

Table 1: Components of Conventional VIP Latrine and Corresponding Locally Available Alternatives for Effective Substitution.

S/N	Component of Conventional VIP Latrine	Corresponding Locally Available Alternatives for Effective Substitution
1	Pit	Dimensions (depth and diameter) will vary according to the nature of soil in each locality, and with a view to dispense with pit-lining to reduce cost. A depth of 8 – 14 feet (2.4 – 4.2 metres) and diameter of 24 – 36 inches (60 – 90 cm) may suffice.
2	Concrete Slab	Medium to big-sized logs of undying adventitious trees are cut and laid close to each other, on two layers, North-South and East-West, across the top of the pit. Two spaces are left open to form two orifices, one as drop-hole for defecating while the other is to anchor the vent pipe. The logs should be 6 – 7 feet (180 – 210 cm) in length so as to provide about 1 ^{1/2} – 2 feet (45 – 60 cm) of base on the soil after spanning the diameter of the pit. See Figure 1. Soil is laid on top of each layer of logs for firm grip and stability. The top layer of soil should be particularly tempered to produce smooth hard surface. Red laterite soil is highly recommended for top layer covering. However, soil dug out from the pit may be used.
3	Circular Orifice and cover	It is easier to form a rectangular orifice at the center for defecation. Another smaller hole is provided on the platform to serve as base for the vent pipe. See Figure 1. Fitting cover can be made from plank or flat wood to which a handle is nailed upon. The cover should be trimmed at the edges with 1-inch slim wood as stand so that the covering face of the plank actually stands on the fitted trimmed edges and does not come in contact with the orifice or faeces around the orifice. At least one side of the cover may be provided with mesh to allow air to flow into the pit and exit through the vent pipe. The mesh will also prevent direct fly ingress from the orifice.
4	Permanent material superstructure (cement block, brick, etc.)	As per traditional thatch dwellings. See Figure 2.
5	Roof	As per traditional thatch roof. See Figure 2.
6	Door	Two options are recommended. (i) A non-static door which is shifted into or off position when a user enters or leaves the latrine. (ii) A static shutable door hung or nailed on hinges to a standing pole of the super-structure. In both cases, the door is made of skeletons of log and covered with woven mat or thatch.
7	Window	One or two small permanently open spaces (permanent vents) provided at the top of the windward side of the superstructure, depending on the size of the superstructure. This will let in air to ventilate the interior of the superstructure as well as the air stream that will flow out of the vent pipe to control odour. This space will also let in minimal amount of light to ensure that the interior of the superstructure remains semi-dark while allowing users to view the interior and allay fears of possible lurking vermin often complained of dark interiors of the VIP latrine.
8	Vent Pipe	Old or discarded PVC pipes, on which two opposite holes are perforated at both ends. Wire or strong strings are passed through the holes. One end of the PVC pipe is tied to the logs laid across the pit to form the base of the vent pipe while the other end is tied to a pole or cross-bar of the superstructure or roof for support.
9	Fly Trap	Discarded mosquito nets (bed or window nets), or other types of mesh, or white cloth may be used to allow light and illumination. The material is tied over the top end of the vent pipe with adequate parlour space to trap flies.
10	Waste Bin	(Optional). Waste bin may not be necessary as materials used as anal-wipe are biodegradable and may be dropped into the pit

after use. However, if waste bin is preferred, this can be made of traditional basket and cover tightly woven from oil-palm or raffia strings or cane.

11	Soap (for hand washing)	Ash left over from cooking activity may be used as substitute for soap. It is believed that ash from oil-palm products may be most efficient. Some local leaves that easily form lather may be used also.
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