

NARRATIVE REPORT · FINANCIAL REPORT

WESTERN BALKANS SALW
CONTROL ROADMAP
MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

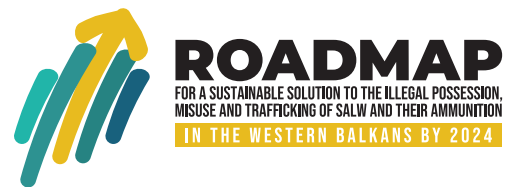


ROADMAP
FOR A SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION TO THE ILLEGAL POSSESSION,
MISUSE AND TRAFFICKING OF SALW AND THEIR AMMUNITION
IN THE WESTERN BALKANS BY 2024

WESTERN BALKANS SALW CONTROL ROADMAP
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The 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
AEL	Arson and Explosives Laboratory
AF	Armed Forces
BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
BCP	Border Crossing Points
BP	Border Police
CEPOL	European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training
CIAT	Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking/Trade
CL	Chemical Laboratory
CoE	Council of Europe
CoP	Community of Practitioners
CSI	Crime Scene Investigation
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CTST	Counter Terrorism Search Training
DPO	Designated Postal Operator
EMPACT	European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats
ENFSI	European Network of Forensic Science Institutes
EU	European Union
EUFOR	European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina
EUROPOL	The European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation
FAE	Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives
FC	Forensic Centre

FFP	Firearms Focal Point
FRONTEX	European Border and Coast Guard Agency
GFP	Global Firearms Programme
GSR	Gun Shot Residue
iARMS	Illicit Arms Records and Tracing Management System
IBM	Integrated Border Management
ILP	Intelligence Led Policing
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
ITA	Indirect Taxation Authority of BiH / BiH Customs
JIT	Joint Investigation Team
LCMSMS	Liquid Chromatograph with Mass Spectrometer
LIMS	Laboratory Information Management System
MoD	Ministry of Defense
MoFTER	Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BiH
Moi	Ministry of the Interior
MoJ	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
PAD	Police Administrative Directorate
PUNO	Participating United Nations Organization
RPG	Rocket-Propelled Grenade
RS	Republika Srpska
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEESAC	South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of SALW
SHERLOC	Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime
SIMs	Special Investigative Measures
SIPA	State Investigation and Protection Agency of BiH
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNODC	United 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 honour to present the sixth annual report of the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund in support 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 sixth year of the Trust Fund's existence, going hand in hand with the Roadmap's implementation.

In 2024 the joint efforts of the Western Balkans authorities, partners and contributors to the Roadmap's implementation received valuable recognition. After six years of committed and continuous work in pursuing the Roadmap vision and goals, the overall **impact of the Roadmap** received well-deserved acknowledgement by the relevant authorities and partners at the [Berlin Process Summit](#) on 14 October 2024. The second phase of the Roadmap was endorsed at the European Union-Western Balkans [Ministerial Forum on Justice and Home Affairs](#) on 28-29 October 2024, thereby **extending the Roadmap's implementation until 2030**. Additionally, the relevance of the Roadmap for the further integration of the region into the European Union (EU) and its impact on regional cooperation and the fight against organized crime was acknowledged at the [EU-Western Balkans Summit](#) on 18 December 2024.

These regional efforts are strongly aligned with **global frameworks and international commitments** aimed at addressing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. Let us recall that the United Nations (UN) [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) affirmed that sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security and that illicit arms flows are amongst the factors which give rise to violence, insecurity and injustice. Under the [UN Programme of Action](#) to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, governments agreed to improve national small arms laws, import/export controls, and stockpile management – and to engage in cooperation and assistance. At the UN's [Fourth Review Conference](#) (RevCon4) in June 2024, the Member States renewed this commitment and highlighted the importance of regional and subregional cooperation, including through roadmaps. Particular focus was placed on the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap through [dedicated events](#), showcasing lead initiatives in SALW control to Member State delegates, UN entities, regional organizations and civil society organizations.

Over the years, the Western Balkans jurisdictions have remained steadfast in their commitment to achieving the Roadmap goals, as outlined in the [Roadmap progress reports](#). The extension of the Roadmap

to 2030 demonstrates the continued dedication of the authorities in the region to promoting peace and inclusiveness, supported by various local, regional, and international partners. Partnership remains a critical enabler for success to this end. The Trust Fund, its donors, contributors and the participating UN organizations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office on

Drugs and Crime (UNODC), ensure that the necessary support is in place to facilitate the progress of jurisdictions towards the Roadmap's implementation, yielding significant results in legislative, operational, procedural, and community engagement areas.

Nevertheless, the progress achieved thus far should not make us complacent. The complexity and scope of the challenge, alongside increased regional and global threats, urge us to stay alert as important work is still ahead.

The data trends on **firearm incidents in the Western Balkans** gathered by SEESAC's [Armed Violence Monitoring Platform](#) (AVMP) demonstrate that the increase in firearm incidents has not wavered. However, a positive indicator here is the fact that weapons seizures constitute the majority of these reported incidents. This encouraging trend in the data is no coincidence, as it reflects the targeted support the Trust Fund provides to enhance detection, seizure, and investigation capacities.

The Roadmap thus continues to serve as a guiding and consensual document developed and owned by the regional authorities towards achieving a sustainable solution to arms control.

I invite you to delve into the Trust Fund's annual report at hand as an informative review detailing the Trust Fund's contribution to the achievement of the Roadmap goals. It highlights the specific activities conducted by the participating UN organizations in partnership with the authorities in the region, outlines the challenges encountered and lessons learned, and documents partnerships established and strengthened, as well as presents the work of the Trust Fund governance bodies in 2024.

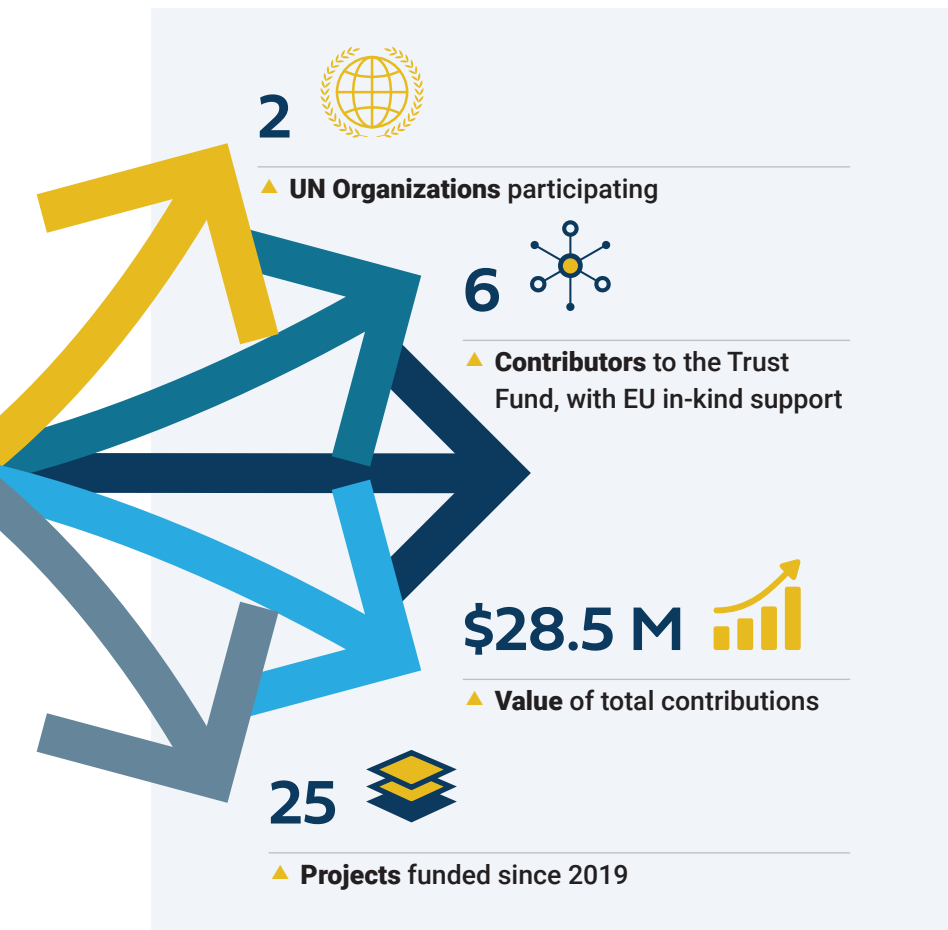
Together, we remain committed to the Roadmap vision: *the Western Balkans as a safer region and exporter of security, where comprehensive and sustainable mechanisms, fully harmonized with the European Union and other international standards, are in place to identify, prevent, prosecute, and control the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of firearms, ammunition and explosives.*

Together for a safer region and beyond.

Steliana Nedera

Chairperson of the Steering Committee
Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF and
Manager of the UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub

Executive Summary



In 2024, the Trust Fund and its two Participating UN Organizations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), further solidified their comprehensive support to the authorities in the Western Balkans in addressing priority areas of the regional [SALW Control Roadmap](#) [the Roadmap]. The focus remained on the improvement of legislative, operational, and institutional frameworks, the advancement of human, technical, and digital resources towards SALW control, the upgrading of investigative and data collection methods and resources, the enhancing of gender-sensitive approaches, and the policy-making to tackle arms-related threats and risks, alongside the engagement of a diverse set of actors and communities towards these ends.

The Trust Fund remained steadfastly supported by its six principal contributors - the governments of Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, France, the United Kingdom, and Norway, bolstered by the overall support of the European Union. In 2024, an additional US\$ 1 million was mobilized, bringing the total value of contributions to the Trust Fund to US\$ 28.5 million. Of the 12 projects ongoing at the year's beginning, four were successfully completed over the course of the year. The completed projects encompassed jurisdiction-level projects implemented by UNDP in Albania (2), Bosnia and Herzegovina (1) and North Macedonia (1).

The results of these projects span three Roadmap Goals (Goals 4, 5 and 7), encompassing the upgrading of weapons and ammunition storage facilities in Albania and North Macedonia, raised awareness on the dangers of firearms misuse in Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and improvement in data collection, management, and analytical capabilities of the Ministry of Interior in North Macedonia. In the last quarter of 2024, the Trust Fund launched one new project at a value of US\$ 1.28 million, which is to be implemented by UNODC and is to further solidify the progress made in countering the trafficking of firearms in postal shipments. This brought the total number of projects funded by the Trust Fund since its establishment to 25 projects at a total value of \$26.67 million.

With the ongoing portfolio of projects in 2024, the Trust Fund continued to provide support to the Western Balkans authorities in their dedicated efforts to achieve the Roadmap Goals, capitalizing on the previous work and investment, while strengthening local ownership and partnerships, knowledge tools and resources, community engagement, the integration of gender and human rights perspectives, and sustainability. The MPTF-funded projects individually and cumulatively have brought the Western Balkans jurisdictions closer to the commonly agreed vision for a safer region enshrined in the Roadmap.

Highlights from 2024



\$1 M

▲ Mobilized
for SALW action

12

▲ Projects
implemented

1

▲ New regional project
approved

30

▲ Knowledge products
developed

10

▲ Weapons storage
facilities upgraded in Albania

\$5.5 M+

▲ People reached
through awareness-raising campaigns

12

▲ Civil society
organizations supported

620+

▲ Criminal justice
practitioners engaged

670+

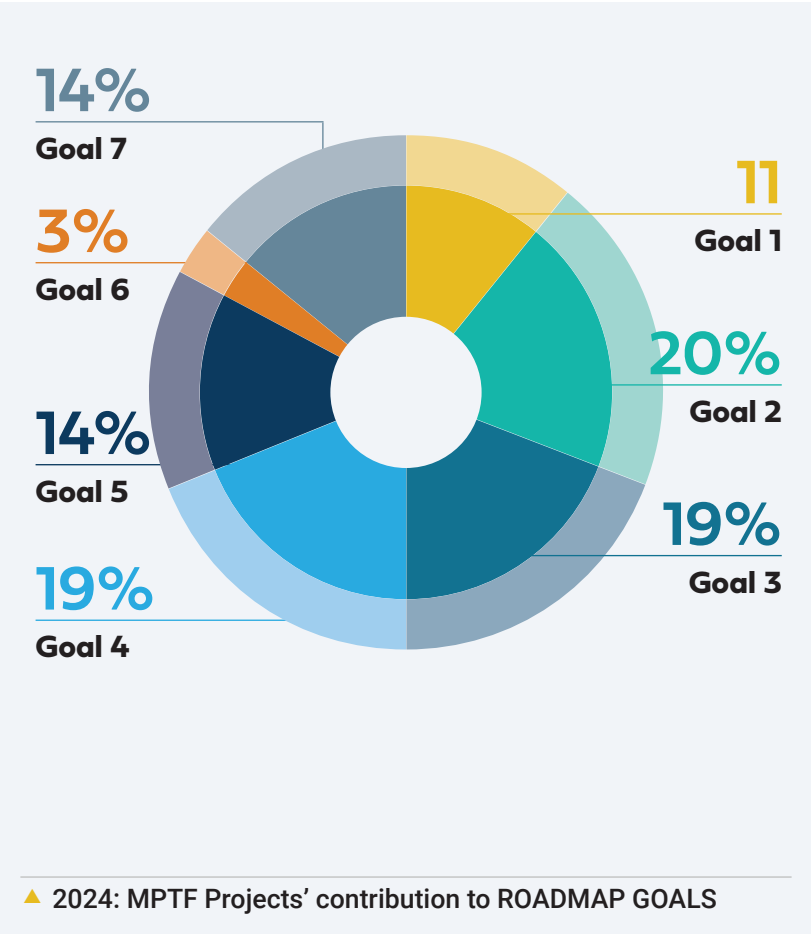
▲ Police officers
enhanced SALW control
capacities



Progress towards the Roadmap Goals

The Trust Fund managed to deliver important results, supporting the Western Balkans authorities in continuing to advance towards achieving the Roadmap Goals. In 2024, **the Trust Fund contributed to all seven goals of the Roadmap**. 12 projects at a value of US\$ 14.2 million actively contributed to the Roadmap's implementation in a coordinated manner throughout the year, whereby each project supported multiple goals¹, with four projects contributing to the achievement of Goal 1, seven to each of Goal 2, Goal 3, and Goal 4, five to Goal 5, one to Goal 6, and five to Goal 7, as illustrated in the chart just below. The new project approved at a value of US\$1.28 million and launched in the last quarter of 2024 aims to contribute to Goals 3 and 5 of the Roadmap through the end of 2025.

¹ Reference is made to Annex 2 - Trust Fund Projects, where contribution to Roadmap Goals per project is specified.



GOAL	BY 2023
1	By 2023, ensure that arms control legislation is in place, fully harmonized with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations and standardized across the region.

The Trust Fund supported activities aimed at **harmonizing the 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 **Goal 1 of the Roadmap**. In 2024, with the Trust Fund's project support, amendments to criminal codes were finalized in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (BiH) and **Serbia** in accordance with the UN Firearms Protocol, pending adoption.

In line with Goal 1, progress was made in the **standardization of procedures and practices** in arms control and FAE investigations. Specifically, **Montenegro** and **Serbia** were supported in advancing six new forensic methods towards international accreditation (three per jurisdiction) in accordance with ISO 17025.

Additional support in advancing and standardizing crime scene and ballistic investigations was provided **across the region**. Relevant international and bilateral peer-exchanges were provided to all jurisdictions. Specialized equipment, infrastructural upgrades, and training towards these ends were provided to forensic institutions in **Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia**.

GOAL

2

BY 2024

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

In contributing to **Goal 2 of the Roadmap**, the Trust Fund resources enabled the authorities in the Western Balkans jurisdictions to further standardize and institutionalize data collection, increase analytical capacities and operational exchange, and better integrate gender concerns into policy-making. **Regional** exchange of good practices and challenges among law enforcement, prosecution, and judicial officials was enhanced through regional-level projects and cross-border initiatives supported by the Trust Fund. A comprehensive set of knowledge tools and resources was developed, enriching the platform for further evidence-based policy and practice.

In **BiH**, the jurisdiction continued to progress with its initiative to develop a new application for registering weapons in legal possession in the Federation of BiH. In **Albania, BiH, Kosovo², Montenegro, and Serbia**, forensic experts were supported in enhancing analytical methods and forensic practice for FAE evidence collection. In Montenegro, the jurisdiction upgraded its indoor shooting range at the Forensic Centre to ensure a safer and more efficient environment for conducting ballistic testing during forensic examinations of weapons and ammunition. In **North Macedonia**, the jurisdiction likewise upgraded the indoor shooting range at the Mol and it also progressed with the development of a Training and Simulation Facility for continuous advancement in crime scene investigation. Further options were considered for upgrading the jurisdiction's Police Information Management System.

Towards advancing the **gender-responsive policy making** and practice on SALW control, a gender-sensitive guideline for criminal justice practitioners in the region was developed by UNODC and will be integrated into the respective tailored training materials for law enforcement, prosecution, and judiciary in the upcoming period. In BiH and Serbia, respective associations of women police officers were supported by UNDP to network and promote women's stronger engagement and gender mainstreaming in SALW control policies. The BiH's Ministry of Security enrolled in the Gender Equality Seal (GES) for Public Institutions program, which will foster the institution's gender-responsive policy making on SALW and security matters. In Serbia, the Ministry of the Interior collaborated with UNDP to advance gender-sensitive data collection for better evidence-based actions to prevent firearm misuse.

2 References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of the UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

GOAL

3

BY 2024

By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition, and explosives into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.

To support the achievement of **Goal 3 of the Roadmap**, the Trust Fund projects worked in three directions: i) supporting the advancement and implementation of legal, policy, and procedural frameworks on the trafficking of firearms, ammunition, and explosives (FAE); ii) contributing to improved technical and operational capacities through the provision of specialized equipment and the training of targeted law enforcement units to prevent and counter the trafficking of FAE; and iii) enabling the strengthening of local, regional, and international cooperation to counter illicit arms trafficking.

At the **regional level**, the Trust Fund initiated in October 2024 the second phase of the regional Hermes initiative, which will enable the jurisdictions to build upon and implement the previously developed regulatory framework on countering trafficking in firearms via postal parcels. Relevant training materials and online courses were translated into local languages to support further capacity development in detecting and countering trafficking in firearms via postal parcels. In addition, a guideline was developed by UNODC on the prosecution of firearms trafficking through postal parcels.

All jurisdictions received tailored guidelines on the use of Special Investigative Measures (SIMs) in firearms trafficking (cross-border) cases. The developed guidelines incorporate international standards and national case law, offering practical support for both domestic enforcement and transnational cooperation. A compilation of human rights related jurisprudence in firearms-related criminal cases was developed by UNODC, encompassing all jurisdictions, to balance security and human rights in the adjudication of firearms trafficking and organized crime.

In all jurisdictions, the technical capacities of the police were further enhanced through the provision of specialized equipment for detecting and countering FAE trafficking. Complementary to these efforts, in **BiH**, four domestic joint exercises and two cross-border exercises with Montenegro were supported by UNDP, bringing together the police, customs officers, and prosecutors in testing existing procedures in detecting and countering illicit SALW flows. In addition, UNDP developed draft guidelines on SALW-related investigations for police cadets, designed for use in police academies and law enforcement training institutions across BiH. With UNDP support and in collaboration with the Prosecutor's Office, BiH customs officials acquired additional knowledge on criminal code procedures on firearms-related crime, while prosecutors from across BiH were engaged to identify gaps in

SALW-related investigation from the prosecutor's angle and incorporate these findings into a SALW Investigation guidebook for police agencies. The guidebook is to be finalized in 2025, with the aim of guiding police officers on proper actions and collaboration with prosecutors in investigating SALW-related crimes, thus enhancing the prosecution of firearms-related crimes. In **Albania** and **Kosovo**, a comprehensive training programme for police officers was rolled out to strengthen the detection, countering, and investigation of firearms trafficking.

Forensic investigations and learning from good international practice to counter firearms trafficking and enhance cross-border collaboration towards this end were supported in several jurisdictions. In **North Macedonia**, MoI representatives were supported by UNDP to learn from the good practice applied by the National Forensic Police Service (SNPS) in Écully, France, and to strengthen bilateral collaboration with French authorities in advancing relevant investigations. In **BiH** and in **Serbia**, a series of peer exchanges of ballistic and arson and explosives experts took place with support from UNDP, exploring the capabilities of respective laboratories, exchanging experiences through an examination of cases and difficulties encountered, and strengthening working relations for future collaboration. In **Kosovo**, UNDP enabled ballistic experts to professionally exchange experience and good practice in advanced ballistic analysis with the Forensic Centre in Zagreb, Croatia.

GOAL

4

BY 2024

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

Towards reducing the misuse of firearms in line with **Goal 4 of the Roadmap**, a series of **awareness-raising, educational, outreach, and advocacy activities** took place in 2024 across several jurisdictions. In **Albania**, efforts supporting the general awareness raising campaign that UNDP supported in 2024 were joined with those of the OSCE Presence in Albania, which also bolstered the Ministry of the Interior and Albanian State Police in enhancing their public information on SALW matters and in raising awareness on SALW misuse and related risks and threats. The coordinated work reinforced outreach and enabled messaging multipliers and complementary action, thus ensuring that various dimensions of SALW control were comprehensively addressed. The public awareness campaign supported by the Trust Fund was rolled out in 2024 via social media and public outreach, aimed at SALW control and reducing firearms misuse and their illicit possession. The campaign was estimated to have reached around 1.5 million people. In addition, the campaign encompassed outreach to high schools as an integral component. The Albanian State Police and the school security officers were supported by UNDP in organizing meetings in high schools across the 12 regions of Albania, thereby raising awareness about the dangers and misuse of SALW among young women and men. The meetings engaged approximately 800 high school students.

In **BiH**, UNDP cooperated with police agencies to implement the third wave of the general awareness-raising campaign “Respect Life, Not Weapons.” The campaign addressed the voluntary surrender of (illicit) SALW, and encompassed TV, radio, digital channels, and out-of-home/ billboard advertising. 13 outreach events were conducted in selected cities with the involvement of police agencies in the field. The campaign reached approximately 2.3 million individuals aged 18 and above.

In **Kosovo**, the jurisdiction with the support of UNDP developed tailored training curricula on SALW control, firearm misuse prevention, and the prevention of domestic violence and trained 516 community policing officers and members of Local Public Safety Committees and Municipal Community Safety Councils, thus building stronger and more informed partnerships between law enforcement and local communities. The “Celebrate with Your Heart, Not Your Gun” awareness raising campaign was supported by UNDP Kosovo office in the second half of 2024 through a diverse range of activities designed to engage and educate the community. Utilizing awareness-raising materials such as brochures, posters, radio jingles, video messages, social media posts, and a mural, the campaign effectively communicated its message on the dangers of celebratory gunfire and the importance of reporting firearm misuse during festivities. Additionally, it highlighted the risks and consequences associated with pyrotechnics and fireworks, particularly during year-end celebrations. Through multiple communication channels, the campaign reached a broad audience, estimated at more than 700,000 women and men. As reported by the Kosovo Police, an increase of 40% in the reporting of celebratory shootings was recorded by September 2024 as compared to 2023, coupled with a 28% increase in cases opened by the police.



In **Serbia**, UNDP supported the Ministry of Interior in implementing a national awareness and advocacy campaign during the 2024 “16 Days of Activism” global initiative, focused on bystander intervention and anonymous reporting of domestic violence. The campaign, featuring videos, audio clips, and visuals, was broadcast on television, radio, and digital platforms, reaching over 400,000 views on social media and 670,000 viewers via the national public broadcasting service (RTS).

Additionally, over 30 media reports were published, highlighting the consequences of domestic violence, including firearms misuse. A diverse set of actors were engaged to prevent the misuse of firearms. Police officers were engaged to exchange good practices in addressing complex domestic violence cases and successful community outreach strategies. The awareness of media photographers and photo-reporters was raised on the ethical visual depiction of the problems of violence against women and mass shootings, to support media reporting that contributes to prevention.

The Network of Women in the Police was supported by UNDP in organizing a high-level event, which enabled more than 130 participants to share best practices in preventing violence against women and firearm misuse in mass shootings and to strengthen collaboration among women in policing across various European jurisdictions on trauma recovery, violence prevention, and law enforcement responses. UNDP collaborated with the Institute of Public Health in Serbia to deliver training to more than 200 healthcare and legal professionals from 67 municipalities, improving their ability to identify risks of firearms misuse for violence and ensure victim safety. 31 representatives of the MoI Department of Psychological Activities, local police psychologists, heads of police stations and officers in charge of recruitment, were trained on reducing negative consequences of professional trauma, experienced by professionals involved in violent events with firearms. 31 mental health professionals were supported in strengthening their competencies and capacities in providing Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for children, adolescents, and families who are direct or indirect victims of mass shootings.

In BiH and Serbia, UNDP supported 12 civil society organizations (8 in BiH and 4 in Serbia) in implementing initiatives that raise awareness on, reinforce outreach in, and ensure message multipliers for preventing firearms misuse. It also supported bilateral networking between women police officers from the two jurisdictions, strengthening their role in SALW control policies and fostering cross-border collaboration.

GOAL

BY 2024

5

By 2024, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans.

The Trust Fund’s projects in **Albania, BiH, and Kosovo** cross-cuttingly contributed to **Goal 5 of the Roadmap**. The specialized capacity development and equipment that has been provided to law enforcement in the three jurisdictions is aimed at enhancing the detection of firearms and ammunition in illegal possession and their seizures (particularly at the border/boundary crossing points).

In addition, in Albania, the re-registration of firearms proceeded manually in 2024, using the IT equipment provided by UNDP; the issuance of digital cards for weapons owners is to take place at a later stage, after the reconstruction of the weapons registry system. Despite the difficulty of not being able to proceed with digital cards, noticeable progress in re-registration process has been documented, with about 94% of firearms manually re-registered by June 2024 (as compared to 55% of firearms re-registered in 2022).

In BiH, following the third wave of the general awareness-raising campaign supported by UNDP, police agencies reported voluntary surrender of 204 long barrels, 180 short barrels, 19,384 pieces of ammunition and 216 explosive ordnances.

GOAL

BY 2024

6

Systematically decrease the surplus and destroy seized small arms and light weapons and ammunition.

The Trust Fund contributed to **Goal 6 of the Roadmap** through the provision of support to the relevant authorities in **Kosovo**. Complementary to an awareness raising campaign on preventing the misuse of firearms, the jurisdiction had an official ceremony for the destruction of various illegal weapons and equipment, supported jointly by the UNDP office in Kosovo and SEESAC. 993 illegal firearms were destroyed in an environmentally safe manner on the occasion, whereby UNDP office supported the jurisdiction in destroying 680 confiscated firearms, while the remaining number was enabled by SEESAC. After being cut in half, firearms were placed in a specialized oven to be melted, producing manhole covers from the material which were then utilized across the jurisdiction.

GOAL

BY 2024

7

Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives.

Finally, the Trust Fund contributed to **Goal 7 of the Roadmap** through its efforts in Albania, Kosovo, North Macedonia, and Serbia to ensure safe and secure SALW/firearms and ammunition storage facilities in accordance with international standards. In **Albania**, the reconstruction and refurbishment of 10 weapons and ammunition storage facilities (evidence rooms) was completed by UNDP and handed over to the Albanian State Police, along with additional equipment for the facilities. In **Kosovo**, Kosovo Police received 72 weapon storage metal cabinets from UNDP and these were installed in 7 police stations; in Prishtinë/Priština, Ferizaj/Uroševac, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Pejë/Peć, Vushtrri/Vučitrn, Glogoc/Glogovac, and Lipjan/Lipljan, thus further strengthening secure weapons storage practices across the jurisdiction. In **North Macedonia**, based on a developed needs-based analysis of the physical security of the weapons warehouses at the Gjorche Petrov Police Center, UNDP completed several interventions in line with the produced documentation, strengthening the security of the warehouses through improved electrical installations, new lighting, and a diesel generator for power outages. In **Serbia**, UNDP procured 130 metal lockers, 20 wooden storages, and 5 bullet traps to enhance the safety and security capacities of the MoI for storing firearms across the jurisdiction. Delivery of the equipment is to take place in 2025.

Trust Fund Governance

The Trust Fund's **Steering Committee** convened seven times during the year to: review and provide strategic guidance for the Trust Fund; review the progress of ongoing or completed projects; review and approve a new regional project; and discuss and decide on the future outlook of the Trust Fund.

The **Secretariat**, whose functions are ensured by SEESAC³, continued to provide support to the Steering Committee, facilitating the decision-making, coordination, monitoring, and reporting of the Trust Fund's results throughout the year. The Secretariat also reviewed project revisions and consolidated interim and annual progress reports submitted by the Participating Organizations, UNDP and UNODC.

The Secretariat regularly liaised with the **UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office**, as the administrative agent of the Trust Fund. The two worked together to ensure the accuracy of all processes and documents prepared, facilitate funds transfers as per Steering Committee decisions, and facilitate the new funding contributions to the Fund.

³ The Southeastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC), is a joint initiative of the governments in the region and UNDP, established in 2002 under the framework of the Stability Pact for Southeastern Europe, with the mandate to facilitate regional cooperation on SALW control, provide technical and advisory support to the governments, implement projects, monitor progress, and coordinate SALW control measures in Southeast and East Europe (www.seesac.org).

Cross-cutting themes, opportunities, and challenges in implementation

Dynamic project management was applied in realizing the projects to maintain the relevance of their actions, address priorities of project partners and beneficiaries, seize offered partnership opportunities, and adjust the timelines and courses of action to ensure local ownership, effective results, and sustainability. The projects pursued the respective project strategies and **theories of change** in 2024 with no major variations or challenges other than the slow pace of progress in some jurisdictions. Overall, the projects progressed in line with the established implementation framework, supported by a conducive political and operational environment. Despite the persistence of certain structural governance challenges in the Western Balkans, the authorities have continued to demonstrate their commitment to addressing SALW control in line with international obligations and commitments.

Efforts to **effectively engage with local authorities and a diverse set of actors** and **strengthen local ownership** were observed across jurisdictions. In general, coordination with SALW Commissions, law enforcement agencies, and Ministries of the Interior and Justice, including their active engagement in project activities and planning processes, was applied across the region. The UNODC and UNDP project teams took part in local and regional Roadmap coordination meetings supported by SEESAC, regularly shared information on project activities and progress achieved with relevant authorities and national and international partners and ensured the coordination of efforts as necessary.

Projects further expanded their **strategic partnerships**. In Albania and Montenegro, cooperation between the UNDP and OSCE ensured complementary action in the respective jurisdictions, on awareness-raising in Albania and on advancing the forensic work in Montenegro. UNDP in Serbia ensured synergetic action and support for trauma recovery and preventing mass shootings by engaging with the Ministry for Public Investment (tasked by the Government of Serbia to coordinate the post-May 2023 events healing and reconciliation process), the Ministry of Education, and the Norwegian Embassy in Belgrade to address the needs of survivors and affected communities following the May 2023 events. UNDP in North Macedonia forged a valuable partnership with the French forensic service, which brought cross-cutting benefits in advancing crime scene investigation in the jurisdiction. Regarding activities aimed at enhancing criminal justice responses, UNODC maintained its partnership with judicial and prosecutorial bodies and academia and strengthened its partnership with the Criminalistics Police University in Belgrade to enhance the capacity of the judiciary through specialized training in firearms identification. In support of awareness-raising efforts, cooperation was maintained with SEESAC and, as relevant, project teams took part in the Regional Awareness Raising Task Force (RAR TF) meetings. UNODC and UNDP also maintained communication with relevant initiatives of the European Union and/or bilateral agreements to ensure complementarity across the region, as applicable. In general, projects coordinated with SEESAC to avoid duplication of efforts with this regionally owned initiative, funded by the EU and representing the largest programme on SALW Control in Southeast and East Europe.

In addition to advocating for the participation of both women and men in all project activities, the promotion of **gender equality** and advocacy for stronger women's engagement in security and SALW matters and against gender-based violence was particularly noteworthy in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia. Progress was achieved through collaborations with the associations of women police officers, awareness-raising

activities, and the stronger engagement of civil society organizations. In Serbia, the relevant project activities placed a strong focus on gender-responsive policy making, with a broad range of stakeholders engaged in this respect to support the efforts. An added value towards gender mainstreaming was brought by UNODC’s gender-sensitive guidance for criminal justice practitioners, which is to be integrated into the relevant tailored training materials for law enforcement, prosecution, and judiciary in the upcoming period.

The projects significantly expanded **knowledge tools and resources** for the regional authorities as related to the various aspects of SALW control and the prevention of firearms misuse.⁴ The **sustainability** aspects of the actions carried out across projects were considered during their implementation and progress reporting, and for project revision requests. The complexity of the upgrading of the Police Information Management System in North Macedonia and of the development of a digital solution for registering legal SALW in BiH required prolonged consultations and frequent adaptation of the project’s plan. The project teams regularly consulted key beneficiaries and updated activities as per their needs, striving for continuous ownership and enhanced sustainability.

⁴ UNODC – 20: **Three** legal commentaries on criminal code provisions related to firearms offences in Skopje, Pristina, and Podgorica; **Four** specialized training courses with related material on the investigation and prosecution of firearms offences, tailored to local contexts in Belgrade, Podgorica, Sarajevo, and Skopje; **Six** jurisdiction-specific guidelines on the application of special investigative measures (SIMs) in firearms trafficking cases; **Five** case law collections (second editions) analyzing firearms, drug trafficking, and organized crime offences in Belgrade, Pristina, Skopje, Sarajevo, and Tirana; **One** guideline on the prosecution of firearms trafficking through postal parcels (linked to Project Hermes); **One** compilation of related human rights jurisprudence in all six WB jurisdictions relevant to the human rights of the accused. UNDP – 10: **One** PSSM Booklet in Albania; **One** Guideline on SALW-related investigations in BiH [pending validation]; **One** comprehensive training curriculum on SALW control in Kosovo; **Two** assessments on forensic work, one for Serbia and one for Montenegro; **One** comparative analysis on firearm-related femicides, in Serbia; **Four** knowledge products for joint training sessions for Kosovo and Albania.

A number of **challenges** were also observed. A tense **political environment** was reported in BiH and Serbia. In BiH, the fragile political situation coupled with a fragmented security sector and delays in some legislative developments continued to affect the pace of project implementation. In Serbia, following the Novi Sad city railway station canopy collapse on 1 November 2024, leaving 15 people dead and two severely injured, a series of mass protests began in Novi Sad. The protests have, since then, spread to numerous cities and towns throughout Serbia and remain ongoing, led by university students. The situation has resulted in social tensions. This has slowed down the progress of certain activities in the jurisdiction that involve the Ministry of the Interior, as well as those activities that entail cross-border collaboration between BiH and Serbia. Likewise, following the parliamentary elections in North Macedonia in May 2024, the resulting staff turnover and new political appointments in the Ministry of the Interior have impeded the progress in the jurisdiction for some activities. From the **operational aspect**, certain projects experienced delays or slow progress in the procurement of specialized equipment or expert services, in the development of IT/digital solutions (BiH and North Macedonia), or in the reconstruction and refurbishment of weapons storage facilities (Albania), all of which required adaptation of the project activity timelines, but with no other major impact on projects’ implementation.

Contributions and transfers

In 2024, the Trust Funds’ total value reached US \$29.1 million, with \$28.5 million in contributions from the donors and \$0.6 million from interest and investment income. About \$1 million was mobilized in 2024, from three principal donors: Germany (\$524,254), Sweden (\$363,361), and France (\$108,013). US \$26.7 million were transferred in total to the Participating UN Organizations by the end of 2024, out of which \$1.3 million was allocated in 2024 for a new regional project approved for funding in September 2024.



I - NARRATIVE REPORT

This Narrative Report covers the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024 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 subsequent chapters are dedicated to an overview of the key challenges and lessons learned, partnerships, sustainability aspects, and the communications and visibility activities undertaken in 2024.

The Narrative Report is followed by the Financial Report.

1. Overview

1.1. Set Up and Key Features of the Trust Fund

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

The Trust Fund contributes to a donor-coordinated approach to the implementation of the Roadmap for arms control in the Western Balkans.

Key features of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF



Improved 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 and coherence with other similar activities.



Higher Impact

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



Ensured Relevance

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



Increased Ownership

Authorities in the Western Balkans are enabled to steer the implementation of the funded projects based on their SALW control needs and priorities, and to coordinate efforts on the ground.



Increased Effectiveness and Efficiency

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



Increased 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](#), thereby preserving important institutional knowledge and facilitating knowledge sharing and transparency.

1.2. Trust Fund Governance Structure

The Trust Fund is governed by a **Steering Committee** consisting of representatives of the Participating UN Organizations (UNDP and UNODC), Germany, France, the EU, the MPTF Office (as ex-officio members), and of the other contemporary top three donors to the Fund. In 2024, these were Sweden, the Netherlands, and the UK. Other donors can also participate in the Steering Committee as observers and to provide input, without voting rights. In 2024, this included Norway. 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, quality assurance, and monitoring of the Fund. This is in line with SEESAC's mandate, stemming from the South East Europe Regional Implementation Plan on Combating the Proliferation and Impact of Small Arms and Light Weapons,⁵ and in line with EU Council Decision 1788/2018 and 2321/2022, providing support to SEESAC for the

coordination and monitoring of the overall implementation of the Roadmap.⁶ Although the Secretariat supports the decision-making of the Steering Committee, it has no voting rights.

The Steering Committee is the Trust Fund's decision-making body. It decides on all aspects related to the Trust Fund's management and implementation.

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 the receipt, administration, and release of funds to the Participating UN Organizations in accordance with decisions made by the Steering Committee.

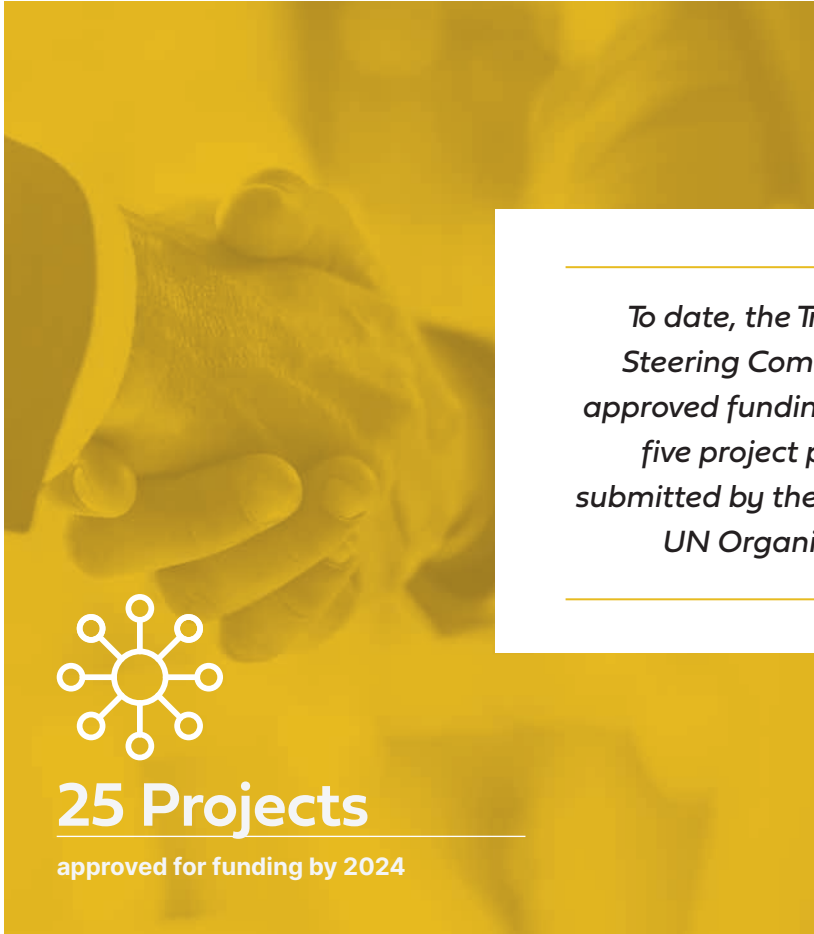
The **Participating UN Organizations** are UNDP and UNODC, which have signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)⁷ with the MPTF Office. Each Participating UN Organization assumes full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent.


⁵ The South East Europe Regional Implementation Plan on Combating the Proliferation and Impact of Small Arms and Light Weapons stipulates that the obligation 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 SEESAC's essential responsibilities.

⁶ 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.; and Council Decision (CFSP) 2022/2321 of 25 November 2022 at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2022/2321>.

⁷ 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





25 Projects

approved for funding by 2024

To date, the Trust Fund's Steering Committee has approved funding for twenty-five project proposals submitted by the Participating UN Organizations.

Following two calls for proposals launched in 2019 and 2020, respectively, the Steering Committee approved ten projects for funding, at a value of \$12 million. Using the direct solicitation of projects modality in 2022, the Steering Committee approved six additional projects, at a value of \$2.6 million, to bridge the gap between the second and third open call, to be initiated upon the completion of the mid-term evaluation of the Trust Fund. Having completed the mid-term evaluation of the Trust Fund in February 2023, the third call for proposals was launched in March 2023, resulting in eight new projects approved by the Steering Committee in October 2023 at a value of \$10.8 million. Finally, using the direct solicitation modality, the Steering Committee approved in September 2024 another regional project at a value of approximately \$1.3 million. This brought the total number of approved projects within the Trust Fund to 25, with a cumulative value of \$26.7 million.

The projects cover areas such as legislative reform in line with the UN Firearms Protocol, the advancement and standardization of operations and practices in countering illicit arms trafficking, strengthening criminal justice responses to firearm-related crimes, illicit weapons seizure, the disposal of unsafe ammunition, improving ballistics and crime scene investigations through the provision of support to relevant

units/agencies, SALW-related data collection and management, the upgrading of ammunition storages per international standards, the integration of the gender perspective into SALW-related policies and measures, the enhancement of evidence-based and intelligence-led decision making, as well as community outreach and specific and general awareness-raising.

Details about the projects and the results achieved in 2024 are outlined in the next sections of the report, and in the report annexes. Worth noting is that 16 projects completed their operations by the end of 2024. Two projects from the first call successfully completed their operations in 2022, one in BiH and one in Kosovo. An additional 10 projects were successfully completed in the course of 2023, encompassing three regional projects, one cross-border project involving Kosovo and North Macedonia, and six jurisdiction-level projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2), Kosovo (1), Montenegro (1), and Serbia (2). In 2024, four (4) jurisdiction-level projects were completed, in Albania (2), BiH (1) and North Macedonia (1).



Trust Fund projects

	Project	Implementing organization	Project budget	Implementing period
1 st call for proposals	Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade (HALT) in Bosnia and Herzegovina	UNDP BiH and UNODC	\$2,200,000	21 February 2020 – 30 June 2023
	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 March 2023
	Urgent Action on Ammunition Destruction - Project EXPLODE+, in Bosnia and Herzegovina	UNDP BiH	\$583,546	21 February 2020 – 31 October 2022
2 nd call for proposals	Strengthening Control, Administration, and Social Attitudes Towards SALW	UNDP Albania	\$1,661,314	14 December 2020 – 30 June 2024
	Advancing the Capacities of the Ministry of the Interior in the SALW Control-Related Field (Phase II)	UNDP Serbia	\$1,429,520	05 January 2021 – 30 November 2023
	Advancing the Capacities of the Police Directorate in the Field of Custody Chain, CSI, and the Forensic Laboratory in the Field of Operations and Investigations in the Detection and Trafficking of Explosives Criminality	UNDP Montenegro	\$664,812	05 January 2021 – 04 October 2023
	Cross-border Integrated Institutional Approach Towards Combating IAT and SALW	UNDP Kosovo-UNDP North Macedonia	\$522,067	18 March 2021 – 31 March 2023
	Prevention and Illicit Arms Reduction in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Project PILLAR+)	UNDP BiH	\$769,406	05 January 2021 – 30 April 2024
	Support for Increased International Cooperation in Criminal Matters	UNODC	\$1,604,153	24 June 2021 – 31 December 2023



Direct Solicitation of proposals	Reduce Risk - Increase Safety II	UNDP Serbia	\$170,700	06 September 2022 – 31 May 2023
	Digitalization and Institutional and Regional Cooperation Project (DIRC)	UNDP BiH	\$309,412	25 October 2022 – 31 December 2023
	Increased Security of the Arms Depots Under the Administration of the Albanian State Police	UNDP Albania	\$474,770	30 November 2022 – 31 August 2024
	Improvement of Data and SALW Collection Practices and SALW Related Investigations	UNDP North Macedonia	\$513,600	16 December 2022 – 15 February 2024
	Support to Firearms related Investigations	UNDP Kosovo	\$350,318	24 January 2023 – 23 October 2023
	Countering Trafficking in Firearms, their parts, and ammunition in Express Courier and Postal Parcels: Project HERMES, Phase 1	UNODC	\$800,129	01 February 2023 – 31 December 2023
3 rd call for proposals	Reduce Risk - Increase Safety III	UNDP Serbia	\$776,135	31 October 2023 – 29 October 2025
	Project Justitia: Support to the Criminal Justice Response to Counter Arms Trafficking in the Western Balkans	UNODC	\$2,390,815	03 November 2023 – 01 November 2025
	Integrated Institutional Approach and Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation to SALW Control (Phase I)	UNDP Kosovo	\$1,200,990	03 November 2023 – 02 November 2025
	Advancing the Forensic Capacities of the Police Directorate of Montenegro for Processing Firearms and Explosives-related Crimes	UNDP Montenegro	\$1,091,105	28 November 2023 – 22 November 2025
	Improving Capacities of the Ministry of the Interior in the SALW-Control related Field, Phase III	UNDP Serbia	\$1,512,540	28 November 2023 – 24 November 2025
	Law Enforcement Agencies' Development in Small Arms and Light Weapons Control (Project LEAD)	UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina	\$1,455,035	06 December 2023 – 04 December 2025
	Integrated Institutional Approach and Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation to SALW Control (Phase I)	UNDP Albania	\$1,205,490	06 December 2023 – 05 December 2025
	Strengthening the Capacities of the Forensics and Crime Scene Investigation System to Improve the Criminal Justice Response to SALW	UNDP North Macedonia	\$1,149,180	18 December 2023 – 30 September 2025
Direct	Project Hermes 2.1: Countering Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Ammunition in Express Courier and Postal Parcels	UNODC	\$1,280,387	23 October 2024 – 22 October 2025

2. Progress towards the Roadmap Goals and Trust Fund Outcomes

The Trust Fund results matrix is a representation 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 2024, the Trust Fund contributed to the achievement of all seven Roadmap goals, corresponding to seven outcomes of the Trust Fund.

Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome	Roadmap targets / TF Outputs	Trust Fund contribution in 2024
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.	Arms control legislation is fully harmonized with the EU legal framework and in line with international agreements/ standards.	<p>Legislative harmonization efforts were pursued in all jurisdictions in line with the UN Firearms Protocol with support from UNODC. In addition to the amended criminal legislation achieved in 2023 in Montenegro and North Macedonia, in 2024 UNODC supported the finalization of legislative amendments to the criminal codes in BiH and Serbia, pending adoption.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- In BiH, the Ministry of Justice developed a draft for amending the Criminal Code [relevant sections].- In Serbia, a draft amended Criminal Code went through the first round of public debates in November 2024. <p>North Macedonia and Montenegro authorities were provided by UNODC with jurisdiction-specific legal commentaries (one each, 2 in total) to support the implementation of new firearms-related offences introduced through the amended criminal laws in 2023. In addition, a legal commentary was provided to Kosovo authorities, as the jurisdiction's relevant criminal legislation was already aligned with the UN Firearms Protocol.</p>
	Compatibility of arms control legal frameworks ensured across the Western Balkans, which allows direct operational cooperation.	<p>In all six Western Balkans jurisdictions, judicial actors received access to tailored legal resources and comparative case law through support from UNODC, enabling more effective, harmonized, rights-based decision-making in line with international standards. A total of 198 judicial actors (73 women and 125 men) took part in tailored UNODC workshops.</p> <p>The second edition of the Firearms Case Law Collections was finalized by UNODC for the relevant authorities in Albania, BiH, Kosovo, North Macedonia and Serbia (one each, five in total), offering comprehensive overviews of jurisprudence related to firearms, drugs, and organized crime. These collections encompass legal definitions, procedural safeguards, and evidentiary thresholds and were validated through five local workshops, enabling judges to engage in peer review and harmonizing interpretations of legal provisions across jurisdictions.</p>



Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome Roadmap targets / TF Outputs Trust Fund contribution in 2024

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.	Procedures and practices in arms control and FAE investigations are standardized.	UNODC’s Guidelines on the Investigation and Prosecution of Firearms Offences were adapted to the relevant legal contexts of Western Balkans jurisdictions, encompassing Podgorica, Skopje, Belgrade, and Pristina. These efforts are aimed at strengthening compliance with the UN Firearms Protocol through the introduction or enhancement of national measures addressing illicit firearms manufacturing and trafficking.
		UNODC developed and piloted training courses (four - for BiH, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia) to advance FAE investigations, including specialized modules for prosecutors in Belgrade and Podgorica, while multi-stakeholder workshops were held in Skopje, Sarajevo, Doboј, and Mostar. These engagements promoted inter-agency cooperation and enhanced technical capacities for investigating and prosecuting complex firearms offences.
		Authorities in Montenegro and Serbia were supported by UNDP towards international accreditation of forensic/ballistic investigations: 3 methods were supported for accreditation in line with ISO 17025 in each jurisdiction.
	Good practices exchanged, with a specific focus on the areas defined in the Roadmap.	Two regional legislative meetings organized by UNODC ensured further progress across jurisdictions on legislative reform and harmonization, facilitating dialogue on draft amendments, shared challenges, and best practices.
		27 judges from all WB jurisdictions took part in the UNODC-organized study visit to the European Court of Human Rights and French judicial institution, whereby they acquired practical insights into balancing human rights with public security concerns in firearms cases. Building on this exposure, UNODC identified key court decisions on human rights in all six jurisdiction and provided the analysis to national judiciaries with comparative perspectives, thus supporting the incorporation of human rights jurisprudence into domestic practice.
		In Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia, forensic experts were supported by UNDP to learn from good practice in advancing and standardizing FAE investigations through specialized events provided by the European Network of the Forensic Scientific Institutes (ENFSI).

Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome Roadmap targets / TF Outputs Trust Fund contribution in 2024

Goal 2: By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence-based and intelligence-led.	Data collection on firearms is standardized and institutionalized, including by gender and age, and regarding legal and illegal SALW/firearms interdictions, armed violence incidents, ballistic evidence, and other data.	In North Macedonia, UNDP continued providing technical support for the Ministry of the Interior’s Police Information Management System and supported further upgrades.
		In BiH, UNDP agreed with police agencies in FBiH on the terms of reference for the development of a new application for registering weapons in legal possession in FBiH. The project will further build upon this process and initiate the application development in 2025.



Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome	Roadmap targets / TF Outputs	Trust Fund contribution in 2024
Goal 2: By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence-based and intelligence-led.	National analytical capacities are increased, and firearms data analysis is institutionalized.	In Albania, 12 forensic experts from the Albanian Institute of Scientific Police (AISP) (six women, six men) were supported by UNDP in gaining knowledge and insights from the peer-institution the Forensic Laboratory in Pristina on accredited forensic methods. The Albanian officers exchanged experience and information with their peers on improving staff capacities, managing processes, and complying with accreditation requirements.
		In Montenegro and Serbia, the relevant forensic institutions were provided with specialized equipment by UNDP to advance ballistic, crime scene, and explosives examinations.
		In North Macedonia, UNDP upgraded the indoor shooting range at the MoI, thus ensuring a safer and more efficient environment for conducting ballistic testing during forensic examinations of weapons and ammunition: a ballistic bullet trap was installed; the ballistic protection of the control room was implemented in line with the EN 1522/3 FB7 protection standard, including the installation of a side door and horizontal pipes; upgrades were made to the ventilation system; and sound and video surveillance equipment were installed.
		In North Macedonia, UNDP supported the MoI in the development of a Training and Simulation Facility for continuous learning on crime scene investigation. The MoI allocated premises at its Training Center in Idrizovo for the purposes of the Facility, and UNDP will proceed with the renovation and equipping of the premises in 2025.
		In Serbia, 18 CSI experts improved their crime scene documentation skills through hands-on FARO 3D scanner training.
	Gender and age concerns are fully integrated into arms control policies, and the meaningful participation of women in arms control is ensured.	UNODC developed a gender-sensitive practitioner guideline for criminal justice practitioners in all jurisdictions, which will be integrated into the tailored training materials for law enforcement, prosecution, and judiciary officers.
		In BiH and Serbia, UNDP engaged with the associations of women police officers to promote women's stronger engagement and gender mainstreaming in SALW control. Two meetings took place between the associations from BiH and Serbia, first in Belgrade and second in Sarajevo, whereby participants exchanged views and experience on gender perspectives in SALW policies, challenges, and opportunities to advance these policies.
		In BiH, as a follow up to the bilateral exchanges among associations of women in police, representatives of the two associations from BiH were invited to take part in the BiH SALW Coordination Board meeting and contribute to the 2025-2027 Action Plan in support of a newly prepared SALW Control Strategy 2025-2030.
		In BiH, following an official request from the Ministry of Security (MoS) to enroll in the Gender Equality Seal (GES) for Public Institutions program, UNDP, in collaboration with the BiH Agency for Gender Equality, committed to support the MoS in fostering gender-responsive policy-making on SALW and other security matters. 22 MoS participants (14 women, 8 men) completed an initial workshop on GES, and further support will ensue in 2025.



Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome Roadmap targets / TF Outputs Trust Fund contribution in 2024

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

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

In Serbia, UNDP supported the Mol's capacity to generate relevant analytical reports on firearm misuse in the context of domestic violence: a comprehensive framework was designed for datasets to be collected and analyzed by the Mol, including previously missing sex- and age-disaggregated data.

In Serbia, to strengthen women's role in SALW control policies, UNDP supported the 3rd Annual Conference of the Network of Women in the Police of Serbia, gathering 132 professionals (111 women and 21 men) from different jurisdictions of the region and Europe to discuss best practices for preventing violence against women and firearm misuse [in addition, 5 representatives from the two BiH associations of women in police attended]. The event was opened by the Prime-Minister of Serbia and included high-level state officials.

Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome Roadmap targets / TF Outputs Trust Fund contribution in 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 framework on the trafficking of FAE is implemented and monitored.

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.

The second phase of the regional Hermes initiative was launched in October 2024, to be implemented by UNODC, which is to build upon the previously developed regulatory framework - MoUs and SOPs - on countering trafficking in firearms via postal shipments.

Training materials, including online courses, on advanced X-ray operator courses were translated by UNODC into Albanian, Macedonian, and BCMS languages, aimed at supporting the countering of trafficking in firearms via postal parcels. Related training will follow.

X-ray scanners were procured by UNODC for all jurisdictions to detect firearms in postal shipments, pending delivery. In addition, IT equipment was procured for Skopje, Pristina, Belgrade, Podgorica, and Sarajevo, complementing previous deliveries for Tirana.

Six (6) jurisdiction-specific guidelines were developed by UNODC on the use of Special Investigative Measures (SIMs) in firearms trafficking (cross-border) cases. The products incorporate international standards and national case law, offering practical support for both domestic enforcement and transnational cooperation.

A Guideline for all jurisdictions was developed by UNODC on the prosecution of firearms trafficking through postal parcels (linked to Project Hermes).

A compilation of human rights related jurisprudence in firearms-related criminal cases was developed by UNODC, encompassing all six WB jurisdictions, relevant to the human rights of the accused.



Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome Roadmap targets / TF Outputs Trust Fund contribution in 2024

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

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.

In Albania, the technical capacities of the border police for green border patrolling were enhanced through the UNDP-procured specialized equipment for this purpose, consisting of two drones for day and night use and 60 min of flight independence, two portable scanners, five medium range thermal cameras, ten long-range day binoculars, five medium-range night binoculars, and five portable document scanners. The equipment will be delivered in 2025. In addition, the Albanian Institute of Scientific Police was equipped with a metal detector and the regional forensic sector in Kukes was provided with four CSI kits complete with cameras, four sets of CSI toolkits, four PCs, and one laptop.

In Albania and Kosovo, 11 police officers from each jurisdiction (22 in total) enhanced their knowledge and capacities for detecting and countering FAE trafficking through four joint training sessions organized in partnership by the UNDP Albania and UNDP Kosovo offices. The participants enhanced their knowledge, exchanged experience, and learned from good practice on: i) community policing approaches and intelligence-led policing approaches to SALW; ii) the detection of explosives, explosive precursors, and other handmade explosive devices; iii) weapons categorization and the legal framework regulating the field of SALW; and iv) weapons conversion and the methods and tool marks used in conversion, including ballistic examination and potential data exchange.

In BiH, UNDP procured 26 density meters/contraband detectors for all police agencies (14) to enhance their capacities for countering SALW trafficking (the equipment will be delivered in 2025).

In BiH, UNDP supported four domestic joint exercises in different parts of BiH, enhancing the investigative skills on illegal SALW trade of 98 police and customs officials from BiH (17 women and 81 men).

In BiH, UNDP produced an analysis of the current technical capacities and equipment needs of the two entity-level ballistic laboratories in Sarajevo and Banja Luka, as well as of the Agency for Forensic and Expert Examinations and the Brčko District Police ballistic laboratories. The analysis established the current functionality level of the laboratories and provides a baseline for future support that UNDP will pursue, as feasible.

In BiH, UNDP developed draft Guidelines on SALW-related investigations for police cadets, designed for use in police academies and law enforcement training institutions across BiH.

In BiH, with UNDP support, 10 BiH customs officials acquired additional knowledge on BiH criminal code procedures on firearms-related crime at a dedicated workshop with the prosecutor's office. In addition, UNDP engaged with 29 prosecutors (12 women, 17 men) from across BiH to identify gaps in SALW-related investigation from the prosecutor's angle and incorporate these findings into a SALW Investigation Guidebook for police agencies. A Draft Guidebook has been developed and will be finalized in 2025, aimed at guiding police on proper actions and collaboration with prosecutors in investigating SALW-related crimes, thus enhancing the prosecution of firearms-related crimes.

In Kosovo, 350 police officers (344 men, 6 women) were trained by UNDP on: detection at border posts (first- and second-line check); firearms trafficking routes and trafficking 'modus operandi'; identifying converted weapons and recognizing weapons parts; and the legal framework on SALW Control. This also included joint training for border and investigation departments on effectively investigating firearms trafficking.



Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome	Roadmap targets / TF Outputs	Trust Fund contribution in 2024
Goal 3: By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.	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.	In Kosovo, UNDP enhanced the technological capacities of Kosovo Police for detecting and countering illicit arms trafficking through the provision of three (3) specialized thermal cameras, two (2) advanced handheld scanners, 37 handheld flashlights, and 20 sets of dismantling tools to the Kosovo Police/Border department.
		In Montenegro, UNDP provided specialized equipment and training for forensic experts to enhance analytical methods and forensic practice for the FAE evidence collection. In addition, the shooting range of the Forensic Center was upgraded to ensure appropriate ballistic examinations.
		In North Macedonia, UNDP enhanced the Mol's technical capability for crime scene investigation by providing IT equipment to the Mol, consisting of 83 personal computers, 83 monitors, 41 multifunction printers and scanners, and additional smaller equipment.
		In Serbia, UNDP provided specialized equipment and training for forensic experts to enhance analytical methods and forensic practice for FAE evidence collection.
		In Serbia, 85 Mol staff (57 women and 28 men) passed the UNDP-organized 'Firearms identification training.'
	Bilateral, regional and international mechanisms are strengthened, and new forms of good practice are encouraged to counter trafficking of firearms	In BiH and Montenegro, UNDP supported two cross-border exercises between police, customs, and prosecutors from BiH and Montenegro, testing existing procedures in detection of illegal SALW and subsequent procedures at joint border crossings (jurisdiction over smuggling cases, suspect handovers, prosecution procedures) established under an international agreement between BiH and Montenegro. 75 border police, customs and prosecution officials from both countries, took part in these and identified gaps and needs for further improvements.
		In BiH and in Serbia, the UNDP offices in both jurisdictions supported a series of peer exchanges of ballistic and arson and explosives experts. Three bilateral exchanges among the ballistic experts from BiH and Serbia (one each in Belgrade, Sarajevo and Banja Luka) and one meeting among the arson and explosives experts (in Sarajevo/Banja Luka) took place. 14 ballistic and 10 arson and explosives experts explored the capabilities of respective laboratories, exchanged experiences through cases and difficulties encountered, and established and strengthened working relations for future collaboration.
		In Kosovo, UNDP enabled four Kosovo Forensic Agency ballistic experts (2 men and 2 women) to professionally exchange experience and good practice in advanced forensic ballistic analysis methodologies with the Forensic Centre in Zagreb, Croatia, through a study visit.



Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome Roadmap targets / TF Outputs Trust Fund contribution in 2024

Goal 4:

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

Sustainable partnerships developed to strengthen advocacy, reinforce outreach, and reach messaging multipliers.

- In Albania, efforts supporting the general awareness raising campaign that UNDP supported in 2024 were joined with those of the OSCE Presence in Albania, which also bolstered the Ministry of the Interior and ASP in enhancing their public information on SALW matters and in raising awareness on SALW misuse and related risks and threats. The coordinated work reinforced relevant outreach and enabled messaging multipliers and complementary action, thus ensuring that various dimensions of SALW control were comprehensively addressed.
- In BiH and Serbia, UNDP support enabled 12 civil society organizations (8 in BiH and 4 in Serbia) to implement initiatives that raised awareness, reinforced outreach, and ensured message multipliers on preventing firearms misuse.
- In BiH and Serbia, UNDP supported bilateral networking between women police officers from the two jurisdictions (44 women in total) through two meetings, strengthening their role in SALW control policies and fostering cross-border collaboration and advocacy.
- In Kosovo, UNDP developed training curricula on SALW control, firearm misuse prevention, and preventing domestic violence for community policing officers and police cadets. The curricula were approved by the General Police Director and will be an integral part of the training programme of the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety.
- Based on the approved curricula, 12 police instructors (2 women and 10 men) were trained in applying the newly developed SALW curricula. 516 community policing officers and members of Local Public Safety Committees and Municipal Community Safety Councils (33 women and 483 men) were trained on SALW control, the regular inspection of entities dealing with firearms and ammunition, and strategies to prevent the misuse of firearms in domestic violence cases. The training courses built stronger and more informed partnerships between law enforcement and local communities.
- In Serbia, UNDP supported the Network of Women in the Police in organizing a high-level event, which gathered 132 participants (111 women and 21 men), facilitating the sharing of best practices in preventing violence against women and firearm misuse in mass shootings, and strengthening collaboration among women in policing across various European jurisdictions in the fields of trauma recovery, violence prevention, and law enforcement responses.
- In Serbia, UNDP collaborated with the Institute of Public Health and delivered training to 215 healthcare and legal professionals (187 women and 28 men) from 67 municipalities to improve their ability to identify risks of firearms misuse in violence and ensure victim safety.
- In Serbia, 31 representatives (30 women and 1 man), including officers of the Mol Department of Psychological Activities, psychologists of local police departments, heads of police stations, and officers in charge of recruitment, were trained by UNDP on reducing the negative consequences of professional trauma, including those affecting mental health, experienced by professionals involved in violent events with firearms.
- In Serbia, UNDP supported 31 mental health professionals (24 women and 7 men) in strengthening their competencies and capacities in providing Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for children, adolescents, and families who are direct or indirect victims of mass shootings.



Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome	Roadmap targets / TF Outputs	Trust Fund contribution in 2024
Goal 4: By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand, and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy.	Awareness increased among the general population, both women and men and in particular young men, on the dangers of the misuse, illicit possession, and trafficking of FAE.	<p>To reduce the misuse of firearms in line with Goal 4 of the Roadmap, a series of awareness-raising, educational, outreach, and advocacy activities were organized by UNDP in 2024 across four jurisdictions – Albania, BiH, Kosovo, and Serbia.</p> <p>In Albania, the public awareness campaign that was conceptualized and agreed upon between the UNDP and ASP in 2023, aimed at SALW control and reducing firearms misuse and illicit possession, was rolled out via social media and public outreach in 2024. The campaign was estimated to have reached around 1.5 million people. In addition, the campaign encompassed outreach to high schools as an integral component. UNDP, in cooperation with the ASP and school security officers, organized 12 meetings in all the 12 regions of Albania from 15 April to 10 May 2024 to raise awareness about the dangers and misuse of SALW and called for youth without violence. The meetings engaged approximately 800 high school students. Posters and postcards were distributed in the security corners of 24 schools, reaching about 8,000 students. Some of the produced materials were given to community-policing experts in each regional police directorate for further distribution across schools in each region.</p> <p>In BiH, UNDP cooperated with police agencies to implement the third wave of the general awareness-raising campaign “Respect Life, Not Weapons,” in the period of 31 January - 15 March 2024. The campaign addressed the voluntary surrender of (illicit) SALW and encompassed TV, radio, digital channels, and OOH (Out-Of-Home/Billboards and LED screens) advertising. Additionally, 13 outreach events were conducted in selected cities with the involvement of police agencies in the field. The campaign reached about 84% of the target group, or 2.3 million individuals aged 18 and above.</p> <p>In Kosovo, the "Celebrate with Heart, Not Your Gun" awareness-raising campaign was supported by UNDP in the second half of 2024 through a diverse range of activities designed to engage and educate the community. Utilizing awareness-raising materials such as brochures, posters, radio jingles, video messages, social media posts, and a mural, the campaign effectively communicated its message on the dangers of celebratory gunfire and the importance of reporting firearm misuse during festivities. Additionally, it highlighted the risks and consequences associated with pyrotechnics and fireworks, particularly during year-end celebrations. Through multiple communication channels, the campaign reached a broad audience, estimated at more than 700,000 women and men.</p> <p>As reported by the Kosovo Police, an increase of 40% in the reporting of celebratory shootings was recorded by September 2024 as compared to 2023, coupled with a 28% increase in cases opened by the police.</p>
	Increased awareness and reduced misuse of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence, and other forms of gender-based violence.	<p>In Montenegro, UNDP commenced preparations for Gender-Based Violence (GBV) panels and training on documenting injuries during medical examinations and interview techniques for crime scene investigation officers. The efforts will culminate in multi-sector workshops planned for 2025.</p> <p>In Serbia, UNDP supported the authorities in advancing legal measures related to domestic violence and GBV. In this respect, an analysis was completed of legal and institutional solutions in jurisdictions with a similar social context to Serbia to identify good practices that lead to the reduction of femicides, including those committed with firearms.</p> <p>In Serbia, UNDP supported the Mol in implementing a national awareness and advocacy campaign focused on bystander intervention and the anonymous reporting of domestic violence during the 2024 "16 Days of Activism" global initiative. The campaign, featuring videos, audio clips, and visuals, was broadcast on television, radio, and digital platforms, reaching over 400,000 views on social media and 670,000 viewers via the national public broadcasting service (RTS).</p>



Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome Roadmap targets / TF Outputs Trust Fund contribution in 2024

Goal 4: By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand, and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy.	Increased partnership with, and raised awareness of, the media on the importance of adequate reporting on firearms misuse and firearms-enabled violence.	In Serbia, as part of UNDP support to the Mol, 34 media reports were published highlighting the consequences of domestic violence, including firearm misuse.
		In Serbia, 15 media photographers and photo-reporters improved their awareness on the ethical visual depiction of the problem of violence against women and mass shootings through a UNDP-organized workshop. In addition, a methodology was completed to assess the impact of media reporting on the May 2023 mass shooting, incorporating the perspectives of victims' families. The corresponding analysis is ongoing.
	Confidence in security institutions increased as providers of adequate and equal safety for all through community-society-regional outreach activities.	In Albania, through 12 UNDP-supported meetings in all the 12 regions of Albania, the Albanian State Police and school security officers engaged with high school students to raise awareness about the dangers and misuse of SALW. UNDP also provided informational material to community police and school security officers for further use across schools. Indirectly, this contributed to confidence-building in security institutions.
		In BiH, UNDP supported police agencies in conducting 13 outreach events in selected cities/communities and in engaging with citizens on SALW misuse and threats, thus contributing to enhanced confidence in security institutions.

Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome Roadmap targets / TF Outputs Trust Fund contribution in 2024

Goal 5: By 2024, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans.	Number of seized firearms and pieces of ammunition and explosives increased.	UNDP projects in Albania, BiH, and Kosovo cross-cuttingly contributed to Goal 5 of the Roadmap. The specialized capacity development and equipment that has been provided to law enforcement in the three jurisdictions is aimed at enhancing the detection of firearms and ammunition in illegal possession and their seizures (particularly at the border crossing points).
	Illegal firearms possession reduced through deactivation.	In BiH, following the third wave of the general awareness-raising campaign supported by UNDP, police agencies reported the voluntary surrender of 204 long barrel firearms, 180 short barrel firearms, 19,384 pieces of ammunition, and 216 explosive ordnances.
	Administrative and technical capacities and targeted outreach are increased to complete the re-registration of firearms.	In Albania, the re-registration of firearms proceeded manually in 2024, using the IT equipment provided by UNDP; the issuance of digital cards for weapons owners is to take place at a later stage due to the overhaul of the weapons registry system after a severe cyberattack in 2023. Despite this difficulty, noticeable progress in the re-registration process has been documented, with about 94% of firearms re-registered by June 2024 (as compared to 55% of firearms re-registered in 2022).



Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome Roadmap targets / TF Outputs Trust Fund contribution in 2024

Goal 6:

Systematically decrease the surplus and destroy seized SALW and ammunition.

Seized and/or surplus stockpile FAE is destroyed in an environmentally benign manner.

In Kosovo, complementary to the awareness raising campaign on preventing the misuse of firearms, the jurisdiction had an official ceremony for the destruction of various illegal weapons and equipment, supported jointly by the UNDP Kosovo and SEESAC. 993 illegal firearms were destroyed in an environmentally safe manner (specifically, UNDP supported the jurisdiction in destroying 680 confiscated firearms, with the destruction of the remaining arms supported by SEESAC). After being cut in half, firearms were placed in a specialized oven to be melted, with manhole covers produced from the material of the melted weapons which were then utilized across the jurisdiction.

Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome Roadmap targets / TF Outputs Trust Fund contribution in 2024

Goal 7:

Significantly decrease the risk of the proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.

Safe and secure SALW/ firearms and ammunition storage facilities in accordance with international standards ensured.

- In Albania, the reconstruction and refurbishment of ten weapons storage facilities (evidence rooms) was completed by UNDP in line with international standards, encompassing the areas of Mat, Puka, Tropoja, Lushnja, Fier, Pogradec, Tirana, Kukes, Lezha, and Vlora.
- In Albania, UNDP provided ASP with 120 metal safes for SALW evidence rooms across the country, as well as 100 booklets with compiled relevant training material on physical security and stockpile management, for the use by ASP staff as a continuous resource.
- In Kosovo, UNDP provided the Kosovo Police with 72 weapon storage metal cabinets and installed these in 7 police stations (in Prishtinë/Priština, Ferizaj/ Uroševac, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Pejë/Peć, Vushtrri/Vučitrn, Glogoc/Glogovac, and Lipjan/Lipljan), thus further strengthening secure weapons storage practices across the jurisdiction.
- In North Macedonia, in line with the previously developed needs-based analysis of the physical security of the Gjorche Petrov weapons storage facility, UNDP completed interventions for the facility upgrade through improved electrical installations, new lighting, and a diesel generator for power outages.
- In Serbia, UNDP procured 130 metal lockers, 20 wooden storages, and 5 bullet traps to enhance the safety and security capacities of the MoI for storing firearms across the country. Delivery of the equipment is to take place in 2025.

3. Update on the Activity of the Trust Fund Governance Bodies

3.1. Steering Committee Decision-Making

In 2024, the Steering Committee convened seven times during the year to: review and provide strategic guidance for the Trust Fund; review the progress of ongoing or completed projects; review and approve a new regional project; and review and discuss the future outlook of the Trust Fund.

In Q1 2024, the Steering Committee convened for its annual meeting, whereby the Committee:

- reviewed the results of three projects implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina;⁸
- approved the Secretariat's work plan and budget for the period 2024-2025;
- reviewed relevant aspects of the Fund, including its financial status, the risks assessment, and the revised Operations Manual with an added confidentiality clause;
- received an update from the Secretariat on the management response to the Trust Fund's mid-term evaluation.



For the review of the results of projects implemented in BiH, in addition to the respective project manager, the Steering Committee invited the Head of the BiH SALW Coordination Board to take part in the discussion and affirm the results and achievements in the jurisdiction.

In Q2 2024, the Steering Committee convened twice virtually. At its virtual meeting in April 2024, the Steering Committee convened to review and decide on the project concept prepared by UNODC upon the Steering Committee's request. Namely, based on a recommendation from France, the Steering Committee agreed to directly solicit a project concept from

UNODC on the next phase of the Hermes initiative, which supports efforts in countering the trafficking in firearms via postal shipments. The Steering Committee decided to solicit the opinion from the SALW Commissions before making the final decision on the project concept. At its online decision-making in May 2024, the Steering Committee reviewed and approved requests for the project revision submitted by UNDP Albania pertaining to a non-cost extension of the implementing period for two projects implemented in the jurisdiction⁹.

In Q3 2024, the Steering Committee convened twice, once in a hybrid format and once online. At the meeting in July 2024, the Steering Committee reviewed the feedback received from SALW Commissions regarding the regional initiative Hermes. Considering the affirmative response from SALW Commissions, either in principle or in full, the Steering Committee approved the development of a full-fledged regional project for funding by the Trust Fund. At the same meeting, the Steering Committee reflected on the Trust Fund's status and discussed the development and approval process of the Roadmap's next phase, for the period 2025-2030. At its meeting in September 2024, the Steering Committee endorsed the technical assessment of the UNODC's project proposal and approved funding for Project Hermes 2.1 in the amount of \$1.28 million. The project will be implemented by UNODC over the

⁸ 1) Project "Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade (HALT) in Bosnia and Herzegovina", 2) Project "Prevention and Illicit Arms Reduction in Bosnia and Herzegovina (PILLAR)", and 3) Project "Digitalization and Institutional and Regional Cooperation Project (DIRC)".

⁹ 1) Project "Strengthening control, administration and social attitudes towards SALW" and 2) Project "Increased Security of the Arms Depots Under the Administration of the Albanian State Police"

following 12 months across the region, with the aim of supporting the efforts of the regional authorities in countering trafficking in firearms via postal shipments.

In the final quarter of the year, the Steering Committee convened twice. In October 2024, the Steering Committee reviewed and approved a project budget revision submitted by UNDP North Macedonia¹⁰. At its end-of-the year meeting, in December 2024, the Steering Committee reviewed the final results of four projects that completed their operations during the year, encompassing two projects implemented by UNDP in Albania, and one each implemented by UNDP in BiH and UNDP in North Macedonia¹¹. In addition, at this meeting the Steering Committee reflected on the latest developments as related to the Roadmap, including the acknowledgment of the Roadmap's impact at the Berlin Process Summit on 14 October 2024¹² and the endorsement by the Western Balkans authorities of the second phase of the SALW Control Roadmap for the period 2025-2030¹³. In the context of the extended SALW Control Roadmap and the continuous commitment by the authorities in the region to the Roadmap's implementation, the Steering Committee agreed to convene in the first quarter of 2025 to: i) review and decide on the duration of the Trust Fund and the Secretariat; and ii) consider options for the allocation of available funds in 2025.

10 Project "Strengthening the Capacities of the Forensics and Crime Scene Investigation System to Improve Criminal Justice Response to SALW"

11 UNDP Albania Project "Strengthening control, administration and social attitudes towards SALW" and "Increased Security of the Arms Depots Under the Administration of the Albanian State Police"; UNDP BiH Project "Prevention and Illicit Arms Reduction in Bosnia and Herzegovina (PILLAR)"; UNDP North Macedonia Project "Improvement of Data and SALW Collection Practices and SALW Related Investigations".

12 https://www.seesac.org/News_1/10th-Anniversary-of-the-Berlin-Process/

13 https://www.seesac.org/News_1/Western-Balkans-SALW-Control-Roadmap-by-2030-endorsed-during-the-EU-Western-Balkans-Ministerial-Forum/

3.2. Activity of the Secretariat

In 2024, 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. The Secretariat regularly liaised with the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office and the two worked together to ensure the accuracy of all processes and documents prepared. Upon request, the Secretariat provided technical and advisory support for the implementation of the Trust Fund projects.

As the Participating UN Organizations submitted requests for project revisions, the Secretariat facilitated the Steering Committee's decision-making process by reviewing the requests and offering commentary and recommendations. Two of the revisions were approved at the Secretariat level in January 2024, in line with the Operational Manual, pertaining to non-cost extensions of the implementing periods of up to three months for the projects implemented by the UNDP in Albania¹⁴.

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 contributors and partners. It supported the implementation of the recommendations from

14 1) Project "Strengthening control, administration and social attitudes towards SALW" and 2) Project "Increased Security of the Arms Depots Under the Administration of the Albanian State Police"



the independent mid-term evaluation of the Trust Fund and provided an update to the Steering Committee in this respect at the annual meeting in March 2024.

The Secretariat ensured the technical assessment and processing of the new project proposal submitted by UNODC per the direct solicitation by the Steering Committee¹⁵. In line with the Steering Committee decision, the Secretariat solicited feedback from all SALW Commissions on the new proposal and presented the findings for decision-making. Further, in adherence with the MPTF Operations Manual, the administrative and technical assessment of the received project proposal was coordinated by the Secretariat as of July 2024, conducted by a review panel comprised

15 "Project Hermes 2.1: Countering Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Ammunition in Express Courier and Postal Parcels"

4. Update on the Activity of the Participating UN Organizations

of three experts and supported by a secretary/quality assurance focal point appointed by the Secretariat. The findings and recommendations of the technical assessment were shared with the Steering Committee for final decision-making.

To improve the visibility of the Trust Fund donors in media communications and deliverables related to the funded projects, the Secretariat regularly liaised with the project teams to ensure appropriate implementation of the adopted visibility guidelines aimed at further facilitating more coherent and appropriate visibility for the Fund. These guidelines 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 centers reconstructed/refurbished with support from the Trust Fund. The Secretariat ensured communication with the Trust Fund donors to ensure greater outreach and visibility of their support via social networks and websites, and prepared dedicated news items to this end.

Finally, the Secretariat maintained an [online platform](#) that features projects supported by the Trust Fund and results stemming from them.

Twelve (12) projects were ongoing in 2024, and one new project was launched in the last quarter of the year. This section briefly features all 13 projects that were active or launched in the course of 2024. A detailed matrix of project activities and achievements is provided in Annex 3 of the annual report.

4.1. Regional projects

At the regional level, the Trust Fund supported two interventions, addressing several areas of the Roadmap: legislative reform in line with the UN Firearms Protocol; regional operational exchange; the harmonization of criminal justice responses and practices; and enhanced capacities for countering illicit arms trafficking.

Further advancing criminal justice response in the region

In November 2023, the Trust Fund initiated a regional project of the UNODC GFP aimed at supporting the six Western Balkans jurisdictions in further enhancing the criminal justice response to counter arms trafficking in the Western Balkans. “Project Justitia: Support to the Criminal Justice Response to Counter Arms Trafficking in the Western Balkans” directly builds upon the previous project “Criminal Justice Response against Arms Trafficking in the Western Balkans,” implemented by UNODC in 2020-2023, and solidifies a comprehensive effort to strengthen the criminal justice system's response to organized crime and illicit firearms trafficking in the Western Balkans.

The Trust Fund and UNODC work on further advancing the criminal justice response to counter trafficking in firearms and harmonize criminal legislation approaches in the region.

In 2024, the UNODC, through Project Justitia, continued to provide comprehensive support to criminal justice institutions in the Western Balkans to strengthen legislative frameworks, enhance prosecutorial and investigative capacities, and foster regional and global cooperation in countering firearms-related crime.

A noteworthy development occurred at the global policy level. From 14 to 18 October 2024, the 12th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its Protocols convened in Vienna. The Conference resulted in the adoption of [Resolution 12/3](#), which addresses emerging threats posed by new technologies in the illicit manufacturing and trafficking of firearms. The resolution was informed by the earlier adoption of Recommendation 3 by the UNODC Working Group on Firearms, encouraging states to regulate the blueprints used for the 3D printing of firearms and to criminalize their illicit possession, uploading, downloading, and transfer. These provisions were directly influenced by national legislative advancements in North Macedonia and Serbia, both of which were supported by UNODC. The Macedonian Criminal Code had already incorporated such provisions, while the draft amendments to Serbia's Criminal Code contained corresponding measures, thus serving as reference models for international standard-setting.

The adoption of Resolution 12/3 represents a landmark in addressing technological developments in arms trafficking and demonstrates how regionally tailored interventions can influence global normative frameworks.¹⁶ The Western Balkans' leadership, backed by sustained support from UNODC through the Justitia and Hermes projects, directly contributed to the articulation and inclusion of these provisions, exemplifying the value of evidence-based and context-sensitive legislative assistance.

¹⁶ Resolution 12/3 underscores several strategic directions for Member States. Paragraph 4 urges States Parties to consider adopting legal measures to address the misuse of 3D printing blueprints for firearms manufacture. Paragraph 11 encourages enhancing law enforcement capabilities to tackle firearms trafficking in postal and express courier parcels, and calls upon UNODC to continue delivering technical assistance, including in areas such as X-ray screening and risk assessment. Paragraph 13 promotes the integration of financial intelligence with special investigative techniques, including cross-border and inter-State cooperation mechanisms, to improve the effectiveness of investigations into firearms-related offences.



Along with contributing to these global advancements, UNODC facilitated progress at the regional level. **Legislative harmonization efforts** were pursued in all beneficiary jurisdictions and extensive stakeholder consultations took place towards these ends. Key achievements included the finalization of legislative amendments in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and the adaptation of UNODC's Guidelines on the Investigation and Prosecution of Firearms Offences¹⁷ to local legal contexts. These efforts strengthened compliance with the UN Firearms Protocol and introduced or enhanced national measures to address illicit firearms manufacturing and trafficking. In this context, UNODC collaborated with 627 criminal justice practitioners (200 women and 427 men) through legislative, capacity-building, and operational activities implemented across the Western Balkans in 2024.

¹⁷ The Guidelines were finalized in 2022 with the Trust Fund's support.



Capacity-building activities were a central component of implementation. Training courses were developed and piloted, including specialized modules for prosecutors in Belgrade and Podgorica, while multi-stakeholder workshops were held in Skopje, Sarajevo, Dobo, and Mostar. These engagements promoted inter-agency cooperation and enhanced technical capacities for investigating and prosecuting complex firearms offences. A regional legislative meeting held in Skopje in November 2024 consolidated progress across jurisdictions, facilitating dialogue on draft amendments, shared challenges, and best practices.

With respect to the judiciary, UNODC's technical assistance further **strengthened judicial capacities and improved access to relevant information and resources**, thus facilitating improvement in the consistency and quality of adjudication in firearms-related cases across the region. Relevant judicial actors received enhanced access to tailored legal resources, specialized training, and comparative case law, enabling more effective, rights-based decision-making in line with international standards.

More specifically, judges in Serbia, Kosovo, and Montenegro gained access to dedicated **training on firearms-related adjudication** through the “Firearms in the Courtroom” initiative. In Serbia, a training course was delivered in December 2024, jointly organized with the Judicial Academy and the Criminalistics Police University. It equipped participants with advanced technical knowledge on firearms, ammunition, and related legal complexities. In Kosovo, UNODC and the Academy of Justice conducted targeted training covering key firearms offences and evidentiary issues, enhancing the judiciary’s ability to apply national and international legal frameworks with greater precision. In Montenegro, training materials were developed in collaboration with the Centre for Training of Judges and Prosecutors and related training will ensue in the coming period. To this end, a total of 198 participants from the judicial sector (73 women and 125 men) took part in activities.

The **second edition of the Firearms Case Law Collections** was finalized for Albania, BiH, Kosovo, North Macedonia, and Serbia, offering comprehensive overviews of jurisprudence related to firearms, drugs, and organized crime. These collections encompass legal definitions, procedural safeguards, and evidentiary thresholds — including special investigative measures and sentencing guidelines — and were validated through five local workshops. These sessions enabled judges to engage in peer review and contributed to harmonizing interpretations of legal provisions across jurisdictions.

UNODC’s support also contributed to improvements in **judicial handling of defendants’ rights**. Following a study visit to the European Court of Human Rights and French judicial institutions, 27 judges (11 women and 16 men) acquired practical insights into balancing human rights with public security concerns in firearms cases. Building on this experience, UNODC identified key court decisions on human rights in all six jurisdictions. The analysis provided national judiciaries with comparative perspectives

and supported the incorporation of human rights jurisprudence into domestic practice.

Furthermore, the recruitment of local legal experts in Belgrade, Skopje, Sarajevo, and Tirana enabled the adaptation of training materials and case law analysis to local legal contexts. This approach ensured that all outputs – training content, case law collections, and review exercises – reflected domestic legal systems while remaining aligned with the UN Firearms Protocol and broader international obligations. As a result of these efforts, judicial practitioners across the region are now better positioned to adjudicate firearms-related cases with increased legal certainty and consistency. The strengthened access to case law, human rights guidance, and technical training has contributed towards the enhanced quality of judicial decisions and reduced disparities in the application of the law across different jurisdictions.

Overall, significant progress was made in the development of **knowledge tools**. UNODC produced in total 20 knowledge products in 2024, including: jurisdiction-specific legal commentaries on new firearm-related offences for Kosovo, Montenegro, and North Macedonia (3); tailored, specialized training courses with jurisdiction-specific and gender-sensitive training material (4) for BiH, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia; jurisdiction-specific guidelines on the application of special investigative measures (6); second editions of law collections tailored to jurisdictions (5); a guideline on the prosecution of firearms trafficking through postal parcels (1); and a compilation of human rights-related jurisprudence in firearms cases covering the region. As applicable, these products incorporated international standards and national case law, offering practical support for both domestic enforcement and transnational cooperation.



Countering trafficking in firearms in postal parcels

The Trust Fund continues efforts with UNODC to counter trafficking in firearms, their parts, and ammunition in express courier and postal parcels.

In October 2024, the Trust Fund initiated the second phase of UNODC’s Project Hermes, with the aim of further enhancing the detection of firearms, their parts and components, ammunition, and explosives in Express Courier and postal parcels. The new phase “Project Hermes 2.1: Countering Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Ammunition in Express Courier and Postal Parcels” directly builds on the pilot activities and previous progress achieved across the region.

UNODC launched the project in the last quarter of 2024 and established contacts with relevant counterparts and suppliers. It identified trainers across all six Western Balkan jurisdictions to deliver advanced X-ray

operator training. Training materials, including online courses, were translated into Albanian, Macedonian, and BCMS languages to facilitate accessibility and comprehension. Training courses will ensue in 2025.

In addition, preparatory work for workshops on risk analysis and detection indicators were initiated, with the involvement of SALW Commissions and customs analytical units in all six jurisdictions. UNODC secured relevant expert support from the French Customs to strengthen project implementation. Coordination efforts ensured that counterparts were fully briefed on the scope and expected outcomes of the activities that will take place in 2025.

Finally, UNODC initiated procurement processes for specialized equipment that will support the customs authorities and designated postal operators across the region in countering trafficking in postal parcels. Contracts were signed for two X-ray scanners, which will be delivered to Tirana and Pristina. IT equipment was procured for Skopje, Pristina, Belgrade, Podgorica, and Sarajevo, complementing deliveries completed under phase one in Tirana.

4.2. Albania

In Albania, the Trust Fund supported three projects dedicated to strengthening SALW control, advancing integrated approaches to SALW control, cross-border cooperation in this respect, upgrading the safety and security of weapons storage facilities and raising awareness and increasing community engagement on firearms misuse.

Strengthening SALW Control and social attitudes

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” has had the aim of strengthening the analytical base and the efficiency and effectiveness of the SALW control practices of the State Police while enhancing public awareness and behavior regarding the illegal possession, misuse, and trafficking of firearms.

In 2024, the project **completed the rehabilitation of seven (7) ASP weapons storage facilities** located at the district police commissariats of Mat, Puka, Tropoja, Lushnja, and Pogradec, and at regional police



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

directorates in Fier and Tirana. The facilities went through the oversight process of the Testing and Commission company, which issued an affirmative report for the standard safety and security compliance of the facilities. Noteworthy is that the original project plans entailed reconstruction of three more facilities located in Berat, Elbasan, and Saranda. However, the police facilities in these

locations were undergoing total renovation with financing from the state budget (including the evidence rooms planned to be refurbished by the project); thus, the project excluded these facilities from its projected plans. In addition, the project **equipped 10 ASP facilities** - in Mat, Puka, Tropoja, Lushnja, Pogradec, Fier, Tirana, Berat, Elbasan, and Saranda – with two ordinary metal shelves, one security shelf, and three standard

weapon shelves each. Overall, with the seven (7) weapons storages rehabilitated by the project alongside the three storages rehabilitated by the ASP through state funds, the project enabled ASP to reach the target of 58% of its weapons storages (out of 94 storages in total), being rehabilitated, refurbished, and standard compliant.

The **general public awareness campaign** that was conceptualized and agreed upon with the ASP in 2023 was rolled out in 2024. For the campaign, UNDP efforts were joined with those of the OSCE Presence in Albania, which also bolstered the Ministry of the Interior and ASP in enhancing their public information on SALW matters and raising awareness on SALW misuse and related risks and threats. This enabled coordinated action and broader and complementary outreach to communities. In view of the complementary activities, and in consultation and agreement with the ASP, the project’s public awareness campaign focused on youth in schools and social and mass media.

Through the marketing company that the UNDP contracted, and in close coordination with the ASP, the awareness-raising campaign materials were conceptualized and promoted through dedicated social media accounts. The campaign materials and actions encompassed the following:

- The production of three video clips addressing: i) the dangers of weapons/illegal misuse of weapons with a corresponding call to action; ii) weapons owners, with the aim of re-registration of their legal



weapons; iii) police-community relations, with the aim of strengthening these connections;

- The design and printing of postcards and pens (2000 each) as well as 4 posters (3000 copies each), for distribution across schools;
- 15 gifs were produced to underline key campaign messages via social media with a call to action;
- A structured campaign was implemented on social media for a period of 3 months, including 3 social media posts per week;
- Participation in one talk show on National TV introducing the project and the campaign;
- A picture contest was organized on Instagram with the theme “A world without weapons” - the winner of the best submitted picture at the national level was awarded a tablet.

The general awareness campaign was estimated to have reached around 1.5 million people.

An important segment of the campaign encompassed **outreach to high schools**. In this respect, twenty-four schools were selected for the outreach, involving all 12 regions of Albania.

From 15 April to 10 May 2024, the project team, in cooperation with the ASP and school security officers, organized 12 meetings in all 12 regions of Albania to raise awareness about the dangers and misuse of SALW and called for youth without violence. The meetings involved approximately 800 high school students. Posters and postcards were also distributed in the security corners of 24 schools, reaching a total of 8,000 students. Some of the produced materials were

given to the dedicated community-policing experts in each regional police directorate, so that posters could be distributed in more schools in each region.

The project completed its operations in June 2024. The final report will be published on the [SALW MPTF Gateway](#).

Reconstruction and refurbishment of arms depots

The Trust Fund supports UNDP in Albania in further advancing the safety and security management of weapons and ammunition storage facilities across the country.

The project “Increased security of the arms depots under the administration of the Albanian State Police” is a response to the expressed priority needs of the Albanian law enforcement authorities. It was operationally initiated in November 2022 as a small-scale project to improve and refurbish three top-priority weapons and ammunition storages of the Albanian State Police and furnish the ASP evidence rooms with 120 safes for SALW, with improvements to follow international standards and best practices, guaranteeing the maintenance, safety, and administration of firearms, ammunition, and explosives throughout their life cycle.



In 2024, the company contracted by UNDP completed the **reconstruction works of three facilities**, in Kukës, Lezhë, and Vlora, as per the approved designs agreed upon with the ASP. Each of the three facilities was refurbished with two ordinary metal shelves, one security shelf, and three standard weapon shelves. As established, the project furnished the ASP with 120 metal safes for SALW evidence rooms. Finally, the project compiled relevant training material into a booklet on physical security and stockpile management and delivered 100 copies to the ASP for use by its staff as a continuous resource.

The project completed its operations in August 2024. The final report will be published on the [SALW MPTF Gateway](#).

The Trust Fund supports UNDP in Albania in solidifying the progress made and strengthening integrated institutional approaches and cross-border cooperation to SALW control in the country.

Towards an integrated institutional approach to SALW Control

The project “Integrated Institutional Approach and Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation to SALW Control (Phase I)” was initiated in December 2023, in the framework of the third call for proposals.

The project aims to build upon the previous progress and efforts of the Albanian Ministry of the Interior and the State Police to enhance SALW control at the national level and beyond. Particularly, its aims are to strengthen the operational and technical knowledge of relevant institutions, reduce skill gaps in dealing with FAE detection, and prevent their trafficking across borders. This entails capacity development and the strengthening of relevant national law enforcement institutions/departments, improving their inter-institutional collaboration in the field of FAE, and promoting and developing cross-border cooperation towards the final goal of adopting an integrated institutional approach to combating FAE trafficking.

In 2024, the project was launched on 16 February in Tirana through a [joint launching event](#) organized by the UNDP Albania and UNDP Kosovo offices. The event was an opportunity to present to relevant stakeholders and the public from both jurisdictions the projects’ objectives, the envisaged cross-border cooperation element, and the expected results. Participating the launch event were delegations of

the SALW Commissions from both the Albania and Kosovo jurisdictions, highlighting the strong local ownership.

Four joint training sessions followed throughout the year, organized by the partnering UNDP Albania and UNDP Kosovo offices, bringing to-



gether 22 police officers (11 each from Kosovo and Albania, 22 in total of whom 20 men and 2 women). Two four-day joint training sessions were conducted in Pristina in March 2024, whereby the participants enhanced their knowledge, exchanged experience, and learned from good practice on community policing approaches and intelligence-led policing approaches to SALW, as well as on the detection of explosives, explosive precursors, and other handmade explosive devices [[training1](#), [training2](#)]. The next two four-day training sessions took place in Tirana in May and June 2024, respectively, involving the same group of police officers. The training sessions enhanced the knowledge and skills of the participants on weapons categorization and the legal framework regulating the field of SALW, as well as on weapons conversion and the methods and tool marks used in conversion, including ballistic examination and potential data exchange [[training3](#), [training4](#)].

As part of its efforts to enhance the **capacities of the border police for green border patrolling**, the project confirmed the technical specifications for and completed the procurement of two drones for day and night use and 60 min of flight independence, two portable scanners, five medium range thermal cameras, ten long-range day binoculars, five medium-range night binoculars, and five portable document scanners.

UNDP organized a [two-day study visit](#) for Albanian **forensic experts** to the Forensic Laboratory in Pristina to gain knowledge and insights from this peer-institution on accredited forensic methods. 12 police officers (six women, six men) from the Albanian Institute of Scientific Police (AISP) participated in the study visit. The study-visit aimed to improve the staff capacities, the management of processes, and compliance with the accreditation requirements of the AISP in its continued advancement of forensic investigation in line with international standards. In addition, two AISP experts were supported in taking part in the ENFSI¹⁸ meeting for proficiency testing. The meeting, held in Wiesbaden, Germany from 5-7 June 2024, provided AISP experts with an opportunity to discuss proficiency testing results with counterparts from over 20 forensic laboratories.

The regional forensic sector in Kukes was provided with specialized equipment, encompassing four investigative kits complete with cameras for the crime scene, four sets of CSI toolkits, four PCs, and one laptop. In addition, the Albanian Institute of Scientific Police was equipped with a metal detector.

In close coordination between the UNDP Albania and UNDP Kosovo offices, a joint project meeting was held in Pristina on 1 October 2024, [bringing together](#) representatives of institutions from both jurisdictions

¹⁸ The European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI), founded in 1995 with the purpose of improving the mutual exchange of information in the field of forensic science. <https://enfsi.eu/>

to review the progress of cross-border initiatives and provide strategic guidance for the next year.

4.3. Bosnia and Herzegovina

In BiH, the Trust Fund supported two projects addressing several areas of the Roadmap: countering illicit arms trafficking, enhancing inter-agency collaboration on SALW control, integrating the gender perspective into SALW control matters, and reducing the supply, demand, and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach, and advocacy.

Raising Awareness about the Dangers of Firearms Misuse

The project PILLAR, “Prevention and Illicit Arms Reduction in Bosnia and Herzegovina,” supported by the Trust Fund in BiH, was initiated in 2021 with the aim of implementing a comprehensive effort to raise awareness among 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.

In 2024, the project initiated and completed the third and last wave of the **general awareness raising campaign “Respect Life, Not Weapons.”** The wave was implemented within the period of 31 January – 15 March 2024 and addressed the voluntary surrender of illicit SALW. Coverage of the theme encompassed 11 out of 12 cantons, considering that one canton (the West Herzegovina Canton) does not



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

have voluntary surrender regulated through its legislative framework. For this remaining jurisdiction, the project continued to address the theme of responsible ownership of SALW (from the second wave). An intensive presence across all forms of media was maintained to ensure adequate reach to the targeted population. In close coordination with police agencies, the project planned and organized 13 outreach events during this wave of the campaign in selected cities/communities in

Bosnia and Herzegovina. A comprehensive approach ensured a very high percentage of the target audience was reached, contributing to the campaign's goal of raising awareness and promoting the voluntary

surrender of illicit SALW. In all, the campaign was estimated to have reached 84% of the target group, or about 2.3 million people aged 18 and older.

Three “exit” focus group meetings were held in Sarajevo, Mostar, and Banja Luka to analyze the change in perception of the citizens regarding the ownership and the use of firearms. The results and findings from the focus groups were presented at the final coordination meeting with the management of 12 police agencies on 25 April 2024.

In addition to the planned outreach events and coordinated campaign activities, police agencies continued their work within communities beyond the campaign end date, capitalizing on the momentum established during the previous waves of the campaign and opportunities made possible by the existing legal framework, including amnesty for the voluntary surrender of illicit SALW.

Noteworthy is that following the third wave of the general awareness-raising campaign, police agencies reported the voluntary surrender of 204 long barrel firearms, 180 short barrel firearms, 19,384 pieces of ammunition, and 216 explosive ordnances.

The project completed its operations in April 2024. The final report will be published on the [SALW MPTF Gateway](#).

Furthering law enforcement and community engagement on SALW control

The project “Law Enforcement Agencies’ Development in Small Arms and Light Weapons Control (Project LEAD)” was launched in December 2023 with the aim of enhancing the capacity and engagement of relevant national institutions and civil society in BiH, as well as of strengthening inter-agency and cross-border collaboration to advance the implementation of the National SALW Control Strategy and the SALW Control Roadmap. The project aimed to build upon previous interventions and envisaged a series of activities focusing on inter-agency operational and strategic cooperation, alongside the provision of specialized resources, equipment, knowledge, and peer exchange to prevent and counter FAE-related crime. An inclusive approach to civil society organizations and outreach to communities and stakeholders was to be ensured throughout, with duly integrated gender and human rights perspectives.

In 2024, the project enhanced the **operational capacities of law enforcement agencies** to better fight illicit SALW trafficking through targeted assistance. It procured specialized equipment for police agencies in BiH, encompassing 26 density meters/contraband detectors, with the equipment to be delivered to 14 police agencies in 2025. In addition, upon the request of the RS MoI, the project supported the RS MoI’s police cadet training by providing replicas of six guns and one rifle for training purposes.

In joint efforts of the UNDP in BiH and in Serbia, a series of **peer exchanges of ballistic and arson and explosives experts** took place

The Trust Fund joins hands with UNDP in BiH to solidify law enforcement capacities and resources, as well as community engagement in SALW control.



over the year. The BiH ballistic experts visited the ballistic laboratory in Belgrade, Serbia in March 2024. In return, in October 2024 the ballistic experts from Serbia visited two entity laboratories in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sarajevo and Banja Luka). 14 experts in total participated in these meetings (2 women, 12 men), including 8 experts from Bosnia and Herzegovina (2 women, 6 men) and 6 experts (men) from Serbia. On 3 December 2024, the peer exchange among the arson and explosives experts from BiH and Serbia took place in Sarajevo. 10 AEA experts (2 women and 8 men) participated, 6 from BiH (2 women and 4 men) and 4 (men) from Serbia. The meetings served as an opportunity for experts to explore the capabilities of each other’s laboratories and the respective organizational structure of their agencies, exchange experiences in cases and difficulties encountered, and establish and strengthen working relations for future collaboration.

The discussions also provided valuable insight into the participants' respective working methods and relevant technical capacities, laying the foundation for future regional cooperation.

Complementary to these efforts, the project conducted an **analysis of the current technical capacities** and equipment needs of the two entity-level ballistic laboratories in Sarajevo and Banja Luka, as well as of the Agency for Forensic and Expert Examinations and the Brčko District Police. The analysis established the current functionality level of the laboratories and provides a baseline for future support that the project will build upon, as feasible.

With regards to the **digitalization of processes in FBiH**, the project conducted multiple consultations and technical meetings during 2024 to design the terms of reference for the development of a new application for registering weapons in legal possession in FBiH. While there was a general agreement to support the development of a new application, some concerns were expressed towards a unified FBiH-level application, given that SALW laws are under exclusive cantonal authority. It was concluded that while each canton may have its own application with administration authority, the application should nevertheless be compatible across jurisdictions to enable data exchange in real time across relevant categories. The project will further build upon this process and initiate the development of the application in 2025.

In 2024, the project supported **four domestic joint exercises** in different parts of BiH, building on previous Roadmap interventions. These exercises enhanced the investigative skills for countering illegal SALW trade of 98 police and customs officials from BiH (17 women and 81 men), with police officials coming from 15 different police agencies. The exercises were carried out under the guidance of the BiH Prosecutor's Office. In addition, **two cross-border exercises** were

organized between the police, customs officers, and prosecutors from BiH and Montenegro, testing existing procedures in the detection of illegal SALW and subsequent procedures at joint border crossings (jurisdiction over smuggling cases, suspect handovers, prosecution procedures) which were established under an international agreement between BiH and Montenegro. The first exercise was held in BiH in October 2024 with the participation of 35 border police and customs officials, as well as involving officials from the prosecutors' offices of both countries, while the second exercise was organized in Montenegro in November 2024, with 40 participants from both countries. Significant gaps were identified, highlighting the need for further efforts to clarify the roles of each agency and prosecutor at joint border crossings, with the ultimate goal of establishing an SOP that would serve as guidance for border police and customs officials from both countries.

Through the engagement of contracted police experts, the project developed draft **Guidelines** on SALW-related investigations for police cadets, designed for use in police academies and law enforcement training institutions across BiH. The final version of the document was presented to the Director of the FBiH Police Academy, and the Police Academy expressed interest in integrating the document into its curriculum, suggesting minor technical revisions which the UNDP project team agreed to consider and incorporate.

The UNDP supported the enhanced **engagement of prosecutor's offices** in inter-agency initiatives aimed at advancing the investigative and operational capacities of law enforcement in BiH to counter arms trafficking and crime. In this respect, the project supported the organization of a meeting between the BiH Prosecutor and ITA, during which 10 BiH customs officials acquired additional knowledge on BiH criminal code procedures addressing firearms-related crime.

In addition, the project worked closely with prosecutors' offices to identify gaps in SALW-related investigation from the prosecutor's angle and incorporate these findings into a SALW Investigation Guidebook for police agencies. 29 prosecutors (12 women, 17 men) attended five consultative meetings that were facilitated by BiH Prosecutor Office's representatives. The meetings gathered prosecutors from five RS District Prosecutor's Offices, the Chief RS Prosecutor and Special RS Prosecutor, 10 cantonal prosecutors, and one prosecutor from the Brčko District of BiH. The draft Guidebook has been developed and will be finalized in 2025, upon a round of final consultations with experienced police officials from all relevant police agencies in BiH. It is aimed at providing guidance for police on proper actions and collaboration with prosecutors in investigating SALW-related crimes, thus enhancing the prosecution of firearms-related crimes.

UNDP made significant progress in **raising awareness on and engaging communities in** preventing firearms misuse, as well as in enhancing the gender equality approach and women's participation in SALW matters. Following an official request from the Ministry of Security (MoS) in February 2024 to enroll in the Gender Equality Seal (GES) for Public Institutions program, the project, in collaboration with the BiH Agency for Gender Equality, will support the efforts under the current project. The GES initiative is aimed at fostering gender-responsive public policies and services and as such aligns with the project's goal of supporting the MoS Coordination Board's gender-responsive policy-making on SALW and security matters, ensuring equal opportunities for women across all security sectors, including SALW. Following a planning meeting on GES for the Coordination Board on 4 September 2024, the project contracted a consultant to advance the initiative. A workshop took place on 14-15 November 2024, where the consultant trained 22 MoS participants (14 women, 8 men) on GES, thus officially launching the initiative, which the project will continue to build upon in 2025.

There was notable progress in **engaging civil society organizations** in addressing illegal SALW possession, responsible ownership, and the impact on groups at risk. A public call for CSO project proposals was launched on 14 March 2024, with nine proposals received by the 29 April deadline. Eight proposals met the requirements, and these were all selected for the low value grant agreements to implement the respective initiatives, ranging from short film production to theatrical plays, aimed at raising awareness on firearm misuse in domestic violence and the dangers and risks posed by (illicit) firearms. The signing ceremony took place on 6 August 2024, giving visibility to the engagement. The CSO small-scale projects were launched as of September 2024 and are ongoing as planned, under the guidance and support of UNDP.

UNDP in BiH engaged with two existing **associations of women police officials in BiH** to promote women's stronger engagement and gender mainstreaming in SALW control. In a partnership between the UNDP offices in BiH and Serbia, two meetings took place between the



associations from BiH with their peer association from Serbia. The first meeting took place in Belgrade from 15-17 May 2024, where 21 members from the two associations from BiH and the association from Serbia, as well as representatives from the association “Journalists Against Violence,” exchanged information and experience on gender perspectives in SALW policies. At the second meeting in Sarajevo, from 15-17 October 2024, 24 participants, including the BiH SALW Coordination Board Chairperson, discussed challenges faced by women in law enforcement and their involvement in SALW policy. As a result of the second meeting, representatives of the two associations from BiH were invited to take part in the subsequent BiH SALW Coordination Board meeting and contributed proposals to the 2025-2027 Action Plan in support of a newly prepared SALW Control Strategy covering the period 2025-2030. Additionally, 5 representatives from the two BiH associations attended the 3rd International Conference in Serbia, hosted by the peer association from Serbia, where they signed a declaration on advancing the position of women in police forces.

4.4.Kosovo

In Kosovo, the Trust Fund supported one initiative aimed at advancing integrated institutional responses to SALW control in the jurisdiction.

Comprehensive approach to SALW control

The Trust Fund supports UNDP Kosovo to enhance integrated institutional approach and cross-border cooperation to SALW control, as well as raise awareness on the firearms misuse.

