

# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2022



Croce Rossa Italiana





*Founder:* **Massimo Barra**



*President:* **Gabriele Mori**



*Director:* **Ettore Rossi**



Board members with the President of Italian Republic Sergio Mattarella

© **Villa Maraini Foundation**, Rome March 2023  
Via Bernardino Ramazzini 31  
00151 Rome, Italy

**phone:** 06-6575301  
**mail:** [fondazione@villamaraini.it](mailto:fondazione@villamaraini.it)

**Annual Report by:**  
Stefano Spada Menaglia  
Communication Officer and Social Media Manager  
06.65.75.30.41; [ufficio.stampa@villamaraini.it](mailto:ufficio.stampa@villamaraini.it)

**Pics by:**  
Villa Maraini Foundation Archive

**On the cover:**  
Visit of the President of Italian Republic Sergio Mattarella



Croce Rossa Italiana

The **Villa Maraini** Foundation is the **National Agency for Addictions** (alcohol, drug and gambling) **of the Italian Red Cross and Global Training Centre on substance abuse of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.**

**Founded by Prof. Massimo Barra in 1976**, it consists of a set of services based on different threshold levels: low, medium and high, in order to differentiate the therapy according to the user's motivation.

The Foundation is open **24 hours a day 365 days per year**, and provides treatment and rehabilitation of drug addiction, alcohol abuse and gambling basing its work on the 7 Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross, first of all the principle of Humanity.

**The year 2022** will be remembered for the visit to Villa Maraini of the President of Italy Sergio Mattarella, in occasion of the UN World Drug Day. During his visit, the President has said these words: "Villa Maraini-CRI is an extraordinary example for its characteristics: to be always

open with the medical centre and the night shelter, the street units that go to hidden and even dangerous places to reach out the ones who don't want to ask for help (...). This experience of 46 years of activity has been an extraordinary contribution for our country (...), for this reason thanks will never be enough".

As early as 1979, Massimo Barra talked about what would become the three objectives that are currently politically defined as "harm reduction":

"The objectives of therapy are three: avoiding the irreparable, that is the death; improving the quality of life of people who use drugs, overcoming stigma; catalyzing the rediscovery of alternatives, starting a recovery process".

**M. Barra**

## STREET UNIT

The Street Unit aims to reach the most vulnerable people on the street, bringing help even to those who do not ask for it, spreading the humanitarian concept of harm reduction in places at risk, so that people who inject drugs (PWID) do not contract HIV, Hepatitis, or other blood-borne infectious diseases. The Street Unit intervenes also in case of overdose: over 3.000 people have been saved in the last 30 years.

### Activities Provided:

Needle and syringe exchange, distribution of kits for non-injecting use, information on HIV /AIDS, hepatitis and other infectious diseases, HIV/HCV rapid tests and COVID-19 test in collaboration with the HIV Unit, interventions in overdose cases, on-site medical emergencies, first aid, referral and/or accompanying to public and/or private health and social services.

In the last years, there has been an increase of returned used syringes by the clients; these syringes are collected and disposed according to law.

The Street unit operates both in Tor Bella Monaca and Termini Station.

### Working time:

Tor Bella Monaca: from Monday to Friday  
(including holidays) from 10:00 to 15:30;  
Tel. 339 49.77.620

Termini Station: from Monday to Friday  
(including holidays) from 16:00 to 20:00;  
Tel. 334.83.50.857

Tor Bella Monaca: Saturday and Sunday  
from 9:00 to 18:00, summer time from 10:00 to 19:00  
Tel. 339 49.77.620; 06.6575.3036

### For more info and contacts:

email: [unitadistrada@villamaraini.it](mailto:unitadistrada@villamaraini.it)

**Service Manager: Vincenzo Palmieri**

**Coordinator: Giancarlo Rodoquino**



## TOTAL ACTIVITIES ON THE STREET

|   |  |  |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| <b>n°49</b><br>Overdose intervention        | <b>n°311</b><br>Assistance to people at risk of Overdose           | <b>n°223</b><br>Naloxone given in delivery (fials) | <b>n°529.575</b><br>Total Repeated contacts (men and women) | <b>n°1.508</b><br>New clients (men and women)      | <b>n°201</b><br>Persons sent to VM for treatment          | <b>n°42</b><br>Persons sent to other treatment centres |
| <b>n°5.094</b><br>Psychological counselling | <b>n°7.321</b><br>Information on addiction and infectious diseases | <b>n°109.249</b><br>Sterile syringes distributed   | <b>n°70.806</b><br>Used syringes returned and/or collected  | <b>n°1.036</b><br>Information material distributed | <b>n°11.698</b><br>Kits for non-injecting use distributed | <b>n°132</b><br>HIV/HCV rapid tests conducted          |



## MOBILE UNIT

Created in 2020, the Mobile Unit aims to strengthen the harm reduction activities provided by the Street Unit, by carrying out a number of free initiatives servicing both drug addicts and the general public. The Unit uses a Red Cross's Jeep car supplied to the Foundation to reach the city's most disadvantaged neighbourhoods and roughest areas that can be breeding grounds for drug consumption, offering a range of services and assistance such as:

- **Reaching out to those who are under house arrests;**
- **Distributing basic necessities;**
- **Accompanying people with pathological addiction problems to other services;**
- **Providing rapid HIV-HCV tests on the street;**
- **Raising awareness among local aid organizations to support families of people with pathological addictions and those under arrests**
- **Providing information on drugs and related diseases, both to drug users and general population;**
- **Taking action in case of overdose;**
- **Mapping the territory in search of lesser known drug consumption sites;**
- **Collecting and disposing used syringes.**

In July 2022, an agreement has been signed with the 5th Municipality of Rome aimed to identify drug consumption sites and assist people who use drugs, clean open public spaces from syringes, make substance abuse prevention actions among the general population, train and sensitize local authorities, law enforcement agencies and associations to combat stigma toward people who use drugs.

### **Info and contacts:**

tel. 06.6575.3036; mob. 339.4977620

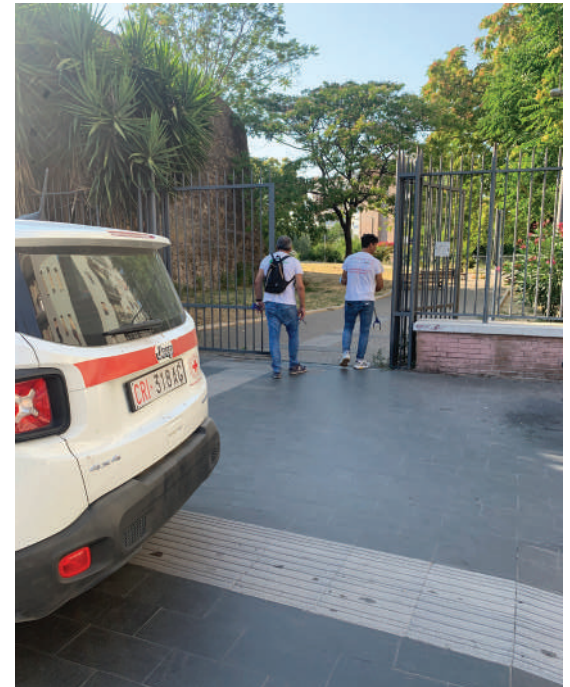
email: [unitadistrada@villamaraini.it](mailto:unitadistrada@villamaraini.it)

**Service Manager: Giancarlo Rodoquino**

### **Working time:**

From Mondays to Fridays from 9:30 to 19:30

Saturdays and Sundays from 9:00 to 18:30



## MOBILE UNIT DATA

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Around 100 Km travelled per day (every day including holidays) | Citizens' requests for cleaning of used syringes: 103 |
| Used syringes collected: 17.607                                | Counselling with people under house arrest: 188       |
| People accompanied to public and/or private services: 11       | Overdoses: 1  |

