**Early Childhood Development**

**North Macedonia**

**Demographics**
- Population (2019): 2,083,000
- Annual births: 22,000
- Children under 5 (2019): 114,000 (5%)
- Under-five mortality: 10/1,000

**Threats to Early Childhood Development**
- Maternal mortality: 7/100,000
- Low birthweight: 9%
- Child poverty: no data
- Violent discipline: 69%

**Young children at risk of poor development**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>no data</td>
<td>no data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>no data</td>
<td>no data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>no data</td>
<td>no data</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>Gender</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Urban</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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

- Estimate in terms of % loss of annual adult wage: 93%

**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.

**Early Learning**
- Early stimulation at home: 92%
- Playthings at home: 71%
- Attendance in early childhood education: 30%

**Health**
- Treatment for HIV+ pregnant women: 94%
- Antenatal care (4 or more visits): no data
- Postnatal visits: no data
- Careseeking for child pneumonia: no data

**Nutrition**
- Early initiation of breastfeeding: 23%
- Exclusive breastfeeding: 21%
- Minimum acceptable diet: no data

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

**Comparative country data urgently needed**

**Facilitating environments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ Paid maternity leave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ National minimum wage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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

**Details and footnotes can be found in the master database at NURTURING-CARE.ORG**