



Three sentences on who you are: where are you from and what is your involvement in your community?

My name is Aamer Shriff Ombedi and I am from El Geneina in West Darfur. I graduated from the college of Public and Environmental Health at Bahari University in Khartoum and have 7 years of experience with the State Ministry of Health as well as INGOs. In my community involvement, I focus on community training, community development in programs of WASH, Livelihood& Food Security, Health and Nutrition. I am 31 years old.

How has this course added to or changed what you knew or believed about protecting civilians or securing communities? The course changed my believe that protection was impossible without armed force. The course UNARMED CIVILIAN PROTECTION ONLINE COURSE SECOND DARFUR EDITION, September-November 2020

COURSE GRADUATE PROFILE

Aamer Shriff El Geneina (West Darfur)

taught me that the community can very well protect itself by raising their capacity development and relationship building so as to change violent behavior of civilians to nonviolent behavior. Also, building relationships between different communities can contribute to preventing violence from happening.

Of the things you learned or experienced in the UCP course, what has been the most important for you?

The most important for me was to learn about the UCP principles such as nonviolence and nonpartisanship, because these principles, if effectively observed, can lead to security for all parties in a violent conflict zone and can mean safety for their lives.

Were you able to use the information and methods from the UCP course in your life, whether in your family, your community, or your work? Can you give one example?

I am now using UCP methods in my work. For example, in December 2020 I visited the field as cooperator with one NGO and when we reached Derrisaya in Serba locality, we found that shootings by unknown individuals contributed to anxiety among the local population. We sat with the village leaders and tried to clarify the reasons for the shooting, which gave me an opportunity to talk to them about rumor control and the importance of information-sharing with inhabitants so that they feel protected and not scared. We could see that even the leaders immediately felt more secure and they thanked us for our support.

What opportunities for UCP do you see in your community?

The opportunities of UCP in my community are many because there are many different kinds of violence as a result of the war in Darfur. It is important for us to endorse UCP in order to develop the capacities of the community and to build relationships with violent groups and calm tensions.

How do you see that Unarmed Civilian Protection can contribute to silencing the guns in Darfur? In other words: many people, including civilians, own and use weapons in Darfur. Do you see that UCP can effectively protect people in this context? How?

Through the proactive accompaniment in some remote areas and relationship building between those who own and use weapons and civilians as well as through engaging them in protection committees: I am convinced that such measures can reduce violence and create safe environment.