

NEW PUBLICATION

Comparative Analysis of Evaluation Methodologies in Weapon Collection Programmes

This is the fourth and final publication from the project “Weapons for Development”, funded by the Government of Japan. This two-year project assessed small arms and light weapon collection programmes in which the incentives provided for people to give up their weapons were community development projects. The project researchers, G. Mugumya and S. Koyama, applied a new evaluation method, namely participatory research, to the case studies of Albania, Cambodia and Mali. The participatory research method places community members at the centre of the evaluation process, since they are in the best position to evaluate the schemes that are meant to resolve their security concerns.

This volume compares the findings of the participatory evaluation method with the standard, non-participatory evaluations that have been conducted. The result shows that the standard evaluation method paints a broad picture of project implementation, while participatory evaluation is able to document more finely how local communities’ roles, perceptions and expectations determine the success of weapon collection programmes.

The author examines the constructive compatibility between both evaluation techniques and their results in order to discuss the implications of differences for future arms reduction policy-making. A combination of both methods could assist governments, donor agencies, international organizations and implementing agencies to develop and implement more effective post-conflict disarmament efforts.

Comparative Analysis of Evaluation Methodologies in Weapon Collection Programmes

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In each issue of *Disarmament Forum*, UNIDIR Focus highlights one activity of the Institute, outlining the project’s methodology, recent research developments or its outcomes. UNIDIR Focus also describes a new UNIDIR publication. You can find summaries and contact information for all of the Institute’s present and past activities, as well as sample chapters of publications and ordering information, online at <www.unidir.org>.

CURRENT ACTIVITY

Capacity development for reporting to the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms

In 2002, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, the UN Department for Disarmament Affairs and the Small Arms Survey began the project “Capacity Development for Reporting to the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms” to help countries with their reporting obligations on the implementation of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms (PoA).

The project developed a series of tools—including an assistance package composed of a report template and fact sheets—to enhance both the quantity and quality of National Reports submitted to the Biennial Meetings of States. Based on the positive feedback received from assisted countries and from funders, the project has since been expanded and extended.

In particular, the project has sought to analyse all the National Reports submitted to date, which will contribute to the preparation for the first PoA Review Conference in 2006. This analysis is scheduled to be published in May 2006. The researchers have identified areas for cooperation and assistance to implement the PoA. The analysis draws out the specific dynamics at play within each region and considers all small arms-related topics mentioned in the National Reports.

UN Member States, in particular national points of contact and national coordination agencies, may contact the project’s helpdesk for assistance with reporting. The helpdesk is free of charge and can provide:

- general and specific guidance,
- an assistance package (including a proposed reporting template),
- comments on draft reports, and
- advice on the submission process.

Helpdesk contact details:

Tel.: +41 (0)22 917 83 11

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