

# Women-Led Community Centers



## Context of Operation

In August 2017, an unprecedented outbreak of violence drove hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees to Cox's Bazar. In the already impoverished district of Bangladesh, cramped settlements began to spread over the once green landscape, limiting the availability of natural resources and livelihood opportunities.

Equally vulnerable is the host community, with food insecurity at crisis levels and poverty well above the national average.

Women and adolescent girls are doubly disadvantaged, having to bear the brunt of food insecurity at the household level. Moreover, natural disasters such as cyclones and landslides are a common threat, exacerbating an already precarious situation for vulnerable families.





In areas surrounding the camps, where the ripple effect of the refugee influx was significant, it is vital to take steps to improve social cohesion amongst the host and Rohingya population.

## WFP-UNFPA Partnership

Women-Led Community Centre Project | February 2019

*The project is implemented through Gana Unnayan Kendra/GUK.*

## Key Facts and numbers

-  **2000 families** enrolled, with vulnerable women and adolescent girls as primary participants, targeted through consultations & vulnerability criteria
-  Additional **4000 men/boys** from the households, community, religious leaders to be sensitized for GBV prevention
-  **8** women-led community centres in **Camps** and **2** in **host communities**
-  **40** women's self-help groups
-  **12USD (1000BDT)** monthly, conditional to attendance., to meet immediate needs
-  **Tailored vocational/technical training and life skills** (basic literacy and knowledge sessions).
-  **Linkages** (service, market), GBV prevention

## Enhancing Resilience

To address these challenges, UNFPA and WFP aim to enhance women's and adolescent girls' capacity and self-resilience in both the refugee camps and the host community, by strengthening their skills and knowledge in the Women-Led Community Centres (WLCC).

The six months integrated package aims to improve the lives of the participants while ensuring harmony within the household by engaging male members and community.

The WLCC project brings together WFP's demonstrated expertise in implementing livelihoods project and UNFPA's proven competence in Gender Based Violence (GBV) programming.

It will contribute towards effective mitigation measures against GBV. Through increased opportunities for women to build their independence and resilience, they would have added control over resources at the household level.

This in effect would have an impact on women's socio-economic empowerment, by enhancing skills, knowledge and access to cash.