



## WESTERN BALKANS SALW CONTROL ROADMAP MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND

### Final Report December 2020 - June 2024

<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Project Title &amp; Project Number</th> </tr> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project Title: <b>Strengthening control, administration and social attitudes towards SALW</b></li> <li>Project Number: <b>00123349</b></li> <li>MPTF Office Project Reference Number:<sup>2</sup> <b>00125151</b></li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Participating Organization(s)</th> </tr> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UNDP Albania</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Project Cost (US\$)</th> </tr> <tr> <td>           Total approved budget as per project document: <span style="float: right;"><b>\$1,661,314</b></span>            MPTF /JP Contribution<sup>3</sup>:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>by Agency (if applicable)</li> </ul>           Agency Contribution  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>by Agency (if applicable)</li> </ul>           Government Contribution (if applicable)            Other Contributions (donors) (if applicable)  <b>TOTAL: <span style="float: right;"><b>\$1,661,314</b></span></b> </td> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Project Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</th> </tr> <tr> <td>           Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i>  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>            Mid-Term Evaluation Report – if applicable <i>please attach</i>  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i> </td> </tr> </table>	Project Title & Project Number	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project Title: <b>Strengthening control, administration and social attitudes towards SALW</b></li> <li>Project Number: <b>00123349</b></li> <li>MPTF Office Project Reference Number:<sup>2</sup> <b>00125151</b></li> </ul>	Participating Organization(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UNDP Albania</li> </ul>	Project Cost (US\$)	Total approved budget as per project document: <span style="float: right;"><b>\$1,661,314</b></span> MPTF /JP Contribution <sup>3</sup> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>by Agency (if applicable)</li> </ul> Agency Contribution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>by Agency (if applicable)</li> </ul> Government Contribution (if applicable) Other Contributions (donors) (if applicable) <b>TOTAL: <span style="float: right;"><b>\$1,661,314</b></span></b>	Project Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.	Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i> Mid-Term Evaluation Report – if applicable <i>please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results<sup>1</sup></th> </tr> <tr> <td>Albania/Tirana</td> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Priority area/ strategic results</th> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap: Goals 2, 4, 5, 7</b></td> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Implementing Partners</th> </tr> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Albanian Ministry of Interior, Albanian State Police</li> <li>Communities, women, youth, firearm owners</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Project Duration</th> </tr> <tr> <td>           Overall Duration: <span style="float: right;">42 months</span>             Start Date<sup>4</sup>: <span style="float: right;">11 December 2020</span>             Original End Date<sup>5</sup>: <span style="float: right;">11 December 2022</span>             Final End date<sup>6</sup>: <span style="float: right;">30 June 2024</span> </td> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Report Submitted By</th> </tr> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name: Redi Voshtina</li> <li>Title: Technical Advisor</li> <li>Participating Organization (Lead): UNDP ALBANIA</li> <li>Email address: redi.voshtina@undp.org</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results <sup>1</sup>	Albania/Tirana	Priority area/ strategic results	<b>Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap: Goals 2, 4, 5, 7</b>	Implementing Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Albanian Ministry of Interior, Albanian State Police</li> <li>Communities, women, youth, firearm owners</li> </ul>	Project Duration	Overall Duration: <span style="float: right;">42 months</span>  Start Date <sup>4</sup> : <span style="float: right;">11 December 2020</span>  Original End Date <sup>5</sup> : <span style="float: right;">11 December 2022</span>  Final End date <sup>6</sup> : <span style="float: right;">30 June 2024</span>	Report Submitted By	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name: Redi Voshtina</li> <li>Title: Technical Advisor</li> <li>Participating Organization (Lead): UNDP ALBANIA</li> <li>Email address: redi.voshtina@undp.org</li> </ul>
Project Title & Project Number																			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project Title: <b>Strengthening control, administration and social attitudes towards SALW</b></li> <li>Project Number: <b>00123349</b></li> <li>MPTF Office Project Reference Number:<sup>2</sup> <b>00125151</b></li> </ul>																			
Participating Organization(s)																			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UNDP Albania</li> </ul>																			
Project Cost (US\$)																			
Total approved budget as per project document: <span style="float: right;"><b>\$1,661,314</b></span> MPTF /JP Contribution <sup>3</sup> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>by Agency (if applicable)</li> </ul> Agency Contribution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>by Agency (if applicable)</li> </ul> Government Contribution (if applicable) Other Contributions (donors) (if applicable) <b>TOTAL: <span style="float: right;"><b>\$1,661,314</b></span></b>																			
Project Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.																			
Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i> Mid-Term Evaluation Report – if applicable <i>please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>																			
Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results <sup>1</sup>																			
Albania/Tirana																			
Priority area/ strategic results																			
<b>Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap: Goals 2, 4, 5, 7</b>																			
Implementing Partners																			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Albanian Ministry of Interior, Albanian State Police</li> <li>Communities, women, youth, firearm owners</li> </ul>																			
Project Duration																			
Overall Duration: <span style="float: right;">42 months</span>  Start Date <sup>4</sup> : <span style="float: right;">11 December 2020</span>  Original End Date <sup>5</sup> : <span style="float: right;">11 December 2022</span>  Final End date <sup>6</sup> : <span style="float: right;">30 June 2024</span>																			
Report Submitted By																			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name: Redi Voshtina</li> <li>Title: Technical Advisor</li> <li>Participating Organization (Lead): UNDP ALBANIA</li> <li>Email address: redi.voshtina@undp.org</li> </ul>																			

<sup>1</sup> Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document;

<sup>2</sup> The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as "Project ID" on the project's factsheet page the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

<sup>3</sup> The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

<sup>4</sup> The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

<sup>5</sup> As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

<sup>6</sup> If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an

## I. Background

Albania is fully committed to following the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap as part of its strategic priorities on the fight against crime and consolidation of the rule of law, which is also part of the immediate five key priorities to be fulfilled by Albania in its EU accession process.

