



REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON SKILLS DEVELOPMENT IN THE PACER PLUS ARRANGEMENT ON LABOUR MOBILITY

8 – 12 July, Apia SAMOA

Outline

- National Qualifications Frameworks?
- Quality Assurance in Education?
- How Frameworks and Quality Assurance Support Recognition
- Key Priorities
- Challenges



Skills and Skills Development

Skills:

TNQAB defines skills as “what a graduate can do”.

Specifically,

- skills are described in terms of the type, range and complexity of processes and the types, range and complexity of problems and solutions.
- skills progression reflects the degree of familiarity with tasks/problems, including predictability, analysis and judgement required, and the extent to which processes are standardised or require adaptation and innovation.
- competency-based training develops the skills, knowledge and attitudes required to achieve competency.
- skills are defined in units of competency within training packages.

National Qualifications Framework

- Foundations for skills development
- System for classifying qualifications in Tonga
- Includes certificates, diplomas and degrees
- Managed by Tonga National Qualifications and Accreditation Board (TNQAB)

Key Features of TQF

- Classified qualifications by complexity of learning outcomes
- Provides a structure for qualification interrelationships
- Covers all post-compulsory education and training
- Improves transparency and access to qualifications
- Facilitate national and international comparability of qualifications
- Supports career development and lifelong learning
- Improve quality and relevance of qualifications

LEVEL	QUALIFICATION TITLE		
10			Doctoral degree
9			Master's degree
8	Postgraduate certificate	Postgraduate diploma	Bachelor's degree with Honours
7	Graduate certificate	Graduate diploma	Bachelor's degree
6		Advanced diploma	
5		Diploma	
4	Certificate		
3	Certificate		
2	Certificate		
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TNQAB: Who we are and what we do

Qualifications

1. We maintain and implement the Tonga Qualifications Framework as a system relating different qualification levels to each other
2. We set standards for Qualifications
3. We approve programme of education and training leading to qualifications
4. We issue National Qualifications certificates
5. We maintain the Register of Qualifications as a comprehensive database of all qualifications included in the TQF
6. We advise on the recognition of foreign qualifications in Tonga and of Tonga Qualifications abroad

Quality Assurance


1. We set quality assurance policies and guidelines
 2. We register providers
 3. We accredit programmes of education and training leading to qualifications
 4. We audit, monitor and review providers/qualifications
 5. We consult, inform and collaborate with national and international stakeholders
 6. We develop enhancement initiatives and host events to learn and share best practice with stakeholders
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Quality Assurance in Education and Training

1. System monitoring and evaluation of education and training
 2. Ensures standards are met
 3. Focus on:
 - Curriculum Design
 - Teaching and learning practices
 - Assessment methods
 - Students support
- Involves internal and external processes

Quality Assurance Mechanism

1. Internal;
 - Self-evaluation
 - Curriculum review
 - Student feedback
 - Peer Review
 2. External
 - Approval and accreditations
 - Audits
 - Site-visits
 - Benchmarking
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How Qualifications Framework and Quality Assurance System Supports Recognition

Qualifications Framework

- Provide common reference points for comparing qualifications
- Define clear level descriptors and learning outcomes
- Facilitate credit transfer and progression pathways
- Enable mapping of qualifications across countries /regions

Quality Assurance

- Builds trust in qualifications
 - Ensures qualifications meet defined standards
 - Provides evidence of quality for recognitions bodies/agencies
 - Support mutual recognition agreements between countries
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Current Priorities

1. Management of the National Qualification Framework

- Recognition of Qualifications
- Review of Key Policies: Acts, Regulations, Rules, Standards
- Align National Qualifications with International Standards


2. Enhancing Quality Assurance Systems

- Register providers/institutions
- Accredit courses of study and qualifications
- Conduct quality audits and review

