



2020

ANNUAL REPORT



Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA partner organisation, the Local Initiative for OSH Indonesia (LION), mobilised to help unions organise against the virus and helped protect communities of vulnerable workers. Credit: Local Initiative for OSH Indonesia (LION).



EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

2020 presents the biggest challenge in living memory for us all, in particular those living in the Global South, as the pandemic sets back global equality by decades.

For Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA, we began the year stepping through the final stages of our accreditation with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) as one of forty-one fully accredited overseas aid and development organisations in Australia. I am really pleased to be able to report that the final stage was passed in April 2020 and thus we remain accredited through to 2024. This puts us in strong position to continue our work to mitigate the health and economic impacts of the pandemic.

Once the pandemic's impact became apparent in March 2020, our organisation was able to respond immediately to the requests from DFAT to 'pivot' our Australian aid program funding. We worked with partner organisations funded through our two Australian aid-funded programs, the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) and the Australian Middle East NGO Cooperation Agreement (AMENCA 3) to do this in the immediate weeks from April 2020. This involved partner organisations on the Thai-Myanmar border, Palestine, Lebanon, Indonesia, Timor Leste and in the Philippines who responded very quickly in their efforts to assist with education about how to protect communities from the virus, distribute PPE, assist in farming produce in our agricultural programs to be re-distributed to vulnerable people, amongst many other initiatives. My thanks to all APHEDA staff and our partner organisations who took the opportunity presented by the Australian government, re-programmed work and rolled out a prompt response with the resources we had available.

Our flagship campaign **Asbestos. Not here. Not anywhere.** continues to make strong headway in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Indonesia. This year the campaign escalated our global campaign work in successfully calling on the Asian Development Bank to ensure that COVID-19 relief delivered in the Asia-Pacific does not contain asbestos. We also worked with the ACTU to initiate a renewed effort to reform the Rotterdam Convention which governs asbestos use internationally.

Through building a global union and community coalition and working through the international network to build support amongst governments in sympathetic countries, we hope the veto stranglehold on the Convention can be broken once and for all.

We continue to work to advance our Strategic Plan 2017-2020 along its four pillars: worker's rights, safety at work and trade union development; women's rights and equality and feminist movement-building; climate justice and just transition; and rights of migrant workers and refugees. In light of the COVID-19 crisis, our Plan will be extended until 2022 and is currently being updated with a response to the pandemic context before us.

Thank you to our committed and dedicated staff and volunteers - 36 people across 8 locations. It is a great pleasure to work with you all, and with your skills and talents! Our international partner unions and community organisations inspire all of us daily, and now in the face of the pandemic, we recognise the struggle is enormous.

Thanks to the members of our governing Committee of Management and Finance and Risk subcommittee who steer our organisation. Your commitment to our organisation, and your loyalty to its charter, purpose and people is so highly valued by me and our team.

Our activist groups in Perth, Adelaide, Canberra, Brisbane and Melbourne are so important to our fundraising, development education and keeping APHEDA visible in union and community networks. Your role is even more important as we face at least a decade of dislocation, increased poverty and gender inequality in the countries in which APHEDA works.

Australian unions, trades halls and the Australian Council of Trade Unions continue to provide APHEDA with financial and in-kind support in a myriad of different ways. Together we make the world more equal and more just, thank you.

Kate Lee

ACFID CODE OF CONDUCT

Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct. This Code requires members to meet the high standards of governance, public accountability, and financial management.

DFAT ACCREDITATION

Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA is fully accredited with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA is supported by the Australian Government.

CONTACT US

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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Pandemic re-writes the rule book and the future for the poor in the Global South

Only a short ten months ago we were oblivious to the onslaught about to arrive through the COVID-19 pandemic, the first pandemic in almost one hundred years.

Globally we are now at 64.5 million COVID-19 infections and 1.49 million deaths. Many governments around the world are failing to protect their populations and in some cases governments are abandoning their people. An estimated one billion women have been left destitute as a result of the pandemic. Global inequality and poverty has escalated virtually overnight.

60% of the world's people work in what is known as the informal economy – and this means no floor on wages, no social protection, no regulation of safety of work - and women make up two-thirds of this informal workforce.

Under the cover of COVID, global capital has continued to launch attacks in concert with right wing governments and this has shifted towards more precarity and more informality. In the last 6 months, new legislative bills have been introduced to erode industrial rights and restrain or indeed attack unionists and freedom of speech and assembly.

For example, in Modi's India, three new anti-labour codes were recently passed into law, imposing conditions of virtual slavery on workers, making formation of unions difficult, restricting conditions for the right to strike and making it illegal to organise the unorganised, such as street vendors.

And in Jokowi's Indonesia, new laws have been introduced that remove restrictions on outsourcing and contract work, reduce job security, leave entitlements and severance pay for permanent employees and abolish the five-day working week.

However, there are stories of hope, including in Myanmar, a country of 54 million people and under a military dictatorship for decades until 2015, and one which has only had the legal right to form unions since 2012. Today in Myanmar, while union density is still low, approximately 2400 workplace unions exist.

The first wave of the virus hit Myanmar from March to May. By April, 175 factories had shut down with 150,000 workers jobless. Most of these factories were producing clothes for the EU and US big brands. Unions organised 'sit-in strikes' in the industrial zones of Yangon and managed to get 3,500 workers reinstated. Further, they organised a worker's hotline which took up cases from 114 factories and negotiated compensation for another 3,000 workers. Unions set up a COVID-19 advisory committee, and when State Counselor, Aung San Suu Kyi announced that the Ministry of Labour had to work with unions to monitor the impact of the virus, unions saw their chance to pressure for recognition of their COVID-19 committee.

