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ECOWAS/EU SMALL ARMS PROJECT



Annual Progress
Report

2015

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UNDP Nigeria 2016 Annual Report

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ECOWAS/EU SMALL ARMS PROJECT

Annual Progress Report

2015

“The ECOWAS/EU Small Arms project is an intervention under programme EU Support to ECOWAS Regional Peace, Security and Stability Mandate for the implementation of the Pilot Weapons Collection Programmes. It is implemented by UNDP working through National Commissions on Small Arms covering Northern Niger and Mali and the Mano River Union member countries”.

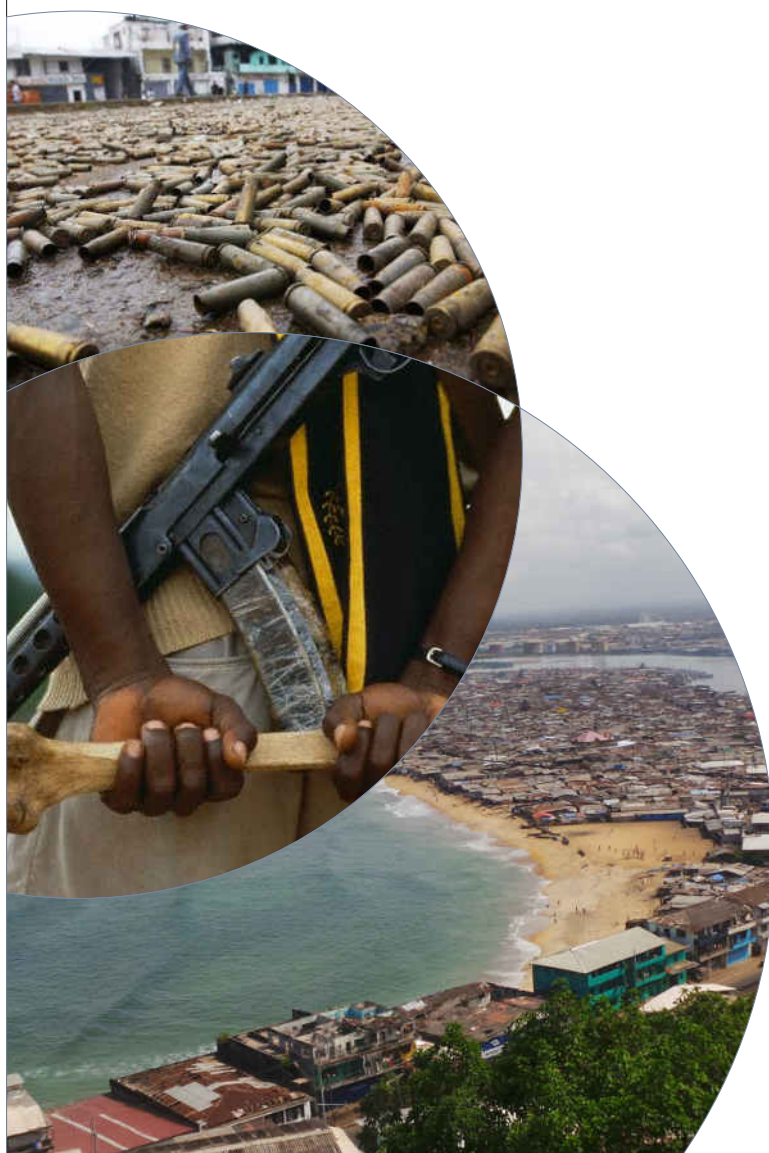


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Abbreviations

AFL	Armed Forces of Liberia
CBO	Community Based Organizations
CO	Country Office
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
ECOSAP	ECOWAS Small Arms Program
ECPF	Ecowas Conflict Prevention Framework
EU	European Union
EVD	Ebola Virus Disease
FDS	Defense and Security Forces
IEC	Information Education Communication
LINSCA	Liberia National Commission on Small Arms
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MINUSMA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali
MRU	Mano River Union
NATCOMs	National Commissions on Small Arms
PRESCOM	Presidential Committee on Small Arms and Light Weapons
PSC	Project Steering Committee
PSSM	Physical Security and Stockpile Management
RASALAO	Reseau d'Action sur les Armes legeres en Afrique de l'Ouest
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
UNMIL	United Nations Mission in Liberia
UNOCI	United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire
WAANSA	West Africa Action Network on Small Arms



Chapter

1 | Introduction



Forward



Ms. Fatma Samoura
Resident Representative, UNDP Nigeria

In spite of the many laudable initiatives by ECOWAS to support its member states in reducing the proliferation of Small Arms within the West African sub-region, events around the 2011 post-election violence in Cote d'Ivoire, the effects of the post Libyan crisis and the insurgences of Boko Haram are clear demonstrations of the urgent need to do more to sustain peace and development within the sub-region.

Through focused and country-specific goals, the ECOWAS, with funding from the EU and implementation by UNDP has laid a good foundation for this regional Small Arms project. The project seeks to harmonise approaches for purging the region of small arms and light weapons and promote alternative livelihood among targeted communities.

2015 marked the first year of implementation with varying degrees of success in meeting the stated project

goals. The project was able to kick-start and quickly gained buy-in from the national authorities in the implementing countries; Sahel (Northern Niger - Mali, and Northern Nigeria) and Mano River Union (West of Cote d'Ivoire; Guinea Forestière; East of Liberia; North-East of Sierra Leone and Nigeria). Each of these countries has its own peculiarities. This notwithstanding, the project was well received and effectively mainstreamed into the respective national frameworks on small arms.

During the year, more relevant stakeholders were engaged in various awareness raising activities on issues around small arms and light weapons into daily discourse within the implementing countries. This approach further facilitated positive reception and ownership of the project, enhanced community engagement and contributed to the achievement of some output level results. The project also focused on building capacities of national authorities for sustainability and synergy with activities that seek to promote social cohesion and peaceful co-existence.

Within the framework of this intervention, we will continue to strengthen effective collaboration with our partners in achieving the goals of the ECOWAS conflict prevention framework. We are on course to achieve this within the project timelines.

Executive Summary

Pace and Security challenges in West Africa are primarily about responding to the threat of violent conflicts and/or actual violent conflicts, as well as building sustainable human security for all within and across national boundaries. A major lesson learned over the years show that Countries where small arms and armed violence dominate, development suffers, and negative consequences spill over to neighboring Countries.

Research shows that insecurity and armed violence are complex phenomena that need solid evidence-base and concerted efforts in order to be comprehensively addressed. Security is therefore a cornerstone to individual and social wellbeing. The absence of, or threats to security can destroy people's lives and property, hamper community ties and affect daily activities.

This report summarizes the activities implemented over the period 1st January to 31st December 2015 by the ECOWAS-EU Small Arms Project. A pilot project covering two clusters - Sahel and Mano River Union (MRU). The project is funded by the European Union with a contribution of EUR 5,560,000 over an implementation period of 3 Years. This project is a component of the 10th EDF funding for the ECOWAS Peace, Stability and Security (PSS) Programme. UNDP provides operational and management

support in the implementation of the programme across the pilot Countries namely Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone in the MRU; Mali and Niger in the Sahel and Nigeria .

This report provides a synopsis of the results achieved from the activities carried out in the respective Countries. It provides both a summary of the report per output in each of the Countries while accounting for the results achieved based on the indicators and targets set at the beginning of the implementation year. A highlight of the results emanating from the project governance issues and management results achieved with other partners including project visibility is also presented. Finally, the report identifies the challenges encountered, how they were managed including recommendations and lessons learned across the pilot Countries.

On a whole, a formal launching of the Project was achieved in all Seven Countries with full support from the National Partners, Civil Society Organisations, Local Authorities, Security apparatus as well as the Youth groups. Communication strategies were developed and validated in four (4) of the seven (7) Countries, while three (3) Countries updated existing communications strategy developed by National Commission on Small Arms (NATCOM). These documents served as



guidance to the advocacy and sensitization campaigns undertaken in all the pilot countries. In total, over thirty eight (38) radio and community sensitization and awareness campaigns were conducted highlighting the dangers associated in the illegal possession of arms. These sensitisation activities revealed that a sustained and adequate response to the Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) problem will have economic benefits for all regions and individual countries as a whole. This is evidenced by the voluntary handing over and collection of weapons in some parts of Cote D'Ivoire, it has also resulted in a landmark South-South cooperation and exchange of experiences between Niger and Mali NATCOM.

