

National Action Plan

***“New
Opportunities
for Children
in Germany”***



Federal Ministry for
Family Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women and Youth

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Lisa Paus**

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Foreword by the Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth Lisa Paus



Child poverty has many faces – currently around 3.5 million in Germany.

Through the National Action Plan “New Opportunities for Children in Germany”, we are working to guarantee fair opportunities for all children and young people affected by poverty and social exclusion. We are implementing the European Child Guarantee and, together with the federal states, municipalities and civil society, intend to focus on the following areas during the period up until 2030:

- living space that is also sufficient to allow undisturbed homework and friends
- healthy nutrition that offers alternatives to fast food and sweet drinks;
- early childhood education and care that is needs-based and of high quality
- school education that offers all pupils the chance to obtain the best possible qualification for them
- offers that promote health

Numerous laws, projects, funding guidelines, programmes and initiatives already exist to combat child poverty. The added value of the National Action Plan is as follows:

- 1. Cooperation:** Integrated approaches and cooperations are strengthened while responsibilities are maintained. This applies between ministries and across federal levels as well as between the state and civil society. In this way, young people are supported holistically and their situation is improved in a sustainable way.
- 2. Coordination:** In implementing the European Child Guarantee, I have appointed my Parliamentary State

Secretary Ekin Deligöz as National Child Opportunities Coordinator. In this function she will chair the NAP Committee, made up of representatives of the federal government, the federal states, the municipalities and civil society.

- 3. Participation:** Children and young people are experts when it comes to their own life situations. For this reason, we are not just talking about disadvantaged children and young people, we are talking to them as well. We consistently incorporate their own ideas on how to combat child poverty and social exclusion.

My goal as Federal Minister of Youth is to give all young people the chance to lead a self-determined and independent life – regardless of their parents’ financial means. I am committed to the introduction of a basic child allowance during this legislative period in order to effectively combat poverty and ensure equal opportunities. And at the end of 2022 I established the “Alliance for the Young Generation” together with numerous supporters. This is because the concerns of the young generation need more attention across the whole spectrum of society. And young people need optimism.

I firmly believe that the National Action Plan “New Opportunities for Children in Germany” will make an important contribution to this.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Paus".

Lisa Paus

*Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women and Youth*

Foreword by the Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and National Child Opportunities Coordinator Ekin Deligöz



My mission as National Child Opportunities Coordinator is set out in the Council Recommendation on Establishing a European Child Guarantee. Firstly, this consists of effectively coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the European Child Guarantee in Germany. And secondly, it involves promoting within the European Union the idea that we learn from each other – especially by sharing experiences and best practices with other Member States.

For a long time now, numerous stakeholders in Germany have been calling for networking and coordination structures to be provided for actors at the municipal level, as well as between the federal states and the federal ministries. It is here that the NAP Committee, which I chair, is to provide vital support. By setting up this body in Germany, we are creating a forum in which actors at the political levels, civil society organisations and academic experts can exchange views on poverty and the social exclusion of children and young people – on a regular basis and in a coordinated manner at the federal level. The Committee will also accompany the monitoring of the National Action Plan “New Opportunities for Children in Germany”.

At the same time, there will be a focus on networking in the municipalities: after all, this is where the provision of social services takes place. It is the municipalities that provide the social infrastructure, thereby making a significant contribution to counteracting poverty and its consequences and to increasing equal opportunities and participation. They are responsible for health

promotion services as well as material support, housing assistance and youth work on a local basis. The municipalities are able to establish local prevention structures in order to create and offer customised, coordinated and low-threshold services in the social space. We aim to support them in this work.

In all our projects, we are able to benefit from close dialogue with colleagues in other European Member States. After all, this is the added value of the European Child Guarantee: we are joining forces to combat poverty and social exclusion among children and young people. Which instruments and solutions are helpful depends on a range of factors and the respective local situation. The European approach helps us identify comparable hurdles and learn from each other.

My tasks as Child Opportunities Coordinator are varied and challenging. I look forward to further cooperation with all actors involved!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ekin Deligöz'.

Ekin Deligöz
*Parliamentary State Secretary
Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women and Youth and National Child Opportunities
Coordinator*

1 The road to the NAP

1.1 The EU Council Recommendation Establishing a European Child Guarantee

1.1.1 Origins

The introduction of a European Child Guarantee (hereafter: EU Child Guarantee) is the result of extensive preparatory work at European level. It ties in with the Recommendation “Investing in children: Breaking the Cycle of Disadvantage” issued by the European Commission in 2013.¹ The European Parliament took up the 2013 Recommendation in 2015 and published a declaration on investing in children. This declaration calls on the Commission to develop a strategy to combat child poverty and target indicators to measure children at risk of poverty or social exclusion, in line with the Recommendation adopted in 2013.² In 2019, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced the creation of an EU Child Guarantee to ensure that every child in Europe at risk of poverty or social exclusion has access to the most basic services in areas such as education and healthcare.

Like all Member States, Germany has participated actively in the elaboration of a concept for the implementation of the EU Child Guarantee and in the related discussions. In 2020, under the German Presidency, 24 Member States published a declaration stating their willingness to support the introduction of an EU Child Guarantee and emphasising their commitment to appropriate implementation at national level.³ In doing so, they laid the foundation for the introduction of an EU Child Guarantee.

The experience gained during the COVID-19 pandemic was also taken into account. The pandemic-related restrictions on nursery and school attendance, as well as those on care and support services, had a particularly severe impact on children and young people who were already disadvantaged, setting them back even further. There has been an increased awareness of the risks of deepening social divisions and the urgency of political action everywhere in Europe, including Germany. In view of this, the Member States unanimously adopted the Recommendation Establishing an EU Child Guarantee on 14 June 2021 (including recital 25 of the Council Recommendation).⁴

Together with six other Member States, Germany participated in a pilot project on the implementation of the EU Child Guarantee conducted by the EU Commission and UNICEF. In this connection, a UNICEF-commissioned “Deep Dive” report on the situation in Germany was published in December 2021 which contains a compilation and analysis of programmes and measures in Germany which are relevant and effective.⁵ The report provided an important basis for the preparation of the present NAP.

1 European Commission (2013): Commission Recommendation of 20 February 2013. Investing in children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32013H0112&qid=1688465983023>; accessed 02 March 2023)

2 European Parliament (2015): Written declaration on investing in children (https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/DCL-8-2015-0042_EN.pdf?redirect; accessed 02 March 2023)

3 Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (2020): Joint Declaration “Overcoming poverty and social exclusion – mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on families – working together to develop prospects for strong children” (EPSCO Council) (<https://www.bmfsfj.de/resource/blob/163116/92825af8e-669b65f85de0521bbac9ddb/20201211-en-erklaerung-eu-mitgliedstaaten-poverty-armut-data.pdf>; accessed 02 March 2023)

4 European Council (2021): Recommendation on Establishing a European Child Guarantee (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32021H1004>; accessed 02 March 2023)

5 UNICEF (2021): Deep Dive into the European Child Guarantee – Germany (<https://www.unicef.org/eca/reports/deep-dive-european-child-guarantee-germany>; accessed 02 March 2023)

The EU Child Guarantee is a central part of the Commission’s European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan and complements the EU’s comprehensive strategy on children’s rights. The focus on children in need seeks to break the cycle of poverty and prevent children who grow up in poverty from becoming adults at risk of poverty. To this end, as the Commission stresses in its European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, an “integrated approach is essential to address needs at all stages of life and target the root causes of poverty and social exclusion”⁶

1.1.2 Content of the Recommendation

Accordingly, the approach of the Council Recommendation is to guarantee **access to essential services for children in need** (Article 1). These include:

- effective and free access to quality early childhood education and care, to educational opportunities and school-based activities, to at least one healthy meal per school day, and to healthcare (Article 4a); and
- effective access to healthy food and adequate housing (Article 4b) for children and young people at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

Article 6 of the Recommendation proposes an integrated and enabling policy framework to combat the social exclusion of children. The focus should be on breaking the intergenerational cycles of poverty and disadvantage and reducing the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the Council Recommendation, this includes in particular:

- ensure the **consistency** of social, education, health, nutrition and housing policies at national, regional and local level with regard to these goals;
- continue and where necessary step up **investment** in education, adequate health and social protection systems;
- implement **labour market integration support measures** for parents or guardians and income support to families and households;
- address the **territorial dimension** of social exclusion, taking into account the specific needs of children according to distinctive urban, rural, remote and disadvantaged areas, based on an integrated and multidisciplinary approach;

- strengthen **cooperation** with, and involvement of, national, regional and local authorities, social economy organisations, non-governmental organisations promoting children’s rights, children themselves and other stakeholders in the design, delivery and monitoring of policies and quality services for children;
- take measures to promote **inclusion** and to avoid and tackle discrimination and stigmatisation of children in need;
- support strategic investment in quality services for children, including in **enabling infrastructure and a qualified workforce**;
- provide adequate **resources** and make optimal use of national and Union funds;
- **take into account a gender perspective**.

For the implementation of the Council Recommendation, it is recommended that Member States “nominate a national Child Guarantee Coordinator, equipped with adequate resources and a mandate enabling the effective coordination and monitoring of the implementation of this Recommendation” (Article 11a).

Member States are recommended to submit an action plan to the European Commission covering the period until 2030, which is to include the following and on which progress reports are to be prepared every two years (Article 11c, f):

- **categories of children in need** who are to be reached;
- quantitative and qualitative **targets**;
- **measures** planned or taken in implementing this Recommendation, including at regional and local level, and the necessary financial resources and timelines;
- a national framework for **data collection, monitoring and evaluation** of this Recommendation.

⁶ European Commission (2021): European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan (<https://op.europa.eu/webpub/empl/european-pillar-of-social-rights/en/>; accessed 02 March 2023)

Ensure the **participation** of regional, local and other relevant authorities, children and relevant stakeholders representing civil society, non-governmental organisations, educational establishments and bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion and integration, children’s rights, inclusive education and non-discrimination, including national equality bodies throughout the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the action plan; (Article 11e).

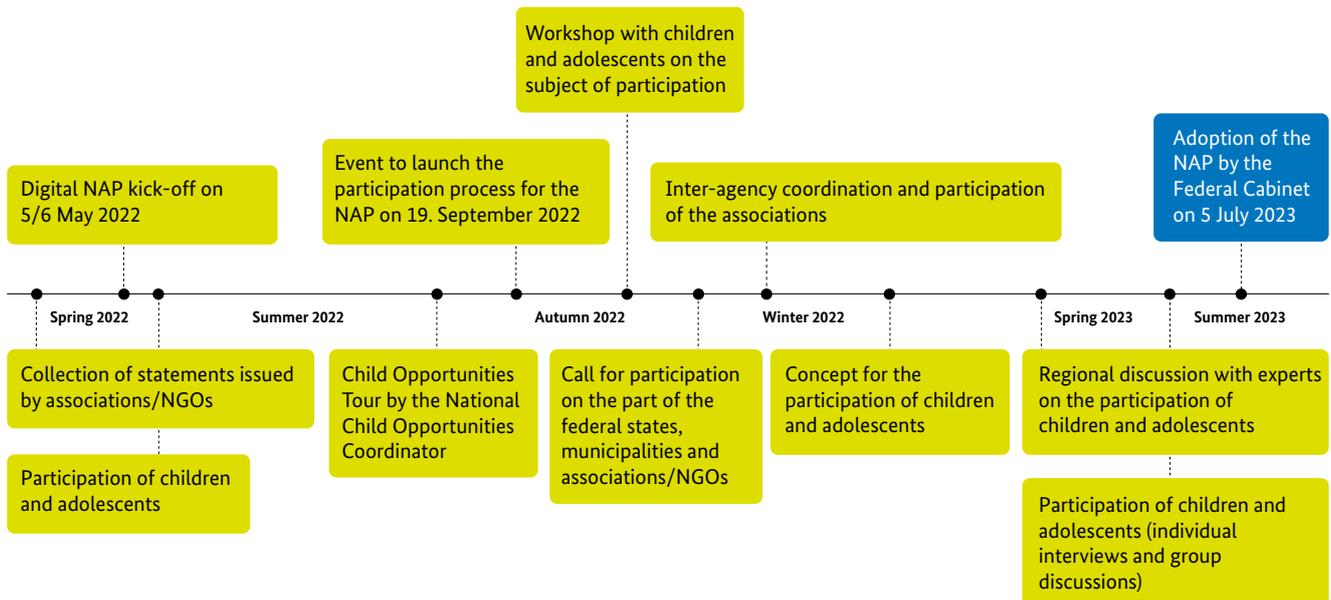
Germany is implementing the Council’s Recommendations through its **National Action Plan “New Opportunities for Children in Germany”** (NAP). Public budget and benefit systems are not prejudiced by this Action Plan. Measures listed in the Action Plan or future measures to be linked to it which result in financial burdens or additional personnel requirements for the federal budget will not prejudice either current or future

budget negotiations. Measures not financed in the federal budget and financial planning period up until 2027 are therefore all subject to financing. The distribution of responsibilities between the federal government and the federal states as stipulated by the constitution must be taken into account in the implementation of the NAP.

1.2 The preparation of the NAP as a participatory process

The NAP was designed in accordance with Article 11e of the Council Recommendation with broad stakeholder participation. The relevant stakeholders were involved in the conception and preparation of the NAP through various formats (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Stakeholder participation during the development of the NAP



1.2.1 Stakeholder participation

The NAP is to be understood as a joint effort on the part of the federal government, the federal states, the municipalities and civil society in Germany to combat poverty and social exclusion among children and young people. After publication of the EU Council Recommendation, civil society associations and voluntary welfare organisations took the opportunity to comment on the implementation of the Council Recommendation on Establishing an EU Child Guarantee in Germany. The following statements were issued on the implementation of the EU Child Guarantee in Germany:

- Statement by the German Association for Public and Private Welfare (Deutscher Verein): “Statement by the German Association on the European Child Guarantee on the preparation of the German Action Plan” (1 December 2021)⁷;
- “Broad alliance of 17 organisations: implementation of the European Child Guarantee in Germany – key issues paper on children’s rights in connection with the National Action Plan” (10 February 2022)⁸;
- Statement by Netzwerkkonferenzen e.V.: “EU Child Guarantee. Cycle of poverty and social exclusion. EXIT Strategy FGC (‘Family Group Conference’)” (12 March 2022)⁹;
- Impulse paper by the Workers’ Welfare Association (AWO) and Zukunftsforum Familie e.V. (ZFF): “Impulse paper. Implement the European Guarantee for Children, develop the National Action Plan, fight child poverty” (17 March 2022)¹⁰;
- Statement by Caritas Germany: “Statement by Caritas Germany on the development of the National Action Plan ‘New Opportunities for Children in Germany’ to implement the EU Child Guarantee” (24 May 2022)¹¹;

- Statement by the Association of German Family Organisations (AGF): “EU Child Guarantee. AGF recommendations regarding the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the Child Guarantee in Germany” (May 2022)¹².

The needs for action set out in the statements are addressed in the fourth chapter on the central fields of action of the NAP in the respective sub-chapters (see chapters 4.1.2, 4.2.2, 4.3.2, 4.4.2 and 4.5.2).

The digital kick-off for the NAP “New Opportunities for Children in Germany” took place on 5 and 6 May 2022, with the participation of the Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth Lisa Paus and the EU Commissioner for Employment and Social Rights Nicolas Schmit. In eight expert forums, more than 200 stakeholders from politics, academia, professional practice and civil society discussed the topics of the EU Child Guarantee and its implementation in Germany. Ekin Deligöz, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, was introduced as the National Child Opportunities Coordinator. In this capacity, she engaged in discussion with Dr. Rolf Schmachtenberg, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Silvia Bender, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Dr. Thomas Weckelmann, Head of the Department for Children, Youth at the Ministry for Children, Family, Refugees and Integration of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, and Prof. Dr. Jörg Fischer, Head of the Institute for Municipal Planning and Development (IKPE). Under the title “Cooperation rather than pillarisation”, panel participants exchanged views on the potential offered by improved cooperation between the federal levels. They

7 Deutscher Verein (2021): Stellungnahme des Deutschen Vereins zur Europäischen Garantie für Kinder und zur Erstellung des deutschen Aktionsplans (<https://www.deutscher-verein.de/de/uploads/empfehlungen-stellungnahmen/2021/dv-18-21-stellungnahme-eu-kindergarantie-aktionsplan.pdf>; accessed 02 March 2023)

8 Breites Bündnis (2022): Umsetzung der Europäischen Kindergarantie in Deutschland – Kinderrechtliches Eckpunktepapier zum Nationalen Aktionsplan (https://www.dgsf.org/themen/stellungnahmen-1/kinderrechtliches-eckpunktepapier/at_download/file; accessed 02 March 2023)

9 Netzwerkkonferenzen (2022): Europäische Garantie für Kinder. Kreislauf der Armut und sozialen Ausgrenzung. EXIT Strategie FGC (https://jimdo-storage.global.ssl.fastly.net/file/ea7ca75c-20df-482c-96da-b77f951ecd8f/Netko%20e.V._EU%20Abkommen_Garantie%20f%C3%BCr%20Kinder_12.21.pdf; accessed 02 March 2023)

10 Arbeiterwohlfahrt und Zukunftsforum Familie (2022): Impulspapier. Europäische Garantie für Kinder umsetzen, Nationalen Aktionsplan entwickeln, Kinderarmut bekämpfen (https://awo.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/AWO_ZFF_Impulspapier%20zur%20Umsetzung%20der%20EU-Kindergarantie_2022_Final_0.pdf; accessed 02 March 2023)

11 Deutscher Caritasverband (2022): Gemeinsame Position zur Erarbeitung des Nationalen Aktionsplanes “Neue Chancen für Kinder in Deutschland“ zur Umsetzung der EU-Kindergarantie (https://www.cbpcaritas.de/cms/contents/cbp.caritas.de/medien/dokumente/publikationen/stellungnahmen/gemeinsame-position/2022-05-24_dcv-position_nap_neue_chancen_eu-kindergarantie_endf.pdf?d=a&f=pdf; accessed 02 March 2023)

12 Arbeitsgemeinschaft der deutschen Familienorganisationen (2022): Europäische Garantie für Kinder. AGF-Empfehlungen für den Nationalen Aktionsplan zur Umsetzung der Kindergarantie in Deutschland (https://www.ag-familie.de/media/docs22/DE_220531_AGF.CG_Empfehlungen.pdf; accessed 02 March 2023)

agreed to strengthen cooperation in order to jointly achieve the goals of the EU Child Guarantee.

On 19 September 2022, the participation process for the development of the NAP was launched in Berlin together with stakeholders from the area of child and family policy and civil society. The outcomes that emerged from the first event on 5 and 6 May 2022 were elaborated in greater depth in five workshops. Needs for action in the five fields of action of the EU Child Guarantee were specified and thematic impulses were presented for the NAP implementation process. The needs for action in the five areas of action of the EU Child Guarantee that were elaborated in small groups are also taken up in the respective sub-chapters of chapter four on the central areas of action (see chapters 4.1.2, 4.2.2, 4.3.2, 4.4.2 as well as 4.5.2).

In a letter dated 7 October 2022, the federal states and the leading municipal organisations along with civil society organisations and other stakeholders were called upon to actively participate in the preparation of the NAP by contributing to NAP-relevant measures in their respective areas of responsibility. In addition, the aforementioned stakeholders were invited to submit statements on the draft NAP. A total of 46 statements were submitted by 13 June 2023. An overview of the statements is provided on the website www.neue-chancen-fuer-kinder.de.

1.2.2 Participation of children and young people

The perspective of children and young people at risk of poverty or social exclusion was also taken into account in the NAP development process, and so there were some young people who took part in the kick-off. The young people contributed their views on the content of the EU Child Guarantee and formulated their expectations of the NAP. In addition, children and young people were asked about their wishes and needs in group discussions.

The participation of children and young people was also the focus of the Child Opportunities Tour undertaken by Parliamentary State Secretary Ekin Deligöz. In her role as National Child Opportunities Coordinator, she visited child opportunity locations throughout Germany under the motto “New Opportunities for Disadvantaged Children and Families in Germany – Meetings and Discussions Towards the National Action Plan”.

The NAP will continue to focus on the participation of children and young people in the future. A concept for consultative participation formats was developed with the participation of children and young people (see chapter 6.2).

“Local Child Opportunities” – The Child Opportunities Tour undertaken by the National Child Opportunities Coordinator

Concrete arrangements for access to social services and infrastructures are decided on locally within the environment of young people. On her summer tour in August 2022, National Child Opportunities Coordinator Ekin Deligöz visited initiatives and organisations throughout Germany that are working to improve opportunities for disadvantaged children and their families. The visits to different regions were oriented towards the NAP’s fields of action and reflected the diversity of the supporting organisations.

The visit to the **Local Alliance for Families in Gifhorn** (*Lokales Bündnis für Familie, Gifhorn*), for example, focused on diverse educational and childcare opportunities as well as a family-friendly local infrastructure. At Goldberg primary school in **Hagen** children presented their **Reading Oasis** (*LeseOase*) – a room where they enjoy spending time and exploring books for themselves. This high-quality educational programme for all-day schools was initiated by the organisation Save The Children. During a visit to the **Youth Migration Service in Lollar** near Gießen, a discussion was held with young people from Ukraine who are making the most of local language acquisition and job preparation programmes. Ways of addressing violence and political extremism through education were the topic of the visit to the **Offenbach Fan Project** (*Fanprojekt Offenbach*), which focuses on the lives of young football fans. In **Altenholz near Kiel**, a visit was paid to the project **Time for Children’s Rights** (*Zeit für Kinderrechte*) run by the German Child Protection Association (DKSB): here, primary school children learn about their rights in a playful way while at the same time find out about the basic principles of our democracy.

The tour also repeatedly focused on the enormous importance of healthy nutrition, child and family health, and family-friendly housing. At **Erfurt Multi-Generation Centre** (*Mehrgenerationenhaus Erfurt*), a discussion was held with specialists on preventive health services provided under the early childhood intervention scheme *Frühe Hilfen*. At an intercultural breakfast, the Child Opportunities Coordinator engaged in personal conversation with parents and their children. A visit to the **AWO SANO Family Holiday Centre in Rerik** focused on recreational opportunities for families in stressful situations. The important function of parental guidance was particularly emphasised in the discussion of the ESF-Plus parental support programme *ElternchanceN* and the parental involvement project **MIT:ELTERN** at the Diakonisches Werk in **Schweinfurt**.

The success factor that the projects visited have in common is the fact that they are based on sound collaboration between the various actors. It became apparent that networking, low-threshold access and participation are the most effective instruments in achieving success.

Ekin Deligöz:

“Numerous programmes and interventions involving highly dedicated staff are successfully working to improve participation among disadvantaged children and their families. There must be no blank spots on the map of child opportunity, however: all children must have the same chance of experiencing a positive upbringing, wherever they live. This is what I am committed to achieving as Child Opportunities Coordinator!”



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Ekin Deligöz visiting the project “Time for Children’s Rights” in the Schleswig-Holstein municipality of Altenholz

2 Initial situation

2.1 Poverty and social exclusion of children in Germany

In Germany, too, poverty is a reality for too many children and young people, affecting their life situation as well as their future opportunities. Various measurement concepts and data sets are used in research to determine the proportion of children at risk of poverty. This gives rise to differences in the figures that are reported on poverty risk.

The Council Recommendation Establishing an EU Child Guarantee bases its definition of poverty on the rate of people at risk of **poverty or social exclusion** (acronym: AROPE). It addresses “children in need” and designates under this term “persons under the age of 18 who are at risk of poverty or social exclusion” (Article 2 and Article 3a).

The rate of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion is the main indicator for monitoring EU strategies aimed at meeting the poverty target. Measurement of the AROPE rate takes into account the monetary poverty risk (AROP – “At risk of poverty”), significant material and social deprivation, and very low employment intensity.

The AROP rate is the percentage of people whose net equivalised income is less than 60 per cent of the median equivalised income of the population. According to the results of the survey on income and living conditions (EU-SILC) 2022, the poverty risk rate¹³ for persons under 18 was 14.8 per cent, just above the population average of 14.7 per cent.¹⁴

The material and social deprivation indicator shows the proportion of the population that cannot afford at least seven out of 13 goods and services (e.g. regular leisure activities, ownership of two pairs of properly fitting shoes, adequate heating of the home).¹⁵ In 2022, 8.4 per cent of under-18s in Germany lived in households subject to significant material and social deprivation. 10.8 per cent lived in households with very low employment intensity. This refers to those households where adults (18- to 64-year-olds) worked less than 20 per cent of their total combined potential in the preceding year.¹⁶ The AROPE rate for those under 18 was 24.0 per cent in 2022 (see Table 1). This means that just under a quarter of the population under the age of 18 is at risk of poverty or social exclusion, i.e. more than three million children and young people.

13 In EU-SILC, the income reference year is the year preceding the survey.

14 Poverty is a complex phenomenon that defies simple and unambiguous measurement. This applies to child poverty, too. The poverty risk rate cited in this context is a statistical measure of income distribution. It does not provide information on individual deprivation. Children are considered at risk of poverty if they live in households with less than 60 per cent of the net equivalised median income. Depending on the data source, the poverty risk among under-18s ranges from 16.2 to 22.6 per cent.

15 Eurostat (2021): Glossary: Severe material and social deprivation rate (SMSD) ([https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Glossary:Severe_material_and_social_deprivation_rate_\(SMSD\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Glossary:Severe_material_and_social_deprivation_rate_(SMSD))); accessed 23 February 2023)

16 Eurostat (2021): Glossary: Persons living in households with low work intensity (https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Glossary:Persons_living_in_households_with_low_work_intensity); accessed 23 February 2023)

Table 1: Relevant indicators on poverty and social exclusion in Germany: Affected population by age, shares in per cent, 2022

	Total	Under-18s
At risk of poverty (AROP)	14.7	14.8
Significant material and social deprivation	6.1	8.4
Persons living in households with very low employment intensity	9.7	10.8
At risk of poverty or social exclusion (AROPE) = at least one of the three above characteristics applies	20.9 (in thousands: 17,336)	24.0 (in thousands: 3,495)

Data basis EU-SILC. In EU-SILC, the income reference year is the year preceding the survey.
Source: Eurostat database, indicators ILC_LI02, ILC_MDS011, ILC_LVHL11N, ILC_PEPS01N (last updated 13 June 2023, accessed 13 June 2023)

Focusing exclusively on the material situation of a child's family ignores key poverty factors and the consequences of disadvantage. Social participation and access to educational opportunities as well as social, cultural and health services are equally important for young people to be able to experience a healthy upbringing, which is why the Council Recommendation Establishing an EU Child Guarantee starts precisely here.

2.2 Specific forms of disadvantage

Those who are affected by specific forms of disadvantage are at particular risk of experiencing social exclusion. The Council of the European Union recommends that within the group of children in need, Member States should take specific disadvantages into account "wherever appropriate in designing their national integrated measures" (Article 5) and identifies the following groups in 5a to f:

- a. homeless children or those experiencing severe housing deprivation;
- b. children with disabilities;
- c. children with mental health issues;
- d. children with a migrant background or of a minority ethnic origin;

- e. children in alternative care;
- f. children in precarious family circumstances, who are defined as children "living in a single-earner household; living with a parent with disabilities; living in a household where there are mental health problems or long-term illness; living in a household where there is substance abuse, or domestic violence; children of an EU citizen who has moved to another Member State while the children themselves remained in their Member State of origin; children having a teenage mother or being a teenage mother; and children having an imprisoned parent" (Article 3c).

For Germany, the following is known about the occurrence of groups 5a to f mentioned above:

Homeless children or those experiencing severe housing deprivation: With the passing of the Homelessness Reporting Act (WoBerichtsG) on 4 March 2020, it was decided to introduce reporting on homelessness and statistics on housed homeless persons. The federal statistics are collected centrally by the Federal Statistical Office every year on the cut-off date of 31 January; this was first done in 2022. Out of a total of 178,100 homeless people housed, 47,200 (26.5 per cent) were under the age of 18.¹⁷ In addition to housed homeless persons, the 2022 Homelessness Report also includes homeless persons without accommodation and covertly homeless

17 Statistisches Bundesamt (2022): Statistik untergebrachter wohnungsloser Personen (table: 22971-0001; accessed 02 March 2023)

persons. Based on a representative study by GISS/Kantar, the number of homeless people is estimated at 86,700 (37,400 homeless people without accommodation and 49,300 covertly homeless people). This figure does not include some 6,600 children and underaged youths who live together with their parents on the street (about 1,100) or homeless children living temporarily in conventional housing with family and friends (about 5,500). These 6,600 extrapolated cases are minors whom respondents reported living with. Minors were less likely to participate in the survey themselves compared to other age groups.¹⁸ Other studies estimating the share of children without any accommodation estimate that 37,000 children and young adults under the age of 27 experience homelessness or a lack of accommodation.¹⁹ The federal working group on assistance for the homeless (*Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Wohnungslosenhilfe*) estimates the number of homeless minors (excluding refugees) to have been 20,000 in 2020.²⁰

Children with disabilities: The official statistics on severely disabled persons include persons with an officially determined degree of disability of 50 or more. In Germany, more than 198,000 children have a severe disability, i.e. 1.43 per cent of those under 18.²¹ The microcensus supplements the data on severe disability statistics by showing the degree of disability for different age groups. Among children under 15, 19,000 have a mild disability and 145,000 have a severe disability, so 1.5 per cent of children under 15 in private households have a disability.²²

Care statistics put the number of children under 15 in need of care at around 214,000 in 2021. Almost all of these children (99.9 per cent) are cared for at home by relatives.²³

According to the modern concept of disability, which is based on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), however, not only children or young people with a recognised (severe) disability are to be classified as being affected by a disability or multiple disabilities. Rather, all children and adolescents who are disabled due to physical, cognitive or mental impairments or an illness that has lasted or is expected to last longer than six months are to be considered disabled if they are severely restricted in their participation in society due to this impairment or illness.

As shown by a study commissioned by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, it is precisely the impairments that are not visible or recognisable at first glance that are less often recognised as severe disabilities. For example, an approximately representative survey of parents showed that children or young people who are mainly physically impaired are much more likely to have a recognised severe disability than children or young people who are mainly cognitively/mentally impaired, even if they suffer severe and multiple impairments. Children or young people with mainly mental problems or learning problems are least often classified as severely disabled.²⁴

38 per cent of children, adolescents and young adults up to the age of 25 who, according to their parents, live in their parents' household with one or more impairments, and for whom these impairments mostly lead to severe limitations in their day-to-day activities, are not statistically recorded as being disabled or severely disabled.

Taking into account all forms of impairment according to the ICF, approximately 415,780 people under the age of 18 were suffering one or more physical, cognitive or

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- 18 Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Soziales (2022): Ausmaß und Struktur von Wohnungslosigkeit. Der Wohnungslosenbericht 2022 des Bundesministeriums für Arbeit und Soziales, p. 23–26 (<https://www.bmas.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/Soziale-Sicherung/wohnungslosenbericht-2022.pdf>; accessed 14 March 2023)
- 19 Sarah Beierle, Carolin Hoch (2017): Straßenjugendliche in Deutschland. Forschungsergebnisse und Empfehlungen. Munich: Deutsches Jugendinstitut (<https://www.dji.de/veroeffentlichungen/literatursuche/detailansicht/literatur/25865-strassenjugendliche-in-deutschland.html>; accessed 02 March 2023)
- 20 BAG Wohnungslosenhilfe (2021): Steigende Zahl Wohnungsloser im Wohnungslosensektor (<https://www.bagw.de/de/themen/zahl-der-wohnungslosen/uebersicht>; accessed 02 March 2023)
- 21 Statistisches Bundesamt (2022): Statistik der schwerbehinderten Menschen (table: 22711-0002; accessed 24 February 2023). Own calculation of the rate based on population statistics (table: 12411-0005; accessed 24 February 2023)
- 22 Statistisches Bundesamt (2021): Öffentliche Sozialleistungen. Lebenslagen der behinderten Menschen. Ergebnis des Mikrozensus 2019, p. 16 (<https://www.destatis.de/DE/Themen/Gesellschaft-Umwelt/Gesundheit/Behinderte-Menschen/Publikationen/Downloads-Behinderte-Menschen/lebenslagen-behinderter-menschen-5122123199004.html>; accessed 24 February 2023)
- 23 Statistisches Bundesamt (2022): Statistik über die Empfänger von Pflegegeldleistungen (table: 22421-0001; accessed 24 February 2023)
- 24 Holger Liljeberg, Edda Magdanz, Sandra Reuse (2022): Eltern von Kindern mit Beeinträchtigungen – Unterstützungsbedarfe und Hinweise auf Inklusionshürden (https://www.ssoar.info/ssoar/bitstream/handle/document/85154/ssoar-2022-liljeberg_et_al-Eltern_von_Kindern_mit_Beeintrachtigungen.pdf; accessed 14 March 2023)

mental impairment(s) or a long-term condition, such as a chronic condition, as of 31 December 2021. Accordingly, approximately 3 per cent of children and adolescents under the age of 18 are classified as being affected by disabilities.

Children with special educational needs: Based on school statistics and its own surveys, the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (KMK) of the federal states publishes data on the number of pupils with special educational needs every two years. Special educational support aims to guarantee that children with disabilities and children and young people at risk of becoming disabled have a right to school education, vocational training and an upbringing that is geared to their individual needs.²⁵ The KMK reports more than 590,116 pupils with special educational needs for the academic year 2021/22. The largest group of these consist of pupils with special needs in the area of learning (39.5 per cent).²⁶ There are overlaps between the aforementioned group – children with disabilities according to the ICF – and the group of children with special educational needs. Whether the child or young person has severe impairments is not always apparent to outsiders, including school administrators, teachers and caregivers. Children and young people with cognitive impairments and also children and young people with emotional or psychological impairments are less likely to have a recognised disability than children and young people with physical or sensory impairments.²⁷

Children with mental health issues: The representative study on the health of children and adolescents in Germany (KiGGS), which is conducted by the Robert

Koch Institute (RKI), includes information on the mental health of children and adolescents. For the period from 2014 to 2017 (KiGGS Wave 2), the incidence of mental health issues among children and adolescents was 16.9 per cent, with children and adolescents from families with a low socioeconomic status being more frequently affected by mental health problems. Almost one in four girls and almost one in three boys growing up in families with a low socioeconomic status show mental health problems. In families with a high socioeconomic status, only about one in fifteen girls and one in eight boys are affected.²⁸ During the pandemic period, psychological stress and illness among children and adolescents increased significantly (see chapter 3.2.3).

Children with a migrant background: According to the definition of the Federal Statistical Office, a person has a migrant background if at least one of their parents does not have German citizenship by birth.²⁹ This includes people who were born abroad and immigrated themselves (and have experienced migration themselves) and also descendants of immigrants born in Germany (who have not experienced migration themselves). Within this group, the children of immigrant Roma are particularly vulnerable. A total of 5.4 million underaged children and youths with a migrant background live in Germany. Of these, 1.2 million have not experienced migration themselves. Differentiation according to the country of birth of the children or their parents shows that of the 5.4 million underaged children and young people with a migrant background, 1.3 million come from EU Member States.³⁰

In 2021, the poverty risk among persons with a migrant background was more than twice as high as that of

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- 25 Sekretariat der Kultusministerkonferenz (ed.) (2021): Das Bildungswesen in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland 2018/2019. Darstellung der Kompetenzen, Strukturen und bildungspolitischen Entwicklungen für den Informationsaustausch in Europa, p. 261 (https://www.kmk.org/fileadmin/Dateien/pdf/Eurydice/Bildungswesen-dt-pdfs/dossier_de_ebook.pdf; accessed 22 February 2023)
- 26 Sekretariat der Kultusministerkonferenz (ed.) (2022): Datensammlung Sonderpädagogische Förderung in allgemeinen Schulen ohne Förderschulen 2021/2022 (https://www.kmk.org/fileadmin/Dateien/pdf/Statistik/Dokumentationen/Aus_SoPae_Int_2021.pdf; accessed 24 February 2023)
- 27 Holger Liljeberg, Edda Magdanz, Sandra Reuse (2022): Eltern von Kindern mit Beeinträchtigungen – Unterstützungsbedarfe und Hinweise auf Inklusionshürden (https://www.ssoar.info/ssoar/bitstream/handle/document/85154/ssoar-2022-liljeberg_et_al-Eltern_von_Kindern_mit_Beeintrachtigungen.pdf; accessed 14 March 2023)
- 28 The data is taken from the representative second follow-up survey of the KiGGS study (KiGGS Wave 2, 2014-2019) carried out by the Robert Koch Institute. The Strengths and Weaknesses Questionnaire (SDQ) was used to record mental abnormalities and strengths; based on an overall problem score, the children and adolescents were classified as “psychologically inconspicuous” or “psychologically conspicuous”. Kathrin Klipker, Franz Baumgarten, Kristin Göbel et al. (2018): Psychische Auffälligkeiten bei Kindern und Jugendlichen in Deutschland. Querschnittergebnisse aus KiGGS Welle 2 und Trends. In: Journal of Health Monitoring, 3(3), p. 37–45 (<https://edoc.rki.de/handle/176904/5767>; accessed 24 February 2023)
- 29 Statistisches Bundesamt (2022): Bevölkerung mit Migrationshintergrund. Ergebnisse des Mikrozensus 2021. Fachserie 1 Reihe 2.2 (https://www.destatis.de/DE/Themen/Gesellschaft-Umwelt/Bevoelkerung/Migration-Integration/Publikationen/Downloads-Migration/migrationshintergrund-2010220217004.pdf?__blob=publicationFile; accessed 24 February 2023)
- 30 Ibid., p. 68

persons without a migrant background (28.6 compared to 12.5 per cent).³¹ Foreigners with a migrant background are more often affected by poverty than Germans with a migrant background. People who are immigrants themselves are also more at risk of poverty than people with a migrant background who were born in Germany.

People with a refugee background are included in the subgroup of people who have experienced migration themselves. In 2022, according to the current figures of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, 37.3 per cent of those applying for asylum were minors.³² Given the fact that many fled to Germany as a result of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, a large number of whom are also minors, the need is all the more urgent to include this target group in the NAP.

