

Young children need safe toilets

Hundreds of thousands of toddlers around South Africa face health and safety risks on a daily basis because the early childhood development (ECD) centres they attend don't have appropriate toilets. ECD centres in rural, informal, and disadvantaged communities are forced to use pit latrines; often with large openings, hazardous structures and difficult-to-clean raw cement surfaces. They are a dangerous and unsanitary option for toddlers and can lead to disease and worse, like in the tragic cases of Michael Komape from Limpopo and Viwe Jali from the Eastern Cape – death.

Extend the Appropriate School Sanitation campaign to early childhood development centres



How **BIG** is the problem?

Data collected by the National ECD Audit¹ in 2014 showed that 15% of all fully-registered ECD centres surveyed and 32% of all conditionally-registered centres surveyed have pit latrines with no ventilation pipes. The rate is even higher among unregistered centres – as high as 48% in Limpopo and 27% in the North West.

Meanwhile, a 2016 ECD centre survey² in five rural KwaZulu-Natal municipalities and two informal settlements in eThekweni Metro revealed that of the 516 ECD centres surveyed:

9%

have no toilets for adults or children

31%

have toilets for adults only (it's assumed these are shared with children)

50%

of the ECD centres have pit latrines

25%

of all toilets – not just the pit latrines are in a poor condition

The sanitary conditions at community based ECD centres are often worse than that at schools. Most of these centres are built with limited community resources, and without external financial assistance.

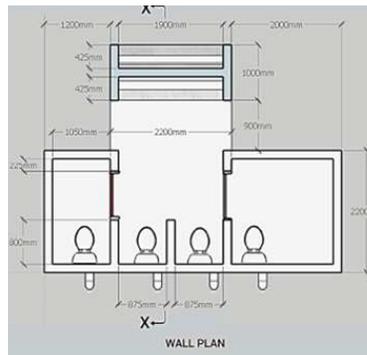
Pit latrines pose a real and imminent danger for toddlers. It is imperative that government extends the Appropriate School Sanitation Campaign to ECD centres.

¹ National Audit of Early Childhood Development Centres, Department of Social Development (2014)

² Undertaken by Project Preparation Trust (2016)

Solution

A comprehensive and participative process, involving over 30 NGOs, ECD practitioners, and community structures was used to design an innovative pour-flush toilet solution with an offset lined pit for ECD centres, currently being implemented in KwaZulu-Natal's Strategic ECD Infrastructure Support Programme.



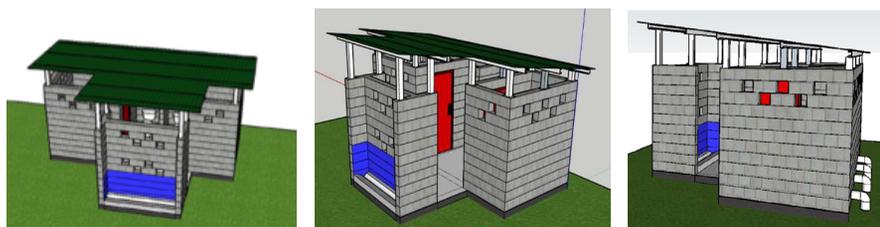
An offset lined pit means that the toilet seat is not directly above the leach pit (marked by X in the picture) – therefore the child cannot fall in. The offset pit can be shallower and can be emptied with a shovel, no expensive pump out required. Because the pit is offset, nappies cannot be thrown in easily which stops it from filling up too quickly. The pour flush design allows staff to flush with grey water, which is a sustainable and sanitary solution for drought stricken areas.

Toilets for pre-school children should be screened but not completely enclosed, and in a prominent position so that ECD practitioners can observe them from all points.

The texture of the toilet floor can be manipulated so a blind child can be able to find their way around.

Floors should be graded so that they can be hosed down easily. Most ECD centres don't have cleaners.

The ablution block facilities include tippy taps for handwashing, once again effective for areas without water infrastructure.



Costing for pour flush offset lined leach pit toilet

Centre for 20 children	Centre for 40 children	Centre for 60 children	Centre for 80 children	Centre for 100 children
R20 592.59	R72 074.07	R92 666.67	R102 962.96	R123 555.56
<p>2 free standing pre cast toilets using pour flush system with offset lined leach pit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 for toddlers • 1 for staff • Hand wash facilities similar to tippy taps <i>(no provision for wheelchair users)</i> 	<p>Ablution block with 3 toilets using pour flush system with offset lined leach pit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 for toddlers of which one is enlarged for wheelchair users • 1 for staff • A urinal for boys • Hand wash facilities similar to tippy taps 	<p>Ablution block with 4 toilets using pour flush system with offset lined leach pit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 for toddlers of which one is enlarged for wheelchair users • 1 for staff • A urinal for boys • Hand wash facilities similar to tippy taps 	<p>Ablution block with 5 toilets using pour flush system with offset lined leach pit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 for toddlers of which one is enlarged for wheelchair users • 1 for staff • A urinal for boys • Hand wash facilities similar to tippy taps 	<p>Ablution block with 6 toilets using pour flush system with offset lined leach pit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 for toddlers of which one is enlarged for wheelchair users • 1 for staff • A urinal for boys • Hand wash facilities similar to tippy taps

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An *equal start* for all children

