Despite the problems in the global economy, Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA had another successful year in 2011, when, 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 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 vital component of justice and a fair go for all.

Millennium Development Goals In 2010, 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 74 million – a significant achievement, but much still remains to be done. The Millennium Development Goals, and especially the second target of Decent Work, remains central 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 the essential element to overcoming poverty. Work that provides dignity to the worker and a living wage for their family is essential if 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 in 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 assist vocational and livelihood skills by training workers in literacy, sewing and tailoring, sustainable agriculture, carpentry, mechanical skills, media, trade union training, HIV education, OH&S training, for workers, especially for women workers, for workers at risk.

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 project partners 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

Australians and unions should be rightly proud of the development cooperation work undertaken by Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA. For over 25 years, Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA has played a critical role in fostering workers’ rights, sustainable development, social justice and equality. Solidarity and support is crucial to ensuring that Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA’s partnerships with local unions and community organizations can continue to deliver education and training programs which are understood by union values.

The past year of 2011 has been an exciting year in regions where we work, with sweeping changes in many countries where Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA works in development projects. Our major focus still remains South East Asia and the Pacific, and one new program area we are developing is a Mekong-wide asbestos-cement roofing program, educating workers and their unions, providing an alternative to asbestos-cement roofing tiles and campaigning to halt asbestos imports into those regions.

This program is typical of the work of Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA, where workers’ rights and safety fits hand in glove with development for working families so they can better provide food, shelter, education and health for their children.

Climate Change – affecting the poorest For much of 2011, Australia was caught in the grip of a violent political 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 Asia is caught in the grip of a drought that has seen 500,000 people from Somalia and southern Ethiopia being 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 Awaiting 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 that we can 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 our donors and supporters for their amazing generosity, our staff both in Australia and overseas, and especially the volunteers working overseas and in our Sydney office. My thanks also to all my fellow Committee of Management members.

Angelo Gavrielatos Chairperson

WHAT IS UNION AID ABROAD-APHEDA? Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA was established in 1984 by the ACTU in recognition of the union movement’s responsibility to contribute directly to countries and regions in the world where men and women workers are disadvantaged through exploitation, poverty, discrimination and civil conflict.

Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA aims to build self-reliance through support for education and training projects for workers and their trade unions. In cases of specific, international emergencies, Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA also assists with relief programs and emergency appeals.

Through more than 60 projects and program partners, Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA assists many communities in a variety of situations including educating disadvantaged women and men gain vocational skills, assisting them to earn and improve their situations in life; assisting workers struggling for their rights, refugees and displaced people suffering from HIV/AIDS, and providing education for indigenous peoples and health and safety for workers.

Support for these projects comes from Australian trade unions and their individual union members and others who make regular donations, international trade unions and their aid arms as well as from AusAID, the Australian government’s aid agency.
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 maimed, 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 and their families face a great economic plunge that family into poverty. Over the last year, Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA has been working with Building and Construction Workers’ Union (SATAWU) to assist the union deliver HIV and OH&S education to their members. SATAWU is one of the largest unions in South Africa, with a growing union of around 170,000 members. SATAWU is able to spot potential OH&S incidents, as well as participatory teaching methods with a focus on electricity and asbestos.

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 2009 to produce cheap asbestos-cement roofing tiles. Workers in these factories handle asbestos with their bare hands and use paper masks at best. In 2011, 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 Foundation, an 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 protection of workers in developing countries. For information about the project, please contact us at office@apheda.org.au

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, 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 their delegate structure to deliver peer education to members, particularly to long-distance truck drivers.
MIDDLE EAST
Women’s empowerment & children’s development; Apr/May, disabled health care; Vocational training, Women’s Humanitarian Organization (Defense Against the War Against Gaza), Camp, Lebanon, AEU, Un, individual donors
Mobile medical clinics & infrastructure support, Patient’s Friends Society (Occupied Palestinian Territories), individual donors
Un-al Khair Kindergarten, The Villages Group (Occupied Palestinian Territories), Leichtfahrer Friends of Hands. Student support scholarship, An Rajah University (Occupied Palestinian Territories), University of Wollongong, individual donors

THAI-BURMA BORDER
Health care for Shan refugees, Burma Relief Centre & Shan Health Committee, AFL, ANF Vic, HSUA Vic No 2, NWVAS Nurses Association, individual donors
Skills training, school and nursery for Karen women and children refugees, Karen Women’s Organization, AEU, Foundation, individual donors
Education assistance for migrant workers’ children, Burma Labour Solidarity Organization, AEU, Foundation, individual donors
Surgy support for critically ill children and adults, Burma Collaboration Medical Fund, AUS, individual donors
Human rights training, FIDC, individual donors
Drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs inside refugee camps, DARE Network, AEU Foundation

AIDS

PACIFIC
Solomon Islands livelihoods education and sustainable agriculture; Community education, Learning for Action Network, AusAID
Worker education, PNDI Trade Union Congress, Bill Nurses Union, MUA, individual donors

PHILIPPINES
HIV education and support, Positive Action Foundation of the Philippines, PVA foundation, individual donors
Child workers on Manila’s garbage dumps, Institute for Occupational Health and Safety Development (APOD); Unions NSW, individual donors

