



MAPS

Methodology for Assessing
Procurement Systems

Guidance: Supplementary modules

NOVEMBER 2023



INTRODUCTION

The supplementary modules are an extension of the core MAPS framework that provides comprehensive, in-depth assessments of a range of aspects of public procurement systems. While all of these aspects are covered at the general level in the core MAPS, the supplementary modules offer a more extensive and highly detailed analytical framework for assessing the strengths and weaknesses of a specific dimension of the procurement system and for developing recommendations based on this.

PURPOSE

This document is intended as a brief introductory guide to the MAPS supplementary modules; what they cover; how to get started with them; and how they interact with the core MAPS framework.

I. What are the supplementary MAPS modules?

There are six supplementary modules to the core MAPS framework:

1. Sustainable public procurement (SPP)
2. Professionalisation
3. E-procurement
4. Entity level assessment
5. Public-private partnerships and concessions
6. Sector level assessment

II. How do the supplementary modules work?

The supplementary modules are thematic additions to the core MAPS framework. This means that they are structured around the same four pillars, namely (I) Legislative, Regulatory and Policy Framework, (II) Institutional Framework and Management Capacity, (III) Procurement Operations and Market Practices and (IV) Accountability, Integrity and Transparency of the Public Procurement System. For each pillar, the supplementary modules offer indicators and sub-indicators that provide an increased understanding of how the procurement system performs in relation to particular topics. For example, the indicators of Pillar I of the module on Sustainable Public Procurement deals with to what extent the formal legal framework for a country's procurement system supports, facilitates and promotes sustainability in public procurement. As in the core methodology, all sub-indicators are assessed through objective criteria and may be substantiated by means of quantitative indicators calculated through surveys, data extracted from procurement portals, among other sources.

Two modules are designed so they can be used independently of a core MAPS assessment. These are: Professionalisation and SPP. The remaining modules require that a core assessment has already been done in the country or is being done in conjunction with the assessment with a supplementary module.



III. How to decide when to use supplementary modules?

As is the case when undertaking a core MAPS assessment, when thinking about applying a supplementary module countries and partners need to consider whether the conditions are right. As a general rule, if a cursory glance at the sub-indicators of a given supplementary module suggest that the majority of the central elements are not in place in the country, it is unlikely that the assessment will be particularly valuable. For example, if no or very few SPP initiatives exist in a country, an assessment using the MAPS SPP module will probably not be particularly useful, because the findings and recommendations from such an assessment would be so basic that they would be covered just as well by the sub-indicators in the core MAPS relating to SPP.

The supplementary modules include some guiding questions that countries and partners should consider before choosing to do an assessment. If a core MAPS assessment report is available for the country, the report will be an essential resource when answering these questions. While a core MAPS report may provide easy access to information, what is assessed under the sub-indicators of these supplementary modules, and the requirements for the analysis of each criterion, is the same regardless of whether a core MAPS report exists or not.

In principle, any number of supplementary modules can be applied at the same time. However, applying several modules at the same time will increase the complexity of the assessment and the resources required.

For the supplementary modules that require a core assessment, the general recommendation is that they should be used shortly after completing a core MAPS evaluation. This will allow for a complete understanding of the procurement system and the country context and its stakeholders, and for distilling lessons, opportunities, and challenges regarding the MAPS process in the country. At the same time, using a supplementary module just after a core evaluation will make findings remain valid and up to date. From the planning for applying a supplementary module, information from the core assessment should be used, including in the concept note, to allow for a proper definition of the objective, a description of the context, as well as other important elements.

IV. What is the process for an assessment using supplementary modules?

The formal process is the same as for any MAPS assessment, in particular regarding the quality assurance process. The same requirements in terms of deliverables and process apply, regardless of whether an assessment is done with the core MAPS, with the core MAPS plus one or more supplementary modules, or with one or more supplementary modules on their own.

In case an assessment is done with the core MAPS plus one or more supplementary modules, or with multiple supplementary modules on their own, the following applies for the mandatory deliverables:

- For the **concept note**, each part of the concept note template must take into consideration all frameworks applied. For example, if a core MAPS assessment is done with a Professionalisation assessment, objectives, information sources (including sample and survey strategies), timeline, budget, etc. must reflect this.



- For the **assessment report** a volume for each individual assessment should be included. Accordingly, both a narrative report and a matrix, as well as any annexes, must be delivered for each assessment.