Factory closures have led to hundreds of strikes for jobs and outstanding wages. Six union leaders were arrested in May facing criminal charges for breaching public gathering orders. Government authorities agreed to drop the charges through negotiation with the unions which also included an agreement for joint factory level inspections between union and government labour inspectors.

The second wave began in August. It saw the imposition of further hardship with 'stay at home' orders for all factories. Wages were compensated to 40% by the state's social security fund – but with only 6% of workers covered by the fund, suffering was immense. Employers refused to meet the gap. Union negotiations with the Yangon regional government led to a compensation of 30,000 kyat or about 25% of compensation for 'daily workers' or what we might think of as 'casual' workers; this includes cleaners and construction workers.

By building union power, through a dynamic young and mostly female factory workforce, Myanmar unions have managed to organise and win.

This story is one of so many from this year of workers fighting to protect themselves and their jobs, their families and communities against the virus and its devastating impacts.

Angelo Gavrielatos

AT JUNE 2020, THE UNION AID ABROAD-APHEDA COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT:

Angelo Gavrielatos Chairperson
Michele O'Neil Vice-Chairperson
Mark Lennon Hon.Treasurer
Marjorie O'Callaghan Hon. Secretary
Andrew Dettmer Committee Member
Michelle Robertson Committee Member
Michael Wright Committee Member

Danae Bosler Committee Member
Betty Hounslow Appointed Expert
Kate Lee Executive Officer

FINANCE AND RISK SUB-COMMITTEE:

Mark Lennon Treasurer
Peter Cozens External Representative
Kate Lee Executive Officer
Lois Rahayu Chief Financial Officer

The Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA Committee of Management received no fees, salaries, allowances or compensation. If any member of Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA, donor or member of the general public has any questions or complaints about the organisation, please contact the Executive Officer, Kate Lee on +61 2 9264 9343 or the Chair of the Committee of Management at office@apheda.org.au

WHO WE ARE

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Australian unions working globally in partnership for the achievement of dignity at work, social justice, economic equality and the realisation of human rights.

We work to achieve this through strong unions and social movements, sustainable development programs, global solidarity and support in times of crisis.

OUR VALUES

SOLIDARITY

Our approach is rooted in solidarity – solidarity that builds connections between people and across borders, as key to building organised movements for equality, development and justice. Our on-the-ground assistance aims to address the causes of injustice and inequality, not the symptoms.

EQUALITY AND JUSTICE

We challenge the dominant myths of development aid – that charity and depoliticised humanitarian assistance can somehow be adequate in addressing the root causes of poverty and injustice. Conservative or autocratic governments and corporations create a world in their own

image, where the wealth and power of the global ‘one percent’, just 70 million people, grows hand-over-fist. We place the demands of the 99% in the centre of our work.

MOVEMENT-BUILDING

We help build democratic civil society, social justice movements, and representative organisations of workers, women, farmers, young people, people with disabilities, refugees, and others - so they can define and fight for their rights and against power structures that seek to oppress them. Organised movements of people make change possible, by exerting political pressure for just solutions.

ACCOUNTABILITY

We aim to be accountable to the local organisations we work with internationally and the people they serve, to our own members, to the Australian union movement and to government donors. We are fully accountable for the funds we receive. We seek the most effective and strategic way to deploy funding – by addressing causes not symptoms – and involve partner organisations in reviewing programs while working for continual improvement.

PARTNERSHIP

Working in partnership is the cornerstone of our approach. We aim for joint action with local partner organisations directed at meeting practical needs with movements on the ground – by supporting the building blocks that enable movements to emerge or become stronger, such as organisation, campaign capacity, education, research, and skills development.





WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP IS THE CORNERSTONE OF OUR APPROACH. WE AIM FOR JOINT ACTION WITH LOCAL PARTNER ORGANISATIONS DIRECTED AT MEETING PRACTICAL NEEDS WITH MOVEMENTS ON THE GROUND.



DEFENDING WORKERS’ RIGHTS AND SAFETY AT WORK

At the core of Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA’s purpose is the fight for workers’ rights and safe workplaces. By working with partner unions across our region, we are strengthening the collective power of workers in the Global South to defend good jobs, fair conditions, and safe workplaces.



LION respond to COVID-19 in Indonesia. **Photo credit:** LION

HELPING WORKERS AND TRADE UNIONS RESPOND TO COVID-19 IN INDONESIA

COVID has hit Indonesian workers and unions hard with more than 500,000 cases. Millions have lost their jobs and over 17,000 are dead. In April, we responded to the crisis with our partner Local Initiative for OSH Network (LION) by temporarily suspending the asbestos awareness campaign. We moved to support a rapid COVID-19 response, targeting workers and helping trade unions respond.

LION quickly prepared leaflets, posters and stickers and began distributing masks and hand sanitizer to poor communities in West Java. They also set up a Respect Centre within LION to advise unions. In addition, it provided advice and support to 5 union-based COVID-19 hotlines for members. These temporary hotlines not only shared key health messages to workers but also collected information on lay-offs, forced work during COVID-19 outbreaks, and the economic hardships they were facing. This mapping of impact on workers was used to develop a workplace health protocol for COVID-19 safe workplaces and for government advocacy to secure emergency government help for living costs and also push for improved OSH policies in the workplace from the Ministry of Health and other Ministries.

“WORKERS MUST DEAL WITH THE POTENTIAL EXPOSURE TO COVID-19 IN THE WORKPLACE, WHEN LEAVING AND RETURNING TO WORK AND THEIR HOMES. AT THE SAME TIME WORKERS ARE ALSO FACED WITH THE THREAT OF LOSING THEIR JOBS AND LIVELIHOODS.”

