

Training course on Social Protection in Fragile and Conflict-Affected States (FCAS)

Professional Development Training Course Outline

Category	Social Protection	Duration	5 Days
Base Fee	\$1,500 USD	Delivery Mode	Online / On-site Hybrid

Course Introduction

Fragile and conflict-affected states (FCAS) present unique and complex challenges for social protection. In these environments, state capacity is often weak, governance is tenuous, populations are highly vulnerable to violence and displacement, and existing social safety nets may be non-existent or severely disrupted. Training Course on Social Protection in Fragile and Conflict-Affected States (FCAS) focuses on humanitarian-development-peace nexus, adaptive social protection, targeting in displacement, data and technology in FCAS, risk management, and the political economy of social protection in conflict, blending rigorous analytical frameworks with practical, hands-on application, case studies from diverse FCAS environments, and interactive crisis simulation exercises. Participants will gain the strategic foresight and technical expertise to confidently navigate complex and high-risk environments, fostering unparalleled humanitarian impact, resilience building, and peace dividends, thereby securing their position as indispensable leaders in delivering vital social protection in the world's most challenging settings. This comprehensive 5-day program delves into nuanced methodologies for conducting rapid vulnerability assessments in dynamic crisis settings, mastering sophisticated techniques for designing flexible and shock-responsive cash transfer programs, and exploring cutting-edge approaches to leveraging digital payments in insecure environments, building community-based protection mechanisms, and strengthening coordination between humanitarian and development actors. A significant focus will be placed on understanding the interplay of immediate life-saving assistance and longer-term resilience building, the specific challenges of reaching populations in active conflict zones and displaced communities, and the practical application of social protection principles to mitigate conflict drivers and support recovery processes.⁶ By integrating global industry best practices in social protection in FCAS, analyzing **real-world examples of successful adaptations and lessons learned from various fragile and conflict-affected contexts (including those in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel), and engaging in intensive hands-on risk analysis workshops, program adaptation scenarios, coordination protocol development, and expert-led discussions on ethical considerations and protection principles, attendees will develop the strategic acumen to confidently lead and contribute to social protection efforts in FCAS, fostering unparalleled humanitarian effectiveness, conflict sensitivity, and sustainable development, thereby securing their position as indispensable leaders in bridging humanitarian response and long-term recovery through social protection.

Programme Curriculum

Training Course on Social Protection in Fragile and Conflict-Affected States (FCAS)

Introduction

Fragile and conflict-affected states (FCAS) present unique and complex challenges for social protection. In these environments, **state capacity is often weak, governance is tenuous, populations are highly vulnerable to violence and displacement, and existing social safety nets may be non-existent or severely disrupted.** Training Course on Social Protection in Fragile and Conflict-Affected States (FCAS) focuses on **humanitarian-development-peace nexus, adaptive social protection, targeting in displacement, data and technology in FCAS, risk management, and the political economy of social protection in conflict,** blending **rigorous analytical frameworks with practical, hands-on application, case studies from diverse FCAS environments, and interactive crisis simulation exercises.** Participants will gain the strategic foresight and technical expertise to confidently navigate complex and high-risk environments, fostering unparalleled **humanitarian impact, resilience building, and peace dividends,** thereby securing their position as indispensable leaders in **delivering vital social protection in the world's most challenging settings.**

This comprehensive 5-day program delves into **nuanced methodologies for conducting rapid vulnerability assessments in dynamic crisis settings,** mastering **sophisticated techniques for designing flexible and shock-responsive cash transfer programs,** and exploring **cutting-edge approaches to leveraging digital payments in insecure environments, building community-based protection mechanisms, and strengthening coordination between humanitarian and development actors.** A significant focus will be placed on understanding the interplay of **immediate life-saving assistance and longer-term resilience building, the specific challenges of reaching populations in active conflict zones and displaced communities, and the practical application of social protection principles to mitigate conflict drivers and support recovery processes.**⁶ By integrating **global industry best practices in social protection in FCAS,** analyzing **real-world examples of successful adaptations and lessons learned from various fragile and conflict-affected contexts (including those in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel), and engaging in intensive hands-on risk analysis workshops, program adaptation scenarios, coordination protocol development, and expert-led discussions on ethical considerations and protection principles,** attendees will develop the **strategic acumen** to confidently lead and contribute to social protection efforts in FCAS, fostering unparalleled **humanitarian effectiveness, conflict sensitivity, and sustainable development,** thereby securing their position as indispensable leaders in **bridging humanitarian response and long-term recovery through social protection.**

