

Executive Summary

I. Achievements: GAO achievements as per the Area Programme Document (APD) are as follows:

Evidence Based Advocacy and Mobilization: In order to support national capacity to collect, analyze and disseminate strategic information on the situation of children and women, GAO started implementation of the Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS4) in Qatar, in addition to finalizing a Situation Analysis for Children (SitAn) in Bahrain integrating children and adolescents views and opinions. Based on the evidence and analysis generated in the SitAns, GAO supported the development of the first drafts of the National Childhood Strategies in UAE and Bahrain. GAO also facilitated the preparation of the combined 3rd and 4th draft Saudi country report to the International Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Child Protection: To strengthen the school-based response to child abuse at the national level, a training package on the detection and intervention of child abuse in KSA has been developed. A total of 56 school staff (counsellors, supervisors and teachers) were trained as trainers in order to reach, in the second phase of implementation, all schools in the 13 governorates in KSA. An assessment study of the 'Children Involved in Camel Jockey Project in UAE' has been finalized to be disseminated in early 2012 with all stakeholders from UAE and the source countries.

Adolescent Empowerment: For promoting healthy life styles among children and adolescents, and based on the results of the HIV/AIDS KAP study conducted by GAO in early 2011, GAO and the American University of Dubai formulated a youth HIV/AIDS group composed of 9 peer health educators who were trained to reach 1,000 students through HIV/AIDS awareness raising activities including prevention forums. In addition, GAO implemented a youth led child Injury prevention project in UAE targeting 106 children (12-15 years) from 17 schools by training them on how to design injury prevention awareness raising initiatives. GAO also implemented a school based obesity project aiming at educating students, their families and school staff on healthy eating habits and the importance of physical activity to health and wellbeing. The project succeeded in reaching 4,500 students.

Resource Mobilization: GAO maintains and expands its donor partnerships by inducting additional prominent partners from the government, NGOs, and the private sector. Results include leveraging resources of US\$27 million. This year has witnessed an increase in partnerships with the private sector, resulting in mobilized resources of US \$1.49 million.

II. Challenges: GAO has presence and programmes of cooperation in two Gulf countries (KSA and UAE), and has been negotiating with Bahrain, Qatar, and Kuwait to approve and fund the APD. Since GAO programmes are dependent on OR funds, the main challenge facing GAO is securing timely funding from governments as approved in the APD, as delayed funding adversely affects timely recruitment to fill vacancies and the provision of expected technical assistance.

III. Partnerships: GAO requested to extend the current programme cycle for 2010-2012 to 2013 to enable it to reach the impact level of results particularly in addressing lingering child rights issues. Programmes have been implemented in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) with the National Childhood Committee (NCC) and in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with the General Women's Union as per signed programmes of cooperation and Plans of Action. In Bahrain, a MoU was signed with UNDP to implement two projects with the NCC and a MOU along with a Plan of Action has been suggested to the Ministry of Social Development (MOSD), which is awaiting their approval. In Qatar, a MoU was devised and negotiated with the Supreme Council for Family Affairs (SCFA). Reservations raised by the SCFA on some articles of the MOU were sent to legal staff in MENARO and HQ for their advice.

GAO maintains and endeavors to add to its roster of existing donor partners, additional prominent partners from the government, NGOs, and the private sector. Results include leveraging resources of \$14.4 million out of which \$10 million were mobilized from Saudi Fund for Development to support Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), and \$1.0 million was secured from recruiting a new major donor namely,

Country Office Portal

Annual Report 2011 for Gulf Area Subregional Programme, MENA

World Association for Muslim Youth (WAMY). Their assistance was used to support Somalia Famine in addition to other collaborations with foundations and private sector entities such as, UAE Exchange, ARAMEX and Al- Arabiya.

UNICEF MENARO/ PFP/PARMO and GAO worked on a new integrated engagement strategy in the Gulf. The strategy will strengthen our capacity on the ground, with a profile commensurate with a High Income Country setting (advocacy and resource mobilization) in order to mobilise partnerships with the Gulf to scale up sustainable income for the organisation, and engage these countries as partners in the fulfillment of child rights, globally and in the Gulf.

In order to build trust and provide a compelling case for investment, past experience suggests that a 'one engagement' approach (with PARMO, PFP, MENARO and the Gulf Area and Oman Offices working as a team) driven by programme and policy/advocacy dialogue is vital to mobilise partnerships with, and resources from, the Gulf.

Under the proposed strategy, UNICEF would strengthen the programmatic thrust on policy and advocacy as well as expand its presence to other Gulf States. The enhanced presence would be accompanied by senior level engagement, forging relations at the highest levels with targeted partners in order to increase recognition of the added value of UNICEF and recruit and cultivate key allies (leaders and high profile personalities) to enhance credibility and access.

UNICEF will offer partners access, through our channels and networks, to global development fora and involvement in programme dialogue. This enhanced access and partnership in development fora would provide Gulf partners with a platform to demonstrate the scale of their giving, its impact and its ability to move the policy and programme agenda. A concept note on this was submitted to the Executive Director for consideration and approval.

Country Situation

The Gulf Area Office (GAO) covers five Gulf countries, namely Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with a combined total population of 33 million. Some 12 million of these are under the age of 18, of which about 80 percent reside in Saudi Arabia. Given their geopolitical and economic situation, these countries attract millions of migrant workers, who account for about a third of their populations. These countries have witnessed major positive socio-economic trends, and oil revenues have been used for extensive physical and social infrastructure development for basic services provision.

The UNDP Human Development Report 2011(http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR_2011_EN_Tables.pdf) points to notable improved results for the GCC countries. The UAE is the leading GCC and Arab country when it comes to human development as it was ranked 30th among 187 nations. Of the other GCC countries, Qatar advanced by a single notch to rank 37th, Bahrain fell three notches to rank 42nd, Saudi Arabia's ranking fell by a single notch to rank 56th, whereas Kuwait's ranking dropped by 16 notches to 63rd position among all nations. (http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR_2011_EN_Complete.pdf). UAE, Qatar and Bahrain were ranked in the "very high" and the other GCC countries in the "high" human development category. Qatar had the highest and UAE the third highest per capita income in the world. Qatar surpasses fellow GCC countries with an average life expectancy at birth of 78.4 years, while Bahrain, UAE, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have the average life expectancy at birth of 75.1, 76.5, 74.6 and 73.9 years respectively. As for the expected years of schooling Saudi Arabia has the highest among GCC countries (13.7 years), followed by Bahrain (13.4 years), UAE (13.3 years), Kuwait (12.3 years), and Qatar (12.0 years).

The 2011 World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Report shows that the gender parity index for enrolment and attendance in the gulf countries is improving allowing gulf countries to secure higher rankings than in 2010. The State of the World's Children 2011 report shows that the gulf countries have made significant progress in maternal and under five mortality rates, immunization coverage, literacy and

enrolment rates. Nonetheless, in terms of child protection, and as indicated by the observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on State Party reports, the achievement of quick progress by Gulf countries in traditional social sectors does not necessarily imply requisite capacity to address participation and protection issues.

The five GCC countries have ratified most major human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and have made some legal, budgetary and institutional reforms directed towards conformity with the CRC. These countries have met some of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and are on track to achieve others. High expenditures on health and education are reported, with primary health and school participation indicators among the best in the world. The child mortality reduction goal has been achieved. Attention to women is increasing in legislation and the media, leading to public discussion on gender discrimination, domestic abuse against women, social problems due to sharply increased divorce rates, and their limited employment options. Despite women's high educational attainment in these countries, their low political and economic participation still constrains the achievement of MDG 3 on promoting gender equality and empowering women.

To varying degrees, the children's rights focus in these countries is moving from survival and development, to sustainability of gains, improvement of services, and protection issues, including those of non-national children. Programming for adolescent girls and boys aged 10-17 years is a relatively neglected area.

Qatar is on its way to achieve MDGs. It is on track to achieving universal education (with 95% of boys and 94% of girls enrolled in primary school in 2005-2009); gender equality (the gender parity index for school attendance and enrolment is at 0.99 for primary education and 1.47 for secondary education); improved child and maternal health (achieving a decline in Under-five mortality rate from 19 to 11 per 1,000 live births between 1990 and 2009, and a Maternal mortality ratio of 8 per 100,000 live births in 2008). HIV prevalence among young people (aged 15-24) was less than 0.1 among men and women in 2009, and coverage for safe water and adequate sanitation was at 100 per cent in 2008.

The **UAE** has met some MDG targets ahead of time, and is on track towards achieving others. Achievements include significant progress in reducing the maternal mortality rate with no maternal deaths at the prenatal and postnatal stage or during delivery having been reported for girls and women in the age group 15-49 since 2004. The UAE is on track in achieving other goals: Primary school net enrolment ratio 2005-2009 stands at 92% for boys and 91% for girls; the under-five mortality rate has fallen from 17 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 7 per 1,000 live births in 2009; access to safe drinking water is at 100% while access to adequate sanitation is at 97% within reach of the MDG target of 99%. The UAE is also well on its path to achieving gender-based equality in primary and secondary education with the gender parity index at 0.99 at the primary level and 1.02 at the secondary level. The country has also made tremendous efforts to eradicate illiteracy, which has declined to 2.4% in women, among the lowest levels in the Arab world.

The **SitAn of UAE (2010)** showcased many gains in the health and education areas but suggested that they need to be sustained and that the quality of services should be strengthened. The UAE has known fast and drastic reductions in childhood diseases, infant, child and maternal mortality, and total fertility rates. There has been remarkable improvement in life expectancy for both males and females, as well as in educational enrolment and completion rates. However, hereditary and chronic diseases such as diabetes and obesity pose a challenge. The study also showed increasing prevalence of risky behaviors among adolescents resulting in higher rates of smoking and drug abuse, overweight and diabetes, road and traffic injuries, and higher susceptibility to acquiring HIV/AIDS. The study further revealed that children's effective participation is lacking. On child protection, SitAn shows that the UAE has made significant progress, for instance, in instituting legal reform to amend some existing laws and promulgate new ones in line with CRC principles and establishing the required institutional frameworks to deal with human rights issues in general, and child rights and women's rights issues in particular.