Technical and Operational support to the NATCOMs of the pilot Countries were achieved through the delivery of twenty-three (23) training programmes of different focus areas and targets. In all seven (7) training sessions were organised for Civil Society Organisations, two (2) trainings for Local Authorities; four (4) trainings for NATCOM officials in critical areas of Resource Mobilization and Partnerships Building and ten (10) trainings for Security Agencies on stock pile management etc... These trainings have benefitted over four hundred and forty persons (440) including one hundred and four women (104). Twenty-

six containers (26) for arms collection have or in the process of been procured and fifty (50) sites identified in five countries. Mali and Niger are yet to kick start the process. Cote D'Ivoire and Liberia have delivered containers on site for effective storage of arms and stock pile management.

Significant as these results may be for year one, they were not achieved without challenges and difficulties. Some of the factors which limited further success in implementation include the outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone; the ongoing security challenges in Nigeria; the elections in Cote D'Ivoire which slowed down some activities in specific areas; and the deplorable road conditions in the Mano River Union countries especially which presented an uphill task in the effective movement of project personnel to respective project sites. Other challenges revolved around specific community interest versus individual interest in relation to the response for arms collection, insufficient integration of the project in the planned activities of some NATCOMS at the inception stages, and finally the realization that there were additional border communities in both the MRU and Sahel countries which required immediate attention although beyond the scope of the pilot project phase.

1.1 Context

The effective control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) is one of the major global prerequisites for peace, sustainable development and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Peace and security challenges in West Africa are primarily about responding to the threat of violent conflicts and/or actual violent conflicts, as well as building a sustainable human security for all within and across national boundaries. A major lesson learned over the years is that where small arms and armed violence dominate, development suffers, and negative consequences spill over to neighboring countries.

As evidenced in recent history, the illicit proliferation, illegal retention and trafficking of small arms and light weapons continues to prove a major

challenge to the growth and development path for many West African countries. The 2011 post-election violence in Cote d'Ivoire, recurrent armed violence in Guinea Bissau and the nature of the conflict in Mali are a manifestation of how the easy availability of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) is impacting West Africa. Others include the presence and use of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Sierra Leone over the years has inhibited access to basic services and key infrastructure such as health clinics and schools, as well as markets. In Liberia, the systematic misuse of firearms led to the death of over 250,000 people during the country's civil war between December 1989 and August 2003. The growing numbers of small arms in communities like Niono, Mali has affected hundreds of households and worsened

As evidenced in recent history, the illicit proliferation, illegal retention and trafficking of small arms and light weapons continues to prove a major challenge to the growth and development path for many West African countries.



poverty levels as community members are no longer able to freely cultivate their crops and conduct their trade activities. Although the primary responsibility for peace and security rests with the Member States, there is the collective responsibility by diverse actors who are often called upon to complement national efforts. In peace and security specifically, a firm legal basis underpins the relationship between ECOWAS, the African Union and the United Nations.

The timing of the ECOWAS/EU SALW project is critical, given the proliferation of SALW in these regions within the past three years. The West African sub region however during the period under review, has witnessed emerging dynamics which impacted on the effective implementation of some

planned activities. These include the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, the electoral process in Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea and Burkina Faso. The upcoming elections in Niger and increased intensity in the activities of terrorist groups such as Boko Haram in the Northern parts of Nigeria and Niger, as well as Islamic groups in North of Mali equally impacted project implementation.



The timing of the ECOWAS/EU SALW project is critical, given the proliferation of SALW in these regions within the past three years.



About the project

The ECOWAS-EU Small Arms Project is an intervention under the Programme "EU support to ECOWAS Regional Peace, Security and Stability Mandate" (ECOWAS-EU PSS) for the implementation of the "Pilot Weapons Collection Programmes" related to the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF) component "Practical disarmament" in Member States. The project aims at sensitizing border communities, strengthening operational and institutional capacities of relevant stakeholders such as National Commissions, Security Forces and Civil

Society Organizations (CSOs) on the dangers of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) proliferation, This aim to encourage voluntary weapons surrender/collection in return for development community based development projects.

This project is implemented in two clusters covering seven countries, namely Sahel (Northern Niger - Mali, and Northern Nigeria) and Mano River Union (West of Cote d'Ivoire; Guinee Forestiere; East of Liberia; North-East of Sierra Leone).



The project is an ECOWAS project, funded by European Union (EU) and implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Nigeria Country Office in close collaboration with National Commissions on Small Arms and Light Weapons (NATCOM), CSOs and other relevant stakeholders.

- ◆ Type: Regional project (ECOWAS)
- ◆ Duration: 3 years (2015-2017)
- ◆ Budget: EUR 5,560,000
- ◆ Funded by: European Commission
- ◆ Implemented by: UNDP

1 Expected Output(s):

OUTPUT 1: Sensitization and Advocacy Programs Elaborated and Implemented.

OUTPUT 2: Capacity of Relevant Stakeholders- Armed & security forces, National Commissions and CSOs of the selected countries in the Mano River Union (MRU) and Sahel regions enhanced.

OUTPUT 3: Weapons collection, record keeping and destruction of SALW conducted.

OUTPUT 4: Implementation of community - based micro projects in exchange for arms collection conducted and key projects provided.



Chapter

2

Reporting framework and Results



This chapter highlights the 2015 reporting framework & results as per the outputs established in the project document and contribution agreement. Each output will be presented with the respective baselines, targets, indicators and indicative activities.

Activities carried out during the project reporting period per country, key achievements, as well as difficulties encountered and measures taken to overcome them are presented in this chapter.



OUTPUT 1. Sensitization and Advocacy Programs Elaborated and Implemented

This output is aimed at creating community awareness on the dangers associated with the illicit proliferation of small arms and armed violence, strengthen the capacity of

Base Line:

- ◆ A communication strategy dedicated to addressing awareness of SALW in the selected region is non-existent.
- ◆ Awareness and sensitization campaigns undertaken in the targeted regions are not driven by any well-articulated strategy.
- ◆ Information, Education and Communication materials on Arms for development on SALW in the selected zones are non-existent/obsolete.



security institutions and communities to enhance safety and above all encourage voluntary weapons surrender /collection in return for development community based development projects.

Indicators

- ◆ Communications strategy developed and implemented
- ◆ Number and nature of awareness and sensitization campaigns undertaken.
- ◆ Number of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials developed for lessons learnt and future scale up.
- ◆ Level of awareness of Arms for development in targeted communities, and community willingness to collect and destroy arms.

Foot Sensitization Campaign-
Cote D'Ivoire



TARGETS

The following were targets for the first year of implementation

- ◆ Develop and implement a communication strategy for an effective SALW intervention in the two zones
- ◆ Implement at least 3 targeted sensitization and Awareness campaigns in all zones based on communication strategy.
- ◆ Produce Information, Education and Communication Materials

Activities Planned:

Activity 1.1: Develop Sensitization and Advocacy Strategy to Create the Necessary Awareness for the Pilot Projects

Action 1.1.1. Develop a communication strategy (MRU)

Action 1.1.2. Develop a communication strategy (Sahel)

- ◆ Activity 1.2: Implement sensitization & advocacy strategy in the communities
- ◆ Action 1.2.1 Implement the sensitization and awareness campaign based on communication strategy (MRU)
- ◆ Action 1.2. 2 Implement the

sensitization and awareness campaign based on communication strategy (Sahel region)

- ◆ Action 1.2.3 Develop Information, Education and Communication materials to facilitate experience sharing, learning and scale up. (MRU)
- ◆ Action 1.2.4 Develop Information Education and Communication materials to facilitate experience sharing, learning and scale up. (Sahel region)



Activities carried out during project reporting period

(MRU)



In Côte d'Ivoire, UNDP and its partners carried out sensitization campaigns in 5 dedicated regions (in Guiglo, Man, Danane, Touba and Odienne) to sensitize targeted communities on dangers of SALW and encouraged them to hand over their weapons. To assess the effectiveness of these campaigns a follow up on field mission to the five regions was conducted to ascertain the level of awareness of the communities on SALW as well as on the project. Feedback from this assessment revealed that based on past election experience, people were not ready to hand over their weapons for fear of reprisals; thus using their weapons as a form of security. Some community members interviewed indicated that they were not confident about the project's response if they handed over weapons based on experiences with similar projects in the past.

