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UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



RESTRICTED

E/ICEF/R.44  
26 May 1950

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND

Programme Committee

RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING CONTINUATION  
OF FOOD SUPPLIES TO EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

General Background

1. In considering the need for possible further assistance to European countries for additional food supplies, the Administration has taken into consideration certain reports from FAO, ECE, and information provided by UNICEF missions in European recipient countries. In addition to this assessment of need, the Administration has also taken into account the effect of supplies already provided and to be provided to European countries from existing allocations.

2. The improved situation in Europe generally, which became evident in 1948, continued during 1949, "Agricultural production in Europe which has recovered much more slowly since the war than industrial production, did not increase significantly in 1949 and for Europe as a whole remained at only 90 per cent of the prewar level...Substantial increases in output of 10 per cent or more occurred only in Austria, Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Poland where production had previously recovered less rapidly than in other countries...The main feature of the slow recovery of agriculture up to 1948 was the low level of output of animal products. The output of cereals, potatoes, and sugar beet was restored to within 5 to 10 per cent of the prewar level by 1948. The output of meat and milk, the two main animal products, remained, however, far below prewar. This trend was to some extent reversed in 1949 when there was an increase of 10 per cent in the

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/output of both

output of both milk and meat, while the production of cereals increased by less than 2 per cent and that of potatoes declined by more than 10 per cent. (Economic Survey of Europe in 1949, ECE Provisional Edition, 10 May 1950, E/ECE/116, chapter I, pages 14-15)

3. As far as consumption of food is concerned, the previously quoted report states: "For Europe as a whole, the value of food consumption per head in 1948/49, measured in prewar prices, was about 7 per cent higher than in 1947/48 but was 10 to 11 per cent lower than before the war. This fall is greater than the fall in calorie consumption and the difference reflects a deterioration in the composition of the diet." This is a general picture and of course the trends, particularly in the countries which have been receiving UNICEF food assistance, vary from this overall description as will be mentioned below.

4. At any rate it would appear that the postwar emergency period of food shortages has disappeared except in a few areas. The prospects for 1950/51 would indicate that there will be further improvement. "In Europe climatic conditions for the winter crops have been favorable. Abundant rains and mild temperatures in the late fall have encouraged the growth of late pastures. Farm machinery and agriculture supplies, including fertilizers, are more plentiful than at any other time in the postwar period." (FAO, "World Food Appraisal - April 1950", Food and Agriculture Statistics, May 1950, page 30)

5. Turning specifically to UNICEF receiving countries, on the basis of reports there are four countries or regions of relatively greater food need: Albania, Northern Greece, Southern Italy, and Southern Yugoslavia. The situation of Albania will be discussed in a separate paper. With regard to Greece, Italy, and Yugoslavia only Greece and Yugoslavia are being recommended for additional allocations since Italy will be able, out of existing allocations, to obtain sufficient food supplies

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/from UNICEF to

from UNICEF to carry on existing feeding projects to the end of 1950, mainly in southern areas (see below paragraph 15).

Recommendation for an Additional Food Allocation to Greece

6. The cessation of civil strife in Greece involves the resettlement of several hundreds of thousands of refugees in northern Greece and entails a further period of rehabilitation during which the needs of supplementary feeding for children will continue to be great. The repatriated villagers are returning to areas where agricultural production was severely reduced for many years and the number of livestock particularly has decreased. Even after this summer's harvest next winter will be a period of hardship.

7. The Administration therefore recommends that the Fund provide supplies to Greece to continue supplementary feeding to the summer of 1951, and that it allocate at this session up to the end of 1950 for 580,000 children and pregnant and nursing mother and 40,000 infants. The supplies to be provided would be whole milk, cod liver oil, and sugar. Owing to the advantageous purchase of skim milk by the Fund at the end of 1949 there will be sufficient supplies of skim milk available to Greece out of existing allocations to implement the scheduled programme to the end of the year. The amount of additional whole milk required would be one and one-half months' supply, amounting to 165,000 pound. For sugar there will be no stocks remaining as of 1 September and a total of 720,000 pounds will be required. Finally, an additional quantity of fish liver oils to feed 150,000 children in addition to those already provided for in the special recommendation for an allocation for fish liver oil for all of Europe, will be required. This addition means that 400,000 Greek children will receive fish liver oils in the coming winter.

