



Co-operating to Disarm

**REGIONAL ACTION PLAN (RAP) ON
WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION MANAGEMENT
(WAM) IN DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILISATION
AND REINTEGRATION (DDR) CONTEXTS FOR
THE RECSA REGION**

November 2024

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Abbreviations

ATT	Arms Trade Treaty
AU	African Union
CCA	Common Country Analysis
CVR	Community Violence Reduction
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration
EAC	East African Community
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
IDDRS	Integrated Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Standards
IATG	International Ammunition Technical Guidelines
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
ICGLR	International Conference of the Great Lakes Region
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority of Development
LEA	Law Enforcement Agencies
MOSAIC	The Modular Small-arms-control Implementation Compendium
OGN	Operational Guidance Note
RECSA	Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
StG	Silencing the Guns
TWAM	Transitional Weapons and Ammunition Management
WAM	Weapons and Ammunition Management

1. Background and Rationale

Over the past two decades, the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa have witnessed some of the most devastating armed conflicts in Africa. The distressing impact, on local communities vastly affected by protracted conflict and armed violence, demonstrate how the illicit circulation and proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and ammunition contributes to and exacerbates swift and violent changes in political regimes, instability of security situations, humanitarian crises and violent extremism.

To effectively address the increasing complexity of conflicts, it is crucial to enhance national and regional capacities in dealing with armed conflicts. Disarmament Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) processes along with their Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM) related activities have contributed greatly to conflict prevention, management and mitigation. They also play an important role in enhancing security and stability in conflict and post-conflict environments, supporting recovery from conflict and enabling sustainable development.

Focusing on the localised dimensions of conflict and armed violence, Transitional Weapons and Ammunition Management (TWAM)¹ is a useful DDR-related tool² to consider in situations when a conflict is still ongoing, or no peace agreement is yet in place (see Box 1). TWAM includes a series of temporary measures for controlling SALW and can be implemented before, after, or alongside DDR programmes, including when the preconditions for a DDR programme are not in place. TWAM aims to prevent accidents and save lives by addressing the immediate safety and security risks associated with the misuse of weapons, ammunition, and explosives.

To take stock of current WAM and DDR initiatives and assess how these intersect with one another, the 15 RECSA Member States³ held two regional roundtable dialogues on “WAM in DDR contexts” in December 2023 and April 2024. Under comprehensive political strategy to address the threat posed by armed groups, WAM constitutes a critical element of DDR processes. Traditionally, the collection, management, storage and disposal of SALW and ammunition was conducted as part of the disarmament⁴ phase within DDR programmes. Given the evolution of conflict dynamics and the need to advance interventions before, during and after peace, it is critical to advance WAM efforts. WAM and DDR, despite their clear overlaps,

¹ See: IDDRS 4.11. Accessible at: https://www.unddr.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/IDDRS-4.11-Transitional-Weapons-and-Ammunition-Manatement_16-Jun-2020.pdf.

² In 2018 the Interagency Working Group (IAWG) on DDR launched a revision process of the Integrated DDR Standards (IDDRS). Through this review, the ‘revised UN Approach to DDR’ was initiated, incorporating ‘DDR related tools’ that can be implemented before, during and after DDR programmes in settings where the preconditions for a DDR programme (often when conflict is ongoing) are not present. See: IDDRS module 2.10. Accessible at: https://www.unddr.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/IDDRS-2.10-The-UN-Approach-to-DDR_19-Nov-2019.pdf.

³ Member States which attended the roundtable dialogues: Republic of Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Djibouti, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Rwanda, Republic of the Seychelles, Federal Republic of Somalia, Republic of Sudan, Republic of South Sudan, Republic of Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania; Member States which could not attend: Republic of Congo, State of Eritrea.

⁴ See: IDDRS 4.10 on Disarmament. Accessible at: https://www.unddr.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/IDDRS-4.10-Disarmament_16-Jun-2020-1.pdf

are, in practice, only partially linked together at the national, regional and international level. Since 2017, the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the Department of Peace Operations, through its DDR Section, initiated a joint effort to explore new avenues for intersection, collaboration and coordination on ‘WAM in a changing DDR context’.

These include strengthening WAM-related aspects in DDR processes at various levels, local, national, but also the regional level. When weapons are collected in the context of DDR processes, these should be registered and safely stored. Where collection is not possible access to weapons and ammunition can be limited/delayed thus preventing interpersonal armed violence and accidents. DDR efforts can be supported through action in the context of SALW control, decreasing the number of illicit SALW and ammunition in circulation, as well as strengthening national WAM capacity. Lastly, stronger synergies can be built by aligning legislation and policy frameworks that exist at country level related to DDR and arms control.

National institutions, such as national DDR and SALW control commissions and focal points should strengthen exchange of information and work more collaboratively in contexts where this is not the case. There is also the need for stronger linkage of policy fields at the international and regional level relating to DDR and SALW control.

