

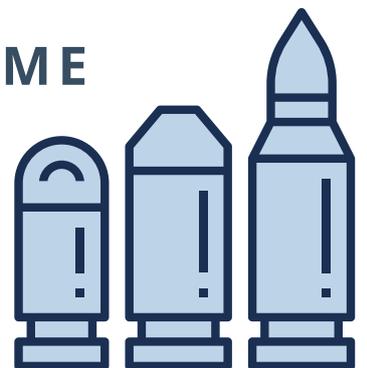


UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR DISARMAMENT
RESEARCH

RESEARCH RESOURCE PACKAGE

CONVENTIONAL ARMS PROGRAMME

SEPTEMBER 2021





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ABOUT UNIDIR

Established in 1980, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) is an autonomous institution within the United Nations that conducts independent research on disarmament and related problems, particularly international security issues. The Institute carries out its role through four key areas of activity: promoting knowledge, generating ideas, facilitating dialogue and providing advice to support Member States, the United Nations, regional organizations and policy and research communities in identifying practical solutions and promoting multilateral progress on disarmament and arms control.

CONVENTIONAL ARMS PROGRAMME

The Institute's Conventional Arms Programme (CAP) engages with States, the United Nations system and the international security expert community to build knowledge and put in place measures to regulate conventional weapons and related parts, components and technologies, including by supporting relevant multilateral processes such as the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Conventional Ammunition, the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), the Programme of Action on Small Arms (PoA), the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), as well as relevant United Nations Security Council Committees.

The work of the Programme is undertaken by a small number of researchers in Geneva and Bamako who are supported by non-resident subject matter experts. The size of the research team varies according to the Programme's requirements and the resources available to it. The work of the Programme is further strengthened through pursuing partnerships with a range of stakeholders from regional organizations, the United Nations system, specialized NGOs, think tanks and academia.

ABOUT THE RESEARCH RESOURCE PACKAGE

The primary purpose of this Research Resource Package is to provide an overview of policy relevant, applied research publications and resources that have been published by UNIDIR's Conventional Arms Programme. This resource package is not exhaustive and only covers a select number of key research products published since 2016, with an aim to highlight the scope of the work of UNIDIR-CAP.

CURRENT WORKSTREAMS & DESIRED IMPACT

- 1. Strengthening Policy and Practice on Weapon and Ammunition Management (WAM):** States establish and implement comprehensive national, regional and multilateral frameworks and processes governing the full lifecycle of WAM to prevent diversion and misuse, and the United Nations is able to provide high quality advice on these issues.
 - a. Multilateral progress on ammunition management:** To enhance knowledge and dialogue among States on key safety, security and accountability issues pertaining to conventional ammunition management on which progress can be made at the national, regional, and multilateral levels, including by supporting the ongoing GGE and its outcomes.
 - b. National and regional approaches to WAM:** To enhance knowledge and dialogue among States, regional organizations, the United Nations and specialized NGOs on the design, implementation and evaluation of comprehensive national and regional approaches to WAM.
 - c. Regulating arms transfers and preventing their diversion:** To increase shared understanding among policymakers and practitioners on ways to promote responsible arms trade, including through assessing the impact of the ATT in mitigating the risk of diversion.
 - d. Preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons:** To enhance knowledge among States and relevant specialized organizations on ways to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons, explosives and uncrewed aerial vehicles (UAVs), including through facilitating dialogue and developing practical tools to support the implementation of Security Council resolution 2370 (2017) and other relevant control regimes.

- 2. Changing Nature and Prevention of Conventional Warfare:** States and the United Nations gain a better understanding of the risks and impacts of the evolving nature of warfare, and conventional arms control is effectively integrated into conflict prevention and management thinking and activities.
 - a. Integrating conventional arms control into United Nations conflict prevention and management:** To enhance knowledge and dialogue among United Nations peace, security and development actors of best/emerging practices, as well as the means and methods for integrating conventional arms control into United Nations' conflict analysis, prevention and management activities.
 - b. Understanding the impact of explosive weapons in populated areas (EWIPA) and identifying ways to mitigate civilian harm from them:** To increase security, humanitarian and development actors' shared understanding of the impact of EWIPA, including in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals; and to enhance dialogue and generate new ideas and tools on policies and practices to mitigate civilian harm from EWIPA.

- c. Preventing and preparing against Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs):** To assist States in their efforts to design, review and assess national preventative and preparedness measures against IEDs and to support the development of national and sub-regional roadmaps, including through use of the UNIDIR Counter-IED (C-IED) self-assessment tool.
 - d. Emerging trends and threats in conventional warfare:** To promote knowledge of emerging trends in conventional weapons and related technologies that are applied in contemporary warfare, and to generate new ideas on ways to address such risks, including by supporting multilateral processes underway in the CCW.
- 3. Armed Violence in Urban and Local Environments:** Knowledge among States, international organizations and practitioners is enhanced to better understand the risks, vulnerabilities and impact of armed violence in urban and local environments, and how arms control tools can mitigate and prevent civilian harm.
- a. Profiling illicit flow of arms and ammunition:** To increase States' knowledge on the profiles of arms and ammunition in circulation and misuse in urban and local settings across different regions and how they are enabling armed violence, including through delivery of practical tools that help generate evidence to improve policy and practice aimed at reducing lethal outcomes.
 - b. Innovative solutions to address armed violence:** To generate ideas on how emerging technologies can provide opportunities for the identification of innovative and practical ways to control arms and to reduce armed violence.

