The *Global Burden of Armed Violence 2015* (hereafter GBAV 2015) builds on prior editions of the report, unpacking armed violence to reveal its trends and patterns—as well as its impact on development—around the globe. The volume combines the efforts of several Small Arms Survey staff and dozens of experts and specialists worldwide who contributed input, reviews, and critical assessments of methodology. The Small Arms Survey was responsible for conceiving, researching, commissioning, and editing the report. The editors of the report, Anna Alvazzi del Frate, Keith Krause, and Matthias Nowak, are all with the Survey.

Alessandra Allen and Estelle Jobson at the Survey coordinated the production of the GBAV 2015. Fact-checking was undertaken by Olivia Denonville, Emma Hayward, and Elli Kytömäki.

Jillian Luff produced the maps; Rick Jones provided the design and the layout; Tania Inowlocki copy-edited Chapters One to Four, and Donald Strachan proofread the report. Olivia Denonville helped with photo research. Irene Pavesi and Matthias Nowak coordinated the production of the methodological annexe. John Haslam and Carrie Parkinson of Cambridge University Press provided support throughout the production of the report. Cédric Blattner, Elise Lebret Agneray, and Carole Touraine provided administrative support.

The GBAV 2014 database covers data on conflict and non-conflict deaths from a wide range of national and international sources, such as ministries, statistical offices, national police agencies, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations. Irene Pavesi, Matthias Nowak, and Katherine Aguirre Tobón led the process of collecting data and collating it into the database, which includes information disaggregated by the victim’s sex and the mechanism of death. Jovana Carapic and Hannah Dönges provided additional assistance with the collection of data. In response to requests, data, clarifications, and explanations were provided directly by national institutions and country representatives, including from Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Puerto Rico, Switzerland, and Venezuela.

In June 2013, the Small Arms Survey held an expert meeting in Geneva to review the methodology of the database, data availability, and global estimates of armed violence. Critical information and feedback was provided by the participants: Andrea Arteaga of the Organization of American States, Enrico Bisogno of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Maria T. Cerqueira of the World Health Organization (WHO), Joshua Dougherty of Iraq Body Count, Caitriona Dowd of the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), Nicolas Fasel of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Taha Kass-Hout of
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Chapter One
Violence, Security, and the New Global Development Agenda

The debate about the post-2015 development framework presents a unique opportunity to consider the potential benefits of including a peace and security goal in the new global agenda and of developing corresponding targets and indicators regarding security, safety, and armed violence. In this chapter, Matthias Nowak and Keith Krause highlight how development and security interact, discuss the significance of this interaction in the context of the post-2015 negotiations, and provide an overview of efforts to integrate a goal on peaceful societies in the new development agenda. Luigi De Martino (Geneva Declaration Secretariat), Steven Malby (UNODC), Andres Rengifo (Rutgers University), and Thomas Wheeler (Saferworld) offered useful comments and reviews of the chapter.

Chapter Two
Lethal Violence Update

Global levels of lethal violence appear to be in decline, but a closer look reveals that while most national homicide rates have been stable or decreasing over the long term, a few states have been experiencing volatile or increasing levels of violence. In this chapter, Matthias Nowak analyses changes in the distribution and intensity of lethal
violence by comparing newly gathered data for 2007–12 with data for 2004–09, which formed the basis of research presented in the GBAV 2011. By taking the ‘unified approach’ to lethal violence that was introduced in the 2011 edition, the chapter covers conflict, criminal, and interpersonal violence and includes data from a large variety of sources on homicide, conflict, and other forms of violence. Hana Salama (ORG) and Clionadh Raleigh (ACLED) provided contributions and discussions of data related to the Syrian conflict and the Arab Spring, and Diego Fleitas (Asociación para Políticas Públicas) and Achim Wennmann (Geneva Peacebuilding Platform) offered critical reviews of the chapter. At the Survey, Anna Alvazzi del Frate, Jovana Carapic, Hannah Dönges, and Irene Pavesi offered their assistance.

Chapter Three
Lethal Violence against Women and Girls

Although gender-disaggregated data on armed violence is gradually becoming more available, a deeper understanding of the extent of lethal violence perpetrated against women remains elusive, complicating the design of effective programming to reduce gender-based violence. Moreover, the lack of standardized guidelines, categories, and definitions for data collection render cross-country comparisons difficult. In this chapter, Mihaela Racovita analyses gender-disaggregated data on violence and discusses the figures and patterns of lethal violence against women globally and in selected cases, focusing in particular on female homicide, including intimate partner femicides. Anna Alvazzi del Frate provided substantive support and supervision. Hannah Hilligoss and Massimo Garsone provided research support. The external reviewers—David Anyanwu (Women’s Institute for Alternative Development), Rahel Kunz (University of Lausanne), and Margaret Shaw (Crime and Social Problems Consulting)—provided valuable comments and suggestions.

Chapter Four
Unpacking Lethal Violence

The debate on the post-2015 agenda has underscored the need to enhance the availability, coverage, and quality of disaggregated data on lethal violence to monitor progress towards the sustainable development goals and targets. Although the past few years have witnessed a significant increase in the availability of such data, middle- and low-income countries still lag behind their wealthier counterparts in terms of establishing and maintaining efficient recording systems on violent deaths. Meanwhile, mis- and underreporting continue to weaken the reliability of data on lethal violence. In this chapter, Irene Pavesi argues that when it is collected systematically and disaggregated by factors such as socio-economic characteristics of victims and offenders, locations, motives, and methods used, data on lethal violence can help in the design of effective violence prevention and reduction measures. Jovana Carapic and Hannah Dönges at the Survey carried out extensive data collection on disaggregated lethal violence data and other valuable background research. MapAction and the Assessment Capacities Project provided map-related data. Anna Alvazzi del Frate, Jennifer Peirce (Inter-American Development Bank), Emile LeBrun (Small Arms Survey), and Yann-Cédric Quéro (École Nationale Supérieure de la Police) provided other valuable input.
Chapter Five
The Economic Cost of Homicide

The Survey's partner institution CERAC has provided original research on the valuation of homicidal violence. Specifically, this chapter estimates the global economic cost of homicide on the basis of two key concepts: ‘excess homicide’ and ‘life expectancy’. Under the direction of Jorge Restrepo, the director of CERAC, Gabriela Gutiérrez and Margarita Marín, researchers at CERAC, contributed substantive background documents on the estimates of economic valuation of homicide; they also built the database, developed the estimates, and formulated the discussion of results. The chapter was written by CERAC researcher Evan Pheiffer and Jorge Restrepo; it received detailed comments by Gabriela Gutiérrez, Matthias Nowak, and Nicolás Ronderos. Valuable comments and revisions were provided by Erik Alda (World Bank), Andres Rengifo (Rutgers University), and Ernesto Savona (Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore). CERAC’s Óscar Calero and Leonardo Goi provided helpful research assistance.

Finally, special thanks are extended to the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, the Human Security Department, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, whose long-term commitment and funding made this report possible. The report is an independent contribution of the Small Arms Survey to the Secretariat of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development; as such, it does not necessarily reflect the views of the Government of Switzerland or any other signatory state of the Geneva Declaration. While the report is a collective effort, the editors are responsible for any errors and omissions of fact or judgement.