

#### KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Mobile Medics International (MMI) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) comprised of rapid response mobile medical teams available to deploy around the globe in time of need. Our teams respond to natural and man-made disasters and ongoing humanitarian crises when requested by governments and communities. Disaster responses area defined as natural occurrences that tax the local medical resources and require outside intervention to overcome. Examples include the Maui Hawaii fire, Turkey Earthquake, Hurricane Beryl in Jamaica and Hurricane Ian in Florida.

Humanitarian aid missions are defined as missions that deploy into areas that are chronically, medically underserved. Examples include Ukrainian refugee crisis in Romania, orphanages in Haiti, medical clinics in remote islands in the Philippines and villages in Kenya and Uganda.

We step in to help when local resources have been maxed out or are not available. We utilize medically trained professionals from different backgrounds and countries. We often work in collaboration with other NGO's (non-governmental organizations) on joint responses. Every mission will have some combination of EMT's, paramedics, nurses, physician assistants, pharmacists, dentists and doctors. Not all levels will be present on every mission. You will be expected to operate as a unified unit and work with your team to complete tasks. It is not unusual for an EMT to be in clinic triaging or our advanced providers to be going door to door with other team members and local authorities distributing food, water and medical interventions. It is important that you understand our mission. As part of MMI, you will be expected to assist our team in fulfilling our commitment to deploy rapidly and to help in <u>any way</u> needed. We take great pride in being flexible and helpful, whatever that looks like.

Although we do extensive pre-mission research and planning, rarely does a mission go the way we expect. Flexibility is a must. Our missions often take place in unstable environments that require the ability to think fast on your feet as well as being prepared for anything.



Helping World Central Kitchen prepare food in the Bahamas, delivering water in Puerto Rico, repairing roofs in North Carolina.

### ARE YOU READY FOR A MISSION?

If you are thinking about going on a medical mission, you must do some tough work upfront. The first thing is taking a hard look at yourself. You will be spending approximately one to two weeks in a foreign country with people that you may not know. The conditions may be primitive, and the food will be different from what you are used to. You will be working long hours with limited supplies and equipment. Language and culture barriers will make your work more difficult.

How good are you at "going with the flow"? How do you cope when the unexpected becomes the expected? How do you feel about cold showers, or no showers? No electricity? No running water? No adequate or absent bathroom facilities? Sleeping on the floor? Sleeping in a tent? How well do you do with living in close proximity with strangers? It is crucial that you know what you are getting into and are prepared to accept it. If you go and do not like it, it will be the longest 10 to 14 days of your life! You will be miserable and make those around you miserable as well.

#### THE APPLICATION PROCESS

The application to volunteer can be found on our website, <u>www.mobilemedicsinternational.org</u> under the "volunteer" tab. The application must be filled out completely and all supporting documentation attached. As well as the background check application completed. Once your application is received, it will be reviewed for completeness, and you will then be notified about the oral interview that will be conducted via Zoom. Oral interviews take approximately 1 hour to conduct. You will also be given an opportunity to ask any questions you may have. We want to make sure you are a good fit for us, and we are a good fit for you.

Once an application has been received, the background check cleared and the zoom interview completed, a license check will be done, and references contacted.

If you are eligible, you will be notified by e-mail with instructions on how to join our volunteer WhatsApp group, sign the liability forms and be given a copy of the MMI handbook. It is important you read the handbook in its entirety. You will be sent a link via e-mail to complete a mandatory on-line international safety and security training. This training is free of charge and will need to be done yearly to be eligible to do international missions. This training issues a certificate upon completion that will need to be e-mailed to MMI.

If you are not eligible, you will also be notified via e-mail.

### YOUR FIRST MISSIONS

There is a team leader assigned to each mission. Team leads are personnel that have been on numerous missions and have experience in disaster and humanitarian medicine. They may not be your medical equivalent. The job of the team lead is to serve as the operational manager. They will work with local authorities to establish the role of the team in country and will help new volunteers learn the ropes during missions. While on mission, you and your team leader will review how you are doing, and you will receive feedback both during the mission and with a post mission interview that will address any concerns either you or the team lead may have/had during all aspects of the mission. Our goal is to help you learn the intricacies and nuances of what we do.

