

# Sweden - 2024 Biennial report on the implementation of the Child Guarantee

*This summary provides key highlights from the first Biennial report on the Child Guarantee implementation in Sweden. It is not exhaustive or evaluative.*

## Roll-out of key services

**Early childhood education and care:** Identifying and addressing barriers to participation in ECEC, making facilities accessible for children with disabilities, and ensuring inclusive education with adequate resources and qualified professionals.

**Education and school-based activities:** Supporting children at risk of dropping out of school and fostering collaboration among educational establishments, local communities, and social services to create inclusive environments.

**Healthy meal each school day:** Improving meals in schools and promoting sustainable food consumption. Sweden prepares for introducing the EU school scheme for the distribution of fruit in schools.

**Healthcare:** Facilitating early detection and treatment of diseases, ensuring access to vaccinations and medical and dental care, and providing targeted support for children with disabilities.

**Healthy nutrition:** Limiting advertising and availability of unhealthy foods in educational settings, and providing adequate information to families about healthy nutrition for children.

**Adequate housing:** Ensuring children receive adequate accommodation and relevant support services. Revising housing policies to address family needs and prioritising access to social housing or assistance for families with children in need.

**Alternative care:** The newly elected *national coordinator for child and youth care* will support municipalities in ensuring suitable care, with a specific focus on those directly and indirectly involved in criminality.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

The implementation of Sweden's National Action Plan is coordinated by the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, with input from various government divisions and stakeholders. Continuous consultations, for example, through the *Child Rights Delegation*, ensure civil society's involvement in shaping the plan. Monitoring focuses on socioeconomically disadvantaged children, but data limitations hinder comprehensive tracking of target groups. Revised indicators address some gaps, yet quantitative data remains insufficient.

## Funding to implement the Child Guarantee

Sweden's NAP is integrated into ordinary government activities, with funding decisions made through the national budget process. Although no specific funding is allocated to the NAP itself, existing funds support relevant measures. The *European Social Fund+* finances projects aimed at addressing child poverty.

## Target groups

Children exposed to violence and those directly and indirectly involved in criminality, in addition to groups already outlined in the NAP, have been identified as being target groups.

## Lessons learnt and further development

Sweden's NAP ensures children's access to key services outlined in the Child Guarantee, many of which are free. However, some groups still face barriers, and monitoring access to services remains challenging due to a lack of national statistics on poverty and social exclusion. The measures of the NAP aim to improve access, with new initiatives introduced. The European Commission's feedback highlighted concerns linked to housing, leading to revised measures addressing evictions and domestic violence survivors.

## Relevant trends

- While 4% of children in Sweden are underweight, around 20% are overweight or obese.
- In 2022, 102,067 children lived in households receiving financial aid, down from 132,839 in 2019. However, long-term assistance increased from 37% to 43%.
- Between 2019 and 2023, Sweden experienced a 45% rise in the rate of children affected by enforced evictions.
- In 2023, 29% of individuals in acute or temporary homelessness had children, compared to 32% in 2017.

## Resources

- [Full Biennial report on the implementation of the Child Guarantee](#)
- [Sweden Child Guarantee National Action Plan – Eurochild's overview](#)