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AND  
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LIMITED

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND  
Programme Committee

Recommendation of the Executive Director for an Apportionment  
SUDAN  
Maternal and Child Welfare <sup>a/</sup>

1. The Administration recommends an apportionment of \$33,000 to the Sudan for the provision of basic maternal and child welfare equipment and a one year supply of expendables, (drugs, skim and whole milk powder, and fish-liver oil capsules) for 25 rural health centres; equipment for four training centres for auxiliary health personnel (medical assistants, sanitarians, nurses, midwives); and transport for two of the training centres to facilitate field practice. This aid will help the Government up-grade selected health centres, broaden the training of medical auxiliaries, and create a new cadre of female nurses. The Government matching for the aid proposed in this recommendation is estimated at the equivalent of U.S. \$45,000 per year for the next two years. Total commitments for the programme as a whole, including new construction, are estimated at \$235,000 for the next two years.

Background information

2. Some background information about Sudan is presented in the recommendation to the current session of the Board for an anti-malaria campaign (E/ICEF/L.806). Additional background information was given in a recommendation for UNICEF aid for a BCG anti-tuberculosis vaccination campaign which the Board approved in September 1952 (E/ICEF/R.356).

a/ First UNICEF aid for this programme.

/Health centres

Health centres

3. The Government maintains 418 dispensaries and 215 dressing stations. A dispensary is staffed by a medical assistant, a nurse, a midwife, and dressers. The larger centres also have sanitarians. Each dressing station is staffed by a nurse. In addition to out-patient service for a large village, or a group of villages, (occasionally providing also a few beds), the dispensaries are responsible for supervising the sanitation of the district and providing health education to the public. The medical assistant who is in charge, supervises the district midwives, is responsible for in-service training of the other staff members, and acts as the local registrar of births and deaths.

4. In order to improve this system and up-grade certain of the dispensaries, the Government has, as a start, built 25 new and modern-type health centres at which greater emphasis will be placed on maternal and child welfare activities. Under the present recommendation UNICEF would provide basic MCW equipment for these centres and a one-year supply of expendables (drugs, whole and skim milk powder, and fish-liver oil). The Government plans to provide these expendables from its own resources after this period.

Training experience

5. Since the very early days of the Sudan Medical Service great reliance has been placed upon auxiliary medical personnel who are specially trained for the limited tasks they have to perform. During the last 40 years there has been an accumulation of experience not only of the methods of training but also of the supervision of this type of personnel. This has naturally led to a developing programme of training. This programme has been given an added impetus by the withdrawal of non-Sudanese staff from the medical services of the country. The government now considers it urgent that the numbers of auxiliary medical personnel be increased and their training further improved in order to establish a corps of health workers capable of future promotion.

Education for supervisory posts

6. At the present time, there are but 45 public health officers and 24 public health inspectors who are almost continually occupied in the provinces with supervisory tours. These officials started their service, in most cases, as medical auxiliaries.

/Education for

7. Not many of the present auxiliary staff are capable of being advanced to supervisory levels of real responsibility. It is essential therefore that there be a recruitment from new sources, followed by suitable training, for this supervisory cadre.

8. Social advances in the Sudan are now bringing forward a more educated type of male trainee than formerly, and also render more frequent the opportunities for recruiting female trainees from the more educated classes. The Sudan Government feels that women should play an important rôle in its rural health services, and that recruiting from the more educated levels of the population must be encouraged in order to provide a supervisory cadre. At the present time in the Sudan there are 428 illiterate district midwives, 78 literate trained midwives, 22 health visitors, and 25 untrained nurses, and 191 trained nurses.

9. Girls of non-educated classes have not in the past sought nursing careers. Recently, however, successful efforts have been made and a first class of fourteen girls of good education has been assembled with the approbation of their parents.

/Present training centres

Present training centres

10. Under the present recommendation UNICEF would provide some training equipment and supplies for the following four training centres for auxiliary health personnel:

- (a) Medical Assistants' School, Omdurman
- (b) Nursing and Midwifery Training Centre, Wad Medani
- (c) Nursing School, Omdurman
- (d) School of Hygiene, Khartoum

and transport for the Centres at Wad Medani and Khartoum. The training to be given at the Centre at Wad Medani constitutes a new departure for the country in nursing teaching.

(a) Medical Assistants' School, Omdurman

11. Training medical assistants has been undertaken for 37 years. The present school for medical assistants which is situated in Omdurman conducts an 18 month course for 50 students each year. The students are selected from male nurses in hospitals. They must be literate in Arabic and English and must have completed the elementary school courses before joining the medical services and are then given at least three years training in hospital work. After this they are selected by the Provincial Medical Inspector or Medical Officer of Health to sit for an entrance examination before they are admitted into the school. The present school premises and the equipment are totally inadequate. The Government is now building new and more spacious premises. UNICEF is asked to provide the new training equipment required.

