About the project

The Small Arms Survey is an independent research project located at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland. Established in 1999, the project is supported by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and by sustained contributions from the Governments of Canada, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. The Survey is also grateful for past and current project support received from the Governments of Australia, Belgium, Denmark, France, New Zealand, Spain, and the United States, as well as from different United Nations agencies, programmes, and institutes.

The Survey sponsors field research and information-gathering efforts, especially in affected states and regions. The project has an international staff with expertise in security studies, political science, law, economics, development studies, sociology, and criminology. The team collaborates with a network of researchers, partner institutions, non-governmental organizations, and governments in more than 50 countries.

Project objectives

The objectives of the Small Arms Survey are:

• serve as the principal international source of impartial and public information on all aspects of small arms and armed violence;
• act as a resource for governments, policy-makers, researchers, and activists in terms of information and research on small arms and armed violence issues;
• be an independent monitor of national, international, and non-governmental policy initiatives on small arms and armed violence;
• be an outlet for policy-relevant research on small arms and armed violence issues;
• act as a forum and clearinghouse for the sharing of information; and
• disseminate best practice measures and initiatives dealing with small arms and armed violence issues.

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