

# ANNUAL REPORT

2022  
2023  
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# Abbreviations and acronyms

<b>AI</b>	Artificial intelligence	<b>PoA</b>	UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
<b>AFP</b>	Agence France-Presse	<b>PMF</b>	Privately made firearm
<b>ANMaC</b>	National Agency of Controlled Materials	<b>PSSM</b>	Physical security and stockpile management
<b>APMBC</b>	Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention	<b>RevCon4</b>	Fourth Review Conference
<b>ATT</b>	Arms Trade Treaty	<b>SANA</b>	Security Assessment in North Africa
<b>CARICOM IMPACS</b>	Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security	<b>SLeNCSA</b>	Sierra Leone National Commission on Small Arms
<b>CARPHA</b>	Caribbean Public Health Agency	<b>UEMS</b>	Unplanned explosions at munitions sites
<b>C-IED</b>	Counter-improvised explosive device	<b>UNIDIR</b>	United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
<b>CSP10</b>	Tenth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty	<b>UNODA</b>	United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
<b>ECOWAS</b>	Economic Community of West African States	<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>EPC</b>	Explosive precursor chemical	<b>UNMAS</b>	United Nations Mine Action Service
<b>FTP</b>	Fellowship Training Programme		
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-based violence		
<b>GFA</b>	Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management		
<b>HSBA</b>	Human Security Baseline Assessment for Sudan and South Sudan		
<b>IED</b>	Improvised explosive device		
<b>MANPADS</b>	Man-portable air defence system(s)		
<b>MENA</b>	Middle East and North Africa		
<b>NAP</b>	National action plan		
<b>OSCE</b>	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe		

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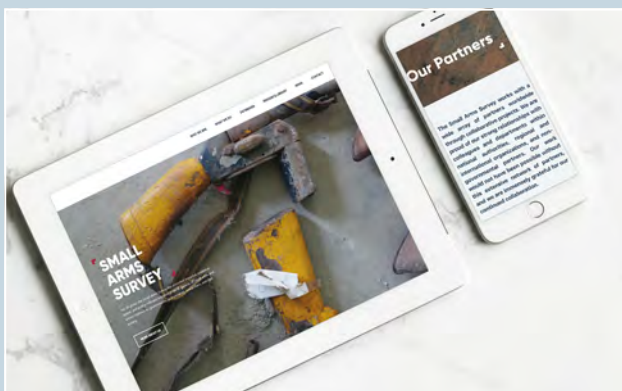
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# Director's introduction



**small  
arms  
survey**

 Working  
towards  
a world  
without  
illicit arms  
and



The landscape of small arms control continues to evolve rapidly, with illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons fuelling violence at unprecedented levels and undermining efforts to build peaceful and inclusive societies. The number of armed conflicts is at a record high, global violent deaths are on the rise, and firearms account for almost half of these deaths. This persistent violence not only threatens human security but also hinders sustainable development, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected regions. Only a quarter of the world's countries and territories are currently on track to meet Sustainable Development Goal Target 16.1, committing states to 'significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere', and current trends suggest the world will miss this target by 2030 unless coordinated action is taken to strengthen arms control, foster peacebuilding, and promote development as mutually reinforcing goals.

Renewed military competition between major global powers such as China, Russia, and the United States is contributing to an accelerated global arms race as countries seek to modernize their armed forces. As a result, the global market for small arms is expanding, and this increased demand will likely accelerate the proliferation of these weapons into the hands of a wide range of non-state actors across multiple regions. The Small Arms Survey provided evidence of this trend in 2024 through two seminal pieces of work documenting the availability of NATO-pattern weapons in the Afghanistan–Pakistan border areas and the illicit proliferation of man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS) in the Middle East and North Africa region. The Survey is also closely monitoring the types of weapons seized by Ukrainian authorities and

the scale of this proliferation, together with the civilian population's perceptions of firearms, with a view to enhancing national and local arms control and risk reduction efforts.

While Syria's transitional government faces complex challenges, addressing the spread of small arms through effective weapons and ammunition management is key to national and regional stability. Securing stockpiles and clearing contaminated sites will immediately improve community safety, while limiting illicit arms flows supports long-term peace

Emerging technological developments are further complicating regulation and enforcement. The rise of low-cost privately made firearms (PMFs)—such as 3D-printed firearms—outside conventional supply chains poses significant challenges to existing regulation and tracing efforts. Meanwhile, artificial intelligence (AI) is reshaping warfare, starting with AI-assisted targeting functions, which raise ethical and legal questions that further challenge existing frameworks.

Small arms control efforts have traditionally focused on supply-side measures, including but not limited to stockpile management, transfer regulations, and marking and tracing. There is, however, an increasing recognition of the need for more holistic, concerted, and prevention-oriented approaches to address the drivers of armed violence and curb the demand for, and misuse of, small arms. This growing consensus calls for moving beyond traditional security responses—shifting the focus towards prevention and seeking to understand the motivations behind people's demand for small arms, as well as the broader implications of armed violence on public health and development, among others.

This transition was outlined in the landmark UN 2018 *Agenda for Disarmament* and 2023 *New Agenda for Peace*, while the focus on understanding demand factors was reaffirmed in the outcome document of the Fourth Review Conference (RevCon4) of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (PoA) in 2024. The *Pact for the Future*, adopted in September 2024, further stressed the importance of revitalizing cooperation frameworks and integrating small arms control into broader, people-centred peacebuilding strategies and approaches.

In this fast-evolving environment, the need for impartial, reliable, and data-driven analysis on arms flows, illicit markets, and emerging security threats has never been greater. The Small Arms Survey will continue to bridge the gap between research, policy, and practice; to foster discussions among states and experts; and to produce evidence-based analysis that steers the debate on effective small arms control.

## Reflecting on 2024 and looking ahead

The year 2024 marked a significant chapter for the Small Arms Survey, with RevCon4 standing out as a key milestone. We were proud to contribute to its success by co-hosting side events and showcasing our work on national action plans (NAPs) in West Africa, gender-responsive small arms control, PMFs, and regional efforts from the Caribbean. These actions were reinforced by working papers and direct support to the chair of RevCon4, Ambassador Maritza Chan of Costa Rica.

As we enter 2025, it is impossible to ignore the turbulent global context. Protracted conflicts in Sudan and Palestinian Territories and fragile hopes of peace in Ukraine and Syria highlight both the urgency and complexity of arms control in post-conflict recovery. Multilateralism is increasingly challenged, and rising defence spending is crowding out political space for preventive, evidence-based action.

Despite this, the Survey remains focused on delivering practical solutions to reduce armed violence—through robust data,

“There is [...] an increasing recognition of the need for more holistic, concerted, and prevention-oriented approaches to address the drivers of armed violence and curb the demand for, and misuse of, small arms.”



cutting-edge research, inclusive policymaking, and technical support. We are placing greater emphasis on regional mechanisms and cooperation with small groups of states willing to lead on thematic or regional priorities.

Our work on gender and small arms in 2024 exemplified this approach. Through sustained engagement at RevCon4 and Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) meetings, we helped expand gender-responsive language in both outcome documents—highlighting roles, barriers, and inclusion in arms control discourse. These achievements lay the groundwork for regional implementation and continued advocacy.

We also recognize the growing urgency to address improvised weapons, which are proliferating in all contexts and regions in the world. Built from dual-use components, they frequently bypass existing controls, exposing serious regulatory gaps. In response, the Survey will explore how current frameworks can better address this threat, and whether new instruments are needed.

