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Programme Committee

GREECE

RECOMMENDATION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR
AN APPORTIONMENT FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION PROGRAMME

1. The Administration recommends an apportionment to Greece of \$70,000 for the provision of water piping and pipe-fittings to assist the Government in carrying out a programme of general sanitation of sixteen villages in four provinces of Northern Greece, concentrating on excreta disposal, safe water, education in hygiene, and community participation. The proposed project will be part of a two-year programme in which the Government will undertake to improve general sanitation in fifty-four villages in twelve provinces. The Government's matching expenditure for the first phase of the campaign (excluding labour and materials provided by local inhabitants) is estimated at \$101,000; for the two-year programme the Government expects to spend \$500,000.

2. The Board has previously approved a total of \$160,000 for maternal and child welfare programmes in Greece, including \$77,500 for care and rehabilitation of handicapped children.

3. If this project is approved, the Administration may make recommendations at a later date to cover assistance in successive phases of the Government's programme as they become technically feasible.

Development of the Proposed Project.

4. In February 1952, the Greek Government requested UNICEF's aid to supply water piping to 48 villages in Northern Greece. The Administration was unable to recommend that project to the Executive Board for reasons explained in a Note to the Programme Committee by the Executive Director, (E/ICEF/R.521). Based upon criteria established by the UNICEF/WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy, (E/ICEF/228, paragraphs 20 and 21), the Administration took the view that it would not recommend environmental sanitation projects to the Board unless the following four essential elements were included:

- a) Measures to stop unsanitary disposal of excreta;
- b) Measures to stop contamination of the water supply;

/c) Measures to

- c) Measures to educate the public in hygiene;
- d) Measures to secure community participation in hygienic practices.

5. The Executive Board at its session in March 1954 proposed that further negotiations should take place between the Administration and the Government of Greece "with a view to bringing forward revised plans for the proposed project, which would be in conformity with the criteria laid down by the JCHP. Alternatively, if this proved impractical, it hoped that another project meeting similar needs could be developed in conformity with the JCHP criteria". This recommendation was assented to by the Representative of Greece (E/ICEF/260/Rev.1, paragraphs 167-168).

6. On 19 August 1954, the Greek Government addressed to UNICEF a new request for aid to a programme of general sanitation in communities of Northern Greece, which had been adopted jointly by the Ministers of Social Welfare and of the Interior and by the "Providence for the Northern Provinces of Greece", otherwise known as the "Queen's Fund". This request did not reach the Administration until 30 August 1954, by which time it was too late for the Administration to consult WHO and prepare a recommendation in time for the September Session of the Executive Board.

7. The new proposal was then submitted to WHO for approval. The Deputy Director and the Environmental Sanitation Officer of the WHO Regional Office for Europe visited Greece early in November 1954 in order to estimate the impact of the proposed new programme on the health and auxiliary services of existing organizations in Northern Greece, and to gather more information as to current and planned maternal and child health activities in the districts concerned. Subsequently the WHO Regional Director advised the UNICEF Administration that the proposed programme meets the requirements laid down by the JCHP and that the existing public health organization in Greece, in collaboration with the other Government departments and agencies, is adequate to carry it out.

Relation of Programme to Children's Centres

8. The 54 villages included in the Government's total programme, located in twelve provinces along the northern border of Greece are as follows:

/Sanitary Region

<u>Sanitary Region- Headquarters</u>	<u>Province</u>	<u>No. of villages in Programme</u>	<u>Population of villages included in programme</u>
Ionnina	Thesprotia	3	1,868
	Ioannina	3	1,192
Kozani	Kastoria	9	6,378
	Florina	3	2,192
	Kozani	6	3,864
Salonika	Pella	1	994
	Kilkis	5	10,752
	Serrai	2	2,738
Komotini	Drama	8	9,677
	Xanthi	1	879
	Rodhopi	4	5,869
	Evros	9	9,703
	Totals	54	56,106

9. In each of these selected villages there is a "Children's Centre" established and run by the Queen's Fund. The Centres are grouped in "Units", usually of about 10 Centres, and a medical doctor is attached to each Unit. He tours the Centres regularly and provides free medical attention and advice to children, to expectant and nursing mothers attending the Centre, and to the villagers in general. He gives lectures to the general public on such subjects as hygiene, sanitation and nutrition. The leaders in each Centre are trained in first aid and in the elements of nursing and midwifery, and being in constant touch with expectant and nursing women can advise them and, if necessary, call for medical attention in difficult cases. They can also arrange transport to hospital.

10. The educational activities of the Centres are directed mainly towards agriculture. Most Centres have small plots of land, of one or two acres, given by the community, on which they grow crops and keep pigs, poultry, rabbits, bees or silkworms. The children, and often their parents, are given full instructions in these subjects by visiting experts, and the training is certain to have a profound effect in improving the general farming ability of the villagers and in raising their standards of living.

11. The WHO consultant was deeply impressed by the great progress that had been made, by the enthusiasm and ability of the leaders, and by the eagerness with which the activities of the Centres were supported by the villagers themselves. Improvement of water supplies in these villages will benefit the Centres in a number of ways. It will be possible to start

/classes in cookery,

classes in cookery, and to train the children in personal cleanliness and hygiene, and in many cases water will become available for use on crops and gardens.

