



# 2009 Annual Report

**25 years of linking Australian workers with the world**

# Executive Officer's Report

## Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA celebrates 25 years of international solidarity.



As Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA celebrates 25 years of international solidarity on behalf of the Australian trade union movement, it is worth recalling our humble beginnings, when a young Australian nurse trainer, Dr Helen McCue, persuaded the President of the ACTU, Cliff Dolan, to establish a trade union based aid agency. Helen was training nurses for the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. She was impressed by the work of the Norwegian union movement's overseas aid arm there, and thought it appropriate that Australian unions had a similar aid organisation. Cliff Dolan concurred, and APHEDA was born.

### **Unions stand for international solidarity**

For 25 years, our many projects in South East Asia, the Pacific, southern Africa and the Middle East have been 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. Their generous support is a tribute to their belief in justice and a fair go for all.

### **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 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 living wage, and therefore are able to feed, clothe and educate their children themselves, without relying on sponsorship from abroad.

### **A skilled workforce essential for decent work**

But Decent Work also requires a skilled workforce. Our projects assist vocational and livelihood skills by training workers in literacy, sewing and tailoring, agricultural production, and sustainable agriculture, carpentry, mechanical skills, media, trade union training, HIV education, OH&S training

for workers, especially for women workers, for disabled youth and for 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 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 next 25 years with confidence.

Peter Jennings,  
Executive Officer.

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 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 whose rights to development are restricted or denied.

### **OUR VISION**

Unions and communities working internationally to eradicate poverty and achieve human rights.



### **ACFID CODE OF CONDUCT**

Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA is an accredited signatory

to the ACFID 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 – APHEDA or visit [www.acfid.asn.au](http://www.acfid.asn.au)

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### **FRONT COVER**

Laos: Trainees at the opening of a vocational training course run by the Vientiane Women's Union in rural Laos.

# Chairperson's Report

For the past 25 years, Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA has put a practical face on the trade union movement's belief in justice and a decent standard of living for all.



Australian unions can be justifiably proud of Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA's work in their name and on their behalf.

Over the past quarter century in South Africa, Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA was the lead Australian aid agency in fighting apartheid, assisting the ANC with capacity building, assisting those in exile to return during the transition to democracy, bringing Nelson Mandela to Australia in October 1990, and in recent years, assisting the fight against HIV/AIDS, especially through the trade union movement.

In Cambodia, we have focused on technical/vocational education, agriculture, forestry and fishery, women's health, HIV and nutrition, and union strengthening for women in the informal economy, and have trained over 80,000 people, mainly women, since 1985.

In Timor Leste, since 1998,

over 5,700 people have been trained in literacy, sewing and tailoring and handicraft production for women, and carpentry, mechanics and agriculture for men, with media and librarian training also provided. Most importantly, we have helped establish and strengthen the trade union movement in Timor Leste, ensuring that men and women will have a fair wage and a safe workplace.

In Vietnam, health, vocational training and the strengthening of workers' rights at a workplace level have been a feature of our work, as well as assisting trafficked women and livelihood skills for young disabled victims of Agent Orange.

Throughout 25 years, on behalf of Australian unions, Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA has worked in many other countries such as PNG, the Solomon Islands and New Caledonia in the Pacific, the Philippines, Laos, Indonesia and the Thai-Burma border in South East Asia, and with Palestinians living in refugee camps in Lebanon or under military occupation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

But it is not just projects to train workers or strengthen unions that has enabled Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA to make a

difference. With a human rights based approach to development, APHEDA has also campaigned for democracy, rights and justice in many countries, and continues to do so today in Burma, Zimbabwe and Palestine.

Australian unions have much to be proud of with their international solidarity arm over the past 25 years, and Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA's work continues to be crucially important. It is a living sign of the Australian union movement's solidarity with workers in need, and our Australian unions' strong belief in justice and human rights for all workers – here and abroad.

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.

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 all my fellow Committee of Management members.

Sandra Moait,  
Chairperson.

## WHAT IS UNION AID ABROAD – APHEDA?

Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA was established 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 to education and training projects for workers and their trade unions. Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA also assists with relief programs and emergency appeals in cases of specific international emergencies.

Through over 50 projects and project partners, Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA assists many different communities, including workers struggling for their rights, vocational skills for disadvantaged women and men to assist them to earn an income and improve their opportunities and options in life, assistance to refugees and stateless people, those suffering from HIV/AIDS and education for indigenous peoples and for child labourers.

Support for these training projects comes from Australian trade unions, many 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.





A health trainer in Cambodia leading nutrition information sessions for rural workers.

## Health and Development

**There is an undeniable link between health and development.**

As countries develop economically and governments spend more on public health, water and sanitation, health indicators and standards of health generally improve. Moreover, if governments spend more on health, the economy improves because healthy children learn faster and a healthy workforce is more productive.

While we in industrialised nations worry about health issues such as obesity, pollution, addictions and road trauma, the 80% of the world's population who live in developing countries are concerned with levels of nutrition and immunisation as well as having access to clean water, sanitation, health workers, contraception, etc.

However, there are many other indicators which are not so obvious but which have a significant impact on health in developing countries: the extent of smoking in that society, the use of asbestos in building and construction, access to condoms where HIV is prevalent, access to insecticide-treated mosquito nets where malaria is prevalent,

access to personal protection safety equipment in the workplace and the use of dangerous (and often banned) pesticides, herbicides and insecticides in agricultural plantations.

### Gender and health

There is also a gender dimension to health, in that women's health is sometimes low on the

Country	Public Health Funding (% of GDP)	Health expenditure per capita (\$US)	Physicians (per 100,000 people)	Under 5 mortality (per 1,000 live births)	Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)	1 yr olds fully immunised against measles	Population under-nourished (% of total pop.)	Population having access to clean water	Life expectancy at birth (years)
Australia	6.5%	3,123	247	5	4	94%	2.5%	100%	80.4
Philippines	1.4%	203	58	25	230	80%	18%	85%	70.3
Vietnam	1.5%	184	53	16	150	95%	16%	85%	73.0
Indonesia	1.0%	118	13	28	420	72%	6%	77%	68.6
Laos	0.8%	74	—	62	660	41%	19%	51%	61.9
Cambodia	1.7%	140	16	98	590	79%	33%	41%	56.8
PNG	3.0%	147	5	55	470	60%	—	39%	56.7
Timor-Leste	8.8%	143	10	52	380	48%	9%	58%	58.3
Zimbabwe	3.5%	139	16	81	880	85%	47%	81%	40.0
Cuba	5.5%	229	591	6	45	98%	2.5%	91%	77.2

Source: UNDP Human Development Report 2007-08

priorities of governments of developing countries. Approximately half a million women die in childbirth each year, almost all in poor nations, and about 80% of these deaths are easily preventable. The accompanying table dramatically shows the disparity between the numbers of women who die in childbirth for every 100,000 live births. In Australia, 4 women die; in our neighbour and former colony, PNG, 470 women die; while in Zimbabwe, a staggering 880 women will die for every 100,000 births. Like education, health often has a gender bias, and the girl child and women come second when paltry health budgets are being allocated.

