

# CTWWC Care System Assessment Framework



**Module 1: Developing a National Care Reform Strategy**



# Session Contents

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- Care and care reform overview
- National care reform strategy overview
- Considerations when developing a national care reform strategy
- Technical aspects of care reform to consider
- Conducting a care system assessment to inform the strategy



**This session should take 1.25 – 1.5 hours.**



# Session purpose

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## By the end of this session, participants should:

- understand a few fundamental aspects of care reform
- know about additional resources to continue learning about care reform
- consider and discuss the purpose and contents of a national care reform strategy in the country

This session does not provide specific details of technical approaches to care reform nor examples, but these can be found in the Care System Assessment Guidance document that complements these slides.



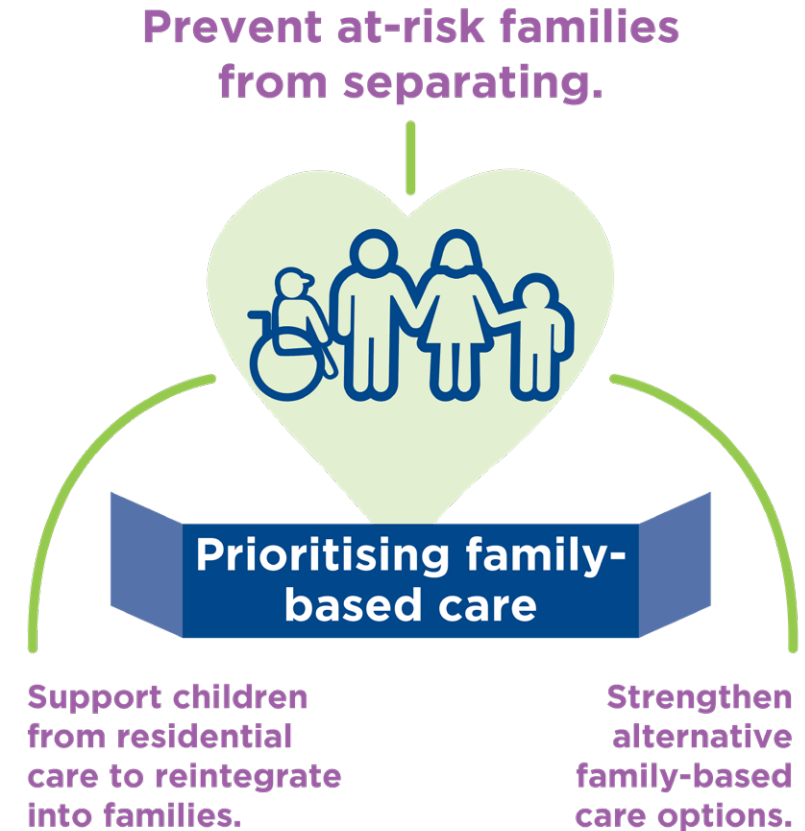
# Care and care reform

An introduction



## Many times, children and families

being separated is preventable, and keeping children in families is often in the best interest of the child. Supporting families through services such as strengthening parenting skills, economic assistance, providing counseling, or other social services support families to stay together. Children who are already separated from their families can sometimes be safely reunified and reintegrated into family-based care. Sometimes children may be able to go back to members of their biological family, in other cases it may be in their best interest to be supported through what is called ‘alternative family-based’ care.



**‘Care systems’** focus on caring for children at risk of losing family care and providing family care for children already without it.



