

A Shallow Trench Latrine is a simple improvement of a defecation field (U.5). It consists of one or several shallowly dug trenches into which people defecate.

Faeces are covered after each use with the dug-out soil, thereby improving overall hygiene and convenience compared to that of defecation fields. A Shallow Trench Latrine is only recommended for the immediate emergency response.

Design Considerations: Shallow trenches should be around 20–30 cm wide and 15 cm deep, and shovels may be provided to allow each user to cover their excreta with soil. If several trenches are foreseen they should be divided into strips of around 1.5 m width with associated access paths. Trenches furthest from the entrance

one time to encourage the full utilisation of the trench in a short time. It may be appropriate to have a number of trenches open at the same time. Shallow Trench Latrines are very land use intensive. The area needed is approximately 0.25 m²/person/day. For 10,000 people nearly two hectares per week are needed. The area chosen should be at a safe distance from food and water sources, but close enough to population centres to assure the safety

bottom layer fully covered with excreta it is filled in. Only short lengths of a trench should be opened for use at any

