



BONN INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR CONVERSION

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# People Safe from Guns in South Sudan

A Training Manual  
for Local  
Stakeholders



Africa Peace Forum



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# INTRODUCTION

Well done, step one is complete. By opening this booklet you have shown that you want to learn more about small arm issues and how you can help.

As you are probably aware, small arms and light weapons (SALW) are a severe threat to communities all over the world. Be it a large war or a village argument, the presence of SALW will make the situation worse and lead to more people dying.



This booklet explains the main issues of SALW. As small arms affect many different areas of life, the range of topics that are explored here are also varied. There are notes on practical issues of identifying SALW and their control, collection and destruction. Information about what you can do to learn more about SALW in your community and how to deal with the events you will face are also included. This booklet will also inform you about the wider factors related to small arms. These weapons have a huge impact on the development of a country or community. They not only destroy the

lives of people using them against each other but also have terrible effects on vulnerable groups such as women and children. You will also find out about how the high-level agreements made by your government and the international community are trying to help the SALW situation.

Whilst small arms conflict is a universal phenomenon, it is vital to realize the relevance of these issues to your own context. This is why we explain the history and nature of combat in South Sudan in Section Three of this booklet.

Throughout the text, the **emphasis falls on action**. Reading and learning about SALW issues is another step forward but things will only change once plans are put into motion. It is up to you.



# SECTION 1 – BACKGROUND ON SALW

<b>Small Arms</b>	Weapons that can be used by one person.
<b>Light Weapons</b>	Weapons that require a small team, and whose caliber (diameter of ammunition) is less than 100 mm.

## 1.1 THE SALW PROBLEM

An estimated 500,000 people are killed every year by SALW. There are an estimated 639 million SALW in circulation worldwide.

Risks from SALW:

- More deaths and injuries during quarrels and disagreements.
- No personal or community security.
- Less development (development agencies are afraid to come).
- Less government help and less political representation for you.

## 1.2 KEY ACTORS IN THE SALW ISSUE

Many actors are connected to the SALW issue. These include groups that are responsible for producing, spreading, using and profiting from

SALW, as well as groups that want to control, limit and stop the illegal trade and use. Sometimes, these actors are one and the same – for example, many governments are SALW exporters *and* advocates of greater SALW control. These dual roles have both advantages and disadvantages in addressing the SALW problem.

Key actors involved in the SALW issue include:



Actors working to promote SALW control include:

## **United Nations (UN)**

The United Nations is responsible for assisting all states in meeting their commitments under the Program of Action (PoA). In particular, the UNDP is responsible for supporting small arms control programs, while the UNDDA is responsible for collecting and storing small arms information.

- United Nations Development Program (UNDP)  
<http://www.undp.org/bcpr/smallarms/>
- United Nations Department of Disarmament Affairs (UNDDA)  
<http://disarmament2.un.org/cab/salw-nationalreports.html>

## **Regional Organizations**

Regional organizations are responsible for promoting and monitoring the implementation of small arms agreements signed by their member states. In Africa, the most relevant organizations include:

- Regional Center on Small Arms (RECSA)  
<http://www.recsasec.org/>
- Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat <http://www.sadc.int/>
- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) <http://www.ecowas.int/>

## **Civil Society Organizations**

Civil society organizations have an important role to play in promoting small arms control by raising awareness of the problem and applying pressure on local and national governments. There are many different types of civil society organizations involved in promoting SALW control. At the

international level, the main advocacy organization is:

- International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) <http://www.iansa.org/index.htm>

### 1.3 SALW AND DEVELOPMENT

Put simply, development is a long-term process that aims to **improve the quality of life** of all people in a country. A developed country is one where the basic needs of the population are satisfied.

According to the UNDP, some indicators of human development include:

- Health and mortality
- Knowledge and education
- Income and standard of living
- Community participation

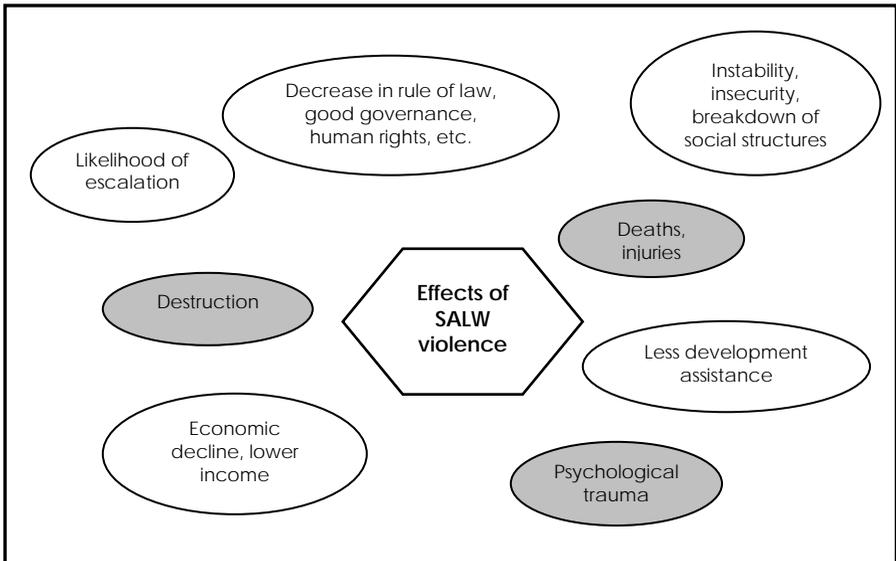
SALW can have a **negative and destructive** impact on development. This impact occurs through the **misuse of small arms** and their **contribution to armed violence**.