Box 1: Disarmament as part of a DDR programme, WAM and Transitional Weapons and Ammunition Management

DISARMAMENT

Disarmament is the collection, documentation, control and disposal of small arms, ammunition, explosives and light and heavy weapons of combatants and often also of the civilian population. Disarmament also includes the development of responsible arms management programmes.

WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION MANAGEMENT (WAM)

WAM is the oversight, accountability and management of arms and ammunition throughout their lifecycle, including the establishment of frameworks, processes and practices for safe and secure material acquisition, stockpiling, transfers, tracing and disposal. WAM does not only focus on small arms and light weapons, but on a broader range of conventional weapons including ammunition and artillery.

TRANSITIONAL WAM

Transitional WAM is a series of interim arms control measures that can be implemented by DDR practitioners before, after and alongside DDR programmes. Transitional WAM can also be implemented when the preconditions for a DDR programme are absent. The transitional WAM component of a DDR process is primarily aimed at reducing the capacity of individuals and groups to engage in armed violence and conflict. Transitional WAM also aims to reduce accidents and save lives by addressing the immediate risks related to the possession of weapons, ammunition and

During the regional roundtable dialogues, RECSA Member States shared good practices, challenges, identified key priorities, and opportunities to strengthen regional coordination, all of which informed the development of this regional action plan.

This action plan on WAM in DDR contexts aims to support RECSA and Member State’s joint DDR and WAM efforts to better establish synergies and support sustainable solutions to armed

conflicts. It also aims to strengthen national level harmonisation efforts and local level practical implementation.

Vision of the action plan

RECSA Member States in the Great Lakes region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States have established mechanisms in line with regional and international guidance and good practices to: 1) effectively prevent and control the illicit proliferation of SALW and ammunition and 2) disband armed groups by successfully integrating former members of armed groups into communities, supporting reconciliation and sustaining peace through people-centered approaches that contributes towards a safe and secure sub-region.

2. Normative and legal frameworks

As outlined above, many Member States in the RECSA region have national legislation regulating all or parts of the life cycle of weapons, ammunition and explosives, including manufacture, marking, import, export, record-keeping, tracing, and civilian possession. Many have also developed national WAM normative frameworks, operational guidance documents, and national SALW action plans and DDR strategies. National legislation and frameworks, including counter-terrorism legislation, are central binding and guiding frameworks to consider when implementing the regional action plan on WAM in DDR contexts.

Additionally, many Member States have ratified or adopted global and regional treaties and instruments. The relevant requirements of these treaties and agreements are reflected in Member States' national legislation. However, there exist opportunities for Member States to update their SALW-related legislation.

WAM in DDR contexts shall be conducted in compliance with national legal frameworks and international and regional normative and legal frameworks. The key principles of weapons and ammunition management in DDR contexts are encapsulated within international and regional arms control instruments (which include both legally and politically binding agreements) and other developed standards and operational guidance notes.

Relevant **legally binding frameworks** to consider among RECSA Member States are the following:

- 1) **The Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition ('firearms protocol')**⁵, that acts as a supplement to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, was adopted in the context of crime prevention and law enforcement. State parties to this treaty are obligated to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition.
- 2) **The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)**⁶ regulates the international legal trade in conventional arms and aims to prevent and eradicate their diversion to the illicit market by

⁵ See: <https://smallarms.un-arm.org/>.

⁶ See: <https://thearmstradetreaty.org/>

establishing international standards governing arms transfers. The Treaty came into force on 24 December 2014. At this stage the Treaty has a total of 116 States Parties and 26 States that have signed but not yet ratified the Treaty. Its objective is to set the highest possible standards for regulating and/or improving the regulation of the trade in conventional arms worldwide by preventing illicit trade of conventional arms and diversion. In the long term, this should facilitate international and regional peace, security and stability, reduce human suffering, and promote cooperation and transparency and responsible action by States Parties trading conventional arms, which ultimately increases confidence.

- 3) **The Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of SALW in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa, and Bordering States ('Nairobi Protocol')**⁷ came into action in 2004. RECSA is mandated to assist Member States in implementing the Nairobi Protocol. It is an important regional agreement aimed at combatting the illicit manufacturing, trafficking, possession and use of SALW. Its primary objective is to prevent excessive accumulation of SALW, promote information sharing, cooperation, accountability, law enforcement, control, and management of SALW held by governments and civilians.
- 4) **The Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition, Parts and Components ('Kinshasa Convention')**⁸ entered into force in 2017. It aims to regulate SALW, their ammunition, parts and components and combating their illicit trade and trafficking in Central Africa. The Convention also seeks to strengthen the control of the manufacture, movement, trade, possession, transfer and use of SALW, their ammunition and parts and components in Central Africa. With that, the goal of the Kinshasa Convention is to combat armed violence and foster cooperation and confidence among State Parties in the region.

