



Republic of Côte d'Ivoire



INTRODUCTION

In March 2023, the Government of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, through the National Commission for the Fight against the Proliferation and Illicit Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (ComNat-ALPC), in cooperation with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), conducted a weapons and ammunition management (WAM) national assessment. The national assessment in 2023 took the baseline established in 2016 as a reference point. This approach provided an opportunity to review developments in the national framework since 2016 and to identify existing institutional and operational capacities, policies and procedures, in line with international and regional standards. The consultative process also offered national authorities the opportunity to identify approaches, recommendations and options ('solutions') to further strengthen the national WAM framework.

This insight presents the main findings of the WAM follow up assessment conducted by Côte d'Ivoire, covering the period from September 2016 to March 2023. This publication is based on the report prepared and submitted by UNIDIR in cooperation with

Republic of Côte d'Ivoire



POPULATION: 28.2 Million

REGION: West Africa

CAPITAL: Yamoussoukro

ANNUAL GDP: 71.8 Billion USD

ASSESSMENT DATE: March 2023

ECOWAS to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire.¹ **This insight does not take into account changes and developments concerning WAM in Côte d'Ivoire after March 2023.**

Most of the main findings from 2023 and the options identified to strengthen the national WAM framework remain valid. The insight is structured as follows: after an introduction to the national context and the WAM situation in Côte d'Ivoire, the main findings and observations are presented by key functional areas (see also Box 2). The insight then presents the options identified and validated during the consultative process (see also Boxes 3 and 4) for each key functional area. Finally, the last section provides perspectives on the use of results from the follow-up assessment, as well as on the implementation of the options identified to strengthen the national WAM framework in Côte d'Ivoire. This insight is part of a series of publications on States that have undertaken a WAM baseline assessment using the UNIDIR reference methodology,² as well as annual updates on progress made by these States in strengthening their WAM frameworks, policies and practices.³

Box 1: What is WAM?

WAM is the oversight, accountability and governance of arms and ammunition throughout their management cycle, including the establishment of relevant national frameworks, processes and practices for safe and secure materiel acquisition, stockpiling, transfers, end use control,⁴ tracing, and disposal.⁵ WAM covers conventional weapons, including SALW, ammunition, related systems and components

Box 2: WAM key functional areas included in a national baseline assessment

The reference methodology, developed by UNIDIR⁶ and used by 18 Member States to date, including Côte d'Ivoire, for their national assessments and follow-up to the WAM baseline in cooperation with ECOWAS, includes an assessment approach based on key functional areas of WAM. This approach and methodology aims to assess the entire life-cycle management of conventional arm and ammunition, to the extent possible, thereby promoting a comprehensive approach and understanding of actors, institutions, capacities, practices, procedures involved in WAM.

The Ivory Coast pre-determined together with its partners the following functional areas for the assessment:

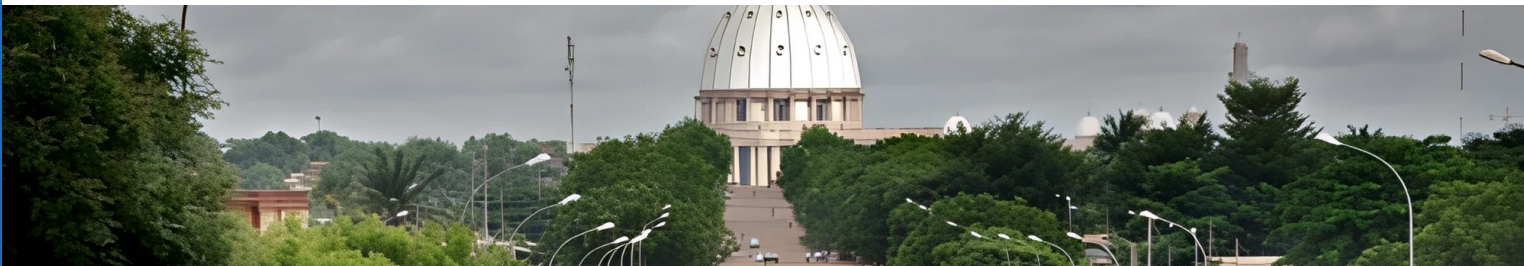
- National coordination mechanism ;
- Legal and regulatory framework at the national level ;
- Transfer controls ;
- Stockpile management ;
- Marking ;
- Recordkeeping ;
- Tracing of arms and profiling of ammunition ;
- Processing of illicit arms and treatment of illicit ammunition ;
- Weapons collection ;
- Disposal, including destruction.

The integration of gender-sensitive policies and practices into WAM is a cross-cutting issue and contributes to strengthening the national security sector and others in terms of oversight, accountability and governance of conventional arms and ammunition. Gender mainstreaming and the full, equal and meaningful participation of women are integral parts of WAM activities and of the planning, implementation and monitoring of a national WAM baseline assessment.⁷

Box 3: Options and 'roadmap' towards a WAM national framework

One of the key outcomes of a national WAM baseline assessment, which serves as the starting point for follow-up activities to strengthen WAM, is the development of a national WAM 'roadmap' (strategic document). This roadmap sets out the current state of institutional WAM capacities and processes, identifies opportunities for improving WAM, and presents implementation options, by key functional area, by order of priority and accompanied by a timetable. In addition, the roadmap assigns roles and responsibilities for WAM to the various stakeholders.⁸

Overview of Options for WAM Enhancement in Côte d'Ivoire



► Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire

Key Stakeholders

National Assembly - *Assemblée Nationale*: **ANCI**

National Commission for the Control of the Proliferation and Illicit Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons - *Commission Nationale de lutte contre la prolifération et la circulation illicite des Armes Légères et de Petit Calibre*: **ComNat-ALPC**

National Security Council - *Conseil national de Sécurité*: **CNS**

Directorate-General for Decentralisation and Local Development - *Direction Générale de la Décentralisation et du Développement Local* – MIS: **DGDDL**

Directorate-General of Maritime and Port Affairs - *Direction Générale des Affaires Maritimes et Portuaires* - MT: **DGAMP**

Armed Forces of Côte d'Ivoire - *Forces Armées de Côte d'Ivoire*: **FACI**

Defence and Security Forces - *Forces de Défense et de Sécurité*: **FDS**

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development - *Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural*: **MADR**

Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development - *Ministère de l'Économie, du Plan et du Développement*: **MEPD**

Ministry of National Education and Literacy - *Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale et de l'Alphabétisation*: **MENA**

Ministry of the Interior and Security - *Ministère de l'Intérieur et de la Sécurité*: **MIS**

Ministry of Communication, Media and Francophonie - *Ministère de la Communication, des Médias et de la Francophonie*: **MCMF**

Ministry of Defence - *Ministère de la Défense*: **MD**

Ministry of Women, Family and Children - *Ministère de la Femme, de la Famille et de l'Enfant*: **MFFE**

Ministry of Justice and Human Rights - *Ministère de la Justice et des Droits de l'Homme*: **MJDH**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Integration and Ivorians Abroad - *Ministère des Affaires Étrangères, de l'Intégration Africaine et des Ivoiriens de l'Extérieur*: **MAE**