In Albania, there is still a considerable number of illicit guns held by civilians, with a significant number of incidents linked to firearms. Although recent crime statistics indicate a decrease in several violent crime categories and some increase in the clear up rate, armed street crime is still worrying especially in urban areas, most notably related to domestic violence, burglary, and clashes among criminal groups. The Government confirms a figure of 450-500 illegal weapons seized in the last five years on an annual basis. Between 2006 – 2017, a total of 9,380 criminal offenses of unlawful possession of arms were identified nationwide. Also, while most firearms license holders are men (99.9%), they account for the overwhelming majority of the perpetrators of incidents committed with firearms (98%) and are more prevalent among victims (89%). On the other hand, most of the women victims are domestic violence victims directly impacted by the misuse of firearms.

On 6 February 2019, Albania approved its new National Strategy on Small Arms, Light Weapons and Explosives Control 2019-2024 and the related Action Plan 2019-2021. In term of compliance, the Strategy explicitly notes its close reference to the “Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their ammunition in the Western Balkans, by 2024” and fully mirrors the Roadmap and its performance indicators within the national objectives and the progress monitoring framework. In terms of objectives, the Strategy is very ambitious and challenging as Albania commits to make a considerable leap forward compared to the present state of affairs in the areas of legal framework development, review and harmonization with EU and international standards, in strengthening regional cooperation and the adoption of systems of higher regional interoperability, enhanced capacities of its public order, security and law enforcement staff and a serious upgrade and modernization of its physical and technological assets.

Entirely in line with the above national strategic framework, the project responds to some of the immediate needs expressed by the Albanian counterparts related to enhancing the capacities of the Albanian State Police with regard to SALW Control and support initiatives and innovative approaches in strengthening such control in partnership with the relevant non-governmental stakeholders and the broad public. At the same time, the project contributes to international peace and security by combatting the threat posed by the widespread accumulation and illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons and their ammunition and enhances regional stability by working in partnership with other relevant initiatives.

The project results are also directly contributing to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 16 on peaceful and just societies, in particular targets 16.1 (Significantly reduce all forms of violence and death rate everywhere) and 16.4 (significantly reduce illicit arms flows).

Building on the country’s commitment to achieve sustainable solutions to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW and ammunition, and in response to priorities expressed by the Albanian State Police, the project proposes to addressing several interlinked measures identified in the national Action Plan as of relevance and priority SALW-related practices for the national authorities and for building a positive community culture against illegal possession and misuse of firearms.

In this respect, the project intends to: 1) improve and modernize the registration of all legally possessed firearms in the Republic of Albania, 2) further progress in bringing to acceptable storage and safety standards of an additional 10% of firearms & ammunition storages of the Albanian State Police, and 3) support a comprehensive awareness campaign on the dangers of illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of firearms.

These combined interventions are expected to have a dual impact: on one hand, they will strengthen the analytical base and the efficiency and effectiveness of SALW control by the State Police, and on the other hand, enhance the public awareness and behaviours vis-à-vis illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of firearms.

The project intends to support the Government initiative of re-registration of all legally possessed weapons and digitalization of all firearms-related data within a single national database, where the information is easily retrievable and appropriate for analytical work, and spot checks become efficient and effective.

The increased safety and standards of firearms and ammunition storages will also contribute to prevent the risks of illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of firearms, which potentially could leak from police storages, if the latter are left in the current status.

A comprehensive awareness campaign, involving and carried out in collaboration with the Albanian State Police, will target the broad public and specifically the vulnerable categories, with the aim to reduce the demand and misuse of firearms, prevent GBV and family crime, and increase confidence in security institutions.

The implementation will be carried out in close collaboration with the Albanian State Police and lead civil society organizations and media, including specifically women and youth organizations.

## **II. List of acronyms**

ASP – Albanian State Police

EU – European Union

SIMA – Albania Weapons Registration System

SALW – Small Arms and Light Weapons

CSO – Civil Society Organization

### III. Executive summary

The project aimed to strengthen national institutions and systems and improve collaboration and coordination between relevant institutions and affected communities for an effective and efficient response to SALW/firearms threats. It was designed to respond to some of the immediate needs of the National Strategy on SALW and Explosives Control 2019-2024, and the related Action Plan 2019-2021, and it built on Albania's commitment to achieve sustainable solutions to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW and ammunition, and in response to priorities expressed by the Albanian State Police (ASP).

