



CF/RAI/USAA/DB01/HS/1996-0206

Expanded Number **CF/RAI/USAA/DB01/HS/1996-0206**

External ID **CF/NYH/SEB/HST/1996-0206 ; GE-HAI L043**

Title

**Cover letter from Monique Clesca to John Charnow with attached DRAFT History of UNICEF Haiti**

Date Created  
24-Jan-1986

Date Registered  
29-Jul-1996

Date Closed

Primary Contact  
Owner Location **Strategic Information Management Section DPP = 6090**  
Home Location **Strategic Information Management Section DPP = 6090**  
Current Location/Assignee **History Related Records =60909132 since 20-Mar-2001 at 11:14 AM**

F12: Status Certain? **No**

F13: Record Copy? **No**

d01: In, Out, Internal Rec or Rec Copy

Contained Records  
Container

Date Published      Fd3: Doc Type - Format      Da1:Date First Published      Priority

Record Type **A02 HIST CORR ITEM**

Document Details **Record has no document attached.**

Notes

Archive Code Valid Date: 10/30/1989

WU\_Staff:

Correspondent:

Main or Elec Storage: Wang Item RSN: 3049 Box Year: 1994 Folder File Code: GE-HAI L043

Owner Archive Code: CF-NYH-06.H Arch Code V.Date: 30/Oct/1989 Ref Code: CF/NYH/OSEB/HST

F\_Folder\_Code: GE-HAI L043

Cross Ref or Related Record: GE-HAI L043

Cross Ref or Related Record: GE-HAI L043

CF/NYH/SEB/HST/1996-0206 ; GE-HAI L043

Print Name of Person Submit Image

Signature of Person Submit

Number of images without cover

CONF/OSCEB/HST/1996-206



file: Haiti history  
CF/RAI/USAA/DBOI/HS/1996-0206

**UNICEF**

**UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND . FONDS DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENFANCE**

17, RUE ARMAND HOLLY (DEBUSSY) - PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI

P.O. BOX: 1363  
PHONE: 5-3525 - 6-3917 - 5-2890

CABLE: UNICEF PORT-AU-PRINCE  
TELEX: UNICEF 3490346

PSC10/86/

24 January 1986

Mr. Jack Charnew  
History Project  
UNICEF Headquarters  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Charnew:

... Enclosed you will find a rough first draft of the first part of the History of UNICEF in Haiti. As you will see from reading it, there are some names and documentation that we are missing. We are hoping that from your vantage point, you could help us fill in these blanks. Perhaps with documentation at Headquarters, perhaps through contacts with people who made UNICEF history in Haiti, such as Mr. Brune or the man of Polish origin.

We would like to eventually have this document translated and printed for our 40th Anniversary celebrations here. Please let us know if you have a budget available for such local requests.

We would appreciate hearing from you soonest so we can finalize this document. Thanks.

Best regards.

Monique Clesca  
Programme Communication/PI Officer

MC/cra

HISTORY PROJECT
DATE: 19-2-86
ACTION: _____
CIRCULATION: _____
CC: _____
LOG: NO: 852

HISTORY OF UNICEF

HAITI

ORNYH/OSEB/HST/1996-206

CF/RAI/USAA/DBO1/HS/1996-0206

UNICEF cooperation with the Haitian Government dates back to 20th December 1949, when Stephen Alexis, Permanent Representative of Haiti to the UNITED NATIONS and Maurice Paté, Executive Director of The United Nations Children's Emergency Fund signed the first formal agreement for cooperation by which Haiti was to be provided with supplies and services for the aid and assistance to its children, adolescents and expectant and nursing mothers. And so began a thirty-seven years relationship. In the early days, UNICEF did not have an office in Port-au-Prince. So very few documents are available of the earliest period. Nevertheless, this period was constituted chiefly from facts and figures made available by persons from different sectors, who had collaborated in some way or other in UNICEF assisted projects. These provide a wealth of knowledge to all persons interested in the evolution of UNICEF in Haiti.

~~From a nondescript one-room office manned by a person of "Polish" origin,~~  
to a charming office building housing twenty-eight staff members is really coming a long way. The early days would not be labeled as difficult periods, but rather days when UNICEF did not enjoy the nation-wide honour it does now. Of the old days, people only seem to remember the numerous vehicles they had seen around the country with the logotype UNICEF. But there was more to it than vehicles, which people seem to be unaware of. The selling of cards was associated to a United Nations programme and it really came as a surprise to many people when told that it had always been an UNICEF endeavor.

MILK DISTRIBUTION

Milk distribution was the very first scheme set up in Port-au-Prince. Milk was distributed to the deprived children in the capital's surrounding schools.

Dr. Carlo BOULOS who was Deputy Director of Public Health at the time made allusions to the UNICEF officer of "Polish" origin (1) housed at the top of the Ministry of Social Affairs. At the departure of the UNICEF officer, a considerable amount of powdered milk was left in the care of the government. In 1955, a famine broke out in the area of Grand Anse in the southern peninsula, due to heavy destruction and damage caused by hurricane Hazel. Dr. Carlo BOULOS requested the Government to give him the stock-ed powdered milk, which he wished to distribute to the famine stricken population. The milk was distributed to nearly as many as 170,000 people as part of the emergency operations, which finally helped save many lives.

Dr. Carlo BOULOS did not stop at this. On 14th December 1957, The Department of Public Health obtained milk from UNICEF to be distributed to 20,000 children. Dr. BOULOS had personally contacted UNICEF in view of obtaining help to provide milk to the under-nourished children of Port-au-Prince. It was decided that milk was to be distributed to about 50 schools in Port-au-Prince and its surrounding areas.

Mr. LEBEL, the Director of Technical Assistance in Port-au-Prince, went out of his way to provide all the necessary aid for the smooth running of the distribution.

Once again, it was under the supervision of Dr. BOULOS that the methodical distribution of milk to the needy children was carried out. S.C.I.S.P. (Service Cooperatif Inter Américain de Santé Publique), a non government American Organisation, generously offered to provide vehicles to the necessary ministries to insure rapid distribution of milk.

The experience of this small operation paved the way for further and broader cooperation. Thus UNICEF over the years gradually became involved in Government projects which enthroned the organisation as the life saver of the millions.

#### YAWS

The very first large scale operation, The Yaws Eradication Campaign, started on July 20th 1950 was undertaken by the Government jointly with the World Health Organisation and UNICEF. At that period yaws was endemic in the Caribbean and tropi-

(1) According to the Final Report of the First Executive Board Session 11 Dec 1946-31 Dec 1950, at 31st Dec 1950 there was a full time UNICEF Representative in Haiti.

cal areas, with children exposed to and suffering from this highly infectious disease. When yaws first drew attention in Haiti, a treatment with arsenic was already being carried out by Dr. REEM as penicillin was not yet available here. A committee comprised of prominent doctors was set up ( Drs. Petrus, Boulos, Dambreville, Alcindor, Reim and a representative of the Bristol Myers Co.). The company Bristol Myers was manufacturing penicillin at the time and offered it to the committee for an experimental project which probably laid the foundation of the Yaws Eradication Campaign.

In 1948, a U.N. special mission to Haiti had drawn attention to this problem and recommended action. The Yaws campaign in Haiti for which UNICEF assistance was approved in October 1949 was the first one in the region. When UNICEF first assisted this campaign, yaws afflicted more than half of the population in many rural areas. Even in those early days newspapers gave front page coverage to the campaign. On 29th October 1949, according to the newspaper "Haiti Journal", \$ 320,000 were allocated for the campaign. It states further that the campaign was to be carried out during a two year period and was to be financed by the Haitian Government, WHO and The International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). The contribution of the Fund was to be used for the purchase of medicines, necessary materials, syringes, tubes and pharmaceutical products. On June 3rd 1950, the Fund contributed twelve "Jeeps" for the execution of the project and Mr. DUNBAR, Representative of the International Children's Emergency Fund took the opportunity on this occasion to thank the 26 Nations which had contributed so generously the necessary materials for the campaign.

