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UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



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E/ICEF/R.105  
3 November 1950

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND

Programme Committee

Executive Director's Recommendation  
Regarding Continuation of Food Supplies  
to European Countries

Introduction

1. This paper reports on the use of remaining stocks of food in Austria, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Italy. In Italy stocks plus unprogrammed balances will be sufficient to carry the recommended level of feeding in southern Italy to 30 June 1951. New allocations are recommended to continue the supply of supplementary foods to Greece (\$185,000 to 1 May) and Yugoslavia (\$526,000 to mid-April). If new resources permit, the Administration will later recommend supplies to continue to 30 June 1951. The recommendation for Yugoslavia provides for increases in supplies on account of the very severe drought, though resources do not permit the Yugoslav request to be met in full. It is only the possibility of securing skim milk, and cheese as a source of fat and protein, at nominal prices from the U.S. Department of Agriculture that enables the Fund to continue supplies on the scale recommended with present financial resources.

GREECE

Summary

2. The Board decided in June that it was desirable to continue supplies of supplementary foods for the existing actual level of 40,000 infants and 895,000 older children and mothers until the end of the winter of 1950-51. Resources were not

/sufficient to

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efficient to make an allocation of more than \$145,000, which was calculated to provide less than the full quantity of foods required up to 31 December 1950. Owing to a further reduction in the price at which the Fund was able to buy skim milk from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and to a further allocation of \$100,000 for stocks, approved by mail poll, the full programme can now be maintained to 31 December or there will be some stocks for the next period. The Administration recommends that provision should now be made to maintain the present level of feeding to 1 May 1951, which, after taking into account stocks on 31 December, would require \$185,000. When new resources permit, the Administration will submit to the Board a recommendation for an additional allocation to Greece to provide foodstuffs to enable the feeding programme in Greece to continue until 30 June 1951.

#### Need for Additional Allocation

3. Since the spring of 1950 a considerable portion of UNICEF supplementary foods have gone, mostly through school distribution, to the refugee children and nursing mothers who have gone back with their families to their home villages in remote places, mostly in the mountains. The destroyed and abandoned houses and fields are, in fact, much harder to repair than had been foreseen when repatriation began. All efforts were directed during last spring and summer, although the simplest tools were missing, primarily to make the fields productive again in order that some food crops could be produced for the winter.

4. Consequently, the reconstruction of houses, fabrication of furniture and clothes were given second priority. The children often did not get any warm food at home. The Government endeavoured to follow the refugees to their villages in order to organize there, as soon as possible, feeding programmes for those entitled to be UNICEF beneficiaries. The simplest feeding programmes were difficult to organize because of lack of stoves, combustibles, dishes and so on, but almost everywhere the problem

/was solved

resolved and the small quantity of UNICEF food each beneficiary has been receiving throughout these last months proved to be most indispensable to them.

5. The crops collected before the winter are insufficient to nourish the inhabitants of the villages and it is presently feared that some of them will again abandon their homes during the worst winter months, wishing to spend this time in better areas. This new move should be avoided, if possible, and in these conditions UNICEF's assistance to children appears all the more urgent.

6. The Government of Greece now requests that funds be provided to carry the programme to 30 June 1951. The Administration is recommending that an allocation be made now to cover the period to 1 May, and when new resources permit the Administration will submit a recommendation to continue for the remaining period. Calculated requirements, taking into account stocks, are shown in the following table:

Item	Beneficiaries 1,000's	Daily Ration	Stocks 1 Jan. 1,000's	Add'l qtys. required 1,000's lbs.	Estimated Cost \$
Milk, skim	895	40 gr.	4,130	4,140	41,400
Milk, whole	40	40 gr.	110	265	63,000
Sugar	895	10 gr.	264	645	48,500
Cheese	895	20 gr.	2,000	2,100	42,000
					\$194,900
Less savings on previous purchases					10,000
					\$184,900

In addition to the above supplies, fish liver oil capsules are being distributed to 323,000 children through the winter months. The stocks of cheese and sugar on 1 January will be largely due to arrival of shipments shortly before the end of the year.

/7. The sale of

7. The sale of cheese to the Fund by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at a normal price will permit, within present resources, a better source of supplementary protein than the Fund supplied previously through meat. Whereas previously meat was supplied for only a small proportion of beneficiaries, the above would provide 1 lb. of cheese per month for each child.

