Sanitation Green Card

**Minimum requirements in sanitation programming for all PHEs and PHPs**

**Excreta Disposal is a service not a 1 off installation**

Recent research from a number of latrine programmes has shown that on average 40% of women are not using the latrines provided. The main reasons stated are not wanting to be seen going to the toilets, lack of privacy (people peeking in), sexual harassment, lack of lighting at night and the lack of locks on doors

If latrines aren’t used, money, time and resources are wasted and we are failing in our responsibility to the communities we work with. Addressing the key issues below will help us to deliver better quality latrines for all users.

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| **Before starting a latrine building programme – *consult the users*** |
| * How did people dispose of excreta **before** the crisis, what are they doing **now &** what would they find acceptable now |
| * Religious/cultural habits and anal cleansing practice |
| * Are there any barriers to WASH services and facilities for specific groups of people such as the disabled or elderly |
| * Segregated communal toilets – what is the minimal acceptable distance between the women’s and men’s toilets - ***they should never be back to back*** |
| * Who will be responsible for cleaning and maintenance of communal toilets - what are the issues involved in paying latrine attendants? |
| * Shared family toilets – can a latrine be shared between four families? Can they share with other families, even if they don’t know them. If sharing, do they still need separate male and female latrines? |
| * What are people’s main concerns about using public or shared family latrines? |

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| * What happens to **children’s and babies’ excreta** – at what age do children use the latrine on their own? |
| * Are latrines are used to dispose of **MHM materials – how else could it be managed** |
| * Consult and explain siting constraints |
| **Design** |
| * What structures did the community use to make Sanitation decisions before the crisis and what are these now? Who participates in decision-making spaces? Do women and men have an equal voice? |
| * Where possible show users model latrines so they can comment on the design or pictures if that works |
| * Ensure maximum concentration is given to privacy – if plastic sheeting is used it needs to be opaque – **all latrines should always have a method of internal locking** even in rapid on-set emergencies – an efficient & easy way of doing this is a string hooking on to a nail technique which is not prone to door warping issues. |
| * How can the latrines be positioned or screened so people are not seen going into the toilet. |
| * Using the toilet at night / can lighting or torches be provided\* in the toilet or the pathway |
| * Calculate the time when the pit should be full based on pit volume and no. of users and **plan** for desludging or decommissioning (+solid waste). If desludging is planned the pit should be lined and have easy access for a hose or slab removal |
| * On completion a PHE or PHP needs to **sign off** the construction quality before payment is made or the latrine is “opened” |
| * What is the best way of ensuring people wash their hands after defecation (consult) |
| **Monitoring – Regular repairs** |
| * Most programmes build new latrines aiming for 1:20 or 50 people per latrine while neglecting the many latrines which have fallen into disrepair and are not in use. |
| * Within a month most plastic sheeting superstructures will be damaged. Regular monitoring and repair – every 2 weeks – is essential to ensure the latrines are still being used. |
| * What system will you use for people to report damage / design issues and give feedback? |