The project proposed to address several interlinked measures. Specifically, the project aimed to improve and modernize the registration of all legally possessed firearms in Albania, by supporting the government's initiative to re-register all legally possessed weapons and digitalize all firearms-related data within a single national database. The project also aimed to assist the Albanian State Police in bringing an additional 10% of its firearms and ammunition storages to acceptable storage and safety standards, preventing the risk of diversion and hence illegal possession, misuse and trafficking. Finally, a comprehensive awareness campaign was to be implemented, carried out in collaboration with the ASP, lead civil society organizations and media, including specifically women and youth organizations. The aim of the campaign was to reduce the demand and misuse of firearms, prevent gender-based violence and family crime, and increase confidence in security institutions.



#### Overall achievements:

##### ❖ Enhanced weapons registration in accordance with the national legislation and EU Directive on firearms.

- **The Albanian State Police (ASP) was equipped with the necessary IT equipment** - encompassing 58 PCs, 54 printers, and 2 laptop computers – thus supporting the expanded police workforce in the firearms' re-registration process launched by the government in 2020.
- In addition, the ASP received through the project the IT equipment for the issuance of **digital cards for firearm owners**, consisting of three special printers, holographic film, special ink, and software, as well as 100,000 digital cards to be issued to firearms owners. It supported the installation of the equipment at ASP and trained 11 police officers (9 men and 2 women) in their use.
- 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 (supported by SEESAC).
- Due to the circumstances, it was determined that the equipment provided by the project will be used by the ASP to enter necessary data manually until the SIMA overhaul and update with the module for issuing digital cards is complete. As such, the scope of support was affected by the *force majeure* and the envisaged result was therefore **partially achieved** by the project.
- Nevertheless, the project contributed to the government's efforts towards weapons re-registration, whereby from 55% of **re-registered firearms owners** at the beginning of the project, the re-registration rate reached about 94% by the end of the project.

##### ❖ Improved Albanian State Police weapons storage facilities and management.

- The project **rehabilitated and ensured standard safety and security compliance of seven (7) ASP weapons storage facilities** located at the five district police commissariats of Mat, Puka, Tropoja, Lushnja, Pogradec, and two at the regional police directorate levels in Fier and Tirana. The facilities have undergone the oversight of the Testing and Commission company, which issued an affirmative report for the conducted works. All the facilities were handed over to the respective local police authorities.

- 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 additional seven (7) weapons storages rehabilitated (out of the 94 storages in total), and together with the three storages rehabilitated by the ASP through the state funds, the project enabled ASP to reach the target of 58% of its weapons storages rehabilitated, furnished and standard compliant.

❖ **Increased citizens' engagement and awareness on the dangers and risks associated with SALW.**

- As the first undertaken step in 2021, the project completed a **desk review** of SALW Control situation in Albania, using data provided by the ASP and available through other sources, disaggregated as much as possible by age, gender, social status and geography. The desk review considered the perception surveys previously conducted by SEESAC in Albania in 2016 and 2017.
- The desk review was followed by a **national survey to understand the perceptions, attitudes and knowledge about SALW** among the population. The survey was conducted with a nationally representative sample of 1,203 respondents of 16 years and above, for the period 6-21 January 2022. A final report was published in February 2022, aimed at providing an overview of the current situation on public perceptions, attitude and knowledge of SALW. Its purpose was to supply the law-enforcement agencies with data, informing them on public perceptions of such issues, thus increasing the efficiency of relevant policy implementation. Furthermore, the findings of the report were to support an awareness-raising campaign, focused on raising public awareness on risks of firearm possession, as well as on consequences of illegal possession.
- **A general public awareness campaign followed.** For the campaign, the efforts were joined with the OSCE Presence in Albania, that also supported the Ministry of Interior and ASP to enhance their public information on SALW matters and raise awareness on SALW misuse and related risks and threats. The public awareness raising campaign was **jointly launched** on 06 June 2023 in cooperation with the SALW commission/MoI and the OSCE. This enabled a coordinated action and a 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 the gender-based violence and entailed cooperation with four civil society organizations among others. Activities were also directed towards capacity building of relevant ASP staff, especially those responsible for crime prevention, community policing and public relations.
- The project coordinated closely with the ASP regarding the **implementation of the campaign**. Through the marketing company that the UNDP contracted, and in close coordination with the ASP, the awareness-raising campaign materials were conceptualized and promoted. Dedicated social media accounts ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Tik Tok](#)) for the awareness campaign were opened by the contracted company. The campaign materials and actions encompassed the following:
  - 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 re-registration of their legal weapons, iii) one video with the aim of strengthening police-community relations.
  - Designed and printed 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 outreach of the general awareness campaign is estimated at around 1,5 million people.
- An important strand of the campaign encompassed **outreach to high schools**. In this respect, twenty-four schools were selected for the outreach, in all the 12 regions of Albania. From 15 April to 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 encompassed approximately 800 high school students. Posters and postcards were distributed in the security corners of 24 schools. Some of the produced materials were given to the dedicated community-policing experts in each regional police directorate, so that posters can be distributed in more schools in each region.

**Implementation context:**

- In December 2022, the MPTF Steering Committee approved a 12-month non-cost extension for the project, with a new end date 31 December 2023. Three more non-cost extensions were granted to the project (three months, two months and one month), with the final end date of the implementation period set at 30 June 2024. These extensions allowed the necessary time for the reconstruction, testing & commission, and enabled the completion of the project's objectives. Project ended on 30 June 2024.