#### Recommendation

The Administration recommends that an allocation of \$185,000 be made to Greece to provide the foodstuffs listed above to continue the feeding programme into the first four months of 1951.

#### YUGOSLAVIA

#### Summary

8. The Board approved an allocation of \$185,000 in June plus \$100,000 subsequently by mail poll. Owing to the further reduction in the price of skim milk, this has enabled the supply of supplementary foods to be maintained for 1,200,000 beneficiaries to 31 December, with certain stocks remaining at that date. Meanwhile the effect of the summer drought has been found to be much more serious than was then supposed, and the Government has submitted a request for the first six months of 1950 that would expand the number of beneficiaries to 1,650,000 at a cost to UNICEF of \$500,000. Owing to limited resources the Administration is now recommending an allocation for supplies up to mid-April, and at quantities somewhat less than requested. An allocation of \$526,000 is recommended. When new resources permit, the Administration will submit a recommendation for an additional allocation for the remaining period to 30 June 1951.

#### Need for Additional Food Supplies

9. In presenting its recommendation for an allocation to Yugoslavia to continue a somewhat enlarged feeding programme through the first three and a half months of

/1951, the

1950, the Administration has noted the grave shortages of basic foods following the drought of the past summer - shortages which threaten to bring about near-starvation conditions during the coming winter. The official request of the Yugoslav Government for UNICEF's assistance is attached to this proposal as Annex 1.

10. The UNICEF Mission to Yugoslavia has carefully reviewed the Government request and presents its recommendations and additional justification based upon recent field observations in Annex 2.

11. In the light of all reports which have been reviewed by the Administration in the past months, including reports of senior officials who have visited Yugoslavia on the steadily worsening food position throughout the country, the continuation of UNICEF aid to Yugoslavia is considered essential. Although UNICEF's European Headquarters has been for some time aware of the disastrous drought which reduced the grain, vegetable and fruit yield in the recent harvest, the full reports which have now been submitted indicate a far more serious position than was previously anticipated.

12. The expectation stated by the Administration in June 1950, that Yugoslavia would be able by spring of 1951 to assure the supply of indigenous milk to priority groups with the assistance of the UNICEF milk plants, will not be realized because the drought has greatly reduced fodder supplies and caused some slaughtering of livestock.

13. The table shows the Administration recommendation in relation to the Government request and the present situation. Owing to limited resources the Administration recommends an increase of beneficiaries by 200,000 instead of the 460,000 requested, and increases in the individual ration for smaller numbers than requested. The request for fat could not have been met within present resources had it not been for the Fund's purchase of cheese from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for a nominal

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/price.

pro ce. The Administration cannot foresee funds to meet the requests for dried eggs  
or soap, but in view of the recent contribution from Thailand, is recommending  
th supply of 900 tons of rice, a food which has previously been supplied to Yugo-  
slavia, which will be much appreciated for the younger children.

Re m m e n d a t i o n

14 The Administration recommends that an allocation of \$526,000 be made to  
Yugoslavia to provide the foodstuffs listed in this table to continue the feeding  
pr o g r a m m e i n t o t h e f i r s t t h r e e a n d o n e - h a l f m o n t h s o f 1951.



UNICEF FOOD REQUIREMENTS - YUGOSLAVIA

Item	Beneficiaries		Daily Ration gr.	Stocks 1 Jan. 1,000's lbs.	Add'l qtities req'd 1,000's lbs.	Estimated Cost \$
	1 Jan. Requested 1,000's	Recommended 1,000's				
MILK, skim	1,100	1,000	40 gr.) 75 gr.)	1,730	9,330	\$ 93,300
MILK, whole	80	100	40 gr.) 75 gr.)	205	860	202,000
Cheese*	750	1,500	20 gr.	2,400	3,420	68,400
Powdered eggs	---	1,500	7.5 gr.	---	---	---
Rice	---	---	20 gr.	---	2,000	100,000
Cod-liver oil	200	400	10 gr.	40 million capsules	264	62,000
						<u>525,700</u>

The Government also requested 792,000 lbs. of soap.

\*Government request is for 10 gr. lard or similar fat content. The 20 gr. of cheese recommended contains about 7 gr. of fat and also 5 gr. of protein.