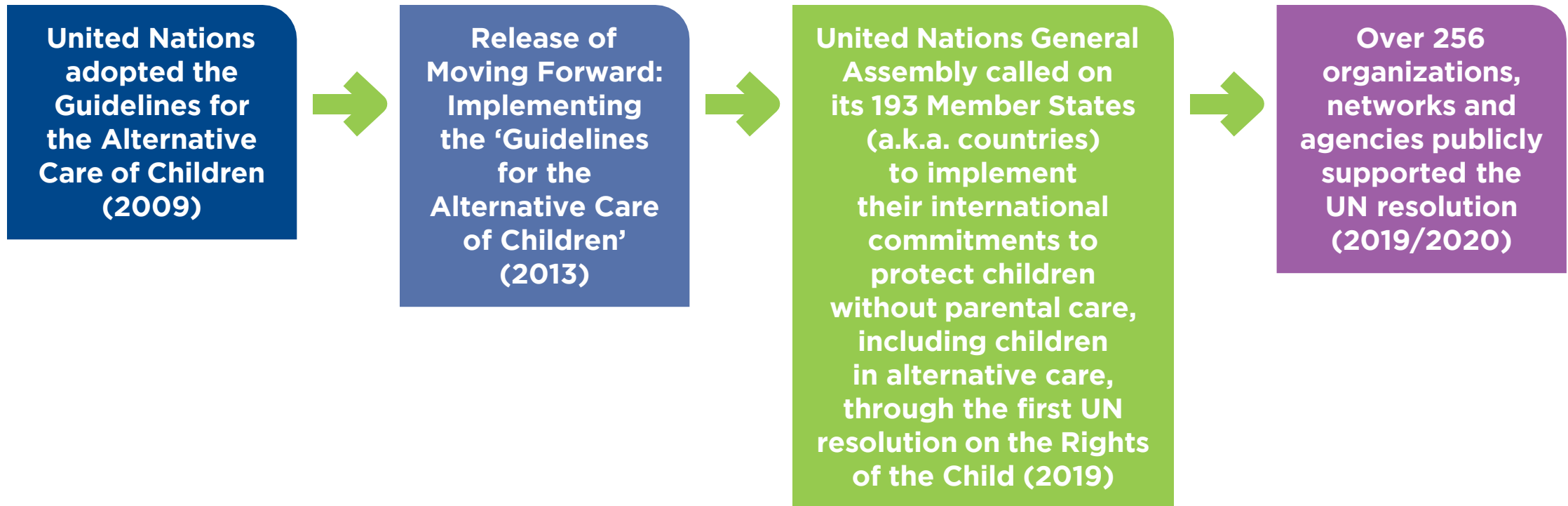
The term ‘care system’ includes both preventing separation from happening in the first place, as well as providing support so that children who have been separated from their families can be cared for within a safe, loving family.

In all instances, the focus of a care system should be for children to live in safe, nurturing families – sometimes with biological family members, sometimes with suitable alternative families.

**Care reform** refers to the changes to the systems and mechanisms that promote and strengthen the capacity of families and communities to care for their children, address the care and protection needs of vulnerable or at-risk children to prevent separation from their families, decrease reliance on residential care and promote reintegration of children and ensure appropriate family-based alternative care options are available.



# Care reform as a global priority: a (very) brief summary





## More information about care and care reform can be found here...

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- Getting Care Right for All Children: Implementing the U.N. Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children.
- Enabling Reform: Why Supporting Children with Disabilities Must be at the Heart of Successful Child Care Reform
- Gatekeeping – Making Decisions for the Better Care of Children: The role of gatekeeping in strengthening family-based care and reforming alternative care systems
- Guidelines for Alternative Care of Children
- Guidelines on Children’s Reintegration
- Guidelines to strengthen social service workforce for child protection
- Institutionalisation and deinstitutionalisation of children (Lancet)
- Institutionalisation and deinstitutionalisation of children 1: a systematic and integrative review of evidence regarding effects on development (Lancet)
- Institutionalisation and deinstitutionalisation of children 2: policy and practice recommendations for global, national, and local actors (Lancet)
- Lumos’ 10 Steps to Deinstitutionalization
- Moving Forward: Implementing the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children
- Transitioning to Family for Children (for Faith Based organizations)
- The guidance on developing integrated case management systems for vulnerable children
- The Role of Social Service Workforce Development in Care Reform
- UNICEF global toolkit for mapping child protection systems



# National care reform strategy overview

# A National Care Reform Strategy

outlines a country's approach and priorities to transform current care systems to focus on family-based care, shifting away from residential care for children.



# Purpose of a national care reform strategy

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- Sets out a long-term vision for care in the country (often 3-5+ years)
- Presents an approach to achieve the long-term vision
- Sets priorities to guide the allocation of resources
- Describes roles and responsibilities of actors involved in care
- Establishes how relevant actors will coordinate and collaborate
- Outlines measurable objectives and specific short-term activities (often 1-2 years) to inform how to monitor and evaluate implementation of the strategy
- Often estimates costs associated with implementing the strategy to inform budget planning and resource allocations