## Activities in the 5th Municipality from July 2022



## EMERGENCY UNIT

The service is designed to address all the emergency/urgency problems related to drug addiction in the territory of Rome. The team, alerted by the operating room present at the headquarters, intervenes with an equipped medical car in the following cases:

- **Overdose**, using naloxone in case of opiates overdose;
- **Withdrawal symptoms**, providing pharmacological therapies, especially agonists (methadone);
- **Family** crisis and violence connected to drug addiction;
- **Calls** from Police stations, Carabinieri stations, Courts of Justice, for the administration of pharmacological therapy to drug addicts in detention and/or under arrest;
- **Interventions in hospitals and other health facilities** to do toxicological consultations for patients who use substances



### Info and contacts:

Tel. 06.558.7777 - 06 65.75.30.55

**Service Manager: Ettore Rossi**

## Interventions in external institutions:

**Total n. 996**

n°173

Carabinieri stations

n°134

Police stations

n°325

Court of Justice

n°292

Hospitals and health facilities

n°72

COVID Hotels



## DAILY DROP-IN CENTRE

The Drop-in Centre is a low-threshold service that offers a protected space for the entire day to people who have not yet reached the decision to undertake a therapeutic programme, despite seeking for an alternative to drugs. The users receive support from psychologists and social workers without prejudice, and have the possibility to satisfy basic needs such as meals, shower, washing of clothes. In such kind of services, satisfying basic needs represents the first step of the therapeutic process. Once the person establishes a trustful relationship with the staff, it is possible to start working on the motivation to change and accompany the person toward a tailored treatment programme. The centre is open from Monday to Saturday from 8:30 to 21:00.



**For more info and contacts:**

Tel. 06 65753056; mobile: 3423867796

email: [accoglienza@villamaraini.it](mailto:accoglienza@villamaraini.it)

**Service Manager: Federica Gasperini**

**Coordinator: Giovanni Vinci**

## SERVICES PROVIDED

|                                       |          |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Phone counselling                     | n°6.060  |
| Interviews and counselling            | n°1.212  |
| Therapeutic groups                    | n°208    |
| Workshops and recreational activities | n°317    |
| Clothes                               | n°644    |
| Showers                               | n°1.892  |
| Meals                                 | n°21.871 |
| Laundry service                       | n°1.477  |

## CLIENTS

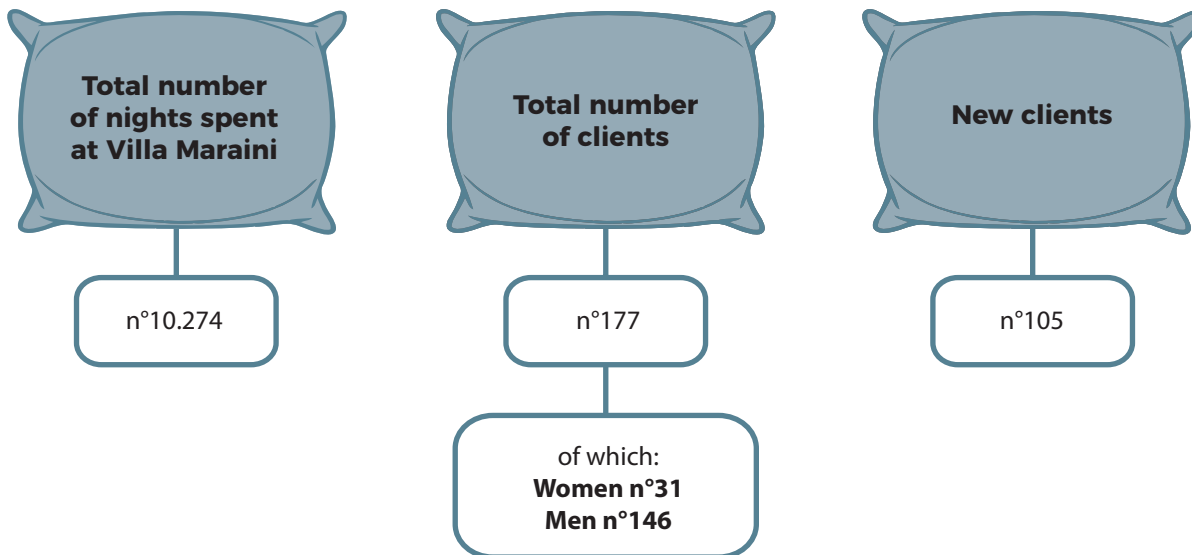
|                                   |         |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Users                             | n°215   |
| Attendances                       | n°7.231 |
| Average daily clients             | n°24    |
| Referrals to treatment programmes | n°66    |

## NIGHT SHELTER

This is a low-threshold service that hosts homeless people or people with temporary housing problems (PWUD and other vulnerable people) for a short time, as well as clients of our therapeutic services for a longer period. There are 15 beds available at Pavilion Frascara, 20 at Pavilion Maraini. Since 25th December 2021, 6 places have also been added in the little houses park, belonging to the Italian Red Cross. It can host both men and women.

The night shelter is open every day from 9:00 pm to 9:00 am.

### NIGHTS AND CLIENTS



#### For more info and contacts:

You can book a bed directly at the number: 06 65753059;  
email: [notturmo@villamaraini.it](mailto:notturmo@villamaraini.it)

**Service Manager: Simone Mazzocchi**

## PRISON PROJECT

This low-threshold service provides weekly groups/ counselling for prisoners with drug addiction problems inside the Penitentiary Institutes of Rome: for men at the Regina Coeli Prison, the Rebibbia Detention Centre “Raffaele Cinotti”, the Rebibbia Prison and the Unit for people with drug addiction problems; for women at the Rebibbia Female Prison. Groups are held also inside other penitentiary institutions of Lazio Region and Italy.

The groups are aimed at supporting, guiding and advising detained drug addicts, to help them cope with problems related to the difficult condition of detention. Furthermore, these groups aim to meet and assess prisoners who are eligible for alternative measures to detention in treatment centres, facilitating the referral to the Alternative Centre to Detention of Villa Maraini. In the headquarters of the Foundation, we also receive persons under house arrest or subject to other alternative measures and/or their family members. We answer to letters and emails coming from inmates from penitentiary institutes anywhere in Italy. Furthermore, we offer telephone counselling with lawyers, judges, personnel of public addiction centres, prison’s treatment units, people waiting for preventative measures and their relatives. Since 2021 we have made a free agreement with the Department of Social Policies of Rome to welcome people who have been sentenced to community service and/or probation.

Also this year, due to the Covid-19 emergency, the activities inside the penitentiary institutions have been reduced, but we have increased the activities on site. Indeed, there has been an increase of people sentenced to community service and/or probation.

It is worth to say that also in 2022 it is not been possible to accept detainees in alternative measures to detention for a residential programme (24h), because we do not receive any funding for this service. Therefore, the number of clients has decreased in the last years.

| TOTAL   |         |
|---|---------|
| Prisoners met in jail   | n°62    |
| Inmates in treatment in Villa Maraini                                   | n°17    |
| Counselling on site and by phone<br>(clients, relatives, lawyers, etc.) | n°1.080 |
| Letters and emails received<br>from inmates                             | n°471   |
| Letters and emails received<br>from relatives, Lawyers, judges, etc.    | n°298   |
| Counselling with people<br>under house arrest                           | n°22    |
| People given the availability<br>to be host in alternative measures     | n°53    |
| People sentenced to community service or<br>in probation hosted in VM   | n°20    |

### For more info and contacts:

progettocarcere@villamaraini.it - Tel. 06 65753051-48

### Working time:

Every day from 9:00 to 20:00. In particular, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 09:00 to 15:00 a listening and reception desk is open.

On Tuesday from 14:00 to 17:00 there is a service of legal consultancies with a lawyer. Moreover, school tutoring by a former teacher is available under request twice a week.

