

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



LIMITED
E/ICEF/L.862
10 February 1956
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

Programme Committee

Recommendation of the Executive Director for an Allocation
BRITISH HONDURAS
School and Pre-School Feeding.

1. The Administration recommends an allocation to British Honduras of \$10,000 to provide 500,000 pounds of dried skim milk for distribution to 7,500 school children and 6,000 pre-school children through schools and health centres over a two year period from May 1956. This programme is a continuation and expansion of the demonstration programme for which UNICEF allocated 251,000 pounds of skim milk powder during the period 1950 to 1953 and which the Government continued through 1954 and 1955, aided by a gift of evaporated milk from the United Kingdom. The implementation of the allocation recommended in this paper will be dependent upon the availability to UNICEF of United States surplus dried skim milk free of charge at shipside at the time shipment is required. Government matching for the two year period of the proposed allocation would be equivalent to \$31,115. Nutrition education will constitute an important element in the programme.

Development of child feeding programmes

2. The nutritional needs of British Honduras have been previously described to the Board in documents E/ICEF/R.50, E/ICEF/R.144 and E/ICEF/R.277. A limited programme reaching the neediest children in schools and health centres was being carried out by the Government prior to 1950. With UNICEF assistance this was expanded into a demonstration programme for 4,000 school children and 500 infants during 1950 - 1953.

3. During 1954 and 1955 the Government continued and expanded the programme with rations of skim milk being provided to 6,000 school children and 4,000 pre-school children, and whole milk provided to 2,000 infants.

/The Government...

The Government further continued to provide margarine and biscuits to be given with the milk as a mid-morning snack to the school children as well as providing a mid-day meal for the most needy.

4. The feeding programme is now on a well organized basis, and there is agreement both in public and private circles as to the importance of its continuation.

5. Unfortunately the impact of the September 1955 hurricane "Janet" on the economic conditions of the country has been very considerable. Government funds have, of necessity, been assigned to the rehabilitation of the agriculture of the districts destroyed by the hurricane as a measure to safeguard the long term nutrition of the country. Moreover the supply of gift milk from the United Kingdom is now exhausted.

Plan of Distribution

6. Distribution will be made through schools and health centres throughout the country. 7,500 school children and 6,000 pre-school children will receive a daily ration of 40 grammes of skim milk for 210 days as a liquid ration.

7. Supplementary foods will be given as a mid-morning snack to school children, some of whom will also receive a mid-day meal which is prepared with the assistance of the Red Cross. The increase in numbers of school and pre-school children over those receiving milk during 1954 and 1955 is deemed necessary because of the reduced nutrition due to crop damage and unemployment as an indirect effect of the hurricane destruction.

8. The Senior Medical Officer with the assistance of a full time nutrition officer will be responsible for supervising and developing the feeding programme through the school managers in Belize District and with medical officers in the other five districts of the country.

9. The Government is emphasizing the educational aspects of the programme under the leadership of the nutrition officer. This is directed both toward the education of the participants in better feeding methods and securing the interest of the local communities in the programme to stimulate communal effort on a permanent basis.

UNICEF commitments

10. UNICEF would provide the following for the two year programme:

a) Skim Milk Powder

40 grammes daily to 13,500 pre-school children for 210 days per year for two years

500,000 pounds NO COST

b) Freight Costs

500,000 pounds @ 2¢ per pound

\$10,000

Government commitments

11. The Government has budgeted an annual sum of B.H. \$22,225 to cover the cost of personnel, warehousing, transportation and distribution of UNICEF milk and for the provision of supplementary foods to be distributed to needy children in the schools, as well as part of the cost of whole milk for infant feeding. This represents government matching of B.H. \$44,450 (US \$31,115) for the two year period and an increase of B.H. \$29,162 (US \$20,113) over the government matching for the last two-year period of UNICEF assistance. Contributions provided through private sources are expected to amount to approximately B.H. \$15,000 (US \$10,500) per year.