



Office of the Special Envoy of the
Secretary-General for the Great Lakes
Region (OSES-G-L)



United Nations
Peace and Development Trust Fund

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM) in DDR Contexts
Great Lakes Region



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BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The plan builds on the outcomes of the technical workshop held in Kampala, Uganda, from 10 to 13 February 2026, convened by the Office of the United Nations Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region. Representatives from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda, together with key partners – the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Branch of the Peacebuilding and Peace Support Office (PBPSO); the Conventional Arms Branch (CAB) of the Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA); the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA); the Bonn International Center for Conflict Studies (BICC); the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO); and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), including the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism (EJVM) and the Joint Intelligence Fusion Centre (JIFC) – mapped national needs, shared progress and identified concrete, high-impact interventions that could be supported by the United Nations Peace and Development Fund (UNPDF). The workshop reaffirmed the principle of national ownership: project activities will be aligned with beneficiary states' priorities, and member states will be closely involved in implementation.

STRATEGIC APPROACH

The project is structured around five complementary priority themes: normative and legal frameworks; cross-border and regional cooperation; capacity strengthening; technical assistance; and equipment. It translates the project's strategic pillars, policy support, capacity building, security cooperation, and technical assistance in weapons and ammunition management (WAM), into phased, operational measures adapted to the realities of the region. Emphasis is placed on strengthening physical security and stockpile management, harmonizing legal instruments and operational protocols, improving tracing mechanisms and data-sharing, and enhancing border coordination and interdiction responses. The project also incorporates a gender and youth-sensitive approach and considers emerging technological threats such as drones and 3D-printed firearms.

IMPLEMENTATION

The project action plan was developed through a participatory process that combined national needs mapping, plenary deliberations on common challenges, and targeted thematic sessions to identify specific technical interventions, from legal harmonization to peer exchanges and equipment provision, while respecting national ownership and avoiding duplication. It recognizes the catalytic role of regional institutions such as RECSA and proposes complementary longer-term recommendations (including institutional strengthening and financing needs) required to create an enabling environment for sustainable progress. Where relevant, the plan outlines operational sequencing and transitional measures to maximize immediate impact while driving systemic change.



RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

Given current financial constraints, a broader set of potential activities was identified but cannot be included in this phase; these have been recorded for consideration in later phases, subject to additional funding. Regarding equipment provision, a further planning step is foreseen: a dedicated virtual meeting will clarify precise requirements and cost estimates. Pending that clarification, the consolidated matrix will group all equipment-related actions under a single indicative line to preserve planning coherence while allowing subsequent adjustments based on accurate budgets.

RESULTS AND IMPACT

This priority action plan has high-level political support following its adoption at the workshop's closing session, attended by senior representatives of the beneficiary States, thereby ensuring the authority and commitment needed for cross-border coordination and resource mobilization. The proposed actions are designed to be practical, measurable, and adaptable: they provide the immediate technical and operational steps through which UNPDF support can accelerate tangible reductions in SALW proliferation and its human cost, while helping national and regional institutions to ultimately lead and sustain the efforts.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Two independent external evaluations are planned: a mid-term evaluation in September 2026 to assess progress, identify challenges and adjust implementation for phase two; and a final evaluation at project completion to assess relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and overall impact. Findings will be shared with stakeholders to ensure transparency and institutional learning. Detailed measures and timelines are set out in the Annex.

Priority Activities 1

Enhanced regional understanding, cooperation, and policy development in addressing the illicit flow of SALW and improving national and subregional WAM in DDR frameworks in the Great Lakes region

ACTIVITY 1.1

Conduct a regional study on weapons and ammunition dynamics in the subregion



**TARGETED
COUNTRIES**

Regional initiative



April – August 2026

TIMELINE



OUTPUT



Regional analytical study on weapons and ammunition flows, trafficking patterns, diversion risks, and conflict-related dynamics in the subregion, including policy and operational recommendations



**LEAD
IMPLEMENTER**

DDR Branch, Conventional Arms Branch/ODA, RECSA,
OSES-Great Lakes

ACTIVITY 1.2

Weapons and Ammunition Management Baseline Assessment to assess the existing legal, institutional, technical, and operational capacities for the safe, secure, and accountable management of weapons and ammunition