Ministry of Water and Forests - *Ministère des Eaux et Forêts*: **MEF**

Ministry of Finance and Budget - *Ministère des Finances et du Budget*: **MFB**

Ministry of Mines, Petroleum and Energy - *Ministère des Mines, du Pétrole et de l'Énergie*: **MMPE**

Ministry of Transport - *Ministère des Transports*: **MT**

Senate - *Sénat*: **SCI**

International Partners

Civil Society

Media

National Context

Côte d'Ivoire, a West African country bordering Liberia, Guinea, Mali, Burkina Faso and Ghana, enjoyed relative stability for many years after gaining independence in 1960. However, starting in 1999, the country experienced a period of unrest during which several coup attempts and rebellions took place, notably the takeover of the north of the country by the Patriotic Movement of Côte d'Ivoire in September 2002.⁹ The political crisis in Côte d'Ivoire intensified significantly from 2004 onwards, initially requiring the deployment of Operation Licorne and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI). The situation evolved in March 2007 with the partition of the country into two zones under the Ouagadougou Accords, followed by a gradual reunification of the territory.¹⁰ However, the post-election crisis of 2010–2011 marked a new period of political instability and inter-community violence. Coordinated interventions by Operation Licorne and UNOCI contributed to stabilising

the country and restoring peace and security, enabling it to gradually regain stability from 2011 onwards.¹¹

Today, although Côte d'Ivoire has restored economic growth and embarked on major institutional reforms, the country faces specific security challenges, including armed attacks by non-state armed groups and groups designated as terrorist organisations.¹² In 2016, the attack in Grand-Bassam prompted significant efforts by the Ivorian government to counter the threats posed by the acquisition and use of weapons, ammunition and components, including components of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), by terrorist groups, as well as the links between such acquisition and use to criminal activities.¹³ However, the northern part of the country has since seen an increasing number of attacks, injuries and casualties, both among the national defence and security forces (FDS) and the civilian population, including men, women and children.

The threats linked to weapons acquired and held by groups designated as terrorist organisations appear to come mainly from border areas with Mali and Burkina Faso. This situation highlights the need for Côte d'Ivoire and other countries in the region to reinforce their efforts to combat weapons diversion and proliferation. This should be

done through innovative approaches based not only on supply side controls but also on demande-side approaches, for example by integrating the prevention of violent extremism,¹⁴ and by strengthening regional and international cooperation for stability, security, peace, and sustainable development.

WAM Situation

The first WAM baseline assessment in 2016, undertaken by Côte d'Ivoire in cooperation with UNIDIR and UNOCI, revealed that significant progress had already been made since 2011 in establishing a national framework for WAM. A key factor in this progress was the recognition of the importance of WAM and the ownership of WAM by high level national authorities. Another key factor was the inclusion of WAM in broader security policies and strategies, including security system and governance reform. In cooperation with UNOCI and other international partners, national authorities were implementing capacity-building programmes for infrastructure, procedures and operational capacity in several areas. These included the storage of conventional arms and ammunition throughout the country, the marking of FDS weapons, and the final disposal and destruction of equipment. The complete lifting of the arms embargo by the United Nations Security Council and the transfer of UNOCI's WAM tasks and responsibilities to Côte d'Ivoire in 2016 reflected the renewed confidence of the international community.¹⁵ Meanwhile, although progress has been made since 2017, the situation has changed, notably with a decline in attention from various key actors and reduced international assistance.

In 2023, Côte d'Ivoire found itself in a region marked by instability and insecurity. The main risks associated with ineffective weapons and ammunition management throughout their life cycle in such a context are their diversion, proliferation, acquisition and use by non-state armed groups, including groups designated as terrorist and active in the region. Côte d'Ivoire's geographical location creates vulnerabilities, particularly in view of the presence of such

groups in neighbouring countries. One of the main concerns and risks lies in the nexus between these groups and organised crime, including transnational crime, particularly given their access to the coast. In this tense sub-regional context, the proximity of these groups increases threats at both the national and international levels.

In 2022, despite Côte d'Ivoire's commitment to regional stability and its significant contribution to peacekeeping operations in West Africa, relations between Sahelian states experienced notable tensions. The diplomatic incident between Mali and Côte d'Ivoire highlighted challenges related to the ECOWAS Convention exemption process, which may persist at the regional level.¹⁶ This situation, posing transnational security challenges, required enhanced coordination between countries in the sub-region. Due to its geographical position, Côte d'Ivoire may also see its territory used for the legal transit/transshipment of military equipment, highlighting the importance of a strong and comprehensive national WAM framework throughout their entire life cycle.

Today, WAM in Côte d'Ivoire remains a complex issue. In particular, it is possible to examine the steps taken to manage the entire life cycle of weapons and ammunition, from acquisition and importation to final disposal, including destruction. It is also important to look at how illicit conventional arms and ammunition circulate in the region and end up on Ivorian territory, as well as issues relating to weapons held by non-state actors. While WAM focuses primarily on the management of state-owned conventional arms and ammunition, it is equally important to take into account the factors that drive demand for SALW or artisanal weapons and ammunition among civilians.

The illicit trafficking and circulation of SALW and ammunition within and across borders, facilitated by porous borders, is a major challenge. So-called 'trickle-down' trafficking can, over time, grow and have a significant negative impact on the country's security. Hence the importance of approaches that focus on both supply and demand, as well as transitional measures.

Côte d'Ivoire has long demonstrated its commitment to international conventional arms control and ammunition management norms through its accession to and implementation of regional and

international instruments.¹⁷ The follow-up assessment of the baseline conducted in March 2023 demonstrates the commitment of the national authorities and stakeholders to further strengthen the national framework for weapons and ammunition lifecycle management in order to address the challenges facing Côte d'Ivoire and contribute to stability, security, peace and sustainable development.



► Military exercises in the Kafolo region - 2022, Sia Kambou

Key Functional Area No. 1:

National coordination mechanism



A national WAM coordination mechanism ensures cooperation and coordination among different actors to effectively manage the life cycle of conventional arms and ammunition and implement related control measures. To this end, it is generally recommended that a government entity be designated or established to provide overall policy guidance and coordinate national action on WAM.¹⁸

In Côte d'Ivoire, WAM is mainly coordinated by two key national entities. The National Security Council (CNS) plays a role in ensuring strategic coordination of all defence and security matters at the national level by providing strategic guidance. The National Commission for the Fight against the Proliferation and Illicit Circulation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (ComNat-ALPC)¹⁹ is specifically responsible for coordinating the management and control of SALW. ComNat-ALPC, which derives its mandate from the Ministry of the Interior and Security (MIS), works closely with the CNS within the framework of an institutional relationship of strategic coordination. This relationship allows the ComNat-ALPC to harmonise its actions with the national defence and security priorities defined by the CNS, while allowing it to retain its operational autonomy in the implementation of national policies related to the management and control of SALW and their ammunition. ECOWAS recommends that Member States expand the mandate and scope of National Commissions to cover all conventional arms and their entire life cycle.²⁰ The ComNat-ALPC is also responsible for coordinating the various national actors through four-year action plans. Although this plan focuses mainly on SALW control, it is important to note that the current approach lacks a comprehensive strategy for the management of conventional arms, including SALW, and conventional ammunition. Furthermore, the ComNat-ALPC faces several challenges related to its institutional foundations, its mandate and its limited capacities. Despite these challenges,

the ComNat-ALPC plays an important role in WAM, particularly through operational capacity building and territorial networking undertaken through its 36 decentralised commissions.

