

- The prevalence of inequality among children at risk of poor development, indexed by the composite indicator of the prevalence of children exposed to stunting or extreme poverty in 2005, 2010 and 2015, and differences in prevalence between boys and girls and between children living in urban and rural areas (based on surveys conducted between 2006 and 2015).
- Early childhood development outcomes, as measured by the Early Childhood Development Index.
- Child functioning, as measured by the UNICEF/Washington Group Module on Child Functioning.
- Support and services for early childhood development indexed by the five components of the Nurturing Care Framework described in the *Lancet* series, and by indicators of the facilitating environment of laws, conventions and policies.
  - Nurturing care comprises five essential elements: health, early learning, security and safety, responsive caregiving and nutrition.
  - The facilitating environment is indicated by relevant policies and conventions:
    - Policies for which there are comparable country data relevant to early childhood development include those related to duration of maternity and paternity leave and children/households receiving child/family cash benefits, whether a country has an officially adopted national multisectoral ECD policy, and the legal status of the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes.
    - International conventions, specifically the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.

## Next steps

The country profiles are intended to be used by countries to raise awareness about early childhood development, to disseminate information, and to advocate for resources, services and data to improve early childhood development.

Funding needs to be mobilized to support data collection and country, regional and global analyses that can contribute to knowledge and progress in improving children's prospects during this formative stage of life.

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