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Programme Committee

Recommendation of the Executive Director for an Allocation

IRAN

School Feeding

1. The Executive Director recommends an allocation to Iran of \$106,000 to cover freight costs on 4,628,000 pounds of skim milk powder to continue and expand milk distribution to reach 150,000 children in 1957/1958 and 200,000 children in the following year through primary and elementary schools; and for fish-liver oil and vitamin C as supplements for a pilot school lunch scheme in the needy provinces of Kerman and Zahedan. The implementation of this allocation will be dependent upon the availability to UNICEF of United States surplus dried skim milk free of charge at shipside at the time shipment by UNICEF is required. The Government's matching commitments are estimated at the equivalent of US\$216,660, including the cost of milk distribution for the two-year period and the expenditures towards the first year of the school lunch pilot scheme. These funds will be budgeted by the Ministries of Education, Health and Interior.

2. Distribution of milk through schools was started, in 1955, when UNICEF made skim milk powder available in order to initiate a child feeding programme as a forerunner to the milk distribution plan for which the Teheran milk plant would subsequently provide milk. During the 1956/1957 school year, milk rations are reaching some 47,700 school children in Teheran. The Executive Board has also previously allocated milk powder to Iran under Maternal and Child Welfare allocations to assist in feeding mothers and children in rural and urban areas of

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the country (E/ICEF/L.744). This programme provides also for milk distribution through schools in selected areas and during the present school year (1956/1957) some 82,000 school children are being reached in addition to those in Teheran.

3. Under the proposed new allocation, school feeding would become a separate and permanent service through which supplementary school meals would be provided to primary school children from four to seven years of age and through elementary schools to reach children seven to thirteen years of age. The skim milk powder now requested would be used to provide a daily cup of milk to 150,000 school children in the school year 1957/1958 and to 200,000 in the following school year. When the Teheran milk plant goes into operation, pasteurized milk will be available for daily distribution to an additional 12,000 school children in the capital city for a five-month period in the early part of 1958, and to 24,000 school children during the 1958/1959 school year.

4. During the 1957/1958 school year, the Government will initiate a pilot project to provide a daily mid-morning meal to 3,000 children in primary and elementary schools in the south-eastern provinces of Iran. The Government will request FAO to make a school feeding expert available for two years to assist in the development and future expansion of a basic school feeding service. The 3,000 children getting a daily meal would be among the 150,000 to get milk as mentioned above. UNICEF would also provide one year's supply of fish-liver-oil capsules and vitamin C tablets, the vitamin C to be replaced in the second year by locally available products with high vitamin content. Further assistance for this feeding service may be requested of UNICEF at a later time on the basis of the experience gained in the pilot scheme.

5. Distribution of milk was started in the school year of 1955/1956 in selected schools in areas of greatest need, in the provinces of Kerman, Zahedan, Shiraz, Kermanshah and Teheran. The distribution was continued and slightly expanded in 1956/1957. Practical difficulties have been encountered,

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particularly in shipping milk supplies from the port to the provinces. In several regions during the initial stage, supplies were late in reaching schools so that feeding could be carried out only one or two months of the school year. Administrative difficulties of this kind have not yet been fully overcome. For this reason, and because of inadequate experience with group feeding programmes, the Government intends to develop a full-scale school feeding service step by step, beginning with the pilot scheme.

Proposed plan

6. The continued distribution of milk and the new pilot school feeding scheme will be jointly sponsored by the Ministries of Health, Education and Interior. The Government intends to establish a separate organization for this programme, to include school feeding boards at the national and provincial levels, and to employ full-time staff for the direction and supervision of the service. A start in this direction will be made with the appointment of three inspectors and three warehouse staff in Babol, Zahedan and Kerman, where the pilot project will start in 1957. Until the school feeding organization is firmly established, probably in 1958 or 1959, execution of that programme will be undertaken by the Director of School Health Services of the Ministry of Education. The staff of the pilot project will be responsible to the local Directors of Education in Zahedan and Kerman. Supervision of milk distribution in the respective ~~ostans~~ (provinces) will be made by inspectors of the education authorities and by certain staff of the public health service.

7. Selection of schools to partake in the milk distribution will, within the general distribution plan shown below, be made in each ostan by the Directors of Education and Health, in understanding with the Ostandar (Governor). All children in a selected school will receive a daily cup of milk during 150 effective feeding days of the school year. Equipment for reconstituting milk and cups for serving it are to be provided by the Government. In drawing up

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the distribution plan due regard has been given to the economic conditions of each ostan, to existing facilities for supervision of the distribution, and to the number of children attending schools.

