ON-PLOT SANITATION
IN LOW-INCOME URBAN COMMUNITIES

Guidelines for Selection
ON-PLOT SANITATION
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Guidelines for selection

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Contents

Part 1
A Background 3
B Guidance points in relation to latrine types 7
C Guidelines for key questions 21
D Cross-cutting issues 31
E Conclusions 55

Part 2
A Supporting evidence 59
B Sample characteristics (by technology) 107
C Database listing 111
D Bibliography 113
E Annex 139

Tables
1 User perceptions of simple pit latrine costs for facilities built in 1995 and 1996, Mozambique 37
2 Incidence of technology type against plot size category 82
3 Plot size calculations for selected technology types 83
4 Comparison between minimum plot sizes laid down in planning regulation and average plot sizes in informally developed urban districts 84
5 User perception of incidence of odour nuisance by latrine type 85
6 Incidence of insect nuisance by latrine type 87
7 Rank order of main household source of income, by technology type 89
8 Levels of expressed user satisfaction by technology type 92
9 Most commonly noted problems with toilet by technology type 92
10 Crosstabulations between recorded problems and user satisfaction
11 Crosstabulations between recorded problems and perceived impact on use of latrine
12 Comparison of latrine types and emptying method
13 Responsibility for emptying by latrine type
14 Breakdown of number of years in use recorded as ‘not emptied’ (selected years: 1-10; excluding bucket/pan latrine)
15 Breakdown of years latrines used by number of times emptied (excluding bucket/pan latrines)
16 Breakdown of re-emptying period by latrine type (excluding bucket/pan latrines)
17 Type of emptying problem by latrine type

Figures

1 A simple improved pit latrine
2 Unreinforced domed slab
3 Ventilated improved pit latrine
4 Pour flush latrine with pit beneath the superstructure
5 Septic tank

Case studies

1 Pit emptying of pour-flush latrines
2 Bucket/pan latrine use
3 Absence of household latrine: 1
4 Absence of household latrine: 2
5 Source of insect nuisance on-plot
6 Influence of belief systems on siting of household latrines
7 Impact of ‘high cost’ KVIP’s in Ghana
8 Experiences of cost recovery and one NGO’s response
9 Institutional responsibilities under the SSP, Kumasi, Ghana
10 Urban sanitation improvement team, Ghana
11 Domestic sanitation programme, Kumasi, Ghana
12 Programme promotion in Maputo, Mozambique
13 Strategic sanitation plan, Ouadadougou, Burkina Faso
14 Example of unsupported initiative for sanitation provision
## Field insight

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Experiences with pour-flush pit latrines</th>
<th>16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Emptying pour-flush latrines by scavengers</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Institutional framework to National Low Cost Sanitation Programme (PNSBC), Mozambique</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Photographs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Typical latrine superstructure (made from reeds) used in Mozambique, where it is customary for latrine shelters to be built without a roof</th>
<th>61</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Transportation of completed slabs from production unit to household plot, Maputo, Mozambique</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Production of popular unreinforced domed slabs used for low cost simple pit latrines in peri-urban areas of Mozambique</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pour flush latrine in improved urban slum, Vijayawada, India Operational sanitation facilities were found to be commonplace on the smallest of plot sizes (as small as 14m²)</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Glossary**

**Aqua privies**
Latrine in which excreta fall directly through a submerged pipe into a watertight settling chamber below the floor, and from which effluent overflows to a soakaway or drain.

**Arithmetic mean**
The sum of the values of all observations divided by the number of observations.

**BOD**
Biochemical oxygen demand: the mass of oxygen consumed by organic matter during aerobic decomposition under standard conditions, usually measured in milligrams per litre during five days; a measure of the concentration of sewage.

**Excreta**
Faeces and urine.

**Compost latrine**
In this type of latrine, excreta fall into a watertight tank to which ash or vegetable matter is added.

**Dry latrine**
A latrine where users defecate into a bucket, basket or other receptacle that is regularly emptied. This type of latrine forms part of the nightsoil system.

**Latrine**
Place or building, not normally within a house or other building, for deposition, retention and sometimes decomposition of excreta.

**Overhung latrine**
Latrine sited such that excreta falls directly into the sea or other body of water.
**Median**
The value above which and below which half of the cases fall, the 50th percentile.

**Mode**
The most frequently occurring value (or values).

**Nightsoil**
Human excreta, with or without anal cleaning material, which are deposited in a bucket or other receptacle for manual removal (often taking place at night).

**Off-set pit**
Pit that is partially or wholly displaced from its superstructure.

**On-plot sanitation**
Sanitation systems which are contained with the plot occupied by the dwelling. On-plot sanitation is associated with household latrines, but also includes facilities shared by several households living together on the same plot.

**On-site sanitation**
Includes communal facilities which are self-contained within the site, in contrast to sewerage and dry latrines where excreta is removed from the site.

**Pathogens**
Organism that causes disease.

**Percolation rate**
The rate at which liquids move through soil.

**Pit latrine**
Latrine with a pit for accumulation and decomposition of excreta and from which liquid infiltrates into the surrounding soil.

**Pour-flush latrine**
Latrine with a small quantity of water is poured in to flush excreta through a water seal into a pit.
Sanitation
The means of collecting and disposing of excreta and community liquid waste in a hygienic way so as not to endanger the health of individuals or the community as a whole.

Septic tanks
Watertight chamber for the retention, partial treatment, and discharge for further treatment, of sewage.

Sewage
Wastewater that usually includes excreta and that is, will be, or has been carried in a sewer.

Sewer
Pipe or conduit through which sewage is carried.

Sewerage
System of interconnected sewers.

Soakaway
Soakpit or drainage trench for subsoil dispersion of liquid waste.

Soakpits
Hole dug in the ground serving as a soakaway.

Sullage
Wastewater from bathing, laundry, preparation of food, cooking and other personal and domestic activities that does not contain excreta.

Superstructure
Screen or building of a latrine above the floor that provides privacy and protection for users.

TACH
Total annual cost per household; includes capital (or investment) costs and recurrent costs.

Vent pipe
Pipe provided to facilitate the escape of gases from a latrine or septic tank.
VIP latrine
Ventilated improved pit latrine, pit latrine with a screened vent pipe and a partially dark interior to the superstructure.

Water seal
Water held in a U-shaped pipe or hemispherical bowl connecting a pan to a pipe, channel or pit to prevent the escape of gases and insects from the sewer or pit.

Wastewater
Sewage or sullage.

Y-junction
Chamber in which liquid may be directed along either of two pipes or channels.