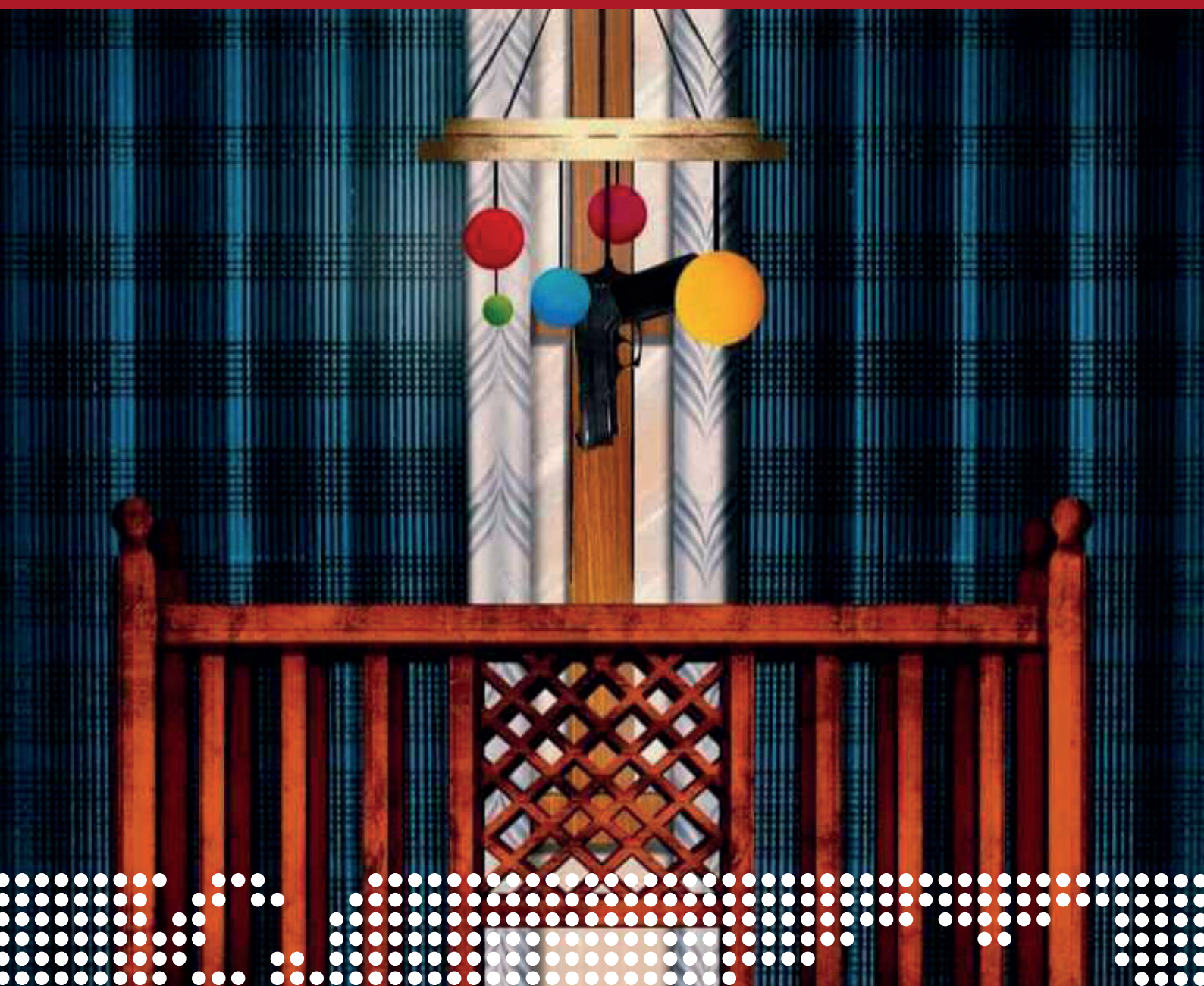




KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES, BELIEFS AND PRACTICES RESEARCH ON SMALL ARMS

HAY AL-ANDALOUS, TRIPOLI, LIBYA

OCTOBER 2021



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

SREO would like to express its gratitude to the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) for the opportunity to undertake this study and provide insights on prevailing norms and practices linked to small arms ownership in Tripoli. Also, the study offers informed recommendations to DRC's awareness-raising campaign to address the issues related to small arms ownership. SREO takes full responsibility for all omissions and errors.

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ABOUT SREO

SREO Consulting is an independent, non-partisan research and monitoring and evaluation consultancy based in Istanbul, Turkey. SREO Consulting is committed to serving humanitarian and development actors operating in the most challenging environments worldwide by providing unbiased and actionable data, analysis and research.

The SREO team has experience working in Syria, Turkey, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, Tunisia, Libya, Yemen, Mali, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

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ABOUT DRC

Danish Refugee Council (DRC) is an international non-governmental organisation that promotes and supports durable solutions to problems faced by refugees and internally displaced people worldwide. The Humanitarian Disarmament and Peacebuilding sector, previously known as the Danish Demining Group (DDG), is the specialised technical unit of DRC, working to protect conflict-affected communities by improving safety, strengthening community resilience and building local capacities to reduce and remove weapons-related risks and factors that may result in the use of weapons. DRC has been operational in Libya since 2011, providing basic assistance and protection services to safeguard the dignity, safety and wellbeing of Libya's most vulnerable and at-risk populations, including migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), returnees, and host communities. DRC's interventions include protection assistance, legal aid management of informal settlements, shelter assistance, multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA), food and non-food item distribution, economic recovery, community safety initiatives, and Humanitarian Mine Action. DRC currently have offices in Tripoli and Benghazi in Libya.

This report was commissioned as part of a pilot project to prevent the risks of civilian-held small arms through awareness raising and community engagement. The project has generously been funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CCS	Commission of Civil Society
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DDG	Danish Demining Group
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
EU	European Union
FR	Field Researcher / Enumerator
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GNA	Government of National Accord
GNC	General National Congress
GNU	Government of National Unity
HoR	House of Representatives
KABP	Knowledge, Attitudes, Beliefs and Practices
KII	Key Informant Interviews
LNA	Libyan National Army
MoI	Ministry of Interior
MV&E	Monitoring, Verification & Evaluation
NTC	National Transitional Council
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
R2P	Responsibility to Protect
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SA	Small Arms
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SSC	Supreme Security Committee
SSI	Semi-structured Interviews
ToT	Training of Trainers
WAM	Weapons and Ammunition Management

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The aftermath of the 2011 uprising has led to the massive proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) in Libyan territory. The Muammar Ghaddafi's regime's depots of arms and ammunition were left unsecured following the fall of the regime, resulting in the looting of one of the largest stockpiles in the world. Eventually, small arms found their way into civilians' households while the security environment continued to deteriorate. The increased availability of small arms gave civilians unrestricted access to weapons and their associated risks. Although the exact numbers are unknown, Libya is considered by the United Nations (UN) to have the world's largest uncontrolled ammunition stockpile, roughly estimated at 150,000 to 200,000 tons, equivalent to the weight of the biggest cargo ships crossing the Suez Canal.

Within this context, DRC aims to enhance the safety and security of communities in Tripoli by raising awareness of the risks of small arms and engaging communities in dialogues on safety measures and community safety plans. Therefore, DRC commissioned this study as a first step to develop an understanding of the local community's knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, and practices about small arms ownership. In addition, the study aims to provide recommendations and inform DRC's sensitisation campaign and community engagement activities.

DRC contracted SREO Consulting (SREO) in May 2021 to conduct this research and explore the norms, prevailing practices, cultural aspects, views on gender, youth, masculinity, identity, and key factors that might influence the acquisition of small arms by the civilian community, as well as develop key messages and identify trusted and preferred media. The analysis was based on a thorough review of relevant secondary literature, open-source, and primary data to develop a solid background against which findings were determined. Primary data collection included 160 Knowledge, Attitudes, Beliefs and Practices (KABP) surveys in Tripoli's Hay Al-Andalous neighbourhood. Moreover, 10 key informant interviews (KII) and 9 semi-structured interviews (SSI) were conducted with representatives of local authorities, academia, activists, security providers and community leaders.

Based on the data, SREO identified **that gun ownership is not a tradition in Libya** and, according to most participants, **carrying an unconcealed small arm is not socially acceptable**. However, **owning a small arm is largely tolerated if it is for self-protection, protection of others, or property protection**, showing that respondents see it as a necessity due to the ongoing violence present in the country. Participants were aware of the availability of small arms to a great extent, and **almost half of respondents could see themselves obtaining a weapon in the future**, despite showing a good knowledge of the negative consequences associated with small arms ownership to the mainstream society and even at the country level to a large extent. Survey respondents and key informants openly **supported the legalisation of civilian arms' ownership**, while **supporting stricter gun control and regulation** at the same time.

Nonetheless, respondents have shown superficial levels of awareness about the dangers of small arms at the household level, such as the possibility of misuse, with **most respondents thinking that there are no risks in keeping a weapon in the household**. Thus, participants were not clear about ways to mitigate these risks. In addition, the vast majority of survey respondents and key informants were unaware of any government plan or community-based initiatives to address or mitigate the risks of small arms in the area and think that any government campaign asking civilians to hand in their weapons will most likely fail. On a positive note, **key informants and survey respondents have pointed out that awareness-raising sessions are needed to avoid accidents related to small arms** in the household, which suggests a willingness from the local community to learn how to mitigate these risks and engage in future activities with DRC.

Overall, **mainstream society sees gun owners as persons of higher status, more influential and more powerful than non-owners, but not more respected than non-owners**. According to a key

informant, young men usually idolise militiamen and the armed forces, as he believes the youth find them more powerful. Even though data collected did not reflect this finding, it was noteworthy that young adults were slightly more likely to say that gun owners are more respected, influential, and powerful than respondents from older age groups (36+). In fact, across all age groups, **those between 18 and 35 years old were generally more likely than other age groups to agree with the following: see themselves obtaining a weapon in the future**; feel like being respected by others is either important or very important; recommend a cousin/friend to buy a small arm for self-protection and agree that it is hard to live up to society's expectations. In addition, KIs and participants **identified young men as the demographic group most likely to become victims and perpetrators of armed violence**, showing some awareness of the impact that small arms have on the youth.

Data revealed that both men and women across all age groups show traditional views on hegemonic masculinity¹ and gender roles. Men are mostly seen as the protectors of the household and therefore responsible for defending its members, their reputation and their property, even with violence if they must. Indeed, data suggest that **men are significantly more likely to obtain weapons in the future than women**. Moreover, participants hardly acknowledge the impact of small arms on women and girls. Most respondents were not familiar with incidents where arms have been used within the household to threaten, injure, or kill another family member, and only five respondents recognised domestic violence as one of the major security concerns. Nonetheless, **interviews with community leaders and local authorities revealed that domestic violence cases have become more lethal since weapons became more prevalent in civilian households**, supporting a correlation between the availability of small arms and the use of violence.

Participants who suffered past victimisation (or know someone who did) were more likely to affirm that they could see themselves obtaining a weapon in the future than those who did not. Curiously, **those who say that they feel safe living in their neighbourhood were more likely to obtain a small arm in the future than those who feel very unsafe**. Nonetheless, participants believe they would be more protected if they held a weapon. Gun ownership motivation is complex because it is usually based on subjective emotions – mostly fears and anxieties – and how they impact an individual's risk assessment and decision-making.² It is a less than rational process that involves several short-cuts and cognitive biases that are difficult to assess at the individual level.

For most participants, dispute resolution happens primarily in the formal justice system, followed by the tribal justice system, showing that tribal leaders still hold an essential position in the social fabric and have the power of settling disputes within their communities and with other tribes. **The justice system was selected as the entity with the most authority on the subject of small arms and the most trusted entity to guide on the issue of gun ownership**. It is noteworthy that many public institutions are located in Hay Al-Andalous, and most survey respondents were active government employees or civil servants and possibly more inclined to trust the government to act in their best interests.

Finally, social media are by far the most used platform selected by participants of most age groups, more precisely Facebook, followed by Instagram and YouTube. On the other hand, Twitter seems to be more present among the academia. As expected, the younger generations are more inclined to online activities than the older generations. The 218 Channel is the most watched by participants of all age groups, and the only TV channel selected by the youngest generation (15 – 17 years old). Respondents rarely use radio and other digital medias such as blogs and online magazines.

1 Hegemonic masculinity refers to a societal pattern in which stereotypically male traits are idealized as the masculine cultural ideal, explaining how and why men maintain dominant social roles over women and other groups considered to be feminine (Connell & Messerschmidt, 2005).
2 Metzl J "What guns mean: the symbolic lives of firearms." 2019



INTRODUCTION

In May 2021, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) contracted SREO to conduct a study on small arms in Tripoli. This research incorporates a holistic approach and captures the insights of important stakeholders, experts, and practitioners. It also assesses the general community's knowledge, prevailing practices and beliefs in relation to small arms ownership and proliferation. Moreover, the study identifies key messages and recommendations to inform DRC's campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of small arms and their direct and indirect impact on civilians' security. Finally, this report presents all findings and sets them into relation with each other.

The remainder of Section 1: Introduction, presents an overview of the security context in Libya since the Libyan uprising in 2011, the risks and impacts of the proliferation of small arms and the history and traditions surrounding small arms ownership in the Libyan context.

Section 2 and 3: Study Objectives, briefly explains the aims of this research and its key questions. The latter, challenges and limitations, highlights the events that impacted the study and its methodological limitations.

Section 4: Methodology, details the study design and approach, including data collection tools and sample sizes. It also analyses the KABP survey respondents' demographics.

Section 5: Findings, analyses the general knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and practices of the community, looking at the symbology of small arms within the mainstream society and the community willingness to address the issues caused by its proliferation. It also identifies media preferences according to different demographic groups and potential influencers on the topic of security and small arms ownership.

Section 6: Presents the main conclusions and the identified key messages substantiated by analysis and findings.

Section 7: Recommendations looks at possible entry points for future DRC programming and relevant stakeholders.

Context and historical background

The challenge of small arms proliferation

A common perception used to prevail among policymakers that once armed conflicts come to an end, safety and security would significantly improve. Although intuitive, this perception has changed over the years as establishing a safe environment for civilians, and former combatants proved challenging in post-conflict states. The proliferation of small arms³ is part of this complex equation. A typical civil war legacy, the availability of small arms is a predisposing cause of insecurity and low human development.⁴ While the proliferation of arms is not considered the cause of violence, it does increase the severity of violence as a force multiplier. Its direct effects involve fatal and non-fatal injuries, the impact of treating and rehabilitating non-fatal injuries on public health, and the opportunity costs of long-term disability from a socioeconomic perspective. The indirect effects englobe a realm of challenges, including a rise in criminality, livelihoods disruption and the collapse of social services. Moreover, it deters private and public investments in other relevant areas, such as health and education.⁵

3 Small Arms are a man-portable lethal weapon designed for individual use that expels or launches a shot, a bullet or a projectile, with the exception of antique weapons designed before the 20th century. Small Arms includes revolvers and self-loading pistols, rifles and carbines, sub-machine guns, assault rifles and light machine guns.

4 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), "Securing Development: UNDP's Support for Addressing Small Arms Issues," 2005

5 Ibid, 2005

However, these effects do not capture the psychological toll and the societal burden of small arms proliferation. These costs can be especially high for youth and children, as they are more at risk of lasting effects. Children do not need to become victims themselves to suffer the psychological consequences of small arms violence, and even low levels of exposure may be enough to cause harm.⁶ The lethality of small arms combined with easy access makes it especially dangerous to the youth. Worldwide, small arms-related injuries are the second most common cause of death⁷ among the youth, with only car accidents claiming more young lives. Research conducted in 104 countries of various stages of development has shown that poor, young, male adults are the most common victims of small arms violence.⁸ Still, the presence of a small arm in the household can influence violence against women and girls in many ways. More frequently, the firearm is used to coerce and intimidate women, yet such cases are vastly underreported.⁹ Handguns within households have been associated with higher risks of homicide, suicide, and homicide-suicide events to all household members. In addition, small arms proliferation is often thought to exacerbate post-conflict insecurity and instability beyond its borders, facilitating criminal organisation activities and becoming a threat to human security worldwide.¹⁰

Despite the evidence that small arms proliferation and ownership are a threat to security, addressing the issue has proved to be a challenge in developing and developed countries alike. Attitudes and beliefs towards small arms are not necessarily based on rational thinking but feelings, emotions and perceptions.¹¹ Human beings weigh the risks of their behaviour through decision-making processes easily influenced by heuristics and cognitive biases.¹² Any approach to gun violence must consider that knowledge about risks does not necessarily translate into safe behaviour. Therefore, understanding the underlying motivations, symbology and perceptions about small arms ownership in a particular context is essential to develop more effective responses.

