



Co-operating to Disarm



Co-operating to Disarm

**Joint AU-UNODA-RECSA Project to
support the implementation of the
2020 September Africa Amnesty
Month for the Surrender and
collection of illegally owned
weapons
Narrative Report
July 2020 May
2021**



President Uhuru Kenyata setting Fire on illicit firearms collected during the 2020 amnesty month

1. Project background and rationale

In 2017, at its 29th Summit, the African Union Assembly declared September of each year “Africa Amnesty Month”, for the “surrender and collection of illegally owned weapons/arms, in line with international and regional good practices”.¹ According to the decision, “persons who surrender their illegally owned weapons/arms shall not be subjected to disclosure humiliation, arrest or prosecution”.² Hence, Africa Amnesty Month represents on the one hand a tool to reduce illicit flows of small arms and light weapons (SALW) on the continent, and on the other hand an opportunity for all to jointly contribute to peace, security and sustainable development.

The illegal possession of SALW by non-state actors, individuals, and groups is known to be a key instigator of armed violence, impeding socio-economic development and security on the continent. The nexus between illicit SALW trafficking, organized crime and terrorism is widely recognized and represents a crucial threat in many parts of Africa, including the Sahel and the Horn of Africa. The outbreak of COVID-19 has further exacerbated the suffering of those exposed to armed conflict complicating crucial access to health care facilities and shelter. The pandemic also brought new urgency to address the gendered impact of the illicit proliferation of small arms and ammunition pointing to a dramatic increase in cases of gender- based violence often facilitated through the misuse of small arms.

The Africa Amnesty Month, in support of the broader AU “Silencing the Guns” flagship initiative, helps to prevent and reduce the illegal circulation and misuse of SALW, which is central to realizing peace, security and stability on the continent. It constitutes an important



Co-operating to Disarm

opportunity to attain the goals laid out in the Lusaka Roadmap, as well as a commitment to the joint achievement of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063**. In this regard, Africa Amnesty Month particularly supports the achievement of **Sustainable Development Goal 16 on Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions and its Target 16.4** on the significant reduction of illicit arms flow.

In 2020, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), together with the African Union Commission (AUC) initiated a joint project to support the implementation of the Africa Amnesty Month in interested African States. The project was carried out in seven African States, **Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, and Kenya**, and was generously funded by the **Government of Japan and the Federal Government of Germany**. Jointly undertaken by UNODA and the AUC, the project also included the Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa, and Bordering States (RECSA) as implementing partner.

¹See: Assembly/AU/Dec. 645 (XXIX) (2017, page 2, para. 9, available from https://au.int/sites/default/files/decisions/37294-assembly_au_dec_642_-_664_xxix_e_1.pdf.

²Ibid.

In line with the above, the project sets four key objectives, including sub-objectives, according to which project activities and sub-activities were designed.

1.1 Project objectives

- i. Reduce illicit ownership of SALW and their ammunition
- ii. Decrease levels of armed violence
- iii. Strengthen capacity of law enforcement/military on:
 - a. Outreach towards civilians including trust building measures such as community policing;
 - b. Establishing of voluntary weapons collection;
 - c. Stockpiling of SALW and ammunition including adequate marking, recordkeeping; and
 - d. Weapons destruction

- iv. Increase awareness through media among civilians on harmful consequences of illicit SALW ownership

The below project components are designed to achieve the set objectives in the four key areas, namely sensitization, capacity-building, weapons collection and safe storage, and destruction.

1.2 Project components

- a) **Conduct** nation-wide **communication and sensitization campaigns** through national and local media (primarily radio, but also TV and social media), and physical sensitization missions carried out by the National Small Arms Commissions' teams in rural and urban areas to raise awareness on the negative effects of illegal gun ownership and illicit proliferation of small arms and ammunition within and among communities;
- b) **Organize community-based policing workshops** for national law enforcement officers with the aim of generating local level approaches to policing and security provision linked to small arms control that will contribute to enhance trust between local communities and law enforcement;
- c) **Prepare weapon collection points, and proper storage** of collected small arms and ammunition carried out through the National Commissions supported by national law enforcement officers and following international and regional standards and good practices;
- d) **Organize a public destruction** events of collected weapons in accordance with international and regional standards and good practices.

Supported by the project partners, National Commissions and National Focal Points for small arms control of the participating countries organized public launch- and sensitization events of the Africa Amnesty Month that received high levels of visibility. Nation-wide slogan campaigns helped to **increase public awareness** and engagement, particularly of youth, who participated in a contest to develop a campaign slogan and key messages for the Africa Amnesty Month in their respective countries.³ Public knowledge of the effects of illicit accumulation, misuse, and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) among the broader public was further enhanced by media campaigns conducted through TV and radio spots, but also the dissemination of posters, flyers, and t-shirts. Moreover, **Community- Based Policing (CBP) workshops** helped build law enforcement's capacity to provide security at the local level and enhance trust with communities. Last but not least, the capacities of national law enforcement were also strengthened through workshops on Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM), record-keeping and tracing, but also the community- based policing concepts.

Achieving the sustainable development goals requires the full and equal **participation of women and youth** in efforts across the peace continuum, which is crucial to enhance trust, legitimacy, and credibility among citizens and their governments. It helps to prevent and mediate conflicts in a durable manner and provides the possibility to reach more effective and sustainable solutions to armed conflict. Countries that participated in the Africa Amnesty Month project have pushed for a strong inclusion of gender-responsive activities in their project planning. Burkina Faso, for example, included a two-day workshop on “Gender and Small Arms Control”. Cameroon, where the project was jointly implemented by the Ministry of External Relations (MINREX) and the Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace (CAMYOSFOP), a strong member of the Cameroon civil society organization, also included strong gender aspects, comprising specific sensitization workshops for women and youth. Other countries have included gender-sensitive messaging to address both young women and men differently during the campaign.

2. Project implementation

Adhering to the principle of national ownership, UNODA required that beneficiary countries adapt project activities according to their national realities and that the project team, together with the project national coordinating structure (national commission/national focal point) developed national implementation plans according to the local context and priorities. Accordingly, while the core areas of the project remained similar in all countries, the specific activity design varied from country to country. In that way, project planning was context-sensitive, including with regard to security and culture-related specificities. The monitoring and evaluation component, which included a security perception survey, provided crucial insights into local security conditions, trends of illicit trafficking, and local security arrangements and security networks provided by traditional mechanisms in the absence of State authority. The perception survey was conducted in the local areas designated for the project implementation by national authorities. Its aim was to assess impacts of illicit trafficking on local security, including a gendered impact, as well as to gather information on primary types of weapons in circulation, cultural linkages to holding of weapons (e.g. traditional hunters), and trust in the state when regarding the provision of security and local conflict resolution mechanisms.

The following will provide a general overview per country, including the main project activities, results, and indicators, timeframes, and locations, as well as the status of activity completion. In addition, each country overview is followed by main findings of the security perception survey to contextualize the project implementation and deduce key recommendations for future programmatic engagement.

2.1 Cameroon

Geographical scope of project implementation in Cameroon:





Co-operating to Disarm

2.1.1 Activity Overview, Results and Indicators

Country	Activity Category	Detailed Description	Results	Success indicator	Period Location Status
CAMEROON	Sensitization & Outreach	Launch of a youth national slogan campaign for the development of logo/slogan key messages for the Amnesty Month campaign	Over 25 proposals by young people , local artists and activists submitted; winner was selected and received prize at official launch event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 1000 flyers printed ✓ 500 posters printed ✓ 3 TV spots diffused ✓ Press coverage for all six events ✓ Media kit produced and translated into local language ✓ Up to 400 chirurgical facemasks distributed to event participants (for all events six) ✓ Up to 200 bottles of disinfectant (500 ml) distributed to event participants (for all six events) ✓ 500 T-shirts and 300 caps produced including logos and national slogan 	
<p>Implementing agency:</p> <p>Civil Society Organization CAMYOSFOP</p> <p>and Ministry of External Relations (MINREX)</p> <p>Donor: Germany</p>					



<p>Budget:</p> <p>US\$ 85.136,59</p>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Extensive media coverage in print and online media (see list attached) 	
	<p>Sensitization & Outreach</p>	<p>Official project launch by the Prime Minister</p>	<p>Increased momentum for small arms control “Silencing the Guns” and the Amnesty Month through the support and advocacy by high-level government officials; Increased regional cooperation and coordination through joint partnership and attendance by regional and international partners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 50 participants attended, including governmental entities, international- and non-governmental organizations, and civil society ✓ Report and pictures available 	