#### **Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA and health**

When Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA was established in 1984, our first projects were health programs for refugees in the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. Dr Helen McCue, a nurse-trainer, was working at the time for the World Health Organisation, training Palestinian nurses for the 14 refugee camps in that country. She was working beside nurses from Norwegian People's Aid, the overseas aid arm of the Norwegian trade union movement, and she was highly impressed with the work they did. As a strong union member herself, she felt that the Australian union movement should have a similar organisation. Cliff Dolan, the then-President of the ACTU, agreed, and APHEDA was formed.

Other early health projects included working with the Hoa Binh Province

Department of Health in Vietnam, where we assisted the upgrading of skills for nurses working in rural health clinics. Many of these nurses had been trained 20 or 30 years beforehand, but because of the war, they had no opportunity to upgrade their skills through further training. We also assisted a nurse training school in the southern Cambodian province of Kampot where, due to the genocide of the Pol Pot-led Khmer Rouge, many nurses had been killed in the years 1975 to 1979.

Throughout the intervening 25 years, Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA has assisted a variety of health-oriented projects in the Pacific, Vietnam, Thai-Burma border, Timor-Leste, Aceh province of Indonesia and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Today, our health projects include:

- Assistance to refugees from Burma at both the Mae Tao Health Clinic in the Mae Sot region and the Shan Health Clinic in the refugee camp at Mae Fah Luang district near Chiang Rai in far northern Thailand.
- Assistance to the health clinics in Jenin in the northern West Bank, run by the Patient's Friends Society, as well as assistance to the El Wafa Rehabilitation Hospital in the Gaza Strip.
- Many of our livelihood skills training projects in countries such as Cambodia also include life skills training in issues such as reproductive health, nutrition and HIV education.

#### **Health and Decent Work**

Today, much of Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA's health work also takes place in the context of the Decent Work agenda of the ILO, UNDP and global union movement.

HIV is a major health issue throughout much of southern Africa and within some countries of South East Asia and the Pacific. Workplace union structures are a particularly effective way of educating people about HIV and encouraging the two cultural changes of protection and empowering women, which are necessary to combat HIV. Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA assists HIV education in the workplace through peer education with local trade unions in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, the Philippines and PNG.

Occupational Health and Safety in the workplace is also a crucial health issue. The ILO estimates that each year, over 2.2 million workers die from direct industrial accidents or through workplace-induced illnesses and diseases. This is twice the number killed each year in wars. Occupational health and safety training is a focus of our work in Vietnam, Laos and the Philippines.

One particular project which links both HIV education and OH&S training is with the women working in the beer promotion industry in Cambodia, where low wages, job insecurity and rampant sexual harassment is the norm. Assisting women with

knowledge about sexually transmitted infections (STIs), the skills to overcome sexual harassment and the ability to collectively negotiate better and safer workplaces, is crucial for these workers.

Asbestos is also a growing problem throughout much of the developing world. While asbestos products are generally banned in the industrialised world, they are now cynically being dumped in the developing world, creating a health time bomb for future generations. Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA is assisting with projects in the Mekong region on education concerning the health impacts of asbestos and safe handling techniques, as well as campaigning for a global ban.

Agent Orange has also had deleterious health impacts on many people in Vietnam. Sprayed as a defoliant during the Vietnam war of the 1960s, it is now resulting in early deaths and physical and intellectual disabilities down to the third generation. Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA assists livelihood skills training for disabled young people in two provinces in Vietnam to assist them to get a job, earn some income and assimilate into society and lead a productive social life.

Health is essential for development of the world's poorest. So too is decent work, which provides working men and women with sufficient income to provide adequate food, health care and education for their families.

# International projects during 2008–09 financial year

## AFRICA

**Emergency support, food security, & workplace HIV education,** Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions & Zimbabwe Association of Women's Clubs, unions and individual donors

**Community & trade union media,** Workers World Radio Productions (Cape Town, South Africa), AEU, MUA, SASK (Finland), individual donors

**Developing community care for HIV-affected orphans,** Rehoboth Foster Care Village (Port Shepstone, South Africa), Boomerang Project donors

**Integrated community development:** Nutrition, health care & HIV support, pre-school, income generation and skills training, Mission Vale Care Centre (Missionvale township, South Africa), Missionvale Australia donors

**Community support for vulnerable children & youth in Western Cape**

Nutrition and education support, EduCompass, EduCompass Australia

Nutrition and education support, Stellenbosch Community Development Programme, Kyamundi, Jabulani Australia Youth leadership training, Educo Africa (Cape Town), individual donors

Sport and community youth programs, Great Commission United, AMP staff

**Support for Western Sahara refugees,** Australia Western Sahara Association, unions, individual donors

## CAMBODIA

**Improving Rural Livelihoods**

Cambodian Women for Peace and Development (O'Reang Ov District, Kampong Cham Province), AEU, AusAID, individual donors  
Women in Development Centres (Battambang, Kampong Speu, Oddar Meanchey, and Preah Vihear provinces), AEU, AusAID, individual donors

**Union Training Program for Beer Promotion Workers, OH&S and Organiser training with two Cambodian unions (CFSWF and IDEA) & ILO Workers Education Project,** Qld Nurses Union, individual donors

**HIV/AIDS Education and Support,** Cambodian Prostitutes Union HIV Positive Support Group (CWDA – CPU), individual donors

**Experimentation on High Nutrition, Low Cost Fish Foods,** Fisheries Administration (Kampot Province), Cambodian Agricultural Research Fund/ACIAR

## CUBA

**Medical equipment,** William Soler Children's Hospital, Cuban Children's Fund, individual donors

## INDONESIA

**Workers' rights training,** Labour Working Group Training Centre (Bandung), AEU, AMWU, CFMEU, LHMU, MUA, NUW, individual donors

