



# Brussels Healthcare and Advice Centre Centre d'accueil, de soins et d'orientation

Doctors of the World – Médecins du monde International Network  
Belgian Anti-Poverty Network

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## Doctors of the World – Médecins du monde

- ✓ Independent international voluntary movement
- ✓ 355 programmes worldwide, in 82 countries
- ✓ 180 domestic programmes
  - ✓ Free and innovative first line medical & social services, mostly mobile outreach
  - ✓ Destitute or homeless nationals, drug users, sex workers, Roma, undocumented third-country nationals and EU citizens, asylum seekers, etc.
  - ✓ No replacement of public services but data collection as evidence basis of advocacy and social change. Empowerment of excluded people
- ✓ 15 autonomous organisations
  - ✓ in the EU: [www.mdmeuroblog.wordpress.com](http://www.mdmeuroblog.wordpress.com)
  - ✓ AR, BE, CA, CH, FR, DE, EL, JA, LU, NL, PT, ES, SE, UK, US



## Access to healthcare in Belgium – in theory (law)

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Compulsory national health insurance covering the whole population, with a broad benefits package

- ✓ Destitute patients = BIM / OMNIO / social welfare center
- ✓ Similar system for asylum seekers
- ✓ Undocumented migrants: preventive and curative care through a parallel system (AMU – Aide médicale urgente)
- ✓ Destitute undocumented EU migrants: access to the AMU scheme for undocumented third-country nationals



## Access to healthcare in Belgium – in practice

- ✓ Administrative barriers
- ✓ Financial barriers
- ✓ Lack of knowledge or understanding of the healthcare system and of their rights
- ✓ Language barriers
  
- ✓ E.g. Only 10 to 20% of undocumented migrants use the system according to KCE, < 0.2% national health budget
- ✓ E.g. 70.65% of MdM patients in BE (2014) had no general physician



## ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FOR PEOPLE FACING MULTIPLE HEALTH VULNERABILITIES

OBSTACLES IN ACCESS  
TO CARE FOR CHILDREN  
AND PREGNANT WOMEN  
IN EUROPE



Doroftel, aged 10, has not been vaccinated:  
"I still cannot go to school"  
Saint-Denis - France

MAY 2015

## 5 MdM Observatory on access to healthcare

- ✓ 23,040 patients
- ✓ 42,534 social and medical consultations (in 2014)
- ✓ 25 cities across 9 European countries and Turkey
- ✓ Full epidemiological report – legal report – summary report

[www.mdmeuroblog.wordpress.com](http://www.mdmeuroblog.wordpress.com)



# Social determinants of health

## European key figures

- 91.3% were living below the poverty line
- 64.7% of patients were living in unstable or temporary accommodation and 9.7% were homeless
- 29.5% declared their accommodation to be harmful to their health or that of their children
- 18.4% never had someone they could rely on and were thus completely isolated
- Next slide: 38.8% of patients did not know where to go to get their children vaccinated



VACCINATION CONTRE

DIPHTÉRIE — TÉTANOS — POLIOMYÉLITE — COQUELUCHE — TYPHOÏDE — PARATYPHOÏDE

	1 <sup>re</sup> DOSE		2 <sup>e</sup> DOSE		3 <sup>e</sup> DOSE	
	Date	Signature du médecin	Date	Signature du médecin	Date	Signature du médecin
COQUELUCHE.....						
DIPHTÉRIE.....						
TÉTANOS.....						
POLIOMYÉLITE :						
Vaccin injectable.....						
Vaccin buccal.....						
TYPHOÏDE et PARATYPHOÏDE.....						

N.B. — 1<sup>er</sup> Le médecin vaccinateur doit apposer sa signature latine à chaque injection ou prise de vaccin.  
 2<sup>e</sup> Pour les vaccins associés, réunir par une accolade les maladies visées.

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INTERDIRE L'IVG  
FEMMES en DANGER

AVORTEMENT ILLEGAL  
50000 FEMMES MEURENT/AN

NUNCA  
MÁS!  
ABORTO LEGAL  
Y SEGURO!

IVG LÉGALE  
MON CHOIX MON DROIT MA SANTÉ

DERECHOS  
AMENAZADOS  
SALUD  
EN PELIGRO





## Innovation

- Multidisciplinary approach (medical and nursing, social, psychological)
- Cooperation with a broad range of actors providing services related to housing, food & clothing, specialist (mental) health, legal assistance, migrant integration and intercultural mediation, harm reduction, etc.
- Volunteers take acquired expertise back to their workplace (e.g. specific health issues of homeless people)
- Unique comparative data collection, making visible populations that are invisible to national public health monitoring systems → collaboration with Belgian / European academic partners
- Information sessions & assistance to healthcare providers / grassroot organisations