The Libyan security context

The character of the Libyan security context and state fragmentation seen today arise from developments following the country's 2011 uprising. The wave of protests that swept through the Arab world in 2011 was a consequence of decades of authoritarianism, failed economic policies, corruption, favouritism, and a general sense of discontent across the Arab nations, especially among the youth.¹³ The first protests were spontaneous and unorganized, erupting under the impact of the toppling of Ben Ali and Hosni Mubarak in neighbouring Tunisia and Egypt. Libya's demonstrations began much like the others, but what seemed to begin as nonviolent protests rapidly turned into a protracted civil war. The regime's rapid use of violence against protestors in the eastern city of Benghazi stood out¹⁴, receiving exceptionally high levels of media attention and prompting a NATO intervention under the auspices of UN Security Council Resolution 1973 based on the concept of Responsibility to Protect (R2P).¹⁵ With the aim to control Libyan airspace and prevent fighter-jets attacking civilians, as occurred in Benghazi, NATO allies initiated a low-intensity air campaign supporting the multiple groups of local fighters that had mobilised to fight the regime resulting eventually in its demise in August 2011 and the subsequent death of its leader Muammar Ghaddafi (October 2011).

6 Cook, P. "The costs of gun violence against children", 2002

7 *Ibid*, 2002

8 Geneva Declaration Secretariat, 2014

9 Hemenway, 2011. Shaw, 2013.

10 Boaz Ganor, "The Challenge of Terrorism in The Arab Spring, Democracy and Security: Domestic and International Ramifications", 2017

11 Metzl J "What guns mean: the symbolic lives of firearms." 2019

12 *Ibid*, 2019

13 Fakih, Ali. "Determinants of the Arab Spring Protests in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya: What have we learned?" 2021

14 Lynch, Marc. The New Arab Wars: Uprising and Anarchy in the Middle East. 2016

Following Ghaddafi's death, the security sector has been characterised by hybridity with formal and informal security actors co-existing.¹⁶ The National Transitional Council (NTC), and the General National Congress (GNC) was elected by popular vote in 2012. The new government had the challenge of transitioning Libya on to a democratic path, but inherited a highly centralised state that lacked political structure, government procedures and counterterrorism measures.¹⁷ Ghaddafi's Libya deliberately had weak institutions, no constitution, and a neglected army composed of 20,000 troops¹⁸ with no Ministry of Defence.¹⁹ The regime centralised the military outside the state institutions by relying on informal units drawn from primarily Ghaddafi's own tribes, and those close to him.²⁰ The NTC struggled to stabilise the country, rebuild institutions while terrorist organisations took advantage of the situation, leading to increasing fragmentation of the state.²¹

Transitional authorities have failed to establish control over the multitude of armed groups created during and after the 2011 uprising - known in Libya as the *thuwwar*. As the ones who fought the regime, the *thuwwar* asserted legitimacy and participation in the decision-making process. While the GNC promised to dissolve the *thuwwar* and strengthen the formal security sector, this never succeeded. Instead, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) formed the Supreme Security Committee (SSC), a hybrid institution that allowed a number of armed groups to operate under the official umbrella of the government. Through the SSC, the government put the *thuwwar* on its payroll. One result of these subsidies was the proliferation of armed groups, expanding beyond those who fought the regime²² and decreasing the population's faith in the ability of the government to provide for its security.²³ Even though the SSC was dissolved, the same strategy has been repeated under several different names and different ministries. For example, the current National Guard.²⁴ As of 2021, it is believed that more than 400,000 security personnel are operating on the payroll of various Libyan authorities.²⁵

In 2014, competing power struggles and diverging visions for Libya led to the division of the country into two overall administrative centres in the East and the West, although some national institutions continued to service both regions, as well as the southern region of Fezzan, which has been affiliated with both regions. The fight for control of Libya's resources and institutions in April 2019 escalated with the launch of the Western Libya Campaign by Khalifa Haftar, the head of the Libyan National Army (LNA), to capture Tripoli. The forces allied to the Government of National Accord (GNA) in the West eventually repelled the LNA in June 2020 and in October 2020, a peace agreement, involving trust-building measures such as exchanging prisoners and aiming to create opportunities for a future unification of military institutions, was signed.

16 Badi, Emmadeddin et al., *"The Road to stability: rethinking SSR in post-conflict in Libya"*, 2021

17 Aghayev, Elvin. *"Analysis and Backgroun of the Ārab Spring" in Libya*, 2013

18 Florence Gaub, *"Libya: The Struggle for Security,"* 2013.

19 According to Florence Gaub, Qaddafi dissolved the Ministry of Defense after an attempted coup in December 1969 and kept the state's official armed forces deliberately weak, as he considered them a potential threat to his power. Also, the army was actually run by the Chief of Staff.

20 Rusch, Silke, "Peace Agreements and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR): Insights from the Central African Republic and Libya", 2021

21 Ibid, 2021

22 Brigades of revolutionary fighters were integrated into the SSC and preserved their command structures. This led to the creation of parallel chains of command in the SSC and the Ministry of Interior. While estimates vary, the net result is that, as of 2021, more than 400,000 security personnel are operating on the payroll of various Libyan authorities, for a population of just over 6.5 million. This is an excessively high ratio, with some six per cent of the population effectively being enrolled in the security sector. However, some scholars believe the new government had no alternative due to the rapid development of the security context. See: *The Road to Stability: rethinking SSR in post-conflict Libya*, 2021. and *"The New Arab Wars: Uprising and Anarchy in the Middle East, 2016"*

23 ICG, *"Divided We Stand: Libya's Enduring Conflicts"*, 2012.

24 Also known as: the Libya Shield Forces, the Preventative Security Apparatus, Security Support Apparatus, the Joint Force, the Security Operations Department, and currently the National Guard. See: *The Road to Stability: rethinking SSR in post-conflict Libya*, 2021.

25 Ibid, 2021

Small arms proliferation in Libya

Under the rule of Ghaddafi, Libya was subject to a number of arms embargos that prevented the legal import of arms and ammunition into the country.²⁶ Nevertheless, Ghaddafi sought arms deals, benefitted from the climate of the Cold War, importing vast amounts of weapons, including small arms, and creating depots throughout the country allegedly to arm the general population and militias in the event of an internal or external threat. From 2003 onwards, following concession and an apparent change in policy by the Libya regime, UN, EU and US bilateral sanctions were gradually lifted.

Despite the international sanctions, the Ghaddafi regime solidified its arsenal between 1970 and 2009. The government spent close to US\$30 billion on weapons; and by 2009, Libya had imported US\$135m worth of small arms.²⁷ In addition, the stockpile of weapons increased through purchases at the end of 2010. By the beginning of the revolution, the country held an arsenal of 400,000–1,000,000 firearms²⁸ to support its 20,000 active troops.²⁹ The 2011 uprising prompted the proliferation and influx of small arms into the hands of armed groups (est. 125,000)³⁰ and into civilian households, increasing its associated risks.

Before 2011, civilian-held weapons were rare, as a considerable amount of social control existed to regulate individual behaviour around guns and mitigate some of the potential negatives of weapons ownership.³¹ According to the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons submitted to the UN³² in 2010, civilians could not own small arms in Libya without permission. Such permits were only granted to armed forces, police officers, judicial officials, and prosecutors. During and following the 2011 revolution, the wide-ranging arsenal ended up in the hands of individuals and groups involved in the uprising, arms traders, armed groups, militias, and terrorist organisations, eventually finding its way into civilian households.

After the fall of the regime and the death of Ghaddafi, there was a general assumption among politicians and scholars that the country would turn into a giant hub for weapons trafficking, inflating neighbouring countries with illicit weapons and contributing to conflict and civil wars.³³ Partially, this assumption was correct: Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Tunisia, Syria, Yemen and Chad, among others, have been at the receiving end of Libya's illicit weapons exports, which had a significant effect upon their domestic and international conflicts.³⁴ However, since 2013, the number of arms and ammunition being smuggled out of Libya has decreased,³⁵ and until today it remains low compared to the international community's expectations in 2011. One of the reasons might be the global efforts to prevent illicit trafficking to and from Libya, such as the weapons' embargo imposed in February 2011. However, according to the UN Panel of Experts³⁶, the weapons embargo remains "totally ineffective", arguing that several member states disregard their commitment to the Sanctions Committee. Another possible reason for this decrease may be the increased demand for weapons within Libya.³⁷

26 In 1992, Libya was connected to bombing a US civilian airliner over the United Kingdom and a French aircraft over Niger. Ghaddafi's unwillingness to cooperate with the investigations prompted the Security Council to impose an arms embargo to prevent the legal export of arms and munitions to the country. This embargo was lifted only in 2003 when the government accepted responsibility for the actions of Libyan officials, agreed to pay compensation, committed to further cooperation and denounced terrorism.

27 Sivaram, A., & Karasik, T., "An Arms Buyback for Libya", 2012

28 Salah Mansor and Zuhir Bodalal, "The Impact of the Method of Gunshot Injury: War Injuries vs. Stray Bullets vs. Civilian Fighting", 2013

29 Although the armed forces were previously estimated to number some 76,000 men, Florence Gaub in "Libya: The Struggle for Security" reveals that it totalled only 20,000. She mentions that not only was their arsenal outdated and badly maintained as a result of sanctions and neglect, but the troops were also organised primarily with a view to protecting the regime from a coup d'état.

30 ICG. Holding Libya together: security challenges after Qadhafi, Middle East/North Africa report N°115. Brussels: International Crisis Group; 2011.

31 Forbes, Adam. "Small Arms/Light Weapons and physical security in Misrata", 2012

32 Parker, S., & Green, K., "A Decade of Implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons: Analysis of National Reports", 2012

33 Conflict Armament Research, 'Investigating Cross-Border Weapon Transfers in the Sahel', 2016

34 Marsh, N., "Brothers Came Back with Weapons. The Effects of Arms Proliferation from Libya", 2016

35 UCDP online portal, accessed on May 25, 2021 <<http://ucdp.uu.se/?id=1>>

36 UN News portal, accessed on May 25, 2021 <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/03/1087562>>

37 Marsh, N., "Brothers Came Back with Weapons. The Effects of Arms Proliferation from Libya", 2016

In the power vacuum created following the Ghaddafi regime, several interim governments have been formed, and full political unity is yet to be achieved. Libya's national security forces suffered from a lack of popular trust, given their previous affiliation with the regime. As violence and crime escalated in 2014, the demand for weapons increased within the country by actors involved in the fighting and citizens who resorted to buying small arms. A strict law was passed in 2014 criminalising weapons ownership by civilians, as well as offering financial compensation for those who hand in guns. However, the law was never put into practice (see table 1 for more details on the laws in Libya related to small arms ownership by civilians). Nonetheless, there is some legal base for disarmament and Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM).

Today, weapons are being traded, both online and in the traditional open markets throughout the country. According to a 2017 study,³⁸ there is currently a higher demand for handguns and concealable weapons for self-protection in Libya, particularly as a defence against carjacking. Another study conducted in 2016 noticed a considerably high price for conventional guns compared to their value on commercial markets in Western countries, which may reflect higher demand. In their study, Jenzen-Jones, N. R., & McCollum identified four broad types of actors who appear to be currently involved in the small arms trade in Libya: individuals who are making purchases for self-defence, sporting, or hobbyist reasons, small-scale commercial traders, typically individuals, larger-scale commercial traders often linked to physical shops or stalls; and traders associated with non-state armed groups.³⁹ Still, there is a lack of accessible data on small arms across Libya, especially in terms of casualties and how gun ownership impacts the local population. SREO noticed that there are some data available at central hospitals that serve as referrals for gunshot injuries and accidents, but the data does not describe the circumstances of these casualties and data collection does not appear to be centralised.

Table 1: Laws related to small arms in the Libyan Constitution

Details	
Law No. (02) of 2014 - On adopting some provisions on prohibiting weapons, ammunition, and explosives	Article 3: If the weapon is an unlicensed light weapon, the person concerned shall be punished with imprisonment for no more than five years and with a fine of no more than five thousand LYD and no less than two thousand five hundred LYD. Article 7: The punishment shall be increased by no more than one-third for carrying weapons in public places, and shall be increased by no more than two-thirds in the event one of the acts set forth in this law is perpetrated in order to disturb public order, national unity, or social peace, is used in order to impose ideas or demands of any type, was obtained from any foreign party, or in the event the possession or receipt is in the framework of belonging to a tribal, regional, party, and intellectual organization, whether local or foreign. Article 8: Whoever hands over the weapons or ammunition in his possession to any police station, security directorate, Public Prosecution, or national army units within 90 days from the date this law enters into force shall be exempt from punishment. Following the administrative process, a financial compensation shall be disbursed to whomever hands over the weapons or ammunition to the competent authorities through controls determined by the Minister of Interior. Whoever possesses or receives light weapons and submits a request to obtain a license within the deadline set forth in the previous article shall also be exempt from punishment. Article 10: The imprisonment sentence shall be replaced with life imprisonment and the rest of the punishments decreased to half in the event he informs the competent authorities after they learn of the crime, but the notification leads to uncovering essential information relating to the crime or its perpetrators. Article 12: Following the administrative process, a financial compensation shall be disbursed through controls determined by the Minister of Interior to whomever seizes weapons, participates in seizing them, reports on their existence, or guides to them.
Law No. (65) of 2012 on regulating the right to peaceful demonstration	Article 9: No person may carry weapons while participating in a demonstration, even if he is licensed to carry weapons. In applying the provisions of this law, a "weapon" shall be considered any tool or instrument that cuts or pierces, or any tool that endangers to public safety.

38 Jenzen-Jones, N. R., & McCollum. "Web trafficking: analysing the online trade of small arms and light weapons in Libya", 2017

39 Ibid, 2017

Study Objectives

The overarching goal of this analysis will be to inform DRC awareness-raising campaign and future programming on reducing risks associated with small arms, including possible entry points concerning both programme activities and locations of interest. The study sheds light on the following areas:

- The history and tradition of arms and how it influences the way arms ownership is perceived in Libya today.
- How mainstream society and media represent arms and how they reproduce arms as symbols. I.e., what culturally acceptable images of arms are reinforced through mainstream society.
- What arms-related behaviours, if any, are rendered acceptable by communities and why.
- Understand the consequence of unsafe behaviours of arms.
- Understand the locally perceived best practice in safe behaviours.
- Understand community willingness and readiness to address small arms safety issues at the community level.
- Unfold the hegemony of the culture of arms, including through a gender lens, particularly how conceptualisations and perceptions of masculinity shape small arms use and misuse and the role of women in increasing or reducing risk-taking behaviour.
- Implication and drivers for youth and children of small arms presence in communities.
- Understand the link between the availability of small arms and the use of violence as a means for resolving conflicts.
- What implication do these findings have for interventions to decrease the risk of small arms accidents and misuse within communities?
- How arm ownership is linked to gender-based violence (GBV) and psychological violence.
- The political, social and economic implications of small arms. Identification of factors driving demand for small arms and their use.

In particular, the analysis aimed at addressing the following questions as far as possible:

Knowledge

- To what extent are communities aware of the availability and ownership/use of small arms in their neighbourhoods?
- To what extent are small arms accessible to civilians?
- To what extent are communities aware of the risks and consequences associated with small arms ownership and use?
- To what extent are communities aware of how to prevent accidents related to small arms?
- Which actors/institutions do individuals and communities resort to for dispute resolution in case of local conflict, violence, and other security and justice issues?
- Do they know of any community-based interventions to address armed violence in their neighbourhoods?

