



**Create a healthier
future for remote
PNG families in 2021**

December 2020

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Dear Friend,

Over the past year ADI has worked tirelessly in the face of COVID-19 to continue our delivery of clinical health patrols, training for rural health workers, family planning and gender equity services. We have adapted to online webinar trainings, and guaranteed the safety of our staff and partners on the frontline through provision of PPE, medical equipment and COVID-19 educational materials. On top of this, we have expanded our existing work in Western Province and New Ireland to the West New Britain region.

As always, our focus has been on reaching the most remote communities in PNG, yet we have already noted the impact of COVID-19 on the ability for the most vulnerable to access health services. PNG has the highest Gender Inequality Index in the Asia-Pacific region (0.71), two out of three women have experienced gender-based violence, and the maternal mortality rate is between 215 to 900 per 100,000 live births (in Australia it is only 20). For PNG women, the result of gender inequity means they have limited educational resources, economic empowerment, or choice in the maternal health, family planning and safe birthing services available to them. A limited health workforce and growing rural population, also means that only 56.5% of births are attended by a skilled provider.

That's why this year, ADI has integrated gender equity, family planning and emergency obstetrics trainings across all of our programs. Collectively, we have provided 40,000 clinical health services and public health education to 19,000 rural health community

members and families. We trained 149 community leaders on the rights of women, children and those with a disability, and supported them to become gender equity advocates in their communities. On patrol, our Gender Equity Officers have provided 122 hours of education to 20,085 rural community members. An ADI Midwife also upskilled 36 remote health workers across emergency obstetrics, maternal and neo-natal care topics. This equates to around 15,000 safer births each year.

“Through ADI’s training, for the first time ever, I learnt how to resuscitate a newborn baby when they are delivered and are having difficulty breathing”

- Remote Health worker, West New Britain

Everyone deserves equitable access to health services and equal human rights. Together, we can help change cultural norms around gender equality, and ensure that women in PNG are able to live lives free of violence, are empowered in their choices about family planning, and are supported by health workers who are equipped with the skills to save the lives of them and their children.

So, as you celebrate the end of 2020 with your families, please consider [gifting remote families in PNG the chance for a healthier, safer 2021](#). Your money will go towards our Gender Equity Community Mobilisation workshops, Emergency Obstetrics and Neonatal care trainings, family planning services, clinical health patrols and purchasing of equipment for frontline COVID-19 health workers.

On behalf of all of us at ADI and our partners in PNG, thank you for your generosity and for sharing our vision for a healthier PNG. We hope you and your family have a safe and healthy Christmas and New Year. We look forward to sharing more of our impact in 2021.

Warm regards,

Klara

Dr Klara Henderson

Australian Doctors International CEO

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