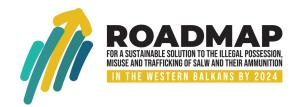


WESTERN BALKANS SALW
CONTROL ROADMAP
MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund for the implementation of the Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons and their ammunition in the West Balkans



United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund in support of the implementation of the Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons and their ammunition in the Western Balkans

#### **CONTRIBUTORS:**













#### **PARTICIPATING UN ORGANIZATIONS:**





#### **ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT:**



#### **SUPPORTED BY:**





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# **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

**AEA** Arms/Explosion/Accident

**AF** Armed Forces

**BiH** Bosnia and Herzegovina

**BP** Border Police

**CEPOL** European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training

**CSI** Crime Scene Investigations

**EMPACT** European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats

**EU** European Union

**EUFOR** European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina

FRONTEX
Firearms, ammunition, and explosives
European Border and Coast Guard Agency
UNODC Global Firearms Programme

iARMS Illicit Arms Records and Tracing Management System

**INTERPOL** International Criminal Police Organization

ITA Indirect Taxation Authority of BiH

Joint Investigation Teams

**MoD** Ministry of Defence

**MOFTER** Ministry for Foreign Tarde and Economic Relations of BiH

Mol Ministry of the Interior Mol Ministry of Justice

**MoS** Ministry of Security of BiH

**MOTC** Ministry of Transport and Communications of BiH

**MoU** Memorandum of Understanding

**MPTF** Multi-Partner Trust Fund

NABIS UK's National Ballistics Intelligence Service

**NATO** North Atlantic Treaty Organization

**OSCE** Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

RPG Rocket-Propelled Grenade
SALW Small Arms and Light Weapons

**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

ToT Training of Trainers
UN United Nations

UNDPUnited Nations Development ProgrammeUNODCUnited Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

**UNTOC** United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

**USA** United States of America

**WB** Western Balkans

### **FOREWORD**

It is my great pleasure to introduce you to the third annual report of the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund of the *Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illicit possession, misuse and trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and their ammunition in the Western Balkans by 2024*. The report marks the third year in the Fund's existence and represents the consolidation of its support to the Roadmap's implementation.



The 2021 data on firearm incidents in the Western Balkans gathered by SEESAC's <u>Armed Violence Monitoring Platform</u> indicates that armed violence remains a challenge for the region, and that efforts to address these challenges need to be maintained. The platform recorded more than 3,100 incidents involving firearms in the Western Balkans. Although approximately 46% of these incidents represented weapons seizures, there were still 563 incidents related to criminal activity, including armed robberies and organized crime. Firearm-related incidents resulted in 141 deaths, 37 suicides, 488 people threatened, and 344 people injured across the region. Women accounted for 22% of the victims, against only 2% of the perpetrators.

Nevertheless, the available information provided by the Western Balkans authorities in the Roadmap progress reports also shows that significant progress has been made under the seven goals of the Roadmap since its establishment in 2018. All relevant jurisdictions have laws and bylaws regulating the civil use of firearms, which have to some degree been harmonized with the European Union Acquis. SALW Commissions are in place in all jurisdictions, while their role in setting priorities and in coordinating and monitoring the activities under the Roadmap has been considerably strengthened. Significant progress has been achieved in integrating the gender perspective into small arms control policies. Firearms Focal Points (FFPs) are now established in five out of six jurisdictions and are currently operational to various degrees. Significant progress has been also achieved or is underway in several jurisdictions to enhance capacities for firearms-related crimes investigations.

These are only some of the most visible advancements of the Western Balkans authorities in the implementation of the Roadmap that have been supported by various local, regional, and international partners, including the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

In 2021, the Trust Fund, among other funding mechanisms, provided substantial support to the authorities involved in implementing the Roadmap. Through its Participating UN Organizations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Trust Fund has contributed to advancements in countering the illicit trafficking of firearms, including through postal and fast parcels, to strengthening criminal justice responses to firearm-related crimes, to increasing the quality and accuracy of firearm-related investigations, and to advancing gender equality and

empowerment of women. Furthermore, the Trust Fund kicked off important support campaigns for activities aimed at raising awareness in several jurisdictions. The first campaign funded by the Trust Fund was implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina, tackling the issue of celebratory shootings - a worrisome phenomenon in the region. In 2021, the same Armed Violence Monitoring Platform documented 124 celebratory shooting incidents in the Western Balkans, nearly double compared to the previous year. These incidents resulted in the deaths and injuries of women, men, and children.1

Through the Roadmap monitoring and coordination mechanism set up by SEESAC, the Trust Fund projects are coordinated with about 25 other ongoing projects and at least 11 other international and regional organizations who provide support to the authorities involved in the implementation of the Roadmap. This helps to ensure that there are no overlaps between interventions and that the priorities and needs of each jurisdiction are duly and effectively met.

I am pleased to see that the level of contributions to the Trust Fund continued to increase at a steady pace, with new funding from Germany, France, Sweden, and Norway. Thanks to this and financial support from the other key donors, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, the Trust Fund has mobilized almost \$22 million in less than three years. \$12 million have been distributed to the Participating UN Organizations, and new allocations are planned this year.

The current report is an informative read about the Trust Fund's contribution to the Roadmap goals and the specific activities conducted by the Participating UN Organizations. It also presents the challenges encountered and lessons learnt, partnerships established and strengthened, and the work of the Trust Fund governance bodies.

#### **GERD TROGEMANN**

Chair of the Steering Committee

Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF

<sup>1</sup> Detailed information about celebratory shootings in 2021 is available in the In Focus - Armed Violence Monitor, Issue No. 8, Celebratory Shootings in South East Europe in 2021, available at: https://www.seesac.org/f/ docs/Armed-Violence/In-Focus-Armed-Violence-Monitor-on-Celebratory-Shootings-in-SEE-in-2021.pdf

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In 2021, in the context of milder impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Trust Fund and its two Participating UN Organizations, UNDP and UNODC, continued and consolidated their comprehensive support to the Governments in the Western Balkans in addressing specific priority areas of <a href="mailto:the regional Roadmap">the regional Roadmap</a> for SALW control in the Western Balkans. This included support to countering illicit possession and trafficking of firearms, strengthening criminal justice responses to firearm-related crimes, advancing firearm-related investigations, reducing stockpiles of surplus ammunition, and addressing gender equality and women empowerment.



10 projects under implementation / 2 regional / 1 cross-border / 7 at the jurisdiction level

In 2021, six new projects were initiated following the second call for proposals launched in 2020. The total number of projects funded by the Trust Fund was thus increased to ten, with an overall budget of \$12 million.

With the new batch of projects, the Trust Fund has extended its support to new jurisdictions previously covered only at the regional level – Albania, Montenegro, and North Macedonia. A cross-border project was initiated between Kosovo\* and North Macedonia, focusing on improving cooperation and inter-institutional coordination between the two jurisdictions. New areas of intervention were also introduced, in line with the needs and priorities of each jurisdiction. These include forensics and ballistics examinations, raising awareness about the dangers of firearms misuse, physical security and stockpile management, and information exchange with INTERPOL.

Furthermore, the Trust Fund provided support for replicating and scaling up previous initiatives, demonstrating the catalytic investment of the Fund. In Serbia, the Trust Fund enabled UNDP to continue its support to the forensics and ballistics sector initiated in 2019, and ex-

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

pand its intervention to explosives investigations, in addition to the investigation of firearms. In Montenegro, UNDP utilized MPTF funds to initiate a project on forensics, taking stock of the previous experience and lessons gained by UNDP through similar projects in Serbia and Albania. Alongside such efforts, UNODC is replicating the methodology and needs assessment developed for Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in four other jurisdictions, with the aim of identifying the necessary capacities for enhancing the detection and sharing of information on firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition in the context of fast and postal parcels.

#### PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ROADMAP GOALS

With this portfolio of ten projects, the Trust Fund managed to deliver important results, supporting the Western Balkans authorities in continuing to advance towards achieving the Roadmap goals. In 2021, the Trust Fund contributed to five of the seven goals: Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 3, Goal 4, and Goal 6.



Trust Fund continued to support activities aimed at **harmonizing** the national criminal laws and criminal procedure laws of the Western Balkan jurisdictions with the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the UN Firearms Protocol, thereby contributing to the standardization of the arms control legislation in the Western Balkans and thus to Goal 1 of the Roadmap. Furthermore, the regulatory frameworks for crime scene and ballistics investigations were strengthened in Montenegro and Serbia, paving the way towards international accreditation, also in line with Roadmap Goal 1.



In contributing to Roadmap Goal 2, Trust Fund resources enabled the police in Kosovo and North Macedonia to enhance their analytical capacities for information gathering, sharing, and analysis, and for weapon categorization, while also strengthening the knowledge and capacities of Kosovo police officers for improved firearms investigations. In Serbia, the central ballistic laboratory was provided with equipment to increase the effectiveness of

data analysis and the accuracy of the evidence produced, bringing Serbia closer to achieving Goal 2 of the Roadmap. To achieve this goal, the Roadmap also foresees that police services of the Western Balkans provide regular input to INTERPOL's iArms. Towards this mission, the Trust Fund facilitated increased cooperation with INTERPOL and a new agreement with INTERPOL to extend the iArms database in BiH. Furthermore, the Participating UN Organizations were able to continue to support the Customs Authority in BiH towards integrating the gender perspective into their work, strengthening the meaningful participation of women in arms control and further contributing to Goal 2 of the Roadmap.



To support the achievement of Roadmap Goal 3, the Trust Fund provided support in three directions. Firstly, it helped strengthen and implement legal, policy, and procedural frameworks for containing firearms trafficking. Case law collections of firearm offences were developed in all jurisdictions, as a tool for harmonizing court practices. Also, the implementation of the criminal procedure law in firearms trafficking cases was strengthened in Albania, BiH, North Macedonia, and Serbia by facilitating information exchange between the relevant institutions - the judiciary, prosecution offices, criminal and border police, and customs, through inter-institutional workshops. In BiH, standard procedures were developed to increase the detection of firearms by the Customs Authority during their everyday activities as well as in postal and fast parcels. Secondly, the Trust Fund resources contributed to improved processes, equipment, and training of targeted law enforcement units to prevent the trafficking of firearms, ammunition, and explosives. Under this line of interventions, the Participating UN Organizations trained: prosecutors in several jurisdictions on firearms identification and tracing; customs officers from BiH in firearms and explosives detection using standard procedures and specialized equipment; and customs experts and postal operators from BiH in firearms detection in postal and fast parcels. Equipment was also provided in BiH and Kosovo to prevent, detect, and respond to the potential trafficking of firearms and explosives. Thirdly, the Trust Fund enabled strengthened local, regional, and international cooperation to counter illicit arms trafficking, achieved through regional meetings and study visits.



To reduce the misuse of firearms in line with Roadmap Goal 4, an awareness-raising campaign on the dangers of celebratory shooting was implemented in BiH, reaching approximately 300,000 people. Also, activities funded by the Trust Fund resulted in the raising of the awareness of the Customs Authority, postal services, and private courier companies in BiH with regards to the illegal trafficking of firearms and how to tackle it, thereby further contributing to Roadmap Goal 4.



Finally, the Trust Fund contributed to Goal 6 of the Roadmap in supporting the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the Armed Forces (AF) in BiH to reduce the stockpiles of unsafe ammunition by facilitating the **disposal of** 1,000 rocket-propelled grenades.

#### TRUST FUND GOVERNANCE

The Steering Committee met four times virtually to review the project revision requests submitted by the Participating UN Organizations and decide via e-mail on which four projects would be chosen within the first call for project proposals. Also, at the beginning of 2021, the Steering Committee members approved the allocation of funding to the sixth project submitted within the Trust Fund's second call for proposals.

The Secretariat, whose functions are ensured by UNDP's SEESAC, continued to provide support to the Steering Committee, facilitating the coordination, monitoring, and reporting of the Trust Fund's results, as well as enabling the technical evaluation of the project proposals submitted within the calls.

#### CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTATION

In 2021, Trust Fund projects continued to be implemented even in the context of extraordinary circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic, with governments in the region maintaining measures to stop and prevent the spread of the virus, although to a lesser extent, given the improvement of the situation in certain periods of the year. The pandemic primarily affected activities that involved the organization of trainings, meetings with the beneficiaries of such activities, and on-site field visits. The implementing organizations regularly monitored the development of the pandemic and took the necessary measures to mitigate the negative impact of the crisis.

Other challenges were posed by the elections in Kosovo and North Macedonia, which delayed some of the activities in these jurisdictions, as well as by the deteriorating political environment in BiH, difficulties in identifying qualified project staff and expert consultants, difficulty in procuring technical equipment, and the limited operation capacities and delayed decision-making faced by many project partners.

Although originally planned to be completed in 2021, the four projects selected within the first call for proposals were granted extensions of 3 to 9 months due to the delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the related government restrictions that began being implemented in March 2020, while in one case due to the delayed-decision making of the project beneficiaries. The projects are now due to be completed in 2022. Relatedly, the initiation of the six new projects was also met largely with delays as a cause of the COVID-19 pandemic, and due to difficulty in recruiting key staff and expert consultants to support the implementation of the project activities.

#### **CONTRIBUTIONS AND TRANSFERS**

In 2021, the Trust Funds' total contributions amounted to \$21.8 million, with \$5.9 million mobilized in 2021 from four principal donors: Germany, France, Sweden, and Norway. \$5 million were disbursed to the Participating UN Organizations for five of the six projects approved within the second call for proposals.2

<sup>2</sup> The disbursement of funds to the first project approved within the second call for proposals was conducted in December 2020. However, the project was operationally initiated in 2021.

# NARRATIVE REPORT

This Narrative Report covers the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021 and describes the activities of the Participating UN Organizations, UNDP and UNODC, and of the governance bodies of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF. The narrative report begins with an overview of the Trust Fund, followed by an update on the activity of the Trust Fund governance bodies. The report continues with a presentation of contributions made towards achieving the Roadmap goals and the Fund's outcomes, and an update on the work of the Participating UN Organizations. The following chapters are dedicated to an overview of the key challenges and lessons learnt, partnerships, and the communications and visibility activities undertaken in 2021.

THE NARRATIVE REPORT IS FOLLOWED BY A FINANCIAL REPORT.

## 1. OVERVIEW

#### 1.1. Set Up and Key Features of the Trust Fund

The **TRUST FUND** contributes to a donor coordinated approach to the implementation of the Roadmap for arms control in the Western Balkans.

The Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF was established by UNDP, UNODC, and the MPTF Office in March 2019 as a key funding mechanism supporting the implementation of the Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illicit possession, misuse and trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and their ammunition in the Western Balkans by 2024. The Roadmap was jointly developed by the six Western Balkan jurisdictions - Albania, BiH, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia, under the auspices of the Governments of Germany and France, in coordination with the EU, and with the technical support of the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC). The Roadmap is the most comprehensive arms control exercise in the Western Balkans, covering all key aspects of SALW Control from weapon destruction to mainstreaming gender in security policies and countering arms trafficking. It was adopted at the Western Balkans London Summit in July 2018, representing a firm commitment to addressing the threats posed by the misuse and illicit possession of weapons in the Western Balkans and Europe at large.

The Trust Fund enables a platform to strengthen coordination, planning and communication among the donors, implementing partners and national authorities, and develop synergies among different players involved in this programmatic area. It also reduces risks to governments and financial contributors through a comprehensive risk and results-based management system. The Western Balkan SALW Control Roadmap MPTF supports concrete projects and activities in the area of SALW control that contribute to the achievement of the Roadmap goals and are in line with the priorities of the targeted jurisdictions.

# KEY FEATURES OF THE WESTERN BALKANS SALW CONTROL ROADMAP MPTF



#### **Coordination and Best Use of Resources**

SALW control activities are implemented in a coordinated manner and the multiple partners' priorities are aligned through regular dialogue and strong monitoring and reporting mechanisms. This helps avoid duplication of efforts, reduces fragmentation and ensures complementarity with other similar activities.

#### Relevance

Funded projects must adhere to the goals of the Roadmap and must be developed in close cooperation with the beneficiaries, thereby ensuring that projects effectively respond to the priorities of the targeted jurisdictions.





#### **Effectiveness and Efficiency**

A comprehensive results-based framework ensures delivery of results, while the pass-through mechanism minimizes implementation delays and transaction costs.

#### **Impact**

Donor contributions are commingled as part of the pooled funding mechanism, enabling the implementation of broader interventions with more sustainable results.





#### **Ownership**

Authorities in the Western Balkans are enabled to steer the implementation of the funded projects based on their SALW control priorities.

#### **Accountability and Transparency**

Financial data related to the Trust Fund's contributions and transactions, as well as key documents related to its administration are publicly available on the MPTF Office Gateway, preserving thus important institutional knowledge and facilitating knowledge sharing.



#### **1.2.** Trust Fund Governance Structure

#### The **STEERING COMMITTEE** is the Trust Fund's

decision-makina body. It decides on all aspects related to the Trust Fund's management and implementation.

The Trust Fund is governed by a Steering Committee consisting of representatives of the Participating UN Organizations (UNDP and UNODC), France, Germany, the EU, and the MPTF Office (as ex-officio members), and other top three donors to the Fund. Other donors can also participate in the Steering Committee as observers, without voting rights. The Steering Committee provides general oversight and exercises overall accountability of the Trust Fund, approves the strategic direction of the Fund and its overall results framework, decides on the allocation of funds, and oversees the implementation of the funded projects and overall progress towards the planned results.

SEESAC, a joint initiative of the Regional Cooperation Council and UNDP, which has received steady and substantial funding from the EU since 2002, is responsible to act as the Secretariat of the Trust Fund, ensuring programmatic coordination and monitoring of the Fund. This is in line with SEESAC's mandate stemming from the South East Europe Regional Implementation Plan on Combatting the Proliferation and Impact of Small Arms and Light Weapons<sup>3</sup> and in line with EU Council Decision 1788/2018 providing support to SEESAC for the coordination and monitoring of the overall implementation of the Roadmap.<sup>4</sup> The Secretariat is not part of the Steering Committee and has no voting rights.

The Trust Fund is administered by the MPTF Office in its capacity as Administrative Agent under the pass-through management modality. The MPTF Office is responsible for setting up and administering the Trust Fund, including receipt, administration and release of funds to the Participating UN Organizations in accordance with decisions from the Steering Committee.

The Participating UN Organizations are UNDP and UNODC who have signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)<sup>5</sup> with the MPTF Office. Each Participating UN Organization assumes full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent.

- 3 The South East Europe Regional Implementation Plan on Combatting the Proliferation and Impact of Small Arms and Light Weapons stipulates that to "provide project development, technical advisory, project monitoring and evaluation support to the EU, UNDP, OSCE and other stakeholders within South and Eastern Europe on request" is among one of SEESAC's responsibilities.
- 4 Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/1788 of 19 November 2018 in support of the South-Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC) for the implementation of the Regional Roadmap on combating illicit arms trafficking in the Western Balkans, OJ L 293, 20.11.2018, p. 11.
- 5 The MoU is available on the MPTF Office Gateway, at the following address: http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/SLW00

#### 1.3. Trust Fund Projects

Following the two calls for proposals launched in 2019 and 2020 respectively, the Steering Committee approved ten projects for funding, worth \$12 million. The projects cover areas such as countering illicit arms trafficking, strengthening criminal justice response to firearm-related crimes, disposal of unsafe ammunition, support to ballistics and crime scene investigations, and awareness raising. Details about the projects and the results achieved in 2021 are outlined in the next sections of the report, and in the report annexes.

#### TEN PROJECT **PROPOSALS**

submitted by the Participating UN Organizations were selected and approved for funding following competitive calls for project proposals.

