

MODULE 1

Defining small arms and light weapons

Objective

To familiarise trainees with some types of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and to give them a basic understanding of SALW proliferation issues, in order to enhance the effectiveness of measures taken to prevent, combat, control and eradicate the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

Summary

This module provides an introduction to SALW and outlines some dynamics that influence the flow of weapons in South Sudan. It will enable participants to identify different types of SALW by providing an understanding of their physical appearance, uses, and primary users. Participants will be able to recognise different types of SALW and therefore be more effective in preventing, combating, controlling and eradicating the illicit proliferation of SALW.

SALW pass through many channels to arrive at their point of use, often through military as well as civilian hands; the transfer process differs according to geographic location and political context. Understanding these processes helps practitioners to focus control strategies to better control illegal possession of SALW and to combat the unregulated proliferation of SALW. This module also deals with the lifecycle of SALW.

Session	Learning objective	Lesson plan	Exercise/Tool	Handout	Time
Introduction					
Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Become comfortable with group. 		Introductions – find out and present name and 3 things about partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ List of participants ■ Name badges 	9.00–9.20am (20 mins)
Course overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Understand what is included in the curriculum. ■ Agree on the agenda. 	Exercise to identify participants' expectations from the training.	On flash cards participants write their expectations from the training (1–2), read out to others and paste on the wall. These can be revisited at the end of the workshop to check whether the workshop met their expectations.	Workshop agenda	9.20–9.45am (25 mins)
Establishing ground rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Establish ground rules for training. 		Ground rules – group brainstorm.		9.45–10.00am (15 mins)
Morning tea break					10.00–10.30am (30 mins)
Module 1: Defining small arms and light weapons					
Defining SALW (box)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Understand key concepts that will be used in the course: small arms, light weapons, SALW proliferation, stockpile management. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brainstorm possible definitions for small arms, light weapons, proliferation, stockpile management. 2. Affirm key points and definitions. 	Ask participants the first thing that comes to their mind when you say 'SALW', write them on a flip chart to build up definitions.	Handout: Definitions	10.30–11.15am (45 mins)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Recognising small arms 2 Recognising light weapons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To identify the various small arms and light weapons. ■ To distinguish between small arms and light weapons. 	Workshop exercise 1: Identifying small arms and light weapons.	Using pictures of different types of small and light weapons, ask participants to separate small arms from light weapons, to name them, to describe them, and to outline their use. Ask participants which of these weapons they have seen before in the areas where they live and work.	Handout: Definitions	11.15am–12.30pm (75 mins)
Lunch					12.30–1.30pm (60 mins)
3 SALW life cycle and proliferation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To understand the many ways in which SALW can end up being misused in environments where the state is unable to fully control the accessibility possession of arms. ■ To be able to identify some of the socio-economic and political factors shaping SALW proliferation. ■ To gain a broad understanding of the many ways for dealing with SALW proliferation. 	<p>Brainstorm the possible ways in which SALW can eventually find their way into the hands of civilians. (see Workshop exercise 1)</p> <p>Workshop exercise 2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss the number of socio-economic and political factors shaping SALW proliferation. 2. Drawing on the South Sudan example, discuss mechanisms that can be applied in preventing circulation of SALW. <p>For all exercises, allow 15–20 minutes for discussion and then request each group to give a 5–10 minute feedback presentation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Give out handouts 	<p>Workshop exercise 2</p> <p>Divide participants into groups of three to six persons for all exercises.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask participants to produce a diagrammatic drawing of how a gun, after manufacture, can circulate legally or illegally, and of its potential users. Encourage participants to draw on their own experience and knowledge when thinking of a potential life cycle of a weapon (45 mins) 2. Ask participants to identify at least five of the socio-economic and political factors that shape SALW proliferation. Discuss strategies that can effectively reduce the impacts of these factors (45 mins). 3. Identify and describe the means through which SALW circulate. Discuss mechanisms that can be applied in preventing circulation (45 mins). 	Handout: Definitions	1.30–4.30pm (180 mins)
End of day: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Wrap-up ■ Complete evaluation forms 					4.30–5.00pm (30 mins)

Defining SALW¹

For the purposes of these modules:

Small arms

'Small arms' are weapons designed for personal use, including: light machine guns, sub-machine guns, including machine pistols, fully automatic rifles and assault rifles, and semi-automatic rifles.

'Small arms' also include:

1) 'Firearms', meaning:

- (a) Any portable barrelled weapon that expels, is designed to expel or may be readily converted to expel a shot, bullet or projectile by the action of an explosive, excluding antique firearms or their replicas. Antique firearms and their replicas shall be defined in accordance with domestic law. In no case, however, shall antique firearms include firearms manufactured after 1899.
- (b) Any other weapon or destructive device such as an explosive bomb, incendiary bomb or gas bomb, grenade, rocket launcher, missile, missile system or mine.