In addition to these legally binding frameworks, UN human rights conventions, including the Covenant on Civil and Political rights, also require States to address the proliferation of SALW and regulate access to them as part of the duty to protect the right to life. Moreover, instruments, such as the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, and the Convention on Cluster Munitions may be relevant in given contexts. In addition, UN Security Council resolutions, as well as AU Peace and Security Council communiqués on DDR and SALW control and counter-terrorism, are to be considered.

In addition to the legally-binding frameworks, many **politically binding frameworks** are of great relevance for WAM in DDR contexts:

- 1) **The UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects ('UN PoA')** tackles the illicit trade in SALW. The UN PoA consists of commitments at the national, regional and global levels to combat the illicit trade in SALW. The Programme of Action was adopted in 2001 and has been further developed through subsequent Review Conferences, focusing on specific elements, such as national target setting to enhance

⁷⁷ See: <https://www.recsasec.org/nairobi-protocol/#:~:text=The%20Nairobi%20Protocol%20for%20the,%20in%20the%20sub%2Dregion.>

⁸ See: https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=XXVI-7&chapter=26&clang=en.

implementation. To review progress of the implementation of the Programme, regular Review conferences (RevCons) of the Programme of Action are held⁹.

- 2) **The Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management**¹⁰ acknowledges different regional and national needs, circumstances and capacities and addresses safety and security risks associated with conventional ammunition in a comprehensive manner by promoting the through-life management, including through international cooperation and assistance, of all types of conventional ammunition, from small-caliber ammunition to the largest conventional ammunition and contributes to maintaining international peace and security.
- 3) **The International Tracing Instrument** is a by-product of the UN PoA and addresses the development and implementation of marking, record-keeping and tracing measures for SALW.
- 4) **The AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silencing the Guns in Africa (StG Master Roadmap)**, in line with Agenda 2063, focuses on conflict prevention as a pathway to broader socio-economic transformation in Africa, as well as providing guidance on the management and resolution of existing conflicts with a view to silencing the guns by 2030.

Comprehensive guidance documents supporting the design, planning and implementation of WAM in DDR contexts have also been developed.

- 1) **The Modular Small-arms-control Implementation Compendium (MOSAIC)**¹¹ translates into practice the objectives of central global agreements aiming to prevent the illicit trade, accumulation and misuse of SALW, including the UNPoA, ITI, the firearms protocol as well as the ATT. It is a set of voluntary, practical guidance notes delivering operational advice based on a decade of coordinated work within the UN system. Modules are based on good practices, codes of conduct and standard operating procedures that have been developed at sub and regional levels. MOSAIC also supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 16 to promote peaceful, just and inclusive societies and its target 16.4 that includes a significant reduction in illicit arms flows.
- 2) **The International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG)**¹² support efforts to achieve and demonstrate effective levels of safety and security of ammunition stockpiles. They provide a consistent approach, are based on explosive science, recommend an integrated risk and quality management system, and also allow for a gradual, integrated improvement in safety and security in line with available resources.
- 3) **United Nations Integrated DDR Standards (IDDRS)**¹³ were developed through the joint efforts of 27 UN entities, which together form the Inter-Agency Working Group on DDR (IAWG) and guide the UN system's support to DDR processes. Between 2017 and 2019 the IDDRS have undergone a comprehensive review initiating the revised UN Approach to DDR in 2019. DDR has shifted from linear and sequenced programmes

⁹ See RevCon 2024: <https://meetings.unoda.org/poa-salw-revcon/programme-of-action-on-small-arms-and-light-weapons-review-conference-2024>.

¹⁰ See: <https://disarmament.unoda.org/global-framework-for-through-life-conventional-ammunition-management/>.

¹¹ See: <https://disarmament.unoda.org/convarms/mosaic/>.

¹² See: <https://disarmament.unoda.org/convarms/mosaic/>.

¹³ See: <https://www.unddr.org/the-iddrs/>.

towards integrated processes, allowing flexibility in the design and implementation of interventions according to local needs and conflict dynamics. Besides implementing disarmament as part of DDR programmes, practitioners can advance various DDR-related tools, including Transitional Weapons and Ammunition Management, throughout the peace continuum (from prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development). Under the new guidance, TWAM can be implemented before, during and after conflict as an integral part of DDR processes.

- 4) **The AU Operational Guidance Notes on DDR & SALW Control (AU OGNs)¹⁴ were developed by** the AU Peace and Security Department (PSD) through its DDR and SSR Division to strengthen the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). The OGNs aim to provide African stakeholders with practical guidance to assist in the planning and implementation of individual DDR programmes. While drawing from experiences in Africa and catering to the specific needs of stakeholders on the continent, they are also compliant with international good practice and complementary to existing DDR frameworks including the UN Integrated DDR Standards (IDDRS).