AFRICA
Emergency support, food security, & workplace HIV education, Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions, union and individual donors
Mass education through community & trade union media, Workers World Radio (Productions) co-funded with SASK V/Hal, MUA, individual donors
Occupational health and HIV education for shop-stewards, South Africa Transport and Allied Workers’ Union, AUS
Developing community care for HIV-affected orphans, Rehoboth Foster Care Whip, (Port Shepstone, South Africa), Northern Province Projects
Integrate community development:
Nutrition, health care & HIV support, pre-school, port Elizabeth, South Africa, Misemidele Australia donors
Community support for vulnerable children & youth in Western Cape
Nutrition and education support, Stellenbosch Community Development Programme, Kuyamundi, Jupiter Australia
Youth development, Educo Africa (Cape Town), individual donors
Support for Western Sahara refugees, Australia Women Sahara Association, union, individual donors

LATIN AMERICA
Medical equipment for Cuba, William Solar Children’s Hospital, Havana, Cuban Children’s Hospital Fund, individual donors
Chile earthquake & miners’ appeals, CNM, Sydney City Council, Tsunami community organisations

PAKISTAN
Union education and development, Labour Education Foundation, co-funded with SASK (Pakistan), individual donors
Flud appeals, CNM, AEU, ILO & NT, Rockdale City Council, community fundraising

INDONESIA
Union education and development, Labour Workers Group Training Centre (Bandung); co-funded with SASK (Finland), AEU, CNM, United Voice, MUA, individual donors

LAO PDR
Skills training for women, Laos Women’s Union, Boster Foundation, AUS, individual donors


THAILAND

UNION SKILLSLINK PARTNERS

UNION AID ABROAD-APHEDA ANNUAL REPORT 2010  PAGE 6 UNION AID ABROAD-APHEDA ANNUAL REPORT 2010  PAGE 7
**The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are the eight point plan by all the world’s nations to halve global poverty by 2015. In 2000, world leaders agreed on eight goals and twenty targets in order to achieve this.**

**Generally, the ones who miss out on an education are the children in remote rural areas, children from indigenous, ethnic and linguistic minorities, children with disabilities, and children affected by armed conflict.**

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 due to malnutrition and other causes.

MDG No 5

**Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**

So far, the number of deaths from HIV/AIDS has decreased by 13% since the year 2000. A combination of faster diagnosis, better targeted drugs and most especially, insect-treated mosquito nets have seen deaths from malaria drop to about 800,000 a year, mostly children under 5. Over 578 million nets have been distributed free to disadvantaged families in sub-Saharan Africa. As a result, 11 countries in Africa show a 50% reduction in the rate of malaria admissions over the past decade. A possible vaccine is also being trialled.

While we can take great encouragement from the progress that has been made in the past 12 years, we are also realistic enough to know that there is still a long way to go before the world’s poorest one billion people can rise above an income of just US$1 a day and enjoy a decent standard of living.
In the opinion of the Directors, the financial report, a full copy of which is available from the APHEDA Inc. Sydney office:

a) Presents fairly the financial position of Australian People for Peace, Health, Education and Development Abroad Incorporated as at 30 June 2011 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the requirements of the NSW Associations Incorporation Act, 2000.

b) At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Australian People for Peace, Health, Education and Development Abroad Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as they fall due and be able to continue in existence for a reasonable period.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Directors and is signed on behalf of the Directors by:

Angelo Gavrielatos, Chairperson
Paul Barton, Hon. Treasurer
Signed this 4th day of November, 2011

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF APHEDA INC.

Scope: We have audited the summarised financial report of APHEDA Inc. for the financial year ended 30 June 2011 comprising the summarised Statement of Comprehensive Income, summarised Statement of Financial Position, summarised Statement of Changes in Equity and Directors’ Declaration. The directors are responsible for the summarised financial report. We have conducted an independent audit of this summarised financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members.

Our audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the summarised financial report is free of material misstatement. We have also performed an independent audit of the full financial report of APHEDA Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2011. Our audit report on the full financial report was signed on 4th November 2011 and was not subject to any qualification.

Our procedures in respect of the audit of the summarised financial report included testing that the information in the summarised financial report is consistent with the full financial report, and examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures which were not directly derived from the full financial report. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the summarised financial report is presented fairly in accordance with Accounting Standards.

Independence: In conducting our audit, we followed applicable independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

Audit Opinion: In this opinion, the information reported in the summarised financial report is consistent with the full financial report from which it is derived and upon which we expressed our unqualified audit opinion in our report to members dated 4th November 2011. For a better understanding of the scope of our audit, this report should be read in conjunction with our audit report on the annual statutory financial report.

Signed this 4th day of November, 2011

Jeff Alba
Registered Company Auditor
3 Market Street
Sydney NSW 2000

The Summary Financial Reports have been prepared in accordance with the requirements set out in the ASIC Code of Conduct. For further information on the Code, please refer to the ASIC Code of Conduct Implementation Guidance available at www.asic.gov.au.
Unison 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.

You can show your solidarity by becoming a Global Justice Partner and making a monthly tax deductible contribution to our work.

**Become a Global Justice Partner today**
Call 1800 888 674 or visit www.apheda.org.au