Non-access to prenatal care for the migrant pregnant women seen by Doctors of the World in Europe
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Background
Since 2006, the Doctors of the World – Médecins du Monde (MdM) International Network Observatory has been conducting multicenter surveys in Europe among vulnerable people – the vast majority of whom are immigrants – who make use of its national programs, in order to describe their social and health-related characteristics and the obstacles to access to care, with the goal of informing the public authorities and European institutions and bringing about positive changes.

Materials and Methods
A cross-sectional analysis of routine data collected from 23,341 patients who came to MdM clinics in 26 cities in 11 countries in 2014 (Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom). Of them, 8849 were women, 437 of whom were pregnant.

Results
Nearly all of the pregnant women who visited the MdM clinics were foreigners, half of whom did not have a residency permit. More than half of the women interviewed in Europe had inadequate housing, 62.9% considered their dwelling harmful to their health, and nearly all of them were living below the poverty line in their host country. A third had no one to turn to in case of need. More than half had not had access to a prenatal follow-up (54.2%). Only half of the pregnant women knew their HIV status, and 14.3% were HIV-positive.

Discussion
The analysis of the face-to-face data from these women with multiple health vulnerabilities, together with an examination of the current national legislation, shows how much work still needs to be done to ensure a systematic prenatal follow-up for all pregnant women, and for their unborn children, in accordance with WHO recommendations.

Key messages
- Many poor migrant pregnant women lack of ante and postnatal care in Europe
- Doctors of the World – Médecins du Monde (MdM) International Network Observatory plea for a true universal access to ante and postnatal care all over the EU