

SALW Guide

Global distribution and visual
identification



Burkina Faso

Country report

<https://salw-guide.bicc.de>

Weapons Distribution

The following list shows the weapons which can be found in *Burkina Faso* and whether there is data on who holds these weapons:

AK-47 / AKM		HK G3	
Beretta AR70/90		MAS 49	
Beretta M 12		MAS 49/56	
Browning M 2		MAT 49	
Carl Gustav recoilless rifle		RPG 7	
DShk		SIG SG540	
FATIH 13		Strela (SA-7 / SA-14)	
FN Herstal FN MAG			

Explanation of symbols



Country of origin



Licensed production



Production without a licence



Government: Sources indicate that this type of weapon is held by Governmental agencies.



Non-Government: Sources indicate that this type of weapon is held by non-Governmental armed groups.



Unspecified: Sources indicate that this type of weapon is found in the country, but do not specify whether it is held by Governmental agencies or non-Governmental armed groups.

It is entirely possible to have a combination of tags beside each country. For example, if country X is tagged with a G and a U, it means that at least one source of data identifies Governmental agencies as holders of weapon type Y, and at least one other source confirms the presence of the weapon in country X without specifying who holds it.

Note: This application is a living, non-comprehensive database, relying to a great extent on active contributions (provision and/or validation of data and information) by either SALW experts from the military and international renowned think tanks or by national and regional focal points of small arms control entities.

AK-47 / AKM

The AK 47 (Designed 1946-1948) is best described as a hybrid of previous rifle technology innovations: the trigger, double locking lugs and unlocking raceway of the M1 Garand/M1 carbine, the safety mechanism of the John Browning designed Remington Model 8 rifle, and the gas system and layout of the Sturmgewehr 44. There are many variants. The weapons are used by the former Warsaw Pact countries, and they are still in service with numerous armed forces, both regular and irregular. The model and its variants remain the most popular and widely used rifles in the world because of its reliability under harsh conditions, low production costs.



Category	<i>Assault Rifles</i>
Operating system	Gas operated, rotating bolt with 2 lugs
Cartridge	7.62 x 39mm
Length	870 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **AK-47 / AKM**:

7.62 x 39mm

Bullet diameter	7.92 mm
Case length	38.7 mm
Overall length	56 mm



Beretta AR70/90

The Beretta 70/90 system was developed for the Italian army. The assault rifle AR70/90 was designed for the Italian army infantry and entered into service in 1990. The AR70/90 is also designed to be fitted with a rifle grenade. It is known



for its reliability, which earned it the nickname “Excalibur” by the Alpini mountain troops. It remains the standard rifle of the Italian infantry, though it is currently being phased out in favour of the newer Beretta ARX 160 assault rifle.

Category	<i>Assault Rifles</i>
Operating system	gas, selective-fire
Cartridge	5.56 x 45mm / .223 Remington
Length	998 mm
Feeding	detachable, box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **Beretta AR70/90**:

5.56 x 45mm / .223 Remington

Bullet diameter	5.7 mm
Case length	44.7 mm
Overall length	57.4 mm



Beretta M 12

The weapon has three safeties: a manual safety which blocks the trigger; an automatic safety on the rear grip which immobilizes the trigger and blocks the bolt in a closed position; and a safety on the cocking handle locking the bolt in case it does not retract sufficiently. The short length of the Beretta is achieved by use of a barrel recessed into the bolt head, known as a telescoping bolt. This reduces length without reducing barrel length or bolt weight.



Category	<i>Submachine Guns</i>
Operating system	Blowback operated, selectively-fired, fires from open bolt
Cartridge	9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)
Length	418 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **Beretta M 12**:

9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)

Bullet diameter	9 mm
Case length	19.15 mm
Overall length	29.69 mm



Browning M 2

The Browning .50 caliber machine gun has been used extensively as a vehicle weapon and for aircraft armament. The M2 fires from a closed bolt, operated on the short recoil principle. Nearly 5 million items were produced.



