



australian doctors
international

Working for a healthier PNG



give^{to} australian doctors international

Australian Doctors International (ADI) is a non-profit, non-government, medical aid organisation run by volunteers. It is a registered charity and has no religious or political affiliations. ADI is a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development Code of Conduct, approved by AusAID. Your donations are tax-deductible.

Our goal is to improve the health of people in the remote Western Province of Papua New Guinea. We work in close partnership with the Western Provincial Administration Health Division, the North Fly District Health, the Catholic Diocese of Daru-Kiunga, PNG Sustainable Development Program, Rotary Against Malaria (PNG & Australia), and Australian Volunteers International.

ADI was founded in 2000 by former Manly Mayor Dr Peter Macdonald and has been operating in Western Province since 2002. We need your support to implement a 3-pronged strategy:

1. Deploy volunteer doctors to remote communities.
2. Run treatment and control programs on malaria, lymphatic filariasis, leprosy and HIV/AIDS.
3. Educate and train health workers.

Help us meet a critical need

In Australia, we share a doctor with only 400 other people. But the average doctor in PNG must serve over 7,900 people. The ratio is as bad as that in Rwanda, Ethiopia, Malawi, Niger and Mozambique.

In North Fly District of Western Province, PNG, the ratio is 8,500 people per doctor. In South Fly District, 40,000 people have no doctor at all; in Middle Fly District it's 66,000.

Total expenditure on health in PNG was just \$53 per capita in 2006, compared to \$3,232 in Australia. To make matters worse, around 10,000 refugees live in Western Province. They are not recognised by the PNG government, so they are refused even the limited official aid.

PNG's rural health services are deteriorating. Many facilities have been closed down, and those that remain are difficult to access. Patients, health workers and supplies must negotiate raging rivers, muddy roads and rugged mountains.

The lives we couldn't save command us to save those we can

Communicable diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, pneumonia, diarrheal diseases, meningitis and HIV/AIDS account for about half of all deaths in PNG.

In 2006, 15,000 children under 5 died in the Pacific region. 14,000 of them were in PNG. Of every 1,000 children born, 73 will die before age 5. Another 54 won't even

Papua New Guinea at a glance

- PNG's population is 6,202,000, approx. 204,000 in Western Province.
- Around 40% of the population lives on less than US\$1 a day. 80% live in rural areas.
- 20% of adults are likely to die before age 40.
- PNG is 145th out of 177 countries on the Human Development Index – lower than Bangladesh. It is 90th out of 108 on the UN Human Poverty Index.
- North Fly District of Western Province is remote and has a population density of just five people per square kilometre. The challenging environment includes high humidity, mountainous jungle, mud, 6 to 8 metres of annual rainfall, and only one main road.

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survive their infancy. For every 100,000 live births, 470 young mothers die. In Australia the number is 4.

Help us fight the killers and cripples

PNG has the highest incidence of malaria in the Western Pacific. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates 1.5 million cases in 2006, resulting in almost 3,000 deaths. It is among the leading causes of death in children under 5.

SOURCE: <http://www.who.int/malaria/wmr2008/MAL2008-CountryProfiles/MAL2008-PNG-EN.pdf>

Lymphatic filariasis, which can develop into elephantiasis, is caused by parasitic worms which are transmitted by mosquitoes. It results in extreme enlargement of a limb or parts of the head and torso. Most people think of it as an African disease, but PNG has the highest infection rate in the world – about half of the population overall and up to 80% in Western Province.

PNG accounts for 90% of the Pacific region's cases of HIV/AIDS. Authorities estimate up to 75,000 people are infected.

Virtually eradicated elsewhere in PNG, leprosy is still a serious problem in Western Province. The success of treatment programs worldwide is proof that this ancient curse can be lifted; all it takes is rigorous application of existing treatments. ADI Leprosy Patrols organise and distribute vital medicine to the few remaining patients in two isolated villages. We can see victory on the horizon, but we need your help to finish this dreaded disease once and for all.

How we put your gift to work

1. ADI Doctor Deployment Program

Since 2002, ADI has deployed 20 volunteer doctors on 26 assignments to the remote North Fly District in PNG's Western Province. Doctors are based in the port town of Kiunga and are responsible for three things:

- Daily rounds at Kiunga Hospital, where there has been no permanent doctor for four years.
- Outreach patrols to remote aid posts and health centres.
- Medical training of community health workers and health education of local villagers.

2. ADI Malaria Bed Net Program

Insecticidal bed nets have been proven to be highly effective in preventing bites and killing mosquitoes. According to WHO, covering just 60% of the population with nets can dramatically reduce the number of malaria cases.

Since 2003 ADI has distributed nearly 55,000 bed nets to villages in Western Province. This includes the most remote villages in North Fly, some of which could only be accessed by plane or helicopter and days of trekking through dense jungle.

Malaria cases have dropped 46% in one region of this district.

We purchase the nets for about \$10 each using funding from PNG Sustainable Development Program Ltd. We need another \$10 per net for distribution, due to the difficulties of transportation. This money has to come from concerned Australian organisations like yours.

ADI workers teach local villagers the importance of bed nets in the fight against malaria, and how to install, use and take care of them.

3. ADI Lymphatic Filariasis Mass Drug Administration Program

Lymphatic filariasis is treated two ways. One class of treatments kills the worms; another repairs the damage caused by the inflammation of tissues. All medications are in pill form, provided free by pharmaceutical companies.

ADI is coordinating the six-year Mass Drug Administration program in two regions of Western Province, covering a population of 19,000. We have completed the fourth of six rounds of treatment in Nomad and Mougulu in the North Fly District.

In 2009 we will expand the program to the Catholic Diocese of Daru-Kiunga's 21 aid posts and health centres, Diocese schools and government schools.

Join these Australian companies who support Australian Doctors International

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Kimberly-Clark Healthcare
Man Investments
Nestlé Pacific Islands
Roche Pharmaceuticals
SMEC Foundation
Westpac / BT Financial

Go to www.adi.org.au or email us today

Australian Doctors International has thoroughly costed our programs for 2009, based on seven years' experience. We don't deal in pie in the sky, but in hands on the sick. We tell you in advance exactly how much we need to accomplish specific tasks.

Sponsorships are available from as little as \$2,200 p.a. And we are delighted to give your organisation public credit for your generosity, including sponsor identification inside PNG.

Go to the sponsorship page of our website for details.

If you would like to discuss other sponsorship options, please email us today.

The address is:

adioffice@adi.org.au



Helping PNG helps Australia

PNG is just five kilometres from the nearest Torres Strait island, so there is a real threat of diseases entering Australia. These include tuberculosis, HIV and AIDS, STIs, dengue, Japanese encephalitis, and influenza. Treatment and prevention inside PNG will reduce the danger.

The lack of local health services forces many people from the South Fly District to seek everyday treatment in the Torres Strait, placing a burden on the Queensland health system. By supporting ADI's projects in PNG, you improve the efficiency of Australia's health system.



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