UNICEF IN INDIA AND IYC—1979

By

Mrs. P. Bajaj, P. H. N. Supervisor, Comprehensive Rural Health Services Project (AIIMS) Ballabhgarh (Haryana)

What is UNICEF?

THE UNICEF was created by the General Assembly of the United Nations Organisation in 1946 to help the children of war-torn Europe. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is that part of the United Nations system with a special mandate to concern itself with the children of the world. Today, UNICEF is active in more than 100 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America where it covers a total child population of 865 million under 16 years of age.

UNICEF is solely supported by voluntary contributions from Governments and individuals all over the world. In 1976, 72.6% of UNICEF resources came directly from Governments as regular and specific purpose contributions, 14.3% from private sources (Fund raising campaigns, greeting cards profits and individual donations), 13.1% from the United Nations System (mainly the United Nations Fund for population activities) and from miscellaneous sources.

Many people still think it as an emergency organisation, as it was at its inception 30 years ago. UNICEF is often called upon when a country is struck by disaster, natural or man-made and it responds swiftly where effective action is possible to any emergency affecting children and mothers in any part of the world.

Stressing the fact that the child is a whole person, UNICEF seeks to bring the child's many needs into focus and to provide assistance in the form of supplies, equipment and cash grants that will help to stimulate a greater use of national resources for investment in the citizens of tomorrow.

UNICEF in India

India joined as a member of UNICEF in 1948. The UNICEF stepped on the Indian soil in 1949 with its first ship having 150 tons of skimmed milk powder. Later on it was followed by drugs, vaccines and transport for campaigns against Malaria, Tuberculosis, Leprosy, Trachoma and other diseases. Basic supplies and equipment for rural health centres, district hospitals and training institutions were provided as well as seeds, garden tools, fishing nets and poultry raising equipment for village level practical nutrition activities. Processing equipment for 13 public sector dairies and for the initial manufacture of penicilline and DDT also formed part of UNICEF's early assistance to India. Today many supplies are provided within India itself.

All activities assisted by UNICEF are the programmes of Government of India. Some form of aid is to be found in every State and Union Territory in India.

The Targets

UNICEF has priority for the target group in India that is children under six years of age totals upto 120 million. Under the current national development plan, India is looking after the psychological, physical and social development of these pre-school children in the disadvantaged areas, backward rural regions, tribal areas, hard-rock drought prone zones, slums and shanty towns. To help achieve these goals, UNICEF in 1974 projected five years of assistance in the form of a single integrated country programme closely linked to the Nation's Fifth Five-Year Plan (1974-79) with a commitment of $56,800,000.

UNICEF's strategy for 'reaching the unreached' in India is to help the Government to establish or to expand the basic services that all children require if they are to grow up to lead happy, healthy and productive lives. The economic and social development of a country directly depends on the care children receive today. The minimum basic services that children need for proper physical and mental development include:—

(a) health care (primary health care for mothers, infants and children, health education and disease control);

(b) clean water supply (safe water for drinking, cooking and bathing, to prevent the spread of diseases caused by lack of sanitation);

(c) nutrition (meaning enough of the right kind of food to prevent malnutrition and to aid physical and mental growth);

(d) education (elementary schooling and out-of-school learning to rescue children from illiteracy and ignorance);

(e) training (to provide health workers, school teachers, social workers, nutritionists, and others needed for development tasks);

(f) Welfare services (day care centres, youth and women's groups and self-help projects to improve family and community life).

These basic services help to protect children from the perils of childhood and prepare them for their future role as agents of their country's development.

Maternal and Child Health

To buttress its national family welfare programme, the Government of India has intensified its MCH activities. The UNICEF has given $14,200,000 in the Fifth Plan Period (1974-79) as assistance for the development of the maternal and the child health component of India's health and family welfare programme. They have managed to have midwifery kits, refrigerators, drugs, vaccines, diet supplaments, etc., for rural and urban health centres and sub-centres, transport for the supervising staff and stipends for training were also provided. UNICEF mainly focussed on health services integrated with family welfare and nutrition activities at block and village levels in the most disadvantaged rural areas and city slums.

About 4,200 PHCS out of 5,300 and 16,000 sub-centres out of 30,000 have been equipped by the UNICEF, the end of Fifth Plan virtually all the PHCS and the majority of sub-centres will be provided assistance. UNICEF will also assist 400 urban family welfare planning centres and strengthen 100 district hospitals with expanded pediatric services.

