

## PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE YOUNG CHILD

#### WOMAN PROMOTION

The CCME (Comite Meres-Enfants) is responsible for a large programme of creches (41.500) with the help of 157.800 monitrices. In 1985, the number of children placed in the care of creches represented 23.50% (1.154.000 children) of the infantile population concerned (5.000.000).

71% of the parents of these children are salaried employees and 17% are peasants

The creches located in the six provinces of concentration represent only 32% of the total number of creches, that is 13.000.

Generally the creches are not evenly distributed in the country:

80% in the North provinces 20% in the South provinces

80% are located in urban areas whereas the majority of the population lives in rural areas.

There are two kinds of creches:

15.100 which are run by the State and 26.400 by cooperatives

Their running costs are often very high in relation to the funds available. The actions of co-operation between UNICEF and the CCME are oriented to the following two objectives:

1. Improvement of children's nutrition

Child feeding holds a very important place in the UNICEF-CCME cooperation. The creches must provide at least 60% of the children's nutritional needs. However it appears that 12% to 18% of the children attending creches are undernourished (especially in rural areas) in spite of the establishment in Nam Dinh, in end 1983, of a soyamine factory with a potential production capacity of 12.000 T/yr.

Production goals have not yet been reached due to the shortage of raw materials, packing and cooking procedures.

- 2. Improvement of the environment of the creches
- <u>Equipment</u>: The majority of the creches are ill-equipped (UNICEF has supplied beds, mosquitoe nets, linen, kitchen utensils and cloth).
  Although the use of the equipment is satisfactory, its maintenance and replacement create some problems. Therefore, it will be necessary in the future to supply equipment for the creches on a larger scale.

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b). <u>Toys</u>: Great efforts have been made but problems arised because of inadequate design and lack of variety.

230.000 toys are produced/year in the UNICEF financed Daikim factory which was created in 1981.

Quality control should be taken into consideration.

### 3. Training activities

These activities represent 18% of the budget allocated to the CCME in 1985 (approximately \$ 180.000) and are implemented both by the CCME and the Vietnamese Women's Union.

a). CCME: is responsible for

the training of CCME cadres and staff, Has participated in the construction of training centres as well as in the elaboration of documents for the creches personnel.

The training level of the monitrices is not very coherent and additional refresher courses and sessions will be necessary.

Bac + 3 yrs	Bac + l yr	Bac + 1 to 3 mths	No training
1,5%	12 to 13%	70%	13%

# b). Women's Union

This is a mass organisation with 10.000.000 members. Their activities complement those realised by the CCME:

 a course for mothers in the health field (breast-feeding, immunization, hygiene) and child care. This course which is called "To be a mother" has a 2/3 days duration, ll lessons and is given by instructors at the commune level.

UNICEF's assistance: supply to 2 regional training centres (Hanoi and HCMC) with audio visual equipment, supply of paper for the printing of educational materials, consultancy missions and financing of courses for the instructors in the areas of concentration.

Todate 2 millions of mothers out of a 6 millions total have benefitted from this training. It is however difficult to fully evaluate the impact of this activity.

- promotion and distribution of soyamine

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 income generating activities. This activity aims at the development of sewing training and for this purpose 83 sewing workshops have been created but with some serious problems (lack of equipment and qualified personnel). - The creation of child development centres is the latest initiative of the Women's Union. In 1985 with the aid of UNICEF some of these centres were partly equipped. These centres could be considered as an alternative solution to the creches but never a competitive structure.

# Conclusions

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In general, there should be in the future a better integration with the other programmes (water, sanitation, nutrition, etc.), a permanent exchange of information and a closer co-ordination.