

## **SUMMARIZED HIGHLIGHTS**

### **AU/EU PROJECT (2010: THE FIGHT AGAINST THE ILLICIT ACCUMULATION AND TRAFFICKING OF FIREARMS IN AFRICA**

#### **PREAMBLE**

The proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) is often one of the major security challenges Africa and indeed the world in general. The trafficking and wide availability of these weapons fuel communal conflict, political instability and pose a threat, not only to security, but also to sustainable development. The widespread proliferation of small arms is contributing to alarming levels of armed crime and militancy.

Small arms in Africa have played the major role in every political conflict, from South, East, and West. Africa. The issue of small arms is as important as life and death, small arms have contributed to the political disintegration of many African states. The effects of the proliferation of small arms are felt by many Africans. In many African countries, there is insufficient human capital to till arable lands, and generations waste their lives by engaging in pointless wars. Children are denied their childhood and are forced to become adults before puberty. Despite all these, the resilience of the African people is demonstrated by the number of activists and other leaders who risk their life for peaceful change.

Africa already has more than its fair share of weapons in circulation. If this and the assertion that the availability of SALW aggravate and prolong violence are truisms, then these weapons, much of which are in illegal possession should be collected and managed in a more effective and transparent way. This could even be additionally beneficial to the governments as recollected weapons especially those initially stolen from national arsenals can make the purchase of new weapons unnecessary, although recollection schemes usually recommend their immediate destruction to avoid them getting into circulation again.

To curb the internal proliferation of SALW, it will only be in the best interest of states and governments to secure stockpiles i.e. making it impossible for the theft of weapons from military or police arsenals. For more effectiveness, countries may be required to take stock of existing stockpiles and match the results with the minimum requirements for police and eventual military use. If surpluses do exist, these could under strict conditions.



A radical review and overhauling of gun legislation by way of greater cooperation within the four sub-Saharan regional organizations could be very instrumental in limiting the amount of guns and other SALW in circulation and thus reducing their use. It is true that three of these regional organizations have come together to work out ways of reducing the proliferation of SALW and related materials, two of which are binding, but there has been no attempt to create a common gun legislation. With the major challenge of border porosity in many African countries, gun legislation limiting the legal proliferation of weapons in civilian use can only be successful, if neighboring countries also have similar legislations. In case this does not happen, guns will inevitably flow from countries within a given region with stringent legislation to others with less strict laws. This proposal therefore aims primarily at addressing legal civilian firearms possession as one of the major sources of SALW proliferation as we have seen in most African societies.

The civil society is a very dynamic and fast growing sector with a lot of potential, influence and energy in almost any field, be it in education, health, human rights and good governance or any other kind of advocacy. For the implementation of any of the possibilities mentioned above, it will be absolutely vital to tap on the potentials of civil society which can complement governments' regional and national endeavors with its enormous expertise and nearness to the grassroots.

## PROJECT PURPOSE

- This trans-regional approach provided by the **EU Instrument for Stability** complementing national measures to strengthen the rule of law, good governance, safety and security at regional and national levels.
- The project was implemented on behalf of the African Union and funded by European Union. The implementation of the project was **guided by Project Steering Committee (PSC) chaired by the African Union**

## PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM



The Project was implemented in partnership with the RECSA Member States, regional organizations involved in SALW matters, African Union (AU), East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), ECOWAS, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Southern African Development Community (SADC), and police organizations: Central Africa Police Chiefs Committee (CAPCCO), Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation (EAPCCO), Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (SARPCCO) and the West African Police Chiefs Committee (WAPCCO), United Nations (UN) agencies and programme specialized on SALW control- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), INTERPOL and World Customs Organization (WCO).

**The target groups** for the Project were the African sub-regional organizations that have adopted legal instruments and those that are involved in their enforcement as well as their Member States. This includes RECSA, RECs as well as SARPCCO, CAPCCO, EAPCCO and WAPCCO; the Ministries in charge of NFPs, Parliamentarian organizations, national administrations and civil society organizations.