*Direct effects of SALW include:*

- Deaths
- Injuries and accidental wounding as a consequence of armed violence
- Psychological consequences, such as trauma
- Structural destruction

*Indirect* effects of SALW include:

- Social, political and economic instability and tension
- Decrease in the rule of law, good governance and human rights
- Less opportunity to work and earn an income
- Decline in the local, national and regional economy as well as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)
- Economic strain as disposable income is directed to the purchase of arms and ammunition
- Inability to carry out development projects
- Greater personal insecurity



In order to promote development, small arms need to be controlled. **It is up to you to control these weapons and minimize their negative impact on your country and community** – we can only give you some ideas and tools to do so.

Remember: the success of your country's development will depend on what actions you, your community and your government take today!

#### **1.4 YOUTH, SALW AND ARMED VIOLENCE**

It is estimated that some **300,000 children worldwide** are members of armed forces as fighters, porters, cooks, spies, messengers or ammunition carriers. Recruitment into armed groups is often forced, but some also make the decision to join armed forces.

**Note: Even if they are involved in armed violence as perpetrators, children and youth are always victims. There is always an adult responsible for making them use these weapons.**

There are many reasons why an individual, especially young people, might feel s/he needs a gun. These reasons can include:

- Violent situation / conflict / war
- Lack of protection
- Lack of security
- Livelihood, tradition
- Peer pressure
- To be accepted in a group

- To earn money
- Power, prestige, respect,
- Etc.

One of the main reasons for taking up arms is a lack of alternatives. **Offering alternatives to armed violence can prevent youth from taking up weapons or help them return to a civilian life.**

Both boys and girls are involved in armed violence. However:

- Young men aged 15 to 29 commit more violent acts than any other group of the population.
- Girls join armed groups more for protection, while boys join to be recognized as 'a man'.
- Girls experience more sexual abuse in conflict than boys, but both are victims.

**Be aware: Even if children and youth voluntarily join armed groups, this decision is often based on a lack of alternatives. Children and youth need support from the government and community to find their way back to a peaceful life!**

## 1.5 GENDER: WOMEN, MEN AND SALW

Violence and conflict have an impact on gender roles, as men, women, boys and girls experience violence and conflict in different ways.

**Gender** is used to explain different learned identities associated with masculinity and femininity: it describes **socially constructed as opposed to biologically determined identities of women and men.**

Gender shapes the roles, relationships, experiences and expectations of women, men, boys and girls in society.

Men, women and children experience, and are affected by SALW and armed violence in different ways. For example:

### **Men**

The **highest percentage of both perpetrators and victims** of SALW violence are men. Men often see weapons as symbols of 'courage, 'masculinity' or 'honor', and therefore as positive and necessary for their survival.

### **Women**

Women are **often targets of rape and killing** in armed conflict situations, and victims of crime and violence in their homes. During armed conflict, women are responsible for the survival of their families and have to take over all kinds of responsibilities. They may also be forced to act as wives to combatants, cooks, spies, or messengers, and endure sexual violence. While some women see guns as necessary for

protection, most tend to have a negative opinion about guns.

### **Gender-based violence**

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a form of violence that targets individuals because of their gender. GBV includes violent acts such as rape, torture, mutilation, sexual slavery, forced impregnation and murder. Especially in war and conflict situations, the risk and incidence of GBV increases. **Be aware: men and boys can also be victims of GBV, including rape!**

**Remember:** because small arms are experienced and perceived in different ways, **the gender dimension of small arms action must always be kept in mind** when planning SALW control activities. This is especially true for the processes of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) (see p. 17).

