

GOOD BEGINNINGS FOR LIFE



Goal: Develop relationship with teen mothers who desire a healthy baby and are willing to meet obligations to receive the blessing.

Aim: To provide prenatal care, counseling and material support to first time teen mothers in the late stages of pregnancy, advocate for good care through delivery and postpartum and provide a safe, healthy place for transition from hospital to home environment where they can bond with baby, begin breast feeding and learn good habits in the care of baby.

Problem:

Infant mortality among roma is 18.8% (compared with 6.8% majority Slovak) and life expectancy for a Roma woman is 17 years shorter. Roma women tend not to stay in the hospital with their baby because of shame and how they are treated by majority health care workers. Hospitals tend to keep babies for longer periods because they realize the environment in the home is not healthy or safe. Long separation from newborns do not promote early bonding and hinder the ability to breast feed.

GOOD BEGINNINGS HOME

1. Recruit strong women with experience in obstetrics to live in and run clinic and home.
2. Equip residence rooms for staff, dormitory for pregnant teens needing safe place and equipment to care for new moms and baby for period following birth.
3. Provide vitamins and health checks for teen moms prior to delivery and nutrition program and health checks for nursing moms and newborn babies for first year of life.
4. Educate mothers about hygiene and nutrition.
5. Provide a safe home for those in abusive or dangerous situations and/or homeless.
6. Work with fathers and families to help them support and provide for mother and baby.

Slovak hospitals hold new Roma mothers against their will

<https://nypost.com/2018/12/.../roma-mothers-held-against-their-will-at-slovak-hospital...>

Dec 11, 2018 - An investigation by The Associated Press has found that women and their newborns in **Slovakia** are routinely, unjustifiably and illegally detained in hospitals across the European Union country. Women from the country's **Roma** minority, vulnerable to racist abuse and physical violence, suffer particularly.

Discrimination against childbearing Romani women in maternity care ...

<https://reproductive-health-journal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.../s12978-016-0263...>

by HL Watson - 2017 - [Cited by 12](#) - [Related articles](#)

Jan 5, 2017 - To review the published evidence on discrimination against **Romani** women in **maternity** care in Europe, and on interventions to address this.

Basic data on infant mortality and socioeconomic indicators for the ...

<https://www.researchgate.net/.../Basic-data-on-infant-mortality-and-socioeconomic-indic...>

Data included perinatal and **infant mortality** in the 79 districts of the **Slovak...** | **Infant Mortality, Slovakia and Roma** | ResearchGate, the professional network for ...

Roma

<https://www.unibocconi.it/wps/wcm/connect/8cfe9955.../Plenary+2-+Scicluna.pdf?...>

Life expectancy. 7. • In **Slovakia** the **life expectancy** of **Roma** women is 17 years shorter than that of the female majority population. Ina Zoon « On the Margins » .

Closing the life expectancy gap between Roma and non-Roma | EPHA

<https://epha.org/closing-the-life-expectancy-gap-between-roma-and-non-roma/>

May 31, 2018 - For example, in **Slovakia** the biggest gap in **life expectancy** is present in segregated and secluded areas of **Roma** settlements with poor living ...