	<p>Capacity-building</p>	<p>Capacity-building workshop: Cameroon held a 3-day training workshop in Yaoundé for law enforcement agencies on <i>Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM)</i> including marking and recordkeeping</p>	<p>Increased awareness by relevant law enforcement officials on key concepts based on the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG) and the Modular Small Arms Implementation Compendium (MOSAIC) were transmitted; these included for example marking and tracing, stockpile security, transportation of arms and ammunition, and inventory management</p> <p>Increased advocacy regarding the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 30 participants from different law enforcement services and different ranks, including from the military and the police attended ✓ Workshop report and pictures available 	



			importance to establish a national focal point for small arms control as well as to provide further capacity-building in the area of PSSM to Cameroon's law enforcement agencies		
	Capacity-building	Capacity-building workshop: 1-day sensitization forum was conducted in Yaoundé for law enforcement agencies (LEAs) on community-based policing approaches and secure weapons and ammunition weapon management during weapon collection campaigns	Increased awareness by relevant law enforcement officials on key concepts of community-based policing approaches in link to small arms control fostering trust and collaboration among law enforcement and local populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 30 participants from different law enforcement services and different ranks, including from the military and the police attended ✓ Workshop report and pictures available 	

--	--	--	--	--	--

	<p>Sensitization & Outreach / Capacity-building</p>	<p>Local sensitization workshop: 1-day sensitization workshop for <i>women and youth leaders</i> on the role of women and youth in the fight against illicit SALW and arms collection</p>	<p>Increased awareness by women and youth on SALW control related aspects and concrete options to actively fight the illicit proliferation of SALW</p> <p>Increased awareness by government authorities on pressing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 30 participants per workshop from various surrounding regions and localities ✓ Workshop report and pictures available 	<p>1 8 N O V E M B E R M A R</p>
--	--	--	---	--	--



					O U A
			local security issues and grievances The sensitization provided an opportunity for dialogue and exchange among State officials and local communities		

	<p>Sensitization & Outreach / Capacity-building</p>	<p>Local sensitization workshop: 1-day sensitization workshop with <i>traditional leaders</i> and blacksmiths on the 2016 weapons regulation law in line with the production and use of artisanal weapons</p>	<p>Increased awareness by traditional leaders on SALW control related aspects and concrete options to actively fight the illicit proliferation of SALW</p> <p>Increased awareness by government authorities on pressing local security issues and grievances</p> <p>The sensitization provided an opportunity for dialogue and exchange among State officials and traditional leaders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 30 participants per workshop from various surrounding regions and localities ✓ Workshop report and pictures available 	
--	--	--	--	--	--

	<p>SALW collection</p>	<p>Country-wide voluntary hand-over of illegal weapons in the 10 regions with focus on North West, South West, East and Far North conducted by the National DDR Commission</p>	<p>Weapons have been collected and are securely stored; the government is yet to communicate the finalized inventory list shared by the national DDR Commission</p>	<p>✓ Impact on National DDR collection process yet to be communicated</p>	<p>S E P T E M B E R - D E C E M B E R C O M P L E T E D</p>
	<p>SALW destruction</p>	<p>A public weapons destruction ceremony organized by the government is expected to be conducted in May 2021.</p>	<p>A national destruction ceremony is planned for May in congruence with national independence day</p>	<p>✓ Public destruction by the government is planned to take place in May 2021 upon confirmation by the national authorities</p>	<p>M A Y O U T S T A N D I N G</p>

	<p>M&E</p>	<p>Project reporting and local security perception survey conducted by a local consultant from the local NGO Africa Development Interchange Network (ADIN); the consultancy was locally advertised</p>	<p>A project report encompassing all project activities was prepared by the ADIN consultant</p> <p>Field missions were conducted to five localities (Bamenda, Buea, Bertoua, Maroua, Yaoundé)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Perception survey report available ✓ Set target of 50-60 respondents per locality achieved ✓ Five diverse localities included to increase significance ✓ 264 questionnaires processed, thereof 134 women 	<p>A U G U S T - D E C E M B E R C O M P L E T E D</p>
--	-----------------------	---	---	---	--

2.1.2 Cameroon: Key findings of the security perception survey

The security perception survey was a tool to assess impacts of illicit trafficking on local security, including the gendered impact, as well as to gather information on primary types of weapons in circulation, cultural linkages to holding of weapons (e.g. traditional hunters), and trust in the state when regarding the provision of security and local conflict resolution mechanisms. The information collected helped project partners in the design and planning of project components. For example, the strong indication that armed violence impacted youth and women differently in all concerned areas, raised the need to include targeted activities for both women and youth.

The security perception survey included **264 respondents in six local areas** throughout Cameroon. It provided vital information regarding local security settings, levels of proliferation of arms, but also respondents' levels of awareness on small arms-related issues, impacts of previous projects and the Amnesty Month.

The survey showed that over half of the respondents from the different areas feel unsafe during their daily life occupations, such as going to the market, fetching water, going to school, or work. According to the respondents, this is linked to the prevalence of armed violence as well as petty crime and intercommunal conflict. Over 47 per cent of respondents indicated that parts of their communities are lightly, and some heavily armed, often linked to organized forms of violence. Regarding the type of armaments, 17 per cent indicated that armament would include automatic rifles and 40 per cent believed that weapons in circulation are primarily locally made. Respondents supported that the high circulation of illicit weapons in and between communities has a tremendous impact on security with citizens frequently experiencing violence.

A majority underlined that armed violence impacts women and youth differently. However, respondents had difficulty explaining how that different impact would manifest itself. In general,

80 per cent of respondents underlined that they did not feel informed about aspects surrounding small arms control as well as the negative impacts of illicit trafficking of SALW. For those that indicated a certain level of information, reportedly received it from the government. A majority of respondents were not aware of the Amnesty Month campaign before this year's initiative. No similar activities were conducted in the respective areas in the past, according to the respondents. The latter felt positive about the ongoing sensitization campaign and welcomed a more frequent implementation of such initiatives (more than twice a year). A majority felt that these initiatives should be linked to other development initiatives. To resolve local conflict, 40 per cent responded to turn towards a local police station, 40 per cent towards the community leader, and another 40 indicated to resolve them within the family. A majority underlined that conflict resolution followed predominantly traditional mechanisms but pointed out that these remained ineffective.

In conclusion, levels of insecurity linked to organized violence and intercommunal conflict are significant. Perceived levels of illicit circulation of predominantly locally produced craft weapons are equally high. While a general lack of information on various aspects and tools to locally fight illicit trafficking prevails, responses to sensitization initiatives and voluntary surrender programmes, such as the Africa Amnesty Month were largely positive. Local conflict resolution

mechanisms are reportedly the predominant measure to solve disputes. However, satisfaction with the latter is extremely limited. Cameroonian authorities, together with civil society actors, should urgently address security problems at the local level, engage communities, and further strengthen awareness on small arms control-related aspects in juncture with local development aspects that seem to be in high demand.

2.1.2 Cameroon: Summary and Outlook

The September Africa Amnesty Month in Cameroon represented an important initiative that supported peacebuilding in the country from various perspectives. It not only allowed to raise awareness on the importance of small arms control at the highest political level but also provided practical inputs through training of law enforcement forces in various aspects of physical security and stockpile management as well as new approaches to law enforcement/policing practices based on synergistic, mutually reinforcing community-police engagements.

The collaboration between the civil society organization CAMYOSFOP and the Ministry of External Relations, MINREX, reflected the essence of Amnesty Month's call to apply a whole- of-society approach to effectively control arms and support sustainable development. CAMYOSFOP, through its longstanding grass-root activities, was able to carry out sensitization activities with various stakeholders, including traditional leaders, youth, and women, to support small arms control actions at the local level.

Over 170 women and men from various backgrounds and age categories, including law enforcement and civil society, were directly engaged through capacity-building and sensitization workshops. Many more were reached through nation-wide sensitization using media, such as TV, radio, and the press. The initiatives were aimed at supporting the National DDR Commission's operations in weapons collection. The Commission is yet to report back on the impact of the sensitization campaign with regard to an increased number of weapons collected by the Commission. Cameroon plans a symbolic weapons destruction ceremony in attendance of the Head of State at Cameroon's national independence day in May 2021 to set a symbol of peace, advocate for unity, and non-violent conflict resolution.

