



UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR
DISARMAMENT RESEARCH

RESEARCH RESOURCE PACKAGE



CONVENTIONAL ARMS AND AMMUNITION PROGRAMME



DECEMBER 2022

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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 AND AMMUNITION PROGRAMME

UNIDIR's Conventional Arms and Ammunition Programme (CAAP) examines and promotes ideas and action to prevent or mitigate the negative impact of unregulated proliferation and misuse of conventional arms and ammunition and thus lays the foundations for peace, security, and sustainable development. In cooperation with partners across the United Nations system, States, regional organizations, and the international security expert community, the programme undertakes action-oriented field research and convenes multi-stakeholder dialogues to deliver advisory support and practical tools to prevent, mitigate, and address the uncontrolled proliferation and misuse of conventional arms and ammunition, thereby supporting efforts to build peace and foster sustainable development. Therefore, CAAP supports the Institute's broader efforts to bring together the arms control and disarmament communities with other relevant stakeholders from the development world.

CAAP contributes knowledge and advisory services to support the multilateral process to establish a global framework on conventional ammunition control, as well as supporting the implementation and further development of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), the Programme of Action on Small Arms (PoA), the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), UN transparency and confidence-building instruments, and the work of the United Nations Security Council. It also supports the effective implementation of conventional arms control instruments and initiatives, translating its research into resources and tools that can be used by a wide range of international, regional, national, and non-governmental partners to make a sustainable impact in addressing the scourge of illicit arms and ammunition proliferation.

ABOUT THE RESEARCH RESOURCE PACKAGE

The primary purpose of this Research Resource Package is to provide an overview of relevant, applied research publications and resources that have been produced by UNIDIR's Conventional Arms and Ammunition 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-CAAP.

CURRENT WORKSTREAMS & DESIRED IMPACT

- 1. Strengthening Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM):** States and other relevant actors use CAAP research findings and tools to effectively manage weapons and ammunition, thereby fulfilling their international obligations and commitments to prevent diversion, uncontrolled proliferation, and destabilizing accumulation in order to contribute to efforts to prevent human suffering and ensure sustainable peace and development.
 - a. National, regional and multilateral 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.
 - b. 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.
 - c. Examining Treaty Universalization and Implementation:** To identify and promote good practices to overcome challenges for the universalization and effective implementation of conventional arms and ammunition treaties and multilateral instruments.

- 2. Preventing Armed Conflict and Armed Violence:** CAAP-generated knowledge increases understanding of the context-specific drivers of demand for illicit and destabilizing accumulations of conventional arms and ammunition. This knowledge is used to design and undertake evidence-based interventions to prevent armed conflict and armed violence.
 - a. Conventional Arms Control and Armed Conflict Prevention:** To enhance knowledge of and dialogue on best and emerging practices among United Nations peace, security and development actors, as well as the means and methods for integrating conventional arms control into United Nations' conflict analysis, prevention and management activities.
 - b. Conventional Arms Control and Armed Violence Reduction:** To increase understanding amongst a wide range of stakeholders on policies and practices that can mitigate civilian harm and contribute to armed violence reduction in fragile settings.

- 3.** **Addressing Glocal Development and Security Challenges:** CAAP identifies ways in which conventional arms control measures and new technologies can be used to contribute to local level efforts to address global development and security challenges confronting humanity.
 - a. Technology and Innovation in Conventional Arms Control:** To enhance knowledge on both the benefits and the challenges that new technologies entail within the conventional arms control domain. This research intersects with a variety of issues, such as communication aspects, as well as principles regulating the use of technologies in fragile settings.
 - b. Development and Security:** To re-examine inclusive approaches to addressing security and sustainable development challenges.

- 4.** **Advice, Support & Capacity-Building:** CAAP is able to provide “on-demand” advice, support, and capacity-building for its partners on a wide-range of conventional arms and ammunition control issues, learning and drawing lessons from efforts to tackle uncontrolled conventional arms and ammunition proliferation, prevent armed conflict and armed violence.
 - a. Supporting multilateral processes on conventional arms and ammunition control:** CAAP provides policy and technical advice and support for multilateral processes, initiatives and instruments that address conventional arms and ammunition control.
 - b. Advice, support, and capacity-building for regional organizations and their Member States:** To provide policy and technical advice, support, and capacity-building to regional and sub-regional organizations and their Member States to establish, implement and further develop conventional arms and ammunition control instruments, strategies and initiatives.
 - c. Promoting and Supporting use of CAAP tools and guidelines:** UN Partners, States, and NGOs use CAAP-developed tools and guidelines to support efforts to determine good practices and areas to address in national and regional control systems.
 - d. Training & Capacity-Building:** CAAP supports UN Partners, States, and NGOs with training and capacity-building efforts to strengthen conventional arms and ammunition control.