You can respond to as many or as few as your schedule allows. There is no set number of missions a volunteer must do each year.

Evaluation criteria can be found in the handbook that will be e-mailed to you upon you being accepted and rostered for missions.

We are here to help you learn the ropes and how humanitarian/disaster medicine works. It's not intuitive and we want you to be successful. An important part of making it work is to ask LOTS of questions and say you don't know if you're not sure and be willing to learn.

### SOCIAL MEDIA/PHOTOS

Each team member is expected to share any social media advertisement and fundraising for the mission they are going on. A social media campaign is usually started 30 days prior to each humanitarian mission and as little as a few days before a disaster response. The social media campaign includes any details related to the upcoming mission, any links for that mission, links to Amazon wish lists, and fundraising campaigns as well as our regular donation page. MMI's Facebook, Tik Tok and Instagram pages will post often once the mission is identified. You are expected to repost MMI posts. MMI depends solely on donations to operate. We rely on volunteers to get the word out. This helps us raise awareness regarding the crisis/disaster and helps us bring in much needed funds and supplies to make our missions successful.

You may post about MMI missions to your social media. Posts must be accurate and MMI should be tagged. Pictures of patients faces, medical procedures or persons waiting to be seen is prohibited. On occasion permission from patients or patients' family will be granted for publication to social media. Those permissions must be done through your team lead. It is best to seek team lead direction on posting any pictures you've taken while on mission. Pictures of patients taken from behind or that otherwise do not show their faces is generally allowed and your safest bet on posting. If in doubt consult with team lead on pictures you want to post.

**Pictures of military, police or governmental officials and vehicles is not allowed**. It is considered rude in some countries and is illegal in others. It may also be illegal to take pictures while in the airport, customs lines and baggage claim areas. It is best to avoid taking pictures in those places as well.

#### PASSPORT and VISA

Due to potentially significant delays in obtaining a passport, only those with current passports on file will be accepted for missions. Some countries require Visa's for entry. MMI will inform you if a Visa is needed and the process to apply for it. The fee to acquire a Visa is at your personal expense. Visas are not required for all countries, but a passport is always required. There are some countries that will deny you entry depending on what countries you have visited previously. For example, if you have visited Israel, there will be several Muslim-predominant countries that will deny you entry. For that reason, you may be asked if you've visited certain countries that have stamped your most recent passport for some missions and may be denied rostering for that mission based on that criterion.

Due to restrictions in most countries, your passport cannot be set to expire 6 months or less from your time of entry into the country. If your passport is not current or is set to expire within 6 months of a mission date, you will not be eligible for that mission.

When you receive your passport, make a color copy to leave at home with a friend or family member, make a color copy for your team lead, and hide a color copy somewhere in your belongings. Always carry your passport on your person.

#### **IMMUNIZATIONS**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website (www.cdc.gov) is a wealth of information on country-specific immunizations, information on diseases specific to areas, and tips to staying healthy while abroad. The immunization recommendations may vary within a country (ie, mountains compared with coast, city compared with country), so it is important to follow the CDC recommendations. But remember, immunizations and preventative medications are not 100% effective in preventing diseases, so it is essential that you follow all recommendations for preventing illness and understand that even with all guidelines and recommendations followed, you may still get sick. MMI assumes no responsibility for immunizations, lack of immunizations and the consequences of immunization actions. It is your responsibility to keep childhood vaccines up to date. (MMR, TB, Hepatitis etc.) It is highly recommended that you record all vaccines on a yellow "international vaccine record." Bring this with you on every mission. Any travel doctor should have this yellow card and can transfer your records onto it. Below are two examples of the yellow card. Either is acceptable.

Although MMI does not require specific immunizations to be a volunteer, many countries have immunization requirements to enter. The most common being yellow fever and typhoid. We will notify you of country specific immunizations ASAP, it will be your responsibility to obtain those immunizations and have them recorded on one of the yellow cards listed below to be allowed in the country.

INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF VACCINATION	INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF VACCINATION OR PROPHYLAXIS AS APPROVED BY
AS APPROVED BY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION	THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
	CERTIFICAT INTERNATIONAL DE VACCINATION OU DE PROPHYLAXIE APPROUVÉ PAR L'ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANT
CERTIFICATE	TRAVELER'S NAME-NOM DU VOYAGEUR
APPROUVE PAR L'ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE	ADDRESS-ADRESSE (Number-Numéro) (Street-Rue (City-Vile)
TRAVELER'S NAME - NOM DU VOYAGEUR	(County-Département) (State-Payt
ADDRESS-ADRESSE (Number-Numero) (Street-Rue)	
(City-Ville)	
(County-Departement) (State-Etat)	DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVIC CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION
	CDC 731 (formerly PHS-731) or

### HEALTH INSURANCE/MALPRACTICE INSURANCE

It is your responsibility to carry personal health and malpractice insurance if applicable. You are not an employee of MMI and are not covered under any insurance through MMI. You alone assume all responsibility for insurance. Most host countries have applicable Good Samaritan laws in place that cover those that come for humanitarian aid. MMI will make sure we know as much as we can about the laws of the country and what's required prior to deployment.

Extraction insurance is strongly recommended. These services provide removal from a foreign country for personal medical emergencies or civil unrest. Plans can be bought per mission or for extended periods. A few links to guide you in the right direction are: <u>www.globalrescue.com</u>,

www.ripcordrescuetravelinsurance.com, and www.internationalsos.com and www.bcbsglobal.com.

**MMI is not endorsing these or any other similar companies.** Do thorough research on which company is best suited for you AND MAKE SURE IT COVERS VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES.

Volunteers without extraction insurance will be responsible for any costs associated for leaving a country for personal medical or civil unrest reasons.

### COMPENSATION

All missions are volunteer. Your time will not be compensated. Depending on the mission, food, lodging, travel, or any combination of the three <u>may</u> be provided, but is not to be construed as compensation. Any supplies you contribute to MMI may be tax deductible as a charitable expense. Check with your tax professional.

### TRAVEL ADVISORIES

Some of the countries we deploy to have travel advisories for US/UK citizens. If we do deploy a mission to such countries, we will have established a relationship with a reliable host in that country prior to our arrival and arrange any security that may be needed. MMI will make you fully aware of any security concerns that we are aware of prior to deployment.

You can consult the US State Department at www.state.gov for any travel

restrictions or warnings about the host country before you leave. It is <u>highly</u> recommended that US citizens register your travel to a foreign country at <u>www.step.state.gov</u> Rev 08/24

#### PERSONAL COSTS

MMI does not charge volunteers to go on missions nor do we expect volunteers to provide supplies, or equipment, or pay for those things for a mission. We may occasionally ask a volunteer to bring some over the counter medications or medical supplies, because we are expecting large volumes of patients, and we anticipate needing larger amounts than we can carry from home base. But typically, medically needed items will be provided by MMI. If you are asked to bring medications or supplies, MMI will compensate you for the supplies and any baggage fees associated with bringing them.

There is usually an out-of-pocket cost for each mission, however. We try to make sure our volunteers are aware of up-front costs for each mission. As a GENERAL rule, out of pocket runs \$200-\$500 per person per mission. That is not a firm number and can fluctuate either way. *It is not a fee paid to MMI in any way,* it is usually incidental costs. Examples are explained below.

Our flight partner, Airlink, provides airfare but they only fly into and out of major cities. You may have to pay out of pocket for transportation from your hometown to the closest major airport that Airlink identifies. Once a ticket has been issued, no changes or cancellations are allowed. **If you need to leave the mission for any reason, you will be required to purchase your own ticket home.** If you pull out of a mission but tickets have already been issued, you are still responsible for the associated fees, such as taxes for that ticket. They do not pay baggage fees for any mission. Any baggage fees, except for baggage requested by MMI, are your responsibility.

