

This program has been successful at mobilizing and strengthening the enforcement of national regulations, limiting the illicit trade in light weapons, and promoting peace education.

- *Republic of the Congo*: After the end of civil war in 1999, the UNDP embarked on a programme to reintegrate ex-combatants back into civil society by providing micro-credit, loans and job training in return for the surrender of weapons. The program has resulted in the collection of more than 9,500 weapons and provided assistance to 5,600 former fighters. Additional funding has been sought to cover approximately 15,000 additional ex-combatants.<sup>2</sup>
- *Niger*: The UNDP has launched a program in N'Guigmi in the Diffa District to collect weapons in exchange for development assistance. The population of N'Guigmi will decide on the form of assistance (roads, schools, health clinics, etc). In addition to weapons collection, the program also seeks to encourage peace education and public awareness, as well as to strengthen domestic legislation covering small arms.<sup>3</sup> It is estimated that this program will collect over 5,000 weapons. It is expected that the programme will cost US\$1 million, of which UNDP will provide US\$160,000.

UNDP is now embarking on a three year *Weapons Collection, Management and Destruction Programme* in partnership with the governments of Switzerland, Belgium, Norway, South Korea and the United Kingdom. This programme will involve post-conflict collection and destruction measures, development-based demand reduction initiatives, and good governance-based security sector reform measures.

### **Sources of Funding**

The UNDP *Trust Fund for Support to Prevention and Reduction of Small Arms* was established on 20 November 1998 to administer funds for UNDP SALW projects. The UNDP Trust Fund supports SALW activities within the broader context of the UNDP's mission – that is, within a development context. UNDP projects thus typically attempt to implement micro-disarmament activities in conjunction with programs designed to foster social, economic and political development. According to a fact sheet on the UNDP Trust Fund, "the Trust Fund will seek to support activities to reduce the demand for small arms, strengthen appropriate supply-side behaviour, and help partner countries tackle the illicit supply of small arms".<sup>4</sup> The main areas of Trust Fund support are:

- public information activities at all levels to inform and advocate against SALW;
- the development of national and regional mechanisms regarding legal moratoria, codes of conduct, and transparency in the SALW trade;
- strengthening cooperation and coordination of law enforcement bodies, national governments, and customs officials;
- weapons collection and destruction programs, demobilization, and reintegration processes of ex-combatants; micro-disarmament;

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<sup>2</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup>"New UNDP Project in Niger Seeks to Collect Small Arms through Development Incentives," <http://www.undp.org/erd/smallarms/18may2001.htm>, 18 May 2001.

<sup>4</sup>UNDP, *Small Arms Trust Fund Strategy*: Revised 3 March 2000.