

Abed's professional journey through the Education in Emergencies Certificate of Advanced Studies (EiE CAS) programme

How the EiE CAS strengthens technical
expertise, boosts professional confidence
and opens up opportunities



Education in Emergencies: a lifesaving intervention

Education in Emergencies (EiE) provides a safe space during times of crisis, and plays a significant role in child protection, contributing to individual and community resilience.

Save the Children and UNICEF, as co-leads of the Global Education Cluster, work towards a predictable, equitable and well-coordinated response addressing education concerns of crisis affected populations. Together they work to reinforce capacities of Cluster staff and partners, providing timely remote and direct field support, strengthening robust assessment, analysis and advocacy.



Image: Save the Children

Meet Abed: Save the Children Education Specialist

The Education in Emergencies Certificate of Advanced Studies (EiE CAS) programme has had a transformative impact on Abed - an Education Specialist based in Gaziantep, Türkiye working with Save the Children's Syria Response Office.

Through his role, Abed drives educational initiatives for children affected by crises, providing technical and operational supervision for regional EiE programming.

On a day-to-day basis, Abed oversees EiE programming, manages budgets, coordinates with the Education Cluster, and collaborates with local actors.



A lifelong passion for education


Originally from Syria, Abed started his career as a teacher.

When conflict and crises escalated in his home country, Abed's commitment to education was strengthened, leading him to join the humanitarian sector in 2015 as an Education Lead.

This need for Abed's specialist expertise together with his peers was compounded when devastating earthquakes hit Türkiye and Syria in 2023, deepening the existing complex humanitarian needs in the region.



Abed (pictured front row, second from right) co-facilitating the EiE Fundamentals Arabic training in Gaziantep, Türkiye in July 2023. This training targeted the Northwest Syria Education Cluster responding to education needs, including after the earthquakes of February 2023.



I believe that education is a key driver for success and prosperity. During emergencies, education not only provides children with knowledge, but also it provides them protection and stability. It equips them with the skills and knowledge to help them to rebuild their lives and rebuild their communities that have been affected, contributing to long-term recovery.