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1950-51 Winter Feeding in Other European Countries

SUMMARY

5. In four countries - Austria, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and Poland, the exhaustion of food supplied under existing allocations will mark the end of the UNICEF supplementary foods. The carryovers - chiefly of skim milk - are attributable to the large supplies of U.S. skim milk purchased by the Fund last spring at a special price. In the case of Poland and Czechoslovakia, milk plants, aided by UNICEF, now in process of installation will begin to operate on a substantial scale in the spring of 1951 and will eventually provide powdered milk for two and one-half million beneficiaries in UNICEF categories - a higher figure than the peak distribution of UNICEF imported milk in those countries.
6. On the basis of stocks on hand, deliveries certified, and use of unprogrammed balances in Italy, feeding operations can be continued for the following numbers of beneficiaries:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Infants</u>	<u>Other Categories</u>	<u>Total Beneficiaries</u>	<u>Through</u>
Austria	-	170,000	170,000	August 1951
Bulgaria	50,000	300,000	350,000	January 1951
Czechoslovakia	-	140,000	140,000	January 1951
Italy	17,000	630,000	647,000	June 1951
Poland	-	800,000	800,000	Mid-February 1951
<b>Total</b>	<b>67,000</b>	<b>2,040,000</b>	<b>2,107,000</b>	

In addition Germany has cod liver oil for 281,000 beneficiaries through February.

7. The plans for the continuation of these feeding programs are described below.

AUSTRIA

18 As outlined in document E/ICEF/R.44, the food situation in Austria, although much improved in the last years, has not yet reached the pre-war level as far as quality is concerned and this especially in certain areas. Furthermore, as mentioned in that document, approximately 170,000 school children are in urgent need of additional food. It is therefore recommended that UNICEF continue to assist them out of stocks left over from previous allocations. It is planned that the stocks remaining at the end of the summer camps 1950 will be used in feeding programs, mainly in Vienna but also in the poorest mountainous areas. Small amounts of skim milk and fats are yet to be delivered to Austria.

19 The Austrian Government plans to maintain these feeding programs with local resources from autumn 1951 onwards, but is not yet in a position to do so. They are, therefore, most anxious to receive the remainder of the UNICEF food supplies to enable them to assist these children between closure of the UNICEF Mission and the autumn of 1951.

BULGARIA

20 Stocks remaining in Bulgaria at the time of the Mission's closure were sufficient to provide a cup of skim milk daily for five months - that is, through January 1951 - to 300,000 beneficiaries. Of these beneficiaries, 50,000 in the seventeen neediest communities also receive fats and wheat bread. Whole milk stocks remaining at that time were only sufficient to carry the usual 50,000 infant beneficiaries to the end of October. An allocation of the last session of the Executive Board provided 13,000,000 fish liver oil capsules which are being distributed to 15,000 infants under two and to 70,000 other beneficiaries

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/in 93.....

n 93 communities throughout the fall and winter period.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

1. As outlined in document E/ICEF/R.44, the improved nutritional situation during the summer months permitted the Government to save their last stocks of UNICEF supplies for a small winter program during 1950/51. The stocks on 1st September were: 632 tons of skim milk to last 4 months, 77 tons of fats to last 2 months and the newly-allocated cod liver oil capsules to last 5 months. These food balances are to be distributed along the lines of the previous feeding programs to 140,000 school children between November 1950 and February 1951. The cod liver oil campaign will extend until March for 80,000 children. Governmental matching is assured for that period.

ITALY

2. As described in document E/ICEF/R.44, there exists very needy areas in central and southern Italy. Many undernourished children, clothed in rags, live in difficult housing conditions. Efforts made so far to redress this situation have not been sufficient because of all the difficulties the Government has had to face since the war. However, in its budget for 1951/52, the Government has provided sufficient funds to maintain a feeding program for the neediest children in southern Italy, especially in the provinces of Latina, Viterbo, Terni and the Islands.

3. In view of the great value of continuing the feeding programs in these areas until the Government can take them over, and of the ample uncommitted balances in the Italian budget, the Administration proposes to apply available funds in the Italian allocation to provide additional foodstuffs for 647,000 beneficiaries, including 17,000 infants, for the period from 1 January to

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/30 June...

) June 1951. The aim is to utilize this feeding program as a bridge toward the Government's extension of larger assistance to this part of the country later on.

