

The Netherlands - 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 The Netherlands. It is not exhaustive or evaluative.

Roll-out of key services

Early childhood education and care: Enhancing the accessibility of ECEC by adjusting the childcare allowance and expanding municipal schemes. All working parents are entitled to an allowance for up to 230 hours of child care per child monthly. The *Early Childhood Development Programme* supports children transitioning from ECEC to primary education.

Education and school-based activities: The *National Programme for Education* supports students' learning process and well-being. Schools can apply for grants to fund staff dedicated to supporting families. The *Healthy School* programme promotes healthy lifestyles among pupils in primary, secondary, and special schools.

Healthcare: Under the *Health Insurance Act*, healthcare for children is publicly funded. The *Youth Reform Agenda* aims to enhance the support provided to children with special needs. The *Future Agenda* aims to enhance access to innovative medicines for children with disabilities. The *Solid Start programme* supports vulnerable parents and aims to ensure children have a healthy start in life, with municipalities implementing integrated approaches.

Healthy meal each school day: The *School Meals programme* provides daily meals to over 300,000 students from low-income families. Additionally, the *Healthy School programme* promotes a healthy lifestyle among students, encouraging physical activity and healthy eating habits.

Healthy nutrition: The ministry is working to impose legal restrictions on food marketing aimed at children, and is in discussions with the food industry to tighten the *Food Advertising Code* to reduce the influence of unhealthy marketing on children.

Adequate housing: The *National Housing and Homebuilding Agenda* aims to provide affordable homes and end homelessness by 2030. Municipalities must offer youth care services for young people with special needs. Initiatives focus on prevention and support for families facing challenges. The programme *A home for everyone* has been designed to remove the obstacles to access housing. The *Dutch National Action Plan on Homelessness: Housing First* aims to reduce homelessness.

Relevant trends

- Between 2022 and 2023, the number of children in child care whose parents receive child care allowance increased by 4%.
- A quarter of primary and secondary schools, amounting to 300,000 students receiving a daily school meal, are now in the *School Meals Programme*, equating to over 300,000 students receiving a daily school meal.
- Research shows that, on average, the learning process of primary school students in the 2022/2023 school year, has returned to pre-pandemic levels.
- Approximately two million people with disabilities live in the Netherlands, including children. More than 140,000 have high care needs.
- 43% of schools in the Netherlands have adopted the *Healthy School Strategy*: 38% of primary schools, 63% of secondary and special secondary schools, and 44% of MBO institutions.

Resources

- [Full Biennial report on the implementation of the Child Guarantee](#)
- [The Netherlands Child Guarantee National Action Plan – Eurochild’s overview](#)
- [Eurochild The Netherlands Country Profile](#)