

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
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SOCIAL COUNCIL



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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

Programme Committee

Recommendation of the Executive Director for an Allocation
BRITISH HONDURAS

Feeding: Maternal, Pre-school and School

1. The Executive Director recommends an allocation to British Honduras of \$18,600 to cover freight costs on 824,000 pounds of skim milk for continuation and expansion of a feeding programme (for which UNICEF has allocated over 751,000 pounds of skim milk powder since 1950) during the two-year period from July 1958 to June 1960. Stocks on hand from the allocation approved in March 1956 will enable the programme to continue through June 1958.
2. The present programme which reaches 6,000 pre-school and 7,500 school children in accordance with the plan approved by the Executive Board in March 1956 (E/ICEF/L.862) would, under the new recommendation, be expanded to include 1,000 nursing and pregnant women, 8,000 pre-school children and 12,000 school children, with emphasis on distribution to neediest groups.
3. The increased emphasis on pre-school children and nursing and pregnant women reflects the Government's plan to strengthen its maternal and child welfare services. An allocation for MCW services was made by the Board in April 1957 (E/ICEF/L.1006). With the training of additional personnel and the extension of public health centres and services through "mobile" clinics, (described in E/ICEF/L.1006), it is now possible to reach more mothers and pre-school children and to strengthen the nutrition education work in general.

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4. The implementation of the allocation recommended in this paper will be dependent upon the availability of United States surplus dried skim milk free of charge at shipside at the time shipment by UNICEF is required.
5. Government matching for the two-year period of the proposed allocation would be equivalent to US\$33,000.

Development of child feeding programmes

6. The nutritional needs of children in British Honduras have been described to the Board in previous documents (E/ICEF/R.50; E/ICEF/R.144; E/ICEF/R.277; and E/ICEF/L.862). Due to the need for supplementary feeding, the Government, in addition to the milk distribution programme, carries on with the assistance of the British Red Cross, a mid-day meal for approximately 500 school children distributed as follows: 296 in Belize; 100 in Corozal town; 40 in Orange Walk town; 30 in Stann Creek town and 30 in the village of Rockstone Pond. Preparation of the meal is in charge of volunteers, or of a person whose services are paid for through contributions made by the parents of the children receiving this mid-day meal. The programme is supervised by the public health nurses and by the Nutrition Officer of the Medical Services Department. The children are selected on the basis of need and nutritional status.
7. Many more requests have been received from parents than has been possible to enroll in the mid-day meal. Likewise, as the services through public health centres and "mobile" clinics increase, there has been a growing demand for the distribution of the skim milk. The Nutrition Officer reports that the public health and rural health nurses have been increasing the nutrition education through their home visits. Demonstrations are also given to the mothers attending pre- and post-natal clinics in which a very keen interest is reported.
8. As home supervision becomes possible, mothers are given the dry milk rations and are trained in the preparation and use of the milk at home. The public health nurses report with satisfaction that mothers who have attended the nutrition demonstrations are making use of the methods and recipes taught there.

Special emphasis has also been made in the Infant Welfare Clinics to train the mothers as to the protective foods needed, especially for the two- to five-year old children.

Plan of distribution

9. Distribution will be made through schools and public health centres and "mobile" clinics throughout the country:

1,000 mothers and 3,000 pre-school children will receive 40 grammes daily. Mothers will receive it for 210 days a year, while the pre-school children attending or reached through health centres will receive the same rations but for 300 days a year. The distribution as to dry or liquid rations has to be determined by the actual circumstances in the centres. Where dry rations are distributed for use at home, supervision is given through home visits by the nurses.

5,000 pre-school children will receive milk through schools, 210 days a year, with a ration of 40 grammes reconstituted.

12,000 school children will also receive 40 grammes daily, reconstituted, for 210 days a year.

10. Supervision of the programme will be given by the Senior Medical Officer with the assistance of the full-time Nutrition Officer who organizes the programme with the health personnel and the school managers.

11. The Government, through the Nutrition Officer and the medical and education personnel aiding in the programme, is making a serious effort to stimulate community action which will aid in continuing the programme on a permanent basis.

UNICEF commitments

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

		<u>US\$</u>
a) <u>Skim milk powder</u>		No cost
<u>Through schools:</u>		
i) <u>For 12,000 school children</u>		
<u>40 grammes daily - 210 days</u>	221,760 pounds	
ii) <u>For 5,000 pre-school children</u>		
<u>40 grammes daily - 210 days</u>	92,400 pounds	
<u>Through health centres and "mobile" clinics:</u>		
i) <u>For 3,000 pre-school children</u>		
<u>40 grammes daily - 300 days</u>	79,200 pounds	
ii) <u>For 1,000 mothers</u>		
<u>40 grammes daily - 210 days</u>	<u>18,480 pounds</u>	
Yearly requirement	411,840 pounds	
Two years	823,680 pounds	
	Say:	824,000 pounds
b) <u>Freight</u>		
824,000 pounds at 2-1/4 cents per pound		18,600

Government commitments

13. The Government commits itself to provide the cost of personnel, unloading, warehousing, internal transportation and distribution required to carry out an effective programme. It will also provide supplementary foods to be distributed to needy children at the schools as well as whole milk for infants. Costs to the Government for the two-year period will be equivalent to approximately US\$33,000. The Government will also continue to encourage the contributions from private sources to supplement and strengthen the programme. It is expected that such voluntary contributions will amount to the equivalent of US\$10,500 per year.