4. The stocks which can be expected to remain at the beginning of 1951 will permit partial fulfillment of this program. The 5,062 tons of skim milk will last until the end of April, 160 tons of whole milk until the end of May and 55 tons of fats until the middle of February. The large stock of skim milk is due to the large quantity provided within the previous allocations at an unusually low price, and Italy has utilized a great part of its unprogrammed allowance to provide additional fats to go with the skim milk. The cod liver oil, including the allocation made at the last session of the Board, is sufficient for a five months' supply for 224,000 beneficiaries. Furthermore, savings made on previous programs and funds credited to Italy for the sale of spoiled food, amounting altogether to approximately \$250,000, will permit the completion of the proposed six months program for 1951 through the proposed purchase of skim milk and cheddar cheese (in place of more expensive fats). It will not be necessary to buy additional whole milk, the stocks being sufficient to cover the requirements. Consequently, the scheduled program can be carried out without any additional allocation.

POLAND

5. It is planned to distribute among the neediest institutions and schools all over the country, the remaining stocks of skim milk and fats left over at the end of the summer camps. The 3,600 tons of skim milk remaining on 1 September will last until mid-February 1951 and the 735 tons of fats will last until the middle of January; both will be used for the benefit of 800,000 school children.

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1. The substantial balance of skim milk is due to large quantities of low cost milk provided within the skim milk allocation, and the fats allocation was increased by funds from the unprogrammed balance in order to have approximately sufficient quantities of this commodity to go with the skim milk. The stock of 1 million capsules of cod liver oil (increased by an additional allocation of 1 million capsules granted by the Executive Board at its last session) is scheduled to be used between November and March in a new anti-rickets campaign among the smallest children along the lines of the program carried out last year for 207,000 beneficiaries.

2. The small stock of 150 tons of whole milk just permits completion by the middle of November of the anti-diarrhoea campaign which has been carried out with great success throughout Poland since last May for the benefit of infants. The first report received mentioned that this campaign has greatly helped to combat infant mortality due to this illness during the summer.

ANNEX I

THE COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL WELFARE  
OF THE GOVERNMENT OF FPYR

Cabinet 81  
1 October, 1950  
Belgrade.

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To: UNICEF Mission  
Belgrade

The Yugoslav Government made great efforts to provide sound and better nutrition to the children and youth of Yugoslavia, which undoubtedly contributed to the decrease in the high mortality rate and diseases of children and youth, in which Yugoslavia stood among the worst in Europe due to economic undevelopment and the cultural backwardness of many areas.

At the beginning of 1950 in various types of institutions (children's homes, boarding schools, apprentice homes, etc.) 375,781 children adolescents were being provided with full board, and 145,000 children were receiving lunches in school kitchens in towns; 161,679 children participated in summer camps in 1949 and 340,000 in 1950.

The work accomplished by UNICEF to the present, contributed greatly to the efforts of the Yugoslav Government. Owing to UNICEF help and the persistent work of state authorities, the supplementary meals provided by UNICEF, matched by 10 grs. of bread and 10 grs. of sugar from the Government, were provided to:

857,111	in March, 1950	
1,039,206	in April, 1950	
1,138,739	in May, 1950	(plan for 1,290,000 benef.)
1,031,480	in June, 1950	
813,141	in July, 1950	
978,600	in August, 1950	(plan for 800,000 benef.)

This year Yugoslavia experienced a disastrous drought. The total loss Yugoslav agriculture suffered through the drought amounts to approximately \$42,000,000, compared with a normal year. The grain, vegetable, and fodder crops particularly suffered from this heavy blow. Thus, the yield is reduced as follows:

Wheat	by	26%
Corn		35%
Potato		30%
Fodder		20 - 25%

This clearly indicates that the production through the current year can by no means satisfy even the minimum requirements of the country. Insofar as other products are concerned the position existing is similar. Dried-out pastures made livestock so thin, so that even now the milk yield is greatly curtailed owing to the reduced availability of fodder. This will be especially felt in

/winter months.

win r months. Furthermore, the lack of other foods (vegetables, beans, potatoes, corn etc.) will increase even more the consumption of milk by producers, which, in r m, will reduce the possibility of collecting it.