Any expenses outside of airfare provided by Airlink during travel to and from the actual mission is your responsibility. For example, it may be necessary to get a hotel during a long layover enroute. Or buying food during travel to the mission.

Some missions require us to be self-sufficient and to bring our own camping gear and food. If that is the case, we will announce what is needed with the mission notification and that would be your responsibility. There is a more comprehensive list of recommended self-sustainability equipment for missions later in this document.

### WHAT TO PACK

Now begins the daunting task of deciding what to take. If you are not asked to bring supplies, then only one carry on bag is allowed and a backpack or something similar. All your personal gear needs to be packed in such a way that you can carry it long distances by yourself. Waterproof duffel bags are best. Conventional suitcases should be avoided.

These general rules can be used as a guideline for what to bring:

\* If it is valuable or irreplaceable, leave it at home. Theft is commonplace in areas of great poverty. The wet shoes you leave on the porch to dry may not be there on your return.

\* Laundry is often done by hand with lye-based soap that an cause streaking and dulling of colored clothing as well as pulling and running of delicate fabrics. Leave fancy clothes at home.

\* If you need it, bring it. Do not assume that you can save space by buying needed supplies when you get in country. They may not be available or will be very expensive. A great example of this is, the Philippines does not sell sunscreen. Anywhere. Trust me on this.

\* Do not wear flashy jewelry or expensive shoes or clothes. It makes you a target for thieves. I remove all jewelry, including my wedding ring prior to travel and leave it at home.

\* Be sure to carry your personal medications in your carry-on bag. Bring your personal medications in a small, pharmacy-labeled bottle. MMI requires that all medications be disclosed to the executive director and reviewed by the medical director prior to being rostered for a mission. Many countries have very strict policies of how and when certain medications can be brought in.

\* Bring a small personal first aid kit. It should consist of a few Bandaids, antibiotic skin creams, antidiarrheal and antiemetic agents, and so forth. These are for your personal use. Even if you do not get motion sickness at home it may be a different story when riding in the bed of a pig truck, a small hand-crafted boat or a tiny helicopter.



Helicopter ride in the Bahamas, pig truck transport in the Philippines, bamboo boat trip Philippines.

- Remember plastic/rubber shower shoes for the shower and mouthwash for brushing your teeth in case drinkable water is limited. Wet wipes can be used in place of a bath.
- Travel size shampoo and body wash.
- Most third world countries are "bring your own toilet paper." Always Carry TP or Kleenex with you.
- Talcum powder. Lots of talcum powder. It will become your new BFF.
- Soap and hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer will be used extensively but it only kills the germs it doesn't actually clean your hands off. Nothing replaces washing your hands with soap and water.
- Additional items may be needed such as mosquito nets, sleeping mat, sleeping bag, camp/MRE type food, etc. MMI will make every attempt to provide you with a mission specific list of personal items recommended for each deployment.
- <u>Bring sun block and bug spray to all missions</u>. It is required to wear daily. These countries are often plagued with mosquito borne illnesses and other hazards that take advantage of the smallest skin area to bite or infect. Keep as much bare skin covered as possible. What can't be covered must have sunscreen and bug spray applied.
- **DO NOT OVERPACK!** I can't stress this enough. Often, your personal gear will have to be moved multiple times to various locations. Waterproof duffle bags are the recommended bag for packing on these missions. Suitcases are bulky and difficult to stuff into helicopter holds, small plane holds or on tiny boats.
- Plan to wear your outerwear for more than one day without washing. 3 pair of underwear, 3 T-shirts and 3 sets of socks and two or three pairs of pants will usually get you through the deployment.
- Lightweight clothing that is easily dried and that can be rolled up and packed away into the smallest space is the key. Scrubs are always a great option. They are lightweight, wash well and dry quickly.
- A microfiber towel. These types of towels dry quickly and are easy to pack.

