

CTWWC Care System Assessment Framework

Module 3: Implementing the assessment framework



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Session Contents

- Assessment method
- Implementing the assessment



This sessions should take 1.25 - 1.5 hours.

Session purpose

By the end of this session, participants should:

- have background and knowledge to start planning implementation of the care system assessment framework



Assessment method



Assessment Method

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

Government-led

Government agencies that lead care reform, including departments and agencies that oversee prevention, each type of alternative family-based care and residential care should be part of all phases of the assessment – from planning, to implementation, to use of findings for national strategic planning.

The assessment focuses mostly on the formal, government-led care system and, as such, government leadership of the assessment and ownership of results is critical.

Participatory

It is important to think about key actors who are currently part of the care system, or show potential to affect change in the sector.

This may include other government departments and agencies (beyond those overseeing care), sub-national government staff, children and caregivers with personal experience of care, civil society, donors/development partners, academia, associations, etc.

A participatory approach supports accountability, coordination and reaching consensus on priorities.

Self-assessment

The assessment questions are designed to be answered by actors involved in the care system, as a means of self-assessment.

The value of this approach is that actors involved in the system are directly making recommendations to strengthen the system, based on their expertise and personal and professional experiences. While this does introduce some bias into the methodology, this is reduced by **a)** the objective nature of many of the assessment questions (e.g. does a policy exist?) and **b)** through stakeholder dialogue and consensus building.

Adaptability of the questions

The assessment questions can be adapted. For example, the framework covers the most common forms of alternative care (kinship care, foster care, independent living and adoption). Many countries, however, have additional forms of care such as kafaalah care and what is sometimes called 'guardianship'.

Relevant questions may be added.

Technical tips on making updates to the framework in Excel are included within the Excel document.



In the country that you are working in, which actors should be involved in this assessment?






- Can you involve people with lived experience?
- Can you involve civil society?
- Can you involve government staff working sub-nationally?





Implementing the Assessment

Steps to prepare & implement assessment

-  Form a “Core Team” led by government, with non-governmental representatives
-  Conduct a desk review
-  Customize assessment questions
-  Co-facilitate participatory workshop with government
-  Validate results and build consensus
-  Analyze, disseminate and use results for national strategic planning



Form a “Core Team” consisting of...

5-10 government and non-governmental experts with oversight and/or expertise in one or more of the following areas:

- Alternative care
 - Prevention
 - Family reunification and reintegration
 - Foster care
 - Other forms of care
 - Independent living
 - Adoption
 - Residential care
 - Deinstitutionalization
 - Social service workforce development
- Formalize the Core Team through ToR/Ministerial approval, etc.
 - The Core Team will be involved pre-assessment, during and after



With the 'core team' conduct a desk review

- Create a bibliography of materials that link to the assessment
- Collect relevant existing legal and policy documents, standards, guidelines, etc.
- If possible, assign members of “Core Team” to review prior to workshop to familiarize the team to be able to answer assessment questions

A template for organizing information from the desk review is included in the care system assessment guidance document



With the 'core team' customize assessment questions

- CTWWC team reviews to **a)** ensure understanding and **b)** adapt any questions, as needed
- Government partners / 'Core Team' reviews questions **a)** ensure understanding and **b)** adapt any questions, as needed
- Must follow editing guidance!
 - Tips for editing the assessment questions are included in the Excel assessment framework.

Considerations when adapting questions

The Core Team (and any other experts) should review all questions in the assessment framework, considering the following questions:

1. Does the Assessment Framework align with your country context?
2. Which questions (if any) are confusing and require further clarification?
(Note there is guidance provided to help define/clarify several questions.)
3. Which questions (if any) do you believe are not relevant to your country context?
4. Are there any topics you expected to be covered which are missing (and within the scope of a participatory workshop assessment methodology)?
5. Are there changes to terminology or the organization of the framework that will be required for your country?

Required customizations

- Cross-cutting tab: workforce cadre names must be customized to your specific country context.
- Names of areas of care must align with in-country terminology (e.g. independent living vs. supervised-independent living; informal care, etc.)

What if a part of the assessment framework doesn't apply to our country?

