



**Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA**

**Report to Donors**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS**

**DURING THE 2005-06 FINANCIAL YEAR**

*Your donation choice was Literacy Training*

**The project your donation has been assisting is:-  
Literacy Training and Vocational Skills for Women in East Timor**

### **Background to Project**

Since 2001, Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA has been assisting a women's organisation in East Timor, the Grupo Feto Foins'ae Timor Leste (GFFTL), who deliver literacy training to women, as well as vocational skills training which enable them to earn some small income.

It is estimated that approximately two thirds of adult women in East Timor have never attended any kind of school, and for those who have, it is often just for a year or two. This is especially true of older women in the rural areas, as education was a low priority of the Portuguese during the period of their colonial rule. If these women are to participate in the reconstruction, and share in the development of East Timor, literacy and skills training are essential.

### **GFFTL**

GFFTL is an organisation of volunteer women students from the University of East Timor who conduct literacy training and then vocational skills education, such as sewing and tailoring for the most disadvantaged in Dili and 13 rural districts of East Timor. Initially, through Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA, the AMES in Victoria helped GFFTL develop a curriculum for the literacy training, and currently, a volunteer from Australia is



In the past year, GFFTL has also been assisted by Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA with the provision of equipment and resources, transport costs as well as IT support and IT training for the organisation, and other related expenses associated with running this literacy training. Transport costs are one of the major problems facing this project, as many of the villages where the literacy training is most needed are in remote, mountainous regions where roads are of very poor quality or even non-existent.

This combination of rural-based literacy and vocational skills training with a focus on income generating skills is having a significant impact on some of the poorest women in East Timor. The extra income they can earn after training, although small, gives them an added security and more options in their lives.

Thank you for your assistance to this project, by donating regularly to Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA you are helping to *Make Life Fair Everywhere*.



**Printing courtesy of the NSW Teachers Federation**