



ECT WASH — Lessons Learned

Construction of improved family latrines for vulnerable households

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| Country | Organisation | Duration |
| NIGER | ASB | July 2025 (from 1 st to 31 st July; 2025) |



BACKGROUND

The baseline study conducted in the project villages on water, sanitation and hygiene highlighted, among other concerns, low community access to sanitation infrastructure. In addition, environmental risk analysis and preliminary environmental assessment based on NEAT+ identified potential risks related to poor waste management capacities, including wastewater and faecal sludge in these villages. Open defecation practices pose a serious threat to human and environmental health. To help building community capacities on proper wastewater and excreta management, the project supported the construction of sustainable, context-appropriate family latrines for 40 households with low-income in the village of Dakaché (in the municipality of Tahoua).

The SanPlat slab latrine is a family latrine model that is adapted to the local context and accessible to all. It is also the most affordable model in terms of financial cost.

A SanPlat slab latrine consists of three essential elements: the pit, the slab and the superstructure. To enable the community to take ownership of this activity, the project has adopted a participatory approach. Local skills (labour to dig the pit holes and masons trained and equipped by the project) and locally available materials such as sand and gravel were used to make the slabs.

Among the materials used for the construction of the latrines, the project provided cement and reinforcing bars (for the slab reinforcement). Each beneficiary household contributed sand, gravel and water.

KEY LESSONS LEARNED

Challenges:

In the village of Dakaché, building a family latrine requires more than just a concrete slab. The biggest challenge is digging the pit, as the subsoil consists mainly of very hard rocks. It is necessary to hire specialists for the job, who charge a fee. This makes it very difficult for low-income households to pay for the labour required to dig the pit. To reduce these challenges, it is necessary to promote mutual cooperation and solidarity within the community under the leadership of local leaders and by involving healthy and capable individuals. Currently, the project team has begun to raise awareness among community members.

Successes:

Forty improved family latrines have been built, providing 240 people (including 38 adult men, 56 adult women, 69 boys and 77 girls), 17 of whom are disabled, with access to safe sanitation facilities in the village of Dakaché.

These facilities, built with the participation of the communities, will improve sanitation practices and subsequently contribute to improving the health and well-being of the population.

Funded by:





Construction of a slab by local mason in the village of Kollama.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to guarantee the sustainability of the family latrines built and ensure their proper use, it is recommended that awareness-raising sessions be reinforced and that a basic maintenance kit be provided to each beneficiary household. This kit includes traditional brooms, soap or detergent, and grit to reduce odours from the pits.