
PROJECT:	Strengthening the capacities of law enforcement officials in the combating of illicit firearms trafficking at the sub-regional level (TtT)
DISARMAMENT FOCUS:	Public Security
PROJECT TIMEFRAME:	24 Months
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS:	Latin American and Caribbean States
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BACKGROUND

Illicit firearms trafficking fuels the violence associated with drug trafficking, terrorism and international organized crime, and poses a threat to public security throughout the region. Indices of violence caused by firearms are continuously on the rise in the region, in particular in large urban centres. In this regard, illicit firearms trafficking is a growing threat to social order, good governance, human security and the rule of law.

To address this public security threat, UN-LiREC developed the Training the Trainers (TtT) Programme aimed at building the capacity of the law enforcement community to better control legal firearms' trade and prevent its illicit trafficking. To ensure the effectiveness of this programme, the TtT course methodology takes into account the special needs of transit countries, as well as specialized measures for bi-national border controls. Since 2004, UN-LiREC and its partners have trained almost 2,500 Law Enforcement Officers in 30 States of the region.

OBJECTIVES

- Increase the capacity and expertise of the law enforcement community to better control the legal firearms' trade and prevent illicit trafficking through standardized training;
- Improve coordination, cooperation and transparency among the law enforcement community at the national, bi-national, sub-regional and regional levels; and
- Facilitate States' implementation of relevant national and international instruments, in particular the UN 2001 Programme of Action and the CIFTA Convention.

CONTENT AND DESIGN

UN-LiREC will provide technical and logistical assistance for 4 TtT courses in each of the sub-regions (Central American, Andean, Caribbean and Southern Cone Region) through the following activities:

- Coordinate the creation of a National Permanent Coordination Training Entity responsible for the organization and implementation of the TtT national courses in collaboration with States and ensure the sustainability and continued application of its methodology by the law enforcement and community;
- Conduct national TtT course according to the following methodology:
 - 7 days of theoretical classroom work (including mandatory modules on investigative techniques, human security, legal instruments, firearms trafficking routes, weapons destruction, stockpile management, information sharing, international cooperation, and other firearms-related areas, on issues such as drug trafficking, terrorism and money laundering). In addition to the mandatory Training the Trainers modules, and according to their specific

training needs, States may choose to include specialized modules in the programme, such as border control, artificial intelligence management and resource management, among others; and

- 3 day field exercises aimed at exposing students to country-specific investigative techniques. In the field exercises, students are trained by participating in reality-based simulations for the prevention/control of firearms, ammunition and explosives trafficking;
- Undertake course evaluations via surveys to measure the level of satisfaction by both students and instructors with the overall course; and
- Extend an invitation to join the on-line Latin American and the Caribbean Regional Public Security Network. This electronic network, monitored by UN-LiREC, provides opportunities for its members to discuss regional public security issues, as well as exchange information on the various firearms tools and investigative techniques used by the law enforcement community to combat illicit firearms trafficking.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Greater application of standardized operating procedures;
- Strengthened regional law enforcement community network(s); and
- More effective implementation of international firearms instruments.

BENEFICIARIES

- Regional law enforcement community; and
- Member States in the region.

PARTNERS

UN-LiREC will work with the relevant State authorities, other UN agencies and international (i.e. Interpol, World Customs Organization) and regional organizations (i.e. OAS, SICA, CARICOM, Andean Community and MERCOSUR).

BUDGET

Budget Items in US\$	AMOUNT
Project Personnel	200,000.00
Operations and Implementation Costs	800,000.00
Funding Gap	US\$ 1,000,000.00

NOTE: These budgets do not include costs for actual destructions, collections, stockpile management initiatives or the public campaigns. Such costs will be determined on a case-by-case basis in which fund-raising will be necessary.