



AR/078

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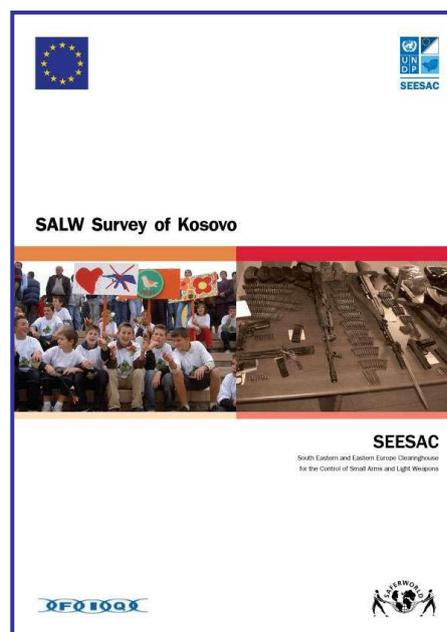
SEESAC ACTIVITY REPORT – AR/078

SALW SURVEY OF KOSOVO¹

SEESAC FUNCTIONAL AREA	FA 3 - Management Information
SEESAC OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY	SG 2 - Co-ordination Measures SG 4 - Project Support SG 8 - Operational Research Activities

The London based Arms Control NGO Saferworld has been conducting a comprehensive survey of the SALW situation in the Entity of Kosovo over the last six months. The survey was based on the SALW Survey Protocols,² and was researched jointly with the Pristina based NGO Forum for Civic Initiatives (FIQ). A consultation process began in April 2006 allowing officials of the Kosovo Provisional Institutions of Self Government (PISG) and United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) to review and contribute to research findings. The comments received as a result of these processes are reflected in the relevant sections of the Survey and in an accompanying recommendations document. Some key findings of the Survey include:

- The Survey estimates that, as of June 2006, there were approximately 400,000 weapons in Kosovo. Of these, 33,949 firearms were in the legal possession of individual citizens; 45,217 firearms were in the hands of official agencies and international private security companies; and **at least 317,000 firearms were in the illegal possession** of individual citizens and other groups.
- Efforts to establish a regulated civilian firearms registration system have been undermined to date by an absence of channels for the legal acquisition of SALW. The current system for the issuance of civilian weapon permits may have the unintended effect of legalising some illicit weapons and of fostering the development of the illicit market for SALW.
- 87% of household survey respondents believe illegal firearms pose a threat** to the future prosperity of Kosovo. However, all social groups perceived issues such as unemployment, poor electricity supply, bad roads, and environmental problems as the most pressing concerns.
- Of the 23.6% of the household survey respondents who said that they would eventually acquire a weapon, an overwhelming majority (76.8%) stated that their main reason for doing so would be to protect themselves and their family.
- The legislative framework for regulating the international transfer of arms and military equipment to and from Kosovo contains **many loopholes**.



¹ The UN Administered Entity of Kosovo in accordance with SCR 1244 (1999). Referred to as Kosovo in this document.

² www.seesac.org/index.php?content=41§ion=6.

- ❑ Evidence from a variety of sources indicates that there would be **no purpose in organising a Kosovo-wide voluntary SALW Collection until after Kosovo's final status has been agreed**. It also appears that the factors that would stimulate the surrender of SALW during a future SALW Collection programme are: 1) a decision on the final status of Kosovo; 2) an improvement in economic conditions; and 3) the use of individual or collective incentives.
- ❑ Police and judicial **capacity to implement the law regulating SALW possession is lacking**, with exceptional problems arising in northern parts of Kosovo due to the operation of parallel structures and the significantly lower capacity of KPS, KFOR and UNMIK
- ❑ There can be no doubt that **SALW Control poses a fundamental challenge to the stability of Kosovo**, and that this is only likely to come into sharper focus as a decision on final status moves closer. Over recent months there have been a number of encouraging signals that international and Kosovar power-holders are committed to addressing the issue of SALW proliferation and misuse. This will not always be easy: many of the problems identified in this report compete for priority and some are complex, particularly when considered in light of existing processes and plans for the territory. Further, as is the case in most other transitional post-conflict societies, the control of SALW is not an end in itself and cannot be achieved successfully unless it is seen as a component of much broader processes of reform and change.

A comprehensive SALW Survey should be the first stage of any SALW related intervention by the government or international community. Functional analysis of a SALW programme identifies that initial data has a major influence on programme success. It is also important that a SALW Survey be considered to be a distinct operational task with the aim of determining the nature and extent of SALW proliferation and impact within a region, nation or community in order to provide accurate data and information for a safe, effective and efficient intervention by an appropriate organisation. The information contained within a SALW Survey serves as a basis for monitoring the SALW situation in a country or measuring the success of any future SALW control intervention. The results from this Survey are now being used in the development of an integrated SALW strategy for Kosovo.

The English language edition of the survey can be downloaded from the SEESAC website (www.seesac.org) from 01 September 2006. Printed copies of the report will also shortly be available in English and Albanian languages, upon request from the SEESAC Communication Officer, Ana Martinovic, who can be contacted on (+381) (11) 344 63 53 or by email at ana.martinovic@undp.org.



Adrian Wilkinson
SEESAC

Office: +381 11 344 6353
Mobile: +381 63 217 350
Fax: +381 11 344 6356
E Mail: adrian.wilkinson@undp.org
URL: www.seesac.org