During the assessment and follow-up of the baseline in March 2023, national authorities and national experts highlighted several opportunities for improvement that would strengthen the national coordination mechanism for WAM in Côte d'Ivoire. Firstly, the mandate of ComNat-ALPC would benefit from being formally extended beyond SALW to include all conventional weapons, in line with ECOWAS recommendations. In the meantime or in parallel, it was also noted that it is important to enact the decree appointing the members of the ComNat-ALPC, which has been pending since 2009, so that this body can meet effectively and fully play its coordinating role. As mentioned by several national participants, it would also be advisable to incorporate new issues such as improvised explosive devices. The establishment of a regular information exchange mechanism between all actors would also improve coordination at the national level. In addition, the reactivation of the WAM Technical Group would promote concerted action among stakeholders.²¹ Furthermore, the active role of civil society in WAM deserves greater support, given the lack of resources available to key organisations, while recognizing that their involvement may vary depending on the issues addressed. The ComNat-ALPC also requires more resources (e.g. human, financial and logistical) to continue its decentralisation and update its strategic plan. Finally, revitalising the Observatory on Armed Violence, which has seen its activities greatly reduced in recent years, would enable better analysis of the evolving security threat in the country and the subregion and help the ComNat-ALPC and all national authorities to design more targeted policies and strategies for WAM and violence prevention.

Options for WAM enhancement

SHORT TERM	Adopt the decree appointing representatives of member institutions of the ComNat-ALPC in line with its 2009 founding decree, including the Ministry of Finance and Budget, the Ministry of Mines, Petroleum and Energy, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	
	Establish a frequency for meetings of National Commission members (apart from participation in workshops and other seminars) to facilitate coordination and follow-up on various WAM aspects	CNS ComNat-ALPC All ministerial stakeholders and the FDS
	Formalise in writing the specific roles of institutions already identified in the reporting process (focal points) for the ATT, the UNPoA (UN Programme of Action), the ECOWAS Convention and other international legal instruments	
	Provide the ComNat-ALPC with adequate resources (human, financial, material)	
MEDIUM TERM	Revise the mandate of the ComNat-ALPC to account for evolving security threats (MMPE, MADR, MEPD, DGAMP, MFFE) as well as international and regional legal instruments (ATT obligations, request for exemption from ECOWAS, United Nations Programme of Action, United Nations Register on Arms, ECOWAS Regional Register on SALW, etc.)	CNS MIS MFB ANCI / SCI MAE ComNat-ALPC
	Align the ComNat-ALPC's 2026-2030 priority areas with the National Development Plan (PND), focusing on challenges related to new threats and sub-regional security, while developing a specific strategy for mobilising resources for these activities	ComNat-ALPC MIS MEPD MFBANCI SCI Civil Society
	Promote support from technical partners and donors to ComNat-SALW in terms of assistance and cooperation	ComNat-ALPC CEDEAO International Partners
LONG TERM	Continue the process of gradually decentralising the ComNat-ALPC	ComNat-ALPC MIS (DGDDL)
	Revitalising the Observatory on Armed Violence	CNS MIS MFB ComNat-ALPC Partenaires Internationaux



► Cérémonie militaire au Camp Gallieni à Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire - 2023 Sia Kambou

Key Functional Area No. 2:



Legal and regulatory framework at the national level

At the national level, the legal and regulatory framework is essential for the establishment of effective control mechanisms to prevent the illicit proliferation of conventional arms and ammunition and to ensure effective weapons and ammunition management, in line with the international and regional obligations and commitments to which the State is party.²²

In Côte d'Ivoire, the national WAM legal and regulatory framework is governed by several national laws and regulatory texts.²³ Since the initial baseline assessment in 2016, a comprehensive process of reviewing, developing and adopting a legal and regulatory framework at the national level, formally transposing the obligations and commitments made under the main regional and international instruments, remains to be completed. To this end, the Ivorian authorities, and in particular the ComNat-ALPC, have been working for many years on a draft law to update and harmonise the national legal framework. In March 2023, this draft law, prepared by the ComNat-ALPC, was still to be forwarded to the Ministry of Security and Civil Protection, before being presented to the Council of Ministers and finally submitted to Parliament for adoption.

National authorities identified several options for strengthening the WAM legal and regulatory framework at the national level. First, national participants noted the importance of accelerating the process of adopting the draft law on the general regime for weapons and ammunition. In addition, the development of a national control list

precisely defining the scope of transfer controls was mentioned as essential by some national participants, both because of the regional situation and as an obligation under the Arms Trade Treaty. Such efforts could go hand in hand with efforts to consider strategic goods in a broader sense. Once the new general regime for weapons and ammunition has been adopted, this would enable regional and international standards to be fully integrated into Ivorian national legislation. At the same time, targeted awareness-raising among the main users of weapons on national, regional and international instruments is needed, using communication tools adapted to the realities on the ground. Substantial improvements are also needed in terms of regulations. These include establishing regulations on national stocks of conventional arms, ammunition and explosives for civilian use, as well as reviewing those regulating the possession of weapons by civilians and the arsenal of private security companies. All of these considerations would help to bring the national legal framework more in line with regional and international norms and standards. Furthermore, it is essential to emphasise that the implementation of a national coordination mechanism and the strengthening of the legal and regulatory framework are closely linked, thereby ensuring their effectiveness, as mentioned above.

Options for WAM enhancement

Accelerate the process of reviewing and adopting the draft law on the national regime for conventional arms and ammunition in line with regional and international legal instruments

Establish, adopt and regularly update a national control list of strategic and sensitive goods

Revise regulations covering the use of weapons and ammunition by private security companies

MIS
ComNat-ALPC
ANCI / SCI
All ministerial stakeholders and the
FDS
Civil Society

Continue to strengthen the capacity of various stakeholders on regulations regarding the management of national stocks of arms, ammunition and explosives

Improve regulations on the purchase, possession, carrying and use of weapons by civilians (hunting and artisanal weapons)

Continue to raise awareness among stakeholders (FDS, communities, institutions, etc.) about the scope of national, regional and international instruments by incorporating appropriate (electronic) communication tools

MIS
ComNat-ALPC
ANCI / SCI
All ministerial stakeholders and the
FDS
Civil Society

Key Functional Area No. 3:

Transfer controls



Transfer controls are crucial to prevent excessive, destabilising and illicit transfers of conventional arms, ammunition and related equipment at the international, regional and national levels. Such transfers can pose substantial risks and serious threats to peace and security.²⁴

In Côte d'Ivoire, the national legal and regulatory framework regulates certain aspects of conventional arms and ammunition transfer controls, mainly imports (see key functional area 2). At the strategic level, the CNS is at the heart of decision-making on transfers. Several aspects of transfer controls (export, transit, transshipment, brokering) are not yet covered by the national legislative and regulatory framework (see previous section). The procurement needs of the various security forces in Côte d'Ivoire (army, gendarmerie, police, customs, water and forestry) are communicated, centralised and submitted by the FACI to the Ministry of Defence (MD), which forwards a request for exemption to ECOWAS through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Integration and Ivorians Abroad (MAE). Once the exemption has been granted, the CNS proceeds with the acquisitions in accordance with military and internal security programming laws. Funds are released by the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development (MEPD) and allocations are received by the MD, the FACI, and then dispatched to the units. This process is also applied to peacekeeping missions, to which Côte d'Ivoire contributes with armed contingents.²⁵ It is important to note that the procedures for civilian entities and applicants for civilian conventional arms imports follow the same approval process,

which includes the MD, the MEA and the CNS. Private companies may apply for an import licence from the MIS, which is then subject to the same approval process, including the opinion of the MD. At the time of the assessment and monitoring in 2023, efforts were being made to strengthen transfer controls, in particular the national system for recording and storing information and data on transfers, notably through the introduction of a software by the ComNat-ALPC.