LIST OF KEY PUBLICATIONS BY WORKSTREAM

WORKSTREAM: MULTILATERAL PROGRESS ON AMMUNITION MANAGEMENT

CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION MANAGEMENT GAP ANALYSIS

2019, Manuel Martínez Miralles and Anna Mensah

This document presents a concise overview of the main findings from three informal thematic seminars on conventional ammunition management that UNIDIR hosted in 2018 and 2019. It discusses the key issues and opportunities in four areas of conventional ammunition management namely:

- Security
- Safety
- Frameworks
- International cooperation and assistance

It also provides an overview of a systemic approach to tackle the challenges identified, namely the Responsibility and Accountability Cycle for Safe and Secure Management of Ammunition and discusses its three interrelated areas:

- Pre-transfer risk assessments
- Physical security and stockpile management
- Monitoring and diagnostic activities



AVAILABLE HERE: [Conventional Ammunition Management: Gap Analysis](#) (Available in [Spanish](#) and [French](#))

UTILIZING THE INTERNATIONAL AMMUNITION TECHNICAL GUIDELINES IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED AND LOW-CAPACITY ENVIRONMENTS

27 March 2019, Bob Seddon

The Utilization of International Ammunition Technical Guidelines in Conflict-Affected and Low-Capacity Environments extracts from the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATGs). This guide was developed by UNIDIR and published by the United Nations SaferGuard Program.



AVAILABLE HERE: [Utilizing the international ammunition technical guidelines in conflict-affected and low-capacity environments](#)

**KEY ISSUES AND PROCESSES PERTINENT TO THE MANAGEMENT OF CONVENTIONAL
AMMUNITION (REPORTS OF 1ST, 2ND AND 3RD THEMATIC SEMINARS)**

26 February 2019, 17 May 2019 and 21 October 2019, Manuel Martínez Miralles, Himayu Shiotani, James Bevan and Bob Seddon

This series of reports present the findings from the series of seminars convened within the framework of UNIDIR's project Framing and Informing Key Issues and Processes Pertinent to the Management of Conventional Ammunition. This project aims to facilitate dialogue and generate ideas in order to help States to frame key issues and inform them about processes pertinent to conventional ammunition management on which progress can be made at the national, regional and multilateral levels. Elements and findings from this seminar series are relevant to States' preparations for the open, informal consultations organized within the framework of resolution 72/55, as well as other relevant conventional ammunition management initiatives.

AVAILABLE HERE:

1. [Report of the 1st Thematic Seminar](#) (Also available in [French](#) and [Spanish](#))



2. [Report of the 2nd Thematic Seminar](#) (Also available in [French](#) and [Spanish](#))



3. [Report of the 3rd Thematic Seminar](#) (Also available in [French](#) and [Spanish](#))



COUNTRY INSIGHT SERIES ON WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION MANAGEMENT**November to December 2020, Edited by Anna Mensah, Erica Mumford,
Manuel Martinez Miralles and Natalie Briggs**

UNIDIR defines WAM in a comprehensive manner covering the oversight, accountability and governance of arms and ammunition throughout their management cycle, including establishment of relevant national frameworks, processes and practices for the safe and secure production and acquisition of materiel, stockpiling, transfers, end use control, tracing and disposal. This holistic approach is essential in ensuring that efforts to better regulate arms and ammunition are undertaken in alignment with broader security sector, rule of law, armed violence reduction, counter-terrorism, and peacebuilding processes, and not in isolation. Research emphasis is placed on national and regional approaches to WAM in pursuit of a national and regionally owned process, and to support a 'bottom-up' and evidence-based approach. This series of WAM Country Insights will help promote knowledge, and raise visibility and awareness on the WAM context, progress made, and areas for enhancement in the 10 African States that have conducted WAM baseline assessments with support from UNIDIR. It aims to serve as a reference for donors and international partners providing assistance and technical support for improving weapons and ammunition frameworks in the relevant country. The series was launched on 29th October 2020 in the lead up to the UNIDIR-AU Regional WAM Lessons Learned Seminars, held in November and December.

**AVAILABLE HERE:**

[Country Insight Series on Weapons and Ammunition Management](#)

THE ROLE OF WEAPON AND AMMUNITION MANAGEMENT IN PREVENTING CONFLICT AND SUPPORTING SECURITY TRANSITIONS**25 February 2019, Savannah de Tessières, Himayu Shiotani and Sebastian Wilkin**

This publication presents preliminary findings on the role of WAM in Preventing Conflict and Supporting Security Transitions. The paper highlights from a series of national assessments on WAM frameworks conducted by UNIDIR in the Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Niger and Somalia. The objective of this paper is to promote knowledge on key issues and processes in the context of WAM in transitional settings, and to provide policy considerations for strengthening the role of WAM in preventing and managing conflict and reducing armed violence.