- ◆ During the weapons collection and needs assessment missions in 4 regions, sensitization campaigns were conducted for community representatives, local authorities, and religious leaders on the dangers of SALWs. It was also used as a platform to promote peace within and among communities before,

during and after elections in Côte d'Ivoire.

- ◆ Community radios in Guiglo, Man, Danane, Touba and Odienne broadcasted peace messages, and called on community and politicians to cohabitate peacefully, avoid armed violence during the sensitive electoral campaigns, and to hand over illicit arms for community projects.



In Liberia: Six (6) towns hall meetings were respectively held in Kablarcken and Gedetarbo communities (Maryland County), and Glarro-Freetown and Parken Communities (River Gee County), Toe Town and Tiama Town (Grand Gedeh County). The Town hall meetings were aimed at informing, sensitizing and creating the much

needed awareness and to galvanize goodwill for the project.

- ◆ In addition, these sensitization campaigns yielded the formation of two (2) local committees in each of the six (6) communities - one committee to work with the project implementation team in identifying and executing development projects and the second committee to serve as a hub for weapons collection.



Sierra Leone : Radio sensitization and awareness raising campaigns were conducted in four targeted districts (Kenema, Kailahun, Kono and Koinadugu) prior to the project launch. These were designed to sensitize participants and engage them in live phone-in radio programmes as well as to inform community members about the ECOWAS-EU Small Arms Project. It was also aimed at enhancing their knowledge on SALWs control and to enable them play effective role as change agents in their respective communities. Following the adoption of the communication strategy, twelve (12) community sensitization programmes were conducted in twelve chiefdoms on the dangers associated with SALW.



Guinea : following the validation of the communication strategy by all relevant stakeholders, UNDP Country Office and NATCOM are already

working together to ensure its effective implementation. Sensitization campaigns have been conducted targeting community representatives, local authorities, traditional rulers on the dangers of illegal retention and illicit circulation of small arms in their community, encouraging them to bring back their weapons in exchange of development project.



(SAHEL REGION)



Niger: The NATCOM through the use of its existing community networks began implementing the communication strategy and undertook a community outreach initiative to work with the respective Mayors of the targeted communities. Ten (10) community radio stations had been identified and a processes initiated to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for support of awareness activities especially during the upcoming election periods.



- ◆ The NATCOM conducted high level sensitization within the Office of the Prime Minister and House of Assembly, and solicited their support for the project. As a result, the Government of Niger commissioned and funded the deployment of a mission to Mali to facilitate a south-south cooperation on common concerns relating to SALW control in their respective borders.
- ◆ To address inadequate collaboration and knowledge on the dangers of SALW across borders, the project conducted a sensitization and awareness campaign on the dangers of SALW and voluntary weapons hand over at the common border (Tahoua, Tillabery, Maradi) of Niger with Nigeria and with Mali respectively. The campaign revealed a weak collaboration between the border authorities of Niger and Mali on SALW control.
- ◆ As a result, the campaign established a framework of collaboration between NATCOMs in Niger, Nigeria and Mali for joint border common activities within the ECOWAS-EU Small Arms Project. In addition, Niger has begun to record voluntary hand over of

weapons in those communities where the campaign was conducted.



Mali: Prior to the deployment of the team in the different regions to conduct the sensitization activities, UNDP in collaboration with the National Commission organized a two-day training to provide selected participants from the project target regions with the skills and knowledge required to effectively conduct their sensitization and advocacy work in the regions. The participants included focal points of the National Commission, representatives of the civil society organizations, representatives of the media, and traditional communicators from the regions as well as resource persons.

- ◆ As a result, sensitization activities were successfully conducted in the critical regions of Mopti, Gao and Timbuktu respectively. Requisite communication materials were



utilized to highlight to the population that an adequate response to the SALW problem will have economic benefits for all the regions and the entire country.



Nigeria, the Presidential Committee on SALW (PRESCOM) and UNDP as part of the ECOWAS/EU project conducted a stakeholder's sensitization forum on the comprehensive National Small and Light Weapons Survey.

- ◆ The initiative was expected to cover Six (6) Geo-Political Zones of Nigeria, out of which the first of three sensitization programmes have been implemented in two Geo-political areas of the South East and South-South Zones. The aim of the survey is to empirically establish the SALW situation in the States prior to the development of a National SALW Action Plan. This is to be obtained through the collection of scientific data and a representative sampling process. The overall objective of the sensitization activity was also to mobilize nationwide ownership and support for the comprehensive National Survey of the selected opinion leaders in the various communities where the surveys would hold. The sensitization furthermore

provided the platform for the identification of some individuals and groups that would assist the survey team to succeed.

- ◆ A capacity enhancement Training for Security Operatives in Selected Border Communities in Nigeria with the theme "Collaborative Border Control: Panacea for Effective Border Management" was organized by the Presidential Committee on SALW (PRESCOM) in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the ECOWAS-EU Small Arms Control Project in Sokoto and Katsina States. The programme was in furtherance of creating a platform for the interface between PRESCOM and the various security stakeholders for the purpose of sensitization, enlightenment, cross fertilization of ideas as well as brainstorming on strategies for combating SALWs' proliferation in Nigeria.





Difficulties encountered and measures taken to overcome

- ◆ The implementation of this action was confronted with the expected challenges of project take off phase, including the initial community entry and confidence building processes. Other difficulties included the deplorable state of the road networks leading to the border communities of the respective countries.
- ◆ To overcome these challenges and achieve planned results, the project team involved the communities beneficiaries in the design and planning of the sensitization strategies as well as the implementation. Conscious efforts were also made to undertake the missions to very remote areas in the dry season periods to reduce the burden of dealing with difficult terrain.

Achievements and results as per indicators/targets

- ◆ The project was formally launched in

all the seven pilot countries in close collaboration with the national partners, community and traditional leaders, CSOs as well as youth groups. The involvement of these stakeholders has resulted in increased local ownership and the reaffirmed significant role they play in sensitization activities on illegal retention and illicit circulation of weapons. This has further encouraged some target communities to already hand over their weapons in exchange of community development projects.

- ◆ The Project was the first of components within the ECOWAS PSS with EDF funding. This was achieved through proactive and efficient operational management of UNDP CO's. Apart from Guinea, all the full complement of staff required for project take off was achieved before the 1st Steering Committee meeting.
- ◆ In four (4) of the seven (7) countries (Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Mali) the communications strategy were developed and validated while in three other countries (Niger, Nigeria and Cote D'Ivoire) existing communication strategy already owned by NATCOMS were updated taking into account the vision of the project. In the countries where the communication strategy is already being implemented, the target

audience namely the communities, local authorities, Security agencies, CSOs, women and youth groups among others were sensitised on the dangers that possession of arms constitute for development; the potentials that a society free of arms portend for an enhanced livelihood; the nexus between possession of arms and Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) among others.

About thirty-eight sensitization and awareness campaigns were carried out in seven pilot countries based on the developed and / or updated communication strategy. Information Education Communication (IEC)

materials such as T-shirts, banners, badges, bill boards, posters, notepads, stickers, videos clips and documentaries were developed and disseminated in the course of the sensitisation and awareness campaigns that were carried out in the seven pilot countries. The level of awareness around arms for development has been rekindled in targeted communities, as evidenced from the willingness of some communities to voluntarily submit their arms for destruction.





OUTPUT 2.: Capacity Of Relevant Stakeholders- Armed & Security Forces, NATCOMS and CSOS of the Selected Countries in the Mano River Union (MRU) and Sahel Regions Enhanced.

This output requires working closely with non - state actors, specifically Security Forces and CSOs in order to bring a human centered perspective to the issues and respond appropriately to implementing the

priority action plan that will ensure that the capacity of National Small Arms Commission as well as that of the police, immigration and intelligence communities in the selected countries is strengthened.