**Service Manager: Elena Porcella**

## SPOT - SERVICE FOR PSYCHOTHERAPY, ORIENTATION AND TREATMENT

This service is a medium-threshold daily service for those who want to have a short-term therapeutic programme, being in need of counselling and psychological support to cope with their drug addiction problems in a protected environment.

This is also a good solution for the clients of other Villa Maraini services who temporarily need to be kept under restraint.

Through its multi-disciplinary team, the service aims to support and assist those people who, living a situation of personal and social vulnerability, wants to strengthen their motivation to change, identifying their positive resources through a short-term intensive therapeutic programme.

The main working tool of the team is the "individualized intervention project", with the identification of general and specific objectives, as well as strategies and activities to achieve them. Once defined by the team, these projects are discussed and agreed with the clients, and periodically revised according to the achieved objectives.

The programme of the service normally covers a period of six months.

### TOTAL

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Clients   | n°107 |
| Clients referred to high-threshold treatment services | n°40  |
| Psychotherapeutic groups                              | n°96  |
| Counselling with family members                       | n°180 |
| Intake interviews                                     | n°120 |
| Individual counselling                                | n°933 |
| Educational groups                                    | n°96  |
| Restart Program clients                               | n°26  |

#### For more info and contacts:

from Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 17:00

Saturday from 9:00 to 15:00

tel. 06 65.75.30.67; email: [programmaspot@villamaraini.it](mailto:programmaspot@villamaraini.it)

**Service Manager: Carlo Attanasio**

## SPECIAL RESTART PROGRAM

This is a residential service aimed at drug detoxification for people who want to stay in a protected therapeutic environment, before planning a structured and long-term therapeutic process.

The service offers both pharmacological therapies and psychological support, through individual counselling and group sessions conducted by psychologists and social workers.



## ALTERNATIVE TO DETENTION CENTRE

This medium-threshold service offers assistance to drug addicted inmates sent by magistrates to follow an alternative to detention therapeutic programme. At their arrival, clients are welcomed through an individual interview to make a first diagnosis and develop a therapeutic path, which will be confirmed or not in the following phases.

The first period is aimed at personal knowledge, assessment of the person's motivation and observation of relational dynamics. The group becomes the key element of the daily life; various ergo-therapy, recreational and socializing activities are included in this context, as well as the gradual increase of responsibilities in the management of various tasks. A personal psychologist is assigned to each client and an individual therapeutic project is set, based on the specific needs and resources of the client.

In the following months, the clinical diagnosis is studied in depth, and the importance of the group as a great social and therapeutic changing resource is increased. In addition, the family is also involved in the therapeutic path, fundamental to foster the common therapeutic process.

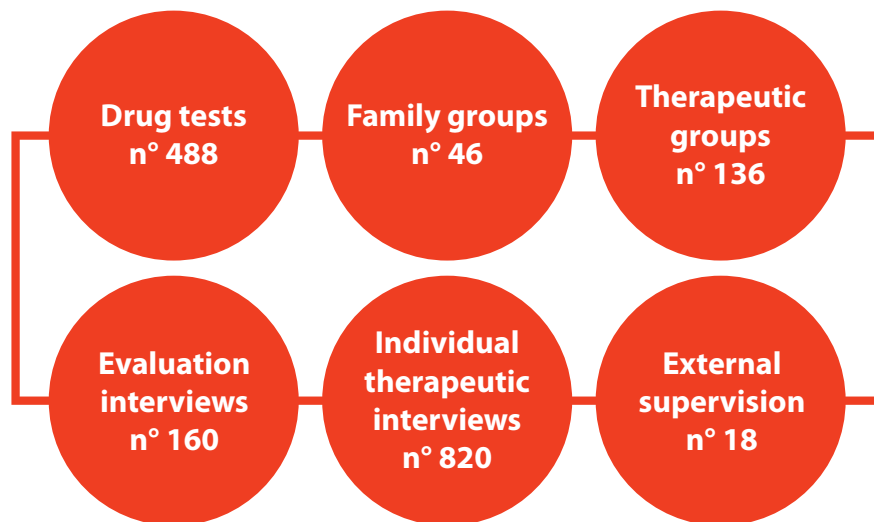
The last phase is aimed at the social and job reintegration of the patient



### Work and re-socializing activities as part of the therapeutic path:

- ▶ Activities related to the programme "Restorative justice", in collaboration with the Street Unit of Villa Maraini;
- ▶ Job reintegration through the project "Work in safety" project with the Social Cooperative XIII;
- ▶ HCCP course for clients who work in kitchen;
- ▶ Theatre workshop as part of art-therapy activities;
- ▶ Training on finance and economics conducted by Findomestic Bank;
- ▶ Meetings with scout groups from different part of Italy;
- ▶ Restructuring and maintenance of the Foundation's internal and external spaces;
- ▶ Gardening and cleaning of the park, cultural visits, excursions, sport activities.

## CLIENTS FROM PRISON OR IN HOUSE ARREST



### For more info and contacts:

Tel. 06 65753054; cad@villamaraini.it

Service Manager: Valerio Gino Madeo



## INTEGRATED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT

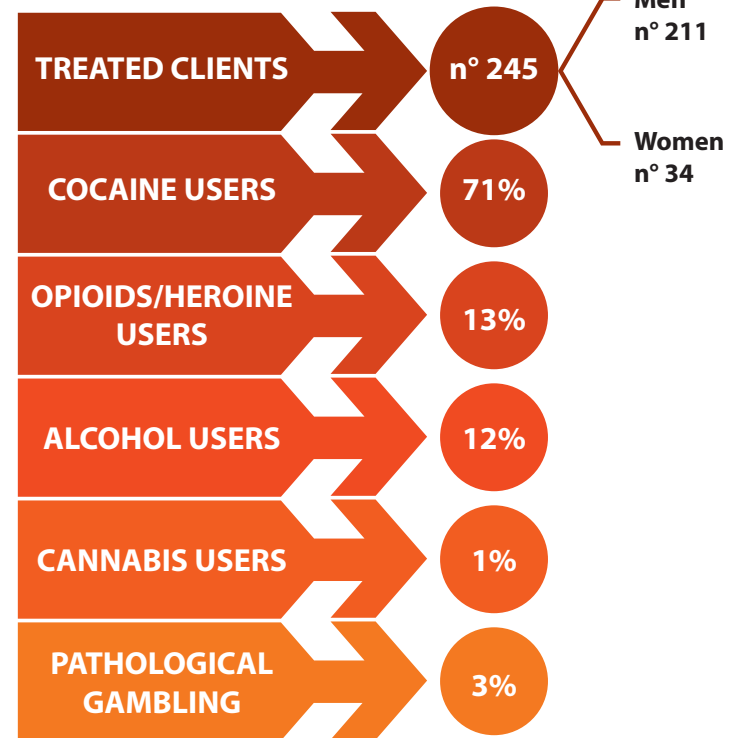
This service offers various levels of intervention with different objectives:

- Counselling centre, whereby the support provided via telephone or face to face is of short duration, with a counsellor who provides the appropriate information to the clients.
- First level service, where clients are oriented to interpret and redefine their needs, assessing their motivation and resources and building a personalized recovery treatment plan. The defined treatment programme can be provided in the outpatient service (TIA), or in one of the other services of Villa Maraini.
- Second Level Specialized Service, where the therapeutic path begins to develop the physical, psychological and social resources necessary to deal with the therapy, for those who study or work and cannot/don't want to attend residential facilities.

The duration of the programme is triennial and consists of weekly psychotherapeutic treatment, through attendance to a weekly therapeutic group and biweekly urine controls. This program is also indicated for behavioural addictions (pathological gambling, Internet addiction, alcohol, etc.);

**Family Service**, aimed at accompanying the children, brothers, husband or wife along the path of change through ad hoc groups and meetings. It is also useful to support families who have doubts about their children life styles or who cannot convince them to get help.