	PROJECT	Implementing organization	Project budget	Current implentating period
1st Call for Proposals	Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade (HALT) in Bosnia and Herzegovina	UNDP BiH and UNODC	\$2,200,000	21 February 2020 – 30 September 2022
	Support to Combating Illicit Arms Trafficking in Kosovo for Criminal Police (CPIAT)	UNDP Kosovo	\$660,000	21 February 2020 – 30 June 2022
	Criminal Justice Response Against Arms Trafficking (regional project)	UNODC	\$1,899,999	21 February 2020 – 30 September 2022
	Urgent Action on Ammunition Destruction - Project EXPLODE+, in Bosnia and Herzegovina	UNDP BIH	\$583,546	20 February 2020 – 31 October 2022
		1/4/1/19		
2ND CALL FOR PROPOSALS	Strengthening Control, Administration and Social Attitudes Towards SALW	UNDP Albania	\$1,661,314	14 December 2020 – 14 December 2022
	Advancing the Capacities of the Ministry of Interior in the SALW Control-Related Field (Phase II)	UNDP Serbia	\$1,429,520	5 January 2021 – 4 July 2023
	Advancing the Capacities of the Police Directorate in the Field of Custody Chain, Crime Scene Investigations and the Forensic Laboratory in the Field of Operations and Investigations in Detection and Trafficking of Explosives Criminality	UNDP Montenegro	\$664,812	4 January 2021 – 4 July 2022
	Cross-border Integrated Institutional Approach Towards Combatting IAT and SALW	UNDP Kosovo- UNDP North Macedonia	\$522,067	18 March 2021 – 31 December 2022
	Prevention and Illicit Arms Reduction in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Project PILLAR+)	UNDP BiH	\$769,406	5 January 2021 – 3 July 2023
	Support for Increased International Cooperation in Criminal Matters	UNODC	\$1,604,153	24 June 2021 – 23 December 2022

# 2. PROGRESS

#### TOWARDS THE ROADMAP GOALS AND TRUST FUND OUTCOMES



The Trust Fund results matrix is a mirror of the regional Roadmap goals, overall targets, and key performance indicators, ensuring full coordination between the monitoring and implementation of the Roadmap and the monitoring and implementation of the Trust Fund. In 2021, the Trust Fund contributed to the achievement of Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 of the Roadmap, corresponding to outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 of the Trust Fund.

Relevant Roadmap goals/Trust Fund

Bv 2023

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.

Relevant Roadmap targets/ Trust Fund outputs

Arms control legislation is fully harmonized with the EU legal framework and in line with international agreements/standards.

Procedures and practices are standardized in the area of arms control and FAE investigations.

Trust Fund contribution

Contribution made towards the harmonization of national criminal law in all jurisdictions with the provisions of the UN Firearms Protocol.

Regulatory framework for crime scene and ballistic investigations in Montenegro and Serbia strengthened in line with international standards.

Progress made in the accreditation of the investigation method of explosives in Serbia according to international standards.

Goal 2: By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence-based and intelligence-led.

Analytical capacities are increased and firearms data analysis is institutionalized.

180 police officers from Kosovo and North Macedonia increased their capacities for information gathering, sharing, and analysis, and for weapon categorization.

126 police officers and investigators from Kosovo strengthened their knowledge and capacities for firearms investigations.

The central ballistic laboratory in Serbia was equipped to increase the effectiveness of data analysis and the accuracy of the evidence produced.

.....

All police services of the Western Balkans are connected and regularly input their data on lost and stolen firearms to INTERPOL's iARMS.

An agreement was signed to extend the iARMS database in BiH and to provide an automatic and instant search in the national and iARMS systems.

.....

Gender and age concerns are fully integrated in arms control policies, and the meaningful participation of women in arms control is ensured.

BiH Customs was further supported to integrate the gender perspective into their work and ensure equal opportunities for women and men personnel.

GOAL 3 By 2024

Goal 3: By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.

The legal, policy, and procedural frame-work on trafficking of FAE is fully implemented and monitored.

Inter-institutional exchange was stregthened in Albania, BiH, North Macedonia, and Serbia on the application of the criminal procedure law in firearms investigations / trafficking cases.

Case law collection of firearm offences was developed in all jurisdictions, as a tool for harmonizing court practices.

SOPs on the detection of firearms in postal and fast parcels was developed for the customs and postal operators in BiH.

Improved processes, equipment, and training of targeted law enforcement units are in place to prevent trafficking (smuggling, illicit trade, and transit) of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.

65 prosecutors from BiH, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia increased their knowledge on firearms identification and tracing.

617 custom officers from BiH strengthened their capacities for detecting firearms and explosives using standard procedures and special equipment.

BiH Customs was equipped to support its firearms and explosives detection capacities.

33 experts from among the customs and postal operators in BiH were prepared to better detect firearms in postal and fast parcels.

Kosovo Police were better equipped to prevent, detect, and respond to potential trafficking of explosives.

Strengthened bilateral, regional, and international mechanisms and new forms of good practice encouraged to counter trafficking of firearms. Cooperation between relevant public authorities and the private sector in BiH was enabled to enhance firearm detection in fast parcels.

BiH cooperation with Montenegro and Serbia was strengthened through two bi-lateral operations focused on detecting weapons and ammunition.

BiH cooperation with EM-PACT and Western Balkans jurisdictions was strengthened to better detect firearms in fast and postal parcels.



Goal 4: By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy.

Licensed private and legal entities have increased awareness about the danger of the misuse and illicit prolifer- raised with regards to ation of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.

The awareness of the BiH Customs, postal services, and private courier companies in BiH was the impact of firearms trafficking and how to tackle it.

Increased awareness of the dangers of celebratory shooting as a major contributor to firearm-re- without firearms" lated death and injury.

The awareness-raising campaign "Celebrate responsibly, celebrate reached approx. 300,000 people in BiH.

#### Relevant Roadmap goals/ Trust Fund

#### Relevant Roadmap targets/ Trust Fund outputs

#### Trust Fund contribution



Goal 6: Systematically decrease the surplus and destroy seized SALW and ammunition.

Systematically destroy all 1,000 rocket-propelled surplus stockpiles in an environmentally benign manner.

grenades were disposed of in BiH, reducing the stockpiles of surplus ammunition.

# 3. UPDATE

#### ON THE ACTIVITY OF THE TRUST FUND GOVERNANCE BODIES

#### **3.1.** Steering Committee Decisions



In 2021, the Steering Committee members met four times virtually to review and decide via e-mail on the project revision requests submitted by the Participating UN Organizations for the four projects selected within the first call for project proposals. The requests were submitted by the Secretariat throughout November 2021. The Steering Committee approved via e-mail the extension of the projects for periods of between 3 to 9 months, with budget revisions entailing changes between the UNDG budget lines and changes in the project results frameworks.

Furthermore, at the beginning of 2021, the Steering Committee members approved the allocation of funding to the sixth project submitted within the Trust Fund's second call for proposals. The project "Support for Increased International Cooperation in Criminal Matters" was submitted by UNODC, raising the total number of approved projects to ten, with an overall budget of \$12 million.

#### **3.2.** Activity of the Secretariat

In 2021, the Secretariat, in line with its responsibilities outlined in the Fund's Terms of Reference and Operations Manual, continued to support the programmatic coordination and monitoring of the Trust Fund. As the Participating UN Organizations submitted requests for project revisions, the Secretariat facilitated the Steering Committee decision-making process by reviewing the requests and offering commentary and feedback. The Secretariat also continued to monitor the implementation of the Trust Fund projects and to consolidate and submit quarterly and annual progress reports to the Steering Committee and other donors. The Secretariat has been also in contact with the MPTF Office to facilitate the transfer of funds to the projects initiated at the beginning of 2021.

To respond to the need for further guidance on improving the visibility of the Trust Fund donors in the communication of the funded projects, the Secretariat developed a set of visibility quidelines aimed at further facilitating more coherent and appropriate visibility for the Fund. These guidelines are meant to complement the communication and visibility requirements outlined in the Trust Fund's Operations Manual, providing specific examples for enabling greater visibility of the contributors on social media platforms, in publications, during events, on the equipment provided itself, or at the site of SALW storage centres reconstructed/refurbished with support from the Trust Fund.



# 4. UPDATE

#### ON THE ACTIVITY OF THE PARTICIPATING UN ORGANIZATIONS

Six new projects were initiated by the Participating UN Organizations, UNDP and UNODC, in 2021 - one regional project, one cross-border project, and four projects targeting single jurisdictions. Thus, in 2021, the number of projects funded by the Trust Fund increased to ten, all under implementation during the year.

**4.1.** Regional interventions

#### **Criminal Justice Response to Firearm-Related Crimes**

Across the Western Balkans, the Trust Fund and UNODC are helping prevent and counter the illicit trafficking of firearms by strengthening jurisdictions' criminal justice responses to firearm-related crimes.

The Trust Fund and UNODC support the Western Balkans jurisdictions to strengthen their criminal justice response to illicit arms trafficking.

Adequate legal frameworks are essential pre-requisites for effective and sustainable efforts to prevent, detect, and counter illicit firearms trafficking offenses and address their possible links to other crimes. They provide the necessary legal tools and normative frameworks to effectively control firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition, as well as to prevent their diversion and trafficking. In 2021, UNODC continued to offer support to the Western Balkans jurisdictions in harmonizing their respective criminal laws and criminal procedure laws with the UN Firearms Protocol. Following

the development of gap analyses in Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, and Serbia in 2020, the project team finalized the gap analysis for BiH in 2021. This activity resulted in a baseline for the harmonization of the criminal codes in the Western Balkans with the UN Firearms Protocol and increased the capacity of the relevant parties for participating in UNODC's Review Mechanism. The recommendations of the gap analyses have already assisted policy makers and legal experts in identifying corresponding gaps and formulating new criminal provisions.

The project team organized stakeholders' meetings of legal experts and practitioners to discuss the changes to the Criminal Codes in Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and

Serbia. As a result, the first three have drafted provisions for amending their Criminal Codes, while Serbia plans to finalize its draft provisions in 2022. Additionally, the project developed and shared with the Ministries of Justice in Serbia, North Macedonia, and Montenegro comparative analyses on the regulation of firearms offences, drug trafficking offences, and human trafficking offences in the Criminal Codes and the applicable special investigative measures regarding these three types of offences. The development of these analyses enhanced the understanding of competent officials in these jurisdictions of the concrete actions that need to be taken to amend both material and procedural criminal legislation.

Furthermore, the project team met with Members of Parliament (MPs) in Montenegro and North Macedonia to support the discussion and adoption of the draft legislation harmonizing the relevant national laws with the UN Firearms Protocol. The MPs were updated on the status of the harmonization process in their jurisdiction and on the upcoming review of the implementation of the UNTOC and its Protocols, particularly the Firearms Protocol.

The bulk of the activities conducted in 2021 focused on increasing the capacities of the Western Balkans jurisdictions in the detection, investigation, and prosecution of firearms trafficking and its links to other serious crimes. Firstly, the project provided opportunities for capacity development to criminal justice practitioners. A regional webinar entitled "Introduction to UNODC's Practical Guide for Requesting E-evidence Across Borders" was jointly organized by UNODC's Global Firearms Programme (GFP) and the Terrorism Prevention Branch. The 65 participating practitioners (35 women and 30 men) enhanced their knowledge on the available procedures for electronic evidence collection. The project also enabled 65 prosecutors (29 women and 36 men) from Montenegro, Serbia, BiH, and North Macedonia to strengthen their capacities to investigate firearms trafficking cases and address possible links to organized crime. The trainings were conducted using the four UNO-DC training video modules previously developed within the project, which will be handed over to the Centre for the Training of Judges and Prosecutors in Montenegro, and to the Judicial Academy in Serbia, to assure the sustainability of the capacity-building activities in these jurisdictions.

The project is also developing guidelines on the investigation and prosecution of firearms trafficking cases (Guidelines), covering all stages of the investigation cycle. The guidelines were presented at an online Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on the development of the Guidelines, which gathered 67 criminal justice practitioners from Africa, Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Western Balkans (15 participants, 6 women and 9 men), GFP international partners from law enforcement agencies and prosecution offices in Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Sweden, and the UK, and representatives from FRONTEX and INTERPOL.

Secondly, the project provided support for the inter-institutional exchange of information about the application of criminal procedure law in firearms investigation/trafficking cases. 11 inter-institutional meetings were organized in Albania, BiH, North Macedonia, and Serbia, engaging 157 criminal justice practitioners (38 women and 119 men) from the judiciary, prosecution offices, criminal and border police, and customs officers. The meetings provided an opportunity for the participants to enhance their knowledge on conducting investigations and prosecutions of firearms trafficking cases, through analysis and the identification of challenges and good practices in the application of criminal procedure law.

Thirdly, the project team continued to assist the relevant authorities in Albania, BiH, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia in harmonizing court practices in cases of illicit manufacturing, possession, and trafficking of firearms. In 2021, case law collections on firearms offences were developed in each of the six jurisdictions, covering 211 cases in

total. This marked the first time in the legal history of the Western Balkans jurisdictions that research on the court verdicts of firearms offences was conducted, with the results analysed and a selected number of cases identified, summarized, and presented to the judiciary. The project team organized 7 case law workshops in Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia, reaching 64 members of the judiciary (17 women and 47 men).

In 2021, the project also worked towards enabling evidence-based arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans jurisdictions. A baseline assessment on criminal justice data and firearm data was initiated in each jurisdiction. UNODC also organized a series of consultations with various sectors within the MoI of North Macedonia to analyse and discuss the answers provided to the UNODC's Illicit Arms Flow Questionnaire.

"As a consequence of this, continued cooperation to strengthen the capacities of institutions of the Republic of Serbia regarding the criminal justice response to illicit trading in weapons and firearms-related criminal offences is also manifested in this case law collection, which will, thanks to the presented legal solutions and the collected material in the form of case law, be a useful instrument in the work of authorities acting in cases involving firearms. The publication will serve as relevant material both for the incumbent holders of judicial posts and for those attending the Inception Training of the Judicial Academy of the Republic of Serbia, yet will also function as material for future training programmes within the continued professional training provided by the Judicial Academy.

It should certainly be noted that activities of this kind are very relevant for the negotiating process of the Republic of Serbia with the European Union, which refers primarily to implementing the Action Plan for Chapter 24."

**Director of the Judicial Academy of Serbia** on the relevance and utility of the case law collection on firearm offences in Serbia

#### **Cross-Border Cooperation for Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking**

The Trust Fund works with UNDP in Kosovo and in North Macedonia to implement an integrated approach to combatting illicit arms trafficking in the two jurisdictions.

In 2021, the Trust Fund enabled the UNDP Offices in Kosovo and North Macedonia to kick off the cross-border cooperation project aimed at strengthening institutional approaches for combatting illicit arms trafficking between Kosovo and North Macedonia.

The project "Cross-Border Integrated Institutional Approach towards Combating Illicit Arms Trafficking and SALW" was designed to reduce and overcome existing

knowledge and skills gaps on SALW investigations and address and resolve the complexities and inconsistencies in the operational structures and working procedures between the two jurisdictions. As neighbouring jurisdictions, Kosovo and North Macedonia share many of the SALW-related issues, as well as their underlying and driving factors.

In 2021, needs assessments and gap analyses were prepared in both jurisdictions to enable a better understanding of the necessary institutional approach to be taken in community policing, information gathering, information analysis, and intelligence product creation in SALW and in responding to trafficking in illicit arms, ammunition, and explosives. Several meetings and workshops were organized to prepare or present the findings of the gap analyses.

To further strengthen the capacities of the relevant institutions and police officers' knowledge and understanding of illegal possession, misuse, and trafficking of SALW, the joint project team initiated a complex training programme targeting a total of 400 community police officers, patrolling officers, and analysts from police in Kosovo and North Macedonia. In 2021, the first 120 police officers (11 women and 109 men) were trained on information gathering, sharing, and analysis, enabling them to better utilize information gathered from daily communication with citizens and to conduct more effective and precise information analysis towards enhancing qualitative knowledge and intelligence products. Furthermore, 60 police officers (4 women and 56 men) from Kosovo and North Macedonia were trained in weapons categorization, explosives and other handmade explosive devices, the possession and misuse of firearms, and community policing/intelligence-led policing. In these tailor-made training sessions, the participants were instructed so as to increase their knowledge of and their abilities in recognising weapons categorization, legal instruments, the relevant frameworks for SALW control, various types of explosives and handmade explosives, potential explosives precursors, and police officers' approaches in line with community policing standards and making contributions to intelligence-led policing.

#### **Increasing International Cooperation**

In July 2021 the Trust Fund enabled UNODC GFP to initiate a new regional project in partnership with INTERPOL aimed at providing support to the Western Balkans jurisdictions to collect and analyse criminal justice data, to facilitate and strengthen cooperation and information exchange between criminal justice practitioners, and to more effectively detect illicit firearms trafficking.

The project "Support for Increased International Cooperation in Criminal Matters" is based on the need of the law enforcement authorities to be able to request and obtain information and intelligence from other Western Balkans jurisdictions and beyond at different stages of firearms investigation, from the phase of gathering criminal intelligence to the phase of criminal investigation. Effective exchange of information is also an important pre-requisite for gathering evidence from abroad in order to support complex investigations and the prosecution of criminal networks and individuals engaged in firearms trafficking and related crimes.

In 2021, INTERPOL conducted the first assessment missions to BiH, on information exchange in criminal matters and on extending iARMS access to relevant national law enforcement agencies through the extension of the i24/7 secure network. During the mission, the newly established Agency for Forensics of BiH agreed to connect iARMS to the national databases, and thus enable automatic and simultaneous searching of the national system and iARMS. Also, the MoI of Federation BiH proposed to upload their entire database into iARMS, which would encompass all records covering 51% of the territory of BiH and represent a significant addition to iArms. The mission was welcomed by the national authorities, who expressed the need for new staff to be trained on the use of the iARMS database.

The Trust Fund works with UNODC to strengthen regional and international cooperation and information exchange, leading to more effective detection of illicit firearms trafficking.

To increase capacities for the detection of firearms trafficking and its links to other serious crimes, UNODC is preparing needs assessment analyses in 4 jurisdictions (Albania, Serbia, North Macedonia, and Kosovo) on preventing the trafficking of firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition through postal and courier shipments. UNODC conducted intensive consultations in Albania with 55 counterparts (43 local counterparts, including members of the private sector, and 12 international counterparts); in North Macedo-

nia, with 22 counterparts (17 local and 5 international), and in Kosovo with 28 counterparts (16 local and 8 international). In 2021, the project team finalized the draft analyses for North Macedonia and Albania, while the other two analyses are planned to be completed in 2022.

At the same time, UNODC used the framework of this project to continue to promote the participation of Member States in UNODC's Monitoring Illicit Arms Flow Initiative and to collect and submit relevant data and information on illicit firearms (seized, found, and surrendered), their parts and components, and ammunition, as well as on their criminal context and illicit origin via the Illicit Arms Flows Questionnaire (IAFQ). Thus far, UNODC has received data from Albania for the years 2019, 2020, and 2021, and from Northern Macedonia for the year 2019. UNODC is currently in the process of reviewing these data, while proceeding with further validation. Follow-up support will be provided to national focal points to further support these efforts, to expand their data set, and to heighten the quality of these data. Tailored approaches will also be pursued for all other jurisdictions.

4.2. Albania

The Trust Fund has enabled UNDP in Albania to implement that supports the Albanian State Police to address firearm misuse more effectively in the

The first project supported by the Trust Fund in Albania was operationally initiated by UNDP in March 2021. The project "Strengthening Control, Administration and Social Attitudes Towards SALW in Albania" seeks to strengthen the analytical base and the efficiency and effectiveness of SALW control by the State Police while enhancing public awareness and behaviour regarding the illegal possession, misuse, and trafficking of firearms.

The project was designed to respond to the significant number of incidents linked to firearms, especially armed street crime in urban areas, most notably related to domestic vio-

lence, burglary, and clashes among criminal groups, through a three-pronged approach: improved weapons registration in accordance with EU Directive 2021/555 on firearms and national legislation; improved Albanian State Police weapons storage management; and increased awareness of the dangers and risks of the misuse of firearms.

The work on the public awareness campaign started with a desk review of the SALW Control situation in Albania using available data, disaggregated as much as possible by age, gender, social status, and geography, and provided by the State Police and other relevant sources. The desk review showed that the highest number of cases of SALW use in the period 2017-2021 were cases linked to criminal offenses, with 371 cases, followed by public disputes, with 284 cases. The use of firearms in domestic violence was documented in 107

cases. Regarding cases of incidents involving the accidental use of SALW (family celebrations, hunting, etc.) 47 cases were registered. A methodology and a questionnaire for the National Survey were also developed in cooperation with the Albanian State Police. The target population of the study was identified as the resident population 16 year and over. The survey questionnaire includes about 50 questions, which follow a specific order. The initial part of the survey will collect respondents' perceptions regarding security in their respective living areas and in the jurisdiction in general. The second part will gather data on the participants' level of knowledge about relevant firearm-related laws and regulations, such as procedures to follow for registering a weapon and knowledge about the possible consequences of illegally possessing a firearm. The final section of the questionnaire focuses on measuring contributors' attitudes toward the use and possession of firearms, the perceived level of effectiveness of some measures that could reduce the illegal use of firearms, and public attitudes toward a possible national initiative for the voluntary surrender of firearms.