The success of RevCon4 reaffirms that small arms control remains a rare space for international consensus—and a vital area for continued engagement. Reducing violent deaths is a humanitarian, developmental, and security imperative. With more than 500,000 people killed violently per year, mostly outside of conflict zones, violence exacts a devastating human and economic cost. Proven, data-driven solutions exist, but their consistent application across multiple contexts requires sustained international commitment.

In 2025, we will deepen our work in Ukraine, Syria, Sudan, and South Sudan, while expanding innovative programming in Latin America and the Caribbean. Our research and analysis will focus on the following priority areas: improvised weapons, gender, public health, and community-led approaches to arms control.

The Survey team is more committed and better equipped than ever to address the evolving challenges of small arms proliferation. I'm grateful for the continued trust in our work and look forward to advancing this agenda together in the year ahead.

— **Mark Downes**, Director

# 25 years of the Small Arms Survey



In 2024, the Survey celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This milestone provided an opportunity to pause and reflect on the Survey's origins, its evolution through the years, and its objectives for the future. These reflections rippled into our discussions about small arms and light weapons in general—the challenges faced 25 years ago compared to now, the predictions for the next 25 years, and the current opportunities that could lead to real-world change. The Survey, together with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, hosted an event during Geneva Peace

Week, 'What is the Future for Small Arms Control?', to examine these points, among others, and seek common ground for the future of small arms control.

The Survey celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a discussion—hosted by the Executive Council of the City of Geneva at the Palais Anna et Jean-Gabriel Eynard on Monday 4 November 2024, and facilitated by the Survey's director—on the past, present, and future of small arms control, with panellists Sami Kanaan (Vice-President of the Executive Council of the City of Geneva), Ambassador Anna Ifkovits Horner (Deputy Permanent Representative at the Swiss Mission in Geneva), Peter Maurer (President of the Basel Institute on Governance), and Mélanie Régimbal (Chief of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) in Geneva).

These activities highlighted the Survey's meaningful engagement with the Swiss government at not only the federal but also the cantonal and city level.





# Our vision and mission



**T**he Small Arms Survey is a centre for applied knowledge dedicated to preventing and reducing illicit small arms and light weapons proliferation and armed violence. The Survey informs policy and practice through a combination of data, evidence-based knowledge, authoritative resources and tools, and tailored expert advice and training, and by bringing together practitioners and policymakers.

Our vision is a world without illicit arms and armed violence. Our mission is to strengthen the capacity of governments and practitioners to tackle the challenges associated with small arms and light weapons by providing stakeholders with the data required to have an informed debate and make evidence-based policy decisions as well as support during the development and implementation of international, regional, and national mechanisms and processes.

The Survey's work is organized around two thematic units. The Data and Analytics unit's primary goal is to enable the small arms community to use reliable and consistent information to make decisions. Projects and activities in this thematic area are primarily geared towards gathering and providing information and developing methodologies for research and analysis. The Policy and Capacity Support unit monitors and evaluates different approaches, programmes, and projects to identify effective practices and standards for implementing international and regional mechanisms and processes. The Survey uses this evidence base to develop and disseminate tools and resources to develop capacity at the international, regional, and national levels.

With these two workstreams working in tandem, the Survey provides tailored assistance to, and engages with, institutions, stakeholders, and actors through our broad range of capabilities, including:

- qualitative and participatory research;
- quantitative research, global and project data sets and databases, and data analytics;
- population surveys in fragile settings;
- the analysis of small arms supply and demand dynamics at the national and regional levels;
- policy briefings;
- analytical, publicly available materials such as webinars, podcasts, blog posts, and reports;
- needs and capacity assessments;
- the design, monitoring, and evaluation of small arms control initiatives;
- expert technical assistance;
- the development of tools, handbooks, and reference material;
- the facilitation of experience-sharing and experts' dialogues at the country, regional, and international levels;
- support in policy formulation;

- support in the development and implementation of small arms control strategies and NAPs;
- technical expertise and training on gender-responsive small arms control; and
- the design and delivery of training programmes, including the training of trainers.

Under its 2024–28 Strategy, the Small Arms Survey focuses its efforts on seven thematic areas. These themes highlight areas where the Survey can add value. They are not mutually exclusive, and most of the Survey's projects combine two or more of these thematic areas in a mutually reinforcing way. For each of these thematic areas, interventions are tailored to the needs and opportunities of a given environment.

## Our seven thematic areas





# Our work in 2024

**Building Capacity for the Drafting of the Secondary Legislation Necessary for the Implementation of the Republic of Zambia's Conventional Arms Control Act**

**Funder:** Voluntary Trust Fund of the Arms Trade Treaty

**Completion of the National Action Plan on Small Arms & Light Weapons in Burkina Faso and Sierra Leone**

**Funder:** Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

**Contributing to Preventing Arms Proliferation from, within, and to Afghanistan**

**Funder:** Germany

**European Union (EU)–League of Arab States (LAS)**

**Funder:** European Union

**Fourth Review Conference (RevCon4) of the UN Programme of Action (PoA) on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI)**

**Funders:** France, Germany, and Switzerland

**Gender-responsive Small Arms Control**

**Funders:** Germany and Switzerland

**Human Security Baseline Assessment (HSBA) for Sudan and South Sudan**

**Funders:** United States and Norway

**Mapping the Transnational Circulation and Control of Small Arms in Latin America**

**Funder:** Swiss Network for International Studies (SNIS)

**Pathway to a Regional C-IED Strategy in West Africa**

**Funder:** Germany

**Pathway to Policy: Integrating Security and Public Health Responses to Firearms Trafficking and Violence in the Caribbean**

**Funder:** Germany

**Reflecting on a Decade of National Action Plans on Small Arms Control in West Africa**

**Funder:** MAG

**Security Assessment in North Africa (SANA)**

**Funder:** The Netherlands

**Supporting Ukraine in Addressing the Risks of Small Arms and Light Weapons Proliferation from the Russian War of Aggression**

**Funder:** Germany

**Understanding Challenges to the ATT Universalization and Compliance in the Indo-Pacific Region**

**Funder:** Canada

**This section provides snapshots of our work under the seven thematic areas. Rather than providing an exhaustive list of activities, it aims to demonstrate how the Survey is working towards its objectives.**

# 1 International instruments on matters of small arms supply and proliferation

The international community has developed a substantial normative framework for conventional arms control over the years, including, but not limited to, the UN PoA, the International Tracing Instrument, the Firearms Protocol, the ATT, and the new Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management (GFA).

## UN Programme of Action

In 2024, the Survey played multiple, coordinated roles in the lead-up to, and during, RevCon4. The Survey was cited several times in a [report](#) summarizing the discussions and inputs from the thematic expert seminars organized by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) during the second half of 2023 in preparation for RevCon4. Ambassador Maritza Chan of Costa Rica, the chair of RevCon4, requested the Survey to provide technical support to her and her team throughout the process. We were involved in advising the chair on strategy and drafting elements of the outcome document text.

To support delegations attending the event and other stakeholders, we created an [information hub](#) that outlined the main themes of the conference and provided relevant Survey resources and outputs for each theme. Additionally, we produced a [special podcast series](#)—with each episode dedicated to a RevCon4 theme—that aimed to brief interested actors on the key discussion points.

The Survey also provided direct support to various delegations, acting as subject matter experts as well as strategists, maintaining the Survey's status as a key and trusted partner in arguably the most important policy event in our community. As a result, we will continue to be an important presence in

associated processes in the years to come, including the GFA and the PoA's Open-ended Technical Expert Group.

The Survey's active involvement in many key aspects of the meeting—both publicly and behind the scenes—helped to strengthen synergies and ensure meaningful impact, as reflected in the RevCon4 outcome document.