The fats situation is particularly difficult. Due to lack of feed, the number of pigs fattened at the state farms will be reduced from 764,000 pigs (the figure in 1950) to 357,000. Even this will be possible only provided corn can be imported. In addition, the number of pigs in independent peasant farms and cooperatives is rapidly decreasing for the same reasons.

The decrease in agricultural production makes it impossible not only to fulfill the planned export of agricultural products, but also necessitates the export of basic agricultural commodities such as: corn, wheat, beans, sugar, oats, barley, fodder, and lard. Under the circumstances, the Yugoslav Government has instituted a series of administrative measures, and above all an economy of food ruffs both in towns and villages. The Decree of 26 September, 1950 III No. 382 decreased the compulsory collection of corn by approximately 42.64%, and the bread ration was reduced by approximately 10%. The basic aim of this measure is to ensure bread to all citizens of our country and to help the areas which suffered from the drought this year.

The Yugoslav Government has given sufficient proof of her concern for child care and, of the priority which is always given to families with children, as well as child nutrition. In a food situation such as this for the population, the government will certainly undertake special measures so that the consequences to child health will be as little as possible. However, there is no doubt that it will be unavoidably affected. Therefore, the Coordinating Committee considers that UNICEF, in its function, and in accordance with the purpose for which it was established, as well as the aims toward which it directs its activity, is the organization which might be the first to extend assistance.

The Coordinating Committee requests the UNICEF Mission to exert all effort in increasing the child feeding programme in Yugoslavia and would suggest the following programme for the period January-June, 1951:

Whole Milk .....	100,000 beneficiaries @ 40 grs.
	<u>50,000 " 75 "</u>
	150,000 beneficiaries
Skim Milk .....	500,000 " @ 75 grs./day
	<u>1,000,000 " 40 " "</u>
	1,500,000 beneficiaries
Lard .....	1,500,000 beneficiaries @ 10 grs./day
(or other commodities with the corresponding fats content)	
Powdered Eggs .....	1,500,000 " @ 7.5 grs./day
Cod Liver Oil .....	40,000,000 capsules
	311,000 kgs. of oil
Soap .....	400,000 beneficiaries @ 150 grs./mo.

/Owing to



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Owing to the lack of all foodstuffs which exists this year in Yugoslavia, it is essential that the most important food commodities be ensured to all children for their feeding, and primarily milk and fats. The question of a supply of good and safe milk is of particular importance for infants, who will certainly be affected by the insufficient nutrition of their mothers.

Powdered eggs would provide proteins to children, which will be lacking in their diet, since, in spite of all measures undertaken by the Government to conserve the meat of the slaughtered livestock, which is inevitable due to the lack of feed and fodder, meat for the population will be scarce even in the first half of 1951. Powdered eggs would be distributed in the existing centres for distribution of UNICEF food.

Under the circumstances, we consider it particularly important to stress the need for cod liver oil, and request that our proposed requirement, of which the Mission is already informed, be fully met.

Due to the lack of industrial fats and the inevitable decrease in domestic production of soap (as a result of the shortage of fats), which was very well developed, we would ask the UNICEF Mission to support our request to secure as much soap as possible, primarily for infants and children under 7.

It is possible to implement in Yugoslavia the increased programme we have suggested. The figures mentioned above show a constant increase in the full content of the programme. During the two and a half years of the work in the distribution of UNICEF food, Yugoslavia has gained great and valuable experience in organizing the child feeding, and it is certain that due to the increased need this year, the people working on this distribution, will make even greater efforts.

The Mission is already acquainted with the reasons which speak in favour of increasing daily rations to infants under one year. First of all, for artificially fed children older than 3 months the ration of 40 grs. is insufficient as a daily ration, and the supplementary ration is not a significant consideration inasmuch as infants should be given one type of milk. Besides, cases of undernourishment of infants as well as cases of acute intestinal diseases are very common and it would be essential, therefore, to give whole milk for the purpose of treatment. We would recommend, therefore, that on the basis of the doctor's diagnosis and on his recommendation children over 3 months of age, being artificially fed, as well as undernourished and sick children be issued a ration of whole milk up to 75 grs. per day.

