

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



LIMITED
E/ICEF/L.982
27 September 1956
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND
Programme Committee

Recommendation of the Executive Director for an Allocation
SPAIN
Maternal and Child Health: Physically Handicapped ^{a/}

1. The Administration recommends an allocation to Spain of \$50,000 to provide physical and occupational therapy equipment for the first phase (October 1956 to September 1959) of a national programme for the rehabilitation of orthopaedically handicapped children. The objective of this phase of the programme is to establish a co-ordinated approach to rehabilitation by creating seven demonstration and training centres (four in Madrid and one each in Valencia, Barcelona, and Santander) for the training of "rehabilitation teams" comprising medical, social, educational and vocational personnel. Additional UNICEF help may be requested later for a second stage of the programme which would include services for the sensorially handicapped. The UN Technical Assistance Administration and WHO are prepared to provide experts in physical and occupational therapy and fellowships in these fields as well. Government matching in the form of personnel, instructors, building modifications and supplies is estimated at the equivalent of more than U.S.\$300,000 for the three-year period.

2. A description of the problem and of existing facilities in Spain to care for the handicapped is contained in the Annex to this paper.

^{a/} First request for UNICEF aid to this programme.

The proposed programme

3. The plan proposed in this paper has been developed in accordance with the recommendations of rehabilitation experts of WHO and the UN Bureau of Social Affairs who visited Spain in April and May this year. The Government's overall objective is to develop a comprehensive and co-ordinated national programme for medical, social, educational and vocational rehabilitation of handicapped children.

Objectives

4. The objectives of the plan of operation proposed for an initial period of three years (October 1956 - September 1959) are as follows:

- a) to establish seven demonstration and teaching centres: four in Madrid, and one each in Barcelona, Santander and Valencia;
- b) to organize the training of rehabilitation teams to staff these centres;
- c) to collect accurate data on the total rehabilitation needs of Spain, with a view to effective planning of the second phase of the rehabilitation programme, and to introduce measures to prevent or reduce disability.

Plan of Action

5. The Government will establish by decree a National Rehabilitation Board to give overall co-ordination to the programme and to develop national policy. The functions of this Board will be more comprehensive than those of the National Special Education Board created in January 1956, with which it will collaborate closely. The Rehabilitation Board will comprise representatives of the following:

Ministry of Interior (Health Department)
" " Education
" " Labour (National Health Insurance)
" " Justice (Council for the Protection of Minors)
Medical Faculties and Schools of Social Work
National Delegation of Trade Syndicates
Psychotechnical Institute
Associations of Cripples

/6. The executive

6. The executive authority of the National Rehabilitation Board will be delegated to an Executive Committee. The Board will be assisted by advisory committees composed of experts in the various aspects of rehabilitation (medical, social, educational and vocational).

7. The establishment of technical standards for all facets of the programme, the drafting of necessary legislation, the statistical research and the dissemination of information connected with the scheme will be entrusted to a National Rehabilitation Institute, which will be established in Madrid, provisionally at the Medical Faculty's new "Clinica de la Concepcion". The Institute will also correlate the activities of those organizations dealing with the sensorially and mentally handicapped with organizations which are responsible for the rehabilitation of the orthopaedically handicapped.

Training

8. Training will be supervised by the above mentioned bodies. The aim of the training programme for the first phase will be to develop a corps of specialized personnel to staff the seven demonstration and training centres (para. 10 below). In a later phase of the training programme the aim will be to provide rehabilitation teams for every provincial centre in the country as well as for the participating institutions. The personnel to be trained for the seven demonstration centres will include rehabilitation doctors, rehabilitation nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, social workers, teachers for the handicapped, vocational counsellors and vocational training instructors.

9. The plan for training is as follows:

- a) Rehabilitation doctors: An "accelerated" post-graduate course will be given at the "Clinica de la Concepcion" between January and June 1957. This will be followed by the institution of regular two-year courses, the first two to begin October 1957 in Madrid, and October 1958 in the Medical Faculty at Barcelona.
- b) Rehabilitation nurses: Post-graduate training in rehabilitation of handicapped children will be organized for qualified nurses. The first courses will be for six months, later courses for longer periods.