3. Guiding principles

In designing and implementing WAM activities as part of DDR processes, it is essential to adhere to key principles that ensure both the efficiency and safety of operations. These principles, rooted in the United Nations approach to DDR, guide practitioners in aligning their efforts with broader international norms and local needs.

Conflict sensitive

WAM activities as part of DDR processes must be carefully designed to avoid heightening vulnerabilities or destabilizing fragile peace agreements. All strategies should be informed by a thorough assessment of the security context, including key actors and their military capacities. This approach ensures that WAM operations do not inadvertently lead to a security imbalance or trigger renewed tensions. Practitioners must also consider the broader conflict dynamics and avoid reinforcing social inequalities.

Nationally and locally owned

Both national and local authorities play distinct yet complementary roles in the success of DDR-related WAM activities. National governments hold the primary responsibility for applying and adapting relevant arms control standards, ensuring that these practices align with international and regional frameworks. At the same time, local authorities are crucial for the on-the-ground implementation, as they possess a deeper understanding of community needs and dynamics. Strengthening both national and local capacities ensures that WAM efforts are not only effective but also sustainable in the long term, enabling states and localities to maintain safe and secure management of arms and ammunition, even as external support decreases. This two-tiered approach ensures that ownership is embedded at all levels, fostering a holistic, sustainable WAM system across the region.

People-centred: Unconditional release and protection of children

¹⁴ See: <https://papsrepository.africa-union.org/handle/123456789/174>.

DDR operations should place individuals and communities at the core of their activities. In particular, the protection and specific needs of children should be prioritized by establishing child-specific disarmament procedures (see IDDRS 5.20 on Children and DDR). These measures help shield children from exploitation or abuse and ensure that they are treated appropriately in demobilization and reintegration phases. Similarly, the involvement of youth in TWAM operations should be facilitated, ensuring they are included in both the planning and monitoring of activities (see IDDRS 5.30 on youth and DDR).

Gender-responsive and inclusive

Disarmament and TWAM activities must integrate a gender-responsive approach to ensure that no one is marginalized based on gender, race, ethnicity, religion, or other characteristics. These activities should consider their varied impacts on men, women, boys, and girls. This requires gender expertise, gender analysis, sex and age disaggregated data collection, and the meaningful involvement of women at all stages. Addressing gender dynamics also involves recognizing the link between masculinities and the ownership of weapons, working towards changing unequal gender norms to create more inclusive, secure environments.

Gender-inclusive DDR processes should also ensure that both male and female personnel are represented in all roles, including leadership roles, during the implementation of WAM activities. Ideally, gender-sensitive DDR processes are part of a broader gender-transformative approach where gender is a central programming element, and the underlying drivers and root causes of inequality are addressed. This approach aims to transform unequal gender relations by promoting shared power, control of resources, decision-making, and support for women's empowerment, while actively working to change harmful gender norms, roles, and relations.

Voluntary

Disarmament and TWAM activities must be carried out on a voluntary basis to foster sustainable peace and trust within affected communities. Forcing the collection or control of arms can lead to security vacuums or exacerbate power imbalances, potentially reigniting conflict. Instead, voluntary participation should be encouraged through targeted outreach and communication campaigns, ensuring individuals and groups understand the benefits of disarmament. This approach should also include guarantees of security and protection from prosecution for those handing over weapons voluntarily.

Integrated

WAM activities in a DDR process must be coordinated with all other aspects of an integrated DDR process and with other components of the broader peace process, including, ceasefires and arms control measures associated with transitional security arrangements, arms embargo measures where existent and applicable, Security Sector Reform (SSR) and SALW control.

Safe and secure

Handling weapons and ammunition is inherently risky, making it essential to involve technically qualified WAM advisers in all phases of Disarmament and TWAM activities. These advisers should have formal training and first-hand experience in ammunition and weapons storage, marking, transportation, deactivation, and the destruction of arms, ammunition and explosives. Safety measures must be a top priority throughout the process, from the planning

phase through to implementation, to prevent accidents and safeguard both practitioners and communities.

4. Strategic objectives

Guiding the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on WAM in DDR contexts in the RECSA region are five strategic objectives, which cover the central areas of action.

4.1 Strategic objective 1

SO 1: By 2030, establish integrated national policy frameworks for WAM in DDR contexts in RECSA Member States that are aligned with regional and international standards and good practices.

This strategic objective aims to create cohesive and comprehensive national policy frameworks for WAM in DDR contexts in all RECSA Member States by 2030. To do so, it requires thorough assessments of existing national policy frameworks in both WAM and DDR to identify gaps and further develop existing documents. While keeping policy frameworks context specific, a second step would be to integrate elements from regional and international guidance as mentioned above to ensure actions are aligned.