Attitudes/Perceptions

- What weapons-related behaviours are acceptable, if any, to communities? Does this differ based on identity? (gender, tribal affiliation, age, ethnic-religion, identity etc.)
- How does the mainstream media portray the use of weapons?
- What are the prevailing views surrounding masculinity and weapons ownership and use, particularly among the youth?
- What are the factors that attract children and youth towards weapons?
- What are the factors that attract the general population into buying weapons?

- To what extent do communities trust local government/police and formal justice systems in ensuring law and order over informal systems (tribal elders, religious leaders, etc.)?
- To what extent are communities willing to address issues caused by the proliferation of small arms?
- The extent to which communities correlates their safety to weapons ownership.
- Who are the trusted community/local actors that can be used to inform awareness raising?
- What are the perceptions of trusted media (billboards, TV channels and online platforms)?

Practices/Behaviours

- What are the common types of arms-associated behaviour (safe and unsafe) among communities?
- What are the prevailing practices to address crimes related to small arms?
- To what extent do communities rely on informal justice mechanisms, including tribal laws/courts, in addressing crime and armed violence?
- How is GBV linked to arms ownership?
- Which media platforms do communities use the most? How does that vary according to age and gender?
- How is the small arms issue reflected in social media?

Challenges and Limitations

The study faced a number of challenges described below.

Data availability: Measuring the impact of small arms in post-conflict Libya is a challenge because surveillance data are sparse. Recorded data quantifying the extent of availability of small arms and the figures on lethal and non-lethal injuries, victims and perpetrators are unknown. As a result, it is difficult to measure the impact of small arms ownership on women, men, children, and youth.

Topic sensitivity: Small arms ownership is a sensitive topic that could make some respondents uneasy about participating in the study. At first, there was a fear among respondents of conducting audio-recorded interviews. To address this issue, SREO clarified the purpose of the study and reassured the confidentiality of their answers. Moreover, SREO could not ask survey participants directly if they were small arms owners. Instead, SREO questioned participants if they could see themselves owning a small arm in the future, if allowed by law. Thus, although it serves the purpose of this research, SREO could not develop a more detailed profile nor compare the perspectives of small arms owners and non-owners. Moreover, it is impossible to assume that all people who presented themselves opened to the idea of gun ownership do not own a gun already, or that they will eventually obtain one. Likewise, it is not possible to presume that those unwilling to obtain a weapon do not already live in a household with a gun.

Timeline: The start of data collection suffered delays due to administrative adjustments, local access processes and challenges in identifying a suitable location. A safety incident at the municipality temporarily disturbed SREO's field work since the members of the municipality were reluctant to go to the Municipality office afterwards, thus explaining their limited response during the KII. Moreover, the incident impacted the project's timeline as the field teams had to assess the security situation before continuing the data collection process.

Sample size: This research took place in one neighbourhood in the greater Tripoli area, and its findings may not represent the knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, and practices of the larger community. Nonetheless, it brings insights that can be further explored in future research in other locations.

Covid-19: DRC had initially planned to conduct Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with citizens to get more insights. However, social distancing guidelines, as part of the COVID-19 response, made social gatherings challenging. Instead, SREO conducted Semi-Structured Interviews (SSIs).



Illustration from *مش مكانه (Not Its Place)*, DRC Awareness Raising Campaign on small arms, December 2021, phase 4. Chapter 2 – Children, 1) Make sure weapons are not stored in a place where children can reach them while playing and exploring, 2) Put the weapon in a locked place and keep the key with you, 3) Make sure no children are around when storing your gun and ammunition

METHODOLOGY

SREO used a participatory, mixed methodology approach that included secondary and primary sources and quantitative and qualitative research methods. This mixed-methods approach allowed for data triangulation to increase the reliability of the findings. In addition, complementary results between these methods allowed SREO to observe broader trends in combination with the quantitative data, which further elucidated the knowledge, perceptions, attitudes, and practices related to small arms ownership.

Desk Review

A thorough review of relevant literature informed the entire research cycle, from tool design to data analysis and reporting. There exists a vast body of academic literature on small arms proliferation and civilian ownership, with an ample degree of agreement and consensus amongst specialists about what they consider to be the best practices in terms of safety and security, underlying motivations, risk factors and the rationale behind small arms ownership. The small arms literature served as a base to analyse the collected data, helping to highlight trends and hypotheses that could be triangulated. A desk review on the historical background and relationship between Libyans and small arms and light weapons was also conducted so that researchers could situate the data into the local context.

Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)

SREO conducted nine KIIs with stakeholders from the security and development sectors, community leaders and local authorities. The interviews allowed SREO to understand the context and get insights that provided nuance to the findings. In addition, SREO prepared interview guides tailored to each type of informant. Each interview guide included 20-25 questions and took around 45-60 minutes.

Table 2: List of KIIs

KII	Position
Ghout al-Shaalolice station	Police Officer
Security Affairs Committee	Security Affairs Committee member
Ghout al-Shaal police station	Administrative employee
Our Future Foundation	Member of the board of Directors of Our Future Foundation
Ayady Al Khair Foundation	Ayady Al Khair Foundation's employee
Youth Community Leader 1	Moken Awareness Organization's employee
Youth Community Leader 2	Libyan Organisation for Debates representative
Tripoli Centre Municipality	Security Affairs Committee member
Tripoli Centre Municipality	Member of the Municipal Council
Crisis Committee	Member of the Municipal Council Office of Hay Al-Andalous

Semi-Structured Interviews

Semi-structured Interviews (SSIs) operate similarly to KIIs. SREO designed interview guides in the same way to allow the facilitator to guide the discussion but also explore other topics as needed. These interviews explore the “why” and “how” of discussion topics, offering a richer picture of a phenomenon representing a specific experience. Respondents commented on the current context

regarding civilian-held small arms, their impact, and possible motivations behind their use by the general community. SREO conducted 12 SSIs, and more details can be found in Table 3 below.

Table 3: List of SSIs

SSI	Position
SA Activist	Member of the Human Rights Committee at the Ministry of Interior
SA Activist 2	Lawyer and member of the cultural committee at the General Bar Association
Sheikh 1	Sheikh in Al-Andalous District
Sheikh 2	Sheikh in Al-Andalous District
Mukhtar 1	Mukhtar in Al-Andalous district
Mukhtar 2	Mukhtar in the industrial district
University Professor	Academic in the field of legal studies in Misrata
University Professor	Faculty of Law in Tripoli
University Student 1	Law student
University Student 2	An activist in the field of light weapons - psychology expert in the Office of Psychological Support and Counseling
Weapons trader	A weapons trader in the Hay Al-Andalous area
SALW Survivor	A survivor of armed assault

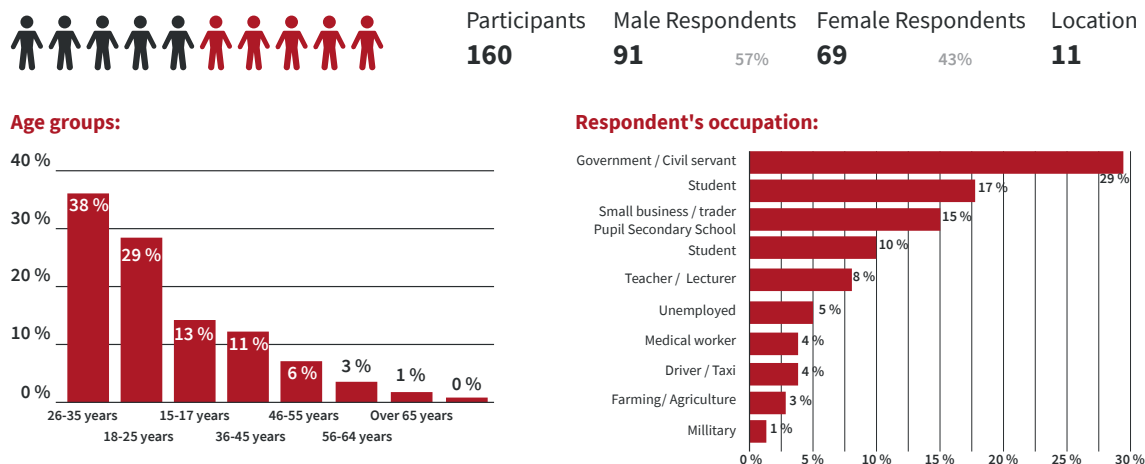
KABP Surveys

SREO conducted 160 KABP surveys to understand the community's perspective on small arms proliferation and ownership. The researchers walked randomly through busy public locations in the Hay Al-Andalous neighbourhood, inviting people to participate (see Annex I for the maps of survey locations). SREO ensured adequate representation of gender, age groups and social backgrounds as much as possible. More details about respondents' demographics can be found in Figure 1 below.

Table 4: List of locations and interviews conducted in Hay Al-Andalous neighbourhood

Location	# interviews conducted
Al-Andalous neighbourhood cafes	24
Zarqaa Al-Yamamah	23
The Andalous gate	19
The schools of Cordoba and of the immortal	15
Zarqaa Al-Yamamah 2	15
Sahara Bank	15
Al-Wahdawi Youth Club	15
Hive Space 1	10
Al-Quds University	10
Hive Space 2	5
Al-Andalous District Police Station	5

Figure 1: Respondents' demographics



Respondents surveyed by SREO were of mixed background, gender and age. A total of 160 community members were surveyed, with 43% (n= 69/160) being female and 57% (n= 91/160) male. The age of respondents ranged from 15 to over 65 years old, with 13% (n= 20/160) being between 15 and 17 years old, 29% (n= 46/160) fall into the 18-25 age range, 37% (n= 59/160) are 26 to 35 years old, 11% (n= 17/160) are 36 to 45 years old, 6% (n= 9/160) 46 to 55 years old and 4% (n= 6/160) above 55 years old. Most respondents under 18 years old are female (95%; n= 19/20)) but in the other age groups the sample was very varied between both genders. Female respondents noted being mainly students (42%; n= 28/69), working as a civil servant (23%; n= 16/69) as teaching staff (12%; n= 8/69) or as a small business trader (12%; n= 8/69). The occupation of male respondents is mostly being civil servants (34%; n= 30/91), small business traders (18%; n= 16/91) or they are students (15%; n= 13/91).

The relatively high number of employed respondents (95%; n= 152/160) is reflected by the fact that of the surveyed respondents 71% (n= 116/160) noted that their household has a very good (31%; n= 49/160) or good (40%; n= 67/160) ability to purchase sufficient basic necessities, with two participants (1%) noting that their situation in this regard varies. 22% (n= 35/160) of the respondents noted either having limited ability to purchase key needs or very poor (6%) situation in this regard.



FINDINGS

The present study explores the knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, and practices about small arms proliferation and ownership in Hay Al-Andalous neighbourhood.

According to the empirical data, small arms ownership is not a tradition in Libya: 83% of respondents revealed that weapons were uncommon before 2011. They had no interactions with guns during their childhood years. Yet, nowadays, 62% of respondents estimate that more than half of Hay Al-Andalous' households own at least one small arm. A community leader interviewed by SREO supported the estimation, saying that up to 70% of the neighbourhood's households own small arms. Due to topic sensitiveness, SREO could not ask participants if they were small arms owners themselves. Instead, participants were asked *if civilians were picturing themselves owning a small arm at some point in the future*. The results were quite balanced, with a slight majority (55%) saying they could not see themselves doing so. Consistent with patterns in small arms ownership, a higher share of male respondents than women said they could see themselves owning a gun in the future: 54% (n= 49/91) of male respondents as opposed to 42% of the female respondents. Those between 18 and 25 years old are reportedly the age group that a slim majority of participants (51%) said could see themselves buying a weapon in the future, while those between 15- and 17-years old form the age group less likely to obtain small arms in the future (35%). Nonetheless, in the case of minors, this question was asked in front of/close by a parent/adult, which may have influenced the minor's answer to a certain extent.

Figure 2: Willingness of gun ownership per age group

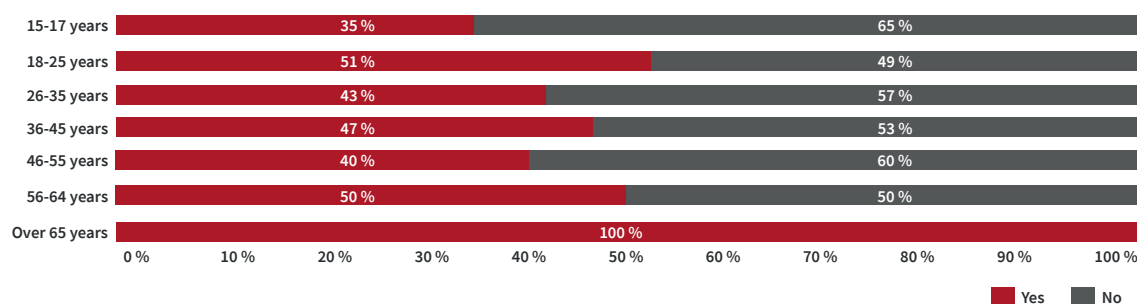


Figure 3: Willingness of gun ownership per gender



Most participants identify more than one reason for wanting to own a small arm, but protection (of self and others) tops the list, with 75% of respondents saying this is what motivates civilians to obtain them. The second most selected reason was to inspire fear in others (39%, which may also be interpreted as a tool for protection, followed by status/self-promotion (34%, celebrations (27%) and “because everybody has one” (24%). Another 16% say that “a man should carry a gun”. Women were less likely to agree with such a statement: 5% of the female respondents selected this option as opposed to 24% of male respondents. Male and female respondents were similarly likely to cite protection as a major reason to own a weapon, with female respondents presenting slightly higher shares: 70% against 81%, respectively.

Protection is the primary reason why gun owners have a gun. It is usually linked to an underlying fear of crime and future victimisation that correlates with gun ownership.⁴⁰ Past victimisation experiences are also associated with small arms ownership, as the experience may impact an individual's

40 Chanel, Chichilnisky, “The influence of fear in decisions: Experimental evidence.”, 2009

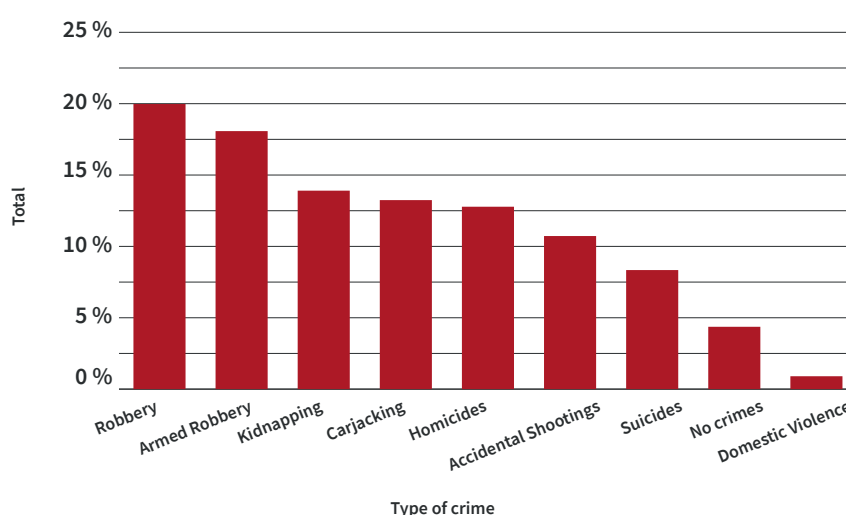
perception of crime, risk assessment and decision-making^{41,42}. Indeed, 62% (n= 30/48) of study participants who have been - or know someone who has been - a victim of armed violence say they could see themselves obtaining a gun for self-protection in the future, compared to 36% of those who have never been (and neither is close to) a victim of armed violence. For both men and women, gun ownership is higher among past armed violence victims than non-victims.

Still, most participants say they have never been victims of armed violence and neither their relatives nor friends (71%). Among those who have been a victim, 50% (n= 24/48) knew or have been a victim themselves of an armed robbery, 33% (n= 16/48) or unintentional shootings, 19% (n= 9/48) of armed conflict and another 19% (n= 9/48) of a public dispute that turned violent. Only one person (male) mentioned domestic violence.

