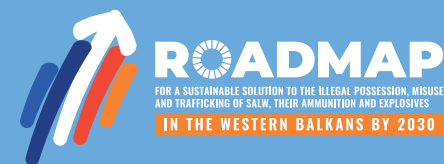


WESTERN BALKANS SALW
CONTROL ROADMAP
MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND

NARRATIVE REPORT · FINANCIAL REPORT

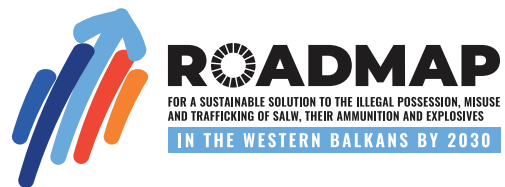
ANNUAL REPORT 2025



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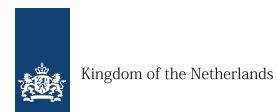
ANNUAL REPORT 2025

NARRATIVE REPORT · FINANCIAL REPORT



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, their ammunition and explosives in the Western Balkans

Contributors:



Participating UN Organizations:



Administrative Agent:



Supported by:





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List of Abbreviations

AF	Armed Forces	GSR	Gun Shot Residue	PUNO	Participating United Nations Organization
AVMP	Armed Violence Monitoring Platform	iARMS	Illicit Arms Records and Tracing Management System	RS	Republika Srpska
BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina	IBM	Integrated Border Management	SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
BCP	Border Crossing Points	ILP	Intelligence Led Policing	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
BP	Border Police	INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization	SEESAC	South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of SALW
CEPOL	European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training	ITA	Indirect Taxation Authority of BiH / BiH Customs	SHERLOC	Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime
CoP	Community of Practitioners	JIT	Joint Investigation Team	SIMs	Special Investigative Measures
CSI	Crime Scene Investigation	LCMSMS	Liquid Chromatograph with Mass Spectrometer	SIPA	State Investigation and Protection Agency of BiH
CSO	Civil Society Organization	LIMS	Laboratory Information Management System	SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
DPO	Designated Postal Operator	MoD	Ministry of Defense	ToR	Terms of Reference
EMPACT	European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats	MoFTER	Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BiH	ToT	Training of Trainers
ENFSI	European Network of Forensic Science Institutes	MoI	Ministry of the Interior	UN	United Nations
EU	European Union	MoJ	Ministry of Justice	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
EUROPOL	The European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation	MoS	Ministry of Security of BiH	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
FAE	Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding	UNTOC	United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
FC	Forensic Centre	MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund	WB	Western Balkans
FFP	Firearms Focal Point	NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization		
GFP	Global Firearms Programme	OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe		

Foreword



It is with great pride that I present the seventh annual report of the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund in support of the [Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse, and trafficking of small arms and light weapons \(SALW\), their ammunition, and explosives in the Western Balkans by 2030](#). Since the start of the Roadmap's implementation in 2019, the Trust Fund has served as a critical instrument, providing coordinated support to Western Balkans authorities—alongside a multitude of dedicated partners and contributors—as they strive to achieve the Roadmap's vision and goals.

In 2025, we stepped into a new phase of this journey. The achievements of the Roadmap's first phase, from 2019 to 2024, have earned **broad recognition**. An independent review acknowledged that the initiative has fostered regional trust and cooperation on SALW control, enabling the Western Balkans to emerge as a recognized "exporter of security" and a successful model for other regions. While regional and inter-institutional cooperation have significantly increased, the review also underscored areas requiring continued focus, including adopting fully harmonized legislation,

addressing gaps in the criminal justice chain, ensuring the sustainability of achieved results, and strengthening community engagement and gender-responsiveness.

The success of this regional approach in the Western Balkans gains profound significance against a stark global backdrop, where conflicts are proliferating, intensifying, and testing the limits of traditional peace architectures. This systemic insecurity is mirrored in the gendered impact of violence; according to the [2025 femicide brief](#) from UNODC and UN Women, intentional killings of women globally show no sign of meaningful decline. In 2024, 83,000 women and girls were killed globally, including with firearms, with 60 percent (50,000) dying at the hands of intimate partners or family members—a stark reality: one woman or girl is killed in a domestic setting almost every 10 minutes.

At the level of South East Europe, firearm incidents continue to jeopardize daily security. In 2025, data from SEESAC's [Armed Violence Monitoring Platform](#) (AVMP) recorded [3,511 firearm incidents](#), which resulted in 119 deaths, 326 injuries, and 415 individuals being threatened. Yet, it is encouraging that weapon seizures accounted for 53% of all recorded incidents, reflecting highly proactive law enforcement efforts.

This regional picture is echoed at the global level. The United Nations Secretary-General's [report on small arms and light weapons](#), released in October 2025, recalled that the diversion, illicit transfer, and misuse of small arms continue to fuel violence, crime, and terrorism, undermining peace at national, regional, and global levels. To counter these far-reaching societal impacts, the report underscores the importance of regional instruments and cooperation, encouraging robust support for coordinated, regional approaches to address illicit arms.

Notably, the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap was highlighted as a sustainable regional approach to this end, alongside the Trust Fund that supports its implementation.

Over the past seven years, the jurisdictions of the Western Balkans have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to answering this call, transforming the region from a focus of international concern into a proactive contributor to global security. It is fitting to recall that the Western Balkans Roadmap's regional approach inspired similar action in several other regions in 2025, including the [Caribbean, Central America and the Dominican Republic](#), as well as the Andean region. Furthermore, at the [Western Balkans Summit](#) Interior Ministers' meeting in London in October 2025, the Ministers of Interior and Security of the Western Balkans Six, along with other participants, recognized the Roadmap as a robust, regionally endorsed mechanism of significant value in controlling firearms trafficking, reaffirming their commitment to jointly tackling mutual challenges and strengthening collective security.

The progress detailed in this annual report comes at a moment of critical reflection, when the nexus between development and security has reached a new level of importance. As we embark on the 2025–2030 phase of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap, our shared vision of a safer region resonates more deeply than ever. The report not only chronicles the technical milestones in harmonizing legislation and enhancing investigations but also celebrates the enduring regional solidarity that has elevated a complex security challenge into a global blueprint for arms control.

Steliana Nedera

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

Executive Summary

2



▼ UN Organizations participating

6



▼ Contributors to the Trust Fund, with EU in-kind support

\$30.4 M



▼ Value of total contributions

25



▼ Projects funded since 2019

In 2025, 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)—continued to serve as the critical catalyst enabling authorities in the Western Balkans to advance the goals set forth by the regional SALW Control Roadmap. As the region actively transitioned into the next strategic phase of the Roadmap (2025–2030), the efforts supported in 2025 have driven substantial improvements across the five Roadmap goals, addressing legislative, operational, and institutional frameworks. This included the further harmonization of arms control legislation with international commitments, the enhancement of criminal justice responses to firearms-related crimes, and the next-level digitalization of data collection and investigative capabilities. Furthermore, 2025 saw a deepening of gender-responsive approaches and intelligence-led policymaking to tackle SALW-related threats, alongside the active engagement of a broader constituency of actors, civil society, and local communities.

The Trust Fund sustained its vital momentum thanks to the unwavering commitment of its six principal contributors: the governments of Germany, France, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and Norway, bolstered by the overarching strategic support of the European Union. In 2025, an additional US\$ 1.86 million was contributed to the Fund, elevating the total value of contributions to the Trust Fund to US\$ 30.4 million. With nine projects under active implementation, the Trust Fund’s Steering Committee allocated a further US\$ 3.35 million across

the projects in 2025, bringing the total value of ongoing initiatives to US\$ 15.4 million.

SEESAC¹ served as the Secretariat for the Trust Fund, continuing to provide support to the Steering Committee and the Participating UN Organizations and facilitating the governance of the Trust Fund. Through the robust portfolio of ongoing projects, the Trust Fund reinforced its coordinated approach to supporting Western Balkans jurisdictions. By capitalizing on previous investments and synergies, these initiatives have successfully forged new alliances and strengthened local ownership. They have expanded knowledge resources, deepened community engagement, and ensured the integration of gender and human rights perspectives into SALW control. Individually and cumulatively, the MPTF-funded projects have sustained political and technical momentum and have also brought the Western Balkans closer to its commonly agreed vision: becoming a safer region and an “exporter of security”.

¹ 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).

Highlights from 2025

\$1.86 M



▼ Of funding contribution received in 2025

\$3.35 M



▼ Allocated as additional support across the nine active projects

9



▼ Projects under implementation in 2025, with a total value of \$15.4 million

22



▼ Knowledge products developed on various aspects of preventing or countering SALW misuse and crime

413



▼ Criminal justice practitioners engaged on legislative reform and harmonizing criminal justice practice

105



▼ Judges enhanced capacities in adjudicating firearms-related cases

133



▼ Customs & postal officers enhanced knowledge and capacities to detect firearms through X-ray image analysis

12



▼ Civil society organizations enhanced community outreach and awareness on risks and threats from firearms misuse

26



▼ Women police officers from Serbia & BiH engaged to enhance women's participation in security sector

261



▼ Police officers in Serbia trained to improve risk assessment & responses to domestic violence

19,000+



▼ Young people reached in BiH through creative activities that address firearms-misuse

4



▼ Jurisdictions progressed with digital solutions regarding SALW control

6

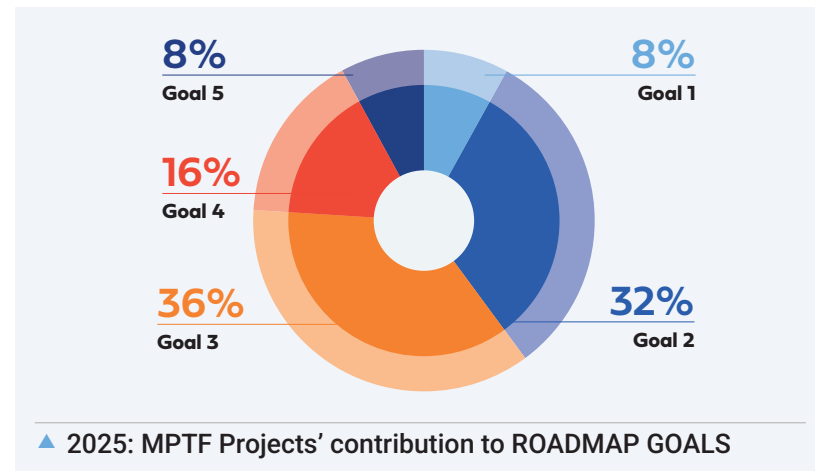


▼ Jurisdictions strengthened their detection and investigation capacities through the provided specialized equipment



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 2025, **the Trust Fund contributed to all five goals of the revised Roadmap 2025-2030**. Nine projects at a value of US\$ 15.4 million actively contributed to the Roadmap's implementation in a coordinated manner throughout the year, whereby each project supported multiple goals², with two projects contributing to the achievement of Goal 1, eight to Goal 2, nine to Goal 3, four to Goal 4, and two to Goal 5, as illustrated in the chart just below.



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

GOAL

1

BY 2030

By 2030, ensure that arms control legislation is in place, 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 Balkans 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 2025, the harmonization of criminal codes in Montenegro and North Macedonia with the UN Firearms Protocol yielded concrete results and indicated some positive trends. Alongside these efforts, UNDP and UNODC continued to support legislative processes for further amendments to the legal framework; related to firearms legalization in Kosovo³ and criminal laws in Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia. To strengthen legal certainty and harmonize sentencing policies

³ References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

across the Western Balkans, UNODC developed and validated a new regional methodology for the systematic analysis of firearms-related court judgments. Furthermore, judicial actors from all six jurisdictions benefited from tailored legal resources, specialized training curricula, and cross-border expert exchanges designed to improve the overall quality and consistency of adjudicating firearms-related offenses.

GOAL

2

BY 2030

By 2030, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are in place, evidence-based and intelligence-led.

In contributing to **Goal 2 of the Roadmap**, the Trust Fund activities and 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 policymaking. In 2025, Western Balkans jurisdictions achieved advancements in SALW control, enhancing gender mainstreaming, modernizing data management, and strengthening criminal justice approaches across the region. In BiH, the Ministry of

Security—along with the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA), the Border Police, and the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies as police agencies situated within the Ministry—actively pursued the Gender Equality Seal through self-assessments and gender-responsive budgeting training. Serbia championed regional advocacy by hosting a high-level conference that gathered 127 participants from 18 jurisdictions to promote women’s visibility in the security sector. Policewomen’s associations from Serbia and BiH networked to further strengthen women’s participation in security policymaking through bilateral knowledge exchanges involving 26 policewomen. Additionally, in Serbia, evidence-based recommendations are used to inform the Ministry of Justice’s amendments to the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence regarding perpetrators’ access to firearms.

With regards to digitalization and data management enhancements, jurisdictions made progress in digitalizing weapons registries and standardizing forensic data. Albania initiated the development of an advanced Weapons Management System (SIMA) within its State Police and prepared upgrades for its Firearms Focal Point. In BiH, a working group finalized functional specifications for an interoperable digital application to register legal firearms across the cantons of the Federation of BiH. Kosovo initiated the development of a new Explosives Management Control System, which will be integrated into its existing Weapons Registry. North Macedonia significantly upgraded its Police Information Management System (IMS) to collect gender-disaggregated data and introduced a critical alert mechanism to instantly cross-reference domestic violence cases with registered firearms license holders. Serbia advanced its capacity for the gender-sensitive monitoring of firearm-related domestic violence incidents and initiated upgrades to its Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS). Meanwhile, forensic centers in Montenegro and Serbia advanced their data standardization in line with ISO 17020 and ISO 17025 requirements.

The produced knowledge products and case law analyses inform evidence-based policies and practices across the jurisdictions. The jurisdictions took concrete steps to enhance judicial consistency and knowledge sharing. The second edition of its Firearms Case Law Collection was finalized in Montenegro, marking the completion of this vital resource across all six Western Balkans jurisdictions. Furthermore, Montenegro’s Supreme Court published its Analysis of Sentencing Policies in Firearms-Related Cases, delivering clear recommendations for more consistent sentencing. Regionally, the jurisdictions validated a new structured methodology for analyzing firearms-related judgments, standardizing data collection across variable sets such as offender profiles, modus operandi, and sentencing. Finally, the judiciary across the region benefited from the publication of a new regional knowledge-management product titled *“Balancing Justice and Rights: Case Law on Human Rights in Organized Crime and Trafficking Cases in the Western Balkans.”*

GOAL

BY 2030

3

By 2030, significantly reduce misuse, illicit manufacturing, illicit possession, and illicit flows of weapons, ammunition and explosives (WAE).

Towards the achievement of **Goal 3 of the Roadmap**, the Trust Fund projects enabled Western Balkans jurisdictions to make substantial progress by significantly expanding their law enforcement, forensic, and judicial capacities to detect, investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate firearms-related crimes. Judicial and prosecutorial consistency and

expertise were bolstered across the region. Specialized training curricula for prosecutors and judges were finalized based on UNODC guidelines in all six jurisdictions. These courses were integrated into official training programs in multiple jurisdictions. To support the application of special investigative measures, locally adapted guidelines were promoted at a sub-regional workshop for 40 practitioners from Albania, North Macedonia, and Kosovo, and targeted technical knowledge on firearms and forensic analysis was provided to judges in BiH and Montenegro.

Capabilities to intercept illicit firearms were significantly upgraded. A total of 133 customs and postal officers region-wide received training on X-ray image analysis—resulting in concrete seizures in Albania, Kosovo, and BiH. Postal facilities were equipped in BiH, Albania, North Macedonia, and Kosovo with new X-ray scanners and detectors. Concurrently, green border and field operations were fortified by delivering night-vision drones, thermal cameras, and patrol vehicles to Albania’s border police; 26 contraband detectors and 44 CSI kits to 14 police agencies in BiH; and handheld metal detectors and binoculars to the Kosovo Police.

Forensic operations saw major advancements in infrastructure and equipment, in line with international accreditation requirements (ISO 17020/17025). Ballistics, chemical, and crime scene investigation (CSI) units were equipped with state-of-the-art tools, including a 360-degree camera in Albania; a Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) in Montenegro; and an FPV drone, stereomicroscopes, and mobile explosive detectors in Serbia. Likewise, the ballistic laboratories in BiH (Sarajevo and Banja Luka) were modernized and equipped with a comprehensive range of specialized forensic tools. Methodologies were modernized, with Montenegro developing new qualitative TNT detection methods, and Serbia hosting independent German and French experts to prepare for Gunshot Residue (GSR) and explosives accreditation. Furthermore, CSI personnel received extensive training, including ISO/

IEC 17020 compliance in Montenegro, ILAC G19 standards in Serbia, and victim-centered approaches to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) cases in North Macedonia.

To combat cyber-enabled arms trafficking, police and prosecutors from Albania and Kosovo received specialized training at the Western Balkans Cyber Capacity Centre (WB3C) on darknet and cryptocurrency investigations. Inter-agency coordination was also strengthened: working groups convened between customs and postal operators in BiH and North Macedonia to streamline illegal shipment reporting, while joint coordination meetings between police and prosecutors in Serbia and BiH took place to align operations.

Cross-border and international collaboration was a major focus. A joint cross-border detection exercise between BiH and Serbia involving 34 officials, and a bilateral arson-explosives experts meeting with 11 experts were organized. To align with international standards, forensic experts from Albania, Montenegro, and Serbia were supported to participate in working groups of the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI). Additionally, authorities from Albania and Kosovo conducted a joint study visit to the Paris Forensic Laboratory to explore the Evofinder system for ballistic data exchange.



GOAL

BY 2030

4

By 2030, significantly reduce the supply, demand, illicit possession and misuse of arms, ammunition and explosives through the means of prevention.

Towards reducing the demand, illicit possession, and misuse of firearms in line with **Goal 4 of the Roadmap**, a series of **awareness-raising, educational, outreach, and advocacy activities** took place in 2025 across several jurisdictions, embedding gender-responsive approaches into SALW control. To combat arms trafficking via postal routes, UNODC initiated consultations with 14 private operators across the region, forged a strategic partnership with Serbia’s Regulatory Authority for Communication and Postal Services (RATEL), and conducted public-private workshops in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). In Kosovo, under the leadership of the Ministry of Interior, the “Celebrate with Your Heart, Not Your Gun!” campaign led to a 24.8% drop in celebratory shootings. In North Macedonia, the authorities pivoted the strategy to address pyrotechnic safety following a tragic fire; and in BiH, civil society organizations (CSOs) reached over 19,800 people, primarily youth, through creative mediums like the short film “The Game” and the youth theatre play “Echo of Silence”. In Serbia and BiH, UNDP supported policewomen’s networks to enhance inclusive leadership. Furthermore, Serbia’s Ministry of Interior amplified the “16 Days of Activism” campaign to promote the safe reporting of domestic violence. Through CSO partnerships, 390 women were empowered to recognize firearm risks, healthcare tools were developed for the early detection of firearm misuse, and ongoing expert supervision was provided for mental health professionals treating victims of the May 2023 mass shootings. Ethical media reporting was also promoted, notably through the training of 11

journalists in Serbia to analyze and improve coverage of mass shooting incidents.

GOAL

BY 2030

5

By 2030, substantially decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion through improved safety and security of the stockpiles and disposal of weapons, ammunition and explosives.

Finally, the Trust Fund contributed to **Goal 5 of the Roadmap** through its efforts in two jurisdictions. In 2025, in Kosovo, law enforcement authorities successfully destroyed 763 confiscated firearms, out of which 382 with financial support from the Trust Fund project⁴, permanently removing them from circulation and reducing community risks. In Serbia, institutional capacities for safe and secure storage were improved through the delivery of 140 metal lockers and 20 wooden storage units to the Administrative Affairs Directorate (AAD) units.

Furthermore, evidence reception rooms were adapted in two regional forensic centers in Serbia and in the Police Department in Belgrade, ensuring that SALW, ammunition, and explosives are stored safely and in line with recognized standards.

⁴ The destruction of the remaining 381 confiscated firearms was done with the EU funding support through SEESAC.

Trust Fund Governance

In 2025, the **Steering Committee** convened seven times to: review and provide strategic guidance for the Trust Fund; review the progress of ongoing projects; decide on the Trust Fund's duration and its future outlook; review and approve the revised governing documents in line with the revised SALW Control Roadmap 2025 -2030; review and decide on the priorities to be supported by the Trust Fund across the jurisdictions; and approve the expanded scope and timeframe for ongoing projects.

The **Secretariat**, whose functions are ensured by SEESAC, 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.

Cross-cutting themes, opportunities, and challenges in implementation

Dynamic project management was consistently applied in 2025 to maintain the relevance of interventions, address the shifting priorities of beneficiaries, and ensure local ownership and sustainability. Following the Steering Committee's decision to extend the Trust Fund's duration to 2028 and allocate additional funding, all nine ongoing projects were successfully revised in scope and timeframe to align with the Roadmap 2025–2030 and immediate regional priorities. The authorities and project teams demonstrated high agility in responding to emerging crises; for instance, following a tragic nightclub fire in North Macedonia and upon the request from the authorities, UNDP rapidly adapted its project strategy to integrate awareness-raising activities to focus on the safe and responsible use of pyrotechnics.

Efforts to effectively engage with local authorities and strengthen **local ownership** were highly visible across all jurisdictions. Coordination with SALW Commissions, law enforcement agencies, and Ministries of Interior and Justice was institutionalized through dedicated working groups. For example, in BiH, a 23-member inter-institutional working group was established to navigate the complex cantonal legal framework and finalize specifications for an interoperable digital firearms registry. In Kosovo, the Ministry of Internal Affairs demonstrated strong ownership by directly leading the "Celebrate with Your Heart, Not Your Gun!" campaign, which improved rapid institutional responses to celebratory shootings. Likewise, in Serbia, the Ministry of Interior took ownership of the awareness raising and advocacy campaign during the "16 days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence" global campaign.

UNODC and UNDP project teams actively participated in regional Roadmap coordination meetings supported by SEESAC, ensuring transparent information sharing and the alignment of efforts.

Projects expanded their **strategic partnerships** in 2025. To counter arms trafficking via postal shipments, UNODC forged new partnerships with 14 private postal operators across the region and collaborated directly with Serbia's Regulatory Authority for Communication and Postal Services (RATEL). Forensic capacities were elevated through international partnerships and expert exchanges via the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI) across multiple jurisdictions. In the realm of cybercrime, joint training programs were successfully delivered by UNDP in partnership with the Western Balkan Cyber Capacity Centre (WB3C). Furthermore, UNDP in Serbia solidified its multi-sectoral approach to trauma and violence prevention through partnerships with the Public Health Institute "Batut," the "Journalists against Violence" group, and specialized Norwegian mental health experts. Coordination with SEESAC and OSCE was maintained to ensure complementary awareness-raising and forensic efforts.

The promotion of **gender equality** transitioned from ensuring balanced participation and gender-sensitive themes to institutionalizing gender-responsive security policies. In BiH, the Ministry of Security and key law enforcement agencies actively pursued the UNDP Gender Equality Seal through self-assessments and gender-responsive budgeting training. In Serbia, a high-level conference gathering 127 participants (91 women, 36 men) from 18 jurisdictions drove regional advocacy for women's visibility in policing, while multi-sectoral focus groups developed evidence-based recommendations and informed amendments to the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence regarding perpetrators' access to firearms. Operational practices were also gender-mainstreamed; North Macedonia upgraded its Police Information Management System (IMS) to include an alert mechanism that cross-references domestic violence cases with firearm licenses, and Montenegro adopted specialized protocols for handling sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) cases.

The projects significantly **expanded knowledge tools and digital resources** to ensure the long-term sustainability of SALW control efforts⁵. Sustainability was anchored by integrating project outputs directly into national systems. For example, UNODC’s training curricula for prosecutors and judges were officially incorporated into the training academies of all six jurisdictions. Similarly, UNDP’s Guidelines for police cadets were adopted by police academies in BiH, and a self-paced e-learning platform was successfully launched on the Kosovo Police intranet. The transition toward sustainable digital governance also accelerated, with groundwork laid for the new Weapons Management System (SIMA) in Albania, the Police Information Management System in North Macedonia, an Explosives Management Control System in Kosovo, and Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) upgrades in Serbia.

A number of **operational and structural challenges** were also navigated. The development of complex, region-wide digital solutions (such as the

digital firearms registry in BiH or the Police Information Management System in North Macedonia) required prolonged, multi-layered consultations to ensure interoperability across fragmented administrative levels, resulting in some system deployments being scheduled for 2026. Furthermore, dynamic political environments and ongoing legislative revisions—such as the pending adoptions of criminal code amendments in BiH and Serbia, and the harmonization of weapons laws in Kosovo—required project teams to continuously adapt their timelines. Procurement processes for highly specialized forensic equipment and software also occasionally necessitated timeline adjustments; however, proactive coordination mechanisms ensured that these delays did not severely impact the overall achievement of project outcomes.

Overall, the projects progressed in line with the established implementation framework, and despite persistent structural governance complexities, authorities across the Western Balkans demonstrated a strong commitment to SALW control and international obligations.

⁵ **UNODC** (9): Customized **Guidelines** on investigation and prosecution of firearms-related crime, with related material completed, in BiH and Kosovo [adding to previous 4]; **Curriculum** for Judges ‘Firearms in the Courtroom’, for all six jurisdictions, published into local languages; Curriculum for Prosecutors on firearms, for all six jurisdictions, published into local languages; **Case law collection** (second edition) for Montenegro; A regional **Methodology** developed for the analysis of firearms-related judgments; A ballistic **Manual** for prosecutors and judges in BiH; **Guidelines** on the investigation of firearms trafficking through postal parcels in BiH; An **Analysis** on trends and risk profiles in BiH.

UNDP (13): **Guidelines** on the Conduct of Police Officers regarding illegal SALW and Mine-Explosive Devices, in BiH; **E-Learning platform** in Kosovo; **Manual** on documenting injuries on victims during medical examination, in Montenegro; Protocol for interviewing victims of GBV for the purpose of crime scene processing and evidence collection, in Montenegro; **Curriculum** on forensic method validation in Montenegro; A Bilingual **Glossary** on ballistic terminology, in Montenegro; Two sets of **Instructions** on the use of the shooting range, in North Macedonia; **Guidelines** for forensic technicians on applying a victim-centered approach in GBV cases, in North Macedonia; Two **analytical reports**, on femicide and on evidence-based recommendations for prevention measures in DV cases, in Serbia; A **Leaflet** on firearms misuse risks for suicide, in Serbia; A **Brochure** for Mol in Serbia on reporting DV to police and police response to DV cases.

Contributions and transfers

In 2025, the Trust Funds’ total value reached \$31.1 million, with \$30.4 million in contributions from donors and \$0.7 million from interest and investment income. About \$1.8 million was mobilized in 2025 from two principal donors: the Netherlands (\$1,739,780), and France (\$117,627). A total of \$30 million was transferred to the Participating UN Organizations by the end of 2025, out of which \$3.35 million was allocated in 2025 across nine ongoing projects as an additional contribution to priority needs.





I - NARRATIVE REPORT

This narrative report covers the period from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025 and describes the activities of the Participating UN Organizations, UNDP and UNODC, and 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 activities of the Trust Fund governance bodies. The report continues with a presentation of contributions made toward achieving the Roadmap goals and the Fund's outcomes, and an update on the work of the Participating UN Organizations. Subsequent chapters provide an overview of key challenges, lessons learned, partnerships, sustainability, and the communication and visibility activities undertaken in 2025.

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 Balkans 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 weapons destruction to mainstreaming gender into 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 provides a platform designed to strengthen coordination, planning, and communication among donors, implementing partners, and national authorities, and to develop synergies among actors involved in this programmatic area. It also aims to enhance results and reduce risks for 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 align with the priorities of the jurisdictions.

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

Following a recommendation from the mid-term review of the Roadmap conducted in 2023, the authorities of the region expressed their commitment to continue implementing the Roadmap beyond 2024 at the EU's High-Level Meeting on Countering Firearms Trafficking in South East Europe held in Brussels in May 2023. Furthermore, at the Ministerial Forum on Justice and Home Affairs held in Skopje on 26-27 October 2023, the EU and the Western Balkans "reconfirmed their determination to eradicate the trafficking and proliferation of SALW and recalled the agreement reached in May 2023 to prolong the implementation of the Roadmap for comprehensive SALW control in the Western Balkans beyond 2024". The impact of the Roadmap was further acknowledged at the Berlin Process Summit on 14 October 2024, where the Summit conclusions underlined

the commitment of key donors to continue providing required support.⁶ 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 Roadmap implementation until 2030.⁷

The revised and 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 continues to serve as a consensual guiding document developed and owned by regional authorities to achieve a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse, and trafficking of arms, ammunition, and explosives in the Western Balkans.

⁶ https://www.seesac.org/News_1/10th-Anniversary-of-the-Berlin-Process/

⁷ https://www.seesac.org/News_1/Western-Balkans-SALW-Control-Roadmap-by-2030-endorsed-during-the-EU-Western-Balkans-Ministerial-Forum/

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 scaled-up and 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 relevant authorities and 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 and governance structure ensure 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 the current top three donors to the Fund. In 2025, these were the Netherlands, Sweden, and the UK. Other donors also participate in the Steering Committee as observers and provide input, without voting rights. In 2025, Norway participated in this capacity. The Steering Committee provides general oversight and exercises overall accountability for the Trust Fund, approves the strategic direction of the Fund and its overall results framework, decides on projects and the allocation of funds, and oversees the implementation of funded projects and overall progress towards 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, acts as the **Secretariat** of the Trust Fund, ensuring programmatic coordination, technical support, quality assurance, and monitoring. 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,⁸ and with EU Council Decisions 2018/1788, 2022/2321, and 2024/3006, which provide support to SEESAC

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.

for the coordination and monitoring of the overall implementation of the Roadmap.⁹ Although the Secretariat supports the decision-making of the Steering Committee, it has no voting rights.

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

The **Participating UN Organizations** are UNDP and UNODC, which have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)¹⁰ with the MPTF Office. Each Participating UN Organization assumes full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent.

⁸ 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.

⁹ Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/1788 of 19 November 2018 at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2018/1788/oj>; Council Decision (CFSP) 2022/2321 of 25 November 2022 at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2022/2321>; and Council Decision (CFSP) 2024/3006 of 2 December 2024 at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2024/3006/oj>;

¹⁰ 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



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

25 Projects

approved for funding by 2025

Following two calls for proposals launched in 2019 and 2020, the Steering Committee approved 10 projects for funding, valued at \$12 million. Using the direct solicitation of projects modality in 2022, the Steering Committee approved six additional projects, valued at \$2.6 million, to bridge the gap between the second and third calls, to be initiated upon the completion of the mid-term evaluation of the Trust Fund. Following the completion of the mid-term evaluation of the Trust Fund in February 2023, the third call for proposals was launched in March 2023, resulting in the approval of eight new projects by the Steering Committee in October 2023 at a value of \$10.8 million. In September 2024, using the direct solicitation modality, the Steering Committee approved another regional project valued at 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.

In July 2025, the Steering Committee approved an additional \$3.35 million to be allocated to nine ongoing projects to address priority needs across the Western Balkans' jurisdictions in the context of the revised SALW Control Roadmap implementation. All nine projects have been revised in terms of scope and timeframe in line with the Steering Committee's decision and in adherence to the revised Roadmap for the period 2025-

2030. The cumulative value of projects under implementation in 2025 amounted to \$15.4 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 firearms-related crimes, illicit weapons seizures, improving ballistics and crime scene investigations by supporting relevant units/agencies, SALW-related data collection and management, upgrading weapons and ammunition storage facilities per international standards, the disposal of unsafe weapons and ammunition, integrating a gender perspective into SALW-related policies and measures, enhancing evidence-based and intelligence-led decision-making, and community outreach and awareness-raising on SALW control and prevention of misuse.

Details about the projects and the results achieved in 2025 are outlined in the next sections of the report and in the annexes. Notably, 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 during 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 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	\$1,026,135	31 October 2023 – 31 December 2026
	Project Justitia: Support to the Criminal Justice Response to Counter Arms Trafficking in the Western Balkans	UNODC	\$2,890,815	03 November 2023 – 31 December 2026
	Integrated Institutional Approach and Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation to SALW Control (Phase I)	UNDP Kosovo	\$1,600,990	03 November 2023 – 31 December 2026
	Advancing the Forensic Capacities of the Police Directorate of Montenegro for Processing Firearms and Explosives-related Crimes	UNDP Montenegro	\$1,391,105	28 November 2023 – 31 December 2026
	Improving Capacities of the Ministry of the Interior in the SALW-Control related Field, Phase III	UNDP Serbia	\$1,862,540	28 November 2023 – 31 December 2026
	Law Enforcement Agencies' Development in Small Arms and Light Weapons Control (Project LEAD)	UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina	\$1,855,035	06 December 2023 – 31 December 2026
	Integrated Institutional Approach and Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation to SALW Control (Phase I)	UNDP Albania	\$1,555,490	06 December 2023 – 31 October 2026
	Strengthening the Capacities of the Forensics and Crime Scene Investigation System to Improve the Criminal Justice Response to SALW	UNDP North Macedonia	\$1,499,180	18 December 2023 – 31 December 2026
Direct	Project Hermes 2.1: Countering Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Ammunition in Express Courier and Postal Parcels	UNODC	\$1,730,387	23 October 2024 – 31 December 2026

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 Fund¹¹.

In 2025, the Trust Fund contributed to the achievement of all five goals of the [revised Roadmap](#), corresponding to five outcomes of the Trust Fund in line with the governing documents revised in 2025.

Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome	Roadmap targets / TF Outputs	Trust Fund contribution in 2025
Goal 1: By 2030, ensure that arms control legislation is in place, harmonized with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations and standardized across the region.	Complete and regularly review the legal framework to regulate production, acquisition and possession for civil use as well as counter trafficking and misuse of weapons and ammunition in line with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations.	Further legislative progress was facilitated by UNODC in three jurisdictions, addressing the alignment of local legislation with the UN Firearms Protocol: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Montenegro, the Ministry of Justice considered further amendments to its criminal code and accepted the removal of unclear weapon categories and the criminalization of possessing blueprints for 3D-printed firearms in its post-debate report on legislative amendments, pending adoption. - In BiH, UNODC supported the Ministry of Justice's Working Group in finalizing draft amendments to Article 193 of the Criminal Code, introducing clearer definitions and stronger sanctions for firearms-related offenses. - In Serbia, UNODC contributed to public consultations on amendments to the criminal and criminal procedure codes.
	Ensure compatibility and standardization of arms, ammunition and explosives control relevant legal frameworks across the Western Balkans.	In Kosovo, UNDP supported a five-day workshop to harmonize the Law on Weapons and the Law on Civil Use of Explosives with the EU Firearms Directive, also preparing for the updates to the Law on Legalization and Voluntary Surrender of Illicit Firearms.
		A new regional methodology for the analysis of firearms-related judgments was developed by UNODC and validated through two sub-regional expert meetings (Vienna and Skopje), with participation of representatives from all six jurisdictions. The methodology establishes a structured framework for collecting and analyzing data from final court verdicts across six variable sets: offender profile, modus operandi, legal qualification, evidence, sentencing, and appellate proceedings. The systematic analysis of judgments can serve as a tool for strengthening legal certainty and harmonizing sentencing policies across jurisdictions.

¹¹ Acknowledging that the Trust Fund is only one of the mechanisms supporting the implementation of the Roadmap, certain targets may not be addressed under the Trust Fund. The MPTF Steering Committee decides which outcomes, outputs or themes are a priority under the MPTF for the support of the Roadmap implementation, upon consultations with the Secretariat, the Participating UN Organizations, beneficiaries and other relevant partners and considering that priorities may change during the MPTF implementation period.



Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome	Roadmap targets / TF Outputs	Trust Fund contribution in 2025
Goal 1: By 2030, ensure that arms control legislation is in place, harmonized with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations and standardized across the region.	Regularly exchange good practices with a specific focus on harmonization of the legal framework with the EU Regulatory framework and other international obligations.	Judicial actors across the region received from UNODC tailored legal resources, specialized training (including dedicated curricula for the judiciary in all jurisdictions), and comparative case law through UNODC’s Justitia project, aimed at improving the consistency and quality of adjudication in firearms-related cases across the Western Balkans.
		As part of two sub-regional expert meetings organized by UNODC that served to develop and validate the methodology for the analysis of firearms-related judgments, 32 participating judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement officials from all six jurisdictions were able to exchange good practices in adjudicating firearms-related cases.

Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome	Roadmap targets / TF Outputs	Trust Fund contribution in 2025
Goal 2: By 2030, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are in place, evidence-based and intelligence-led.	Fully integrate gender and age concerns in arms control policies and prioritize meaningful participation of women in policymaking.	In BiH, UNDP supported the Ministry of Security—along with SIPA, Border Police, and the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies—in pursuing the UNDP Gender Equality Seal through self-assessments, action planning, and gender-responsive budgeting training.
		In BiH and Serbia, UNDP supported policewomen’s associations from the two jurisdictions to gather for bilateral exchange on enhancing policewomen’s participation in policymaking. This facilitated bilateral knowledge exchanges among 26 policewomen from Serbia and BiH.
		In Serbia, UNDP supported a high-level conference of the MoI and the policewomen network with 127 participants (91 women, 36 men) from 18 jurisdictions to advocate for gender-responsive security policies and the visibility of women in policing. It also supported the European Network of Policewomen with the gathering of 16 women police representatives.
		In Serbia, UNDP developed and validated evidence-based recommendations that are currently informing the Ministry of Justice’s working group to amend the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence, specifically addressing risks linked to perpetrators’ access to firearms. These were based on focus groups with 24 professionals (16 women, 8 men) and validated by 14 representatives (11 women, 3 men) from the police, judiciary, social protection institutions, and civil society. A comprehensive mapping was drafted of crisis response resources and institutional mechanisms for victims and witnesses of mass shootings.



Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome	Roadmap targets / TF Outputs	Trust Fund contribution in 2025
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Goal 2:

By 2030, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are in place, evidence-based and intelligence-led.

Standardize and institutionalize record-keeping and data collection on weapons, ammunition and explosives, disaggregated by sex and age.

In Albania, UNDP initiated the development of the advanced Weapons Management System (SIMA) within the Albanian State Police, established a coordination framework, and recruited an IT expert to work with ASP to this end in 2026. For advancing FFP's data collection, UNDP developed technical specifications to upgrade the FFP work with necessary analytical hardware and software (including Analyst's Notebook i2), for procurement in 2026.

In BiH, UNDP made significant progress in developing a digital application for registering legal firearms in FBIH. The contracted IT company and a 23-member working group (including 7 women) successfully finalized functional specifications to ensure interoperability and real-time data exchange across cantons.

In Kosovo, UNDP in cooperation with Kosovo Police finalized the technical specifications and launched procurement for a new Explosives Management Control System to track and manage explosives across the jurisdiction. Based on this, a dedicated module will be integrated into the existing Weapons Registry System of Kosovo Police.

In Montenegro and in Serbia, UNDP supported respective Forensic Centers to advance and standardize forensic data collection in accordance with ISO 17020 and ISO 17025

In North Macedonia, UNDP upgraded the Police Information Management System (IMS) with functionalities for gender-disaggregated data collection. The upgrade introduced a critical alert mechanism within the IMS to instantly identify domestic violence cases that involve registered firearms license holders, enabling faster, evidence-based, and victim-centered police responses.

In Serbia, UNDP advanced the Ministry of Interior's capacity for the systematic, gender-sensitive monitoring of firearm-related incidents in domestic violence. Building upon a previously developed dataset framework, the Mol has continued to actively 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.

Also in Serbia, preparatory activities were initiated for the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) upgrade.



Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome | Roadmap targets / TF Outputs | Trust Fund contribution in 2025

Goal 2:

By 2030, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are in place, evidence-based and intelligence-led.

Strengthen and systematize the collection and reporting of criminal justice data.

UNODC finalized the second edition of the Firearms Case Law Collection for Montenegro through a validation workshop, thus completing the process across all six jurisdictions. In addition, UNODC supported the Supreme Court of Montenegro in publishing its Analysis of Sentencing Policies in Firearms-Related Cases, which was widely distributed to judges and the broader criminal justice expert community during the 'Days of the Montenegrin Judiciary' event (28–30 October 2025). The publication provides recommendations for more consistent sentencing and identifies the need for continued specialized training.

The new regional methodology for the analysis of firearms-related judgments developed and validated by UNODC establishes a structured framework for collecting and analyzing data from final court verdicts across six variable sets: offender profile, modus operandi, legal qualification, evidence, sentencing, and appellate proceedings.

The regional knowledge-management product on Human Rights produced by UNODC (developed in 2024) was published under the title: "Balancing Justice and Rights: Case Law on Human Rights in Organized Crime and Trafficking Cases in the Western Balkans", and it was disseminated to the judiciary across the region.

Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome | Roadmap targets / TF Outputs | Trust Fund contribution in 2025

Goal 3:

By 2030, significantly reduce misuse, illicit manufacturing, illicit possession, and illicit flows of weapons, ammunition and explosives.

Prevent and counter trafficking, misuse, illicit manufacturing, and possession of WAE through improved procedures, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement and criminal justice entities.

Across the region, criminal justice practitioners were engaged by UNODC in the validation and endorsement of training materials based on the UNODC *Guidelines on Investigation and Prosecution of Firearms Offences*. As a result, training curricula and associated materials for prosecutors and judges were finalized in all six jurisdictions.

Specialized trainings for judges and prosecutors were delivered in BiH, Montenegro, and North Macedonia, enhancing capacities of 105 judges across the jurisdictions.

In North Macedonia, the Academy for Judges and Prosecutors incorporated UNODC's legal *Commentary on Criminal Code amendments* as core reference material for its official training programme. Similarly, cooperation was established with the Centers for education of prosecutors and judges in BiH, Montenegro, Kosovo, Serbia, and Albania, where UNODC courses became part of the curriculum, thus enhancing sustainability aspects.

In support of the application of special investigative measures in cases involving firearms offenses, UNODC published six jurisdiction-specific knowledge management products on the topic (developed in 2024), distributed the local guidelines in Montenegro, and launched locally adapted guidelines at a sub-regional workshop in Tirana attended by 40 practitioners from Albania, North Macedonia, and Kosovo.



Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome | Roadmap targets / TF Outputs | Trust Fund contribution in 2025

<p>Goal 3:</p> <p>By 2030, significantly reduce misuse, illicit manufacturing, illicit possession, and illicit flows of weapons, ammunition and explosives.</p>	<p>Prevent and counter trafficking, misuse, illicit manufacturing, and possession of WAE through improved procedures, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement and criminal justice entities.</p>	<p>UNODC delivered training sessions in Banja Luka, Sarajevo, and Danilovgrad, in close partnership with local judicial and law enforcement training institutions, thus providing judges with targeted technical and legal knowledge on firearms, ammunition, evidence handling, forensic analysis, and crime scene reconstruction.</p> <p>Training resources were expanded for two additional jurisdictions. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, a ballistic manual for prosecutors and judges was finalized at the request of the SALW Coordination Board.</p> <p>133 customs and postal officers (30 women and 103 men) from all six WB jurisdictions enhanced knowledge and capacities to detect firearms in postal shipments through X-ray image analysis. To this end, 11 trainings and 14 mentoring sessions were conducted by UNODC across all six WB jurisdictions, resulting in seizures of illicit weapons in Albania, Kosovo, and BiH.</p> <p>30 customs and DPO officials from three WB jurisdictions (BiH, Montenegro, and Serbia) enhanced risk-analysis capacities through a dedicated UNODC sub-regional workshop. A knowledge management product was developed for the purpose, on trend analysis and risk profiles.</p> <p>To enhance detection of firearm trafficking via postal shipments, UNODC equipped two facilities in BiH (Banja Luka and Sarajevo) with an x-ray scanner and a detector, while three facilities (one each in Tirana, Skopje, and Pristina) were equipped with an x-ray scanner. [Remaining four units arranged, one for Montenegro and three for Serbia, planned to be delivered in 2026.] Training on the use of the hand-held detection devices was delivered to BiH frontline officers, equipping them with the skills to detect explosives and drugs in postal parcels.</p> <p>Police capacities to detect and counter arms trafficking were further enhanced through specialized equipment across three jurisdictions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Albania, Border Police's technical arsenal for green border patrols was upgraded by delivering two night-vision drones, portable scanners, thermal cameras, long-range and night binoculars, and five new 4x4 patrol vehicles. - In BiH, UNDP provided 26 contraband detectors/density meters to 14 police agencies (training 14 designated officers) and delivered one detector to the FBiH Police Academy (training 5 instructors). It also procured 44 CSI kits for 14 police agencies, awaiting delivery. - In Kosovo, UNDP provided 25 lightweight handheld metal detectors and 5 day-use binoculars to the border police. In addition, MoIA explosive inspectors were supplied with essential personal protective equipment (PPE). <p>Border police capacities to detect and counter arms trafficking were advanced in Albania through specialized training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Albania, 136 border police officers (119 men, 17 women) across seven border-crossing counties passed advanced training on countering firearms, ammunition, and explosives (FAE) smuggling. 14 border police officers were provided with a hands-on training on the newly acquired drones and handheld scanners.
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Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome	Roadmap targets / TF Outputs	Trust Fund contribution in 2025
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<p>Goal 3:</p> <p>By 2030, significantly reduce misuse, illicit manufacturing, illicit possession, and illicit flows of weapons, ammunition and explosives.</p>	<p>Prevent and counter trafficking, misuse, illicit manufacturing, and possession of WAE through improved procedures, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement and criminal justice entities.</p>	<p>UNDP supported accreditation of forensic methods in line with ISO 17020 and ISO 17025 in two jurisdictions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Montenegro, seven new SOPs for crime scene and ballistic investigations were developed. A new method for examining fuse correctness and a novel GC-MS-based method for qualitative TNT detection in the chemical laboratory were successfully developed and validated. - In Serbia, support was provided for the expanded accreditation of the National Forensic Center in at least three methods, two for the Ballistic laboratory (central and regional levels) and one at the Chemical laboratory. Independent validation assessments were hosted from German (BKA) and French (SNPS Lyon) experts to prepare the NFC for Gunshot Residue (GSR) and explosive analysis accreditation.
		<p>Forensic examination capacities were also advanced through tailored training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Montenegro, UNDP delivered specialized training to 7 police officers (all women) on injury documentation during medical examinations, enhancing the quality of forensic medical reporting. In addition, police officers were provided with a specialized protocol for handling sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) cases developed by UNDP. - Also in Montenegro, Forensic Center's personnel were trained on the application of the new SOPs and the use of provided equipment (drones, 3D scanners, and Crime Lite Auto devices). Advanced training on ISO/IEC 17020 standards was delivered to 14 CSI officers (all men), while internal auditor training was provided to 8 forensic staff members. - In North Macedonia, 19 CSI technicians (15 men, 4 women) were trained on applying a victim-centered approach to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) cases and provided with specialized continuous-reference guidelines. - In Serbia, 31 forensic personnel (29 men, 2 women) were trained on ILAC G19 accreditation standards, and 49 forensic personnel (42 men, 7 women) in post-blast investigations and scene management.



Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome	Roadmap targets / TF Outputs	Trust Fund contribution in 2025
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Goal 3:

By 2030, significantly reduce misuse, illicit manufacturing, illicit possession, and illicit flows of weapons, ammunition and explosives.

Prevent and counter trafficking, misuse, illicit manufacturing, and possession of WAE through improved procedures, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement and criminal justice entities.

UNDP enhanced forensic and ballistic capabilities through the provision of specialized equipment, including:

- In Albania: procurement was concluded of a 360-degree crime scene camera and a ballistic examination platform, pending delivery in early 2026.
- In BiH: UNDP modernized ballistic laboratories in Sarajevo and Banja Luka by providing three ventilation systems, seven modular workbenches, and 37 specialized forensic tools, aligning them with international standards.
- In North Macedonia, UNDP advanced evidence collection of CSI units through the provision of 78 advanced CSI evidence collection kits (54 universal, 24 post-mortem) and 41 cameras with external flashes.
- In Kosovo, the Kosovo Forensic Agency received a specialized ToolScan system, and 10 forensic experts were trained on digital toolmark and firearm evidence analysis.
- In Montenegro, the Forensic Center’s Arson and Explosives Lab has been equipped with a multifunctional firearm discharge device, optical fiber testing tools, and new storage infrastructure for explosives, while the GSR lab received a Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) to significantly boost gunshot residue (GSR) analysis.
- In Serbia, UNDP delivered to the NFC specialized evidence-handling equipment (DNA- and GSR-free containers, cardboard firearm boxes) and FPV drone for CSI, equipped regional ballistic labs with bullet traps and chronographs, upgraded the NFC with a stereo microscope and comparative microscope enhancements, and provided mobile explosive detection devices and specialized field kits for explosive examinations.

As additional support to advance general forensic work, UNDP supported upgrade of premises:

- In North Macedonia, UNDP secured official premises from the MoI and received MoI approval for the design to build a new CSI Training and Simulation Facility, modeled after a successful French facility.
- In Serbia, UNDP adapted evidence reception rooms in regional forensic centers in Niš and Užice, and refurbished the main forensic evidence depository in Belgrade.

Police capacities and skills to combat cyber-enabled arms trafficking were enhanced in Albania and Kosovo:

- In Albania, 15 police officers and 3 prosecutors (8 women, 10 men) enhanced their capacities through a four-day training organized in cooperation with the Western Balkans Cyber Capacity Centre (WB3C) in Podgorica.
- In Kosovo, 12 cyber investigators (11 men, 1 woman) were trained at the WB3C on darknet investigations, cryptocurrency, and blockchain analysis to combat cyber-enabled arms trafficking.



Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome | Roadmap targets / TF Outputs | Trust Fund contribution in 2025

Goal 3:

By 2030, significantly reduce misuse, illicit manufacturing, illicit possession, and illicit flows of weapons, ammunition and explosives.

Prevent and counter trafficking, misuse, illicit manufacturing, and possession of WAE through improved procedures, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement and criminal justice entities.

Improve inter-institutional cooperation at operational level on intelligence sharing, including the provision of systematic and timely feedback.

Capacities of law enforcement were enhanced through additional training as per jurisdiction-needs:

- In Kosovo, UNDP delivered a course on identifying homemade explosives to 12 bomb technicians and investigators (10 men, 2 women), while 20 regional police officers (all men) and community safety forum members were trained on firearm inspection, misuse prevention, and responding to domestic violence.
- In Serbia, UNDP organized comprehensive firearms identification training to 75 forensic and law enforcement personnel (54 women, 21 men), addressing challenges in registration, categorization, and documentation.
- Also in Serbia, UNDP trained 261 police officers (67 women, 194 men) in the Vojvodina region to improve risk assessment and institutional responses to domestic violence cases.

UNDP invested efforts to advance the knowledge products and resources for continuous reference to relevant authorities and advancement of practice on SALW Control:

- In BiH, Guidelines on the Conduct of Police Officers regarding illegal SALW and Mine-Explosive Devices were finalized. Both the FBiH Police Academy and the RS MoI Police High School agreed to incorporate these guidelines into their official curricula.
- In Kosovo, the development of an E-Learning Platform was finalized and integrated into the Kosovo Police intranet, providing over 10,000 officers with self-paced SALW control training modules.
- In Montenegro, two knowledge products were developed for CSI officers: a manual on documenting injuries on victims during medical examination, and a protocol for interviewing victims of GBV for the purpose of crime scene processing and evidence collection.
- Also in Montenegro, the Forensic Center received a curriculum for a method validation and a bilingual glossary on ballistic terminology.
- In North Macedonia, the MoI was provided with two knowledge products on the use of the indoor shooting range; In addition, CSI officers received guidelines on applying a victim-centered approach in GBV cases.
- In Serbia, two analytical reports were produced, addressing femicides and the development of evidence-based recommendations related to prevention measures in domestic violence, involving the misuse of weapons. In addition, a leaflet on firearms misuse risks for suicide, and a brochure addressing DV cases were produced, too.

UNODC supported inter-institutional cooperation on detecting and countering FAE trafficking:

- In BiH, six meetings of the inter-institutional Working Group were convened under the MoUs signed between the Indirect Tax Authority and the three designated postal operators (BH Pošta, HP Posta Mostar, and Srpske Pošte Banja Luka), whereby the participants reviewed results of the training on the detection of firearms using X-ray technology, the status of equipment delivery, mechanisms for information exchange, and operational actions.
- In North Macedonia, four sessions of the inter-institutional Working Group were convened, bringing together the Customs Administration and the Post of North Macedonia, whereby members adopted respective Rules of Procedure and a standardized Illegal Shipment Reporting Form, improving inter-agency information flow and consistency of case reporting. T



Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome | Roadmap targets / TF Outputs | Trust Fund contribution in 2025

Goal 3:

By 2030, significantly reduce misuse, illicit manufacturing, illicit possession, and illicit flows of weapons, ammunition and explosives.

Improve inter-institutional cooperation at operational level on intelligence sharing, including the provision of systematic and timely feedback.

An inter-agency exchange of information in investigations of illegal firearms trafficking through postal shipments in BiH was supported by UNODC through an operational meeting on the topic of open-source research between ITA representatives and the Federal Police Directorate (FPD). The FPD is conducting several investigations into cases of illegal trafficking of firearm parts and drugs through postal shipments, and the effort is aimed to further improve these investigations.

In BiH, UNDP facilitated dialogue and cooperation between law enforcement agencies and prosecutors, particularly through consultative processes related to the SALW Investigation Guidebook and through the joint cross-border operations between BiH and Serbia, involving border police, customs, and prosecutors.

In Serbia, UNDP supported inter-institutional cooperation and coordination in forensic and ballistic investigations through a dedicated coordination meeting that gathered 22 representatives (16 men and 6 women) from the Ministry of Interior and the Prosecutor’s Office.

Strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and platforms to counter misuse, illicit manufacturing, possession and trafficking of WAE.

Regional cooperation was supported by UNODC through two sub-regional gatherings of 32 criminal justice experts (in Vienna and Skopje), aimed at advancing harmonization in firearms adjudication across the Western Balkans.

In joint efforts by UNDP Albania and UNDP Kosovo, a three-day study visit to the Paris Forensic Laboratory took place, to enable local authorities from Albania and Kosovo to acquire knowledge relating to the exchange of ballistic data through the Evofinder system between the two jurisdictions.

UNDP supported the second bilateral arson-explosives experts meeting between BiH and Serbia, taking place in Belgrade, involving 11 experts, of which 6 were from BiH (2 women and 4 men) and 5 from Serbia (1 woman, 4 men). The event enabled the sharing of experiences aimed at improving operational procedures and bilateral cooperation.

UNDP supported a joint cross-border exercise between BiH and Serbia, taking place in BiH. The simulation involved 34 police officers (5 women, 29 men), customs officials, and prosecutors and focused on the detection of illegal SALW at a joint border crossing.

In Montenegro, UNDP organized a study visit for the Head of the Forensic Centre and two key experts to the National Forensic Laboratory in Slovenia, focusing on advanced GSR analysis (using Thermo Fisher Quatro SEM), fire/explosion trace analysis, and ballistics.

In Serbia, UNDP supported the authorities to host a two-day expert meeting gathering 58 regional police psychologists (53 women, 5 men) and 31 national police psychologists (30 women, 1 man) to align suicide prevention practices and improve psychosocial support within police services.



Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome | Roadmap targets / TF Outputs | Trust Fund contribution in 2025

<p>Goal 3:</p> <p>By 2030, significantly reduce misuse, illicit manufacturing, illicit possession, and illicit flows of weapons, ammunition and explosives.</p>	<p>Strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and platforms to counter misuse, illicit manufacturing, possession and trafficking of WAE</p>	<p>UNDP supported the advancement of forensic investigations of firearms-related crime in line with international standards and good practice through peer-exchange and learning from good practice via the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI). Across the region, forensic experts were supported to take part in the ENFSI events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Albania, two experts from the Albanian Forensic Police Institute were supported to take part in the ENFSI meeting in October 2025, in The Hague, Netherlands, enhancing expert knowledge on Gun Shot Residue Analysis (GSR) and the examination of 3D printed firearms. - In Montenegro, UNDP supported 5 forensic experts (4 men, 1 woman) to learn from good practice through 4 ENFSI events, covering various aspects of forensic work, including CSI, ballistics, and GSR analysis. - In Serbia, UNDP supported 3 forensic experts (all men) to take part in two ENFSI working group meetings, one on the scene of crime, and one on the firearms/GSR analysis.
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Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome | Roadmap targets / TF Outputs | Trust Fund contribution in 2025

<p>Goal 4:</p> <p>By 2030, significantly reduce the supply, demand, illicit possession and misuse of arms, ammunition and explosives through the means of prevention.</p>	<p>Increase awareness among licensed private and legal entities (including arms, ammunition and explosive producers, brokers, traders, transport companies, and collectors) about the danger of misuse, illicit proliferation and risks of diversion of arms, ammunition and explosives.</p> <p>Strengthen public trust in security institutions and develop sustainable partnerships to strengthen advocacy and outreach.</p>	<p>UNODC via Project Hermes 2.1 initiated consultations with 14 private postal operators across all WB jurisdictions to define priority training needs on detecting firearms in postal shipments. In addition, in Serbia, UNODC forged partnership with RATEL (Regulatory Authority for Communication and Postal Services), to enhance the overall safety and security of postal traffic.</p> <p>A workshop between public-private counterparts conducted by UNODC in BiH enhanced awareness on trafficking of firearms and related parts via postal shipments among three private postal operators in BiH.</p> <p>In BiH, the Ministry of Security received structured support from UNDP to enhance gender-responsive policymaking and advocacy to this end.</p> <p>In BiH and Serbia, UNDP provided support to policewomen’s networks to enhance gender-responsive leadership and regional cooperation within the security sector, contributing to more inclusive and effective SALW control practices.</p> <p>In Serbia, UNDP contributed to strengthening institutional responses to domestic violence cases involving firearms by improving 216 police officers’ capacity to conduct risk assessments and apply preventive measures, contributing to more effective protection of victims and early prevention of severe outcomes.</p>
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Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome	Roadmap targets / TF Outputs	Trust Fund contribution in 2025
<p>Goal 4:</p> <p>By 2030, significantly reduce the supply, demand, illicit possession and misuse of arms, ammunition and explosives through the means of prevention.</p>	<p>Strengthen public trust in security institutions and develop sustainable partnerships to strengthen advocacy and outreach.</p>	<p>In Serbia, UNDP amplified the Mol's "16 Days of Activism" nationwide campaign with 20,000 pocket calendars and 1,000 posters to promote the safe reporting of violence.</p>
		<p>In BiH and Serbia, UNDP successfully completed twelve CSO grant projects, eight in BiH and four in Serbia, focused on SALW risk awareness and prevention.</p>
		<p>In BiH, through CSO grants, 17,000 young people were reached through the short film "Igra" (The Game) and over 2,800 individuals through the theater play "Odjek tišine" (Echo of Silence). It supported five CSOs in producing analytical materials on the links between SALW and gender-based violence, resulting in teacher guidelines, police training manuals, and published research studies addressing critical links between SALW, domestic violence, and femicide.</p>
		<p>In Kosovo, UNDP supported the Ministry of Internal Affairs to roll out a new wave of the "Celebrate with Your Heart, Not Your Gun!" campaign, which contributed to a 24.8% decrease in reports of festive firearm use and a 12.08% increase in cases opened by the police, indicating faster institutional responses.</p>
	<p>Increase awareness and education among the general population, on the danger of WAE.</p>	<p>In North Macedonia, UNDP integrated the awareness-raising plans into its project strategy, to focus on the responsible use of pyrotechnics following a tragic nightclub fire in Kocani. It coordinated with the Mol, SALW Commission, and OSCE to plan for the awareness-raising activities in 2026.</p>
		<p>In Serbia, UNDP partnered with four women's organizations to directly empower 390 women to recognize firearm risks. These efforts engaged 143 institutional representatives (116 women, 27 men) through multi-stakeholder dialogues. Additionally, NGO helplines provided psychosocial and legal assistance to over 140 women</p>
		<p>In Serbia, UNDP provided ongoing supervision via Norwegian experts for 31 mental health professionals (24 women, 7 men) delivering trauma-focused therapy to individuals affected by the May 2023 mass shootings.</p> <p>Also in Serbia, UNDP developed a specialized training program and risk assessment pilot tool for the healthcare sector to enable the early detection of firearm misuse risks, while 11 army veterans were supported to recognize suicide risks and provide peer support, accompanied by a targeted awareness campaign for men over 45.</p>



Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome	Roadmap targets / TF Outputs	Trust Fund contribution in 2025
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Goal 4:

By 2030, significantly reduce the supply, demand, illicit possession and misuse of arms, ammunition and explosives through the means of prevention

Increase awareness to reduce the misuse of firearms in violence against women and girls, domestic violence and other forms of GBV, as well as awareness among young men on the dangers of misuse of weapons and explosives and their engagement through targeted programs.

Increase public awareness of the dangers of celebratory shooting.

Increase partnership with the media and their awareness of the importance of adequate reporting on firearms misuse and firearms-enabled violence

In BiH, UNDP significantly increased awareness of SALW-related risks, particularly among youth, and strengthened the role of civil society in prevention efforts. It reached over 17,000 young people across 200+ schools through screenings of the short film "Igra" (The Game), and engaged more than 2,800 individuals, including young men and women, via the youth theater play "Odjek tišine" (Echo of Silence). Through the remaining CSO initiatives, a broad range of communities were engaged to raise awareness on the misuse of firearms against women and girls.

In Serbia, UNDP supported the increased awareness of general population on the safe reporting of domestic and other forms of GBV violence through the Mol's "16 Days of Activism" campaign.

In Serbia, UNDP partnered with four women's organizations to directly empower 390 women to recognize firearm risks. These efforts engaged 143 institutional representatives (116 women, 27 men) through multi-stakeholder dialogues. Additionally, NGO helplines provided psychosocial and legal assistance to over 140 women

In Kosovo, the awareness raising campaign focused on the dangers of celebratory shootings.

In Serbia, UNDP supported the "Journalists against Violence" group in analyzing the media coverage of the shootings and trained 11 journalists to foster ethical, prevention-oriented reporting.

In Kosovo, collaboration with media was fostered through the support to the Mol with the awareness raising campaign "Celebrate with Your Heart, Not Your Gun!"

In BiH, through the CSO support, media outlets were engaged to report on the produced resources, such as with the production of the short film "The Game" and through the theatre play "Echo of Silence".



Roadmap Goal / TF Outcome	Roadmap targets / TF Outputs	Trust Fund contribution in 2025
Goal 5: By 2030, substantially decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion through improved safety and security of the stockpiles and disposal of weapons, ammunition and explosives.	Regular and secure destruction of confiscated and collected SALW, ammunition and explosives or disposed of in another transparent manner.	In Kosovo, UNDP supported the law enforcement authorities in the destruction of 382 confiscated firearms.
	Ensure safe and secure SALW, ammunition and explosive storage facilities based on identified needs and in accordance with international standards.	In Serbia, UNDP significantly improved safe and secure storage facilities for the Administrative Affairs Directorate (AAD) by delivering 140 metal lockers and 20 wooden storage units. In addition, evidence reception rooms in regional forensic centers in Niš, Užice, and the PD Belgrade were adapted and refurbished, providing for safer storage facilities for SALW, ammunition, and explosives.
Trust Fund operational and managed, ensuring coordinated support to projects in support of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap	Monitoring, evaluation and reporting ensured.	Based on its monitoring and evaluation function and the input from participating UN Organizations, SEESAC in its capacity of the Trust Fund Secretariat consolidated three progress reports in 2025 and submitted these to donors and partners. In addition, the Secretariat consolidated the current annual report for 2025, which will be distributed by the MPTF Office to a broader range of partners and contributors by 31 May 2026, in line with the Trust Fund's Operations Manual. This adds to the previously submitted progress and annual reports, since the Fund's establishment: 2019 , 2020 , 2021 , 2022 , 2023 , and 2024 . An independent mid-term evaluation was conducted in 2023 and the operations of the Fund in 2025 embedded the findings and recommendations stemming from the mid-term evaluation. The final evaluation of the Trust Fund is planned at the Fund's closure. By the decision of the Steering Committee in March 2025, the Trust Fund has been extended until 31 December 2028.
	A portfolio of projects operating in a coordinated manner in the Western Balkans with secured funding from the Trust Fund.	25 projects have been approved by the Steering Committee for funding by December 2024. Out of these, 16 projects completed their operations by December 2024. Nine projects were ongoing in 2025. In July, the Trust Fund's Steering Committee decided to allocate an additional \$3.35 million to the nine ongoing projects and extended the timeframe of these to the end of 2026. The Secretariat ensured programmatic coordination and technical support for projects throughout 2025. The projects contributed to all five goals of the revised Roadmap 2025-2030.
	Coordination and knowledge management across implementing entities ensured	SEESAC as the Secretariat supports a monitoring and coordination platform for the Trust Fund, with the funding from the EU and with complementary funds approved by the Steering Committee for the functions of the Secretariat. All implementing entities supported by the Trust Fund, and beyond, are invited to take part in coordination meetings facilitated by SEESAC, including local and regional coordination meetings. In 2025, 12 local coordination meetings were organized across the jurisdictions (two per jurisdiction) and two regional meetings in July 2025 and December 2025 , bringing together all relevant stakeholders engaged in the Roadmap implementation.

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

3.1. Steering Committee Decision-Making

In 2025, the Steering Committee convened seven times to: review and provide strategic guidance for the Trust Fund; review the progress of ongoing projects; decide on the Trust Fund's duration and its future outlook; review and approve the revised governing documents in line with the revised SALW Control Roadmap 2025-2030; review and decide on the priorities to be supported by the Trust Fund across the jurisdictions; and approve the expanded scope and timeframe for ongoing projects.

In Q1 2025, the Steering Committee convened twice, on 12 and 14 March, to i) review the mid-term progress of nine ongoing projects (four at the first meeting and five at the second meeting); ii) review the options and decide on the Trust Fund's duration; iii) review and decide on the Secretariat's duration, budget, and work plan; and iv) review and discuss options for the allocation of available funds. The Steering Committee took note of the mid-term progress of the projects, including the associated challenges and opportunities. In addition, the Steering Committee decided to extend the Trust Fund's duration until 31 December 2028. Accordingly, the Secretariat's duration was extended to match the Trust Fund's duration. The new budget allotment of \$34,096 for the Secretariat and the work plan for 2025 were approved as well. At the meeting, the Steering Committee endorsed the approach of allocating the available funds through the direct solicitation of priority needs from SALW commissions/relevant authorities in the region and based on the findings from the mid-term review of projects and the identified needs.



In Q2 2025, the Steering Committee convened twice. In April 2025, the Steering Committee convened to review the revision of the Trust Fund's key documents, reflecting the extended duration of the Trust Fund and alignment with the revised Roadmap for the period 2025-2030. In May 2025, the Steering Committee approved the revision of the following Trust Fund documents: Terms of Reference, Operations Manual, Results Matrix, and Risks Matrix. In June 2025, the Steering Committee convened to review and discuss the findings and recommendations from the assessment organized by the Secretariat regarding the Trust Fund's support for immediate priorities in the Western Balkans to support



the Roadmap implementation. The Steering Committee endorsed, in principle, the initial assessment findings and recommendations. In light of the new funding contribution to the Trust Fund confirmed by the Netherlands, the Steering Committee requested the Secretariat to expand on the recommendations for support.