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8. It should be mentioned that at the request of the Greek Government priority was given to additional fish liver oil above any allocation for additional high protein foods such as meat, fish, or cheese. No other agency has been providing assistance for the benefit of Greek children in the form of fish liver oil.

The FAO representative in Greece has also stated that the continuation of the fish liver oil campaign should have first priority because of the vitamin deficiencies in the regular diet. The total additional allocation required for the above supplies for Greece would be £145,000 (See Annex I).

Recommendation for an Additional Food Allocation to Yugoslavia

9. Yugoslavia, especially the southern portion, is still in need of milk for children. Milk is still strictly rationed and cannot be obtained on the free market. The milk plants in Yugoslavia will be getting into production by the end of the year. If UNICEF were to discontinue skim milk supplies in the second half of 1950, a large proportion of the school kitchens now operating with the assistance of UNICEF milk would have to be closed, interrupting a programme which is now working at great efficiency. It is hoped that by the spring of 1951 the Government will be able to assure the supplying of milk to all priority groups with the assistance of the UNICEF-supplied milk plants. As regards fats, the needs are still great and per capita consumption is low compared to the European average. Yugoslavia imported large quantities of fat outside the UNICEF programme in 1949 and is understood to be doing the same in 1950. Fat

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has always been an important factor in the feeding programmes since it makes feasible the use of domestic bread supplied as matching by the Government, and fats supply a concentrated source of calories not found in skim milk.

10. It is recommended that an additional allocation be made to Yugoslavia to continue the original feeding programme for 538,000 child food units in the fall, compared with 1,200,000 children actually being fed at the present time with the extra supplies of cheap skim milk received by Yugoslavia. An additional 1,000,000 pounds of skim milk and 285,000 pounds of fats are required above supplies presently allocated to complete the requirements to the end of the year. Finally, for whole milk an additional 396,000 pounds will be needed for the last two and a half months of the year for 62,000 infants, compared with 80,000 at the present time. The total allocation required for these supplies will be \$185,000. It should be noted that Yugoslavia will receive some additional supplies of fish liver oil from the special allocation for this product to all European countries (E/ICEF/R.39) and will be able to serve 200,000 children in the coming winter.

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/Other Countries

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Other Countries

11. A few brief comments are given for some of the other European countries for which no recommendations for additional food allocations are being presented by the Administration.

12. Austria. Although there has been continued improvement in food supplies in Austria, the situation is still poor in mountainous areas. While milk production has reached the prewar level, the quality is still below prewar according to FAO reports. Moreover, food prices are relatively higher than before the war. The Austrian Government is planning to continue supplementary feeding for 170,000 children from the first of September 1950 to 30 June 1951. The stocks of UNICEF food that will remain in Austria on 1 September plus the use of an unprogrammed balance remaining in the Austrian allocation for milk and fats would enable UNICEF to assist this program for a substantial portion of this period. The Government is arranging that the feeding should be one-third for needy children in towns and two-thirds in mountainous areas. Milk plants assisted by UNICEF equipment will be in full operation by the end of the year. In view of the above, the Administration does not recommend any additional allocation to Austria for foods.

3. Bulgaria. The effects of last year's drought on the supply of flour in Bulgaria are being felt prior to the 1950 harvest. For that reason the Fund made a special allocation to Bulgaria for wheat. However, the harvest prospects this year are considerably improved. Production of milk has increased and the domestic supply of fats is also on the up-grade. Bulgaria is making progress towards its prewar status of food self-sufficiency. With the aid of UNICEF supplies Bulgaria considerably increased the number of children receiving supplementary food during the first half of 1950 (from 250,000) and will be able to continue this feeding on a lower scale in summer camps. Since fish liver oil is needed in Bulgaria and the

/program was

program was particularly well administered with no stocks remaining, the Administration has recommended continuation of this program in the coming winter for 65,000 children. On the basis of comparative need and present resources, the Administration is making no recommendation for additional food supplies to Bulgaria.

