



MAPS

Methodology for Assessing
Procurement Systems

Guidance: Profile of MAPS assessors

2021



INTRODUCTION

The MAPS framework can be applied to assess the procurement system of any country. In order to guarantee that assessments provide trustworthy findings and recommendations that may inform decision-makers, the methodology establishes a complete quality assurance process. In it, the MAPS Secretariat and an Assessment's Technical Advisory Group, consisting of international procurement experts from the MAPS Network, provide comments throughout the assessment process, from the concept note through the final report.

The selection of assessors, and especially the lead assessor, is one of the key aspects to ensure that the assessment fulfills all the requirements and steps of the MAPS framework, and is carried out in a professional, impartial and objective manner.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to provide an indication of the profile needed for the assessors that will carry out assessments using the MAPS methodology. This profile should be understood as the minimum suggested requirements of professional experience, qualifications, and competencies. It does not supersede any additional screening carried out by country authorities and/or lead institutions, but should rather complement any such efforts.

I. Who should be part of the assessment team?

Typically, a MAPS assessment is carried out by a team of assessors. These can be hired externally as consultants or be staff from the lead institutions. To increase the likelihood of impartiality and independence, it is advisable that participation of staff from the country authorities are limited to providing information and as such that staff from country authorities do not conduct the full assessments themselves.

The number of assessor hours required to complete an assessment varies depending on the complexity of the task in hand. This complexity is determined by the scope of the evaluation (central government, subnational governments, state-owned enterprises, etc.); the parts of the MAPS framework that are to be applied (core methodology and/or supplementary modules); and the amount of documents, data, interviews and survey answers that will be reviewed.

Based on the recent history of MAPS assessments, between 150 and 200 assessor days are usually required to complete a standard core MAPS assessment. Depending on the need, additional consultants may be hired for specific activities such as data collection and analysis, compilation of legislation, among other tasks.

In any case, one lead assessor should be responsible for drafting the findings, gaps and recommendations; liaising with the assessment's steering committee and the lead institution or country authorities; and leading the validation stage. The lead assessor should be a seasoned international consultant who can provide an independent and expert view of the public procurement system.



Usually, one or more local assessors also take part of the assessment to provide for local context, interact more easily with local stakeholders, and collect and compile information as necessary.

II. Which qualifications should the assessors have?

The following is the minimum profile for assessors:

- University degree in the fields of: Economics, Public Administration, Law, Project Management, Social Sciences, Business Administration, Engineering, or similar disciplines.
- At least 5 years of experience in public procurement.
- At least 2 years of experience interacting with a variety of stakeholders including high-level government officials, civil society organisations and private sector enterprises (preferably in the context of MAPS assessments).
- Fluency in the language in which the assessment is to be drafted and demonstrated experience in drafting clear, concise and evidence-based research and/or policy documents.
- Good knowledge of the MAPS, as well as of internationally recognized concepts, principles and good practices governing public procurement.
- A good knowledge of the country or the region where the country is located is an advantage, as well as of the local language of the country.
- Ability to maintain independence and impartiality when delivering diagnoses and recommendations, while maintaining diplomatic sensitivity.

In addition to these requirements, lead assessors should comply with the following:

- Advanced university degree (masters or above) in the fields of: Economics, Public Administration, Law, Project Management, Social Sciences, Business Administration, Engineering, or similar disciplines.
- At least 10, and preferably more than 15 years of experience in public procurement.
- At least 5 years of experience in monitoring, evaluation and development of public procurement reform strategies and their implementation (preferably in the context of MAPS assessments).
- At least 5 years of experience interacting with a variety of stakeholders including high-level government officials, civil society organisations and private sector enterprises (preferably in the context of MAPS assessments).
- At least 5 years of experience managing teams and projects with clear deadlines and deliverables.

