

## Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) and its activates

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Access to health care and equitable distribution of health services are the fundamental requirements for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and Goals set under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).

But, due to its complicated geographical scenario of Assam with difficult hilly terrain, non-approachability by public transport, long distances for reaching the health centers, it is difficult to achieve the goal to full extend, bringing the health care to the door step of the rural people. In many areas of Assam, there is a lack of basic health care infrastructure, limiting access to health services. The basic purpose of taking the health care to the doorstep of the needy people in rural areas would be defeated due to non-possibility of diagnostic examination to be conducted. In many areas, establishment of full functional health care institutions with basic diagnostics facilities and specialist doctors is not feasible due to very low population density, lack of specialists and many other constraints.

*“Necessity is the father of invention”*

Over the years, various initiatives have been taken up to overcome these difficulties with varies results.

In 2006, National Rural Health Mission, Assam came forward with a new initiative to bring health care to the doorstep of rural people with basic diagnostics facilities and specialists. The concept of Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) starts here. A group of movable vehicle in each district with all diagnostics facilities and a team of doctors and paramedical staff will visit the unnerved areas with predefined schedule. A proposal was submitted to Govt. of India as sought for and Govt. of India approved the proposal for establishment of MMU for all the districts of Assam. Accordingly, following required official procedure for procurement, and after several rounds of discussion at different level, design of MMU was finalized and order was placed for fabrication and supply to competent firms.

Each MMU comprises of three air-conditioned vehicles.

First vehicle (Unit I) is divided into two compartments to house the medical equipments. Front compartment equipped with Generator, Water Tank and Electrical Input Terminals. Second compartment is the Examination Compartment equipped with 1 set of Examination table with foot step, 1 no of 5.6 KVA Genset, 1 no of 1.5 Tons Air conditioner, 1 set of Foot Operated Suction Machine, 1 no of Folding wheel chair, 1 set of Patient **Stool**, 1 set of Doctor’s table, 1 set of Doctor’s chair, 1 set of Penlight torch with two cells, 1 set of Semi Auto-Analyzer, 1 set of Writing board with markers, 2 nos of Refrigerator, 1 set of Wash Basin, Over head racks, 1 no of Lab Table, 1 no of Binocular Microscope, Eye Examination Kit, Semi Auto Analyzer, Centrifuge, 2nos of Stethoscope, 2 sets of BP apparatus, 2 sets of Clinical Thermometer, 2 nos of weighing machine, 1 set of Knee Hammer, 1 set of Measuring Tape, 1 set of ENT Diagnostic kit, 1 set of Eye examination kit, 1 set of Oxygen cylinder with flow meter humidifier and a wrench mounted on clamps, 1 set of First Aid Kit, 1 set of Resuscitation kits, 1 set of Heamoglobinometer, 1 set of Uristix, 1 set of AD Syringes and needles, 1 set of Suture instruments and Materials, 1 no of Needle cutter, 1 set of Vaginal specula, 1 set of 100 litter water storage device, 1 set of Drinking Water Storage (with ‘O’ B purifier), 1 set of Towel Ring and Soap Stand, 2 sets of Linens, 10 sets of Disposable Gloves, 1000 sets of

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Stationary, 2 Pkts of Glass Slides, 2 nos of Dust bins with covers, 1 no of X-ray view box, 1 set of Bar light and siren, 3 nos of Storage bins/ Shelves for drugs, 1 no of Display Board on services offered by MMU, 1 no of folding stretcher, 2 nos of Fire Extinguisher of 2Kg weight, 1 no of Digital Wall Clock and 1000 nos of Patient Card with NRHM logo.

Second vehicle (Unit II) is divided into three compartments. Front compartment equipped with Generator, Water Tank and Electrical Input Terminal. Second compartment is the X-Ray Compartment equipped with 1 no of Examination table with footstep, 1 no of 1.5 Tons Air conditioner, 1 set of portable X-Ray machine with accessories with dark room facilities, 1 no of Portable Ultrasound machine with Scanner, 1 no of Printer, 1 no of Portable ECG machine with accessories, 1 nof Doctor's chair, 1 no of Penlight torch with two cells, 1 no of Stethoscope, 1 no of BP apparatus, 1 no of Weighing machine, 1 set of Wash Basin with Towel Ring and Soap Stand, 1 set of Disposable Gloves, 1000 nos of Stationary, 1 set of Dust bins with covers, 1 nof folding Wheel Chair, 1000 nos of Patient Card with NRHM logo, 1 set of Display Board on Services offered by MMU, 1 no of folding Scoop Stretcher, 1 no of Fire Extinguisher of 2 kg weight, 1 no of Digital Wall Clock, 1 no of 100 liter Water Storage Device, 1 no of Drinking Water Storage (with 'O' B purifier), 1 set of 21" TV set & DVD player and 1 set of Lamp & Fan.

Third vehicle is a light vehicle to be used for the mobility of the team members.

Each MMU team consists of 2 Medical Officers where one of them will be a lady Medical Officer, 1 Radiographer, 2 Nurse, 1 Laboratory Technician, 1 Pharmacist, 2 Helper and 3 driver.

The Medical Officer in the PHC will be available in the camp. The ANM, ASHA, AWW and member of the VHC/PRI will assist in the camp.

Sufficient quantity of medicines for common ailments along with vaccine and syringes will be available in the MMU unit.

MMU will carry out the services like Curative Care, Reproductive & Child Health Services, Family Planning Services, Diagnostic, Specialized facilities & Services, Emergency services & care in times of disaster. IEC material on health, hygiene, proper nutrition will be displayed. Counseling on Family Planning, RTI/STI or any disease prevalent in the area will be given.

Success of Medical Mobile Unit to bring health care to the doorstep of rural people with basic diagnostics facilities and specialists depends on the response from the public, involvement of PRI members, involvement of ANM, ASHA, AWW and NGO members, proper planning and monitoring, proper IEC and dedication of the MMU team members.

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