

CTWWC Care System Assessment Framework

Module 2: Care System Assessment Toolkit Overview



Session Contents

- Contents, purpose & objectives of the toolkit
- Assessment Framework overview



This session should take 1 hour.



Session purpose

By the end of this session, participants should:

- begin to consider if and how the care system assessment framework may be right for their context





Purpose & contents of the toolkit



Purpose of the toolkit

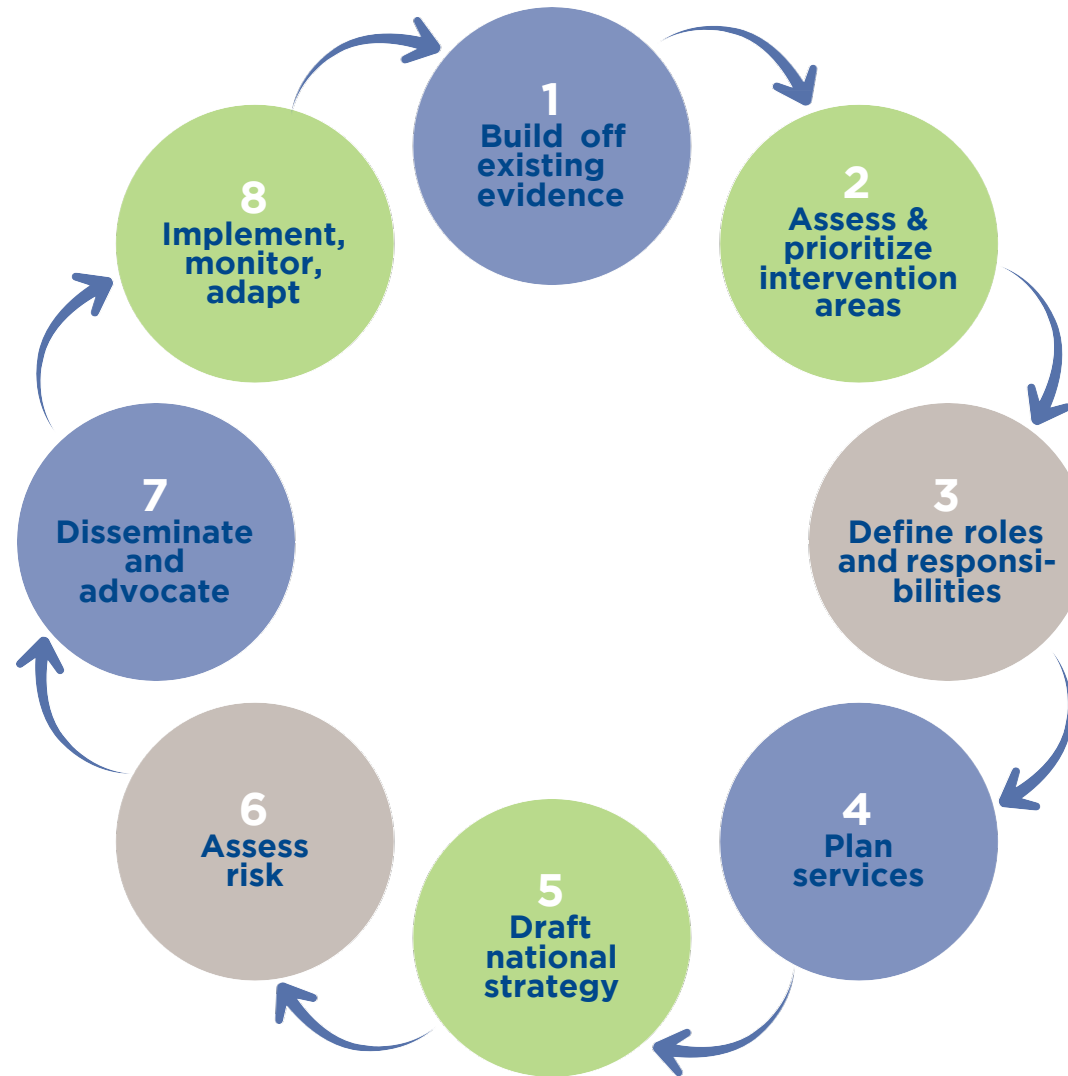
The purpose of the toolkit is a resource for governments and other organizations and individuals working with governments to conduct a care system assessment that informs a national care reform strategy.