A KII who was a recent victim of an armed robbery revealed that, even though she disliked the idea of owning guns, she felt like she would have been more protected had she been in possession of a weapon at the time of the event. This is the assumption of roughly a third of participants: 58% of respondents believe that small arms owners are either less at risk of becoming a victim of armed violence (30%), or that owning a small arm would have no impact on individual's safety and security (28%). Nonetheless, most respondents (73%) affirmed they do not know anyone who had successfully defended themselves, a loved one or property by using a small arm.

When asked about the major security concerns in the Hay Al-Andalous neighbourhood, respondents identified robbery (49%) and armed robbery (44%) as major issues. No significant difference has been found when the data was disaggregated by gender and age group, except men who cited carjacking (38% as a major concern than their female counterparts. In addition, similar numbers of women and men believe there are no crimes in their neighbourhood: 12% and 11%, respectively. Domestic violence was the least selected form of violence, with less than 5% of respondents referring to it as a significant concern. In fact, throughout the study, survey participants have rarely mentioned domestic violence and/or GBV. More details about the relations between GBV and small arms is discussed on section 5.3 – Views on masculinity and gender.

Figure 4: Perceptions of crime



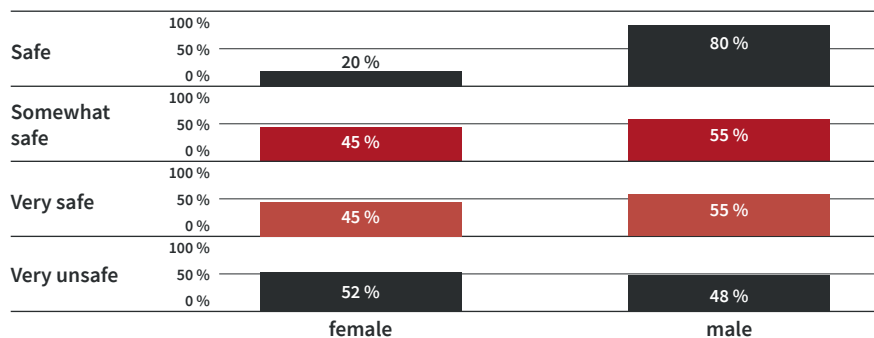
41 Vacha EF, McLaughlin TF. "Risky firearms behaviour in low-income families of elementary school children: the impact of poverty, fear of crime, and crime victimization on keeping and storing firearms." 2009

42 Vacha EF, McLaughlin TF "The impact of poverty, fear of crime, and crime victimization on keeping firearms for protection and unsafe gun-storage practices" 2000.

Perceptions of security

Overall, respondents believe the area they live in is **somewhat safe** (50%), with 7% noting it to be **very safe**, 16% indicating feeling **safe**, and 27% feeling **very unsafe**. Participants between 18 and 25, and between 26- and 35-years old, form the age groups that feel safest in comparison, being the only ones in which some respondents noted feeling very safe: 9% (n= 4/47) and 12% (n= 7/60), respectively. The 36-45 years old age group is the age group where people feel most unsafe, with almost half (47%; n= 8/17) noting that they feel very unsafe in their neighbourhood and no one reporting feeling very safe. 33% (n= 23/69) of the female participants reported feeling very unsafe, compared to 23% (n= 21/91) of their male counterparts.

Figure 5: Safety perceptions per gender



Curiously, those who see their neighbourhood as unsafe are **not** significantly more inclined to obtain a small arm in the future. In proportion, respondents who say their neighbourhood is safe are slightly more prone to get a small arm than those who say their neighbourhood is very unsafe: 52% (n= 13/25) and 41% (n= 18/44), respectively⁴³. When data is disaggregated by gender – men make the large majority of the respondents who perceive the security situation of Hay Al-Andalous as safe (80%; n= 20/25), whereas women make the slim majority of those who perceive the neighbourhood as very unsafe (52%; n= 23/44). This finding supports the claim made by several researchers⁴⁴ that gender may be a stronger predictor of weapons ownership than the actual fear of victimisation or even real past victimisation. This strong relationship between men and gun ownership has been found in studies conducted in more than 50 countries and different levels of development.

Another important point to consider is that fear is not only about objective, immediate threats to personal security but is also based on somewhat subjective, diffuse anxieties brought up by perceptions of the dangers, the uncertainties and the unpredictability of modern society. Researchers describe it as a sense that the whole society, or the world for that matter, has become a more dangerous, less welcoming place. It is by trying to mitigate this sense of unease that the protective behaviour response may manifest.⁴⁵ Indeed, a large majority of participants believe the security situation got worse compared to that of 10 years ago (76%), of which 70% consider their neighbourhood either very safe, safe, or somewhat safe. It is noteworthy that 10 years ago was the beginning of the Libyan uprising and the security deterioration. Those who believe that the general security situation got worse were *slightly* more likely to picture themselves buying a gun (39%; n= 56/144) than those who do not (38%; n= 54/144). Whereas some male participants believe the situation got better (9%; n= 8/91), none of their female counterparts believes the situation had improved, with the vast majority citing it had deteriorated (89%; n= 61/69).⁴⁶ No significant differences

43 Stroebe, Leander; Kruglanski. "Is it a dangerous world out there: The motivational biases of American Gun Ownership", 2017

44 Van Kesteren, J. N. (2013). "Revisiting the Gun Ownership and Violence Link: A Multilevel Analysis of Victimization Survey Data."

45 Barnhart et al., Preparing for the attack: mitigating risks through routines in armed self-defence, 2018

46 Similar patterns – albeit slightly more positive – were found when respondents were required to compare the current situation to that of 5 years ago. Overall, respondents were more positive about the changes in security in their neighbourhood compared to five years ago: 8% (n= 13/160) cite it got better, 21% (n= 33/160) indicate it stayed the same and 71% (n= 113/160) believing it got worse. No significant differences could be observed among different age groups relating to this topic.

could be observed among different age groups relating to this topic. The question was not asked to respondents who were less than 18 years old.

Risk awareness

When it comes to the impact of small arms proliferation on mainstream society, more participants believe that small arms are a menace to public security than not, showing a certain level of awareness about the dangers of small arms proliferation in the public sphere. For example, 57% say that there would be more crime if more people owned guns, with more women than men supporting this statement (39%; n= 27/69 and 29%; n= 27/91 respectively). Moreover, 57% believe owning a small arm presents very little or little deterrence to armed crime, with another 30% being neutral and 13% saying that owning a gun deters armed crime. Two-thirds (67%) also believe that illegally obtained weapons contribute to armed violence in Libya. Consistent with the pattern, women are more of this opinion than men, with 78% of them sharing this sentiment compared to 58% of men. One KI highlighted that the proliferation of SA increase weapons' trafficking, while others mentioned it encourages crimes like murders and kidnappings, as anyone can have access to a weapon, even those who do not have good intentions. Furthermore, almost all KIs interviewed by SREO and 51% of survey respondents support stricter gun control and legislation, believing this is the answer to tackle small arms proliferation.

Figure 6: Willingness of owning a gun and perceptions of neighbourhood security

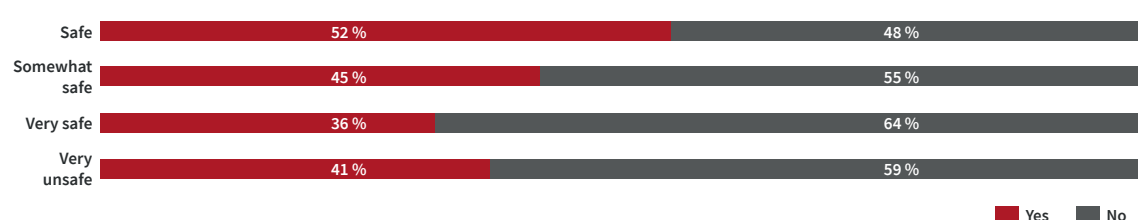


Table 3: Age breakdown for Figure 7

Row Labels	Do you believe weapons illegally obtained by individuals contribute to armed violence in Libya?	
No		
15-17 years	40%	N= 8/20
18-25 years	30%	N= 14/47
26-35 years	27%	N= 16/60
36-45 years	41%	N= 7/17
46-55 years	50%	N= 5/10
56-64 years	50%	N= 2/4
Over 65 years	50%	N= 1/2
Yes		
15-17 years	60%	N= 12/20
18-25 years	70%	N= 33/47
26-35 years	73%	N= 44/60
36-45 years	59%	N= 10/17
46-55 years	50%	N= 5/10
56-64 years	50%	N= 2/4
Over 65 years	50%	N= 1/2

Most participants believe that access to weapons is either easy or very easy (70%) and that there are no consequences to those caught illegally obtaining a small arm (83%). This is concerning because – according to 57% of respondents – being illegal is the main reason why some citizens may decide not to own a small arm, suggesting there is little deterrence to future small arms owners. In addition, a few KIIs observed that the increase in small arms prices had created an obstacle for low-income citizens to access weapons. However, it may also create a market for those who obtained weapons when they were affordable and can now sell them for a higher price. Moreover, some respondents acknowledged that easy access to weapons is one of the significant factors contributing to gun violence (42%), although the majority believes the main factor is social instability (57%). The price of small arms is correlated with increased availability, and evidence suggests that cheap and plentiful guns increase the risk of violence.⁴⁷ According to a key informant, weapons costed 120 USD or even less if bought from illicit sources. A weapon's trader interviewed by SREO mentioned that the common price is between 500 USD to 5000 USD, depending on the type of gun and whether it is second-hand or not. The trader informed that the most sold guns are the Kalashnikov rifle, the Scorpion rifle, the 7.5 and 8.5 pistols, and the 9mm Belgium, Brazilian and Italian pistols.

Figure 7: Perceptions of gun violence and weapons' ownership

Do you believe weapons illegally obtained contribute to gun violence?

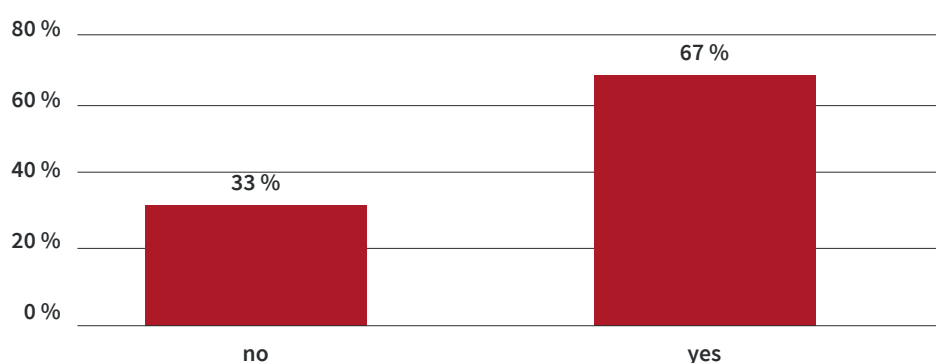
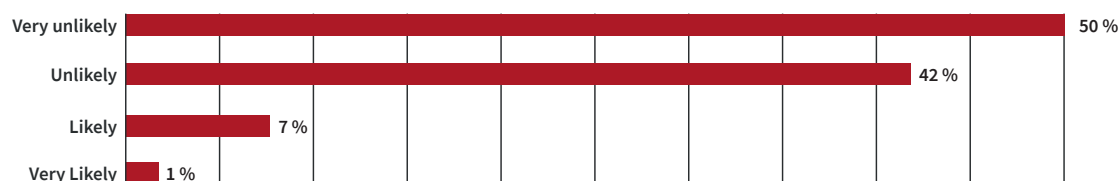


Figure 8: Civilians willingness to hand in their weapons

What is the likelihood of civilians handing in their weapons?



The vast majority of survey respondents (92%) **think that apart from local authorities, nobody should be allowed to own a small arm**. Even most (75%; n= 54/71) of those who see themselves buying a weapon in the future support that nobody should be allowed to own a small arm. These findings may suggest that 1) participants think of gun ownership as less of a right and more of a necessity, and 2) It would be a mistake to equate small arms ownership with opposition to stricter small arms legislation and neither disarmament. On the contrary, all key informants seem to support stricter gun control and legislation, many defend disarmament. Still, none of them believes that the population should be prohibited from owning a weapon until public institutions can protect Libyan citizens. Furthermore, when asked about the likelihood of civilians handing in their weapons, the

47 Hemenway D. Private guns, public health. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press; 2006

great majority believes it to either be unlikely or very unlikely (92%). These findings hint that any campaign aiming to disarm the population would be premature and most likely ineffective, as the lack of security and rule of law mean that civilians rely on themselves and their weapons for their own security.

Table 4: Age breakdown for Figure 8.

Row Labels	What do you think is the likelihood of civilians handing in their weapons?	
15-17 years		
Unlikely	70%	N= 14/20
Very likely	5%	N= 1/20
Very unlikely	25%	N= 5/20
18-25 years		
Likely	15%	N= 7/47
Unlikely	38%	N= 18/47
Very unlikely	47%	N= 22/47
26-35 years		
Likely	5%	N= 3/60
Unlikely	40%	N= 24/60
Very likely	2%	N= 1/60
Very unlikely	53%	N= 32/60
36-45 years		
Likely	6%	N= 1/17
Unlikely	35%	N= 6/17
Very unlikely	59%	N= 10/17
46-55 years		
Unlikely	40%	N= 4/10
Very unlikely	60%	N= 6/10
56-64 years		
Unlikely	25%	N= 1/4
Very unlikely	75%	N= 3/4
Over 65 years		
Very unlikely	100%	N= 2/2

Figure 9: Gun ownership regulation

Who do you think should be allowed to legally own a gun?



Table 5: Age breakdown for Figure 9

Row Labels	Who do you think should be allowed to legally own a gun?	
15-17 years		
Everyone	5%	N= 1/20
No one	65%	N= 13/20
Some people	30%	N= 6/20
18-25 years		
Everyone	2%	N= 1/47
No one	83%	N= 39/47
Some people	15%	N= 7/47
26-35 years		
Everyone	8%	N= 5/60
Most people	3%	N= 2/60
No one	72%	N= 43/60
Some people	17%	N= 10/60
36-45 years		
No one	65%	N= 11/17
Some people	35%	N= 6/17
46-55 years		
Most people	10%	N= 1/10
No one	40%	N= 4/10
Some people	50%	N= 2/10
56-64 years		
No one	75%	N= 3/4
Some people	25%	N= 1/4
Over 65 years		
No one	50%	N= 1/2
Some people	50%	N= 1/2

“If the government asks people to handover their firearms, it needs to demonstrate its capability of monopolising the use of force.”

Local Authorities

An overwhelming majority of 99% stated **not being aware of any government plan to address the proliferation of small arms**. The two respondents who had heard of a plan indicated that it consists of strengthening the security and police services. However, one KII was aware that a law was passed in 2014 for the population to return their weapons in exchange of cash incentives. The KII believes the law should be implemented by the new government, as it was never put in practice. In addition, as mentioned before, the population demonstrated support for disarmament but lack the trust that the new government will be capable to provide for their security.

Similarly, **none of the surveyed respondents was aware of any community-based initiative to reduce small arms proliferation**. 90% had never attended any form of awareness-raising training related to small arms. For most participants, dispute resolution happens primarily in the formal justice system (61%, followed by the tribal justice system (48%) and the informal justice system (31%). 22% of respondents selected both formal and tribal justice. According to 51% of participants, the justice system is the entity with the most authority on the subject of small arms, followed by tribal/clan leaders (37%). **Likewise, most respondents also believe the government/justice system is more likely to act in their best interests (60%),** followed by tribal/clan leaders (46%).

Data shows that tribes are still trusted as a backstop safety net, particularly in municipalities with homogenous power structures. When a crime is committed, customary justice (tribal law) is an accessible means of resolving disputes for Libyan citizens. This duality between the tribal and the official justice system works more in complementarity than in rivalry, giving traditional leaders the ability to affect the dynamics between parties in a conflict, even when the state is involved. However, even though tribal leaders can handle a variety of crimes, they are not commonly trained in handling the complexities of conflict legacies and their impact on security, specially through a human rights approach.