Following the conquest of small-pox in India, the Government was faced with an alarming resurgence of malaria. In 1976, six million cases were reported. Energetic measures were taken to cope up with the problem. UNICEF provided, at the request of the Government, 117 million anti-malarial tablets for distribution in the most severely affected areas.

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)

The programme is a central component of UNICEF's country programme. Its general objectives are:—

(1) to improve the health and nutritional status of young children upto the age of six years;

(2) to lay the foundation for the proper psychological, physical, social development of children;

(3) to reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school drop out;

(4) to increase the capability of mothers to look after the day-to-day health and nutritional needs of their children;

(5) to promote functional literacy for adult women.

(6) to achieve effective co-ordination of policy and implementation among relevant Government departments to promote child care and development.

ICDS delivers a package of inter-related services that include: Supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-ups, treatment and referral services, non-formal pre-school education and health and nutrition education of women. ICDS focuses on disadvantaged rural and urban slums. This provides a dietary supplement to malnourished children using locally available foods.

The Government of India started with 33 ICDS projects on an experimental basis in late 1975. These included four in urban slums, ten in tribal areas and 19 in rural areas.

Elementry Education

UNICEF's educational objectives are to improve the child's ability to adjust to his environment. It has designed Science Education Programme (SEP) for India and improvement in the quality of teaching science at various school levels has been brought. In the pilot phase of SEP, the new science teaching material prepared by the National Council of Educational Research and Training of New Delhi (NCERT) was tested in the various states. Some schools devised cheaper science teaching kits.

By the end of 1977, UNICEF had supplied Science Teaching Kits to 38,500 primary and 18,000 middle schools. About 8.1 million children were benefitted. In 1975-76 UNICEF gave assistance for training to 63,111 teachers and other personnel.

It has assisted in developing the Primary Education Curriculum by actual implementation in the selected experimental schools in the rural backward areas. In this regard it has provided supplies and equipment to 450 Primary Schools and assisted in the training of teachers.

UNICEF has supplied sets of laboratory equipment, workshop tools and library books to 579 key teacher-training institutions. 94 additional training schools have been selected for supply of laboratory equipment, 10,000 metric tonnes of paper have been supplied for the printing of textbooks, teacher's guides and other publications.

Applied Nutrition Programme (ANP)

This programme is designed to combat malnutrition. This is primarily an education programme, combined with the promotion of self-help at block, village and family levels.

ANP tries to introduce beneficial changes in knowledge, beliefs and practice about food and eating habits, resulting in better nutritional status with no extra expense for the family.

UNICEF has assisted 1,615 block for the ANP since its inception in 1963. It has also provided supplies, equipment, transport and support for training of ANP in India.

The use of locally available foods, such as pulses, dark green leafy vegetables and other nutritious vegetables and fruits is encouraged. School kitchen and community gardens are assisted to provide their production. UNICEF's assistance is also given to poultry-raising and other food production projects to help improve village nutrition.

UNICEF has strengthened the district nurseries and supply of nutritionally beneficial saplings, an intensive project on food storage improvement at household and village levels in selected ANP blocks increased production of simple nutrition and child care educational aids and accelerated efforts to train village volunteers and health and nutrition workers.

Water and Environmental Sanitation

For maintenance of good health, safe drinking water is necessary. UNICEF has brought 129 hard-rock drilling rigs into India, primarily to provide water for drought-prone villages. They have drilled 30,000 wells and out of that 23,000 have been fitted with hand pumps and power pumps. UNICEF and State rigs have drilled wells over 40,000 bores in the nine hard-rock states which cover 70% of the country's territory.

UNICEF has assisted in research to design improved deep well hand pumps and is presently helping to repair or replace a large percentage of inoperative hand pumps.

UNICEF's target during the fifth plan period is to assist the Government of India to provide safe water for about 1,25,000 villages in drought prone, water scarce & disease-ridden areas. It is also introducing simple measures of environmental sanitation to demonstrate to villagers the importance of the links between clean water, hygiene and health.

Food and Village Technology

Low-cost, nutritionally balanced and acceptable food products processed from foods grown in India, has been planned by the UNICEF. They are used under the Supplementary Feeding Programme for young children, nursing and expectant mothers. UNICEF has provided for supporting services in the fields of food engineering and appropriate technology with a view to contributing to the improvement of the nutrition of the poorer, more vulnerable segments of the population.

Since 1954, 13 dairy plants in various parts of India have been assisted with equipment, supplies and financial aid for training dairy personnel.