Category	<i>Heavy Machine Guns</i>
Operating system	Fires from a short bolt, operated on the short recoil principle
Cartridge	12.7 x 99 mm NATO (.50BMG)
Length	1650 mm
Feeding	Belt

The following ammunition can be used by the **Browning M 2**:

12.7 x 99 mm NATO (.50BMG)

Bullet diameter	13 mm
Case length	99 mm
Overall length	138 mm



Carl Gustav recoilless rifle

The Carl Gustav can be fired from the standing, kneeling, sitting or prone positions. A bipod may be attached in front of the shoulder piece. An operating handle called a "Venturi



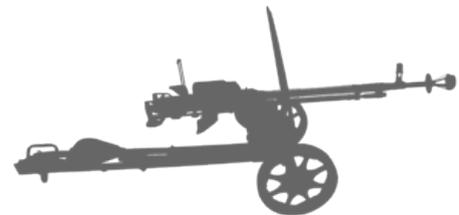
lock" is used to move the hinged breech to one side for reloading. The weapon is normally operated by a two-man crew, one carrying and firing the weapon, the other carrying ammunition and reloading.

Category	<i>Recoilless Guns/Rifles</i>
Operating system	Recoilless launch
Cartridge	
Length	1130 mm
Feeding	hinged breech

The following ammunition can be used by the **Carl Gustav recoilless rifle**:

DShk

The DShk was exported to many countries, and it can be found all over the world because the gun is used in many conflicts. The weapon was in service with several armed forces, both regular and irregular, and it can be found in many countries in Asia and Africa.



Category	<i>Heavy Machine Guns</i>
Operating system	Gas operated, belt fed, air cooled, selective fire
Cartridge	12.7 x 108 mm
Length	1625 mm
Feeding	Belt

The following ammunition can be used by the **DShk**:

12.7 x 108 mm

Bullet diameter	12.98 mm
Case length	108 mm
Overall length	147.5 mm

NO IMAGE

FATIH 13

Technically, the FATIH 13 is a recoil operated, locked breech semi-auto pistol. Its silhouette has single action trigger with frame mounted safety that locks the hammer and the slide. Hammer could be locked either in cocked or in lowered position, allowing the gun to be carried in "cocked and locked" state, with safety on, hammer cocked and round chambered. The FATIH 13 was manufactured by Tisas (Trabzon Silah Sanayi AS) Company, a Turkish Firearm Company from Trabzon city at the Turkish Black Sea Coast, established in 1993. This weapon was mainly spread in EX-Yugoslavia region during the conflict. Nowadays, well known in Bosnia Herzegovina (BiH) and in the Year 2018 the weapon was seen and seized in Burkina Faso.

Category	<i>Self-Loading Pistols & Revolvers</i>
Cartridge	7.65 x 17mm
Length	176 mm

The following ammunition can be used by the **FATIH 13**:

7.65 x 17mm

Bullet diameter	-
Case length	-
Overall length	-



FN Herstal FN MAG

The Belgian FN MAG (Mitrailleuse d'Appui Général, meaning general-purpose machine gun) entered into production in 1958. It is one of the most widespread machine gun designs and is used in more than 90 countries around the globe. It is still manufactured in Belgium and produced under license in several countries including Argentina, Egypt, the US and the UK. It can be carried by infantry and is usually fired while mounted on a tripod.



Category	<i>Heavy Machine Guns</i>
Operating system	gas, automatic
Cartridge	7.62 x 51mm / .308 Winchester
Length	1260 mm

Feeding	disintegrating metal link belt
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The following ammunition can be used by the **FN Herstal FN MAG**:

7.62 x 51mm / .308 Winchester

Bullet diameter	7.82 mm
Case length	51.18 mm
Overall length	69.85 mm



HK G3

The G3 constructed from Heckler & Koch (H&K) in cooperation with a Spanish agency Centro de Estudios Técnicos de Materiales Especiale (CETME) in the beginning Model A & B, after further development, West German Army (Bundeswehr) implemented this rifle. The furniture can be wood or plastic. The plastic stock may be green, sand or black. There is also a collapsing stock. The rifle is hammer fired and has a trigger mechanism with a 3-position fire selector switch that is also the manual safety toggle that secures the weapon from accidentally discharging.



Category	<i>Assault Rifles</i>
Operating system	Roller-delayed blowback
Cartridge	7.62 x 51mm / .308 Winchester
Length	1023 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **HK G3**:

7.62 x 51mm / .308 Winchester

Bullet diameter	7.82 mm
Case length	51.18 mm
Overall length	69.85 mm



MAS 49

The MAS-49 is a French semi-automatic rifle that replaced various bolt action rifles as the French service rifle. The MAS-49 and MAS 49/56 use a direct gas impingement system with no gas piston. In this system gas is vented from a port on top of the barrel and piped directly into an open cylindrical hollow located in front and on top of the bolt carrier. The system has the advantage of not depositing gas fouling on the bolt itself, a separate part located underneath the bolt carrier. Many MAS-49/56 rifles were imported as surplus in the USA and had been rechambered to fire the 7.62x51mm NATO round.