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:

1. **Analyze core concepts and strategic responsibilities of social protection interventions in fragile and conflict-affected states (FCAS).**
2. **Master sophisticated techniques for conducting rapid vulnerability and needs assessments tailored for dynamic FCAS environments.**
3. **Develop robust methodologies for designing and implementing flexible and adaptive social protection programs in crisis contexts.**

4. **Implement effective strategies for targeting and delivering social protection benefits** to displaced populations, refugees, and host communities.⁷
5. **Manage complex considerations for leveraging digital technologies and innovative payment mechanisms** in insecure and low-infrastructure settings.
6. **Apply robust strategies for integrating social protection with humanitarian aid, peacebuilding efforts, and long-term development strategies** (HDP Nexus).⁸
7. **Understand the deep integration of protection principles, gender considerations, and conflict sensitivity** in all stages of social protection programming in FCAS.
8. **Leverage knowledge of global best practices and lessons learned** from various FCAS contexts regarding social protection design and implementation.
9. **Optimize strategies for risk management, security protocols, and operational continuity** in volatile environments.
10. **Formulate specialized recommendations for strengthening state and non-state institutional capacities** for social protection in FCAS.
11. **Conduct comprehensive assessments** of the political economy dynamics that shape social protection feasibility and impact in conflict settings.
12. **Navigate challenging situations** such as **access constraints, data scarcity, funding volatility, and the imperative to "do no harm"** in programming.
13. **Develop a holistic, conflict-sensitive, and adaptive approach to social protection programming in FCAS**, ensuring humanitarian impact and supporting sustainable recovery.

Target Audience:

This course is designed for professionals interested in Social Protection in Fragile and Conflict-Affected States (FCAS):

1. **Humanitarian Responders & Aid Workers:** Working for UN agencies, INGOs, and national NGOs in FCAS.
2. **Social Protection Program Managers:** Responsible for designing or implementing social protection in challenging contexts.
3. **Government Officials:** From ministries in FCAS responsible for social affairs, humanitarian affairs, and planning.
4. **Development Practitioners:** From multilateral banks and bilateral agencies focusing on resilience and state-building.
5. **Peacebuilding & Conflict Resolution Specialists:** Seeking to integrate social protection into broader peace efforts.
6. **Researchers & Policy Analysts:** Focusing on fragility, conflict, and humanitarian-development linkages.
7. **Logistics & Operations Managers:** Working in high-risk environments with complex delivery challenges.
8. **Protection Officers & Gender Advisors:** Seeking to ensure social protection programs are inclusive and conflict-sensitive.

Course Duration: 5 Days

Course Modules:

- **Module 1: Understanding Fragility, Conflict, and Social Protection**
 - **Defining FCAS:** Characteristics, drivers of fragility, and typologies of conflict.

