



Fast Facts

Country: Kosovo

Duration: June 2003 to June 2006

Implementing UN Agencies: UNDP

Other Implementing Partners: Kosovo Police Service

Budget: \$1,030,000

Key Words: Post-conflict reconstruction; disarmament; small arms and light weapons (SALW); capacity-building

BACKGROUND

In 2003, despite improvements in the overall security situation, the safety of civilians remained a serious concern in post-conflict Kosovo. General insecurity pervaded due to organized crime, ethnic tensions, political rivalries and

widespread possession of small arms and light weapons (SALW), all of which not only jeopardized the safety of civilians but also presented a serious challenge to the post-conflict reconciliation process.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

As part of UNDP's comprehensive Illicit Small Arms Control programme, the Weapons in Exchange for Development (WED) project sought to reduce the possession of illicit small arms in post-conflict Kosovo. To this end, WED initiated a set of targeted interventions with the aim to (i) encourage voluntary surrender and registration of illicit weapons; (ii) build capacities of civil

service and law enforcement agencies to improve public safety and curtail the spread of SALW; and (iii) change attitudes towards small arms possession amongst the population. The project strategy was built around a participatory approach where local community leaders and civil society representatives were invited to take an active role in implementing the project activities.

BENEFICIARIES

The project's direct beneficiaries were civil service officials, police officers and local law enforcement staff who took part in capacity-building activities and anti-terrorism training. Moreover, about 18,000 students were sensitized

by in-school programmes about the dangers of small arms usage and possession. Indirect beneficiaries were Kosovars whose personal security increased by the decrease in the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.