Base Line:

- ◆ A number of training programmes have been organised from existing Japanese funding and ECOSAP but not aimed at targeted beneficiaries.
- ◆ Relatively weak operational capacity of NATCOMS to monitor and evaluate projects in selected communities.
- ◆ NATCOMS have over the years carried out arms destruction exercises, but the functional relationship with the targeted communities needs to be further institutionalized, especially with regards to the process of arms collection at community level.
- ◆ Relatively low engagement of CSO's in advocacy and sensitization on SALW in pilot communities.



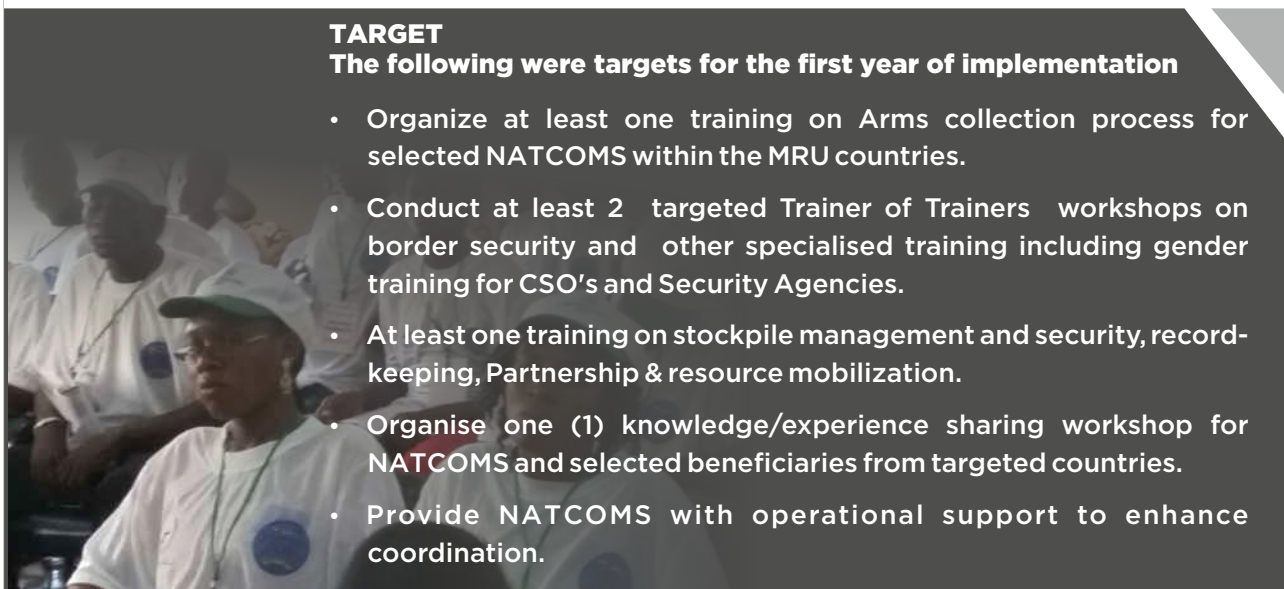
Indicators:

- ◆ Level of knowledge of arms collection process by NATCOMS which can ensure sustainability and scale up of intervention.
- ◆ Number and nature of additional or specialised training/capacity provided to NATCOMS, security apparatus including CSO's.
- ◆ Number of arms collection and destruction processes successfully administered and executed by NATCOM in project communities.
- ◆ Number of CSO's engaged in advocacy and sensitization on SALW in pilot communities.

TARGET

The following were targets for the first year of implementation

- Organize at least one training on Arms collection process for selected NATCOMS within the MRU countries.
- Conduct at least 2 targeted Trainer of Trainers workshops on border security and other specialised training including gender training for CSO's and Security Agencies.
- At least one training on stockpile management and security, record-keeping, Partnership & resource mobilization.
- Organise one (1) knowledge/experience sharing workshop for NATCOMS and selected beneficiaries from targeted countries.
- Provide NATCOMS with operational support to enhance coordination.



Activities Planned

Activity Result 2.1. Enhance operational capacities of Armed & Security Forces as well as National Commissions in pilot project areas.

- ◆ Action 2.1.1. Provide specific training to NATCOMS, Armed and Security Agencies in respective clusters (MRU)
- ◆ Action 2.1.2. Provide specific training to NATCOMS, Armed and Security Agencies (Sahel region).
Action 2.2.1. Provide specific Training to CSO's and non-state actors respective clusters (MRU)
- ◆ Action 2.2.2. Provide specific training to CSO's and non-state actors (Sahel region).

- ◆ Action 2.2.3. Create knowledge and experience sharing platform for the different zones including joint workshops (MRU)
- ◆ Action 2.2.4. Create knowledge and experience sharing platform for the different zones including joint workshops (Sahel region)
- ◆ Action 2.2.5. Provide operational support to NATCOMS for monitoring implementation of Pilot projects and coordination in the selected communities
- ◆ Action 2.2.6. Provide operational support to NATCOMS for monitoring implementation of Pilot /emergency projects and coordination in Niger and Mali respectively.



Training on Stockpile mgt in Kono

2.2 Country and Actor Specific Capacity Building Results

Armed and Security Agencies

In Cote d'Ivoire, UNDP in partnership with NATCOM, United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and Halo Trust carried out a training on Physical Security and Stockpile Management for 20 armed and security forces (2 Women and 18 Men) from 5 project implementing regions. This Trainer of Trainers (ToT) has reinforced the capacity of the participants with relevant techniques to effectively carry out assigned tasks during the collection, transportation and destruction arms. In addition, the project conducted a training for special team of 8 persons (police, military, customs, gendarmes, forest guards and fire brigade) on explosive transportation and destruction. It is expected that the knowledge gained will enable this first-of-its-kind team in Cote D'Ivoire to effectively implement explosives management.



In Sierra Leone, UNDP in collaboration with NATCOM and CSO conducted a three-day ToT workshop on PSSM and arms recordkeeping targeting 100 participants (96 men - 4 women) 25 from each of the 4 implementing districts namely Kailahun, Kenema Koinadugu and Kono). The training provided the participants with the knowledge in using PSSM, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in PSSM implementation process. It provided the first-of-its-kind opportunity for both military, police and chiefdom authorities (community police) to participate in the same training. This has increased their knowledge on PSSM, record keeping arms collection, transportation and destruction of weapons as well as facilitated experience sharing.




In Liberia, the project conducted a three-day ToT on arms and ammunition collection and destruction, record keeping and PSSM in Bong County. The training was designed to improve the skills and knowledge of 19 personnel (16 men - 3 women) who were drawn from security institutions like the Armed Forces of Liberia, Liberia National Police, Bureau of Immigration, National Security







The US Army Officer Lyon Bruce talking to the Liberia security forces trainees during the Training of Trainers (TOT) on arms collection, storage, stockpile management and arms destruction organized by ECOWAS EU Small Arms Project In Gbarnga/Bong county – Liberia the 1st october 2015

Agency, and Executive Protection Service. Facilitators were drawn from Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL), the United States Army (US Army) and UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). The trained personnel are expected to replicate acquired knowledge and techniques among their peers.

 **In Guinea**, the project trained 35 security forces personnel (20 men and 15 women - from Lola, Yomou, Macenta, Gueckedou, Kissidougo, Beyla and Nzerekore) on PSSM. These personnel were drawn from police, gendarmerie, military, forest guards and customs. This training equipped the participants with the relevant skills and knowledge to optimally perform during weapons collection and destruction, registration and recordkeeping within the framework of the project in intervention zones.

 **In Niger**, the project conducted a training in Tahoua for 30 participants from defense and security Forces (FDS) on SALW and ammunitions collection, recording and stockpiles management. The training has facilitated the designation of specific officers to manage arms and amunition storage facilities which was hitherto not the case. The training has equally facilitated a change in the manner and approach in which stockpiles (arms and ammunitions) were hitherto managed.

 **In Nigeria**, UNDP through its implementing partner the Presidential Committee on SALW (PRESCOM) carried out a four (4) day capacity building training for 80 security operatives (military, paramilitary, Department of State Security staff etc) and traditional rulers in two





selected border communities (with Niger Republic) Sokoto and Katsina States. The awareness training was aimed at communicating the dangers of the proliferation of illegal arms and light weapons to security staff and people of the border communities to

reduce cross-border illicit trafficking of SALW.


