



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023





Founder: **Massimo Barra**



President: **Gabriele Mori**



Director: **Ettore Rossi**



*Visit of the Italian President Sergio Mattarella*

© **Fondazione Villa Maraini ETS**, Rome, March 2024  
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**Annual Report by:**  
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**Pictures:**  
Archives of Fondazione Villa Maraini ETS

**Cover Photo:**  
Rome Consensus Summit, May 2023



Croce Rossa Italiana

The **Villa Maraini** Foundation serves as the **National Agency for pathological addictions** (alcohol, drugs, gambling, and new addictions) **of the Italian Red Cross and as the Global Training Center of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Founded in 1976 by Professor Massimo Barra**, it comprises a range of services organized into different threshold levels: very low, low, medium and high, to tailor therapies according to the user's motivation.

**Open 24/7, 365 days a year with a medical centre on site**, the Foundation provides care and rehabilitation while always adhering to the seven fundamental principles of the Red Cross, with Humanity being the foremost.

On June 26, 2022, during the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, **the President of Italy, Sergio Mattarella**, visited the Foundation and in his speech he said: *"[...] Villa Maraini is an extraordinary example due to its unique features, being always open with its clinic and the night shelter, using the mobile units to reach even dangerous places to meet those who are not yet ready to ask for help [...] This 46-year experience has been an extraordinary contribution to our country [...] for this, the Republic's gratitude will never be enough."*

As early as 1979, Massimo Barra articulated what would become the three objectives now internationally recognized as the foundation for "harm reduction" policy: *"The objectives of therapy are: to avoid the irreparable, that is to prevent substance users from dying; to improve the quality of life of people who use drugs, overcoming stigma; and to catalyze the rediscovery of alternatives to drugs, to begin a recovery process"*.



## • STREET UNIT

The Street Unit reaches the most vulnerable individuals on the streets, providing assistance even to those who believe they do not need it. It promotes the humanitarian concept of harm reduction in high-risk areas to prevent active substance users from contracting HIV, Hepatitis, or other blood-borne diseases, and intervenes in cases of overdose: over 3,000 people have been saved in the past 30 years.

### **Activities offered:**

Exchange of sterile syringes, Collection of used syringes, Distribution of non-intravenous drug use kits, Information on HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, and other infectious diseases, Rapid capillary HIV/HCV tests and Covid-19 tests in collaboration with the HIV Unit, Overdose interventions, On-site medical emergencies and first aid, Referral and/or accompaniment (in collaboration with the Mobile Unit) to public and/or private services. The Street Unit operates at Tor Bella Monaca and Termini Station.

### **Info and Contacts:**

#### **Tor Bella Monaca Location:**

Monday to Friday  
(including holidays)  
from 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM;  
Saturday and Sunday  
from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM;  
Phone: +39 339 4977620

#### **Termini Station Location:**

Monday to Friday  
(including holidays)  
from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM;  
Phone: +39 334 8350857



### **Additional Info and Contacts:**

Phone: +39 06 65753036; [unitadistrada@villamaraini.it](mailto:unitadistrada@villamaraini.it);

**Service Manager:** Vincenzo Palmieri

**Coordinator:** Giancarlo Rodoquino

## • TOTAL STREET ACTIVITIES

Overdose interventions:	n° 14
Assistance for Overdose Risk:	n° 150
Naloxone Distributed (Vials):	n° 294
New Users in 2023 (Woman and Man):	n° 755
Total Repeated Contacts (Woman and Man):	n° 60.136
People referred to Villa Maraini for treatment:	n° 208
People referred to other treatment centres:	n° 35
Psychological Consultations:	n° 4.515
Information on addiction and infectious disease:	n° 9.581
Sterile syringes distributed:	n° 99.372
Used syringes returned and collected:	n° 81.754
Non-Intravenous drug use kits distributed:	n° 13.990
Rapid Capillary HIV-HCV Tests conducted at Tor Bella Monaca and Termini	n° 78



