

## **Module 4 Transcript : From Framework to Action: Using ESCAP's MFA to Drive Policy Change**

### **Slide 1: Building Inclusive and Resilient Care Systems: Induction Modules for Policymakers in Timor-Leste**

Welcome back to the final module. In this module, we move from understanding the Model Framework for Action to using it—translating principles into practice.

### **Slide 2: What's Ahead: Your Four-Module Induction Guide**

In the last module, we unpacked the Model Framework for Action—its four components and how they come together to help build strong care systems.

Now that you know the structure, it's time to put it to work. This is where we start identifying gaps, spotting opportunities, and turning ideas into practical policy.

### **Slide 3: Learning Objectives for this Module: Using the MFA to Shape Care Policy**

In this module, you'll work through a set of guided exercises that use the MFA as a hands-on tool for policymaking. If the concepts in the last module felt a bit abstract, this one will bring it to life.

By the end, you'll know how to identify concrete care-related issues, analyse the political and institutional landscape around them, and choose the right levers of change to design effective policy entry points. These are the same steps you'll follow during the national consultation in Timor-Leste.

The goal is to help you apply the MFA in a way that fits your national context—realistic, strategic, and focused on what can actually be implemented.

### **Slide 4: ESCAP's Model Framework for Policy Action on the Care Economy for Asia and the Pacific**

Before we dive into the practical exercises, let's briefly revisit the logic of the Model Framework for Action introduced in Module 3:

First, we have normative principles—these are the values and goals that guide what a fair, inclusive, and rights-based care system should look like. They provide the foundation for what we aim to achieve.

Next, we need to know what good care policy actually looks like—and that's where the policy categories come in. They help define the key building blocks of a comprehensive care system.

But understanding the ideal design isn't enough. We also need to know why some issues move forward while others stall—this is the job of the political economy of care. It helps us unpack the institutional, political, and social dynamics that shape what's possible.

Finally, we need to figure out how to make progress happen—that’s where the levers of change come in. They’re the specific tools and strategies we can use to move from ideas to implementation.

Together, these four components ensure that care policies are not only well-designed, but also context-sensitive, feasible, and implementable.

### **Slide 5: Step 1: Identify Your Care Issue - Policy Categories of Care**

Let’s begin the practical work.

During the national consultation in Timor-Leste, one of your main goals will be to identify strong, realistic policy entry points. And the first step is to define a clear care issue that requires policy attention.

To do this, you’ll draw from several sources. During the consultation, panel discussions will feature stakeholders sharing care-related insights from their own sectors. Before the consultation, you will also have reviewed the Timor-Leste national case study on care, which outlines the current care landscape. And of course, you’ll bring your own knowledge and experience to the table.

Your task in Step 1 is to identify one concrete care-related issue in your assigned policy category.

To help make this clearer, let’s walk through a fictional and simplified example of how a group might approach this.

Imagine a national consultation where one working group is focusing on the “care services” policy category. Based on the panel discussions, their review of the case study, and their own professional knowledge, they identify the following issue:

“There is no dedicated public budget for childcare, limiting access and preventing many women from engaging in paid work.”

This kind of issue is exactly what Step 1 is about—specific, grounded, and relevant. Once it’s identified, it becomes the anchor for the rest of your policy design process..

### **Slide 6: Step 2 : Understand the Context (Political Economy of Care): Stakeholder Mapping**

Now that you’ve identified a care issue, the next step is to understand the real-world forces that shape whether this issue can actually be addressed. This is where the political economy of care comes in.

We’ll break this analysis into two parts. In this step, you’ll do a stakeholder mapping exercise to get a clearer picture of who’s involved, who holds power, who might support reform—and who might stand in the way.

As shown on the slide, for the stakeholder mapping, you’ll begin by placing the most relevant government department at the centre. Then, you’ll plot the rest—local

governments, service providers, donors, and civil society—based on their power, position, and potential role.

Let's return to our fictional childcare example. Earlier, we identified the issue: "There is no dedicated public budget for childcare, limiting access and preventing many women from engaging in paid work." In this case, a sample stakeholder mapping exercise shows that the Ministry of Social Development is leading this issue, but the Ministry of Finance holds the real power over budget decisions and may act as a blocker. Meanwhile, local governments, civil society groups, and others could form a support coalition.

This type of mapping gives you a more realistic picture of the ecosystem around your issue. It highlights where influence lies, who to work with, and where resistance may come from—laying the groundwork for more strategic action in the next steps..