Participants were much more inclined to recognise the threat posed by small arms to society than at the individual level. When asked if they thought there were risks associated with keeping small arms in the household, 74% of respondents either answered there were no risks associated or did not know how to answer the question. Nonetheless, when a few scenarios were presented, nearly all participants recognised that at least one scenario represented a risk small arms owners take by keeping a gun in the household. Yet, when identifying safety measures to address these risks, only 20% suggest not keeping small arms in the household. Instead, **participants suggested participating in awareness-raising sessions (55%),** keeping weapons in a locker (35%) and unloaded (21%). Moreover, when asked why they thought some civilians did not want to own a gun, 49% mentioned it could be unsafe. 90% (n= 18/20) of those between 15 and 18 years old either did not know if there are risks of keeping a weapon in the household, or believed there are no risks associated to it, showing the lowest levels of awareness. The age group that was more likely to have awareness about the risks was the 36 to 45 years old, which 35% (n= 11/17) of respondents reported to be aware.

These findings suggest that most participants have low awareness about – or choose to ignore – the risks of keeping a weapon in the household. This is particularly concerning because one can assume that if the risks are not being acknowledged by gun owners (or future gun owners), then the probability of people taking precautions to avoid these risks is very low. Although a knowledge deficit is not enough to explain or change behaviour related to small arms ownership, it is the starting point to understand the relationship between weapons and owners. Nonetheless, these findings also reinforce a level of community willingness to participate in training sessions and increase its knowledge and awareness of small arms.

Figure 10: Risk assessment of gun ownership at the household level

Do you believe there are risks associated with keeping a small arm in the household?

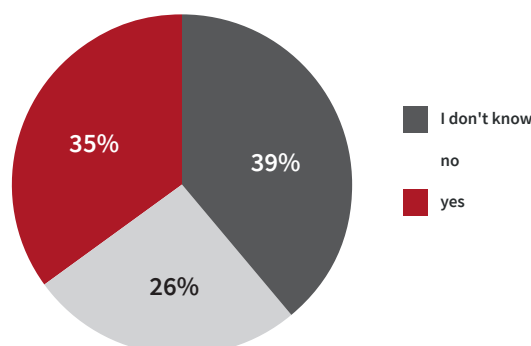


Table 6: Age breakdown for Figure 10

Row Labels	Do you believe there are risks associated with keeping a weapon in the household?	
15-17 years		
I don't know	60%	N= 12/20
no	30%	N= 6/20
yes	10%	N= 2/20
18-25 years		
I don't know	36%	N= 17/47
no	34%	N= 16/47
yes	30%	N= 14/47
26-35 years		
I don't know	36%	N= 21/58
no	34%	N= 20/58
yes	29%	N= 17/58
36-45 years		
I don't know	35%	N= 6/17
no	29%	N= 5/17
yes	35%	N= 11/17
46-55 years		
I don't know	30%	N= 3/10
no	50%	N= 5/10
yes	20%	N= 2/10
56-64 years		
I don't know	75%	N= 3/4
no	25%	N= 1/4
Over 65 years		
no	100%	N= 2/2

Regarding the perception of small arms, 80% of participants affirm that **owning a weapon is not socially acceptable, although tolerated mainly for self-protection**. Survey participants and KIs acknowledge the use of guns in weddings and celebrations (27% of the survey respondents mentioned it as one of the reasons for obtaining a weapon), but when asked about the which situation the use of weapons is acceptable, all of them mentioned self-protection and protection of other, only. In fact, some KIs spoke negatively of guns in weddings, and some associated the practice to the youth.

"Celebratory fire is one of the most dangerous things we see in our community."

SA activist

"Small arms are not handled properly, and we can see it by the fact some people are still using weapons in wedding ceremonies."

Sheikhs

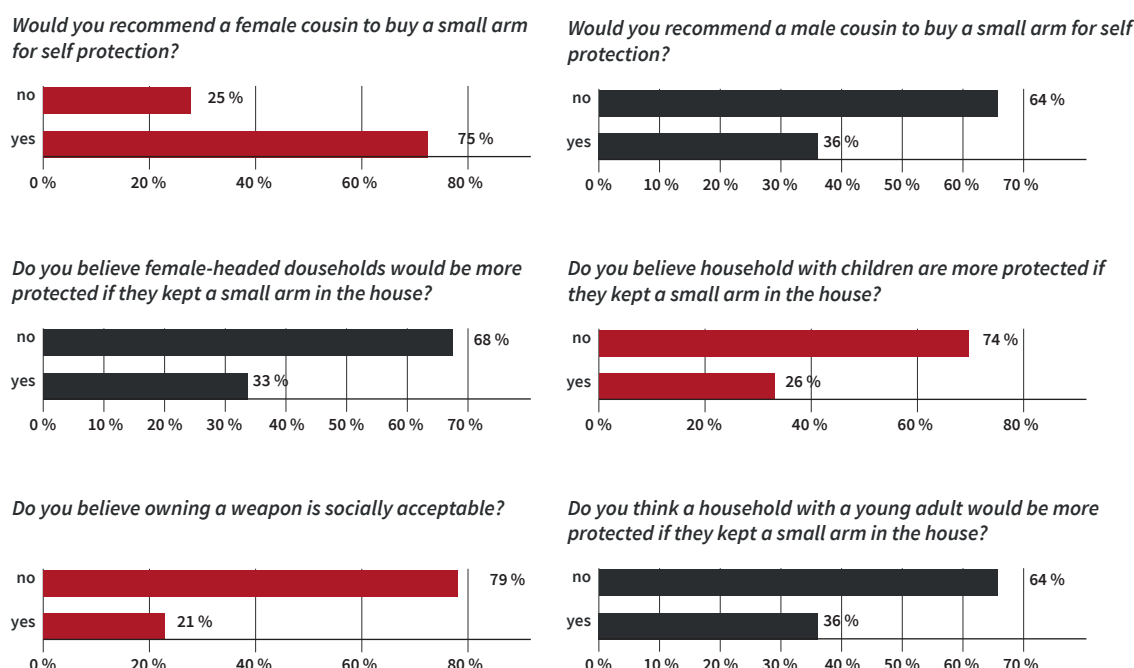
"The youth talks about the risks of the unsafe behaviour relating SA but when one of them goes to the wedding or to the house, he will use the SA in wrong way."

Security Provider

Most participants would not recommend a male and neither a female cousin to buy a small arm (64%; n= 102/160 and 75%; n= 120/160, respectively), with more males recommending it to males (68%; n= 61/91) than females to other females (42%; n= 28/69). Moreover, the majority do not think that households with children (74%; n= 118/160) and female-headed households (68%; n= 107/160) would be better protected if they kept a small arm in the household. Interestingly, almost half of respondents (48%; n= 76/160) believe a house with a young adult to be more protected if they own a weapon.

These results should be analysed with caution. The fact participants do not believe households would be more protected with a small arm does not mean they believe households would be more in danger either. In addition, 45% (n= 32/71) of those who could see themselves obtaining a weapon in the future reportedly would not recommend a friend to obtain a weapon. It is noteworthy that most of those who would recommend another person to buy a weapon belonged to the 18- to 25-year-old and the 26- to 35- year-old age groups. The same pattern was found among those who think households would be better protected if they kept a small arm.

Figure 11: Gun ownership and safety perceptions



Still, **mainstream society perceives gun owners as more powerful (56%) and more influential (64%)** than those who do not own guns. However, they are not necessarily more respected

(55%). Respondents were divided on if gun owners were more likely to be affiliated with armed groups or not, with 48% saying they were more likely to be affiliated. Likewise, participants were divided when asked if gun owners are more likely to become a victim of gun violence, with 32% saying they are more likely, 30% saying less likely and another 30% saying there is no impact. Again, when asked if having a weapon is a symbol of status, respondents were almost equally divided, with 49% saying yes. Most age groups seemed divided when answering this question, except for those between 15 and 17 years old, of which 60% (n= 12/20) agreed that owning a gun is a symbol of status.

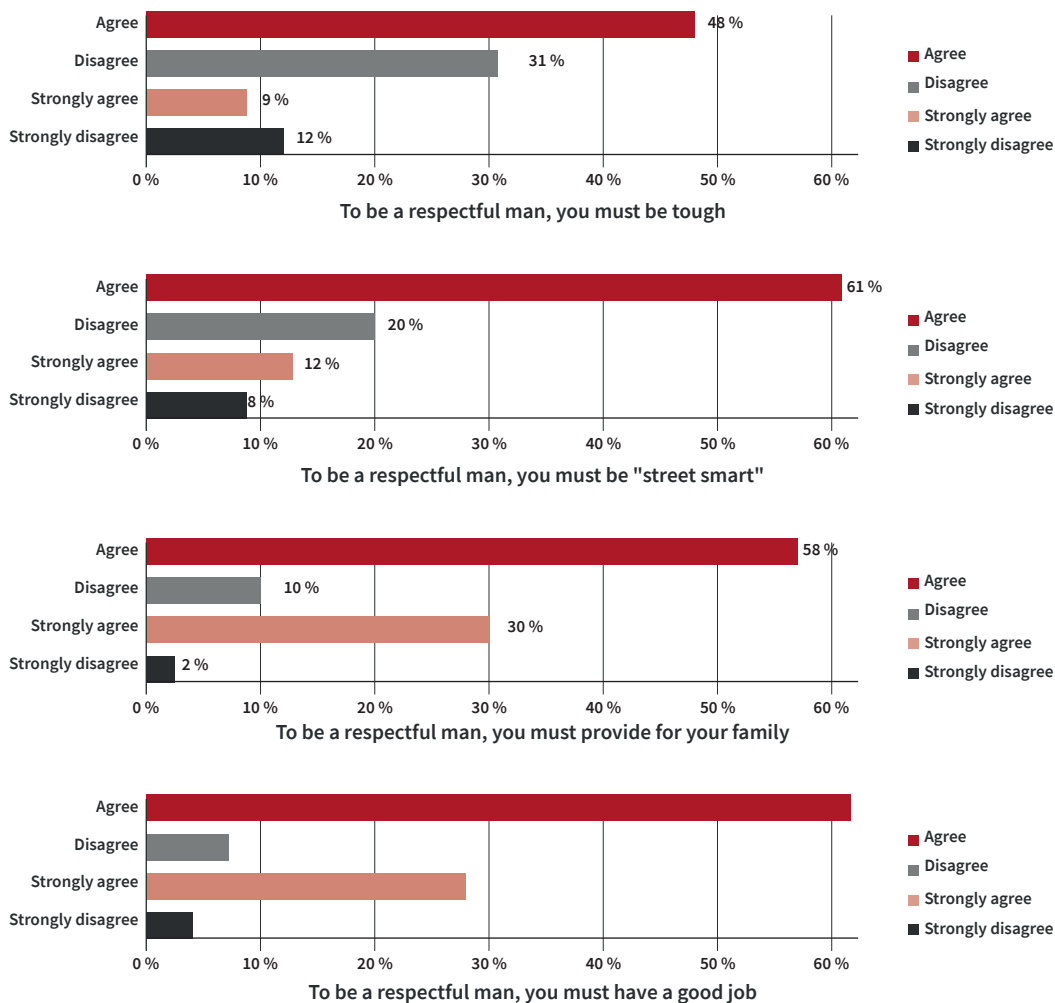
"If you own a decent car you need to have a personal firearm with you at all times to avoid being robbed, and society perceives such men as great men who have enough power to obtain such items."

Mukhtar

Perspectives on masculinity and gender

Most of those who can see themselves obtaining a weapon in the future either agree or strongly agree with the following statements: men account for the absolute majority of small arms violence victims (80%) and perpetrators (78%), that women are seldom perpetrators of firearm-related incidents (72%) and are more at risk than men of being a victim of homicide perpetrated by an intimate partner (57%). 71% agree that young men make up for most victims and perpetrators of armed violence. When asked if they thought women encouraged small arms ownership, 75% either disagreed or strongly disagreed.

Figure 11: Views on masculinity



Data suggests men are expected to assume the role of the protector of the household and bear the responsibility to defend it from threats.

Participants have a traditional view on gender norms: 57% agreed or strongly agreed that to be a respectful man, one must be tough, street-smart (68%), have a good job (90%), have a family (82%), provide for his family, defend his family even with violence, if needed (87%), defend his community even with violence, if needed (86%) and defend his family's reputation even with violence, if required (86%). To a less extent, respondents agree that men must respond when provoked with violence if needed (51%). Women and men had similar views regarding masculinity, although women were slightly less likely to agree with the statements above.

Research suggests that strict, traditional gender roles provide a fertile ground for gun ownership: guns allow men of various ages to identify with the hegemonic, most socially endorsed, views of masculinity and feel like they are fulfilling their expected role in society by defending their family and community at all costs. Small arms increase power imbalances and reinforce social hierarchies which give men dominance over women. Violence can be triggered by the significance attached to power in men's social relations, actions and experience and the attempt to exercise this power. Even though carrying a weapon is not socially acceptable, it is considered a legitimate resource for protection, which is central to what it means to be a good father, husband and respectful man. The inability of the government to provide assurance of security and prevent armed groups from operating above the law has further encouraged individual citizens to secure weapons in order to protect themselves. According to respondents and key informants, weapon owners are seen as of a higher status, more powerful and more influential than non-owners, which adds to the symbology of weapons. In the Libyan context, cycles of conflict and militarisation have reinforced a generation into the domains of masculine ideals, with the assistance of war propaganda that systematically associated pacifism with weakness, lack of courage and lack of a sense of community.⁴⁸

Young men can be particularly attracted to the symbology of weapons. During adolescence, there is an increase in outside sources of influence, especially peers and influential figures, associated with brain development.⁴⁹ Research shows a concurrent increase in risk-taking behaviour and impulsivity while self-regulation skills are not yet fully developed.⁵⁰ Psychologically, the youth are more susceptible to ideals of manhood⁵¹ and the rites of passage that turn "boys into men".⁵² Enlisting in the army or joining an armed group are ways to fast-track adulthood, especially in conflict-affected countries with high unemployment rates. In Libya, the armed groups (both formal and informal) is the only sector that has not experienced a recession⁵³, providing young recruits with the financial stability needed to achieve society's expectations. Survey respondents and KIs interviewed by SREO have consistently pointed out that young men are more likely to be involved with small arms, whether as victims or perpetrators of violence. A youth community leader highlighted they are also more susceptible to peer pressure, and therefore influenced by their friends and relatives. He also mentioned that small arms is a source of livelihood available to young men in a country where opportunities are scarce, and that – if given the opportunity,

When men were asked how important it is for them to be respected by others, 56% mentioned this is unimportant. However, those who answered either very important or moderately important were between 15 and 35 years old. When asked why they think being respected is important, respondents mentioned being well treated by others and finding their place in the community. Interestingly, women were more likely to think that being respected by others is important for men (50%).

48 Repping Masculinity: Gendering Libyan War Propaganda, 2021

49 Patton GC, Sawyer SM, Santelli JS, Ross DA, Afifi R, Allen NB, et al. Our future: a lancet commission on adolescent health and wellbeing. 2016

50 Patel V, Saxena S, Lund C, Thornicroft G, Baingana F, Bolton P, et al. The lancet commission on global mental health and sustainable development. 2018

51 Milkman, H., Sunderwirth, S. Craving for Ecstasy and Natural Highs: A Positive Approach to Mood Alteration, 2009

52 Repping Masculinity: Gendering Libyan War Propaganda, 2021

53 Ibid, 2021

According to KIs, carrying weapons is not socially acceptable for either women or men. However, if a woman does not feel safe in a particular environment, it would be fine for her to own a weapon, as much as it would for a man. Nonetheless, the interviewees generally portrayed women as scared of small arms and less likely to know how to handle them. That doesn't mean women have hardly any exposure to small arms, though, given that many women live in a household with a gun, even if they are not the owner. In addition, women and girls are more likely to be exposed to domestic violence, intimate partner violence, psychological violence, emotional harm, intimidation, sexual abuse, coercion, and other forms of gender-based violence where small arms may play a role but are usually under-reported.⁵⁴

Participants have largely unacknowledged the impact that small arms proliferation has on women: 87% of respondents were not aware of incidents where arms have been used within the household to threaten, injure, or kill another family member, and among those who were familiar, only two respondents (9%) mentioned a case where the woman was the victim, making up to only 1% of the total sample. In addition, only five respondents selected domestic violence as a significant security issue, and it was not the two respondents who were familiar with such cases. A Mukhtar interviewed by SREO stated that cases of domestic violence had been more lethal since the proliferation of small arms and reinforced that mainstream society privileges men over women in domestic violence cases, which may result in social backlash to survivors who report it. In addition, a local authority stated that even though women can report domestic violence, the system offers no more than sympathies to the survivor, suggesting that instances of gender-based violence are rarely reported to the police.

