

COURSE GRADUATE PROFILE



Hawa Yousif Nertiti (Central Darfur)

tection to other civilians, strengthen or build local peace infrastructures, create a safer environment for other civilians to address their own needs, solve their own conflicts and protect vulnerable individuals and populations in their midst.

educating and advising farmers, key persons and leaders to positively advocate for peace in their communities by using nonviolent means and principles to protect themselves and their communities, reduce violence and resolve community issues.

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

My name is Hawa Yousif, and I am a Protection of Civilians (PoC) and Humanitarian Liaison officer with UNAMID in Nertiti, Central Darfur. I support the implementation of the mission's refined PoC Strategy through monitoring and reporting on protection concerns facing the communities in West Jebel Marra. I also support coordination and facilitation of activities and responses from UNAMID, GoS, protection partners and the host communities. I advocate for full access to people in need in close coordination with UNCT partners and UNAMID components.

How has this course added to or changed what you knew or believed about protecting civilians or securing communities?

The course has changed my perception of protection of civilians which I believed was the responsibility of armed uniformed personnel. Now I understand and believe that unarmed civilians through nonviolent means can prevent or reduce violence, provide direct physical pro-

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

Getting to understand the objectives of UCP and going through the entire process of how UCP intervenes in a conflict situation until its exit has increased my confidence and belief in civilians using nonviolent means and measures to protect fellow civilians.

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?

Yes, the UCP method has become part of my life, and I am using it in my daily life, family, community and workplace. To give one example: during the recent harvesting season in West Jebel Marra, violent incidents against mainly female farmers increased with some of them being raped, beaten, shot, robbed and killed. This created fear among them leading many to leave their farms. Applying the skills and knowledge I acquired from the UCP course, I improved ways of coordinating meetings between and among UNAMID sections, community-based protection mechanisms, Change and Resistance committees, community members and government authorities to protect farmers and support them to go back to their farms and resume their livelihood activities. I started

What opportunities for UCP do you see in your community?

UCP could play a role in protecting civilians through physical presence or accompaniment to places where they undertake livelihood activities in hotspot areas. UCP personnel may also accompany victims/survivors to the nearest medical facility and police station to get treatment and report their cases which most often are not taken seriously by the police. The presence of UCP may also deter potential perpetrators who will fear being seen by the international community if they engage in violence against civilians as this could have a negative impact on them.

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?

UCP can effectively protect people because once accepted by all parties involved in the conflict in Darfur, applying UCP principles will deter potential perpetrators. Through capacity building by UCP, members of the community will understand their role in applying nonviolent means to resolving disputes. This will reduce retaliation which has always prolonged inter-communal tensions and at times conflicts.