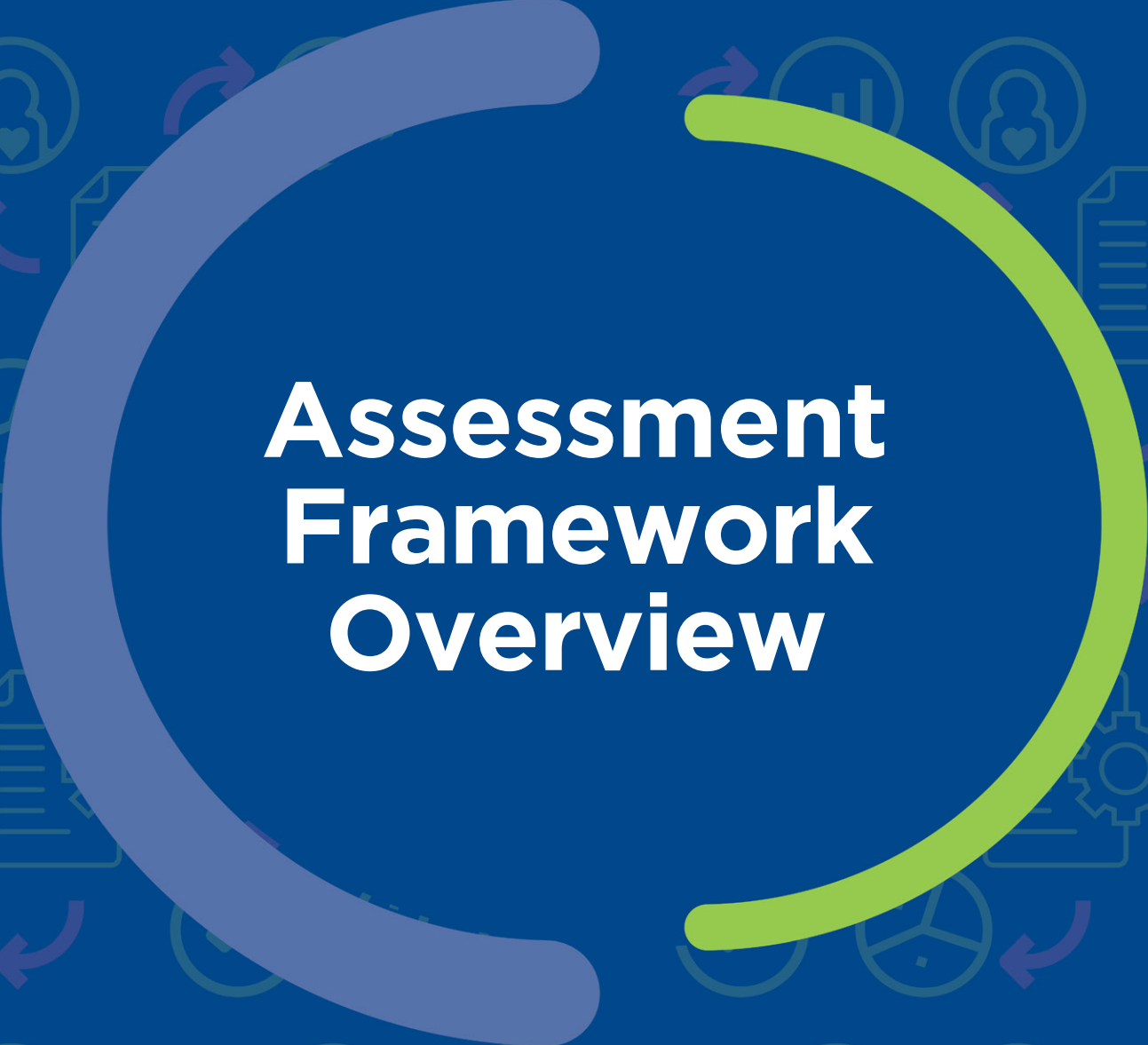
