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UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

Programme Committee

Recommendation of the Executive Director for an Allocation

HAITI

Feeding: Pre-School and School

1. The Executive Director recommends an allocation to Haiti of \$32,800 to cover freight costs on 1,000,000 pounds of dry skim milk, to provide 2,000,000 vitamin A & D capsules, supplies for school gardens and stipends for the training of persons to be charged with distribution of milk and vitamins, for a two-year programme beginning October 1958 and ending September 1960. This assistance would be provided for Port-au-Prince and villages within a radius of thirty miles. Implementation of the recommended allocation would be subject to the availability of United States surplus dry skim milk free of charge at shipside at the time shipment by UNICEF is required. The Government matching for this programme is estimated at the equivalent of US\$40,000.

2. Haiti is one of the Caribbean countries where the nutrition problem is acute and more severe than in the Dominican Republic which shares the same island. The density of population in Haiti (119 inhabitants per square kilometre) is one of the highest in the Americas; it compares with 48 inhabitants per square kilometre in the Dominican Republic (1955). Haiti extends over the most mountainous parts of the island. The soil, which is rich in the valleys, is often sterile in the eroded mountain slopes. Agricultural production is chiefly of the "cash crop" type, namely: coffee, sugar, sissal, bananas, cocoa and essential oils.

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3. A recent check carried out in the 100-bed Paediatric Service of the General Hospital in Port-au-Prince revealed more than 60 children up to the age of four hospitalized at that time for extremely grave protein deficiency or marasmus. Consultations revealed that six out of ten of these children suffered from oedema, typical of kwashiorkor.

4. Some experience with respect to milk distribution and home economics has already been gained through the UNICEF emergency hurricane relief programme approved by the Executive Board in October 1954, (E/ICEF/278). The United States Government has donated large quantities of surplus foods to Haiti. As a result of the spade work performed by social workers, members of the United Nations Technical Assistance Mission, the United States Point IV and US/ICA Missions and church organizations, the country is interested in community development and welfare projects. It is felt that a new step can be taken in this direction by developing a modest but systematic programme, through health centres and schools as starting points.

5. Upon the direct suggestion of the Haitian Government and the United Nations Technical Assistance Mission in Haiti, UNICEF's assistance has been requested for a limited feeding programme, to be considered as a pilot project, with emphasis on nutrition education and distribution of dry skim milk and vitamins.

Plan of operations

6. It is proposed, commencing October 1958, to distribute dry skim milk to 10,000 pre-school and 10,000 school children in Port-au-Prince and the surrounding rural area. Pre-school children would also receive vitamins.

7. Distribution, under the control of the Director-General of Public Health, to pre-school children in the one-to-five age group would be effected through six health and child care centres, orphanages and dispensaries in Port-au-Prince and fourteen health and child care centres, dispensaries and orphanages in the following villages, situated within a radius of **thirty** miles from Port-au-Prince:

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Pétionville, Carrefour, Arcahaie, Furcy, Chauffard, Gressier, Cabaret, Gazale, Croix-des-Bouquets, Thomazeau and Leogene. Distribution to school children would be under the control of the Minister of National Education and carried out through 34 selected schools in Port-au-Prince and fourteen schools in Pétionville, Arcahaie, Croix-des-Bouquets, Kenscoff, Fermathe, Fort-Jacques, La Boule, Pernier, Frères, Meyotte, Nouvelle-Touraine and Rivière Froide.

Nutrition education

8. The Minister of Public Health proposes to organize special courses on nutrition education for the personnel to be in charge of distribution - for doctors and nurses in the health centres and dispensaries and for teachers in schools. Approximately 50 teachers and nurses and visiting nurses in charge of distribution would attend courses of two weeks' duration, conducted by three doctors and five nurses plus the necessary auxiliary personnel under the direction of the Assistant to the Director-General of Public Health. The courses for the nurses would be designed to emphasize proper feeding practices for infants after weaning and during the pre-school period. Teachers would be trained as to how a better balanced diet can be obtained from local resources. UNICEF is requested to grant for this training stipends of US\$1.00 per day for fourteen days to the 50 trainees with the Government covering the remaining costs.

School gardens

9. As a part of this pilot project and for nutrition education purposes, it is intended to create school gardens in approximately ten of the rural schools included in this programme. UNICEF assistance is requested in the form of tools, seeds, fertilizers, insecticides. This part of the programme would be carried out with the co-operation of experts of the United Nations Technical Assistance Mission in home economics and community development.

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Responsibility for the programme

10. This programme will be directed by a co-ordinating committee, comprised of representatives of the Minister of Public Health; the Minister of Education; SCHAER (Inter-American Co-operative Service of Rural Education); SCISP (the Inter-American Co-operative Service of Public Health); and the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration on behalf of UNICEF. The advice of FAO and WHO will be sought in connexion with the content of the training courses described in paragraph 8.

11. It is the intention of this Committee to consider and subsequently to plan an extension of this programme by sponsoring the creation of a National Nutrition Council composed of all Government departments concerned. This Council would prepare the basis of a national policy on nutrition, looking toward a possible increase of the number of feeding programme beneficiaries and school gardens, and an increased proportion of nutritional education in the curriculum of the schools training physicians, nurses and teachers. An evaluation of the pilot project recommended in this paper is one of the first steps envisaged for an eventual expansion of the programme.

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UNICEF commitments

12. UNICEF would provide the following for the two-year programme:

		<u>US\$</u>
a) <u>Skim milk powder</u>	1,000,000 lb.	No cost
i) 10,000 school children to receive 40 grammes daily 200 days per annum (para.6 above)		
ii) 10,000 pre-school children to receive 40 grammes daily 365 days per annum (para.6 above)		
b) <u>Vitamin A & D</u>	2,000,000 capsules	4,400
10,000 pre-school children to receive 100 capsules each per year (para.6 above)		
c) <u>Supplies for school gardens - seeds, tools, fertilizer (para.9 above)</u>		2,100
d) <u>Stipends - 50 stipends at \$1 per day for 14 days (para.8 above)</u>		700
e) <u>Freight</u>	<u>US\$</u>	
i) on 1,000,000 lb. of milk powder	25,000	
ii) on other supplies and equipment	<u>600</u>	<u>25,600</u>
Total recommended allocation		32,800

Government commitments

13. The Government will defray the costs of receiving, unloading, handling, warehousing, internal transportation and distribution of the milk and vitamin capsules, will purchase utensils and diet supplements to complement the milk distribution, provide personnel and cover training costs of personnel over and above UNICEF commitment. For this it is estimated that the Government will expend the equivalent of over US\$80,000 during the two-year period.

