

MEETING ABSTRACTS**Use of Mobile Health Units in Conflict Settings - A Scoping Review**

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Background/Introduction: Over the last decade, a global increase in the number of armed conflicts has been recorded and Mobile Health Units (MHU) are deployed to provide aid to people with limited access to health care. However, the service modality has received criticism related to irregular service provision and logistical difficulties. Although MHUs may be of value in conflicts and insecure environments, there is a significant knowledge gap regarding their usefulness to address dominating health needs.

Objectives: To elucidate the use of MHUs in conflict settings in adherence to WHO Classification for Emergency Medical Teams.

Method/Description: A scoping review was conducted following the framework by Arksey and O'Malley. Twenty-six

bibliographic databases and websites were searched for white and grey literature published between 2000-2021 reporting on the use of MHUs in conflict settings.

Results/Outcomes: Fourteen publications were included in the final analysis, highlighting seven themes: site of operation and mobility, key characteristics, services, benchmark indicators, staff, community engagement, and safety and security. The mobile approach was reported to increase access to health services. Challenges described primarily concerned access and availability, limited coverage, and logistics. Several studies highlighted the need for more sustainable interventions and a more clearly defined exit strategy.

Conclusion: There is a paucity of publications reporting on the use of MHUs in conflict settings and inconsistencies in the reported data. The literature adhered to previous research and WHO guidelines to some extent. Further research is needed evaluating the interventions and outcomes of MHUs in conflict settings.

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