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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

Programme Committee

Recommendation of the Executive Director for an Allocation  
BRITISH HONDURAS  
Malaria Eradication

1. The Executive Director recommends an allocation to British Honduras of \$8,000 for the provision of dieldrin and spare parts for sprayers for the second year of total coverage in the malaria eradication programme. The second cycle of total coverage will begin February 1958 and will be completed in a four-month period during which an estimated 17,480 houses are to be sprayed with dieldrin.
2. In October 1956, the UNICEF Executive Board approved an allocation of \$18,700 for this programme to assist in the first year of full coverage, and gave its approval in principle to the entire five-year campaign, planned for completion in February 1961 (E/ICEF/L.969). The additional allocation now recommended would bring total UNICEF aid until now to \$26,550 (including freight). The cost of the entire campaign is estimated at \$144,753 of which UNICEF would ultimately provide a total of \$42,700 and the Government \$102,053.

Achievements of the preparatory year

3. Data concerning the problem of malaria in British Honduras and the overall plan for the eradication campaign were presented to the Board in October 1956 (E/ICEF/L.969). The plan of operations for this project was signed by the Government on 25 February 1957. The following developments can be reported since that time:

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- a) Health Ordinance No. 26 of 1942 was approved by the Legislature on 17 August 1956, providing the complete legal basis for the eradication campaign, including stipulations for house-to-house spraying coverage.
- b) The Medical Society of British Honduras passed a resolution approving the campaign.
- c) Before initiating total coverage, the Director of Medical Services visited all the districts to stress the importance of the campaign, and a seminar of the public health inspectors was held early January to impart a thorough knowledge of the campaign plan. Personnel were retrained with reference to spraying operations and to the reporting system to be followed.
- d) The first year of full coverage started on 4 February 1957. By the end of June 15,800 houses had been sprayed with dieldrin. In the localities reached, approximately 600 houses were not sprayed, due principally to the fact of their owners being absent. These houses will, however, be sprayed before mid-year when the total-coverage period ends so that all houses in the malarious area, estimated at 16,980, will have been protected for 1957.
- e) The evaluation organization has begun its work under the general direction of the Director of Medical Services, assisted by the Medical Officer of Health and five District Medical Officers. Two public health nurses are responsible for the field supervision, and for the collection and analysis of information and data. Public health inspectors stationed in the districts, assist the nurses in the areas which are difficult to reach. Monthly visits are made to all the areas. Blood smears are taken of every person with fever and treatment is given. These visits also provide opportunity for general health education.
- f) A laboratory assistant has been trained in thick blood slides. (Annex I to this document gives a tabular report of blood smears taken during the first five months of 1957, and of the number of positive slides found. Of a total of 405 slides taken, there were 34 positive: 29 P. falciparum, 3 P. vivax and 2 P. malariae.)
- g) In May 1957, seventeen cases of malaria were reported from a new development area on the Humming Bird Highway in the Cayo District. On inspection of the spraying done in that area, it was observed that the walls of some of the houses had been washed after spraying. In addition, there had been a constant

movement of people to and from neighbouring areas which had not yet been sprayed. It was also noted that this area is a fast growing one and that several new houses have been built since the completion of the spraying. The entire Humming Bird area is therefore being re-sprayed before the completion of this cycle.

- h) The Bureau of Health Education has developed a programme aimed primarily at education of the general public and the elementary schools. For the latter, material has been prepared both for teachers and for their pupils. Methods used in this health education work include: skits by the Health Department staff; presentation of material prepared by WHO; feature articles; discussions with private doctors, members of the press, representative persons in the community and the public health staff. There have also been photographic displays and radio programmes concerning the work being done.

4. The second cycle of total coverage will begin in February 1958 and will be completed in a four-month period during which an estimated 17,480 houses will be sprayed with dieldrin.

5. Before the beginning of the second year of total coverage, all personnel engaged in the programme will attend refresher training courses. In addition, the laboratory technician is to attend a seminar on laboratory techniques for the diagnosis of malaria to be held in Cali, Colombia, in July 1957 and two inspectors will take part in a ten-week course in malaria eradication to be held in Mexico, beginning July 1957. (WHO fellowships are available for the seminar in Colombia and the course in Mexico.) An auxiliary entomologist will attend a special course in 1958.

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UNICEF commitments

6. UNICEF would provide the following for the second year of full coverage:

	<u>US\$</u>
a) <u>Dieldrin</u> , 50% wettable powder, 7,700 lbs.	6,950
b) <u>Sprayer spares</u>	<u>250</u>
Total supplies and equipment	7,200
c) <u>Freight</u>	<u>800</u>
Total recommended allocation	8,000

WHO commitments

7. This plan has the technical approval of WHO. WHO will continue to provide the services of technical consultants in malaria who will be available through the Zone Office to assist the campaign as necessary. WHO will also provide fellowships for the training to be carried out in Colombia and Mexico (see para. 5).

Government commitments

8. It is expected that Government expenditures for the first year of total coverage (1957) will exceed the previously estimated commitment of BH\$28,669 (approximately US\$20,000). For 1958, the Government's commitment, originally estimated at BH\$28,669 (approximately US\$20,000) will probably exceed this amount by fifteen per cent. As indicated above, the commitment of the Government for the entire campaign will be equivalent to an estimated US\$102,053.

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ANNEX IBritish Honduras Malaria EradicationBlood smears taken during first five months of 1957

<u>Month</u>	<u>Number of Slides</u>	<u>Number of Positives</u>	<u>P.falciparum</u>	<u>P.vivax</u>	<u>P.malariae</u>
January	66	2	1	1	0
February	60	1	1	0	0
March	49	2	1	0	1
April	101	12	11	1	0
May	129	17	15	1	1
Total	405	34	29	3	2

Positive cases by districts

<u>Districts</u>	<u>Number of Positives</u>	<u>P.falciparum</u>	<u>P.vivax</u>	<u>P.malariae</u>
Belize	12	8	3	1
El Cayo	14	14	0	0
Stann Creek	8	7	0	1
Orange Walk	0	0	0	0
Toledo	0	0	0	0
Total	34	29	3	2