## **1.6 GLOBAL AND REGIONAL AGREEMENTS ON SALW**

In recognition of the SALW problem, many governments have signed international, regional or sub-regional agreements to stop the spread of small arms. These high-level agreements are important for providing governments, communities and individuals with a framework of action on small arms control. The primary agreements include:

<b>Global</b>	UN Program of Action (2001)		UN Firearms Protocol (2001)	
<b>Regional</b>	Africa	Europe	Latin America	Oceania/Pacific
	Bamako Declaration (2000)	EU Code of Conduct (1998)	Inter-American Convention (CIFTA) (1997)	Nadi Framework (2000)
<b>Sub-regional</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Nairobi Protocol (2004)</li> <li>▪ SADC Protocol (2001)</li> <li>▪ ECOWAS Convention (2006)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ OSCE Document (2000)</li> </ul>		

These agreements especially aim to stop the **illegal trade** in SALW at the national, regional and international levels.

### **What is the UN Program of Action?i (PoA)?**

The 2001 United Nations Program of Action (PoA) is one of two international agreements on the issue of SALW. This document:

- Establishes a **global framework** for addressing the small arms problem.
- Is a **political commitment** agreed to by all members of the UN.

***All member states of the United Nations have committed to and are responsible for implementing the PoA.***

### **The PoA aims to:<sup>ii</sup>**

- Help **prevent the illegal manufacture and trade** of small arms.
- **Reduce** their impact on post-conflict situations.
- **Promote responsibility** by states in the legal trade of SALW.
- **Raise awareness** of the threat of SALW.

All global and regional agreements on SALW address problems related to the *supply* of small arms. This includes:

- Production
- Trade (Import / Export / Transfer / Transit)
- Brokering
- Use
- Stockpile Management
- Ammunition

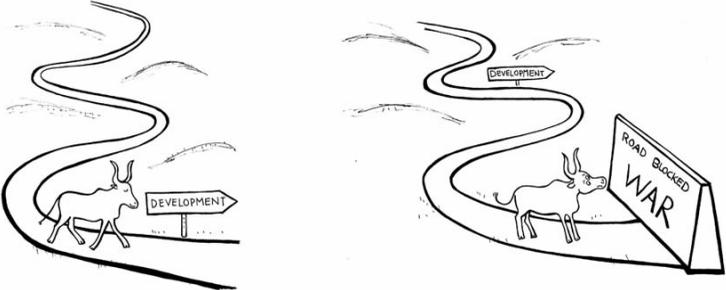
### **Regional and sub-regional agreements on SALW**

Many regions of the world, particularly Africa, have made agreements to control small arms in their countries. These agreements help further the aims of the UN PoA and are **often more effective** than the PoA in bringing about change. This is because each region and sub-region experiences the small arms problem in a different way and requires a unique approach to solving the problem.

**But remember: any agreement, whether regional or international, is only effective if properly implemented!**

It is relatively easy for governments to sign an agreement on SALW, but much more difficult to put

words into action. Civil society actors and local authorities have a key role to play in making sure that the government lives up to its word.



## SECTION 2 – ACTION ON SMALL ARMS CONTROL

### 2.1 SALW COLLECTION

To collect SALW is to make sure they are not available everywhere, but only under control.

**Successful gun collecting works only when people feel their personal security is assured.**

People may give up their guns **voluntarily** or by **coercion**.

People *voluntarily* give up their guns if:

- They get something in return (bicycle, sewing machine, cash).
- The community gets something in return (a borehole, a sports field, a school building).

People can be *coerced* to give up their guns:

- By police/army going house to house.
- By fines or imprisonment for those who are found with guns.

**Coerced collection only works when there is a law, the law is applied equally to all, and the security services are trusted by most of the populace.**

Most successful collection projects have started with voluntary collection, only later followed by coerced collection.

## 2.2 SALW CONTROL

This means adopting any combination of measures including education, securing firearms, collection, destruction, licensing and supervision, to ensure firearms in a society are only used responsibly, carefully, and according to law.

Each country and community must decide for itself what mix of control measures is best for itself.

**You should make the decision, not outsiders!! If a community or location does not control SALW, they run the risk of someone forcing them to do it!!!**

## 2.3 SALW DESTRUCTION

Ideally, we would like SALW not in the hands of the police or army to be destroyed. In some countries, this is not possible because:

- There is yet no full police coverage.
- There is no national firearms law.
- People fear for their personal safety.

SALW and ammunition can be destroyed using simple tools (this can be a source of employment!):

- Disassembling and dunking in concrete.
- Grinding or cutting with oxy-acetylene torch.
- Crushing under a bulldozer or compactor.
- Shredding using a hydraulic shear.

In many places in Africa and elsewhere, piles of guns have been burned in public **“Flame of Peace”** ceremonies which enable communities to perform

the destruction publicly themselves. It is good for a population to see for themselves that guns that have been surrendered are destroyed and cannot be reused against them.