#### IV. Overview of progress towards results

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.	<b>55%</b> .	<b>At least 95%</b> .	<b>About 94%</b> / 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.	<b>0</b> / Not in place.	<b>At least 80,000</b> .	<b>N/A</b> <sup>7</sup> / 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.
Output 2	Indicators	Baseline (2020)	Project target (2024)	Overall progress / Milestone
Improved Albanian State Police weapons storage management.	• % of rehabilitated and standard compliant ASP arms & ammunition storages vs total [total of 94 storage locations across the country].	<b>48%</b> [45 storages]	<b>58%</b> [10 more storages]	<b>58%</b> <sup>8</sup> / 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.
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 / <b>none</b> .	<b>At least 2,000</b> .	<b>800</b> / 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 / <b>none</b> .	<b>At least 20</b> .	<b>24</b> / 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.	<b>0</b> / Draft curricula developed by the Swedish Community Policing Programme.	<b>At least 12 sessions</b> targeting high school students, women and girls, youth, and gun owners.	<b>12</b> / 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.	<b>1 new</b> national survey.	<b>1</b> / The desk review of the SALW Control Situation and a National Survey on SALW Misuse has been completed.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> 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%.

#### IV. Progress review

<b>Output 1:</b>	<b>Improved weapons registration in accordance with EU Directive on firearms and national legislation</b>		
<b>Total budget:</b>	<b>\$ 343,406</b>	<b>Spent<sup>9</sup>:</b>	<b>\$ 337,376</b>

##### 1. Description of the output

The objective of this output was to ensure that every weapon and its legal owner—whether an individual or an organization—was included in the weapons registration system. The project supported this by optimizing the weapons registration system and the ASP firearm database (SIMA). This included procuring additional IT equipment for the expanded police workforce handling registrations and providing all weapon owners with digital cards containing the data necessary for instant and effective verification. In line with EU directives requiring a computerized data-filing system, these upgrades were to ensure that information about weapons and their owners became instantly accessible and could be seamlessly exchanged upon request.

##### 2. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period.

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

- The project concluded procurement of IT equipment for weapons re-registration in 2021.
- In January 2022, the procured 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, including 58 PCs, 54 printers, and 2 Laptops.
  - *In September 2022, the Albanian State Police Systems suffered from a cyberattack, 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.*
- 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). In 2023, following a prolonged process of assessment, 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 address 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. The activity was adjusted accordingly.

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

- In 2021, the project drafted technical specifications for the equipment for digital card production. Procurement was set to be initiated in 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.
- The delivery of the IT equipment for the issuance of digital cards for firearm owners was concluded in 2023, 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

---

<sup>9</sup> The spent amount should cover the period since the beginning of the project until the end of the reporting period.

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.

### 3. Difficulties encountered, and measures taken to overcome the problems.

- Following the serious cyber-attack from September 2022 that greatly affected the Albanian State Police Systems, including the Weapons Registration System SIMA, the ASP took a long time to assess the damage to its systems. Given the assessed level of damage or vulnerability of the SIMA system as a result of the cyber-attack, on 18 May 2023, the ASP submitted a request to UNDP Albania and UNDP SEESAC for the system to be rebuilt with higher technical and security parameters and additional modules, including registration records and the issuance of digital ownership cards. The extent of this request was significantly larger than the support envisioned under the project, which would have only addressed the expansion of the existing system's modules. The rebuilding of the system was to be supported to other sources.

### 4. Changes introduced in implementation.

- Reduced scope of the activity in light of the cyber-attack and more comprehensive needs of the ASP that the project could not address.

### 5. Achievements

- IT equipment, (58 PCs, 54 printers and 2 Laptops) supporting the expanded police workforce involved in the firearm's re-registration process were delivered to Albanian State Police in January 2022.
- Delivery was concluded for 100,000 digital cards for weapons owners. Three special printers, 100,000 digital cards, holographic film, special ink and software needed for the production of digital cards for firearm owners were delivered in April 2023.
- Installation and training on the use of the special printers was concluded in April 2023. Eleven officers from the Albanian State Police were trained, 9 men and 2 women.

<b>Output 2:</b>	<b>Improved Albanian State Police weapons storage management</b>		
<b>Total budget:</b>	<b>\$ 924,926</b>	<b>Spent:</b>	<b>\$ 475,176</b>

### 1. Description of the output

The objective of this output was to increase the share of ASP weapons storages meeting minimum standards of storage, safety, and administration of firearms, ammunition, and explosives, from a baseline of 48% to 58.5%, by refurbishing 10 priority storages. In almost half of the storage facilities of the Albanian State Police, weapons were kept in unsafe conditions, without proper physical security measures, and were often stacked together in inadequate and easily accessible conditions. The proposed interventions were intended to significantly increase the safekeeping and management of SALW and to prevent their undesired access, misuse, deterioration, and damage.

### 2. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period.

#### **Activity 2.1. Conduct the reconstruction technical design, assess equipment needs, and finalize the BoQ (Bill of Quantities) for each individual intervention.**

- In 2021, UNDP project team drafted the ToR for the selection of a design and supervision company and initiated the procurement for the design and supervision in 2022.
- In 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.