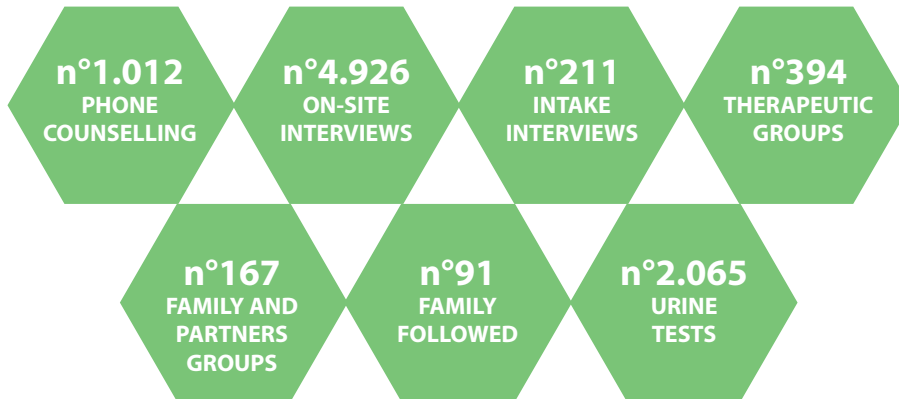
### CLIENTS AND TYPE OF ADDICTION



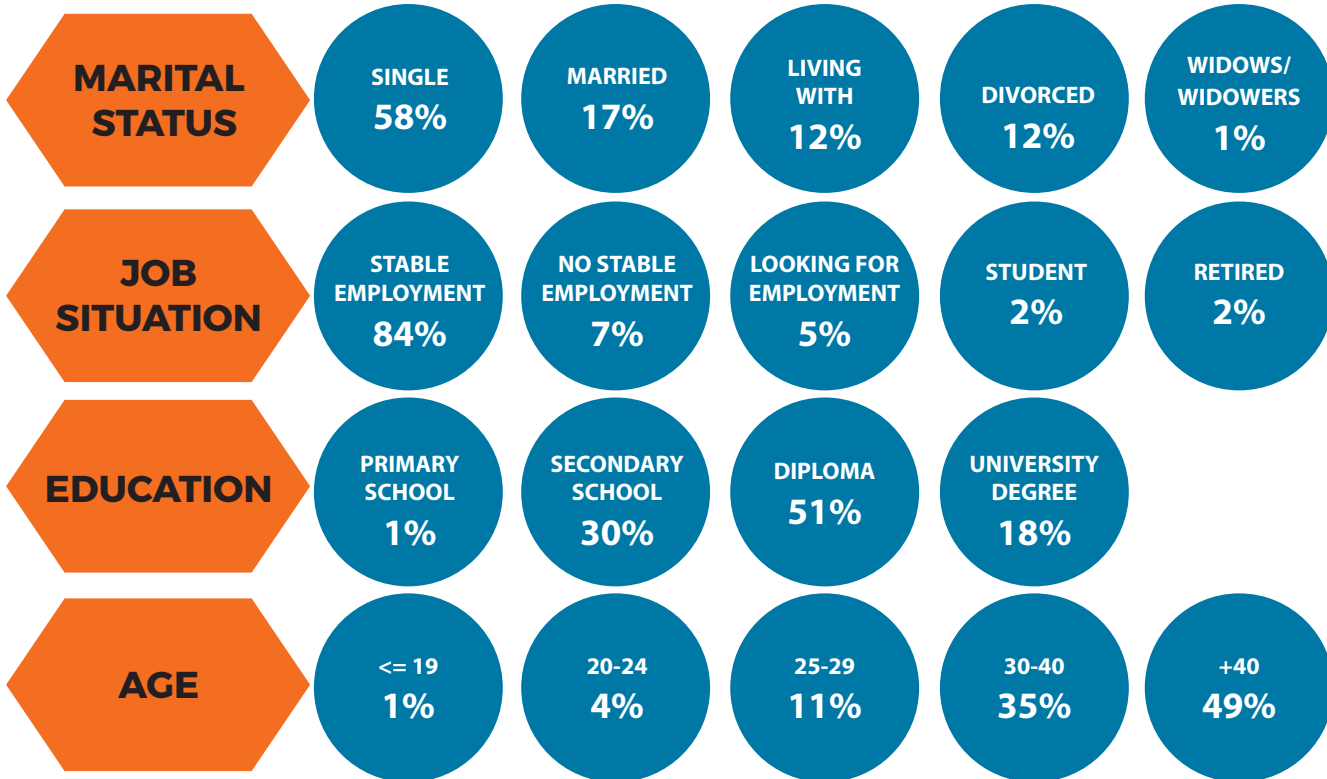
**For more info and how to access:**  
Tel. 06 65.75.30.59;  
email: telefonoinaiuto@villamaraini.it

**Service Manager: Vincenzo Palmieri**  
**Family Service Manager: Anna Maria Ruggerini**  
email: ruggerini@villamaraini.it

## ACTIVITIES PROVIDED



## CLIENTS





## THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY

It is an environment in which the various therapeutic, educational and rehabilitation activities are carried out during dynamic and organized days; clients have the possibility to empower themselves and face their own difficulties and resources. It is open every weekday from 8:30 to 19:30 and Saturday until 14:30.

The multidimensional therapeutic approach takes into account each person in his uniqueness, and as the protagonist of his own past and relationship history.

Each activity provides precious opportunities for clients to activate their own resources in order to focus and modify their problematic aspects.

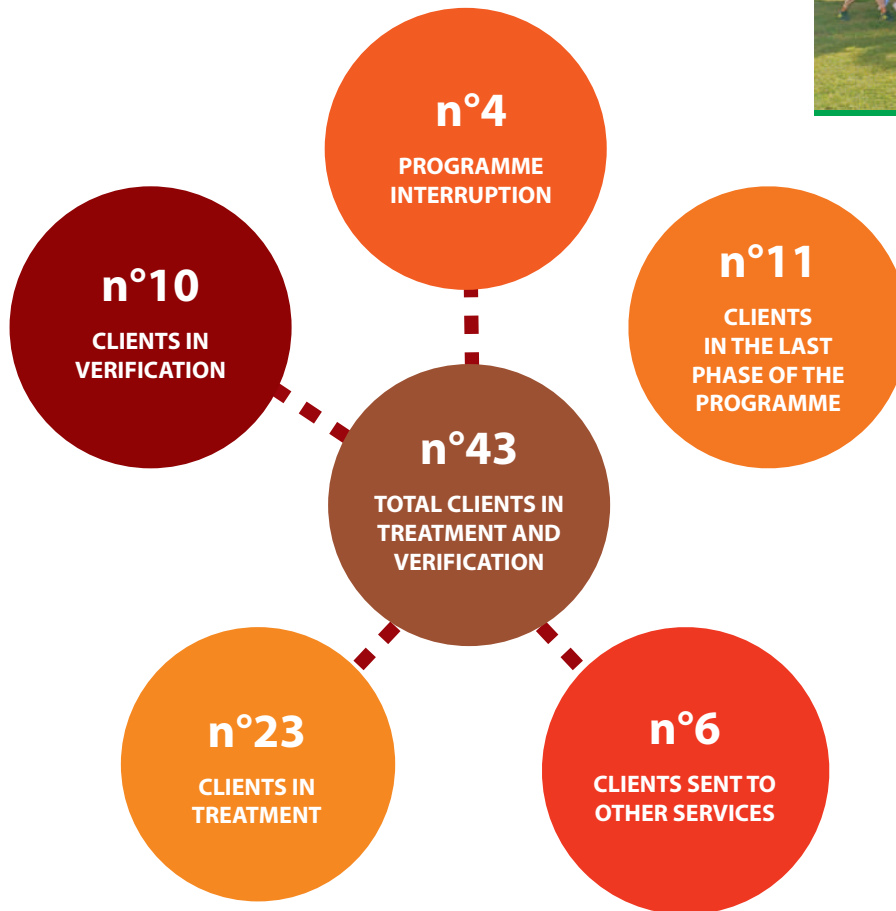
The Group is the main element: the intensity of the relationships built in the Community among the group members, the emotional impact of daily exchanges, the irreplaceable strength of mutual support make people

develop step by step a solid sense of belonging, often undermined by one's own experiences of deviance and marginality. The programme is based around individualized projects and is structured in a semi-residential phase of a duration of about 24 months, and in an outpatient external verification phase of around one year, aimed at the complex process of social reintegration.