**The final beneficiaries** were the African population itself who suffer from the negative impacts associated with proliferation of firearms and explosives as well as the continental, regional and national authorities in Africa, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Community Based Organisations (CBOs) seeking to address the illicit proliferation of SALW.

## PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

The project was implemented on behalf of the African Union and funded by European. The implementation of the project was guided by a Project Steering Committee (PSC) chaired by the African Union (AU).

Membership of the PSC comprises of;



- a) Full Members – AU (Chair), EU, RECSA (Secretary), Project Coordinator, RECs (EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, COMESA, ICGLR, IGAD, SADC); RPCOs (CAPCCO, EAPCCO, SARPCCO, WAPCCO) and INTERPOL
- b) Observers – UNDP, UNREC, UNODC, WCO

The Role of;

- i. **PSC:** to guide through planning, refining of the project activities, reviewing implementation, annual work-plans and budgets;
- ii. **Secretary:** in consultation with the Chair (AU) to prepare the meeting agenda and responsibility for logistical arrangements for the Steering Committee meeting; and
- iii. **Chair:** to guide proceedings of the meeting as per the agenda

## OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The **overall objective** of the project was to support the fight against the proliferation of firearms in Africa.

## PHASE I SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- i. To support the Africa-EU strategic partnership in the fight against illicit accumulation and trafficking of firearms and explosive materials through enhanced implementing capacity;
- ii. To raise the awareness and knowledge of relevant institutional and civil society actors on the legislative and institutional aspects of the fight against the illicit accumulation and trafficking of firearms with the view to foster the role and/or establishment where they are not in place of National Focal Points (NFPs) and to develop and/or implement National Action Plans (NAPs); and
- iii. To strengthen the African Regional Police Chiefs Organisations (RPCOs) and the capacity of and cooperation between national, regional and continental law enforcement agencies to fight cross-border illicit trafficking in firearms and explosive materials.

## EXPECTED RESULTS



1. Establishment of NFPs/National Commissions on SALW, development and adoption of National Action Plans.
2. Regional Police Chiefs Organisations (RPCOs) strengthened.
3. Capacity and cooperation between national law enforcement agencies (police, border guards and customs) improved within and among countries.
4. Cooperation with dedicated/specialised bodies for the collection of data on illicit transport of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) improved.
5. Exchange of information through databases and electronic record-keeping in each sub-region enhanced.
6. The basis to enable the strengthening of an African Union (AU) Continental Police Organization

### IMPLEMENTATION STATUS FOR PHASE I

RESULT AREAS	Activities	Status
<b>1. Endorsement of project activities &amp; objectives among the stakeholders</b>	Kick off trans-regional seminar	The PSC was established during the launch of the project incorporating the RECs and partners
	Regional Seminars and Consolidation Seminar	4 consultative seminars were held in each sub-region (RECSA, ECOWAS, ECCAS and SADC Regions of Sub-Saharan Africa. One Consolidation Seminar was held to put together regional priorities identified during regional seminars as per the project document
	Project Steering Committee	PSC meetings were held every year of implementation to review implementation and agree on a work plan for the following year
<b>2. Momentum generated for further establishment of NFPs, NAPs through awareness raising and knowledge sharing on legislation and institutional with African</b>	Initiated establishment of NFPs	Republic of Congo, Central Africa Republic and Chad
	Funding unique CSOs initiatives	CSO in the four regions were supported (RECSA, ECCAS, SADC and ECOWAS)
	Development of NAPs	Support development and adoption of NAPs in Malawi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo



