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UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



GENERAL

E/LCEP/239  
11th September, 1953

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND

Executive Board

UNICEF AID TO EUROPE:

STATEMENT TO THE UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD ON 9 SEPTEMBER  
1953, BY CHARLES A. EGGER, DIRECTOR, UNICEF REGIONAL  
OFFICE FOR AFRICA, EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN AND EUROPE

1. Developments on the work in Europe have been adequately presented in the Executive Director's Progress Report, and particularly in the two evaluation reports submitted to the Board on milk conservation and the joint work on maternal and child health. Accordingly, I will simply highlight some of the more important developments in Europe.

MILK CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

Italy.

2. I am very grateful indeed for the presentation made by the Delegate of Italy with regard to the value his Government attaches to the UNICEF programme in Southern Italy. From the report you will see that this summer we have been able to make a close analysis of the progress made in this field, and it is noteworthy that UNICEF and FAO assistance has stimulated increased activity and interest by local authorities, assisted by funds the Italian Government have set aside for economic development in the south (the "Mezzogiorno"). Although there were difficulties, primarily of a local nature, in securing collaboration of all concerned, the progress on the whole has been real, and the very small participation of UNICEF in individual dairies has resulted in increased effort by all sides.

Greece.

3. After much delay in getting the programme started we can now report progress.

The first dairy in Volos started operations on the 26th August, and is already

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/producing

producing milk which is going to our beneficiaries - the mothers and children. In Salonika difficulties with regard to financing have now been overcome, building construction is going ahead at good speed and we will soon be able to finalise procurement and delivery of the equipment required. Since the request which was brought to the attention of the Executive Board at its last meeting regarding environmental sanitation, we have received a request from Greece for a dry or condensed milk plant in Thessally. Our engineers have discussed the matter with the Greek Government, and with FAO, and we feel this is a request worthy of consideration. A joint survey by FAO and UNICEF is foreseen this winter. We learned from the Ministry of Agriculture in Greece that plans for higher fodder production have already increased the amount of milk produced, particularly in the area in which the dry milk plant is located. We have been told by the Greek authorities that they feel in a stronger position to meet the specific requirements of the Board for such a production programme.

#### Yugoslavia

4. Progress has been made in a similar field in Yugoslavia. This is the greatest investment we have made in any milk conservation programme, and everyone who has had an opportunity to examine the project, and in particular the experts who had not been directly connected with its development, have been amazed at the progress made in the production and processing of milk. UNICEF and the Yugoslav Government agree that we are only halfway through the problem and that much remains to be done. Whilst UNICEF has developed this programme primarily with FAO assistance on the production and processing side, it has recently been possible for a UNICEF/WHO group to examine the programme from another side. This group went into questions of distribution in order to ascertain whether the right types of beneficiaries were being reached by the right type of milk in sufficient quantities. This examination

/will

will be extremely beneficial in relations to improvements that can be made in the programme, and the recommendations made by the group will be taken into consideration during the evaluation of the project. UNICEF and the Yugoslav Government have invested \$9,000,000 in this programme, and in the light of this heavy investment we believe the time has come when a careful evaluation of progress made would be very profitable.

5. Specific problems such as arrangements for training of personnel in handling of plants, methods of adequate quality control, supervision of personnel, production and distribution all require investigation. Proper milk standards must be established and also further improvement is required in the utilization of plants to full capacity and care in the distribution of milk to avoid loss or harm to the quality. There are still a number of outstanding problems complicated by constitutional changes within Yugoslavia itself.

6. As indicated in the Progress Report, an evaluation of this programme will take place this autumn and we shall be extremely interested in its outcome. Sometime in 1954 further recommendations will go to the Board to round up this most important programme in Yugoslavia.

#### MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

##### Yugoslavia

7. As far as other main needs in the Mediterranean area are concerned, I would simply stress again the value of the new type of mission that WHO sent to Yugoslavia to assist the Government in examining maternal and child health activities, and in drawing up a plan of operations. This was a combined team consisting of a pediatrician, a public health officer and a public health nurse, and it has given very good results. The advice of this mission will be very useful also in other fields. This kind of advisory mission can be taken as an example for assisting other countries meeting similar problems. A five year development plan for maternal and child

/health

health has been set up by the Government and UNICEF is going forward with the procurement of supplies and equipment to facilitate the first stages of this programme. The Yugoslav Government are interested in knowing whether they will be able to count on UNICEF assistance for the duration of this plan in order to allow for long-range planning. We believe there is every advantage to be gained in expressing support and showing interest in this particular programme, however, future allocations should be measured in terms of actual developments taking place in the country itself.

#### EMERGENCY PROGRAMMES

##### Greece.

8. With regard to the request of the Greek Government for assistance in the earthquake disaster in the Ionian islands, the Board is familiar with the recommendation of the Executive Director with regard to the extent of the damage. As Regional Director I would like to express thanks for the very quick and unanimous response to the emergency recommendation put before the Board. This allowed us to make available to Greece first quantities of milk, fish liver oil capsules and soap which had already been shipped to Greece for the maternal and child health programme in Thessally. It also allowed us to hand over the first emergency shipments from stocks UNICEF and UNRWA hold in Beirut, and to supplement relatively important quantities of milk and blankets which were received in response to an appeal made by the Greek Government from other governments and from voluntary agencies. We were fortunate in being able to make a staff member in Greece available who had an opportunity to personally observe the earthquake damage and assist the Government in drawing up recommendations for supplementary aid. An appropriate recommendation is being submitted to the Executive Board.

9. In the emergency that has stricken Greece we have learned again the value of speedy aid. Supplies that can be made available within a few days are most

/valuable.

valuable. We have been particularly fortunate in Greece because stocks were at our disposal and we were able to look ahead to the second stage of the emergency for which, in agreement with the Greek Government, we believe blankets, children's clothing and even food, should be provided to enable the population to get through the difficult winter period which lies ahead, before the more long-term reconstruction period can be investigated by the authorities concerned.

#### FUND RAISING AND PROCUREMENT

10. We are much gratified by the increased interest taken by European countries, who are not directly benefiting from our aid, in the activities of the Fund. This has shown itself in the increased demand for general information on the Fund, from discussions in parliaments, from the valuable contacts we have been able to maintain with governments on the utilization of contributions they have made, and the interest prompted through the support and assistance given to national committees. This has involved us in considerable follow-up work, in particular in connection with requests presented to governments for new contributions. Unlike the procedure followed in this hemisphere the main contact in Europe must be maintained with governments prior to their decision to request parliamentary approval of a contribution. We have maintained constant contact with governments, giving them up to date information and replying to specific queries regarding our activities. Visits for this purpose have been made to Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Italy, Holland, England and Switzerland, by members of the staff. Greece and Turkey were visited by M. Spaak.

11. As agreed with UNICEF Headquarters, we have attempted to exercise more direct initiative in the utilization of contributions by making market surveys in countries where we have funds at our disposal. The Chief of our Supply Division has recently visited Austria, Yugoslavia, Germany, Denmark, Norway, England and Sweden with this aim in view.

/A further

12. A further measure of the growing interest in the Fund has been the steady increase in the number of national committees. I assisted at the first meeting of the German committee in Bonn, and there are others in the process of being formed on which we will report to the Board members at the next meeting. The best way to help committees is to establish a two-way relationship of mutual benefit to both sides. We should not just limit ourselves to asking committees to spread adequate information on our work to the general public and interested groups. A two-way relationship in Europe would be of real advantage, since committees are often composed of members representing child welfare and relief organizations which are engaged in similar fields of endeavour in which they have had considerable experience. We must be prepared to cooperate with them on a basis of mutual benefit to UNICEF and the national committee.

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