The role of operators is fundamental, supporting, helping and stimulating clients to confront each other and to give value to their resources.

The model we use is the bio-psycho-social one, that places addiction within a complex evolutionary process of multi-factorial nature. In particular, our therapeutic programme uses various types of clinical tools, integrating different approaches.

## CLIENTS OF THE THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY



**For more info and contacts:**  
Tel. 06 65.75.30.57  
mail [ctdiurna@villamaraini.it](mailto:ctdiurna@villamaraini.it)  
**Service manager: Franca Riggi**  
**Coordinator: Maria Elena Cocco**



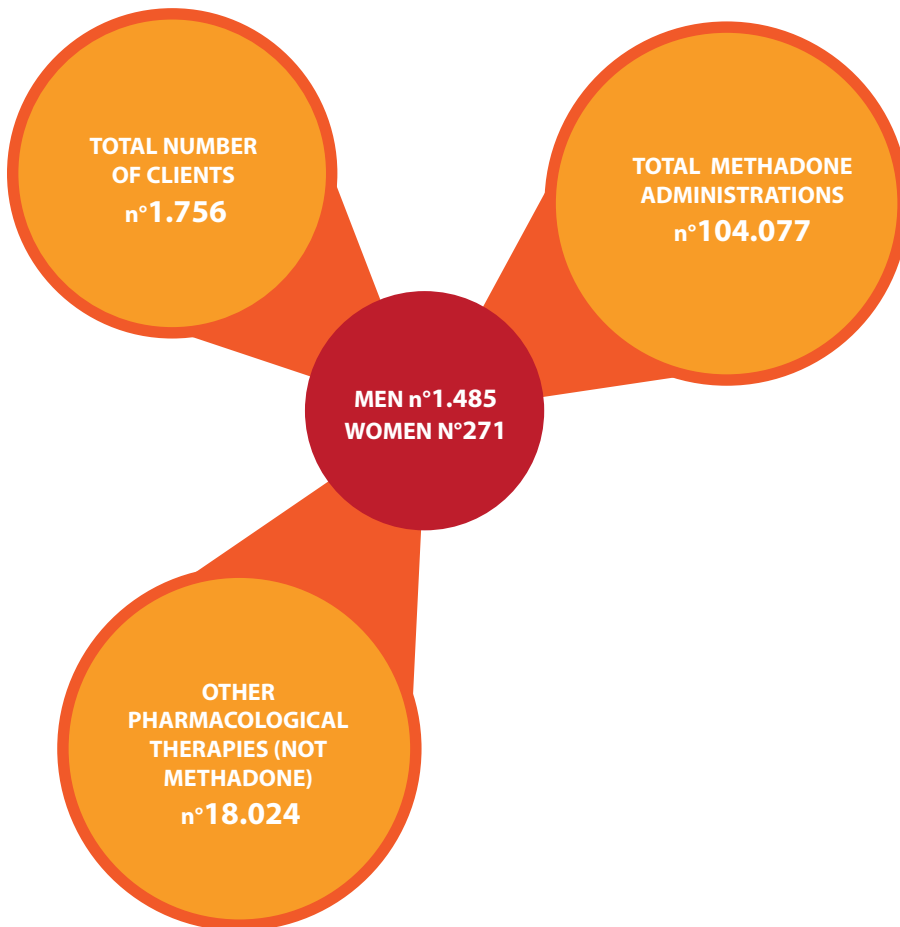
## H24 MEDICAL CENTRE

The medical centre is the only medical service in Rome open 24 hours every day for the treatment of drug addicts with methadone: everyone is given the necessary care, without discrimination based on race, religion or nationality. It offers a first response to the need (most of the time pharmacological) of those who ask for help to Villa Maraini, in order to provide a quick and timely support to the person and enhance the development of motivation to change.

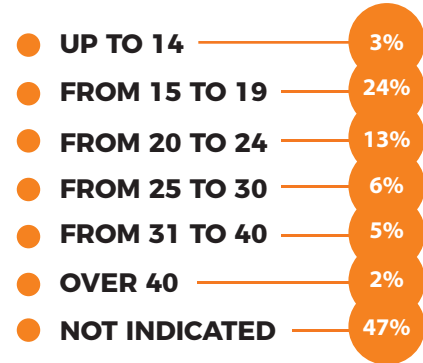
In agreement with the Lazio Region (ASL RM 3), it is authorized to the administration of methadone 24h for first aid situations and as alternative to the public service, which in Rome has some shortcomings. For example, the reduced opening hours of public services, which are not open H24 and often only on weekdays, prevent drug addicts to have access to treatments.

The centre is open 24 hours every day of the year.

**For more info and contacts:**  
Tel. 06 65.75.30.24  
[ambulatorio@villamaraini.it](mailto:ambulatorio@villamaraini.it)  
**Service Manager: Ettore Rossi**



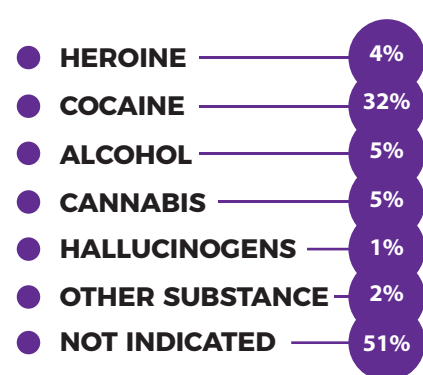
### AGE OF FIRST SUBSTANCE USE



### PRIMARY SUBSTANCE



### SECONDARY SUBSTANCE



## INFECTIOUS DISEASES UNIT

The HIV/Infectious diseases Unit is aimed at providing prevention/information on HIV and Viral Hepatitis infection, support and care to people living with HIV and other infectious diseases, with particular attention to people who use drugs (both injecting and non-injecting).

It is included in the network of services active in the city and at national level (National Council, Rome Coordination Committee, AIDS Network, AIDS Regional Commission).

In collaboration with health institutions and associations (hospitals, research centres, etc.) is involved in research projects on infectious diseases prevention among both risk groups and the general population.

The Unit provides voluntary testing and counselling for HIV, HCV and Syphilis (on-site in the medical centre and on the road through the Street Unit), distribution of informative material, consultations on-site and by telephone with the support of peer-to-peer communication.

Since 2021, the Unit has made available a fast track service path for HIV and/or HCV positive clients with the Department of Infectious Diseases of the "Policlinico Umberto I" in Rome.

This allows us to be in line with the model of "continuum of care": "Test-Linkage to care-Treat", in order to allow an early access to treatment. Psychological support is also provided.

Since the starting of Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, the Unit provides also information, prevention and testing of SARS-CoV-2 for staff and clients, in line with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health.

All the individuals with a positive test result have been referred to clinical centres for treatment.

During 2022, 90 psychological counselling and more than 1000 counselling of HIV, HCV and STIs have been conducted.

### Research projects in collaboration with the HIV National Council:

"Impact of COVID-19 on the treatment process of people living with HIV": the Unit contributes with an analysis of HIV patients among PWIDs.

"Neglected HIV": Assessment of the HIV Continuum of Care among marginalized populations (PWIDs, sex workers, transgender).

