



## Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA

### Report to Donors

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS DURING THE 2005-06 FINANCIAL YEAR

*Your donation choice was Child Labour*

**The project your donation has been assisting is:-  
Child Labour in The Philippines**

Thank you for your monthly donations to help combat child labour. In the past financial year, donations to our child labour projects have been allocated to a project we are assisting for child labour in the Philippines.

Like most countries in Asia, the Philippines is trapped in a downward spiral of wages and conditions as companies attempt to cut costs and compete with the wage standards set by China. Without independent and democratic unions in China to lift the very low wages, neighbouring countries who have chosen the low-wage path of development are caught in the race to the bottom. Nowhere is this clearer than in the Philippines, where many factories have decided to casualise their workforce and outsource production in order to lower costs.

In the Philippines, your donations to Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA for child labour are assisting the Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (IOHSAD) work with women and children employed in outwork industries, mainly in Manila. Many children work at home sewing garments for sub-contractors, as their parents are often forced to meet impossible quotas and deadlines. Other children work in small backyard factories, assembling components for manufactured goods, while others sell at street corners or at traffic lights. In rural areas, many work as casual labourers on farms.

A recent ILO Report, "The End of Child Labour: Within Reach" ([www.ilo.org](http://www.ilo.org)) states that there are some 217.7 million children between the ages of 5 to 17 who are engaged in child labour throughout the world. Of these, 126.3 million are caught in the worst forms of child labour. In the Philippines, the ILO's child labour survey indicate that 1,400,000 male children (13.4% of male children in the 5 to 14 year age group) and 800,000 female children (8.4% of all female children within this age group) are in work.



Their workplaces are often unsafe and unhealthy, and while child labour is officially banned, in reality, a combination of the dire poverty of the parents, the greed of many businesses to use cheaper labour to maximise their profits, and lax government inspection of worksites means that child labour continues to grow.

Although the Philippines officially ratified ILO Convention 182, which banned the use of the worst forms of child labour, in the year 2000, very little is done to ensure the law is observed. IOHSAD estimate that while there are over 500,000 workplaces in the Philippines, 357,000 of them registered, there are only 57 active inspectors who check for breaches of health and safety or child labour.

**By regularly donating to Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA  
you are helping to *Make Life Fair Everywhere*. Thank you.**



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