Despite the problems in the global economy, Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA had another successful year in 2011, where, on behalf of the Australian trade union movement, we maintained a strong program of 60 training projects in 15 countries. In many of the countries where we work, such as Zimbabwe and with refugees from Burma on the Thai-Burma border, the challenges were great. 

Unions stand for international solidarity. Our many projects in South East Asia, the Pacific, southern Africa and the Middle East are a living sign of the Australian trade union movement’s belief in international solidarity, and their continuing commitment to assisting other workers in greater need. The unions’ generous support is a reflection of their belief in justice and a fair go for all.

Millenium Development Goals in 2000, all the nations in the world met and promised to halve global poverty by the year 2015. Much has been achieved – for example, in 1990, there were 120 million children not receiving a primary education. Today, that number has dropped to 24 million – a significant achievement, but much still remains to be done. The Millennium Development Goals, and especially the second target of Decent Work, are still relevant to the work of Union Aid Abroad, APHEDA.

Decent Work essential to overcome poverty The ILO, the global union movement and the ACTU all advocate Decent Work as essential to overcoming poverty. Work that provides dignity to the worker and a living wage for their family is essential. In the more than 800 million workers who earn less than $2 a day and labour in sweatshop conditions are to ever have a decent life. Independent, democratic and strong unions are crucial to ensuring that these workers have a fair wage, and therefore are able to feed, cloth and educate their children themselves, without relying on sponsorship from abroad.

A skilled workforce also essential for decent work Decent Work also requires a skilled workforce. Besides strengthening workers’ rights, our projects also address vocational and livelihood skills by training workers in literacy, sewing and tailoring, sustainable agriculture, carpentry, medical skills, media, trade union training, HIV education, OHS/MS training, for workers, especially for women workers, and disabled youth in trafficked women.

Thanks to donors and partners. None of this training is possible, of course, without two very special groups of people – our donors and our partners. Without the generous and growing support of our donors, the trade unions and many individual union members, no training would be possible. Also, without the commitment, dedication and competence of our partner organisations overseas who actually deliver the training, no training could take place. We continue to be inspired by our donors and partners, who believe that a better world is possible, and are prepared to work and make sacrifices to ensure it happens.

I would also like to thank the staff, both in Australia and overseas, the many volunteers for their great work, and the Committee of Management for their strong support during the past year. We look forward to the future with confidence.

Peter Jennings
Executive Officer

WHAT IS UNION AID ABROAD-APHEDA? Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA was established in 1984 by the ACTU under the name APHEDA (Australian People for Health, Education and Development Abroad) as the Australian trade union movement’s overseas aid arm. We assist projects in South East Asia, the Pacific, the Middle East and southern Africa, working through local partner organisations and unions to deliver training in vocational skills, health and workers’ rights so women and men may have decent work that provides a living wage, reasonable conditions and a safe workplace. Our international program seeks to empower women and men in developing countries so they and their families might live with their human rights respected, both in their workplace and in their society.

OUR MISSION

As the ACTU’s humanitarian aid agency, Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA expresses the Australian union movement’s commitment to social justice and international solidarity through support to overseas education, training and development projects, working in partnership with those projects. Our assistance is development are restricted or denied.

OUR VISION

Unions and communities around the world internationally eradicating poverty and achieve human rights.

AGFID CODE OF CONDUCT Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA is an accredited signatory to the AGFID Code of Conduct. The Code requires members to meet high standards of governance, public accountability and financial management. For more information, contact Union Aid Abroad or visit www.agfid.asn.au

Climate Change – affecting the poorest For much of 2011, Australia was caught in the grip of a debate, sometimes a violent political argument, on climate change and the need to put a price on pollution. While we argued over what will cost us, at worst, a few dollars a week, the poorest in developing countries are bearing the brunt of climate change. North-East Africa is caught in the grip of a drought that has seen 500,000 people in Somalia and southern Ethiopia become environmental refugees, fleeing to northern Kenya. These people did not cause the pollution, but they are the ones suffering the greatest impact.

Moreover, the 10,000 refugees a day crossing into Kenya in late 2011 puts Australia’s asylum seekers problem into perspective. Kenya, a poor country, received more refugees every two days than Australia received “boat people” in a year, yet they accept their refugees with a quiet dignity and generosity that shame Australians and our attitude towards refugees.

The Arab Spring Another exciting development in areas where we work is the so-called “Arab Spring” where in a number of countries, people are struggling to throw off the burden of dictatorship or occupation, and expressing their aspirations for independence, democracy and development.

Casual work In 2011, the ACTU launched a campaign against part-time and casual work. At Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA, we know the impact that casualisation and precarious work has on families. In many countries where we work, casual employment has been the norm for decades. We all know that the best way for families to work their way out of poverty is a permanent job paying a living wage. It gives parents the confidence to plan and meet long term aspirations such as building a house or educating their children.