The number of Ukrainians living in Germany increased significantly in the first half of 2022; women and children were particularly among those who fled their home country. At the end of October 2022, 565,900 more Ukrainian women and girls were living in Germany than at the end of 2021. The number of Ukrainian men and boys living in Germany increased by 314,800. About one third of the Ukrainian population in Germany is underaged.³³ As of the end of the seventh calendar week (13 to 19 February 2023), the total number of refugee Ukrainian children and young people admitted to general and vocational schools in Germany amounted to around 203,000.³⁴

Children in alternative care: Based on the cut-off date of 31 December 2021, the statistics show 65,395 cases of assistance for raising children in the area of home education (§34 SGB VIII – Eighth Book of the Code) for under 18-year-olds. In the area of full-time care (§33 SGB VIII), 67,909 under-18s received assistance.³⁵

Children in precarious family circumstances:

- **Here, the EU Council Recommendation mentions children in single-earner households. However, it is single-parent households that particularly face precarious financial circumstances, which is why the NAP for Germany focuses on this target group.** In official statistics, single parents are defined as mothers and fathers who live together in a household with underaged or adult children and without a spouse or partner.³⁶ In 2021, according to the results of the microcensus, 2,120,000 under-18s were living in single-parent households, including 1,814,000 children in single-mother households and 305,000 children in single-father households.³⁷
- **Children with disabled parents:** Children and young people under the age of 18 who regularly provide care for one or more relatives with a chronic physical or mental illness or disability are referred to as caring children or young carers. Existing studies estimate that about 480,000 young people between the ages of 10 and 19 belong to this group.³⁸ It is not uncommon for children or young people with disabilities to live with parents who also have disabilities (according to a study by the Federal

31 Statistisches Bundesamt (2021): Migration und Integration (<https://www.destatis.de/DE/Themen/Gesellschaft-Umwelt/Bevoelkerung/Migration-Integration/Tabellen/migrationshintergrund-armutgsgefaehrdung.html>; accessed 20 April 2023)

32 Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (2022): Aktuelle Zahlen. Ausgabe: Dezember 2022, p. 8. (https://www.bamf.de/SharedDocs/Anlagen/DE/Statistik/AsylinZahlen/aktuelle-zahlen-dezember-2022.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=3; accessed 24 February 2023)

33 Statistisches Bundesamt (2023): Ukrainische Bevölkerung in Deutschland. Ergebnisse der Bevölkerungsfortschreibung auf Grundlage des Zensus 2011. Own calculation of the change compared to December 2021 (https://www.destatis.de/DE/Im-Fokus/Ukraine/Gesellschaft/_inhalt.html; accessed 24 February 2023)

34 Kultusministerkonferenz (2023): Geflüchtete Kinder/Jugendliche aus der Ukraine an deutschen Schulen. Last revised: 7th calendar week 2023 (https://www.kmk.org/fileadmin/Dateien/pdf/Statistik/Ukraine/2023/AW_Ukraine_KW_07.pdf; accessed 24 February 2023)

35 Statistisches Bundesamt (2022): Statistiken der Kinder- und Jugendhilfe. Erzieherische Hilfe, Eingliederungshilfe für seelisch behinderte junge Menschen, Hilfe für junge Volljährige, p. 19 (https://www.destatis.de/DE/Themen/Gesellschaft-Umwelt/Soziales/Jugendarbeit/Publikationen/Downloads-Jugendarbeit/erzieherische-hilfe-5225112217004.pdf?__blob=publicationFile; accessed 24 February 2023)

36 Statistisches Bundesamt (2017): Alleinerziehende. Tabellenband zur Pressekonferenz am 02.08.2018 in Berlin – Ergebnisse des Mikrozensus, p. 35 (https://www.destatis.de/DE/Themen/Gesellschaft-Umwelt/Bevoelkerung/Haushalte-Familien/Publikationen/Downloads-Haushalte/alleinerziehende-tabellenband-5122124179004.pdf?__blob=publicationFile; accessed 02 March 2023)

37 Statistisches Bundesamt (2021): Haushalte und Familien. Ergebnisse des Mikrozensus 2021. Fachserie 1 Reihe 3 (https://www.destatis.de/DE/Themen/Gesellschaft-Umwelt/Bevoelkerung/Haushalte-Familien/Publikationen/Downloads-Haushalte/haushalte-familien-2010300217004.pdf;jsessionid=F64DBA4D-8890CD328DF8718FF1FC1C50.live712?__blob=publicationFile; accessed 02 March 2023)

38 Sabine Metzger, Thomas Ostermann, Michael Galatsch et al. (2018): Abschlussbericht zum Projekt „Die Situation von Kindern und Jugendlichen als pflegende Angehörige“ (https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/fileadmin/Dateien/5_Publikationen/Pflege/Berichte/Abschlussbericht_KinderundJugendlichepflegAngeh.pdf; accessed 02 March 2023)

Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, 41 per cent of parents who lived with at least one impaired child in the household stated that they themselves had one or more permanent impairments³⁹).

- **Children with mentally ill parents:** The share of psychiatric in-patients with underaged children for whose care they are responsible is estimated at about 10 to 20 per cent. About 175,000 children per year experience a parent being treated as a psychiatric in-patient.⁴⁰ The number of children who experience a parent with a mental illness (including substance abuse) in the course of a year is estimated at 3.8 million. Based on the age distribution in the general population, about 15 per cent of affected children are under three years old.⁴¹
- **Children from families in which there is substance abuse:** According to the latest estimates, about 5.1 to 9.2 per cent of minors in Germany, and therefore approximately 700,000 to 1.257 million children, live in families where at least one parent suffers from an alcohol use disorder. 0.6 to 1.2 per cent of minors, and therefore approximately 88,000 to 158,000 children, live in a household where at least one adult has a disorder related to the use of illicit drugs.⁴²
- **Children affected by domestic violence:** Endangerment of a child's well-being manifests itself in neglect, sexualised violence and physical or psychological abuse. In about one in five cases of child welfare endangerment, the minors concerned experience several forms of neglect or violence at the same time. The youth welfare offices carried out a total of 197,759 risk assessments in 2021. An acute risk to the well-being of the child was identified in

30,369 cases. In a further 29,579 cases, a threat to the welfare of the child could not be ruled out with certainty, so there was a serious suspicion of a threat to the welfare of the child (latent threat to the child's well-being). In 67,658 cases, the experts of the youth welfare office came to the conclusion that there was no risk to the welfare of the child, but that there was a need for further help or support. In most of the almost 60,000 cases of an acute and latent threat to child welfare identified, the children showed signs of neglect (59 per cent). In 35 per cent of the cases there were indications of psychological abuse, in 26 per cent there were indications of physical abuse and in a further five per cent there were indications of sexual violence (multiple answers were possible for the percentages mentioned, i.e. the cases were also counted in which there were other threats as well).⁴³ Witnessing intimate partner violence or domestic violence impacts negatively on children even if they are not directly affected. Studies show that children who witness domestic violence are more likely to suffer from both short-term developmental problems and long-term negative consequences in life.⁴⁴ According to a study by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, 5 per cent of impairments or disabilities in children and adolescents or young adults up to 25 years of age who still live in their parents' household are due to the consequences of physical, sexual or psychological violence.⁴⁵ LGBTIQ* young people are also particularly at risk of experiencing psychological stress, including domestic violence if their parents or family environment do not accept their sexual orientation or gender identity. However, more precise data is lacking due to the fact that statistical coverage has been limited to date.

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- 39 Holger Liljeberg, Edda Magdanz, Sandra Reuse (2022): Eltern von Kindern mit Beeinträchtigungen – Unterstützungsbedarfe und Hinweise auf Inklusionshürden (https://www.ssoar.info/ssoar/bitstream/handle/document/85154/ssoar-2022-liljeberg_et_al-Eltern_von_Kindern_mit_Beeintrachtigungen.pdf; accessed 14 March 2023)
- 40 Fritz Mattejat, Albert Lenz, Silke Wiegand-Grefe (2011): Kinder psychisch kranker Eltern – Eine Einführung in die Thematik. In: Silke Wiegand-Grefe, Fritz Mattejat, Albert Lenz (eds.): Kinder mit psychisch kranken Eltern. Klinik und Forschung (pp. 13–24). Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht
- 41 Albert Lenz (2017): Interdisziplinäre Versorgung von Kindern psychisch kranker Eltern aus Sicht der frühen Hilfen (https://www.fruehehilfen.de/fileadmin/user_upload/fruehehilfen.de/pdf/Lenz_Albert_Vortrag_interdisziplinaraere_Versorgung_Kinder_psych_kranker_Eltern.pdf; accessed 02 March 2023)
- 42 Ludwig Kraus, Alfred Uhl, Josefine Atzendorf et al. (2021): Estimating the number of children in households with substance use disorders in Germany. In: Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Mental Health, 15, 63 (<https://capmh.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13034-021-00415-0>; accessed 14.03.2023)
- 43 Statistisches Bundesamt (2021): Statistiken der Kinder- und Jugendhilfe, p. 25f. (https://www.destatis.de/DE/Themen/Gesellschaft-Umwelt/Soziales/Kinderschutz/Publikationen/Downloads-Kinderschutz/gebraehrungseinschaetzungen-5225123217004.pdf?__blob=publicationFile; accessed 02 March 2023)
- 44 Barbara Kavemann (2013): Zusammenhänge zwischen Gewalt gegen Frauen und Gewalt gegen Kinder – Der Blick der Forschung. In: Barbara Kavemann, Ulrike Kreyszig (eds.): Handbuch Kinder und häusliche Gewalt (p. 15–185). Wiesbaden: Springer VS
- 45 Holger Liljeberg, Edda Magdanz, Sandra Reuse (2022): Eltern von Kindern mit Beeinträchtigungen – Unterstützungsbedarfe und Hinweise auf Inklusionshürden (https://www.ssoar.info/ssoar/bitstream/handle/document/85154/ssoar-2022-liljeberg_et_al-Eltern_von_Kindern_mit_Beeintrachtigungen.pdf; accessed 14 March 2023)

- **Children of an EU citizen who has moved to another Member State without them:** This definition includes two different constellations: firstly, children who live in another European country with at least one parent living in Germany, and secondly children who live in Germany with at least one parent living in another European country. With regard to the size of the first group, an approximation is possible based on child benefit statistics. In December 2021, 328,317 children for whom child benefit was paid were living outside Germany (321,346 children were living in the EU, 6,971 in other states).⁴⁶
- **Children who have a teenage mother or children who are teenage mothers themselves:** The Federal Statistical Office records the number of live births according to the age of the mother. In 2021, there were 1,986 live births where the mother was younger than 18 in the year of the child's birth (0.25 per cent of all live births in 2021). The number of these children has been declining in Germany for several years.⁴⁷
- **Children with an imprisoned parent:** According to estimates, around 50,000 to over 100,000 children are affected by the imprisonment of a parent nationwide.⁴⁸ There are no figures on how many children live with their mothers in prison in Germany. Another target group is to be mentioned in this connection, namely that of young offenders in prison. Data on juveniles in prison is prepared by the Federal Statistical Office as of 31 March each year. At the time of the 2021 survey, a total of 3,121 prisoners and detainees were in juvenile detention, 359 of them under the age of 18.⁴⁹

However, target groups a to f with specific forms of disadvantage are not congruent with the group of children affected by poverty or social exclusion (AROPE): not every child with a disability is at risk of poverty or social exclusion. In the case of children with a migrant background, the risk of poverty also depends on numerous factors such as the time of immigration and the parents' level of education. The same applies to the other target groups listed in the Council Recommendation. As such, not all children in single-earner households are at risk of poverty. While single-parent households (which are also single-earner households) are subject to an increased average risk of poverty, this is not necessarily true of couple households in which there is only one working person. On average in Germany, children in single-parent households, children in large-family households (in which there are three or more children) and those in households with a very low level of participation in the labour market are exposed to increased poverty risks.⁵⁰ In addition, single parents caring for and raising children with disabilities face an increased risk of poverty, as there is on average significantly less chance of earning a sufficient income through gainful employment due to the large amount of time required for care, support and upbringing.⁵¹

It is only possible to a limited extent to show how many children are affected by poverty and other specific burdens at the same time as hardly any data is available on this. In addition, poverty is not always recorded according to the characteristics of the AROPE indicator in the studies: other indicators are used as a basis such as the receipt of benefits or a family's socioeconomic status. Based on empirical evidence, however, it is known that the target groups listed in the Council Recommendation are indeed often at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

46 Familienkasse Direktion (2021): Kindergeld / Kinderzuschlag. Jahreszahlen 2021 (https://statistik.arbeitsagentur.de/Statistikdaten/Detail/202112/famka/famka-jz/famka-jz-d-0-202112-pdf.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=2; accessed 02 March 2023)

47 Statistisches Bundesamt (2021): Daten der Lebendgeborenen nach Altersgruppe der Mütter für die Jahre 2017 bis 2021 (<https://www.destatis.de/DE/Themen/Gesellschaft-Umwelt/Bevoelkerung/Geburten/Tabellen/lebendgeborene-alter.html>; accessed 02 March 2023)

48 Judith Feige (2019): Kontakt von Kindern zu ihren inhaftierten Eltern. Einblicke in den deutschen Justizvollzug, p. 10 (https://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/fileadmin/Redaktion/Publikationen/Analyse_Studie/Analyse_Kinder_Inhaftierter_barrierefrei.pdf; accessed 02 March 2023)

49 Statistisches Bundesamt (2021): Rechtspflege. Strafvollzug. Fachserie 10 Reihe 4.1, p. 21 (https://www.destatis.de/DE/Themen/Staat/Justiz-Rechtspflege/Publikationen/Downloads-Strafverfolgung-Strafvollzug/strafvollzug-2100410217004.pdf?__blob=publicationFile; accessed 02 March 2023)

50 Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Soziales (ed.) (2021): Lebenslagen in Deutschland. Der Sechste Armuts- und Reichtumsbericht der Bundesregierung (<https://www.armuts-und-reichtumsbericht.de/DE/Bericht/Der-sechste-Bericht/Der-Bericht/der-bericht.html>; accessed 02 March 2023)

51 Holger Liljeberg, Edda Magdanz, Sandra Reuse (2022): Eltern von Kindern mit Beeinträchtigungen – Unterstützungsbedarfe und Hinweise auf Inklusionshürden (https://www.ssoar.info/ssoar/bitstream/handle/document/85154/ssoar-2022-liljeberg_et_al-Eltern_von_Kindern_mit_Beeintrachtigungen.pdf; accessed 14 March 2023)

2.3 Barriers to access

The Council Recommendation focuses on improving **access to social services for children at risk of poverty**. The aim here is to reduce social exclusion and improve opportunities for children to overcome the intergenerational persistence of poverty.⁵² This is because child-related and family-related services and infrastructures help provide opportunities for participation and fulfilment.⁵³ This idea stems from the view that the emergence and consolidation of poverty derives from a complex interconnection of various determinants. Other conditions that can lead to social exclusion or contribute to its mitigation are taken into account in addition to the individual's material situation.⁵⁴ Among other things, empirical evidence shows that there are correlations between the factors of education, health, unemployment and income. People who have a low level of education are also at a higher risk of being unemployed and finding themselves in a precarious income situation.⁵⁵ Illness and a low level of parental education are also associated with lower material resources.

The fact that children and adolescents at risk of income poverty have fewer developmental opportunities than socially better-off children in many areas from the outset emerges clearly from data on national education

and health, for example. Analyses of the KiGGS study show that children and adolescents from socially disadvantaged families have more limited health opportunities both in terms of physical and mental health as well as in terms of health-related behaviour and the associated risk factors.⁵⁶

The 2022 Education Report refers to the clear dependence of academic performance on social background. In Germany, the correlation between reading literacy and social background is higher at the secondary level than the OECD average.⁵⁷ This demonstrably creates a risk that poverty situations will become entrenched beyond childhood. This is confirmed by longitudinal surveys such as the AWO-ISS study⁵⁸ and studies based on the Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP),⁵⁹ which look at the risk of poverty over the course of a person's life.⁶⁰ In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is discussion of the increase in educational inequality and a growing inequality of opportunity resulting from this.⁶¹

The areas in which there are **barriers to accessing the use of services** is analysed in the expert assessment *Soziale Disparitäten bei der Nutzung familienbezogener sozialer Infrastruktur* ["Social disparities in the use of family-related social infrastructure"] by the German

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- 52 Hugh Frazer, Anne-Catherine Guio, Eric Marlier (2021): Inter-generational transmission of poverty: What it is, why it matters and how to tackle it (OSE Research Paper No. 49). The authors advocate referring to the intergenerational persistence of poverty, as the term "transmission" can potentially be misunderstood as putting blame on the parents (ibid., p. 11).
- 53 Christina Boll (2021): Soziale Disparitäten bei der Nutzung familienbezogener sozialer Infrastruktur (https://www.dji.de/fileadmin/user_upload/bibs2021/SoDr_17_Boll_Disparitaeten.pdf; accessed 02 March 2023)
- 54 Ernst-Ulrich Huster, Jürgen Boeckh, Hildegard Mogge-Grotjahn (2018): Armut und soziale Ausgrenzung: Ein multidisziplinäres Forschungsfeld. In: Ernst-Ulrich Huster, Jürgen Boeckh, Hildegard Mogge-Grotjahn (ed.): Handbuch Armut und soziale Ausgrenzung (p. 3–24) (3rd edition). Wiesbaden: Springer VS
- 55 Sabine Walper, Birgit Riedel (2011): Was Armut ausmacht. DJI Impulse, 1/2011(92/93), pp. 13–15
- 56 Thomas Lampert, Benjamin Kuntz (2019): Auswirkungen von Armut auf den Gesundheitszustand und das Gesundheitsverhalten von Kindern und Jugendlichen. Ergebnisse aus KiGGS Welle 2. In: Bundesgesundheitsblatt, 62, pp. 1263–1274
- 57 Autor:innengruppe Bildungsberichterstattung (2022): Bildung in Deutschland 2022. Ein indikatorengestützter Bericht mit einer Analyse zum Bildungspersonal, p. 152ff. (<https://www.bildungsbericht.de/de/bildungsberichte-seit-2006/bildungsbericht-2022/pdf-dateien-2022/bildungsbericht-2022.pdf>; accessed 02 March 2023)
- 58 Gerda Holz, Claudia Laubstein, Evelyn Sthamer (2012): Lebenslagen und Zukunftschancen von (armen) Kindern und Jugendlichen in Deutschland. 15 Jahre AWO-ISS-Studie. Frankfurt am Main: Institut für Sozialarbeit und Sozialpädagogik
- 59 Olaf Groh-Samberg (2014): No Way Out. Dimensionen und Trends der Verfestigung der Armut in Deutschland. In: Sozialer Fortschritt, 63(12), p. 307–315
- 60 The study by Olaf Groh-Samberg (2014, p. 314) states: „More than a third (36 per cent) of those who were already in entrenched poverty at the age of 12–16 are still living in entrenched poverty ten years later. Almost half still live in precarious situations. Only a statistically untrustworthy quantifiable proportion of two to three per cent make it to the zone of assured prosperity, while about 15 per cent make it to the zone of unstable prosperity.”
- 61 Autor:innengruppe Bildungsberichterstattung (2022): Bildung in Deutschland 2022. Ein indikatorengestützter Bericht mit einer Analyse zum Bildungspersonal, p. 155ff. (<https://www.bildungsbericht.de/de/bildungsberichte-seit-2006/bildungsbericht-2022/pdf-dateien-2022/bildungsbericht-2022.pdf>; accessed 04 March 2023)

Youth Institute (DJI)⁶² on the 9th Family Report. This looks at early childhood education, all-day schools, and child and youth welfare services (including family education, early childhood intervention and child-raising aid). The findings show that familiarity with and use of these services indicate a more or less pronounced social gradient. For example, children from homes at risk of poverty or with migrant parents are less likely to go to nursery than children of the same age without a migrant background and who are not at risk of poverty. There are also differences according to the social situation of the families in terms of familiarity with and use of family-related pregnancy and birth services: familiarity with pregnancy counselling services, for example, is significantly lower in households in which there is a lower level of parental education than in households where the level of education is higher. In addition, there are considerable differences in the extent to which such services are used according to level of education: this relates to midwifery assistance and also pregnancy counselling, for example. The latter is used more often by mothers with a low level of education than by mothers with a higher level of education.⁶³ Furthermore, differences in familiarity with and use of early childhood services are also evident based on the receipt of social benefits. For example, mothers on social benefits make use of birth preparation course offerings and medical offerings for mothers after birth significantly less often than mothers who are not on social

benefits, whereby the social differences in terms of familiarity and use differ overall depending on the specific service concerned.⁶⁴ In addition, it is known that children and young people have more limited opportunities to participate in cultural, leisure and educational activities if they are from a home with a low social status or a migrant background.⁶⁵ Studies also indicate that there are barriers to accessing health services, counselling, support and care services in the case of families in which there are children with disabilities.⁶⁶

In terms of access barriers, however, data is not available for all groups and for all services and measures. Studies that address current events are also scarce, for example relating to children and young people who have fled in the wake of the war in Ukraine (with or without their families).⁶⁷ These children are also at high risk of poverty and have fewer opportunities for participation.

In summary, it can be stated that both the needs of the target groups and their access barriers vary according to the services in question. For this reason, a **detailed consideration is required of the target groups in connection with the individual measures**. Target-group-specific design and communication of the measures, taking into account constitutional responsibilities, is an essential requirement when it comes to creating more social participation opportunities for children and young people in need.

62 Christina Boll (2021): Soziale Disparitäten bei der Nutzung familienbezogener sozialer Infrastruktur (https://www.dji.de/fileadmin/user_upload/bibs2021/SoDr_17_Boll_Disparitaeten.pdf; accessed 02 March 2023)

63 Andreas Eickhorst, Andrea Schreier, Christian Brand et al. (2016): Inanspruchnahme von Angeboten der Frühen Hilfen und darüber hinaus durch psychosozial belastete Eltern. In: Bundesgesundheitsblatt, 59, pp. 1271-1280

64 Daniela Salzmann, Simon Lorenz, Alexandra Sann et al. (2018): Wie geht es Familien mit Kleinkindern in Deutschland? Belastungen und Unterstützungsangebote am Beispiel von Familien in Armutslagen und Familien mit Migrationshintergrund (https://www.fruehehilfen.de/fileadmin/user_upload/fruehehilfen.de/pdf/Publikation-NZFH-Datenreport-Fruehe-Hilfen-2017.pdf; accessed 02 March 2023)

65 Dietrich Engels, Christine Thielebein (2011): Lebenslagen in Deutschland: Armuts- und Reichtumsberichterstattung der Bundesregierung. Zusammenhang von sozialer Schicht und Teilnahme an Kultur-, Bildungs- und Freizeitangeboten für Kinder und Jugendliche (https://www.armuts-und-reichtumsbericht.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/Berichte/zusammenhang-soziale-schicht-teilnahme.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=3; accessed 02 March 2023)

66 Antje Richter-Kornweitz, Hans Weiß (2014): Poverty, health and disability in early childhood. Weiterbildungsinitiative Frühpädagogische Fachkräfte, WiFF Expertisen, Vol. 42. Munich (https://www.weiterbildungsinitiative.de/fileadmin/Redaktion/Publikationen/old_uploads/media/Exp_Richter-Kornweitz_Weiss_web.pdf; accessed 02 March 2023)

67 Furthermore, it should be taken into account that the analyses carried out in the studies presented define the determinants of access opportunities in different ways. Participation opportunities are analysed according to social status, and based on individual indicators such as education or receipt of basic security provision (SGB II). The definitions of the groups under consideration also show clear differences, for example with regard to the term "children with a migrant background".

3 Political framework

In Article 6 of the Recommendation, the Council of the European Union proposes that Member States put in place an integrated and enabling policy framework to address the social exclusion of children in order to counteract the intergenerational cycles of poverty and disadvantage and reduce the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The recommendation is for Member States to develop coherent and integrated interventions that work against discrimination and inequality and enable equal opportunity.

3.1 Policy and implementation framework of the EU Child Guarantee in Germany

In Germany, implementation of the EU Child Guarantee is subject to the division of responsibilities laid down by the **federal system** and requires a coordinated approach by the federal government, the federal states, the municipalities and civil society organisations. The distribution of responsibilities in Germany between the two levels of government is governed by the Basic Law (*Grundgesetz*, GG), which also contains elements of the principle of subsidiarity, namely the fundamental responsibility of the federal states for legislation (Article 70 GG) and the execution of federal laws (Article 83 GG) as well as local self-government (Article 28 GG). Unlike in the European Union, for example, the principle of subsidiarity under the Basic Law is not an independent standard for assigning responsibility to the federal government or the federal states. Nonetheless, the fundamental idea that public-sector tasks should be regulated as closely as possible to the citizen and that problems should therefore be solved at the lowest possible level of government is often taken into account in the design of regulatory matters under non-constitutional law. In many cases, it is local actors who are best informed about the concrete living environments of children, young people and families and their local needs, which is why approaches geared towards the specific social space often lead to the desired results. At the same time, the principle of subsidiarity means that

the state should only intervene if self-help by those affected is not possible or fails. In the area of youth welfare, for example, this is ensured by giving priority to voluntary youth welfare measures (offered by recognised providers) over public youth welfare measures. Non-profit charities therefore have a statutory priority in the provision of services. This is intended to strengthen forms of self-help in way that is geared towards the interests of those affected and through their participation in the design of measures. The welfare organisations are required to cooperate here.

In this way, the constitution (Basic Law – GG) assigns different legislative, administrative and financing responsibilities to the federal government and the federal states. The municipalities, which belong to the federal states under state organisation law, have a key role to play in providing basic public services. They are required to provide a range of social services, and can decide autonomously on the provision of other services (compulsory and voluntary tasks within the framework of local self-government). The federal regulations of the social system are summarised in a Social Code consisting of 12 Books. The German social system features marked vertical divisions between the different social laws and benefit systems on the one hand and the different levels of government on the other. The federal government's concurrent legislative competence for public welfare (Article 74(1) (7) GG) also includes the protection of minors. In the area of child and youth welfare, for example, including the early childhood intervention scheme *Early Childhood Intervention (Frühe Hilfen)*, the basic principles are laid down at federal level in the Eighth Book of the Social Code – Child and Youth Welfare (SGB VIII). The federal states can define the framework provided by the Eighth Book of the Social Code in more detail by means of state implementation laws. The individual tasks such as the planning and provision of childcare places and support services for families and young people are implemented in municipal self-administration by the youth welfare offices in the cities, municipalities and districts. The area of school policy is a matter for the federal states: under the Basic Law, the federal government has no legislative or administrative competence in this area.

In the area of health policy, the federal states have their own authority to legislate; they are responsible for the implementation of federal laws and are usually responsible for the professional and disciplinary supervision of the municipal health offices. For their part, the latter perform public health tasks such as prevention and control of communicable diseases and school health-care. The federal states are also responsible for hospital planning. In addition, prevention and health promotion are other key aspects in terms of the responsibilities and activities of the federal states. The federal government has legislative competence in particular for statutory and private health insurance (Article 74(1) (11) and (12) GG). The financing of the healthcare system is insurance-based (Fifth Book of the Social Code – SGB V) by means of compulsory insurance for all citizens, either statutory or private. Legislative competence for health-care also lies in principle with the federal states under Articles 30 and 70 of the Basic Law; the federal government only has concurrent legislative competence here in connection with the areas expressly assigned to it – in particular Article 74(1) (19) and (19a) of the Basic Law (in the case of infection control, for example).

In the area of food safety, the federal government ensures that risks are continuously assessed and that regulations and structures are constantly adapted to new findings, based on its concurrent legislative competence under Article 74(1) (20) of the Basic Law. In principle, food businesses are responsible for the safety of their products and for compliance with food law requirements. Monitoring of compliance with these regulations is the task of the federal states. Implementation of quality standards in community catering (nurseries and schools) is also the responsibility of the federal states or the providers of the facilities and is to become mandatory by 2030. In the area of housing, the federal government and the federal states also share responsibilities. The federal states do not just have the legislative competence but also implementation and financing competence for social housing assistance. The federal government supports social housing construction by providing financial assistance to the federal states. In addition, households in need of assistance are supported in securing the subsistence minimum and meeting housing costs through the minimum income schemes by taking into account the expenses for accommodation and heating. Children in need of assistance also benefit from this (according to the definition of the EU Child Guarantee) if they either receive income support under the Third Chapter of the Twelfth Book of the Social

Code (social assistance – SGB XII) or citizen’s income benefits under the Second Book of the Social Code (basic social security benefits for job-seekers – SGB II). Responsibility for accommodation and heating in the case of income support and the citizen’s income lies with the independent cities and districts. As such, the municipalities bear the cost of these benefits, for which they receive a contribution from the federal government, though only for benefits under the Second Book of the Social Code (SGB II).

In order to implement the goals of the EU Child Guarantee, extensive cooperation between all actors is therefore necessary in two respects. Firstly, there is a need for dialogue between the federal government, the federal states and the municipalities in the exercise of their constitutionally prescribed responsibilities. The NAP lists the priority measures already implemented and yet to be implemented in the five fields of action of the EU Child Guarantee from the perspective of the federal government, the federal states and the municipalities (see chapter 4). Measures for the protection, participation, promotion and education of children and young people must be open to and benefit all children and young people equally, with a view to ensuring equal living conditions and in order to shape demographic change in all regions of Germany. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities require all state measures to be oriented towards the best interests of the child. According to Article 3 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the best interests of the child are to be a primary consideration in connection with all actions concerning children. The preamble to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recognises that children with disabilities should enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms to the fullest extent on an equal basis with other children; it refers to the obligations of the party states to the UNCRC in this connection.

Secondly, extensive cooperation is required between state and civil society organisations. The latter make a major contribution to implementing the EU Child Guarantee (see chapter 4) and are consequently also included in the working structure (see chapter 6.1) for the implementation of the NAP. Cooperation is to improve coordination of measures on the one hand, while on the other hand helping differing local starting conditions to be taken into account in the development of new measures.

3.2 Policies to prevent poverty and social disadvantage

3.2.1 Money, infrastructure and time for children, young people and their families

Within the scope of its competences, the federal government is committed to making fundamental improvements to the support of families on low incomes or no income. These families are to be effectively supported in obtaining an adequate family income and becoming independent of basic social security benefits.

In response to a long-standing debate, the introduction of a **basic child allowance** and a redefined subsistence level for children were set down in the 2021-2025 coalition agreement.⁶⁸ In order to lift more children out of poverty and create better opportunities for children and young people, as many individual benefits as possible are to be grouped into a single benefit (e.g. child benefit, basic social security benefits for job-seekers under the Second Book of the Social Code and social assistance under the Twelfth Book of the Social Code for children, parts of the Education and Participation Package and the child supplement). The basic child allowance is to consist of two components: an income-independent guaranteed amount for all children and adolescents (similar to today's child benefit) and an age-tiered income-dependent additional amount. The application process is to be digital and user-friendly. By means of a "basic child allowance check" based on data available to the authorities, the intention is also to be able to identify and provide targeted information to families who may be entitled to the additional amount of the basic child allowance. The aim is to ensure that the basic child allowance actually reaches all children who need support.

The introduction of a basic child allowance into an already existing system is ambitious and complex, as there are interfaces and reciprocal effects with numerous other benefits. Furthermore, it is important to ensure that gainful employment is worthwhile for parents since this is the most sustainable protection against poverty. In order to clarify these points, an Inter-Ministerial Working Group (IWG Basic Child

Allowance) was set up at the end of March 2022 under the direction of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and including a total of seven federal ministries (Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Federal Ministry of Finance, Federal Ministry of Justice, Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building). The IWG Basic Child Allowance will present its final report in 2023; the legislative process for the introduction of the basic child allowance is also scheduled to begin in 2023. The aim is for families with children to be able to benefit from the basic child allowance from 2025 onwards.

Since 1 July 2022, an **immediate supplement** of 20 euros per month has been paid for almost three million children in low-income families who are entitled to benefits under the Second Book of the Social Code (SGB II), the Twelfth Book of the Social Code (SGB XII), the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act (AsylbLG), and income support under the Federal Benefits Act (BVG), as well as children who receive child supplement under the Federal Child Benefit Act (BKGG). This immediate supplement is an unbureaucratic aid that families are able to rely on.

The **child benefit** and the **child supplement** will remain core elements of family policy until the introduction of the basic child allowance. In order to support families, child benefit was increased to a uniform amount of 250 euros per child per month from 1 January 2023. This is an increase of 31 euros per month for the first and second child and 25 euros for the third child. Families with a low household income receive the child supplement in addition to the child benefit. This protects families on low incomes from poverty, while ensuring that children's needs are met and making it worthwhile to pursue gainful employment even with low wage. At the same time, the education and participation benefits strengthen children's participation opportunities. On 1 January 2023, the maximum child supplement was

68 Koalitionsvertrag 2021–2025 zwischen der Sozialdemokratischen Partei Deutschlands (SPD), Bündnis 90/DIE GRÜNEN und den Freien Demokraten (FDP) (<https://www.bundesregierung.de/resource/blob/974430/1990812/1f422c60505b6a88f8f3b3b5b8720bd4/2021-12-10-koav2021-data.pdf?download=1>; accessed 02 March 2023)

increased to 250 euros per child and month. In order to further facilitate the submission and processing of applications, a short application for child supplement was introduced in connection with the COVID-19 measures which has since been made permanent; it can be used alternately, i.e. always in alternation with a regular application. The child supplement reached some 800,000 children in December 2022.

In the area of **social services and infrastructure** (SGB VIII), it is important to mention the area of early childhood education and care: this not only facilitates the participation of parents in the labour market, it especially promotes a positive upbringing, education and the child's well-being. With low-threshold measures in the areas of family education, counselling and recreation, including early childhood intervention, parents are supported from the very beginning by competent child and youth welfare staff in a way that is geared to the specific phases of a child's development. This also includes programmes that support parents in socially disadvantaged situations, provide counselling on **family-related services and benefits** and refer them to local support structures or actively share information on other suitable services. Family recreation combines a recreational stay with informal learning with the aim of helping to promote parenting and family competence and therefore children's well-being in families so as to ensure children experience a better upbringing. In addition, there are the open and group-related measures in the area of child and youth welfare work that are directly aimed at children and young people. By contrast, youth social work is not exclusively limited to child and youth welfare per se but also extends into the areas of school, social welfare and employment promotion. It offers young people socio-educational assistance to compensate for social disadvantages and overcome individual impairments.

The establishment and expansion of integrated municipal approaches to poverty prevention for children and young people is also a central aim. This requires political will, a willingness to engage in dialogue and cooperation on the part of all those involved, and a reliable and regular allocation of resources. Suitable legal framework conditions are to be created that enable the actors who are responsible for this constitutionally to establish such mechanisms. At the municipal level, there is a need for coordination centres with sufficient staff, expertise and funding, as well as adequate provision of resources for local actors.

Measures under time-resource policy benefit children and young people in two ways. Children and young people profit from the family time gained with their parents on the one hand, while on the other hand benefiting from the greater material security to be achieved through better reconciliation of family and work. The best protection against poverty is parental participation in the labour market, especially where this ensures the economic independence of mothers and fathers. More than two thirds of children in households without earned income are at risk of poverty. By comparison, this rate is four per cent in households with two incomes, one of which is from a full-time job.

One key measure here is the parental allowance: this compensates for part of the loss of income when parents care for their child after the birth. The parental allowance secures the economic existence of families and helps fathers and mothers to better reconcile family and work. The non-transferable partner months provide a particular incentive for fathers. Paternal involvement in family tasks enables mothers to shorten career breaks after childbirth. In this way, the parental allowance paves the way towards a sharing of responsibilities between parents.

3.2.2 Digitalisation of family-related information, benefits and support services

Access to and information about family benefits can be improved through online services. The framework for digitalisation, also in the area of family benefits, is provided by the Online Access Act (OGZ), which requires the federal government, the federal states and the municipalities to offer their administrative services digitally as well. The Digital Family Benefits Act (*Digitales-Familienleistungen-Gesetz*) is particularly important in terms of political measures in the fields of action of the EU Child Guarantee. Among other things, it contributes to improving digital access to the parental allowance as a family benefit by further relieving applicants of bureaucratic hurdles, in particular having to submit physical evidence. Furthermore, the law establishes a framework for combining applications for several family benefits in a single digital application.

As part of the implementation project *Kombinierte Familienleistungen* (“Combined Family Benefits”), an online service is currently being developed for this purpose in Bremen. Parents are to be able to determine the name of the child and apply for parental allowance and child benefit at the same time. The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth is also developing the online parental allowance application service *ElterngeldDigital*. This is now available in eleven participating federal states as an application aid that specifically supports parents in filling out the application form with plain language, assistance and automatic error detection. The application then has to be printed out and sent by post to the relevant parental allowance office. In Bremen, the electronic transmission of application data, supporting documents and digital signature has been possible since September 2022. The remaining federal states are to adopt these procedures as well in 2023. The digital application for advance maintenance payments, developed by the federal states of Bremen and Hamburg, is likewise now available in the first municipalities and is being expanded on a step-by-step basis.

Digital offerings are used to ensure parents are better informed, too. The family portal provides an overview of state benefits, legal provisions and other support options for families. It is geared towards the various life situations of families, such as “pregnancy and birth” and “family and work”. By entering their postcode, users can make use of a local counselling search function to locate centres and agencies in their vicinity where they can apply for benefits or obtain further counselling and support services. Various calculators and applications can be accessed via the family portal, such as *Elterngeld-Digital*, the parental allowance calculating function *Elterngeldrechner*, the child supplement advisory tool *Kinderzuschlags-Lotse*, the job re-start calculator *Wiedereinstiegsrechner*, the family care time calculator *Familienpflegezeitrechner* and the family benefits information tool *Familienleistungen*. Now attracting more than two million visits per quarter, the family portal is an effective tool for providing information to families and those who offer them counselling.

In order to make it easier for pregnant women to get in touch with freelance midwives, the National Association of Statutory Health Insurance Funds (GKV-Spitzenverband) was obliged to set up an electronic search directory that provides families in need of a midwife for pre- and postnatal care or obstetric care with a comprehensive database for searching. This directory is available on the association’s website and can be used for searches.

Via the information tool for families developed by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, (expectant) parents and caring relatives can obtain information on their individual situation by entering a few details; they can also find out which family benefits they are likely to be entitled to and where they can find further information. Young parents – especially those in stressful life situations – can find comprehensive information on various subjects and challenging situations relating to child-birth and the first years of life as a family on the website *elternsein.info*, which also has an Instagram channel. For parents involved in dispute and separation, information and tips on the topics of relationship crisis, separation and divorce have been available since 1 November 2022 on the new platform *STARK – Streit und Trennung meistern: Alltagshilfe, Rat und Konfliktlösung*. The website has a separate section for children and young people. Families with a migrant background are supported by the model project *FamPower²*, while access to family counselling and support services is facilitated by trained family multipliers, and barriers to the use of family services are removed.

In addition, the services themselves are provided digitally to some extent in order to reach parents in rural areas more effectively. This also applies to family education and child guidance. For example, the federal government funds the (partial) digitalisation of the parenting course *Starke Eltern – Starke Kinder* and the online counselling services provided by the bke (Bundeskonferenz für Erziehungsberatung).