**Workers' legal rights,** Trade Union Rights Centre (Jakarta), ICTUR, AEU

**Aceh:**

**Skills training for income generation,** PCC, Children on the Edge, Papan, An-Nisa and KSBSI, Progetto Sviluppo (Italy), TUC (UK), CALL (Canada), AusAID, individual donors

**Union education and development, trade unions in Aceh,** TUC (UK), individual donors

**Health services for people affected by the tsunami and conflict,** Health Workers' Union (SPKA), NSW Nurses Association, individual donors

## LAO PDR

**Skills training for women,** Lao Women's Union, Becher Foundation, AusAID, individual donors

**OH&S training,** Lao Federation of Trade Unions, BWI, AEU, MUA, individual donors

**Mobilising the Hotel Sector in Lao PDR: HIV/AIDS Workplace Capacity Building, Policies and Partnership,** Lao Federation of Trade Unions, Lao Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, International Labour Organisation & individual donors

## MIDDLE EAST

**Community Empowerment Project,** Women's Humanitarian Organisation (Burj Al-Barajneh Refugee Camp, Lebanon), CFMEU, LHMU, AusAID

**Children's Mobile Activity Centre,** Women's Humanitarian Organisation (Burj Al-Barajneh Refugee Camp, Lebanon), Refugees International Japan (RIJ)

**Legal Literacy Program for Women,** Women's Humanitarian Organisation (Burj Al-Barajneh Refugee Camp, Lebanon), individual donors

**Health Care for Aged and Disabled,** Women's Humanitarian Organisation (Burj Al-Barajneh Refugee Camp, Lebanon), individual donors (APHEDA Palestinian Camps Support Campaign)

**Women's Vocational Training,** Women's Humanitarian Organisation (Burj Al-Barajneh Refugee Camp, Lebanon), individual donors (Women to Women Program)

**Capacity Strengthening for Primary Health Care Workers,** Patient's Friends Society (West Bank, Occupied Palestinian Territories), AusAID, individual donors

**Food Security through Hen Distribution,** MA'AN Development Centre (Gaza Strip, Occupied Palestinian Territories), individual donors

**Fostering Medical Rehabilitation Services and Out-Clinics,** El Wafa Rehabilitation Hospital, (Gaza Strip, Occupied Palestinian Territories), Gaza Relief Fund Committee, Rockdale Council, various donors

## PACIFIC

**Sustainable agricultural training,** Melanesian Farmers First Network and Kastom Gaden Association (PNG Bougainville, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu), individual donors

**Rural livelihoods study,** Urban settlements (Solomon Islands), individual donors

**Tools for vocational training,** 9 rural & community training centres in Solomon Islands & 1 in Bougainville, individual donors

**Financial literacy and small business management,** Urban settlements (Solomon Islands), AusAID

**Youth & Women's Vocational, Environmental & Literacy Training,** Solomon Islands Association of Rural Training Centres, AusAID, IWDA and Live & learn

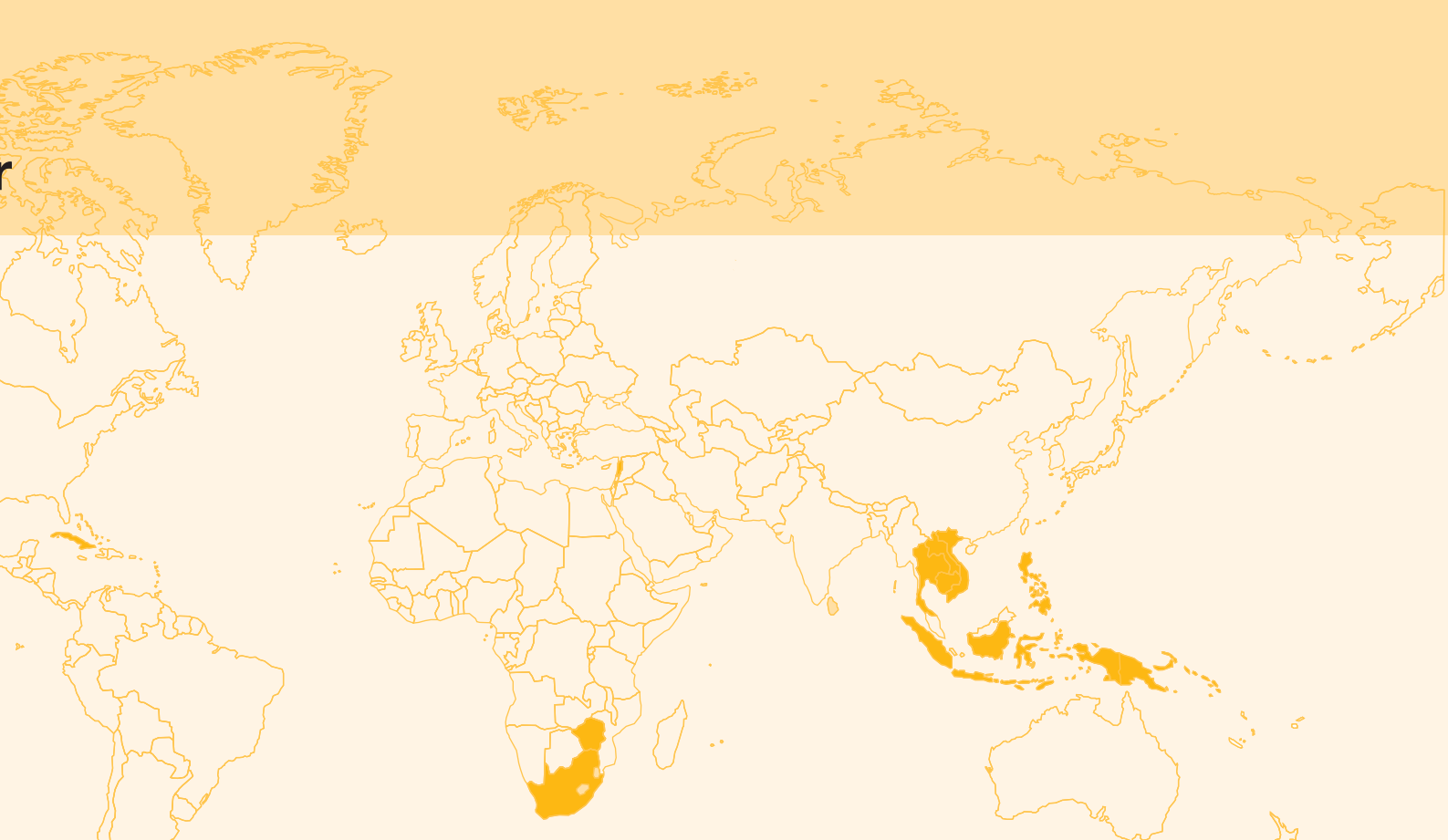
**Vocational Training,** Community Learning for Action Network (Solomon Islands), AusAID