2.2 Côte d'Ivoire

Geographical scope of project implementation in Côte d'Ivoire :





Co-operating to Disarm

2.2.1 Activity Overview, Results and Indicators

Country	Activity Category	Detailed Description	Results	Success indicator	Period/ Location/ Status
---------	-------------------	----------------------	---------	-------------------	--------------------------------

<p>Côte d'Ivoire</p> <p><i>Implementing agency:</i> Commission Nationale de lutte contre la prolifération et la circulation illicite d'Armes Légères et de Petit Calibre (ComNat-ALPC)</p> <p>Donor: Germany</p> <p>Budget: US\$ 111.192,80</p>	<p>Sensitization & Outreach</p>	<p>Launch of a youth national slogan campaign for the development of logo/slogan key messages for the Amnesty Month campaign</p>	<p>Over 50 idea proposals by young people, local artists and activists submitted; winner was selected and received prize at official launch event</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 2790 flyers printed ✓ 1500 posters printed ✓ 3 radio spots translated in 10 local languages diffused via 3 local radios in (Boundiali, Minignan, Tengrela) for 60 days ✓ Press coverage for all six events ✓ Media kit produced and translated into local language ✓ Up to 400 surgical facemasks distributed to event participants (for all events six) ✓ Up to 200 bottles of disinfectant (500 ml) distributed to event participants (for all six events) ✓ 500 T-shirts and 500 caps produced including logos and national slogan ✓ Extensive media coverage in print and online media (see list 	
---	--	---	---	--	--

	<p>Sensitization & Outreach</p>	<p>Official project launch in Abidjan chaired by the President of the COMNAT as well as high-level government officials and international and regional partners</p>	<p>Increased momentum for small arms control “Silencing the Guns” and the Amnesty Month through the support and advocacy by high-level government officials;</p> <p>Increased regional cooperation and coordination through joint partnership and attendance by regional and international partners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 40 participants attended, including governmental entities, international- and non-governmental organizations, and civil society ✓ Report and pictures available 	
--	--	--	--	--	--

	<p>Local sensitization and outreach</p>	<p>Local sensitization missions were conducted in Northern part of the country bordering Mali and Burkina Faso, including Minignan, Tienko, Kanakono, Boundiali, Siempurgo</p>	<p>Increased awareness by women and youth on SALW control related aspects and concrete options to actively fight the illicit proliferation of SALW</p> <p>Increased awareness by government authorities on pressing local security issues and grievances</p>	<p>✓ 229 participants from the different localities took part in the sensitization sessions</p> <p>✓ Workshop report and pictures available (see cover page)</p>	<p>0- 2 0 D E C E M B E R B O R D E R A R E A</p>



					S M A L I / B U R K I N A
--	--	--	--	--	---

Co-operating to Disarm



	<p>Local sensitization and outreach</p>	<p>Local sensitization missions were conducted in Northern part of the country bordering Mali and Burkina Faso, including Minignan, Tienko, Kanakono, Boundiali, Siempurgo</p>	<p>Increased awareness by women and youth on SALW control related aspects and concrete options to actively fight the illicit proliferation of SALW; Increased awareness by government authorities on pressing local security issues and grievances;</p> <p>The sensitization provided an opportunity for dialogue and exchange among State officials and local communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 229 participants from the different localities took part in the sensitization sessions ✓ Workshop report and pictures available (see cover page) 	
--	--	--	---	---	--

	<p>Capacity-building</p>	<p>Capacity-building workshop:</p> <p>A 2-day capacity-building workshop was conducted in Korhogo for law enforcement agencies (LEAs) on community-based policing approaches and secure weapons and ammunition weapon management during weapon collection campaigns</p>	<p>Increased awareness by relevant law enforcement officials on key concepts of community-based policing approaches in link to small arms control fostering trust and collaboration among law enforcement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 23 participants from different law enforcement services and different ranks, including from the military, the police, customs, and wildlife services attended ✓ Workshop report and pictures available 	<p>DECEMBER COMPLET</p>



					ED
--	--	--	--	--	----



			and local populations		
	SALW collection	voluntary hand-over of illegal weapons in Minignan, Boundiali and Tengrela	Weapons have been collected and securely destroyed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 127 small arms ✓ 852 rounds of ammunition ✓ Pictures and report available 	17-31 DECEMBER COMPLETED
	M&E	Project reporting and local security perception survey conducted by a local consultant	<p>A project report encompassing all project activities was prepared by Mr. Aboubakar Faman Toure that also conducted field missions to three localities for the community security perception survey (Boundiali, Tengrela, Minignan)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Perception survey report available ✓ Set target of 50-60 respondents per locality achieved ✓ Three diverse localities included to increase significance 	AUGUST- DECEMBER



				✓ 209 questionnaires processed, thereof 70 per cent male, 30 per cent female	
--	--	--	--	--	--

2.2.2 Côte d'Ivoire: Key findings of the security perception survey

In the context of the community security perception survey, the consultant was able to reach **209 respondents in the Northern region bordering Mali and Burkina Faso in the localities of Minignan, Tengrela and Boundiali**. 70% of respondents were male and 30% female. 12,7 % of respondents were between 18 and 25, 21,8 % between 26 and 35, 26 % between 36 and 40, 33,6 % between 41 and 65 and 5,6 % older than 65 years old.

The main sources of insecurity varied greatly among the different localities. While petty crime is the largest source of insecurity in Boundiali, armed herder farmer conflicts represent the largest security threat in Minignan and Tengrela. An additional factor in this regard is the presence of traditional Dozo hunters that frequently enter into conflict with armed herders, crossing agricultural sites of local communities. In the absence of State authority in these areas, the Dozo hunters represent a security provision substitute since many years in the region.

In all regions, **tradition and culture emerge as deciding factors** for the possession and use of weapons within the communities. Respondents indicated to view it as “normal” for dozo hunters to possess a hunting rifle. Weapons are further inherited among family members as part of local tradition.



Picture1: Traditional hunting rifle, locally fabricated in Tengrela, picture: Faman Touré

According to the respondents, craft weapons are used more frequently than automatic rifles, in particular for hunting, but also for self-protection and the protection of livestock and the family.

While 46 % of respondents replied that the circulation of weapons in the area would not have a negative effect on security, they did so when it came to the socio-economic impact. This factor is closely linked to **reduced access to livelihoods and livestock** due to **frequent herder-farmer conflicts in the region**. In that regard, communities see **individuals as sources of insecurity** and do not make a link to their armament as source of insecurity.

Questions regarding the gendered impacts of armed violence were strongly biased in this particular context. The consultant conducting the survey explained that all three localities are built on **strong patriarchal structures** where women are not allowed to speak, unless given authority by a man. Most women asked therefore did not want to respond to the survey and those that did could do so only in the presence of their husbands.

The traditional setting of the region was also reflected in the question on conflict resolution mechanisms, where **over 60 %** (with the largest proportion in Boundiali) **of respondents indicated that they would turn to their traditional community leader**. Only 29 % indicated to consult the local police, most of them in Tengrela. Finally, most respondents indicated to not have been familiar with the Amnesty Month and the “Silencing the Guns” campaign before, but that they have heard about it on the local radio (36%). Over 60% indicated to welcome such projects in the region.

2.2.3 Conclusion and Outlook

The engagement in the context of the project by the COMNAT-ALPC in the Northern region bordering Mali and Burkina Faso was important from several perspectives. Burkina Faso also conducted the Amnesty Month during the same period across the border in Banfora. In that regard, the project was able to strengthen the cross-border component by including various activities simultaneously in neighboring countries. Moreover, as the security perception survey has shown, increasingly armed intercommunal conflicts persist, which are exacerbated by reduced access to



livestock and livelihoods that are likely to worsen with rapidly changing climate and increasing draught. The project was able to reach communities through conflict-sensitive messaging advocating for non-violent conflict resolution and surrender of illegally detained firearms. 127 firearms, predominantly of local fabrication, were *surrendered*.

Future small arms control initiatives should therefore focus on the inclusion of community dialogues as well as alternative livelihood programmes to dissolve tension and prevent armed violence in the area. The training on community-based policing techniques was therefore highly welcomed by local law enforcement forces. The involvement of the security forces and CSOs was appreciated and enabled increased coordination among the various actors and local stakeholders. During the local sensitization missions, the involvement of local authorities, community and religious leaders and CSOs representatives facilitated access to the target audience and delivery of key messages. The use of local radio stations had a great impact on reaching out to the broader public in the area. The stronger involvement of women and youth in the awareness raising campaigns was a very positive factor and should be strengthened in future activities.

