

Assessment of Bangladesh Public Procurement System

Volume II

Indicator-wise Assessment Result



June 5, 2020

Indicator-wise Assessment Result Summary

MAPS Pillar	Criteria Substantially Met (numbers)	Criteria Partially Met (numbers)	Criteria Substantially Not Met (numbers)	Criteria Not Applicable	Total
Pillar-I: Legal, Regulatory, and Policy Framework	57	7	3	0	67
Pillar-II: Institutional Framework and Management Capacity	25	24	3	3	55
Pillar-III: Public Procurement Operations and Market Practices	8	18	0	0	26
Pillar-IV: Accountability, Integrity and Transparency of the Public Procurement System	32	26	4	0	62
Total	122	75	10	3	210

Color Code:

- i. Criterion Substantially Met – Green
- ii. Criterion Partially Met – Yellow
- iii. Criterion Substantially Not Met – Red
- iv. Criterion Not Applicable - Blue

Pillar I. Legal, Regulatory, and Policy Framework

1. The public procurement legal framework achieves the agreed principles and complies with applicable obligations.

1(a) Scope of application and coverage of the legal and regulatory framework

Assessment criteria
(a) Is adequately recorded and organized hierarchically (laws, decrees, regulations, procedures), and precedence is clearly established.
(b) It covers goods, works and services, including consulting services for all procurement using public funds.
(c) PPPs, including concessions, are regulated.
(d) Current laws, regulations and policies are published and easily accessible to the public at no cost

1(b) Procurement methods

Assessment criteria
(a) Procurement methods are established unambiguously at an appropriate hierarchical level, along with the associated conditions under which each method may be used.
(b) The procurement methods prescribed include competitive and less competitive procurement procedures and provide an appropriate range of options that ensure value for money, fairness, transparency, proportionality and integrity.
(c) Fractioning of contracts to limit competition is prohibited.
(d) Appropriate standards for competitive procedures are specified.

1(c) Advertising rules and time limits

Assessment criteria
(a) The legal framework requires that procurement opportunities are publicly advertised, unless the restriction of procurement opportunities is explicitly justified (refer to indicator 1(b)).
(b) Publication of opportunities provides sufficient time, consistent with the method, nature and complexity of procurement, for potential bidders to obtain documents and respond to the advertisement. The minimum time frames for submission of bids/proposals are defined for each procurement method, and these time frames are extended when international competition is solicited.
(c) Publication of open tenders is mandated in at least a newspaper of wide national circulation or on a unique Internet official site where all public procurement opportunities are posted. This should be easily accessible at no cost and should not involve other barriers (e.g. technological barriers).
(c) The content published includes enough information to allow potential bidders to determine whether they are able to submit a bid and are interested in submitting one.

1(d) Rules on participation

Assessment criteria
(a) It establishes that participation of interested parties is fair and based on qualification and in accordance with rules on eligibility and exclusions.
(b) It ensures that there are no barriers to participation in the public procurement market.
(c) It details the eligibility requirements and provides for exclusions for criminal or corrupt activities, and for administrative debarment under the law, subject to due process or prohibition of commercial relations.
(d) It establishes rules for the participation of state-owned enterprises that promote fair competition.
(e) It details the procedures that can be used to determine a bidder's eligibility and ability to perform a specific contract.

1(e) Procurement documentation and specifications

Assessment criteria
(a) It establishes the minimum content of the procurement documents and requires that content is relevant and sufficient for suppliers to respond to the requirement.
(b) It requires the use of neutral specifications, citing international norms when possible, and provides for the use of functional specifications where appropriate.
(c) It requires recognition of standards that are equivalent, when neutral specifications are not available.
(d) Potential bidders are allowed to request a clarification of the procurement document, and the procuring entity is required to respond in a timely fashion and communicate the clarification to all potential bidders (in writing)

1(f) Evaluation and award criteria

Assessment criteria
(a) The evaluation criteria are objective, relevant to the subject matter of the contract, and precisely specified in advance in the procurement documents, so that the award decision is made solely based on the criteria stipulated in the documents.
(b) The use of price and non-price attributes and/or the consideration of life cycle cost is permitted as appropriate to ensure objective and value-for-money decisions.
(c) Quality is a major consideration in evaluating proposals for consulting services, and clear procedures and methodologies for assessment of technical capacity are defined.
(d) The way evaluation criteria are combined, and their relative weight determined should be clearly defined in the procurement documents.