- c) Physical therapists: The first Spanish school for physical therapists is being opened in October 1956 at the "Clinica de la Concepcion". Fifteen physical therapists will be trained in the first year as the indispensable nucleus for medical therapy in the Madrid rehabilitation centres. In October 1957, a two-year course will be instituted to train thirty physical therapists for other centres. Subject to the availability of funds, WHO will provide a teacher in physical therapy.
- d) Occupational therapists: Training in Madrid, - and later in Barcelona, - will be organized as soon as an occupational therapy teacher can be provided by WHO or UNTAA, hopefully not later than 1958.
- e) Speech therapists: Training in speech is planned to begin in 1958, in collaboration with the National Institute of Phonetics.
- f) Social workers: One social worker, selected from graduates of the Schools of Social Work, will be assigned to each Rehabilitation Centre for in-service training in rehabilitation problems. The teaching and training function of the social worker will be combined with current duties. A fellowship abroad will be provided by UNTAA for a social worker from the National Rehabilitation Institute.
- g) Academic teachers: A fellowship abroad is proposed for a teacher who would later organize a teacher training programme adapted to the specialized requirements of the academic education of crippled children.
- h) Vocational counsellors and vocational training instructors: The National Psycho-technical Institute and the Council for Protection of Minors will work out, with the Rehabilitation Institute, a scheme for developing a new concept of vocational rehabilitation of handicapped young persons. These developments will depend, however, upon the provision of a fellowship abroad in vocational counselling. In the meantime local training will be provided for vocational instructors and placement officers.
- i) Prosthetics personnel: A training scholarship abroad is proposed for a technician to obtain advanced training in the production and fitting of prostheses. This would be the first step towards the establishment of a modern prosthetics workshop.

10.

Demonstration and Training Centres will be established as follows:

In Madrid: at the "Clinica de la Concepcion", at the Provincial Hospital, at the "Nino Jesus" Hospital, and at a vocational training school to be established by the Council for the Protection of Minors in co-operation with the

National Rehabilitation Institute.

In Valencia: at the Malvarossa Osteo-Articular Therapy Hospital.

In Santander: at the Pechososa Osteo-Articular Therapy Hospital.

In Barcelona: Teaching activities only are proposed for the first phase, to be provided in existing schools, at the Medical Faculty and at the School of Social Work.

Increase of facilities for the handicapped

11. The "Clinica de la Concepcion" is adding a new wing, to be completed in 1956, to house a large, modern rehabilitation department. Approximately thirty in-patients and seventy out-patients (at least half of them children) will receive treatment in this department which will serve as the practical training ground for personnel described above. It will also constitute provisionally one of the key units of the National Rehabilitation Institute which is to be created.

12. The existing limited physical rehabilitation service in the Madrid Provincial Hospital will be structurally re-organized and up-graded in 1957 and will play an important role as a demonstration centre, to provide a model and impetus for the development of similar services in 51 other provincial hospitals in Spain, so that there will eventually be one such centre in each of 52 provinces.

13. The wing now under construction at the "Nino Jesus" Hospital is designed to provide 200 beds for child polio, cerebral palsy and other orthopaedic cases. This wing will be altered and/or enlarged to provide all elements of a total rehabilitation programme.

14. Vocational training of handicapped children will be introduced into several of the training schools of the Council for the Protection of Minors. Arrangements will be made for training in trades which are particularly suited to handicapped children and related to employment openings, for vocational guidance and for special academic education. The Council has also agreed to

/establish a

establish a vocational training school for handicapped children in co-operation with the National Rehabilitation Institute.

15. The osteo-articular therapy hospitals in Valencia and Santander, having approximately 300 beds each, predominantly for children, will enter the scheme as demonstration centres in 1958/59, when trained personnel becomes available. The establishment of a modern prosthetics workshop will be one of the priority projects of the National Rehabilitation Institute.

