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Programme Committee

IRAN

Recommendation of the Executive Director
for an Apportionment for the Continuation of the
BCG Anti-Tuberculosis Mass Campaign

1. In this paper the Administration recommends, subject to the availability of funds, an apportionment to Iran from the Eastern Mediterranean Area allocation of \$15,000, of which sum \$6,700 is required to cover a budgetary deficit relating to operations in 1952 and 1953, and \$8,300 is for supplies and some equipment for the continuation of the campaign through 1954.
2. In April 1951, the Executive Board apportioned \$177,000 to Iran (E/ICEF/R.161) for the provision of international personnel, vehicles, supplies, and equipment for a mass BCG campaign during 1952 and 1953 and also some additional equipment for the laboratory producing BCG vaccine in the Pasteur Institute of Teheran.

Problem of Tuberculosis in Iran

3. The general background of the tuberculosis problem was reported to the Board in document E/ICEF/R.161 in April 1951. The results of the mass campaign undertaken during the last two years have confirmed that tuberculosis is an important problem of public health in the urban and industrial centers of Iran. It is therefore desired that protective vaccination be continued in these densely populated settlements.

/4. The Government....

4. The Government has made serious efforts to develop an over-all tuberculosis control programme. The most important services already initiated in this field can be summarized as follows:

(i) Between 1947 and 1952, the Government, through the Pasteur Institute of Teheran, carried out a small BCG vaccination project of about 50,000 tests in Teheran, the provinces of Kerman and Meshed.

(ii) In April 1952, the UNICEF/WHO-assisted mass BCG campaign started in the larger cities of the country. By the end of December 1953, a total of 715,000 persons were tested as indicated in the following table:

<u>Period</u>	<u>Number Tested</u>	<u>Number Positive</u>	<u>Number Vaccinated</u>
April 1952 to end of Dec. 1953	715,064	126,469	466,185

During the 19 months of the international campaign, 8 teams (1 team is composed of 2 vaccinators) were in operation in 6 of the 10 provinces (ostans) of Iran.

(iii) A tuberculosis Demonstration and Training Centre will be opened in Teheran early in 1954. This centre has been constructed by the Government with the collaboration of the Red Lion and Sun Society, the Anti-Tuberculosis Society, and the U.S. Foreign Operations Administration. Imported equipment has been provided by the WHO, which is also providing a number of experts.

(iv) Efforts have been made to improve the social conditions of the tuberculosis patients in the industrial cities of Iran, and also for the rehabilitation of the cured cases, by the following non-governmental organizations of Iran:

National Anti-Tuberculosis Society
Red Lion and Sun Society
Imperial Social Welfare Services.

Proposed Plan of Action

5. The Government requests continued aid from UNICEF and WHO as follows:
- (i) Assistance for the continuation of the mass BCG vaccination of the child population of the larger cities and of all the industrial centers of the country, with the help of a specialized international BCG doctor and a specially trained public health nurse.
 - (ii) Assistance for the creation of a permanent BCG centre in each of the 10 ostan. During 1954, the first 5 permanent BCG centres will be organized in 5 ostan.
6. The BCG mass campaign will continue throughout 1954 in the main cities of the country and will cover the school population and the children of the industrial areas. It is estimated that it will take at least one more year to complete the mass vaccination of the remaining main cities, with an estimated 500,000 children and adolescents to be tested. The Government will continue to provide 8 field teams (16 vaccinators) directed by 3 national BCG doctors.
7. The central administration will, as before, be carried out by the Director of the Tuberculosis Department of the Ministry of Health, the Director of the BCG Division, and a statistical and administrative office of 5 persons in Teheran.
8. In the absence of established TB Control Centres in the ostan (which will only be developed in the coming years after the Demonstration and Training Centre in Teheran has been well established), the Government intends to create during 1954 five permanent BCG centres in five ostan (i.e., in Tabriz, Shiraz, Raschd, Abadan, and Meshed), in order to vaccinate new school enrollees, persons missed in the mass campaign, re-testing as required, etc., in the urban areas of the ostan. Each centre will work under the direction of a doctor trained in BCG work, two health officers (Bedhars) and three vaccinators. In 1955, it is hoped that the five additional BCG permanent centres will be created in the remaining five ostan.