*The van at Tor Bella Monaca - Rome*

## • MOBILE UNIT

Established in 2020 to enhance harm reduction activities in the Capital, the Mobile Unit provides a range of free services for the general population and for people who use drugs. It operates with a team of 3-4 outreach workers using an Italian Red Cross Jeep given to the Foundation, reaching disadvantaged neighbourhoods and rugged areas—often ideal locations for substance use—to connect with new individuals facing addiction issues, offering:

- Collection and disposal of used syringes, including upon citizen request;
- Assistance to individuals under house arrest;
- Sensitization of local support organizations to aid families of individuals with substance addictions and those under arrest;
- Distribution of essential goods;
- Accompaniment of individuals with substance addictions to other services;
- Conduction of rapid capillary HIV/HCV tests on the street;
- Provision of information on drugs and related diseases to both drug users and the general population;
- Intervention in cases of overdose;
- Intervention in cases of overdose.

Since July 2022 the Mobile Unit, in collaboration with the Street Unit, signed a memorandum of understanding with the V Municipality of Rome, serving as a pilot project for collaboration with other municipalities.

The Mobile Unit responds to citizen requests for collection of abandoned syringes via a Google Form and WhatsApp at +39 339 4977620.





<b>Average Kilometers Travelled per Day (7 days a week including holidays)</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Interventions from citizen requests for collection of used syringes</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>Syringes Collected and Disposed</b>	<b>3.623</b>
<b>Interviews with Individuals under House Arrest</b>	<b>160</b>
<b>Individuals accompanied to Public and/or Private Services</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Individuals taken into care</b>	<b>255</b>
<b>Rapid Capillary HIV/HCV Tests conducted</b>	<b>450</b>

**Info and Contacts:**

Phone: +39 06 65753036

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

Mobile: +39 339 4977620

**Service Manager:**

Giancarlo Rodoquino

**Opening Hours:**

Monday and Friday: 9:30 AM to 8:00 PM

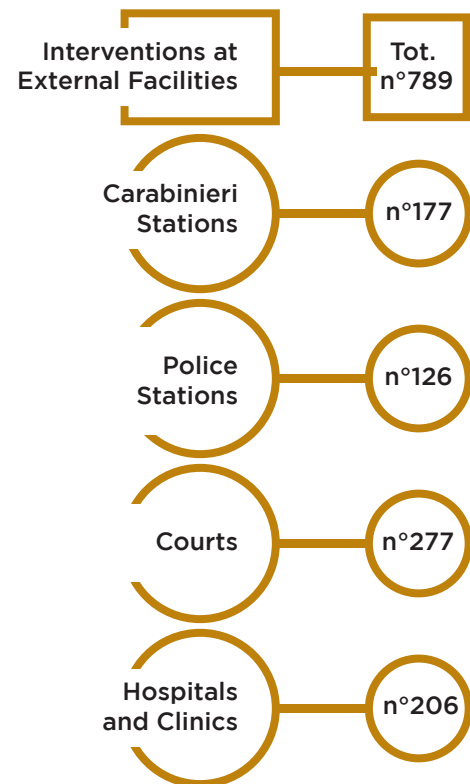
Saturday and Sunday: 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM



## • 24H EMERGENCY UNIT

This service is designed to address all emergency/urgent issues related to substance use disorders in the Rome area. The team, alerted by the operational centre located on-site, intervenes with a medically equipped vehicle in the following cases:

- Overdose: Administering naloxone in cases of opioid overdose;
- Withdrawal crises: Providing pharmacological therapies, especially agonists (methadone);
- Family crises and violence related to drug addiction;
- Interventions at Police Stations, Carabinieri Stations, and Courts: Administering pharmacological therapy to substance users in custody or arrest;
- Interventions in hospitals for toxicological consultations: Supporting substance-using patients.



### Info and Contacts:

Phone: +39 06 5587777 - +39 06 65753055

**Service Manager:** Ettore Rossi



## • DAILY DROP-IN CENTRE

It's a low-threshold service aimed at those that seek an alternative to drug use, but have not yet decided to enter a structured therapeutic program. The service provides an opportunity to stay in a protected space throughout the day, facilitating the distancing from the usual environment. Within the service, users receive immediate support from both former users and psychologists in a welcoming and non-judgmental manner. Additionally, they have access to regular meals, hygiene services, laundry facilities and clothing changes. In low-threshold day services, meeting and satisfying primary needs is considered the first step in the therapeutic process. Subsequently, once a trusting relationship with the staff is established, it is possible to start working on the motivation for change, guiding the user towards a personalized therapeutic path. The Day Drop-in Centre is open from Monday to Saturday, from 8:30 AM to 9:00 PM.

### ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED

Phone consultations	n°6.415
Interviews and consultations	n°1.508
Therapeutic groups	n° 208
Workshops and recreational activities	n°303
Clothing distribution	n°1.115
Showers	n°1.853
Meals	n°29.000
Laundry service	n°1.485

### USERS

Total Clients	n° 267
Total Presences	n° 9.309
Average Daily Clients	n°35
Referrals to further stages of care	n°80



### Info and Contacts:

Phone: +39 06 65753056; Mobile: +39 342 3867796

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

**Service Manager:** Federica Gasperini

**Coordinator:** Giovanni Vinci

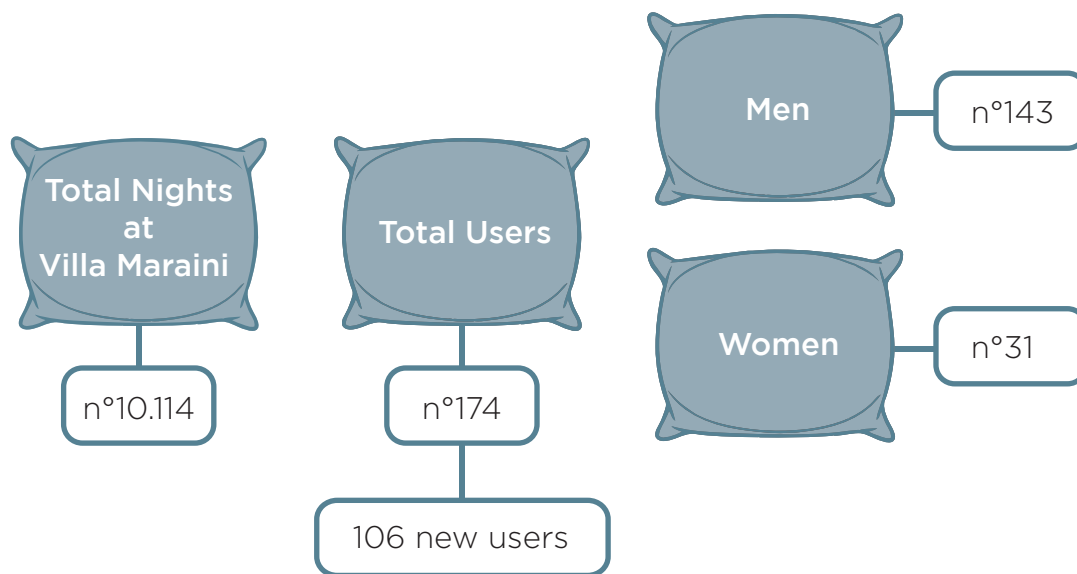
## • NIGHT SHELTER

It's a low-threshold service for substance users without housing or facing temporary housing issues for short periods. It also serves people undergoing therapeutic programmes in one of the Foundation's services, as well as individuals experiencing temporary difficulties. The centre provides accommodation for both men and women.

There are 15 beds available at the Frascara Pavilion and 24 beds at the Maraini Pavilion.

The night shelter is open daily from 9:00 PM to 9:00 AM.

### NIGHTS AND USERS



#### Info and Contacts:

Beds can be requested by calling +39 06 65753059;  
for more information, email: [notturmo@villamaraini.it](mailto:notturmo@villamaraini.it)

**Service Coordinator:** Simone Mazzocchi

## • PRISON PROJECT

This is a low/medium threshold service that conducts weekly group sessions/consultations for inmates with substance use disorders inside the Penitentiary Institutions of Rome: for men at Regina Coeli Judicial Prison, Rebibbia "Raffaele Cinotti" Detention Center, Rebibbia Reclusion House and Custodia Attenuata; and for women at the Rebibbia Female Prison. Consultations are available also for other penitentiary institutions of Lazio and other regions.