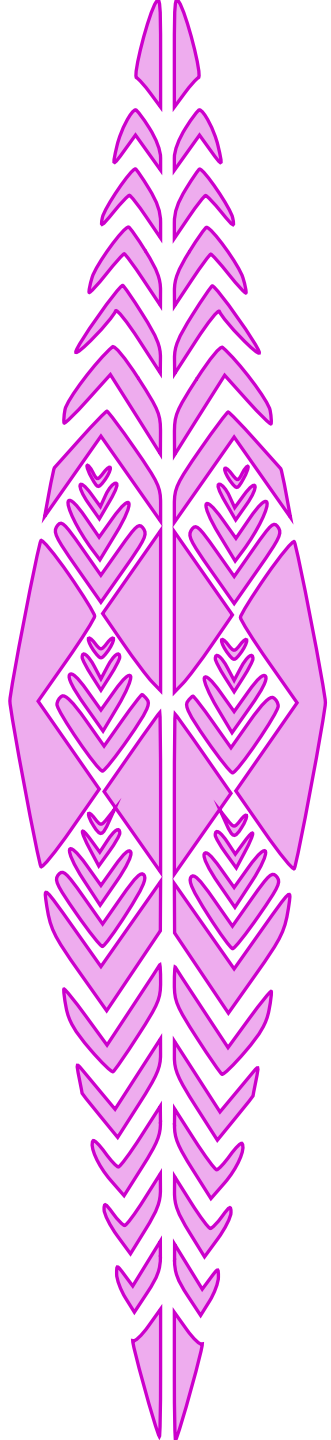
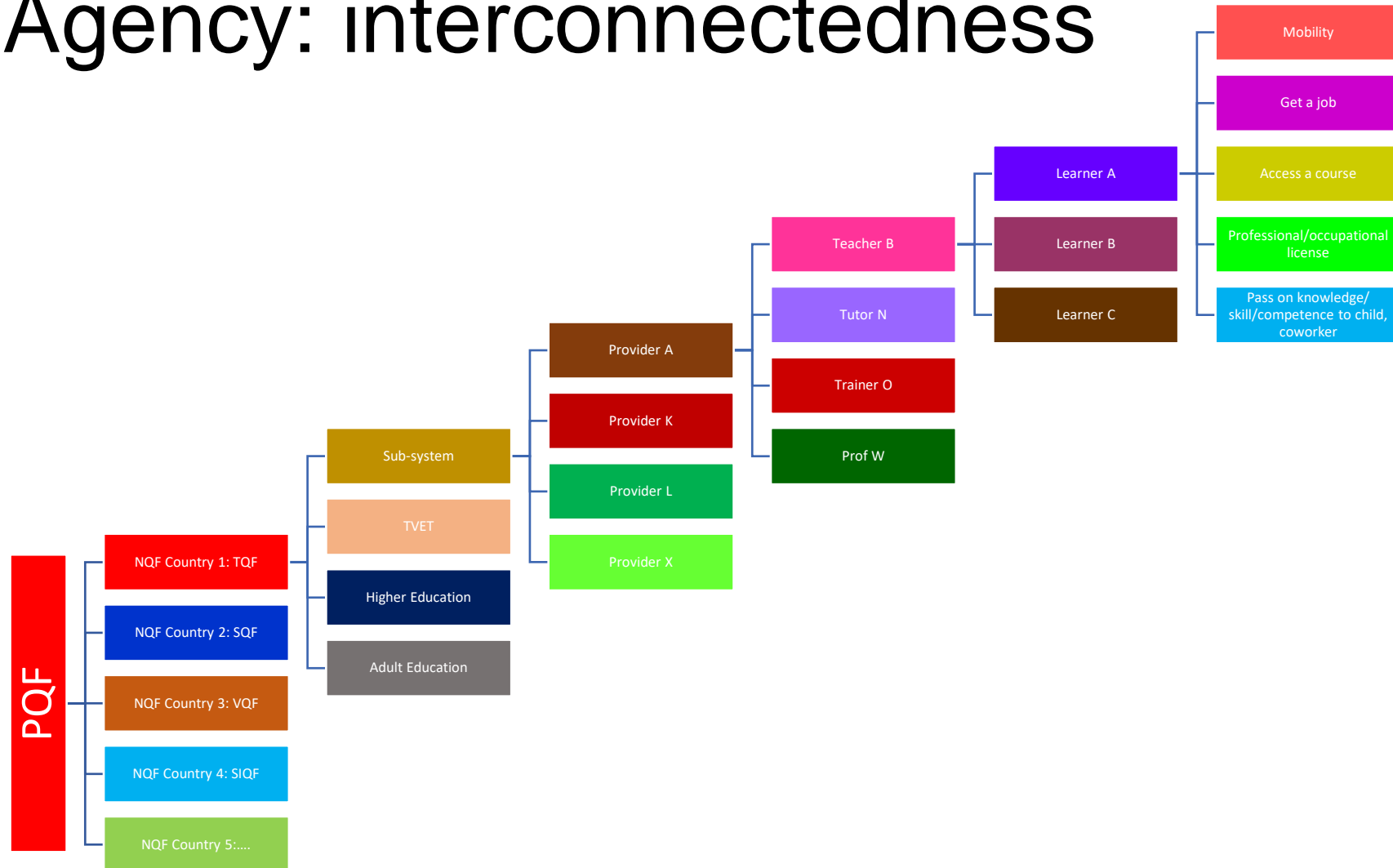
3. Strengthening Regional Partnership

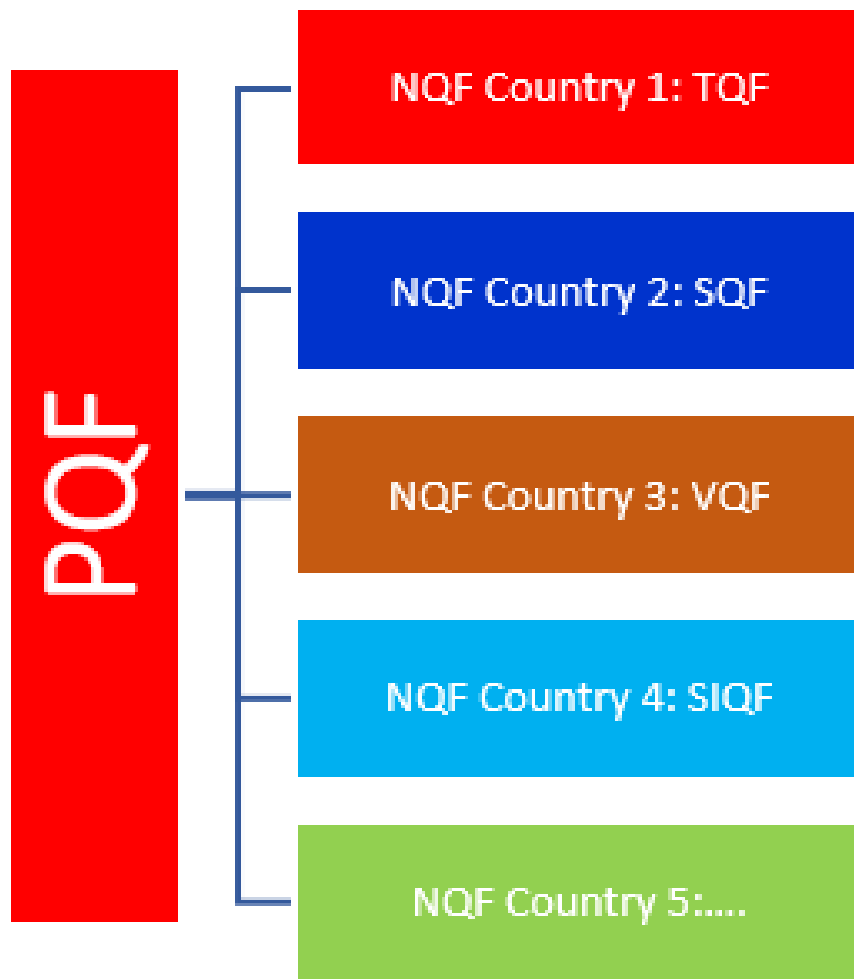
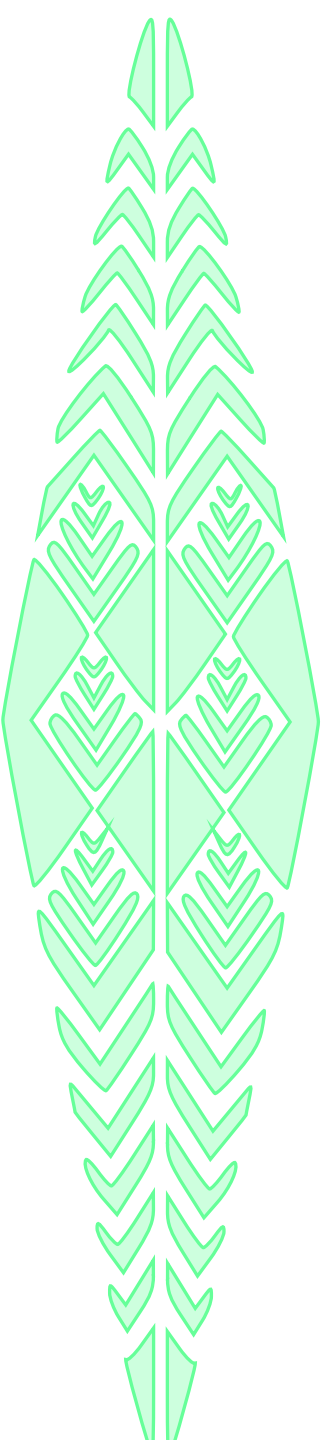
- Referencing/Benchmarking Regional Qualifications
- Regional and International Regional Agreements
- Support for Trade Negotiations
- International Qualifications Recognition Treaties