# National strategy context

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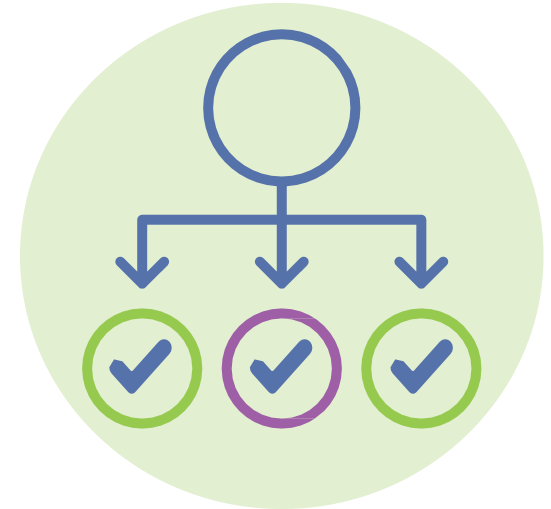
**In many countries, national strategies set the overall vision and are followed by:**

- National action plans, corresponding budgets and resource allocation
- Sub-national action plans, corresponding budgets and resource allocation
- National monitoring and evaluation plan and associated implementation costs (e.g. training, investment in data collection analysis and use, etc)

**However, this may look different in many countries**

**In the country that you are working in, what is the government process to developing, approving and implementing strategies and/or priority services?**

- How does this work at the national level?
- How does this work at sub-national levels?





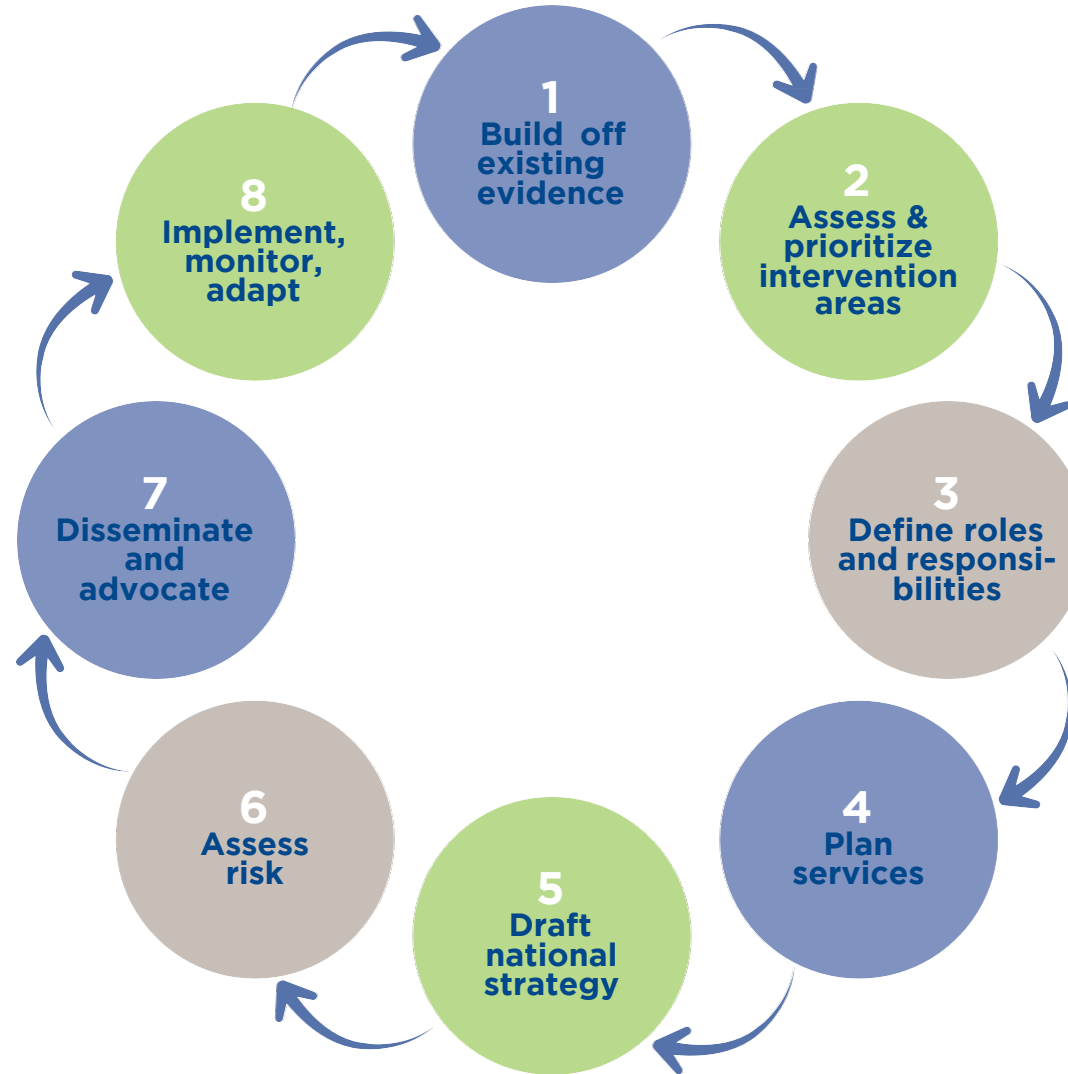
# Considerations when developing a national care reform strategy



