



SALIENT

The *Saving-Lives* Entity **NEWSLETTER**

Nov 2023-Mar 2024 | Vol. 4



SALIENT scoping mission team at Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Accra, Ghana | © UNDP

Greetings from the SALIENT team in New York

With this fourth 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.

3RD PROGRAMME BOARD: FOCUS ON IMPACT, SUSTAINABILITY, AND CATALYTIC FUNDING

On 19 January, SALIENT convened its **3rd annual programme board** meeting ([agenda](#)), presided over by USG Izumi Nakamitsu (UNODA), alongside ASG Shoko Noda (UNDP). SALIENT stakeholders reviewed the work undertaken at country-level through SALIENT over the course of the year, introduced new beneficiaries and partners, and provided a platform for stakeholders to provide inputs on the future of SALIENT and its activities. Resident Coordinators in Ghana, Honduras, and Papua New Guinea made short presentations regarding preparatory activities in their respective countries.

Following the **conclusion of the pilot phase in Cameroon, Jamaica and South Sudan** and a **consequent lessons learned exercise**, UNODA and UNDP announced that five additional beneficiary countries, with recently completed scoping missions, had been selected for implementation, namely: **Ghana, Honduras, Kyrgyz Republic, Panama, and Papua New Guinea**. This means that SALIENT is now operational in 8 countries at the global level.

Financial partners acknowledged the relevance and strategic nature of an initiative like SALIENT. Japan acknowledged the value of the lessons learned

Updates:

Scoping missions held in:

- Kyrgyz Republic
- Ghana
- Panama (virtual).

5 new countries began implementation
+ Top-up approved for Jamaica.

SALIENT Programme Board meeting held in January 2024.

Independent evaluation underway.

What's next:

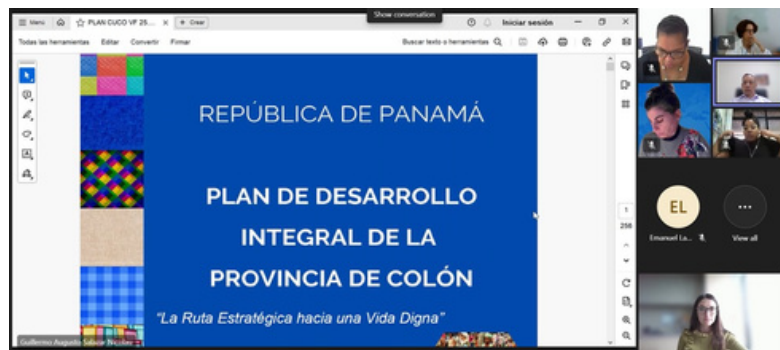
SALIENT event on sidelines of [RevCon4](#): 18 June 2024.



Hybrid programme board convened online and in New York | © UNDP

in Cameroon. **Finland** acknowledged the amount of work done with limited funding and expressed hope that lessons from the pilot would be used to guide actions in the new SALIENT countries.

USG Nakamitsu informed of **preparations for a fundraising event in June 2024**, on the sidelines of the Fourth Review Conference (RevCon4), to ensure sustained and catalytic funding for this work.



Consultations on SALIENT within the context of sustainable development planning in Colon | ©UNDP

CONSULTATIONS HELD VIRTUALLY IN PANAMA GIVEN THE RISING CONTEXT OF SOCIAL UNREST IN THE COUNTRY

From 22-31 November 2023, SALIENT held a virtual scoping mission to conduct national and regional consultations in Panama, as in-person consultations could not be held amid anti-mining protests, and related transportation blockades, in the country. The virtual mission, which focused on how SALIENT could practically address needs related to small arms control and armed violence reduction in Panama, consisted of three-day consultation sessions with national institutions, civil society organizations, gender and youth bodies, private sector entities, and a cross-section of UN agencies convened by the UN Resident Coordinator (RC) to explore actions complementary to existing initiatives in Colon, the target area for intervention for SALIENT in Panama.

Due to its strategic location, Colon faces specific challenges relating to illicit proliferation of arms and is regularly used as a connection point for transporting drugs to the United States and Europe. Crime indicators for Colon paint a very grave picture of citizen security. In 2023, Public Ministry data showed that the province of Colon represented 19% of homicides nationwide despite having only 7% of the country's population. The lack of crime prevention policies has also increased the emergence of gangs, with 49 registered in Colon in 2021 - more than 20 operating from the city center. The resultant insecurity and violence are an everyday reality for communities, and children and young people encounter and access firearms and normalizing their carrying and use in the community and, now frequently, in schools.

Youth are increasingly being recruited into violent activities, while a lack of opportunities, structural inequalities, and social exclusion have only further exacerbated the situation.

The mission team identified opportunities for interventions, including but not limited to:

- working with the education sector;
- driving public-private partnerships to improve employment prospects;
- building institutional capacities to deal with illicit trafficking of arms and ammunition, especially in postal shipments;
- strengthening Community Peace judges to achieve rulings that revoke weapon possession in cases of domestic violence;
- and the need to collect and generate data for the development of local policies, protocols, and actions that align with reality.

The project proposal for Panama is being finalized by UN implementing agencies, under the coordination of the RC, based on the results of the scoping mission.