- 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.
- The selected design and supervision company completed the design plans for selected weapons storage facilities and the ASP approved these in 2023. Based on this, the reconstruction works were to proceed.

**Activity 2.2. Conduct the reconstruction and refurbishment of selected interventions of Arms & Ammunition storage facilities.**

- The procurement of an engineering company followed after the ASP's approval of the designs for reconstruction (Activity 2.1). 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).
- In 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.
- In addition, the project provided each of the 10 facilities with two ordinary metal shelves, one security shelf, and three standard weapon shelves.

**3. Difficulties encountered, and measures taken to overcome the problems.**

- The procurement of a company services to undertake the reconstruction process for the 10 facilities was initiated in June 2023, however it was postponed three times due to lack of applicants. Previous UNDP pre-qualified construction companies were invited to take part in the procurement process.
- Due to the late issuance of the permits to enter the sites, for the construction firm to commence the works on facilities, the work plan of the construction company was updated.
- Based on the above a project non-cost extension until end-May 2024 was requested to guarantee that the project's objectives are met successfully. This extension allowed the necessary time for the reconstruction, testing & commission, and handover ceremonies, and would enable us to complete the projects. Another one-month non-cost extension were requested in May 2024 to allow for the completion of civil works.
- The Regional Police Directorates of Berat, Elbasan and the police station in Saranda are undergoing total renovation (including the evidence rooms) with financing from the state budget.

**4. Changes introduced in implementation.**

- Instead of 10, the project supported the reconstruction and refurbishment of 7 weapons storage facilities, thus reducing the scope of support. In addition, the activity timeline was significantly prolonged due to the difficulties to engage a qualified company and due to prolonged permit-issuance by the ASP for the contracted company to perform the works.

**5. Achievements**

- Even though later than envisaged, all civil works for the reconstruction of the 7 facilities were completed as per approved plans on 30 June 2024.

<b>Output 3:</b>	<b>Increased awareness of dangers and risks of misuse of SALW</b>		
<b>Total budget:</b>	<b>\$71,570</b>	<b>Spent:</b>	<b>\$ 64,214</b>

## 1. Description of the output

- The objective of this output was to increase civic engagement in strengthening SALW control in order to significantly reduce the supply, demand, and misuse of firearms. Activities were directed towards capacity building of relevant ASP staff, especially those responsible for crime prevention, community policing, and public relations. The awareness campaign was also to be extended to high schools, utilizing school security officers who were stationed in schools and had been previously trained by the Swedish Community Policing Project. Awareness meetings with local CSOs were envisaged in the fields of Security and Gender, along with media campaigns on the dangers of firearms, focused on communicating with and sensitizing the public, firearms owners, and dealers regarding efforts to strengthen SALW control. These efforts were to emphasize the necessity of complying with the legislative framework and informed stakeholders of the progress and requirement to re-register weapons into the new registration system. This output entailed conducting a desk review of the SALW control situation in the jurisdiction, followed by a national survey to understand the extent of SALW misuse and the social behaviours fuelling the situation. A public awareness campaign on SALW control and the dangers of illicit possession and trafficking was then to follow.

## 2. Description of activities implemented during the reporting period.

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

- In 2021, the project completed a desk review of the SALW Control Situation and a National Survey on SALW Misuse followed in 2022. 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.
- UNDP project team drafted Terms of Reference for the procurement/selection of a company to carry out the National Awareness Campaign based on the survey and published it in November 2022.
- Following an open call, the project contracted a company in 2023 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 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 launch 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.
- In 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

### **3. Difficulties encountered, and measures taken to overcome the problems.**

- The conceptualization, commencement and implementation of the national campaign took longer than anticipated. The approved non-cost extension of the project allowed sufficient time to engage a company and implement the campaign.
- Given that the campaign was to, among others, focus on schools and considering that the schools were closed during the summer period, in consultation with the ASP the timeline for the implementing period was prolonged for that aspect. In addition, given that all campaign materials and messages were being consulted with the ASP, and the feedback took time and slowed down the campaign implementation period, the campaign lasted longer than anticipated.

### **4. Changes introduced in implementation.**

- Change in the scope of the campaign due to the coordinated efforts with the OSCE, and change in the activity timeline to enable effective implementation.

### **5. Achievements**

- Implemented awareness raising campaign as per the plan agreed with the ASP and in close coordination with the authorities.

## **V. Monitoring and Evaluation<sup>10</sup> of activities**

- Project progress was presented to the MPTF Steering Committee meeting that was held in December 2022, December 2023 and December 2024. The progress of the project was discussed, as well as associated challenges and future plan of activities / final results. The Chair of the Albanian SALW Commission participated in the December 2023 SC meeting to discuss progress and affirm results.
- Regular meetings have been conducted with the three contact points from key ASP sectors. Activities related to re-registration, population of the national firearms register, the production of digital cards, and the rehabilitation / refurbishment of weapons storages are being implemented in collaboration the Directorate of Support Services of the Albanian State Police.
- Activities related to public awareness were implemented in collaboration the Directorate of Public Order of the Albanian State Police
- Meetings have been held with the Chair of the Albanian SALW Commission throughout the project's duration. The project team presented project's progress and results and activities at the Local Coordination Meetings hosted by the SALW Commission and supported by SEESAC twice per year.