In Q3 2025, the Steering Committee convened twice, once in a hybrid format and once online. At the meeting in July 2025, a decision was made regarding support for immediate priority needs across the Western Balkans jurisdictions, including funding allocations through ongoing



projects. In line with the decision, the UNDP and UNODC project teams proceeded to revise their project documents to address the priority needs. The Secretariat received the revisions of all nine projects by August 2025, and these underwent detailed assessment for adherence to the decision, allocated funding, and compliance with technical and quality requirements.

The Steering Committee subsequently convened in September 2025 to review and finally approve the revised project files. This was executed in a phased manner, divided into three groups based on priority.



Finally, the Steering Committee convened in December 2025 for the end-of-year review of the Trust Fund's status and ongoing projects. At the meeting, the Steering Committee took note of the progress and results of the nine ongoing projects, including the associated challenges and opportunities. The joint participation of all project representatives ensured the exchange of relevant information and experiences and provided an opportunity for project representatives to learn from each other's experiences and initiatives.



3.2. Activity of the Secretariat

In 2025, 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.

The Secretariat 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. Three interim progress reports outlining activities and results throughout 2025, as well as one annual report, were compiled by the Secretariat based on input from participating UN organizations. In its operations, the Secretariat continued to observe the recommendations from the independent mid-term evaluation of the Trust Fund, ensuring greater engagement with the relevant authorities, supporting dynamic project management, coherent operations, and providing advice toward greater ownership and sustainability of results.

In line with the Steering Committee’s decision, the Secretariat coordinated the technical assessment of the priority needs to be supported by the Trust Fund with the available funds. To this end, it solicited feedback from all SALW Commissions on the immediate priority needs in the context of

the extended Roadmap implementation. It reactivated the expert Review Panel, which examined the ongoing projects funded by the Trust Fund, further potential support, as well as complementary priority needs in support of the Roadmap, in line with feedback from SALW Commissions/ relevant authorities. The findings and recommendations of the technical assessment were shared with the Steering Committee to inform final decision-making.

Following the decision on the priorities to be supported, the Secretariat liaised with the project teams to coordinate the revision of ongoing projects, as applicable. The project revisions were subject to the Steering Committee’s final approval, as the final stage of the process, which was completed in October 2025.

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, which aim to further facilitate 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 for the contributors on social media platforms, in publications, during events, on the equipment provided, or at the site of SALW storage centers reconstructed/refurbished with support from the Trust Fund. The Secretariat maintained 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 the results stemming from them.

Monday, 2 June 2025

Sixth Year of Supporting Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Roadmap: 2024 UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Annual Report

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 is now available for online reading. The report marks the sixth year of the Trust Fund’s existence, running in parallel with the Roadmap’s implementation.

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 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. 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, delivering important results, 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

2 UN organizations participating

6 Contributors to the Trust Fund, with EU in-kind support

28.5M\$ Value of total contributions

4. Update on the Activity of the Participating UN Organizations

Nine projects were under implementation in 2025. In line with the Steering Committee decision of 7 July 2025, the cumulative value of the projects increased from \$12.1 million to \$15.4 million. All projects were revised to expand scope and duration and to adhere to the revised Roadmap for the period 2025-2030. This section briefly features all nine projects that were active during 2025. A detailed matrix of project 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 expert and operational exchange; the harmonization of legislative framework, criminal justice responses and practices across the region; 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 by the UNODC Global Firearms Programme (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.

In 2025, UNODC collaborated with a total of **413 criminal justice practitioners** (164 women and 249 men) across the Western Balkans through Project Justitia activities encompassing legislative reform, capacity-building, and operational support.

The year 2025 marked a period in which the sustained investments of Project Justitia began to produce measurable criminal justice outcomes. Most notably, the harmonization of criminal

codes in Montenegro and North Macedonia with the criminalization provisions of the UN Firearms Protocol (Article 5) resulted in concrete enforcement action.

The Trust Fund and UNODC are working to further advance the criminal justice response to counter trafficking in firearms and harmonize criminal legislation approaches in the region.



The enforcement of Criminal Code firearms-related provisions in Montenegro and North Macedonia, amended in 2023 with UNODC support, yielded results and indicated some positive trends.

*In **Montenegro**, the authorities prosecuted and adjudicated firearms-related cases under the amended provisions of the Criminal Code, where the core firearms offense in Article 403 was substantially revised. This encompasses a dedicated offense of illicit firearms trafficking, added under new Article 403b. The new trafficking provision was in operational use in 2025: the Prosecutor's Office data recorded three investigations initiated under Article 403b. Regarding sentencing, the Supreme Court's Analysis of Sentencing Policy for 1 January–18 November 2025 records 78 sanctions imposed in firearms cases: suspended sentences in 39 cases (50.0%), prison sentences in 22 cases (28.2%), imprisonment served at the place of residence in 15 cases (19.2%), and community service in two cases (2.6%). When effective imprisonment and imprisonment at the place of residence are combined, the aggregated custodial rate in 2025 stands at 47.4 percent, compared with 37 percent in the 2020-2025 dataset. The use of community service also declined, from 10 percent to 2.6 percent. Although these figures do not establish a direct case-level comparison, they suggest a trend toward more severe sentencing outcomes following the amendments.*

*In **North Macedonia**, likewise, the authorities prosecuted and adjudicated firearms-related cases in 2025 under Article 396 of the Criminal Code ("Unauthorized production, possession, brokering and trafficking in weapons or explosive materials"), which was amended in 2023 with UNODC support. The new provision was in active operational use across the jurisdiction. More specifically, between 1 January and early December 2025, public prosecution offices reported caseloads under Article 396 by appellate area, including 85 cases against 91 persons in the Skopje area and 31 cases against 36 persons in the Gostivar area, with further cases reported in the Bitola and Štip areas, together exceeding 150 cases under this article in the reporting period. The judicial database reviewed by UNODC contained seven first-instance convictions under Article 396: five effective prison sentences (ranging from two to 15 years) and two suspended sentences (each a two-year term held in abeyance).*



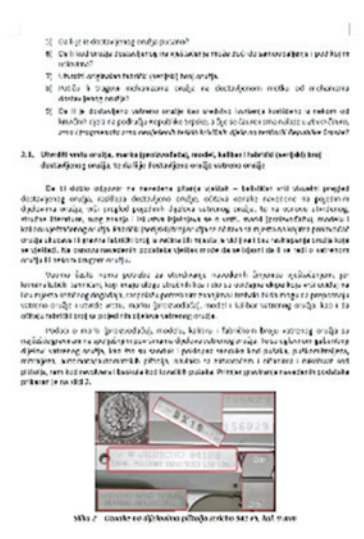
Following advocacy efforts by UNODC in Montenegro, the Ministry of Justice, in its post-debate report, accepted the removal of unclear weapon categories and the criminalization of possessing blueprints for 3D-printed firearms. Further legislative steps are pending. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNODC supported the **Ministry of Justice's Working Group** in finalizing draft amendments to Article 193 of the Criminal Code, introducing clearer definitions and stronger sanctions for **firearms-related offenses**. In Serbia, UNODC contributed to public consultations on amendments to the Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes. In all cases, UNODC recommendations addressed the alignment of local legislation with the UN Firearms Protocol.

Capacity-building efforts progressed substantially through workshops held across the region, engaging criminal justice practitioners in the validation and endorsement of training materials based on the UNODC Guidelines on Investigation and Prosecution of Firearms Offences. **Training courses for prosecutors and judges were finalized in all six jurisdictions.** With funds from the project's cost extension, four specialized "Firearms in the Courtroom" trainings were rolled out and delivered in Montenegro and North Macedonia.

An example of sustainability was the formal adoption by the Academy for Judges and Prosecutors "Pavel Shatev" in North Macedonia of

UNODC's legal Commentary on Criminal Code amendments as core reference material for its official training programme. Participation in UNODC-led activities will now be formally recognized within the Academy's professional development framework. Similarly, cooperation was established with the Centers for education of prosecutors and judges in BiH, Montenegro, Kosovo, Serbia, and Albania, where UNODC courses are part of the curriculum.

In support of the **application of special investigative measures** in cases involving firearms offenses, UNODC finalized six jurisdiction-specific knowledge management products, distributed local guidelines in



measures were also presented to 30 representatives of judicial and law enforcement institutions in BiH.

Significant **progress was achieved in completing and disseminating firearms case law collections.** The *Firearms Case Law Collection (Volume 2)* for Montenegro was finalized through a validation workshop, completing the process across all six jurisdictions. Of particular note, UNODC supported the Supreme Court of Montenegro in publishing its *Analysis of Sentencing Policies in Firearms-Related Cases*, which was widely distributed to judges and the broader criminal justice expert community during the “Days of the Montenegrin Judiciary” event (28–30 October 2025). The publication provides recommendations for more consistent sentencing and identifies the need for continued specialized training.

A new regional methodology for the analysis of firearms-related judgments was developed and validated through two sub-regional expert meetings (Vienna and Skopje), with participation from all six jurisdictions. The methodology establishes a structured framework for collecting and analyzing data from final court verdicts across six variable sets: offender profile, modus operandi, legal qualification, evidence, sentencing, and appellate proceedings. Participants confirmed that the systematic analysis of judgments can serve as a tool for strengthening legal certainty and harmonizing sentencing policies across jurisdictions.

Training resources were expanded for two additional jurisdictions. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, a ballistic manual for prosecutors and judges was finalized at the request of the SALW Coordination Board. In addition, UNODC completed training curricula for prosecutors and judges and associated training materials for all jurisdictions, focusing on the classification of firearms offenses, evidence assessment, and procedural guarantees.

At the global policy level, Project Justitia’s regional achievements continued to shape international normative frameworks. At the 12th session of the UNODC Working Group on Firearms (Vienna, 28–29 April 2025), criminal justice practitioners from the Western Balkans presented operational case studies drawn from knowledge management products developed under the project. These presentations were cited as examples of good practice and directly informed the Working Group’s adoption of recommendations for UN-level policy consideration, detailed in document CTOC/COP/WG.6/2025/4, including recommendations on strengthening the capacity to use special investigative techniques such as controlled delivery, surveillance, and undercover operations, and on establishing specialized joint investigation teams for cross-border operations.

Montenegro, and launched locally adapted guidelines at a sub-regional workshop in Tirana attended by 40 practitioners from Albania, North Macedonia, and Kosovo.

UNODC’s technical assistance also produced measurable results in strengthening judicial capacities and improving the consistency and quality of adjudication in firearms-related cases across the Western Balkans. Judicial actors now benefit from enhanced access to tailored legal resources, specialized training, and comparative case law. **A series of trainings was delivered** in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Banja Luka and Sarajevo), and Montenegro (Danilovgrad), organized in close partnership with local judicial and law enforcement training institutions, enhancing the capacities of 105 judges in adjudicating firearms-related cases. These provided judges with targeted technical and legal knowledge on firearms, ammunition, evidence handling, forensic analysis, and crime scene reconstruction. Training materials on special investigative

Countering trafficking in firearms in postal parcels

In October 2024, the Trust Fund initiated the second phase of UNODC’s Project Hermes, to further enhance the detection of firearms, parts, 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 progress achieved across the region.

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

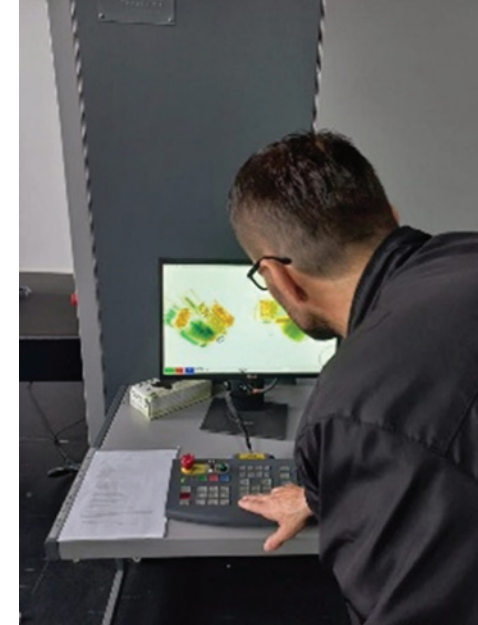
In 2025, significant progress was made in strengthening the **operational capacities of customs and postal authorities** across the Western Balkans to detect illicit firearms in postal and express courier shipments. UNODC delivered **11 training courses on firearms X-ray image analysis** across all six jurisdictions, training **133 customs and postal officers** (30 women and 103 men). These were conducted in Pristina, Tirana, Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Mostar, Podgorica, Belgrade, and Skopje. Participants enhanced their ability to identify firearms and related items using X-ray technology through a curriculum combining theoretical instruction with practical exercises utilizing UNODC’s comprehensive Training Manual on the Analysis of Firearms X-ray Images. Access to UNODC’s online training platform supported sustained skill development and performance monitoring. To consolidate learning outcomes, 14 on-the-job mentoring sessions were

organized at postal depots, reinforcing the application of newly acquired skills in operational environments.

Technical capabilities were strengthened through the **procurement and delivery of specialized detection equipment**. Seven X-ray scanners were produced, with three units delivered, installed, and operationalized in Pristina, Skopje, and Tirana. UNODC organized the transport of the remaining four units (one for Montenegro and three for Serbia), with installation planned for the first half of 2026. Two handheld explosive detectors were delivered to postal depots in Sarajevo and Banja Luka (one each), and training on their use was provided to frontline officers.

Risk-analysis capacity was advanced through a sub-regional workshop convened by UNODC and French Customs in Sarajevo on 7-8 October 2025. Thirty participants (9 women and 21 men) from customs administrations, designated postal operators, and law enforcement agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia examined methodologies for drafting and validating operational risk indicators. UNODC developed a **knowledge management product on trend analysis and risk profiles**, which was shared with participants. A second sub-regional workshop is planned for the first quarter of 2026.

Institutional coordination mechanisms were strengthened through local working groups. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, six meetings of the Working Group under the MoUs between the Indirect Taxation Authority (ITA) and the three designated postal operators reviewed training results, equipment delivery status, and information-exchange mechanisms. The meetings



also reviewed Operation Kurir, a joint operational action targeting the screening of postal parcels. In North Macedonia, four sessions of the inter-institutional working group were convened, resulting in the adoption of Rules of Procedure and a standardized Illegal Shipment Reporting Form.

Following the decision of the Steering Committee to extend its scope and implementing period, the project commenced efforts to support consistent **public-private engagement across the region**. Preparations for two sub-regional workshops were finalized, to take place in the first quarter of 2026. UNODC pursued partnership with EMPACT Firearms in this context, aimed at providing a platform for harmonizing good practices on cooperation mechanisms, staff training approaches, and the use of detection-related equipment and procedures in the express courier context.

At the local level, UNODC convened a **workshop in Sarajevo** on 23 December 2025 that brought together representatives of express courier companies operating in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Express Courier/UPS, Intime/FedEx, and Euro Express), the ITA, and designated postal operators. The event established an entry point for regular operational dialogue on firearms trafficking risks in express consignments, clarified the role of private operators in detection and reporting, and identified practical priorities for strengthening cooperation mechanisms. The ITA presented the results of Operation Kurir, noting the detection of three cases of illegal trafficking in weapon parts and nine cases involving drugs.



Firearms parts detected on 2 October 2025 in Sarajevo, based on UNODC's risk indicators' methodology

In **Albania**, enhanced international mail controls resulted in the interception of firearm parts and accessories for AR-15 rifles, including 30-round magazines, a carbine buffer tube, and a rail. These postal detections directly enabled a follow-up search that uncovered a weapons-modification base in Shkodra, where an arsenal of altered weapons was seized.

In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, postal and customs authorities identified several firearms-related cases, including an undeclared export parcel containing firearm parts intercepted en route to North Macedonia, a shipment from Taiwan containing Glock-type pistol components, and an import parcel from Germany in which firearm parts were misdeclared as a "camera holder." Operational follow-up was supported through the use of the TruDefender FTX handheld detector donated under Project Hermes.

In **Montenegro**, customs intercepted a postal shipment from the United States containing 1.8 kilograms of marijuana; a subsequent search of the recipient's premises uncovered an ammunition magazine, drug paraphernalia, and additional marijuana.

Elsewhere in the region, UNODC initiated **consultations with express courier companies** in all jurisdictions to identify priorities for capacity building. In Serbia, consultations were held with Post Express, DHL, FedEx, and UPS. A partnership was established with RATEL (Regulatory Authority for Communication and Postal Services) to support the implementation of Project Hermes and enhance the overall safety and security of postal traffic. Initial feedback indicated that firearms identification represents an immediate capacity gap, and training for express courier companies is planned for the first quarter of 2026. Similar consultations took place in Kosovo with A.L.Dushi Services, Kosovo Courier Company (KCC SHPK), and 3P shpk – DHL KOSOVA; in North Macedonia with ELS Eko Logistik Servis, PNL Translog – FedEx, and IN TIME MK BPS; in Albania with DHL Albania and Ulysses; in Montenegro with DHL Express and Nelt/FedEx. These consultations mark the first steps in strengthening public-private cooperation and the capacities of express courier companies to detect and prevent firearms trafficking.

4.2. Albania

In Albania, the Trust Fund supported a project dedicated to advancing integrated and technological approaches to SALW control, enhancing forensic and cyber investigations, and strengthening green border control capacities and cross-border cooperation to counter SALW trafficking.

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 under the framework of the third call for proposals.

The project aims to build upon the progress of the Albanian Ministry of the Interior and the State Police in enhancing SALW control at the national level and beyond. Specifically, it seeks to strengthen the operational and technical knowledge of relevant institutions, reduce skill gaps in FAE detection, and prevent trafficking across borders. This entails capacity development for relevant national law enforcement agencies, improving inter-institutional collaboration, and fostering cross-border cooperation to adopt an integrated institutional approach to combating FAE trafficking.

In 2025, to advance forensic investigations of firearms-related crime in line with international standards, UNDP Albania supported the participation of two experts from the Albanian Institute for Scientific

Police (AISP) in a meeting of the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI) held in The Hague, Netherlands, in October 2025. The meeting enhanced expert knowledge on gunshot residue (GSR) analysis and the examination of 3D-printed firearms. Participation benefited the AISP accreditation process by enabling familiarization with latest trends, forensic expertise from other institutes, and professional networking. Procurement of forensic equipment was also concluded, including a 360-degree camera for crime scenes and a ballistic examination platform with a set of equipment, to be delivered in Q1 2026.

In a joint effort by UNDP Albania and UNDP Kosovo, and in cooperation with the French police liaison officer and local authorities in Tirana and Pristina, a three-day study visit to the Paris Forensic Laboratory took

place in May 2025, enabling local authorities to gain knowledge on the exchange of ballistic data through the Evofinder system [\[link\]](#). The head of the SALW Commission of Albania participated in the visit, along with technical experts from the Albanian and Kosovo police, the French liaison officer, and UNDP staff. The visit allowed the delegation to learn from the French–Swiss model of ballistic data exchange, which will be explored for application between Albania and Kosovo.

An international and a national expert were engaged to design and implement advanced training on countering FAE smuggling tailored for frontline staff. Seven two-day training sessions were rolled out in seven border-crossing counties (Korca, Vlora, Saranda, Durrës, Dibra, Gjirokastra, and Shkodra). The training enhanced the capacity of 136 border police officers (119 men and 17 women) to detect converted weapons and explosive precursors, use advanced search techniques, and inspect different transport modalities [\[link\]](#).

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.



In cooperation with the Western Balkans Cyber Capacity Centre (WB3C) in Podgorica, Montenegro, UNDP Albania organized a four-day training in June 2025 for 15 police officers and three prosecutors (8 women, 10 men), enhancing capabilities to detect and counter online firearms trafficking [\[link\]](#). The training covered Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) techniques and strategies for preserving digital evidence. Participants gained practical skills in navigating the dark web and ensuring data integrity.

In the last quarter of the year, the project began developing the **advanced Weapons Management System (SIMA) in Albania**, building on an initial needs assessment conducted by SEESAC. A point of contact was appointed by the General Director of the Albanian State Police in November 2025 to coordinate activities. UNDP recruited an IT expert in December 2025 to work with the ASP on SIMA development, integration, and operationalization.

UNDP Albania provided the Albanian Border Police with **advanced equipment to improve the detection of arms trafficking** via the green border. Deliveries included two drones with night vision and 60-minute



flight endurance, two portable scanners, five medium-range thermal cameras, ten long-range binoculars, five night-use binoculars, and five portable document scanners. UNDP provided training on the use of drones and handheld scanners to 14 border police officers (13 men, 1 woman) [\[link1\]](#), [\[link2\]](#). In addition, the patrol units received five 4x4 vehicles in September 2025.

To advance the technical capabilities of the Firearms Focal Point (FFP) in Albania, the project developed technical specifications for equipment, including three laptops, a PC, and one Analyst's Notebook i2. The procurement will be initiated in 2026.

Overall, the project successfully combined high-level technical training with substantial equipment deliveries to close skill gaps and modernize Albania's institutional approach to SALW control.

4.3. Bosnia and Herzegovina

In BiH, the Trust Fund supported a project with a comprehensive approach towards SALW control and preventing misuse, 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.

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. It aims to enhance the capacity and engagement of relevant national institutions and civil society in BiH, while strengthening inter-agency and cross-border collaboration to advance the National SALW Control Strategy and the SALW Control Roadmap. Building upon previous interventions, the project features 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 community outreach is maintained throughout, with fully integrated gender and human rights perspectives.

In 2025, UNDP BiH further enhanced the operational capacities of law enforcement to combat illicit SALW trafficking. It **equipped 14 police agencies with 26 contraband detectors/density meters to enhance detection capacities**, supported by related training for 14 designated officers [\[link\]](#). The project also **procured 44 CSI kits for the 14 agencies**, slated for delivery in the coming months. One additional contraband detector was delivered to FBiH Police Academy for educational purposes, with appropriate training for five instructors [\[link\]](#). In parallel, the project **enhanced ballistic laboratories in Sarajevo and Banja Luka** with general and specialized equipment, including three ventilation systems, seven modular workbenches, and 37 units of specialized forensic equipment¹² [\[link\]](#). This modernized the forensic infrastructure and strengthened technical capacities to investigate firearms- and explosive-related crimes in line with international standards.

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

To advance digital solutions, the project made significant **progress in developing a digital application for registering legal firearms in the FBiH** [\[link\]](#). Following comprehensive deliberations on technical specifications, UNDP BiH engaged an IT company and initiated system development. The IT company signed a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) to ensure secure data handling. A 23-member working group

¹² The equipment encompasses the following items: 1) For the FPD ballistics laboratory: microscope camera, technical balance, air compressor, battery-powered drill driver, flashlights (2 pcs.), engineer's bench vise (2 pcs.), illuminated magnifier floor lamp (2 pcs.), kinetic bullet puller (4 pcs.); 2) For the RS MoI ballistic laboratory: engineer's bench vise (2 pcs.), set of hand tools, camera with additional macro lens, speedlight unit, and tripod (2 sets), technical balance, chronograph, flashlight (2 pcs.), illuminated magnifier floor lamp (2 pcs.), kinetic bullet puller (4 pcs.), laser engraving machine, forensic mannequin, ammunition reloading press, digital trigger pull gauge, borescope, inspection camera, micrometre, firearms laser bore sighter.



(including seven women) was established to harmonize requirements and align institutional input. This digitalization process addresses the complexity of the FBiH legal framework, where SALW competencies are distributed across cantonal levels. The agreed approach allows for an interoperable system that enables real-time data exchange while preserving institutional mandates. Functional specifications and coordination mechanisms were finalized by the end of 2025, creating a solid foundation for further work in 2026.

The project also prioritized finalizing knowledge products and resources for continuous reference by authorities. Building on 2024 documents, UNDP proceeded to validate and further upgrade the **SALW Investigation Guidebook** and **Guidelines on police actions pertinent to illegal SALW for police cadets**. A comprehensive consultative process was rolled out across BiH, involving multiple police agencies [\[link\]](#). While the Guidelines for police cadets were finalized, the SALW Investigation Guidebook is pending further validation in 2026. Simultaneously, UNDP

worked to incorporate the developed Guidelines for police cadets into BiH police educational institutions; the FBiH Police Academy has agreed to include the Guidelines into its curriculum, while the RS MoI Police High School will incorporate them adequately during the development of its new curriculum.

Cross-border and regional cooperation were further enhanced through the organization of **bilateral peer exchanges and joint operations**. Following the first peer exchange in 2024, a **second arson-explosives experts meeting** was held in Belgrade, involving 11 experts, including 6 from BiH (2 women and 4 men). Additionally, the **first joint cross-border exercise between BiH and Serbia** took place in BiH, involving 34 police officers, customs officials, and prosecutors (5 women, 29 men) [\[link\]](#). The exercise simulated the detection of illegal SALW at a joint border crossing, focusing on the coordination of inter-agency in line with existing bilateral agreements. These initiatives provided practical insights into operational procedures, identified good practice and enhanced cross-border collaboration.

In 2025, the project also advanced gender mainstreaming and community engagement. UNDP provided structured support to the



Ministry of Security to help obtain the UNDP Gender Equality Seal for Public Institutions (GES) [\[link\]](#). Key milestones included self-assessment (March 2025), a workshop on the development of an Action Plan (May 2025), and training on gender-responsive budgeting (June 2025). These activities **strengthened the Ministry of Security's capacities to integrate gender considerations into policy-making and resource allocation processes**. The initiative benefitted also the three police agencies relevant for SALW control that are formally situated within the MoS – the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA), Border Police, and the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies. In addition, with support from UNDP and partner UN agencies, three members of the Coordination Board participated in a specialized training on recognizing manipulation as a form of violence in real and digital environments (December 2025).

Parallel to institutional support, the project successfully **completed eight CSO grant projects focused on SALW risk awareness and prevention**.

*The CSO initiatives reached over 17,000 young people through the screenings of the **short film "Igra" (The Game)** produced by the CSO "Forum" in over 200 elementary and high schools [\[link\]](#), and more than 2,800 young people and adults through the theater play "Odjek tišine" (Echo of Silence) developed by "Youth Theatre Tuzla" [\[link, link2, link3\]](#). Both initiatives were implemented in cooperation with police agencies and educational institutions, demonstrating effective multisectoral engagement and innovative approaches to awareness-raising. Five other CSOs produced analytical and educational materials addressing the links between SALW and gender-based and domestic violence. These included guidelines for teachers, research studies on domestic violence and femicide [\[link, link2\]](#), and **training manuals for police institutions**, which were widely disseminated and contributed to evidence-based dialogue and public understanding of the risks associated with firearm misuse.*



The project also supported the strengthening of professional networking and gender-responsive cooperation within the security sector. A **regional meeting of policewomen’s associations from BiH and Serbia** was held in Neum (September 2025), gathering 25 participants [\[link\]](#). Discussions focused on women’s leadership and future cooperation initiatives. Furthermore, five members of two policewomen’s associations from BiH participated in the European Conference of Policewomen Networks held in Belgrade (November 2025), contributing to the exchange of best practices and strengthening regional and European-level cooperation [\[link\]](#).

Throughout 2025, the project continued to facilitate **strategic coordination among key stakeholders involved in SALW control**. The support entailed the organization of strategic meetings, including the BiH SALW Coordination Board session and meeting of FBiH police leadership [\[link\]](#).

4.4. Kosovo

In Kosovo, the Trust Fund supported a comprehensive UNDP initiative aimed at advancing integrated institutional responses to SALW control, advancement in investigative and analytical approaches and solutions, including a broad community and stakeholder engagement to this end.

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 previous work supporting the Roadmap. The project’s goal is to further advance institutional approaches and community engagement in Kosovo to address FAE-related crime and misuse, strengthen bilateral cooperation between Kosovo and Albania, and address illegal possession and the legalization of firearms. In this respect, the project aims to strengthen community- and intelligence-led policing and community engagement on SALW control. It also aims to increase border control capacities to effectively prevent, detect, and counter illicit arms trafficking and enhance the investigative and analytical capacities of Kosovo law enforcement to counter FAE-

related crime, including online. Additionally, the project will advance the handling, security, and storage of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.

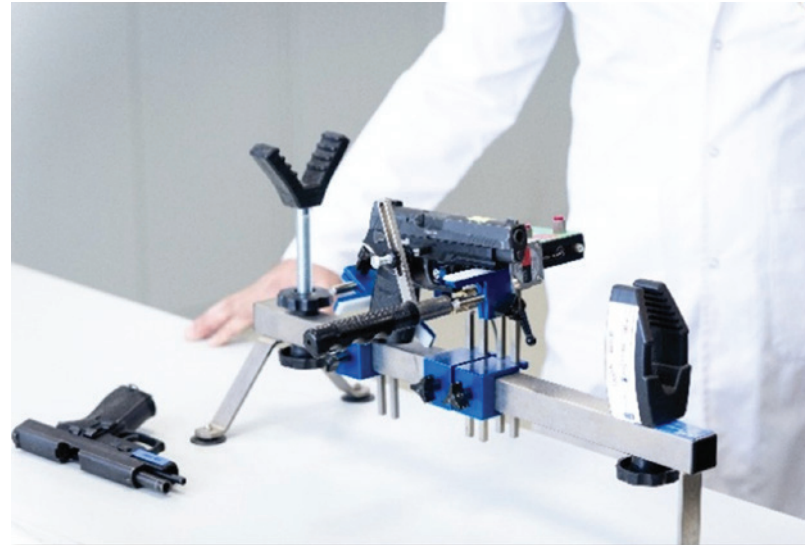
In 2025, the launch of the Kosovo Police **e-learning platform marked a major milestone**. Operating on the police intranet, it provides over 10,000 officers with self-paced SALW control modules. IT staff and Training Division officers were trained to maintain the system, ensuring its sustainability. UNDP Kosovo also partnered with the Police Training Department to train 20 regional officers (all men) and community safety forum members in Gjakovë/Đakovica on firearm inspection, misuse prevention, and responding to domestic violence [\[link\]](#). Additionally, an October 2025 workshop with Local Public Safety Committees reviewed procedures and reporting tools for firearm misuse.

Public awareness efforts continued in 2025 through a new wave of awareness-raising activities by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, supported jointly by UNDP Kosovo and SEESAC. [\[link1\]](#), The **campaign “Celebrate with Your Heart, Not Your Gun!”** addressed celebratory shootings and the unsafe use of fireworks through simple and direct messaging, encouraging responsibility rather than fear. The campaign had a visible impact in raising public awareness about the consequences of using firearms during celebrations, particularly through digital channels and community-based activities.

Based on the Ministry of Internal Affairs report, reports of firearm use during festive occasions decreased by around 24.8 percent in 2025, while cases opened by the Kosovo Police increased overall by 12.08 percent, indicating greater public awareness and a faster institutional response. Concurrently, law enforcement and judicial cooperation led to the destruction of 763 firearms (with financial support from UNDP and SEESAC), directly reducing community risks [\[link1\]](#), [\[link2\]](#).



To bolster detection and investigative capacities, the project **provided border police with 25 lightweight handheld metal detectors and five day-use binoculars** for effective border monitoring. The **Firearms Focal Point's (FFP) operational capacity was upgraded** with the latest versions of iBase and Analyst's Notebook, streamlining intelligence analysis and coordination [\[link\]](#). Furthermore, the Kosovo Forensic Agency received a specialized ToolScan system for digital toolmark and firearm evidence analysis [\[link, video\]](#). Ten forensic experts were trained to integrate this system into daily casework, significantly increasing examination precision [\[link\]](#).



Safety and risk management were prioritized by supplying MoIA explosive inspectors with essential personal protective equipment, including helmets, protective clothing, gloves, safety boots, and other items. A three-day **training course on identifying homemade explosives** was delivered to 12 bomb technicians and investigators (10 men and 2 women), strengthening their ability to detect, assess, and respond effectively to risks involving improvised explosive materials. The focus was practical and threat-oriented, addressing materials that can be easily produced in domestic settings and misused for criminal or terrorist purposes. In parallel, UNDP worked with the MoIA to finalize **technical specifications**

for the development of an Explosives Management Control System and ensure accurate tracking, management, and control of explosives across Kosovo. The procurement process was launched in Q4 2025, and work on system development will proceed in 2026.

The project also provided technical and expert support to the MoIA to harmonize firearms legislation with the EU Firearms Directive and related regulations. A five-day long workshop took place focused on revising and improving the Law on Weapons and the Law on Civil Use of Explosives. The cooperation also helped move the process forward toward updating the Law on Legalization and Voluntary Surrender of illicit firearms [\[link\]](#).

Finally, **cyber investigation capacities were strengthened** through a five-day training in Podgorica, organized in cooperation with the Western Balkan Cyber Capacity Centre (WB3C). Twelve cyber investigators (11 men, 1 woman) received hands-on training in darknet investigations, cryptocurrency, and blockchain analysis, enhancing their ability to combat cyber-enabled crime [\[link\]](#).

Ultimately, the project's comprehensive support contributed to concrete law enforcement results: the Kosovo Police confiscated 1,931 firearms in 2025 (up from 1,746 in 2024) and seized 39,116 rounds of ammunition (up from 33,250 in 2024).

4.5. Montenegro

Montenegro, the support of the Trust Fund has focused on advancing the forensic service, including ballistics examinations, crime scene, and explosives investigation, through a project implemented by UNDP.

