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REPORT
ON
FIRST EVALUATION
OF
INTEGRATED PRE-SCHOOL FEEDING
PROGRAM
CRS - TUNISIA
GRANT AID / NE-G-1431

Nov. 1979

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FIRST EVALUATION OF THE INTEGRATED PRE-SCHOOL
FEEDING PROGRAM - TN - 7D 001
GRANT NO. AID/NE-G-1431

I. INTRODUCTION

A pre-school feeding program has been operating in Tunisia for a number of years, for which Food for Peace commodities from the United States of America have been provided.

Having begun as a Government to Government assisted program it was after some years of operation considered desirable to involve American voluntary agencies, active in Tunisia, in the program, with the purpose of increasing its effectiveness for the benefit of the children of Tunisia and their families.

An integrated project proposal was prepared by CARE-TUNISIA in 1976. At the proposal of USAID/Tunisia it was decided that responsibility for the execution of the Project should be divided between CARE and CRS, with CARE having responsibility for the Project in ten Governorates and CRS in eight Governorates of Tunisia. The Project was presented to the United States Government for funding.

This report concerns the part of the program undertaken by CRS.

Catholic Relief Services-USCC (hereafter called CRS) on August 31, 1977 was granted by the United States Agency for International Development, Washington (AID), the sum of U.S. \$ 425,320 (Four Hundred and Twenty Five Thousand and Three Hundred Twenty dollars) for the support of a three year integrated Pre-School Feeding Project.

The signing of the agreement between the Government of Tunisia and CRS was delayed until May 25, 1978. Only after that date could the Project become fully operational.

II. PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

The two main purposes of the Project are:

1. To improve the effectiveness of the pre-school feeding program, and
2. To integrate preventative health, sanitation, nutrition, mother and child care and domestic education within the existing program, over the course of three years.

III. TARGET GROUP OF BENEFICIARIES

The target group consists of:

1. Children in the three-six year age group, with 62,611 enrollees programmed in 1977.

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2. Mothers of these children, estimated at approximately 50,000,
3. Other mothers who wish to participate in the program activities, and their children of pre-school age,
4. Other members of the families, who will indirectly benefit from the program.

IV. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of the Project as outlined in the Grant document include the following activities:

1. Improvement of the effectiveness of the pre-school feeding program:
 - a) Improvement of the quality of meals served,
 - b) Furnishing and equipment of the Centers,
 - c) Improvement of the physical plant,
 - d) Analysis of dietary deficiencies for the purpose of providing nutritional supplements, principally through promotion of vegetable gardening.
 - e) Analysis of the commodity logistics system to avoid feeding interruptions and food wastage,
 - f) Monitoring and surveillance of feeding center operations.
2. Integration of environmental health and training for women:
 - a) Growth surveillance of children,
 - b) Immunization control,
 - c) Health assessment and referrals,
 - d) Health screening and Counseling of mothers,
 - e) Training of personnel,
 - f) Education of mothers in nutrition, hygiene and sanitation, child care and feeding.

V. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND SUPPORT

1. Description

Under the sponsorship of the National Committee for Social Solidarity (NCSS, or in French Comité National de Solidarité Sociale-CNSS) the pre-school feeding program is operating in 449 centers in Tunisia, of which 174 centers in eight Governorates, in cooperation with CRS, and the remaining 275 centers in ten Governorates, in cooperation with CARE Tunisia. Both agencies are expected to carry out similar programs, for which both agencies have received OPJ funds from AID.

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The 174 pre-school feeding centers operated with CRS assistance are located in the following Governorates:

Governorates	Nr. of Feeding Centers	Nr. of Children programmed
1. Nabeul	45	11,881
2. Sousse	21	9,645
3. Monastir	18	7,050
4. Mahdia	10	3,300
5. Kairouan	16	8,400
6. Kasserine	31	7,837
7. Gafsa	19	9,018
8. Sidi Bouzid	14	5,000
	<hr/> 174	<hr/> 52,611

The feeding centers remain open for four hours per day for six days per week. During the winter months the centers are open between 8 a.m. to noon, and in the summer months between 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Eligible for participation in the feeding program are needy children in the three to six year age group. The selection of beneficiaries is made by the local authorities, who are familiar with the economic situation of the families in their area of responsibility.

The meal provided to the children consists of a gruel made from Instant CornSoy Milk (ICSM), Soy-oil and sugar, and a piece of bread.

The aim is to include also food from local resources in the meal.

The interrelation of health and nutrition education calls for training of different categories of personnel. Social assistants under the Ministry of Social Affairs render assistance to the program. During visits to the homes of the beneficiaries they explain to the mothers the importance of the program. After instruction training the social assistants will assist in the training program for mothers. Public Health Nurses are expected to assist with the health surveillance of the children and the counseling of the mothers, especially those who are pregnant or nursing their children.

For the successful operation of the feeding centers emphasis has to be placed on training of center personnel and on supervision of work performance

* animatrices.

.../...

2. Program Support

The Pre-school feeding Project operates with support from the Governments of Tunisia and the United States of America, Several Ministries and agencies are involved in this program.

1. U.S. Agency for International Development

AID is providing funds for Project personnel, training of personnel, educational material, traveling expenditures and furnishings and equipment of the pre-school feeding centers.

2. National Committee for Social Solidarity

The NCSS is providing accomodation for the pre-school feeding operations. It is providing sugar for sweetening the gruel, equipment for the preparation of the food, fuel and cleaning agents.

The Committee engages and provides remuneration of center personnel and supervisory staff, NCSS also provides for the transportation of commodities, 10 % of Ocean freight warehousing in Tunis and in the Regions.

NCSS has responsibility for the inspection of the feeding program, it provides Governorate level project coordinators, under the direction of the Project Director, it is responsible for the coordination of Project activities among the various Ministries and agencies.

3. Ministry of Health

Within the limits of its budget, the Ministry is expected to provide adequate personnel at the Governorate level for the proper execution of the Project's health related activities, including inoculation and health education, based on its concurrence with the agreement between the Government of Tunisia and CRS.

4. Ministry of Social Affairs

Within the limits of its budget, the Ministry is providing personnel at the Governorate level for the execution of the nutrition and health education activities, based on its concurrence with the agreement between the Government of Tunisia and CRS.

5. National Institute of Nutrition

The Institute will provide the necessary personnel for nutrition related training activities both in Tunis and in the eight Governorates.

6. Catholic Relief Services

Commodities donated by the U.S. Government under its Food for Peace program are being provided through CRS.

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During the period of this agreement CRS will seek to import up to 8,000 metric tons of food commodities to be used for the pre-school feeding program.