According to **Bahrain** national MDG progress report 2010 (Bahrain MDG Progress Report 2010: <http://www.undp.org.bh/Files/BAHPlusTen/2010BahrainPlusTenE%20.pdf>), Bahrain has already ended poverty and hunger; achieved universal education with a net primary school enrolment rate of 98%

for boys and 97% for girls in 2005-2009; and attained gender equality (with the gender parity index for enrolment and attendance at 0.99 at the primary level and 1.05 at the secondary level). Bahrain is on track in achieving improvements in child and maternal health with under five mortality declining from 16 per 1,000 live births in 1990, to 12 per 1,000 live births in 2009, and the maternal mortality ratio (MMR) at 19 per 100,000 live births in 2008. Bahrain is also on track in combating HIV/AIDS.

The National Commission for Childhood and the Ministry of Social Affairs in Bahrain conducted a **SitAn in 2010/2011** in partnership with UNDP Bahrain, and UNICEF GAO. It highlighted the need for Bahrain to sustain achievements gained in the health and education areas and strengthen the quality of services. The report's findings confirm that the nutritional status of children, adolescents and mothers poses a challenge. The report also shows a prevalence of smoking, drug use, road and traffic injuries among children and adolescents. The absence of a national framework of protection leaves children subject to harm and abuse. The participation of children and adolescents in family, school and community remains restricted.

Kuwait is on track in achieving many MDGs including universal education with 89% of boys and 87% of girls enrolled in primary school in 2009; gender equality (with a gender parity index for school enrolment and attendance at 0.98 for primary education and 1.04 for secondary education); improved child and maternal health (with under-five mortality declining from 17 to 10 per 1,000 live births between 1990 and 2009, and a MMR of 9 per 100,000 live births in 2009). Moreover, water coverage is 99 per cent in both urban and rural areas, and sanitation coverage totals 100 per cent across the country.

The **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia** is on track in achieving many MDGs. Youth (15–24 years old) literacy rate reached 98% for boys and 96% for girls between 2004 and 2008. The primary school enrolment ratio was 85% for boys and 84% for girls between 2005 and 2009. Moreover, the gender parity index for school enrolment is at 0.97 for primary education and 1.08 for secondary education. The Under-Five Mortality Rate dropped from 43 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 21 in 2009; and the Maternal Mortality Rate per 100,000 live births declined from 48 in 1990 to 14.6 in 2007. In 2008, the proportion of population using improved drinking-water sources reached 95 per cent. (**KSA MDG Report 2009**: <http://www.undp.org.sa/sa/documents/mdg/nmdgr2009.pdf>)

Gulf countries have increasingly become generous donors and supporters of development/humanitarian assistance especially benefiting Arab countries and Islamic countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. Such aid is channeled bilaterally or through regional funds, and to a lesser extent through multilateral channels. Notably, UAE was recognized by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) as the 14th most generous donor in the world when its official development assistance was measured as a proportion of gross national income.

Who are the deprived children in your country context?

The most deprived groups of children in the Gulf are the bidoon children (Stateless), and children of female citizens who are married to men from other nationalities. In some Gulf countries, these two groups of children do not have the same rights as national (native) children in terms of accessing health, education and social services. Other vulnerable groups that need protection are abused children and children in juvenile justice. Adolescents in the Gulf are also considered a vulnerable group since they are not enjoying their participation right, in addition to some emerging issues that are affecting them such as obesity and injuries. The SitAn of UAE showed that some expatriate children (85% of the population in UAE are expatriates) feel that they do not enjoy the same rights as national children. Another vulnerable group of children are some Bahraini children who are exposed to violence due to recent turmoil; reportedly, they have been used in demonstrations and they are not sufficiently protected.

In February 2011, people in **Bahrain** mounted protests demanding democratic change that were inspired by similar occurrences in Tunisia and Egypt. The crackdown on public protests resulted in several deaths, widespread arrests and job dismissals. During the demonstrations, children were recruited and exploited by political groups in contravention of the basic principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) that Bahrain has ratified. The use of children in the demonstrations endangered children's lives,

Country Office Portal

Annual Report 2011 for Gulf Area Subregional Programme, MENA

interrupted their education, and subjected them to eminent dangers. This issue was discussed in May this year by the International Committee on the Rights of the Child and the official delegate of the Government of Bahrain. The Committee expressed its concern that children were not sufficiently protected during the events and called upon Bahrain to strengthen its legal and institutional system for the protection and promotion of the rights of the child, especially those in contact with the law.

In **Kuwait**, the Ministry of Interior issued a regulation in July that allows female citizens to sponsor their non-national children (regardless of their age) and husbands for residency permits. However, female nationals still cannot grant citizenship to their husbands or children. The Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concerns that the principle of non-discrimination is not fully incorporated in national legislation in Kuwait and that those laws remain that are discriminatory towards girls, Bidoon and migrant children, with regards to education, health and social services. A decision by the government to address the citizenship issue of 35,000 Bidoons is underway. The GAO as yet does not have a programme of cooperation with Kuwait and UNICEF's cooperation with Kuwait remains ad hoc.

Stateless persons (Bidoon) in **Saudi Arabia** are estimated to be 70,000 to 100,000. Recently, the Ministry of Education took a decision to admit Bidoon's children to school, and the government issued five-year residency permits to the Bidoon to facilitate their social integration in government-provided health care and other services.

In **Qatar**, there were approximately 1,500 Bidoon residents in the country, who are unable to register for services such as education and health care. His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, ordered the ministries, government departments and competent authorities to treat children of female citizens married to foreigners equally like citizens. He also granted the sons of female citizens married to foreigners, the right to apply for the UAE nationality at the age of 18. Stateless persons in UAE are estimated at less than 10,000. The Government of UAE improved the naturalization process in 2009, granting citizenship to 1,294 persons. The draft child rights law is under discussion by an assigned committee represented by relevant Ministers. The draft law of abandoned children has been endorsed recently.

Data/Evidence

UNICEF is able to identify child vulnerabilities through desk reviews in addition to consultations and focus group discussions with children and adolescents to know their needs, views and aspirations. UNICEF GAO reviews human rights reports and monitors the news in the media. With the Arab spring, more disadvantaged groups are pressing the government to fulfill their rights, and such demands are getting wider media coverage. However, more research needs to be conducted to ascertain the magnitude, composition and characteristics of these vulnerable groups.

Conducting SitAns using causal analysis is providing GAO with more insights on the causes and determinants of inequities. In relation to emerging issues affecting adolescents, GAO has been able to advocate effectively for some emerging issues in the Gulf that led to the conduct of studies and research to inform evidence based policies. Through a concerted awareness raising campaign, UNICEF GAO has been able to bring the issue of child obesity at the forefront of social concern. It has done so by influencing political dialogue, collective action and individual behaviour of stakeholders with regards to their social responsibility to fulfill children's requirements and rights for a healthy life emphasizing healthy diet and physical activity in the UAE. Considerable research has been conducted on this issue since then, and currently, GAO is implementing a second phase that is school based and involves educating school staff, students, parents and others on improving children's health and education. In addition, GAO has conducted a KAP study on HIV/AIDS among university students to inform policy makers. GAO also reviews WHO's Global School Health Surveys, which include information on obesity prevalence, and tobacco and drug use.

GAO's APD 2010-2012 encompasses three main components that address the aforesaid vulnerabilities: (1) evidence based policy advocacy, (2) child protection, and (3) adolescents' empowerment.

Country Office Portal

Annual Report 2011 for Gulf Area Subregional Programme, MENA

Monitoring Mechanism

To ensure that UNICEF GAO and Gulf countries have the capacity to track and evaluate achievement of results for the most deprived children, UNICEF GAO has been advocating diligently with the governments of the Gulf on the importance of filling knowledge gaps about different groups of children and to build steady and solid gender and age-disaggregated data bases. Gathering and disseminating data on sensitive issues remains a challenge in the Gulf. Even so, GAO has been able to bring this issue on the agenda of policy makers. The GAO conducted SitAns in collaboration with the governments of UAE and Bahrain, and after several advocacy meetings in Kuwait, the Ministry of Social Affairs approved the carrying out of SitAn in 2012. SitAns provide more evidence on the situation of children and women, and enable assessing and evaluating achievement of results for the most deprived children.

Advocating for conducting MICS4 is high on GAO's agenda. Accordingly, in order to encourage Qatar to create a system to monitor progress for children and women, GAO and MENARO succeeded in convincing the government to conduct MICS4 whose implementation is underway. UAE also started the preparatory steps to conduct MICS4. Several advocacy meetings in KSA took place and the Statistics Center informed GAO that they will wait until Qatar finishes with the MICS4 implementation in order to benefit from their experience.

In addition, recognizing that Gulf countries have scattered child protection services, GAO aims at supporting their governments in establishing and strengthening their national protection systems by initially conducting a child protection gap analysis study that will start in 2012 in UAE. This study will analyze the existing policy and legislative framework for child protection and help in developing a coherent and cohesive policy and legislative agenda for child protection, with specific recommendations for law and policy reform encompassing both its substance and form. The study has been approved to be conducted in UAE first.

Support to National Planning

GAO aims at strengthening the capacities of national childhood institutions in assessing and evaluating progress for children. In partnership with the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, GAO is conducting a study to devise a national childhood strategy Based on evidence from the recent SitAn, the strategy encompasses a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) section that outlines the mechanism that the Supreme Council will use to monitor the strategy's implementation. The Council will also oversee development of sectoral plans by concerned institutions and Ministries and will follow up on their implementation. The GAO similarly is developing a national childhood strategy with the National Childhood Commission in Bahrain. In Qatar, having MICS4 information will help UNICEF and the country in assessing the situation of children. The Kuwait SitAn will provide informed updated analysis on the situation of children.

Any other relevant information related to data/evidence?

N/A

Country Programme Analytical Overview

In the MENA RMT meeting of May 2011, a side meeting was conducted to discuss UNICEF's Role in High Income Countries focusing on Gulf Countries, where the value added of UNICEF to the children in the area, and modalities of engagement in the Gulf were deliberated. There was a consensus that along with its fundraising role, UNICEF GAO has a strong justification to remain active programmatically in Gulf countries. It was therefore decided to extend the current Area Programme Document (APD) 2010-2012 for an additional year to end in December 2013, during which more evidence on UNICEF's role in the Gulf would be gathered and assessed.