Further advancement of forensic capacities

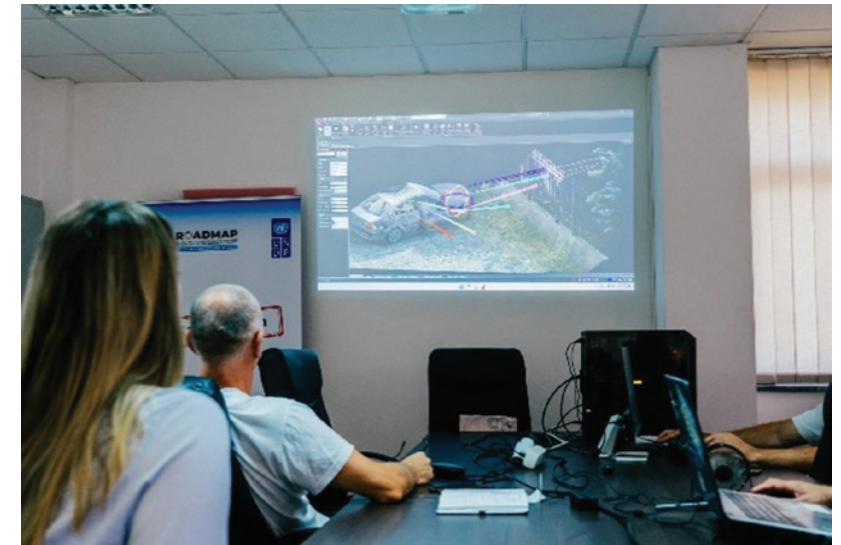
The Trust Fund and UNDP in Montenegro work on further advancing the accuracy and quality of investigations of FAE-related criminality..

In November 2023, the Trust Fund supported UNDP in Montenegro to initiate 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 offenses, 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 2025, significant progress was achieved in strengthening the operational, technical, and investigative capacities of the Forensic Center and the Police Directorate (PD). **Five Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for crime scene investigation (CSI)** were finalized in close collaboration with forensic professionals and formally approved. Coupled with this, UNDP provided **specialized training sessions on applying the SOPs and using provided equipment**, such as drones, 3D scanners, and Crime Lite Auto devices. 14 CSI officers received **advanced training on ISO/IEC 17020 standards**. In addition, eight forensic staff undertook internal auditor training to contribute to and ensure the ongoing quality of processes, capacities, and procedures. Planning was also completed with partners to expand CSI capabilities across regional centers.

In parallel, targeted improvements were made in investigative methodologies. Existing interviewing procedures were analyzed, and a protocol for handling sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) cases



was developed. A specialized training on injury documentation during medical examinations was delivered to seven police officers, enhancing the quality and consistency of forensic medical reporting.

Technical capacities in ballistic and explosives analysis were further upgraded. New equipment, including a multifunctional firearm discharge device and optical fiber testing tools, was delivered, accompanied by supplier-led training. Ballistic procedures and documentation were comprehensively reviewed and improved, resulting in updated SOPs, the introduction of Evofinder procedures, and the development of a bilingual glossary to strengthen traceability and international cooperation. Proficiency testing for ballistics experts is ongoing.

Advancements were also made in fire, explosives, and chemical analysis. New storage infrastructure for explosives was installed, and a novel method for examining fuse correctness—along with its SOP—was



developed and validated. In the chemical laboratory, a new GC-MS-based method for qualitative TNT detection was successfully developed and validated, further enhancing analytical capabilities. Finally, the delivery of a Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) significantly strengthened gunshot residue (GSR) analysis capacity. Specialized training was conducted, and a validation plan for SEM/EDS-based GSR testing has been prepared, with implementation scheduled for Q1 2026. A draft SOP for SEM operations has also been completed and is expected to be finalized within the same timeframe.

The project organized a study visit for Forensic Center professionals to the National Forensic Laboratory in Ljubljana, Slovenia, from 16-17 June 2025. A FC team of three experts (one woman, two men), including the Head of the FC and experts in GSR analysis, fire/explosion investigations, and chemical and ballistic examinations, participated in the study visit. The programme involved detailed visits to key departments of the

Ljubljana Laboratory. The participants examined advanced equipment used for examinations, such as chromatography and Raman, and exchanged experience on forensic analyses related to ballistics and explosives specifically. In the physical examination department, GSR analysis was demonstrated using a Thermo Fisher Quatro Scanning Electronic Microscope. Participants also observed firearms discharge distance testing, trace analysis from locks, footwear, and fire/explosion investigations, along with applied software solutions. The visit was highly beneficial, enhancing professional exchange and paving the way for future collaboration with Slovenian forensic experts.

Further to the study visit, UNDP supported international engagement and learning from good practice for five forensic experts (4 men, 1 woman) through events provided by the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI). These reinforced respective capacities in the jurisdiction and alignment with international requirements.

As a result of the support provided by UNDP, the forensic experts examined six post-blast crime scenes in 2025 using the explosive detector provided by the project. In addition, following the provision of specialized equipment and developed SOPs in June 2025, the forensic experts recovered 304 traces/fingerprints using the provided equipment within a six-month period that followed.

4.6. North Macedonia

In North Macedonia, the Trust Fund supported UNDP in enhancing the capacities of the Ministry of Interior to collect SALW-related data, strengthen ballistic investigations, and conduct investigations in a gender-responsive manner.

Support for ballistic and crime scene investigations and the criminal justice response

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

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 North Macedonia and improving the quality of crime scene investigations and evidence collection to build upon previous work supporting the Roadmap. The project interventions aim to upgrade the ballistics facilities and operations of the Ministry of Interior’s (MoI) Forensics Department, and enhance the analytical, technical, and investigative capacities of the CSI units. In addition, the project integrates a gender perspective dedicated to preventing gender-based violence, including with firearms, focusing in particular on the gender sensitization of CSI staff and improving the tracking of domestic violence cases involving firearms



through a separate module in the Police Information Management System (IMS) of North Macedonia.

In 2025, through a series of targeted interventions, UNDP enabled the Ministry of Interior of North Macedonia to make significant progress in strengthening its forensic, CSI, and information management capacities. The **indoor shooting range of the Forensics Department was upgraded and equipped** to meet international standards, providing a safe and secure environment for ballistics testing and examination of weapons and ammunition. This facility now enables forensic staff to conduct test shootings and verify firearms and ammunition, marking a tangible advancement in the country's criminal justice response to SALW control. [\[link1, video\]](#) In addition, the project provided **two sets of instructions for the safe and appropriate use of the shooting range** and associated equipment.

Concurrently, project efforts focused on enhancing the analytical, technical, and investigative capacities of CSI units. For more **advanced CSI evidence collection** in line with international requirements, the CSI units received 78 CSI kits (consisting of 54 universal investigation kits and 24 post-mortem investigation kits), along with 41 photo cameras and external camera flashes [\[link\]](#). 19 CSI technicians (15 men, 4 women) from across the country enhanced their knowledge through a three-day workshop on **applying a victim-centered approach in GBV cases** [\[link\]](#). CSI technicians were also equipped with associated **guidelines that emphasize victim-centered procedures** in cases of gender-based violence for a continuous reference, complementary to the existing SOPs. The MoI officially allocated premises on which UNDP will collaborate with the Police Training Center to establish a CSI Training and Simulation Facility, based on a successful model identified during a study visit to France in 2024. The design of necessary interventions was prepared by the contracted company and approved by the MoI, with further work scheduled to continue in the coming months.

In addition, the **Police Information Management System (IMS) was upgraded to improve data management, particularly in firearms-related cases and domestic violence incidents**. The updated IMS now includes functionalities for gender-disaggregated data collection and an alert mechanism to identify domestic violence cases involving firearms license holders. These enhancements support faster, evidence-based police responses and more effective victim-centered interventions.

Additionally, UNDP confirmed with the MoI the list of requested digital solutions, which will be developed in 2026. Meanwhile, a coordination meeting with the SALW Commission, MoI, and OSCE representatives helped coordinate complementary awareness-raising support from both organizations.

Together, these initiatives represent a comprehensive strengthening of North Macedonia's forensic and policing capacities, ensuring safer



environments for evidence examination, more advanced investigative tools, and improved data-driven responses to crime and gender-based violence.

In 2025, the project was implemented in the context of increased awareness of issues related to safety and pyrotechnics. Following a devastating nightclub fire in Kocani that killed over 60 young people and injured more than 200, attention focused on improved safety and the responsible use of pyrotechnics. Two laws related to the use of SALW and explosives are currently under preparation or revision, directly influencing the project's activities. In this context, the project adapted its strategy to effectively respond to the need for increased awareness regarding pyrotechnics, especially among private stakeholders and youth.

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.

Further advancing investigative work and overall SALW control efforts

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.

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 **at least three new methods to be validated and accredited in line with ISO 17025 standards.**



In 2025, UNDP **adapted evidence reception rooms** in the regional forensic centers in Niš and Užice and refurbished the forensic evidence depository at the Belgrade CSI Department. Additionally, **specialized CSI equipment was delivered** to the National Forensic Center (NFC) and CSI units, including DNA-free and GSR-free cartridge case containers, plastic containers, and cardboard firearm evidence boxes. This improves evidence handling, preservation, and storage in line with accreditation standards. UNDP also procured an FPV (First-Person View) drone for field documentation, including in post-blast and explosive investigations. Preparatory activities were initiated for the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) upgrade, targeting implementation in 2026.

A **three-day ILAC G19 training course** in October 2025 strengthened the competencies of 37 CSI and forensic personnel (33 men, 4 women) in line with international accreditation standards. Participants included 31 from Serbia and six from Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina



(Sarajevo and Banja Luka), contributing to knowledge exchange and strengthened regional cooperation.

To advance ISO 17025 **accreditation at regional ballistic laboratories in Novi Sad, Niš, and Užice**, UNDP equipped them with bullet traps and ballistic chronographs. UNDP also supported a mentoring process between central and regional ballistic experts through online meetings and a mentoring session in June 2025, attended by five participants (5 men). The NFC was equipped with a stereo microscope, and the upgrade of two comparative microscopes was initiated.

In the efforts to **advance explosive examinations**, the NFC's Arson and Explosives Unit received a mobile device for detecting explosives, including trace detection, as well as related training. Two **training sessions on post-blast investigation** were conducted in April and May 2025 for a total of 49 participants (7 women, 42 men) focused

on scene management, evidence collection, and safety procedures. Three specialized field equipment sets were also delivered for forensic experts. An **expert exchange visit** held in Belgrade in May 2025, brought together six experts from Bosnia and Herzegovina (2 women, 4 men) and five from Serbia (1 woman, 4 men) to discuss forensic practices and strengthen regional cooperation.

To enhance **inter-institutional cooperation** and coordination in forensic and ballistic investigations, UNDP organized a coordination meeting in October 2025, including 22 representatives (16 men and 6 women) from the Ministry of Interior and the Prosecutor's Office.

Preparations continued for the **validation of the Gunshot Residue (GSR) method** and the expansion of ISO 17025 accreditation of the NFC's Chemical Laboratory, including coordination between the NFC and the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) in Wiesbaden, Germany. A designated expert from the BKA in Wiesbaden conducted a visit to the NFC in November 2025, enabling focused expert discussions and knowledge exchange on methodological and accreditation-related requirements. The expert assessed institutional readiness for GSR analysis, reviewed proficiency testing results, and provided recommendations for strengthening the quality control system. Similarly, an expert from the French Forensic Institute SNPS in Lyon visited the NFC in November 2025, focusing on the assessment of needs and the provision of recommendations for the introduction of new analytical methods for explosives. The expert delivered **advanced training in the field of homemade explosives** (HMEs) for Serbian forensic experts, including the preparation and analysis of explosive substances, identification of precursors, and the application of advanced analytical techniques. Procurement preparations for additional proficiency tests are underway.

One NFC representative (man) participated in the ENFSI Scene of Crime Working Group Meeting held in The Hague, Netherlands, in September 2025. The meeting provided an opportunity for **professional exchange with peers from other forensic institutions** and contributed to the strengthening of knowledge and cooperation within the ENFSI Scene of Crime network. In addition, two NFC representatives (men) participated in the 31st ENFSI EWG Firearms/GSR meeting held in The Hague, Netherlands, in October 2025. Both events strengthened alignment with international methodological developments.

Two firearms identification training sessions reached a total of 75 participants (54 women, 21 men). The training covered key challenges related to firearms identification, including registration, documentation, standardized terminology. Additional components provided detailed insights into procedural and technical aspects of firearms identification, including categorization, technical specifications, and record-keeping, and related responsibilities of relevant authorities, contributing to strengthened knowledge and operational capacities of participants.

The Police Administrative Affairs Directorate (AAD) units of the Ministry of Interior received **140 metal lockers for secure storage, 20 wooden storage units, and 5 bullet traps** for safe ballistic testing and evidence management. The provision of this equipment contributed to improved operational efficiency, strengthened security protocols, and enhanced storage capacities for firearms.

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 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 2025, the project achieved significant progress in reducing the risks and impacts of firearms misuse through a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach addressing domestic violence, suicide prevention, and post-crisis recovery. At the policy level, the project advanced gender-responsive and evidence-based governance by developing **evidence-based recommendations**, which include practitioners' insights on challenges and good practices in preventing domestic and partner violence involving firearms, collected through four multi-sectoral focus group discussions with 24 professionals (16 women and 8 men) from the police, judiciary, and social welfare system in the Serbian appellate court seats Belgrade, Novi Sad, Kragujevac, and Niš. The recommendations

were validated through a multi-sectoral consultative process involving 14 representatives (11 women and 3 men) from the police, judiciary, social welfare institutions, and civil society. The project ensured that the recommendations informed national policy processes, including the work of the Ministry of Justice's working group drafting amendments to the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence, with the aim of improving victim protection and addressing risks linked to perpetrators' access to firearms.

Additionally, a **comprehensive mapping of crisis response resources** was drafted for victims of mass-shooting incidents and professionals responding to such crises in Serbia, covering protocols, communication mechanisms, immediate and long-term support services, and lessons learned from previous incidents, including direct feedback from those affected by the May 2023 mass shootings. The recommendations will be validated by the participants of the mapping exercise (persons directly affected by mass victimization incidents and responding professionals) to inform the finalization and further utilization of the findings. Moreover, a **rapid assessment of institutional mechanisms for the protection of victims and witnesses of crime** was completed, including firearm-related offenses, identifying existing services, systemic gaps, and opportunities for strengthening victim and witness support systems.

In parallel, efforts to improve **administrative data collection within the Ministry of Interior** contributed to more systematic and gender-sensitive monitoring of firearm-related incidents. Based on the previously developed comprehensive dataset framework needed for generating an analytical report on firearms misuse in domestic violence, the MoI continued 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.

Regional and international cooperation was further enhanced through support to the European Network of Policewomen - gathering 16 women police representatives from the region and Europe. The third bilateral exchange between Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina gathered 26 women from the police networks in Neum and facilitated knowledge exchange, leadership discussions, and practical skill-building. This regional networking and experience exchange continued through the active participation of representatives of women police networks from both jurisdictions at the high-level conference in Belgrade.

The project strengthened the visibility, leadership, and influence of women in policing through large-scale national and international networking initiatives, including a **high-level conference** gathering 127 participants (91 women and 36 men) from 18 jurisdictions, including the prime minister and several high-level government officials, international experts, and members of policewomen's networks. The event **enhanced policy dialogue and the visibility of women in policing**, as well as reinforced advocacy for gender-responsive security policies and women's participation in decision-making within policing structures. Besides over 20 media reports on the event, **social media** messages also captured the event's networking efforts.

Institutional capacities were strengthened across key sectors. Within the healthcare system, a **specialized training of trainers programme** and a **risk assessment tool** were developed to support the early detection of risks related to firearm misuse. The training program is being quality reviewed by the Public Health Institute "Batut" before its official publishing. Once approved, the training will be accredited as part of the continuous professional education system to ensure institutional recognition and long-term sustainability. Likewise, the developed risk assessment pilot tool is being consulted with various stakeholders before finalization. While the instrument is intended for use in healthcare, its development requires testing across complementary systems that work directly with perpetrators of domestic violence. Through consultations and feedback collected, the



tool's testing approach and future application will be defined, serving also to foster ownership and ensure concrete institutional implementation.

In the security sector, **261 police officers** (67 women and 194 men) **were trained to improve risk assessment and response to domestic violence cases**. To this end, seven one-day trainings were organized with the project's support by the Criminal Police Directorate's Department for the Suppression of Homicide and Sexual Offenses and Domestic Violence, covering all police administrations in the territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina [[link](#)]. The training aimed to improve the understanding of the process of risk assessment and risk management related to domestic violence, and to contribute to a higher-quality institutional response to domestic violence. The initiative addressed the need to strengthen the practice of risk assessment and victim protection measures specifically in this region, given that in 2024 the Vojvodina region recorded eight femicides in a family or intimate-partner context, which accounts for 47 percent of cases at the national level for that year.

The project **supported and amplified MoI-led awareness efforts during the global 16 Days of Activism campaign**. Through a strategically

designed visual communication campaign, the project contributed to improved access to clear, actionable information for victims, directly supporting higher reporting readiness and confidence in the police response. The production and nationwide distribution of 1,000 posters and 20,000 pocket calendars, each featuring a clear call to report violence and a QR code linking to a practical guidance brochure, enhanced outreach to at-risk populations and ensured consistent, user-centered messaging. By promoting a previously developed project-supported [information resource](#) hosted on the MoI website, the intervention reinforced long-term public access to reliable information on the safe reporting of violence and victim protection procedures. At the local level, [public outreach actions](#), including billboards, public transport messaging, and direct engagement through community policing initiatives, were led by local police officers and demonstrated a multiplier effect, expanding reach and fostering dialogue between citizens and law enforcement. Crucially, the initiative reflects strengthened institutional ownership and the embedding of awareness-raising practices within MoI operations.

*At the community level, the project expanded prevention and support mechanisms through **partnerships with civil society**. With the project's support, four women's organizations directly empowered 390 women to recognize risks of firearm misuse and take protective actions, and 143 institutional representatives (116 women and 27 men) from the police, judiciary, healthcare, and social services were engaged through multi-stakeholder dialogues to strengthen coordinated responses. NGO helplines provided psychosocial, legal, and safety assistance to over 140 women, contributing to improved protection outcomes, while over 2,100 leaflets and posters were produced and disseminated to increase public understanding of firearm-related risks and promote the safe reporting of violence.*

Psychosocial support systems for the prevention of suicides among police officers were reinforced through a two-day expert meeting in Belgrade in October 2025, convened by the MoI Department of Psychological Activities with the project's support. The first day of the event facilitated regional knowledge exchange among **58 police psychologists** (53 women and 5 men) from five jurisdictions, enabling the sharing of good practices in suicide prevention, advancing the alignment of psychosocial support approaches across the region, and fostering cross-border cooperation in addressing mental health risks within police services. The second day strengthened national-level multi-sectoral cooperation by connecting **31 police psychologists** from Serbia (30 women and 1 man) with specialized civil society organizations providing support to individuals in psychological crisis.

Efforts to shift harmful social norms and reduce stigma regarding suicide were advanced through developed **training that enabled 11 army veterans to recognize risks related to firearms misuse for suicide** and provide support in the veteran community. Awareness-raising tools ([posters and leaflets](#)) were developed and disseminated to training participants and online, targeting men over 45, identified as a high-risk group, providing practical guidance, challenging stigma, and promoting help-seeking. Key messages on the risks of firearm misuse and available support services were shared through UNDP's [social media platforms](#), including marking International Day of Suicide Prevention. A Training of Trainers programme is developed for healthcare professionals, combining institutional and CSO expertise, supporting long-term, system-wide capacity to address (firearms-enabled) suicide risks.

The project **continued supervision of previously trained 31 mental health professionals** (24 women and 7 men) delivering trauma-informed care to individuals affected by mass shootings. The support was provided by Norwegian experts, and it involved monthly group-based online supervision sessions which helped guide therapists. It ensured



the effective and sustained implementation of therapy work addressing psychological needs arising from firearm-related violence and trauma. It contributed to systematic approaches to healing following the May 2023 mass shootings and to the provision of trauma-focused assistance to those affected, including youth in crisis.

Work continued on the **analysis of media reports on the May 2023 mass shootings**, contributing to evidence-based foundations for ethical and prevention-oriented media reporting. With the project's support, the group "Journalists against Violence" developed the analysis methodology and mapped the dominant narratives on the incidents. **11 journalists were trained to perform the analysis** (11 September 2025), which is in progress. To complement the analysis, an analytical report on visual elements of media reports was drafted, inclusive of feedback collected from photographers and photo-reporters.

5. Catalytic Investment

The financial assistance provided by the Trust Fund has enabled Participating UN Organizations to support the Western Balkans authorities in advancing the SALW Control Roadmap, complementing the work of other international partners like SEESAC and OSCE. While the jurisdictions are making progress, institutional budgets are often insufficient for activities beyond routine operations. The Trust Fund delivers crucial contributions to capacity and institutional building, ensuring that reforms align with international standards and that essential resources and expertise are in place. This support has been vital in integrating best practices and elevating the quality of investigative work and arms control procedures.

The projects supported by the Trust Fund have been instrumental in mapping and expanding good practices across the region and beyond, fostering experience sharing, and pooling expertise to achieve more effective results. The Trust Fund has also ensured the robust integration of a gender perspective into security efforts in the region, complementary to SEESAC initiatives, and securing stronger engagement from women in tackling arms-enabled violence - a critical achievement that might otherwise have been marginalized.

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.

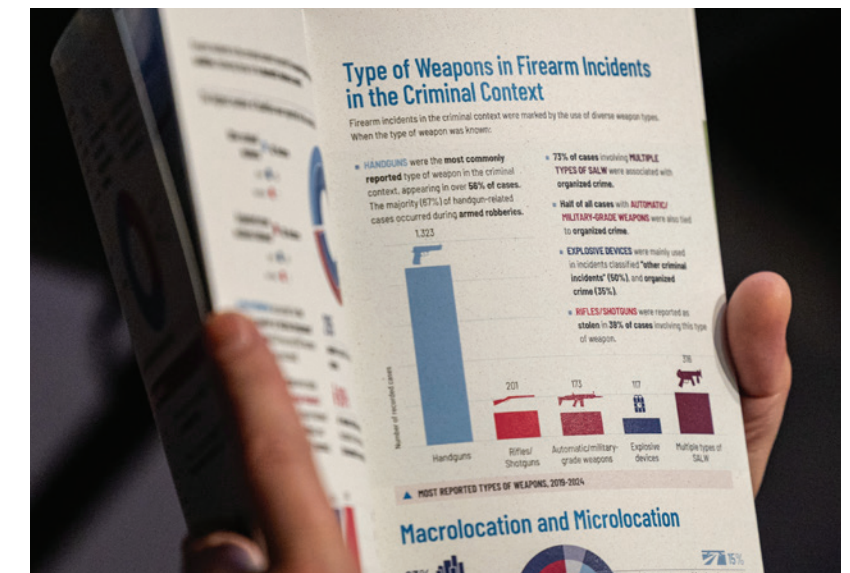
In 2025, the Western Balkans Roadmap solidified its reputation as a global blueprint for effective arms control, transitioning the region from a security concern into a proactive contributor to global peace. The UN Secretary-General's October 2025 [report on small arms and light weapons](#) explicitly highlighted the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap as a sustainable and effective regional model. Its success inspired the launch of similar roadmaps in the [Caribbean, Central America](#), and the Andean region in 2025. This was further reinforced at the [Western Balkans Summit Interior Ministers' meeting](#) in London in October 2025, where the mechanism was praised for its role in strengthening collective security.

At the global policy level, the good practice supported by the Trust Fund through Project Justitia's achievements continued to shape international normative frameworks. During the 12th session of the UNODC Working Group on

Firearms in April 2025, criminal justice practitioners from the Western Balkans presented operational case studies developed under the project. These were cited as examples of good practice and directly informed the Working Group's recommendations on strengthening special investigative techniques and establishing joint investigation teams for cross-border operations, as detailed in document CTOC/COP/

WG.6/2025/4. This demonstrates the catalytic value of the Trust Fund in translating local progress into international standards.

The synergies and partnerships established through the Trust Fund have multiplied achievements, positioning the UN and key donors as strategic partners to governments in the region. As the Roadmap enters its 2025–2030 phase, these catalytic investments continue to transform complex security challenges into a global model for sustainable arms control.



6. Key Challenges and Lessons Learned

6.1. Risks and Challenges

Political and security situation

Project teams continuously monitored the evolving security and political landscape in 2025, as it directly affected activity implementation.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the complex political environment following the crisis in Republika Srpska continued to pose challenges. Although the situation partially stabilized, the fragmented security structure and prior disruptions in cooperation with state-level authorities required careful and prolonged consultations, affecting the pace of activities requiring inter-institutional consensus.

In North Macedonia, the post-election government changes in the Ministry of Interior caused significant delays. The replacement of key personnel led to a reprioritization of activities and slower decision-making, notably impacting the timeline for the establishment of the CSI Training and Simulation Facility due to a change in its allocated location.

In Serbia, the socio-political climate remained tense following the November 2024 Novi Sad railway station collapse, with student-led

protests continuing throughout 2025. The regular engagement of police in securing these protests across numerous communities impacted the availability of Ministry of Interior personnel for planned project activities, disrupting timelines and slowing communication.

Operational Challenges

Projects introducing new digital solutions faced challenges related to development pace and implementation. The development of a new application for registering legal SALW in the Federation of BiH required extensive new rounds of consultations to ensure the solution could navigate the complex legal frameworks and decentralized operational structures of the cantons. Similarly, the upgrade of the Police Information Management System (IMS) in North Macedonia necessitated prolonged technical consultations with the new Ministry leadership to align the system's functionalities with revised expectations, delaying the integration of the new domestic violence module. Despite these delays, the project team successfully adapted plans to proceed with the upgrades.

Procurement of specialized equipment and execution of technical works remained a significant challenge across multiple jurisdictions, influenced by global economic factors and local complexities. The procurement of highly specialized equipment, such as X-ray scanners for the UNODC Hermes project and specific forensic tools for ballistic labs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, faced delays. These were caused by a combination of global

supply chain disruptions affecting manufacturing timelines, and initial tenders failing to attract technically compliant bids. To mitigate this, project teams restructured procurement processes into smaller, more flexible tenders and worked proactively with suppliers to manage delivery timelines.

Efforts to secure qualified international consultants for highly specialized tasks, such as the FAE equipment standardization consultancy in Albania, proved difficult. Three consecutive recruitment cycles failed to yield a suitable candidate, reflecting a shallow pool of available global expertise in combined border surveillance, FAE detection, and public-sector maintenance budgeting. This required the project to adapt by leveraging regional networks to pre-identify experts for 2026.

6.2. Lessons learned

The following lessons from 2025 will continue to be integrated into the implementation of current and future projects:

Adaptive management is key to navigating political and operational risks: The experiences of 2025 underscored that a flexible, adaptive management approach is essential for success in the region's dynamic political environment. Proactive and constant

communication with national counterparts, as demonstrated in Serbia and North Macedonia, allowed projects to navigate disruptions caused by elections and civil unrest. The ability to reschedule activities, adjust timelines, and re-sequence interventions without compromising project goals proved critical.

Early and sustained stakeholder engagement drives ownership and sustainability: The success of complex digital and infrastructure projects hinges on early and continuous engagement with all beneficiaries. The process for developing the digital SALW registry in FBiH showed that involving all cantonal ministries from the outset, while time-consuming, is essential for designing a system that meets diverse operational needs and ensures long-term buy-in. Similarly, the successful upgrade of the shooting range in North Macedonia was a direct result of the Ministry of Interior's full ownership, from design approval to assuming maintenance costs.

Technical expertise must be coupled with proactive procurement: The delivery of specialized equipment requires proactive and strategic procurement planning that anticipates market volatility and supply chain risks, as highlighted in the Trust Fund's risk matrix. The procurement challenges faced by the Hermes project and in Bosnia and Herzegovina confirmed that early engagement with technical counterparts to refine specifications and the use of flexible procurement modalities (like micro-tendering) are crucial for mitigating delays and ensuring value

for money. Linking equipment delivery directly with operator training, as was done across jurisdictions, remains a best practice to maximize immediate utilization and reinforce institutional capacity.

Peer-to-peer learning and regional platforms maximize impact: Cross-border exchanges and regional platforms continue to be a highly effective modality for knowledge transfer and capacity building. The expert meetings between AEA specialists from Serbia and BiH and the regional network meetings for women in policing demonstrated that peer-to-peer learning builds professional trust, facilitates the adoption of best practices, and creates sustainable networks that outlast project timelines. The success of these exchanges reinforces the strategy of investing in regional cooperation as a means to multiply impact.

Institutionalization is the cornerstone of long-term change: The most durable impact is achieved when project outputs are formally embedded within national systems. The integration of project-developed training materials into the official curricula of police and judicial academies in North Macedonia, Kosovo, and Bosnia and Herzegovina is a key lesson from 2025. This ensures that knowledge becomes part of the institutional DNA, accessible to all future practitioners and sustained long after the project concludes.

7. Partnerships

The Trust Fund has been instrumental in enabling Participating UN Organizations to significantly strengthen their partnerships with relevant institutions on the ground, as well as with broader regional and international stakeholders.

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

Throughout the Western Balkans, implementing organizations have solidified alliances with SALW Commissions, public authorities, donors, and civil society organizations (CSOs). Critical partnerships were forged with ministries of the interior and relevant law enforcement structures across the region. Furthermore, collaboration with prosecutorial services and educational institutions—such as judicial academies, schools for magistrates, and training centers for prosecutors and judges—provided significant added value to the regional project on criminal justice response, complementing jurisdiction-specific initiatives. Notably, UNODC initiated a strategic partnership with the Criminalistic Police University to implement tailored capacity-building activities for judges in Serbia, and the collaboration with the Supreme Court in Montenegro was solidified in 2025 through the publication and

distribution of an analysis on sentencing policies in firearms-related cases. In North Macedonia, cooperation was formalized with the Academy for Judges and Prosecutors “Pavel Shatev” to ensure project-led training and materials are formally recognized within the official training program.

Authorities across the Western Balkans have provided significant contributions to the projects, primarily through in-kind support. This multifaceted support includes the provision of facilities for trainings and meetings at no cost, such as Police Academy venues in Albania, CEST facilities in BiH, Forensic Center premises in Montenegro, and Ministry of Interior meeting rooms in North Macedonia. Authorities have also demonstrated commitment by covering transportation costs for participants to events and by co-funding certain activities or components, such as the Central Bosnia Canton contributing approximately USD 9,000 for CSI kits and the Ministry of Interior of North Macedonia committing USD 130,000 for facility renovation. Local authorities have provided internal expert capacities for training development and delivery, including local experts in SALW control and IT experts from Kosovo Police, and expert trainers for risk assessment in Serbia. Furthermore, there have been instances of investment in complementary infrastructure and equipment, such as the screening of a project-produced film by 11 police agencies in BiH, or the Mol in North Macedonia investing in a water tank for the shooting range and organizing CSI trainings using project-provided equipment, or direct procurement of complementary equipment by the Mol in Serbia in support of the forensic accreditation efforts. Designated points of contact, working groups, and liaison officers from various ministries, like Albania's ASP and North Macedonia's Mol, also contribute dedicated working time and coordination efforts as an in-kind contribution to project implementation.

In addition to maintaining regular communication with respective SALW Commissions and project beneficiaries, the implementing organizations actively pursued synergies with key international entities. This included cooperation with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), European Union delegations in the Western Balkans, the European

Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT), the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI), and representatives from the Embassies of Germany, France, the Netherlands, Sweden, the UK, and Norway.

Specific bilateral and inter-agency partnerships yielded tangible results across the jurisdictions. The French authorities supported a study visit for the Western Balkans judiciary to engage with their French counterparts, while the French forensic service provided critical support for the advancement of crime scene investigations in North Macedonia. In Albania, the project also coordinated with other initiatives such as “EU for LEA” and the UK/Sweden-funded “Forensic for Albania” to align activities. In Kosovo, the project team joined efforts with SEESAC to jointly implement awareness-raising activities and destroy confiscated firearms in an environmentally safe manner. A partnership with the Western Balkans Cyber Capacity Centre (WB3C) in Montenegro proved highly effective for delivering structured training on combating online firearms trafficking for the law enforcement from Albania and Kosovo. In Montenegro, a study visit to the National Forensic Laboratory in Ljubljana, Slovenia, enhanced professional exchange and paved the way for future collaboration with Slovenian forensic experts.

In 2025, partnerships with CSOs were further consolidated, particularly in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia. Networks of women in the police were actively engaged in the planning and implementation phases of project activities, ensuring that policy-making remained highly gender-responsive.

Notably, in Serbia, the project dedicated to reducing risks and increasing safety sought out partnerships with stakeholders focused on overcoming trauma and preventing mass shootings in the aftermath of the tragic events of May 2023. The project continued to closely cooperate with the Institute of Mental Health, ensuring sustained application of trauma-informed practices through follow-up supervision for trained professionals working with individuals affected by mass shootings.

International expertise, particularly from Norwegian experts, remained instrumental in strengthening national capacities for trauma recovery. Additionally, cooperation with the Journalists Against Violence group was sustained and strengthened to plan activities addressing the critical need for improved media reporting on firearms misuse.

Furthermore, operational partnerships with the private sector were expanded under Project Hermes. This included convening public-private workshops with express courier companies (such as UPS, FedEx, and DHL) and designated postal operators across the region to improve detection of firearms in postal shipments. A key partnership was also established with RATEL, Serbia's Regulatory Authority for Communication and Postal Services, to enhance the safety and security of postal traffic. Operational partnerships also yielded direct investigative successes; for instance, the Director of the Federal Police Administration of BiH sent a letter of appreciation to the public postal operator BH Pošta, highlighting how their cooperation led to the identification and documentation of perpetrators of illicit trafficking through postal shipments. The letter also acknowledged the significant role of the UNODC office in Sarajevo and the support provided by the Global Firearms Programme.

