**Early Childhood Development**

**Costa Rica**

**Demographics**
- Population (2019): 5,048,000
- Annual births: 69,000
- Children under 5 (2019): 351,000 (7%)
- Under-five mortality: 9/1,000

**Threats to Early Childhood Development**
- Maternal mortality: 27/100,000
- Low birthweight: 7%
- Child poverty: no data
- Violent discipline: 56%
- Young mothers (births by 18y): 13%
- Preterm births: 14%
- Under-five stunting: 6%
- Inadequate supervision: 4%

**Young children at risk of poor development**
- At risk in 2005, 2010 and 2015, using a composite indicator of under-five stunting or poverty

**Risk by sex and residence**

**Lifetime cost of growth deficit in early childhood**
- Estimate in terms of % loss of annual adult wage
- Early Childhood Development Index: 81%

---

**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

---

**Nutrition**
- Early initiation of breastfeeding
- Exclusive breastfeeding
- Minimum acceptable diet

**Health**
- Treatment for HIV+ pregnant women
- Careseeking for child pneumonia
- Antenatal care (4 or more visits)
- Postnatal visits

---

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

---

**Security and safety**
- Birth registration
- Positive discipline
- Basic drinking water
- Basic sanitation

---

**Early learning**
- Early stimulation at home
- Playthings at home
- Children’s books in the home
- Attendance in early childhood education

---

**Detailed country data sources and footnotes can be found in the master database at NURTURING-CARE.ORG**