**HIV education with trade unions,** PNG Trade Union Congress, MUA, individual donors

## PHILIPPINES

**HIV/AIDS training and care,** Positive Action Foundation of the Philippines, Pasasalamat Fund, AusAID, individual donors

**Child workers on Manila's garbage dumps,** IOHSAD, Unions NSW, individual donors



### THAI-BURMA BORDER

**Health care for Shan refugees**, *Burma Relief Centre & Shan Health Committee*, ANF Vic, NSW Nurses Assn, HSUA Vic No.2, AusAID

**Skills training for Karen women refugees**, *Karen Women's Organisation*, AEU, individual donors

**Education assistance for migrant workers' children**, *Burma Labour Solidarity Organisation (BLSO)*, individual donors

**Mae Tao Clinic for critically ill children**, *Burma Children's Medical Relief Fund (BCMF)*, individual donors

**Ethnic Media Training**, *Burma Relief Centre (BRC) and BNI*, AusAID

**Emergency House for Burmese Migrant Workers**, *Migrant Assistance Program (MAP)*, individual donors

**Cyclone Nargis relief**, *Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) & Emergency Assistance Team (EAT)*, individual donors

### TIMOR-LESTE

#### Vocational Training

Skills training for income generation through *Knua Buka Hatanae (KBH) Training Centre in Dili and four Community Learning Centres in regional areas*, LAIFET, GFFTL, AMWU, AWU, IEU, LHMU, MUA, AusAID, individual donors  
Carpentry training, LAIFET (13 carpentry co-operatives in rural districts)

Mechanical training for motorbike repairs, LAIFET

Literacy training and income generation activities for rural women, GFFTL

Small business management training, KBH, LAIFET, GFFTL

Adult education methodology training, KBH, LAIFET, GFFTL

Sustainable agricultural training, KBH, LAIFET

Expressional arts/community theatre training, KBH

Computer/IT training for community organisations, KBH, LAIFET, GFFTL

#### Community Media

*Radio Rakambia, Radio Lorico Lian*, individual donors, Keir Foundation

*Tempo Semanal*, individual donors from Fairfax staff

### Trade Union development and capacity building

Strengthening the *Konfederasaun Sindicatu Timor-Leste (KSTL)*, CPSU, CEPU, MUA, USU, individual donors

Support for Nurses affected by civil unrest, *Timor-Leste Nurses' Association*, ANF, individual donors

#### University Library

Capacity development for the *Universidade Nacional Timor-Leste Library*, Friends of UNTL, individual donors

### VIETNAM

**Work skills training for Agent Orange disabled youth**, *Hai Duong Women's Union*, NSW Nurses Assn, individual donors

**Occupational health and safety (OH&S)**, *National Institute for Labour Protection, Vietnam General Confederation of Labour*, APHEDA and individual donors

**HIV education and peer support groups**, *Hai Duong and Bac Kan provincial Women's Unions*, Olof Palme Centre (Sweden), SA Unions, AusAID, individual donors

**Micro-credit**, *Bac Kan Farmers' Union*, AusAID, individual donors

**Corporate Social Responsibility**, *Vietnam & Finland trade unions, governments and Chambers of Commerce*, individual donors, SASK (union) & Government & Responsible Importers Network of Finland

**Countering Trafficking of Women and Children**, *Hai Duong Women's Union*, AMWU, AusAID, individual donors

**Empowering Union Participation for Strengthening the Work of Better Work Vietnam**, *Vietnam General Confederation of Labour*, International Labour Organisation

**Health Promotion among Workers in Small and Medium Enterprises**, *Nghe An Federation of Labour*, Olof Palme Centre (Sweden)

**Vocational Education for Poor Women and Disabled Youth**, *Bac Kan Women's Union*, AusAID, individual donors

**Collective Bargaining Training for Building Workers**, *Vietnam National Union of Building Workers*, CFMEU

**OH&S Training Project**, *Vietnam National Union for Industry and Trade*, AMWU, individual donors

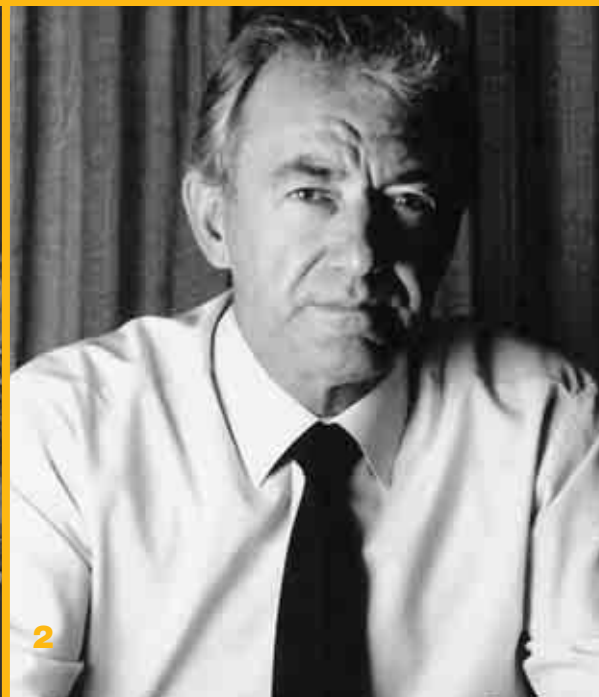
**Female Candidate Training**, *Bac Kan Women's Union & March 8 Employment Centre (Hai Duong)*, Olof Palme Centre (Sweden)



# 25 years of Union



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Upon his release from prison in 1990, Nelson Mandela paid tribute to APHEDA's work: "APHEDA has a long history of support for the anti-apartheid struggle. On behalf of the African National Congress, we would like to express our deep appreciation for your efforts. APHEDA's development assistance programs have made a very significant contribution. Assistance is not only material, or helping realise the ultimate goal of freedom in South Africa – assistance is about people, about people in Australia caring enough about our people to contribute financially, to contribute their time, their skills and emotions. This is what sustains us. This is what is irreplaceable in human endeavor. This is the true meaning of solidarity. We thank you and the people of Australia, and will be eternally grateful for your magnificent contribution."