Coordination and collaboration with SEESAC's regional platforms and initiatives remained a cornerstone of the Trust Fund's approach. Project teams consistently participated in, benefited from, and contributed to SEESAC activities by sharing experiences and integrating recognized best practices. Roadmap coordination meetings, organized at both regional and local levels, convened all national and international stakeholders involved in SALW control in the Western Balkans. These meetings served as a vital mechanism for information exchange and knowledge sharing. Implementing organizations actively attended these forums, utilizing them as key opportunities to highlight project results, increase the visibility of their interventions, and ensure coordination with concurrent regional initiatives.

8. Sustainability

Since the Trust Fund’s inception, ensuring local ownership, institutionalization, and the long-term sustainability of project outputs has remained a core principle. All project activities and envisaged results are rooted in the assessed needs of the Western Balkans jurisdictions, linked to local policies, and aligned with the Roadmap and other international commitments.

A core element of the sustainability strategy across all projects has been the systematic integration of local institutions into legislative, capacity-building, and knowledge development processes.

A significant achievement in 2025 was the formal institutionalization of project-developed training materials. In North Macedonia, the Academy for Judges and Prosecutors “Pavel Shatev” formally adopted UNODC’s legal Commentary on Criminal Code amendments as core reference material for its official training program, ensuring that participation in UNODC-led activities is now recognized within its professional development framework. Similarly, in Kosovo, the new Kosovo Police e-learning platform was launched, providing over 10,000 police officers with access to self-paced, continuously updated training modules on SALW control, with local IT staff and Training Division officers trained to maintain the system and develop new content, ensuring its

long-term viability. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Guidelines for police cadets on SALW-related investigations have been integrated into training curricula at the FBiH Police Academy.

Projects continued to build pools of local trainers to ensure capacity-building is not a one-off event. In Serbia, a ToT program for healthcare professionals on preventing firearms misuse was developed and is set to be accredited, ensuring continuous in-system knowledge dissemination. The development of local curricula on the investigation, prosecution, and adjudication of firearms offenses, tailored to local legal frameworks and implemented with police and judicial academies, ensures that knowledge is institutionalized. The finalization of legal commentaries, case law collections, and guidelines on special investigative measures further strengthens the long-term accessibility of these resources.

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

Risks related to the proper use and maintenance of procured equipment are systematically addressed by linking procurement to institutional needs, training, and long-term planning. In 2025, the provision of all equipment - from forensic and IT tools to border surveillance gear - was guided by needs assessments conducted with beneficiaries. In Kosovo, North Macedonia, and Serbia, the handover of specialized equipment



was consistently accompanied by dedicated operator training, ensuring assets are operational from day one and that technical capacity keeps pace with procurement.

Projects are increasingly focused on long-term maintenance of provided equipment. In Kosovo, four essential tool sets were delivered to establish a dedicated maintenance workshop within the Kosovo Police for SALW-related detection equipment, reducing reliance on external servicing. In North Macedonia, following the upgrade of the indoor shooting range, formal usage guidelines (SOPs) were developed and accepted by the Ministry, and responsibility for maintenance was fully assumed through the national budget, ensuring its financial sustainability.

Projects in 2025 demonstrated a deeper commitment to embedding gender perspectives into security institutions and fostering whole-of-system approaches to SALW control. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Security advanced toward obtaining the UNDP Gender Equality Seal for Public Institutions. This process included completing a self-assessment, developing a Gender Equality Action Plan, and conducting training on gender-responsive budgeting, thus strengthening the Ministry's capacity to integrate gender perspectives into policy and resource allocation.

A standout example of sustainability in 2025 came from Serbia, where the Ministry of Interior, drawing on years of project support, independently designed and implemented a nationwide awareness campaign during the 16 Days of Activism. The campaign, amplified by project-funded materials, demonstrated that prevention-oriented outreach has been fully internalized within the Ministry's operational practices, marking a critical step toward system-led action beyond the project's lifecycle.

Cross-border exchanges remained a key tool for sustainable impact. The projects facilitated expert meetings and joint exercises between ballistics and post-blast investigators from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and cybercrime investigators from Kosovo and Albania, strengthening professional networks, promoting the adoption of good practices, and ensuring longer-term effects through peer-to-peer learning.

The Trust Fund Secretariat, in cooperation with the implementing organizations, continues to assess these risks and sustainability measures as part of its regular reporting and project revision procedures. This ensures that sustainability remains a central, mandatory element throughout the project lifecycle.

9. Way Forward

With the endorsement of the extended [Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW and their ammunition and explosives in the Western Balkans](#) (2025 - 2030), the Trust Fund enters a pivotal new phase. This locally owned framework will continue to serve as the definitive guide for achieving a sustainable solution to arms-related security challenges. The projects launched in late 2023 are now strategically positioned to consolidate past achievements and firmly establish long-term sustainability. Experience has demonstrated that navigating the region's complex political landscape requires continuous flexibility. The Trust Fund will maintain its adaptive approach to mitigate risks and support steady progress.

A core focus moving forward will be the institutionalization of achieved progress, peer-to-peer exchange, and the robust monitoring of outcomes. Further efforts will be invested in facilitating the sharing of knowledge and good practice.

The transition into the extended phase of the Roadmap coincides with an evolving funding environment. Recognizing the gradual scaling down of donor contributions, the Trust Fund's Steering Committee will strategically assess the Fund's future. To ensure long-term sustainability, a primary focus will be to encourage greater funding from jurisdictions,

integrating cost-sharing into project design, and gradually reducing the reliance on donor funding. Future assistance will be determined through close consultations with SALW Commissions to ensure that investments remain highly impactful and aligned with the Roadmap's core priorities.



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', the Secretariat's and the MPTF Gateway 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 2025.

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

- [\[UNODC1, UNODC2\]](#) [\[UNDP Albania\]](#) [\[UNDP BiH\]](#) [\[UNDP Kosovo\]](#)
- [\[UNDP N. Macedonia\]](#)



On the Websites

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:

NEWS
Impact

- December 04, 2025
Trainings Held on the Prevention of Dome...
- November 21, 2025
The Netherlands renews its support to th...
- October 13, 2025
Educational play "Echo of Silence" i...
- June 02, 2025
Sixth Year of Supporting Small Arms and ...
- May 14, 2025
Educational film "The Game" raises y...
- May 09, 2025
Integrating international good practice ...
- February 05, 2025
Germany committed in its support to the ...
- January 24, 2025
Sweden renews its support to the Western...

United Nations | Office on Drugs and Crime

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UNODC teams up with Montenegro's justice sector to finalize a new edition of the Firearms Case Law Collection

On 23 July 2025, criminal justice experts from across Montenegro gathered for a workshop hosted by the UNODC Global Firearms Programme. Focused on countering firearms-related crime, the event aimed to consolidate local contributions to Volume 2 of the Firearms Case Law Collection.

Judges and prosecutors came together to review and refine this knowledge product, ensuring it reflects current legal challenges and sentencing practices.

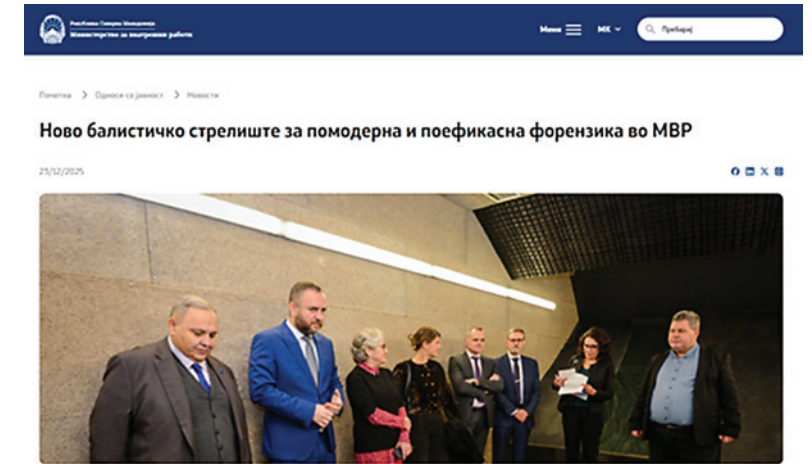
Through dynamic breakout sessions and open legal debate, participants worked closely with UNODC to address complex legal issues such as the interpretation of firearms legislation, approaches to contentious legal questions and the rules for individualizing sentences – including the application of aggravating and mitigating circumstances.

The workshop concluded with an agreed plan and timeline for the final revision and completion of the Firearms Case Law Collection, which continues to serve as an important tool in countering illicit firearms trafficking and firearms-related crime.

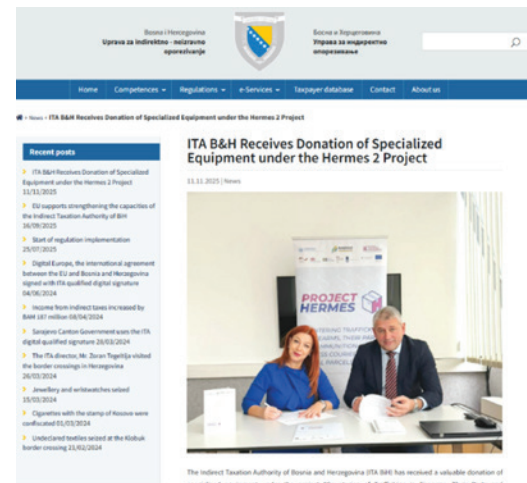
This activity is implemented with financial support provided by Germany, the United Kingdom, Sweden, France, the Netherlands and Norway through the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap Trust Fund and supported by the European Union.

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 efforts and results.

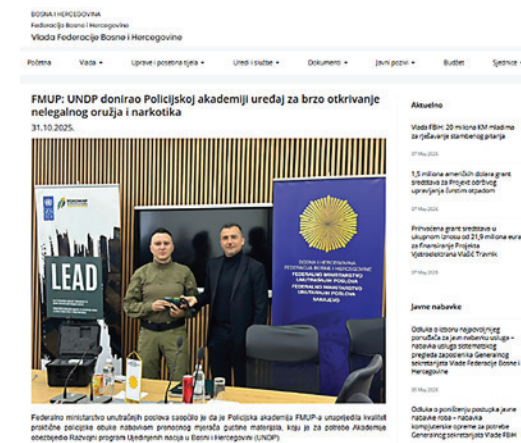
▶ The Ministry of Interior in North Macedonia promotes the advancement in forensics through the upgraded indoor shooting range, in cooperation with UNDP [\[LINK\]](#)



▶ The Ministry of Interior in Kosovo engages in the public awareness activities in schools in cooperation with UNDP [\[LINK\]](#)



▶ The Indirect Taxation Authority in Bosnia and Herzegovina receives donation of specialized equipment under the UNODC's Hermes 2.1 project [\[link\]](#)



▶ The Federation BiH authorities receive equipment donation from UNDP [\[link\]](#)



▶ The Supreme Court of Montenegro on a shared priority with UNODC regarding firearms case law and sentencing policies [\[link\]](#)

Participation in regional events

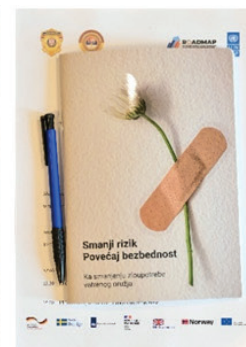
The Local and Regional Roadmap Coordination Meetings represented a key forum for publicizing the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF. Over 100 participants attended (online and in person) the two regional Roadmap coordination meetings organized by SEESAC in [July](#) and [December](#) 2025, respectively. 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 Offices, UNODC, OSCE Missions, NATO, EMPACT Firearms, the Regional

Cooperation Council, the RACVIAC Centre for Security Cooperation, ITF Enhancing Human Security, HALO Trust, the Norwegian People's Aid, 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 or donation materials distributed to the beneficiaries and placed prominently at the venues of the project events



Presence in the local media

Project results were also promoted in the local media – online, on TV, or on the radio. For example, awareness-raising activities were promoted across different media outlets (both local and major). Likewise, major events and equipment donations were reported via local media. Examples are provided below:

Bosnia and Herzegovina

On the donation of equipment to FMUP Police Academy:

- <https://fena.ba/article/1649968/undp-donirao-policijskoj-akademiji-fmup-a-uredjaj-za-brzo-otkrivanje-nelegalnog-oruzja-i-narkotika>
- <https://euronews.ba/bosna-i-hercegovina/aktuelno/40703/undp-donirao-policijskoj-akademiji-fmup-a-uredjaj-za-brzo-otkrivanje-nelegalnog-oruzja-i-narkotika>
- https://raport.ba/undp-donirao-policijskoj-akademiji-fmup-a-uredjaj-za-brzo-otkrivanje-nelegalnog-oruzja-i-narkotika#google_vignette

On the CSO activities in BiH:

- <https://rtvlukavac.ba/besplatna-predstava-za-mlade-odjek-tisine-9-aprila-u-lukavcu/>
- <https://www.radio-feral.ba/vijesti/predstava-odjek-tisine-danas-u-kalesiji/>
- <https://ntv.ba/predstava-odjek-tisine-danas-u-kalesiji/>
- <https://startbih.ba/clanak/policijske-sluzbenice-usk-a-i-undp-promovisale-kampanju-razoruzaj-nasilje/264354>
- <https://fena.ba/article/1624271/policijske-sluzbenice-usk-a-i-undp-promovisale-kampanju-razoruzaj-nasilje>
- <https://bosnainfo.ba/policijske-sluzbenice-usk-a-i-undp-promovisale-kampanju-razoruzaj-nasilje/>
- <https://fena.ba/article/1624277/disarm-violence-campaign-in-bihac-raises-awareness-on-gender-based-violence-and-illegal-firearms>
- <https://www.vrisak.info/vijesti/siroki-brijeg-dio-kampanje-razoruzaj-nasilje/>
- <https://visocani.ba/realizacija-kampanje-razoruzaj-nasilje-u-cetvrtak-u-visokom/>
- <https://www.rtvusk.ba/clanak/u-toku-je-dvodnevna-mini-kampanja-pod-sloganom-razoruzaj-nasilje/5105>
- <https://crna-hronika.info/policijske-sluzbenice-provode-kampanju-razoruzaj-nasilje/717228>
- <https://bljesak.info/vijesti/flash/udruzenje-mreza-policijskih-sluzbenica-provodi-mini-kampanju-razoruzaj-nasilje/514052>
- <https://treci.ba/kampanja-razoruzaj-nasilje-u-livnu-zastititi-zene-zastititi-zivote/>
- <https://relax-portal.info/kampanja-razoruzaj-nasilje-u-livnu-zastititi-zene-zastititi-zivote/>
- <https://hum.ba/kampanja-razoruzaj-nasilje-u-livnu-zastititi-zene-zastititi-zivote/>
- <https://rtvmo.ba/kampanja-razoruzaj-nasilje-u-livnu-zastititi-zene-zastititi-zivote/>
- <https://federalna.ba/kampanja-razoruzaj-nasilje-zastiti-zene-zastiti-zivote-6qydj>

- <https://www.livno-online.com/zupanija/54204-u-orasju-odrzan-sastanak-koordinacije-direktora-fup-a-i-policijskih-komesara-mup-ova-zupanija>
- <https://www.tomislavnews.com/foto-u-orasju-odrzan-sastanak-koordinacije-direktora-fup-a-i-policijskih-komesara-direktora-mup-ova-zupanija-kantona/>
- <https://tuzlainfo.ba/index.php/novosti/item/271106-mup-tk-i-undp-film-igra-upozorava-na-opasnosti-neodgovornog-cuvanja-oruzja/>
- <https://www.zenicablog.com/video-projekat-centra-zenskih-prava-zenica-smanji-rizik-povecaj-sigurnost-zena-zrtava-nasilja/>
- <https://www.zenicablog.com/prezentirani-nalazi-projekta-manji-rizik-povecaj-sigurnost-zena-zrtava-nasilja-u-zdk-i-sbk/>
- <https://ntvic.ba/u-zenici-uprilicena-prezentacija-u-okviru-projekta-smanji-rizik-povecaj-sigurnost-zrtava-nasilja/>
- <https://fena.ba/article/1632141/prezentirani-nalazi-projekta-manji-rizik-povecaj-sigurnost-zena-zrtava-nasilja-u-zdk-i-sbk>
- <https://semberija.info/lat/news/gradovi//55525.predstavljeni-rezultati-projekta-%EF%BF%BDmiran-dom-je-sretan-dom%EF%BF%BD.html>
- <https://vladat.kim.ba/clanak/pups-srebrenik-prikazivanje-edukativnog-filma-igra>
- <https://azrazna.ba/?p=7122>
- <https://www.radiosrebrenik.ba/pu-ps-srebrenik-prikazivanje-edukativnog-filma-igra/>
- <https://rtvbk.ba/opasnosti-i-moguće-posljedice-posjedovanja-i-neodgovornog-drzanja-oruzja-prikazivanje-edukativnog-filma-igra-u-organizaciji-ps-srebrenik/>
- https://desavanjaubijeljini.com/vijest.php?id=48672&title=fondacija-lara-bijeljina-oruje-u-kui-poveava-strah-i-utiava-prijave-nasilja--poruka-sa-konferencije-miran-dom-je-sretan-dom#google_vignette
- https://radiosarajevo.ba/vijesti/lokalne-teme/sigurnost-je-izbor-odrzana-projekcija-kratkog-filma-igra-o-podizanju-svijesti-o-zloupotrebama-oruzja/579964#google_vignette
- <https://www.bhrt.ba/film-igra-edukuje-mlade-o-zloupotrebama-oru%C5%BEja>
- <https://www.mreza-mira.net/vijesti/clanci/projekcija-kratkog-igranog-filma-igra-u-sarajevu/>

Kosovo

On the donation of equipment to Kosovo Police:

- <https://klankosova.tv/policia-e-kosoves-pranon-donacion-nga-undp/>
- <https://rtv21.tv/policia-e-kosoves-pranon-donacion-nga-undp/>
- <https://indeksonline.net/policia-e-kosoves-pranon-donacion-te-rendesishem-nga-undp/>
- <https://atvlive.tv/policia-e-kosoves-pranon-donacion-nga-undp/>
- <https://www.zeri.info/aktuale/591472/policia-e-kosoves-pranon-donacion-nga-undp-ja/>
- <https://gazetametro.net/policia-e-kosoves-pranon-donacion-nga-undp/>
- <https://gazetablic.com/policia-e-kosoves-pranon-donacion-nga-undp/>
- <https://frontonline.net/policia-e-kosoves-pranon-donacion-nga-undp/>
- <https://gazetapapirus.com/policia-e-kosoves-pranon-donacion-te-rendesishem-nga-undp/>
- <https://veriu.info/policia-e-kosoves-pranon-donacion-nga-undp/>
- <https://www.arbresh.info/lajmet/policia-e-kosoves-pranon-donacion-nga-undp/>
- <https://kossev.info/undp-donirao-digitalne-resurse-kosovskoj-policiji/>

On the weapons destruction:

- <https://euronews.al/en/kosovo-police-destroy-760-illegal-weapons/>
- <https://kallxo.com/lajm/policia-shkaterroi-763-arme-te-vogla-dhe-te-lehta-ne-prelez/>
- <https://klankosova.tv/policia-shkaterroi-763-arme-te-vogla-dhe-te-lehta-ilegale11/>
- <https://albanianpost.com/policia-e-kosoves-organizon-shkaterimin-e-armeve-ilegale/>
- <https://reporteri.net/en/NEWS/Kosovo-police-destroy-over-36-illegal-weapons-confiscated-since-1999/>
- <https://kossev.info/en/u-pristini-unisteno-763-komada-oruzja/>
- <https://dt-net.com/kosovo-police-destroy-nearly-800-small-and-light-firearms/>



- <https://fakti.bg/en/world/1003019-kosovo-police-destroy-760-illegal-weapons>
- <https://insajderi.org/en/The-police-destroyed-a-large-number-of-weapons/>
- <https://indeksonline.net/en/Dozens-of-confiscated-firearms-are-destroyed-in-Kosovo-video-photo/>
- <https://www.kosovo-online.com/multimedija/video/video-kosovska-policija-unistila-ilegalno-oruzje-hodza-opasnost-za-drustvo-26-9>
- <https://www.gorazdevac.com/2025/09/26/kosovska-policija-u-prisustvu-undp-a-unistila-zaplenjeno-oruzje/>
- <https://reporteri.net/hr/vijesti/Kosovska-policija-uni%C5%A1tila-je-preko-36-ilegalnog-oru%C5%BEja-zaplijenjenog-od-1999./>

On cybercrime training:

- <https://2lonline.com/realizohet-trajnimi-per-hetimin-e-krimet-kibernetik-per-reaguesit-e-pare/>

On the support to Kosovo Forensic Agency:

- <https://indeksonline.net/en/The-Forensic-Agency-receives-a-donation-of-90-thousand-euros-from-the-UNDP/>
- <https://objektivi.net/undp-i-dorezon-agjencise-se-forenzikes-pajisje-te-specializuara-ne-vlere-mbi-90000-euro/>
- <https://kosova.info/tag/agjencia-e-forenzikes/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/kosovapress/posts/programi-i-kombeve-t%C3%AB-bashkuara-p%C3%AB-zhvillim-undp-i-dor%C3%ABzoi-agjencis%C3%AB-s%C3%AB-forenzi/1120203996982539/>

Furthermore, the Ministry of Internal Affairs conducted a [general awareness raising campaign](#), providing further visibility of support to (firearms-enabled) violence prevention efforts within various communities, with the local actions covered by several media.

North Macedonia

On the upgraded Mol's indoor shooting range:

- <https://tocka.com.mk/vesti/541209/mvr-otvoreno-novo-balisticko-strelishte-za-pomoderna-i-poefikasna-forenzika>
- <https://denesmagazin.mk/novo-balistichko-strelishte-za-pomoderna-i-poefikasna-forenzika-vo-mvr/>
- <https://vecer.mk/makedonija/f212166f-f0e7-47fb-aebb-0f8659245bf6-1>
- <https://plusinfo.mk/posilni-dokazi-i-pobrzi-istragi-polici-ata-dobiva-mo-na-alatka-protiv-kriminalot/>

On the newly donated equipment to the Mol for the CSI advancement:

- <https://www.slobodenpecat.mk/toshkovski-so-novata-donirana-oprema-mvr-kje-ja-podobri-istragata-na-mestoto-na-nastanot/>
- <https://fokus.mk/mvr-dobi-forenzichka-oprema-za-poefikasni-istragi-na-litse-mesto/>
- <https://mk.tv21.tv/nova-oprema-vo-mvr-poefikasna-istraga-na-mestoto-na-nastanot-vo-krivichni-dela-koi-vkluchuvat-oruzhje/>

Serbia

On the 4th Annual Conference of Women in the Police:

- <https://www.politika.rs/sr/clanak/681456/drzanje-vatrenog-oruzja-u-kuci-povecava-rizik-od-femicida>
- https://rtv.rs/sr_lat/politika/medjunarodna-konferencija-mreza-zena-u-policiji-u-palati-srbija-prisustvuje-macut_1674319.html
- <https://www.telegraf.rs/vesti/politika/4222559-macut-veca-zastupljenost-zena-u-sektoru-bezbednosti-nije-ideologija-vec-potreba>
- <https://www.tanjug.rs/srbija/drustvo/210576/duro-macut-veca-zastupljenost-zena-u-sektoru-bezbednosti-nije-ideologija-vec-potreba/vest>
- <https://www.nin.rs/politika/vesti/96463/macut-veca-zastupljenost-zena-u-sektoru-bezbednosti-nije-ideologija-vec-potreba>
- https://rtv.rs/sr_lat/politika/macut-veca-zastupljenost-zena-u-sektoru-bezbednosti-nije-ideologija-vec-potreba_1674319.html
- https://rtv.rs/sr_lat/politika/djurdjevic-stamenkovski-kada-bi-vise-zena-bilo-u-politici-bilo-bi-manje-ratova_1674355.html
- <https://tvpalmaplus.rs/vesti/politika/medjunarodna-konferencija-mreza-zena-u-policiji-u-palati-srbija/>
- <https://naslovi.net/2025-11-27/rtv/djurdjevic-stamenkovski-kada-bi-vise-zena-bilo-u-politici-bilo-bi-manje-ratova/40952729>
- <https://www.tanjug.rs/srbija/drustvo/210576/duro-macut-veca-zastupljenost-zena-u-sektoru-bezbednosti-nije-ideologija-vec-potreba/vest>
- <https://www.euronews.rs/srbija/politika/198608/kada-bi-vise-zena-bilo-u-politici-bilo-bi-manje-ratova/vest>
- https://rtv.rs/sr_lat/politika/vujic-u-pravosudnoj-profesiji-73-odsto-zena_1674382.html
- <https://www.politika.rs/sr/clanak/713467/durdevic-stamenkovski-kada-bi-vise-zena-bilo-u-politici-bilo-bi-manje-ratova>
- <https://www.postinfo.rs/medjunarodna-konferencija-ukljucivanje-zena-u-bezbednosne-strukture-kljuc-za-sigurnije-i-stabilnije-drustvo/>

- <https://nsreporter.rs/2025/11/konferencija-u-palati-srbije-istaknuta-kljucna-uloga-zena-u-jacanju-bezbednosnog-sistema/>
- <https://nsreporter.rs/2025/11/medjunarodna-konferencija-ukljucivanje-zena-u-bezbednosne-strukture-kljuc-za-sigurnije-i-stabilnije-drustvo/>
- <https://www.telegraf.rs/vesti/hronika/4222681-dacic-i-macut-otvorili-prvu-evropsku-konferenciju-zena-u-policiji-u-beogradu-kljucne-poruke-i-ciljevi>
- <https://streaming.ninamedia.rs/uploads/2025/11/27/0700A6BA-4074-43A3-BE6C-64525EE570C6.mp4>
- <https://naslovi.net/2025-11-27/telegraf/macut-veca-zastupljenost-zena-u-sektoru-bezbednosti-nije-ideologija-vec-potreba/40952439>
- <https://streaming.ninamedia.rs/uploads/2025/11/27/843E6338-0358-46F2-9BA8-2F2F9BE1F334.mp4>
- <https://www.euronews.rs/srbija/politika/198648/konferencija-u-beogradu-osnazuje-polozaj-zena-u-policiji/vest>
- <https://streaming.ninamedia.rs/uploads/2025/11/27/B703F3DB-C17E-42F6-ADBDF-E8A4FC936976.mp3>

By the Journalists against Violence group:

- <https://uns.org.rs/desk/vesti-iz-medija/178789/smernice-za-eticko-izvestavanje-o-samoubistvima.html>
- <https://anem.org.rs/sr/strane/smernice-za-eticko-izvestavanje-o-samoubistvima>

Furthermore, the Roadmap and UNDP logo were included in the [Mol poster](#) distributed nationwide during the “16 days of activism” campaign, providing further visibility of support to (firearms-enabled) violence prevention efforts within various communities, with the local actions covered by several media

Stories

Towards more effective communication, online stories were published on UN websites. UNDP and UNODC published a series of stories:

UNODC Project Justitia:

- Legislative Harmonization [\[link\]](#)
- Development of the training course for prosecutors [\[link\]](#)
- Harmonization of judicial practices and development of training course for judges [\[link\]](#)
- Study visit to European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and the French judicial institutions in Strasbourg [\[link\]](#)
- Application of SIMs [\[link\]](#)
- 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 United Nations Firearms Protocol in Western Balkans [\[link\]](#)
- “Firearms in the Courtroom”: specialized training for judiciary in Serbia [\[link\]](#)
- “Firearms in the Courtroom”: Criminalistic Police University’s website (SRB) [\[link\]](#)
- “Firearms in the Courtroom”: Judicial Academy’s website (SRB) [\[link\]](#)

Supporting CEPOL’s training on illicit firearms trafficking in Serbia [\[link\]](#)

UNODC Project Hermes 2.1:

- UNODC trains postal and customs officials in Pristina on firearms identification and X-ray image analysis [\[link\]](#)
- Capacity building support under Project Hermes [\[link\]](#)
- UNODC delivers specialized X-ray image analysis training in Montenegro [\[link\]](#)
- Inter-Agency Working Group in North Macedonia Enhances Firearms Detection under Project HERMES [\[link\]](#)
- Western Balkans: Strengthening regional risk analysis to counter firearms trafficking via postal parcels [\[link\]](#)
- UNODC strengthens inter-agency cooperation to counter firearms trafficking in North Macedonia [\[link\]](#)
- Bosnia and Herzegovina strengthens detection of explosives and drugs in postal parcels under Project HERMES [\[link\]](#)

UNDP BiH:

- Educational play “Echo of Silence” inspires youth to reflect on the consequences of possessing and using illegal firearms and violence [\[link\]](#)
- Educational film “The Game” raises youth awareness about the dangers of weapons [\[link\]](#)

UNDP Kosovo:

- UNDP Hands Over to the Forensic Agency Specialized Equipment [\[link\]](#)

UNDP Serbia:

- Trainings Held on the Prevention of Domestic Violence [\[link\]](#)

Civil society organizations partnered with the Trust Fund projects and amplified key messages within their respective communities and to the general public.

Bosnia and Herzegovina:

- Center of Women’s Rights: [web-story](#);
- Youth Theatre Tuzla: [social-media](#); [social-media2](#); [web-story](#);
- Association “Network of Women Police Officers”: [web-story](#); [web-story2](#);
- Women’s Network of the MoI of Republika Srpska (RS WPON): [web-story](#);

Serbia:

- Women’s Center Uzice, on violence prevention: [social-media](#), [social-media2](#); [social-media3](#); [social-media4](#); [social-media5](#); [TV talk show](#), [podcast](#);
- Human Rights Committee Vranje: [social-media](#); [TV news](#); [local media](#); [local media2](#);
- The Zrenjanin Education Centre: [web-story](#); [socialmedia1](#);
- The “Journalists against violence” group: [news item](#); [web-story](#); [social-media](#).



II - FINANCIAL REPORT

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

for the period 15 March 2019 to 31 December 2025

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

May 2026



1. Introduction

The 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 2025 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/sl00>).

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.

Contribution Agreement

Standard Administrative Arrangement (SAA) 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 reported by all Participating Organizations for a Fund reported to the AA.

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.

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.

2025 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 **2025**. 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 **2025**, **6** contributors deposited US\$ **30,398,849** and US\$ **695,800** was earned in interest.

The cumulative source of funds was US\$ **31,094,649**.

Of this amount, US\$ **30,340,877** has been net funded to **2** Participating Organizations, of which US\$ **23,446,500** has been reported as expenditure. The Administrative Agent fee has been charged at the approved rate of 1% on deposits and amounts to US\$ **303,989**. Table 1 provides an overview of the overall sources, uses, and balance of the **Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF** as of 31 December 2025.

Table 1 Financial Overview, as of 31 December 2025 (in US Dollars)

	Prior Years up to 31 Dec 2024	Financial Year Jan-Dec 2025	Total
Sources of Funds			
Contributions from donors	28,541,443	1,857,406	30,398,849
Sub-total Contributions	28,541,443	1,857,406	30,398,849
Fund Interest and Investment Income Earned	529,735	56,326	586,061
Interest Income received from Participating Organizations	77,529	32,209	109,739
Total: Sources of Funds	29,148,707	1,945,942	31,094,649
Use of Funds			
Transfers to Participating Organizations	26,675,423	3,350,000	30,025,423
Transfers to Participating Organizations for Direct Cost - Fund Secretariat etc	822,145	34,096	856,241
Sub-Total Transfers	27,497,568	3,384,096	30,881,664
Refunds received from Participating Organizations	(140,856)	(399,931)	(540,787)
Sub-Total Refunds	(140,856)	(399,931)	(540,787)
Administrative Agent Fees	285,414	18,574	303,989
Bank Charges	1,043	34	1,077
Total: Uses of Funds	27,643,170	3,002,773	30,645,942
Change in Fund cash balance with Administrative Agent	1,505,537	(1,056,831)	448,707
Opening Fund balance (1 January)	1,951,876	1,505,537	-
Closing Fund balance (31 December)	1,505,537	448,707	448,707
Net Funded Amount (Includes Direct Cost)	27,356,712	2,984,165	30,340,877
Participating Organizations Expenditure (Includes Direct Cost)	18,130,921	5,315,579	23,446,500
Balance of Funds with Participating Organizations	9,225,791	(2,331,414)	6,894,377



4. Partner Contributions

Table 2 provides information on cumulative contributions received from all contributors to this fund as of 31 December **2025**.

The **Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF** is currently being funded 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 **2025** and deposits received by the same date. It does not include commitments that were made to the fund beyond **2025**.

[Table 2. Contributions, as of 31 December 2025 \(in US Dollars\)](#)

Contributors	Total Commitments	Total Deposits
Government of France	3,098,803	3,098,803
Government of Germany	13,859,832	13,859,832
Government of Netherlands	4,990,120	4,990,120
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	30,398,849	30,398,849

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 2025, Fund earned interest amounts to US\$ **586,061**.

Interest received from Participating Organizations amounts to US\$ **109,739**, bringing the cumulative interest received to US\$ **695,800**. Details are provided in the table below.

