 3.1.1</b> – Supported the development of Standard Operating Procedures for key Processes. <b>Activity 3.1.2</b> – Procured specialized equipment for CSI units			
<b>Output 3.2. Development of Evidence Management Systems</b>	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.
	<b>Activity 3.2.1</b> – Supported the acquisition and adoption of a LIMS (Laboratory Inventory Management System) at the Albanian Institute of Scientific Police. <b>Activity 3.2.2</b> – Supported the establishment of an Open Case File Database and Storage at the AISP			
<b>Output 3.3. Efficiency of</b>	Purchase and installation of a Water Tank for bullet recovery	1	Achieved	Water Tank was procured and delivered to the AISP.



<b>the Ballistic Sector of AISP strengthened</b>	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.
	<b>Activity 3.3.1 – Procured and installed equipment for ballistic analysis at AISP.</b>			

*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. With the use of the new Comparative Microscope and Ballistic water tank, better working conditions were created for the illustration of ballistic evidence and the possible identification of shells that could have not been identified by previous means. In 2023, 1200 ballistic examinations were conducted, 20% more than the previous year.*

Sub-project 4. Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking (CIAT)	
Project number:	2019BIH04
Implemented by:	UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina
Contributes to Roadmap Goals:	<p><b>Goal 2:</b> By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence based and intelligence led.</p> <p><b>Goal 3:</b> By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.</p> <p><b>Goal 5:</b> 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: \$1,048,999

The sub-project enhanced the capacity of the Border Police (BP) in BiH and of 13 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 sub-project was 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 were 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 enhancing their capacities to better fight illicit SALW trafficking.



#### **Key results achieved:**

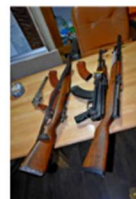
- The sub-project **developed and consolidated the National Database of SALW Transport Licenses**. To this end, regular consultations were carried out with the 13 government entities involved in this process – the Ministry of Security as future owner/holder of the database, and 12 law enforcement agencies as end-users. Relevant modules were developed and tested by the end users prior to deployment. In addition, the sub-project provided two users' manuals for administrators/sub-administrators and end-users. The national database strengthens supervision capacities of legal trade and it primarily serves to monitor transport of SALW, enabling data collection and exchange of information among the institutions involved in the process of legal trade of SALW, associated ammunition and dual-purpose goods. As such, the database enhances inter-agency cooperation at national and regional level between the MoS, the owner of the database, and law enforcement agencies that were given access to the software.
- The sub-project further **improved the SALW identification tool and supported its deployment to other police agencies**. This was accompanied by the delivery of equipment for the use of the tool. The upgrade of the tool 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.
- Comprehensive **specialized equipment was provided to all law enforcement agencies**. 19 videoscopes (endoscopes) were provided to 14 law enforcement agencies: State Investigation and Protection Agency – SIPA (1 videoscope), Federation Mol (1 videoscope), Brcko District Police (1 videoscope), 10 cantonal ministries of interior (1 endoscope for each cantonal ministry) and Republika Srpska Mol (6 videoscopes). Practical training on the use of the videoscopes was also provided to 98 police officers, who then acted as trainers for their respective agencies. Additional specialized equipment was provided to the



Federation BiH and Republika Srpska authorities, as well as to the [Border Police of BiH](#) 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. Further, the project provided 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.

- The project supported the **development of SOPs**, covering 14 law enforcement agencies and five (5) categories: risk analysis, tracing of weapons, data collection, running an investigation, and reacting in emergency situations. It **organized an extensive training program for police officers from 13 law enforcement agencies throughout BiH**. 2,053 officers were trained countrywide on firearm detection using specialized detection equipment and developed SOPs (1,892 men and 161 women).
- Based on the developed and approved concept through inter-agency collaboration, 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.
- At the same time, the project team **provided support to the SALW Coordination Board in BiH** in finalizing the *Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Strategy in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2020-2024*, including proofreading, translation, design, and printing of the document. The [Strategy](#) was [endorsed by the Council of Ministers BiH](#) on 26 February 2021.
- 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 across borders, as well as operationally [exercised inter-institutional cooperation](#), paved the way to better identification, prevention and prosecution of firearms related crime.

The sub-project was successfully completed in December 2022.



**Examples of seizures where specialized detection equipment donated through the project was used; Federation Police Appreciation Letter;**



## Overview of sub-project achievements against indicators

PROJECT OUTPUT	PROJECT OUTPUT INDICATOR	TARGET	STATUS	ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST INDICATORS
<b>Output 4.1. Capacitated BiH Border Police and 14 entity and cantonal police agencies to more effectively combat illicit arms trafficking</b>	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 <sup>1</sup>	12 officers of the Border Police trained for the use of the SALW Identification 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)
	<p><b>Activity 4.1.1</b> – Conducted functional review and gap analysis on sustainable development of BP BiH (2019 – 2024), including the Green Border Assessment through a Force-Field Analysis (FFA).</p> <p><b>Activity 4.1.2</b> – Supported strengthening of legal trade supervision through data collection, analysis, and exchange of information among institutions involved in the process of supervision of legal trade. The support included i) development of the MoS database on legal transport of weapons; ii) provision of training to administrators and beneficiaries for proper functionality of the new MoS database; iii) support to the Working Group (WG) on supervision of legal trade as well as the WG for control of postal parcels and unmarked shipments.</p> <p><b>Activity 4.1.3</b> – Advanced the data collection, analysis, tasking and coordination of the BP BiH. This entailed further development of the SALW Identification Tool for its use in the official reporting and its rollout to other police agencies.</p>			

<sup>1</sup> 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. Furthermore, despite the non-cost extension of the project's duration, reaching the number of 500 officers became unfeasible, as the developed 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. Nevertheless, the work on the Tool continued 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*.

	<b>Activity 4.1.4</b> – Provided equipment for 14 Police Agencies, including detectors and endoscopes. <b>Activity 4.1.5</b> – Provided equipment for BIH Border Police for the control of the green border, including scanners and thermal imaging binoculars.			
<b>Output 4.2. Strengthened cooperation and information exchange between Ministry of Security and other institutions at national and regional level</b>	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 <sup>2</sup> .	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.
	<b>Activity 4.2.1</b> – Strengthened cooperation of BP BiH with 13 cantonal, entity, and state Police Agencies and Customs Administration. The activity entailed i) support to the Working Group(s) designated to develop the common understanding, advanced technical knowledge and clarity of procedures in firearms, ammunition and explosives related investigations, ii) support to the development of 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, iii) provision of access to the MoS database to other police agencies thus ensuring the improved communication regarding SALW transport between MoS and police agencies, iv) organization of joint trainings and practical exercises in detecting and investigating deter smuggling of firearms, ammunition and explosives; iv) support to the BP BIH staff outreach to all relevant prosecutors' offices and forensic laboratories in order to effectively use the SALW and ammunition identification database by relevant prosecutors and other institutions in all cases of seizure of arms, ammunition and explosives.			

<sup>2</sup> 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.

Sub-project 5. Urgent Action on Ammunition Destruction - Project EXPLODE+		
Project number:	2019BIH05	
Implemented by:	UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina	
Contributes to Roadmap Goals:	<b>GOAL 5.</b> By 2025, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans. <b>GOAL 6.</b> Systematically decrease the number of surplus and seized small arms and light weapons and ammunition. <b>GOAL 7.</b> 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: \$54,645

The sub-project assisted 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 the stocked 12,500 tonnes of ammunition of Ministry of Defence (MoD)/Armed Forces (AF) BiH, approximately 5,000 tonnes were identified as surplus. Following the inspection of the ammunition stockpiles implemented by the AF of BiH from mid-2013 to end 2018, it was 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 were unsafe for further storage. This was crucial measure in the attempt to avoid an Uncontrolled Explosion of Munition Site (UEMS).