2) 'Ammunition', meaning the complete round or its components, including cartridge cases, primers, propellant powder, bullets or projectiles, that are used in a small arm or light weapon, provided that those components are themselves subject to authorisation in the respective State Party.

3) 'Other related materials', meaning any components, parts or replacement parts of a small arm or light weapon, that are essential to its operation.

Light weapons

'Light weapons' include the following portable weapons designed for use by several persons serving as a crew: heavy machine guns, automatic cannons, howitzers, mortars of less than 100 mm calibre, grenade launchers, anti-tank weapons and launchers, recoilless guns, shoulder-fired rockets, anti-aircraft weapons and launchers, and air defence weapons.

1 Recognising small arms²

Small arms are, broadly speaking, weapons designed for individual use.³ They are usually at the lower end of the calibre spectrum (4.6–40 or 66 mm). Small arms include handguns (self-loading pistols and revolvers) and shoulder arms (rifles and carbines, sub-machine guns and light machine guns, and grenade launchers).

- **Handguns** are small arms which, in theory, can be fired one-handed. They are widely available and can be easily concealed, which makes them one of the weapon types most often used in crime, especially in urban areas. Their military use is limited, but police officers are often armed with handguns.
- **Automatic pistols** store the ammunition in the grip, and prepare a new round for firing until the magazine in the grip is empty.
- **Revolvers**, which tend to be older weapons and have bullets in a rotating cylinder above the trigger, are seen less frequently.
- **Shoulder arms** are designed to be fired with the back end – the butt – held into the shooter's shoulder for greater stability. They are the most common SALW found in South Sudan and other parts of Africa, and are the cause of most arms-related deaths and injuries, both accidental and deliberate. A shoulder arm requires two hands to use effectively.

¹ Definition in *The Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of SALW in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa*, p 3.

² This and the following section, including text and photographs, are substantially reproduced from BICC 2005, pp 23–31.

³ UNODA 2008, p 19.

- **Assault rifles** are capable of automatic fire – i.e. squeezing the trigger once releases a burst of bullets. They are the most common shoulder arm today, and are found in almost all areas of civil or military conflict. The most (in)famous are the Kalashnikov family (AK-47, AKM, AK-74). They tend to be short (up to 70 cm with the butt) and light-weight, and can be identified by the presence of a large semi-curved (banana-shaped) magazine.
- **Bolt rifles** are long guns that shoot single bullets to a great distance. After each round is fired, the shooter moves a bolt to load the next round for firing.
- **Semi-automatic rifles** use the energy released during firing to reload another round from a box magazine suspended underneath the weapon. Semi-automatic rifles can be configured to full automatic fire.
- **Shotguns and hunting rifles** are intended primarily for sport and hunting. They are extremely lethal. As shotguns fire cluster pellets instead of bullets, they are very dangerous to bystanders.
- **Machine-guns** are firearms that fire in bursts and are capable of a high rate of sustained fire. Both light machine-guns and submachine guns are portable and can be fired by one person.
 - **Light machine-guns** are usually belt-fed and can fire in rapid bursts to extended ranges. They are sometimes mounted on bipods or tripods for stability. They most often look like large assault rifles.
 - **Submachine guns** can be conceived of as a hybrid between pistols and assault rifles, with a longer barrel than a pistol and a larger magazine capacity, but a size that is smaller than an assault rifle. Some are very small, light and quick firing, and they are easy to conceal. As they are relatively easy to operate but usually inaccurate, they can inflict a great deal of ‘collateral damage’, as people the shooter was not aiming at get hit as well.
- **Under-barrel hand-held grenade launchers** are designed to fire grenades beyond throwing range. The launchers (tubes) come in three formats: a tube suspended underneath an assault rifle barrel; a hand-held tube that looks like a stubby, thick-barrelled rifle; or a heavy machine gun. The first two are usually lightweight, single-shot, shoulder-fired weapons.⁴

2 Recognising light weapons

Light weapons are weapons designed for use by two or three persons serving as a crew, although some may be carried and used by a single person. Light weapons include heavy machine guns, hand-held under-barrel and mounted grenade launchers, portable anti-aircraft guns, portable anti-tank guns, recoilless rifles, portable launchers of anti-tank missile and rocket systems, portable launchers of anti-aircraft missile systems, and mortars of a calibre of less than 100 mm.