- If the area of concern is based in global best-practices, your country should likely be taking steps to develop/advance that area. Although it may not exist now, it is important to plan for it.
- **Example:** independent living arrangements are not provided for within the country legal and policy framework, it is not occurring in practice and is not a priority. Since it is a part of the U.N. Guidelines and global best-practices, however, we will keep it in the assessment framework and include it in future strategies and plans.
- While country-level adaption is encouraged, it is important to maintain integrity of the assessment and carefully consider when to remove or add large amounts of content to the framework.



'Core Team' to facilitate a participatory workshop

- Involve national and sub-national actors; government and non-governmental actors; and a range of government Ministries/departments.
- Invite key experts in specific areas of care, people with lived experience in residential care, residential care facility managers, other actors involved in the current care system
- During the assessment workshop, stakeholders will form small groups to answer specific questions in the assessment framework.

An example workshop agenda is included in the care system assessment guidance document

Considerations for determining assessment groups

There are trade-offs that should be considered when determining the formation and number of the groups, such as the expertise of individual respondents, and the available time, reliability of results and complexity in analysis.

Approach to forming groups	Description	Trade-offs		
		Less Time	Higher Reliability	Higher complexity in analysis
Only one group answers each set of questions	This is when each set of questions is assigned to only one group. Groups work simultaneously answered different questions and present a high-level summary in plenary, including presenting questions for which consensus was not reached by the group.	X		
Two or more groups answer the same set of questions	This is when each set of questions is answered by at least two groups. In doing so, it is likely that no two groups will have the exact same answers for all questions.*		X	X

**see below for further guidance*



Validate results & build consensus

During the assessment workshop, take note of any unresolved issues, questions that were uncertain, topics that participants did not seem to know well, or never fully reached consensus about.

For these areas, consider reviewing supporting evidence, especially new documentation that came to light during the workshop, and/or discussing with the Core Team and other experts to reach consensus on each response. This may require meeting(s) after the workshop with the Core Team.

- Consider additional validation with:
 - Reviewing existing evidence (e.g. datasets, documentation, etc.)
 - Other Ministry departments and/or staff
 - Subnational government staff who did not attend
 - Additional non-governmental organizations who did not attend
 - Others?



Analyze disseminate & use findings

To analyze the results, extract key points from the Excel assessment framework in to a more digestible and easier-to-use format. At a minimum, results should be categorized in to “what exists” or “what works” to document system strengths, as well as “what are the gaps” to document system weaknesses .

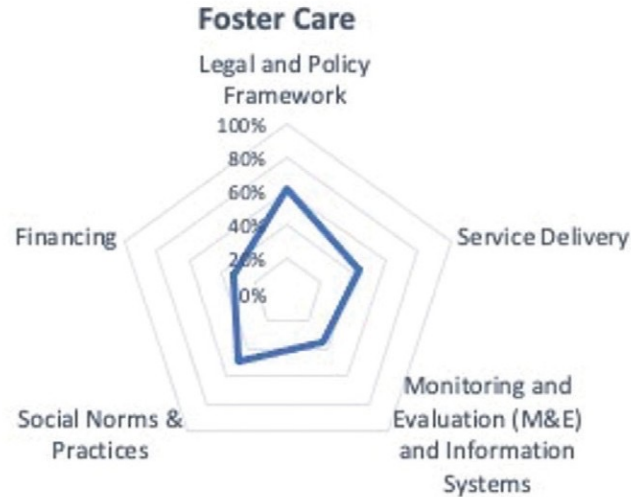
Response type	Summarize
“Completely”, “Yes”	What exists/has been done? What are the strengths?
“Mostly”, “Slightly”	What has progress been made in, but more work is needed?
“Not at all”, “No”	What does not exist/is weak?

A template to document and compare qualitative findings is included in the care system assessment guidance document





Analyze disseminate & use findings

The care system assessment framework includes automated graphs that show real-time results which highlight strengths and weaknesses and allow for easy comparisons between care types and across the system components.



Interpretation 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. There is little to no work on financial provisions nor monitoring and evaluating for foster care.



Q&A and Discussion

