

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

The Administration strongly supports the maintenance of the increase in contributions to UNICEF by \$10 million to \$35 million for FY 1979, the International Year of the Child. UNICEF programs clearly meet the basic human needs approach and are aimed at the poorest children and mothers in the poorest areas of the poorest countries. On the basis of current program trends one can postulate that of the \$10 million increase, some \$3 million would go to child health projects, about \$1.6 million for clean water supply, and another \$1.6 million for education of children. The balance would be used for child nutrition, social services, country planning and project development, emergency situations, and program support and administration.

- \$3 million for health services, assuming the host country bears 2/3 of the cost, would give 1,500,000 children full immunization against a wide variety of diseases.
- \$1.6 million would provide safe drinking water for 100,000 children in the 0-5 age group in an Asian country.
- \$1.6 million for education could pay for the paper used to produce some 10 million textbooks for children.

In 1976, for example, UNICEF:

- provided technical supplies and equipment for some 33,600 health centers;
- provided assistance to clean water programs in 91 countries;
- helped expand applied nutrition programs in 43,700 villages;
- helped governments develop or "rediscover" appropriate technology for the villages;
- helped equip more than 68,000 primary schools, secondary schools and teacher-training institutions with modern teaching aids;

- provided training stipends to over 6,000 women and girls in child care, home crafts, and food preservation.

UNICEF funds are provided in response to priorities established by individual governments after discussion with UNICEF. The United States contribution goes to UNICEF's general resources which are allocated by the Executive Board to over 100 countries with the majority of the funds going to the least developed countries (LDC's) and to small countries with a child population under 500,000. On the average during 1970-1975, the LDC's received two to three times as much aid per child as other countries needing help. UNICEF's major fields of integrated basic services to children in developing countries cover maternal and child health, family planning, safe water, nutrition, formal and non-formal education, and social services.

Although the United States is the largest single contributor to UNICEF, other countries have given increasingly generously. Over the period 1968 to 1977, contributions from other governments rose more than five-fold, whereas the U.S. contribution was less than doubled.