**Developing or revising a national strategy** requires many considerations such as determining the roles and responsibilities of government and non-government actors in care, and establishing an approach to service delivery (including services for adults aimed at preventing child-family separation, as well as if and when civil society may provide direct services on behalf of the government).



# Eight general considerations when developing a care reform strategy



# Consideration 1:

## Build off existing evidence

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As part of any strategy development process previous reviews or relevant reports, evaluations, that have been conducted already should be considered.

- This should be completed in collaboration with key care reform stakeholders who advise on which documentation to review and the structure of the review process.

## Consideration 2: Assess & prioritize intervention areas

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A participatory process to reflect on the status of the care system and prioritize areas for improvement should be conducted with government and partners.

- See the Care System Assessment Framework and corresponding guidance document as one way to assess a national care system

## Consideration 3: Define roles & responsibilities

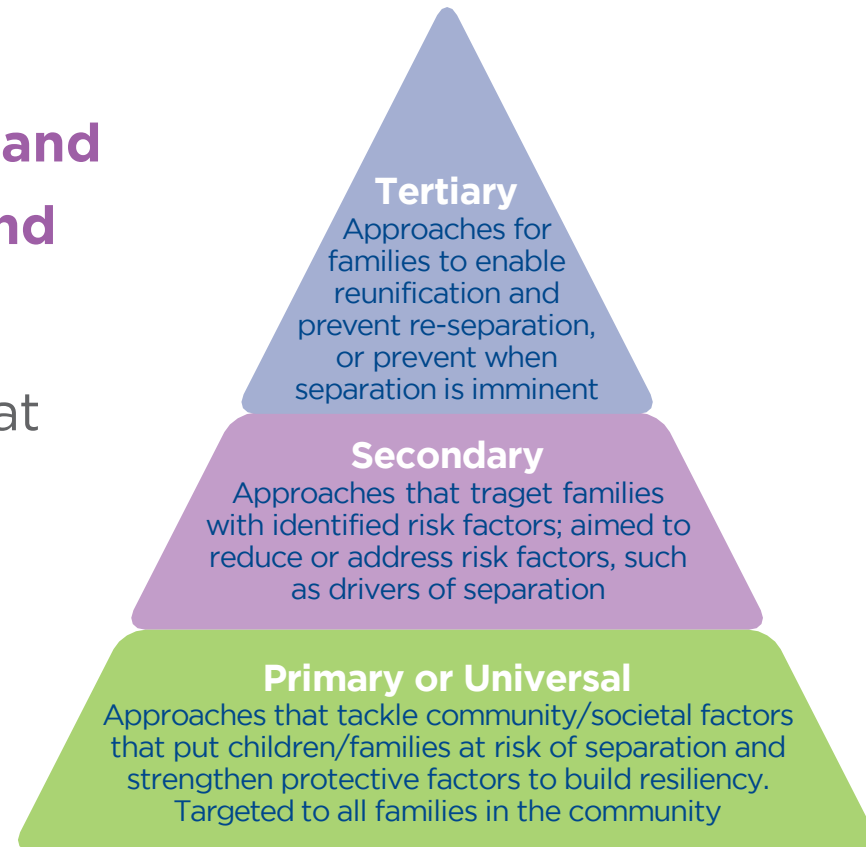
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**After assessing the system, there should be clear and actionable recommendations that may involve leadership and/or coordination and collaboration among actors.**

Defining the roles and responsibilities of each agency/organization in the care reform process is essential.