UNICEF Commitments

9. If this recommendation is accepted, UNICEF will provide, in addition to what has been provided under previous apportionments:

For the continuation of the mass campaign during 1954:

Equipment and Material

(i)	PPD stock solution for about 1,000,000 tests - 500,000 to be tested in ten permanent centres and 500,000 continued mass vaccination	\$200
(ii)	Vaccine (for about 450,000 beneficiaries) to be sent from Paris until the BCG laboratory in Teheran receives the approval of the Biological Standardization Committee	5,000
(iii)	Field equipment: Standard equipment for vaccination) Equipment for two permanent provincial BCG centres) (equipment for three already provided)	1,000
(iv)	5 Refrigerators (kerosene) for the 1953 permanent centres	1,100
(v)	Spare parts and tires for the 11 cars already in Iran	<u>1,000</u>
		\$8,300

10. UNICEF has been requested to provide equipment for 10 permanent ostan centres. In view, however, of the fact that plans for the establishment of the second group of five in 1955 are highly tentative, these have not been included in the present Recommendation, but may be submitted to the Board at a later date.

WHO Commitments

11. The project has the technical approval of WHO. WHO is providing the services of one BCG Medical Officer and one BCG nurse in 1954 against reimbursement from UNICEF out of the \$14,000 allocated (document E/ICEF/R.509) for this purpose. The Administration is making a separate recommendation to the Executive Board for funds to reimburse WHO for two additional posts in 1954 which were omitted in error from the earlier submission, namely, one Administrative and one Transport Officer, the latter to service UNICEF-assisted programmes in other countries in the area where UNICEF transport is operating.

/12. WHO will make.....

12. WHO will make available to the project certain services and certain equipment and supplies connected with the WHO-assisted Tuberculosis Control and Demonstration Centre. In particular, WHO will make available to the project:

Services

The part-time services of an epidemiological consultant of the WHO-TRO Office.

The part-time services of the medical personnel of the Tuberculosis Control Centre for reading the films taken in the field.

The part-time services of an X-ray engineer to be attached to the Centre.

Equipment and Supplies

The transportable mass X-ray unit, complete with generator, mounted respectively on a 4-wheel drive power wagon and trailer.

Two jeep station wagons.

The necessary quantities of X-ray film processing chemicals.

Government Commitments

13. The Government commitments for the continuation of the programme during 1954 will be as follows:

Personnel for the Mass Campaign

(a) For the Centre in Teheran:

- 1 Chief Medical Officer for the BCG services
- 1 Administrative Assistant
- 1 Secretary-Interpreter
- 2 Statisticians
- 1 Mechanic
- 2 Drivers

(b) For the Field:

- 7 Medical Officers (5 for the fixed centres and 2 for the campaign)
- 14 Bedhars
- 27 Vaccinators
- 9 Drivers
- 6 Team Clerks

(c) For the Tuberculin Dilution Unit and the Distribution Service:

Personnel of the Pasteur Institute of Iran

/Premises.....

Premises: The Government will continue to provide the premises and the administrative equipment for the BCG central administration in Teheran. This includes a newly-established, well-equipped modern garage for all vehicles provided or to be provided by WHO and UNICEF. The Government will continue to pay the cost of maintenance of the premises and equipment used in this project, and other operational and administrative expenses.

Target Time Schedule

14. The mass campaign will continue without break in 1954, and UNICEF supplies should arrive in Iran as soon as possible. Equipment for the first five permanent centres should be delivered by the end of May.

UNICEF Representation

15. UNICEF-aided programmes in Iran will continue to be serviced by regular visits from personnel of the UNICEF Eastern Mediterranean Area Office.

Previous Allocations

16. Previous allocations to Iran have been as follows:

	Shipped	
	Through 1953	1954 and after
Maternal and Child Welfare	\$35,300	\$39,700
Anti-Tuberculosis	163,800	27,200
Long-range Feeding	24,500	500
Milk Conservation	3,100	408,900
Total	\$226,700	\$476,300

Recommendation

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

- (a) the apportionment of \$15,000 to Iran from the Eastern Mediterranean Area allocation for supplies and equipment for the continuation of the BCG anti-tuberculosis campaign through 1954 (estimated to cost \$8,300), and to cover UNICEF expenditures in excess of the earlier apportionment for this programme in 1952 and 1953;
- (b) that the Administration be authorized to approve the extension of the plan of operations as outlined above.