By harmonising national policies with international and regional guidelines, RECSA Member States can:

- effectively manage weapons and ammunition,
- enhance the success of DDR processes, and
- promote regional stability and security.

This alignment will support efforts to prevent the proliferation and misuse of firearms and ammunition, thereby contributing to peace and security in the region.

4.2 Strategic objective 2

SO 2: By 2030, significantly mitigate the risk of firearms, ammunition, and explosive proliferation and diversion in RECSA Member States through strengthened national and local capacity in WAM and Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) within DDR contexts.

To effectively mitigate the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition, and explosives, enhancing the technical, operational, and institutional capacities of national and local authorities is essential for managing the safe storage, accounting, and disposal of SALW collected during DDR processes. This will involve targeted capacity-building initiatives

focusing on key areas such as stockpile management, record-keeping, and weapons and ammunition disposal, ensuring alignment with international standards. These efforts will be tailored to the specific needs of RECSA Member States, addressing both immediate security concerns and fostering long-term national ownership. Additionally, these programs will promote the harmonization of practices across the region, support the development of sustainable WAM frameworks that align with regional and international arms control obligations.

Coordination mechanisms between national and local authorities will be strengthened to facilitate the sharing of information, resources, and expertise, ensuring a comprehensive approach to WAM and PSSM in DDR settings. By addressing gaps in technical and operational capacities, these efforts will contribute to the broader objectives of DDR, ultimately creating a more secure environment and reducing armed violence across the region.

4.3 Strategic objective 3

SO 3: By 2030, significantly reduce armed violence at the community level through tailored and integrated WAM and DDR-related efforts.

Strategic objective 3 focuses particularly on the community level where armed violence has devastating impacts across the region causing thousands to flee on a daily basis. Effectively including communities in WAM and DDR activities is central for their sustainability and ultimate success. The Integrated DDR Standards offer new approaches through Community Violence Reduction (CVR) engagements where WAM initiatives can play a crucial role. This includes the concrete design of trust building measures between law enforcement and community members as well as specific activities addressing youth and former members of armed groups. TWAM activities offer avenues for actions in settings of ongoing conflict? While transitional WAM should always aim to remove all weapons in circulation or facilitate their legal registration, the reality of weapons culture and the desire for self-protection and/or empowerment should be recognized, with transitional WAM options and objectives identified accordingly.

4.4 Strategic objective 4

SO 4: By 2030 increase the knowledge and awareness on WAM in DDR contexts in enhancing peace, security, and sustainable development.

This strategic objective seeks to address knowledge and awareness on WAM in DDR contexts through education, outreach, and advocacy (IEC). The aim is to reduce the supply and demand for firearms in RECSA Member States, thereby diminishing their misuse.

Increased awareness initiatives will educate communities about the dangers and consequences of firearm misuse, fostering a culture of peace and security. Educational programs will target various demographics, including youth, to inform them about the legal, social, and personal

ramifications of firearm use. Outreach efforts will engage with community leaders, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to build a collective movement against firearm proliferation.

Advocacy campaigns will push for stronger legislation and enforcement measures, ensuring that policies are in place to prevent illegal firearm trade and possession. By implementing these strategies, the objective aims to create a safer environment, reduce armed violence, and support the broader goals of Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM) in Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) context in the region through engagements at the local, national and regional level.

4.5 Strategic objective 5

SO 5: By 2030, enhance regional coordination and cooperation efforts for WAM in DDR contexts among RECSA Member States.

WAM efforts in DDR contexts represent an opportunity to bring these two areas of work closer together. WAM and DDR, despite their clear overlaps, were only partially connected so far at the national, regional and international level. Since 2017, the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the Department of Peace Operations through its DDR Section initiated closer connection through their joint efforts on ‘WAM in a changing DDR context’ to take stock of already existing connecting initiatives, and explore new avenues for intersection, collaboration and coordination.

In that regard, this strategic objective through concrete action will focus on concrete avenues for stronger cooperation and coordination of WAM in DDR contexts within and among RECSA member States. This includes the establishment of new partnerships, not only among member states, but also with members of civil society, international and regional organisations and the private sector, for instance. It also includes information sharing among member states and other partners in dedicated and established fora, frameworks and channels, and concrete operational measures of coordination and cooperation through, for instance joint operations of state security forces, including the military and police, but also civilian entities.

Peer-to-peer approaches and South-South cooperation and learning initiatives have proven to be very effective. RECSA member States could make use of these methods to equally enhance information sharing among member States.