**TARGETED
COUNTRIES**

Burundi, DRC, Rwanda,
Tanzania, Uganda



April - October 2026

TIMELINE



OUTPUT



National WAM baseline assessment reports produced, including analysis of legal frameworks



**LEAD
IMPLEMENTER**

National SALW Commissions, DDR Branch, ODA/CAB,
OSES-Great Lakes

Priority Activities 2

Strengthened technical capacities of CCG countries to manage Weapons and Ammunition in DDR settings

ACTIVITY 2.1

Develop national action plans to implement the Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM) roadmap in DDR contexts, aligned with the regional roadmap adopted in 2024



TARGETED
COUNTRIES

Burundi, DRC, Rwanda,
Tanzania, Uganda



May - September 2026

TIMELINE



OUTPUT



National action plans on WAM in DDR contexts developed and formally validated, aligned with the 2024 regional roadmap.



LEAD
IMPLEMENTER

RECSA, DDR Branch, ODA/CAB, OSESG-Great Lakes





ACTIVITY 2.2

Convene a regional conference or workshop at the technical level to discuss gaps, lessons learned in the implementation of the WAM in DDR / Nairobi Protocol and develop regional Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on WAM.



**TARGETED
COUNTRIES**

Regional initiative



TIMELINE

April - June 2026



OUTPUT



Regional technical workshop convened, with proceedings documenting identified gaps, lessons learned, and agreed follow-up actions on the inclusion of WAM in DDR provisions in the Nairobi Protocol implementation, and regional SOP on WAM developed, endorsed and disseminated.



**LEAD
IMPLEMENTER**

National SALW commissions, DDR Branch, ODA/CAB, OSESG Great Lakes

ACTIVITY 2.3

Organize a high-level training, for selected experts, in the form of a regional Training of Trainers (ToT) for the five GCC countries on WAM/SALW, including physical security and stock management (PSSM), record-keeping systems and database management, marking and tracing procedures, as well as risk mitigation and diversion prevention



**TARGETED
COUNTRIES**

Regional initiative



TIMELINE

March - April 2026



OUTPUT



Pool of national trainers certified on WAM, with standardized training materials and replication plans established.



