



TB REACH

Limited access to TB services criteria

Background

In 2009, of the 9.4 million estimated incident TB cases globally, only 5.8 million cases of TB (new and relapse cases) were notified to national TB programmes. This relatively large and persistent gap in case detection has been one of the major barriers for more rapid progress towards the targets of TB control. In order to accelerate the impact of TB control services on the epidemiological burden of TB, as well as to prevent the further emergence of drug resistant form of TB, it is important to develop and implement new ways of reaching additional TB cases with quality assured TB care.

The TB REACH facility of the Stop TB Partnership supports technically sound and innovative approaches, interventions and activities to detect and successfully treat additional TB cases, especially focussing on populations with limited access to TB services.

The following set of criteria has been developed for TB REACH for defining "limited access to TB services".

Criteria for defining "limited access to TB services"

Limited access to TB care is one of the major factors for inadequate TB case detection.

For the purpose of TB REACH, the following "*limited access to TB services*" criteria are to be considered. Please note that the target population needs to be described in detail in the application form with respect to the relevant limited access criteria, and wherever possible this needs to be supported by evidence.

1. *Geographical characteristics:*

- a. Distance: Distance from TB service delivery points: typically residing >10 kms away from a site diagnosing TB especially in a poor population.
- b. Terrain: Population living in areas recognized by local government authorities as hilly/mountainous, or difficult
- c. Remote communities: Communities residing in areas which are geographically isolated from other population centres; where there is a general absence of essential educational, medical services, electricity and water supplies.

2. *Cultural and social characteristics:*

- a. Population groups with very low level of literacy compared to the average in the country.
- b. Population groups with unusual cultural and social beliefs that prevent them for seeking/accessing modern TB care.
- c. Population sub-groups with demonstrated high levels of stigma preventing care seeking action for TB, including in some settings people living with HIV.
- d. Population groups known for gender-related discrimination
- e. Population with low knowledge or wrong perceptions of TB, diagnosis and treatment.
- f. Marginalized ethnic groups, ethnic minorities, indigenous people and tribal communities.



- g. Injecting drug users, commercial sex workers and other high risk population groups which are away from the mainstream.
- 3. *Economic factors*
 - a. Population with average per capita income less than \$2 per day.¹
 - b. Urban slum population.
 - c. Homeless population.
- 4. *Health system factors*
 - a. Area with average population per health care facility with TB microscopy services exceeding 100,000, or population residing in areas where the coverage for health post, nurse or general practitioner (in terms of posts/nurse/doctor per 100,000 population), is substantially below the national recommendation, or the national average.
 - b. Population living in areas where there is no subsidized TB care or where there are additional payments and fee for services requested, including fee for accessing private health care.
 - c. Population residing in areas officially reported as not covered by the health system, or by a publicly funded national TB programme.
 - d. Population accessing health facilities which are complex for TB referral, diagnosis and treatment (with a high possibility of not picking up TB suspects and patients), or facilities which are faced with a persistent problem of stock-outs of first line anti-TB drugs and consumables or reagents for diagnosis.
 - e. Prison population (with the exception of those known to have adequate health care and TB services)
- 5. *Migration related factors*
 - a. Internally displaced population.
 - b. Cross-border populations.
 - c. Refugee communities, or asylum seekers.
 - d. Illegal migrants.
- 6. *Any other characteristic* identified by an applicant based on the local context with clearly articulated compelling arguments for inclusion.

All additional criteria need to be acceptable to the TB REACH Proposal Review Committee.

Identification of population with limited access to TB services

Applicants will be responsible for identification and description of the target population with respect to limited access to TB services.

¹ Ref: The World Bank:

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTPOVERTY/0,,contentMDK:20153855~menuPK:373757~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:336992,00.html> accessed 11 Dec 2009.