National authorities have identified several opportunities to improve controls on transfers (import, export, re-export, transit/transshipment, brokering) of conventional arms and ammunition in Côte d'Ivoire by implementing the provisions of the ATT (as well as the ECOWAS Convention). In addition to the development of a national control list (see previous section), this includes, in particular, the precise definition of the roles of each institution, the procedures to be followed, the documents required and used, and the applicable sanctions. There are also concrete options for strengthening specifically the national system for international conventional arms end use/r controls, as applicable before, during and after international conventional arms transfers. In terms of national reporting on the implementation of the various international instruments, some of these improvements will also help to resolve certain difficulties encountered by the authorities. Furthermore, the deployment of a software should be accompanied by greater involvement of the ComNat-ALPC in this process, in line with ECOWAS recommendations. At the operational level,

strengthening the capacity of the FDS would improve control at land, sea and air borders. Similarly, intensified regional cooperation with neighbouring countries is often essential to better controlling conventional

arms transfers and combatting illicit trafficking in SALW, including cross-border trafficking.

Options for WAM enhancement

SHORT TERM	Regulate import, export, re-export, brokering, transit and transshipment activities in law: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define the procedures to be followed • Define the necessary documents • Define the respective roles of each national authority • Define criminal penalties <i>NB: The texts should also take into account transfers of explosives</i>	CNS All relevant ministerial stakeholders and FDS ANCI / SCI ComNat-ALPC ECOWAS
	Strengthen cross-border cooperation on the control of transfers and trafficking of conventional arms and ammunition	ComNat-ALPC All relevant ministerial stakeholders and FDS
	Involve ComNat-ALPC in the process of acquiring conventional arms and ammunition in line with Article 24 of the ECOWAS Convention on SALW	CNS ComNat-ALPC ECOWAS
	Fully implement ATT provisions, including end-user certificates	All relevant ministerial stakeholders and FDS
MEDIUM TERM	Strengthen human (training) and technical (GPS systems, scanners) capacities of the FDS (maritime, air and land borders)	All relevant ministerial stakeholders and FDS ComNat-ALPC

Key Functional Area No. 4:

Stockpile management



Effective management of weapons and ammunition stockpiles is an essential element of any security and defence force and its operations. It is crucial to ensuring the operational readiness of security and defence forces, protecting strategic national assets, and reducing the risk of diversion and illicit proliferation. Furthermore, this aspect of WAM is also important for reducing the risk and mitigating the effects of unexpected explosions on populations resulting from inadequate management of ammunition stockpiles.²⁶

In Côte d'Ivoire, the stockpile management of weapons and ammunition is not explicitly regulated by the national legal and regulatory framework (see functional area 2). Standard operating procedures (SOPs), derived from a guide developed by

the ComNat-ALPC, are implemented but this implementation appears to require harmonisation to ensure the sustainability of effective national good practices across all defense and security forces. Significant progress has been made in recent years with the support of international partners, with the rehabilitation and construction of physical infrastructure for the storage of weapons and ammunition by the main FDS (FACI, gendarmerie, police).²⁷ For example, stockpile management for the FACI is handled by the logistics and infrastructure department, while the gendarmerie entrusts this responsibility to its own equipment division. The police are unique in that they equip each officer individually while keeping an inventory of all collective weapons and ammunition. Despite these efforts, there are still significant needs in

in terms of maintenance, construction and upgrading of storage sites, especially outside of major centres. Security risks also persist due to the disorderly occupation of land adjacent to storage sites. In addition, the prison service, the Water and Forestry Department and the maritime police have significant infrastructure shortcomings. Finally, securing the quantities of weapons held illegally by civilians and regulating the private security sector remain major challenges for the proper management of stockpiles throughout the country.

The national authorities have identified several opportunities to strengthen this key WAM area in Côte d'Ivoire. First, it seems particularly important to continue bringing storage sites up to international standards through the rehabilitation, construction and physical securing of facilities. In addition, a systematic inventory of needs would make it

possible to assess disparities between components of the FDS and direct resources to the most vulnerable structures. Respect for security perimeters around depots is essential to reduce risks to the population. Their relocation to non-urban areas can also help improve the safety of civilian populations. The revision of the stockpile management guide developed by ComNat-ALPC and the development of updated and validated SOPs are also recommended. Similarly, the reactivation of the dedicated technical group (see above) and the construction of a training centre for the neutralisation, removal and destruction of explosives (EOD)/WAM would help to strengthen the stockpile management of weapons and ammunition in Côte d'Ivoire.

Options for WAM enhancement

SHORT TERM	Strengthen and promote, through a career profile/curriculum, qualified human resources in the management of conventional arms, ammunition and explosives	CNS ComNat-ALPC All relevant ministerial stakeholders and FDS International partners
	Continue training those responsible for conventional arms stores and ammunition depots on stockpile management, on current international standards (MOSAIC and IATG) and their implementation	
	Revise the Weapons and Ammunition Management Guide, taking into account international standards (MOSAIC and IATG)	
	Develop permanent operational procedures for the weapons and ammunition management at the level of each force in line with the Revised Guide	
MEDIUM TERM	Continue raising awareness among defence, security and paramilitary forces on the revised Guide	ComNat-ALPC FDS
	Reactivate the WAM Technical Group (formerly PSSM Group)	
	Relocate ammunition depots outside urban areas, observing safety perimeters for the population (isolation zones)	CNS ComNat-ALPC All relevant ministerial stakeholders and FDS International partners
	Continue technical assessments of the needs for conventional arms stores and ammunition depots of the military forces (FACI and Gendarmerie), police forces (National Police) and paramilitary forces (Customs, Water and Forestry, Maritime and Port Affairs, and Prison Guards)	
	Continue the maintenance, rehabilitation, construction, equipment and provision of physical security for conventional arms and ammunition stores, in line with international standards and in collaboration with ComNat-ALPC	
	Establish an EOD/WAM Multimodal Centre for the training of specialists with a view to improving weapons and ammunition management	

Key Functional Area No. 5:



Marking

Marking is a crucial element for effective national weapons and ammunition management, making weapons unique and identifiable and preventing their diversion, while contributing to the security of storage operations.

