Gender-Based Violence Working Group

LEBANON

GUIDANCE NOTE

WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACES

MINIMUM STANDARD

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AAP: Accountability to Affected Populations

BCC: Behavioural Communication Change

CFS: Child-Friendly Spaces

GBV: Gender Based Violence

GBV WG: Gender Based Violence Working Group

IASC: Inter Agency Standing Committee

IEC: Information, Education and Communication

MHPSS: Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

OSC: One Stop Center

PFA: Psychological First Aid

PSEA: Prevention from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation

PSS: Psychosocial Support

SMS: Site Management Support

UNFPA: United Nations Population Fund

UNHCR: United Nations Agency for Refugees

UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund

WASH: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

WGSS: Women and Girls Safe Space

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1. INTRODUCTION

Gender-based violence (GBV) is one of the gravest human rights violations for women and girls, particularly during humanitarian crises where the risk of violence, exploitation and abuse is heightened. At the same time, national systems, including health and legal systems, and community and social support networks are weak. This breakdown of systems can reduce access to health services, including sexual and reproductive health services and legal services, leading to an environment of impunity in which perpetrators are not held to account. When systems and services are disrupted or destroyed, women and girls face even higher risk of human rights violations such as sexual violence, intimate partner violence, exploitation and abuse, child marriage, denial of resources and harmful traditional practices.[1] Establishing safe spaces for women and girls is a critical part of GBV programming in acute and protracted humanitarian settings enhancing access to life-saving GBV services.

This guidance note aims to provide sectoral definitions and enhance standardization and harmonization of Women and Girls Safe Spaces across GBV actors in Lebanon. It was developed by the GBV WG in Lebanon with inputs by GBV Core Group and key member organizations.

What is a safe space for women and girls? Defining safe spaces in the context of Lebanon

A women's and girls' safe space (WGSS) is an intervention that GBV programme actors in humanitarian programming have employed for decades as an entry point for women and girls to report protection concerns, express their needs, receive services, engage in empowerment activities and connect with the community. According to the Interagency Minimum Standards on GBV in Emergencies Programming, a **WGSS** is "*a structured place where women and girls' physical and emotional safety is respected and where women and girls are supported through processes of empowerment to seek, share, and obtain information, access services, express themselves, enhance psychosocial wellbeing, and more fully realize their rights*."[2] The Minimum Standards for Prevention and Response to Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies Programming also highlights WGSS as one of the sixteen core standards of GBV programming and evidence suggests that the establishment of women- and/or girl-only spaces in emergency response helps to reduce risks and prevent further harm and promotes psychosocial well-being and protection for affected women and girls.[3]

For the purpose of this guidance note, a "safe space" is defined as a women and girls-only space to ensure safety and privacy for all women and girls across the different locations in the country. However, during the piloting period, further consultations would be undertaken with women and girls to assess whether other types of spaces or centers can be considered as a safe space, even if generally accessible by men and boys. The term "safe" in this context, refers to the absence of trauma, excessive stress, violence (or fear of violence), or abuse. WGSS provides a critical space where women and girls can be free from harm and harassment, have access to opportunities to exercise their rights, and promote their safety and decision-making.

1.1 Objective of WGSS

As outlined in the global guidance, the standard objectives of WGSSs are:

- Provide a vital entry point for female survivors of GBV and vulnerable women and girls[4] to safely access information, specialized services, and referrals to health, protection, and other services.
- Serve as a place where women and girls can access information, resources and support to reduce the risk of violence.
- Facilitate women's and girls' access to knowledge, skills and services.
- Support women's and girls' psychosocial well-being, and create social networks to reduce isolation or seclusion, and enhance integration into community life; and
- Generate conditions for women's and girls' empowerment

The term "women and girls" includes women and girls in all their diversities. This includes, for example, older women, women, and girls living with disabilities, transwomen and another socially discriminated group of women and girls. Still, this list is not exhaustive and can include other groups of women and girls with heightened risk of unequally participating and benefiting from the intended services.
This guidance note takes you through standards in the entire cycle of setting up a WGSS, from inception and assessments to running WGSS and implementing and monitoring activities, phase-out, and the sustainability strategy.