**Key results achieved:**

- 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, it decreased the risk of diversion of FAE and the risk of uncontrolled explosion of munition sites and enabled safer development opportunities.

**The sub-project was successfully completed in December 2019.**





### Overview of sub-project achievements against indicators

PROJECT OUTPUT	PROJECT OUTPUT INDICATOR	TARGET	STATUS	ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST INDICATORS
<b>5.1 Increased safety and security of entire BiH population, with a special emphasis on local communities through systemic and effective reduction of surplus ammunition stockpiles.</b>	Quantity of pieces of Multiple Launch Rocket System Ammunition successfully disposed in 2019.	1,421 pieces	Achieved	Project managed to surpass initially planned quantity of 1,421 pieces of MLRS ammunition by disposing additional 18 pieces, resulting in overall 1,439 pieces of MLRS ammunition disposed with available funds for activity implementation.
	<b>Activity 5.1.1</b> – Disposal of 1,421 pieces of unsafe MLRS ammunition, as designated for disposal by MoD BiH.			

Sub-project 6. Support to counter Illicit arms trafficking		
Project number:	2019KOS06	
Implemented by:	UNDP Kosovo	
Contributes to Roadmap Goal:	<p><b>Goal 2.</b> By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence based and intelligence led.</p> <p><b>Goal 3.</b> By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.</p> <p><b>Goal 5:</b> By 2025, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans.</p> <p><b>Goal 7.</b> Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives.</p>	
Implementation period:	September 2019 – August 2022	
Total budget: \$987,412		Spent 25 July 2019 - 31 August 2022: \$985,749

The sub-project strengthened 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 sub-project was developed on the best practices of the previous CIAT project implemented in BiH and was adapted to Kosovo's context, using a holistic approach of people, processes and technology.

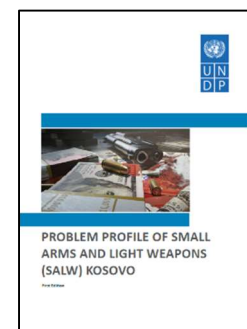
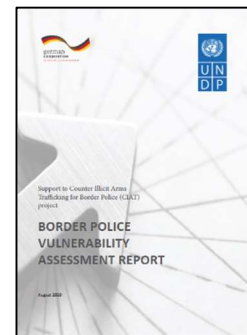
The sub-project addressed various challenges related to illicit arms trafficking in Kosovo, including challenges in controlling the green border and a lack of specialized equipment, fewer detections of firearms at the border compared to inland firearm seizures, and an increase in blank firing weapons (converted or not) showing that some trafficking routes are still open and illegal imports not always detected.

#### **Key results achieved:**

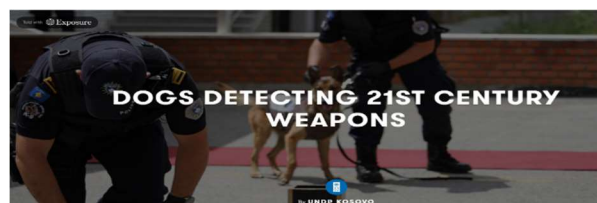
- The sub-project supported the Ministry of Interior (Mol) to develop and put in use a new **Weapons Registration software**. The software was interlinked with databases in different institutions, as prescribed by the Law on Weapons and regulatory frameworks. As such, it enables the Mol to collect and exchange information on firearms, including data on private companies that sell firearms, on the legalization process, destruction of firearms, etc. 15 (9 men and 6 women) police officers and officials from the Mol and private entities dealing with FAE import/export were trained on the new system's use.
- The sub-project [selected, procured, and trained five K9 dogs to detect weapons made of polymer materials](#). The dogs were selected by a three-member panel created by the Kosovo Police who travelled to Croatia together with two members of the project team to test the dogs. 24 dogs were tested by the Kosovo Police K9 Instructors and 5 dogs were selected (2 more than initially planned, as the project could accommodate the cost). In close cooperation with the Kosovo Police training division, the Police's K9 unit prepared a **programme designed to train the dogs** in sniffing polymer material made weapons. The dogs were trained by K9 instructors during 380 hours of training, along with 40 police officers. They were certified by a 5-member inspection/monitoring panel and distributed to K9 operators at the border crossing points and green border lines.
- The project further **enhanced the capacities and knowledge of border police and customs on the FAE detection and on border surveillance**. A series of specialized training session were provided:
  - 31 border police and customs officers (30 men and 1 woman) took part in the **specialized training on the detection of FAE**. The participants were introduced to innovative detection techniques, handling of crime scene investigation including cooperation with all bodies to ensure evidence is secured and processed efficiently. The training provided a hands-on simulation exercise where the participants were able to demonstrate newly learned skills; including the use of specialized equipment and techniques (flexible cameras, scanners, K9 dogs).
  - In addition, 30 border and customs officers and representatives of the Academy for Public Safety (all men), passed through the specialized training for **green border patrol and surveillance**. Through simulated exercises, participants gained and applied knowledge on surveillance of green borders

and coordination as related to illicit trafficking. The activity served as an opportunity to assess existing SOPs to ensure that they are in line with terrain and existing risks and threats.

- Furthermore, 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**.
- Following the border vulnerability assessment conducted within the project, the project team identified and **provided necessary equipment for the BCPs and the green border line**. The border police was equipped accordingly with 7 specialized endoscopes, 5 handheld explosive and narcotics detectors, 1 handheld thermal camera, and 9 handheld scanners, aimed to improve the detection of arms trafficking. 40 border police officers in total (36 men and 4 women) were **trained in using the new equipment**. The equipment was also successfully used during the joint exercise conducted within the project.
- 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.
- In order to **enhance risk profiling** based on the Common Integrated Risk Analysis Model (CIRAM 2.0) at the border crossings, the project implemented a set of initiatives. In close cooperation with the Kosovo Police Training Department, the project supported **individual and institutional capacity development** in the field of risk analysis at the border crossing points and the green border lines.
  - The first **training on CIRAM 2** enabled 43 representatives from the Firearms Focal Point, Border Police, Customs and Centre for Border Management to enhance knowledge and capacities on on effective risk analyses, Integrated Border Management and detailed CIRAM 2.0 model (Risk, Threat, Impact), including through practical exercises. Following the positive feedback and upon the request from border management, another training was conducted for 11 FFP, border and customs officials.
  - **Two sets of risk analysis package IBase and I2Analyst Notebook<sup>1</sup>** were provided to the [Centre for Border Management](#) and the [Border Police Risk Analysis Unit](#), to enhance their risk and threat assessments. The iBase and Analyst Notebooks have helped increase the collection of information, enabled risk analyses at border crossing points and green border lines and helped produce intelligence reports on detection of illicit arms trafficking.
  - **The training on development of problem profile on illicit arms trafficking and the on problem profile at green border based on pull and push factors** were organized back-to-back for 15 participants representing border police analysts, customs officers, and the Centre for Border Management. The **two trainings** provided the participants with a detailed insight into crime trends, and a vehicle for the application of one or more analytical techniques to identified problems.
- Finally, **three knowledge products were finalized**, tackling the border police vulnerability assessment, problem profile and trend analysis, and a report on the use of K9 in detecting firearms.



**The sub-project was successfully completed in August 2022.**



A [photo story](#) on K9 dogs role in identifying trafficked illicit arms made of polymer material, UNDP Kosovo

<sup>1</sup> iBase, an intuitive intelligence data management application, enables the capturing, control, and analysis of multi-source data in security-rich workgroup environments. iBase and Analyst Notebook combine rich analysis and visualization capabilities with dissemination tools enabling the Centre for Border Management to further expand its analysis of crimes related to illegal and illicit firearms trafficking.