The objective, among others, was to create awareness on the socio-economic impact (such as youth unemployment, loss of livelihood, internal displacement and depleted education and health system among others) of illicit SALW and sensitize the selected Nigeria border communities and the security personnel on their national obligations to support and cooperate with each other and stem the illegal entry of SALW into the country through the activities of unlicensed arms importers and smugglers.

2.3 Training to CSO's and Non-State Actors

 **In Guinea**, the CSO training facilitated the formulation of a working group on SGBV - the group has now put in place a monitoring mechanism to document SGBV cases, gather and share information with Human Rights High Commissioner, regional authorities and international NGOs with the aim to facilitate quick response to SGBV cases.

 **In Liberia** a 5-day training of trainers workshop for 18 participants (9 women - 9 men) from south-eastern counties of Grand Gedeh, River-Gee

and Maryland was organised by the Liberia National Commission on Small Arms (LINCSA) in Harper/Maryland . The training was aimed at providing the participants with knowledge on SGBV and Community mobilization. Participants replicated the trainings in their communities and this has increased the number of persons with knowledge on SGBV.

 **In Cote d'Ivoire**, UNDP in collaboration with NATCOM conducted training sessions for 10 governors based at the western part

of country's border in Daloa. This working session was aimed at building the capacity of these personnel to enhance their contribution to conduct sensitization activities on SALW in their areas of responsibility. It sought to also show to border communities the dangers of SALW for their own security. The Governors are also expected to inform and encourage communities to hand over Weapons and other ammunitions in order to be entitled to micro projects.

In Cote d'Ivoire, the project in collaboration with the West Africa Action Network on Small Arms (WAANSA) offered both technical and financial support to NATCOM to develop its National Strategic Plan on Resource Mobilization. It is expected that the Plan will enhance the capacity of NATCOM to source for as well as manage resources. A

workshop on the linkage between SGBV and proliferation of SALW to include sensitisation strategy on SGBV was conducted for 20 participants (11 Women and 9 Men) from CSO's in 5 target beneficiary regions. CSO capacities were reinforced on different types and classification of SGBV, national and international instrument to protect SGBV victims. It is expected that the knowledge gained by the participants will enhance their capacity in initiating activities to address SGBV as perpetrated by proliferation of SALW.

- ◆ A training on resource mobilisation and project management was conducted for 20 participants (8 women - 12 men). Additionally, the capacity of 10 Governors and 40 members of CSO from 5 project regions were strengthened in the first year in Cote d'Ivoire.



2.4 Provide Operational Support to NATCOMS



In Liberia, a 5-day capacity enhancement training in project management and resource mobilization was held for 12 senior and middle management staff of LiNCSA. The training equipped LiNCSA personnel with skills and knowledge on project tools and methodology techniques as well as on designing and implementing a resource



mobilization plan. As a result of the training, LiNCSA successfully advocated for additional resources at the Project Steering Committee to enable it address the additional responsibilities on SALW control (to include the creation of a national firearms register and database) that have been devolved to it due to UNMIL drawdown. In addition, LiNCSA has utilized the skills

acquired to develop its 2016-2020 Strategic Plan which will be validated in 2016.



In Niger, a training was held in Tillabery for CSOs on SALW as well as on Partnership Building and Resource Mobilization. The objective of the workshop was to strengthen their capacity to enhance the sustainability of the project. About 30 participants from the target communities benefitted from the training. It is expected that the beneficiary CSOs will become interested in developing ideas to address proliferation and illicit trafficking in SALW as well as mobilize resources to support their initiatives. With the objective to build the knowledge capacity of women groups on the nexus between SGBV and SALW proliferation in Niger, UNDP and NATCOM organized a training workshop for 30 women in target communities on SGBV and Armed Conflict. It is expected that the beneficiary groups will utilize the knowledge gained to conscientize their children, husbands and other women on the dangers of retention of SALW in their communities and its impact on SGBV.



In Niger, within the context of south-south cooperation, Niger NATCOM with the support of the Government of Niger (GoN) conducted a high level mission to its counterpart in Mali. The mission resulted in;

- definition of a common strategy for practical communities disarmament on their respective borders;
- discussion on the modalities of cooperation on the protection of civilians who will hand over their weapons in their respective common borders;
- experience sharing of Niger in its post-conflict de-mining action.

Given the need to enhance the capacity of Niger NATCOMs to adequately be abreast with international standards and best practices on SALW control, the project offered technical support to Niger NATCOMs to participate at the Regional Workshop on Humanitarian Disarmament in Cote d'Ivoire as well as at the International Workshop on Border Security Management and Illicit Arms Control in Tunisia.



In Mali, the NATCOM in collaboration with UNDP organized a two-day capacity building activity to train CSOs on resource mobilization, partnerships building and management. The training brought together 25 CSOs from Bamako,

Mopti, Gao, Timbuktu, and Koulikoro. The objective of the training was to enhance the capacity of the CSO's to undertake initiatives in their respective organizations in order to sustain themselves in the fight against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. In addition, a workshop was organised to train youth groups on SALW. This workshop equipped the youth groups with knowledge on the roles they could play in the fight against proliferation and illicit trafficking of SALW in their communities. The workshop also provided the platform for young people to engage and debate on the issues of small arms.

Difficulties encountered and measures taken to overcome

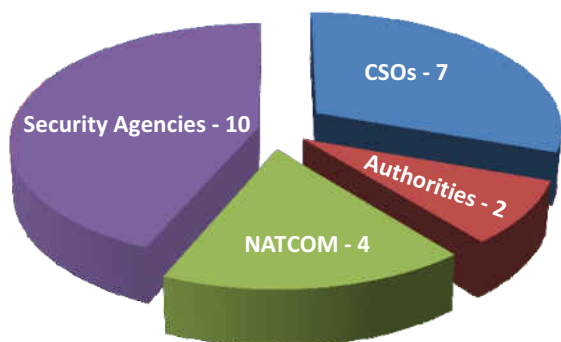


There were no significant difficulties encountered in the implementation of this action apart from the delays in take off of this output in Guinea due to absence of project coordinator. To address this, the project team took innovative measures to deploy the other project coordinators to enable the implementation to commence in earnest.

- ♦ A total of 23 training programmes benefiting over 440 persons including 104 women was conducted in six pilot countries. These trainings covered thematic areas such as arms collection and destruction processes; Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM); ammunition and explosives transportation; Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and resource mobilisation. These trainings were targeted at NATCOMS, CSOs, local authorities, police, military, customs, gendarmes, national guards and forest guards.

Achievements and results as per indicators/targets

Training Programmes



Benefiting Inst	Number of Training Programmes
CSOs	7
Authorities	2
NATCOM	4
Security Agencies	10
TOTAL	23



OUTPUT 3. Weapons Collection, Record Keeping and Destruction of SALW Conducted.

This output will aim at supporting the selected communities to develop their ability to come up with community development projects in exchange for collected arms. The collection exercise

will be conducted in all communities, arms collected from each communities will be destroyed after necessary documentation in terms of record keeping.

Base Line:

- ◆ No official record of small arms collection centers in targeted communities.
- ◆ Weapons for development projects undertaken in some of the targeted communities in the past.
- ◆ Official records of small arms collected in the communities non-existent.

Indicators:

- ◆ Number of Arms collection centers established and exercises undertaken
- ◆ Number of Weapons collected/registered and physically destroyed per collection center.
- ◆ Recording system and stockpile management for small arms in project pilot areas.

TARGETS

The following were targets for the first year of implementation

- 40% of targeted beneficiary communities have developed action plans for development projects.
- At least two (2) arms collection exercises conducted in each of the clusters.
- 40% of communities initiated preparatory phase of community funded projects based on weapons collected.



