

Women-Friendly Space (WFS)

Description

The Women-Friendly Space (WFS) is a facility/structure that will be established in the evacuation camps or relocation sites during crisis situations such as natural or manmade disasters. The WFS is envisaged as a safe venue to gain knowledge of and access to a myriad of services that a variety of humanitarian actors may provide such as

- Psychosocial support interventions and counselling;
- Medical and reproductive health services including breastfeeding counselling;
- Cash for work/food for work programs, emergency employment and sustainable livelihood opportunities;
- Awareness sessions and life skills training relative to women's empowerment and gender equality;
- Safe and confidential multi-sectoral services (medical, psychosocial, security, legal) for gender-based violence (GBV) survivors through a referral mechanism in line with survivor-centered approach; and
- Recreational activities (particularly catered to females) and information about other humanitarian aid.



List of standards for managing and operating WFS

Activity Flow or Institutional Arrangement	Responsible Party
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with PSWDO, MSWDO, local women organizations, Shelter and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) clusters for identification of appropriate space/location for women-friendly space (example: close to toilet facilities, safety considerations) 	Gender-based Violence (GBV) sub-cluster chair/co-chair (DSWD and UNFPA)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a community/Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) women's committees for day- to-day operations of WFS (scheduling of activities, information sharing to affected population about activities, coordination with local authorities as well as advocacy on key needs for women and girls in the affected community to other clusters and humanitarian actors) 	Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO)/ Camp Manager/local women organizations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate and partner with camp managers and local women organization who will oversee, maintain operationalization and coordinate with partner agencies for the schedule of activities 	Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office /MSWDO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify specific operational standards (examples: no smoking or drinking in the premises, WFS not be used as stockroom for relief goods, maintenance of log books, safety guidelines etc) 	Identified community/Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) women's committees

Activity Flow or Institutional Arrangement	Responsible Party
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orient and capacitate WFS facilitators on gender sensitivity and how to manage WFS • Provide funding support and advocate for the utilization of WFS by other service providers and humanitarian actors 	GBV sub-cluster (DSWD and UNFPA)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure availability of at least a minimum set of interventions (psychosocial services, information sessions, breastfeeding counselling, information on referral mechanism) 	Functional referral pathway (P/MSWDO, Provincial/Municipal Health Office, Philippine National Police – Women & Children Protection Desks, Legal)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with partner agencies and Organize age-appropriate activities (particularly for adolescent girls) which is based on perceived and identified needs of women and girls 	Local Women Organizations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equip each WFS with the following materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tarpaulins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ WFS logo ▪ GBV Referral Pathway with contact details ▪ GBV prevention & response key messages ▪ Anti-GBV related laws ○ Curtains ○ Plastic chairs ○ Plastic table ○ Floor mat ○ White board ○ White board markers ○ Eraser ○ Supplies (bond paper, ball pens, pencils, crayons) ○ Supplies for 0-3 year old (dependents of women) 	



Commission on Human Rights Region 10 conducting an awareness session on RA 9262 in a Women-Friendly Space in Calaanan 1, Cagayan de Oro City