## Arms Trade Treaty

Our work on [ATT universalization and compliance in the Indo-Pacific region](#) also reinforced the Survey's support in this thematic area.

At the ATT Working Group meeting in February, in preparation for the Tenth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (CSP10), the Survey organized (with the co-sponsorship of Canada) an event entitled 'Bridging the Gap: Indo-Pacific States and the Arms Trade Treaty' for states from the Indo-Pacific region. The event aimed to inform these states of the objectives of the Indo-Pacific project and to solicit views on the core issues examined by the project. Ten officials from States in the region and two members from CSOs took part. The event discussed the challenges to universalization and implementation in the region, and helped build awareness of the project's work.

At CSP10 in August 2024, we organized a [side event](#), co-sponsored by Canada, to release the Report [Realities, Challenges, and Opportunities: The Arms Trade Treaty in the Indo-Pacific Region](#), which provides in-depth analysis of the differing attitudes to the ATT as well as obstacles that hinder universalization and compliance in the region. The Report outlined opportunities for stakeholders to change the dynamic of engagement with the ATT in this critical geostrategic region for major global politics.

“I’ve started listening to your podcasts [. . .]. It’s a good way to circulate your expertise to delegates who do not have time to read long publications, and to brief the [RevCon4] conference participants. I will circulate these to our delegation and our colleagues following the conference from Bern, and will circulate these even more widely if I get the opportunity.”

— Swiss government official



# 2 Small arms and ammunition supply and flows

**R**igorous and timely research on small arms and ammunition supply flows at the local, regional, and global levels is critical for anticipating and addressing constantly evolving trends in the proliferation of illicit weapons, including their diversion from legal to illicit spheres and various patterns of illicit manufacture.

## Caribbean

In 2024, our project Pathway to Policy: Integrating Security and Public Health Responses to Firearms Trafficking and Violence in the Caribbean maintained its impact on policy-making and public discussion, demonstrating the Survey's expertise in identifying and researching emerging threats and providing appropriate advice on how to reduce the risks and impacts of firearms proliferation and misuse. Significantly, findings of the 2023 Caribbean Firearms Study were cited in the following key policy documents in the United States—a major source country for firearms trafficked to the region:

- the Caribbean Arms Trafficking Causing Harm Act (or CATCH Act) introduced in both US parliamentary chambers (the Senate and the House of Representatives);
- the 'Revision of Firearms License Requirements'; and
- a US Government Accountability Office report on firearms trafficking to the Caribbean.

The study was praised and referred to publicly by key regional actors, including the prime minister of St Kitts and Nevis, the prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago, the minister of national security of the Bahamas, the head of the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), and the German ambassador

in Trinidad and Tobago. The director of a national forensic institute in the region stated that the report 'solidified the drive' to set up a firearms unit within her institute.

The Caribbean Firearms Study and two new Situation Updates—*Dangerous Devices: Privately Made Firearms in the Caribbean* and *Trends in Trafficking: Comparing US-based Firearms Trafficking to the Caribbean and Latin America*—published in 2024 continued to receive praise and form the basis of discourse, having been cited in numerous media articles, scientific and research journals, and policy-oriented publications, as well as in several presentations by panellists at events. The study became part of the curriculum provided in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) course on the detection of firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition in the Caribbean. Our work on this project prompted requests for interviews with Agence France-Presse (AFP), CBS News, the *Saint Kitts and Nevis Observer*, and the *Trinidad and Tobago Guardian*, among many others.

*Dangerous Devices: Privately Made Firearms in the Caribbean* was launched during the RevCon4 side event, 'A Public Health Crisis: Small Arms Trafficking and Violence in the Caribbean', jointly hosted by the Survey and project partners the Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS), CARPHA, and the George Alleyne Chronic Disease Centre at the University of the West Indies. The event examined the regional characteristics of small arms proliferation in the Caribbean, including its impact on public health and sustainable development, what roles the public health sector can play in preventing firearm-related violence, and possible synergies between the public health approach to violence prevention and more security-focused initiatives.

The Survey and its partners' ground-breaking regional work on firearm-related violence and public health contributed to



the *Lancet* Commission on Global Gun Violence and Health, leading to an invitation being extended to the Survey's Director to join this initiative as commissioner. The *Lancet* Commission will conduct a comprehensive risk analysis on firearms and analyse their global health and non-health consequences.

## Latin America

The Survey is a partner in the *Mapping the Transnational Circulation and Control of Small Arms in Latin America* project, which is coordinated by the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding at the Geneva Graduate Institute and funded through the Swiss Network for International Studies. In 2024, the project formalized its partnerships with Latin American partners including Pontifical Catholic

University of Rio de Janeiro, Instituto Sou da Paz, and the Conflict Analysis Resource Center, as well as the Organization of American States. Experts from the partner research institutions collected data and drafted articles or case studies on the regional authorized arms trade; the illicit proliferation of military firearms in Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico; military-style firearms in social media and gun culture; and the development of regional norms and regulatory frameworks. The key findings of this research will be published and disseminated in 2025.

## Afghanistan

Through our project on *preventing arms proliferation from, within, and to Afghanistan*, in 2024 the Survey provided stakeholders with a clear understanding of the issues at

play and evidence-based analysis on new data sources, supporting more effective assistance in the field of small arms control.

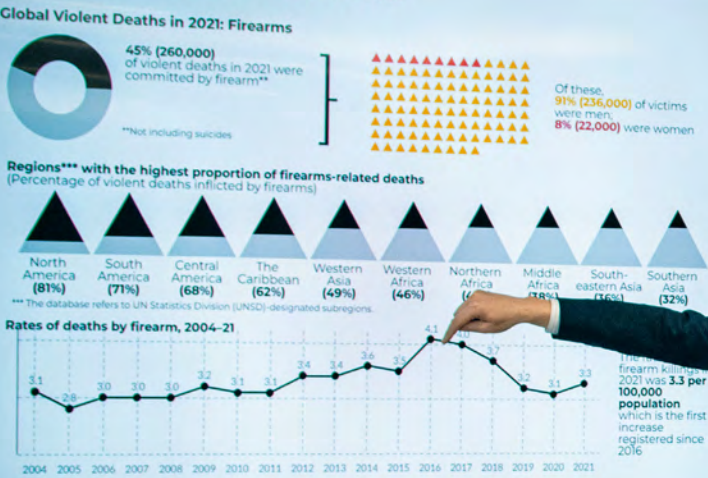
Outputs from this project included *Calculable Losses? Arms Transfers to Afghanistan 2002–21*, a Briefing Paper that analysed the publicly available data on arms exports to Afghanistan, identified gaps in this data, and provided previously unreleased data obtained from the US government. Additionally, we produced a Situation Update—*Selective Approval: Taliban Weapons Controls in Afghanistan's Balkh Province*—that examined findings from fieldwork conducted in the province in November 2023, including the prices of benchmark weapons for sale in arms markets in the province. Survey staff also acted as trainers on the four-day Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) course 'SALW [Small Arms and Light Weapons] Identification, Post-seizure Record-keeping, Intelligence Sharing and Tracing'. The Survey provided training on types of weapons that might flow from Afghanistan to Uzbekistan, based on two posters developed by the Survey for the OSCE on the identification of firearms and ammunition at risk of trafficking into Central Asia, for border services in the region. We also coordinated an informal closed expert consultation group on illicit arms proliferation in and around Afghanistan, featuring the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, UNODC, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), UN Sanctions Committee monitors, the HALO Trust, and Conflict Armament Research.