## Overview of sub-project achievements against indicators

PROJECT OUTPUT	PROJECT OUTPUT INDICATOR	TARGET	STATUS	ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST INDICATORS
<b>Output 6.1:</b> <b>Capacities of border entities on detection of firearms, components, ammunition and explosives increased</b>	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 <sup>1</sup> (all men) from green line border were trained on surveillance 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	Weapon Registration Software was developed in close consultation with the Mol. The software was tested in 2022 and accepted for use by the Mol.
	<b>Activity 6.1.1</b> – Provided detection training for BCP, covering 17 boundary posts including customs and boundary police. <b>Activity 6.1.2</b> – Provided training on green boundary surveillance. <b>Activity 6.1.3</b> – Provided training on the detection components in fast parcels and postal services. <b>Activity 6.1.4</b> – Organized training of K9 dogs in polymer detection. <b>Activity 6.1.5</b> – Supported implementation of joint simulated exercises. <b>Activity 6.1.6</b> – Upgraded Weapon Registration Software.			
<b>Output 6.2:</b> <b>Risk profiling based on CIRAM 2 in place</b>	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 2.0 during specialized training. Other 11 representatives trained on EU Integrated Border Management and detailed CIRAM 2.0 model

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

				(risk, threat, impact) as well as online practical exercises.
	Guided training on development of problem profile on IAT;	Capacities increased for 10 KP officials on problem profile on IAT;	Achieved	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.
	Guided training on Problem Profile at green border based on pull and push factors;	Capacities increased for 10 border police officials on problem profile based on pull and push factors.	Achieved	
<b>Activity 6.2.1</b> – Training on CIRAM 2 include threat assessment, vulnerability assessment and impact assessment.				
<b>Activity 6.2.2</b> – Guided training on development of problem profile on IAT				
<b>Activity 6.2.3</b> – Guided training on Problem Profile at green boundary based on pull and push factors				
<b>Output 6.3:</b> <b>Installation and higher detection of trafficking in the green border area</b>	Purchase and hand over of requested equipment;	10 thermo-visions and 10 scanners purchased and donated to the Kosovo Border Police and the detection of IAT in the green border increased.	Achieved (modified, as per updated needs)	7 specialized endoscopes, 5 handheld explosive and narcotics detectors, 1 handheld thermal camera, and 9 handheld scanners were provided. The change in equipment followed the vulnerability assessment conducted within the project.
	Operator training on new equipment;	4 Operators trainings for total of 40 representatives trained in effectively using the new equipment.	Achieved	40 border police officers (36 men and 4 women) were trained in using the new equipment.
	Intelligence led policing operations based on new equipment;	Operational plans and operations report produced.	Achieved	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.
	<b>Activity 6.3.1</b> – Purchased and handed over necessary equipment.			
<b>Activity 6.3.2</b> – Provided operator training on new equipment.				
<b>Activity 6.3.3</b> – Supported intelligence led policing operations based on new equipment.				
<b>Output 6.4:</b> <b>Development of knowledge products, including: problem profile, and trend analysis including modus operandi</b>	Develop knowledge products.	KP fully capable in developing knowledge products on IAT.	Achieved	Three knowledge products produced during the project implementation, the border police vulnerability assessment, problem profile and trend analysis, and a report on the use of K9 in detecting firearms. The KP was directly involved in preparing knowledge products, through providing statistics, analysis and modus operandi related to IAT.
	Activity 6.4.1 – Developed knowledge products			

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><b>Goal 2:</b> By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence based and intelligence led.</p> <p><b>Goal 4:</b> By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy.</p> <p><b>Goal 5:</b> By 2025, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans.</p> <p><b>Goal 7.</b> 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: \$1,000,815	

The sub-project supported 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) for collecting, analyzing 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 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. At the same time, the project endeavored to design and develop an IMS, as the Mol's system in use was outdated and could not 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 analyze, 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.

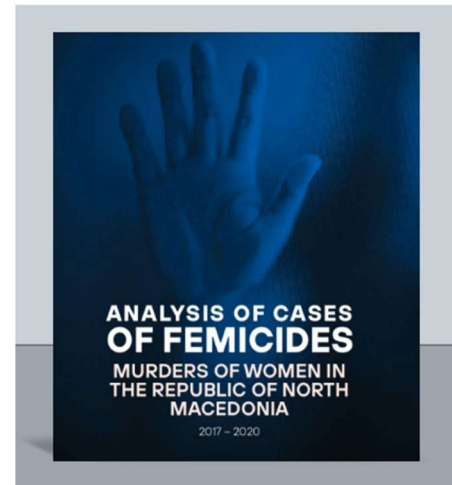
**Key results achieved:**

- The sub-project improved weapons registration in accordance with the Amended EU firearms Directive 2017 and the Law on Weapons. The [upgrade of the WRMS](#) was successfully completed and technical support provided throughout the project to ensure proper use and functioning of the upgraded system. To further prepare the Mol personnel for the implementation of WRMS module, a **specialized end-user training** was organized. Over 120 participants from the Mol from all over the country (24 women and 96 men), including the Sector for Weapons and Explosives, Boarder Police and the IT Department, as well as the weapons-selling companies were trained in the functionalities of the upgraded software. As part of the planned cooperation with the Customs Administration's software EXIM, an Agreement on Interoperability was signed between the Mol and the Customs Administration. This is the first time that the Mol has opened itself to exchange of information with another institution.
- To ensure proper functioning and use of the WRMS, necessary **hardware was procured and delivered** to the Mol in two lots. The first lot included systems and licenses that will host WRMS in the Information Technology Department and the Telecommunications Department, while the second lot was composed of desktop computers and specialized printers for the Weapons Registration Department, as well as workstations for the Border Police Department (32 desktop computers and 25 specialized printers for the Weapons Registration Department, as well as 20 workstations for the Border Police Department). Following this, additional RAM memories were procured to address the speed of data processing.
- The sub-project **finalized the work on the Information Management System of the Mol**. The process encompassed intensive consultations and coordination with stakeholders. A Police Business Intelligence Expert, contracted for this assignment, took into account detailed information on standard operational procedures, legislature, staff, current technology, and other analysis. The preparations led to the



development of two documents: i) Report/Needs-based analysis detailing current organizational processes and organizational structure as it relates to criminal and firearm related data; ii) Guidelines and recommendations for data collection in relation to management of SALW and other crime related incidents. [Necessary equipment](#) was provided as well, including 74 workstations, 52 printers and 50 scanners for the police stations around the country, that will be directly used by police officers for the new software. The sub-project 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.

- As part of the efforts to streamline organizational process and improve the work of the Mol, the project developed an [Analysis of the cases of femicides in the Republic of North Macedonia in the period 2017-2020](#), in cooperation with the National Network to End Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, a local NGO. The study is also relevant as it looks at data which will need to be captured by the new Police IMS. The study was [discussed](#) with relevant representatives from the Mol, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and Ministry of Health. The findings established a basis for further work on developing a module on gender-based violence within the IMS that will be pursued as part of the future project within the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF (reference to Output 3).



The sub-project was completed in July 2022<sup>1</sup>.



[Video](#) on the achievements of the project implemented in North Macedonia

<sup>1</sup> Social media post on project's closure at this [link](#).

