



CNF CHILD
NUTRITION
FUND

© United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

December 2025

Permission is required to reproduce any part of this publication.
Permissions will be fully granted to educational or non-profit organizations.

Published by:
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
Nutrition and Child Development Programme
UNICEF Programme Group.
Three United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA

Suggested citation: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). *Child Nutrition Fund*.
UNICEF, New York, 2025.

Photo credits: cover: © UNICEF/UN0188889/Njiokiktjien VII Photo; page 2: © UNICEF/
UNI581532/Dejongh; page 4: © UNICEF/UNI472140/Karimi; page 5: © UNICEF/
UNI418516; page 6: © UNICEF/UN0403548/Antoine Raab; page 8: © UNICEF/
UN0791854/Mojtba Moawia Mahmoud; page 9: © UNICEF/UNI491675/Rasnat.

Email: contact@childnutritionfund.org

Website: www.childnutritionfund.org



**CHILD
NUTRITION
FUND**

CNF CHILD NUTRITION FUND

WHAT IS THE CHILD NUTRITION FUND?

The Child Nutrition Fund (CNF) is a UNICEF-led coordination and funding mechanism designed to accelerate the scale-up of sustainable policies, programmes and supplies to end child undernutrition in high-need countries.

WHAT IS THE CHILD NUTRITION FUND TRYING TO ACHIEVE?

The CNF mobilizes resources to accelerate the implementation of evidence-based, high-impact actions designed to tackle key nutrition challenges, including stunting, wasting and anaemia in children and women. The CNF empowers countries to accelerate progress in achieving their national commitments to the nutrition of children and women and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



WHY DO WE NEED A CHILD NUTRITION FUND?

The current global and national responses to malnutrition in children and women are often inadequate, particularly in contexts with high numbers of children and women at risk of, or suffering from, the more extreme forms of undernutrition. The CNF has been designed as a response to three challenges:

THERE IS NO PLATFORM TO SUPPORT GLOBAL DONORS TO COORDINATE THEIR INVESTMENTS IN HIGH-IMPACT NUTRITION ACTIONS.

This means that some interventions, regions or countries are oversupplied, while others are underfunded.

THERE IS NO DEDICATED MECHANISM DESIGNED TO INCENTIVIZE A TRANSITION FROM GLOBAL FUNDING TO DOMESTIC FUNDING AND TO COORDINATE THAT TRANSITION.

This means that there is limited incentive for national governments to commit domestic funding for essential nutrition actions and supplies.

THERE IS NO DEDICATED MECHANISM TO SUPPORT LOCAL MANUFACTURING OF THERAPEUTIC AND COMPLEMENTARY FOODS AND NUTRITION SUPPLEMENTS IN LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES.

This means that locally- or regionally-produced essential nutrition supplies cannot be procured when and where they are needed.

THE CNF HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE A UNIFIED SOLUTION TO THESE THREE CHALLENGES.



The Programme Window

coordinates global investments, ensuring that high-impact nutrition actions are effectively funded and implemented for maximum impact. It provides vital support to countries with limited financial resources without requiring additional domestic funding commitments, enabling them to address undernutrition effectively. For countries with greater fiscal space, the CNF offers parallel financing, enhancing nutrition service delivery while complementing domestic investments. This strategic mechanism bridges funding gaps and ensures that different countries have the support they need to scale up high-impact nutrition actions in an effective and sustainable way.



The Match Window

enables national governments to double their investments in essential nutrition supplies to prevent and treat malnutrition.

The matching of domestic resources allows governments to maximize impact and accelerate the scale-up of critical interventions. By leveraging national investments, the Match Window empowers countries to programme with greater efficiency and broader reach, ensuring that essential supplies – such as ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTF), multiple micronutrient supplements (MMS), balanced energy-protein supplements for women, small-quantity lipid-nutrient supplements (SQ-LNS), and vitamin A supplements – reach vulnerable children and women and address undernutrition sustainably.



The Supplier Window

provides financing solutions to support local manufacturers in producing essential nutrition supplies when and where they are most needed. Through instruments

like the Supplier Finance Facility and the RUTF Advance Payment Facility, this mechanism offers access to concessional loans, guarantees, and pre-financing mechanisms to address cash flow challenges and expand production capacity. By strengthening local supply chains, these demand-driven, time-bound tools empower manufacturers in low- and middle-income countries to deliver high-quality nutrition supplies.

WHAT HIGH IMPACT ACTIONS DOES THE CHILD NUTRITION FUND AIM TO SCALE UP?