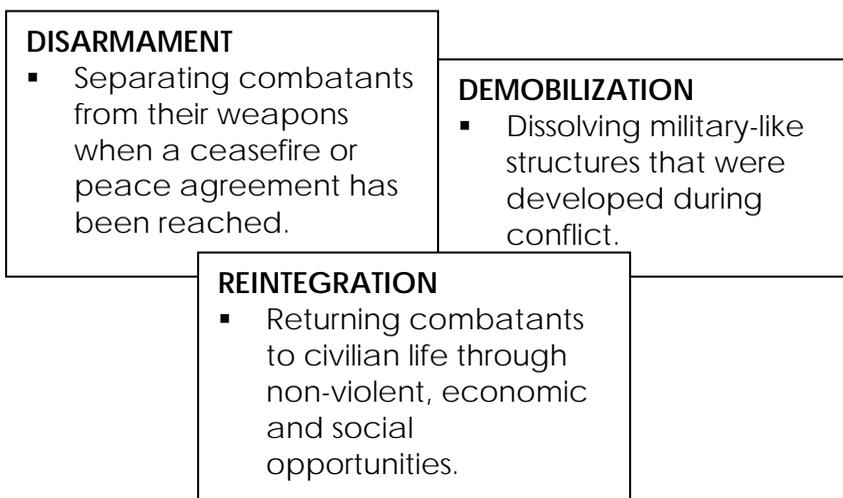
**The destruction itself must only be carried out by, or under the close supervision of experts!!!**

## **2.4 DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILIZATION AND REINTEGRATION (DDR)**

Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration programs (DDR) are processes that take place **after a conflict has ended**. They aim to:

- Prevent the return of armed conflict.
- Help create the conditions for post-conflict reconstruction and peace-building.
- Improve the security situation.

DDR has three phases:



**Note: No one phase of DDR can be successful without the others!**

It is very important to consider which groups to include in the DDR process. Should all individuals associated with armed forces be included, or only the most dangerous elements? Who you select and to enter the DDR process will have an impact on its effectiveness.

**Failures in DDR planning and implementation can be the cause of renewed conflict.**

In the first phases of DDR, the basic needs of ex-combatants have to be taken care of, such as medical treatment, psychological assistance, food and shelter. Female ex-combatants should be disarmed and demobilized separately from male ex-combatants, and children and youth separately from adults.

## **2.5 REINTEGRATION**

Of all three phases, reintegration is often the hardest one to complete successfully. This is because reintegration is a long-term process that requires not only a lot of money, but also a commitment to peace. This commitment must come from ex-combatants, as well as from the communities receiving them.

Reintegration involves the **conversion of ex-combatants into civilians**. As they have often been

out of civilian life for a long time, they need assistance in many ways, such as:

- physical and mental well-being
- adapting and being accepted by community members
- finding alternative means of securing income
- finding social status and respect

Some groups even need special targeted assistance in order to succeed in post-conflict situations. These **special groups** include:

- Female combatants
- Children and youth associated with armed forces
- Combatants with disabilities
- Combatants of minority groups
- Sick and/or elderly combatants
- Combatants from the losing side of a conflict

### **Be aware: Not all combatants possess a weapon!**

Female combatants and children and youth associated with armed forces are often neglected in DDR planning. Failing to address their needs can lead to big problems for peacebuilding – women can be isolated and children re-recruited into fighting forces. Neglecting children and youth in DDR means neglecting the future stability of a society and country!

Communities receiving ex-combatants are also important to the success of reintegration, as **it is up to them to peacefully accept ex-combatants as members of their community**. Governments and

international organizations should support these communities and ensure that they benefit from the reintegration process as well.

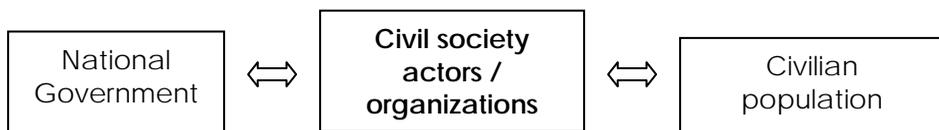
## 2.6 CIVIL SOCIETY ACTION FOR SALW CONTROL

Civil society is comprised of civilians who operate together for non-profit causes. They are distinct from state authorities and related institutions.

### Examples of civil society actors include:

- Registered charities or non-profit groups
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- Community groups
- Women's organizations
- Faith-based organizations
- Professional associations
- Trade unions
- Self-help groups
- Social movements
- Business associations
- Coalitions and advocacy groups
- Schools, universities

Civil society actors have an important role in society, as they can mediate between the national government and the local population.



## What can civil society do to promote small arms control?

- Research the small arms problem.
- Raise public awareness of the problem.
- Engage the civilian population in finding a solution.
- Work with the local government to implement possible solutions.
- Monitor the government's progress and commitment to the issue.

The first two of these activities will be explored in greater detail.