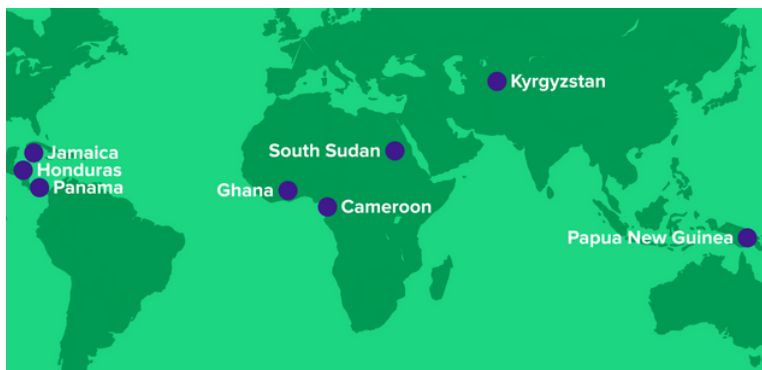
SALIENT mission team in discussion with UNDP Deputy Resident Representative Khoshmukhamedov | © UNDP

TOP-UP TO JAMAICA AND ACTIVITIES POISED TO BEGIN IN GHANA, HONDURAS, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC, AND PNG

Following proposal review at Project Coordination Team level, allocations are now in process for 4 of the 5 new SALIENT countries, with the timeline for implementation for these entities being present-December 2024.

The Project Coordination team has also agreed on a top-up to Jamaica to reinforce and expand activities initiated in the pilot phase by:

- conducting two additional violence audits with the Government, enriching data-use for development and violence prevention.
- expanding its work with schools and operationalize the preventions of arms in schools guidelines developed in the pilot'
- consultations with national small arms authorities, on policy-level technical guidance, including on UN PoA-related obligations and reporting.



INDEPENDENT EVALUATION: STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS UNDERWAY

The independent evaluation of SALIENT’s pilot phase 2020-2023 in Cameroon, Jamaica, and South Sudan is ongoing since January 2024, and interviews with key partners, stakeholders, and beneficiaries are underway at global, regional and national level. Perspectives from and ongoing experience of the initiating countries that are currently beginning implementation (Honduras, Kyrgyz Republic, Panama, Ghana, Papua New Guinea) are also being considered as appropriate.

The evaluation will also assess the project’s approach and results of gender equality and women’s empowerment, by incorporating a gender review in the evaluation. The evaluation team consists of one global evaluator, supported by two national-level evaluators. In the course of the next few weeks, the evaluator will be setting up bilateral interviews with relevant stakeholders, including those that may have not worked directly with SALIENT but play a key role in the outcomes to which SALIENT contributes. The evaluation is expected to conclude in the second half of 2024.

SALIENT FAST FACTS: 2020-2024

\$2.6 mil.

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

8 countries

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

20 UN partners in the field

UNDP in Cameroon, Ghana, Honduras, Jamaica, Kyrgyz Republic, Panama, PNG, and South Sudan; UNLIREC in Honduras, Jamaica; UNFPA in Panama and PNG; UNODC in Ghana, Jamaica, Panama; UNRCPD in Kyrgyz Republic, PNG; UN Women in Cameroon; UNESCO in Jamaica, and UNMISS in South Sudan.

20+ government entities

including but not limited to ministries of external affairs, ministries of youth issues, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) bodies, and national police services and security services.

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





RESOURCES

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

PUBLICATION SPOTLIGHT

[Unregulated: Examining the Global Proliferation of Craft-Produced Weapons](#)
UNIDIR, 2024

Illicitly craft-produced SALW are increasingly used in episodes of armed violence, terrorism, and criminality across all regions of the world. In June 2024, UNIDIR will present a global study on crafted-produced SALW to increase knowledge on proliferation trends, and raise awareness of the challenges in preventing and addressing illicit proliferation, trafficking, and misuse. This factsheet presents a preliminary, non-exhaustive overview of the information collected from 43 States, as well as UN entities, regional organizations, and civil society actors.

Contact:

Ms. Giada Greco
SALIENT Project Coordinator
giada.greco1@undp.org

On X and Instagram:

@UNDP @UN_Disarmament #SALIENT
disarmament.unoda.org/salient
undp.org/rolhr/community-security/salient

2ND INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISARMAMENT AND NONPROLIFERATION AWARENESS

Observed on 5 March, the International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness plays a role in deepening the global public's understanding about how disarmament efforts contribute to enhancing peace and security, preventing and ending armed conflicts, and curbing human suffering caused by weapons. On disarmament day this year, the SALIENT team renewed its commitment to this work and reinforced Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' [message](#) that:

“The proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons, the use of explosive devices in populated areas, and the growing military application of new and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, are also serious concerns.

[...] Disarmament and non-proliferation are critical not only to a peaceful future, but to our very existence.”



Achim Steiner
@ASteiner

Today we mark International Day for Disarmament & Non-Proliferation Awareness.

[@UNDP](#) & [@UN_Disarmamentwork](#) together to help national efforts to tackle small arms & reduce armed violence through disarmament, trust-building & empowering women. #SALIENT

undp.org/rolhr/communit...



ODA
@UN_Disarmament

Collaboration is critical to advancing our work on disarmament.

[@UN_Disarmament](#)'s partnership with [@UNDP](#) on #SALIENT leverages our strengths for a holistic approach to small arms control.



UN Development @UNDP · Mar 5

On International Day for Disarmament & Non-Proliferation Awareness, we take pride in #SALIENT, our partnership with @UN_Disarmament for small arms control.

Our work in 8 countries is critical to fight armed violence & support survivor... [Show more](#)