

Mobile Health Unit

A step to reach the unreached



Social Organisation for Voluntary Action
(SOVA)

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Report on BASAID's support to SOVA for Mobile Health Unit

Social Organization for Voluntary Action (SOVA), an NGO located in Dhenkanal district of Odisha had made a request to BASIC AID (BASAID) a Switzerland base donor agency to extend assistance to purchase a vehicle that would be used as a Mobile Health Unit. The unit would be used to transport doctors and other personnel associated with conducting health camps, accessories for the events and also serve as an ambulance to carry patients.

SOVA manages one Primary Health Center (New) assigned to it by the National Rural Health Mission, Odisha. The location of the PHC (N) is at Srimula, a remote area in Kamakshyanagar block of Dhenkanal district. The institution not only provides therapeutic services but covers a wide range of outreach services including organizing health camps, blood donation camps, dental camps, conducts focus group discussions to create awareness on health related themes. The institution was provided with a vehicle under the agreement with the NRHM under the Janani Suraksha scheme. The vehicle was primarily to be engaged for institutional delivery and referral services.

A visit was made by Dr. Cornelia to SOVA and Srimula PHC (N). The team was apprised of the activities of the PHC (N), taken on a field visit to interact with the target population to receive health care services from the PHC (N). The team also interacted with the District Health Administration. Being satisfied with the activities of the PHC (N) and upon realizing the need of a vehicle to reach out to the target population, a large part of which are located in still more remote areas within the geographic coverage of the PHC (N), the request made by SOVA was received a positive response from BASAID. A series of communication ensued with regard to funds transfer. SOVA had made prior contacts with the vehicle dealer and had obtained price quotation. After receipt of funds, one TATA make Winger was purchased from Trupti Motors, Cuttack on 18/09/2013. It was registered under 'Ambulance' category by the Regional Transport Office, Dhenkanal, the reason being its possible engagement as an ambulance at time of need for transfer of referred patients.

The vehicle was marked with 'AMBULANCE' on its forehead and with the name of the donor agency 'BASAID' and the user SOVA. Logos of both the organization were also prominently stickered along side.

Engagement of the Vehicle:

Since its arrival the vehicle is engaged in the purpose it was brought for: assist in the outreach services of the Primary Health Center.

It was inaugurated in a Mega Health Camp organized by Srimula PHC in the medical premises on 19th October 2013 by the Additional District Medical Officer (FW) Dr. Golak Bihari Paikray in presence of Sri Niranjan Mishra, the Addl. Block Development Officer, Kamakshyanagar, Sri Pradipta Ch. Mohanty, District Sports Officer, Dhenkanal, Smt. Punima Behera, Sarapnch, Tumisinga GP, Smt. Seemashree Behera, Samiti Member, Tumisinga GP, Dr. Dillip Ku. Samal, Executive Director, OVHA, Sri Khayamakar Swain, Secretary, OVHA and other distinguished persons.

Since its arrival, the vehicle has been engaged in the following activities:

The MHU is in operation of covering about 24000 population of different 4 GPs, named, Tumusinga, Kantapal, Kantiokateni and Kantioputasathi of Kamakhynagar block under Dhenkanal district, Odisha which is also the covering area of Srimula PHC(N) . Due to dense forest and cut off barrier the community people of most of the villages are deprived of getting health services. In this context, the MHU provides, health services at the door steps of the out of reach SC/ST/ downtrodden and vulnerable community people residing in the area.

The MHU is the first of its kind in the area. It is in the verge of 15 months of tireless community health service. The services of the MHU being offered free of charge to all segments of the population. The MHU offers preventive, curative and diagnostic health services to the community people. The services include OPD – curative services (common ailments), ante-natal/post-natal services, minor surgery and dressing of wounds, BP examination, identification of difficult pregnancy and referral for institutional care, immunization – mother and children, basic pathological services (blood, urine), distribution of IF tablets, VIT-A tab, growth monitoring, distribution of condoms and oral pills. The institution not only provides therapeutic services but covers a wide range of outreach services including organizing health camps, blood donation camps, dental camps, conducts focus group discussions to create awareness on health related themes and home based new born care (NBNC) apart from ANC/PNC check up and counseling. Special health camps are also being organized where ever need arises.

The operational strategy of operating the MHU is mentioned as under

- Every month in the 1st week Staff Review meeting of the PHC (N) is being invited in which the ASHA, Anganwadi workers, Functional health workers and community healers are participating and preparing the perspective action plan of MHU for the current month.
- The MHU usually moves to the field during the 2nd half of the day since the services of the PHC(N) is offered to the patients till 2nd half and the medical staffs remaining busy in offering PHC services till then.
- The MHU team consisting of the driver, doctor, pharmacist, technician, ANM
- Prior to leaving to the field the community level health service providers viz, ASHA, Anganwadi are well in advanced informed about the movement, so that they were remain present in the drop in center and awakes the community people of the concerned area.
- In the MHU camp health services the patients having minor health ailments are provided treatment, counseling and patients having severe health injury are referred for medical admission at Srimula PHC(N) or District Head quarters Hospital
- Every month about 15-16 Mobile health camps are being organized
- There are 30-40 patients seeking medical counseling, advise, treatment and referral are being screened in each camp

The extensive field level health care services being rendered by the MHU till date are as follows in a tabular form.

S.No	Services rendered	Cumulative achievement
1	Counseling and treatment for curative services (common ailments),	3467
2	ante-natal	123
3	post-natal services	123
4	minor surgery and dressing of wound	457
5	BP examination	321
6	identification of difficult pregnancy	48
7	referral for institutional care	432
8	basic pathological services (blood, urine),sample collection at field level	Blood- 2356 Stool- 1769

		Urine- 2810 Sputum- 1982 Semen- 1343 Pregnancy- 1788
9	distribution of IF tablets, VITAMIN-A Solution/ tab	1793
10	distribution of condoms and oral pills	1934
11	Insertion of IUCD	103
12	Referral to malnourished children to NRC (Nutritional rehabilitation center) Kamakshyanagar, Dhenkanal	143

Photos taken during the outreach services:



Health Camp at Mahuldagar



Health Camp at Kaliahata



Health Camp at Gangijodi



Health Camp at Srimula Harijan Sahi



Health Camp at Gangijodi



Health Camp at Gangijodi



Health Camp at Julanga village



Health Camp at Julanga village



Sri Sasanka Mohanty and Mrs. Cornelia visit one of the camps



Medicine being distributed from the Mobile Health Unit during the RCH Mela conducted at Mahuldagar, remote area under jurisdiction of Srimula PHC

