**EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT**

**Sierra Leone**

### Demographics
- Population: 7,976,985
- Annual births: 258,281
- Children under 5: 1,158,651 (15%)
- Under-five mortality: 109/1,000

### Threats to Early Childhood Development
- Maternal mortality: 1120/100,000
- Low birthweight: 14%
- Child poverty: 60%
- Violent discipline: 76%
- Young mothers (births by 18y): 30%
- Preterm births: 10%
- Under-five stunting: 30%
- Inadequate supervision: 30%

### 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

### Lifetime cost of growth deficit in early childhood

#### Children with functional difficulty

#### Children developmentally on-track

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

#### Security and safety

#### 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**

165