(e) During the period of the evaluation, information on the examination, clarification and evaluation of bids/proposals is not disclosed to participants or to others not officially involved in the evaluation process.

1(g) Submission, receipt, and opening of tenders

Assessment criteria
(a) Opening of tenders in a defined and regulated proceeding, immediately following the closing date for bid submission.
(b) Records of proceedings for bid openings are retained and available for review.
(c) Security and confidentiality of bids is maintained prior to bid opening and until after the award of contracts.
(d) The disclosure of specific sensitive information is prohibited, as regulated in the legal framework.
(e) The modality of submitting tenders and receipt by the government is well defined, to avoid unnecessary rejection of tenders.

1(h) Right to challenge and appeal

Assessment criteria
(a) Participants in procurement proceedings have the right to challenge decisions or actions taken by the procuring entity.
(b) Provisions make it possible to respond to a challenge with administrative review by another body, independent of the procuring entity that has the authority to suspend the award decision and grant remedies and establish the right for judicial review.
(c) Rules establish the matters that are subject to review.
(d) Rules establish time frames for the submission of challenges and appeals and for issuance of decisions by the institution in charge of the review and the independent appeals body.
(e) Applications for appeal and decisions are published in easily accessible places and within specified time frames, in line with legislation protecting sensitive information.
(f) Decisions by the independent appeals body can be subject to higher-level review (judicial review).

1(i) Contract management

Assessment criteria
(a) Functions for undertaking contract management are defined and responsibilities are clearly assigned.
(b) Conditions for contract amendments are defined, ensure economy and do not arbitrarily limit competition.
(c) There are efficient and fair processes to resolve disputes promptly during the performance of the contract.
(d) The final outcome of a dispute resolution process is enforceable.

1(j) Electronic Procurement (e-Procurement)

Assessment criteria
(a) The legal framework allows or mandates e-Procurement solutions covering the public procurement cycle, whether entirely or partially.
(b) The legal framework ensures the use of tools and standards that provide unrestricted and full access to the system, taking into consideration privacy, security of data and authentication.
(c) The legal framework requires that interested parties be informed which parts of the processes will be managed electronically.

1(k) Norms for safekeeping of records, documents and electronic data

Assessment criteria
(a) A comprehensive list is established of the procurement records and documents related to transactions including contract management. This should be kept at the operational level. It should outline what is available for public inspection including conditions for access.
(b) There is a document retention policy that is both compatible with the statute of limitations in the country for investigating and prosecuting cases of fraud and corruption and compatible with the audit cycles.
(c) There are established security protocols to protect records (physical and/or electronic).

1(l) Public procurement principles in specialized legislation

Assessment criteria
(a) Public procurement principles and/or the legal framework apply in any specialised legislation that governs procurement by entities operating in specific sectors, as appropriate.
(b) Public procurement principles and/or laws apply to the selection and contracting of public private partnerships (PPP), including concessions as appropriate.
(c) Responsibilities for developing policies and supporting the implementation of PPPs, including concessions, are clearly assigned.

2. Implementing regulations and tools support the legal framework.

2(a) Implementing regulations to define processes and procedures

Assessment criteria
(a) There are regulations that supplement and detail the provisions of the procurement law, and do not contradict the law.
(b) The regulations are clear, comprehensive and consolidated as a set of regulations readily available in a single accessible place.
(c) Responsibility for maintenance of the regulations is clearly established, and the regulations are updated regularly.