As early as 1952 rural clinics were financed and set up by S.C.I.P.S. Dr. Francis Duvalier was in charge and his personal effort to eradicate yaws was noteworthy. S.C.I.P.S. had set up two systems of yaws detection and eradication. One in the rural areas, where about 5 to 7 clinics were set up in each area but these were very dispersed. The other was the house to house treatment by persons who had some medical training and they would administer injections to all the inhabitants.

After careful evaluation, the house to house treatment proved to be very effective and was standardized throughout the country.

From July 1950 until late 1954, house to house treatment which had proved to be very successful reached 97% of the population. In four and a half years of mass treatment with penicillin 3½ million people were treated. By the end of 1958 active cases had been reduced from 40 to 50 % of the population to a mere 1 % . In 1959, it was estimated that there were less than 1500 cases of infectious yaws throughout the country. In order to seek out and eliminate the last case, the Yaws Eradication Service was reorganized to concentrate on case findings. At the same time, special groups carried out continuing surveillance in areas where eradication had been achieved. In 1959 Yaws was declared eradicated in the departments of Northwest, North and Artibonite. From 1965 onwards Yaws was eradicated all over Haiti. The project yaws was both costly and lengthy, but a level of eradication was eventually achieved. In the maintenance phase, the project was incorporated into the anti-small-pox campaign and only a few cases of yaws was encountered from time to time.

#### SERVICE NATIONAL d'ERADICATION DE LA MALARIA

UNICEF first allocated funds for malaria control in 1952. The problem of malaria transmission in Haiti at the time was the most serious in South America; approximately 69 % of the country was considered malarious with 3.5 million inhabitants or 77 % of the population at risk. According to some reports there was a programme in Haiti "Campagne Contre Insectes" , as we do not have confirmed reports, it can well be that UNICEF financed C.C.I. in 1952. In 1958, The Presidential decree declared malaria as "the urgent national problem". Immediately after the decree, the very first malaria eradication campaign began. According to "Haiti Journal" of 17th August 1958, a press conference was held that day by Dr, Carlos Davila Arenas, Director of SNEM. Dr. Arenas stated that SNEM had set up <sup>an</sup> office in Port-au-Prince and three others in the provinces. Its staff comprised of 10 malariologists, 9 Engineers and a Chief of Sanitary Education. Added to this staff were auxiliaries

and sprayers and that SNEM had taken upon itself to spray 700,000 houses. Dr. Arenas specially thanked UNICEF and WHO and declared that SNEM existed due to their efforts. According to reports UNICEF provided assistance as the campaign for control of malaria was converted to one of eradication of malaria. However, financial and administrative difficulties delayed the implementation of a nation-wide eradication project until 1961.

In November 1960, the Government established a Campagne de Contrôle de la Malaria (C.C.M.), which was at the same time a kind of a pre-eradication phase. The "Memorandum of Understanding" signed in February 1961 by the Government of Haiti, The World Health Organisation, UNICEF and USAID marked the end of C.C.M. and the beginning of SNEM. The new operational body SNEM had an autonomous status under the Ministry of Public Health. The technical and administrative direction of the service was jointly carried out by the Government and WHO. The Government provided a limited contribution for the local costs, the bulk was provided through grant-in-aids funds from USAID. WHO provided malariologists, sanitary engineers, sanitary inspectors and a considerable amounts of drugs. UNICEF provided the necessary supplies, insecticides, antiseptics, sprayers, laboratory equipment, drugs for mass distribution, vehicles and spare parts.

The preparatory phase, including geographical reconnaissance, surveys to determine epidemiological characteristics of malaria, training of personnel and reconditioning of equipment and transport was completed in 1961. Full coverage spraying began in January 1962. All 928,415 houses were sprayed in the malarious area which extended over the whole of Haiti upto 500m in altitude. Until December 1963 the gradual decrease of positive blood slides indicated that eradication of malaria might have been possible in more or less the expected time.

In October 1963 the southern peninsula of Haiti and other Caribbean islands were hit by hurricane "Flora", which was accompanied by torrential rains causing inundations in several places. For the malaria eradication the consequences were rather serious. First one or two small pockets of transmission appeared which

were sealed off by spraying the surrounding area twice. Notwithstanding this measure

malaria spread quickly over the area stricken by hurricane and brought finally and regretfully the situation in that area back almost to the incidence level of the time when the programme was initiated. An estimated 50,000 to 70,000 malaria cases occurred in the area. 50% of the positive cases were encountered in children under 15 years of age. Some very interesting statements were found in the report on the epidemic from the USAID malaria consultant assigned to this programme. He stated that "the rapid and simultaneous development of the malaria epidemic in practically the whole area can be attributed to the following factors. The great majority of the population of the area without shelter, or living in temporary shelters, and heavily exposed to the mosquito bites. Almost complete disappearance of residual insecticide in the houses. Increased migration of the people searching for food, construction materials, medical care, etc. The possible weakening effect of malnutrition and the exposure to the terrible weather!"

Therefore in areas hit by the hurricane and especially in the coastal areas, transmission remained high. On the other hand, in the areas of the north which were not exposed to the sufferings of the south, the number of positive cases remained high. According to the authors of the document 'Le Problème de l'Eradication de la Malaria', this was probably due to incomplete, insufficient and irregular spraying of the areas. Constant financial difficulties plagued the programme severely.

During a special programme evaluation meeting held in February 1965 it was decided that in view of the fact <sup>that</sup> D.D.T spraying only was not yielding the necessary results, it would be replaced by a mass drug distribution campaign. A pilot drug treatment project was established in the Petit Gôave area and the mass drug treatment began in May 1965. Drug distribution began with 450,000 inhabitants and by May 1966 1,700,000 persons were under treatment. Drug distribution was an outstanding success, coverage was constantly above 90%. It should be pointed out however that during the height of the mass drug campaign, the number of positive cases in areas of former high transmission were at an all time low. The limitation



of funds impeded the intensification of the drug attack at the appropriate time with the result that the refusal rate increased to such an extent, that the level of transmission again started to rise.

Additions had to be made to the spraying schedule which was established in January 1966 and some 800.00 houses were eventually projected to be sprayed. This required the malaria service to purchase D.D.T. to supplement that provided by UNICEF. Due to budgetary difficulties spraying was slowed down to a full stop by the end of the year. Financial difficulties at the end of 1966 necessitated reduction of staff and the limitation of operations. Following the recommendation of the World Health Assembly, the Malaria Strategy Review Committee expressed the opinion that eradication was feasible, provided that intensive attack measures employing inter-domiciliary spraying were applied for at least three years. The plan approved by the committee called for the spraying of 900.000 houses, however when the project was initiated in 1970 the number of houses were reduced to 800.000 for financial and operational reasons. Technical difficulties arose often, due to lack of trained laboratory technicians and microscopes. In spite of considerable effort made by the different agencies to finance the project, there had been enormous difficulties in the smooth running of the project.

UNICEF collaboration ended in 1973, but this was not specific to Haiti. For UNICEF was gradually withdrawing from the eradication campaign in other areas of the world. This policy emanated from the fact that total eradication was not feasible and this specially in large areas. Also in many countries the malaria project dwarfed other health projects and the need for the integration of the two was specifically stressed. The Strategy Review Committee which met in Port-au-Prince in January 1971 emphasised the need for the setting up of study groups for the formation of basic health infrastructure for the integration of the malaria eradication campaign with the health service system. According to the Committee, one of the contributing factors to the continuing transmission in Haiti was the lack of health structure, which could not only have lent valuable support during the attack

phase, but would also had been an essential instrument during the maintenance of the eradication operation.

Doctors and staff of SNEM witnessed the withdrawal of UNICEF with a heavy heart. Dr. Volvick René JOSEPH who had been Director General of SNEM from the years 1965 to 1973 has expressed deep gratitude towards UNICEF. He pointed out that "UNICEF together with USAID represented the number one organism to help in the functioning of this programme. UNICEF assistance has always been very positive, regular and indispensable not only to this programme but also to the country".

