



HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PROJECT SLOVAKIA

“We’ve got a chance to improve other people’s lives – health is the most important thing, but many people forget about it while solving their existential problems. Many of us go see a doctor only after we realise we might have a serious problem with our health; when we feel weak or when something hurts.”

The health situation of numerous isolated Roma communities in Slovakia has been characterised by a high frequency of illnesses, chronic and infectious diseases, caused by poor hygiene conditions, low education levels, and limited access to drinking water.

The goal of the **Healthy Communities** national project is to find a systemic and sustainable solution to the alarming state of health and social conditions of disadvantaged groups – including Roma communities – with a specific focus on women and children.

At the core of this concept is the work of Health Mediators who are members of the Roma community they serve and in which they live. With the support of coordinators, Health Mediators are actively engaging with their local communities and informing local people of the services offered by the project.

They invite clients for vaccinations and preventive check-ups, organise home visits and follow-up visits for mothers with newborns, and accompany patients to their doctor or to the hospital.

The project has created 257 full-time jobs (234 Health Mediators and 23 coordinators) in the poorest regions of Slovakia, with 95% of Health Mediators being members of targeted groups. More than 67,000 people are registered with the project in 239 different locations.



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