



Disability-friendly Squatting Plate Add-on

unicef 
for every child

Supply Division



Overview

The challenge

Children with disabilities are one of the most marginalized groups in society, facing daily discrimination that bars them from enjoying their rights and participating on an equal basis with the rest of society. Their circumstances are often exacerbated in emergencies, especially concerning the access to sanitation services.

During a humanitarian response, the sanitation facilities in displacement and refugee camps typically involve the construction of latrines. Unfortunately, these are not suitable for children with mobility or vision impairments who have difficulty squatting or balancing.

The response

UNICEF worked with the private sector to develop an add-on product that attaches to the [standard squatting plate](#) dispatched in emergencies.

After consulting with field partners and beneficiaries to understand their needs, UNICEF worked with industry partners to develop two products to meet those needs: *Product 1*, a device that screws onto the squatting plate with a supportive frame; and *Product 2*, a similar device that fits over the squatting plate with a supportive frame, in addition to a transfer point to move onto the seat. Both products were developed to offer simplicity in terms of

transportation and assembly so that implementation during emergencies is quick and seamless.

This is the first ever disability-inclusive latrine provided by UNICEF through a co-creation innovation process with industry partners.

The impact

The products were piloted in refugee camps in Bangladesh, directly supporting 33 per cent of persons w/disabilities in the targeted area. Additionally, secondary beneficiaries, like those with chronic illnesses, older people or pregnant women have also benefitted from the latrines. Results have been positive, with beneficiaries now able to independently use a latrine without the need for a caretaker's support. Providing children with disabilities a chance to live independently and with dignity is essential to restoring their rights as children.

To ensure more children with disabilities are reached, UNICEF will introduce the product into their [Emergency Supplies List](#) and humanitarian responses in 2020, aiming to include the new add-on component to 10 per cent of all squatting plates dispatched in emergencies. This estimates to 2,500 disability-friendly latrines dispatched each year, reaching thousands of children with disabilities worldwide.

"He can hold the handles on the sides when he sits so I don't have to hold him. I just watch and make sure he's okay." - Monira pictured above with her son Hashim in the Rohingya refugee camps, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

Hashim, 14, has an intellectual impairment, making it difficult to access some of the camp's services. But **with the new disability-friendly toilet, he can safely use the sanitation facilities.**

Key Figures Issue

1 billion people worldwide don't have access to sanitation services.

240 million children live with one or more disabilities worldwide.

Response

2 new products developed.

57 new latrines installed for piloting in Bangladesh and Angola.

Impact

33% of persons with disabilities in the targeted area accessed the new latrines in the Bangladesh pilot.

2,500 new latrines to be dispatched in emergencies annually (estimated), reaching thousands of children w/disabilities worldwide.



Disability-friendly Squatting Plate Add-on

The final products



Product 1: The parts assemble and screw onto the plate, providing a frame to support a person to lower onto the seat. The frame is quick to install and leaves free space around the plate for easy maneuverability. It can be installed after the plate is already in use.



Product 2: The parts assemble and fit over the plate, providing support along one side in addition to a transfer point for those with mobility disabilities to move from a mobility aid to the seat. This product needs to be installed before setting the plate in place.

Inclusive WASH programming

To ensure the new products are implemented appropriately in emergencies, UNICEF looks to its Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) field experts. An inclusive approach to WASH programming means designing, planning and executing activities that consider the inclusion and accessibility of persons with disabilities.

Cross-sectoral collaboration is critical, and strong working relationships between WASH and other sectors (like health and education) can promote the installation of the product in different settings – such as at schools, child-friendly spaces and health clinics. Planning must consider product maintenance and C4D (communications for development), like hygiene-promotion activities, that focus on inclusion of persons with disabilities into emergency services.

Scaling up

After successfully completing the pilots, UNICEF is working to promote adoption of the products so more children can access disability-friendly latrines. Key aims include:

- 10 per cent of squatting plates dispatched in emergencies include the new disability-friendly component which equates to approximately to 2,500 each year.
- Products are now available for procurement and included in UNICEF's [Supply Catalogue](#) and [Emergency Supplies List](#).
- They are also being integrated into the planning activities of the Global WASH Cluster so humanitarian staff worldwide understand when and how to introduce them.

Key results and evidence

UNICEF and field partners piloted the new latrines in the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh.

- Where previously it would take 30 minutes to use a latrine* it now takes approx. 5-7 minutes.
- 33 per cent of persons w/disabilities in the targeted area accessed the new latrines.
- Secondary beneficiaries, like those with chronic illnesses, older people or pregnant women have also benefitted.
- Where previously disabled persons were fully dependent on a caregiver's support, they can now independently use this latrine.
- Beneficiaries expressed they "now have the same opportunities and enjoy the same level of access to latrines as those without disabilities."
- The programming around the new latrines has led to increased participation and acceptance of persons with disabilities in the communities.

*Due to challenges from lack of handrails/seat and disability programming, where disabled persons would wait in long lines or travel far for the nearest accessible latrine.



"I never feel like I will fall down because I can sit without bending my knees and there is a rail behind me to stop me from falling even if I lean back."

Shamsun Nahar, 21, who had trouble using the camp's standard latrines while pregnant. (Left)

"I can use this latrine and my knees won't bite me."

Rajuma, 6, who was born with an impairment that affects her knees. (Centre)

"With my feet it is very hard for me to use a normal latrine, but I can sit on the new latrine without hurting myself." Mohammed Sohail, 10, who was born with a physical impairment affecting his feet, making it extremely difficult for him to walk. (Right)

[Read the full story](#)

Images: © UNICEF/Modola

For more information: www.unicef.org/innovation/productinnovation

Esther Shaylor

Innovation Specialist,
Product Innovation Centre
UNICEF Supply Division
Tel. +45 45335912
Email: eshaylor@unicef.org

unicef 
for every child