Activities Planned:


Activity 3.1 Provide Weapons facilities in communities Collection targeted


- ◆ Action 3.1.1 Conduct needs assessment exercise to Identify appropriate weapons collection centres.
- ◆ Action 3.1.2 Provide relevant equipment (containers) for the storage of these weapons.
- ◆ Activity 3.2 Collect, Register and Store all Recovered Weapons in the Facilities
- ◆ Action 3.1.1 Conduct needs assessment exercise to Identify appropriate weapons collection and provide relevant equipment (containers) as the storage centres. (MRU)
- ◆ Action 3.1.2 Conduct needs assessment exercise to Identify appropriate weapons collection and provide relevant equipment (containers) as the storage centres. (Sahel)
- ◆ Activity 3.3 Conduct and Physically Destroy Weapons Recovered in the Communities
- ◆ Action 3.3.1. Provide equipment/operational support to NATCOMS for destruction of recovered weapons (MRU)
- ◆ Action 3.3.2. Provide equipment/operational support to NATCOMS for destruction of recovered weapons (Sahel)




Activities carried out during project reporting period

2.5 Conduct Needs Assessment Exercise


 **Cote d'Ivoire** : the Project undertook a mission in collaboration with the NATCOM and regional authorities in Five (5) regions of the country namely San Pedro, Guiglo, Man, Toubra and Odiene. Consequently, weapon storage sites have been identified and the process of acquiring the facilities were duly completed.


 **Liberia**: The NATCOM in partnership with the project team and the Liberian National Police, conducted an assessment mission to Maryland , River Gee and Grand Gedeh County. Additionally, LiNCSA with the support of the UNDP and project team concluded negotiations with UNMIL for the turnover of the mission's arms storage facilities as part of the UNMIL drawdown.

 **Mali** : The NATCOM in partnership with the UN Integrated Multidimensional Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) conducted an assessment mission to the region of Mopti, Gao and Bamako to identify sites for weapon storage facilities in target communities. The team evaluated the potential weapon storage sites with the aim to ensure weapons that will be recovered are appropriately stored and secured before their destruction. As a result, twenty (20) weapon storage sites were identified in Mopti, Sevaré, Bamako and Gao. The Project will provide relevant facilities and adequate security (to include weapon storage containers) in five (5) out of the identified twenty (20) sites.




2.6 Weapons Facilities In Communities

 **Niger:** The NATCOM in collaboration with ECOWAS/EU Small arms project conducted a Needs Assessment Mission in the six (6) project intervention regions namely Abala, Banibangou, Inates, Gorooul, Tilia, and Tchintabaraden.

 **Cote d'Ivoire :** Five (5) weapon storage sites have been identified and equipped with containers with fully fitted facilities to secure arms and ammunitions that will be collected in San Pedro, Guiglo, Man, Touba and Odiene.




 **Liberia:** In addition to the facilities that will be procured by the Project, LiNCSA with the support of the UNDP and project team has started negotiations with UNMIL for the turnover of the mission's arms storage facilities as part of the UNMIL drawdown.

Difficulties encountered and measures taken to overcome

Since this output is sequel to the first two(2) outputs, and the project took off effectively in second quarter, not all of the activities earmarked for the year was achieved by all the countries. It is to be noted however, that this was discussed at the steering committee, and a concurrence arrived at with regards to the countries which were in the position to undertake activities in output three (3). Measures were taken to ensure that procurement process for weapons facilities was shared by multiple countries to reduce the procurement lead time. In Niger, Mali, Sierra Leone and Guinea the process of acquisition for weapons storage facilities (to include containers) and weapon destruction machines is at an advanced procurement phase.

Achievements and results as per indicators/targets

Arms Collection

 **Cote d'Ivoire:** apart from San Pedro region, the project carried out arms

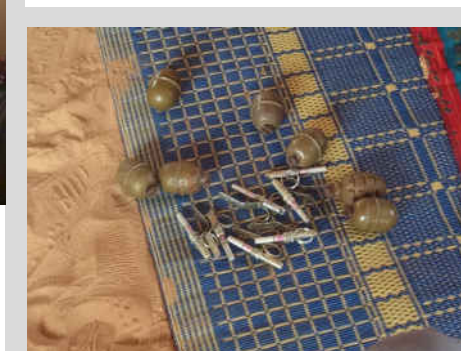
collection in Toulepleu, Guiglo, Bangolo, Man, Danane, Touba, Ouaninou, Odienne and Gbeleban. The arms collection exercise was conducted in close collaboration with UNMAS, United Nations Mission in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and Halo Trust. The total of 217 weapons, 1234 ammunitions, 36 grenades and 2 rockets were collected and are now stored in UNOCI weapons storage facility. In the past, these communities retained weapons citing insecurity reasons in the lead up to electoral process.

The arms collection exercise was an

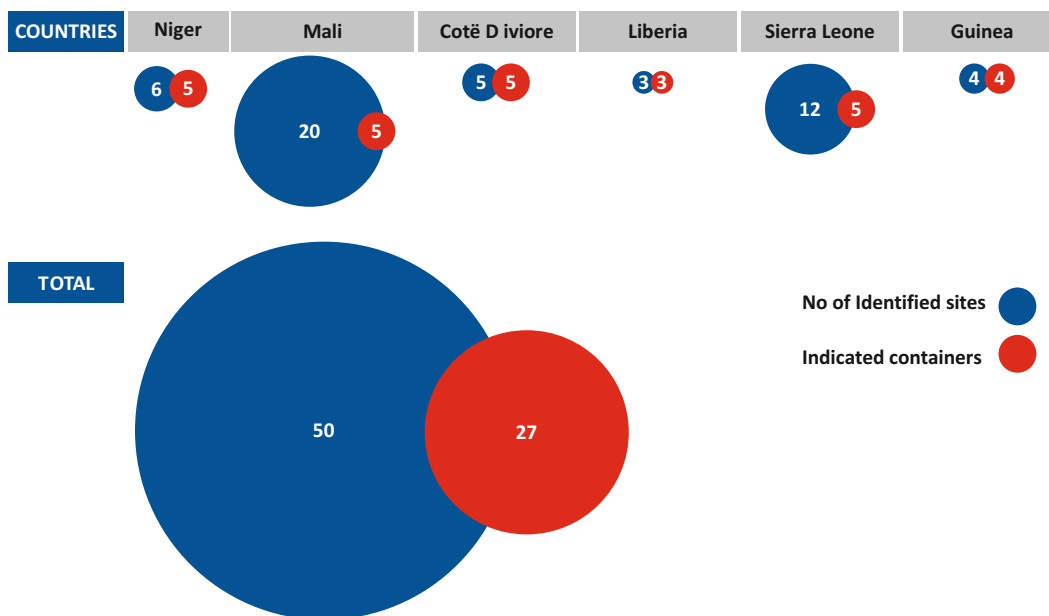
opportunity for the project team and partners to sensitize community leaders, local authorities on dangers of SALW and its illegal arms retention. For instance, CSOs such as WAANSA participated in the development and dissemination of key messages on "elections without armed violence in Cote d'Ivoire."



Niger: Based on the sensitization activities conducted in regions of Tchintabaraden, the project received voluntary surrender of 7 grenades and 12 illicit arms in the village of AZELIK in Tchintabaraden and Konni (border of Nigeria).



Identified sites for weapons storage and facilities in pilot countries



Breakdown of collected Weapons





OUTPUT 4. Implementation of Community - Based Micro Projects in Exchange For Arms Collection Conducted and Key Projects Provided.

This component will support communities to develop their capacity to assess development needs, identify community development projects and manage projects at community level in order to realize the

full economic benefits of development programs. After identification of projects by the community stakeholders, it will then be implemented by the participation of capable men, women, and youth of the community.

Baseline

- ◆ No official record of arms for development projects exist as of project inception in MRU targeted communities.
- ◆ No official record of community based action plans and projects linked to small arms collection
- ◆ Project management capacities to manage community based projects non-existent

Indicators

- ◆ Number of beneficiary communities that have developed action plans for development projects.
- ◆ Number of community initiatives (projects) identified and implemented as a result of the arms collection exercise (collective and individual).



TARGETS

The targets for the first year of implementation were as follows;

- Conduct a mapping of established number of existing community based projects in selected communities.
- Increase by 40% in community action plans of selected communities in addition to 2014 levels

Activities Planned:

Action 4.1. 1 Support the identification of needs and development of community action plans for projects (MRU).