- A filtering water bottle. There are several options for this. Lifestraw, Grayl and Watertogo are a few examples. Do good research and pick the one best for you. <u>Don't go cheap on this item</u>, it is imperative you have a water bottle that can give you clean drinking water from a variety of water sources.
- Electronics, such as tablets, phones, e-readers etc. can be brought, but remember you most likely will not have ready access to electricity. Bring a portable power supply or a solar power supply for your electronics. I would strongly discourage bringing a laptop computer. A universal travel adapter will be needed in most places to plug things in.
- Weigh your bag BEFORE leaving home. The ticket counter line is not the place to try and redistribute items because your bag is overweight. Keep your bag underweight to allow scale variances at various airports.
- Invest in a neck pouch designed for travel or a waist belt that are RFID to keep important documents and money on your person and in front of your body vs in a backpack. Keep them out of site at all times.

Have your countries currency as well as a little of the host countries currency on you, as well as a copy of your passport and medical license. I also keep one credit/debit card on my person and one in my carry on in case one or the other gets lost or stolen.

• Footwear. Rugged comfortable footwear with socks is a must. Closed toe is mandatory while in clinic and traveling to and from clinic areas. Slip on/sandal type of shoes can be worn around the team house. Depending on location there may be a lot of hiking or alternative forms of transport.



Morning clinic. Mozambique, Africa

Med bags. Cebu Philippines



Strategic planning. The Bahamas



Tijuana Mexico. Team photo

## FOOD

MMI will inform you before you leave whether the host in country will provide food. The food will usually be locally sourced. In most cases the food is cooked over open fires, there is no refrigeration, and it will come from animals you may not be used to eating. We have been known to eat MRE's, goat, fish, rooster and "don't ask" while on deployment. There is usually a LOT of rice. It's a good idea to bring a couple MREs, nonperishable comfort food or freeze-dried food with you. You will be advised before you deploy if more is necessary. If you have things that you really can't do without (like coffee, tea, etc.) then bring them with you. Just be sure that whatever it is, it's non melty.



MRE breakfast. Haiti

Boodle fight. Philippines

Island food, Mambaca Yao

### WATER

Water in a third world country is <u>never</u> to be trusted nor is the water in any area recently affected by a natural disaster. Do not drink it, do not eat the ice, do not reconstitute medicine with it, do not use it to wash wounds, do not let it get in your face and don't brush your teeth with it. Don't eat anything washed in it such as fruits and veggies. Food prepared with water that was brought to a boil is usually safe to eat, such as rice and coffee.

Showering with local water is to be done with caution. Keep it out of your face and mouth. Do not shave any part of your body as any nick or cut will be an opportunity for infection to set in.

Bottled water should not be drunk straight from the bottle. The act of screwing and unscrewing the bottle contaminates the opening. Pour bottled water into your filtered bottle to drink.

Never use ice in drinks or drink any fountain drinks. Only drink water from your filtered bottle, or pre bottled beverages where the seal is not broken. Be prepared to drink room temperature beverages the whole of your deployment

# FLYING

Our flights are provided by our flight partner Airlink. (See "personal costs" above for more details) Once a ticket has been issued, no changes or cancellations are allowed. **If you need to leave the mission for any reason, you will be required to purchase your own ticket home.** These flights are grueling. The tickets are donated and therefore not a direct route, has long layovers or weird cross-country treks. Be prepared for long travel times. Staying hydrated is one of the best and simplest things you can do to help prevent jet lag and flight fatigue. Get up and move around a lot during flights, check with your health care provider about aspirin before flights and regardless of age, consider compression socks.

It is also a good idea to try and set your internal clock to mission country time. Start a couple days before your flight by staying awake/sleeping based on mission country time as much as possible, continue this throughout your flight. Because our in-country time is so short and we have a lot to accomplish, there is no time to accommodate jet lag.

### THE PATIENTS

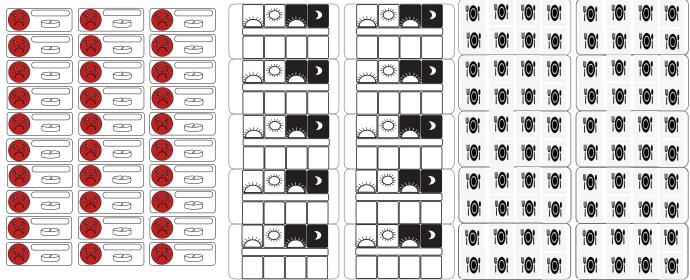
Remember that these patients most likely do not have a stocked medicine cabinet of over- the-counter medications. They do not have acetaminophen for headaches and fever, or ibuprofen for menstrual cramps, or antacids for heartburn.