1. The late former ACTU President, **Cliff Dolan**, and his wife, Peg (centre left), with Dr Helen McCue (right) and Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA's Administration Officer for 20 years, Dorothy Ingram (left). Cliff and Helen founded APHEDA in 1984.

2. **Tas Bull** was Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA's second Chairperson, replacing Cliff Dolan in September 1995, until his passing in May 2003.

3. **Nelson Mandela**. Among Australian aid agencies, Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA led the fight for freedom and democracy in South Africa against the apartheid regime.

4. NSW Governor **Marie Bashir** presents an award to Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA Chair **Sandra Moait**.

5. APHEDA staff members in 1999, (l-r) Lisa Arnold, Dorothy Ingram, former Executive Officer Phillip Hazelton and Marj O'Callaghan with visiting dignitaries (including Mrs Huong, centre) from the Vietnam Women's Union.

6. **Barbara Fitzgerald** has been the APHEDA Coordinator in Cambodia since 1993. **Di Butler**, a nurse, has visited Cambodia as a technical adviser on HIV training for APHEDA many times since 1995.



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# Aid Abroad-APHEDA



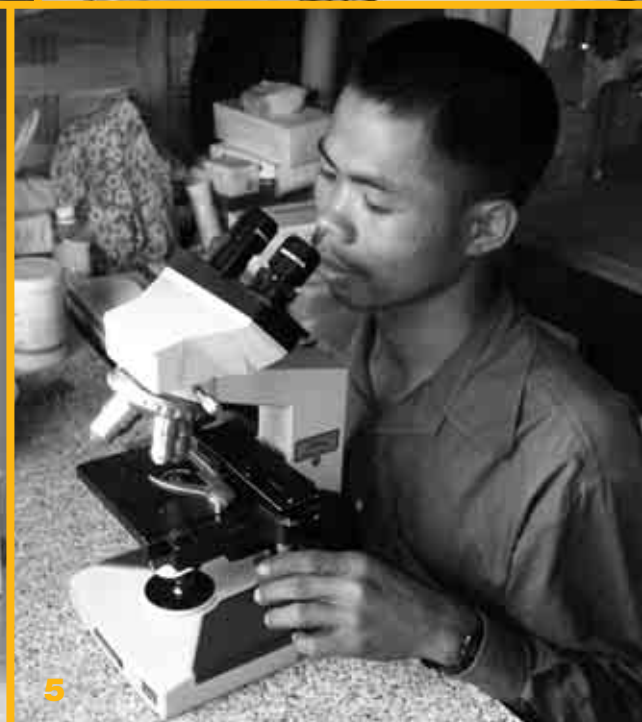
1. **Elisabeth de Araujo** is the Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA Coordinator in Timor-Leste. Elisabeth began with APHEDA in 2001 after working as a journalist, human rights investigator and development officer in Timor-Leste. As country coordinator, she runs the local office in Dili plus a range of development projects.

2. Following the tsunami in December 2004, Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA assisted in the Indonesian province of **Aceh** with reconstruction and livelihood skills training, focusing on women who were widowed by the tsunami. Over 3,800 people were trained in 17 different skills areas. APHEDA also continues to assist the development of trade unions in Aceh.

3. As one of the many contributions towards democracy in **South Africa** during the apartheid era, Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA trained key personnel from a number of Departments of the African National Congress while they were banned and living in exile in neighbouring frontline states. The ANC's Treasury Department, Women's Department and Information & Publicity Departments were trained, including Saul Pelle (Information Dept) and Virginia Modise (Education Department) who both studied in Australia in 1989-90.

4. The Labour Working Group Training Centre in Bandung, **Indonesia**, provides trade union training for organisers, delegates and trainers for over 30 key democratic unions in Indonesia. Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA first began assistance to the LWG-TC in 1999.

5. Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA assists several projects with some of the estimated 160,000 refugees from Burma living in camps on the **Thai-Burma border**. One project assists the health clinic in the Ban Thoed refugee camp near Chiang Rai in northern Thailand.





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1. Between 1987 and 1999, Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA assisted the **Kanak** people of New Caledonia with community health worker training, HIV education and media training for their own Kanak radio station, Radio Djido. At that time, the Kanak people were struggling for autonomy from France. In 1989, Laura Uregai became the 3rd Kanak journalist from Radio Djido to train in radio journalism with the ABC Staff Union.

2. In the **Democratic Republic of Lao**, Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA has assisted livelihood skills training for disadvantaged women since 2001, and OH&S training with the Lao Federation of Trade Unions since 2004. After skills training, many women receive micro-credit loans to establish their own small business.

3. In the **West Bank and Gaza**, working through our partner the MA'AN Development Centre since 2005, we have assisted disadvantaged families, often headed by women, with domestic food production for home consumption, such as vegetables, chickens, rabbits and fruit trees.

4. Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA's first project in 1984 was with **Palestinian women** in the Bourj el Barajneh refugee camp in Beirut, Lebanon. Today, through our partner, the Women's Humanitarian Organisation, we assist skills training for women, health care for the elderly, and literacy for pre-school children who must be able to read and write before they are permitted to begin primary school.

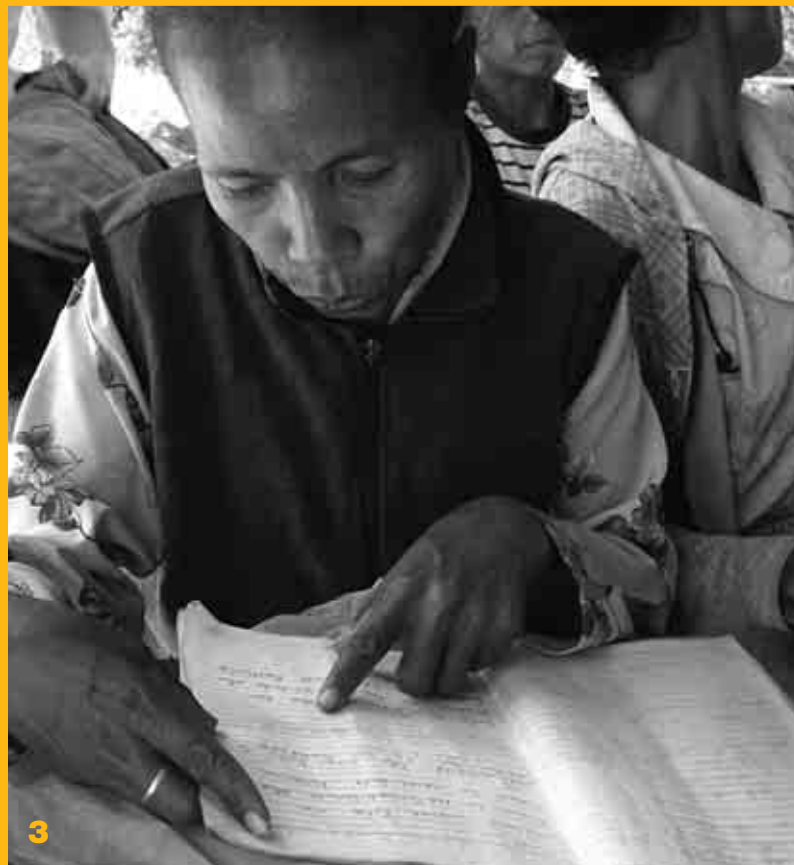
5. In the **Philippines**, since 1986, Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA has assisted a variety of projects including OH&S training through the Institute for Occupational Health and Safety development (IOHSA) and today, HIV education for over 20,000 Filipino workers heading overseas each year.



