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UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

Programme Committee

Recommendation of the Executive Director for an Allocation

JORDAN

Emergency Feeding

1. The Executive Director recommends an allocation to Jordan of \$232,000 to cover freight cost on 2,125,000 pounds of dried skim milk and to provide other foods (rice, fats, dried fruits or sugar) and soap to continue UNICEF assistance to the end of 1958 for 50,000 destitute children and mothers living in Jordanian villages along the Jordan/Israel border. The allocation requested would also include funds for reimbursement of the salary and allowances of a staff member seconded to UNICEF from the United Nations Relief and Works Administration for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), and for the wages of labourers carrying out the distribution of the UNICEF foodstuffs and other commodities. The staff member of UNRWA has been responsible since early 1955 for the immediate supervision of the programme.
2. The provision of the dried skim milk will be dependent upon the availability of United States surplus stocks free of charge at shipside at the time shipment by UNICEF is required. The other foods and soap will become available in part out of contributions in kind made by governments to UNICEF.
3. The programme is being implemented with the co-operation of UNRWA and of the voluntary agencies doing relief work in the border villages. These agencies also participate in the distribution of surplus food commodities (flour, rice and cheese) which are periodically made available to the agencies by the United States

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Government. Long-range assistance to the border villages is provided through loans by the Jordanian Government's Development Board. The Government also provides storage facilities and supervisory services, and flour, drugs, and other supplies to an equivalent value of US\$11,200 as annual matching to UNICEF's assistance.

4. A total of \$882,000 (not including freight) has previously been allocated by UNICEF for this programme. The first allocation was approved in February 1952 by mail poll vote. At its April 1957 session the Board approved the transfer to this programme of a \$131,726.49 balance remaining from funds allocated to the Palestine Refugee programme (E/ICEF/L.1049, para.8). This amount, together with the unspent funds remaining from the previous allocation, are sufficient to carry the programme to the end of 1957. Almost five million pounds of skim milk powder has been shipped to Jordan for this programme.

The problem of the border villages

5. The plight of the population living in the Jordanian border villages has been described in previous recommendations to the Board. A more recent appraisal of the situation was given in a comprehensive report presented to the Tenth Session of the United Nations General Assembly by the Director of UNRWA. (A/2978, Supplement 15; and A/2978/Add.1, Supplement 15A.) This report, based in part on a recent survey carried out by UNRWA among 1,008 families living in the border villages, refers to the area's loss of 90 per cent of its irrigated land and at least three quarters of its livestock. The survey revealed that a great need exists in the area for the minimum basic requirements of living. At the conclusion of his report, the UNRWA Director stressed the "exceptional material and moral hardships" suffered by the area's population and underlined the urgent need for the alleviation of these hardships. It is to be noted that the area's economic conditions have been further aggravated by a drought which, in 1955, came very close to causing famine among the country's rural communities and had particularly severe repercussions on the border areas.

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Efforts made to alleviate the problem

6. During the period 1955-1957, UNICEF's assistance to the border villages, including dried skim milk, other food commodities and soap, has reached approximately 50,000 mothers and children. About 45,000 of these receive quarterly rations of one kilo and half of rice, one kilo of fats, one kilo of dried fruits or sugar and two pieces of soap. The remaining 5,000 beneficiaries are reached through special supplementary feeding schemes carried out by those voluntary agencies which have facilities for serving hot meals to children. Skim milk is issued in liquid form through milk centres operated by UNRWA or by the Lutheran World Federation which are suitably equipped for the purpose. In localities where such facilities are not available, the milk is issued in dry form as part of the quarterly distributions.

7. While the assistance from UNICEF and the voluntary agencies aims at the alleviation of the immediate needs of the border villages, the Government's Development Board is continuing with some success its village loans scheme to encourage terracing, irrigation and general reclamation work in the lands of the border villages. No major improvement can be foreseen, however, in the overall economic condition of the area in the near future as a result of this assistance.