To consolidate the project's research and work, we produced the Briefing Paper *Open Markets: Documenting Arms Availability in Afghanistan under the Taliban*, which analysed field investigations conducted from 2022 to 2024 into the availability and prices of small arms, light weapons, accessories, and ammunition at informal markets in the Afghanistan–Pakistan border areas, alongside qualitative research into arms proliferation dynamics. Findings from the study were highlighted by a Pakistani representative during a UN Security Council meeting in April 2025, who called for greater action against the arming of terrorist groups operating from Afghanistan.





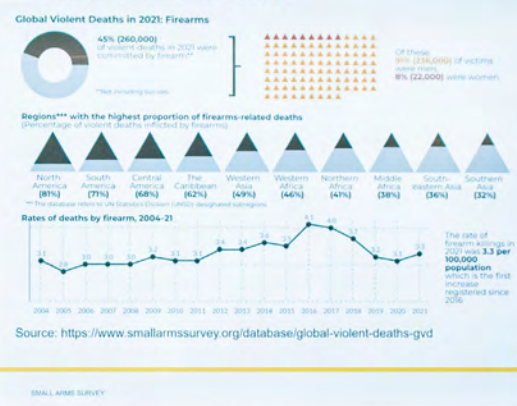
# Misuse of small arms



Source: <https://www.smallarmssurvey.org/database/global-violent-deaths-gvd>

SMALL ARMS SURVEY

# Misuse of small arms



# 3

## Armed violence and small arms demand

**M**onitoring levels of armed violence—in both conflict and non-conflict contexts—is critical for prioritizing efforts where they are most needed and for learning from policies and interventions. It is also essential to improve understanding of the multiple context-specific factors that drive armed violence and the demand for small arms, which requires rigorous and mixed-method approaches to data collection.

### Security Assessment in North Africa

The Survey's work in 2024 on conflict analysis, surveys, and armed actor mapping helped to feed into the design of effective violence reduction strategies. Our [Security Assessment in North Africa \(SANA\) project](#) illustrates this through its provision of timely research and analysis as well as training sessions—in English, French, and Arabic—that give investigative journalists reporting from zones of conflict practical grounding in issues such as weapons identification, trafficking, and related topics. The project has also conducted a general public perception survey in Lebanon and Tunisia on civilian demand for, and ownership of, firearms and affinities towards violent extremism.

We produced several analytical materials under the SANA project in 2024, including a Report, [Persistent Perils: Illicit MANPADS in the MENA Region](#), which provided an in-depth analysis of the proliferation of MANPADS in the Middle East and North Africa from 2015 to 2023. The analysis used imagery and data collected since 2015 to identify the type, model, generation, and country of design or manufacture of illicit MANPADS in the region, and assessed the implications of recent proliferation patterns of advanced MANPADS for regional security and international norms and agreements.



Other outputs addressed topics such as: extremist-used arms in Mali; the relationship between armed groups and the local populace in western Libya; the political economy at play in Abu Salim in Tripoli; the current and possible future deployment of weapons technical intelligence roles and activities in peacekeeping operations; Tunisia's immigration crisis; Turkish foreign policy towards Libya; the production of artisanal firearms in Guinea; the emotional drivers behind armed groups and their violence; and reversal of progress to half global violent deaths by 2030.

### Human Security Baseline Assessment for Sudan and South Sudan

Research and analysis conducted under the Human Security Baseline Assessment for Sudan and South Sudan (HSBA) project in 2024 had a positive impact on both institutional decision-making and operational practice. By informing policy discussions and being integrated into policy formulation processes, the project helped to contextualize both the understanding of, and responses to, national and subnational crises in Sudan and South Sudan. The project also provided critical information for guiding operational planning, response, and contingency strategies for humanitarian actors, while supporting their efforts to uphold the 'do no harm' principle.

While Situation Updates are produced by different projects at the Survey, they are particularly significant for the HSBA project—enabling the project to deliver timely analysis of rapidly developing events to the international community, while remaining responsive to regional needs. In 2024, HSBA produced five Situation Updates that examined specific contexts and actors within Sudan and South Sudan. Topics included the clashes between the three main political stake-



“The combination of deep field research; analytical rigor; and connections between subnational and national political, political economy, and conflict dynamics make the [HSBA] reports essential.”

— Senior Officer, US Department of State

holders in South Kordofan, the fragile political landscape in and surrounding Port Sudan, the impact of Sudan’s civil war since April 2023 on the country’s oil industry, how then-governor Tong Akeen exploited the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) to control Northern Bahr el Ghazal, and governor Louis Lobong Lojore’s grasp on Eastern Equatoria.

Research on Sudan prompted two requests from the BBC for interviews with HSBA researchers for its ‘Focus on Africa’ broadcast from Nairobi, one on arms transfers into Sudan and the other on the findings of the Situation Update *The Republic of Kadamol: A Portrait of the Rapid Support Forces at War*.

## Ukraine

In 2024, through our Ukraine project and alongside our project partner the Center for Security Studies (CENSS), we continued to support the development and work of the Ukrainian Networking Group—a network of academics,

journalists, ballistic experts, and other security experts—by supporting its efforts to address small arms proliferation through capacity building, knowledge exchange, and targeted engagement. The project allocated micro-grants to support small arms control and risk reduction projects implemented by network members, including the production of awareness-raising videos on the dangers of illicit small arms and explosive devices for youth. Another network member, from the Donetsk State University of Internal Affairs, administered an online questionnaire completed by 16,000 employees of the National Police of Ukraine to capture their perspectives on the challenges faced in addressing weapons proliferation and trafficking and on potential solutions and priorities.

To enhance visibility of demand factors within Ukraine, the Survey conducted an additional general population survey in 2024 to deepen understanding of public perceptions on crime and firearms possession and safety. In 2024 we produced two

Situation Updates: *Locked but Loaded: Firearms Possession Dynamics in Ukraine* focused on the evolving dynamics of firearms possession in Ukraine, contextual background on perceptions of insecurity, the role of weapons, the specific situation of combatants and veterans, and civilian firearms possession—including public perceptions of these weapons, civilians’ access to them, and public awareness and use of the new Unified Register of Weapons; and *Balancing Control and Awareness: Firearms and Safety in Ukraine* examined the impact of participation in the war on ownership rates, gaps in formal firearm safety training, and the growing public awareness of firearm registration through the Unified Register of Weapons launched in June 2023. Throughout the year, the project also continued monitoring weapons seizures by the Ukrainian authorities and supported qualitative field research on arms issues and risks in Ukraine, the results of which will be published in the project’s final report in late 2025.



Still taken from the Ukrainian public service video about the dangers that illicit small arms and explosive devices pose to children.

# 4 Gender-responsive small arms control

Gender-responsive small arms control involves integrating gender perspectives into national, regional, and international small arms-related policies and programmes that reflect how armed violence affects women, men, girls, boys, and gender minorities differently on the basis of their gender—and in combination with other intersectional factors. Given that arms control is a historically male-dominated field, gender-responsive arms control also involves ensuring that women and other historically under-represented groups can participate meaningfully in all aspects of small arms control.

In 2024, through work conducted via our [dedicated project](#) or as a cross-cutting theme in other projects, the Small Arms Survey maintained its status as a go-to organization in supporting implementation of gender-responsive small arms control when it comes to research, policy processes, and gender mainstreaming.

## Fourth Review Conference of the UN Programme of Action

As part of our efforts to encourage the inclusion of stronger, evidence-based language in the RevCon4 outcome document, we produced an infographic and podcast episode in advance of the conference that provided snapshots and overviews of the latest gender-disaggregated data related to intentional homicides and the use of firearms and [gender-related discussions in the lead-up to RevCon4](#).