I would like to thank the many unions which support the work of Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA. Your support has grown over the years, and we are confident it will continue to grow in the future. It is a sign of your belief in a better, fairer, more just world.

I would also like to thank and congratulate our donors and supporters for your amazing generosity, our staff both in Australia and overseas, and especially the volunteers working overseas and in our Sydney office. My thanks also to my fellow Committee of Management members.

Angelo Gavrielatos
Chairperson
Workers’ health — the forgotten emergency

According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), over two million workers die each year due to either industrial accidents or workplace induced diseases – twice as many as the number that die each year in wars.

Many consider this number to be under-reported due to the poor level of statistical gathering on occupational problems in many developing countries.

Besides this unacceptable death rate, there is an even higher accident rate, where workers are injured or harmed, but survive. This horrific accident rate creates great personal suffering for the workers and their families involved, in some cases it means they can no longer work. If that country has no social security system for injured workers, it will plunge that family into poverty. It also creates a great economic cost to the countries involved, as worker productivity is lessened.

Many factors are combining to increase the risk to workers’ health in developing countries. One issue is the transferring of high-risk manufacturing jobs to countries where OH&S is not as strict and penalties are weak for non-compliance. These same countries are often also the low wage countries, so there is a double incentive for businesses which care little about their workers to move offshore.

Another key factor impacting on safety standards in developing countries is the relative weakness of many unions in those countries. Strong unions develop strong safety standards for their members. Strengthening unions and building their capacity to fight for the human and workplace rights of their members is a key to improving workplace safety.

A third factor impacting on workplace safety today arises from new manufacturing techniques and technologies. For example, white back yard industries have sprung up in southern China dismantling old computers and mobile phones to salvage and recycle the valuable rare earth minerals. However, computer components may contain a variety of hazardous metals, including lead, cadmium and arsenic. Older cathode-ray tube monitors have lead-coated glass. Newer flat-panel displays with fluorescent backlighting contain traces of mercury. In addition to the metals, computer makers have used chemicals called brominated flame retardants in plastics, which scientists have implicated in developmental disorders. Workers in these new industries are exposed to these hazardous materials.

A fourth factor impacting on workplace safety is caused by excessive workloads and industrial stress. Take, for example, the giant Taiwanese company, Foxconn, which makes consumer electronics for a number of well-known companies in its “factory-city” in China. Between January and November 2010, 14 workers committed suicide in their factory. Because of the suicides, 20 Chinese universities examined the situation at the Foxconn factories, and described them as labour camps, detailing widespread worker abuse and illegal overtime. In response to the suicides, Foxconn installed suicide-prevention netting at some facilities and asked employees to sign no suicide pledges.

With support from Australian unions, Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA assists a number of projects aimed at improving the health and safety of workers.

If you, as an individual, would like to assist these or any of Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA’s projects protecting workers in developing countries, please contact us at office@apheda.org.au

VIETNAM

Asbestos

It seems almost unbelievable that it took so long to ban asbestos in Australia, decades after we knew that asbestos kills. It is even more unbelievable that countries like Canada continue to export asbestos to developing countries where almost no protection systems exist. Vietnam is one such country, importing almost 65,000 tonnes in 2003 to produce cheap asbestos-cement roofing tiles.

Workers in these factories handle asbestos with their bare hands and use paper masks at best. In 2013, with the support of AusAID, Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA partnered the National Institute of Labour Protection in Vietnam to launch a groundbreaking asbestos disease prevention project. With technical expertise from the Australian Manufacturing Workers’ Union and the Asbestos Disease Research Institute, we established the National Resource Centre on Asbestos in Vietnam, which works with unions to conduct a range of activities, including training of workers and union officials, health checks of affected workers and research. It also investigated asbestos alternatives for roofing tiles and developed low cost protective equipment. But more needs to be done and we are counting on your support to enable us to expand the projects to other workers in the neighbouring Mekong countries are also protected.

Vietnamese workers monitor asbestos dust levels. Russia, China, Zimbabwe and Canada continue to export millions of tonnes of asbestos to the developing world - creating a public health time bomb.

LAO PDR

OH&S in the timber and woodworking factories

The occupational death rate in Lao PDR is amongst the worst in Asia, at a rate 9 times higher than in Australia and more than double the rate in neighbouring China. The highest risk workers are the same as in Australia – construction workers, manufacturing and wood workers. But with no social safety net and little compensation, an industrial accident can drive families deep into poverty. Over the last year, Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA has been working with Building and Woodworkers International to train workers in the safe use of equipment. Projects in 2010-11 focussed on training provincial, district and enterprise level union trainers and delegates to be able to spot potential OH&S incidents, as well as participatory teaching methods with a focus on electricity and asbestos.