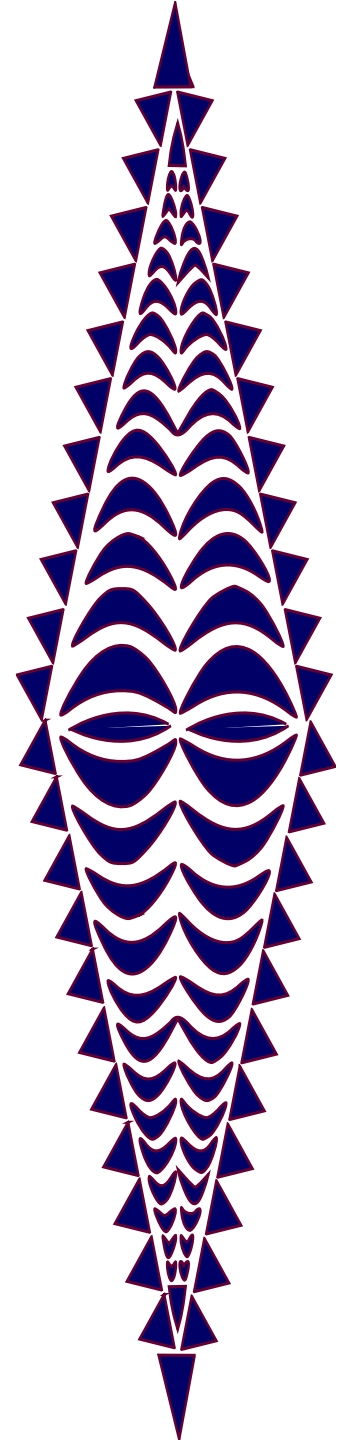
4. Recognition of Qualifications

- Improve access to skills training, especially in remote areas
 - Enhance the employability of Tongans domestically and internationally