/(b) Nursing and Midwifery

(b) Nursing and Midwifery Training Centre, Wad Medani

12. The capital of the Blue Nile Province, Wad Medani, is also the headquarters of the Gezira irrigated area and now enjoys comparative prosperity. One of the by-products of this has been a progressive improvement of education in which the rising generation of women has shared. There has been an increasing public interest in and demand for improved health services, which the Government is endeavouring to lead into preventive as well as curative channels. As indicated in paragraphs 8-9 the Government wishes to strengthen its supervisory cadre by the recruitment of educated girls to the nursing profession. At the same time, it wishes to improve services through refresher training of women already in health services.

13. For these functions the Government is establishing a training centre exclusively for women at Wad Medani. The Government has already built the student dormitory and is providing teaching staff partly from existing medical and nursing staff of the Province and partly by special appointment.

14. There already exist in Wad Medani and its neighbourhood good health centres which provide maternal and child health services. These will be brought in with relation to the training centre for demonstrations and field work. The initial class will have fourteen students. Training will be carried out in accordance with purdah requirements.

15. In addition to training equipment, a vehicle would be provided in order to permit the trainees to visit neighbouring centres for field training.

(c) Nurses' School, Omdurman

16. The General Hospital Nursing School at Omdurman provides a three-year course, with an annual output of twenty nurses. The courses are conducted by Sudanese Sisters under the general supervision of a Matron, who is a European under contract. The Government hopes to raise the educational standard of the school. UNICEF would provide models, charts, books, and visual aid equipment for the school. Graduates from the school would be employed in the health centres, dispensaries, or dressing stations.

/(d) School of Hygiene, Khartoum

(d) School of Hygiene, Khartoum

17. The Khartoum School of Hygiene, which undertakes training of sanitary inspectors (three-year course) and sanitary overseers (one-year course), has been in existence for nearly twenty-five years. Graduates in the sanitary inspectors' course are granted the Certificate of Sanitary Inspector by the Royal Sanitary Institute of England. In addition to teaching equipment UNICEF would also provide a vehicle to enable the students to obtain a more diversified field experience.

Training activities other than those affected by this proposal

18. Other training activities are carried on by the Government for which it is not requesting UNICEF aid. These include a medical assistants' training school and a school for Sanitary Inspectors in the south at Juba. There is also a midwives' training school at Omdurman, which has been referred to by WHO as a model of its kind, and which has 36 pupils under training at the present time, half of whom have already qualified as nurses, and the Wad Medani Midwifery Training School (entirely separate from the Training Centre referred to in paragraphs 12 to 15) which is training illiterate women as midwives at the rate of 20 a year, with 553 midwives having been trained there to date. The continued support and extension of these activities places a heavy burden on the Government's budget.

UNICEF commitments

UNICEF commitments

19. UNICEF commitments under this proposal would be as follows:

a) Medical Assistants' School, Omdurman:

Training equipment, models and charts, books, and basic laboratory equipment and audio-visual equipment .....	\$ 5,800
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b) Nursing and Midwifery Training Centre, Wad Medani:

Equipment for classrooms, and books .....	3,000
One vehicle.....	1,800

c) Nurses' School, Omdurman:

Models, charts, books and visual-aid equipment	1,400
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d) School of Hygiene, Khartoum:

Books, drawing equipment and supplies, teaching and demonstration equipment and supplies and charts..	2,000
One vehicle ( 1-1/2 ton truck) .....	2,000

e) 25 Health Centres

Equipment, drugs, skim and whole milk powder, fish liver oil .....	12,000
Penicillin .....	600

## f) Contingencies

1,900
<u>30,500</u>

Freight

<u>2,500</u>
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\$33,000
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/Government commitments and matching

Government commitments and matching

20. The costs to the Government of the overall programme described in this paper amounts to approximately £ 82,000 (\$235,000) over a two-year period. Out of this the specific matching for the maternal and child welfare centres and the training aid requested is estimated at £ 31,000 (\$90,000) for a two-year period. In addition the Government will undertake to employ the personnel trained at the Centres aided by UNICEF at dressing stations, dispensaries, and health centres.

WHO technical approval

21. This programme has the technical approval of WHO.

Target time schedule

22. Supplies and equipment for the different training institutions and the basic equipment and drugs and diet supplements are requested for arrival in the Sudan during February/April 1956.