CRS provides administrative support at Headquarters, Regional and local levels.

3. Project Personnel

The Project plan calls for the services of one project director, one nutrition educator, one secretary and four regional coordinators, in addition to local personnel at regional and center levels, social assistants and public health nurses and staff at the pre-school feeding centers.

Since the beginning of the OPG Project, Mr. Mohsen Turki has served as Project Director, after having been engaged by CRS/Tunisia in April 1977 to assist during the pre-project planning stage.

Mr. Mohammed Khabcheche joined CRS as nutritionist in April 1977. He remained with CRS until April 1978, after also having been involved in the planning stage of the Project.

During the summer of 1978 two nutritionists from the National Institute of Nutrition were attached to the Project for a period of 1½ month, for the purpose of making a survey of the pre-school feeding center facilities.

Mr. Daly Belgasmi, who had been attached to the CRS sponsored Nutrition Project in Morocco, joined the Project as Nutritionist on September 1, 1978.

Four coordinators were engaged in January 1979 to serve between 30-50 centers each, depending upon location of centers and distance to be travelled.

During the summer of 1979 four newly graduated nutritionists from the National Institute of Nutrition under the direction of Mrs. Samia Belgasmi, CRS Tunisia Nutritionist assisted with a social survey, carried out in the eight Governorates with a CRS sponsored feeding program.

Mrs. Belgasmi gives part time services to the Project as need arises.

The Project has the services of a bi-lingual secretary.

Supporting services are provided by CRS Program Director and Staff in Tunisia.

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VI. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Grant document includes an implementation plan as a guide for activities to be accomplished during months 1-6; 7-18; 19-30 and 31-36.

As the effective date of the Grant is August 31, 1977, November 1979, when this evaluation was begun, would be the 27th month.

The Government of Tunisia did not sign the agreement with CRS for the operation of the Project, until May 25, 1978. Thus the Project did not become operational until that date. Counting June 1978 as the first month of operation, November 1979 would be the 18th month of the Project.

For all practical purposes it seems logical to use the latter alternative as basis for assessment of accomplishments to date, that should coincide with the activities included in the implementation plan for the first 18 months of the Project.

A review of the proposed and the actual activities during the pre-project planning period and the first 18 months of the Project follows:

Pre-Project Planning Period

As stated in the Grant document:

The baseline data for the improvement of the pre-school feeding program will be developed.

Suggestions were drawn up for the collection of baseline data, during fieldtrips to the various centers in the eight Governorates covered by CRS.

These data should provide information on center facilities and conditions, furnishings and equipment, with consideration to their adequacy for:

- a) the pre-school feeding program activities, and
- b) the health screening and health education activities.

Emphasis was placed on the former aspect, the pre-school feeding program, as hardly any center at that time could be utilized for the latter aspect, that of health screening and health education.

Reviews of logistic problems, record keeping practices, and reporting systems served as bases for program planning.

Observations of center operations, methods of preparation and serving of food, prevailing sanitary conditions and storage of commodities provided the bases for a plan of action.

.../...

A 10 day seminar in Food Storage and Management was held in Tunis in March 1978 by a team from the Grain and Food Storage Institute, Kansas State University.

Six OPG and CRS staff members concerned with food storage and warehousing participated in this seminar.

Months 1-6

Activities to include:

1) Evaluation of pre-project survey baseline data, to cover:

i. Development of improved logistics, reporting and record keeping systems,

This aspect has been accomplished, and will continue to be improved as found necessary.

ii. Plans for center renovations/replacements and augmentation of equipment

This aspect was accomplished.

2) Development of recipe variations and an evaluation of locally produced food input potentials.

These two aspects were not dealt with. Priority was given to the improvement of methods of preparation of the ICSM gruel. A palatable gruel was considered more important than the introduction of some new recipes.

Due to limitations in staff it was not possible to make any assessment of locally food input potentials.

3) Surveys of the types and frequency of medical care normally available to families of feeding enrollees, and of the numbers of mothers who have/had environmental health education.

No such surveys could be made during this time period. Any survey concerned with the status of mothers education can only be accomplished when the mothers become enrolled in an educational program.

4) Preparation of training seminars for the field personnel, including the public health nurses, social assistants, and NCSS regional personnel.

There was no preparation of training seminars for public health nurses. At the early stages of the Project their involvement in the Project activities was not defined and cleared by the health authorities.

.../...

Preparations were made for a seminar for Ministry of Social Affairs and NCSS personnel.

Two persons connected with warehousing of commodities for feeding programs, one from NCSS and one from CRS/Tunisia participated in a 2½ months course in Grain Storage and Marketing at Kansas State University in 1978.

5) Design and production of educational materials.

Combined blackboards/flannelboards were designed and made.

Discussions with the National Institute of Nutrition about printing of posters similar to those used in Morocco were begun and continues to be held.

6) An evaluation of the foregoing activities in the final month.

This was not accomplished adequately. Assessment of progress is made by the staff, but not a formal evaluation with comparison of achievements with the implementation schedule.

Months 7-18

1) Training seminars for the social workers will be held.

No training Seminars were held for social workers .

One 3-day seminar was held with the participation of 25 representatives of the Ministry of Social Affairs.

2) Organizational courses for the PHNs will be scheduled.

This has not been done, of the same reason that no plans therefore could be prepared during months 1-6.

3) Orientation of NCSS regional and center responsibilities will take place

25 persons from NCSS participated in the 3-day seminar, together with personnel from the Ministry of Social Affairs, as mentioned above.

The orientation of NCSS personnel at headquarters, regional and local levels has been an ongoing process from the commencement of the Project and continues to be so. Much emphasis and time is being devoted to this important aspect of the program.

4) Initiation of health screening and environmental health education.

This has not yet been attempted. The centers must be in a satisfactory condition before these activities can begin.

.../...

5) Field trials of feeding program recipes

Emphasis has been placed on the proper preparation of the gruel and the proper quantities per beneficiary. Additions of spices have been made in some areas.

The improvement in methods of preparation of the gruel are considered of primary importance. The writer concurs.

6) Promotion of locally produced food inputs to the feeding program.

This has not yet been attempted, due to limitation of staff and need to concentrate on other aspects of the program, such as the improvement of center facilities, equipment and furnishings, and the supervision of the center operation.

7) Initiation of logistical and reporting improvement.

This has been accomplished. Further improvements will be initiated as found necessary.

8) Equipping and renovating the feeding centers.

This aspect has been considered the first priority. Only by accomplishing this first, could other aspects of the Project be tackled with any degree of success. So far about 75-80 % of the centers have been improved, rebuilt or relocated. About 50 % of the centers have received furnishings and about 90 % of the centers equipment necessary for preparation and serving of a gruel. Equipment for the remaining centers have been procured but not yet distributed.