**AVAILABLE HERE:**

[The Role of Weapon and Ammunition Management in Preventing Conflict and Support Security Transitions](#)

A REFERENCE METHODOLOGY FOR NATIONAL WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION MANAGEMENT BASELINE ASSESSMENTS

26 July 2021, Hardy Giezendanner and Himayu Shiotani

The Reference Methodology for National Weapons and Ammunition Management Baseline Assessments codifies the methodology which has been used to design and implement baseline assessments with 11 States (2015–2020), in cooperation with sub-regional, regional, United Nations and other partners. It draws inter alia on lessons learned while applying and refining the methodology with partners. The Reference Methodology represents UNIDIR’s practical contribution to ongoing regional efforts and new initiatives at sub-regional, regional and international levels to undertake comprehensive national WAM baseline assessments.



This reference methodology is a practical tool to guide interested parties on how to implement a strategic WAM baseline assessment at the national level. It was published to enhance knowledge and to promote consistency in the use of WAM baseline assessments by interested stakeholders. It will enable collaboration between States seeking assistance to undertake a national WAM baseline assessment and United Nations entities, regional organizations, and specialized non-governmental organizations that can provide support for such efforts.

AVAILABLE HERE: [A Reference Methodology for National Weapons and Ammunition Management Baseline Assessments](#)
This paper will also be made available in French and Spanish

TRACING ILLICIT WEAPONS FLOWS IN CONFLICT AND SECURITY TRANSITIONS: A CASE FOR MANAGING RECOVERED WEAPONS IN SOMALIA

23 October 2020, Jonah Leff

International and sub-regional instruments encourage or require States to appropriately manage and trace recovered weapons in order to identify their illicit sources, understand patterns of illicit arms flows, and address diversion resulting from poor controls over international transfers or national stockpiles. However, tracing weapons recovered in situations of armed conflict and security transitions is a challenging undertaking due to insecurity and capacity constraints. In the context of Somalia, the requirement for recording and tracing weapons recovered in security operations is reinforced by the arms embargo to aid the Security Council subsidiary bodies in investigating violations. Somalia’s experience highlights the range of challenges that can be encountered in this respect, but also offers lessons that have relevance and wider application to other sanctions regimes imposed in similar contexts.



AVAILABLE HERE:

[Tracing Illicit Weapons Flows in Conflict and Security Transitions: A Case for Managing Recovered Weapons in Somalia](#)

WORK IN PROGRESS: WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION GOVERNANCE IN SOMALIA**16 September 2020, Abdikarin Ali-Hassan**

This piece was written by the National Focal Point of the Federal Government of Somalia on the topic of WAM in Somalia. UNIDIR has cooperated with the Somali authorities since 2014 on reviewing and strengthening the national weapons and ammunition management framework in the country.

**AVAILABLE HERE:**

[Work in Progress: Weapons and Ammunition Governance in Somalia](#)

AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO UNITED NATIONS ARMS EMBARGOES**15 September 2020, Jonah Leff and Einas Mohammed**

The Joint Verification Team on weapons and ammunition in Somalia represents an innovative approach to monitoring and verifying the implementation of Security Council Arms Embargoes. This observation paper sets out the establishment, methodology, role and activities of the Joint Verification Team, while cataloguing the challenges faced. The paper provides a series of key reflections on weapons and ammunition management in Somalia and considers how the Joint Verification Team might be replicated in other contexts.

**AVAILABLE HERE:**

[An Innovative Approach to the United Nations Arms Embargoes](#)

TOWARDS A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR ARMS AND AMMUNITION MANAGEMENT IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA**15 December 2017, Jonah Leff and Himayu Shiotani**

Under extremely difficult conditions and with the support of the international community, the Federal Government of Somalia is making important strides towards establishing security, effective and accountable governance, and the rule of law in Somalia. The achievements and gaps presented in this report provide a baseline from which to examine Somalia's remaining WAM challenges, as well as a platform from which to explore its immediate and long-term WAM requirements.

**AVAILABLE HERE:**

[Towards a National Framework for Arms and Ammunition Management in the Federal Republic of Somalia](#)

THE ARMS TRADE TREATY ISSUE BRIEF 3 : DIVERSION ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK

31 August 2021, Alfredo Malaret Baldo, Manuel Martinez Miralles, Erica Mumford and Natalie Briggs

The diversion of conventional arms occurs in settings considered at peace, in armed conflict, or affected by armed violence. To identify the most effective ways to prevent such incidents, the key challenge lies in understanding all aspects of the problem and making an accurate context-specific diagnosis. The third in a series from UNIDIR, Conflict Armament Research, and the Stimson Center, this Issue Brief presents the Diversion Analysis Framework (DAF). The Framework has been designed as an analytical tool for interested States and relevant stakeholders to enhance their ongoing efforts to prevent, detect, eradicate, and address diversion. It is hoped that by gaining a better understanding of the problem, appropriate measures can be taken by each State to create an enabling environment to counter, not facilitate, diversion.