– Local Initiative for OSH Indonesia (LION)

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO IMPROVE WORKER’S RIGHTS IN MYANMAR

Since July 2017, Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA in partnership with Mondiaal FNV, Myanmar Industry Crafts Services Trade Union Federation (MICS-TUsF) and Action Labour Rights (ALR), have been working together for decent work in Myanmar. The project focuses on improving the working conditions and worker’s rights in the garment supply chain through organising workers, strengthening workplace level unions, and influencing policy making at the workplace and national level to support worker’s rights.

Highlights from the project include:

- 22,000 workers organised and 22 garment & textile unions established.
- 645 disputes settled in favour of workers.
- 7 factories adopted a zero tolerance policy on Gender Based Violence in employment contracts.
- Labour Consultative Forum (LCF), a joint platform for national unions, was established advancing labour reform in areas of the minimum wage, functions of labour courts, OH&S and migration and work.



MICS-TUsF members take to the streets on International Women’s Day 2020 advocating for worker’s rights in Myanmar. **Photo credit:** MICS-TUsF

CLIMATE JUSTICE, ENERGY DEMOCRACY, AND A JUST TRANSITION

Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA's partner organisations and allies represent workers and communities on the front-lines of climate chaos. Across the Asia Pacific workers livelihoods and human rights are being eroded by extreme climatic events, including mega-typhoons, extreme workplace heat, public health epidemics, increased forced migration, and violent conflict. Our partners and allies are strengthening their power to respond to these crises by forging a public-goods approach to energy that ensures a just and equitable transition to low carbon economies for all workers.

BUILDING UNION POWER IN THE CHANGING ELECTRICITY SECTOR IN VIETNAM

Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA's partner organisation, the Vietnam General Congress of Labour (VGCL), represents over ten million workers across Vietnam, including 100,000 members in the publicly-owned energy provider, Vietnam Electricity Group. With a rapidly-changing and fast-growing economy, Vietnam is increasingly open to large-scale structural changes through the introduction of market reforms. Nowhere is this new pace of change felt more than in the country's electricity sector where large scale privatisation is planned. In the next ten years, the government intends to double electricity generation and is considering building one of the largest new coal fired generation fleets in the world.

VGCL has undertaken an in-depth scoping study to strengthen its understanding of the changing electricity sector and consider its position through consulting with workers across key provinces in the country. The study took into consideration the economic, environmental, and industrial implications of the changing electricity sector to plan strategic union interventions in the new year, including the opportunity to organise workers in the growing new renewable energy sector.



Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA Executive Officer Kate Lee meets with Vietnam General Confederation of Labour (VGCL) Vice-President Mr. Ngo Duy Hi. **Photo credit:** Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA

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WORKERS KNOW WHAT IT IS LIKE TO HAVE GREEDY CORPORATIONS CONTROL EVERYTHING, WHERE WAGE STRUGGLES VALUE PEOPLE OVER PROFITS.”

— Meryl Quero-Asa, International Officer, Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU)

ORGANISING FOR CLIMATE SOLUTIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES

In the Philippines, Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) union federation along with the Centre for Trade Union and Human Rights (CTUHR), are organising workers on the frontlines of dangerous global warming. With climate change already impacting workers in the Philippines, there is an opportunity to organise the most vulnerable workers and elevate their demand for justice. These workers include informal farm workers losing income due to drought and extreme weather events, manufacturing workers exposed to extreme heat in export processing zones and women informal workers bearing the brunt of an increased caring burden due to the impact of flooding and household damage as typhoons become more frequent and severe.

This initial project phase has enabled frontline workers to access knowledge about how climate change affects their work and daily lives. It has also supported union organisers to develop the skills to incorporate climate impacts and solutions in their work, and created education materials for delegate and community leader training.

DEFENDING THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANT WORKERS AND REFUGEES

Across the globe, an unprecedented number of people are seeking protection from war and oppression. Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA is working with partner organisations to empower migrant workers and refugees with the skills, knowledge, and resources they need to defend their rights.

SUPPORTING PALESTINIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON THROUGH A POLITICAL AND HEALTH CRISIS AND THE AFTERMATH OF THE BEIRUT BLAST

In Lebanon, the Palestinian Women's Humanitarian Organization (PWHO) has been supporting Palestinian and Syrian refugee women to find sustainable work while supporting the needs of the camp communities from a woman's perspective. For many years, Lebanon had already been rocked by political and economic crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the situation and the August 2020 explosion in Beirut delivered yet another blow.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, PWHO has been working to prevent the spread of Coronavirus and to protect those most at risk of infection. Now, in the aftermath of the explosion, PWHO are responding to the immediate needs of women, children and vulnerable families. They continue to work hard to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 in the Palestinian camps where physical distancing is a challenge.

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WE ARE DOING OUR BEST TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS IN VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES AND TO PROTECT THOSE MOST AT RISK OF INFECTION. WE ALL KNOW THAT COVID-19 IS A GLOBAL PANDEMIC AND IT IS AFFECTING ALL PEOPLE WITHOUT ANY EXCEPTION...”

— *Dr. Olfat Mahmoud, Director of the Palestinian Women's Health Organisation (PWHO) on COVID-19 and the aftermath of the Beirut explosion.*

RADIO, A LIFELINE FOR MIGRANT WORKERS IN THAILAND DURING COVID-19

Established in 1996, MAP Foundation has been running community radio stations to support migrant worker's rights for nearly fifteen years. With the ability to reach many migrants over a dispersed area, radio is a powerful tool in promoting development, building strong communities and improving the lives of migrant workers from Myanmar who live and work in Thailand.

During the pandemic, many migrants were out of work and food scarcity became an issue. Between the end of March and beginning of June 2020, over 55,000 returned to Myanmar. MAP played an important role during this time broadcasting life-saving information on sanitation, social-distancing, and healthcare to migrant workers in their own languages.