In accomplishing these improvements the OPG staff can only move as fast as made possible by the actions undertaken by NCSS and its regional and local representatives.

9) Surveys scheduled for months 1-6 that were not held during that period to some extent have been accomplished during this time period.

A social survey conducted in July 1979 provided some data about medical facilities available to the families.

10) At month 9 the PCV couples will be inserted.

The plans for assigning Peace Corps Volunteers to work with the Project was rejected by the Government of Tunisia. Instead four Tunisian coordinators were appointed to oversee the program in the eight Governorates.

The regional authorities of NCSS have appointed eight controllers with responsibility for pre-school feeding operations.

This involvement of Tunisian Nationals is an added asset to the program and its continuation upon the termination of the AID supported Project.

.../...

- 11) At approximately month 10, 11 or 12 an offshore nutrition education consultant will review the project progress, its directions, and aid in formulating further planning.

This was not done during this time period. The Project had not progressed to such an extent that such a visit would have been timely and useful.

During the present visit of CRS Regional Nutrition Advisor these aspects are being dealt with.

- 12) The final month of the period will include an evaluation of progress

This evaluation is now being accomplished.

Future Plans

As indicated in the implementation plan of the Grant document the activities begun during the first 18 months of the Project will be continued and full implementation of center renovation accomplished.

The month 18 evaluation report and the constant monitoring findings will be used to modify the program where warranted.

All centers are expected to be adequately furnished and equipped for the purpose of the feeding operations.

Health surveillance and training programs will be given emphasis during the remaining period of the Grant.

VI. ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

A. Improvement of the Effectiveness of the Pre-School Feeding Program

In assessing the progress made, credit must be given to CRS counterpart agency, the National Committee for Social Solidarity and its regional representatives and staff for their contribution to the Project, without which the Project would have had little chance of success.

Since the beginning of CRS involvement in the pre-school feeding program N C S S has increased its contribution to the program considerably.

The activities undertaken by CRS in cooperation with NCSS include the following:

1. Warehousing and transport of commodities

One new warehouse has been constructed by NCSS in Kasserine in 1979. Another warehouse is under construction in Sidi Bouzid. There are also plans for the construction of a new warehouse in Mahdia during 1980, on land donated by the municipality.

.../...

Much improvement in the transportation of commodities has occurred. In 1977 the commodities provided through CRS were transported from the warehouse in Tunis to the regional warehouses and from there to local warehouses, before being moved to centers operating a feeding program.

This procedure has now been changed. As the local warehouses were in a very bad state, these are no longer being used for the program. The commodities are being transferred from the regional warehouses directly to the feeding centers.

To facilitate the transportation of the commodities the NCSS has provided two five-ton trucks to two of the Governorates that had no large trucks. NCSS has provided each one of the eight Governorates with a canvas covered pick-up truck for the sole purpose of transporting commodities for the OPG Project. These trucks bring the food from the Regional warehouses to the centers. Up to now the Regional Committees of NCSS (CRSS) have made arrangements for drivers for these transports. Drivers will be hired in 1980 specially for the purpose of transporting the commodity for the program. Provision for this has been included in NCSS budget for 1980.

2. Monitoring and surveillance of the feeding program

NCSS has responsibility for the inspection of the feeding program. Only a limited amount of inspection was being carried out in 1977. Since then the Regional Committees of NCSS (CRSS) have appointed one controller with responsibility for the pre-school feeding program, for each one of the eight Governorates.

These controllers visit the centers frequently, on an average each center once or twice per month.

CRSS local administrators visit the centers occasionally.

Since January 1979 four coordinators have been employed by NCSS to supervise the pre-school feeding program. These coordinators are working under the direction of and responsible to the OPG Project Director. Their remuneration is partly provided by NCSS and partly by CRS.

Before assuming their responsibilities, the coordinators were given pre-service training by the OPG staff. Four weeks in January 1979 were spent in the OPG office discussing project aims, management procedures and techniques, record keeping and documentation, nutrition, food preparation and storage, hygiene and sanitation. This training session was continued for two weeks together with Mr. Tulki and one week with Mr Belgasmi. (in the field)

One of the appointed coordinators left at the beginning of the training program and another after five months of service. For the benefit of their replacements some of the training had to be repeated. The newly appointed / coordinators

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were given an opportunity to work together with the others before assuming their duties.

The four coordinators are assigned to the following Governorates:

- One coordinator for Nabeul with 45 pre-school feeding centers,
- One coordinator for Sousse, Monastir and Mahdia, with altogether 49 centers,
- One coordinator for Kairouan and Sidi Bouzid with 30 centers, and
- One coordinator for Gafsa and Kasserine with altogether 50 centers.

Each one of the coordinators has an OPG provided car at his disposal. The coordinators work three weeks in the field and the fourth week of the month in the OPG office. During that week the cars are being serviced and any necessary repairs made.

The roles of the four coordinators are quite extensive, they have to discuss needs for changes and improvements of center facilities and operations with NCSS representatives at the Regional level, the C R S S administrators and staff, as well as with the OPG Project Director and Nutritionist.

3. Improvement of the Physical Plant

An important aspect of the program is the improvement of the centers where the feeding program is in operation. NCSS has undertaken a number of steps to improve the physical plant.

In 1977, only about 20% of the 174 centers were adequate in size, for their purpose. In 1979, about 90% of the centers are spacious enough for the purpose of preparing and serving a light meal to the children beneficiaries. To be more specific, in 1977, about 140 centers were too small to accommodate the registered children, and the work to be carried out at the center, i.e. the preparation of the meal, serving of the meal, washing of the dishes, keeping of records and storage of food and equipment. Only about 34 centers were large enough for these activities. In 1979, between 150 and 160 centers are considered large enough for the purpose of feeding the enrolled children.

In 1977, 107 of the 174 centers had only one room for the operation, 53 centers had two rooms, 12 centers had three rooms and two centers were closed.

Of the 174 centers, 132 have been enlarged, rebuilt or transferred to other buildings since 1977. 65 centers have two rooms and 22 centers have three rooms for the program, only 87 centers and one annexe have one room. These changes have been affected by NCSS, in collaboration with the regional and local authorities and with the OPG staff.

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In 1977, 43 of the centers had a courtyard or patio which could help to relieve the congestion. 129 of the centers lacked a courtyard or patio. There are now 76 centers with a courtyard or patio. The remaining 98 centers have no such facility.

To be considered satisfactory the centers need not only to be large enough, but also to be provided with windows, that let in light and air. Without windows, the centers tend to become damp and unhealthy for both children and workers.