5. National and Regional framework for the implementation of the Action Plan

To **implement the Regional Action Plan on WAM in DDR contexts in the RECSA region**, specific national and regional frameworks are needed. This not only pertains to WAM and DDR specific action but in particular to their connection. **National Authorities and Agencies**

- ***National Commissions and Focal Points on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW):*** These bodies coordinate efforts related to arms control, including policy formulation, implementation, and monitoring.
- ***National DDR Commissions and Focal Points:*** These are specific bodies and responsible entities established in respective countries to oversee the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration process. They are responsible for planning, coordinating, and implementing DDR programs, ensuring the proper management of collected weapons and ammunition, and facilitating the reintegration of ex-combatants into civilian life.
- ***Police and Military Forces:*** Crucial for collecting, storing, and destroying weapons and ammunition.
- ***Customs and Border Control Agencies:*** Monitor and control the movement of arms and ammunition across borders.
- ***Judiciary and Legal Framework:*** Provides laws and regulations related to arms control, providing legal backing for DDR processes and forming the basis for law enforcement.

Infrastructure for Storage and Destruction: Provide adequate and secure locations for storing collected weapons and ammunition to prevent theft and misuse. Equipped for the safe destruction of weapons and ammunition, ensuring permanent removal from circulation. Ensure reliable transportation for moving weapons and ammunition securely from collection points to storage or destruction sites.

Regional level:

Regional Organizations and Frameworks (RECSA, AU, EAC, IGAD, ICGLR and ECCAS)

- ***Regional Initiatives and Mechanisms:***

Develop Regional databases and information sharing systems for sharing information on arms and ammunition across borders, improving transparency and cooperation.

Cross-border Cooperation Mechanisms agreements and frameworks facilitating collaboration between neighboring countries to tackle arms trafficking and enhance border security.

Regional Training and Capacity Building Programs Initiatives aimed at enhancing the skills and knowledge of personnel involved in DDR processes across the region.

Collaborative efforts between member states to monitor and control borders, ensuring effective management of arms and ammunition through joint operations and patrol.

6. Monitoring and evaluation, reporting and review

Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting, and Reviewing Framework for the RECSA Regional Action Plan on Weapons and Ammunition Management in the DDR Context

1. Monitoring

Monitoring will be aligned with the RECSA Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy and conducted throughout the implementation of the Regional Action Plan to ensure that activities related to

Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM) in DDR context are effectively progressing towards their intended outcomes. Key monitoring components include:

- **Routine Data Collection:** Collect quantitative and qualitative data regularly to track progress on key performance indicators (KPIs) such as the number of national institutions strengthened, capacity-building sessions delivered, and weapons collected.
- **Field Visits:** Conduct field visits in RECSA member states to assess the situation on the ground and gather direct insights from stakeholders involved in WAM in DDR context activities.
- **Stakeholder Feedback Mechanism:** Establish a system for collecting feedback from relevant actors, including national authorities, DDR practitioners, community representatives, and beneficiaries to ensure their voices are considered in the implementation process.

2. Evaluation

Evaluation will assess the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability of the action plan, drawing lessons to guide future initiatives. Key activities include:

- **Quarterly Evaluation:** A quarterly evaluation will be conducted through the implementation of the Regional Action Plan to assess progress toward expected outcomes, identify challenges, and recommend corrective actions.
- **Final Evaluation:** At the end of the action plan, final evaluation will assess overall achievement against set objectives and targets, and provide lessons learned for future planning.
- **Impact Assessment:** Evaluate how the action plan has contributed to improved Weapons and Ammunition Management and how effective national institutions have been strengthened to address the needs of DDR or CVR processes.

3. Reporting

Reporting is essential to ensure transparency, accountability, and timely sharing of progress with stakeholders. Key reporting processes include:

- **Quarterly Progress Reports:** Develop quarterly reports on the activities conducted, progress achieved, challenges faced, and strategies to overcome them. These reports will be shared with RECSA member states and other relevant stakeholders.
- **Annual Reports:** Produce comprehensive annual reports that provide a summary of progress made during the year, detailing outputs, outcomes, and overall impact in supporting WAM in the DDR context.
- **Incident Reports:** Prepare reports on any incidents or challenges encountered, particularly related to the safety and security of staff and communities during WAM activities.

4. Reviewing

A review process will be incorporated to ensure continuous improvement and adaptation of strategies. Key review components include:

- **Periodic Review Meetings:** Organize periodic meetings with key stakeholders, including RECSA member states, partners, and national institutions, to review progress, address challenges, and propose adaptations if needed.
- **Adaptive Management:** Utilize the findings from monitoring and evaluation activities to make data-driven decisions and adjustments to activities or strategies where necessary to improve effectiveness.
- **Stakeholder Consultation Workshops:** Conduct workshops with stakeholders at regional and national levels to gather inputs on challenges, achievements, and suggested improvements to enhance WAM in the DDR context.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

- Number of national institutions strengthened in WAM.
- Reduction in the number of illicit weapons in circulation.
- Number of DDR and CVR practitioners trained in WAM protocols.
- Improvement in institutional capacity for tracking and managing weapons and ammunition.

This Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting, and Reviewing (MERR) framework will ensure the effective implementation of the RECSA Regional Action Plan on WAM in DDR context, providing accountability to stakeholders, and support continuous learning and improvement in Weapons and Ammunition Management in the DDR context.

7. Action plan

Strategic objective 1: By 2030, integrated national policy frameworks for WAM in DDR contexts are in place in RECSA member States which are aligned with regional and international guidance, frameworks and good practices.

Action	Indicator		Baseline	Relevant Protocol, Article	Timeframe	Responsible entities
	Output-related	Outcome-related				
<p>1. Conduct national assessments by member states on WAM in the context of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration or related actions;</p> <p>2. Establish and/or update national policy frameworks relating to WAM in DDR contexts;</p> <p>3. Support the development and/or revision of standard operating procedures, including gender aspects;</p> <p>4. Organize capacity-building workshops for legislators and civil servants on international standards and best practices for WAM.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Member States that have conducted national assessments. Number of RECSA Member States that have developed and their updated policy frameworks for firearms management in DDR contexts, aligned with regional and international standards. Number of Member States that have developed and/or updated standard operating procedures on weapons and ammunition management in DDR contexts. Number of awareness raising activities on the national and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction of illicit firearms in circulation; Increase in the rate of compliance with firearms regulations; Decrease in the number of incidents of armed violence involving illicit firearms. Joint action at regional level for WAM in DDR contexts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National WAM baseline assessments conducted in member States National DDR assessments conducted in member states Common country analysis (CCA) available through UN country teams 	<p>UNPoA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section II: National measures Para 2, Para 3, Section III, Para 6 <p>MOSAIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 05.20: Designing and Implementing National Action Plans 05.30: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting <p>IDDRS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.10: The UN Approach to DDR 3.10: DDR Programme Design <p>Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 5: General Implementation Article 6: Prohibitions 	<p>January 2025 – January 2030 (proposal: 3 interested member States per year)</p>	<p>Member states; RECSA secretariat; Partners</p>

	international legal framework. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Member States effectively using the regional guideline in the context of WAM in DDR contexts 			Nairobi Protocol <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 3: Legislative Measures Article 4: Operational Capacity 		
5. Raise awareness among judicial and law enforcement authorities of the importance of effective enforcement of arms laws and operational procedures .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of member states using the regional guideline effectively in WAM in DDR contexts 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing regional guidance Regional initiatives 	IDDRS; Kinshasa Convention; Nairobi Protocol ; UNPoA	January 2025 – January 2027 (2 years)	Member states; RECSA secretariat; Partners

Strategic objective 2: By 2030, significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives in RECSA member States through enhanced national and local capacity in WAM in DDR contexts.

Indicator						
Action	Output-related	Outcome-related	Baseline	Relevant Protocol, Article	Timeframe	Responsible entities
1.Strengthen the physical security of weapons at weapons and ammunition storage sites by improving infrastructure and training personnel. 2.Support the marking of weapons and ammunition. 3.Conduct campaigns to collect and destroy illicit and obsolete weapons 4.Strengthen border controls 5.Promote regional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of training programs designed and implemented Number of secure weapons storage sites that meet international standards Number of officers trained in the management of weapons and ammunition stocks. <p>4. Number of operations to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease in the number of weapons diverted from government sites; Reduction in the number of seizures of illicit weapons at the borders. Increase in the traceability rate of firearms used in crimes. Decrease in the rate of firearms used in crimes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing training curriculum on WAM in changing DDR contexts (held in Ghana, Accra); Existing training curriculum on PSSM training, as well as WAM modules available BICC online course on the revised approach to DDR 	IDDRS; MOSAIC; AU OGNs;	January 2025 – January 2030 (5 years)	RECSA Secretariat Partners Participants from member states

cooperation 6.Develop a validated regional training program	collect and destroy illicit weapons. 5. Number of regional training courses organized for law enforcement officers.					
7.Conduct national Training on WAM in DDR context for LEAs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of MSs conducted national trainings for LEAs. Number of LEAs trained at national level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced capacity of relevant stakeholders (including military and non-military actors) Follow up questionnaire on implementation of knowledge and practice through the trainings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing training curriculum on WAM in changing DDR contexts (held in Ghana, Accra); Existing training curriculum on PSSM training, as well as WAM modules available BICC online course on the revised approach to DDR 	IDDRS; MOSAIC; AU OGNs;	January 2025 – January 2030 (5 years)	RECSA Secretariat Partners Participants from member states

Strategic objective 3: Significantly, by 2030, reduce armed violence at the community level through tailored and integrated WAM and DDR-related efforts