On-going projects are receiving assistance in processing foods include; a Unit at Anand (Gujarat) that produces a fortified cereal-based weaning food at a ready-to-eat food plant at Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh to supply child feeding programmes and a plant at Bangalore, Karnataka producing Milton, a vegetable protein milk mixture.

Food Research and Developmental projects are also being strengthened with the aim to improve the nutritional status of children and mothers e.g. fortification of salt with iron to alleviate nutritional anaemia and the protein, vitamin and mineral enrichment of sago and other foods.

UNICEF has provided 12 salt iodization plants to India and two more plants will be given under the National Goitre Control Programme.

The Wheels of UNICEF

UNICEF has provided 7,500 vehicles to India, out of that 4,000 are Jeeps. Other transport equipment provided are buses, trucks, motorcycles, scooters, bicycles, fishing boats and outboard motors. Assisance and timely advices on vehicle maintenance and health enuipment repair are also being given.

UNICEF's assistance to India

Since 1949-73 period, UNICEF gave assistance to India amounted to $119,119,400. During the fifth plan period (1974-79), UNICEF expects to spend $56,800,000.

India is a member of UNICEF's 30 Nation Executive Board and has contributed to UNICEF's global resources since 1949. India pledged $1.21 million to UNICEF for 1976.

During 1975-76, Indians bought 1.3 million UNICEF's greeting cards and 6,350 calenders with gross proceeds adding up to Rs. 2.1 million ($236,506) placing India first in Sales in Asia. These funds are used to purchase equipment in India, provide stipends for training programme and for administrative costs.

International Year of the Child (IYC) 1979
A Year for the Child

On 21st December 1976, the General Assembly of the United Nations passed a Resolution declaring 1979 the International Year of the Child. Nearly 153 Governments have indicated their intention to participate in the year. The United Nations, by placing the Child in the Centre of world attention, invites the world community to renew and re-affirm its concern for the present condition and the future of its children. There are millions of children in the developing countries who lack even the

rudimentary necessities of life. This need not and should not be. Much that is practical can be done to bring these children into the stream of progress and enable them to participate fully in the development of their societies.

Children are the world's greatest resources. Investment in child's development is an investment in the future of a nation. A child of today is a citizen of tomorrow. Therefore the IYC should provide an opportunity to emphasize the intellectual, psychological and social development of children in addition to their physical welfare.

Since 1979 is the 20th Anniversary of the Declaration of the Rights of the child, IYC is an opportunity for each country to increase its efforts to implement those rights.

Fundamental needs of the Children

(a) UNICEF is looking after the basic needs of 360 million children in the world whereas more than half of them are residing in the disadvantaged, backward and slum areas.

(b) In some developing countries, 50% of all deaths occur among children under the age of 5.

(c) 80 million children are born in the developing countries each year, an estimated 5 million die and at least twice as many are disabled by diseases.

(d) 4/5th of the world's population living mainly in rural and poor urban areas has no access to any permanent form of child care.

(e) In the developing world, more than 1.2 billion people have no clean water supply, and over 1.4 million lack sanitary waste disposal facilities. Of these numbers, nearly half are children. The largest number of deaths due to water-related diseases occur among children under the age of 3.

(f) Only 62% of the children 6-11 years of age were attending school in the developing countries in 1975.

(g) An estimated 121 million primary school-age children throughout the developing world were out of school in 1975. Projections for 1985 predict an increase to 130 million.

(h) 30% of all children born in the developing countries die before the age of 5 from malnutrition and related diseases.

(i) Severe vitamin A deficiency is one of the major causes of blindness in young children leading to some 250,000 cases annually.

(j) Pregnant women and nursing mothers are another nutritionally vulnerable group. Dietary deficiencies during pregnancy and lactation harm both mother and infant.

(k) 156 million children under 15 are living in poor urban areas of the developing world. 60 million of these under the age of 5.

The purpose of the year

The IYC is concerned with all children in all countries especially young children. Its major aims are:—

(1) to encourage all countries, rich and poor, to review their programmes for the promotion of the well-being of the children, and to mobilize support for national and local action programmes according to each country's conditions, needs & priorities;

(2) to heighten awareness of children's special needs among decision-makers and the public;

(3) to promote recognition of the vital link between programmes for children on the one hand, and economic and social progress on the other;

(4) to spur specific practical measures—with achievable goals—to benefit children, in both the short and long term programmes at the national level.