- **Heavy machine guns**, like light and medium machine guns, are belt-fed and are designed to fire at high, sustained rates. They are supported by a tripod at the centre of the body, or mounted on vehicles. The main difference between heavy and other machine guns is their size and weight and the penetrating power of their ammunition.
- **Light cannons** generally tend towards the heavier end of the SALW calibre spectrum (57mm–100mm). They sometimes fire single shots and sometimes may have automatic loaders attached to the rear. Like heavy machine guns, they need mechanical support. They often have two wheels.

⁴ *Ibid*, p 27.

- **Rocket-Propelled Grenades (RPG)** are small rocket-propelled explosives larger than a grenade, designed to be fired at distant targets. The tube of the grenade launcher is a steel pipe with a firing grip and sights attached. Both the warhead and the propellant are explosive and must be treated as highly dangerous. It is also very dangerous to stand behind them when they are fired.
- **Recoilless rifles** are a form of man-portable artillery that must be fired from over the shoulder or placed on a tripod or a vehicle. The warhead is explosive and can cause considerable damage, even to buildings and armoured vehicles, with a dispersal radius of over 20 meters.
- **'Portable missile launchers'** is a catch-all term for a family of relatively new light weapons used to destroy armour, personnel and fortifications with a guided missile. They are highly portable and normally look like stubby (1.5 m or more long) thick (20–30 cm) tubes that are fired over the shooter's shoulder or from a tripod. The round is guided to its target using a control mechanism attached to the tube.
- **Man-Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS)** are portable missile launchers used mainly against aircraft.

3 SALW lifecycle and proliferation⁵

Lifecycles of SALW

There are many ways in which SALW can end up being misused in environments where the state is unable to fully control the accessibility to and illegal possession of arms. In general, political, economic and social transformations within countries tend to increase availability of arms.

SALW, unlike heavy arms, circulate in both the military and civilian markets. While military markets involve legal transfers from the producers and certified states to the purchasing state, civilian markets are flooded with excess arms that might result from either military budget cuts or producers' surplus production⁶. While it is not always possible to accurately pinpoint how SALW find their way into one country from another, and eventually into the hands of civilians, seven possible ways can be identified⁷:

- Arms captured from enemies during fighting
- Soldiers defecting from armed groups
- Stolen or captured peacekeeping stocks (from UN troops)
- Arms supplied by the armed forces
- Purchase through the open market
- Supply from government stockpiles of neighbouring states
- Inheritance from family and relatives or friends.

For example, let's consider the life of a gun manufactured in a developed country considered to be at peace, and purchased legally for national defence by another country that has recently been embroiled in a domestic conflict. The gun is initially in the possession of state forces. However, in this instance, corrupt officials permit the looting of a stockpile containing the gun for personal profit, or looting of stockpiles is made easy because the

