|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Country Level Legal and Policy Framework**Country Level Care System Assessment Matrix****Logo  Description automatically generated with low confidence**  |  |
|  | **Question** | **Response**  | **Qualifying Information**  | **Other Comments** |
| 1 | Has the country ratified key child protection human rights instruments (CRC, Hague Convention, CRPD)? How and to what extend have these rights been enshrined in the domestic legal framework?  |  |  |  |
| 2 | Is there an overarching child protection law that conforms with the CRC?  |  |  |  |
| 3 | Is there an Alternative Care Policy that conforms with the 2009 Guidelines and prioritises family-based care?  |   |  |  |
| 4 | Are there adequate laws, regulations and policy governing alternative care, including for: * Foster care
* Formal Kinship care
* Guardianship
* Domestic Adoption
* Reunification
 |  |  |  |
| 5 | Is the process and conditions for divestment and reinstatement of parental responsibility clearly stipulated in law? |  |  |  |
| 6 | Does the legal and policy framework reflect the Hague Convention for the Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Adoption especially the subsidiarity of intercountry adoption to domestic family-based care options? |  |  |  |
| 7 | Is there an appropriate government-approved strategy for bringing about deinstitutionalization of the alternative care system?* In general
* For children under 3-5 years
* For children with a disability
* With a target timeframe
* Addressing new and unregistered institutions
 |  |  |  |
| 8 | Is there an appropriate government approved strategy for reintegrating children out of existing institutions? Does it adequately protect the best interests of children?  |  |  |  |
| 9 | Are there existing efforts to reform the childcare/alternative care policy and legal framework? What is the focus of these efforts? Have they been informed by a robust sector assessment/analysis?  |  |   |  |
| 10 | What legal and policy recommendations were made by the CRC committee in the last concluding observations? What action has been taken by government in response?  |  |  |  |
| 11 | Does legislation require the implementation of specific measures and services to prevent family separation?  |  |  |  |
| 12 | Does the legislation/policy framework mandate an appropriate assessment process for decision making regarding children’s care based on the necessity and suitability principles (gatekeeping)?  |  |  |  |
| 13 | Does legislation require the implementation of given processes and measures (gatekeeping) to ensure that the suitability of family-based alternative care for a child is considered before envisioning placement in a residential facility? |  |  |  |
| 14 | Does the legislation mandate regular reviews of alternative care placements with the purview of ensuring separation from families is for the shortest duration possible and/or permanency is achieved?  |  |  |  |
| 15 | Is the process of leaving and after care supported in the law for all Care Leavers? |  |  |  |
| 16 | Are there sufficient regulations/supplementary laws in place to devolve child protection responsibilities down to the subnational level? Are the roles, responsibilities and interactions between different government agencies/authorities made clear in the laws/regulations?  |  |  |  |
| 17 | Does the legal and policy framework establish a regulatory body for alternative care, including a registration system and inspectorate?  |  |  |  |
| Implementation Mechanisms  |  |
|  | **Question** | **Response** | **Qualifying Information**  | **Other Comments** |
| 18 | Is there a mechanism to enable early identification of families at risk of separation operating at the local level? If so, how well does it function?  |  |  |  |
| 19 | Is there a referral process to link identified families with appropriate early intervention/remedial services? |  |  |  |
| 20 | Is there a regulatory body in operation that handles registration, licensing of service providers and remedial action include revocation of registration and closure?  |  |  |  |
| 21 | Is there a functional inspectorate and digital system for inspecting residential care settings against national standards and laws?  |  |  |  |
| 22 | Is there a gatekeeping mechanism in operation to govern the following:1. Entry into alternative care
2. Periodic reviews of placements
3. Decisions regarding reintegration
 |  |  |  |
| 23 | Is there a national case management system in operation?  |  |  |  |
| 24 | Is there a national child protection information management system in place?  |  |  |  |
| 25 | Is there a means to handle cross jurisdictional child protection cases? (i.e. reintegration across LGAs)  |  |  |  |
| 26 | Is there a central adoption authority (ICA and domestic)?  |  |  |  |