In accordance with the MTSP Focus Area 5 calling for 'policy advocacy and partnerships for children's rights', the emphasis placed by Component One of GAO's APD on 'evidence based advocacy and mobilization', and in response to the lack of child related assessment studies along with lack of data and indicators on children in Gulf countries, GAO is strengthening its advocacy activities to convince Gulf governments to systematically collect data on children in order to monitor their situation and address their needs. The GAO has been advocating for the urgency of conducting SitAns, MICS and DevInfo. This will remain a priority area throughout the remaining life of the APD especially in view of the fact that only UAE and Bahrain have conducted SitAns, and the SitAn in Kuwait is underway. Qatar started implementing MICS4, and UAE is in the preparatory phase of MICS4 implementation. DevInfo formation has been initiated in KSA and UAE. Based on the evidence and analysis generated in the SitAns, GAO supported UAE and Bahrain in developing their draft national childhood strategies. GAO has also supported KSA in preparing their country report to the Committee on the Rights of Children and is currently advocating with UAE to finalize their country report (which is due).

In the context of MTSP Focus Area 4 'Child Protection from Violence, Exploitation and Abuse', and Component Two of GAO's APD on 'Child Protection', and in response to the lack of comprehensive national protection systems in the Gulf to respond to child protection issues, GAO will be supporting its main strategic partners in identifying areas requiring strengthening in the national child protection systems through conducting child protection mapping and gap analysis studies. These will help identify the gaps in child protection policies, legislation and services that are or need to be in place to prevent and respond to violence, abuse, exploitation and unnecessary separation from family. GAO agreed with UAE to start implementing a child protection gap analysis study, which will eventually lead to strengthening the national child protection system in UAE.

UNICEF GAO has been and will continue advocating with Gulf countries to address some rights issues that linger, such as Al-Bedoon children, trafficked children, and the children of millions of migrant workers and pilgrims who are forcibly engaged in street selling and begging and subjected to other forms of violence, exploitation and abuse. Through focus group discussion with immigrant and Bidoon children, GAO has been able to reveal the needs and aspirations of these groups in the SitAns and through internal discussions with policy makers place them on the national agenda. A study was conducted on the needs and aspirations of children in UAE – including children deprived of parental care, those in juvenile institutions, and children from expatriate, immigrant, and Bidoon households. Though this study will not be published and be strictly used by policy makers, it will enable improved attention and provisions for the aforesaid underserved categories of children.

Under MTSP Key Result Area 4 of Focus Area 5 'institutionalized participation of children and young people in civic life', in addition to Component Three of GAO's APD on 'Youth Empowerment', and in response to the emerging issues affecting adolescents in the Gulf countries such as obesity, injuries, drug use and other life style concerns of a HIC, the GAO has been advocating for special attention to youth. Adolescents in the Gulf are considered a vulnerable group because they lack access to specialized services for their healthy growth and acquiring essential life skills. They also lack opportunities to express themselves, which results in frustration that leads to unhealthy and irresponsible lifestyles. Therefore, GAO has been focusing on adolescent participation in planning and implementation of healthy and socially responsible life skills and knowledge promotion initiatives. In 2011, GAO implemented a first phase of a youth peer led injury prevention initiative, and started preparation for a school based child obesity prevention project in UAE. GAO is planning to replicate these successful initiatives to other Gulf countries. University based awareness raising activities also took place during 2011.

Country Office Portal

Annual Report 2011 for Gulf Area Subregional Programme, MENA

Effective Advocacy

Mostly met benchmarks

Senior GAO staff has been flagging up UNICEF's image and making children's issues more visible to high-level authorities in the Gulf. Several meetings with GAO's major counterparts as well as decision-makers have been taking place to discuss various issues related to child rights and welfare, child protection, youth healthy lifestyles, evidence-based advocacy, and resource mobilization for children in the Gulf and worldwide.

To ensure proper follow up by the Kingdom of Bahrain on the June 2011 observations of the International Committee on the Rights of the Child on their country report, GAO arranged for a round table discussion with representatives from the Ministry of Social Development and members of the National Childhood Committee to review the observations. Based on this review, several priority issues for action were identified and it was agreed to develop a joint work plan between the Ministry of Social Development, the National Childhood Committee and UNICEF that encompasses the identified priority areas.

In KSA, the MENA Regional Director visited key officials during the period 27 – 30 March 2011 to extend UNICEF's appreciation to KSA's support to UNICEF's programmes in emergency countries and to clarify UNICEF's equity approach in focusing to reach the most deprived and most vulnerable children in the communities and countries that are in greatest need. In her meeting with the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), it was agreed to sign an MOU between UNICEF and OIC to work jointly on humanitarian issues and to advocate for child protection issues in Islamic countries such as, raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility as well as the minimum age of marriage, abolishing corporal punishment etcetera.

UNICEF DED, visited KSA, UAE and Qatar during the period 12-21 November 2011 to mobilize political will in the Gulf to scale up sustainable support for UNICEF and engage these countries as partners around key thematic intervention areas, namely: humanitarian response; nutrition and early childhood care; immunization or other commodity-based health interventions; education, specifically School WASH and education in emergencies. The meetings also aimed at advocating with Gulf States to provide financial support to address the continuing need for nutrition and health commodities, particularly within Somalia, Yemen, Pakistan, and South Sudan.

Changes in Public Policy

Saudi Arabia issued two major laws that impact the lives of women and children. The Shoura Council approved a draft law protecting children's rights. Women were granted the right to vote and run in future municipal elections, marking the biggest change in a decade for Saudi women. A National Early Childhood Development Strategy for 2011-2021 has been drafted in Saudi Arabia with technical inputs from UNICEF GAO. The strategy is in its final stage for production and dissemination and is fully aligned with UNICEF's main areas of concern. It encompasses five focus areas: early childhood development, information and communication, social protection, child health and nutrition, and safe environment.

The UAE President has asked the competent authorities to treat children of female citizens married to foreigners equally like citizens. He also granted the sons of female citizens married to foreigners, the right to apply for the UAE nationality at the age of 18. Stateless persons in UAE are estimated at less than 10,000. The UAE Government improved the naturalization process in 2009, granting citizenship to 1,294 persons. The Ministry of Interior in Kuwait issued a regulation in July that allows female citizens to sponsor their non-national children and husbands for residency permits.

The draft child rights law is under discussion by an assigned committee represented by relevant Ministers. The draft law of abandoned children has been endorsed recently. The Gap Analysis study on Child Protection Services will analyze the existing policy and legislative framework for child protection in UAE and help in developing a coherent and cohesive policy and legislative agenda for child protection, with specific

recommendations for law and policy reform touching both its substance and form.

Data on sensitive issues, as previously noted, is scant and its replenishment and dissemination remains a challenge in the Gulf countries. GAO has been able to bring this issue on the agenda of policy makers. Advocacy on some emerging issues in the Gulf has led to studies and research to inform evidence based policies. The UAE faces a big challenge in the increase of chronic diseases, obesity and diabetes among children and adults. Through a concerted awareness raising campaign aiming at the prevention of child obesity, GAO has been able to bring the issue to the forefront of social concern. It has done so by influencing political dialogue, collective action and individual behaviour of stakeholders with regards to their social responsibility to fulfill children's requirements and rights for a healthy life, emphasizing healthy diet and physical activity in the UAE.

Leveraging Resources

GAO has worked vigorously to maintain and expand its partnership with donors by recruiting additional prominent partners from the government, NGOs, and the private sector. This has led to impressive results that include leveraging resources of \$14.4 million, of which \$10 million were mobilized from Saudi Fund for Development to support Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) and \$1.0 million was secured from a new major donor - World Association for Muslim Youth (WAMY) to support Somalia Famine. Other examples of collaborations with foundations and private sector include the UAE Exchange, ARAMEX and Al- Arabiya.

Capacity Development

Mostly met benchmarks

GAO supported the participation of Gulf officials to national as well as regional events to develop their capacity to better deliver services for children. Nationally, in Saudi Arabia, a training package on early detection and intervention of child abuse cases within schools was prepared and around 56 participants were trained as trainers to handle training of officials in the education field at the kingdom level. Another skill enhancement effort is the training provided to the committee on developing, proofreading, and submission of the 3rd & 4th Saudi Report on CRC. As part of the adolescent empowerment programmes, GAO and its partners in the UAE worked on building children's capacities by providing them with training workshops on how to prevent themselves and others from accidents and injuries, in addition to awareness raising workshops on HIV/AIDS and health education and promotion.

Regionally, GAO facilitated Gulf officials to attend several training workshops as follows:

- The Regional Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys Round 4(MICS4) Workshop held in Muscat from 17-21 September 2011. UNICEF GAO coordinated with government counterparts in the Gulf and sponsored the participation of 10 participants from KSA, UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar along with 2 staff members from GAO. Through this workshop, participants strengthened their skills in planning, organization, management and coordination of MICS4. They also improved their understanding of the indicators and the recommended survey methodology for collecting data on the situation of children and women through household surveys. At the end of the workshop, the participants drafted survey plans for their countries to conduct MICS4.
- The regional adolescent knowledge management and HIV prevention workshop.
- The regional training on the International Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitute targeting health and nutrition specialists and key nutrition government officials/partners.
- The Social Policy and M&E workshop aimed at building the capacity and technical skills at country level to implement, monitor and evaluate pro-equity programmes and policies. The workshop clarified methodological approaches to monitoring and evaluating pro-equity programmes, and focused on pro-equity Social Policy, with a focus on Social Protection.
- A regional symposium on Family, the MDGs and HIV in the Middle East Region that took place in Beirut.

Country Office Portal

Annual Report 2011 for Gulf Area Subregional Programme, MENA

- A technical experts' meeting on PMTCT was conducted to reinforce and identify priorities and means for scaling up PMTCT programmes. The objectives of this consultation were to (a) Review and assess progress made in PMTCT; (b) Introduce the new concept of Elimination of MTCT and its implications for MENA/EM countries; (c) Initiate development of national scale up plans for 2012 and onwards; and (d) determine technical support needs from UNICEF, WHO and other partners.

Communication For Development

Mostly met benchmarks

GAO has been engaged in 2011 with several communication and behavioural change awareness raising campaigns. To raise awareness on childcare and development, GAO supported the National Childhood Commission in Saudi Arabia to develop and design a website to provide information to parents on the milestones of child development and the upbringing of their children. In addition, GAO supported a national workshop on Media and Child Rights that was convened with massive participation of Saudi media, which helped to cover child rights issues and made them visible to the public through focused press coverage. UNICEF's reports, posters, and other publicity materials were distributed to participants adding greatly to UNICEF's visibility.

