



# SALIENT

The Saving-Lives Entity **NEWSLETTER**

April-Oct 2023 | Vol. 3



Training Maj. Gabriel Kuol facilitating a training for the South Sudan National Police | © UNDP, UNMISS

## ***Greetings from the SALIENT team in New York!***

With this third edition of the SALIENT newsletter, the teams of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) would like to inform partners and donors on the implementation progress of SALIENT.

## **HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: “ARMED VIOLENCE REDUCTION AND SALW CONTROL”**



First-committee side-event | © UNDP

On 25 October, against the backdrop of the First Committee, UNODA and UNDP co-hosted a high-level roundtable (full list of panelists: [agenda](#)) to showcase SALIENT achievements in the pilot countries ([brochure](#)) and promote the advantages of the programmatic and comprehensive approach to SALW control and armed violence reduction. Among other high-level participants, Permanent Representatives of all three pilot phase countries – Cameroon, Jamaica, and South Sudan – highlighted:

- the tangible impact that armed violence had on their communities and recognized the success of SALIENT operating at multiple levels: addressing policy changes, institutional capacity development, and participatory processes for AVR.
- specifically acknowledged SALIENT’s engagement of women and youth.

Furthermore, the event showed donor states’ support and commitment to SALIENT’s programmatic approach:

## **Updates:**

High-level event on  
Armed Violence  
Reduction and the  
SDGs

Scoping mission to  
Papua New Guinea

Project closure in  
Cameroon, Jamaica and  
South Sudan

Publications of interest

## **What’s next:**

SALIENT Programme  
Board

Rescheduled to 19 January 2024

Scoping missions for  
new SALIENT countries:  
Panama, Ghana,  
Kyrgyzstan

- Finland announced it would be continuing its financial support to SALIENT for another 2 years until 2025; and
- Germany recognized SALIENT’s gender-responsive approach and its commitment to helping governments strengthen policy and control, while simultaneously addressing cultural attitudes, women’s meaningful and early participation in arms control issues, and attempts to address the significant relationship between armed violence and toxic masculinities in affected countries.



Highlands provinces, Papua New Guinea | ©UNDP, UNFPA

## CONSULTATIONS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA CONVEY NATIONAL NEED FOR INTERVENTION ON SMALL ARMS ISSUES

On 23 July-3 August 2023, SALIENT dispatched a scoping mission to conduct national and regional consultations in Papua New Guinea and detect the country’s needs on small arms and light weapons proliferation and armed violence reduction. The mission was undertaken in response to a request from the Resident Coordinator in Papua New Guinea.

Ranked 156 per Human Development Report data,<sup>1</sup> the lowest rated of all Pacific and wider Asia-Pacific countries, Papua New Guinea experiences high levels of armed violence, but has not previously received significant international attention or support on this issue. The Mission team noted that the Hela and Southern Highlands Provinces in particular experience extreme forms of violent inter-group or intra-group conflicts of varying scale, where violence remains the normative response to disputes and continues to be perceived as a culturally ‘legitimate’ means of seeking restitution. The impact of this armed violent conflict is significant, resulting in fatalities, physical and psychological suffering, destruction of private and public property, sexual assault, curtailed freedom of movement, internal displacement, loss of access to services (education, health etc.)

Papua New Guinea is unique in its geographic context and has a significantly young population: 63% of the Southern Highlands population and 68% in Hela Province are under the age of 18. Large numbers of young, disaffected men are often directly drawn into conflicts as paid fighters, due to the lack of alternative educational and employment opportunities.

As part of its review, the SALIENT Mission team also noted the need to prioritize data collection, and by extension establishment of data collection mechanisms, in Papua New Guinea as the most recent data on the illicit flows and impacts of SALW in the country is from a 2005 Small Arms Survey report.

<sup>1</sup> 2021/2022 Human Development Report “[Uncertain Times, Unsettled Lives: Shaping our Future in a Transforming World](#)”



Community consultations in Papua New Guinea | ©UNDP

## FAST FACTS: PILOT PHASE

# \$1.5 mil.

invested in gender-responsive programming to tackle illicit flows of small arms and armed violence across:

## 3 countries

with focus on needs-responsive and people-centred approaches that prioritize national ownership in the implementation process, through cooperation with:

## 8 UN partners on the ground

UNDP Cameroon, UN Women Cameroon, UNDP Jamaica, UNESCO Jamaica, UNLIREC, and UNODC Jamaica, UNDP South Sudan and UNMISS, in close coordination with:

## 9+ government entities

including but not limited to government entities such as ministries of external affairs, ministries of youth issues, DDR bodies, and national police services and security services.



Sensitization workshop on dealing with explosive remnants of war | © UNMAS, UNMISS

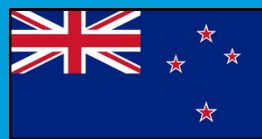
## PILOT PHASE: UPDATES FROM CAMEROON, SOUTH SUDAN, AND JAMAICA

As of June 2023, **Cameroon** had completed implementation of Phase 1 of SALIENT, although the teams continue to engage with civil society and media actors to sensitize them on issues pertaining to small arms and light weapons and armed violence reduction approaches.

During the reporting period in **South Sudan**, SALIENT and the South Sudan National Police Service (SSNPS), in coordination with UNMISS and UNMAS, conducted “Training of Trainers” workshops on dealing with explosive remnants of war (ERW). Outreach activities pertaining to voluntary disarmament practices continued during the reporting period, as did activities with women police officers through operationalization of the women’s network within the SSNPS.

SALIENT activities continue in **Jamaica**, with high school students previously involved in the Youth Fah Peace conflict-management workshops engaged in after-school mentorship programmes to provide avenues for follow-up advising and also allow for greater peer-to-peer support. Jamaica’s pilot Violence Audit, organized in close cooperation with the government and under the umbrella of SALIENT, is also being finalized, providing a strong base for implementation and action on findings.

SALIENT is made possible through financial support from the governments of:  
Finland, France, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Sweden and Switzerland



## OTHER RESOURCES

- [2022 Disarmament Yearbook](#)
- [MOSAIC modules](#)
- [Global Progress Report on SDG 16](#)
- [Subscribe to UNODA's Saving Lives Bulletin](#)
- [SALIENT country impact brochures](#)

## PUBLICATION SPOTLIGHT: ADDRESSING WEAPONS IN CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE: THE ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT TOOLBOX, UNIDIR, 2023.

Although it has been recognized that the proliferation of weapons fuels the systematic and widespread occurrence of sexual violence in conflict, little has actually been done to address weapon proliferation as part of efforts to prevent conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). This publication seeks to fill this gap by exploring the links between the proliferation of weapons, particularly Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and CRSV and by proposing an arms control and disarmament toolbox that can be leveraged to prevent CRSV at all stages of a conflict.

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Participants of the training of trainers at the Wildlife Armoury | © UNDP South Sudan, UNMISS



1st Lt. Diana Jackson leading a training via the SSNPS women's network | © UNDP, UNMISS



Opening of the Juba Leadership Dialogue | © UNDP, UNMISS