| 27 | Are there Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) in place for: * Reintegration
* Residential care service inspections
* Residential care service closure or transition
* Child protection response and referral
* Responding to allegations of non-compliance with national standards, abuse or exploitation in alternative care settings
 |  |  |  |
| Data and Monitoring |
|  | **Question**  | **Response** | **Qualifying Information** |  |
| 28 | Is there an accurate enumeration of residential care services including disaggregated data on: * Number of registered services by categories
* Number of unregistered services by categories
* Number of children in each service and across categories
* Location of services
* Ages of children
* Number of children with special needs (categorised)
 |  |  |  |
| 29 | Are there accurate numbers/estimates of children in other types of formal alternative care including: * Foster care
* Formal kinship care
* Guardianship
 |  |  |  |
|  | Is there a data and monitoring system in place which includes: * A means of capturing data at the local level
* A digitized reporting system
* An agreed upon set of indicators for monitoring progress
* Targets and clear timeframes
* An analysis process and means of sharing data and information with relevant stakeholders
* Ability to track movement of children across care settings and in and out of the system
 |  |  |  |
| 30 | Is monitoring of reintegrated children conducted? If so, over what period and is data on child outcomes and placement stability collected and made available  |  |  |  |
| 31 | Has there been sufficient analysis of the care system conducted to inform action and priorities?  |  |  |  |
| 32 | Is there data on the drivers of placement in alternative care?  |  |  |  |
| 33 | Is there accurate data on the number of children adopted, including: * Domestically
* Inter country
* Per year
* Cumulatively
 |  |  |  |
| Preventive services |  |  |
|  | **Question** | **List and Describe**  | **Sources** | **Other Comments**  |
| 34 | Are there adequate universal and early intervention services in place including: * Education
* Community-based rehabilitation
* Disability inclusive and specific education
* Day care
* Social protection (including priority access for populations most at risk of separation or to facilitate reintegration)
* Health care
* Income generation/vocational training
* Psychosocial services
 |  |  |  |
| 45 | Are there adequate secondary and tertiary intervention services available including: * Substance abuse services
* Mental health
* Intensive social work services
* Family counselling
* DM and GBV services
* Respite care
 |  |  |  |
| 36 | Do the prevention services available adequately address the drivers of institutionalisation of children? If not, what is outstanding? To what extend do these gaps relate to other sectors and require engagement in other reforms?  |  |  |  |
| Formal alternative care services |
|  | **Question** | **Response** | **Qualifying Information**  | **Other Comments**  |
| 37 | What are the range of formal alternative care services available to children? How accessible are these services?  |  |  |  |
| 38 | Are there legally recognised alternative care options specifically for: emergency care; short-term care, long-term care?  |  |  |  |
| 39 | Are there national reform efforts in place to try to strengthen and expand family-based alternative care service provision?  |  |  |  |
| 40 | Is there sufficient capacity amongst government and non-government actors to properly carry out various forms of alternative care service delivery?  |  |  |  |
| 41 | Are children/youth provided with preparation and support upon leaving/exiting care? Please include who provides this preparation and support, if known. Proportion of children/youth provided with what type of support. |  |  |  |
| 42 | Are formal alternative care facilities authorized, registered, inspected, and monitored by authorizing bodies on a regular basis?  |  |  |  |
| 43 | Are there standards of care developed, disseminated and utilized in the formal alternative care facilities?  |  |  |  |
| 44 | Are there formal alternative care services are available for children with special needs, with priority given to family-based care?  |  |  |  |
| 45 | Are there general and widespread concerns about rights violations of children’s rights in formal care settings? If so are these adequately addressed?  |  |  |  |
| Adoption (Domestic and Intercountry) |
|  | **Question** | **Response** | **Qualifying Information**  | **Other Comments**  |
| 46 | How widely is domestic adoption practiced? If practiced widely, what are the reasons and good practices? If not practiced widely, what are the challenges?  |  |  |  |
