



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

During the MAPS webinar on 15 April we did not get an opportunity to address questions sent in to us through the chat and social media so, as promised, we are very pleased to communicate to you inputs on some of the topics that attendees raised.

QUESTION	ANSWER
Can any government organisation in the country go for the entity level supplementary module assessment instead of a full country assessment?	<p>The supplementary module assessing individual procuring entities is still in development. The entire MAPS suite is open, so when the entity level module is published it can be used by any organisation in any country, as needed. However, we'd always recommend doing the core assessment before, since it provides the fundamentals for evaluating entity level structures (e.g. through assessing the legal and regulatory framework). Also, except for professionalisation, a full core assessment is a prerequisite to carry out any supplementary module, if the country wants to receive the MAPS Seal of Approval.</p> <p>It's perfectly understandable that undertaking a full country assessment can seem like a</p>



	daunting task. The MAPS Secretariat is available for guidance and support, and we're also happy to assist in facilitating collaboration with partners. Also, we're always interested in your experienced with using the framework, so please reach out to us, even if you're only using part of the tool.
How does this assessment interact with other previously performed joint-tasks with OECD or other organisations in the country?	The MAPS assessor should draw from relevant previous assessments carried out to find evidence that is useful for the MAPS assessment. This includes OECD, PEFA, and others. In general, the MAPS is aligned with international standards, for example the OECD Recommendations, and the country context provides the possibility to include findings from other works and reviews.
Is MAPS support provided to sub-national government entities?	MAPS can be carried out by sub-national governments, and the MAPS Secretariat provides support to them too.
Can the procurement system be integrated to budget/budget execution national systems?	This question is a fine example of something that is assessed in the MAPS, namely under Pillar II of the methodology. An even more in-depth assessment of this and related questions is forthcoming in the supplementary MAPS module on e-Procurement.
Did you identify any quick wins that can help operationalize/implement sustainable procurement?	Section 4 of the MAPS SPP Norway report shows the recommendations of the evaluation, including those that could be implemented in the short run.
In the Norway SPP presentation, you say that "Sequence of interviews matters". Could you elaborate on this?	The experience after the core MAPS assessment in Norway was that we should have started with experts on legislative framework and organisation in order to supplement assessors' understanding of the system. And ending with interviews with contracting authorities and representatives of private sector and civil society.
What is your advise for Latin American countries, specifically with regards to tools of progress of measurement?	All types of data are relevant. Audit and transaction data are maybe the most important. The MAPS is an ambitious and forward looking tool, aligned with the relevant international standards and also the UN SDGs, in order to allow for use in all countries and different levels of government, including different sectors.
For the Norway case, was it easy to assess the integrity of the system? This is not always easy in other countries because of governance issues.	Differences between countries are important, but overall we can learn a lot from each other. The MAPS is structured to support thorough assessment, regardless of country context. A the key initial step of a MAPS assessment is setting up a solid project structure, including mapping and establishing relations to relevant stakeholders, so that all parts of the assessment can be carried out properly. The MAPS Secretariat acts as quality assurance in this.
Are recommendations resulting from a MAPS assessment provided by the assessment team? Are successive MAPS assessments to measure progress and implementation part of the MAPS design?	It is a part of the MAPS framework that the final assessment report includes recommendations for how to address the findings in the report. Future assessments could be carried out in the future to measure changes.