### FLORA

Extreme poverty, malnourishment, illiteracy, unemployment are some of the ills which effect Haiti. Political instability and lack of government funds hinder the progress of most of the projects set up in Haiti and to make matters worse natural disasters strike every now and then and wipe out traces of the little that has been achieved with so much difficulty.

Haiti's geographical position is such that ever so often hurricanes and cyclones run loose through her territory. This adds to the already existing burden of misery. So when hurricane "Flora" struck in October 1963, the southern peninsula was subjected to heavy damages in lives and property, not to mention the loss of agricultural products. So immediately food and supplies poured into the country. To this effect, UNICEF allocated \$49,000 and sent as first aid a shipment of 100,000 lbs of dried milk. Instead of increasing the stream of emergency equipment, UNICEF decided to cooperate with the Government in the rehabilitation of the southern peninsula of the island which suffered grave damages. Thus UNICEF aimed at long term rehabilitation rather than short term emergency assistance and so took upon itself to re-establish the basic facilities of health units (Hospitals, health centres and dispensaries) and to supply furnitures, blackboards and crayons, etc. for the damaged schools.

Equipment and material for health centres and two hospitals; pre-fabricated

furniture for 50 schools were prepared and shipped to the country. The ILO/UNICEF assisted vocational training programme set up in Haiti at the time was to cooperate with the government in the mounting and the distributing of the pre-fabricated furniture, blackboards etc. However, on the government side, the project suffered some very considerable delay. The bulk of UNICEF supplies had not been cleared from the port and there was no news as to the progress of the repair programme for hospital centres and schools which were to receive these equipment. Only a small percentage were put to use in schools and health centres for which they were destined and which were in great need of them.

The implementation of UNICEF assistance suffered some very serious, incomprehensible and prolonged delays. The supplies and equipment approved in January 1964 began to arrive in mid 1964 and by the end of that year, deliveries had been completed. However, most of the equipment remained in the customs warehouse for over a year due to continuous lack of finance in the relevant ministries, for inland transportation, for distribution and for the basic repairs of the health centres. When the health supplies were at last cleared, it had to await the reconstruction of the health centres. Though it was completed by mid 1966, most of the supplies remained undistributed. The equipment and supplies for the schools suffered a worse lot. It stayed in customs for lack of transport, then lack of warehouse. When the malaria service put its warehouse at the disposal of the project (at some considerable inconvenience) it could not be moved from there to Fonds de Negres (one of the centres of the vocational training project) which was in charge of the assembly and distribution again for lack of transport. The school furniture being pre-fabricated had to be assembled and it was thought to be a good idea to have this done by youngsters of the Fonds de Negres centre. The idea was for them to take a truck load of parts to a given community, assemble the furniture there at the same time and repair the existing furniture. This proved impossible because these youngsters needed a per diem to purchase food. The communities being as poor as they are could not be expected to provide it. UNICEF made \$ 1000 available for this purpose due to lack of government funds. Even then it

proved impossible to carry out the plan because the government could not provide transport.

It was decided that the furniture would have to be assembled at Fonds de Degres itself. That the government would deliver whenever a truck was available, alternatively the communities would have to collect it. Again this ran into difficulties because it was felt that even though the youngsters were in training in a UNICEF assisted project they could not be expected to do the work for nothing. UNICEF once again agreed to meet the cost.

In mid 1966 the Minister of Agriculture, Natural resources and Rural Development informed UNICEF that one of the main reasons of the slow development of the project ( including the non-availability of stock and distribution reports) was that it was by now out of date. On the one hand most of the schools originally foreseen had already solved their problems and on the other hand there were other areas of the country where the need for this sort of equipment was much greater. The Minister wanted UNICEF approval to use the furniture in these areas. UNICEF could not comply with the wishes of the Minister.

The problem remained unsolved at the end of the year 1966. Several factors were responsible for the situation. Even though the southern area was the hardest hit by "Flora", it was also the least popular with the government due to its reputation of being rebellious. It was here that an invasion by anti-governmental forces was attempted, with whom the population was said to have collaborated. Another major factor was the extremely poor communications and extraordinarily bad roads ( the journey from Port-au-Prince to Cayes a mere 200Kms took atleast 10 very rough hours ). After a tragic plane accident in 1965 U.N. personnel no longer used such air transport. Added to all this was the lack of concrete government interest which resulted in interminable discussions all of which ended in stalemate. The report judiciously concludes by stating that the implementation of \$49,000 project was more time consuming than that of a million-dollar one.

Three years after the arrival of the school furniture and the Health-

Centre equipment and material, reports stated the distribution of the equipment to the centres and schools for which it was destined and with the improved auxiliary nurses planned for Haiti, there was hope that the equipment would contribute to the improvement of the rural health centres in the hurricane devastated area.

#### VOCATIONAL TRAINING

A plan of operations was signed by the Ministry of Labor, ILO, UNESCO and UNICEF in May 1964. The project aimed at the establishing of cooperative rural artisan centres in which workshops for carpentry and furniture making, blacksmith-work and welding, bricklaying and masonry, homeeconomics and dress making were included.

In these centres boys and girls were to receive full-time training in manual, mechanical, horticultural and home making skills. The skills would enable the youths to maintain and repair the tools and equipment which they used in their daily work and to produce cooperatively objects for improvement of the rural habitat which would be sold as far as possible. The adult craftsmen of the region of the centres would be able to learn more modern methods and would be able to learn the use of simple modern machinery, and they would also participate in the cooperative production programme. Also modern agricultural methods and production of more nutritious food was part of the training in the centre for which several of them had sufficient land available for experimental or production garden.

The aim of the government was to organize a network of 18 such centres. It was expected that the centres would become self-sufficient as they developed further and would be able to sell their products and to constitute a proper community centre from which improvement of the community in general would result.

Since 1963 UNICEF furnished supplies and equipment for 5 centres, vehicles for supervisory personnel and stipends and honoris for a course in the cooperative management of the centres. The first three centres - Marché Léon, Fort Jacques and Fonds de Negres- were established with the assistance of the ILO UNICEF Executive Board approved assistance to another 5 centres- Camp Ferrin, Chantal, Petite Rivière

de Nippe, Lavard and Les Palmistes on the 'Ile de la Tortue'.

The oldest centre was situated at Marché Léon. There was a period of low activity caused mostly by very bad agricultural conditions in that region which had destroyed all energy and initiative in the whole population. Activities were at a low ebb, but some products did find a market in Jeremie, but very few in the community, as the centre was mainly used for repairing their tools and equipment. The Port Jacques centre was opened in 1961 with ILO equipment but a cooperative was not organized until February 1965. It had some 80 members. There was nothing rural about this centre except its location. The centre was completely oriented towards Port-au-Prince where all its products were sold in the 'Salle d'exposition vente'. According to the remarks of the ILO mission chief "the search for individual profit slowed down every effort to develop a sense of collective interest". The Fonds de Negres centre was opened in early 1963 and a cooperative was formed in mid 1965 with some 50 members. Some 35 apprentices were inscribed but only about 25 attended regularly. The products were partly sold through the "salle d'exposition" in the capital and partly to religious institutions. About 10 % was sold to the local population who mainly used the centre for repairing their tools. The communal garden created by the local expert in 1964/65 ran down due to lack of interest. The Camp Ferris centre was opened in mid 1964 and a cooperative was started in March 1966 with 40 members. 30 youngsters attended the centre for woodwork, ironwork and home economics. A canteen served daily meals to all youngsters. The centre doubled its business figure, as its production in wood and iron and the repair jobs were all for and from the rural community, the religious institutions, schools and a clientele in the neighbouring city of Cayes. The Vocational training centre at Chantal presented a sorry story. Its construction was started in January 1965 on the promise of government funds. These were not forthcoming and construction was financed somehow from operational funds. When these ran out construction came to a halt though another \$500 would have completed the job. The ILO agricultural expert was in Chantal from early 1966 onwards, working on the assumption that the centre would soon be opened. When this proved impossible

he organized a team of youngsters and inculcated into them principles of cooperative organisation, practical concepts of agricultural extension and community develop-

ment. Fired by the success of this, ILO provided \$5000 to further these activities.