14. Czechoslovakia. Grain production increased practically to the prewar level in 1949 and according to the ECE report Czechoslovakia has regained its prewar level of per caput meat consumption. While the production of milk is still below prewar, the output is increasing. Nevertheless milk is officially rationed and the basic ration is only 1/16 of a liter daily. Czechoslovakia will be able to continue skim milk feeding in summer camps for 155,000 children this year with UNICEF supplies and after June will be providing sufficient whole milk from the UNICEF-supplied milk-drying plants to cover almost entirely the priority infant groups who are presently benefitting from supplies of UNICEF whole milk. With regard to fats, it is expected that the country will be able by next autumn to provide its own supplies for the school feeding program. On the basis of comparative need and present resources no recommendation is made for a further food allocation to Czechoslovakia at this time. Czechoslovakia is operating and plans to maintain a school feeding program for about 500,000 children not all of whom will receive milk. UNICEF has supplied milk and fats for 200,000 of these up to this summer, and skim milk for the remaining 300,000 in the first half of 1950. This addition was made possible by the Fund's purchase of cheap skim milk. Czechoslovakia will continue to receive fish liver oil supplies on a reduced scale for the coming winter reaching 80,000 children.

15. Italy. Overall the food situation has continued to improve in Italy. Milk production is very close to the prewar level. However, there are still regions, especially in the south, which are deficient in local supplies and protective foods. These have been the areas where UNICEF assisted school feeding programs have been

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/concentrated.



concentrated. Generally, this includes the city of Naples and areas south of Naples on the mainland. There will be supplies of UNICEF food available from previous allocations sufficient to continue the milk and fats feeding operation for 630,000 children out of the present 1,400,000 to the end of 1950. Should sufficient resources become available later, the Administration would recommend, on the basis of a closer study of the situation in southern Italy, to provide additional assistance in milk supplies but also for projects of longer range value, particularly in the field of milk conservation. However, in view of the possibilities of continuing large scale feeding in Italy out of existing allocations, no recommendations are made for any addition at this time. Italy will also benefit from limited assistance from the Fund in the continuation of feeding with fish liver oils in the coming winter for 270,000 children.

16. Poland. The general food situation shows marked improvement in Poland. The Government has undertaken a stock breeding campaign which is reflected in the general agricultural recovery. Food rationing has been ended. The per caput production of milk in 1950 is indicated to be about 90 per cent of prewar and the number of milk cows in relation to the population is again about at the prewar level. With the aid of UNICEF, milk drying and pasteurizing equipment, the supplementary feeding program in schools, etc., Poland will be able to be supplied in large part from domestic sources by the end of the year. Since Poland did not greatly expand the numbers of children fed during the first half of the year, the extra skim milk provided out of the advantageous purchase by the Fund will permit supplementary feeding on a normal scale into the fall. Only in the case of fish liver oil which is most essential in northern countries such as Poland is the Administration recommending any additional supplies but on a greatly reduced scale (for only 210,000 children) for the coming winter. The Administration does not recommend any further food allocation to Poland, out of present resources.

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ANNEX I

PROPOSED ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS FOR FOODS

Greece

<u>Item</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Value</u>
Milk, dry whole	165,000	\$ 42,000
Sugar	720,000	43,000
Fish liver oil	19,000,000 (capsules)	60,000
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	Allocation Required	\$145,000

Yugoslavia

<u>Item</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Value</u>
Milk, dry whole	396,000	\$ 101,000
Fats	285,000	51,000
Milk, dry skim	1,100,000	33,000
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	Allocation Required	\$ 185,000

Total Allocation Required for Greece and Yugoslavia: \$ 330,000