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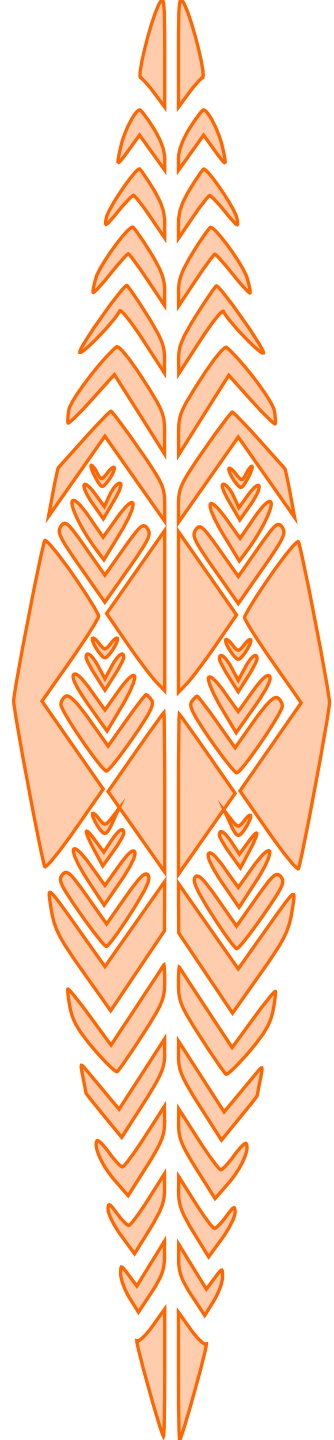
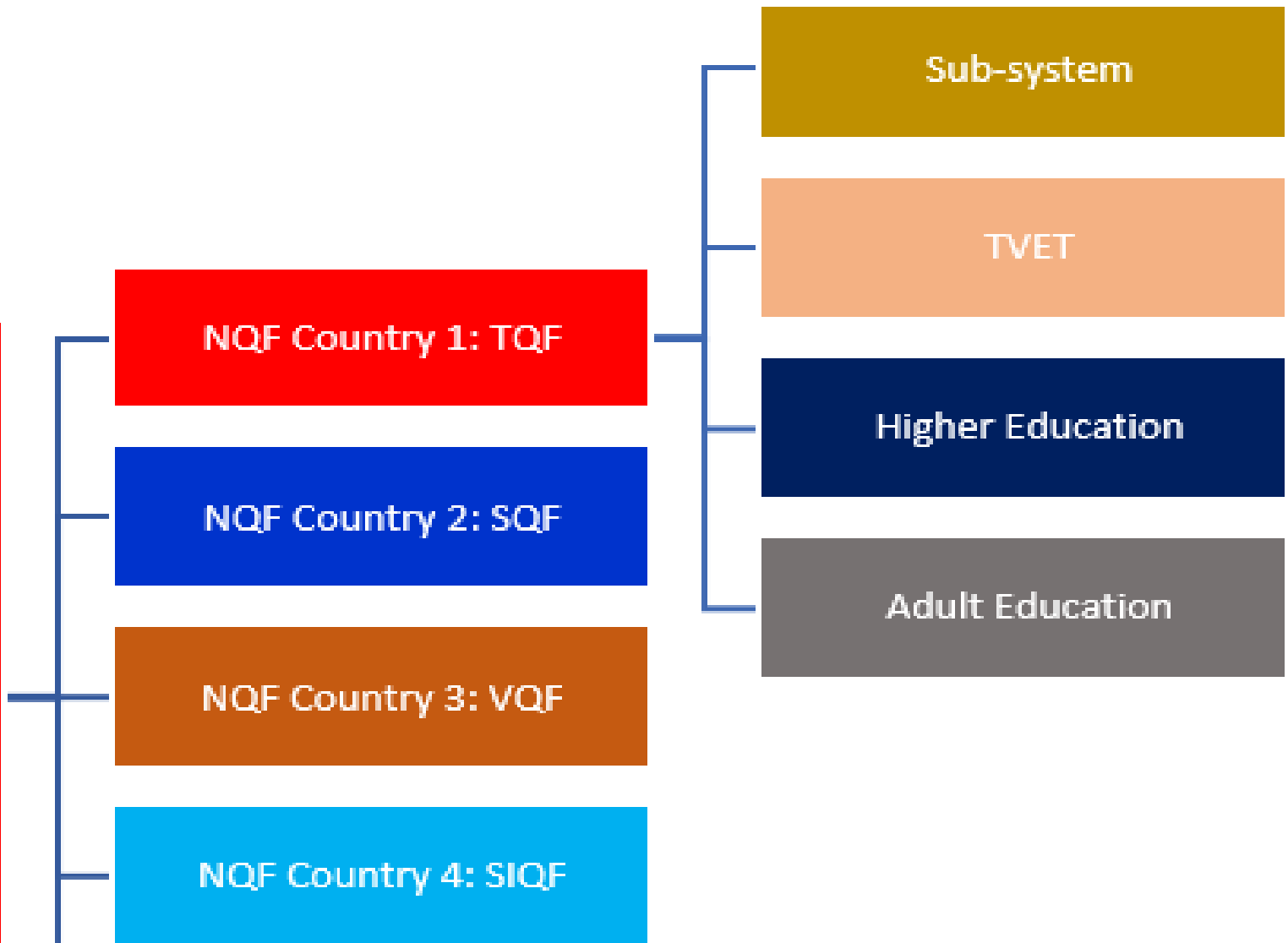
National Regulator/Quality Assurance Agency: interconnectedness

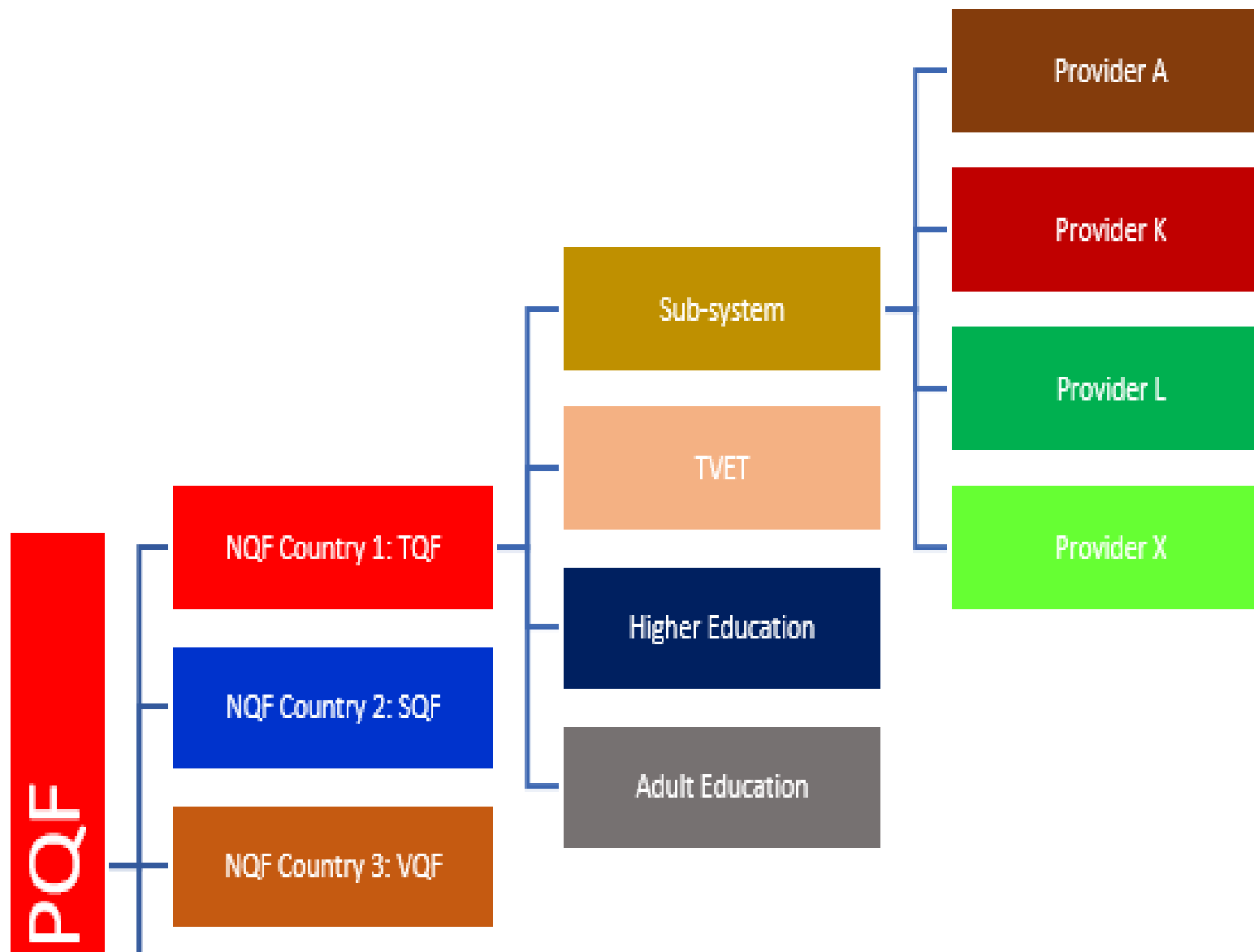
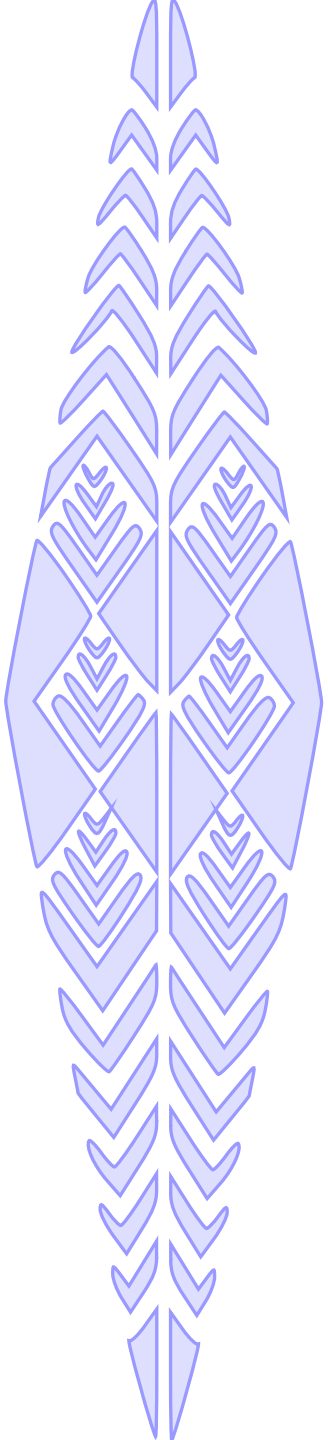


