

Designing WASH to improve accessibility

Providing sufficient water and sanitation facilities does not, on its own, ensure their optimal use. Although these facilities may be available, they may still pose accessibility issues to extremely vulnerable individuals, including persons with disabilities, older persons, pregnant women and persons with chronic illnesses. Therefore, additional measures may be required to make sure that these individuals have equal access to facilities. Ideally, 10% of facilities should be fully accessible and all facilities should be built using 'Universal Design'.

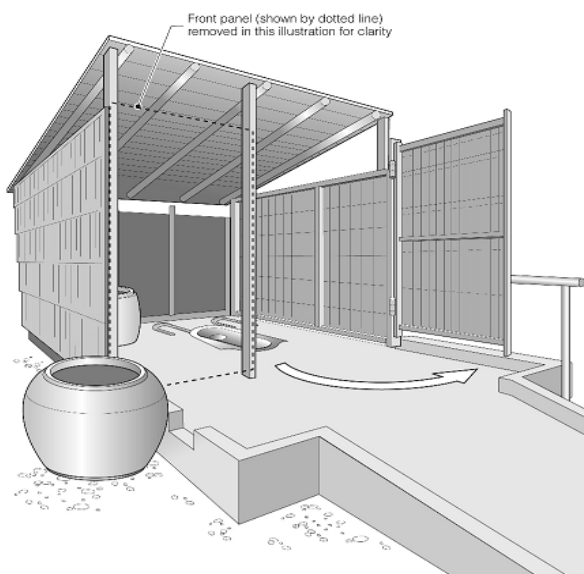
For temporary or permanent toilets in camps and shelters to be accessible, the following technical recommendations should be followed:

1. The latrine should have a **ramp** at the entrance, with an ideal **gradient of 1:10**, a **non-slippery surface**, and a **minimum width of 90 cm**.
2. As much as possible, the height of the latrines should be appropriate for the building of ramps. Structures that are too high, even with ramps, may pose safety risks particularly to those with limited physical mobility.
3. In the context where latrine design needs to be high and stairs need to be used, **stairs need to have a maximum height of 16 cm, a minimum length of 28 cm and minimum width of 90 cm**. These measurements will make it easier for caregivers to assist those with limited physical mobility, and also ensure safety and ease of use. Besides the 10% that should be accessible, **all latrines should be built with this step size**. Steps should have a strip of **bright (yellow) paint** to signal change in height for persons with visual impairments.



Modified latrines with standardized steps, handrails, a non-slippery surface, and yellow edges for visually-impaired people.

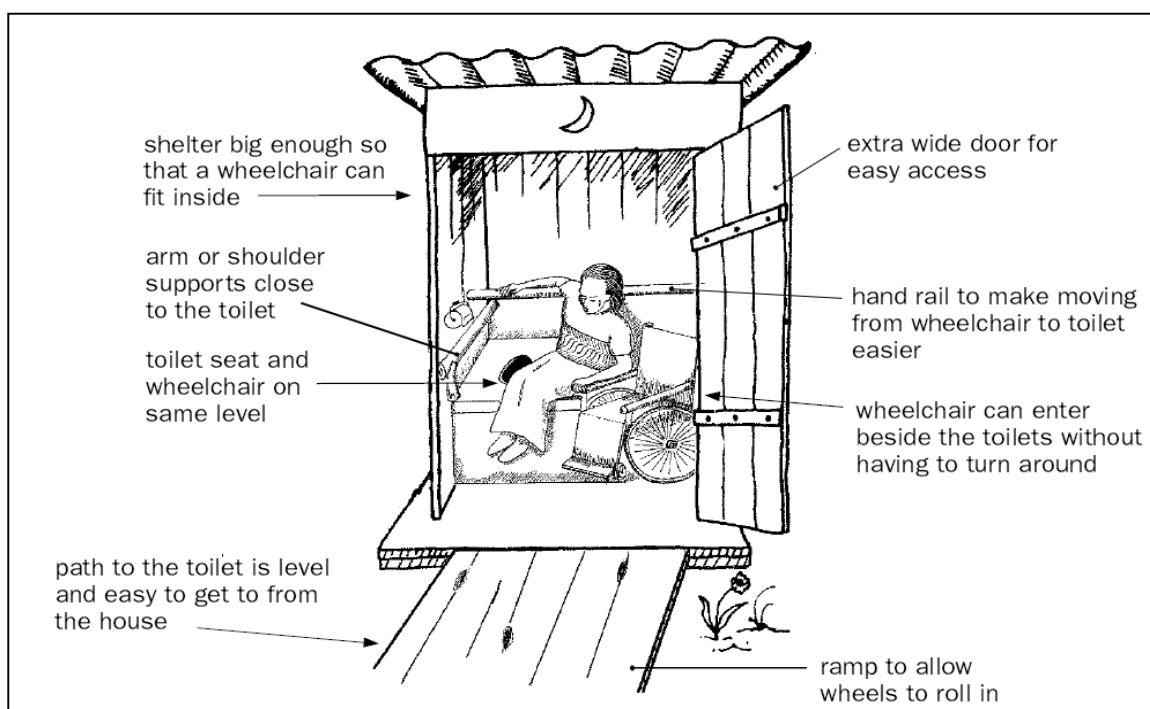
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4. Latrine should have a door that is large enough for a wheelchair or crutch-user to enter – at least **90 cm in width**. Doors should also open outwards, so as not to limit space and movement in the latrine.
5. Latrines should have enough space to turn a wheelchair - **larger than a circle of 90 cm in diameter**.

6. There should be **handrails** at either side of the latrine at the appropriate heights – the middle point should be **between 50 and 70 cm in height**. Where handrails cannot be used, ropes can be used in its place.
7. The latrine should have an **elevated seat** – **50 cm from the floor** for an adult, or **toilet chairs** should be provided.
8. If ramps and latrines are made of planks of wood, make sure that there are **no gaps in between planks** large enough for the wheels of the wheelchairs, canes or crutches to go through.



Ideal design for a fully-accessible latrine, with ramp, wheelchair-turning space, handrails, wide door, etc. If this is not possible, a latrine using Universal Design should be aimed for (see first photo above).

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9. While other users may be able to stand or squat when using latrines, some persons with specific needs will have to sit. Therefore, **hygiene and maintenance of cleanliness** is also an important consideration for latrines used by these individuals. If possible, extra hygiene and cleaning materials should be made available to ensure that the latrine remains hygienic for their use.

Where a minimum of the above technical recommendations have been applied, **Handicap International can provide additional materials** to complete the accessibility aspect of other organizations' latrine construction. Materials that HI can make available include **toilet chairs, handrails and ropes**. Technical guidance on how these can be used can also be provided.

In cases where there are latrines being used by individuals with additional very specific needs, **HI can also assist in applying individual modifications** depending on the person's needs and/or advise teams on how these can be done.

For more information on HI's accessibility activities and possible support, and/or additional references on WASH accessibility and Universal Design, please contact HI at +63939 81568 or hi.astcoordo.manila@gmail.com.