Several other activities were initiated in 2021, such as the procurement of IT equipment to support the expanded police workforce involved in the firearms registration process and the recruitment of experts who will support the implementation of the project activities.

#### **4.3.** Bosnia and Herzegovina



In BiH, the Trust Fund supported interventions in two areas of arms control: countering illicit arms trafficking and the disposal of unsafe ammunition.

#### **Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking**

The project "Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade (HALT) in BiH," jointly implemented by UNDP BiH and UNODC, provides targeted assistance to the Customs Authority in BiH/Indirect Taxation Authority (ITA) for enhancing BiH capacities to fight illicit arms trafficking.

The project is being implemented in the context in which BiH continues to confront and resolve cases of smuggling of firearms, ammunition and explosive devices, their sale on the black market in BiH, and their often-illegal trade in the EU.6 As the authority responsible for the collection and allocation of customs duties, the ITA has an important role in the fight against illicit arms trafficking at border crossings through the inspection of shipments, working in close cooperation with the Border Police and the State Investigation and Protection Agency.

The Trust Fund works with UNDP and UNODC to further strengthen BiH capacities for preventing and reducing illicit arms trafficking, including in postal and fast parcels.

In 2021, the project team, led by UNDP, initiated a comprehensive training programme for customs officers on the application of the SOPs for tackling illicit arms trade and the use of specialized detection equipment. During 28 training sessions in 11 locations across all four ITA Regional Centres, the project enabled 617 customs officers (147 women and 470 men) to strengthen their capacities for detecting firearms and explosives using standard procedures and special equipment. Before the training for customs officers

6 SOCTA BiH <a href="http://www.msb.gov.ba/PDF/strategy11122017.pdf">http://www.msb.gov.ba/PDF/strategy11122017.pdf</a>

was initiated, 14 ITA officials also went through a related TOT training, further ensuring the sustainability of the project results. The training was formally recognised by the BiH Agency of Civil Service, enabling customs officers who complete the training to gain 5 credits, enough to meet the annual mandatory credit requirements for civil servants. The recognition of the training by the Agency of Civil Service has incentivized customs officers to attend the training, which aims to reach 80% of ITA personnel by the end of the project, in 2022. At the same time, specialized equipment was procured for enhancing the ITA's capacities for firearms and explosives detection. 12 videoscopes procured in late 2020 were delivered to the ITA last year, and four mobile detectors for explosives and narcotics were procured and will be delivered in 2022.

Strengthening gender equality in BiH Customs is one of the key elements of the project, through which a capacitated ITA can ensure equal and fair opportunities for both its women and men personnel. While BiH Customs has a relatively high percentage of women personnel - 43%, including 35 % in management positions - of which 60% are in the top management, issues faced by women still exist and are not negligible. In this light, UNDP organized three consultative workshops aimed at enhancing the position of women and their career prospects in the ITA and stressing the importance of gender equality. The workshops also provided an opportunity to use the <u>HeforShe</u> approach in terms of exploring the potential to reduce - to the highest extent possible - incidents related to gender inequality, sexual harassment, and exploitation in the ITA by raising awareness among male colleagues on the seriousness of these issues. 72 ITA employees (60 women and 12 men) from all organizational units of the institution, as well as 20 representatives of the Associations of Women Police Officers, the BiH Agency for Gender Equality, and the BiH Ministry of Security, participated in the event.

In 2021, UNODC continued to lead a series of activities aimed at preventing the trafficking of firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition through postal and fast parcels. The gap and needs analysis conducted by UNODC in 2020 identified the central role of BiH Customs in the detection of firearms in postal and fast parcels. Customs officials work alongside officials from the relevant public postal services of BH Pošta, Pošte Srpske, and Hrvatska Pošta Mostar in their respective postal depots and are responsible for the implementation of customs legislation, including the detection of customs violations such as the import/export of unauthorized goods, including firearms. In this process, customs officials are also providing guidance to relevant postal officials on the applicable customs rules and regulations. Thus, in 2021, UNODC supported the development of SOPs on the detection of firearms in postal and fast parcels, both for the ITA, and for BH Pošta, Pošte Srpske, and Hrvatska Pošta Mostar through the organization of three workshops attended by 25 experts (8 women and 17 men). The SOPs enable standardized approaches and should increase the capacities of the BiH authorities to more effectively detect firearms in postal and fast parcels. In two subsequent training sessions, UNODC trained 33 experts (8 women and 25 men) from the ITA and the three postal operators in BiH on the detection of firearms in fast and postal parcels. The first session, organized in partnership with EU's EM-PACT, also brought together customs and law enforcement representatives from Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia, enabling the BiH experts to share their experience with counterparts from the other Western Balkans jurisdictions towards increasing regional partnership and cooperation. Additionally, 14 representatives from the Customs Headquarters, the Customs Regional Centres in Banja Luka, Sarajevo, Mostar, and Tuzla, and Sarajevo Airport Customs (4 women and 10 men) attended a related **ToT training**, enabling them to contribute to the development of, and deliver training to, other BiH Customs staff. At the same time, five laptops were also provided to the Law Enforcement Section of the ITA to be used for record-keeping purposes and computer-based training.

An innovative feature of this project is its engagement of private companies with a license for international postal delivery. The engagement with private courier companies on the detection of firearms in fast parcels inherently contributes to increasing the efficiency of BiH Customs, as detections made by private companies decrease the workload of BiH Customs and should contribute to the overall efforts to counter illicit firearms trafficking. During 2021, UNODC supported the development of an SOP on the detection of firearms in fast parcels for private courier companies, which was followed by four training sessions on the implementation of the SOP attended by 47 staff members (11 women and 36 men) from four private courier companies. The trainings will allow the Agency for Postal Traffic of BiH to gain further relevant insight into the work of these companies which they can then apply in the renewal process of their licenses for operations.

To strengthen the cooperation between BIH Customs and relevant commercial entities in the detection of firearms in fast parcels, UNODC GFP prepared a gap analysis, which identified thirteen areas where cooperation could be further improved. These include acknowledging the inputs of the private courier companies for the development of a regulatory framework, simplifying procedures when traders fulfil certain conditions, reducing the documentation burden, establishing cooperation forums, etc. Subsequently, the project team organized a training in cooperation between the private and public sectors on detecting firearms in fast parcels, attended by 18 participants (7 women and 11 men) from MOFTER, SIPA, the Prosecutor's Office, the Agency for Postal Traffic Border Police, the ITA, and private sector representatives. During the training, the participants endorsed the areas of cooperation identified by the gap analysis and formulated potential actions that could improve such cooperation.

The project is also working towards enhancing inter-institutional cooperation on matters related to illicit arms trafficking. In 2021, two inter-institutional working groups were established, one at the operation level and one at the strategic level. With certain delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the summer period, the working groups managed to meet at least once during the year.

Cooperation has been also strengthened with counterparts in neighbouring jurisdictions. UNODC has thus supported the organization of two bi-lateral operations focused on detecting weapons and ammunition. These operations included activities related to the selection, identification, profiling, and monitoring of suspicious shipments sent from the customs territory of BiH to the customs territories of Montenegro and Serbia, and vice versa. The operations also included the exchange of data on consignments transiting through these customs areas, which has already led to the detection of firearms. Specifically, the two operations resulted in the seizure of 1 rifle, 1 automatic rifle, 346 pieces of various types of ammunition, and explosives. Two other operations are planned for 2022. Similarly, UNDP organized a meeting between the representatives of the BiH ITA and Montenegro's Administration of Customs and Revenue in Podgorica to establish cooperation and to exchange information on, and best practices in, preventing illegal firearms trafficking. The Montenegrin representatives expressed satisfaction with this meeting and requested that the cooperation and exchange of information and best practices between the two institutions be continued and expanded.

#### **Disposal of Unsafe Ammunition**

The Trust Fund supports the disposal of surplus ammunition by UNDP BiH and the MoD/AFs of BIH to help further reduce the stockpiles of unsafe ammunition in BiH.

In BiH, UNDP is also implementing a new phase of its multifunctional project platform EXPLODE+, aimed at supporting the MoD and the AFs in BiH to further reduce ammunition stockpiles to a manageable level. This would enable the safekeeping of existing ammunition stockpiles, thereby providing stable and risk-free development opportunities for local communities in the proximity of ammunition storage sites, as well as for the country as a whole.

In 2021, the project disposed of 1,000 rocket-propelled grenades (RPG), with the final verification report pending. The report is to contain a complete overview and verification of the completed works, including an assessment of those scrap materials which are to be returned to the MoD BiH, as well as weighing, packaging, etc. Contracts for the disposal of 2,667 pieces of RGP of the Zolja type and 833 units of white phosphorus ammunition were also authorized.

#### **Raising Awareness about** the Dangers of Firearms Misuse

The most recent project supported by the Trust Fund in BiH is the project PILLAR, "Prevention and Illicit Arms Reduction in Bosnia and Herzegovina," which seeks to implement a comprehensive effort to raise awareness amongst the population regarding the dangers of the illegal possession of firearms and to educate the public on how to recognize individual and collective threats to security.

The Trust Fund works with UNDP in BiH to increase public awareness on the dangers of firearm misuse and illegal possession.

In 2021, the project team successfully implemented a series of specialized trainings on strategic planning and project writing for the two formal Associations of Women Police Officers. 56 members of the two associations, including three representatives of the MoS, were trained, a number exceeding that which had been initially planned and resulting from the unexpectedly high interest of the women police officers. This activity resulted in the development of 10 mini-project proposals, addressing the different needs of the relevant law en-

forcement agencies, including empowering women in these agencies. This activity has also contributed to improving the awareness of law enforcement agencies regarding the threats that irresponsible ownership and illegal possession of firearms pose to women, young men, and families.

The awareness-raising component envisaged in the project was initiated with a campaign addressing celebratory shootings during the holiday season. The campaign "Celebrate responsibly, celebrate without firearms" was planned and organized in coordination with the SALW Coordination Board in BiH and conducted in cooperation with 10 law enforcement agencies from the Federation of BiH and the Brčko District of BiH during the period of 2331 December 2021.7 The campaign followed a needs assessment, which identified the key messages, target groups, and promotional materials for the awareness campaigns to be conducted within the project.

The week-long campaign, which was carried out by approximately 100 police officers, including approximately 40 women police officers, reached approximately 300,000 people



4.4. Kosovo

The Trust Fund works with UNDP Kosovo to increase investigation capacities and police operations in combatting illicit arms trafficking and illegal possession of firearms. NDP continued to work with the Kosovo Police to further strengthen their capacities to detect and confiscate firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition, and to improve the quality of related investigations.

The project "Support to Combating Illicit Arms Trafficking in Kosovo for Criminal Police (CPIAT)" was designed on a background of on-going developments in the Kosovo Police, particularly centred around intelligence-led policing, with a Firearm Focal Point established as a centre of excellence for gun crime-related data and an active Department of Investigations which has confiscated about 1,400 weapons annually. Some of

7 The MoI of Republika Srpska decided not to join this campaign as they initiated their own awareness-raising campaign addressing the same topic. The Mol considered that it would be confusing if not counterproductive to have two similar campaigns implemented by different organizations simultaneously. The Mol initiated the campaign without informing the UNDP project team, despite being consulted during the needs assessment, during which they had been informed, as all other beneficiaries of the project, about the UNDP-planned awareness-raising activities programmed to occur through the end of 2021.

these seizures have been accomplished routinely while others have been realized through intelligence-led operations. However, it was identified that further support is needed to better equip the Kosovo Police with IT equipment and skills that would advance efficiency, coordination, and decision-making in firearm-related investigations.

In 2021, the project team prepared a gap analysis, which identified the needs of the entities (the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)/ Department for Public Safety, the Kosovo Police Investigation Department (K-9 unit, Bomb Squad, and specialized units), the Kosovo Forensic Agency, and the Independent Commission for Mines and Minerals (ICMM)) involved in the investigation of explosives, hand grenades, explosives precursors, and category 4 pyrotechnics to improve their coordination, communication, and human resources.

To further increase the capacities of the Kosovo Police in firearms investigations, the project trained 96 police officers (16 women and 80 men) through a basic training, enhancing the participants' knowledge about firearms investigations and weapons confiscation, types of firearms permissions, the legal framework for SALW, and local and international cooperation through the Firearms Focal Points (FFP)/International Law Enforcement Cooperation Unit (ILECU). Also, 30 police investigators (4 women and 26 men) completed an advanced training course on firearms investigations, strengthening their skills in using special investigative measures when dealing with illicit arms trafficking and in cooperating with law enforcement units locally and internationally for effective investigations of cases of smuggling of firearms, ammunition, explosives, etc. Further specialized training on firearms detection, house searches, and the risk of firearms is planned for 2022.

Additionally, the project provided the Kosovo Police investigation department with 2 explosives detectors and 7 laptops. This equipment will enable the investigation police officers to better prevent, detect, and confiscate potential trafficking of explosives and improve the quality of investigations, thus leading to greater case-handling efficiency.

#### **4.5.** Montenegro

The Trust Fund works with UNDP to support the Police Directorate of Montenegro to increase the accuracy and quality of its investigations of criminality.

In 2021, UNDP initiated its work with the Police Directorate of Montenegro to strengthen its capacities across the entire investigative cycle and advance the custody chain, particularly in relation to cases involving the use of explosives. The project "Advancing the Capacities of the Police Directorate in the Field of Custody Chain, Crime Scene Investigations and the Forensic Laboratory in the Field of Operations and Investigations in Detection and Trafficking of Explosives Criminality" was developed to respond to the needs of the Police Directorate's Forensic Centre to increase the accuracy and quality of its investigations of crimes committed with explosives, and thus produce the necessary evidence for fair and regular convictions.

To achieve its objectives, the project was initiated in 2021 with the drafting and updating of SOPs to be used by crime scene investigation teams who are tasked with documenting crime scenes and tagging and packaging evidence for explosives, as well as SOPs for the handling, reviewing, and examining of explosive materials by the Arson/ Explosives Laboratory. Also, the procurement of critical equipment for CSI units for processing crime

scenes in cases of events caused by explosive materials, as well as relevant equipment for the arson/explosive and chemical laboratories, was initiated, to be finalized by early 2022.

**4.6.** Serbia

The Trust Fund work has enabled UNDP in Serbia to continue its support to the National Forensics Centre to tive capacities for more accurate evidence and fairer proceedings.

In Serbia, the Trust Fund has enabled UNDP to continue its work with the MoI of Serbia and the National Forensics Centre on improving their capacities for crime scene and ballistic examinations, a cooperative effort initially launched in the preceding years with the financial support of the German Federal Foreign Office. This second phase of the project seeks to further strengthen the capacities of the crime investigation units and the ballistic laboratories throughout Serbia on their way to accreditation. It will also tackle investigations of arson and explosion incidents, strengthening the capacities of the relevant units for arson, explosion, and accident investigation, and improving overall capacities for explosion/explosive investigation.

To facilitate the accreditation process of the Central Ballistic Laboratory according to the ISO 17025 standard, the project procured and delivered two important pieces of equipment: a comparative high-range microscope that builds additional capacities in the ballistic laboratory for conducting effective and quality investigations; and a Plasma Ashing Device for gunshot residue (GSR) analysis that will be used by the Laboratory for Chemistry and Toxicology in the National Forensic Centre to heighten the efficiency and accuracy of GSR laboratory investigation. The equipment will positively contribute to solving and prosecuting gun-enabled crimes.

The AEA (arms/explosion/accident) Investigation Unit plays a significant role in the field of crime scene investigations, complementing the CSI teams' knowledge and technical capacities, including for the proper collection of evidence. To strengthen its capacities and facilitate its accreditation process in line with the ISO 17020 standard, the project team prepared the SOP regulating the performance of forensic investigators on arson/explosion scenes, and drafted a guiding document on the application of the ISO 17020 standard. Furthermore, 15 police officers from the AEA Investigation Unit (4 women and 11 men) were engaged in an online awareness-raising training session designed to build basic knowledge about the ISO standard and how to prepare for the accreditation of the explosion investigation method.

An upgrade of the SALW-control registry system was also initiated. The project team prepared a gap analysis of the IT infrastructure, both software and hardware, necessary for the Administrative Directorate and the General Police Directorate to implement the upgraded SALW-control registry system. The project team also initiated works on the reconstruction of the relevant institution's shooting range and for improving the existing evidence recovery database for the crime scene investigation units.

# 5. CATALYTIC INVESTMENT



The financial assistance provided by the Trust Fund has allowed the Participating UN Organizations to support the Western Balkans authorities to implement strengthened arms control policies in the Western Balkans and maximize their capacities and financial resources. The Trust Fund resources also enabled the Participating UN Organizations and key donors to strengthen their position as important players and strategic partners for the governments in the region in implementing the Roadmap.

The Trust Fund provided essential support for replicating and scaling up previous initiatives, demonstrating the catalytic investment of the Fund. In Serbia, the Trust Fund enabled UNDP to continue the support to the forensics and ballistics sector initiated in 2019,8 and to expand its intervention into explosives investigations, in addition to firearms investigations. In Montenegro, utilizing MPTF funds, UNDP launched a project in forensics, taking stock of the experience and lessons gained by UNDP in Serbia and Albania.9 Alongside these actions, UNODC has been replicating the methodology and

The Trust Fund enabled a timely and strategic response to SALW control needs in the region, which complemented on-going efforts and built on previous initiatives.

needs assessment developed for Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in other four jurisdictions to identify the necessary capacities to detect and share information on firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition in fast and postal parcels.

While the authorities of the Western Balkans jurisdictions involved in SALW control are making progress in the implementation of the Roadmap, the budgets of the institutions are often insufficient to cover activities that exceed regular, day-to-day financing of operations. Projects like HALT, implemented in BiH, deliver valuable contributions to capacity and institutional building which otherwise would not be possible. While the development of SOPs to better control the illicit arms trade might have been accomplished without the project's intervention, the quality of these SOPs, the ability to integrate best practices into their drafting, and the related training conducted to help ensure their successful realization was heavily reliant on and largely made possible through additional funding and the technical advisory support provided within the project. The project has also established for the first time a forum for discussing and promoting gender equality in BiH Customs. The project beneficiaries expressed their interest to continue and expand the activities conducted within this project to engage as many customs employees as possible, including those employed in the management of the institution. Furthermore, all project activities aiming to enhance cooperation and coordination with other key actors in BiH and the region could not have been implemented without such project intervention. The entire HALT project has been modelled upon the previously implemented Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking (CIAT) project carried out with the BiH Border Police. The positive experiences from the CIAT project as well as the expertise built within the Border Police were drawn upon and proved useful in implementing the HALT project.

- 8 UNDP Serbia implemented an initial project supporting the MoI of Serbia to increase its capacities for forensics and ballistic investigations in the period 2019-2021, funded by the German Federal Foreign Office through a different funding mechanism.
- 9 In 2019, UNDP Albania instituted support to the Albanian State Police in the area of forensics and ballistic investigation. The project was funded by the German Federal Foreign Office through a different funding mechanism and is due to be completed in 2022.



# 6. KEY CHALLENGES

## AND LESSONS LEARNT

6.1. Challenges

#### **COVID-19 pandemic**

The COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts, although relatively reduced for large portions of the year, continued to create delays in the implementation of the Trust Fund projects. Governments in the region maintained measures to stop and prevent the spread of the virus, though these measures were less extensive given the improvement of the situation in certain periods of the year. The availability of the project beneficiaries (the Mols and Police, primarily) to participate in the project activities remained restricted, as many key staff were hospitalized or in quarantine with COVID-19, particularly during peak months. This primarily affected activities that involved the organization of trainings, meetings with the beneficiaries, and on-site field visits. The implementing organizations monitored the development of the pandemic regularly and took the necessary measures to mitigate the negative impact of the crisis. Measures included rethinking the timelines of project activities together with project beneficiaries, conducting online coordination meetings and trainings whenever possible, and respecting the health measures imposed by the government when organizing in-person trainings.

## Affected internal political and institutional stability

A further challenge was posed by the elections in Kosovo and North Macedonia, which delayed some of the activities in these jurisdictions due to the unavailability of the project beneficiaries to participate in the planned activities. The political developments in Montenegro in 2021 and the absence of a Minister of Justice for most of the year affected activities that required the MoJ's endorsement and approval.