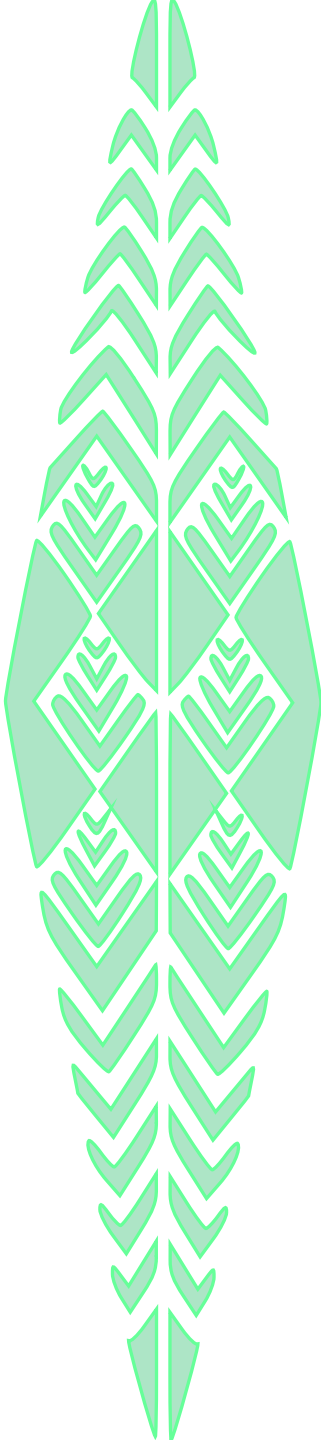
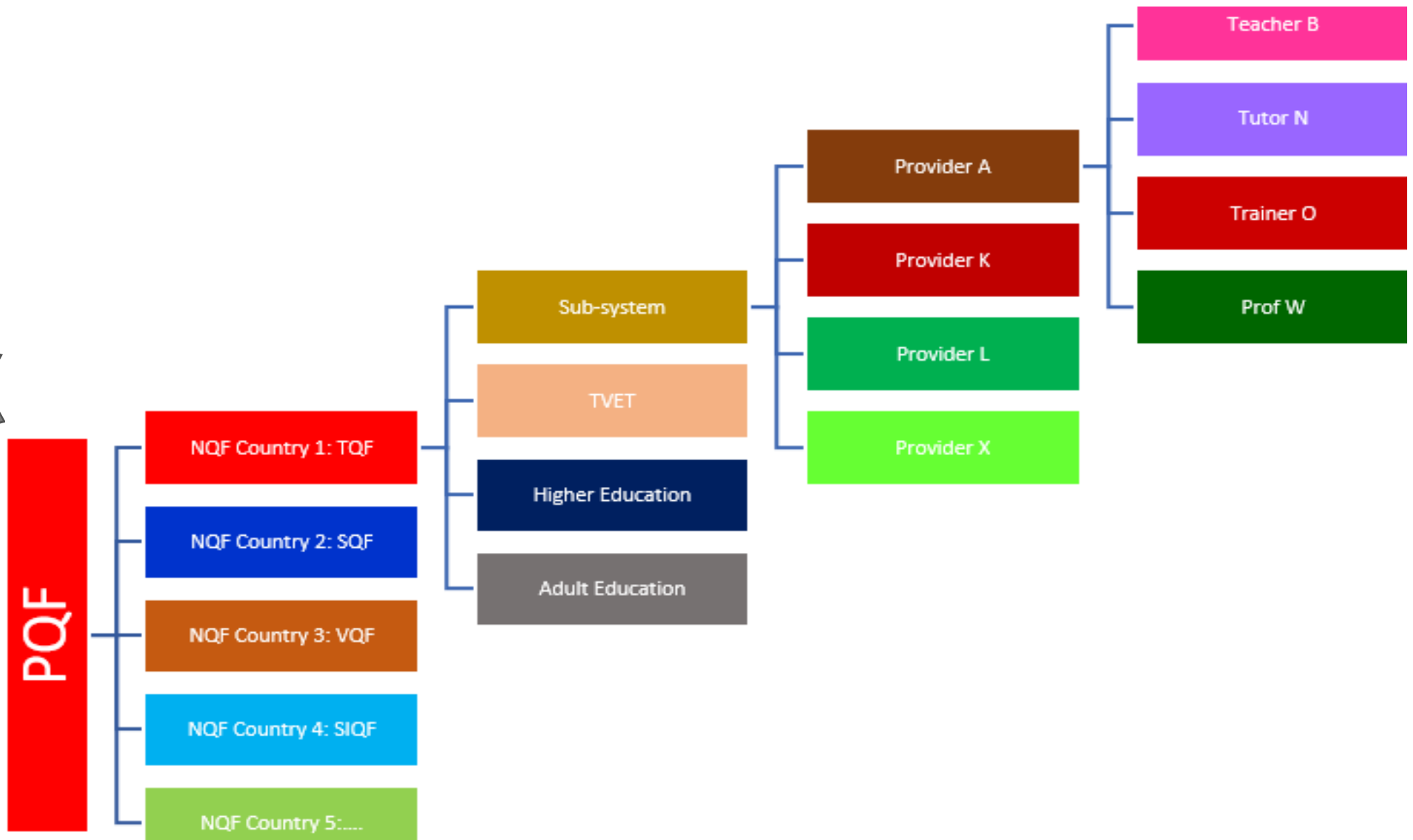