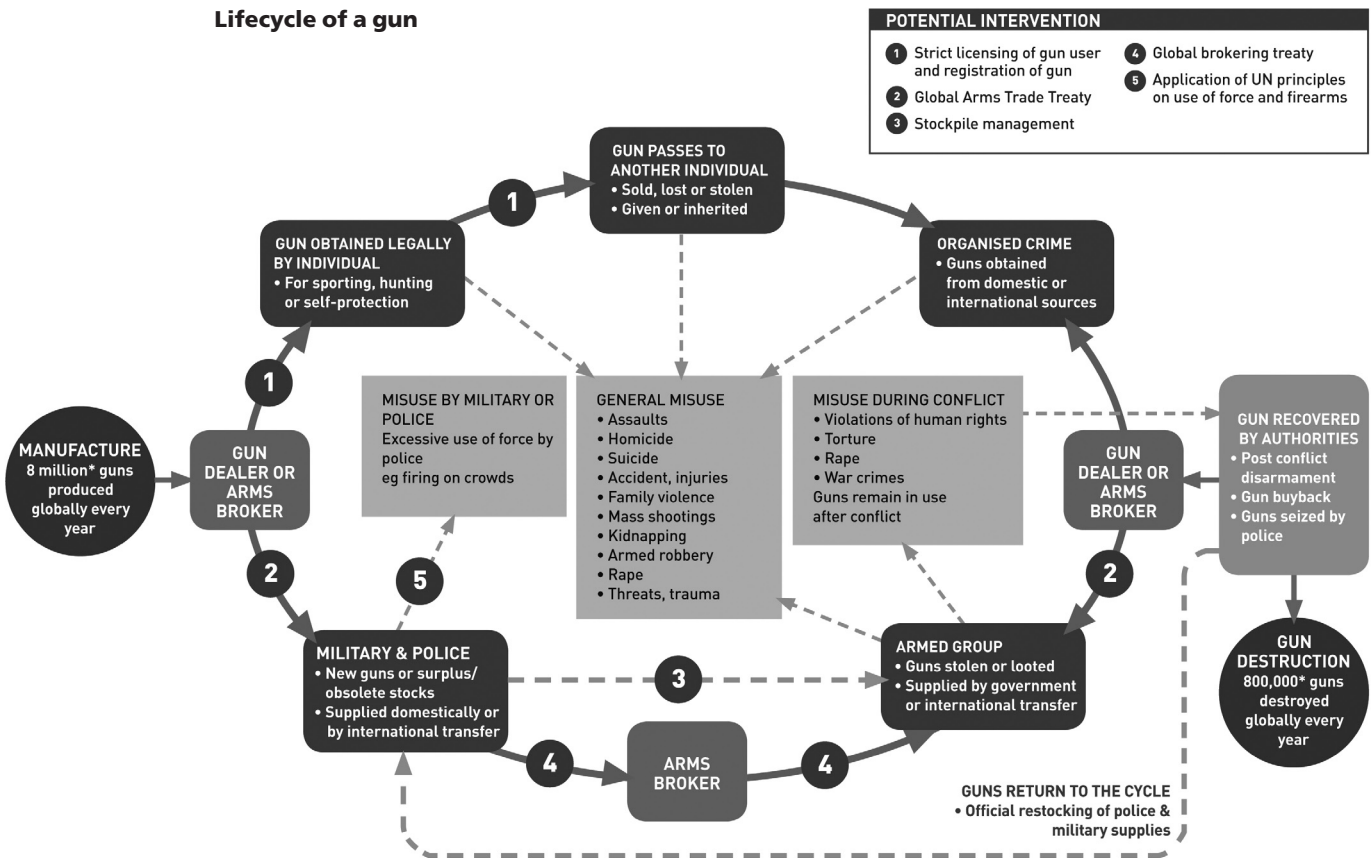
⁵ UN Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA) is in the process of developing International Small Arms Control Standards, or "ISACS". The primary objective of these Standards will be to enhance the effectiveness of policymaking, programming and practice across the UN system by providing clear and comprehensive guidance on a wide range of small arms control issues. Two of the most relevant modules being developed are on marking and record-keeping and on tracing. Once completed, these standards will not only be of great use to actors working on small arms within the United Nations system, but also will assist States wishing to implement both the UN Programme of Action on SALW and the International Tracing Instrument. See CASA website www.un-casa-isacs.org/isacs/Statements.html (accessed October 20 2011).

⁶ Small Arms Survey, 2001.

⁷ Araba, 2007, pp 31–32; HSBA, 2009.

facilities are not secure. The gun, along with many other weapons, is sold to a small armed group that is operating outside the law and is building on popular discontent to overthrow the government. This group has found it easy to play on the fears of those in small villages and towns and recruit members. Suddenly, the gun is now being used in rapes, assaults and other violations of human rights. The diagram below illustrates this and other paths.

Lifecycle of a gun



*Figures from the Small Arms Survey, Geneva.
Source: International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA)

Many ways have been suggested for dealing with these all-too-typical problems. One would be to tighten trade regulations and procedures. Another would be to address governmental corruption. Yet another would be making sure that stored weapons are difficult to access, marked and traceable. Or one could focus on reducing the demand or reasons for using weapons, for instance by educating people and providing employment that prevents them from falling under the influence of armed groups and criminal gangs. In the end, a combination of all of these approaches is necessary to reduce the problem.

SALW proliferation in the Horn of Africa

Various domestic and regional dynamics contribute to the widespread proliferation of SALW in the Horn of Africa. These dynamics are shaped by the trade and trafficking of SALW in the region, which are conditioned by many structural factors.

- Political tension and environmental scarcity at the regional level give rise to the diffusion of arms, while longstanding migratory patterns facilitate their transfer across borders.⁸
- Combinations of political manipulation, extreme poverty, deteriorating livelihoods, and environmental degradation contribute to people's willingness to take up arms.⁹
- The presence of poorly-paid and poorly-trained security forces further ensures a steady supply of weapons to civilians.¹⁰
- The political tradition in the Horn of outsourcing armed conflict to non-state armed groups is another factor driving proliferation.¹¹

Following the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 2005 and the transition to independence in 2011, South Sudan has also been bolstering its arms acquisition on the international market. As the new state seeks to become the primary provider of security services – both from a policing and military viewpoint – and to develop professional and effective security agencies, South Sudan has a legitimate right to obtain military equipment and material. Available information indicates that South Sudanese arms acquisitions are rooted in civil war-era political alliances, with regional allies, including Ethiopia and Kenya, acting as conduits for arms supplied from their own stocks, or acquired on the international market.