To enhance youth awareness in the UAE, GAO developed a resource document on injury prevention, a short cartoon and posters providing information on healthy eating and promoting physical activity, and posters, leaflets and a website carrying information on HIV/AIDS.

To enhance the visibility and image of UNICEF, GAO participated in the following events at which it distributed its publications and other visibility-enhancing items.

- DIHAD 2011: The overall aim of DIHAD is to contribute to the further enhancement of technically sound and principled international humanitarian and development assistance.
- Taweya 2011: The National Exhibition for Society Awareness and Humanitarian Services: The exhibition represents a gathering of all related authorities, establishments and departments which are given an opportunity to introduce their services and interface directly with the viewers, most of whom are school and university students, and vulnerable families that can benefit greatly from awareness of such services.
- Campaign on child rights organized by The General Women's Union: The aim is to raise awareness of children and adolescents in schools on child rights through lectures, discussions, workshops, and other activities.

Regionally, GAO assisted in the Regional Media Forum that was conducted this year with focus on raising awareness on violence against children. A Bahraini journalist received the best media coverage award for 2011.

Globally, UNICEF and Pampers alliance launched a campaign to donate one tetanus vaccine for every pack sold in the Gulf. A press conference presented by a famous Saudi TV broadcaster Ms. Muna Abu Sulayman was held aiming at defining MNT and its effect on children. Through video and images, the attendees got a glimpse of UNICEF in action in Yemen and were briefed on the massive global campaign against tetanus.

Service Delivery*Fully met benchmarks*

N/A

Strategic Partnerships*Fully met benchmarks***A. Fundraising**

Major donors continued to be the key source of support, contributing a total of \$14.4 million to UNICEF, in addition to in-kind support. (It is important to note that since the agreement with KSA was signed in October 2011 KSA contribution to AWP for this year is not paid and the funds are not yet transferred). GAO's involvement in two large-scale emergencies contributed to the mobilization of both private sector and major donor partners, who responded to the Pakistan Flood Appeal Emergency appeal with \$859,542, and to Horn of Africa Famine, especially Somalia, with \$1,282,087.

Partnerships with existing major donors have continued to grow: in UAE, the Red Crescent (through a private donation from HRH Sheikha Fatima, the wife of the late ruler of UAE) was engaged in supporting the UNICEF Pakistan flood emergency appeal with a vaccination campaign at the end of February. This was in addition to the ongoing strategic partnership with Dubai Cares. In KSA, the Saudi Fund for Development donated \$10 million for GPEI. New Major donors were identified and approached in the Gulf including Zayed Bin Sultan Foundation, Mohammed Bin Rashid Foundation and Sharjah Charity Association, Walid Bin Talal Foundation and WAMY (from which UNICEF was able to receive \$1.0 million to support Somalia Drought Crisis). Further collaboration will be developed in 2012.

Substantial resource mobilization was achieved through partnership with major donors including the \$10 million grant from SFD to support GPEI, and the signing of an agreement at the end of December with Saudi Committee for the Relief of Pakistan, which provides \$2 million to support the rehabilitation of 76 drinking water supply schemes in Balochistan.

In addition, GAO mobilized \$1.18 million from various private sector donors. The mobilization activities included a successful fundraising Gala Dinner Event held for the benefit of children affected by Pakistan Floods, a cause related campaign during the holy month of Ramadan with UAE Exchange, and corporate philanthropy. The in-kind agreement with Aramex to courier GAO documents free of charge was also renewed for the second year in a row, in addition to the generous in-kind support worth US\$ 8 million that was received from Al Arabiya News Channel (which broadcast free of charge the Horn of Africa Public Service Announcement for a period of one month at peak times).

B. Greeting Cards Operation

The greetings cards campaign for the GAO ended in December 2010 and the Operation was closed end of March 2011 as part of the global strategy to rationalize the operations in MENA, ESARO, EAPRO and move to licensing model.

C. The United Nations Common Country Strategic Framework (UNCCSF) Vision

To further support Saudi Arabia's efforts to improve governance, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT),^[1] in consultation with the Government, has prepared this United Nations Common Country Strategic Framework (UNCCSF). The framework provides a strong basis for increased collaboration, coherence and effectiveness of United Nations development cooperation activities over the period 2011-2015 and offers enhanced alignment, accountability, efficiency, transparency, predictability and results.

The UNCCSF constitutes a policy dialogue instrument and provides a common basis for UN agencies, Governmental and Non-governmental entities, and civic society to work together for Saudi Arabia's progress in keeping with the aspirations of not only the MDGs but also the rights-based commitments of the Millennium Declaration and international norms, Conventions and human rights instruments. The framework embodies a collective, coherent and integrated response by the United Nations to national priorities and guiding principles as set out in Saudi Arabia's Ninth National Development Plan (NDP), which has five major themes as overarching goals: (1) enhancing and intensifying efforts to improve citizens' standard of living and promote their quality of life; (2) development of national manpower and increasing their employment; (3) balanced development among regions of the Kingdom; (4) structural development; and (5) raising the competitiveness of the national economy and national products. It offers real advantages for the Government as well as United Nations Agencies: increased national ownership and access to a wider range of United Nations expertise, especially on key issues such as support to the productive sector, employment, trade, environmental protection and climate change.

The UNCCSF Plan focuses on four broad priority areas, as recommended in the 2011 United Nations Country Analysis of key development issues for the Kingdom and confirmed at a Strategic Planning Retreat on 18-19 January 2011 in Riyadh. These are:

- Inclusive Growth and Employment
- Governance
- Quality Social Protection and Social Services
- Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Environment.

The priority areas are complemented by five equally important crosscutting themes to further underpin interventions in all four pillars: South-South cooperation; capacity development; human rights, including labour rights; women's empowerment; and youth and adolescents. These are mainstreamed throughout.

The selection of common United Nations development issues, arising from consultations on the design of the UNCCSF, has been determined by the following criteria: (1) impact on social cohesion and regional disparities; (2) magnitude of the issue; (3) alignment with national priorities; and (4) comparative advantage in addressing root causes, which the United Nations can provide by drawing on its neutrality and strong normative mandate, its successful global knowledge base, and its ability to facilitate efficiency and accountability among donors.

As part of the comprehensive and dynamic strategic priority-setting process, UNCCSF Working Groups have been established for each pillar, chaired by UNCT members. These Working Groups have been essential to UNCCSF preparations and have functioned as information exchange and discussion fora, further refining draft outcomes and indicators. At the same time, this framework is a living document, one flexible enough to respond to Saudi Arabia's evolving political, social and economic context.

A draft of the UNCCSF was circulated among the UNCT, including non-resident United Nations Agencies, as well as Government for quality support and assurance before being finalized. Individual United Nations Agencies are expected to formulate their County Programme Documents and Annual Work Plans for the period 2011-2015 in a manner that supports and reinforces the UNCCSF.

[1] The United Nations is represented in Saudi Arabia by UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR, FAO and WHO, as well as the World Bank. Non-resident Agencies include ESCWA, UNESCO, ILO, UNEP, UNIDO, UNFPA, OHCHR, OCHA, IAEA, UN Women, UN HABITAT and UNIC.

Mobilizing Partners

Please see previous sections.

Country Office Portal

Annual Report 2011 for Gulf Area Subregional Programme, MENA

Knowledge Management

Mostly met benchmarks

For strengthening national capacity for creating and using knowledge on children and women GAO has been engaging with national and international partners, and advocating for the importance of conducting SitAns, MICS, DevInfo and other Knowledge Management platforms. Two SitAns in UAE and Bahrain have been finalized, and preparatory work to conduct SitAn in Kuwait is underway. An MOU to implement MICS in Qatar was signed and the implementation of MICS has begun. Preparatory meetings between UNICEF, the Statistics Center and the General Women Union in UAE have been taking place to plan for conducting MICS4, while working simultaneously to establish DevInfo.

The major challenges and recommendations identified in the SitAn in UAE and Bahrain were disseminated and shared with relevant partners and were used as a base in developing the strategic directions of the national childhood strategies in UAE and Bahrain. In addition, GAO disseminated to its partners in the five Gulf countries major UNICEF policy and advocacy documents for the purpose of generating dialogue with government counterparts and other development partners.

Two studies were conducted by GAO, an assessment study of the Camel Jockey project, in addition to a study on the HIV/AIDS knowledge, attitudes and practices of youth in UAE. GAO is planning to disseminate and share the results of the assessment study of the Camel Jockey project with stakeholders from source countries and relevant institutions in UAE in a workshop scheduled in early 2012. A TV documentary that was produced in 2010 by UNICEF and the Ministry of Interior to demonstrate the phases of project implementation in addition to its successes and challenges will be presented in the same workshop.

Training sessions, workshops and webinars attended by concerned staff have helped to improve staff knowledge as well as the working environment. These include the Child Survival Network Meeting, the VISION ToT for super-users, MICS4 (Multiple Indicators Clusters Survey) workshop, The Regional M&E & Social Policy workshop, the DROPS meeting, The Regional Operations Meeting, The Regional Management Team meeting Children's Rights and Business Principles Initiative (Consultation with MENA Businesses); Expert Group Meeting on Dialogue and Mutual Understanding across generations, Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Expert Meeting, Third Islamic Conference of Ministers in charge of Childhood; Adolescent Health Situation Analysis and Core of regional Indicators, The International Arab Children Congress in Abu Dhabi (where GAO's Chief of Child Protection moderated a session on "Sustainable development - the responsibility of all"); a national discussion session convened by MOSA in UAE to develop a child protection policy in Dubai; Social Policies Conference in Sharjah where a list of child related recommendations were provided to the organizers; Child Obesity Conference; 2nd Annual Workshop on Information Sharing for Better Humanitarian Action. To transmit the knowledge gained during regional training, GAO programme staff arranged a debriefing meeting on change management. The entire office arranged training sessions on VISION given by super users to end-users.