We also produced a joint working paper with UNIDIR, ‘[From Research to Policy: Prospects for Gender-transformative Small Arms Control](#)’, which was developed with significant inputs from Canada—which co-sponsored the paper at

RevCon4 along with Chile, Germany, Ireland, Thailand, and the United Kingdom. The paper was subsequently translated into all UN languages by UNODA. In addition, the Survey and UNIDIR co-hosted a [RevCon4 side event](#) that discussed the future of gender mainstreaming in the UN PoA, with opening remarks from the chair of RevCon4, Ambassador Chan.

The Survey also supported Croatia in drafting two joint statements on gender at the [beginning](#) and the [end](#) of RevCon4 supported by 46 and 61 member states, respectively, and provided commentary to states supporting gender-responsive small arms control on the significance of changes in gender-related provisions in each draft.

Our gender-related language suggestions for the RevCon4 outcome document were taken up by states and included in the final outcome document, which consistently refers to ‘gender-responsive’ (rather than ‘gender-sensitive’) language for the first time, and created space for engaging men and boys and discussing gender roles, norms, and expectations.

Post-RevCon4, and with a view to continuing the discussion of PoA topics, we also produced a blog post that discussed [the gendered dimensions of 3D-printed firearms](#). The UNODA Small Arms and Light Weapons Fellowship Programme, which resulted from RevCon4, included our infographic as ‘required material’ for the e-learning component, while the Briefing Paper [Meaningful Partners: Opportunities for Collaboration between Women, Peace and Security, and Small Arms Control at the National Level](#), our podcast on [gender-responsive small arms control produced for RevCon4](#), and the paper ‘[What Happened to Demand?](#)’—written for the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) by Survey staff—were included as ‘optional material’.

## Tenth Conference of States Parties to the ATT

Similarly, at CSP10, we supported the use of stronger, evidence-based language in the outcome document and guided states in identifying future actions related to gender and preventing gender-based violence (GBV). At the ATT Working Group’s meeting in February, in preparation for CSP10, we also co-organized a side event entitled ‘[From Silos to Solutions: Leveraging Interagency Cooperation to Prevent Arms-related Gender-based Violence and Violence against Women and Children](#)’, which explored opportunities to link





work on arms-related GBV in the ATT, the Human Rights Council, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women committee. During CSP10, we worked with Mexico and other states parties in developing [a joint statement and working paper on gender mainstreaming](#), which resulted in the largest number of paragraphs on gender included in an ATT outcome document since CSP5, and was specifically on GBV. We also co-organized [a side event on addressing gender inequality and GBV through the ATT](#). Furthermore, we produced blog posts on two topics relevant for the ATT: [the role of private security](#), which highlights the ATT's potential to engage further with the private security sector to help mitigate GBV, and [the Indo-Pacific region](#), which discusses the gender dynamics of the arms trade and the resulting challenges to adoption and universalization in the region.

## Global Framework on Ammunition

To support the implementation of the GFA, we provided guidance at all of the UNODA informal regional meetings by leading sessions on GFA objective 14 (which promotes gender mainstreaming and women's meaningful participation in ammunition management) in order for the participants to gain a better understanding of the details and importance of this GFA objective. We also designed and delivered a one-day gender-related session at the [UNODA-AMAT Women Managing Ammunition Network International Ammunition Technical Guidelines course](#), hosted by Austria in Vienna in July 2024.

## Women, peace, and security and small arms control

As part of efforts to facilitate discussions at the national level on the connections between women, peace, and security and small arms control and counter-improvised explosive device (C-IED), the Survey produced the Briefing Paper [Meaningful Partners: Opportunities for Collaboration between Women, Peace and Security, and Small Arms Control at the National Level](#), which identifies potential avenues for future work to

better harmonize efforts related to women, peace, and security and small arms control, and improve the effectiveness of both policy areas in achieving their objectives. The Survey also integrated gender perspectives into the C-IED assessments conducted in Benin, Ghana, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. Additionally, we provided input on the integration of gender-specific provisions in the Sierra Leone NAP. The Survey also

participated in the development of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom's ['African Union Silencing the Guns in Africa: Activism Guide'](#), launched in December. The guide refers to numerous Survey publications. Our blog post on [Chile](#) discussed challenges and initiatives, and suggested ways forward for aligning national security policies with GBV mitigation.





# 5

## National action plans and strategies

Nationally owned and inclusive NAPs and strategies are critical tools for systematically and effectively implementing, coordinating, monitoring, and evaluating small arms control measures at the regional and national levels. They are also important instruments for facilitating inclusive dialogue among states, civil society, and the private sector at the country level; enhancing government coordination; and cooperating with external partners in identifying and funding priority needs.

### Burkina Faso National Action Plan

In 2024, the Survey supported the Burkina Faso National Commission on Arms Control with the completion of their NAP on small arms control. The methodology used was showcased during a RevCon4 [side event](#), organized by the Survey and the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone, and served as a frame of reference to discuss the linkages between small arms control and national development frameworks. The discussion provided a valuable platform for engagement, and the Survey's [How-to guide on methodologies for developing NAPs](#) was well-received by regional organizations—including the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union, and the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons—highlighting its relevance and potential impact on small arms control efforts.

### Sierra Leone National Action Plan

The Sierra Leone National Commission on Small Arms (SLeNCSA), with technical assistance from the Survey, began

developing a NAP on small arms in 2022. After the diagnostic workshop that same year, the Survey worked with SLeNCSA and key national stakeholders to define strategic priorities, elaborate a budget, and formulate detailed actions and activities to guide the implementation of the NAP. In 2024, the NAP was finalized and the political and technical validation workshops of the NAP were crucial in ensuring strong national ownership and fostering political buy-in, while also aligning the plan's activities with the country's key priorities and needs. The official launch was a success and included the participation of the Liberia Commission, led by its president, who attended specifically to observe Sierra Leone's NAP development process and to establish contact with us for potential support.

### Supporting the development of national action plans

In 2024, the Survey produced guidance materials—including a Briefing Paper and a How-to Guide—to provide insights and concrete steps for policymakers, practitioners, and national commissions regarding their approach to NAPs, while stimulating a broader reflection on the best way to adapt NAPs in order to address new challenges and leverage their full potential.

The Briefing Paper [National Action Plans as Tools for Effective Small Arms Control: Lessons from West Africa](#) examines the current state of practice of NAPs on small arms and light weapons in West Africa, their impact, and existing opportunities to enhance their effectiveness and potential in integrating small arms control into broader public policy frameworks that address development and security concerns.

The How-to Guide [Developing Strategies and National Action Plans on Small Arms Control](#) builds on the Small Arms Survey's extensive engagement with national authorities on small arms control, particularly in West and Central Africa, and offers practical, context-specific approaches to enhance the coherence, adaptability, and inclusivity of NAPs. It promotes multi-stakeholder engagement, based on the Survey's observation that both inter-agency collaboration and partnership with civil society actors are necessary to align small arms control with public policy objectives, and ensure effective resource allocation for implementation.

### Cour des Comptes' evaluation of the French policy on civilian firearms control

The Survey was invited to participate in an advisory committee to the Cour des Comptes—France's supreme auditing body. The Cour is undertaking an in-depth evaluation of French policy on civilian firearms control, and the advisory committee is responsible for providing feedback and advice to the Cour's evaluation team at different stages of the process, with several consultations taking place between September 2024 and May 2025. The Cour used the Survey's reports on [converted firearms in Europe](#) and [illicit firearms in France](#) when assessing the feasibility of this evaluation. Based on the first consultations, the committee seemed to appreciate, in particular, the Survey's evidence-based and international perspective.