In BiH, the political situation began to deteriorate in the second half of the year, raising additional risks to the projects implemented in BiH. In July 2021, the political parties in Republika Srpska decided to withdraw from their mandated participation and decision-making at the state-level (the BiH Presidency, Council of Ministers, Parliamentary Assembly). This decision followed the adoption of amendments to the BiH Criminal Code outlawing the denial of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, and the glorification of war criminals which was imposed by the former High Representative to BiH. Consequently, the Republika Srpska National Assembly passed the Law on Non-Implementation of the Decision of the High Representative. The leading coalition in Republika Srpska has since engaged in the transfer

of competences from the state to the entity level, resulting in a crisis in the functioning of the country. The implementing organizations have reacted in a timely manner to this change by maintaining continued communication with the project beneficiaries in Republika Srpska, enabling the continuation of all project activities within the BiH projects. Nevertheless, the project team was forced to halt the wide public awareness campaign that had been planned under the project PILLAR due to the realistic threat of misinterpretation by the media and the general public in the current political context.

### **Difficulties in identifying** qualified project staff

Some of the projects also experienced difficulties in hiring qualified project staff and expert consultants, requiring vacancy deadlines to be extended and resulting in project activities being delayed.

## **Challenges related** to the procurement of technical equipment

Due to the complex specifications of some of the technical equipment planned for procurement by the Trust Fund projects, the quality of bids and responsiveness of potential bidders in certain situations did not meet the expected standards. This led to significant delays in the procurement process. Delays were also caused in some jurisdictions by the lack of production of ICT equipment by the relevant factories, by issues with transportation, and due to a lack of commitment and seriousness on the part of the contracted vendors.

## **Limited operational capacities** and delayed decision-making of project partners

The project EXPLODE+ under implementation by UNDP BIH continued to face issues related to the delayed decision-making process of the MoD, which has caused significant delays in the implementation of the project activities. Most importantly, the 2021 Plan of Operations on Ammunition Disposal, which defines the types and quantities of ammunition available for disposal to UNDP and the methods of their disposal, was only issued by the MoD in July 2021, while it also included several differences from the quantities of ammunition previously agreed to be disposed of by UNDP. This stalled those activities which were subject to the changes in the Operations Plan. UNDP dedicated significant time and efforts to follow up with the MoD and to stimulate the institution to expedite its decision-making process and its release of the revised 2021 Operations Plan.

Additionally, in December 2020, an explosion occurred at the disposal facility which had been contracted to dismantle several thousand pieces of ammunition. Because of this incident, the contracts awarded to this company had to be eventually annulled and the tenders re-broadcast in 2021.

The following lessons and changes were recognized and will be taken into consideration over the remaining course of the projects' implementation:

- Virtual meetings, communications, and trainings helped projects to advance in their implementation when faced with COVID-19-related restrictions of movement and gathering imposed by governments. This practice increased the efficiency of the everyday operational meetings with partners and beneficiaries. Nevertheless, virtual meetings cannot serve as a complete substitute for in-person interaction, particularly during trainings where direct and spontaneous communication is needed, in exchanging sensitive information, and in activities for building trust and networking. Also, online trainings were often found to be less effective and efficient than in-person ones, with beneficiaries less keen to participate, frequently insisting on face-to-face trainings to ensure the quality of delivered information.
- The ability to be flexible and adjustable remained key to ensuring the achievement of results during the COVID-19 pandemic. The implementing organizations took advantage of those periods with low COVID-19 infections to intensify project activities that required live contact and travelling. The other periods prioritized administrative activities that could be completed either at a distance or from the office.
- Cross-border projects require significantly stronger coordination between the involved parties to ensure timely and sustainable achievement of project results. In this sense, it is necessary to envisage longer implementation periods for projects that entail many activities with numerous stakeholders from the targeted jurisdictions.
- The full buy-in by national counterparts and close cooperation and coordination with project beneficiaries are vital to achieving results in complex situations. A climate of trust between the project implementers and stakeholders on the ground can be established by developing joint action plans for the implementation of activities and ensuring transparency through regular communication and information sharing. Regular communication with the beneficiaries ensures that project partners remain committed and engaged in the project implementation and enable the project team to navigate any challenging context.



# 7. PARTNERSHIPS

The Trust Fund has enabled the Participating UN Organizations to consolidate their partnerships with the institutions on the ground, as well as with other regional and international partners.

Partnerships with local, regional, and international actors have strengthened the coordination and effectiveness of actions.

Throughout the Western Balkans jurisdictions, the Trust Fund has enabled the implementing organizations to strengthen their existing partnerships in SALW control with the SALW Commissions, public authorities, donors, and civil society organizations. Among other collaborations, these partnerships have helped reduce and mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic by enabling stronger coordination with the relevant authorities on the implementation of project activities and identifying and employing alternatives to those activities which could not be conducted as originally planned.

Furthermore, high-level meetings with project partners facilitated a more comprehensive understanding of project objectives, while fostering increased commitment to engage in project activities. For instance, UNDP Resident Representative, Ms. Francine Pickup, met with the Minister of the Interior of Serbia, Mr. Aleksandar Vulin, on 1 February 2021, to discuss, among other key issues, the comprehensive support provided by UNDP in combatting illicit arms trafficking, including the project implemented in the framework of the Trust Fund, and to examine further opportunities for extending the cooperation between UNDP and the Mol. The meeting was featured in the local media, while the Mol prepared and shared a video from the meeting.







In BiH, the partnership between UNDP and the Border Police was acknowledged through a Certificate of Appreciation, awarded to the institution in recognition of the important contribution and support provided by UNDP to the development of the Border Police capacities through the three projects implemented by UNDP BiH with the support of Germany and the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

Alongside the constant communication with the SALW Commissions and other project beneficiaries, the implementing UN organizations also consolidated cooperation and synergized with other entities, such as the UK's National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NABIS), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT), EUFOR, and representatives of the Embassies of Germany, France, the UK, Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, and the USA.

The Roadmap coordination meetings organized at regional and local levels, and which gathered together all stakeholders involved in SALW control in the Western Balkans, served as an important mechanism for information exchange and knowledge sharing with relevant partners. The Participating UN Organizations attended these meetings, as they presented key opportunities to highlight their projects' results, increase the visibility of their actions, and ensure coordination with other initiatives.

# 8. COMMUNICATIONS AND VISIBILITY

The visibility of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF, its contributors, and the activities supported was primarily ensured through promotional activities on social media, during relevant regional and global level events, on the Participating UN Organizations' and the Secretariat's websites, and through branding of the communication materials developed and presented at events.

#### SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

Social media was the main channel of communication used by the implementing organizations, as well as by their project partners and beneficiaries, to increase the visibility of the results achieved and activities implemented in 2021. Some examples are presented below.





<u>Tweet</u> posted by the Coordinator of the UNDP projects in BiH about the initiation of the training-the-trainer training on the application of the SOPs and equipment for tackling illicit arms. 14 customs officials strengthened their organization, presentation, and training skills, as well as their capacities in practical aspects related to the use of specialized detection equipment and basic vehicle search methods.





<u>Tweet</u> about the UNODC-led training for the private courier company operating for UPS in BiH on the detection of firearms in fast parcels. The 41 participants were instructed on the threat of firearms trafficking and expanded their knowledge on the applicable legislation in BiH and requirements to counter firearms trafficking during the process of the import and export of fast parcels.





<u>Tweet</u> shared by the UNDP PILLAR Project Officer about the awareness-raising campaign on celebratory shooting implemented by UNDP. The campaign was carried out with the support of approximately 100 police officers who distributed flyers with the campaign message and participated in outreach events throughout BiH.





Tweet about the needs assessment analysis for preventing the trafficking of firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition through postal and courier shipments conducted by UN-ODC in Kosovo. The needs assessment included a gap and needs analysis, a training needs analysis, and an equipment needs analysis.



UNDP Kosovo

UNDP's Kosovo Safety and Security Programme (KSSP) in close cooperation with the Investigations Department and the Training Division continues to support police officers at the Regional Police Directorates in developing knowledge on firearms investigations, confiscation, types of the firearms permissions, the legal framework on SALW, and local and international cooperation through the Firearms Focal Point (FFP)/International Law Enforcement Cooperation

On 18-19 of February 2021, we started the two days training sessions for police officer serving at the central level. Same training sessions will be conducted in RPD Prishtinë/Priština, Prizren, Gjilan/Gnjilane, and Pejë/Peć.

The project "Support to police investigation field on Illicit Arms Trafficking (CPIAT)" project is implemented in close cooperation with the Kosovo Police under the Regional Road map for the Small and Light Weapons Control in the Western Balkans 2024.

The CPIAT is generously supported by the governments of Germany, United Kingdom Netherlands, Sweden, France, and Norway, through UN's Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF).

Maria Suokko - UNDP Resident Representative in Kosovo

German Embassy Pristina

British Embassy Pristina Embassy of the Netherlands in Kosovo

Swedish Embassy, Priština, Kosovo

Ambassade de France au Kosovo - French Embassy in Kosovo

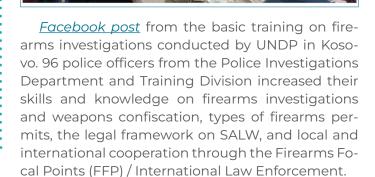
Norwegian Embassy in Prishtina SEESAC

Kosovo Police

UN Kosovo Team

Marta Rodiqi







UNDP MK



The transfer of valuable experience and knowledge is the key to increased effectiveness in the fight against the illegal weapons. This week we are organizing capacity development trainings for 60 employees in the Министерство за внатрешни работи / Ministria e Punëve të Brendshme on the topic of gathering, analysis and exchange of information in the area of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) control and Illicit Arms Trafficking (IAT).

These trainings are organized within the project "Cross-Border Integrated Institutional Approach Towards Combating IAT and SALM" which UNDP MK is implementing in cooperation with UNDP Kosovo. The capacity development process will cover around 400 members of the Ministries of Interior in North Macedonia and Kosovo.

J This important activity is realized thanks to the generous support of the Federal Republic of Germany , the United Kingdom , France , the Netherlands , Sweden , Norway and the European Union .



Facebook post about the training sessions on information gathering, information sharing, and information analysis held by UNDP in North Macedonia. 120 police officers from Kosovo and North Macedonia were trained through 4 training sessions organized in Skopje. These trainings will enable the police officers to better understand and utilize the information gathered from daily communication with citizens and conduct more effective and precise information analysis.



UNDP Kosovo 2 December 2021 · 🚱

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Today, three-day joint training was completed for 30 law enforcement officers on weapons categorization, explosives, community policing and intelligence-led policing.

A total of 400 community police officers, patrolling officers, border police officers and analysts from Kosovo and North Macedonia participated in these tailor-made events, with the aim to increase the abilities on weapons categorization, legal instruments and framework towards Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) control, various types of explosives and handmade explosives and potential precursors and police officers' approach in line with community policing standards and contribution to intelligence-led policing.

The events are organized in the framework of the project on Cross-Border Integrated Institutional Approach Towards Combating Illicit Arms Trafficking (IAT) and SALW, implemented jointly by UNDP Kosovo and UNDP MK in close cooperation with Ministries of Internal Affairs from both jurisdictions.

The project is generously funded by the Federal Republic of Germany , the United Kingdom , Sweden , France , the Netherlands and Norway through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) and supported by the European Union .

Maria Suokko - UNDP Resident Representative in Kosovo





Facebook post about the training sessions on weapons categorization, explosives, community policing, and intelligence-led policing held by UNDP in Kosovo. Through this training, 60 community police officers, patrolling officers, border police officers, and analysts from Kosovo and North Macedonia increased their abilities in recognising weapons categorization, legal instruments and frameworks for SALW control, and various manufactured types of explosives, handmade explosives, and potential explosives precursors.



Kosovo Police



In several instances. project beneficiaries have shared information about the activities conducted under the Trust Fund projects on their own communication channels.

THIS SHOWS THEIR COMMITMENT AND OWNERSHIP OVER THE PROJECT RESULTS.



Sot me datë 07.09.2021, Policia e Kosovës ka pranuar një donacion me pajisje të përberë nga 7 laptop, dhe 7 monitor me të gjitha pjesët përcjellëse nga UNDP përmes programit për siguri në

Ky projekt mbështetë fushën e hetimeve policore, përderisa në ceremoninë për pranim-dorëzim të pajisjeve, në ambientet e Drejtorisë së Përgjithshme të Policisë, prezent nga Policia e Kosovës ishin, Drejtori i Departamentit të Hetimeve dhe Drejtori i Departamentit për Shërbime Mbështetëse në PK.

Donacionet e tilla janë një mbështetje e çmuar dhe Policia e Kosovës falënderon UNDP-në për bashkëpunimin e vazhdueshëm në fusha të ndryshme.

Today on 07.09.2021, Kosovo Police have received a donation of equipment consisting of 7 laptops, and 7 monitor with all accompanying parts from UNDP through the Kosovo Security Program.

This project supports the field of police investigations, while at the ceremony for receivingdelivery of equipment, at the premises of the General Directorate of Police, present by the Kosovo Police were, Director of Investigation Department and Director of To the Department of Supportive Services at PK.
Such donations are an invaluable support and Kosovo Police thanks UNDP for its continued

cooperation in various fields.





Facebook post shared by the Kosovo Police during the handover of seven laptops, monitors, and docking stations by UNDP. The equipment was aimed at enhancing the firearms investigation capacities of the Police Investigation Department to increase the productivity and quality of police investigations on illicit arms trafficking and SALW control.





<u>Tweet</u> shared by the MoS of BiH about the awareness raising campaign implemented by UNDP on the risks of celebratory shooting. The campaign "Celebrate responsibly, celebrate without firearms" was conducted at the end of December, reaching approx. 300,000 people.



Ministarstvo unutrašnjih poslova Republike Srpske (MUP RS) 19 October 2021 · 🚱

U okviru "Pillar+" projekta koji realizuje UNDP na Jahorini se održava obuka za članice Mreže žena Ministarstva unutrašnjih poslova Republike Srpske MUP RS-WPON iz oblasti pisanja projekata strateškog planiranja.

Pripadnice Ministarstva iz različitih osnovnih organizacionih jedinica širom Republike Srpske na osnovu ovog treba da savladaju vještine pisanja projekat koje će kasnije moći primenjivati na svojim poslovima.

Kako definisati jedan projektni zadatak, šta je startna tačka, kako određujemo potrebu/problem, provodimo kvantitativnu/kvalitativnu analizu, mjerimo uspjeh projekata - samo su neke od tema koje će biti obrađene na ovoj obuci.

As part of the "Pillar+" project implemented by UNDP in Jahorina, training is held for members of the Women's Network of the Ministry of Interior of Republika Srpska MUP RS-WPON in the area of project writing and strategic planning.

Members of the Ministry from various basic organizational units across Republika Srpska should master the writing skills of a project that they will later be able to apply in their jobs. How to define one project task, what is the starting point, how do we determine a need / problem, conduct quantitative / qualitative analysis, measure the success of projects - are just some of the topics that will be covered in this training.





<u>Facebook post</u> shared by the MoI of Republika Srpska about the training for the Associations of Women Police Officers organized by UNDP in BiH. 57 women police officers increased their skills in strategic planning and project writing through several training sessions.

#### ONLINE COMMUNICATION

Information about the projects and the project activities are also available on the Participating UN Organizations' websites, and on the MPTF Office Gateway. Web stories on the project activities implemented by UNODC were also featured in **UNODC's Newsletter for** South Eastern Europe, reaching a wider audience.



Web story about the workshop on cooperation between the private and public sectors on detecting firearms in fast parcels, organized by UNO-DC. The workshop was attended by representatives from MOFTA, SIPA, the Prosecutor's Office of BiH, the Agency for Postal Traffic of BiH, the Border Police and the ITA, as well as by private sector representatives.

# Workshop on cooperation between the private and public sectors on detecting firearms in fast parcels in Bosnia and Herzegovina

On 30 July 2021, the UNODC's Global Firearms Programme (GFP) conducted a workshop on cooperation between the private and public sectors on detecting firearms in fast parcels. The workshop was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations (MFTER), State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA), Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina (PO BiH), Agency for Postal Traffic of BiH, Border Police BiH, Indirect Taxation Authority (Customs of BiH), and private sector representatives.

The objective of the workshop was to identify areas where governmental institutions and private courier companies in BiH can increase and improve cooperation in the detection of firearms in fast parcels and promote the information-sharing culture.

UNODC GFP has presented the gap analysis on the cooperation framework between the BiH Customs and commercial sector entities. It has identified thirteen areas where cooperation could be further improved, including acknowledging the inputs of the private courier companies for the development of a regulatory framework, simplification of procedures when traders fulfil certain conditions, reduction of the documentation burden, establishment of cooperation forums, etc.



The event has resulted in the endorsement of the proposed areas for increasing the cooperation between the private and public sectors, and in the identification of several solutions that could improve the cooperation. These included the identification of opportunities for increased consultations between the courier companies and the Customs in the process of developing new sector's regulations; the identification of the relevant legislative framework that will provide preferential treatment by the Customs for companies that comply with specific conditions,

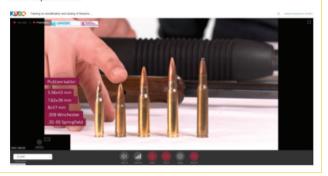


News article about the online training in the identification and tracing of firearms held by UNO-DC in Montenegro. The training gathered 17 prosecutors (8 women and 9 men), representing different territorial competencies at the state level.

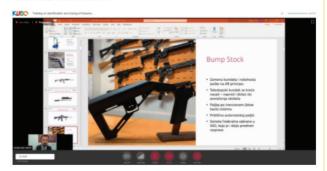
#### UNODC held an online training on identification and tracing of firearms for Montenegrin prosecutors

1 June 2021, online: The UNODC Global Firearms Programme (GFP) and the Centre for training of judges and prosecutors in Montenegro held a joint training on the identification and tracing of firearms for 15 prosecutors, representing different specialties and territorial competencies at the state

The event was conducted using four UNODC training video modules on: pistols and revolvers; carabines and shotguns; sub-machine guns and assault rifles; and firearms tracing. The playback of each module was subsequently followed by a UNODC GFP presentation on the specific topic, allowing the prosecutors to make remarks, ask for clarifications and share their experiences.



As a result of the training, the prosecutors acquired the basic knowledge on different types of firearms, their components and ammunition, and were familiarized with using firearms markings in tracing procedures, which is useful in the investigations of illicit firearms trafficking and recognizing possible links to organized crime. The video material will be handed over to the Centre, in order to assure sustainability in the capacity-building of Montenegrin prosecutors.



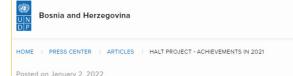
This activity is implemented with the financial support provided by Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Sweden, France and Norway through the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap Trust Fund and supported by the European Union.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

OUR



Article published by UNDP BIH about the UNDP results of the project "Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade in BiH."



# **HALT Project - Achievements in 2021**

Project Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade in Bosnia and Herzegovina (HALT) commenced in February 2020 as a joint project of UNDP in BiH and UNODC with an overall objective to further increase safety and security within and beyond the Western Balkans through targeted actions aimed at improving BiH capacities to combat illicit trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW).

The HALT project is funded by Germany, the UK Government, France, the Kingdom of the Netherland, Sweden, and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs through Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Office. Project activities are being implemented in cooperation with the Indirect Taxation Authority of Bosnia and Herzegovina (ITA BiH) as the project's main beneficiary. In addition, certain activities within the project include other institutions and agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina as beneficiaries, including Border Police (BP), State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA), BiH Ministry of Security (MoS), BiH Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations (MoFTER), BiH Ministry of Transport and Communication (MoTC) and three postal operators in BiH. The project has been extended until 30 September 2022.



<u>Press release</u> published by the Agency for Forensics of BiH about the visit conducted by INTERPOL within the project "Support for Increased International Cooperation in Criminal Matters" to discuss needs regarding the national databases of legal, illegal, and recovered firearms, access to and the use of the iARMS database, and the use of the ballistics system.



#### News







06.12.2021. Actual News

#### Visit of the representative of the INTERPOL General Secretariat to the Agency for Forensic and Expert Examinations



Director of the Agency for Forensic and Expert Examinations, Mr. Radiša Samardžija, held today, on December the 6th, 2021, a working meeting with the delegation of the INTERPOL General Secretariat, i.e. the Weapons Program, represented by Mr. Božidar Popović, I24 / 7 Extension Officer, Ms. Amina Mašović, Firearms Specialist, Branislav Pavlović, Head of NCB INTERPOL Sarajevo and Miroslav Nešić on behalf of the Sector for International Operational Police Cooperation. The purpose of the visit and meeting is to assess the Western Balkan countries in relation to the arms trade. The assessment includes weapons records, access to iARMS and expansion needs, the establishment and capacity of

a weapons contact point, as well as communication for forensic laboratories. The Director of the Agency informed the delegation of the INTERPOL General Secretariat about the current capacities of the Agency and plans for further development, with special emphasis on the development of the Laboratory for Ballistic and Mechanoscopic Expertise and an agreement was reached on the continuation of the implementation of activities related to the Program implemented by the INTERPOL General Secretariat.