## Overview of sub-project achievements against indicators

PROJECT OUTPUT	PROJECT OUTPUT INDICATOR	TARGET	STATUS	ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST INDICATORS
<b>Output 7.1. Improved weapons registration in accordance with Amended EU firearms Directive 2017 and Law on Weapons</b>	WRMS module that allows arms dealers to maintain a register of firearms developed and introduced;	Completed and introduced WRMS module;	Achieved	WRMS module that allows arms dealers to maintain a register of firearms has been developed and put in use.
	Arms dealers' register of firearms created and populated with data;	Completed and introduced register of firearms received or disposed of by the arms dealers;	Achieved	Arms dealers' register of firearms was created and populated with data in accordance with internal processes in the Mol.
<b>Activity 7.1.1</b> – Developed WRMS module & delivered necessary hardware				
<b>Output 7.2. Improved and harmonized Information Management System (IMS) of the Mol</b>	Standardized methodology and a manual for streamlining organizational processes;	Yes;	Achieved	Standardized methodology and manual for streamlining organizational processes created.
	Improved and upgraded IMS of MIA developed and deployed;	Upgraded and deployed IMS of MIA that supports the established standardized organizational process methodology;	Achieved	The IMS of the Mol has been developed and officially launched in 2022.
	IT equipment to support the use of the new IMS modernized;	Modernized IT equipment that can support effective use of the IMS;	Achieved	IT equipment to support the use of the new IMS has been procured and delivered to beneficiary as per established needs.
	Package of operational guidelines, manuals and products developed to improve analytical capacities of Mol.	Developed and adopted organizational guidelines and procedures for integrated collection and analysis of crime and firearms related data at national, regional and international level.	Achieved	Package of operational guidelines, manuals and products has been developed alongside the process of development of the software.
<b>Activity 7.2.1</b> – Developed standardized methodology to streamline organizational processes <b>Activity 7.2.2</b> – Developed and deployed improvements to the MIA IMS <b>Activity 7.2.3</b> – Modernized the IT equipment for Mol				

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 November 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.

**Key results achieved:**

- 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.**



[News article](#) about the ceremony for the handover of the security upgrade works at the Rogame SALW and ammunition storage, UNDP Montenegro.

### Overview of sub-project achievements against indicators

PROJECT OUTPUT	PROJECT OUTPUT INDICATOR	TARGET	STATUS	ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST INDICATORS
<b>Output 8.1. Enhanced security at the 'Rogame' SALW and ammunition storage</b>	Tender issued for the completion of project design	Project design firm selected/project design completed	Achieved	Project design firm selected and the project design was completed and approved.
	Tender issued for the construction and supervision of works/Contractors chosen/Contracts signed	Construction and Supervision companies selected/Contracts signed	Achieved	Tender for the reconstruction works and supervision of works issued based on the approved design. Selected companies contracted to complete the works as per approved specifications.
	Two magazines / guardhouse reconstructed	Magazines/guardhouse reconstructed in line with international standards	Achieved	Two magazines and a guardhouse reconstructed in line with international standards
	Upgrade works handed over and technical handover minutes signed	The works handed over to the beneficiary	Achieved	Upgrade works handed over and technical handover minutes signed.
	<b>Activity 8.1.1</b> – Security and safety infrastructure upgrade of the Ammunition storage location Rogami. The activity entailed i) preparation of procurements of the designs and technical review of the upgrade works; ii) preparation of the detailed designs of the proposed infrastructure intervention in line with the best practices of international standards and valid local construction legislation and rulebooks; iii) preparation of procurements of the construction works, and technical supervision of the upgrade works; iv) execution of the construction works; v) technical handover of the completed works; and vi) official handover of works ceremony.			

**Output 3: Mechanism for efficient programmatic coordination and monitoring of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF in place**

**Total budget: \$388,795**

**Spent 06 April 2020-31 August 2023: \$326,260**

Output indicators	Targets	Progress against targets since the beginning of the project
Number of project proposals meeting the evaluation criteria and approved for funding from the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF	22	<b>24 projects</b> met the evaluation criteria and approved for funding from the MPTF <sup>1</sup> .
Number of progress reports consolidated and submitted to the Steering Committee	4	<b>4 annual progress reports</b> were consolidated and submitted to the Steering Committee <sup>2</sup> .

Output 3 enabled the UNDP SEESAC who functions as the Trust Fund Secretariat to support the MPTF Steering Committee in ensuring a coordinated approach to the implementation of the [Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF](#), and to properly monitor and technically support the projects funded through this mechanism. This output is funded through the MPTF Office, from a pool of contributions from Germany, France, Sweden, the Netherlands, UK, and Norway. Output 3 was added to the regional Project in April 2020, when the funds were received from the MPTF Office, through the amendment of the project document.

The Trust Fund Secretariat, whose activity and costs are covered through Output 3, is responsible with the programmatic coordination and monitoring of the Fund, providing technical and management support to the Steering Committee. The Secretariat is not part of the Steering Committee and has no voting rights.

**Key results achieved:**

- Since the Trust Fund's inception, 24 Roadmap projects were approved through the first, second and third call for proposals and through a direct call for proposals.
- All projects were efficiently monitored, coordinated and technically supported by SEESAC, as the Trust Fund Secretariat, as acknowledged by the independent [mid-term evaluation](#) of the Trust Fund.
- Four (4) annual reports were produced by 31 August 2023, depicting progress and impact towards the SALW Control Roadmap Goals stemming from the projects - [2019](#), [2020](#), [2021](#), [2022](#).

*Table 3: Projects funded through the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap Trust Fund*

	Project	Implementing organization	Implementing period	Project budget (US\$)
<b>1<sup>st</sup> call for proposals</b>	1. Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade (HALT) in Bosnia and Herzegovina	UNDP BiH and UNODC	21 Feb 2020 <sup>3</sup> – 30 Jun 2023	\$2,200,000
	2. Support to Combating Illicit Arms Trafficking in Kosovo for Criminal Police (CPIAT)	UNDP Kosovo	21 Feb 2020 – 30 Jun 2022	\$660,000
	3. Criminal Justice Response Against Arms Trafficking (regional project)	UNODC	21 Feb 2020 – 30 Mar 2023	\$1,899,999
	4. Urgent Action on Ammunition Destruction - Project EXPLODE+, in Bosnia and Herzegovina	UNDP BiH	21 Feb 2020 – 31 Oct 2022	\$583,546

<sup>1</sup> 16 project proposals were approved prior to 2023. By August 2023, eight new projects were put forward by the eligible UN organizations for funding approval, and all eight met the evaluation criteria. The projects were reviewed and officially approved for funding by the Steering Committee after the end date of this project, by 9 October 2023.

<sup>2</sup> Refers to the MPTF annual progress reports only.

<sup>3</sup> Project start date represents the date when the effective transfer of funds was conducted by the MPTF Office.

