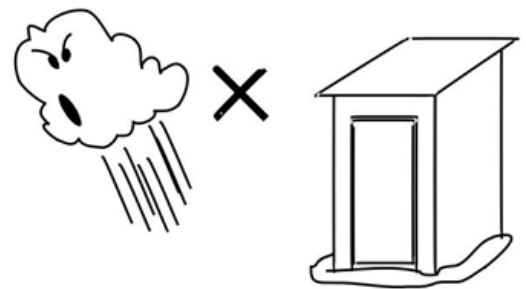

Latrine Decommissioning SOP v2

Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

2nd May 2019

The following SOP provides steps on how to decommission latrines:

- 1) Consult with affected people on continued access to facilities, constructing new facilities in advance of decommissioning if required. Decommissioning activities should be tied to improvements of existing facilities including access, screening and improvements for people with specific needs.
- 2) Once sustained access to sanitation has been confirmed by the community and the latrine selected for decommissioning, close and lock the latrine for one week to allow for infiltration.
- 3) If after one week if the volume is unchanged leave for a second week.
- 4) Commence physical decommissioning during dry periods, ideally during the months October to April, or alternatively on days when there is a multi-day break in rains.
- 5) Ensure adequate site safety including barriers, image based signboards and Communication with Communities (CwC) support to site safety through proactive community engagement with a focus on children.
- 6) Ensure adequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is used by all staff as per Annex D of the Faecal Sludge Management chapter of the WASH Strategy. Chlorine should be made available for staff to clean tools and disinfect PPE after use.
- 7) Prepare a spill kit including lime.
- 8) Whilst in place, spray all of the infrastructure with 0.5% chlorine and dismantle.
- 9) Break slab and accessible lining without causing collapse.
- 10) Mix lime into a bucket of water at a rate of approx. 1kg per 50L of the volume of the ODP. Always add lime to the water and never pour water onto hydrated lime as it can cause an explosive reaction.



- 11) Add buckets of water and lime to the ODP, mix and check sludge has reached pH12 and leave until pH returns to approx. pH9.
- 12) Add concrete and brick from the slab and lining to the pit.
- 13) Remaining flammable infrastructure can be burnt in a controlled, safe manner at least 30m away from houses or other infrastructure. If clean and not presenting a risk other items can be reused or disposed.
- 14) Dig an overflow trench 1ft deep and 1ft wide around the latrine where the inside of the trench is 2ft from the outside of the latrine with four connecting trenches into the latrine.
- 15) Without incurring cost or affecting the environment continue to backfill using rocks, aggregate or similar materials.
- 16) When half a meter below ground level, add a layer of lime to the surface of the pit.
- 17) Backfill the remainder with earth ensuring sludge remains within the trench.
- 18) If sludge has overflowed into the trench add a layer of lime on the top of the trench.
- 19) Backfill trench including a 6in mound of earth.
- 20) Cover latrine with a mound of earth reaching 2ft in the middle.
- 21) Leave in place barriers and site demarcation including CwC engagement to avoid use and excavation for one year due to the presence of helminth eggs.

