



# THE MATCH WINDOW AN OVERVIEW

**To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, governments must commit to comprehensive, integrated and universal transformations in various areas. This includes ending hunger and malnutrition, eliminating all forms of poverty, fighting inequalities and tackling climate change, while ensuring no one is left behind.**



Adequate and sustained investments in nutrition are vital to realize the SDGs. Yet progress towards self-financing sustainability varies drastically among countries. Obstacles related to public finance management often hinder governments' ability to generate the necessary resources and optimize investments for children. To this end, UNICEF is committed to influencing the mobilization, allocation and utilization of domestic public financial resources to achieve greater, more equitable, and sustainable results for children.

Nutrition programmes are essential for saving children's lives and setting them on the path to healthy growth and development. Yet these programmes have been underfunded and are heavily dependent upon donor support. To contribute to the SDG goals of zero hunger and an end to preventable deaths in children by 2030, UNICEF works with partners to strengthen the self-financing sustainability of nutrition programmes across countries.

The Match Window is part of the Child Nutrition Fund (CNF), a new financing mechanism designed to accelerate the scale-up of sustainable policies, programmes and supplies to end child wasting. The Match Window is a catalytic 1:1 matching mechanism that allows national governments to double their investment in supplies for the prevention, detection and treatment of child wasting to the extent of the funding available in the Match Instrument.

This important venture was made possible with the support of the Government of the United Kingdom (Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office) and by additional investments made by the Children's Investment Fund Foundation. In 2022, with an additional contribution from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Match Window expanded the range of commodities that were eligible to be matched to include commodities used to prevent malnutrition in children and women – while continuing to include ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTF) to treat child wasting, which had been eligible since the beginning.

## Eligible countries

The Match Window is available to all countries with children suffering from wasting. However, to maximize the use of domestic resources, cross-sectoral systems support, and the finite resources currently available within the Match Window, UNICEF may prioritize access to countries that are part of the Global Action Plan on Child Wasting. To be eligible for the Match Window, governments should ideally meet two criteria:

1. First, they must use UNICEF Procurement Services (PS) to disburse domestic funds for RUTF and non-RUTF procurement;
2. Second, any increase in funding towards RUTF and non-RUTF products should not come at the cost of other life-saving nutrition and health interventions.

To participate in the Match Window, countries should have a Programme Cooperation Agreement or a Basic Cooperation Agreement in place. If a memorandum of understanding from UNICEF Procurement Services has yet to be established with the country, one must be completed before the country can participate in the Match Window. Alternatively, UNICEF PS can confirm whether a memorandum of understanding is under negotiation and pending execution.

## Eligible funds

The Match Window will accept domestically mobilized resources (such as a government's fiscal revenue and loans from international financial institutions) for the procurement and delivery of RUTF and other eligible nutrition supplies.

## Eligible products and associated procurement costs for matching

The Match Window covers the cost of RUTF, as well as commodities to prevent malnutrition in children and women, such as balanced-energy protein supplements, multiple micronutrient supplements, small-quantity lipid-based nutrient supplements, medium-quantity lipid-based nutrient supplements and vitamin A supplements.

In addition, handling fees and freight costs are covered until the point of delivery. The government is responsible for any in-country logistics costs, including taxes, storage and distribution.

## Procurement channel for the Match Window

UNICEF PS is the dedicated procurement channel for all items procured using resources from national governments and the Match Window. UNICEF PS provides an effective and transparent system for efficiently securing access to preventive and life-saving supplies. For further information, please refer to: <https://www.unicef.org/supply/procurement-services>

## Match ratio

To incentivize the procurement of RUTF and non-RUTF commodities, the Match Window will match contributions made by national governments, provided that funds are available and within the annual ceiling of 80 per cent of annual donor contributions.