The project “Integrated Institutional Approach and Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation to SALW Control” (Phase I) was launched in November 2023, building upon the previous work in support of the Roadmap. The project's primary goal is to further advance institutional approaches and community engagement in Kosovo towards addressing FAE-related crime and misuse, and to strengthen bilateral cooperation between Kosovo and Albania in the field of SALW control. In this respect, the project is intended to strengthen community and intelligence-led policing and community engagement on SALW control. It is also envisioned that the project will further increase border control capacities to effectively prevent, detect, and counter illicit arms trafficking and enhance the investigation and analytical capacities of Kosovo law enforcement to investigate FAE-related crime. The project should also advance the handling, security, and storage of firearms, ammunition, and explosives (FAE).

In 2024, the project supported the development of the **training curricula on SALW control**, firearm misuse prevention, and preventing domestic violence for community policing officers and police cadets. The developed curricula were approved by the General Police Director and will be an integral part of the training programme of the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety.

Based on the approved curricula, a 5-day Training of Trainers (ToT) programme was conducted, enhancing the capacities and knowledge of 12 police instructors (2 women and 10 men) in applying the newly developed SALW curricula. The ToT participants gained comprehensive insights and knowledge essential for their roles, including: information on anticipated trends in illicit arms trafficking; threats associated with SALW, ammunition, and explosives; required community policing approaches; Intelligence-led Policing (ILP); SALW legal frameworks (both local and international); the role of the Firearms Focal Point (FFP); methods for the identification and ballistic examination of converted firearms; and the identification of and risks posed by explosives, including handmade explosives.

A comprehensive effort to **strengthen community safety** and promote responsible firearms management saw further progress in 2024 through the training of 516 community policing officers and members of Local Public Safety Committees and Municipal Community Safety Councils (33 women and 483 men). 13 tailored training sessions across all Regional Police Directorates were rolled out for this purpose. The sessions emphasized the importance of SALW control, the regular inspection of entities dealing with firearms and ammunition, and strategies to prevent the misuse of firearms in domestic violence cases. By equipping participants with specific knowledge and skills, the training courses built stronger, more informed partnerships between law enforcement and local communities.

Following a two-day study visit organized for three senior police officials (2 men, 1 woman) to the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) in Budapest, Hungary, on 21-22 February 2024, Kosovo Police officials prepared a report on establishing a relevant e-learning platform, which was presented to the General Police Director and their cabinet. The GPD approved the establishment of the e-learning platform, deeming it essential for the further capacity development of police officers at all levels. Based on the report, the Kosovo Police established a working group for preparing the technical specifications of the e-learning platform and its implementation. UNDP contracted an international company to develop the e-learning platform; the process is ongoing and is expected to be completed in 2025.

The **“Celebrate with Heart, Not Your Gun” awareness-raising campaign** was successfully completed in 2024 through a diverse range of activities designed to engage and educate the community. Utilizing awareness-raising materials such as brochures, posters, radio jingles, video messages, social media posts, and murals, the campaign effectively communicated its message on the dangers of celebratory gunfire and the importance of reporting firearm misuse during festivities. Additionally, it highlighted the risks and consequences associated with pyrotechnics and fireworks, particularly during year-end celebrations. Through multiple communication channels, the campaign reached a broad audience, estimated at more than



700,000.¹⁹ Building upon the awareness-raising campaign on preventing the misuse of firearms, an official ceremony for the destruction of various illegal weapons and equipment was held, whereby the UNDP Kosovo and SEESAC jointly supported the authorities in destroy 993 illegal firearms in an environmentally safe manner. After being cut in half, firearms were placed in a specialized oven to be melted. From the material of the melted weapons, manhole covers were produced, which were then utilized across the jurisdiction.

An increase of 40% in the reporting of celebratory shootings was recorded by September 2024 as compared to 2023, coupled with 28% of increase in cases opened by the police.

A series of training sessions were conducted for border police to enable more effective border control and green border surveillance. 350 police officers (6 women) were trained on detection at border posts (first- and second-line check), firearms trafficking routes and trafficking ‘modus operandi,’ identifying converted weapons and recognizing weapons parts, and the legal framework for SALW Control. These efforts also included joint training for border and investigation departments on effectively investigating firearms trafficking. In addition,

22 law enforcement officers (4 women and 18 men) from Kosovo and

¹⁹ The Mol’s social media reporting indicated the following statistics: 724,938 reached; 1,628,319 impressions; and 39,110 engagements.

Albania (11 participants from each jurisdiction) completed 4 joint four-day training sessions in Pristina and Tirana, enhancing their knowledge and skills and exchanging peer-to-peer experience on SALW-control related topics, including weapons categorization, the legal framework regulating SALW control, weapons conversion, including methods and toolmarks used in conversion, ballistic examination, and potential data exchange.

The project enhanced the technological capacities of Kosovo Police for detecting and countering illicit arms trafficking through the provision of three (3) specialized thermal cameras, two (2) advanced handheld scanners, 25 handheld flashlights, and 20 sets of dismantling tools to the Kosovo Police/Border department. These advanced tools and equipment are designed to support law enforcement in identifying, inspecting, and safely dismantling firearms and ammunition, particularly in high-risk situations.

As acknowledged by the Kosovo Police in its communication to UNDP from Dec 2024: during the handling of Case No. 2024-YI-1, the provided equipment (both by UNDP Kosovo and by SEESAC) was instrumental in the apprehension of eight suspects and the seizure of a substantial quantity of weapons and other suspicious items.

A two-day study visit (24-25 January 2024) to the Forensic Centre “Ivan Vučetić” in Zagreb, Croatia, enabled four Kosovo Forensic Agency ballistic experts (2 men and 2 women) to gain in depth experience in **advanced ballistic analysis methodologies and practices**, facilitated through hands-on workshops and interactive sessions. In close coordination with UNDP SEESAC and with the aim of further strengthening ballistic examination capacities and professional peer-exchanges, the project

supported the participation of two KFA experts (2 men) in the ENFSI workshop in Vienna, Austria, in September 2024.

In the effort to further **advance FAE handling** in the jurisdiction, as well as the security and storage aspects, the project provided the Kosovo Police with 72 weapon storage metal cabinets and installed these in police stations in Prishtinë/Priština, Ferizaj/Uroševac, Gjiilan/Gnjilane, Pejë/Peć, Vushtrri/Vučitrn, Glogoc/Glogovac, and Lipjan/Lipljan, thus further strengthening secure weapons storage practices across the jurisdiction.

4.5. Montenegro

In Montenegro, the support of the Trust Fund has focused on advancing the forensic service through a project implemented by UNDP.

Further advancement of forensic capacities

In November 2023, the Trust Fund supported the UNDP in Montenegro in initiating the project “Advancing the Forensic Capacities of the Police Directorate of Montenegro for Processing Firearms and Explosives-related Crimes,” building upon previously achieved progress aimed at further improving the forensic capacities of the Police Directorate of Montenegro. The project is focused on strengthening the forensic evidence and intelligence necessary for the investigation and judicial processing of the trafficking of firearms, their ammunition, explosives, and precursors, and other FAE-related criminal offences, including sexual and gender-based



violence. It is envisioned that the improved evidence and intelligence capabilities will serve both the national criminal processing system as well as international investigations and proceedings.

In 2024, as the initial step towards achieving its set objective, the project commissioned an up-to-date **needs assessment report on crime scene investigation (CSI) and forensic laboratory capacities**. The assessment encompassed desk research, interviews with stakeholders, field visits to the Forensic Centre (FC), including the Centre’s two locations, FC management and quality management, the ballistic, physical explosives/explosion, chemical, and GSR laboratories, CSI units in two Regional Centers (Center and North), and four Security Departments (Mojkovac, Pljevlja, Kotor, and Herceg Novi). Following the field visit, the

The Trust Fund and UNDP in Montenegro work on further advancing the accuracy and quality of investigations of FAE-related criminality.

expert finalized an assessment report with recommendations, which were validated and finally approved by the Forensic Centre management. The report encompasses a needs assessment and recommendations relevant for advancements in crime scene investigation, the ballistics, arsons, and explosives lab, and the chemical lab. It serves as a key resource which should enable the technical support provided by the project to be maximized towards achieving the planned objective.

In line with the produced expert recommendations and following confirmations with the expert and FC's specialists, the project team proceeded to procure **specialized equipment for advancing the forensic work**. Part of the specialized equipment was delivered to the FC in the course of 2024, while the remaining part will be delivered in 2025. By the end of the year, the project equipped the ballistic unit with a ballistic radar/chronograph. A gunsmith workshop and shooting range were refurbished based on an approved project design, and the workshop was provided with gunsmith furniture and tools including a workbench, tool locker cabinet, tool panels, a locker with drawers, and a collection of gunsmith tools. For on-site crime scene investigation, the FC was equipped with handheld UV/VIS/IR devices for the detection, examination, and capturing of latent forensic evidence and a mobile device for detecting explosives and cameras. A safety container for transporting explosive samples was delivered to the Arson and Explosives Lab, while the Chemical Lab received a gas chromatography-mass spectrometry device (GCMS), a rotary vacuum evaporator, a laboratory mill, a technical balance with a 1,500-1,700g capacity and a bench-top balance with a 60kg capacity. The forensic/lab professionals were duly trained on the use of the provided equipment, as applicable.

As part of efforts to advance forensic investigations and evidence, the project has **supported the Forensic Center to develop and accredit three forensic methods in line with the ISO 17020 and 17025 standards**. In this respect, the provided specialized equipment

will also serve the development of further methods and validation and accreditation purposes. Having procured the equipment, the project has initiated the development of standard operating procedures for the relevant methods, which will be subject to accreditation. These will be pursued further in 2025.

Preparatory work was begun for the **Gender-Based Violence (GBV) panels** and training on documenting injuries during medical examinations, as well as on interview techniques for crime scene investigation officers. The efforts will culminate in multi-sector workshops planned for 2025.

To enrich and complement the technical support provided at the jurisdiction level, the project ensured throughout 2024 that Forensic Center experts, including the Head of the FC and eight (8) professionals took part in **specialized international peer-exchange events** that advanced their skills and knowledge as related to crime scene investigations and methods, explosives investigations, and other aspects of forensic work in line with good international practice and applicable standards of work. In this respect, the Forensic Center greatly benefitted from the specialized events offered by the European Network of the Forensic Scientific Institutes (ENFSI). More specifically.

- The project supported the participation of the Head of Forensic Center (woman) at the [ENFSI Annual meeting](#) of Directors of Forensic Centers from Europe, held from 28-31 May 2024 in Madrid, Spain. The event offered the FC Head to exchange knowledge and experience with counterparts from the European Forensic Centers and learn about the use of Artificial Intelligence in forensic analyses.
- Two forensic professionals (one woman and one man) were supported in participating at the [ENFSI Expert Working Group on Explosives](#) - Forensic International Network for Explosives



Investigation (FINEX), from 17-20 June 2024 in Zurich, Switzerland. The Montenegrin delegation learned from presented case studies and the experiences of advanced institutions regarding the forensic response to explosive-related criminality and the validation of methods relevant to the accreditation process that is part of the ongoing project.

- Two professionals (men) from the Forensic Center, a ballistic expert and a gunshot residue expert, were enabled through support to attend the [30th ENFSI conference on Firearms and Gun Shot Residues meeting](#) held from 18-20 September 2024, in Vienna, Austria. The experts learned about advanced techniques, valuable experiences related to laboratory practice, and new equipment for ballistic and GSR testing, and gained new insights regarding the development of relevant new methods and the latest ENFSI Proficiency Tests.

➤ Two professionals (men) involved in the crime scene investigations participated at the [ENFSI Scene of Crime working group](#) held in Budapest, Hungary in October 2024. The event enabled Montenegrin professionals to enhance their knowledge in CSI through discussions with representatives from across Europe specializing in crime scene investigation and through hands-on demonstrations showcasing the latest tools and technologies for crime scene analysis, research findings, and innovations in crime scene investigation techniques.

➤ Finally, five (5) forensic professionals took part in the study visit to the Forensic Science Institute in Bratislava, Slovakia, from 28-30 October 2024, during which they visited various labs, including those for digital forensics, fingerprinting, traceology, graphology, fire and explosion investigation, DNA analysis, and chemical testing. The visit enabled the exploration of advanced technologies, including the Leica RTC 360 3D scanner for crime scene reconstruction, the RAMAN instrument for chemical analysis, and a TESCAN scanning electron microscope in the GSR Lab. The team also visited the explosives/pyrotechnics lab to examine explosive devices and discuss improvised explosives, as well as the ballistics lab to observe firearm analysis. The visit fostered a valuable exchange of knowledge on forensic methods, equipment, and techniques, and entailed plans for future collaboration in ballistics, explosives, and GSR work.

4.6. North Macedonia

In North Macedonia, the Trust Fund supported the UNDP in enhancing the data collection and analysis of the Ministry of the Interior, as well as in advancing crime scene investigation and forensics work.

Strengthening data collection and investigations

The project “Improvement of data and SALW collection practices and SALW related investigations,” implemented by UNDP North Macedonia, has built upon previously implemented activities in support of the Roadmap. It was initiated at the end of 2022 with the aim of improving the implementation of the Information Management System (IMS) of the Ministry of the Interior (Moi), enabling the gathering of SALW related data. The project is particularly focused on supporting data collection related to domestic violence involving firearms. The project has also aimed to improve the analytical capabilities of the Forensics Department through the provision of specialized equipment and training, as well as to improve weapons warehouse management and tracing capacities so as to decrease the risk of the proliferation of SALW and improve security.

In 2024, following the development and approval of the technical documentation for **strengthening the security and safety of the weapons storage warehouses** at the “Gjorche Petrov” Police Center, the project proceeded to support some of the planned interventions in line with the technical documentation. By 15 February



2025, the project completed the undertaken work, resulting in enhanced electrical infrastructure, upgraded lighting systems, and the integration of a diesel generator to mitigate power outages, aligning with key security objectives for the warehouses.

The Trust Fund works with UNDP in North Macedonia to advance investigations and data collection on FAE-related crime.

The project completed its operations in February 2024. The final report will be published on the [SALW MPTF Gateway](#).

Support for crime scene investigation and the criminal justice response

The project “Strengthening the Capacities of the Forensics and Crime Scene Investigation System to Improve the Criminal Justice Response to SALW” was launched in December 2023 with the overall objective of modernizing the forensic and crime scene investigation (CSI) units in



In 2024, the project progressed with the **improvement of the ballistic facilities of the Mol's Forensics Department**. The concept and design for upgrades to the indoor shooting range at the Mol were developed in collaboration with an international and national expert and approved by the Mol. The major interventions to the indoor shooting range were completed during 2024. A ballistic bullet trap was delivered and installed, followed by a test shooting session conducted with the international consultant and Mol ballistic examiners. The ballistic protection of the control room was implemented through the installation of bullet proof glass in line with the EN 1522/3 FB7 protection standard, including the installation of a side door and horizontal pipes. Following a request from the Mol and a budget revision approved by the Steering Committee, the project expanded interventions to the indoor shooting range, including the relocation of electrical cables, upgrades to the ventilation system, and the installation of sound and video surveillance equipment. Additional

minor adjustments remain to be completed in 2025. The implemented enhancements will ensure a safer, more efficient environment for conducting ballistic testing during forensic examinations of weapons and ammunition.

The project the **enhanced analytical, technical, and investigative capacities of the Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) system**,

using as the starting point the recommendations of the relevant needs assessment conducted by SEESAC. A study visit was organized in the period from 20-25 May 2024 for six Mol representatives (3 women, 3 men) to the French National Forensic Police Service (SNPS) in Écully, France, whereby the Mol participants gathered insights for developing a CSI Simulation and Training Facility in North Macedonia. During the visit, various operational aspects were explored, including the system and functioning of the service, its collaboration with other police units, and

the operations of the respective training and simulation facility for CSI. The participants observed real CSI training sessions for new recruits and engaged in discussions on training curricula for forensics and CSI. Furthermore, the delegation reviewed digital tools and databases crucial for evidence registration and processing and visited forensic laboratories. The visit strengthened the cooperation between the Mol and the French National Forensic Police Service, which provided cross-cutting benefits to the project.

Following the study visit, two SNPS experts from France visited peers in North Macedonia on 25-29 November 2024, with the aim of preparing a needs-based analysis and recommendations for the CSI Simulation and Training Facility.



The Trust Fund is expanding its support for advancing investigations in North Macedonia and works hand in hand with the UNDP to this end.

North Macedonia and improving the quality of crime scene investigations and evidence collection to build and expand upon the previous work in support of the Roadmap. It was envisaged that the project interventions would upgrade the ballistic facilities and operations of the Mol's Forensics Department, as well as enhance the analytical, technical, and investigative capacities of the CSI units. In addition, the project contains a gender perspective dedicated to preventing gender-based violence, including with firearms, focusing in particular on the gender sensitization of CSI staff and on improving the tracking of domestic violence cases that involve firearms through a separate module in the Police Information Management System (IMS) of North Macedonia.

The visit included a series of meetings, presentations, and field visits with Mol representatives, facilitating valuable knowledge exchange and laying the groundwork for a detailed needs-based analysis for the improvement of the national CSI system. The experts produced a comprehensive report and action plan for the new Facility, including the identification of urgent interventions. In further collaboration with the French National Forensic Police Department, several meetings and negotiations were held throughout 2024, aimed at adapting the SweetHome 3D software package for processing CSI documentation for use in North Macedonia. Originally developed and adapted by the French Forensic Service, this ready-made software solution will be further customized and translated to meet the specific needs of the CSI units in North Macedonia in 2025.

As part of efforts to enhance the CSI technical capabilities and evidence collection methods for firearms-related cases, the project delivered modern IT equipment to the Mol, consisting of 83 personal computers, 83 monitors, 41 multifunction printers and scanners, and additional smaller equipment. In addition, the project procured 78 CSI kits, consisting of 54 universal investigation kits and 24 post-mortem investigation kits, along with 41 photo cameras and external camera flashes. The delivery of these CSI kits and photo cameras was scheduled for January 2025. These essential resources are set to be distributed across CSI units nationwide, significantly enhancing their operational efficiency and capacity, leading to more effective and comprehensive investigations in firearm-related cases. A portion of the procured equipment will be allocated to the new CSI Training and Simulation Facility, strengthening the Facility's ability to support advanced forensic training and enhance operational capabilities.

For the development of the Training and Simulation Facility for continuous learning on CSI, collaboration was initiated with the Mol Training Center in Idrizovo, which is the main training ground for current and future police officers in all fields. Following intensive consultations and an agreement on the allocated premises, the project received Mol approval to commence the renovation and equipping of premises for the planned purpose. This facility will be specifically tailored to meet the needs of the Forensic Investigations Department and will serve as the home for the upcoming CSI Training and Simulation Facility. The development of the construction project and design for the critical interventions was scheduled to begin in Q1 2025.

The progress towards upgrading the previously established **Police Information Management System (IMS) and data management**, inclusive of firearms-related cases, went slower than envisaged due to the change in Government and key interlocutors following the parliamentary elections in North Macedonia. Following the appointments of new leadership in Mol key departments, the UNDP team held comprehensive consultations with relevant stakeholders to determine further courses of action with regards to the IMS. The planned upgrades entail the development of a module on domestic and gender-based violence, as well as future improvements to the system that will ensure its sustainability and increased use by the Mol for the enhanced collection of data in firearms-related cases. As reaffirmed with the Mol, in addition to developing a new module on GBV in the Police IMS, the project will further improve its functionalities by implementing an alert system for known firearm license holders and also enrich gender related statistics, especially in regard to domestic violence and in correlation to firearms. The work towards this end will ensue in 2025.

4.7. Serbia

In Serbia, the Trust Fund supported interventions in two areas of arms control: the advancement of investigative capacities for, and evidence-based processing of, SALW-related crime, and reducing the misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach, and advocacy.

The Trust Fund works have enabled UNDP in Serbia to continue supporting the National Forensics Centre to improve its investigative capacities for more accurate evidence and fairer proceedings.

Further advancing investigative work and overall SALW control efforts

The project "Improving Capacities of the Ministry of the Interior in the SALW-Control related Field, Phase III," implemented by UNDP, was launched in November 2023 with the aim of further improving the forensic capacities of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Serbia throughout the entire investigative cycle in order to support criminal investigations and proceedings in the area of firearm/ammunition and explosive-related crimes, as well as in the SALW-control system. The project builds upon and consolidates the results of the previous interventions that started with the first phase of the project in 2019 and



continued with the second phase from 2021 to 2023. In the new phase, the project will expand the accreditation scope of the NFC and pursue support to **three methods to be validated and accredited in line with ISO 17025 standard**.

In 2024, the project commissioned an **up-to-date expert assessment of the Mol's forensic line of work**. In 2024, the contracted consultant assessed and provided recommendations to two areas of forensic work: crime scene investigation and ballistics. The assessment report encompassed current capacities, identified gaps for further support, including needs for training, refurbishments, and equipment to this end.

In line with the produced assessment and recommendations, UNDP proceeded throughout 2024 to procure necessary technical support, specialized equipment, tools, and related training for the National Forensic Center (NFC) in Belgrade and its relevant units and regional centers and provide them with these elements. To **advance crime scene investigation**, the project delivered to the NFC two FARO²⁰ licenses for 3D scanners, aimed at improved documenting of the crime scene. Coupled with this, a three-day on-site training was conducted for four groups of forensic experts, enhancing the capacities of 18 experts in total (4 women and 14 men) on the use of the FARO software. In addition, the NFC was equipped with two Fuming Chambers for fingerprints identification and a Discover Imaging System to visualize and capture latent, patent, and processed fingerprints, and the NFC staff were trained on the use of the provided equipment.

The project produced technical documentation for adapting the evidence reception rooms in the regional forensic centers in Niš and Užice, as well as for refurbishing the space within the forensic evidence depository at the CSI Department in Belgrade. Based on the developed plan, the project contracted companies to carry out the necessary adaptations and refurbish the forensic facilities, with the work to be conducted in 2025.

Further **progress was made in enhancing the ballistic line of work**. The project supported the ballistic laboratory in expanding its accreditation scope by preparing two methods for accreditation: i) the ballistic comparative analysis method for fired projectiles; and ii) the identification of firearms based on projectiles. In this respect, the project advanced the technical capabilities of the ballistic laboratories in Serbia. It upgraded three ballistic microscopes in the Belgrade (2) and Niš (1) ballistic laboratories, thus enhancing analytical accuracy. A ballistic

²⁰ <https://www.faro.com/en/Products/3D-App-Center-Overview/Zone-Viewer-App>

consultant that was contracted by UNDP to act as a mentor for the NFC ballistic staff on their path to advancing ballistic examinations drafted the action plan for accreditation, developed a training curriculum, and conducted several online consultative sessions and a two-day training with seven NFC ballistic experts (men) from all relevant four labs on the methods prepared for accreditation.

The project **enhanced the Chemical Laboratory capabilities** for Gunshot Residue (GSR) analysis by completing upgrades on two SEM microscopes, thus improving analytical precision and reliability of evidence. Progress was made toward achieving ISO 17025 accreditation of the "Identification of inorganic GSR" method, with three proficiency tests acquired as a critical step in evaluating laboratory performance against international standards.

In addition, the project completed the procurement process to equip the NFC's **Arson-Explosive-Accident (AEA) Unit** with a mobile device for detecting explosives, including traces, and trained the AEA staff on its use.

To complement the technical support within the jurisdiction, the project provided support to **bilateral and international peer-exchanges** and enabled the forensic experts from Serbia to share experience with peers and learn from good practice.

Two National Forensic Center (NFC) experts participated in the Annual One-Day One-Topic Seminar (OOS) and Quality and Competency Liaison Group (QCLG) Meeting in Malta in October 2024, where they had the opportunity to exchange experience and knowledge with peers and learn from best practices on the new ISO 21043 standard, methods for verifying forensic examination reliability, and the validation and verification of QMS, LIMS, and other in-lab software.

Through collaboration between the UNDP in BiH and Serbia, the project organized **a series of operational exchanges among the ballistic and arson/explosive experts** from BiH and Serbia. The first [peer-exchange among the ballistic experts](#) from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina took place in March 2024, hosted by the Mol of Serbia. The second meeting followed in October 2024, when the experts from Serbia visited the Sarajevo and Banja Luka forensic facilities. The meetings served as

a platform for the exchange of ideas, experiences, and best practices in the field of ballistics and for further advancing respective ballistic examinations in line with international standard ISO 17025. 14 experts in total participated in these meetings (2 women, 12 men), including 8 experts from BiH (2 women, 6 men) and 6 experts (men) from Serbia. The direct interaction between professionals from both countries strengthened a collaborative atmosphere conducive to knowledge sharing and mutual learning. Various aspects of ballistics, including advanced techniques, methodologies, and case studies, were discussed by participants, thereby enriching their collective understanding of the subject matter. In addition, a bilateral peer-exchange among arson and explosives experts from Serbia and BiH took place in Sarajevo in December 2024. Four AEA experts (men) exchanged their experience and knowledge with six counterparts from BiH (2 women and 4 men).

In the efforts to enhance **inter-agency collaboration** between forensic experts and prosecutors for more effective criminal processing of firearms-related crime, the project organized a 2-day workshop bringing together eight ballistic and explosive investigation experts and 17 representatives from the Prosecutor's Office (5 women; 20 men).

As part of efforts to improve Police Administrative Affairs Directorate (PAAD) capacities to **safely and securely handle firearms**, the project initiated the procurement process for 130 metal lockers, 20 wooden storages, and five bullet traps, which will be delivered to police

departments across Serbia. In addition, the curricula for the Firearms Identification Training was developed and approved by the Mol. Two experts from Croatia delivered the two-day training in two groups and shared relevant lessons learnt with their counterparts in Serbia. 85 Mol staff (57 women and 28 men) enhanced their knowledge and capacities in firearms identification.

Further reducing risks and increasing safety

The Trust Fund supports UNDP in Serbia to consolidate previous results in supporting the prevention of firearms misuse.

The project "Reduce Risk - Increase Safety III," implemented by UNDP and initiated in October 2023, directly builds upon previous results and aims to reduce the risk of firearms misuse in the country. The project fosters collaboration and knowledge exchange between relevant stakeholders to ensure comprehensive prevention support, enhances the gender and age data collection practices and evidence-based policy making, and mainstreams firearms risks into relevant regulations. It enables the networking and capacity-building of women, empowering them to actively participate in SALW control policies, and ensures best



practice sharing among professionals, the media, and academia on effective mechanisms for the prevention of firearms related incidents.

In 2024, the project made significant steps towards strengthening institutional capacities for responding to firearms-misuse risks and fostering women's active role in driving policies to combat domestic and firearm-enabled violence in Serbia.

To enhance **administrative data collection for evidence-based policy making**, the project developed a comprehensive framework to improve the Ministry of the Interior's (MoI) collection and analysis of firearm misuse data in domestic violence cases, ensuring the inclusion of sex- and age-disaggregated data. A comparative analysis of legal and institutional solutions in jurisdictions with similar social contexts was conducted, identifying best practices for reducing firearm-related femicides. Furthermore, the methodology for the collection of inputs from professionals on needs and obstacles related to the effectiveness of relevant legal solutions was finalized and is to be applied in the upcoming implementation period.

To strengthen **women's role in SALW control policies**, the project supported the 3rd Annual Conference of the Network of Women in the Police of Serbia, gathering 132 professionals (111 women and 21 men) from different jurisdictions of the region and Europe to discuss best practices for preventing violence against women and firearm misuse. The event was opened by the Prime Minister of Serbia and included high-level state officials. Furthermore, in joint efforts between the UNDP in BiH and Serbia, bilateral networking between women police officers in Serbia and BiH was enabled, fostering collaboration on SALW control

policies. Through two meetings of associations of women police officers, 44 association members discussed entry points for enhancing women's role in SALW control policies and planned future joint activities.

With the view to **improving the detection and prevention of firearm-enabled domestic violence and suicides**, the project trained 215 healthcare and legal professionals across 67 municipalities (187 women and 28 men). The participants gained knowledge on multi-sectoral prevention of GBV and recognizing and responding to risks of firearms misuse. Furthermore, the project has commenced the development of a training of trainers (ToT) program in partnership with the Institute of Public Health. The ToT aims to ensure a sustainable way of improving the capacities of healthcare institutions for preventing domestic violence and suicides, focusing on indicators of domestic violence and suicide, and the proper processing of these cases within the system.

31 MoI psychologists and police officers (30 women and 1 man) were trained on **managing professional trauma related to firearm-related violent incidents**, thus supporting mechanisms for addressing firearms-related mental health risks. As part of the support provided to the **MoI's communication activities**, an awareness-raising and advocacy campaign of the MoI was implemented, focusing on bystander intervention in preventing domestic violence and the need for the (anonymous) reporting of violence to the police. The campaign featured videos, audio clips, and visuals broadcasted on television, radio, and electronic and social media, receiving significant media attention and achieving over 400,000 views on social media and reaching over 670,000 viewers on the national public broadcasting service (Radio Television of Serbia). Two experts were engaged to support the prevention of firearm-related

suicides in Serbia through educational and community-based activities. In this respect, the planning of awareness-raising activities has been initiated, with the aim of targeting men over 45 and providing crisis support information to prevent firearms misuse for suicide.

The project has also contributed to enhancing local community safety by enabling **four local CSOs** (selected based on a published call) to implement activities regarding the protection of women from firearms-enabled violence. With the project's support they have provided helpline support to women exposed to violence, trained women to better understand the risks of firearms misuse, engaged in awareness raising activities and strengthened cooperation with local institutions.

The project also focused on strengthening **post-tragedy trauma support and ethical media reporting** on firearms-related incidents. In this regard, the project contributed to the identification of international best practices in post-tragedy trauma recovery following the May 2023 mass shootings in Serbia and their integration into the government's efforts to commemorate the tragic events and ensure community reconciliation. The project trained 31 mental health professionals (24 women and 7 men) in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) to support children, adolescents, and families affected by firearms-misuse risks and incidents, including mass shootings. The training was delivered by Norwegian experts engaged through the project, to ensure application of international good practices. The training will be followed with the provision of a year of support to the trained professionals, ensuring effective and sustained implementation of therapy work addressing psychological needs arising from firearm-related violence and trauma. This is the project's direct contribution following the Ministry of Education's request for systematic approaches to healing following the May 2023 mass shootings and for providing

trauma-focused assistance to those affected, including youth in crisis. It further enabled 15 photographers and photo-reporters (all women) to learn about the ethical depiction of domestic and firearm-enabled violence, ensuring support to trauma-sensitive journalism.

The project facilitated **collaboration between the multidisciplinary team** for establishing a Memorial Center in memory of the victims of the mass shooting at the "Vladislav Ribnikar" elementary school and journalists committed to violence prevention. The discussion regarding the impact and consequences of media reporting on the May 2023 mass shootings yielded a media reporting analysis methodology based on principles of trauma-informed journalism and taking into consideration the perspectives of victims' families. This should contribute to future learning about the impact and role of media in reporting on mass shootings, particularly with regard to trauma-informed and preventive communication.

Project details, awareness-raising activities, and good practices regarding informing the public on firearms misuse for gender-based violence from previous project phases were presented at the UNDP SEESAC 5th Regional Awareness Raising Task Force Meeting.

In 2024, the project ensured the **identification of key action points for healing and reconciliation** within the community following the mass shootings at "Vladislav Ribnikar" Elementary School and in the villages of Mala Dubona and Orašje. Expert support was secured for the government's working group to support the first commemoration of the May 2023 mass shootings with the purpose of ensuring the presence of insights based on international best practices on overcoming post-tragedy/mass shootings trauma and community healing.



5. Catalytic Investment

The financial assistance provided by the Trust Fund has allowed the Participating UN Organizations to support the Western Balkans authorities in further advancing the SALW Control Roadmap’s implementation, complementary to the work conducted by other international organizations, including SEESAC.

While 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. Trust Fund projects deliver valuable contributions to capacity and institutional building which otherwise would not be possible. Trust Fund projects help to ensure that operations and reforms in the jurisdictions are conducted in line with international standards and that essential resources, expertise, and equipment are in place towards this end. While the development of procedures or methods to better control illicit arms flows or perform investigative works might have been accomplished without the projects’ interventions, the quality of such efforts and the ability to integrate best practices into these was heavily reliant on and largely made possible through additional funding and the technical advisory support provided through the relevant projects.

The Trust Fund has helped to enable a timely and strategic response to SALW control needs in the region, complementing on-going efforts, building on previous initiatives, replicating good practice, and multiplying achievements.

The projects supported by the Trust Fund have ensured the mapping and expanding of good practice across the region, the sharing of experience among the implementing organizations towards achieving more effective results, and the pooling of expertise and knowledge to jointly build upon relevant efforts further. The Trust Fund has also ensured that the gender perspective has been better integrated into efforts in the region, while securing stronger women’s engagement in tackling arms-enabled violence and crime, which would likely otherwise be largely marginalized. Particularly notable is the progress in Serbia and BiH in this respect. Furthermore, project activities have expanded to enhance cooperation and coordination with other key actors in the region, propagating good practice and strengthening peer-exchange. The positive experiences from both past and ongoing projects are capitalized upon with the Trust Fund’s continuous support.

Trust Fund resources have enabled the Participating UN Organizations and key donors to be recognized as important players and strategic partners for the governments in the region in implementing the Roadmap. The synergies and partnerships established with a common vision and mission multiplied the results and achievements. This was recognized at several important events in the second half of 2024. The impact of the Roadmap was acknowledged at the Berlin Process Summit

on 14 October 2024, whereby the Summit conclusions also underlined the commitment by the key donors to continue providing the required support.²¹ The second phase of the Roadmap was endorsed at the EU-Western Balkans Ministerial Forum on Justice and Home Affairs on 28-29 October 2024, thereby extending the Roadmap implementation until 2030.²² The relevance of the Roadmap for the further integration of the region into the EU and its impact on regional cooperation and the fight against organized crime were acknowledged at the EU Western Balkans Summit on 18 December 2024.²³

In addition to recognition at regional ministerial fora, one of the most significant developments at the global policy level took place at the 12th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), held from 14-18 October 2024. Following the sustained technical assistance provided under the Trust Fund, the Conference adopted Resolution 12/3, which addresses the evolving threats posed by new technologies in the illicit manufacturing and trafficking of firearms. The resolution drew directly from legal and policy advancements made in the Western Balkans, particularly in North

21 https://www.seesac.org/News_1/10th-Anniversary-of-the-Berlin-Process/
22 https://www.seesac.org/News_1/Western-Balkans-SALW-Control-Roadmap-by-2030-endorsed-during-the-EU-Western-Balkans-Ministerial-Forum/
23 https://www.seesac.org/News_1/The-Western-Balkans-Roadmap-is-bringing-the-Region-Closer-to-the-EU/

Macedonia and Serbia, where legislative reforms served as reference models for international norm-setting. Resolution 12/3 calls upon States to consider regulating the use of 3D printing blueprints for firearms and strengthens the role of financial intelligence, postal inspection, and special investigative techniques. The Western Balkans' contributions, developed under the Hermes and Justitia projects, illustrate how regionally tailored interventions can shape global responses and highlight the catalytic value of Trust Fund support in translating local progress into international standards.

The Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap received further global recognition. At the [fourth UN Conference](#) (RevCon4) that reviewed progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action in June 2024, the Member States renewed their commitment to peace, security, and sustainable development by preventing, combating, and eradicating the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects and enhancing international cooperation and assistance. The RevCon4 also reaffirmed the importance of reinforcing regional and subregional cooperation, including through roadmaps. A particular focus was placed on the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap through [dedicated events at the RevCon4](#) that showcased lead initiatives in SALW Control to Member State delegates, UN entities, regional organizations, and civil society organizations.

6. Key Challenges and Lessons Learned

6.1. Challenges

Political and security situation

Project teams continuously monitored developments in the security and political landscape, as these affect activity implementation and project results. In BiH, the implementing organizations maintained constant communication with the project beneficiaries in both the Federation of BiH and Republika Srpska, enabling the continuation of all project activities within the BiH projects despite political tensions. A fragmented security structure in BiH required careful and prolonged consultations with beneficiaries and partners. The delayed adoption of the Law on Border Control affected the planned UNDP support for the revision of the MoU between the BiH Customs and the Border Police. Some progress was noted when the Law was adopted by the BiH Council of Ministers on 17 December 2024 and sent for fast-track adoption by the BiH Parliamentary Assembly. While awaiting the final outcome on the adoption of the law by the Parliamentary Assembly, the relevant UNDP project team shifted its support to facilitating complementary strategic planning.

There was a slower pace of progress marked in North Macedonia prior to and after the presidential and parliamentary elections in May 2024. Following the elections, the change in the government of North Macedonia, including changes in the Ministry of the Interior, caused certain delays in project implementation. Noteworthy is that the new Minister expressed his commitment to strengthening the safety and security of citizens through enhanced SALW control. Nevertheless,

most of the key personnel in Mol were replaced, and adaptations in decision-making and reprioritization by the Mol has led to a slower pace of progress. The project team remained in constant communication with relevant counterparts within the Ministry to proactively address potential issues and minimize any associated delays. Particularly in this context, the new leadership of the Mol Training Center changed the space allocated for the CSI Training and Simulation Facility, proposing a new location. While the new premises were deemed suitable, there were other administrative issues faced before the facilities were officially made available for the project's purpose. This has caused delays in the preparation of a construction design and other elements for the project and required adaptation of the activity timeline.

In Serbia, following the Novi Sad city railway station canopy collapse on 1 November 2024, leaving 15 people dead and two severely injured, a series of mass protests began in Novi Sad. The protests, led by university students, have spread to numerous cities and towns throughout Serbia and are still ongoing. The situation has resulted in social tensions and has affected communication with national partners, slowing their responses and disrupting the focus on the project. This has impacted the dynamics and timeline of planned activities with the Mol, especially those involving Mol senior officers and uniformed police personnel, with police officers regularly engaged in securing protests in over 300 communities. In the case of the Prime Minister's Office, which leads the efforts regarding health system digitalization, the responsiveness of communication was slowed, resulting in the postponement of planned meetings. The project team is closely monitoring the situation and maintaining communication with national stakeholders to develop a plan and establish a realistic timeline for carrying out activities in 2025.

Challenges related to new digital solutions

The projects aimed at offering new digital solutions or software upgrades to law enforcement agencies in the region faced difficulties with the pace of development and/or the implementation of new tools and solutions. The planned development of a new application for registering legal SALW in FBiH gave rise to additional requests and needs identified by relevant project partners. The review process itself, conducted the relevant law enforcement agencies, went longer than expected and required new rounds of consultations so as to ensure that the specificities of the respective legal frameworks and decentralized operations were carefully considered and integrated into the projected plans. The received feedback then entailed additional time and resources to adequately address the needs and recommendations. Likewise, the planned upgrade of the Police Information Management System in North Macedonia necessitated prolonged technical support and consultations with the MoI, which hindered the effective operationalization of the system and prevented the project from proceeding in a timely manner with the development and integration of a new module within the IMS dedicated to gender-based violence. The change among the interlocutors following the elections in the jurisdiction also affected the expectations for the system in the wake of the new management, which the project team continued to address in a collaborative manner. Despite these delays, the adjusted plans were gradually determined and the project team is to proceed with the IMS upgrade in 2025.

Challenges related to the procurement of technical equipment or construction works

Across the projects, there have been delays in 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 the responsiveness of potential bidders in certain situations did not meet the expected standards and necessitated prolonged procurement processes. The projects addressed the challenges by reviewing all procurement options, utilizing pre-approved vendors where possible, and adjusting activity timelines when necessary.

For the Hermes regional initiative implemented by UNODC, challenges were encountered in the procurement and delivery of detection equipment. The main issues encountered were related to the designation of responsible officials in Podgorica, Belgrade, and Skopje, which delayed the issuance of contracts for the X-ray scanners. UNODC scheduled meetings with the beneficiaries to resolve this delay. Additionally, the supplier for hand-held detectors in Sarajevo had to be changed, delaying procurement. Measures to address these challenges are underway, with completion anticipated in 2025.

In Albania, the work on the reconstruction and refurbishment of the weapons and ammunition storage facilities progressed very slowly.

Difficulty in finding a qualified construction company, getting the necessary clearances, and commencing with the work on the selected sites all led to the delaying of the intended actions. The contracted company experienced difficulties in implementing the construction works as per the agreed plan due to the prolonged handover of the construction sites by the ASP. This, together with the significantly deteriorated condition of some of the allocated buildings, meant that the reconstructions took longer than anticipated, inevitably requiring an extension of the project's implementing period to ensure satisfactory completion of the planned interventions and the achievement of all envisaged results. Non-cost extensions of projects' implementing periods mitigated any emerging risks, and in the end the reconstruction works were fully completed in line with the requirements and handed over to the authorities in the second half of 2024.

Delays were also noted in the activity implementation in Montenegro and Serbia with regards to procuring specialized equipment or expert services in the field of forensics. The project teams maintain regular communication and coordination with project beneficiaries and partners to ensure equipment and expert assistance meet approved specifications. Similarly, the joint police operations in Albania and Kosovo have been postponed from 2024 to 2025 so as to enable the utilization of specialized equipment, the procurement and delivery of which has been delayed.

6.2. Lessons learned

The following lessons were recognized and will continue to be incorporated into the implementation of current and future projects:

> Trust-based relationship and a strong presence of local ownership. 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. The combination of carefully assessed needs and priorities, regular coordination and communication, stronger engagement in activity design and implementation by beneficiaries, and the joint development of plans all strengthen local ownership. The provision of practical cases and knowledge products alongside the conducting of joint operations utilizing specialized equipment provided through projects ensure stronger ownership and improve the effectiveness of project results and, consequently, their sustainability. Regular communication with the beneficiaries ensures that project partners remain committed and engaged in project implementation and enable project teams to navigate challenging contexts. Across all projects, regular communication with counterparts to ensure common understanding and adapt activities with new timelines to accommodate competing priorities proved essential to mitigating the risk of insufficient engagement in project activities. The participation of project beneficiaries as co-facilitators and trainers has strengthened ownership and increased the effectiveness of the results.

> Contextualizing support for greater relevance. The early identification of qualified trainers or experts within jurisdictions ensures local ownership and contextual relevance in delivering training. Tailoring training materials and resources to specific contexts of local institutions and making these available in local languages significantly increases utility, accessibility, and participation. For example, a central success of the regional criminal justice project in 2024 was its ability to translate complex international standards — particularly the UN Firearms Protocol — into nationally actionable reforms and practical tools for criminal justice practitioners across the Western Balkans. This was achieved through a locally embedded, consultative approach that emphasized local ownership. The integration of tailored legal commentaries, context-specific training courses, and operational guidelines ensured high relevance and applicability. Strategic partnerships with ministries of justice, judicial academies, prosecutors’ offices, and law enforcement agencies were key to building trust and mobilizing participation. The project’s contributions to global processes, notably the adoption of UNTOC Resolution 12/3, further illustrate how regional efforts can shape international policy when backed by evidence and strong technical assistance.

> Delivery of specialized equipment requires proactive planning. Early engagement with local logistics counterparts and proactive planning and contingency protocols in procurement processes are important to mitigate delays and risks in implementation that entails specialized equipment. Looking ahead, the timely finalization of administrative procedures related to equipment handover and the establishment of maintenance and operational protocols to ensure long-term sustainability is advisable. It is also recommended that capacity-building efforts are linked to procured equipment, including periodic refresher trainings and simulations

to retain and reinforce skills among beneficiaries. This will further institutionalize the technical knowledge gained and ensure that the investment in training and equipment yields sustained impact over time.

> Maximizing potentials of peer-learning. Across several projects, efforts have been made to apply peer-to-peer learning, and these produce multiple positive effects when appropriately executed, with experts from one jurisdiction learning from the good practice and experience of their peers across borders, within the region, or beyond. There is further potential to improve project effectiveness by enhancing peer-to-peer learning between jurisdictions. While regional meetings remain successful in promoting dialogue and regional harmonization, creating structured mechanisms for inter-jurisdictional mentoring or exchange – such as judge-to-judge or police-to-police arrangements – could further facilitate the replication of good practices. Although requiring a longer implementing period and stronger coordination efforts, the results that arise from cross-border projects or projects that entail cross-border collaboration elements are beneficial not only to the jurisdictions involved, who share their experiences and knowledge productively, but also to other jurisdictions, as such actions can serve as excellent examples to them and multiply the desired effects. Furthermore, enabling professionals to exchange information on actual practices, on real challenges they face, and on approaches to possible solutions proved to be a motivating factor for their participation.

> Growth through knowledge products and systematic delivery. Another area where further growth could be achieved is in capturing the impact of knowledge products and trainings through follow-up assessments. While participation in training events and the validation of knowledge products remain a strong indicator of product utility, structured tools to evaluate how participants

apply new skills in practice would support more evidence-based adaptation of content. In this context, the increased use of digital tools could enhance reach and flexibility, particularly for maintaining capacity development continuity. To maximize the long-term impact of developed legislative and operational tools, the systematic delivery of capacity-building activities is very important.

➤ Scaling up of capacity development. There is an opportunity to scale up the dissemination of developed curricula, legal commentaries, or operational guidance through formalized training cycles. This includes integrating the materials into the regular curricula of judicial or police academies, prosecutor training centers, and law enforcement institutions. Efforts should also focus on expanding the geographic and institutional reach of training delivery. In particular, capacity-building activities should be extended to second-tier and local-level practitioners — such as cantonal prosecutors, municipal judges, and field-level investigators — who are critical to the day-to-day implementation of legal provisions and investigative practices. Furthermore, training approaches could evolve toward more multi-disciplinary models that bring together different branches of the criminal justice system in joint learning environments. This will support more cohesive institutional responses and reinforce the inter-agency coordination mechanisms developed under the Trust Fund projects. Thematic specializations — such as focusing on the prosecution of firearms trafficking via postal services — or the application of special investigative measures could also be developed into standalone modules to deepen expertise in complex areas of practice.

7. Partnerships

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

Throughout the Western Balkans jurisdictions, the Trust Fund has enabled the implementing organizations to strengthen their partnerships in SALW control with SALW Commissions, public authorities, donors, and civil society organizations. Partnerships have been forged with the jurisdictions' ministries of the interior and relevant law enforcement structures across the region. The collaboration with prosecutorial services, educational institutions, including judicial academies, schools for magistrates, and centers for the education of prosecutors and judges were an added value for the regional project on the criminal justice response and complementary to jurisdiction-based initiatives. For example, a partnership was initiated by UNODC with the Criminalistic Police University to implement a capacity-building activity for judges in Serbia.

Alongside regularly communicating with the respective SALW Commissions and other project beneficiaries, the implementing UN organizations also pursued cooperation and synergized with other

entities, such as the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the European Union delegations in the Western Balkans, the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT), and representatives of the Embassies of Germany, France, the UK, Netherlands, Sweden, and Norway.

Partnerships with local, regional, and international actors strengthen the complementarity and effectiveness of actions.

For the regional project on the criminal justice response and the project implemented in North Macedonia, the jurisdictions benefitted from the partnership with the French authorities. The French Ministry of Justice supported the study visit of the Western Balkans judiciary to their French counterparts, while the French forensic service supported the advancement of crime scene investigation in North Macedonia. In Albania, coordination with the OSCE Presence in Albania ensured greater reach of the awareness-raising efforts, complementary activities, and message multipliers. In Kosovo, the relevant project team joined efforts with SEESAC for both the implementation of the awareness-raising activities and in destroying confiscated firearms in an environmentally safe manner.

In 2024, there was an effort to expand the partnerships and collaboration with civil society organizations, notably in BiH and Serbia. Networks of women in the police were actively involved in the planning and

implementation of activities, helping to ensure gender-responsive policy making. Also in Serbia, cooperation and partnerships were sought with stakeholders relevant for the response to overcoming trauma and preventing mass shootings in the aftermath of the May 2023 events. This included meetings with the Ministry of Education and the Norwegian Embassy in Belgrade, to ensure both synergetic action and responses to the concrete needs of survivors and communities affected by the mass shootings. Cooperation was continued and further strengthened with the group Journalists Against Violence in planning activities that address current needs for improvement of media reporting on firearms misuse.

Coordination and collaboration with SEESAC’s regional platform and initiatives continued. Project teams took part in, benefitted from, and contributed to SEESAC activities through the sharing of respective experience and in learning from good practice. The Roadmap coordination meetings organized at regional and local levels, and which gathered together all national and international 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. Sustainability

Since the Trust Fund’s inception, the need for local ownership, institutionalization, and the sustainability of project outputs and the embedding of the secured equipment and developed knowledge products into the day-to-day operations of the relevant authorities in a sustainable manner has remained relevant across projects. All project activities and envisaged results remain rooted in the assessed needs of the Western Balkans jurisdictions, linked to local policies and legislation, and in line with the Roadmap and other international commitments of the jurisdictions.

Cross-cuttingly, the projects aim to ensure the sustainability of achieved results, by, e.g., incorporating developed SOPs or guidelines into a continuous training program of police or judicial educational institutions or developing long-term maintenance plans with the beneficiaries for provided equipment. A core element of the sustainability strategy across projects has been the systematic integration of local institutions into all stages of legislative, capacity-building, and knowledge development processes. By embedding legislative reforms, training content, and operational guidance within local frameworks – and aligning these with both international legal instruments and evolving regional priorities – the implementing organizations ensure institutional ownership and policy continuity.

Local ownership and sustainability of results remain cross-cutting guiding principles across the implemented projects.

Regular coordination and consultation meetings are part of the daily work across projects and jurisdictions to ensure local ownership and sustainability aspects. SALW Commissions, relevant institutions, and project teams alike take part in the Trust Fund’s project board meetings, local and regional coordination meetings, and other regional fora, which further strengthen continuous engagement and ownership of results. Correspondingly, relevant national counterparts are also included in the process of site and monitoring visits for project activities. An important

added value that the Trust Fund brings to matters of sustainability is the possibility of longer-term engagement through a phased approach to projects, which further strengthens the sustainability of achieved results and delivers higher-level outcomes.

When risks to the sustainability of results arise, the implementing partners reflect on approaches and any remaining activities to steer the implementation in a direction that

should generate greater effect and sustainability. In this context, it has been noted that capacity development activities face risks of discontinuity after a project ends. Despite the frequently high level of interest and engagement among the beneficiaries, there is a risk across jurisdictions that such activities may not be continued by the respective governments following the end of a project due to a lack of financial

and human resources. In this light, the project teams work with relevant stakeholders in jurisdictions to help ensure the adequate continuation of capacity-building activities by establishing a pool of trainers among the existing operational staff, developing tools and resources that can be used beyond each project's duration, and producing knowledge products, such as manuals or practical guides, to facilitate a more sustainable effect. The development of local curricula on the investigation, prosecution, and adjudication of firearms offenses tailored to local legal frameworks and implemented in close coordination with police and judicial academies and prosecutor training institutions ensures that the knowledge generated through projects is institutionalized. The inclusion of legal commentaries, case law collections, and guidelines on special investigative measures as permanent knowledge management products further strengthens the long-term utility and accessibility of these resources.

Similarly, risks can arise in regard to the proper use and maintenance of procured equipment across the institutions and jurisdictions after a project's end. The implementing organizations are required to carefully assess the needs and capabilities linked to any equipment provided and its use and identify responsible parties for its further utilization and maintenance during the handover process. The provision of forensic, detection, and IT equipment, targeted to national needs and delivered in coordination with the relevant authorities, has strengthened infrastructure in this context across the region. When procured equipment is provided to end users, it is standardly accompanied by a dedicated training on its proper use and is linked to relevant standard operating procedures or forensic methods subject to accreditation, helping to ensure greater effectiveness and utility.

Issues with the continued and sustainable application and enhancement of the gender perspective in SALW control matters and/or in relevant institutions that projects have involved have also been raised. In this respect, the projects in BiH and Serbia have more deeply prioritized the systematic or sustainable engagement of women in SALW/security matters, while the concurrent projects in Montenegro and North Macedonia have focused more strongly on institutionalizing progress achieved in tackling gender-based violence in the context of crime scene investigation. In addition, cross-border or peer exchange has been a key focus of project teams, serving as a means to ensure the promotion of good practice among peers and longer-term effects. The integration of gender-sensitive approaches and human rights principles into the training materials and judicial guidance documents fosters inclusive justice systems, supports compliance with international obligations, and enhances the resilience of local institutions.

Despite the presence of plans that help to ensure sustainability, there are risks that inevitably occur during the implementation of projects that can affect operational plans. The Trust Fund Secretariat, in cooperation with the implementing organizations, assesses these risks as part of the reporting and revision of projects' progress. The Secretariat maintains as a mandatory element the (re)assessment of sustainability aspects in cooperation with the Participating UN Organizations during the projects' revision request procedures. This updating of the risk matrix is a mandatory element of each project's revision, at which point the sustainability of actions is assessed anew.

9. Way Forward



The projects launched across the Western Balkans at the end of 2023 enable the Trust Fund to further consolidate the results achieved, integrate the lessons learned, and ensure sustainability. At the same time, the implementation of the Trust Fund projects thus far has proven that continuous flexibility from the Participating UN Organizations and the Trust Fund Steering Committee is required, as progress is sometimes achieved at a slower pace than envisaged, for reasons already outlined in the challenges and risks section. The progress will be carefully monitored and supported with a view towards achieving even greater impact in the upcoming period.

The implementing organizations will seek to expand strategic partnerships to multiply the results of their actions to the greatest extent possible. It is expected that the sharing of experience among the jurisdictions, both among the authorities and implementing partners, will facilitate processes and the replication of good practices. The Trust Fund Secretariat will invest effort into enabling the sharing of experience to further advance project management within the Fund. The Secretariat will also facilitate learning achieved through monitoring and evaluation.

The extended [Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW, their ammunition and explosives in the Western Balkan](#) by 2030 is to continue serving as a guiding and consensual document developed and owned by the regional authorities in achieving a sustainable solution to the illegal possession,

misuse, and trafficking of arms, ammunition, and explosives in the Western Balkans.