### 2.6.1 Research tools for civil society

Civil society organizations need to be able to:

- Study the problem of SALW locally. **Do not rely on some outside agency to do this job for you – it is your problem, not that of someone from outside your country!!**
- Be objective about findings.
- Report in ways that will be seen to be reliable and trustworthy.

The first step is to identify the problem:

- Is there a problem of small arms in your area?
- Does the problem consist of the presence of SALW? The effects of SALW? Both?

### 2.6.1.1 General principles for your research:

Always note the source of information – what you **see** or **hear**.

- Did you see the facts you are talking about?
- Did a known person tell you the facts you are talking about?
- Did you read about it (and is the report reliable)?

Always **record** (don't try to remember) the facts.

#### Ethics

It is the researcher's responsibility:

- To make sure informants are not put at risk by their information – make sure you protect informant anonymity!
- To use the information gathered ethically. Don't sell it, don't use it to harm people, and don't be biased about the results (even if you do not like them).
- If your results are an estimate or a guess, report that. It is better to state one is guessing than to fake a specific number.

#### Triangulation

- Something seen once is a fact.
- Something seen twice is evidence.
- Something seen three times is a pattern.  
Always look for patterns.

Therefore, always look for **mutually independent sources of information**: a report + a document + an

eyewitness account are likely to be true. An eyewitness report on its own is not.

- Be careful out there!!** Research into SALW can be risky. People may resent your questions.
- Try to avoid interviewing or observing in areas where you may be threatened, or may feel threatened.
  - Do not be aggressive about questioning people on sensitive subjects.
  - Be cautious in approaching people.

### 2.6.1.2 Preparing your research:

You should ask yourself, and answer the following questions:

1. What do you want to do?
  - What is the subject of the research?
  - What do you want to find out?
2. How can you do it?
  - What research instruments will you use?
  - How much time will it take?
3. With whom can you do it?
  - Which partners can help you on the ground?
  - Who can provide information?
  - What manpower will you need?

### 2.6.1.3 Research Instruments

Here are the research instruments you can use:

#### a) Desk research

Research based on reading documents, on paper or the internet.

- A great mass of material needs to be read and digested.
- Distinguish between **opinion** and **fact**.
- Be aware that writers have biases.
- Make sure you triangulate: more than one source of information is needed.
- Remember that not everything published is **true** and not everything true is **reported**.

#### b) Observations

This is research based on what you (or one of your associates) actually **see**.

Observations must include the following information:

- Where (location of observed event)?
- What (was observed – the events, items, or actions observed)?
- Who (was involved, and who did the recording)?
- When (was the observation recorded)?

#### c) Questions

This is research based on what people tell you.

There are **three** ways to get this information:

1. Unstructured interview -- you set a topic for the interview, and ask a series of questions, but allow the interviewee to follow whatever they think is important. Use when you have only a basic idea of the topic.
2. Structured interview – Where you set several questions, and also a selection of answers, from which the interviewee selects those agreed with. Use when you have a good grasp of the topic, have prepared questions, but want to explore the respondents' opinions or experiences.
3. Questionnaire – A form, which is filled in by the interviewee or the interviewer, and which often has multiple-choice answers, so the person filling it can quickly tick off correct answers. Use particularly when you want to collect a wide set of data. Very useful for statistical analysis particularly if multiple-choice answers are provided by you. It requires good grasp of the subject.

#### **d) Record keeping**

- It is essential to keep good records. These should always include the four 'W's: Where, What, Who, When.
- Keep records safe: make duplicates, and keep both original and duplicates in places safe from loss and from outsiders, to protect your informants.

### **2.6.1.4 Subjects for study**

Following are the major issues of interest for SALW research. Each can be researched using a combination of the research instruments above.

**Remember: It is up to you to do this research – it is not as important to anyone else!!**

#### **i) Production Research**

- Is anyone manufacturing guns or ammunition in your area (this could be an industrial operation or a 'craft' operation – an individual or two in their home or workshop)?
- Who is it?
- What do they produce and how much?
- What happens to the product (sold to anyone, or to a specific client? Whom to)?
- Is this production authorized and supervised publicly by the government?

#### **ii) Stockpiles Research**

Stockpiles research is important, because if done accurately, one can repeat the study later and see whether SALW reduction campaigns have been effective and successful or not.

- Who owns SALW in the area (military, police, private hands, community councils, others...)?
- How many SALW are in the area (absolute numbers, per household or per person or per settlement...)

- What types of SALW can be found in the area (and, of course, numbers if you have them)?
- Are stockpiles (government and private) secure (are SALW and ammunition locked up)? What kind of security is provided (concrete buildings, individual locks, ...)? Are there good records?

### iii) Transfer Research

Transfer research examines what SALW are transferred from one agent to another, and who the agents are (government agencies, civilians, commercial companies, people from outside the area). Market analysis will tell you much about security and the causes of insecurity in the area. Markets (selling and buying of SALW and ammunition) may be **licit** (legalized, in which case there must be records you can see) or **illicit** (against the law).