<b>governments', parliamentarians and CSOs</b>	Implementation of NAPs	Seminar held for Parliamentary Committees of Security, Budget, Defence and Foreign Affairs for the EAC States to sensitise the role of NAPs in managing SALW hence the need for funds to support SALW initiatives in their respective countries
<b>3. Strengthened Regional Police Cooperation Organisations through levelled capacities and effective cooperation</b>	Trans-regional seminar for all African RPCOs	RBs AGM and Interpol GA to sensitise on information sharing among LEAs, SALW and the need to establish an African Police Chiefs' Mechanism (AFRIPOL)
<b>4. Capacity and cooperation between national law enforcement agencies improved within and among countries</b>	Inter-agency cooperation for all LEAs	Regional workshops held in ECCAS, SADC and RECSA and in-country for ECOWAS (Liberia and Guinea)
	Undertaking Joint Operations	SADC and SARPCCO Joint Operations and pre-operations trainings
<b>5. Facilitated exchange of information through databases and electronic recordkeeping in each sub-region</b>	Trans-regional seminar on arms marking best practices	Regional Sharing and Exchange Best Practices seminars held in ECOWAS and ECCAS on arms marking and electronic recordkeeping
	Provision of arms marking machines	Ghana, Togo, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali (ECOWAS); Republic of Congo, Central Africa Republic (ECCAS); South Sudan, Somali (RECSA)
	Development of Record Keeping Software	Software Developed for customization by member states
	Customisation and roll out of RSTS software	Rwanda, Tanzania, Seychelles, Uganda, Seychelles, Burundi, Kenya (RECSA); Ghana, Togo, Mali, Cote d'Ivoire (ECOWAS); Zambia (SADC)
	JTFs established in each sub-region amongst voluntary countries	Strengthened and initiated establishment; Kigoma (RECSA), Equatorial Triangle (ECCAS), Victoria Falls (SADC), Mano River (ECOWAS)
	Strengthen the legislative and institutional capacity of States to	Support provided to Zambia, Tanzania and Kenya on harmonisation



	harmonise legislation in line with regional instruments	
	Generation of reliable information on SALW	Risk management for RECSA Secretariat
		Baseline survey on SALW instruments in select sub-Saharan Africa Countries

**PHASE I FUNDING**



**PHASE II**

**OVERVIEW**

Phase II was built on some gaps identified in Phase I and the willingness of some of the beneficiary regions or Member States to support the implementation of the activities. The project commenced in July 2013.

**OVERALL OBJECTIVE**

The overall objective is similar to Phase I – to support the fight against the proliferation of firearms and explosives in Africa

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE**

The specific objective was holistic in Phase II – to enhance capacity to efficiently implement and coordinate actions against the proliferation of illicit SALW in Africa.

**CHANGES IN PHASE II**



The project document signed in December 2012 to facilitate commencement of implementation in July 2013 had a budget of Euros. 4.7 Million with expectations of co-funding of Euros. 2 Million from other donors. The funds from other donors were not realized at the commencement of the project. RECSA offered to co-fund the activities in year 1 (2013/2014) of implementation. At the close of Year 1 RECSA requested EU to fund the project 100% at Euros 2.7 Million since the funds RECSA had envisaged supporting some of the activities were not been realised.

A request was submitted to EU causing a 14-month delay implementing pending activities awaiting response from EU. Implementation of the project activities continued from September 2015 to December 2017.

## IMPLEMENTATION STATUS – PHASE II

RESULT AREA	ACTIVITY	STATUS
<b>1. Institutions and partnerships mandated to implement or coordinate SALW instruments developed or strengthened</b>	RECSA Ministerial Standing Committee (MSC) meeting, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting and Council of Ministers' (CoM) meeting	2 MSC meetings held, 1 TAC and 1 CoM - RECSA
	Annual Donor Meeting	Side meetings held with partners during the BMS in New York in 2014 - RECSA
	Capacity Building on Arms Marking	2 training workshops held for RECSA Secretariat on arms marking - RECSA
	Project Steering Committee Meetings	Meetings held every implementation year for the Project Steering Committee members (RECs, RPCOs, AU and observers)
	AFRIPOL	AFRIPOL established under AU; 1 <sup>st</sup> General Assembly held in Algiers in May 2017 – (RPCOs/RBs, AU)
	RBs AGM and Interpol GA	Participated in EAPCCO AGMs and Interpol GA – (RBs)



