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"Civil society could be critical to avoiding an escalation of violence in Syria and South Sudan. We need to give such groups our support and encouragement."
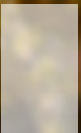
UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

PHOTO/ICRC

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

unitar

Nonviolent Peaceforce

Strengthening Civilian Capacities to Protect Civilians

A JOINT UNITAR-NONVIOLENT PEACEFORCE ONLINE COURSE

What is UCP?

Unarmed Civilian Protection (UCP) is the practice of deploying unarmed civilians before, during, and after violent conflict, to prevent or reduce violence, to provide direct physical protection to other civilians, and to strengthen or build resilient local peace infrastructures.

UCP methods include:

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PROACTIVE ENGAGEMENT
Proactively engaging with all stakeholders especially through physical presence at the field level.

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING
Opens channels of communication between conflict parties, quells rumors, and supports interventions to prevent escalating violence.

MONITORING
Ceasefire monitoring, control, and early warning/early response systems.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT
Strengthening and supporting civilian capacities essential in the transition from war to a sustainable peace.

The course

The online course on Strengthening Civilian Capacities to Protect Civilians is designed to contribute to national, regional and international efforts directed at protecting civilians and sustaining peace. The overall goal of the course is to provide an introduction to the foundations of UCP (its principles, methods, and required skills) as well as to offer an overview of UCP in practice.

By the end of the course, participants will be able to:

• Recall the key principles and sources of guidance of UCP;
• Illustrate UCP methods and required skills;
• Summarize key steps in preparation for entering a community;
• Devise key actions to undertake while entering, living in, and exiting a community.

The online course is composed of five modules that will be completed over six weeks. Modules are as follows:

Module zero Overview (advocacy purposes);
Module one   Introduction to unarmed civilian protection;
Module two   UCP: Principles and sources of guidance;
Module three UCP: Methods and required skills;
Module four UCP in practice (1): Preparing to enter and entering a community;
Module five UCP in practice (2): Living in and exiting the community.

Who should take this course?

• Leadership and staff of aid organizations working in conflict situations and interested in strengthening their capacities to protect the people they serve as well as their own staff;
• Individuals and groups of people who are interested to take part in UCP activities in the field;
• Civilian, military and police personnel working in conflict and post-conflict environments (as part of a UN or non-UN operation) interested in gaining an appreciation of UCP principles, methods and required skills.

Course schedule
The course will be open upon request throughout the year. Both groups and individuals will be eligible to participate. For institutions interested in enrolling a larger number of participants, please contact ptp@unitar.org; for individuals, please check course dates at: www.unitar.org/event