

Appendix 3.

Excreta Disposal Guidelines

These are very brief guidelines developed by the watsan cluster taskforce on what is best practice when constructing latrines for official and spontaneous camps in Pakistan following the 2005 earthquake.

Box A3.1.

Guidelines for best practice

COVERAGE

Sphere indicator: Maximum of 20 people per latrine. (In initial phase aim for 50 p/p/latrine). Separate toilets need to be provided for men and women in the ratio 1:3. Ensure disabled toilets where required for specific users, or occasional facilities in shared blocks, and facilities for children.

POSITION

Toilets should be no more than 50m from dwellings. Pit latrines should be a minimum of 6m from dwellings. Latrines should be at least 30m horizontally from any ground water sources.

Male and female latrine blocks should be placed at a suitable distance from each other as acceptable to the users. Where space does not allow a physical gap between blocks then ensure that the entrances are at the furthest ends from each other.

Dig drainage channel or hump around the latrine to stop surface water entering the pit.

Avoid areas prone to flooding (if no choice build a raised latrine)

If stones/gravels available, cover the soil around latrines (at least entrance area). This helps to keep the surface dry and clean.

Where possible, locate latrine per cluster, block and groups of families. This helps community to take responsibilities and creates opportunities for sustainable care and maintenance.

ACCUMULATION RATES (approx.)

Solids: 0.5 Litres/person/day in emergencies (0.04 - 0.15m³/person/year in stable situations)

Liquid: When water is used for anal-cleansing the design figure is 1.3 l/p/d. In the initial phase, before wash areas are constructed, people may wash in latrines in which case the figure could be 8 to 10 l/p/d. Note that in areas with poor seepage this means shallow and highly used latrines, such as those nearest the shelters, may fill up quickly where water is used for anal-cleansing.

OTHER IMPORTANT FACTORS

Ensure water is available for anal-cleansing

Provide handwashing facilities with soap

Special rails, seats, and adequate space in cubicles may be necessary to assist the disabled and elderly.

Ensure doors on latrines are adequate (consultation)

Provide lighting where possible.

Where possible, create sanitation & hygiene enclosure which includes latrines, bathing and, where suitable, special sanitary cloth washing and drying facilities for women.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

If the users are not consulted about the siting and design of the latrines they are less likely to use them. Always consult.

Communal latrines: Ensure somebody is responsible for maintaining and regularly cleaning latrines; without a designated person(s), provided with cleaning equipment and regular follow-up and supervision, the latrine programme will fail.

Family latrines: After the initial emergency phase, assign groups of families (4 or 5) to designated latrines. This will be more difficult to implement for large blocks of latrines. Make them responsible for keeping it clean. Allocated families may want to use padlock and key. A cemented plinth and extended floor makes it easier to keep the latrine slabs and bathing floor clean.

MONITORING

Always monitor that the latrines are being used; if not, find out why and address the issue. Monitor cleanliness of latrines and enclosed environment, presence of flies, level of smells, condition of pits and functions of drainage and soakaway facilities. A simple check-sheet can be used for regular sanitary inspection. In this case, latrine and bathing blocks need to be numbered/named.