It is not only the military that has driven arms flows in the region. The tradition of cattle raiding, exacerbated by growing populations and diminishing access to natural resources, has provided a clear incentive for civilians or pastoralists along the Kenyan, Ugandan, and South Sudanese borders to acquire small arms. Pastoralists in these areas have been well-supplied with weapons; they have been disarmed at various stages, but some of these weapons have trickled back into the fighting areas.¹²

⁸ For a review of the history of arms flows in the region, see Saferworld, May 2011, pp 4–5.

⁹ *Human Security Baseline Assessment (HSBA)*, 2007, p 2.

¹⁰ Saferworld, May 2011, p 4.

¹¹ Arms are often legally procured by states ostensibly for national security, and then are covertly distributed to paramilitaries, local defence forces and militia who wage war in lieu of standing armies (HSBA, 2007, p 2).

¹² Saferworld, *ibid.*

EXAMPLE**SALW in Sudan and South Sudan**

Sudan and South Sudan both receive and act as conduits for SALW from the rest of the world to other countries in Africa (Chad, DRC, and Uganda). There has been an established arms supply route between Somalia, Ethiopia, and Sudan¹³ for many years supplying the SPLA and civilians. In Eastern Equatoria, both the LRA and other Khartoum-supported militias had most of their weapons supplied in the government-held Torit area. Nimule, although held by the SPLA at the time, remained a major black market trading centre for weapons coming from Uganda, many of which seemed to have been picked up by civilians. The supply routes taken were just east of Nimule, although they later became increasingly difficult to use because of the presence of the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF). More recently, there has been an increase in arms trafficking from Kenya and Somalia to Uganda – an indicator of the unstable situation in Somalia, but also of the increased sense of instability in the entire region, which is inevitably shared by the South Sudanese living along those routes.¹⁴

As of late 2009, an estimated 2.7 million weapons were in circulation in the Sudan, with just under 20 percent held by the Government of National Unity at the time, less than 10% held by the then Government of Southern Sudan and the rest held by current and former armed groups, civilians and foreign forces in Sudanese territory (such as the UN mission and UPDF).¹⁵ Despite the fact that Sudan is a producer of some SALW, according to UN Comtrade data (2007), between 1992 and 2005, Sudan spent about US\$ 70 million to import SALW from at least 34 countries. Out of these weapons, more than 90 percent came from China and Iran. However, these figures would be higher if the real value of all legal and illegal trade were computed.¹⁶

From inventories taken of firearms in 2009, it is estimated that the SPLA may possess some 200,000 firearms.¹⁷ However, civilians and armed groups are believed to possess many more weapons than the Sudanese state security forces and the SPLA combined. At the time, it was estimated that the average civilian holdings in the ten Southern states were twice that of the fifteen Northern states; and that the weighted average civilian holdings across the country were a little below five weapons per hundred persons. With some forty million inhabitants, civilian holdings at the time were placed at roughly two million weapons. Only a tiny percentage of these weapons were registered with the authorities. As the rearmament of Southern pastoralist groups in the wake of GoSS and SPLA arms recovery initiatives attests, weapons have remained in plentiful supply and ongoing cycles of bloody clashes among ethnic groups in the South suggest that there is no shortage of weapons or ammunition.

Basic visual assessments suggest that arms held by non-state actors across North and South Sudan are dominated by two unsurprising types of SALW – AK-type (7.62 x 39 mm) assault rifles and RPG-2 or RPG-7 rocket launchers, as well as RPK and 'DshK'-type machine guns. Many of these are relatively old weapons, manufactured in several dozen countries in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and East Asia and widely circulated within and between armed groups and communities across the region and beyond, making it difficult to establish their original source or route to Sudan.¹⁸

¹³ Reference is made here to 'Sudan' when describing conditions and events from before the independence of South Sudan on 9 July 2011.

¹⁴ Schomerus 2007, p 44.

¹⁵ HSBA 2009, p 8.

¹⁶ Cited in Araba 2007, p 29.

¹⁷ HSBA 2009, p 9.

¹⁸ *Ibid*, p 9.

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Workshop exercises

Exercise 1

Identifying small arms and light weapons

Using pictures of different types of small and light weapons, ask participants to separate small arms from light weapons, to name them, to describe them, and to outline their use. Ask participants, if they are comfortable with this, which of these weapons they have seen before in the areas where they live and work.

Exercise 2

Circulation, use, control of proliferation and recovery of weapons

Divide participants into groups of three to six persons.