8. UNRWA's co-operation in the implementation of UNICEF aid continues to be very valuable. UNRWA carries out the reception, warehousing, accounting and transportation within the country of all supplies furnished by UNICEF. Minor expenditures related to operations for which UNRWA has no established facilities, including labour cost for the quarterly distributions, are borne by the Fund. The UNRWA staff member who was seconded to UNICEF for the supervision of the programme has been instrumental in ensuring a closer control over the distribution operations and in keeping up-to-date the beneficiary lists of 50,000 persons which need constant readjustment. It is proposed that these arrangements with UNRWA, including the secondment of their staff member against reimbursement of his salary and his travel and other allowances by UNICEF, be continued till the end of 1958.

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9. The voluntary agencies co-operating in the relief action have continued to distribute the milk, the foodstuffs and the soap procured by UNICEF along with surplus food commodities donated by the United States Government and clothing provided by their own organizations for the border villages. The Lutheran World Federation, besides helping in the issuance of milk through their centres in the border area, is responsible for the distribution of the quarterly UNICEF rations to about 8,000 beneficiaries.

10. The Mennonites and the Samaria Relief Team, both operating on behalf of the International Christian Committee, are distributing the UNICEF commodities through their own feeding programmes in which hot meals are served. Similar arrangements were made with the British Save the Children Fund whose team has also provided services in the medical field to the area's children. In agreement with UNICEF, the Government has procured for this agency one year's supply of drugs, using for this purpose part of the JD.4,000 (US\$11,200) which were included in the 1955/1956 budget in matching to the commodities provided by UNICEF to this programme.

11. As from the end of March 1957, the services to the programme of the British Save the Children Fund were discontinued as their team left the country on that date. UNICEF's co-operation with the voluntary agencies has been expanded in 1957 to include the Anglican Bishopric which is doing a considerable amount of relief work in the Jerusalem district, mainly for school children.

Plan of operations 1958

12. The general pattern of distribution of UNICEF supplies, as established in the previous years in co-operation with the Government, UNRWA and the voluntary agencies, will be maintained. Of the 50,000 beneficiaries, 45,000 will receive quarterly "dry" rations of rice, fats, sugar or dried fruit and soap while 5,000 will receive hot meals through the services of voluntary agencies. The milk is issued in liquid form or as laban (yoghourt) where facilities exist; where there are no facilities, the milk is issued in dry form as part of the quarterly

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distribution. The results of the experiment of processing milk into laban, which was started in certain voluntary agency milk centres in 1956, will be assessed with a view to broadening the distribution of milk in this form. No reduction in the total amount of United States donated milk is expected to occur from this processing.

UNICEF commitments

13. UNICEF would provide the following for the continuation of the programme during 1958:

	<u>US\$</u>	<u>US\$</u>
a) <u>Dried skim milk</u> 2,125,000 pounds		no cost
b) <u>Other foods</u>		148,600
i) Rice 300 tons	45,000	
ii) Fats 200 tons	63,600	
iii) Dried fruits or sugar 200 tons	40,000	
c) <u>Soap</u> 100,000 pounds		12,500
d) <u>Contingencies</u>		1,600
Total supplies and equipment		163,700
e) <u>Freight</u>		63,800
on dried skim milk	47,800	
on other supplies	16,000	
f) <u>Reimbursement to UNRWA</u>		4,500
Salary, travel and other allowances for the UNRWA staff member seconded to UNICEF and wages to labourers carrying out the quarter distributions		
Total recommended allocation		232,000

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Government commitments

14. Since 1952, the Government has been including regularly in its budget an amount equivalent to US\$11,200 for the purchase of flour and other commodities as matching to UNICEF's assistance. This arrangement will be continued in 1958, and the necessary funds will be budgeted by the Ministry of Social Affairs which is immediately responsible for the supervision and financing of the programme. Warehouses providing adequate storage space for a total of 500 tons of dried skim milk are also made available by the Government.

15. The district officers of the Ministry of Social Affairs in Nablus, Ramallah/Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Hebron are responsible for the supervision of the programme on behalf of the Government in their respective areas. One of these officers will assume the responsibility for co-ordinating the supervision of the programme and for reporting on the stock position and utilization of the dried skim milk stored in the Government warehouses. As conditions allow, this officer will also take an active part in the general planning of the programme.