From left: Preventing the spread of Coronavirus in an early childhood education centre in Bourj el Barajneh refugee camp in Southern Beirut. **Photo credit:** Palestinian Women's Humanitarian Organization (PWHO). MAP Radio broadcasting essential information to migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Photo credit:** MAP Foundation

WOMEN’S SOLIDARITY ACROSS BORDERS

Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA works with its partner organisations around the world to support women’s movements and women leaders, advocates, and campaigners to achieve equality and justice in their workplaces and communities. Here’s a snapshot of how Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA is working to strengthen women’s power across the globe.

STRENGTHENING THE POWER OF REFUGEE WOMEN TO TAKE ON LEADERSHIP ROLES (KWO)

Since 2004, the Karen Women’s Organisation (KWO) have been working to build leadership skills and knowledge in refugee camps along the Thai-Burma border with support from Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA. Due to the ongoing unstable social and political situation, resettlement programs result in frequent changes in leadership within the refugee and internally displaced communities. The Capacity Building

and Training Program meets this continuing need to maintain skilled staff to deliver important community services. Importantly, these skilled staff play a central role in building community understanding about the community’s capacity to claim their rights as refugees and as citizens.

Despite the extraordinary challenges posed by COVID-19, KWO has continued to strengthen the skills of leaders in management, administration, finance and public speaking as well as build knowledge on Myanmar’s peace process, democracy, indigenous people’s rights, human rights, women’s leadership, women’s protection, women’s rights, child rights and child protection.

Left: KWO Capacity Building Training for Central Position Holders, Thai-Burma Border.

Right: Karen Women’s Organisation – building tomorrow’s leaders, today. **Photo credit:** Karen Women’s Organisation



STRONGER REPRESENTATION AND ADVOCACY FOR WOMEN’S RIGHTS IN VIETNAM

In Vietnam, the challenge of promoting women as effective leaders in a largely patriarchal system is ongoing. Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA’s *Gender in Political Decision Making* project is strengthening the skills and building the confidence of Vietnamese women to enter or remain in politics and provide better representation of women’s issues. This is a five year collaboration with the Irish Embassy in Vietnam and the Women’s Unions of Bac Kan, Phu Yen and Hai Duong Provinces.

Through training, networking and peer support the project encourages women to stand for commune, district and provincial level elections and provides skills in political leadership and decision making. In the past year, about 84% of the 1,109 women

reached improved their knowledge and skills and all have demonstrated increased confidence in political debate.

As a result, in the upcoming 2021 general elections, there will be more women standing for election, more women elected and more women retained at all levels of political decision making in all three provinces.

Annual Meeting of Gender in Political Decision Making project partners in Hai Duong, Vietnam. **Photo credit:** Lam Nguyen/Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA



14 COUNTRIES 45 PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

CAMBODIA

- Association to Support Vulnerable Women (ASVW-CPU)
- Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training (MoLVT)
- Building and Wood Workers Trade Union Federation of Cambodia (BWTUC)
- Independent Democracy of Informal Economy Association (IDEA)
- Ministry of Women's Affairs, Cambodia
- Cambodian Food and Service Workers' Federation (CFSWF)

INDONESIA

- Local Initiative Occupational Health and Safety Network (LION)

LAOS

- Lao Federation of Trade Unions (LFTU)

LEBANON

- Palestinian Women's Humanitarian Organisation (PWHO)

MYANMAR

- Action Labour Rights (ALR)
- Myanmar Industry Crafts Services Trade Union Federation (MICS-TUf)

NEPAL

- Patan Academy of Health Sciences (PAHS)
- Centre for Labour and Social Studies (CLASS)

PALESTINE

- MA'AN Development Center
- The Palestinian Businesswomen's Association - ASALA
- Institute for Community Partnership of Bethlehem University (ICP)

THE PHILIPPINES

- Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU)
- Centre for Trade Unions and Human Rights (CTUHR)
- Sentro ng Nagkakaisa at Progresibong Manggagawa (SENTRON)
- Positive Action Foundation Philippines Inc. (PAFPI)

SAMOA

- Samoa First Union (SFU)

SOUTH AFRICA

- Trust for Community Outreach and Education (TCOE)
- Workers World Media Productions (WWMP)

THAI-MYANMAR BORDER

- Karen Women's Organisation (KWO)
- Migrant Assistance Program (MAP) Foundation
- Shan State Development Foundation (SSDF)
- School for Shan State Nationalities Youth (SSSNY)
- Mae Tao Clinic (MTC)

TIMOR LESTE

- Working Women's Centre of Timor Leste (WWCTL)
- Agriculture Union Ermera (UNAER)
- Institute of Popular Education (IEP)
- Kdadalak Sulimutuk Institute (KSI)
- General Workers Union (SJTTL)

VIETNAM

- Bac Kan Women's Union
- Phu Yen Women's Union
- 8 March Centre
- Hai Duong Women's Union
- Nghe An Federation of Labour
- NGO Information Centre (NGOIC)
- Vietnam Institute for Resources Environment and Community Development (IRECO)
- Vietnam Occupational Health and Safety Association (VOSHA)
- Justice Environment and Health Network (JEH)
- Vietnam General Confederation of Labour (VGCL)

ZIMBABWE

- Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU)

LEBANON

PALESTINE

ZIMBABWE

SOUTH AFRICA

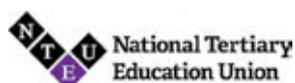
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SOLIDARITY IN ACTION: WHERE WE WORK

This year, Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA worked with over forty partner unions and community organisations in fourteen locations across South Asia, Southeast Asia, the Pacific, the Middle East, and Southern Africa. This practical solidarity strengthens the collective power of movements, communities, and workplaces to campaign for equality and justice through developing their organising skills, building their leadership skills, and expanding their campaigning capacity.