AVAILABLE HERE:

[The Arms Trade Treaty Issue Brief 3: Diversion Analysis Framework](#)

THE ARMS TRADE TREATY ISSUE BRIEF 2: METHODS TO PREVENT, DETECT, ADDRESS AND ERADICATE THE DIVERSION OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS

30 October 2020, Brian Wood and Paul Holtom

This Issue Brief is intended to support the efforts of ATT States Parties to implement provisions to prevent, detect, address, and eradicate diversion in conventional arms transfers. It provides information and guidance on systemic and practical measures to prevent diversion at every stage in the transfer chain. It presents a potential analytical framework for States to determine the direct and indirect impact of applying these measures to achieve the object and purpose of the Treaty. This paper is the second in a series of issue briefs released as part of a joint research project by UNIDIR, Conflict Armament Research, Small Arms Survey and Stimson Center. The objective of the research is to enhance knowledge and facilitate dialogue among States to strengthen shared understanding on the impact of the ATT in addressing risks of diversion, and to identify avenues to further promote effective policies and practices under the Treaty.



AVAILABLE HERE:

[The Arms Trade Treaty: Methods to Prevent, Detect, Address and Eradicate the Diversion of Conventional Arms](#)

THE ARMS TRADE TREATY ISSUE BRIEF 1: OBLIGATIONS TO PREVENT THE DIVERSION OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS

23 June 2020, Brian Wood

States Parties to the ATT have accepted particular obligations to prevent, detect and eradicate the diversion of conventional arms transfers. However, the absence of a definition of 'diversion' makes the interpretation and implementation of ATT measures to address diversion difficult. This paper analyzes the inter-locking provisions of the ATT and other relevant instruments, providing key elements to guide the formulation of a general description of the diversion of arms transfers for the purposes of implementing the ATT. This paper is the first in a series of issue briefs released as part of a joint research project by UNIDIR, Conflict Armament Research, Small Arms Survey and Stimson Center. The objective of the research is to enhance knowledge and facilitate dialogue among States to strengthen shared understanding on the impact of the ATT in addressing risks of diversion, and to identify avenues to further promote effective policies and practices under the Treaty.



AVAILABLE HERE:

[The Arms Trade Treaty Issue Brief 1: Obligations to Prevent the Diversion of Conventional Arms](#) (Also available in [French](#) and [Arabic](#))

A MENU OF OPTIONS TO ENHANCE THE COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF END USE/R CONTROL SYSTEMS TO STRENGTHEN THEIR ROLE IN PREVENTING DIVERSION

31 January 2019, Paul Holtom, Himayu Shiotani, and Sebastian Wilkin

The diversion of authorized conventional arms transfers, including small arms, poses a persistent problem for security at the global, regional and national levels, and lies at the heart of the illicit proliferation of arms. The ATT and the working group on effective treaty implementation (WGETI), provide an opportunity to undertake such an examination of the diversion of authorized conventional arms transfers. This menu of options is intended as a 'food-for-thought' contribution to the work of the WGETI, in particular the sub-working group on Article 11, in conjunction with preparations for the ATT Conferences of States Parties in 2019 and 2020.



AVAILABLE HERE:

[A Menu of Options to Enhance the Common Understanding of End Use/r Control Systems to Strengthen their Role in Preventing Diversion](#)

ENHANCING THE UNDERSTANDING OF ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF INDUSTRY AND STATES TO PREVENT DIVERSION

29 August 2019, Brian Wood, Elli Kytomaki, Himayu Shiotani, and Sebastian Wilkin

This publication aims to enhance the understanding of how all relevant actors can work to prevent the diversion of conventional arms. Diversion poses a significant threat to societies around the globe, limiting the effectiveness of arms control initiatives and frustrating attempts to regulate or catalogue flows of conventional arms, ammunition and parts and components. All private sector actors involved in the international trade in conventional arms have a role to play in preventing diversion.



AVAILABLE HERE:

[Enhancing the Understanding of Roles and Responsibilities of Industry and States to Prevent Diversion](#)

REPORTING ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRADE: SYNTHESIS HANDBOOK

19 March 2018, Rachel Stohl, Shannon Dick, and Franziska Seethaler

This Handbook identifies reporting synergies among select multilateral conventional arms treaties and instruments. It provides practical guidance to States on sources of information, methods and approaches that can be used to facilitate reporting and information sharing between the Arms Trade Treaty, the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms, the UN Register of Conventional Arms, and the Firearms Protocol. Additionally, the Handbook offers a useful side-by-side comparison of the ATT initial report template and the PoA reporting template, as well as between the ATT annual report template and the UNROCA reporting form.



