

Good practices Consultation

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Latrine and hygiene promotion

- Avoid open defecation.
- Prevention of faecal oral transmitted diseases
- Support vulnerable and disabled people.

Ecological sanitation

The basic principles of ecosan is to close the loop between sanitation and agriculture.

The main objectives are to:

- Reduce health risks related to sanitation, contaminated water and waste.
- Prevent the pollution of surface and ground water.
- Prevent the degradation of soil fertility.
- Optimise the management of nutrients and water resources.

Activities

- **Sanitation clubs**
- **Construction of slabs, latrine building**
- **Excavation of human excreta after decomposition in nine months and above.**
- **Facilitation, mobilisation and hygiene promotion on hand washing with soap after every latrine use.**
- **Demonstration latrines.**
- **Training to communities, government and NGOs in ecosan**
- **Sale of seedling fruit trees, fertilised with manure from latrines**

Target Groups

- Children under five, men and women
- Vulnerable and disabilities.
- HIV and AIDS patients.

Good practice criteria

- Availability of water – improved sanitation protects water quality by preventing open defecation
- Accessibility - targeting access by disabled by ensuring good design
- Quality/Safety – reinforced slabs are strong, easy to clean, prevent contamination of ground water, odourless due to use of ash and soil, also reducing smells
- Safety – improved health as a result of using a latrine
- Non- discrimination – target those who have the most need

Affordability

- Sanitation facilities to the poor, elderly, single-women headed households, disabled people, HIV and AIDS by introducing banana scheme and manure scheme.
- Provide a slab at a lower cost or no cost
- Sanitation club assists in digging shallow pits, construct latrines using local materials for the above mentioned people
- When the pit is full apply soil then later plant a banana plant. The banana first fruit branch is payment for the slab because we have equity and inclusion as well as market approach to the communities for sustainability cases.

Participation and information sharing

- Community mobilization meetings to raise awareness of the importance of a latrine, usage and benefits. This provides dignity, respect and privacy on wide range of different sanitation technologies they need.
- Forms of sharing are provided through group discussions, drama, songs, tools of P.H.A.S.T. and C.L.T.S. Participation is through hearing and understanding the songs and drama concerning the sanitation technology or being ashamed with the C.L.T.S. methodology. This also ensures acceptance to the communities.

Good practice criteria

- Participation – without active participation, there would be no acceptance or take-up of the latrines.

Hygiene: looking after a latrine and handwashing

- We encourage the community to keep their latrines clean every day. Encourage them to have hand washing facilities near their latrines and make sure hand washing facilities have water all the time. Always wash hands with soap.
- By handling ash and soil the hands become dirty, and then it encourages people to wash their hands with soap.

Impact

- Women are the forefront promoting sanitation, previously perceived as men's job
- Fruits benefiting poor households.
- Increased crop (grain) harvest for poor households who cannot buy fertiliser.
- Ecosan included as a visible sanitation technology option in draft sanitation policy for Malawi.
- Ecosan taught in school curriculum

Challenges

- Sometimes the users do not install water in the hand washing facilities
- Failing to apply ash and soil affects proper use of the latrine, creating smells.
- In the banana scheme some people fail to pay a bunch of banana when time comes for repayment banana for slab.
- Some do not wash hands especially in the conventional type of latrines (traditional pit latrines).