In light of the extended Roadmap, the Trust Fund's Steering Committee is set to consider the duration of the Trust Fund itself in the first half of 2025. The scaled down funding contributions from the Trust Fund's donors necessitate adjustment in the operations of the Trust Fund to adapt to the new circumstances. Under the leadership of the Steering Committee, the Secretariat will support the operations so as to maximize the effects despite the constraints. The SALW Commissions and relevant authorities will be closely consulted when determining priority interventions in the future to enable the most impactful and efficient assistance to the Roadmap's implementation.

The Trust Fund will aim to capitalize on all of the relevant ongoing processes and on the many stakeholders' continuous commitment to enable and ensure solid progress in the next phase.

10. Communications and Visibility

The visibility of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF, its contributors, and the activities supported was ensured through promotional activities on social media, during relevant regional and global level events, on the Participating UN Organizations’ and the Secretariat’s websites, on the websites of beneficiary institutions and partners, and through branding, via visuals and 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 2023.

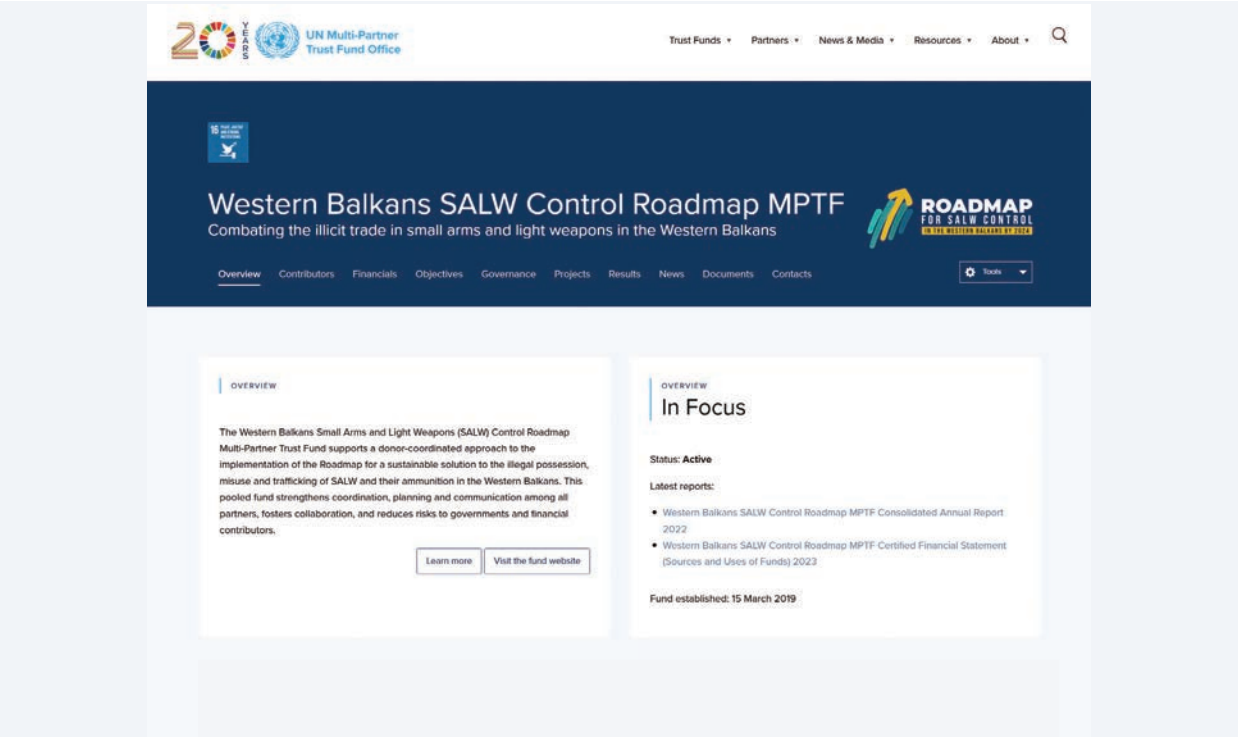
Some examples of implementing organizations’ social media posts are presented here:

[\[UNODC\]](#) [\[UNDP Albania\]](#) [\[UNDP BiH\]](#) [\[UNDP Kosovo\]](#) [\[UNDP Serbia\]](#)



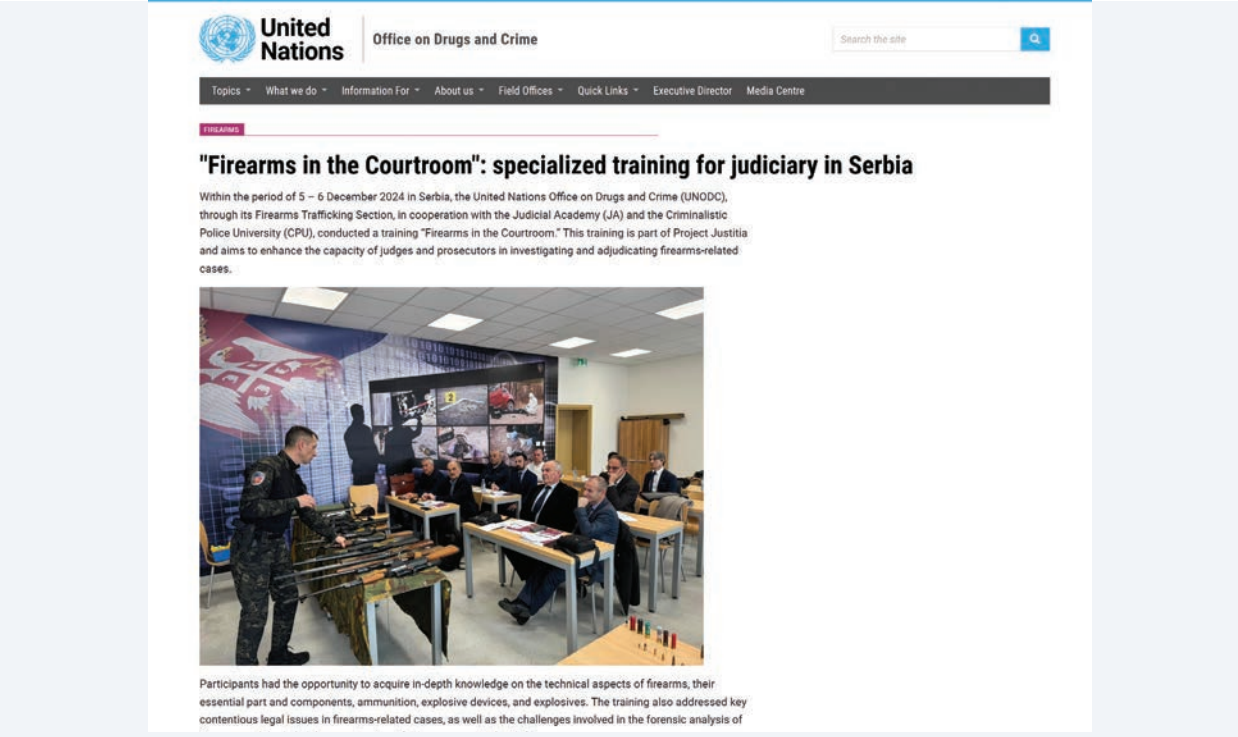
Online communication

Information about the Trust Fund, its projects, and project activities are also available on the Participating UN Organizations’ websites, on [MPTF Office Gateway](#), and the [SEESAC website](#).



Web stories on the project activities implemented by UNODC were also featured on the [UNODC's Global Firearms Programme](#) webpage.

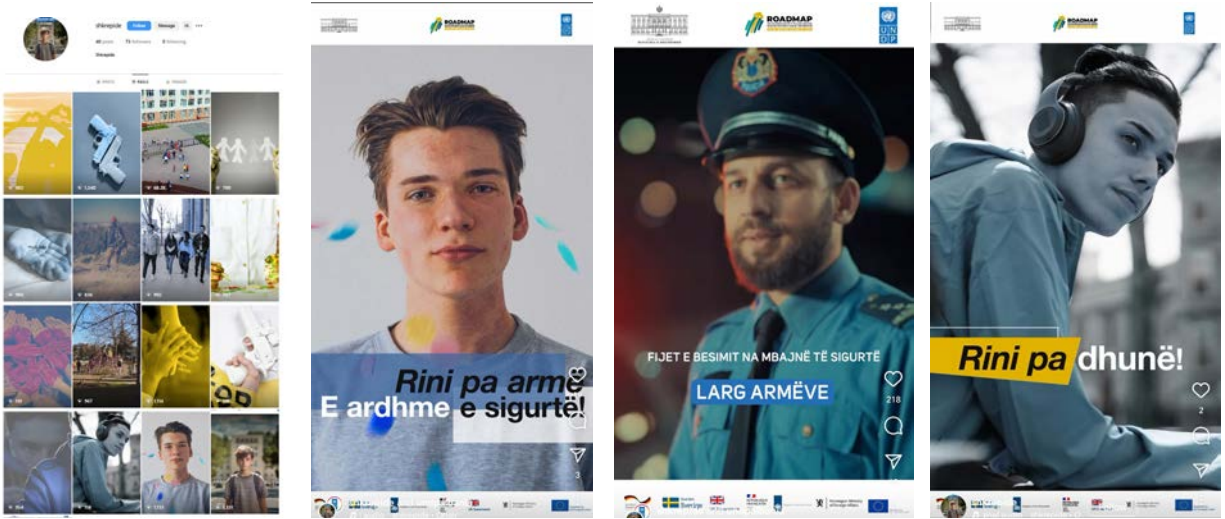
▼ Examples are provided here:



Dedicated **awareness-raising activities** in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and Serbia brought key SALW-related issues to the attention of a broader audience and the targeted communities and raised the profile of the Trust Fund's support towards creating a safer region. Some examples are presented here:

Albania

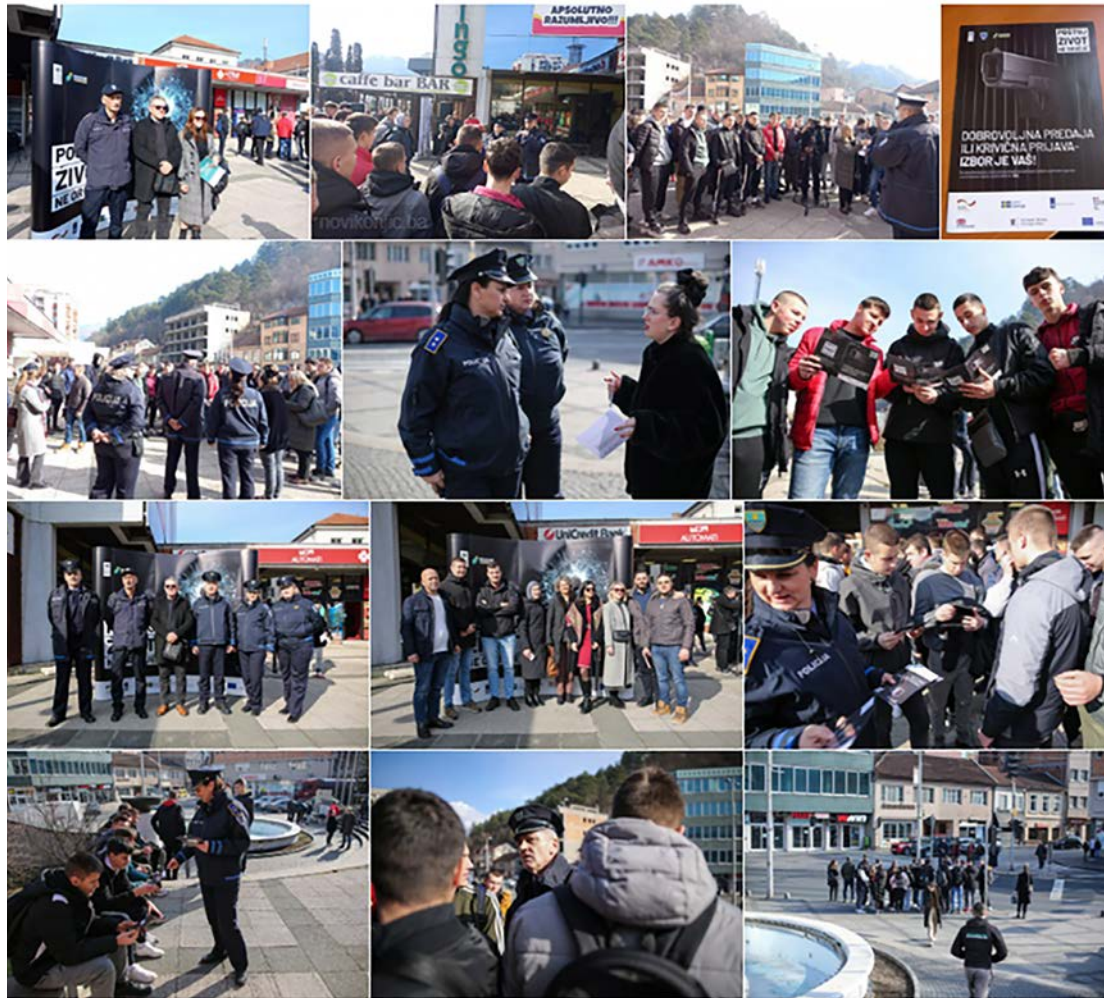
► Instagram [post 1](#), [post 2](#), [post 3](#)



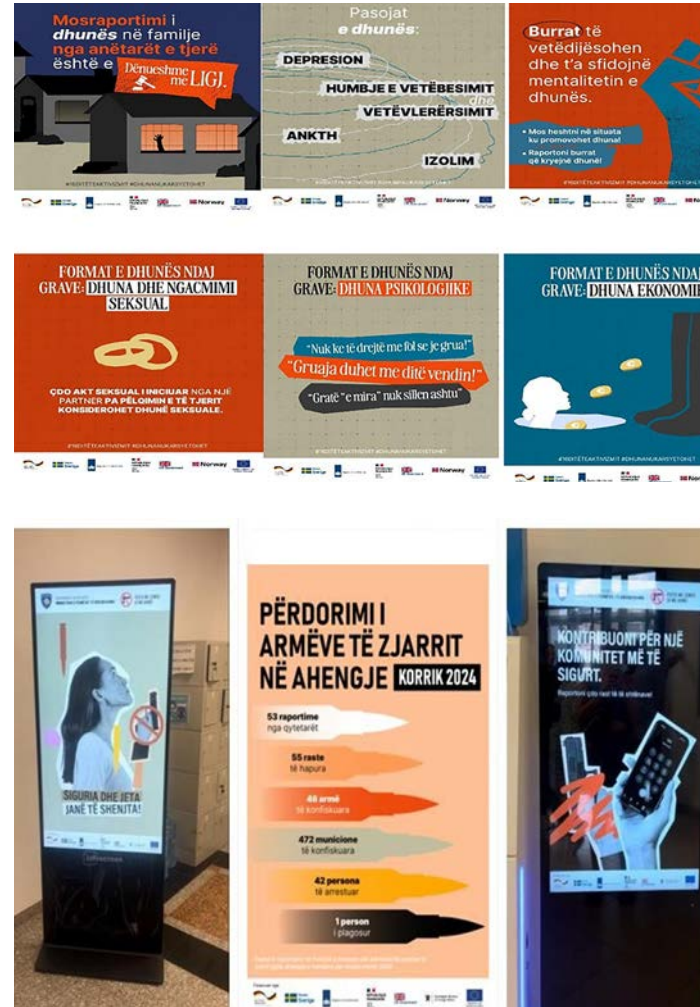
► Talk show on a national TV in Albania



Bosnia and Herzegovina



Kosovo

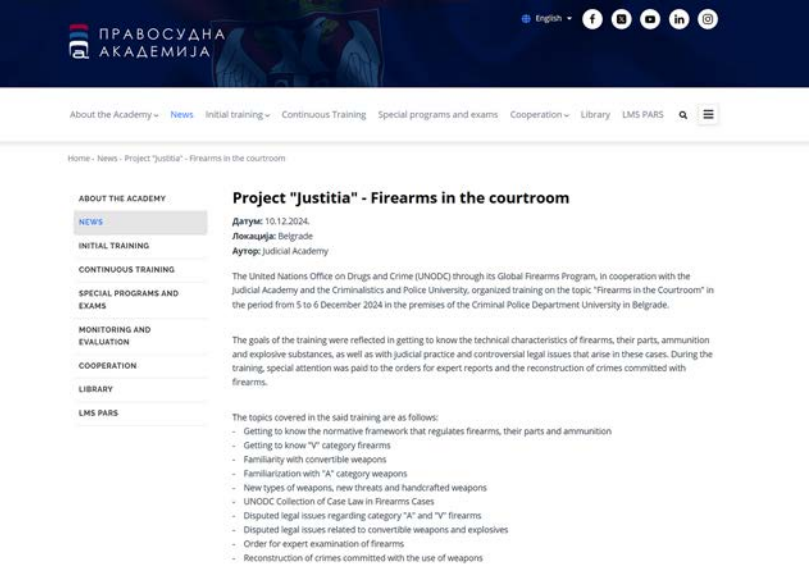


Serbia

▼ Talk show on a national TV in Serbia

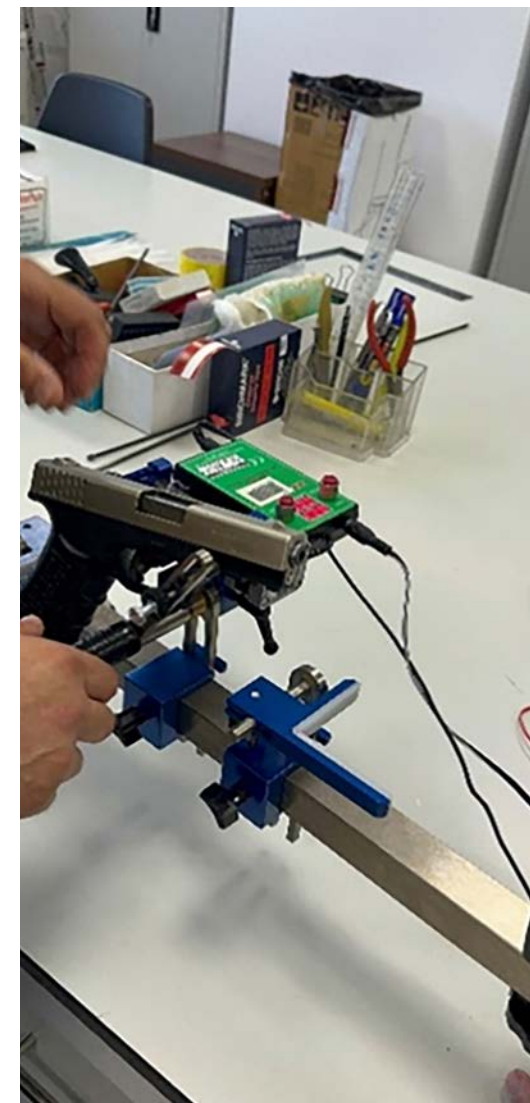


In some instances, project beneficiaries and partners have shared information about the activities conducted under the Trust Fund projects on their own communication channels. This shows their commitment to and ownership of the project results.



Selection of photos from events:







Participation in regional events

The Local and Regional Roadmap Coordination Meetings represented a key forum for publicizing the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF. Over 100 participants attended (online and in person) the two regional Roadmap coordination meetings organized by SEESAC in **July** and **December** 2024, respectively. The events included representatives of the SALW Commissions of the six Western Balkans jurisdictions, key international organizations engaged in arms control in the region (UNDP Country Offices, UNODC, OSCE Missions, NATO, Interpol, EU Policy Cycle - EMPACT, the Regional Cooperation Council, the RACVIAC Centre for Security Cooperation, ITF Enhancing Human Security, the Small Arms Survey, GIZ, the National Ballistic Intelligence Service – NABIS, HALO Trust, and others), and key donors (the EU, Germany, France, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Norway).

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.

Branding

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 prominently at the venues of the project events.



Bosnia and Herzegovina

Links for the media coverage of the third wave of the general awareness-raising campaign in BiH “Respect Life, Not Weapons!”

Presence in the local media

Project results were also promoted in the local media – online, on TV, or on the radio. For example, the awareness-raising campaigns conducted by UNDP in BiH, Kosovo, and Serbia were promoted broadly across different media outlets (both local and major). Likewise, major events and equipment donations were reported via local media.

Some press clipping examples are presented here below.

- [Kampanja “Poštuj život, ne oružje” – Poziv na dobrovoljnu predaju oružja – Ministarstvo unutrašnjih poslova Tuzlanskog kantona \(mup tk.ba\)](#)
- [Kampanja „Poštuj život ne oružje” Radio Gradačac – 57 godina sa vama... \(radiogradacac.ba\)](#)
- [U toku je „treći talas” kampanje “Poštuj život, ne oružje” - Srebrenik.ba - oficijelni web portal grada Srebrenika - Srebrenik.ba - oficijelni web portal grada Srebrenika | 2024](#)
- [Počeo treći talas kampanje „Poštuj život, ne oružje!” \(brckodanas.com\)](#)
- [Promocija kampanje “Poštuj život, ne oružje” \(mupzdk.gov.ba\)](#)
- [U toku treći val kampanje „Poštuj život, ne oružje” - RTV SLON](#)
- [MUP ZDK provodi kampanju “Poštuj život, ne oružje” \(zenit.ba\)](#)
- [I iz Bihaća poziv građanima da predaju ilegalno oružje \(federalna.ba\)](#)
- [Tokom prošle godine na području ZDK izdata 2862 odobrenja za nabavku oružja - zenicainfo.ba](#)
- [“POŠTUJ ŽIVOT, NE ORUŽJE!” - TOMISLAVGRAD - YouTube](#)
- [MB_20474_20474_MA_EN_chr_ANA_Vid_Adt_1920×1080_m-chr-atyage_cgc_-_ \(youtube.com\)](#)
- [Kampanja „Poštuj život, ne oružje” | Vlada Županije Posavske \(zupanijaposavska.ba\)](#)
- [Saopštenja za javnosti \(policijabdbih.gov.ba\)](#)
- [Dobrovoljna predaja oružja: Počeo treći val kampanje „Poštuj život, ne oružje” | Bijeljina.com](#)
- [Konjička policija u trećem valu kampanje “Poštuj život, ne oružje”: Predajte ilegalno oružje! - Novi Konjic](#)
- [Kampanja “Poštuj život, ne oružje” u Banjaluci | Info | Društvo \(mondo.ba\)](#)
- [Konjic: Održana kampanja “Poštuj život, ne oružje” \(radiokonjic.ba\)](#)
- [Kampanja „Poštuj život, ne oružje” | RADIO ORAŠJE \(radioorasje.com\)](#)

- [U Ljubuškom provedena kampanja “Poštuj život ne oružje” - RADIO LJUBUŠKI \(radioljubuski.ba\)](#)
- [Tomislavgrad: Predavanje u sklopu kampanje “Poštuj život, a ne oružje” – Jabuka.tv](#)
- [Počeo treći val Kampanje “Poštuj život, ne oružje” \(avaz.ba\)](#)
- [Grude.com - POŠTUJ ŽIVOT, NE ORUŽJE](#)
- [PU Gradiška: Realizovana kampanja “Poštuj život, ne oružje” – Micro Mreža \(micromreza.com\)](#)
- [FOTO: Događajem u Ljubuškom završena kampanja «Poštuj život, ne oružje» - Ljubuški na dlanu \(ljportal.com\)](#)
- [U toku je treći val kampanje „Poštuj život, ne oružje” \(VIDEO\) | RTV Lukavac](#)
- [Kampanja «Poštuj život, ne oružje»: Poziv građanima da predaju nelegalno oružje bez zakonskih posljedica \(derventacafe.com\)](#)
- [MUP Posavske županije pridružio se kampanji «Poštuj život, ne oružje» - www.vecernji.ba](#)
- [USK: Informativna kampanja „Poštuj život ne oružje” - USKinfo.ba](#)
- [“Poštuj život, ne oružje”: Muškarac se javio policiji i dobrovoljno predao naoružanje | BL Portal \(bl-portal.com\)](#)
- [PU Zvornik- kampanja „Poštuj život, a ne oružje” | Radio Osvit](#)
- [U Jelahu danas predstavljanje policijske kampanje ‘Poštuj život, ne oružje’ @ StartBiH.ba](#)
- [Kampanja «Poštuj život, a ne oružje» najavljena u Travniku - Radio Donji Vakuf](#)
- [Kampanja „Poštuj život, ne oružje” u Prijedoru - DiV Radio Prijedor](#)
- [U Bijeljini održana kampanja «Poštuj život, ne oružje» - NOVI GLAS](#)

Links for the Third Wave Of General Awareness-Raising Campaign “Respect Life, Not Weapons!” on 10 portals In BiH:

- <https://www.klix.ba/vijesti/odgovornost-cuvanja-legalnog-i-dobrovoljna-predaja-nelegalnog-oruzja/231214024>
- <https://www.klix.ba/vijesti/bez-straha-od-sankcija-predajte-nelegalno-oruzje-sprijecite-tragediju/240304047>
- <https://avaz.ba/vijesti/889608/bez-straha-od-sankcija-za-miran-san-predajte-nelegalno-oruzje-sprijecite-tragediju>
- <https://radiosarajevo.ba/metromahala teme/bez-straha-od-sankcija-za-miran-san-predajte-nelegalno-oruzje-sprijecite-tragediju/535542>
- <https://n1info.ba/promo/bez-straha-od-sankcija-za-miran-san-predajte-nelegalno-oruzje-sprijecite-tragediju/>
- <https://www.oslobodjenje.ba/vijesti/ekonomija/promo/bez-straha-od-sankcija-za-miran-san-predajte-nelegalno-oruzje-sprijecite-tragediju-935737>
- <https://www.nezavisne.com/promocija/Bez-straha-od-sankcija-za-miran-san-Predajte-nelegalno-oruzje-sprijecite-tragediju/820633>
- <https://bosnainfo.ba/bez-straha-od-sankcija-za-miran-san-predajte-nelegalno-oruzje-sprijecite-tragediju/>
- <https://srpskainfo.com/bez-straha-od-sankcija-za-miran-san-predajte-nelegalno-oruzje-sprijecite-tragediju/>
- <https://bljesak.info/gospodarstvo/promo/bez-straha-od-sankcija-za-miran-san-predajte-nelegalno-oruzje-sprijecite-tragediju/447905>
- <https://tuzlanski.ba/infoteka/bez-straha-od-sankcija-za-miran-san-predajte-nelegalno-oruzje-sprijecite-tragediju/>

Kosovo

Links for the media coverage of the general awareness-raising campaign in Kosovo “Celebrate With Your Heart, Not Your Gun!”

- RTK news at 19:30 [video]: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5uGKYzMXBg>
- Ekonomia online: <https://ekonomiaonline.com/gashani-viziton-poligonin-e-shenjetarise-u-kerkon-shtrirjen-e-mesazheve-ne-parandalimin-dhe-keqperdorimin-e-armeve-te-zjarrit/>
- Arbresh info: <https://www.arbresh.info/lajmet/detaje-nga-vizita-e-zv-ministrit-te-mbp-se-dhe-ekipit-te-fushates-festo-me-zemer-jo-me-arme-ne-kompanine-ku-shiten-armet/>
- Indeks online: <https://indeksonline.net/gashani-viziton-poligonin-e-shenjetarise-u-kerkon-shtrirjen-e-mesazheve-ne-parandalimin-dhe-keqperdorimin-e-armeve-te-zjarrit/>
- Front online: <https://frontonline.net/gashani-viziton-poligonin-e-shenjetarise-u-kerkon-shtrirjen-e-mesazheve-ne-parandalimin-dhe-keqperdorimin-e-armeve-te-zjarrit/>
- Arberia TV: <https://www.arberia.tv/gashani-viziton-poligonin-e-shenjetarise-u-kerkon-shtrirjen-e-mesazheve-ne-parandalimin-dhe-keqperdorimin-e-armeve-te-zjarrit/>
- Shqip media: <https://www.shqip.media/gashani-viziton-poligonin-e-shenjetarise-u-kerkon-shtrirjen-e-mesazheve-ne-parandalimin-dhe-keqperdorimin-e-armeve-te-zjarrit-shqip/>
- Ora info: <https://orainfo.net/gashani-viziton-poligonin-e-shenjetarise-u-kerkon-shtrirjen-e-mesazheve-ne-parandalimin-dhe-keqperdorimin-e-armeve-te-zjarrit/>
- Kosova live: <https://kosoalive.net/gashani-viziton-poligonin-e-shenjetarise-u-kerkon-shtrirjen-e-mesazheve-ne-parandalimin-dhe-keqperdorimin-e-armeve-te-zjarrit/>
- NMK post: <https://nmk-post.com/gashani-viziton-poligonin-e-shenjetarise-u-kerkon-shtrirjen-e-mesazheve-ne-parandalimin-dhe-keqperdorimin-e-armeve-te-zjarrit/>

- Kosova today: <https://kosovatoday.com/gashani-viziton-poligonin-e-shenjetarise-u-kerkon-shtrirjen-e-mesazheve-ne-parandalimin-dhe-keqperdorimin-e-armeve-te-zjarrit>
- RTK central news 19:30 (video) announcement at 0:25 and full coverage at 26:35: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZvrB0S5T6xl>
- TV 7 central news at 19:30 (video) at 22:50: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6K1m6lk5D9c>
- MoIA website: <https://mpb.rks-gov.net/f/57/6913/U-hap-ceremonia-zyrtare-per-shkaterrimin-e-armeve-dhe-pajisjeve-te-ndryshme-te-paligjshme>
- RTK: <https://www.rtklive.com/sq/news-single.php?ID=675502>
- RTV 21: <https://rtv21.tv/shkaterrohen-rreth-1-mije-arme-e-pajisje-ilegale/>
- Koha: <https://www.koha.net/arberi/431322/shkaterrohen-afro-1000-arme-te-konfiskuara>
- Klan Kosova: <https://klankosova.tv/shkaterrohen-rreth-1-mije-arme-te-konfiskuara-nga-policia1/>
- Klan Kosova: <https://klankosova.tv/policia-i-shkaterroi-372-arme-te-gjata-dhe-621-te-shkurta/>
- Telegrafi: <https://telegrafi.com/shkaterrohen-993-arme-te-llojeve-te-ndryshme-si-dhe-pajisje-te-ndryshme-ilegale/>
- Kallxo (video): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxlpnVEFWpE>
- Kallxo: <https://kallxo.com/lajm/video-shkaterrohen-993-arme-te-llojeve-te-ndryshme/>
- Arbresh info (video): <https://www.arbresh.info/lajmet/policia-shkaterron-rreth-1-mije-arme-te-llojeve-te-ndryshme/>
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Serbia

Links for the media coverage of the awareness-raising campaign in Serbia on the occasion of the “16 Days of Activism” global campaign

The Mol’s awareness-raising efforts during the “16 Days of Activism” global campaign captured public attention, with national to local media joining in the appeals to report domestic violence to the police instead of turning a blind eye. Below are some examples:

- Radio television of Serbia [\[link\]](#)
- Euronews Serbia [\[link\]](#)
- Kurir [\[link\]](#)
- Telegraf [\[link\]](#)
- Gradski Online Kikinda [\[link\]](#) (local news portal)

The UNDP Serbia Gender Portfolio Manager also teamed with Mol representatives, as well as judiciary and social welfare professionals within the campaign, in public appearances aiming to raise awareness about the consequences of domestic violence (including through firearms-misuse) and the importance of reporting it to responsible institutions:

Media	Link
K1 TV – participation in the news program “News at 7 p.m.”	Play
Radio Television of Serbia, “Thursdays at 9” – weekly TV show	Play
Euronews TV – live appearance during its “Morning” (Jutro) program	Play

Publications

Additionally, the visibility of the Trust Fund donors was ensured by placing the contributors' logos on the knowledge products developed within the Trust Fund framework.



Stories

Towards more effective communication, online stories were published on UN websites.

UNODC published a series of stories:

- Legislative Harmonization [\[link\]](#)
- Development of the training course for prosecutors [\[link\]](#)
- Harmonization of judicial practices and the development of the training course for judges [\[link\]](#)
- Study visit to the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and the French judicial institutions in Strasbourg [\[link\]](#)
- Application of SIMs [\[link\]](#)
- Project Justitia: Presentation of the Commentary to the Macedonian Criminal Code provisions related to firearms offences [\[link\]](#)
- UNODC advances completion of Firearms Case Law Collection following expert workshop in Serbia [\[link\]](#)
- UNODC supported regional meeting of the border police and customs in the Western Balkans [\[link\]](#)
- Regional Conference on Harmonizing Criminal Law for Effective Implementation of the UN FP in Western Balkans [\[link\]](#)
- “Firearms in the Courtroom:” specialized training for judiciary in Serbia [\[link\]](#)
- UNODC Hosts Side Event on Countering Firearms Trafficking in Fast Parcels through Project HERMES [\[link\]](#)

II - FINANCIAL REPORT

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

for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

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

May 2025



1. 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 donor agreement signed with contributors/donors.

The MPTF Office, as Administrative Agent, is responsible for concluding an MOU with Participating Organizations and donor agreements with contributors/donors. 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 15 March 2019 to 31 December 2024 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://mptf.undp.org/fund/slww00>).

2. Definitions

Allocation/Total Approved Budget

Amount approved by the Steering Committee for a project/programme. The total approved budget represents the cumulative amount of allocations approved by the Steering Committee.

Approved Project/Programme

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

Contributor Commitment

Amount(s) committed by a contributor to a Fund in a signed donor agreement 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 donor agreement.

Delivery Rate

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

Donor Agreement

Standard Administrative Arrangement and/or European Commission contribution agreement between contributor/donor and MPTF Office.

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 the applicable legal agreement 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. MPTF Office will report a project financially closed once the financial report(s) has been received and any balance of funds refunded.

Project Operational Closure

A project or programme is deemed operationally closed once all activities funded for Participating Organization(s) have been concluded, and the Steering Committee has approved the final narrative report.

Project Start Date

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

US Dollar Amount

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

Transferred Funds

Funds transferred to Participating Organizations by the Administrative Agent in accordance with the Steering Committee's request.

2024 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 **2024**. Financial information for this Fund is also available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY, at the following address: <https://mptf.undp.org/fund/slw00>.

3. Sources and uses of Funds

As of 31 December **2024**, **6** contributors deposited US\$ **28,541,443** and US\$ **607,264** was earned in interest.

The cumulative source of funds was US\$ **29,148,707**.

Of this amount, US\$ **27,356,712** has been net funded to **2** Participating Organizations, of which US\$ **18,130,921** has been reported as expenditure. The Administrative Agent fee has been charged at the approved rate of 1% on deposits and amounts to US\$ **285,414**. Table 1 provides an overview of the overall sources, uses, and balance of the **Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF** as of 31 December 2024.

Table 1. Financial Overview, as of 31 December 2024 (in US Dollars)

	Prior Years up to 31 Dec 2023	Financial Year Jan-Dec 2024	Total
Sources of Funds			
Contributions from donors	27,545,816	995,627	28,541,443
Sub-total Contributions	27,545,816	995,627	28,541,443
Fund Interest and Investment Income Earned	466,354	63,381	529,735
Interest Income received from Participating Organizations	-	77,529	77,529
Total: Sources of Funds	28,012,170	1,136,537	29,148,707
Use of Funds			
Transfers to Participating Organizations	25,395,036	1,280,387	26,675,423
Transfers to Participating Organizations for Direct Cost - Fund Secretariat etc	388,795	433,350	822,145
Sub-Total Transfers	25,783,831	1,713,737	27,497,568
Refunds received from Participating Organizations	-	(140,856)	(140,856)
Sub-Total Refunds	-	(140,856)	(140,856)
Administrative Agent Fees	275,458	9,956	285,414
Bank Charges	1,005	39	1,043
Total: Uses of Funds	26,060,294	1,582,876	27,643,170
Change in Fund cash balance with Administrative Agent	1,951,876	(446,339)	1,505,537
Opening Fund balance (1 January)	10,452,626	1,951,876	-
Closing Fund balance (31 December)	1,951,876	1,505,537	1,505,537
Net Funded Amount (Includes Direct Cost)	25,783,831	1,572,881	27,356,712
Participating Organizations Expenditure (Includes Direct Cost)	12,888,278	5,242,644	18,130,921
Balance of Funds with Participating Organizations	12,895,553	(3,669,762)	9,225,791

4. Partner Contributions

Table 2 provides information on cumulative contributions received from all contributors to this fund as of 31 December **2024**.

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

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 **2024** and deposits received by the same date. It does not include commitments that were made to the fund beyond **2024**.

 **Table 2. Contributions, as of 31 December 2024 (in US Dollars)**

Contributors	Total Commitments	Total Deposits
Government of France	2,981,176	2,981,176
Government of Germany	13,859,832	13,859,832
Government of Netherlands	3,250,341	3,250,341
Government of Norway	2,074,401	2,074,401
Government of the United Kingdom	2,611,396	2,611,396
The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency	3,764,298	3,764,298
Grand Total	28,541,443	28,541,443

5. 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 **2024**, Fund earned interest amounts to US\$ **529,735**.

Interest received from Participating Organizations amounts to US\$ **77,529**, bringing the cumulative interest received to US\$ **607,264**. Details are provided in the table below.

 **Table 3. Sources of Interest and Investment Income, as of 31 December 2024 (in US Dollars)**

Interest Earned	Prior Years up to 31-Dec-2023	Financial Year Jan-Dec-2024	Total
Administrative Agent			
Fund Interest and Investment Income Earned	466,354	63,381	529,735
Total: Fund Interest Earned	466,354	63,381	529,735
Participating Organization			
UNODC	-	77,529	77,529
Total: Agency Interest Earned	-	77,529	77,529
Grand Total	466,354	140,910	607,264

6. Transfer of Funds

Allocations to Participating Organizations are approved by the Steering Committee and disbursed by the Administrative Agent. As of 31 December **2024**, the AA has transferred US\$ **27,497,568** 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 to Participating Organization (in US Dollars)

Participating Organization	Prior Years up to 31-Dec-2023			Financial Year Jan-Dec-2024			Total		
	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded
UNDP	17,999,796	-	17,999,796	433,350	(60,937)	372,413	18,433,146	(60,937)	18,372,209
UNODC	7,784,035	-	7,784,035	1,280,387	(79,919)	1,200,468	9,064,422	(79,919)	8,984,503
Grand Total	25,783,831	-	25,783,831	1,713,737	(140,856)	1,572,881	27,497,568	(140,856)	27,356,712

7. Expenditure and Financial Delivery Rates


All 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 **2024** expenditure data has been posted on the MPTF Office GATEWAY at <https://mptf.undp.org/fund/slw00>.

7.1 Expenditure reported by participating Organization

In **2024**, US\$ **1,572,881** was net funded to Participating Organizations, and US\$ **5,242,644** was reported in expenditure.

As shown in the table below, the cumulative net funded amount is US\$ **27,356,712** and cumulative expenditures reported by the Participating Organizations amount to **US\$ 18,130,921**. This equates to an overall Fund expenditure delivery rate of **66.28** percent.

 **Table 5.1. Net Funded Amount and Reported Expenditures by Participating Organization, as of 31 December 2024 (in US Dollars)**

Participating Organization	Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure			Delivery Rate %
			Prior Years up to 31-Dec-2023	Financial Year Jan-Dec-2024	Cumulative	
UNDP	18,299,396	18,372,209	7,552,948	4,036,694	11,589,642	63.08
UNODC	9,064,422	8,984,503	5,335,330	1,205,950	6,541,279	72.81
Grand Total	27,363,818	27,356,712	12,888,278	5,242,644	18,130,921	66.28

7.2. Expenditures Reported by Category

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 (UNDG) established six categories against which UN entities must report inter-agency project expenditures. Effective 1 January 2012, the UN Chief Executives Board (CEB) modified these categories as a result of IPSAS adoption to comprise eight categories.

Table 5.2. Expenditure by UNSDG Budget Category, as of 31 December 2024 (in US Dollars)

Category			Expenditures	Percentage of Total Programme Cost
	Prior Years up to 31-Dec-2023	Financial Year Jan-Dec-2024	Total	
Staff & Personnel Cost	2,512,858	630,421	3,143,279	18.55
Supplies, commodities and materials	1,179,048	177,539	1,356,587	8.01
Equipment, vehicles, furniture and depreciation	1,193,706	905,574	2,099,280	12.39
Contractual Services Expenses	3,130,190	1,968,543	5,098,733	30.09
Travel	1,095,747	453,510	1,549,257	9.14
Transfers and Grants	634,388	188,585	822,974	4.86
General Operating	2,305,372	571,112	2,876,484	16.97
Programme Costs Total	12,051,309	4,895,285	16,946,594	100.00
Indirect Support Costs Total ¹	836,969	347,359	1,184,328	6.99
Grand Total	12,888,278	5,242,644	18,130,921	-

¹ **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 is financially closed, this number is not to exceed 7%.

8. 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 2024, were as follows:

- ▶ **The Administrative Agent (AA) fee:** 1% is charged at the time of the contributor deposit and covers services provided on that contribution for the entire duration of the Fund. Cumulatively, as of 31 December 2024, US\$ 285,414 has been charged in AA fees.
- ▶ **Indirect Costs of Participating Organizations:** A general cost that cannot be directly related to any particular programme or activity of the Participating Organizations. Participating Organizations may charge 7% indirect costs based on UNSDG policy, establishing an indirect cost rate as a percentage of the programmable costs for interagency pass-through pool funds. In the current reporting period US\$ **347,359** was deducted in indirect costs by Participating Organizations. Cumulatively, indirect costs amount to US\$ **1,184,328** as of 31 December **2024**.

9. 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 daily 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.

10. Direct Costs

The Fund governance mechanism may approve an allocation to a Participating Organization to cover costs associated with Fund coordination covering overall coordination, and fund level reviews and evaluations. These allocations are referred to as ‘direct costs’. Cumulatively, as of 31 December 2024, US\$ 822,145 has been charged as Direct Costs.

Participating Organization	Approved Amount Net Funded Amount		Expenditure			Delivery Rate %
			Prior Years up to 31-Dec-2023	Financial Year Jan-Dec-2024	Cumulative	
UNDP	822,145	822,145	339,608	101,239	440,847	53.62
Grand Total	822,145	822,145	339,608	101,239	440,847	53.62



Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF

Annexes

[Annex 1. Expenditure by Project Grouped by Country](#)

[Annex 2. Trust Fund Projects](#)

[Annex 3. Overall Progress Review: detailed matrix of project activities and results](#)

[Annex 4. Updated Risk Matrix](#)

Annex 1. Expenditure by Project Grouped by Country

The Annex displays the net funded amounts, expenditures reported and the financial delivery rates by Country by project/ joint programme and Participating Organization.

 **Table Annex 1: Expenditure by Project, grouped by Country**

Country / Project No. and Project Title		Participating Organization	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %
Albania						
00125151	Strengthening control, administration and social attitudes towards SALW	UNDP	1,661,314	1,661,314	1,175,287	70.74
00134043	Increased Security of the Arms Depots Under the Administration of the Albanian State Police	UNDP	474,770	474,770	279,018	58.77
00140502	Integrated Institutional Approach and Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation to SALW Control (Phase I)	UNDP	1,205,490	1,205,490	212,981	17.67
Albania: Total			3,341,574	3,341,574	1,667,286	49.90



Country / Project No. and Project Title		Participating Organization	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %
Bosnia and Herzegovina						
00120223	Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade (HALT) in Bosnia and Herzegovina	UNDP	1,111,061	1,111,061	1,099,012	98.92
00120223	Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade (HALT) in Bosnia and Herzegovina	UNODC	1,088,939	1,062,469	1,062,469	100.00
00120226	Urgent Action on Ammunition Destruction - Project EXPLODE+, in Bosnia and Herzegovina	UNDP	583,546	583,546	326,488	55.95
00125390	Prevention and Illicit Arms Reduction in Bosnia and Herzegovina (PILLAR)	UNDP	769,406	769,406	767,684	99.78
00133688	Digitalization and Institutional and Regional Cooperation Project (DIRC)	UNDP	309,412	309,412	266,178	86.03
00140489	Law Enforcement Agencies' Development in Small Arms and Light Weapons Control (Project LEAD)	UNDP	1,455,035	1,455,035	424,327	29.16
Bosnia and Herzegovina: Total			5,317,399	5,290,929	3,946,158	74.58



Country / Project No. and Project Title		Participating Organization	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %
Global and Interregional						
00120225	Criminal Justice Response Against Arms Trafficking	UNODC	1,899,999	1,856,335	1,856,335	100.00
00120765	Secretariat -WB SALW Control R	UNDP	688,395	822,145	440,847	53.62
00127615	Support for increased international cooperation in criminal matters	UNODC	1,604,153	1,604,153	1,535,512	95.72
00140017	Countering Trafficking in Firearms, their parts and ammunition in Express Courier and Postal Parcels: Project HERMES, Phase 1	UNODC	800,129	790,344	790,344	100.00
00140411	Project Justitia: Support to the Criminal Justice Response to Counter Arms Trafficking in the Western Balkans	UNODC	2,390,815	2,390,815	1,163,403	48.66
00140861	Project Hermes 2.1: Countering Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Ammunition in Express Courier and Postal Parcels	UNODC	1,280,387	1,280,387	133,217	10.40
Global and Interregional: Total			8,663,878	8,744,179	5,919,657	67.70



Country / Project No. and Project Title		Participating Organization	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %
Kosovo (As per UNSCR 1244)						
00120224	Support to Combating Illicit Arms Trafficking in Kosovo* for Criminal Police (CPIAT)	UNDP	660,000	638,672	638,672	100.00
00126411	Cross-Border Integrated Institutional Approach Towards Combating IAT and SALW	UNDP	251,293	235,496	235,496	100.00
00140012	Support to Firearms related Investigations	UNDP	350,318	350,318	336,329	96.01
00140409	Integrated Institutional Approach and Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation to SALW Control (Phase I)	UNDP	1,200,990	1,200,990	601,649	50.10
Kosovo (As per UNSCR 1244): Total			2,462,601	2,425,476	1,812,146	74.71



Country / Project No. and Project Title		Participating Organization	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %
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	641,000	640,993	100.00
00140474	Advancing the Forensic Capacities of the Police Directorate of Montenegro for Processing Firearms and Explosives-related Crimes	UNDP	1,091,105	1,091,105	342,670	31.41
Montenegro: Total			1,755,917	1,732,105	983,663	56.79
North Macedonia						
00126412	Cross-Border Integrated Institutional Approach Towards Combating IAT and SALW	UNDP	270,774	270,774	270,662	99.96
00134327	Improvement of Data and SALW Collection Practices and SALW Related Investigations	UNDP	513,600	513,600	513,564	99.99
00140522	Strengthening the Capacities of the Forensics and Crime Scene Investigation System to Improve Criminal Justice Response to SALW	UNDP	1,149,180	1,149,180	522,809	45.49
North Macedonia: Total			1,933,554	1,933,554	1,307,035	67.60



Country / Project No. and Project Title		Participating Organization	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %
Serbia						
00125392	Advancing the Capacities of the Ministry of Interior in the SALW Control-Related Field (Phase II)	UNDP	1,429,520	1,429,520	1,424,246	99.63
00133163	Reduce Risk - Increase Safety II	UNDP	170,700	170,700	167,927	98.38
00140406	Reduce Risk - Increase Safety III	UNDP	776,135	776,135	383,974	49.47
00140475	Improving Capacities of the Ministry of the Interior in the SALW-Control related Field, Phase III	UNDP	1,512,540	1,512,540	518,828	34.30
Serbia: Total			3,888,895	3,888,895	2,494,976	64.16
GRAND TOTAL			27,363,818	27,356,712	18,130,921	66.28

Annex 2. Trust Fund Projects

Projects approved for funding in the first call for proposals	Contribution to roadmap goals	Contribution to roadmap KPI
Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade (HALT) in Bosnia and Herzegovina Implemented by UNDP BiH and UNODC Implementing period: February 2020 – June 2023 Budget: \$2,200,000 The aim of the project was 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 was also intended to contribute 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 were also engaged throughout the project to strengthen the results and increase sustainability.	Goal 2 Goal 3 Goal 4 Goal 5 Goal 7	KPI 4 KPI 6 KPI 9 KPI 10 KPI 14
Support to Combating Illicit Arms Trafficking in Kosovo for Criminal Police (CPIAT) Implemented by UNDP Kosovo Implementing period: February 2020 – June 2022 Budget: \$660,000 The aim of this project was to increase the capacities of the Kosovo Police in the field of investigations and police operations in combating illicit arms trafficking and the illegal possession of firearms. The emphasis was on investigations against organized crime and criminal groups dealing with international arms trafficking using Kosovo as a transit route for illicit arms trafficking into Western European countries. Through the provision of specialized training and equipment, the project was also intended to support 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.	Goal 2 Goal 3 Goal 5	KPI 3 KPI 4 KPI 8 KPI 10 KPI 14



Projects approved for funding in the first call for proposals	Contribution to roadmap goals	Contribution to roadmap KPI
Criminal Justice Response against Arms Trafficking (regional project)	Goal 1	KPI 1
Implemented by UNODC	Goal 2	KPI 3
Implementing period: February 2020 – March 2023	Goal 3	KPI 8
Budget: \$1,899,999	Goal 4	KPI 9
The objective of the project was to support the six Western Balkans jurisdictions in strengthening their criminal justice responses to firearms related criminality, particularly illicit arms trafficking, by facilitating the harmonization of the national firearms legislation and relevant criminal and procedural law provisions with the UN Firearms Protocol. The project was also to include efforts 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.	Goal 7	KPI 10
Urgent Action on Ammunition Destruction - Project EXPLODE+	Goal 5	KPI 10
Implemented by UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina	Goal 6	KPI 12
Implementing period: February 2020 – October 2022	Goal 7	KPI 14
Budget: \$583,546		
The project was aimed at supporting the Ministry of Defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in the destruction of unsafe ammunition, contributing to reduced stockpiles of surplus ammunition and thus to higher safety and security for storage facilities and adjacent local communities.		



Projects approved for funding in the second call for proposals	Contribution to roadmap goals	Contribution to roadmap KPI
Strengthening Control, Administration and Social Attitudes Towards SALW	Goal 2	KPI 4
Implemented by UNDP Albania	Goal 4	KPI 10
Implementing period: December 2020 – June 2024	Goal 5	KPI 13
Budget: \$1,661,314	Goal 7	KPI 14
The project aimed 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 would be easily retrievable and appropriate for analytical work. The project also aimed to 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 was to be carried out to reduce the demand for and the misuse of firearms, prevent gender-based violence and family crime, and increase confidence in security institutions.		
Advancing the Capacities of the Ministry of the Interior in the SALW Control-related Field (Phase II)	Goal 1	KPI 3
Implemented by UNDP Serbia	Goal 2	KPI 4
Implementing period: January 2021 – November 2023	Goal 3	KPI 5
Budget: \$1,429,520	Goal 5	KPI 9
The project aimed at building upon the progress made during Phase I and improving the quality of investigations through valid forensic evidence. The intent was to advance evidence-based decision-making and argumentation on the part of State Prosecutors, thereby contributing to increased fairness in legal proceedings and appropriate penalties within the justice system for the perpetrators of criminal offenses. Specifically, the focus of the project was 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 also included investigations of arson and explosion-related incidents and strengthening the capacities of the new AEA Unit (arson, explosion, and accident investigation) while improving overall capacities for the investigation of explosion/explosive related incidents. Finally, the project was envisioned to contribute to the development of the new Weapon Registry System through the provision of equipment and training.		



Projects approved for funding in the second call for proposals	Contribution to roadmap goals	Contribution to roadmap KPI
<p>Advancing the Capacities of the Police Directorate in the Field of Custody Chain and Crime Scene Investigations and the Forensic Laboratory in the Field of Operations and Investigations in the Detection and Trafficking of Explosives Criminality</p> <p>Implemented by UNDP Montenegro</p> <p>Implementing period: January 2021 – October 2023</p> <p>Budget: \$664,812</p> <p>The objective of the project was to improve the capacities of the Police Directorate of Montenegro across the entire investigative cycle and in particular to advance the custody chain. It was expected that this should result in improved investigation of crimes committed with explosives, thereby further contributing to achieving regular convictions. Specifically, the project was to enhance 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.</p>	Goal 1 Goal 2 Goal 3	KPI 3 KPI 9 KPI 14
<p>Prevention and Illicit Arms Reduction in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Project PILLAR+)</p> <p>Implemented by UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina</p> <p>Implementing period: January 2021 – April 2024</p> <p>Budget: \$769,406</p> <p>The intent of this project was to comprehensively raise awareness amongst the population regarding the dangers of illegal firearm possession, contribute to behavioral change, and foster a more complete understanding of the threats posed by SALW within families, the community, and society in general. Specifically, the project was to involve working 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 was also to 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 groups at risk (women, children, and young men and women).</p>	Goal 4 Goal 5 Goal 6	KPI 9 KPI 10 KPI 14
<p>Cross-border Integrated Institutional Approach towards Combating IAT and SALW</p> <p>Implemented by UNDP Kosovo and UNDP North Macedonia</p> <p>Implementing period: March 2021 – March 2023</p> <p>Budget: \$522,067</p> <p>The aim of this project was 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 included actions such as joint training and the sharing of experience and intelligence, joint investigative operations, and joint actions in combating converted weapons trafficking.</p>	Goal 3 Goal 4 Goal 5	KPI 4 KPI 5 KPI 9 KPI 10 KPI 14



Projects approved for funding in the second call for proposals	Contribution to roadmap goals	Contribution to roadmap KPI
Support for Increased International Cooperation in Criminal Matters	Goal 2	KPI 6
Implemented by UNODC	Goal 3	KPI 8
Implementing period: June 2021 – December 2023		KPI 9
Budget: \$1,604,153		
The project, implemented by UNODC's Global Firearms Programme, in partnership with INTERPOL, aimed to provide support to the Western Balkans jurisdictions in collecting and analyzing criminal justice data, to facilitate and strengthen cooperation and information exchange between criminal justice practitioners, and to support the detection of illicit firearms trafficking. The assistance by both organizations was intended to 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 countries located along connected routes, and improved understanding of gaps in the detection of firearms in postal shipments.		
Projects approved for funding through the direct solicitation of projects modality	Contribution to roadmap goals	Contribution to roadmap KPI
Reduce Risk - Increase Safety II	Goal 2	KPI 2
Implemented by UNDP Serbia	Goal 4	KPI 9
Implementing period: September 2022 – May 2023		KPI 10
Budget: \$170,700		KPI 14
The project was built upon the findings from the previous phase of the Reduce Risk-Increase Safety project. It aimed to accelerate the implementation of the normative and strategic framework and boost existing practices and partnerships related to protection from SALW misuse in the context of violence against women and domestic violence. In addition, it was intended to address the problem of suicides committed with firearms. Through its activities, the project aimed to create a comprehensive approach to strengthening the role of the healthcare system in the prevention of firearms misuse.		