# 6 Weapons and ammunition management

Poor accounting and inadequate physical security of storage facilities can facilitate the diversion of ammunition from the national stockpile to terrorists, criminals, and other armed groups, increasing insecurity and instability. Furthermore, the deterioration of munition components can contribute to unplanned explosions at munitions sites (UEMS), which can have significant negative socio-economic and political consequences for the public and national governments. To mitigate these risks, ammunition management requires complex systems, which, in turn, present planning challenges and have significant budgetary implications for governments. Nationally owned and inclusive weapons and ammunition management refers to the good governance of arms and ammunition throughout their life cycle, including through the establishment of relevant national frameworks, processes, and practices for the production, stockpiling, transfers, tracing, and, ultimately, disposal of these materials.

In 2024, the Survey updated [its UEMS database](#), which includes information on the reported causes of 674 incidents that occurred between 1979 and 2024, as well as the number of casualties recorded. This database serves as a reference tool for policymakers and practitioners working on ammunition management, and can therefore be used to inform the implementation of the GFA.

The Survey contributed technical, operational, and policy support to states through the European Union–League of Arab States project, with tailored training programmes available to participants from the region and train-the-trainer programmes. The project also [translated many relevant resources into Arabic](#).

Marking the end of the second phase of this project, we produced [a podcast episode](#) (in Arabic) that reflected on

the challenges related to small arms in the Arab region. The episode reviewed the progress made during this phase to address these challenges and, as preparations for the third phase begin, discussed the work that lies ahead.

In 2024, the Survey conducted a comprehensive and in-depth review of the National Agency of Controlled Materials (ANMaC) on safety and security procedures within the framework of physical security and stockpile management (PSSM). We also carried out an assessment to identify capacity and training needs within the institution. The project aimed to provide ANMaC with a comprehensive gap analysis in order to identify PSSM-related needs and challenges, offer recommendations, and highlight priorities (including national interventions and those supported by external actors). These steps are intended to lead to more effective PSSM practices and, in turn, reduce the risks and impacts of UEMS and of illicit small arms diversion and proliferation. The current executive director of ANMaC expressed gratitude for the Survey's important support in conducting an in-depth assessment of their PSSM capabilities country-wide.

The Survey also provided a technical review of UNODA's online training modules for the future small arms Fellowship Training Programme (FTP), developed within the framework of the UN PoA. UNODA requested the Survey's support in reviewing the in-person training modules of the FTP.

Finally, owing to the timely launch of the Briefing Paper [Exploiting Evidence, Improving Protection: Weapons Technical Intelligence in UN Peace Operations](#), and the intervention of country delegates who raised the issue from the floor of RevCon4, [paragraph 117 of the outcome document](#) acknowledges the need for peace operations to build capabilities in weapons technical intelligence.

“I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for the outstanding training session. I found the quality of the [EU-LAS] training, the pedagogical methods employed, and the comprehensive information provided to be exceptionally beneficial. [. . .] The insights gained on the storage of arms and ammunition will undoubtedly enhance our operational capabilities and safety standards back home. Thank you for your dedication to advancing knowledge and skills in such a critical field.”

— Member of the Moroccan Royal Gendarmerie



# 7 Improvised weapons and ammunition, and other emerging threats

The proliferation and diversion of privately made and other non-industrial small arms and light weapons pose a growing threat to security. New technological developments and the ease with which information and expertise can be shared online have decentralized production, contributing to the global diffusion of the tools and skills necessary to build small arms and light weapons—far beyond what is regulated by existing instruments. As a result, non-industrial weapons no longer represent only marginal fractions of seized small arms and light weapons. Rather, the problem appears to be growing in scale and complexity. In the absence of a comprehensive and coordinated response, certain emerging types of non-industrial small arms risk being overlooked, and the underlying root factors of demand and supply ignored.

## Counter-improvised explosive device efforts

In 2024, the Survey continued to establish itself within the international C-IED, and mine action, community of practice as an organization with significant expertise on, and an important role to play in the field of, C-IED—as well as to strengthen and build partnerships in this area. Our work on C-IED, including research and capacity support, was recognized in the [UN Secretary-General's report on IEDs](#), published in July 2024. Notably, the report incorporated a paragraph on victim assistance, drawing from the Survey's Briefing Paper [Improving Point of Injury Trauma Care for IED Victims](#). Furthermore, the Survey contributed to the development of the [UN General Assembly Resolution on C-IED](#)—in collaboration with UNODA—led by Australia, France, and Nigeria, and adopted in December 2024.

In 2024, the Survey also contributed to the development of a regional C-IED strategy for West Africa, led by the ECOWAS

Commission, by providing policy-relevant expertise. This support included research on victim assistance, border controls, and the regulation of explosive precursor chemicals (EPCs), as well as national C-IED capacity assessments carried out in Benin, Ghana, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. Additionally, the Survey facilitated consultations between ECOWAS and its member states, fostering dialogue and informed policymaking.

In April 2024, we participated in the 27<sup>th</sup> International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers, contributing to two side event panels on IED contamination and victim assistance. These engagements provided a platform to share insights and exchange best practices. Furthermore, this participation facilitated the Survey's involvement in the Fifth Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) and contributed to the successful granting of observer status.

During the Fifth Review Conference of the APMBC, the Survey, in collaboration with the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action, hosted a side event titled 'Whole-of-Society Approach to Addressing the Threats Posed by Improvised Mines and Delivering Emergency Care in Fragile Settings'. Chaired by the German ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament, the event featured a panel of speakers from the Survey, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), EXTRACCT, the Burkina Faso National Commission, and the Mines Advisory Group. The session was well-received and enjoyed a strong turnout, reflecting the interest in collaborative approaches to this critical issue. The side event was also promoted through statements delivered by various UN entities, thanks to the collaborative efforts of UNMAS, our co-organizer for the event.

Building on prior engagement with the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons Implementation Support Unit, the

Survey was invited to deliver a presentation on efforts to control access to EPCs used to make improvised explosives. This provided us with an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of our work in West Africa and to highlight one of the areas of research undertaken in the past 12 months.

## Privately made small arms and new technologies

With support from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Survey submitted—together with Instituto Sou da Paz and UNIDIR—a [working paper on the global spread of privately made and other non-industrial small arms](#) to the UN PoA RevCon4 website. We also circulated comments to several delegations regarding the draft language on PMFs for the outcome document. Shortly after RevCon4, we published a piece titled '[Beyond the Factory: Addressing Craft and Privately Manufactured Small Arms and Light Weapons in the UNPoA](#)' in Reaching Critical Will's *Small Arms Monitor* journal. The article provides a short overview of the key debates surrounding non-industrial firearms at RevCon4, along with the final outcomes.

Additionally, at the '[New and Emerging Developments in Craft-Produced Small Arms and Light Weapons: Regional Perspectives](#)' RevCon4 side event on 20 June, co-organized by UNIDIR and France, we discussed the terminology and typologies of non-industrial firearms production. Similarly, at the '[Innovative Ways and Technologies to Improve Data Collection on Diversion and Misuse of SALW](#)' side event on 25 June, organized by Belgium and the Flemish Peace Institute, Survey experts presented on ammunition profiling and tech solutions for illicit arms monitoring.

Our Situation Update, [Dangerous Devices: Privately Made Firearms in the Caribbean](#), examined the latest trends and

developments regarding PMFs, including their production and circulation in the Caribbean region, and called for more in-depth data collection on these types of weapons to help tackle this threat to security and public health.

