



CHILD
PROTECTION
EXECUTIVE
EDUCATION
COURSE: 2019



HARVARD F X B
CENTER FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS

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BACKGROUND

The Child Protection Executive Education Course (CPEEC) offered by the Harvard FXB Center for Health and Human Rights is designed for mid-career professionals who are engaged in the protection of and response to children vulnerable to abuse, violence exploitation and neglect, whether working for an international organization, a local NGO, or a government agency. While the conditions facing children may vary—from displacement to labor, from abuse and neglect to early marriage—the integrated response needed for children’s protection, safety and supportive relationships remains constant. All children, including those facing violence, conflict, disruption and incarceration, have a right to health, education, justice and protection. A holistic response to the needs of children and families requires an integrated and multi-sectoral approach in which different state and civil-society partners act together in a seamless system of support. Developing and sustaining that system calls for interdisciplinary thinking, a deep understanding of child protection issues, together with effective leadership and negotiation skills.

GOALS

The Harvard Child Protection Executive Education Course (CPEEC) is designed to offer participants the opportunity to increase their capacity in the aforementioned dimensions of the child protection profession. Taught by Harvard faculty and child protection sector leaders, the specific goals of the course are to:

- Ensure that participants understand the impact of violence, exploitation and abuse on children’s emotional, intellectual and social development, including the traumatic effect of war and natural disasters.
- Familiarize participants with multidisciplinary approaches and analytical frameworks available to prevent and address child-specific harms.
- Ensure participants know the components of a well-functioning child protection system.
- Familiarize participants with sources of data for child protection systems, including the challenges of setting up such systems, the skills required for evidence-based advocacy, and options for digital solutions for ethical case management within child protection.

- Teach participants coalition-building and leadership skills needed to achieve policy and legislative reforms for children through different entry points of the child protection system (education, health, social services, justice).
- Harness the new knowledge and skills gained by participation in the CPEEC, to generate a set of options that strengthen the child protection system in each participating team’s country and improve the quality of their national child protection plans of action.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

All mid-career professionals working in an area where child protection is critical, and who are serious about developing multi-sectoral leadership skills that will allow them to have greater impact, are welcome to apply. This program is intended to strengthen national capacity and sustainability and therefore, **applications must be submitted as a cross-sectoral country team**, with three (3) members per team. The preferred composition of the country team is one (1) government partner, one (1) international organization partner and one (1) local NGO partner. No applications from individuals will be considered for admission to the course.

Fluency in written and spoken English is required for participation. All applications will be considered and reviewed by the Harvard FXB Center for Health & Human Rights Child Protection Executive Education team. Admitted teams will be notified well in advance of the start of the program.

CURRICULUM

The course is thematically divided across the week. Examples of course session content have included:

- Leveraging Science to Protect the Developing Brain from Violence, Abuse and Neglect
- Creating Networks of Capacity to Support Children and Families
- Dancing with Data: How to Use Data and How Not to Use Data to Strengthen Child Protection Systems
- Make the Numbers Count: Using Data and Evidence for Stronger Child Protection Advocacy

- Ethical, Rights-Based Design and Delivery of Digitally-Enabled Child Protection Case Management Services
- Building the Right Community of Agents
- Leadership in the Multipolar Child Protection System

One of the key benefits of the Child Protection Executive Education Course is that country teams work to develop practical, tangible and immediately implementable solutions towards a real-life issue they are grappling with. Prior to attending the course, country teams work collaboratively on a case study presentation outlining a child protection problem they are confronting, gaps that exist for effectively addressing the problem and their current strategic approach and challenges implementing this approach to date.

Past case studies have focused on specific priority child protection issues (e.g. child marriage, alternative care or violence) as well as persistent challenges in the capacity and responsiveness of national child protection systems as a whole, where weaknesses impact all protection issues children face (i.e. inadequate legal frameworks, insufficient social service workforces, or a lack of reliable administrative data on child protection).

Throughout this week-long course at Harvard, participants use the new teaching and learning to refine their approach, ultimately presenting a revised set of options to a panel of Harvard faculty and sector leaders on the last day of class. Individualized feedback and suggestions to further strengthen the approach are provided.

FEEDBACK FROM PRIOR PARTICIPANTS

96%

expect their job performance to improve as a result of attending the Harvard FXB Center Child Protection Executive Education Course.

96%

rated the course as either **“very good”** or **“excellent”**.

98%

said the course either met or **exceeded their expectations**.

“ The concept of leadership has been clarified. We have always romanticized the idea of leaders and them driving change, forgetting our own capacity in exercising leadership and the contribution/solutions we as individuals in a team bring towards social and behavior change. ”

“ Starting from the first day of the course we [began] discussing *very difficult* issues with my colleague that we have never discussed before. ”

“ It will definitely enhance my contribution to the Child Protection system as a whole. I now have the evidence and literature that will support my approach in scaling up interventions and the importance of building capability and ownership to drive change. ”



COURSE LOGISTICS

Space in the program is limited to no more than thirty (30) participants (ten (10) country teams of three (3) per course) in order to ensure maximum time for student and faculty interaction and personalized feedback.

The week-long CPEEC is held in-house on the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health campus in Boston, Massachusetts and taught by Harvard faculty and expert child protection professionals. The course runs from Monday midday until Friday midday.

Please email Elizabeth Gibbons, the Child Protection Program Director, at egibbons@hsph.harvard.edu to submit your organization/team's application.

Participants and are responsible for securing their required visa and other travel documentation.

SESSION DATES:

June 24-28, 2019

APPLICATION DEADLINE

(to secure a place for your team):

January 15, 2019

PROGRAM TUITION*:

US \$14,250 per country team of three (3)
(50% deposit due by February 15, 2019)

** Tuition includes daily breakfast and lunch as well as a welcome-dinner reception. Travel and accommodations are the responsibility of the participating teams.*



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