

## 1. OVERALL INFORMATION

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Health Care and Ambulance Service in the 40 Interior Tribal Villages in Kokrajhar, Assam, Northeast India</b>
<b>Name of Applicant</b>	Sr. Jessy Palliparambil FMA Provincial Economer Auxilium Provincial House, Christian Basti, GMC Road, Guwahati - 781 005, Assam economerfmaing@gmail.com
<b>Project Location</b>	Auxilium Vocational Training Centre Village Bodofa NWGWR (Kodomtola) P.O. Titaguri-783 370, District Kokrajhar BTAD, Assam, Northeast India Phone: 91 3661 270442
<b>Legal Holder</b>	Sr. Elizabeth George, Provincial, FMA-ING Province, Auxilium Provincial House, Christian Basti, GMC Road, Dispur, Guwahati-781 005, Assam Phone: 0091 361 2341691 Email: provincialfmaing@gmail.com
<b>Amount Requested</b>	Amount: INR 874,644/- Euro 14577
<b>Bank Details: Name and Address of Bank</b>	The Federal Bank Limited Arham Plaza, M G Road, Fancy Bazar, Guwahati -781001 Assam, India
<b>Account No.</b>	11820100101607
<b>Name of Account Holder</b>	Salesian Sisters of N.E. India
<b>SWIFT code</b>	FDRL IN BB IBD

## 2. IDENTITY

Auxilium Vocational Training Centre is under the management of Auxilium Convent Kokrajhar is located in the civil district of Kokrajhar, in the state of Assam. It was started in 1995 to provide educational, social and spiritual support to the people of 45 scattered villages in and around Kokrajhar. The centre provides formal and non formal education, professional skill training in garment making, training of health workers and job placement. There are 2 professionally trained Sisters and 2 lay staff working under the Auxilium Vocational Training Centre.

## 3. LOCATION AND GENERAL SITUATION

Kokrajhar is a District with a large forest area extending to the border of Bhutan. The Catholic population is mainly Bodo tribals forming the single largest group. Santhals, Adivasis, Garos Rabhas and Rajbongshis are the other major groups. Kokrajhar is one of the most backward areas of the State. Long years of insurgency, ethnic unrest and unemployment have adversely affected the overall socio economic development of the area. Frequent gunshots, rivalry, strikes and atrocities have become part of normal life functioning. Amidst all these, the receptivity and simple nature of the tribals encourage us to march ahead doing the mission and development work in the region. The Catholic population is open to Faith, collaborative and peace loving. Poverty, illiteracy, superstitious beliefs and peculiar traditions and customs keep them secluded. In spite of all these, faith is growing and we are welcomed in the name of Christ.

## 4. SOCIO ECONOMIC CONDITION

Kokrajhar though is the district head quarters is undeveloped, surrounded by many interior forest villages cut off from the main stream. Illiteracy, unemployment, absence of industry, primitive

way of cultivation, etc. keeps the tribes poor and underdeveloped. Most of the people are marginal farmers and agriculture daily wage workers. Some of them are unskilled labourers in the small tea gardens around. Constant strike and lockouts in the tea estates cause unemployment and poverty and hand to mouth situation exists in most of the families. Another crucial problem of the tribal population of the area is inaccessibility to medical care. The health programmes run by FMA Sisters at Auxilium Vocational Training Centre help them to a great extent to find remedies to a number of illnesses and save themselves from various contagious diseases as malaria, jaundice, frequent diarrhea, malnutrition, and various needs of women with pregnancy. The tribes are subjected to superstitious beliefs that block their development and hold them back from taking medical care at times. With our intervention, awareness and motivation programmes they are changing for better. This area also suffers ethnic violence and insurgency. Kidnapping people for ransom is common in the locality. Life of the poor people is hard due to the various external and internal factors that keep them in constant threat and fear.

