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Tk 65cr UNICEF 'master plan of operation'

By A Staff Reporter

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) will provide Bangladesh with 43.5 million US dollar (approximately Taka 65.25 crore) for a new two-year programme of "services for children and mothers".

Known as "master plan of operations" for a programme of services for children and mothers in Bangladesh, the agreement was signed in Dacca on Tuesday at the Planning Commission.

The programme, jointly formulated by the government and UNICEF, reflects the objectives, priorities, strategies and targets of the government's two-year plan (1978-1980).

The two-year UNICEF country programme in Bangladesh is about 10 per cent of the global UNICEF assistance in current years.

Under this programme emphasis has been given to the greater reliance on local resources providing basic services and meeting human needs such as food production, clean drinking water, health services and education.

In addition to supporting the national efforts to develop village level health care, food production and social activities the new UNICEF assistance also underlines a national determination to coordinate an overall programming at the community level.

Of the total assistance Taka 22.5 crore will be provided during the calendar year 1978, Taka 25.15 crore during 1979 and Taka 17.67 crore during 1980.

The UNICEF will provide for use within this programme supplies, equipment, transport and cash assistance to a value not exceeding about 31.2 million dollar (approximately Taka 46.80 crore) including freight. In addition, UNICEF will see special funding for "noted projects" including this programme to a value of 12.3 million dollar (approximately Taka 18.45 crore).

The external resources division of the Ministry of Planning will be responsible for overall coordination in the implementation of this programme under the guidance of the joint government-UNICEF advisory group chaired by member, planning commission, who is responsible for socio-economic matters.

The agreement was signed by

Mr. A. M. A. Muhith, Secretary, Ministry of planning and Dr. M. H. K. Irwin, UNICEF, country representative.

Dr. Irwin reiterated UNICEF's firm support to building up Bangladesh's capacity for national development, so that the country could progressively become more self-reliant in providing the children and communities with basic necessities.