



THE TRANSFORMATION OF HOSTELS FROM DECAYING TO REHABILITATED PROMINENCE

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This success story recounts how many living quarters within Health Institutions were seemingly beyond repair. Women for Health supported the rehabilitation of these hostels into safe, clean and productive environments for students to stay and study.

Background

W4H's goal is to facilitate improved accreditation status for the Health Training Institutions (HTIs) so more female students are indexed as nursing and midwifery students, as well as CHEWS. At the beginning of the Women for Health (W4H) programme, surveys of the hostels at the Health Training Institutions found that they were in need of rehabilitation and in some case new construction.

Many of the HTIs had been refused accreditation by the Council and Board, due to the dilapidated condition of the male and female hostels. In fact many wondered how students lived in some of the hostels. The accreditation team refused to give any commitments until the hostels had been rehabilitated.

In terms of rehabilitation of the existing structures, the challenges were enormous. Rot had been allowed to reach a peak level where little redemption could be achieved and it was no easy task commencing the transformation agenda. In this case the following challenges were discovered:

- Roof leakages were abundant and had destroyed even the ceilings in 50% of the rooms
- Poor quality doors had given way over time and there was virtually no security and / or privacy in the rooms
- Broken window frames and panes caused due to continuous wind action
- Non-existent floor finish such as carpeting or tiles
- No wardrobes available in the rooms
- Non-existent kitchens
- Broken veranda balustrades that were a danger to the users
- Toilets were unusable
- No running water available in the school itself nor in the living quarters
- Other more minor issues occurring in all aspects of the structures including washed out paintworks

and faulty electrical connections.

The Response

The HTIs had minimal funds for rehabilitation themselves and it was difficult to ascertain a starting point with so much damage as illustrated in the images below. The only solution in question was having an intervention from the State Government, a donor agency, or philanthropists, and this is where W4H facility planning came in.

In the second year of rehabilitating HTIs, Women for Health (W4H) embarked on completing facility rehabilitation and new construction works to transform with the female hostels from their existing dilapidated status and bring them to the expected standards required for accreditation.



The first task was to assess all damages and find a way to tackle the rehabilitation works with students living on campus as there was no way of clearing everyone out of the structures and beginning a holistic approach to the rehabilitation of the facilities. In order to commence the rehabilitation projects, the whole works were divided into three schemes and after tender, contracts were awarded to various companies. The three schemes consisted of:

- Rehabilitation of the main buildings consisting of the rooms, corridors roofing and other building components excluding everything to do with the toilets
- Rehabilitation of the toilets only
- External works made up of the walkways, grassing and flowering of the environment and clean environment

With students on campus and living in the hostels, a method similar to rotating or shifting cultivation was initially adapted. Students were moved into temporary accommodation while their rooms were refurbished with new wardrobes, doors, windows, floor finishing, paintwork, light fittings, fans and other general renovations. As fast as the works were going on, the methodology had to change and students with relatives in town were asked to move out of the campus, whilst those from out of town were given temporary make shift accommodations.



Results

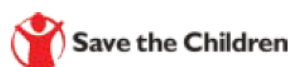
By the end of the rehabilitation works, the transformation was remarkable. The female hostels had become a functional unit within a safe and clean environment. The students felt more respected and were proud to be seen staying at the hostel of the Schools of Nursing and Midwifery. They were provided with functional kitchens and toilets complete with running water and had the capacity to run showers. The students could now walk or run on the corridors without the fear of falling off from the 1st or 2nd floors due to missing balustrades that had long ago rusted and fallen off. The damage that alluded to the rainy season and Hamattan period was no longer visible as their windows, doors and roofing had been completely replaced and or repaired. The newly introduced walkways created a serene environment and circulation pattern within the female hostel buildings, and the student common room was rehabilitated and strictly reserved until they are properly furnished as intended by W4H.

One the main reasons for rehabilitating the hostels was to enable an encouraging atmosphere, allowing students to live comfortably, and give their best performance for all their study activities. As students, they can be free of all encumbrances so that they can concentrate on their studies. The newly refurbished hostels will also encourage future students to attend the course, paving the way for future generations of female health workers.

Health Partners
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