2.3 Ethiopia

Geographical scope of project implementation in Ethiopia:





2.3.1 Activity Overview, Results and Indicators :

Country	Activity Category	Detailed Description	Results	Success indicator	Period/ Location/ Status
---------	-------------------	----------------------	---------	-------------------	--------------------------------

<p>Ethiopia</p> <p>Implementing agency:</p> <p>Ministry of Peace</p> <p>Donor: Germany</p> <p>Budget:</p> <p>US\$ 90.208,20</p>	<p>Sensitization & Outreach</p>	<p>Official project launch in Addis Ababa by the Minister of Peace, RECSA, the Federal Police Commissioner General, federal as well as regional government officials, law enforcement agencies, civil society organizations, representatives of the Federal Republic of Germany, UN, AU, UNOAU, BICC, embassies and diplomatic corps based in Addis</p> <p>Launch of nation-wide sensitization campaign</p>	<p>Increased momentum for small arms control “Silencing the Guns” and the Amnesty Month through the support and advocacy by high-level government officials;</p> <p>Increased awareness on new national legislation (Firearm Administration and Control Proclamation 1177/2020)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 900 flyers printed ✓ 900 posters printed ✓ 1 radio spot and 1 TV spot produced that were diffused nation-wide ✓ Large press coverage on print and social media ✓ Media kit produced and translated into local language ✓ Up to 120 chirurgical facemasks distributed to event participants (for all three events) ✓ Up to 80 bottles of disinfectant (500 ml) distributed to event participants (for all three events) ✓ 4 visibility banners produced (for all three events) ✓ 3 roll-ups produced (for all three events) 	
---	--	---	---	--	--

	<p>Capacity-building</p>	<p>3-day training in installation and use of national arms registration data-base (RECSA Small Arms and Light Weapons Tracing System software (RSTS))</p>	<p>Increased awareness and usability of registration techniques by relevant law enforcement officers to ensure effective registration of arms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 25 participants from the Ministry of Peace, Federal, Regional as well as City Administrations police commissions ✓ 2 data base servers provided ✓ 2 server cabinets ✓ 1 OTP key ✓ Report and pictures available 	<p>O C T O B E R</p> <p>B A H I R D A R C O M P L E T</p>
--	---------------------------------	---	---	---	---

					E D
	Capacity-building	3-day validation workshop of the national small arms legislation (Firearm Administration and Control Proclamation 1177/2020)	Legislation was amended and validated to pave the way for the establishment of practical directives of the law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 43 participants (all 10 country regions) of the Ministry of Peace, the federal police commission, and regional and city administrations police commissions ✓ Report and pictures available 	OC TO BER BAHIR DAR COMP LETED
	M&E	Survey on the national firearms legislation	National consultant conducted a study on the national firearms legislation including respondents from 10 regional states in Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Final report available including respondents from all 10 regional states from various regional and central law enforcement services 	

2.3.2 Ethiopia: Key findings Firearm Administration and Control Proclamation (FACP)

analysis

As Ethiopia's project design differed from those in other countries, the survey conducted did not focus on the impact of illicit proliferation of small arms on local security settings, but focused largely on the dissemination and awareness-raising on the provisions of the new legislation and the current institutional framework to ensure small arms control in the country. Respondents of all ten regional states and Addis Ababa (Afar, Amhara, Beshangul, Dire Dawa, Gambela, Harari, SNNPR, Somali, Tigray) and different law enforcement

services shared their perspective on the prospects of the new legislation and current status of small arms control in the country.

A majority of the survey participants approved the usefulness of the FACP in combating illegal firearms trafficking while a large proportion had confidence in its effectiveness if appropriately implemented. More than

86% of the respondents believed that

FACP would improve the peace and security situation in Ethiopia.

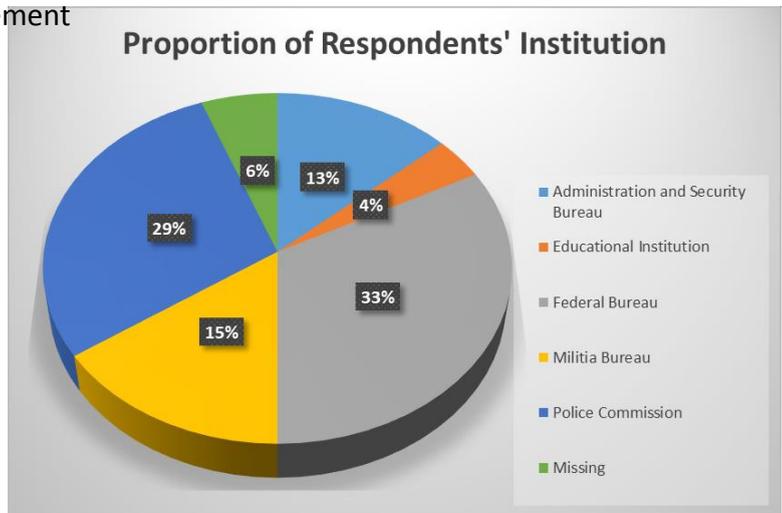
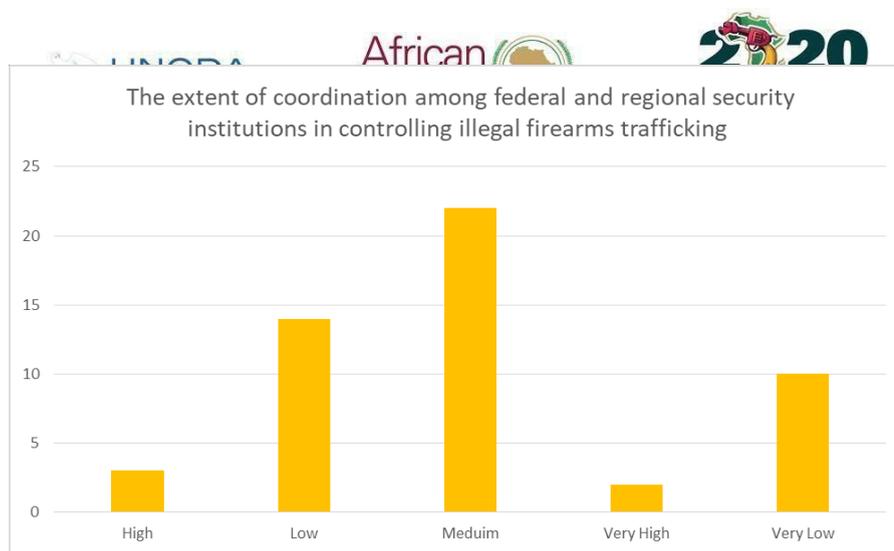


Figure 1: Respondents by institution

A majority of the respondents also highlighted that arms trafficking was a major cause of instability in Ethiopia. Most respondents appreciated the role that regional police commissions, regional security and administration bureaus and regional militias play in controlling illegal firearms trafficking. However, it was noted in the report that almost 30% of the respondents were either undecided or skeptical on the efficacy of regional militia in tackling the problem. More than 35% of the respondents considered the current illegal firearms trafficking control mechanisms inadequate.

Figure 2: Coordination among federal and regional security institutions in controlling illicit SALW trafficking



Almost half of the respondents believed that the cooperation between regional and federal bureaus with regards to tackling arms trafficking was weak. Up to three quarters of the respondents firmly believed that their institution had the required capability to implement FACP. However,

it was highlighted that further capacity-building was needed in order to effectively implement the legislation and curb illicit arms flows.

2.3.3 Ethiopia: Conclusion and Outlook

The project design and implementation in Ethiopia differed to a large extent from the one in other participating countries. During the project planning phase, Ethiopian counterparts explained that requesting a voluntary hand-over of small arms during September would be premature and unrealistic given ongoing inter-ethnic tension and the absence of a legal framework to support a voluntary weapon hand-over. The counterparts underlined the ongoing legal revision process of the firearms proclamation since February 2020 and wanted to make use of the project to **advocate for “Silencing the Guns” in Africa and sensitize the broader public about the new legislation**. As supported by the survey results, national counterparts (various security institutions) believed that the new **legislation would represent a milestone in the advancement of effective small arms control in the country** and also believed in its **ability to significantly improve national and regional security**. In that regard, the project supported the sensitization components around the new legislation combined with general messaging on the negative impacts of illicit trafficking on sustainable peace and development in the country. Via national radio and television, **messages were broadcasted nation-wide in various local languages to reach populations even in local areas**.