AFRICA

HIV with SATAWU

Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA has worked with the South African Transport & Allied Workers Union (SATAWU) to assist the union deliver HIV and OH&S education to their members. SATAWU is a growing union of around 170,000 members. It operates in eleven sectors, now including security guards and cleaners who often receive very low wages and often have only temporary job contracts. Some transport sectors have very high rates of HIV among the members. The union uses its delegation structure to deliver peer education to members, particularly to long-distance truck drivers.

Comparison of rates of fatal occupational injuries between developing countries in the Asia region and industrialised countries (ILO)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>No. of fatal occupational injuries per 100,000 people</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UNION AID ABROAD–APHEDA ANNUAL REPORT 2011 PAGE 4

UNION AID ABROAD–APHEDA ANNUAL REPORT 2011 PAGE 5
MIDDLE EAST

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Union education and development, Trade Union Centre (FSCW, Athens) co-funded with SASK (Finland), FEIT (Germany) & UNI-AFRO; NSW Nurses Association, individual donors.

Cambodia

Adult education and training for improving livelihoods: Cambodian Women for Peace and Development (Phnom Pich University); Kampuchea Charn Provincial & Women in Development Centres (Battambang, Kampong, Bokeo, Maoneth, and Peah-Vravan provincial), AEW, AusAID.

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Mangrove replanting: Kampot Fishermen’s Community Administration, individual donors.

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The MDGs are the first time in human history that all nations have combined to tackle global poverty in a coordinated, cooperative and systematic manner. The global financial crisis of 2008-09 has made it more difficult to fully achieve all the targets – plunging many millions of people back into poverty. Moreover, not all countries or regions are doing as well as others. Our own region, the Pacific, seems to be trailing the rest of the world in reaching many of the targets. There have, however, been some significant improvements and spectacular gains.

MDG No 4 Reduce Child Mortality
The number of children dying each year before the age of 5 has dropped from 12.5 million a year to 9 million.

In the 1980s, some 20,000 Vietnamese babies were dying each year before the age of one month because of neonatal tetanus. Now, due to a nationwide education campaign, the Vietnamese Ministry of Health, with help from the UN’s World Health Organisation (WHO), has virtually eliminated neonatal tetanus – the 9th country in the world to do so.

In 2008, Bangladesh, with assistance from the UN’s WHO, conducted the world’s largest ever mass vaccination campaign. In just 20 days, they vaccinated 33.5 million children between the ages of nine months and 10 years, possibly eradicating measles from Bangladesh.

MDG No 5 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
AIDS has been treated by an extra 2 million people in developing countries.

Tuberculosis is slowly becoming overactive. Over 2550 individual union members, delegates and officials have become Global Justice Partners making monthly, tax-deductible donations to assist our training programs overseas. This provides us with long-term reliable income and enables us to plan our development projects with confidence. If you would like to become a Global Justice Partner contact us on 1800 888 634 or office@apheda.org.au

Union Support
Union support is at the core of our fundraising with the ACTU and many unions demonstrating their commitment to international solidarity and justice by giving generously for our work.

State Activists
Delegated and committed groups of activists/supporters in Year 1999, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, ACT, Tasmania, Darwin and Wellington, each year raise funds for projects and campaign on a variety of human rights and development issues. Their commitment is inspiring and their activities are always greatly appreciated. To be involved in your state, contact us on 1800 888 634 or office@apheda.org.au

Fundraising Events
Our annual raffle, Festive Season Cards, Gifts that Change Lives, end of financial year appeals and annual dinners in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Canberra and Wellington all make a crucial contribution to our ongoing work. Many thanks to everyone who participated in our fundraising activities over the financial year.

AusAID
Union Aid APHEDA also applies for AusAID contracts on a competitive basis, and in the 2010-11 financial year we had five on-going AusAID contracts: for food security for Palestinian families in the West Bank and Gaza, for livelihoods training in the Solomon Islands, for asbestos training in Vietnam, for health provision for Burmese refugees in Thailand and for the Working Women’s Centre in Timor Leste.