3.2.3 Relevant measures in the context of current crises

COVID-19 pandemic

In Germany, too, it is evident that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated social inequality and in some cases further worsened the situation of already disadvantaged children and young people.⁶⁹ Social disadvantage in the form of low access to education, training and income – and therefore day-to-day worries about one's own financial situation, future and social participation compared to other families during the pandemic – are consistently shown in all studies on the health of children and adolescents to be risk factors in terms of health and psychological stress. According to the consistent findings of several studies, family incomes were largely stabilised by the rapid and comprehensive financial assistance provided under the COVID-19 programmes.⁷⁰ The financial measures are still in progress and address in particular children and young people at risk of poverty (for example the immediate supplement since 1 July 2022). In many cases, however, the closure of care and education facilities for months on end during the initial period of the pandemic led to considerable delays in both the motor and social-emotional development and the education of children and adolescents: for schoolchildren in Germany, online instruction tended to be rare in international comparison, and the learning gaps that have arisen are particularly high among lower achievers.⁷¹ Digital access alone does not ensure that all children participate successfully in the classroom. Children and adolescents with disabilities and/or learning support needs generally

require significantly more pedagogical support than was or is possible through distance learning. Very little was done to support inclusive education in connection with the pandemic measures. Families with disabled or impaired children often complained that their concerns were not sufficiently taken into account.⁷²

In combination with the distance and isolation regulations, the closures of daycare centres and schools led to greater loneliness, a lack of exercise, increased fears regarding the future and psychological stress among children and young people. Children and young people with disabilities suffered particularly from the fact that care and leisure facilities were no longer available to them – in other words their familiar structures. The measures imposed during the pandemic placed a particularly high burden on families with disabled children. Often the parents had to look after and care for their disabled children around the clock without outside support, which meant many of them reached breaking point. This social isolation also led to the developmental progress of the children and adolescents stagnating due to the lack of (medical) help and support services, thereby resulting in negative progression and the development of comorbidities.⁷³ Experts also address the fact that the discontinuation of food services in schools, nurseries and food banks during the COVID-19 pandemic may have led to additional burdens on households at risk of poverty and may potentially have contributed to the increase in food poverty.⁷⁴ The health insurance companies already reported an increase in the number of cases of obesity, eating disorders and diseases such as diabetes and

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- 69 Lorenz Gaedke, Ammar Ćuk, Katharina Manderscheid (2022): Ungleicher Familienalltag durch die Corona-Pandemie (<https://www.wiso.uni-hamburg.de/forschung/forschungslabor/working-papers/pdfs-wp/wp72.pdf>; accessed 2 March 2023). Martin Bujard, Ellen von den Driesch, Kerstin Ruckdeschel et al. (2021): Belastungen von Kindern, Jugendlichen und Eltern in der Corona-Pandemie (https://www.bib.bund.de/Publikation/2021/pdf/Belastungen-von-Kindern-Jugendlichen-und-Eltern-in-der-Corona-Pandemie.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=6; accessed 2 March 2023). Katja Möhring, Elias Naumann, Maximiliane Reifenscheid et al (2020): Die Mannheimer Corona-Studie. Schwerpunktbericht zu Erwerbstätigkeit und Kinderbetreuung (https://www.uni-mannheim.de/media/Einrichtungen/gip/Corona_Studie/2020-04-05_Schwerpunktbericht_Erwerbstaetigkeit_und_Kinderbetreuung.pdf; accessed 2 March 2023)
- 70 Kerstin Bruckmeier, Andreas Peichl, Martin Popp et al (2020): Covid-19-Krise: Für das Jahr 2020 ist mit keinem Anstieg der Einkommensungleichheit in Deutschland zu rechnen. In: ifo-Schnelldienst, 2020, 16 (<https://www.ifo.de/publikationen/2020/aufsatz-zeitschrift/covid-19-krise-fuer-das-jahr-2020-ist-mit-keinem-anstieg-der>; accessed 14 March 2023)
- 71 Vera Freundl, Clara Stiegler, Larissa Zierow (2021): Europas Schulen in der Corona-Pandemie – ein Ländervergleich. In: ifo-Schnelldienst, 2021, 74(12), pp. 41–50 (<https://www.ifo.de/DocDL/sd-2021-12-freundl-stiegler-zierow-schulen-europa-corona.pdf>; accessed 14 March 2023)
- 72 Interministerielle Arbeitsgruppe „Gesundheitliche Auswirkungen auf Kinder und Jugendliche durch Corona“ (2023): Abschlussbericht (<https://www.bmfsfj.de/resource/blob/214866/fbb00bcf0395b4450d1037616450cfb5/ima-abschlussbericht-gesundheitliche-auswirkungen-auf-kinder-und-jugendliche-durch-corona-data.pdf>; accessed 14 March 2023)
- 73 Lena Calahorrano, Anja Henk, Dorothea Kugelmeier (2021): Wünsche von Familien mit beeinträchtigten Kindern an die Politik – Befragungsergebnisse vor dem Hintergrund der Corona-Pandemie (https://www.fit.fraunhofer.de/content/dam/fit/de/documents/W%C3%BCnscheAnDiePolitik_2021_12_01.pdf; accessed on 14 March 2023)
- 74 Wissenschaftlicher Beirat für Agrarpolitik, Ernährung und gesundheitlichen Verbraucherschutz beim Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft (2023): Ernährungsarmut unter Pandemiebedingungen. Stellungnahme. Berlin (https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/_Ministerium/Beiraete/agrarpolitik/ernaehrungsarmut-pandemie.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=3; accessed 14.03.2023)

asthma in children and adolescents for 2020.⁷⁵ Many of them were, and in some cases still are, exposed to additional stress, for example if their parents suffer from chronic and/or mental illness or if they experience violence in the family.

The federal government has responded to the challenges of the COVID-19 crisis with a mix of individual measures that allocate additional resources to existing social benefits and new measures. The target groups of the EU Child Guarantee were directly addressed here. Disadvantaged families with children received support through Social Protection Packages I to III: for example, access to basic social security benefits and child supplement (Social Protection Package I) was facilitated; adjustments to the Education and Participation Package were implemented so that school pupils and nursery children in need of assistance were able to get lunch despite their facilities being closed down due to the pandemic (Social Protection Packages II and III). Other packages of measures (relief amount for single parents, child bonus, subsidy for the purchase of digital devices and accessories for participation in pandemic-related home schooling) specifically addressed disadvantaged children and families. An Inter-Ministerial Working Group – with representatives of the Federal Ministry of Health and the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth – has investigated “Health effects on children and adolescents caused by COVID-19” and formulated recommendations that call for targeted support to be provided for young people who are under particular strain, especially also children and adolescents with disabilities.

Since 2021, the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth has been active in countering loneliness in all age groups by funding the *Kompetenznetz Einsamkeit* (“Loneliness Competence Network”). The joint development of a strategy to combat loneliness, which started in June 2022, is geared towards all age groups, especially those who may be affected by loneliness due to their lifestyle in certain phases of life. During the COVID-19 pandemic, this also included younger people. Data from the Socio-Econom-

ic Panel (SOEP) shows an increase in the experience of loneliness across all age groups. Whereas before the COVID-19 pandemic it was mainly people over 75 who were affected, the balance shifted during the pandemic, when young people under 30 felt particularly lonely. The strategy to combat loneliness focuses not least on raising public awareness of the issue, expanding knowledge, strengthening practice in the prevention and alleviation of loneliness, and supporting those affected.

In addition, the federal government made funds totalling two billion euros available for 2021 and 2022 under the action programme *Aufholen nach Corona für Kinder und Jugendliche* (“Catching up after COVID-19 for children and young people”) to help children and young people as they find their way back to a carefree childhood and adolescence and support them in catching up on learning. One billion euros will be used to promote important services in the areas of early childhood education and early childhood intervention, additional sports, leisure and holiday activities, as well as accompaniment and support for children and young people in their day-to-day lives and at school. In this way, personal and social ties that were limited during the COVID-19 pandemic due to contact restrictions can be strengthened once again. The other billion was made available for additional tutoring services in the school context. The additional financial burdens on the federal states responsible for school education were taken into account by means of a temporary increase in the federal states’ share of turnover tax.

Children, young people and families who fled Ukraine as a result of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine

The war in Ukraine triggered large-scale movements of refugees, also to Germany. Between the end of February and 2 March 2023, 1,072,248 refugees from Ukraine were entered in the Central Register of Foreigners,⁷⁶ though the actual number of refugees is probably even higher than this. Around 69 per cent of the war refugees are women, around 34 per cent are children and young people under 18, most of the latter of primary school age.⁷⁷ Many of them suffer from the psychological

75 DAK (2021): Folgen der Pandemie in der Krankenhausversorgung 2020. DAK-Sonderanalyse im Rahmen des Kinder- und Jugendreports (<https://www.dak.de/dak/bundesthemen/corona-alarmierende-folgen-fuer-kinder-und-jugendliche-2480802.html#/>; accessed 02.03.2023)

76 Mediendienst Integration (2023): Flüchtlinge aus der Ukraine in Deutschland (<https://mediendienst-integration.de/migration/flucht-asyl/ukrainische-fluechtlinge.html>; accessed 02 March 2023)

77 Ibid.

consequences of war and displacement. In addition to individuals and families, several thousand children in care had to flee with their institutional groups and caregivers. They were often already suffering from impairments and/or the experience of deprivation and violence in Ukraine. The refugee situation not only poses enormous challenges for those affected – especially children, young people and women – but also for the institutions and professionals dealing with them.

Refugees from Ukraine are given comprehensive assistance in Germany. Parents can receive family benefits such as child benefit, parental allowance and advance maintenance payments subject to certain conditions. Children are entitled to daycare in Germany from their first birthday, and this also applies to Ukrainian children. Guidance is provided to help parents to find a childcare place for their child. The Federal Foundation Mother and Child (*Bundesstiftung Mutter und Kind*) provides support for pregnant women who have fled their home country. Through its national centre for early childhood intervention, the Federal Foundation Early Childhood Intervention (*Bundesstiftung Frühe Hilfen*) likewise provides support for refugee pregnant women and young families as well as for the professionals and volunteers who work with the families. This includes digital consultations and interpreting services. A central registration and coordination office organises the reception of Ukrainian children who are institutionalised or who are orphans. Help lines are available for all refugees, whether children, young people or parents. Psychosocial support with the involvement of interpreters is offered by associations of the welfare organisation *Freie Wohlfahrtspflege* at more than 2,000 counselling centres throughout Germany, funded by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. People who have immigrated to Germany can take integration courses to learn German and find out about German history, culture and the legal system in order to strengthen their social participation and integration in the labour market or the education system. The federal programme *Integrationskurs mit Kind – Bausteine für die Zukunft* (“Integration Course with Child – Building Blocks for the Future”) was launched on 1 January 2022 under the auspices of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth; half of this is financed by the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community. Running until 31 December 2023, the programme enables the supervision of children who are not of school age and whose care is not ensured through regular municipal services in cases where the parents

wish to attend an integration course. For the duration of the programme period, those supervising the children can also qualify as child daycare specialists. In this way, new professionals can be recruited in the field of early education and care from among those who complete the course. In addition, there are special programmes to promote the entry of immigrant mothers into the labour market. Young refugees in particular are addressed by the approximately 500 youth migration services. The German Red Cross (DRK) runs the Federal Contact Point for Refugees with Disabilities and/or Care Needs in close coordination with the federal government and the federal states. The concept for this was developed in the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs together with the Federal Ministry of Health and has been continuously refined in the months since the beginning of the cooperation in order to identify the support needs of refugee children and young people with disabilities even before their arrival in Germany and provide individually tailored services in the area of in-patient care and integration assistance.

Rise in consumer prices

Households on low incomes or no income at all have been particularly hard hit by persistent inflation because the share of income they spend on consumer goods is higher overall; in addition the biggest price drivers – namely household energy and food – account for a larger share of their expenditure than they do in the case of other families. State support measures should also be geared towards the goal of enabling a lifestyle that promotes health and social welfare, especially among families at risk of poverty. By means of three relief packages, the government has provided financial support for families and slowed down the increase in energy and living costs. Families have benefited or will benefit, for example, from the immediate supplement (see chapter 3.2.1), the child bonus of 100 euros per child in 2022, the increase in child benefit to a uniform amount of 250 euros per child and month from 1 January 2023, improved tax relief for single parents, a flat-rate energy allowance of 300 euros, and rate reductions in income tax to compensate for bracket creep. People on social benefits received an additional one-off payment of 200 euros in 2022. In 2022 and/or 2023, the housing allowance was also paid out – depending on the months of entitlement – with one or two heating allowances in each case (initially at least 270 euros, subsequently at least 415 euros per household).

The federal government is reducing the levy under the Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG levy) to relieve consumers due to the current high price level. The abolition of the EEG levy in the power sector along with temporary measures such as the 9-euro ticket and the reduction of the energy tax on fuels was able to cushion price increases somewhat, thereby relieving the burden on families with low incomes in particular. Up until the end of March 2024, the VAT on the supply of gas and district heating will continue to be charged at the reduced rate of 7 per cent instead of 19 per cent.

3.3 Political strategy to reduce discrimination and improve participation and inclusion

The federal government is committed to combating all forms of discrimination. In spring 2022, the independence of the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency (ADS) was underpinned by an amendment to the General Equal Treatment Act (AGG). Since July 2022, an Independent Anti-Discrimination Commissioner has headed the ADS who was elected by the Bundestag for a five-year term. The coalition agreement also ensures the independence of the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency, providing it with adequate staff and budget and strengthening its authority. According to the coalition agreement, the network of civil society counselling centres against discrimination is to be expanded and sustainably financed jointly with the federal states. To this end, the Bundestag has made financial resources available to the ADS for 2023. The General Equal Treatment Act (AGG) is to be evaluated, legal protection is to be improved, the scope of application is to be extended and gaps in protection closed.⁷⁸ In September 2022, the ADS published a legal assessment on the subject

of discrimination of and due to children and young people.⁷⁹ Furthermore, the 2021-2025 coalition agreement provides for the further development of the federal government's inter-ministerial gender equality strategy and the introduction of a gender equality check for future laws and measures. The government has also appointed the Federal Government's Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration as the Commissioner for Anti-Racism. The Commissioner seeks to help children and young people who experience racism in education and support them with such offerings as school-specific anti-discrimination counselling.

In addition, the work-related promotion of women with a migration and refugee background is to be improved through vocational language courses and targeted services that combine language teaching and the teaching of day-to-day practical skills.

Through the Federal Participation Act (BTHG), the federal government is implementing the requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the national level. The law is intended to boost participation and individual self-determination for those with disabilities. Benefits for people with disabilities are now based exclusively on the personal needs of the individual. The implementation of inclusive child and youth welfare services also contributes to improving inclusion: in a participatory process, representatives of the federal states, municipalities, associations, academia and research are to discuss and develop the foundations for legal implementation. Funding is also being provided for a project to test the implementation of the "Inclusive Solution" in municipalities as a model. Projects are likewise supported by the implementation of procedural guides: the latter are to be deployed more quickly and for an unlimited period of time.

78 Koalitionsvertrag 2021–2025, p. 121 (<https://www.bundesregierung.de/resource/blob/974430/1990812/1f422c60505b6a88f8f3b3b5b8720bd4/2021-12-10-koav2021-data.pdf?download=1>; accessed 02 March 2023)

79 Constanze Janda, Mathieu Wagner (2021): Diskriminierung von und wegen Kindern. Eine rechtliche Betrachtung des jungen Alters (https://www.antidiskriminierungsstelle.de/SharedDocs/downloads/DE/publikationen/Rechtsgutachten/diskriminierung_von_u_wegen_kindern.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=2; accessed 02 March 2023)

4 Central fields of action of the NAP

The following is a presentation of the initial situation, needs for action and prominent federal government measures in the fields of action of the EU Child Guarantee. The descriptions are based on the respective **initial situation**, in particular existing empirical findings on the individual areas, which are correlated with the Council Recommendation Establishing an EU Child Guarantee. The **needs for action** are largely based on the statements published by civil society organisations on the implementation of the EU Child Guarantee in Germany, and also on the needs that were developed and specified by stakeholders at the digital kick-off on 5 and 6 May 2022 and at the event on 19 September 2022.⁸⁰ The subsequent sections on **measures** outline prominent existing and planned measures undertaken by the federal government in the respective fields of action.

In addition, Appendix 1 features a summary of all relevant federal measures, while Appendix 2 contains a summary of measures under the responsibility of the federal states, municipalities and civil society organisations that were named by stakeholders in a survey carried out on 7 October 2022.

4.1 Early childhood education and care

4.1.1 Initial situation

The Council Recommendation Establishing an EU Child Guarantee recommends guaranteeing effective and free access to quality early childhood education and care for children at risk of poverty. The first years of life are

of key importance in child development. In Germany, however, the conditions in which children grow up still differ according to their social background. Experiencing family poverty at this early stage of life can impair a child's well-being and developmental opportunities. This can have lasting consequences throughout their life – for example with regard to health, educational attainment and social participation.

Early preventive approaches are needed to counteract the risk of poverty among children. Studies show that children in poverty can especially benefit from good early childhood education and care services. Even though preventive services to strengthen families are aimed equally at all parents, access to such services depends on the family's economic, cultural and social resources. As such, existing educational offerings still do not reach families affected by poverty and families with a migrant background as well as they do other families. Disparities in the use of such services due to social background are also reflected in the fact that children from disadvantaged families benefit to a lesser extent than children from families with higher incomes and education from the legal entitlement to early childhood support in a daycare centre from the age of one, which has been in force since 2013, since they are less likely to use the option of daycare⁸¹ despite frequently expressing the need for a daycare placement. Although this need is lower overall than for families not at risk of poverty, the take-up is far lower when there is a need: as a result, the care gap among children from families at risk of poverty in 2020 was 17 per cent – almost twice as high as for children from families not at risk of poverty (9 per cent).⁸² The COVID-19 pandemic further

80 For documentation of the key outcomes of both events, see: https://www.dji.de/fileadmin/user_upload/bibs2022/Dokumentation_Kick-Off_NAP_Neue_Chancen_2022-05.pdf and https://www.dji.de/fileadmin/user_upload/bibs2022/Dokumentation_Start_der_Beteiligung_NAP_Neue_Chancen_2022-09.pdf (accessed 21 April 2023)

81 Jonas Jessen, Sophia Schmitz, C. Katharina Spieß et al. (2018): Kita-Besuch hängt trotz ausgeweitetem Rechtsanspruch noch immer vom Familienhintergrund ab. In: DIW Wochenbericht, 2018/38, pp. 825-835. Jonas Jessen, C. Katharina Spieß, Severin Waights et al. (2020): Gründe für unterschiedliche Kita-Nutzung von Kindern unter drei Jahren sind vielfältig. In: DIW Wochenbericht, 2020/14, pp. 270-271. Britta Menzel, Antonia Scholz (2021): (Un)gleiche Zugänge zu frühkindlichen Bildungs- und Betreuungsangeboten? Ergebnisse zur Bedeutung kommunaler Steuerung aus qualitativen Fallstudien in Deutschland, Kanada und Schweden. In: Diskurs Kindheits- und Jugendforschung, 16(1), p. 57-74. Kerstin Lippert, Katrin Hüsken, Susanne Kuger (2022): Weshalb nehmen Eltern keine Betreuungsangebote in Anspruch? DJI-Kinderbetreuungsreport 2020, Studie 4 (https://www.intern.dji.de/fileadmin/user_upload/KiBS/DJI-Kinderbetreuungsreport_2020_Studie4.pdf; accessed 02 March 2023)

82 Sophia Schmitz, Katharina Spieß, Mathias Huebener (2023): Weiterhin Ungleichheiten bei der KiTa-Nutzung. In: Bevölkerungsforschung Aktuell, 2, pp. 3-8.

exacerbated the existing disadvantages of children at risk of poverty in the early childhood sector.

In its final report issued on 8 February 2023, the Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Health Effects on Children and Adolescents as a Result of COVID-19 recommends measures⁸³ to support children and adolescents in overcoming the social and health-related consequences of the pandemic.⁸⁴ This also includes measures in the field of early childhood education and care. Studies have clearly shown how needs-based and high-quality early childhood education and care services impact positively on children's health. The study *Corona-KiTa* also showed that after about two and a half years of the pandemic, many children have an increased need for support with regard to their linguistic, motor and social-emotional development.⁸⁵

4.1.2 Needs for action

In the area of early childhood education and care, stakeholders identify key needs for action whose implementation would benefit all children and particularly contribute to an improvement of the situation for children at risk of poverty.⁸⁶ They say that enabling children at risk of poverty and other disadvantaged children to access a high-quality childcare infrastructure (see chapter 2.3) is one of the most important tasks for the future. In early childhood education and care, there is currently a shortage of needs-based and high-quality childcare places (also inclusive places), especially for children under the age of three. Germany has made enormous efforts in terms of making places available in recent decades. However, there is a need for

further action relating to some aspects of access, such as affordability and equity of need.⁸⁷ For this reason, the expansion of nurseries that has been started must be continued in order to meet demand fully in the area.⁸⁸ On the other hand, there is a need for low-threshold access (including simplification of registration modalities) and needs-based services so that children affected by poverty and social exclusion who have so far had less access to childcare places than other children can benefit from the services to the same extent. In this way it is possible to counteract the inequity in access to childcare places that is caused by a child's background.⁸⁹

Better framework conditions in the system of early childhood education and care not only contribute to retaining trained specialists in the system and attracting new ones, they also help make the system more crisis-resistant and resilient in the longer term. This requires legal quality standards combined with a permanent financial commitment in accordance with the distribution of responsibilities between the federal government and the federal states. A continuation of the needs-based expansion and quality improvements in child daycare are also essential in order to absorb the increased support needs of children due to the pandemic and to mitigate the consequences of the pandemic.

Further needs for action proposed by the stakeholders concern the establishment of multi-professional teams and sound socio-spatial anchoring of family centres. Close cooperation between educational staff and specialists in related professions, such as those in the healthcare sector – as already established in early

83 The public budgets and social benefit systems are not prejudiced by the Inter-Ministerial Working Group's recommendations. Measures listed in the Inter-Ministerial Working Group's recommendations or future measures to be linked to them which result in financial burdens or additional personnel requirements for the federal budget will not prejudice either current or future budget negotiations. Measures not financed in the federal budget and financial planning period up until 2027 are therefore all subject to financing. The distribution of responsibilities between the federal government and the federal states as stipulated by the constitution must be taken into account.

84 Interministerielle Arbeitsgruppe „Gesundheitliche Auswirkungen auf Kinder und Jugendliche durch Corona“ (2023): Abschlussbericht (<https://www.bmfsfj.de/resource/blob/214866/fbb00bcf0395b4450d1037616450cfb5/ima-abschlussbericht-gesundheitliche-auswirkungen-auf-kinder-und-jugendliche-durch-corona-data.pdf>; accessed 02 March 2023)

85 Susanne Kuger, Walter Haas, Bernhard Kalicki et al. (2022): Kindertagesbetreuung und Infektionsgeschehen während der COVID-19-Pandemie. Abschlussbericht der Corona-KiTA-Studie (<https://www.wbv.de/isbn/9783763973279>; accessed 02 March 2023)

86 For a summary of the key needs for action identified by stakeholders at the events organised by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, see the event documentation (https://www.dji.de/fileadmin/user_upload/bibs2022/Dokumentation_Kick-Off_NAP_Neue_Chancen_2022-05.pdf and https://www.dji.de/fileadmin/user_upload/bibs2022/Dokumentation_Start_der_Beteiligung_NAP_Neue_Chancen_2022-09.pdf; accessed 21 April 2023)

87 Britta Menzel, Antonia Scholz (2022): Frühkindliche Bildung und soziale Ungleichheit. Die lokale Steuerung von Zugang im internationalen Vergleich. Weinheim and Basel: Beltz Juventa

88 In 2021, there was a demand surplus in all 16 federal states. Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend (2022): Kindertagesbetreuung Kompakt. Ausbaustand und Bedarf 2021, p. 19 (<https://www.bmfsfj.de/resource/blob/198582/91782a04c2b2f916dae909998bf38208/kindertagesbetreuung-kompakt-ausbaustand-und-bedarf-2021-data.pdf>; accessed 02 March 2023)

89 Henning Hermes, Philipp Lergetporer, Frauke Peter et al. (2021): Behavioral Barriers and the Socioeconomic Gap in Child Care Enrollment, CESifo Working Paper No. 9282/2021 (https://www.cesifo.org/DocDL/cesifo1_wp9282.pdf; accessed 21 April 2023)

childhood intervention – enables effective support for children, early identification of problems and the development of integrated solutions. In addition, family centres linked to child daycare centres, for example, enable parents to take advantage of low-threshold support services, counselling and referral. In the course of the expansion of the childcare infrastructure by the federal states, it is important to take account of how it is embedded within the social setting.

In the area of needs-based services, strengthening the quality of early childhood education and care is an urgent concern, especially also with regard to inclusive education. This requires the recruitment and qualification of the educational staff. In order to meet the staffing needs in daycare centres, stakeholders call for effective strategies to address the shortage of skilled specialists.

The framework conditions must be created so that children’s linguistic, mathematical and social-emotional skills can be cultivated in the best possible way. In order to systematically support and accompany the language development of children both with and without a migrant background, language education in child daycare must be integrated in the day-to-day routine. Tried-and-tested concepts such as those developed through the federal nursery language-learning programme *Sprach-Kitas: Weil Sprache der Schlüssel zur Welt ist* have been significantly advanced: the stakeholders call for these to be integrated in regular quality development in child daycare via specific regional structures. With a view to poverty and diversity, qualification programmes should particularly draw on concepts of action on the part of the educational specialists that is sensitive to poverty and diversity. In addition, they need to acquire methodological and content-related skills relating to children’s participation rights and procedures, in particular also regarding the participation of children with so-called intellectual disabilities and/or learning difficulties.

4.1.3 Measures

Early childhood education and care are the responsibility of the federal states according to the distribution of competences in the Basic Law in Germany. The federal government already supports the responsible federal states in this area with numerous measures and laws. Under the Act on Good Early Childhood Care and Education (*Gute-KiTa-Gesetz*), the federal government took account of the resulting burdens on the responsible federal states by changing the vertical distribution of turnover tax in the period from 2019 to 2022 by around 5.5 billion euros at the expense of the federal government. The 16 federal states decided for themselves which concrete measures they would take in ten possible qualitative fields of action as well as with regard to fee relief. The law also exempted families on low incomes from daycare fees nationwide, as well as introducing the requirement of a differentiation of parental fees according to a social scale. In this way, the Act makes a significant contribution to the further development of quality and participation in child daycare.

This Act was replaced on 1 January 2023 by the Childcare Quality Act (*KiTa-Qualitätsgesetz*), under which the federal states are to be provided with a further total of around four billion euros in 2023 and 2024 via a change in the vertical distribution of turnover tax at the expense of the federal government. The new Act further strengthens quality development. According to the 2021-2025 coalition agreement, the Act is to be transformed into a Quality Development Act (*Qualitätsentwicklungsgesetz*) subject to nationwide standards before the end of this legislative period. The focus here is on improving the child-to-staff ratio, language support and all-day provision in line with demand.⁹⁰

In order to strengthen child daycare, the federal government has launched five “Childcare Funding” investment programmes since 2008 amounting to a total of more than 5.4 billion euros. These funds have been used to create more than 750,000 additional places for children up until the time they start school. As part of the economic stimulus and crisis management package, a fifth investment programme “Childcare Funding 2020-2021” was launched in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. This package involves a total of one billion

90 Koalitionsvertrag 2021–2025, p. 95 (<https://www.bundesregierung.de/resource/blob/974430/1990812/1f-422c60505b6a88f8f3b3b5b8720bd4/2021-12-10-koav2021-data.pdf?download=1>; accessed 02 March 2023)

euros being made available for demand-oriented expansion, taking into account new construction, expansion and maintenance measures as well as necessary investments in equipment. The funds can currently be drawn on up until the end of June 2024. This will enable the creation of additional places and further expand existing structures.

Accompanying this, further efforts are needed to recruit and secure skilled educational staff. This is an essential basis for ensuring that child daycare can continue to be expanded in line with demand and that quality in daycare facilities, especially staffing ratios, can continue to improve: despite the welcome further increase in skilled specialists, there are already staff shortages in many places. For this reason, the 2021-2025 coalition agreement also provides for the federal government, together with the federal states and municipalities, to develop an overall strategy to meet the need for skilled specialists in the area of child daycare. The aim here will be to draw on all possible options – from education and training to working conditions and immigration – and to recruit more skilled specialists for child daycare and all-day schooling.⁹¹

The nursery register introduced in the COVID-19 daycare study has proven an effective instrument for monitoring the current situation in child daycare in times of crisis. Following on from the nursery register, nationwide and close-meshed surveys of occupancy rates, staff capacity and other general conditions at nurseries and in the area of daycare in general are to be carried out beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. The surveys are designed to be as dynamic and flexible as possible in order to be able to make short-term adjustments to the questionnaire in the event of a crisis and always be capable of swiftly providing the relevant management insights.

Furthermore, the federal government is committed to supporting the preventive effect of family education and is funding the ESF Plus parental support programme *ElternChanceN – mit Elternbegleitung Familien stärken*, for example, which focuses on low-threshold

family support through the development and establishment of 64 parental support networks nationwide. With 48 million euros in federal and EU funding, these networks strengthen the social participation and educational opportunities of children based on partnership-based cooperation with parents, also involving the educational institutions and social facilities in the region. To this end, the networks implement individually tailored services for families in special circumstances in their local areas. In this way, building blocks of successful parental cooperation and educational support in early childhood are created and established in social institutions. The aim is to do more to integrate and establish preventive parent support in collaborative forms of work in the social space. A new qualification initiative that was included in the recommendations for action contained in the final report issued by the Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Health Effects on Children and Adolescents as a result of COVID-19 is also intended to strengthen health-related parenting skills in connection with family and parental support. Meanwhile, the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth continues to ensure the qualification of educational specialists as parental guides. Since 2011, the federal parental support programmes *Elternchance I* and *II* have resulted in the qualification of more than 14,500 professionals as parental guides.⁹²

The aim is to strengthen access to early childhood infrastructure and support families and children along their educational path, especially in the case of disadvantaged children. Good education is essential in order to ensure that children and young people have better opportunities from the outset.

In addition to specific family-related support measures, other measures also focus on supporting the children themselves. For example, the services offered by the daycare centres are supplemented by targeted measures aimed at supporting children in different areas. The *Bremer Initiative zur Stärkung frühkindlicher Entwicklung* (BRIFE – “Bremen Initiative for Strengthening Early Childhood Development”), funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, supports the

91 Koalitionsvertrag 2021–2025, p. 99 (<https://www.bundesregierung.de/resource/blob/974430/1990812/1f422c60505b6a88f8f3b3b5b8720bd4/2021-12-10-koav2021-data.pdf?download=1>; accessed 02 March 2023)

92 Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend (2022): Chancen und Teilhaben für Familien. ESF-Bundesprogramm „Elternchance II – Familien früh für Bildung gewinnen“ (<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/themen/familie/chancen-und-teilhabe-fuer-familien/elternchance>; accessed 02 March 2023)

systematic early childhood support of children from socially and culturally disadvantaged families, as well as carrying out a long-term study to look at the effects. The enquiry-based learning foundation *Stiftung Kinder forschen* is committed to promoting STEM education for children, for example: through a nationwide professional development programme, educational professionals are provided with support in promoting children's spirit of discovery and creative competence. Since it is the ability to read fluently that determines a successful path through education and life more than any other basic skill, the nationwide project *Lesestart 1-2-3* promotes children's language development up to the age of three. With the support of paediatric surgeries and libraries, it establishes silent reading and reading aloud in day-to-day family life.

4.2 Educational opportunities and school-based activities

4.2.1 Initial situation

It is the stated aim of the EU Child Guarantee to provide all children and young people with access to quality education and school-based activities, regardless of their background and family situation (Article 4a). In addition to the provision of teaching materials and a digital infrastructure, this also includes making educational institutions centres of inclusion and participation. Although Germany has increased its spending on education in recent years and has made progress in terms of participation in education, children in the German education system still have varying opportunities to develop their potential.

Educational success in Germany continues to be very heavily dependent on social background, especially when compared at the European level.⁹³ In particular, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has contributed

to an increase in performance heterogeneity across all sub-sectors of the education system.⁹⁴ School closures in particular have exacerbated existing educational inequalities. This particularly impacts on children who were already more affected by educational disadvantages before the pandemic, such as children with a migrant background or children of parents who have a low level of education.⁹⁵

Since education is the basis for social participation and a self-determined life, greater attention should be paid to disadvantaged children and young people. The chance of educational success should be independent of the resources available to the parental home: this is the only way to break the link between poverty and low educational opportunities. Permeability between the different types of schools should be increased so that switching to a school that leads to a higher educational qualification becomes the norm where a child demonstrates the appropriate level of academic performance.

In its final report issued on 8 February 2023, the Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Health Effects on Children and Adolescents as a Result of COVID-19 recommends measures to support children and adolescents in overcoming the social and health-related consequences of the pandemic.⁹⁶ This also includes measures in the area of schools and all-day supervision for primary school children.

4.2.2 Needs for action

Key areas of action identified by stakeholders to ensure the participation of all children and young people in education in Germany are the expansion of all-day primary education, the development of a digital education infrastructure and effective strategies to improve the take-up of education and participation services. Factors for successful school and teaching development are to be applied in practice. Work must be done to improve individual educational opportuni-

93 Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend (2021): Neunter Familienbericht. Eltern sein in Deutschland – Ansprüche, Anforderungen und Angebote bei wachsender Vielfalt, p. 340 (<https://www.bmfsfj.de/resource/blob/179392/195baf88f8c3ac7134347d2e19f1cdc0/neunter-familienbericht-bundestagsdrucksache-data.pdf>; accessed 02 March 2023)

94 Autor:innengruppe Bildungsberichterstattung (2022): Bildung in Deutschland 2022. Ein indikatorengestützter Bericht mit einer Analyse zum Bildungspersonal, p. 153–157 (<https://www.bildungsbericht.de/de/bildungsberichte-seit-2006/bildungsbericht-2022/pdf-dateien-2022/bildungsbericht-2022.pdf>; accessed 2 March 2023)

95 Cornelia Schu (2021): Ungleiche Bildungschancen. Fakten zur Benachteiligung von jungen Menschen mit Migrationshintergrund im deutschen Bildungssystem, p. 2 (<https://www.svr-migration.de/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/SVR-Fakten-zu-ungleichen-Bildungschancen.pdf>; accessed 02 March 2023)

96 Interministerielle Arbeitsgruppe „Gesundheitliche Auswirkungen auf Kinder und Jugendliche durch Corona“ (2023): Abschlussbericht (<https://www.bmfsfj.de/resource/blob/214866/fbb00bcf0395b4450d1037616450cfb5/ima-abschlussbericht-gesundheitliche-auswirkungen-auf-kinder-und-jugendliche-durch-corona-data.pdf>; accessed 02 March 2023)

ties and cultural participation: from the point of view of professional practice and civil society, the expansion of school social work and the increased deployment of multi-professional teams at schools are important needs for action here.

In order to effectively reduce barriers to education, the networking and cooperation of education policy actors must be strengthened within the constitutional competences across federal, ministerial and professional boundaries in order to do justice to the multiple overlaps with the areas of early childhood education and care, health, housing and nutrition. Under certain circumstances and taking into account local conditions, this also includes doing more to open schools to the local social space so as to establish even stronger links between schools and the world in which children live, and to make the resources of multi-professional local support more available to disadvantaged children and young people. In the long run, the aim should be to strive for full-coverage, nationwide anchoring of school social work and the deployment of multi-professional teams at all schools. The deployment of multi-professional teams would ensure that children's specific needs can be better taken into account, thereby constituting an important step towards developing schools into inclusive places of education as set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. One way of strengthening school social work and promoting the stronger socio-spatial networking of schools would be to develop primary schools into family centres, for example. The municipal family-school programme *Initiative Familiengrundschulzentren NRW* has been successfully pursuing this in North-Rhine Westphalia since 2014. The participating municipalities exchange knowledge and experience, supporting each other in establishing family primary school centres.⁹⁷

The school lends itself as a central point of reference here, in accordance with the guiding principle of the Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Health Effects on Children and Adolescents as a Result of COVID-19 that programmes to strengthen the health of children and adolescents should be accessible to all and therefore be linked to regular structures. In addition to strengthening the resilience and mental health of school pupils, other points of departure include sports and exercise in and around schools. The needs of local activities must

be taken into account and realised in coordination with external providers in such a way that club life is maintained and families can use the freedoms they require independently, too.

Another target group that could potentially benefit from the expansion of school social work is potential school drop-outs. Since a lack of support from the parental home is a potential reason for children dropping out of school, the promotion and further development of an educational partnership with parents should be promoted as a central concern of all actors involved. This could ensure better support for parents in guiding their children through the education system. More opportunities are required here for family participation, as well as outreach and low-threshold access to educational (counselling) services. In terms of the teachers and specialists involved, qualifications focus on sensitivity to cultural background and poverty should be more closely integrated in initial and further training.

Since the identified needs for action can only be implemented with sufficient human resources, swift and well-targeted solutions are required within the framework of the relevant constitutional responsibilities in order to counteract the existing shortage of teachers and specialists. Stakeholders call for decisive political action in this area in particular in order to secure the effective operation of schools in the future. This could include advocacy for better pay, adequate funding for the child and youth welfare system, improved working conditions in schools and institutions, and a sufficient number of free and high-quality training and university places for teachers and professionals. With regard to the latter point, consideration should also be given to the qualification of sufficient specialists and university staff.

4.2.3 Measures

The implementation of measures in the field of education lies with the federal states, in line with their constitutional competence. Many of the federal government's supporting measures described below are also based on these fields of action. With the legal entitlement to all-day care (Act on Providing All-day Care and Education for Primary School Children (*Ganztagsförderungsgesetz – GaFöG*)) adopted in 2021, which is to be introduced gradually from August 2026, all primary

97 Initiative Familiengrundschulzentren NRW (<https://www.familiengrundschulzentren-nrw.de/>; accessed 02 March 2023)

school children in grades one to four will be guaranteed an offer of all-day support from August 2029 onwards. The federal government will support the federal states in the necessary expansion of investment in childcare facilities, with financial aid totalling 3.5 billion euros. What is more, the federal states will be relieved of the additional running costs which this expansion will involve. Starting in 2026, the federal states' share of turnover tax revenue will increase at the expense of the federal government. The relief amount will be 135 million euros in 2026, 460 million euros in 2027, 758 million euros in 2028, 1.1 billion euros in 2029 and 1.3 billion euros annually from 2030 onwards. This measure will involve the creation of a further 600,000 all-day places in the course of the next few years⁹⁸, and major efforts must be made to meet the additional demand of more than 17,000 teachers at mainstream schools and 65,600 specialists in all-day education.⁹⁹ With the ESF Plus all-day activity programme *Gemeinsam für Qualität: Kinder beteiligen im Ganzttag*, the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth provides impulses for the necessary further development of all-day activities at primary school age. The central endeavour of the programme is to establish participatory structures in all-day primary schools, offered jointly by the school and by the youth welfare authorities.

Through the *DigitalPakt Schule* ("Digital Pact for Schools"), the federal government supports the federal states and municipalities in investing in digital education infrastructure. The aim of this Digital Pact is the nationwide development of a modern digital education infrastructure under the primacy of pedagogy.

The *Zukunftspaket für Bewegung, Kultur und Gesundheit* ("Future Package for Physical Activity, Culture and Health") will be implemented in 2023: this aims to improve the situation of children and young people in the current times of crisis by means of physical activity, cultural offerings and measures geared towards promoting physical and mental health. Under this package, young people are invited to draw on their own ideas and motivation to shape and change their environment. One particular focus is on reaching children and young

people in risk situations. Federal investment programmes aimed at expanding all-day schooling focus on the topics of sport and exercise, but also healthy nutrition. From the special fund *Ausbau ganztägiger Bildungs- und Betreuungsangebote für Kinder im Grundschulalter* ("Expansion of all-day education and care services for children of primary school age"), financial assistance is granted to the federal states under the following investment programmes: 750 million euros in financial aid was granted to the federal states through the accelerated infrastructure expansion investment programme from the end of 2020 to the end of 2022. The investment programme supported investment in sports and play equipment, the creation of exercise rooms and the redesign of outdoor areas to promote exercise, for example. The remaining financial assistance of 2.75 billion euros plus the unused funds from the first investment programme are to be granted to the federal states through the programme *Investitionsprogramm Ganztagsausbau* (VV II – "All-day expansion investment programme") up until the end of 2027. This new programme also enables investments in promoting children's health in connection with all-day schooling. In addition to the possibilities already mentioned, it also includes equipping school kitchens.

The planned *Startchancen-Programm* ("Starting opportunities programme") seeks to make a significant contribution to improving individual educational opportunities and strengthening equal opportunities. The programme aims to provide targeted support where the challenges are greatest – at schools with a high share of socially disadvantaged pupils. The federal government is already creating additional extracurricular educational opportunities for disadvantaged children and young people through the nationwide programme *Kultur macht stark – Bündnisse für Bildung* ("Culture provides strength – alliances for education"), which has already reached over one million children and young people since 2013. Enabling cultural participation and education regardless of age, social situation or ethnic origin is one of the most important cultural policy concerns of the federal government. For this reason, the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media is committed to ensuring that federally

98 Autor:innengruppe Bildungsberichterstattung (2022): *Bildung in Deutschland 2022*. Ein indikatorengestützter Bericht mit einer Analyse zum Bildungspersonal, p. 138 (<https://www.bildungsbericht.de/de/bildungsberichte-seit-2006/bildungsbericht-2022/pdf-dateien-2022/bildungsbericht-2022.pdf>; accessed 02 March 2023)

99 Ibid., p. 15f.

funded cultural institutions do even more to provide cultural participation opportunities than before and strengthen diversity in the institutions. This applies to the composition of committees and staff as well as to programming, how target groups are addressed and ensuring the accessibility of services.