In Côte d'Ivoire, as already noted in the 2016 assessment, the marking of weapons is one of the main achievements in WAM. Initiated with the support of international partners, the marking process is still ongoing. Between 2016 and early 2023, approximately 9,806 weapons were marked in line with international and ECOWAS standards. However, there are still old weapons and new supplies that need to be marked. Weapons marking is generally carried out using laser micro-percussion through a domestic marking initiative. Challenges remain with regard to the marking of civilian weapons.

A solution for artisanal/craft weapons, the number of which is currently unknown, has to be developed taking into account the various steps needed – from awareness-raising and sectoral organisation to the establishment of a legal basis and a registration system – before even considering a marking system with a national code for unique identification. Furthermore, it is difficult to estimate the number of weapons held by civilians, particularly following the suspension of the issuance of licences (see below), which also complicates the process of physically marking these weapons. Furthermore, in March 2023, four (4) of the 11 machines acquired were no longer operational due to lack of maintenance, and staff training was still ongoing to compensate for the loss of experience. Strengthening a sustainable national marking capacity to ensure not only

the completion of the process for existing state weapons but also the systematic marking of future acquisitions, the processing of civilian weapons and artisanal weapons, are the main remaining challenges to strengthening this essential WAM area in Côte d'Ivoire.

National authorities and experts have identified several opportunities for strengthening institutional and operational capacities, procedures and practices for marking weapons in Côte d'Ivoire, while acknowledging the significant progress made in this area. The revision and adoption of the new law on the general regime of weapons is also of great importance in this area, whether for the marking of State weapons or those held by civilians. While the marking of the majority of State weapons currently in stock is a major step forward, a number of weapons in the FDS stockpiles still need to be marked. In addition, technical and logistical marking capacities should be strengthened through the financing of additional marking equipment, ongoing training for personnel and regular maintenance of machinery, which would prevent equipment failure. With regard to weapons held by civilians, a process to raise awareness, identify and mark existing weapons could be put in place. Finally, with regard to artisanal/craft weapons, a pilot project to raise awareness of standards among manufacturers/artisans could be carried out, followed by the gradual regulation of this currently informal sector, following the example of similar experiences in the sub-region.



► Collecte d'armes en Côte d'Ivoire - 2006, AFP

Options for WAM enhancement

Continue marking weapons owned by the defence, security and paramilitary forces	CNS MIS MD ComNat ALPC FDS ECOWAS International partners
Regulate and implement the marking of artisanal firearms	
Raise awareness, identify and mark weapons legally held by civilians	
Strengthen technical and material capacity for marking (equipment, training and maintenance)	

Key Functional Area No. 6:



Recordkeeping

Keeping comprehensive and effective records is crucial for national authorities, enabling them to compile an exhaustive inventory of weapons and ammunition present within the territory of the State. Such recordkeeping includes information on transfers, national stockpiles, weapons and ammunition in civilian possession, as well as weapons recovered from illegal activities and those illegally held. It is recommended by international and regional standards to enable centralised and effective data management by a competent State authority.²⁸

Côte d'Ivoire has made significant progress in registering and maintaining records on weapons and ammunition. Although each of the main ministries and FDS maintain paper and sometimes electronic records, with standardised operating procedures in place, there are gaps in this area and some components are less advanced than others in implementing these codified practices. The electronic SIGAM (Computerised Arms and Ammunition Management System) is being rolled out at the CNS and is currently being tested/piloted by the police. The aim is to harmonise the system for all FDS, gradually linking them via this single national platform. However, the challenge of territorial coverage remains, as the majority of weapons and ammunition storage sites do not have a connection to wired communication networks. Côte d'Ivoire is also considering the Arms Tracker (CAVR) software to improve weapons

identification, in conjunction with the electronic record-keeping system. Other specific registers exist at the national level, such as those for lost/stolen or weapons to be destroyed. However, as civilian possession is currently suspended (see below), the civilian weapons register has been destroyed and cannot be reconstituted, which represents a major challenge for data preservation at the national level. In Côte d'Ivoire, weapons recovered during criminal investigations are recorded in a specific register maintained by the judicial authorities, highlighting the importance of rigorous documentation to ensure the proper handling of illicit weapons and improve traceability within the judicial system.

During the follow up baseline assessment in March 2023, national participants identified several areas for improvement in the national weapons and ammunition registration system. Firstly, in order to centralise the national registration system and create an electronic database (in line with Article 10 of the ECOWAS Convention), it is essential to release the necessary funds for the full roll-out of electronic registers across all relevant security forces and institutions. This requires all structures, as well as regular access to wired communication networks to enable sustainable use, particularly in remote areas. In addition, the national authorities have emphasised the importance of developing specific recordkeeping procedures for weapons and ammunition deployed in peace operations to ensure

proper traceability and control of such equipment throughout its life cycle. Furthermore, certain actors such as the maritime police would benefit from the deployment of registers and SOPs. In addition, national authorities have emphasised the importance of creating electronic databases for civilian-held

weapons, as well as for artisanal weapons. A process of gradual regulation of these weapons appears necessary in order to identify, register and control them effectively.

Options for WAM enhancement

SHORT TERM	Continue the rollout of electronic weapons and ammunition registers within the armed forces	CNS All relevant ministerial stakeholders and FDS ComNat-ALPC
	Allocate budgets for the sustainable use of electronic registers (internet costs, networking of registers, etc.)	
	Establish an electronic database of legally held civilian weapons and ammunition	CNS All relevant ministerial stakeholders and FDS ComNat-ALPC ECOWAS International partners
MEDIUM TERM	Continue to establish a centralised database on conventional arms and ammunition in line with the provisions of the ECOWAS Convention	CNS All relevant ministerial stakeholders and FDS ComNat-ALPC International partners
	Establish a harmonised database for armed and national security forces participating in peace operations in line with international standards	
	Establish a database for weapons and ammunition seized and confiscated during judicial proceedings	CNS MJDH ComNat-ALPC ECOWAS International partners

Key Functional Area No. 7:

Tracing of arms and profiling of ammunition



Weapons and ammunition tracing is crucial to combating illicit trafficking, given that the vast majority of illegal weapons and ammunition originate from legal sources. The establishment of an effective traceability system makes it possible to trace their path from manufacture or import to the last legal owner, in order to prevent their diversion to the illicit market and combat weapons and ammunition trafficking.²⁹

In Côte d'Ivoire, in March 2023, the national legal and regulatory framework did not define in detail the roles and responsibilities

of the various national authorities with regard to tracing and profiling weapons and ammunition recovered from the illicit sphere. Nevertheless, certain aspects of tracing and profiling were considered by national participants to be covered by the implementation of the provisions of the ECOWAS Convention. At the institutional level, ComNat-ALPC is responsible for coordinating tracing and profiling efforts, in particular through SIGAM, which enables domestic tracing operations to be carried out, as well as regional operations in the

area of police cooperation and law enforcement, by enabling the police forces of participating States to track illicit weapons through specific requests. National authorities also use INTERPOL's iARMS, which has already contributed to investigations into the terrorist attacks in Grand-Bassam, for example. National authorities also participate in certain joint cross-border operations with neighbouring countries, promoting information exchange and monitoring illicit trafficking at the regional level. The forensic police are also equipped with advanced operational capabilities (ballistics, identification tools and tools for recovering erased markings). However, significant challenges remain, particularly because most of the illicit weapons recovered and investigated are artisanal/craft-produced and therefore unregistered, making them particularly difficult to trace. Their systematic identification is therefore a major challenge for strengthening traceability at the national and regional levels.