Other Government Sources
The NT Government assists GHAG & training in Timor Leste.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Our union sponsors
Australian Airlines
Australian Country Women’s Association
Australian Council of Trade Unions
Australian Energy Union
Australian Nursing Federation
Australian Nursing Federation Victorian Branch
Australian Postal Communications Electrical and Fitting Union, Community and Public Sector Union – PSU
type, Engineering Community and Public Sector Union – SPG Group
Craft Union, Furniture, Metal and Electrical Union, Electrical Union, Independent Union, Maritime Union, Medical Union, National Tertiary Education Union, NSW Nurses Association, Queensland Nurses Union, United Services Union, Unions NSW and the Blunah International Aircraft Committee

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Australian Nursing Federation
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‘Change Lives, end of financial year appeals and annual dinners’

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Our allies
Table of Cash Movements for Designated Purposes for the Year Ended 30 June 2011

### Table of Cash Movements for Designated Purposes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Cash Raised during the Financial Year</th>
<th>Cash Disbursed during the Financial Year</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AusAID Funded Projects</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solomon Is</td>
<td>1,388,600</td>
<td>82,944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malawi East</td>
<td>445,907</td>
<td>2,851,001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thai-Burma border</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>121,728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>91,000</td>
<td>75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1,915,707</td>
<td>2,481,896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Overseas Projects total</strong></td>
<td>2,015,707</td>
<td>2,510,091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AusAID Total</strong></td>
<td>572,472</td>
<td>1,961,174</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>APHEDA Funded Projects</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>3,557,341</td>
<td>4,024,249</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Income and expenditure

**APHEDA Income** — 2001-02 to 2010-11

- Global Education: 2.6% ($154,198)
- Information, Publicity and Fundraising: 5.2% ($312,936)
- Project Management & Monitoring: 7.6% ($455,022)

**APHEDA Expenditure 2010-11**

- Overseas projects: 79.5% ($4,762,299)
- Project Management & Monitoring: 7.6% ($455,022)
- Office Administration: 5.1% ($335,254)
- Information, Publicity and Fundraising: 5.2% ($312,936)
- Global Education: 2.6% ($154,198)

At 30 June 2011, the Union Aid Abroad—APHEDA Committee of Management was:

- Angelo Gavrielatos: President, Australian Education Union (Chairperson)
- Gear Keaneey: President, ACTU (Vice-Chairperson)
- Paul Bastian: National President, AMWU (Hon. Treasurer)
- Cathy Bloch: National President, ACTU (Hon. Secretary)
- Mark Lennien: Secretary, Unions NSW

The Committee of Management received no salaries, allowances or compensation for serving on the Union Aid Abroad—APHEDA board. If any donor or member of the public has any questions or complaints regarding Union Aid Abroad—APHEDA, please contact the Executive Officer, Peter Jennings on +61 (2) 9264 9343.

**APHEDA Inc. Summary of Financial Report, 30 June 2011**

### Income Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2010</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>$2,580,732</td>
<td>$2,440,091</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations and gifts – general purpose</td>
<td>$298,361</td>
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<td>Donations and gifts – non-monetary gifts</td>
<td>$3,580,324</td>
<td>$2,751,211</td>
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<tr>
<td>AusAID</td>
<td>$17,821</td>
<td>$20,080</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other – Overseas</td>
<td>$417,719</td>
<td>$427,801</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legacies and bequests</td>
<td>$145,650</td>
<td>$172,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income – interest received</td>
<td>$172,510</td>
<td>$172,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (administrative costs)</td>
<td>$77,777</td>
<td>$49,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$7,739,004</td>
<td>$6,136,479</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Disbursements

- Funds to International Programs: $4,463,288
- Program Support Costs: $452,022
- Community Education: $154,198
- Funding to Public: $280,245
- Government: $32,061
- Accountability, Administration & Australia: $305,204
- Non-monetary expenditure: $298,161

**Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2011**

- **ASSETS**
  - Current Assets: $3,063,730
    - Cash: $3,063,730
  - Non-Current Assets: $3,792,919
    - Property, Plant & Equipment: $3,792,919

- **LIABILITIES**
  - Current Liabilities: $7,792,011
    - Trade and Other Payables – current: $7,792,011
  - Non-Current Liabilities: $59,712
    - Non-current Liabilities: $59,712

- **Net Assets**: $4,813,015
  - Accumulated Funds: $4,813,015
  - Total Equity: $4,813,015

**Statement of Changes in Equity for the Year Ended 30 June 2011**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated Funds</td>
<td>$3,063,730</td>
<td>$3,063,730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 30 June 2010</td>
<td>$3,063,730</td>
<td>$3,063,730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additions to equity in Equity:</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: drawings from equity in Equity</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: withdrawals from reserves</td>
<td>$1,748,285</td>
<td>$721,188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 30 June 2011</td>
<td>$4,813,015</td>
<td>$4,813,015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Passionate, enthusiastic and determined to make a difference.

Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA was established in 1984 to express the Australian union movement’s commitment to social justice and international solidarity for human rights and development. We do this through support for overseas education, training and development projects, working in partnership with those whose rights to development are restricted or denied.

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