The project also supported the **validation process of the law** that paved the way for the development of concrete operational directives allowing national law enforcement to move to the practical implementation of the legislation. While discussions on the establishment of a national institution responsible for small arms control were already underway in 2020, the project has reiterated the need to establish such a body. Ethiopian counterparts will continue their work towards that goal in the coming year. Through practical capacity-building workshops for **more than 60 participants from relevant law enforcement services received training** on the usage of the regional weapons registration data base **RSTS** (RECSA Small Arms and Light Weapons Tracing System software) that will help support **the effective support of weapons registration and tracing** once the practical implementation of the new legislation begins.



Unfortunately, the recent security deterioration has stalled the achieved momentum in moving forward on practical small arms control in the country. Ethiopia, as a RECSA member State, has confirmed its continued determination to continuing the work in the coming years and making good use of the skills and results achieved during the project.

3. Conclusion & outlook

Despite the challenging factor of the global outbreak of **COVID-19**, project partners delivered on project objectives and generated tangible outputs. All three countries have made **significant progress in advancing small arms control at the national and regional levels**. In Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, and Ethiopia, **107 members of various law enforcement services**, including the police, customs, wildlife, and military services **participated in capacity-building initiatives** on secure stockpile management techniques, record-keeping methods, and community-based policing. **Almost 450 people from various parts of society**, including high-level government officials, **were reached through opening ceremonies and local-level sensitization efforts**. These generated increased awareness on the devastating effects of illicit trafficking on sustainable peace and development and called for action to improve national and regional small arms control efforts. In that regard, the project supported countries' efforts to **advance on their commitment to "Silence the Guns" in Africa**, and helped move towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as Agenda

2063. It **positively contributed to reducing illicit arms flows (Indicator 16.4.2) and helped to strengthen links between the community and national law enforcement services**.

The inclusion of women and youth in the project's sensitization efforts was highly welcomed in all countries and demonstrated the **important role young women and men** have to play in peacebuilding and conflict resolution at all levels.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the national small arms commission collected **127 small arms and 852 rounds of ammunition**. In Cameroon, the nation-wide campaign supported weapon collection efforts conducted by the national DDR Commission. Ethiopia has **validated its new Firearms Proclamation**, informed the public about its content, and paved the way for the establishment of a national focal point on small arms control and the practical implementation of the legislation.

The individual project design in each country ensured **context-sensitivity and national ownership** of the process resulting in a high-level political commitment by States to support not only the Amnesty Month initiative but also the AU "Silencing the Guns" initiative that reached its first target year in 2020. This was supported by the results of the security perception surveys conducted in all project implementation locations. These pointed to a strong impact of the illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons on local security settings, including a strong gendered impact. In many cases, respondents pointed to a frequent experience of violence in their communities, strongly linked to increasingly armed herder-farmer conflicts. The survey also showed the prevalence of locally produced weapons over automatic rifles and a strong link to tradition and culture when considering civilian holdings of small arms in communities. It was also demonstrated that a majority of communities rely on local conflict resolution mechanisms instead of turning to local police stations

or other governmental institutions to solve conflict. Last, the awareness on small arms-related aspects, “Silencing the Guns” and the Amnesty Month was generally very low. However, respondents underlined that after having heard about it during the campaign and the sensitization events, they found that **these initiatives were useful to improve local security and should be conducted at least twice per year.**

Hence, the project implementation has highlighted the following lessons learned:

1. Illicit trafficking is a multidimensional issue demanding for multidimensional responses in a whole-of-society approach;
2. The collaboration of national, regional and international organizations is a recipe for success when it comes to project implementation on the continent and enhancing of national ownership;
3. A strong focus on women and youth is adamant when engaging society on small arms control at the national and local level;
4. The inclusion of civil society is key when reaching out to the broader public.
5. Looking forward, the 2021 implementation of the Africa Amnesty Month will continue to integrate strong gender-sensitive components into the activity planning and build stronger linkages to other ongoing initiatives addressing socio-economic development.

4.2

Pictures

4.2.1

Cameroon



Launch event of the Africa Amnesty Month in Yaoundé, October 2020.



Youth Peace Caravan, Maroua, Cameroon, October 2020.



Sensitization workshop with traditional leaders in the Far North, Cameroon, December 2020.



Sensitization workshop with women in the Far North, Cameroon, December 2020

4.2.2 Côte d'Ivoire



Local sensitization mission of the COMNAT-ALPC team in Tengrela, Côte d'Ivoire, 2020.



Small arms collected in Tengrela, Boundiali and Minignan and their destruction, Côte d'Ivoire, December 2020.

4.2.3 Ethiopia





Training of law enforcement on RSTS weapons record-keeping data base, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 3-5 October, 2020.

4.3 Media links

Cameroon,
2020:

Voice of America, *African Governments Encourage Surrender of Illegal Weapons*, 20 October 2020,
<https://www.voanews.com/africa/african-governments-encourage-surrender-illegal-weapons>.

All Africa, *Cameroon: Illicit Possession of Arms - Government Focuses On Strict Regulation*, 21 October 2020, <https://allafrica.com/stories/202010220201.html>.

Cameroon Radio Television (Crtv), *Fighting Small Arms and Light Weapons: Cameroon on the Offensive*, 19 October 2020,
<http://www.crtv.cm/2020/10/fighting-small-arms-and-light-weapons-cameroon-on-the-offensive/>.

LeGideon Magazine, *Cameroon: Africa Amnesty Month, What the Law Says about Illegal Possession of Arms*, 20 October 2020,



<https://legideon.org/index.php?page=view/article/2845/Cameroon-Africa-Amnesty-Month-What-the-Law-Says->

[about-Illegal-Possession-of-Arms.](#)

News Break, *African Governments Encourage Surrender of Illegal Weapons*, 21 October 2020,

[https://www.newsbreak.com/news/2086228379770/african-governments-encourage-surrender-of-illegal-weapons.](https://www.newsbreak.com/news/2086228379770/african-governments-encourage-surrender-of-illegal-weapons)

The Median Paper, *Launch of Africa Amnesty Month: Gov't Commits to Fight Illicit Flow of Small Arms*, 26 October 2020,

[http://themedianpaper-yde.blogspot.com/2020/10/launch-of-africa-amnesty-month-govt.html.](http://themedianpaper-yde.blogspot.com/2020/10/launch-of-africa-amnesty-month-govt.html)

Mimi Mefo Info, *Month of Amnesty: PLO Lumumba draws AU attention to violence in Cameroon, Africa*, 3 September 2020,

[https://mimimefoinfos.com/month-of-amnesty-plo-lumumba-draws-au-attention-to-violence-in-cameroon-africa/.](https://mimimefoinfos.com/month-of-amnesty-plo-lumumba-draws-au-attention-to-violence-in-cameroon-africa/)

Youtube, *#SilenceTheGuns #SpokenWordPoetry by STAGE LIFE poet*, 22

September,

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UYRTq8mwPf4&feature=youtu.be.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UYRTq8mwPf4&feature=youtu.be)

Côte d'Ivoire, 2020:

Fratmat.info, *The fight against small arms: The national awareness campaign of the September*

2020- Amnesty Month in Africa project launched, 1 October 2020,

[https://www.fratmat.info/article/208435/Soci%C3%A9t%C3%A9/Ins%eacute;curit%eacute;/lutte-contre-les-armes-legeres--la-campagne-nationale-de-sensibilisation-du-projet-septembre-2020-mois-damnistie-en-afrique-lancee.](https://www.fratmat.info/article/208435/Soci%C3%A9t%C3%A9/Ins%eacute;curit%eacute;/lutte-contre-les-armes-legeres--la-campagne-nationale-de-sensibilisation-du-projet-septembre-2020-mois-damnistie-en-afrique-lancee)

Koaci.com, Côte d'Ivoire : *L'initiative « Faire taire les armes en Afrique en 2020 » lancée depuis Abidjan*, 1 October 2020,

[https://www.koaci.com/article/2020/10/01/cote-divoire/societe/cote-divoire-linitiative-faire-taire-les-armes-en-afrique-en-2020-lancee-depuis-abidjan_145489.html.](https://www.koaci.com/article/2020/10/01/cote-divoire/societe/cote-divoire-linitiative-faire-taire-les-armes-en-afrique-en-2020-lancee-depuis-abidjan_145489.html)



FAAPA, *Lancement à Abidjan d'un projet sur la lutte contre les armes légères en Afrique*, 1

October 2020,

<http://www.faapa.info/blog/lancement-a-abidjan-dun-projet-sur-la-lutte-contre-l-es- armes-legeres-en-afrique/>.