During the assessment and follow-up of the baseline in March 2023, national participants identified several options for strengthening this functional area of WAM in Côte d'Ivoire. First, national experts emphasised the importance of strengthen-

ing institutional capacity by designating a national entity responsible for tracing and profiling, and tasked with coordinating tracing activities at the national level, by a high-level national entity (NSC). This also includes the collection and sharing of information between the FDS to facilitate tracing operations at the national level. Furthermore, at the operational level, technical and human capacities for profiling and tracing could be strengthened through training and dedicated equipment. The development of specific SOPs for these activities, in line with ECOWAS recommendations, would help to standardise practices and contribute to strengthening human capacity. In addition, strengthening sub-regional and international cooperation would support the effectiveness of weapons and ammunition tracing and profiling processes. Furthermore, increased mobilisation of financial resources for the registration and processing of seized weapons, including by the judicial authorities, is another key priority for strengthening this functional area of WAM in Côte d'Ivoire.

Options for WAM enhancement

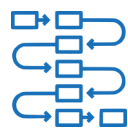
SHORT TERM

Develop standard operating procedures at the armed forces level for the identification, profiling and tracing of illicit arms and ammunition in line with the ECOWAS operational guide on tracing and other international instruments	CNS All relevant ministerial stakeholders and FDS ComNat-ALPC ECOWAS International partners
Designate a national entity responsible for coordinating tracing activities	CNS All relevant ministerial stakeholders and FDS ComNat-ALPC
Mobilise the financial resources necessary for the implementation of the joint ComNat-ALPC and Ministry of Justice project on the registration and processing of weapons and ammunition seized and confiscated by the judicial authorities	CNS MJDH All relevant ministerial stakeholders and FDS ComNat-ALPC International partners

MEDIUM TERM

Strengthen information gathering and sharing among forces on weapons and ammunition to facilitate tracing	CNS All relevant ministerial stakeholders and FDS ComNat-ALPC ECOWAS International partners + INTERPOL
Continue and strengthen collaboration on tracing between national authorities and international institutions	
Strengthen technical capacity (equipment/software) and human capacity (training) on tracking	

Key Functional Area No. 8:



Processing of illicit arms and treatment of illicit ammunition

The processing of illicit weapons and ammunition is an essential component of any national weapons and ammunition management framework, ranging from the criminalisation of illicit activities to ensuring accountability for items recovered from the illicit sphere. This provides information and evidence that can be used to convict illicit traffickers and perpetrators of violence, thereby contributing to the fight against impunity.³⁰

The legal and regulatory framework in Côte d'Ivoire does not address in sufficient detail the issue of the processing of recovered weapons and ammunition (i.e., seized, captured, found in caches, etc.) from the illicit sphere. The judicial authorities are responsible for handling this material. When weapons and ammunition are recovered by the FDS, they are then transferred to the gendarmerie for investigation, sealed and stored in court registries pending judicial processing. The ComNat-ALPC, in conjunction with the SOPs, is responsible for recording them in the SIGAM database, a process that should be integrated in a coherent manner within the CNS to ensure maximum effectiveness in tracing and profiling illicit weapons. If the equipment is not listed (and traceable in SIGAM), the ComNat-ALPC, in consultation with the CNS, is responsible for adding it to the database. However, if the weapon originally belonged to the FDS and is not linked to a crime or legal case, it is returned to stock after a decision by the Chief of Staff. Challenges remain with regard to the infrastructure for the safe and sustainable storage of these weapons by the judicial authorities, particularly as magistrates and court clerks are often forced to entrust them to the FDS. Since 2020, efforts have been made to raise awareness among magistrates

of the need to destroy illicit weapons at the end of proceedings. In addition, the case of weapons seized by the Water and Forestry Department deserves special attention. Weapons and ammunition seized by the Water and Forestry Department are treated as 'forest' products and do not receive specific processing.

During the assessment and follow-up of the baseline in March 2023, national participants raised several areas for improvement to strengthen the processing of illicit weapons and ammunition in Côte d'Ivoire. Firstly, it was noted that it was important to continue strengthening the storage infrastructure of the judicial authorities in order to safely and securely store weapons and ammunition that are the subject of legal proceedings. The development of SOPs for the processing of seized, surrendered, collected or found weapons would also contribute to better weapons management and the sustainability of good practices in this area. Furthermore, the adoption of a separate procedure for the processing of forest products and weapons and ammunition seized by the Water and Forestry Department would harmonise these practices in line with international standards. At the same time, there appears to be a need to strengthen the capacity of the CNS Secretariat, ComNat-ALPC and the security forces in the identification and tracing of illicit weapons. Finally, according to national participants, it remains essential to mobilise additional resources for the processing of illicit weapons seized by the law enforcement agencies and dealt with by the justice system.

Options for WAM enhancement

SHORT TERM	Establish standard operating procedures for the handling of seized and confiscated conventional arms and ammunition	CNS All relevant ministerial stakeholders and FDS ComNat-ALPC ECOWAS International partners
MEDIUM TERM	Continue raising awareness, collecting and recording illicit weapons and ammunition, and proceed with their destruction	

Strengthen the infrastructure of judicial authorities to safely and securely store seized weapons and ammunition

CNS
MJDH
ComNat-ALPC
ECOWAS
International partners

Strengthen the capacity of the CNS Executive Secretariat, ComNat-ALPC and security forces to identify, profile and trace illicit weapons

Key Functional Area No. 9:



Weapons collection

The collection and regulation of civilian possession of weapons and ammunition are key elements in reducing armed violence in communities by removing illegal and undesirable weapons from the hands of civilians, thereby preventing underlying security issues.³¹

The issue of civilian possession of weapons in Côte d'Ivoire is particularly sensitive. Previously, the possession of weapons was regulated by a system of permits issued by the MIS after background checks. However, carrying weapons in public places was not permitted and hunting was prohibited. Following the period of unrest and political instability in 2010-2011, the issuance of new permits was suspended. As permits already granted were valid for five years, all permits issued at that time have now expired, placing these weapons and their owners in an illegal situation (due to the change in the legal and regulatory framework). Côte d'Ivoire has conducted several voluntary collection campaigns since 2016. The latest, in 2021, was carried out in border regions with the support of community leaders: approximately 4,500 weapons were collected. At the same time, awareness-raising initiatives are regularly carried out by civil society organisations to encourage the voluntary surrender of weapons, taking into account the need for a legal framework, such as a temporary exemption or amnesty, and targeting in particular schools, where armed violence remains frequent. Despite these efforts, informal possession of weapons

remains widespread, exacerbated by the failure to renew licences. The identification and gradual regulation of weapons illegally held by civilians is therefore a major public security challenge. Accurately surveying and registering these weapons and the strengthening control measures remain challenges to be addressed.

