



July – September 2023

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

MSAG Ammunition & SAV course



The annual Multi-national Small Arms and Ammunition Group (MSAG) training course on Ammunition and Staff Assessment Visit (SAV) was held in Spiez, Switzerland on 25-29 September, hosted by the Swiss Department of Defence Verification Unit. The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining's Ammunition Management Advisory Team (GICHD-AMAT) had two members participating as students and one as an instructor, delivering presentations on the United Nations (UN) SaferGuard Programme, UN Hazard Classification System and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines' Risk Reduction Process Levels.



NATO Building Integrity



The drafting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Handbook on Building Integrity (BI) principles and Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and ammunition management began in Q3. This book represents the culmination of 1.5 years of working with NATO-BI. GICHD-AMAT will co-author the Handbook with other NATO consultants. A first draft of the Handbook should be completed by end of 2023.

Ammunition Management Activity Platform (A-MAP)



GICHD-AMAT completed and updated the dashboards for each country where ammunition-management related activities have been reported since 2019. Currently, there are 137 interactive dashboards providing background information on the country or region, as well as basic data on each country-specific or regional project, including implementer, donor, type, and information sources. The dashboards are available at: <https://a-map.gichd.org/country-dashboard/>.

ASSISTANCE TO STATES AND PARTNERS

NORTH MACEDONIA and SEESAC



On 27 September, GICHD-AMAT delivered an online presentation during the Regional Workshop on Weapons and Ammunition Management organised by South-Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC) in Skopje, North Macedonia. GICHD-AMAT presented on the UN SaferGuard self-assessment toolset which allows for identifying needs and gaps of States, as well as entry points for strengthening organisational capability for safe, secure and effective through-life ammunition management.

PERU



GICHD-AMAT met with the Director for the General Directorate for Material Resources of the Peruvian Ministry of Defence (MoD) who presented the National Action Plan on SALW and ammunition for 2024. To support this Plan, GICHD-AMAT started to coordinate actions with the Vice-Ministry for Defence Policies and the Vice-Ministry for Defence Resources of the MoD. As a first step, GICHD-AMAT identified and contracted a legal expert consultant based in Lima, who works in close collaboration with both Vice-Ministries towards the establishment of a working group dedicated to collating and reviewing existing regulations on ammunition management, as well as aligning them with international standards.





Funded by:



PHASE III

Closed-door workshop – CSP9 ATT

On the sidelines of the 9th Conference of States Parties (CSP9) to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), GICHD-AMAT organised a closed-door workshop to evaluate certain aspects of the current design of the Arms and Ammunition Management Validation System (AAMVS) with the export authorisation process used by participating European Union (EU) member states.

The workshop aimed to test key theoretical elements of the current AAMVS against the current states' practices. It provided vital information as to which elements of the design are feasible and which elements need to be redesigned.



The workshop was organised twice, on Thursday 24 and Friday 25 August 2023, to allow maximum in-person participation in the discussions. A total of ten EU Member States (Austria, Belgium and Walloon Region, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Romania and Spain), plus a representative of the EU, participated in the workshop.

AAMVS outreach at CSP9

During the CSP9 week, the AAMVS team organised a lunch meeting with four member states of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Ghana, Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone to plan a workshop scheduled to take place by end of 2023 in Accra, Ghana. In addition, GICHD-AMAT met with the Regional Center on Small Arms (RECSA) to finalise the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding and discuss future plans.

A presentation on the AAMVS, its benefits and potential for supporting the implementation of the ATT was delivered by the GICHD-AMAT Programme Officer during a side event titled "Challenges to Effective Implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty: Ten years since the Arms Trade Treaty" organised by MAAT Foundation on Friday 25 August. In addition to these activities, several team members followed the formal sessions, attended side-events and held bilateral meetings with states and organisations' representatives to promote the AAMVS and gather input for its design in preparation for its piloting next year.

AAMVS in the ECOWAS region

In Q2, the project team had met with ECOWAS in Abuja, Nigeria to discuss potential for promoting the AAMVS among West African states. The discussions had resulted in the decision to co-organise a workshop in Q4. However, due to conflicting commitments, it was decided to postpone the event to the first half of next year 2024 to allow more time for planning and outreach.

Meeting with French export control officials

On 25 September, the project team met with licensing officers from the French Ministry of Armed Forces. The aim was to inform French export licensing authorities about the developments of the AAMVS project and to get their feedback on certain aspects of the design and its suitability towards their work.