THE CAMPAIGN TO BAN ASBESTOS IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Despite delays and program changes due to the global pandemic of COVID-19, there has been major progress in the Campaign to Ban Asbestos. In 2020, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced a change in policy that will mean all future ADB projects will not support the procurement of any products containing asbestos. We also launched a push to reform the Rotterdam Convention that lists hazardous chemicals, with the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) and Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA initiating a global alliance of Trade Unions and environmental NGO's on this campaign.

INDONESIA

The campaign with our partner organisation, Local Initiative OHS Network (LION), has seen great progress on regional asbestos bans including in post-disaster reconstruction both in Central Sulawesi and for temporary shelters nationally. The program also responded to COVID-19 in Indonesia. In April, as the pandemic hit Indonesia, activities moved to help unions, workers and local West Java poor communities respond to the crisis. The response included hotlines for worker's information in 5 unions, mapping the impact of workers, disseminating key health information, developing workplace protocols and advocating to the Ministry of Health.

VIETNAM

Adoption by the government's Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs (CEMA) of a national communication plan to promote consumer's to stop buying and using asbestos containing products has been a highlight of the year. Another was the national TV documentary (VTV1) featuring key leaders within the Vietnam Ban Asbestos Network that went on to win the National Film and Television Award for best documentary despite asbestos industry objections. A focus by partner organisations has also been regulations on safe disposal of asbestos waste and increasing the hazardous chemical rating of chrysotile asbestos.

LAOS

Working with the Lao Federation of Trade Unions (LFTU) and the LAO Ban Asbestos Network (LAOBAN), the campaign has focused on asbestos hazard awareness including workers, students and vendors who sell roof sheet products. The LFTU also undertook a survey of 7 asbestos roof sheet factories to determine the number of workers and the amount of asbestos being used. The number of asbestos roof sheet factories has reduced almost 50% in recent years partly due to the campaign. Some activities were delayed due to COVID-19 including the meeting of the National Committee on Eliminating Asbestos Related Diseases.

CAMBODIA

A focus on awareness raising for construction workers through the Building and Wood Worker's Federation (BWTUC), greater use of social media on asbestos hazard awareness and Provincial Department of Labour were key targets for the campaign this year. The workplace information sessions have been reviewed and upgraded and 291 workers completed them. The program is scaling up with additional support in coming years from Solidarity Center USA. BWTUC launched Facebook Live weekly asbestos hazard awareness programs attracting an average 1,000 strong audience per week.



FIRST REGIONAL BAN ON ASBESTOS IN INDONESIA – CONGRATULATIONS BANDUNG CITY!

In February 2020, Bandung City Assembly strengthened its earlier decision on banning asbestos containing materials from future commercial buildings to include all new residential buildings as well. This makes Bandung City the first in Indonesia to effectively ban asbestos from all new buildings. Recognising this achievement, the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (ASEA) of the Australian Government has awarded Bandung City Assembly a Certificate of Recognition towards their efforts to eliminate asbestos related diseases. Along with asbestos bans in Central Sulawesi in regards to post-disaster housing construction, big progress is being achieved despite the efforts of the pro-asbestos industry.



Above: Deputy Mayor Bandung City with Rendiana Arwanga (Awane) City Assembly Member, Director LION Firman Boediawan (R) Phillip Hazelton Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA and team showing award from Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (ASEA), February 2020. **Photo credit:** LION. **Right:** Ban Asbestos Campaigners suit up during asbestos removal training in Port Melbourne. **Photo credit:** Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA. **Below:** Ira and Darisman from Indonesia participate in Asbestos Removal Training in Port Melbourne. February. **Photo credit:** Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA. **Opposite:** Good practice removal of asbestos roof sheets being demonstrated, Nghe An Province Vietnam. **Photo credit:** Pham Thanh Tung, Nghe An Federation of Labor

ASBESTOS REMOVAL TRAINING TOUR TO AUSTRALIA

In February, Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA hosted nine ban asbestos campaigners and union leaders from Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, and Vietnam to train in best practice asbestos removal and regulation at the CFMEU Training Centre in Port Melbourne. During their training week, the delegation participated in asbestos awareness training, meetings and a practical field visit to the decommissioned Hazelwood Power Station. The participants gained skills and knowledge to strengthen the Ban Asbestos Networks in their countries to win an asbestos-free future. The program was supported by ASEA and CFMEU Vic.



THE TRAINING GAVE US CAPACITY AND LEGITIMACY TO DESCRIBE HOW ASBESTOS IS DANGEROUS AND HOW TO CONTROL FOR ASBESTOS RISK.”

— Darisman, Ban Asbestos Campaigner



ADVOCATING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, JUSTICE, AND EQUALITY

Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA not only builds workers' power abroad, but it also builds solidarity at home. By bringing international speakers to Australia on advocacy tours, by organising study tours abroad, and by taking part in actions in solidarity with international struggles for justice, Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA helps build bridges between people who share common challenges and common interests.

FILIPINO UNION LEADER MEETS WITH AUSTRALIAN UNIONISTS: KMU SOLIDARITY TOUR

Chairperson Elmer Labog, and International Officer Miles Quero-Asa, of the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU), toured Australia in early 2020, meeting with Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA members and activists to shine a spotlight on the repression committed by the Duterte regime.

Organised in partnership with the AMWU and the Philippines Australia Union Link, the solidarity tour garnered support from the breadth of the global justice movement, delivered statements of support from the Australian Parliament as well as a commitment to regular dialogue between the Australian Embassy in the Philippines and the national unions.



Clockwise from top: Sydney rally against trade union repression in the Philippines. **Photo credit:** Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA. KMU Chairperson, Elmer Bong Labog, meeting with UnionsWA officials. **Photo credit:** Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA. Activists and unionists in Melbourne meet with Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU), Feb. 2020. **Photo credit:** Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA.