1.2 Purpose of the guidance note and target audience

This note aims to provide guidance to GBV actors in Lebanon implementing Women and Girls Safe Spaces on the definition, the aim, activities and services as well as criteria and procedures to establish and run a WGSS. As such the document aligns to global minimum standards contextualized to the context in Lebanon.
The minimum standards outlined in this guidance note applies to all GBV WG partners working to deliver GBV-specialized and non-specialized programming and coordination services across Lebanon as part of the Lebanon response plan. The standards under this guidance note are relevant for all contexts and can be contextualized to meet the diversified needs of women and girls in different governorates.

Certain standards outlined in this guidance note may be prioritized over others at times. Prioritization does not mean that some WGSS Standards are inherently more important than others; rather, it means that strategic focus may be needed for specific WGSS services based on analysis of the context, including the potential for harm or shortfalls in the quality of certain services.

1. IASC (Inter-agency Standing Committee), 2015a. Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action: Reducing risk, promoting resilience and aiding recovery, p.3.
2. Inter-Agency Minimum Standards for GBV in Emergencies Programming
3. ibid
4. Inter-Agency Minimum Standards for GBV in Emergencies Programming

1.3 Guiding Principles: Throughout Establishment and Management of Safe Spaces [5]

The WGSS align and commit to global GBV Standards and Principles, including safety, non-discrimination, respect for the survivor, confidentiality and the survivor-centered approach. The following principles should also guide each phase of establishing and managing a WGSS in Lebanon:

I. Empowerment: Women and girls are included in WGSS planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. GBV WG believes that each woman and girl has the capacity to shape her own life and create and contribute to wider social change.

II. Solidarity: The WGSS provides opportunities to connect with individuals and groups by encouraging sharing, mentoring and cooperation. These supportive relationships enhance self-esteem, foster positive coping mechanisms, and provide social assets crucial to the emotional safety and healing of women, girls, and survivors.

III. Accountability: Women and girls can openly share their experiences and challenges and be assured confidentiality and support. All aspects of the WGSS location, design and programming prioritize the safety and confidentiality of women and girls. Each of these components ensures the integrity of a WGSS as a place where women and girls feel physically and emotionally safe.

IV. Inclusion: All women and girls, regardless of their nationality, gender identity, and social or legal status, are respected and welcomed in a safe space. Staff and volunteers are trained extensively on the principles of inclusion and non-discrimination. Women and girls of different nationalities including those with disabilities, should be included in the design of safe spaces and should be provided opportunities as staff or volunteers, a supported to engage in a range of services and activities delivered in the WGSS, should be engaged actively through tailored outreach strategies to mitigate identified access barriers that hinder their equal participation.

V. Collaboration and Partnership: The WGSS should link women and girls to services through strong referral networks. Partnerships with local civil society, particularly women-led organizations and/or networks, community leaders, men, and boys are central to the WGSS approach and also strategic for sustainability. Partnering with local actors is crucial when establishing Women and Girls' Safe Spaces (WGSS) because it ensures sustainability, cultural relevance, and community trust. It also helps to utilize local knowledge and understand cultural sensitivity, enhance community trust and engagement, efficiently allocate resources, and promote stronger advocacy and influence. Partnerships with local entities should be considered from the assessment phase and implemented while establishing the WGSS. In addition, working closely with partners offering complementary services.

Engaging men and boys in Women and Girls' Safe Spaces (WGSS) will complement the existing support for women and girls. To ensure holistic engagement of women, girls, men, and boys, one or more strategies will be employed. These may include:

(i) Holistic Community involvement – Gain support from local leaders and stakeholders to ensure men and boys understand the importance of WGSS.

(ii) Education and Awareness – Conduct workshops and discussions to challenge harmful gender norms and promote gender equality.

(iii) Positive Role Models – Encourage male allies to advocate for women's rights and gender equality.

(iv) Intersectional Approach – Address power structures and privilege while ensuring accountability to women's movements.

(v) Collaborative Activities – Create opportunities for men and boys to engage in respectful dialogue and support empowerment initiatives

2. SETTING UP A SAFE SPACE [7]

When planning to establish a new WGSS, there are several key considerations for the initial assessment and preparations to ensure that the WGSS is community-informed, context-specific and that the process is led by women and girls from the beginning and all through until the phase-out. These include the following:

2.1 Safety and Security

Women and girls should be consulted to understand the security risks in the community and the types of community support systems that existed for women and girls before the crisis. This part of the assessment will help to determine the need for such a center and/or the type of work and resources it may take to engage the community and ensure buy-in for the initiative. **Consult with women and girls on their preferred area or what type of area they feel safest** in to access and participate as well as on their support systems and protection needs, this also informs the location decision. Ensure you **consult with women and girls, men, and community leaders separately** and use relevant tools to gather the necessary data.