AVAILABLE HERE:

[Reporting on Conventional Arms Trade: Synthesis Handbook](#)

STRENGTHENING END USE/R CONTROL SYSTEMS TO PREVENT ARMS DIVERSION: EXAMINING COMMON REGIONAL UNDERSTANDINGS

13 August 2017, Paul Holtom and Hardy Giezendanner

This study presents the key findings of the second phase of a former UNIDIR project titled, *Tackling Diversion: Promoting Regional Dialogue to Enhance Common Understanding and Cooperation to Strengthen End Use/r Control Systems*, which supported the practical and effective implementation 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) and the ATT as well as relevant regional and subregional instruments. It draws upon the discussions conducted during two regional and one subregional consultative meeting in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean during 2016–2017: Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 21–22 September 2016; Nairobi, Kenya, 6–7 October 2016; and Bangkok, Thailand, 1–2 March 2017. This study also draws upon the results of the UNIDIR survey, which was circulated to all UN Member States during the first phase of the project in 2015 titled, *Tackling Diversion (Phase I): Examining Options and Models for Harmonization of End Use/r Control Systems*.



AVAILABLE HERE:

[Strengthening End Use/R Control Systems to Prevent Arms Diversion: Examining Common Regional Understandings](#)

PREVENTING TERRORISTS FROM ACQUIRING WEAPONS: AN EXPERT SEMINAR TO EXAMINE OPTIONS TO EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2370 (2017)**1 January 2018**

In 2017, United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2370 (2017), which called on all States to eliminate the supply of weapons to those involved in terrorist acts. The objective of this project is to enhance shared understanding among States and relevant stakeholders on threats and risks relevant to UNSCR 2370. This project aimed to: 1) Conduct stakeholder mapping of relevant sectors/stakeholders; 2) Identify opportunities and potential gaps within and beyond existing frameworks and/or initiatives; and, 3) Explore and assess concrete ways forward in supporting the implementation of this resolution.

**AVAILABLE HERE:**

[Preventing Terrorists From Acquiring Weapons: An Expert Seminar To Examine Options To Effectively Implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 2370](#)

TWENTY YEARS OF CONFLICT PREVENTION AND CONVENTIONAL ARMS CONTROL: LOOKING BACK TO MOVE FORWARD

June 2021, Simon Yazgi

On 7 June 2021, we marked the twentieth anniversary of the UN Secretary-General's first report on the Prevention of Armed Conflict, and 2021 also marked the twentieth anniversary of the Firearms Protocol and the UN PoA adopted on 31 May 2001 and 20 July 2001 respectively. Twenty years hence, it is worth reflecting on the converging histories of conventional arms control and conflict prevention in the UN to see how far we have, or may not have, come.



AVAILABLE HERE: [Twenty Years of Conflict Prevention and Conventional Arms Control: Looking Back to Move Forward](#)

ADDRESSING CONVENTIONAL ARMS RISKS AND IMPACTS TO PREVENT CONFLICT AND BUILD PEACE: WHAT MORE SHOULD THE UNITED NATIONS DO?

13 November 2020, Simon Yazgi, Hardy Giezendanner and Himayu Shiotani

The impact of armed conflict extends far beyond casualties in battle, often leading to forced migration, long-term refugee problems, the destruction of essential infrastructure and services, damage to social, political and economic institutions, and more broadly, negatively affecting development. Although the motives behind armed violence may differ from context to context, the use of arms to perpetrate violence is a constant that is often poorly accounted for when seeking to prevent conflict. In order to better understand the dynamics around armed violence and how conventional arms control can be better leveraged by the United Nations to prevent it, in May and June 2020, UNIDIR convened a series of online meetings in a Community of Practice (CoP) workshop. This report captures the themes raised in the CoP sessions, which will serve to inform and guide further research and dialogue on integrating conventional arms control into conflict prevention and management.



AVAILABLE HERE:

[Addressing conventional arms risks and impacts to prevent conflict and build peace: What more should the United Nations do?](#)

DOES ARMS CONTROL MATTER? ENABLING A CEASEFIRE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

16 September 2020, Simon Yazgi

With the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, the United Nations Secretary-General issued an appeal for a global ceasefire. The Security Council added its voice to that call through Security Council resolution 2532 (2020), which also called for a 90-day humanitarian pause to support a concrete, urgent humanitarian need to address the pandemic. Through this commentary, UNIDIR reflects on how arms control matters and can support a humanitarian pause or ceasefire by suggesting feasible and desirable arms control actions that Member States and conflict parties can take to save lives during the humanitarian pause.



AVAILABLE HERE:

[Does Arms Control Matter? Enabling a Ceasefire in the fight against the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

GOOD OFFICES AND GUNS: ARMS CONTROL AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

16 September 2020, Simon Yazgi

In his Agenda for Disarmament, “Securing our Common Future”, the United Nations Secretary-General requests the Organization to “explore how to better integrate an understanding of the impact of arms into assessments, risk analysis and conflict prevention activities carried out by the Department of Political Affairs and other relevant entities.” UNIDIR is exploring approaches and practical tools that can help practitioners align their work and advance our shared goal of preventing armed conflict. In doing so the Institute is building a bridge between the arms control and conflict prevention communities, a bridge that will hopefully allow good offices to flourish and guns to remain silent.