"U=U": awareness raising about the non-transmission of HIV in patients under regular treatment and with virological suppression.

### Other projects

"Continuum of care during COVID – Facilitate diagnosis and access to care of PWUDs living with HIV/HCV during the COVID-19 pandemic", winner of the GILEAD Italy Community Award 2021.

"Integrated model of HIV/HCV and COVID-19 testing and linkage to care of hard-to-reach group", winner of the GILEAD International call Zeroing IN 2021.

### Testing activities

#### September-December 2022

Provision of HIV/HCV rapid tests with the Street Unit among specific populations (PWIDs, sex workers, general population), in collaboration with the 5th Municipality of Rome.

#### December 2022

Provision of HIV/HCV rapid tests with the Street Unit among specific populations (university students, young people, general population) in the framework of HIV/HCV awareness days, in collaboration with the 2nd Municipality of Rome.

#### January-December 2022

Outreach testing activities in collaboration with GILEAD International.

#### October-December 2022

Promotion of hepatitis C screening, in collaboration with Improve.



## Participation as speakers at national and international conferences and webinars

- N.8 webinars with non-profit associations, to define HIV/HCV interventions for specific populations during COVID.
- N.4 webinars with the "AIDS Network" to define phone counselling on HIV and hepatitis.
- ICAR 2022 (Italian conference on AIDS and antiviral research), 14-16 June 2022
- Seminar "Toward the end of HIV and STI, 2030 Objectives: Screening, Treatment, Retention and Quality of life", 29 November 2022 in Rome
- Course for social workers dealing with drug addiction, addressed to Italian Red Cross volunteers (October-December 2022)
- Informative meetings for volunteers and trainees about the activities of the HIV\HCV\Covid Unit.

people that  
have undergone  
rapid testing for  
HIV\HCV\SYPHILIS

# 914

- on site **n°81**
- outreach **n°833**  
through the Street Unit

of which:

- hiv preliminarily positive **n°4**
- hcv preliminarily positive **n°33**
- syphilis preliminarily positive **n°50**

● **Total Covid Test n°525**





## INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND RC/RC PARTNERSHIP

Since 2009, the Foundation manages transnational projects co-financed by different programmes of the European Commission and/or other international donors. These projects are implemented by Villa Maraini in partnership with Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies, as well as with other organizations active in the field of drug addiction and social marginality.

- **IRAN Project “Provision of harm reduction, treatment and care service for most vulnerable drug users”,** co-financed by the EuropeAid programme of the European Commission. The project aims to support the Iranian Red Crescent (IRCS) in implementing harm reduction programmes for drug addicted people who live in harsh conditions of social marginality.

During 2022, the IRCS has purchased a camper with the project funding and started harm reduction activities among most marginalized and hard-to-reach drug users in Teheran. The camper has assisted 500 people, distributed medical and hygiene kits, condoms and sterile equipment for injecting drug users, provided HIV rapid tests and medical and psychological counseling. Moreover, training and capacity building activities for IRCS staff have been organized.

- **KENYA Project “Harm Reduction in Lamu”,**

funded and implemented by the Italian Red Cross with the technical support of Villa Maraini.

The project aims to assist the Kenyan Red Cross in the establishment of a rehabilitation centre for drug addicted in the island of Lamu. Villa Maraini, as National Agency for addictions of the Italian Red Cross, provides technical assistance and expertise in activities planning and implementation.

During 2022, a monitoring visit was conducted by the Italian RC to identify main problems of the rehab centre and develop a long-term sustainability plan. In 2023, a new mission of Villa Maraini experts to Lamu is planned, in order to support the rehab centre’s staff to develop an Operational Management Plan and a Business Plan.

- **VOLPRIS Project “Discussion Forum on volunteering in Prison”,** coordinated by the Centre for European Volunteering based in Brussels, with the aim to collect good practices on volunteering inside prison.

A representative of Villa Maraini participated at the event, to talk about his own life experience as former prisoner and drug addict, and the support he received in prison from the workers of Villa Maraini that made it possible for him to change life and being reintegrated in the community.

His story has been included in an article published on the German magazine “Forum Strafvollzug” as a good practice example.



IRAN project

- **BOOST Project “Boost access and quality of community-based communicable disease services for PWUD in the EU and neighboring countries”,** co-financed by the EU4Health Programme of the EC. The project will start in 2023; Villa Maraini as partner organization, will have the role of “Lighthouse”, i.e. national reference centre on prevention and treatment of infectious disease (HIV and hepatitis) among people who use drugs. On 21st October 2022, during the international conference on health among substance users (INHSU Conference) in Glasgow, a specific workshop to present the project has been organized.

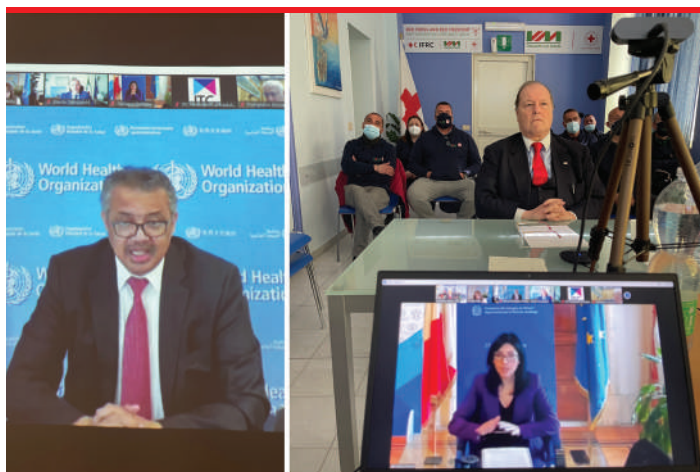
## RED CROSS RED CRESCENT PARTNERSHIP ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Since its creation in 2012, the Partnership between the Italian Red Cross (IRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the Villa Maraini Foundation (VMF) provides training, awareness raising, as well as specialized assistance services in the field of harm reduction, pathological dependence and infectious diseases, to Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, NGOs and governmental entities.

**During 2022, the Partnership’s activities have included:**

### Materials and communication tool

- Development of the RCRC Partnership Website: [rcrcsubstanceabuse.org](http://rcrcsubstanceabuse.org)  
It includes information about the Partnership mission, objectives, services, past and current activities, as well as all the publications, manuals, materials produced in 10 years.
- Social media campaign about Rome Consensus 2.0: [romeconsensus.com](http://romeconsensus.com)
- Development of a local situation assessment tool for RC/RC National Societies. It consists of an online questionnaire aimed at collecting information about specific barriers, gaps and needs of NSs in implementing HR programmes, as well as about the education and technical support requested from the Partnership.



Side event at 65th CND  
WHO General Director - T.A. Ghebreyesus  
Ministry of Youth Affairs – F. Dadone  
Founder of Villa Maraini Foundation – M. Barra

**RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT  
PARTNERSHIP ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

**+C IFRC**

**FONDAZIONE VILLA MARAINI**



## Advocacy and International Events

- **65<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at UNODC** (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) on 14-18 March in Vienna. The Partnership was co-organizer of 2 side events:

1. ***“The Humanitarian approach to drug policy: opportunities and challenges for an effective cooperation between public authorities and health-based organizations”***: it was organized by the Department of Drug Policy of the Italian Government and had as panelists the Italian Ministry in charge of addiction, the General Directors of WHO and UNODC, the Secretary General of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, the Chairman of the RCRC Partnership Dr. Massimo Barra.

The objective was to promote at international level the Rome Consensus 2.0, as an effective tool to facilitate universal access to care and respect of human right through the work of civil society organizations.

2. ***“Police and Drug Treatment together: the Global Emergence of Deflection as a Humanitarian Crime Reduction Approach to Drugs”***: it was organized by PTACC- The Police, Treatment and Community Collaborative and co-sponsored by several organizations. Objective was to present the newly emerging practice of “deflection”, i.e. the use of alternative measures to detention for PWUDs through an active collaboration between law enforcement agencies and drug treatment centres.

