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UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND
Programme Committee

YUGOSLAVIA

Recommendation by the Executive Director for
an Apportionment for Expansion of Maternal
and Child Welfare Services and Training

1. In this paper the Administration recommends, subject to the availability of funds, an apportionment of \$115,000 from the European Area allocation to assist in the expansion of Maternal and Child Welfare services and training in Yugoslavia. The last allocation to Yugoslavia for Maternal and Child Welfare was made in March 1954 (E/ICEF/L.573)
2. At that time the Board was informed on the development of MCW services throughout all the Republics of the country, with the long-term aim of national coverage. UNICEF assistance for a first phase of this programme, established in 1953, was voted in October 1952 (E/ICEF/R.381). This was followed by a second phase of expansion in 1954 which UNICEF is also supporting. For these first two years, \$393,000 (exclusive of freight) was apportioned by the Board. The current recommendation concerns the third phase namely the proposed plan for 1955. The Government submitted in July an official request for assistance for this third year so that UNICEF supplies could be available in the early part of 1955, thus ensuring the continuity of expansion.
3. The Government request comprised a number of activities in the MCW field, including health centres and stations, training schools, milk kitchens, children's and maternity wards, dental equipment, material for polio-afflicted children and parts for X-ray equipment. The Administration has not had sufficient time to study with WHO all parts of the request and is therefore recommending in this submission only the supplies and equipment needed to sustain expansion along lines which have already received Board approval, and relate to:

1 MCW training and demonstration centre
50 public health centres
120 health stations

/The other

The other activities for which aid was requested will be studied and a recommendation considered for submission to the Board in 1955.

4. The purpose of these centres is described in the recommendation proposal approved by the Board in March (E/ICEF/L.573).

MCW Training and Demonstration Centre

5. The equipment approved for such a centre for 1953 is under procurement for Croatia; details of the two centres for 1954 are presently being considered and it is planned to set one up in Slovenia and Serbia.

6. The MCW centre covered by this recommendation will be established in Sarajevo (Bosnia and Hercegovina). This Republic has taken the necessary measures to prepare the establishment of the centre, and a 150 million dinar building will be adapted for this purpose at a cost of 25 million dinars (US \$83,000) by December 1954. These plans were discussed by the government with the WHO Medical Adviser to the UNICEF Regional Office in Paris who observed the need and the excellent opportunities for providing a training centre of this sort for the Republic of Bosnia and Hercegovina.

Public Health Centres and Health Stations

7. UNICEF has approved assistance to 71 public health centres and 270 health stations for 1953/54. Ninety percent of the items originally intended for 1953 and 75% of these for 1954 have been delivered or are due by late summer. These supplies are being allocated to the Republics and thence to the MCW services of the centres as they are received in Yugoslavia.

8. Assistance for a further 50 public health centres and 120 health stations in 1955 will continue to support the initiative of local groups, which, the Government's request explains, is stimulated by fostering competition among the local communities in the raising of funds and the construction of buildings especially for child health services. The Republics undertake to give all requisite professional assistance and to train staff, but the local community's request for UNICEF equipment and supplies will not be taken up by the Government without full assurance that the community has available adequate trained staff, buildings and operating funds. The success of this policy and its brisk results in practice have been the subject of reports by the WHO medical adviser to the UNICEF Regional Office in Paris.

9. The key to the success of this project and of its steady advance towards

national coverage, is to be found in the policy and practice of administrative decentralisation. This has been the subject of an intensive study on the spot by the WHO Medical Adviser to the UNICEF Regional Office and his report makes it clear that the local authorities not only have the funds enabling them to build health centres and health stations, but also a great interest in starting these services. They have been very much stimulated in doing this by the prospect of receiving UNICEF equipment which represents essential items not available in the country. The local authorities also use their funds to provide fellowships to local citizens in medicine, nursing and midwifery, the graduate coming back under contract to work for his sponsoring local authority for a stated number of years. There seems to be no question that the local authorities can meet, and more than meet, their obligations as regards premises and staff.

10. The overall momentum of the development of these services merits continued UNICEF stimulus at this juncture, in order to ensure that UNICEF aid is delivered at a rate commensurate with the creation of MCW centres in 1955. The Government request states:

"Having in mind that the pediatrics and obstetrics centres have trained within the first half of 1954 a much larger number of physicians, nurses and midwives to work in health centres than were envisaged by the 1953 and 1954 programmes, and that according to the programmes submitted by the Republics for the second half of 1954 and 1955, more than 200 doctors, the same number of midwives and twice as many public health nurses and health visitors will be trained, and it is envisaged that 103 public health centres will be opened during 1955".

11. The Administration, having taken note of the plan to establish 103 public health centres in 1955, is recommending equipment for only 50 in this submission, so as not to exceed unduly the allocations target for Europe in 1954.

12. A close co-ordination is planned between the establishment of public health centres and health stations so as to ensure that the latter, which are more numerous, will receive the necessary supervision from the former.

Government Commitments

13. The Government commits itself to:

- (a) establish the training and demonstration centre at Sarajevo by December 1954, assigning to it the sums stated in para.6 and afterward to operate it as a training and focal point of the MCW work in Bosnia and Hercegovina;

/(b) establish and

- (b) establish and staff public health centres and health stations covered by this recommendation, through the medium of local initiative and responsibility, ensuring adequate supervision by the health authorities of the Republics;
- (c) ensure that staff is trained by such time as the centres are ready to receive UNICEF equipment and function.

14. The Board will recall the statement in Doc.E/ICEF/L.573, para.17 that the total sum accumulated by local initiative for the capital cost and running expenses of the centres and stations for which UNICEF equipment is asked, is in excess of the equivalent of \$6,000,000.

UNICEF Commitments

15. UNICEF would provide basic supplies and equipment for these additional centres on much the same scale as those equipped under previous apportionments.

1 MCW training and demonstration centre	\$ 5,000
50 public health centres	75,000
120 health stations	25,000
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	105,000
Freight estimated at	10,000
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	\$ 115,000

WHO Technical Approval and Participation

16. This project has the technical/^{approval}of WHO. As pointed out in the March 1954 apportionment recommendation, WHO is providing a public health nurse and an MCH expert as short-term consultants and other consultant services as may be required, two fellowships for nursing tutors and two fellowships for public health nurses, and several visiting experts to assist on a social pediatrics course.

Recommendation

17. The Administration recommends, subject to the availability of funds:
- an apportionment to Yugoslavia of \$115,000 out of the European Area allocation, for the further expansion of maternal and child welfare services; and
 - that the Administration be authorised to approve an extension of the plan of operations as outlined above.