



DONATE TODAY!

Dear Friends,

My name is Dr Yen Lim. Last year I was a volunteer doctor working in New Ireland Province of Papua New Guinea with Australian Doctors International (ADI).

My memories of the six months I spent living and working in this extraordinary country will stay with me for the rest of my days. ADI health patrols were able to positively impact so many lives during this time - however **one young mother's story stands out for me, which I would like to share with you.**

It was the end of our first day on patrol in the remote region of East Konoagil. We had just finished unpacking the truck when we got the call that there was a woman in labour with a prolapsed uterus. Anne, the local community healthcare worker, was not confident to handle the situation on her own and she wanted us there.

PNG has the worst maternal mortality rate out of any country in the region and there was concern that this young mother might become yet another statistic.

As with many local healthcare centres in PNG, there was no electricity to power lights or fans, so we turned on our headset torches and went to assess the situation.

Thankfully, not only were we able to save both mum and baby, we were also able to help Anne learn practical, life-saving new birthing techniques which she will go on to use for years to come.

Passing a healthy infant into the waiting arms of her mother is a moment you don't quickly forget – especially considering that without the ADI team being on health patrol here, the outcome for this new family would have been very different.

The reason this story stands out for me is it shows not only how important the New Ireland and Western Province health patrols are, but also how essential on the job training sessions are for long term health outcomes in PNG. By equipping local healthcare workers like Anne with the skills they need, we are able to make long lasting impact across the province.



[remote healthcare workers.](#)



Just recently, we gathered rural healthcare workers like Anne, none of whom had previously received formal or recent midwifery training, and trained them in essential obstetric care including management of complicated antenatal care, labour and delivery in a rural setting. Learning was provided not only by the trainers, but participants also shared stories with each other, and gained practical, hands-on experience.

When you give to ADI, you open up the future for whole communities in PNG. Your gift of \$100 will help to train a remote area healthcare worker.

One healthcare worker told of her experience attempting to deliver a breeched baby by pulling on the infant's leg. *"The baby wouldn't come out,"* she recounted quietly. *"The baby died. Then, the mother died. Now, I can assist and I know what I will do when there is an emergency. This training will make a difference I am sure. You will see our mortality rate reduced when you come back next time."*

One of the most heart breaking moments of the training session though was when the group began discussing 'flat babies'. This is a local term used to describe infants born not breathing. Many of the healthcare workers had not realized - or been taught - that these babies can be saved by giving them a few short breaths in their first minutes of life. There was a real sadness in the room when the group reflected on how many children had died in the past that could have been saved using this simple resuscitation technique.

The neonatal resuscitation training session which followed was, for many, one of the most important skills they would be taking back to their villages.

If it weren't for ADI, these training sessions would never have happened. Healthcare workers like Anne would not get the opportunity to learn life-saving skills and mothers and babies would continue to die from preventable obstetric conditions in PNG.

[ADI can only do the work they do because of people like you. Please, will you use this end of financial year opportunity to give a gift that will have real impact for remote communities in our nearest neighbor, PNG?](#)

I can't tell you what a joy it was for me to wake up the morning after our team assisted at the breech delivery in East Konoagil, walk down to the healthcare centre and see the young mum nursing her baby. She looked up at me with a huge smile and then passed me her child to hold. *"Thank you doctor!"* she said. *"We named this baby Oliver 'Yen' for you."*

It is heartbreaking to know that PNG has a maternal death rate 36 times higher than Australia and that babies are 15 times more likely to die during childbirth. Australian Doctors International urgently needs your help to continue funding health patrols in remote regions of PNG so volunteer doctors like myself can provide not just medical care but also invest in the training and upskilling of local healthcare workers.

Thank you,

Dr Yen Lim

Yes, I want to help ADI work towards a healthier PNG!

Please accept my gift of:

- \$60** helps ADI train a local healthcare worker like Anne to safely deliver babies
- \$150** could provide a wheelchair to a child living with disability
- \$300** could buy a resuscitation set for premature newborns
- \$500** could buy safe birthing equipment (including forceps, umbilical scissors and cord clamps)
- \$5,000** could send a volunteer doctor AND physiotherapist on remote patrol in PNG for 3 months
- An amount of my choice \$ _____

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE](#)



 **adi** **australian doctors international**
Working for a healthier PNG



Australian Doctors International (ADI) receives support from the Australian Government through the PNGAusPartnership.



Copyright © 2019 Australian Doctors International, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

PO Box 324, Seaforth NSW 2092, Australia

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate](#) ▼

Australian Doctors International | P O Box 924 | Seaford, NSW 2092 | Australia

