

Step 3

Preview of the Needs Analysis Phase

Only when the problem is fully understood can we begin to solve it effectively.

Needs analysis is the process of defining a perceived need, here a specific need for telecommunications. Figure 3.1 shows the principal tasks that must be undertaken. Procedures and considerations for carrying out these tasks are addressed in Steps 4 through 8 of this guide.

The results of the needs analysis phase will be recorded in a document called the Definition of Requirements, which should define the rural need in the following terms:

- types of subscribers and their service needs;
- quantity and location of new subscribers;
- quantity and flow of traffic;
- quality of service objectives;
- general characteristics and requirements.

Figure 3.2 illustrates a typical structure for the definition of requirements. As we proceed through the steps of the needs analysis phase, we will be compiling the contents of this document.

The Definition of Requirements will be a primary input document to the next planning phase: the feasibility study.