Has the Audit Office of Norway done any specific audit on the procurement system?	We had one 10 years ago. Now they are just auditing the green public procurement work.
Do we need to have proper training on MAPS requirements in order to effectively assess the public procurement in our country?	It is important to receive training on using the methodology, and we're already in the process of setting up training offers. Do reach out to us if you have anything specific in mind.
How does MAPS Secretariat provide support on MAPS to be carried out by national/sub-national governments?	The support provided will vary depending on the context of a given assessment. The secretariat will always provide quality assurance of the formal deliverables of an assessment, including concept note, terms of reference and the final report. It will also answer general questions about the process and the methodology through its helpdesk function. For more, see: https://www.mapsinitiative.org/methodology/
Please clarify what "MAPS Seal of Approval" means?	The Seal of Approval attests that the final assessment report has undergone thorough quality assurance by the MAPS Secretariat and the Assessment's Technical Advisory Group, and that it fulfils the requirements needed to be considered an official MAPS assessment. The requirements can be found on our website .
The MAPS documents provides a lot of info on what to assess but not 'why'. Is there any information available on why the various criteria were selected?	<p>The MAPS is a result of a joint and collaborative work by a multitude of organisations from all over the world, each possessing expertise in public procurement. For more, see: https://www.mapsinitiative.org/about/</p> <p>The different indicators and sub-indicators are important to provide a complete view of how a public procurement system works. If you have any specific questions, the secretariat is always available to answer them.</p>
Is it possible to link MAPS with Open Contracting Standards?	MAPS assesses indicators related to open contracting. When carrying out the parts of the MAPS (core or supplementary modules) assessing contracting and data publication, it will be relevant to look at previous work done in the country in question, for example on implementing Open Contracting Standards. In addition to this, standardised, open contracting data can provide the basis for calculating quantitative indicators included in the methodology.
Where do we find the maps assessment report of Norway, specially MAPS SPP?	The reports can be found here: https://www.mapsinitiative.org/assessments/
Would an organization be able to receive support from the MAPS Secretariat (or its delegates) to follow through with any action plans or recommendations for improvement following the findings from a MAPS assessment?	Typically, support of this kind is provided by partner institutions participating in the assessment, such as MDBs.



Under MAPS, Is there a minimum standard for the publication of open contracting data? Is this determined by a contract value threshold or the methodology used ?	Because the MAPS is an universal tool, quantitative indicators are generally relative rather than absolute and provide a means of assessing specific indicators in each pillar.
Is there an official-formal training certificate available for the methodology?	This is forthcoming.
How many months does it generally take to conduct a MAPS assesment in a national system?	This depends on the specific circumstances. However, as a key initial step when planning a MAPS assessment the time frame should be clearly defined in the concept note. Evaluations range in general from 4 to 12 monts depending on missions, validation workshops and the readiness of data and information.
To what extent does the MAPS methodology also assess procurement bottlenecks such as late release of funds from treasury, adhoc requests, poor accounting by spending agencies?	The framework does assess how procurement is integrated into the wider government ecosystem, so if there are substantial bottlenecks, they should be apparent in the final assessment report, such as constraints to competition related to late payments, as your example suggests.
When will a portuguese translation be available?	The MAPS core Methodology is available in Portuguese: https://www.mapsinitiative.org/methodology/MAPS-Methodology-Portuguese.pdf . Additional translations will become available soon.
How do we promote public procurement in the country that do not have much green products or green supplies within the country?	The MAPS supplementary module on sustainable public procurement can be used for identifying barriers to improving the sustainability of the public procurement in a given country. The assessment report will include recommendations on addressing these.
Could you explain the mechanism for participating in the MAPS Network?	The MAPS Network a group of countries and institutions that have a particular interest in the MAPS – either because they have supported applying the methodology or have been assessed with it. They were involved in the revision of the methodology between 2015 and 2017. Do reach out to the secretariat if you are interested in supporting the MAPS.
Relating to professionalization, the country must develop first a national training strategy document for all actors in public procurement, accompanied by a short, medium and long term action plan. Not only public officials will be concerned, but the private sector and civil society must also be taken into account. What do you think?	Good point. The MAPS supplementary module on professionalisation does indeed assess private sector and civil society involvement.
Can the unpublished supplementary modules be requested in coming MAPS assessments?	If you're planning a full core assessment and is interested in piloting one of the forthcoming supplementary modules, do reach out to the secretariat.