[Table 3. Sources of Interest and Investment Income, as of 31 December 2025 \(in US Dollars\)](#)

Interest Earned	Prior Years up to 31-Dec-2024	Financial Year Jan-Dec-2025	Total
Administrative Agent			
Fund Interest and Investment Income Earned	529,735	56,326	586,061
Total: Fund Interest Earned	529,735	56,326	586,061
Participating Organization			
UNODC	77,529	32,209	109,739
Total: Agency Interest Earned	77,529	32,209	109,739
Grand Total	607,264	88,536	695,800

6. Transfer of Funds

Allocations to Participating Organizations are approved by the Steering Committee and disbursed by the Administrative Agent. As of 31 December 2025, the AA has transferred US\$ **30,881,664** 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-2024			Financial Year Jan-Dec-2025			Total		
	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded
UNDP	18,433,146	(60,937)	18,372,209	2,434,096	(331,290)	2,102,806	20,867,242	(392,227)	20,475,015
UNODC	9,064,422	(79,919)	8,984,503	950,000	(68,641)	881,359	10,014,422	(148,560)	9,865,862
Grand Total	27,497,568	(140,856)	27,356,712	3,384,096	(399,931)	2,984,165	30,881,664	(540,787)	30,340,877

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 2025 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 2025, US\$ **2,984,165** was net funded to Participating Organizations, and US\$ **5,315,579** was reported in expenditure.

As shown in the table below, the cumulative net funded amount is US\$ **30,340,877** and cumulative expenditures reported by the Participating Organizations amount to US\$ **23,446,500**. This equates to an overall Fund expenditure delivery rate of **77.28** percent.

Table 5.1 Net Funded Amount and Reported Expenditures by Participating Organization, as of 31 December 2025 (in US Dollars)

Participating Organization	Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure			Delivery Rate %
			Prior Years up to 31-Dec-2024	Financial Year Jan-Dec-2025	Cumulative	
UNDP	20,867,242	20,475,015	11,589,642	3,689,505	15,279,147	74.62
UNODC	10,014,422	9,965,862	6,541,279	1,626,074	8,167,353	82.78
Grand Total	30,881,664	30,340,877	18,130,921	5,315,579	23,446,500	77.28

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.

Table 5.2. Expenditure by UNSDG Budget Category, as of 31 December 2025 (in US Dollars)

Category	Expenditures		Percentage of Total Programme Cost	
	Prior Years up to 31-Dec-2024	Financial Year Jan-Dec-2025		Total
Staff & Personnel Cost	3,143,279	779,731	3,923,010	17.91
Supplies, commodities and materials	1,356,587	132,402	1,488,989	6.80
Equipment, vehicles, furniture and depreciation	2,099,280	1,196,243	3,295,522	15.05
Contractual Services Expenses	5,098,733	1,572,880	6,671,613	30.47
Travel	1,549,257	391,029	1,940,286	8.86
Transfers and Grants	822,974	76,522	899,496	4.11
General Operating	2,876,484	802,665	3,679,150	16.80
Programme Costs Total	16,946,594	4,951,473	21,898,066	100.00
¹³ Indirect Support Costs Total	1,184,328	364,106	1,548,434	7.07
Grand Total	18,130,921	5,315,579	23,446,500	-

¹³ **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 2025, 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 2025, US\$ **303,989** 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\$ **364,106** was deducted in indirect costs by Participating Organizations. Cumulatively, indirect costs amount to US\$ **1,548,434** as of 31 December **2025**.

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 2025, US\$ 856,241 has been charged as Direct Costs.

Participating Organization	Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure			Delivery Rate %
			Prior Years up to 31-Dec-2024	Financial Year Jan-Dec-2025	Cumulative	
UNDP	856,241	856,241	440,847	123,521	564,368	65.91
Grand Total	856,241	856,241	440,847	123,521	564,368	65.91



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: Matrix of Project Results and Activities](#)

[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: 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	1,179,440	70.99
00134043	Increased Security of the Arms Depots Under the Administration of the Albanian State Police	UNDP	474,770	474,770	289,850	61.05
00140502	Integrated Institutional Approach and Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation to SALW Control (Phase I)	UNDP	1,555,490	1,555,490	935,777	60.16
Albania: Total			3,691,574	3,691,574	2,405,067	65.15



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	1,099,012	1,099,012	100.00
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	326,488	326,488	100.00
00125390	Prevention and Illicit Arms Reduction in Bosnia and Herzegovina (PILLAR)	UNDP	769,406	767,504	767,504	100.00
00133688	Digitalization and Institutional and Regional Cooperation Project (DIRC)	UNDP	309,412	266,178	266,178	100.00
00140489	Law Enforcement Agencies' Development in Small Arms and Light Weapons Control (Project LEAD)	UNDP	1,855,035	1,855,035	1,096,744	59.12
Bosnia and Herzegovina: Total			5,717,399	5,376,686	4,618,395	85.90



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-Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap MPTF	UNDP	856,241	856,241	564,368	65.91
00127615	Support for increased international cooperation in criminal matters	UNODC	1,604,153	1,535,512	1,535,512	100.00
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	2,890,815	2,890,815	2,059,649	71.25
00140522	Strengthening the Capacities of the Forensics and Crime Scene Investigation System to Improve Criminal Justice Response to SALW	UNDP	-	350,000 ¹⁴	-	-
00140861	Project Hermes 2.1: Countering Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Ammunition in Express Courier and Postal Parcels	UNODC	1,730,387	1,730,387	863,044	49.88
Global and Interregional: Total			9,781,724	10,009,634	7,669,252	76.62

14 The net funded amount corresponds to project 00140522 (under North Macedonia).



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 (Kosovo and North Macedonia)	UNDP	251,293	235,496	235,496	100.00
00140012	Support to Firearms related Investigations	UNDP	350,318	341,171	341,171	100.00
00140409	Integrated Institutional Approach and Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation to SALW Control (Phase I)	UNDP	1,600,990	1,600,990	1,080,300	67.48
Kosovo (As per UNSCR 1244): Total			2,862,601	2,816,329	2,295,639	81.51



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	1,391,105	1,391,105	890,977	64.05
Montenegro: Total			2,055,917	2,032,105	1,531,971	75.39
North Macedonia						
00126412	Cross-Border Integrated Institutional Approach Towards Combating IAT and SALW (Kosovo and North Macedonia)	UNDP	270,774	270,774	270,774	100,00
00134327	Improvement of Data and SALW Collection Practices and SALW Related Investigations	UNDP	513,600	513,600	513,600	100,00
00140522	Strengthening the Capacities of the Forensics and Crime Scene Investigation System to Improve Criminal Justice Response to SAWW	UNDP	1,499,180	1,149,180	930,494	80.97
North Macedonia: Total			2,283,554	1,933,554	1,714,868	88.69



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	1,424,391	1,424,391	100.00
00133163	Reduce Risk - Increase Safety II	UNDP	170,700	167,929	167,929	100.00
00140406	Reduce Risk - Increase Safety III	UNDP	1,026,135	1,026,135	564,143	54.98
00140475	Improving Capacities of the Ministry of the Interior in the SALW-Control related Field, Phase III	UNDP	1,862,540	1,862,540	1,054,846	56.63
Serbia: Total			4,488,895	4,480,995	3,211,309	71.67
GRAND TOTAL			30,881,664	30,340,877	23,446,500	77.28



Annex 2. Trust Fund Projects

Projects approved for funding in the first call for proposals	Contribution to roadmap goals by 2024	Contribution to roadmap KPI by 2024
<p>Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade (HALT) in Bosnia and Herzegovina</p> <p>Implemented by UNDP BiH and UNODC</p> <p>Implementing period: February 2020 – June 2023</p> <p>Budget: \$2,200,000</p> <p>The project enhanced the capacities of the Indirect Taxation Authority (i.e., the Customs Authority in Bosnia and Herzegovina) to better combat illicit arms trafficking through the development of standard operating procedures, the provision of training, and the procurement of specialized equipment for the detection of smuggled firearms. The project also strengthened cooperation and information exchange between the Indirect Taxation Authority and other institutions at the national and regional levels through joint training, working visits, and cross-border operations. The Border Police, postal agencies, private companies, and the criminal justice sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina were engaged throughout the project to enhance outcomes and increase sustainability.</p>	<p>Goal 2</p> <p>Goal 3</p> <p>Goal 4</p> <p>Goal 5</p> <p>Goal 7</p>	<p>KPI 4</p> <p>KPI 6</p> <p>KPI 9</p> <p>KPI 10</p> <p>KPI 14</p>
<p>Support to Combating Illicit Arms Trafficking in Kosovo for Criminal Police (CPIAT)</p> <p>Implemented by UNDP Kosovo</p> <p>Implementing period: February 2020 – June 2022</p> <p>Budget: \$660,000</p> <p>The project enhanced the capacities of the Kosovo Police in investigative and police operations to combat illicit arms trafficking and the illegal possession of firearms. The emphasis was on investigations into organized crime and criminal groups involved in international arms trafficking using Kosovo as a transit route into Western European countries. Through the provision of specialized training and equipment, the project strengthened the capacities of Kosovo Police to detect and confiscate firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition, and to improve the quality of investigations.</p>	<p>Goal 2</p> <p>Goal 3</p> <p>Goal 5</p>	<p>KPI 3</p> <p>KPI 4</p> <p>KPI 8</p> <p>KPI 10</p> <p>KPI 14</p>

**Projects approved for funding in the first call for proposals****Criminal Justice Response against Arms Trafficking (regional project)**

Implemented by UNODC

Implementing period: February 2020 – March 2023

Budget: \$1,899,999

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

**Contribution to
roadmap goals
by 2024****Contribution to
roadmap KPI
by 2024**

Goal 1

KPI 1

Goal 2

KPI 3

Goal 3

KPI 8

Goal 4

KPI 9

Goal 7

KPI 10

Urgent Action on Ammunition Destruction - Project EXPLODE+

Implemented by UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina

Implementing period: February 2020 – October 2022

Budget: \$583,546

The project supported the Ministry of Defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in the destruction of unsafe ammunition, contributing to reduced stockpiles of surplus ammunition and thereby to higher safety and security for storage facilities and adjacent local communities.

Goal 5

KPI 10

Goal 6

KPI 12

Goal 7

KPI 14

**Projects approved for funding in the second call for proposals****Strengthening Control, Administration and Social Attitudes Towards SALW**

Implemented by UNDP Albania

Implementing period: December 2020 – June 2024

Budget: \$1,661,314

The project improved and modernized the registration of legally possessed firearms in Albania by supporting the government’s initiative to re-register all legally possessed weapons and digitize all firearms-related data. The project also assisted the Albanian State Police in bringing an additional 10 percent of its firearms and ammunition storage depots up to acceptable standards, preventing the risk of diversion and, hence, the illegal possession, misuse, and trafficking of these items. Finally, a comprehensive awareness campaign was carried out to reduce the misuse of firearms and increase confidence in security institutions.

**Contribution to
roadmap goals
by 2024****Contribution to
roadmap KPI
by 2024**

Goal 2

KPI 4

Goal 4

KPI 10

Goal 5

KPI 13

Goal 7

KPI 14

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

Implemented by UNDP Serbia

Implementing period: January 2021 – November 2023

Budget: \$1,429,520

The project built upon the progress made during Phase I and improved the quality of investigations through valid forensic evidence. It aimed to advance evidence-based decision-making and argumentation by 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 project focused on further strengthening the capacities of the crime investigation units and the ballistics laboratories in 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 the strengthening of the capacities of the new AEA Unit (Arson, Explosion, and Accident investigation) for the investigation of explosion- and explosive-related incidents. Finally, the project contributed to the upgrade of the Weapon Registry System through the provision of equipment and training.

Goal 1

KPI 3

Goal 2

KPI 4

Goal 3

KPI 5

Goal 5

KPI 9

KPI 14



Projects approved for funding in the second call for proposals

**Contribution to
roadmap goals
by 2024**

**Contribution to
roadmap KPI
by 2024**

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

Implemented by UNDP Montenegro

Implementing period: January 2021 – October 2023

Budget: \$664,812

The project improved the capacities of the Police Directorate of Montenegro across the entire investigative cycle and in particular advanced the custody chain. It contributed to improvements in the investigation of crimes committed with explosives, thereby further contributing to achieving regular convictions. Specifically, the project enhanced the expert competencies, professionalism, accuracy, and precision of the Forensic Centre's Chemistry and Fires and Explosions laboratories by supporting the development of standard operating procedures, providing specialized equipment to crime scene investigation units, and providing specialized training.

Goal 1

KPI 3

Goal 2

KPI 9

Goal 3

KPI 14

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

Implemented by UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina

Implementing period: January 2021 – April 2024

Budget: \$769,406

The project comprehensively raised awareness among the population regarding the dangers of illegal firearm possession, contributed to behavioral change, and fostered a more complete understanding of the threats posed by SALW within families, the community, and society in general. Specifically, the project worked with the formal associations of women police officers in BiH, as "agents of change," to strengthen their capacities to better address the limited understanding of the general population regarding SALW-related threats. It also cooperated with police agencies and directly implemented 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).

Goal 4

KPI 9

Goal 5

KPI 10

Goal 6

KPI 14



Projects approved for funding in the second call for proposals

Cross-border Integrated Institutional Approach towards Combating IAT and SALW

Implemented by UNDP Kosovo and UNDP North Macedonia

Implementing period: March 2021 – March 2023

Budget: \$522,067

The project improved the cross-border cooperation between Kosovo and North Macedonia and laid the basis for an integrated institutional approach to combat arms trafficking in the two jurisdictions through a series of closely coordinated activities. These included joint training, the sharing of experience and intelligence, and joint actions to combat converted weapons trafficking.

Contribution to
roadmap goals
by 2024

Contribution to
roadmap KPI
by 2024

Goal 3

KPI 4

Goal 4

KPI 5

Goal 5

KPI 9

KPI 10

KPI 14

Support for Increased International Cooperation in Criminal Matters

Implemented by UNODC

Implementing period: June 2021 – December 2023

Budget: \$1,604,153

The project, implemented by UNODC's Global Firearms Programme in partnership with INTERPOL, provided support to the Western Balkans jurisdictions in collecting and analyzing criminal justice data, facilitated and strengthened cooperation and information exchange among criminal justice practitioners, and supported the efforts of authorities to detect firearms trafficking. The assistance from both organizations led 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 associated routes, and an improved understanding of gaps in the detection of firearms in postal shipments.

Goal 2

KPI 6

Goal 3

KPI 8

KPI 9



Projects approved for funding through the direct solicitation of projects modality	Contribution to roadmap goals by 2024	Contribution to roadmap KPI by 2024
<p>Reduce Risk - Increase Safety II</p> <p>Implemented by UNDP Serbia</p> <p>Implementing period: September 2022 – May 2023</p> <p>Budget: \$170,700</p> <p>The project was built upon the findings of the previous phase of the “Reduce Risk-Increase Safety” project. It accelerated the implementation of the normative and strategic framework and boosted existing practices and partnerships related to protection from SALW misuse in the context of violence against women and domestic violence. In addition, it addressed the issue of suicides committed with firearms. Through its activities, the project created a comprehensive approach to strengthen the role of the healthcare system in the prevention of firearms misuse.</p>	<p>Goal 2</p> <p>Goal 4</p>	<p>KPI 2</p> <p>KPI 9</p> <p>KPI 10</p> <p>KPI 14</p>
<p>Digitalization and Institutional and Regional Cooperation Project (DIRC)</p> <p>Implemented by UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina</p> <p>Implementing period: October 2022 – December 2023</p> <p>Budget: \$309,412</p> <p>The project ensured continuity in and the strengthening of the ongoing efforts and achievements of Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding SALW control. It established a platform for bilateral and multilateral knowledge sharing with neighboring countries pertaining to several aspects of SALW control. Furthermore, the project ensured the continuity of efforts to further institutionalize gender mainstreaming in SALW control within the Indirect Taxation Authority of BiH. It introduced new digital tools and structured joint regional exercises to combat SALW trafficking. It also supported the gender network within the Indirect Taxation Authority to enhance gender-responsive functioning within the institution itself.</p>	<p>Goal 2</p> <p>Goal 3</p> <p>Goal 4</p> <p>Goal 5</p>	<p>KPI 2</p> <p>KPI 3</p> <p>KPI 4</p> <p>KPI 8</p> <p>KPI 9</p> <p>KPI 14</p>
<p>Increased security of the arms depots under the administration of the Albanian State Police</p> <p>Implemented by UNDP Albania</p> <p>Implementing period: November 2022 – August 2024</p> <p>Budget: \$474,770</p> <p>The project was developed as a response to the priority needs of the Albanian law enforcement authorities. It improved and refurbished three top-priority ammunition storage facilities of the Albanian State Police (ASP) and furnished 120 safes for SALW to ASP evidence rooms in Priority I and, partially, Priority II depots. The improvements followed international standards and best practices, guaranteeing the safe maintenance and administration of firearms, ammunition, and explosives throughout their entire life cycle.</p>	<p>Goal 5</p> <p>Goal 7</p>	<p>KPI 12</p> <p>KPI 13</p>



Projects approved for funding through the direct solicitation of projects modality	Contribution to roadmap goals by 2024	Contribution to roadmap KPI by 2024
<p>Improvement of data and SALW collection practices and SALW related investigations</p> <p>Implemented by UNDP North Macedonia</p> <p>Implementing period: December 2022 – February 2024</p> <p>Budget: \$513,600</p> <p>The project built upon previously implemented activities and identified risks, needs, and priorities of North Macedonia. It improved the implementation of the Information Management System (IMS) of the Ministry of the Interior, which enables the gathering of SALW-related data, with a particular focus on data collection related to domestic violence involving firearms. It also improved the analytical capabilities of the Forensics Department through the provision of specialized equipment and training, as well as weapons warehouse management and tracing capacities, thereby decreasing the risk of the proliferation of SALW and enhancing security.</p>	<p>Goal 2</p> <p>Goal 4</p> <p>Goal 5</p> <p>Goal 7</p>	<p>KPI 2</p> <p>KPI 3</p> <p>KPI 8</p> <p>KPI 10</p> <p>KPI 13</p>
<p>Support to Firearms Related Investigations</p> <p>Implemented by UNDP Kosovo</p> <p>Implementing period: January 2023 – October 2023</p> <p>Budget: \$350,318</p> <p>The project strengthened firearms investigations and the operations of the Firearms Focal Point in Pristina through the provision of technical support to enhance data collection and analytical capacities, as well as through the provision of specialized equipment. More specifically, it: i) improved data collection and analysis by the Firearms Focal Point; ii) improved the detection of weapons hidden underground; and iii) improved the examination of seized firearms by the ballistics department of the Kosovo Forensic Agency.</p>	<p>Goal 2</p> <p>Goal 3</p> <p>Goal 5</p> <p>Goal 7</p>	<p>KPI 3</p> <p>KPI 4</p> <p>KPI 7</p> <p>KPI 8</p> <p>KPI 9</p>
<p>Countering Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Ammunition in Express Courier and Postal Parcels: Project Hermes Phase I</p> <p>Implemented by UNODC</p> <p>Implementing period: February 2023 – December 2023</p> <p>Budget: \$800,129</p> <p>The project supported the six Western Balkans jurisdictions in strengthening regulatory frameworks and capacity to counter the trafficking of firearms, their parts, and components, and ammunition in express courier and postal parcels. It facilitated the development of specific standard operating procedures and memoranda of understanding to advance practices among customs administrations, postal operators, regulators, and law enforcement. In addition, regional meetings and study visits supported the harmonization of procedures and the exchange of good practices. The project also provided detection equipment to the Albanian Customs Administration to improve its capacity to detect illicit shipments.</p>	<p>Goal 2</p> <p>Goal 3</p>	<p>KPI 3</p> <p>KPI 4</p> <p>KPI 5</p> <p>KPI 6</p> <p>KPI 9</p>

**Projects approved for funding in the third call for proposals****Reduce Risk - Increase Safety III**

Implemented by UNDP Serbia

Implementing period: October 2023 – December 2026

Budget: \$1,026,135

The project aims to reduce the risk of firearms misuse for violence and suicide in Serbia. It intends to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange among relevant stakeholders and enhance community responses to firearms-related crises and trauma. More specifically, the project aims to review the gender and age data collection practices of the Ministry of Interior, use lessons learned to facilitate evidence-based policymaking, and mainstream firearms risks into relevant regulations and practices. It will improve conditions and access to information to improve the detection of potential firearms misuse in domestic violence and suicide cases, and ensure comprehensive prevention support. The project will enable networking and capacity building for women to actively participate in SALW control policies and enable best-practice sharing among professionals, the media, and academia on effective mechanisms to prevent firearms-related incidents, including mass shootings.

Contribution to
roadmap goals
by 2030Contribution to
roadmap KPI
by 2030

Goal 2

KPI 2

Goal 4

KPI 3

KPI 9

KPI 13

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

Implemented by UNODC

Implementing period: November 2023 – December 2026

Budget: \$2,890,815

Project Justitia directly builds upon the previous project titled “Criminal Justice Response against Arms Trafficking in the Western Balkans,” implemented by UNODC from 2020 to 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 legislative approaches across the region to improve operational exchange, the project aims to create a more effective and unified approach to combating these pressing issues and support the implementation of the Roadmap for SALW Control in the Western Balkans.

Goal 1

KPI 1

Goal 2

KPI 2

Goal 3

KPI 3

KPI 4

KPI 8

KPI 9

KPI 13

**Projects approved for funding in the third call for proposals****Contribution to
roadmap goals
by 2030****Contribution to
roadmap KPI
by 2030****Integrated Institutional Approach and Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation to SALW Control (Phase I)**

Implemented by UNDP Kosovo

Implementing period: November 2023 – December 2026

Budget: \$1,600,990

This project builds upon previous work supporting the SALW Control Roadmap. Its main goals include further advancing institutional approaches and community engagement in Kosovo to address FAE-related crime and misuse, illegal possession, the legalization of firearms, and strengthening bilateral cooperation between Kosovo and Albania in SALW control. The project aims to further strengthen community- and intelligence-led policing and community engagement on SALW control. It also aims to further increase border control capacities to effectively prevent, detect, and counter arms trafficking and enhance the investigative and analytical capacities of Kosovo law enforcement to investigate FAE-related crime. The project also focuses on advancing the handling, security, and storage of firearms, ammunition, and explosives. It endeavors to enhance police exchange and cooperation on SALW matters across jurisdictions, particularly with Albania, and to improve police capacities to investigate arms trafficking via the internet and the dark web.

Goal 1

KPI 1

Goal 2

KPI 2

Goal 3

KPI 3

Goal 4

KPI 4

Goal 5

KPI 7

KPI 8

KPI 9

KPI 10

KPI 11

KPI 13

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

Implemented by UNDP Montenegro

Implementing period: November 2023 – December 2026

Budget: \$1,391,105

The project aims to improve the crime scene investigation and laboratory forensic capacities of the Police Directorate of Montenegro to provide forensic evidence and intelligence necessary for the investigation and judicial processing of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and precursor trafficking, as well as other FAE-related criminal offenses, including sexual and gender-based violence. Improved evidence and intelligence capabilities are expected to serve the national criminal justice system and international investigations and proceedings. The project endeavors to accomplish this by delivering specialized training, supporting international and regional peer exchanges, providing specialized equipment, validating new methods, and developing standard operating procedures. The focus will be on standardizing work processes in accordance with the policies and recommendations of the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI) and preparing for accreditation in line with ISO/IEC 17025 and 17020 international standards.

Goal 2

KPI 2

Goal 3

KPI 3

KPI 8



Projects approved for funding in the third call for proposals

**Contribution to
roadmap goals
by 2030**

**Contribution to
roadmap KPI
by 2030**

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

Implemented by UNDP Serbia

Implementing period: November 2023 – December 2026

Budget: \$1,862,540

The project aims to further improve the forensic capacities of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Serbia across the entire investigative cycle to support criminal investigations and proceedings involving firearm-, ammunition-, and explosive-related crimes, as well as the SALW-control system. Building on previous interventions, it will concentrate on further advancing the capacities of the National Forensic Center to analyze and investigate cases related to weapons, ammunition, and explosives. This includes crime scene investigations, ballistics examinations, and explosion examinations, as well as the chemical laboratory's capacity to analyze explosive traces and gunshot residue. Beyond the central level, the project will expand support to three regional forensic centers in Serbia, upgrading their operations and facilities in line with international requirements. In addition, the project will further advance the SALW-control and firearms handling capacities of the Mol's Police Administrative Affairs Directorate.

Goal 2

KPI 2

Goal 3

KPI 3

Goal 5

KPI 8

KPI 10

KPI 11

Law Enforcement Agencies' Development in Small Arms and Light Weapons Control (Project LEAD)

Implemented by UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina

Implementing period: December 2023 – December 2026

Budget: \$1,855,035

Project LEAD aims to enhance the capacities and engagement of relevant national institutions and civil society in Bosnia and Herzegovina, while strengthening inter-agency and cross-border collaboration to advance the implementation of the national SALW Control Strategy and the regional SALW Control Roadmap. The project builds upon previous interventions and focuses on inter-agency operational and strategic cooperation, alongside the provision of specialized resources, equipment, and knowledge to prevent and counter FAE-related crime. An inclusive approach to civil society organizations and outreach to communities and stakeholders will be ensured, with integrated gender and human rights perspectives. The expected result is the comprehensive strengthening of capacities for key stakeholders and more gender- and age-responsive engagement in the SALW control field.

Goal 2

KPI 2

Goal 3

KPI 3

Goal 4

KPI 4

Goal 5

KPI 8

KPI 9

KPI 10

KPI 11

KPI 12

KPI 13

**Projects approved for funding in the third call for proposals****Integrated Institutional Approach and Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation to SALW Control (Phase I)**

Implemented by UNDP Albania

Implementing period: December 2023 – October 2026

Budget: \$1,555,490

The project builds upon the progress and efforts of Albanian authorities to enhance SALW control at the national level and beyond. It aims to strengthen the operational and technical knowledge and resources of relevant institutions, reduce skill gaps in FAE detection, and prevent trafficking across borders. This entails capacity development for relevant national law enforcement agencies, the provision of specialized equipment and digital solutions, the improvement of inter-institutional collaboration, and the promotion of cross-border cooperation, with the final aim of adopting an integrated institutional approach to SALW control. Project activities include: i) an institutional strengthening component; ii) a training component, including joint sessions on various FAE-related topics; iii) a cross-border collaboration component with Kosovo; and iv) the provision of essential equipment to improve the quality and outcomes of national SALW control and border police operations along the green border.

Contribution to
roadmap goals
by 2030Contribution to
roadmap KPI
by 2030

Goal 2

KPI 3

Goal 3

KPI 4

KPI 7

KPI 8

KPI 10

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

Implemented by UNDP North Macedonia

Implementing period: December 2023 – December 2026

Budget: \$1,499,180

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, leading to better investigations, strengthened bilateral and international exchange of evidence, and a more efficient criminal justice system. The project will upgrade ballistic facilities and operations within the Ministry of Interior's (Moi) Forensics Department, while enhancing the analytical, technical, and investigative capacities of the ballistics and CSI units. In addition, the project will integrate a gender perspective dedicated to preventing gender-based violence, focusing in particular on gender sensitization for CSI staff and improving tracking of domestic violence cases involving firearms through a separate module in the Police Information Management System (IMS). Further upgrades to the IMS will be made to ensure more effective use. Other digital solutions will be introduced as well to facilitate better SALW control. Finally, the project will assist the authorities to prevent SALW misuse through awareness-raising activities.

Goal 2

KPI 2

Goal 3

KPI 3

Goal 4

KPI 8

KPI 9

KPI 10

KPI 12

KPI 13

**Project approved for funding through the direct solicitation modality****Contribution to
roadmap goals
by 2030****Contribution to
roadmap KPI
by 2030****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 4

KPI 4

Implementing period: October 2024 – December 2026

KPI 8

Budget: \$1,730,387

Project Hermes aims to increase the capacities of the Western Balkans jurisdictions to counter the trafficking of firearms, their parts, ammunition, and explosives through express courier and postal parcels. The project builds upon pilot initiatives and successful cooperation models. Under Hermes 2.1, UNODC will support all jurisdictions in the region in strengthening 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. In addition, the project will strengthen the capacities of express courier companies and public-private cooperation, ensuring a more comprehensive and integrated approach to detecting and preventing firearms trafficking.

Annex 3. Overall Progress Review: Matrix of Project Results and Activities

17. Reduce Risk - Increase Safety III

Implementing organization: UNDP Serbia

Implementing period: October 2023 – December 2026

Approved budget: US\$1,026,135

Outcome 1: Increased capabilities for integrating a meaningful gender and victim perspective into SALW/firearms control policies.

Output 1.1

Indicators

Baseline (2023)

Project target (2026)

Overall progress / Milestone

Gender and age data collection practices reviewed, and evidence-based policy making and practice enhanced to address risks of firearms enabled violence and other forms of firearm misuse.

The data collection practices of the Ministry of Interior (MoI) related to firearms misuse in the context of domestic violence reviewed to incorporate missing sex and age disaggregated data.

No
Existing MoI'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 rerecommendations of data sets to be added to existing records.]

Yes
Recommendations for improved data collection to include sex and age sensitive data endorsed by MoI.

Partially achieved /
(2024) A comprehensive framework was prepared for datasets to be collected and analyzed by the MoI 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 MoI 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.
(2025) The **MoI continued 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.

▶ Evidence-based recommendations to improve victim-centered systematic approaches for preventing and reducing risk of firearms misuse in gender-based violence and mass shootings developed.

No

There are no evidence-based recommendations to improve systematic approaches for preventing and reducing firearms misuse risks in gender-based violence and mass shootings.

Yes

Evidence based recommendations to improve systematic approaches for preventing and reducing risks of firearms misuse in gender-based violence and mass shootings developed and validated.

Partially Achieved /

(2024) 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 have successfully led 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.

(2025) **Evidence-based recommendations** to strengthen legal and institutional mechanisms for preventing and reducing the risk of firearms misuse in gender-based and domestic violence were completed and validated through a consultative process involving representatives of the police, judiciary, social welfare institutions, and civil society. The recommendations informed the work of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Serbia working group drafting amendments to the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence.

(2025) Drafted **comprehensive mapping of crisis response resources** for victims of mass-shooting incidents and professionals responding to such crises in Serbia, covering protocols, communication mechanisms, immediate and long-term support services, and lessons learned from previous incidents, including direct feedback from those affected by the May 2023 mass shootings.

(2025) **Completed rapid assessment of institutional mechanisms** for the protection of victims and witnesses of crime, including firearm-related offenses, identifying existing services, systemic gaps and opportunities for strengthening victim and witness support systems.

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

Activity 1.1.2: Development of evidence-based recommendations and resources to improve systematic approaches for preventing and reducing risk of firearms misuse in gender-based violence and mass shootings.

Output 1.2	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2026)	Overall progress / Milestone
Networking and capacity building of women strengthened to actively participate in SALW control policies.	<p>➤ Number of women police officers, including members of the Network of Women in the Police capacitated to participate in the development, advocacy and implementation of gender-responsive SALW control policies.</p>	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 trained on issues relating to the development and implementation of gender sensitive SALW control policies.	<p>233 women from the security sector, including members of the Network of Women in the Police, networked in 2024 and 2025 around the topic of prevention of (firearms-enabled) DV and gender sensitive SALW control policies.</p> <p>Work will continue in 2026.</p>
	<p>➤ 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.</p>	No regular interaction or knowledge sharing among the regional networks of women police.	<p>a) Up to 100 women police officials take part in the regional experience-exchange and networking meetings.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Partially achieved. /</p> <p>a) Achieved. 70 women, members of policewomen's associations from Serbia and BiH, networked and exchanged experience through three bilateral meetings.</p> <p>b) Not yet initiated.</p>

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.

Activity 1.2.2: Continued support to associations of women police officials through regional experience exchange and networking around the topic of SALW misuse prevention (joint activity of UNDP CO Serbia and UNDP CO BiH).

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 (2026)

Overall progress / Milestone

Conditions ensured for improved detection of potential firearms misuse for domestic violence and suicides and comprehensive prevention support.

▶ Number 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.

▶ Recommendations for the new Rulebook on determining natural persons' ability to hold and carry weapons within the healthcare system developed and validated by relevant entity.

In the previous phase of project, numerous flaws within the existing Rulebook were identified.

Yes
Recommendations for the new Rulebook on determining natural persons' ability to hold and carry weapons within the healthcare system developed and validated.

Not yet initiated

▶ Number of standardized risk assessment tools for healthcare professionals developed and piloted and a model for inter-institutional coordination finalized and disseminated.

No standardized risk assessment tool exists for healthcare professionals when conducting firearm security checks

One standardized risk assessment tool for healthcare professionals, and a model for inter-institutional coordination developed and piloted, enhancing systematic firearm risk management and communication between healthcare and security sectors.

Partially achieved. / One standardized risk assessment pilot tool developed (format, scoring method, intended users, and usage cases) for healthcare professionals when conducting medical assessments for firearm license applicants. A consultative expert group consisting of institutional and NGO representatives was formed to ensure alignment with official procedures and ownership over tool testing and application in the upcoming period.

<p>▶ Number of trained police officers on (firearms-misuse) risk assessment in domestic violence cases delivered.</p>	<p>No training for police on (firearms-misuse) risk assessment in gender-based violence cases.</p>	<p>Up to 300 professionals trained or engaged in consultative meetings/ trainings/ learning sessions on risk assessment in domestic violence cases.</p>	<p>Achieved. / 261 police officers (67 women and 194 men) from over 40 municipalities trained on risk assessment and coordinated responses to domestic violence cases involving firearms misuse</p>
<p>▶ Number of CSOs engaged for community-based actions.</p>	<p>No community engagement, exchange of knowledge, dialogue and learning on the implementation of gender-sensitive security vetting and reporting of firearms license holders to prevent misuse of firearms in domestic violence context exists.</p>	<p>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>Achieved. / 4 CSOs were supported by the project in contributing to increased community safety and the protection of women from firearms-enabled violence. The CSOs provided local helpline support to over 140 women, trained 390 women to recognize risks of firearm misuse and take protective actions, networked 143 institutional representatives (116 women and 27 men) to strengthen coordinated response, and raised community awareness on the dangers of firearms-misuse for violence against women by disseminating over 2100 printed materials.</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.