| 47 | Is there an adequate process for identifying, screening and training PAPs?  |  |  |  |
| 48 | Is the process for matching adoptive children to PAPs focused on the best interests of the children rather than the family formation ideals of PAPs? |  |  |  |
| 49 | How widely is ICA practiced? What are the main issues and concerns in terms of ICA?  |  |  |  |
| 50 | If there are concerns with adoption practices, are there reform efforts to address these issues?  |   |  |  |
| Care During an Emergency |
|  | **Question** | **Response** | **Qualifying Information**  | **Other Comments** |
| 51 | Has the country recently experienced an emergency? If so, how has it responded in terms of alternative care? Challenges? Successes? |  |  |  |
| 52 | Has the emergency resulted in childcare reform efforts? If so, please describe.  |  |  |  |
| 53 | Are moratoriums on new institutions are instituted in emergency settings as a part of the response system?  |  |  |  |
| 54 | Are moratoriums on intercountry adoption are instituted in emergency settings as a part of the response system?  |  |  |  |
| 55 | Are there sufficient mechanisms in place to prevent irregular admission of children into institutions in emergency settings?  |  |  |  |
| 56 | Are there sufficient mechanisms for family tracing and reunification in emergency settings?  |  |  |  |
| 57 | Are there sufficient services and mechanisms to prevent secondary separation due to emergencies?  |  |  |  |
| 58 | Are there mechanisms in place to scale family-based alternative care to respond to emergency related separation?  |  |  |  |
| Public Awareness and Advocacy |
|  | **Question** | **Response** | **Qualifying Information**  | **Other Comments** |
| 59 | Has research exploring public attitudes towards residential care and other forms of alternative care been conducted?  |  |  |  |
| 60 | Are there awareness campaigns regarding the harms of institutional care and importance of families targeting communities, including community leaders?  |  |   |  |
| 61 | Are there awareness raising campaigns targeting donors?  |  |  |  |
| 62 | Are there awareness raising efforts targeting tourists to prevent orphanage tourism?  |  |  |  |
| 63 | Are there sufficient public campaigns or awareness raising initiatives to address drivers of child and family separation, such as VAC, GBV, Positive Parenting?  |  |  |  |
| 64 | Is there any other national awareness raising campaign specific to childcare? If yes, please describe. |  |  |  |
| 65 | Is there sufficient stakeholder engagement with key actors/sectors to secure cooperation with government policy and action plans, ie with:* Service providers
* Community leaders
* Faith based actors
 |  |  |  |
| 66 | Are there other outstanding issues that need to be addressed through awareness raising? If so, what are they?  |  |  |  |
| Social Service Workforce  |
|  | **Question**  | **Response** | **Qualifying Information**  | **Other Comment**  |
| 67 | Has a national workforce assessment and analysis been carried out in the past 4 years?  |  |  |  |
| 68 | How many govt social workers with responsibility for child protection are there per 100,000 children?  |  |  |  |
| 69 | Availability of a normative/regulatory framework for the social service workforce at the national and/or subnational level |  |  |  |
| 70 | Is there a system of licensing/registration of social service professionals in place?  |  |  |  |
| 71 | Is there a publicly disseminated professional social work codes of ethics in existence?  |  |  |  |
| 72 | Is there a system of providing supervision and support for social workers in existence?  |  |  |  |
| 73 | Is there a national strategic plan on strengthening the social service workforce?  |  |  |  |
|  | **Investment**  |
|  | **Question**  | **Response** | **Qualifying Information**  | **Other Comments** |
| 74 | Percentage of government spend on social protection and social services?  |  |  |  |
| 75 | Percentage of government spend on child and family welfare? |  |  |  |
| 76 | Percentage of government spend on child protection and alternative care? |  |  |  |
| 77 | Does the current government social service workforce have sufficient budget to carry out key child protection functions? |  |  |  |
| 78 | To what extend are alternative care services government funded?  |  |  |  |
| 79 | Is there sufficient commitment from the Ministry of Finance to invest in social services, including child protection? |  |  |  |
| 80 | Are there efforts underway to increase government spend on social protection, social services, child and family welfare and child protection?  |  |  |  |
| 81 | Are there efforts underway to increase investment in the social workforce to enable scaling?  |  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Notes and Concluding Observations** |
|  |