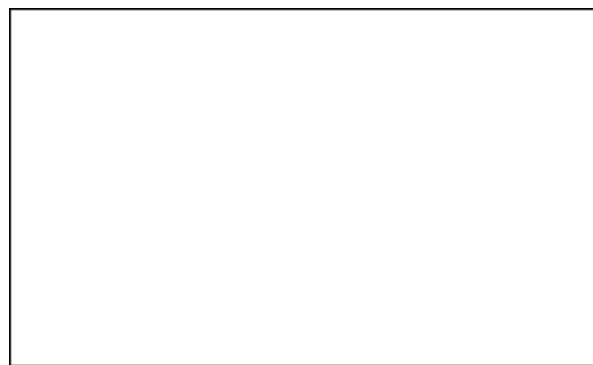


	Interagency – pre training on operation	Held every project year jointly for EAPCCO/SARPCCO, 1 pilot meeting held for CAPCCO – (Joint EAPCCO/SARPCCO CAPCCO)
	Strengthening of JTFs	Equipment distributed to strengthen security within the identified border areas for Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire and Rwanda
	After Action review	Workshop held every project year to receive the outcome results of the joint operations conducted in the EAPCCO/SARPCCO region
	Establishment of NatCoMs/NFPs	Initiated establishment of NatCoM in Gabon, Cameroon
		AU hosted meeting for ECCAS Ambassadors' at the AU to fast track implementation of activities in ECCAS
		Meeting held at ECCAS secretariat to fast track implementation of activities in ECCAS
	Development of NAPs	NAP developed for CAR and NAP data collection conducted in RoC
	Capacity building of NFPs/NatCoMs	Select RECSA MS (Rwanda, Uganda, Somali, South Sudan and Kenya) visited ECOWAS MS (Cote d'Ivoire) to share and exchange views on SALW managements
	Sensitisation of CSO on ATT and peace building	Seminars conducted in Cote d'Ivoire and Cameroon
	Completion of harmonization of legislation	Activity conducted in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania
	Participation in SALW meetings	Brussels and Swaziland
<b>2. Effective SALW management promoted and facilitated</b>	Arms marking monitoring exercise	Monitoring done in Cote d'Ivoire
	Arms marking best practices	Arms marking best practices seminar conducted in Zimbabwe for SADC region
	Procurement and distribution of arms marking machines	2 marking machines and accessories for each country in ECOWAS Region



		(Guinea, Liberia, Mali); 1 additional marking machine and accessories for each country in RECSA Region (South Sudan, Somali); and 2 marking machines and accessories for each country in SADC Region (Malawi and Zambia)
	Arms marking training	In country national arms marking training conducted in Guinea, Liberia, Mali (ECOWAS); Malawi, Zambia (SADC); and South Sudan (RECSA) Retraining on arms marking conducted in Somalia
	Records keeping software customization and commissioning	Procurement of equipment and in-country training and installation of RSTS in Mali, Guinea and Liberia (ECOWAS); Malawi, Zambia (SADC) Retraining on RSTS conducted in Malawi (SADC); Somali (RECSA)
	Armory construction	Armoury constructed in Rwanda and Uganda
<b>3. SALW information generated and disseminated</b>	Research	Rapid Assessment conducted in CAR to assess RECSA's SALW interventions
	Dissemination of study findings conducted by AfDB	Translation, printing and dissemination of RECSA SALW study reports
	Development of project documentary	Documentary on the project implementation and milestones

## PHASE II FUNDING



## CHALLENGES

1. Late release of funds delayed activities implementation as scheduled. Thus the project lost more than one year behind schedule.
2. Bureaucracy in Member States meant that approval to implement activities took longer than anticipated.
3. Prevailing conflict and turmoil environments and the electoral environments in some of the targeted countries could not offer a conducive environment for the implementation of some of the planned activities.
4. Limited funds did not accommodate wholesome regional activities priorities.
5. Lack of baseline data may affect the measurement of the effectiveness of the project despite its evident results.

## CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

Overall, the implementation of the project was a success. To further consolidate the gains made by implementing this project in the Fight Against Illicit Accumulation and Trafficking of Firearms in Africa, there is need for a buildup on the interventions institutions, structures and tools initiated.

There is a further need to consolidate the partnerships generated and enhanced both at regional and national levels while implementing SALW interventions.



The African Union structures, RECs and development partners should consider contributing to this noble cause.