The CNF aims to support the achievement of the Nutrition Targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, including ending undernutrition and reducing mortality among children under five years of age and women by 2030. To do so, the CNF supports government-led actions in five areas:



Maternal nutrition

Antenatal care counselling and support

Micronutrient supplementation



Breastfeeding promotion

Infant and young child nutrition counselling and support

Growth monitoring and promotion



Complementary feeding

Multiple micronutrient powders

Small-quantity lipid-based food supplements



Micronutrient supplementation

Vitamin A supplementation

Deworming prophylaxis



Treatment of child wasting

Children with severe wasting

Children with high-risk moderate wasting



WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE FOR THE CHILD NUTRITION FUND?

The CNF is dedicated to ensuring that every child and woman has access to the essential nutrition they need to thrive. In partnership with national governments, global nutrition partners, and international financial institutions, we are working to secure sustainable and sufficient funding for nutrition year after year. Our mission is ambitious:

Supporting global efforts to reach 320 million children and women annually with life-changing nutrition programmes by 2030.

This includes at least:

70 million women

reached annually with services for the prevention of undernutrition, which means:

At least 90 per cent of pregnant women receive micronutrient supplementation, which includes MMS or iron and folic acid (IFA) supplements.

Additionally, they attend a minimum of four antenatal care sessions, where nutrition counselling, information and support are included.

230 million children

reached annually with services for the prevention of undernutrition, which means:

At least 90 per cent of caregivers receive appropriate counselling on early childhood nutrition, which can be provided on an individual or group basis, accompanied by effective communication and information dissemination.

At least 50 per cent of children benefit from home-based food fortification, such as with multiple micronutrient powders or small-quantity lipid-nutrient supplements, to enhance the nutritional quality of their diets.

At least 90 per cent of children benefit from two annual doses of vitamin A supplementation and deworming prophylaxis in priority countries and settings to strengthen children's immune systems, improve nutrient intake, and reduce nutrient losses.

20 million children

reached annually with treatment for life-threatening forms of undernutrition, which means:

At least 90 per cent of children with severe wasting receive treatment with RUTF.

At least 90 per cent of children with high-risk moderate wasting (high mortality risk) receive treatment with RUTF.



HOW MUCH IS THE CHILD NUTRITION FUND SEEKING TO RAISE AND HOW CAN DONORS CONTRIBUTE TO IT?

The CNF is committed to supporting national governments and their implementing partners with resources to scale up high-impact nutrition actions that save lives and support children to grow and develop to their full potential. Guided by the World Bank's Investment Framework for Nutrition, the CNF aims to mobilize at least \$2 billion globally by 2030 while incentivizing the mobilization of domestic investments to close the broader funding gap. **The CNF aims to mobilize at least:**

\$1,150 billion for the Programme Window

This will enable the CNF to support a wide range of donors to maximize and optimize the allocation of global resources and leverage at least an additional \$750 million in parallel domestic financing.

\$750 million for the Match Window

This will enable the CNF to leverage an additional \$750 million in domestic resources for essential nutrition supplies.

\$100 million for the Supplier Window

This will enable the CNF to leverage an additional \$150–\$200 million in resources to support local manufacturers of essential nutrition supplies.

DONORS WISHING TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHILD NUTRITION FUND CAN DO SO IN A VARIETY OF WAYS.



The Programme Window

Donors are encouraged to support the CNF through unearmarked contributions. This approach unlocks maximum flexibility and empowers the CNF to channel resources to the areas of greatest need, ensuring that investments deliver transformative, high-impact results. The outcomes of these contributions are consolidated into transparent, comprehensive reports for donors, showcasing their collective achievements. For donors with specific interests, earmarked contributions remain an option within the Programme Window.



The Match Window

Donor contributions are directed into a UNICEF-managed pooled fund, designed to ensure flexibility, equity, and efficiency in resource allocation. Contributions are not earmarked for specific geographies or supplies, but are instead disbursed based on assessed needs and demand-driven priorities. This approach enables a more agile and impactful response to global nutrition challenges. As reporting reflects the collective impact of all contributions, rather than individual donor allocations, it underscores the power of collaboration.



The Supplier Window

Donors can make a general contribution that is deployed by the CNF and its partners towards existing or new financing instruments to support suppliers of essential nutrition commodities. Alternatively, donors can co-create and jointly develop new financing instruments based on the type of funding available (e.g., grants, loans, etc.) and the other instruments already available through the CNF. Reporting is provided on a consolidated basis and will include the performance of each one of the financing instruments under the Supplier Window.

DOUBLE THE IMPACT: THE CNF MATCH CHALLENGE

In a rare moment for global nutrition, the CNF is offering a new financing opportunity: every eligible donation now goes twice as far, thanks to a historic matching pledge.