The centre of Petite Riviere de Nippes was opened in May 1966 with 9 apprentices.

At the end of June 15 pupils ( 4 woodworkers, 6 ironworkers and 5 for masonry work) produced and worked there mostly for the religious institutions and for the neighbouring city of Miragoane. Some basket work was done for sale in Port-au-Prince.

The centre Lavaud was opened in early 1964 but did not really get started until the arrival of a new expert in late 1965. Mr. DUPOND (the ILO expert) reported "Together with 11 pupils in the ironshop and 11 for the woodwork, two local artisans are regularly assisting and using the centre. The clients purchasing the production and ordering repairs come from the rural community of Port-de -Paix and the religious institutions of the neighbourhood". But even at the time there were favorable reports concerning the ILO expert, because he had succeeded in stimulating much interest for the centre among the youth of the area considered "difficult". The centre located at Les Palmistes was opened in 1964, closed again two months later and reopened in

December 1965. The centre on the island of La Portue concentrated almost exclusively on woodwork with the help of twenty youngsters. Production went for a minor part to their families and further to the expansion of the religious colony of Pere Riou which comprised extensive hospital facilities.

Details on these centres throw a light on some important factors. The centres conceived as nuclei for community development became rather poor production cooperatives. The workshops did some good, as they provided some wages for the rural poor. But much more could have been achieved from the projects. The main stumbling block of the centres was the total lack of government funds, interest and support. The project would have been paralysed even more, had it not been for the extreme generosity of the ILO Chief of Mission and some of the experts who often used personal funds temporarily. Another factor that emerged clearly was the extreme dependence on the presence of the ILO experts. The absence of suitable Haitian counterparts for-

ced ILO experts to continue to give all their attention to the existing centres. Desires of the government to open new centres were pushed aside as the assistance of the experts could not be assured for the existing centres demanded their full-time attention. Lack of government funds to pay decent salaries made it impossible to recruit persons with any educational background or technical qualifications. This not only applied to managers but also to the local instructors. Little wonder for the salaries were around \$50 per month. No continuation stood a chance of success without the presence of a large number of experts. By then ILO and UNDP had decided to gradually reduce the number so that by 1968 none remained.

#### APPLIED NUTRITION

As early as 1958 UNICEF provided aid for an applied nutrition project. UNICEF provided skim milk powder, vitamins, supplies for school gardens and stipends for the training of teachers and nurses. The project included distribution of milk and vitamins through health centres, orphanages and dispensaries, and of milk only to school children in Port-au-Prince and villages within a radius of 30 miles. Milk distribution reached 14,300 children in 1961. In 1962, this aspect of the project was taken over by CARE.

The plan also included the creation of rural school gardens and special courses in nutrition education for doctors and nurses at health centres and teachers in participating schools. The Ministry of Public Health and Population had organised a nutrition section which was responsible for the operation of this project. A nutrition bureau was also established in the Ministry of Agriculture. However restriction on government expenditures delayed the implementation of these elements of the project. Nevertheless, the two bureaux, in close cooperation with the WHO nutrition adviser, developed a number of small projects with different individual health centres. In addition, a miniature demonstration project involving teachers, agricultural extension workers, home economists and health centre personnel were organised in a village near Port-au-Prince.



The U.N. Agencies recognized the need for a well organized Applied Nutrition Programme in Haiti. To this effect, as early as 1963 discussions were held between WHO, FAO, and UNICEF. about the initiation of a real demonstration programme in applied nutrition. The WHO nutrition advisor had initiated several activities with the assistance of the William Waterman Fund and had assembled a team of enthusiastic national workers in this field. Finally discussions about UNICEF's cooperation in an Applied Nutrition Programme was abandoned as the U.S. William Waterman Fund made considerable bilateral contribution available through PAHO (Pan American Health Organisation) for the purpose of such a programme.

In 1966, UNICEF was approached officially by the government for assistance to a 5 year plan in the field of nutrition to be carried out by a government committee CONAIMA (Comité National de la Lutte contre la Malnutrition), based on agricultural extension, home economics, school gardens, etc. but with a lack of serious study of practical possibilities and projecting a financing almost exclusively international, without realistic advance discussion with the relevant agencies. UNICEF anxious though it was to really do something practical and positive in Haiti, concluded that CONAIMA did not offer a base for direct cooperation.

In 1973, the UNICEF Executive Board approved the Nutrition and Rural Development Project. This project was the first to be developed on a coordinated basis in Haiti with programme inputs by the Ministries of Public Health and Rural Education and Agriculture under the overall direction of the official government planning department CONADEP ( Conseil National de Développement et de Plannification). PRO UDERU as the programme was known ( Programme de Nutrition et de Développement Rural) received UNICEF's assistance in equipment, office equipment, vehicles, etc. The programme's aim was to improve the standard of living of the rural population and the nutritional situation in general. The programme proved to be a success, and BUNAFPHAN (Bureau National de Formulation de Politique d'Alimentation et de Nutrition) was set up in 1976. The financial and technical support came from the Regional Project PIA/PNAN ( Projet Inter-Agence pour la Formulation de Politique Alimentaire et Nutritionnelle). The UNICEF coordinator was Mr Ernesto ROBERTO COSTA. Important

achievements of the programme included the publication of three papers: A preliminary assessment of the food and nutritional situation of the Haitian people; a study of the possibility of establishing an institution to formulate national food and nutritional policy; and a study projecting needs and services in the field of food and nutrition for the years 1986 and 1991.

During internal programme review in UNICEF it was decided to drop ~~al-~~  
~~together or phase out agriculture related nutrition projects where UNICEF cooperation~~  
could not really have a significant impact. Among more directly health-related nutrition interventions UNICEF cooperation has mainly consisted of provision of high potency vitamin A capsules and iron folate tablets.

#### PRIMARY EDUCATION

UNICEF'S cooperation in the teachers training program is related to its activities for the improvement in the quality of life of Haiti's children. The government with the technical collaboration of UNESCO established a teacher's training college at Marfranc to prepare in a 3 year course primary school for rural areas. These teachers were to stimulate agricultural and economic development in the communities. Trainees were youths between the ages of 15 and 18 and also teachers already in service but not possessing the necessary qualifications.

The college was to have 3 classes of 45 students each, and had a primary school annexed to it and also seven "satellite" schools for practical training.

Between 1961 and 1963 UNICEF'S contribution of \$52,000 consisted of audiovisual equipment, agricultural implements, materials for a rural health clinic attended by a medical officer, and for home economics training, school garden, poultry, school canteen, transport and stipends for student teachers.

The project continuously suffered from lack of government funds and met the fate of a lot of other projects in Haiti. Lack of government funds made the operation of the school extremely difficult and prevented the completion

of the building . Thus the school was unable to house the planned number of 45 students in each class of the three year course so only one class of 25 students was admitted . The project was , after a difficult start, well on its way when because of the emergencies caused by hurricane Flora and Cleo , the state of siege as a result of the invasion by elements hostile to the regime of President Duvalier , and the government's decision to build a jet air strip to re-activate tourism , the budget of the Ministry <sup>of Agriculture</sup> was cut drastically as to bring the construction work at Marfranc to a full stop . There was consequently in October 1964 no space for the second intake of the 3 year course . In addition to purely financial difficulties , the school located in that part of the country where the invasion took place , found itself occupied by military forces from May to November 1963 with some resultant damage to buildings , the school's waterpump and electricity generator .

Had it not been for the continuing efforts of the UNESCO expert through the years , the college would have grounded to a halt at an early stage . Even so, it was never possible to admit more than one class of 25 and after many difficulties this class completed its 3 year course .

UNICEF'S hesitated to continue financing the teacher's training college due to several major factors . For the project to have any chance of survival and success , continuous service of an energetic and devoted expert was needed , but UNESCO had already decided on the withdrawal of its expert . Also according to expert opinions , Haiti needed 27.000 teachers and even 45 per year ( instead of 25 in 3 years ) would have made no impact , besides the cost per trained teacher was exorbitant .