The lack of availability can be compounded by a lack of understanding on proper use of these medications. People often seek treatment for things that seem like minor complaints to us but are significant concerns to the patient. These patients may not understand what is causing their symptoms, they may not know that the condition is not serious, and they most likely will not have any medications to take to resolve their symptoms. Education on their symptoms and appropriate use of these medicines helps them to take care of themselves.

They may not understand how or when to take medication. My last trip to Haiti saw one woman coming back to clinic to complain she couldn't swallow the medicine I had given her the day before. It was chewable antacids. HUGE chewable antacid. I had not explained to her that she was to chew it not just swallow it!

Multivitamins are important in third-world countries. Because of poverty, lack of availability, and misconceptions about some foods, they often do not eat well-balanced diets. Prenatal vitamins are the exception instead of the norm for impoverished pregnant women. You will most likely give out more vitamins than any other medication.

Illiteracy may be high in third world countries and written directions can create a barrier. You may find yourself explaining to a child or other family members how medication should be taken or how to read the instructions so that they can help their family understand. The use of interpreters and translator apps is common. It is very easy to have a breakdown in communication because of language barriers. Repetitive instructions and having them repeat instructions back to you is a good way to help ensure understanding. We also carry pictograph labels for medications to aid in proper dosing.



Take medication for pain label

What time of day to take label

Take with food label

Clean water is the exception and not the norm in most of these countries and even though you may instruct, "clean water only" it most likely will not happen. If a medication needs reconstitution, we will do it in clinic with our own clean or sterile water. Do not send medication home with a patient that needs to have water added to it.

Refrigeration is also not available.

There may be a real deficit of things that we consider innate knowledge: washing of hands after using the bathroom and before eating, the importance of covering cuts or wounds to keep them clean, wearing shoes to help prevent parasite infections, not walking barefoot through animal dung, covering food to

keep flies from contaminating it, and the importance of pure water. As you treat things remember that you will need to give detailed care instructions. Do not assume that a patient with a laceration on the foot knows to keep the wound covered until it heals and knows not to go barefoot. Try and determine if your patient can read written instructions or has access to someone who can. If not, have them repeat instructions back to you a couple of times to ensure understanding.

### **OUR PHARMACY**

MMI carries an over the counter (OTC) and prescription pharmacy. Both our medical directors and our pharmacist have reviewed all the medications we carry and have developed general guidelines for their use. These guidelines can be found in the handbook. It is your responsibility to know our pharmacy and its uses regardless of your license level. We work collaboratively and believe that although you may not be able to prescribe prescription medications it is important to know our medication abilities and whether a patient can be effectively treated in our clinic or may need to be transferred.

The circumstances and the country we are entering will determine which medications we will be bringing. For example, as a rule, we do not take prescription medications to a US disaster response, but we may take a full pharmacy to a humanitarian response in foreign countries. We NEVER carry narcotics. We carry a wide range of antibiotics, anti-fungal and over the counter medications, as well as many multi-vitamins for all ages.

Our pharmacy is subject to change as medical direction determines the best medications to carry. Any changes will be sent as an update to the handbook.

#### **OUR JUMP BAGS**

MMI provides most equipment and supplies for missions. A complete list of what's in our jump bags is listed below. Jump bag supplies are subject to change without notice. We strive to pack each jump bag identically, so everyone knows what's in them and where its located. It is mostly supplies such as bandaging and splinting and IV supplies as well as OTC medications. We will usually not have a jump bag for each team member but will have enough to cover the mission.

In addition, there will be one or more pharmacy bags. Pharmacy bags will have prescription meds as well as extra OTC meds for restocking jump bags.



