



## **AGA KHAN FOUNDATION - MOZAMBIQUE**

**POSITION:** ECD Advisor

**LOCATION:** Pemba, Cabo Delgado Province, Mozambique

**CONTRACT DURATION:** 2 Years, with possibility of renewal

### **ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION**

The Aga Khan Foundation has been active in Mozambique since 2001, working in five districts in the northern province of Cabo Delgado. Cabo Delgado has among the highest poverty rates in the country. AKF(Moz)'s ECD **long term goal** is to contribute to improvements in the lives of children in Cabo Delgado, supported and sustained by their communities. AKF(Moz) works to provide an enabling environment through its Multi-Input Area Development (MIAD) programme in which improvements in the education, health and agriculture sectors of Cabo Delgado can take place and can be sustained.

In health, particularly for children under 5 years of age, AKF(Moz) works to increase community knowledge and use of good maternal and infant health, hygiene and nutrition practices and improve access to nutritional foods for pregnant women and young children. In order to ensure that children in Cabo Delgado are more healthy, developing appropriately and thus better able to engage with educational opportunities available to them, AKF(Moz) works through primary health-care facilities and community-based structures, including Community Health Workers (CHW) and Nutrition groups, to improve the health, hygiene and nutritional status of expectant mothers and young children.

In education, AKF(Moz) focuses on ensuring a more accessible and continuous ladder of quality education in Cabo Delgado. This includes working with literacy and other groups to provide information and support to families in order to introduce practices that are appropriate for early child care and stimulation to strengthen ECD in Cabo Delgado. AKF(Moz) also promotes activities to improve access to good quality, community-supported preschools, and linkages between community preschools and primary school, with the view to ensuring a smooth and timely transition from ECD to early grades of primary education for all children. A main focus of AKF's Habitat improvement initiative is to design and build ecological and dignified pre-schools with the involvement of communities.

In agriculture, AKF(Moz)'s main objective is to increase food security for rural households through interventions in agriculture, livestock and markets. To address the nutritional needs of young children and their families, the component promotes food crop diversification through *machambas* (small agricultural plots), and encourages families to create kitchen gardens, raise small ruminants and poultry and use basic processing techniques to conserve food.

Internationally, ECD is a priority for the Aga Khan Development Network. As such, the work done in Mozambique benefits from and contributes to initiatives undertaken by other agencies and units across the Network.

### **KEY AREAS OF WORK**

- Plan and coordinate the implementation of a holistic ECD approach.

- Regularly monitor the implementation of ECD activities.
- Organize regular reviews of progress.
- Build skills, knowledge and understanding of staff on ECD and programme development, with the view to improve AKF's ability to plan, implement and monitor holistic ECD actions;
- Coordinate documentation and sharing with partners of lessons learned and best-practices;
- Advise Health, Education and Agriculture managers in all aspects aimed at ensuring the achievement of the objectives of holistic ECD.
- Liaise with other relevant AKDN's ECD initiatives and programmes elsewhere.

## **MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES AND TASKS**

### Planning and Implementation:

- Coordinate the overall planning and implementation processes for AKF(Moz)'s holistic approach to ECD;
- Coordinate and manage the design, publication and dissemination of relevant ECD training manuals/materials and also information, education and communication (IEC) materials;
- Participate in CRSP(M) planning meetings (together with all programme components – economic development (agriculture and markets), civil society and governance, community-based savings groups, health, education and habitats).

### Technical support/Capacity-building:

- Organize and manage capacity-building activities for health, education and agriculture staff, ECD workers and communities on holistic ECD planning tools, methods and approaches to ensure quality, relevance and sustainability of the programme.
- Provide technical guidance and training related to the introduction, piloting and expansion of a range of culturally and developmentally appropriate ECD activities for young children (pre-natal to 8 years old) in CRSP(M) areas for relevant education, health and agriculture staff, including assistants, and field supervisors and facilitators;
- In collaboration with CRSP(M) staff, identify capacity-building needs and design training for staff to address these. This will include working with the ECD team on capacity-building interventions for community collaborators and institutional partners;
- Regular mentoring to staff involved in holistic ECD activities;
- Work with relevant team members on the overall concept, establishment and piloting of the Community Resource Centres (CRCs) to facilitate quality of ECD services/practices, effective and appropriate management systems and their sustainability. This will include coordinating with the Habitat component, capacity-building actions for communities for adequate maintenance and management of Community Resource Centres;

### Monitoring, Evaluation and Research:

- Coordinate and oversee regular pilot/programme reviews, reflections and lesson learning sessions with the CRSP Team and also ECD workers and communities where relevant;
- Oversee ECD data collection, systematization, analysis and compilation processes drawing on broader AKF monitoring and evaluation expertise, tools and systems where relevant;
- Review and improve monitoring and evaluation tools for the holistic ECD as needed;

- Coordinate and manage the design and implementation of relevant evaluations, assessments and studies, including development of ToRs, identification of consultants, ensuring quality control, etc.;
- Prepare overall ECD narrative analytical progress reports; and collaborate in the preparation of financial reports.

### Linkages and Partnerships

- Promote effective coordination and communication across sectors/components within CRSP, as well as with communities and other relevant partners (government, local NGOs, etc) from local to national levels;
- Work with relevant CRSP and AKF(Moz) colleagues to ensure effective dissemination and use of ECD materials developed by the programme within communities and, where relevant, take-up by others more broadly;
- Organise and coordinate regular partner meetings for review or progress, and sharing of lessons learned and best-practices at district and provincial levels in particular and at national level with AKF(Moz).
- Maintain regular communication and exchange with other AKF's and AKDN's ECD initiatives and programmes.

### REPORTING

The ECD Advisor will report to CRSP's joint ECD management team (Education, Health and Agriculture managers), and regularly inform the Director of Programmes on progress and achievement.

### REQUIREMENTS

- a) Master or Diploma Degree in Early Childhood Development
- b) At least 5 years of experience of development, implementation and monitoring of community-based holistic ECD programmes
- c) Experience working in Cabo Delgado and/or other regions of Mozambique or, alternatively, in rural areas of Africa, Asia or Latin America
- d) Experience in development and delivery of training/mentoring programmes and related materials in ECD or linked/similar areas
- e) Willingness to travel frequently to the field
- f) Fluency in Portuguese or, alternatively, in Spanish
- g) Fluency in English is an asset