Chief Features of the Proposed Plan

12. The proposed programme includes the following major elements:

- (a) Measures to stop unsanitary disposal of excreta: In the selected villages, the inhabitants will be encouraged to construct and use pit latrines in schools, children's centres and private houses, by the free provision of reinforced concrete privy slabs with seats and wooden covers. In addition, steps will be taken to ensure general cleanliness of houses and public places; the proper storage and disposal of garbage and animal manure; and the effective control of insects and rodents. Supervision will be maintained by technicians of the Queen's Fund, under the general guidance of the Regional Sanitary Engineer.
- (b) Measures to stop contamination of the water supply: Sources of safe water will be developed and protected. Simple systems are proposed for the construction of reservoirs and the extension of feed lines to villages and to public fountains at selected places in the villages.
- (c) Measures to educate the public in hygiene: In the Ministry of Social Welfare there is a Public Health Education Service. This Service, through the Public Health Centre and the Chief Medical Officer of each province, will conduct a campaign, using pamphlets, lectures and films, to stimulate the inhabitants to participate in the construction and use of latrines, in garbage and manure disposal, in the improvement of their water supply, in insect control and in personal hygiene.
- (d) Measures to secure community participation in hygienic practices: The Prefects of each of the provinces will issue the necessary orders and regulations.

13. As services are now organized, supervision and coordination of the programme will be the responsibility of provincial authorities. Normally, the provincial health office has a staff of one medical officer and two or three sanitary inspectors. Two or three engineers and a skilled labour force are attached to the provincial engineering services. These, together with the technicians of the Queen's Fund, are considered sufficient to carry out the work involved. However, technical direction of the water supply programme is the responsibility of the sanitary engineers at the /regional headquarters

regional headquarters of the health services. At the present time only the Salonika Regional Headquarters has an engineer on its staff. Funds are available for the appointment of an engineer to the Komotini Regional Office.

14. It is proposed that UNICEF should contribute to the programme by providing for the importation of pipes, pipe fittings and accessories, to the extent necessary for the improvement of the water supply system. Having regard to the present capacity for technical supervision, and also to the relative urgency of need as stated by the Greek Government, the Administration recommends that UNICEF aid should be phased over the two years' term of the Government programme and should in the first phase be limited to the provision of pipes, pipe fittings and accessories required for the selected villages in the provinces of Pella, Kilkis, Serrai and Drama. The first three of these provinces are grouped under the Salonika Regional Office, where there is a sanitary engineer, and the neighbouring province of Drama falls within the area of responsibility of the Komotini Regional Office.

UNICEF Commitments

15. If this recommendation is approved, UNICEF will provide supplies and equipment as follows:

(a) Supplies and Equipment

<u>Province</u>	<u>Water Piping</u> \$	<u>Pipe Fittings</u> \$	<u>Total</u> \$
Pella	3,500	300	3,800
Kilkis	12,000	1,100	13,100
Serrai	5,300	600	5,900
Drama	36,100	3,300	39,400
			<u>62,200</u>

(b) Contingencies

1,400
63,600

(c) Freight, estimated at:

6,400

Total

70,000

Government Commitments

16. The local costs of excavations, structural work and the transportation of materials is estimated as follows for the four provinces included in the first phase of the programme (for which UNICEF assistance is now requested).

/ Province

<u>Province</u>	<u>Drachmae</u>	<u>Dollar Equivalent</u>
Pella	247,000	8,200
Kilkis	1,195,250	39,800
Serrai	574,250	19,100
Drama	2,538,250	84,600
	Total.	\$151,700

Excluding the cost of the inhabitants' contribution in labour and local materials, the Government's matching expenditure for the first phase of the project is calculated at \$101,000, (i.e. \$1.43 to each \$1 contributed by UNICEF).

17. The Government estimates the costs for the total programme (covering 54 villages) at the equivalent of \$500,000, which it anticipates will be defrayed as follows:

	<u>Dollar Equivalent</u>
Contribution by inhabitants in labour and local materials	133,000
Financial contribution by communities	105,000
Financial contribution by the Queen's Fund	167,000
Administrative Expenses borne on the budgets of participating services	<u>95,000</u>
	<u>\$500,000</u>

Administration

18. The whole programme will be under the supervision and direction of the Ministry of Social Welfare and will be carried out by a Central Committee of Sanitation of Communities of Northern Greece which will be set up for the purpose. The Committee will consist of the Director General of Hygiene, the Director of the Sanitary Engineering Division, the Director of the Education Services of the Ministry of Social Welfare, a representative of the Ministry of the Interior and a representative of the Queen's Fund. Within each province the work will be coordinated by a committee composed of the Prefect as chairman, with the administrative heads of the communities, the chiefs of the technical services and the local representatives of the Queen's Fund.

WHO Technical Approval

19. The WHO Regional Director for Europe has given technical approval to the programme, qualified by certain recommendations which, in his opinion, are essential to the success of the scheme. The Greek Government has agreed that these essentials as outlined below, shall be incorporated in the Plan of Operations:

/a) Within the

- a) Within the provisions of the law passed in August 1953 for the raising of the standard of living in communities near the frontier, top priority should be given to the appointment of community health officers at appropriate duty stations, so that the villages included in this programme are provided with adequate health services. These community health officers should be given as soon as possible a special training in public health, infant care, MCH practice, health education of the public, etc.
- (b) Regional sanitary engineers, as well as the engineers of the provincial technical services, who are responsible for the design and the supervision of construction of the sanitation works, should also be given as soon as possible a special training in public health, infant care, MCH practice, health education of the public, etc.
- (c) As the new systems of communal water supply, if without sanitary control, may be more dangerous to the health of the community than the scattered sources now in use, each regional and provincial health office should organize a service for the control of communal water supplies and provide for periodical bacteriological examination.

Target Time Schedule

20. UNICEF supplies for the first phase of the programme should be delivered in the second quarter of 1955 in order that the work may proceed through the summer of that year.