In order to improve the educational and advancement opportunities of disadvantaged children and young people, the federal government has also launched a research priority area with a total funding volume of up to 15 million euros through its funding directive *Abbau von Bildungsbarrieren* (“Breaking down educational barriers”) and supports the research network *Schule macht stark – SchuMaS* in conducting research in schools in socially challenging situations with the aim of identifying factors that contribute to the successful development of schools and teaching development, and then transferring these to practice.

Various studies indicate that children and young people with a migrant background experience discrimination in education.¹⁰⁰ These students, as well as parents and teachers, need help and independent points of contact outside school which they can consult when incidents of discrimination occur in schools. The Federal Government’s Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration, who is also the Commissioner for Anti-Racism, plans to promote innovative approaches in the field of education critical of racism and discrimination. Among other things, she is promoting the nationwide strengthening of school-specific anti-discrimination counselling through a model project, developing aids to tackle discriminatory practices in schools, and providing support for those affected. The project is implemented by the non-profit organisation *LIFE Bildung Umwelt Chancengleichheit e.V.*

The nationwide early reading project for refugee children *Lesestart: Weil uns Lesen weiterbringt. Ein Projekt für Kinder mit Fluchterfahrung* is aimed at children in initial reception and municipal accommodation. It gives them initial hands-on, age-appropriate contact with the German language through books and games.

The training guarantee provided for in the 2021-2025 coalition agreement is intended to give all young people access to comprehensive vocational training that preferably takes place on an in-company basis.

The projects run under the ESF Plus programme *JUGEND STÄRKEN: Brücken in die Eigenständigkeit* (JUST Best) provide young people aged 14 to 26 with support in finding their path to an independent lifestyle. The transition to the training and labour market can also be supported in connection with the case management offered (see chapter 4.5.3), with the aim of social integration.

The ESF Plus programme *EhAP Plus – Integration helps counter the exclusion of the most deprived* aims to improve the living situation and social inclusion of particularly disadvantaged newly immigrated EU citizens and their children under the age of 18, as well as homeless people or those at risk of homelessness and their children under the age of 18. This aim is to be achieved by reaching out to, counselling and supporting these persons in accessing existing local or regional support services. In particular, children are to be introduced to early childhood education offerings, recreational offerings and locally available offerings for individual support and provided with assistance in the integration process.

4.3 Healthcare

4.3.1 Initial situation

Children and adolescents in Germany generally enjoy good health.¹⁰¹ Under the statutory health insurance, children and adolescents are usually co-insured free of charge and are entitled to comprehensive benefits based on the current state of medical knowledge. Nonetheless, not everyone enjoys the same chances of a healthy upbringing. Social background has a significant impact on the chances people have of enjoying healthy development.¹⁰² Statistically speaking, poor family socio-economic status correlates with poorer health and

100 Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Migration, Flüchtlinge und Integration; Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Antirassismus (2023): Lagebericht. Rassismus in Deutschland (<https://www.integrationsbeauftragte.de/resource/blob/1864320/2157012/77c8d1dddeea760bc13dbd87ee9a415f/lagebericht-rassismus-komplett-data.pdf?download=1>; accessed 14.03.2023)

101 Christina Poethko-Müller, Benjamin Kuntz, Thomas Lampert et al. (2018): Die allgemeine Gesundheit von Kindern und Jugendlichen in Deutschland (<https://edoc.rki.de/handle/176904/3030>; accessed 02 March 2023)

102 Benjamin Kuntz, Petra Rattay, Christina Poethko-Müller et al. (2018): Soziale Unterschiede im Gesundheitszustand von Kindern und Jugendlichen in Deutschland. In: *Journal of Health Monitoring*, 3(3), p. 19-36

unhealthy behaviours. In general, families in stressful life situations are less likely to be reached by universal health promotion services. Nonetheless, the health examinations for children (“U” examinations) enjoy a high level of acceptance: these are an important instrument for the early detection of disease and stress as well as for primary prevention counselling of parents. They are well taken up with an overall participation rate of over 95 per cent.¹⁰³ Although families with a low socioeconomic status participate somewhat less frequently compared to the middle and higher status groups, this difference has narrowed in recent years.

The Council Recommendation Establishing an EU Child Guarantee proposes that Member States should guarantee effective and free access to quality healthcare for children in need (Article 4a). The chances of enjoying a healthy upbringing are also to be sustainably improved for children in need, in close cooperation with relevant actors in the healthcare sector and with the participation of children and adolescents themselves. The Council Recommendation explicitly addresses children and young people with disabilities, mental health problems and a migrant background as well as children and young people from precarious family backgrounds.

In its final report of 8 February 2023, the Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Health Effects on Children and Adolescents as a Result of COVID-19 recommends measures to support children and adolescents in overcoming the health and social consequences of the pandemic and to strengthen their health. For this reason, the Working Group’s recommendations for the healthcare sector include the following:

- promote the use of youth health examinations – as part of the important and very well accepted health examinations for children and adolescents (so-called “U” examinations). In this way, existing support or treatment needs can also be recognised as early as possible in the case of young people and, if necessary, additional appropriate help can be arranged.
- expand low-threshold counselling and placement services in particularly disadvantaged regions. This will enable particularly stressed children, young

people and their families to be reached and supported even more effectively.

- ensure that young people subject to more severe mental stress and mental illness are quickly referred to medical care services. For this purpose, the Working Group recommends that the newly introduced benefit of group psychotherapeutic primary care should be increasingly used in practice. The existing special needs licences and authorisations for psychotherapists should also be utilised to a greater extent in future than is currently the case.

4.3.2 Needs for action

In the healthcare sector, the stakeholders say that a solid database on the health status of children and adolescents in Germany – as has already been established through the KiGGS study and is to be further developed in the future – is a basic requirement for improving health equity.

One key stakeholder demand is that the needs of particularly vulnerable groups of children and adolescents should be given greater consideration in the healthcare sector. Right from the start, easier access to needs-based basic care should be enabled for socio-economically disadvantaged children, children with disabilities, children and young people with a migration or refugee background, chronically or mentally ill children, children with disabled or mentally ill parents, young LGBTIQ* people and children who have experienced violence. Here, the establishment of guidance services, integrated services and benefits, counselling facilities and reminder systems for paediatric examinations can make an important contribution.

However, nurseries and schools can also help by teaching health literacy and by offering more health-related services (such as promoting physical activity and offering balanced meals). This requires efforts to this end at the federal state level in the qualification of professionals and incorporation in the curricula of nurseries and in teacher training programmes. Prevention and health promotion are not to be regarded as an additional task but as being an integral part of nursery and school development. Stakeholders say that key

103 Claudia Schmidtke, Benjamin Kuntz, Anne Starker et al. (2018): Inanspruchnahme der Früherkennungsuntersuchungen für Kinder in Deutschland – Querschnittsergebnisse aus KiGGS Welle 2. In: Journal of Health Monitoring, 3(4), p. 68-77

requirements here are the involvement of parents and cooperation with other relevant actors in the social space (such as sports clubs, health services, youth centres). Furthermore, greater involvement of social work is needed, especially in the school sector. This can facilitate low-threshold referral to out-of-school services where the take-up is currently socially selective. Stakeholders also call for the increased use of school health specialists. The relevant basis for their use is to be established by the federal states. School health specialists relieve the burden on children, parents and school staff and can act as a guide to out-of-school services and benefits, thereby improving access to health, education and participation for children in need.

4.3.3 Measures

In the field of healthcare, a large number of measures have already been initiated and implemented in order to provide the best possible support for children and young people. Examples of this include the programme launched by the Federal Ministry of Health *Runder Tisch Bewegung und Gesundheit* (“Round Table on Physical Activity and Health”) set up by the Federal Ministry of Health, the *Pakt für den Öffentlichen Gesundheitsdienst* (ÖGD – “Pact for the Public Health Service”), the target-group-specific addiction prevention services provided by the Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA), and the KIDA study carried out by the Robert Koch Institute (RKI), which provides current data on the physical and mental health of children and adolescents, their health behaviour and existing support needs. With these and a multitude of other measures, also involving numerous other actors and at the level of the federal states and municipalities, a lot is already being done to ensure the support and care of children and young people.

The needs of vulnerable groups are already taken into account by means of numerous regulations and measures. With the preventive services provided by *Frühe Hilfen* (early childhood intervention), Germany is well positioned in terms of parental healthcare from pregnancy onwards, as well as healthcare for families with children up to the age of three – and in fact it is a pioneering force in these areas. The aim of early childhood intervention is to give all children and adolescents a good start in life and equal opportunities for healthy development. The focus is on psychosocial support for

parents in stressful situations. Specialists in the health-care system and in the area of child and youth welfare in particular collaborate across professions and sectors and are coordinated in local networks. The federal early childhood intervention foundation *Bundesstiftung Frühe Hilfen* currently provides 51 million euros per year. In the 2021-2025 coalition agreement, provision is made for dynamising the Foundation’s funding.¹⁰⁴ It will receive an additional five million euros for 2023.

Health check-ups for children and adolescents (U1 to U9 and J1) are another important component of healthcare in Germany. They are defined as benefits under statutory health insurance (§ 26 SGB V). As part of the health check-ups for children, early check-ups for dental, oral and maxillofacial diseases are also offered from the age of six months. Health problems and abnormalities can be detected and treated at an early stage based on regular medical examinations of children and adolescents, including counselling on existing health risks in accordance with § 26 of the Fifth Book of the Social Code (SGB V), as well as screening examinations in nurseries and schools, school admission examinations and examinations and prophylactic measures provided by the dental services.

The model neighbourhood sports programme *Sport digital – Mehr Bewegung im Quartier* seeks to promote lively neighbourhoods and social cohesion in an exemplary manner in the approximately 1,000 development areas targeted by the urban social development and cohesion programme *Soziale Stadt/Sozialer Zusammenhalt*. The activities are especially aimed at socially disadvantaged children and young people who often do not take advantage of sports provision for various reasons. Among other things, a digital, multilingual platform is to facilitate access to sports activities in the neighbourhood. Up until the end of 2024, the model programme will be financed with funds from the Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building in the amount of 2.77 million euros. The *Zukunftspaket für Bewegung, Kultur und Gesundheit* (“Future Package for Physical Activity, Culture and Health”) will also place a special focus on children and young people in risk situations. Implementation of the promotion of physical activity for children and young people in nurseries, schools and sports clubs is the

104 Koalitionsvertrag 2021–2025, p. 99 (<https://www.bundesregierung.de/resource/blob/974430/1990812/1f422c60505b6a88f8f3b3b5b8720bd4/2021-12-10-koav2021-data.pdf?download=1>; accessed 02 March 2023)

subject of the research study *Untersuchung zur Bewegungsförderung in Kitas, Schulen und Sportvereinen – unter Berücksichtigung der Pandemiebedingungen* (BeweKi – “Study on the promotion of physical activity in nurseries, schools and sports clubs – taking into account pandemic conditions”), being carried out by the RKI in cooperation with the German Youth Institute (DJI).

The funding of interdisciplinary research networks on aspects of the mental health of refugees also benefits children and young people. For example, the development of culturally sensitive concepts for the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mental illness is to result in an improvement in the care situation. The portal www.migration-gesundheit.bund.de provides numerous multilingual brochures and information material about the healthcare system in Germany in general as well as various health topics, including mental health and children’s health.

In order to improve the situation of children and adolescents in families in which at least one parent is mentally ill, the Bundestag unanimously called on the federal government on 22 June 2017 to set up a temporary interdisciplinary working group with the participation of the competent federal ministries, relevant professional associations and organisations as well as other experts in order to develop proposals by mutual agreement.¹⁰⁵ In its final report, the recommendations issued by working group “Children of Mentally Ill and Addicted Parents” includes the creation of a framework for action for an overall municipal concept to improve the care of these children and adolescents (Recommendation 18 in the report). The overall concept serves to develop, implement, evaluate and stabilise multi-professional, quality-assured and cross-jurisdictional support systems. The findings and experience gained from the evaluation of early childhood intervention under the statutory health insurance funding programme are to be taken into account.

The project *Pausentaste* (“Pause button”) run by of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, which has been in existence since 2018, aims to offer children and young people who are caring for a family member a nationwide low-threshold counselling service that helps reduce overload and

counteract isolation. The project also expanded its focus in the last funding period (2021 to 2022) to include young people in education (students, trainees) and parents. In 2023, the project was extended by two years, with the focus of this funding period to be on improving mental health and the needs of young carers with refugee and migration biographies. The project includes a website and also telephone and online counselling (e-mail counselling and chat by appointment) in connection with the children’s and young person’s help hotline *Nummer gegen Kummer*. In addition to children and young people who are caregivers, *Pausentaste* is also aimed at multipliers such as teachers, out-patient care services, social services at schools, universities, clinics and youth organisations. A separate section on the website has been set up for specialists. Furthermore, the project aims to raise public awareness of the issue. Accompanying this project, the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth launched a network in July 2017 to support children and young people with care responsibilities, which currently has 130 members.

The programme *Kinder stark machen* run by the Federal Centre for Health Education is a participatory initiative for early addiction prevention that focuses on promoting life skills and strengthening the personality of children aged 4 to 12. The goals are to strengthen children’s self-confidence and self-esteem and promote their conflict and communication skills.

In order to improve the care of children and adolescents with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) and their families, the Federal Ministry of Health together with the Bavarian State Ministry of Health and Care has funded the project FASD Smiley Digital since 2021. The aim of this project is to improve the care of affected children, adolescents and their families through the establishment and further development of digital structures and tools as well as to optimise coordination in the field of FASD in Germany.

The aim of the public health service initiative *Pakt für den ÖGD* is to boost the increase in personnel in the public health services at all levels (local health offices and authorities, the federal state agencies concerned and the superior federal state authorities as well as the federal administration) and to advance digitalisation.

105 Bundestagsdrucksache 18/12780 (<https://dserver.bundestag.de/btd/18/127/1812780.pdf>; accessed 02 March 2023)

A total of 4 billion euros has been earmarked for this in the period 2021 to 2026. Among other things, these funds are intended to enable the federal states to press ahead with digitalisation and increase staff in all areas of public health services. This also includes the counselling and health services provided by the child and adolescent health agencies and seeks to improve health equality among children.

The cooperation network *Gesundheitliche Chancengleichheit* (“Equal Opportunities in Health”) is also dedicated to the goal of health equity. Initiated by the Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA), the network currently comprises 74 nationwide or regional organisations. It primarily promotes quality development in social situation-related health promotion and inter-ministerial cooperation. At federal state level, the Coordination Offices for Health Equity (KGC) act as a central intermediary structure for municipal actors dealing with the criteria of good practice in social situation-related health promotion in connection with “learning workshops”, for example.

4.4 Healthy nutrition and one healthy meal per school day

4.4.1 Initial situation

In connection with the EU Child Guarantee, the Council of the European Union recommends that Member States provide children and adolescents in need with effective access to healthy nutrition and also effective and free access to at least one healthy meal each school day (Article 4a-b). In particular, children and adolescents at risk of poverty and those from educationally disadvantaged households are more likely to consume foods that are unfavourable to a balanced diet. In view of the current increases in food prices, which hit low-income families particularly hard since they spend a higher share of their income on food, it can be assumed that social inequality in dietary behaviour will worsen.

A study by the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW) based on analyses carried out by the Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) provides the first representative data on the users of food banks in Germany. In the first half of 2020, around 1.1 million people visited food banks, in other words about 1.3 per cent of the population. A quarter of them were children. Severely disabled people and single parents use food banks particularly often. With a take-up rate of four per cent, almost one in twenty single parents make use of the services offered by food banks. Furthermore, it can be seen that visitors to the food bank have an above-average number of health problems. Two thirds of food bank users are at risk of poverty. Food banks have been even more in demand since the start of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and in the wake of the rise in consumer prices.¹⁰⁶

This makes it all the more important for children and young people in childcare facilities and schools to get a balanced midday meal. According to official child and youth welfare statistics, 89 per cent of nurseries in Germany offered a midday meal in 2020. Lunch participation rates depend on the age of the child. According to the official 2020 child and youth welfare statistics, a large proportion of children under the age of three (84 per cent) ate lunch in nurseries and daycare than children over the age of three (74 per cent). The regional disparities are particularly striking. While in the eastern German states 99 per cent of both age groups receive a midday meal, in the western German states the figure is 79 per cent for under-threes and only 68 per cent for over-threes.¹⁰⁷ In schools across Germany, 87 per cent of pupils have the opportunity to eat a hot lunch, although only 43 per cent of children and young people take advantage of this offer. Frequently cited reasons for not using catering services at school are that the children have lunch or dinner at home, that classes only take place in the morning, and that the children do not like school lunches.¹⁰⁸

106 Markus M. Grabka, Jürgen Schupp (2022): Etwa 1,1 Millionen Menschen in Deutschland besuchen Tafeln – vor allem Alleinerziehende und Getrenntlebende überdurchschnittlich häufig. In: DIW Wochenbericht, 2022/39, p. 499-505

107 Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend (2021): Gute KiTa-Bericht 2021, p. 134f. (<https://www.bmfsfj.de/resource/blob/190854/22bb3ba-945871deccab3ede6803fd420/gute-kita-bericht-2021-data.pdf>; accessed 02 March 2023)

108 Robert Koch-Institut (2020): Verpflegung in Schulen (https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/Gesundheitsmonitoring/Studien/Adipositas_Monitoring/Verhaeltnisse/PDF_Themenblatt_Schule_Verpflegung.pdf?__blob=publicationFile; accessed 02 March 2023)

The second nationwide nutrition study conducted by the Robert Koch Institute *Ernährungsstudie als KiGGS-Modul EsKiMo II* (2015-2017) provides indications of social inequality in the nutritional behaviour of children and adolescents aged six to 17. For example, children and adolescents with a low socioeconomic status (SES) consumed more soft drinks on average than children and adolescents with a high SES. In addition, boys with a low SES consumed less fruit than boys with a medium or high SES, while 12 to 17-year-olds with a migrant background consumed a higher proportion of energy from fast food than 12 to 17-year-olds without a migrant background.¹⁰⁹

4.4.2 Needs for action

Nutrition has an impact on health development at every stage of life. It is particularly important to have a healthy start in life, the so-called first 1,000 days: this period starts before conception and last until the child's second birthday. Access structures other than education and care institutions are needed in order to address this. For this reason, stakeholders call for an assessment of how women who wish to have children and pregnant women can be reached and supported even more effectively under existing constitutional competences. In addition, stakeholders call for the subject of nutrition to be further strengthened in preventive medical check-ups, in outreach programmes and in nutritional education. Educators should be trained to talk constructively with parents about the subject of healthy and sustainable nutrition (mediation skills). In order to reach vulnerable groups and families more effectively nutrition education should be addressed in accordance with the distribution of responsibilities, e.g. in early childhood intervention, at family centres, in neighbourhood management and through other services and infrastructures offered to children, young people and families within the local community. One example of this is the cooperation between the National Centre on Early Prevention (NZFH) and the early childhood health network *Healthy Start Network (Gesund ins Leben)* (see chapter 4.4.3).

Furthermore, stakeholders call for improved access to be provided to balanced, healthy and sustainable meals in educational and care facilities for children and young people. Organic food should also be made more accessible to all children. In order to ensure balanced and sustainable catering, the DGE Quality Standard for Meals in Daycare Centers/Schools for catering in nurseries and schools should be implemented across the board.

Opportunities should also be provided for children to participate in the catering in these facilities in order to support the expansion of catering services in educational and care facilities for children and young people.

Processed foods are part of the day-to-day diet of most children and adolescents, as well as adults. Many of these convenience products, including those explicitly aimed at children, contain high levels of sugar, fat or salt. Reducing sugar, fats and salt in processed foods can make an important contribution to promoting a balanced diet. According to stakeholders, measures should be introduced to protect children from advertising for foods that are high in sugar, fat and salt. In addition, it is important to counteract the declining trend in iodine intake in Germany, which is evident in the data generated by the KiGGS study.

The stakeholders state that there is a need for research and action with regard to the extent to which households with children at risk of poverty in Germany experience impairments in the area of nutrition. Individually tailored nutrition-related support services can be created based on a sound understanding of the nutritional and health situation of households at risk of poverty.

In its recent statement on food poverty under pandemic conditions, the Scientific Advisory Board on Agricultural Policy, Food and Consumer Health Protection (WBAE) at the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture drew particular attention to the significance and

109 Robert Koch-Institut (2021): Forschungsbericht. EsKiMo II – Die Ernährungsstudie als KiGGS-Modul (<https://edoc.rki.de/handle/176904/6887.2>; accessed 14 March 2023)

consequences of the closure of food banks, nurseries and schools as a result of the pandemic. In its recommendations, the WBAE addresses not only the federal government but also the federal states and municipalities, pointing out the importance of inter-ministerial cooperation on this issue.¹¹⁰

Stakeholders call for the NAP measures to be linked to other initiatives in order for them to be implemented effectively. Important points of reference are the Prevention Act (PrävG), the national health targets, the National Strategy for the Promotion of Breastfeeding and the federal government's Food and Nutrition Strategy.

4.4.3 Measures

In the area of healthy nutrition, the federal government is already implementing numerous measures within the scope of its competence. Catering in nurseries and schools is a key concern in particular. For example, on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the German Nutrition Society (DGE) has developed DGE Quality Standards for Meals in Daycare Centers and Schools, which support those responsible in offering balanced catering. These DGE quality standards are currently being updated and are to be established as a mandatory standard in communal catering by 2030. All children and young people in care and educational institutions will benefit from this. Furthermore, as long ago as 2008, the federal government and the federal states jointly established networking agencies called *Vernetzungsstellen Kita- und Schulverpflegung*: these act as central points of contact for all facilities that have questions about catering services in nurseries and schools. In 13 federal states, they also advise those responsible in nurseries. The Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture established the National Quality Centre for Nutrition in Daycare Centres and Schools (NQZ) in 2016: it is a point of contact which is entrusted with the coordination and further development of measures and initiatives relating to balanced catering in nurseries and schools. It is available as a contact for the networking agencies involved in nursery and school catering. The aim of the NQZ is to ensure that children and young people at all nurseries and schools in Germany enjoy healthy food.

The lack of (free) school meals due to school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic placed an additional burden on families in precarious circumstances. As a result, Social Protection Package II made it possible for the municipalities to continue to provide communal lunches flexibly for the duration of the pandemic via the Education and Participation Package (BuT), for example by home delivery or collection. As such, permanent access to free meals for school children was guaranteed even in times of crisis.

The *IN FORM* project *Gut Essen macht stark – Mehr gesundheitliche Chancengleichheit im Quartier* ("Good food makes you strong – more health equity in the neighbourhood") works to ensure that children are accustomed to a balanced diet at an early age and continue to pursue this. At 300 nurseries and at 175 schools and extracurricular educational institutions nationwide, exemplary counselling and educational measures are being promoted that seek to contribute to the promotion of health in children and adolescents. The Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building and the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture are funding the project from 2019 to 2024 with 1.2 million euros as part of the inter-ministerial neighbourhood-oriented social cohesion strategy *Soziale Stadt – Nachbarschaften stärken, Miteinander im Quartier*. The activities of the NQZ are supported with the aim of improving the quality of catering and nutrition education in nurseries and child daycare.

Furthermore, under the *IN FORM* action plan, the *Klimafood* project is being supported by the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture with 1.65 million euros over three years (1 November 2020 to 31 December 2023). The aim here is to establish lifestyle-oriented, climate-friendly and health-promoting nutrition education, especially among vulnerable and educationally disadvantaged population groups. To this end, innovative solutions are being developed on how to reach vulnerable population groups and motivate them to take responsibility for their own actions. Through low-threshold formal and informal learning opportunities, a structure is to be created that interlinks existing support systems, services and extracurricular education systems, thereby paving the way for the expansion of

110 Wissenschaftlicher Beirat für Agrarpolitik, Ernährung und gesundheitlichen Verbraucherschutz beim Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft (2023): Ernährungsarmut unter Pandemiebedingungen. Stellungnahme (https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/_Ministerium/Beiraete/agrarpolitik/ernaehrungsarmut-pandemie.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=3; accessed 03 April 2023)

climate-friendly nutritional competence among vulnerable people through learning opportunities which are oriented towards their living environment.

Another focus in the area of child nutrition is on the first stage of children's lives. The network *Healthy Start Network (Gesund ins Leben)* is an association of some 600 institutions, associations and professional societies that support young families in achieving a healthy lifestyle. All actors in the network collaborate to provide families with the information they need and common, everyday knowledge. These mainly include gynaecologists, midwives and paediatricians, but also all other professional groups who have regular contact with young parents in the course of their work. A National Strategy of the Promotion of Breastfeeding aims to improve the acceptance of breastfeeding in Germany and increase breastfeeding motivation. Each woman is to be supported according to her individual needs. The focus is particularly on those women who breastfeed less frequently or for a shorter period of time. Improved framework conditions are to enable breastfeeding regardless of the individual's life situation. In addition to increasing public acceptance, the aim is to increase the initiation rate and duration of breastfeeding. The project *Stillen – Eating for future* ("Breastfeeding – Eating for the future") aims to teach children in grades four to six at school that breast milk is the optimum nutrition for babies. The aim is to promote acceptance, understanding and a positive attitude towards breastfeeding. The Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture is funding the project with a total of around 700,000 euros over a period of three years (1 October 2021 to 30 September 2024).

Providing support in healthy nutrition for young families in stressful life situations is the goal of a collaborative venture being undertaken by the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. This project supports young families in stressful life situations in adopting a healthy lifestyle. By developing new target-group-specific e-learning modules and disseminating these via the learning platform of the National Centre on Early Prevention (NZFH), early childhood intervention professionals can

qualify to teach affected families key skills relating to day-to-day nutrition.

In 2023, the federal government is developing a nutrition strategy that includes nutrition policy goals, fields of action and measures. The nutrition strategy takes existing strategies and action plans (for example the strategy to reduce food waste, the national reduction and innovation the strategy for sugar, fats and salt in ready-to-eat products, the National Action Plan *IN FORM*, the National Strategy of the Promotion of Breastfeeding) and develops these further. The aim is to enable everyone in Germany to eat healthily and sustainably. This is to be achieved, for example, through the creation and promotion of appropriately favourable nutritional environments and patterns. The target groups are mainly those who have specific support needs (such as children and young people) and people affected by poverty.

In order to do more to push the process forward, scientifically sound reduction targets for sugar, fats and salt are formulated that are tailored to those affected.¹¹¹ Furthermore, the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture is planning various measures to improve iodine intake: consumers and the food industry are to be made aware of the use of iodised table salt. In addition, there are plans to adjust the legal requirements for the voluntary addition of iodine to table salt and raise the iodisation level of table salt. In addition, community catering is to make greater use of organic and plant-based food as well as seasonal and regional products.

The extended nutrition labelling system "Nutri-Score" makes it easier for consumers to compare foods in terms of nutritional value. The Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture is currently involved in the scientific further development of the easily understandable Eu-wide system *Nutri-Score* and is campaigning for its introduction at EU level.

As part of a decision-making support project, the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture is sponsoring the *MEGA_kids* scheme (multidisciplinary survey of the nutritional and health situation of persons in households with children at risk of poverty). To this end, the

111 Koalitionsvertrag 2021–2025, p. 45f. (<https://www.bundesregierung.de/resource/blob/974430/1990812/1f422c60505b6a88f8f3b3b5b8720bd4/2021-12-10-koav2021-data.pdf?download=1>; accessed 02 March 2023)

University of Hohenheim, in cooperation with Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, is conducting surveys in four sub-studies from July 2021 to December 2023 on aspects such as dietary behaviour, diet-related attitudes, nutritional competence, health and demographic backgrounds.

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture are also participating in the Joint Programming Initiative JPI HDHL (“A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life”). Here, EU Member States and associated countries are working together to address current challenges in the field of nutrition, physical activity and health through transnational cooperation. In this context, transnational research projects relating to children and adolescents are also repeatedly funded, most recently under the transnational funding measure *Prävention von Gewichtszunahme und Übergewicht in kritischen Lebensphasen* (“Prevention of weight gain and obesity in critical life stages”). A total of six transnational consortia receive funding in the period from 2020 to 2023, three of them with a contribution by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, amounting to a total funding of two million euros. One of these research projects is *GrowH! – Gesund aufwachsen: Zielgerichtete Adipositasprävention für kritische Übergangsphasen im jungen Lebensalter* (“Growing up healthy: Obesity prevention tailored to critical transition periods in the early life-course”). Here, modifiable risk factors that play a role in the development of obesity in the course of early childhood into adolescence will be investigated. Based on this, existing programmes for socially disadvantaged children and adolescents are to be adapted in cooperation with the implementing organisations and actors on the ground and checked for their feasibility. An overarching systemic approach to obesity prevention will be derived from the results. This will be incorporated into information, guidelines and a manual for policymakers and practitioners.

4.5 Adequate housing

4.5.1 Initial situation

Not all population groups benefit equally from the generally high standard of housing in Germany. For example, single parents and low-income families have less living space available to them than the average population.¹¹² Their situation was exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic: the spatial confinement that already existed before, combined with the temporary restriction of freedom of movement due to the pandemic, led to a reduction in quality of life. Children and young people in these families often lack private places of retreat and a quiet place to study. In addition, these families suffer from a particularly high housing cost burden. In 2018, single parents had to spend 28 per cent of their disposable income on housing (by comparison: 21 per cent for all households).¹¹³ For many children and their parents, the permanent risk of not being able to pay the rent and having to leave their apartment is a significant stress factor. Recent rapid increases in consumer prices for energy and food exacerbate this risk. Some of the children and adolescents also live without a permanent address; there are currently only estimates of how many of these there are (see chapter 2.2). Risk factors for impending homelessness include parental separation, domestic violence, chronic or mental illness and leaving a foster family or youth care facility (“care leavers”). In addition, the situation for families with a migrant background can also be additionally complicated since they are often subject to disadvantage and discrimination in the area of housing and particularly often live in cramped housing conditions.¹¹⁴

According to Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (UN Social Covenant), the human right to housing is part of the right of all people to an adequate standard of living. The Council Recommendation Establishing an EU Child Guarantee takes this up in Article 4b. It recommends that Member States guarantee effective access to

112 Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Soziales (2021): Lebenslagen in Deutschland. Der Sechste Armuts- und Reichtumsbericht der Bundesregierung, p. 315 (https://www.armuts-und-reichtumsbericht.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/Berichte/sechster-armuts-reichtumsbericht.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=6; accessed 02 March 2023)

113 Ibid., p. 316

114 Also, members of the population with a migrant background often only have access to housing of lower quality and quantity, and on average have to finance higher rents and rent burden ratios. As a result, single parents and low-income families with a migrant background are likely to be affected by more than one of these factors, thereby having to face an additional burden, which additionally constitutes a considerable hurdle in terms of integration and participation (ibid., p. 323).

adequate housing for children and young people in need. In doing so, it emphasises the need for certain target groups to have non-discriminatory access beyond mere availability. Explicit mention is made of homeless children (Article 10a), children with disabilities (Article 10b) and children in alternative forms of care or foster care (Article 10d). Secondly, in Article 3h it defines “adequate housing” as “a dwelling that meets the current national technical standards, that is in a reasonable state of repair, provides a reasonable degree of thermal comfort and is available and accessible at an affordable cost”. Article 10b specifies that the affordability criterion includes the fight against energy poverty. Thirdly, the Recommendation refers to the need to provide children and families living in temporary accommodation – whether previously homeless or refugees – with permanent housing as quickly as possible in order to support their independent and social integration. As such, the Council Recommendation addresses many aspects where further action is needed in Germany.

4.5.2 Needs for action

In the field of action “adequate housing”, stakeholders identify key needs for action whose implementation would contribute to an improvement of the situation in particular for children at risk of poverty.¹¹⁵ More effort is needed in the area of social housing to create affordable housing for families at risk of poverty with their children and young people. In this context, attention should be paid to the existence of a social infrastructure in the local area that also takes into account the needs of children and young people. Subsidised housing should also be barrier-free and ecologically compatible. Furthermore, there is an increased need for multilingual information material and also information in plain language on housing benefit.

According to one key stakeholder demand, rising energy costs must also be reflected accordingly in the cost of accommodation as part of basic social security benefits. Barriers to accessing financial benefits should be reduced, for example through more proactive information provision in different languages, simplified and faster application procedures and the establishment of pilot services to support those seeking help.

In dealing with homelessness and housing exclusion, securing suitable housing must be a priority. Here, stakeholders see *Housing First* approaches as a promising starting point, since a permanent residence facilitates social integration in other areas of life. In addition, preventive multilingual measures must be taken to avert the threat of people losing their home insofar as the federal government is responsible for this. This includes sensitised specialist staff along with free, low-threshold (e.g. multilingual or community-based) counselling services as part of youth welfare planning in all municipalities and inter-ministerial cooperation. A substantial improvement of the data situation is needed in order to pursue an evidence-based housing policy. Although this has improved since the Homeless Reporting Act (WoBerichtsG) came into force on 4 March 2020, only estimates are available on (accommodated) homeless children. Data is also lacking on the aspects of cost monitoring and adequacy of housing in relation to individual needs. In addition, more should be done to determine the diversity of the needs of different vulnerable groups (including refugees, care leavers and people with disabilities). The views of children and young people should also be included through suitable participation formats. In addition – according to stakeholders – the exact causes and consequences of people becoming homeless in the course of their lives need to be better researched.

4.5.3 Measures

Germany is already taking various supply-side and demand-side funding measures to improve housing provision for families and support families in meeting housing costs. One focus is on families at risk of poverty and families on low incomes. In the area of supply-side funding, the federal government grants the federal states financial assistance for social housing construction in accordance with Article 104d of the Basic Law, thereby supporting the federal states in their legislative and enforcement competence in the area of social housing funding. The record sum of 14.5 billion euros in programme funds has been earmarked for this purpose for the period 2022 to 2026. With these funds, the federal government plans to create 100,000 publicly subsidised dwellings annually, from which the aforementioned target group can likewise benefit. In princi-

¹¹⁵ For a summary of the key needs for action identified by stakeholders at the events organised by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, see the event documentation (https://www.dji.de/fileadmin/user_upload/bibs2022/Dokumentation_Kick-Off_NAP_Neue_Chancen_2022-05.pdf and https://www.dji.de/fileadmin/user_upload/bibs2022/Dokumentation_Start_der_Beteiligung_NAP_Neue_Chancen_2022-09.pdf; accessed 21 April 2023)

ple, financial assistance for social housing can also be used to fund the provision of barrier-free housing through new construction or modernisation. Social housing funding is primarily aimed at households that cannot adequately obtain housing on the market through their own efforts and are dependent on support, so families at risk of poverty in particular can benefit from this.

Support for cooperative building and other public welfare approaches is to be strengthened within the framework of constitutional competences. In this context, a new funding programme was launched by the federal government and the national development bank KfW in October 2022 to promote the acquisition of cooperative shares. The new funding programme is intended to provide a noticeable incentive for the founding of new housing cooperatives in particular, but also to tap into potential for the expansion of existing housing cooperatives and the implementation of construction, renovation and modernisation measures.

In the federal government's 2021-2025 coalition agreement, measures are set out that aim to secure affordable housing. The measures are: extension of the rent brake until 2029, lowering of the cap from 15 per cent to 11 per cent in three years in areas with a housing shortage, extension of the period of consideration for the local comparable rent from six to seven years, evaluation of the tenancy law and countermeasures to eliminate the causes of imminent homelessness, especially where grace period payments prevent the continuation of the tenancy, and an obligation for municipalities with a population of over 100,000 to draw up qualified rent indexes. The measures agreed on in the *Bündnis bezahlbarer Wohnraum* ("Affordable Housing Alliance") aim to improve conditions for the creation of additional housing.

Federal and state urban development funding helps create places where children and families can meet, spend time and get physical exercise by improving the quality of the residential environment and social infrastructure facilities close to home. This includes the provision of playgrounds and sports fields or green spaces as well as the structural upgrading of family, neighbourhood and youth centres so as to provide low-threshold leisure, education and counselling services for children, young people and their families.

In the urban development programme *Sozialer Zusammenhalt* ("Social Cohesion") in particular, neighbourhood managers play an important role by networking between the administration, institutions and social agencies and also as confidants, not least for children, young people and their parents. Neighbourhood management is eligible for funding as a measure to prepare for and support investments.

In the area of demand-side funding, housing benefit reduces the housing cost burden of lower-income households just above the level of basic security benefits. The housing benefit and its dynamisation also help families at risk of poverty to meet their housing costs. In 2019, families accounted for just under half of the households that received no social benefits other than housing benefit. With Housing Benefit Plus coming into force on 1 January 2023, there will be a significant expansion of the group of eligible households. In turn, families on low incomes will also benefit significantly from this. The permanent heating cost component integrated in the housing benefit and the climate component also benefit single parents and families on low incomes in particular. Families receiving basic social security benefits are already relieved of housing costs by the consideration of adequate benefits for accommodation and heating.

In addition, the federal government plans to develop a National Action Plan on Homelessness and Housing Exclusion together with all stakeholders involved which aims not only to create housing (for example by testing new social policy approaches such as *Housing First*), but also to improve access to social services in other areas of life. In addition to the housing benefit for families on low incomes and social housing, this National Action Plan is aimed at children, young people and their families in need, especially in the context of refugee migration.

From mid-2022 to 2027, the ESF Plus youth support programme *JUGEND STÄRKEN: Brücken in die Eigenständigkeit (JUST BEst)* helps municipalities to initiate services for young people aged 14 to 26 who need support because they are not yet able to live independently and/or because they are threatened or affected by homelessness. This particularly includes care leavers and so-called isolated young people, i.e. adolescents and young adults in problematic life

situations who have become removed from all institutional links. In order to support these target groups, new forms of housing for young people that do not yet exist in the respective municipality can be tested as models as part of *JUST BEst*. This also includes so-called *Housing First* approaches. For this programme, the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth provides funding from the European Social Fund Plus (ESF Plus) totalling 70 million euros.

4.6 Measures undertaken by federal states, leading municipal organisations and civil society organisations

In a letter from Parliamentary State Secretary Ekin Deligöz in her function as National Child Opportunities Coordinator dated 7 October 2022, the federal states and the leading municipal organisations along with civil society organisations and other stakeholders were called upon to actively participate in the preparation of the NAP by contributing to NAP-relevant measures in their respective areas of responsibility. Respondents were asked to name a maximum of three particularly relevant measures. Via an online form, key details (such as a brief description, the executing agency, duration and funding) was recorded about the relevant measures and projects (in the following: “Measures”). Since not all actors responded to the call and the actors who participated only named the measures they considered particularly relevant, this is a (non-representative) sample of the landscape of measures in Germany.

The analyses show which projects in the fields of action of the NAP are being implemented or have been implemented in Germany, as well as where and under which framework conditions this is taking place. A total of 173 measures were reported by 83 organisations. Of these 83 organisations, 28 are at the federal state level and five at the municipal level, while 50 are non-governmental organisations. For an overview of the organisations and the measures they provided details of, see Appendix 2.¹¹⁶ It was also recorded which fields of

action and cross-measure issues are addressed by the respective measure, which cooperations are in place, which target groups are involved, and which target groups benefit or are intended to benefit from the measure benefit. Selected results of the analyses are presented below.¹¹⁷

4.6.1 Fields of action of the measures

The field of action “Early childhood education” was indicated most frequently. This is followed by the fields of action “School” and “Health” (see Table 2). The field of action “Nutrition” is comparatively less prevalent, and “Housing” was mentioned least often. As such, the measures focus mainly on the areas of “Early childhood education”, “School” and “Health”, whereas the areas of “Housing” and “Nutrition” are addressed less frequently. This could indicate that there are fewer measures in Germany that cover the latter fields of action. It is also possible that the organisations concerned participated less frequently in the online survey.