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1. In **Papua New Guinea**, Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA assists HIV education and training with the PNG Trades Union Congress. Unions, through the structure of workplace delegates, provide an ideal avenue for peer education for workers on issues such as HIV.
2. In the **Solomon Islands**, agricultural training is one of the many livelihood skills that Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA assists, working through 45 Community Learning Centres, most of which are in rural areas.
3. In **Timor-Leste**, Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA assists literacy and vocational skills training such as sewing, tailoring, and handcraft production for women, as well as carpentry, agriculture and mechanical repair training for men. We also help strengthen the trade union movement, assist community media and the National University library as well as an expressional arts group for unemployed youth.
4. In **Vietnam**, Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA's first projects in 1986 were retraining and skills updating for provincial nurses, and over the years, we have also assisted women's livelihood skills training and health education in rural areas through the Vietnam Women's Union. Today our major focus is on workers' rights by strengthening factory-based unions with negotiating skills, OH&S and HIV education, working with the Vietnam General Confederation of Labour.
5. In **Zimbabwe**, a country destroyed by the despotic ruler Robert Mugabe, Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA assists HIV education with the Zimbabwe Council of Trade Unions as well as food distribution through the Association of Women's Clubs.



# Asbestos – a silent killer waiting to strike

Asbestos has taken an unforgivable toll on Australian life. Unsafe practices by companies in the pursuit of profit have left thousands of Australians with asbestos-related diseases which will ultimately claim their lives. Whilst Australia has been proportionally one of the most affected countries, hundreds of thousands of workers around the world have suffered similar fates. After the tireless efforts of the union movement, Australia joined more than 40 other countries in declaring a comprehensive ban on asbestos in 2003.

But imagine a world where countries, knowing that asbestos kills workers and their families, were exporting and using asbestos at an ever increasing rate. Combine this with appalling occupational health and safety systems for workers and it is clear that this would constitute a public health time-bomb.

Sadly, this is a reality for the majority of the world's workers. In 2007, 2.3 million tonnes of asbestos were mined and sold, primarily by countries like Zimbabwe, Russia, China and Canada. These countries perpetuate the myth that chrysotile (white) asbestos is somehow safe to use – but experience tells us that the primary handlers of asbestos are almost never given the personal protective equipment they need. Canada's role is particularly shameful as asbestos is recognised as hazardous for Canadian workers, but not for the millions in

In 2007, 2.3 million tonnes of asbestos were mined and sold, primarily by countries like Zimbabwe, Russia, China and Canada.



**Trainees in asbestos removal in Timor-Leste**

developing countries exposed to its substantial exports.

An estimated 125 million workers are occupationally exposed to asbestos each year – and around 100,000 of them will die each year because of it. It is not unreasonable to suggest that this represents the very tip of the iceberg of this epidemic, with most countries unable to undertake differential diagnosis.

Whilst the pro-asbestos lobby argues that asbestos is essential for low-cost housing and economic growth, countries as diverse as South Africa, Egypt, New Caledonia and Honduras have proved that worker health is the most important asset they

have by instituting comprehensive bans. But Asia continues to lag behind. This is particularly concerning as asbestos use is increasingly becoming an Asian story; Asia uses half the world's asbestos at an ever increasing rate, primarily in China, India, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia. As yet, no developing country in Asia has a comprehensive ban on all forms of asbestos.

Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA and the Australian trade union movement have long recognised asbestos and asbestos diseases as an important public and

environmental health issue for workers and their communities. For example, in the post-war environment in Timor-Leste in 2000, Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA and its partners identified asbestos as a major worker and public health issue. After surveying the situation it emerged that asbestos handling practices were endangering the lives of thousands of workers. Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA then worked with the Environmental Protection Unit of the United Nations Transitional Authority of East Timor and the Timorese Department of Health to conduct an audit of asbestos use in Timor-Leste, and to develop the Guidelines for Asbestos Abatement in East Timor, which was eventually adopted as a national standard. Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA also worked with the Labour Advocacy Institute of East Timor to provide training to workers in handling asbestos in destroyed buildings with Australian technical support of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU).

Throughout 2009-2010, Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA will renew its commitment to protecting workers from the scourge of asbestos disease, utilising the hard-won technical expertise of the Australian union movement.

**For further information, please visit [www.apheda.org.au](http://www.apheda.org.au)**

# Key Fundraising Initiatives

Strong, consistent support of our work by trade unions and many individual union members highlights the level of commitment shown to international justice, decent work and equity.

## Monthly Giving Program

Individual union members, delegates and officials can become Global Justice Partners and make regular monthly, tax deductible donations to assist our training programs overseas. Already almost 2000 Australian unionists are Global Justice Partners providing Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA with long-term reliable income, enabling us to plan our development projects with confidence. If you would like to become a Global Justice Partner contact [office@apheda.org.au](mailto:office@apheda.org.au).

## Union Support

Union support is at the core of our fundraising. Trade union support continued to grow in 2008-09, with the ACTU and many unions demonstrating their commitment to international solidarity and justice by giving generously for our work.

## Activists in each state

Dedicated and committed groups of activists/supporters in Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, ACT, Tasmania and around Wollongong, 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, contact our office.

## Fundraising Events

Our annual raffle, Festive Season cards, Gifts that Change Lives, end of financial year and festive season appeals and annual dinners in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Canberra and the south coast of NSW, all add to our income. This year we also raised funds through an auction at the ACTU Congress dinner. Your support for these activities is greatly valued.

