FUNDING WINDOWS
UNDP’s pooled thematic funds

Newly emerging areas of concern, unprecedented development contexts, and evolving country priorities require accelerated and ambitious solutions to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as called by the Decade of Action. UNDP and its partners are responding to this call, working with countries to effectively tackle complexity and demonstrate results envisioned in UNDP’s Strategic Plan 2022-2025.

The Funding Windows are UNDP’s primary vehicle for supplying thematic non-core funding, a critical complement to UNDP’s regular resources. In line with the Secretary-General’s ‘Funding Compact’, UNDP’s Funding Windows provide flexible and pooled funding options to countries coupled with rapid and effective oversight, reporting, and accountability principles and mechanisms. They also provide partners with greater coordination of their contributions and enhanced transparency and visibility.

The Funding Windows pooled resources are allocated as catalytic investments to respond to emerging development priorities and bolster integrated action within the UN system. These funds enable UNDP to pilot, scale up and accelerate initiatives and respond with agility and innovation to the greatest needs. Decisions are driven by global strategic direction, regional priorities, country demand and are accompanied by technical and policy experts from across the organization.

A fast-track Crisis Response channel exists to quickly allocate resources and deliver support in complex and highly volatile contexts, amplifying and multiplying the effect of UNDP core investments.

Alignment with UNDP’s 6 Signature Solutions

**POVERTY AND INEQUALITY**
- Poverty

**GOVERNANCE, PEACEBUILDING, CRISIS AND RESILIENCE**
- Resilience
- Governance

**NATURE, CLIMATE AND ENERGY**
- Energy
- Environment

**GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT**
- Gender

Four sub windows
- Democratic Governance
- Conflict Prevention and Sustaining Peace
- Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction
- Crisis Response

UNDP relies on flexible contributions to fulfill our mandate to end poverty, build democratic governance, rule of law, and inclusive institutions.
Funding Windows help UNDP and partners deliver stronger development results.

**Value of the Funding Windows Mechanism**

The Funding Windows help UNDP and partners deliver stronger development results.

**MORE DEVELOPMENT IMPACT THROUGH COORDINATED FUNDING**

The Funding Windows provide a single conduit - for pooled resources or earmarked funds to specific projects - to liaise with partners and channel contributions. In the new multilateral funding reality, this enables UNDP to enhance coordination and leverage the mosaic of funding sources, modalities, geographic and thematic preferences for greater development impact. The Funding Windows ensures and prioritizes complementarily between pooled and earmarked funds, where resources are allocated directly to countries against corporate strategic priorities.

**MANAGEMENT EFFICIENCIES**

Shared oversight, planning, monitoring and reporting mechanisms reduce transaction costs, which translates into maximum resources directed to country-level interventions. This includes a simplified agreement template and accelerated process. Importantly, pooled resources benefit from a reduced General Management Support (GMS) rate.

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**Critical Returns from Pooled Flexible Thematic Resources**

After contributions to core, support to the Funding Windows provides the next best option. These provide UNDP with unparalleled flexibility to:

**FOCUS ON GREATEST NEEDS**

Resources are directed to where they are needed most – to top global, regional or country priorities – including reacting swiftly to new needs in volatile contexts. Specific emphasis is placed to ensure those most marginalized and excluded are not left behind, reinforcing a rights-based approach. At least 15% of resources are allocated to interventions that focus on empowering women and gender equality.

**PROVIDE INTEGRATED PROGRAMMING FOR TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE**

Leveraging its global network of policy experts, resources allow UNDP to design integrated, multi-sectoral interventions to achieve greater impact and reach the SDGs. Each proposal funded is designed for its context, is ambitious yet realistic, and will lead to transformative and measurable results.

**RESPOND RAPIDLY TO CRISIS**

Through fast-track approval procedures, UNDP provides flexible funds quickly in response to sudden crises, kick-starting developmental actions and safeguarding development gains in often deeply humanitarian situations, and complementing core resources.

**INVEST WITH CATALYTIC PURPOSE AND HIGH LEVERAGE**

Pooled resources have a track record of incubating and scaling-up successful initiatives and leveraging important additional resources. In addition, this funding drives collaboration with other local and international partners, including strengthening UNDP’s integrator role across the UN.
UNDP Funding Windows facilitated a swift response to the global COVID-19 pandemic and enabled UNDP to target its socio-economic impacts between March and December 2020. In early 2020, UNDP launched the COVID-19 Rapid Response Facility with $30 million of repurposed funds to provide immediate support to 110 governments in early response and recovery efforts, including creating cash-for-work opportunities for women and disseminating information on COVID-19 risks.

In 2021, Funding Windows exceeded the corporate gender target for the third year in a row, delivering over 15% of pooled funds on dedicated gender empowerment interventions.

**FUNDING WINDOWS MAKING A DIFFERENCE DURING COVID-19 CRISIS**

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Please contact fundingwindows@undp.org or your UNDP contact for additional information.

* In accordance with the UN A/RES/72/279 guidelines on levy application, pooled thematic funding is exempt from the 1% coordination levy.