Table 2: Frequency of mention of the fields of action*

Field of action	Number of measures reported
Early childhood education and care (“Early childhood education”)	115
Educational opportunities and school-based activities (“School”)	89
Healthcare (“Health”)	75
Healthy nutrition and healthy school meals (“Nutrition”)	47
Access to adequate housing (“Housing”)	16

* 171 out of 173 measures can be assigned to at least one field of action. Only for two measures was this not the case.

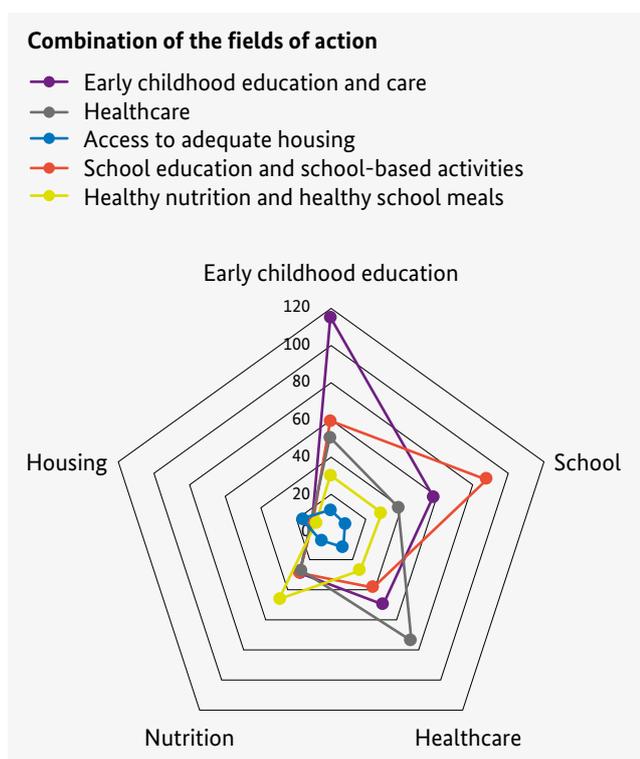
For each measure, the actors were able to tick several fields of action to which the measure contributes. The network diagram in Figure 2 shows how often two fields of action were mentioned at the same time and which

¹¹⁶ Appendix 2 additionally lists measures that were reported in connection with the participation and notification of the federal states on the draft NAP. These measures are not the subject of the analysis in this chapter.

¹¹⁷ For the sake of easier readability, abbreviations are used in the text that follows to refer to the characteristics of the aforementioned five categories. In the tables and the graph, the long version is shown followed by the abbreviation in brackets.

these were. It can be seen that the fields of action “Early childhood education”, “School” and “Health” are very often combined. Meanwhile the field of action “Nutrition” very often goes hand in hand with at least two of the three fields of action “Early childhood education”, “School” and “Health”. This suggests that nutrition interventions are often implemented in school or pre-school care settings. The field of action “Housing” is very often combined with at least two of the four fields of action “Early childhood education”, “School”, “Health” and “Nutrition”. This indicates that the measures attributed to the field of action “Housing” are often not limited to this topic, but have a broader focus, with the aspect of housing only being one sub-area.

Figure 2: Frequency of the named combinations of two fields of action



4.6.2 Cross-measure topics

In addition to the specific fields of action, there are overarching topics that are addressed by the measures. These address either overarching challenges and needs for action (digitalisation, recruitment of skilled specialists), overarching aspects of the design of measures (participation of target groups, inter-ministerial cooperation, cooperation between federal levels), aspects of impact orientation (evaluation, data basis), or poverty

and diversity awareness as overarching goals of measures.

Table 3: Frequency of mention of cross-measure topics*

Cross-measure topic	Number of measures reported
Poverty and diversity sensitivity/ attitude (“Poverty awareness”)	118
Inter-agency or cross-jurisdictional cooperation and networking (“Inter-agency cooperation”)	98
Child and youth participation (“Participation”)	93
Evaluation and impact orientation (“Evaluation”)	68
Recruitment and qualification of skilled specialists (“Skilled specialist recruitment”)	63
Cooperation between the federal levels (“Federal levels”)	42
Digitalisation	35
Improvement of the database (“Data”)	17
Other cross-measure topics	44

* Cross-measure topics were mentioned for 167 out of 173 measures; there were only six measures where this was not the case.

Of the eight cross-measure topics given, “Poverty awareness” is the most frequently mentioned, followed by “Inter-agency cooperation” and “Participation”. The cross-measure topic “Data” is ticked least frequently (see Table 3).

The cross-measure topic “Poverty awareness” is most often mentioned in combination with other cross-measure topics. In almost all cases, it is mentioned together with the topics “Skilled specialist recruitment”, “Federal levels” and “Inter-agency cooperation”, very often also with “Digitalisation”. Promoting a poverty- and diversity-sensitive attitude is evidently a priority concern for actors, not only in connection with measures aimed at skilled specialists and in the field of “Digitalisation”, but also in inter-agency and cross-regional cooperation.

4.6.3 Cooperation partners mentioned in the measures

For 135 out of the 173 measures, the respondents state that they cooperate with other organisations for the respective measure. There is often cooperation not only with one but with several organisations. Most cooperation takes place with educational institutions (nurseries or schools) (see Table 4). This indicates that the prioritised measures are to a large extent educational projects. The second most frequently mentioned cooperation partner is the youth welfare office, followed by academia, independent organisations and church organisations. Cooperations with the public health service and with foundations are relatively rare.

Table 4: Frequency of mention of the organisations*

Cooperation partner	Number of measures reported
Educational institutions (nursery, school)	85
Youth welfare office	63
Academia	56
Independent or church sponsors	61
Interest groups	39
Public health service	30
Foundations	28
Other state organisations	52
Other non-governmental organisations	53

* Organisations were named for 135 out of 173 measures. For 38 measures, it was stated that there was no cooperation with any other organisation.

4.6.4 Target groups involved in the measures

Target groups are involved in 147 out of the 173 reported measures. Skilled specialists are the most frequently involved target group, followed by parents (see Table 5). Of the group of children and adolescents, children aged 6 to 12 participate most frequently.

Table 5: Frequency of mention of the target groups involved*

Target group involved	Number of measures reported
Toddlers (0-5 years)	56
Children (6-12 years)	81
Teenagers (13-17 years)	72
Parents	77
Skilled specialists	94
Other target groups involved	48

* Participating target groups were named for 147 out of 173 measures. For 26 measures it was stated that no target groups are involved.

Often both parents and skilled specialists are involved in the measures and if so, usually together with infants, children or young people. A smaller proportion of the prioritised measures are information and training courses for parents or measures for the deployment of skilled specialists (e.g. professional development measures). No children or young people are involved in these measures. There is also a whole range of measures that involve young children together with their parents, or older children and young people together with skilled specialists.

4.6.5 Target groups addressed by the measures (intended beneficiaries)

According to the respondents, two target groups in particular are to benefit from the measures: “Children at risk of poverty” and “Children with a migrant background” (see Table 6). Frequently, “Children with mental health problems” and “Children with disabilities” are also mentioned as beneficiaries of the measures, while “Children in care” and “Homeless children” are less frequently listed as addressed target groups.



Table 6: Frequency of mention of the benefiting target groups*

Benefiting target group	Number of measures reported
Children at risk of poverty	135
Children with a migrant background or children who belong to an ethnic minority (for example Roma) (“Children with a migrant background”)	121
Children with mental health issues	84
Children with disabilities	79
Children in alternative forms of care, especially in childcare facilities (“Children in care”)	45
Homeless children or those experiencing severe housing deprivation (Homeless children)	27
Other target group(s)	41

* Target groups of children in need can benefit from 168 of the 173 measures mentioned. Only for five measures were there benefiting target groups.

The two most frequently represented target groups overall, “Children at risk of poverty” and “Children with a migrant background”, are also (with one exception) the second and third most frequently mentioned when other benefiting target groups are indicated. In general, it can be observed that the measures often address several target groups at the same time. It is extremely rare for only a single benefiting target group to be indicated. The target groups “Children with disabilities” and “Children with mental health problems” are often listed together.

For all 27 measures in which “Homeless children” benefit, the target group “Children at risk of poverty” is also indicated. In addition, several cross-measure topics are often named, again showing that measures targeting the field of action “Housing” and the benefiting target group “Homeless children” tend to have a broad focus, simultaneously addressing different characteristics associated with possible disadvantages (see chapter 4.6.1).

If measures are listed for which both the target group “Homeless children” and the field of action “Early

childhood education” are indicated, the main forms of daycare represented are nurseries and schools. In general, the relatively high number of measures benefiting children in alternative forms of care (outside the biological family) suggests that these measures are mainly based in nurseries and schools. Measures aimed at the housing problems experienced by care leavers are not represented among the prioritised measures.

In the open response fields, the respondents name three further specific target groups as beneficiaries: firstly LGBTIQ* children, secondly children affected by violence, and thirdly educationally disadvantaged or lower-achieving children.

In addition, the survey on priority measures reveals which target groups stakeholders believe benefit most from those measures that are assigned to specific cross-measure topics. For example, it can be seen that the target groups “Children at risk of poverty”, “Children with a migrant background”, “Children with disabilities” and “Children with mental health problems” were particularly often ticked in combination with the cross-measure topic “Data”. According to the respondents, these target groups would particularly benefit from measures to improve the data basis.

4.6.6 Links between target groups and fields of action, cross-measure topics and cooperation partners

Children at risk of poverty are a target group that is addressed by numerous measures, at a total rate of 78 per cent. They can benefit more often than average from measures for which the fields of action “Nutrition” or “Housing”, the cross-measure topic “Poverty awareness” and the organisational form “Foundations” were indicated. The target group “Children at risk of poverty” is also frequently addressed – together with “Children with a migrant background” – by measures that are located in the field of action “Early childhood education”. Along with this, the cross-measure topic of “Poverty awareness” is often stated together with the field of action “Early childhood education”. This shows that in the area of early childhood education and care especially, there is a perceived necessity to counteract existing child poverty risk situations with appropriate measures and adequately sensitised skilled specialists. It fits in with this that among the measures from which “Children at risk of poverty” are to benefit as a priority, the cross-measure topics “Skilled specialist recruitment” and “Inter-agency cooperation” are frequently mentioned.

The target group **Children with a migrant background** is represented in 70 per cent of the measures and it is the most frequently mentioned benefiting target group together with “Children at risk of poverty”. It is mentioned more often than average in connection with the cross-measure topics “Poverty awareness”, “Evaluation” and “Participation”, the organisational forms “Foundations”, “Educational institutions” and “Public health service” and the involved target group “Parents”. By contrast, this target group is found less frequently than average in measures in which young people are involved.

Children with disabilities (altogether represented in 46 per cent of the measures) are stated with above-average frequency as a benefiting target group along with the fields of action “Nutrition” and “Housing”, the cross-measure topics “Inter-agency cooperation” and “Data”, and where “Parents” are mentioned as a target group involved.

Children with mental health problems (addressees of 49 per cent of the measures) are mentioned with above-average frequency along with the field of action “Housing” and the cross-measure topic “Participation”.

Homeless children or children threatened with homelessness can benefit from a total of 15 per cent of the measures. This is more often than not the case where the field of action “Housing”, the cross-measure topics “Poverty awareness”, “Inter-agency cooperation” and “Data”, and the organisational form “Foundations” are listed as further categories applicable to the measure.

Children in alternative forms of care, who are listed as a beneficiary target group in only 26 per cent of the measures, are represented with above-average frequency in measures where there is mention of the field of action “Nutrition” or “Housing”, the cross-measure topic “Data”, and one of the participating target groups “Children”, “Parents” or “Skilled specialists”.

5 Monitoring and evaluation

The EU Council Recommendation Establishing an EU Child Guarantee provides for reporting to the Commission on progress in implementing the Council Recommendation in line with the NAP (Article 11f). To this end, the NAP is also to include a national framework for data collection, monitoring and evaluation of the Council Recommendation (Article 11c.v).

The effective implementation and further development of measures to achieve the goals of the EU Child Guarantee are longer-term processes, so continuous monitoring of progress is needed over the entire period up to 2030. Only by systematically recording the progress made in implementation can the need for readjustment be identified and addressed in the context of updating the NAP.

The federal government reports to the Commission every two years on the implementation of the EU Child Guarantee in Germany, cooperating with the German Youth Institute (DJI) in writing the reports. The involvement of experts from the academic community ensures an independent assessment of implementation progress and an evidence-based analysis of the need for follow-up. These results are incorporated in the continuous updating of the NAP.

The biennial progress reports will include the following items:

- documentation of the activities of the NAP Committee (see chapter 6.1), progress in the implementation of **measures** and the further development of the catalogue of measures to implement the EU Child Guarantee in Germany,
- reporting on the scope and development of the **target groups** of the EU Child Guarantee,
- analysis of **core indicators** on **poverty and social exclusion**, taking into account the recommendations of the “Indicators” Sub-Group of the Social Protection Committee (SPC), as well as additional indicators on knowledge and take-up of relevant support services,
- **research outcomes** drawing on existing data from official statistics and data from population-representative surveys as well as from surveys conducted by the Service and Monitoring Centre of the DJI (ServiKiD) relating to groups that experience specific forms of disadvantage, in order to enable more in-depth analyses of these groups,
- a summary of the **participation formats** implemented with children and young people (see chapter 6.2) and the results achieved.

The tableau of existing indicators on the knowledge and use of measures is to be further developed as needed and in accordance with the constitutional distribution of responsibilities so as to be able to map achievement of the goals of the measures. For this reason, in the course of the implementation of the NAP, data needs for effective monitoring will be specified with the aim of improving the data infrastructure for the investigation of poverty and social exclusion among children and young people and their families.

The implementation of the EU Child Guarantee in Germany requires coordinated cooperation between the federal levels, collaboration between policymakers and civil society, and also greater awareness among political actors and skilled specialists in dealing with children, youth and families at risk of poverty. The biennial reports and in-depth analyses on the situation of disadvantaged children are discussed with relevant EU Child Guarantee stakeholders at public events involving experts. It is important to put the results into context politically with the participation of the stakeholders as well as children and young people themselves in order to be able to jointly derive further steps in an evidence-based manner based on constitutional competences.

6 Implementation and updating of the NAP

6.1 Implementation of the NAP

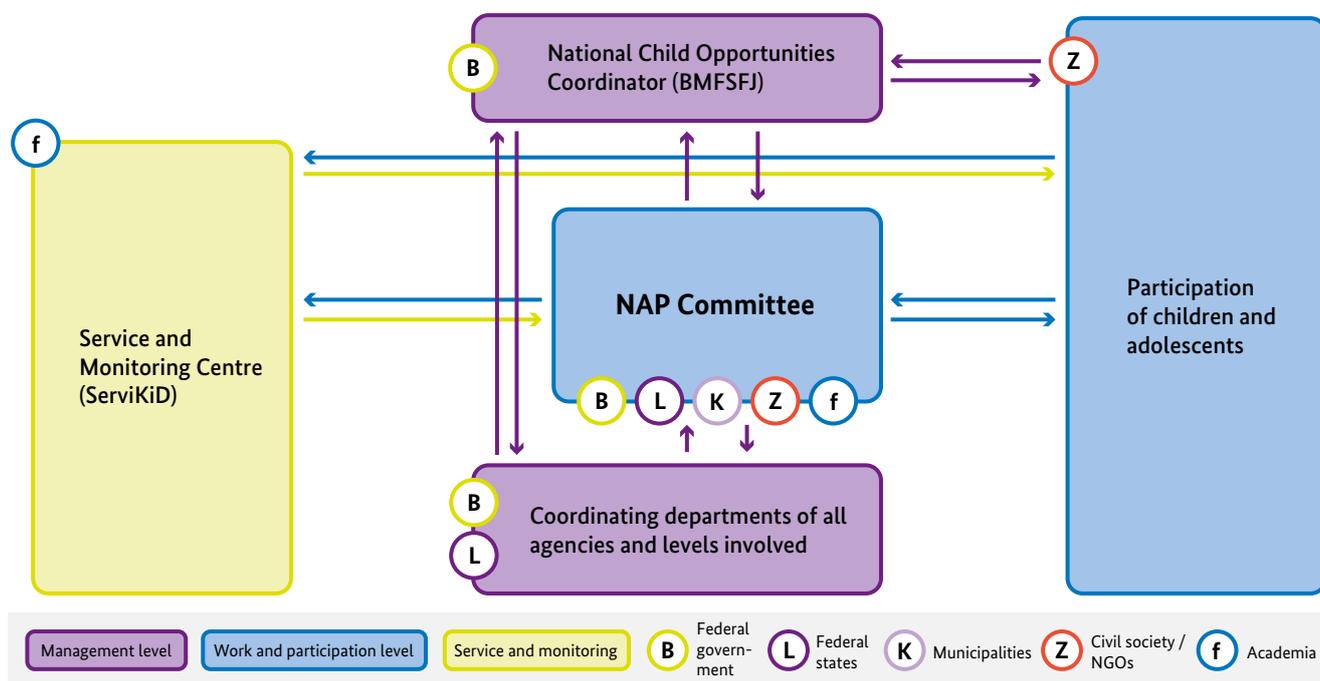
The NAP “New Opportunities for Children in Germany” sees itself as a dynamic instrument. The aim is to shape implementation and continuous further development of the measures over the entire term of the EU Child Guarantee through to 2030 together with all relevant stakeholders. The involvement of stakeholders and the direct participation of children and young people will be continued and intensified. This requires efficient steering, organisation, coordination and networking of all relevant actors depending on responsibilities under financial constitutional law, and including the leading municipal organisations and civil society.

The actors primarily responsible for implementing the EU Child Guarantee at federal level in Germany are the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the Federal Ministry of Health and the Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building. As the governmental focal point, the **Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth** assumes responsibility for steering the implementation process, inter-agency cooperation and the updating of the NAP.

The federal government, the federal states and the municipalities are responsible for conception and implementation of the individual measures, depending on the area of responsibility. They are in charge of implementing the projects and measures listed in the five fields of action. In addition, measures are also designed and implemented by the independent providers who are the addressees of implementation according to the requirements of federal and state regulations.

In order to coordinate the implementation of the EU Child Guarantee in Germany, the Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Ekin Deligöz, was appointed by Minister Lisa Paus as the **National Child Opportunities Coordinator** in accordance with Article 11a of the EU Council Recommendation. Her task is to effectively coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Council Recommendation. The networking of state and civil society actors is one of her key tasks. In addition, the National Child Opportunities Coordinator invites key stakeholders from politics, civil society and academia to join a committee (hereafter: NAP Committee). She is also responsible for chairing the NAP Committee (see Figure 3).

Figure 3: Working structure for the implementation of the NAP



Key tasks of the **NAP Committee** include monitoring the measures and advising on the updating of the NAP. Through the NAP Committee, civil society is to be actively involved as conveyed in Article 11e of the EU Council Recommendation. Disadvantaged children, young people and their families are to be involved through the organisations that represent them (welfare, youth, family and children’s rights organisations). Furthermore, the plan is to involve the federal and state levels in the NAP Committee as well as the leading municipal organisations. Academics are also to be represented on the NAP Committee. They are to contribute their expertise and take on an advisory role.

If necessary, thematically focused expert groups can be convened by the NAP Committee. These expert groups are to work with a clearly defined mandate for action for a limited period of time on specific thematic areas of the EU Child Guarantee and support the Committee with their technical expertise.

The NAP Committee is supported by the Service and Monitoring Centre in implementing the NAP. The **Service and Monitoring Centre for the Implementation of the Child Guarantee in Germany (ServiKiD)** is based at the German Youth Institute (DJI). It is responsible for providing specialist and organisational support for the NAP Committee and the expert groups. Furthermore,

ServiKiD contributes to the implementation of the EU Child Guarantee in Germany through events, publications and its own research in the thematic areas of the EU Child Guarantee, enriched by research results from neighbouring projects, for example based on the NZFH early childhood study *Kinder in Deutschland 0-3* (KiD 0-3). In addition, ServiKiD is preparing a draft for the biennial progress reports to the EU Commission required under Article 11f. The federal government submits the reports to the EU Commission. The Service and Monitoring Centre maintains regular dialogue with representatives of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth on NAP issues, in particular with the National Child Opportunities Coordinator.

6.2 Participation of children and young people

According to Article 6e of the Council Recommendation Establishing an EU Child Guarantee, children and young people at risk of or affected by poverty and social exclusion are to be directly and appropriately involved in the design, implementation and monitoring of measures to implement the EU Child Guarantee. Children’s expertise makes an important contribution

to ensuring that existing and future NAP measures are designed in a target group-oriented and effective manner. Children and young people are to be given the opportunity to express **their needs, wishes and support requirements** and to receive **feedback on the implementation of the NAP**. For this reason, various participation opportunities are envisaged, which will take into account the children's and young people's views as well as **their perception and interpretation of their own life situation and living environment**. They are the ones who are most familiar with their day-to-day challenges and are experts in their own affairs. For children and young people who cannot or do not want to participate in the participation formats themselves, forms of advocacy participation can be used in which adults present the concerns of children and young people on their behalf. In order to reach a target group that is as diverse as possible and take into account different needs, the participation process pays attention to diverse and low-threshold access. In the following, the central cornerstones of child and youth participation are explained in more detail.

6.2.1 Accompanying measures for child and youth participation

Children and young people need a safe and respectful framework in order to be able to participate. This is provided by **adult facilitators** who assist the children and young people in terms of subject matter, organisation and advocacy and who support and moderate the participation process. The youth participation facility Institut für Jugendhilfe und Kommunalberatung e.V. (IJK), in cooperation with ServiKiD, has developed initial approaches for the implementation and monitoring of child and youth participation within the framework of the NAP. In terms of the concrete design and subject-specific fine-tuning of the participation formats, it is essential to ensure dialogue with **professionals** who work with families at risk of or affected by poverty and social exclusion. During concept development for the participation process, children and young people have been or are involved and their needs and ideas regarding participation formats are taken on board.

In order to draw on synergies and avoid parallel structures, an expert dialogue is taking place with the actors of the **National Action Plan for Child and Youth Participation** run by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. The NAP for Child and Youth Participation is seeking to strengthen the participation of children and young people by 2025 in the form of a dialogue process between civil society, the federal states, the municipalities and young people and further develop the federal government's Youth Strategy. **Quality standards** for child and youth participation have been developed as part of the federal government's Youth Strategy,¹¹⁸ and the participation formats for the NAP "New Opportunities for Children in Germany" also draw on these standards. In addition, a **Federal Competence Centre for Child and Youth Participation** supports the federal ministries and subordinate authorities in planning and implementing the participation processes.

The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth is planning a **web portal** on the NAP "New Opportunities for Children in Germany". Among other things, this platform will provide low-threshold, child- and youth-friendly materials for the participation process and promote digital opportunities for exchange and networking among the actors involved in the NAP.

6.2.2 Participation formats in the NAP

As part of the NAP process, children and young people have various opportunities to contribute their points of view, interests and needs and to get actively involved (see Figure 4). This often takes the form of 'consultative participation', through which young people exert influence in an advisory capacity.

This will be done, among other things, by teams of children and young people working together over an extended period of time and accompanying the NAP process. These teams are tasked with contributing ideas to the NAP process from a child and youth perspective and advising on the further development of the NAP, for example by means of oral statements, short videos or in written form. ServiKiD will provide professional support for these teams and inform children and young people about the possibility of participation in various ways (for example at specialist conferences and at workshops) and invite them to take part.

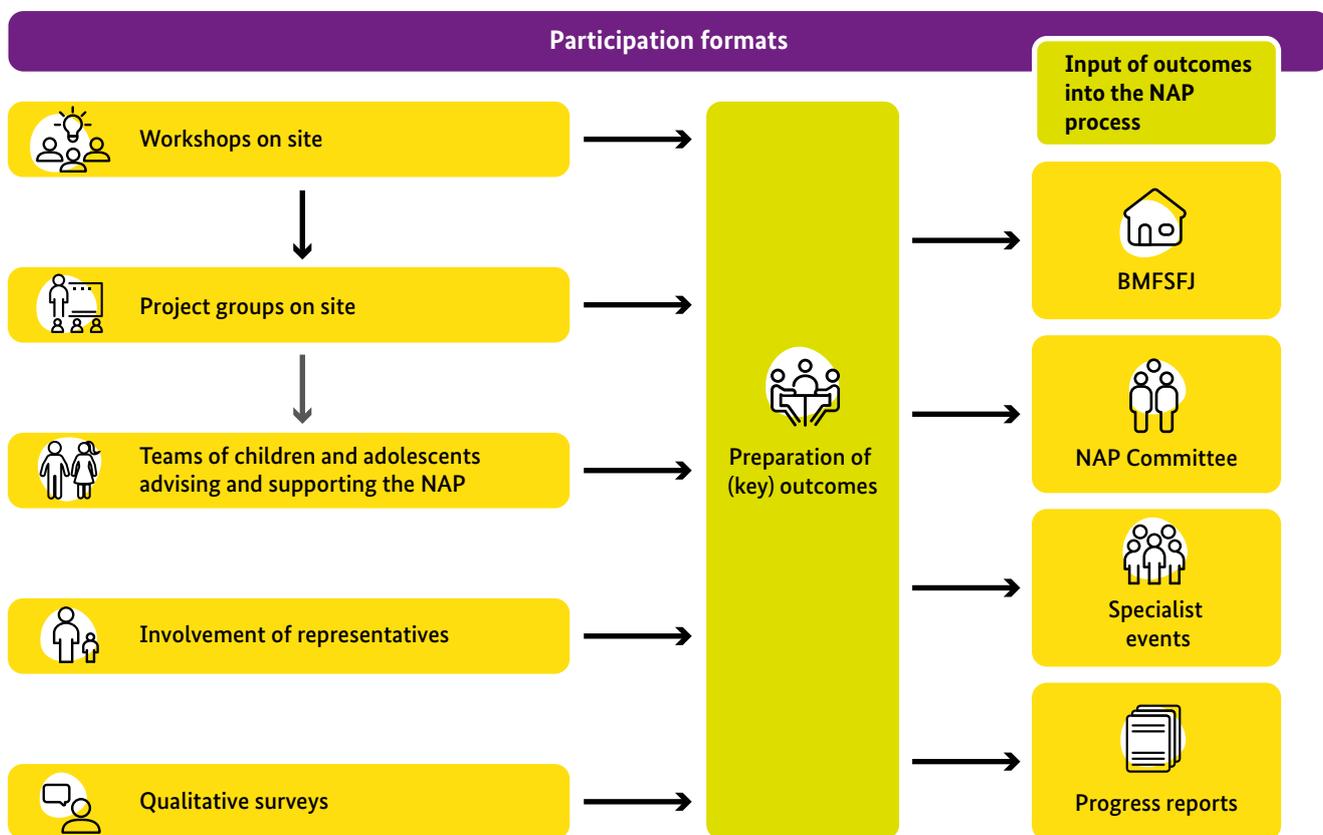
118 Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend, Deutscher Bundesjugendring (ed.) (2022): Mitwirkung mit Wirkung. Qualitätsstandards für Kinder- und Jugendbeteiligung. Impulse zur Weiterentwicklung in Theorie und Praxis (<https://standards.jugendbeteiligung.de/>; accessed 02 March 2023)

Possible formats for the participation process at the municipal level include **one-day face-to-face workshops** and subsequent **project groups**. Such workshops can perform an activating function based on the living environment and the needs of the children and young people, and taking into account their socio-spatial needs and resources, They can facilitate dialogue and information on the issues of poverty and social exclusion, counteract shame and stigmatisation and support a sensitive approach to the issues. If the children and

young people are interested, this could also lead to further involvement in local project groups.¹¹⁹

Another form of (passive) participation are surveys conducted by ServiKiD in the context of **qualitative research**. Here, the situation of children and young people threatened or affected by poverty and social exclusion is scientifically surveyed, for example in connection with the introduction of the basic child allowance.

Figure 4: Child and youth participation process



119 Waldemar Stange (2022): Kinder- und Jugendbeteiligung in der Kommune. Partizipationslandschaften und Beteiligungsketten. In: Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk (ed.): Kinderrechte in Deutschland. Interdisziplinäre Perspektiven auf Errungenschaften und Herausforderungen kinderrechtlicher Arbeit in Deutschland (pp. 65-89). Munich: kopaed

7 Look ahead

“New opportunities for children and young people in Germany” is the motto under which the EU Child Guarantee is being implemented in Germany. Coordinated measures in accordance with federal responsibilities and ongoing dialogue between all the actors involved are necessary to enable great equality of opportunity and social participation for all children and young people. For this reason, many of the measures listed in the NAP do not stand alone, but must be seen in a wider context. Ongoing dialogue across agency boundaries and the nationwide networking of all relevant actors on the progress of implementation are therefore a key prerequisite for the successful continuation of the NAP until 2030. Furthermore, annual events on the implementation status of the EU Child Guarantee in Germany take into account the goal of networking, coordination and further development of NAP measures.

After all, the NAP should be regarded as a dynamic instrument that will thrive on constant further development through to 2030. Drawing on the experience gained from implementation of the above-mentioned measures and projects, as well as from the cooperation between the actors involved, it will be possible to develop points of departure and adapt to changing needs and fresh social challenges on an ongoing basis.

The website www.neue-chancen-fuer-kinder.de will report on progress in implementing the NAP while at the same time announcing events, sharing research results and providing general information on the EU

Child Guarantee. In this way, the federal government fulfils its task of transparently presenting and documenting the progress of measures and their results to the public, insofar as it is responsible for doing so.

Even in the development phase of the NAP, the stakeholders to be involved made it clear that overcoming pillarisation along with the clustering and better coordination of existing measures will be important steps in reaching and supporting children and young people at risk of poverty by means of effective offerings. Integrated approaches and increased cooperation between agencies – as far as the federal government is responsible – across the two federal levels and between the state and civil society could provide holistic support for children and youth at risk of poverty and sustainably improve their situation. The expansion of such approaches is therefore to be advanced through the NAP in accordance with responsibilities under the Basic Law. By networking and jointly developing solution strategies, it will also be possible to address other challenges such as the lack of skilled specialists, the promotion of a poverty- and diversity-sensitive attitude among all actors, and data deficits. These are points of departure for the ongoing development of the NAP.

The NAP can potentially become an instrument of communication and cooperation that itself integrates and involves the whole of society – in addition to children and young people.

Appendix 1: Federal measures

These are both existing and planned ministerial measures, including those measures set out in the coalition agreement (Koav)¹ for which a feasibility analysis has not yet been completed, as well as measures from the coalition agreement that have not been coordinated within the federal government or backed by financial resources.

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Basic child allowance (KiGruSi)	Planned	Clustering of previous monetary benefits for children (child benefit, benefits under the Second/Twelfth Book of the Social Code (SGB II/XII) for children, parts of the Education and Participation Package, child supplement) and automated payment. Two components: guaranteed amount independent of income, additional amount dependent on income.	X					
Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Immediate supplement for children affected by poverty	Exists	Supplementary support measure until the introduction of the basic child allowance (monthly supplement of 20 euros for children in need of assistance who are entitled to benefits under the Second and Twelfth Books of the Social Code, AsylbLG, BVG or child supplement).	X					
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Lokale Bündnisse für Familie “Local alliances for the family”	Exists	Stakeholders from politics, civil society, business and administration work together in local networks to make it easier for families to reconcile work and family life.	X					

¹ Koalitionsvertrag 2021–2025 zwischen der Sozialdemokratischen Partei Deutschlands (SPD), Bündnis 90/DIE GRÜNEN und den Freien Demokraten (FDP) (<https://www.bundesregierung.de/resource/blob/974430/1990812/1f422c60505b6a88f8f3b3b5b8720bd4/2021-12-10-koav2021-data.pdf?download=1>; accessed 23 May 2023)

Appendix 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action						
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing	
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Strong Families Act (StaFamG)	Exists	Through the Strong Families Act (StaFamG), the child supplement for families on low incomes has been reorganised and the education and participation benefits for children and young people have been improved. The law came into force in several stages at different times.	X						
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Familienportal	Exists	The family portal provides information on financial benefits as well as other support options for families, including those expecting children. It is aimed at counsellors as well as families in different phases of life and in different situations.	X						
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Infotool Familie	Exists	This family benefit information tool provides information on the expected individual entitlement to family benefits and family assistance.	X						
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Further development and (partial) digitalisation of the parenting course Starke Eltern – Starke Kinder ("Strong parents – strong children")	Exists	Parenting courses that help mothers and fathers develop solution strategies in dealing with conflicts and problem periods within the family. Established more than 30 years ago, the programme of courses for parents is to be brought up to date based on a model project under academic supervision in order to reflect parents' concerns in connection with social issues, media and education.	X						

Appendix 1 continued

Appendix 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Model project on parental separation STARK – Streit und Trennung meistern – Alltagshilfe, Rat und Konfliktlösung 2021–2023	Exists	This model project is developing an interdisciplinary online programme that includes target group-specific elements for the prevention of parental separation, orientation in the separation phase and child welfare-oriented organisation of joint parenthood after separation, as well as support for children and adolescents in coping with separation. Informative and psycho-educational elements are available for this purpose as are useful tools.	X					
Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Akti(F) Plus – Active for families and their children	Exists	The aim of this programme is to improve the living situation and social and economic participation of families and children at risk of social exclusion and poverty. Funding is provided for the comprehensive support of parents in stabilising their individual and family life situation, as well as establishing and expanding cooperative structures to improve cross-jurisdictional cooperation. In addition, the aim is to create longer-term prospects of accessing/entering the labour market by taking up or building on employment on a gradual and sustainable basis. The funding guideline was published on 15 February 2023. The projects are expected to start in early September 2023.	X					

Appendix 1 continued

Appendix 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	FamPower²	Exists	Families with a migrant background are supported by the model project <i>FamPower²</i> , while access to family counselling and support services is facilitated by trained family multipliers, and barriers to the use of family services are removed.	X					
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Implementation of inclusive child and youth welfare	Planned	As set out in the coalition agreement (p. 99), the broad-based participation process for the implementation of the Inclusive Solution in Book VIII of the Social Code started in 2022. This involves experts from the fields of child and youth welfare, care for the disabled and healthcare who work at the municipal, state and federal levels, representing professional associations and organisations as well as public and independent institutions in the areas of academia and research.	X					
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Help and counselling in the event of violence for women affected by violence, together with their children	Exists	A total of more than 400 women's shelters and safe apartments with more than 6,000 places offer protected accommodation, counselling and support for women affected by violence, together with their children.	X					
Federal Ministry of Education and Research Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Job-related part-time programmes for mothers of small children	Exists	The possibilities for part-time dual vocational training were expanded as of 01.01.2020 with the amendment of the Vocational Training Act (BBiG). Single parents and mothers and fathers with family care responsibilities continue to be a key target group.	X					

Appendix 1 continued

Appendix 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action						
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing	
Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs Federal Ministry of the Interior and Home Affairs	Vocational language courses for labour market integration	Exists	Greater or continued promotion of vocational language courses that build on integration courses for rapid and sustainable labour market integration.	X						
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth / Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency	Anti-Discrimination Agency (FADA)	Exists	Establishment of the FADA to protect against discrimination on the grounds mentioned in the General Equal Treatment Act (AGG). The federal government provides the personnel and material resources necessary for the fulfilment of its tasks.	X						
		KoaV 2021– 2025	“We will ensure the independence of the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency, provide it with adequate staffing and budget and strengthen its competences. Its leadership is elected by the Bundestag. In collaboration with the federal states, we will expand the network of civil society counselling centres against discrimination nationwide and finance them on a sustainable basis” (KoaV, p. 121)							

Appendix 1 continued

Appendix 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action						
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing	
Federal Ministry of Justice Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Strengthening of the General Equal Treatment Act (AGG)	Exists KoaV 2021–2025	The General Equal Treatment Act (AGG) has been in force since 2006. It regulates protection against discrimination on the grounds of “racial” or ethnic origin, gender, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual identity in the employment context and in areas of civil law transactions. “We will evaluate the General Equal Treatment Act (AGG), close any gaps in protection, improve legal protection and expand the scope of application.” (KoaV, p. 121)	X						
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Federal programme <i>Demokratie leben!</i>	Exists	The federal programme <i>Demokratie leben!</i> promotes civil society engagement for diverse and democratic coexistence, working to combat radicalisation and polarisation in society. Measures that address children and young people as a target group are a particular focus.	X						
Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Promotion of household-related services	KoaV 2021–2025	“By promoting household-related services, we support the reconciliation of family and work and the labour force participation of spouses and partners, while at the same time creating more socially insured jobs. [...] Initially, single parents, families with children and relatives requiring care are to benefit, and gradually all households.” (KoaV, p. 70)	X						

Appendix 1 continued

Appendix 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Seventh Report on Poverty and Wealth	KoaV 2021–2025	In its Report on Poverty and Wealth, the federal government presents to the Bundestag in the middle of each legislative period a fact-based analysis of the development of income and wealth distribution, social mobility, and various aspects of life such as education, health and housing, including an evaluation of measures taken and drawing conclusions in terms of further needs for action.	X					
Federal Ministry of Justice Federal Ministry of Finance Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Modifications to childhood legislation, maintenance legislation and child and youth welfare	KoaV 2021–2025	Promotion of partnership-based care for underaged children oriented towards the best interests of the child, also after separation and divorce of the parents (KoaV, p. 102). Mandatory consideration of established cases of domestic violence in access proceedings (KoaV, p. 102). Better consideration of how care and control can be shared between parents after separation and divorce without jeopardising the subsistence level of the child (KoaV, p. 102). Improvement of parenting, separation and conflict counselling, with a focus on the so-called alternating model (KoaV, p. 102).	X					
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Further development of the Gender Equality Strategy	KoaV 2021–2025	Further development of the federal government's inter-ministerial Gender Equality Strategy and a gender equality check of future laws and measures.	X					

Appendix 1 continued

Appendix 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Remuneration Transparency Act (EntgTranspG)	Exists	The Remuneration Transparency Act aims to help women in particular to more effectively assert their claim to equal pay for equal work or work of equal value in the future. To this end, it provides for the following building blocks: an individual right to information for employees, the requirement for employers to carry out company audits, and the obligation to report on equality and equal pay.	X					
		KoaV 2021–2025	Further development of the Remuneration Transparency Act and strengthening of its enforcement by giving public interest groups to file suit (KoaV, p. 115).						
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	National Action Plan for Child and Youth Participation	Exists	The aim of the National Action Plan for Child and Youth Participation (NAP) is to strengthen the participation of young people at all levels. The NAP is a dialogue process aimed at generating recommendations for effective child and youth participation which are to be presented to the Federal Cabinet and the Conference of Ministers for Youth and Family Affairs (JFMK) in spring 2025.	X					

Appendix 1 continued

Appendix 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action						
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing	
Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Benefits for Education and Participation (BuT) as part of securing the subsistence minimum	Exists	The various Benefits for Education and Participation (BuT), also called the Education Package, support children, young people and young adults from families who have limited financial resources. With these benefits, children can take advantage of school and leisure activities when families would otherwise not be able to afford the costs.	X						
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Parental allowance	Exists	Compensation for lack of income when parents care for their child after birth. Securing the economic existence of the families. Help with the reconciliation of family and work.	X						
	Modifications of parental allowance	KoaV 2021–2025	Increase of partner months in parental allowance (additional exclusive month); dynamisation of minimum and maximum amounts; introduction of a parental allowance entitlement for foster parents, and modernisation of the entitlement for self-employed persons; extension of the entitlement to parental allowance for premature births before the 37th week of pregnancy (KoaV, p. 101).							

