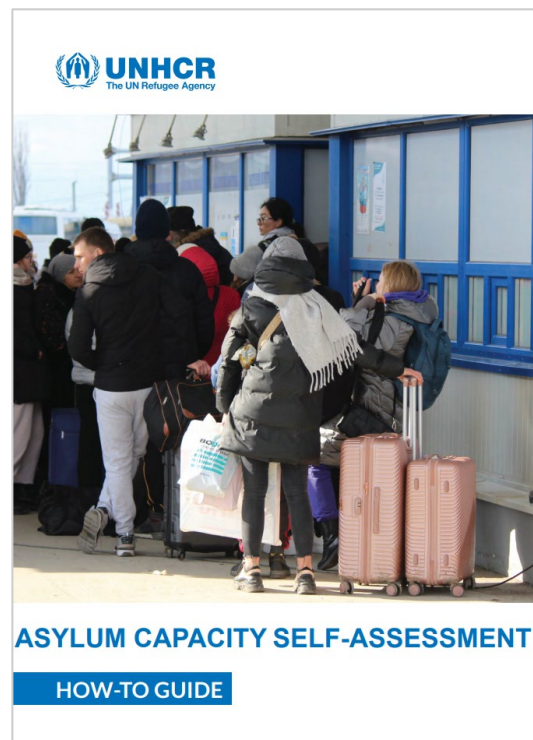


Asylum Capacity Self-Assessment Tool

Against the backdrop of rising numbers of asylum applications, including in situations of mixed movements of migrants and refugees, developing a strong and well-functioning asylum system is of critical importance. In order to be effective, initiatives to strengthen asylum capacity must be grounded in an evidence-based assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the system. Creating this evidence base is the objective of the **Asylum Capacity Self-Assessment Tool**.

WHAT IS IT?

The Tool provides a detailed and concrete methodology to conduct a self-assessment of capacities in a national asylum system. The Tool is composed of a **How-To Guide** and a **Self-Assessment Questionnaire** to be used as a key method of analysis to obtain a comprehensive image of the capacity strengths and weaknesses in an asylum system. Together, the components of the Tool support asylum authorities in implementing a customizable capacity assessment, assessing issues such as the normative framework, institutional considerations, material assets and infrastructures, planning and resource management (including workforce), as well as case processing modalities.



WHO IS IT DESIGNED FOR?

The Asylum Capacity Self-Assessment Tool is designed for use by national authorities in charge of asylum procedures (from accessing the system to final determination of an asylum claim). It encourages the engagement and support of a wide range of stakeholders and UNHCR. Stakeholders may include ministries and entities supporting the asylum system, refugees and asylum-seekers, development actors, donors, United Nations agencies, regional organizations and platforms, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector, and academics.

WHEN SHOULD IT BE USED?

The Tool should be used when an asylum capacity development (ACD) initiative is foreseen in a national asylum system; typically when challenges have been identified within the asylum process. For instance: an outdated legal framework, lengthy asylum procedures, backlogs of asylum applications at first instance and appeal, turnover of asylum decision-makers or complaints regarding the quality of asylum procedures. The Tool can also be used periodically for further analysis and to measure progress over time.

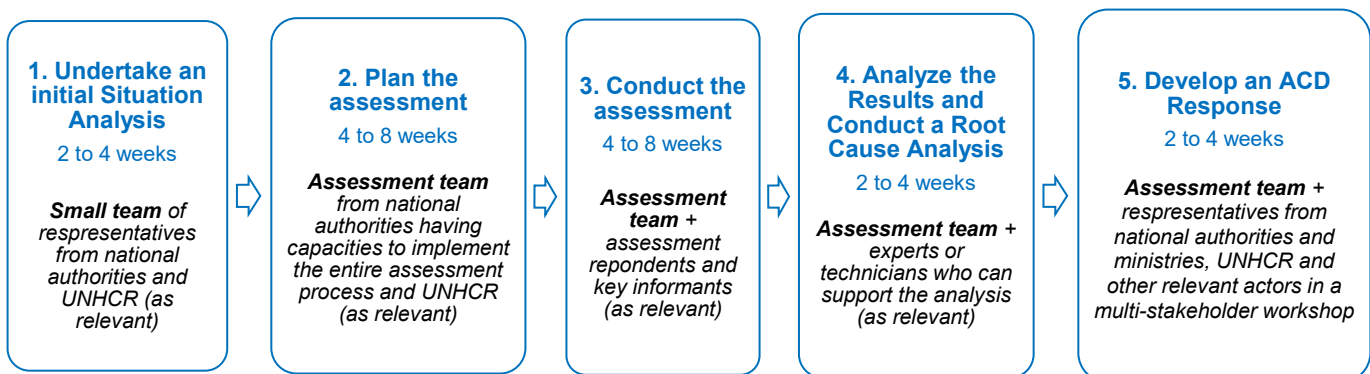
Features

Flexibility

The Tool is designed to fit any type of national asylum system and can be adapted depending on the context. The Self-Assessment Questionnaire is a primary, recommended method of analysis, which can be supplemented with additional methodologies as required by the scope of the assessment. It can be customized to suit the needs by selecting from the five optional modules and related sub-modules those that are relevant to the focus of the assessment. Further flexibility is provided in the implementation of the assessment which can be completed by filling out the Questionnaire as a survey or through a multi-stakeholder discussion.

Duration of the process

The duration of the process depends on the context and the scope of the assessment. It is a three to five-month process from the initial situation analysis to the formulation of a concrete and detailed ACD response. The different steps are as follows:



Resource needs

The resources needed to conduct an asylum capacity self-assessment depend on the context, scope and objectives of the assessment, however, there are ways to minimize costs by relying on pre-existing resources when possible. In terms of technical and human resources, a small team of civil servants will need to follow the entire process, and this can normally be done as part of regular assignments and tasks. UNHCR can also provide technical advice and/or experts to support the process.

Results

The Self-Assessment Tool assists in identifying crucial areas that need to be strengthened in the national asylum system. It supports the development and planning of a cost-effective and evidence-based ACD response, which can be used to attract funding.