Action	Indicator		Baseline	Relevant Protocol, Article	Timeframe	
	Output-related	Outcome-related				
1.Support trust building initiatives between local communities and law enforcement agencies, through for instance: 1.1 Community -based policing trainings with a focus on WAM in DDR contexts (including a ToT component) 1.2 Intercommunal dialogue sessions, considering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training curriculum designed based on segments of the regional curriculum Dialogue framework designed Number of community-based policing trainings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced incidences of armed violence at the community level Increased cases of cooperation between LEA and community leaders/members Increased number of violent incidences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amnesty Month related activities in member States Assessment on previous activities in respective member states regarding confidence-building measures (CBMs) at community level (between LEA and communities); 	StG 2030;	2025 – 2030	RECSA Member States Partners

intergenerational as well as gender-related aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of intercommunal dialogue sessions 	reported by women to LEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCAs (UN) 			
<p>2. Conduct Regional WAM in DDR contexts capacity building initiatives for CSOs -youth and women.</p> <p>3. Implement inclusive DDR programmes tailored to the specific needs of ex-combatants, integrating socio-economic reintegration measures.</p> <p>4. Support community violence reduction (CVR) initiatives to address the root causes of armed violence.</p> <p>5. Promote dialogue and mediation to resolve conflicts peacefully.</p> <p>6. Strengthen the capacities of law enforcement agencies in maintaining order and conflict management.</p> <p>7. Provide psychosocial support services to victims of armed violence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum for WAM in -DDR contexts for CSOs designed. Number of youth and women CSOs capacity building initiatives conducted. Number of people disarmed and demobilized under DDR programs. Number of communities benefiting from Community Violence Reduction (CVR) programs. Number of ex-combatants reintegrated into civilian life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced capacity at community level in WAM in DDR contexts Increased activities by CSOs in WAM in DDR contexts actions Higher numbers of youth and women in WAM in DDR contexts activities Decrease in the rate of firearm homicides. Reduction in the number of incidents of armed violence at the community level. Increase in the feeling of security within communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Silencing the Guns youth campaign Initiatives at country level including women and youth 	UNPoA, Section III; Silencing the Guns 2030	2025 – 2030	RECSA Member States Partners
8. Develop and operationalise SOP for community level engagement in WAM in DDR contexts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SOP developed and operationalised 				2027-2029	RECSA Member States Partners

9. Identify and design Community violence reduction initiatives and programmes including WAM components in specific country contexts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CVR programme designed for a specific national context 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fewer incidences of violence and accidents involving SALW and ammunition at community level 		IDDRS, module 2.30	2025 – 2030	RECSA Member States Partners
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Strategic objective 4: By 2030 increase the knowledge and awareness on WAM in DDR contexts in enhancing peace, security, and sustainable development.

	Indicator					
Action	Output-related	Outcome-related	Baseline	Relevant Protocol, Article	Timeframe	
1. Conduct education and awareness raising activities in RECSA Member States pertaining to WAM in DDR contexts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of public education and awareness raising engagements conducted 	Increased awareness on WAM in DDR contexts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public awareness activities conducted in SALW context 	IDDRS; MOSAIC; AU OGNs;	2025 - 2030	RECSA Member States Partners
2. Develop and disseminate IEC materials and digital and social media content on WAM in DDR contexts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of WAM in DDR contexts IEC materials developed and disseminated 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ material that was developed for illicit proliferation of SALW 			RECSA Member States Partners
3. Organize media engagement and outreach activities on WAM in DDR contexts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of media engagements and outreach activities on WAM in DDR contexts 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ media engagement in SALW context 			RECSA Member States Partners

Strategic objective 5: Enhance, by 2030, regional coordination and cooperation efforts for WAM in DDR settings among RECSA member States.

	Indicator					
Action	Output-related	Outcome-related	Baseline	Relevant Protocol, Article	Timeframe	
1. Participate in regional and International SALW fora, including aspects of WAM in DDR contexts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of regional and international fora attended by RECSA members as well as member States 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased number of cooperation agreements and frameworks established among member States 	Existing meetings; TAC, COM, UNPOA, REV CONs, BMS, Standing Committee SALW and DDR, ESC meetings, IAPCO,	UNPoA; ATT; IDDRS	2025 – 2030	RECSA; member States

2.Create platforms for sharing experiences in implementation of WAM in DDR contexts interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of sharing experiences platforms held ▪ Number of webinars conducted (quarterly) 	fostering action on WAM in DDR contexts	WAM in DDR contexts regional dialogue series; webinar series on	UNPoA;ATT;IDDRS	2025-2027	RECSA Member States Partners
3.Support regular engagement by member States and RECSA with partners and stakeholders on WAM in DDR contexts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of engagements held with partners and stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased number of projects and programmes established on WAM in DDR contexts between RECSA member States and partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Existing projects and programmes 	UNPoA;ATT;IDDRS	2025 – 2030	RECSA Member States Partners



RECSA Regional Action Plan Validation Workshop on Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM) in the Context of Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) held on 18th November 2024 in Nairobi - Kenya



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