Activity 2.1.2: Preparation of recommendations for the new Rulebook on determining natural persons' ability to hold and carry weapons within the healthcare system.

Activity 2.1.3: Organize community engagement, exchange of knowledge, dialogue and learning to prevent misuse of firearms in domestic violence context.

Output 2.2	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2026)	Overall progress / Milestone
<p>Information on the harmful effects of underlying practices and attitudes leading to firearms misuse and supportive mechanisms preventing suicides enhanced.</p>	<p>➤ Mol media communication capacities and campaigns to prevent firearms misuse in the community and domestic violence context in place.</p>	<p>Low level of awareness related to firearms misuse for domestic violence and gender-based violence across most Mol sectors, departments, and bodies.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Achieved. / 50 media reports containing information about the consequences of domestic violence (including through firearms misuse) were published in traditional and electronic media</p>
	<p>➤ Professionals providing psychological support within the Mol capacitated and police officers informed on supportive mechanisms to prevent negative consequences of professional trauma.</p>	<p>Low level of information and utilization of services to prevent negative consequences of professional trauma of professionals involved in violent events with firearms.</p>	<p>a) At least 25 professionals from Mol's Department of Psychological Activities trained to prevent negative consequences of professional trauma. b) Yes - informative activities conducted by the Department among different police units.</p>	<p>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. An additional 31 Mol police psychologists (30 women and 1 man) gained knowledge on regional good practices regarding psychosocial support systems for police officers and strengthened cooperation with local NGO specializing in supporting persons in psychological crisis. 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.</p>

▶ 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.

No adequate 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) A one-day training curriculum on the prevention of firearm misuse for suicide for the high-risk population was developed and used to deliver targeted training to 11 army veterans, improving their ability to recognize (firearms-enabled) suicide risks, respond to psychological crisis situations, and promote safe behaviors among peers, contributing to community-level prevention efforts.

The ToT is developed, and the selection of trainers is in progress.

b) Not yet initiated.

Activity 2.2.1: Support Mol communication activities to prevent firearm misuse in the community and domestic violence context.

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.

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

Output 2.3	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2026)	Overall progress / Milestone
<p>Best practice sharing enabled with professionals, media, and academia on effective mechanisms for preventing future firearms related incidents.</p>	<p>▶ International best practices on post-tragedy/mass shooting community reintegration are mapped and shared with professionals, media, and academia.</p>	<p>Professionals, media, and academia have little knowledge on preventing of firearms-related mass shooting incidents.</p>	<p>a) Yes / Effective practices that have been implemented internationally to improve prevention and response to firearm misuse incidents, including mass shootings mapped and applied.</p> <p>b) At least 30 mental health professionals participate in training/ knowledge exchange sessions, on applying best practices in providing mental health support to persons directly or indirectly affected by consequences of mass shooting.</p>	<p>Partial progress.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

▶ 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.

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 developed. 11 trained journalists are implementing media reporting analysis of approx. 8000 articles, based on the developed methodology and an overview of dominant narratives on the topic of the May 2023 mass murders. To complement this media monitoring, an analysis of images used in media reports on the mass shooting events was drafted. The analysis was initiated with the approval of 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.

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.

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

Implementing organization: UNODCa

Implementing period: November 2023 – December 2026

Approved budget: US\$ 2,890,815

Outcome 1: Enhanced capabilities of criminal justice institutions to counter organized crime and illicit firearms trafficking.

Output 1.1

Indicators

Baseline (2023)

Project target (2026)

Overall progress / Milestone

Criminal justice institutions have improved abilities and resources to draft effective legislation, conduct thorough investigations, and successfully prosecute cases involving illicit firearms and organized crime.

➤ Number of jurisdictions with criminal code provisions amended in line with the UN FP with project's support.

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]

At least **4** jurisdictions have amended criminal codes with provisions harmonized with UN FP.

2 [+1] / Two jurisdictions have adopted criminal codes with provisions harmonized with the UN FP following UNODC support: Montenegro and North Macedonia. [NB: Kosovo already had criminal code provisions harmonized with the UN FP].

In 2024 and 2025, 2 more jurisdictions, BiH and Serbia, finalized amendments to their criminal codes with UNODC support, which remain pending further processing and adoption.

Likewise, 1 jurisdiction, Albania, developed draft criminal code provisions with UNODC support, pending adoption.

➤ 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.**0**

6 training courses with accompanying tailored material developed on the basis of the general Guidelines - one per jurisdiction.

<p>▶ Number of knowledge management products on the application of special investigative measures to counter firearms trafficking developed.</p>	<p>1 draft knowledge management product developed (Serbia). Need for knowledge management products identified across the remaining jurisdictions.</p>	<p>6 knowledge management products (5 more) on the application of special investigative measures to counter firearms trafficking developed.</p>	<p>6 / 6 Guidelines were developed and made accessible in local languages – 5 through this project and 1 through the previous phase - on the use of special investigative techniques in the investigation and prosecution of criminal offenses related to firearms, joint investigations, and International Cooperation.</p>
<p>▶ Percentage of participating practitioners that report increased knowledge or skills on investigation, prosecution and adjudication of firearms offences following the trainings provided by the project.</p>	<p>N/A No training courses were conducted with materials and curricula developed under Project Justitia.</p>	<p>At least 80% of participants report increased knowledge or skills.</p>	<p>97% of 60 criminal justice practitioners from North Macedonia and Montenegro reported increased knowledge in 2025. Activities are ongoing.</p>

Activity 1.1.1: Organization of a project inception meeting.

Activity 1.1.2: Organization of meetings on the harmonization of criminal legislation with the UN Firearms Protocol in close cooperation with ministries of justice across the Western Balkans jurisdictions, and two local legislative workshops in BiH.

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

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.

Activity 1.1.5: Implementation of tailored capacity building and educational initiatives on firearms trafficking and firearms-related crime in the Western Balkans

Output 1.2	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2026)	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 training materials for judiciary on 'firearms in the courtroom' developed.</p>	<p>0 training materials..</p>	<p>1 training material developed.</p>	<p>6 / 6 courses "Firearms in the Courtroom" with tailored training material (6) were designed and implemented all six Western Balkans jurisdictions [4 in 2024 (Pristina, Belgrade, Skopje, and Podgorica) and 2 in 2025 (Sarajevo and Tirana)].</p> <p>[Training manual for the judiciary "Firearms, their parts, components and ammunition" was published in Serbian, Macedonian and Albanian languages]</p>
	<p>▶ Number of judges with enhanced skills and knowledge on adjudicating firearm-related cases.</p>	<p>0 judges trained..</p>	<p>120 trained judges across all WB jurisdictions..</p>	<p>134 judges with enhanced skills and knowledge on adjudicating firearm-related cases (54 women, 80 men) since the beginning of the project</p> <p>[29 judges (9w, 20m) were trained in 2024 in two jurisdictions (Pristina and Belgrade), and 105 (45w, 60m) trained in 2025 in another three jurisdictions (BiH, Montenegro, and North Macedonia)]</p>
	<p>▶ Number of second editions of Firearms Case Law collections developed and validated in WB jurisdictions.</p>	<p>N/A [First editions of Firearms Case Law collection developed and disseminated in 2021-2022.]</p>	<p>6 second editions of Firearms Case Law collections developed and validated.</p>	<p>6 / 6 second editions of Firearms case law collections were developed, one per jurisdiction, in Belgrade, Pristina, Skopje, Sarajevo, and Tirana. These were made accessible in local languages.</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>Achieved / 2 regional meetings were organized, and a methodology was developed for the analysis of firearms-related judgments, contributing towards the understanding among the WB judiciary on sentencing practices; information was shared on sentencing practices and evidentiary requirements and procedures in firearms-related cases.</p>



▶ No. of judges with enhanced knowledge of the relationship between human rights and firearms issues.

0
Knowledge of human rights not currently sufficiently connected to firearms issues.

24 judges with enhanced knowledge.

25 judges from all jurisdictions have enhanced knowledge of the relationship between human rights and firearms issues (through a study visit to the ECtHR).
1 regional collection of cases on the human rights of the accused was developed and disseminated as a resource on the topic.

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

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

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

Activity 1.2.4: Organization of a study visit for the Western Balkans judiciary focusing on the integration of human rights within the firearms context.

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

Implementing organization: UNDP Kosovo

Implementing period: November 2023 – December 2026

Approved budget: US\$ 1,600,990

Outcome 1: Increase the security and safety standards of Albanian State Police firearms, ammunition, and explosives (FAAE) storage locations

Output 1.1

Indicators

Baseline (2023)

Project target (2026)

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 KP's Training Department.

1 / One comprehensive training curriculum on SALW control, firearm misuse prevention, and DV prevention for community policing officers and police cadets was approved by KP Training Department.

➤ # 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 (2w, 10m) were trained through a five-day ToT 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).

536 community police and local officials (503m, 33w) were trained, including **433** (419 men and 14 women) community policing officers, **45** (37 men and 8 women) LPSC members, and **58** (47 men and 11 women) MCSC members (through 14 tailored training sessions across all Regional Police Directorates).

➤ E-Learning Platform and modules on SALW Control in place for the Kosovo Police. (Y/N)

No. E-Learning Platform on SALW Control exists in the Kosovo Police.

Yes. E-Learning Platform developed and in place.

Yes / The General Director of Police approved the establishment of the e-Learning platform, in 2024, based on which, in 2025, the Kosovo Police e-learning platform was fully developed and became operational within the police intranet. More than 10,000 police officers have access to structured online modules and can advance their knowledge through self-paced courses.

<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>2 / The “Celebrate with Your Heart, Not Your Gun” media campaign was implemented in 2024 and 2025 through a diverse range of activities, reaching more than 700,000 individuals. 4 outreach events took place in 2024, and at least 6 events were conducted by Mol in 2025. In 2025: The MoIA was supported with new waves of “Celebrate with Youth Heart, Not Your Gun!” public awareness activities, tailored messaging, and new campaign materials. The Mol actively used its social media channels to raise awareness and call for action. The focus remained on risks of celebratory shootings and unsafe use of fireworks. According to the MoIA data, compared to the previous year, reported incidents of firearm use during celebrations decreased by approximately 24.8 percent in 2025, while the overall number of cases opened by the Kosovo Police increased by 12.08 percent, reflecting higher public awareness and a more responsive institutional approach.</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.

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

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.

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

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 firearms-related communication.

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

Output 1.2	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2026)	Overall progress / Milestone
<p>Border control capacities further increased for effectively preventing, detecting, and countering illicit arms trafficking.</p>	<p>> # of border police officers trained on SALW control topics, including 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.</p>	<p>35 border police offices trained in the past through the project CIAT.</p> <p>No joint training between border and investigation department on effectively investigating firearms trafficking organized.</p>	<p>At least 300 more border police officers trained regarding the indicated SALW control topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 80 trained on first- and second-line check through three trainings. - 50 trained on firearms trafficking routes and trafficking 'modus operandi' through two trainings. - 160 trained on identifying the converted weapons as well as recognizing weapons parts and legal framework on SALW Control through eight training sessions. - 30 border police officers trained jointly with 30 investigators on effectively investigating firearms trafficking through three joint training sessions. 	<p>[trainings combined]</p> <p>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.</p>
	<p>> Level of technological capacities of border police to effectively detect, prevent, and confiscate illegal firearms, ammunition, and explosives.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>High / The technological capacities of the Kosovo Police to detect and counter illicit arms trafficking were enhanced in 2024 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. In 2025, the KP/Border department was equipped with 25 lightweight handheld metal detectors and 5 units of day binoculars.</p>

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

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

Output 1.3	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2026)	Overall progress / Milestone
Investigation and analytical capacities of Kosovo law enforcement enhanced for effectively investigating FAE-related crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of investigators trained regarding the crime scene investigation of terrorist attacks when firearms are used, including explosives and other relevant devices. 	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.	12 bomb technicians and investigators (10m, 2w) were trained in 2025 through a three-day training course on identifying homemade explosives, strengthening their ability to detect, assess, and respond effectively to risks involving improvised explosive materials.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FFP operates with upgraded iBase and Analyst Notebook. (Y/N) 	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.	Yes. The FFP received the upgrade of iBase and Analyst's Notebook, thus improving data management and analysis and obtaining a more structured intelligence in investigations related to firearms
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KFA equipped with new tools and knowledge to identify and investigate firearms-related crime. (Y/N) 	No tool mark devices in place. No WMD 560 Latent Fingerprint Development System with Water Chiller.	<p>Yes. A tool mark device has been provided to the KFA, and the identification of converted weapons is successfully enabled.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Partial progress.</p> <p>In 2025, the KFA enhanced its technical capacities with the introduction of a specialized Tool Scan system for the digital analysis and comparison of toolmarks and firearm related evidence. 10 forensic experts (7m, 3w) were trained on the effective use of new technology</p>

▶ No of Kosovo Forensic Agency experts with enhanced knowledge and skills on forensic methods through bilateral or international peer-exchange offered by the project.

KFA experts regularly participate in ENFSI meetings.

12 KFA experts enhance knowledge and skills on forensic methods through the project:

4 KFA experts enhance knowledge on ballistic examinations through participation in ENFSI meeting/s.

8 KFA experts enhance knowledge on ballistic methods through bilateral exchange with an accredited laboratory.

7 KFA experts (2w, 5m) enhanced their knowledge and skills based on bilateral or international exchange.

Four KFA ballistic experts (2w,2m) took part in the two-day study visit in January 2024 to the Forensic Centre “Ivan Vučetić” in Zagreb, Croatia, and advanced knowledge on ballistic analysis methodologies and practices, facilitated through hands-on workshops and interactive sessions.

Two KFA experts (2 men) were supported to take part in the ENFSI workshop in Vienna, Austria, in September 2024 and learn from peers on advanced forensic methods.

One KFA expert (1 men) was supported to take part in the ENFSI workshop in October 2025 in the Hague, Netherlands, and learned about scientific advancements in firearms identification, technical examinations, and gunshot residues.

Activity 1.3.1: Training for investigators of the crime scene of terrorist attacks when firearms, explosives, and other relevant devices are used.

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

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

Output 1.4	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2026)	Overall progress / Milestone
<p>FAE handling, security, and storage, as well as related detection equipment maintenance, are further advanced.</p>	<p>➤ # of new weapons storage rooms with metal cabinets in police stations established.</p>	<p>4 weapons storage rooms in four police stations with metal cabinets in compliance with international standards in four police stations.</p>	<p>6 new weapons storage rooms with metal cabinets established, in the police stations: Ferizaj/Uroševac, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Pejë/Peć, Vushtrri/Vučitrn, Drenas/Gllogovac, Lipjan/Lipljan.</p>	<p>7 / Seven police stations were equipped with weapon storage metal cabinets (72), in Prishtinë/Priština, Ferizaj/Uroševac, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Pejë/Peć, Vushtrri/Vučitrn, Drenas/Gllogovac, and Lipjan/Lipljan.</p>
	<p>➤ 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)</p>	<p>Poor existing explosives database with restricted connections to other databases and limited data produced regarding explosives control.</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Initiated.</p> <p>UNDP worked closely with the MoIA to finalize technical specifications for the Explosives Management Control System and launched the procurement process in Q4 2025 for the system development. The system will be incorporated within the existing MoIA Weapons Registration System (SERA) as a separate module.</p>
	<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, hygrometers, temperature meters, and PPE sets.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>MoIA explosive inspectors received essential PPE sets, including helmets, protective clothing, gloves, safety boots and other items, ensuring their safe operations in high-risk environments.</p>



➤ Maintenance workshop established and functionalized within the Kosovo Police. (Y/N)

No maintenance workshop exists.

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.

Initiated.

Four complete sets of specialized tools were provided to the KP for establishing a dedicated maintenance workshop for SALW related detection equipment. This will enable in-house service and timely repairs and ensure that detection systems remain reliable and ready for deployment.

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

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

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

Output 1.5	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2026)	Overall progress / Milestone
Police exchange and cooperation on SALW matters between Albania and Kosovo enhanced.	<p>▶ # 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.</p>	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 through four-day training sessions in Pristina and Tirana, enhancing their knowledge and skills and exchanging peer-to-peer experience 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.
	<p>▶ # of Joint police operations of Albanian and Kosovo border police at the Border Crossing Points (BCPs) and Green Border Lines (GBLs) in countering IAT.</p>	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. Planned to take place in 2026.

Activity 1.5.1: Joint training on community policing and the intelligence led policing approach towards SALW Control.

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

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

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

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

Output 1.6	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2026)	Overall progress / Milestone
Legalization and voluntary surrender of small arms and light weapons are enhanced.	<p>➤ Draft (amended) law on legalization and voluntary surrender of SALW including administrative instructions and SOP on legalization of weapons prepared.</p>	Outdated and not harmonized law on legalization and voluntary surrender.	<p>Draft Law on legalization and voluntary surrender prepared and passed the public consultation reflecting project's input.</p> <p>Draft administrative instructions and SOP on legalization of weapons prepared.</p>	Initiated / The project supported the MoIA with expert guidance during a five-day workshop to revise the Law on Weapons and the Law on Civil Use of Explosives which are linked to revising and advancing towards the Law on Legalization and Voluntary Surrender of illicit firearms.
	<p>➤ # of police officers trained as trainers/instructors on newly approved procedures for legalization of weapons.</p>	0	12 police instructors trained as trainers/instructors on new procedures for legalization of weapons, covering all Regional Police Directorates.	Not yet initiated.
	<p>➤ # of awareness raising campaigns or outreach activities on legalization of weapons.</p>	No awareness raising campaign or outreach activities on weapons legalization.	One comprehensive awareness raising campaign and at least 3 outreach events on weapons legalization.	Not yet initiated.

Activity 1.6.1: Support for the development of a legislative and procedural framework on legalization and voluntary surrender of SALW.

Activity 1.6.2: Training of police officers on new regulatory and procedural framework regarding the legalization of weapons.

Activity 1.6.3: Organizing awareness raising campaign for legalization of weapons.



Output 1.7	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2026)	Overall progress / Milestone
Police capacities to investigate and counter arms trafficking via darknet and internet are improved.	> # of specialized tools provided to cybercrime unit..	Lack of specific cybercrime tools.	2 specific tools provided in support of cybercrime investigations, in line with assessed needs.	Not yet initiated.
	> # of police investigators with enhanced capacities to conduct online investigations on the Darknet/dark web/internet. .	Lack of specialized training on Darknet investigations, reverse engineering or OSINT gathering.	6 police investigators with enhanced cybercrime investigation capacities through three specialized trainings.	12 cyber investigators (11 men, 1 woman) strengthened capacities and skills in tackling cybercrime at a five-day training organized in partnership with the Kosovo Police and the Western Balkan Cyber Capacity Centre (WB3C) in Podgorica. The training focused on darknet cases, cryptocurrency, and blockchain analysis, the hands-on sessions enhanced the investigators' ability to detect, investigate, and respond to complex digital crimes.

Activity 1.7.1: Strengthening technical capabilities for illicit arms trafficking investigations in darknet/internet.

Activity 1.7.2: Strengthening cybercrime investigations capacities to conduct online investigations on the Darknet/dark web/internet.

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

Implementing organization: UNDP North Montenegro

Implementing period: November 2023 – December 2026

Approved budget: US\$ 1,391,105

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 (2026)	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.	<p>➤ Number of post-blast crime scenes attended with an explosive detector over a 24-month period.</p>	Post-blast crime scenes are attended without an explosive detector.	10 post-blast CSIs	10 / Four post-blast CSI activities were conducted in 2024, using the explosives detector provided by the project. Six more post-blast CSI activities were conducted in 2025.
	<p>➤ Number of fingerprints and micro-traces detected/captured/collected by utilizing the purchased handheld UV/VIS/IR device and the specialized CSI kits over a 24-month period.</p>	Such types of evidence are currently not possible to be detected	80 trace evidence	304 / The Forensic Center was equipped with the specialized device [Foster Freeman Crime Lite Auto Kit, Crime Lite Auto Coax Lighting Accessory, and a tripod] and the SOP and relevant training for the use of the device were completed by June 2025. During the six-month operational use of the device, 304 traces/fingerprints have been recovered.
	<p>➤ Number of new/revised SOPs on CSI approved and in use.</p>	The SOPs to be drafted are not in place.	14 SOPs on CSI	<p>5 / Five SOPs were developed in 2025:</p> <p>i) SOP/WI on CSI documentation by utilizing the 3D laser scanning technique. ii) SOP/WI on CSI documentation by utilizing aerial photography. iii) SOP/WI on forensic evidence recovery by utilizing the Crime Lite Auto device. iv) SOP/WI on searching, locating, collecting, and further handling of firearms and other ballistic evidence. v) SOP/WI on protecting (packing) evidentiary items at the scene, marking them following the unique identity principle, and establishing and maintaining the custody chain.</p> <p>Further SOPs will be developed in 2026.</p>

▶ Number of new guidebooks developed and in use by CSI units.	The guidebooks are not in place.	2 guidebooks, for composing CSI documentation of visual products from digital records by 3D laser scanning; and for aerial photography methods.	To be completed in 2026.
▶ Number of CSI officers trained at an advanced level for 3D scanning and aerial photography crime scene documenting, and for utilizing the handheld UV/VIS/IR device by the end of project.	No CSI officers with such training.	24 trained forensic/CSI officers, 14 at the central level and 10 at the regional centers.	20 forensic experts were trained in 2025 (9w, 11m) / 6 CSI officers (2w,4m) were trained in using drone in CSI based on the developed SOP (5-day training); 5 CSI officers (1w,4m) were trained in 3D scanner-based investigation in line with the developed SOP (5-day training); 12 CSI officers and forensic experts (7w, 5m) were trained in using the Crime Lite Auto device (2-day training) for latent fingerprints and other traces. Additional training courses to take place in 2026.
▶ Number of CSI officers trained at an advanced level on new CSI techniques based on provided specialized CSI kits and practical aspects of ISO/IEC 17020 in CSI, evidence custody chain, packaging, and tagging, case-management solutions, and application of the relevant SOP(s).	No CSI officers with such training.	36 trained CSI officers, 10 at the central level and 26 at the regional centers	14 / 14 CSI officers (all men, 2 from the central level and 12 from the regions) were trained on applying ISO/IEC 17020 to crime scene investigation in 2025.

▶ FC representatives with enhanced knowledge on CSI through the participation in ENFSI SOC Working Group (WG) meetings, regional peer exchange (RPE), and international study visits (SV) in 2024, 2025 and 2026.

FC representatives/CSI officers do not currently participate in such meetings.

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.]

2024:

A total of 5 FC professionals (2 women, 3 men) were supported to take part in relevant ENFSI events in 2024, as follows:

2 FC experts (1w, 1m) took part in an ENFSI event on CSI in Wiesbaden, Germany.

1 FC expert (1w) took part in an online ENFSI workshop on CSI in Dundee, UK.

2 FC experts (2m) took part in an ENFSI SOC WG in Budapest, Hungary.

In addition, a five-member FC delegation (cross-units, 2m, 3w)) took part in a study visit to Bratislava/Slovakia, which covered CSI, among other related fields.

2025:

- 2 FC experts (men) attended the ENFSI Conference in The Hague (Sept 2025) on the Scene of Crime, gaining insights into crime scene investigation and bloodstain analysis practices across Europe.

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

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

Activity 1.1.3: Support the mobility of the CSI units and upgrade of facilities for CSI units across the jurisdiction.

Output 1.2	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2026)	Overall progress / Milestone
Advanced methodologies for CSI processing of SGBV criminal cases as related to firearms.	▶ No. of delivered multisector panels by 2026.	N/A. No such methodology is in place.	2 multisector panels, with positive evaluations by all stakeholders (4+).	- / ToRs for consultants were published. Panels will take place in 2026.
	▶ Number of CSI officers trained in documenting injuries on/to victims during medical examinations by 2025.	No CSI officers with such training.	8 trained CSI officers.	7 / 7 police officers (all women) were trained on injury documentation during medical examinations, in 2025.
	▶ The protocol developed on interviewing techniques for CSI officers.	No such protocol is in place.	1 protocol on interviewing techniques, developed and accepted by Police Directorate.	1 / The protocol (SOP) was finalized in 2025, providing guidance to CSI officers in interviewing techniques and avoiding secondary victimization.
	▶ Number of CSI officers trained in protocol implementation in 2024.	No CSI officers with such training.	20 trained CSI officers.	- / To take place in 2026. The consultant that developed the protocol will conduct the training.

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

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

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

Outcome 2: Improved ballistic capacities of the Forensic Center

Output 2.1

Indicators

Baseline (2023)

Project target (2026)

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.

[In addition, the lab was equipped with a ballistic chronograph and a multifunctional device for the safe discharging of firearms; two FC professionals (men) were trained on its use]

➤ No. of proficiency tests successfully completed by FC Ballistic Lab in 2025.

No PT done.

1 successfully completed proficiency test.

1 / The PT was purchased and successfully completed in 2025.

➤ Number of forensic experts trained as internal auditors in 2025.

No ballistic experts with such training.)

3 trained forensic experts.

8 / 8 forensic experts (5w, 3m) were trained as internal auditors. Internal auditing, as a key tool for maintaining the Quality Management System (QMS) and thus the accreditation, is intended to verify that the QMS and work processes operate as planned, that the professional knowledge available is adequate, and that safety measures are in place.

<p>▶ 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, 2025 and 2026</p>	<p>FC representatives do not participate currently in such activities.</p>	<p>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.]</p>	<p><u>2024:</u> 2 FC reps (men) took part in the ENFSI event on the subject matter in Vienna, Austria. An FC delegation (cross-units, 3w, 2m) took part in the study visit to Bratislava/Slovakia, which covered ballistic investigations, among other related topics (linked to Act 1.1.1.). <u>2025:</u> One FC ballistic professional (man) participated in the ENFSI Firearms & GSR EWG Annual Meeting (Oct 2025) gaining knowledge on crime scene reconstruction and advanced ballistic analysis, including on 3D-printed models.</p>
<p>▶ Number of new SOPs on ballistic methods (OCF, ABIS, and illegal firearms systems)</p>	<p>The SOPs to be drafted are not in place. now</p>	<p>3 new SOPs</p>	<p>As a result of reviewing and upgrading the Ballistic OCF procedural and technical documentation, 2 SOPs and 1 Bilingual glossary were finalized, to improve traceability, system compatibility, and international cooperation: i) SOP (Work Instruction) for operating the OCF; ii) SOP on Evofinder; iii) Bilingual ballistic glossary.</p>

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

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

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

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 (2026)

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.

Achieved / The equipment was procured and delivered to the AE lab in 2025, including an optical fiber tester, an optical extension cable, and a fixing strip. In addition, two storage containers and one more small storage/transport container for explosives samples were delivered to the Forensic Center, which enabled the safe storage of explosives.

- 11 kg of explosives were stored in 2025.

- More than 20 samples were transported in 2025.

➤ 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.

1 / The new method was developed and validated, including the relevant SOP: the examination of fuse correctness with respect to burning velocity and spark transfer.

▶ 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, 2025 and 2026.

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.]

2024:

Two FC reps (2m) took part in the ENFSI event in Vienna, Austria on the subject matter (linked to Act 2.1.1).

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 (linked to Act 1.1.1).

2025:

One FC professional (man) participated in the ENFSI Conference on fire and explosion investigations held in Brussels (Sept 2025).

A cross-sectoral team of three experts (1w,2m), including one explosives expert, one chemical, and one GSR expert, took part in the study visit to the National Forensic Laboratory in Ljubljana (June 2025). Slovenia, and advanced knowledge and learned from good practice with peers.

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

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

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

Output 4.1	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2026)	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.	<p>➤ Chemical lab equipment for implementing the new method for the chemical examination of explosives.</p>	No such equipment in place.	Yes. Equipment put into operation.	Yes / The equipment was procured and delivered to the FC in 2024, including: 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. A GCMS user training was organized for 6 professionals from the Chemical lab (5 women and one man).
	<p>➤ Number of SOPs for processing explosives and traces and for anti-contamination measures developed.</p>	The SOPs are not in place now	4 SOPs	- / No candidate applied for the consultancy tender. FC experts will develop the SOPs independently, leveraging knowledge gained from project activities and participation at the ENFSI workshops.
	<p>➤ Number of new methods for chemical examination of explosives (traces) developed and validated.</p>	No such method in place	1 new method implemented.	1 / The new method was developed and validated: Qualitative testing of explosives containing TNT using the GCMS technique.

<p>▶ 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, 2025 and 2026.</p>	<p>Forensic experts do not participate currently in such activities.</p>	<p>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.]</p>	<p><u>2024:</u> Two FC reps (1w,1m) took part in the ENFSI Expert WG on explosives investigations in Zurich, Switzerland. The FC Head (w) 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.</p> <p><u>2025:</u> One FC expert (woman) participated at the FINEX Workshop in Krakow, Poland (Sept 2025), exchanging experiences with peers and learning from best practices in instrumental methods and anti-contamination measures. Cross-sectoral team of three experts (1w,2m), including one explosives expert, one chemical and one GSR expert, took part in the study visit to National Forensic Laboratory in Ljubljana (June 2025). Slovenia, and advanced knowledge and learned from good practice with peers.</p>
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Activity 4.1.1: Development of SOPs, validation of methods, and additional support provided for accreditation.

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



Output 4.2	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2026)	Overall progress / Milestone
Improved Gunshot residue (GSR) analysis capacities	<p>➤ GSR lab operating with modern equipment, in line with needs assessment</p>	No. Current equipment is old and based on somewhat outdated technology.	Yes. GSR equipment provided in line with the needs assessment and put into operation.	Yes / A Scanning Electronic Microscope (SEM) was procured and installed in 2025 and the GSR expert was trained in its use.
	<p>➤ Number of SOPs revised based on the new equipment revised.</p>	Current SOPs based on current equipment.	2 SOPs	Partial progress / A consultant was engaged, and SOP development is ongoing. A draft SOP - Operational Instructions for Work on the SEM Thermo Fisher Model AXIA Chem and EDS Oxford Instruments Ultim Max 65 mm ² – was prepared and will be finalized in 2026.
	<p>➤ Number of new methods for advanced GSR analysis developed, validated, and implemented.</p>	Method in place based on current (outdated) equipment.	1 new method implemented (based on new equipment).	Partial progress / The consultant engaged and the work on the new method ongoing: Testing GSR (Gunshot Residue) Particles Using SEM/EDS.

Activity 4.2.1: Development of SOPs and method validation.

Activity 4.1.2: Provision of equipment for improved GSR analysis.

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 – December 2026

Approved budget: US\$ 1,862,540

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 (2026)	Overall progress / Milestone
Overall CSI and evidence-management capacities of the Serbian Mol/NFC increased.	<p>➤ CSI unit better equipped, and experts trained accordingly.</p>	<p>Moderate</p> <p>[SOPs developed and experts trained for basic CSI procedures.]</p>	<p>High</p> <p>[New methods and specialized software in place, and expert training accomplished.]</p>	<p>Partial progress /</p> <p>Specialized software and equipment were delivered in 2024 for CSI (two FARO licenses for 3D scanning, a Discovery Imaging System, and two CNA Fuming Chambers). 18 CSI experts were trained in using advanced 3D technology. The development of relevant SOPs and new methods will follow.</p>
	<p>➤ # of NFC premises refurbished and modernized for preliminary processing and storing of forensic evidence.</p>	<p>0</p> <p>Needs assessment. [general lack of adequate premises]</p>	<p>3</p> <p>[NFC premises in Niš, Užice and Belgrade DP]</p>	<p>3 / Significant progress.</p> <p>Adaptation and refurbishment works at the evidence reception rooms at the NFC premises in Niš, Užice, and Belgrade DP were completed. The three facilities were equipped with specialized CSI packaging materials, such as DNA-free and GSR-free cartridge case containers, plastic containers, and firearm evidence boxes, contributing to improved evidence handling, preservation, and storage practices in line with applicable forensic standards.</p> <p>Further work will take place in 2026, including the NFC premises in Novi Sad.</p>



<p>▶ # of CSI officers trained on the implementation of the ILAC G19 Guidelines for crime scene investigation.</p>	<p>0 [Previously, CSI officers passed through ISO standardization trainings.]</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>31 (29m, 2w) / Achieved ILAC G19 Guidelines training was provided to CSI staff The ILAC G19 curriculum was developed, and related training was delivered through a three-day training workshop to 37 forensic staff (Oct 2025). The training strengthened the competencies of CSI and forensic personnel in line with international accreditation standards, The training had in addition 6 participants (4m, 2w) from from Slovenia and BiH (Sarajevo and Banja Luka), enabling professional exchange and strengthening regional cooperation.</p>
<p>▶ Laboratory Information Management System in place and in use at both central and regional forensic centers.</p>	<p>LIMS initially established at the central level, further upgrades necessary. Not established at the regional centers</p>	<p>Yes - LIMS operational at both central and regional levels.</p>	<p>Initiated / Preparatory activities were initiated for the upgrade and expansion of the LIMS and Evidence Recovery Database (ERD). Technical and procedural requirements were reviewed.</p>

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

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

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

Activity 1.1.4: Upgrading and expanding the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) and Evidence Recovery Database (ERD)



Output 1.2	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2026)	Overall progress / Milestone
Overall NFC capacities for ballistic examinations increased.	<p>➤ # of ballistic methods at the Central and regional ballistic labs prepared for accreditation by the end of the project.</p>	<p>1 [First method was accredited in October 2023 for the central ballistic lab.]</p>	<p>4 [Two more methods prepared for accreditation by 2025; additional two methods supported by 2026.]</p>	<p>Partial progress. / Two relevant methods were identified and preparations for accreditation were ongoing in 2025: i) Ballistic comparative analysis method for fired projectiles, and ii) Identification of firearms based on projectiles. Ballistic experts were trained in accreditation requirements. The NFC will apply for the extension of the scope of accreditation in early 2026, and the verification process by the Accreditation Body of Serbia (ATS) is expected in May 2026.</p> <p>UNDP ensured mentoring support throughout 2025 with a focus on preparing documentation required for the accreditation process. Specialized equipment was provided as well, including the upgrade of two comparative microscopes for more precise ballistic analysis.</p> <p>Procurement of equipment for the central ballistic laboratory was initiated, including modular workbenches, evidence storage cabinets, and laboratory furniture aimed at improving working conditions and evidence handling, and supporting further development of ballistic examination capabilities in line with international standards.</p>

<p>▶ # of regional ballistic labs better equipped and modernized as per requirements for ISO 17025 accreditation.</p>	<p>0 Expert report; [3 regional labs in total, poorly equipped.]</p>	<p>3 labs modernized; [all 3 regional labs, moderately equipped.]</p>	<p>3 / An analysis and technical specifications for the necessary specialized equipment were developed, for all three regional ballistic labs. A technical upgrade of a comparative microscopes was completed in the Niš Regional Forensic Center in 2024.</p> <p>In 2025, the regional ballistic labs in Novi Sad, Niš, and Užice were equipped with bullet traps for pistol ammunition, Garmin ballistic chronographs, and stereo microscopes (one each), all aimed at improving the precision and efficiency in ballistic and comparative analyses. [Further small interventions and equipment will be provided in 2026 in line with accreditation process and requirements].</p> <p>In addition, UNDP procured and partially delivered laboratory furniture (such as modular workbenches and evidence storage cabinets), precision tools and toolkits (including socket wrench sets, bench vises, and punch and chisel sets), as well as test-firing and safety equipment, including snail bullet traps used for controlled firing and safe projectile recovery.</p> <p>During 2025, the UNDP-engaged ballistic expert provided analytical inputs, technical recommendations, and support to accreditation and procurement processes throughout.</p>
<p>▶ # of bilateral operational meetings organized where at least 10 ballistic experts of Serbia exchange experience with peers from the Western Balkans on accredited methods and good practice.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>At least 4 meetings, with at least 10 ballistic experts from Serbia participating</p>	<p>3 /</p> <p>Three bilateral meetings bringing together ballistic experts from BiH and Serbia took place in 2024. Six ballistic experts from Serbia (all men) took part in the peer-exchange, Additional meeting/s will follow in 2026. In addition, two inter-agency meetings with the Prosecutor's Office took place to advance operational cooperation, one in Oct 2024 and one in Oct 2025. 22 participants took part in the events (16m, 6w), including ballistics (4, all men) and arson-explosives experts (3, all men), as well as 15 prosecutors (9 men, 6 women) from across Serbia.</p>

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

Activity 1.2.2: Preparing the regional ballistic laboratories for ISO 17025 accreditation through the provision of equipment and adaptation of premises.