AVAILABLE HERE:

[Good Offices and Guns: Arms Control and Conflict Prevention](#)

BUILDING THE BRIDGE TO REDUCE ARMED VIOLENCE: DISRUPT THE SUPPLY AND DEMAND FOR ARMS AND AMMUNITION

17 July 2019, Robert Muggah and Katherine Aguirre

The impact of armed violence is significant in both conflict and non-conflict settings. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development places arms control, peace and security squarely within the scope of prevention and development thinking and actions. Building on this Agenda, UNIDIR, together with partners, has initiated research to bring new insights into good practices and lessons-learned for integrating conventional arms control into preventative thinking and actions in achieving sustainable development. This commentary, prepared by the Igarapé Institute, contributes to this research effort by examining how addressing the supply and demand for arms can help reduce armed violence.



AVAILABLE HERE:

[Building the bridge to Reduce Armed Violence: Disrupt the Supply and Demand for Arms and Ammunition](#)

THE CHANGING ROLE OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS CONTROL IN PREVENTING AND MANAGING VIOLENT CONFLICTS

6 November 2018, Arthur Boutellis

The excessive accumulation, uncontrolled proliferation and misuse of conventional weapons exacerbates and prolongs the violence and civilian harm caused by conflicts. The United Nations Secretary-General’s Agenda on Disarmament called for an examination of “how measures for disarmament and arms control contributes to processes for conflict prevention, management and resolution.” The publication sets out practical entry points where arms control already supports and reinforces conflict prevention and management efforts, as well as providing key reflections on how the United Nations system and Member States could further integrate arms control into their preventive and conflict management thinking and actions.



AVAILABLE HERE:

[The Changing role of conventional arms control in preventing and managing violent conflicts](#)

APPLYING CONVENTIONAL ARMS CONTROL IN THE CONTEXT OF UNITED NATIONS ARMS EMBARGOES

20 August 2018, Savannah de Tessières, Himayu Shiotani, Franziska Seethaler, and Sebastian Wilkin

The past decade has witnessed the highest number of United Nations arms embargoes running concurrently across the globe. However, insufficient attention has been paid to the processes for reassessing, adjusting and terminating arms embargoes and how this relates to conventional arms control. This study examines exactly this question, providing an overview of the evolution of arms embargo measures throughout United Nations sanctions history, examining challenges in reassessing and adjusting sanctions regimes and analysing the increasing use of arms control obligations to accompany these adjustments. It examines five separate case studies to identify common trends, indicators and lessons to be learned.



AVAILABLE HERE:

[Applying conventional arms control in the context of United Nations arms embargoes](#)

MENU OF INDICATORS TO MEASURE THE REVERBERATING EFFECTS ON CIVILIANS FROM THE USE OF EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS IN POPULATED AREAS

23 February 2021, Christina Wille and Alfredo Malaret Baldo

The impacts of EWIPA are much wider and longer lasting than the shock waves of the explosive blast. The use of explosive weapons sets in motion a series of complex knock-on effects that spread out over time and space in urban ecosystems, with negative consequences for civilian well-being and the environment in which people live. These “reverberating effects” manifest across a wide range of interlinked sectors, including urban infrastructure, public health, education, culture and heritage, food security, economic prospects, and adverse environmental impacts. The purpose of this research framework is to offer indicators to document knock-on effects and potentially inform and influence the policy and practice of parties to conflict. This document aims to shed light on the generalized pattern of harm from EWIPA. By using a standardized set of indicators, the data generated can be leveraged to build a comparable evidence base reflecting the consequences to civilian well-being of the use of EWIPA and to inform high-level decision-making on policy and practice.



AVAILABLE HERE:

[Menu of Indicators to Measure the Reverberating Effects on Civilians from the use of EWIPA](#)

URBAN CONFLICT AND TARGETING: A SPECIAL PROBLEM FOR PROTECTION

29 May 2020, Roger Lane, Simon Karanja, Larry Lewis, Himayu Shiotani, and Einas Mohammed

This brief is designed to assist policymakers and members of armed forces to appreciate likely gaps, challenges and deficiencies to reduce civilian harm from the effects of explosive weapons in urban environments as observed in the conduct of multilateral operations in East Africa. It offers observations to improve ways to reduce civilian harm in lower-capacity, and often asymmetrical, contexts. This brief is the result of an informal sub-regional dialogue and consultations, based on the facilitated discussions at a workshop held in the Humanitarian Peace Support School in Nairobi, Kenya on 10 -11 March 2020.



AVAILABLE HERE:

[Urban Conflict & Targeting: A Special Problem for Protection](#)

OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE MILITARY POLICIES AND PRACTICES TO REDUCE CIVILIAN HARM FROM EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS IN URBAN CONFLICT – OPTIONS PAPER

14 November 2019, Roger Lane, Larry Lewis, and Himayu Shiotani

This research paper seeks to contribute to further thinking and dialogue among States and their militaries that conduct operations in urbanized environments on what more can be done to reduce civilian harm by proposing practical measures in the form of options for consideration. UNIDIR seeks to enhance knowledge on ways to reduce risks and mitigate harm to civilians from the effects of explosive weapons in urbanized environments. This research frames the issue of explosive weapons in the broader context of protection of civilians in urban conflict and focuses on multilateral operations.



