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UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Report on Progress of Middle East Operations: Supplementary Statement

1. This report supplements and amends E/ICEF/93, "Report on Progress of Middle East Operations," dated 12 January 1949, on the basis of recent reports available to the Administration.

Supply Aspects:

2. The peak of the refugee situation was probably reached by the turn of the year; statistics furnished by local authorities places the total at over 938,000. However, the UNICEF Mission believes that this number includes a certain amount of double counting caused by movements of refugees and the inclusion of normally nomadic Bedouins in refugee areas. Consequently, the Administration bases its supply programme on an estimate of 350,000 potential UNICEF beneficiaries out of a total of about 800,000 refugees. The table in the Annex, "Numbers of Palestine Refugees in the Middle East" provides a working estimate of the children and mothers in the various areas.

Field Operations

3. Certain changes have occurred in the feeding arrangements in the different countries and areas which are outlined by region:

4. Lebanon: A general system of identification of refugees is being organized with every family getting an identity card. Together with the creation of Refugee Committees in each locality and the poor conditions of refugees outside of organized camps, the Mission decided to extend feeding to refugee mothers and children living outside of camps, raising the theoretical number of refugees to 50,000 with 37,420 fed in December. However, Government matching is now only 20 pounds of flour monthly for each identified refugee.

5. Syria: Similar changes to those reported above for Lebanon have occurred in Syria. The total number of potential UNICEF beneficiaries was actually fed in

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December.

6. Transjordan and Northern Palestine: The numbers of refugees have definitely increased by the organization of relief, although not improving in proportion, has also been extended. Fourteen new milk centers, four in Transjordan and ten in Northern Palestine, were set up, and three more will shortly be added in Northern Palestine. Lack of utensils, personnel and double holidays (Friday and Sunday) handicap the operation of these centers. Transportation to camps in the area is a serious problem; the long, complicated route from Beirut to Amman and from Amman to the camps; lack of sufficient trains, trucks, money to pay labor (chauffeurs, warehousemen, etc.) is a government concern, but it affects the ability to reach refugees with UNICEF food. Problems of equitable distribution to religious minority groups, Christian and Moslem, have been confronted and have been satisfactorily dealt with by the UNICEF Mission by careful selection of local committees.

7. Southern Palestine: Feeding thus far has been effective only for infants in the Gaza area. The theoretical number of UNICEF refugees in the entire area has been reduced from 100,000 to 58,000. UNICEF has stockpiled milk, fats and meat at Gaza to be used in this area as soon as the American Friends Service Committee, the first contingent of which has now reached Gaza, can organize distribution. The A.F.S.C. is not responsible for distribution of supplies in Egypt proper.

8. Israel: Distribution of UNICEF food by Government welfare authorities is well-organized, especially in Jerusalem. A Central Committee for the Co-ordination of Relief Work in Israel, including international and local voluntary agencies, is being established on the initiative of the UNICEF representative. All conditions of the standard agreement with recipient governments, which applies in Israel, are being observed. However, the matching of UNICEF food to Arab evacuees has required flexible operations. Particularly in North Galilee, in the "war zone," the Mission is seeking to organize mobile kitchens run by the Government to reach Arabs who have returned to their villages and are especially needy and generally of the poorest social groups.

Conditions of Feeding in All Areas:

9. The preparation and issuance of UNICEF food to mothers and children is accomplished through camp kitchens run by social workers, milk kitchens and local /village messes

village messes run by Committees, hospitals, convents, orphanages, and schools.

Emphasis is placed on distribution of milk only in a reconstituted, i.e. liquid, form.

A N N E X

NUMBERS OF PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE MIDDLE EAST
 (On the basis of estimates by local Authorities)

<u>Area</u>	<u>Estimated Total Refugees a/</u>	<u>Theoretical Number of UNICEF Beneficiaries b/</u>	<u>Infants (0-1)</u>	<u>Mothers</u>	<u>Children (1 - 15)</u>	<u>Nos. Actually Fed as of 1 January 1949</u>
Lebanon	120,000	50,000	4,500	9,000	36,500	37,420
Syria	98,230	50,000	4,500	9,000	36,500	49,683
Transjordan	112,157	58,500	5,250	10,500	42,750	39,528
Palestine - North	345,826	180,000	16,200	32,400	131,400	45,438
Palestine - South	215,000	58,000	5,220	10,440	42,340	5,000
Israel - Arabs	21,500	11,170	900	1,820	8,450	15,920
Israel - Jews	26,000	14,390	1,160	1,790	11,440	
TOTALS	938,713	422,060	37,730	74,950	309,380	192,361

a/ The totals are probably inflated by 20 per cent, largely due to lack of precise census of refugees in North and South Palestine and Transjordan. However, additional areas are included in the total compared with previous estimates (E/ICEF/93, para. 4). For the purpose of estimating the requirements for a supply programme, 350,000 refugees are considered eligible in UNICEF categories. (See text).

b/ UNICEF categories in Arab areas consist of: Infants (0-1), 9 per cent; Mothers, 18 per cent; Children (0-15), 73 per cent.