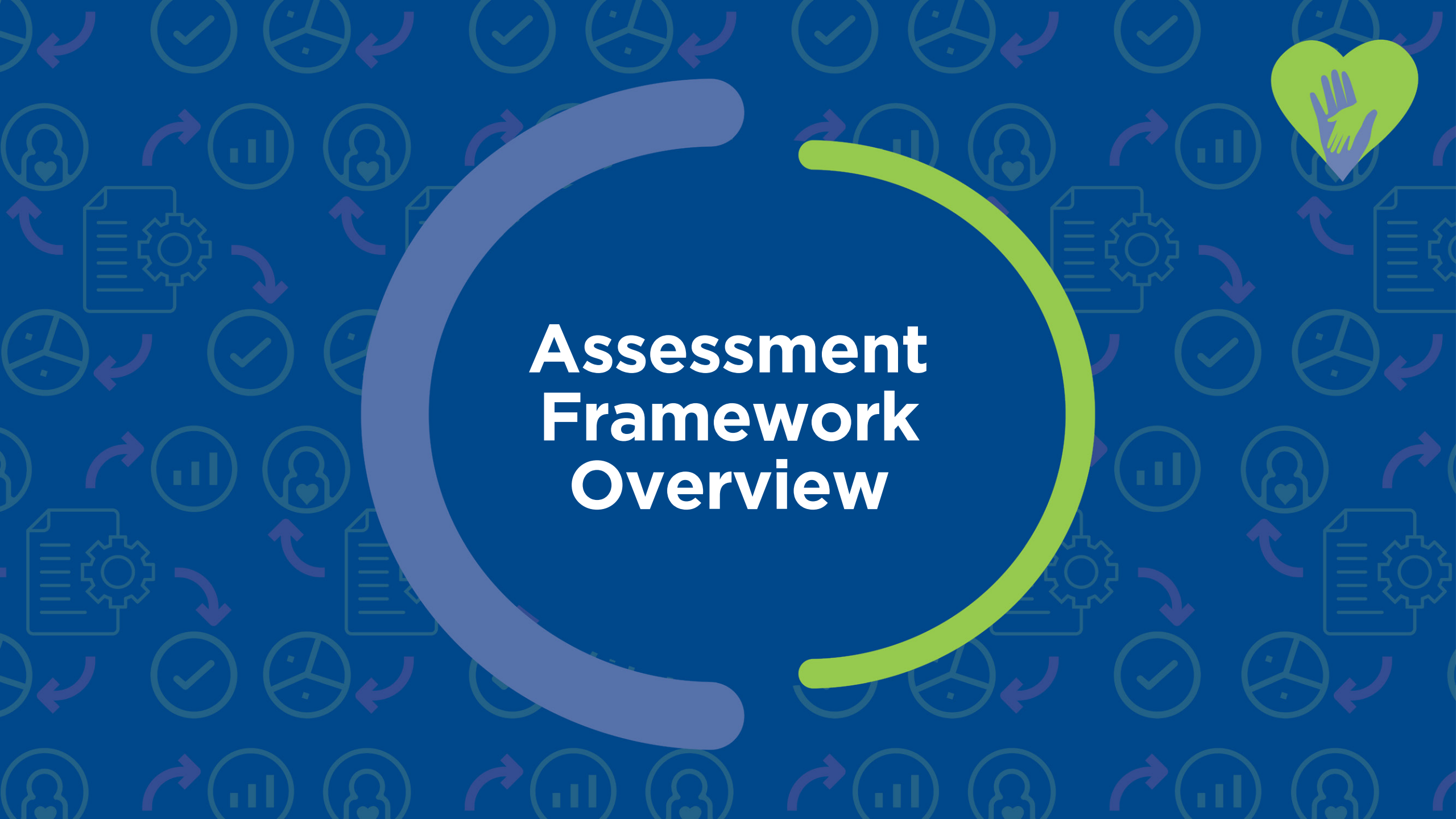
The toolkit includes