During the assessment and follow-up of the baseline in March 2023, national participants identified several options for strengthening this WAM key functional area in Côte d'Ivoire. First, in March 2023, national experts advocated for the re-regularization of civilian possession of weapons in order to mark and register them (see functional areas 2, 5 and 6). In this context, national experts recommended mobilising additional resources to support and strengthen the implementation of a voluntary programme for the surrender of illegally held weapons. Community awareness-raising efforts on the risks associated with the possession of weapons and ammunition carried out by civil society, particularly among young people and in schools, deserve sustained support. In addition, a conditional amnesty process, requiring a legal provision or decree, could be considered, as has been done in other countries in the subregion.

Options for WAM enhancement

Mobilise resources to strengthen the implementation of a programme encouraging the voluntary surrender of illegally held weapons and ammunition by civilians

ComNat-ALPC
Civil society
Media

List, mark and register all weapons and ammunition legally held by civilians	CNS All relevant ministerial stakeholders and FDS ComNat-ALPC ECOWAS International partners
Continue to raise awareness among the population of the risks of illegal possession and use of weapons and ammunition, paying particular attention to women and children	CNS ComNat-ALPC Civil society Media

Key Functional Area No. 10:

Disposal, including destruction



The disposal of weapons and ammunition, including through destruction, is an essential part of a national framework for weapons and ammunition management. This reduces security risks and prevents the illicit circulation of weapons and ammunition, while ensuring effective management of surplus or unwanted stockpiles.³²

Between 2011 and 2023, according to official figures provided to the assessment team and regularly cited in various reports, more than 25,000 weapons, 6,300 rounds of ammunition, 1,526 anti-personnel mines and 2,600 explosive devices were destroyed thanks to the actions of the ComNat-ALPC, in cooperation with the FDS and with the support of international partners, with most of this destruction taking place before 2016. At the time of the 2023 assessment, the country had advanced operational destruction capacities in line with international standards. In particular, the ComNat-ALPC acquired four shear cutting machines and received a fifth state-of-the-art machine from ECOWAS. However, it was not yet operational in March 2023. The ComNat-ALPC has trained its staff and security forces in destruction operations in accordance with a technical guide based on international standards. Destruction is now centralised in a Ministry of Defence compound. The FDS brings surplus or obsolete equipment there after it has been inventoried. The decision on the method of disposal, including destruction, rests with the ComNat-ALPC, which is then responsible for providing a detailed report on each destruction operation to the MD or the

MJDH, specifying the methods used. Some components, such as the gendarmerie and the FACI, also have their own ammunition destruction sites. The country also receives support from external actors for specific ammunition destruction operations. Problems remain, however, as the destruction polygons/ranges are not always sufficiently secure to carry out destruction operations. The ComNat-ALPC also wishes to develop a multidisciplinary EOD/WAM training centre on these issues in order to strengthen national capacities.

During the follow up assessment in March 2023, national participants identified several options to further strengthen this key functional area of the WAM in Côte d'Ivoire. First, it was noted that it was important to continue regular destruction of obsolete, unstable or degrading weapons and ammunition, particularly in view of the security and environmental risks posed by such equipment. To this end, continued technical capacity building through dedicated training for operators appears to be necessary. At the same time, it seems important to further secure sensitive sites such as firing ranges and fixed destruction sites by bringing them fully into line with relevant regional and international standards. Increased awareness among authorities and populations of the risks associated with proximity to military zones was also recommended by national participants. The establishment of a multidisciplinary centre dedicated to training in explosives management, as recommended by the ComNat-ALPC, would also help to

professionalise the disposal of weapons and ammunition (including explosives) at the end of their life cycle. Finally, all national participants noted the importance of

additional funding for these final processing activities.

Options for WAM enhancement

Continue to strengthen the technical capacity of ComNat-ALPC and the forces responsible for the destruction of weapons and ammunition through training	CNS All relevant ministerial stakeholders and FDS ComNat-ALPC International partners
Enhance security at sensitive sites (firing ranges and permanent destruction sites) by bringing them into line with regional and international standards	CNS FDS ComNat-ALPC International partners
Raise awareness among authorities and communities about the risks associated with proximity to sensitive military areas	FDS ComNat-ALPC International partners Civil society Media
Continue the destruction of obsolete weapons and ammunition in order to reduce the risk of accidents and diversion	FDS ComNat-ALPC International partners

Additional considerations

In addition to the ten key functional areas considered during the 2023 follow-up assessment process, national experts from Côte d'Ivoire, ECOWAS and UNIDIR addressed additional WAM-related considerations, such as countering threats posed by improvised explosive devices (IEDs). The observations, options and recommendations arising from these discussions are summarised below.

Despite the growing threat posed by IEDs on national territory, it appears that no formal awareness-raising has been carried out among national authorities on the risks associated with these devices.

Similarly, although some initiatives seek to promote gender mainstreaming, this has not yet been systematised in WAM training and monitoring in Côte d'Ivoire. Furthermore, national experts considered that the resources allocated to WAM were insufficient to meet all needs in this area. Finally, it was noted that military school curricula do not specifically address the issue of WAM.

National authorities and experts identified several options to further strengthen these

complementary aspects of WAM, including raising awareness of IEDs through dedicated training, as well as use, evaluation and monitoring of results from the national counter IED assessment. It was recommended to invest in gender mainstreaming in all WAM activities. It is also advisable to consider increased funding to further support ongoing efforts. Finally, the inclusion of technical modules on WAM in defence and security curricula would help to embed this issue in the operational and strategic culture of the FDS.

Additional options for WAM enhancement

SHORT TERM

Continue raising awareness among national authorities, FDS and populations about the risks of IEDs (improvised explosive devices)

FDS
ComNat-ALPC
International partners

Conduct a follow-up assessment of counter-IED capacities, based on the results of the self-assessment carried out by national authorities in 2021, using the methodology developed by UNIDIR

Mobilise additional resources for weapons and ammunition management (site renovation, equipment maintenance, production of registers and other tools, etc.)

CNS
All relevant ministerial stakeholders and FDS
ComNat-ALPC

Integrate WAM modules into all military and paramilitary school curricula

MEDIUM TERM

Strengthen the integration of gender perspectives in weapons and ammunition management (training, monitoring)

All relevant ministerial stakeholders

Outlook

This publication promotes a holistic approach to the management of conventional arms, ammunition, and components, highlighting the current state of WAM in Côte d'Ivoire. The follow-up assessment highlighted progress made, as well as existing institutional and operational capacities, processes, practices and procedures. It also identified challenges currently faced by the Ivorian national authorities at the strategic and operational levels. The assessment also provided options for strengthening the national framework for weapons and ammunition through life-cycle management in Côte d'Ivoire, including through periodic assessments of progress made over time.

The Government of Côte d'Ivoire has demonstrated a willingness to take these options into account in order to consolidate, with stakeholders and international partners, a 'roadmap' (or strategic approach) for strengthening the national framework for through-life management of conventional

weapons, including SALW, and ammunition. This is part of the Regional Action Plan on Conventional Arms Management and the Implementation of the ECOWAS Convention. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire has also used the results of this assessment to strengthen international and regional cooperation and assistance.

