

# A MODEL FOR A REGIONAL APPRaisal of the AFE With Bosnia and Herzegovina as a case study, this a HALO's needs-based approach in establishing the AF Marking and Registration project, a rst of its kind in Balkans. It analyzes how the project's success can be e countries across the region to bring about a sustainable problem of illicit SALW proliferation and diversion throu expertise, collaboration, and national ownership.

work supports the UN Firearms Protocol, the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects (UNPOA) and the European Firearms Directive. In addition, the project directly relates to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 16 and its targets and relevant indicators 16.1, "significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere," and 16.4, "by 2030, significantly reduce illicit arms flows."

At the national level, HALO's work in Bosnia and Herzegovina falls within the country's normative and political framework on arms-control, including the EUFOR-coordinated "Ammunition, Weapons, and Explosives (AWE) Master Plan" and the government's SALW Control Strategy (2016–2020). But how does this fit into the regional plan?

The project directly contributes to the Franco-German Initiative for the Western Balkans and the regional "Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their ammunition in the Western Balkans by 2024," coordinated by the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC). The Franco-German Roadmap stipulates seven goals, the majority of which are to be met by 2024, relate to substantially reducing the supply, flow, and numbers of illicit SALW in the region while reducing the risk of proliferation and diversion.

The Roadmap is concerned with the illicit use and diversion of firearms from both civilian and police possession and the strengthening of state institutions to address and handle the problem at the legislative and policy levels. A key example of a shortcoming the HALO project can address is the inconsistencies in the marking and registration of weapons seized and confiscated by police. The BiH Marking Law "does not require that weapons are marked at the time of their seizure or confiscation," nor does it state categorically that weapons already in police and military ownership must be marked. As a result, good

## A REGIONAL APPROACH TO SALW MARKING AND REGISTRATION

HALO developed its project in Bosnia and Herzegovina to enhance the implementation of both politically- and legally-binding regional and international frameworks relating to the marking and registration of SALW. At the international level, HALO's project is a steppingstone to achieving buy-in from stakeholders and

to authorize such a move, or in other circumstances, export, write off, or destroy weapons. Every decision is recorded within the system and is fully traceable, ensuring transparency in the

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The database is run through Pryor's bespoke software and is connected directly with the marking machine and its control unit through USB. Once the database issues a number and the operator has filled in all required drop-down fields, the marking happens immediately. The identifying marks applicable to that weapon can not thereafter be duplicated or changed. Efforts to erase marks will only serve to potentially damage the weapon because the marking trace, when the mark has been stamped into the weapon, can be seen under x-ray and retrieved.

In partnership with EUFOR, HALO conducted complementary training on weapons serviceability and storage management, which will enhance the physical security of the AFBiH stockpile. In addition to marking the weapons themselves and their corresponding registration, the system allows for greater ease of stockpile management through the use of barcodes and data matrices. The chore of stock-taking can be relatively painless when marked and registered weapons are stored in sealed containers labelled with a complex mark that can be quickly and easily scanned, providing an operator with information instantaneously.

Accessibility. The system permits specific users to have different authorization levels, from the unit level up to the relevant ministries. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the system is configured such that a basic read and print function is available to those within the military-concerned with unit-level logistics and PSSM. At a higher level, a write function allows select users to add information for record-keeping purposes without amending the marking data, enabling these users to request a movement of weapons from one location to another. The Chief and Deputy Chiefs of the Joint Staff hold the highest level of access alongside representatives from the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, who are able

