Roma and Sinti on the road to a better well-being
MDM- Dokters van de Wereld

• International humanitarian organisation

• Fight for the right and access to healthcare for the most vulnerable
Initiative Roma project

- MDM Netherlands and the National Sinten Roma Organisation (L.S.R.O)
Médecins du Monde
International Projects

• Romeurope project, focus on housing, mother and childcare en access to healthcare
• Medical mobile teams, for Roma families who have little access to health.
• Rehabilitation projects, for sanitation en clean drinking water.
• Social participation projects, education and social support
MDM France

Les populations roms et tziganes
Mobile Clinic
Project example
Romania and Bulgaria

• Survivors of Gross Human Right abuses
  Project goal: increase the long-term capacity of NGO’s and Roma leaders to evaluate NAP’s and to develop benchmarks for successful Roma integration into health systems.
Project example
Romania

• Tuberculosis and Hiv/Aids
• Project Goal: Improve access and completion of TB treatment for Roma communities, reduce new infections.
Situation in the Netherlands

- The Roma and Sinti represent a group of
- 5,000 – 10,000 people, legal and illegal
- Roma and Sinti are not officially recognized as a minority
- The main part of the Roma and Sinti live in caravans, mobile homes on small local government areas in the southern provinces of the Netherlands,
Specific problems 1

- Socio-economic living conditions not always sufficient
- Lack of places of residence
- Disturbed interethnic relationships with neighbouring residents
- Little/no integration in Dutch society.
- Majority are living below poverty level.
- They face discrimination, criminalisation and stigmatisation.

Source: Forum report (2003), interviews with the key persons of the communities and institutions.
Specific problems 2

• The illiteracy rate is high (60%)
• lot of unemployment (estimated rate of unemployment in the Netherlands is 90%).
• life expectancy is 15% below Dutch average,
• the child mortality rate is twice as high and
• psychological problems concerning Second World War are common
Specific problems 3

• On a national level there are only a few institutes and policy rules/guidelines that address these group and its problems.

• the National Roma and Sinti organisation (LSO) is very motivated to gave a strong support and cooperation for further research by focus groups among Roma and Sinti themselves.
Project Roma and Sinti in the Netherlands

*Roma and Sinti on their way to a better well-being*

- Goals:
  - Effective, efficient and sustainable health promotion program.
  - Empowerment of National Roma/Sinti organization.
Exploratory mission

1.