

# Spain - 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 Spain. It is not exhaustive or evaluative.*

## Roll-out of key services

**Early childhood education and care:** The national government funded over 65,000 new places for children in the first cycle of early childhood education and care. The Autonomous Communities are expanding access by constructing new schools, expanding existing infrastructures, and creating new educational units.

**Education and school-based activities:** Public spending on education reached 4.71% of GDP in 2023. Key actions include reducing the indirect costs of education, providing support and guidance to students, tackling school dropout rates, and offering digital skills training. Measures are also being implemented to address the digital divide.

**Healthy meal each school day:** Programmes support vulnerable students with free or subsidised meals.

**Healthcare:** The list of common services under the *National Health System* has been extended to include dental health care for children. Mental health services for children and adolescents are being strengthened and expanded, as part of the *Mental Health Strategy Action Plan*.

**Healthy nutrition:** The approval of the *National Strategic Plan for the Reduction of Childhood Obesity (2022–2030)* is a significant step forward.

**Adequate housing:** The *Ministry of Housing and Urban Agenda* was created to strengthen coordination. Catalonia, the Community of Madrid, and the Region of Murcia are supporting housing with affordable rents for families living in inadequate conditions or struggling to pay rent.

**Alternative care:** The [2024-2030 National Strategy for a New Model of Community-Based Care](#) aims to move away from institutional care and transition towards family and community-based support systems.

## Resources

- [Full Biennial Report on the implementation of the Child Guarantee](#)
- [Spain's Child Guarantee National Action Plan – An overview – Eurochild](#)
- [Eurochild Spain Country Profile 2024](#)

## Monitoring and Evaluation

The *Directorate-General for the Rights of Children and Adolescents of the Ministry of Youth and Children* is responsible to monitor the NAP using a set of indicators updated regularly to track progress. Interim and final evaluations will take place in 2026 and 2030, combining data and stakeholder input to assess impact and improve implementation.

## Funding to implement the Child Guarantee

Nearly 10% of the *European Social Fund Plus* is committed to the European Child Guarantee, alongside contributions from the *Recovery and Resilience Facility* and the *European Regional Development Fund*. National, regional and local budgets also support the implementation of the NAP, although differences exist across regions.

## Target groups

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

## Lessons learnt and further development

More efforts are needed to improve intersectoral coordination, data collection, regional disparities, and tracking measures targeting disadvantaged children. EU funding has driven progress, but gaps remain in monitoring, governance, budgeting, and identifying beneficiaries. Strengthening regional coordination, information systems, and evaluation mechanisms is crucial to ensure equal access to rights and services for all children.

## Relevant trends

- 48% of children aged 0-2 attend early childhood care and development in 2022/2023.
- The school dropout rate in 2023 was 13.73%.
- In 2023, 6.9% of children could not afford a meal with meat, fish, or a vegetarian equivalent at least every other day.
- The share of children living in households unable to afford adequate winter heating rose from 12.9% in 2020 to 20% in 2023.