## Consideration 4: Plan services

- **Consider the intersection of a range of adult and child-centered services in which the safety and wellbeing of children in families is the focus.**
- There are different models and approaches that Governments can take towards system reform:
  - Governments provide direct services
  - Government regulation and funding for civil society to provide services
  - A blend of the above two models



## Consideration 5: Draft national strategy

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Often strategies are based on consultations with a range of actors involved in prevention and care. We recommend involving people with lived experience, representatives from disability groups and child-friendly methods to capture perspectives of children and youth. National strategies should use information from the care system assessment, among other sources, to improve service delivery through system strengthening.

## Consideration 6: Assess risk

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- **Conducting a comprehensive risk assessment on the strategy with content experts from different but related sectors who have a wide range of skills to review the actionable recommendations can be very helpful**
- This means that the draft strategy undergoes a comprehensive review which may identify issues or unintended consequences that have been faced or arisen in other countries



## Consideration 7: Disseminate & advocate

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**To support the operationalization of the national strategy there will need to be adequate resources from Government, development partners and/or other relevant donors or financial instruments.**

The case for investment in care reform can be advocated for through the development of a comprehensive advocacy brief that has key messages that can be utilized for advocating for increased resource allocation and carefully planned and monitored reform.



## Consideration 8: Implement, monitor & adapt

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- **In many country contexts, after a national strategy is completed, operational plans or action plans are developed among various actors at different levels of implementation.**
- Further, implementation is often monitored through a national monitoring and evaluation framework that supports collection of data to track progress and evaluation effectiveness/impact.



**Technical  
aspects of  
care reform to  
consider**



**Transitioning residential care services is a component of care reforms.**

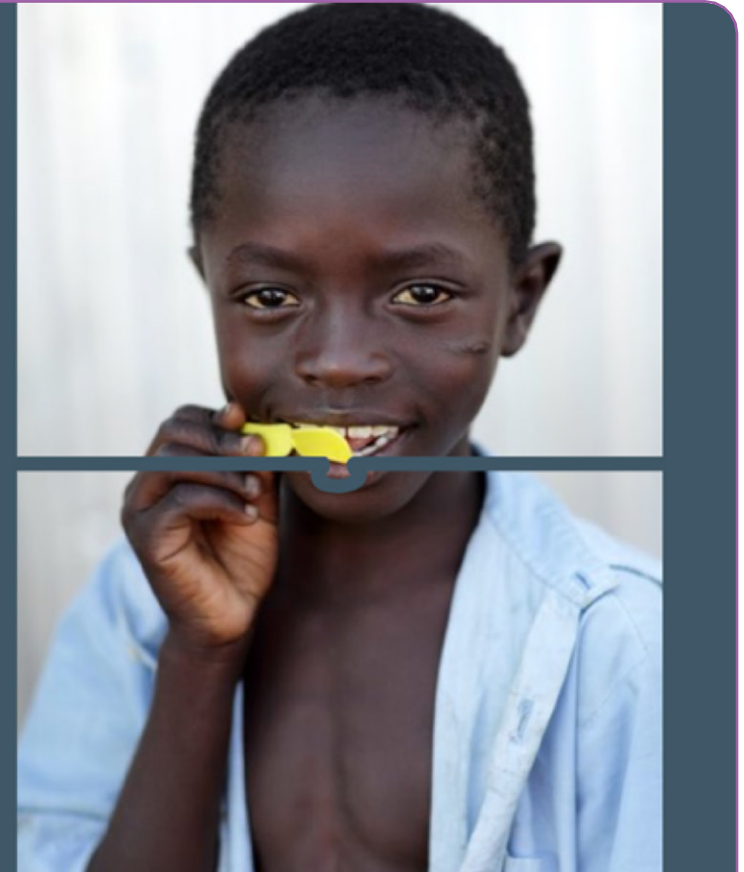
**It is best outworked as a part of government-led deinstitutionalization efforts.**