Human Rights Based Approach to Cooperation

Mostly met benchmarks

GAO is guided by the CRC and the Human Rights principles in all phases of its programming process, from programme planning and design, to implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The Media and Child Rights project in KSA includes elements of the human rights based approach (HRBA) through applying the guidelines on the Principles for the Ethical Reporting on Children, either in interviewing or reporting on children, as children and young people have all the rights of adults. The training package (theoretical and practical manuals) on detection and early intervention of child abuse cases was developed in compliance with human rights approach and is aligned with its principles. The preparation of the 3rd & 4th Saudi report

on CRC was mainly based on HRBA whereby participants were oriented and trained on applying these principles as a framework and a guide.

The Camel Jockey Documentation and Assessment study was conducted using the HRBA. The evaluation focused on the realization of the rights of children and on their empowerment. The right-holders indirectly participated in the study where human stories of children previously involved in camel racing were included all while protecting children's rights to confidentiality and privacy. The study identified some underlying causes of children's involvement in camel racing and it concludes with lessons learned and recommendations to the countries to protect the children from being trafficked and engaged in hazardous work.

The National Childhood Strategies (NCS) in Bahrain and in the UAE were developed based on the HRBA as they included the foundations and the four principles of the CRC: non-discrimination; the child's right to life, survival and development; the best interests of the child; and respect for the views of the child. The involvement of right-holders in formulating NCS was ensured through national consultations with children and adolescents wherein the latter were able to freely express their views and concerns on issues that affect them. Other prerequisites of the HRBA are also being met with GAO working closely with its national partners on improving public policy development to realize the rights of children and women, and on maximizing the use of available resources for children.

The three projects under the adolescent empowerment programme currently being implemented in the UAE namely, the Child Injury Prevention Project, Childhood Obesity Prevention Project, and HIV/AIDS Awareness Project are fully driven by the HRBA. They are a product also of GAO's (as well as UNICEF's global) mission to advocate for the protection of children from accidents and injuries, to improve children's health and wellbeing, and to help them reach their full potential.

GAO continuously seeks to develop strategies to build the capacities of duty bearers to fulfill their human rights obligations. It also participates in national seminars and workshops to raise awareness on the principles of the CRC.

Gender

Mostly met benchmarks

In preparing the UAE's NCS, the GAO made sure that the core principles of universality of child rights, along with non-discrimination and inclusiveness are fully reflected. The draft UAE NCS caters to all groups of children living in the UAE, in line with the CRC principle that every child has equal rights regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, urban/rural, income group. Additionally, it takes into account and addresses other factors that contribute to children's marginalization such as physical or mental disability, being deprived of parental care, or living in custodial care after coming into conflict with the law. The framers of NCS therefore considered it essential for the Strategy to be gender sensitive and to address the concerns of children with special needs.

In line with the above, GAO's capacity building activities sought to involve and benefit both genders equally as seen in the distribution of participants noted below: the Child Injury Prevention workshops (55 girls; 51 boys), Child Obesity Prevention Project (4 boys schools; 4 girls schools), and HIV/AIDS training workshops (4 boys; 5 girls). In order to ensure that government strategies take into account the knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) of university female students in the UAE, the HIV/AIDS survey included responses from 2,408 females and 860 males. In Saudi Arabia, to ensure equal training of male/female education specialists, 50 participants were prepared for ToT (25 male; 25 female) and the focus groups discussions (FGD) were held in equal proportion viz., one each for males and females.

Environmental Sustainability

Mostly met benchmarks

UNICEF GAO is contributing to the issue of environmental sustainability through participation with other UNCT members in UAE and KSA in developing country strategic frameworks (similar to UNDAF). Both the UAE and the KSA Strategic Frameworks include UN supported programmes towards environmental sustainability.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation

In response to the floods in Pakistan, GAO continued to support UNICEF's Pakistan Country Office (PCO) by successfully raising \$859,542 mainly through a high level fundraising Gala Dinner Event, supplemented with funds raised from a group of philanthropists and a donation from HH Sheikha Fatima through UAE Red Crescent, to support a vaccination campaign in Pakistan. GAO liaised with PCO for the visit of the UAE RC Medical team to engage in the vaccination campaign for the women and children in the flood affected areas.

In a similar vein, GAO supported UNICEF's Somalia Country Office (SCO) by raising US\$1,035,217 and has coordinated between SCO and UAE RC for the donation of UNICEF items. It continued to support PCO and SCO in addition to supporting Yemen Country Office (YCO) by conveying their needs for 2012 to major donors in UAE and KSA.

GAO also assisted UNICEF HQ and under its guidance liaised closely with the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) to help resolve some issues pertaining to procurement for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative Programme (GPEI). This resulted in signing an agreement of US \$10 million to support the GPEI in Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.

In addition to the above, GAO assisted in the follow up on and release of pending grants pledged by some key donors (government and private foundation) for assisting the Polio Eradication Project (US\$400,000) as well as for the Education Project (\$2.5million) in Afghanistan. A meeting of the donors with UNICEF and Afghan government counterparts is scheduled for next year in Afghanistan to review progress and discuss further steps.

Country Programme Component: Evidence-based advocacy and mobilization

PCRs (Programme Component Results)

PCR	EQRank	OTDetails
By 2012, national institutions are more capable to make decisions, monitor the progress of children, and formulate policies related to children based on information, evidence and indicators.	2	FA5OT5, FA5OT2, FA5OT1
By 2012, the society is more aware on child rights.	2	FA5OT4, FA5OT6

Resources Used in 2011(USD)

Resource Type	Planned for 2011 (as per CPAP ceiling)	Allocated in 2011	Estimated Year-End Expenditure	%Spent (4)/(3) * 100
OR-E				
OR-R	650000.00	568963.16	194030.63	34.10
RR				
Total	\$650,000.00	\$568,963.16	\$194,030.63	

Results Achieved

(i) Multiple Cluster Indicator Survey (MICS4)

In **Qatar**, a LoU was signed with Qatar Statistics Authority to conduct MICS4. An Experts Consultative Meeting on MICS Data Processing Activities was conducted in October, followed by a workshop on MICS4 Data Processing in November 2011. The meeting aimed to provide an update on MICS4 data processing activities; share experiences and lessons learned in MICS4 data processing related tasks; exchange views on new innovative methods and improve understanding of the respective roles of HQ, RO, CO and Regional DP consultants in MICS data processing. In the workshop, Country teams were able to build and customise the standard MICS4 data entry and analysis programmes in CSPro 4.0; understand how to adapt the standard MICS tabulation programmes using SPSS 18.0; and familiarize themselves on how to customise the standard survey archive using the IHSN toolkit. The first draft of the questionnaire design has been finalized and is under review in HQ. The data processing systems are ongoing.

In **Bahrain**, MICS4 project has been proposed to the Minister of Social Development and is included in the proposed AWP 2012. In **UAE**, two consultation meetings headed by the National Bureau of Statistics took place at which it was decided to conduct MICS4, with the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood funding the project. In **Saudi Arabia**, advocacy efforts to implement MICS4 are ongoing and major partners were oriented and motivated to conduct this activity next year. In **Kuwait**, advocacy to implement MICS4 is ongoing, but no decision has been taken.

(ii) Technical support in preparing the 3rd & 4th CRC Saudi report

The project aims at providing technical support to SNCC in preparation and submission of their State Party report. An orientation workshop was held to train the members involved in developing the report on the major components of the report. Several working sessions were conducted to guide these working groups on the methodology to be followed. The first draft of the report has been prepared and a group of legal and legislative experts are revising it to align it with the guidelines.

(iii) Web-based programme to raise parents' awareness on childcare and development issues

GAO is partnering with SNCC to establish a website to raise parents' awareness on the child's developmental milestones. The website was developed and designed to include an auto-notification system, and a committee of specialized experts was formed to review the messages. The website will be launched soon and

Country Office Portal

Annual Report 2011 for Gulf Area Subregional Programme, MENA

will be operational once the awareness messages are selected and carefully checked.

(iv) Media and Child Rights

The main objective of this project is to advocate for child rights through forming a media network that will be trained on child rights and on ethical reporting on children. A workshop was conducted with massive representation from Saudi media. UNICEF conducted (i) orientation sessions on the ethical reporting on child rights and Reuters guidelines; (ii) the concept of media-friendly reporting on children; and (iii) the role of UNICEF in promoting child-sensitive media e.g. through the regional media award, global forum, ICDB, Voices of youth, etc.

(v) Incorporation of CRC in the Master Curriculum

The main objective is to sensitize the education field toward the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The graduate students will be oriented to child rights and become capable in introducing child rights issues to the academic community. The concept note has been prepared and a college has been identified to implement the project. In consultation with the Ministry of Higher Education, it has been decided that the Ministry will sponsor students in the identified college to help implement the project.

(vi) National Childhood Strategy in UAE (NCS)

In 2010, national committees for the development of the NCS in **UAE** were formed initial documents prepared (conceptual framework, work plan, study outline), and a team of consultants was recruited. In 2011, four 2-day Expert Group Round Table Discussions were convened around the four categories of child rights to discuss existing achievements, remaining challenges and vulnerabilities, as well as identification of partnerships and other opportunities.

First drafts of the Strategic Direction Frameworks of the four components of the strategy were prepared and assigned to local and international experts from UNICEF, UNESCO, WHO, OHCHR, Save the Children and the World Bank. Revised versions were shared with UNICEF's MENA Regional Advisors for feedback. National consultation on the first drafts of the NCS in UAE will start in January 2012 as assigned by the main national partner.

In **Bahrain**, GAO partnered with the National Childhood Committee, the Ministry of Social Development and UNDP to develop a National Childhood Strategy based on the evidence generated from the SitAn. A first draft of the strategy has been developed and a national workshop to discuss the draft took place in the fourth quarter of 2011. A round table discussion to be attended by childhood experts, members of the national childhood committee and others will take place early 2012 to finalize the strategy after integrating the final feedback from relevant stakeholders.

(vii) Situation Analysis for Children in Bahrain (SitAn)

For strengthening the capacity of Bahrain in generating assessment studies on the realization of children and women's rights and of the impacts of policies, legislation and programmes on children and women, GAO partnered with the National Childhood Committee, the Ministry of Social Development and UNDP to conduct a SitAn in Bahrain. Children's and adolescents' opinions and views were integrated in the SitAn through engaging them in a structured participation process.

