

Step 1

WASH staff and relevant partners undertake UNICEF's 'Introduction to risk-informed, conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding programming'



The screenshot shows the UNICEF Agora website interface. At the top, there is a blue header with the UNICEF logo and the text 'for every child'. To the right of the header are 'LOGIN' and 'REGISTER' buttons. Below the header is a navigation menu with the 'AGORA' logo. The main content area features a large image of two children standing in front of a pile of rubble. Below the image is a blue button labeled 'Online Courses' with a download icon and the text 'UNICEF activity'. The course title 'Introduction to risk-informed, conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding programming' is displayed in a large, bold font. Below the title is a short description: 'The course covers theoretical concepts and organizational procedures on risk-informed, conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding programming'. Further down, there are details about the course: Topic, Format, Provider, Language, Compatibility, Location, Competency, and Skills+.

unicef for every child

LOGIN REGISTER

Menu AGORA

Introduction to risk-informed, conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding programming

The course covers theoretical concepts and organizational procedures on risk-informed, conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding programming

Online Courses
UNICEF activity

Topic: Focus areas, Risk-informed Programming, Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation, Social Protection, Emergency Preparedness, Peacebuilding

Format: Online courses

Provider: UNICEF

Language: English

Compatibility: Tablet, Smartphone, Agora Offline

Location: ROSA, CEE_CIS, MENA, Other, ESAR, LACR, EAPR, HQ, WCAR

Competency: Works collaboratively with others, Thinks and acts strategically, Manages ambiguity and complexity, Innovates and embraces change, Drive to achieve results for impact, Builds and maintains partnerships

Skills+: Child Protection, Child Protection in Humanitarian Action Coordination, MHPSS, Violence Against Girls, Boys and Women, Grave Violations in Armed Conflict, Prevention of Harmful Practices, Social Policy, Child Poverty, Social Protection, Humanitarian Cash Transfers, Knowledge Management, Knowledge Management & Organizational Learning, Partnerships, Advocacy, UNICEF Programming and Support, Data, Analytics, Planning and Monitoring, Strategy, Country Programme Planning, Monitoring, Social and Behavior Change

The course covers theoretical concepts and organizational procedures on risk-informed, conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding programming and **includes a WASH-specific section** with relevant frameworks, tools, resources and case studies.

This guidance has been developed as a compatible and supportive learning resource for the course. At the end of the course staff and partners should be able to:

- Explain what risk-informed programming is and how the new global landscape is making risk-informed, conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding programming essential to all of UNICEF's work;
- Use new tools to conduct a basic child-sensitive risk analysis;
- Understand fundamental concepts related to conflict and peace and be able to conduct a basic child rights-based conflict analysis;
- Access the tools they need to design, adapt and implement risk-informed programmes that foster resilience, peace and social cohesion;
- Ensure risk-informed programmes that foster resilience, peace and social cohesion are part of integrated programming and programming in specific thematic areas;
- Identify and guard against potential negative unintended consequences of the programme – ensuring that UNICEF programmes 'do no harm'; and
- Begin to monitor risks, conflict sensitivity, risk-informed and peacebuilding programmes.

WASH staff and relevant partners undertake UNICEF's 'Introduction to risk-informed, conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding programming' [online course](https://agora.unicef.org/course/info.php?id=24589), which is **open to both staff and partners**.³ Managers encourage the application of the knowledge and skills gained by staff so they gain confidence to integrate conflict-sensitive approaches to their everyday work.

³ <https://agora.unicef.org/course/info.php?id=24589>

In country offices with a high risk of WASH-related conflicts it would be advisable for all WASH staff to take the course to ensure they all have the understanding and competence to integrate conflict sensitivity at a minimum. This will also give staff the necessary skills, knowledge and confidence to identify and leverage opportunities to build/sustain peace through WASH - *see 'Capacity Development Tool 2 – Conflict sensitivity competencies' for an overview of the minimum required and basic competencies.*

If more tailored and in-depth training is deemed necessary, UNICEF Programme Division's **Conflict Prevention, Fragility, and Peacebuilding Team (CPFP)** can be called on to support. Trainings are tailored and delivered by the CPFP team to requesting country offices. For example, in 2021, the CPFP team held regional WASH Peacebuilding Premier Workshops in three UNICEF regional offices (i.e. West and Central Africa, Middle East and North Africa; and East Asia and Pacific). Jointly with focal points identified for the training by COs, the CPFP prepared workshops tailored to the needs in the field. The workshops can help country office teams identify the challenges, opportunities and next steps to integrate peacebuilding into WASH programmes by complementing existing programmes and identifying entry points. The workshop will also introduce them to a wide range of peacebuilding resources for future activities in the field. The CPFP team can also provide broader technical support such as: conflict analysis planning, design and implementation; peacebuilding strategy and programme development; strategic peacebuilding advocacy and partnership building; context-relevant tools and guidance development; and M&E, evidence generation and learning. The CPFP team also host a global community of UNICEF staff who are working on or have an interest in issues relating to social cohesion and peacebuilding. By joining this community, WASH staff can obtain regular updates on upcoming events, new research and guidance, and opportunities for learning and exchange with other staff working on these issues across the organization. UNICEF WASH staff can [sign up here](#).

