

COVID-19

As this newsletter gets distributed we are witnessing a trebling in the number of COVID-19 cases in PNG since last week. There are two worrying parts of this trend - one, the proportion of positive cases that are people in the healthcare profession; two, community transmission.

PNG starts to tackle this epidemic behind the curve with an already reduced workforce compared to what is needed to achieve universal health. From the outset ADI has focused on what it can do to protect and support the healthcare workers in PNG. Today we have sent close to 1000 kg of personal protective equipment into the three provinces that we work in - New Ireland, West New Britain and Western Province. We've been nimble, we've been responsive and we've been one of the first organisations to have the necessary PPE available for health workers as they seek to deal with this pandemic. Yet is it enough? No. Can and should we do more? Yes.



Photo; Adult health screening in Matkomnai area, Western Province, PNG

At the end of last week after careful consideration ADI's West New Britain program manager flew back into PNG - he'll spend two weeks in quarantine before heading to Kimbe to continue working on our health service delivery program with our partners in West New Britain. ADI's responsiveness is largely attributable to our PNG team who I'd like to take this opportunity to thank. They have been supporting our health partners through the COVID-19 taskforces; delivering soap and buckets; educational posters on preventing transmission; as well as distributing PPE to frontline health workers. We have also printed and shipped 1500 of PNG's Standard Treatment Manuals to the provinces where we work to equip health workers with the guidance and technical support they need while working remotely - the texts cover: Adult Care, Child Care, Family Planning, Sexually Transmitted Infections, and Obstetrics and Gynaecology. We will deliver these life-saving resources to remote health

facilities as part of our outreach health patrols in Western Province, West New Britain and New Ireland throughout 2020.

PPE, cleaning supplies and educational materials provided to PNG (as of 13th July 2020)
4390 N95 masks
19,000 surgical masks
942 face shields
27,900 pairs of gloves
900 protective goggles
759 disposable scrubs
1000 bouffant caps
800 boot covers

In addition to the COVID-19 responses as presented above we also hosted a family planning training session in New Ireland in March before the state of emergency lockdown. At this training session, ten nursing officers, health extension officers and community health workers from the Namatanai district learnt skills in family planning, contraception and counselling; including gaining practical hands on skills. Family planning is one of PNG's national priorities – including in times of COVID-19, under the Key Result Area 5: Improve Maternal Health – Increase family planning coverage.

In the coming months we are preparing new ways of training health workers in PNG using a combination of webinars, videos and practical hands-on tools to deliver to PNG health workers skills in maternal health and neonatal care and through collaboration with partners we are also delivering family planning training - all of which is designed to tackle maternal health in times of Covid.

Thanks to the many of you who contributed to our end of financial year campaign – we make every effort to spend your contribution to gain the biggest health impact we can in rural PNG. We know there are many issues that you can choose to direct your support to, many thanks for choosing us.

Your interest and support of our work on the frontline of health in PNG allows us to make an impact on the lives of rural communities. Thank you.

Best,

Klara

Dr Klara Henderson

Australian Doctors International CEO

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Upcoming Events

Celebrating 10 years of work in New Ireland

Sunday 2nd August marks ten years of ADI's work in New Ireland Province. Follow our website and social media channels for a press release from Peter MacDonald, ADI President and Founder, and Sir Julius Chan, Governor of New Ireland.

E-volve to solve - family planning in a climate of crisis (Sydney/Virtual)

On Thursday 24 September from 6-8pm ADI CEO Klara Henderson will be speaking at The Women's Club, Sydney, alongside Dr. Deborah Bateson, Medical Director of Family Planning for NSW. Register to attend either in-person or virtually via the link: <https://www.womensplans.org/events/e-volve-to-solve>

ADI Charity Cabaret evening (Sydney)

Seaforth Bowling Club in Sydney are hosting a cabaret evening on the 10th October with funds kindly being donated to support ADI's work in PNG. Call +61 9948 1119 to reserve tickets.

ADI Annual General Meeting

All ADI members are invited to our Annual General Meeting on the 16th November. Further details of this event will be shared at a later date, including options to join virtually. If you would like to become an ADI member, please complete the form on our website here: <https://www.adi.org.au/become-a-member/>