In 1977, 112 centers had no daylight, they were cold and damp. In November 1979 the number had been reduced to 42 centers without daylight.

Only 58 centers had electric light in 1977. There are now 100 centers with electricity installed.

Water is an important amenity for the sanitary operations of the centers. In 1977, no less than 112 of the 174 centers lacked the convenience of pipe borne water in the center or compound. In 1979, there are still 95 centers lacking this convenience. 28 centers have now access to water in the vicinity of the center. There were 35 centers in that category in 1977, seven of which have now moved to the previous category, with access to water in the center or compound. Of 20 centers, that in 1977 depended upon water, that had to be carried from a distance of up to three km, at least half of that number, or ten centers have now access to water from a reservoir at a lesser distance.

It has to be noted that the problem of water is not peculiar to the centers. Lack of an adequate water supply affects many villages.

Of the 174 centers, 42 are still in need of some improvements. Of these, 35 centers are expected to be in a satisfactory condition early in 1980. The coordinators are presently working with the Regional Representatives of NCSB to ensure that the necessary improvements are made to the remaining centers.

Seven centers are now considered beyond repair. A decision needs to be made whether to close them or find some other solution.

4. Equipment and furnishings.

The equipment and furnishing of the centers left much to be desired in 1977. Only 2 % of the centers were adequately equipped and furnished for the pre-school feeding program. About 20 % of the centers had the minimum amount of equipment necessary for the preparation of the food for the children. Furnishings are lacking.

.../...

Equipment

Equipment considered essential for the pre-school feeding program operation, include :

- 1 two-burner gas stove (without oven) or primus stoves
- 2-3 large pots (15-20 liter capacity),
- 1 medium size pot (5-8 liter capacity)
- 2 large plates for holding whisk and other equipment used in the preparation of the gruel,
- 2 wash basins (10 liter capacity)
- 2 water buckets (10 liter capacity)
- Bowls or cups for serving the gruel.
- Table spoons and some desertspoons for the smaller children,
- 1 bread knife,
- 1 whisk,
- 1 wooden stirrer,
- 1 measure for oil,
- 1 measure for ICS¹,
- 1 measure for sugar,
- Containers for sugar and ICS M

Of the 174 centers, 73 had gas stoves and 50 had primus stoves in 1977. There are now 113 centers with a gas stove and 61 with a primus stove.

A scarcity of gas stoves in Tunisia has so far prevented the procurement of a sufficient number of gas stoves and especially of two-burner gas stoves. With only one-burner gas stoves or primus stoves in a center, it becomes difficult to heat enough water for the washing of dishes. This is a problem that needs urgent attention.

Most of the essential equipment has now been procured by NCSB. Some of the equipment has not yet been delivered to the centers.

The need for an adequate supply and use of soap and other cleaning agents requires attention.

Furnishings

There was an almost total lack of furnishings in the centers in 1977.

With funds allocated to the OPG Project, essential furnishings are now procured locally and provided to those centers that can satisfactorily operate the program.

The following items of furnishings are being provided for each one of the centers :

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- 5 tables for large centers, 2 tables for small centers ; each table with space for 14 children,
- 4 benches for each table, thus accomodating 70 children at each sitting in the large centers, and 28 children in the small centers,
- 1 large demonstration table,
- 1 desk with drawer,
- 1 small table to hold the scale for the weighing of the children,
- 1 wooden pallet of a size that will accomodate the ICSM and sugar sacks.

These locally procured furnishings appear to be well made, sturdy and attractive. It has been noticed, however, that some of them have already been damaged in the transport from Tunis to the centers or while in use.

By November 1979, 88 centers, or 50 % of the total number of centers had been provided with eating tables, benches, desks and tables for scales, 50 centers had received a demonstration table, 87 centers had received wooden pallets.

In addition to the furnishings being provided through CRS, there is need for a work bench or table, a chair, and a base on which to place the gas stove or the primus stove. This would help to protect the worker from having to stoop while stirring the gruel and protect his clothing from the fire.

Of the 86 centers that have not been furnished, 43 centers have already been improved and are ready to receive furnishings, as soon as these become available. Arrangements for the making of these furnishings have been made with the same carpentry shop that provided the first lot of furnishings. Only after a down payment of 50 % of the cost could work on these items begin. CRS/Tunisia request for authorization to go ahead with the procurement of these items was granted in early December 1979. It is anticipated that the 43 centers that are now ready could be furnished before the end of 1979 or early 1980.

Approval for the purchase of furnishings for the remaining centers should now be sought.

Thus of the 174 centers, 50 % or 88 centers are now considered adequate for the operation of the pre-school feeding program; an additional 25 are expected to be in that same category before the end of 1979 or early 1980.

Appendix 1 shows the number of centers per Governorate, furnished, ready to be furnished, and not yet ready to be furnished.

.../...

Other Items

A number of items have been procured for the purpose of education and training of personnel and of mothers. These items include for each one of the centers, one scale and one measuring rod for the weighing and measuring of the children, and one locally made blackboard/flannelboard. These items will be distributed to the centers as soon as the educational program will begin.

Other items procured with Grant funds include :

- Three slide projectors,
- Seventeen filmstrip/slide projectors,
- One film projector - 16 mm,
- Seventeen screens,
- One camera with flash,
- Seventeen tape recorders.

Weight and height charts have been designed and are ready for printing.

Plans are under way to print posters similar to the "Ahmed and Rachid" posters used in Morocco.

5. Center Operations

a) Personnel

In 1977, the majority of the centers, or at least 95 of the 174 centers had only one person employed for the feeding program. The other centers had two persons employed. Some of the workers were hardly suitable for the job. 15 % of the workers were over 60 years of age, 52 % were between 40 and 60 years, 30 % between 20 and 40 years, and 2 % under 20 years of age.

In 1977, about 32 % of the center personnel were illiterate. 52 % had primary education and 16 % secondary education.

Changes in personnel has had the result that in 1979, only 5 % are above 60 years of age. 52 % are between 40 and 60 years, 40 % between 20 and 40 years and 2 % under 20 years of age.

In 1979, about 22 % of the workers at the centers are illiterate, 52 % have primary education and 26 % secondary education. This is a marked improvement, though further changes in personnel are needed.

Most centers are still served by only one worker. This is expected to change in 1980, as NCSS has included in its budget for 1980 remuneration for two workers per center. At those centers where one worker is illiterate, the other worker must be literate.

.../...

b) Center Management

A register of participants and a record of commodities received, utilized and in stock are being kept at each center.

