

France – 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 France. It is not exhaustive or evaluative.

Roll-out of key services

Early childhood education and care: Reforming the ECEC system by removing barriers, investing over €6 billion by 2027, expanding childcare by 200,000 places by 2030, and improving staff training and oversight, with a focus on the 1,000 days of a child's life.

Education and school-based activities: Introduction of a departmental body responsible for tracking school dropouts. Departmental Committees for Inclusive Education (CDSEI) have been established nationwide to advance inclusive schooling.

Healthy meal each school day and adequate nutrition: Several programmes promote nutrition, including school breakfasts, the *EU School Milk and Fruit Programme*, the *National Nutrition Programme*, and the *National Food Programme*. Support to community kitchens near emergency shelters is provided.

Healthcare: The *Pact for First Steps* distributes baby products to low-income families via main charities. A nationwide child mental health survey (for children aged 3–11) is ongoing, and a national suicide prevention hotline has been introduced.

Adequate housing: Funding for accommodation for over 70,000 children in shelters and hotels, with a focus on enhancing social support, especially in Île-de-France. Private rental access is facilitated through rental mediation, housing 20,000 children.

Funding to implement the Child Guarantee

France allocates various funds for child protection, youth, and family support, including €315 million for vulnerable children and families, €77.23 billion for education, €1.10 billion for youth involved in the justice system, €13.3 billion for prevention and integration of vulnerable people, €2.61 billion for housing and support for homeless families, and €48.8 million for maternal and child health support. €1.5 million of the European Social Funds (ESF+) have been allocated for operations focusing on supporting children. €4.5 million of ESF+ funds have been allocated for operations primarily focusing on school enrollment, combating discrimination (children from priority neighbourhoods), and providing parental support.

Target groups

The target groups have been listed in the National Action Plan and Eurochild's overview.

Lessons learnt and further development

The *Pacte des Solidarités 2023-2027* aims to reduce poverty and inequality. It focuses on early childhood support, including expanded childcare, parenting help, and free school meals. It addresses employment barriers such as childcare and housing. The Pact also enhances access to rights for vulnerable groups via outreach services, eviction prevention, and healthcare. It aims to reduce household costs for food, energy, and mobility. The *Pact* includes a 50% funding increase compared to the previous strategy tackling poverty and aims to lift 1.1 million people, including 300,000 children, out of poverty by 2030.

Relevant trends

- 43.7% of children with parents born outside the EU were at risk of poverty or social exclusion (AROPE).
- In 2023, over 80,000 children were homeless or living in precarious housing.
- In 2022, the number of unaccompanied minors arriving in France increased by 30.64% compared to 2021. 14,782 unaccompanied minors were taken into care by child welfare services.
- La Réunion had the highest child poverty rate, with 46.7% of children aged 0-3 living in monetary poverty. In Mayotte, 46% of children (about 110,500) lived in poor households. Infant mortality in Mayotte was 8.9 deaths per 1,000 live births, compared to 3.7 in mainland France (UNICEF).
- In 2023, 51,524 children were living in residential/institutional care, and 84,944 in foster care.

Resources

- [Full Biennial Report on the implementation of the Child Guarantee](#)
- [France - Child Guarantee National Action Plan – Eurochild overview](#)
- [Eurochild France Country Profile 2023](#)