In some passive areas, under present circumstances, it is absolutely impossible to speak of UNICEF milk as a kind of supplementary feeding, since no other milk whatsoever is available there. The ration of 40 grs. is sufficient as a supplement for children under 6 months who are breast fed, while for older children, from 6 months to 1 year, this quantity of UNICEF milk is insufficient and should be increased up to 75 grs.

The same is true of children who are skim-milk beneficiaries and we would suggest that the daily ration for children in these areas be increased to 75 grs.

/In certain

In certain areas, especially the mountainous, where no milk exists it will be necessary to consider some increase in rations for the 2 to 7 year old group.

The amount of whole milk to be produced in the dry milk plants being built in Yugoslavia with the UNICEF assistance, may reduce the UNICEF allocations only to a certain extent, possibly beginning in March, 1951. The test run of the plants in Osijek is anticipated on 1 January, 1951, and Zupanja on 1 February, 1951. In the winter months, due to the unequal supply of milk, even under normal conditions, the plants cannot operate at full capacity. Especially this year when the drought affected particularly those areas in which the milk plants are being built, the milk yield, and consequently the possibilities of collecting it, are considerably lower. We estimate that the milk production in Osijek will commence in March - 16.5 tons per month, and Zupanja in April. The production may reach the peak of 33 tons in June.

Since the milk produced in these plants will be primarily distributed in the milk deficient areas and, on the other hand, being safe milk, it would serve for the feeding of artificially fed infants; the distribution of the quantities produced will be 2,500 kgs. monthly per child.

The total capacity of the milk pasteurizing centres which are being built or adapted in Zagreb, Sarajevo, Skoplje, Beograd, Ljubljana, Novi Sad, amounts to 435,000 liters per day, and most of these centres will be completed only in March, 1951. According to present availability the total milk supply of these towns amounted to 180,000 liters per day at the beginning of September, but this amount will be considerably reduced during the winter and spring. Bearing in mind that children have the priority in the milk, these quantities have to meet essentially the needs of hospitals and patients.

The conclusion which can be drawn from the above is that during the first half of 1951, only a very small part of the needs can be satisfied through factories and plants which are being built and that these will be able to produce at full capacity only in 1952 if the conditions are normal at that time.

We hope that the UNICEF Mission which had the possibility of finding sufficient proof in the field of the difficult situation as regards feeding resulting from the drought as well as of the efforts made by the Yugoslav Government to alleviate the consequences of the drought, will do its best to meet our justified request for increasing the feeding programme.

Secretary of the Central  
Coordinating Committee

Sgd. Branka Savic

Chairman of the Central  
Coordinating Committee

Sgd. Eng. Gustav Vlahov

ANNEX II

Mission's Review and Comments  
on the Yugoslav Statement of Needs  
(4 October, 1950)

The increased need for foodstuffs as a consequence of the drought cannot be questioned even though the Mission is not in a position to present final statistical justification at this time. The Mission's comments, however, are based on the widest survey possible in the field as well as discussions both with Government and other independent authorities. It is anticipated that further evidence such as reductions in ration schedules and other indicies will gradually become available as the survey of the consequences of the drought, with resulting distribution problems, will become complete.

No attempt is made here to discuss or confirm final distribution plans. Any increases in quantities of foodstuffs will be distributed within the framework of existing programmes in the areas suffering most acute need owing to the drought. The basic percentage allocations for Republics, therefore, will be revised as soon as the extent of the programme increases and types of commodities are determined.

Feeding Programmes

The following is an outline giving the programmed and actual beneficiaries of milk reported June through August:

Category :	<u>Programmed Beneficiaries</u>		<u>Actual Beneficiaries</u>		
	<u>June</u>	<u>July/Aug.</u> (Summer Camp Programme)	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>
0 - 1	80,000	80,000	57,874	60,726	65,536
- 18	1,077,376	596,376	886,761	668,587	833,430
Mothers	132,624	132,624	86,845	84,110	80,553
	<u>1,290,000</u>	<u>809,000</u>	<u>1,031,480</u>	<u>813,423</u>	<u>979,519</u>

Whole Milk

The present programme (Sept.-Dec.1950) is based on 80,000 beneficiaries receiving 400 grams whole milk daily. The number of beneficiaries as of 1 September 1950 is reported at 65,536. While a steady increase in beneficiaries is evident, the planned programme, especially in whole milk, was not reached for many varied reasons. The Mission found that at the Republican level there was a reluctance to encourage too broad and rapid an expansion of the programme, owing to a general insecurity of future prospects of supplies and a fear of a major gap soon after the end of the year.