### **Slide 7: Step 2 : Understand the Context (Political Economy of Care): Policies and Institutional Mechanisms**

Let's start with the formal ones: policies and legislation.

Take a look at the set of guiding questions on the screen. These are designed to help you take stock of what already exists—and what might be missing from the policy and legal framework.

In our fictional childcare example, participants noted that:

- There's no law mandating the provision of childcare.
- There's no public budget line for childcare services.
- And there are no incentives for employers or private actors to step in.

That said, they also identified a potential opening: an existing early childhood development policy that could serve as a starting point.

### **Slide 8: Step 2 : Understand the Context (Political Economy of Care): Social Norms and Practices**

Now, shift to social norms.

This is where you consider the informal beliefs, behaviours, and expectations that shape how care is organised—and who is expected to do it.

In this example, the group observed that:

- Caregiving is still widely seen as women's work.
- Employers tend to treat childcare as a private family concern, rather than a shared responsibility.
- But some change is emerging—through community groups advocating for shared care, or pilot programmes encouraging men to take a more active role.

This kind of analysis helps reveal the deeper drivers behind the issue—not just what policies say, but how people behave and what they believe.

Together with stakeholder mapping, it gives you a fuller picture of the forces at play—and sets you up for the next step: figuring out how to move it forward..

### **Slide 9: Step 3 : Strategically Identify Tools Levers of Change**

Now that you've examined the context, it's time to explore the tools available to shift the system. These are your levers of change.

Each lever represents a potential point of intervention. You don't have to use them all—but identifying the right combination can help move your policy issue forward.

Take a look at the questions on screen. As you reflect on each one, ask yourself: What's already working? What's missing? What could be strengthened?

Let's go back to our fictional childcare care.

By working through the questions, participants found that:

There's no current law on childcare services.

The budget cycle is coming up, but childcare is not yet included.

There are some local partnerships already providing services on a small scale.

There's limited public debate, but a few civil society groups are beginning to raise awareness.

And while the Ministry of Social Development is active, decision-making still rests heavily with the Ministry of Finance.

This analysis points to a few actionable levers:

Budgeting becomes a priority because it's time-sensitive and politically central.

Regulation is a gap—quality standards could be drafted in tandem.

Partnerships could be scaled up to test delivery models.

And norms change could be integrated longer-term, through public campaigns.

Each lever directly addresses a barrier or opportunity identified earlier.

This step is where the analysis turns into action. By working through these levers, you'll begin to shape a strategy that's not just aspirational—but also achievable.

### **Slide 10: Step 4 : Identifying the Policy Entry Point**

Now it's time to bring the pieces together. Based on your identified issue, the political and institutional context, and your selected levers of change, your task is to define a policy entry point—something actionable, well-timed, and institutionally feasible.

A good entry point doesn't attempt to solve everything at once. It focuses on a specific intervention that opens space for broader reform.

Let's go back to our fictional childcare example.

After walking through all the previous steps, the team proposes this entry point:

“Introduce a ring-fenced budget line in the upcoming fiscal year to pilot a network of community-based childcare centres, implemented by the Ministry of Social Development in partnership with local governments and civil society organisations.”

So—why this entry point?

It directly addresses the core gap from Step 1: the lack of public funding for childcare.

It responds to the political dynamics uncovered in Step 2—targeting a lever under the Ministry of Finance's control, but implementable by a more supportive line ministry.

It draws on the tools prioritised in Step 3—budgeting first, partnerships second.

And it's appropriately scoped: this isn't a full system overhaul. It's a pilot—small enough to be doable, big enough to show what's possible.

This is where the Model Framework becomes operational. A clear entry point creates a pathway from analysis to action—and signals where real movement is possible in the short to medium term.

#### **Slide 14: Care to Recap?**

In this module, we've walked through a series of exercises that show how the Model Framework for Action can be applied in real policymaking.

We've shown one possible way to use the MFA to identify a strong policy entry point. But remember—this isn't a fixed formula. The MFA is not a linear tool.

The steps we followed in this session are designed to support you during the national consultation. But depending on your national context, you might start from a different place—from a political opportunity, a budgeting window, or even an existing pilot.

That's the strength of the MFA. It's flexible, adaptable, and meant to meet you where you are.

This module covered a lot of ground—so before we wrap up, why not try out a few questions to test what you've absorbed?

Scan the QR code on screen to take the quick quiz for this module.