WORKSTREAM: NATIONAL, REGIONAL & MULTILATERAL APPROACHES TO WAM

WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION MANAGEMENT IN AFRICA INSIGHT: 2022 UPDATE

23 June 2022, Anna Mensah, Hardy Giezendanner and Paul Holtom

This is the first annual update by UNIDIR to recognize the progress made by nine African states to strengthen their WAM policy and practice after undertaking a WAM baseline assessment using UNIDIR's methodology. The report presents national examples of progress in addressing gaps and deficiencies in the ten key functional areas for WAM.

AVAILABLE HERE: [Weapons and Ammunition Management in Africa Insight: 2022 Update](#)
(Also available in [French](#))



UNPACKING THE EU'S DUAL APPROACH TO TACKLING PROLIFERATION OF SMALL ARMS

18 November 2021, Theò Bajon

This commentary unpacks the EU's approach to tackling proliferation of small arms on the occasion of the third anniversary of the adoption of the EU Strategy Against Illicit Firearms, Small Arms and Light Weapons and Their Ammunition by the Council of the European Union.

AVAILABLE HERE: [Unpacking the EU's dual approach to tackling proliferation of small arms](#)



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 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](#)
(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. 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.



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

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](#)



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](#)



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: ASSESSING ITS IMPACT ON COUNTERING DIVERSION

24 August 2022, Brian Wood

A core objective of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is to prevent and eradicate the illicit trade of conventional arms and prevent their diversion. Since 2020, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), Conflict Armament Research (CAR), and Stimson Center have implemented a joint research project examining the progress made by States Parties to prevent, detect, and address diversion since the Treaty's entry into force in order to identify and promote knowledge on effective counter-diversion measures. The report presents findings of this research and publish a new methodological tool that interested State Parties can use to assess the existence and efficacy of counter-diversion measures in their national context. It also takes stock of the ATT's contributions to enhancing national and multilateral efforts to tackle diversion and discusses options and avenues to promote the establishment and strengthening of sustainable measures within the framework of the ATT that create an enabling environment for countering the diversion of conventional arms.



AVAILABLE HERE: [The Arms Trade Treaty: Assessing its Impact on Countering Diversion](#)

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: MEASURES 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](#)

KEY ISSUES BRIEF: PREVENTING DIVERSION IN CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS: EXPLORING CONTRIBUTIONS OF INDUSTRY AND PRIVATE SECTOR ACTORS

29 January 2019, Elli Kytomaki, Himayu Shiotani, Manuel Martínez Miralles, Sebastian Wilkin, and Brian Wood

Diversion poses a significant threat to societies around the globe, limiting the effectiveness of arms control initiatives and frustrating attempts to catalogue flows of conventional armaments. UNIDIR convened two separate meetings on this topic in Geneva, an initial scoping meeting on 7 August 2018 and an informal expert meeting on 3–4 October 2018. These meetings brought together representatives of States, NGOs and the private sector. This Brief draws from the inputs provided during these meetings, maps out the key issues identified by participants, and sets out areas for further exploration and study.



AVAILABLE HERE: [Issues Brief: Preventing Diversion in Conventional Arms Transfers: Exploring Contributions of Industry and Private Sector Actors](#)

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 *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.



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

EXAMINING OPTIONS TO ENHANCE COMMON UNDERSTANDING AND STRENGTHEN END USE AND END USER CONTROL SYSTEMS TO ADDRESS CONVENTIONAL ARMS DIVERSION

22 February 2016

This study responds to the various international calls to explore opportunities for greater harmonization of end use/r control systems, with particular regard to end use/r documentation, in order to strengthen efforts to prevent diversion of conventional arms. The study has two related objectives: (1) to identify which aspects of national end use/r control systems could feasibly be harmonized; and (2) to explore the feasibility of, and potential frameworks for, a process to strengthen end use/r control systems and enhance cooperation to prevent diversion at the regional and/ or global levels.