"Wives may die as a result of weapons ownership. We did not use to hear of such cases before because during a domestic quarrel a man would use a knife or a piece of wood, for example, but not a weapon as it happens nowadays. Women may take some precautions, such as removing the bullets from the weapons or even hiding the weapon so the husband cannot use it during an argument (...) Although some may think men and women are equal, mainstream society believes the husband is always right."

Mukhtar

Indeed, there are legal barriers for women to access the justice system: there are no specific laws against domestic violence in Libya, and the penal code exonerates perpetrators of rape if they agree to marry the survivor, which exacerbates the problem⁵⁵. A Sheikh highlighted that if a woman has a domestic issue, it is usually reported to him, reinforcing the role of informal justice as an alternative dispute resolution mechanism. Still, that does not mean the survivor will get justice, as customary law also gives privileged status to men over women. In some sexual offences, such as rape, the survivor can be perceived as an offender. The current situation is aggravated by the fact that few women are able to advocate for women's rights in public forums, either online or offline, without facing hostility and intimidation by state and non-state actors⁵⁶. All these barriers might refrain women and girls from discussing the topic in the public sphere, which perpetuates the isolation of survivors and works to erase the impact that small arms have on women. This finding is reflected by several rights organisations that have repeatedly highlighted the issues faced by women in Libya⁵⁷.

54 Mervosh, S., Gun Ownership Rates Tied to Domestic Homicides, but Not Other Killings". 2019

55 Deepening Stabilisation in Libya: Overcoming challenges to women's participation to peace building. UNFPA, 2020

56 Ibid, 2020

57 See: Amnesty International, "Silenced Voices: Libyan Women Human Rights Defenders Under Attack," 2018, <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/5b6abc764.pdf>, Amber Peterman and Megan O'donnell, "COVID-19 and Violence against Women and Children: A Third Research Round Up for the 16 Days of Activism," December 2020., and "The Economic and Social Impact of Conflict on Libyan Women." UN Women, 2021

Media Usage

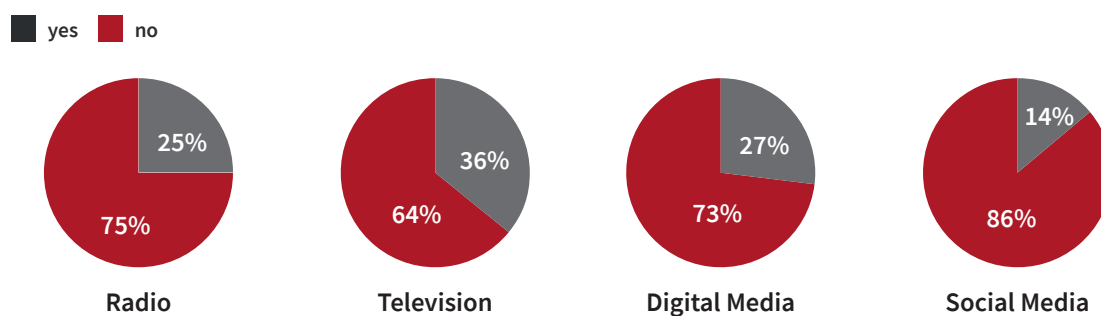
"I don't have specific information about this [violence against women] but there are many cases that a crime is committed by mistake. These cases are facilitated by the presence of a weapon in the household. Women can report but society only offers sympathies, no more than this."

Local Authority

Most participants consume digital and traditional media from multiple sources in varying degrees, but social media tops the list with 86% of respondents saying they are active users of these platforms. Younger generations are more digitally inclined, with social networks reaching 90% of participants under 17-years-old, 93% of those between 18 and 25 years old, and 92% of those between 26 and 35 years old. Facebook is by far the most accessed platform (80%; n= 110/138) across all age groups and gender, followed by Instagram (51%; n= 70/138), YouTube (45%; n= 62/138), Twitter (36%; n= 49/138), TikTok (24%; n= 33/138) and Snapchat (20%; n= 27/138). The only exception is the youngest participants (15 to 17 years old), who are more likely to use Instagram (78%; n= 15/20) over Facebook. Nonetheless, adults are also connected to social media: 71% of respondents above 35 years old and half of all age groups above 45 years old also reportedly use social media platforms. Snapchat, Twitter, and TikTok was not selected by respondents who are 45 years old or more, as they are mostly diffused among the younger generations.

Television (36%) was also selected by many participants, although to a lesser extent. TV programmes are mostly watched by the older generations: 50% (n= ½) of the +65-years-old and 75% (n= ¾) of the 56- to 64-years-old reportedly watching it regularly, and roughly a third of all respondents from the other age groups. Women are more likely than men to watch television (46% and 26%, respectively), and the most trusted channels according to participants were the 218 Channel (36%; n= 20/58), Salam channel (34%; n= 19/58), WTV (31%; n= 18/58) and the Libya Al-Hadath TV (22%; n= 12/58). 218 channel is highly popular among the educated, urban, and the youth, which is congruent with the demographics of Hay Al-Andalous and well represented in this study's sample. 218 Channel is entertainment-focused, being the preferred and most trusted TV channel across all age groups and genders, and the only channel trusted by the youngest participants (43%), those between 15 and 17 years old. Interestingly, only 9% of females trust the Libya Al-Hadath TV, compared to 38% of male viewers. Al-Hadath TV is a pro-Haftar politically focused channel that seems more appealing to an older male audience. Therefore, there is a chance that propaganda broadcasted by this channel may be perceived as a political statement. Moreover, only one person mentioned trusting foreign channels, and 10% indicated not trusting any channel, despite watching their content regularly.

Figure 12: Which medias do you use the most?



Digital media (26%) and the radio (25%) were also media sources selected by respondents, but their outreach capability is considerably lower when compared to the other options. Regarding digital

media, as expected, the youngest respondents reported using it the most, with 35% of under 18-years-old regularly consulting it compared to 28% of the 26- to 35-years-old participants. Respondents noted only a few digital media they trust indicating Akhbar Libya 24 (35%), mentioned mainly by males, Al-Marsad (30%) again trusted by primarily males, Al-Wasat (30%) noted by both males and females and El-Kul (12%), which is part of a BBC Media Action project, also mentioned by male and female respondents. In contrast, radio is most popular among those between 46- and 64-years-old, where 50% noted listening to it regularly, which is far less common among other age groups, reaching only 15% of respondents under 18-years-old, and 16% of 26- to 35-year-olds. In terms of which radio stations respondents trust the most, people mentioned Shababiya station (55%), LeBDa FM (48%), Tripoli FM (30%), Jawhra – Snapchat (28%) and Al-Wataniya FM (28%), whilst 36% of the male participants identified Al-Wataniya FM (36%)..

Entertainment was the preferred type of media content (57%) across all age groups and genders, followed by Libya-focused news (44%), economy (41%), domestic social issues (36%) and domestic politics (25%) and lastly, foreign topics including foreign politics (24%) and foreign social problems (24%). Female respondents by far prefer entertainment content (83%). In contrast, male respondents are generally more eclectic, selecting contents related to the economy and domestic social issues (45% for both), followed by Libya-focused news (44%), entertainment (37%), foreign politics (36%), foreign social issues (36%) and, lastly, domestic politics (34%). Among the different age groups, participants between 15 and 25 prefer entertainment content (85%), while those between 26 and 35 prefer Libya-focused news (57%). The 36 to 45 age group is most interested in contents on the economy (59%). The older generations are interested in several topics equally, with 46- to 55-year-olds preferring domestic social issues (50%), local news (50%), economy (40%), foreign social problems (40%) and foreign politics (40%), and the 55 plus generation also having diverse taste choosing entertainment (50%), domestic social issues (50%), domestic politics (50%) and foreign politics (33%).

When asked which media platform respondents believe are best to raise awareness about gun education, the majority noted social media campaigns (67%), face-to-face interaction (56%), television (39%), followed by posters and billboards (38%), with most noting distribution places such as Cafes/Restaurants and Schools/Universities. Those above 45 years old believe that television (56%) and social media (50%) are the best channels.

Small arms in the media

Regarding how gun ownership is portrayed on television, respondents noted that the topic is portrayed negatively in Libya-produced (55%; n= 88/160) and international (53%; n= 84/160) programmes. No notable differences have been found in terms of gender or age groups. Moreover, when asked how often respondents come across gun-related content on social media, 36% said never, 24% said rarely, and 21% did not know. No major differences could be observed when the data were disaggregated by gender or age groups. However, 2017 research⁵⁸ revealed an emergence of online Facebook markets to trade small arms and light weapons.

While respondents of all ages list peer pressure as the top promoter of small arms violence (51%), the older generations are more likely than younger age groups to cite armed violence portrayed in the media (films and music videos) as a major promoter of gun violence (43%). KIIs also believe that “negative influences”, such as befriending an armed group member, promote the arms proliferation. Most KIIs also believe that the media plays a role in promoting violence, which supports the pattern as most KIIs were from older generations. No major differences were noted by male and female respondents.

58 Jenzen-Jones, N. R., & McCollum. “Web trafficking: analysing the online trade of small arms and light weapons in Libya”, 2017

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the data, SREO identified the following findings:

Small arms availability and accessibility

- Respondents are aware of the availability of small arms to a great extent and estimate that more than half of their neighbourhood's households own a gun. However, due to a lack of official data, it was not possible to compare their estimative with accurate figures.
- Most participants believe that small arms are easy / very easily accessible to civilians of all ages with little (if any) deterrence.
- 45% of the survey respondents could see themselves obtaining a weapon in the future. When disaggregated by gender and age groups, men and youth (between 18 and 25 years old) were more likely to see themselves obtaining a small arm in the future.
- Survey respondents and key informants openly support the legalisation of civilian arms' ownership. As of today, civilian ownership is illegal in most circumstances – although the law is not enforced.

Small arms risk awareness

- Participants were aware of the consequences associated with small arms ownership to the mainstream society and even at the country level to a large extent. The study respondents and key informants know the societal burden of small arms and its harmful impact on armed crime, organised crime, and general security.
- However, respondents have shown superficial levels of awareness about the dangers of small arms at the household level: most respondents think there are no risks in keeping a weapon in the household. Thus, participants were not clear about ways to mitigate these risks. KIs mentioned that during the uprising, not only were children living in households with weapons unsafely stored, but children and teenagers were the actual owners of small arms. The informants mentioned that even though this situation is less frequent now, it may still happen.
- On a positive note, key informants and survey respondents have pointed out that awareness-raising sessions are needed to avoid accidents related to small arms in the household, which suggests a willingness from the local community to learn how to mitigate these risks and engage in future activities with DRC.
- Most participants support stricter gun control and regulation and affirm that nobody should be allowed to own a small arm. Nonetheless, participants believe they would be more protected if they held a weapon.

Small arms actors / Institutions

- For most participants, dispute resolution happens primarily in the formal justice system, followed by the tribal justice system, showing that tribal leaders hold a position in the social fabric and have the power of settling disputes within their communities and with other tribes. The justice system was selected as the entity with the most authority on the subject of small arms and the most trusted entity to guide on the issue of gun ownership.
- Respondents think that any government campaign asking civilians to hand in their weapons will most likely fail. According to a key informant, civilians will only hand in their guns when a government effectively ensures security within the local community.
- An overwhelming majority of survey respondents and most key informants were unaware of any government plan or community-based initiatives to address or mitigate the risks of small arms in the area.

Perceptions of small arms and social norms

- Gun ownership is not a tradition in Libya, which means its practice is not yet established as a social norm as in countries like Yemen or the United States. Respondents do not see gun ownership as a right but rather as a necessity.
- According to most participants, publicly carrying an unconcealed small arm is not socially acceptable. However, owning a small arm is largely tolerated if it is for self-protection, protection of others, or property protection. In addition, a key informant revealed that carrying a weapon is not well seen to either men or women unless being a member of the armed forces.
- Overall, mainstream society sees gun owners as persons of higher status, more influential and more powerful than non-owners. However, they are not more respected than non-owners. According to key informants, young men usually idolise militiamen and the armed forces. Even though data collected did not reflect this finding, it was noteworthy that young adults were slightly more likely to say that gun owners are more respected, influential and powerful than respondents from older age groups (36+).
- Data revealed that both men and women across all age groups show traditional views on hegemonic⁵⁹ masculinity and gender roles. Overall, men are seen as the protector of the household and therefore responsible for defending its members, their reputation and their property, even with violence if they must. They are also expected to have a family, provide for the family, have a good job and – to a less extent - react when provoked, even with violence if they must. It is noteworthy that strict gender norms reinforce the associations between dominant masculinity and guns. Indeed, data suggest that men are significantly more likely to obtain weapons in the future than women.
- Participants hardly acknowledge the impact of small arms on women and girls. Most respondents were not familiar with incidents where arms have been used within the household to threaten, injure, or kill another family member. Only five respondents recognised domestic violence as one of the major security concerns. Nonetheless, interviews with community leaders noted that domestic violence cases have become more lethal since weapons became more frequent in civilian households, showing a link between the availability of small arms and the use of violence.
- Although this finding comes from qualitative data rather than quantitative, a KI who is a community leader explained that weapons are commonly used to threaten women during domestic arguments. He even suggested that women hide their husbands' guns to feel safer at home with their children. Moreover, there are no specific law condemning domestic violence in Libya.
- Across all age groups, those between 18 and 35 years old were generally more likely than other age groups to see themselves obtaining a weapon in the future; to feel like being respected by others is either important or very important; to recommend a cousin/friend to buy a small arm for self-protection and to mention that is hard to live up to society's expectations. In addition, KIIs and participants identified young men as the demographic group most likely to become victims and perpetrators of armed violence, showing some awareness of the impact that small arms have on the youth.

⁵⁹ Hegemonic masculinity refers to a societal pattern in which stereotypically male traits are idealized as the masculine cultural ideal, explaining how and why men maintain dominant social roles over women and other groups considered to be feminine (Connell & Messerschmidt, 2005).

Small arms – Motivations

- Although most participants identified more than one reason for wanting to own a small arm, self-protection and protection of others were the most selected answers given by respondents to explain why they think civilians would like to hold a small arm.
- Self-protection and protection of others are related to an underlying fear of crime and victimisation. Participants who suffered past victimisation (or know someone who did) were more likely to affirm that they could see themselves obtaining a weapon in the future, provided it was legal.
- Curiously, those who say that they feel safe living in their neighbourhood were more likely to obtain a small arm in the future than those who feel very unsafe. One possible explanation is that fear of victimisation is not only related to objective threats and past victimisation, but also to a more subjective, diffuse fear linked to one's perception that the world is a more dangerous place, leading to the feeling that a gun is needed regardless of the security situation of their local community.
- A second possible explanation comes from the fact that the group that felt safe in their neighbourhood was composed mainly of men, whereas the group that felt unsafe had more women than men– albeit slightly. According to research in the small arms body of study, gender (male) may be a stronger predictor of weapon ownership than fear of victimisation. Finally, it is also possible that those who feel safe are already weapons owners and may feel safer in the neighbourhood than non-owners.
- Gun ownership motivation is complex because it is usually based on subjective emotions – mostly fears and anxieties – and how they impact an individual's risk assessment and decision-making. It is a less than rational process that involves several short-cuts and cognitive biases that are difficult to assess at the individual level.

Media usage

- Social media are by far the most used platform selected by participants of most age groups, more precisely Facebook, followed by Instagram and YouTube. On the other hand, Twitter seems to be more present among the academia. As expected, the younger generations are more inclined to online activities than the older generations.
- The 218 Channel is the most trusted media by participants across all age groups, and the only TV channel selected by the youngest generation (15 – 17 years old). Still, participants were less likely to use it when compared to social media, even though they consider it more trustworthy. Respondents rarely use radio and other digital medias such as blogs and online magazines.