- Is there a market for SALW in the area? What are the quantities offered of various types of SALW and ammunition? What are the prices demanded for various types of SALW and ammunition?
- Who are the sellers? (Manufacturers? Importers? Local people selling personal weapons? The government? Government security personnel?)

### iv) Use and Effects Research

It is possible to study the use and effects of SALW.

- Who uses SALW?

- What for (intimidation? Robbery? Assault? Self-protection)?
- In what circumstances are they used?
- How often do different uses of SALW occur?
- Who are the victims?
- What is the result of use? (the perpetrator is arrested? Punished? Gets away?)

### v) Attitudes

What attitudes do people have about:

- The presence of SALW?
- The uses of SALW?
- Do people have suggestions about how to control SALW in their area?

### vi) Analyzing your situation

After you have collected the information, you should be able to assess and analyze your situation.

On the basis of the information you must decide:

- Do you have an SALW problem, in your area?
- How do you define this problem?
- Are there steps that can be taken to stop the problem or restrict its scope?
- Whom can you work with to solve the problem?
- What inputs (time, personnel, funds) would you need to solve the problem?

## 2.6.2 Raising public awareness

Any small arms action you are planning to undertake should ideally be **in cooperation** with

your local government. By cooperating with them, you can positively influence their policies and actions. In turn, these actions can have a positive impact on your community.

Before you organize any action on small arms, you have to consider the following questions:

1. **Who** owns small arms and **how** do they acquire them?
2. **Why** do people own small arms? What are some reasons why they do not want to give them up?
3. **What** is the impact of these weapons on the community?

Raising public awareness is crucial in the process of SALW control. The success of any SALW control action depends very much on this element: **making people aware of the SALW problem** and possible **solutions** to the problem.

Activities for raising awareness can be in the form of:

1. **Community meetings** to promote discussion, dialogue and cooperation on finding joint solutions to the small arms problem.
2. **Public performances** to help deliver your message in a more entertaining and enjoyable way.
3. **Drawing or designing** posters, signs, pamphlets or other forms of art to help deliver your message.

4. **Dances, celebrations or festivals.** Ideas include a 'dance for a gun-free community', a celebration of peace or a community march to help promote your message.
5. **Reach out to children and youth** to educate them on the dangers of small arms.

Civil society organizations can also participate in **voluntary weapons collection programs** by helping to:

- Raise awareness of the program among the community.
- Identify needs for the program's success.
- Encourage communities to participate.
- Evaluate how they were carried out.

### **Getting youth involved**

Even though they are victims and perpetrators, youth are also part of the solution to armed violence. They should be involved in small arms control activities in order to:

1. **Reach the community**<sup>iii</sup>
  - Youth can affect other youth and the wider community. They can set a good example for their peers.
2. **Provide expertise**
  - Youth affected by small arms and violence are the experts. They know how best to influence their friends.
3. **Ensure sustainability**
  - Youth are the future of any society and country. Investing in them is investing in the future.
4. **Generate new ideas, energy, capacity**

- Young people bring new skills, ideas and knowledge to the table.

### **Being involved in small arms control activities is good for youth!**

Getting involved will help them:

- Become responsible citizens.
- Stay away from violence and crime.
- Choose a peaceful way of life.
- Feel good about themselves and develop new friends.
- Stay in school and develop new skills.

**As adults, community members, educators or authorities, it is our responsibility to ensure that all children and youth are protected and have the choice to live a life free of guns and violence!!**

## **2.7. FINDING FUNDS FOR SALW ACTION**

In order to be able to conduct small arms control activities, you will most likely need some money.

Steps to find funding include:

1. Contacting local or international organizations that work on conflict resolution issues on the ground.
2. Find out if these organizations provide funding on small arms control activities.
3. If so, suggest some of your ideas. They may be willing to work with you in making these ideas a reality.

Even if organizations are willing to support your ideas, you will most likely have to hand in a proposal for funding. Your proposal should cover all of the following areas<sup>iv</sup>:

1. **Summary:**
  - A brief description and aim of your idea, along with how much money you will need.
2. **Rationale:**
  - An explanation of why your idea is important to support.
3. **Objectives:**
  - What do you hope to achieve with this idea? What do you aim to change?
4. **Project Partners:**
  - Who will you be working with and how will you divide up the responsibilities?
5. **Methods and Activities:**
  - What will you actually do and how?
6. **Project Timetable:**
  - When will you do the activities?
7. **Staffing Needs:**
  - Who from your organization will be working on this?
8. **Budgeting:**
  - How much will your activities cost?
9. **Monitoring and Evaluation:**
  - How will you determine whether your activities were successful?
10. **Description of your organization**
11. **Conclusion**
  - A summary of your main points and what broader problem your project aims to resolve.

