

COURSE GRADUATE PROFILE



Elsadig Ali Ahmed Seleman Shelel Kass (South Darfur)

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

My name is Elsadig Ali Ahmed Seleman Shelel, and I am from Kass locality, South Darfur state. I am a community activist working for the resistance movement and other local organizations involved in peacebuilding. I am 38 years old.

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

The UCP course was the most significant course for me. It changed my understanding on the issues of nonviolence, protection of civilians and peacebuilding. I have acquired new skills as well as understood strategies and tactics that go along with UCP. I firmly believe that the course has given me

valuable knowledge to protect people on the ground.

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

I think that overall, the course added a lot to my knowledge. However, learning about nonviolence as a method of change was very important for me at a time when my region is suffering from absolute violence. The other topic of consideration was conflict analysis because the right step to solve a problem is to first understand what the conflict is about, its root causes, nature and the dynamics which will help addressing it and finding practical solutions.

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?

UCP principles and methods are appropriate to be regularly used in all domains of life. They are valuable, positive and progressive and contribute to a more peaceful environment. I am pleased to study and use them in all aspects of my life. As a concrete example, I am teaming up with another UCP course graduate from Nyala who, together with other colleagues, organized UCP training workshops in Nyala IDP camps. We are in a full coordination and I am doing my best in Kass locality to prepare for workshops

and receive friends from Nyala. My friends and I are very dedicated to push UCP work forward in Darfur.

What opportunities for UCP do you see in your community?

It's obvious that the war has lasted too long in Darfur. People lost lives and properties. The voice of peace is now on each and everyone's tongue: people rather like to live in peace and security than live through one more day of violence. Therefore, UCP graduates need to intensify their efforts to plant what they have studied into local people's minds.

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 actors in Darfur need to exert efforts in the areas of peacemaking and peacebuilding, as well as Protection of Civilians (PoC). The UCP strategic approach is the right step to silencing guns in Darfur, mediating, mitigating and resolving conflict. Silencing guns through UCP means is quite possible, I think: civilians who own guns are imposed to do so, to protect themselves in a region where the one holding a weapon is perceived to be the strongest. It is true to say that people will be ready to receive UCP professionals. We need them to hold workshops, media campaigns and so on.