2.2 Location

A WGSS can be located within a health center, hospital, school, community center, or standalone structure. Women and girls should be involved in mapping their community and identifying safe places and their preferred locations. The same can be done with men and boys, not only to understand how the perception of safety varies but also to ensure community buy-in.

Once a preferred area has been determined, discuss and reach a consensus on the location for the WGSS with the governorate, district, or municipality-level administration and other partners. Ensure the voices of women and girls and other marginalized groups are always prioritized when deciding for a safe location.

7. Establishing WGSS Training Manual UNFPA 2017.pdf

While the physical space of a safe space can be organized in different ways, it is important to consider the range of activities planned in the WGSS to inform the location selection. Conduct a rapid service mapping to understand the services available in the area. It is advisable to locate the WGSS near a functioning primary healthcare facility, ideally within a 1km radius, in case referrals for health services are required.
As part of the service mapping and essential services audits, visit the nearest health care facility and find out what services they provide (clinical management of rape, sexual and reproductive health services, child, and maternal care) and if they a have female staff present, plus opening and working hours.
Consider how women and girls will be able to get to and from the WGSS and choose a location with access roads with clear paths. Always ensure there is good lighting leading to the site. If no lighting exists, this is a strong advocacy point to site management and other relevant sectors.

2.3 Construction and Structure [8]

The construction of WGSS should **consider the cultural setting of specific locations and be environmentally friendly**. Ensure the **public cannot see inside the WGSS** through open windows, low walls, or wide doors. Ensure the **front is concealed and private** – consider putting up high walls and a privacy screen on the other side of the entrance so people can see into the space. Ensure the **space is accessible for women and girls with disabilities, including ensuring everything is on one level**.

2.3.1. Outdoor area recommendations

If the space allows, you could erect a tall fence surrounding your safe space so that women and girls have some outdoor space that offers them some outside privacy. This would also allow you to have larger windows, letting in more daylight, in the WGSS structure as the public won't be able to look in due to the fence.

2.3.2. The inside structure recommendations

- **One to two activity rooms** with the capacity to accommodate a minimum of 20 people. These rooms should be able to be closed off with no insight into which separation screen can be used.
- **One or two private rooms** are provided for case management and confidential individual counselling services. Ensure that no one can see or hear from the inside or outside.
- **A separate small room** to serve as a day care area for children accompanying mothers.
- A small, separate space where staff and volunteers can prepare activities, tea/coffee, and be for themselves.
- **In-house clinical management of rape/family planning/First Aid services** is recommended but not essential, so that women or girls needing this don't need to travel externally. It could be staffed either by a roving medical staff member with a scheduled presence or by staffing the safe space with a midwife. This room must be completely confidential and have a discrete entrance. All health-related services, including CMR, should be provided according to Lebanon MoH guidelines and policies.
- Wash rooms: WASH rooms for women and girls participating in Safe spaces and WGSS Staff (optional).

3. WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACE DELIVERY APPROACHES

WGSS are adaptable to best respond to the needs and safety of women and girls across diverse communities and contexts. The choice of approach should ensure the safe space's relevance and effectiveness of the services. WGSS delivery models in Lebanon includes:

I. A Static WGSS: consists of women and girls coming to an easily reached fixed space established in a central location that is open during standard service hours each day. Currently, the static delivery model is the primary model used across Lebanon. It is appropriate and effective in most contexts, including:

- ***Formal or informal settlements*** where the area of coverage for service provision is clearly delineated, the number of affected women and girls residing in the location is generally available, and all are considered in need.
- ***Urban or rural settings*** with a relatively defined coverage area accessible for integrated and multi-sectoral GBV services.

ii. A Mobile WGSS: is a flexible WGSS that can reach women and girls in remote, crisis-affected, or hard-to-access areas. Unlike static WGSS, which are fixed in one location, mobile WGSS operate through outreach teams, mobile units, or temporary setups in different locations to ensure that women and girls can access GBV and protection services, psychosocial support, and other information on available services and referral. These mobile units consist of safe space teams moving to locations where women and girls are displaced, residing or in transit and cannot access a static WGSS. Contexts where mobile WGSS models have been appropriate and effective include: ***Acute displacement contexts***. A mobile team may be deployed as part of a GBV rapid response team. The space in this context is considered temporary, but women and girls should still be consulted in the planning and implementation of the WGSS. ***Protracted displacement contexts*** in hard-to-reach locations, or responses with a geographically dispersed or random displacement pattern.