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THE INTENSIVE HARASSMENT AND REPRESSION OF TRADE UNION MEMBERS AND WORKING PEOPLE IN THE PHILIPPINES DESERVES TO BE CONDEMNED BY ALL WHO VALUE BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW.”

— Elmer Labog, Chairperson, Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU)

UNION AID ABROAD-APHEDA'S FIRST EVER VIRTUAL GATHERING

As the Coronavirus pandemic restricted the ability for in-person solidarity events, Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA's traditional gatherings took on a 'virtual' appearance. The penultimate event was the APHEDA 2020 Virtual Gathering, which replaced the dinners and events usually held in Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, and Brisbane.

Featuring guest appearances from Charm Tong – Director of the School for Shan State Nationalities Youth, Debbie Stothard – Founder of the Alternative ASEAN Network on Burma, Sharan Burrow - General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation, and human rights advocate, former Socceroo, Broadcaster and Adjunct Professor of Sport and Social Responsibility, Craig Foster, the event received an overwhelmingly positive response, and solidified the importance of solidarity in such trying times.



A sneak-peak at our first ever Virtual Gathering featuring Craig Foster and Sharan Burrow. **Photo credit:** Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA

THE ACTIVISTS BUILDING GLOBAL SOLIDARITY

The Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA approach to global justice is rooted in solidarity between people across borders. It is the community of members, activists, and supporters which keep this solidarity alive, and create strong social movements that challenge injustices and oppression.

SOLIDARITY IN 2020: THE SHIFT FROM OFFLINE TO ONLINE EMBRACED

Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA activists and members have been quick to respond to the changing environment, and organised or joined in a range of digital events.

Adelaide's annual Terri Daktyl Memorial Dinner kicked off the virtual trend, attracting around forty people. Using a live auction, a trivia battle, and music performance, they raised more than \$4,000 for projects in Vietnam.

Supporters also embraced our series of APHEDA Webinars, engaging with international guests on themes including the struggle for labour and human rights in South-East Asia, Union organising in Cambodia, campaigning to ban asbestos in a global crisis, state-sanctioned violence against workers in the Philippines, Palestinians during a pandemic, and the destructive nature of Indonesia's Omnibus Bill.



Above: APHEDA supporters in Adelaide take part in the 2020 virtual Terri Daktyl Memorial Dinner. **Photo credit:** Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA Below: Ian, Lachlan and Graeme during the 2020 Big Ride for Palestine. **Photo credit:** Ian Curr



BIG RIDE FOR PALESTINE GOES INTERNATIONAL

Testament to the strong solidarity of Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA activists and supporters, the 2020 Big Ride for Palestine Australia was extended internationally, with anyone able to join in as a walker, runner, or a rider from anywhere. Featuring more than 100 participants from around Australia, and the world, more than \$35,000 was raised to support the crisis response by the Palestinian Women's Humanitarian Organization in the refugee camps in Beirut, Lebanon.

BOOSTING AGRICULTURE IN GAZA AND THE WEST BANK

Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA is in the last year of a five-year project boosting agriculture in Gaza and in the northern Jenin district of the West Bank. This is funded by the Australian government in the Australia Middle East NGO Cooperation Agreement phase three (AMENCA 3) which builds on a previous six-year food security project (AMENCA 2).

The consortium, led by Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA includes MA'AN Development Center, The Palestinian Businesswomen's Association – Asala, and the Institute for Community Partnership of Bethlehem University.

THE GHALLEH PROJECT: PRODUCING FOR PROFIT – ENHANCING THE LONG-TERM PROFITABILITY OF SMALL-SCALE FARMERS AND PRODUCERS

Palestinian farmers face many severe constraints including loss of water resources and land, low investment in agriculture, as well as lack of control over markets and borders. These impact on access to quality agricultural inputs, and access to domestic or cross-border markets with profitable prices. The situation is made worse by the regional climate, political, economic and health crises.

To boost production and marketing of vegetables in the West Bank and Gaza, the Ghalleh Project introduces new higher value crops, and provides training for farmers in new techniques. In partnership with local companies, farmers are contracted to grow particular season crops with guaranteed sales prices, quality control, and upfront loans for inputs. In Gaza, the project brokers guaranteed sales to pickling or processing factories. In Jenin, the project has assisted in establishing a women's processing business. In both the West Bank and Gaza, farmers are able to sell to local packing hubs, which can get good export prices, or help in domestic sales, thereby avoiding lower prices in district markets.



Palestinian farmer, Mohammed, showing new varieties of income generating vegetables. **Photo credit:** MA'AN Development Centre

AVOIDING TOXIC PESTICIDES AND IMPROVING STANDARDS

Bethlehem University worked with the Health Department and the Palestine Standards Institute on testing and regulations about food safety, so that producers, consumers and foreign importers can have confidence, for example about avoiding toxic pesticide residues. The standard is known as PALGAP, the Palestine Good Agriculture Practice.

In Gaza, the project has worked with date palm farmers, initially in a campaign to control the red weevil pest, which threatened to kill half the palm trees. Now a new processing unit is being piloted, using renewable energy, and cutting down women's manual labour in peeling, seeding and drying, to make paste from the hayani dates grown locally. The aim is to avoid wastage and under-pricing of fresh dates during the brief harvest period in October.

In Jenin, new variety high yield almonds are being trialled, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, which utilise treated recycled water.

