



# Needs assessment ECD

**Description:** Before you will start an ECD program, an assessment of the situation is important. This tool will help your staff to get an understanding of the needs of young children in your community and to get to know which ECD services are available.

**Goals of the session:** To find out the needs of young children and the availability of ECD services.

**Audience:** Program officers, field workers

**Target group:** Program officers, field workers

**Preparation time:** 3 or more hours

**Duration:** 3 or more hours

**Training method:** Data collection, analyzing, discussing, and report writing.

**Materials:** Informative resources like: international resources e.g. CSI, local governments, health services, schools, expert interviews, observations in the community.  
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## Introduction

When assessing Early childhood Development, it is important to look at the different development areas:

- Physical development
- Cognitive Development
- Social & Emotional Development
- Spiritual & Moral Development

In order to find the right information, different sources can be used. Think of available data from government or other organisations, the health clinic, the education department and head teachers, the local leaders, and the mothers and fathers in the community.

The questions below are to guide you, since it is best to have an open, semi structured conversation. The first question at each topic is the main question, the questions at the bullet points (●) are possible sub questions.

## Physical Development

### Key informant interview questions with Clinic

1. What are the main issues in terms of maternal health?  
Think of: pre- an postnatal care, who helps with delivery
  - What is the average age of girls/women getting their first child? (are there many young girls getting pregnant? Do you think it was forced on them?)
  - What is the child mortality rate, at birth and before 1 year? (estimate)
2. What are the main issues in terms of Nutrition?  
Think of: access to and knowledge of nutritious food
  - Are there malnourished children? And Stunted children? And how big is that problem?



3. What is the health situation of children and their parents?  
Think of: main sicknesses, mortality rate
  - Do you see mainly physical diseases or also psycho-social issues among children and parents?
  - Do children have access to clean water?
4. What, in your opinion, needs to be done more in terms of the physical development of children?

## Social-emotional development

### Key information interview with a Social Worker, Community Development Person or Probation Officer

1. What are the main issues children face in terms of Social and Emotional Development?  
Think of: home situation, school, community
  - What is causing these issues?
  - And is something already being done?
2. Do you feel parents are supporting their children well enough?
3. Are children being registered when born?
4. What kind of child protection issues do you see in the community?
  - What happens if there is a child protection concern, what is the procedure?
5. Are there any harmful cultural beliefs and/or practices in the community?
6. What in your opinion, are the main gaps in the current situation?

## Cognitive development

### Key informant interview with the Education department of the Local Government and/or Headteachers

1. What is the situation of Primary Education in your area?  
Think of: enrolment rate, retention and completion rate; number of schools, number of teachers etc. Statistical data might be available and will be useful to have.
  - What are the issues according to you for children in school?
  - What are the issues for teachers in school?
2. Are there any Early Childhood Education centres /pre-schools in your area?
  - If yes, how do they work?
  - Who is paying for the costs of the centres?
  - Enrolment rate?
  - What are the main challenges?
3. Is there a secondary school or tertiary educational institutes where teenagers can go to?
4. How is the support of parents/guardians in terms of education for their children?
  - Is education /early education being valued?
  - If not, why not?
5. What is the adult literacy rate in the community?
  - Are there any services for adult literacy?
6. What in your opinion, are the main gaps in the current situation in terms of Education (ECD, primary, secondary)



## Spiritual & Moral Development

### Key informant interview with the religious leader(s)

1. What are the main issues according to you, regarding spiritual and moral development of children in your area?  
Think of: who has the responsibility for this, available religious institutes
2. Do you feel parents are being good role models in terms of spiritual and moral development in your community?
  - How do parents pass on spiritual development to their children?
3. What is the role of the church/mosque/traditional leaders etc. in terms of spiritual development?
4. What, in your opinion, is the main gap in terms of spiritual & moral development of children?