III. Virtual WGSS Platforms: A digital safe space for women and girls. Online spaces that provide remote support, information, and engagement opportunities for women and girls. UNICEF lead, LAAHA–aims to facilitate access to information and services in a way that is safe, culturally appropriate, and accessible to adolescent girls and women, is one of the virtual spaces implemented in Lebanon. Even though the modality has its own pros and cons, due to challenges related to access to technology, communication, literacy to use the technology, and confidentiality issues, the modality is essential in promoting safe and accessible information for women and girls across Lebanon. The guidance on LAAHA-Virtual Safe Space is available here

8. ANNEX 1. WGSS decision_making guides_Oct 2017 FINAL

4. RUNNING A WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACE

4.1 Staffing

While the staffing structure depends on need and population size, certain basic roles often appear in a WGSS. Factors like competency and level of skill should govern the selection of staff. Always ensure that at least **one facilitator is available per 15-20 participants** in the activities.

Minimum WGSS staff should cover the following areas:

- **Management oversight or supervision of the space (such as WGSS Manager, Supervisor, or Coordinator)**: Provide overall oversight to the WGSS, its individual and group activities, and its staff. They are accountable for ensuring the safety of the space, collecting information and data on GBV and health gaps and services, and sharing this with key stakeholders.
- **Activities taking place in the community (Outreach)**: (done by a WGSS Community worker, social workers, volunteers or trained facilitators or peer educators): The worker works within the WGSS and in the community to ensure women and girls receive necessary services and information and are updated about WGSS activities.
- **Activities taking place inside the WGSS**: This includes GBV Case management and Psychosocial Activities: Conducted by Case workers, social workers/Psychosocial officer (psychologists and/ or psychiatrists
- **Other potential necessary roles**: childcare worker, specialist to cover thematic topics, such as a nurse for maternal health sessions, vocational training, nutrition or WASH, cleaner, and administrative staff.

Hiring female staff should be prioritized, but the induction of some male staff members as outreach workers can be strategically significant when there is a need to engage with camp leadership structures, police, and men and boys of the wider community. When hiring, it is also important to consider who the women and girls trust and who is trusted by the wider community—consult with women and girls on their preferred facilitators.

To ensure that staff/volunteers/incentive workers can safely, effectively, and ethically perform their duties, arrangements should be made for necessary training and capacity building.

A basic training package for WSS staff and volunteers includes the following topics:

- Basics of GBV: GBV guiding principles, case management and survivor-centered support.
- Communication skills, organizing group activities and providing information on services.
- Prevention of sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) training, including staff having signed and been trained on the organization's Code of Conduct.
- Case management
- Psychological First Aid (PFA) training and GBV Pocket Guide.
- Referral Pathways.
- Women's health issues/Sexual health and reproductive.
- Safety audits.
- Basic Information Management (confidentiality, appropriate data collection and storage).
- Basic First Aid training is recommended

4.2 Activities and Services [9]

Interviews and focus group discussions can be organized to understand what kinds of activities that is appropriate in the setting. It is important to gain knowledge about the types of activities that women and girls used to carry out before their displacement or crisis rather than making assumptions about what they usually may have done or liked. All activities, within WGSS and other outreach intervention should be tailored according to the specific needs of women and planned in consultation with them.

It is also important to determine, together with women and girls, what time best suits them, and to organize activities that will help customize the safe spaces for them. One way of doing so is to map their time use and workload. This will provide an indication of when women and girls have time to come to the centre. A general overview of activities that can be provided in a safe space include the following:

A. Support GBV Survivors

The WGSS can serve as an entry point and/or center to provide specialized services for GBV survivors. Depending on the specific services available at the WGSS, survivors may be referred to the following services if they choose: health provider (for medical care and post-rape treatment, if available); a lawyer or legal association (for legal recourse); and police (for safety, livelihood, MHPSS and others

Having a clear referral pathway articulating services specific to the needs of both adult and child survivors can prove extremely beneficial. All WGSS staff should be familiar with the sub-national and community level referral pathway and their respective roles within it. If no referral pathway exists, refer to the GBV WG IMO or Coordinators for guidance and/or information on available services in the area.