Abidjan.net, *Sécurité communautaire : Lancement de la campagne nationale de sensibilisation pour la réduction de la détention illégale des armes et munitions*, 4 October 2020, <https://news.abidjan.net/h/681188.html>.

Ethiopia, 2020:

Waltainfo, *Fight against trafficking in arms will continue to be strengthened*, 7

October 2020, <http://www.waltainfo.com/news/detail/58929?locale=am>.

BBC News, *Arms Registration to begin Soon in Ethiopia*, 7 October

2020, <https://www.bbc.com/amharic/news-54451983>.

Press.et, *Ministry of Peace underlines necessity to register illegal firearms*, 31

October 2020, <https://www.press.et/Ama/?p=40808>.



AUC-UNODA-RECSA JOINT PROJECT SUPPORT TO THE AFRICA AMNESTY MONTH

JAPAN FUNDED PROJECT REPORT

May 2021

I. PROJECT SUMMARY

The Africa Amnesty Month Project supports partnering States in the implementation of the “Africa Amnesty Month” as part of the larger African Union flagship initiative of “Silencing the Guns in Africa by the year 2020” funded by the **Government of Japan and the Federal Government of Germany** through the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States (RECSA). The aim is to create a passage for citizens to voluntarily hand over illegally held small arms and their ammunition, increase the knowledge base on the negative effects of the illicit proliferation of small arms by promoting the full participation of women and youth resulting in sustainable peace and development in communities throughout the countries.

The launch events carried out by the States were successfully conducted under high levels of visibility¹ by the various National Commissions and National Focal Points on small arms control (NatComs & NFPs) which were resourced and supported by the project’s implementing partners. The project supported components to increase public awareness and engagement of youth through a national slogan campaign where youth were invited to share their views on how to achieve a conflict-free Africa². The media campaigns conducted through TV and radio spots, the printing of Information and Education Materials (IEM) on t-shirts, posters, and flyers further enhanced public knowledge of the negative effects of illicit accumulation, misuse, and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). The capacity-building component of the project on Community Based Policing (CBP) supported the promotion of local-level security provision within communities in linkage to voluntary weapon hand-over initiatives, such as the Africa Amnesty Month.

II. Background

The illegal possession of small arms and ammunition by non-state actors, individuals, and groups is one of the main contributing factors to armed violence that continues to plague the African continent and its people. Hence, preventing the illicit proliferation and misuse of small arms and ammunition is, therefore, central to realizing sustainable peace, security and development in Africa.

¹ See press coverage in Annex 1

² See:

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/ar/update/with-joint-support-from-the-african-union-commission-and-the-united-nations-youth-contest-for-africa-amnesty-month-2020-kicks-off/>.



At the 29th Summit of the African Union (AU) in 2017, AU Member States declared September of each year as “Africa Amnesty Month” for the surrender and collection of illicit small arms³. The decision provides the basis for the voluntary hand-over of illegally held small arms by civilians under the condition of anonymity and immunity from prosecution and physical harm. This is an opportunity that every citizen of Africa is called to seize and utilize to contribute to the realization of a peaceful, secure and prosperous continent. Indeed, Africa Amnesty Month contributes to the broader efforts of the “Silencing the Guns” flagship initiative and its concrete implementation **Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by 2020**⁴ (Lusaka Roadmap). The Amnesty Month calls upon all citizens in Africa, including civil society, particularly women and youth groups, the private sector, the media, academia and think-tanks, religious and traditional organizations to mobilize and sensitize their respective communities, as part of the campaign to facilitate the voluntary hand-over of illicit small arms during September.

Since 2017, States have undertaken various activities to safely collect, store, and destroy small arms during the September Africa Amnesty Month. The African Union Commission (AUC) in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs), with the support of the United Nations (UN), civil society organizations, think tanks and partners, continues to provide support to these efforts.

III. Project Objectives & Activities

Illicit flows and the use of small arms and light weapons undermine security, the rule of law, and socio-economic development. SALW are facilitators of armed violence resulting in the forced displacement of civilians, including women and children, and severe human rights violations. Africa Amnesty Month for the voluntary hand-over, collection, and destruction of illicit small arms and light weapons is an important initiative to reduce illicit arms flows. The initiative is a key opportunity to attaining the goals laid out in the Lusaka Roadmap but also a commitment to the joint achievement of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063**. In this regard, Africa Amnesty Month particularly supports the achievement of **Sustainable Development Goal 16** on Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions and its **Target 16.4** on the significant reduction of illicit arms flows. Achieving these goals requires the **full and equal participation of women and youth** in efforts across the peace continuum that are crucial to enhance trust, legitimacy and credibility among citizens and their governments. It helps to prevent and mediate conflicts in the long run and provides the possibility to reach more effective and sustainable solutions to armed conflict.

1) Project objectives:

³ See: Assembly/AU/Dec. 645 (XXIX) (2017, page 2, para. 9, available from

https://au.int/sites/default/files/decisions/37294-assembly_au_dec_642_-_664_xxix_e_1.pdf.

⁴ See: African Union Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by Year 2020 (Lusaka Roadmap) (2016), available from

https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/37996-doc-au_roadmap_silencing_guns_2020.pdf.en_.pdf.

1. Reduce illicit ownership of SALW and their ammunition;
2. Decrease levels of armed violence;
3. Strengthen capacity of law enforcement, including military and police, on:
 - a. Outreach towards civilians, including trust building measures such as community policing;
 - b. Establishing the conditions for voluntary hand-over of small arms and their secure collection;
 - c. Secure stockpiling of SALW and ammunition, including adequate marking and recordkeeping;
 - d. Encourage destruction of weapons collected during the campaign;
4. Increase public awareness on harmful consequences of illicit SALW ownership through broad scale media campaigns.

2) Project activities:

1. Organize broad-scale media campaigns, including national and local sensitization and outreach activities, including civil society organizations, women and youth;
2. Safely collect and store illegally held SALW by civilians handed over during September;
3. Organize capacity-building workshops for members of national law enforcement services, including community-based policing concepts, and components of Physical Security and Stockpile Management;
4. Undertake secure destruction of SALW collected during the Amnesty Month.

V. Results & Outlook

In addition to the project's joint partnership framework among the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), and the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA), National Small Arms Commissions (NATCOMs), and National Focal Points (NFPs) represented the main implementing agencies at the national level. Guided by the principle of national ownership, the national partners adapted the broader project outlines to their country-specific contexts along with concrete activity plans, taking into account national

Lessons learned on the project's partnership framework:

- The combination of the project's international, regional and national partnership setting showed to be vital to generate **high-level political support and national ownership**, as countries have fully appropriated the concept and feel responsibility as AU Member States to deliver on their commitment to the African Union "Silencing the Guns" flagship initiative.
- In many States, high-level officials –in the Central African Republic, the President of the Republic inaugurated the project– presided the launch events of the project while in Kenya, the President of the Republic officiated the public destruction of illicit firearms that were collected during the 2020 Amnesty campaign
- This generated not only **crucial political momentum and increased visibility of NATCOMs and NFPs**, but has also elevated SALW control and weapons and ammunition management (WAM) within the politico-security peacebuilding agenda at the national, regional and continental levels.

capacities and needs.

During and beyond September 2020, countries conducted broad sensitization and outreach campaigns through local and national media. These were combined with specific local-level sensitization and outreach activities, including various target groups, such as traditional and

religious leaders, women and youth, but also local gun smiths addressing the issue of illicit craft weapon production. The UN, AU and RECSA complemented the national-level outreach through regional and international outreach products, such as interviews with the organizations' officials, or a joint Op-ed by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu and the AU High Representative for Silencing the Guns, Mr. Ramtane Lamamra. In addition, national outreach and community engagement were complemented by targeted capacity-building activities for members of national law enforcement services and weapons collection in project-specific geographic areas in the participating countries.

