RECSA Report

Implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the International Tracing Instrument

2018 & 2019 Period

Introduction

The Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA) is an intergovernmental organization that was established in June 2005 with the mandate of coordinating the implementation of the Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons.

RECSA Member States consist of the following: Republic of Burundi; Central African Republic (CAR); Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC); Republic of Congo (ROC); Republic of Djibouti; State of Eritrea; Federal Republic of Ethiopia; Republic of Kenya; Republic of Rwanda; Republic of Seychelles; Federal Republic of Somalia; Republic of South Sudan; Republic of Sudan; United Republic of Tanzania and; Republic of Uganda.

The Secretariat is hosted by the Republic of Kenya.
The Nairobi Protocol for the prevention, control and reduction of small arms and light weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States compliments regional and international instruments and mechanisms on peace, security and development including the United Nations Programme of Action (UNPoA), Agenda 2063 on the Africa We Want, the Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union Silencing the Guns (STG) Initiative by 2020.

In line with the RECSA Strategic Plan 2016 – 2020, RECSA Secretariat coordinated the implementation of a number of regional interventions with the following expected outcomes.

a) Strengthened capacity of RECSA Secretariat and National Institutions responsible for SALW management and control in member states;

b) Improved physical security and stockpile management in all RECSA member states;

c) Increased awareness in all member States and publication of research reports on identified SALW thematic areas;

d) Improved reporting of results and increased participation of special interest groups in SALW interventions.

Below is the status of implementation of the RECSA Strategic Plan 2016 – 2020 in line with RECSA’s Strategic Pillars.

**Strategic Pillar 1: Institutional Development and Strengthening**

Under this strategic Pillar, RECSA strives to strengthen the operational capacity of the Secretariat and that of national institutions responsible for Small Arms Management and Control in all member states. In the period under review, the following interventions were implemented in line with this pillar.
- RECSA Secretariat facilitated the establishment of the National SALW institution in Central African Republic (CAR), i.e. the National Focal Point on Small Arms and Light Weapons.
- RECSA Secretariat supported an exposure visit for staff of the National Institution of Central African Republic (CAR) and South Sudan commission at the Burundi SALW Commission.
- Capacity building of 2 national SALW institutions in the Central African Republic (CAR) and South Sudan.
- An assortment of office equipment was provided to the national SALW institutions of CAR and South Sudan, including: computers, printers, furniture, photocopiers etc. The equipment meant to strengthen their operational capacity in implementing national SALW actions.
- 11 RECSA Secretariat professional and management staff were trained in different functional areas to effectively coordinate SALW programmes and projects in the Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa
- Training on Project Management and reporting conducted for selected Member States in the RECSA region
- RECSA Secretariat strengthened its strategic partnerships with a number of stakeholders, including RECSA Member States, RECs, RMS/ RBs, CSOs, UNODA, African Union, UNREC, WRA, selected development partners and academia.

**Strategic Pillar II: Support Member States in Physical Security and Stockpile Management**

In 2018 & 2019, RECSA continued to demonstrate its central role in coordinating implementation of interventions on safety, security, storage and management of small arms in state and civilian possession in efforts to control the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons in the RECSA region.
Accordingly, the following interventions were coordinated and implemented by RECSA Secretariat during the reporting period, including:

- Supported training of over 200 technical officers (armorers) in PSSM best practices drawn from Law Enforcement Agencies (Police, Military, Prisons, Wildlife, Intelligence) in different member states. To date, a total of 811 officers have been trained.
- Developed the Regional PSSM Manual (A Practitioners' Manual) in accordance with the MOSAICs and IATGs to be mainly used by practitioners dealing with SALW management and control in the RECSA Member States.
- Supported firearms marking and training in a number of member states. The arms marking initiative is ongoing in most Member States.
- Procurement and delivery of a firearms crushing machine for the Republic of Kenya was concluded to support environmentally-friendly firearms disposal in the country.
- Provision of 365 arms steel boxes and 70 gun racks to selected member states was done to support safe storage of national stockpiles.
- Supported destruction of obsolete firearms, UXOs and ammunition in Uganda to reduce unintended explosions.
- Provision of technical backstopping support and training on the customized RECSA record keeping software (RSTS) for firearms was done, including Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).
- Supported the construction of 4 permanent armories for safe storage of firearms in Tanzania. RECSA in partnership with BPST-A provided two containerized armories (Kenya - 3 and Uganda - 1). Further still, 2 permanent armories are planned for DRC and 4 containerized armories for Kenya.
- Supported implementation of national baseline assessments and sensitization campaigns on civilian disarmament initiatives and practices in Kenya, Uganda and South Sudan.
- Supported implementation of regional and national sensitization workshops on the Ratification and Accession of the Arms Trade Treaty targeting the countries of: Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Sudan, South Sudan and DRC.
- Supported the development of the RECSA firearms Record Keeping Software (RSTS) Handbook. The Handbook was finalized and printed.

**Strategic Pillar III: Adaptive Research, Public Education and Awareness**

Interventions under this Pillar involve awareness creation and exchange of information on SALW with stakeholders at national and regional levels.

Accordingly, the following interventions were implemented during the reporting period, including:

- RECSA Secretariat supported the development and dissemination of different SALW awareness materials and content across various platforms, including:
  a) RECSA Annual report
  b) SALW documentaries and films
  c) RECSA social media,
  d) Print and broadcast media,
  e) RECSA Website articles,
  f) RECSA leaflets
  g) Public awareness campaigns
- RECSA Secretariat has also supported the development of the RECSA Communication Toolkit. Development of the Regional Communication Toolkit is still ongoing.
RECSA conducted advocacy meetings with EALA parliamentarians and Pan African Parliamentarians on small arms issues and ATT.

Strategic Pillar IV: Mainstreaming Monitoring and Evaluation and Special Interest Groups in SALW Interventions

This Pillar reiterates RECSA’s commitment towards monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Nairobi Protocol and the RECSA Strategic Plan 2016-2020 related to firearms management and control as well as mainstreaming special interest groups in all SALW interventions. Accordingly, a number of interventions were implemented during the period under review, including:

- RECSA Secretariat supported implementation of a rapid assessment of National Action Plan (NAP) implementation in East Africa (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda). Publication of the NAP assessment report was concluded.
- RECSA Secretariat conducted 5 joint monitoring missions to assess progress of implementation of the SALW programmes and interventions in Burundi, Kenya, South Sudan, DRC, Uganda and Tanzania.
- RECSA Secretariat commenced evaluation missions to assess implementation of the Nairobi Protocol in all 15 RECSA member states. The exercise is still ongoing and is expected to be concluded in the last quarter of 2020.
- RECSA Secretariat initiated development of a Regional Databank for Regional SALW Statistics and Data.

It is worth noting that, the above interventions were supported by a number of development partners, including: the US Government through Office of Weapons Removal and abatement (WRA), African Development Bank, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UN Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms
Regulation (UNSCAR), United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA),
United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament (UNREC), German
Federal Foreign Office (GFFO), Multinational Small Arms Group (Germany,
Denmark and Austria) and Bonn International Centre for Conversion (BICC).

While RECSA Secretariat has made significant progress in coordinating
implementation of the UNPOA/ITI in the RECSA region, a lot still needs to be done
and particularly noting that SALW management and control is a very dynamic
and complex matter that requires sustained collaboration, support of member
states and other stakeholders.

Going forward, RECSA in partnership with partners will continue coordinating
implementation of regional efforts and actions towards the fight against the
proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the Great Lakes region the Horn
of Africa and Bordering States.

Signed and Dated:

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NAIROBI