AVAILABLE HERE: [Examining Options to Enhance Common Understanding and Strengthen End Use and End User Control Systems to Address Conventional Arms Diversion](#)

WORKSTREAM: EXAMINING TREATY UNIVERSALIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

THE CASE FOR STRENGTHENING TRANSPARENCY IN CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS**November 2022, Paul Holtom, Anna Mensah, and Ruben Nicolin**

Every year, more than \$100 billion worth of weapons are transferred to countries and other buyers all over the globe. Most of these international transactions happened in the shadows until 1991, when there was a concerted effort to ensure a measure of transparency about who is buying, who is selling, and what weapons are involved in the world's deadliest conflicts.

Although news reports and press releases provide the public with information on some orders and deliveries of conventional arms, fewer states are publicly reporting on their arms transfers compared to 10 or 20 years ago. If not for reporting by the world's largest exporters of conventional arms on their activities, multilateral instruments designed to provide transparency on international arms transfers would be almost worthless. All of this raises the questions of what happened to the promise of those multilateral instruments, the UN Register of Conventional Arms (UNROCA) and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), and what can be done to reverse the decline in reporting on arms exports and imports.

AVAILABLE HERE: [The Case for Strengthening Transparency in Conventional Arms Transfers](#).
[Arms Control Association](#)

**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](#)



WORKSTREAM: CONVENTIONAL ARMS CONTROL AND ARMED CONFLICT PREVENTION

ADDRESSING THE LINKAGES BETWEEN ILLICIT ARMS, ORGANIZED CRIME AND ARMED CONFLICT**14 September 2022, Lauren Pinson**

Illicit arms and ammunition link conflict to crime as well as crime to conflict. Illicit arms can both enable and fuel an armed conflict, while different conflict phases provide opportunities for the diversion of arms and a potentially lucrative income source for organized arms trafficking networks. To date, there has been limited research examining the linkages between all three of these security challenges.

In response to this knowledge gap, this issue brief – produced in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) – explores the multiple connections between illicit arms, organized crime and armed conflict in relation to (1) the source of illicit arms supply, (2) the process of illicit arms acquisition, and (3) shifts in the dynamics of armed conflict and organized crime. It also provides key considerations to help inform responses to address these interrelated challenges by integrating conventional arms control measures, conflict prevention strategies, and criminal justice responses.

AVAILABLE HERE: [Addressing the Linkages Between Illicit Arms, Organized Crime and Armed Conflict](#)

**HOW CAN CONVENTIONAL ARMS CONTROL STRENGTHEN UN PEACE OPERATIONS' EFFORTS TO PROTECT CIVILIANS?****1 June 2022, Barbara Morais Figueiredo and Damian Lilly**

Conventional arms control is an important but often neglected element of UN peace operations' efforts to protect civilians. While the specific drivers of violence may vary from one context to another, the use of arms to engage in conflict and perpetrate attacks against civilians is a constant that is often poorly accounted for in protection strategies of UN peace operations. Therefore, as the UN re-considers its approach to PoC, with a greater focus on civilian-led protection activities, a more targeted and innovative application of conventional arms control tools and measures could prove vital for ensuring the effectiveness and sustainability of its protection work. This commentary outlines two of the several ways in which arms control could be better leveraged within the PoC efforts of missions.

AVAILABLE HERE: [How Can Conventional Arms Control Strengthen UN Peace Operations' Efforts to Protect Civilians?](#)



PREVENTING ARMED CONFLICT: EXPLORING THE ROLE OF ARMS-RELATED RISKS

20 April 2022, Erica Mumford

Integrating arms control into conflict prevention is key in ensuring that the latter is grounded in an understanding of the root causes of a conflict. This commentary presents UNIDIR's latest contributions to promote and apply arms-control lens to conflict prevention research and practices. Among these, the recent development of the Arms-Related Risks Analysis Toolkit, which proposes a step-by-step approach to strengthen shared efforts to prevent armed conflict, is briefly presented.