## **VI. Coordination with relevant stakeholders – Partnerships**

- The project maintained communication with the OSCE who also implemented a Project that included public awareness about SALW control.
- The Project participated in the 3rd and 4th Regional Awareness Raising Task Force (RAR TF) meetings that were organized by SEESAC in 2023 and coordinated on the awareness raising efforts with SEESAC and other relevant regional stakeholders in that context.
- Communication was maintained with relevant initiatives of other international partners, such as EU4LEA (EU for Law Enforcement in Albania) and UK Assistance to the ASP, "Forensics for Albania".
- The Project has actively participated in the Local Roadmap Coordination Meetings and Regional Roadmap Coordination Meetings

## **VII. Sustainability**

- All supported interventions were envisaged in the national policies and action plans, within an agreed upon strategic framework and under the leadership of the national SAWL commission, thus strengthening the sustainability of results. Furthermore, the proposed interventions were also common issues that the national authorities committed to address at a regional level, by pursuing the commitments and goals of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap..
- The procured IT equipment and digital cards that were delivered to the ASP will enhance the capabilities of the State Police to increase the rate of re-registration of weapons. Also, the digital cards for weapons owners will strengthen the management and evidence-based dynamics of weapons control in the country.
- The project has commenced a new phase of implementation, dedicated to SALW Control, which will further ensure follow up and sustainability of results initiated through this project.

## **VII. Update on risks and mitigation measures**

The project has identified a set of risks at the onset of the project, encompassing:

- Changes in political authorities in the involved government agencies that may slow down the development of activities
- Lack of national government ownership for effective results
- Lack of institutional and technical capacities at central level to coordinate project implementation
- Institutional rigidity and resistance to inter-institutional collaboration
- Gender perspectives are not taken into consideration by stakeholders

---

<sup>10</sup> The latter if applicable.

- Adequate technical and operational resources mobilized for a timely implementation of activities
- COVID related uncertainties and restrictions for normal work
- Local communities are not sufficiently encouraged by direct benefits and thus reluctant to adopt behavioral changes needed to achieve goals in the long-term
- Potential escalating security environment manifested in social dissatisfaction, political tensions and/or increase in crime in the aftermath of pandemic lockdown

The project has largely managed and mitigated risks. A *force majeure* in terms of cyber-attack has affected the scope of some activities and associated results – as outlined in the activity description and results framework. The significant delays in implementation and insufficient capacities of authorities were addressed by the extended implementing period of the project.

Other than the delays, the project had constructive engagement and support from the authorities for all segments, including for gender-responsive approach, and all activities were done in close coordination with and strong ownership by the Mol and ASP.

### **VIII. Lessons learnt**

- Maintaining constant communication with counterparts to ensure understanding and adapt activities to new timelines.
- Maintaining constant communication with service providers to facilitate and incentivize the delivery process.
- Anticipate time-consuming procedures and possible delays and find ways to overcome them.

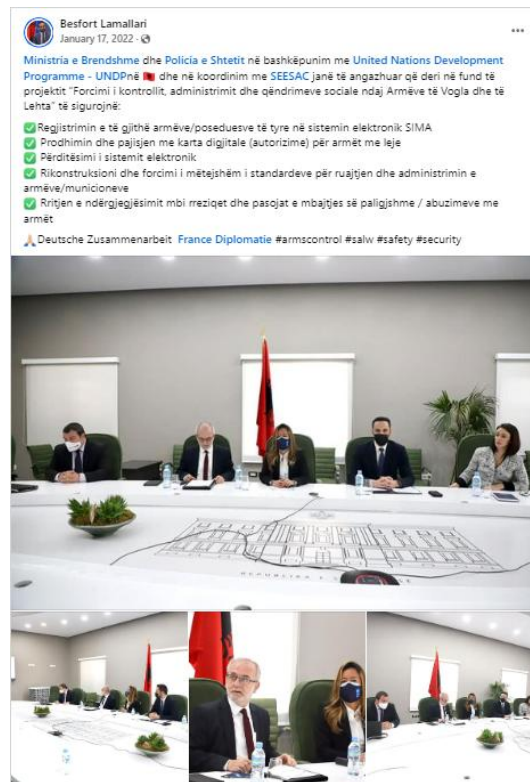
## IX. Communication and visibility

[Ministria e Brendshme dhe Policia e... - Besfort Lamallari | Facebook](#)

*Link of the Publication on Facebook of the Ministry of Interior about the Project Steering Committee.*



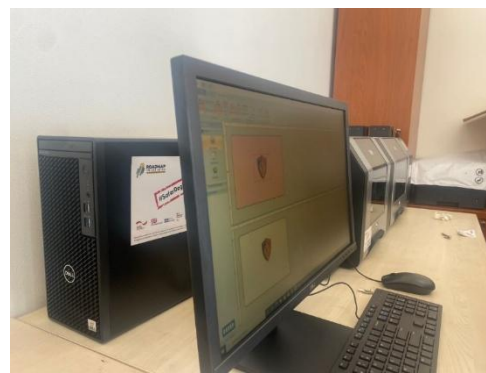
*Photo during the Projects Steering Committee.*



*Photos of the IT equipment with stickers supporting the firearms registration process with stickers*