- Ask participants to produce a diagrammatic drawing of how a gun can, after manufacture, can circulate legally or illegally, and of its potential users. Encourage participants to draw on their own experience and knowledge when thinking of a potential life cycle of a weapon.
- SALW proliferation is shaped by a number of socio-economic and political factors. Ask participants to identify at least five of these factors, drawing on participants' own experience, and discuss some strategies that can effectively reduce the impacts of these factors.
- Identify and describe the means through which SALW circulate. Using the example of South Sudan, discuss mechanisms that can be applied in preventing circulation through the means identified by groups.

Allow 20–30 minutes for discussion for each of the above exercises and then request each group to give a 5–10-minute feedback presentation.

MODULE 1: HANDOUT

Definitions

Defining SALW¹

Small arms

'Small arms' are weapons designed for personal use, including: light machine guns, sub-machine guns, including machine pistols, fully automatic rifles and assault rifles, and semi-automatic rifles.

'Small arms' also include:

1) 'Firearms', meaning:

- (a) Any portable barrelled weapon that expels, is designed to expel or may be readily converted to expel a shot, bullet or projectile by the action of an explosive, excluding antique firearms or their replicas. Antique firearms and their replicas shall be defined in accordance with domestic law. In no case, however, shall antique firearms include firearms manufactured after 1899.
- (b) Any other weapon or destructive device such as an explosive bomb, incendiary bomb or gas bomb, grenade, rocket launcher, missile, missile system or mine.

2) 'Ammunition', meaning the complete round or its components, including cartridge cases, primers, propellant powder, bullets or projectiles, that are used in a small arm or light weapon, provided that those components are themselves subject to authorisation in the respective State Party.

3) 'Other related materials', meaning any components, parts or replacement parts of a small arm or light weapon, that are essential to its operation.

Light weapons

'Light weapons' include the following portable weapons designed for use by several persons serving as a crew: heavy machine guns, automatic cannons, howitzers, mortars of less than 100 mm calibre, grenade launchers, anti-tank weapons and launchers, recoilless guns, shoulder-fired rockets, anti-aircraft weapons and launchers, and air defence weapons.

¹ Definition in *The Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of SALW in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa*, p 3.

Common terms

Automatic type of weapon not requiring that the trigger be pulled for each shot

Barrel tube which bullet is fired out of

Bolt action way of loading bullet – bullet is loaded and ejected from chamber by manipulating a manual bolt (handle that is pulled back and forth to unload and load the cartridge) such that it must be lifted, pulled to the rear, returned to the front and then locked down to operate the action

Bore diameter of gun barrel

Bullet projectile fired from end of firearm

Calibre diameter of bullet

Cartridge casing which contains the explosive element to propel the bullet

Chamber holds the round during firing process

Firearm any device which will expel, or is readily capable of expelling, a projectile by the action of an explosive and includes any such device, loaded or unloaded

Hammer part of gun which hits the base of a bullet to ignite explosive

Magazine part of the firearm that holds extra ammunition and which is inserted into the firearm; can look like a tube, a box that is built into the gun or a box that can be removed from the gun

Mortar shell hollow projectile containing an explosive substance, which is fired out of a mortar launcher through the ignition of its fuse and explodes on contact

Round refers to the cartridge and bullet as a single unit

Semi-automatic type of weapon where bullets are loaded through a spring mechanism and fires one bullet each time trigger is pulled


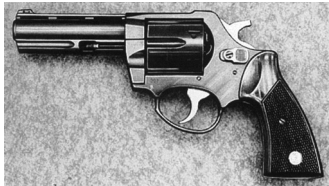





Shot small round black pellet consisting of lead, which comes in various sizes and is fired as a projectile primarily from shotguns

Stock/Butt part of the firearm which rests against the body, often the shoulder. It can be folding or retractable, wooden or metal, and serves to stabilise the gun while firing. Usually found on rifles and some machine-pistols, like the Uzi








Trigger part of the firearm which is pulled to release the firing mechanism

Recognising small arms & Recognising light weapons (M1 SS1&2)

