

PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALI

NATIONAL COMMISSION TO FIGHT PROLIFERATION OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS



National Commission for the Fight against Proliferation of Small Arms

In Mali we do have a National Commission for the Fight against the Proliferation of Small Arms (CNLPAL) established in 1996.

This structure assists the President of the Republic in the design and implementation of policies to stop the proliferation of SALW.

The NatCom is the only national entry to all matters related to SALW.



INTRODUCTION

Small arms proliferation and misuse contribute to human suffering and insecurity throughout the world, and in many areas, small arms escalate, intensify and prolong conflicts and increase banditry, crime and social violence.

Many of the weapons of concern are lost and stolen from official stockpiles.

Moreover, the existence of large quantities of 'surplus' small arms is a major factor in the excessive availability and proliferation of such weapons.

Measures to ensure arms stockpile security and reduce surplus arms are therefore a priority.

The primary responsibility for such measures lies within the governments.

However, this is a global issue, and the entire international community needs to contribute to efforts to develop policies on the management of stockpiles and the disposal and destruction of surplus weapons.

ECOWAS'S COVENTION ON SALW

The Articles 16 and 25 of this sub-regional Convention recommande to improve the conservation and management of national stockpiles of weapons and ammunition.

The first meeting has been organised in Mali in 2009 (11-15 th May).

An Action Plan has been established .

This presentation takes into account the elements of this ECOWAS's Read map on Arms and Ammunitions Stockpile Management.

Weapons and Ammunition Stockpile Management (WAM) as enabler for the protection of civilians – Impact on Human Security and Stabilization Efforts:

- The outbreak of the crisis in 2012 has further undermined the national capacity to efficiently manage and secure its stockpile.
- Since September 2013, Mali has embarked on a programme of stockpile destruction and management. In line with the Security Council resolution 2227, and the ECOWAS convention on SALW, Mali has been supported by partners such UNMAS, BICC, EU/ECOWAS Project, MAG.



II Context: Security Situation (IEDs/Terrorist Attack) has a negative impact on the distribution of humanitarian assistance



- Terrorism in Mali continues to be a threat to the stability of the country and the region.
- On November 20th, two gunmen carried out an attack against the Radisson hotel in Bamako. Of the 170 hostages that were taken, 22 were killed. Two terrorist groups—al-Murabitoun and the Macina Liberation Front—claimed responsibility for the attack

- Successives rebellions within the Republic (in 1963/64; 1990-1992 and 2012) have been one of the major cause of the proliferation of arms. Non-surrendered arms have remained in circulation, and some arms were stolen from army depots, customs posts and police stations.
- Pervasive insecurity has also led to civilian demand for arms, and the artisanal production of weapons has increased
- Porousness of borders

Explosive Threat in Mali : Etat des lieux, humanitarian response and challenges.

La prolifération des Restes Explosifs de Guerre (REG), et des Engins Explosifs Improvisés (EEI) is a constant threat towards the security of the civil populations living in affected areas

Statistics:

- Between 2012 and December 2015, 172 civilian victims of Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) have been identified in UNMAs database, including 143 children.
- Between 2013 and January 2016, 174 civilian victims of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) have been identified in UNMAs database.

III Impact of explosive threat and SALW proliferation on civilians



- Loss of life and injuries
- Impedes the deployment of humanitarian and development actors, as well as the delivery of humanitarian assistance;
- The presence of small arms is also the basis for the high rate of domestic violence in conflict zones;

IMPACTS

- Health infrastructure and security are often destroyed by arm groups
- Hunger and famine are common in areas where weapons flow;
- Many people become refugees or displaced within the country

IMPACTS

- Free circulation of all kind of trafficking (drug human ...)
- Gender inequality and violence against women worldwide (sexual violence such as rape, sexual slavery
- Child soldier,
- Murders,
- Physical , psychological impacts;

IV SOME STRATEGIES TO PROTECT PEOPLE



- Get a good doctrine to implement Arms Treaty
- Develop a regional cooperation
- Training of youth groups in the fight against insecurity and the proliferation of SALW (healthy youth conscious without violence)
- Capacity building of journalists facilitators of community radios and traditional communicators in on SALW (Exchanges with communities on SALW).

