



CF/RAD/USAA/DB01/1997-06527

Expanded Number **CF/RAD/USAA/DB01/1997-06527**

External ID **E/ICEF/1952/R.0322**

Title

Israel - MCP

Date Created / From Date

Date Registered

Date Closed / To Date

Primary Contact **Upasana Christina Young (Other)**

Home Location **Off of Secy, ExecBoard, UNICEF NYHQ = 3024**

FI2: Status Certain? **No**

4/4/1952

1/1/1997

Contained Records

Owner Location **Off of Secy, ExecBoard, UNICEF NYHQ = 3024**

Current Location/Assignee **Record & Archive Manage Related Functions=80669443 since 3/19/2001 at 2:59 PM**

Record Type **A04 DOC ITEM: E/ICEF 1946 TO 1997 E-File Document**

FI3: Record Copy? **No**

01: In, Out, Internal Rec or Rec Copy

Container

Date Published
10/31/2005 at 2:28 PM

Fd3: Doc Type - Format

Da1: Date First Published

Priority

Document Details **In TRIM Store, Adobe Acrobat Docu C:\DOCUME~1\TRIMSE~1\LOCALS~1\Temp\jur53400_1.pdf**

Notes

Document Format Series/Year/SubSeries/Number/Rev: **E/ICEF/1952/R.0322; Doc**

Series/SubSeries/Year/Number/Rev: **E/ICEF/R/1952/322**

Doc Series: **E/ICEF/R; Series Valid date on import: 01-Jan-1950; Doc Year: 1952; Doc Number: 0322; Doc Numb Short: 322; Doc Revision #:**

English, L.Avail: **E,F..; L.Orig: E-?**

Note PDF or TIF: **Chk_PDF: No; Chk_PDF_Prob: No; Comment: ; Chk_TIF: No; Chk_TIF_prob: No; TIF ID# Start = ; TIF ID# end =**

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UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND

Programme Committee

RECOMMENDATION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR
AN APPORTIONMENT TO ISRAEL FOR MILK CONSERVATION

Summary

1. In this paper the Administration recommends, subject to the availability of funds, an apportionment to Israel of \$300,000 from the Eastern Mediterranean Area allocation for the purchase of equipment for bottling pasteurized milk, refrigeration, and equipment for making milk bottles. If this recommendation is approved it will constitute the first UNICEF assistance of this type to Israel. It will enable the Government to expand and continue on a more satisfactory basis the existing milk distributions to children.

The Problem

2. Among the most pressing of the problems facing the State of Israel since the commencement of mass immigration has been that of feeding the population and, in particular, the provision of safe milk for children. During this period the Government established milk distribution schemes for infants, pre-school and school children, using indigenous milk augmented by powdered milk donated by UNICEF and other international organisations. In addition the current milk rationing scheme provides priorities for children, expectant and nursing mothers, and patients in hospitals.

3. In October 1950, the Government first approached the Administration with a view to investigating the possibility of receiving UNICEF assistance in the development of a Milk Conservation Programme. Subsequently a number of technical surveys were made, and the solution proposed in this paper is the outcome of the combined studies and negotiations undertaken by the Government, FAO and UNICEF.

/Proposed Solution

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Proposed Solution

4. This proposal consists of two main features, first, to equip existing dairies operated by the Thuva Cooperative (non-governmental) in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa with sufficient additional equipment to bottle all milk; and second, to provide bottle-making equipment to an existing glass works to manufacture the necessary bottles. This last feature is essential to the carrying out of the objective of bottling all pasteurised milk.

5. The Government considers the present project one of the first important steps in a long-range programme which aims at establishing facilities for pasteurising and bottling milk in other producing areas, in order to extend the distribution of safe milk to the entire population. The practical experience of this project is expected to serve as a guide to such expansion.

6. The immediate objective of the Government is to provide supplies of safe milk for the priority groups of the areas of Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa, which include almost 60% of the total child population of Israel. The three dairies in these areas have at present a total pasteurisation capacity of 250,000 litres per day, which will be increased in 1953 to 300,000 litres. The total fresh milk production in these areas is approximately 250,000 litres per day and is expected to increase in the future.

The Government Request

7. On 22 August 1951, the Government submitted the official request for assistance, the substance of which served as a basis for the present recommendation. The request covered a rather wide range of equipment. The Administration in close consultation with the Government reviewed the request thoroughly and the present recommendation for bottle-making, bottling and refrigerating equipment is the outcome of discussions and visits to the country by representatives of the Fund.