UNICEF commitments

16. UNICEF would provide, for the three-year period the following equipment and supplies:

a) Equipment for physical therapy, including hydrotherapy and remedial gymnastics	\$39,000
b) Equipment for occupational therapy	4,000
c) Equipment for speech therapy	800
d) Books	200
e) Contingency	<u>1,500</u>
Total supplies and equipment	\$45,500
f) Freight	<u>4,500</u>
Total allocation recommended	<u>\$50,000</u>

WHO commitments

17. WHO would make available, - subject to the availability of funds in its regular budget and to annual Priority I government requests to TAB, - the following international personnel:

- for 1957: one physiotherapy instructor
 fellowships for two doctors to direct the post-graduate training in rehabilitation
- for 1958: one occupational therapy instructor
- for 1959: fellowships for two graduates of the two-year physical therapy course.

Participation of other UN organizations

18. The Government will approach other UN organizations interested in rehabilitation (the UN Bureau of Social Affairs, ILO and UNESCO) for technical advice and/or fellowships in social service, in vocational counselling and training, and in special education aspects of the programme. Certain experts and fellowships required in 1957 may have to be deferred until 1958 and 1959, depending on the availability of Technical Assistance funds.

Government commitments

19. The Government, through the Ministries concerned, will ensure the implementation of the plan of action. In particular it will undertake the following:

- a) to constitute the National Rehabilitation Board and the National Rehabilitation Institute and related advisory committees;
- b) to make arrangements for the implementation of the courses planned including annual requests to the UNTAB for Priority I coverage of the experts and fellowships required to develop the national programme;
- c) to budget for, provide training, and appoint all the members of the rehabilitation teams for the seven demonstration and training centres;
- d) to ensure that the structural modifications being effected or required in each of the centres are executed in accordance with the target time schedule;
- e) to provide all personnel services, equipment and supplies required which are not being supplied by the International Organizations;
- f) the participating institutions will report progress annually to the National Rehabilitation Board, and copies will be furnished to the international organizations.

20. The estimated cost to the Government in terms of the new expenditures for the three-year plan outlined above would be equivalent to more than U.S.\$300,000 to cover building modifications, services and supplies, training of personnel and salaries.

Target schedule

21. The following timetable will serve as the target schedule for

/implementing

implementing the plan:

October 1956

- i) Approval of UNICEF assistance by Executive Board
- ii) Proclamation of decree creating National Rehabilitation Board and its Executive Committee
- iii) First course for physical therapists to begin in Madrid

1957

First Semester

- i) Beginning of first two-year course for rehabilitation doctors in Madrid
- ii) Creation of Advisory Committee and Institute
- iii) Completion of buildings and structural modifications in Madrid demonstration centres
- iv) Delivery of UNICEF supplies
- v) Request to UN Technical Assistance Board for experts and fellowships required in 1958
- vi) Arrangements to be made for the admission of handicapped children to existing vocational training schools

Second Semester

- i) Appointment of rehabilitation teams for the Madrid demonstration centres
- ii) Beginning of second courses for doctors and physical therapists
- iii) Beginning of in-service training of social workers

1958

- i) First speech therapy courses
- ii) Opening of occupational therapy school
- iii) Beginning of programme in Santander and Valencia centres
- iv) Beginning of two-year course for rehabilitation doctors in Barcelona
- v) Request to UNTAB for experts and fellowships required in 1959

1959

- i) Continuation of training courses
- ii) Preliminary assessment of Phase I
with a view to expansion of demonstration
and training programme
- iii) Planning of Phase II, to include development
of services for the sensorially handicapped