AVAILABLE HERE: [Preventing armed conflict: exploring the role of arms-related risks](#)

ENHANCING PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS (POC) THROUGH CONVENTIONAL ARMS CONTROL: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNITED NATIONS PEACE OPERATIONS

19 January 2022, Damian Lilly and Barbara Morais Figueiredo

This paper provides an analysis of the actual, and potential, contribution of conventional arms control and related activities to POC within the context of United Nations peace operations – both peacekeeping operations and special political missions (SPMs). Limited research has been conducted on this topic and it has been addressed in only a cursory manner in relevant policies, strategies and guidelines. This paper therefore attempts to demonstrate the existing linkages between these two mandated tasks, as well as to pinpoint some of the barriers and challenges that have meant that conventional arms control has not featured more fully in POC strategies. It also identifies the relevant entry points based on concrete examples of how arms control-related activities can be better leveraged to ensure a more effective protection of civilians.



AVAILABLE HERE: [Enhancing the Protection of Civilians through Conventional Arms Control: Challenges and Opportunities for United Nations Peace Operations](#)

THE ARMS-RELATED RISK ANALYSIS TOOLKIT: PRACTICAL GUIDANCE FOR INTEGRATING CONVENTIONAL ARMS-RELATED RISKS INTO CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND PREVENTION

20 December 2021, Simon Yazgi and Erica Mumford

This Toolkit is a practical guide that conflict prevention analysts can use to identify and integrate conventional arms-related factors into their work. This UNIDIR Toolkit is designed to contribute to ongoing efforts to include conventional arms and ammunition-related risks in conflict analysis and conflict prevention, management, and resolution efforts. The Toolkit consists of three main tools: the Arms-Related Risk Analysis Tool, the Risk Factor Selector Tool; and the Arms-Related Information Sources Compendium Tool.



AVAILABLE HERE: [The Arms-Related Risk Analysis Toolkit: Practical Guidance for Integrating Conventional Arms-Related Risks into Conflict Analysis and Prevention](#)

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?](#)

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](#)



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

23 March 2020, Simon Yazgi and Hardy Giezendanner

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](#)



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](#)



WORKSTREAM: CONVENTIONAL ARMS CONTROL AND ARMED VIOLENCE
REDUCTION**INITIAL IMPACT OF PROFILING SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION IN ARMED VIOLENCE SETTINGS:
BEDFORDSHIRE, UK, CASE STUDY****15 August 2022, Erica Mumford and Alfredo Malaret**

Ammunition profiling helps local and national law enforcement authorities to reduce armed violence by shedding light on the illicit supply of ammunition. This factsheet provides key findings and insights from an ammunition profiling case study conducted in Luton and Bedfordshire in the United Kingdom.

Based on an analysis of 2,185 individual pieces of whole round and cartridge cases recovered and recorded in connection with firearms-related incidents between 2010 and 2020, this factsheet presents key points including:

- 23% of ammunition in the past 10 years was manufactured domestically in the UK
- a peak in seizure cases was observed in 2013 and 2018
- the most common manufacturers included Fiocchi, Sellier & Bellot and Umarex, which together made up 39% of total ammunition collected between 2010-2020



AVAILABLE HERE: [Initial Impact of Profiling Small Arms Ammunition in Armed Violence Settings: Bedfordshire, UK, Case Study](#)

Also available in [French](#) and [Spanish](#)

FAQ ON THE USE OF EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS IN POPULATED AREAS**7 April 2022, Alfredo Malaret Baldo and Theò Bajon**

The use of explosive weapons with wide area effects in populated areas is a particular concern for the United Nations. In this UNIDIR FAQ, our Conventional Arms and Ammunition Programme breaks down the issue.

This FAQ presents brief descriptions of key terms and offers an overview of work done by the Programme to unpack and understand the “reverberating effects” from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.



AVAILABLE HERE: [FAQ on the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas](#)

Also available in [French](#) and [Spanish](#).