Appendix 1 continued

Appendix 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Parental leave	Exists	Parental leave is time taken off work by parents who are looking after and raising their children themselves. Each parent is entitled to up to three years of parental leave to care for and raise their child. The employee is entitled to parental leave vis-à-vis the employer.	X					
	Modifications of parental leave	KoAV 2021–2025	Extension of protection against dismissal due to parental leave (KoAV, p. 101).						
Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Federal Participation Act (BTHG)	Exists	The Federal Participation Act aims to help people with disabilities to enjoy more participation and individual self-determination. Benefits for people with disabilities are now based exclusively on the personal needs of the individual. The Federal Participation Act implements the requirements of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at national level and has come into force in several stages.	X					
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Act to Strengthen Children and Youth (KJSG)	Exists	This law improves the legal basis of child and youth welfare. It seeks to especially strengthen those children, adolescents and young adults who have special support needs.	X					
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Nursing Care Period Act and Family Care Period Act (PflegeZG and FPfZG)	Exists	Family care leave supports family members in reconciling care and work. Employees can take leave from work for up to 24 months to care for a close relative in some cases.	X					

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Appendix 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Promotion of Continuing Vocational Training Act (Aufstiegsfortbildungsförderungsgesetz/AFBG)	Exists	Upskilling measures are supported with a maintenance contribution depending on income and assets. The maintenance contribution is to be increased for the spouse and also for each child for whom the participant is entitled to claim child benefit. Single parents can also receive a childcare supplement. Social remission may be granted after the end of the measure.	X					
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Development and implementation of the Strategy Against Loneliness	Exists	In June 2022, the development of the <i>Strategie gegen Einsamkeit</i> ("Strategy Against Loneliness") started with a broad participation process. The aim is to do more to strategically and scientifically illuminate and address the issue of loneliness in Germany for all age groups and specific life situations. This includes in particular strengthening practical work to prevent and cope with loneliness as well as providing low-threshold access to help and counselling services for affected persons.	X					
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Model project to combat loneliness Verein(t) gegen Einsamkeit by the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB)	Exists	This DOSB project raises awareness throughout its 87,000 sports clubs of the situation of lonely people of all ages. Sports clubs offer the opportunity to meet like-minded people and can become places of encounter, thereby offering individuals a social home.	X					

Appendix 1 continued

Appendix 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Project <i>Pausentaste</i>	Exists	This project aims to help children and young people who provide care as well as student and trainee caregivers throughout Germany by means of a low-threshold counselling service. The aim is to help them take breaks for reflection and enable them to draw on aid services or simply talk about their own situation – also anonymously. The project includes a website and also telephone and online counselling service (e-mail counselling and chat by appointment) in connection with the children's and young person's help hotline <i>Nummer gegen Kummer</i> . In addition, teachers, out-patient care services, social services at schools, hospitals, youth organisations and the public at large are to be sensitised to the topic.	X					
Federal Ministry of the Interior and Home Affairs Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Online Access Act (OZG)	Exists	The Online Access Act requires the federal government, the federal states and municipalities to offer all administrative services electronically in addition. The BMFSFJ shares the lead here for the area of family and children with the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen. Legal and technical coordination is carried out in cooperation with the BMI. The development of online services for the federal benefits included here is currently taking place through ten implementation projects.	X					

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Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Digitale-Familienleistungen-Gesetz (Digital Family Benefits Act)	Exists	Legal basis for data retrieval between registry offices, health insurance companies, the national pension insurance scheme Deutsche Rentenversicherung, and the parental allowance offices.	X					
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Advance Maintenance Payments Act (UhVorschG)	Exists	The Advance Maintenance Payments Act (UhVorschG) ensures minimum maintenance for children who live with a single parent within the scope of application of the Act and who have not yet reached the age of 18, with no limitation the period of receipt, in cases they do not receive this maintenance from the other parent or do not do so regularly. For children between the ages of 12 and 18, there is an entitlement to advance maintenance payments if the child is not dependent on SGB II benefits or if the single parent in receipt of SGB II benefits earns their own income of at least 600 euros gross per month.	X					
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	elternsein.info	Exists	The website <i>elternsein.info</i> run by the NZFH (National Centre on Early Prevention) provides young families, especially those in stressful situations, with information in plain language about early intervention services and about topics related to the first years of a child's life and life as a young family.	X					

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Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Das Zukunftspaket für Bewegung, Kultur und Gesundheit (“Future Package for Physical Exercise, Culture and Health”)	Exists	The <i>Zukunftspaket für Bewegung, Kultur und Gesundheit</i> (“Future Package for Physical Exercise, Culture and Health”) aims to improve the situation of children and young people in the current times of crisis by means of physical exercise, cultural offerings and measures geared towards promoting physical and mental health. The programme is focused on boosting participation and engagement among young people.	X					
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Bundesweite Fach- und Koordinierungsstelle Männergewaltschutz (Nationwide specialist coordination agency for the protection of men from violence)	Exists	The BKFM (nationwide specialist coordination agency for the protection of men from violence) actively advises and supports municipalities, federal states, independent organisations and individual actors on the establishment of men’s protection projects. These are protection projects from which men and their children can benefit.	X					
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Federal initiative Schutz von geflüchteten Menschen in Flüchtlingsunterkünften (“Protection of refugees in refugee shelters”)	Exists	Initiative run by the BMFSFJ, UNICEF, welfare organisations and other actors. Network of governmental and civil society organisations which, based on the “minimum standards for the protection of refugees in refugee accommodation” (4th edition 2021), advocates for good and safe accommodation conditions for children, young people and other vulnerable groups in refugee accommodation.	X					

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Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building	Investitionspakt Sportstätten (“Sports Facilities Investment Pact”)	Exists	The Sports Facilities Investment Pact, which is running from 2020 to 2022, promotes the renovation and expansion of public sports halls, sports fields and swimming pools in the context of urban development. In this way, the investment pact contributes to creating the structural basis for the promotion of sport and exercise for children and young people.	X					
Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building	Federal Refurbishment of municipal facilities in the areas of sport, youth and culture programme	Exists	The federal government is supporting the municipalities since 2015 in particular in the structural refurbishment of sports facilities and indoor/outdoor swimming pools.	X					
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Childcare Quality Act (KiTa-Qualitätsgesetz)	Exists	Through this Act, the federal government is supporting the federal states in 2023 and 2024 with a total of around four billion euros for measures to further develop quality and improve participation in child daycare. The aim is to advance quality nationwide and contribute to creating equal living conditions for children growing up in Germany.		X				
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Parental guidance qualification	Exists	By promoting the qualification of skilled specialists as parental guides, the preventive effect of family education is emphasised and a contribution is made to the well-being of families as well as to reducing inequality of opportunity, the risk of poverty and social exclusion.		X				

Appendix 1 continued

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Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action						
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing	
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	ESF Plus parental support programme <i>ElternChanceN – Mit Elternbegleitung Familien stärken</i>	Exists	This programme provides targeted support for families who need help with raising and educating their children. Building blocks of successful parental cooperation and support in (early) childhood are to be designed locally and implemented with the involvement of social institutions in the region. The aim is to do more to integrate preventive “parental guidance” in cooperative forms of work and make this a permanent fixture in the social space and the municipal context.		X					
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Qualification initiative <i>Gesundheitsbezogene Elternkompetenzen</i> (“Health-related parenting skills”)	Koav 2021–2025	A qualification initiative that seeks to strengthen health-related parenting skills in family and parent support and anchor them in a targeted manner in the existing structures of networked parent support in the area. The measure is subject to funding. “Following the COVID-19 catch-up package, we will quickly and effectively improve the situation for children and young people with a future package for physical exercise, culture and health” (Koav, p. 98).		X					
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Bremen initiative for strengthening early childhood development – BRISE	Exists	Long-term study that is systematically investigating the effects of early childhood support for children from socially and culturally disadvantaged families.							X

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Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action						
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing	
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Professional development initiative for early childhood educators (WiFF)	Exists	This professional development initiative aims to further professionalise the early childhood educators. To this end, it offers a discourse and transfer platform, the Early Childhood Educators Barometer, expert reports, studies and the WiFF Guide to Continuing Education.		X					
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Stiftung Kinder forschen	Exists	The institutionally funded non-profit foundation for enquiry-based education <i>Kinder forschen</i> is committed to promoting STEM education for children of nursery and primary school age. Through a comprehensive nationwide professional development programme, education professionals are provided with support in promoting children's spirit of discovery and creative competence, enabling them to offer qualified and age-appropriate accompaniment for enquiry-based learning.		X					
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Lesestart 1-2-3	Exists	The aim of this initiative is to boost early reading promotion for children in the first three years of life and establish both silent reading and reading aloud in day-to-day family life, including the accompanying academic evaluation.		X					
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Bundestiftung Mutter und Kind	Exists	Women in financial need can apply to the federal mother and child foundation <i>Bundestiftung Mutter und Kind</i> for assistance with clothing, furnishings and childcare.		X					

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Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action						
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing	
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Funding of the award-winning project ideas for parental involvement and democracy support from the competition “misch:mit – für Elternbeteiligung und Demokratiebildung”	Exists	The aim of the programme is to anchor democratic education and educational competence in the family at an early age, thereby laying the foundations for the formation of democratic values and democratic behaviour. The five project ideas selected in the ideas competition will be funded for a period of three years (until 2024).		X					
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Federal programme <i>Integrationskurs mit Kind: Bausteine für die Zukunft</i>	Exists	The federal programme supports the supervision of children who are not of school age and who are participating in integration courses; this is a subsidiary offer where no regular daycare is available for the children. This makes it possible to combine family and participation in the integration course. In addition, the aspect of recruiting and securing skilled specialists is taken into account and children are accompanied during the transition to regular care.	X	X					
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	ESF Plus programme <i>Integration durch Bildung</i>	Planned	The new ESF Plus programme <i>Integration durch Bildung</i> aims to increase educational opportunities for people with a migration background in Germany, especially with regard to specific target groups such as girls and women. The basis for this is transferable research with and for educational practice that contributes to sustainably reducing access barriers and enabling empowerment.		X	X				

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Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Special fund <i>Ausbau ganztägiger Bildungs- und Betreuungsangebote für Kinder im Grundschulalter</i> ("Expansion of all-day education and care services for children of primary school age")	Exists	This special fund serves to implement the legal entitlement to all-day care for children of primary school age. The federal government provides financial assistance of up to 3.5 billion euros for the expansion of all-day education and care services.			X			
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth Federal Ministry of Education and Research	All-Day Child-care Act (GaFöG)	Exists	The All-Day Support Act is intended to close a gap in childcare that confronts many families once again when their children start school. From August 2026, all primary school children in the first grade will be entitled to full-day support. This will be extended by one grade level in each of the following years, so from August 2029 onwards, every primary school child in grades one to four will be entitled to all-day care.			X			
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Initiative <i>Bildungsketten</i>	Exists	The aim here is to enable young people to make a smooth transition from school to vocational training and work. To this end, the various funding instruments of the federal government (BMBF, BMAS, BA) and the federal states are coordinated and interlinked with each other in accordance with the coalition agreement ("Together with the federal states, we will expand career guidance [...] across the board.", p. 66f.).			X			

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Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Vocational Orientation Programme (BOP)	Exists	The aim is to promote career choice competence in school pupils on a sponsor-supported basis. The programme also includes strengthening career guidance at secondary schools in particular, as well as targeting immigrants and providing digital career guidance (<i>Berufenavi</i>). Over 300 educational institutions with more than 3,000 schools are involved as cooperation partners in the nationwide implementation of the programme. The measure is also in line with the goal of expanding career guidance nationwide together with the federal states (Koav, p. 66).			X			
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Digitalisation in education	Exists	The research focus addresses central challenges facing the design and use of technological developments. Under the current third funding line, research is being funded into the fundamental questions of necessary skills and the development of skills in a digitally influenced world. This includes the self-confident and responsible use of digital media and an increased focus on self-directed learning processes in digitally supported learning.			X			

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Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Reducing barriers to education: learning environments, educational success and social participation	Exists	This research focus promotes investigation of the question of how and based on which concrete concepts educational barriers of disadvantaged children and young people can be sustainably reduced. This funding line focuses interactions between educational processes and the regional and local learning environments of children and young people.			X			
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	<i>BiSS-Transfer</i>	Exists	<i>BiSS-Transfer</i> is a joint initiative being undertaken by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the federal states which is dedicated to the transfer of language education and the promotion of reading and writing in schools and nurseries.			X			
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	<i>Lesestart: Weil uns Lesen weiterbringt. A reading project for children with refugee experience</i>	Exists	Support for children aged up to ten with refugee experience through book gifts and multilingual information materials for their parents as well as through qualification programmes for full-time and voluntary staff in refugee assistance, including the accompanying scientific evaluation.			X			

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Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Netzwerk Bibliothek Medienbildung	Exists	<p><i>Netzwerk Bibliothek Medienbildung II</i> (“Library Media Education Network II”) aims to enable and support smaller libraries in rural areas in particular to expand their media education services and to professionalise cooperation with schools and nurseries.</p> <p>Employees are trained and supported through various modules: The topics are media education basics, best-practice examples, counselling and dialogue.</p>			X			
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	A digital meeting place for the generations	Exists	<p>Support of the <i>MENTOR Bundesverband</i> in the project <i>MENTOR-Campus: Ausbau einer Leseplattform für die Online-Leseförderung sowie Aufbau einer sozialen Lehr-Lernplattform zur Qualifizierung von Mentorinnen und Vereinen</i> (“Expansion of a reading platform for online reading promotion and development of a social teaching-learning platform to qualify mentors and associations”) The MENTOR reading mentors individually promote reading skills in school pupils from predominantly educationally disadvantaged families according to the 1:1 principle. Qualified volunteer mentors accompany a child for one school year as they learn to read.</p>			X			

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Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Nationaler Lesepakt (“National Reading Pact”)	Exists	The National Reading Pact is a nationwide initiative run by <i>Stiftung Lesen</i> and the book trade association <i>Börsenverein des deutschen Buchhandels</i> . The aim is to ensure that all children and young people in Germany reliably learn to read as part of a joint effort on the part of society.			X			
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Kultur macht stark – Bündnisse für Bildung	Exists	Since 2013, this federal programme has provided up to 50 million euros annually to support extracurricular cultural education opportunities for children and young people throughout Germany who have limited access to such opportunities. The projects are implemented by local institutions in an alliance for education. The participants are educational and cultural institutions such as schools, museums, theatres, libraries, associations and youth and social welfare institutions.			X			
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Schule macht stark – Joint initiative by the federal government and the federal states to support schools in socially difficult situations	Exists	Teachers and school administrators at 200 schools are working together in this initiative together with academic experts at 13 research institutions and universities. Schools and experts are collaborating to develop strategies and approaches for teaching and for day-to-day school life, geared to local needs. The practical experience of the teachers is integrated directly into the jointly developed concepts. These are immediately tested in practice and – if necessary – adapted and further developed.			X			

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Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	DigitalPakt Schule (Digital Pact for Schools)	Exists	Through <i>DigitalPakt Schule</i> (Digital Pact for Schools), the federal government supports the federal states and municipalities in investing in digital education infrastructure. The aim of this Digital Pact is the nationwide development of a modern digital education infrastructure under the primacy of pedagogy.			X			
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Support-related diagnostics in inclusive education	Exists	The research funding line “Support-related diagnostics in inclusive education” under the framework programme for empirical educational research aims to improve the (further) development of support-related diagnostics integrated into day-to-day life and its framework conditions across educational sectors and at the transition points. Diagnostics and diagnosis-based support help record the diverse learning backgrounds of all learners for example, as well as documenting learning development. As such it is a prerequisite for inclusive education for children, young people and adults. This requires knowledge that can be prepared in a way that is actionable and practical for broad transfer.			X			
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	youpaN	Exists	Youth participation in the implementation of the UNESCO programme “Education for Sustainable Development: Towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals” (ESD 2030)			X			

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Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	youclub2030	Exists	Promotion of sustainable projects in children's and youth recreational facilities			X			
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Bildungskommunen (Lifelearning Communities)	Exists	The programme objective is to create transparency and accessibility of educational opportunities as well as coordinated interaction between all educational actors along the entire educational chain and in all educational areas so that all residents in every phase of life – especially children and young people – can make the most of the educational opportunities they need to realise their individual educational goals.			X			
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Promotion of school pupil companies: youstartN Ideenlabs	Exists	The project provides booster funds for companies and initiatives run by school pupils in the implementation of sustainability concepts. Support workshops (idea labs) are offered for pupils and teachers on sustainability and start-ups.			X			
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Equal opportunities programme <i>Startchancen</i>	Koav 2021–2025	This programme aims to make educational success less dependent on social background and strengthen equal opportunities. To this end, about 4,000 schools with a high proportion of socially disadvantaged pupils are to receive special support (Koav, p. 95f.).			X			

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Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Federal Training Assistance Act (BAföG)	Exists	Under BAföG, school pupils and university students in need receive financial support in the form of maintenance payments. Firstly, maintenance payments are granted for the period of training or education at a school or training/education institution as defined under § 2 BAföG, also to under 18-year-olds. In addition, recipients with dependent children benefit from an additional exemption when their income is taken into account under BAföG.			X			
Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Expansion of youth employment agencies	KoaV 2021–2025	“Together with the federal states, we will expand the (...) youth employment agencies nationwide.” (KoaV, p. 66)			X			
Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Training guarantee for young people	KoaV 2021–2025	“We aim to establish a training guarantee that gives all young people access to fully qualifying vocational training, primarily on an in-house basis.” (KoaV, p. 66)			X			
Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Protection Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Continuation of the <i>Allianz für Aus- und Weiterbildung</i> (“Alliance for Education and Training”)	Exists	“We will continue the Alliance for Education and Training” (KoaV, p. 66)			X			

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Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Excellence Initiative – Vocational Education and Training	Exists	The aim of the excellence initiative in vocational education and training is to provide the necessary boost to the appeal and modernity of vocational education and training, to increase society's appreciation of vocational education and training, and to make dual vocational education and training more attractive to all young people.			X			
Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Expansion of introductory qualification, assisted training, training support and collaborative training programmes	Planned	“We will expand introductory qualification, assisted training, training support and collaborative training programmes. We will make assistance available to refugees.” (KoaV, p. 66)			X			
Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Off-the-job training opportunities	Planned	“In regions with a considerable shortage of apprenticeship places, we will initiate off-the-job training programmes in close consultation with the social partners according to needs.” (KoaV, p. 66)			X			
Federal Ministry of Health Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Remuneration for full-time school-based training	KoaV 2021–2025	“Full-time school training is to be remunerated and free of school fees.” (KoaV, p. 67)			X			
Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Expansion of career guidance services in youth care facilities	KoaV 2021–2025	“We aim to expand the career and study guidance offerings in youth care institutions.” (KoaV, p. 99)			X			

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Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Berufseinstiegsbegleitung ("Career entry guidance")	Exists	The aim of this programme is to integrate young people in vocational education and training. The individual steps are aimed at achieving a school-leaving certificate, improving career orientation and choice, and starting and stabilising a vocational training placement.			X			
Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	<i>Europäischer Sozialfond für Deutschland – ESF Plus – Integration helps counter the exclusion of the most deprived</i>	Exists	This programme aims to contribute to poverty reduction and improve the social inclusion of the most disadvantaged. It is aimed at two groups in particular: Newly immigrated EU citizens, homeless persons, and persons at risk of homelessness and their children up to the age of 18.			X			
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	ESF Plus all-day school programme Gemeinsam für Qualität: Kinder beteiligen im Ganzttag	Exists	Support for educational specialists and teachers at primary schools in a joint process of further developing and testing a participation concept as part of their all-day school concept. Participation of pupils and their families is crucial.			X			
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Girls' Day and Boys' Day	Exists	Measure to strengthen career orientation of pupils in a way that is free of stereotypes.			X			
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Initiative Klischeefrei	Exists	Nationwide association of partner organisations from education, politics, business and practice for the purpose of strengthening stereotype-free vocational orientation along the education chain.			X			

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Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	meinTestgelände	Exists	Platform for young people of all genders to engage in dialogue on issues concerning social and biological gender. Young people express their thoughts through texts, videos and photos.			X			
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	YouCodeGirls	Exists	The initiative aims to inspire girls and young women to develop a fascination with coding.			X			
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Heroes	Exists	In this project, boys are made aware that it is important to stand up for feminist values in all cultural contexts.			X			
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	<i>Mental Health Coaches</i> programme	Exists	Increasing mental health and resilience among school pupils. Due to start at the beginning of the 2023/24 school year. This programme is aimed at schools from secondary level I onwards. Firstly, the coaches are to provide preventive group offerings to strengthen mental health and resilience, and secondly they are to be available as contact persons for pupils in acute crisis situations as a form of mental health first aid.			X			
The Federal Government Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration and Commissioner for Anti-Racism	Counteracting racist discrimination in the context of schools and education	Exists	This model project supports children and young people who experience racism in education. The aim is to sensitise, empower and qualify relevant actors and institutions in and related to schools throughout Germany and to provide them with professional strategies for action. The project is implemented by the non-profit organisation <i>LIFE Bildung Umwelt Chancengleichheit</i> e.V.			X			

Appendix 1 continued

Appendix 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Bundesstiftung Frühe Hilfen (Federal Foundation for Early Childhood Intervention)	Exists	Early childhood intervention is offered to parents from pregnancy onwards and to families with children up to the age of three. The offerings are low-threshold and are aimed in particular at families in stressful life situations. Professionals from different sectors work closely together and are coordinated in local networks. Through the Federal Foundation for Early Childhood Intervention, the BMFSFJ provides permanent funding of 51 million euros per year for early childhood intervention networks and psychosocial support services. The foundation has received five million euros in additional budget funds for the financial year 2023.				X		

Appendix 1 continued

Appendix 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Ministry of Health	Health check-ups for children and adolescents	Exists	The health check-ups for children and adolescents (currently U1 to U9 and J1) can act as a key building block for healthy child development. The “U” examinations ensure regular checks are carried out on a child’s general state of health and age-appropriate development by a doctor. In this way, any potential problems or abnormalities can be detected and treated at an early stage. In addition to the early detection of diseases, the doctor checks whether and if so which individual stress factors and health risks the child is subject to and can advise the parents on how to reduce these. If necessary, the doctor can issue a prevention recommendation and provide a reference to regional parent-child services. The “U” examinations are defined as benefits of the statutory health insurance in § 26 of the Fifth Book of the Social Code (SGB V).				X		

Appendix 1 continued

Appendix 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building	Sport digital – Mehr Bewegung im Quartier (Federal model programme under the inter-agency social integration strategy <i>Soziale Stadt – Nachbarschaften stärken, Miteinander im Quartier</i> (“Socially integrative city – Strengthening neighbourhoods, living together in the neighbourhood”))	Exists	Digital sports programme for children and young people as well as for older people in the approximately 1,000 development areas of the urban development programme <i>Soziale Stadt / Sozialer Zusammenhalt</i> .				X		
Federal Ministry of Health	Study on the promotion of physical activity at nurseries, schools and sports clubs – taking pandemic conditions into account (BeweKi)	Exists	The aim of the project is to investigate the current implementation of physical activity promotion for children and adolescents in the context of nurseries, schools and sports clubs, also taking into account the consequences of the pandemic, and to record awareness and acceptance of the three information sheets published in July 2021 by the Federal Ministry of Health on physical activity promotion for children and adolescents in the pandemic.				X		

Appendix 1 continued

Appendix 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Research consortia on mental health among refugees	Exists	Funding is provided for interdisciplinary research consortia on specific aspects of the mental health of refugees. The focus is on the development of scientifically validated, culturally sensitive concepts for the diagnosis, therapy and prevention of mental illness among refugees. At the same time, the aim is to improve the care situation by carrying out research into the structures of the German care system and looking into possibilities of integration in the healthcare system.				X		
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Research consortia on behavioural disorders relating to violence, neglect, maltreatment and abuse in childhood and adolescence	Exists	In the current second funding phase, the focus is on developing therapeutic or preventive approaches. In addition, the transfer of current research results into practice is increasingly supported. Seven research networks are looking at developmental and long-term progression of the consequences of (sexualised) violence and neglect in childhood and adolescence, developing evidence-based therapy options, analysing the intergenerational mechanisms of abuse in families, and conducting perpetrator and prevention research.				X		

Appendix 1 continued

Appendix 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Förderinitiative <i>Gesund – ein Leben lang: Kinder- und Jugendgesundheit</i>	Exists	The aim is to create a basis for children and young people to stay healthy or recover more quickly. The focus is on child-oriented prevention and therapy approaches for chronic diseases and mental disorders, concepts of health maintenance and prevention for risk groups, as well as biological and molecular mechanisms of formative influences on health and disease.				X		
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Funding priority – rare diseases	Exists	This funding measure is intended to cluster existing expertise in application-oriented basic research, clinical research and healthcare research for rare diseases on a national level. Since about 80 per cent of these diseases are genetic, many already occur in childhood and adolescence. Currently, multi-disciplinary research consortia on rare diseases are receiving funding which mainly deal with childhood diseases.				X		
Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Improving access to healthcare for asylum seekers	KoaV 2021–2025	“We will seek to make access to healthcare for asylum seekers less bureaucratic. Underage children are to be excluded from restrictions and reductions to social benefits.” (KoaV, p. 140)				X		

Appendix 1 continued

Appendix 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Ministry of Health	Migration and health portal	Exists	The portal www.migration-gesundheit.bund.de provides numerous multilingual brochures and information material about the healthcare system in Germany in general as well as various health topics, including children's health. The portal is constantly being expanded to include more information.				X		
Federal Ministry of Health	FASD Smiley Digital	Exists	Improvement of care for children and adolescents with FASD, improvement of coordination in the field of FASD in Germany, new and further development of digital structures and tools, evaluation of digital measures.				X		
Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture	Project funding of the Networks for catering in daycare centres and schools as part of the INFORM National Action Plan	Exists	The network centres were established jointly by the federal government and the federal states in 2009. They act as central contact points for all facilities that have questions about catering services in nurseries and schools. In most federal states, they also advise all those interested in wholesome catering in nurseries.					X	
Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture	Update and establishment of the DGE quality standards for communal catering	Exists	The DGE quality standards support in offering balanced meals for those responsible in daycare centres, schools, companies, hospitals and rehabilitation clinics and senior citizens' facilities, as well as for "meals on wheels" employees. On behalf of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), the DGE has developed quality standards for different living environments.					X	

Appendix 1 continued

Appendix 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture	Further development of the EU <i>Nutri-Score</i>	KoaV 2021–2025	“We will further develop an EU-wide <i>Nutri-Score</i> on a scientific basis and in a way that is universally comprehensible.” (KoaV, p. 45)					X	
Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Implementation of the national strategy for the promotion of breastfeeding	Exists	The breastfeeding strategy aims to improve breastfeeding friendliness in Germany and increase breastfeeding motivation. Each woman is to be supported according to her individual needs. The focus is particularly on those women who breastfeed less frequently or for a shorter period of time. Improved framework conditions are to enable breastfeeding regardless of the individual’s life situation. The aim is to achieve a higher breastfeeding initiation rate and longer breastfeeding duration, and also to increase public acceptance.					X	
Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture	The National Reduction and Innovation Strategy for Sugar, Fats and Salt in Processed Foods (NRI)	Exists	Under the NRI, the food industry has committed to reducing energy, sugar, fats and salt in processed foods by 2025. According to the coalition agreement (p. 45f.), scientifically based reduction targets for sugar, fats and salt are to be created that are tailored to target groups.					X	

Appendix 1 continued

Appendix 1 continued



Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action						
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing	
Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture	Improvement of iodine intake	Planned	In order to counteract declining iodine intake in Germany, the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture is planning an information campaign to raise awareness among consumers and the food industry regarding the use of iodised salt. In addition, the iodisation level of iodised table salt is to be raised by amending the legal requirements for the voluntary addition of iodine to table salt.					X		
Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture	Multidisciplinary survey of the nutritional and health situation of people in households at risk of poverty with children (MEGA_kids)	Exists	This decision-making support project involves surveying people in households at risk of poverty with children in particular about their nutritional behaviour, nutrition-related attitudes, nutritional competence, selected health indicators and demographic backgrounds.					X		

Appendix 1 continued



Appendix 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building	Gut Essen macht stark – Mehr gesundheitliche Chancengleichheit im Quartier (“Good food makes you strong – more health equity in the neighbourhood”) (Federal model programme under the inter-agency social integration strategy <i>Soziale Stadt – Nachbarschaften stärken, Miteinander im Quartier</i> (“Socially integrative city – Strengthening neighbourhoods, living together in the neighbourhood”))	Exists	At 300 nurseries and at 175 schools and non-school educational institutions nationwide, counselling and educational measures are being promoted that seek to contribute to the promotion of health in children and adolescents.					X	
Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture	Stillen – Eating for future (“Breastfeeding – Eating for the future”)	Exists	This project aims to teach children in grades four to six that breast milk is the optimum nutrition for babies. The aim is to promote acceptance, understanding and a positive attitude towards breastfeeding. First of all a target-group and topic-specific teaching unit is to be developed and tested. An evaluation will then clarify how breastfeeding promotion can be integrated in school education in the long term.					X	

Appendix 1 continued

Appendix 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture	Ernährungs-kompetenz junger Familien stärken (“Strengthening the nutritional competence of young families”)	Exists	This project supports young families in stressful life situations in adopting a healthy lifestyle. By developing and disseminating new target-group-specific e-learning modules for the learning platform run by the NZFH (National Centre on Early Prevention), early childhood intervention professionals can qualify to teach affected families key skills relating to day-to-day nutrition. The e-learning programme will consist of a basic module on nutrition literacy and a special module on infant feeding.					X	
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Nutrition Research Competence Cluster: nutri-CARD “Competence Cluster for Nutrition and Cardiovascular Health” , University of Jena – 2nd funding phase	Exists	The Competence Cluster <i>nutriCARD</i> includes a sub-project for the development and evaluation of concepts for the implementation of nutrition and health in biology as a school subject. The aim of one of the work packages here is to strengthen competences in the areas of nutrition and health education by designing new teaching materials and textbook contributions for intermediate and upper grades (grades 5 to 12).					X	

Appendix 1 continued

Appendix 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Project under the JPI HDHL measure <i>PREPHOBES: EndObesity – strategies to prevent overweight and obesity in children in the first 1,000 days of life</i>	Exists	Development, implementation and evaluation of strategies for the prevention of childhood obesity by analysing family-based lifestyle factors in the pre-conception period, pregnancy and early childhood, i.e. the first 1,000 days of life, by means of observational studies. <i>EndObesity</i> is a collaborative European project funded under the umbrella of JPI HDHL with partners from Germany, France, the Netherlands, Spain and Ireland.					X	
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Project under the JPI HDHL funding measure <i>PREPHOBES: GrowH! – Gesund aufwachsen: Zielgerichtete Adipositas-prävention für kritische Übergangsphasen im jungen Lebensalter</i> (“Growing up healthy: Obesity prevention tailored to critical transition periods in the early life-course”)	Exists	<i>GrowH!</i> is a collaborative European project funded under the umbrella JPI HDHL. The project investigates modifiable risk factors that play a role in the development of obesity from early childhood to adolescence. Based on this, existing programmes for socially disadvantaged children and adolescents will be adapted and tested for feasibility in Bremen/Germany and Zaragoza/Spain. An overarching systemic approach to obesity prevention will be derived from the results.					X	

Appendix 1 continued

Appendix 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Project under the JPI HDHL funding measure <i>PREPHOBES</i> : <i>iPREGNO</i> – prevention of unhealthy weight gain during pregnancy and postpartum using an mHealth enhanced intervention	Exists	The European collaborative project <i>iPREGNO</i> funded under the umbrella of JPI HDHL involves the development of an app-based intervention for the prevention of unhealthy weight gain that targets all members, especially those from socially stressed families. The project also includes an evaluation of the app's effectiveness. The intervention covers the phase during pregnancy and also includes the phase after birth. It combines elements of smartphone-based psychological training for the prevention of obesity with counselling elements on the topics of nutrition and exercise.					X	
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Consortium: <i>NAMIBIO App</i> – food allergy biomarker application	Exists	The aim of the <i>NAMIBIO App</i> projects is to contribute to a better understanding of both the early causes of food allergies and their natural progression. Early predictive factors for the development of food allergies in children will be identified and digital applications (apps) are to be developed to guide professionals and parents of children at high risk of allergy towards prevention and the timely development of tolerance.					X	

Appendix 1 continued

Appendix 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Project under the JPI HDHL funding measure <i>FoodHypersens: EcoBiotic – food intolerances and allergies in relation to the early childhood gut microbiome</i>	Exists	The <i>EcoBiotic</i> research consortium is funded under the umbrella of JPI HDHL and consists of five international partners who are looking into how taking pre- and probiotics during pregnancy and early childhood impacts on the development of the gut microbiome and food allergies. The project has the potential to help provide new dietary recommendations in pregnancy and early childhood so as to reduce the risk of developing food allergies in early life.					X	
Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture	<i>KlimaFood – living-environment-oriented, climate-friendly and health-promoting nutrition education for vulnerable population groups</i>	Exists	The aim here is to establish lifestyle-oriented, climate-friendly and health-promoting nutrition education, especially among vulnerable and educationally disadvantaged population groups. By developing innovative solutions, vulnerable population groups are to be reached and activated to take responsibility for their own actions. By means of low-threshold formal and informal learning opportunities, a structure is to be created that interlinks existing support systems, services and extracurricular education systems, thereby paving the way for the expansion of climate-friendly nutritional competence among vulnerable people through learning opportunities which are oriented towards their living environment.					X	

Appendix 1 continued

Appendix 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action						
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing	
Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building	Social housing	Exists	The federal government provides the federal states with financial aid to support them in their key task of social housing. This also includes the creation of housing for single parents and families with children, including large families.							X
Federal Ministry of Justice Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building	The federal government's Housing and Rent Package	KoaV 2021–2025	Measures to secure affordable housing and create additional housing: extension of the rent cap until 2029 (KoaV, p. 91), lowering of the cap ceiling from 15 to 11 per cent over a period of three years in areas with housing shortages (KoaV, p. 91), extension of the reference period for calculating the local comparable rent from six to seven years (KoaV, p. 91), evaluation of tenancy law and countermeasures to eliminate the causes of the risk of homelessness (KoaV, p. 92), requirement of municipalities with more than 100,000 inhabitants to draw up a qualified rent index (KoaV, p. 91).							X
Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building	National Action Plan on Homelessness and Housing Exclusion	KoaV 2021–2025	National Action Plan to End Homelessness (KoaV, p. 92). Due to the federal division of responsibilities on the issue of homelessness, the federal ministries involved, the federal states, the municipalities and the relevant social actors must actively participate in the development and implementation of the measures.							X

Appendix 1 continued

Appendix 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action						
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing	
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	JUGEND STÄRKEN: Brücken in die Eigenständigkeit (JUST BEst)	Exists	This programme is aimed at young people aged 14 to 26 who need support because they are not yet able to lead independent lives and/or because they are threatened or affected by homelessness. The target group includes in particular young people who leave residential youth care (so-called “care leavers”) and those who have become removed from all institutional links (so-called isolated young people). Project participants are to be enabled to live independently and/or placed in stable housing in a resource-oriented and efficient manner. New forms of housing can be tested such as <i>Housing First</i> approaches.							X
Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building	Housing Benefit Plus	Exists	As a rent subsidy for lower-income households just above the basic social security level, housing benefit makes an effective contribution to reducing the housing cost burden. The 2023 housing benefit reform will extend the reach of housing benefit from 600,000 to two million households. The amount of housing benefit will be doubled on average for existing households. In addition, a permanent heating cost component and a climate component will be integrated in the housing benefit. These measures will also benefit families with children – especially single parents, whose tax-free allowance was increased significantly in 2020.							X

Appendix 1 continued

Appendix 1 continued



Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action						
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing	
Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building	Promotion of home ownership	KoaV 2021–2025	The federal government’s new home ownership promotion scheme seeks to support households with minor children and a specified income maximum in acquiring home ownership and therefore achieving long-term asset creation (KoaV, p. 92). Funding is provided for new buildings for permanent owner-occupied residential use in Germany. This provides an incentive for the creation of newly-built, energy-efficient residential property, thereby making a significant contribution to achieving the federal government’s climate protection goals in the building sector and meeting the target of creating 400,000 dwellings annually (KoaV, p. 88).							X

Appendix 1 continued



Appendix 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action						
				Cross-topic measure	Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing	
Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building	Federal government and federal state urban development support programmes	Exists	The urban development support programme of the federal government and federal states helps create places where children and families can meet, spend time and exercise by improving the quality of the residential environment and social infrastructure facilities close to home. This includes the provision of playgrounds and sports fields or green spaces as well as the structural upgrading of family, neighbourhood and youth centres so as to provide low-threshold leisure, education and counselling services for children, young people and their families. Under the urban development programme <i>Sozialer Zusammenhalt</i> in particular, neighbourhood managers are a success factor for implementation through their networking in the neighbourhood.							X
Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building	UTOPOLIS – socioculture in the neighbourhood (Federal model programme of the inter-ministerial social integration strategy <i>Soziale Stadt – Nachbarschaften stärken, Miteinander im Quartier</i> (“Socially integrative city – Strengthening neighbourhoods, living together in the neighbourhood”))	Exists	The project <i>UTOPOLIS</i> supports art and cultural projects in the neighbourhoods receiving support under the programme <i>Soziale Stadt/Sozialer Zusammenhalt</i> Within the framework of the model programme, 16 socio-cultural centres close to local communities are being funded throughout Germany which are initiating sustainable structural changes in the neighbourhood and in the way people live together through various artistic and media offerings as well as cultural projects. The model programme is also aimed at children and young people in particular.							X

Appendix 2: Contributions submitted by the federal states, the municipalities and the non-governmental organisations

In a letter dated 7 October 2022, the federal states and the leading municipal organisations along with civil society organisations and other stakeholders were called upon to actively participate in the preparation of the NAP by contributing to NAP-relevant measures in their respective areas of responsibility. For this purpose, an online form was provided in which they could enter key details of the relevant measures. The contributions submitted by the federal states (Table 1), the municipalities (Table 2) and the non-governmental organisations (Table 3) are presented below. Table 1 lists measures that were reported in connection with the participation and notification of the federal states on the draft NAP.