2(b) Model procurement documents for goods, works, and services

Assessment criteria
(a) There are model procurement documents provided for use for a wide range of goods, works and services, including consulting services procured by public entities.
(b) At a minimum, there is a standard and mandatory set of clauses or templates that reflect the legal framework. These clauses can be used in documents prepared for competitive tendering/bidding.
(c) The documents are kept up to date, with responsibility for preparation and updating clearly assigned.

2 (c) Standard contract conditions

Assessment criteria
(a) There are standard contract conditions for the most common types of contracts, and their use is mandatory.
(b) The content of the standard contract conditions is generally consistent with internationally accepted practice.
(c) Standard contract conditions are an integral part of the procurement documents and made available to participants in procurement proceedings.

2(d) User's guide or manual for procuring entities

Assessment criteria
(a) There is (a) comprehensive procurement manual(s) detailing all procedures for the correct implementation of procurement regulations and laws.
(b) Responsibility for maintenance of the manual is clearly established, and the manual is updated regularly.

3. The legal and policy frameworks support the sustainable development of the country and the implementation of international obligations.

3(a) Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP)

Assessment criteria
(a) The country has a policy/strategy in place to implement SPP in support of broader national policy objectives.
(b) The SPP implementation plan is based on an in-depth assessment; systems and tools are in place to operationalize, facilitate and monitor the application of SPP.
(c) The legal and regulatory frameworks allow for sustainability (i.e. economic, environmental and social criteria) to be incorporated at all stages of the procurement cycle.
(d) The legal provisions require a well-balanced application of sustainability criteria to ensure value for money.

3(b) Obligations deriving from international agreements

Assessment criteria
(a) clearly established
(b) consistently adopted in laws and regulations and reflected in procurement policies.

Pillar II. Institutional Framework and Management Capacity

4. The public procurement system is mainstreamed and well- integrated into the public financial management system

4(a) Procurement planning and the budget cycle

Assessment criteria
(a) Annual or multi-annual procurement plans are prepared, to facilitate the budget planning and formulation process and to contribute to multi-year planning.
(b) Budget funds are committed or appropriated in a timely manner and cover the full amount of the contract (or at least the amount necessary to cover the portion of the contract performed within the budget period).
(c) A feedback mechanism reporting on budget execution is in place, in particular regarding the completion of major contracts.

4(b) Financial procedures and the procurement cycle

Assessment criteria
(a) No solicitation of tenders/proposals takes place without certification of the availability of funds.
(b) The national regulations/procedures for processing of invoices and authorization of payments are followed, publicly available and clear to potential bidders.

5. The country has an institution in charge of the normative/regulatory function

5(a) Status and legal basis of the normative/regulatory institution function

Assessment criteria
(a) The legal and regulatory framework specifies the normative/regulatory function and assigns appropriate authorities' formal powers to enable the institution to function effectively, or the normative/regulatory functions are clearly assigned to various units within the government.

5(b) Responsibilities of the normative/regulatory function

Assessment criteria
(a) providing advice to procuring entities
(b) drafting procurement policies
(c) proposing changes/drafting amendments to the legal and regulatory framework
(d) monitoring public procurement
(e) providing procurement information
(f) managing statistical databases
(g) preparing reports on procurement to other parts of government
(h) developing and supporting implementation of initiatives for improvements of the public procurement system
(i) providing tools and documents, including integrity training programmes, to support training and capacity development of the staff responsible for implementing procurement
(j) supporting the professionalization of the procurement function (e.g. development of role descriptions, competency profiles and accreditation and certification schemes for the profession)
(k) designing and managing centralised online platforms and other e-Procurement systems, as appropriate

5(c) Organization, funding, staffing, and level of independence and authority

Assessment criteria
(a) The normative/regulatory function (or the institutions entrusted with responsibilities for the regulatory function if there is not a single institution) and the head of the institution have a high-level and authoritative standing in government.
(b) Financing is secured by the legal/regulatory framework, to ensure the function's independence and proper staffing.
(c) The institution's internal organisation, authority and staffing are sufficient and consistent with its responsibilities.