The register of participants includes the name, number and age of each beneficiary. The attendance is marked each day of operation. Such registers existed in 1977, but were found to be wrongly filled out in 90 % of the centers. The inability and lack of interest in maintaining good records is now changing. There continues to be need for improvements. By November 1979 it was estimated that the registers were fairly correct in about 80 % of the centers. It has, however, been noticed that some of the center staff tend to tick off each registered child every day., whether present or not. With a large number of registered children at a center and only one worker, it is hardly possible to search out the name or the number of each child upon arrival.

Plans are under way to simplify the register to make it easier for the staff to complete.

The card that each child beneficiary has received has squares for each day for a period of three months. The appropriate square should be marked at each visit to the center. Children often lose their cards. Some other method for checking eligibility is being sought.

According to the plan of operation only children in the three to six year age group are eligible to participate in the pre-school feeding program.

In 1977, many of those participating in the program were above six years of age (up to 50 % in some of the centers, according to Project staff).

To rectify this situation birth certificates are being required, to ensure that the child is within the three to six year age limit.

About 50 % of the participating children have provided birth certificates. The remaining 50 % have been requested to obtain certificates, for which they are expected to pay a fee. Now attempts are being made by the Regional representatives of the NCSS to get the authorities to provide the necessary certificates free of charge. It is, however, recognized that the accuracy of birth certificates in some cases is doubtful.

Even though certificates are not always available, it is rather certain that the age-limit is now being better adhered to.

.../...

The omission of those who are over six years old, and the transfer of centers to new locations have resulted in a decline in attendance. So has also restrictions imposed upon the beneficiaries, such as no bread being provided, if the ICSH gruel is not consumed.

As parents become aware of the value of the Gruel, sometimes communicated to them during home visits by a social worker, it is anticipated that the number of participants will increase.

A matter of concern is the decision to restrict the program to the three to six year age group. The PMI (Protection Maternelle Infantile-MCH) centers cater to children from birth to their second birthday. As the children can become eligible for participation in the pre-school feeding program only at the age of three years, the two to three year old are not catered for, though they belong to the most vulnerable age group.

While in practice the PMI centers accept children above two years of age, there is no obligation for them to do so. It would be justified to include also the two to three year old in the feeding program.

There is a marked difference between the programmed number of children, those registered or enrolled in the program and the actual number of daily participants.

The following table, though incomplete, gives an idea about these differences.

Governorate	Nr of Feeding centers	Number of Children			Percentage of	
		Programmed in 1977	Registered in 1977	Participating in Sept. 1979	Programmed children (a) participating in Sept. 1979	Registered children (b) participating in Sept. 1979
		a	b	c	d	e
1. Nabeul	45	11,331	10,372	7,028	59	67
2. Sousse	21	9,645	8,154	5,384	61	72
3. Monastir	18	7,030	6,265	2,871	40	45
4. Mahdia	10	3,800	2,685	1,286	42	48
5. Kairouan	16	8,400	7,750	4,841	57	61
6. Kasserine	31	7,837	6,530	7,106	91	109
7. Gafsa	19	9,018	6,312	5,153	57	80
8. Sidi Bouzid	14	5,000	4,316	1,826	36	42
TOTAL	174	62,611	52,384	35,995	57	68

It is well recognized that the number of beneficiaries is apt to change constantly, children leaving the program when no longer eligible, and other children joining the program, and due to the closing of some centers, and the opening of new centers in other localities.

.../...

The difference, however, between the programmed and the actual number of children benefitting from the pre-school feeding program and the difference between the eight Governorates in the percentage of eligible children actually participating in the program should be looked into by the OPG staff.

The centers are scheduled to remain open for four hours per day for six days per week. This schedule was not adhered to in 1977. Many centers were open only two or three hours per day. Now the centers remain open as scheduled.

c) Food Preparation

The preparation of the ICSM gruel was often found unsatisfactory in an estimated 85 % of the centers in 1977. The quantity of ingredients used per child was often incorrect and the quality of the gruel poor, often lumpy, with oil floating on top, and sometimes infested, due to unsatisfactory storage of commodities.

The bread, the most favoured part of the meal, was handed out, sometimes in large and sometimes in much smaller pieces. Many children who did not care to eat the gruel, anyhow, received the bread.

By now there is an apparent difference in the preparation of the ICSM gruel. The correct amount per child is being used. The preparation of the gruel is satisfactory in an estimated 30 % of the centers.

The recipe to be followed include the following ingredients per child :

- 35 grammes of ICSM ;
- 2 grammes of sugar - provided by NCCS ;
- 10 grammes of oil ;
- Spices, such as cinnamon or vanilla sometimes added.

In none of the 36 centers visited by the writer were spices added, of no detriment to the children.

The children seem to enjoy eating the gruel (even without any spices added). In most cases they receive the piece of bread only after having consumed the gruel. In some centers the bread is given out together with the gruel. The children are dipping the bread in the gruel. This assures that the children eat the bread themselves, do not lose it, or give it to somebody else on way home.

.../...

The bread is baked by a village baker. 100 grammes of flour is allocated per child beneficiary per day.

No attempts have so far been made to include any locally produced foods in the meal. Funds for the purchase of such foods would have to be sought, either from the local authorities or from the people in the community. This is a matter for discussions with the authorities. Whether the parents may be willing and able to contribute in cash or kind will have to be determined when the educational program starts. During visits to a great number of centers the writer became aware of the extreme poverty of the people in some of the rural areas, where poor soil conditions and lack of water hamper agricultural development. The poorly clothed children had the "grey look of poverty". Thus it is unrealistic to expect their parents to be able to contribute any food or money to the feeding program.

Development of alternative uses of the ICSM has not yet been tackled. This is a matter of low priority. There is no harm in serving the same type of gruel, provided it is well prepared, every day of the week.

A pictorial description of the method of preparing the ICSM gruel was available in some centers already in 1977. According to this description the water to be used for the gruel must have been boiled for 10 minutes the previous day. This is a good practice.

Though ICSM is pre-cooked, the ICSM gruel should always be brought to the boiling point. This makes the gruel more palatable. The description of the product as "instant" is sometimes interpreted as there being no need for boiling the gruel. This is a matter for discussion with the center staff.

An improved set of pictorial descriptions should be prepared, with text in Arabic and not only in French, as on the present posters.

d) Storage of Commodities

It was evident in 1977 that little attention was paid to the proper storage of the commodities. There were no pallets available on which to place the sacks. New supplies were being used before the old stock was finished. Heavily infested commodities were sometimes used for making the gruel, even without first sifting the ICSM to remove the bugs.

The commodities were often stored together with a lot of other items.

.../...

