Global Study on Firearms Trafficking 2020
Data and seizures
Sources of data

• Main source:
  – Illicit Arms Flow Questionnaire (IAFQ)
  – 80 responses received

• Complementary sources:
  – UN Office for Disarmament Affairs
  – Seizure data from the World Customs Organization
  – Official national sources

• Most of the data cover the years 2016-2017
MAP 2: Responses to the UN-IAFQ (2018 data collection exercise on firearms) and other countries/territories with partial or supplementary data from other sources.

- **Responses to the UN-IAFQ (Illicit Arms Flows Questionnaire)**
- **Countries or territories with partial data for IAFQ indicators (2016/17) from other sources**
How many firearms were seized?

• Yearly, 550,000 firearms were seized in 2016 and in 2017

• The real global figure is much higher because
  – Underreporting for administrative reasons
  – Quality of data varied significantly between countries
  – Many countries have not provided any information
MAP 2  Total number of arms seized per 100,000 population, by country, 2017

Arms seized per 100,000 population
- ≤ 5.0
- 5.1 - 25.0
- 25.1 - 50.0
- 50.1 - 75.0
- > 75.0
- No data available
Average distribution of reported seized firearms/SALWs, by type, 2016-17

- Pistols: 39%
- Rifles: 18%
- Revolvers: 14%
- Shotguns: 25%
- Submachine guns: 3%
- Machine guns: 1%
- Other firearms: Other SALWs
Average distribution of reported seized firearms/SALWs, by type and region, 2016-17
Trafficking and diversion
CROSS-BORDER FIREARMS TRAFFICKING METHODS

Sea
TRAFFICKING
Big quantities are smuggled by boats

Land
TRAFFICKING
Small quantities in many different vehicles

Ant
TRAFFICKING
Many actors/traffickers carrying small amounts
SDG Target 16.4
• Target 16.4 “by 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows...”

• Indicator 16.4.2 “proportion of seized, found and surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established...”

• On average, it was possible to establish this illicit origin only for 28% of seized, potentially traceable firearms, in 2016-17
Tracing outcome and Indicator 16.4.2, 2016-17

- Tracing pending, 17%
- No tracing procedure initiated, 34%
- Unknown status with respect to marking, 10%
- Traced internationally to foreign registry, 15%
- Seized from illegitimate owner and traced domestically in national registry, 13%
- Point of diversion otherwise established by a competent authority, 0.6%
- Tracing attempted, but not enough information to identify point of diversion, 11%
Flows
MAP 1: Main transnational firearms trafficking flows (as defined by routes of seized firearms), 2016-17
Origin of incoming illicit flows (inner circle) and manufacture (external circle) for seizures made in South America

- Flows
  - Northern America: 89%
  - Southern Europe: 66%
  - Northern and Western Europe: 7%
- Manufacture
  - Western Asia: 5%
  - Southern Europe: 2%
  - Eastern and South-Eastern Asia: 2%
  - Eastern Europe: 2%
  - Northern America: 17%
Links to crime
Average distribution of seized arms in a single country, by legal justification, 2016-17

- Illicit possession: 64%
- Illicit use: 8%
- Arms trafficking: 9%
- Illicit manufacture: 1%
- Altered markings: 1%
- Other: 17%
Criminal context of seizures (average), 2016-2017