



The Tool for Assessing Statistical Capacity (TASC)

Measuring Statistical Capacity

The U.S. Census Bureau's Tool for Assessing Statistical Capacity (TASC) provides a quantitative measure of the capacity of a National Statistical Office (NSO) in developing countries to conduct population and housing surveys or censuses.

The TASC aims to measure the overall capacity of an NSO, as well as provide a breakdown of the areas of strength and weakness. Although this information has many uses, three stand out. The TASC:

- 1) aids NSOs in identifying areas where improvement is needed;
- 2) can help NSOs and donors to justify the need for funding for training in specific areas; and,
- 3) can provide a measure of the impact of capacity building activities by being administered at two points in time, before and after.

Administration of the TASC takes two to four days. TASC scores are calculated from answers provided directly by the NSO staff. The TASC is broken into modules to facilitate administration and clearly define the areas of strength and weakness for an NSO. The modules of the TASC are:

- Institutional Capacity
- Planning and Management
- Mapping
- Sampling
- Questionnaire Content and Testing
- Field Operations
- Data Processing
- Data Analysis and Evaluation
- Data Dissemination
- Publicity
- Mobile Data Capture

The U.S. Census Bureau works with international assistance partners, such as the USAID Office of Population and Reproductive Health and bilateral and international organizations, to provide training and technical assistance to countries.

For inquiries and additional information, contact:

International Programs Center
 Population Division
 U.S. Census Bureau
 4600 Silver Hill Road
 Washington, D.C. 20233
 Email: pop.international@census.gov
<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/international-programs.html>

The TASC has been administered successfully in multiple countries. Results from the TASC have led to capacity building activities tailored specifically to the NSOs greatest areas of weakness. Results have also aided NSOs in securing additional help from multiple stakeholders, including hardware, software, and training.

The U.S. Census Bureau is available to administer the TASC and provide recommendations that address the primary needs of the NSO as identified by the scores. The TASC may also be administered by other neutral parties.

The TASC is now available both as a paper-based tool, and as a digital tool. Available materials for the TASC include:

- Administration Manual
- Administration Power Point
- TASC Booklet / TASC Digital Survey
- Answer Sheet / Digital Answer Sheet
- Results Calculator

For questions about the TASC, please contact:
pop.international@census.gov

**The TASC provides an NSO
with an objective,
quantitative assessment of
their areas of strength and
weakness in preparation for a
population and housing
census or survey.**

This is one in a series of fact sheets introducing the Census Bureau and the assistance it provides to countries around the world. The Census Bureau helps countries improve their national statistical systems by engaging in statistical capacity building activities that aim to enhance competencies in several areas in sustainable ways.

Topics in this series include:

- Statistical Capacity Building
- Population Census
- Socioeconomic and Demographic Surveys
- Population Estimates and Projections
- The Tool for Assessing Statistical Capacity (TASC)
- CSPro – Processing Census and Survey Data
- Demographic and Economic Analysis
- Geographic Information Systems
- Courses and Workshops

