



**MAPS**

Methodology for Assessing  
Procurement Systems

# NEW VERSION Guidance: Supplementary modules

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VERSION 2.0 – UPDATED NOVEMBER 2022



## 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:

- Sustainable public procurement (SPP)
- Professionalisation
- E-procurement
- Entity level assessment
- Public-private partnerships and concessions
- Sector level assessment

## II. How do the supplementary modules work?

The supplementary modules are extensions of 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 new 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.

Because the supplementary modules follow the structure of the core MAPS, the User Guide and the related templates and guidance documents available at [www.mapsinitiative.org](http://www.mapsinitiative.org) can be used when conducting an assessment with the supplementary modules. This includes the concept note and country



context analysis. Additionally, all the quality assurance mechanisms associated with the core MAPS, such as reviews by a technical advisory group and the MAPS Secretariat, apply to the supplementary modules as well.

### III. How do the supplementary modules interact with the core MAPS?

As a general recommendation, a supplementary module 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.

However, it is often the case that political buy-in and resources are more easily secured for carrying out a single assessment that includes both a core evaluation, and one or more supplementary modules. Thus, it is possible to apply the core framework and a supplementary module in the same assessment project. This also applies for piloting supplementary modules that have not yet been published in their final version.

In this case, the best approach is to plan the more in-depth criteria to be applied only after obtaining the best possible understanding of the more general matters. This follows the approach and order established of the pillars in the MAPS framework, and any evaluation generally starts by understanding the legislative and regulatory framework before advancing to other topics.

In any case, special attention should be given to using the time with country stakeholders in the best way possible. For instance, if some stakeholders may provide insights that serve to substantiate both the core and supplementary assessments, an interview with them should include questions from both parts of the methodology.

### IV. Can the supplementary modules be used alone?

MAPS, both the core framework and the supplementary modules, is freely available to use according to the specific circumstances and needs of a given country. However, only the Professionalisation supplementary module has been designed as stand-alone, whereas the rest are specifically constructed to be carried out in conjunction with or after a core MAPS assessment and rely extensively on findings from the core MAPS assessment about the fundamentals of the assessed procurement system. Regardless, to obtain the MAPS Seal of Approval, the modules not designed as stand-alone must be carried out in conjunction with or after a core MAPS assessment.