The project activities were also communicated online on the websites of the project beneficiaries, showing their ownership of the project results and activities. For instance, the training for women police officers held by UNDP within project PILLAR was shared on the website of the Association of Police Officers (here, here, here, and here). The awareness-raising campaign "Celebrate responsibly, celebrate without firearms" conducted by UNDP within the same project was publicized on the websites of the project beneficiaries (MoS, 10 cantons of the Federation of BiH, and the Brcko District), as owners of the campaign, referencing the support of the Trust Fund donors and of the EU. The Customs Authority in BiH communicated about the project activities organized by UNDP within project HALT on their official website. An overview of the project results achieved in 2021 was also published by the Customs Authority on their website.

To ensure the visibility of the Trust Fund donors, projects ensured that donor logos were visibly placed on the promotional materials distributed to the beneficiaries and placed at the venues of the project events.



Notebooks distributed to project beneficiaries depicting the visual identify of the UNDP-UNODC project "Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade in BiH," with the logos of the Trust Fund donors.

#### Një fjalë mirënjohjeje

Ky dokument u zhvillua nga Programi Global i Armëve të Zjarrit (GFP), Sektori i Mbështetjes së Zbatimit, Departamenti për Krimin e Organizuar dhe Trafikimin e Paligjshëm, Shërbimi Kontraktues i UNODC nën mbikëqyrjen gjithëpërfshirëse të znj. Simoneta Grasi, Shef i GFP. Dokumenti u përgatit nga znj. Manjola Kajana, Prokurore në Prokurorinë e Posaçme Kundër Korrupsionit dhe Krimit të Organizuar (SPAK), Tiranë, Shqipëri.

Ky dokument u përgatit me mbështetjen financiare të siguruar nga Gjermania, Mbretëria e Bashkuar, Hollanda, Suedia, Franca dhe Norvegjia përmes Fondit të Mirëbesimit Multipartner për Zbatimin e Udhërrëfyesit për Armët e Vogla dhe Armët e Lehta (SALW) në Ballkanin Perëndimor dhe me mbështetjen të Bashkimit Evropian.















Acknowledgement page from the case law collection of firearm-related cases for Albania prepared by UNODC, illustrating the support provided by the Trust Fund donors and the EU.



Roll-up poster and other visual materials prepared by UNODC for their project "Criminal Justice Response against Arms Trafficking," showing the financial support of the Trust Fund donors.



**◀**◀The logos of the Trust Fund donors were placed visibly at the venue of the training on gathering, analysis, and exchange of information in the area of SALW control and IAT, jointly implemented by UNDP Kosovo and UNDP North Macedonia.

#### PRESENCE IN THE LOCAL MEDIA

Several project results were also promoted in the local media - online, on TV, or on the radio. For example, the awareness-raising campaign "Celebrate responsibly, celebrate without firearms" conducted by UNDP in the Federation BiH and Brčko District BiH was promoted almost 50 times in different media outlets (both local and major).

#### PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL AND GLOBAL EVENTS

The Local and Regional Roadmap Coordination Meetings represented a key forum for publicizing the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF. Over 120 participants attended the two regional Roadmap coordination meetings organized by SEESAC in 2021, including representatives of the SALW Commissions of the Western Balkans six jurisdictions, key international organizations engaged in arms control in the region (UNDP Country Offices, OSCE Missions, NATO, UNODC, INTERPOL, EU Policy Cycle - EMPACT, the Regional Cooperation Council, the RACVIAC Centre for Security Cooperation, ITF Enhancing Human Security, the Small Arms Survey, the Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control - BAFA, GIZ, the National Ballistic Intelligence Service - NABIS, HALO Trust, and others), and key donors (EU, Germany, France, United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Belgium).

Through these coordination meetings, the Trust Fund continued to gain high visibility among the international community as one of the primary funding mechanisms for supporting the implementation of the Roadmap.

#### RECOGNITIONS

On 7 June 2021, on the occasion of the Day of the Border Police, UNDP BiH was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of its important contribution and support to the development of the Border Police capacities through three projects implemented by UNDP BiH with the support of Germany and the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund.





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

# 9. WAY FORWARD

The COVID-19 pandemic and other challenges encountered in 2021 demanded flexibility from the Participating UN Organizations and the Trust Fund Steering Committee, as several of the 2021 plans could not be successfully implemented and had to be postponed to 2022.

The four projects selected under the first call for proposals and which had been planned to be completed by the end of 2021 were extended by the Steering Committee for up to 9 months to ensure their full implementation. Thus, eight projects are now expected to be finalized in 2022, including four projects initiated in 2021 following the second call for proposals. The Trust Fund will continue to remain flexible and take all necessary measures in response to new contexts.

With the delays in the completion of the four projects under the first call for proposals and in the initiation of the new projects under the second call, the Steering Committee decided that a new call for proposals would not be justified. It is anticipated, however, that new projects will be selected in 2022, based on the immediate needs of the Western Balkans jurisdictions.



The mid-term evaluation was also postponed to 2022 to allow the Trust Fund portfolio to grow and thereby obtain more data for analysis, yielding better-informed recommendations for the Trust Fund's implementation.



# FINANCIAL REPORT

Consolidated Annual Financial Report of the Administrative Agent for the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF.

(FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2021 TO 31 DECEMBER 2021)

UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office
United Nations Development Programme
PARTNERS GATEWAY:
https://mptf.undp.org

# DEFINITIONS

#### Allocation

Amount approved by the Steering Committee for a project/programme.

#### **Approved Project/Programme**

A project/programme including budget, etc., that is approved by the Steering Committee for fund allocation purposes.

#### **Contributor Commitment**

Amount(s) committed by a contributor to a Fund in a signed Standard Administrative Arrangement with the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office), in its capacity as the Administrative Agent. A commitment may be paid or pending payment.

#### **Contributor Deposit**

Cash deposit received by the MPTF Office for the Fund from a contributor in accordance with a signed Standard Administrative Arrangement.

#### **Delivery Rate**

The percentage of funds that have been utilized, calculated by comparing expenditures reported by a Participating Organization against the 'net funded amount'. This does not include expense commitments by Participating Organization.

#### **Indirect Support Costs**

A general cost that cannot be directly related to any particular programme or activity of the Participating Organizations. UNSDG policy establishes a fixed indirect cost rate of 7% of programmable costs for inter-agency pass-through MPTFs.

#### **Net Funded Amount**

Amount transferred to a Participating Organization less any refunds transferred back to the MPTF Office by a Participating Organization.

#### **Participating Organization**

A UN Organization or other inter-governmental Organization that is a partner in a Fund, as represented by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the MPTF Office for a particular Fund.

#### **Project Expenditure**

The sum of expenses and/or expenditure reported by all Participating Organizations for a Fund irrespective of which basis of accounting each Participating Organization follows for donor reporting.

#### **Project Financial Closure**

A project or programme is considered financially closed when all financial obligations of an operationally completed project or programme have been settled, and no further financial charges may be incurred.

#### **Project Operational Closure**

A project or programme is considered operationally closed when all programmatic activities for which Participating Organization(s) received funding have been completed.

#### **Project Start Date**

Project/ Joint programme start date as per the programmatic document.

#### **Total Approved Budget**

This represents the cumulative amount of allocations approved by the Steering Committee.

#### **US Dollar Amount**

The financial data in the report is recorded in US Dollars.

# INTRODUCTION

This Consolidated Annual Financial Report of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF is prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) in fulfillment of its obligations as Administrative Agent, as per the terms of Reference (TOR), the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the UNDP MPTF Office and the Participating Organizations, and the Standard Administrative Arrangement (SAA) signed with contributors.

The MPTF Office, as Administrative Agent, is responsible for concluding an MOU with Participating Organizations and SAAs with contributors. It receives, administers and manages contributions, and disburses these funds to the Participating Organizations. The Administrative Agent prepares and submits annual consolidated financial reports, as well as regular financial statements, for transmission to stakeholders.

This consolidated financial report covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2021 and provides financial data on progress made in the implementation of projects of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF. It is posted on the MPTF Office GATEWAY (https:// beta.mptf.undp.org/fund/slw00).

# 2021 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

This chapter presents financial data and analysis of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF using the pass-through funding modality as of 31 December 2021. Financial information for this Fund is also available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY, at the following address: https://beta.mptf.undp.org/fund/slw00.

#### 1. SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS

As of 31 December 2021, 6 contributors deposited US\$ 21,827,516 and US\$ 118,850 was earned in interest.

The cumulative source of funds was US\$ 21,946,366.

Of this amount, US\$ 12,094,862 has been net funded to 2 Participating Organizations, of which US\$ 3,486,679 has been reported as expenditure. The Administrative Agent fee has been charged at the approved rate of 1% on deposits and amounts to US\$ 218,275. Table 1 provides an overview of the overall sources, uses, and balance of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF as of 31 December 2021.

Table 1. Financial Overview, as of 31 December 2021 (in US Dollars).

	Annual 2020	Annual 2021	Cumulative
Sources of Funds			
Contributions from donors	6,441,047	5,920,339	21,827,516
Sub-total Contributions	6,441,047	5,920,339	21,827,516
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income	67,176	21,048	118,850
Total: Sources of Funds	6,508,223	5,941,387	21,946,366
Use of Funds			
Transfers to Participating Organizations	7,004,859	4,989,958	11,994,817
Net Funded Amount	7,004,859	4,989,958	11,994,817
Administrative Agent Fees	64,410	59,203	218,275
Direct Costs	59,385	40,660	100,045
Bank Charges	223	171	470
Total: Uses of Funds	7,128,877	5,089,993	12,313,607
Change in Fund cash balance with Administrative Agent	(620,654)	851,394	9,632,759
Opening Fund balance (1 January)	9,402,019	8,781,365	
Closing Fund balance (31 December)	8,781,365	9,632,759	9,632,759
Net Funded Amount (Includes Direct Cost)	7,064,244	5,030,618	12,094,862
Participating Organizations Expenditure (Includes Direct Cost)	858,507	2,628,172	3,486,679
Balance of Funds with Participating Organizations	6,205,737	2,402,446	8,608,183

#### 2. PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS

Table 2 provides information on cumulative contributions received from all contributors to this fund as of 31 December 2021.

The Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF is currently being financed by 6 contributors, as listed in the table on the next page.

The table includes financial commitments made by the contributors through signed Standard Administrative Agreements with an anticipated deposit date as per the schedule of payments by 31 December 2021 and deposits received by the same date. It does not include commitments that were made to the fund beyond 2021.

Table 2. Contributions, as of 31 December 2021 (in US Dollars).

Contributors	Total Commitments	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2020 Deposits	Current Year Jan-Dec-2021 Deposits	Total Deposits
Government of Germany	11,951,494	8,578,768	3,372,726	11,951,494
UK Home Office	2,611,396	2,611,396	0	2,611,396
Sweden - SIDA	2,326,870	1,523,597	803,273	2,326,870
Government of France	2,185,307	1,000,890	1,184,417	2,185,307
Government of Netherlands	1,650,341	1,650,341	0	1,650,341
Government of Norway	1,102,109	542,186	559,923	1,102,109
Grand Total	21,827,516	15,907,177	5,920,339	21,827,516

#### 3. INTEREST EARNED

Interest income is earned in two ways: 1) on the balance of funds held by the Administrative Agent (Fund earned interest), and 2) on the balance of funds held by the Participating Organizations (Agency earned interest) where their Financial Regulations and Rules allow return of interest to the AA.

As of 31 December 2021, Fund earned interest amounts to US\$ 118,850.

Details are provided in the table below.

Table 3. Sources of Interest and Investment Income, as of 31 December 2021 (in US Dollars).

Interest Earned	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2020	Current Year Jan-Dec-2021	Total
Administrative Agent			
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income	97,802	21,048	118,850
Total: Fund Earned Interest	97,802	21,048	118,850
Grand Total	97,802	21,048	118,850

#### 4. TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Allocations to Participating Organizations are approved by the Steering Committee and disbursed by the Administrative Agent. As of 31 December 2021, the AA has transferred US\$ 11,994,817 to 2 Participating Organizations (see list below).

Table 4 provides additional information on the refunds received by the MPTF Office, and the net funded amount for each of the Participating Organizations.

Table 4. Transfer, Refund, and Net Funded Amount by Participating Organization (in US Dollars).

	Prior Years Current Year as of 31-Dec-2020 Jan-Dec-2021							Total	
Participating Organization	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded
UNDP	4,015,921	0	4,015,921	3,385,805	0	3,385,805	7,401,726	0	7,401,726
UNODC	2,988,938	0	2,988,938	1,604,153	0	1,604,153	4,593,091	0	4,593,091
<b>Grand Total</b>	7,004,859	0	7,004,859	4,989,958	0	4,989,958	11,994,817	0	11,994,817

#### 5. EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL DELIVERY RATES

All final expenditures reported are submitted as certified financial information by the Headquarters of the Participating Organizations. These were consolidated by the MPTF Office.

Joint programme/ project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Participating Organization, and are reported to the Administrative Agent as per the agreed upon categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. The expenditures are reported via the MPTF Office's online expenditure reporting tool. The 2021 expenditure data has been posted on the MPTF Office GATEWAY at https://beta.mptf.undp.org/fund/slw00.

## **5.1.** Expenditure Reported by Participating Organization

In 2021, US\$ 4,989,958 was net funded to Participating Organizations, and US\$ 2,587,320 was reported in expenditure.

As shown in table below, the cumulative net funded amount is US\$ 11,994,817 and cumulative expenditures reported by the Participating Organizations amount to US\$ 3,389,039. This equates to an overall Fund expenditure delivery rate of **28.25** percent.

#### **Table 5.1.**

Net Funded Amount and Reported Expenditures by Participating Organization, as of 31 December 2021 (in US Dollars).

Participating Organization	Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	ı	Delivery Rate %		
			Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2020	Current Year Jan-Dec-2021	Cumulative	
UNDP	7,401,726	7,401,726	347,096	1,031,292	1,378,388	18.62
UNODC	4,593,091	4,593,091	454,623	1,556,028	2,010,651	43.78
<b>Grand Total</b>	11,994,817	11,994,817	801,719	2,587,320	3,389,039	28.25

## 5.2. Expenditure Reported by Project Within Sector

Table 5.2. displays the net funded amounts, expenditures reported and the financial delivery rates by Sector by project/joint programme and Participating Organization.

**Table 5.2. Expenditure by Project within Sector** (in US Dollars).

Sector / Project No. and Project Title		Partic- ipating Organiza- tion	Project Status	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expendi- ture	De- livery Rate %
W. Balkans	SALW Control MPTF						
00120223	Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade (HALT) in Bosnia and Herzegovina	UNDP	On Going	1,111,061	1,111,061	318,037	28.62
00120223	Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade (HALT) in Bosnia and Herzegovina	UNODC	On Going	1,088,939	1,088,939	444,545	40.82
00120224	Support to Combating Illicit Arms Trafficking in Kosovo for Criminal Police (CPIAT)	UNDP	On Going	660,000	660,000	376,190	57.00
00120225	Criminal Justice Response Against Arms Trafficking (regional project)	UNODC	On Going	1,899,999	1,899,999	792,313	41.70
00120226	Urgent Action on Ammunition Destruction - Project EXPLODE+ in Bosnia and Herzegovina	UNDP	On Going	583,546	583,546	112,147	19.22
00125151	Strengthening control, administration and social attitudes towards SALW	UNDP	On Going	1,661,314	1,661,314	34,400	2.07
00125390	Prevention and Illicit Arms Reduction in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Project PILLAR+)	UNDP	On Going	769,406	769,406	71,255	9.26

Sector / Project No. and Project Title		Partic- ipating Organiza- tion	Project Status	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expendi- ture	De- livery Rate %
W. Balkans	SALW Control MPTF						
00125391	Advancing the Capacities of the Police Directorate in the Field of Custody Chain, Crime Scene Investigations and the Forensic Laboratory in the Field of Operations and Investigations in Detection and Trafficking of Explosives Criminality	UNDP	On Going	664,812	664,812	27,205	4.09
00125392	Advancing the Capacities of the Ministry of Interior in the SALW Control-Related Field (Phase II)	UNDP	On Going	1,429,520	1,429,520	380,970	26.65
00126411	Cross-border Integrated Institutional Approach Towards Combatting IAT and SALW (Kosovo)	UNDP	On Going	251,293	251,293	27,753	11.04
00126412	Cross-border Integrated Institutional Approach Towards Combatting IAT and SALW (North Macedonia)	UNDP	On Going	270,774	270,774	30,432	11.24
00127615	Support for Increased International Cooperation in Criminal Matters	UNODC	On Going	1,604,153	1,604,153	773,792	48.24
W. Balkans	11,994,817	11,994,817	3,389,039	28.25			
<b>Grand Tota</b>	Grand Total					3,389,039	28.25

## **5.3.** Expenditure by Project Grouped by Country/Territory

Table 5.3. displays the net funded amounts, expenditures reported and the financial delivery rates by Country/Territory.

**Table 5.3.** Expenditure by Project, grouped by Country/Territory (in US Dollars).

Country/ Territory	Project No. and Project Title	Participating Organization	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expendi- ture	Delivery Rate %		
Albania								
00125151	Strengthening control, administration and social attitudes towards SALW	UNDP	1,661,314	1,661,314	34,400	2.07		
Albania: Tota	al .		1,661,314	1,661,314	34,400	2.07		
Bosnia and H	Bosnia and Herzegovina							
00120223	Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade (HALT) in Bosnia and Herzegovina	UNDP	1,111,061	1,111,061	318,037	28.62		

Territory	Project No. and Project Title	Participating Organization	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expendi- ture	Delivery Rate %
00120223	Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade (HALT) in Bosnia and Herzegovina	UNODC	1,088,939	1,088,939	444,545	40.82
00120226	Urgent Action on Ammunition Destruction - Project EXPLODE+ in Bosnia and Herzegovina	UNDP	583,546	583,546	112,147	19.22
00125390	Prevention and Illicit Arms Reduction in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Project PILLAR+)	UNDP	769,406	769,406	71,255	9.26
Bosnia and F	lerzegovina: Total		3,552,952	3,552,952	945,984	26.63
Global and In	terregional					
00120225	Criminal Justice Response Against Arms Trafficking (regional project)	UNODC	1,899,999	1,899,999	792,313	41.70
00127615	Support for Increased International Cooperation in Criminal Matters	UNODC	1,604,153	1,604,153	773,792	48.24
Global and Ir	nterregional: Total		3,504,152	3,504,152	1,566,106	44.69
Kosovo						
00120224	Support to Combating Illicit Arms Trafficking in Kosovo for Criminal Police (CPIAT)	UNDP	660,000	660,000	376,190	57.00
00126411	Cross-border Integrated Institutional Approach Towards Combatting IAT and SALW	UNDP	251,293	251,293	27,753	11.04
Kosovo: Tota	I		911,293	911,293	403,943	44.33
Montenegro						
00125391	Advancing the Capacities of the Police Directorate in the Field of Custody Chain, Crime Scene Investigations and the Forensic Laboratory in the Field of Operations and Investigations in Detection and Trafficking of Explosives Criminality	UNDP	664,812	664,812	27,205	4.09
Montenegro	Total		664,812	664,812	27,205	4.09
North Maced	onia					
00126412	Cross-border Integrated Institutional Approach Towards Combatting IAT and SALW	UNDP	270,774	270,774	30,432	11.24
North Maced	lonia: Total		270,774	270,774	30,432	11.24
Serbia						
00125392	Advancing the Capacities of the Ministry of Interior in the SALW Control-Relat- ed Field (Phase II)	UNDP	1,429,520	1,429,520	380,970	26.65
Serbia: Total			1,429,520	1,429,520	380,970	26.65
Grand total			11,994,817	11,994,817	3,389,039	28.25

Project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Participating Organization and are reported as per the agreed categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. In 2006 the UN Development Group (UNSDG) established six categories against which UN entities must report inter-agency project expenditures. Effective 1 January 2012, the UN Chief Executive Board (CEB) modified these categories as a result of IPSAS adoption to comprise eight categories. All expenditure incurred prior to 1 January 2012 have been reported in the old categories; post 1 January 2012 all expenditure are reported in the new eight categories. See table below.