## Care Reform

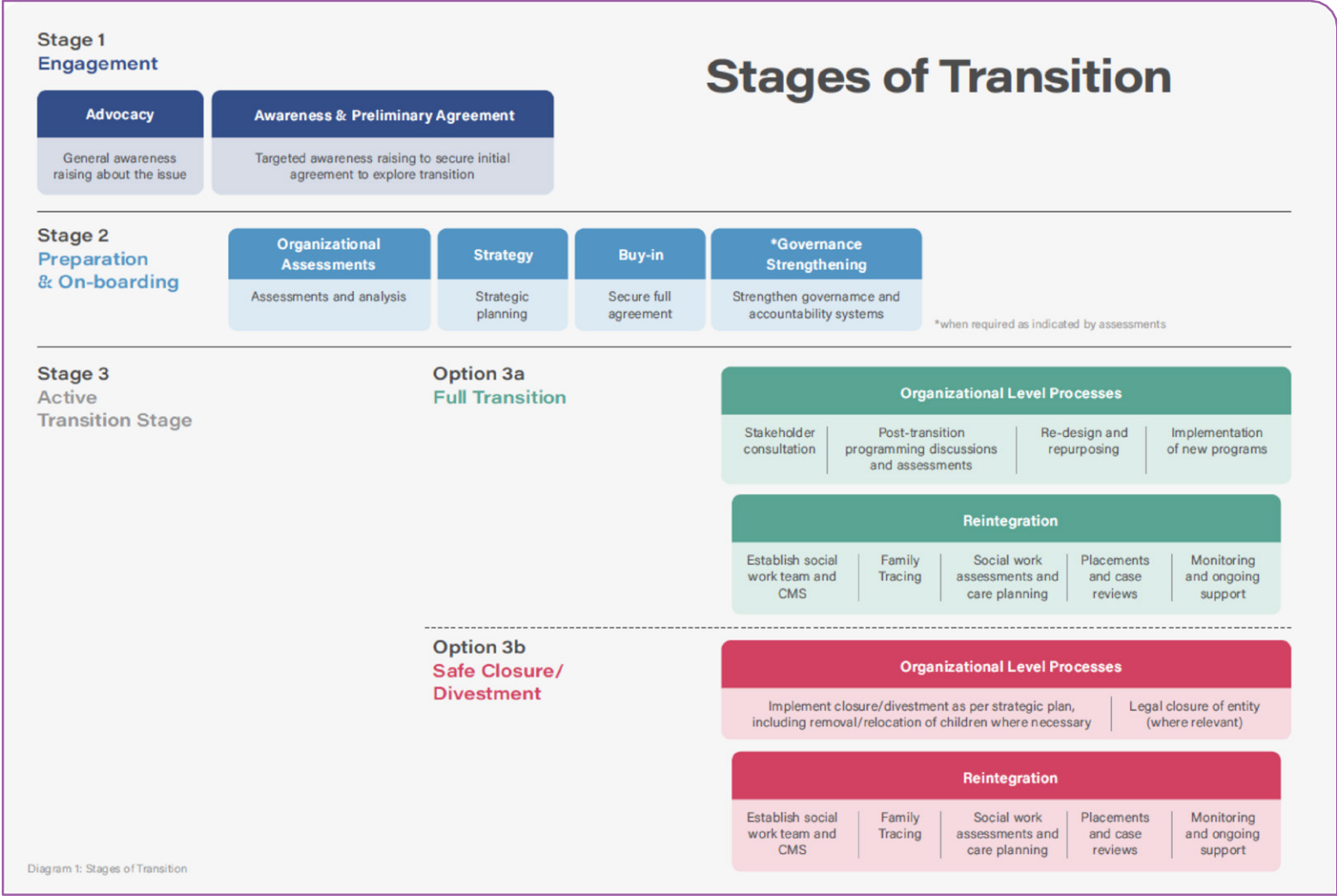
The process of transforming the system of care from one orientation to another in pursuit of a better approach to meeting the care and protection needs of children.

A common goal of reforms is deinstitutionalization which involves reducing reliance on institutional care services and expanding the range and availability of other services and forms of care.

