

**Terms of Reference
Consultant
Small arms and light weapons expert**

PROJECT: Africa-China-Europe dialogue and cooperation on preventing the diversion of arms and ammunition in Africa

REFERENCE: SALW CONSULTANT/Saferworld/07/2021

POSITION: Consultant

DURATION: Between 3 August-31 December 2021

1. Context

Despite a variety of regional and international initiatives in recent years, the illicit or insufficiently controlled trade and diversion of arms and ammunition in Africa continue at alarming levels. Arms and ammunition are fuelling civil wars and enabling violent groups to launch attacks against governments, communities, humanitarian aid workers and UN peacekeeping personnel. Indiscriminate armed attacks on civilians and other abuses carried out by some state security forces also create fear and resentment in communities. They also diminish prospects for peace. There is a need for more cooperative and effective ways to address the problem.

Pursuant to EU Council Decision (CFSP) 2019/1298, in November 2019 Saferworld, in cooperation with African and Chinese partners, started a three-year project on '*Africa-China-Europe dialogue and cooperation on preventing the diversion of arms and ammunition in Africa.*' The project raises awareness in Africa, China and Europe of how the illicit flow of arms, particularly small arms and light weapons (SALW) and their ammunition, to unauthorised actors exacerbates insecurity and violence across Africa, thereby undermining social cohesion, public security and socio-economic development. Additionally, the project aims to promote accountability and responsibility with regard to the legal arms trade by demonstrating how effective arms export control can contribute to mitigating the risk of diversion of arms into the illicit market.

The core institutional foundation of the project is a non-governmental Africa-China-Europe Expert Working Group (EWG), which comprises nine members, three each from Africa, China and Europe. The EWG has the task to identify and make practical policy recommendations on how the EU, China and African governments can best assist and cooperate on tackling illicit weapons and ammunition in Africa. It is engaging in policy dialogues, consultations with officials and civil society, fact-finding visits to the field and research.

2. Purpose of the assignment

This assignment is designed to support national and international actions to curb the diversion of illicit SALW and ammunition in Burkina Faso.

3. Audience

The study is primarily intended for external actors in China, the European Union and beyond who might be able to assist in tackling the illicit proliferation of SALW and ammunition in Burkina Faso.

4. Responsibilities

Under the supervision of Saferworld, the Consultant will:

- Identify and liaise with national stakeholders on SALW control, including the Commission Nationale pour le Contrôle des Armes (CNCA), the Gendarmerie Nationale, the Police Nationale and the Brigade Spéciale des Investigations Antiterroristes (BSIAT);

- Collect and manage data on SALW from multiple sources using a pre-established research methodology;
- Draft a research report on Burkina Faso based on the research findings;
- Support the organization of an EWG study visit before the end of 2021 to validate and discuss the findings of the research report;
- Produce a final version of the research report.

5. Methodology

The consultant will carry out the assessment on her/his own, but will be assisted by Saferworld’s China programme and other members of the Africa-China-Europe EWG. The methodology will mainly entail key informant interviews, analysis of documents tracking the sources of arms and ammunition and in-depth weapons analysis. All interviews must adhere to the COVID-19 mitigations regulations within Burkina Faso, and all interviewees are required to provide informed consent.

6. Outputs

- A national baseline research report on Burkina Faso looking into:
 - Existing national rules and regulations concerning SALW and ammunition production and trade;
 - The sources of illicit SALW and ammunition;
 - Evidence of SALW and ammunition originating from foreign sources circulating in illicit markets;
 - The main vectors in the supply of SALW and ammunition to illicit markets in Burkina Faso
 - The actions that are necessary to curb the diversion of SALW and ammunition, including international transfer control mechanisms.
- Host and present findings for validation during an EWG field research in Burkina Faso;
- Draft EWG mission report;
- Final research report on the illicit circulation of SALW and ammunition in Burkina Faso that will provide an overview of the current situation concerning the diversion of SALW and ammunition in Burkina Faso, with recommendations for appropriate actions to curb diversion.

7. Copyrights and confidentiality

Rights to the data generated through this research project will be jointly held by Saferworld and the Consultant, with any additional outputs that make use of this data requiring the consent of both parties.

8. Project duration and timeline

The consultancy will be undertaken between 3 August – 31 December 2021. This period includes the research process (including preparation), field visits and the research report write-up.

Activity/Output	Date
Desk research	15 August 2021
Inception report	30 August 2021
First field research mission to Burkina Faso (Consultant)	31 August 2021
First draft of the research report	15 September 2021
Comments from Saferworld and other parties	30 September 2021
Second field research mission to Burkina Faso to validate research findings (Consultant + EWG members)	30 November 2021
Final report	31 December 2021

9. Education and experience

Education: University degree at the Master’s level or equivalent in Political Science, Law, International Relations, Conflict Studies or other related fields.

Experience: At least seven years of pertinent experience of working on SALW and armed

violence and conducting investigative research on SALW, preferably in Western Africa.

10. Competencies

Proven track record in conducting SALW assessments and demonstrated knowledge of and experience in applying the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) Assessment Tool; proven track record of collaboration with national actors in the security sector, including government ministry officials, police and army officers; proven track record of collaboration with NGOs and research institutes working in Burkina Faso and on SALW issues.

11. Communication

Speaks and writes clearly and effectively. Demonstrated ability to draft high quality analytical reports in English.

12. Languages

For the position, fluency in oral and written English and French is required.

13. Candidature

Eligible candidates should submit:

- Expression of interest
- Detailed CV

Candidatures should be submitted via email to: recruitment@saferworld.org.uk by 31 July 2021