ANNEX

The Problem of Handicapped Children in Spain
and Efforts to Meet the Problem

The problem of the handicapped

1. There are no reliable statistics available as to the number of disabled persons in Spain. Information is at present being collected as a basis for planning a later phase of programme development. The 1950 population census disclosed 96,000 major invalids, including 25,000 sensorially handicapped. A rough assessment of the total picture, made by UN and WHO experts in collaboration with the local authorities, suggests that as many as two million persons may be disabled, but that less than half this number would be in need of rehabilitation services.
2. More accurate data is available concerning the deaf and dumb and the blind, than concerning the orthopaedically handicapped. There are 41 institutions in the country dealing with the sensorially handicapped, and they are on the whole better developed than those for the orthopaedically handicapped.
3. Physical disability in Spain, particularly among children and adolescents, includes a higher proportion generally than in Western Europe, of cases attributable to tuberculosis, to nutritional deficiencies, to obstetrical trauma, and to trachoma. Industrial and traffic accidents, still far fewer than in northern countries of Europe, are now, with the accelerated economic development of Spain, an increasing cause of disability.

Existing services

4. The absence of reliable data is itself an indication of the lack of attention the problem has received so far. Services for modern rehabilitation of the physically handicapped are at present limited to arrangements made individually in a number of clinics and hospitals, in balneo-therapy homes and through private consultations. Orthopaedic surgery, particularly in certain university clinics and hospitals of the National Health Insurance scheme ("Seguro Obligatorio de Enfermedad"), is carried out by highly trained surgeons with proper facilities, and certain physical therapy services, though limited, have been developed in institutions in a number of the larger cities. However, services for total rehabilitation, - particularly the occupational, social, educational and vocational elements, - are virtually non-existent.
5. Social work: There are two schools of social work (in Madrid and in Barcelona), but very few trained social workers are employed by hospitals, schools or other institutions. However, there seems to be an increasing awareness of the value of professional social work, a trend which will be reinforced by the present project in which social workers will be employed.
6. Vocational training and guidance: vocational training is provided

/on a large

on a large scale in Spain by the Trade Syndicates, the Council for Protection of Minors, and the Ministry of Education (approximately 150 schools in all), but no provision at all is made for training the handicapped. Vocational guidance is the responsibility of the psycho-technical institutes of which there are five. There are no special counselling programmes for the handicapped, but the Central Psycho-Technical Institute in Madrid is planning to start such a service in the near future.

7. Physiotherapy is provided at the "Clinica de la Concepcion", Madrid, but only limited space is available. Hydro-therapy is practised here on conservative lines. No occupational therapy has been carried out in this centre and no facilities, special personnel, equipment or space are available for cerebral palsy cases.

8. Orthopaedic appliances: Artificial limbs, braces and other orthopaedic appliances are produced by a number of small private workshops in the principal cities. Their output is very limited and the quality and fitting of the appliances is not very satisfactory. Training in the use of artificial limbs is not provided.

9. Institutions: At the Provincial General Hospital of Madrid the original service for massage therapy has been extended to include some physiotherapy, but treatment has been limited to the passive table method and no facilities exist for active treatment. There is one small pool for hydro-therapy but no trained therapists are available. In this hospital there is a large orthopaedic surgery service, and there is a real need for better physiotherapy services for children who have undergone an operation. One of the most important tasks of the proposed new service is to provide physiotherapy for this hospital.

10. The "Nino Jesus Hospital", Madrid, has 400 beds for children under fourteen years of age. Eighty beds are reserved at present for polio and orthopaedic surgery cases and it is planned to increase this number to 200. Only limited space is available for physiotherapy and none for cerebral palsy cases. There is no occupational therapy. Provision for these services will be made available in the new wing now under construction.

11. At the "Asilo de San Rafael", Madrid, principally for bone TB cases, very rudimentary physiotherapy services exist. There are no occupational therapy facilities.

12. Some physiotherapy services exist but no equipment, or only obsolete equipment, at the "Instituto Nacional de Medicina y Seguridad del Trabajo", Madrid, and in other provincial institutions in Santander, Valencia and Barcelona. No occupational therapy is provided at these centres because of lack of personnel and modern equipment.

13. Teaching: Teaching programmes for handicapped children are being carried on in some hospitals on a very limited scale. There are no schools for physically handicapped children except for the blind, the deaf and the hard-of-hearing.