It is anticipated now that the balance of the whole milk supply to the end of December 1950 is in the Republics, and when some assurance is given of additional supplies available beyond the end of the year, this situation can be adjusted and legitimate needs can be adequately met. Moreover, owing to the drought a most careful review of allocations by Republics and areas within Republics was immediately resuscitated and is in course with the Mission. It is anticipated, therefore, that a far-reaching and more accurate plan may be worked out essentially on the basis of Mission observation and discussions in the field.

The request of the authorities for the substantial increase to 150,000 beneficiaries is based on the greatly reduced milk yield even during September, which is normally the peak of the flush season, as well as increasing livestock losses which is anticipated will be most extensive during February and March.

Furthermore, the total lack of milk in many areas accounts essentially for the need for a graduated increase in the whole milk ration from 40 grams up to 75 grams daily for older infants. The Mission's observation would confirm this request as the most significant requirement in the Government's proposal and would recommend such necessary limited increases even if the number of beneficiaries were not to be extended. The Mission representative was subject to endless appeals on the part of pediatricians and dispensary supervisors for permission to increase the rations for older infants, especially where a sufficiency of other foods necessary for minimum standards of health was not available. The Mission found that the Republic of Slovenia was the only one on the whole where the ration of UNICEF milk, as a supplement for younger infants was considered adequate owing to the availability of cow's milk (except in districts along the western border).

Pediatricians at infant clinics or dispensaries as they are known here, report that artificial feeding has increased substantially owing to the lack of an adequate diet for the mother. In some areas the percentage of breast-fed infants up to three or four months of age is as low as 25% to 30%. It is significant that this is not limited to industrial towns but was found in rural districts especially in Bosnia, the Dalmatian coast, and Montenegro. It will be noted that the percentage quoted is relatively low in a country where breast feeding was customary for as high as 70 to 80 percent during the major part of infancy up to the first year.

Moreover, as is known, the limited quantity of cow's milk in economically weak areas is "bad" owing largely to transport difficulties which sometimes entail four or five days before the milk is delivered to the town. The number of queues at dairy shops which sometimes did not open at all as the observer witnessed, were among the most evident symptoms of this problem.

Gastro-intestinal diseases, the primary cause of infant mortality, except in Slovenia, have increased these past few months beyond proportions normally anticipated during the hot season, and in some areas such as Montenegro have reached epidemic proportions. It is significant that in Slovenia intestinal disturbances are in third place among causes of mortality.

Where the UNICEF ration accounts for all the milk available to infants, the 40 grams daily ration, therefore, is not sufficient for the older groups, especially where other foods are not adequate in supply, especially in the coastal area and mountainous areas. To stretch the ration for older infants some supervisors have been prescribing formulas with far greater ratio of water than that recommended as an average by UNICEF; the observer found that for the older infants 40 grams was sometimes reconstituted into  $\frac{1}{2}$  liter of liquid milk. This was particularly deplorable in cases of malnutrition and debilitation which the observer witnessed among infants up to 18 months of age in some homes.

Provision of Dried Milk under the MCP

The drought has threatened the provision of dried whole milk for infants under the MCP program to the degree where it will be impossible to plan to cover in the future the 96 tons now imported by UNICEF monthly. The careful review of the authorities indicates that it is doubtful that, even by June 1951, the two plants combined will be able to produce at 50% capacity. (At full capacity, the average production per plant at Osijek and Zupanja is estimated at approximately 70 tons a month).

It is obviously too early to predict more accurately but it would not seem possible, in the judgment of the Mission, that the quantity of liquid milk collected for drying will provide near capacity processing until possibly during the peak of the flush season in September 1951.

Insofar as the six pasteurization units are concerned, for which a maximum total of 400,000 liters of milk daily during the flush season of a normal year is estimated, the authorities do not anticipate that more than a total of 180,000 liters will be available by the spring of 1951. The distribution plan which is projected will provide at least a  $\frac{1}{2}$  liter of pasteurized milk daily to children within the widest radius of the towns with the following categories listed according to priority:

- 1) infants up to 2 years.
- 2) hospital patients
- 3) other sick children upon doctor's prescription
- 4) children from 2 to 6 years.