Most Critical Factors and Constraints

Some common constraints are being faced in promoting and implementing MICS4 in the Gulf:

1. The sensitivity of data in the survey questionnaires.
2. The non-presence of UNICEF GAO in Qatar, which can make it difficult to effectively communicate with national partners and manage logistics.
3. Cultural traditions, which can inhibit participation in, and implementation of, the survey, especially when it comes to surveying women.
4. Correctly understanding the roles of National partners vis-a-vis HQ, RO, CO and Regional data processing consultants.

Country Office Portal

Annual Report 2011 for Gulf Area Subregional Programme, MENA

The submission of the Saudi CRC report is delayed despite the multiple training sessions given to the national committee. Delay resulted from poor coordination amongst the concerned departments in preparing their individual parts of the report; involvement of multiple ministries with varying work schedules; and difficulty in tailoring the report's substance to the CRC reporting guidelines.

The incorporation of CRC in the master programme in KSA needs to benefit from lessons learnt from successful practices in the region. Given the fact that this intervention is quite new in the region, and required close coordination within the various departments in the Ministry of Education, delay in its implementation was unavoidable.

Key Strategic Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration

In **Qatar**, a LoU was signed with Qatar Statistics Authority to conduct MICS4. Support from UNICEF MENARO and HQ was provided. In **Bahrain**, MICS4 project has been proposed to the Minister of Social Development and is included in the proposed AWP 2012. In **UAE**, two consultation meetings headed by the National Bureau of Statistics took place and decided to conduct MICS4. The Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood will fund the project. In **Saudi Arabia**, advocacy efforts to implement MICS4 are ongoing and major partners were oriented and are motivated to conduct this activity next year. In **Kuwait**, advocacy to implement MICS4 is ongoing in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.

Humanitarian Situations

N/A

Summary of Monitoring, Studies and Evaluations

- The 3rd & 4th Saudi Report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child – a final draft report
- The Situation Analysis of Children in Bahrain

Future Work Plan

In relation to the 3rd & 4th **CRC Saudi report**, the final draft was prepared and submitted to the relevant authorities for adoption. The draft will be subjected to broad consultations with various ministries, organizations, and NGOs. With this done, the final report will be ready for adoption and submission to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. To familiarize the Saudi officials and others with the CRC Committee's report discussion process, GAO will facilitate their participation in sessions related to other countries to learn from best practices.

For the **website project to raise parents' awareness in KSA**, UNICEF will be providing technical assistance to the team of experts in developing the storage/bank of key messages and will ensure implementation of a sustained high-quality website. A brochure on the project will be produced and a launching campaign mounted for better visibility. A monitoring and evaluation report on the level of user satisfaction with the website and the content of its messages will be compiled.

On the **Saudi media and child rights project**, UNICEF GAO will provide technical support to build the capacity of Saudi press in covering child rights related stories and articles in addition to launching awareness campaigns. SNCC will be producing a bi-yearly report to assess the level of Saudi press coverage of child related issues in qualitative and quantitative terms and a network of journalists will be formed to work collaboratively under one umbrella and use their unified voice to raise awareness on child rights issues.

To update **SitAns in the Gulf Area**, GAO got the approval from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour in Kuwait to conduct SitAn the preparatory steps for which have already been taken including: selection of an institution to conduct the study, development of the conceptual frameworks, plans of action and the proposed outline. GAO will continue advocating with KSA and Qatar to ensure the SitAns are carried out.

In relation to the **National Childhood Strategy project** in UAE, a national consultation will take place in January 2012 to discuss the first draft of the strategy and finalize it for adoption and launching. In Bahrain, a round table discussion to finalize the strategy will take place in the first quarter of 2012.

For implementing the **MICS4 project** in the five Gulf countries, the future plans are:

- KSA: Continue advocacy with National Safety Programme and AGFUND to secure funding and conduct MICS4.
- UAE: Follow up with The General Women's Union to start implementation in 2012 and arrange a meeting for the MENARO MICS Coordinator with the national committee for any clarifications early next year.
- Bahrain: Follow up with The Ministry of Social Development to sign the work plan suggested and start implementing MICS4.
- Qatar: Continue coordination with QSA, MENARO and HQ and provide any support needed from GAO.
- Kuwait: Continue advocacy with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour or seek other national partners who can fund the project.

Country Programme Component: Child protection

PCRs (Programme Component Results)

PCR	EQRank	OTDetails
By 2012, 2% of families gained skills to enable them to provide a safe and stimulating environment to enhance the protection of children and young people and their physical, mental, social and health development.		2 FA4OT5
By 2012, National entities enacted decisions to strengthen the national child protection system especially for those in need for protection including Juveniles and victims of abuse, violence, neglect and exploitation.		2 FA4OT2, FA4OT9

Resources Used in 2011(USD)

Resource Type	Planned for 2011 (as per CPAP ceiling)	Allocated in 2011	Estimated Year-End Expenditure	%Spent (4)/(3) * 100
OR-E				
OR-R	820000.00	293174.00	119174.00	40.65
RR				
Total	\$820,000.00	\$293,174.00	\$119,174.00	

Results Achieved

i. Prevention of Child Abuse – School Intervention in Saudi Arabia:

GAO and SNCC undertook an innovative initiative to train Saudi teachers on the early detection and management of child abuse within Saudi schools. Among the results achieved are: (a) preparation of a training manual with theoretical and practical components including the required skills, scope, and direction in detecting and managing child abuse cases; (b) testing the manual on focus groups to assess its validity and usefulness in terms of project design and preparation of the required tools from the trainee's perspective; (c) conducting ToT for 56 education specialists and upgrading the national capacity level; and (d) documenting the project's overall achievement

ii. Child Hotline in Saudi Arabia:

The project aims at providing aid services to abused children in Saudi Arabia through a helpline. UNICEF GAO maintained its membership in the committee and continued to provide technical support. Among the achievements are: (a) establishing an experimental hotline to test the quantity and quality of received calls; (b) recruiting professional staff with diversified fields of experience; appointing focal points; developing

training manuals; and conducting training sessions. A launching campaign to raise awareness on the hotline is prepared and ready for implementation.

iii. Children Previously Involved in Camel Racing

The five-year pioneer project has been concluded and all activities in the signed work plan have been completed except the closing workshop, which was postponed upon request from our partner, the Ministry of Interior. Preparation is ongoing for the closure workshop that will include relevant stakeholders from UAE and the four source countries and will take place in the first quarter of 2012. All deliverables of the closure activities will be showcased in the workshop (film documentary, assessment study, and the database).

Most Critical Factors and Constraints

In Saudi Arabia, implementation of the Early Intervention and Detection of Child Abuse Cases faced difficulties because of procedural delay in the selection of ToT, the separation of male and female trainees, and insufficient feedback on the draft manual from concerned governmental and non-governmental entities.

As for the Camel Jockey project, GAO finalized all deliverables and is waiting for the MOI to assign a date for the final activity, which is the closure workshop.

Key Strategic Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration

The General Women's Union in UAE

The National Childhood Committee in KSA

The Ministry of Interior in UAE

Humanitarian Situations

N/A

Summary of Monitoring, Studies and Evaluations

- The Training Manual on Early Detection and Intervention of Child Abuse Cases in Saudi Arabia
- The Training Sessions on Early Detection and Intervention of Child Abuse Cases in Saudi Arabia
- The Theoretical Manual on Early Detection and Intervention of Child Abuse Cases in Saudi Arabia

Future Work Plan

The school based Prevention and Early Intervention of Child Abuse in Saudi Arabia project will be expanded to achieve kingdom-wide coverage. The trained trainers will form a network and transmit their knowledge to the public school staff through training sessions. The training package will be distributed to concerned ministries and to specialized NGOs for assessment and judgment to guide its application and inclusion in school curriculum.

GAO is planning to provide technical support to its strategic partner in Saudi Arabia in their development of national framework for child protection. It is also planned to assess gaps in child protection services in UAE by conducting a gap analysis study utilizing available tools developed by UNICEF NY. Results of the study should assist in strengthening the national child protection system.

GAO will continue its advocacy efforts with Gulf countries to address issues of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups of children, such as stateless children (Bidoon) and trafficked child beggars in Saudi Arabia.

Country Programme Component: Adolescent empowerment

PCRs (Programme Component Results)

PCR	EQRank	OTDetails
By 2012, government authorities will be able to implement the Injury Prevention Project.	2	FA3OT6
By the end of 2012, two education authorities will be able to implement the Childhood Obesity Prevention Programme.	3	FA3OT6

Resources Used in 2011(USD)

Resource Type	Planned for 2011 (as per CPAP ceiling)	Allocated in 2011	Estimated Year-End Expenditure	%Spent (4)/(3) * 100
OR-E				
OR-R	920000.00	552004.86	222121.45	40.24
RR				
Total	\$920,000.00	\$552,004.86	\$222,121.45	

Results Achieved

(i). **Child Injury Prevention in the UAE**

This project was implemented in 17 government schools in Dubai. The aim of the project is to foster a culture of safety among school children and enhance their knowledge and skills on how to prevent themselves and others from injuries related to drowning, burning, falling, poisoning, and road accidents. A total of 106 students (55 girls and 51 boys) aged between 12 and 15 years, received a four days training workshop by an experienced youth consultant in February 2011. One teacher from each school was selected to monitor and guide students on their work, and help in the facilitation, coordination and documentation of their initiatives and activities. After the completion of the workshops students were given two months to work on their youth-led initiatives by designing IEC materials, plays, games and activities to raise awareness on accidents and injuries reaching approximately 9,000 students, school staff and parents. Trained students were then appreciated for their work and were asked to continue working on their initiatives.

(ii). **Child Obesity Prevention in the UAE**

This project consists of eight different components: Health Education, Physical Education, Nutrition Services, Health Services, Consulting, Psychological and Social Services, Health Promotion for Staff, Family and Community Involvement and Healthy School Environment. The project will build on and develop the current practices in UAE public schools in order to maximize students' health, fitness and wellbeing. Preparatory steps have been implemented and 8 schools in Dubai and Abu Dhabi were selected to participate in the project.

(iii). **HIV/AIDS Awareness in the UAE**

The aim of the project was to assess the level of knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS and assess risky behaviours of university students in the UAE. Data was collected from 3,359 students from three universities in the UAE. Results showed that 58% of students had poor knowledge on HIV, almost 40% of students had highly stigmatised attitudes towards people with HIV, and many misconceptions related to the transmission of HIV were reported. Following the completion of the survey, HIV/AIDS awareness material was distributed to university students and staff.