This deplorable situation has now been drastically changed. Pallets have been provided to 50 % of the centers, and will be provided to the remaining centers as soon as ready. The sacks of ICSM are now stacked with space between the sacks, the ceiling and the walls, to provide for circulation of air.

During visits to a number of centers infested ICSM was noticed only in a few centers.

e) Sanitation

The sanitary conditions were rated as poor in 95 % of the centers in 1977. Improvements have now been effected in an estimated 50 % of the centers.

The lack of water, and the absence of hot water for dishwashing and the limited use of dishwashing detergent still present serious problems that need immediate attention.

The oil in the gruel and the use of plastic bowls make it difficult to clean the dishes without the use of hot water. Some arrangements need to be worked out, to be able to heat water, even when there is only a one-burner stove. Suggestions for a feasible method is being discussed with the OPG staff.

f) Summary

The comparison of the center operations in 1977 and in 1979, as under points a) to d) above, refers to one aspect of the OPG Project, the pre-school feeding program, and in particular to the serving of a gruel of ICSM and a piece of bread.

The description of center facilities and their adequacy for the program does not cover the requirements for the possible expansion of the feeding program to include additional food items, such as locally produced legumes and vegetables. Additional equipment would be required for that purpose, e.g. a masher, smaller pots, mixing bowls and storage containers.

B. Integration of Environmental Health and Training

1) Growth Surveillance

Periodic weighing of the children and measuring of their height for comparison with Harvard Standard of weight for age and height for age should serve as a means of determining growth progress and provide an indication of the children's health status.

.../...

Height and Weight charts have been designed for use in the program. These charts will be given to the mothers to keep at home until the next visit to the center. As in other CRS-sponsored pre-school programs the charts are to be used as educational tools in the training of mothers.

While there are definite advantages in measuring both weight and height of the children, it must be recognized that the recording of both weight and height increases the workload of the staff. It also necessitates considerable efforts in explaining two growth curves to the mothers, that of height and weight. It is doubtful that the mothers will easily understand the difference between the two curves. The effectiveness of the charts as educational tools may be diminished by the introduction of two sets of measurements. Whether this would be the case should be tested at some of the pilot centers before a great number of charts are printed.

So far no weighing or measuring of the children has taken place. There are many valid reasons for this, such as the unsatisfactory and unsanitary conditions of the centers in the early stages of the Project, and the need for the OPG staff to concentrate their activities to the improvement of the feeding program.

Growth surveillance needs to be carried out over a period of time to be able effectively to demonstrate progress and to interpret this to mothers. This is a matter of considerable urgency.

It is therefore suggested that an attempt be made to start the weighing and the measuring of the children early in 1980, even before the training programs for the mothers are due to begin. This will require the cooperation of social assistants and public health nurses. As it hardly will be possible for them at this time to record on the charts the children's weight and height, these could be entered into a ledger and later transferred to the growth charts.

As the centers are unheated the weighing would have to be carried out late in the morning or early afternoon.

As happens in other places with a similar climate, the difficulties in undressing the children will make the weighing less accurate. Estimates of the weight of the clothing will have to be made during each season.

2) Immunizations

An immunization program has not yet been introduced into the program. As soon as health screening of the children can begin, their inoculations will be checked, those not vaccinated against common ..

.../...

childhood diseases will be referred to the Health Center or dispensary, alternatively, arrangements will be made for a nurse to visit the centers to administer the inoculations. New enrollees in the pre-school feeding program will be required to have the necessary vaccinations before being accepted into the program.

The number of referrals or inoculations made at the centers as part of the pre-school feeding program will be recorded as also the type of vaccinations administered.

3. Health Assessment and Referrals

The occasional presence of a nurse at the feeding centers will provide an opportunity for the observation of the general status of the health of the children and any signs of ill health, that warrant referral to a health facility for medical examination and treatment.

Records of these observations will give an indication of existing problems and serve as a basis for future comparison with the children's health status and progress made.

It would be of interest and value if records could be kept of children's illnesses and degree of severity, parasitic infestation, attacks of diarrhea and mortality.

The extent to which health screening can be carried out by the nurses at the pre-school feeding centers will have to be determined in cooperation with the local health authorities and subject to discussions with the personnel to be involved in this program. Orientation seminars need to be planned for nurses at the beginning of 1980.

4. Health Screening of Mothers

The inclusion in the project plan of "pre-and post natal counseling and examination for mothers and their new-born" has been interpreted, also by the writer, as an activity that was going to take place at the pre-school feeding centers.

This was apparently not the intention of the originator of the project proposal. The feeding centers were meant to provide an opportunity for contact with public health nurses and for referral of mothers in need of medical attention to appropriate health facilities.

So far this aspect of the program has not yet begun, of the same reasons as mentioned earlier - the conditions of the centers, other priority needs.

.../...

As soon as collaboration with the local health authorities has been established public health nurses are expected to pay occasional visits to the various centers. Contact with the mothers at the centers can only be established when the training courses for mothers have begun.

Counseling of mothers, especially those who are pregnant and nursing will be part of the educational program. Follow-up visits to the homes of the mothers by nurses and social assistants will provide an opportunity for further counseling of the mothers.

5. Education of Mothers

An educational program for mothers of children participating in the pre-school feeding Program, as well as for other mothers desirous of instructions, is an important aspect of the program, that has not yet been started.

Again, there is great urgency to start classes for mothers to enable them to receive the basics of health and nutrition education.

It is anticipated that a series of 24 lessons will include subjects such as the care and feeding of children, the importance of breastfeeding and proper weaning foods, the preparation and use of locally available low-cost foods of high nutritional value, dietary needs during pregnancy and lactation, the feeding of the sick child, the importance of hygiene and sanitation.

These lessons ought to be accompanied by practical demonstrations for which no provisions have been made in the project plan. This should be provided for, in the event that an extension of the Project will be granted.

Mothers are scheduled to attend classes once a month. It would take two years for them to complete the series of 24 lessons and many would no longer have children in the feeding program.

With 18 of the 36 months of the Project period gone, there would be no possibility for the mothers to complete the whole series of lessons within this project period.

Consideration should be given to the holding of classes every other week for a period of twelve months. It would even be preferable if weekly classes could be held.

.../...

The enrollment of mothers, who have never been accustomed to participate in any training program for adults will be a slow process, requiring much persuasion. It would be unfortunate if the efforts would be curtailed due to lack of time.

To be able to measure the impact of the training program and the extent to which mothers are able to practice in their own homes what they have been taught, changes in their dietary and child-feeding practices and behaviour needs to be recorded.