5(d) Avoiding conflict of interest

Assessment criteria
(a) The normative/regulatory institution has a system in place to avoid conflicts of interest.

6. Procuring entities and their mandates are clearly defined

6(a) Definition, responsibilities and formal powers of procuring entities

Assessment criteria
(a) Procuring entities are clearly defined.
(b) Responsibilities and competencies of procuring entities are clearly defined.
(c) Procuring entities are required to establish a designated, specialised procurement function with the necessary management structure, capacity and capability.
(d) Decision-making authority is delegated to the lowest competent levels consistent with the risks associated and the monetary sums involved.
(e) Accountability for decisions is precisely defined.

6(b) Centralized procurement body

Assessment criteria
(a) The country has considered the benefits of establishing a centralised procurement function in charge of consolidated procurement, framework agreements or specialised procurement.
(b) In case a centralised procurement body exists, the legal and regulatory framework provides for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal status, funding, responsibilities and decision-making powers are clearly defined. • Accountability for decisions is precisely defined. • The body and the head of the body have a high-level and authoritative standing in government.
(c) The centralized procurement body's internal organization and staffing are sufficient and consistent with its responsibilities.

7. Public procurement is embedded in an effective information system

7(a) Publication of public procurement information supported by information technology

Assessment criteria
(a) Information on procurement is easily accessible in media of wide circulation and availability. Information is relevant, timely and complete and helpful to interested parties to understand the procurement processes and requirements and to monitor outcomes, results and performance.
(b) There is an integrated information system (centralised online portal) that provides up-to-date information and is easily accessible to all interested parties at no cost.
(c) The information system provides for the publication of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • procurement plans • information related to specific procurements, at a minimum, advertisements /notices of procurement opportunities, procurement method, contract awards and contract implementation, including amendments, payments and appeals decisions • linkages to rules and regulations and other information relevant for promoting competition and transparency.
(d) In support of the concept of open contracting, more comprehensive information is published on the online portal in each phase of the procurement process, including the full set of bidding documents, evaluation reports, full contract documents including technical specification and implementation details (in accordance with legal and regulatory framework).
(e) Information is published in an open and structured machine-readable format, using identifiers and classifications (open data format)
(f) Responsibility for the management and operation of the system is clearly defined.

7(b) Use of e-Procurement

Assessment criteria
(a) E-procurement is widely used or progressively implemented in the country at all levels of government.
(b) Government officials have the capacity to plan, develop and manage e-Procurement systems.
(c) Procurement staff is adequately skilled to reliably and efficiently use e-Procurement systems.
(d) Suppliers (including micro, small and medium-sized enterprises) participate in a public procurement market increasingly dominated by digital technology.
(e) If e-Procurement has not yet been introduced, the government has adopted an e-Procurement roadmap based on an e-Procurement readiness assessment.

7(c) Strategies to manage procurement data

Assessment criteria
(a) A system is in operation for collecting data on the procurement of goods, works and services, including consulting services, supported by e-Procurement or other information technology.
(b) The system manages data for the entire procurement process and allows for analysis of trends, levels of participation, efficiency and economy of procurement and compliance with requirements.
(c) The reliability of the information is high (verified by audits).
(d) Analysis of information is routinely carried out, published and fed back into the system.

8. The public procurement system has a strong capacity to develop and improve

8(a) Training, advice and assistance

Assessment criteria
(a) substantive permanent training programs of suitable quality and content for the needs of the system.
(b) routine evaluation and periodic adjustment of training programs based on feedback and need.
(c) advisory service or help desk function to resolve questions by procuring entities, suppliers and the public.
(d) a strategy well-integrated with other measures for developing the capacity of key actors involved in public procurement.

