

A woman in a blue and pink sari is walking through a lush green field, carrying a large woven basket. The background is a vast expanse of tall green grass.

# UNION

# Aid

## Annual Report 2010

An independent charitable trust established by the NZ Council of Trade Unions – Te Kauae Kaimahi is the international development agency for New Zealand unionists and their families.  
Workers in New Zealand helping workers overseas  
Registered Charity – Charities Commission Reg No CC42051

Trustees: Ross Wilson Executive Chair, Peter Conway and Helen Kelly.

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Photo credit: Meena Kadri

### ***Unions Aotearoa International Development Trust (UnionAID)***

You can help vulnerable workers in developing countries in our region get a fairer deal by making a small monthly donation email [unionaid@nzctu.org.nz](mailto:unionaid@nzctu.org.nz) to find out more.

Unions Aotearoa International Development Trust is a registered charity - Reg. No. CC42051

# Trustees' Report

This is our first annual report and 2009-10 has been a year of "firsts" in our foundation year. But, after a year of hard work, UnionAID is well established as a credible organisation with professional administration, financial and project management systems.

UnionAID has received solid support from unions and union members but, understandably, we have to be clear in explaining who we are, what we do, and why UnionAID has been established.

UnionAID is a charitable trust undertaking international development work but, as a union organisation, it has distinctive features. The most important is that it is a vehicle to make our traditional commitment to international solidarity a practical reality. So we are not in the business of "aid" so much as supporting workers in developing countries so they can, through the projects we jointly develop and fund, protect themselves and promote their own interests.

In establishing UnionAID we have joined the ranks of many other similar organisations around the world, including the Australian "Union AID Abroad – APHEDA" which has been going for 25 years.

During the year intensive, on site, evaluations of our two major projects in Tamil Nadu South India and Mae Sot on the Thai-Burma border, were undertaken. These evaluations confirmed the excellent work led by our project partners, the Tamil Nadu Labour Union and the Federation of Trade Unions of Burma. This report is an opportunity to formally acknowledge their work and to record our thanks, in particular, to Manohari and Edward Doss in Tamil Nadu, and Saw Min Lwin and Htwe Nge in Mae Sot.

The shift in government policy and the replacement of the KOHA-PICD



programme of NZ AID, which provided \$4 to \$1 funding of these projects, with the Sustainable Development Fund, raises a question about future funding. Both of our major projects have a strong economic development component and we have already applied for funds to complete the establishment of an occupational training centre for women migrant workers in Mae Sot.

An active fundraising programme has not only raised almost \$100,000 during the year but has also lifted the profile and awareness of UnionAID. We would like to thank unions who provided generous establishment grants to get us started, individual donors many of whom have signed up to regular monthly direct debits and become Kiwi Solidarity Members, and the many volunteers who have provided invaluable assistance in many ways. A special thanks to the CTU for secondment of financial and administrative staff, and for providing us with a "home".

A special law change is required to give UnionAID "donee" status for tax purposes and, following an investigative process by the Inland Revenue Department, we are hopeful that a November Tax Act Amendment Bill will grant UnionAID that status. This will be a boost for our fundraising campaigns, and next year we intend to develop a system for donors to make their contributions to UnionAID through payroll deductions under the Government's IRD payroll giving scheme.

So, after a year of building our organisation, we are looking forward to a year of growth. We shall be looking to develop other projects, if possible in the Pacific, and we shall be investigating joint projects with sister organisations such as APHEDA in Australia.

Our thanks again to everyone who, in many ways, have contributed to UnionAID activities during our first year.

Peter Conway  
Helen Kelly  
Ross Wilson

## ***Become a Kiwi Solidarity member - Support real change***

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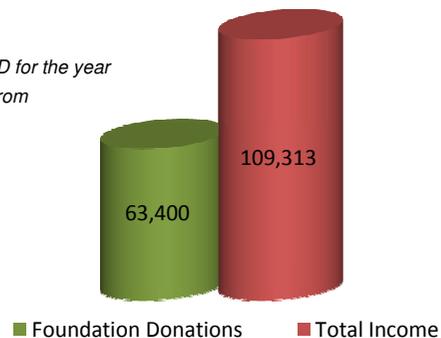


# Financial Report

## Statement of Financial Performance For the Year Ended 31 March 2010

Income	2010
Kiwi Solidarity Member Donations	18,354
0900 Donations	120
General Donations	11,965
Foundation Donations	63,400
Fundraising Income	936
Grant Income	14,500
Interest	38
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>109,313</b>
Expenditure	
Project Related Expenses	8,799
Operational Expenses	3,514
Setup Expenses	7,857
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>20,170</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>89,143</b>