- Abed



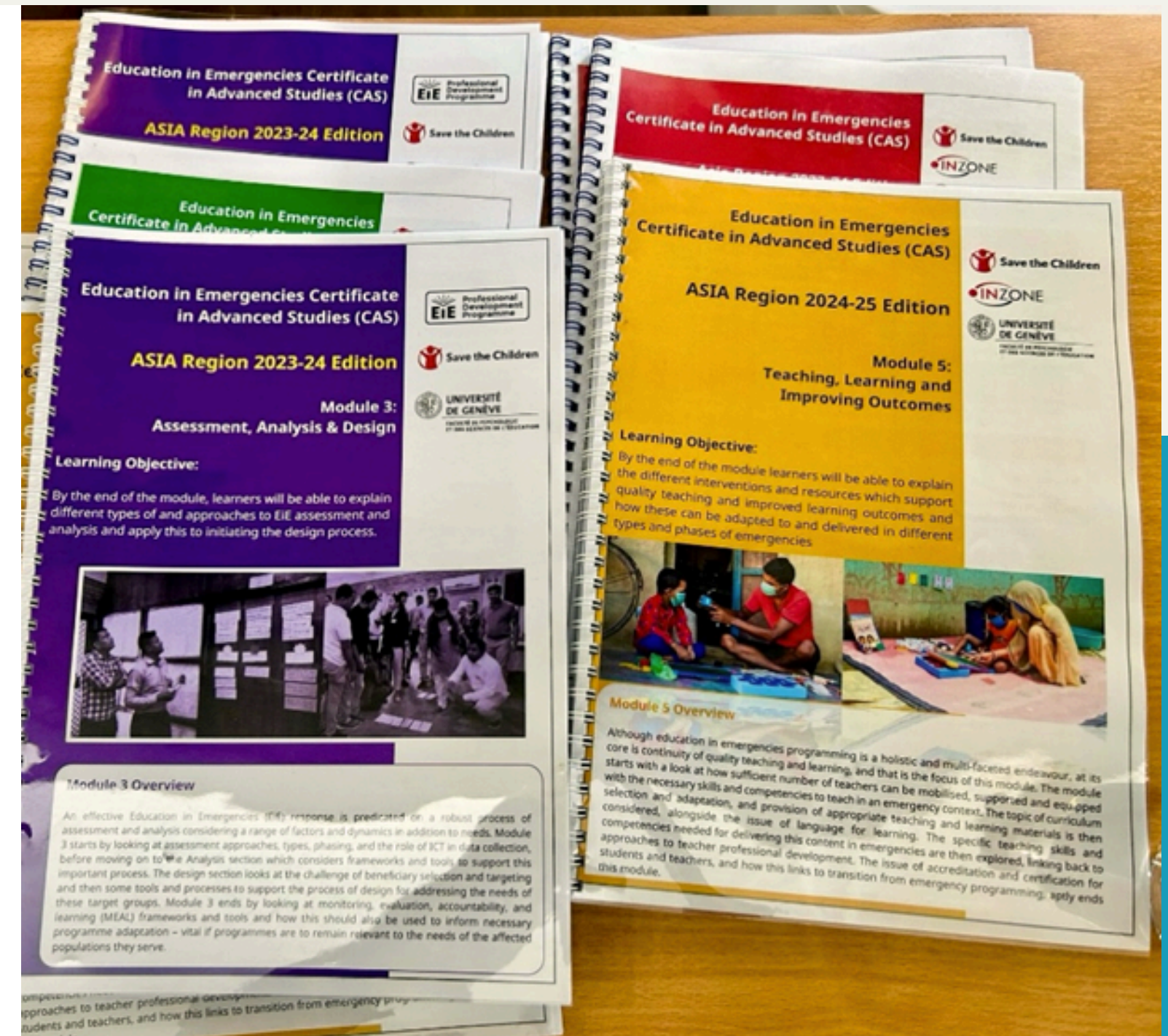
Image: Save the Children

About the EiE CAS programme: strengthening capacity in the humanitarian sector

The EiE CAS programme aims to equip mid-level and senior practitioners with skills to design, implement, and lead high quality EiE initiatives.

Funded by the People's Postcode Lottery Education Trust, the EiE CAS programme is highly subsidised and scholarships are offered by a range of donors to support diversity and inclusion.

The EiE CAS is designed to enhance participants' skills in designing, implementing, and leading EiE initiatives, while also preparing them to share this expertise within their communities.





Inter-agency Network for
Education in Emergencies

The EiE CAS is specifically designed to develop the Level 2 and 3 Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) competencies.

Learning consists of self-directed study, guided learning, skill-sharing assignments, as well as an in-person residential featuring an immersive simulation which includes a Transformation of Training (ToT) component.

The ToT workshop equips participants with the skills to deliver EiE training in their own contexts as part of the final module of the course.

Graduates, including Abed, have reported significant professional growth, improved career prospects, and a stronger ability to support education in emergencies effectively.

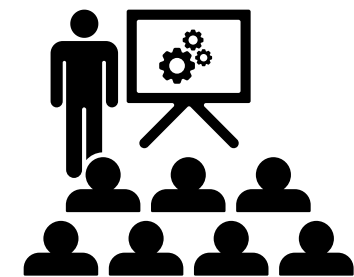
Since 2018, 313 students have graduated from the EiE CAS, and have trained an additional 1,849 learners through their final skills sharing assignment.

In 2024, **124** students from around the world are enrolled on the programme:

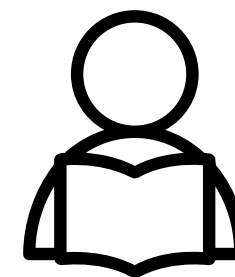
- **94** students enrolled as part of the 2023/24 global cohort through the HLA's Regional Centres in East and Southern Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe, and Asia.
- **30** students enrolled on the 2024/25 cycle in the French-speaking West and Central Africa region.



313
*EiE CAS graduates
since 2018*



1,849
*learners trained
through skills sharing
assignment*



124
*students enrolled on
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Spotlight on Abed's journey through the EiE CAS programme: from learner to technical facilitator

Abed enrolled as a learner on the EiE CAS programme in 2022 through the HLA's Middle East, North Africa and Eastern Europe (MENAEE) Regional Centre, aiming to strengthen his expertise as an Education Specialist.

