**EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT**

**Congo**

### Demographics
- Population (2019): 5,381,000
- Annual births: 175,000
- Children under 5 (2019): 813,000 (15%)
- Under-five mortality: 50/1,000

### Threats to Early Childhood Development
- Maternal mortality: 378/100,000
- Low birthweight: 12%
- Child poverty: 20%
- Violent discipline: 81%
- Young mothers (births by 18y): 26%
- Preterm births: 17%
- Under-five stunting: 21%
- Inadequate supervision: 42%

### Young children at risk of poor development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

### Risk by sex and residence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Residence</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Lifetime cost of growth deficit in early childhood

- Estimate in terms of % loss of annual adult wage: 64%
- Early Childhood Development Index: 61%

### 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 in providing their young children with nurturing care.

### Facilitating environments

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

#### International conventions
- ✔ Convention on the Rights of the Child
- ✔ Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- ✗ Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption

---

DETAILED COUNTRY DATA SOURCES AND FOOTNOTES CAN BE FOUND IN THE MASTER DATABASE AT [NURTURING-CARE.ORG](http://NURTURING-CARE.ORG)