The social survey undertaken by CRS in 1979, gives some indication about practices that need to be changed or improved, such as abrupt weaning, introduction of bottlefeeding, lack of suitable food supplements and of weaning foods..

The extent to which these practices change and improve will serve as an indication of the effect of the training program.

Changes in child feeding practices may also indicate whether the pre-school feeding program is achieving the desired effect. At the time of enrollment the practice of having a breakfast in the morning or not may be recorded and followed-up at intervals to assess the extent to which the children have the benefit of a breakfast at home on Sundays and holidays when the feeding centers remain closed. It would also be of interest to find out whether former enrollees, who have reached six years of age are getting the benefit of a morning meal at home- and before going to school.

6. Training of Personnel

The training of personnel for the program needs to be undertaken at different levels :

1. Orientation programs for public health nurses and social assistants to discuss the aims of the program and to ensure coordination of efforts and a unified approach in the instruction of the mothers.

Such orientation programs, that have not yet been held, need to be scheduled for early 1980, to facilitate the introduction of the other health related aspects.

2. Seminars for social workers (animatrices) and other personnel to be engaged for the training of mothers. These seminars should provide a review of the content of the courses to be given to the mothers and methods of education.

The scope of the program will have to depend upon the participants previous level of training in nutrition and related subjects.

.../...

Wherever personnel now working in the pre-school feeding centers, would have the capacity for training in health and nutrition, they should be given an opportunity to participate in a training seminar. Their availability in the community and their contact with the children would be of great advantage to the program. This would be of special importance in areas where there is no social worker available for the program.

These seminars also need to be organized in the beginning of 1980.

The remuneration of additional personnel, not already employed, will require funds, not budgeted for by NCSS or any other department or agency. This is a problem that needs to be solved.

3. Training of personnel attached to the pre-school feeding centers has begun on an individual basis, during supervisory visits of OPG staff, coordinators and controllers. This training should be augmented by short courses at which special consideration should be given to weaknesses in work performance, enabling the staff to discuss their needs and problems and share experiences with each other.

To carry out all these training programs successfully will require much time and effort. It can hardly be achieved with the present number of staff.

In the project plan enough attention was not given to the need for adequately trained personnel to carry out the educational programs in the field, and neither to the need for training of personnel for this work.

A much needed extension of the Project should facilitate the training of trainers.

VIII. Other Activities.

The Pre-school feeding Project benefits from the presence in Tunisia of a National Institute of Nutrition. Close collaboration exists between the Institute and the OPG Project staff, who received their professional training at the Institute of Nutrition.

One of the Nutrition Institute students has prepared her thesis on the pre-school feeding program in Tunisia. Two more students are expected to prepare their thesis in connection with the pre-school feeding and nutrition education program, one dealing with education in nutrition and the other with the nutritional status of children in the pre-school centers in Central Tunisia.

.../...

Discussions have been held with the Chief Nutritionist at the Institute of Nutrition, about the use of "Ahmed and Rachid" posters developed and used in Morocco. Dr. Z. Kallal, Director of the Institute of Nutrition participated in these discussions.

Two Nutrition Institute staff members conducted a survey of the pre-school centers on behalf of CRS in 1978.

Plans for a social survey to be carried out by CRS were first discussed with the Nutrition Institute staff.

The social survey was carried out in 1979 with the assistance of four newly graduated Nutritionists from the Institute, together with CRS staff.

An International conference on Mass-Media education, organised in 1978, by the Institute Of Educational Development, Washington, in collaboration with the Nutrition Institute, was attended by the OPG Project Director.

A meeting on Nutrition in Primary Health care, organised by WHO in collaboration with the Nutrition Institute in 1979, was attended by CRS Tunisia Nutritionist.

The OPG Nutrition staff are occasionally invited to meetings held at the Nutrition Institute, and given an opportunity to explain their program of work.

The cooperation with the Nutrition Institute is benefitting the program and also the OPG staff, who thereby can remain in touch with developments in the field of nutrition. It also helps them to remain in contact with their professional colleagues, of importance for their own future.

IX. SUGGESTIONS FOR ADJUSTMENTS IN THE PROGRAM PLAN

The first eighteen months of the Project (since the signing of the Agreement between the Government of Tunisia and CRS/Tunisia) have provided the staff with valuable experiences and an intimate knowledge of the prevailing situation in the country and of problems that had not been recognized before.

The following review is presented for the purpose of bringing to the attention of the Grant Officer at AID/Washington and CRS Headquarters and Regional offices, the existing limitations that affect the possibilities to achieve the anticipated goals. It is suggested that certain adjustments be made in the program plan.

.../...

Attachment A

C-2-a.

Periodic age/weight and anthropometric measuring of the children

- (i) enrolled in the pre-school feeding centers, and
 - (ii) their younger brothers and sisters, and
 - (iii) other children to the extent the mothers of non-enrollees will participate.
- (i) This will be done.
 - (ii) The younger sisters and brothers should be attended to at the PMI centers, wherever these are available.
 - (iii) Other children should be included only if the availability of personnel permits such an increase in the number of children to be included. This should be given low priority.

C-2-d.

Pre- and post-natal counseling and examinations of mothers and their new-born children.

This has been interpreted as due to take place at the pre-school feeding centers. This was apparently not the intention of the originator of the Project proposal. Certain counseling of mothers can take place in connection with the educational program to be held at the pre-school centers. No pre- and post-natal examination of mothers and of their new-born children can take place at the pre-school centers. This activity will have to be carried out at PMI, Rural Health centers or dispensaries. A referral system will be developed by which mothers and children in apparent need of medical care, as determined by public health nurses and social assistants will be able to receive needed medical assistance.

As no provisions were made in the program plan for the inclusion of any food supplements for poorly nourished pregnant and nursing mothers, consideration should be given to the allocation of some commodities for these mothers.

.../...

C - last two paragraphs on page 3, first two paragraphs on page 4 :

..... Integration of two classes of in-place para-professionals, the public health nurses and social workers.

The assumption that the public health nurses will have sufficient time to devote to the health screening of children and to assist with the education of the mothers, is not quite realistic. Both the public health nurses and the social workers are presently employed full-time.

However, the occasional meeting of mothers in groups together with public health nurses and social workers may result in a greater awareness of the mothers to attend PMI and other health services where available.

While in some places social workers are attached already to the pre-school feeding centers, which are being turned into social centers, in other places the social workers will be able to manage only occasional visits to the centers. To be able to do this transport facilities may be required. Some remuneration for the extra work involved would be helpful.

In some areas there are no social workers available at all. Some other personnel will have to be found that can be trained for the purpose of training mothers. As no provision has been made in the budget for the coming year, neither by NCSS nor under the OPG Grant, it is difficult to find a solution for this problem.