In 1967 , three normal schools were rebuilt at Damien , Marfranc and Milot through a loan from the Inter-American Development Bank . During the interim period when the normal schools were under reorganization UNICEF participated in the special summer courses programme for non-qualified teachers and refresher courses for school inspectors . UNICEF contributed with stipends for students and

per diems for instructors.

From 1970 UNICEF'S cooperation expanded and it provided assistance for the training of inspectors , contributed equipment and educational materials and granted stipends to all the student of the first and second year of the 3 schools and 50 students of the third year.

~~An important innovation in the 1974-1977 project was the introduction of~~ a special radio programme (Radio- Educative) for primary school teachers who had already attended the summer courses . Radio education was used to adapt education to the needs of the rural environment , particularly with regard to community development , functional literacy and nutrition . The project was supported by the World Bank and UNICEF'S contribution amounted to \$69.950 towards supply of 1000 radio receivers and training.

With the unification of rural and urban education in 1976 , the Ministry of Education became the only government authority responsible for designing , approving , monitoring and evaluating educational policies , plans and programmes . The merging of rural and urban education into one integrated system has been a positive step towards introducing new and common curricula and improving primary school student achievement . Previously the Ministry of Agriculture had the responsibility for rural education .

It appeared that with UNICEF'S assistance to the teacher training programme , the objectives of the 5 year plan for Normal School could easily be attained . However the programme was reviewed and the weakness in the system deterred UNICEF who gradually withdrew from the programme.

#### SOCIAL PLANNING

UNICEF'S assistance was requested to develop a social planning section within the CONADEP , the National Council for Development and Planning . In 1976 , UNICEF provided the government with the assistance of a social planning consultant in the Planning Ministry to identify the country's main social problems and to

establish administrative and technical procedures for planning and programming

within the framework of the national economic and social development plan.

Its objective included : a) gathering information pertaining to the social problems and needs of the most vulnerable groups of the society , particularly children and women ; b) formulating methods and technical procedures for the efficient functioning of the planning units of the social sector ministries.

Although there was some delay in meeting the targets of the original two year plan, good progress was made in the implementation of the project . The social planning section was well established within CONADEP and operated with 6 national professionals . Training and in service training of nationals in the different areas of social planning were organized .

Juan Fernando Aguirre economist from Ecuador arrived in Haiti on the 5th April 1978 . He was working in Salvador on a planning project financed by the United Nations , when UNICEF designated him as the social planning consultant of CONADEP in Haiti . In November 1978 , CONADEP became the Ministry of Planning . At the time activities of UNICEF were coordinated through UNDP . UNICEF support to this project covered a social planning consultant , a programme coordinator , fellowships , data collection services , personnel subsidies , conference expenses and supplies and equipment . Total UNICEF commitment from the period 1975 to 1979 amounted to \$374.000 .

The duties of J.F.Aguirre consisted mainly of technical support to the section , elaboration of a number of studies and formulation of documents for UNICEF and the Ministry of Planning . He gave special attention to technical aspects and thus participated in training and in-service training of the staff of Social Planning Section and of the sectorial planning and programming units . Mr Aguirre humbly denies his active participation in the training of his Haitian colleagues and insists that they were " excellent professionnels with very good qualifications possessing a thorough knowledge of the haitian reality " .

Late in 1978 and during 1979 , the Social Planning Section participated

in formulating the social aspects of the national economic and social development plan(1976-1981) and also helped to prepare the methodology for the elaboration of the annual plans . With the preparation of the country's Third Development Plan(1981-1986) , the role of the Social Planning Section has become increasingly important and it has participated actively in a number of studies ( population social indicators , income distribution , community participation ) for the elaboration of the social chapters of the plan and in the formulation of a policy in benefit of children .

Mr Aguirre also pointed out the usefulness of the Social Planning Section , where several knowledgeable nationals were installed with each person specializing in a particular field such as education , housing , community development , health , etc.

Mr Aguirre found it very pleasant to work in Haiti. Though contacts with other agencies were a trifle difficult, on the whole he found UNICEF doing an excellent job." I was very lucky to have worked in Haiti. My small contribution really helped set the social planning programme in motion. And I can also proudly say that I participated in the birth of UNICEF office in Haiti" were his parting words.

#### THE UNICEF OFFICE

The Mexico Area Office was responsible for UNICEF activities in Haiti and Area Representatives visited Haiti often to look into matters. A new orientation was established in the region and the assistance to Haiti became the responsibility of a new area office for the Caribbean located in KINGSTON ( JAMAICA) from 1976. An UNICEF office with Mr. James AKRE as Project Officer was set up in the UNDP office.

During the period 1976 to 1979, UNICEF support to Government projects increased, e.g. Regionalization of Health Services in the north and south, Formation of Rural teachers and the Radio Educative Programme, Nutrition and Rural Development, the Project PIRNO, and Development of activities of Social Planning. The total

costs of these projects amounted to \$ 3,816,8000. In view of the fact that assistance to Haiti was increasing and taking on an important aspect UNICEF decided to establish a sub-office in Port-au-Prince. This office was responsible directly to the Kingston office and Anthony JOPPA took over as Resident Programme Officer. Thus UNICEF left the UNDP office and moved to Impasse Lavaud in 1979.

The establishment of a sub-office and the permanent presence of a Resident Programme Officer, assisted by supporting staff, helped strengthen UNICEF cooperation with regard to Programme Planning and Formulation. The very first local Administrative personnel was Mrs. Jean FELIX. She has participated fully in the birth and the growth of the UNICEF office, and heartily congratulates the achievements of UNICEF and appreciates the devotion of her colleagues who have transformed UNICEF into a successful humanitarian agency.

In 1980 and 1981, two international project officers for education and basic services were appointed and one project officer was recruited nationally in addition to supportive staff for administration, finance and supply.

At the beginning of 1981, UNICEF moved from Impasse Lavaud to Rue Armand Holly. Very soon afterwards the sub-office was upgraded to full Representative Office. Mr. Kul Chandra GAUTAM was designated as the Representative of UNICEF in Haiti in November 1982. With the establishment of the Representative Office, UNICEF assistance to Haiti took an entirely new turn. The Basic Agreement was signed between the Haitian Government and UNICEF on the 21st of July 1983. On this occasion, Mr James. P GRANT Executive Director summarized UNICEF's policy very aptly "UNICEF has long argued that investment in children is not merely a humanitarian imperative but a sound developmental investment for the prosperity of a nation". Since then, the Representative and his devoted staff are concentrating all their efforts to bring about significant improvements in the quality of life of Haiti's children.

NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE CONTROL OF DIARRHOEAL DISEASES AND THE PROMOTION OF  
BREASTFEEDING

During his visit to Haiti in August 1982, the UNICEF Executive Director

Mr. James P GRANT personally initiated programming of an ambitious, multisectoral project for the promotion of oral rehydration therapy and breastfeeding. The project was intended to attack what is termed a malnutrition diarrhoea syndrome which accounts for the death of the majority of Haitian children.

Diarrhoeal dehydration is the largest killer of children in Haiti. Every year this causes more than 25,000 deaths among infants within the age of 0 to 2 years. Most infants below 5 years of age typically experience as many as 16 episodes of diarrhoea each year, specially due to increasing practice of bottle-feeding. A survey carried out in 1981 showed that 96 % of mothers in urban areas and 59 % in rural areas practiced bottle-feeding. A survey conducted in "Cité Simone Duvalier", one of the marginal areas of Port-au-Prince showed numerous factors which led to diarrhoeal diseases. Bottlefeeding is one, its doubtful contents and confirmed uncleanliness is a major cause. Mothers start weaning too early and the survey pointed out the fact that 56 % of babies were bottle fed at one month. To this is added the child's and mother's unhealthy environment, e.g. lack of clean drinking water, total absence of latrines, inadequate drainage of household water which constitute the breeding places of parasites. So the child at an early age is exposed to parasitical germs which often causes diarrhoea. Due to weak purchasing power, mothers are incapable of providing supplementary feeding before weaning and <sup>with the</sup> viral contamination of the infant's gastro-intestinal tract, the child enters the vicious circle of malnutrition and infection.