Projects approved for funding through the direct solicitation of projects modality	Contribution to roadmap goals	Contribution to roadmap KPI
Digitalization and Institutional and Regional Cooperation Project (DIRC) Implemented by UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina Implementing period: October 2022 – December 2023 Budget: \$309,412 The objective of the project was to ensure continuity in and the strengthening of the ongoing efforts and achievements of Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding SALW control. It aimed to establish a platform for bi-lateral and multilateral knowledge sharing with neighboring countries pertaining to several aspects of SALW control. Furthermore, the project was to ensure the continuity of efforts in further institutionalizing gender mainstreaming in SALW control within the Indirect Taxation Authority of BiH. The project was to introduce new digital tools and structured joint regional exercises to fight against illegal SALW trafficking. It was also intended to support the gender network within the Indirect Taxation Authority to raise awareness on the detection and prevention of gender-based harassment and to reduce gender inequality within the institution.	Goal 2 Goal 3 Goal 4 Goal 5	KPI 2 KPI 3 KPI 4 KPI 8 KPI 9 KPI 14
Increased security of the arms depots under the administration of the Albanian State Police Implemented by UNDP Albania Implementing period: November 2022 – August 2024 Budget: \$474,770 The project was developed as a response to the expressed priority needs of the Albanian law enforcement authorities. It aimed to improve and refurbish three top-priority ammunition storages of the Albanian State Police and furnish 120 safes for SALW for the ASP evidence rooms of Priority I and, partially, Priority II depots. Such improvement was envisioned to follow international standards and best practices, guaranteeing the maintenance, safety, and administration of firearms, ammunition, and explosives throughout their entire life cycle.	Goal 5 Goal 7	KPI 12 KPI 13
Improvement of data and SALW collection practices and SALW related investigations Implemented by UNDP North Macedonia Implementing period: December 2022 – February 2024 Budget: \$513,600 The objective of the project was to build upon previously implemented activities as well as the identified risks, needs, and priorities of North Macedonia. It aimed to improve implementation of the Information Management System (IMS) of the Ministry of the Interior that enables the gathering of SALW related data, with a particular focus on data collection related to domestic violence involving firearms. It was also intended that the analytical capabilities of the Forensics Department be improved through the provision of specialized equipment and training, as would be weapons warehouse management and tracing capacities, so as to bring about a decreased risk of the proliferation of SALW and enhanced security.	Goal 2 Goal 4 Goal 5 Goal 7	KPI 2 KPI 3 KPI 8 KPI 10 KPI 13



Projects approved for funding through the direct solicitation of projects modality	Contribution to roadmap goals	Contribution to roadmap KPI
Support to Firearms Related Investigations Implemented by UNDP Kosovo Implementing period: January 2023 – October 2023 Budget: \$350,318 The aim of the project was to strengthen firearms investigations and the operations of the Firearms Focal Point in Pristina through the provision of technical advice for enhancing the data collection and analytical capacities as well as through the provision of specialized equipment. More specifically, it aimed to: i) improve data collection and analysis by the Firearms Focal Point; ii) improve the detection of weapons hidden underground; and iii) improve the examination of seized firearms by the ballistic department of the Kosovo Forensic Agency.	Goal 2 Goal 3 Goal 5 Goal 7	KPI 3 KPI 4 KPI 7 KPI 8 KPI 9
Countering Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Ammunition in Express Courier and Postal Parcels: Project Hermes Phase I Implemented by UNODC Implementing period: February 2023 – December 2023 Budget: \$800,129 The project, under the implementation of UNODC's Global Firearms Programme, was to support the six Western Balkans jurisdictions in enhancing the regulatory framework and capacities to prevent and counter the illicit trafficking of firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition in express courier and postal parcels. The project was aimed at improving the regulatory framework for countering trafficking in firearms, their parts and components, ammunition, and explosives through the development of specific standard operating procedures and memoranda of understanding to advance practice within customs administrations, designated postal operators, postal services regulators, and law enforcement services. In addition, the project was to support the customization and harmonization of procedures across the region by organizing regional meetings and study visits to support information exchange regarding good practices. The project's envisioned activities were also to include the procurement of detection equipment for the Albanian Customs Administration to improve capabilities to detect the trafficking of firearms, their parts and components, ammunition, and explosives.	Goal 2 Goal 3	KPI 3 KPI 4 KPI 5 KPI 6 KPI 9



Projects approved for funding in the third call for proposals	Contribution to roadmap goals	Contribution to roadmap KPI
<p>Reduce Risk - Increase Safety III</p> <p>Implemented by UNDP Serbia</p> <p>Implementing period: October 2023 – October 2025</p> <p>Budget: \$776,135</p> <p>The project aims to reduce the risk of firearms misuse for violence and suicide in Serbia. It intends to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange of relevant stakeholders and enhance community response to firearms-related crises and trauma. More specifically, the project aims to: i) review gender and age data collection practices, use lessons learned to facilitate evidence-based policy making, and mainstream firearms risks into domestic violence regulations; ii) enable networking and capacity building of women to actively participate in SALW control policies; iii) improve conditions for the improved detection of potential firearms misuse for domestic violence and suicides and ensure comprehensive prevention support; iv) make available information on the harmful effects of underlying practices and attitudes leading to firearms misuse and supportive mechanisms preventing suicides; V) enable best practice sharing with professionals, the media, and academia on effective mechanisms for the prevention of future firearms related incidents.</p>	Goal 2 Goal 4	KPI 2 KPI 10 KPI 14
<p>Project Justitia: Support to the Criminal Justice Response to Counter Arms Trafficking in the Western Balkans</p> <p>Implemented by UNODC</p> <p>Implementing period: November 2023 – November 2025</p> <p>Budget: \$2,390,815</p> <p>Project Justitia directly builds upon the previous project on “Criminal Justice Response against Arms Trafficking in the Western Balkans,” implemented by UNODC in 2020-2023, and represents a comprehensive effort to strengthen the criminal justice system’s response to organized crime and illicit firearms trafficking in the Western Balkans. By addressing gaps in legislation, enhancing the abilities of criminal justice practitioners, and harmonizing criminal legislation approaches across the region for better operational exchange, the project aims to create a more effective and unified approach to combat these pressing issues and support the implementation of the Roadmap for SALW Control in the Western Balkans.</p>	Goal 1 Goal 3 Goal 4	KPI 1 KPI 3 KPI 8 KPI 9



Projects approved for funding in the third call for proposals	Contribution to roadmap goals	Contribution to roadmap KPI
Integrated Institutional Approach and Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation to SALW Control (Phase I)	Goal 2	KPI 3
Implemented by UNDP Kosovo	Goal 3	KPI 4
Implementing period: November 2023 – November 2025	Goal 4	KPI 7
Budget: \$1,200,990	Goal 5	KPI 8
This project builds upon the previous work in support of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap and has as its main goals the further advancement of institutional approaches and community engagement in Kosovo towards addressing FAE-related crime and misuse, and the strengthening of bilateral cooperation between Kosovo and Albania in the field of SALW control. In this respect, it is envisioned that the project will strengthen community and intelligence-led policing and community engagement on SALW control. It will also aim to further increase border control capacities to effectively prevent, detect, and counter illicit arms trafficking and enhance investigation and analytical capacities of Kosovo law enforcement to investigate FAE-related crime. The project is also focused on advancing the handling, security, and storage of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE). Finally, the project endeavors to enhance police exchange and cooperation on SALW matters between Albania and Kosovo.	Goal 6	KPI 9
	Goal 7	KPI 10
		KPI 12
		KPI 13
		KPI 14
Advancing the Forensic Capacities of the Police Directorate of Montenegro for Processing Firearms and Explosives-related Crimes	Goal 1	KPI 2
Implemented by UNDP Montenegro	Goal 2	KPI 3
Implementing period: November 2023 – November 2025	Goal 3	KPI 9
Budget: \$1,091,105		KPI 14
The project is aimed at improving the crime scene investigation and laboratory forensic capacities of the Police Directorate of Montenegro for providing forensic evidence and intelligence necessary for the investigation and judicial processing of the trafficking of firearms, their ammunition, explosives, and precursors, as well as for other FAE-related criminal offences, including sexual and gender-based violence. It is envisioned that the improved evidence and intelligence capabilities will serve the national criminal proceeding system and international investigations and proceedings. The project endeavors to accomplish this by delivering specialized training, supporting relevant international and regional peer-exchanges, procuring equipment, developing and validating new methods, and developing standard operating procedures. The focus will be on standardizing work processes in accordance with the policy and recommendations of the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI) and preparing for accreditation in line with the ISO/IEC 17025 and 17020 international standards. This implies the implementation of project standardization results in the regulatory framework of the Ministry of Interior of Montenegro, thus enabling the sustainability of the project's results.		



Projects approved for funding in the third call for proposals	Contribution to roadmap goals	Contribution to roadmap KPI
Improving Capacities of the Ministry of the Interior in the SALW-Control related Field, Phase III	Goal 1	KPI 3
Implemented by UNDP Serbia	Goal 2	KPI 8
Implementing period: November 2023 – November 2025	Goal 3	KPI 9
Budget: \$1,512,540	Goal 5	KPI 13
	Goal 7	KPI 14
The aim of the project is to further improve the forensic capacities of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Serbia across the entire investigative cycle in order to support criminal investigations and proceedings in the area of firearm/ammunition and explosive-related crimes, as well as the Small Arms and Light Weapon (SALW)-control system. The project builds upon and consolidates the results of the previous interventions that started with the first phase of the project in 2019 and continued with the second phase from 2021 to 2023. In building upon previous results, the project will concentrate on improving the capacities of the National Forensic Center, focusing on crime scene investigations, ballistic examinations, and explosion examinations, as well as the capacities of the chemical laboratory for examinations of traces of explosives and of gunshot residues. The project should also further improve the validity and visibility of achieved forensic capacities in line with recognized standards. In addition, the project is to further advance the SALW-control capacities and handling of firearms of the police administrative affairs directorate.		
Law Enforcement Agencies' Development in Small Arms and Light Weapons Control (Project LEAD)	Goal 1	KPI 2
Implemented by UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina	Goal 2	KPI 3
Implementing period: December 2023 – December 2025	Goal 3	KPI 4
Budget: \$1,455,035	Goal 4	KPI 8
	Goal 5	KPI 9
		KPI 12
		KPI 14
The Project LEAD aims to enhance the capacities and engagement of relevant national institutions and civil society in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as strengthen inter-agency and cross-border collaboration to advance the implementation of the National SALW Control Strategy and the SALW Control Roadmap. The project builds upon previous interventions and entails a series of activities that focus on inter-agency operational and strategic cooperation, as well as the provision of specialized resources, equipment, and knowledge, alongside peer-exchange, to prevent and counter FAE-related crime. An inclusive approach to civil society organizations and in outreach to communities and stakeholders will be ensured, with duly integrated gender and human rights perspectives. The expected result is a comprehensive strengthening of key stakeholders in the SALW control field, leading to increased ownership and sustainability.		

Projects approved for funding in the third call for proposals	Contribution to roadmap goals	Contribution to roadmap KPI
Integrated Institutional Approach and Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation to SALW Control (Phase I)	Goal 2	KPI 3
Implemented by UNDP Albania	Goal 3	KPI 4
Implementing period: December 2023 – December 2025	Goal 5	KPI 8
Budget: \$1,205,490		KPI 9
		KPI 12
The project builds upon the previous progress and efforts of the Albanian Ministry of the Interior and the State Police to enhance the SALW control at the national level and beyond. It aims to strengthen operational and technical knowledge of relevant institutions and reduce skill gaps in dealing with FAE detection and to prevent their trafficking across borders. This entails capacity development and the strengthening of relevant national law enforcement institutions/departments, improving their inter-institutional collaboration in the field of FAE, as well as promoting and developing cross-border cooperation, with the final aim of adopting an integrated institutional approach to combating FAE trafficking. Project activities are to include: i) an institutional strengthening component; ii) a training component, including joint training on various FAE-related topics; iii) a cross-border collaboration component with Kosovo; and iv) the procurement of identified essential equipment for improving the quality and outcomes of the border police operations along the green border with Kosovo.		
Strengthening the Capacities of the Forensics and Crime Scene Investigation System to Improve Criminal Justice Response to SALW	Goal 1	KPI 2
Implemented by UNDP North Macedonia	Goal 2	KPI 3
Implementing period: December 2023 – September 2025	Goal 3	KPI 9
Budget: \$1,149,180	Goal 4	KPI 10
		KPI 14
The overall objective of the project is to modernize the forensic and crime scene investigation (CSI) units in North Macedonia to improve the handling of crime scenes and the collection of evidence, thus leading to better investigations, strengthened bilateral/ international exchange of evidence, and a more efficient criminal justice system. The project interventions included the upgrading of ballistic facilities and operations of the Mol's Forensics Department, as well as the enhancing of the analytical, technical, and investigative capacities of the CSI units. In addition, the project will integrate the gender perspective in dedication to preventing gender-based violence, focusing in particular on the gender sensitization of CSI staff, as well as on improving the tracking of domestic violence cases that involve firearms through a separate module in the Police Information Management System (IMS) of North Macedonia.		



Project approved for funding through the direct solicitation modality	Contribution to roadmap goals	Contribution to roadmap KPI
Project Hermes 2.1: Countering Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Ammunition in Express Courier and Postal Parcels	Goal 3	KPI 3
Implemented by UNODC	Goal 5	KPI 4
Implementing period: October 2024 – October 2025		KPI 8
Budget: \$1,280,387		KPI 9
Project Hermes is aimed at increasing the capacities of the Western Balkans jurisdictions for countering the trafficking of firearms, their parts, ammunition, and explosives through Express Courier and postal parcels. The project builds upon a pilot initiative in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 2020 to 2022 and the project’s first phase, implemented by UNODC in 2023. Under Hermes Phase 2.1, UNODC will support all jurisdictions in the region to strengthen their response to firearms trafficking via postal parcels through the provision of advanced courses for X-ray operators, workshops targeting analytical units of customs administrations and designated postal operators (DPOs), and the delivery of specialized equipment to customs administrations and DPOs.		

Annex 3. Overall Progress Review: detailed matrix of project activities and results

Progress stemming from 2024 activities

5. Strengthening Control, Administration and Social Attitudes towards SALW, in Albania

Implementing organization: UNDP Albania

Implementing period: December 2020 – June 2024

Approved budget: US\$1,661,314

COMPLETED in 2024

Strengthened control, administration and social attitudes towards SALW				
Output 1	Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target (2024)	Overall progress / Milestone
Improved weapons registration in accordance with the EU Directive on firearms and national legislation.	> % of registration of category “C” firearms.	55%.	At least 95%.	About 94% / The necessary equipment was delivered for the weapons’ re-registration process, encompassing 58 PCs, 54 printers, and 2 Laptops. [Jan 2022].
	> # of legal gun owners provided with digital card authorization for gun possession.	0 / Not in place.	At least 80,000.	N/A ¹ / ASP was provided with 100,000 digital cards for registered firearm owners, along with the necessary equipment for the issuance of digital cards, consisting of three special printers, holographic film, special ink, and software.

1 Following the serious cyber-attack in September 2022 that greatly affected the ASP systems, including the weapons registration system SIMA, the ASP undertook a thorough reassessment of its systems and vulnerabilities. Ultimately, the ASP requested complete overhaul of SIMA, for the system to be rebuilt with higher technical and security parameters and additional modules, affecting re-registration records and the issuance of digital ownership cards and thus affecting the project’s original plans. The ASP’s request for a complete overhaul of the SIMA system went beyond the envisaged project’s scope and resources available for support. Thus, the rebuilding of the system was to be funded through other sources.

Activity 1.1: Support the advancement and eventual completion of the firearms' re-registration process.

Achievements:

- > [2021] The procurement of IT equipment for weapons re-registration was concluded. The equipment was planned to be delivered in 2022.
- > [2022] IT equipment to support the expanded police workforce involved in the firearms re-registration process was delivered to the Albanian State Police (ASP) in January 2022 (58 PCs, 54 printers, and 2 Laptops).
- > The Albanian State Police Systems suffered from a cyberattack in September 2022, which also affected the Weapons Registration System SIMA. The needs for support were to be reassessed together with the ASP contact points and the relevant IT expert to determine the scope of support within the project and the next steps.
- > [2023] The UNDP project team, along with its recruited IT expert, followed upon with the ASP regarding the planned upgrade of the weapons registration system (SIMA). The ASP established that the entire SIMA system suffered a great deal of damage, and it would have to be rebuilt in a more comprehensive manner. The ASP officially requested the total overhaul of the SIMA system and its complete restoration so that it would addresses all the identified vulnerabilities. The project reassessed the feasibility of the support given the latest request and concluded that it could not meet the request of the ASP for a complete restoration of the SIMA system, as this was beyond the scope and resources of the project. The SIMA upgrade will be addressed through separate resources, under the lead support provided by SEESAC.

Activity 1.2: Support the development of a digitalized system and the production of firearms owners' digital cards.

Achievements:

- > [2021] Technical Specifications were drafted for the equipment for digital card production. Procurement was set to be initiated in 2022.
- > [2022] The procurement process for the IT equipment needed for the production of 100,000 digital cards for registered firearm owners was completed [launched twice, due to changes in specifications required by the project beneficiary]. The delivery of IT equipment and 100,000 digital cards for registered firearm owners was scheduled to be conducted in due course in Q1 2023. Due to the large number of digital cards, the provider did not have them in stock at the end of 2022.
- > [2023] The delivery of the IT equipment for the issuance of digital cards for firearm owners was concluded, consisting of three special printers, holographic film, special ink, and software. In addition, 100,000 digital cards were delivered, intended for the firearms owners. The project supported the installation of the special printers for the issuance of digital cards and trained 11 police officers (9 men and 2 women) in their use. Given the new circumstances surrounding the weapons registration system, and the requested complete overhaul of SIMA by ASP, it was determined that the equipment will be used by ASP to enter necessary data manually until the SIMA overhaul and update with the module for issuing digital cards is complete.

Output 2	Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target (2024)	Overall progress / Milestone
Improved Albanian State Police weapons storage management.	<p>➤ % of rehabilitated and standard compliant ASP arms & ammunition storages vs total [total of 94 storage locations across the country].</p>	<p>48% [45 storages]</p>	<p>58% [10 more storages]</p>	<p>58%² / The designs for the ten selected facilities were completed and approved by the ASP. Considering that the state undertook the full renovation of three of the ten sites, the project proceeded with the reconstruction of the remaining seven sites: Mat, Puka, Tropoja, Lushnja, Fier, Pogradec, and Tirana.</p>
<p>Activity 2.1: Conduct the reconstruction technical design, assess equipment needs, and finalize the BoQ (Bill of Quantities) for each individual intervention.</p>	<p>Achievements:</p> <p>➤ [2021] ToR were drafted for the selection of a design and supervision company. The procurement for the design and supervision was set to be initiated in 2022.</p> <p>➤ [2022] The design and supervision company was selected, which was to prepare the upgrade designs and inputs for the procurement of works, as well as supervise the works' execution at 10 selected weapons storage facilities.</p> <p>➤ [2022] The design phase was initiated for the rehabilitation of the selected 10 ASP weapons storages, encompassing Tirana, Elbasan, Mat, Puka, Tropoja, Lushnja, Berat, Fier, Saranda, and Pogradec. The weapons storage of Shkoder was substituted for by a weapons storage in Tirana, which delayed the completion of the design phase. Site visits were concluded in all 10 relevant police commissariats. The design inception report was completed for the first eight facilities and sent to the ASP for approval, encompassing Mat, Puke, Tropoja, Lushnja, Berat, Fier, Saranda, and Pogradec. Two more inception reports were to be produced in 2023, for Tirana and Elbasan. Once approved, the relevant company was to start the process of the final design for the facilities.</p> <p>➤ [2023] The selected design and supervision company completed the design plans for selected weapons storage facilities and the ASP approved these. Based on this, the reconstruction works were to proceed.</p>			
<p>Activity 2.2: Conduct the reconstruction and refurbishment of selected interventions of Arms & Ammunition storage facilities.</p>	<p>Achievements:</p> <p>➤ [2023] The procurement of an engineering company followed after the ASP's approval of the designs for reconstruction. A company was contracted in October 2023, after a lengthy process due to a lack of qualified applicants. After the ASP issued the clearance for the company to commence works in December, the project team together with the company conducted the field visits. Considering that the authorities decided to have the Regional Police Directorates of Berat and Elbasan and the police station in Saranda completely renovated (including the evidence rooms) with financing from the state budget, the construction of works was to proceed for the other 7 evidence rooms (Mat, Puke, Tropoja, Lushnja, Fier, Pogradec, and Tirana).</p> <p>➤ [2024] The contracted company proceeded with the refurbishment of the ASP SALW storage facilities at the seven locations. During the implementation of civil works, the contractor requested and was granted a variation order, which encompassed additional works due to the site building conditions, as well as new budget estimates. The duration of the contract was extended to complete all the works as necessary. All civil works were completed by 30 June 2024. The UNDP contracted a company for testing and commission, which confirmed compliance with the necessary requirements and standards. The official handover to ASP took place subsequently.</p> <p>➤ [2024] In addition, the project provided each of the 10 facilities with two ordinary metal shelves, one security shelf, and three standard weapon shelves.</p>			

2 The project supported the reconstruction of seven out of 10 initially planned facilities. The remaining three of the planned facilities were reconstructed through the state funds. Jointly with the project's support and the state-own initiative, the rehabilitated facilities in Albania reached 58%.

Output 3	Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target (2024)	Overall progress / Milestone
Increased awareness of the dangers and risks of the misuse of SALW.	> # 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.	800 / Materials have been conceptualized and the outreach focused on high schools. Through the community police officers, dedicated sessions at schools, and distributed materials at the school security corners, it is estimated that about 800 high school students were reached.
	> # of police directorates/units involved in awareness-raising activities.	No data / none .	At least 20.	24 / 2 police units were involved in each of the 12 districts, bringing the total of engaged police units to 24.
	> # of sessions disseminating curricula on the dangers of the illegal possession, misuse, and trafficking of arms.	0 / Draft curricula developed by the Swedish Community Policing Programme.	At least 12 sessions targeting high school students, women and girls, youth, and gun owners.	12 / 12 sessions were organized targeting high school students (boys and girls), one each in 12 regions of Albania, to raise awareness about the dangers and misuse of SALW. Posters and postcards were distributed in the security corners of 24 schools.
	> # 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 2016/7.	1 new national survey.	1 / The desk review of the SALW Control Situation and a National Survey on SALW Misuse has been completed.

Activity 3.1: Conduct an awareness-raising campaign about the dangers of the illegal possession, misuse, and trafficking of SALW.

Achievements:

- > [2021] A desk review of the SALW Control Situation was completed and a National Survey on SALW Misuse was to ensue in 2022.
- > [2022] The National Survey was completed. The survey to measure perceptions and attitudes towards Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) included 1,203 individuals aged 16 years old and above. It covered all the 12 regions of the country. The survey measured perceptions of the country's safety and the use of SALW, as well as the level of knowledge people had of laws or regulations on small arms and light weapons.
- > [2022] Terms of Reference were drafted for the procurement/selection of a company to carry out the National Awareness Campaign based on the survey, published in November 2022.
- > [2023] Following an open call, the project contracted a company to carry out the national awareness campaign on SALW control, safer communities, and the dangers of SALW misuse, based on the results of the national survey. The company developed a communications strategy for the national awareness campaign, and a launching event took place in June 2023 in cooperation with the SALW Commission/Mol and the OSCE. The planned actions of both UNDP and OSCE on communication and awareness raising in Albania were envisioned to complement each other, under the overall leadership and ownership of the Mol/SALW Commission. Following the launching event, the project team held meetings with the ASP to coordinate the implementation of the awareness campaign and consult on campaign elements and underlying messages (video scripts and posters). The materials to be used during the campaign were approved in December 2023.
- > [2024] A general public awareness campaign was rolled out. For the campaign, efforts were joined with those of the OSCE Presence in Albania, which also supported the Ministry of the Interior and ASP (Directorate of Public Order) to enhance their public information on SALW matters and raise awareness on SALW misuse and related risks and threats. This enabled coordinated action and broader and complementary outreach to communities. In view of the complementary activities, and in consultation and agreement with the ASP, the project's public awareness campaign focused on youth in schools, social media, and participation in a national TV show, while the OSCE campaign tackled more specifically gender-based violence and entailed cooperation with four civil society organizations, among others. Activities were also directed towards the capacity building of relevant ASP staff, especially those responsible for crime prevention, community policing, and public relations.
- > [2024] Through the marketing company that the UNDP contracted, and in close coordination with the ASP, the awareness-raising campaign materials were conceptualized and promoted via dedicated social media accounts ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Tik Tok](#)). The reach of the general awareness campaign was estimated at around 1.5 million people.
- > [2024] The campaign materials and actions encompassed the following:
 - The production of three video clips addressing: i) the dangers of weapons/illegal misuse of weapons with a call to action; ii) weapons owners, with the aim of the re-registration of their legal weapons; iii) the strengthening of police-community relations.
 - The design and printing of postcards and pens (2000 each), as well as four posters (3000 copies each), for distribution across schools.
 - 15 gifs were produced to underline key campaign messages via social media with a call to action.
 - A structured campaign was implemented on social media for a period of 3 months, including 3 social media posts per week.
 - Participation in one talk show on National TV introducing the project and the campaign.
 - A picture contest was organized on Instagram with the theme "A world without weapons:" the winner of the best submitted picture at the national level was awarded a tablet.
- > [2024] An important strand of the campaign encompassed outreach to high schools. In this respect, twenty-four schools were selected for the outreach, encompassing all the 12 regions of Albania. From 15 April - 10 May 2024, the project team, in cooperation with the ASP and the school security officers, organized 12 meetings in all the 12 regions of Albania to raise awareness about the dangers and misuse of SALW and called for youth without violence. The meetings involved approximately 800 high school students. Posters and postcards were distributed in the security corners of 24 schools, reaching a total of 8,000 students. Some of the produced materials were given to the dedicated community-policing officers in each regional police directorate, so these can be distributed in more schools in each region.

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

Implementing organization: UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina

Implementing period: January 2021 – April 2024

Approved budget: US\$ 769,406

COMPLETED in 2024

Outcome 1: Further increased safety and security within and beyond the Western Balkans through targeted actions aimed at improving BiH capacities to raise awareness amongst the population regarding responsible possession of SALW and understanding dangers				
Output 1	Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target (2023)	Overall progress / Milestone
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.	> Availability of needs assessment and conceptualized training curricula for the Associations of Women Police Officers in BiH (Associations) focusing on a gender-balanced approach to SALW control and awareness.	No / Absence of needs assessment and conceptualized training curricula.	Yes / Needs assessment and conceptualized training curricula developed.	Yes / A needs assessment and analysis focusing on a gender-balanced approach to SALW control and awareness were completed. Training materials for specialized trainings on strategic planning and project writing for the two formal Associations of Women Police Officers were developed.
	> # 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 participants from the MoS) were trained through six workshops on strategic planning and project development.
	> # of micro-projects developed by Networks of Women Police Officers trained in project development.	0	Up to 4	10 micro-projects were developed as a result of the strategic planning and project writing training.
Activity 1.1: Conduct needs assessment and conceptualize specialized trainings.	Achievements:			
	> [2021] 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.			
	> [2021] Training materials for the specialized trainings on strategic planning and project writing for the two formal Associations of Women Police Officers were developed.			

Activity 1.2: Conduct training of up to 50 members of the Networks focusing on strategic planning and project development.

Achievements:

➤ [2021] 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.

Output 2	Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target (2024)	Overall progress / Milestone
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).	➤ # of thematic public events organized.	40 events organized in 2014.	At least 20 additional thematic events.	200 thematic events organized: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2021: 34 outreach events were organized through 10 cantonal law enforcement agencies and the Police of the Brčko District in 2021.• 2022: 142 outreach events were held across the country in all 12 jurisdictions (10 cantons in the Federation of BiH, the Brčko District of BiH, and Republika Srpska) as part of the focused awareness-raising campaign addressing celebratory shootings during the holiday season.• 2023/4: 24 outreach events addressing firearms misuse and illicit possession were held in cities across BiH as part of the general awareness-raising campaign (Sep 2023 – March 2024).• In addition, 250 lectures with high school students took place in RS in 2023, with approximately 70 RS police officials engaged for the purpose.
	➤ # of people reached through public outreach campaigns.	997,000 people reached during the 2014 campaign.	1 million.	More than 2.6 million reached: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approx. 668,000 people were reached as part of focused awareness-raising campaigns implemented in 2021 and 2022 (approx. 650,000 people reached during the celebratory shootings campaign around the holiday seasons in the two years, while an additional 18,200 additional students were reached as a targeted population through outreach conducted in high schools).• Approx. 11,300 students attended lectures conducted by RS police as part of the focused campaign in 2023, bringing the total number of engaged people to about 679,000.• Approx. 2.6 million individuals aged 18 and above were reached through the general awareness-raising campaign implemented in 2023-2024, representing 78.8% of the BiH population (3.3 million people).

Activity 2.1: Implement an awareness-raising campaign including outreach and advocacy events.

Achievements:

- > [2021] 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. The campaign reached approximately 300,000 people.
- > [2022] Ahead of the awareness-raising activities planned in 2022, the project organized meetings with all 12 partners of the project focusing on collecting up-to-date information on gender- disaggregated data pertinent to SALW- related incidents in the past three years. Additionally, assessments conducted during the initial phase of the project showed that SALW-related incidents vary from one community to another, and the awareness raising was aimed at adjusting upcoming activities to the specific issues and problems within the respective recipient communities.
- > [2022] The project conducted two focused awareness- raising campaigns in 2022:
 - “Firearms do not protect, firearms kill!,” addressing the targeted population (primarily students of the 3rd and 4th grades of high schools) on the negative impacts of illegal firearms, the potential consequences of illegal possession of firearms, and the misuse and overall threats posed by SALW; and
 - “Celebrate responsibly, celebrate without firearms,” as a continuation of the project-initiated activity in December 2021 addressing the general public and raising awareness of the dangers that the usage of firearms for celebratory purposes around holiday season pose for lives and property, conveying the message that stray bullets can cause the loss of life, permanent disability, or a serious psychological trauma.
- > [2023] As part of the focused campaign “Firearms do not protect, firearms kill!” addressing the targeted population of high school students, the project supported the implementation of the remaining campaign activities in Republika Srpska. These activities were part of the ‘second wave’ of the focused campaign and built upon the first wave of the campaign implemented in 2022. The second wave of the campaign was conducted in May – June 2023, realized through 250 lectures attended by 11,309 students across the jurisdiction. Approximately 70 RS police officials were engaged for the purpose, most of whom performing duties of community policing.
- > [2023] The project contracted a marketing agency to implement a general awareness-raising campaign in BiH. Prior to the official launching of the campaign, the project finalized the methodology for conducting focus group discussions in coordination with the selected marketing agency. Following the adoption of the methodology, three focused groups were held, in Sarajevo, Mostar, and Banja Luka. Upon completion of the focus groups’ findings, the project organized coordination meetings with all police agencies (10 cantonal Mols, the RS Mol, and the Police of Brčko District BiH), to present and discuss the findings of the focus groups, as well as potential visual solutions and slogans for the campaign in accordance with the findings. Extensive coordination with police agencies continued in an online format in the following weeks until a visual identity and slogan were consensually selected and adopted by all participating police agencies. All of the planning and coordination activities pertinent to general awareness-raising campaign were timely and regularly coordinated and agreed upon with the BiH SALW Coordination Body.
- > An agreement with representatives of 12 police agencies was reached to name the campaign: “Respect Life, Not Weapons!” (Poštuj život, ne oružje!) and to implement the campaign in three waves until the end of the project:
 - The 1st wave in the period 25 September – 15 October 2023, focusing on slogans and visuals related to femicide.
 - The 2nd wave in the period 30 October – 05 December 2023, focusing on responsible SALW ownership.
 - The 3rd wave in the period 31 January – 15 March 2024, focusing on the voluntary surrender of illicit SALW.
- > Two waves of the general awareness-raising campaign were successfully implemented by the end of 2023, addressing femicide and responsible SALW ownership in BiH, with participation of 12 relevant police agencies – the RS Mol, 10 cantonal Mols, and the Police of Brčko District BiH. The campaign was impactfully realized through targeted manifestations on TV, radio, digital channels, and OOH (Out-Of-Home/Billboards and LED screens) advertising. Additionally, outreach events were conducted in selected cities with the involvement of police agencies in the field. The campaign reached a high estimate of 96% and 99% of the targeted group in the country, representing over 2.6 million individuals aged 18 and above.

- > **[2024]** The project initiated and completed the third and last wave of the general awareness-raising campaign “Respect Life, Not Weapons,” in the period 31 January – 15 March 2024, addressing the topic of the voluntary surrender of illicit SALW. The theme covered 11 out of 12 cantons, considering that one canton (the West Herzegovina Canton) does not have voluntary surrender regulated through its legislative framework. For this remaining canton, the campaign continued with the theme of the responsible ownership of SALW (from the 2nd wave). An intensive presence across all forms of media was maintained to ensure adequate reach. A comprehensive approach ensured a very high percentage of the target audience was reached, estimated at 84% of the target group.
- > **[2024]** In close coordination with police agencies, the project planned and organized 13 outreach events during this wave of the campaign in selected cities/communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- > **[2024]** In addition to the planned and coordinated activities, police agencies continued their work within communities after the campaign end date (March 15), capitalizing on the momentum established during the previous waves of the campaign and existing legal framework, including amnesty for the voluntary surrender of illicit SALW.
- > **[2024]** Three “exit” focus group meetings were held in Sarajevo, Mostar, and Banja Luka with the aim of analyzing the change in the perception of the citizens regarding the ownership and use of firearms. The results and findings from the focus groups were presented at the final coordination meeting with the management of 12 police agencies on 25 April 2024.

Notably, following the third wave of the general awareness-raising campaign, police agencies reported the voluntary surrender of 204 long barrel firearms, 180 short barrel firearms, 19,384 pieces of ammunition, and 216 explosive ordnances.

13. Increased Security of the Arms Depots under the Administration of the Albanian State Police

Implementing organization: UNDP Albania

Implementing period: November 2022 - August 2024

Approved budget: US\$ 474,770

COMPLETED in 2024

Outcome 1: Increase the security and safety standards of Albanian State Police firearms, ammunition, and explosives (FAAE) storage locations				
Output 1	Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target (2023)	Overall progress / Milestone
Improvement of the infrastructure of the SALW-AE storage environment in the Regional Directorates of Police in Lezha, Vlora, and Kukes.	> Percentage of rehabilitated and standard compliant ASP arms & ammunition storages vs total [94 in total].	As of July 2022, 62% of ASP storages were, or were being, rehabilitated, refurbished, and made standard compliant.	65% of ASP storages are rehabilitated, refurbished, and standard compliant [3 more storages]	65% / The three weapons storage facilities have been rehabilitated, refurbished, and made standard compliant in 2024, bringing the total percentage of rehabilitated storages to 65%.
	> PSSM training on SALW for 9 personnel of the 3 FAAE facilities supported by the project.	0 / Previous training in the field of Physical Security of SALW, was conducted in October 2019, funded by the US Department of State and implemented by UNDP SEESAC.	1 / The estimated training session number is 3 / 9 staff to be trained (3 staff per facility)	N/A / The envisaged PSSM training did not take place in the end. Instead, technical training on the use of the provided equipment (CCTV, alarm system, fire protection system, etc.) took place and the staff were provided with PSSM training module booklet.
Activity 1.1: Technical design of the reconstruction, equipment needs assessment, and finalization of cost estimates for each intervention.	Achievements: > [2023] A company was selected to undertake the design and supervision for the reconstruction of the facilities of Kukes, Lezha, and Vlora. Site visits have been concluded and the final designs completed and approved by the Albanian State Police.			

Activity 1.2: Reconstruction and equipping of weapons and ammunition storage depots selected for intervention.

Achievements:

- > [2023] The project decided to engage the same construction firm that is working on the other project implemented by the UNDP Albania within the Trust Fund. This decision considered that the total Bill of Quantities estimate did not exceed 20% of the original contract of the construction firm, the scope is identical, and the firm's staff had already been cleared by the ASP for the works on the ASP security sites. Offers for the reconstruction of the 3 facilities have been obtained and a contract for the construction works will be signed following the approval of the project extension.
- > [2024] The project had to initiate a new procurement process for a company to conduct the reconstruction works on the selected three ASP facilities at the regional police directorates of Kukes, Lezha, and Vlora, considering that the previously selected company withdrew from the arrangement. The new procurement process was conducted in March 2024. All the works were completed by the end of July 2024. A final supervision report was issued by the relevant design and supervision company on 21 August. The testing and commission reports were issued on 28 August 2024, upon which the official handover was scheduled with the ASP.
- > [2024] For the refurbishment of the three facilities, the project procured and delivered two ordinary metal shelves, one security shelf, and three standard weapon shelves for each of the facilities.

Activity 1.3: Refresher training on SALW physical security and stockpile management.

Achievements:

- > [2023] The training materials on physical security and stockpile management were compiled and consulted with the ASP, with an aim to print 100 booklets for police officers. The ASP is about to update certain SOPs for the SALW physical security and stockpile management in the upcoming period and is considering the SOPs for inclusion in the material that is to be printed.
- > [2024] The compiled training material on physical security and stockpile management was cleared by the ASP and SEESAC, printed into 100 booklets, and delivered to the ASP for the use of its staff.
- > [2024] The envisaged training on SALW physical security and stockpile management (PSSM) for the personnel of the three weapons storage facilities, the upgrade of which was supported by this project, did not take place in the end. Having delivered technical training on the use of the provided equipment (CCTV, alarm system, fire protection system, etc.), and considering that the training module booklet was delivered beforehand to the ASP, the project team, in consultation with the ASP, decided that the provided training and related material thus far were sufficient and an additional PSSM training was not necessary.

Output 2	Indicators	Baseline (2022)	Project target (2024)	Overall progress / Milestone
Equipment of State Police structures with adequate standard firearms safes.	> Completion of 62 Priority I ASP FAAE storage depots with the 120 safes intended for securing SALW.	Only a fraction of FAAE of Priority I storage depots are equipped with safes for SALW.	All 62 Priority I FAAE storage depots are equipped with safes for SALW.	Yes / 120 metal safes for SALW procured and delivered to ASP for 62 priority storage depots.
Activity 2.1: Procurement of 120 standard metal safes for the Police Commissariats weapon depots.	Achievements: <ul style="list-style-type: none">> [2023] In cooperation with the ASP, technical specifications for the procurement of storage equipment for weapons were drafted, and the procurement process was initiated in line with the specifications agreed upon with the ASP. The project successfully concluded the procurement process for metal safes and their delivery was expected in Q1 2024.> [2024] The project completed the delivery of 120 metal safes for SALW to the ASP at the end of February 2024, which will be distributed across all ASP storage depots.			



14. Improvement of Data and SALW Collection Practices and SALW Related Investigations

Implementing organization: UNDP North Macedonia

Implementing period: December 2022 - February 2024

Approved budget: US\$ 513,600

COMPLETED in 2024

Outcome 1: Enhanced police operations and improved criminal justice response in the field of possession, misuse and trafficking of small arms and light weapons through improved data gathering process.				
Output 1.1	Indicators	Baseline (2022)	Project target (2023)	Overall progress / Milestone
Improved implementation of the Information Management System (IMS) that allows the gathering of SALW related data.	 Implementation plan related to the Police Information Management System (IMS) developed.	N/A No implementation plan	Yes / Implementation plan developed.	Yes / The implementation plan has been developed and implemented. In addition, technical support for the Police IMS was provided at the request of the MoI, ensuring the functionality of the system.
	 Technical documentation in place for upgrading of the Police IMS, particularly related to firearms investigations, specifically to the domestic violence context.	No / No technical documentation	Yes / Technical documentation prepared with phases for the development of new functionalities of the system (related to domestic violence in the context of firearms).	Yes / A needs-based analysis has been prepared and confirmed by the MoI. Based on this, a new module on domestic violence will be developed and integrated into the new IMS (as part of the new relevant project funded by the Trust Fund).

Activity 1.1.1: Preparation of an implementation plan for the Police IMS (IRDAM).

Achievements:

- > [2023] The project inception meeting was held in January 2023, where the representatives of the Mol implementation project team for IRDAM were informed about planned project activities. During February, three separate meetings were held with the Mol focal points and the Implementation Plan for IRDAM was adopted as a working document, based on which further work ensued. Field visits were conducted to remote police stations - Beroovo and Valandovo, in order to monitor the Mol's trainers for IRDAM, who were trained in 2022, as part of the training-of-trainers activity.
- > [2023] As part of the implementation plan for IRDAM, the project completed a classroom training session in Bitola in April 2023, covering the police stations of Bitola, Prilep, and Resen. 68 police officers (57 men and 11 women) were introduced to the functionalities of the IRDAM software. The training was led by the trainer of the software development company, and it was delivered in such a manner as to prepare the participants to be IRDAM trainers in their respective units.
- > [2023] During April 2023, the implementation plan was updated with a new timetable. Instead of the classroom trainings for the police officers from the pilot police stations originally intended, the focus was set on strengthening the awareness of the new software and its benefits among Mol personnel. This will be conducted through meetings with the commanders and top management of the selected pilot stations, as well as on field visits and monitoring of the use of the IRDAM software.
- > [2023] In line with the updated implementation plan, the project organized coordination meetings to select pilot police stations that are to use IRDAM for all incidents, in addition to incidents where weapons were used. The police stations in Kavadarci, Probishtip, and Galate were selected as pilot units, thereby including police units of various levels, from different parts of the country, and from areas with diverse ethnic demographics. A meeting with high-ranking officials of the pilot stations took place in November 2023, presenting the IRDAM system and its features to the relevant users (16 men and 5 women in total).
- > The work on the Implementation Plan was subsequently finalized.

Activity 1.1.2: Needs - based analysis for module on domestic violence.

Achievements:

- > [2023] During a project inception meeting held in January, the representatives of the Mol team for IRDAM provided initial information for the purpose of developing analysis on a domestic violence module for IRDAM. A focal point was assigned on behalf of the Mol for the coordination regarding the DV module. During February, two different meetings were held with the assigned Mol focal point, and related analysis was conducted on the relevant legislation, Mol's SOPs, and related documents, such as the "Police report in domestic violence cases" and "Risk assessment." The UNDP Country Office's gender specialist also participated in the meetings, ensuring that valuable expertise on gathering gender-sensitized data was provided.
- > [2023] The postponement of the official use of Police IMS/IRDAM, affected the timeline of the remaining interviews and plans for the needs-based analysis. Nevertheless, the needs-based analysis was prepared by the end of 2023 and subsequently approved by the Mol. The needs-based analysis is to serve as the basis for the development of a module on domestic violence cases, which is to be integrated into the IMS as part of the next relevant project under the MPTF. This is expected to assist law enforcement officers considerably in keeping track of first-time offenders, repeat offenders, victims of domestic violence, and associated actions taken by the police officers.

Output 2	Indicators	Baseline (2022)	Project target (2023)	Overall progress / Milestone
Improved analytical capabilities of Mol's Forensics Department to improve criminal justice response.	Successful procurement of the specialized equipment for the Forensic Department.	N/A (0)	Yes / Forensic Department equipped with modernized equipment.	Yes / The Forensic Department was equipped with a microscope for gunshot residue - DESKTOP SEM-EDD.
	Guidance document developed, and training implemented in the Forensics Department, related to the usage of the new equipment.	No / Not applicable.	Yes / Forensic Department staff equipped to use modernized equipment.	Yes / 5 forensic staff (the entire unit responsible for micro trace analysis) were trained on the use of the new forensic equipment. This was accompanied by the provision of a related manual and supporting documentation to the Mol.
	Exchange of knowledge, experiences, and information with colleagues from UNDP Serbia completed.	N/A (0)	Yes / Completed as planned.	Yes / Mol's Forensic Department representatives (6) participated in a peer-exchange with Serbia Mol specialists.
Activity 1.2.1: Procurement of specialized equipment.	Achievements: [2023] The project team held several meetings with the Mol Forensic Department to determine the steps and requirements for specialized equipment meant to address the Department's needs. In order to ensure expert assistance in the process, the project engaged an international consultant. The consultant provided technical specifications for the procurement of the specialized equipment, the Desktop SEM-EDD, and market research on potential bidders. Based on this, the project procured specialized equipment, a microscope for gunshot residue - DESKTOP SEM-EDD, and delivered and installed it at the Mol premises in July 2023. The donation was publicized through social media and mass media, as a unique state-of-the-art equipment which will improve the work of the Forensic Department in examining evidence from firearms-related incidents [link1] . A video was created and published on several social media platforms.			
Activity 1.2.2: User training.	Achievements: [2023] Following the delivery and installation of the specialized equipment for the Forensic Department, the project organized in August 2023 a training of 5 forensic staff (2 women and 3 men) on the use of equipment.			

Activity 1.2.3: Exchanging experience with other UNDP offices.

Achievements:

➤ [2023] In coordination with the UNDP Serbia, the project organized a study visit for the Mol of North Macedonia to the National Forensic Center in Serbia in the period 26-29 September 2023. A total of six Mol representatives participated (3 women and 3 men), including the Head of the Forensic Department and high-level forensic specialists, as well as representatives of the Mol's Department for EU and International Cooperation. The participants visited the ballistic laboratory in the Police Department of the City of Belgrade, the scanning electron microscope laboratory in the Ministry of Interior and the CSI Training Center in Zemun. The acquired knowledge and peer-exchange on applied forensic approaches in investigations will be used to design initiatives that will further strengthen the work of the Forensic Department, including through future projects implemented within the Trust Fund or through SEESAC support

Output 3	Indicators	Baseline (2022)	Project target (2024)	Overall progress / Milestone
Improved weapons warehouse management and tracing capacities that leads to a decreased risk of the proliferation of SALW and improved security.	➤ Analysis of the current processes and procedures governing firearms for official use, as well as of the necessary equipment, software, and hardware required for the tagging, barcoding, tracing, and record-keeping of firearms for official use, is developed.	No / No analysis (0)	Yes / Organizational guidelines and procedures for warehouse management and SALW-tracing capabilities in the Mol have been developed and adopted.	Yes (partial; refocused as per needs of the project) / A needs-based analysis for the physical protection of the warehouses at the "Gjorche Petrov" Police Center was completed by the engaged security expert and endorsed by the Mol.
	➤ Technical documentation for video and physical security of the storage facility at "Gjorche Petrov" Police Center is developed in accordance with international standards and in line with national construction legislation and regulations.	No technical documentation (0)	Yes / Technical documentation developed and endorsed as planned.	Yes / Technical documentation for the physical security and video surveillance of the warehouses at the "Gjorche Petrov" Police Center was developed in line with the needs-based analysis and endorsed by the Mol.
	➤ Marking machine is procured and installed.	No marking machine (0)	Yes / Marking machine installed at Mol.	Yes / A Laser Marking Machine was delivered and installed at the Mol, and Mol staff were trained in its use.

Activity 1.3.1: Needs-based analysis for official firearms.

Achievements:

➤ [2023] The project engaged a local expert in the physical security of weapons warehouses to prepare a needs-based analysis for the physical security of the "Gjorche Petrov" Police Center's storage facility. A set of visits to Gjorche Petrov Police Center took place, and the consultant successfully completed the needs-based analysis, including the final review and acceptance of the technical documentation produced by the contracted companies, based on which the upgrade of facilities shall ensue.

Activity 1.3.2: Technical documentation for the storage facility of the “Gjorche Petrov” Police Center.

Achievements:

- > [2023] Based on the needs-based analysis for the physical security of “Gjorche Petrov” Police Center storage facility, two procurement procedures were conducted, and technical documentation suppliers were selected -, one company for video surveillance and one for construction work. The work of the contracted companies was monitored by the consultant (1.3.1). Both the video surveillance technical documentation and the construction technical documentation were approved and accepted by the Mol.
- > [2023] With the non-cost extension granted by the Steering Committee, and the approval of the changes to this activity to include the strengthening of certain security elements of the storage facility in line with the produced technical documentation, the project-initiated procurement processes: i) for the upgrade of the electrical installations in the storage facility at the “Gjorche Petrov” Police Center; and ii) for the supervision of the construction activities. The construction interventions will aim to strengthen the security of the weapons warehouses through improved electrical installations, new lighting, and a diesel generator for power outages. These works began in early November 2023 and were scheduled to be completed in Q1 2024.
- > [2024] The project proceeded to support the interventions at the “Gjorche Petrov” Police Center in line with the technical documentation. In Q1 2024, the project completed the undertaken work, resulting in enhanced electrical infrastructure, upgraded lighting systems, and the integration of a diesel generator to mitigate power outages, aligning with key security objectives for the warehouses.

NB: The original project envisaged only the preparation of technical documentation and the project design for the storage facility. Additional interventions were enabled by the project’s budget savings, thus reinforcing the final result.



Activity 1.3.3: Procurement of a marking machine.

Achievements:

- > [2023] In coordination with SEESAC’s Chief Technical Advisor, the project team prepared the procurement of a Laser Marking Machine, for the marking of deactivated firearms. The Laser Marking Machine was delivered and installed at the Mol, and staff members were trained in its use. The Laser Marking Machine is envisioned to help in tracing and controlling of SALW in North Macedonia, compatible with relevant EU regulations. [\[link\]](#)

17. Reduce Risk – Increase Safety III

Implementing organization: UNDP Serbia
Implementing period: October 2023 – October 2025
Approved budget: US\$ 776,135

Outcome 1: Increased capabilities for integrating a meaningful gender perspective into SALW/firearms control policies through the reinforcement of networking and empowerment of women in the security sector, as well as the enhancement of gender-sensitive and evidence-based policymaking.				
Output 1.1	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Gender and age data collection practices reviewed, and lessons learned used to facilitate evidence-based policy making and mainstream firearms risks into domestic violence regulations.	 The data collection practices of the Ministry of Interior (Mol) related to firearms misuse in the context of domestic violence have been reviewed to incorporate missing sex and age disaggregated data.	No Existing Mol's data collection practice does not include sex and age sensitive data. [In the previous project phase, UNDP had prepared an analysis of data related to DV and GBV, as well as recommendations of data sets to be added to existing records.]	Yes Recommendations prepared for improved data collection to include sex and age sensitive data.	Achieved / A comprehensive framework was prepared for datasets to be collected and analyzed by the Mol to generate analytical reports on the misuse of firearms in the context of domestic violence (including the incorporation of missing sex and age disaggregated data). The framework was presented and discussed with several Mol sectors, including the Sector for Analytics, Telecommunications, and Information Technology, as well as departments responsible for the prevention and combating of domestic violence and for administrative affairs.
	 Evidence-based recommendations to improve the effectiveness of legal solutions for preventing and reducing the risk of firearms risk in gender-based violence have been developed and endorsed.	No There are no evidence-based recommendations to improve the effectiveness of legal solutions for preventing and reducing the firearms risk in gender-based violence.	Yes Evidence based recommendations to improve the effectiveness of legal solutions for preventing and reducing the firearms risk in gender-based violence are developed.	Partial progress. / An analysis of legal and institutional solutions of jurisdictions with a similar social context to Serbia was completed with the purpose of identifying good practices that successfully lead to the reduction of femicides and attempted femicides. Completed case studies are to be used in discussions with relevant professionals to evaluate the effectiveness of existing legal measures related to DV and GBV.

Activity 1.1.1: Provide technical and consultative assistance in analyzing current data collection methodologies related to gender and age and revise of missing gender and age-related data.

Achievements:

- > [2023] Q4: A series of consultative meetings with SEESAC’s Gender Specialist took place to exchange experience on data collected by SEESAC, including data from the Mol of the Republic of Serbia. Project efforts were thus synchronized with those of UNDP SEESAC to enhance impact of envisaged activities related to improvement of Moi data collection practices.
- > [2024] The project facilitated the design of a comprehensive framework for datasets to be collected and analyzed by the Mol to generate analytical reports on the misuse of firearms in the context of domestic violence, with a view to incorporating the missing sex and age disaggregated data. The framework is inclusive of all data that need to be collected as stipulated by various laws and regulations, such as the Law on Weapons, Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence, Criminal Code, Family Law, Law on Minors, etc. This will enable the monitoring of the legal provisions’ effectiveness to prevent the misuse of firearms for domestic violence.
- > [2024] The framework was presented and discussed with several Mol sectors, including the Sector for Analytics, Telecommunications, and Information Technology, as well as the departments responsible for the prevention and combating of domestic violence and for administrative affairs. The Mol is continuing work to further identify missing data sets and assess how these data could be extracted from existing records or incorporated into the data management system to address gaps.