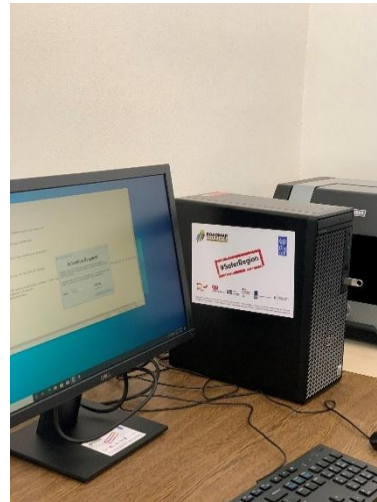
*Photos of the IT equipment with stickers for the production of digital cards for firearm owners.*



*Photos from the launching event for the National Awareness Campaign*



Photos from the training on specialized printers



#### Twitter about the training of specialized printers

- <https://twitter.com/undpalbania/status/1653403338753421313?s=48>
- <https://twitter.com/undpalbania/status/1653404890994016257?s=48>

#### National Awareness Campaign

#### Twitter about the launching event for the National Awareness Campaign

- <https://twitter.com/undpalbania/status/1666094355374039041?s=48>

#### Media Coverage of the launching event for the National Awareness Campaign

##### TVs:


- [\(2129\) Tjetër amnisti për armët/ Synohet ndërgjegjësimi i popullatës para miratimit - Vizion Plus - YouTube](#)
- [\(2129\) NJË TJETËR AMNISTI PËR ARMËT, SYNOHET NDËRGJEGJËSIMI I POPULLATËS - News, Lajme - Kanali 7 - YouTube](#)
- <https://fb.watch/I00OfIahJb/?startTimeMs=2000&mibextid=DqYSjB>
- [VIDEO-SYRI TV/ Vrasjet dhe plagosjet me armë të - Syri | Lajmi i fundit](#)
- [\(2129\) Strategjia për armët e vogla e të lehta, Lamallari: Pritet amnisti | RTSH - YouTube](#)
- [\(2129\) Dorëzoni armët! OSBE: Ngjarjet e rënda për shkak të armëve që shqiptarët kanë në banesa - YouTube](#)
- [\(2129\) Report TV -Zv.ministri: Shqipëria ka nevojë për amnisti të re për armët, duhet parapërgatitje! - YouTube](#)

##### Media Web and Portals:

- [Strategjia për armët e vogla e të lehta, Lamallari: Pritet amnisti. Me partnerët po punojmë për kuadrin ligjor | RTSH Lajme](#)

- [Zv/ministri i Brendshëm thotë se vendi ka nevojë për amnisti të re për armët, prioritet dhe krimet kibernetike - Gazeta Dita](#)
- <https://shqiptarja.com/lajm/zvministri-shqiperia-ka-nevoje-per-amnisti-te-re-per-armet-duhet-parapergatitje-struktura-e-re-e-policise-vemendje-krimeve-kibernetike>
- [Prezantohet strategjia, synon të ulë kërkesën për armë të lehta dhe keqpërdorimin e tyre - ATSH - \(ata.gov.al\)](#)
- <https://www.tiranadiplomat.com/2023/06/06/osbe-prezanton-strategjine-e-ndergjegjesimit-per-armet-e-vogla-dhe-te-lehta/>
- [Rritja e krimeve në familje, qeveria planifikon amnisti për dorëzimin e armëve - Euronews Albania](#)
- [\(2129\) Amnisti për armët pa leje/ Strategjia Kombëtare e Ndërgjegjesimit, edukimi i publikut mbi rrezikun - YouTube](#)
- [Dorëzoni armët! OSBE: Ngjarjet e rënda për shkak të armëve që kanë në banesa - AKTUALITET \(alfapress.al\)](#)
- [Qeveria i rikthehet amnistisë për armët, Zv/Ministri i Brendshëm pranon se strategjia për dorëzimin e tyre në 2017 dështoi, u bën thirrje medias dhe shoqërisë civile - Politike \(sot.com.al\)](#)