2 <sup>nd</sup> call for proposals	5. Strengthening Control, Administration and Social Attitudes Towards SALW	UNDP Albania	14 Dec 2020 – 31 Mar 2024	\$1,661,314
	6. Advancing the Capacities of the Ministry of Interior in the SALW Control-Related Field (Phase II)	UNDP Serbia	05 Jan 2021 – 30 Nov 2023	\$1,429,520
	7. Advancing the Capacities of the Police Directorate in the Field of Custody Chain, CSI and the Forensic Laboratory in the Field of Operations and Investigations in Detection and Trafficking of Explosives Criminality	UNDP Montenegro	05 Jan 2021 – 04 Oct 2023	\$664,812
	8. Prevention and Illicit Arms Reduction in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Project PILLAR)	UNDP BiH	05 Jan 2021 – 30 Apr 2024	\$769,406
	9. Cross-Border Integrated Institutional Approach Towards Combating IAT and SALW	UNDP Kosovo- UNDP North Macedonia	18 Mar 2021 – 31 Mar 2023	\$522,067
	10. Support for Increased International Cooperation in Criminal Matters	UNODC	24 Jun 2021 – 31 Dec 2023	\$1,604,153
Direct Request for Proposals	11. Reduce Risk - Increase Safety II	UNDP Serbia	06 Sep 2022 – 31 May 2023	\$170,700
	12. Digitalization and Institutional and Regional Cooperation Project (DIRC)	UNDP BiH	25 Oct 2022 – 31 Dec 2023	\$309,412
	13. Increased Security of the Arms Depots Under the Administration of the Albanian State Police	UNDP Albania	30 Nov 2022 – 31 Mar 2024	\$474,770
	14. Improvement of Data and SALW Collection Practices and SALW Related Investigations	UNDP North Macedonia	16 Dec 2022 – 31 Dec 2023	\$513,600
	15. Support to Firearms related Investigations	UNDP Kosovo	24 Jan 2023 – 23 Oct 2023	\$350,318
	16. Countering Trafficking in Firearms, their parts and ammunition in Express Courier and Postal Parcels: Project HERMES, Phase I	UNODC	01 Feb 2023 – 31 Dec 2023	\$800,129
3 <sup>rd</sup> call for proposals	17. Reduce Risk - Increase Safety III	UNDP Serbia	31 Oct 2023 – 29 Oct 2025	\$776,135
	18. Project Justicia: Support to the Criminal Justice Response to Counter Arms Trafficking in the Western Balkans	UNODC	03 Nov 2023 – 01 Nov 2025	\$2,390,815
	19. Integrated Institutional Approach and Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation to SALW Control (Phase I)	UNDP Kosovo	03 Nov 2023 – 02 Nov 2025	\$1,200,990
	20. Advancing the Forensic Capacities of the Police Directorate of Montenegro for Processing Firearms and Explosives-related Crimes	UNDP Montenegro	28 Nov 2023 – 22 Nov 2025	\$1,091,105
	21. Improving Capacities of the Ministry of the Interior in the SALW-Control related Field, Phase III	UNDP Serbia	28 Nov 2023 – 24 Nov 2025	\$1,512,540
	22. Law Enforcement Agencies' Development in Small Arms and Light Weapons Control (Project LEAD)	UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina	06 Dec 2023 – 04 Dec 2025	\$1,455,035
	23. Integrated Institutional Approach and Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation to SALW Control (Phase I)	UNDP Albania	06 Dec 2023 – 05 Dec 2025	\$1,205,490
	24. Strengthening the Capacities of the Forensics and Crime Scene Investigation System to Improve Criminal Justice Response to SALW	UNDP North Macedonia	18 Dec 2023 – 30 Sep 2025	\$1,149,180



<b>ACTIVITY 3.1</b>	<b>Coordination and monitoring of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF</b>
<b>Total budget: \$388,795</b>	<b>Spent 06 April 2020 – 31 August 2023: \$326,260</b>

**Key activities implemented during the project's life cycle:**

- Since April 2020, the Secretariat **supported the Trust Fund Steering Committee in all its decision-making processes**, including by facilitating and organizing Steering Committee meetings. The Steering Committee members ensured proper, accountable and transparent governance of the Fund, decided on the allocation of funding to project proposals, approved revisions for ongoing projects, reflected on the progress and risk assessment, agreed on the scope and terms of reference for the mid-term evaluation and decided on the future focus based on the findings. In July 2023, the Steering Committee approved the **Trust Fund's extension until December 2025**, to allow for sufficient time for another set of proposals to be implemented, incorporating mid-term evaluation and consolidating results achieved.
- 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 Organizations. In this regard, the Secretariat prepared and submitted thus far **four annual reports of the Trust Fund** covering 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022. The reports provided both an update on the activity of the Steering Committee and of the Trust Fund and an update on the implementation of the Trust Fund projects. The latter part was prepared based on reports submitted by the implementing organizations. By August 2023, the Secretariat monitored the implementation of 16 projects from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> call, as well as those approved by the Steering Committee through the direct call for proposals. The Secretariat also supported technical review and decision making on the approval of new projects.
- Since the establishment of the Trust Fund, the Secretariat has also **maintained the partnerships with donors**, including for resource mobilization purposes. By August 2023, the Trust Fund received contributions in the total amount of \$24.5 million from 6 donors (Germany, Sweden, France, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Norway). At the same time, the Secretariat has been regularly **liaising with the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office** and working together to ensure the accuracy of all processes and documents prepared.
- 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. The [mid-term evaluation of the Trust Fund](#) was successfully completed in February 2023. It acknowledged the good overall strategic performance of the Trust Fund and found it essential to sustaining the momentum of both political and technical commitment to SALW control in the region. The Trust Fund was found to be highly effective as a means of demonstrating support for the Roadmap, and that it efficiently resourced and supported the Fund's selected projects. The Trust Fund was recognized as providing synergies and interlinkages with other funds and initiatives which collectively contribute to the implementation of the Roadmap, therefore increasing the overall impact. Some of the areas recommended for enhanced and sharpened focus in the next chapter included further deepening of the partnership with the SALW commissions in the region, greater focus on gender mainstreaming, the sustainability of results and higher-level outcomes, timely preparation for the next phase of the Roadmap should it be taken forward by the authorities, as well as broader engagement of institutions, communities and civil sector to this end. The key findings of the evaluation have been presented and discussed among the Steering Committee members, implementing organizations, partners and contributors, as well as among the Western Balkans SALW commissions.
- Key evaluation recommendations have been incorporated into the [3<sup>rd</sup> Call for Proposals](#) that the Fund launched on 15 March 2023. In response to the call, the eligible offices, UNODC and UNDP, put forward new project proposals that build and expand upon the solid progress made in support of the SALW Control Roadmap. SEESAC conducted the administrative and technical assessment of the received project proposals, in line with the recommendations from the mid-term evaluation. Taking into account the produced findings and recommendations from the assessment, the MPTF Steering Committee **approved eight (8) new projects** for funding within the MPTF in October 2023, to be implemented in all Western Balkans jurisdictions in the upcoming two-year period, thus sustaining the progress made, and scaling up or multiplying achieved results.

## IV. Partnerships and sustainability

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### Partnerships

Throughout the Western Balkans jurisdictions, the regional project enabled UNDP Offices to strengthen their existing or create new partnerships on SALW control at various levels and forms: with local authorities, among each other across the region, with regional and international organizations, civil society, at the international level, as well as with the German Federal Foreign Office as the Donor and its embassies in the region. Due to its nature, which entails a regional context and a dynamic and complementary platform, the environment was conducive for partnerships to grow and deepen over time. An important mechanism allowing information exchange and knowledge sharing with the relevant partners were the Roadmap coordination meetings organized at regional and local levels with SEESAC's support, in which the CO project teams actively took part. Amongst other, these partnerships helped reduce and mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, by allowing a stronger coordination with the national authorities on the implementation of the project activities and identifying alternatives to those activities which could no longer be conducted as planned.

Local dimension: Throughout the Western Balkans jurisdictions, the regional project enabled UNDP Offices to strengthen their existing partnerships on SALW control with the SALW Commissions, public authorities, and civil society organizations. The projects have also contributed to broadening the pool of stakeholders involved, providing a basis for future cooperation, as well as ensuring a participatory process and ownership of governmental institutions. Such is the case of the gender and SALW component implemented in Serbia. In several jurisdictions, high-level events were organized in partnership with local authorities, primarily Ministries of Interior. The regional project enabled creation of new partnerships locally. For example, in North Macedonia a new partnership with the Customs Administration was established, for the development and operationalization of the weapons registration software. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNDP in Kosovo also established new partnerships with the Ministry of Health, Kosovo Institute for Public Health and the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety to facilitate the organization of in-person trainings with the project beneficiaries. In Serbia, partnerships were strengthened with Health institutions, women's organizations and journalists.

Regional dimension: An important mechanism allowing information exchange and knowledge sharing regionally were the Roadmap regional meetings organized by SEESAC, gathering together all stakeholders involved in SALW control in the Western Balkans. UNDP SEESAC, as the project coordinator and the coordinator of the overall Roadmap, ensured that the UNDP project managers actively take part in these meetings. This was an opportunity for the projects to showcase their results, increase the visibility of their actions, and ensure coordination and partnerships with other initiatives.