9. Women & Girls Safe Spaces: A guidance note based on lessons learned from the Syrian crisis

B. Psychosocial, recreational and Vocational activities

Recreational activities can be led by women from the community, with support and resources by the organization and staff. Activities can include sewing, life skill activities, painting, and drawing, craft-making, theatre, coffee ceremonies etc. and livelihood activities may also be included, but if activities related to economic empowerment are possible, a prior market assessment would be advisable to choose one that is most financially viable, and these activities should be carefully chosen.[10] Professional psychosocial staff can establish age-appropriate support groups that promote intergenerational activities.

C. Information and awareness sessions

Arranging information and awareness-raising sessions with women, girls, men and boys is always helpful. The WGSS can collaborate with other sectors to provide information on a range of issues such as water and sanitation or nutrition, provided the integrity of the center as a space designed for women and girls is not compromised. Different ways can be considered for information-sharing. In fact, it is not always the best strategy to organize formal awareness-raising sessions, but activities can also serve as an entry point for providing information. Topics can include information on available services and how to access them; risk identification and reduction strategies; sexual and reproductive health, women's rights; infant and young child feeding practices; positive coping strategies; life skills; and hygiene promotion.

D. Outreach community mobilization and Prevention

Outreach activities can be arranged, both within and outside the WGSS, which aim to mitigate GBV risks and raise awareness. Organizing such activities is important to emphasize working with women and girls and the community, promote a safer environment, and encourage community ownership of GBV prevention and risk reduction. **Never go out to try to identify survivors** as part of the outreach activities or point out a survivor in public, but share messages on available services and how to access them.

Mitigation activities can include safety audits to assess women and girls' security risks and identify opportunities with other sectors to mitigate those risks. Findings from safety audits should be shared with other relevant sectors, such as Shelter, Site Management Support (SMS), and WASH, and with community leaders/committees so that they can ensure that the location and any programmatic approaches being implemented there in are safe for women and girls. The involvement of women and girls from within the community in conducting safety mapping is strongly recommended. Such an activity can support women and girls in identifying high-risk locations throughout their communities and working together to minimize those risks.[11]

Outreach activities offer opportunities to access women and girls whose movement may be restricted in some way. Building upon existing women's, men's, and youth's groups and support networks within the communities is crucial for enhancing the effectiveness of outreach activities. These initiatives can include home visits and information sessions to inform community members about activities and services. In this context, the outreach teams must be aware of privacy and confidentiality issues and referral pathways.

5. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The WGSS needs to be monitored on a regular basis and a manager or focal point should be assigned for support and follow-up on activities and the quality of services. Consider training several staff on more in-depth monitoring and evaluation and make sure to use client satisfaction surveys and, anonymous complaint/suggestion boxes and other feedback mechanisms (as preferred and in consultation with women, FGD, and face-to-face meetings).[12] In the Lebanon context, with an unpredictable socioeconomic and political landscape, multiple measures should be in place, to ensure that monitoring WGSS is safe and confidential and **Do No Harm** for women and girls.

6. PHASE OUT

Plan the phase-out from the beginning to ensure that the WGSS can be transitioned into community resources and managed by the host government or local women's networks in Lebanon. Engage with women and girls in implementing the phase-out strategy and ensure their participation, as well as ensure enough time for the handover. Consider including a series of support sessions from the onset to ensure sufficient capacity to take over and develop the capacity of the staff of the WGSS and adapt the services accordingly.[13] Mitigating risks during the phase-out of Women and Girls' Safe Spaces (WGSS) requires careful planning and community engagement. Here are some key approaches: (ii) Community Buy-in & Ownership: Ensuring that local communities, especially women and girls, are involved in decision-making and take ownership of WGSS activities. (ii) Gradual Transition: Instead of abrupt closure, a phased approach allows time for alternative support systems to be established. (iii) Capacity Building: Training local organizations and community members to continue providing essential services. iv) Sustainability Planning: Integrating WGSS principles into existing community structures or local NGOs. (v) Monitoring & Evaluation: Establishing follow-up mechanisms to assess the impact of phase-out and address emerging risks. (vi) Alternative Safe Spaces: Identifying other locations or programs that can continue offering protection and empowerment for women and girls. Global GBV AoR WGSS Phase and sustainability guidance is available here.

