

Online annexe: Nepal Armed Violence Assessment Issue Brief 4 ‘The Highway Routes: Small Arms Smuggling in Eastern Nepal’, by Lekh Nath Paudel

Methods and key informant interviews

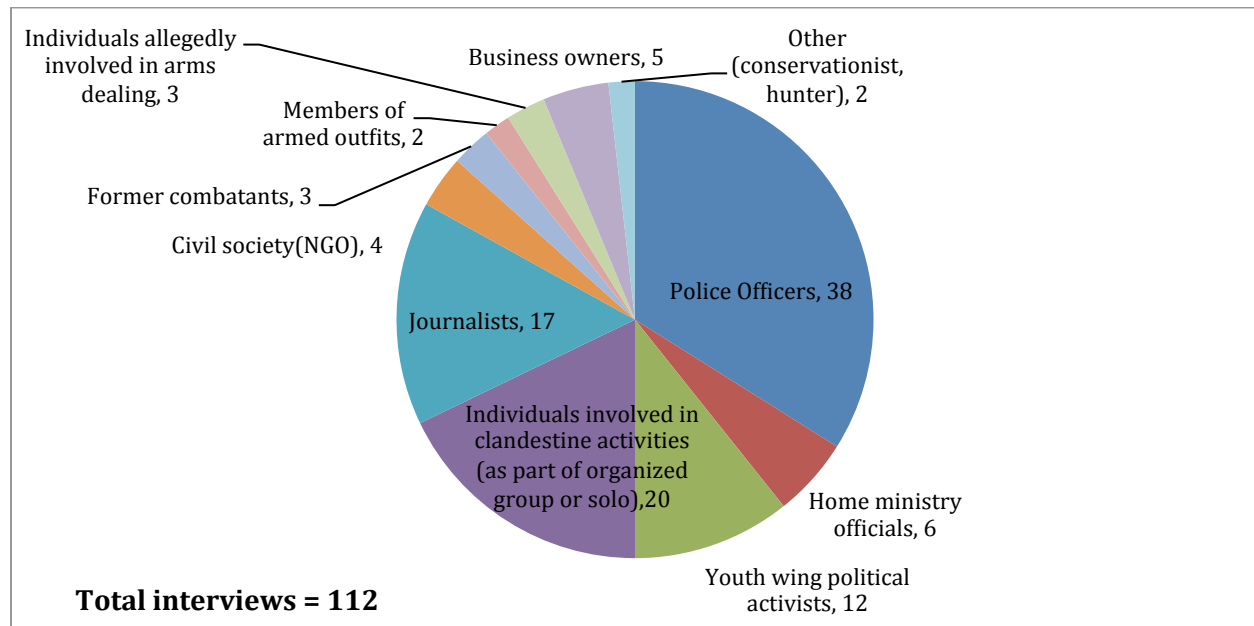
Fieldwork took place between December 2013 and April 2014, and covered five geographical areas in eastern Nepal: Birgunj, Biratnagar, Chitwan, Tatopani, and Kathmandu.

Table 1: Number of key informant interviews conducted, by location and date

Field Visits	Areas covered	Number of interviews (n =112)	Date
Birgunj area	Parsa (Birgunj), Rautahat (Gaur), Rautahat (Chandranigahapur), Bara (Kalaiya), Makwanpur (Hetauda)	33	16–25 Dec 2013
Biratnagar area	Jhapa (Birtamode), Morang (Biratnagar), Sunsari(Dharan), Sunsari (Lahan)	27	29 Dec 2013–8 Jan 2014
Chitwan area	Sauraha, Narayanghat	11	25–28 Jan 2014
Arniko highway area	Sindhupalchowk (Kodari, Tatopani, Barabise, Khadichaur), Kavrepalanchowk (Dhulikhel, Banepa)	14	1–6 Feb 2014
Kathmandu area	Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Bhakapur, Lalitpur)	27	17 Jan– 7 April 2014

The author conducted a total of 112 key informant interviews with police officers, individuals involved in clandestine activities such as arms dealing, MoHA officials, members of the youth wings of political parties, members of armed groups, representatives of civil society, members of the business community, journalists and others (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Distribution of key informants, by occupation



Face-to-face interviews were based on a semi-structured questionnaire prepared in English and then translated into Nepali. Questions varied according to the key informant and occupation. Once the interviewees had given their prior informed consent, the response rate was around 95 per cent.

Since there is no universally accepted definition of a ‘small arm’ or ‘light weapon’, the Small Arms Survey adopts the proposal put forward by the 1997 UN Panel of Experts, which considers portability a defining characteristic. Although this definition applies to revolvers, pistols, rifles, and carbines as well as sub-machine guns (Small Arms Survey, n.d), this Issue Brief focuses on short-barrel firearms that can be easily concealed, unless otherwise stated.