Activity 1.1.2: Development of evidence-based recommendations to improve the effectiveness of legal solutions for preventing and reducing the risk of firearms misuse in gender-based violence.

Achievements:

- > [2024] A 3-member expert task force completed an analysis of the legal and institutional solutions of jurisdictions with a similar social context to Serbia, identifying good practices (at the level of legislation, institutions, and practices) that successfully lead to the reduction of femicides and attempted femicides, including cases involving firearms-misuse.
- > [2024] In addition, the relevant experts have developed the methodology, and accompanying case studies, to serve as a basis for focus group discussions with professionals engaged in the field of domestic violence prevention and protection (representatives of the police, judiciary, and social welfare system) to evaluate the effectiveness of existing legal measures and identify those that need to be improved to ensure better prevention of DV and GBV, including femicides committed with firearms.

Output 1.2	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Networking and capacity building of women to actively participate in SALW control policies is enabled.	> Number of women police officers, including members of the Network of Women in the Police capacitated to mainstream gender into SALW control policies and actively participate in SALW control.	SALW control policies do not adequately involve women and women’s participation in SALW control is limited.	At least 50 women from the security sector have been trained on issues relating to the development and implementation of gender sensitive SALW control policies.	Partial progress. 31 women from the security sector, including members of the Network of Women in the Police, engaged in 2023 in networking regarding the topic of preventing DV, including that committed through SALW misuse.

Improved regional experience exchange and networking of the women police officials in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina on gender mainstreaming in SALW control policies and SALW control.	No regular interaction or knowledge sharing among the regional networks of women police.	a) Up to 100 women police officials take part in the regional experience- exchange and networking meetings. b) Up to 21 members of the regional networks are introduced to different international best practices during a study visit to a sister network in an EU country.	Partial progress. a) Achieved. 44 women , members of associations of women in the police from Serbia and BiH, networked and exchanged experience through two bilateral meetings. An additional 111 women from the security sector, including members of the Network of Women in the Police, networked in 2024 around the topic of preventing domestic violence, including that committed through SALW misuse. b) Not yet initiated.
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Activity 1.2.1: Enabling the networking of women in the security sector and facilitating their participation in the development, policy advocacy, and implementation of gender-responsive SALW control policies.

- Achievements:
- [2023] Q4: The project supported the Network of Women in the Police of the Republic of Serbia to promote the exchange of knowledge and experience among women and men police officers dealing with DV cases in Serbia. To mark the “16 days of activism against gender-based violence” global campaign, the Network of Women in the Police and MoI organized a workshop facilitating experience/knowledge exchange and support to police officers responsible for processing DV cases. [Ref to Activity 2.2.2] The workshop gathered 51 participants (31 women and 20 men). Police officers from different police departments in the country presented local police statistics regarding domestic violence and complex cases they had dealt with (including cases involving SALW misuse and those committed by fellow officers), their successes, and good practices, as well as activities regarding community outreach. The workshop provided an opportunity for participants to reflect jointly on challenges and make suggestions for improvements in working conditions and procedures, and for training needs to further enhance responses to DV response. Also, the workshop enabled the mobilization of women from the security sector towards more active participation in SALW control policies.
 - [2024] To enable the networking and strengthen the role of women in the security sector, the project facilitated the 3rd Annual Conference of the Network of Women in the Police of Serbia on 29 November 2024, at the Palace of Serbia. This hybrid event brought together 132 participants (111 women, 21 men) from 12 jurisdictions, including law enforcement officials, policymakers, gender equality experts, and representatives of police associations and civil society organizations. High-level engagement amplified the event’s impact, with opening remarks from the Prime Minister of Serbia and participation from key government officials, including the Minister of the Interior, Minister of Education, and Minister without portfolio responsible for gender equality, as well as the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality and experts from the Institute for Mental Health. With a focus on preventing and addressing trauma caused by gender-based violence and firearm-related incidents, the conference mobilized stakeholders to strengthen community resilience. Drawing from the May 2023 mass shootings in Serbia, the event featured insights from Dr. Andrew Tatnell, retired Police Superintendent and Research Fellow, on Scotland’s Dunblane mass shooting response, providing lessons learned for law enforcement and first responders. To promote cross-border collaboration, police representatives from 12 jurisdictions (Serbia, BiH, Montenegro, Slovenia, North Macedonia, Greece, Austria, Spain, Sweden, Albania, Romania, Hungary) shared experiences on successful violence prevention programs. The event also amplified the role of women in the security sector, reinforcing their participation in shaping gender-responsive SALW control policies. The conference’s anti-violence messages gained significant media attention, further driving public awareness on firearm misuse and gender-based violence prevention.

Activity 1.2.2: Continued support to associations of women police officials in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia for facilitating regional experience exchange and networking regarding the topic of SALW misuse prevention (joint activity of UNDP CO Serbia and UNDP CO BiH).

Achievements:

> [2024] In cooperation between the UNDP offices in Serbia and BiH, two meetings of the networks of policewomen in Serbia and BiH were held, in May and October 2024, gathering 44 association members. The aim of the first meeting, which took place in Belgrade, was to discuss gender aspects of SALW misuse and identify entry points for the greater participation of women in SALW control policies and in planning future steps towards this aim. This event gathered 20 women from the police, representatives of the “Network of Women in Police of the Republic of Serbia,” and two associations operating in BiH - the Association “Network of Women Police Officials” and the “RS Ministry of Interior Women Police Officials Network.” In addition, the meeting was attended by representatives of UNDP BiH and Serbia and UNDP SEESAC, as well as members of the group “Journalists against Violence.” The meeting provided an overview of SALW Roadmap priorities and developments, as well as a presentation of gender aspects of SALW misuse and relevant legislative framework. Members of the group “Journalists against Violence” presented the benefits of women’s networking and shared trends in media reporting on SALW misuse and domestic violence and highlighted the role of police in collaboration with media in changing attitudes on SALW misuse for violence against women. After discussing ongoing initiatives on gender and SALW, meeting participants reviewed possible entry points for women’s participation in SALW control and next steps. The second meeting, organized in Sarajevo, gathered 24 members of the women’s associations. It included a presentation of the activities of the BiH Ministry of Security’s activities related to the implementation of the Law on Gender Equality. The meeting also included a presentation and discussion related to the challenges of women working in the police and overcoming them and examples of activities of associations of women in the police. Furthermore, opportunities for the active participation of women in the development of strategic documents related to SALW control in Serbia and BiH were discussed. Joint planning of future activities was also initiated, through an exchange of ideas on a joint study visit to an EU-based association of policewomen.

Outcome 2: Firearms misuse for violence and suicides is prevented and addressed through the multi-sectoral engagement of institutions and the involvement of the civil sector.

Output 2.1	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Conditions for the improved detection of potential firearms misuse for domestic violence and suicides and comprehensive prevention support are ensured.	> No. of healthcare professionals trained to identify risks and effectively implement procedures for reporting and addressing the suspected risk of firearms related domestic violence.	Healthcare professionals have little to no knowledge on how to identify risks and effectively implement procedures for reporting and addressing the suspected risk of firearms misuse.	At least 180 health care professionals trained to better detect and manage cases of violence in collaboration with the police and prosecutor’s office.	Achieved / 215 healthcare and legal professionals (187 women and 28 men) from 67 municipalities received training since the project’s start to improve their ability to identify risks of firearms misuse for violence and to ensure victim safety.

<p>> Recommendations on improved connectivity and data sharing between state and private healthcare institutions for the Prime Minister's Working Group on eHealth developed and considered by the working group.</p>	<p>No connectivity or data sharing between state and private healthcare institutions.</p>	<p>Yes Recommendations on improved connectivity and data sharing between state and private healthcare institutions for the Prime Minister's working group on eHealth have been developed and considered by the relevant working group.</p>	<p>Not yet initiated</p>
<p>> Recommendations for the new Rulebook on determining natural persons' ability to hold and carry weapons within the healthcare system has been developed and endorsed by the Mol.</p>	<p>In the previous phase of project, numerous flaws within the existing Rulebook were identified.</p>	<p>Yes Recommendations for the new Rulebook on determining natural persons' ability to hold and carry weapons within the healthcare system have been developed and endorsed by the Mol.</p>	<p>Not yet initiated</p>
<p>> Exchange of knowledge, dialogue, and learning on the implementation of gender-sensitive security vetting and reporting of firearms license holders to prevent the misuse of firearms in domestic violence context has been facilitated.</p>	<p>No exchange of knowledge, dialogue, or learning on the implementation of gender-sensitive security vetting and reporting of firearms license holders to prevent the misuse of firearms in domestic violence context exists.</p>	<p>a) Up to 150 professionals take part in the dialogues/ knowledge exchange/ learning sessions. b) Up to 4 CSOs supported to develop and implement community-based actions targeting women whose family members have access to firearms and collaborate with institutions.</p>	<p>Partial progress. a) Not yet initiated b) 4 CSOs were supported by the project in contributing to increased community safety and the protection of women from firearms-enabled violence. The CSOs provide local helpline support to women, trainings, raise community awareness on the dangers of firearms-misuse for violence against women, and strengthen cooperation with local institutions.</p>

Activity 2.1.1: Improving healthcare workers' capacity to identify risks and effectively implement procedures for reporting and addressing the suspected risk of firearms misuse.

Achievements:

- **[2024]** One-day trainings were delivered to 215 healthcare and legal professionals (187 women and 28 men) from 67 municipalities - including medical practitioners and specialists from primary, secondary, and tertiary healthcare institutions, social workers and lawyers working in health clinics, and public prosecutors from 10 districts. Based on a needs survey by the "Batut" Institute, this training introduced participants to the phenomenon of domestic violence and the recognition of risk factors, the legal obligations of healthcare professionals to participate in preventing violence and violence escalation and ensuring safety from firearms misuse for violence, and the importance of the work of healthcare teams in violence prevention. Participants also discussed the role of healthcare in determining health conditions for the possession of firearms, the importance of monitoring firearms owners' health, and reporting suspected violence (including through firearms misuse). The training provided opportunities for participants to network and better understand the multi-sectoral approach. The training aimed to increase the ability of medical staff to identify individuals at risk of firearm misuse and to collaborate with other institutions, particularly the police and public prosecutor's offices, to manage cases of domestic violence reported by the healthcare system while ensuring the safety of the victims. Also, the training focused on improving the participants' competences to effectively implement procedures for reporting suspected or documented changes in the psychophysical condition of persons who hold a firearms license and procedures for reporting suspected violence. Participants were provided with guidebooks for healthcare professionals developed as part of the project's previous phase.
- **[2024]** UNDP contracted relevant experts, and they are in the process of developing a training of trainers' curriculum for healthcare professionals, as well as the accompanying supporting materials. It is envisaged that the ToT will provide a sustainable way of improving healthcare worker's capacities for addressing the risk of firearms misuse for violence and suicide, tailored to the needs and challenges health professionals face in everyday practice.

Activity 2.1.2: Assistance for healthcare digitalization to enable better insight into patients' health status and firearms possession.

Achievements:

- Activity planned to start as of 2025.

Activity 2.1.3: Preparation of recommendations for the new Rulebook on determining natural persons' ability to hold and carry weapons within the healthcare system.

Achievements:

- Activity planned to start as of 2025.

Activity 2.1.4: Organize exchange of knowledge, dialogue, and learning on the implementation of gender-responsive security vetting and reporting of firearms license holders to prevent the misuse of firearms in the domestic violence context.

Achievements:

- **[2024]** To strengthen the work of women's organizations in the community and improve their collaboration with institutions, the project is supporting the activities of 4 local women's organizations aimed at improving the protection of women from violence committed with firearms. The organizations were selected based on the [public call](#) for financing projects of civil society organizations, which resulted in 12 applications in total. The call results were announced on [UNDP Serbia's website](#) and supported activities will be implemented by 31 July 2025. The CSO activities are aimed at enhancing the protection of women from firearms-enabled violence through the provision of helpline support, the training of women in better understanding the risks of firearms, raising community awareness on the dangers of firearms-misuse for violence against women, and strengthening cooperation with local institutions.
- **[2024]** In support of the activity implementation, as well as to raise women's CSOs capacities for providing support to women in cases of risks from firearms-enabled violence, a meeting was convened in October 2024 to provide information on the prevention of firearms misuse risks in the context of domestic violence and to provide safety tips for survivors, from the project's police expert-trainer. Among the implemented CSO activities, the project supported an awareness-raising campaign on [social media](#), amplified by a [TV talk show](#) dedicated to violence prevention (including the participation of both NGO and local MoI representatives), and street action (where informative fliers were disseminated to 300 citizens). Other activities multiplied the project's efforts and messaging among the local communities and enhanced community safety aspects.

Output 2.2	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Information on the harmful effects of underlying practices and attitudes leading to firearms misuse and supportive mechanisms preventing suicides available	Mol media communication capacities and campaigns to prevent firearms misuse in the community and domestic violence context in place.	Low level of awareness related to firearms misuse for domestic violence and gender-based violence across most Mol sectors, departments, and bodies.	Yes At least 20 media reports containing information about the consequences of firearms misuse as well as critical reviews of firearms (mis)use for domestic violence and gender-based violence.	Achieved. 34 media reports containing information about the consequences of domestic violence (including through firearms misuse) were published in traditional and electronic media.
	Professionals providing psychological support within the Mol capacitated and police officers informed on supportive mechanisms to prevent negative consequences of professional trauma.	Low level of information and utilization of services to prevent negative consequences of professional trauma of professionals involved in violent events with firearms.	a) At least 25 professionals from Mol's Department of Psychological Activities trained. b) Yes - informative activities conducted by the Department among different police units.	Achieved. a) 31 representatives (30 women and 1 man) of the Mol Department of Psychological Activities, local PD psychologists, heads of police stations, and officers in charge of recruitment were trained on reducing the negative consequences of professional trauma, including those affecting mental health, experienced by professionals involved in violent events with firearms. b) Yes - Informative activities were conducted by the Mol Department of Psychological Activities among different police units: 51 Mol representatives (31 women and 20 men) were informed by Department representatives through a workshop and focus group discussion [involving 29 local police departments, and representatives of the Mol Minister's Cabinet, the Police Directorate, the Directorate for Crime Investigation, the HR Directorate, the Department for the Prevention of DV, the Department for Psychological Activities, the Ministry of Justice, and the Network of Women in the Police).

Development of a training curriculum, as well as the training-of-trainers, aimed at strengthening healthcare system capacities to identify and support individuals at risk of suicide.	N/A / No Inadequate information and knowledge of general practitioners to recognize and provide further support to persons at risks of committing suicide.	a) Yes ToT curriculum developed on how to recognize and provide further and adequate support to persons at risks of committing suicide. b) Up to 15 trainers from the healthcare system trained on how to recognize and provide adequate support to persons at risks of committing suicide.	Partial progress. a) ToT development is in progress. b) Not yet initiated.
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Activity 2.2.1: Support Mol communication activities to prevent firearm misuse in the community and domestic violence context.

Achievements:

- [2024]** With the project’s support, the Mol implemented a campaign contributing to awareness-raising on (firearms-enabled) domestic violence and reporting violence to the police. The Mol’s communication efforts were implemented during the “16 Days of activism against Gender-Based Violence” campaign (25 November – 10 December 2024). Communication activities involved a campaign [video](#) and visuals published through both traditional and [social media channels](#). This ensured a wide reach of diverse audiences, including both those directly affected by violence and those who have a prevention role as potential witnesses of violence, with the campaign content reaching 408,905 views on Mol social media alone. The communication approach took into consideration the need for greater community engagement and readiness to report violence, bearing in mind that when perpetrators possess or have access to firearms, cases of violence are frequently not reported by victims due to fear of firearms misuse. Bearing in mind citizens’ fear of the perpetrator’s retaliation, the campaign put special attention on the anonymous reporting of violence and especially encouraged persons in the community who were bystanders of/witnesses to violence to report it. The campaign also raised significant [media attention](#), with many media outlets sharing the campaign video. The campaign was further amplified by media appearances of Mol representatives, alongside UNDP representatives and professionals from other relevant institutions (e.g., judiciary, social protection system), including an appearance on a live national television program on femicide prevention viewed by 671,000 people.
- [2024]** UNDP project team members were co-trainers at the SEESAC 5th Regional Awareness Raising Task Force Meeting, which took place in Skopje in April 2024. The current project was presented, among other related projects, with relevant awareness-raising and advocacy activities. Lessons learnt and good practices developed through UNDP Serbia’s work addressing firearms misuse were incorporated into an interactive training on effective awareness-raising on gender and firearms misuse held during the meeting.

Activity 2.2.2: Support institutional capacity building and the implementation of activities to prevent firearms misuse for domestic violence and suicides among police officers.



Achievements:

- > [2023] Q4: On 30 November, a workshop and focus group took place on stress management for police officers dealing with DV cases, led by representatives of the MoI Department of Psychological Activities. The workshop and focus group gathered 51 participants (31 women and 20 men) and addressed the effects of professional stress and response to trauma, while providing stress – relief and stress management techniques. The workshop also served as an opportunity to gather insight into professionals’ further needs in regard to overcoming professional stress, including regarding risks of negative consequences such as firearms misuse.
- > [2024] In February 2024, a two-day interactive training was organized in Ruma, Serbia for 31 MoI representatives (30 women and 1 man) addressing suicide committed by police officers. The event enabled a space for representatives of the MoI Department of Psychological Activities, local PD psychologists, heads of police stations, and officers in charge of recruitment to discuss actual cases, measures taken, and systematic solutions for effective suicide prevention. Also, participants focused on the situation and needs of persons of aid active in prevention, particularly the needs and roles of individuals/persons in management positions within the prevention system. While providing a platform for participants to discuss this sensitive topic, a safe space was also created for participants to exchange positive examples of prevention and discuss opportunities and possible solutions to improve work regarding the prevention of firearms misuse for domestic violence and suicides among police officers.

Activity 2.2.3: Support for learning and community-based activities to prevent firearms misuse for suicide.

Achievements:

- > [2024] An expert was engaged by UNDP to support the prevention of firearm-related suicides in Serbia through educational and community-based activities. The expert is tasked with the development of a curriculum and accompanying learning resources and the delivery of a one-day training to enhance the knowledge and skills of professionals and civilians in recognizing risks associated with access to firearms and in responding to situations involving violent and suicidal behaviour. This training will target individuals from the security sector, hunting associations, war veterans, and other groups gathering persons (primarily men) with access to firearms or at risk of firearms misuse.
- > [2024] In cooperation with the SRCE NGO specializing in support to persons at risk of committing suicide, the project began the planning of awareness-raising activities. The activities will target men over 45 years of age (most at risk of committing suicide in Serbia) through motivating them to seek support in crisis situations and through providing information on available immediate support lines.

Output 2.3	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Best practice sharing with professionals, media, and academia on effective mechanisms for preventing of future firearms related incidents enabled.	 International best practices on post-tragedy/mass shooting community reintegration are mapped and shared with professionals, media, and academia.	Professionals, media, and academia have little knowledge on preventing of firearms-related mass shooting incidents.	a) Yes / Effective practices that have been implemented internationally, that are aimed at changing masculine stereotypes that lead to harmful incidents with firearms are mapped. b) At least 200 participants participate at the relevant best-practices and knowledge- sharing conference and are introduced to best practice mechanisms for firearms related incidents.	Partial progress. a) An expert from the Brussels-based organization Victim Support Europe identified key action points for healing and reconciliation within the community following the mass shootings at “Vladislav Ribnikar” Elementary School and the villages of Mala Dubona and Orašje. The expert participated in the Government’s working group to support the first commemoration of the May 2023 mass shootings and provided insight and support to the group based on international best practices in overcoming post-tragedy/mass shootings trauma and in community healing. b) 31 mental health professionals (24 women and 7 men) have strengthened their competencies and capacities for providing Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for children, adolescents, and families who are direct or indirect victims of mass shootings. This is part of the project’s direct response to enhancing resilience to, and overcoming trauma in the aftermath of, the May 2023 mass shootings.
	 Number of journalists with increased capacities and networking opportunities to engage in preventive and ethical reporting on firearms-enabled gender-based violence, including mass shootings.	Sensationalist reporting continues to thrive in Serbia, contributing to the spreading of panic, rather than educating the public and acting to prevent the risk of future firearms misuse.	a) Analysis of media reporting on firearms-related incidents conducted. b) Up to 10 journalists have participated in a study trip to a European media hub to exchange specialist knowledge on the most challenging of media issues and encourage media networking related to ethical reporting on violence and trauma. will be organized c) Up to 100 participants/ women journalists from the region have participated in events that encourage networking and preventive reporting related to firearms-enabled gender-based violence, including mass shootings.	Partial progress. a) A relevant analysis methodology was completed, while a collection of media reports to be analyzed is in progress. The analysis is being carried out in close collaboration and partnership with The Multidisciplinary Team for Establishing a Memorial Center in remembrance of victims of the mass murders in the “Vladislav Ribnikar” Elementary School in Belgrade. b) Not yet initiated. c) Not yet initiated.

Activity 2.3.1: Identification of international best practices on post-tragedy/mass shooting community reintegration and improved mass shooting prevention.

Achievements:

- > [2023] Q4: Meetings were held with representatives of the Norwegian Embassy in Belgrade to map knowledge and expertise from Norwegian experts to on the development of preventive programs to reduce the risk of future mass murders to assist the Government of Serbia in its efforts in this regard, as well as to provide ongoing support to the Government of Serbia, which is focused on development of preventive programs to reduce the risk of future mass murders on these issues. Additionally, a meeting with the Ministry of Education, responsible for coordinating the Government's expert working group on the development of prevention programs for reducing the risk of the recurrence of mass murders among youth, was conducted to assess the need for assistance and learn from countries with comparable experiences. Furthermore, several meetings with Fund B92 were held, as this organization is involved in communicating with and providing support for the survivors and families of victims of the two mass shootings that occurred most recently in Serbia (in 2023). The aim of these meetings was to identify specific needs and expertise for effective healing and the prevention of future occurrences.
- > [2024] An expert from the Brussels-based organization Victim Support Europe was engaged to identify key action points for healing and reconciliation within the community following the mass shootings at "Vladislav Ribnikar" Elementary School and the villages of Mala Dubona and Orašje. The expert also participated in the Government's working group to support the first commemoration of the May 2023 mass shootings and provided insight and support to the group based on international best practices in overcoming post-tragedy/mass shootings trauma and in community healing.
- > [2024] In accordance with the official request of the Ministry of Education, the project implemented a three-day workshop to strengthen the competencies and capacities of 31 professionals (24 women and 7 men) from the Institute for Mental Health, the Centre for Youth, and the University Clinical Centers in Belgrade, Novi Sad, and Niš for providing Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for children, adolescents, and families who are direct or indirect victims of mass shootings. The training was delivered from 29-31 October 2024 in Belgrade, by Norwegian experts engaged through the project to enhance the capacities of mental health professionals in Serbia. This initiative also includes one year follow-up support to the trained professionals, ensuring the effective and sustained implementation of therapy work addressing psychological needs arising from firearm-related violence and trauma. This is the project's direct contribution to systematic approaches to healing following the May 2023 mass shootings and to the providing of trauma-focused assistance to those affected, including youth in crisis.
- > [2024] The project supported the participation of 2 experts of the Victimology Society of Serbia (VSS) at the annual conference of Victim Support Europe, which took place in Zagreb, Croatia, on 22 and 23 May 2024. VSS is a member of the Multidisciplinary Team for the Establishment of the Memorial Center in memory of the victims of mass the shooting at the "Vladislav Ribnikar" primary school in Belgrade, established by the Government of Serbia. Thus, the project's support enabled the experts to learn about improving the accessibility of victim support, about examples of good practice in providing assistance to victims, about coordination and collaboration of different systems that come into contact with victims, etc. The VSS later dedicated its annual conference to the topic of mass shootings and victim's needs, attended by members of the Mol and the the MD team (including parents of victims at the Vladislav Ribnikar school). The conference featured a presentation of the work and findings of the group "Journalists against Women," which is the project's partner, aiding further networking and collaboration.
- > [2024] Continuous information exchange was ensured with stakeholders relevant for responses to overcoming trauma and the prevention of mass shootings in the aftermath of the May 2023 events, including with representatives of the Ministry for Public Investment, the Ministry of Education, and the Norwegian Embassy in Belgrade, to ensure synergetic action, as well as to respond appropriately to the concrete needs of survivors and communities affected by the mass shootings.



Activity 2.3.2: Continued support to the group Journalists against Violence in its efforts to mobilize national and regional media and promote learning and partnerships that leads to ethical and preventative media coverage of incidents involving SALW.

Achievements:

- > [2023] Q4: Plans were made with the group Journalists against Violence regarding the initiation of media-related activities. This involved the definition of the methodology to be used for analyzing media reporting in response to mass shootings to identify unethical narratives, which is to serve as the foundation for subsequent work with the media on preventive and educational reporting regarding such incidents.
- > [2024] The project supported the group “Journalists against Violence” in implementing a workshop for photographers and photo-reporters on the ethical visual representation of (firearms-enabled) gender-based violence, domestic violence, and gender equality. The workshop, held in November 2024, gathered 15 women photographers working for specific media houses and freelance photo-reporters, who discussed the phenomenon of violence against women, principles of ethical media reporting on this issue, and the contribution of visual elements in preventing violence as opposed to sensationalism in media reporting that perpetuates violence and victim blaming. A specific workshop topic was also the current and preferred depiction of firearms and firearms-enabled violence, where participants were provided with recommendations for the use of images that serve to raise a critical approach to violence committed with firearms.
- > [2024] Upon discussions regarding the impact and consequences of media reporting on the May 2023 mass shootings and the need to provide media professionals with resources and guidelines on ethical media reporting that lead to community recovery and resilience, the “Journalists against Violence” group prepared a media reporting analysis methodology based on the principles of trauma-informed journalism and relying on the perspectives of victims’ families. The methodology suggests that an analysis be conducted of media reports from the moment of the mass shooting incidents of May 2023 through to the court decisions for the perpetrators. The methodology further suggests relying on the insights of both the victims’ families as well as those of journalists reporting on both incidents to ensure that the analysis provides a basis for resources to media in reporting on mass shootings that supports mental health and does not lead to secondary trauma, while contributing to the prevention of such events in the future.

18. Project Justitia: Support to the Criminal Justice Response to Counter Arms Trafficking in the Western Balkans

Implementing organization: UNODC
Implementing period: November 2023 – November 2025
Approved budget: US\$ 2,390,815

Outcome 1: Enhanced capabilities of criminal justice institutions to counter organized crime and illicit firearms trafficking.				
Output 1.1	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Criminal justice institutions have improved their abilities and resources to draft effective legislation, conduct thorough investigations, and successfully prosecute cases involving illicit firearms and organized crime.	 Number of criminal codes in the WB region amended in line with the UN FP.	4 jurisdictions have developed draft criminal code provisions harmonized with the UN FP with UNODC support (Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia). Amended Criminal Codes, with provisions harmonized with the UN FP adopted in 2 jurisdictions: North Macedonia (Sep 2023) and Montenegro (Dec 2023). [NB: Kosovo already had adopted criminal code with provisions harmonized with the UN FP]	6 jurisdictions have criminal code provisions harmonized with UN FP.	2 [+1] / Two jurisdictions have adopted criminal codes with provisions harmonized with UN FP following UNODC support: Montenegro and North Macedonia. [NB: Kosovo already had criminal code provisions harmonized with the UN FP]. The remaining 3 jurisdictions – Albania, BiH, and Serbia - have developed draft criminal code provisions with UNODC support, pending adoption. In 2024, BiH and Serbia finalized amendments to their criminal codes with UNODC support, pending further processing.
	 Number of training courses on the investigation and prosecution of firearms offences developed and endorsed across WB on the basis of the UNODC Guidelines.	0 training courses developed. General Guidelines on the investigation and prosecution of firearms offences developed in 2022.	6 training courses on the investigation and prosecution of firearms offences developed on the basis of the Guidelines.	4 [draft] / Draft courses developed in 4 jurisdictions (Sarajevo, Podgorica, Belgrade, and Skopje). Work continues towards this end.

Number of knowledge management products on the application of special investigative measures to counter firearms trafficking developed.	1 draft knowledge management product developed (Serbia). Need for knowledge management products identified.	6 knowledge management products (5 more) on the application of special investigative measures to counter firearms trafficking developed.	6 / 6 Guidelines were developed (pending translation and design) on the Use of Special Investigative Techniques in the Investigation and Prosecution of Criminal Offences Related to Firearms, Joint Investigations, and International Cooperation.
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Activity 1.1.1: Organization of a project inception meeting.

Achievements:

- [2023] On 14 December 2023, the Project Justitia was [officially launched](#) with an inception meeting, attended by 34 participants (11 women, 23 men) representing all six WB jurisdictions. The inception meeting served to discuss the project objectives for 2024-2025, and it resulted in the endorsement of the project implementation workplan, the identification of potential risks to the project's success, and strategies for their mitigation. The meeting was also used to discuss communication among the stakeholders, and how progress and challenges will be reported to the project team.

Activity 1.1.2: Organization of meetings on the harmonization of criminal legislation with the UN Firearms Protocol and two local legislative workshops in BiH.

Achievements:

- [2023] With support from the project, on 17 November 2023, North Macedonia's Ministry of the Interior, the NM Public Prosecutor, and the NM Customs Administration [signed a MoU](#) on cooperation to counter firearms criminality. This is part of a broader effort to strengthen the criminal justice response to arms trafficking, following pivotal amendments to the Macedonian Criminal Code adopted in Sep 2023.
- [2023] Further preparations for the activity commenced in December, with the first meeting on legislative harmonization planned for 30 January 2024. Invitations were sent to the relevant institutions.
- [2023] The ToR for a consultant to support the legislative harmonization in BiH were drafted.
- [2024] Jurisdictions across the Western Balkans advanced efforts to harmonize their criminal legislation with the UN FP, supported by UNODC through legal and technical assistance, regional cooperation platforms, and the facilitation of inter-agency dialogue. These interventions resulted in concrete legislative developments, reinforced cooperation mechanisms, and the identification of good practices that can inform ongoing reform processes across the region. [\[link1\]](#), [\[link2\]](#)
- [2024] A regional meeting was organized by UNODC on 30 January in Skopje, bringing together 30 representatives (17 women and 13 men) from five jurisdictions. The event focused on the harmonization of criminal legislation with the UN FP and provided a forum for sharing legislative updates and strategies. Representatives from the jurisdictions of Skopje and Podgorica presented the most recent amendments to their respective criminal codes. Both approaches were recognized as adaptable models building upon local legal frameworks. In addition to legislative updates, Skopje representatives presented an inter-agency framework developed with UNODC support to implement the amended criminal code provisions, including the MoU between the Prosecutor's General Office, the Mol, and the Customs Administration, followed by the establishment of a working group and an implementation plan.

- **[2024]** In Sarajevo, a series of local workshops were held throughout the year to advance amendments to Article 193 of the Criminal Code. The first workshop, held on 3 April 2024, brought together 13 participants (10 men and 3 women) from prosecutors' offices, the judiciary, law enforcement agencies, SALW Commissions, and the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations. Discussions were based on UNODC's 2021–2022 gap analysis and covered four different criminal codes applicable across the jurisdiction, including cantonal laws. The participants reviewed Article 193 against the UN Firearms Protocol and agreed to develop an initial draft amendment. A follow-up workshop in Trebinje on 14 May 2024, attended by 13 participants (11 men and 2 women), continued this work, resulting in the drafting of proposed amendments to Article 193. These amendments aimed to integrate provisions of the UN Firearms Protocol while avoiding legal overlap with the entity and Brcko District-level codes. The drafting process was shaped by input from stakeholders and addressed the complex legislative structure in BiH. A final review meeting was held on 17 December 2024 in Igman, where 14 participants (4 women and 10 men) finalized the proposed amendments, which were submitted to the Ministry of Justice's senior management.
- **[2024]** On the global stage, representatives from Skopje presented their harmonized criminal code provisions during the 11th Session of the UN's Working Group on Firearms held in Vienna on 3 and 4 April 2024. Their presentation focused on the criminalization of the possession of blueprints for 3D-printed firearms.
- This contribution informed the adoption of Recommendation 3 by the Working Group, which encourages States to consider regulating and criminalizing the possession, transfer, or distribution of 3D printing blueprints for firearms, subject to local legal frameworks. Building on this recommendation, Resolution 12/3 was adopted at the 12th session of the Conference of the Parties to UNTOC in October 2024, addressing these emerging threats at the global level. The resolution reflects the growing international consensus on the need to regulate new technologies in the context of illicit firearms manufacturing and trafficking. This outcome illustrates how the region's legislative developments have helped shape international discourse and were made possible with support from the Trust Fund.
- **[2024]** In Belgrade, progress was made through the development of draft amendments to the Criminal Code, supported by UNODC. In September 2024, the Ministry of Justice presented the draft with the amended firearms-related provisions of the Criminal Code, and it entered public consultation. This process enabled expert and public feedback and marks a further step towards aligning Belgrade's legislation with the UN Firearms Protocol. The public consultations were extended to 2025.
- **[2024]** In the fourth quarter, UNODC facilitated the second regional legislative meeting in Skopje on 19 November [\[link\]](#), which gathered 44 participants (16 women and 28 men) from the justice sectors of Sarajevo, Podgorica, Skopje, and Belgrade. These included officials from ministries of justice, ministries of interior, prosecutors' offices, customs administrations, and the judiciary. Participants shared updates on legislative progress and practical implementation challenges. Podgorica representatives presented examples of judicial decisions under their new criminal code. The Belgrade delegation outlined the scope of its draft amendments and the status of the public consultation process. Skopje officials discussed the criminalization of 3D firearm blueprints and identified further capacity-building needs. The event fostered knowledge exchange, reinforced the importance of continued technical assistance, and supported inter-agency cooperation. Delegations from Pristina and Tirana did not attend, as they had completed legislative harmonization efforts and had no new developments to report.
- In total, through the regional and local events organized in 2024, 144 individuals participated in legislative harmonization activities supported by UNODC (50 women and 94 men).

Activity 1.1.3: Development of training courses for the investigation and prosecution of firearms offences, based on the UNODC's Guidelines.

Achievements:

- **[2023]** Q4: Preparations were initiated for a regional meeting on the development of training courses for the investigation and prosecution of firearms offences (Feb 2024). Invitations were sent to the relevant institutions. A draft outline of the training course was developed. The ToR for consultants to support the development of the training courses were drafted.
- **[2024]** UNODC undertook a structured, multi-phase process to develop specialized training courses aimed at strengthening the capacity of criminal justice practitioners across the Western Balkans to investigate and prosecute firearms-related offences. This initiative was grounded in the UNODC Guidelines on the Investigation and Prosecution of Firearms Offences. The overall objective was to provide tailored training content that reflects local legal frameworks, incorporates recent legislative amendments, and addresses operational challenges specific to the region. [\[link1\]](#), [link2\]](#)

- The process began with regional consultations that were held from 6-8 February in Skopje and Belgrade. These meetings brought together 57 representatives (26 women and 31 men) from all six Western Balkans jurisdictions, including legal and law enforcement professionals. Discussions focused on the foundational elements of the training course, highlighting the application of the UNODC Guidelines in the context of new legislative provisions in jurisdictions such as Skopje and Podgorica. Particular attention was given to the role of forensic and ballistic analysis, special investigative techniques, and the importance of international cooperation. These sessions resulted in the development of a draft training outline, supported by strong engagement from regional stakeholders.
 - Building on this momentum, the second quarter of 2024 marked the beginning of local-level customization. UNODC initiated the recruitment of local experts in Sarajevo, Belgrade, Podgorica, and Skopje to adapt the UNODC Guidelines to local material and procedural criminal laws. These experts were tasked with exploring synergies with other UNODC initiatives, including Project Hermes, and incorporating specialized topics, where feasible, including the prosecution of firearms trafficking through postal parcels. In Sarajevo, this process was supported through extensive consultations with 197 postal officials across nine locations. Parallel efforts in Skopje and Podgorica resulted in the drafting of background materials reflecting newly adopted criminal code amendments, which were subsequently shared with local legal communities for review and validation. The Macedonian commentary on the criminal code was finalized and launched by the Minister of Justice and shared with the legal community in the WB [\[link\]](#). The Montenegrin commentary is being finalized. In Belgrade, the drafting process of the training materials is ongoing.
 - Throughout July and September 2024, UNODC conducted a series of thematic workshops to validate and expand training content. Two workshops were held in Skopje. The first, on 5 July, focused on the practical application of new criminal code provisions, engaging 12 participants from prosecutorial services, academia, and customs. The second, on 9 July, brought together members of the inter-agency working group formed under the MoU between Macedonian Customs and the designated postal operator. This session addressed challenges related to the detection of firearms and components in postal shipments and introduced participants to the Commentary on the new Criminal Code provisions. Feedback from both workshops informed the ongoing refinement of the training curriculum.
 - Three workshops were conducted in Sarajevo (4 July), Doboj (12 July), and Mostar (2 September), reaching 47 participants from customs, law enforcement, and postal services. These sessions focused on identifying good practices and challenges in detecting and prosecuting firearms offences, particularly in the context of inter-agency cooperation. Participants jointly developed recommendations for improving investigative practices and proposed priority training needs for postal and border control officials.
 - By the third quarter of 2024, the draft background materials and legal commentaries developed in Skopje and Podgorica had been finalized and disseminated to local counterparts for formal review. These resources serve to bridge legal theory and practical application, offering a structured interpretation of the newly adopted criminal code provisions relevant to firearms offences.
 - The final quarter of 2024 was dedicated to piloting the training materials in key jurisdictions. Workshops were organized in Serbia (Belgrade on 3 October and Novi Sad on 9 October), Montenegro (Podgorica on 23 October), and Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sarajevo on 7 October, Banja Luka on 10 October, and Mostar on 28 October). A total of 69 participants (22 women and 47 men) took part in these sessions, which focused on the practical application of the draft training modules and the collection of feedback for final refinement. These workshops also served as a platform to promote inter-agency dialogue and ensure that the training courses respond effectively to institutional needs and operational realities.
- **[2024]** A critical cross-cutting component of this initiative was the integration of gender perspectives into the training content. In collaboration with the UNODC Gender Unit and in consultation with SEESAC gender experts, a dedicated chapter was developed to guide practitioners in applying gender-sensitive approaches in firearms-related cases. The document addresses systemic gender biases across all stages of criminal proceedings and highlights the specific impacts of firearms misuse in contexts such as domestic violence. It also provides recommendations for non-custodial measures for women offenders and emphasizes the importance of trauma-informed practices and cultural sensitivity.
- As a result, UNODC produced 4 draft training courses, in Belgrade, Podgorica, Sarajevo, and Skopje, which will be edited and finalized in 2025. In total, 437 participants (143 women and 294 men) took part in the various activities related to the development, validation, and piloting of the training courses on the investigation and prosecution of firearms offences across the Western Balkans in 2024.

Activity 1.1.4: Provide support for the application of special investigative measures (SIMs) in firearms investigations, joint operations, and application of international cooperation measures.

Achievements:

- [2023] Q4: Preparations were initiated for the organization of a regional workshop on the application of special investigative measures in firearms investigations, joint operations, and international cooperation measures. The workshop was scheduled to take place in April 2024 and the ToR for its organization were developed.
- [2024] UNODC continued to support the effective application of special investigative measures (SIMs) in firearms investigations, with a particular emphasis on enabling their lawful and strategic use in joint operations and within international cooperation frameworks. This support was structured across four interlinked phases, corresponding to project quarters, aimed at developing operational knowledge, fostering inter-agency collaboration, and producing practical tools to guide criminal justice actors in the region. [\[link1\]](#), [\[link2\]](#)
 - During the first quarter, UNODC prepared for sub-regional workshops on SIMs.
 - In the second quarter, two sub-regional meetings were conducted in Sarajevo and Pristina on 16 and 18 April, respectively. These meetings brought together a total of 46 participants from six Western Balkans jurisdictions: Sarajevo (9), Podgorica (8), Belgrade (7), Tirana (6), Pristina (7), and Skopje (9). Participants represented law enforcement bodies, prosecutorial services, and the judiciary. The sessions addressed practical challenges in applying SIMs to complex criminal cases, particularly those related to firearms trafficking, organized crime, and narcotics. There was a consensus on the need for tailored publications detailing the application of SIMs to firearms cases, including templates and operational tools to facilitate inter-agency communication.
 - In the third quarter, UNODC advanced the development of a comprehensive knowledge management product titled Guidelines on the Use of Special Investigative Techniques in the Investigation and Prosecution of Criminal Offences Related to Firearms, Joint Investigations, and International Cooperation. This product provides a detailed overview of relevant legal frameworks, procedural safeguards, and operational considerations for applying SIMs in complex and transnational investigations. The guidelines include thematic chapters on historical legal development, typologies of SIMs, authorization requirements, evidentiary handling, and challenges linked to their ethical and lawful use. Specific investigative techniques such as controlled delivery, undercover operations, infiltration, surveillance, and the use of informants are discussed in detail, supported by references to national jurisprudence and international legal standards. The guidelines also offer practical recommendations for establishing and managing joint investigation teams (JITs), emphasizing structured cooperation across borders. To support comparative analysis, UNODC adopted a standardized structure for the guidelines across all six Western Balkans jurisdictions. This approach allows local authorities to assess similarities and divergences in procedural law and to identify best practices for the effective and proportionate use of SIMs in cross-border firearms investigations.
 - By the end of the fourth quarter, the development of six local knowledge management products on SIMs had been completed. The reports are undergoing final editing, layout design, and translation. Each report has been produced in its original local language and translated into English. These knowledge products represent a significant step forward in institutionalizing knowledge on SIMs and strengthening the operational capacity of justice and law enforcement actors in the Western Balkans. They are intended for future use in training, legal interpretation, and operational planning, with a focus on ensuring that SIMs are applied in compliance with local legal systems and international human rights obligations.
- In total, 46 participants (39 men and 7 women), representing law enforcement, prosecutorial, and judicial authorities from all six Western Balkans jurisdictions, took part in the regional peer-exchange on the effective application of special investigative measures (SIMs) in firearms investigations.

Output 1.2	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
<p>The judiciary in WB jurisdictions has improved its access to information and expertise related to the adjudication of cases involving illicit firearms.</p>	<p>➤ Number of developed training materials.</p> <p>➤ Number of judges with enhanced skills and knowledge on adjudicating firearm-related cases.</p>	<p>0 training materials. 0 judges trained.</p>	<p>1 training material developed. 120 trained judges across all WB jurisdictions.</p>	<p>4 / 4 courses “Firearms in the Courtroom” with tailored training material (4) were developed in Pristina, Belgrade, Skopje, and Podgorica. 29 judges were trained in 2024 (Pristina and Belgrade).</p>
	<p>➤ Number of second editions of Firearms Case Law collections developed and validated in each WB jurisdiction.</p>	<p>N/A First editions of Firearms Case Law collection developed and disseminated.</p>	<p>6 second editions of Firearms Case Law collections developed and validated.</p>	<p>5 / 5 second editions of Firearms case law collections developed in Belgrade, Pristina, Skopje, Sarajevo, and Tirana - pending editing and translation. Collection for Podgorica initiated, pending finalization.</p>
	<p>➤ Level of understanding among the judiciary in the WB on sentencing practices, information sharing on sentencing practices, and evidentiary requirements and procedures in firearms-related cases.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Partial progress / 1 regional meeting organized, contributing towards the understanding among the WB judiciary on sentencing practices; information shared on sentencing practices and evidentiary requirements and procedures in firearms-related cases.</p>
	<p>➤ No. of judges with enhanced knowledge of the relationship between human rights and firearms issues.</p>	<p>0 Knowledge of human rights not currently sufficiently connected to firearms issues.</p>	<p>24 judges with enhanced knowledge.</p>	<p>27 judges from all jurisdictions have enhanced knowledge of relationship between human rights and firearms issues (through a study visit to ECtHR). 1 regional collection of cases on the human rights of the accused was developed and disseminated as a resource on the topic.</p>

Activity 1.2.1: Provide support for the development of training materials and the delivery of capacity-building for the judiciary on illicit firearms.

Achievements:

- [2023] Q4: The draft outline of the training course on illicit firearms for the judiciary was developed. The draft outline will be shared for comments with the representatives of the judiciary across the WB region. UNODC held several meetings with representatives of the educational institutions from BiH and Kosovo presenting the scope of its capacity building initiative for judges and prosecutors under the Project Justitia. As a result, the Academy of Justice of Kosovo, and the Centers for the Education of Prosecutors and Judges in Republika Srpska and the Federation of BiH included UNODC's training for the judiciary in their curricula for 2024. Similarly, the Centre for Training of Judges and Prosecutors in Montenegro and the Judicial Academy in Serbia agreed to integrate the training course for the judiciary, as a topic, in respective curricula and the collaboration with these institutions is to ensue accordingly in 2024.
- [2024] UNODC supported the development and implementation of a specialized training programme for the judiciary aimed at enhancing their capacity for effectively adjudicating firearms-related cases. The training courses titled “Firearms in the Courtroom” were designed to provide judges with a detailed understanding of firearms, their components, and ammunition, to strengthen the interpretation of forensic evidence, and to address emerging threats and legal complexities associated with illicit firearms. An initial draft of the course outline was shared with judicial representatives across the region. Feedback received from local counterparts was incorporated to refine and update the outline. Following this, UNODC engaged local experts in Belgrade, Pristina, Skopje, and Sarajevo to support the development of localized training materials.
 - In Pristina, UNODC and the Academy of Justice delivered the “Firearms in the Courtroom” training for 10 judges (4 women, 6 men) on 12 and 13 September 2024. The training focused on key firearms-related offenses under Chapter XXIX of the Criminal Code, such as the unauthorized import, export, possession, and sale of firearms, tampering with markings, and the use of firearms for criminal purposes. The course included a review of international instruments, including the UN FP, and relevant domestic legislation. Practical case law examples and legal analysis supported the application of theory to judicial practice. Furthermore, UNODC developed a comprehensive commentary on firearms offenses contained in Kosovo's Criminal Code. This resource serves both as a knowledge management tool and as training material, offering a detailed legal interpretation of relevant provisions.
 - In Belgrade, UNODC collaborated with the Judicial Academy in Belgrade to create a structured curriculum. The “Firearms in the Courtroom” training took place in Belgrade on 5 and 6 December 2024 [\[link\]](#). The event was organized in cooperation with the Judicial Academy [\[link\]](#) and the Criminalistics Police University [\[link\]](#), targeting 19 judges (5 women, 14 men). The training integrated technical components – such as firearms, ammunition, explosives, and forensic analysis – with legal aspects, supported by UNODC knowledge products, including the training manual and Firearms Case Law Volumes I and II, tailored for Serbia.
 - In Podgorica and Skopje, UNODC partnered with the Centre for Training of Judges and Prosecutors and with the Judicial Academy to develop a curriculum and materials for the judiciary, responding to the judiciary's need for specialized knowledge on technical and legal aspects of firearms offenses. The developed materials covered weapons identification, national case law, and relevant findings from adjudicated firearms cases. Respective training courses will take place in 2025.
- In total, 29 judges (9 women and 20 men) enhanced their knowledge on and capacities for adjudicating firearm-related offences in 2024.

Activity 1.2.2: Support for the development of Firearms Case Law collections and the organization of local meetings for their validation.

Achievements:

- > **[2024]** UNODC supported the development of the second editions of case law collections on firearms, drug trafficking, and organized crime offences in six jurisdictions in the Western Balkans [\[link\]](#). To facilitate the drafting process, national experts were engaged in Tirana, Sarajevo, Pristina, Skopje, and Belgrade. By the end of 2024, case law collections were finalized for Belgrade, Pristina, Skopje, Sarajevo, and Tirana (5, one each), pending editing and translation. The consultant for Podgorica was subsequently recruited to initiate work in this jurisdiction.
- > These knowledge management products are designed to assist judicial practitioners by offering in-depth analysis of relevant jurisprudence and practical insights for adjudicating criminal cases. The collections review and analyze judicial approaches to the prosecution and adjudication of firearms-related offenses, including the legal frameworks, procedural standards, and evidentiary challenges encountered in such cases. Special attention is given to the intersection between firearms, drug trafficking, and organized crime, highlighting the use and legal limitations of special investigative measures such as surveillance, wiretapping, and controlled deliveries. The collections further address standards for the collection, preservation, and presentation of evidence, as well as the treatment of aggravating and mitigating circumstances in sentencing. They identify legislative and procedural gaps affecting judicial consistency and prosecutorial effectiveness and offer commentary on divergent interpretations among jurisdictions. Plea bargaining and its influence on judicial outcomes are also examined.
- > **[2024]** To validate the content of these collections, UNODC convened five local meetings with judicial stakeholders in Belgrade, Tirana, Pristina, Skopje, and Sarajevo. These sessions enabled a thorough peer review of the draft reports and facilitated expert feedback to ensure accuracy and relevance. In total, 97 practitioners (34 women and 63 men) participated in the validation meetings.

Activity 1.2.3: Organization of regional meetings for the harmonization of judicial practice.

Achievements:

- > **[2023]** Q4: Preparations were initiated for the organization of the first regional meeting on the harmonization of judicial practice. The meeting was planned to take place in February 2024 and the ToR for its organization were developed.
- > **[2024]** UNODC organized a regional meeting series aimed at advancing the harmonization of judicial practices related to firearms cases across the Western Balkans. The first set of meetings took place from 27 to 29 February 2024 in Tirana and Podgorica, bringing together a total of 45 experts (19 women and 26 men) representing the judiciary, Prosecutor's Offices, Judicial Academies, and Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) Commissions from all jurisdictions in the region. The meetings contributed to the development of the second edition of the UNODC firearms case law collections and facilitated regional dialogue on the interpretation and application of legal principles in firearms-related cases, and on key legal and procedural issues. Specific focus was placed on the legal classification and interpretation of offenses involving larger quantities of firearms and convertible firearms. The meetings also explored judicial reasoning on various modes of commission for firearms offenses and addressed inconsistencies in legal interpretation that may affect judicial coherence within and across jurisdictions. Participants identified common judicial practices and procedural challenges to be addressed in the forthcoming edition of the case law collections. Participants also contributed to defining the scope and thematic coverage of the second edition, highlighting priority areas of interest and proposing methods to systematize jurisprudence for improved judicial reference. [\[link1\]](#), [\[link2\]](#)
- > The next regional meeting is scheduled for 2025, to build on achieved outcomes and further consolidate harmonized judicial approaches.

Activity 1.2.4: Organization of a study visit for the judiciary.

Achievements:

- > [2023] Q4: The preparation of the judiciary study visit was initiated, which was tentatively planned for March 2024. The relevant institutions in France were contacted through the French Liaison Magistrate, based in Belgrade.
- > [2024] From 18-21 March 2024, UNODC, in collaboration with the French Ministry of Justice, organized a [study visit](#) to Strasbourg for members of the judiciary from all Western Balkans jurisdictions [\[link2\]](#). A total of 27 judges (11 women and 16 men) participated in the study visit. The visit included institutional engagements with the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and French judicial and law enforcement institutions. The objective was to enhance judicial understanding of how to integrate human rights standards into national adjudication practices, particularly in the context of organized crime and firearms trafficking. The program included interactive discussions with ECtHR officials on human rights jurisprudence relevant to security-related cases. It allowed participants to examine how the Court balances individual rights and public safety, and to reflect on how these principles could be applied in their domestic contexts. In addition, the delegation visited French judicial institutions, including a police detention center, emergency response control center, and a courthouse, to gain insight into the practical application of rights-based approaches within a criminal justice framework. Particular focus was placed on the French judiciary's handling of complex cases involving firearms trafficking, organized crime, and terrorism, with emphasis on safeguarding defendants' rights while ensuring public security. Interactive sessions with French judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement personnel provided a comprehensive perspective on the operational and legal mechanisms in place to maintain this balance.
- > [2024] As a direct result of the visit, participants initiated a review of national jurisprudence in their respective jurisdictions to identify practices related to the protection of defendants' rights in firearms-related cases. This review laid the groundwork for a regional exchange on the integration of human rights standards into judicial decision-making processes.
- > [2024] Throughout the year, UNODC collaborated with judicial institutions across all six Western Balkan jurisdictions to collect and analyze relevant domestic case law. One regional collection of cases on the human rights of the accused was developed as a result and disseminated as a resource on the topic. The findings are intended to support the judiciary in strengthening the human rights dimension in criminal proceedings related to organized crime and firearms trafficking.

