STEP 1: CONDUCT A LOCAL SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS ON WHICH TO BASE YOUR PLANNING

To ensure that your LTBI treatment program is built on a solid foundation, you must have a clear understanding of the problem you are trying to address, the environment in which your program will operate, and the conditions and circumstances that will influence program activities. Therefore, the first step in planning your program is to take a close look at the target groups, the community, and your own organization. This analysis will enable you to make sound choices about the approaches, strategies, and solutions that are most likely to be effective in your situation. It will also help you demonstrate the need for the program to people who influence policy and funding decisions.

ACTIVITY 1-A

Identify which groups in your jurisdiction have the highest risk for LTBI and TB disease, based on local epidemiological trends. These are your program's target groups. Sources of information could include:

- Data from Reports of Verified Cases of Tuberculosis (RVCT)

- Census data

- County agencies responsible for homeless services; drug and alcohol programs; services to refugees, immigrants, and migrant workers; and indigent care

ACTIVITY 1-B

Develop a community profile that describes your target groups in detail. This profile should address:

- Demographic characteristics (e.g., age, gender, cultural or ethnic origin, primary language)

- Neighborhoods where members of the target groups are located

- Types of places they habitually frequent

- Their cultural, ethnic, and linguistic needs

- Health issues, including TB incidence and barriers that prevent or discourage group members from receiving care

- Agencies or organizations that provide them with services

ACTIVITY 1-C

Assess your organization's existing capacity and resources for implementing an LTBI program and its ability to address any aspects that might be lacking. Factors to consider include (among others):

- Staff with appropriate training and expertise

- An appropriate location for delivering services

- Relationships with community agencies and organizations

- Adequate financial support