## AusAID

Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA also bids for AusAID contracts on a competitive basis, and in the 2008-09 financial year was successful in winning contracts for food security for Palestinian families in the West Bank and Gaza, and also for livelihood skills training in the Solomon Islands.



Lucia Matibenga from the Zimbabwe Council of Trade Unions with the CPSU delegation at ACTU Congress, 2009.

## THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

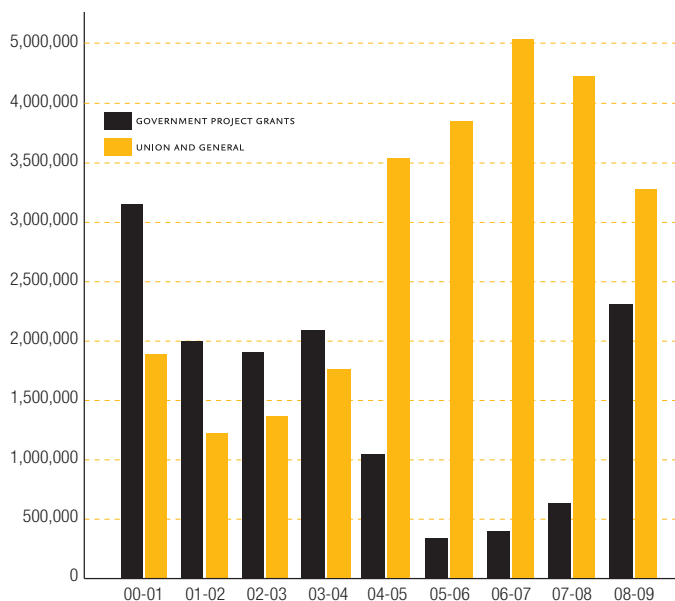
**Our union sponsors:** Australian Council of Trade Unions, Australian Education Union, Australian Manufacturing Workers Union, Australian Nursing Federation, Australian Nursing Federation – Victorian Branch, Australian Workers Union, Communications Electrical and Plumbing Union, Community and Public Sector Union – PSU Group, Community and Public Sector Union – SPSF Group, Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union, Independent Education Union, Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Workers Union, Maritime Union of Australia, National Tertiary Education Union, National Union of Workers, NSW Nurses Association, Queensland Nurses Union, United Services Union, Unions NSW and the Tas Bull Memorial International Aid Committee. **Our union members:** The Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers, Australia, Australasian Meat Industry Employees Union, Australian Institute of Marine and Power Engineers, Australian Licenced Aircraft Engineers Association, Australian Salaried Medical Officers Association, Australian Services Union, Finance Sector Union, Flight Attendants' Association, Health Services Union of Australia, Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance, NSW Police Association, Rail, Tram and Bus Union, Textile, Clothing and Footwear Union, Transport Workers Union, United Firefighters Union of Australia. Unions ACT, Unions NSW, Northern Territory Trades & Labor Council, Queensland Council of Unions, SA Unions, Unions Tasmania, Unions WA, Victorian Trades Hall Council. **Our individual donors:** All members of our Global Justice Partners Program, all members of our Paylink and Paylink Plus Programs, all individual members, all who donated to our overseas projects, everyone who bought raffle tickets, Festive Season cards or came to our events, our vibrant and inspiring activist community and the many generous people who supported our various appeals throughout the year. **Donors to appeals:** Gaza Relief Fund Committee, NSW Retired Teachers Association, Rockdale Council, Justice for Palestine, Australian Arab Business Network, CJPP, Association of Bhanin El-Minieh Region. **Our volunteers overseas:** Barbara Fitzgerald, Alex McClean, Sue Butler, Rick Butler, Karen Myers, Di Gluckstern, Deb Nicholls, Cathy Bloch, Adam Kaminski, Katie Camarena, Sarah Gardner. **Our volunteers on Community Education:** All who participated in our study tours, and our many community activists and union trainers who assisted with education and campaigns. **Our company sponsors:** Members Equity Bank, ACTU Member Connect, AustralianSuper, Mallesons Stephen Jaques, Allens Arthur Robinson. **Our international donors:** ILO, UNISON (UK), TUC (UK), Olof Palme Centre (Sweden), SASK (Finland), Progetto Sviluppo (Italy), Building and Woodworkers International, Canadian Association of Labour Lawyers, Refugees International Japan. **Workers' Clubs:** Dickson Workers Club, Woden Workers Club, Revesby Workers Club, Sutherland Trade Union Club, Mt Druitt Building Workers Club. **Our alliances:** Pasasalamat Fund, Keir Foundation, Becher Foundation, Cuban Children's Fund, Indigo Foundation, The Boomerang Project, The Hunger Project, Friends of UNTL Library, Australia Burma Friendship Association, Palestinian Camps Support Campaign, Women to Women, Australian Western Sahara Association, Gogo Foundation, EduCompass Australia, Missionvale Australia, Jabulani Australia, Educo Africa. **Our support groups in each State:** Natasha Joyce (Vic), Beth Mohle (Qld), Jan Schultz (SA), Pat Branson (WA), Cate Davey (Tas), David Perkins (ACT) our many valued volunteers in the Sydney office.

# Table of Cash Movements for Designated Purposes for the Year Ended 30 June 2009

	Cash raised during the financial year				Cash disbursed during the financial year			
	Cash available at start of year	AusAID Income	Interest	APHEDA Income	AusAID disbursed during year	APHEDA disbursed during year	Transfer to/from other project account	Cash available at end of year
<b>AUSAID FUNDED PROJECTS</b>								
<b>SOLOMON IS</b>	44,609	189,759	2,087		172,564			63,891
<b>ANCP</b>	0	643,558	15,908	296,491	659,466	296,491	0	0
<b>MIDDLE EAST</b>	0	1,456,591	158	0	133,182	0	0	1,323,567
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,609</b>	<b>2,289,908</b>	<b>18,153</b>	<b>296,491</b>	<b>965,212</b>	<b>296,491</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,387,458</b>
<b>APHEDA FUNDED PROJECTS</b>								
<b>OTHER PROJECTS TOTAL</b>	2,447,278	0	90,261	2,094,656	0	2,647,331	0	1,984,864
<b>APHEDA GENERAL ACCOUNT ACCUMULATED FUNDS (CASH ADJUSTED)</b>	1,028,784	0	51,783	547,607	0	712,279	0	915,895
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,520,671</b>	<b>2,289,908</b>	<b>160,197</b>	<b>2,938,754</b>	<b>965,212</b>	<b>3,656,101</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,288,217</b>