Table 1: Measures by the federal states

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Conference of Labour and Social Affairs Ministers	Combating child poverty in the Saarland	Exists	Expansion of <i>Kinderhaus</i> child centres in social areas with a high number of disadvantaged children, young people and families.	X	X		X	
Conference of Labour and Social Affairs Ministers	Further training to become a moderator for child and youth participation in Saarland and founding of the <i>Netzwerk Kinder- und Jugendbeteiligung Saarland</i> (Saarland Network for Child and Youth Participation)	Exists	Youth welfare professionals, municipal employees and other interested parties are trained in theory and practice in the planning and implementation of participation processes between children and young people on the one hand and adult decision-makers on the other hand.		X	X	X	

Table 1 continued

Table 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action					
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing	
Expert Commission on Urban Development of the Conference of Building Ministers	Urban renewal with urban development funding	Exists	Urban renewal measures with urban development funding from the federal government, the federal states and the municipalities renew and create public infrastructure of general interest. The spectrum of funding measures ranges from the creation and renewal of green spaces, sports facilities, play and leisure facilities, for example, to the modernisation or new construction of meeting places and centres for youth and culture. Participation formats are an integral part of this.						X
Conference of Youth and Family Ministers	Exemption from fees, and the social compatibility and scaling of parental fees according to § 17 para. 2 KitaG	Exists	The first step towards freedom from parental fees was taken on 1 August 2018: no parental fees may be levied in the state of Brandenburg for children attending nursery in the last year of nursery before starting school. In future, the state plans to gradually extend the exemption from parental fees for children of pre-school age, meaning that soon the entire period of nursery attendance will be exempt from parental fees.	X					
Conference of Youth and Family Ministers	State programme <i>Kiez-Kita</i> – opening up educational opportunities	Exists	The state programme <i>Kiez-Kita – Bildungschancen eröffnen</i> supports children and their families in different family and social situations in the state of Brandenburg. Daycare centres facing particular challenges are staffed by supplementary professionals.	X					

Table 1 continued

Table 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Conference of Youth and Family Ministers	Extension of legal entitlement for children aged 0–12 years if their family situation makes it necessary (§ 1(3) KitaG)	Exists	In the state of Brandenburg, children from the age of one up to the fifth grade have a legal right to daycare. Up until school enrolment, the entitlement comprises at least six hours of care, or at least four hours for children of primary school age. If the family situation makes longer daycare necessary (e.g. parental employment), the children are entitled to extended care times according to § 1(3)(2) KitaG.	X				
Secretariat of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs	*Federal government-federal state initiative for the transfer of language education and the promotion of reading and writing (BISS-Transfer)	Exists	The science-based transfer of the <i>BISS</i> results from the project phase 2013 – 2019 is underway. The focus of the content is on: language education and promotion, reading promotion, writing promotion, language-sensitive (subject) teaching and German as a second language in subject teaching.		X			
Secretariat of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs	Support strategy for lower-performing pupils	Exists	The support strategy pursues the goal of substantially reducing the proportion of pupils who do not reach a minimum level of competence at the end of their school education and do not receive a school-leaving certificate as a result.		X			
Secretariat of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs	QuaMath – developing teaching and training quality in mathematics	Planned	The ten-year training programme aims to strengthen mathematics education in Germany. The programme promotes pioneering further development of mathematics teaching.	X	X			
Ministry of Food, Rural Affairs and Consumer Protection Baden-Württemberg	BeKi – conscious child nutrition in cooperation with the EU schools programme	Exists	Freelance nutrition experts acting through the state initiative provide information for parents, educational and home economics specialists, daycare specialists and teachers about child nutrition and answer questions on the subject.	X	X		X	

Table 1 continued

Table 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Ministry of Food, Rural Affairs and Consumer Protection Baden-Württemberg	Fit im Alltag – zusammen kochen und essen ("Fit in day-to-day life – cooking and eating together")	Exists	Projects with a focus on nutrition and home economics are promoted that are aimed at people in difficult life situations. The experience and concepts obtained through the project were evaluated. The final version of the set of educational materials contains key information and tips – on everything from planning through to evaluating suitable projects.				X	
Ministry of Food, Rural Affairs and Consumer Protection Baden-Württemberg	Landeszentrum für Ernährung – Kompetenzzentrum Gemeinschaftsverpflegung ("State Centre for Nutrition – Competence Centre for Community Catering")	Exists	The aim of this contact point for those involved in daycare and school catering is to anchor food and drink in the daycare and school environment in a sustainable way and to improve the quality of the food. This provides the basis for stigma-free access to a balanced lunch.				X	
Ministry of Social Affairs, Health and Integration Baden-Württemberg	Starke Kinder ESF Plus – Maßnahmen gegen Jugendarmut ("ESF Plus programme to strengthen children – measures against youth poverty")	Exists	Promotion of active inclusion by improving equal opportunities, non-discrimination and active participation, while increasing employability, especially among disadvantaged groups. Funding is provided for concrete programmes that contribute to increasing the possibilities of social participation among children and young people at risk of poverty and to the creation of sound and equal opportunities for participation.			X	X	
Ministry of Social Affairs, Health and Integration Baden-Württemberg	Starke Kinder – chancenreich ("Strong children – increased opportunities")	Exists	Establishment, further development and consolidation of prevention networks in Baden-Württemberg: The aim is to develop an integrated municipal strategy to prevent and combat child poverty.			X		X

Table 1 continued

Table 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Bavarian State Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry	Alltagskompetenzen – Schule fürs Leben – Themenschwerpunkt Ernährung (“Everyday skills – School for life – Focus on nutrition”)	Exists	During project weeks at all Bavarian schools, children and young people are supervised by trained, qualified instructors and build their day-to-day skills, especially with regard to healthy, balanced nutrition and appreciation of food.		X		X	
Bavarian State Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry	Network for young parents and families	Exists	We support parents expecting a child and parents of children up to the age of six by means of practically oriented nutrition and exercise programmes to enable children to grow up healthily with a balanced diet and day-to-day exercise. The low-threshold services are offered free of charge and throughout Bavaria.				X	
Bavarian State Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry	Network centre for daycare and school catering Bavaria	Exists	Since 2009, this networking centre has supported nurseries and schools in the implementation of health-promoting, sustainable catering and has made a significant contribution to the prevention of disease in the nursery and school settings.				X	
Bavarian State Ministry for Family Affairs, Labour and Social Affairs	Bavarian family allowance	Exists	Parents of children aged one and two in Bavaria are supported with 250 euros per month and child. From the third child onwards they receive 300 euros per month. This means a total of 6,000 or 7,200 euros if the full period of receipt (two years) is used. Family allowance is paid regardless of income, employment and type of care.	X				

Table 1 continued

Table 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Bavarian State Ministry for Family Affairs, Labour and Social Affairs	Bavarian crèche allowance	Exists	Here, parents are relieved of up to 100 euros per month per child in parental fees for their children from their first birthday up until 31 August of the calendar year in which the child reaches the age of three, providing they actually pay these fees. The crèche allowance is linked to a certain household-related income limit.	X				
Bavarian State Ministry for Family Affairs, Labour and Social Affairs	Parental fee subsidy according to Art. 23 (2) Bavarian Child Education and Care Act (BayKiBiG)	Exists	All nurseries funded under the Bavarian Child childcare Act (BayKiBiG) receive 100 euros per child and month for the entire nursery period in order to at least keep parental fees at a moderate level. The fee subsidy applies from 1 September of the year in which the child reaches the age of three and is paid until the child starts school.	X				
Bavarian State Ministry for Health and Care	FASD Smiley Digital	Exists	The term Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) covers a range of secondary effects in children due to maternal alcohol consumption during pregnancy. This project is focused on the areas of early detection, digital intervention or support, further training and networking in the health and social system. It serves the promotion of children's health.				X	
Bavarian State Ministry for Health and Care	GamblerKid	Exists	Via the internet portal www.gamblerkid.com , the Bavarian Academy for Addiction and Health Issues (BAS) provides information on gambling addiction and offers children and young people affected (through addicted parents) the possibility of free and anonymous online counselling via text chat.				X	

Table 1 continued

Table 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Bavarian State Ministry for Health and Care	Crisis services in Bavaria (Art. 1 Bavarian Mental Health Assistance Act – BayPsychKHG)	Exists	The core element here is free, psycho-social, round-the-clock counselling and aid services for people in mental crises. These complement the existing out-patient and in-patient care system and in this context assume a pilot and steering function in the psychiatric care system.			X		
Bavarian State Ministry for Health and Care	<i>Mein Papa, die Unglücksspiele und ich</i>	Exists	This measure is a book for children aged eight to twelve who have a parent with a gambling problem. The book tells the story of a girl who is affected. The factual section presents numerous interesting facts and tips for children on the subject of gambling addiction. In addition, there is a letter to parents and a handout for educational staff.			X		
Bavarian State Ministry for Health and Care	<i>Seelöwe</i>	Exists	This project aims to systematically promote regular visits to the dentist at nursery age. For this purpose, the Bavarian Dental Health Association (LAGZ) provides participating nurseries with didactically prepared materials and collection stickers. Through the latter, nurseries can win cash and non-cash prizes.			X		
Bavarian State Ministry for Health and Care	[U25]-Nuremberg	Exists	[U25] is a low-threshold online suicide prevention service for young people that also promotes civic engagement among young people. It is based on a peer-to-peer approach to counselling young people in mental health crisis. Contact is always made through trained non-experts of the same age. Responsibility for the content of the counselling is assumed by professional team leaders.			X		

Table 1 continued

Table 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Senate Department for Education, Youth and Family	Needs-oriented family support services in the state of Berlin	Exists	This secures the scope, quality and financing of family support services in the long term. A close link between family support and poverty prevention for families and their children ensures that families in challenging circumstances in particular can benefit from appropriate support services.	X		X	X	
Senate Department for Education, Youth and Family	Berlin strategy against child poverty	Exists	A city-wide strategy aims to reduce the impact of poverty on children and young people in the state of Berlin. For this purpose, a system of objectives has been defined and five strategic guidelines were formulated which are crucial to the implementation of the strategy (in terms of achieving the objectives).	X	X	X	X	X
Senate Department for Education, Youth and Family	Family service offices in all Berlin districts	Exists	The family service offices provide Berlin residents with a low-threshold point of contact in their district youth welfare office, both to ask questions relating to all aspects of family and to apply for benefits. The family service offices seek to make it easier for families to access benefits; in particular, they provide support in applying for advance maintenance payments, parental allowance and daycare vouchers, as well as initial socio-educational counselling. (In the table, the option “existential care/benefit receipt” is missing)					
Senate Department for Education, Youth and Family	Berlin State Programme – Family Centres	Exists	At 49 locations in the city, family centres are open to all families that provide numerous offerings in close cooperation with nurseries. In future, the state of Berlin will also establish family centres at primary schools. The aim is to effectively reach families with special challenges and achieve participation opportunities for children.	X				

Table 1 continued

Table 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Senate Department for Education, Youth and Family	State Programme – Stadtteilmütter (“Neighbourhood mothers”)	Exists	The “neighbourhood mothers” are important contact persons for families from a similar cultural background and take on a pilot function in order to break down access barriers to help and support services in the social space. For this purpose, they visit mothers at home, provide information on language support, offerings available at family centres, childcare, health issues and the school system.	X				
Senate Department for Education, Youth and Family	Mobile Jugend-Lern-Hilfe.Jetzt	Exists	School-age children and adolescents in residential youth welfare facilities have had access to learning support, social-emotional support and recreational activities during the period of school closures and beyond. The services are provided in a timely, low-threshold manner and, depending on pandemic-related requirements, either analogue at the facilities, or else on a digital or hybrid basis.		X	X		
Senate Department for Education, Youth and Family	Implementation of the Berlin strategy for the prevention of child and family poverty	Exists	Inter-agency support services are to be developed in cooperation with actors from civil society, administration and the target group itself. For this purpose, a strategy was developed consisting of two parts (defined target system and five strategic guidelines). In addition, poverty sensitivity in the state is to be strengthened and impact orientation expanded.	X	X	X	X	X

Table 1 continued

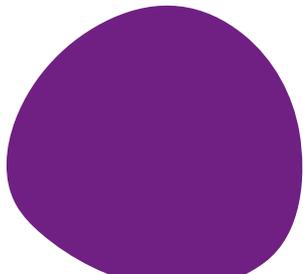


Table 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Senate Department for Education, Youth and Family	Second Act Amending the Act Implementing the Child and Youth Welfare Act (AG KJHG) – Act Promoting Participation and Democracy-Building Among Young People	Exists	With the entry into force of the Act Implementing the Child and Youth Welfare Act (AG KJHG) – Act Promoting Participation and Democracy-Building Among Young People, professional standards for the scope and quality of youth work were introduced at state and district level, along with youth promotion plans. In addition, it is enshrined in law that young people must be involved in the preparation of youth development plans themselves and be adequately informed about the outcomes. In addition, binding participation structures in all districts were financially secured and expanded accordingly.		X	X	X	
Senate Department for Science, Health, Nursing and Gender Equality Berlin	Babylotse Berlin – for a healthy start in life	Exists	<i>Babylotse Berlin</i> promotes high-quality work on the part of social educators who work as “baby guides” in all Berlin hospitals with maternity wards. The aim of the programme is to enable every child to enjoy healthy development and grow up free of violence. Particularly stressed families are also reached early on in maternity wards, i.e. families who are often unable to access the complex and sometimes stigmatising system of social support.	X		X		
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport of the State of Brandenburg	Kinder- und Jugendhilfe Landesrat (KJLR – child and youth welfare council) – representation of the interests of children and young people in educational assistance in the state of Brandenburg	Exists	The elected members of the KJLR (child and youth welfare council) are children and young people who use educational support services. At the annual dialogue forums, issues are discussed with as many children and young people as possible from the educational support services, and agreements are made on further work.	X				

Table 1 continued

Table 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport of the State of Brandenburg	Netzwerk Gesunde Kinder (“Healthy children network”)	Exists	This network is committed to ensuring that children grow up healthy and that the state of Brandenburg is family-friendly. Volunteer family mentors accompany families and provide a lot of information on promoting children’s health and development. The network is a voluntary and free service for pregnant women and for families with children up to the age of three.	X		X		
Hamburg Authority for Labour, Health, Social Affairs, Family and Integration	50 nurseries at school locations	Exists	The authorities for schooling, finance and social affairs are seeking to further expand the supply of child daycare places and link the first stages of the education chain more closely. In the course of the next five years, nurseries are to be expanded or newly established in at least 50 school locations to create more than 5,000 additional daycare places.	X				
Hamburg Authority for Labour, Health, Social Affairs, Family and Integration	Schatzsuche Basis	Exists	This programme is a low-threshold programme to promote mental well-being and resilience in the daycare, pre-school and primary school environments. The focus is on the parental education programme, which is implemented by certified educators who work at nurseries and primary schools. In addition to imparting knowledge and stimulating self-reflection, the programme offers space for dialogue.	X	X			

Table 1 continued

Table 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Hessian Ministry for Social Affairs and Integration	AbenteuerKindheit – Hessian state initiative to promote access to nature for (socially disadvantaged) children	Exists	Children are to be given access to nature so that they can benefit from nature as a place of learning in their educational process. The focus is also on socially disadvantaged children. The initiative includes a state-wide coordination office, individual counselling for nurseries, providers and municipalities, further training for educational staff, specialist conferences and lectures, and the development of structures for networking.	X				
Hessian Ministry for Social Affairs and Integration	Hessian Children's Preventive Healthcare Centre at Frankfurt University Hospital, with the Paediatric Screening Centre (KVU), Newborn Hearing Screening (NHS), Newborn Metabolic Screening (SZH) and Hessian Children's Language Screening (KISS)	Exists	In order to strengthen the healthy development of children and adolescents and child protection, the HKVZ invites children to undergo the preventive medical check-ups U4 -U9 and supports the Hessian Newborn Hearing Screening (NHS). The Hessian Children's Language Screening (KiSS) involves the language level of children (four years old) being assessed and checked by specially trained educational professionals so that targeted treatment or support measures can be initiated at an early stage if necessary.	X		X		
Hessian Ministry for Social Affairs and Integration	Model project Early childhood education and care for children of occupational travellers	Exists	Early childhood education and care services for all children of occupational travellers from three to six years of age are funded throughout Hesse. The outreach educational offerings are provided at the locations of the occupational travellers (fairs, fairgrounds, guest venues) with special vehicles (play mobiles), at children's nurseries or on similar premises.	X				

Table 1 continued

Table 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Hessian Ministry for Social Affairs and Integration; Hessian Working Group for Health Promotion	Präventionsketten Hessen – Gelingendes Aufwachsen, Kinderrechte leben (“Hess prevention changes – enjoying a sound childhood – embracing children’s rights”)	Exists	This state programme supports the districts and cities in developing holistic and tailor-made prevention concepts for children and their families. Local structures and framework conditions are taken into account, transitions between the individual phases of children’s lives are facilitated, and special attention is paid to the implementation of children’s and young people’s rights.	X	X	X	X	X
Hessian Ministry for the Environment, Climate Protection, Agriculture and Consumer Protection	Bauernhof als Klassenzimmer (“The farm as a classroom”)	Exists	Almost 300 farms offer farm tours, stays of several days or year-long projects for nurseries, school classes or (adult) groups. The aim is to give visitors a realistic picture of the daily work that goes on (at the farm, in the stables and on the fields). This allows universal communication of the impact of one’s own actions in terms of agriculture and climate protection, regionality, seasonality and natural local conditions.		X		X	
Hessian Ministry for the Environment, Climate Protection, Agriculture and Consumer Protection	Climate-conscious nutrition education	Exists	The aim is to provide children of different ages with knowledge and skills on the topic of nutrition and to support development towards a climate-conscious and sustainable lifestyle and diet. This project involves trained multipliers accompanying children in schools and at out-of-school places of learning.		X		X	
Hessian Ministry for the Environment, Climate Protection, Agriculture and Consumer Protection	Netzwerk Schulgärten in Hessen (“Hessian School Garden Network”)	Exists	A school garden is a place of opportunity for different topics and educational methods. Professionals are supported by the Hessian School Garden Network with further training, individual school garden advice, educational materials, gardening tips and a newsletter.		X		X	

Table 1 continued

Table 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Ministry for Social Affairs, Health and Sport Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	Social-space-oriented school social work (<i>SchulsozialarbeitPlus</i>)	Planned	Social-space-oriented school social work aims to involve young people in exploring and making the most of the potential offered by the social space in supporting pupils and their families by networking school social work with the offerings available in the social space.		X			
Ministry for Social Affairs, Health and Sport Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	Support for children from families with psychological and/or addiction problems (<i>KipsFam</i>)	Exists	Under the approved ESF Plus programme, the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania is funding measures in the period 01/2023 to 12/2028 that are suitable for supporting and strengthening children and young people from psychologically stressed or addicted families or that can otherwise contribute to reducing disadvantages (<i>KipsFam</i> project). Funding is to be provided for a regional office as of 01/2023, and for regional contact points and target group-specific services as of 07/2023.				X	
Lower Saxony Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection	Network centre for daycare catering	Exists	Implementation of the measure by the Lower Saxony Consumer Protection Centre: competent, supplier-independent point of contact for questions regarding catering in nurseries. To this end, support is offered throughout the state that is practical and oriented towards target groups. The DGE quality standards for catering in nurseries serve as a sound basis, along with recognised concepts of contemporary and sustainable nutrition.					X

Table 1 continued

Table 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Lower Saxony Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection	Network centre for school catering in Lower Saxony	Exists	The aim is to promote healthy and sustainable nutrition in schools in Lower Saxony. Measures include the organisation of information events, specialist conferences, further training, seminars and workshops, regional networking meetings, regional teacher training, state-wide campaigns and promotional activities, media offers, specialist information and newsletters, and advice for schools and school authorities.				X	
Lower Saxony Ministry for Social Affairs, Health and Equality	Family offices	Exists	Family offices are points of contact for all families and offer support on all family-related issues. They act as guides for families, helping them to access specialist facilities and services, and they manage, network and coordinate locally aligned support services for families.	X				
Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia	Career start guidance BerEb	Exists	The support is aimed at young people who are likely to have difficulties in completing general schooling (special school, lower secondary school or equivalent school-leaving certificate) and/or in making the transition to vocational training, with the aim of improving and stabilising their chances of a successful transition to vocational training.		X			
Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia	KAoA Kein Abschluss ohne Anschluss	Exists	Through the cooperation of all relevant actors, institutions and services, KAoA creates an essential basis for providing a follow-up perspective for all young people after the transition from school to work. At the same time, a contribution is made to securing the demand for skilled specialists, since young skilled specialists can take up and complete their training and/or studies more quickly and on a more target-oriented basis.		X			

Table 1 continued

Table 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia	NRW state programme KIPS Prävention NRW: strengthening children of mentally ill and addicted parents	Exists	The overall objective is to develop and implement a service structure that ensures long-term and continuous improvement in prevention and health promotion for children growing up in stressed families. The services focus on strengthening resilience and building sustainable, reliable relationships.			X		
Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia	Modellprojekt Chance	Exists	This model project aims to prevent the permanent exclusion of families from the labour market and to sustainably improve their life prospects by implementing new innovative approaches in ten different regions in NRW to improve the vocational, social and educational integration of SGB II families in need.		X			
Ministry for Children, Youth, Family, Equality, Refugees and Integration of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia	Family centres at primary schools	Exists	The aim is to strengthen parents as competent partners in their children's education and enable primary school children to participate in education in a way that provides them with equal opportunities based on the joint responsibility of parents and school. Services are made available on as low-threshold a basis as possible in order to facilitate access and reduce inhibition thresholds. Family primary school centres form socio-spatial hubs and a point of contact for families.	X	X			

Table 1 continued

Table 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Ministry for Children, Youth, Family, Equality, Refugees and Integration of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia	State programme <i>Kinderstark – NRW schafft Chancen</i>	Exists	The aim is for all cities and districts to develop and implement overall strategies adapted to local needs to combat the negative consequences of child poverty. The state finances a qualification programme for this purpose and provides a total of some 14 million euros to the municipalities. Priority is given to structure-building measures to establish interdisciplinary networking and coordination. In addition, there is promotion of defined primary prevention measures (e.g. family primary school centres) to support children, young people and families.	X	X	X		
Ministry for Children, Youth, Family, Equality, Refugees and Integration of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia	<i>plusKitas</i>	Exists	<i>PlusKITAs</i> in NRW (approx. 1,700) are nurseries which receive at least 25,000 euros per calendar year. The most important objective is to improve the educational opportunities of disadvantaged children from the very beginning by reducing educational disadvantages in a targeted manner through individual promotion of the children's potential.	X				
LVR Rhineland State Youth Welfare Office – Coordination Office for Child Poverty	Promotion of poverty sensitivity and prevention of the possible consequences of financial poverty situations for a sound childhood and adolescence	Exists	We support the municipalities in the Rhineland in establishing and expanding prevention chains and in poverty prevention. In addition to implementing the state programme <i>kinderstark</i> , the team offers a comprehensive range of advisory, training and networking services, especially for municipal coordination experts, as well as a broad portfolio of specialist public relations work.	X	X	X	X	

Table 1 continued

Table 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Transformation and Digitalisation Rhineland-Palatinate	Support programme to combat child and youth poverty in Rhineland-Palatinate	Exists	The programme serves to implement low-threshold and needs-oriented, extracurricular projects for the targeted improvement of the living conditions of children and young people in poverty situations (6-21 years). A regular, social-space-oriented and needs-based offer is to contribute to strengthening the resilience of children and young people from socially and economically disadvantaged families and support their cognitive development.	X	X	X	X	
Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Transformation and Digitalisation Rhineland-Palatinate	JobAction	Exists	This ESF Plus funding programme builds on targeted motivation and project work that takes into account negative previous experience. The young people are to be taught about their potential and new career perspectives. The services are geared to the living environment of the young people and combine individual support with group services.		X			
Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Transformation and Digitalisation Rhineland-Palatinate	Youth Employment Agency plus	Exists	Young people who have difficulties in the transition from school to work risk falling out of touch with support structures in the long run. At the youth employment agencies, the employment agency, the job centre, the youth welfare office and schools work together in a network to re-establish lost contact with the young people and to provide them with coordinated offers of help.		X			

Table 1 continued

Table 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Ministry for Family, Women, Culture and Integration Rhineland-Palatinate and Ministry of Climate Protection, Environment, Energy and Mobility Rhineland-Palatinate	Family cooking course series	Exists	This project is carried out in cooperation with the health insurance company AOK and aims to introduce children and their parents to a healthy lifestyle. Through various modules, knowledge and practical guidance are provided relating to the preparation of healthy dishes. The cooking courses take place at recognised family institutions in Rhineland-Palatinate.				X	
Ministry for Family, Women, Culture and Integration Rhineland-Palatinate	Promoting the political participation of young people	Exists	Under the state youth strategy <i>JES! Jung.Eigenständig.Stark.</i> , structures and projects for the participation of children and young people are promoted and implemented. This includes the funding of and cooperation with the umbrella organisation of municipal youth representatives in Rhineland-Palatinate, and also the programme for promoting participation projects involving children and young people. One milestone in promoting sustainable participation on the part of young people will be to establish a State Youth Advisory Council: this will be composed of the self-organisations of young people in the state and will advise the state government on all child and youth policy issues as well as dealing with issues independently. The participation process is ongoing, and the advisory council is to be established by spring 2024.	X	X			

Table 1 continued

Table 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Ministry for Family, Women, Culture and Integration Rhineland-Palatinate	State Youth Welfare Council Rhineland-Palatinate	Exists	<p>Rhineland-Palatinate established its State Youth Welfare Council in 2020: this represents the interests of young people in residential institutions at the state level.</p> <p>The State Youth Welfare Council has 12 members and is newly elected every two years through a participation workshop in which young people from child and youth welfare institutions in Rhineland-Palatinate can participate. A 0.5 staff position was established at the State Youth Welfare Office in order to support the State Youth Welfare Council in terms of subject matter and organisation. The State Youth Welfare Council has an annual budget for its work and is in regular contact with the Ministry of Family Affairs and the State Youth Welfare Office. It is networked with relevant interest groups in other federal states as well as with the Federal Network of Interest Groups for Child and Youth Welfare – <i>BUNDI</i>. The State Youth Welfare Council is supported by four advisors, most of whom are professionals in the field of institutional upbringing.</p>	X				

Table 1 continued

Table 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Ministry for Family, Women, Culture and Integration Rhineland-Palatinate	Cluster of measures for the implementation and monitoring of inclusive child and youth welfare services	Exists	Subject-specific and structural development of inclusive child and youth welfare is to be supported through dialogue formats and model projects in Rhineland-Palatinate in the form of several building blocks. Measures consist of the following building blocks: 1. Establishment of a state-wide communication and dialogue platform; 2. Development of questions on inclusive services and structures; 3. Monitoring of the process at federal level. Individual measures include the following: conferences, expert hearings, model project for the early introduction of the process guide, inter-agency working group at state level, qualification programmes for youth welfare offices, further development of the reporting system	X				
Ministry for Family, Women, Culture and Integration Rhineland-Palatinate	State Act on the Promotion of Child Welfare and Child Health RLP (LKindSchuG)	Exists	LKindSchuG RLP (2008) is based on two central pillars. Firstly, the invitation and reminder system for the early detection examinations U3-U9. Secondly, the local networks under the responsibility of the youth welfare offices, which provide an exchange platform for all professions involved. With the amendment of the State Child Protection Act in 2020, the state government set a new funding priority aimed at supporting children of mentally ill or addicted parents.					X
Ministry for Family, Women, Culture and Integration Rhineland-Palatinate	Project for the specialist further development of integration aids	Exists	This project aims to focus on tasks and responsibilities, organisational forms, financing and the joint specialist and conceptual design of the aids, as well as discussion and reflection on these points in order to arrive at overarching solutions.	X	X			

Table 1 continued

Table 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Ministry for Climate Protection, Environment, Energy and Mobility Rhineland-Palatinate	Network centre for daycare and school catering Rhineland-Palatinate	Exists	In its advisory and support services, the network centre is guided by the recommendations of the German Nutrition Society (DGE) and in particular by the DGE quality standards for catering in nurseries and schools. Its ongoing goal is to work together with those responsible for catering in administrations and educational institutions as well as catering providers and parents' representatives to implement not only health-promoting quality criteria but also important aspects of sustainability in the catering offered in nurseries and schools.				X	
State Ministry for Culture Saxony	KINDER STÄRKEN 2.0 (project for children with special learning and life difficulties at daycare facilities)	Exists	The programme consists of two pillars: (1) One additional specialist is funded in each case at selected nurseries with a high proportion of children with learning and life difficulties. (2) The additional specialists at the nurseries are to be supported by a coordination and advisory office in terms of subject matter and expertise.	X				
State Ministry for Social Affairs and Social Cohesion Saxony	Flexible youth management	Exists	This enables a professional youth manager to be employed in a city or municipality for a limited period of time. The aim is to strengthen the system of child and youth welfare as a democracy-building element and to establish and sustainably develop youth welfare as a place of education outside traditional educational institutions.	X	X			

Table 1 continued

Table 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Ministry of Social Affairs, Youth, Family, Senior Citizens, Integration and Equality of the State of Schleswig-Holstein	Family centres	Exists	<p>Support for local child and youth welfare organisations in offering families simple and straightforward support with low-threshold, unbureaucratic access. Funding for a total of 140 family centres. Task profile of family centres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting and participation opportunities close to home • Guide function for social concerns • Advice and support • Family education • Offerings for parents, educators and children • Cooperation with relevant actors in the social space <p>Networking of existing and newly emerging services in the social space, especially in the area of child and youth welfare as well as in the area of education, social affairs and healthcare.</p>	X	X			
Ministry of Social Affairs, Youth, Family, Senior Citizens, Integration and Equality of the State of Schleswig-Holstein	Professional development for specialists in child and youth participation	Exists	Modular professional development course lasting approx. 15 months: youth welfare professionals, municipal employees, educators and other interested parties are trained in theory and practice in the planning and implementation of participation processes between children and young people on the one hand and adult decision-makers on the other hand.		X			
Ministry of Social Affairs, Youth, Family, Senior Citizens, Integration and Equality of the State of Schleswig-Holstein	Child Poverty Conference	Planned	A state-wide child poverty conference is to be held in spring 2024. It will be based on a report on the social situation of children and young people.	X	X	X	X	

Table 1 continued

Table 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Ministry of Social Affairs, Youth, Family, Senior Citizens, Integration and Equality of the State of Schleswig-Holstein	Inclusion Competence Teams	Exists	Support for independent providers and municipalities to implement inclusive support services at nurseries and child daycare facilities. The Inclusion Competence Teams have the task of supporting institutions in terms of subject matter and practical structures so to enable them to become more inclusive.	X				
Ministry of Social Affairs, Youth, Family, Senior Citizens, Integration and Equality of the State of Schleswig-Holstein	Inclusion competence teams in early childhood education and care	Exists	The aim is to remove barriers to the inclusive participation of children with needs in early childhood education and care. With their multi-professional staff, the teams take on the task of supporting nurseries and daycare centres in such a way that they become more inclusive. For this purpose, they receive individual, needs-oriented assistance through counselling and concrete support on site.	X		X		
Ministry of Social Affairs, Youth, Family, Senior Citizens, Integration and Equality of the State of Schleswig-Holstein	State advocacy group for children and young people in institutional care	Planned	The elected members of the advocacy group are children and young people living in institutional care groups. At regular state youth congresses, issues are discussed with as many children and young people as possible in institutional care and agreements are made on further work. First election 2023.				X	
Ministry of Social Affairs, Youth, Family, Senior Citizens, Integration and Equality of the State of Schleswig-Holstein	State nursery language programme Sprach-Kitas	Exists	State programme to strengthen language education at nurseries. Scope: 230 funded institutions with additional specialists for language education, 17 specialist consultancies, scientific support and advisory structure.	X				

Table 1 continued

Table 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Ministry of Social Affairs, Youth, Family, Senior Citizens, Integration and Equality of the State of Schleswig-Holstein	Model project – municipal prevention chains	Planned	Based on a state concept, the aim is to promote the establishment/further development of municipal prevention chains. One focus area is expected to be structures of provision in rural areas.	X	X	X	X	
Ministry of Social Affairs, Youth, Family, Senior Citizens, Integration and Equality of the State of Schleswig-Holstein	Training of actors at primary schools with all-day offerings as participation multipliers	Planned	3x 2-day professional development for teachers, all-day staff and school social workers (as a tandem or tridem)	X	X			
Ministry of Social Affairs, Youth, Family, Senior Citizens, Integration and Equality of the State of Schleswig-Holstein	Language education in nurseries	Exists	“Language education in nurseries” – conceptualisation and promotion of further training courses for educators on the subject of language education integrated in day-to-day life at nurseries.	X				
Ministry of Social Affairs, Youth, Family, Senior Citizens, Integration and Equality of the State of Schleswig-Holstein	TiK-SH	Exists	TiK – trauma education at nurseries, child daycare facilities and family centres Counselling, training and supervision in the field of trauma education. Support for institutions in dealing with highly stressed and traumatised children.	X		X		

Table 1 continued

Table 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Ministry of Social Affairs, Youth, Family, Senior Citizens, Integration and Equality of the State of Schleswig-Holstein	#LaWa_SH: state-wide elections of children and youth representatives	Exists	By means of elections held at the same time throughout the state, the aim is to focus more on section 47 f of the Schleswig-Holstein Municipal Code, involving as many municipal children and youth representatives as possible and jointly developing coordinated materials and documents for the election, thereby increasing voter turnout and achieving greater appreciation of children and youth representatives.					
Friedrich Schiller University Jena	IPSY	Exists	<i>IPSY</i> is a universal primary prevention programme. For this reason, it is aimed at entire population groups (such as school classes) before they start to consume alcohol and cigarettes or before consumption patterns can become entrenched.		X			
Municipality/addiction prevention specialists etc.	Klasse2000	Exists	Early on and on a continuous basis from grade 1 to 4, children at primary schools learn the basics of healthy living through <i>Klasse2000</i> – based on an active, vivid and fun approach and aiming to achieve health promotion as well as the prevention of addiction and violence.		X			
Thuringian Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Women and Family, and SiT gGmbH family/prevention centre	HIGH 5	Exists	<i>HIGH 5</i> is an interactive exhibition on the topic of illegal drugs that can be borrowed by teachers, school social specialists, youth welfare specialists and addiction prevention specialists, for example. Through the use of different methods and hands-on activities, the aim is to motivate young adults to actively and critically address the use of illegal drugs and draw attention to local help services.		X			

Table 1 continued

Table 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Thuringian Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Women and Family	State Health Conference (LGK) Thuringia – target area “Healthy birth” and “Healthy childhood and adolescence”	Exists	<p>The LGK is an umbrella structure encompassing various measures to strengthen healthy childhood and adolescence that involve various ministries and actors. The LGK advises on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improvement of living conditions with regard to health, healthcare provision and the health situation of children and adolescents • Further development of structures and framework conditions that have an influence on the health of children and young people • Coordination of stakeholder collaboration • Formulation of recommendations to the respective actors as needed • Statements and recommendations for health reporting • Recommendations on health policy goals to the Thuringian state government • Suggestions for the content of the state framework agreement 	X	X	X	X	X

Table 1 continued

Table 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Thuringian Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Women and Family	<i>KipFam</i> project	Exists	Since January 2016, AGETHUR has coordinated activities for children from psychologically stressed families in Thuringia on behalf of the Thuringian Ministry of Health. This project seeks to pursue awareness-raising, networking and counselling on this issue. First of all, a comprehensive inventory was drawn up in Thuringian municipalities in order to identify the needs, offerings and network structures for dealing with this issue on site. Based on the results, Thuringian municipalities are now to be supported in setting up or expanding local networking formats. Depending on needs, and in cooperation with experts, agencies and existing local structures, municipalities can obtain support in developing suitable services or formats, e.g. psycho-educational measures for the target group or case conferences for actors from the support systems. Furthermore, specialist events and training courses can be held to raise awareness of the situation of children among professionals in the municipalities.	X	X	X		
Thuringian Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Women and Family	Thüringer Präventionsketten ("Thuringian prevention chains programme")	Exists	In the first funding period (01.07.2022-30.06.2025), up to six municipalities have the chance to receive financial support and expert support from the IKPE (Institute for Municipal Planning and Development). The aim is to initiate municipal processes in the area of prevention chains, which are then to be transferred to sustainable structures after the limited period of financial support.	X	X	X		

Table 1 continued

Table 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Thuringian Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Women and Family, and SiT gGmbH family/prevention centre	SPURWECHSEL	Exists	<i>SPURWECHSEL</i> is devoted to the healthy use of digital media and aims to support educators and other multipliers in responding to challenges in dealing with digital media and in developing a reflective and sensitive attitude towards the topic.		X			
Thuringian Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Women and Family	Support for the expansion of nurseries into Thuringian Parent-Child Centres (ThEKiZ)	Exists	State strategy for the expansion of nurseries to create ThEKiZ (parent-child centres) since 2015 by means of accompanying professional development, process support in the institutions and dedicated funding opportunities (personnel and material expenses) on the basis of binding social planning processes	X				
Thuringian Ministry for Education, Youth and Sport	Thuringian Initiative for Integration and Poverty Reduction with Sustainability (TIZIAN)	Exists	Parents who are in long-term unemployment and far removed from the labour market and who find themselves in difficult personal and social problem situations are reintegrated in society on a low-threshold and long-term basis. One essential task is to strengthen and consolidate the parenting and family skills of participants and establish systematic access to or contact with family-related support services in order to support the children as well.	X		X		X
Thuringian Ministry for Education, Youth and Sport	Thuringian State Programme for Democracy, Tolerance and Cosmopolitanism	Exists	Since 2011, the Thuringian State Programme for Democracy, Tolerance and Cosmopolitanism has clustered measures, structures and projects to strengthen democratic political culture in Thuringia. Measures are also particularly promoted that involve children and young people.	X	X			

Table 1 continued

Table 1 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Thuringian Ministry for Education, Youth and Sport	<i>Vielfalt vor Ort begegnen – Professioneller Umgang mit Heterogenität in Kindertageseinrichtungen</i> ("Meeting diversity locally – dealing professionally with heterogeneity at nurseries")	Exists	The aim of the project is to provide institutional teams with scientific and professional support in breaking down barriers to education and participation, create spaces of opportunity, and strengthen diversity. The focus of this professional development scheme is inclusive education. Nurseries are supported in overcoming the various challenges, which might be related to the individual child, the social space of the specific life situation.	X				

Table 2: Measures by the municipalities

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Association of German Cities	City of Cologne, 2nd Action Plan – Child and Youth Friendly Cologne 2022-2025	Exists	The Action Plan is our steering tool for the practical and verifiable implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the local level. The new structure of the Action Plan appears to be well-suited to anchoring children's rights more deeply at the local level in the long term, achieving the goal of incorporating the interests of children and young people in all processes or actions that affect them.	X		X		
Association of German Cities	Promotion of the participation of children and young people in Wolfsburg	Exists	The participation of young people in Wolfsburg is promoted by allowing them to get involved in participation bodies (the Children's Advisory Council (age 10-13) and the Youth Advisory Council (age 13-27)). Up to ten young people from the Youth Advisory Council are delegated to the Children and Youth Commission, a sub-committee of the Youth Welfare Committee.					
Herford district	Prevention model (municipal prevention chains) for a sound childhood and adolescence in the district of Herford	Exists	An interdisciplinary steering group on prevention chains have developed a joint prevention guideline for a sound childhood and adolescence in the district of Herford. The aim is to create participatory support opportunities and structures for children and their families that are as low-threshold as possible.	X	X	X		
District of Celle	Die Kleine Schule im KESS – a project for smart children in rural areas	Exists	The aim of the project is to strengthen children's self-competence across all phases of life, promote their integration in social networks and provide them with educational stimuli that they do not gain from their family environment.	X	X			

Table 2 continued

Table 2 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Lörrach District Administration	Children's prevention concept <i>Alle dabei! Wir für die Kinder im Landkreis Lörrach</i>	Exists	This project focuses on children aged three to seven and their families and continues the prevention chain, thereby building on the well-established early childhood intervention services in the district of Lörrach.	X	X	X		
Ortenaukreis District Administration, Department of Social and Psychological Services	Networks against child and youth poverty and in support of health in Ortenaukreis	Exists	Networks against child and youth poverty and in support of health have been established at the sites in Offenburg, Lahr and Kehl.	X	X	X		
Ortenaukreis District Administration, Department of Social and Psychological Services	Demand-oriented professional development for nurseries and for schools at primary level and secondary levels I and II on the topic of "Poverty-sensitive action – well-being in childhood and adolescence" – Dabeisein auch mit wenig Geld.	Exists	This professional development programme aimed at all nursery and school teams in Ortenaukreis seeks to raise awareness of the issue of child poverty and shed light on the effects that poverty can have on children. The educators and teachers obtain extensive knowledge on the topic of child poverty and child health.	X	X	X	X	
Ortenaukreis District Administration, Department of Social and Psychological Services	Ortenaukreis prevention network – model youth project <i>Erwachsenwerden leicht gemacht</i> ("Growing up the easy way")	Exists	This model project aims to strengthen young people in their resilience and support them in the transition to young adulthood in a way that is appropriate to their specific needs. Priority is given to the following aspects: holistic support in growing up, intervention, prevention.	X	X	X		

Table 2 continued

Table 2 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Ortenaukreis District Administration, Department of Social and Psychological Services	Ortenaukreis prevention network	Exists	Systematic, full-coverage and cross-system prevention concept to promote physical and mental health as well as social participation for all children and adolescents (0-18 years) and their families in the entire area of Ortenaukreis.	X	X	X	X	