Table 5.4.

Expenditure by UNSDG Budget Category, as of 31 December 2021 (in US Dollars).

		Expenditures				
Category	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2020	Current Year Jan-Dec-2021	Total	Total Programme Cost		
Staff & Personnel Cost	359,991	536,368	896,359	28.30		
Supplies, commodities and materials	182	124,430	124,612	3.93		
Equipment, vehicles, furniture and depreciation	100,543	257,692	358,235	11.31		
Contractual Services Expenses	141,837	528,258	670,095	21.16		
Travel	16,910	136,101	153,011	4.83		
Transfers and Grants	-	668,202	668,202	21.10		
General Operating	129,805	166,925	296,730	9.37		
Programme Costs Total	749,269	2,417,975	3,167,244	100.00		
¹ Indirect Support Costs Total	52,450	169,345	221,795	7.00		
Grand Total	801,719	2,587,320	3,389,039			

<sup>1</sup> Indirect Support Costs charged by Participating Organization, based on their financial regulations, can be deducted upfront or at a later stage during implementation. The percentage may therefore appear to exceed the 7% agreed-upon for on-going projects. Once projects are financially closed, this number is not to exceed 7%.

#### **6. COST RECOVERY**

Cost recovery policies for the Fund are guided by the applicable provisions of the Terms of Reference, the MOU concluded between the Administrative Agent and Participating Organizations, and the SAAs concluded between the Administrative Agent and Contributors, based on rates approved by UNDG.

The policies in place, as of 31 December 2021, were as follows:

• The Administrative Agent (AA) fee: 1% is charged at the time of contributor deposit and covers services provided on that contribution for the entire duration of the Fund.

In the reporting period US\$ 59,203 was deducted in AA-fees. Cumulatively, as of 31 December 2021, US\$ 218,275 has been charged in AA-fees.

· Indirect Costs of Participating Organizations: Participating Organizations may charge 7% indirect costs. In the current reporting period US\$ 169,345 was deducted in indirect costs by Participating Organizations. Cumulatively, indirect costs amount to US\$ 221,795 as of 31 December 2021.

#### 7. ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

In order to effectively provide fund administration services and facilitate monitoring and reporting to the UN system and its partners, the MPTF Office has developed a public website, the MPTF Office Gateway (https://mptf.undp.org). Refreshed in real time every two hours from an internal enterprise resource planning system, the MPTF Office Gateway has become a standard setter for providing transparent and accountable trust fund administration services.

The Gateway provides financial information including: contributor commitments and deposits, approved programme budgets, transfers to and expenditures reported by Participating Organizations, interest income and other expenses. In addition, the Gateway provides an overview of the MPTF Office portfolio and extensive information on individual Funds, including their purpose, governance structure and key documents. By providing easy access to the growing number of narrative and financial reports, as well as related project documents, the Gateway collects and preserves important institutional knowledge and facilitates knowledge sharing and management among UN Organizations and their development partners, thereby contributing to UN coherence and development effectiveness.

#### 8. DIRECT COSTS

The Fund governance mechanism may approve an allocation to a Participating Organization to cover costs associated with Secretariat services and overall coordination, as well as fund level reviews and evaluations. These allocations are referred to as 'direct costs'. In the reporting period, direct costs charged to the fund amounted to US\$ 40,660. Cumulatively, as of 31 December 2021, US\$ 100,045 has been charged as Direct Costs.

Participating Organization	Current Year Net Funded Amount	Current Year Ex- penditure	Total Net Fund- ed Amount	Total Expendi- ture
UNDP	40,660	40,852	100,045	97,640
Total	40,660	40,852	100,045	97,640



# ANNEXES

- I TRUST FUND PROJECTS
- II OVERALL PROGRESS REVIEW: DETAILED MATRIX OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS
- III UPDATE RISK MATRIX

# **ANNEX I. TRUST FUND PROJECTS**

First call

#### PROJECTS APPROVED FOR FUNDING IN THE

#### FIRST CALL FOR PROPOSALS

#### Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade (HALT) in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Implemented by UNDP BiH and UNODC

Budget: **\$2,200,000** 

The project aims to enhance the capacities of the Indirect Taxation Authority (i.e., the Customs Authority in Bosnia and Herzegovina) to better combat illicit arms trafficking through the development of standard operating procedures, the provision of training, and the procurement of specialized equipment for the detection of smuggled firearms. The project also contributes to strengthened cooperation and information exchange between the Indirect Taxation Authority and other institutions at the national and regional levels through joint trainings, working visits, and cross-border operations. The Border Police, postal agencies, private companies, and the criminal justice sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina are also engaged throughout the project to increase the sustainability of the results.

#### CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS





















#### Support to Combating Illicit Arms Trafficking in **Kosovo for Criminal Police (CPIAT)**

Implemented by UNDP Kosovo Budget: **\$660,000** 

Through the provision of specialized training and equipment, the project supports the Kosovo Police in strengthening their capacities to detect and confiscate firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition, and to improve the quality of investigations.

CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS















#### **Justice Response against Arms Trafficking (regional project)**

Implemented by **UNODC** 

Budget: **\$1,899,999** 

The project supports the six Western Balkans jurisdictions to strengthen their criminal justice responses to firearms related criminality, particularly illicit arms trafficking, by facilitating the harmonization of the firearms legislation and relevant criminal and procedural law provisions with the UN Firearms Protocol. The project also works with the Western Balkans authorities in strengthening their capacities to detect, investigate, and prosecute firearms trafficking and its links to other serious crimes through improved guidelines and standard operating procedures, specialized training, information exchange, and regional cooperation.

#### CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS



















#### **Urgent Action on Ammunition Destruction - Project EXPLODE+**

Implemented by UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina Budget: **\$583,546** 

The project supports the Ministry of Defence of BiH in the destruction of 76 tonnes of unsafe ammunition, contributing to reduced stockpiles of surplus ammunition and thus to higher safety and security for storage facilities and adjacent local communities.

CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS











#### SECOND CALL FOR PROPOSALS

#### Strengthening Control, Administration and Social Attitudes **Towards SALW**

Implemented by **UNDP Albania** 

Budget: **\$1,661,314** 

The project aims to improve and modernize the registration of legally possessed firearms in Albania by supporting the government initiative to re-register all legally possessed weapons and digitalize all firearms-related data within a single national database, in which the information is easily retrievable and appropriate for analytical work. The project will also assist the Albanian State Police in bringing an additional 10% of its firearms and ammunition storage depots to acceptable standards, preventing the risk of the diversion and hence the illegal possession, misuse, and trafficking of these items. Finally, a comprehensive awareness campaign will be carried out to reduce the demand for and misuse of firearms, prevent gender-based violence and family crime, and increase confidence in security institutions.

#### CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS



















#### Advancing the Capacities of the Ministry of the Interior in the SALW Control-related Field (Phase II)

Implemented by **UNDP Serbia** Budget: **\$1,429,520** 

The project will continue the work started during Phase I and is aimed at improving the quality of investigations through valid forensic evidence. This will advance evidence-based decision-making and argumentation on the part of State Prosecutors, thereby contributing to increased fairness in legal proceedings and merit penalties of the justice system for the perpetrators of criminal offenses. Specifically, the project will focus on further strengthening the capacities of the crime investigation units and the ballistic laboratories throughout Serbia on their way to accreditation. In addition to firearms examinations, this phase of the project will also include investigations of arson and explosion-related incidents, strengthening the capacities of the new AEA Unit (arson, explosion, and accident investigation), and improving overall capacities for the investigation of explosion/explosive related incidents. Finally, the project will include the development of the new Weapon Registry System through the provision of equipment and training.

CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS



















Advancing the Capacities of the Police Directorate in the Field of Custody Chain, Crime Scene Investigations and the Forensic Laboratory in the Field of Operations and Investigations in **Detection and Trafficking of Explosives Criminality** 

Implemented by **UNDP Montenegro** Budget: **\$664.812** 

The project aims to improve the capacities of the Police Directorate of Montenegro across the entire investigative cycle and in particular to advance the custody chain. This will result in improved investigation of crimes committed with explosives, which will further contribute to achieving regular convictions. Specifically, the project will raise the expert competencies, professionalism, accuracy, and preciseness of the Forensic Centre's Chemistry and Fires and Explosions laboratories by supporting the development of standard operating procedures, by providing specialized equipment for the crime scene investigation units, and through training.

CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS

CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP KPI











Prevention and Illicit Arms Reduction in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Project PILLAR+)

Implemented by UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina Budget: **\$769,406** 

The project seeks to comprehensively raise awareness amongst the population regarding the dangers of illegal firearm possession, contribute to behavioural change, and a foster a more complete understanding of the threats posed by SALW within families, the community, and society in general. Specifically, the project will work with the formal associations of women police officers in BiH, as "agents of change," to strengthen their capacities to better address and enhance the limited understanding of the general population regarding SALW-related threats. The project will also directly implement structured countrywide campaigns, outreach activities, and advocacy efforts addressing the impact and threats posed by illicit SALW to the general public, especially to vulnerable groups (women, children, young men).

CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS







#### **Cross-border Integrated Institutional Approach towards** Combatting IAT and SALW

Implemented by UNDP Kosovo and UNDP North Macedonia Budget: **\$522,067** 

The project aims to improve the cross-border cooperation between Kosovo and North Macedonia and lay the basis for an integrated institutional approach in combating illicit arms trafficking in the two jurisdictions through a series of closely coordinated activities. These include actions such as joint training and the sharing of experience and intelligence, JITs, and joint actions in combatting converted weapons trafficking.

CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS

CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP KPI

















#### Support for Increased International Cooperation in Criminal **Matters**

Implemented by **UNODC** 

Budget: **\$1,604,153** 

The project, to be implemented by UNODC's Global Firearms Programme in partnership with INTERPOL, aims to provide support to the Western Balkans jurisdictions to collect and analyse criminal justice data, to facilitate and strengthen the cooperation and information exchange between criminal justice practitioners, and to support the detection of illicit firearms trafficking. The assistance by both organizations should lead to the Western Balkans jurisdictions achieving measurable results in the implementation of the Roadmap, including the connection of all police services to INTERPOL's Illicit Arms Records and tracing Management System (iARMS), information exchange with beneficiaries located along connected routes, and improved understanding of the gaps in the detection of firearms in postal shipments.

CONTRIBUTION TO ROADMAP GOALS













# **ANNEX II. OVERALL PROGRESS** REVIEW: DETAILED MATRIX OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

No. 1

## 1. PROJECT

## HALTING ARMS AND LAWBREAKING TRADE (HALT) IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS: UNDP BIH AND UNODC



Enhanced IBM capacity of BIH to better fight illicit SALW trafficking through targeted assistance to ITA, Border Police, and three postal agencies.

Indicators	Baseline (2019)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
Level of functionality of the insti- tutional platform of the ITA, BP BiH, and three postal agencies to address illicit SALW trafficking.	Partial functionality of the institutional platform in terms of equipment, SOPs, SALW data man- agement/ processing and training.	Functional platform resulting in joint actions and concrete seizure results in the prevention and detection of SALW illicit arms trafficking.	SOPs developed; equipment partially procured.
# of specific analyses contributing to the assessment of needs in the ITA/Customs Sector.	0	2	2
# of developed and institution- alized standard operating pro- cedures aimed at defining the actions carried out by customs' officials to more effectively com- bat illicit SALW trafficking.	0	6	8
% of ITA customs officers trained in the application of the developed SOPs and the usage of sophisticat- ed detection equipment.	0	80%	62%
Existence of analyses aimed at affirming and promoting gender equality in the Customs Sector of the ITA.	Absence of analyses aimed at affirming and promoting gender equality in the Customs Sector of ITA.	Analysis and Action Plan developed for better affirmation and career options for women in the Customs Sector of the ITA.	Analysis of the affir- mation and career options for women in the Customs Sector prepared.
# of BP BiH inspectors trained and equipped to process illicit SALW trafficking cases.	0	35	0

Indicators	Baseline (2019)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of developed and institutional- ized SOPs aimed at defining the actions carried out by customs' officials to counter shipments of firearms in postal deliveries.	0	At least 1	1
# of ITA and Agency for Postal Traffic of BiH staff responsible for monitoring postal deliveries who have been trained in the appli- cation of the developed SOPs to better process crimes pertaining to illicit SALW trafficking and to address the detection of firearms by private courier companies.	0	At least 70	41

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1: CONDUCT A NEEDS ASSESSMENT ANALYSIS OF BIH CUSTOMS (UNDP/UNODC).	<ul> <li>A needs assessment analysis of BIH Customs was prepared by UNDP, including recommendations for improving the work of BIH Customs. A needs assessment was prepared by UNODC on preventing trafficking in postal and fast parcels.</li> </ul>
ACTIVITY 2: STRENGTHEN BIH CUSTOMS' CAPACITIES TO BET- TER COMBAT THE TRAFFICKING OF ILLICIT ARMS AND OTHER GOODS ON THE BORDER WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON GENDER ASPECTS.	<ul> <li>Eight (8) SOPs supporting BiH Customs to combat illicit SALW trafficking were developed: 1) SOP on data collection, 2) SOP on risk analysis, 3) SOP for monitoring the trade of firearms, military equipment, and dual-purpose goods, 4) SOP for firearms tracing, 5) SOP for investigations, 6) SOP for monitoring trade in dual-use goods, 7) SOP for control, and 8) SOP for emergency management.</li> <li>14 ITA officials were trained in a ToT training related to the use of the developed SOPs and specialized detection equipment.</li> <li>617 customs officers were trained during a comprehensive training programme on the application of the SOPs for tackling illicit arms trade and the use of specialized detection equipment.</li> <li>A brief analysis of the affirmation and career options for women in the Customs Sector was conducted as part of the needs assessment analysis of BiH Customs.</li> <li>Three consultative workshops aimed at enhancing women's position and career prospects in the ITA and stressing the importance of gender equality were organized. 72 ITA employees from all organizational units of the institution, as well as 20 representatives of the association Network of Women Police Officers, the BiH Agency for Gender Equality, and the BiH Ministry of Security participated in the event.</li> <li>SOP for ITA officials on the detection of firearms in postal parcels was developed.</li> <li>SOPs on the detection of firearms in postal and fast parcels, both for the ITA, and for BH Pošta, Pošte Srpske, and Hrvatska Pošta Mostar were developed through three workshops attended by 25 experts.</li> <li>14 customs representatives attended a ToT training on detecting firearms and their parts and ammunition in postal shipments, with the focus on increasing efficiency and effectiveness in countering firearms trafficking through postal parcels.</li> <li>19 experts from the ITA were trained on the detection of firearms in fast and postal parcels within the framework of Operation Armstrong.</li> <li>14 experts from the thr</li></ul>
ACTIVITY 3: PROCURE SALW DETECTION EQUIPMENT AND IMPROVE BIH CUSTOMS' AND BIH BORDER POLICE INFRASTRUC- TURE AT BORDER CROSSINGS TO BETTER DETECT SMUGGLING OF ARMS AND OTHER GOODS.	<ul> <li>12 videoscopes were delivered to the ITA to enhance their capacities for firearms and explosives detection.</li> <li>4 mobile detectors for explosives and narcotics were procured and will be delivered in 2022.</li> <li>5 laptops were provided to the Law Enforcement Section of ITA to be used for record-keeping purposes and computer-based training.</li> </ul>



Strengthened cooperation and information exchange between BIH Customs and other institutions at the national level and with three neighbouring states.

Indicators	Baseline (2019)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of working groups, meetings held, and joint trainings rolled out.	0	1 Working Group formed. 8 meetings held during the reporting period. 8 joint trainings rolled out.	Working group at the operational level established.
Existence of a working group on legal SALW trade under the auspices of the ITA, along with other institutions.	Joint working group on legal SALW trade under the auspices of the ITA not in place, hindering information exchange.	One functional Working Group formed and regu- larly convened.	1 meeting of the strategic-level working group organized.
Existence of cross-border cooperation between the ITA and neighbouring states customs services to jointly fight illicit SALW trafficking.	Cross-border cooperation between the ITA and neighbouring states' customs services in need of improvement to jointly fight illicit SALW trafficking.	Cross border cooperation improved through the organization of six bilateral visits resulting in three cooperation protocols.	Bilateral meeting with Montenegro counterparts orga- nized.
# of bi-lateral operations conducted against firearms trafficking with Customs Services from Croatia, Montenegro, and Serbia.	Operations conducted with the focus on the detection of drugs and trafficking in human beings.	Up to 4.	2
# of private companies aware of the risks of firearms trafficking through postal shipments.	0	Up to 20.	4

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1: STRENGTHEN THE COOPERATION OF BIH CUSTOMS WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS AND THREE NEIGHBOURING STATES	<ul> <li>A working group at the operational level was formed by gathering three key institutions responsible for control of the BIH borders and the processing of SALW-related and other smuggling cases, namely the ITA, BP, and SIPA.</li> <li>2 meetings of the working group were organized.</li> <li>A working group at the strategic level was formed by gathering representatives of the MoS, ITA, MOFTER, and MOTC.</li> <li>1 meeting of the working group was organized.</li> <li>2 bi-lateral operations focused on detecting weapons and ammunition were organized with Montenegro and Serbia.</li> <li>A gap analysis on the cooperation framework between BIH Customs and commercial sector entities on the detection of firearms in fast parcels was prepared.</li> <li>18 participants from MOFTER, SIPA, the Prosecutor's Office, the Agency for Postal Traffic, the BP, the ITA, and private sector representatives were trained on cooperation between the private and public sectors on detecting firearms in fast parcels.</li> <li>47 staff members of four private courier companies were trained in the implementation of the SOP on the detection of firearms in fast parcels.</li> </ul>

# 2. PROJECT

# SUPPORT TO COMBATTING ILLICIT ARMS TRAFFICKING IN KOSOVO FOR CRIMINAL POLICE (CPIAT)

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION: UNDP KOSOVO

# OUTPUT 1

Capacities of Kosovo Police increased in the field of detection and confiscation of firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition, as well as in the quality of investigations, leading to more effective convictions.