UNIDIR encourages the community of States, regional and subregional organisations, and relevant international partners to consult this insight on WAM in Côte d'Ivoire, its series of country insights, and the series of annual updates as a basis for strengthening WAM policies and practices at different levels. This will also facilitate the planning, implementation and evaluation of future programmes and projects related to WAM and related areas in Côte d'Ivoire.



► Soldat lors d'un entraînement à Jacqueville en Côte d'Ivoire - 2023, Issouf Sanogo



Republic of Côte d'Ivoire



About UNIDIR

UNIDIR is an autonomous institute within the United Nations, funded by voluntary contributions. UNIDIR is one of the few policy institutes in the world dedicated to disarmament. It generates knowledge and promotes dialogue and action on disarmament and security issues. Based in Geneva, UNIDIR helps the international community to develop concrete and innovative ideas for solutions to major security challenges. UNIDIR prioritises research, the development of tools and the provision of guidance to its partners, thereby strengthening the conventional arms and ammunition management and supporting the integration of conventional arms control into the conflict analysis, prevention and management activities of the United Nations.

Note

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Acknowledgements

UNIDIR would like to express its gratitude to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and the designated national entity, ComNat-ALPC, for their cooperation in the WAM follow-up assessment, as well as to the ECOWAS Commission for its joint support during the assessment. The author would like to thank Mohamed Coulibaly, Hardy Giezendanner and Ursign Hofmann for their reviews and support.

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Notes / References

- ¹ See « Towards a national framework for weapons and ammunition management in the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire: Narrative report on the assessment and follow-up », UNIDIR, 2023. The report is available at UNIDIR and at the national entity designated by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, ComNat-ALPC. It can be shared with interested parties by ComNat-ALPC, upon request and after consultation.
- ² See « Weapons and Ammunition Management Country Insight: Côte d'Ivoire », UNIDIR, 2020.
- ³ See « Weapons and Ammunition Management in Africa Insight: 2024 Update », UNIDIR, 2024, as well as « Weapons and Ammunition Management in Africa Insight: 2022 Update ».
- ⁴ See « Effective Weapons and Ammunition Management in a Changing Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Context: A Handbook for United Nations DDR Practitioners » Department of Peace Operations, Office for Disarmament Affairs: 2021.
- ⁵ See 'IDDRS Module 4.11 on transitional weapons and ammunition management, 2020', ONU DPO et UNODA ; et 'The Role of Weapon and Ammunition Management in Preventing Conflict and Supporting Security Transition', UNIDIR. 2019.
- ⁶ See Giezendanner Hardy and Shiotani Himayu. « A Reference Methodology for National Weapons and Ammunition Management Baseline Assessments », Geneva : United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, July 2021.
- ⁷ See Hana Salama and Emma Bjertén-Günther. Women Managing Weapons: Perspectives for Increasing Women's Participation in Weapons and Ammunition Management, Geneva : United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, 2021.
- ⁸ See Giezendanner Hardy and Shiotani Himayu. « A Reference Methodology for National Weapons and Ammunition Management Baseline Assessments », Geneva: United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, July 2021.
- ⁹ Denis Cogneau, Sandrine Mesplé-Somps and François Roubaud. « Côte d'Ivoire : histoires de la crise », Afrique contemporaine, 2003.
- ¹⁰ Chrystantus Ayangafac. « Peace in Côte d'Ivoire : an analysis of the Ouagadougou Peace Accord », *Conflict Trends*, 2007.
- ¹¹ « Rapport final du Secrétaire général sur l'Opération des Nations Unies en Côte d'Ivoire », S/2017/89, 31 January 2017.
- ¹² Alain Antil. « Le G5 Sahel et le concept de « sécurité-développement » ». *Recherches Internationales*, 2020: pp. 59-74.
- ¹³ Projet Résilience pour la Paix. « Index de Résilience à l'Extrémisme Violent : le cas des communautés du nord de la Côte d'Ivoire », 1 juillet 2024.
- ¹⁴ « Séminaire régional sur la prévention de l'extrémisme violent et la gestion des armes conventionnelles en Afrique de l'Ouest », UNIDIR, 28 avril 2024.
- ¹⁵ See « Weapons and Ammunition Management Country Insight: Côte d'Ivoire », UNIDIR, 2020.
- ¹⁶ See « La crise diplomatique entre la Côte d'Ivoire et le Mali: Décryptage de l'affaire des 46 militaires ivoiriens », Initiative pour la Paix et la Sécurité en Afrique, 21 février 2023.
- ¹⁷ Namely, the regional and international instruments for conventional arms control to which Côte d'Ivoire has acceded are the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the Bamako Declaration at the regional level, and the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons and its International Tracing Instrument, as well as the Arms Trade Treaty at the international level.
- ¹⁸ See Article 24 of the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials.
- ¹⁹ Established in 2009, ComNat-ALPC assists the government in developing national policy on illicit small arms and light weapons, with its 18 members drawn from 13 ministries and five civil society organisations.
- ²⁰ ECOWAS, « Harmonised Guide to the ECOWAS Convention on SALW and the Arms Trade Treaty », Presented at the workshop organised by ComNat-ALPC as part of the OCWAR-T project, Abidjan, 30 August 2022.
- ²¹ The WAM Technical Group, formerly known as the PSSM (Storage, Security and Management) Group, was an informal coordination group whose role was to coordinate the improvement of storage capacity, physical security and the establishment of updated standardised procedures for the safe and secure management of

weapons and ammunition stockpiles (PSSM) at the national level. Although perceived as effective, this group suffered from a lack of formal institutional support. Its reactivation would strengthen consultation among national stakeholders on WAM issues, building on a more sustainable structure.

²² Hardy Giezendanner and Himayu Shiotani, « A Reference Methodology for National Weapons and Ammunition Management Baseline Assessments », UNIDIR, 2021.

²³ Namely, Law No. 98-749 of 23 December 1998 defining the types of weapons and establishing the associated offences, and Decree No. 99-183 of 24 February 1999 constituting the reference document governing the possession and transport of weapons by civilians. Other decrees supplement this national legal framework, dealing in particular with private security companies and the regime governing explosive substances.

²⁴ Hardy Giezendanner and Himayu Shiotani, Ibid.

²⁵ In April 2023, Côte d'Ivoire contributed armed contingents to five United Nations peacekeeping missions, including BINUH (1), MINURSO, MINUSCA (48), MINUSMA (663) and MONUSCO (11).

²⁶ Hardy Giezendanner and Himayu Shiotani. Ibid.

²⁷ See « Weapons and Ammunition Management in Africa Insight: 2024 Update », UNIDIR, 2024.

²⁸ Hardy Giezendanner and Himayu Shiotani. Ibid.

²⁹ Hardy Giezendanner and Himayu Shiotani. Ibid.

³⁰ Hardy Giezendanner and Himayu Shiotani. Ibid.

³¹ Hardy Giezendanner and Himayu Shiotani. Ibid.

³² Hardy Giezendanner and Himayu Shiotani. Ibid.