It is of considerable importance that those who are going to train the mothers have adequate training in nutrition and related subjects. For those animatrices, who are not fully trained and other personnel with limited training a short training course may not suffice to enable them to conduct a training program for the mothers.

D-2

All of the target beneficiaries will be receiving health screening, consultation and referral services by the end of the project.

With 62,611 beneficiaries in the 3/6 year age group programmed, this would entail that after a three year project period that number would have had or would be having the benefit of health screening etc. This is hardly a realistic assumption, as it would take a considerable time to put such an extensive service into effect. Half the programmed number would be more realistic.

.../...

D-3

All of the target beneficiary mothers will be participating in preventative health, nutrition..... education by the end of the Project.

This would mean the mothers of all the 62,611 children, or approximately 50,000 mothers. With the limited personnel available for the education of the mothers, this may be difficult if not impossible to achieve within the time limit of the Project, especially as half of the Project period has had to be devoted to the physical improvement of the pre-school feeding centers and the operation of the feeding program. Half the targeted number of mothers could possibly be reached.

E. - first sentence, page 5

.... The two basic purposes of the Project will be carried forward concurrently

The OPG staff feels very strongly that improvements of the center facilities must be accomplished before mothers are brought into the centers for education including subjects such as hygiene and sanitation, for which the centers were a poor example before the necessary improvements and re-locations had been made.

There is however an urgent need to start the training of those who in turn should be training the mothers.

E-5-a.(2) and

E-5-b.6

... evaluation of locally produced food input potentials

..... Promotion of locally produced food inputs to the feeding program

Introduction of locally produced foods into the meals served to the children would be of great advantage, also from the educational point of view. The problem of financing the locally procured food remains to be solved.

E.8.c

Also, special efforts will be made to augment educational training beneficiaries and to initiate similar programs in non-feeding center-locations, in coordination with the MOP, the MSW, and the NIN.

While this could be an aim for the future it would be unrealistic to assume that this could be achieved within the present Project period.

.../...

X- RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are offered for consideration:

- 1- To carry out satisfactorily the required number of seminars and training courses for local personnel and to provide continuous guidance and supervision of the training program, additional personnel is required.

It is therefore recommended:

That an additional staff member with qualifications in nutrition education be attached to the project. This nutritionist should be a woman, who would be able to have contact with the staff and mothers at the centers, where a man would not be welcome, according to the prevailing customs.

- 2- French and Arabic are the languages of communication in Tunisia. There is only limited knowledge of English, also by some of the OFG staff (as also of French among OFG staff at headquarters and regional levels) this presents problems with the reporting of project activities, and difficulties for the OFG staff in understanding some communications concerning the project.

Translation facilities between French and English need to be provided. These are extremely expensive in Tunisia and based on actual experience, commercial translators are seldom able to project fully the context without experience in the subject matter. With this fact in mind and the need to relieve the Project Director of some of the administrative details, the Program Director strongly recommends that one additional staff member could function in a dual capacity, as translator and administrative assistant to perform translations as required between English, Arabic and French, to be responsible for preparation of reports under the direction of the Project Director and to carry out administrative details for the Project Director,

It is not anticipated that a fully-skilled translator to and from English will be found here, but that moderate skills combined with eventual experience will permit adequate results.

It is therefore recommended:

That an additional staff member be employed to perform the duties of a translator and administrative assistant

.../...

- 3 - The scope of the pre-school feeding, health and nutrition education Project is such that it hardly can be accomplished within the present time frame of the Project. An extension of the Project for at least one more year would make it possible to give attention to the necessary training program for the staff at different levels and to reach more mothers with an educational program.

It is therefore recommended :

that an extension of the project be granted for at least one year.

XI - CONCLUSIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In submitting this evaluation report of the Pre-School Feeding Project, the writer is fully aware of her limited insights into the prevailing situation in Tunisia and of the many factors that influence the execution of a Project, as many-faceted and complicated as this one.

The Project involves the cooperation and collaboration of a great number of people from different Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies. That so much interest has been created both at the National, Regional and Local levels is a credit to the Project staff, who have had to use all their persuasive abilities to explain the aims and goals of the Project to those who earlier had little appreciation for its value. Of special interest is the enthusiasm for the Project created in the field, where the operations take place.

The facts and figures in this report are based on the information provided by the OPG Project Director and Nutritionist. Much information has also been obtained from CSES Administrators, Social Development personnel, controllers of the feeding program, coordinators at the Governorate level, and local authorities during fieldtrips to the eight Governorates with a CSES sponsored pre-school feeding program.

The assessment of progress to a considerable extent is based upon observations during visits to 40 of the 174 pre-school feeding centers during this visit to Tunisia. Great changes have taken place since the previous visit in December 1977.

The assistance provided to the writer by CSES Program Director and staff, and in particular by the OPG staff, who have had to answer numerous questions, is gratefully acknowledged.

APPENDIX 1

STATUS OF FURNISHING OF PRE-SCHOOL READING CENTERS

as of November 1979.

<u>Governorate</u>	<u>Number of Centers</u>		
	<u>Furnished</u>	<u>Ready to be Furnished</u>	<u>Not ready to be Furnished</u>
1. Baboul	12	2	5
2. Soussa	13	2	6
3. Monastir	5	7	6
4. Mahdia	9	-	1
5. Kairouan	12	3	4
6. Kasserine	20	2	3*
7. Gafsa	12	1	6
8. Sidi Bouzid	5	-	2
Total :	100	43	43

Grand Total : 174 centers + 3 annexes.

* 3 annexes.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

APPENDIX 2.

Comparison between budgeted and actual expenditures - November 30, 1979

Budgeted expenditures	Approved allocation for 3 years (Aug. 31, 1977 - Aug. 31, 1980)	Total expenditures* (November 30, 1979)	Balance (Dec. 1, 1979)
1. Personnel	£ 91,047	£ 40,637	£ 50,410
2. Training	42,357**	5,552	36,805
3. Commodities	163,424	82,622	80,802
4. Other	107,352**	28,312	78,540
5. Consultation	21,140**	243	20,897
	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL :	£ 425,320	£ 157,866	£ 267,454
	-----	-----	-----

* To this should be added expenditures incurred by CRS/NY, that may not have been reported to CRS/Tunisia

** Reflects changes of budget line items in the Grant document, as detailed in Amendment Two (2) of August 31, 1977, as follows :

Line item 2 - Training, increased with £ 6,600 (for short-term training in the USA.)

Line item 4 - Others, reduced with £ 1,000 (from Administrative Support for Consultants).

Line item 5 - Consultation reduced with 5,600 £

35