Step 2

Accompany the review and application of this Guidance



Accompany the review and application of this Guidance with support from technical experts in Headquarters (e.g. CPFP team), Regional, and/or country offices as relevant. For example, after completing the above-mentioned training, WASH staff could be mentored to review and test the application of relevant components/tools of this Guidance with technical support and accompaniment as a way to encourage the applicability of skills and knowledge gained.

Identify and implement further capacity development support to WASH for Peace focal points

identify and implement further capacity development support to WASH for Peace focal points among trained and mentored staff (who have undergone steps 1 and 2 above) with a focus on national staff to make use of context knowledge. WASH for Peace Focal Points could support their teams and country offices to systematically integrate these approaches. Such a capacity development process must be gender sensitive and inclusive to ensure relevant and diverse capacities are identified and strengthened. The process should target field-based colleagues who are at the front line of programme delivery and monitoring to ensure they are supported and equipped. Below is an illustrative case study of a comprehensive training undertaken by UNICEF Ethiopia that led to the establishment of a dedicated cohort of resource persons across sections and field offices:

CASE STUDY

UNICEF Ethiopia Country Office trained 63 staff on conflict sensitivity, peacebuilding and social cohesion



Between 22 February and 15 April 2021, including a number of WASH staff. The training was led by the HQ CPFPTeam and delivered remotely, with support in-country from designated facilitators among the staff. The goal of the training was to build the capacity of staff across the country office and its field offices to better understand and integrate the core elements of UNICEF's approach to conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding in their strategies and programmes. A follow-up training was implemented by the same training team between 10 and 12 May 2021 with selected graduates from the initial training to prepare them for their role as Resource Persons and support the work of their Sections and Field Offices integrating conflict-sensitive, peacebuilding and social cohesion approaches. Following the training, Resource Persons were asked to complete a self-assessment survey to identify their levels of confidence in providing support in different areas, and there was very positive feedback:

- 94% reported feeling very confident or extremely confident in presenting UNICEF's conflict-sensitivity, peacebuilding and social cohesion approach to colleagues and partners
- 88% noted that they were very or extremely confident providing basic technical inputs and advice on conflict sensitivity to their section or field office to inform programme development and planning
- 82% reported feeling very or extremely confident facilitating consultations or discussions with their field offices or sections to identify opportunities to integrate peacebuilding approaches
- 81% reported feeling very or extremely confident facilitating a conflict analysis session with implementing partners.

Source: UNICEF CPFPTeam Training Report

Please [see the Capacity Development Tool 1 – Sample WASH Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Focal Points Guide](#), which outlines relevant UNICEF competencies (e.g. analysis, adaptation, change, resilience) as well as suggested tasks and deliverables, to support the integration of conflict sensitivity, as well as peacebuilding and social cohesion approaches as relevant, into the work of WASH teams.



Step 4

Extend the capacity development process to relevant counterparts

Extend the capacity development process to relevant counterparts using the WASH for Peace Partnerships Guide and Toolkit to identify relevant implementing partners (NGOs, consulting firms), sector partners, government counterparts, civil society and communities-based networks and organizations as relevant – including a focus on organizations working with and for youth and women. One strategic entry point could be to identify higher education and/or research institutions that have dedicated programmes or capacity in WASH and conflict/peace and to seek partnerships to develop sector capacity more broadly. The case study below illustrates such a partnership between UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office and the German Jordanian University in Amman:

CASE STUDY

UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office supports the delivery of a Humanitarian Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Masters Programme at the German Jordanian University (GJU) in Amman



The German Jordanian University, Action Against Hunger, and Bioforce, in partnership with UNICEF and the Global WASH Cluster, and with the support of USAID's Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance, launched a humanitarian WASH Masters Degree programme in February 2021. The aim of this Masters is to build capacities of local WASH specialists and help them provide the necessary human capital needed to deal with the region's response to humanitarian crises, while increasing the interest of future potential specialists to enter the field. The one and a half year academic programme entails two semesters of theoretical education at GJU, a semester of practical internship in a humanitarian organization, and a final semester to complete the Masters thesis. The programme enables students to gain knowledge and experience to plan, deliver and assess risk-informed WASH programmes in humanitarian and transition contexts and to integrate issues such as gender, accountability to affected populations, protection, and inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups. A distinct focus of the programme of study is on developing and engaging national and local capacities in programming through the integration of a localization and sustainability lens, and on applying a humanitarian-development nexus approach to respond to complex and protracted crises. All Masters students have to complete a 15-week internship with a partner organization in the region. For more information see <http://www.gju.edu.jo/content/humanitarian-water-sanitation-and-hygiene-wash-12063>