Table: Sub-types and examples of small arms²

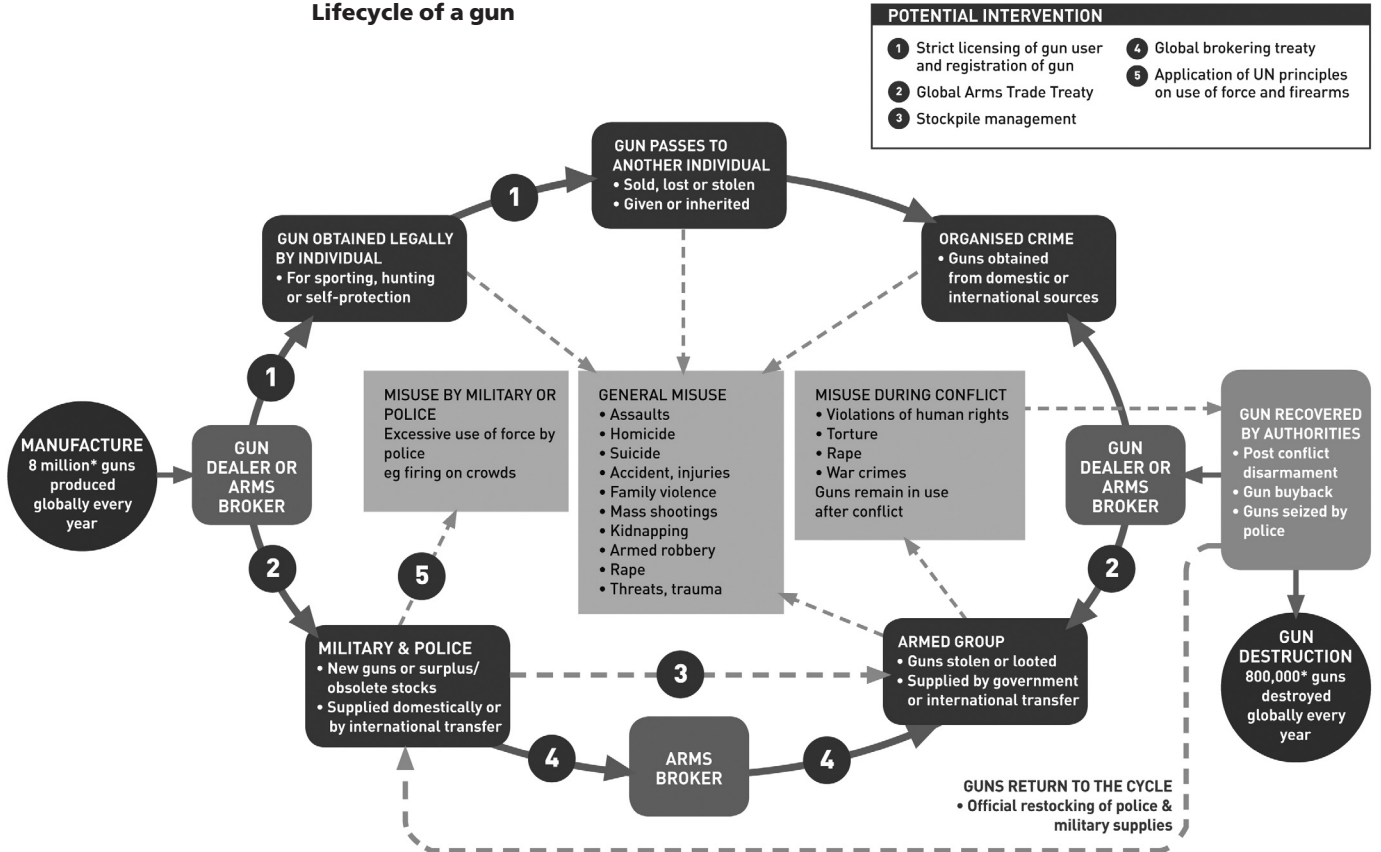
Type	Explanation	Example
Handguns	Handguns are small, portable and easily concealed. They can be fired with one hand and use small calibre ammunition. There are two main types of handguns – semi-automatic with a magazine in the handle or revolvers. Both types can be fired easily with one hand and are easy to carry and conceal. Because of the shorter barrel, handguns are not very accurate over a long distance.	Makarov Pistol 
Revolvers	Revolvers are a type of handgun which fire rounds from a revolving cylinder (called a revolver because the chamber revolves after each shot). Revolvers normally take up to six shots. They are often the older version of a handgun.	
Rifles (including assault rifles and carbines)	Designed to be used with two hands. They have a long barrel, are usually fired from the shoulder and are more accurate than handguns. Rifles are sub-divided into five groups: shotgun, bolt action, repeating, semi-automatic and assault. 'Shotgun', 'bolt action' and 'repeating' rifles are loaded manually. 'Semi-automatic' rifles use the recoil energy released on firing to load another round.	AK S74 
	'Assault' rifles are capable of select fire – their fast firing sequence allows the individual user to deliver a high rate of accurate fire to ranges of up to 400 metres. Of all SALW, assault rifles are thought to have been the highest source of human war casualties since 1944. Common models include AK 47, M16 (weapon of choice of US Army), FN-FAL (produced by Belgian FN Herstal).	AK 47 Automatic Kalashnikov 1947 
	Sniper rifles are high precision weapons because of their telescopic lens. They generally have a long barrel and fire small bullets, and are extremely accurate over a long distance. They are often single-shot but can be semi-automatic.	Dragunov SVD Automatic Rifle 
Shotguns	Shotguns are a type of rifle that shoots shots (which spray rather than go in a straight line) rather than bullets. They are extremely lethal at short range. The shots tend to be manually loaded. Usually single or double-barrelled. Typical hunting rifle.	Winchester Model 12, 12 gauge 
Machine-guns (sub-, light, or general-purpose)	All machine-guns are capable of a high rate of sustained fire. Sub-machine-guns (SMG) are small calibre weapons that fire pistol cartridges but have longer barrels and a larger magazine capacity. MP5 sub-machine-gun is produced by Heckler and Koch, a British and German company which is owned by a subsidiary of British Aerospace. It is produced under license around the world. MP stands for multi-purpose.	Heckler and Koch machine gun 

