The Government of Ghana has adopted the use of mobile clinics to enable transform its health systems with the goal of improving access and promoting equity towards the attainment of Universal Health Coverage and Primary Health Care. Using the Mobile Vans Outreach Service (MVOS) ensure complementary and reliable service delivery of specialized care and routine but targeted services to address epidemics such as cholera, provide routine health checks etc. to rural, remote, urban slum, economic migrants and other populations with limited access to healthcare and services. This evaluation review the impact of MVOS by the Ghana Health Service to improve access to healthcare and services in Ghana.

This impact assessment is an evaluation of routine data and services provided under the mobile clinic unit at the Ghana Health Service from 2015 to 2017 in five regions. It assessed the records of the patients, van, outreach activities and requests from institutions and the public to draw lessons for improvements.

Preliminary assessment of routine data from the Ghana Health Service Institutional Care Division on the impact of mobile clinics using the mobile van outreaches shows its significance in reaching targeted population facing geographical, financial, structural and cultural barriers to healthcare. Since 2013, the eight mobile clinics have been used to provide specialised services such as Ear Nose and Throat (ENT), eye, dental and general medicine and 10 biomedical maintenance vans used to support several rural clinic.

From 2015, the mobile clinics have attended to 42,514 patients in five regions providing dental, eye, otorhinolaryngology and general medical screening and treatments. The team also conduct health promotion and preventive services while partnering with the National Health Insurance Scheme to register and renew their members. Overall, the mobile van outreach services have improved access to healthcare for hard to reach populations and created rapid response to outbreaks and emergencies as well as support for rural clinics and large group meetings or neglected populations such as schools, prisons, political rallies, football matches, market days and church conventions.

The challenge, however, is the limited number of vans available to meet outreach demands, maintain and stock up the vans. This review concludes by recommending the potential of improving the use of mobile clinics as an alternative to increasing access to general and specialised services in Ghana. It has been significant in meeting the needs of populations that would normally to be reached when using fixed facilities. Hence, the need to improve the use of mobile van outreach services by having a dedicated team of health workers, resources and funding to improve their service in order to achieve the UHC and PHC for a sustainable health system