Activity 1.2.3: Support to the upgrade and alignment of ballistic investigation procedures and processes at both central and regional levels.

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

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

Output 1.3	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2065)	Overall progress / Milestone
Overall NFC capacities for explosion examinations increased.	<p>➤ # of AEA units equipped to meet relevant security and accreditation requirements.</p>	<p>0 [Generally unsatisfactory conditions.]</p>	<p>1 [Satisfactory conditions.]</p>	<p>1. / The AEA unit was equipped with a mobile device for detecting explosives and trace elements (including related specialized training), a dedicated workbench for the safe handling and examination of explosive materials, and three field equipment sets. The equipment strengthens the Unit's capacity for field detection and laboratory analysis of explosives, enhances operational safety when handling hazardous materials, and supports the overall readiness of the AEA Unit in responding to security threats in line with international standards.</p>
	<p>➤ # of forensic technicians trained on post-blast AEA training by 2025.</p>	<p>50 [50 experts trained in phase 2]</p>	<p>50 additional [100 experts trained in total, covering all 27 police directorates.]</p>	<p>49 (7w, 42m) / Achieved Two post-blast training sessions took place in 2025, strengthening operational readiness and technical knowledge in handling explosive-related incidents by combining theoretical instruction with practical field exercises, evidence collection, and safety protocols.</p>
	<p>➤ # of bilateral operational meetings organized where AEA experts learn about good practice and accreditation requirements among peers from the Western Balkans.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>4 meetings, where at least 5 AEA experts from Serbia participate</p>	<p>2 [+1] / - Two bilateral exchanges with BiH counterparts took place, one in Dec 2024 and another in 2025. Five AEA experts from Serbia took part in the exchange (1w, 4m), and six from BiH (2w, 4m). - In addition, 3 AEA experts (all men) were included in the two inter-agency operational exchange meetings with prosecutors – linked with the Output 1.2</p>

Activity 1.3.1: Provision of complementary equipment for the NFC AEA Unit.

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

Activity 1.3.3: Post-blast training for forensic technicians.

Output 1.4	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2026)	Overall progress / Milestone
Capacities of the NFC Chemical Laboratory for examinations of traces of explosives and of gunshot residues increased.	# of methods of the GSR unit prepared for ISO accreditation.	2 [previously prepared]	Up to 2 new methods prepared for accreditation (at least 3 in total)	<p>- / One method on GSR analysis was identified: Identification and classification of GSR via microscope. Preparations for accreditation are ongoing. An expert visit from the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) in Wiesbaden was conducted in November 2025, on methodological and accreditation-related requirements, including assessment of institutional readiness for the upcoming accreditation process in the field of GSR analysis.</p> <p>Accreditation of the selected method is expected mid-2026, as part of the NFC's application for an extended accreditation scope.</p> <p>In addition, a new analytical method for explosives analysis is being developed. In this context, the expert visit from the SNPS – Laboratoire de Police Scientifique de Lyon (France) was conducted in November 2025, focusing on the needs assessment and the provision of recommendations for advancing analysis of specific categories of explosives. UNDP procured a proficiency test for the NFC for the purpose.</p>

Activity 1.4.1: Support for expanding ISO 17025 accreditation and establishing a new method for analyzing GSR within the Chemical Lab.

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



Output 1.5	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2026)	Overall progress / Milestone
Improved validity and visibility of achieved NFC capacities in line with recognized standards.	 # of NFC representatives participated in the ENFSI WG.	0	16	<p>5 / 2 NFC members (men) took part in one ENFSI meeting in 2024, and 3 (men) in 2025.</p> <p>In 2024, two NFC experts participated in the ENSI Meeting in Malta (Oct 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.</p> <p>In 2025, one NFC expert (man) participated in the ENFSI Scene of Crime Working Group Meeting held in The Hague (Sept 2025), and two NFC experts (men) took part in the 31st ENFSI EWG Firearms/GSR Meeting held in The Hague (Oct 2025).</p>

Activity 1.5.1: Participation of NFC and key representatives in PT and CE programs and in ENFSI activities.

Activity 1.5.2: Representation of achieved results and visibility of the project.

Outcome 2: Administrative capacities in Serbia for firearms identification and handling are increased.

Output 2.1	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2026)	Overall progress / Milestone
Capacities of the Police Administrative Affairs Directorate in SALW-control and handling of firearms improved.	# of Administrative Affairs Directorate staff trained on the identification of the firearms and better equipped for safety handling of SALW.	0	200	<p>160 (111w, 49m) / 85 Mol officers (57w, 28m) were trained in 2024, and 75 (54w, 21m) in 2025.</p> <p>The training addressed current challenges related to organized arms trafficking, alignment of national legislation with EU standards, the registration of firearm brands and models, documentation of previous owners and collectors, and the development of standardized terminology in line with EU directives. Detailed insights were provided into both procedural and substantive legal provisions governing firearms, including categorization, technical specifications, record-keeping, and ethical considerations, as well as the rights and obligations of firearm owners and traders.</p> <p>A study visit is planned to an EU member state in 2026, to further learn from good practice.</p>
	# of Police AAD units equipped with storage/safety facilities for SALW and ammunition	4	27 AAD units equipped (out of 27 in total across the country)	<p>27 / All police AAD units were equipped, and many police stations. Mol received 140 metal lockers for secure storage, 20 wooden storage crates designed to enhance organization, and 5 bullet catchers essential for safe ballistic testing and evidence management. This significantly upgraded infrastructure and strengthened safety and security protocols across AAD units.</p>

Activity 2.1.1: Firearms Identification training and related peer-exchange.

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

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 2026

Approved budget: US\$ 1,855,035

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 arget (2025)

Overall progress / Milestone

Enhanced operational capacities of law enforcement agencies to better control SALW and fight SALW misuse and trafficking through targeted assistance to 14 police agencies, BiH Customs and prosecutors' offices.

➤ Level of the capabilities of police agencies to manage digital records of SALW and facilitate electronic exchange of information on SALW. (Measured along a three-point scale: 3. Fully; 2. Partially; 1. Inadequately))

1. Inadequately.

2. Partially.

Partial progress / The ToR for the development of an application for legal weapons for LEAs in FBiH was approved by all 10 police commissioners and the FPD, and the application development was initiated in 2025.

➤ 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 LEAs during the period 2020-2023.

Additional 63 (470 in total) pcs of detection, investigation and ballistic equipment delivered to LEAs.

Significant progress /

26 new pcs / 26 density meters/contraband detectors were delivered to 14 police agencies along with associated training for 14 police officers (all men) from the agencies, in 2025.

37 specialized pieces of equipment (along with 7 modular workbenches and 3 ventilation systems) were delivered to two entity ballistic labs.

➤ Number (gender disaggregated) of ballistic and arson-explosion-accident experts with enhanced capacities for ballistic and AEA examinations through cross-border cooperation and the exchange of best practices.

0

Up to 30 experts (3 women) through up to 6 meetings [as a joint activity with UNDP Serbia and UNDP North Macedonia].

14 experts (4 women, 10 men) /

Four 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 with 6 participants from BiH (2 women, 4 men).

One more meeting between AEA experts was held in 2025 with 6 participants (2 women, 4 men) from BiH.

<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>240 / 675 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 in 2024. / Another 52 police and customs officials participated in joint exercises in 2025 (including from Serbia). A total of 220 customs and police officials enhanced their capacities through joint exercises in this project / 655 overall.</p>
<p>➤ Number of knowledge products in the field of SALW stemming from Roadmap projects available and institutionalized within police academies.</p>	<p>0 SALW related knowledge products available as a part of regular curricula in police academies.</p>	<p>1 handbook / manual for SALW investigations as a consolidated knowledge product [based on SOPs developed within the SALW Roadmap projects] institutionalized within police academies.</p>	<p>1 / A draft knowledge product [Guideline on SALW for police cadets] was developed and validated in 2025; The FBIH Police Academy agreed to incorporate it into its curriculum; the RS Mol Police High School stated it would incorporate it adequately during the development of a new curriculum; Feedback from the state-level Agency for Education and Professional Training is pending.</p>
<p>➤ Number of officials from the State Prosecutor's Office and law enforcement agencies with increased knowledge and resources on SALW-related investigative techniques, report writing and collection of evidence through the development of a knowledge product.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Up to 40 officials from the State Prosecutor's Office and law enforcement agencies agencies with increased knowledge and resources on the topic through the development of a dedicated knowledge product.</p>	<p>29 / 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 in 2024. This led to the development of a draft Guidebook on SALW Investigations, which was shared with 33 police officials (32m, 1w) from 13 agencies for consultation and validation in 2025. Further work will take place in 2026.</p>
<p>➤ Number of rulebooks for SALW destruction developed and prepared for adoption by relevant authorities.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Up to 12 SALW destruction rulebooks developed and prepared for adoption by 12 police agencies (one each - 10 cantonal, RS Mol and Police of Brčko District BiH)</p>	<p>Initiated / Preparatory activities started at the end of 2025.</p>



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

Activity 1.1.2: Support to ballistic laboratories in the Federation of BiH and Republika Srpska and operational cooperation with accredited ballistic laboratories from regional countries.

Activity 1.1.3: Cross-border operational collaboration among the arson-explosion-accident (AEA) experts.

Activity 1.1.4: Enhancing the digital capacities and resources of law enforcement agencies.

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

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

Activity 1.1.7: Support to the law enforcement agencies and prosecutor's offices in improving operational cooperation and quality of SALW related investigation.

Activity 1.1.8: Development of a rulebook for standardized SALW destruction and a feasibility assessment for the sustainable solutions to surplus SALW destruction.

Output 1.2	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2026)	Overall progress / Milestone
Strengthened strategic exchange and cooperation between state level agencies, prosecutor's offices, and relevant ministries to better fight illicit SALW trafficking.	<p>➤ Number of SALW-related strategic/policy events or initiatives that take place jointly among law enforcement agencies, prosecutor offices and other relevant institutions, clarifying inter-institutional legal or operational issues and harmonizing respective operations for more efficient SALW control.</p>	2 SALW CB meetings facilitated previously.	Additional 3 [5 in total] strategic/policy events or initiatives.	<p>3 / One meeting was held in 2024 between the BiH Prosecutor and the ITA, during which 10 BiH customs officials acquired additional knowledge on BiH criminal code procedures for the proper search of vehicles & persons to detect illegal SALW;</p> <p>One BiH SALW CB meeting was organized in 2025;</p> <p>One meeting of all cantonal police commissioners/directors with the FPD Director was organized in 2025.</p>
	<p>➤ Number of strategic and regulatory frameworks, measures, or 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).</p>	0	2 (new or updated SOPs and/or proposed or adopted MoUs.)	<p>Partial progress /</p> <p>Work on the MoU between the Border Police and the ITA is pending.</p> <p>A draft SALW Investigation Guidebook was developed and is pending validation; it was developed in a collaborative manner and is intended to contribute to the rule of law.</p>

Activity 1.2.1: Enhancing cooperation and communication among national stakeholders to advance key strategic documents and policies.

Activity 1.2.2: Strengthening the exchange and transfer of good practices in prosecuting illicit SALW trafficking.

Output 1.3	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2026)	Overall progress / Milestone
<p>Raised awareness, community engagement, and gender responsive policy making and governance on SALW-related misuse, violence and crime.</p>	<p>➤ Ministry of Security achieves a medal in the Gender Equality Seal process – gold, silver or bronze.</p>	<p>No. MoS had not been part of the GES process.</p>	<p>Yes. MoS awarded a GES medal for achievements in gender mainstreaming (gold, silver or bronze).</p>	<p>Partial progress / The MoS successfully progressed in the GES initiative, pending the award outcome in 2025.</p> <p>Gender-responsive approaches were embedded into the MoS' planning, budgeting, and institutional procedures.</p>
	<p>➤ Number of civil society organizations (CSOs), 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 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 and successfully completed their respective projects.</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>10 gender related events promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women in law enforcement.</p>	<p>5 [with further support ongoing] /</p> <p>3 meetings among relevant associations from BiH and Serbia were held (2 in 2024 and 1 in 2025).</p> <p>Associations from BiH attended 2 international conferences in Serbia (1 in 2024 and 1 in 2025).</p> <p>A BiH association participated in the development of a new Action Plan in support of the new BiH SALW Control Strategy 2025-2030, which was adopted in 2025.</p>

Activity 1.3.1: Supporting BiH Ministry of Security to better mainstream gender equality into its work.

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

Activity 1.3.3: Support to associations of women police officials in Bosnia and Herzegovina through cross-border cooperation, peer exchange and institutional advancements.

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

Implementing organization: UNDP Albania

Implementing period: December 2023 – October 2026

Budget: US\$ 1,555,490

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 (2026)	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.	<p>➤ Number of workshops, training sessions, or knowledge-gaining events conducted with Albanian beneficiaries (only) (border police, criminal police, FPI staff, Customs, etc.)</p>	none	<p>3 study or knowledge-gaining visits;</p> <p>2 training sessions;</p> <p>Up to 15 participants.</p>	<p>2 study visits, 2 peer-exchanges via ENFSI, and 1 specialized training enhancing the capacities of 33 police/FPI officers in the fight against firearms-related crime /</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One study visit of Albanian forensic experts to the Forensic Laboratory in Pristina for 12 participants (6w, 6m), in 2024. - One peer-exchange for two forensic experts at the ENFSI event for proficiency testing in Wiesbaden, Germany, in 2024. - One peer-exchange for two forensic experts at the ENFSI meeting in the Hague, The Netherlands, on Gunshot Residue Analysis (GSR) and the examination of 3D printed firearms, in 2025. - One study visit to acquire knowledge on the ballistic data exchange via Evofinder, including the Head of the SALW Commission of Albania, two ballistics experts, and an IT expert from the Albanian State Police, in 2025. - One 4-day Dark Web training for 15 police officers and 3 prosecutors (8w, 10m) at the WB3C Centre in Podgorica, enhancing skills and capacities in cyber and Dark Web investigations to combat online firearms trafficking, in 2025.



▶ 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.	136 border police officers were trained in total (119 men and 17 women) on detecting converted weapons, explosive precursors, search techniques, and inspection of different transport modalities.
▶ The Weapons Registration System (SIMA) reestablished and operational	No. Limited capacities for tracing, and registration of weapons	Yes. The WRS (SIMA) re-established and operational, enabling tracing and registration of weapons;	Initiated / The ASP appointed a focal point to coordinate on the development and deployment of the advanced WRS (SIMA), UNDP recruited an IT expert to work with the ASP on SIMA development, integration, and operationalization. Technical specifications were developed by the IT expert, pending approval by ASP.
▶ FFP equipped with and uses modern analytical tools that enhance its analytical and investigation capacities	No. FFP not equipped with Analyst Notebook i2 Licenses	Yes. FFP is equipped with and uses Analyst Notebook i2 Licenses for analyzing SALW-related information and data	Initiated / UNDP in cooperation with the FFP developed technical specifications for the equipment to advance FFP firearms investigation, including 3 laptop units, 1 PC, and an Analyst Notebook i2; Procurement will be initiated in Q1 2026.

Activity 1.1.1: Study visit of Albanian forensic experts to gain knowledge from accredited similar institutions.

Activity 1.1.2: Forensics knowledge enhancement of Albanian FPI through ENFSI.

Activity 1.1.3: Evofinder Ballistic Data Exchange: Assessment, Planning, and Implementation.

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

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

Activity 1.1.6: Design and deployment of the new Weapons Management System (SIMA).

Activity 1.1.7: Enhance FFP analytical investigation capacities.

Output 1.2	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2026)	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)	7 (per category) / All equipment was delivered in line with the plan agreed with ASP: - 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), and vii) five 4x4 vehicles.
	▶ Number of police staff trained in the use of the relevant equipment provided by the project.	none	At least 35 (at least two staff per piece of equipment.)	14 border police officers (13 men, 1 women) were trained on the use of drones and hand-held scanners
	▶ Number of police units benefiting from advanced technology in detecting and preventing FAE-related crimes.	none	At least 8; 4 BCPs, FPI Tirana and Kukes, Tirana CSI unit and FFP.	6 / Partial progress: - The FPI in Tirana was equipped with 1 metal detector; Procured and pending delivery: one 360-degree camera and software for crime scene sketches; Procurement was initiated for a Triggerscan for measuring weight exerted on the firing mechanism, and a platform for ballistic examination with a set of tools. - The FPI in Kukes was equipped with 4 investigative suitcases complete with cameras for the crime scene, 4 CSI toolkits, 4 PCs, and a laptop. - 4 BCPs were equipped with day and night binoculars, a thermal camera, and a 4X4 vehicles; 2 BCPs were equipped with a drone and a portable X-ray scanner.

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

Activity 1.2.2: Provision of SALW-related investigation equipment for the Albanian FPI and Units of Tirana and Kukes.

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

Output 1.3	Indicators	Baseline (2023)	Project target (2026)	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 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 1.2.1: Joint training on community policing and intelligence led policing approach towards SALW Control.

Activity 1.2.2: Joint training on the identification and prevention of explosives and explosives precursors.

Activity 1.2.3: Joint training on weapons categorization and the legal framework regulating the field of SALW Control.

Activity 1.2.4: Joint training on weapons conversion, and methods and tool marks used in conversion, including ballistic examination and potential data exchange.

Activity 1.2.5: Joint police operations at the BCPs and GBLs in increasing bilateral cooperation in countering IAT and increasing firearms confiscations.

Activity 1.2.6: Joint launch of, concluding, and bilateral Project Board meetings.

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 – December 2026

Approved budget: US\$ 1,499,180

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.	<p>▶ Technical specifications on the necessary interventions and upgrades to the ballistic facilities of the Mol's Forensic Department prepared.</p>	<p>No Needs-based assessment is in place, but no detailed technical specifications for the upgrades.</p>	<p>Yes Completed technical specifications that will serve as the basis for the necessary upgrades.</p>	<p>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 Ministry of Interior.</p>
	<p>▶ Indoor shooting range upgraded in line with international safety and security requirements for the forensic examination of ballistic evidence.</p>	<p>No The present shooting range does not fulfill international safety and security requirements for the forensic examination of ballistic evidence.</p>	<p>Yes Upgraded shooting range fully meets international safety and security requirements for the forensic examination of ballistic evidence.</p>	<p>Yes / All the upgrades to the indoor shooting range were completed, in compliance with international safety and security requirements for the forensic examination of ballistic evidence. In addition, the project provided two sets of instructions for the safe and appropriate use of the shooting range and associated equipment.</p>
	<p>▶ Number of ballistic examiners engaged in specialized ballistic trainings and operational exchanges in order to strengthen capacities.</p>	<p>0 The ballistic examiners are not currently engaged in any specialized ballistic trainings or operational exchanges.</p>	<p>At least 5 ballistic examiners and/or support and supervisory staff have completed specialized trainings and participated in operational exchanges with neighboring countries.</p>	<p>Initiated / Preparations started by the end of 2025. The activity will take place in 2026.</p>

Activity 1.1.1: Preparation of technical specifications for interventions and upgrades in the indoor shooting range.

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

Activity 1.1.3: Ballistic trainings, equipment and operational exchange for enhanced ballistic investigations.

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.	<p>➤ Availability of needs-based analysis for the necessary technical improvements to the CSI system.</p>	<p>No General needs assessment report on the gaps in the CSI system has been developed, but no detailed needs-based analysis for the necessary technical improvements (0).</p>	<p>Yes Completed needs-based analysis and technical specifications that will serve as a basis for improvements to the CSI system.</p>	<p>Significant progress / A needs-based analysis for necessary technical improvements to the CSI system through the development of a Training and Simulation Facility was prepared by experts from the French National Forensic Police Service, based on a comprehensive questionnaire addressed by Mol. Follow up activities will take place in 2026 to finalize the assessment</p>
	<p>➤ Training and simulation facility for the Mol's CSI system in place. (Y/N)</p>	<p>No No CSI training and simulation facility exists in the country (0).</p>	<p>Yes CSI training and simulation facility equipped and in use.</p>	<p>Partial progress / The Mol allocated the space for the CSI Training and Simulation Facility; the design was prepared and reviewed by Mol, with positive feedback. Further work to take place in 2026.</p>
	<p>➤ Level of technical capacities of the CSI system upgraded based on baseline assessment/specification (rating scale: Low, Moderate, High).</p>	<p>Low Expert assessment/specification; [Lack of adequate IT equipment software solutions, insufficient specialized CSI kits.]</p>	<p>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.]</p>	<p>Significant progress / The CSI system was equipped with modern IT equipment, including 83 personal computers, 83 monitors, 41 multifunction printers and scanners, and additional smaller equipment. In addition, the CSI units were equipped with 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. The process continued for the adaptation and installation of the specific software package for processing CSI documentation "SweetHome 3D" for use in North Macedonia. The donation agreement with the French authorities for the software solution remains in progress.</p>



<p>▶ Number of operational peer exchanges on modern CSI tools, equipment, and practices with CSI staff from the Ministry of the Interior.</p>	<p>0 No specific exchange of experiences on modern CSI tools, equipment, and practices previously implemented.</p>	<p>1 At least one successfully completed exchange of experiences and knowledge, that helps acquaint the CSI units in North Macedonia with the benefits and uses of modern CSI tools, equipment and practices.</p>	<p>1 / An operational peer exchange on modern CSI tools, equipment, and practices was completed through a study visit of high level MoI delegation to the French National Forensic Police Service in Écully, France. The delegation included six MoI representatives (3 women, 3 men) and enabled learning and sharing of experience with peers on various aspects of crime scene investigation, including on training curricula for forensics and crime scene investigation and real CSI training sessions for new recruits.</p>
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Activity 1.2.1: Preparation of a detailed needs-based analysis for necessary improvements to the CSI system.

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

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

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

Activity 1.2.5: Exchanging experience on CSI.

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.	Yes / The module on domestic violence cases was developed and integrated into the Police IMS (IRDAM). The enhanced IRDAM now includes a dedicated module on domestic violence, as well as additional features that improve data collection and support faster, evidence-based responses by the Macedonian police.
	▶ Number of new digital solutions/e-services regarding SALW developed and integrated into existing SALW digital system of Mol.	1 Only the Application for issuing an approval to purchase firearms (natural persons) is available	6 At least 6 additional functions are available as digital tools/e-services, and existing digital solutions are strengthened..	Initiated / The preparation started in Q4 2025 with a meeting with the Mol representatives to confirm the list of digital services to be supported by the project. The ToR will be developed in Q1 2026 while the implementation is planned as of Q2 2026.
	▶ Number of awareness raising activities on the dangers of misuse of SALW and pyrotechnics carried out in cooperation with Mol.	0 No dedicated campaign on the dangers of misuse of SALW and pyrotechnics is currently being implemented. Similar campaigns have been organized in the past, through previous project.	1 At least one country-wide campaign that addresses SALW and pyrotechnics misuse.	Initiated / In Dec 2025, UNDP coordinated with the National SALW commission, Mol and OSCE representatives for the upcoming campaigns. The ToR for the campaign will be prepared in Q1 2026 and the implementation is foreseen in Q2 and Q3 2026.

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

Activity 1.3.2: Support the strengthening of existing and the development of additional/complementary digital solutions and e-services related to SALW.

Activity 1.3.3: Awareness raising on the dangers of misuse of SALW and pyrotechnics.

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 – December 2026

Budget: US\$ 1,730,387

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 (2024)

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. /

11 trainings and 14 mentoring sessions were conducted across all six WB jurisdictions, resulting in seizures of illicit weapons in Albania, Kosovo, and BiH. 133 customs and postal officers (30 women and 103 men) from all six WB jurisdictions enhanced their knowledge and capacities to detect firearms through X-ray image analysis.

▶ 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.

Partial progress. /

In 2025, 30 customs and DPO officials from three WB jurisdictions (BiH, Montenegro, and Serbia) enhanced their risk-analysis capacities. A knowledge management product was developed for the purpose, on trend analysis and risk profiles.

▶ 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 (fully or partially) equipped with detection equipment: 2 facilities in BiH, 3 facilities in Serbia, 1 facility each in Tirana, Pristina, Skopje and Podgorica.

Partial progress. / Two facilities in BiH were fully equipped, with an x-ray scanner and a detector (Banja Luka and Sarajevo), and three were partially equipped facilities, with an x-ray scanner (Tirana, Skopje, Pristina).

Activity 1.1.1: Advanced course for X-ray operators on the detection of firearms using X-ray technology

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

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

Output 1.2	Indicators	Baseline (2025)	Project target (2025)	Overall progress / Milestone
Public-private cooperation and capacities of Express Courier companies are strengthened to detect and prevent firearms trafficking	<p>▶ Percentage of express courier staff who demonstrate improved ability to identify firearms, parts, or ammunition in parcels following training, as measured by pre- and post-training assessments.</p>	<p>0%. No systematic training provided to express courier staff on detection of firearms, parts, or ammunition in parcels.</p>	<p>At least 70% of trained express courier staff demonstrate improved ability to identify firearms, parts, or ammunition in parcels, as evidenced by higher post-training scores.</p>	<p>Initiated. / Identified the Express Courier companies (14 - 2 in Albania, 3 in BiH, 3 in Kosovo, 3 in North Macedonia, and 3 in Serbia) that will take part in the project.</p>
	<p>▶ Level of cooperation and information sharing between express courier companies and public authorities, as measured by stakeholder feedback collected after joint activities</p>	<p>Low. Ad-hoc and limited cooperation between express courier companies and public authorities in addressing risks of firearms trafficking</p>	<p>High. At least 75% of participants in joint workshops report improved cooperation and information sharing between express courier companies and public authorities.</p>	<p>Partial progress. / One workshop between public-private counterparts was conducted in BiH, involving 15 representatives from the ITA, DPOs, and three private postal operators.</p>

Activity 1.2.1: Facilitate regional information exchange on good practices in public-private cooperation, training, and use of equipment for countering trafficking in express courier and postal parcels through the organization of regional meetings

Activity 1.2.2: Organize joint local workshops and simulation exercises involving customs, courier companies, and police to practice interdiction and information sharing

Activity 1.2.3: Deliver capacity building and technical manuals to express courier companies on the detection of firearms in parcels

Annex 4. Updated Risk Matrix

Risk type	Risk description	Risk management response	Risk level (low, moderate, high)
Financial / Strategic	As a result of the gradual scaling down of funding contributions to the Trust Fund, there is a risk that the Trust Fund may face a resource shortfall and lack sufficient capitalization to sustain current programming levels or issue future solicitations, resulting in a reduced ability to fully support the SALW Control Roadmap implementation in its second phase.	<p>Since 2019, the Trust Fund has received about \$30.4 million in contributions from its principal donors, demonstrating the contributors' steadfast commitment and support to the Roadmap implementation until 2025. Along with accrued interest and investment income, the Trust Fund's value exceeds \$31 million.</p> <p>Issued open calls and direct solicitations for proposals have galvanized the approved funding for 25 projects with a cumulative value of \$30 million, demonstrating the continuous need for and the unwavering commitment to SALW Control Roadmap implementation by 2025.</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 in the second phase of the Roadmap implementation.</p> <p>The Steering Committee, with the support of the Secretariat and the MPTF Office, will plan and regularly monitor the Fund's resources and capitalization, and ensure that fund allocations are relevant and serve the purpose in the most effective and efficient manner.</p> <p>Programming and capitalization will be adjusted for the Roadmap's second phase to ensure effective allocations. Direct contributions from authorities in the region will be actively encouraged to ensure continuous engagement and synergies on the ground.</p>	MODERATE
	Political / Operational	The variable and periodically erratic political climate in the Western Balkans brings a risk of internal political and institutional instability that could disrupt cooperation with local authorities or shift institutional priorities, resulting in delays or interruptions to project activities, requiring timeline extensions or adjusted implementation strategies.	<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 contact with the concerned authorities to ensure engagement, including at senior levels.</p> <p>The Secretariat maintains regular contact with all jurisdictions in the region and supports their strengthened engagement through established platforms.</p> <p>The Trust Fund's Steering Committee reviews project progress on a regular basis and makes decisions on project revisions so that implementation periods can be extended and/or adjusted strategies can be applied if the situation so requires.</p>



Operational / Organizational

The high number of concurrent projects may bring complexity in programmatic coordination and monitoring, which could strain the human and operational capacities of the Secretariat, resulting in fragmented project implementation, overlapping efforts, and a reduced overall impact on the SALW Control Roadmap implementation.

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 the MPTF-funded projects. This informs the Secretariat's programmatic coordination function within the Trust Fund.

Through annual funding allocations provided to the Secretariat by the Fund's Steering Committee, the Steering Committee ensures that sufficient human and operational resources are dedicated to the coordinating functions of the Secretariat, enabling proper operations.

LOW

Operational

Due to limited human and financial resources and a reliance on a small cohort of specialized practitioners within national counterparts, there is a risk that these institutions may lack the operational capacity to execute or engage in specific, time-constrained project activities as originally scheduled, resulting in implementation delays and potential disruptions to the continuity or sustainability of efforts across the jurisdictions.

The frequently 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 related planning. Where immediate gaps arise, Participating UN Organizations can deploy targeted technical assistance and expert support to ensure critical milestones are met.

Nevertheless, progress relies on a limited cohort of specialized practitioners. It is thus intended that the pool be expanded, as feasible, through targeted training programs, mentorship, the institutionalization of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and peer-to-peer regional knowledge exchange to ensure comprehensive engagement and the continuity of efforts across the jurisdictions.

The Trust Fund also allows for greater flexibility with regard to project duration. Non-cost extensions are foreseen and applied in line with the Operations Manual, and these act as risk-mitigation measure to absorb unavoidable delays without compromising the quality of the implementation..

MODERATE

Financial

Global economic shifts and the proliferation of international conflicts driving inflation and supply chain disruptions, may cause the projects to experience significant, unexpected cost increases and challenges in the procurement of necessary goods or services, resulting in potential budget shortfalls and implementation delays, threatening the achievement or timely delivery of expected project results.

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 procurement of goods (often due to increased prices and/or disrupted supply chains causing limited availability of goods or extended timelines for delivery). The global proliferation of conflicts adds to related risks.

To mitigate these impacts, Participating UN Organizations employ proactive procurement strategies, including early procurement planning, the utilization of existing UN Long-Term Agreements (LTAs) to secure pricing, and exploring local or regional sourcing options where global supply chains are disrupted. Furthermore, technical specifications are regularly reviewed with national counterparts to identify cost-effective alternatives that fulfill project requirements.

When cost increases or delays are unavoidable, the Participating UN Organizations plan and adjust budget allocations and project timelines (via non-cost extensions) as necessary and in line with the Operations Manual to effectively and efficiently respond.

The Steering Committee and/or the Secretariat review and decide on these budget and timeline revisions in line with the Operations Manual, with due consideration of the expected results and priority needs.

MODERATE