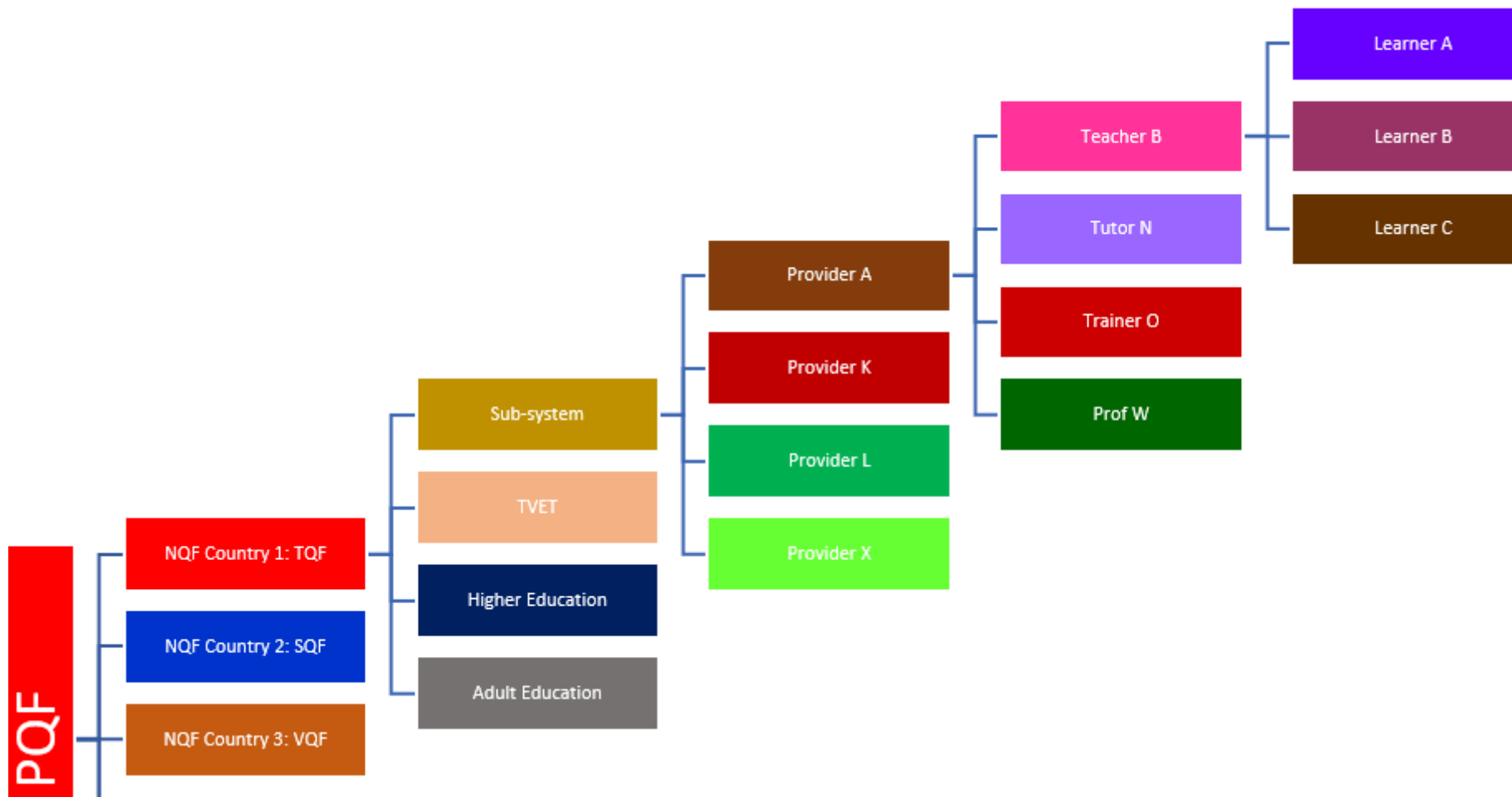
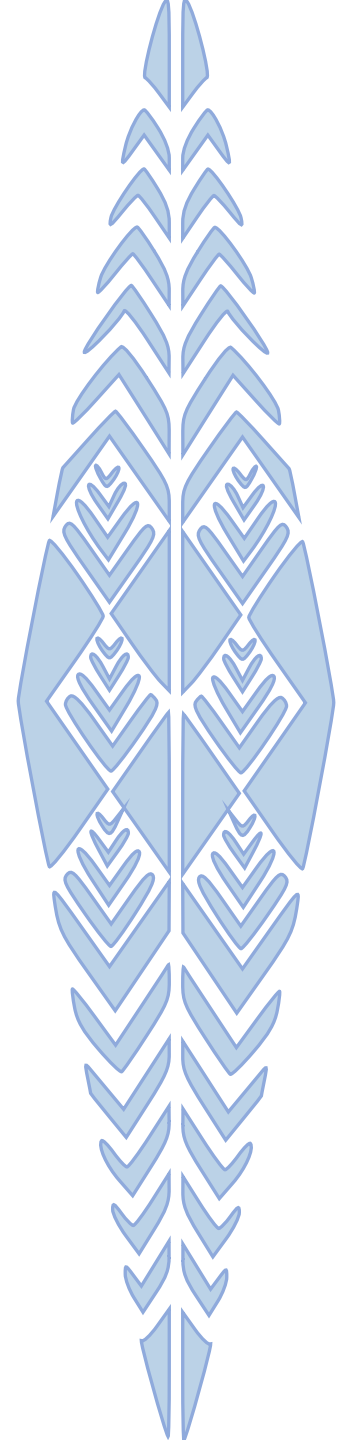