- **CCPCJ Side event “It’s not possible for police and drug treatment to work together. Until Now...The global emergence of law enforcement deflection”** (20th May): it was organized at the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice of UNODC by the Rome Consensus founders. As one of the panelists of the side event, Massimo stressed the importance of collaborating with law enforcement officers, since they can represent the first step of access to treatment and care for PWUDs.

- **ISSUP Conference “Uniting the global community to face the challenge of addiction”**, 12-16 May in Abu Dhabi (Emirates): Massimo Barra participated at the group of experts of the U.S.A. State Department, and Mauro Patti presented the scientific paper about the Villa Maraini experience of overdose intervention in the street with the use of Naloxone by non medical staff, as the first organization in the world to implement this humanitarian approach.

- **CODEWAY–Cooperation Development EXPO**, 17-20 May, Rome: Nadia Gasbarrini participated in a session organized by the Italian Red Cross and made a presentation about the mission, objectives and activities of the Partnership and Villa Maraini.

- **Meeting of the “Group of Experts on Drugs”**, September, Reykjavik (Island): M. Barra and M. Patti participated at the meeting organized by the U.S.A. State Department, in which experts and professionals from all over the world discussed about scientific and humanitarian approaches to tackle the global challenges caused by substance abuse.

- **Intersessional Meeting at the UN Commission on Narcotics Drugs**, September, Vienna (Austria): M. Barra, L. Gogvadze and M. Patti participated at the meeting to promote the position of IFRC on humanitarian drug policy. During his speech in plenary, M. Barra declared: “We must ensure that all people who use drugs have access to lifesaving health services, free of stigma, transforming commitment into tangible action, strengthening effective, comprehensive, scientific evidence-based demand reduction initiatives in a continuum of care”.

- **Plenary Annual Meeting of the EC Civil Society Forum on Drugs (CSFD)**, 25-26 October, Brussels (Belgium): N. Gasbarrini participated at the meeting organized by the European Commission as representative of Villa Maraini, member of the CSFD, which consists of a group of civil society organizations working in the field of drug addictions.
- **C-EHRN Member and Expert Meeting**, 2-4 November, Athens (Greece): N. Gasbarrini participated at the meeting organized by Correlation-European Harm Reduction Network, as representative of Villa Maraini, member of this network of organizations working in the field of harm reduction.
- **XXI General Assembly of ERNA (European Red Cross/Red Crescent Network on HIV/AIDS, TB, Hepatitis and drug abuse)**, 8-11 November, Malaga (Spain): more than 50 delegates of 17 RC/RC National Societies from Europe and Central Asia participated at the event and discussed about humanitarian drug policies and strategies. Mauro Patti was elected as new ERNA President and Massimo Barra was nominated Honorary President. During the meeting, Villa Maraini was included as official member of the Network.

### Coordination meetings:

- **1<sup>st</sup> Steering Committee Meeting**, held online on 26th January: it was attended by 2 members of the IFRC, 2 members of the Italian RC, 2 members of Villa Maraini and the Partnership Secretariat, for planning and define the annual activities of the Partnership.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee Meeting**, held on 27th July in Rome: it was attended by all the SC members, to discuss about the event to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Partnership and update the activities plan.



**For more info and contacts:**

Tel: 06.65.75.30.40

Email: [europeanprojects@villamaraini.it](mailto:europeanprojects@villamaraini.it);

[partnership@villamaraini.it](mailto:partnership@villamaraini.it)

**Programme Manager: Nadia Gasbarrini**

**Programme Manager: Philippe Garcia**

## THE ITALIAN RED CROSS

Villa Maraini, as National Agency of the Italian Red Cross for pathological addictions, gives everyday support to the National Committee and volunteers in order to encourage and improve the activities in the field of prevention, mitigation and response to pathological addictions. To this regard and through annual agreement, the Italian RC supports the development and growth of some therapeutic services of the Foundation, in order to increase the number of people having access to care. Objective of this cooperation is to strengthen the efficiency of Villa Maraini on one hand, and to make use of its skills and expertise on the other.

To this aim, the Foundation carries out training and capacity building activities for staff and volunteers of the Italian RC, in order to increase volunteering commitment in this field.



## Volunteering, training, research and capacity building

- + of** 30 volunteers trained at the course “Addictions’ Social Workers of the Italian RC”, consisted of 5 meetings about harm reduction, new and old drugs, stigma, alternative measures to imprisonment, therapeutic strategies and humanitarian drug policies
- + of** 20 volunteers involved in practical internships in Villa Maraini services
- + of** 50 volunteers of Rome and Lazio branches involved in the outreach activities of Villa Maraini: rapid testing, collection of used syringes, mobile unit in parks and streets of suburb areas
- + of** 40 counselling for Local and Regional branches about trainings, internships and activities related to harm reduction
- ✓ Launch and dissemination of the online course about the “Rome Consensus 2.0 towards humanitarian drug policy” ([romeconsensus.com](http://romeconsensus.com)) on the e-learning platform of the Italian RC (GAIA)
- ✓ Support to the National Committee for the development and update of the Manual on new and old addictions, to be used by regional and local branches
- ✓ Participation of more than 40 volunteers at the event organized for the World Drug Day, with the presence of the President of the Italian Republic
- ✓ Theatre course organized by volunteers of the Rome Branch for several clients of Villa Maraini services
- ✓ Participation at the preparatory meetings for the side event on the Rome Consensus promoted by the National Department for Drug Policy and held at the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna
- ✓ Training on humanitarian drug policies for more than 50 Red Cross and Red Crescent delegates during the ERNA meeting
- ✓ Participation of more than 20 volunteers at the World AIDS Day on 1st December, providing HIV rapid testing among vulnerable groups through the Villa Maraini Street Unit

## Support to therapeutic services

With the Italian RC support, in 2022 it has been possible to integrate the work with patients in the following services:

### Prison Project

+ of 800 hours to have correspondences with prisoners, groups and meetings in jail and at home.

### HIV\HCV unit and Covid emergency

+ of 500 hours dedicated to infectious diseases counseling, rapid tests, linkage to care, STIs prevention

### Integrated Out-patient Treatment

+ of 2000 hours for consultations, individual counseling and therapeutic groups

### Daily Drop-in Centre

+ of 2200 hours dedicated to clients welcoming and therapeutic activities, extension of the centre working time till 9 pm

### Therapeutic Community

+ of 1000 hours dedicated to clients welcoming, therapeutic activities, follow-up, family psychological support

### Alternative to Detention Centre

+ of 1000 hours of night and weekend working shifts, clients counseling, supervision, follow-up

### Street unit

+ of 1700 hours for the provision of harm reduction activities during weekend and festivities

### Night Shelter

+ of 2500 hours for clients assistance during the night

### SPOT- Service for Psychotherapy, Orientation and Treatment

+ of 2000 hours dedicated to individual counseling, group sessions, clients monitoring and follow-up

### Capacity building and advocacy

+ of 100 phone counseling and online meetings, more than 1400 hours dedicated to activities planning, training and advocacy actions



**Info and contacts:**

**Manager of the relation with Italian RC: Mauro Patti**

0665753041; mauropatti@villamaraini.it

## TRAINING, VOLUNTEERING, INTERNSHIP, PREVENTION AND SUPERVISION

These services are aimed at building capacity of both volunteers and interns on drug addiction, alcoholism, gambling and all issues related to social vulnerability and marginalization, in order to involve them in our daily work. During the year, the services organize conferences, seminars and training courses for social workers, teachers and prison workers, as well as information courses in companies and workplaces, with the involvement of the most qualified Italian experts on addictions. Courses are modulated for specific professional categories (doctors, psychologists, nurses, etc.) and for former drug users social workers.