Reflecting on the highlights of the experience, Abed shares: "The CAS enabled me to connect with participants from various countries and backgrounds. Their stories enriched my understanding and expertise, equipping me to better serve children in crisis-affected areas.

The programme also provided me with a robust framework for designing and planning EiE response in a holistic way, while emphasising the need to be adaptive. This continues to shape my thinking and approach to my daily work as an Education Specialist."



The CAS enabled me to be more professional in my own career. It's given me all the factors to be the kind of professional who has their own inner vision when looking at education programming. It also managed to help me to build great connections and communication skills - and be also able to understand the needs and capacities of the participants and contribute to their own needs and own experiences.



The CAS experience reinforced Abed's passion for education and motivated him to pursue further qualifications, including a second CAS programme.

By completing these two CAS programmes, Abed was eligible to apply for a master's degree. He is now in the final stages of a master's in International Education and Research with the University of Geneva, which is expected for completion in early 2025.

Abed's aspirations don't end here: his next goal is to pursue a PhD, driven by his continued enthusiasm for learning and dedication to education both personally and professionally.



The students of the Master in Advanced Studies are professionals. They navigate between the load of a busy daily professional life and demanding studies, and Abed navigates excellently between these two worlds. His master's thesis reflects his commitment to EiE and it is a pleasure to supervise it. In addition to allowing him to validate his diploma, this thesis participates in the progress of research on teachers in crisis zones.



Abed's progress illustrates the EiE CAS programme's potential to create long-lasting impacts on its participants, equipping them with essential skills and a connection into a vital professional network.

The CAS programme not only helped Abed become a more skilled and confident practitioner but also enabled him to train, guide and mentor others, strengthening capacity in the sector.



**Scan to watch
the interview
with Abed**



VIDEO | Tap the thumbnail or scan the QR code to hear Abed reflect on his EiE CAS experience, and his progression from programme learner to technical facilitator for the EiE CAS Asia Residential in Bangkok in October 2024.

In line with the programme's regionalisation, localisation and sustainability strategy, EiE CAS graduates are asked to contribute to the future development of the programme.

For Abed, thanks to his experience on two CAS programmes coupled with his professional experience and technical expertise, he was invited to co-facilitate regional EiE Fundamentals training in 2023, and then in 2024 to join the ranks as a Technical Facilitator for the EiE CAS Asia residential in Bangkok, cascading his knowledge and sharing his expertise.



It was a great opportunity for me to be part of this programme. I started as a student and then after a couple of years I became a facilitator. To be a part of this programme, particularly in Asia, to be involved and engaged with a lot of expertise and meeting with the facilitators who also came with their own support - I've learned a lot.



Abed's journey exemplifies the immediate benefits and long-term impact of the EiE CAS programme.

By enhancing his skills, Abed has positively influenced education programming in crisis-affected communities, strengthened his organisation's capacity, supported others through his role as a leader and colleague, and paved the way for his own further academic study and continued professional development.

Education for me is a passion, it's not only a career. I've invested years working as a teacher, as an education expert. But this is a non-stop journey for me. I feel like I still have a thirst and enthusiasm to learn and deepen my knowledge, and to contribute to my career as well.





EiE CAS Asia residential training in Bangkok, October 2024



**Humanitarian
Leadership
Academy**

About the Humanitarian Leadership Academy

We are the Humanitarian Leadership Academy. We strengthen people's skills and capabilities through learning, working with people in the humanitarian sector and beyond to prepare for and respond to crises.

We help organisations in the humanitarian sector and beyond to amplify their reach, share their knowledge and build their networks. Our combined impact – collectively developing people's skills to respond to crises – is infinitely stronger through working together.

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Project: Education in Emergencies Certificate of Advanced Studies, People's Postcode Lottery Education Trust | **Topics:** Education, capacity strengthening | **Interviewer & case study author:** Ka Man Parkinson, Communications & Marketing Advisor, HLA | **Location:** Bangkok, Thailand, October 2024