**Early Childhood Development**

**Lao People’s Democratic Rep.**

**Demographics**
- Population: 6,758,000
- Annual births: 163,000
- Children under 5: 766,000 (11%)
- Under 5 mortality: 64/1,000

**Threats to Early Childhood Development**
- Maternal mortality: 197/100,000
- Low birthweight: 15%
- Child poverty: 30%
- Harsh punishment: 76%
- Young mothers (births by 18y): 18%
- Preterm births: 11%
- Under 5 stunting: 41%
- Inadequate supervision: 57%

**Young children at risk of poor development**

**Support and services for Early Childhood Development: Nurturing Care**

Parents and caregivers need a facilitating environment of laws, policies, services and community support to assist them to provide their young children with nurturing care.

**Support and services for Early Childhood Development: Facilitating Environments**

**Nutrition**
- Pregnant women living with HIV on treatment: 54%
- Women receive 4 antenatal care visits: 50%
- Postnatal newborn care: 40%
- Minimum acceptable diet: 37%

**Health**
- Early initiation of breastfeeding: 39%
- Exclusive breastfeeding: 40%
- Careseeking for child pneumonia: 50%
- Women receive 4 antenatal care visits: 50%
- Children have support for learning: 41%
- Attendance in early childhood education: 14%
- Children have playthings at home: 5%
- Security and Safety: 23%

**Responsible Caregiving**
- Public information about ECD
- Parental mental health
- Parent support (groups, home visits)
- Quality child day care

**International Conventions**
- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities
- CRC Sale of Children, Child Prostitution & Child Pornography
- Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption

**Policies**
- Paid maternity leave
- Paid paternity leave
- National minimum wage
- Child and family social protection
- International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes

**Risks by gender and residence**

**Lifetime cost of growth deficit in early childhood**

Estimate in terms of % loss of annual adult wage

At risk in 2005, 2010 and 2015, using a composite indicator of under 5 stunting or poverty