**EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT**

**Afghanistan**

**Demographics**
- Population: 38,928,341
- Annual births: 1,215,628
- Children under 5: 5,672,509 (15%)
- Under-five mortality: 60/1,000

**Threats to Early Childhood Development**
- Maternal mortality: 638/100,000
- Low birthweight: no data
- Child poverty: no data
- Violent discipline: 63%
- Young mothers (births by 18y): 20%
- Preterm births: 12%
- Under-five stunting: 38%
- Inadequate supervision: 40%

**Young children at risk of poor development**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paid maternity leave (weeks)</th>
<th>None</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>14 – 18</th>
<th>18 – 26</th>
<th>≥26</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14 – 18</td>
<td>18 – 26</td>
<td>≥26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paid paternity leave (weeks)</th>
<th>None</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>14 – 18</th>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Nutrition**

- Early initiation of breastfeeding: 10%
- Exclusive breastfeeding: 18%
- Minimum acceptable diet: 15%

**Responsive 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 Persons with Disabilities
- Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption

**Security and safety**

- Birth registration: 42%
- Positive discipline: 44%
- Basic drinking water: 67%
- Basic sanitation: 63%

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