The Mission considers, therefore, the provision of whole milk as the primary and most acute need listed in the Government's requirements.

It is suggested that the Administration give this item priority consideration and, at the same time, confirm agreement to a graduated increase in the ration up to 75 grams daily for infants above three months of age upon the doctor's prescription to be limited to the following categories in regions where no milk is available:

- 1) infants entirely artificially fed above three months of age.
- 2) in cases of illness, especially gastro-intestinal.
- 3) in cases of malnutrition and devilitation up to 2 years in hospitals and institutions.

Skim Milk

At an earlier discussion with the Mission and the HQ representative (end July) the authorities felt confident that by January 1951, the number of beneficiaries could reach 1,200,000, the time-allowance made being based on the fact that by then all milk centers, especially schools, will be operating in full swing.

The present program (September-December 1950) is based on 1,000,000 beneficiaries for skim milk. The number reported as of 1 September was 913,983. With the opening

/of school kitchens in

school kitchens in September and October the Mission would normally anticipate a substantial increase in beneficiaries and it is not unrealistic, therefore, to expect that, under the circumstances this year, the authorities could increase beneficiaries and organize centers rapidly enough to reach most of the 1,500,000 suggested. The number of pregnant and nursing mothers under our skim milk programme is bound to increase substantially as well.

There is no question that the drought has aggravated the need to the degree where the "UNICEF meal" will assume the importance of a complete meal for many children especially in areas where the crop losses of staple foods such as corn and beans were disastrous. It is significant that even now, the Coordinating Committee has succeeded in securing the matching "budget" of bread and sugar and that it was approved by the pertinent authorities as a separate budget in addition to and above the general food quotas allocated by areas under the regular plan. This ensures a necessary top priority for children under the UNICEF programme.

The appeal for an increase in the ration up to 75 grams for approximately 500,000 of the total given above is likewise justified on the grounds mentioned. The plight of the coastal area, for example, where 80% of the UNICEF feeding programme of the Republic of Croatia is concentrated and where the island population (estimated at more than a quarter of a million) are dependent exclusively upon "imported" foodstuffs and where milk or dairies of any kind are non-existent, would more than justify an effort to provide the 75 grams of milk which would afford a ration of approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  lit of liquid milk. Other Republics as well suffer such "spots" especially Bosnia, southern Serbia, and Montenegro, which the Mission representative has recently surveyed.

Final distribution plans for any increase in the number of beneficiaries or proposals for increased rations will be decided upon in agreement with the Government as soon as final allocations are determined.

#### Fats, Cheese, or other substitutes

The present programme of children receiving 10 grams fat along with the skim milk includes approximately 750,000 beneficiaries. The Government's request for that ration for all the skim milk beneficiaries is essentially prompted on the grounds, not only of shortage of fats as a consequence of the drought, but lack of foodstuffs in general.

The recent purchase of more than 1,000 tons of Cheddar cheese, therefore, was warmly welcomed by the authorities and the question of distribution and ration is presently under discussion with the Mission. An effort will be made to provide a ration adequate as an alternative to the 10 grams ration of lard or margarine.

The Mission supports the request of the authorities for fats as a food item of priority second only to milk.

/ Cod Liver Oil

Cod Liver Oil

The Mission had previously pressed for additional quantities of cod liver oil based on the requests submitted by the authorities several months ago, which are repeated here. It will be noted that the September-December allocation of 2,200,000 capsules has just reached the country.

Recent field observation has verified the need for this commodity, especially among the older age groups. Moreover, local authorities in certain areas such as southern Serbia, Montenegro, and Macedonia, where cod liver oil is well known and formerly consumed by children and where no stocks were found, have registered most urgent appeals for it.

The Mission, therefore, renews its suggestion that any possible contribution of cod liver oil be promptly exploited in the hope that it may be available for winter distribution.

Soap

The increase in skin diseases and other ailments, the "epidemic" of lice, etc. is shockingly apparent among children everywhere, including hospitals, institutions and infant clinics. The Croatian authorities complained, for example, that the assembly centers where children were examined and "screened" before being sent to camps, they could not cope with the problem created only by a lack of adequate soap supply during a drought summer. The soap situation will naturally be further aggravated by the general shortage of fats.

ICEF Belgrade  
14 October 1950

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