Table 3: Measures by non-governmental organisations and other organisations

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Arbeitsgemeinschaft für katholische Familienbildung (AKF) e.V.	<i>KidS: Kess-erziehen in der Schule</i>	Exists	The programme <i>KidS</i> provides professional development courses for educators in the school context. The aim is to establish a relationship-oriented approach to behaviourally creative children with a view to achieving integration, promoting development and strengthening mental health. Educational partnerships/alliances are supported.	X	X	X		
Arbeitsgemeinschaft für katholische Familienbildung (AKF) e.V.	<i>Pakt für Pirmasens</i>	Exists	The Pact for Pirmasens is a network of full-time and voluntary specialists dedicated to improving educational opportunities and the integration of young people. One example is the “Mobile Parents’ Café”, where parent guides visit playgrounds etc. so as to establish contacts.	X	X			
Arbeitskreis deutscher Bildungsstätten e.V.	<i>Demokratie-Profis in Ausbildung! Political education with children</i>	Exists	This project brings political issues to life for children aged six to twelve in an age-appropriate way. At pilot locations, political education formats for children are developed and implemented, reflected on and scientifically evaluated. In addition, events are offered for professionals in non-formal and formal political education and in child and youth welfare.	X	X			
Auridis Foundation	Establishment and expansion of municipal prevention chains	Exists	Funding of personnel costs and process support for municipalities that wish to establish or advance integrated municipal or district strategies to mitigate the consequences of social exclusion risks (e.g. poverty, educational disadvantage, illness).	X	X			

Table 3 continued

Table 3 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
bbt – Federal Parental Network of Migrant Organisations for Education and Participation	KEBiK – Competent parents for child education	Exists	This project aims to strengthen the skills of parents with a migrant background in supporting their children’s education, provide information about the German education system in several languages and draw attention to existing local services.		X			
Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Familienerholung e.V. (Federal Working Group for Family Recreation)	Zeit haben, Natur spüren, Zusammen sein – im Familienferiendorf Tieringen (“Take time, feel nature, be together – at the family holiday village Tieringen”)	Exists	The educational programme offered by Tieringen family holiday village is mainly aimed at children in difficult family circumstances and with challenging living conditions. Being outside in the country is an unfamiliar experience for some children and young people.		X			
Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Familienerholung e.V. (Federal Working Group for Family Recreation)	Intercultural leisure stays – Sprache finden, Kommunikation erleben” im AWO SANO Familienferiendorf Schillig (“Find language, experience communication at AWO SANO family holiday village Schillig”)	Exists	The team at AWO SANO family holiday village Schillig organises “intercultural leisure stays” by the North Sea. Families with an integration background can enjoy a relaxing week by the sea with children up to seven years of age under the motto “Find language, experience communication”.			X		
Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Familienerholung e.V. (Federal Working Group for Family Recreation)	Happy Hübi foster child leisure stays – children with limited day-to-day competence: Jedes eine eigene Welt at Familienferiendorf Hübigen e.V. family village	Exists	The family village Familienferiendorf Hübigen e.V. offers a support programme for carer relatives which can potentially be financed through care insurance. This non-profit association offers family-oriented services that allow the children and adolescents in question to spend a weekend with round-the-clock socio-educational support.				X	

Table 3 continued

Table 3 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Mehr Sicherheit für Kinder e.V. (BAG – national network for the prevention of childhood accidents)	Accident prevention initiative – child safety in the daycare setting	Exists	The aim of the project is to provide educators, as an important multiplier group, with concepts, media or measures for child safety and accident prevention. The concepts, media and measures are to benefit all nursery children, regardless of gender, age, social background and family situation.	X				
Bundeselternrat (Federal Council of Parents)	Lernen im RealLabor (“Learning in living labs”)	Exists	Living labs bring school classes together with partners from agriculture, viticulture and forestry. Each week, under educational guidance, pupils get to explore the workings of climate change, agriculture, soil, the carbon cycle, etc. In doing so they are provided with a range of tools and methods for independent work and learning.	X	X		X	
Bundeselternrat (Federal Council of Parents)	Vielfältige Jugenden (“Diverse adolescence”)	Planned	The Federal Council of Parents and its Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) working group, together with the Lesbian and Gay Association in Germany (LSVD), implement Goal 5 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) for gender equality and support parents and parents’ associations in shaping diversity.		X			
Bundespsychotherapeutenkammer (Federal Chamber of Psychotherapists)	Group work in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic for children and young people – strengthening mental health	Exists	The aims of the group programme, which is implemented by child and youth psychiatrists, are (1) improve the tense care situation due to the pandemic, (2) establish low-threshold offerings for the prevention of long-term consequences, (3) focus on the needs of children and adolescents.				X	

Table 3 continued

Table 3 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Federal Association of Disabled and Chronically Ill Parents – bbe e.V.	Participation and representation of persons with disabilities in the implementation of KJSG – the Inclusive Child and Youth Welfare Act	Exists	This participation project deals with a whole range of questions, such as how children and parents can be involved in the planning and implementation of municipal child and youth welfare services, and how inclusive child and youth welfare services can be designed so that all children and young people with disabilities benefit from them.	X	X	X	X	X
Bundesverband für Kindertagespflege e.V. (Federal Association for Child Daycare)	Early childhood democracy and participation project <i>Demokratie und Partizipation von Anfang an</i>	Exists	This project aims to understand participation as a quality feature of educational work in child daycare and to strengthen child daycare professionals in involving young children. For this purpose, a blended learning programme is being developed that combines digital and in-person training as well as analogue working aids.	X				
CVJM Gesamtverband in Deutschland e.V. (YMCA Germany)	YMCA Halle Schnitte	Planned	At present, the Halle YMCA looks after up to 95 children aged six to thirteen every day in four facilities in Halle-Neustadt. The aim of the facilities is to get children off the streets, offer them a place of refuge, spend leisure time with them in a meaningful way, reduce social deficits and put children back at the centre of society.		X	X	X	
CVJM Gesamtverband in Deutschland e.V. (YMCA Germany)	School social work by YMCA Leipzig.	Exists	We accompany pupils and their families when they start school and during the transition to secondary school. We arrange internships and offer cooperative schools the opportunity to rent the YMCA premises and grounds.		X			
CVJM Gesamtverband in Deutschland e.V. (YMCA Germany)	YMCA Ostwerk leisure programme <i>Freizeipaten</i>	Exists	Even when basic needs are met, it may still simply not be possible to go to the cinema or enjoy a holiday We believe that family income should not determine which children can go on holiday and which can't. We send girls and boys from low-income families on trips.		X	X	X	

Table 3 continued

Table 3 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Paritätischer Gesamtverband (umbrella organisation of independent welfare institutions in Germany)	Daycare Report 2022	Exists	The study offers a very detailed picture of the need for action in nurseries. With its 2022 Daycare Report, the Paritätischer Gesamtverband – the umbrella organisation of independent welfare institutions in Germany – is committed to improving working conditions in nurseries on a long-term basis.	X		X	X	
Paritätischer Gesamtverband (umbrella organisation of independent welfare institutions in Germany)	Expert report: <i>Kein Kind zurücklassen. Warum es wirksame Maßnahmen gegen Kinderarmut braucht.</i> (“Leave no child behind. Why effective measures are needed to combat child poverty.”)	Exists	The expert report by the research agency of the Paritätischer Gesamtverband provides some preliminary answers to key questions in the discussion on child poverty.			X		X
German Nutrition Society (DGE)	DGE quality standards for catering in nurseries and DGE quality standards for catering in schools.	Exists	The DGE quality standards support those responsible in nurseries and schools in offering sustainable catering. It provides a detailed account of what catering should look like in order to promote health. The focus is on an optimum choice of foods taking into account the particular conditions in nurseries and schools.	X	X		X	
German Nutrition Society (DGE)	Project by the Lower Saxony section of the DGE: <i>Faire Ernährungs-umgebungen</i> (“Fair nutrition environments”)	Exists	With the help of training and qualification programmes, relevant actors receive further training and qualifications on the topic of optimum nutrition and health promotion in the context of food poverty for children and adolescents, with the aim of establishing a fair nutrition environment.			X	X	

Table 3 continued

Table 3 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
German Nutrition Society (DGE)	Guidelines for health-promoting catering in nurseries (working title)	Planned	The aim of the guide is to provide child daycare professionals with relevant information on health-promoting catering for the children in their care (from the age of zero onwards).	X			X	
German Nutrition Society (DGE)	Nutrition before birth and in the first 1,000 days	Exists	The aim is to promote a healthy lifestyle and thereby improve the health of expectant and new mothers as well as infants and young children. One particular focus is the prevention of obesity and diabetes.			X	X	
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachheilpädagogik e.V. (dgs e.V.) (dgs e.V. – German Society for Speech and Language Therapy Education)	Training portal for professionals to qualify in the area of language education and language support	Exists	We offer knowledge transfer to other contexts by allowing colleagues from neighbouring fields to participate in our training programmes. We are currently further developing our digital training programmes and offering systematic online qualification programmes.	X	X	X		
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachheilpädagogik e.V. (dgs e.V.) (dgs e.V. – German Society for Speech and Language Therapy Education)	Explanatory videos on speech, language, voice and communication disorders and multilingualism	Planned	As a professional association, dgs e.V. seeks to provide low-threshold explanatory videos in simple or easy language on speech, language, voice and communication disorders. For this purpose, the existing content of the information booklets and brochures are to be adapted to video formats and presented in the form of appealing animations.	X	X	X		
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachheilpädagogik e.V. (dgs e.V.) (dgs e.V. – German Society for Speech and Language Therapy Education)	Information booklets and brochures on speech, language, voice and communication disorders in all age groups for parents, professionals and those affected	Exists	By providing a wide variety of publications, we offer assistance, tips and support ideas for children, young people and adults with speech, language, voice and communication disorders and in the context of multilingualism. These information materials are provided free of charge, or at cost price in the case of printed materials.		X			

Table 3 continued

Table 3 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
German Children and Youth Foundation GmbH (DKJS)	LiGa Lernen im Ganztage – all-day learning programme	Exists	The all-day learning programme <i>LiGa</i> enables all-day schools to advance individualised study so that all pupils learn successfully. This requires sound cooperation between school management and school supervision. <i>LiGa</i> strengthens this cooperation so that together they can advance the development of quality at schools.		X			
German Children and Youth Foundation GmbH (DKJS)	The German Nursery Award	Exists	This award provides an impetus for quality in early childhood education, recognising the commitment of the people who demonstrate on a day-to-day basis in nurseries how good quality can be achieved at the local level. The German Nursery Award is awarded annually in the categories “Nursery of the Year” and “Local Alliance for Education of the Year”.	X				
German Children and Youth Foundation GmbH (DKJS)	Kommune 360° – Gemeinsam für Kinder	Exists	The initiative <i>Kommune 360°</i> establishes a nationwide network of actors from administration, politics, academia and civil society that further develops municipal planning and steering processes in the field of youth welfare planning in an impact-oriented way. The aim is for municipalities to make better use of the potential of integrated planning to enable children to grow up well.	X		X		
German League for the Child	LA DARABA NICHT SCHLAGEN – support for non-violent education in Arabic-speaking families	Exists	Creation of short prejudice-conscious and discrimination-sensitive films on the topic of non-violent education. The target group is Arabic-speaking families, professionals at educational and daycare institutions, and counselling centres that work with Arabic-speaking families.	X				

Table 3 continued

Table 3 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
German League for the Child	Kindergarten plus and START ab 2	Exists	Educators receive numerous ideas for day-to-day routine with the children as well as targeted observation and the design of day-to-day structures, self-care and self-reflection. From 2022, a targeted expansion is planned to include nurseries that provide care for refugee children and families from Ukraine.	X				
Deutsche Sportjugend (DSJ, national youth sports organisation)	Strengthen and qualify cooperation between sports clubs (= non-school education providers) and nurseries/schools	Exists	Regular cooperation between sports clubs and all-day care takes many forms. However, the expansion of all-day school and daycare facilities poses challenges for non-school providers. A position paper was published by the DSJ, the umbrella organisation for organised child and youth sports.	X	X	X		
Deutsche Sportjugend (DSJ, national youth sports organisation)	Physical activity calendars as a measure to recruit and train multipliers	Exists	The DSJ exercise calendar provides volunteers at sports clubs, nurseries, school care facilities and other institutions with easy-to-implement physical exercise and game ideas every month, focusing on a different theme each year. In this way, subject matter is conveyed to children through physical exercise.	X	X	X	X	
Deutsche Telekom Foundation	Ich Kann Was! Potenziale entdecken und entfalten	Exists	The nationwide initiative <i>Ich kann was!</i> run by the Deutsche Telekom Foundation supports projects and institutions in universal child and youth welfare work. The aim is to provide young people from disadvantaged backgrounds in particular with skills that enable them to participate actively in society in a self-determined manner and to successfully shape their own future.	X				

Table 3 continued

Table 3 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Deutsche Telekom Foundation	GestaltBar – the digital workshop	Exists	<i>GestaltBar</i> is a programme for schools whose students are primarily aiming to go into vocational training. It is implemented together with universal child and youth welfare institutions, in some places also with other non-school partners. Partners provide experienced experts who provide subject and educational support for the young people. The aim is to give them access to digital technologies and the opportunity to discover their talents in an open learning space.		X			
Deutsche Vereinigung für Soziale Arbeit im Gesundheitswesen e.V. (DVSG – German Association for Social Work in Healthcare)	Ressourcen stärken – Kinder psychisch erkrankter Eltern (“Strengthening resources – children of mentally ill parents”)	Exists	The preventive parent group programme “Strengthening resources” aims to reduce the risks of child abuse. It is aimed at parents with infants and toddlers up to the age of five.	X				
Deutsche Vereinigung für Soziale Arbeit im Gesundheitswesen e.V. (DVSG – German Association for Social Work in Healthcare)	Cross-sectoral child protection	Exists	The DVSG pursues a cluster of measures, ranging from participation in the development of the child protection directive and the development of procedural regulations for the involvement of social services in cases of suspected child abuse, neglect and maltreatment, through to the implementation of professional development on the topic of child protection and the promotion of the participation of children and young people in the relevant areas of practice and procedures.	X	X	X		

Table 3 continued

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				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Deutsche Vereinigung für Soziale Arbeit im Gesundheitswesen e.V. (DVSG – German Association for Social Work in Healthcare)	co*gesund – health promotion of educationally disadvantaged young people. A feasibility study on the promotion of resilience in the COVID-19 crisis in the setting of school and pre-vocational training measures	Exists	The research project <i>co*gesund</i> investigates from the perspective of professionals and young people to what extent educationally disadvantaged young people are able to establish their psychosocial health during and after the COVID-19 crisis. Research is conducted to find out which resources they are able to draw on and which mechanisms in the settings of school and vocational preparation measures hinder or promote their resilience and health.	X	X			
Deutscher Bundesjugendring e.V. (DBJR – German Federal Youth Council)	Quality standards for child & youth participation. Impulses for further development in theory and practice	Exists	The DBJR supports the process of revising and rewriting the quality standards for child and youth participation. This publication sets out the prerequisites, framework conditions, opportunities and challenges involved in child and youth participation in different fields of action, encouraging discussion and further development.	X	X			
Deutscher Caritasverband e.V. (Caritas Germany)	Springboard for parents and children in Neunkirchen	Exists	The focus of the project is to support, accompany and advise children and their parents during the transition from daycare to primary school in order to give them a good start in their educational career. The target group consists of children from educationally disadvantaged families, aged between five and seven years, who grow up under difficult socioeconomic conditions.	X	X			
Deutscher Caritasverband e.V. (Caritas Germany)	Implementation of the concept of “prejudice-aware education” (VBuE) as a recognised project dedicated to inclusive practice	Exists	This project is currently to be implemented in 275 nurseries with approx. 24,000 children with and without disabilities and their approx. 5,500 educational staff. The aim is to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 2 “all children are equal” in the nurseries so that these institutions are strengthened and further developed as places of peace education and equality.	X				

Table 3 continued

Table 3 continued

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				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Deutscher Caritasverband e.V. (Caritas Germany)	Brückenschlag (“Building bridges”)	Exists	This programme is aimed at families with particular social difficulties. The aim of the project is to support families in overcoming social difficulties and to identify family-specific and migration-specific needs. In addition, the project aims to help improve access to housing for disadvantaged families.					X
Deutscher Kita-verband – Bundesverband freier unabhängiger Träger von Kindertagesstätten e.V. (German Nursery Association)	Kantinen-Werkstatt: Gutes Essen in FRÖBEL-Kitas für eine chancengerechte Zukunft (“Canteen workshop: good food at FRÖBEL nurseries for a future with equal opportunities”)	Exists	This project aims to enable all children – regardless of their social background and the family’s financial resources – to enjoy a sound nutritional biography by offering healthy and sustainably produced food in as many FRÖBEL nurseries in Berlin as possible. In the workshop process, the nurseries are supported in changing their food offerings so that they serve predominantly organic meals and in involving the children in selecting meal offerings in a participatory way.	X			X	
Deutscher Kita-verband – Bundesverband freier unabhängiger Träger von Kindertagesstätten e.V. (German Nursery Association)	Social scholarships provided by the element-i education foundation: “So that education is not a question of family background	Exists	We award performance-independent social scholarships to attend <i>element-i</i> facilities. This opportunity-oriented school concept enables all pupils to develop their full educational potential. The focus is on individual support.	X	X			
Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk e.V. (German Children’s Fund)	Kinderhaus programme	Exists	For many children, <i>Kinderhaus</i> child centres are like a second home. Here they can take part in various activities, do their homework in peace and quiet, play without worries, meet other children, share their concerns with people they trust and get a hot meal. The centres are especially important for children who experience poverty, neglect or violence at home.	X	X		X	

Table 3 continued

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				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk e.V. (German Children's Fund)	Kinderrechte für Alle?! Klassismus-kritische Arbeit in Kita und Grundschule. Bewusstsein schaffen. Benachteiligung entgegenwirken. Kinder und Familien stärken ("Children's rights for all?! Classist-critical work at nurseries and primary schools. Creating awareness. Counteracting disadvantage. Strengthening children and families")	Exists	This project aims to raise awareness in educational institutions with regard to discrimination based on socioeconomic background.	X	X			
Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk e.V. (German Children's Fund)	Children's Summit 2023	Exists	Children and young people (aged 10-15) are given the opportunity to learn about their rights and, on this basis, to formulate demands vis-à-vis policy-makers and society. Focus areas include equality and non-discrimination, health, equal opportunities and education.		X	X		
Deutsche Fußball Liga e. V. (DFL Foundation)	Fußball trifft Kultur ("Football meets culture")	Exists	"Football meets culture" is an integrative educational programme for children in grades three to six at 23 locations and involving 35 programme groups. By combining football, language and culture, it promotes language and social skills, trains learning behaviour and strengthens self-confidence.		X	X		

Table 3 continued

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				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
DFL Foundation	Lernort Stadion ("The stadium as a place of learning")	Exists	<i>Lernort Stadion</i> offers political education in football stadiums. In extra-curricular workshops and project weeks, participants deal with topics such as diversity, fair play, tolerance, sustainability and learning about democracy in a low-threshold manner, in an appreciative atmosphere and using a variety of methods.		X			
DFL Foundation	Bundesliga bewegt	Exists	This project initiates physical activity programmes at nurseries/primary schools and offers networking and qualification opportunities. The aim is to integrate physical activity into children's day-to-day lives and ensure access to needs-based, high-quality and cross-sporting opportunities in their immediate environment.	X		X		
DGSPJ (German Society for Social Paediatrics) and Bündnis für Kinder- und Jugendgesundheit e.V. (Alliance for Child and Adolescent Health).	Develop and promote parenting skills at school	Exists	Adolescents at secondary schools are to be addressed as future parents and prepared for this task, e.g. by raising awareness of young children's needs and teaching basic knowledge about age-appropriate developmental tasks.	X	X			
DGSPJ (German Society for Social Paediatrics) and Bündnis für Kinder- und Jugendgesundheit e.V. (Alliance for Child and Adolescent Health).	Child health specialists as part of multi-professional teams at schools and nurseries	Exists	Chronic illnesses present children, teachers and parents with particular challenges in day-to-day school life. Here, school health specialists (SGFK) often complement the educational team and can be effective in supporting the integration of these children.					

Table 3 continued

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Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Diakonie Deutschland	Project to promote the education of disadvantaged children and young people	Exists	This project provides children and young people with individual support, encouragement and orientation regarding the various paths in education and training. In just under three years, the project has given several hundred children and young people the opportunity to lead a self-determined life through education and training.	X	X			
EDUCATION Y	Die Pacemaker Initiative – Schrittmacher für digitale Schulen. (“The Pacemaker Initiative – Pace-makers for Digital Schools”)	Exists	We help schools find the path that suits them in the digitalisation process and define their own milestones. In addition to systemic monitoring and support of four primary schools in Berlin, the focus is on training pupils as experts in digital teaching, supporting teachers in the further development of subject teaching in terms of digitalisation and establishing digitalisation as a school development task.		X			
EDUCATION Y	family schafft Chancen: Eltern als Lernbegleiter:innen ihrer Kinder (“Opportunities through the <i>family</i> programme: parents as learning companions for their children”)	Planned	We empower parents with little or negative experience as learning companions for their children. Using the multiplier approach, we qualify professionals at nurseries who then – usually in a tandem between nursery and primary school – go on to strengthen children and their parents at the transition from nursery to primary school, a phase that is particularly relevant in terms of success. <i>family</i> supports the family as a key educational instance, as well as promoting the municipal education network.	X	X	X		

Table 3 continued

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				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
EDUCATION Y	<i>Kinder haben Rechte!</i> ("Children have rights!") NRW State Programme on Children's Rights	Exists	This programme aims to make the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child the normative point of reference for all school and non-school educational activities. Participating schools receive support in translating the rights of children and young people into the reality of life at school together with pupils. It is a multiplier programme that addresses teachers and professionals who transfer knowledge, awareness-raising and action skills through the full range of subject teaching into day-to-day school life, thereby creating space for participation.		X	X		
evangelische arbeitsgemeinschaf familie (eaf) e.V.	Continuation and quality assurance of parental guidance / Implementation within the framework of the Parental Opportunities Consortium	Exists	The aim is to set up a specialist unit for parental support at federal level and thereby establish parental support as a professional concept in the training and further education of specialists working in the field of child and youth welfare. The aim is to reach out to parents on low incomes and sensitise them to the (educational) needs of their children.	X				

Table 3 continued

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				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
evangelische arbeitsgemeinschaft familie (eaf) e.V.	<p>Project – Democracy education at Protestant nurseries and family education centres</p> <p>Online training for professionals in family education: to promote diversity and participation in family education together with Diakonie Deutschland in the programme <i>Demokratie leben!</i></p>	Exists	Family education institutions are places where democracy can be experienced as a way of life for both children and their families. In order to further strengthen and support this potential, we would like to sensitise staff members at family education institutions to a participation-oriented and prejudice-conscious design of services and establish dialogue between colleagues on this subject through an online training course.	X				
Familiengerechte Kommune e.V.	Family-friendly community process	Exists	A participatory and interdisciplinary process is implemented, with components that include an analysis of the current situation and the definition of concrete goals and measures that are sustainable (municipal decision and implementation phase).	X	X	X		X
Familiengerechte Kommune e.V.	<i>Frag UWE!</i>	Exists	UWE stands for “environment, well-being and development”: it is a tool/process dedicated to school and urban development involving children and young people.		X	X	X	
Gemeinsam leben Hessen e.V. / Netzwerk Deutschland e.V.	State-wide Inclusive Counselling Centre Hesse (IBH)	Exists	As a parents’ self-advocacy group, we work together with parents, school and extracurricular experts and therapists. Since 2018, we have run a free and Hesse-wide counselling centre (IBH) together with the inclusion network Netzwerk Inklusion Deutschland e.V.. In this way, we ensure comprehensive information for parents as well as for interested professionals and authorities.	X	X			

Table 3 continued

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				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Gesundheit Berlin-Brandenburg e.V.	Brandenburg healthy nurseries network	Exists	We promote practice-oriented quality discussion on how health-promoting measures can be designed in the day-to-day life of a nursery. At the same time, the network offers orientation and support for qualitative (further) development in health-related areas. As part of the measures implemented to support quality development processes, emphasis is therefore placed on integrating the knowledge of experts from the nurseries. Our work focuses on four fields of action/target groups: employees at nurseries, children, parents and the social environment.	X		X	X	
IKPE (Institute for Municipal Planning and Development at Erfurt University of Applied Sciences)	Thuringian prevention chains programme	Exists	This programme supports the districts and independent towns in developing holistic and tailor-made prevention concepts for children (aged 0-10) and their families. This means there is a need for well-considered cooperation between public and voluntary organisations in the fields of child and youth welfare, health, education and social services. Existing networks, services and actors are to be brought together in such a way that coordinated action is possible within the framework of an integrated overall municipal strategy.	X	X	X		
Kassenärztliche Vereinigung Bayerns (KVB – Bavarian Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians)	Children of sick parents	Exists	We support families with a seriously ill parent in communicating with their own children: after all, children feel the strain too. Up to eight meetings are held at which thoughts and feelings can be honestly expressed so as to relieve the burden and help cope with the new situation together.			X		

Table 3 continued

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				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Kinderfreundliche Kommunen e.V.	Child-friendly municipalities – supporting cities and municipalities in the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child	Exists	The association supports cities and municipalities in implementing the children's rights from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child locally with the participation of the children and young people living in the municipality. The aim of the programme is to support municipalities nationwide to improve their services, planning and structures with regard to children's rights and to apply the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in the direct living environment of children and young people.	X	X	X	X	X
Kindernetzwerk e.V. (knw)	NEST – Strengthening and relieving the burden on families with children in need of care through so-called “family health partners” in regional network structures	Exists	The aim of this project is to strengthen families with children in need of care and relieve the burden on them through so-called “family health partners” in regional network structures. Our aim is to find out whether families who are provided with permanent support obtain better relief than those families who only receive existing standard care provision (control group).	X	X	X		
Kindernetzwerk e.V. (knw)	coverCHILD – COVID-19 research platform for children and young people	Exists	The NUM 2.0 sub-project <i>coverCHILD</i> addresses the unique situation of children, young people and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic. The aim is to understand how children and young people have come through the pandemic health-wise, emotionally and socially, what support they need and how their health needs and interests can be protected in future crises.	X	X	X	X	

Table 3 continued

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				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Kooperationsverbund Gesundheitliche Chancengleichheit (Cooperation Network for Equal Opportunities in Health)	Municipal partner process <i>Gesundheit für alle</i> ("Health for all") run by Kooperationsverbund Gesundheitliche Chancengleichheit	Exists	The core of this nationwide programme is to provide professional support for the development of integrated municipal strategies for health promotion and prevention (prevention chains) through the coordination centres for equal opportunities in health. The exchange platform <i>inforo</i> (www.inforo.online) gives municipal health promotion professionals the opportunity to network, disseminate practical examples and materials, and get to know each other.			X		
Kooperationsverbund Gesundheitliche Chancengleichheit (Cooperation Network for Equal Opportunities in Health)	Ortenaukreis prevention network	Exists	Establishment of a municipal prevention strategy (prevention chain) from pregnancy through to the age of ten.	X	X	X	X	
Kooperationsverbund Gesundheitliche Chancengleichheit (Cooperation Network for Equal Opportunities in Health)	Prevention chain Munich-Freiham	Exists	The aim of the Freiham prevention chain is to enable all children and young people in the new district to enjoy a sound and healthy childhood and adolescence, have access to equal opportunities, participation and inclusion – regardless of their family's social status. This is to be achieved by focusing on the living environment of the families, promoting participation and including families who need special support.	X	X	X	X	

Table 3 continued

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				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Landesjugendring Mecklenburg-Vorpommern e.V. (Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania state youth organisation)	Kinder brauchen Ferien (“Children need holidays”)	Exists	The aim of this project is to cover the fees of young people with limited opportunities to enable them to participate in holiday camps and international youth encounters. Young people who are dependent on aid money are to benefit since they often lack the financial means to participate. In addition, there will be a financial incentive to include young people with a refugee background, disabilities or special needs.	X				
Landesvereinigung für Gesundheit und Akademie für Sozialmedizin Niedersachsen e.V. (Lower Saxony state association for health and academy of social medicine)	Lower Saxony prevention chains programme: Gesund aufwachsen für alle Kinder! (“A healthy childhood for all!”)	Exists	The programme currently supports 22 municipalities in Lower Saxony in the impact-oriented establishment and expansion of prevention chains through process support and qualification of local experts. The aim is to develop a complete and coherent infrastructure for children, young people and their parents through targeted strategy development and reliable structure building.	X	X	X	X	X
Landesvereinigung für Gesundheit und Akademie für Sozialmedizin Niedersachsen e.V. (Lower Saxony state association for health and academy of social medicine)	Family centres as anchor points for the implementation of community prevention chains in Lower Saxony	Exists	The aim is to develop and implement a funding and support programme for family centres that act as anchor points for the implementation of community prevention chains. The establishment and expansion of these centres is to take place with the participation of relevant regional actors and the state of Lower Saxony in a way that is oriented towards the social space and existing needs.	X				
NAJU (youth division of the nature conservation organisation NABU)	NAJUversum.de	Exists	Our children’s newspaper <i>NAJUversum</i> found its way into the digital world a few years ago, and NAJUversum.de now enables young people to explore the various habitats. In addition to background information, it provides games, videos and sounds.	X				

Table 3 continued

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				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
NAJU (youth division of the nature conservation organisation NABU)	Erlebter Frühling (“The experience of spring”)	Exists	This annual competition invites all children to explore the animal and plant world in spring. NAJU offers supporting materials and digital training for this purpose.	X	X			
PHINEO gAG	Der Kommunen-Podcast	Exists	The podcast offer and impetus in terms of ideas and concepts for municipal actors and all those interested in shaping the “municipality of the future”. It provides an insight into the different areas of municipal action, discusses the status quo and shows what is planned and necessary for the future. Contributors are those directly involved, experts and municipal actors from administration, politics and civil society.	X	X	X	X	X
PHINEO gAG	Kommune 360° – Gemeinsam für Kinder	Exists	<i>Kommune 360°</i> establishes a nationwide network of actors from local government, politics, academia and civil society for the purpose of joint learning, thereby developing innovative capacity-building offerings (e.g. simulation games, reflection tools, qualification offers) and activating fellow campaigners. The aim is to support municipalities in developing integrated planning processes to ensure effective support systems for children and their families.	X		X		
peb – platform for nutrition and exercise	Anfangsglück Ernährung gemeinsam entdecken (“Discovering nutrition together”)	Planned	The aim of <i>Anfangsglück</i> is to strengthen and promote nutritional literacy in a target-group-oriented manner in institutions with family links (nurseries, pregnancy/breastfeeding counselling). Based on participatory offerings, institutions and professionals are supported in building up knowledge and skills. Municipal actors are qualified, advised and networked, while (expectant) parents receive information which strengthens them in terms of their competence and motivation.	X		X	X	

Table 3 continued

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				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Save the Children Germany e.V.	Children's Rights Check – digitally improved quality standards in the accommodation of minors seeking protection	Exists	The Children's Rights Check measurement tool was developed on the basis of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in order to improve the quality of accommodation for refugee children. Accommodation staff, children and young people and their parents can take part in the survey using the digital tool and other supporting materials. Based on the results of the evaluation, shelters and authorities are sensitised and advised on child rights standards, quality-enhancing measures are implemented and recommendations are made on quality standards and quality assurance.	X	X			X
Save the Children Germany e.V.	Leseoasen – reading promotion in all-day activities	Exists	This project strengthens children's reading skills in social spaces where many people live in poverty. Educational staff involved in the all-day primary school care are supported on site and create "reading oases" together with children as spaces of retreat. Afterwards, staff implement the recreational educational programme – <i>An die Geschichten, losgelesen</i> , a scheme that creates a positive and identity-strengthening sense of achievement and encourages children to be aware of their own rights.		X			
Save the Children Germany e.V.	ASAP! Activating Schools for All-encompassing Child Protection	Planned	Schools are supported in protecting children from violence more effectively – both inside and outside school. Training courses sensitise teachers to forms of violence and signs of child welfare risks, also focusing on teachers' own role in child protection. In addition, networking activities improve cooperation with actors in the child protection system. Within the school, child protection is improved through counselling and training on the creation of child protection concepts.		X			

Table 3 continued

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				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Health care	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
SOS-Kinderdorf e.V. (SOS Children's Villages)	Nursery social work	Exists	Professionals representing universally available services are present at the nursery at pick-up and drop-off times in order to initiate early and far-reaching support. Staff are able to offer tailored and low-threshold services for the families. Various support systems for families are explained, diagnostic measures are initiated, assistance is provided with applications, and support measures are coordinated, for example.	X		X		
SOS-Kinderdorf e.V. (SOS Children's Villages)	Peanuts	Exists	<i>Peanuts</i> is a group for the children of (psychologically) stressed parents. Children between the ages of ten and thirteen with mentally ill parents are strengthened, accompanied and supported through a resource-oriented group programme. The closed group starts at the beginning of the school year and meets on a fortnightly basis. There are additional daytime activities during the school holidays. Parental meetings are held at the beginning and end and as needed.				X	
SOS-Kinderdorf e.V. (SOS Children's Villages)	Supervised playground <i>Pirateninsel Rabauki</i>	Exists	This is a universal, preventive and very low-threshold offer for families, children and young people. It enables us to reach people who, for various reasons, rarely access conventional counselling or assistance services. Through the innovative approach of linking family-building offerings to those of universal children's and youth work, the playground becomes a place for encounter, interaction and testing.	X	X		X	

Table 3 continued

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				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
SOS-Kinderdorf e.V. (SOS Children's Villages)	Project EVEREST	Exists	Aimed at young refugees and immigrants between the ages of 16 and 27, <i>EVEREST</i> enables them to find a future career. This project is run by the SOS Children's Village Berlin in cooperation with municipal Berlin enterprises, REWE and the adult education centre Volkshochschule Mitte. The aim is for the youngsters to take up employment or training after completion of the practical phase. In addition, participants receive language instruction that promotes cultural participation and social integration in addition to vocational integration.	X	X	X	X	X
Stiftung Kinder-gesundheit (Child Health Foundation)	TigerKids – Kindergarten aktiv	Exists	This nationwide, scientifically based and evaluated health education programme in nurseries is focused on early health prevention, consolidation of healthy behaviour and playful learning on the subjects of nutrition, exercise and relaxation. Participating nurseries receive comprehensive materials for three years and implement the <i>TigerKids</i> programme independently at their facilities.	X				
Stiftung Kinder-gesundheit (Child Health Foundation)	E-learning training programme <i>Kinder gesund betreut</i> ("Healthy care for children")	Exists	This programme serves to provide professional development for daycare specialists and nursery staff. The e-learning training course summarises the current state of knowledge and recommendations on various aspects of health prevention and care and offers practical recommendations on health education for and with children. After successful completion it is possible to obtain certification as a nursery health manager.	X				

Table 3 continued

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Stiftung Kinder-gesundheit (Child Health Foundation)	DIE RAKUNS Das gesunde Klassenzimmer	Exists	This nationally established programme for health promotion and education at primary schools offers optimum support for the promotion of health skills in pupils. The focus is on the pupils' own health, enabling them to develop a sound sense of their own body and self-confidence. Teachers receive a comprehensive package of materials for immediate use so as to enable independent and flexible implementation.		X		X	
Stiftung Lesen	einfach vorlesen!	Exists	Every week, three new illustrated stories to read aloud are available free of charge at www.einfachvorlesen.de and in the <i>einfach vorlesen!</i> app. The stories are suitable for children aged from three, five and seven and are available online for four weeks.	X	X			
Stiftung Lesen	Leseklubs – Mit Freu(n)den lesen	Exists	These are reading clubs that offer children from six to twelve years of age a free and voluntary leisure activity that sustainably promotes reading motivation. Reading clubs can be set up at all institutions that have a room for this purpose and staff/personnel committed to organising regular activities.		X			
Stiftung Lesen	Lesestart 1-2-3	Exists	This multi-year programme seeks to support families, especially those which are educationally disadvantaged, in permanently establishing reading aloud and storytelling in their day-to-day family life. <i>Lesestart</i> sets for children aged one and two are distributed through participating paediatricians and youth physicians, while those for three-year-olds are distributed through libraries.	X			X	

Table 3 continued

Table 3 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Stiftung SeeYou Hamburg	KID-PROTEKT – child-centred primary psychosocial care in the out-patient sector	Exists	The aim is to promote healthy child development despite psychosocial stressful situations in the family. A psychosocial stress history forms the core of this new form of care. For this purpose, medical specialists work together with the child and youth welfare services while a socio-educational specialist acts as a pilot to manage the interface between the doctor's surgery and the youth welfare services. Through the standardised registering of stress, doctors and medical professionals are trained to deal with at-risk families, as well as being provided with support.	X		X		
UNICEF	Pilot Phase III EU Child Guarantee – preparation of guidance and European cooperation	Exists	In connection with the pilot phase, the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (ECARO) provides member states with a wealth of analysis, guidance, research and good practice from the seven pilot countries. In addition to disseminating the relevant documents, UNICEF has also organised several high-level meetings with the respective Council Presidencies and the EU Commission, as well as webinars and meetings for the National Coordinators.	X	X	X	X	X
Verband alleinerziehender Mütter und Väter e.V., Bundesverband (federal association of single mothers and fathers)	Supplementary childcare: Sonne, Mond und Sterne	Exists	Provision of flexible supplementary childcare in the families' homes closes childcare gaps that particularly affect parents on shift work and single parents at times when childcare facilities are closed. This enables parents to pursue gainful employment to an extent that avoids poverty. From the children's point of view it is a benefit to be able to participate in socio-cultural activities through pick-up and drop-off services after nursery/school.	X				

Table 3 continued

Table 3 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Volkssolidarität Bundesverband e.V.	Thuringian Parent-Child Centre (ThEKiz)	Exists	These nurseries with a particularly pronounced orientation towards families and the social space use an integrated approach that enables them to support children and their families effectively and in line with needs. They are developed, expanded and promoted within the framework of a state-wide strategy and are recognised as service providers of local youth welfare planning.	X				
Volkssolidarität Bundesverband e.V.	Kiez-Kita – Bildungschancen eröffnen	Exists	The aims of our work include creating a climate conducive to learning and offering educational stimuli, thereby counteracting the consequences of social disadvantage as early as possible. Families and nurseries are to be strengthened in their ability to create a climate conducive to learning for children and to enable educational stimulation, with continuous reinforcement in terms of personnel.	X				
Volkssolidarität Bundesverband e.V.	FamZ – Family Centres at Brandenburger Multi-Generation Centres	Exists	The key task is to offer low-threshold counselling on existing state support services and concrete help when needed for low-income families (especially single parents and families with several children). At the same time, the family centres perform a pilot function by networking with all important actors involved in family and social policy and referring families with special problems to network partners and specialist counselling services.	X		X	X	X

Table 3 continued

Table 3 continued

Responsibility	Title of the measure	Status	Brief description	Link to field of action				
				Early childhood education and care	Educational opportunities and school-based activities	Healthcare	Healthy nutrition and healthy meals at nurseries and schools	Adequate housing
Wübben Foundation	School as a hub in the social space (family primary school centres)	Exists	Family primary school centres improve children's educational opportunities and contribute to educational equity by being open to parents and the neighbourhood and by developing educational partnerships. They tie in with the concept of family centres at nurseries, thereby closing the gap in the prevention chain between daycare attendance and school entry. In strengthening multi-professional cooperation, family primary school centres have an extended family orientation and a targeted reference to the social space.	X	X			

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* For general questions to all government offices and agencies, the general public service number 115 is also available. In the participating regions, the 115 is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. between Monday and Friday. Calls to the 115 from a German landline and many mobile networks are charged at local rate and are therefore toll-free for flat rate holders. Deaf persons can access information by dialing the SIP address 115@gebaerdentelefon.d115.de. To find out if the 115 is available in your region and for more information on the general public service number please visit <http://www.d115.de>.



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