Category	<i>Rifles & Carbines</i>
Operating system	Gas operated, tilting bolt
Cartridge	7.5 x 54mm
Length	1100 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **MAS 49**:

7.5 x 54mm

Bullet diameter	7.8 mm
Case length	54 mm
Overall length	78 mm



MAS 49/56

The MAS-49 is a French semi-automatic rifle that replaced various bolt action rifles as the French service rifle. The MAS-49 and MAS 49/56 use a direct gas impingement system with no gas piston. In this system gas is vented from a port on top of the barrel and piped directly into an open cylindrical hollow located in front and on top of the bolt carrier. The system has the advantage of not depositing gas fouling on the bolt itself, a separate part located underneath the bolt carrier. Many MAS-49/56 rifles were imported as surplus in the USA and had been rechambered to fire the 7.62x51mm NATO round.



Category	<i>Rifles & Carbines</i>
Operating system	Gas operated, tilting bolt
Cartridge	7.5 x 54mm
Length	1020 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **MAS 49/56**:

7.5 x 54mm

Bullet diameter	7.8 mm
Case length	54 mm
Overall length	78 mm



MAT 49

For some 30 years, the MAT 49 was widely used by French military and police forces; it was used throughout the Indochinese and Algerian campaigns. The weapon can still be encountered in former French colonies in Africa and Indochina. It should be noted that North Vietnam once produced a local copy of the MAT 49, chambered for 7.62mm TT rounds. MAT 49s manufactured for police forces, had two triggers, allowing use of full-auto fire or single shots, but most were manufactured as full-auto only.



Category	<i>Submachine Guns</i>
Operating system	Blowback-operated, fired from open bolt
Cartridge	7.62 x 25mm Tokarev 9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)
Length	404 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **MAT 49**:

7.62 x 25mm Tokarev

Bullet diameter	7.8 mm
Case length	25 mm
Overall length	34 mm



9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)

Bullet diameter	9 mm
Case length	19.15 mm
Overall length	29.69 mm



RPG 7

The RPG 7 was made under license by many companies in many countries, it was exported to many countries, and it can be found all over the world because the gun is used in many conflicts. The weapon was in service with several armed forces, both regular and irregular, and it can be found in many countries in Asia and Africa.



Category	<i>Portable Anti-tank Guns</i>
Operating system	Recoilless launch + rocket booster
Cartridge	
Length	650 mm
Feeding	front-loaded, manual reload

The following ammunition can be used by the **RPG 7**:

SIG SG540

The Swiss SIG SG540 was designed as a potential replacement for the SG510. It was produced between 1977 and 2002 in Switzerland and remains in production in Chile only. While the SG540 and the SG 543 models are chambered for the 6.56 x 45 mm caliber, the SG542 uses 7.62 x 51 mm NATO cartridges.



Category	<i>Assault Rifles</i>
Operating system	gas, selective-fire
Cartridge	5.56 x 45mm / .223 Remington
Length	950 mm
Feeding	detachable box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **SIG SG540**:

5.56 x 45mm / .223 Remington

Bullet diameter	5.7 mm
Case length	44.7 mm
Overall length	57.4 mm



Strela (SA-7 / SA-14)

The missile launcher system consists of the green missile launch tube containing the missile, a grip stock and a cylindrical thermal battery. The launch tube is reloadable at depot, but missile rounds are delivered to fire units in their launch tubes. The device can be reloaded up to five times. The Strela and its variants have been widely used in nearly every regional conflict since 1968.



Category	<i>Portable Launcher of Anti-aircraft Missile Systems</i>
Operating system	MANPAD
Cartridge	
Feeding	front-loaded

The following ammunition can be used by the **Strela (SA-7 / SA-14)**:

Tagging of Sources

We believe that our Guide should be as transparent as possible without endangering the confidentiality of our sources. Rather than name the exact source for each unit of data, we have created tags so that users can at least know whether the data comes from a primary or secondary source, and by which medium it can or has been found. All incoming data is validated and then tagged by the project team at BICC before it enters our database.