- **The Role of Social Protection in FCAS:** Beyond welfare to humanitarian response, peacebuilding, and resilience.¹²
- **Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus:** Bridging silos and fostering coherence in FCAS programming.
- **Impact of Conflict on Social Protection:** Destruction of systems, displacement, economic collapse, and exacerbated vulnerabilities.
- **Ethical Considerations and "Do No Harm":** Ensuring social protection interventions do not inadvertently fuel conflict or create dependencies.¹³
- **Module 2: Needs Assessment and Targeting in FCAS**
 - **Rapid Vulnerability and Needs Assessments:** Tools and methodologies for collecting data in dynamic, insecure environments.
 - **Profiling Displaced Populations:** Understanding the specific needs of IDPs, refugees, and host communities.
 - **Targeting in Crisis:** Balancing speed, accuracy, and conflict sensitivity in identifying beneficiaries.
 - **Community-Based Targeting:** Leveraging local knowledge and structures in insecure contexts.
 - **Challenges of Data Collection:** Security, access, data quality, and managing sensitive information.
- **Module 3: Designing Adaptive and Shock-Responsive Social Protection in FCAS**
 - **Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) Framework:** Applying ASP principles to recurrent shocks in FCAS.
 - **Flexible Program Design:** Mechanisms for adjusting benefit levels, duration, and targeting in response to changing needs.
 - **Contingency Planning and Preparedness:** Pre-arranging resources and protocols for rapid scale-up during crises.
 - **Linking Humanitarian Cash Transfers to Social Protection Systems:** Pathways from emergency aid to longer-term support.
 - **Early Warning Systems and Triggers:** Using conflict and disaster risk data to inform social protection responses.
- **Module 4: Delivery Mechanisms and Technology in FCAS**
 - **Cash-Based Interventions (CBIs):** Modalities, advantages, and challenges of cash transfers in FCAS.
 - **Digital Payments in Insecure Environments:** Mobile money, digital wallets, and biometric verification; risks and mitigation strategies.
 - **Agent Networks and Last-Mile Delivery:** Strategies for reaching beneficiaries in remote or inaccessible areas.
 - **Role of Social Registries/Lists in FCAS:** Adapting and establishing functional beneficiary databases.
 - **Monitoring Delivery in Volatile Contexts:** Remote monitoring, third-party verification, and community feedback.
- **Module 5: Protection, Gender, and Conflict Sensitivity**
 - **Protection Principles:** Ensuring safety, dignity, and integrity of beneficiaries in social protection delivery.
 - **Gender Analysis in FCAS Social Protection:** Understanding differentiated impacts of conflict on women, girls, men, and boys.
 - **GBV Risk Mitigation:** Designing social protection to reduce risks of gender-based violence.
 - **Conflict Sensitivity ("Do No Harm"):** Analyzing how interventions might interact with conflict dynamics and designing to avoid negative impacts.

- **Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups:** Ensuring IDPs, refugees, persons with disabilities, and minorities are reached.
- **Module 6: Governance, Institutional Capacity, and Coordination**
 - **Strengthening State Capacity in FCAS:** Supporting nascent government structures in social protection.
 - **Role of Non-State Actors:** NGOs, community-based organizations, and traditional leaders in social protection delivery.
 - **Coordination Mechanisms:** Establishing effective platforms for humanitarian, development, and government actors.
 - **Data Sharing and Harmonization:** Protocols for information exchange in complex environments.
 - **Fiscal Planning and Financing in FCAS:** Donor reliance, innovative financing, and building sustainable funding.
- **Module 7: Political Economy and Risk Management in FCAS**
 - **Political Economy of Social Protection in Conflict:** Power dynamics, elite interests, and the potential for manipulation.
 - **Managing Political Risks:** Navigating access constraints, bureaucratic hurdles, and corruption.
 - **Security Risk Management:** Ensuring safety of staff and beneficiaries during program implementation.
 - **Building Legitimacy and Trust:** The role of social protection in strengthening state-society relations.
 - **Long-Term Vision:** Transitioning from humanitarian response to recovery and sustainable social protection systems.
- **Module 8: Case Studies and Practical Adaptation Strategies**
 - **Comparative FCAS Experiences:** Analyzing social protection interventions in different conflict contexts (e.g., Somalia, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Yemen, Syria).
 - **Lessons from Resilience Building Programs:** Examining multi-year social protection initiatives in fragile contexts (e.g., Productive Safety Net Programme in Ethiopia).
 - **Simulation Exercise:** Participants work on a scenario-based exercise to design a social protection response in a simulated FCAS environment.
 - **Problem-Solving Clinic:** Addressing specific implementation challenges brought by participants.
 - **Developing an Adaptive Strategy:** Participants outline key considerations for adapting a social protection program to a specific FCAS context.

Training Methodology

- **Interactive Workshops:** Facilitated discussions, group exercises, and problem-solving activities.
- **Case Studies:** Real-world examples to illustrate successful community-based surveillance practices.
- **Role-Playing and Simulations:** Practice engaging communities in surveillance activities.
- **Expert Presentations:** Insights from experienced public health professionals and community leaders.
- **Group Projects:** Collaborative development of community surveillance plans.
- **Action Planning:** Development of personalized action plans for implementing community-based surveillance.
- **Digital Tools and Resources:** Utilization of online platforms for collaboration and learning.
- **Peer-to-Peer Learning:** Sharing experiences and insights on community engagement.
- **Post-Training Support:** Access to online forums, mentorship, and continued learning resources.

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Certification

Upcoming Scheduled Sessions

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19 Oct 2026	23 Oct 2026	Physical	\$1,500
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