The UNICEF Bridge Fund is an innovative financial tool created by the U.S. Fund for UNICEF to fast-track lifesaving assistance to children in need around the world.

**WHAT IS THE BRIDGE FUND?**

The UNICEF Bridge Fund is an innovative financial tool created by the U.S. Fund for UNICEF to fast-track lifesaving assistance to children in need around the world.

**WHAT DOES IT DO?**

- Provides flexible capital to bridge timing gaps between donor commitments to UNICEF and receipt of cash.
- Speeds up the purchase and delivery of vital health, educational and other essential supplies.
- Saves the lives of vulnerable children by reaching them when every minute counts.
- Buys time to secure better pricing.
- Ensures a continuous supply of safe products from reliable manufacturers.

**WHAT DOES IT BUY?**

- Mosquito nets and malaria medicine
- Education equipment and materials
- HIV-related medicines and diagnostics
- Vaccines and safe injection devices and other medical equipment
- Micro-nutrients and therapeutic foods
- Water, sanitation and hygiene equipment
HOW IT WORKS

1. **INVESTORS CONTRIBUTE**
   Loans and grants from investors provide flexible funds that can bridge timing gaps and speed lifesaving relief to vulnerable children.

2. **Funds are dispensed**
   - After quickly evaluating its Global Funder Commitments of support, the Bridge Fund sends cash to UNICEF. That cash is used to buy critically needed supplies.

3. **Bridge Fund is replenished**
   - Global Funder payments replenish the Bridge Fund. This enables it to continue bridging timing gaps as they appear.

4. **Lenders are repaid**
   - After revolving loan funds to maturity, the Bridge Fund repays its lenders.

CASE STUDY: ORAL POLIO VACCINE IN NIGERIA

**Goal:** To eradicate polio in Nigeria

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Hassan, a child in the village of Hawan Daki, Nigeria, has never received the polio vaccine.

Nigeria begins a national polio immunization drive and builds a “cold chain” to ensure the fragile vaccine is not ruined by heat or power failure.

Using Bridge Fund cash, UNICEF’s Supply Division acquires 38 million doses of vaccine from a leading manufacturer.

The Bridge Fund advances $6 million to UNICEF’s Supply Division in Copenhagen.

The manufacturer dispatches the vaccine to Nigeria, where it enters the cold chain.

Hassan’s village is one of thousands across Nigeria to distribute polio vaccine.

An investor contributes to the flexible cash supply that the Bridge Fund maintains to speed the delivery of lifesaving goods.

UNICEF alerts the Bridge Fund to a timing gap between a donor commitment of funds from the World Bank for oral polio vaccine and the urgent need for $6 million to complete Nigeria’s immunization drive.

The Bridge Fund quickly determines that it has enough money to buy the vaccine for Nigeria, and that the World Bank is highly likely to replenish the Bridge Fund within six months.

The World Bank delivers the money to UNICEF as planned, and the Bridge Fund is replenished.

Now, the Bridge Fund is ready to recirculate $6 million and fill the next urgent need.
**INVESTOR**

An investor contributes to the flexible cash supply that the Bridge Fund maintains to speed the delivery of lifesaving goods.

**UNICEF**

UNICEF alerts the Bridge Fund to a timing gap between a donor commitment of funds from the World Bank for oral polio vaccine and the urgent need for $6 million to complete Nigeria’s immunization drive.

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**CASE STUDY:**

**GOAL:** To Eradicate Polio in Nigeria

**FEBRUARY**

Nigeria begins a national polio immunization drive and builds a “cold chain” to ensure the fragile vaccine is not ruined by heat or power failure.

**MARCH**

Using Bridge Fund cash, UNICEF’s Supply Division acquires 38 million doses of vaccine from a leading manufacturer.

**APRIL**

The Bridge Fund quickly determines that it has enough money to buy the vaccine for Nigeria, and that the World Bank is highly likely to replenish the Bridge Fund within six months.

**MAY**

The manufacturer dispatches the vaccine to Nigeria, where it enters the cold chain.

**JUNE**

The World Bank delivers the money to UNICEF as planned, and the Bridge Fund is replenished. Now, the Bridge Fund is ready to recirculate $6 million and fill the next urgent need.

**CHILD**

Hassan, a child in the village of Hawan Daki, Nigeria, has never received the polio vaccine.

Hassan’s village is one of thousands across Nigeria to distribute polio vaccine.

The World Bank delivers the vaccine to Nigeria, and the Bridge Fund is replenished.

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WHY INVEST IN UNICEF?

Every year, UNICEF distributes nearly $3 billion in high-value goods and lifesaving assistance in more than 150 countries and territories, to reduce the number of children who die from preventable causes to zero. When you invest in the Bridge Fund, you help us reach that goal.

To learn more, go to www.unicefusa.org/bridgefund

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