Sources are tagged according to the following criteria:

1. Primary Sources:

These are presentations of facts. They are proof of an SALW event (e.g. a transfer, sighting, misuse, etc.) because the source was created at the time of the event itself. Primary sources are usually original documents such as transfer authorizations, firearms legislation, or academic journals presenting results of a study on SALW holdings in a particular country, for example. However, they can also be information offered by a person with direct knowledge of an SALW event or who has documented an SALW event at the time that it happened.

2. Secondary Sources:

These are interpretations or evaluation of facts. Secondary sources contain commentary and analysis of SALW events that are documented in primary sources.

Sources are also tagged according to the dominant medium of delivery:

A. Written - the source is based on written words.

B. Oral - the source is based on spoken words.

C. Visual - the source is based on seen events or optical images.

These criteria make our tags two-dimensional. While the process of classifying sources is a primarily subjective one, the project team at BICC has developed the following table to serve as an example of possible sources within each category.

Table: Examples of sources on SALW distribution

	Primary	Secondary
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Written	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fact books • Weapons Transfer authorizations • End-user certificates • Transcripts of interviews, legal proceedings, speeches/ presentations, meetings, conferences or symposia • Newspaper articles • Written correspondence (e.g. letters, emails, text messages, etc.) • Blogs • Peer-reviewed journal articles • Treaties, constitution, laws • Records of organizations (e.g. annual reports) • Surveys, questionnaires <p>Etc...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wikipedia • Literature reviews • Training or safety manuals on gun control, ammunition, physical stockpile security management) • Minutes of meetings, conferences, symposia • Indexes (e.g. Global Militarization Index) • Newspaper articles <p>Etc.</p>
Oral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with experts, including radio or telephone • Legal proceedings • Speeches or interventions by experts or national representatives in government or international meetings <p>Etc ...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speeches, panel presentations, etc. on data provided by experts <p>Etc...</p>
Visual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artifacts (e.g. the weapons themselves, ammunition) • Photographs of weapons, ammunition, etc. • Videos (e.g. YouTube, those recorded by mobile phone) • Television documentaries, news reports <p>Etc ...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPoint presentations on results found by experts <p>Etc...</p>

Table: Example tags

Source (sample)	Type of source	Medium of delivery
IHS Jane's Weapons Infantry (2015-2016)	primary	written
Panel discussion of weapons use of non-state armed groups	secondary	oral
Documentary on paramilitaries in Colombia	primary	visual

About the Guide

The Interactive Guide on **Small Arms and Light Weapons** is an open access tool, designed to build knowledge on how to identify different types, makes and models of commonly used SALW in organized violence; to collect data on the global and country-specific spread of these SALW; and to describe some of their visual and technical specifications.

The guide is not an exhaustive list of all SALW that are used around the world.

Global SALW control relies on, among other things, data and knowledge of the weapons themselves. Our aim is that the Guide will be used to support national reporting duties on SALW holdings; facilitate and ameliorate the collection of data on SALW; and increase general knowledge of global distribution of SALW.

The interactive Guide was developed by **BICC** in close cooperation with the **Bundeswehr Verification Center** (BwVC), and with the generous support of the *Federal Foreign Office, Germany*.

Contact

Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies (BICC) gGmbH

Joseph Farha
 Project Coordinator
 Pfarrer-Byns-Str. 1
 53121 Bonn
 Germany

E-Mail: joseph.farha@bicc.de

Internet: www.bicc.de

**Zentrum für Verifikationsaufgaben der Bundeswehr (ZVBw) - Bundeswehr
Verification Center (BwVC)**

Global Arms- and Proliferation Control Division

Major Laurentius Wedeniwski

Selfkant-Kaserne

Rue de Quimperle 100

52511 Geilenkirchen

E-Mail: LaurentiusWedeniwski@bundeswehr.org

Overall project coordination

Joseph Farha

Project Coordinator

Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies (BICC)

Responsible for all content (including photos):

Zentrum für Verifikationsaufgaben der Bundeswehr (ZVBw) - Bundeswehr Verification Center.

Major Laurentius Wedeniwski: Small Arms and Light Weapons Guide (2016).

Responsible for design, editorial and technical implementation:

Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies (BICC) gGmbH.

Technical management: Joseph Farha

Programming: Rolf Alberth