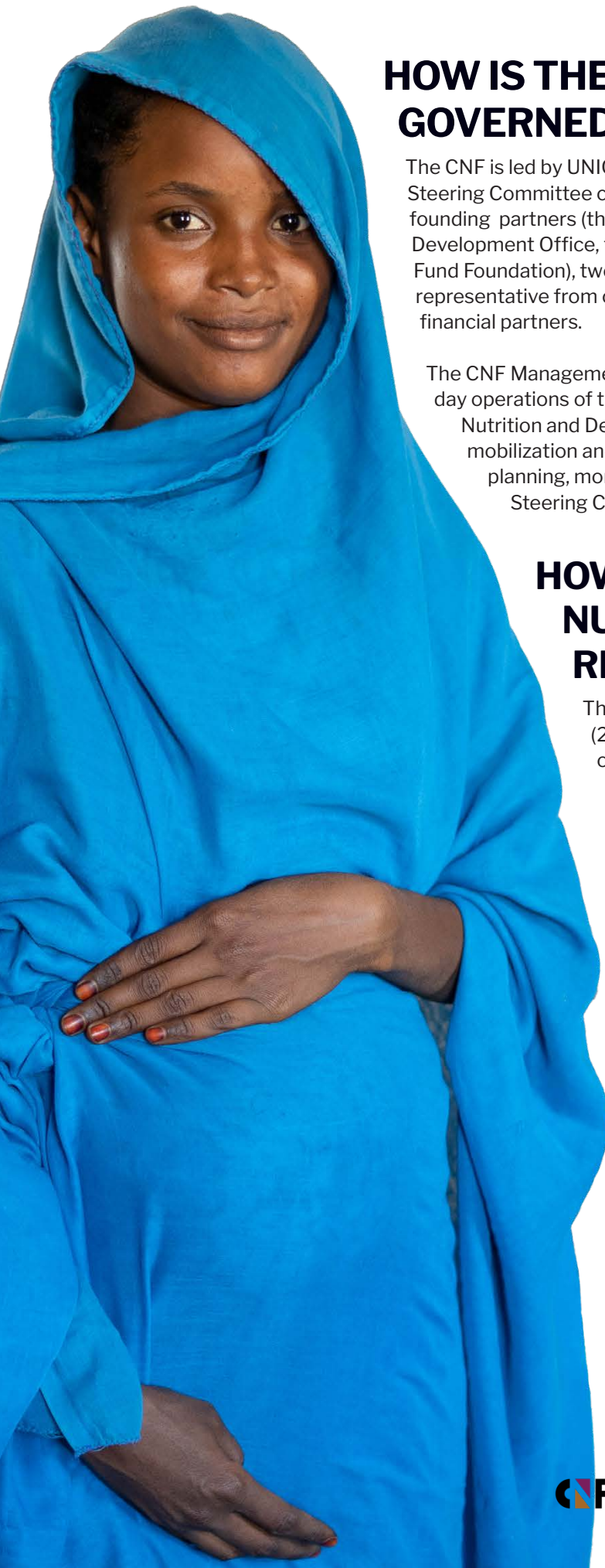
The CNF Match Challenge will meet up to a total of US\$500 million in donations to the CNF, with a one-to-one match – which means doubling the impact for children and women.

This means that a potential US\$1 billion could be unlocked for the most important nutrition actions.

This matching pool is open to contributions made before the end of 2027 and directed to CNF's priority interventions in high-need countries.

Join us – now.





HOW IS THE CHILD NUTRITION FUND GOVERNED?

The CNF is led by UNICEF and supported by a Steering Committee. The Steering Committee comprises representatives from UNICEF, the three founding partners (the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, the Gates Foundation and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation), two representatives from government partners, one representative from civil society organizations, and up to two additional financial partners.

The CNF Management Unit at UNICEF is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the CNF. The Management Unit, under UNICEF Child Nutrition and Development Programme, is accountable for the resource mobilization and administration operations of the CNF, including planning, monitoring and reporting, as well as the facilitation of Steering Committee meetings.

HOW DOES THE CHILD NUTRITION FUND TRACK AND REPORT ON PROGRESS?

The CNF's work is guided by a Strategic Results Framework (2024–2030). The Framework guides strategic and operational decisions throughout this period. Every year, the CNF produces an Annual Report that captures the main accomplishments in the previous year against the Results Framework, including the additional resources mobilized through the CNF catalytic funds, lessons learned and priority actions for the following year.

The CNF website (www.childnutritionfund.org) offers a regular source of information about progress, opportunities and news throughout the year.

WHICH COUNTRIES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR CNF SUPPORT?

The CNF prioritizes countries where children are most at risk. Our support is focused on countries with a high burden of child wasting and stunting. We use key global data such as the Joint Malnutrition Estimates and the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) for acute malnutrition to ensure our resources have the greatest possible impact for vulnerable children. A full and updated list of eligible countries is available on our website: www.childnutritionfund.org.





www.childnutritionfund.org