International peer-dimension: The UNDP Offices synergized with UNODC and other organizations such as the OSCE, EU and EU-funded programmes and operations, and NATO. The UNDP Offices also consolidated cooperation and synergized with other organizations such as UK's National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NABIS), ITF Enhancing Human Security, Forensic Northern Ireland, Spanish Cooperation.

UNDP dimension: The UNDP Offices have exchanged experience and knowledge amongst themselves in areas of their engagement and to keep consistency in the regional approach. Such an example is the exchange of experience and information between UNDP Albania and UNDP Serbia on improving capacities for CSI and ballistic examinations. The cross-border cooperation elements grew with the spin off projects that were supported by the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF. Good practice applied by one UNDP Office was replicated in another, and jurisdictions were brought together through peer exchanges to learn from good practice.

Global dimension: 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 good practice exchange inspired further partnerships and multiplication of good models, which continues. In its [latest report on SALW](#), the UN Secretary General recognized this good practice of regional road maps and recommended this to states across the globe.

These partnerships helped multiply results, complement activities, reduce and mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and ensured stronger and more sustainable progress.

## **Sustainability**

Sustainability of actions under this project was ensured through close cooperation and engagement of the Western Balkans authorities in the development as well as implementation of projects, in particular the SALW Commissions. 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 were developed and implemented in a way to enhance knowledge, develop capacities and institutionalize procedures and practices that should remain in place after the end of the project. Lessons learnt and good practices were replicated across the region, contributing to standardization of approaches in SALW control in the Western Balkans. Furthermore, policymaking and practice has been aligned with international standards and EU requirements, thus ensuring coherence and alignment with international commitments and EU approximation goals of each jurisdiction.

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 project's implementation timeframe. Through its tailor-made interventions, UNDP was able to create visibility for the knowledge and lessons learned generated by the sub-projects, ensuring that key information reaches all relevant parties. The project produced a very rich portfolio of knowledge products and resources, including publications, analyses, policy papers, training concepts, and SOPs, and substantial visibility and communication materials in the form of videos, news articles, press releases, and social media campaigns.

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 project on forensics and crime scene investigation implemented by UNDP Serbia was scaled up with funding from the MPTF. Likewise, some of the results of the gender-responsive approaches to SALW control 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 and North Macedonia, 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, and this approach was then pursued by Kosovo with Albania and between BiH and Serbia as part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Call for Proposals within MPTF. This enables that achieved results are built upon and consolidated through continuous and growing collaboration and engagement, under empowered lead by local authorities.

## V. Risks and mitigation measures

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The project activities were implemented against the backdrop of political tensions in the region, including newly generated tensions and legacy effects of conflicts during 1990s. This was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. State of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic was introduced across jurisdictions in the first year of project's implementation, and the project was thus implemented in an extraordinary situation.

The regional project managed and mitigated risks identified in the regional project risk matrix:

1. **Lack of internal political and institutional stability** in the six Western Balkan jurisdictions led to delays in the implementation of the projects. This was particularly relevant around the general elections in jurisdictions, which occurred in 2020 for parliamentary elections in Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, and then in 2021 for Albania and Kosovo, and finally in 2022 in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Elections subsequently triggered changes in governments' high and middle-level management, which caused delays in the decision-making process, and incapacity to commit to participating in project activities in some cases. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2020 marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dayton Peace Agreement (DPA), with politically charged discussions and divisions about the need to revise the DPA. Serbia and Kosovo signed the Washington Agreement focusing on the normalization of economic relations, however the progress has been slow, with numerous tensions and unresolved issues. Tensions escalated between Montenegro and Serbia, due to politization of the Law on Freedom of Religion and started to reduce with the new Montenegrin government that came to the office at the end of 2020. In March 2020, North Macedonia became the 30<sup>th</sup> country member of the NATO, while in September 2020 the Government of Serbia enacted decision to pull out of all international military cooperation. In 2022, armed conflict in Ukraine brought another level of political polarization across and within jurisdictions.

The deteriorating political climate in BiH was more notably monitored. In July 2021, the political parties in Republika Srpska decided to boycott their participation and decision-making at the state-level (BiH Presidency, Council of Ministers, Parliamentary Assembly). This decision followed the adoption of amendments to the BiH Criminal Code outlawing denial of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and glorification of war criminals, imposed by the former High Representative to BiH. Consequently, Republika Srpska National Assembly passed the Law on Non-Implementation of the Decision of the High Representative. The leading coalition in Republika Srpska engaged in divisive rhetoric of secession and transfer of competences from the state to entity level, which caused a crisis in the functioning of the country. 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.

Nevertheless, the project teams maintained continued communication with the project beneficiaries in all jurisdictions, which resulted in largely undisturbed continuation of all project activities despite certain delays. The project teams enhanced coordination when and where necessary with their partners on the ground to re-schedule activities. The ability to extend project duration and therefore ensure continuous engagement in project activities of all sides despite the circumstances was a significant risk mitigation measure.

2. **Insufficient operational capacity within national counterparts**, often lacking human and financial resources to respond to specific, time-constrained activities, was a recurring risk across projects. This risk was particularly exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, as project beneficiaries channeled all their efforts to responding to the pandemic, affecting their availability to participate in the project activities. Also, key staff of some of the beneficiary institutions were hospitalized or in quarantine with COVID-19, which again hindered their participation in the project. This has affected the implementation of the projects, with many activities being delayed. This risk continued throughout the project's duration.

UNDP planned in such a way to mitigate the potentially insufficient operational capacity of national counterparts. Additional expertise was assigned to complete activities that required determining specification for specialized equipment. More flexibility was allowed to extend the timeframe of certain deliveries. SOPs, peer-exchange and knowledge products were developed to ensure continuous operational advancement even beyond the project's duration.

3. **Covid-19 pandemic and related government restrictions** have significantly affected the implementation of the project and the pace of progress. The risk commenced in early 2020 with restrictions and uncertainties. The risk then fluctuated in terms of its impact during 2021 and 2022. In 2022, the

pandemic continued to affect the implementation of the project, albeit to a lesser extent. As of the second half of 2022, the impact of the risk has gradually reduced.

UNDP Offices have regularly monitored the development of the pandemic and took the necessary measures to mitigate the negative impact of the crisis throughout. Measures included conducting online coordination meetings and events with the project beneficiaries and partners, adjusting the activity timelines, respecting the health measures imposed by the government when organizing in-person trainings, or adjusting the time schedule of activities in consultation with partners and beneficiaries on the ground. The extension of the project's duration allowed all the targets to be successfully reached at the end.

## VI. Key challenges, lesson learned and recommendations

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### Challenges

As noted in the previous section, the project was implemented under unprecedented circumstances due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. All sub-projects have been affected by the crisis, as Governments imposed measures to stop and prevent the spread of the virus, including various levels of restrictions in people's gathering and travel. The quarterly updates provided by the UNDP Office showed the evolution of pandemic in each jurisdiction. The related challenging aspects encompassed more limited availability of the project beneficiaries (Mols and Police primarily) to participate in the project activities, switch to online operations and training that were not always as effective, and delays in the implementation of projects' activities. The UNDP Offices and SEESAC have been closely monitoring the evolution of the pandemic in each jurisdiction and adapted project strategies as necessary.

Additional challenges were posed by the political tensions in jurisdictions and the change in counterparts following elections, which occurred in all jurisdictions during the project's lifetime. These negatively affected some of the project activities which could not be conducted according to the planned timeline due to delayed decision making on the side of the project beneficiaries, or non-availability of participants during pre- or post-electoral periods.

