

Women Led Community Centers Factsheet





Women-led community centres (WLCCs) are a new and important part of UNFPAs gender component, created to contribute to advancing gender equality inside the refugee community, and to support women’s and girl’s empowerment and reproductive rights, connecting them with existing services available in Women Friendly Services.

The WLCCs are designed to include the most vulnerable and marginalized women and young girls. And are managed by women from the community.

How do they compare to Women Friendly Spaces (WFS)

Where the existing **twenty Women Friendly Spaces** (having already reached over 135,000 women and girls) exclusively welcome women and girls – offer safe spaces for networking, recreation and integrated lifesaving services - the ten WLCCs invite men and young boys to join and participate, in addition to offering Skills Development Programmes for women and girls.

The communities are invited to utilize the space as they wish, and to populate the space with their own community activities, such as significant family related celebrations and other cultural activities.

Skills Development

UNFPA and implementing partner GUK aim to improve the lives of beneficiaries in a dignified manner and to improve social cohesion by enrolling both Bangladeshi host communities and Rohingya refugees.

Ten WLCCs in ten different camp and host locations offer 4-month training programs to a total of **2000 girls and women** from the Rohingya and host communities with a focus on subjects such as tailoring and gardening.

Boys and men

The WLCCs are open to both genders, a space for cultural ceremony and other important events, where they may improve their life skills, learn about UNFPA and partner support services, and enhance their possibilities and access to information. UNFPA recognizes that for safe and secure facilities and environments for women and young girls to grow and develop, it is vital to include men and boys.

With its partners, UNFPA are targeting 4000 men and boys to make use of the new facilities, and enroll in activities such as art production and sports, also giving the men and boys access to psycho-social support for victims of violence and trauma.

The WLCCs invite boys and men to become community mobilisers, to help engaging the local community in Gender Based Violence prevention programs to support the creation of a sense of community, and Life skill programs aimed at teaching boys how to deal with emotions, and improve their knowledge of personal hygiene, and sexual and reproductive health changes during adolescence.

Partners

UNFPA aims to involve partners whenever possible, to offer benefits of synergy and resource sharing. WFP is an important partner in the creation of the WLCCs, providing technical support in the Skills Development Program.

UNFPA further partners with local NGOs, made up of both host community and Rohingya, contributing to local capacity development and inclusion of influential stakeholders from the local communities.

Currently donor support has been gratefully received from Denmark, Korea and ECHO. UNFPA wishes to invite more partners to scale up the WLCC program.