The Survey was invited [to talk about 3D-printed firearms](#) on AFP's 'Sur le Fil' podcast. As of 7 November 2024, 8,700 people had listened to the podcast. Additionally, the head of the Survey's Data and Analytics unit participated as a guest expert on the RTS1/Geopolitis television programme 'Armes, trafic mortel', covering global small arms proliferation trends, trafficking to the conflict in Sudan, and PMFs. The programme aired twice on national television in Switzerland and in 200 countries (with subtitles in relevant languages) on TV5 Monde. To date, the programme recording on [YouTube](#) has been viewed more than 43,000 times. An accompanying [article](#) is also available on the RTS website.

“[The] new reports recently released by [the Small Arms Survey, Instituto Sou da Paz, and UNIDIR] [. . .] ‘The growing and multi-faceted global threat of privately made and other non-industrial small arms and light weapons’ [and] ‘*Dangerous Devices: Privately Made Firearms in the Caribbean*’ [. . .] are extremely well written and educational on the topic of 3D-printed, craft produced, and privately made firearms.”

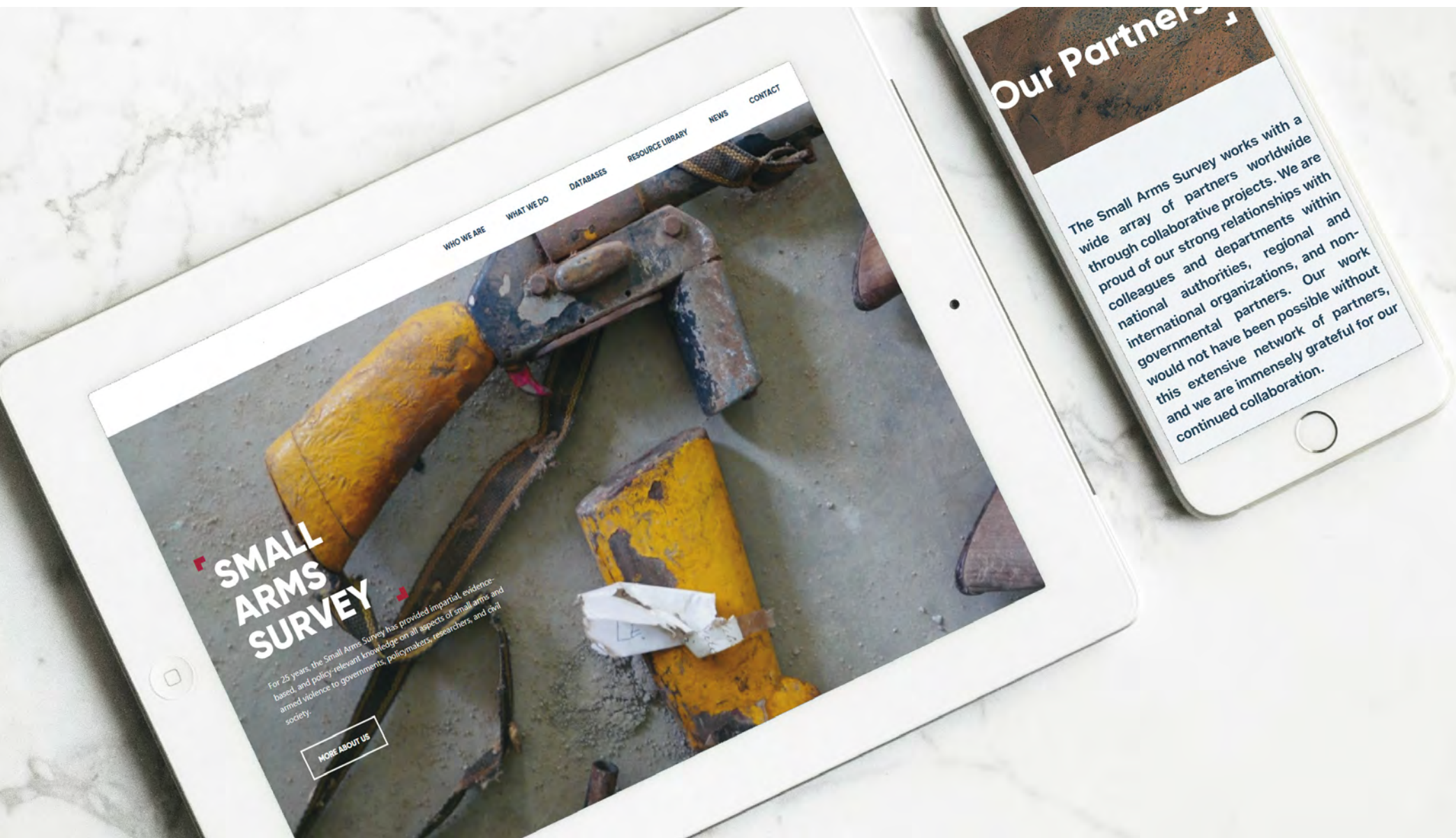
— A 3D-printed firearms specialist



Expert Nicolas Florquin discussing small arms trafficking and the rise of privately made firearms on RTS1/Geopolitis.



# Outreach





Throughout 2024, the Survey continued to **counter misinformation**—such as through the fact-checking of arms trafficking claims in several politicized conflict settings—and **support journalists** on various types of topics and requests. Additionally, we provided inputs for an open-source investigation into a shooting in Kenya, and were added as a resource to the Global Investigative Journalism Network Database of Resources on Military and Conflict.

More than **850** media citations in **37** languages

#### Notable themes covered



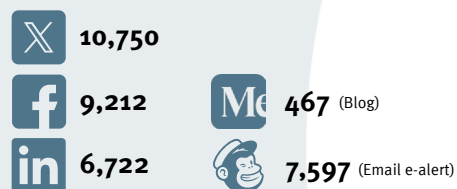
Notable news outlets citing our work

## TOP 3 page views in 2024

- 1 Global Firearms Holdings database – 28,000 views
- 2 Global Violent Deaths database – 6,000 views
- 3 Weapons Identification Handbook – 4,000 views



#### Social media followers



On **LinkedIn**, we achieved more than 150,000 post impressions and an engagement rate of 5.7%. On **Facebook**, we totalled more than 28,000 views, with an engagement rate of 3.5%. On **X**, our posts received more than 110,000 impressions with an engagement rate of 4.3%. On **Medium**, our blog posts were read in full by 3,574 users and viewed by 6,583.



The Survey presented on the use of open-source intelligence (OSINT) at the tech conference 'LeHack: OSINT Village' in Paris. The conference was an opportunity to increase engagement with the OSINT community, and to uncover potential areas of growth and development for the Survey's own research methodologies.