² This handout draws from images and descriptions in SEESAC's (South Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons) *Small Arms and Light Weapons Awareness Support Pack (SASP)* 2003.

Type	Explanation	Example
Machine-guns <i>continued</i>	Light, medium or general purpose machine-guns are designed to be used by an individual or by a crew of two. They are generally belt or magazine fed and are mounted on tripods or bipods for stability. Most weapons of this type use gas expansion to complete the firing sequence and have a maximum effective range of 500–700 metres. They utilise major calibre rifle ammunition.	MG42 Machine Gewehr Model 42 
Hand-held, under-barrel grenade launchers	Hand-held and under-barrel grenade launchers are generally lightweight, single-shot, shoulder-fired weapons designed for attachment to a rifle. Most fire a 37mm–40mm grenade and have a maximum range of 400 metres.	Hechler and Koch Model 69 40mm Grenade Launcher 
	Rocket-propelled grenade launchers are man portable, and shoulder-launched weapons which are capable of firing an explosive device. They are composed of two major parts, the launcher and the grenade.	RPG-7 
Heavy machine-guns	Like all machine-guns, heavy machine guns (HMG) are designed to maintain a high rate of sustained fire. HMG are heavy-barrelled weapons that use major calibre ammunition (between 12.7mm to 14.5mm) and are mounted for stability. They require two or more crew to operate. Most weapons systems of this type have a maximum effective range of 1500 metres, with an extreme range of 3000 metres.	M2HB Browning Model 2 Heavy Barrel .50 calibre 
Mounted automatic grenade launchers	Mounted automatic grenade launchers are fully automatic, crew-served weapons. They can fire a variety of 40mm high-velocity grenades, some armour-piercing. For example the M430 HEDP 40mm grenade launcher (right) will pierce armour up to 2 inches thick, and will produce fragments that kill individuals within 5 metres and wound individuals within 15 metres of the point of impact.	MK19 grenade launcher & M430 grenades 
Portable anti- aircraft guns	See Heavy Machine Guns. 20mm–40mm cannons can fall into this category.	
Recoilless rifles	Recoilless rifles are crew-served weapons capable of firing artillery size ammunition at a range and velocity normally associated with a light cannon. They operate somewhat like a rocket launcher by firing a rocket-propelled charge. A venting system allows the weapon to operate without recoil. These weapons are generally between 57–106mm in calibre, can penetrate between 30mm to 10cm, depending on the size of the projectile and have a maximum effective range of 800–1500metres.	57mm Recoilless Rifle 
Anti-tank rocket and missile systems	Anti-tank rocket launchers are designed to be deployed by an individual and are shoulder-fired. As well as being effective against tanks, they are highly effective against light armoured vehicles and fortifications. They usually have a maximum range of 200 metres for stationary targets and a maximum range of 150 metres for moving targets. Their maximum range is approximately 1000 metres. Anti-tank missile systems are similar but include a guidance system, such as a command wire.	Light Anti-Tank Weapon (LAW) 

SALW life cycle and proliferation (M1 S3)

Lifecycle of a gun



*Figures from the Small Arms Survey, Geneva.
Source: International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA)

SALW, unlike heavy arms, circulate in both the military and civilian markets. There are seven possible ways in which SALW find their way into hands of civilians:

- Arms captured from enemies during fighting
- Soldiers defecting from armed groups
- Stolen or captured peacekeeping stocks (from UN troops)
- Arms supplied by the armed forces
- Purchase through the open market
- Supply from government stockpiles of neighbouring states
- Inheritance from family and relatives or friends.