The severe earthquake in November 2019 in Albania delayed the initiation of the activities in the country. The earthquake caused damages to both the UNDP Offices (and therefore Project premises) and the premises of the Albanian Institute of Scientific Police (AISP), the Project counterpart and beneficiary. Also, the Director of the AISP resigned a few weeks later, in December 2019, and contacts had to be re-established with the new interim Director in late December 2019. Despite the late start, the project managed to achieve planned results due to the non-cost extension of its duration.

Other challenges included the cumbersome communication with the project beneficiaries in some of the jurisdictions, delays in the delivery of procured equipment, slow pace of planned software development (Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia), insufficient human resource capacity on occasions and the unfavorable weather conditions for reconstruction works (Montenegro). The war in Ukraine also affected to some extent the supply chain and prices of equipment, for the projects that continued being implemented in 2022 (Albania, BiH, Kosovo and North Macedonia).

The challenges encountered also affected the overall delivery rate planned per year. For example, by end 2020, the delivery rate was below 50%. Particularly notable were delays in the procurement of equipment or delays in the organization of trainings. The switch to online meetings instead of in-person resulted in unspent funding, which was redirected to other activities or procurement of additional necessary equipment – all in line with the projects' objectives and the needs of the concerned authorities. The donor and the Project Board took note during the project board meetings and progress reports of the challenges the projects' faced towards their successful completion. In this respect, the Project Board was able to grant non-cost extensions upon reviewing the circumstances.

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

### Lessons Learned and Recommendations

Some of the **lessons learnt** and corresponding **recommendations** drawn from the project implementation include:

- 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.
- Across the sub-projects, regular communication with counterparts to ensure common understanding and adapt activities with new timelines to accommodate competing or emerging 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 of results.
- Online training may not be as effective as in-person, and the beneficiaries are not always keen to participate - however they contribute to sustainability (e-learning modules and courses), cost-efficiency



and greater outreach, with lasting results beyond the project duration. The combination of both in-person and online training, as feasible, multiplies impact.

- Conducting early planning and negotiations to mitigate political risks; and engaging authorities and stakeholders on a regular basis through project boards or senior management meetings, produces higher level of commitment and engagement at the operational level, even when faced with the risks of staff turnover.
- 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 requires significant time. 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 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 project has set the communication standards, by regularly updating on the project activities through social media (Twitter/X, Facebook, Instagram) and providing media reports from the events, but also capturing relevant media reports from local web portals about stakeholders' involvement in SALW control and countering illicit arms trafficking. The established communication channels, through formal and informal social media platforms (Viber messages platform, collaboration space at the google drive) increased coordination among stakeholders in the project implementation and contributed to the progress achieved. Investment in regular and effective communication and outreach pays off.
- The engagement of a comprehensive set of actors and agencies across the region in a coordinated and structured manner brought an added value to the established regional platforms managed by UNDP SEESAC. This, coupled with the continuous support through the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF, enables continuous and growing peer- and community of practitioners-exchanges that drive further progress on SALW Control and sustain results.

## VII. Financial Summary<sup>1</sup>

**Table 1: Overview of available resources for the project duration**

Donor	Opening Balance (US\$)	Contribution Received (US\$)	Available Resources (US\$)
Federal Foreign Office, Germany	6,257,110.35	6,211,399.25	45,711.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,257,110.35</b>	<b>6,211,399.25</b>	<b>45,711.10</b>

**Table 2: Overview of allocation and utilisation per output 1 and 2**

Activity		Responsible Party	Approved Budget (US\$)	Cumulative Expenses (US\$)	Budget Balance (US\$)
<b>Output 1: Coordination activities</b>	Coordination of implementation of Roadmap projects	UNDP IRH	338,336.63	338,336.63	-
<b>Output 2: Roadmap sub-projects delivered by UNDP Offices</b>	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 Mol	UNDP SRB CO	957,505.48	957,494.62	10.86
	Sub-project 3: Support Albania's Law Enforcement Authorities	UNDP ALB CO	1,234,571.00	1,220,061.39	14,509.61
	Sub-project 4: Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking (CIAT)	UNDP BiH CO	1,071,283.00	1,048,999.48	22,283.52
	Sub-project 5: Urgent Action on Ammunition Destruction	UNDP BiH CO	54,647.96	54,645.36	2.60
	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	1,000,814.65	93.35
	Sub-project 8: Rogame SALW Storage Upgrade	UNDP MNE CO	161,894.27	161,894.27	-
	Not distributed funds	UNDP	7,119.36	-	7,119.36
<b>TOTAL PROJECT FUNDS</b>			<b>6,257,110.35</b>	<b>6,211,399.25</b>	<b>45,711.10</b>

**Table 3: Overview of allocation and utilisation per output 3**

Activity		Responsible Party	Approved Budget (US\$)	Cumulative Expenses (US\$)	Budget Balance (US\$)
<b>Output 3: Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF</b>	Coordination and monitoring of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF	UNDP IRH	388,795.00	326,260.19	62,534.81

<sup>1</sup> **Disclaimer:** Data contained in this financial report section is an extract of UNDP financial records. All financial provided above is provisional. Certified financial statements will be provided on 30 June 2024.

## Annexes

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

Output 1	Indicators	Baseline (2018)	Final Target (2023)	Final Achievement
Mechanism for efficient coordination of the Roadmap projects developed and put in place <b>Total Budget:</b> \$338,337 <b>Final Expenditure:</b> \$338,337	• # of project proposals meeting the overarching criteria and approved for funding	0	5	8
	• Existence of a guidance note on the submission, selection and implementation of the Roadmap projects	No	Yes	Yes
	• # of knowledge products, and visibility and communication materials released	0	11	59 <sup>2</sup>
<b>Activity:</b> Coordination of implementation of Roadmap projects	Regular communication and coordination with the UNDP Offices was established and efficiently maintained throughout the project's duration.			
Output 2	Indicators	Baseline (2018)	Final Target (2023)	Final achievement
Roadmap projects delivered by UNDP Offices <b>Budget:</b> 5,920,257 <b>Final Expenditure:</b> 5,873,063	• # of Roadmap projects that have achieved their planned results	0	5	8 <sup>3</sup>
<b>Activity:</b> Implementation of Roadmap projects	All eight (8) approved sub-projects were successfully completed by the end of 2022.			

<sup>2</sup> 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. In **2022, six** (6) knowledge products and visibility and communication materials were released, including four (4) publications and two (2) visibility materials. In **2023, the final evaluation report** was produced.

<sup>3</sup> 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 <sup>4</sup>	Indicators	Baseline (2019)	Final Target (2023)	Final achievement
Mechanism for efficient programmatic coordination and monitoring of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF in place <b>Budget:</b> [MPTF] \$388,795 <b>Expenditure by 31 August 2023:</b> \$326,260	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of project proposals meeting the evaluation criteria and approved for funding from the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF</li> </ul>	0	22	24 <sup>5</sup>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of progress reports consolidated and submitted to the Steering Committee</li> </ul>	0	4	4 <sup>6</sup>
<b>Activity:</b> Coordination and monitoring of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF	<p>Since the Trust Fund's inception, 24 Roadmap projects were approved through the first, second and third call for proposals and through a direct call for proposals.</p> <p>All projects were monitored, coordinated and technically supported by SEESAC, as the Trust Fund Secretariat.</p> <p>Overall, four (4) annual reports and 11 quarterly reports were produced by 31 August 2023.</p>			

<sup>4</sup> The Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF will continue to operate beyond the regional project, with SEESAC's technical and programmatic support, administrative support of the MPTF Office, and under the overall guidance and oversight of the Fund's Steering Committee. The Trust Fund has been officially extended until December 2025, to allow sufficient time for effective implementation of projects stemming from the third call.