In 1983, a multi-sectoral, multi agency project to combat the malnutrition diarrhoea syndrome was initiated, National Programme for Control of Diarrhoeal Diseases and Promotion of Breastfeeding. The programme is being funded by the Italian Government for a 3 year period through the WHO/UNICEF Joint Nutrition Support Programme. Parallel to the programme planning activities, a massive media and health education campaign was designed to teach mothers primarily and all members of the community, how to use ORT and gain easy access to ORS ( Serum Oral ). The primary government counterpart in this inter sectoral programme is the Ministry of Public Health.

A special mention should be made of the introduction of ORT in Haiti. Al-



though ORT was introduced in 1970, it was neither widely accepted nor generally available to the public. Both health professionals and lay persons could not believe that such a simple solution could be effective against the country's biggest killer. The establishment of a rehydration unit in the University Hospital in Port-au-Prince in 1980 and the subsequent decline in case fatalities from more than 35 % to 1 %, provided dramatic proof of the efficacy of ORT. Before the introduction of oral therapy an alarming number of those with severe dehydration died largely due to late referral. In 1982 diarrhoeal disease control was declared national priority number one and all levels of the Health Ministry were called upon to focus efforts on universal implementation of oral rehydration.

During 1984, the greatest emphasis was laid on training and therefore more than 2,500 health workers were retrained, through seminars and practical experience in district hospitals in the use and promotion of ORT. Supplies of packaged ORS manufactured in Haiti by a national firm, were distributed to the districts, with the initial consignments to be sold at a nation-wide fixed price of 15 cents per packet ( enough to make up one litre of ORS solution). To assure the availability of ORS throughout Haiti, each of the 250 health establishments was encouraged to set up selling posts within the local community. Village stores, traditional healers, community leaders, police and army posts, teachers and volunteers were recruited to stock ORS packets. A commercial firm was invited to prepare a multi-media campaign promoting the message that ORT saves lives. Radio messages, coloured posters, brochures and leaflets were used to spread the message about ORT.

Although public enthusiasm for ORT has grown strongly, operational research-studies conducted in 1984 and 1985 consistently show that the programme has been highly successful in the urban areas - with one study showing that in the slums of Port-au-Prince 80 % of the respondents used ORT packets or homemade solution to treat diarrhoea and over 70 % mentioned using ORS packets. In rural areas however much work needs to be done since the studies show that only one-third to one-half of the mothers used ORT for treatment of diarrhoea and a smaller amount used ORS packets. With the exception of the capital, there seemed to be a general problem stemming from inadequate demand for ORS and an inefficient distribution

system. Therefore, with the increase of demand for ORS as the main objective, during 1985 a significant amount of UNICEF, WHO/PAHO and USAID/MSH time and effort was spent in organizing the second phase of the public education and media campaign.

### TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

In 1982, UNICEF established a working relationship with the SNEP (Service National d'Eau Potable) the Government agency for rural water supply. Prior to this, UNICEF assistance to water supply projects had been limited to a few gravity fed piped water-supply systems in rural areas. Executed through private contractors not only had these proven expensive, but government involvement had been minimal. In support of this cooperation, UNICEF is contributing to strengthen the institutional capacity for project development and management in SNEP. Joint programming exercises have brought about better sustained and more comprehensive implementation of projects from project feasibility study and execution to community health education. But UNICEF assistance in the domain of water supply has extended to involvement in new technologies. "An excellent example of transfer of technology is the case of handpump installation" points out Mr R. JANSSENS our Project Officer for Basic Services. He introduced this new project based on his valuable experience acquired in India. The project started on a limited scale, with the installation of India Mark II pumps in sites chosen for their ground water availability. The SNEP-UNICEF cooperation was complemented with a strong support from about a dozen non-governmental agencies which undertook drilling and provided logistical support. UNICEF provided handpumps, spare parts and training of mechanics. Handpumps were installed in Leogane, Artibonite, Gonaives, the North and North East, La Plaine du Nord. These hand-pumps are known for their sturdiness and are very useful for community utilisation specially when it works practically 18 hours a day and serves any number of people. At each of the water supply project sites, a "village safe drinking water committee" is elected to assume responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the system.

One of the largest gravity-fed drinking water systems completed in 1985

was in the Plaine de l'Arbre in the Northwest. This area is prone to dry spells and this parched and arid zone was certainly grateful to have water supply connexions to small villages between the source of the water and the main destination village of Coridon and beyond some 22 Kms away. Connexions were provided for 8 hamlets along the way. This ensured cooperation of villagers who would otherwise have resented, if not sabotaged, the system for bypassing their villages. There was an unprecedented level of community participation.

For the first time in 1984, UNICEF became involved in water supply in urban slum areas as part of its cooperation for a urban basic services programme. Three new public fountains were constructed in St. Martin slum area of Port-au-Prince and repair of 10 existing fountains was initiated. UNICEF also assisted in the extension of existing systems, mostly in the Northwest. The repair and rehabilitation work, often neglected, has a very high pay off. Based on this experience, a plan of action is being finalized between the Government of Haiti's office for the Development of the Northwest and SNEP with the assistance of UNICEF, for the maintenance of all gravity-fed water supply systems and deep well handpumps in the Northwest.

In order to provide coverage to the scattered populations in the hilly and mountainous areas of the Northwest, SNEP and UNICEF have initiated a programme of spring-tapping. through the cooperation of community councils and an external non governmental organisation, 149 springs have been identified in 2 communes in the Northwest. Rehabilitation of capped but presently defunct springs has already begun. When complemented by a major 3 year programme scheduled to start in 1986, coverage will be provided to an additional 80,000 people. Furthermore UNICEF, SNEP, and the NGOs will in a drilling and handpump programme, funds for which have been provided by the Haitian Canadian Rotary Trust. UNICEF will provide training of mechanics on hand pump installation and maintenance supply of tools and spare parts, motor-cycles or bicycles for the mechanics handpump inspection and repair work.

As a large part of drinking water supply systems appeared to gradually

fall into disuse because of the deterioration of sub-standard fixtures, UNICEF imported a "waste-not" tap from India both for public fountains and individual households. Five hundred taps in two sizes were imported, all have been distributed and installed. A great degree of interest has been generated by these initial installations. A large number of NGO and International Agencies are now using these taps in their programme. A local manufacture has been contacted by UNICEF to produce initial samples of 100 waste-not taps.

This tap model, along with the India Mark II handpump all of which have been introduced by UNICEF in Haiti, is an excellent example of technology transfer among developing countries.

### Women and Water Supply

The back breaking task of fetching water is and always has been confined to women and children. In rural areas they have to trek long distances in search of water sources and semi-dried rivers for all kinds of household chores. In the urban areas they do the same, only here they are on the look out for an available tap providing the precious liquid. In such conditions, cleanliness and proper hygiene cannot be expected of them. So when UNICEF established water systems and hand-pumps, women benefitted greatly from it. They now gain time to do other things as they no longer spend hours in search of water, it also provides opportunities for better health for their families.

The most effective results have been the participation of women in these projects. In the implementation stage women worked as laborers, and collected and transported construction materials to the site and organized food services for the workers. At the community level, women participated as members of the community councils in the planning meetings. They helped to decide where the public fountains should be set up because traditionally they do the fetching and the placement of fountains and pumps directly affect them.

An official government document issued by SNEP prescribes the formation of a five-member "Safe Drinking Water Committee" that must include two women, and a

three member Neighbourhood Fountain Committee for each fountain to include atleast one woman. In a system established in Jean Rabel in the Northwest, the most important post of treasurer of the drinking water committee was held by a women in 1983. In the same town of Jean Rabel, seven neighbourhood fountain committees were formed. Each has atleast one women and one is all women. These committes watch over the upkeep and presentation of their respective fountains. After receiving some training, they also inform the public of rudimentary health messages related to the upkeep of the fountains and call the engineer when there is a problem. In certain places where there are no committees, it is usually the women who first notice a problem and call on the machanic for repairs.

