**Early Childhood Development**

**Maldives**

### Demographics
- **Population:** 540,542
- **Annual births:** 6,835
- **Children under 5:** 35,579 (7%)
- **Under-five mortality:** 8/1,000

### Threats to Early Childhood Development
- **Maternal mortality:** 53/100,000
- **Low birthweight:** 12%
- **Child poverty:** no data
- **Violent discipline:** no data
- **Young mothers (births by 18y):** 1%
- **Preterm births:** 8%
- **Under-five stunting:** 19%
- **Inadequate supervision:** 12%

### 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>
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<tr>
<th></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</td>
<td>18 – 26</td>
<td>≥26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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

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**Support and services for early childhood development:**

**Early learning**
- Early stimulation at home
- Attendance in early childhood education
- Careseeking for child pneumonia

**Nutrition**
- Early initiation of breastfeeding
- Exclusive breastfeeding
- Minimum acceptable diet

**Security and safety**
- Birth registration
- Positive discipline
- Basic drinking water
- Basic sanitation

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

**Comparative country data urgently needed**