## Application process

The application process for the Match Window begins with countries expressing their interest and submitting a Match Window application to UNICEF Supply Division via the designated UNICEF country office. Awards are issued annually, and to qualify, country applicants must provide a comprehensive description of the following:

- The country's nutrition programme to date, including historical spending for the last five years
- The nutrition programme's significant achievements, bottlenecks and challenges, with a plan to address them
- A five-year forecast of RUTF/non-RUTF needs and funding projections (donor funding, domestic commitments, and calculated funding gap)








- Indication of whether the government has a Global Financing Facility investment case containing nutrition-specific initiatives
- Evidence showing that the country has allocated domestic resources toward nutrition supplies for the year in which the application is made, either through a budget extract or a letter of commitment from the Ministry of Finance.

Once a Match Window application is reviewed and approved, the Match Window contribution will only be awarded after government funds have been successfully received by UNICEF Supply Division.

To ensure eligibility for further awards in subsequent years, countries must submit renewal applications to the Match Window, subject to the same review, approval and award process described above.

## Match Window process overview



-  ▶ Government expresses interest in leveraging the Match Window mechanism
-  ▶ Government submits application package with evidence that budget has been allocated for nutrition products
-  ▶ UNICEF reviews and approves application
-  ▶ Government send two procurement request for nutrition products from country office
-  ▶ UNICEF issues two cost estimates (CEs) – for government and Match Window portions
-  ▶ Government accepts both CEs and makes fund transfer for the government-fund CE to initiate procurement process
-  ▶ UNICEF finances Match Window CE and initiates procurement process

## Current approval period

The Match Window approvals are valid for one calendar year. Countries must submit renewal applications to continue using the Match Window in the following years.

## Key terms of the standard contribution agreement

The Match Window is a trust account within the framework of UNICEF PS to facilitate the purchase of essential nutrition supplies for participating governments. The Match Window receives, holds, administers, and disburses funds to match such purchases via UNICEF PS.

To offset UNICEF's costs of administering the Match Window, an 8 per cent administrative fee will be applied to the total cost of the nutrition supplies and services. This includes a handling fee, and all contributions to the Match Window are subject to this charge.

UNICEF will be accountable for funds donated to the Match Window while they remain in its care and will ensure that funds disbursed from the Match Window are only used to procure designated nutrition supplies.

All donor contributions are co-mingled with other contributions to the Match Window and shall not be separately identified or administered.

## Management of the Match Window

The Window is managed by UNICEF Supply Division. Disbursements from the Match Window are coordinated and managed by UNICEF Supply Division, in collaboration with UNICEF country offices worldwide.

### Reporting:

- Reporting will be consolidated for all contributions received for the Match Window.
- UNICEF will provide the donor with biannual financial reports covering the reporting periods of January to June and July to December (or part of either) during each year (or part thereof) that the Match Window is in operation. The corresponding reports will be provided no later than three months after the close of the relevant reporting period.
- UNICEF will submit an annual certified financial report to the donor for each calendar year (or part thereof) during which the Match Window is in operation. The report will be provided no later than 30 June of the succeeding year, and will detail how the funds were utilized, the eligible countries that have benefitted from the Match Window, and the quantity and value of the designated nutrition supplies that were supported.
- UNICEF will submit a comprehensive final financial report to the donor within six months of the closure of the Match Window.

UNICEF and the donor will consult regarding the issuance of a joint press release or any other public announcement relating to their collaboration in support of the Match Window and the contribution.

All donor contributions are co-mingled with other contributions to the Match Window and shall not be separately identified or administered.

## The impact of a donor's investment

A US\$1 million investment in the Match Window will catalyse at least US\$1.84 million in nutrition spending (US\$920,000 from the Match Window and \$920,000 from domestic resources) to benefit children suffering from wasting.

### Technical assistance:

UNICEF also provides technical support to countries to strengthen public financial management practices, as well as planning, forecasting, and budgeting for essential supplies procured using national budgets. This ultimately supports the transition from donor resilience to self-financing sustainability of commodity procurement.

This support can include the identification and assessment of underlying root causes of cash flow timing issues, a multi-year forecast of essential supplies and funding needs, mapping of the budgeting formulation and execution, as well as a roadmap for addressing the identified bottlenecks.



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For more information contact your local UNICEF country office or access

[www.childnutritionfund.org](http://www.childnutritionfund.org)