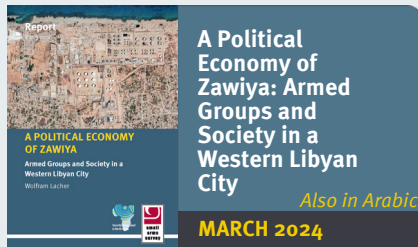
## TOP 5 most downloaded publications in 2024



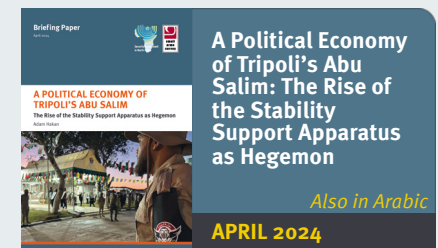
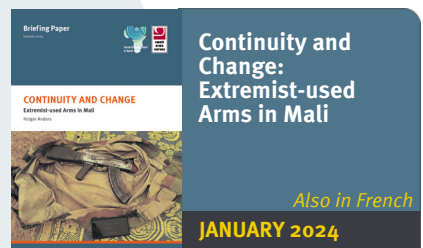
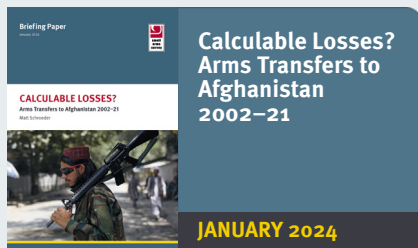


## 2024 publications and other outputs

### REPORTS



### BRIEFING PAPERS

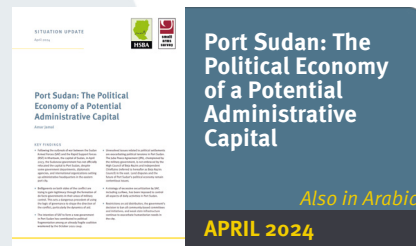
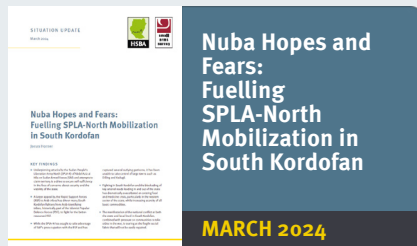




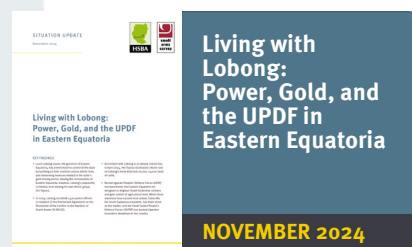
## 2024 publications and other outputs



## SITUATION UPDATES



## 2024 publications and other outputs



## CO-PUBLICATIONS



## BLOG POSTS





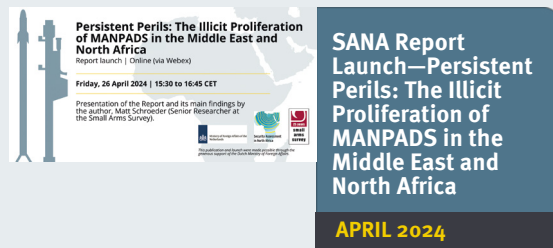
## 2024 publications and other outputs



## INFOGRAPHICS



## VIDEOS



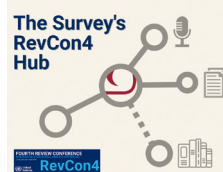
## 2024 publications and other outputs

### PODCASTS



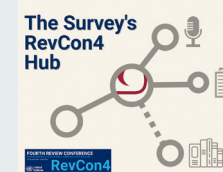
**Road to RevCon4:  
Linking Small Arms  
Control to National  
Development  
Frameworks—  
RevCon4  
Opportunities**

**JUNE 2024**



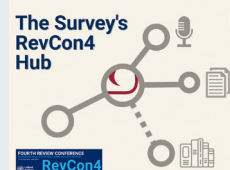
**Road to RevCon4:  
Privately Made  
Small Arms and  
Other Non-  
Industrial Weapons**

**JUNE 2024**



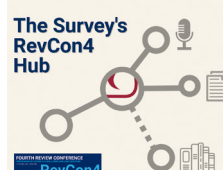
**Road to RevCon4:  
Gender-responsive  
Arms Control and  
the UN PoA**

**JUNE 2024**



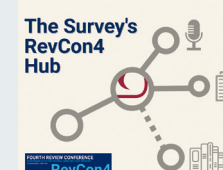
**Road to RevCon4:  
The UN PoA and  
the RevCon  
Process**

**JUNE 2024**



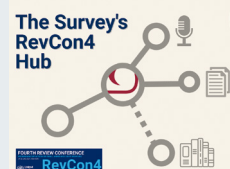
**Road to RevCon4:  
A Public Health  
Crisis—Small Arms  
Trafficking and  
Violence in the  
Caribbean**

**JUNE 2024**



**Road to RevCon4:  
The UN PoA and  
Demand**

**JUNE 2024**



**Road to RevCon4:  
The Outcomes and  
the Next Steps**

**SEPTEMBER 2024**



**Small Arms Survey  
Podcast #54: The  
EU–LAS Project  
and Small Arms-  
related Challenges  
in the Arab region**

*In Arabic*

**OCTOBER 2024**



**Small Arms Survey  
Podcast #55: 25th  
Anniversary  
Special**

**DECEMBER 2024**



# Administrative and financial recap





## Institutional developments

In 2024, the Small Arms Survey focused on consolidating institutional progress, particularly in grant and financial management. The standardized project management guidelines developed in 2023 were rolled out across the organization, improving consistency, accountability, and efficiency in project planning, implementation, and reporting.

Delivering high-quality results, maintaining operational efficiency, and ensuring compliance with donor requirements remained central to our work. Continued investment in staff development—through targeted training in weapons and ammunition management, monitoring and evaluation, and other technical areas—further strengthened our capacity.

The launch of the Survey's new 2024–28 strategy marked a key institutional milestone. Work began to operationalize its strategic priorities, with progress reviewed during the Internal Review Meeting and reaffirmed at the annual Strategic Council gathering.

The Survey continued to refine its matrix system of working, which facilitates collaboration across thematic and regional areas of expertise. This approach enhances flexibility and innovation, allowing staff to contribute effectively to multiple workstreams and respond dynamically to shifting priorities and emerging challenges.

## Financial developments

The Small Arms Survey concluded 2024 with a balanced budget, maintaining its strong track record of prudent financial management. As in previous years, a portion of core funding was strategically invested in key areas, including global databases, professional development, and concept development for emerging lines of work.

Total operating expenditures for the year stood at CHF 6,960,094, fully aligning with the approved budget and indicating the stable and effective delivery of programmes.

The Survey's work continues to rely entirely on external funding. We are especially grateful for the unrestricted funding provided by Australia, Sweden, and Switzerland in 2024. This core funding is more than just financial support; it is critical to sustaining the Survey's institutional backbone and enables the organization to preserve critical capacity, act swiftly in response to shifting global dynamics, and innovate in areas where new threats or opportunities are emerging.

In 2024, project-specific funding was generously provided by the European Union, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, the United States, the ATT Voluntary Trust Fund, and the Swiss Network for International Studies. The Survey extends its sincere thanks to all its partners for their continued trust, engagement, and collaboration.

Looking ahead, stable and flexible core funding will remain essential to the Survey's ability to stay agile and impactful in an increasingly complex and fast-changing environment. It allows the organization to safeguard institutional knowledge, to retain leading technical expertise, and to ensure it can remain a trusted and forward-leaning partner in global efforts to prevent and reduce armed violence.

## Thank you!

We would like to thank the following countries, agencies, and institutions for their support of and contributions to our work in 2024.





## Follow the Small Arms Survey



@SmallArmsSurvey

The Small Arms Survey is a centre for applied knowledge dedicated to preventing and reducing illicit small arms proliferation and armed violence. It is an associated programme of the Geneva Graduate Institute, located in Switzerland, and has an international staff with expertise in security studies, political science, law, economics, development studies, sociology, criminology, and database and programme management. The Survey collaborates with a network of researchers, practitioners, partner institutions, non-governmental organizations, and governments in more than 50 countries, and its activities and outputs are made possible through core support as well as project funding. A full list of current donors and projects can be accessed via the Small Arms Survey website.

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Photos from the Small Arms Survey, its partners, and Unsplash.

