EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Demographics

Population 1,160,164
Annual births 29,467
Children under 5 143,677 (12%)
Under-five mortality 49/1,000

Threats to Early Childhood Development

Maternal mortality 437/100,000
Low birthweight 10%
Child poverty 49%
Violent discipline 87%
Young mothers (births by 18y) 17%
Preterm births 14%
Under-five stunting 26%
Inadequate supervision 17%

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

Treatment for HIV+ pregnant women
Careseeking for child pneumonia
Antenatal care (4 or more visits)
Postnatal visits

Nutrition

Early initiation of breastfeeding
Exclusive breastfeeding
Minimum acceptable diet

Responsive caregiving

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

Comparative country data urgently needed

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