As a result of their participation, they also gain income during the construction, a certain trining to help the committees fulfill their roles and eventually self-esteem and status.

#### PROJET INTEGRE POUR LA REHABILITATION DU NORD OUEST (PIRNO)

Poor infrastructure, underdeveloped natural ressources, poverty stricken peasants are the general characteristics of the Northwest of Haiti. It is also an area suffering from chronic dry spells, thus increasing the hardships of the people; When a severe drought affected this region in 1976, the Haitian Government request- UNICEF to assist in a special rehabilitation project. The project PIRNO was initiated in 1977 to restore and to extend the infrastructure for the delivery of services in the areas of water supply and environmental sanitation, primary health care, basic education, child and family welfare, and agriculture.

According to Mr. Raymond JANSSENS our Project Officer for Basic Services who salvaged the PIRNO project from its wreckage on his arrival in 1981 " The PIRNO project was the single most important project of UNICEF in Haiti. Not since malaria ( which ofcourse was spanned over a much longer period ) had UNICEF endeavoured to venture upon such a scheme ". The project scheduled for a period of four years was financed by the Government of Netherlands and UNICEF for a total amount of \$ 1.5 million. And thus the projet PIRNO was launched.

During the early stages of assistance to the area, UNICEF provided drugs and vitamins ( \$27.400 ); 27 tons of sorghum seeds ( \$ 23.000 ) and 48 tons of fortified skim milk. It also helped to fund the internal distribution of the milk, drugs and seeds, through the Public Health and Population Ministry, the Haitian American Community Health Organization and the Haitian Red Cross.

Though the government called it a rehabilitation project, its aim was to attract funds for the development of the region. Problems in this area were further amplified by the hurricane of 1977. A variety of activities coordinated by the Ministry of Education, with its office and depots were set up at Anse Rouge. UNICEF supplies were shipped into Port-au-Prince and transported either by boat or road to Anse Rouge. The poor conditions of roads made the region impenetrable. Whatever secondary roads existed were built by the Haitian - American Organization HACHO through their food-for-work programme. The major programme component was the construction of 9 primary schools and 10 family education centres, towards which the bulk of UNICEF's \$ 1.5 million were channeled. UNICEF funds also went towards the purchase and supply of all essential materials and equipment.

UNICEF supplied agricultural equipment, 4 tractors with ploughing equipment, grains, seeds, storage facilities, insecticides, pesticides, fertilizers and agricultural tools. To set up the water supply system UNICEF provided 80 kms of P.V.C. pipes and accessories, tools etc. UNICEF provided material to build schools and thus shipped plastified metal roofing sheets, steel beams, doors and door frames. Educational materials were donated, such as copy books, paper, chalk, blackboards, paint etc. Medical equipment, medicines and building material were brought in for dispensaries. A women's educational programme was set up, and so a variety of training materials, equipment for women's educational activities were furnished. The main objective was to train women in child care, household activities and nutrition.

But as early as 1979, following an initial spurt of activities, including the beginning of the construction of a number of primary school buildings; dispensaries and community centres, the project was grinding to a halt and it was final-

ly closed down in 1980. " PIRNO was much too ambitious from the start." points out Mr Janssens . The project never got off the ground . In a large scale operation such as this ; with lack of proper administrative structure , inefficient management , weak regional coordination and inadequate planning , the ensuing results were inevitable .

~~An important point should be noted however ; UNICEF had a minor office~~ with one liaison officer in charge , so regular follow-ups of different sites were impossible . 15 construction sites were opened up at the same time with no possibility of regular supervision . There was equally a great need for qualified management staff . To be a success , the project had to have a much greater community participation which lacked greatly in certain localities .

In 1982 the " dossier " PIRNO was reopened and Mr Janssens who had arrived an year earlier in Haiti took over the project . Although it was not feasible to complete all the activities stipulated in the original PIRNO project, it was decided that all the materials in stock for the appropriate programmes be channelled in the Northwest for the completion of the structures by using the available funds and materials . The project began afresh with \$400.000 of the total remaining funds , and materials left at Anse Rouge .

The reprogramming exercise was approved by the Planning Ministry in July 1983 . The " Office for the Development of the Northwest " , ODNO , an extension of the Planning Ministry was created . This office had the responsibility for the overall planning and coordination of the multi-sectoral activities . To complete the main component of the ex-PIRNO project , namely the construction of schools and centres , a plan of action was established between the Ministry of Education , ODNO and UNICEF . The long-delayed project for the rehabilitation of the Northwest ( ex- PIRNO ) was completed in 1984 . As part of this project , construction of 16 primary schools , 4 multipurpose centres , 2 water supply systems and 1 new dispensary <sup>were completed</sup> and two <sup>dispensaries</sup> were rehabilitated . The number of schools and centres completed was higher than planned in the revised programme negotia-

ted with the Ministries of Planning and Education in 1983. This was accomplished through innovative changes in designs of buildings , reduction of labor cost through increased community participation and effective supervision by UNICEF staff and government counterparts.

As a result of this programme , 4800 primary school students and 1000 pre-schoolers were accomodated in new premises, 18,500 people benefit from potable water supply , communities will have better access to basic health services and the environmental sanitation improved in 4 rural communities . The 4 multi-purpose centres serve as pre-school classes in the mornings , nutrition surveillance centres in the afternoon and women's education centre in the evenings . All schools and centres have been equipped by UNICEF and basic educational materials have been supplied for all classes . Pre-school monitors and family education agents and supervisors have received training and refresher courses . A stock of agricultural tools brought in during the early phase of PIRNO was distributed to peasants in the area as part of drought relief operation in late 1983.

The experience and fulfillment gained by UNICEF from the PIRNO project is very well summarized by Mr R. Janssens , " For UNICEF this has been quite a lesson . UNICEF has demonstrated that once it enters into a commitment it honors it and this has certainly added to its credibility . Through very judicious use of materials and ressources UNICEF has been able to go beyond the targeted project . It has been an unforgettable experience . Thus with better follow-up and management, one really can achieve quite a lot."

Upon the completion of the PIRNO project in 1984 , UNICEF continued its cooperation in the deprived Northwest region . UNICEF has gained the respect and confidence of the communities and the Government due to its activities in the Northwest. Excellent relationship has been established between different organisations and UNICEF.

UNICEF also has a agreements with ODNO and SLEP to finance a number of interventions in the Northwest. Concerning water supply system and



maintenance programme. The setting up of gravity-fed water supply systems, spring tapping and hand pumps have brought life into this arid and drought affected area.

#### EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The early childhood development programme started in 1982 , aims to offer psychosocial stimulation to young children in the 3 months to 6 years age group and meet their survival needs . There are two project activities , namely pre-school and Psycho-social development ( Timoun Bien Vini ) carried out by two different ministries each with its own approach.

##### a.- Preschool Education

The aim of the pre-school education project is to prepare low income children for the primary level education . The formal pre-school education programme covers children 5 to 6 years of age . At present there are 60 preschool classes assisted by UNICEF , 121 assisted by CARE/CINEC , an unknown number of classes enfantines attached to primary schools and kindergarten run by a variety of non-governmental non-profit organisations as well as private commercial concerns .

Until 1984 UNICEF had been working with the Preschool Education Service of the Directorate of Fundamental (Primary) Education . This service was created in 1982 , with UNICEF'S material and technical support . UNICEF worked with this service in 1983-84 to prepare curricula, a set of learning materials , monitoring and evaluation systems , to train monitors and supervisors , and to rehabilitate, construct and equip some 60 pre-school centres .

While the Preschool Education Service was supposed to be the official national Directorate responsible for all formal pre-school education , in reality this service was identified as dealing only with " the UNICEF Preschool Project " . An important preschool education programme , CINEC funded by CARE/USAID functioned parallel to a programme of the Ministry of Education . In UNICEF assisted preschool centres the number of pupils decreased , and gradually some classes

were closed down . Compared to CINEC which had feeding programmes and enjoyed better equipment , UNICEF assisted schools had no feeding programmes ; their teachers were not paid on time , <sup>there was</sup> insufficient supervision and untimely distribution of materials supplied by UNICEF .