Care System Assessment Framework	Assessment questions, compiled in Microsoft Excel
Care System Assessment Framework Guidance	A Word document that provides guidance and considerations for before, during and after conducting a care system assessment
TRAINING MODULES	
Module 1: Developing a National Care Reform Strategy	An overview of key considerations and steps to developing a national strategy for care reform
Module 2: Care System Assessment Toolkit Overview	Brief introduction to the toolkit and its contents
Module 3: Implementing the care system assessment framework	Key principles in applying the assessment and methodology details
Module 4: Assessment Workshop	Considerations for facilitating the assessment workshop
Module 5: Verifying, Analyzing and Using Assessment Findings	Describes verification of results and key considerations for analysis and using results


Care System Assessment – 1 consideration in developing a national strategy

Training Module 1
goes into more details
about each of these
8 considerations



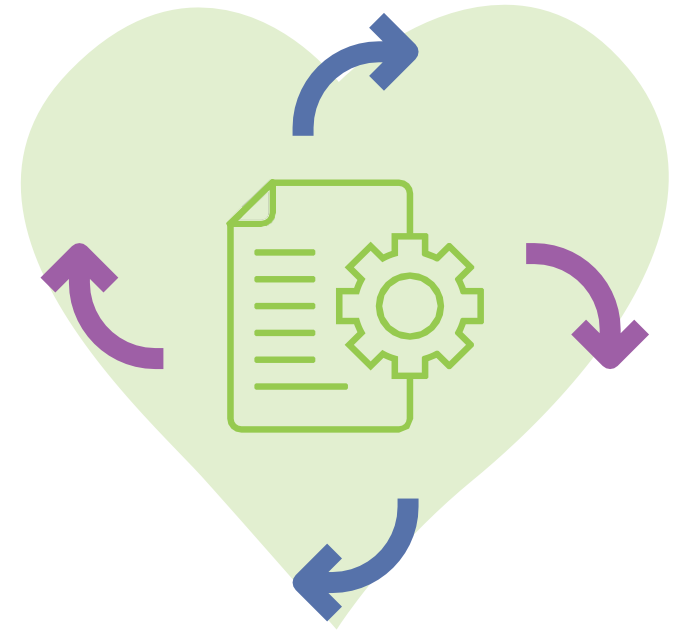


Assessment Framework Overview



The care system assessment framework is...

The assessment framework is Microsoft Excel-based and includes standardized assessment questions. The assessment questions are action-oriented in that they directly lead to identifying priorities that will contribute to a stronger care system.



The objectives of the framework are to...

- support governments to lead a reflective, self-assessment of their current care system,
- support those working within the care system to build consensus on priorities and actions to improve the current system,
- provide information for governments to develop national care reform strategies and/or action plans, and
- set a baseline to track progress towards putting in place requirements for care systems to function effectively.

The framework looks at 6 system components across different types of care

System Components:



Areas of care:

- Prevention of unnecessary child-family separation
- Child-family reunification and reintegration
- Kinship care
- Foster care
- Other forms of alternative care
- Independent living
- Adoption
- Residential care
- Transitioning residential care facilities to family care

Country-specific context + broader child protection system + the U.N. Guidelines on Alternative Care

Source: adapted from MEASURE Evaluation. Cannon, M; Hickmann, M. Alternative Care System Assessment Framework. 2017

6 system components

1. Laws and policies for care reform includes legal provisions, national policies, strategies and/or guidelines, orientation/training for legal and policy frameworks, and regulatory and oversight documents related to care reform and/or alternative care services.

2. Social service workforce in the context of care may include:

- **Paraprofessionals:** para-social workers, youth-care professionals, community care workers, etc.
- **Social workers:** government social workers, non-governmental social workers, etc.
- **Allied workers:** healthcare specialists, therapists, child protection specialists, community development officers, etc.

6 system components

- 3. **Service delivery** looks at the type of prevention and alternative care services that exist and if they are guided by national service standards (a.k.a. minimum service standards).
- 4. **Monitoring & evaluation** considers standard indicators, clear roles and responsibilities for relevant actors and M&E procedures promotes data availability, quality and use.
- 5. **Financing** is the degree to which basic financial processes are occurring, such as cost estimation, budgeting, funding allocation and the release of funds.
- 6. **Social norms & practices** looks at if awareness raising activities are occurring and promoting best-practices

Areas of care

- **Prevention of unnecessary child-family separation examples include** community awareness regarding infant needs and child rights, access to child care, household economic strengthening (including cash transfers), parenting skills training, parental leave, family-friendly workplace policies, early child care and education and health services
- **Child-family reunification and reintegration** is the process of a separated child making what is anticipated to be a permanent transition back to his or her family and community (usually of origin)

Areas of care

- **Kinship care** is the full-time care of a child by a relative or another member of the extended family.
- **Foster care** refers to formal placements with certified foster carers (although in some countries informal foster care does exist)
- **Other forms of care**, aka 'informal care' is a private arrangement provided whereby the child is looked after by kin or community member
- **Independent living** a gradual and supervised process whereby older children live on their own with support

Areas of care

- **Adoption** is the formal, permanent transfer of parental rights to a family other than a child's own.
- **Residential care** refers to any non-family-based group living arrangement where children are looked after by paid staff in a specially designated facility.

Transforming or transitioning institutions

Transforming or transitioning institutions involves changing an organization's model of care or services from institutional to non-institutional care. For example, this may include a process to shift residential care institutions to providers of support services such as day care centers, rehabilitation centers, counseling centers or perhaps a center that provides a mix of social support services.

It considers considers the children living in residential care, the staff working there, the community context and the needs of children and families being served.