## Income and expenditure

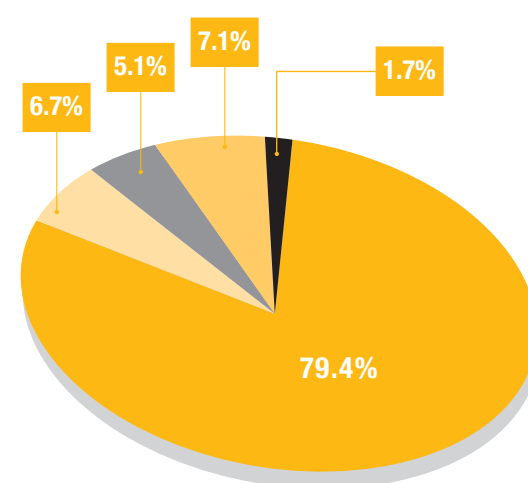
### APHEDA Income — 2000-01 to 2008-09



#### Income for year 2008-09

Government Project Grants	\$2,289,908
Union and General	\$3,283,161
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$5,573,069</b>

### APHEDA Expenditure 2008-09



Overseas Projects	<b>\$3,965,201 (79.4%)</b>
Project Management & Monitoring	\$332,639 (6.7%)
Office Administration	\$253,153 (5.1%)
Information, Publicity & Fundraising	\$354,680 (7.1%)
Global Education	\$86,640 (1.7%)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$4,992,313</b>

## At June 2009, Union Aid Abroad's Management Committee is:

Sandra Moait	Former President, Unions NSW (Chairperson)	Angelo Gavrielatos	President, Australian Education Union
Sharan Burrow	President, ACTU (Vice-Chairperson)	Natasha Joyce	Lead Organiser, CS&E, CPSU
Paul Bastian	Secretary, AMWU NSW Branch (Hon. Treasurer)	Liz Hannan-Farrar	Clinical Nurse Educator – St Vincent's Hospital
Cathy Bloch	Educator, ACTU Organising Centre (ret.) (Hon. Secretary)	Lynne Ridge	Marketing Officer, NSW Nurses Association
Tim Kennedy	Assistant Secretary, National Union of Workers		

*The Management Committee received no fees, salaries, allowances or compensation for serving on the Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA board.*

# APHEDA Inc. Summary of Financial Report, June 2009

## INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

REVENUE	2009 \$	2008 \$
Donations and gifts – general – monetary	2,314,463	3,246,175
Donations and gifts – non-monetary	202,362	235,440
Grants		
AusAID	2,289,908	708,878
Other – Overseas	199,837	426,571
Other – Australian	28,694	-
Legacies and bequests	50,000	75,000
Investment Income/Interest received	160,197	182,575
Other income	327,608	298,525
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>5,573,069</b>	<b>5,173,164</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>		
Funds to Overseas Projects – general	3,965,201	3,842,918
Other Project Costs	332,639	230,737
Community Education	86,640	83,012
Fundraising Costs:		
Public	325,835	297,400
Government	28,845	9,230
Office Administration in Australia	253,153	194,217
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>4,992,313</b>	<b>4,657,514</b>
Excess of revenue over disbursements	580,756	515,650
Funds available for future use at the beginning of the financial year	3,212,163	2,696,513
<b>Funds available for future use at the end of the financial year</b>	<b>3,792,919</b>	<b>3,212,163</b>

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2009

	2009 \$	2008 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	4,288,217	3,520,671
Other Current Assets	12,775	9,781
Total Current Assets	4,300,992	3,530,452
Non-Current Assets		
Plant & Equipment	12,379	5,851
Total Non-Current Assets	12,379	5,851
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>4,313,371</b>	<b>3,536,303</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Current Liabilities		
Trade and Other Payables – Current	462,350	276,729
Total Current Liabilities	462,350	276,729
Non-Current Liabilities		
Provisions	58,102	47,411
Total Non-Current Liabilities	58,102	47,411
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>520,452</b>	<b>324,140</b>
Net Assets	3,792,919	3,212,163
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Accumulated Funds	3,792,919	3,212,163
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>3,792,919</b>	<b>3,212,163</b>

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	Accumulated Funds	Total
<b>Balance at 30 June 2008</b>	3,212,163	3,212,163
Excess of revenue over expenses	580,756	580,756
Amount transferred (to)/from reserves	0	0
<b>Balance at 30 June 2009</b>	<b>3,792,919</b>	<b>3,792,919</b>

A full set of our audited accounts are available for inspection at our Sydney office at Level 3, 377 Sussex Street, Sydney NSW 2000.

## DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

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 Health, Education and Development Abroad Incorporated as at 30 June 2009 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 Incorporations Act, 1984.

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

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



Sandra Moait, Chairperson

Paul Bastian, Hon. Treasurer

Signed this 5th day of November, 2009

## 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 2009 comprising the summarised Income Statement, summarised Balance Sheet, 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 has been 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 2009. Our audit report on the full financial report was signed on 5th November 2009, 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 our 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 5th November 2009. For a better understanding of the scope of our audit, this report should be read in conjunction with our audit report on the full financial report.

### Matters Relating to the Electronic Presentation of the Audited Summarised Financial Report:

This audit report relates to the summarised financial report of APHEDA Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2009 included on the APHEDA Inc. website. The Directors of APHEDA Inc. are responsible for the integrity of the APHEDA Inc. website. We have not been engaged to report on the integrity of the APHEDA Inc. website. This audit report refers only to the statements named below. It does not provide an opinion on any other information that may have been hyper-linked to / from these statements. If users of this report are concerned with the inherent risks arising from electronic data communications they are advised to refer to the hard copy of the audited financial report to confirm the information included in the audited summarised financial report presented on this website.

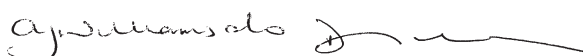
### A J Williams & Co, Chartered Accountants

David McLean, Registered Company Auditor

2 Market Street

Sydney NSW 2000

Signed this 5th day of November, 2009






In Aceh, thousands of livelihoods were affected by the tsunami. These women are just two of the hundreds who have since completed APHEDA's organic agriculture training. They have a laugh as they collect manure from local fields, having learnt to turn it into highly effective organic fertiliser. They use the fertiliser on their own gardens, and also create an income for themselves by selling the excess to other farmers in their district.

**YOU can make a difference by making a regular contribution and supporting projects that deliver REAL skills to workers and communities in developing countries.**

**Ring 1800 888 674 or email  
office@apheda.org.au**

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