



United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs



Supporting the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the Global Framework on Ammunition

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Small arms and light weapons (SALW) and their ammunition remain a leading cause of violent deaths worldwide, with a life lost on average every two minutes to small-arms fire. Rising geopolitical tensions, regional instability and recurring armed conflicts increase both the demand for and supply of SALW and conventional ammunition. Even legally acquired weapons and ammunition risk being diverted to unauthorized users, perpetuating insecurity and undermining sustainable development, particularly in fragile contexts where their proliferation fuels armed violence and organized crime.

Addressing the multifaceted challenges of illicit SALW and ammunition requires coordinated action. The adoption of the Global Framework on Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management (GFA) by all States in 2023 marked the first global framework addressing ammunition safety and diversion risks. In 2024, States achieved consensus outcomes at the Fourth Review Conference of the Programme of Action (PoA) on Small Arms and Light Weapons and International Tracing Instrument (ITI), agreeing on measures to enhance implementation of these frameworks including a new Open-ended Technical Expert Group (OETEG). Upcoming PoA and GFA meetings in 2026, 2027 and 2028 offer critical opportunities for sustained progress for international cooperation on SALW and ammunition at all levels.

Building on achievements under previous EU-supported initiatives to the PoA, UNODA and partners have advanced global policy development, strengthened regional cooperation and expanded national capacities, from developing regional SALW roadmaps, training national authorities and supporting national action plans. Gender mainstreaming and civil society engagement were also significantly strengthened.

In 2026, 2027 and 2028, UNODA will build on these foundations while broadening its thematic focus to cover ammunition management. The new project will continue to advance implementation of the PoA, incorporate the mandates of the GFA and align with the [*Pact for the Future*](#), which highlights the importance of SALW and ammunition control in preventing armed violence by strengthening the linkages to prevention and peacebuilding. It will also place greater emphasis on developments in SALW technologies.

Project activities during 2026-2027-2028 implementation period

Pillar I

Strengthening forward-looking and action-oriented policy outcomes under the UN GFA, PoA and ITI

- ✓ **Global Framework on Ammunition: Expert Roundtables and Regional Preparatory meetings for the first Meeting of States in 2027.** A series of virtual expert roundtables will be held to develop action-oriented recommendations followed by regional in-person meetings to provide a platform for States and other stakeholders to identify region-specific ammunition management challenges and priorities for the first meeting of States of the GFA. Support will also be given for State's submission of voluntary reports. Meetings will cover the following regions: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean.
- ✓ **Programme of Action on SALW: Webinars to generate substantive material and build regional capacity on developments in SALW manufacturing, technology and design.** The OETEG will meet during the 2026 and 2028 Biennial Meetings of States to develop consensus recommendations to the PoA. Between sessions, regional and global virtual webinars will support States and the Chair by building capacity, sharing expertise and informing the drafting of recommendations.
- ✓ **Sponsorship programme for OETEG and GFA Meeting of States.** Many developing countries or those severely affected by SALW and ammunition are often unable to attend the New York-based conferences. A sponsorship programme for selected countries will be established to enable more diverse participation, thus enriching the deliberations at the 2027 GFA Meeting of States and as briefers to the OETEG, as needed.

Pillar II

Supporting the coordination and strengthened implementation of the international instruments at the national, subregional and regional level

- ✓ **Implement and strengthen the MOSAIC Assessment Tool.**¹ Assessment missions, using the new tool, will be carried out upon request by States. The awareness and utility of the MOSAIC Assessment Tool will be enhanced through rollout and multistakeholder training as well as development of additional assessment criteria and new features for the software component.
- ✓ **Enhance regional cooperation on small arms control and ammunition management in Africa, southeast Asia and Andean region.** This includes support to the action plan of the ASEAN Declaration on Combatting Arms Smuggling, fostering a continental community of practitioners for SALW and ammunition control (Africa) and support to the development of an Andean Firearms Roadmap.

- ✓ **Support States to strengthen national implementation efforts of the UN PoA/ITI and the Global Framework on Ammunition in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean.** This includes strengthening role of the national points of contact and established coordination mechanisms (Asia-Pacific), on demand in-country assistance (Asia-Pacific and Africa) and strengthening ammunition marking practices (Latin America and the Caribbean).

Pillar III

Leveraging SALW and ammunition control in broader peace and security efforts to more effectively prevent armed violence and sustain peace and development

- ✓ **Develop a 'package of support' for the integration of SALW control and ammunition management into prevention and peacebuilding efforts.** The package will serve as a resource hub for States on a dedicated website and include tools for integrating SALW/ammunition in prevention frameworks and other efforts in this regard. The project will also enhance SALW/ammunition engagement in broader peace and security and development fora.
- ✓ **Gender perspectives and youth engagement are mainstreamed throughout the project.** In addition, targeted regional and global activities include the launch the Operational Guidance Note on Gender, SALW and Ammunition for the African Union, build institutional capacity of States to address the presence of firearms in schools through Preventing Firearms in Schools Initiative in Latin America and the Caribbean, fostering an informal youth-led network of youth experts in the field of SALW and ammunition, and a toolkit for States and relevant organizations with gender/sex, age and disability disaggregated data, indicators and variables related to SALW and ammunition

----- **Actions to strengthen civil society's engagement in small arms and ammunition control are included under all three pillars.**

Civil society plays a central role in this project by contributing expert knowledge, coordinated advocacy and direct engagement in both global and national SALW and ammunition-control processes. The project strengthens this role by providing targeted assistance to civil society to support national authorities to implement the UN PoA/ITI and the GFA, supporting civil society participation in intergovernmental meetings and offering a grants programme that enhances smaller non-governmental organization's projects and constructive collaboration with States and the public.

¹ **MOSAIC** is a set of voluntary, practical guidance notes that each combine the best small-arms expertise in succinct, operational advice.