

## **Introduction**

If a community is willing to pay 10% contribution towards new or improved latrine interventions, it is appropriate to present different latrine options. It is more appropriate that individuals choose a latrine that is appropriate for them, in terms of cost, personal circumstances, operation and maintenance. With subsidies, a sit-down latrine will cost approximately K30-50 whereas a sanitation platform latrine may cost as little as K5-10. The superstructure is not subsidised unless made of local materials.

## **Minimum design guideline**

The minimum acceptable standard is; Sealed – Covered – Vented.

## **Maximum subsidy guideline.**

Only some sub-structure materials are subsidised;

- Sealed traditional pit or concrete sanitation platform – hole cover – ventilation pipe.
- Sit-down toilet

No subsidies given for superstructures or septic tank systems, unless they are of local materials.

## **Materials**

Latrine slabs made from logs, soil and bamboo is okay. The same can be said for concrete platforms as they are inexpensive and locally available. Superstructures that are made from pre-cut timber frames, steel plate walls and PVC pipes are expensive and are not subsidised. They additionally require procurement and delivery procedures, but are highly desirable.

## **Operation & Maintenance**

Individuals electing to pay for subsidised latrines must be informed of the necessary operation and maintenance. In effect, NSAs that don't give the relevant information, advocate for continued poor sanitation practice. For example, total household coverage in a village of new latrines, without the appropriate hygiene education, will result in unhygienic use, leading to non-use of latrines and a return to open defecation and disease. It is prudent to demonstrate how to use a latrine.

A concrete slab is easier to clean than a traditional soil covered slab, but requires more water, and a high rise seat, requires more water and soap to

clean the daily accidental spillage than a concrete slab. Availability of water may have an impact on the user's choice of preferred option.

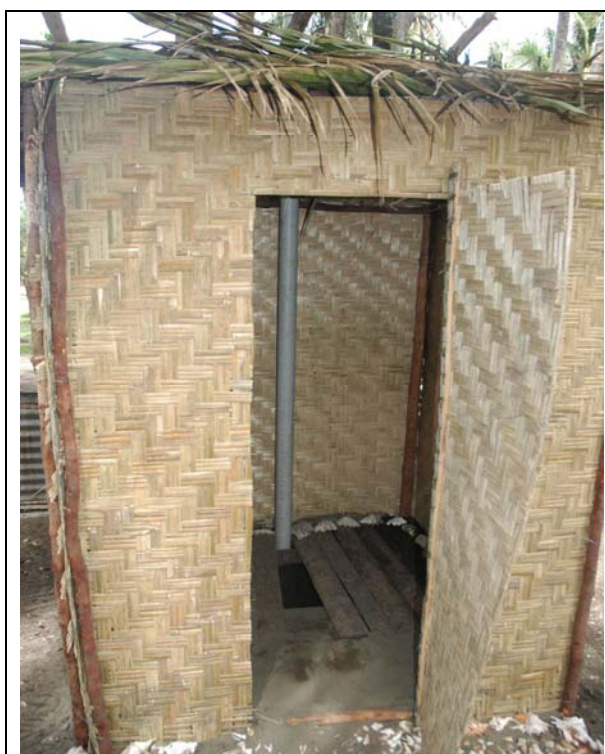
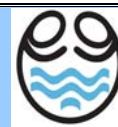
## **Having Choice**

The preferred choice may initially depend on status and aspiration, but if information is correctly disseminated, the choice would more appropriately depend on cost and maintenance. The following pictures are examples of a latrine demonstration, however, it must be stressed that these are only two types in their entirety. They could be cannibalised to produce several different latrines.



This latrine has a concrete slab, timber high rise sit down unit, urban plastic seat and lid, pre-cut timber frame with steel plate walls and roofing and PVC pipe with a total cost without subsidy approximately K1300. The superstructure (walls and roofing) cost K1000, whilst the sub-structure cost K300. This latrine is possibly more of an aspiration, and with an EU subsidy of 90% of the sub-structure materials, would cost the beneficiary K1030. If the community is presented this latrine but with traditional superstructure, the total cost expected of the user would be approximately K30.

## RWSSP: Technical Advisory Note 4.2 Sanitation - Demonstrating Latrine Options



The 2<sup>nd</sup> latrine is almost completely made from bush material including a PVC pipe, total cost approximately K25. Choosing this latrine, would cost the beneficiary K2 or K3.

If beneficiaries are presented with these options, they may choose the 2<sup>nd</sup> latrine, but might consider an upgrade to a concrete slab for approx. K7-8, or a sit down unit included for an extra K20 or so.

### Comparing cost and maintenance of latrine parts

Type of materials	Maintenance	Cost
A1) Traditional slab	brushing	0
A2) Concrete slab	brushing and water	7
B1) Squat hole	brushing	0
B2) High rise wooden seat	Brushing, water and bleach	20
B3) High rise concrete seat	Brushing and water	35
C1) Traditional walls	2-3yrs replace	10
C2) Timber walls	5-6yrs replace	600
C3) Steel plate walls	10-12yrs replace	1000
D1) Bamboo vent pipe	2-3yrs replace	1
D2) PVC vent pipe	10-12yrs replace	4

Note: Materials costs vary.

The beneficiary can be presented with each of these latrine parts and be asked to choose which A, B, C, D that they would prefer to meet the minimum design criteria, based on maintenance and cost. For example A1, B2, C1, D2, is a traditional slab, with a high-rise wooden seat, traditional walls and roofing with a PVC vent-pipe, and would cost K34.



The community chooses different latrines

### Beneficiary / NSA commitments

An individual may be motivated to pay a 10% subsidy towards their preferred choice and provide or source the labour to construct the latrines. The NSA must explain the minimum criteria and demonstrate the latrine options, preferably done with pre-constructed examples. It is important that maintenance of each part is reflected in the demonstration. The NSA must also provide training to construct the various parts of the latrine. Including delivery of materials where necessary.

### Concluding Comments

Demonstrating latrine options should not be confused with demonstration latrines whereby a few same type latrines are constructed in a village, with an expectation that they will be replicated. This approach almost always results in discarded latrines being un-used and left as a reminder of the NSAs inability to promote affordable latrines. Informing communities of the different available options will allow individuals to choose a latrine that is appropriate to their taste, affordability and commitment to on-going operation & maintenance.



This programme is funded by the European Union