## SECTION 3 – THE SOUTH SUDAN CONTEXT

South Sudan has been experiencing armed conflict for almost four decades (1956-1972 and 1983-2005) and is still suffering from its consequences, most notably underdevelopment, large scale displacement and a general sense of insecurity. According to international estimates more than two million people died between 1983 and 2002, most of them from disease and malnutrition. While Khartoum and the North of the country have been experiencing economic growth and development at a rapid scale, South Sudan has been suffering from neglect and an almost complete breakdown of public services. Understanding the political context is crucial to combat the proliferation of guns in South Sudan.

### 3.1 CAUSES OF CONFLICT

Violent conflict in South Sudan usually falls into one of two major categories:

- **Militarized Political Conflict**

This includes most prominently the conflict between Southerners and the government of Sudan (GoS) about the neglect of South Sudan and the dominance of national politics by the Arabs from the North. Similar conflicts between GoS and the periphery exist in other parts of the country as well, for example in Darfur and in

Eastern Sudan. In South Sudan the conflict is further complicated by the attempts of GoS to introduce Sharia law in the South, as well as over rival claims to the oil revenue.

- **Inter-Communal Conflict**

This refers to violent conflict between different ethnic groups or communities. While often originating from the misdeeds of individuals, they quickly come to involve whole communities and extended families. These conflicts are often triggered by conflicts over marriage, cattle, water and pasture, the destruction of crops and acts of violence such as murder or manslaughter.

Inter-communal conflicts such as violence between pastoralists and crop farmers, or among pastoralists over cattle rustling or grazing rights have been a fact of South Sudanese life since ancient times. The civil war between GoS and the SPLA/M, however, had a major impact on those 'traditional' conflicts, because both parties provided weapons to local militias and recruited young men to fight for them. The influx of modern weapons such as assault rifles into remote parts of South Sudan also changed the nature of the fighting between communities. The increased firepower of modern guns means that a cattle raid which two generations ago would have involved traditional weapons (such as spears and sticks) now can lead to the killing of dozens or even hundreds of villagers. Traditional conflict resolution mechanisms such as negotiations between

community elders are less effective as power is now often wielded by well-armed young men.

### **The Comprehensive Peace Agreement**

Signed on 9 January 2005, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between GoS and the SPLA/M ended more than two decades of civil war in South Sudan. The agreement provides for (a) the withdrawal of GoS troops from South Sudan and the establishment of 'integrated units'; (b) political autonomy for the South for six years followed by a referendum on independence in 2011, (c) the equitable sharing of oil revenue between GoS and the South Sudan government and (d) the representation of Southerners in the national government. The CPA further states that Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Commissions shall be established in both North and South Sudan with the mandate to oversee the reduction in size of both the SPLA and the Sudanese Armed Forces.

The CPA addresses most of the issues with relation to the militarized political conflict between GoS and the SPLA/M, however it makes no reference to the inter-communal conflicts which continue to jeopardize the security of Southern communities.

### 3.2 SECURITY IN SOUTH SUDAN SINCE 2005

Despite the signing of the CPA in January 2005, the security situation for many people in South Sudan has not improved considerably. While there is no longer a threat of aerial attacks by GoS planes, numerous local militias continue to terrorize neighboring communities and to resist SPLA attempts at disarmament. The picture is further complicated by frequent incursion of cattle raiders from Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya and Uganda, as well as by the activities of the *Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)*, which has considerably expanded its area of operation since mid-2005. The policy by GoS and SPLA/M to arm various 'Friendly Forces' during the conflict, as well as arms transfers from neighboring countries has resulted in a situation where modern weapons are common among the civilian population. Another cause of insecurity are delays in the payment of salaries to SPLA soldiers, which on occasion led to rioting.

A preliminary study undertaken by the *Small Arms Survey* in Lakes State in 2006 found that every third respondent admitted to owning either individually or collectively (as part of the family) a firearm (most commonly an AK-47 assault rifle). Compared with other regions in South Sudan, Lakes State has been fairly stable and peaceful, raising concerns that gun ownership is even more prevalent in others regions. The same survey found that a vast majority of Lakes State resident were in favor of stricter measures to control private gun ownership. It also noted that while some respondents said that security had

improved after the signing of the CPA, others reported feeling less secure than during the conflict. Most households had experienced armed robberies and fights involving firearms since January 2005.

### **3.3 DISARMAMENT IN SOUTH SUDAN**

The responsibility to organize and oversee the disarmament process in South Sudan rests with the *South Sudan Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration Committee (SSDDRC)* under the leadership of Chairman Arop Mayak. SSDDRC was created by the President of the government of South Sudan and is headquartered in Juba. The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) assists in this task through a dedicated DDR unit in Khartoum with field offices in South Sudan.