AVAILABLE HERE:

[Options paper](#) (Also available in [French](#))

OPPORTUNITIES TO STRENGTHEN MILITARY POLICIES AND PRACTICES TO REDUCE CIVILIAN HARM FROM EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS

19 September 2019, Roger Lane and Himayu Shiotani

This research seeks to support efforts to reduce civilian harm from the effects of explosive weapons in urbanized environments. The paper is designed to stimulate thinking among military subject matter experts and selected representatives of international and non-governmental organizations ahead of a workshop held in Geneva on 24 September 2019, to identify practical measures to support the production of an Options Paper for consideration by armed forces. This research frames the issue of explosive weapons in the broader context of protection of civilians and civilian harm mitigation, with a focus on multilateral operations.



AVAILABLE HERE:

[Food-for-thought paper](#) (Also available in [French](#))

UNDERSTANDING THE REVERBERATING EFFECTS OF EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS: A WAY FORWARD - THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE REVERBERATING EFFECTS OF EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS USE IN POPULATED AREAS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

31 May 2016, Christina Willie and John Borrie

This document reviews the existing approaches to documenting the reverberating effects of explosive weapons use in populated areas. It finds that, at present, documentation is scattered among different subject areas, such as, for example, concern for children and health care, along with some geographic case studies. There is no comprehensive overview of the full range of reverberating effects, no standard methodological framework that would bring the various elements together with a view to informing policy practitioners on how to reduce the impacts of explosive weapons use on civilians.



AVAILABLE HERE:

[Understanding the reverberating effects of explosive weapons: A Way Forward](#)

THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE REVERBERATING EFFECTS OF EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS USE IN POPULATED AREAS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

18 April 2016, Christina Willie

This publication expands the current space for policy discussion by examining specific ways in which explosive weapons use affects the implementation of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to end hunger (Goal 2), ensure water and sanitation (Goal 6), improve health (Goal 3), make cities safer, more resilient and sustainable (Goal 11), and empower women and girls (Goal 5).



AVAILABLE HERE:

[The implications of the reverberating effects of explosive weapons use in populated areas for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals](#)

COUNTER-IED CAPABILITY MATURITY MODEL AND SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL

24 June 2020, Bob Seddon and Alfredo Malaret Baldo

In 2016, UNIDIR was mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to develop “a voluntary self-assessment tool to assist States in identifying gaps and challenges in their national regulation and preparedness regarding improvised explosive devices”. In response to this request, UNIDIR developed this Counter-IED Capability Maturity Model and Self-Assessment Tool. This document is designed to assist States in the development of coherent national responses to the threat posed by IEDs. The general premise of the model is that the greater the maturity and effectiveness of upstream measures, the fewer downstream measures are required to counter the use of IEDs. The tool is available in English, French and Spanish.



AVAILABLE HERE:

[Counter-IED Capability Maturity Model and Self-Assessment Tool](#) (Also available in [French](#) and [Spanish](#))

EXAMINING THE ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF PRIVATE SECTOR INDUSTRY ACTORS IN STEMMING THE FLOW OF IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES

1 March 2017, Himayu Shiotani, Hardy Giezendanner, and Daniel Golston

This project seeks to build on areas of common understanding and clarify areas where there is a lack of consensus in order to identify challenges, opportunities and ways forward for private sector’s engagement in countering the proliferation of IEDs. The expected outcome of this project is increased awareness, clarity and understanding among States and private sector stakeholders regarding ways to engage one another in order to stem the proliferation of IEDs and related materials.



AVAILABLE HERE:

[Examining the Roles, Responsibilities and Potential Contributions of Private Sector Industry Actors in Stemming the Flow of Improvised Explosive Devices \(IEDs\)](#)

ADDRESSING IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES: OPTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO BETTER UTILIZE UN PROCESSES AND ACTORS

11 November 2015, Marc Finaud

The threat of IEDs is a serious global problem; one that impacts security, safety, stability, humanitarian and peace operations, and sustainable development in communities around the world. While recognizing the primary role of States in addressing the threat of IEDs, this paper explores how the United Nations system as a whole can more effectively contribute. The paper addresses how the United Nations and other actors can play a stronger role in addressing IEDs; whether greater coordination within the United Nations is necessary to achieve this; how the United Nations could better support national, regional and international efforts to address IEDs; and where the United Nations could show greater leadership as a globally representative institution.



AVAILABLE HERE:

[Addressing Improvised Explosive Devices: Options and Opportunities to Better Utilize UN Processes and Actors](#)

ARMED UAVS IN CONFLICT ESCALATION AND INTER-STATE CRISIS

2018, George Woodhams and John Borrie

As armed UAVs spread, States are deploying them in new ways, including in intra-State conflicts with regional characteristics involving multiple belligerents. Looking to the future, developments in UAV technology are likely to contribute to the emergence of uncrewed systems capable of operating far more effectively within contested airspace. This paper seeks to encourage policymakers to reflect on how the increasing ubiquity of armed UAVs may influence international crises and affect conflict escalation dynamics.