- Establishment and operationalization of an observatory on SALW and armed violence in all regions,
- Development of voluntary recovery projects of weapons in all regions,
- Development of a communication system for peace and collection of SALW,

- Identification of good stakeholders with the NATCOM;
- Evaluation of the projects implemented on the ground in collaboration with NATCOM:(case of Mopti's Region where some groups continue to fight even with some current project);
- Implementation of Mali's project about the « Reduction of the Violence » elaborated by the NATCOM on 2013

- Implementation of the national action plan ,
- Creation of new stations and restoration of old in all regions,
- Equipment for security services (customs, police, guard, civil protection and water and forests)
- Training and awareness of people to the culture of peace (knowledge of the law on ALCP)

- Training of local leaders (men, women and youth) in the prevention and management of conflicts in order to reduce the use of SALW
- Capacity building of teachers on the harmful effects of the proliferation of SALW (a school without weapons)

- Elaboration of standards to collect register select and secure the collected small arms
- Development within the communities of « Community security concept » ;



V ACTIVITIES MADE BY NATCOM TO REDUCE TERRORISM AND VIOLENCE WITH DIALOGUE

- Sensitization of civil societies: youth ,Women Leaders, Traditionnal Leaders, Local Focal Points in the Regions; traditional makers
- Workshop on good governance
- Workshop about the role of taking into account Gender in reducing violence,
- Sensitization of religious women
- Organisation of social events focused on the necessity of reducing violence

ACTIVITIES MADE TO REDUCE THE VIOLENCE



- Workshop on resource mobilization with civil society and stakeholders;
- Missions on the ground including last areas affected by terrorist groups: Sikasso (Yanfolila Kolondieba), Segou (Segou, Niono); Mopti , Tombouctou (Niafunké), Kayes (Kenieba , Kita,), Koulikoro (Kangaba, Nara, kolokani).



VI THE CHALLENGE OF THE PROLIFERATION OF NON CONVENTIONAL ARMS/ SALW IN SAHEL/MALI

- weapons cannot be moved due to insecurity and risk of diversion;
- Difficulty to access illicit weapons
- Lack of inter-states cooperation
- Lack of border control equipments (scanner)
- Lack of a shared information system with neighbouring states
- Lack of resources

CHALLENGES

- The fragile security situation at all levels in the country,
- Ignorance of the population on the high level of proliferation of SALW,
- Ignorance of texts existing on SALW by decisions makers at national level,
- The lack of an adequate training for state actors and members of civil society,
- The lack of gender mainstreaming in management issues of SALW;

VII RECOMMANDATIONS:

1 Improve the conservation and management of national stockpiles of weapons and ammunition

- Inventory of storage locations of weapons and ammunition and definition of requirements for securing sites,
- Construction of facilities for the new storage locations
- Training adapted to all the levels,
- Establishment of national norms and standards for the management and security of stockpiles,
- Monitoring

- Implementation and application of norms and standards in order to mark weapons and munitions (referring to the ECOWAS roadmap);
- Organization of training sessions for managers of weapons and ammunition in recording techniques, materials accounting, pyrotechnic and cyber security,
- Training of Security and Armed Forces on transport of ammunition and explosives neutralization of weapons, inventory management and marking.

2 Improve the Security Sector Governance with:

- Legislative Reforms
- Arms Collection
- Stockpile Management
- Marking Record-keeping and Tracing
- Management of information
- Alternative livelihood programs
- SALW baseline surveys
- Cross-border management
- Resource mobilization

- 3 Transparency about the elaboration and the implementation of all the projects and programs ;
- 4 Reinforcement of the collaboration between UNMAS and NATCOM
- 5 Operationalization of the Regional Focal Points of the NATCOM setting up on 2013 with the technical and financial support of UNMAS

VIII OPPORTUNITIES

- The existence of the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms that Mali has ratified in 2007 ;
- The existence of a National Action Plan (2014-2018)
- Good partnership with partners in certain cases





THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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Br GENERAL

COULIBALY KANI DIABATE

Officier de l'Ordre National