10. ANNEX 1. WGSS decision_making guides_Oct 2017 FINAL
11. Empower Change Hub: Dedicated to preventing gender based violence
12. IRC-WGSS-Toolkit-Eng.pdf
13. Sustainability Strategies for Women and Girls Safe Space - GBV AoR Helpdesk 2020.pdf

ANNEX I: **GENERAL DO'S AND DONT'S:** A CHECKLIST FOR WGSS [14]

DO	DON'T
Ensure women and girls are involved at each stage of the project cycle, and that they lead the establishment and running of the space	Impose a ready-made model without considering women and girls
Coordinate with the government and other agencies that implement GBV programmes, as well as the GBV coordination mechanism	Ignore linking up the WGSS with other services
Adopt a multi-sectorial approach within the center through a referral system	Isolate the WGSS so that it is only able to provide a certain kind of service or activity
Engage communities, parents, husbands, and community leaders in key decisions	Restrict the scope of the WGSS to being a facility sans community engagement
Make the WGSS accessible and inclusive for women and girls; keep diversity as a key consideration, and include meeting the needs of persons with disabilities	Assume that because the WGSS is open to all, therefore it is accessible and inclusive
Ensure that all staff and volunteers understand and adhere to an appropriate code of conduct	Make the WGSS workers sign a code of conduct, regardless of whether they understand or care about it
Ensure that the timing and nature of activities are compatible with the daily routines of women and girls	Predefine the timing and types of activities without consulting women and girls
Ensure that the location is safe and accessible	Assume that any location will work
Ensure that activities are women-lead	Treat women as beneficiaries
Ensure that all staff is supported and supervised and benefits from continual capacity-building	Rely solely on having a complaints box for feedback
Plan for phase-out in advance, and allow for sufficient time	Halt all activities once funds run out

14. Adapted from: Women and Girls Safe Spaces, Syrian Crisis response in Jordan, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Sub-Working Group, Jordan, August 2014.

ANNEX II: Definition of different types of Safe Spaces for various groups

Although women and girls may find safety and support in other types of spaces, the following are not generally considered WGSS:

One-stop centers: are safe spaces that provide integrated services for survivors of GBV, so they are not required to travel to multiple sites, reducing or avoiding complicated referrals. These spaces can be standalone or attached to a health facility or service points, and provide a range of services including psychosocial, case management and legal aid services under a single floor. A one-stop centre is often available to both male and female survivors.. It can be considered as WGSS if it meets all the principles and standard objectives of WGSS. Where one-stop centres are implemented, additional WGSS are necessary to provide broader protection and empowerment activities to women and girls across the affected community by maintaining complementarity between existing OSCs. See Understanding the Core Functions and Differences between WGSS and OSC.

Safe houses and shelters: Safe houses/shelters are places that provide immediate security, temporary refuge, and support to survivors who are escaping violent or abusive situations. This service is made available to women and girl survivors of GBV who are in imminent danger. Ideally, a safe shelter or house is accredited and staffed by professionals. Admission is contingent on specific criteria and strict standard operating procedures. It is rarely possible for safe houses and shelters to be operated safely within a camp setting due to the need for their location to be confidential. See SOP for VAW shelters in Lebanon

Community Development Centers: In Lebanon, CDCs are safe and open spaces where everyone is welcomed to receive information, ask questions, gain knowledge, learn new skills, and socialize with other members of the community. CDC provide a range of activities including Information on available services through information desks, Awareness sessions on key topics, basic literacy and digital skills sessions, Vocational/skills training, Life-skills sessions, Psychosocial support activities Social, recreational and sports activities, Access to technology related facilities such as internet connection, device charging station, computer room and library.

Child-friendly spaces: Are safe environments designed to support children affected by emergencies, displacement, or crises. These spaces provide a secure, predictable, and stimulating setting where children can play, learn, and express themselves. Provide a range of activities for children, including PSS, Case management, numeracy and literacy, recreational, and referral services. WGSS and child-friendly spaces share common elements, including activities related to adolescent girls. See Guidelines for Child Friendly Spaces.

Protection desks (also called protection integrated centers, community development centers, community centers): Community centers are safe, public places where all community members can meet for social events, recreation, education and livelihood programmes, and other purposes. WGSS should coordinate with community centers for cross-referrals and information- sharing.

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