# MAIN COMPARTMENT BAGS

#### **OVER THE COUNTER**

BAG: Tums Pepto Bismol Zantac (ranitidine) Cough drops Children's Motrin (ibuprofen) liquid Benadrvl (diphenhydramine) Melatonin dissolvable Acetaminophen (Tylenol/Paracetamol Tylenol with Benadryl Children's liquid cough medicine (day and night) Naproxen Children's Tylenol dissolvable Children's liquid Benadryl Adult cold and flu gel caps (day and night) Toothache kit Children's liquid Tylenol Epi Delsym adult cough syrup 10 CC syringes

Med bags

#### **DIAGNOSTIC BAG**

Auto BP cuff Glucometer Thermometer BP and BG conversion chart Pulse Ox Otoscope Stethoscope Masks (N95 and surgical) Penlight Tongue depressors Alcohol wipes Band-Aids Hand sanitizer

#### PPE BAG

Gown Gloves Baby powder Masks (N95 and Surgical) Safety glasses Disinfectant wipes Booties

#### PEDS/OB BAG

Braslow tape Bottle nipple Chux (blue pad) Sanitary napkins Diaper OB kit Pregnancy tests

#### **CREAMS BAG**

Triple antibiotic ointment Itch/sting relief Burn Gel Lubricating eye drops Hydrocortisone cream Tooth ache gel Pain relief cream (bengay) Antifungal cream

### **DRESSING/BANDAGI**

NG BAG Wound closure Hemostatic powder (quick clot) Roller gauze Trauma dressing 4x4's Ace wrap Non adhesive bandages Tape **Trauma Shears Bandage Scissors** Tweezers Wound Scrubber Gloves

#### MISC.

Bottle of Saline Pill counter

#### <u>LID</u> <u>COMPARTMENTS:</u> <u>INSIDE</u>

Gloves and powder Disinfectant wipes Masks (N95 and surgical) Hand sanitizer Emesis bag Blue pads

# LID COMPARTMENT:

OUTSIDE Puff light Sam Splint Tourniquet Duct tape Headlamp Utility knife

#### LAST MINUTE TIPS

- 1) You often may be working under less-than-ideal circumstances, in deplorable conditions, without any follow up care with your patients after they leave. Always give the best care you possibly can.
- 2) Do not do anything you would not be allowed to do in your home country. In other words, do not practice outside of your home countries scope for your level of medical training.
- 3) Clean, not sterile is often going to be as good as it gets.
- 4) Do not give anything away to the locals unless you have enough for the entire population. It is heartbreaking to have to hide and eat so the orphans that only eat 3 days a week don't see your food. But to give one orphan even a little of your food starts a chain reaction that will have hundreds of children begging and crying at best or cause a riot at worst. This includes things such as stickers, suckers, small toys etc.
- 5) NEVER show your money or where you keep it.
- 6) Learn basic courtesy phrases in the host country language such as, hello, goodbye, thank you and please.
- 7) Keep your eyes and ears open all the time. Trust your gut. If it seems wrong, then it is wrong and remove yourself immediately.
- 8) Always stay with your team. MMI has a "one out" policy. We are together as a group, always. If someone in the group opts out of anything for any reason, we all opt out. No questions asked, no blame given. All or none.
- 9) MMI has no religious affiliation and does not allow for expressing of personal religious beliefs to patients at any time. We use the word "mission" to denote responding to an area of need and it has no connection to religion or religious beliefs or activities.
- 10) Do not walk with your cell phone in your hand. Do not be looking at your cell phone while out in the community. Do not have your cell phone in your hand while seated next to an open window in a vehicle.
- 11) Have fun. We hope this will be one of the most rewarding experiences of your life!

We are grateful for our volunteers and try hard to make MMI a place you'd enjoy working and recommend to others. We pride ourselves on our approach to team cohesion and cooperation. We strive to not only make a difference in the lives of those we serve but in the lives of our volunteers as well. We want you to make lifelong memories and friendships. We hope you consider joining the MMI family. Please reach out to us with any questions or feedback you have.

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