Indicators	Baseline (2019)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
Gaps in the Investigations Department identified.	No qualitative gap analysis report.	One gap analysis report prepared.	Gap analysis pre- pared.
Basic training for the crime investigations department on firearms investigations completed.	Lack of basic training on firearms investigations.	Basic training on firearms investigations is provided for 200 police officers from 7 police regions.	Basic training on firearms investiga- tions provided for 201 police officers from 8 police regions.
Advanced training for the crime investigations department on firearms investigation completed.	Lack of advanced training on firearms investigations.	Advanced training on firearms investigations is provided for 30 police officers.	Advanced training on firearms investigations provided for 30 police investigators.
Increased capacity of the Kosovo Police Special Unit for investiga- tion (firearms detections, house searches, and the risks of firearms).	Limited capacities of the KP Special Units in fire- arms detections, house searches and the risks of firearm.	Specialized training on firearms detections, house searches, and the risks of firearms is provided for 40 police officers.	-
Enhanced technological capacity related to illicit arms trafficking.	Lack of specialized technology/equipment related to illicit arms trafficking.	Technological capacities for investigative measures against illicit arms trafficking vastly improved.	Technological capacities improved with the provision of IT equipment to the Kosovo Police Investigation Department.
Improved technological capacities of the Organized Crime Investigation Directorate (OCID).	Lack of and outdated equipment required to effectively detect and investigate.	OCID has vastly improved technological capacities for investigative measures on SALW and other crimes.	Technological capacities improved through the provision of software for gathering, analysing, and visualizing data, and of 2 explosive detectors.
Cross-cutting:  • Knowledge products drafted.	No knowledge products related to activities exist.	Effectiveness of interventions is evidenced through the drafting of progress and comparative reports ("before" and "after").	-

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1: CONDUCT A GAP ANALYSIS IN THE INVESTIGATIONS DEPARTMENT, ESPECIALLY IN THE FIELD OF INVESTIGATING AND COUNTERING ILLICIT ARMS TRAFFICKING (IAT).	A gap analysis was carried out identifying the needs of the entities involved in the investigation of explosives, hand grenades, explosives precursors, and category 4 pyrotechnics to improve their coordination, communication, and human resources.
ACTIVITY 2: INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF THE CRIME INVESTIGATIONS DEPARTMENT - THOUGH BASIC TRAINING ON FIREARMS INVESTIGATIONS.	<ul> <li>201 police officers from 8 Regional Police Directorates were trained in fire- arms investigations, the legal framework of SALW, and the importance of local and international cooperation through the Firearms Focal Point/In- ternational Law Enforcement Cooperation Unit (ILECU) through 8 2-day training sessions.</li> </ul>
ACTIVITY 3: INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF THE CRIME INVESTIGATIONS DEPARTMENT – THOUGH ADVANCED TRAINING ON FIREARMS INVESTIGATIONS.	30 police investigators from central-level investigation units and all 8 Regional Police Directorates were trained through the advanced training on firearms investigations, focused exclusively on the use of special investigative measures in the field of illicit arms trafficking and cooperation with law enforcement units - locally and internationally - on effective investigation of the smuggling of firearms, ammunition, explosives, drugs, immigrants, counterterrorism, etc.
ACTIVITY 4: INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF POLICE SPECIAL UNITS THROUGH SPECIALIZED TRAINING ON FIREARMS DETECTIONS, HOUSE SEARCHES, AND THE RISKS OF FIREARMS.	The expert to conduct the training has been identified and the direct contracting process is ongoing. The police officers who will attend the training have been nominated by the Kosovo Police. The first training session will take place on 16-20 May 2022, while the second one will be organized on 23-27 May 2022.
ACTIVITY 5: INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF CRIME INVESTIGATIONS DEPARTMENT – THOUGH THE PROVISIONS OF IT EQUIPMENT.	80 monitors, 80 desktop computers, 17 laptops, 5 tablets, 40 multifunction printers, and 40 toners were delivered to the Kosovo Police Investigation Department.
ACTIVITY 6: PROCURE AND DE- LIVER SOFTWARE AND SPECIAL EQUIPMENT TO THE ORGANIZED CRIME INVESTIGATION DIREC- TORATE OF THE KOSOVO POLICE.	<ul> <li>MALTEGO XL and SOCIAL Links software licenses and one-day online training for ten (10) police investigators were provided.</li> <li>A Dashboard/TABLEAU data visualization platform was provided, and two (2) ICT officials were professionally trained in using the software licenses.</li> <li>2 explosive detectors were procured and provided to the Kosovo Police Investigation Department.</li> </ul>

# 3. PROJECT

# **CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE AGAINST ILLICIT ARMS TRAFFICKING**

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION: UNODC



Firearms legislation and relevant criminal and procedural law provisions are fully harmonized with the UN Firearms Protocol and its parent convention UN-TOC and standardized across the Western Balkans.

Indicators	Baseline (2019)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of gap analysis reports in WB jurisdictions conducted to assess the harmonization of their criminal law and criminal procedural law with the provisions of UNTOC and the Firearms Protocol.	2	4	4
# of WB jurisdictions that receive support for harmonizing firearms norms, criminal law, and criminal procedure law with the provisions of UNTOC and the Firearms Protocol.	1	Up to 6	4
# of regional meetings to promote regional harmonization of criminal legislation to counter illicit firearms trafficking.	0	1	-

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1: SUPPORT LEGISLATIVE ASSESSMENTS AND GAP ANALYSIS OF CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE LAW WITH THE PROVISIONS OF UNTOC AND THE UN FIREARMS PROTOCOL.	<ul> <li>Gap analysis reports were developed for Albania, BiH, Serbia, and Kosovo and shared with relevant authorities.</li> <li>3 issue papers containing comparative analyses on the material and procedural regulation of illicit trafficking offences in North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia were developed.</li> </ul>
ACTIVITY 2: SUPPORT THE HARMONIZATION OF FIREARMS NORMS, CRIMINAL LAW, AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE LAW WITH THE PROVISIONS OF UNTOC AND THE UN FIREARMS PROTOCOL.	<ul> <li>In Albania, the working group responsible for amending the Criminal Code was supported in the development of draft provisions on illicit firearms trafficking to be integrated in the Criminal Code. The amended provisions of the Criminal Code have been presented to the MoJ.</li> <li>In Montenegro, discussions were held with the working group for amending the Criminal Code, established under the MoJ, highlighting the need for harmonization with the UN Firearms Protocol. This resulted in including the relevant provisions on firearms within the scope of review of the working group. Meetings were held with the MoJ and Mol, as well as with the working group, to present and discuss the proposal for changes to the Criminal Code.</li> <li>A workshop with members of the Parliament of Montenegro was organized to provide updates on the process of the harmonization of the criminal legislation in Montenegro with the criminalization provisions of the UN Firearms Protocol. The workshop followed another meeting with the Chair of the Legislative Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro.</li> </ul>

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 2: SUPPORT THE HARMONIZATION OF FIREARMS NORMS, CRIMINAL LAW, AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE LAW WITH THE PROVISIONS OF UNTOC AND THE UN FIREARMS PROTOCOL.	<ul> <li>In North Macedonia, legal experts were supported in formulating draft criminal provisions for amending the Criminal Code, which resulted in the development of new draft articles on illicit firearms trafficking. Several discussions on the proposed changes to the Criminal Code were organized with national stakeholders, including representatives of the MoJ, academia, judges, prosecutors, and partner international organizations such as the OSCE. Meetings with the working group responsible for amending the Criminal Code were also organized to discuss the comparative analysis, which resulted in solutions being identified for the further harmonization of firearms provisions in the Criminal Code.</li> <li>A workshop with members of the Legal Committee of the Parliament of North Macedonia was organized to promote UNODC's gap analysis on Macedonian criminal legislation and to acquaint the MPs with the draft amendments proposed to the Criminal Code.</li> <li>In Serbia, the gap analysis report was distributed to national counterparts (prosecutors and judges), as potential members of the working group, and to international counterparts (representatives of the EU Delegation, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, the US, Sweden, Norway, and the Netherlands), in order to advocate for amendments to the relevant criminal legislation. A workshop on the Criminal Code harmonization with the UN Firearms Protocol was organized, with the participation of 11 representatives of the MoJ, the Mol, the Prosecutor's Office, the judiciary, the EU delegation, the Embassy of France in Serbia, and academia.</li> <li>In Kosovo, the gap analysis has shown that the provisions of the Criminal Code have been almost fully harmonized with the criminalization provisions of the UN Firearms Protocol, even though Kosovo has not ratified UNTOC or the UN Firearms Protocol.</li> </ul>
ACTIVITY 3: PROMOTE REGIONAL HARMONIZATION OF CRIMINAL LEGISLATION TO COUNTER FIREARMS TRAFFICKING.	Activity to be initiated in 2022.



Increased capacity of WB jurisdictions to detect, investigate, and prosecute firearms trafficking and its links to other serious crimes.

Indicators	Baseline (2019)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
Investigative guidelines and standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the investigation and prosecution of firearms trafficking cases.	0	1	Draft text of the Guidelines devel- oped.
# of WB jurisdictions that incorporate the investigative guidelines into the training in magistrate schools and police academies, and in the workflow of the Prosecutor's Office.	0	3	-
# of specialised trainings in the investigation and prosecution of firearms trafficking.	4	12	4 trainings and 1 webinar
# of law enforcement officers and prosecutors trained.		300	135

Indicators	Baseline (2019)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of regular meetings in WB jurisdictions to promote the inter-institutional exchange of experiences in firearms trafficking cases.	0	Up to 14	11
# of Joint Investigative Teams (JITs) for the investigation of fire- arms trafficking cases facilitated.	0	1	-
# of bilateral task forces between neighbouring jurisdictions estab- lished. # of Community of Practitioners (CoP) meetings organized.	2	1	-
# of national case-digests produced and presented to their respective Supreme Judicial Councils.	0	Up to 7	6

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1: DEVELOP INVESTIGATIVE GUIDELINES AND STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR THE INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF FIREARMS TRAFFICKING CASES (GUIDELINES), COVERING ALL STAGES OF THE INVESTIGATION CYCLE.	<ul> <li>The first Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on the development of Guidelines on the investigation and prosecution of firearms trafficking cases was organized. The EGM gathered 67 criminal justice practitioners from Africa, Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Western Balkans, international partners from law enforcement agencies and prosecution offices in Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Sweden, and the UK, and representatives of FRONTEX and INTERPOL.</li> <li>As a result of the meeting, the draft text of the Guidelines was developed and shared with criminal justice practitioners.</li> </ul>
ACTIVITY 2: INCORPORATE THE GUIDELINES AS PART OF THE NATIONAL TEACHING CURRICULA.	Activity to be initiated in 2022.
ACTIVITY 3: STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITY OF LAW ENFORCE-MENT AND PROSECUTORS TO INVESTIGATE FIREARMS TRAFFICKING CASES AND ADDRESS POSSIBLE LINKS TO TERRORISM AND ORGANIZED CRIME.	<ul> <li>Tools for conducting the training were developed: a guide on the collection of electronic evidence, previously developed by UNODC, was translated in the languages of all jurisdictions, while a second training tool was initiated in the format of videos on the identification of firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition, as well as on the tracing of firearms.</li> <li>A Practical Guide for Requesting Electronic Evidence across Borders was developed to assist investigators, prosecutors, judicial authorities, and national authorities responsible for the Mutual Legal Assistance (Central Authorities) of the UN Member States to preserve and produce electronic evidence from service providers located in foreign jurisdictions.</li> <li>50 criminal justice participants from the Western Balkans staff in law enforcement, prosecutorial services, and the ministries of justice attended a regional webinar "Introduction to UNODC's Practical Guide for Requesting E-evidence Across Borders."</li> <li>65 prosecutors from Montenegro, Serbia, BiH, and North Macedonia were trained on firearms identification and tracing through four training sessions, one in each jurisdiction.</li> </ul>
ACTIVITY 4: SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL INFORMATION SHARING AND ANALYSIS OF FIREARMS TRAFFICKING CASES.	11 inter-institutional information exchange meetings were organized with 151 criminal justice practitioners from the judiciary, prosecution offices, the criminal and border police, and customs.
ACTIVITY 5: FOSTER INTERNA- TIONAL AND REGIONAL COOP- ERATION IN CRIMINAL MATTERS ON FIREARMS TRAFFICKING AND RELATED CRIMES, INCLUDING THROUGH JITS, PARALLEL IN- VESTIGATIONS, OR BI-NATIONAL TASK FORCES	The State Investigation and Protection Agency of BiH sent a written request for support on a case with an international element, once the travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic have been removed.

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 6: HARMONIZE COURT PRACTICES ON SENTENCING IN FIREARMS TRAFFICKING CASES.	<ul> <li>Case law collections on firearms related offences were developed in Albania, BiH, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia.</li> <li>7 case law workshops were organized in Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia, reaching 64 members of the judiciary.</li> </ul>
<b>ACTIVITY 7:</b> PROJECT COORDINATION ACTIVITIES.	Meetings with various stakeholders and project beneficiaries.

# OUTPUT 3

The WB jurisdictions have evidence-based arms control policies and practices through systematic collection and analysis of criminal justice data across the **Criminal Justice Sector.** 

Indicators	Baseline (2019)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of baseline assessments on criminal justice data and fire- arms data of WB jurisdictions to support their participation in the UNODC Global Illicit Arms Flows Monitoring Initiative.	0	7	Consultant recruited, methodology and structure developed, desk research and collection of data initiated. Data from
# of meetings to support specific WB jurisdictions in assessing their needs for harmonizing the collec- tion of firearms data.			BiH collected.

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1: SUPPORT THE PARTICIPATION OF NATION-AL AUTHORITIES IN THE UNODC GLOBAL ILLICIT ARMS FLOWS MONITORING INITIATIVE THROUGH REGULAR COLLECTION AND SHARING OF THEIR CONSOLIDATED CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA ON FIREARMS.	<ul> <li>The development of the baseline assessment on criminal justice data and firearms data was initiated. The consultant to conduct the research was identified, the methodology developed and approved, and the structure of the report and the interview guide for qualitative data collection were established.</li> <li>Data from various stakeholders in BiH was collected.</li> </ul>

No. 4

# 4. PROJECT

# URGENT ACTION ON AMMUNITION DESTRUCTION -PROJECT EXPLODE+, IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION: UNDP BIH



Sustained reduction of unsafe ammunition complex systems enabling improved safety and security for storage facilities and adjacent local communi-

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of realized actions under the MOD/AF BiH Plan of Operations for Ammunition and Explosives for 2020 of the MoD/AF BiH (contribution to overall reduction of annual quantity of ammunition disposed of).  Quantity of ammunition fuses, white phosphorous ammunition, rifle grenades, Zolja-type RPGs, and different types of RPG's successfully disposed of.	A Plan of Operations for Ammunition and Explosives for 2020 of the MoD/AF BiH is currently under development.	Disposal of: 53,097 ammunition fuses 2,461 pieces of white phosphorus ammunition 22,800 pieces of rifle grenades 2,667 pieces of Zolja-type rocket propelled gre- nades M80 – 64mm 1,000 pieces of rock- et propelled grenade ammunition of different types.	1,000 pieces of RPGs disposed of.

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1: INDUSTRIALLY DISPOSE OF 76 TONNES OF UNSAFE AMMUNITION.	<ul> <li>1,000 pieces of RPG were disposed of, with the final verification report pending.</li> <li>Contracts for the disposal of 2,667 pieces of Zolja-type RGPs and 833 units of white phosphorus ammunition were awarded.</li> </ul>

# 5. PROJECT

# STRENGTHENING CONTROL, ADMINISTRATION AND SOCIAL ATTITUDES TOWARDS SALW, IN ALBANIA

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION: UNDP ALBANIA



Improved weapons registration in accordance with the EU Directive on firearms and national legislation.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
% of registration of category "C" firearms	55%.	At least 95%.	-
# of legal gun owners provided with digital card authorization for gun possession.	Not in place.	At least 80,000	-

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1: SUPPORT THE ADVANCEMENT AND EVENTUAL COMPLETION OF THE FIREARMS RE-REGISTRATION PROCESS.	The procurement of IT equipment for weapons re-registration was concluded. The equipment will be delivered in 2022.
ACTIVITY 2: SUPPORT THE DE- VELOPMENT OF A DIGITALIZED SYSTEM AND THE PRODUCTION OF FIREARMS OWNERS' DIGITAL CARDS.	Technical Specifications were drafted for the equipment of digital card production. Procurement will be initiated in 2022.

# **OUTPUT 2**

#### Improved Albanian State Police weapons storage management.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
% of rehabilitated and standard compliant ASP arms & ammunition storages vs total.	48%	58%	-

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1: CONDUCT THE RECONSTRUCTION TECHNICAL DESIGN, ASSESS EQUIPMENT NEEDS, AND FINALIZE THE BOQ (BILL OF QUANTITIES) FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL INTERVENTION.	ToR (Terms of Reference) were drafted for the selection of a design and supervision company. The procurement for the design and supervision will be initiated in 2022.
ACTIVITY 2: CONDUCT THE RECONSTRUCTION AND REFURBISHMENT OF SELECTED INTERVENTIONS OF ARMS & AMMUNITION STORAGE FACILITIES.	Activities will be initiated after the technical design under Activity 1 is prepared.



#### Increased awareness of the dangers and risks of the misuse of SALW.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of community participants in structured awareness-raising activities on the dangers of the illegal possession and misuse of SALW.	No data/ none.	At least 2,000.	-
# of police directorates/units involved in awareness-raising activities.	No data/ none.	At least 20.	-
# of sessions disseminating curricula on the dangers of the illegal possession, misuse, and trafficking of arms.	Draft curricula developed by the Swedish Com- munity Policing Pro- gramme.	At least 12 sessions targeting high school students, women and girls, youth, and gun owners.	-
# of national surveys on societal perceptions of the illegal possession and misuse of firearms and solutions to address its causes.	Surveys conducted by SEESAC in Albania in 2016 and 2017.	1 new national survey.	-

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1: CONDUCT AN AWARENESS-RAISING CAMPAIGN ABOUT THE DANGERS OF THE ILLEGAL POSSESSION, MISUSE, AND TRAFFICKING OF SALW	A desk review of the SALW Control situation was completed and a National Survey on SALW misuse will be completed in 2022.

No. **6** 

# 6. PROJECT

# ADVANCING THE CAPACITIES OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR IN THE SALW CONTROL-RELATED FIELD (PHASE II), IN SERBIA

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION: UNDP SERBIA



#### Increased capacities of the CSI units.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
Level of acquaintance with new CSI techniques (utilization of new equipment purchased) between training participants (after training) and between CSI staff (after dissemination/based on the training-the-trainer (ToT) concept, in order to encompass all 550 CSI officers in Serbia at the second stage).	Low	High	_

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
Technical level 1. Be able to trace evidence with improved accuracy and more useful details like the unique identifier (barcode), photo documentation, records; 2. Document the chain of custody in a more precise way by implementing functionalities for unique marking (tagging) of every single piece of evidence (barcoding) and for reliable and unambiguous identification of tagged items; 3. Be linked to the LIMS at the central level Logbook (evidence recovery database) for CSI units.	Low	High	-
Level of acquaintance with the ISO 17020 standard between training participants (after training) and between CSI staff (after dissemination/ based on the training-the-trainer concept, in order to encompass all 550 CSI officers in Serbia at the second stage).	Low to moderate	Moderate to high	-

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1: IMPROVE THE EVIDENCE RECOVERY DATABASE FOR THE CSI UNIT.	The technical specifications of the evidence recovery database for the CSI Unit were prepared and approved by the MoI and UNDP.
ACTIVITY 2: PREPARE FOR ACCREDITATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ISO 17020 ON THE CENTRAL/ REGIONAL/ LOCAL LEVEL.	Training curricula for the advanced training on the central and regional-level CSI Unit accreditation as per ISO 17020 was prepared and approved by the National Forensic Center (NFC).



#### Ballistic laboratory accredited and an Arson, Explosives, and Accident Unit (AEA) established.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of laboratories fully equipped.	0	4	-
# of ballistic experts trained.	3	10	
Institutional shooting range reconstructed and equipped	Poor conditions and not properly equipped.	Shooting range reconstructed and equipped.	-
Preparations for the accreditation of the Central Ballistics Labinitiated.	Certain activities conducted.	Central Ballistics Lab accredited.	-

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1: CONDUCT STUDY VISIT.	Activities will be initiated in 2022.
ACTIVITY 2: ORGANIZE AD- VANCED TRAININGS ON THE CENTRAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL.	Activities will be initiated in 2022.

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 3: DELIVER EQUIPMENT TO THE BALLISTICS LABORATORIES.	A comparative high-range microscope was procured and installed in the ballistics laboratory.
ACTIVITY 4: PREPARE THE OCF IN LINE WITH NECESSARY STANDARDS AND SOPS.	Activities will be initiated in 2022.
ACTIVITY 5: IMPROVE GUNSHOT RESIDUE (GSR) ANALYSIS.	A GSR ashing device was procured and installed in the NFC.
ACTIVITY 6: RECONSTRUCT THE BALLISTICS LABORATORY SHOOTING RANGE.	Tender documentation was prepared and approved by the Mol.
ACTIVITY 7: PREPARE THE BALLISTICS LABORATORIES FOR ACCREDITATION IN LINE WITH ISO 17025.	<ul> <li>An analysis and recommendations were prepared in order to start preparation for the accreditation process.</li> <li>Training curricula of awareness-raising training for ballistics laboratories in line with the ISO 17025 standard was prepared.</li> </ul>
ACTIVITY 8: SUPPORT ACCREDITATION ACCORDING TO THE ISO 17025 STANDARD.	Activities will be initiated in 2022.