8. The number of school children in the capital city and in the eleven ostan of Iran, and the proposed distribution plan for dry skim milk in 1957/1958 and 1958/1959 are shown below:

<u>Ostan</u>	<u>Capital City</u>	<u>Children in Government Schools in 1956</u>	<u>Beneficiaries of Dried Skim Milk</u>	
			<u>in 1957/58</u>	<u>in 1958/59</u>
.	Teheran	284,510	42,000 ^{a/}	24,000 ^{a/}
1	Resht	42,227	-	5,000
2	Babol	49,764	-	8,000
3	Tabriz	71,453	3,000	10,000
4	Rezaieh	21,468	2,000	10,000
5	Kermanshah	66,240	22,000	25,000
6	Ahwaz	64,480	-	6,000
7	Shiraz	54,888	43,000	43,000
8	Kerman	25,012	14,000 ^{b/}	18,000
9	Meshed	60,381	2,000	18,000
10	Ispahan	68,863	14,000 ^{b/}	25,000
11	Zahedan	9,697	8,000 ^{b/}	8,000
	<u>Totals</u>	<u>823,983</u>	<u>150,000</u>	<u>200,000</u>

9. Pilot school feeding project: The pilot project, through which 3,000 children in selected primary and elementary schools would benefit, will be located in the Kerman district of Ostan 8, and in the Babol and Zahedan districts of Ostan 11. Location of the project has been made to provide experience in the operation of

a/ Milk distribution of both skim and pasteurized milk in the Teheran area will be made to 54,000 children in 1957/1958 and to 48,000 in 1958/1959. Of these, 12,000 will have pasteurized milk from the UNICEF-aided plant during half the 1957/1958 school year, and 24,000 during the following year. The proposed recipients of pasteurized milk are not included in the table above.

b/ The beneficiary figures for Kerman and Zahedan for 1957/1958 include children in the pilot school lunch programme.

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a feeding service under rural conditions. As mentioned above, these are areas to which the Government is giving special attention due to the exceptionally low welfare standard, and the local administration has therefore recently been strengthened.

10. A mid-morning meal will be provided for 150 days in the period September to May 1957/1958. The meal will be prepared and served in the schools, and will consist of locally produced food including protein-rich vegetable and/or animal products, green leafy or yellow vegetables, bread, sugar, animal or vegetable fat. Other locally produced food products may be introduced into the diet depending on availability and nutritional advice. The meal would also be supplemented by reconstituted milk powder provided by UNICEF. In view of the reported inadequacy of vitamins in the diet of this special region, a fish-liver-oil capsule will be given daily for 100 days and 50 milligrammes of vitamin C will be given daily in tablet form for 150 days. During the 1957 citrus fruit season, and in the following years, the Government will arrange for bulk purchase and distribution of citrus fruit products (e.g. concentrated lemon juice) rich in vitamin C to meet the requirements of the school feeding service. UNICEF has been requested to provide vitamin C tablets for the first year only.

11. The continuation and expansion of this pilot project beyond the first experimental year will be planned with the help of an FAO expert when more practical experience is available from the pilot phase. The ultimate objective is to have a permanent school feeding service in all areas where supplementary feeding is needed, and to stimulate nutrition education for teachers and among the general public.

UNICEF commitments

12. UNICEF would provide the following for the two-year period September 1957 to May 1959:

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		<u>US\$</u>
a) <u>Skim milk powder</u>		
i) for 150,000 children in 1957/1958 (paragraph 3)	1,983,600 pounds	
ii) for 200,000 children in 1958/1959 (paragraph 3)	2,644,800 pounds	
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Total	4,628,400 pounds	NO COST
b) <u>Fish-liver-oil</u> (paragraph 11)		
for 3,000 children in pilot project	300,000 capsules	675
c) <u>Vitamin C</u>		
for 5,000 children in pilot project (paragraph 11) Tablets of 50 milligrammes	450,000 tablets	600
d) <u>Contingencies</u>		525
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Total supplies		1,800
e) <u>Freight</u>		
i) on 4,628,400 pounds skim milk powder		104,000
ii) on other items		200
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Total recommended allocation		106,000

FAO participation

13. FAO maintains an active interest in the development of this project, and will, under the Expanded Programme for Technical Assistance, provide technical advice to all aspects of the planning and implementation, including nutrition education and training. FAO will make the services of a nutritionist experienced in school feeding programmes available for the school years 1957/1958 and 1958/1959.

