



Child Nutrition Fund and its Match Window

Supporting national governments to scale up proven solutions for the prevention and treatment of child wasting



The Child Nutrition Fund is a new financing mechanism designed to accelerate the scale-up of sustainable policies, programmes and supplies to end child wasting.

The Match Window of the Child Nutrition Fund is a catalytic one-to-one matching mechanism that allows national governments to double their investment in nutrition supplies for the prevention, detection and treatment of child wasting.

Currently, at least 10 million children with severe wasting – or 2 in 3 – do not have access to ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF), which is the most effective treatment for wasting. Wasting is preventable with the right interventions, and the prioritization of financial resources is key to ensuring access to treatment. The Match Window of the Child Nutrition Fund has been established by UNICEF in collaboration with Development Partners to mobilize resources to contribute towards ending hunger and malnutrition by 2030.

Background

- The Match Window (formerly the Nutrition Match Fund) was launched in 2020 with support from the Government of the United Kingdom and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), and has expanded with a commitment from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and growing interest from other donors.
- The Match Window increases the availability of life-saving supplies for the prevention and treatment of child wasting.
- The Match Window incentivizes, increases and prioritizes the allocation of domestic resources to essential supplies for the early prevention, detection and treatment of child wasting.








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.

Facts

- By the end of 2022, 45 million children were suffering from wasting, the most life-threatening form of malnutrition. About 13.7 million of these children suffer from severe wasting, resulting in 1 in 5 deaths among this age group.
- More than three quarters of all children with severe wasting live in Asia and another 22 per cent live in Africa.
- Many countries are facing historically high rates of severe wasting.
- The looming global food crisis triggered by evolving geopolitical events, the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and devastating climate changes will increase the number of children with severe wasting.
- Severe wasting is preventable and treatable.
- RUTF can save children with severe wasting.
- The total cost to treat a child with RUTF is about US\$150 per child.
- UNICEF is the largest provider of RUTF globally and works with governments to scale up the availability of treatment.

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 CE and makes fund transfer for the government-fund CE to initiate procurement process
-  ▶ UNICEF finances Match Window CE and initiates procurement process

Eligible products for matching are RUTF and non-RUTF (including balanced energy proteins (BEP), multiple micronutrient supplements (MMS), small and medium quantity lipid-based nutrition supplements (SQ-LNS/MQ-LNS), and vitamin A).

Application process

Eligibility criteria:

To be eligible for the Match Window, governments should ideally meet two criteria:

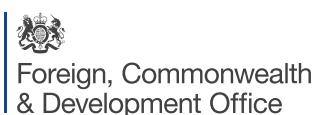
1. First, they must use UNICEF Procurement Services (PS) to disburse domestic funds for RUTF and non-RUTF procurement;
2. Second, any increase in funding towards RUTF and non-RUTF products should not come at the cost of other life-saving nutrition and health interventions.

Technical support

- **Nutrition financing:** The CNF will also deploy dedicated technical expertise in a range of contexts to support national governments with fiscal planning to make multi-year commitments towards essential services and supplies for the early prevention, detection and treatment of child wasting.
- **Market access & regulation:** The CNF will support with technical assistance to facilitate the procurement of key nutrition commodities, and their integration into health systems. The CNF will aim to stabilize demand for RUTF and shift its attention to supporting production of essential supplies for the prevention of child wasting. In particular, the CNF will accelerate support for the production of MNPs and SQ-LNS for children, and MMS and BEP supplements for women.



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For more information contact your local UNICEF country office or access

www.childnutritionfund.org