Project achievements overview:

Project activities	Project results	Corresponding project objectives (Objectives 1&2 are overarching)
1. Organize broad-scale media campaigns, including national and local sensitization and outreach activities, including civil society organizations, women and youth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Broad scale media outreach conducted in all four countries; - Physical sensitization missions engaging local communities carried out in over 15 regions in the four countries; - High-level launch events conducted in all four countries. 	<u>Objective 4:</u> Increase public awareness on harmful consequences of illicit SALW ownership through broad scale media campaigns;
2. Safely collect and store illegally held SALW by civilians handed over during September 2020 amnesty month.	Burkina Faso: 454 small arms collected CAR: 102 small arms collected and 816 rounds of ammunition; DRC: 126 small arms collected Kenya: 11,84 small arms collected Overall: 1,866	<u>Objective 3:</u> Strengthen capacity of law enforcement, including military and police; <u>Objective 3b:</u> Establishing the conditions for voluntary hand-over of small arms and their secure collection; <u>Objective 3c:</u> Secure stockpiling of SALW and ammunition, including adequate marking and recordkeeping;
3. Organize capacity-building workshops for members of national law enforcement services, including community-based policing concepts, and components of Physical Security and Stockpile Management.	Eight capacity-building workshops carried out in the four countries between September 2020 and May 2021.	<u>Objective 3:</u> Strengthen capacity of law enforcement, including military and police; <u>Objective 3a:</u> Outreach towards civilians, including trust building measures such as community policing;
4. Encourage conduct secure destruction of SALW collected during the Amnesty Month.	All collected SALW were securely stored, transported and destroyed in the designated safe site in Kenya while; CAR carried out a symbolic destruction of over 100 small arms at the beginning of the project launch. Burkina Faso has safely stored the collected firearms which are awaiting destruction after completing the National legal procedures regarding destruction of firearms. DRC has completed all preparations for destruction of firearms collected from Kinshasa and Congo central.	<u>Objective 3:</u> Strengthen capacity of law enforcement, including military and police; <u>Objective 3d:</u> Encourage destruction of weapons collected during the campaign

The project structure is such that while the main activities were carried out in September and October 2020, the **project should serve as a catalyst for future activities** to build on the political and societal momentum created. In that regard, many countries have previously set in place their national-level legislation on small arms control, representing the building ground for further country-wide engagement. As the **financial means for each country of the AAM Project were limited**, activities were restricted to selected geographical areas⁵ within vast and diverse national territories.

- ☐ Further engagement would allow for an **extension of activities**, not only geographically, but also thematically, and more concretely allow for an establishment of the NATCOMS and NFPs as important political small arms control entities within the country. The Capacity building of National LEAs in the weapons and ammunition management was also identifies as a priority for future interventions.
- ☐ It is crucial at this stage to build on the political momentum and visibility created to further extend the scope of national SALW control actions in the countries that have benefitted from the project and help other countries benefit from the same project format.

This will make the overall engagement more sustainable, as short term engagements with limited or no follow-up tend to lose traction and implementation capacity, especially for countries with a high need for continuous capacity building, such as the countries that were part of this project.

The area of engagement on civilian holdings is key and a serious security challenge throughout the African continent, where 40 million small arms remain in the hands of civilian actors. Despite this fact, civilian ownership is only dealt with in a rudimentary manner. Regional and national legislations give insufficient guidance on Management of Civilian Holdings (MCH) which is why there is need to fill that gap through development of national strategies, and local-level engagement, as the phenomenon is largely local.

The project engagement has also shown that **the concept of community based policing** is not equally known in different countries. The workshops were a crucial information source and capacity-building opportunity for law enforcement to improve their understanding of local-level community engagement to improve security and understand local conflict dynamics. The project-integrated national-level baseline assessment show a significant trust gap between local communities and law enforcement in all countries⁶. When it comes to local-level conflict resolution, communities tend to refer to traditional conflict resolution mechanisms instead of referring themselves to the State's judiciary system or police forces.

- ☐ In linkage to local-level disarmament and reduction of illicit arms flows, it seems therefore necessary to align programmes for voluntary hand-over or local-level SALW control with **continuous dialogue between communities and law enforcement**.

⁵ In most countries up to four geographical zones were chosen by the National Commissions and Focal Points. In the Central African Republic, all eight districts of Bangui and two surrounding areas were selected.

⁶ Data is particularly striking when it comes to gender-based differences: women in a majority of the cases indicate to not address law enforcement for help in conflict. The same is true for addressing the elderly and village chiefs. Women instead indicate to turn towards the family for support which gives a strong indication on existing patriarchal structures, and lack of trust by women to turn towards these structures for help.

- That does not only mean to **sensitize communities** on the dangers of illicit SALW proliferation within and among communities and the role of the State and law enforcement to control them, but also to **sensitize law enforcement about the root causes** that lead to self-arming and proliferation of weapons in certain areas.

Recommendations:

- Continue the project in 2021 and 2022 along the same multi-partner (UN-AU-RECSA-NatComs-NFPs) constellation to:
 - Deepen activities within current partnering countries;
 - Extend engagement through the same project format to other African countries;
- Increase allocated funding to allow for more comprehensive engagement (more regions within a country; more operations);
- Start more systematic engagement on civilian holdings (develop national strategy and local-level engagement on small arms control);
- Work substantially on trust-building between law enforcement and communities through community-based policing and other trust-building mechanisms that will allow for a more holistic approach to small arms control;
- Increase inclusion of civil society component and allow for a stronger integration of civil society-led project components (when increased funding becomes available).
- Enhance Law Enforcement personnel capacity building in the weapons and ammunition management(WAM/PSSM)

VI. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION PER COUNTRY

PARTNERING STATE	CATEGORY OF SUPPORT	ACTIVITIES	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY	DATE/ PERIOD	STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION
BURKINA FASO <i>Implementing agency: Commission Nationale pour la Lutte contre la Prolifération des Armes Légères (CNLPAL)</i> Donor : Japan	Sensitization & Outreach	Sensitization campaign through media and Information and Education Material (IEM)	Development of key messages and slogan by the youth was won by a young female student “ <i>Ensemble pour une Afrique sans armes</i> ”. The competition had over 50 contributions. National and private media stations were involved to disseminate the messages on the Amnesty Month campaign.	August-September	Completed
	Sensitization & Outreach	Public Launching of the AU Amnesty Month activities	The Amnesty Month activities were launched by the minister delegate in charge of decentralization and social cohesion, Madiara Sagnon as the Guest of Honor, accompanied by the Governor of Banfora in the Cascade region on 14th of September 2020 .	14 September	Completed
	Capacity-building	Information sharing and sensitization workshop for defense and security forces on community based policing	The national small arms commission (CNLPAL) conducted a community-based policing workshop in Banfora following the public launch event of the Amnesty Month campaign on 14^h and 15th September 2020 .	14-15 September	Completed
	Capacity-building	Capacity-building workshop on the linkage between Gender and SALW	The national small arms commission (CNLPAL) conducted a capacity-building workshop on 6th and 7th October on the linkages between gender and SALW in Ouagadougou launched by the Minister of Women, as well as the Minister of African Integration and was attended by Representatives of ECOWAS, the AU, Japan, and UNODA.	6-7 October	Completed
	Sensitization & Outreach	Seminar on information sharing and awareness raising for law enforcement agencies and artisanal arms producers	This workshop was conducted in all targeted regions of Burkina Faso (Gaoua, Ziniaré, Banfora)	13-15 October; 5-6 November	Completed

⁷ “Together for an Africa without arms”

	SALW collection	Country-wide campaigns for voluntary hand-over of small arms and ammunition to designated sites (District Police Commissions, Central Commissions and Regional Gendarmerie)	This activity targeted specific regions of Burkina Faso (Gaoua, Zinaré, Banfora). Overall 454 small arms were collected, securely stored and prepared for destruction.	September-May 2021	Completed
	M&E	Monitoring and evaluation	The M&E component was carried out by a nationally recruited consultant conducting a security perception survey in the geographic areas targeted by the project.	September-December	Completed
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC <i>Implementing Agency:</i> Commission Nationale de Lutte Contre la Prolifération des Armes Légères et de Petit Calibre (COMNAT-ALPC) Donor : Japan	Sensitization & Outreach	Media campaign and Public sensitization	Nation-wide contest by youth to develop a slogan/logo with key message was launched with the winning messages being; 1. <i>Remise d'arme volontaire égale Libre circulation des personnes et des biens;</i> 2. <i>Remise d'arme volontaire égale Sécurité</i> 3. <i>Remise d'arme volontaire égale Moins de conflit</i>	August	Completed
	Sensitization & Outreach	Official Launch of the Amnesty Month Campaign	The project was launched on 25 September by the President of the Republic, H.E. Archange Touadera, in attendance were cabinet ministers, representatives of international organisations, diplomatic corps accredited to CAR, including Japan, representatives of UNODA and RECSA. A symbolic destruction of obsolete small arms accompanied the launch.	25 September	Completed
	Capacity-building	Capacity building of law enforcement services on safe storage of SALW	RECSA trained 10 participants from CAR law enforcement personnel on PSSM and Arms tracing and record-keeping software (RSTS); equipment provided by RECSA was handed over to the COMNAT-ALPC on 16 and 17 September.	16-17 September	Completed
	Sensitization & Outreach	Sensitization and awareness raising	Media campaign on national TV and radio spot done twice a day	August-December	Completed
	Sensitization & Outreach		Local-level sensitization carried out in 8 districts of Bangui and surrounding districts of Bimbo and Begua by the COMNAT-ALPC, including women and youth,	October-May 2021	Completed