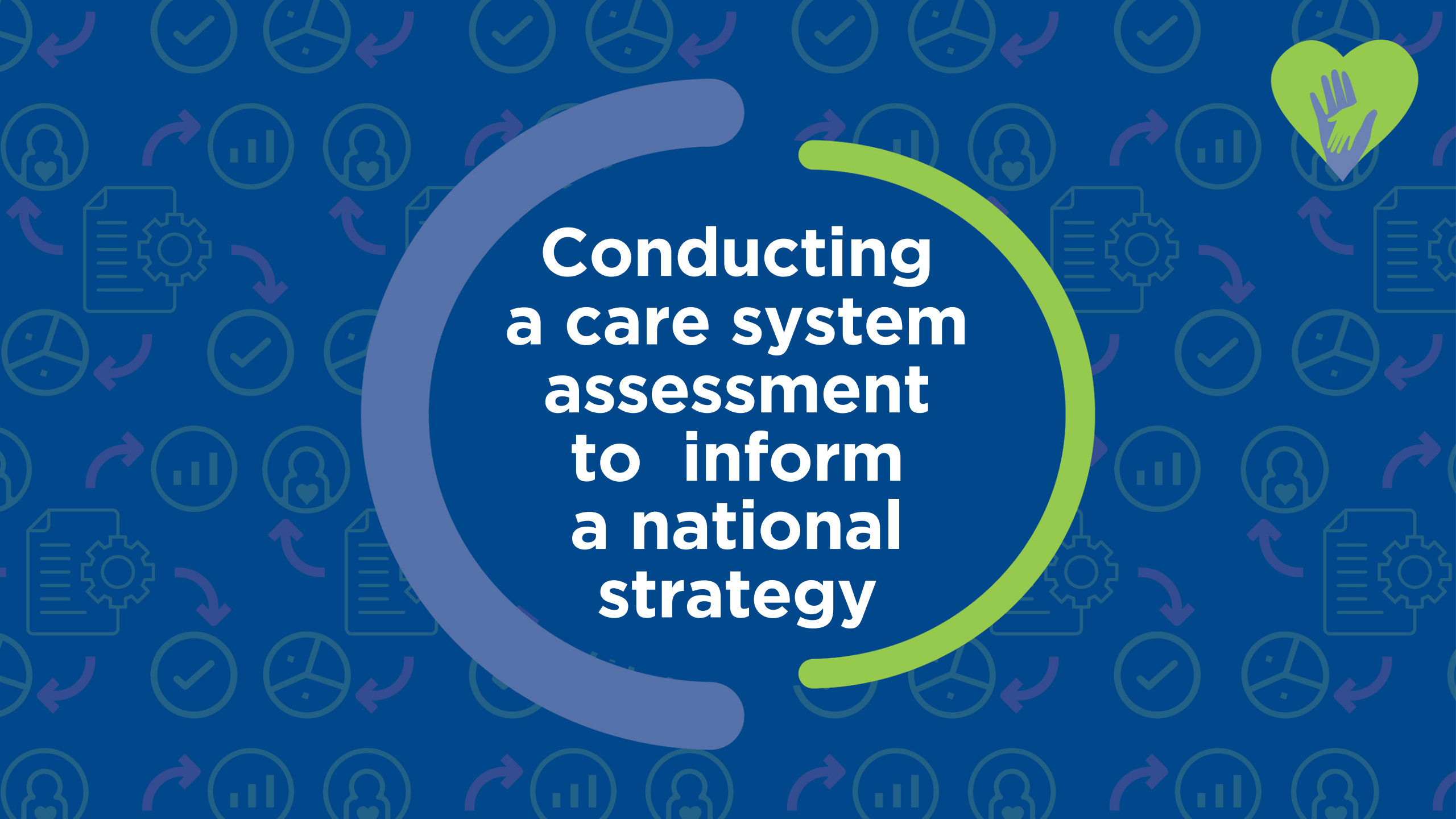


*Source: Transitioning Care Assessment Tool Webinar*





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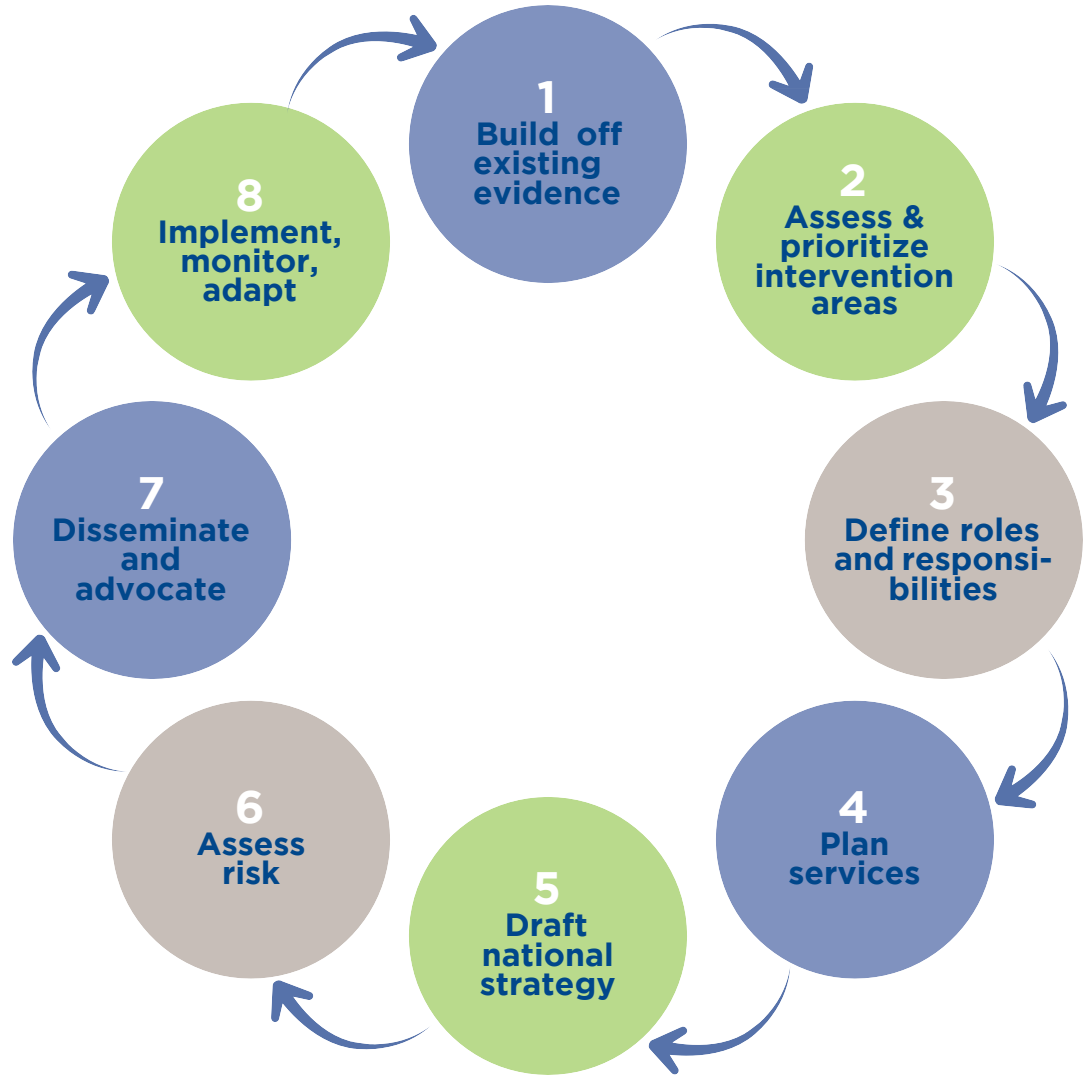


**Conducting  
a care system  
assessment  
to inform  
a national  
strategy**





Assessing the national system is **one step** to developing a national strategy



# Assessing the national care system

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**One way to assess a national care system is through the Care System Assessment Framework, used by Changing the Way We Care.**

More details about this assessment framework and how to implement it are included in the following:

- National Care System Assessment Guidance document
- Additional training modules following this module

This type of assessment aims to support actors involved in care to self-assess the status of the care system and build consensus on priorities.





# Q&A and Discussion



# This is training **Module 1** of the toolkit

## Care System Assessment Toolkit

The toolkit includes formatted assessment questions, this guidance document and six training modules aim to support stakeholders to consider how to develop national care strategies and to assess national care systems. A summary of the toolkit is as follows:

<b>Care System Assessment Framework</b>	Assessment questions, compiled in Microsoft Excel according to the assessment framework and with instructions and further details on some of the assessment questions (including pre-defined response options when applicable).
<b>Care System Assessment Framework Guidance</b>	This document, which provides context to consider before conducting a care system assessment, how to complete the assessment and considerations to use findings from the assessment to affect change.
<b>Module 1: Developing a National Care Reform Strategy</b>	An overview of key considerations and steps to developing a national strategy for care reform
<b>Module 2: Care System Assessment Toolkit Overview</b>	Brief introduction to the assessment framework, guidance document, training modules, background, and method.
<b>Module 3: Implementing the care system assessment framework</b>	Key principles in applying the assessment and methodology details.
<b>Module 4: Assessment Workshop</b>	Considerations for facilitating the assessment workshop, group selection and building consensus.
<b>Module 5: Verifying, Analyzing and Using Assessment Findings</b>	Describes multiple points for verification of results, key considerations for qualitative analysis and considerations to define audiences for using results.