#### **5. Activities Carried out under Auxilium Vocational Training Centre, Kokrajhar in collaboration with Auxilium Reach Out, the Social Development Office of the FMA-ING Province**

- Formation and follow up of Women Groups, Capacity building
- Formal and non-formal education, Training in garment making, Life Skill Education, Entrepreneurship development and support to organize Income Generation Programmes.
- Health, hygiene and sanitation – Training of Health Workers, Mobile Clinic in the interior villages, Health awareness programmes
- Emergency relief works to the victims affected by ethnic violence and natural calamity
- Action against Human Trafficking, Safe migration, Formation of Vigilant Committee
- Women's issues especially those related to vulnerable groups

#### **6. LOCAL SITUATION – THE PROBLEM PROJECT INTEND TO ADDRESS**

Request for health care is constantly put forward by the people of the area. In response to it, Auxilium Centre Kokrajhar, started a one year course for women health workers and sending them to the villages to help out. Happy to say these trainees are doing a very important job in the best way possible. 80% of these villages are remote. 5 villages namely Sorolpara, Rigenkotha, Birgonch, Ultapani and Lungsun are forest villages cut off from the mainstream. Here there are around 1500 families living scattered in the forest. It is at a distance of 30 kilometres from Kokrajhar town and the approach road is through thick forest. In the year 1996 people of these villages suffered a terrible ethnic clash during which number of people died and most of the habitats and livelihoods were burnt. After spending 12 long years in the relief camps, they came back to the village and struggle to put up their huts and redeem their fields. Majority of the population are Adivasi, Santhals and Boro tribe. They cultivate in the forest land produce paddy and vegetables. Their situation is not encouraging, but just existing and most of them are fearful and tensed about their future. To fetch drinking water they have to travel five kilometers through the forest. No electricity or supply of water. Since they occupy the forest land, they are not given any government support, not even a school. One NGO is running an unrecognized lower primary school for the children from all these villages.

One of their emergency needs is to get medical care. They are happy even if a medical team visits twice a month for examination and to provide them necessary medicines. Absolutely there is no transportation for them to reach the town other than bicycles or army vehicles that ply through and vehicles that comes from Bhutan, which is around 5 Kilometres away.

Other 35 villages are not completely cut off, but they are remote and interior. They too do not have proper medical facilities. Auxilium Centre Kokrajhar helps them out occasionally with

medical camps and awareness programmes. The health workers make house visits and Nurse Sister attend to the complicated cases and send them to the hospitals in town. But, we are handicapped in reaching to these villages without proper conveyance. They are in need of health programmes and medical aid for healthy living. Emergency medical situations are always a fearful experience for them. Finding conveyance to reach their sick ones to the hospital in town is the worst task they face in their lives. The few private vehicles that are available in the villages take advantage of their poverty and emergency, charging them with exorbitant fee making them depressed and debtors. Many drivers hesitate to run through the difficult mud roads especially during nights with sick patients. Though we help them, it is in a very limited manner with our limited facilities.

## 7. ACTIVITIES

This Project is to provide medical facilities to the 40 remote villages where people do not have access to health care. This Project will provide medical services to the 40 villages to help them meet one of their vital needs and realize their Right to good health. Following are the major activities under the project.

- Providing once a month, mobile clinic and medical checkup, distribution of medicines, house visit, health instructions and regular follow up through the health work trainees.
- To provide an ambulance service to shift their patients to the hospital in emergency situations.
- To place the trainee health workers as interns in these villages and help villagers get awareness on health and hygiene, visit and support to expectant mothers, anemic check to women and children, etc.
- Referral services to the city hospitals and followed up.
- Nurse Sister In Charge will follow up and monitor the health programmes
- Medical camps and other activities will be linked to the District Health Department and other state run hospitals.

Our humble request to the donour is to provide these poor tribal people with an ambulance that will bring them closer to good health, healing and fullness, thereby reducing their tensions for their children and sick people. The village people are willing to pay whatever they can for the ambulance and expenses of the driver, whenever they use it. Our Mission can support the rest of the requirement by way of personal and finance for the medicines through friends and people of good will. In case of emergencies there is no one to help them and they are in extreme dangerous situations. Our request is genuine and very urgent. Their situation demands our immediate attention and kindness. Currently we do not have a vehicle of our own for this purpose. Whenever needed, a vehicle is hired from the town. The rent is exorbitant due to the long distance, poor roads and as we have to keep it in waiting to go back after completing the programme. We submit this project proposal with great confidence and humbly request you to support us with necessary financial resources for its implementation.

## 8. FINANCIAL PLAN

Mark & Model of the intended Vehicle	Tata Sumo Gold EX
Amount INR	874,644/-
Euro	14577
<b>Amount requested from the donour</b>	<b>INR 874,644/-</b>
	<b>Euro 14577</b>

**Village Health Services Rendered by the Health Workers of Auxilium Centre, Kokrajhar**