According to the methodology common to all the services of the Foundation, even with different therapeutic and operational goals, the training courses are intended not only as simple learning activity, but as tools for practical use of the acquired skills and knowledge. The education content is developed according to the intervention strategies of the Foundation, with a differentiation of the therapeutic programs according to the characteristics of the users and of his/her addiction condition.

Villa Maraini Foundation is authorized by the Ministry of Education to carry out curricular and professional internships; it welcomes also volunteers who want to offer their work in the various services.





### **In 2022:**

**n°70 young volunteers and interns have been trained** on substance abuse, gambling, alcoholism and all pathological addiction dynamics. After training they have been assigned to different services of the Foundation.

The majority of interns are students of psychology, medicine and education of the universities that have an agreement with Villa Maraini (La Sapienza, Lumsa, European university, Chieti University).

Volunteers have generally an experience of volunteering and decide to work in Villa Maraini, because are interested by our approach and intervention model.

As already in 2021, also in 2022 there was an increased number of requests for volunteering and internship in our services. This trend is due to the constant availability of Villa Maraini to accept and welcome people as volunteers and interns.

**Training:** the training course “Vulnerabilities of people who use drugs – Villa Maraini approach” was held for 40 volunteers, interns, social workers and Italian RC volunteers, with n°5 meetings from November to December.

**Prevention:** due to the Covid-19 emergency, no interventions were carried out in the schools and youth centres. Online interventions were conducted on psychoactive substances, alcoholism, gambling and other pathological addictions. The meetings involved **46 schools** in various parts of Italy, with the participation of over **4000 students**.

Moreover, in the framework of the Project Health4U the **“Johnson&Johnson” Foundation** has organized an online meeting on substance abuse for students of 24 schools. The meeting was attended by more than 800 students.

**Supervision:** All the staff of the Foundation is regularly subjected to psychological supervision. **63 meetings with 358 people** were organized in 2022.

### **For more info and contacts:**

06.65753059; 06.65753044

**Training Service Manager:** Anna Maria Ruggerini; ruggerini@villamaraini.it

**Volunteering Service Manager:** Susanna Macciò; susanna.maccio@villamaraini.it

**Internship Service Manager:** Federica Gasperini; tirocini@villamaraini.it

**Prevention Service Manager:** Paolo Carminati; carminati@villamaraini.it

**Supervision Service Manager:** Fabio Patruno; f.patruno@villamaraini.it

## VILLA MARAINI SOCIAL COOPERATIVE - CANTEEN SERVICE

The Foundation, through the "Villa Maraini Cooperativa Sociale Srl Onlus", manages a canteen service open to users and workers of all the Foundation services.

The canteen is open every day, including Sundays and holidays, and offers breakfasts, lunches, snacks and dinners.

The canteen provides meals also for other institutes that work with vulnerable groups.

Since 2020 the Cooperative has been awarded the tender for the management of the coffee-bar within the health area of the Italian Red Cross in via Bernardino Ramazzini in Rome.

**TOTAL MEALS**  
(BREAKFAST, LUNCH, SNACK AND DINNER)  
**n° 165.412**

Meals for clients  
hosted at  
"Francescane  
Welcome Centre"  
for homeless people

**n°40.540**

Meals for vulnerable  
old people supported  
by the Rome Municipality  
X, XI, XII

**n°7.280**

Meals for people with  
disabilities assisted by  
the Social Cooperative  
"Al Parco"

**n°2.819**

**For more info and contacts:**  
06. 65.79.52.87; [amministrazione@coopvillamaraini.it](mailto:amministrazione@coopvillamaraini.it)  
**Service Manager: Daniela Leonardi**

## COMMUNICATION OFFICE

Established in 2017 with the aim to disseminate and better explain the several activities of the Foundation, the Communication Office works every day to convey correct messages about pathological addictions through social profiles and press releases, local and national newspaper's interviews as well as State and private TV channels.

It promotes the work carried out on site with clients, social campaigns, story-telling and videos produced on purpose. The Head of the Communication Office, Dott. Stefano Spada Menaglia, coordinated the whole organization of the visit to Villa Maraini of the President of the Italian Republic Sergio Mattarella on 24th June, in close cooperation with the State Ceremonial Office. On 30th September 2022, the Instagram official page @villamaraini\_cri was opened.

### In 2022, it has conducted the following activities

#### 18 PRESS RELEASES

##### Main topics:

- Side event on humanitarian drug policy at the UN CND in collaboration with the Italian Government
- Ukraine and drugs
- Chemsex
- "Meet, Test & Treat – continuum of care" campaign on HIV/HCV prevention
- Visit to Villa Maraini of the President of the Italian Republic Sergio Mattarella
- Theatre as an alternative to drug abuse
- Demonstration at the Lazio Region for the right to free access to care
- World AIDS Day



#### 26 BROADCASTING ON TV CHANNELS

- 15 on national channels  
Rai1; Rai2; Rai3; Rainews24; Canale 5; La7
- 8 on Lazio regional channels
- 3 on online national TV



#### 52 RELEASES OF PRESS AGENCIES



#### 351 ARTICLES ON LOCAL, NATIONAL AND ONLINE PRESS

##### Main newspapers:

- n°18 art. **la Repubblica**
- n°11 art. **IL TEMPO**
- n°3 art. **Avenire**
- n°1 art. **L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO**
- n°11 art. **CORRIERE DELLA SERA**
- n°5 art. **Il Messaggero**
- n°1 art. **LA STAMPA**

#### 8 VIDEOS PRODUCED



#### 7 NEWS/STORY TELLING

- on [www.villamaraini.it](http://www.villamaraini.it)



#### Info and contacts:

06.65.75.30.41; [ufficiostampa@villamaraini.it](mailto:ufficiostampa@villamaraini.it)  
Service manager: Stefano Spada Menaglia



**237 posts  
on Facebook  
official page**



**49.617 total likes  
till 31/12**

**7.449 total followers  
till 31/12**



### **POST WITH THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT:**

- **14 September, Rai3 Tgr Lazio:**  
*"The story of Gualfredo"*  
48.760 people reached
- **7 November, Corriere della Sera:**  
*"Let's help who helps the most vulnerable"*  
34.506 people reached
- **24 August, Rainews24:**  
*"North and South", The outreach street activities*  
30.200 people reached



**211 posts on  
Twitter official page**



**110 posts on  
Instagram official page  
from 30 September**

## INDEX OF THE SERVICES

The Foundation services are based on **different threshold level**, which indicates the level of motivation that the client should have in order to fit with the proposed therapeutic programme.

### Low Threshold Services

|                      |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| Street Unit          | page 3  |
| Mobile Unit          | page 5  |
| Emergency Unit       | page 7  |
| Daily Drop-in Centre | page 8  |
| Night Shelter        | page 10 |
| Prison Project       | page 11 |

### Medium Threshold Services

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| SPOT - Service for Psychotherapy, Orientation and Treatment | page 12 |
| Alternative to Detention Centre                             | page 14 |

### High-threshold services

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Integrated Out-patient Treatment       | page 16 |
| Semi-residential Therapeutic Community | page 18 |

### Medical Services

|                          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| H24 Medical Centre       | page 20 |
| Infectious Diseases Unit | page 22 |

### Other Services and Activities

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| International Activities and RC/RC Partnership     | page 25 |
| Italian Red Cross                                  | page 28 |
| Training, Volunteering, Internship,                | page 31 |
| Prevention and Supervision                         |         |
| Villa Maraini Social Cooperative - Canteen Service | page 33 |
| Communication Office                               | page 34 |



Pavilion Frascara

Italian Red Cross compound – Rome



06 5587777



[www.villamaraini.it](http://www.villamaraini.it)



@fondazionevillamaraini



@villamaraini



Fondazione Villa Maraini



@villamaraini\_cri



via B.Ramazzini, 31 Roma 00151

SUPPORT US



PHOTOGRAPH AND DONATE