Central African Republic

Demographics

Population 4,829,764
Annual births 169,149
Children under 5 738,242 (15%)
Under-five mortality 110/1,000

Threats to Early Childhood Development

Maternal mortality 829/100,000
Low birthweight 15%
Child poverty 64%
Violent discipline 90%

Young mothers (births by 18y) 45%
Preterm births 13%
Under-five stunting 41%
Inadequate supervision 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policies</th>
<th>None</th>
<th>14 – 18</th>
<th>18 – 26</th>
<th>≥26</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paid maternity leave (weeks)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>14 – 18</td>
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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 53%
Exclusive breastfeeding 29%
Minimum acceptable diet 9%

Security and safety

Birth registration 61%
Positive discipline 46%
Basic drinking water 33%
Basic sanitation 23%

Responsive caregiving

Public information about ECD
Parental mental health
Parent support (groups, home visits)
Quality child day care
Comparative country data urgently needed