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Government commitments

14. The matching commitments of the Government are estimated at the equivalent of \$216,660, including costs for the dry milk distribution for two years and of the pilot school lunch programme for the first year, thus:

	<u>Rials</u>
a) <u>for 1957/1958 (milk distribution and school lunch project)</u>	
- School kitchen equipment and supplies to serve 150,000 children (in part already provided)	1,600,000
- Operating expenses, including fuel, extra service staff in schools	3,300,000
- Cost of local food supplies for 3,000 children, at 5 rials per ration	2,250,000
- Transport costs of imported and local food supplies	900,000
- Personnel, including full-time inspectors and warehouse staff	1,500,000
	<u>9,550,000</u>
Total cost 1957/1958	9,550,000
	(Equivalent to US\$ 127,330)
b) <u>for 1958/1959 (milk distribution only)</u>	
- School kitchen equipment and supplies to serve an additional 50,000 children	500,000
- Operating expenses	4,000,000
- Transport of milk	1,200,000
- Staff costs	1,000,000
	<u>6,700,000</u>
Total cost 1958/1959	6,700,000
	(Equivalent to US\$ 89,330)

ANNEX

CHILD NUTRITION IN IRAN

1. Of the 20 million population of Iran, an estimated eighty per cent live in rural areas. The child population is approximately eight million. Public health statistics are inadequate to present an accurate and current picture of general health conditions in the country, but several surveys in recent years have established that despite the progress being made in public health activities the level of health and nutrition is low in the greater part of the country. In the south-east province, bordering on the Gulf of Oman, Pakistan and Afghanistan, economic and living conditions are particularly poor and the Government is giving special attention and priority in extending public health and welfare activities to this area.
2. A survey to assess the nutrition aspects of child health was undertaken in 1952 by a WHO Consultant in Nutrition. The country has also on several occasions been visited by FAO nutrition experts, latest in 1956. During the WHO survey, 2,424 children in seven areas were clinically examined, and the report states that the findings showed "even more strikingly than we had expected that there are many gross signs of malnutrition in the children examined in each area". It is evident that malnutrition, coupled with the general lack of sanitation in rural areas, and in many urban areas as well, contribute to a major degree to make infant diarrhoea a leading cause of death throughout Iran, and also result in increasing the high incidence of respiratory diseases, intestinal parasite or bacillary diseases, infections and recurrent fevers.
3. One factor causing malnutrition is, in many areas, that the low level of income prevents a family from buying food in sufficient quantity or quality. Moreover, in many areas of the country, and particularly in the rice-growing regions, locally produced food is low in protein and very little meat or protein-rich cereals are consumed. It is evident that children from average to under-privileged homes have a diet which is generally lacking in adequate protein and in some of the vitamins, especially vitamin A, the members of the B-complex (e.g. riboflavin and niacin) and in ascorbic acid (vitamin C).

Efforts to improve nutrition

4. To develop better use and distribution of local food supplies, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Plan Organization of Iran are, in collaboration with the United States International Cooperation Administration (ICA), undertaking a long-term national programme to increase the production of agricultural products including yellow and green leafy vegetables, fruits, and cereals. The fishing industry along the Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf is being modernized, and special attention is being given to improve farming techniques, seed selection and animal husbandry. Following milk surveys being undertaken this year,

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and on the basis of experience gained from the UNICEF-assisted milk conservation project in Teheran, the Government will also endeavour to make further advances in the processing of raw milk in regions where this is feasible.

5. A national Nutrition Board is now being created, with participation of the Faculty of Medicine and the Ministries of Health, Education, Agriculture, Interior and Labour. Courses in nutrition and dietetics are progressively being added to the training curriculum for doctors, health officers (behdars), nurses and midwives.

6. Increased attention to nutrition is also gradually being given by the education authorities, who intend to initiate regular teaching on this subject in teachers' training colleges and in schools. Elementary education is by law compulsory in Iran, and it is estimated that there are roughly 2.9 million school age children in the country. However, school facilities and teachers are as yet not adequately available, and the Ministry of Education reports that during the present school year only 824,000 children are enrolled in Government primary and elementary schools.