#### Increased capacity and establishment of an arson/explosion/accident (AEA) investigation Unit.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
AEA Standard Operating Procedure amended and approved.	No	Yes	SOP drafted and approved.
Basic and advanced AEA trainings organized.	No	Yes	Awareness-raising training on ISO 17020 organized.
AEA equipment according to international standards provided and installed.	No	Yes	-

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1: AAMEND AND APPROVE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES.	An SOP regulating the performance of forensic investigators on arson/explosion scenes was drafted and approved.
ACTIVITY 2: (TEI) AND ADVANCED COUNTER TERRORISM SEARCH TRAINING (CTST).	Activities will be initiated in 2022.
ACTIVITY 3: DELIVER EQUIPMENT FOR EXPLOSIVE DEVICE DETECTION AND EXPLOSION INVESTIGATIONS.	The tender for the procurement of equipment for the AEA unit was launched.
ACTIVITY 4: ORGANIZE TRAIN- INGS AS PART OF PREPARATIONS TO WORK IN LINE WITH THE ISO 17020 STANDARD.	<ul> <li>Guiding document drafted on the application of the ISO 17020 standard.</li> <li>15 police officers from the AEA Investigation Unit attended an online awareness-raising training designed to build basic knowledge about the ISO standard and how to prepare for the accreditation of the explosion investigation method.</li> </ul>



#### Upgraded SALW-control registry system.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
Quality of the IT infrastructure of Police Administration Directorate.	Moderate	High (up to 60 desktop computers, up to 30 printers and scanners, and necessary servers).	-
# of police officers who completed ToT trainings on SALW control.	0	50	-
# of police officers who completed basic SALW control training.	0	200	-

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1: CONDUCT GAP ANALYSIS OF THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT.	<ul> <li>Analysis of the IT infrastructure (software and hardware) of the Administrative Directorate and the General Police Directorate, respectively, was conducted for the proper functionality of the SALW-control registry system.</li> <li>Technical specifications and details for the software and hardware servers and working stations for the necessary equipment were prepared.</li> </ul>
ACTIVITY 2: PURCHASE AND INSTALL THE RELEVANT HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE EQUIPMENT FOR THE POLICE ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTORATE.	The tender for the procurement of equipment was launched.
ACTIVITY 3: ORGANIZE TRAINING FOR POLICE OFFICERS.	Training curricula were prepared and approved by the Mol.

No. **7** 

# 7. PROJECT

ADVANCING THE CAPACITIES OF THE POLICE DIRECTORATE IN THE FIELD OF CUSTODY CHAIN. CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATIONS AND THE FORENSIC LABORATORY IN THE FIELD OF OPERATIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS IN DETECTION AND TRAFFICKING OF EXPLOSIVES CRIMINALITY, IN MONTENEGRO

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION: UNDP MONTENEGRO



Standard Operating Procedures developed for CSI teams, for documenting the crime scene, and for taking and packaging evidence for explosives.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
SOPs developed in line with international standards, taking into account local experience and domestic legislation.	No SOPs on explosives in place.	SOPs developed.	SOPs drafted or amended.
Officers have acquired knowledge through series of trainings.	Low	High	-

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1: PREPARE SOPS FOR KEY PROCESSES.	<ul> <li>A new overall basic SOP for CSI, packaging and tagging of evidence, and chain of custody, applicable to all CSI units in Montenegro, was drafted and is pending approval.</li> <li>The following SOPs for CSI have been revised and are being discussed with the beneficiary and awaiting approval: SOP for the treatment of improvised explosive devices by crime scene officers; SOP for the forensic search of vehicles regarding explosives; SOP for the securing, packaging, and further handling of explosive substances and post blast traces intended for chemical laboratory analysis.</li> </ul>
ACTIVITY 2: DELIVER EQUIPMENT FOR CSI UNITS.	Technical specifications for the equipment were finalised together with the beneficiary. A company was selected through a competitive process to deliver the necessary equipment.



# Increased capacity of the Arson and Explosives Laboratory.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
SOPs for the Arson and Explosives Laboratory developed in line with international standards.	No SOPs in place.	SOPs developed.	-
Necessary equipment for the laboratory acquired.	No adequate equipment.	Capacity of the lab upgraded with technical equipment.	-
Professionals working in the Arson and Explosives Laboratory have acquired knowledge through a series of trainings in developed SOPs.	Limited knowledge of the lab's professionals with regards to ENFSI standards.	Lab's professionals trained in ENFSI stan- dards.	-
Work processes accredited, making them recognized and valid internationally, thus enabling efficient information exchange and international cooperation in the fight against Crime.	Methods not accredited.	Methods for explosives accredited.	-

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1: DEVELOP SOPS FOR THE ARSON AND EXPLOSIVES LABORATORY AND PREPARE FOR ACCREDITATION.	• The following SOPs for the Arson / Explosives Laboratory of the Forensic Center of Montenegro are being revised by the competent consultant in cooperation with beneficiaries: SOP for the reception, protection, and dispatch of explosive and post blast traces; SOP for the handling, reviewing, sampling, and measuring of explosive and post blast traces; SOP for the reviewing of pyrotechnic devices; SOP for the reviewing of improvised explosive devices; SOP for the reviewing of conventional explosive devices; SOP for examining the correctness of the fuse regarding spark transfer and burning velocity; SOP for examining the correctness of the electric detonator.
ACTIVITY 2: DELIVER TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE ARSON AND EXPLOSIVES LABORATORY.	The technical specifications for the relevant equipment were finalised together with beneficiary, and the tender was launched.



# Increased capacities of the chemical laboratory.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
SOPs for the Chemical Laboratory developed in line with international standards.	No SOPs in place.	SOPs developed.	-
Necessary equipment for the laboratory acquired.	No adequate equipment.	Capacity of the lab upgraded with technical equipment.	-
Professionals working in the chemical laboratory have acquired knowledge through a series of trainings on developed SOPs.	Limited knowledge of the lab's professionals.	Lab's professionals trained.	-
Work processes accredited, making them recognized and valid internationally, thus enabling efficient information exchange and international cooperation in the fight against Crime.	Methods not accredited.	Methods for explosives accredited.	-

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1: DEVELOP SOPS.	Activities will be initiated in 2022.
ACTIVITY 2: ORGANIZE TRAINING AND PREPARE FOR ACCREDITATION.	Activities will be initiated in 2022.
ACTIVITY 2: DELIVER EQUIPMENT FOR EXPLOSIVE DEVICE DETECTION AND EXPLOSION INVESTIGATIONS.	The technical specifications for the relevant equipment were finalised together with the beneficiary. A company was selected through a competitive process to deliver the necessary equipment.

No. 8

## 8. PROJECT

## **CROSS-BORDER INTEGRATED INSTITUTIONAL** APPROACH TOWARDS COMBATTING IAT AND SALW. IN KOSOVO AND NORTH MACEDONIA

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION: UNDP KOSOVO AND UNDP NORTH MACEDONIA



Strengthened institutional capacities and enhanced police officers' knowledge and understanding of the illegal possession, misuse, and trafficking of SALW through specialized trainings and the use of innovative IT tools.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of needs assessments and gap analyses in relation to IAT, SALW control, possession, and misuse, and weapons categorization.	No qualitative gap analysis report.	One gap analysis report prepared per jurisdiction.	One gap analysis report was prepared per jurisdiction.
# of trainings on information gathering, information sharing, and information analysis.  # of trainings on weapons categorization.	No training on information gathering, information sharing, or information analysis. No training on weapons categorization and their essential parts, explosives and other handmade explosives, the possession and misuse of firearms, or community policing/ILP activity	12 trainings on information gathering, information sharing, and information analysis are provided for 200 police officers per jurisdiction. 12 trainings on weapons categorization and their essential parts, explosives and other handmade explosives, the possession and misuse of firearms, and community policing/ILP are provided for 200 police officers;	4 trainings on information gathering, etc. were provided for 60 police officers per jurisdiction. 2 trainings on weapons categorization etc. were provided for 30 police officers.

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1: CONDUCT NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND GAP ANALYSIS IN RELATION TO ILLICIT ARMS TRAFFICKING, SALW CONTROL, POSSESSION, AND MISUSE, AND WEAPONS CATEGORIZATION.	<ul> <li>Needs assessments and gap analyses were prepared in both jurisdictions to better understand the necessary institutional approach in community policing, information gathering, information analysis, and producing intelligence products in illicit arms trafficking, SALW, ammunition, and explosives.</li> <li>Several meetings and workshops were organized to prepare or present the findings of the gap analyses.</li> </ul>
ACTIVITY 2: DEVELOP INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES.	<ul> <li>120 police officers (60 from each jurisdiction) were trained in information gathering, information sharing, and information analysis.</li> <li>60 police officers (30 from each jurisdiction) were trained in weapons categorization, explosives and other handmade explosive devices, the possession and misuse of firearms, and community policing/intelligence-led policing.</li> </ul>



Strengthened institutional capacities and improved operational information sharing between North Macedonia and Kosovo law-enforcement institutions in combatting the trafficking of converted firearms.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of comprehensive trainings in illicit arms trafficking of converted firearms developed and delivered.	0	3	-
# of police officers that attended a converted firearm workshop.	0	12	-
# of meetings between investiga- tion teams and FFPs, across the border and between the agencies.	0	Two workshops and at least two meetings held on improved coordination.	-
# of JIT and SOPs on converted firearms investigations.	0	At least one JIT created, and one SOP developed on converted firearms investigations.	-
# of knowledge products developed, printed, and disseminated.	0	At least 5 knowledge products developed, printed, and disseminated aimed at helping law-enforcement institutions in their decision-making efforts.	-

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1: DEVELOP INSTITU- TIONAL CAPACITIES ON CONVERT- ED-FIREARMS INVESTIGATIONS.	Activities will be initiated in 2022.
ACTIVITY 2: FORM JITS FOR CONVERTED-FIREARMS INVESTIGATIONS.	Activities will be initiated in 2022.
ACTIVITY 2: DEVELOP KNOWL- EDGE PRODUCTS.	Activities will be initiated in 2022.



Improved capacities of Cyber Crime Units and Firearms Focal Points (FFPs) to deal with illicit firearms trafficking on the Internet and Darknet.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of coordination meetings or- ganized for the development of harmonized procedures for cyber- crime investigations.	No clear and harmonized procedures for cyber-crime investigations between both jurisdictions.	One workshop and at least two meetings organized.	-

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1: DEVELOP AND HAR- MONIZE OPERATIONAL PROCE- DURES IN KOSOVO AND NORTH MACEDONIA.	Activities will be initiated in 2022.



Increased outreach and communication to citizens through mass-media and targeted awareness-raising campaigns.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of press stories on the dangers of the misuse and trafficking of SALW published.	0	At least 6.	-
# of public awareness campaigns on the dangers of the misuse and trafficking of SALW carried out.	0	2	-

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1: IMPROVE PUBLIC AWARENESS THROUGH CAM- PAIGNS AND VISIBILITY EVENTS.	Activities will be initiated in 2022.

No. 9

# 9. PROJECT

### PREVENTION AND ILLICIT ARMS REDUCTION IN **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (PROJECT PILLAR+)**

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION: UNDP BOSNIA AND HFR7FGOVINA



Capacitated law enforcement agencies in BiH foster better understanding within the general population of the threats of SALW by building capacities within the formal Associations of Women Police Officers in BiH as "agents of change," as well as through thematic community policing activities.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
Availability of needs assessment and conceptualized training curricula for the Networks of Women Police Officers in BiH (Networks) focusing on a gender-balanced approach to SALW control and awareness.	Absence of needs assessment and conceptualized training curricula.	Needs assessment and conceptualized training curricula developed.	Needs assessment and analysis focusing on a gender-bal- anced approach to SALW control and awareness were completed. Training materials for specialized trainings on strategic planning and project writing were developed.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of Women Police Officers in BiH (Networks) whose capacities in strategic planning and project development were increased.	0	Up to 50	56 participants (53 from the two formal Associations of Women Police Officers and 3 partic- ipants from the MoS) were trained.
# of micro-projects developed by Networks of Women Police Officers trained in project devel- opment.	0	Up to 4	10 small projects were developed as a result of the training on strategic planning and project writing.

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1: CONDUCT NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND CONCEPTUALIZE SPECIALIZED TRAININGS.	<ul> <li>Needs assessment analysis focusing on a gender-balanced approach to SALW control and awareness was initiated and completed, identifying the key messages, target groups, and promotional materials for the awareness campaigns to be conducted within the project.</li> <li>Training materials of the specialized trainings on strategic planning and project writing for the two formal Associations of Women Police Officers were developed.</li> </ul>
ACTIVITY 2: CONDUCT TRAINING OF UP TO 50 MEMBERS OF THE NETWORKS FOCUSING IN STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT.	<ul> <li>56 participants were trained in strategic planning and project writing (53 from the two formal associations of women police officers and 3 participants from the MoS). The participants were divided in three groups, each of which attended two training modules.</li> </ul>



Raised awareness through structured countrywide campaigns, outreach activities, and advocacy addressing the devastating impact and threats posed by illicit SALW to the general public, especially to vulnerable groups (women, children, young men).

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of thematic public events organized.	40 events organized in 2014.	At least 20.	34 outreach events were organized in 10 cantonal law enforce- ment agencies and in the Police of the Brčko District of BiH.
# of people reached through public outreach campaigns.	997,000 people reached during the 2014 cam- paign.	1 million.	300,000 people were reached within an awareness campaign organized in Decem- ber 2021.

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1: IMPLEMENT AN AWARENESS-RAISING CAMPAIGN INCLUDING OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY EVENTS.	<ul> <li>The awareness-raising campaign "Celebrate responsibly, celebrate without firearms" was planned and organized in coordination with the SALW Coordination Board in BiH and conducted in cooperation with 10 law enforcement agencies from the Federation of BiH and the Brčko District of BiH during the period 23-31 December 2021.</li> <li>The campaign reached approximately 300,000 people.</li> </ul>

# 10. PROJECT

## SUPPORT FOR INCREASED INTERNATIONAL **COOPERATION IN CRIMINAL MATTERS**

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION: UNODC



Increased capacity to formulate evidence-based arms control policies and practices through the systematic collection and analysis of criminal justice data across the criminal justice sector.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of needs assessments on information exchange in criminal matters, and on extending iARMS access through the i24/7 secure network.	0	5	1 needs assessment finalized (BiH).
# of WB jurisdictions that incorporate technical assistance and equipment for the extension of the i24/7 network and access to iARMS.	0	Up to 5.	Access to the i24/7 network and iARMS was extended to the Agency for Forensics of BiH.
# of national INTERPOL courses on the use of iARMS.  # of trained practitioners.	0	Increased capacity of trained officers to correctly identify firearms, use the iARMS databases for record-keeping of lost and stolen firearms and for tracing illicit firearms, and for publishing firearms-related INTERPOL notices.	-
# of regional training-of-trainers training sessions on the use of IN-TERPOL tools and firearms data in broader investigative approaches and intel analysis.	0	1	-
# of trainers trained.	0	25	

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1: ORGANIZE JOINT UNODC-INTERPOL PROJECT INCEPTION MEETINGS.	· Activities will be initiated in 2022.
ACTIVITY 2: ORGANIZE JOINT UNODC-INTERPOL NEEDS ASSESSMENT MISSIONS TO ALBANIA, BIH (BIH FEDERATION AND REPUBLIKA SRPSKA), MONTENEGRO, NORTH MACEDONIA, AND SERBIA ON INFORMATION EXCHANGE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS, AND ON EXTENDING IARMS ACCESS TO RELEVANT NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES THROUGH THE EXTENSION OF THE 124/7 SECURE NETWORK.	<ul> <li>Initial assessment missions were conducted in BiH on information exchange in criminal matters, and on extending iARMS access to relevant national law enforcement agencies through the extension of the i24/7 secure network.</li> </ul>

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 3: PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND EQUIPMENT TO INTERPOL MEMBER JURISDICTIONS FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE 124/7 NETWORK AND THE ACCESS TO IARMS.	· Activities will be initiated in 2022.
ACTIVITY 4: DELIVER 6 NATIONAL INTERPOL TRAINING COURSES ON THE USE OF THE IARMS DATABASE.	Activities will be initiated in 2022.
ACTIVITY 5: DELIVER 1 JOINT UNODC-INTERPOL REGIONAL TRAINING-OF-TRAINERS SESSION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF EMBEDDING THE USE OF INTERPOL TOOLS AND FIREARMS DATA INTO BROADER INVESTIGATIVE APPROACHES AND INTELLIGENCE ANALYSIS WORK.	Activities will be initiated in 2022.



#### Increased capacity for regional and international cooperation to counter the trafficking of firearms.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
Development of a sub-regional report on firearms trafficking into, from, and through the WB.	0	1	-
# of regional meetings with a transnational / transregional scope on the exchange of firearms trafficking data into, from, and through the WB.	0	1	-

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1: DEVELOP A SUB-RE-GIONAL REPORT ON FIREARMS TRAFFICKING INTO, FROM, AND THROUGH THE WESTERN BALKANS USING NATIONAL AND GLOBAL DATA, AS WELL AS DATA FROM PARTNERS SUCH AS INTERPOL AND WCO.	Activities will be initiated in 2022.
ACTIVITY 2: ORGANIZE 1 REGIONAL MEETING TO SUPPORT THE EXCHANGE OF FIREARMS TRAFFICKING DATA AMONG WB AUTHORITIES LOCATED ALONG CONNECTED ROUTES.	Activities will be initiated in 2022.



# Increased capacity to detect firearms trafficking and its links to other serious crimes.

Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target	Overall progress / Milestone
# of needs assessments conducted on the detection of firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition in postal and fast courier shipments in the WB jurisdictions.	1 in BiH	4	2

Activities	Results
ACTIVITY 1: CONDUCT NEEDS ASSESSMENT ANALYSIS FOR PREVENTING THE TRAFFICKING OF FIREARMS, THEIR PARTS AND COMPONENTS, AND AMMUNITION THROUGH POSTAL AND COURIER SHIPMENTS IN 4 JURISDICTIONS.	<ul> <li>2 needs assessments were finalised (Albania and North Macedonia).</li> <li>1 needs assessment report was drafted (Kosovo).</li> <li>An agreement was reached on the timeline for the needs assessment in Serbia.</li> </ul>

# **ANNEX III. UPDATED RISK MATRIX**

Risk type	Risk description	Risk management response	Risk level (low, moder- ate, high
Financial	Insufficient capitalization of the Trust Fund	The Trust Fund capitalized \$21.8 million in less than three years, demonstrating the contributors' commitment and support. The Steering Committee, with the support of the Secretariat, plans and regularly monitors the Fund's resources to ensure that allocations to projects do not exceed the Trust Fund's resource balance and that project budgets do not exceed project allocations.	LOW
Political/strategic	Lack of internal political and institutional stability in the jurisdictions tar- geted by the Trust Fund	The Participating UN organizations have strong knowledge and understanding of the situation on the ground. They will ensure close cooperation with their counterparts and diligently monitor the situation in order to plan and respond to changes in a timely manner.  In particular, the political climate in BiH continued to deteriorate since July 2021, with one of BiH three entities refusing to participate in activities involving decision-making. UNDP BiH has met with the concerned authorities to clarify the situation, which it regularly monitors. UNDP BiH will continue to engage the concerned authorities in the project activities, to the extent possible.	MODERATE
Operational	Complexity in ensuring coordination of the projects funded through the Trust Fund	The Trust Fund Secretariat, i.e., SEESAC, is responsible for the programmatic coordination and monitoring of the Fund, providing technical and management support. SEESAC has over 18 years of experience in successfully implementing regional projects in the area of arms control, as well strong relationships with local counterparts and with the Participating UN Organizations. Also, SEESAC is organizing regular regional coordination meetings and supporting local coordination meetings to discuss progress on the status of the Roadmap's implementation, particularly the MPTF-funded projects, including challenges and lessons learnt.	LOW

Risk type	Risk description	Risk management response	Risk level (low, moder- ate, high
Operational	Insufficient operational capacity within local counterparts, often due to lacking human and financial resources to respond to specific, time-constrained activities	The frequent insufficient operational capacity of the local counterparts is mitigated through careful and realistic planning process. The long-term relationships of both the Participating UN Organizations and the Secretariat with the beneficiary institutions provide a basis for realistic capacity assessment and good planning. However, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the prioritization of the governments' actions to respond to the pandemic alongside the many of the beneficiary institutions' personnel falling ill with COVID-19 have further decreased beneficiaries' capacity to participate in the projects' activities. The implementing organizations are taking all the necessary measures to enable beneficiaries' participation in the projects, such as organizing online meetings and trainings, or delaying activities until the situation allows their proper implementation. In particular, the cooperation with the MoD BiH and the heavily delayed decision-making of the institution continued to challenge the implementation of the EXPLODE+ project. In this context, the Steering Committee approved only a 3-month extension of the project, curtailing the additional 9 months requested by the project team upon the receipt from the MoD of an accurate Plan of Operation on Ammunition Disposal.	HIGH
	Covid-19 pandemic and related government restrictions	To counter the negative effects of the pandemic on the implementation of the Trust Fund projects, the Participating UN Organizations will continue to monitor the evolution of the pandemic and related government restrictions and adjust their projects to any new developments. The measures taken thus far that will continue to be implemented include: conducting online coordination meetings with the project beneficiaries and partners, organizing online trainings whenever possible, and respecting the health measures imposed by the government when organizing in-person trainings.	MODERATE





