Children and Armed Conflict Training Course

Professional Development Training Course Outline

Category	Political Science and International Relations	**Duration**	5 Days
Base Fee	$1,500 USD	**Delivery Mode**	Online / On-site Hybrid

Course Introduction

The Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) Training Course provides essential knowledge and practical skills for professionals working to protect and advocate for children in conflict zones. This course delves into the complex realities and devastating impact of armed conflict on the world's most vulnerable population, exploring the six grave violations against children as defined by the UN. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of the international legal frameworks, normative agendas, and operational mechanisms designed to safeguard children's rights. Through a focus on holistic, child-sensitive approaches, this training empowers humanitarian workers, policymakers, and security personnel to proactively prevent violations, respond effectively to crises, and contribute to sustainable peacebuilding efforts.

This program goes beyond theory to equip participants with tangible tools for implementing effective child protection strategies in complex emergencies. It emphasizes the importance of psychosocial support, community resilience, and reintegration programs for children formerly associated with armed forces and armed groups (CAAFAG). By leveraging real-world case studies and a peer-to-peer learning methodology, the course fosters a collaborative environment for sharing best practices and addressing the multifaceted challenges of child protection in conflict-affected areas. The ultimate goal is to build a global network of skilled professionals capable of translating policy into impactful action, ensuring that the protection and well-being of children are central to all humanitarian and peace operations.

Programme Curriculum

Children and Armed Conflict Training Course

Introduction

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5 days

Course Objectives

- **Comprehend** the six grave violations against children in armed conflict and their devastating impact.
- **Analyze** the International Legal Frameworks and Normative Agenda on Children and Armed Conflict.
- **Identify** and **assess** the key child protection risks and vulnerabilities in conflict-affected settings.
- **Develop** effective strategies for **prevention, monitoring, and reporting** of grave violations.
- **Formulate** and implement child-sensitive **humanitarian responses** in emergencies.
- **Apply** a trauma-informed and **child-centered approach** to all interventions.
- **Master** the principles of **psychosocial support** and mental health for conflict-affected children.
- **Design** and manage comprehensive **disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR)** programs for CAAFAG.
- **Engage** and **negotiate** with parties to conflict (state and non-state actors) on child protection commitments.
- **Advocate** for the mainstreaming of the CAAC agenda in broader peace and security discussions.
- **Build** and **strengthen** partnerships and inter-sectoral collaborations for integrated child protection.
- **Enhance** professional competencies for **accountability and justice** for perpetrators of violations.
- **Support** community-led resilience and **peacebuilding** initiatives involving children and youth.

Target Audience

- **Humanitarian Professionals** (Child Protection Officers, Emergency Coordinators)
- **United Nations** and **International NGO** Staff
- **Government Officials** and Policymakers
- **Military Personnel** and Security Sector Actors
- **Legal Professionals** and Human Rights Advocates
- **Academics** and Researchers specializing in conflict studies
- **Journalists** and Communication Officers reporting on conflict zones
- **Social Workers** and Psychologists in post-conflict settings

Course Outline

Module 1: Foundations of Children and Armed Conflict

- Introduction to the CAAC Agenda: Understanding the historical context and evolution of the UN's CAAC mandate.
- International Legal and Normative Frameworks: Overview of the Geneva Conventions, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and key UN Security Council Resolutions.
- The Six Grave Violations: Detailed analysis of the UN's six grave violations against children, including killing, maiming, and recruitment.
- Impact of Conflict on Child Development: Exploring the physical, psychological, and social consequences of war on children.
- **Case Study:** The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in Uganda, and the systematic use of child abductions and forced recruitment.

Module 2: The Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM)

- Principles of MRM: How to effectively monitor, report, and verify grave violations against children in conflict zones.
- Data Collection and Documentation: Methodologies for conducting safe and ethical data collection in high-risk environments.
- Reporting to the UN Security Council: Understanding the process and importance of official reporting to key international bodies.
- Risk Analysis and Threat Identification: Tools for assessing and mitigating threats to children in real-time.
- **Case Study:** The Syria conflict and the use of the MRM to document widespread attacks on schools and hospitals.

Module 3: Prevention and Response Strategies

- Conflict-Sensitive Programming: Integrating child protection principles into broader humanitarian aid and development programs.
- Child-Sensitive Negotiation and Mediation: Techniques for engaging with armed groups to secure the release of children.
- Community-Led Prevention: Empowering communities to develop their own protection mechanisms and early warning systems.
- Humanitarian Access and Advocacy: Strategies for ensuring safe and unhindered access to aid for conflict-affected children.
- **Case Study:** The release of children from armed groups in the Central African Republic (CAR) and the subsequent community-led reintegration efforts.

