

WOMEN'S GROUP FOR FORMER REFUGEE WOMEN



ChangeMakers
Resettlement Forum

WHO IS CHANGEMAKERS RESETTLEMENT FORUM?

ChangeMakers Resettlement Forum (CRF) is a non-governmental organisation that works for "New Zealanders from refugee backgrounds participating fully in life in Aotearoa" through **advocate services, research, and community development activities**^[1, 9]. They meaningfully engage with **18+ refugee background communities** in the greater Wellington region, with a **strength-based approach and human rights focus** to improve former refugees' quality of life in Aotearoa New Zealand and to create a strong shared voice .^[3, 9]

MY PROJECT: COORDINATING WOMEN'S GROUPS FOR FORMER REFUGEES

My role was an opportunity for CRF to coordinate women's social groups for former refugees which has been desired in the past^[3].

Coordinating women's social groups consisted of:

- conducting a needs assessment to **analyse potential engagement and what activities should be implemented in the groups' designs.**
- Then **propose multiple designs for women's groups**, based on location and activities that the women have expressed interest in.

THE PROCESS: PART TWO - DEVELOPING A PROJECT PROPOSAL

After the Needs Assessment was conducted, a project proposal for three different women's social groups was developed based on the results. These are:

1. **Walking Group - flexible with location**
2. **Beauty and Makeup Group - based in the Hutt Valley**
3. **Knitting and Sewing Group - based in Wellington City**

I have contacted different organisations to request aid with resources and to partner with them in the operationalisation of specific groups.

The ideas for each group's design are written in a project proposal report. This report has recommendations but should be flexible enough to work for the resettled community and CRF.



The CRF Women's Walking Group

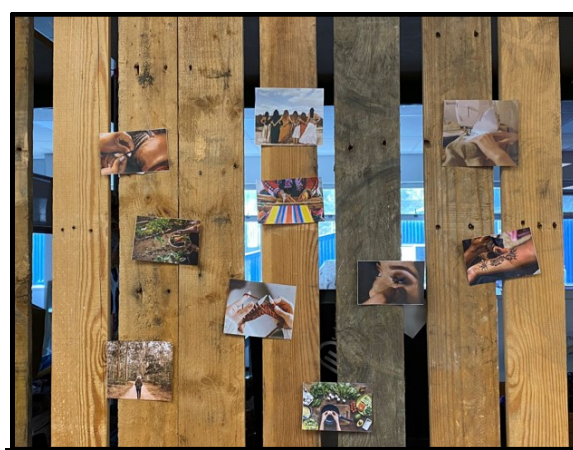
OUTCOMES AND LESSONS

The proposed group designs will be implemented by the women's community development team after my tenure as CRF's intern, informed by my project proposal report. One of the three proposed groups, **the walking group, has already proceeded this year**; the other two groups are

predicted to be in progress in 2024.

Through my tenure at CRF, I have learned about working with an uncertain schedule for the community; teaching me the ability to produce expected outcomes with flexibility. I also learned to have faith and perseverance in the ambiguity of community engagement, having hope that my project will be sustainable in the long run.

THE PROCESS: PART ONE - CONDUCTING A NEEDS ASSESSMENT



Assessment Activity in Community Huis

To investigate the need for the women's social groups, I divided the needs assessment into three parts:

Data Coding:

I collated CRF's previous data and interpreted the results in my report. The data consisted of what activities the women were interested in, which

informed the design of the social groups.

Literature Review:

I reviewed relevant literature that advised and informed...

- How to approach the resettled community in a culturally safe way^[4,5,7].
- Measures to include in the women's group designs. (E.g., the incorporation of childcare to be more inclusive^[4,5,7].)
- The purpose of the women's social group for empowerment, building connections and collective resilience^[4-7].

Community Engagement:

As part of the women's community development team, we organised two Huis. This involved ...

- creating promotional material.
- discussion activities and voting materials.
- Engaging with the community online, through group chat polls.

The results from each step were then interpreted in a comprehensive Needs Assessment Report I composed.

YOU HAVE 2 VOTES

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

OCCASIONAL CLASSES

Designed Voting Papers for Community Huis

[1] "Our vision – ChangeMakers Resettlement Forum," ChangeMakers Resettlement Forum, 2023. <https://crf.org.nz/about-us/our-vision/> (accessed Jul. 24, 2023).
 [2] J. Green, R. Cross, J. Woodwall, and K. Tones, "Chapter 9: Working with Communities," in Health Promotion | Planning & Strategies, SAGE Publications Ltd, 2010.
 [3] J. Wilton, "CRF Intern Induction," Dec. 07, 2023.
 [4] K. Lovelock and P. Meremoana, "Consultations with Refugee immigrants," Allen and Clarke, 2021.
 [5] R. DeSouza, "Doing it for ourselves and our children: Refugee women on their own in New Zealand," 2011.

[6] J. Aimers, "The effect of third way style 'social development' on women in community development," 5th International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, 2010.
 [7] "Hear from us, not about us - Refugee-background and ethnic migrant communities," Community Research. <https://communityresearch.org.nz/collection/immigration-refugee-resettlement/> (accessed Jul. 24, 2023).
 [8] "ChangeMakers Resettlement Forum: Staff Induction," Changemakers Resettlement Forum, Jul. 2023.
 [9] "About us – ChangeMakers Resettlement Forum." <https://crf.org.nz/about-us/> (accessed Jul. 24, 2023).