**LEAD
IMPLEMENTER**

OSESG-Great Lakes, RECSA, DDR Branch, ODA/CAB



ACTIVITY 2.4

Organize a training for the CCG operational cell experts on WAM



TARGETED
COUNTRIES

Regional initiative



TIMELINE

April 2026 - July 2026



OUTPUT

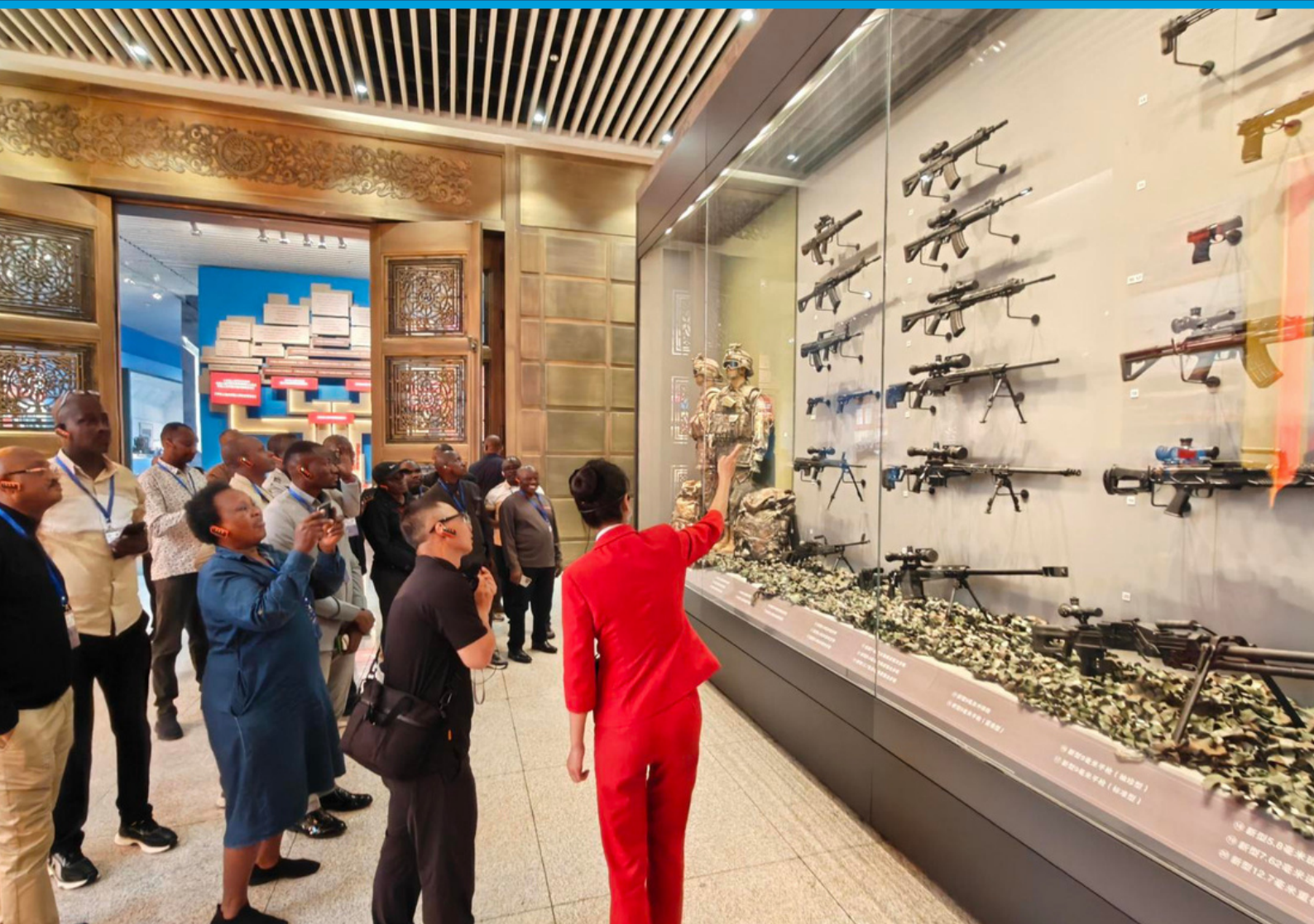


CCG operational cell experts trained on WAM standards, procedures, and tools, with increased technical knowledge on WAM



LEAD
IMPLEMENTER

RECSA, DDR Branch, ODA/CAB, OSESG Great Lakes





ACTIVITY 2.5

Organize inclusive awareness campaigns in border communities



**TARGETED
COUNTRIES**

Burundi, DRC, Rwanda,
Tanzania, Uganda



TIMELINE

July 2026 - March 2027



OUTPUT



Inclusive community-level awareness campaigns implemented, with tailored messages developed and disseminated to targeted communities.



**LEAD
IMPLEMENTER**

National SALW commissions,
DDR Branch, ODA/CAB, OSESG Great Lakes

ACTIVITY 2.6

Support two key DDR/RR reception centers under the framework of the CCG



Burundi (Sangore),
Uganda (Kasese)



TIMELINE

July 2026 - March 2027



Capacity of DDR reception centres strengthened



National authorities, OSESG Great Lakes, DDR Branch

ACTIVITY 2.7

Provision of equipment to support SALW control based on the needs identified by the 5 CCG countries, including portable marking machines, scanners



Burundi, DRC, Rwanda,
Uganda, Tanzania



TIMELINE

May 2026 - March 2027



Equipment delivered, installed, and operational.



OSESG Great Lakes

ANNEX



From 8 to 28 June 2026, the Office of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region held a Training-of-Trainers programme in China on the management of small arms and light weapons.



On the margins of the 35th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), the United Nations Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region (UN-OSESG-GL), in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), convened a side event on reducing the human cost of weapons in Africa through policy support, capacity-building, security cooperation and technical assistance in Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM). Around 40 participants from UNODC, UN-OSESG-GL, AU, RESCA, China permanent mission to Vienna, project related Member states attended this event.

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United Nations
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