IN DEFENCE OF CITIES

6 April 2022, Alfredo Malaret Baldo

When cities and other populated areas are targeted with explosive weapons, food supply, energy, transportation, housing, education, the wider economy, and healthcare, water and sanitation systems can all quickly collapse. The effects of collapse and contamination combine and intersect with each other, leaving civilians affected in numerous ways. Yet, these “reverberating” effects are often underestimated. This commentary provides a short overview of UNIDIR's and the international community's ongoing efforts to examine and understand the reverberating effects from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

AVAILABLE HERE: [In Defence of Cities](#)



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](#)



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](#)

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](#)

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: [Opportunities to Improve Military Policies and Practices to Reduce Civilian Harm From Explosive Weapons in Urban Conflict](#)

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](#))

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](#)

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 \(IEDs\)](#)

UNDERSTANDING THE REVERBERATING EFFECTS OF EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS: A WAY FORWARD

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](#)

WORKSTREAM: TECHNOLOGY AND CONVENTIONAL ARMS CONTROL

UNCREWED AERIAL SYSTEMS: A PRIMER**19 October 2022, Sarah Grand-Clément and Theò Bajon**

This report explores three different marking technologies: stamping, laser marking and chemical taggants. The aim is to demonstrate which methods are available to mark small calibre ammunition rounds with sufficient identifying information to enable identification, profiling, and tracing. This research aims to inform the ammunition processes taking place under the auspices of the United Nations, such as the Open-Ended Working Group on Conventional Ammunition, and aid in the implementation of the outcomes of such processes. It also aims to inform national mechanisms and legislation on the importance and feasibility of ammunition marking.

**AVAILABLE HERE:** [Uncrewed Aerial Systems: A Primer](#)**UNCREWED MARITIME SYSTEMS: A PRIMER****19 October 2022, Sarah Grand-Clément and Theò Bajon**

The development of uncrewed maritime systems (UMSs) – which include vehicles that can be piloted either remotely or semi-autonomously – has increased. This primer introduces the different types of UMS, describes their key components and functions, and outlines the main challenges that these systems can pose to international security. The focus of the primer is on describing the main areas of technological innovation and development related to the key components that comprise UMSs, outlining the anticipated areas of progress and potential concern.

**AVAILABLE HERE:** [Uncrewed Maritime Systems: A Primer](#)**UNCREWED GROUND SYSTEMS: A PRIMER****19 October 2022, Sarah Grand-Clément and Theò Bajon**

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:** [Uncrewed Ground Systems: A Primer](#)

ADDRESSING THE PROLIFERATION OF IMPROVISED AND CRAFT-PRODUCED WEAPONS: WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

11 October 2022, Matilde Vecchioni

The assassination of Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe in July sparked an immediate question: Why did the assailant use a homemade weapon? This commentary addresses the proliferation and the use of improvised and craft-produced weapons and their ammunition in armed violence and conflict across the globe.

AVAILABLE HERE: [Addressing the proliferation of improvised and craft-produced weapons: Why should we care?](#)



EXPLORING THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR REMOTE CEASEFIRE MONITORING AND VERIFICATION

15 June 2022, Sarah Grand-Clément

This report explains what technological solutions are available to help monitor and verify ceasefires, outlining the respective technological advantages and limitations of each solution. The report also provides a series of guiding considerations around the use of technology, highlighting recommended issues to reflect upon before using technology to aid with ceasefire monitoring and verification

AVAILABLE HERE: [Exploring the Use of Technology for Remote Ceasefire Monitoring and Verification](#)



ARMED UAVS IN CONFLICT ESCALATION AND INTER-STATE CRISIS

15 November 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](#)

INCREASING TRANSPARENCY, OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF ARMED UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES

1 December 2017, John Borrie, Elena Finckh and Kerstin Vignard

This UNIDIR study assesses the current situation and suggests ways to strengthen shared understandings of transparency, oversight and accountability to address challenges raised by armed UAVs.



AVAILABLE HERE: [Increasing Transparency, Oversight and Accountability of Armed Unmanned Aerial Vehicles](#)

WORKSTREAM: DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY

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](#))

WORKSTREAM: SUPPORTING MULTILATERAL PROCESSES ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS AND AMMUNITION CONTROL

THE END OF TRANSPARENCY IN INTERNATIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS?