<sup>5</sup> 16 project proposals were approved prior to 2023. By August 2023, eight new projects were put forward by the eligible UN organizations for funding approval, and all eight met the evaluation criteria. The projects were reviewed and officially approved for funding by the Steering Committee after the end date of this project, by 9 October 2023.

<sup>6</sup> Refers to the MPTF annual progress reports only.

## Annex II: Risk Log

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Mngt response	Owner	Status
1	<b>Lack of internal political and institutional stability in the six Western Balkan jurisdictions</b>	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	Complete
2	<b>Insufficient operational capacity within national counterparts</b>	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	Complete
3	<b>Covid-19 pandemic and related government restrictions</b>	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	Complete

## Annex III: List of developed knowledge products and communication materials\*

*\*While comprehensive, the list is not exhaustive. It contains developed knowledge products and communication materials received by SEESAC from the UNDP country offices or produced by SEESAC directly for the purposes of the project.*

### 1. Publications:

- 1.1. [2020] Reduce Risk. Increase Safety. Towards ending SALW misuse in domestic violence context, UNDP Serbia. [BCMS] [ENG]
- 1.2. [2020] A Portrait Against A Landscape: Analysis of Media Coverage of Firearm Misuse in Violence Against Women Committee by Men, UNDP Serbia. [BCMS] [ENG]
- 1.3. [2021] Small arms and light weapons, gender-based violence and domestic violence: analysis of regulatory framework and practice, UNDP Serbia [BCMS] [ENG];
- 1.4. [2021] Domestic violence and firearms use. A study on the practice of institutions of the criminal justice system in response to domestic violence committed through misuse of threat of misuse of firearms, UNDP Serbia [BCMS][ENG];
- 1.5. [2021] 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, UNDP Serbia [BCMS]
- 1.6. [2021] Analysis of cases of femicide committed with firearms (June 2017 – June 2020), UNDP Serbia [BCMS][ENG]
- 1.7. [2021] Guidelines for ethical and gender-sensitive media reporting on domestic violence committed with firearms, UNDP Serbia (co-funded through this project) [ENG]
- 1.8. [2021] Informative guide for firearms license applicants and their family members on key facts on domestic violence and firearms misuse, UNDP Serbia
- 1.9. [2021] Study on Femicides in the Republic of North Macedonia 2017-2020, UNDP North Macedonia [ENG][MKD][ALB]

### 2. Knowledge sharing products and working materials

- 2.1. [2019] Green border assessment in BiH, UNDP BiH
- 2.2. [2020] Risk assessment and risk management process in the work of specialist SOS helplines for women victims of violence, UNDP Serbia
- 2.3. [2020] Report with key findings and requirements for integrated multi-agency case management in the cases of domestic violence, including those with firearms presence, UNDP Serbia
- 2.4. [2020] Gap analysis in the area of CSI, chain of custody and ballistics laboratory inventory, UNDP Serbia
- 2.5. [2020] Analysis on the application of the ISO/IEC 17020 standard and documents necessary for the accreditation of the crime scene investigation in Serbia in line with ISO/IEC 17020, UNDP Serbia
- 2.6. [2020] Needs-based analysis detailing current organisational processes and organisational structure as it relates to criminal and firearm related data in North Macedonia, UNDP North Macedonia
- 2.7. [2020] Four Standard Operating Procedures: i) SOP on the chain of custody of law enforcement, ii) SOP on crime scene investigation; iii) SOP on packaging and tagging of evidence; iv) SOP on the development of an OCF for ballistic examination, UNDP Serbia
- 2.8. [2020] Four Standard Operating Procedures: i) SOPs for the chain of custody, ii) SOP on crime scene investigation, iii) SOP on tagging and packaging of evidence, and iv) SOP for the OCF for ballistic examination, UNDP Albania
- 2.9. [2020] Five Standard Operating Procedures: i) SOPs on data collection, ii) SOP on tracing of weapons, iii) SOP on running an investigation, iv) SOP on risk analysis, and v) SOP on management of an emergency situation when arms and explosives unexpectedly emerge, UNDP BiH
- 2.10. [2021] Analysis of media reporting on SALW and domestic violence for the first half of 2021, UNDP Serbia



- 2.11. [2021] Analysis of administrative data collection practices on the misuse of SALW in domestic and intimate partner violence, UNDP Serbia
- 2.12. [2021] Analysis of data on SALW and domestic violence in the period 2017-2020, UNDP Serbia
- 2.13. [2021] Policy paper mapping the relationship between domestic violence, SALW misuse and public health, as a foundation for short- and long-term actions, UNDP Serbia
- 2.14. [2021] Training module for the media on gender-sensitive media reporting on domestic violence committed with firearms, UNDP Serbia
- 2.15. [2021] Instruction regarding the appropriate procedures in resolving criminal offences in the field of domestic violence, UNDP Serbia (BCMS only)
- 2.16. [2021] Recommendations for Laboratory Information Management System development, UNDP Serbia
- 2.17. [2021] Standard Operating Procedure for Self-contained test firing laboratory using water tank, UNDP Serbia
- 2.18. [2021] Domestic Violence in CSI Analysis, Procedures and Recommendations, UNDP Serbia
- 2.19. [2021] Concept for the joint trainings and practical exercises in detecting and investigating smuggling of firearms, ammunition, and explosives, UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 2.20. [2021] Inception report for the National Database on SALW Transport, UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 2.21. [2022] Border Police Vulnerability Assessment Report, UNDP Kosovo [ENG, ALB, BCMS]
- 2.22. [2022] Problem Profile of SALW in Kosovo, UNDP Kosovo [ENG, ALB, BCMS]
- 2.23. [2022] Report on K9 dog sniffing and equipment detection test on Polymer material, UNDP Kosovo [ENG, ALB, BCMS]
- 2.24. [2022] Integrated Police Information System – User’s Manual, UNDP North Macedonia [BCMS only]
- 2.25. [2023] [Final Evaluation](#) of the Project

### 3. Communication and visibility materials

- 3.1. [2019] [News Item](#) on the launching on new SALW Control projects, published by SEESAC
- 3.2. [2020] [Video](#) presenting snapshots of the results achieved by the regional project in 2020, prepared and published online by SEESAC
- 3.3. [2020] Blog on firearms misuse in DV context - *Safer with a gun at home? – Women in Serbia say no*, UNDP Serbia [BCMS] [ENG]
- 3.4. [2020] Article about UNDP Serbia project’s achievements, UNDP Serbia [ENG, BCMS]
- 3.5. [2020] A [photo story](#) on K9 dogs role in identifying trafficked illicit arms made of polymer material, UNDP Kosovo
- 3.6. [2021] [Press release](#) for the launch of the Analysis of Femicide Cases Committed with Firearms in anticipation of the national Day of Remembrance for Women Victims of Violence, UNDP Serbia
- 3.7. [2021] Social media [campaign](#) on the dangers and consequences of firearms misuse, UNDP Serbia
- 3.8. [2021] [Video](#) about the results achieved within the forensics project implemented in Serbia, UNDP Serbia
- 3.9. [2021] [News article](#) about the forensics equipment provided to the Mol of Serbia, UNDP Serbia
- 3.10. [2021] [Press release](#) from the handover ceremony of the forensics equipment donated to the Mol Serbia, UNDP Serbia
- 3.11. [2021] [Press release](#) for the handover ceremony of the computer equipment donated by UNDP to the Mol, North Macedonia, UNDP North Macedonia
- 3.12. [2021] [Video](#) promoting project results, UNDP North Macedonia
- 3.13. [2021] [News article](#) about the ceremony for the handover of the security upgrade works at the Rogame SALW and ammunition storage, UNDP Montenegro
- 3.14. [2022] [Video](#) on the achievements of the project implemented in North Macedonia, UNDP North Macedonia
- 3.15. [2022] [Exposure story](#) highlighting the project implemented in Kosovo, UNDP Kosovo