KEY MESSAGES

Target	Message
Adults / Gun owners	Treat all guns as loaded. Always assume a gun is loaded. Store your gun safely to avoid misuse: unloaded, in a locker, separated from ammunition. Model responsible behaviour. Never point a gun towards yourself or others. Accidents can happen. Keep fingers off the trigger. Gun owners have an important role to play in educating their family and friends about gun safety, especially non-gun owners. Make sure everyone is aware. You may know how to handle a gun, but your loved ones may not. Protect your family by keeping them well informed and safe from gun fatalities. Talk to your loved ones about gun safety. You have a gun in your house to protect your family from harm. But you are not always there. If your family stay at home with an unlocked weapon, they are in danger. Guns are designed to kill without distinctions. Be sure your gun does not end up in the wrong hands. If you feel you must temporarily take your gun in your vehicle: use a storage device, keep it out of sight, do not leave your car. Once you finish, bring the weapon to your secure home-storage. Do not bring the weapon if there are kids in the car. It has been claimed that around half a million people are victims of small arms every year worldwide. That means that while we are talking, two people have been killed. Do not increase the chances of that being someone you love – lock your guns away.
Parents	Weapons at home can kill your children. Do not take the risk, ensure weapons are locked, unloaded and separated from ammunition. You can play a role in keeping your family safe. Tell your children and loved ones that you do not want to the risk of losing them. A child's thumb has twice the strength of her/his other fingers. When a toddler's thumb pulls a trigger, invariably, the barrel of the gun is pointing at his/herself. Never leave a weapon unsecure or within sight of a child. Kids are curious about everything. Including guns. Talk to them about gun safety in the home. It's a small action that could prevent a parent's worst nightmare. You have borne your child and you know how to keep them protected. Do not take the risk. (for mothers) Even if your kids have been exposed to firearms from a young age (through celebratory shooting, for example) you still must always store your guns locked, unloaded, separately from ammunition and out of sight of children. Kids are naturally curious. Do not assume they cannot reach or find a weapon hidden in the house. Keep them locked away at all times.
Youth	Guns only look cool in the films. Life is not a film; You cannot undo once you've pulled the trigger. You want to be respected. Do not hide behind a gun. You are the future of your family and nation. Do not increase the chances of not being part of it. Gun proliferation is one of the main challenges of Libya. Be part of the solution, don't walk around with a weapon. You belong to this community. Help to build it and not destroy it.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the research findings, SREO suggests the following recommendations:

Focus on promoting safe behaviour and responsible ownership – Disarmament in Libya does not seem feasible just yet, given the high rates of small arms ownership, perceptions of insecurity, and the lack of trust in security providers. Instead, DRC should focus on promoting safe behaviour among gun owners and their families. Most respondents believe there are no risks related to keeping a weapon at home. Training should be offered based on different levels of awareness, age, and preferably knowing if attendants are gun owners. Raising awareness about keeping the dangers to children away from gun incidents may boost female engagement.

Support efficient programming by collecting and providing age and gender-informed and evidence-based data about the direct and indirect impact of weapons ownership in Tripoli – There is a general lack of accessible data related to small arms in Libya, such as accurate figures on weapons-related injuries, deaths, disabilities, etc. Although hospitals may keep some of these records, that data is neither centralised nor easily accessible. Initiatives to unify this data would allow for better oversight and understanding of what the actual burden of weapons-related accidents and violence in Tripoli is and more effective interventions as a result. One option that would be worth exploring is contacting the Faculty of Medicine from the University of Tripoli and the Tripoli University Hospital.

Provide first responders and public health staff with data collection training on small arms-related incidents – Such approach would entail training the public health staff to identify different forms of small arms-related accidents and causes, and the importance of keeping a record of such cases.

Integrate small arms response into the existing Mine Action response – The Mine Action community has strong coordination mechanisms with national authorities. Although small arms are not covered under the five pillars of Humanitarian Mine Action, it can provide opportunities to support networking and information sharing, specifically about topics that are of interest for both sectors, such as gender mainstreaming and gender analysis, victim assistance, risk education and awareness sessions, public information, advocacy, research and practice, promoting more inclusive security policies, and other subjects which do not differ according to the type of weapon.

Offer small arms risk education within public health messaging – Sharing small arms safety messages with new parents, for example, to promote safe behaviour in the household, giving a public health approach. It would also engage new mothers into ensuring a safe space for their children at home.

Offer small arms gender responsive risk education focusing on security personnel (police, military, etc.) – Sharing small arms gender responsive safety messages with security officers, for example, to raise their awareness about the impact of small arms through a gender perspective.

Build the capacity of local civil society organisations (CSOs) by providing direct small arms Risk Education training of trainers (ToT) and training materials, ensuring they will train other civil society actors and deliver awareness-raising sessions within their areas of operation. Integrate small arms risk education approach within GBV responses.

Apply a primary prevention approach that is designed to enhance the social environment for youth and children – Knowledge deficit is not the only reason why individuals decide to obtain a weapon. This is especially true among the youth. Instead of targeting individual behaviour, research suggests that considering broader contextual influences on the lives of youth such as family, peers,

schools and communities may be very effective for behavioural change⁶⁰. Raising awareness of the dangers of gun ownership is a first step, with “do not harm” considerations when it comes to the engagement of children. Building on this, DRC could also promote primary prevention approaches to reduce the risk factors that may increase the chances of the youth to obtain a gun in the first place. Here are some activities that could be explored:

- Identify a group of grassroots CSOs, parents, teachers, principals, community leaders, religious leaders and other relevant local actors appropriate to the local context to create a working group to implement or support the implementation of primary prevention activities directed to the youth and children, while ensuring local ownership.
- Ensure continuous data collection on the youth and children to understand the impact of the awareness raising campaign and also to identify and monitor the relevant risk and protective behaviour practices related to small arms ownership. Make sure to share the findings with all relevant stakeholders.
- Set specific goals and strategies for the working group, such as: to educate parents, the youth and children on the impacts of peer influence; strengthen communication between the youth and their parents, etc. Goals should be based on the continuous data collection process to resonate with the local community.
- Identify local activities to achieve and monitor these goals.

Explore building on the unique ability of sport to engage youth actively and meaningfully and to promote life skills. Sports can foster human values and become a tool for social participation. The United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) developed a Youth Crime prevention through Sports initiative, publishing research on the effective use of sports to address key drivers of violent extremism. DRC could further draw on research that explore the unique effects of sports in keeping young individuals away from thrill-seeking activities through sports.⁶¹

Integrate young women and men into decision-making processes at the local level, including by establishing youth councils and similar mechanisms which give young women and men a platform for participating in mainstream political and social discourse.

Create community-based collaborative problem-solving models to address gun violence and engage men and boys in discussing the role of gender in small arms ownership.

Engaging mosques and Islam teachers for outreach to encourage religious motivation – Advocacy from religious leaders is a powerful way to encourage community members into behavioural change. The persuasive power of religious leaders in encouraging individuals to provide a safer environment to their family and relatives should be considered.

Promote the role of gender responsive small arms awareness programmes in reducing violence against women and girls in both public and private spheres – Even though disarmament is not yet a reality in Libya, DRC should strongly advocate for the integration of gender perspectives in the development of national legislation and policies on gun regulation and disarmament. Special attention should be paid to the gendered aspects of ownership, use and misuse of arms, the differentiated impacts of weapons on women and men, and the ways in which gender roles can shape arms control and disarmament policies and practices. UN Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA) released in 2017, a specific module “Women, men and the Gendered Nature of small arms and light weapons” as a part of their efforts to develop International Small Arms Control Standards and provide practical and comprehensive guidance to practitioners and policymakers on fundamental aspects of

60 Halsall, T., Lachance, L. & Kristjansson, A.L. Examining the implementation of the Icelandic model for primary prevention of substance use in a rural Canadian community: a study protocol. 2020

61 See: Elkhom, David. Research on Sport as a Means of Crime Prevention in a Swedish Welfare Context: A Literature Review. 2013, and <https://www.unodc.org/dohadeclaration/en/news/2018/02/sports--keeping-youth-away-from-crime.html>, and <https://www.unodc.org/dohadeclaration/en/topics/crime-prevention-through-sports.html>

SALW control. DRC could tailor that module for its awareness campaigns. Women's organisations could also play a vital role in advocating for stricter options with respect to small arms and light weapons regulations.

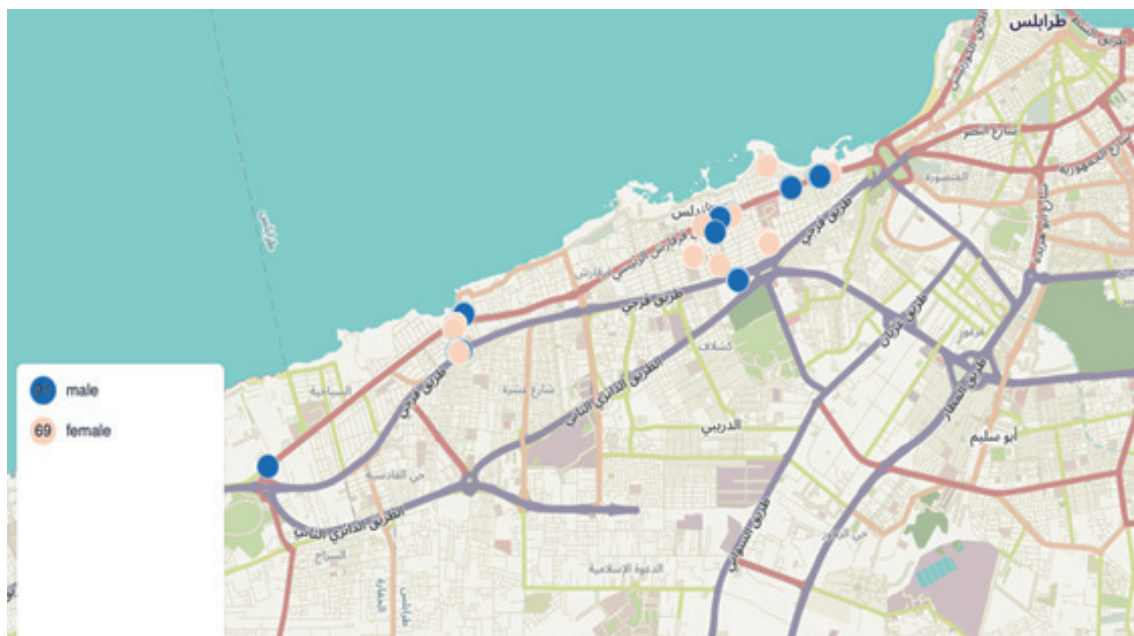
Linking the importance of surrendering small arms and light weapons to saving lives – Because most community members were aware of the negative social impacts of small arms proliferation and connected stricter arms control with a safer society, public awareness campaigns need to help small arm owners make the connection that they are able to fulfill these key values of social cohesion and increased safety through surrendering small arms and light weapons. Using individual stories of how real people's lives were affected by small arm incidents will help potential small arm owners make this connection. The community will be highly receptive to this approach due to the pre-existing interest in making their neighborhood safer.

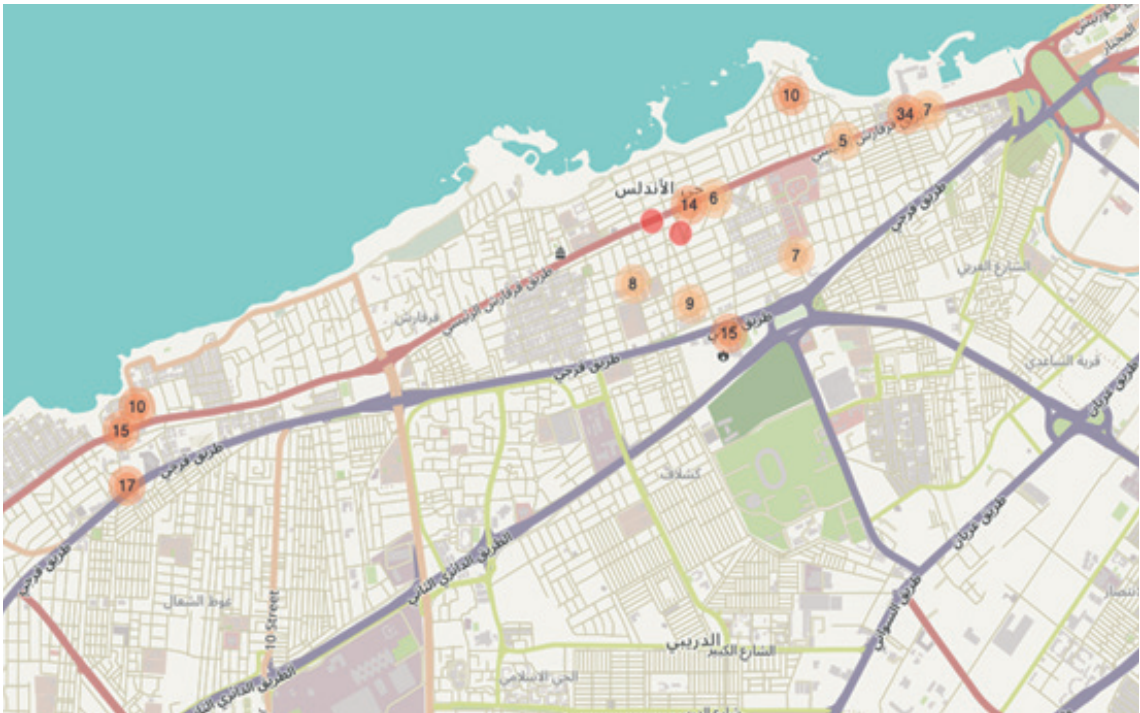
Education about responsible gun ownership to mitigate risks at individual and community levels should emphasize the benefits of not obtaining small arms – Education about safety precautions and small arms ownership is especially key for those with or planning to make the acquisition of a small arm. The safety benefits of not having small arms in the community should also be emphasized in order to encourage community members to question the need to make the acquisition of a small arm. The idea here would be to promote responsible ownership while highlighting that not owning guns is a safer and possible option for Libyans in the future.

Engage key advocates to encourage community members to not own small arms – As raised by a key informant, celebrities such as football players and actors can be influential in raising awareness about small arms and light weapons based on the persuasive technique of authority and popularity. As public figures, individuals can be inspired to do good in their community if an influential figure cites that civilian arms ownership is bad for public safety.

ANNEXES

Annex I – Map of Survey Locations





Annex II – Bibliography

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Annex III – Study Matrix

Key Questions	KAPB Survey	KIIs / SSIs
What are the participants' perceptions of the security situation in their neighbourhoods?	Have you or anyone you know ever been a victim of gun violence (unintentional shootings, armed robbery, kidnapping, etc.)? (Yes / No – If yes, what type of gun violence?) Armed Robbery Unintentional shooting Argument / Public dispute that turned violent Ethnically motivated Domestic Violence Armed conflict / combatant It's part of my job Others (please specify) If yes, who committed the violence? A relative An acquaintance A friend A stranger If yes, when was it? Within this year 1 to 5 years ago 6 to 10 years ago More than 10 years ago I don't know Who do you feel is committing more gun crimes in your neighbourhood? Adults Juveniles Both equally In your opinion, who are more likely to become a victim of gun-related crime? (select_multiple) Young men Young women Adult men Adult women Children Elderly Migrants Host community Wealthy individuals Poor individuals Others (Please specify) Has anyone you know ever been able to successfully defend themselves/loved ones/property against criminals by using their weapon? (e.g., using a weapon to prevent carjacking) (Yes / No)	In your opinion, who are more likely to become a victim of gun-related crime?
To what extent are communities aware of the availability and ownership/use of SA in their neighbourhoods?	If you had to give an estimate, how many households in your neighbourhood own weapons? Less than a quarter Between a quarter to a half Between half to three-quarters More than three-quarters Are you aware of any gun ownership regulation/legislation? (Yes / No) Can civilians legally own weapons in Libya? (Yes / No / I do not know)	If you had to give an estimate, how many households in your neighbourhood own weapons? Can you tell me about the domestic legislation and policies related to SA? Who can legally own weapons under the current legislation? If you must rate from 1 to 5, how easy is it for an ordinary citizen to obtain a small arm or light weapon? (1 = very easy; 5 = very difficult) Has the availability and ease of buying arms increased over the past 10 years? If yes, do you have a possible explanation for that?