/Government

Government CommitmentsCapital Costs

8. If the present recommendation is approved by the Executive Board the Government of Israel undertakes to insure the provision of the necessary land, buildings, labour, water and electricity services, all equipment not supplied by the Fund and necessary to a satisfactory operation of the plants, as well as local cost of installation of all equipment, transport, and local refrigeration depots. A conservative estimate of these financial commitments amounts to approximately \$700,000.

Beneficiaries

9. The principal purpose of this project is to protect large numbers of children and mothers from the effects of unsafe milk. To achieve this the Government would undertake, if the present recommendation is approved, to match over a five year period, the Fund's contribution with an amount at least equal to that. This money will be added to the plant's repayment for the UNICEF imported equipment (landed cost in Israel). The Government proposes to use this fund to pay the bottling cost for an additional number of beneficiaries.

School Feeding

10. The Government undertakes to continue and gradually enlarge the existing school milk programme currently reaching about 100,000 children, and to reach 200,000 in 1953. Over 60% of this is free and the rest heavily subsidized. This increase in school feeding is a considerable matching effort in this project. The Government hopes to extend this milk scheme to cover the entire school population at the earliest possible date.

Infants and Mothers

11. The Government contemplates bringing into operation a scheme under which expectant and nursing mothers as well as infants throughout the population will

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receive a daily ration of milk at reduced prices. Currently 51,000 infants are receiving assistance under a similar scheme.

National Milk Marketing Board

12. The Ministries concerned are contemplating the introduction of legislation sanctioning the establishment of a national milk marketing board which eventually will assume all such powers and duties as are necessary to implement the programme outlined in this recommendation.

Prohibition of Unbottled Pasteurized Milk

13. Legislative orders necessary to enforce the distribution of pasteurized milk in bottled form in the urban districts of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa will be issued in such stages as to conform to the facilities for bottling milk in the areas.

UNICEF Commitments

14. It is proposed that UNICEF should supply the following imported equipment:
- (a) bottle washing and filling equipment to a total capacity of approximately 54,000 bottles per hour.
 - (b) refrigeration equipment to assure adequate cold storage capacity for above
 - (c) steam-raising equipment to ensure the satisfactory working of the washing equipment.
 - (d) bottle making plant

The estimated cost of this equipment amounts to approximately \$300,000.

15. UNICEF will maintain a technical interest in the implementation of the scheme until the Government and UNICEF are satisfied that it is operating effectively in providing a safe product in satisfactory amounts to meet the commitments under this plan.

FAO Technical Approval

16. The plan has the technical approval of FAO and has been evolved with the close cooperation of consultants from that organisation. The Government has

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requested, and FAO has indicated that it would offer technical advice on all stages of milk production and milk processing.

Target Time Schedule

17. The target time schedule provides for the following:
- (a) Presentation of a detailed plan of operations, including pertinent points under Government commitments above July 1952
 - (b) Placement of UNICEF orders September 1952
 - (c) Installation of equipment September 1953
 - (d) Distribution of bottled milk will start immediately following the satisfactory working of the plant November 1953

Duration of Plan of Operations

18. The plan of operations will come into effect from the date of signature and will remain in effect for seven years from that date.

International Staffing

19. A basic agreement was signed on 20 September 1948 between UNICEF and the Government of Israel and continues in successful operation. UNICEF has a resident representative in Israel. It is anticipated that periodic visits will be made by UNICEF and/or FAO technical staff in connection with the project.

Previous Allocations

20. Apportionments made to Israel over the past four years have been as follows:

	<u>When Approved</u>	<u>Shipped 1949-1951</u>	<u>To be Shipped 1952 and after</u>
Emergency Child Feeding	\$100,00 in 1951 Prior to 1951	\$393,100	-
Leather for Shoes	Prior to 1951	22,800	-
Maternal and Child Health (Emergencies)	Prior to 1951	44,300	\$44,800
MW Centres	November 1951	-	40,000
	TOTAL	<u>\$460,200</u>	<u>\$84,800</u>

/Recommendations

Recommendations

21. The Administration recommends, subject to the availability of funds:

(a) The apportionment to Israel of \$300,000 from the Eastern Mediterranean Area allocation for the purchase of milk bottling equipment, cold storage equipment, boiler and bottle-making equipment, for dairy plants at Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa;

(b) That the Administration be authorized to approve a plan of operations as outlined in this paper.