



AR/084

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## SEESAC ACTIVITY REPORT – AR/084

### REVIEW OF KEY LITERATURE ON CHILDREN, YOUTH AND SMALL ARMS

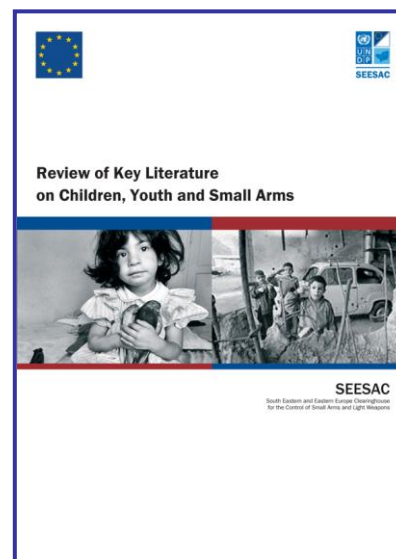
<b>SEESAC FUNCTIONAL AREA</b>	<b>FA 4 - SALW Awareness and Communications Strategy</b>
<b>SEESAC OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY</b>	<b>OA 3 - Information Management and Exchange Activities OA 7 - Training and Research</b>

One of SEESAC's functional areas is Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) Awareness and Communication, which constitutes an integral part of all SALW Control interventions. This strategy involves the use of professionally developed core messages and dissemination strategies to impart knowledge to, shape the perceptions and change the behaviour of the civilian community towards SALW. Collecting quality data and understanding the issues are a prerequisite for developing any SALW Awareness activities.

Since SALW emerged as an issue in the international community in the late 1990s, there has been a flurry of articles, reports and some research, most notably by the Small Arms Survey, but also by SEESAC. For educators or children's rights staff, the picture is a very confusing one, as much of the language is very technical, and the literature relevant to children and youth has generally not been written within a coherent theoretical framework, such as child development, children's rights programming, child safety and protection and public health. There is also a vast literature in the USA on the gun issue, with advocates for and against gun control, and research in psychology and paediatrics on the effects of guns on children and young people. In addition, in the developed world, there is a large literature on youth and crime, some of which refers to the use of weapons.

The aim of this Key Literature Review is to try to identify some key documents reflecting a range of perspectives on the issue of weapons and children/young people. The recent international literature by United Nations agencies and international NGOs (including arms control groups) has been generated in response to the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms. The US literature on guns and violence is also included. The public health focus of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and medical organisations in North America is well represented. The Review does not claim to be comprehensive, but it does include literature with references and links to other - and broader - sources on the issues.

This report will shortly be available on the Education and Small Arms section of the SEESAC website (<http://www.seesac.org/index.php?content=55&section=2>). For more information please contact SEESAC SALW Awareness Officer Anya Hart Dyke: [anya.hartdyke@undp.org](mailto:anya.hartdyke@undp.org).





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