19. Integrated Institutional Approach and Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation to SALW Control (Phase I)

Implementing organization: UNDP Kosovo

Implementing period: November 2023 – November 2025

Approved budget: US\$ 1,200,990

Outcome 1: Institutional Approach and Community Engagement in Kosovo towards addressing FAE-related crime and misuse are advanced, and bilateral cooperation between Kosovo and Albania in the field of SALW control is strengthened.				
Output 1.1	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Community policing/ILP, education, and community engagement on SALW control is strengthened.	# of training curricula developed and approved by the KP's Training Department on SALW control and the misuse of firearms, including preventing domestic violence, for community policing officers and police cadets.	No training curricula on SALW control in general for community policing officers and police cadets.	1 training curriculum developed and approved by the KP's Training Department.	1 / Training curricula on SALW control, firearm misuse prevention, and DV prevention for community policing officers and police cadets were approved.
	# of police instructors trained to train on the SALW Control training curricula.	No ToT training organized regarding SALW Control training curricula.	10 police instructors trained to train regarding SALW Control training curricula.	12 / 12 police instructors were trained in applying the newly developed curricula.
	# of community policing officers, members of Local Public Safety Committees (LPSC) and Municipal Community Safety Councils (MCSCs) trained regarding SALW Control, regular inspection of legal entities dealing with firearms, and legal ammunition legal trade, including in regard to the prevention of firearms misuse in domestic violence.	No training regarding SALW Control for community policing officers and the members of Local Public Safety Committees (LPSC) and Municipal Community Safety Councils (MCSCs).	580 community police and members trained: 400 police officers, and 100 LPSC members, and 80 MCSC members trained (through 16 training sessions).	516 community police and local officials trained, including 413 community policing officers, 45 LPSC members and 58 MCSC members (through 13 tailored training sessions across all Regional Police Directorates). NB: additional session is to take place in 2025

<p>➤ E-Learning Platform and modules on SALW Control in place for the Kosovo Police. (Y/N)</p>	<p>No. E-Learning Platform on SALW Control exists in the Kosovo Police.</p>	<p>Yes. E-Learning Platform developed and in place.</p>	<p>Partial progress / The General Director of Police approved the establishment of the e-learning platform. UNDP contracted an international company to develop the e-learning platform, whereby the work will take place in 2025.</p>
<p>➤ # of officials from the MoIA and KP Press and Public Information Office trained in OSINT gathering, analyzing, and distributing.</p>	<p>No training on OSINT gathering, analyzing, and distributing for KP PPIO exists.</p>	<p>10 officials from the MoIA and KP PPIO trained.</p>	<p>12 officials (9 men and 3 women) from the KP PPIO and MoIA were trained in OSINT gathering, analysis, and distribution.</p>
<p>➤ # of mass media and targeted awareness-raising campaigns implemented regarding SALW control, preventing the misuse of firearms, and increasing reporting of firearms related incidents.</p>	<p>Lack of a continuous ongoing comprehensive integrated awareness-raising campaign. Activities of the Currently ongoing campaign implemented by SEESAC are organized for a certain period of time, respectively, during July and August and November and December.</p>	<p>Two mass media campaigns. Three smaller targeted awareness-raising campaigns for gun owners. 50 lectures/public debates on preventing the misuse of firearms.</p>	<p>1 / The “Celebrate with Heart, Not Your Gun” media campaign was implemented in 2024 through a diverse range of activities, reaching more than 700,000 individuals. 4 outreach events took place. NB: The awareness raising campaign is ongoing during 2025.</p>

Activity 1.1.1: Develop training curricula on SALW control and the misuse of firearms, including preventing domestic violence, for community policing officers and police cadets.

Achievements:

➤ **[2024]** The project established a working group among the SALW Commission/KP/KFA to look into the curricula on SALW control in general and on the misuse of firearms, including preventing domestic violence, for community policing officers and police cadets. Tailored training curricula were developed and approved by the Director of Kosovo Police. These curricula address technical aspects, relevant legal frameworks, practical firearm control techniques, and, importantly, the human-centered aspect of community policing. In this context, officers will not just be learning about weapons and laws — they will be trained to build trust, recognize warning signs of firearm misuse, and engage with the public in meaningful ways to prevent violence before it happens. By ensuring that officers and cadets receive comprehensive training, the project aims to create a new generation of police personnel who are not only well-versed in SALW control but also more aware of their role in fostering safer, more resilient communities.

Activity 1.1.2: Deliver ToT for police instructors based on the developed SALW control training curricula.

Achievements:

➤ **[2024]** 12 police instructors (2 women and 10 men) passed an intensive [Train-the-Trainer \(ToT\) programa](#) based on the newly developed curricula, equipping them with the expertise needed to strengthen the approach to SALW control in the jurisdiction. The training program provided participants with an enhanced understanding of illicit arms trafficking, the threats posed by SALW and explosives, and the evolving tactics criminals use to exploit firearm vulnerabilities. Beyond the technical aspects, the training emphasized intelligence-led policing (ILP) and the vital role of community policing in preventing firearms-related incidents.

Activity 1.1.3: Deliver 16 training sessions regarding SALW control to representatives of community police, Local Public Safety Committees, and Municipal Community Safety Councils.

Achievements:

- **[2024]** 13 tailored [training sessions](#) were delivered, across all Regional Police Directorates. 516 (33 women and 483 men) community policing officers (413) and members of Local Public Safety Committees (45) and Municipal Community Safety Councils (58) were trained in SALW control and misuse prevention matters. Police officers gained practical skills in inspecting legal entities that deal with firearms and ammunition and in ensuring compliance with regulations while identifying potential risks. Community representatives learned how to recognize warning signs of firearm misuse and collaborate with law enforcement to create safer neighbourhoods. Importantly, these sessions reinforced the notion that preventing firearm-related violence is not solely a police responsibility, but a process that requires strong partnerships between law enforcement, local safety committees, and the broader community. By fostering this collaboration, the training sessions helped bridge the gap between institutions and the people they serve, ensuring that firearm safety measures are not just enforced, but actively embraced by the community. Beyond the technical knowledge, the trainings sparked meaningful discussions about the impact of firearm violence, particularly in cases of domestic abuse. Officers and community leaders were encouraged to view their roles not just as enforcers of the law or regulations, but as protectors of lives, capable of making a real difference in preventing tragedy.
- Additional training session will be organized during 2025.

Activity 1.1.4: Development of the e-Learning platform for the Kosovo Police.

Achievements:

- **[2023]** In Q4 2023, consultative meetings took place with the Kosovo Police to prepare a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the development of an E-Learning Platform. The meeting helped gather input from relevant stakeholders on specific requirements, objectives, and criteria for the platform, ensuring a comprehensive and well-informed RFP. Simultaneously, plans were made to organize a study visit in Q1 2024 to the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training, CEPOL, to gain further insights for a more informed and effective development process.
- **[2024]** The UNDP project team supported the Kosovo Police in learning from good practice at the CEPOL regarding the e-learning platform through a [study visit](#) that took place in February 2024. Following the study visit, the participating KP officers drafted a report on the e-Platform perspective and this was approved by the General Police Director. Following the necessary approvals, the project initiated the development of an e-Learning platform for the Kosovo Police, which will incorporate all training materials developed thus far. The procurement process was completed, and a company was selected to design and develop the platform in 2025. The platform will be tailored to meet the evolving needs of police officers, ensuring that training is not only accessible but also adaptable to real-world challenges. By embracing digital learning, law enforcement personnel will have the opportunity to refine their skills and engage in continuous professional development while balancing the demanding nature of their work.
- The e-learning platform will be completed and operationalized during 2025.

Activity 1.1.5: Advancing the human and technical capacities of the Press and Public Information Offices of the Kosovo Police and the Ministry of Internal Affairs on Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) gathering, analysis, and distribution.

Achievements:

- **[2023]** A 3-day training took place in Q4 2023 for 12 officials (9 men and 3 women) from the Press and Public Information Offices of the Kosovo Police and the Ministry of Internal Affairs on Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) gathering, analysis, and distribution. The training equipped participants with the skills to sift through vast volumes of openly available data, enabling the identification of credible sources and information. The training also raised awareness of emerging trends, potential risks, and evolving narratives within the SALW landscape. Additionally, it fostered a proactive approach in tackling misinformation and disinformation.

Activity 1.1.6: Organize an awareness-raising campaign regarding SALW control, preventing the misuse of firearms, and increasing reporting of firearms related incidents.

Achievements:

- > **[2024]** A working group was established within the SALW Commission to work on the terms of reference for the awareness-raising campaign. Efforts were joined with SEESAC to incorporate lessons learned from previous awareness-raising initiatives and support the authorities to ensure greater effectiveness and outreach as well as message multipliers.
- > The campaign was launched on 8 July 2024, with the comprehensive aim of promoting public safety among various stakeholders, preventing firearm misuse, encouraging proactive behaviour in the SALW context, and the reporting of firearm-related incidents [MoIA [Facebook](#); [Website](#); [Video](#)]. The campaign targeted diverse groups, including women's associations, university students, high school personnel, parent councils, individual gun owners, and businesses involved in the sale and purchase of firearms. Additionally, it actively involved youth organizations, law enforcement officers, and community safety forums to ensure that the message reached all levels of society. By engaging these key stakeholders, the initiative aimed to reshape attitudes toward firearm ownership and use, dispelling harmful cultural norms that normalize celebratory shootings or other forms of gun misuse. It also highlighted the devastating impact that firearms can have when used in domestic violence, school violence, and other high-risk situations, encouraging individuals to report misuse rather than stay silent. Beyond education and awareness, the goal of this campaign was to create behavioural change.
- > More specifically regarding the campaign and outreach implementation:
 - The project supported the promotion of the produced comprehensive material via various platforms. With regards to the social media campaign, 25 posts and two videos were promoted on the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA) Facebook page. In addition, the UNDP social media platforms were used to promote the campaign. The social media campaign aimed to educate the general public. The social media campaign reached more than 720,000 individuals, gained more than 1.6 million impressions, and led to the engagement of more than 39,000 people.
 - The project developed and promoted 3 videos in Albanian and Serbian with the following themes - '[Let the celebration be remembered, not the tragedy!](#)', '[Violence against women and girls is not justifiable!](#)', and '[Safety starts with you, celebrate carefully!](#)' The produced radio jingle was promoted on radio stations in the Albanian and Serbian languages. There were also statements made on TV about firearms misuse prevention.
 - Both digital and paper billboards were conceptualized and promoted across the jurisdiction over a two-month period (15 July – 15 September 2024). The billboards were prominently placed at 11 locations, in key urban and transit areas. The bilingual and strategic placement ensured that the campaign's message reached a wide and varied audience, promoting public safety. Digital screens were placed at relevant buildings broadcasting campaign materials.
 - A mural on the topic "Celebrate with your heart, not with your gun" was designed and placed in the Prishtinë/Priština city center, as a creative addition, marking the first time such an artwork was included in an awareness campaign. Both the beneficiaries and the wider community warmly embraced it.
 - The project produced and distributed the following printed materials: notebooks: 500 units (440 in Albanian, 60 in Serbian); pens: 500 units (440 in Albanian, 60 in Serbian); tote bags: 600 units (500 in Albanian, 100 in Serbian); umbrellas: 100 units (90 in Albanian, 10 in Serbian); posters: 1,750 units (1,500 in Albanian, 250 in Serbian).
 - The MoIA also organized a number of outreach events as part of the campaign. At the MoIA, a [meeting](#) was held with responsible actors for the implementation of the Regional SALW Control Roadmap. The MoIA also held a [meeting](#) with representatives of religious communities in the jurisdiction. In addition, [outreach](#) was made to licensed private and legal entities about the risk of the misuse and illegal proliferation of SALW, as well as to a shooting range. A youth camp workshop was organized with eighteen (18) students of the eleventh (11th) grade of Upper Secondary Schools from the Municipality of Prishtinë/Priština, Prizren, and Ferizaj/Uroševac. The goal was for students to develop critical thinking skills and create concepts and strategies for awareness-building campaigns.
 - As part of the campaign, the MoIA joined the global campaign '16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women and Gender-Based Violence'. Relevant social media posts were regularly published throughout the duration of the campaign [[link1](#), [link2](#)].
 - On 12 September 2024, complementary to the campaign, an official [ceremony](#) for the destruction of various illegal weapons and equipment was held. The Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, who is also the Head of the SALW Commission, together with the Kosovo Police, UNDP representatives, EU representatives and representatives of local and international institutions, opened the official ceremony for the destruction of 993 illegal firearms. The activity was made possible by the support of both the UNDP Kosovo office and SEESAC. [Through a cost-sharing support, UNDP Kosovo's project supported the destruction of 680 firearms, while SEESAC supported the destruction of 313 firearms]. After being cut in half, firearms were placed in a specialized oven to be melted down. From this material generated from the melted weapons, manhole covers were produced and utilized across the jurisdiction [[link1](#); [link2](#)].

➤ Notably: According to the [MolA report](#), as part of the campaign: an increase of 40% in the reporting of celebratory shootings was recorded by September 2024 as compared to 2023, coupled with a 28% increase in the number of cases opened by the police. During the period from June to August 2024, 182 cases of celebratory shootings were opened. In this context, the number of people detained increased by 31.46% compared to the previous year (117 in 2024 as compared to 89 in 2023).

Output 1.2	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Border control capacities further increased for effectively preventing, detecting, and countering illicit arms trafficking.	➤ # of border police officers trained on detection at border posts (first- and second-line check).	30 border police offices trained in the past through the project CIAT.	80 more border police officers to be trained regarding the first- and second-line check through three trainings.	[trainings combined] 350 police officers (344 men and 6 women) were trained on detection at border posts (first- and second-line check), firearms trafficking routes, and trafficking 'modus operandi', identifying converted weapons as well as recognizing weapons parts, in the legal framework on SALW Control. This also included joint training for border and investigation departments on effectively investigating firearms trafficking.
	➤ # of border police officers trained on firearms trafficking routes and trafficking 'modus operandi'.	35 border police offices trained in the past through CIAT.	50 more border police officers to trained on firearms trafficking routes and trafficking 'modus operandi' through two trainings.	
	➤ # of border police officers trained on identifying the converted weapons as well as recognizing weapons parts.	35 border police offices trained in the past through CIAT.	160 more border police officers to be trained on identifying the converted weapons as well as recognizing weapons parts and on the legal framework for SALW Control through eight training sessions.	
	➤ # of border and investigation department officers trained jointly on effectively investigating firearms trafficking.	No joint training between border and investigation department officers on effectively investigating firearms trafficking organized.	60 (30 border police, 30 investigators) officers trained on effectively investigating firearms trafficking through three joint training sessions.	

➤ Level of technological capacities of border police to effectively detect, prevent, and confiscate illegal firearms, ammunition, and explosives.

Insufficient equipment within the border police (category A, B, and C as well as green border line stations) to effectively detect, prevent, and confiscate illegal firearms, ammunition, and explosives.

High level. Specialized equipment provided to the border police, alongside and together with the training for utilizing and maintaining the equipment, which should include and maintenance such as: 3 thermal cameras; 2 handheld scanners (Mini Z); 3 pairs of day binoculars; 25 handheld light weight metal detectors; 25 tactical hand flashlights; 20 sets of dismantling tools.

High / The technological capacities of Kosovo Police to detect and counter illicit arms trafficking were enhanced through three (3) specialized thermal cameras, two (2) advanced handheld scanners, 37 handheld flashlights, and 20 sets of dismantling tools provided to the Kosovo Police/Border department.

Activity 1.2.1: Organize capacity development for border police in effectively conducting border control and green border surveillance and countering illicit arms trafficking.

Achievements:

- **[2024]** 350 police officers (320 border police and 30 investigators, 344 men and 6 women) were trained on various SALW control-related topics, including detection at border posts (first- and second-line check), firearms trafficking routes and trafficking ‘modus operandi,’ identifying converted weapons, etc. [\[link\]](#), [link1](#), [link2](#) More specifically:
- Two five-day training sessions took place during September 2024 on the detection at border posts, combined with a specialized program on firearms trafficking routes and traffickers’ ‘modus operandi.’ The training enhanced the knowledge and capacities of 130 officers (all men), including newly assigned police officers stationed at border crossing points (BCPs) and green border lines (GBLs). The sessions emphasized both theoretical and practical aspects, with participants receiving hands-on experience at BCPs and GBLs to apply the theoretical knowledge in real-life scenarios.
 - In close cooperation and coordination with the Kosovo Police Training department, two training sessions took place in September 2024 on identifying converted weapons and recognizing weapon parts, along with an overview of the legal framework on SALW Control, enhancing the knowledge and capacities of 160 border police officers, including 3 women. The training ensured that officers could not only identify standard weapons but also recognize when a weapon has been illegally modified or converted to a different type, enhancing their ability to enforce laws related to illegal firearms and maintain border security.
 - Joint training for border and investigation departments on effectively investigating firearms trafficking took place in September 2024 for 60 officers, including 30 border police and 30 investigators, with 3 women police officers participating. It was implemented in close cooperation with the Border Police, Investigation Department, and Training Department of the Kosovo Police (KP). The program focused on providing specialized instruction to help officers identify and combat firearms trafficking networks. Key topics covered included how to trace firearms, locate traffickers, and gather intelligence to inform investigations. The training emphasized the use of intelligence and data-driven approaches to target high-risk individuals and organizations involved in illegal firearms activities.

Activity 1.2.2: Improve the technological capacities of border police to effectively detect, prevent, and confiscate illegal firearms, ammunition, and explosives.

Achievements:

- **[2024]** To enhance the technological capabilities of Kosovo Police in detecting, preventing, and seizing illegal firearms, ammunition, and explosives, the project equipped the KP with specialized equipment, encompassing three (3) thermal cameras, 37 handheld flashlights, two (2) handheld scanners, and 20 dismantling tools. [\[link1\]](#), [link2](#)
- As acknowledged by the Kosovo Police in its communication to UNDP from Dec 2024: during the handling of Case No. 2024-YI-1, the provided equipment (by the UNDP Kosovo Office and SEESAC) was instrumental in the apprehension of eight suspects and the seizure of a substantial quantity of weapons and other suspicious items. [\[link1\]](#), [link2](#), [link3](#)

Output 1.3	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Investigation and analytical capacities of Kosovo law enforcement enhanced for effectively investigating FAE-related crime.	<div> # of investigators trained regarding the crime scene investigation of terrorist attacks when firearms are used, including explosives and other relevant devices. </div>	Lack of capacity development for investigators at the local and central levels regarding the CSI of terrorist attacks when firearms are used, including explosives and other relevant devices.	20 investigators trained, through one training session, on the knowledge, skills, and tools to effectively investigate terrorist attacks when arms, explosives, and other relevant devices are used through one training session.	Not yet implemented.
	<div> FFP operates with upgraded iBase and Analyst Notebook. (Y/N) </div>	An old version of iBase and Analyst Notebook exists.	Yes. iBase and Analyst Notebook in the FFP fully upgraded with the latest version and the training for using it provided.	Not yet implemented.
	<div> KFA equipped with new tools and knowledge to identify and investigate firearms-related crime. (Y/N) </div>	No tool mark devices in place. No WMD 560 Latent Fingerprint Development System with Water Chiller.	Yes. A tool mark device has been provided to the KFA and the identification of converted weapons is successfully is enabled. The WMD 560 Latent Fingerprint Development System with Water Chiller has been provided to the KFA and the detection, evaluation, and identification of fingerprints on firearms and spent cartridges successfully is enabled. Knowledge exchange has been conducted between KFA experts with relevant developed laboratories.	Not yet implemented.
Activity 1.3.1: Training for investigators of the crime scene of terrorist attacks when firearms, explosives, and other relevant devices are used.	Achievements: <div> Activity planned to start as of Q1 2025. </div>			

Activity 1.3.2: Support to the Firearms Focal Point to enhance analytical capacities.

Achievements:

- **[2024]** Preparations for upgrading the iBase and the Analyst Notebook for the Firearms Focal Point have been initiated, thus which shall further enhance the FFP analytical capacities.

Activity 1.3.3: Support to Kosovo Forensic Agency to further strengthening ballistic examination capacities.

Achievements:

- **[2024]** The project organized a study visit to the Forensic Centre in Zagreb, Croatia from 24-25 January 2024 [\[link1\]](#), [\[link2\]](#). The visit brought together a team of four ballistic experts from the Kosovo Forensic Agency (2 women and 2 men) with their peers from Croatia, and it enabled learning from good-practice and peer-exchange. The two-day knowledge exchange at Croatia's Forensic Science Centre 'Ivan Vucetic' covered a spectrum of forensic disciplines and procedures: Quality Control, Traceological Expertise and Ballistic Expertise; Shot Reconstruction and Procedure Accreditation; Serial Numbers; and Gunpowder Particles Expertise. The study visit was carefully structured to maximize learning opportunities, incorporating a balance of theoretical insights and practical demonstrations. Participants were engaged in advanced forensic ballistic analysis methodologies through hands-on workshops and interactive sessions conducted by seasoned experts at the Forensic Centre "Ivan Vučetić." The visit enabled participants to deepen their understanding of forensic techniques and enhance their proficiency in conducting ballistic examinations in line with the ISO 17025 standard. Moreover, the study visit served as a catalyst for fostering international partnership and knowledge exchange in the realm of forensic science.
- **[2024]** In close coordination with UNDP SEESAC, with the aim of further strengthening ballistic examination capacities and professional peer-exchanges, the project supported the participation of two KFA experts in the ENFSI workshop in Vienna, Austria, in September 2024. This additional support further enhances the project's relevance and effectiveness for the Kosovo Forensic Agency, and it enabled KFA experts to learn from peers on advanced investigation and analytical methods.

Output 1.4	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
FAE handling, security, and storage, as well as related detection equipment maintenance, are further advanced.	➤ # of new weapons storage rooms with metal cabinets in police stations established.	4 weapons storage rooms in four police stations with metal cabinets in compliance with international standards in four police stations.	6 new weapons storage rooms with metal cabinets established, in the police stations: Ferizaj/Uroševac, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Pejë/Peć, Vushtrri/Vučitrn, Glogoc/Glogovac, Lipjan/Lipljan.	7 / 7 police stations were equipped with weapon storage metal cabinets (72), in Prishtinë/Priština, Ferizaj/Uroševac, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Pejë/Peć, Vushtrri/Vučitrn, Glogoc/Glogovac, and Lipjan/Lipljan.
	➤ MoIA operates with an up-to-date explosive database that is linked with required databases with the potential to provide efficient explosives control. (Y/N)	Poor existing explosives database with restricted connections to other databases and limited data produced regarding explosives control.	Yes. The MoIA has in place one explosives database fully developed and linked with the required databases with the potential to provide efficient explosives control.	Not yet implemented.

<p>➤ National inspectors on explosives within the MoIA equipped with specialized equipment and PPEs for hazardous work with explosives. (Y/N)</p>	<p>No equipment for effective explosives control and protection.</p>	<p>Yes. Specialized equipment provided for hazardous work with explosives, encompassing 5 units each of explosive atmosphere safe lighting installations, hygrosopes, temperature meters, and PPE sets.</p>	<p>Not yet implemented.</p>
<p>➤ Maintenance workshop established and functionalized within the Kosovo Police. (Y/N)</p>	<p>No maintenance workshop exists.</p>	<p>Yes. Maintenance workshop fully functional and equipped with: 3 working tables with an integrated electric system, 6 metal cabinets and working drawers, 3 workshop chairs, 3 soldering stations, 3 portable soldering stations, 1 oscilloscope, 3 signal generators, 3 fluke hand held voltmeters, 3 fluke handheld amperemeters, 3 working lights, 3 power supply variable electricity devices, 3 Dremel devices, 3 screw driver sets, 3 tool kit sets, 1 PC server, 3 laptops with a docking station, and 1 color printer.</p>	<p>Not yet implemented.</p>

Activity 1.4.1: Creating weapons storage rooms with metal cabinets in police stations across Kosovo.

Achievements:

➤ [2024] 72 weapon storage metal cabinets were provided and installed in 7 police stations - in Prishtinë/Priština, Ferizaj/Uroševac, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Pejë/Peć, Vushtrri/Vučitrn, Glogoc/Glogovac, and Lipjan/Lipljan, thus further strengthening secure weapons storage practices. By establishing secure storage facilities at these sites, the project aimed to minimize risks associated with unauthorized access and the potential diversion of weapons from police stockpiles, aligning with both international obligations and domestic priorities on SALW management and control. [\[link1\]](#), [\[link2\]](#)

Activity 1.4.2: Supporting the capacities of the MoIA/ Department for Public Safety/ Division for Firearms, Ammunition, and Explosives and the KP's Division for Improvised Explosives Devices (IEOD).

Achievements:

➤ Activity planned to start as of Q1 2025.

Activity 1.4.3: Support to the Kosovo Police in establishing the maintenance workshop for all SALW-related detection equipment.

Achievements:

▶ Activity planned to start as of Q2 2025.

Output 1.5	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Police exchange and cooperation on SALW matters between Albania and Kosovo enhanced.	▶ # of police officers from Kosovo and Albania jointly trained in the field of Community Policing, and in the ILP approach towards SALW Control, explosives and explosives precursors, weapons conversion, and methods and tool marks used in conversion.	No joint capacity development sessions between Kosovo and Albania on SALW control.	80 police officers from Kosovo and Albania jointly trained.	22 / 22 police officers (11 from each jurisdiction) were jointly trained.
	▶ # of Joint police operations of Albanian and Kosovo border police at the Border Crossing Points (BCPs) and Green Border Lines (GBLs) in countering IAT.	N/A	4 joint operations in areas such as: operationalization of the knowledge obtained from the joint trainings; joint patrolling at the GBL; joint information sharing and preparing problem profiling; and joint second line checks utilizing detection equipment.	Not yet implemented.
Activity 1.5.1: Joint training on community policing and the intelligence led policing approach towards SALW Control.		Achievements: ▶ [2024] A four-day joint training was conducted in Pristina from 18-21 March for 22 border police officers from Kosovo and Albania (20 men and 2 women), enhancing the knowledge and capacities of the participants in regard to community policing approaches and intelligence-led policing approaches to SALW. This activity was organized in close cooperation between UNDP Kosovo and UNDP Albania offices and in close coordination with SALW Commissions in both jurisdictions. Through a series of interactive workshops and expert-led discussions, participants were equipped with practical tools and methodologies to effectively address SALW-related challenges, emphasizing the importance of collaborative strategies within respective communities.		

Activity 1.5.2: Joint training on the identification and prevention of explosives and explosives precursors.

Achievements:

➤ [2024] A four-day joint [training](#) was conducted in Pristina from 26-29 March for the same group (with minor variations) of 22 border police officers from Kosovo and Albania, increasing their capacities for detecting explosives, explosive precursors, and other handmade explosive devices. Through a comprehensive curriculum that included theoretical lectures, practical demonstrations, and hands-on exercises, participants acquired the necessary skills to effectively identify, mitigate, and prevent the illicit trafficking and use of explosives. The joint training sessions also provided a valuable platform for law enforcement personnel from the two jurisdictions to exchange experiences, insights, and best practices regarding SALW control. The inclusion of both women and men ensured a gender-sensitive perspective in the discussions.

Activity 1.5.3: Joint training on weapons categorization and the legal framework regulating the field of SALW Control.

Achievements:

➤ [2024] A four-day joint training was conducted in Tirana from 21-24 May 2024 for the same group of 22 border police officers from Kosovo and Albania (minor variations, 18 men and 4 women; 8 men and 3 women from the Kosovo Police; 10 men and 1 woman from the Albanian Police), enhancing their knowledge and capacities regarding weapons categorization and the legal framework regulating SALW. Participants engaged in a series of interactive workshops, case studies, and practical exercises. These activities facilitated knowledge-sharing and fostered collaboration and peer learning among participants. The experts leading the sessions included seasoned professionals from both jurisdictions, as well as international specialists with extensive experience in the field. Their contributions ensured that the training was grounded in both regional and global perspectives, enriching the participants' learning experience.

Activity 1.5.4: Joint training on weapons conversion, methods, and tool marks used in conversion, including ballistic examination and potential data exchange.

Achievements:

➤ [2024] A four-day joint training was conducted in Tirana from 10-14 June for the same group of 22 border police officers from Kosovo and Albania, enhancing their knowledge and skills in weapons conversion, methods, and tool marks used in conversion, including ballistic examination and potential data exchange. Throughout the training, participants engaged in a variety of hands-on workshops, detailed case studies, and interactive sessions. These activities were designed to provide practical experience and foster collaborative learning. The training also emphasized the importance of cross-border cooperation and information sharing. Participants discussed strategies for establishing efficient data exchange systems to enhance collaborative efforts in tracking and investigating converted weapons.

Activity 1.5.5: Joint police operations at the BCPs and GBLs for increasing bilateral cooperation in countering IAT and increasing firearms confiscations.

Achievements:

➤ Activity planned to start as of 2025, following the delivery of specialized equipment.

20. Advancing the Forensic Capacities of the Police Directorate of Montenegro for Processing Firearms and Explosives-related Crimes

Implementing organization: UNDP Montenegro

Implementing period: November 2023 – November 2025

Approved budget: US\$ 1,091,105

Outcome 1: Improved overall Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) capacities in Montenegro for investigating FAE-related crime, encompassing SGBV criminal cases.				
Output 1.1	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Improved staff security and capacities in the on-site forensic investigation of explosives-related criminal cases and implementation of a QMS (Quality Management System) and advanced methods for visualizing specific forensic evidence.	Number of post-blast crime scenes attended with an explosive detector over a 12-month period.	Post-blast crime scenes are attended without an explosive detector.	10 post-blast CSIs	4 / 4 post-blast CSI activities were conducted in 2024, using the explosives detector provided by the project .
	Number of fingerprints and micro-traces detected/ captured/collected by utilizing the purchased device over a 12-month period.	Such types of evidence are currently not possible to be detected	50 trace evidence	- / Not yet initiated.
	Number of new SOPs on CSI.	The SOPs to be drafted are not in place.	10 SOPs	- / The development of SOPs is in progress.
	Number of CSI officers trained at an advanced level for 3D scanning and aerial photography crime scene documenting in 2024.	No CSI officers with such training.	14 trained forensic/CSI officers	- / Preparations have been initiated, with a consultant contracted for the purpose.

<p>➤ Number of CSI officers trained at an advanced level on practical aspects of ISO/IEC 17020 in CSI, evidence custody chain, packaging, and tagging, case-management solutions, and application of the relevant SOP(s).</p>	<p>No CSI officers with such training.</p>	<p>20 trained CSI officers</p>	<p>- / Preparations have been initiated, with a consultant contracted for the purpose.</p>
<p>➤ FC representatives participated in ENFSI SOC Working Group (WG) meetings, in regional peer exchange (RPE), and in international study visits (SV) in 2024 and 2025.</p>	<p>FC representatives/ CSI officers do not currently participate in such meetings.</p>	<p>Successful participations: [for ENFSI: FC rep.(s) involved in at least one SOC WG activity. for SVs: specific relevant knowledge gained (stated in the activity report). for RPE: at least one relevant joint task established and jointly processed.]</p>	<p>2 FC experts took part in an ENFSI event on CSI in Wiesbaden, Germany. 1 FC expert took part in an online EFSI workshop on CSI in Dundee, UK. 2 FC experts took part in an ENFSI SOC WG in Budapest, Hungary. A FC delegation (cross-units) took part a the study visit to Bratislava/Slovakia, which covered CSI, among other related fields.</p>

Activity 1.1.1: Development of SOPs, specialized training, and knowledge-exchange for on-site forensic investigation.

Achievements:

- **[2024]** The UNDP-contracted expert developed an inception report on desk research and a needs-assessment visit plan, and the expert's field visit to Montenegro was carried out accordingly, including visits to the Forensic Centre (FC) in Danilovgrad (2 locations, FC management and quality management, ballistic, physical explosives/explosion, chemical, and GSR laboratories), CSI units in 2 Regional Centers (Center and North), and 4 Security Departments (Mojkovac, Pljevlja, Kotor, and Herceg Novi). The expert developed a needs-assessment report, which was approved by the FC. In line with the expert recommendations, the project issued a tender for the procurement of specialized equipment for the FC.
- **[2024]** In addition, UNDP engaged an expert to work on the development of SOPs for two new investigative methods in close consultations with relevant forensic staff in Montenegro, which are expected to be finalized in the first half of 2025. The new methods will focus on Crime Scene Investigation documentation by utilizing the 3D laser scanning technique and aerial photography. Based on the developed SOPs, the project will organize specialized training for FC professionals to further advance forensic on-site investigation.
- **[2024]** 5 FC professionals (2 women, 3 men) were supported to take part in relevant international peer-exchanges aimed at equipping the FC with complementary knowledge of good practice on how to further advance the respective work on forensic investigations:
 - Two FC professionals (one woman and one man) participated at the Hexagon LIVE EMEA Investigation & Forensics workshop on Crime Scene Investigation issues in Wiesbaden, Germany.
 - One FC professional (woman) participated at the online ENFSI OOS 2024 workshop in Dundee, UK, on 'Visualizing the Future,' dedicated to exploring the recording of the crime scene using photographic and dimensional imaging methods. Knowledge and relevant experience will be incorporated within the FC and used to improve the quality of work of the Crime Investigation Unit.
 - Two CSI professionals (men) from the Forensic Center participated at the [ENFSI Scene of Crime working group](#) held in Budapest, Hungary in October 2024. The event brought together representatives from ENFSI member states across Europe specializing in crime scene investigation. It featured three subgroups: crime scene investigation, bloodstain pattern analysis, and forensic archaeology. The event included presentations, workshops, and hands-on demonstrations showcasing the latest tools and technologies for crime scene analysis, such as Realwear smart glasses, ground-penetrating radar for soil and concrete surface analysis, and UV lamps. Discussions covered methodologies, emerging challenges, and collaboration opportunities with other forensic institutions and agencies. The event was particularly valuable for networking and knowledge exchange, allowing direct engagement with professionals in the field. Participants shared practical case studies, research findings, and innovations in crime scene investigation techniques.

Activity 1.1.2: Provision of specialized equipment for on-site forensic investigation.

Achievements:

➤ [2024] UNDP conducted the procurement process for specialized equipment for the FC's CSI Unit based on technical specifications developed by the engaged expert, as a precondition for accreditation. It signed contracts with selected companies. By the end of 2024, the following specialized equipment was delivered to the FC: one handheld UV/VIS/IR device for the detection, examination, and capture of latent forensic evidence, a mobile device for detecting explosives, and five cameras. 5 FC professionals (5 men) were trained on the equipment's use.

Output 1.2	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Advanced methodologies for CSI processing of SGBV criminal cases as related to firearms.	➤ No. of delivered multisector panels during 2024.	N/A. No such methodology is in place.	2 multisector panels, with positive evaluations by all stakeholders (4+).	- / The ToR were drafted for the engaging of a consultant. Work is to proceed in 2025.
	➤ Number of CSI officers trained in documenting injuries on/ to victims during medical examinations in 2024.	No CSI officers with such training.	8 trained CSI officers.	- / The ToR were drafted for the engaging of a consultant. Training is to take place in 2025.
	➤ The protocol developed on interviewing techniques for CSI officers is developed in 2024.	No such protocol is in place.	1 protocol on interviewing techniques, developed and accepted by the beneficiary.	- / The relevant ToR were developed. The protocol is to be finalized in 2025.
	➤ Number of CSI officers trained in protocol implementation in 2024.	No CSI officers with such training.	20 trained CSI officers.	- / Not yet initiated.

Activity 1.2.1: Multi-sector Gender Based Violence (GBV) panels.

Achievements:

➤ [2024] Preparatory work for the GBV panels was initiated, and arrangements agreed upon with the participating institutions, including for the GBV trainings for documenting injuries during medical examinations and interviewing technics for the CSI officers.

Activity 1.2.2: Training on documenting injuries on/ to victims during medical examinations.

Achievements:

➤ [2024] An expert consultant was contracted to develop and implement the training course and develop a handbook on documenting injuries on victims during medical examinations.

Activity 1.2.3: Protocol development and training on interviewing techniques for CSI officers.

Achievements:

➤ **[2024]** An expert consultant was contracted to assess the existing SGBV victim-interviewing procedures and applicable daily routines, develop a specialized SOP (Protocol) intended to precisely guide the CSI officer in the conversation with victims, and develop and deliver training on leading the communication by implementing the Protocol and emphasizing the victim-centered approach.

Outcome 2: Improved ballistic capacities of the Forensic Center

Output 2.1	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Improved security and advanced preparation of the Ballistic Laboratory for ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation.	➤ The Lab's gunsmith workshop and shooting range are fully operational through additional equipment and refurbishment.	No. Not all necessary equipment and security measures in place.	Yes. Shooting range and gunsmith workshop fully operational.	Yes / The shooting range and gunsmith workshop were refurbished based on the project design developed and approved by the FC. The relevant technical furniture has been provided as per the approved plan, including a workbench, a tool locker cabinet, tool panels, a locker with drawers, and a collection of gunsmith tools.
	➤ No. of proficiency tests successfully completed by FC Ballistic Lab in 2025.	No PT done.	1 successfully completed proficiency test.	- / The PT will be purchased and delivered in 2025.
	➤ Number of forensic experts trained as internal auditors in 2025.	No ballistic experts with such training.	3 trained forensic experts.	- / Not yet initiated.
	➤ FC representatives participated in ENFSI Firearms/GSR Working Group meetings, in EAFS, in regional ballistic expert peer exchange, and in international study visits on ballistic labs in 2024 and 2025.	FC representatives do not participate currently in such activities.	Successful participations: [for ENFSI: FC rep.(s) involved in at least one Firearms/GSR WG activity. for SVs: specific relevant knowledge gained (stated in the activity report). for RPE: at least one relevant joint task established and jointly processed.]	2 FC reps took part in the ENFSI event on the subject matter in Vienna, Austria. An FC delegation (cross-units) took part in the study visit to Bratislava/Slovakia, which covered ballistic investigations, among other related topics.
	➤ Number of new SOPs on ballistic methods (OCF, ABIS, and illegal firearms systems)	The SOPs to be drafted are not in place. now	3 new SOPs	- / Work was initiated (ToR development in progress) and is to proceed in 2025.

Activity 2.1.1: Supporting ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation preparation of the Ballistic Laboratory

Achievements:

- > **[2024]** An initial capacity needs assessment was conducted to identify realistic needs and fine-tune the planned project activities [linked to Act 1.1.1]. Here, the project will build upon the already accredited method for firearms identification based on comparative examination of cartridge cases [done with the support of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro]. Considering that the accreditation is a dynamic process that requires constant maintenance, it is planned for the project to support this process by providing proficiency testing and organizing an internal auditor's training in 2025. The project will also support the development of SOPs, which will further facilitate the accreditation efforts of the Ballistic Lab. In addition, the UNDP project team initiated the procurement process for specialized equipment in line with the expert recommendation, relevant for the accreditation.
- > **[2024]** The project supported seven FC professionals (4 men, 3 women) to learn from peers and international good practice.
 - A ballistic expert and a gunshot residue expert from the FC (2 men) were supported, enabling them to attend the 30th ENFSI [Firearms and Gun Shot Residues meeting](#) held from 18-20 September 2024 in Vienna, Austria. The meeting brought together representatives from ENFSI member countries in Europe, as well as from Israel, Singapore, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, and the USA. During the event, through presentations, poster sessions, and workshops, the FC staff learned about techniques, methods of work, and current issues in other forensic centres and agencies. Valuable experiences related to laboratory practice were exchanged, new insights were gained regarding the development of new methods, and the results of the latest ENFSI Proficiency Test were discussed and interpreted. Participants were also introduced to new equipment specialized for ballistic and GSR testing which will be considered for procurement in the future.
 - 5 FC professionals (2 men and 3 women, including the FC Head) covering the Ballistics, Arson, and Explosives, Chemical, and Gunshot Residue (GSR) Labs visited the Forensic Science Institute in Bratislava, Slovakia, from 28-30 October 2024. They toured various labs, including those for digital forensics, fingerprinting, traceology, graphology, fire and explosion investigation, DNA analysis, and chemical testing. Advanced technologies were explored, including the Leica RTC 360 3D scanner for crime scene reconstruction, the RAMAN instrument for chemical analysis, and a TESCAN scanning electron microscope in the GSR Lab. The team also visited the explosives/pyrotechnics lab to examine explosive devices and discuss improvised explosives, as well as the ballistics lab to observe firearm analysis. The visit fostered the valuable exchange of knowledge on forensic methods, equipment, and techniques – of cross-unit relevance for the FC. Key takeaways included enhanced fire/explosives residue analysis methods, the use of modern 3D scanning technology, and plans for future collaboration in ballistics, explosives, and GSR work.

Activity 2.1.2: Provision of specialized equipment for improving security and operability of the shooting range

Achievements:

- > **[2024]** UNDP conducted the procurement of specialized equipment in line with technical specifications provided by the contracted expert and as agreed with the professionals from the FC's Ballistic Lab. The equipment was purchased and partially delivered to the FC as a precondition for improving the expert examination methodology and staff security.
- > **[2024]** By December 2024, UNDP equipped the FC with a ballistic radar machine/chronograph, used for bullet velocity measurement.

Activity 2.1.3: Equipping and refurbishing the gunsmith workshop and the shooting range

Achievements:

- > **[2024]** The ballistic shooting range and gunsmith workshop were refurbished to provide a more functional and safer environment for various ballistic tests and examinations. The gunsmith workshop and shooting range were refurbished based on the project design developed by the expert engineer. This included replacing the wooden shooting backstop (wall) in the forensic shooting range, enhancing illumination conditions, and forming a room by partition wall for the gunsmith workshop. The gunsmith workshop was provided with the necessary technical furniture, including a workbench, two tool locker cabinets, a perforated mobile tool panel, four lockers with drawers, and a collection of 24 gunsmith tools.

Outcome 3: Improved capacities of the Arson and Explosives Lab for the physical examination of explosives/explosive devices

Output 3.1	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Advanced security and operability and extended scope of accreditation within the Arson and Explosives Lab.	Equipment for improving health care and security purchased and installed: Number of transported explosive samples over a 12-month period; Quantity of stored explosives over a 12-month period.	Regarding the planned equipment, only one explosives storage container in place.	20+ samples transported and 10kg+ of explosives stored.	- / The procurement of equipment was initiated in 2024.
	Number of new methods developed, validated, and implemented. [one method is to be selected during assessment from the following: reviewing conventional explosive devices, reviewing improvised explosive devices, examining the correctness of the fuse regarding spark transfer, and burning velocity, etc.].	N/A	1 new method implemented.	- / A new method was selected. The ToR is currently being drafted for an expert. Work is to proceed in 2025.
	FC representatives participated in ENFSI Fire/Explosions Working Group meetings, in regional peer exchange with AE experts, and in international study visits to institution(s)/lab(s) in charge of physical examinations of explosives/explosive devices and explosions in 2024 and 2025.	Forensic experts do not participate currently in such activities.	Successful participations: [for ENFSI: FC rep.(s) involved in at least one Fire/Exp. WG activity. for SVs: specific relevant knowledge gained (stated in the activity report). for RPE: at least one relevant joint task established and jointly processed.]	Two FC reps took part in the ENFSI event in Vienna, Austria on the subject matter. An FC delegation (cross-units) took part in the study visit to Bratislava/Slovakia, which covered Arson and Explosive Lab work, among other related topics.

Activity 3.1.1: Method development, validation, and additional support provided for accreditation.

Achievements:

- > **[2024]** An initial capacity needs assessment was conducted to identify realistic needs and fine-tune the planned project activities [linked to Act 1.1.1]. Preparations commenced to engage an expert to develop and validate a new method for explosives examination (including the SOP), thus expanding the scope of ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation. The method that is subject to development and validation is on Examining the correctness of the fuse regarding spark transfer and burning velocity.
- > The study visit to peers in Bratislava, Slovakia [Act 2.1.1] included in its scope the relevant work for the advancement of the Arson and Explosives lab.

Activity 3.1.2: Provision of equipment for safe handling and examination of explosives.

Achievements:

- > **[2024]** UNDP procured specialized equipment for the FC's Arson and Explosives Lab based on technical specifications developed by the expert and approved by the FC - as a precondition for the planned methodological and staff security improvements.
- > **[2024]** By the end of the year, the FC Arson and Explosives Lab was equipped with a safety container for transporting explosive samples, with the rest of the equipment to be delivered in 2025 (including an optical fiber tester, an optical extension cable and fixing strip, and two containers for explosives storage).

Outcome 4: Improved capacities of the Chemical Lab for the chemical examination of explosives and GSR

Output 4.1	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
New methods and procedures for analyzing explosives developed, and the scope of ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation for expert examination of explosive samples/traces extended.	> Chemical lab equipment for implementing the new method for the chemical examination of explosives.	No such equipment in place.	Yes. Equipment put into operation.	Yes / The equipment was procured and delivered to the FC.
	> Number of SOPs for processing explosives and traces and for anti-contamination measures developed.	The SOPs are not in place now	4 SOPs	- / Work is in progress. The ToR were drafted for engaging an expert.
	> Number of new methods for chemical examination of explosives (traces) developed and validated.	No such method in place	1 new method implemented.	- / Not yet initiated.

FC representatives have participated in an ENFSI Explosives Working Group and in ENFSI annual meetings of directors, in regional peer exchange with chemical experts in explosives, and in international study visits to forensic chemical lab(s) analyzing explosive samples in 2024 and 2025.	Forensic experts do not participate currently in such activities.	Successful participations: [for ENFSI: FC rep.(s) involved in at least one Explosives WG activity. for SVs: specific relevant knowledge gained (stated in the activity report). for RPE: at least one relevant joint task established and jointly processed.]	Two FC reps took part in the ENFSI Expert WG on explosives investigations in Zurich, Switzerland. The FC Head participated at the ENFSI Annual meeting. An FC delegation (cross-units) took part in the study visit to Bratislava/Slovakia, which covered the examination of explosive samples' examinations, among other related topics.
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Activity 4.1.1: Development of SOPs, validation of methods, and additional support provided for accreditation.

Achievements:
[2024] An initial capacity needs assessment was conducted to identify realistic needs and fine-tune the planned project activities [linked to Act 1.1.1]. Support is ongoing to extend the accreditation scope of the Chemical Lab for explosive analysis. The UNDP project team is finalizing a ToR for an expert that will be engaged in 2025 to support the development of SOPs and the validation of the respective method: method of qualitative testing of explosives containing TNT using the GCMS technique.
[2024] Professional peer exchange was supported towards this end: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Two FC professionals from the Chemical and Explosives Lab (1 woman, 1 man) received support to participate in the ENFSI Expert Working Group on Explosives / Forensic International Network for Explosives Investigation (FINEX) in Zurich, Switzerland.In addition, the FC Head (woman) participated at the ENFSI Annual meeting of Directors of Forensic Centers from Europe held in Madrid, Spain. This was a valuable opportunity for knowledge and experience exchange among FC directors as they navigate further advancement of forensic work.

Activity 4.1.2: Provision of specialized equipment for improved explosives chemical analysis.


Achievements:
[2024] The specialized equipment was purchased and delivered to the FC Chemical Laboratory as a precondition for improving the Lab's expert examination methodology. The equipment encompassed: one GCMS device (gas chromatography-mass spectrometry), a rotary vacuum evaporator, a laboratory mill, a technical balance of 1.500-1.700g, and a bench-top balance of 60kg. In addition, a GCMS user training was organized for 6 professionals from the Chemical lab (5 women and one man).

Output 4.2	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Improved Gunshot residue (GSR) analysis capacities	GSR lab operating with modern equipment.	No. Current equipment old and based on somewhat outdated technology.	Yes. GSR Equipment put into operation.	- / A SEM Microscope is to be procured and delivered in 2025.

 Number of SOPs revised based on the new equipment revised.	Current SOPs based on current equipment.	2 SOPs	- / SOP development will follow after the equipment is delivered.
 Number of new methods for advanced GSR analysis developed, validated, and implemented.	Method in place based on current (outdated) equipment.	1 new method implemented (based on new equipment).	- / Work on the new method will follow after the equipment is delivered.


Activity 4.2.1: Development of SOPs and method validation.

Achievements:

 **[2024]** An initial capacity needs assessment was conducted to identify realistic needs and fine-tune the planned project activities [linked to Act 1.1.1]. Preparations are ongoing to contract an expert to support the revision and validation of an existing method ‘Examination of GSR particles’ by the newly procured Scanning Electronic Microscope. The revision and validation will practically result in a new, advanced Gun Shot Residues examination based on the new SEM microscope (ref to Act 4.2.2), to support methodological improvements, and to ensure examinations in line with the ISO/IEC 17025.

Activity 4.2.2: Provision of equipment for improved GSR analysis.

Achievements:

 **[2024]** UNDP completed technical specifications for the scanning electron microscope (SEM) to be provided by the project, with the support from the technical expert and FC professionals. The SEM was purchased for the FC’s GSR Laboratory and will be delivered in 2025. This is a precondition for implementing a new GSR examination method.

21. Improving Capacities of the Ministry of the Interior in the SALW-Control related Field, Phase III

Implementing organization: UNDP Serbia
Implementing period: November 2023 – November 2025
Approved budget: US\$ 1,512,540

Outcome 1: Forensic capacities in Serbia for the processing of firearms/explosives-related criminal cases are enhanced				
Output 1.1	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Overall CSI capacities of the Serbian MoI/NFC increased.	CSI unit better equipped, and experts trained accordingly.	Moderate [SOPs developed and experts trained for basic CSI procedures.]	High [New methods and, specialized software in place, and expert training accomplished.]	Partial progress / Specialized software and equipment were delivered for CSI (two FARO licenses for 3D scanning, a Discovery Imaging System, and two CNA Fuming Chambers). 18 CSI experts were trained on using advanced 3D technology. The development of relevant SOPs and new methods is to follow in 2025.
	# of NFC premises refurbished and modernized for preliminary processing and storing of forensic evidence.	0 Needs assessment. [general lack of adequate premises]	2	Partial progress / Technical documentation has been prepared, and the adaptation and refurbishment works will commence in 2025.
	# of CSI officers trained on the implementation of the ILAC G19 Guidelines for crime scene investigation.	0 [Previously, CSI officers passed through ISO standardization trainings.]	27	- / Preparations started, and the training is to take place in 2025.

Activity 1.1.1: Implementation of advanced methods for detecting and securing critical evidence and documenting the crime scene.

Achievements:

- **[2024]** UNDP contracted a SALW Control Consultant who prepared an analysis on CSI, including recommendations for the adaptation of CSI facilities, the preparation of SOPs for new methods, and relevant training – which the project will follow in its support for the advancement of CSI under the activity. The consultant also supported the development of the technical specifications for the specialized equipment for CSI, as well as for the procurement of it.
- **[2024]** The project provided the NFC with two FARO licenses for 3D scanners and delivered a three-day on-site training for four groups of CSI experts on the equipment’s use, including 18 CSI experts (14 men and 4 women). All 18 participants completed the training and received certifications, enhancing their capacity to utilize advanced 3D scanning technology for more precise crime scene documentation and analysis.
- **[2024]** UNDP ensured the procurement, delivery, and installation of two CNA Fuming Chambers and a Discover Imaging System at the NFC. The fuming chambers (one placed at the central forensic center and one in the Belgrade police department) are aimed at enhancing the detection and development of latent fingerprints on a variety of surfaces, significantly strengthening forensic analysis capabilities. Meanwhile, the Discover Imaging System will provide advanced digital imaging features that enable precise documentation and more thorough examination of collected evidence. In addition to installing the equipment, the project provided essential operational guidance to ensure that forensic specialists can effectively integrate these new tools into their investigative workflow.
- By adopting these advanced technologies, the NFC has improved its ability to collect, analyze, and preserve critical evidence, ultimately enhancing the quality and efficiency of criminal investigations.

Activity 1.1.2: Refurbishing and equipping of relevant premises for preliminary processing and storing of forensic evidence.

Achievements:

- **[2024]** The UNDP-contracted consultant (under Act 1.1.1) prepared recommendations for the premises that should be refurbished and equipped for the preliminary processing and storing of forensic evidence. In addition, the project prepared technical documentation for the adaptation of evidence reception rooms in the regional forensic centers of Nis and Uzice, as well as for refurbishing the space within the forensic evidence depository at the CSI unit at the Police Department in Belgrade. The planned works will commence in 2025.

Activity 1.1.3: Advanced training on the implementation of the ILAC G19 Guidelines for crime scene investigation.

Achievements:

- **[2024]** The UNDP-contracted consultant developed a curriculum for the ILAC G19 training, and the training sessions are to be rolled out as of 2025.

Output 1.2	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Overall NFC capacities for ballistic examinations increased.	➤ Central Ballistic Lab prepared for new accreditation methods by 2025.	No [First method was accredited in October 2023.]	Yes [Two more methods prepared for accreditation.]	Partial progress. / Two relevant methods were identified and preparations for accreditation are ongoing. Ballistic experts were trained on accreditation requirements.

> # of regional ballistic labs better equipped and modernized as per requirements for ISO 17025 accreditation.	0 Expert report; [3 regional labs, poorly equipped.]	Up to 3 labs modernized; [3 regional labs, moderately	Partial progress. / An analysis and technical specifications for the necessary specialized equipment were developed. A technical upgrade of a comparative microscopes was completed in the Niš Regional Forensic Center.
> # of bilateral operational meetings organized for ballistic experts of Serbia with peers from BiH.	0	4	3 / 3 bilateral meetings took place in 2024.

Activity 1.2.1: Extending the scope of ISO accreditation for the Central Ballistic Lab by including two new methods.

Achievements:

- > [2024] Progress was made towards extending the scope of ISO 17025 accreditation of the ballistic examinations in regard to: i) the ballistic comparative analysis method for fired projectiles, and ii) the identification of firearms based on projectiles.
- > [2024] UNDP completed technical upgrades of three comparative microscopes (two in the Belgrade Forensic Center and one in the Niš Regional Forensic Center).

Activity 1.2.2: Preparing the regional ballistic laboratories for ISO 17025 accreditation.

Achievements:

- > [2024] UNDP conducted a comprehensive analysis to determine both the needs and the necessary expansion of the accreditation scope for all four relevant laboratories. Detailed technical specifications were developed for the required equipment, ensuring that each laboratory is fully prepared to meet updated standards and enhance its operational capabilities. The work will proceed in 2025.
- > [2024] UNDP organized a two-day training on the Accreditation Action Plan for ballistic laboratories, held in Kopaonik in October 2024. Facilitated by a Ballistic Mentor Specialist, the session brought together seven ballistic experts (all men) from all four laboratories across Serbia to review key accreditation requirements, share best practices in ballistic examinations, and explore methods for enhancing inter-laboratory cooperation.

Activity 1.2.3: Developing and implementing security policy in ballistic investigation procedures.

Achievements:

- > Simultaneously with the support provided under activities 1.2.2 and 1.2.3, UNDP is supporting the development of a security policy in ballistic investigations and mentoring the process during the accreditation path.

Activity 1.2.4: Improving cooperation and knowledge exchange with prosecution and judicial authorities.