It includes:

- placements for the children who are currently is residential care
- the creation and/or strengthening of family support services to support vulnerable families

Assessment framework applies existing best-practices

The following are the main sources used to inform this assessment framework:

- MEASURE Evaluation Tool for Assessing and Monitoring National Alternative Care Systems (2017/18)
- The Interagency Online Tracking Tool
- Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Service Workforce for Child Protection (2019)
- De-Institutionalization and Transforming Children's Services: A Good Practice Guide (2018/19)
- 10 Elements of Deinstitutionalization Handbook. Lumos. 2018.
- Family Care for Children with Disabilities (2018)
- Guidance on Developing Integrated Case Management Systems for Vulnerable Children (2017)
- Transitioning to Family Care for Children Toolkit
- UNICEF global toolkit for child protection system mapping (2010)

What the assessment framework looks like

- Excel-based framework with sections for each area of care
- Questions are organized by system component
- Response options:
 - 1) likert scales,
 - 2) yes/no and
 - 3) open-ended

Foster Care	
Leadership & Governance	
1	Legal provisions for foster care exist.
2	National policy or strategy that addresses provisions for foster care services exists.
3	<i>Policy/strategy is current (includes the current year).</i>
4	<i>National policy/strategy includes a systematic process to determine the best interest of the child (e.g., gatekeeping) for foster care placement determinations.</i>
Service Delivery	
10	Please outline the types of foster care that are available in your country.
11	Name of lead agency, government department or project organization
Programme Description/Name.	

**Example of Foster Care area,
organized by system component**

Completely	
Completely	Yes
Mostly	
Partially	
Not at All	
Don't Know	
Yes	
No	

**1. Likert scales
2. Yes/No**

22 Please outline the types of support provided as part of the reunification and reintegration process.

Qualitative Answer

3. Open-ended

What is the method of the assessment?

- Government-led
- Participatory self-assessment
 - with care experts from government, civil society and development partners
- Proposed 3-day workshop
- Group work during the workshop plus reaching consensus on responses during and after the workshop

Use of assessment results

- **Qualitative information about the status of the system:**

Examples:

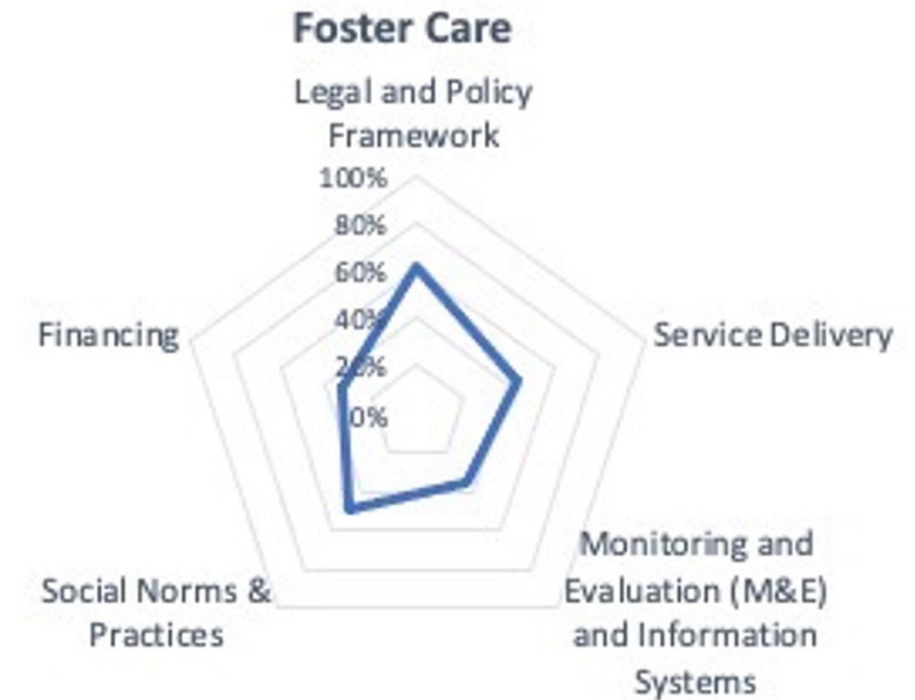
- the legal and policy framework contains provisions for alternative care with the exception of foster care and specialized support for children with disabilities
- the care system is currently lacking several types of alternative care services including formal kinship care, supervised-independent living and post-adoption support





Use of assessment results

- **Automated dashboards for real-time use and visualization of results:**

- Used to interpret results for each area of care by visually comparing progress towards each system component relative to other system components.
- **Example:** This graph about foster care shows that progress is needed in all system areas. While there are some elements of the legal and policy framework established for foster care, there is still need to continue refining it. Specific details about how it should be refined should be elaborated through reviewing the specific questions in the assessment framework.





Q&A and Discussion