Action 4.1.2 Support the identification of needs and development of community action plans for projects (Sahel region).

Action 4.1.3 Provide funding for identified pilot community development projects (MRU)

Action 4.1.4 Provide funding for identified Pilot and Emergency community development projects in Mali and Pilot projects in Niger (Sahel region)

Activities carried out during project reporting period

2.7 Needs Assessment

Cote d'Ivoire: with the exception of in San Pedro region, a Community Needs Assessment has been conducted in all project implementing zones using focus groups and in collaboration with community leaders, chiefs of villages, local authorities and CSO. Preliminary exchanges with most of the communities have been held which has resulted in the expression of interest in potable water, school and Health Center's rehabilitation as well as income generating activities. The

beneficiaries of these projects are communities who voluntarily handed over arms and ammunitions.

Niger: the project has undertaken Needs Assessment Mission in the six (6) project intervention regions namely Abala, Banibangou, Inates, Gorooul, Tilia, and Tchintabaraden. Using focus group, the project has utilized the already existing action plan of all the regions to extract the real needs of the communities that could facilitate their practical disarmament



as outlined in the project outcomes.



Liberia: Needs Assessment Mission has been conducted in three (3) communities in two (2) project intervention regions namely Maryland and River Gee counties. As a result, the communities' development needs and priorities have been identified. Among the priority needs include: Health Center, Elementary School, Portable Water, Latrine, Town Hall, Bridge and Market.

Achievements and results as per indicators/targets

In addition to the activity level results achieved in the first year of project implementation in all the pilot countries, there were other key results achieved such as the following:

- ◆ Conflict communities in Cote D'Ivoire

have been brought together in eight (8) years to engage in joint social activity such as a football match as a result of the sensitisation strategy of the project.

- ◆ Effective sensitisation has resulted in voluntary handing over and collection of weapons within the first six months of implementation in Danane, Guiglo, Toulepleu, Man, Touba, Odienne, Gbeleban and Ouaninou, Western Part of Cote D'Ivoire.
- ◆ High level sensitisation has resulted on the significant South South cooperation between Niger and Mali NATCOM - with a focus on sensitisation of border communities (community disarmament)
- ◆ The community entry and approach has deepened the confidence of the border communities in Grand Gedeh and Maryland.



Chapter

3

Project Governance and Management



This chapter will present the results achieved in project

governance and management among others.

3.1 Project Governance and Management

Although the action for project commencement was signed in 2014, project implementation effectively commenced in the first quarter of 2015 with the launch of the project in April 2015. However, the implementing agency UNDP was able to undertake a number of key activities for effective take off. The key project start up activities undertaken are as follows:

1. Recruitment of Project Personnel conducted : *The recruitment of all the project personnel across all pilot countries including the regional hub in Abuja was concluded by the end of february 2015 with the exception of the project position for Guinea. This delay was due to the reason that the recruitment process had to be conducted three (3) times for lack of identifying suitable*

candidates after each process. Nonetheless, in order to ensure smooth implementation of activities in Guinea, innovative approaches were explored by the project management team. With the concurrence of the PSC, project team members were deployed on a rotational basis of short intervals to support the NATCOM in Guinea to kick start the project and sustain project deliverables.

2. Induction and orientation meeting for all project personnel conducted: *The project inception and Induction meetings which served as a training for both the project staff and the respective NATCOMs from all participating countries apart from Guinea was successfully held in*





Abuja. The inception meeting had clear deliverables to achieve, and they were accomplished as follows:

- ◆ A shared understanding of the expectations of partners (EU, ECOWAS, and UNDP), the project team (comprising of all national project coordinators), and project stakeholders (NATCOMs): Presentations were carried out by representatives of each of the pilot countries and their expectations of the project implementation process thoroughly explained. Annex 1.
- ◆ A validated Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for managing programme implementation: An SOP developed based on feedback from the validation mission prior to project takeoff was developed in consultation with UNDP country offices and their units to ensure seamless workflow processes across CO's whilst ensure quality assurance and due diligence. It is worthy of note that this SOP has been adopted by other CO's as a best

practise for similar regional initiatives across the region.

Annex 2.

- ◆ A validated communication and visibility Standard Operating Procedures (SOP): In line with the visibility guidelines agreed upon by the UNDP/EU agreement, and to ensure that strategic communication and partner visibility is consistent across all pilot countries, a communication and visibility SOP was developed in close consultation with the ECOWAS, EU and UNDP communication teams. It was subsequently validated by all the partners as well as national partners. Annex 3.

3. Annual Work Plans (AWP) based on the contribution agreement with the EU developed : Five (5) Annual Work Plans (one for each pilot participant country- Mali-Niger-Sierra Leone-Liberia- Cote D'Ivoire) and one consolidated regional Annual work plan were developed and validated in close collaboration

with the respective NATCOMs.

Annex 4.

4. Project Steering Committee meeting conducted: Although the project team with the exception of Guinea was completed at the end of February, the UNDP project team with its partners were able to conduct the premier PSC meeting within six (6) weeks, bringing together all chairpersons of NATCOMS and respective technical officers including selected stakeholders from all pilot countries.

Annex 5. Some of the key results from the PSC included the following:

- ◆ The consolidated AWP was completed, presented, validated and approved by the Project Steering Committee (PSC).
- ◆ A special provision was made by the PSC for a budgetary allocation for Guinea pending the recruitment of project staff to ensure smooth implementation of activities upon recruitment.
- ◆ It was also agreed that Nigeria should be incorporated into the

implementation of the project with initial funding from the UNDP Nigeria CO funding.

- ◆ The frequency of the PSC meeting should be reduced to twice in the year (April and October) instead of the four (4) times indicated in the project document to allow adequate time for implementation, substantive preparation and manage cost.

5. Procurement plans and Monitoring and Evaluation plans developed: to ensure smooth implementation of project activities in sync with the procurement processes in the respective UNDP pilot CO's procurement plans were developed and validated by CO operations teams of all the pilot countries. This also increased the oversight and due diligence during project implementation at the field level. Similarly, M&E plans were developed and shared with all the management of the respective offices to guide implementation with the exception of Guinea.



3.2 Synergies with other Actions/ Partnerships

Successful implementation of the actions of this project also required the effective linkage with other projects/organisations with similar objectives and vision. Consequently, the project was firstly introduced at different levels including with national level, relevant regional institutions as well as liaison offices. Specific partnerships and project introductory meetings were conducted with over 20 key partners in the participating countries and regional offices. These include the following: The Coordination office in Abuja beyond participating in most of the pilot country meetings, aslo conducted briefing/introductory meetings and exchange of project information with the UN Regional (UNRECs) Offices on Disarmament, Sahel Border management Project, German Government and the Government of Japan.

- ◆ Coordinated the baseline Study on Small Arms and Light Weapons for the Sahel and Neighboring States UNREC-UNDP
- ◆ In Sierra Leone, specific briefing/introductory meetings were held with The Chief of Staff; - The Office of National Security, - The Minister of Internal Affairs; Sierra Leone Action Network on Small Arms; - Development Initiatives-Hope for the Vulnerable; Council of Churches Sierra Leone and The Manor River Union
- ◆ In Mali, MINUSMA, UNREC, UNMAS, the Mine Advisory Group, the Danish Deming Group, EU-CAP Sahel, ECOWAS, and Civil society organizations.
- ◆ In Liberia, introductory and project briefing meetings were conducted with the EU, MRU and ECOWAS national offices.
- ◆ In Cote d'ivoire, project briefing meetings were conducted with the UNOCI, UNREC, UNMAS, the Mine Advisory Group, the Danish Deming Group, the Japan Small Arms project, ECOWAS national offices, Civil society organizations such as RASALAO.





- ◆ In Guinea important activities were organized with delegated Minister of Defense , Danish Refugee Council , OHCHR ,Security and Defense commission of National Assembly , Civil Society Organizations , Minister Of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and Manu Rvier Union to focus on community disarmament and SALW prone region in western part of country.
- ◆ In Niger, specific briefing/introductory meetings were held with The Prime Minister; Head of the National Assembly- The Office of National Security, - The Minister of Internal Affairs; the UNODC Sahel regional programme, RASALAO among others.
- ◆ The MRU Project Coordinator in Liberia supported the NATCOM to review the fire Arms act and actively participated in the high level government engagement meetings with regards to the UNMIL draw down and the responsibilities to be taken over by the NATCOM.
- ◆ The National Project Coordinator in Cote D'Ivoire actively participated in the working session at National Assembly with the Head of Defense and Security Commission to present the regional project including the involvement of National Assembly members in important activities in targeted zone.