ACHIEVEMENTS TO JUNE 2020

Number of farmers participating	9,195
Number of women farmers participating	2,132
Number of young farmers	1,298
Number of farmers adopting innovative practices	2,061
Increase in incomes	\$9,195,000
Value of increased production	\$17,057,347
Increased domestic sales	\$9,617,398
Increased export sales	\$13,501,598
Local private investment leveraged	\$6,464,041
Increase water 119,010 cubic meters benefiting 3,640 farmers	
Roads rehabilitated 17 km, reaching 11.6 million square metres of improved farm land, for 5,338 farmers	

Rehabilitating agricultural roads enables easier access to land. Photo credit: **Photo credit:** MA'AN Development Centre



WATER TANKS AND NEW AGRICULTURAL ROADS LOWER COSTS AND REDUCE WASTAGE

In the West Bank, the project has provided large tanks to harvest and manage rainwater for greenhouse farmers, so they can avoid the high cost of water purchase. In al Mawasi village in Gaza the project has rehabilitated aquaponics systems for fifty farmers and three wells serving hundreds of farmers. In both the West Bank and Gaza, inadequate agriculture access roads hinder work on arable land, and exacerbate wastage of harvests. The project, in cooperation with municipal and village councils, has built or rebuilt 17KM of safe agricultural roads.

WORKING TO GIVE WOMEN GREATER EQUALITY

While women provide much of the labour in farm production and harvest, they must fight to play an equal role at all levels of agriculture. The project has employed women as quality managers in packing houses, and as agriculture extension workers. With Asala, the Ministry of Religion and the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the project ran a large public education campaign, asserting women's rights to inherit farmland and capital. This involved billboards, television and radio segments, theatre and story-telling, community meetings with lawyers, Islamic leaders and women preachers. On one Friday, sermons in all mosques explained that women must have a fair share of inheritance. The aim is to enable women in Gaza and the West Bank to claim their rightful shares of family inheritances according to Muslim law, and against popular customs which pressure women to hand over their shares to their brothers. Inheritances enable women to become producers in their own right.

IMPACT OF COVID-19

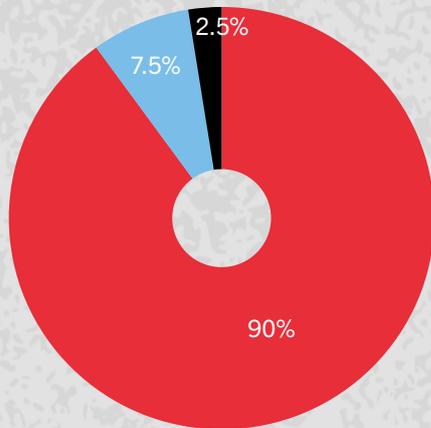
COVID-19 has had a terrible impact on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, not only in terms of the number of infections or deaths, and overloading the health systems, but more generally on the economy and society, with drastic cuts to incomes and food security. In mid 2020 the project guaranteed the purchase of vegetables so farmers could continue to produce. The project also distributed food packages to 3,826 individuals who were made vulnerable through lost incomes following the impact of COVID-19 on the Palestinian workforce, including cross-border workers.

Palestinian farmers responding to COVID-19. **Photo credit:** MA'AN Development Centre



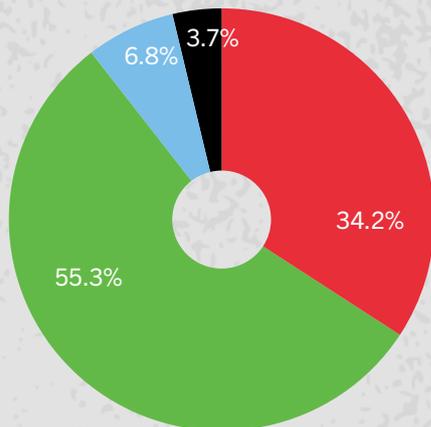
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

EXPENDITURE 2019-20



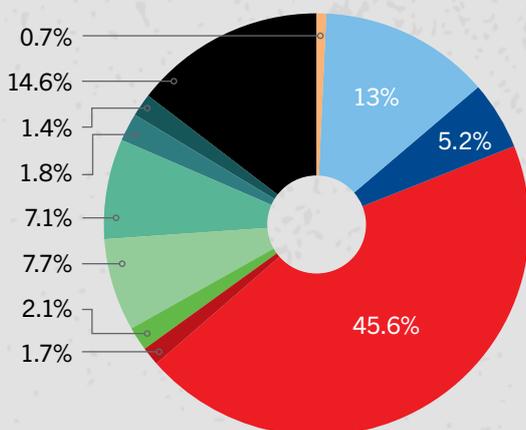
Programs (Includes Development Education)	90.0%	5,966,874
Fundraising	7.5%	498,057
Operating Expenses	2.5%	167,119
Total Expenditure		6,632,050

SOURCES OF INCOME 2019-20



Government Funds	55.3%	3,777,102
Community Support	34.2%	2,334,340
Other Grants	6.8%	462,577
Other Income	3.7%	253,714
Total Income		6,827,733

EXPENDITURE BY REGIONS 2019-20



Middle East	44.6%	2,231,464
Asbestos	14.6%	728,106
Thai Burma Border and Myanmar	13.0%	650,119
Timor Leste	7.7%	383,445
Vietnam	7.1%	354,642
Cambodia	5.2%	261,258
Laos	2.1%	107,229
Africa	1.8%	91,088
Other	1.7%	87,352
Philippines	1.4%	71,288
Pacific	0.7%	36,437
Total		5,002,431

