

# Balochistan - Early Childhood Development Project Family Resource Center: Baseline Survey Report 2012



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report presents findings of the Baseline Survey of **The Early Child Development Project Balochistan: *Ensuring the Best Start in Life for Children***' which is being implemented through a consortium of partners formed by AKF, P. There are two type of partners in this consortium; technical and implementing partners whereas AKF, P is play its role as coordinator, monitor and project evaluator. The project covers multi-dimensional factors that affect overall growth and development of a child from family to community to school to the state. The broader vision of the project is to enhance access, equity and quality of education for all with increased gender parity and participation and sustainability of community interventions.

Early Childhood Development requires a holistic approach which encompasses children's health, nutrition, education, social and emotional care and economic wellbeing of his family. ECD parenting programmes that work with caregivers to support positive practices have shown beneficial outcomes on child, family and community.

Aga Khan University-Human Development Programme (AKU-HDP) as the technical partner in this project is assisting and guiding the implementing partners in developing community based ECD programme through a variety of strategies which are contextually appropriate and can be replicable at scale. This technical support is being provided in mainly three ways;

1. Providing technical assistance in the establishment of the Family Recourse Centers (FRCs) in the three project Districts and
2. Capacity building of the implementing partners' staff and selected government officials of Balochistan through tailor made trainings and Advanced Diploma in ECD,

3. Design advocacy material and undertake research studies.

In order to understand the impacts of FRCs activities on mothers' knowledge and practices and overall environment around children, prior to the functioning of FRCs, a baseline survey of targeted families was conducted in the project areas. Control areas in all three districts were also selected in order to establish the impact of the FRC interventions in the selected districts. The objectives of the Baseline Survey were to collect and analyze socio-demographic information, knowledge and practices regarding antenatal and postnatal care, child growth and development including nutrition, child rearing practices, home and social environment of a child and for children in the catchment areas of the FRCs in selected three districts of Balochistan. A population based household survey is conducted using a structured questionnaire. Qualitative data was also collected through focus group discussions to gain an in-depth knowledge around four major themes; Child Development, Nutrition, Maternal Mental Health and Antenatal and Postnatal care.