To put young people at the centre of the HIV/AIDS agenda, and build the capacities and empower individuals, GAO and the American University of Beirut, with MENARO's support and with the presence of Dubai Police, celebrated the World AIDS Day 2011. During the ceremony, an HIV/AIDS consultant delivered an HIV/AIDS awareness presentation to university student attendees reaching approximately 300 students and staff. Also, UNICEF organised two training workshops at the American University of Dubai: an HIV/AIDS

awareness workshop and a communications workshop, to a group of nine students from the 'Peer Health Education Group', who are responsible for raising awareness on HIV/AIDS within their university reaching a total of approximately 1000 students and staff.

(iv). **Children's and Adolescents' Forum**

UNICEF partnered with SNCC to establish a forum for children and adolescents to be an area where they can express their opinions and actively participate in the community. The structure has been formulated together with the manual. A group of students has been formed with a president and vice president. A Documentary Film will be prepared and the forum will be linked with the Regional Arab Forum through the website.

Most Critical Factors and Constraints

Discussions and agreements between partners delayed the starting date of the **Child Injury Prevention Project** from October 2009 to February 2010. Workshops delivered to students taking part in the project were held during their school time and coincided with their exam period. Because of the delay, students only had one month and a half to work on their youth-led initiatives before the end of the school academic year, which hindered maximizing the benefits of the project.

The **Child Obesity Prevention Project** is being implemented in both Dubai and Abu Dhabi schools involving different government entities. Therefore, consistency and timing in implementing the initiative is a challenge as each government works at its own pace and adopts its own guidelines. Because of the many partners involved with the project, agreement on content and design of material such as questionnaires, posters etcetera takes longer to finalize.

Due to the sensitive nature of the topic, many universities were hesitant or declined to assist with the distribution of the **HIV KAP Survey** questionnaire to their students. This hindered the data collection process and delayed its analysis and reporting.

Key Strategic Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration

The **Child Injury Prevention Project** is under the Patronage of HH Princess Haya Bint Al-Hussein, Wife of Ruler of Dubai, UNICEF GAO, Dubai Health Authority, World Health Organization, Ministry of Education and Princess Haya Initiative for Health and Physical Education. These partners worked together on implementing this project in schools in Dubai.

In order to reduce the prevalence of child obesity among school students UNICEF GAO in collaboration with the General's Women's Union, Abu Dhabi Education Council, Ministry of Education, and SEHA Ambulatory Health Services initiated a school based **Child Obesity Prevention Project** in UAE.

To assist in the development of an **HIV/AIDS prevention strategy** that includes advocacy, communication and a social mobilization framework for young people in the UAE, UNICEF GAO in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and UNDP conducted a knowledge, attitudes, behaviour and practice survey in 2010-2011.

Humanitarian Situations

N/A

Summary of Monitoring, Studies and Evaluations

For the **Child Injury Prevention Project**, representatives from each partner agency or government department met quarterly to oversee and discuss the project's implementation. A technical team of 5 people was nominated to monitor and follow-up with each school on implementation of their work plans. Partners were invited to attend all events in schools. Similarly, for the **HIV KAP Survey**, designated representatives are required to meet quarterly to review the survey's progress against stated objectives. The **Child Obesity Prevention Project** is still in progress; a summary of monitoring and evaluation findings along with a project report will be available once the study is completed in December 2012.

Country Office Portal

Annual Report 2011 for Gulf Area Subregional Programme, MENA

Future Work Plan

Some of the above projects are yet to be finalized, and their completion will occur by the end of the school academic year in 2012.

Following the success of the **Child Injury Prevention initiative** in the UAE that was implemented in 2010, GAO and its partners are training a new batch of students (50 boys, 50 girls) from 10 schools in Dubai and 10 schools in Sharjah. Similar to Phase I, students will be granted four months to carry out their youth-led initiatives by designing games, brochures, and movies, plays etcetera to raise awareness on injury prevention among their peers, friends, families and communities.

In relation to the **Child Obesity Prevention initiative**, health and physical education workshops for students, parents and staff, and assessments (questionnaires and body composition), and other components of the programme will commence in the selected schools in January 2012. Once the study is completed, outcome will guide future plans and actions.

To support development of communication strategy for the prevention and control of **HIV/AIDS** among university students in the UAE, GAO and the Ministry of Health will launch the results of the HIV/AIDS KAP survey in early 2012, and will work together on developing an effective communication strategy that is culturally sensitive and appropriate to raise the level of knowledge of young people on HIV/AIDS, and also to reduce the stigma associated with people affected by HIV/AIDS. The GAO will also continue working with the trained students from the American University of Dubai ('Peer Health Education Group') on raising awareness on HIV/AIDS within their university and communities.

Country Programme Component: Cross-sectoral costs

PCRs (Programme Component Results)

PCR	EQRank	OTDetails
Cross Sectoral - Programme Support		1 FA6OT9, Support 1, Support 2, Support 3

Resources Used in 2011(USD)

Resource Type	Planned for 2011 (as per CPAP ceiling)	Allocated in 2011	Estimated Year-End Expenditure	%Spent (4)/(3) * 100
OR-E				
OR-R	650000.00	539550.00	539469.00	99.98
RR				
Total	\$650,000.00	\$539,550.00	\$539,469.00	

Results Achieved

The analysis in this section may be read in conjunction with descriptions under Section 4 on Operations and Management.

Most Critical Factors and Constraints

The analysis in this section may be read in conjunction with descriptions under Section 4 on Operations and Management.

Country Office Portal

Annual Report 2011 for Gulf Area Subregional Programme, MENA

Key Strategic Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration

The analysis in this section may be read in conjunction with descriptions under Section 4 on Operations and Management.

Humanitarian Situations

The analysis in this section may be read in conjunction with descriptions under Section 4 on Operations and Management.

Summary of Monitoring, Studies and Evaluations

The analysis in this section may be read in conjunction with descriptions under Section 4 on Operations and Management.

Future Work Plan

The analysis in this section may be read in conjunction with descriptions under Section 4 on Operations and Management.

Effective Governance Structure

GAO has formulated some key programme results and operational priorities to reach out to all children in the Gulf to enable the fulfillment of their rights in survival, development, and reaching for their full potential equally, regardless of any kind of discrimination and giving extra care to the disadvantaged children in the gulf. The GAO's management priorities focused on assessing the situation of the children in the gulf to highlight the areas of inequality, strengthening partnerships with donors and partners to leverage resources for equity, and advocating for equal rights for children in both stable and humanitarian settings. All the operational support provided aimed to contribute towards achieving those programmatic results and management priorities.

GAO submitted its annual management plan (AMP) for 2011 after the arrival of the new GAO Representative to capture his inputs as agreed with the RD. The AMP included the key programme results and operations priorities, governance committee membership, management indicators, Operations section annual work plan, Programme AWP with partners, Training plan, Office improvement plan and TOA.

The CMT met **5** times during 2011 and minutes were distributed among office staff; the key issues were also raised during regular staff meetings. As per the auditor recommendation, the office developed a performance indicator monitoring tool to assess the office progress against targeted results; these indicators were discussed regularly during the CMT meetings. The CMT reviewed the Risk Country Self-Assessment (RCSA) action plan during its meetings and reviewed the previous audit recommendations. The Office has closed all the audit recommendations in August 2011, and is reviewing the recommendations regularly during the CMT meetings.

The office in Dubai hosted by the Dubai Humanitarian International City (DHIC) is moving to new premises at the beginning of 2012. GAO is working with DHIC on formalizing the office presence there with an agreement to be shared with DFAM for clearance.

The Representative held several meetings to review the office progress on VISION/SAP rollout and preparations. All the office staff members were trained on VISION/SAP before the year-end and have benefited from all the training opportunities the organization has offered towards this issue: 4 out of 9 SM were trained as super users, and the remaining staff received the VISION end user training.

The office fixed the CRC limit to \$20,000, below the global set limit to assure that the CRC is meeting and reviewing some submissions. The CRC met 8 times during 2011 and reviewed submissions, which were mainly for technical consultancies and service contracts.

The table of authority (ToA) featuring the delegated financial authorities and responsibilities from the OIC/Representative to staff was updated in Jan, May and June 2011. All staff members exercising responsibilities as per FC34, have signed the delegation of authority memos. The office did the reconciliation between ToA and DAT quarterly.

GAO is discussing with MOFA in Saudi Arabia about signing the new BCA with the government and is planning to raise this issue with other governments in the gulf.

Strategic Risk Management

GAO completed the risk analysis and self-assessment by 31 March 2011, with two areas identified as high-risk: Predictability of Funding, and Budget Management. The main constraints and challenges were related to the programme being dependent on hosting countries' financial support. These risks were addressed in the 2011 AMP and the action plan was reviewed during the CMT meetings to follow up on actions indicated to mitigate the risks throughout the year. For example, the Office advocated and secured funds for carrying out SitAN assessment in 2 gulf countries to provide a better understanding of children's situation and of

Country Office Portal

Annual Report 2011 for Gulf Area Subregional Programme, MENA

what UNICEF needs to do further to carry out its mission. The office is also promoting the mobilization of RR funds to secure funding for essential programme posts.

An updated template for Donor reports was introduced to satisfy the needs of donors and to secure funds on time to reach children in emergencies.

The offices in Riyadh and Dubai are located in premises shared with other UN agencies. The MOSS compliance assurance exercises are handled by the UNDSS, and the two offices respectively are 90% and 100% compliant. Abu Dhabi office is 70% compliant. With UNDSS assistance, the office identified areas that need improvement and is working on achieving the best compliance rate possible. As UNICEF is hosted by the General Women Union in Abu Dhabi, some compliance related measures require their prior approval. As part of the 2011 AMP, the Office was supposed to update the EPRP/EWEA, but required assistance in this exercise and therefore was not able to complete it in 2011. The office is planning to carry out this exercise in 2012.

The Business Continuity Plan was updated with staff and logistical changes in 2011. The Crisis Management Team members and the Critical Operations Staff were adequately oriented on BCP. A simulation exercise to test the BCP was carried out in Feb 2011 and recommendations for areas of improvement were addressed.

