



**small
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survey**

Small Arms Survey

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Explanatory Note on the Small Arms Survey's Peace Operations Data Set (PODS)

The Small Arms Survey's Peace Operations Data Set (PODS) documents attacks on peacekeepers and other incidents resulting in the loss of arms and ammunition. It is intended to support the development of effective checks and balances to enhance weapons and ammunition management (WAM) practices in peace operations and to promote the development of good practice. The Survey believes peacekeepers play a vital role in helping to manage and ameliorate conflicts. Knowing more about the challenges peacekeepers face and the effectiveness of various controls on contingent-owned equipment and the lethal materiel recovered by peacekeepers in the course of their important work is critical to improving on current practice at a time when peace operations are increasingly challenging and attacks on peacekeepers are growing.

PODS is not intended to 'name and shame' but to promote the protection of personnel serving in peace operations and the people they are entrusted to protect. A country's inclusion in PODS in no way suggests culpability in losses experienced by their peacekeepers.

This map represents information collected in the Small Arms Survey's PODS as of 31 December 2018. Because of the incompleteness of official reporting, the map is far from comprehensive. It likely significantly underestimates the true scope, scale, and global distribution of arms and ammunition losses from peace operations. Sources for PODS include publicly available reports from organizations authorizing peace operations, academic studies, media accounts, as well as key informant interviews. When only partial information on a loss event is available—which is most of the time—the Survey applies an estimation methodology that is continually being refined and validated by informed stakeholders (see Berman and Schroeder, forthcoming).

The Survey will continue to update PODS and this map as new information becomes available, and welcomes suggested refinements and comments from informed parties. By making the data—and the underlying methodological assumptions—available for comment by experts and practitioners, the Survey is engaging in a fully transparent exercise designed to inform ongoing peacekeeping policy and programming discussions. Please send us any questions or comments at:

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