Module 4: Psychosocial Support and Trauma-Informed Care

- Understanding Trauma in Children: Differentiating between various types of trauma and its manifestations in children and adolescents.
- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS): Implementing structured and culturally-sensitive MHPSS programs.
- Family Tracing and Reunification: Best practices for reuniting separated children with their families.
- Resilience and Coping Mechanisms: Fostering resilience in children through recreational activities, education, and peer support.
- **Case Study:** The use of art therapy and play-based learning to aid the psychological recovery of child survivors of the Rwandan genocide.

Module 5: Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR)

- Holistic DDR Programs: Designing comprehensive programs that address the physical, psychological, and social needs of CAAFAG.
- Child-Specific Reintegration: Tailoring reintegration to the unique needs of boys and girls formerly associated with armed groups.
- Community Reintegration: Facilitating the acceptance and social reintegration of former child soldiers into their communities.
- Skills Training and Education: Providing vocational training and educational opportunities to enable sustainable livelihoods.
- **Case Study:** The reintegration of former child soldiers in Sierra Leone, highlighting both the successes and the long-term challenges.

Module 6: Accountability and Justice for Children

- International Criminal Justice: The role of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and other tribunals in prosecuting grave violations against children.
- National-Level Accountability: Strengthening domestic legal systems to hold perpetrators accountable.
- Transitional Justice Mechanisms: Exploring truth commissions and reparations as tools for addressing past abuses.
- Victim and Witness Protection: Ensuring the safety and well-being of child victims who testify.
- **Case Study:** The trial of Thomas Lubanga Dyilo at the ICC, the first case to focus on the war crime of recruiting and using child soldiers.

Module 7: Gender and Child Protection

- Gendered Dimensions of Conflict: Examining the different impacts of conflict on girls and boys.
- Sexual Violence as a Weapon of War: Addressing the systemic use of rape and other forms of sexual violence.
- Child Marriage and Forced Unions: Understanding and preventing child marriage in conflict-affected communities.
- Girls Associated with Armed Groups: Focusing on the unique experiences and challenges faced by girls in armed groups.
- **Case Study:** The use of gender-based violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and specific programs designed to support female survivors.

Module 8: The Future of CAAC and Emerging Issues

- The Impact of Climate Change on Child Protection: How climate-related conflicts exacerbate vulnerabilities.
- Urban Warfare and Explosive Weapons: The disproportionate impact of modern conflict on children in urban settings.
- Technology and Child Protection: Leveraging technology for monitoring, reporting, and delivering aid.
- Protracted Conflicts and Displacement: Addressing the long-term needs of internally displaced children and child refugees.
- **Case Study:** The use of explosive weapons in populated areas, drawing on data and experiences from conflicts in Gaza or Ukraine.

Training Methodology

This course utilizes a **dynamic and interactive learning approach** that combines theoretical knowledge with practical application. The methodology includes:

- **Expert-Led Lectures and Discussions:** Sessions are facilitated by leading professionals and subject matter experts in the field of children and armed conflict.
- **Interactive Workshops and Role-Playing Exercises:** Participants will engage in practical scenarios to apply course concepts, such as negotiation with parties to conflict or developing a rapid humanitarian response plan.
- **Real-World Case Studies:** Each module is anchored by in-depth case studies that provide a context for understanding complex issues and analyzing real-life challenges.
- **Peer-to-Peer Learning and Collaborative Activities:** Small group discussions and collaborative projects foster a shared learning environment and enable the exchange of diverse perspectives and experiences.
- **Simulations and Drills:** Hands-on simulations of on-the-ground scenarios, such as establishing a temporary safe space for displaced children.

Register as a group from 3 participants for a Discount

Send us an email: info@fineskilltrainingcenter.org or call *+254769199797*

Certification

Upon successful completion of this training, participants will be issued with a globally- recognized certificate.

Tailor-Made Course

We also offer tailor-made courses based on your needs.

Key Notes

a. The participant must be conversant with English.

b. Upon completion of training the participant will be issued with an Authorized Training Certificate

c. Course duration is flexible and the contents can be modified to fit any number of days.

d. The course fee includes facilitation training materials, 2 coffee breaks, buffet lunch and A Certificate upon successful completion of Training.

e. One-year post-training support Consultation and Coaching provided after the course.

f. Payment should be done at least a week before commence of the training, to Fineskill Training Center account, as indicated in the invoice so as to enable us prepare better for you.

Upcoming Scheduled Sessions

Start Date	End Date	Location	Price

23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Online	$1,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$1,500
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$3,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$3,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$4,500
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000

Ready to enroll or request a customized program? Book online or contact us:

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