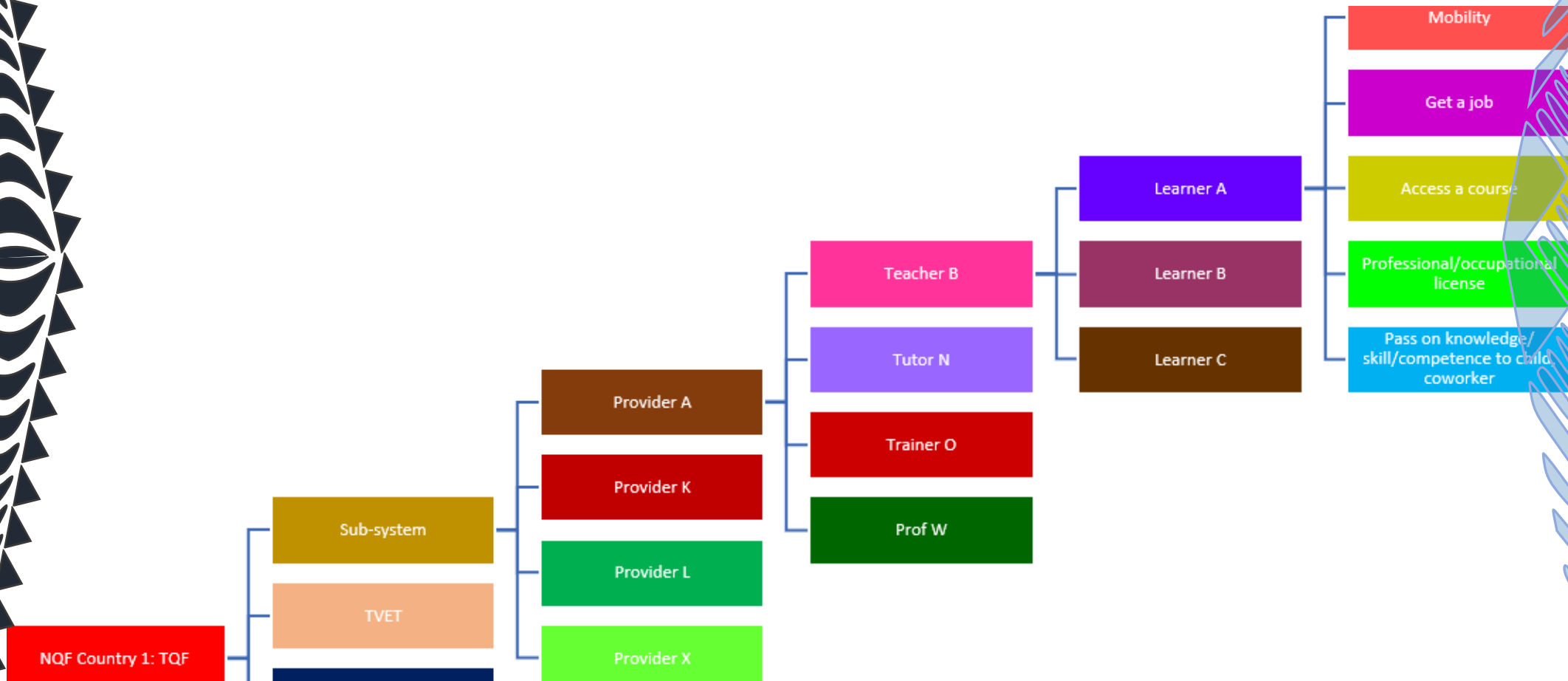
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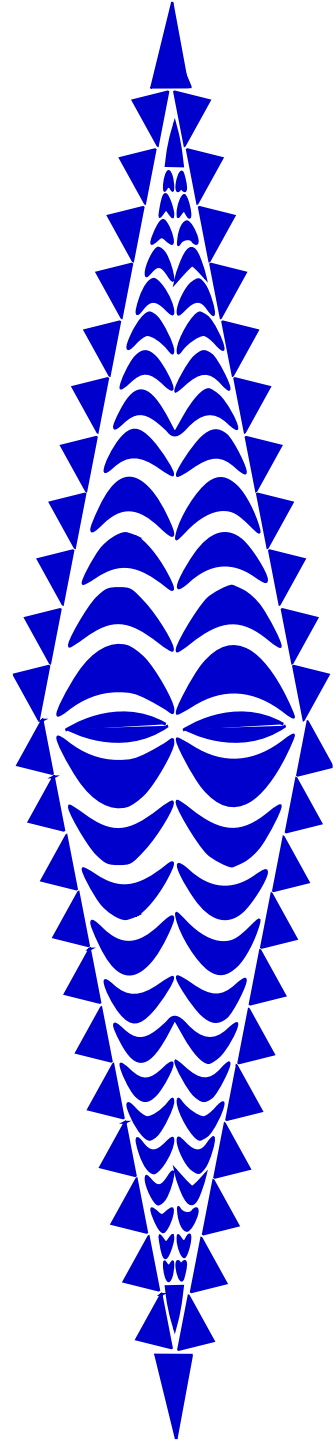
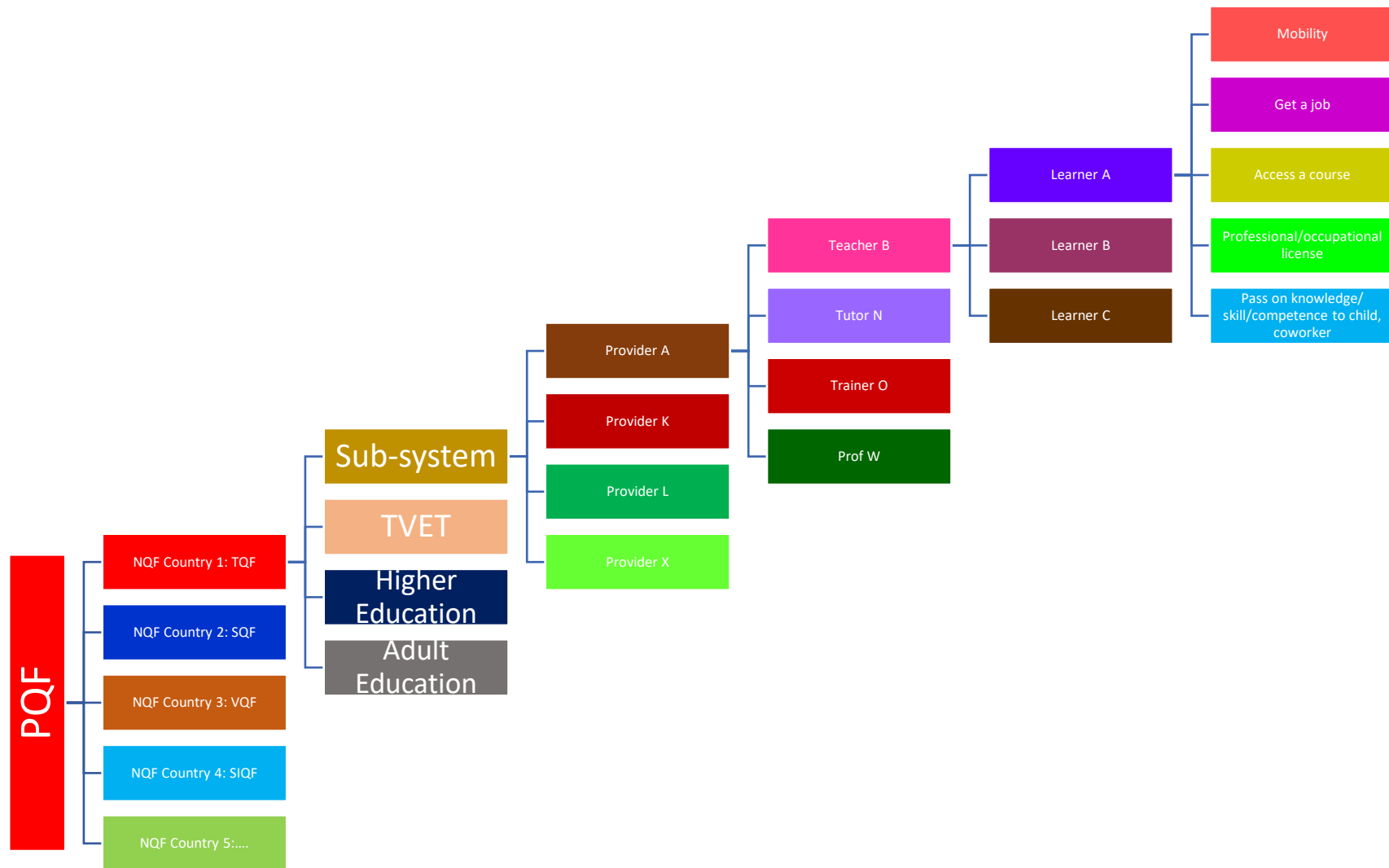












Skills Development Challenges

National Qualifications Framework Challenges

1. Maintaining a comprehensive framework covering all education and training sectors
2. Ensuring flexibility to accommodate diverse learning pathways
3. Maintaining relevance to industry and community needs
4. Balancing national priorities with international benchmarks
5. Weak regulation and standards enforcement

Qualifications Recognition Challenges

1. Ensuring international comparability and recognition
2. Aligning national qualifications with regional and global standards
3. Addressing skills gaps in the labour market
4. Recognising prior learning and non-formal education and training
5. Limited employment opportunities

Quality Assurance Challenges

1. Implementing consistent standards across diverse education providers
2. Developing appropriate assessment and moderation systems
3. Ensuring adequate resources for effective quality assurance
4. Building capacity for ongoing monitoring and improvement
5. Limited resources and capacity for ongoing implementation and review
6. Need for better coordination/ collaboration and ensuring stakeholder engagement and buy-in
7. Labour Mobility Information System

Conclusions

- Qualifications Frameworks and Quality Assurance are interconnected
- Both play a key role in improving education quality and recognition leading to skills development
- Ongoing development needed to meet evolving needs
- Collaboration between stakeholders is crucial for success