Special attention should be devoted to particularly disadvantaged children. Among the most vulnerable group, for examples are: young girls where they receive unequal treatment; slum children; children of migrant workers; abused children, orphaned children; refugee children; children of unwed mothers; children in poor rural areas; children exposed to drugs and crime; physically and mentally handicapped children; and the vast numbers of children suffering from malnutrition.

IYC Secretariat

UNICEF has been designated as the 'Lead Agency' of the United Nations system responsible for promoting and coordinating the activities of the year. A special representative is appointed to IYC activities. This Secretariat encouraged the national activities by working with the Governments and National Commissions for the year, providing informational materials and other forms of assistance.

The Targets of IYC

If a nation is to become strong then it must keep its children happy and healthy .It should dedicate more resources to developing services for children. This increased effort is the target of IYC. It is hoped that governments will respond by increas-

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ICN NEWS

NEW NURSE ADVISER OF ICN

HEND Abdel-Al, Ph.D., R.N., has been appointed ICN Nurse Adviser. Formerly lecturer and head of the psychiatric nursing department, High Institute of Nursing, Cairo University, and Nurse Consultant to the Ministry of Health in Egypt, Dr. Abdel-Al joined the ICN headquarters staff in Geneva on May 1.

Hend Abdel-Al

Dr. Abdel-Al studied for her B.Sc. Nursing degree at the High Institute of Nursing, Alexandria University, Alexandria, Egypt and received her doctoral degree from Edinburgh University, United Kingdom, in 1975.

Among the positions held by Dr. Abdel-Al are those of junior lecturer, Alexandria University, and Cairo University, Egypt; research assistant, Nursing Research Unit, Edinburgh University, United Kingdom; and staff nurse, Royal Infirmary and Royal Edinburgh Hospital.

Dr. Abdel-Al has taught fundamentals of nursing and public health nursing as well as curriculum development, educational methodology, research methodolog, human relations and group dynamics, and psychiatric nursing for the Master's degree course.

At the ICN Congress in Tokyo, 1977, Dr. Abdel-Al was elected to the ICN Board of Directors, from which she has resigned to take up her staff appointment. Dr. Abdel-Al was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Egyptian Nursing Association. She is a member of the Society for Research into Higher Education in Great Britain.

Dr. Abdel-Al speaks Arabic, English and French.

DONORS TO THE TNAI PURSE

(Bhopal Conference) 1979

	Rs. ps.
*Chandigarh U.T. Branch	1001.00
*Governor of M.P. State	500.00
Members of H.O.D., Delhi Branch	101.00
Mr. N. K. Pillai	10.00
District Branch, Dhanbad	50.00
North-East Zone, TNAI	101.00
D.K. Hospital, Raipur	51.00
Miss M. N. Bhavsar, Ahmedabad	11.00
U.P. State Branch, TNAI	51.00
Kerala State Branch, TNAI	101.00
K.E.M. Hospital, Bombay	21.00
Gujarat State Branch, TNAI	51.00
Nurses of Bhopal	301.00
B.H.E.L. Hospital, Bhopal	101.00

*Promised money.

NOTICE

Miss Bobbili Susheela, A.N.M., Student, Saint Mary's Hospital, CSI, Khammam, A.P., has lost her ANM Certificate No. 1024, issued by the Board of Nursing Education Nurses League of CMAS India. Finder may kindly send the said Certificate to the Nursing Superintendent of the Institution.

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ing funds for children's programmes. IYC also hopes to achieve greater national and international support of services for children of developing countries.

Basic Services

350 million children in developing countries are still without minimum basic services in health care, nutrition, education and water supply. These basic services to the neediest children can be met by the low-cost ways where the Government Services are inadequate due to lack of funds. A village level worker can be chosen from a local community of a village and he can be trained to deliver simple basic services. The part of the funds raised for IYC could be put to use for these extension services.

Provision of basic services to need communities will go a long way towards improving the lives of children who are now struggling against hunger, disease, unhealthy surroundings, lack of educational services and overall neglect.

The Challenge of IYC

There is no sounder investment than the future of the child. The IYC is thus both a challenge and an opportunity. The achievement of its objectives will require the whole hearted support of Governments and organisations. But it will give the world a chance to show that intensified public and Government recognition of children's needs can lead to concrete action of immense and lasting benefit to the future of mankind. For where does the future lie if not in the well-being of today's children?

Mahatma Gandhi said, "Child is the father of the nation". If we survive the child and look for its basic needs in India and the Nation will survive by itself.