In late 1984 , the Ministry of Education decided that CINEC would be the official model of preschool education in Haiti , incorporating some of the educational concepts of the UNICEF assisted preschool education programme . The Director of CINEC was appointed as Director of Pre-school Education Service , responsible for all pre-school education services within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education . The Institut Pédagogique National (IPN) was responsible for curricula development , training and evaluation .

Though UNICEF has offered its cooperation to both the services , the Director of CINEC has not been able to take on a wider role as director of all preschool education programme . As such UNICEF assisted centres continue to suffer from official neglect . UNICEF cooperation in formal preschool programme remains suspended , although UNICEF continued to prepare some learning materials , rehabilitate some of the dilapidated centres by constructing latrines and water supply system .

b.- Timoun Bien Vini

Forty nine percent of the pre-school children and their families live in an environment of " total socio-cultural deprivation " i.e. in all kinds of adverse circumstances ranging from illiteracy , malnutrition , high mortality rate , low incomes to a lack of proper sanitation , unemployment and a total absence of healthcare . This has a negative influence on the intellectual development of the child , causing mental and physical retardation often leading to permanent limitation of abilities .

Timoun Bien Vini the creole name given to the project means a child who is well developed , physically , intellectually and emotionally . The TBV project

was launched in 1981 and it strives to improve the psycho-social stimulation of young haitian children . It is mainly focussed on children in the age of 0 to 5 years , living in the less developed rural and urban areas of the country .

In order to create an improved environment for the child , the project attempts to ameliorate some determining factors namely chronic malnutrition and basic healthcare and hygiene . The TBV project was started by UNICEF in liaison with the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Centre for Special Education . Before going on any further a special mention should be made on the activities of Centre for Special Education . It is a non governmental organisation and has been involved since 1976 in the rehabilitation of physically and mentally handicapped children and adults . In 1979 it tended its sphere of work into the more general prevention of mental and physical retardation among young children . In 1981 , with the provision by UNICEF of material , financial and technical assistance , its activities were largely expanded .

The Centre for Special Education is the main organ of this project , in view of the fact that it trains monitors chosen and sent to Port-au-Prince by different NGOS and church groups . It supervises , monitors their training and provides educational materials . It also supervises the supervisors , collects data at the different centres on the children, their families , the condition of the centres , etc...UNICEF'S inputs to the TBV project comprised training grants , technical assistance for development of curricula and didactic materials, and supplies to refurbish some centres , including provision of water and latrines and educational toys and materials. CES sells educational toys (BELJEST) produced by handicapped children , which are in turn bought by UNICEF to be distributed to the TBV centres . UNICEF imports books and toys to supplement educational materials produced in Haiti .

The NGOS involved in this project provide promoters' salaries , premises and some provide supplementary feeding and basic health services , all with the active support and participation of the children's parents . Most of the centres

cater for the 3 to 5 years age group .

The participation of women is very high and very active for this project . By participating in the meetings , a mother learns to be actively involved in the development of her child . The meetings are also a forum for informal courses on health and nutrition . It is hoped that in future activities will be planned to increase mother's participation since they are the ones principally concerned with the development of the children .

#### FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION

UNICEF is well aware that to bring about a major breakthrough in child survival and development it has to build programmes relating to the family education programmes . What better way to help the children than to educate the mother to help her child . UNICEF had always participated in the more traditional women's education programme , which had some shortcomings . The programmes either had limited coverage or their literacy component was weak . Therefore UNICEF decided to strengthen the literacy component of the family education programme , but was reluctant to become involved with ONAAC ( Office National d'Alphabetisation et d'Action Communautaire ) of the Ministry of Education , a highly politicised organization with a poor record of accomplishment in literacy . However ONAAC in the context of the family education programme indicated its preparedness to work with UNICEF to reformulate the whole strategy of literacy , making child health topics the major themes of the literacy programme . UNICEF recognizing the potential of massive literacy campaign to promote child survival and development , tentatively proceeded to help ONAAC develop a series of literacy materials , booklets , posters and discussion guides .

A pilot project was funded to try out new materials as well as new training methodology . The project proved to be a success and private groups and religious organizations requested help from ONAAC and UNICEF to assist in training

their trainees and expressed interest in using the materials .

Within six months ONAAC revised its whole literacy programme , retrained more than 2000 monitors using the new materials and methodology and provided basic literacy courses to 57000 participants mostly women . As such many NGOs with their own literacy campaigns used materials developed by ONAAC/UNICEF . The catholic church with its own literacy materials and methodology , initially opposed to using ONAAC materials has agreed to selectively use all materials dealing with child health themes . UNICEF has served as an intermediary in trying to get the catholic church to make child survival and development survival a central theme of its literacy effort just as the government has agreed to do . Likewise many U.N. agencies have indicated their interest in the programme and envisage future participation in it .

Though the literacy programme is grossly under-funded , the little that UNICEF has achieved is impressive . It is the UNICEF assisted programme in Haiti in which women participate the most .

#### URBAN BASIC SERVICES

Increased poverty in the rural areas have forced people to come into Port-au-Prince and seek their chance of survival, but luck has not favored the majority. The constant flow of the rural population into Port-au-Prince has led to the establishment of slum areas all over the city. Their situation is most precarious. Impoverished , unemployed people try to survive in overcrowded ramshackle houses, with no potable water, devoid of drainage system, lack of latrines and absolutely no basic health services. Though UNICEF's cooperation was concentrated in the rural areas until 1982, its attention was drawn towards the plight of the disadvantaged child and their mothers.

The programme estimated at \$ 1.5 million for a four year period was officially launched in 1983. UNICEF's aim was to bring into focus the needs of

children and mothers and therefore activities such as, primary health care, nutrition, water supply, environmental sanitation and pre-school activities were introduced. These activities were coordinated by the Ministry of Social Affairs. The programme is being implemented primarily in the slum area of St Martin which is the pilot zone. UNICEF provided assistance in equipment for the construction of 10 pre-school centres in St Martin and provided training grants for monitors of these centres and salaries of monitors for the first six months.

The health and nutrition centres were concentrated in St Martin. The six metropolitan sub-districts were reorganized and reinforced by the assignment of 20 health agents. The health centres also serve as nutrition centres. Talks are held in these centres about diarrhoea, use and utility of oral rehydration therapy, family planning, breastfeeding and children are even weighed here. Rally posts are set up in the houses of the area offered by individuals for vaccination of children by nurses and auxiliaries from the Ministry of Public Health. UNICEF inputs to this component have included vaccines, syringes, cotton, equipment for health centres, some essential drugs, motorcycles for public health officers, two mobile clinics. With UNICEF support, community health workers are being trained in immunization both in St Martin and in a few other slum areas of Port-au-Prince, to enable them to administer vaccines.

In the field of nutrition, there has been increased emphasis on the promotion of AK 1000 ( a preparation of corn meal and beans ), a low cost nutritious food in powder form that can be used both as a weaning food and as a normal part of the family diet. The AK 1000 is produced within the community and sold usually by a group of mothers at a small profit.

In the field of water supply, UNICEF has constructed and rehabilitated 74 public fountains which serves an estimated 11,000 people.

What is important here is not so much the achievements of UNICEF, but effects in the long run. And to this effect, UNICEF's goal is to use the experience of urban based services to promote different approaches to the urbaniza-

tion programme not only in the St Martin area but elsewhere too. It would be impossible to wipe out these pockets of poverty but UNICEF's main aim is to render the area more habitable, to promote at the level of policy and planning a better understanding towards these people, to draw resources to these areas. UNICEF would like also through this process to encourage and persuade other donors and NGOs to cooperate in these areas.

UNICEF continues to pursue its activities in Haiti in the field of child survival and to this effect gives priority to the most important person concerned with child welfare the " Mother". UNICEF's willingness, endeavor and determination to continue working in all kinds of adverse circumstances are laudable and after all these years, one can say that a lot has been achieved through hardwork and and close collaboration with the UNICEF staff ,devoted humanitarians and other International and National agencies.