Achievements:

- > [2024] UNDP organized a two-day workshop to foster stronger collaboration between the National Criminal Forensics Center (NFC) units and the Prosecutor's Office. The event brought together eight NFC participants and 17 representatives from the Prosecutor's Office, totaling 25 participants (5 women and 20 men). The primary goal was to illustrate the forensic processes and workflows that take place at the NFC before final reports are produced, ensuring prosecutors gain clearer insight into the technical and analytical steps behind each case. By sharing expertise, best practices, and procedural details, the workshop helped bridge knowledge gaps, ultimately promoting more effective communication and coordination between forensic experts and prosecutors.

Activity 1.2.5: Bilateral/ regional information- sharing meetings with BiH.

Achievements:

➤ **[2024]** UNDP offices in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina closely collaborated to organize an expert exchange between 14 forensic experts (2 women and 12 men) from respective jurisdictions. The exchange was conducted in two phases with the aim of strengthening regional cooperation in forensic investigations. In the first phase, UNDP arranged a study visit for experts from BiH to Serbia, during which participants observed the work of forensic laboratories and exchanged experiences with their Serbian counterparts. UNDP then facilitated a return visit of Serbian experts to BiH, attended by six experts from Serbia and eight counterparts from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Meetings and site visits took place at the Center for Forensic Examinations, Expertise, and Research of the Federal Police Administration in Vrace, Sarajevo, and the Forensic Unit of the Criminal-Technical Center of the RS Ministry of the Interior in Banja Luka. The exchange of expertise and best practices was facilitated through demonstrations of operational procedures and direct interaction with local forensic professionals, contributing to enhanced regional cooperation on forensic matters. [\[link\]](#)

Output 1.3	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Overall NFC capacities for explosion examinations increased.	➤ # of AEA units equipped to meet relevant security and accreditation requirements	0 [General unsatisfactory conditions.]	1 [Satisfactory conditions.]	Partial progress. / The relevant technical specifications were agreed upon and the procurement process was initiated. The equipment is to be delivered in 2025.
	➤ # of forensic technicians trained on post-blast AEA training by 2025.	50 [50 experts trained in SALW 2.]	100 (50 new) [100 experts trained in total, covering all 27 police directorates.]	Partial progress. / Preparations are ongoing, and trainings have been scheduled for March and May 2025.
	➤ # of bilateral operational meetings organized between AEA experts of Serbia and BiH.	0	5	1 [+1] / <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A bilateral exchange with BiH counterparts took place in Dec 2024.• An inter-agency operational exchange meeting with the Prosecutor's Office took place in Oct 2024.
Activity 1.3.1: Provision of complementary equipment for the NFC AEA Unit.		Achievements:		
		➤ [2024] UNDP engaged a consultant to prepare an assessment on the necessary equipment for the AEA Unit. The assessment was finalized, and the procurement process will be conducted by UNDP in line with the provided recommendations. In 2024, the project purchased a mobile device for detecting explosives (including traces), and this will be delivered in 2025, along with other complementary equipment (inspection camera with PC, workbench for handling explosives, cordless precision drill grinder, etc).		

Activity 1.3.2: Bilateral / regional meetings, trainings, and information-sharing expert visits.

Achievements:

- > **[2024]** An operational expert exchange was organized for Belgrade experts on explosives examinations with their BiH counterparts in December 2024. Four AEA experts (all men) visited BiH facilities and exchanged expertise and experience with six BiH counterparts. One more operational exchange is planned for autumn 2025. The operational exchange is aimed to strengthen regional cooperation and promote learning from good practice among forensic experts.
- > **[2024]** Linked to the Act 1.2.4, 4 AEA experts (all men) took part in the two-day workshop with prosecutors, to foster stronger collaboration between the National Criminal Forensics Center (NFC) units and the Prosecutor's Office.

Activity 1.3.3: Post-blast training

Achievements:

- > The activity is to be rolled out in 2025.

Output 1.4

Indicators

**Baseline
(2023)**

**Project
target (2025)**

Overall progress / Milestone

Capacities of the NFC Chemical Laboratory for examinations of traces of explosives and of gunshot residues increased.

- > # of methods for which the GSR unit received ISO accreditation.

2

3 (1 new)

- / One method was identified. Preparations for accreditation are ongoing.

Activity 1.4.1: Expand ISO 17025 accreditation and establish a new method for analyzing of GSR within the Chemical Lab.

Achievements:

- > **[2024]** The NFC's Chemical Laboratory received the upgrade of two SEM microscopes, ensuring improved accuracy in GSR analysis.
- > **[2024]** Progress was made toward achieving ISO 17025 accreditation of the "Identification of inorganic GSR" method, with two proficiency tests acquired as a critical step in evaluating laboratory performance against ISO 17025 accreditation. These tests are integral to verifying the quality and competency of laboratory activities, ensuring that the NFC's forensic services continue to meet international standards for testing and calibration. The method validation will take place in 2025, with the support from experts from Germany/Wiesbaden.

Activity 1.4.2: Establishing a new method for specific sorts of explosives analysis within the Chemical Lab.

Achievements:

- > Activity planned to start as of 2025.



Output 1.5	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Improved validity and visibility of achieved NFC capacities in line with recognized standards.	<div><div></div><div># of NFC representatives participated in the ENFSI WG.</div></div>	0	16	2 / 2 NFC members took part in one ENFSI meeting in 2024.
Activity 1.5.1: Participation of NFC and key representatives in PT and CE programs and in ENFSI activities.	Achievements: <div><div></div><div>[2024] Two National Forensic Center (NFC) experts participated in the Annual One-Day One-Topic Seminar (OOS) & Quality and Competency Liaison Group (QCLG) Meeting in Malta from 29-31 October 2024, where they had the opportunity to exchange experience with peers and learn from best practices on the new ISO 21043 standard, methods for verifying forensic examination reliability, and the validation and verification of QMS, LIMS, and other in-lab software. By engaging in presentations, workshops, and collaborative sessions, the NFC representatives gained valuable insights towards further refining Serbia's forensic procedures.</div></div>			
Activity 1.5.2: Representation of achieved results and visibility of the project.	Achievements: <div><div></div><div>[2024] The project developed branding visuals and efforts were made to develop video materials to feature progress made with forensic capacity-development and achieved results.</div></div>			
Outcome 2: Administrative capacities in Serbia for firearms identification and handling are increased.				
Output 2.1	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
SALW-control capacities increased, and the Administrative Affairs Directorate improved in the handling of firearms.	<div><div></div><div># of Administrative Affairs Directorate staff trained on the identification of the firearms and better equipped for safety handling of SALW.</div></div>	0	200	85 / 85 Mol officers were trained in 2024, with the next training to take place in March 2025.
Activity 2.1.1: Firearms Identification training.	Achievements: <div><div></div><div>[2024] 85 Mol staff (57 women and 28 men) passed the Firearms Identification training. Two experts from Croatia delivered the two-day training in two groups. The first session took place in Sokobanja, gathering 46 participants (31 women and 15 men), while the second was held on Kopaonik, with 39 participants (26 women and 13 men).</div></div>			



Activity 2.1.2: Provision of equipment for police administration officers/stations.

Achievements:

> [2024] After the relevant assessment was conducted, UNDP procured the necessary equipment for the Mol's Administrative Affairs Directorate (AAD). This procurement included 130 metal lockers for secure storage, 20 wooden storage units, and 5 bullet traps essential for safe ballistic testing and evidence management. The acquisition of these items is expected to improve both the operational efficiency and security protocols within the AAD units. Delivery of the equipment is anticipated in the first quarter of 2025.

22. Law Enforcement Agencies’ Development in Small Arms and Light Weapons Control (Project LEAD)

Implementing organization: UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina

Implementing period: December 2023 – December 2025

Approved budget: US\$ 1,455,035

Outcome 1: Enhanced security in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Western Balkans Region through comprehensive capacity-enhancement, cooperation, and gender mainstreaming within relevant institutions involved in the SALW control field.				
Output 1.1	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Operational capacities of law enforcement agencies enhanced to better fight illicit SALW trafficking through targeted assistance to 14 police agencies, BiH Customs, and prosecutor’s offices.	Level of the capabilities of the public security system for border management and combatting illicit SALW trafficking, including digital capacities to ensure the adequate functionality of digital records and facilitate electronic exchange of information on SALW. (Measured along a four-point scale: 4. Fully; 3. Partially; 2. Inadequately; 1. None)	2. Inadequately.	3. Partially.	- / The ToR for the development of an application for legal weapons for LEAs in FBiH has been drafted, pending approval of all 10 police commissioners and FPD.
	Number of specialized detection, investigation, and ballistic equipment pieces procured and delivered for improving the illicit SALW processing capacities of Law Enforcement Agencies.	403 pcs of detection equipment procured for LEA’s during the period 2020-2023.	435 pcs of detection, investigation, and ballistic equipment procured for LEAs in total (32 more).	26 new pcs / 26 density meters/contraband detectors have been procured, delivery pending in 2025.

<p>➤ Number (gender disaggregated) of ballistic and arson-explosion-accident experts with enhanced capacities for ballistic examinations and arson-explosion-accident incidents enhanced through cross-border cooperation and the exchange of best practices, gender disaggregated.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Up to 20 experts (3 women) through up to 6 meetings as a joint activity with UNDP CO Serbia.</p>	<p>14 experts (4 women, 10 men) / 4 meetings were held in 2024, of which 3 meetings involved ballistic experts from BiH and Serbia with 8 experts from BiH (2 women and 6 men), while 1 meeting gathered AEA experts from BiH and Serbia held with 6 participants from BiH (2 women, 4 men).</p>
<p>➤ Number of officials from law enforcement agencies with increased capacities for more advanced detection of illegal SALW.</p>	<p>0 / 435 customs and police officials from law enforcement agencies enhanced capacities through previous projects.</p>	<p>180 / 615 customs and police officials in total with increased capacities.</p>	<p>168 police and customs officials from law enforcement agencies from BiH (as well as Montenegro) participated in joint exercises. / This yield a total of 603 customs and police officials who have enhanced their capacities through joint exercises.</p>
<p>➤ Number of knowledge products in the field of SALW stemming from Roadmap projects available and institutionalized within police academies and faculties for security and criminal sciences.</p>	<p>0 SALW related knowledge products available as a part of regular curricula in educational institutions in the country.</p>	<p>1 handbook / manual for SALW investigations as a consolidated knowledge product [based on SOPs developed within the SALW Roadmap projects] institutionalized within relevant educational institutions.</p>	<p>- / A draft knowledge product [Guideline] has been developed; FBiH Police Academy tentatively agreed with the draft and agreed to incorporate it into its own curriculum.</p>
<p>➤ Number of officials from the State Prosecutor's Office and law enforcement agencies whose knowledge and capacities of SALW-related investigative techniques, report writing, and collecting of evidence have been increased.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Up to 40 officials from the State Prosecutor's Office and law enforcement agencies whose knowledge and capacities of SALW-related investigative techniques, report, writing, and collecting of evidence have been increased.</p>	<p>- / A meeting between the BiH Prosecutor's Office and prosecutor's offices at other levels of governance was organized, and flaws in police actions vis-à-vis proper investigation were identified among 29 prosecutors. This led to the development of a draft Guidebook, which will be shared with police entities for consultation before finalization.</p>

Activity 1.1.1: Provision of specialized equipment for police agencies in line with the needs identified through the BiH SALW Coordination Board.

Achievements:

- [2023] Q4: Based on initial input from police agencies conveyed via the BiH SALW Coordination Board, the project team compiled a list of specialized equipment needs that were planned to be further discussed and confirmed in Q1 2024 with the project partners before initiating a procurement process.
- [2024] Having adhered to all police agencies' technical specifications, the project team procured 26 density meters/contraband detectors. The equipment will be delivered in early 2025. In addition, upon the request of the RS MoI, the project team procured and delivered replicas of six guns and one rifle for the needs of the RS MoI's police cadet training [\[link\]](#).

Activity 1.1.2: Provision of support to ballistic laboratories in Federation of BiH and Republika Srpska and operational cooperation with ballistic laboratories from neighbouring countries.

Achievements:

- [2023] Q4: The project team established initial contact with representatives of the two forensics laboratories in BiH – one within the Federation Police Directorate and the other one within the Republika Srpska Ministry of the Interior to assess the ideas and expectations regarding the project activity. Representatives of both laboratories reconfirmed their commitment to the activity as planned.
 - A preliminary meeting with the UNDP Serbia project team was scheduled for Q1 2024 to map out the sequence of activities for each project team. The first joint cooperation meeting between ballistic laboratories from both BiH entities - FBiH and RS - with the ballistic laboratory from Serbia was planned to take place in Serbia, in Q1 2024.
 - A visit to the two ballistic laboratories in BiH was scheduled for Q1 2024 to assess the list of necessary specialized ballistic equipment.
- [2024] In partnership between the UNDP offices in BiH and Serbia, operational exchange was supported between the BiH ballistic experts with their peers from Serbia [\[link\]](#): three meetings were held among the ballistic experts, including 8 ballistic experts (2 women, 6 men) from two BiH entity ballistics labs – the FPD and RS MoI, and 6 experts (all men) from Serbia. The [first meeting](#) took place in March 2024 in Serbia, while the following [two meetings](#) took place in October 2024 in Sarajevo and Banja Luka. The meetings served as an opportunity for experts to explore the capabilities of each other's laboratories, exchange experiences, and establish and strengthen working relations for future collaboration. The discussions also provided valuable insight into each other's working methods and technical capacities, laying the foundation for future operational exchange and regional cooperation.
- [2024] UNDP conducted needs analyses for 4 ballistics labs, identifying specialized equipment that will be procured for the two relevant entity-level ballistic labs to enhance respective examinations, with the procurement to take place in 2025. More specifically, the UNDP project team engaged an international consultant who produced an analysis of the current technical capacities and equipment needs of the two entity-level ballistic laboratories in Sarajevo and Banja Luka as well as an analysis of the current technical capacities and equipment needs of the Agency for Forensic and Expert Examinations and the Brčko District Police ballistic laboratories, with the purpose of establishing their current functionality level and establishing a baseline for possible future support. During the process of preparing the analysis, the consultant met with representatives of all ballistic labs in September 2024. The analysis was accompanied by a list of equipment to be procured for the two entity-level ballistic labs, along with the corresponding technical specifications. UNDP subsequently sought and received consent by the FPD and RS MoI for the procurement of this equipment. The procurement process will be initiated in Q1 2025.

Activity 1.1.3: Cross-border operational collaboration among the relevant arson-explosion-accident (AEA) experts (joint activity with UNDP CO Serbia).

Achievements:

- [2024] In partnership between the UNDP offices in BiH and Serbia, on 3 December 2024, the [first meeting](#) among 10 AEA experts (2 women and 8 men) took place in Sarajevo, involving 6 AEA experts from BiH (2 women and 4 men) and 4 experts (all men) from Serbia. The experts were representatives of the following institutions from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina – Serbia's MoI, the BiH Agency for Forensic and Expert Examination, the FPD, and the RS MoI. The meeting focused on the organizational structure of respective services in BiH and Serbia, the exchange of expertise through concrete cases, and difficulties encountered.

Activity 1.1.4: Enhancing the digital capacities and resources of the Law Enforcement Agencies.

Achievements:

- > [2023] Q4: The project team scheduled an initial meeting with the representatives of the Federation Police Directorate for Q1 2024 to discuss the necessary improvements in the SALW-related digital capacities and resources.
- > **[2024]** UNDP in BiH worked on the ToR for the development of a new application for registering weapons in legal possession in FBiH. The Project Team held multiple consultations and technical meetings during 2024. Building upon a tentative agreement reached on the ToR on 30 October 2024 with the FBiH IT Support Team (a working-level coordination body in FBiH dealing with IT issues), UNDP attended a meeting with 10 cantonal police commissioners in Neum on 11 and 12 November 2024 chaired by the FPD Director, seeking official support for the ToR to proceed with the tender for selecting an IT company. While there was a general agreement to support the development of a new application, some police commissioners expressed concern regarding a unified FBiH-level application, considering that SALW laws are under exclusive cantonal authority. Thus, the police commissioners requested sharing the draft ToR directly with the 10 cantonal administrations of police instead of going through the FBiH IT Support Team, in order to provide feedback, comments, and suggestions. UNDP continued with consultative processes with selected jurisdictions to refine the ToR. As a result, it was concluded that each canton may have its own application with administrative authority. Nevertheless, the application should be compatible across jurisdictions to enable data exchange in real time in several categories concerning legal SALW.

Activity 1.1.5: Strengthening cooperation between prosecutors and law enforcement agencies through joint exercises.

Achievements:

- > [2023] Q4: The project team scheduled a preparatory meeting in Q1 2024 with instructors from the relevant police agencies and the BiH Prosecutor's Office, to be involved in the joint exercises, to fine tune the joint exercise scenario based on lessons learned from six national and two international training sessions conducted under project DIRC.
- > **[2024]** The UNDP project team successfully organized four (4) domestic joint exercises in different parts of BiH, building on previous project interventions [\[link1\]](#), [\[link2\]](#), [\[link3\]](#), [\[link4\]](#). These exercises enhanced the investigative skills of 98 police and customs officials from BiH (17 women and 81 men), coming from 15 different police agencies, in more successfully combatting illegal SALW trade, under the guidance of the BiH Prosecutor's Office.
- > **[2024]** In addition, the UNDP project team organized two cross-border exercises between the police, customs, and prosecutors from BiH and Montenegro with an aim to test existing procedures in the detection of illegal SALW and subsequent procedures at joint border crossings (jurisdiction over smuggling cases, suspect handovers, prosecution procedures), established under an international agreement between BiH and Montenegro. The [first exercise](#) was held in BiH in October 2024 with the participation of 35 border police and customs officials as well as officials from prosecutors' offices from both countries. The [second exercise](#) was organized in Montenegro in November 2024, this time with 40 participants from both countries, including an UNDP Montenegro representative. Significant gaps were identified, highlighting the need for further efforts to clarify the roles of each agency and prosecutor at joint border crossings, with the ultimate goal of establishing an SOP that would serve as guidance for border police and customs officials from both countries.

Activity 1.1.6: Knowledge transfer and integration of knowledge products into relevant training and education institutions.

Achievements:

- > [2023] Q4: The project team met with the Republika Srpska Ministry of the Interior to discuss the transfer of knowledge products (SOPs) from previous projects into police educational institutions, in this case the Republika Srpska Police Academy.
- > [2023] Q4: Similarly, the project team visited the Police Academy of the Federation of BiH Ministry of Internal Affairs in Sarajevo to discuss the inclusion of the SOPs developed under previous projects in the Police Academy curriculum. Members of the cabinet of the FBiH Minister of the Interior stated that the MoU between the UNDP and the FBiH Mol of the Interior should be signed prior to official initiation of this activity. It was planned that the project team would initiate the preparation of the MoU between UNDP BiH CO and FBiH Mol in Q1 2024.

➤ **[2024]** A draft “Guidelines for Police Officers’ Actions Regarding SALW” intended for police cadets was produced. The UNDP project team engaged two national police experts to create draft guidelines on SALW-related investigations for police cadets, designed for use in police academies and law enforcement training institutions across BiH. After several rounds of consultations and meetings, the experts completed the final draft, which UNDP thoroughly reviewed and refined in preparation for its presentation to the representatives of police academies. In December 2024, the UNDP project team and national police experts met with the Director of the FBiH Police Academy to present the developed guidelines. The Police Academy expressed interest in integrating the document into its curriculum, suggesting minor technical revisions, which the project team agreed to consider and incorporate. The draft guidelines will be finalized in 2025.

Activity 1.1.7: Provision of support to the law enforcement agencies and prosecutor’s offices in improving operational cooperation and the quality of SALW-related investigation through specialized trainings.

Achievements:

➤ **[2024]** The UNDP project team supported the organization of one meeting among the BiH Prosecutor and ITA during which 10 BiH customs officials (4 women, 6 men) enhanced their knowledge on BiH criminal procedural code’s provisions addressing the search of vehicles and persons to detect illegal SALW.

Output 1.2	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Strengthened strategic exchange and cooperation between state level agencies, prosecutor’s offices, and relevant ministries to better fight illicit SALW trafficking.	➤ Number of small arms and light weapons strategic events held jointly with law enforcement agencies, prosecutor’s offices, and other relevant institutions to clarify legal and operational issues existing between the institutions and to harmonize their field operations for more efficient SALW trafficking control.	2	5 in total.	1 / 1 meeting was held between the BiH Prosecutor and ITA, during which 10 BiH customs officials acquired additional knowledge on BiH criminal code procedures for the proper searching vehicles & persons to detect illegal SALW.

>	Number of strategic and regulatory frameworks, measures, and mechanisms that contribute to truth seeking, justice, guarantees of non-occurrence and the rule of law, and countering organized crime that are designed in a collaborative, evidence-based, and gender-sensitive manner (UNSDCF BiH 2023-2025).	0	2 (new or updated SOPs and/or proposed or adopted MoUs.)	Not yet initiated / Work on the MoU between the Border Police and ITA is planned to be initiated following the adoption of the Law on Border Control.
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Activity 1.2.1: Enhancing cooperation and communication among national stakeholders to advance key strategic documents and policies.

Achievements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > [2023] Q4: The project team prepared a schedule of activities aimed at supporting the inter-agency working group tasked to improve the existing MoU in order to clarify legal and operational issues between the two partner agencies and to harmonize their field operations to more efficiently prevent, detect, and prosecute illicit SALW trafficking. > [2024] The UNDP project team facilitated BiH SALW Coordination Board meetings, where all relevant institutions come together to exchange perspectives and experiences on SALW-related activities and policy. > The project team has postponed the development of a new MoU between the BP and ITA to 2025, considering that the adoption of the BiH Law on Border Control has been delayed. The law is an important prerequisite for the initiation of work on the MoU. In late 2024, the governing coalition at the state level agreed to fast-track the law's adoption, leading to its approval by the BiH Council of Ministers on 17 December 2024, while the adoption by the BiH Parliamentary Assembly is expected in Q1 2025. Once adopted, the project team will coordinate with the BiH SALW Coordination Board to establish a working group for revising and adopting a new MoU between the BP and ITA.
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Activity 1.2.2: Strengthening the exchange and transfer of good practices in prosecuting illicit SALW trafficking.

Achievements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > [2024] The UNDP project team organized 5 meetings gathering prosecutors from 5 RS District Prosecutor's Offices as well as the Chief RS Prosecutor and Special RS Prosecutor, 10 cantonal prosecutors, and a prosecutor from Brčko District BiH. link1, link2, link3, link4, link5. The aim of the meetings was to identify gaps in SALW-related investigation from the prosecutor's angle and incorporate these findings into a SALW Investigation Guidebook that will be distributed to all police agencies, following consultations with all police agencies. 29 prosecutors (12 women, 17 men) attended these meetings that were facilitated by BiH Prosecutor Office's representatives, among which were one prosecutor and two investigators. The first draft SALW Investigation Guidebook was developed and will be the subject of further review and validation before it is finalized.
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Output 1.3	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
<p>Raised awareness and community engagement achieved through countrywide campaigns, outreach activities, and advocacy addressing the negative impact and threats posed by illicit SALW to the general public, including groups at risk (women, children, young men).</p>	<p>➤ Number of impact assessments on human rights from the perspective of SALW.</p>	<p>0 Assessments- pertinent to HR and SALW- related issues non-existent.</p>	<p>1 HR Assessment developed with structured findings and recommendations.</p>	<p>- / An HRDDP for BiH has been initiated, with an agreement to be finalized by SEESAC based on the input from the consultant engaged by UNDP BiH.</p>
	<p>➤ Number of CSO's, including those representing women and girls belonging to groups at risk, that have strengthened capacity to engage in addressing issues of illicit SALW possession and impact on vulnerable groups.</p>	<p>2 civil society organizations (CSOs) engaged in activities pertinent to the issues of illicit SALW possession.</p>	<p>Up to 8 CSOs engaged to jointly tackle the issue of illegal SALW with relevant government institutions.</p>	<p>8 CSOs were engaged via low-value grant agreements. Respective projects are underway.</p>
	<p>➤ No. of gender-responsive, conflict- sensitive development institutions, policies, plans, or cross-border initiatives in place, with UN support, that, promote and protect gender equality and human rights to end all forms of violence, promote the rule of law, and ensure equal access to justice for all (UNSDCF BiH 2023-2025; global indicator 16.3).</p>	<p>0 - Limited functional mechanisms in place pertinent to gender equality and the empowerment of women in law enforcement.</p>	<p>5 gender related events promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women in law enforcement as a joint activity with UNDP CO Serbia.</p>	<p>5 [with further support ongoing] / 2 meetings among relevant associations from BiH and Serbia were held. Also, associations from BiH attended an international conference in Serbia. Furthermore, a BiH association participated in the development of a new Action Plan in support of the new BiH SALW Control Strategy 2025-2030. Finally, MoS enrolled in the GES initiative.</p>
<p>Activity 1.3.1: Supporting the coordination body in charge of the implementation of the Law on Gender Equality and SALW Control Strategy.</p>	<p>Achievements:</p> <p>➤ [2024] Following the December 2023 meeting with the MoS's Coordination Board on the Gender Equality Law, UNDP maintained contact with the Board's Chairperson, who also chairs the BiH SALW Coordination Board and is the Assistant Minister of MoS. Following an official request from the MoS in February 2024 to enrol in the Gender Equality Seal (GES) for Public Institutions program, the UNDP project team, in collaboration with the BiH Agency for Gender Equality, committed to support these efforts and thus foster gender-responsive SALW control policy and operations.</p> <p>➤ [2024] An informational meeting on GES for the MoS was held on 4 September 2024, followed by the hiring of a consultant to support the process. Official work began with a workshop in Igman on 14 and 15 November 2024, where the consultant trained 22 MoS participants (14 women, 8 men) on the GES initiative.</p>			

Activity 1.3.2: Joining Forces for a Safer Country: Strengthening the Role of Civil Society in Awareness-Raising and Outreach Efforts.

Achievements:

➤ [2024] UNDP [engaged 8 CSOs](#), thus raising public awareness and increasing community outreach through CSOs on preventing firearms misuse (through the creation of movies, theater plays, etc.). To this end, a public call for CSO project proposals was launched on 14 March 2024, with 9 proposals received by the 29 April deadline. 8 proposals met the requirements, and, due to their quality, all available funds were allocated to these projects. Low Value Grant Agreements (LVGAs) were prepared, and the signing ceremony took place on 6 August 2024. The CSO projects commenced in September 2024, ranging from the development of a short film to other awareness-raising activities to raise awareness on the dangers of SALW misuse and associated prevention aspects. The project team supported and monitored the CSOs, ensuring successful implementation and adherence to guidelines. The CSO “Forum” presented an outline of a film on the dangers of SALW, to be finalized in Q1 2025 and screened in 3 schools.

Activity 1.3.3: Support to associations of women police officials in Bosnia and Herzegovina through cross-border cooperation (joint activity with UNDP CO Serbia).

Achievements:

➤ [2024] The UNDP in BiH enhanced the engagement of women in SALW matters through the associations of women police officials. 24 women police officials from BiH were engaged on SALW issues, through two bilateral meetings and one international conference.

- More specifically, UNDP in BiH engaged with two associations of women police officials to promote gender inclusion and women’s stronger engagement in SALW control. In partnership with the UNDP in Serbia, the project supported the [first joint meeting](#) of women police associations from BiH and Serbia in Belgrade (15-17 May 2024). This meeting, attended by 21 members from two associations from BiH and one association from Serbia, as well as by representatives from the association “Journalists Against Violence,” focused on gender perspectives in SALW policies.
- The [second meeting](#) took place in Sarajevo from 15-17 October 2024, with total of 24 participants, including the BiH SALW Coordination Board Chairperson. The meeting highlighted challenges faced by women in law enforcement and their involvement in SALW policy. As a concrete result of the second meeting, representatives of the two associations from BiH were invited to take part in the BiH SALW CB meeting and contribute proposals to the 2025-2027 Action Plan in support of a newly prepared SALW Control Strategy covering the period 2025-2030.
- Additionally, 5 representatives from the two BiH associations attended the [3rd International Conference in Serbia](#), hosted by the association of women police from Serbia, where they signed a declaration on advancing the position of women in police forces. Given the importance of the conference, this was marked as the third official meeting among associations from two countries.

23. Integrated Institutional Approach and Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation for SALW Control (Phase I)

Implementing organization: UNDP Albania

Implementing period: December 2023 – December 2025

Budget: US\$ 1,205,490

Outcome 1: Strengthened national and regional capacities for effective border management, the fight against firearms trafficking, and improved SALW control.				
Output 1.1	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
National capacities for effectiveness in the fight against firearms-related crime and trafficking strengthened through knowledge and intelligence exchange and the use of technology advancements.	➤ Number of workshops, training sessions, or knowledge-gaining events conducted only with Albanian beneficiaries (border police, criminal police, FPI staff, Customs, etc.)	none	3 study or knowledge-gaining visits; 2 trainings; Up to 15 participants .	Partial progress / - One study visit of Albanian forensic experts to the Forensic Laboratory in Pristina for 12 participants was completed. - One peer-exchange for 2 forensic experts at the ENFSI event was completed.
	➤ Number of police staff trained on countering FAE trafficking at borders or online.	none	130 police staff trained, out of which at least 25% are women.	- / Not yet initiated.
Activity 1.1.1: Study visit of Albanian forensic experts to gain knowledge from accredited similar institutions.	Achievements: ➤ [2024] A two-day study visit of 12 Albanian forensic investigation experts (6 women, 6 men) to the Forensic Laboratory in Pristina was organized in April 2024, to gain knowledge from an accredited peer institution on applied methods. The visit improved the knowledge of the participating Albanian Institute of Scientific Police (AISP) professionals regarding the standards of conformity, technical infrastructure, and the organizational and management needs towards the accreditation process.			
Activity 1.1.2: Participation of Albanian FPI in ENFSI conferences.	Achievements: ➤ [2024] Two AISP experts (one men, one women) were supported in participating in the ENFSI-organized meeting for proficiency testing in Wiesbaden, Germany from 5-7 June 2024, and in enhancing their respective analytical knowledge and capacities. The experts participated in the testing of the Gun shot Residue (GSR) analysis of cartridge capsules, whereby every participating laboratory was instructed to use the respective SOP in analyzing the test samples. The results of the proficiency testing were discussed with colleagues from over 20 forensic laboratories.			

Activity 1.1.3: Assessment of feasibility of "EVOFINDER" ballistic data sharing between Albania and Kosovo.

Achievements:

- **[2024]** The project team is exploring feasible options for connecting ballistic data via EVOFINDER. The consultations are ongoing to examine the case of France-Switzerland EVOFINDER communication, as a model to be applied.

Activity 1.1.4: Design and disseminate advanced training on countering FAE smuggling tailored to frontline staff.

Achievements:

- **[2024]** The project team drafted ToR to procure services of an international and a national expert to design and disseminate advanced training on countering FAE smuggling tailored to frontline staff. The procurement will be initiated in Q1 2025.

Activity 1.1.5: Darkweb training for law enforcement authorities to combat online firearms trafficking and transnational crime.

Achievements:

- **[2024]** The project team drafted ToR for the necessary expertise for a Darkweb training in cooperation with the ASP Directorate Against Cyber Crime. The project team has been in contact with the Western Balkans Cyber Capacity Centre (WB3C) in Montenegro to explore possibilities for conducting a 4/5-day training for 20 ASP participants at the center in June 2025. An online meeting has been scheduled in January to plan further towards this end.

Output 1.2	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
National operational capacities for border crossing FAE-related crimes are strengthened through investment in equipment, and its effective management and use.	➤ Number of equipment items procured for border crossing points/green borders.	none	7 (equipment category)	6 / Partial progress (based on the plan agreed with ASP): - 6 (per category) / i) drones (2) for day and night use and 60 min of flight independence, ii) portable X-ray scanners (2), iii) medium range thermal cameras (5), iv) long-range day binoculars (10), v) medium-range night binoculars (5), vi) portable document scanners (5). The equipment is pending delivery in 2025. - The Procurement of 4×4 vehicles is in progress.
	➤ Number of police staff trained in the use of the relevant equipment.	none	At least 35 (at least two staff per piece of equipment.)	- / Activity not initiated.
	➤ Number of police units benefitting from advanced technology in detecting and preventing FAE-related crimes.	none	At least 6; 4 BCPs and FPI Tirana and Kukes.	2 / Partial progress: - FPI Tirana and Kukes received specialized equipment, encompassing 1 metal detector for the FPI Tirana, and 4 investigative suitcases complete with cameras for the crime scene, 4 CSI toolkits, 4 PCs, and one laptop for the FPI Kukes - The delivery of specialized equipment for BCPs is planned for 2025.

Activity 1.2.1: Provision of equipment for green border BMP patrolling.

Achievements:

- > **[2025]** Specialized equipment was procured to enhance the detection and seizure of illicit SALW by the ASP / Border and Migration Police, including: i) 2 drones for day and night use and 60 min of flight independence; ii) 2 portable X-ray scanners; iii) 5 medium range thermal cameras; iv) 10 long-range day binoculars; v) 5 medium-range night binoculars; and vi) 5 portable document scanners. The procured equipment was scheduled to be delivered by the end of March 2025, to be used for the planned joint operations.
- > The procurement of five 4×4 vehicles for green border patrolling is ongoing.

Activity 1.2.2: Provision of SALW-related investigation equipment for the Albanian FPI.

Achievements:

- > **[2024]** The Albanian Institute of Scientific Police (AISP) was equipped with specialized equipment to advance its forensic investigations, encompassing: 1 metal detector for the AISP central office, 4 investigative suitcases complete with cameras for the crime scene, 4 CSI toolkits, 4 PCs, and one laptop for the Regional Forensic Sector in Kukes.

Activity 1.2.3: Design an approach for basic standard equipment used for the detection of FAE and equipment maintenance planning and budgeting.

Achievements:

- > **[2024]** The project team drafted ToR for procuring the services of an international and national expert to conduct this activity. The procurement will be initiated during Q1 2025.

Output 1.3	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Police exchange and cooperation on SALW matters between Albania and Kosovo enhanced.	> Number of joint training courses with balanced participation of Albanian and Kosovo police.	none	4	4 / Four joint training courses took place, two in Pristina and two in Tirana.
	> Number of police staff that pass joint training, including at least (10%) women.	none	40 from Albania / 10 women	11 / 11 police officers were trained from Albania, 22 in total, including 10% women.
	> Number of structured joint operations at the BCPs and GBLs in countering Illicit arms trafficking.	none	2	Not yet initiated.
	> Number of knowledge products developed.	none	At least 4	4 / 4 knowledge products were developed, encompassing training material for each joint training.

Activity 1.3.1: Joint training on community policing and intelligence led policing approach towards SALW Control.

Achievements:

- > [2024] The relevant four-day [training](#) was conducted in Pristina from 18-21 March for 22 border police officers from Kosovo and Albania (20 men and 2 women), enhancing the knowledge and capacities of participants regarding community policing approaches and intelligence-led policing approaches to SALW.

Activity 1.3.2: Joint training on the identification and prevention of explosives and explosives precursors.

Achievements:

- > [2024] The relevant four-day [training](#) was conducted in Pristina from 26-29 March for the same group of 22 border police officers (with minor variations) from Kosovo and Albania, increasing their capacities to detect explosives, explosive precursors, and other handmade explosive devices.

Activity 1.3.3: Joint training on weapons categorization and the legal framework regulating the field of SALW Control.

Achievements:

- > [2024] The relevant four-day [training](#) was conducted in Tirana from 20-24 May 2024 for 22 border police officers from Kosovo and Albania (slight change in the group composition, with 18 men and 4 women; 8 men and 3 women from the Kosovo Police; 10 men and 1 woman from the Albanian Police), enhancing their knowledge and capacities on weapons categorization and legal framework regulating the field of SALW.

Activity 1.3.4: Joint training on weapons conversion, and methods and tool marks used in conversion, including ballistic examination and potential data exchange.

Achievements:

- > [2024] The relevant four-day [training](#) was conducted in Tirana from 10-14 June for the same group of 22 border police officers from Kosovo and Albania, enhancing their knowledge and skills in weapons conversion, methods, and tool marks used in conversion, including ballistic examination and potential data exchange.

Activity 1.3.5: Joint police operations at the BCPs and GBLs in increasing bilateral cooperation in countering IAT and increasing firearms confiscations.

Achievements:

- > Activity is planned to start as of 2025, following the delivery of specialized equipment.

Activity 1.3.6: Joint launch of, concluding, and bilateral Project Board meetings.

Achievements:




- > [2024] A [joint launching event](#) of the MPTF-supported projects in Albania and Kosovo was held with high-level attendance in Tirana in February 2024, ensuring visibility and emphasis for the regional, cross-border, and integrated approach to SALW control.
- > [2024] A [Joint Project Board meeting](#) took place in Pristina on 1 October 2024. The meeting was an opportunity to assess the project's progress with all key stakeholders and discuss the way forward.

24. Strengthening the Capacities of the Forensics and Crime Scene Investigation System to Improve the Criminal Justice Response to SALW

Implementing organization: UNDP North Macedonia

Implementing period: December 2023 – September 2025

Approved budget: US\$ 1,149,180

Outcome 1: Enhanced police operations and improved criminal justice response in the field of the possession, misuse, and trafficking of small arms and light weapons through improved technology and strengthened analytical and investigation capacities of the forensics and crime investigation system of the Republic of North Macedonia.				
Output 1.1	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Ballistic facilities and operations of Mol's Forensics Department are upgraded.	 Technical specifications on the necessary interventions and upgrades to the ballistic facilities of the Mol's Forensic Department prepared.	No Needs-based assessment is in place, but no detailed technical specifications for the upgrades.	Yes Completed technical specifications that will serve as the basis for the necessary upgrades.	Yes / The technical specifications and needs-based analysis on necessary interventions and upgrades to the ballistic facilities of the Mol's Forensic Department were prepared by an international and national consultant and accepted by the Mol.
	 Indoor shooting range upgraded in line with international safety and security requirements for the forensic examination of ballistic evidence.	No The present shooting range does not fulfill international safety and security requirements for the forensic examination of ballistic evidence.	Yes Upgraded shooting range fully meets international safety and security requirements for the forensic examination of ballistic evidence.	Partially achieved / The majority of upgrades to the indoor shooting range were completed, in compliance with international safety and security requirements for the forensic examination of ballistic evidence. Some minor interventions will follow in 2025.
Activity 1.1.1: Preparation of technical specifications for relevant interventions and upgrades in the indoor shooting range.	Achievements:  [2024] The technical specifications for interventions and upgrades in the indoor shooting range were completed by the contracted international ballistic expert and a national consultant and were accepted by the Ministry of the Interior.			

Activity 1.1.2: Interventions and upgrades in the indoor shooting range.

Achievements:

- > **[2024]** The major interventions to the indoor shooting range were completed during 2024. A ballistic bullet trap was delivered and installed, followed by a test shooting session with the international consultant and Mol ballistic examiners. The ballistic protection of the control room was implemented, with the installation of a side door and horizontal pipes, meeting the EN 1522/3 FB7 protection standard. Following a request from the Mol and within a budget revision approved by the Steering Committee, the project expanded interventions to the indoor shooting range, including the relocation of electrical cables, upgrades to the ventilation system, and the installation of sound and video surveillance equipment. The enhancements will ensure a safer, more efficient environment for conducting ballistic testing during forensic examinations of weapons and ammunition.
- > There are additional minor adjustments remaining to be completed in Q1 2025.

Output 1.2	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Analytical, technical, and investigative capacities of the Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) units are enhanced.	> Availability of needs-based analysis for the necessary technical improvements to the CSI system.	No No CSI training and simulation facility exists in the country (0).	Yes Completion of a needs-based analysis for the necessary technical specifications that will serve as a basis for improvements to the CSI system.	Partial progress / A needs-based analysis for necessary technical improvements to the CSI system through development of a Training and Simulation Facility is being prepared by experts from the French National Forensic Police Service.
	> Training and simulation facility for the Mol's CSI system in place. (Y/N)	No No CSI training and simulation facility exists in the country (0).	Yes CSI training and simulation facility equipped and in use.	Partial progress / The Mol allocated the space for the CSI Training and Simulation Facility and the design is being prepared.
	> Level of technical capacities of the CSI system upgraded based on baseline assessment/ specification (rating scale: Low, Moderate, High).	Low Expert assessment/ specification; [Lack of adequate IT equipment software solutions, insufficient specialized CSI kits.]	High [The CSI system operates with modern IT equipment and software solutions. The CSI system has at its disposal individual CSI kits for its staff members.]	Partial progress / The CSI system was equipped with modern IT equipment. The donation of sketching software solutions is in progress, while the procurement of individual CSI kits was finalized with delivery pending in Q1 2025.

> Number of operational peer exchanges on modern CSI tools, equipment, and practices with CSI staff from the Ministry of the Interior.	0 No specific exchange of experiences on modern CSI tools, equipment, and practices previously implemented.	1 Successfully completed exchange of experiences and knowledge, which helps acquaint the CSI units in North Macedonia with the benefits and uses of modern CSI tools, equipment, and practices.	1 / Operational peer exchange on modern CSI tools, equipment, and practices was completed through a study visit of Mol staff to the French National Forensic Police Service in Écully, France.
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Activity 1.2.1: Preparation of a detailed needs-based analysis for necessary improvements to the CSI system.

Achievements:

> [2024] The project team, in collaboration with the French Embassy in North Macedonia, developed a key collaborative partnership with the French National Forensic Police Service (SNPS). This was initiated with a study visit under Activity 1.2.5. [below] and it progressed with the visit of two SNPS CSI and forensic training experts to North Macedonia from 25-29 November 2024. The visit included a series of meetings, presentations, and field visits with Mol representatives, facilitating valuable knowledge exchange and laying the groundwork for a detailed needs-based analysis for the improvement of the national CSI system through the development of a CSI Training and Simulation Facility for practical knowledge in investigating firearms-related cases. As a result, the experts produced a comprehensive report and action plan for the new Facility, including the identification of urgent interventions, and provided a thorough questionnaire for the Mol to complete, ensuring crucial feedback for the finalization of the needs-based analysis.

Activity 1.2.2: Training and simulation facility for continuous learning on CSI.

Achievements:

> [2024] In order to develop the Training and Simulation Facility for continuous learning on CSI, collaboration was initiated with the Mol Training Center in Idrizovo, which is the main training ground for current and future police officers in all fields. Following intensive consultations and a change in the decision of the allocated barracks, the project efforts resulted in the final decision on the facilities and the approval to commence the renovation and equipping of the premises for the planned purpose. This Facility will be specifically tailored to meet the needs of the Forensic Investigations Department and will serve as the home for the upcoming CSI Training and Simulation Facility. The development of the construction project and design for the critical interventions is scheduled to begin in Q1 2025.

Activity 1.2.3: Provision of equipment for enhanced connectivity and access to databases of CSI technicians.

Achievements:

> [2024] The project procured and delivered necessary IT equipment for the Mol's CSI system. The donated equipment consisted of 83 personal computers, 83 monitors, 41 multifunction printers and scanners, and additional smaller equipment. These essential resources are set to be distributed across CSI units nationwide, significantly enhancing their operational efficiency and capacity. A portion of this equipment will be distributed to the new Training and Simulation Facility for CSI at the Mol Training Center in Idrizovo, further strengthening the training capabilities of the Mol.

> [2024] In collaboration with the French National Forensic Police Department, several meetings and negotiations were held throughout 2024, aimed at adapting the SweetHome 3D software package for processing CSI documentation for use in North Macedonia. Originally developed and adapted by the French Forensic Service, this ready-made software solution will be further customized and translated to meet the specific needs of the CSI units in North Macedonia in 2025.

Activity 1.2.4: Advancing CSI evidence collection methods through the provision of specialized kits and strengthening gender awareness.

Achievements:

➤ **[2024]** The project procured CSI kits and photo cameras for use by CSI technicians in the field, aimed at enhancing the evidence collection methods used for firearms-related cases. More specifically, the equipment encompasses a total of 78 CSI kits, consisting of 54 universal investigation kits and 24 post-mortem investigation kits, along with 41 photo cameras and external camera flashes. A portion of this equipment will be allocated to the new CSI Training and Simulation Facility at the Mol Training Center in Idrizovo, strengthening the Facility's ability to support advanced forensic training and enhancing operational capabilities. These items are scheduled for delivery to the Mol in January 2025, with a promotional event planned to give visibility to the efforts.

Activity 1.2.5: Exchanging experience on CSI with other UNDP offices [Modified to: Peer-exchange and learning from good practice on CSI, through approved project revision].

Achievements:

➤ **[2024]** The project team organized a [study visit to France](#), hosted by the National Forensic Police Service in Écully. This visit, attended by six high-level Mol representatives, a French Embassy representative, and UNDP members, aimed to gather insights for developing a CSI Simulation and Training Facility at the Police Training Center in Idrizovo, as outlined in the project objectives. During the visit to the French National Forensic Sciences Training Centre, various aspects were explored, including the system and functioning of the Centre and its collaboration with other police units. The delegation toured training and simulation facilities dedicated to crime scene investigation, gaining insights into their operations and practical application in North Macedonia. Furthermore, the delegation reviewed digital tools and databases crucial for evidence registration and processing. Visits to forensic laboratories provided a firsthand look at their operations. Additionally, participants observed real CSI training sessions for new recruits and engaged in discussions on training curricula for forensics and crime scene investigation. The visit strengthened the cooperation between the Mol and the French National Forensic Police Service, which will be further built upon in the context of the project.

Output 1.3

Indicators

**Baseline
(2023)**

**Project
target (2025)**

Overall progress / Milestone

The Police Information Management System (IMS) and data management, inclusive of firearms-related cases, are advanced through the implementation of a gender-sensitive approach.

➤ Module on domestic violence developed and integrated into IMS.

No
Baseline assessment for the DV module developed.

Yes
DV module developed and integrated into the existing Police IMS.

- / The Terms of Reference for the development and integration of a module on domestic violence into the existing Police IMS is being prepared and finalized in partnership with the Mol.

Activity 1.3.1: Development of a module on domestic violence and the related technical and expert support for the use of the Police IMS use.

Achievements:

➤ **[2024]** The project team was in constant communication with the new management of the IT and Telecommunications Department, with the goal of finalizing the Terms of Reference and launching the procurement procedure for a module on domestic violence and related technical and expert support. The new management expressed interest in expanding the use of the Police Information Management System for a larger number of police officers and departments, as well as in performing necessary technical upgrades to ensure smoother maintenance of the system by the Ministry in the future. This required comprehensive consultations with all involved stakeholders and departments, which are currently ongoing. The adjusted expectations and requirements from Mol have caused significant delays in the activity's implementation. The project has developed adjusted Terms of Reference and shared these with the Mol for approval in advance of the procurement procedures, which are to proceed in 2025.

25. Project Hermes 2.1: Countering Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Ammunition in Express Courier and Postal Parcels

Implementing organization: UNODC
 Implementing period: October 2024 – October 2025
 Budget: US\$ 1,280,387

Outcome 1: Enhanced capacities of Western Balkans jurisdictions to detect, prevent, and counter illicit trafficking of firearms, their parts, ammunition and explosives through Express Courier and postal parcels.				
Output 1.1	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Improved operational capacities of customs authorities and designated postal operators to detect firearms, their parts, components, ammunition, and explosives through Express Courier and postal parcels.	▶ Percentage increase in the accuracy of firearm detection in postal parcels by customs and designated postal operators, as demonstrated through simulated testing after advanced X-ray technology training.	Low accuracy in the detection of firearms in postal parcels by customs and designated postal operators.	High accuracy rate in the detection of firearms in postal parcels by customs and designated postal operators, as evidenced by at least 80% success rate in simulated testing scenario.	Partial progress. / Trainers on X-ray technology were identified in all six jurisdictions.
	▶ Number of customs and DPO officials with enhanced capacity to formulate and analyze risks related to firearms trafficking via postal shipments.	9 customs and DPO officials from BiH with foundational knowledge on risk formulation.	40 customs and DPO officials from all six WB jurisdictions with enhanced capacity to formulate and analyze risks related to firearms trafficking via postal shipments.	N/A / [Scheduled for 2025]
	▶ Number of customs and postal facilities equipped and operational with detection equipment for firearm detection.	3 facilities in BiH (partially) equipped with detection equipment.	Additional 7 facilities across the region (partially) equipped with detection equipment: additional 2 facilities in BiH, 3 facilities in Serbia, 1 facility each in Tirana, Pristina, Skopje and Podgorica.	Partial progress. / Procurement processes initiated for the necessary equipment.
Activity 1.1.1: Advanced course for X-ray operators on detection of firearm using X-ray technology	Achievements: <div> ▶ [2024] UNODC identified trainers to deliver training on firearms X-ray image analysis in all six WB jurisdictions. The training course materials were translated into Albanian, Macedonian, and the BCMS languages. The online courses were translated to Albanian, Macedonian, and the BCMS languages. </div>			



Activity 1.1.2: Workshops on development of risk analysis and indicators for detection of firearms in postal parcels

Achievements:

> **[2024]** UNODC organized meetings with SALW Commissions and the analytical units of the customs agencies in all six WB jurisdictions to discuss the implementation of the activity. French Customs were informed about the initiation of phase two of the project and experts were secured for its implementation.

Activity 1.1.3: Provision of equipment on detection of firearms in Express Courier and postal parcels to customs administrations and DPOs

Achievements:

> **[2024]** UNODC organized the procurement of scanners for the beneficiaries in Tirana and Pristina. The contracts with the manufacturer were signed and UNODC initiated the arrangement of transportation services for the delivery of the equipment to Tirana and Pristina. In addition, UNODC finalized the procurement of IT equipment for Skopje, Pristina, Belgrade, Podgorica, and Sarajevo. NB: The IT equipment for Tirana was procured and delivered under phase 1 of the project. [\[link\]](#)

Annex 4. Updated Risk Matrix

Risk type	Risk description	Risk management response	Risk level (low, moderate, high)
Financial	Insufficient capitalization of the Trust Fund	<p>Since 2019, the Trust Fund has received more than \$28.5 million in contributions from its principal donors, demonstrating the contributors’ steadfast commitment and support. Along with accrued interest and investment income, the Trust Fund’s value exceeds \$29 million.</p> <p>Issued open calls and direct solicitations for proposals have galvanized the approved funding for 25 projects with a cumulative value of \$26.7 million, demonstrating the continuous need for and the unwavering commitment to SALW Control Roadmap implementation over the years.</p> <p>Funding contributions to the Trust Fund have, however, gradually scaled down over the years and the programming and capitalization need to be adjusted accordingly.</p> <p>The Steering Committee, with the support of the Secretariat and the MPTF Office, plans and regularly monitors the Fund’s resources and capitalization, and ensures the allocations of funds are relevant and serve the purpose in a most effective and efficient manner.</p>	MODERATE
	Lack of internal political and institutional stability in the jurisdictions targeted by the Trust Fund	<p>The political climate in the Western Balkans’ jurisdictions is variable and can periodically become erratic, particularly around elections. The situation is regularly monitored.</p> <p>The Participating UN Organizations possess detailed knowledge and a nuanced understanding of the situation on the ground. They ensure close cooperation with their counterparts and diligently monitor the situation in order to plan and respond to changes in a timely manner. The participating organizations maintain regular contacts with the concerned authorities to ensure engagement, including at the senior levels.</p> <p>The Secretariat maintains regular contacts with all the jurisdictions in the region and supports their strengthened engagement through established platforms.</p> <p>The Trust Fund’s Steering Committee reviews the projects’ progress on a regular basis and makes decisions on the projects’ revisions so that implementing periods can be extended and/or adjusted strategies applied if the situation so requires.</p>	MODERATE

Operational	Complexity in ensuring coordination of the projects funded through the Trust Fund	<p>The Trust Fund Secretariat, i.e., SEESAC, is responsible for the programmatic coordination and monitoring of the Fund, providing technical and management support. The Secretariat has over 20 years of experience in successfully implementing regional projects in the area of arms control, as well strong relationships with both national counterparts and the Participating UN Organizations. SEESAC organizes regular regional coordination meetings and supports local coordination meetings to ensure the effective overall coordination of activities in support of the Roadmap's implementation, including of the MPTF-funded projects.</p> <p>Through funding allocations provided to the Secretariat by the Fund's Steering Committee on an annual basis, the Steering Committee ensures sufficient human and operational resources are dedicated to the coordinating functions of the Secretariat, enabling proper operations.</p>	LOW
	Insufficient operational capacity within national counterparts, often due to a lack of human and financial resources to respond to specific, time-constrained activities	<p>The frequent insufficient operational capacity of the national counterparts is mitigated through careful and realistic planning processes. The long-term relationships of both the Participating UN Organizations and the Secretariat with the beneficiary institutions provide a solid basis for capacity assessment and respective planning.</p> <p>Nevertheless, the progress relies on a limited cohort of specialized practitioners and it is thus intended that the pool be expanded, as feasible, to ensure comprehensive engagement in, and the continuity of, efforts across the jurisdictions.</p> <p>The Trust Fund also allows for greater flexibility with regards to projects' duration. Non-cost extensions are foreseen and applied in line with the Operations Manual, and these act as a risk-mitigation measure.</p>	MODERATE
	Inflation and increased costs	<p>Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine, projects have incurred increased costs due to inflation and experienced challenges with the procuring of goods (often due to increased prices and/or disrupted supply chains causing limited availability of goods or extended timelines for delivery).</p> <p>The Participating UN Organizations plan and adjust budget allocations as necessary and in line with the Operations Manual to effectively and efficiently respond to inflation and other cost increases.</p> <p>The Steering Committee and/or Secretariat review and decide on budget revisions in line with the Operations Manual, with due consideration of the expected results and priority needs.</p>	MODERATE