So far, the focus of most DDR activities has been on former combatants of SPLA and the Sudan Armed Forces and in particular on women and children, as well as handicapped people associated with both armed forces. The difficult topography of South Sudan, an unclear legal situation, the lack of infrastructure as well as funding and human resources constrains means that the issue of guns among the civilian population has not yet been adequately addressed.

Given the continued presence of non-SPLA affiliated armed groups in many parts of South

Sudan, local SPLA/M officials have on occasion attempted to disarm local militias using the threat of force. The most notorious event was in March and April 2006 when SPLA tried to disarm elements of the 'White Army' in Jonglei State. This campaign resulted in the death of hundreds of civilians as well as the burning of villages and the looting of cattle, while failing to disarm the local population. With the assistance of UNDP a subsequent voluntary disarmament program has yielded more than 1.300 guns in Jonglei.

These problems and the potentially fatal consequences of poorly designed disarmament programs show the need to develop a national disarmament strategy for the South Sudan with the assistance of international agencies. Civil society and local communities can play an important role in this context both with regard to awareness raising as well as with local attempts to improve community security in coordination with national efforts.

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<sup>i</sup> The full text of the PoA can be accessed at [http://www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/a\\_res\\_55/255e.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/a_res_55/255e.pdf)

<sup>ii</sup> Adapted from the UN Department of Disarmament Affairs (DDA) PowerPoint presentation, <http://disarmament2.un.org/cab/PoA%20generic%20presents%20Xiayou%20chngs.ppt>.

<sup>iii</sup> Adapted from the Youth LEAP resource manual “Working with young people for a mine free world: how to engage young people in campaigning” by Mines Action Canada, Section on “Understanding Youth Engagement”, [http://www.dangermines.ca/pdf/LeapManual/Understanding\\_Youth\\_Engagement\\_en.pdf](http://www.dangermines.ca/pdf/LeapManual/Understanding_Youth_Engagement_en.pdf), pp.18-19

<sup>iv</sup> Jim Coe and Henry Smith, Action against Small Arms: A Resource and Training Handbook, (London: International Alert, Oxfam and Saferworld, 2003), p. 161.

# BICC

## at a glance

**B**ICC is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting peace and development through the efficient and effective transformation of military-related structures, assets, functions and processes. Having expanded its span of activities beyond the classical areas of conversion that focus on the reuse of military resources (such as the reallocation of military expenditures, restructuring of the defense industry, closure of military bases, and demobilization), BICC is now organizing its work around three main topics: *arms, peacebuilding and conflict*. In doing this, BICC recognizes that the narrow concept of national security, embodied above all in the armed forces, has been surpassed by that of global security and, moreover, that global security cannot be achieved without seriously reducing poverty, improving health care and extending good governance throughout the world, in short: without human security in the broader sense.

*Arms:* To this end, BICC is intensifying its previous efforts in the fields of weaponry and disarmament, not only through its very special work on small arms but also by increasing its expertise in further topics of current concern such as the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, arms embargoes and new military technologies.

*Peacebuilding:* BICC is extending its work in the area of peacebuilding. In addition to examining post-conflict demobilization and reintegration of combatants and weapon-collection programs, the Center aims to contribute, among other things, to the development of concepts of security sector reform with an emphasis on civil-military cooperation, increased civilian control of the military, and the analysis of failed states.

*Conflict:* BICC is broadening its scope in the field of conflict management and conflict prevention, including tensions caused by disputes over marketable resources and transboundary issues such as water.

These three main areas of analysis are complemented by additional crosscutting aspects, for example, gender, pandemics, or environmental protection.

Along with conducting research, running conferences and publishing their findings, BICC's international staff are also involved in consultancy, providing policy recommendations, training, and practical project work. By making information and advice available to governments, NGOs, and other public or private sector organizations, and especially through exhibitions aimed at the general public, they are working towards raising awareness for BICC's key issues.

While disarmament frees up resources that can be employed in the fight against poverty, conversion maximizes outcomes through the careful management of such transformation of resources. It is in this sense that they together contribute to increasing human security.

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"I call on the Sudanese people to join this peace agreement."

"A new Sudan is possible for there are many people...who believe in the universal ideals of humanity."

**The Late Lt. Gen. Dr. John Garang de Mabior  
President of the Government of Southern Sudan**



"On our side as government, we have a disarmament program because we believe these intersectional conflicts are mostly being aggravated by the availability of automatic weapons that are now in the hands of our civil population."

**H.E. Lt. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit  
President of the Government of Southern Sudan**



"The permanent solution depends on the people."

"We want peace in Southern Sudan."

**H.E. Lt. Gen. Dr. Riek Machar Teny  
Vice-President of the Government of Southern Sudan**