AVAILABLE HERE:

[Armed UAVs in conflict escalation and inter-State](#)

CHANGE IN THE AIR: DISRUPTIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN UAV TECHNOLOGY

9 November 2018, David Hambling

Existing political concerns regarding armed UAVs are principally focused on the use of Medium Altitude Long Endurance UAVs in uncontested airspace. This publication considers whether small armed UAVs may provide a disruptive capability far more rapidly than their larger cousins. It identifies the ongoing technological developments that will contribute to the capabilities of future systems and encourages States to consider whether they will enable new, destabilizing, military practices.



AVAILABLE HERE:

[Change in the air: Disruptive developments in armed UAV technology](#)

WEAPONS OF CHOICE? THE EXPANDING DEVELOPMENT, TRANSFER AND USE OF ARMED UAVS: DISRUPTIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN UAV TECHNOLOGY

12 October 2018, George Woodhams

Armed UAVs are rapidly spreading, raising new questions about the effectiveness of existing mechanisms to track or control their transfer and heightening concerns that the features that make them attractive to militaries may also make them susceptible to misuse. This paper identifies trends in the expanding development, transfer and use of armed UAVs to support States to consider whether there is a need for common standards or international understandings to be developed, with a view to ensuring appropriate levels of transparency, oversight and accountability for their transfer and use.



AVAILABLE HERE:

[Weapons of choice? The expanding development, transfer and use of armed UAVs](#)

A HANDBOOK TO PROFILE SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION IN ARMED VIOLENCE SETTINGS**7 December 2020, Alfredo Malaret Baldo and Manuel Martinez Miralles**

Focusing on ammunition flows and misuse can help reduce armed violence. There are several potential advantages to focusing on ammunition: unlike firearms, ammunition must be replenished once used and restricting its flow can therefore 'starve firearms of oxygen'. Also, ammunition supply-chains tend to be shorter from transfer to use, increasing the scope for domestic policy to have an immediate effect reducing armed violence in urban environments. In short, improved research into ammunition flows and the dynamics enabling lethal outcomes can inform policy responses with potential to reduce firearms-related violence in armed violence settings. This Handbook offers users a step-by-step how-to guide for ammunition profiling by generating an overview of the small arms ammunition that have been diverted, trafficked, and/or misused in particular urban environments. This Handbook will help practitioners build an evidence base to inform downstream policies aimed at curbing the flow of ammunition proliferation reaching unauthorized hands and/or unauthorized use in urban environments. Afterwards, the evidence and lessons learned from urban environments can be channeled upstream to inform multilateral and global processes. Therefore, this Handbook presents itself as a product with two distinct contributions to the field in that it: (i) codifies a methodology for any interested user to utilize it and yield results in a standardized manner and (ii) presents the ammunition profiling methodology with an armed violence in urban environments lens, for replication studies to follow suit across different cities.

**AVAILABLE HERE:**

[A Handbook to Profile Small Arms Ammunition in Armed Violence Settings](#) (Also available in [Spanish](#))

MAP THE BULLET TO STOP THE BLEEDING**16 December 2019, Alfredo Malaret Baldo**

This commentary explores the challenges and opportunities around containing illicit ammunition proliferation. This complements the research within UNIDIR's 2020 Case Studies, 'Monitoring and Diagnosing Ammunition Diversion, Trafficking and Misuse', which seek to provide original evidence to support local and national efforts and inform regional and international processes aimed at containing illicit ammunition proliferation.

**AVAILABLE HERE:**

[Map the Bullet to Stop the Bleeding](#)

AVAILABLE HERE:

[Profiling Ammunition video](#)

FROM INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFICKING TO COMMUNITY VIOLENCE: LESSONS FROM THE CARIBBEAN

2 November 2020, Adam Baird

This commentary explores the implications of residues, vulnerabilities, and gender on violence reduction. The commentary provides recommendations to tackle such issues in order to address the homicide boom experienced by the Caribbean.

AVAILABLE HERE:

[From International Drug Trafficking to Community Violence: Lessons From the Caribbean](#)



COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIES TO REDUCE URBAN VIOLENCE IN LATIN AMERICA

17 September 2020, Lucía Dammert

This commentary examines the factors and risks associated with armed violence in Latin America and identifies arms and ammunition control initiatives that have been implemented to tackle illegal markets and regulate gun ownership in the region. The experience in Latin America shows the necessity to move towards an agenda that is much more comprehensive in order to reduce armed violence, particularly in the COVID-19 context.

AVAILABLE HERE:

[Comprehensive strategies to reduce urban violence in Latin America](#)



THREE CITIES, THREE STATES, AND ONE CHALLENGE: STOPPING THE ARMS FLOW IN THE AMAZON RIVER

17 September 2020, Manuel Martínez Miralles

This commentary examines the question of how to reduce illicit trafficking, illegal activities and the impact of armed violence to promote sustainable development. It looks at recent examples from urban contexts with high levels of crime to show that it is necessary to apply combined strategies to fight illicit trafficking, along with measures focused on prevention and the provision of alternative means to promote and ensure medium and long term development of their populations.

AVAILABLE HERE:

[Three Cities, Three States and one Challenge: Stopping the Arms Flow in the Amazon River](#) (Also available in [Spanish](#))



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