**EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT**

**Gambia**

**Demographics**
- Population: 2,416,664
- Annual births: 90,977
- Children under 5: 409,506 (17%)
- Under-five mortality: 52/1,000

**Young children at risk of poor development**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**Threats to Early Childhood Development**
- Maternal mortality: 597/100,000
- Low birthweight: 17%
- Child poverty: 49%
- Violent discipline: 89%
- Young mothers (births by 18y): 19%
- Preterm births: 14%
- Under-five stunting: 14%
- Inadequate supervision: 16%

**Risk by sex and residence**

- Girls: 59%
- Boys: 41%
- Rural: 57%
- Urban: 43%

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

**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

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