Key Questions	KAPB Survey	KIIs / SSIs
	If you must rate from 1 to 5, how easy is it for an ordinary citizen to obtain a small arm or light weapon? (1 = very easy; 5 = very difficult) If you must rate from 1 to 5, how easy is it for an ordinary citizen to illegally obtain a weapon? (1 = very easy; 5 = very difficult) How would you compare civilian ownership of small arms to that of 10 years ago? (More / Less / I do not know) If more or less, do you have a possible explanation for that?	Please provide us with details on how prevalent you believe usage/ownership of SA is in the community. Are there notable differences between: 1. Age groups? 2. Gender? 3. Socio-economic status? 4. Livelihoods? 5. Neighbourhoods/locations? 6. Tribal/ethnic affiliations? 7. Religious groups? 8. Household Status (Host community, IDP, Returnee) Who in the household is most likely to know how to use the weapon? Why?
What are the factors that attract the general population into buying SA?	To your knowledge, why do civilians want to own a gun? (select_multiple) Self-protection and protection of others (fear of crime) Status, self-promotion Because everybody has one A man should carry a gun A woman should carry a gun It inspires fear in others Celebrations (i.e. wedding celebrations) Other (please specify) To your knowledge, why some civilians do not want to own a gun? (select_multiple) Not legal in my country It is not needed It is unsafe It is expensive You need training to use a gun I don't know Others (please specify) Do you think gun owners are more powerful than those who do not own guns? (Yes / No) Do you think gun owners are more respected than those who do not own guns? (Yes / No) Do you believe gun owners are more influential than those who do not own guns? (Yes / No) Do you believe gun owners are more likely to be affiliated with armed groups? (Yes / No) Is carrying a gun a symbol of status in your community? (Yes / No) If civilians were allowed to own guns, would you see yourself buying a gun in the future? (Yes / No - Why?)	What are the factors that attract the general population into buying small arms? How does it differ according to: 1. Age groups? 2. Gender? 3. Socio-economic status? 4. Household Status (Host community, IDP, Returnee)

Key Questions	KAPB Survey	KIIs / SSIs
To what extent are communities aware of the risks and consequences associated with SA ownership and use?	To what level do you think the availability of guns might increase the following crimes: (1 to 5 scale) Kidnapping Homicides Suicides Armed robbery Accidental shootings Domestic violence To what level do you believe arms ownership is a deterrent to the following crimes: (1 to 5 scale) Kidnapping Homicides Armed robbery Accidental shootings Domestic violence Do you believe gun owners are more or less likely to be a victim of gun violence? More likely Less likely I do not know To what level do you agree with the following sentence: There are legal consequences if an ordinary citizen is caught buying a weapon illegally. (Totally agree, agree, neutral, disagree, totally disagree. If agree or totally agree, what are the consequences?) Do you believe there are risks associated with keeping a weapon in the household? (Yes / No – If yes, what are they?)	What are the consequences, if any, for those who purchase/sell weapons illegally? Is there awareness about the risks of unsafe behaviour relating to SA? Is this awareness greater among certain groups? (Women, Elder, educated, wealthy, specific community groups – IDPs, tribes?) What are the main safety concerns/risks you observe connected to SA? How do you think the proliferation of SA among civilians impacts other types of organised crime, such as drugs and human trafficking, and especially weapons trafficking? Do you believe there is an increase in domestic violence and SGBV crimes connected to the ownership of small arms? If yes, why do you think that happens? Do you believe there is an increase in other types of crime (armed robbery, kidnapping, etc.) connected to the ownership of small arms? If yes, why do you think that happens? What are the main safety concerns/risks you observe connected to small arms? How, if at all, are armed groups involved in the proliferation of small arms among civilians in Libya?
To what extent are communities aware of how to prevent accidents related to SA?	Have you received any firearms risk education? (Yes / No) Have you participated in awareness-raising sessions related to weapons ownership? (Yes / No - If yes, which organisation provided this session? Can you share the key messages you learned during this session?) To what level do you believe the following scenarios are a potential risk for those who keep weapons in their households? (1 = Not risky; 5 = very risky) Children can find the weapon and unintentionally injure/kill someone or themselves An immature young adult might use it in a street fight Members of the household who are not familiar with the weapon might accidentally shoot someone or themselves The weapon might be stolen and used to rob, kidnap, or kill other people To avoid accidents, what measures do you think gun owners should take to address these risks: (select_multiple) talk to their children about gun safety participate in gun safety awareness sessions keep their guns in a locked place keep their guns unloaded store guns and ammunition separately	Is the community aware of how to handle a SA safely? Is this awareness greater among certain groups? (Women, Elder, educated?) If you had to advise gun owners on avoiding accidents while keeping a weapon in the household, what would you tell them? Do you believe there is interest in the community to know more about SA safety issues? If yes, who do you think is mainly interested in this topic? (Females, Males, Age Group etc.)

Key Questions	KAPB Survey	KIIs / SSIs
	advise visitors that there are guns in the house Others (please specify)	
Which actors/ institutions do individuals and communities resort to for dispute resolution in case of local conflict, violence, and other security and justice issues?	If you or a family member are victims of gun violence, where would you seek justice? Formal justice system Tribal justice system Others (specify) Who do you believe has the most authority on the topic of safety and security? (select_multiple) Sheikh Mukhtars Tribal / Clan / Community leaders Justice System Professors / Experts Media / News Ministry of Interior Local armed groups/militia Others – please specify? Generally, who do you trust to act in your / your family's best interests? (select_multiple) Sheikh Mukhtars Tribal / Clan / Community leaders Government / Justice System Media / News Local armed groups/militia Others – please specify Do you believe the announcement from the government to register/hand in weapons will make a difference? Why or why not? What do you think is the likelihood of civilians handing in their weapons? (Very likely, likely, unlikely, very unlikely – If very likely or likely, to which authority would civilians trust to hand in their weapons?)	Who would the community listen to the most when it comes to the topic of security? Who are the actors they trust to act in their / their family's best interests? In the event of becoming a victim of gun violence, would citizens seek justice and, if so, where? What are the different approaches between formal justice and informal/tribal justice in terms of SA-related crimes? Do you believe the announcement from the government to register/hand in weapons will make a difference? Why or why not? How does tribal law address crime and armed violence? What is taken into consideration when judging such offences?
Do they know of any community-based interventions to address armed violence in their neighbourhoods?	Are you aware of community-based initiatives to reduce gun ownership in your community? (Yes / No - If yes, what are these plans) Are you aware of the government's plans to address the proliferation of guns? (Yes / No - If yes, what are these plans)	Are you aware of any awareness-raising campaigns on the risk of weapons ownership? What are the best channels to convey this messaging? (Face-to-Face, posters, online) What different groups does the messaging need to be tailored to be efficient? (Male, Female, Youth etc.) What are the community-based initiatives to reduce gun ownership in your community? Please talk about the new government's plans to address the proliferation of civilian-held guns?

Key Questions	KAPB Survey	KIIs / SSIs
What arms-related behaviours are acceptable, if any, to communities? Does this differ based on identity? (gender, tribal affiliation, age, ethnic-religion, identity etc.)	Do you believe owning a gun is socially acceptable? (Yes / No) Would you recommend a male cousin/relative to buy a gun for self-protection? (Yes / No - Why?) Would you recommend a female cousin/friend to buy a gun for self-protection? (Yes / No - Why?) Do you believe female-headed households would be more protected if there were a gun in the house? (Yes / No – Why?) Do you believe households with children would be more protected if there were a gun in the house? (Yes / No – Why?) How common was it to have a gun in the household when you were a kid? (Very common / somewhat common / not common / not common at all) Do you believe households with young adults would be more protected if there were a gun in the house? (Yes / No – Why?) Do you think gun owners should conceal their weapons in public so other people cannot see them? (Yes / No - Why?) Do you believe weapons illegally obtained by individuals contribute to armed violence in Libya? (Yes / No) Who do you think should be allowed to own a gun legally? (Everyone, Most people, Some people, No one – If most people or some people – In your opinion, are there specific people who should not be allowed to own a gun? (Yes / No - If yes,who?) Do gun owners generally conceal their weapons or carry them in a way people can see? Conceal Carry them in a way people can see I do not know	Did community members always own arms, or since when it has started? Is it acceptable that women own weapons? Why or why not? Is it acceptable that youth own/use a weapon? Why or why not? Is the topic of weapons discussed openly, or is it a taboo topic? Who in the household decides how and where to store weapons? Are women involved in this decision making? Is the topic of gun ownership connected more to traditions, perceived threats or real threats? How and when do the households use small arms? (e.g. defence, resolving conflicts, threatening?) Can you give possible reasons/motivation for households to have a small arm in the household? Do you think there are good reasons to have a weapon in the house? (Defence, Robbery etc.) Is the economic status of a household decisive in buying a weapon? Do finances influence the ownership of weapons? Who in the household is most likely to use the weapon?
How does the mainstream media portray the use of arms?	Which of the following most promotes the use of guns? Pictures or posters of guns Social media Videos showing guns, incl. movie trailers and music videos News on violent crimes Seeing friends or other people with guns Armed groups Others (please specify) How often do you watch TV programs or YouTube videos that portray individuals owning and operating guns? (Always, very often, sometimes, rarely, never – If yes, which programs do you watch? Where do you watch them?)	How is the topic of SA portrayed in traditional media? How does it differ between national and international traditional media? How is the topic of SA portrayed in social media? What do you think promotes the use of weapons? How common is it to come across gun-related content on social media? How do other users perceive it? To what extent is it normalised? To what extent do people engage with gun-oriented content, such as TV shows, films, YouTube channels, etc.?

Key Questions	KAPB Survey	KIIs / SSIs
	In Libya-produced TV programs, do you believe gun ownership is portrayed positively or negatively? (positive / negative / I do not know) In international TV, do you believe gun ownership is portrayed positively or negatively? (positive / negative / I do not know) What frequency do you come across gun-related content on social media (Twitter / Facebook / YouTube / TikTok)? Very frequently Frequently Occasionally Rarely Very rarely Never I do not know How common it is for gun owners to post pictures or videos of weapons/ talk about their weapons on social media? (Very common, common, not common - If very common or common, how do other social media viewers perceive these posts?) What are the best channels to raise awareness about the safety and guns ownership? Face-to-face Online Posters Billboards Leaflets If posters, billboards, leaflets, where should it be located / distributed? Community centres Mosques Schools/Universities Others – please specify.	
What are the prevailing views surrounding masculinity and SA use, particularly among the youth? / What are the factors that attract the general population, the children and the youth towards SA?	In your opinion, what are the attributes of a respectful man? In your opinion, what are the attributes of a respectful woman? Do you agree with the following statements? (Strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree) To be a respectful man, you must be tough To be a respectful man, you must be "street-smart." To be a respectful man, you must provide for your family To be a respectful man, you must have a good job A respectful man must protect his family, even with violence, if he must A respectful man must protect his community, even with violence, if he must A respectful man must defend his / his family reputation, even with violence, if he must A respectful man must respond when provoked	What do you think are the prevailing views surrounding masculinity and SA use, particularly among the youth? Are there cultural factors that attract children and youth towards SA? What are the traits considered to be masculine? How does society see the role of men? To what extent do showing these "masculine traits" help young men achieve common life goals such as finding a job, being respected by other members of society, finding a wife, etc.?

Key Questions	KAPB Survey	KIIs / SSIs
	How important it is for you that others see you as a respectful man? (very important, somewhat important, not important, not at all important) Who or what shaped your views on what it means to be a respectful man? Father or a father figure Mother or a mother figure Other relatives Religion Others – please specify How important it is that others see you as a respectful man? (Very important, Important, moderately important, slightly important, not important – If very or somewhat important, how easy it is to live up to these expectations? If very or somewhat important, please explain why) – for male respondents. How important it is for a man to be respected by others in today's society? (Very important, Important, moderately important, slightly important, not important – If very or somewhat important, please explain why.) – for female respondents	What do you think is the general perception of people who own guns? What do you think is the general perception of armed groups members? To what extent do you think the proliferation of small arms encourages armed groups affiliation? What do you think attracts individuals, especially the youth, to join armed groups?
To what extent are communities willing to address SA issues?	How do you think the following factors contribute to gun violence? (A great deal, a fair amount, not too much, not at all) Easy access to ILLEGAL guns Family instability Lack of economic opportunities Easy access to LEGAL guns The amount of gun violence on the tv and general media Unemployment	Who are key players or stakeholders that could raise awareness about the risks and issues involving SA? Do you believe there is interest in the community to know more about SA safety issues? If yes, who do you think is mainly interested in this topic? (Females, Males, Age Group etc.)
To what extent do communities relate their safety to gun ownership?	If more civilians had access to handguns in your community, do you believe there would be more or less crime? More Less No impact I do not know Do you think those who own guns are more or less likely to harm other people? More Less No impact I do not know Which of the following would be most effective in making your community safer? (select_multiple) More police or authorities present Violence awareness campaigns Stricter gun control regulations More people owning guns so that they can protect themselves Weapons risk education People giving up their guns Others (please specify)	

Key Questions	KAPB Survey	KIIs / SSIs
What are the prevailing practices to address crime and conflict?	Do you take any personal measures to prevent being a victim of armed violence? I avoid specific neighbourhoods (if yes, which ones?) I avoid being on the street at night I avoid carrying expensive items with me I avoid walking on the street by myself I always travel by car Others (specify)	Please talk about the prevailing practices to address crime and conflict?
How is GBV linked to arms ownership?	Are you familiar with incidents where arms have been used within the household to threaten/injure another family member? (Yes / No – if yes, who was the victim? If yes, who was the perpetrator?) Wife Husband Mother Father Daughter Son Sister Brother Female cousin Male cousin Others – please specify Are you familiar with incidents where arms have been used within the household to kill another family member? (Yes / No – if yes, who was the victim? If yes, who was the perpetrator?) Wife Husband Mother Father Daughter Son Sister Brother Female cousin Male cousin Others – please specify Do you think women are safer when there is a gun in the household? (Yes / No) Do you agree with the following statements? (Strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree) Men account for the absolute majority among perpetrators of gun-related incidents. Men make up the majority of victims of gun-related incidents. Men are almost exclusively the owners of guns. Women are almost never perpetrators of firearm-related incidents. There are more women victims than women perpetrators of firearm-related incidents Women are more at risk at home from intimate partner homicide with firearms than men Young men make up the majority of perpetrators and victims of armed violence Women encourage weapons in the household Women encourage male ownership of weapons	Do you believe there is an increase in domestic violence and SGBV crimes connected to the ownership of SA? If yes, why do you think that happens? How does having a gun in the household affect women? Are you aware of data concerning firearms incidents against women? Please talk about them. How common are they? Is there anything that women can do if they fear for their life? How does society perceive these cases?

Key Questions	KAPB Survey	KIIs / SSIs
Which media platforms do communities use and trust the most? How does that vary according to age and gender?	Do you usually watch television? (Yes / No - If yes, which channels do you trust the most?) Libya Panorama Channel Libya Al-Ahrar TV Salam channel WTV channel Libya Al-Hadath TV 218 Channel Do you use private satellite TV? (Yes / No - If yes, which ones?) Do you usually listen to the radio (either online, radio apps or on conventional broadcast radio)? (Yes / No - If yes, which radio stations do you trust the most?) Al-Wasat FM Al-Wataniya FM LeBDa FM Libyana Hits Tanasuh FM Shababiya Waad - Snapchat Naas - Snapchat Jawhra - Snapchat Tripoli FM Others – please specify Do you usually read digital media? (Yes / No - If yes, which digital media do you trust the most?) Afrigate News Akhbar Libya 24 Al-Marsad Al-Wasat Al-Watan Libya Ean Libya (UK based) El-Kul (BBC Media Action project) Ewan Libya Libya Al-Mostakbal Libya Herald Libyan Observer The Libyan Address Others – please specify Do you usually use social media? (Yes / No - If yes, which social media do you trust the most?) Facebook YouTube Instagram Twitter Tik Tok Snapchat Other (please specify)	What media would citizens generally trust? Does it differ according to age group? Gender? How?