			traditional and religious leaders and civil society organizations.		
	SALW collection and destruction	Voluntary weapon hand-over, collection and destruction	Hand-over was encouraged in 8 districts of Bangui and surrounding districts of Bimbo and Begua by the COMNAT-ALPC; overall 102 small arms and 816 rounds of ammunition were collected, securely stored and awaiting for destruction.	September-May 2021	Completed
	M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation	The M&E component was carried out by a nationally recruited consultant conducting a security perception survey in the geographic areas targeted by the project.	September-December	Ongoing
Democratic Republic of the Congo <i>Implementing agency: Commission Nationale de Contrôle des Armes Légères et de Petit Calibre et de réduction de la violence armée (CNC-ALPC)"</i> Donor : Japan	Sensitization & Outreach	Development of slogan and Logo	A National youth contest to develop slogan/logo was held. The winning message was; "Je rends mon arme je sauve des vies".	August	Completed
	Sensitization & Outreach	Official launch of the Amnesty Month	The public official launch was held on 23 th September 2020 in Kinshasa and was attended by High Level government officials, representatives of MONUSCO, international and national partners, and RECSA representatives.	23 September	Completed
	Sensitization & Outreach	Media Campaign & Outreach	Developed theatrical spots, printed t-shirts, banners, posters distributed in the different project regions.	September	Completed
	Sensitization & Outreach		Launched peace caravan by CNC-ALPC for local level sensitization in Kinshasa and Congo Central.	September-November	Completed
	Capacity-building	Workshop on Community-based policing	The CNC-ALPC conducted a 2-day training workshop on Community-based policing in Kinshasa on 5 th and 6 th October 2020.	5-6 October	Completed
	SALW collection	Collection of arms and ammunitions	The CNC-ALPC has organized voluntary hand-over campaigns of small arms and ammunition in the targeted areas in Kinshasa and Congo Central; overall 126 small arms were collected, securely stored and ready for destruction.	September-May 2021	Completed

	M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation	The M&E component was carried out by a nationally recruited consultant conducting a security perception survey in the geographic areas targeted by the project.	September-December	Completed
KENYA <i>Implementing agency:</i> Kenya National Focal Point on Small Arms Control Donor: Japan	Sensitization & Outreach	Official Launch of the Amnesty Month	Public launch event conducted on 8th September by the Cabinet Secretary of Interior and National Coordination organized by the KNFP. The event was attended by the Inspector General of the Police (IGP), senior government officials, representatives of international organizations, embassies ,and RECSA led by the Executive Secretary, media representatives, and civil society organizations.	8 September	Completed
	Sensitization & Outreach		Kenya National Focal Point on SALW organized national contest for the development of a campaign logo and slogan by youth; the winning slogan was; “ <i>Salimisha Silaha Haramu Kua Huru</i> ” (<i>Handover your illegal firearm you will be free</i>); the slogan was subsequently used for the campaign’s outreach material.	August	Completed
	Sensitization & Outreach	Media campaigns	KNFP conducted national outreach for the campaign via local print media, television, radio, and combined it with physical sensitization missions.	September-October	Completed
	Sensitization & Outreach	Local sensitization and awareness raising missions in selected locations – Nakuru, Garissa, Lamu, Tana River	KNFP conducted public sensitization missions from 7-17 September	7-17 September	Completed
	Capacity-building	Workshop on Community based policing concepts	From 17 th to 22 nd September ,KNFP conducted local community based policing seminars for 30 Participants including national law enforcement from the police services based in the regions as well as traditional leaders and members of local communities.	17-22 September	Completed
	SALW collection and destruction	Collecting of voluntarily surrendered weapons and ammunitions	KNFP conducted collection of SALW that were voluntarily handed over during the campaign in Nakuru, Garissa, Lamu, and Tana River region. Overall, 1099 small arms	September-May	Completed



			were handed over, securely stored and destroyed.		
	M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation – baseline and endline survey	The M&E component was carried out by a nationally recruited consultant conducting a security perception survey in the geographic areas targeted by the project.	September-December	Completed

VII. Illustrations of the implementation



Launch of the Amnesty Month campaign by the RECSA Executive Secretary on 1 September 2020, Nairobi, Kenya.



Launch event of the Africa Amnesty Month in Banfora, Burkina Faso, on 14 September, 2020.



Workshop on the links between Gender and Small Arms Control, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 6-7 October 2020.



Workshop on the links between Gender and Small Arms Control, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 6-7 October 2020.





Weapons collected during the Africa Amnesty Month in Burkina Faso, May 2021.



Small arms collected during the Africa Amnesty Month in Burkina Faso, May 2021.



Launch of the Africa Amnesty Month and hand-over of the prize for the best campaign slogan by Dr. Fred Matiangi, Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, Nairobi, Kenya, 8 September 2020.



Regional sensitization with traditional leaders and civil society in Garissa county, Kenya, September 2020.





Weapons destruction at the launch event of the Africa Amnesty Month in Bangui, Central African Republic, 25 September 2020



Official launch of the Amnesty Month in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, 23 September 2020.





Sensitization campaign on the voluntary hand-over of small arms in DRC's capital, Kinshasa, in September 2020.



President Uhuru Kenyatta delivering his speech during the ceremony of 5,300 firearms destruction in Kajado county on 9th June 2021



Demonstration of home made guns that were collected during the month of amnesty in Kenya



Piles of firearms before their destruction on 9th June 2021 in Kajado county, Kenya

President Uhuru Kenyata setting Fire on illicit firearms collected during the 2020 amnesty month





National News

Amnesty Government has on several occasions encouraged citizens to surrender illicit firearms

President offers jobs to illegal firearms makers

He was speaking during an event where he burned illegal and obsolete guns

BY MARY WAMBUI

The government is offering amnesty and jobs in local arms factories to illegal makers of homemade guns.

This is part of the government's efforts to take illegal guns from the hands of criminals.

Though some of the weapons make way into the country through the porous borders, President Uhuru Kenyatta said a good number of the weapons are also produced locally.

"Today I want to make an offer, Kenya has now begun making our own small arms and light weapons. And for you out there who is engaged in making these guns for criminals, come let us give you a steady job to make legal weapons, help grow our economy and help defend our coun-

try," the President said.

He spoke at the Traffic Police Training Centre in Ngong where he oversaw the destruction of 5,144 small arms and light weapons. Present were UK High Commissioner Jane Marriott, Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i, Chief of Defence Forces Gen Robert Kibochi, Inspector General of Police Hilary Mutyambai and Kajiado Governor Joseph Ole Lenku, among other leaders.

5,144

Number of guns that President Kenyatta burnt in Ngong yesterday. Many of them had been surrendered following amnesty offers.

The destroyed weapons had been surrendered by citizens who took advantage of various amnesty programmes and calls for community disarmament. Others had been mopped up during operations by security agencies and some were small State firearms that have since been declared obsolete.

"An illegal gun makes you less safe not more safe. It doesn't matter how good your intentions. An illegal weapon makes you a criminal and liable to the full force of the law. If you have any security concerns, please let us work together. Your responsibility is to engage the government and not to confront it and we as the government shall respond and address your needs," the President said.

The country has destroyed thousands of guns and explosives in the last two years, including over 8,000 weapons that were crushed in Magadi in 2019.

Kenya is set to chair the seventh

bi-annual meeting of United Nations member states on implementation of plans to prevent illicit trade of small arms, which will be held at the UN headquarters in July.

"Kenya will be well represented by virtue of being chair of that conference and on that same note we are looking into the adoption of various treaties like the Arms Trade Treaty," said President Kenyatta.

Leaders using the name of terror group al-Shabaab to promote inter-clan wars in North Eastern Kenya have also been put on notice.

"I would encourage you to stop it before we take decisive action against you," warned the President.

He also directed all state agencies which are custodians of state firearms to observe strict accountability and control of the weapons under their charge in order to safeguard against pilferage, diversion and misuse.



Above: President Kenyatta sets on fire illicit small arms and light weapons in Ngong yesterday. Right: The arms on fire. BONFACE BOGITA / NATION



News Paper article on the destruction of illicit firearms that were destroyed on 9th June in Kenya