APHEDA INC. FINANCIAL REPORT, JUNE 2020

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

REVENUE	2020 \$	2019 \$
Revenue from continuing operations	6,799,739	4,740,611
Interest and investment income	27,994	161,576
TOTAL REVENUE	6,827,733	4,902,187
DISBURSEMENTS		
Funds to International Programs	5,002,432	3,463,217
Program Support Costs	547,782	571,835
Community Education	247,440	259,375
Fundraising Costs		
Public	478,217	527,847
Government	19,840	18,897
Accountability & Administration in Australia	167,119	186,664
Non-monetary expenditure	169,220	231,084
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	6,632,050	5,258,919
Excess of revenue over disbursements/ (disbursements over revenue)	195,683	(356,732)
Other comprehensive income		-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	195,683	(356,732)
Funds available for future use at the beginning of the financial year	1,996,718	2,564,422
Funds available for future use at the end of the financial year	1,702,787	1,996,718

During the Financial Year, APHEDA Inc. had no transactions in investments, international political or religious adherence promotion programs, nor any domestic programs.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION as at 30 June 2020

ASSETS	2020 \$	2019 \$
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,702,787	1,996,718
Other Current Financial Assets	65,350	39,461
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	1,768,137	2,036,179
Non-Current Assets		
Property, Plant & Equipment	17,230	25,795
Financial Assets	2,259,933	2,488,416
Right of use assets	303,151	-
TOTAL ASSETS	4,348,451	4,550,390
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Trade and Other Payables - Current	1,014,838	1,701,005
Non-Current Liabilities		
Provisions	22,398	12,209
Lease liabilities	278,356	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,315,592	1,713,214
NET ASSETS	3,032,859	2,837,176
EQUITY		
Accumulated Funds	3,032,859	2,837,176
TOTAL EQUITY	3,032,859	2,837,176

At the end of the Financial Year, APHEDA Inc. had no Assets held for Sale, no Inventories, no Investment Properties, and no Intangibles. APHEDA Inc. also had no Borrowings, no Current Tax Liabilities and no other Financial Liabilities.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	2020 \$	2019 \$
	Accumulated Funds	
BALANCE AT 30 JUNE 2019	2,837,176	3,198,908
Adjustment for changes in Equity	0	0
Items of other comprehensive income	0	0
Excess of revenue over expenses (expenses over revenue)	195,683	(356,732)
Amount transferred (to)/from reserves		
BALANCE AT 30 JUNE 2020	3,032,859	2,837,176

A full set of our audited accounts are available for inspection at our Sydney Office.

DECLARATION BY RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES

In the opinion of the Responsible Entities of Australian People for Health, Education and Development Abroad Incorporated:

- The financial statements and notes of Australian People for Health, Education and Development Abroad Incorporated are in accordance with the requirements of the NSW Associations Incorporations Act 2009 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:
 - Giving a true and fair view of Australian People for Health, Education and Development Abroad Incorporated financial position as at 30 June 2020 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
 - Complying with Australian Accounting Standards-Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013; and
- 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 become due and payable.

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

Angelo Gavrielatos, Chairperson

Mark Lennon, Committee Member

Signed in Sydney this 19th day of November, 2020

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of Australian People For Health, Education And Development Abroad

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Australian People For Health, Education And Development Abroad (the "Entity"), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2019, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information and the responsible entities' declaration.

Responsibility of the Responsible Entities for the financial report

The Responsible Entities of the Entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991, the Code of Conduct for the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW). The Responsible Entities' responsibility also includes such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Entity's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness

of accounting estimates made by the Responsible Entities, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

Auditor's opinion

In our opinion:

- the financial report of Australian People For Health, Education And Development Abroad is in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:
 - giving a true and fair view of the Entity's financial position as at 30 June 2020 and of its performance for the year ended on that date;
 - complying with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013;
- the financial report agrees to the underlying records of Australian People For Health, Education And Development Abroad that have been maintained, in all material aspects, in accordance with the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and its regulations, for the year ended 30 June 2020;
- monies received by Australian People For Health, Education And Development Abroad, as a result of fundraising appeals conducted during the year ended 30 June 2020, have been accounted for and applied, in all material aspects, in accordance with the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and its regulations;
- the financial report, is in accordance with the ACFID Code of Conduct; and
- the financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009.

G. and Thornton

GRANT THORNTON AUDIT PTY LTD

Chartered Accountants

James Winter

James Winter

Partner - Audit and Assurance

Signed this 19th day of November 2020

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

Do Global Justice. The Union Way.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SOLIDARITY

OUR UNION AFFILIATES

Australian Education Union
 Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union
 Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation
 Australian Salaries Medical Officers Federation
 Australian Services Union
 Australian Workers' Union
 CEPU Communications Workers Division, SA/NT
 Communications Electrical and Plumbing Union
 Community and Public Sector Union
 Community and Public Sector Union, State Public Services Federation
 Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union
 Finance Sector Union
 Health Services Union of Australia
 Health and Community Services Union
 Independent Education Union
 Maritime Union of Australia
 Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance
 National Tertiary Education Union
 NSW Nurses and Midwives Association
 Professionals Australia

Rail, Tram, and Bus Union
 United Firefighters Union of Australia
 United Workers Union
 Queensland Council of Unions
 South Australia Unions
 Unions ACT
 Unions NSW
 Unions NT
 Unions Tasmania
 Unions WA
 Victorian Trades Hall Council

OUR INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS

Jane Abbey
 Kathleen Galvin
 Deb Nicholls
 Kanchana Thornton

OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

Mondiaal-FNV
 Solidar Suisse

Solidarity Center (US)
 Irish Aid
 Building and Woodworkers International-APRO
 World Health Organisation
 International Labour Organisation
 IBAS (International Ban Asbestos Secretariat)
 ABAN (Asian Ban Asbestos Network)
 AMRC (Asian Monitor Resource Centre)

OUR AUSTRALIAN PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

Asbestos Safety Eradication Agency
 Australian Embassies of Cambodia, Indonesia and Laos
 Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia
 Asbestos Diseases Research Institute
 Australian Government through the Australian Aid program
 and Australian Council of Trade Unions