**EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT**

**Dominican Republic**

**Demographics**
- Population: 10,847,904
- Annual births: 204,486
- Children under 5: 1,002,829 (9%)
- Under-five mortality: 28/1,000

**Young children at risk of poor development**
- 2005: 16%
- 2010: 12%
- 2015: 8%

**Risk by sex and residence**
- Girls: 51%
- Boys: 49%
- Rural: 58%
- Urban: 42%

**Threats to Early Childhood Development**
- Maternal mortality: 95/100,000
- Low birthweight: 11%
- Child poverty: 2%
- Violent discipline: 62%
- Young mothers (births by 18y): 21%
- Preterm births: 11%
- Under-five stunting: 7%
- Inadequate supervision: 5%

**Lifetime cost of growth deficit in early childhood**
- Estimate in terms of % loss of annual adult wage: 51%

**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**

**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: 38%
- Exclusive breastfeeding: 5%
- Minimum acceptable diet: 43%

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

**Comparative country data urgently needed**

**DETAILED COUNTRY DATA SOURCES AND FOOTNOTES CAN BE FOUND IN THE MASTER DATABASE AT NURTURING-CARE.ORG**