Evaluation

The Office IMEP has been developed and updated biannually. The office obtains quality assistance for evaluation studies from external institutes to cover the gaps in the evaluation capacity available in the country. The office is aware of the regional office demands to review the Terms of Reference for all evaluations before making any commitment.

Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

GAO offices are supported by the ICT HUB in MENARO, the core business applications, mainly ProMS and Lotus Notes are accessed remotely using various IT tools such as CITRIX, VPN client and Win Term. In addition, the regional ICT HUB is also managing the overall ICT functions for GAO and ensured that the office has all the requirements needed to facilitate the global migration to VISION/SAP, and took all the necessary measures to facilitate this move.

GAO offices have a standard Country Office ICT Infrastructure consistent with the organizational IT policy. Riyadh office has 2MB Lease Line link, with all corporate traffic is routed using IPsec tunnel that opens in NYHQ. New firewall was installed in Abu Dhabi, Wireless Internet access is provided for guests and visitors using dedicated connections in all offices, which can also be used as backup. VOIP is effectively used for freely calling UNICEF offices. The office also has a BGAN Satellite terminal equipment, which can be utilized for voice and data connectivity in case of emergency.

HQ rollouts were applied on time; all servers/services have been migrated to the Windows 2008R2 HyperV Virtual servers environment, which provides for high availability, more effective ICT management, and lowers the cost of additional server hardware. All Computer hardware being used in the office is as per UNICEF's standards; meets the current requirements/specifications: and is configured following the UNICEF standards. All end user client computers were migrated to Microsoft Windows 7. Obsolete equipment was submitted to the Property Survey Board (PSB) for proper disposal.

ICT supported GAO Programme projects, It assisted in establishing and designing a website to raise awareness on childhood programmes with flexible content management system (CMS) and a Parenting Awareness messages module to push content for parents depending on their child's age. Support included preparing Technical TOR for the project, reviewing and evaluating Vendors and offers received, Vendor

Selection, and following up the implementation plan.

All service calls were submitted through the service manager and requests for new accounts were made through the e-SAF.

Fund Raising and Donor Relations

- The GAO programme ceiling for the 2010-2012 cycle is USD 9.0 million of which the office has raised USD 3.43 million through government contribution, fundraising, and regional thematic funding.
- Overall, a total of \$12.9 million was mobilised by the Gulf Area in 2011, out of which \$2,144,181 million was in response to the Pakistan Emergency Flood appeals and Horn of Africa Drought. UNICEF GAO succeeded in raising \$364,259 for GAO programmes, and \$10,402,039 for global UNICEF programmes.
- The GAO is currently using the standardized template for GAO donor reports to report to all donors. The template was developed following the MENA Donor Reporting Quality Assessment that was done in 2010, and in line with MENA Donor Quality Assurance Checklist and PARMO Donor Reports guidelines.

Management of Financial and Other Assets

The office continued to focus on safeguarding UNICEF's financial resources and was able to utilize the support budget carefully. The support budget and OR allocations are not adequate. Hence expenditures are closely monitored to maximize efficiency and accountability.

The office did one micro assessment with an implementing partner and has designed a template for this purpose to be used with all IP in future.

The CMT monitored the allocations' utilization and expenditures closely during its meetings, including the aging reports of DCTs and due donor reports. The representative shared with the staff the financial procedures and description of fiscal roles and responsibilities of staff to ensure responsible fiscal behavior.

During 2011, the office prepared the bank reconciliations for 5 bank accounts in a timely manner and within the 15-day timeline. The office continued with closely following up on and clearing the outstanding items on bank reconciliations, and managed to not keep any outstanding items over 30 days.

As a fully OR dependent office, PBAs were not utilized to the maximum as some of these PBAs continue to cover activities in the next year. The thematic funds received were also not fully utilized because of delays in getting approvals required from the concerned governments.

As of December 15, 2011, the Support Budget requisitions and obligations rate is 100%, the expenditure rate is 100%, the Other Resources requisitions and obligations rate is 52%, and the expenditure rate is 37%. The remaining percentage of unobligated OR funds have been re-phased for 2012.

The office uploaded its month end position and cash forecast on the Bank optimization website, and ensured that funds are available when needed. All fundraised amounts that exceeded the office needs in disbursements, were transferred to the cashier account after getting the best possible exchange rate to US Dollars.

The office submitted all the VISION data migration to HQ on time, and reviewed the PCRs and IRs for the migration. The office reviewed the GL coding for the financial entries.

The office received 'satisfactory' internal audit rating for operations during 2010 audit review.

Supply Management

The UNICEF Gulf Area Office programme is not a supply driven programme. Countries in the gulf provide supply assistance to emergency countries when needs arise. GAO uses PGMs to purchase IT equipment, printed matter/publications, and office consumables.

The GAO supplier database includes mainly individual and institutional contractors, and office consumables suppliers. This database helps to streamline the contracting processes of the office to serve as technical assistance.

Human Resources

The Office Representative post was vacant during the first quarter of 2011, the Child Protection Manager was appointed as the OIC for the office until the arrival of the Representative in June.

Whilst there were no major changes to the office structure during the regional PBR submission except for upgrading the Executive Assistant post to GS6, the PFP section structure went through major changes in a special PBR submission from Geneva PFP division. The new structure was designed to achieve better fundraising results for the children of the world towards achieving the organizational results. The programme staffing structure was also discussed at HQ by the RD to secure funds for the staffing and funding gaps the office experiences, which limits its capacity to deliver results for children.

The office developed a training plan based on a training gap analysis and highlighted 5 group activities, which would better serve the global, regional and programme priorities. (Three of the 5 group activities were completed and two should take place in 2012). The staff skills gap analysis helped to determine the existing level of capacities, and identify sets of competencies and resources required for enhancing staff capacity for equity-focused programming. All staff received at least two training sessions during the year, in person or online. Knowledge sharing policy was sustained in the office, and orientation on gender policy and equity took place regularly during staff meetings and CMT meetings.

The office completed the Performance Assessments (PAS/e-PAS) on time with regular result-oriented discussions between the staff and supervisors. Staff members were encouraged to develop at least one core competency as part of their personal development, and address it in their PAS. Staff members were trained in 2010 on Emergency Response Management and the office risk profile was prepared jointly with input from all the staff.

All staff members are aware of the PSV and have used their services. (Two staff members were trained as PSV for the office). The office has a functioning staff association committee. GAO staff participated in the 2011 Global staff survey, and the office is aiming to create a well-developed office improvement plan based on the results of this survey. UNICEF staff in Riyadh attended the annual 'HIV in the workplace' orientation held by UNDP, and all have completed the 'harassment in the workplace' training.

Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

In response to the Executive Director's message of 22 Dec 2010 and Deputy Executive Director's memo of 4 March 2011, GAO identified several areas where cost savings could be achieved. The office planned to save around \$300,000 in areas of rent, part time employment, travel, and outsourcing of services for staff functions, partnering with courier companies, and using VOIP for communications and managed to save \$299,351.

The table below reflects the cost saving achieved in 2011.

[table converted to list]

Area	Baseline (2010/ actual cost)	Actual 2011 expenditure	Savings amount
Travel	107,900.00	93,500.00	14,400.00
Telecommunication	107,317.00	78,537.00	28,780.00
Outsourcing & par time	50,000.00	24,660.00	25,340.00
Courier	20,000.00	0.00	20,000.00
Rent- free premises including security	280,000.00	69,169.00	210,831.00
Total	565,217.00	265,866.00	299,351.00

The savings resulted from lowered cost of travel and stay, securing better rates for data subscription, and cost free courier service offered by ARAMEX as per the signed partnership agreement with UNICEF GAO.

Changes in AMP and CPMP

GAO has obtained approval from the governments of the Gulf countries to extend the current 2010-2012 APD to 2013.

GAO is planning to review at least 2 work process to simplify them and make them risk informed as per the message from the Deputy Executive Director dated 9 September 2011.

The office will review the office key performance management indicators to provide for equity based indicators and is revising the office work processes in light of VISION/SAP and the new DFAM policies.

Country Office Portal

Annual Report 2011 for Gulf Area Subregional Programme, MENA

Summary Notes and Acronyms

AGFUND	Arabian Gulf Programme for Development
AMP	Annual Management Plan
APD	Area Programme Document
AWP	Annual Work Plan
C4D	Communication for Development
CMT	Country Management Team
CO	Country Office
CRC	Convention on The Rights of Children
CSPRO	Census and Survey Processing System
DED	Deputy Executive Director
DIHAD	Dubai International Humanitarian Aid & Development
DP	Data Processing
DROPS	Deputy Representatives and Chief of Operations
EAPRO	East Asia and Pacific Regional Office
ECCE	Early Childhood Care and Education
ECD	Early Child Development
ESARO	Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office
GAO	Gulf Area Office
GPEI	Global Polio Eradication Initiative
HH	Her Highness
HIC	High Income Country
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus /Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)
HQ	Head Quarters
HRH	Her Royal Highness
KAP	Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
KSA	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
LOU	Letter of Understanding
M & E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MENARO	Middle East and North Africa Regional Office
MICS4	Multiple Indicator Clusters Survey
MOSA	Ministry of Social Affairs
MOSD	Ministry of Social Development
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTSP	Mid Term Strategic Plan
NCC	National Childhood Committee
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OR	Other Resources
PARMO	Public Sector Alliances and Resource Mobilization Office
PCO	Pakistan Country Office
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother-To-Child-Transmission
QSA	Qatar Statistics Authority
RC	Red Crescent
RMT	Regional Management Meeting
RO	Regional Office
SCFA	Supreme Council for Family Affairs
SCMC	Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood
SCO	Somalia Country Office
SFD	Saudi Fund for Development
SITAN	Situation Analysis For Children
SNCC	Saudi National Childhood Committee
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
ToT	Training of Trainers
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UNCT	United Nations Country Team

UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WAMY	World Association for Muslim Youth
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization

Document Centre

Evaluation

	Title	Sequence Number	Type of Report
1	Assessment Study of the Camel Jockey Project in UAE	1	Evaluation
2	Situation Analysis of Children in Bahrain	2	Situation Analysis
3	HIV Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice Survey in the UAE	3	Study

Other Publications

	Title
1	Resource Document on Child Injury Prevention in children
2	A school based training package on the detection of child abuse

Lessons Learned

	Title	Document Type/Category
1	Using Peer Education in the Adolescent Programme	Innovation