58% of income for UnionAID for the year ending March 2010 came from Foundation Donations



## Statement of Financial Position As at 31 March 2010

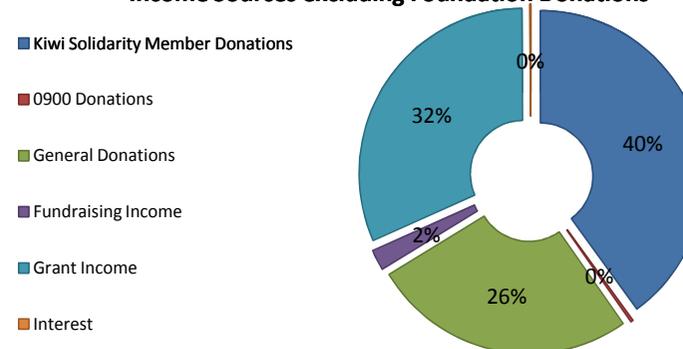
Assets	2010
Current Assets	89,015
Fixed Assets	1,463
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>90,478</b>
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	1,334
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>1,334</b>
<b>Equity</b>	<b>89,144</b>

### Notes to the Summary Financial Statements

These summary financial statements have been extracted from the audited financial statements.

A copy of the audited financial statements will be available at the Annual General Meeting or on request from the UnionAid office after the AGM.

### Income Sources excluding Foundation Donations



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# Projects Report

International research has shown that development projects are effective when they are owned and driven by the recipients to achieve their own priorities for action, promote a sense of dignity and worth and are empowering, and involve and benefit the whole community. These have been the guiding principles for UnionAID projects which are led by carefully selected local partners and have a strong focus on building collective capacity as unions and cooperatives.

Below is a brief summary of the current UnionAID projects. More detailed information is available in our regular newsletter "Solidarity", and in more detailed reports on request.

## Burmese migrant workers in Mae Sot

This project, in partnership with the Federation of Trade Unions of Burma (FTUB) and ably led by Saw Min Lwin began with a pilot project in 2006. Since then it has focused on educating Burmese migrant workers from Burma on their rights under Thai labour law and assisting them to exercise those rights through the Thai Government enforcement authorities. This has been a very successful project.

Our project partner has identified an urgent need for skills training as young Burmese women continue to stream across the border into this Thai border town. Unless these young women get the skills for employment in local factories, their desperate situation can lead them into prostitution or being trafficked to other Asian cities.

UnionAID is planning to establish an occupational training centre for Burmese migrant workers over the next year with the first workshop/

classroom being built over the next few months.

Industrial sewing and knitting machines have already been purchased and a larger phase 2 development will enable the centre to provide skills training to 350 trainees per year.

Phase 2 is dependent upon a grant from the new NZ Aid Sustainable Development Fund.

## Dalit and Tribal Workers in Tamil Nadu

Through our UnionAID project in Tamil Nadu more than 30,000 Dalit workers have formed local unions over the past 4 years. 164 local unions work together under the leadership of our project partner, the Tamil Nadu Labour Union. 10,600 of the members are women.

This is a tremendous achievement by workers who have historically been oppressed, abused and exploited by upper castes.

The huge list of achievements for the project have been reported in our "Solidarity" newsletters, but probably the most impressive is the sense of pride and confidence which their collective work has given them.

A strong focus for future project work will be encouraging economic development and the independence of workers through co-operatives which is already an important strategy for the Tamil Nadu Labour Union.

Credit unions encourage members to save for the establishment of small businesses, providing low interest loans. Other co-operatives focus on the production and marketing of local products, such as the Madurai Women's Handloom Weavers Co-operative, while the Labour Contract

Co-operatives have enabled the quarry workers to tender directly for government and other contracts. In this way a greater proportion of the financial gains are captured for the workers themselves.

## Sri Lanka Pilot Project

A new UnionAID project in Sri Lanka piloted this year seeks to build relationships, and community activity, across ethnic groups who have been divided by the bitter civil war.

UnionAID has forged a new partnership with the Free Trade Zones and General Services Employees Union which has a record of effectiveness in a very difficult environment.

The object of the new project is to work with Tamil, Hindu, Muslim and Sinhalese workers and others, to develop a network/organisation which would work together in a community development model to address issues.

## Young Community Leaders for Burma

This UnionAID project, funded by NZ Aid, brings 6 young community leaders from Burma for a 6 month Victoria University programme divided between English language tuition and a specially designed course in development studies.

This is the second year of this very successful project.

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