8(b) Recognition of procurement as a profession

Assessment criteria
(a) Procurement is recognised as a specific function, with procurement positions defined at different professional levels, and job descriptions and the requisite qualifications and competencies specified.
(b) Appointments and promotion are competitive and based on qualifications and professional certification.
(c) Staff performance is evaluated on a regular and consistent basis, and staff development and adequate training is provided.

8(c) Monitoring performance to improve the system

Assessment criteria
(a) The country has established and consistently applies a performance measurement system that focuses on both quantitative and qualitative aspects.
(b) The information is used to support strategic policy making on procurement.
(c) Strategic plans, including results frameworks, are in place and used to improve the system.
(d) Responsibilities are clearly defined.

Pillar III. Public Procurement Operations and Market Practices

9. Public procurement practices achieve stated objectives

9(a) Planning

Assessment criteria
(a) Needs analysis and market research guide a proactive identification of optimal procurement strategies.
(b) The requirements and desired outcomes of contracts are clearly defined.
(c) Sustainability criteria, if any, are used in a balanced manner and in accordance with national priorities, to ensure value for money.

9(b) Selection and contracting

Assessment criteria
(a) Multi-stage procedures are used in complex procurements to ensure that only qualified and eligible participants are included in the competitive process.
(b) Clear and integrated procurement documents, standardized where possible and proportionate to the need, are used to encourage broad participation from potential competitors.
(c) Procurement methods are chosen, documented and justified in accordance with the purpose and in compliance with the legal framework.
(d) Procedures for bid submission, receipt and opening are clearly described in the procurement documents and complied with. This means, for instance, allowing bidders or their representatives to attend bid openings, and allowing civil society to monitor bid submission, receipt and opening, as prescribed.
(e) Throughout the bid evaluation and award process, confidentiality is ensured.
(f) Appropriate techniques are applied, to determine best value for money based on the criteria stated in the procurement documents and to award the contract.
(g) Contract awards are announced as prescribed.
(h) Contract clauses include sustainability considerations, where appropriate.
(i) Contract clauses provide incentives for exceeding defined performance levels and disincentives for poor performance.
(j) The selection and award process is carried out effectively, efficiently and in a transparent way.

9(c) Contract management

Assessment criteria
(a) Contracts are implemented in a timely manner.
(b) Inspection, quality control, supervision of work and final acceptance of products is carried out.
(c) Invoices are examined, time limits for payments comply with good international practices, and payments are processed as stipulated in the contract.
(d) Contract amendments are reviewed, issued and published in a timely manner.
(e) Procurement statistics are available and a system is in place to measure and improve procurement practices.
(f) Opportunities for direct involvement of relevant external stakeholders in public procurement are utilized.
(g) The records are complete and accurate, and easily accessible in a single file.

10. The public procurement market is fully functional

10(a) Dialogue and partnerships between public and private sector

Assessment criteria
(a) The government encourages open dialogue with the private sector. Several established and formal mechanisms are available for open dialogue through associations or other means, including a transparent and consultative process when formulating changes to the public procurement system. The dialogue follows the applicable ethics and integrity rules of the government. Effectiveness in engaging with the private sector (in % of responses).
(b) The government has programs to help build capacity among private companies, including for small businesses and training to help new entries into the public procurement marketplace.

10(b) Private sector's organization and access to the public procurement market

Assessment criteria
(a) The private sector is competitive, well-organised, willing and able to participate in the competition for public procurement contracts.
(b) There are no major systemic constraints inhibiting private sector access to the public procurement market.

10(c) Key sectors and sector strategies

Assessment criteria
(a) Key sectors associated with the public procurement market are identified by the government.
(b) Risks associated with certain sectors and opportunities to influence sector markets are assessed by the government, and sector market participants are engaged in support of procurement policy objectives.