### OSCE Social media

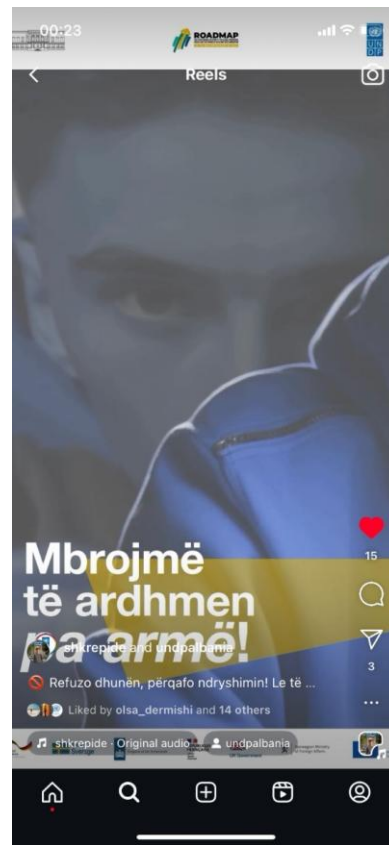
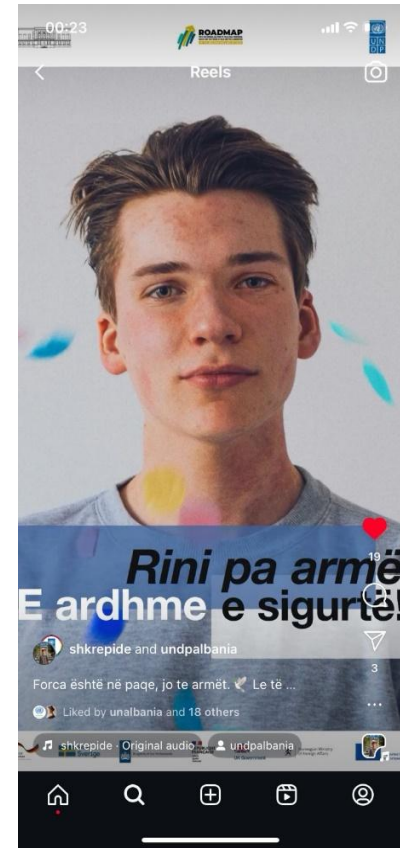
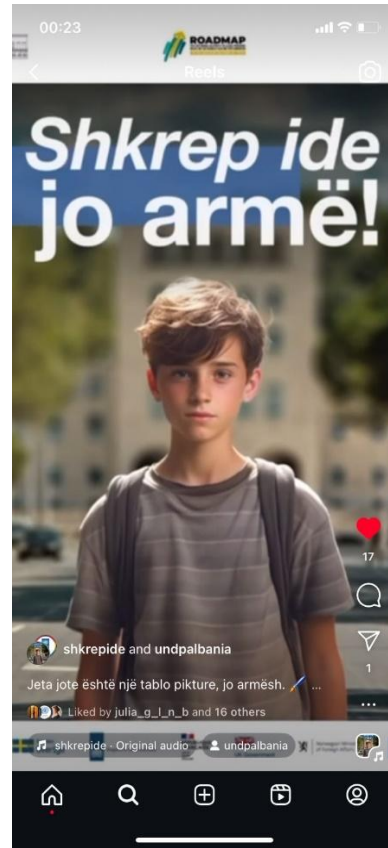
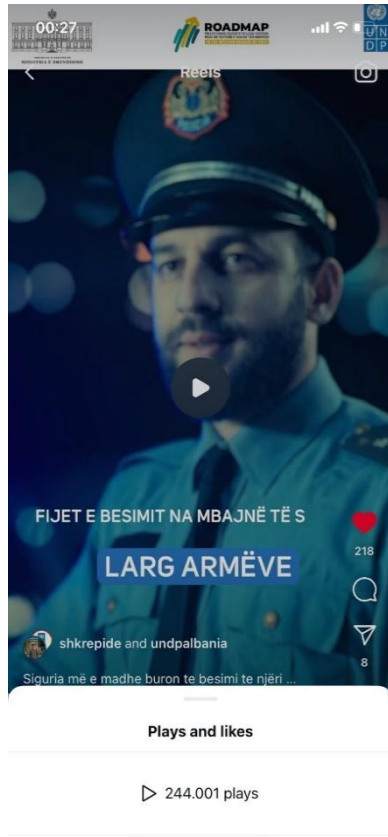
- Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/OSCE.Albania/posts/pfbid0bs5cSn2Wbi53gwQ7sh4TyMpDkwPsXAJToGXifsbchC8jNRha95rFmW5X9EhQzMRRI>
- Twitter Eng: OSCE Presence in Albania on Twitter: "It takes courage to be gun free! With @UNDPAlbania, @PuneteBrendshme & @PoliciaeShtetit, we launched today the Awareness Raising & Communication Strategy on Small Arms and Light Weapons #SALW inAL, Action Plan '23-'27 +  <https://t.co/rhiD90guSO> <https://t.co/oT2Axtjz3v>"  
[/ Twitter](#)
- Instagram:  
[https://www.instagram.com/p/CtJhu5PIxy6/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link&igshid=MzRIODBiNW FIZA](https://www.instagram.com/p/CtJhu5PIxy6/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igshid=MzRIODBiNW FIZA)

Social Media Accounts were opened in December for the National Awareness Campaign

INSTAGRAM: <https://www.instagram.com/shkrepide/>

TIK-TOK: <https://www.tiktok.com/@shkrepide>

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61554577410429>



## Social media posts on meetings in Schools

- <https://www.instagram.com/p/C6WXJIYtTRG/?igsh=MWExdDY0cDF1OTE5ag==>
- <https://www.instagram.com/p/C6yoDsgtKly/?igsh=MTI6eXBwNDRueTF6>
- <https://www.instagram.com/p/C7CaVW9telj/?igsh=cWJkMGc0bmV4Z3hx>

## Picture Contest

- <https://www.instagram.com/p/C7WdUVQsA1z/?igsh=cHk2MmxnOWc1cGRi>
- <https://www.instagram.com/p/C8mfnZ1spYQ/?igsh=ZHQ5ODFsNnVxY2Ry>
- <https://www.instagram.com/p/C8MWEEnAMWOK/?igsh=MTY5am42OWF1dHNveQ==>

## Talk Show on National TV

<https://youtu.be/dzJfgBCwHBU>

Pictures of the meetings organized in schools and Posters



Photos of the reconstructed evidence rooms