A key entry point to develop sector capacity are the WASH Cluster Coordinators (WCCs) and their role to develop Cluster Partners' capacity. Using this Guidance as a resource and encouraging partners to take UNICEF's online course could build foundational and complementary capacities. The growing interest among humanitarian and development donors in supporting triple nexus approaches underlines the need to strengthen UNICEF and partners' collective capacity to deliver. The WCCs have a crucial role to play to support WASH partners and encourage humanitarian donors to invest in capacity development as illustrated by the case study:

CASE STUDY

The South Sudan WASH Cluster and the Conflict Sensitivity Resource Facility (CSRF) have collaborated to support the integration of conflict sensitive approaches to the WASH humanitarian response.



Through a small task force including the CSRF and a few cluster partners, the cluster developed two conflict sensitivity check lists, to conduct a WASH-focused analysis and to ensure that conflict sensitivity is considered in project design. In addition, the cluster developed a specific set of key messages related to conflict sensitivity for its advocacy strategy, targeting all WASH stakeholders, including authorities, NGOs and donors. This was followed by a conflict sensitivity orientation course co-delivered by the CSRF and the WCC targeting 38 partners, 30 national and 8 international organisations. Participants' evaluation captured an overall increase in conflict sensitivity knowledge, and highlighted the practical application of context and interaction analysis to understand the impact of WASH programming on conflict as a particularly valuable aspect of the training. Some reflections from the participants on what they will do differently after the session included: "Integrate conflict analysis into my work, by having a better understanding of the context through context analysis"; "Plan and strategically conduct a better CS analysis and incorporate in the project design"; "Integrating CS into WASH proposals". Participants also noted the centrality of gender sensitivity to underpin conflict sensitivity. Future learning around how the new check lists are being used by Cluster members will help to inform members' next steps in using the findings to design and implement more conflict-sensitive programmes.



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The UN Peacebuilding Fund can be used for capacity development interventions that contribute to peacebuilding through the strengthening of participating communities' relevant capacities. In Sudan, the country office supported the establishment and peacebuilding conflict management training of WASH committees as illustrated in the case study below.

Developing peacebuilding capacities of WASH Committees in South Darfur



UNICEF Sudan implemented a joint programme with UNDP, UNHCR and UN HABITAT in Gereida locality of South Darfur. The 'Transition to Sustainable Peace in South Darfur – Sudan' programme was funded by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) to support the transitional government in strengthening peace at community level. This is part of supporting the implementation of the wider national peace process based on the Juba agreement. Lack of, and poor access to, basic social services including WASH services, especially water, are among other manifestations of inequality as well as root causes of conflict between different communities in Darfur. UNICEF's approach to peacebuilding in this programme was mainly to address the root causes of conflict by enhancing inclusive access, management, and delivery of basic services such as water, and improve accountability of service providers to beneficiaries. It aimed also at building local capacities to prevent and resolve tensions or conflicts over water. The water facilities/services provided an entry point to bring communities together to manage essential common goods, and promote a culture of peace and peaceful coexistence. UNICEF and the UN partners, with the support of the PBF Secretariat, organized a three-day basic training in concepts and tools of peacebuilding and conflict analysis to the benefit of all IPs of the programme. A WASH-specific adapted training programme was developed by UNICEF and delivered to strengthen the IP field staff (frontline) capacity, who in their turn delivered training to WASH committees. UNICEF held shorter follow-up training sessions focused on issues identified during field-based monitoring visits, an important action to maintain peacebuilding and conflict sensitivity at the core of the WASH activities. The IP's WASH staff showed and indicated that their level of knowledge, skills and confidence to train and discuss peacebuilding with community members (including WASH committees), and ability to apply a conflict-sensitivity lens was increased. At the end of the programme, a total of eight WASH committees (members include users, government officials, local administration) were established (23% women, 16% young women and 33% young men), and trained on peacebuilding tailored to recurrent conflicts in their context. At the end of the project, they registered and resolved 100% of 13 water-related disputes brought to the committees.

Step 5

Identify priority actions/entry points to integrate WASH for Peace approaches

Identify priority actions/entry points to integrate WASH for Peace approaches. Use the Guidance to accompany a process of translating capacity into conflict-sensitive/peacebuilding WASH programme design and adaptation, as relevant, and capitalize on the capacity development gains. In the same way that conflict-sensitive/peacebuilding approaches cannot be effectively integrated without capacity, so capacity will be wasted if not applied! A virtuous cycle of training, accompaniment, programme integration/adaptation, measurement of results, and sustained capacity must be promoted.