Pillar IV. Accountability, Integrity and Transparency of the Public Procurement System

11. Transparency and civil society engagement foster integrity in public procurement

11(a) Enabling environment for public consultation and monitoring

Assessment criteria
(a) A transparent and consultative process is followed when formulating changes to the public procurement system.
(b) Programmes are in place to build the capacity of relevant stakeholders to understand, monitor and improve public procurement.
(c) There is ample evidence that the government takes into account the input, comments and feedback received from civil society.

11(b) Adequate and timely access to information by the public

Assessment criteria
(a) Requirements in combination with actual practices ensure that all stakeholders have adequate and timely access to information as a precondition for effective participation.

11(c) Direct engagement of civil society

Assessment criteria
(a) The legal/regulatory and policy framework allows citizens to participate in the following phases of a procurement process, as appropriate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the planning phase (consultation) • bid/proposal opening (observation) • evaluation and contract award (observation), when appropriate, according to local law • contract management and completion (monitoring).
(b) There is ample evidence for direct participation of citizens in procurement processes through consultation, observation and monitoring.

12. The country has effective control audit systems

12(a) Legal framework, organization and procedures of the control system

Assessment criteria
(a) laws and regulations that establish a comprehensive control framework, including internal controls, internal audits, external audits and oversight by legal bodies
(b) internal control/audit mechanisms and functions that ensure appropriate oversight of procurement, including reporting to management on compliance, effectiveness and efficiency of procurement operations
(c) internal control mechanisms that ensure a proper balance between timely and efficient decision-making and adequate risk mitigation
(d) independent external audits provided by the country's Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) that ensure appropriate oversight of the procurement function based on periodic risk assessments and controls tailored to risk management
(e) review of audit reports provided by the SAI and determination of appropriate actions by the legislature (or other body responsible for public finance governance)
(f) clear mechanisms to ensure that there is follow-up on the respective findings.

12(b) Coordination of controls and audits of public procurement

Assessment criteria
(a) There are written procedures that state requirements for internal controls, ideally in an internal control manual.
(b) There are written standards and procedures (e.g. a manual) for conducting procurement audits (both on compliance and performance) to facilitate coordinated and mutually reinforcing auditing.
(c) There is evidence that internal or external audits are carried out at least annually and that other established written standards are complied with.
(d) Clear and reliable reporting lines to relevant oversight bodies exist.

12(c) Enforcement and follow-up on findings and recommendations

Assessment criteria
(a) Recommendations are responded to and implemented within the time frames established in the law.
(b) There are systems in place to follow up on the implementation/enforcement of the audit recommendations.

12(d) Qualification and training to conduct procurement audits

Assessment criteria
(a) There is an established program to train internal and external auditors to ensure that they are qualified to conduct high-quality procurement audits, including performance audits.
(b) The selection of auditors requires that they have adequate knowledge of the subject as a condition for carrying out procurement audits; if auditors lack procurement knowledge, they are routinely supported by procurement specialists or consultants.
(c) Auditors are selected in a fair and transparent way and are fully independent.

13. Procurement appeals mechanisms are effective and efficient

13(a) Process for challenges and appeals

Assessment criteria
(a) Decisions are rendered on the basis of available evidence submitted by the parties.
(b) The first review of the evidence is carried out by the entity specified in the law.
(c) The body or authority (appeals body) in charge of reviewing decisions of the specified first review body issues final, enforceable decisions.
(d) The time frames specified for the submission and review of challenges and for appeals and issuing of decisions do not unduly delay the procurement process or make an appeal unrealistic.

13(b) Independence and capacity of the appeals body

Assessment criteria
(a) is not involved in any capacity in procurement transactions or in the process leading to contract award decisions
(b) does not charge fees that inhibit access by concerned parties
(c) follows procedures for submission and resolution of complaints that are clearly defined and publicly available
(d) exercises its legal authority to suspend procurement proceedings and impose remedies
(e) issues decisions within the time frame specified in the law/regulations*
(f) issues decisions that are binding on all parties
(g) is adequately resourced and staffed to fulfil its functions.