It is worthy of note that through this ECOWAS/EU SALW project, five (5) participating Natcoms have benefited from the additional technical capacities provided by UNDP project coordinators. This includes continuous technical support in concept notes development, report writing, partnership development, strategy development and assistance in technical meetings. This support to the NATCOMs is evidenced by some of the following:

- ◆ Guinea National Coordinator supported the NATCOM to prepare ATT meeting in Accra, Ghana , in December 2015; involved important stakeholders as such MOFA , National Assembly , Governors from project intervention zone , security forces agencies and Civil Society Organizations in implementation process to facilitate ownership at national level;

- ◆ The National Project Coordinator in Sierra Leone supported the NATCOM to constitute the National Technical Committee membership and actively participated in the high level government engagement meeting with the Chief of Staff of the President, on the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the country especially in the post Ebola era.
- ◆ The National Project Coordinator of Niger supported the NatCom Niger in the development of its technical contribution to the international seminar in Tunis organized by the SMALL ARM SURVEY and effectively participated as an expert in that international seminar March 2015.
- ◆ He also supported the NatCom and effectively participated to the seminar on practical disarmament and implementation of Conventions on SALW in west Africa in Cote d'Ivoire 22-24 June 2015 organized by Cote d'Ivoire NatCom and Government of Switzerland;
- ◆ Supported the NatCom Niger to prepare the South South cooperation arrangement with Mali and effectively participate in the exchange mission in Mali in August 2015.
- ◆ Coordinated and facilitated the Niger component of the SALW survey in Sahel as the NatCom focal point.
- ◆ Prepared and effectively participated to the ATT meeting on behalf of the NATCOM in Accra, Ghana December 2015.
- ◆ The National Project Coordinator in Mali represented as part of the NATCOM technical team at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs meetings on small arms and provided technical inputs in the development of the UN's matrix on peace and security, taking into account the issues of small arms.



3.3 Visibility

Recognizing the importance of visibility and sharing of information on this project with relevant stakeholders. The Regional Project coordinator/Team lead in addition to representing at the official launching of the project utilized diverse platforms to create visibility for the project. This was conducted in line with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) drawn from the visibility guidelines agreed upon by the UNDP/EU agreement to ensure that strategic communication and partner visibility is consistent across all pilot countries. Some of these include the following:

- ◆ Presentation of the project during formal launching of the project in all the pilot countries, together with the dissemination of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials.

- ◆ Presentation of the project at the regional seminar on Practical Disarmament and Implementation of Conventions on SALW in West Africa in Cote d'Ivoire (22-24 June 2015) organized by IVC NatCom and Government of Switzerland;
- ◆ Presentation at the meeting of National Commissions on Small Arms chairpersons in Calabar June 2015
- ◆ Presentation of the project at the premier Project Steering Committee of the ECOWAS PSS – Abuja

It is worthy of note that in all of these programmes, the support of the EU as well as the ownership and commitment of ECOWAS towards its member states was significantly highlighted.



Chapter

4

Challenges



4.1 Challenges /Observations

The project took off in April 2015 and made significant gains over the reporting period. However, it could have achieved even more results if some of the challenges had not existed or emerged. Some of the observations that hindered implementation as well as these challenges include the following:

- ◆ The deplorable conditions of the road networks and distance from capitals to project intervention's zones proved significant during implementation. This challenge impacted not only on the duration for planned activities from these border communities, but also made it difficult to synchronize some of the cross border activities to maximise sensitization results. The distance also had a direct impact on the cost of transportation for field missions .
- ◆ Consequences of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) also presented some challenges to the project implementation. Firstly, the closed borders among the MRU countries posed challenges for cross border exchanges and cooperation, and secondly, some of the border communities who had been self organised resulting from the EVD crisis expected financial rewards to work with the CBOs as inducement to sustain the interest of community members.
- ◆ Based on some earlier interventions which did not fully respond to promises after the DDR process in some of the communities, the project team was confronted with the demand for Community interest versus individual interest in relation to the responses for arms collection.
- ◆ The absence of a National Coordinator in Guinea resulted in delay for takeoff in the implementation of activities, although efforts were made to ensure that the situation was rectified.
- ◆ The insufficient integration of the project in the planned activities of some NATCOMS delayed implementation of some activities.
- ◆ The limited scope of the pilot project selected border communities of the MRU and Sahel countries is of concern to member states, for instance the Liberia border with Guinea, the Niger border with Nigeria among others.



4.2 Recommendations

- ◆ The need to intensify the cross border collaborative activities and sustain advocacy/sensitisation to ensure expected gains of the project are realised. This is particularly critical to the emerging trends of radicalisation especially in the Sahel and Nigeria.
- ◆ Based on earlier lessons of the delayed response to community mobilization, the project should undertake community engagement and develop community action plans in Cote D'Ivoire in the shortest possible time to sustain confidence of populations in response to arms that collected from there.
- ◆ NATCOMs should fully integrate the project activities into thier respective programmes.
- ◆ The project should explore expanding the scope of the intervention to include other critical border communities which were not in the initial scope in the follow up phase of the project.
- ◆ Efforts should be made to sustain visibility and enhance the communication of development results of the project using multiple platforms, especially online presence.
- ◆ Stregnthen the liaison/coordination with regional initiatives, and programmes to mobilise additional resources and create synergy.



4.4 Conclusion

Although the project commenced a few months behind schedule, significant progress was achieved towards the implementation of activities as planned. The iterative process with which the project was managed in close collaboration with all the key relevant stakeholders presented the opportunity to address the critical challenges and difficulties in good time. Additionally, the well-articulated standard operating procedures developed at the inception of the project, coupled with structured national technical discourse, not only fully integrated the project in the respective UNDP Countries offices, but resulted in national ownership by the respective NATCOMS of the pilot countries.

The inception year benefited from good partnerships cutting across the MRU and Sahel as well as with regional bodies, other development partners and the direct beneficiaries of the project. This goodwill is expected to be carried through the next phases of project implementation to ensure sustained partnership throughout the duration of the project.

Despite of the achievements recorded in

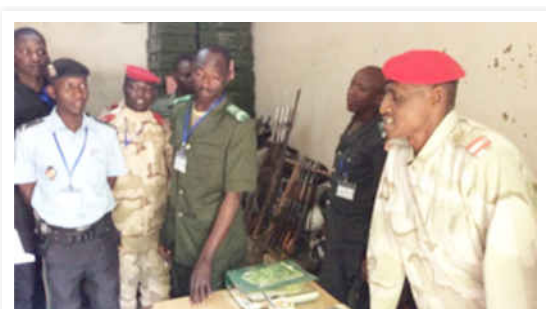
the year one (1), there were challenges such as absence of programme staff in some pilot countries, and after effects of the Ebola crisis in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. However, these challenges were addressed through forward looking management decisions supported by an effective Project Steering Committee, resulting in sustained interest of all stakeholders and beneficiaries.

The weight of the first year of implementation was inclined towards sensitization/awareness-raising and capacity-building activities. It is envisaged that the subsequent years will witness an incremental shift towards preparatory activities for weapons collection and provision of alternative livelihood projects for the targeted beneficiaries in return for arms collected.

The tenacity of purpose by the Project Steering Committee and commitment of the Project Team across the MRU and Sahel pilot countries as well as the management and staff of the UNDP Nigeria Country Office was unquestionable, and this has in no small measure contributed to the results in this reporting period.

Gallery







Project Team



Fredrick Hans Ampiah
REGIONAL TEAM LEAD



Lacina Barro
MRU COORDINATOR/LIBERIA



Allassan Fousseini
COORDINATOR NIGER



Wilhemina SHO-COLE
COORDINATOR SIERRA LEONE



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Jonathan Madaki
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COORDINATOR GUINEA



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PROJECT DRIVER



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