

Evolution of the Gulf Area Office

- 1961 UNICEF signed BCA with Saudi Arabia and opened a liaison office.
Earlier Saudi Arabia was covered by Beirut Area Office
- 1972 UNICEF signed BCA with UAE and opened a sub-office
- 1973 Abu Dhabi sub-area office set up to cover UAE, Bahrain and Oman
- 1975 Yemen and PDRY covered by Abu Dhabi office.
Liaison office opened in Riyadh
- 1977 Yemen and PDRY covered by Sanaa Area Office
Kuwait and Qatar also covered from Abu Dhabi
- 1981 Riyadh upgraded to country office
Muscat becomes sub-office reporting to Abu Dhabi
- 1982 Bahrain becomes country office
- 1983 Area Office in Abu Dhabi becomes Gulf Area Office (GAO)
- 1987 Gulf Area Office moves to Riyadh and covers Saudi Arabia, Bahrain,
Kuwait, Qatar and UAE.
Abu Dhabi becomes sub-office
Bahrain country office closed
Muscat upgraded to country office
- 1990 Abu Dhabi sub-office closed
- 1992 HQ agrees in principle to GAO relocation to Bahrain. Considerations
make move difficult. GAO remains in Riyadh
- 1995 Organization resumes internal discussion on role of GAO
- 1997 Organization starts exploratory talks with governments on role of GAO
- 2003 UNICEF opened a fundraising office in Dubai