13(c) Decisions of the appeals body

Assessment criteria
(a) based on information relevant to the case.
(b) balanced and unbiased in consideration of the relevant information.
(c) result in remedies, if required, that are necessary to correcting the implementation of the process or procedures.
(d) decisions are published on the centralised government online portal within specified timelines and as stipulated in the law.

14. The country has ethics and anticorruption measures in place

14(a) Legal definition of prohibited practices, conflict of interest, and associated responsibilities, accountabilities, and penalties:

Assessment criteria
(a) definitions of fraud, corruption and other prohibited practices in procurement, consistent with obligations deriving from legally binding international anti-corruption agreements.
(b) definitions of the individual responsibilities, accountability and penalties for government employees and private firms or individuals found guilty of fraud, corruption or other prohibited practices in procurement, without prejudice of other provisions in the criminal law.
(c) definitions and provisions concerning conflict of interest, including a cooling-off period for former public officials.

14(b) Provisions on prohibited practices in procurement documents

Assessment criteria
(a) The legal/regulatory framework specifies this mandatory requirement and gives precise instructions on how to incorporate the matter in procurement and contract documents.
(b) Procurement and contract documents include provisions on fraud, corruption and other prohibited practices, as specified in the legal/regulatory framework.

14(c) Effective sanctions and enforcement systems

Assessment criteria
(a) Procuring entities are required to report allegations of fraud, corruption and other prohibited practices to law enforcement authorities, and there is a clear procedure in place for doing this.
(b) There is evidence that this system is systematically applied and reports are consistently followed up by law enforcement authorities.

- (c) There is a system for suspension/debarment that ensures due process and is consistently applied.
- (d) There is evidence that the laws on fraud, corruption and other prohibited practices are being enforced in the country by application of stated penalties.

14(d) Anti-corruption framework and integrity training

Assessment criteria
(a) The country has in place a comprehensive anti-corruption framework to prevent, detect and penalize corruption in government that involves the appropriate agencies of government with a level of responsibility and capacity to enable its responsibilities to be carried out.
(b) As part of the anti-corruption framework, a mechanism is in place and is used for systematically identifying corruption risks and for mitigating these risks in the public procurement cycle.
(c) As part of the anti-corruption framework, statistics on corruption-related legal proceedings and convictions are compiled and reports are published annually.
(d) Special measures are in place for the detection and prevention of corruption associated with procurement.
(e) Special integrity training programmes are offered and the procurement workforce regularly participates in this training.

14(e) Stakeholder support to strengthen integrity in procurement

Assessment criteria
(a) There are strong and credible civil society organizations that exercise social audit and control.
(b) There is an enabling environment for civil society organizations to have a meaningful role as third-party monitors, including clear channels for engagement and feedback that are promoted by the government.
(c) There is evidence that civil society contributes to shape and improve integrity of public procurement.
(d) Suppliers and business associations actively support integrity and ethical behaviour in public procurement, e.g. through internal compliance measures.

14(f) Secure mechanism for reporting prohibited practices or unethical behavior

Assessment criteria
(a) There are secure, accessible and confidential channels for reporting cases of fraud, corruption or other prohibited practices or unethical behaviour.
(b) There are legal provisions to protect whistle-blowers, and these are considered effective.
(c) There is a functioning system that serves to follow up on disclosures.

14(g) Codes of conduct/codes of ethics and financial disclosure rules

Assessment criteria
(a) There is a code of conduct or ethics for government officials, with particular provisions for those involved in public financial management, including procurement.
(b) The code defines accountability for decision making, and subjects decision makers to specific financial disclosure requirements.
(c) The code is of mandatory, and the consequences of any failure to comply are administrative or criminal.
(d) Regular training programmes are offered to ensure sustained awareness and implementation of measures.
(e) Conflict of interest statements, financial disclosure forms and information on beneficial ownership are systematically filed, accessible and utilised by decision makers to prevent corruption risks throughout the public procurement cycle.