When paediatrics specialist Dr. Maggie YEUNG was very young, she spotted the photo of an African refugee in a newspaper. She made a promise to herself there and then that she would dedicate herself to helping the underprivileged and the needy.

She realised that by becoming a doctor she could volunteer her much-needed medical services, particularly in war zones and disaster-stricken areas. Over the years, she worked hard to achieve her two burning ambitions - to become a physician and to provide humanitarian aid to people who need it the most.

But she knew she had to enhance her capability as a volunteer so she decided to join the Hong Kong Red Cross in 2007. Her first major mission was to help the victims of the massive earthquake that struck Sichuan province in 2008.

After that, she was sent by Hong Kong Red Cross to Japan for training in Basic Healthcare Emergency Response and then to Kenya for a Field School Training Mission.

When Syria was in the middle of its internal strife, Maggie flew to the Azraq refugee camp in Jordan to help the thousands of refugees, including babies, who fled the fighting.

Take the case of Baby Rawan for example. As soon as he was born, Dr. YEUNG noticed that he was turning blue and immediately provided him with much-needed oxygen. Thankfully, he survived. Incidents like these make her missions rewarding…and memorable.

She then turned her attention to Greece to continue helping the Syrian refugees in camps there. In 2017, she went to Bangladesh to work in a mobile clinic in camps for displaced persons from Myanmar’s Rakhine State.

In 2013, when a super typhoon struck the Tacloban region of the Philippines, she was there to provide medical and humanitarian aid in its aftermath.

Dr. YEUNG is modest, caring and is not into publicity or vanity. She is most gratified when she is fulfilling her special calling in life to provide humanitarian and medical aid to people caught in the middle of conflicts or natural disasters. She is, without a doubt, an inspirational doctor - someone her peers, as well as students, can look up to... and emulate.