14 September 2022, Paul Holtom and Anna Edna Esi Mensah

Twenty years ago, more than 120 UN Member States provided information to UNROCA. By the end of August 2022, only 40 (21 per cent of the total). This thought-provoking commentary, written by two UNIDIR researchers who served as consultants to the 2022 GGE on UNROCA, sheds light on current trends in reporting on arms transfers and explains some benefits of transparency in international arms transfers



AVAILABLE HERE: [The end of transparency in international arms transfers?](#)

AMMUNITION MARKING: EXPLORING THE TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY OF MARKING SMALL AMMUNITION

20 May 2022, Sarah Grand-Clément and Robert Kondor

This report explores three different marking technologies: stamping, laser marking and chemical taggants. The aim is to demonstrate which methods are available to mark small calibre ammunition rounds with sufficient identifying information to enable identification, profiling, and tracing. This research aims to inform the ammunition processes taking place under the auspices of the United Nations, such as the Open-Ended Working Group on Conventional Ammunition, and aid in the implementation of the outcomes of such processes. It also aims to inform national mechanisms and legislation on the importance and feasibility of ammunition marking



AVAILABLE HERE: [Ammunition Marking: Exploring the Technical Feasibility of Marking Small Ammunition](#)

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](#)

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](#)



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](#)
(Also available in [Spanish](#) and [French](#))



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](#))



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

This study examines the question of how processes of reassessing, adjusting and terminating arms embargoes relate to conventional arms control. It provides 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](#)

THE INTERNATIONAL TRACING INSTRUMENT: EXAMINING OPTIONS TO SUPPORT OPERATIONALIZATION

06 March 2018, Andrea Varisco, Himayu Shiotani, and Jonah Leff

The International Tracing Instrument was adopted in December 2005 to enable States to identify and trace, in a timely and reliable manner, illicit small arms and light weapons. However, several persistent challenges have impeded its full operationalization, including issues concerning identification, marking, record-keeping and information sharing. In addition, emerging technological trends (such as 3D-printed weapons) and wider contextual factors have had an impact on its implementation. This report examines key challenges to the operationalization of the ITI and presents a series of policy-orientated recommendations to strengthen the ITI in the future.



AVAILABLE HERE: [The International Tracing Instrument: Examining options to support operationalization](#)

WORKSTREAM: PROMOTING AND SUPPORTING THE USE OF CAAP TOOLS AND GUIDELINES

TECHNICAL GUIDELINES TO FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2370 (2017) AND RELATED INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND GOOD PRACTICES ON PREVENTING TERRORISTS FROM ACQUIRING WEAPONS**18 March 2022, CTED, UNOCT and UNIDIR**

The technical guidelines have been developed as part of a broader project that seeks to facilitate and support the implementation of resolution 2370 (2017), relevant subsequent resolutions, good practices, and international standards. The technical guidelines aim at contributing to the enhancement of Member States' legislative, strategic, and operational capacities to prevent, detect and counter the acquisition, illicit trafficking and use of different weapons, systems, and components.



AVAILABLE HERE: [Technical Guidelines to Facilitate the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 2370 \(2017\) and Related International Standards and Good Practices on Preventing Terrorists from Acquiring Weapons](#).

SECOND MENU OF INDICATORS TO MEASURE THE REVERBERATING EFFECTS ON CIVILIANS FROM THE USE OF EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS IN POPULATED AREAS**23 February 2022, Alfredo Malaret Baldo and Francesca Batault**

Building on UNIDIR's First Menu of Indicators, this publication expands its focus areas to include impacts on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); food security; environmental degradation; and economic opportunity, with specific quantitative indicators presented for each of these four areas. These indicators can be used to capture, measure, compare and understand how the use of EWIPA impacts the survival, well-being and dignity of civilians in ways that are often overlooked. It is expected that such data will help inform the understanding of parties to conflict and all stakeholders of the reasonably foreseeable reverberating effects, enabling them to develop, design or update appropriate doctrine, practice, strategy, tactics and programmatic responses.



AVAILABLE HERE: [2nd Menu of Indicators to Measure the Reverberating Effects on Civilians from the Use of EWIPA](#)

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.



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

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](#))

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. 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](#))



CONTACT US:

Head of Programme:

Paul Holtom

Email: paul.holtom@un.org

Telephone: +41 79 214 47 54

Programme Assistant:

Matilde Vecchioni

Email: matilde.vecchioni@un.org

Telephone: +41 79 258 60 74



Designed and Edited by :
Matilde Vecchioni
Clara Palmisano