**Early Childhood Development**

**Costa Rica**

**Demographics**
- Population: 5,094,114
- Annual births: 68,242
- Children under 5: 348,002 (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**
- Boys: 5,094,114
- Girls: 68,242
- Rural: 348,002 (7%)
- Urban: 9/1,000

**Lifetime cost of growth deficit in early childhood**
- Estimate in terms of % loss of annual adult wage

**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>Not</th>
<th>Slightly</th>
<th>Moderately</th>
<th>Substantially</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid maternity leave (weeks)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>26</td>
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**International conventions**
- Treaty on the Rights of the Child
- Treaty 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: 60%
- Exclusive breastfeeding: 33%
- Minimum acceptable diet: no data

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

**Security and safety**
- Birth registration: 68%
- Positive discipline: 4%
- Basic drinking water: 100%
- Basic sanitation: 98%