These group sessions/counselings aim to support, guide and counsel drug-dependent inmates to better cope with the challenges of the detention condition. Additionally, these sessions aim to assess the potential for inmates to benefit from alternative measures to imprisonment in our services.

In our office at the headquarters we assist individuals under house arrest or other alternative measures to detention, as well as their families. We respond to letters and emails of inmates from any Penitentiary Institution. Furthermore, we conduct phone consultations with lawyers, magistrates, public addiction centres (Ser.D.), prison treatment departments, individuals awaiting precautionary measures, and their families. Since 2021, we have a free agreement with the Department of Social Policies of the Municipality of Rome to accommodate individuals subjected to Public Utility Works and Probation measures.

This year, following the pandemic phase, we have seen an increase of activities inside Penitentiary Institutions and a doubling of activities at our headquarters. Consequently, there has been an increase of requests to benefit from alternative measures, allowing us to accommodate more individuals subject to alternative detention measures.

In 2023, part of the Service's activities were funded by a project presented in partnership with the Villa Maraini Social Cooperative and approved by the Waldensian Church.

In February 2023, our team organized the conference titled "Substances Pathological Dependency: Between Restrictive Measures and Recovery Strategies," in collaboration with our service "Alternative Centre to Detention", with the participation of many professionals and managers dealing with substance addiction (health workers, psychologists, lawyers, doctors, etc.), to discuss the right to treatment and the need to create a network in the community to prevent substance users from committing property and personal crimes.

### **Info and Contacts:**

Email: [progettocarcere@villamaraini.it](mailto:progettocarcere@villamaraini.it)

Phone: +39 06 65753048 - 51

Open daily from 09:00 to 20:00. A Listening and Reception Desk is open on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 09:00 to 15:00. Legal counseling with a lawyer is available on Tuesdays from 14:00 to 17:00. Additionally, biweekly sessions with a former teacher are provided for users requesting educational lessons. Activities inside the Penitentiary Institutions are conducted on Thursdays.

**Service Manager:** Elena Porcella



## • TOTAL ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED

<b>People met in prison:</b>	<b>n°81</b>
<b>Detainees enrolled in treatment at Villa Maraini:</b>	<b>n°27</b>
<b>Consultations in person and phone calls (users, family members lawyers, Ser.D, ecc):</b>	<b>n°2.205</b>
<b>Letters and emails received from inmates:</b>	<b>n°473</b>
<b>Letters and emails received from family members, lawyers, magistrates, Ser.D:</b>	<b>n°302</b>
<b>Interviews with individuals under house arrest:</b>	<b>n°24</b>
<b>People given availability for the Alternative Centre to Detention:</b>	<b>n°64</b>
<b>People under Community Service and Probation accepted at Foundation services:</b>	<b>n°21</b>
<b>Video call interviews with Penitentiary Institutions outside the region:</b>	<b>n°27</b>

## • SERVICE FOR PSYCHOTHERAPY, OBSERVATION AND TREATMENT (SPOT)

This is a medium threshold daily service for individuals who want a short-term therapeutic programme, seeking psychological counseling and support to address issues related to their addiction in a safe environment, detached from their usual context. It also serves as a beneficial solution for clients of other Foundation services temporarily requiring increased containment.

Through its multidisciplinary team, the service aims to welcome, support, and accompany individuals in situations of personal and social vulnerability, strengthening their motivation for change by identifying healthy strategies through a brief and intensive therapeutic program.

The team's primary working tool is the "individualized intervention project," which establishes general and specific objectives, strategies and activities aimed at achieving them. The therapeutic proposal is discussed with the client, agreed upon and periodically reviewed based on the achieved or unachieved objectives.

The therapeutic programme normally lasts six months.

### Special Restart Programme

This is a fee-based residential service focused on substance detoxification, addressed to individuals seeking to stay in a therapeutic environment before planning a more structured and personalized treatment path. The service includes both pharmacological treatment managed by the Villa Maraini medical centre and individual and group psychotherapeutic sessions conducted by psychologists and social workers.



*Spot*

#### **Info and Contacts:**

Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 19:00

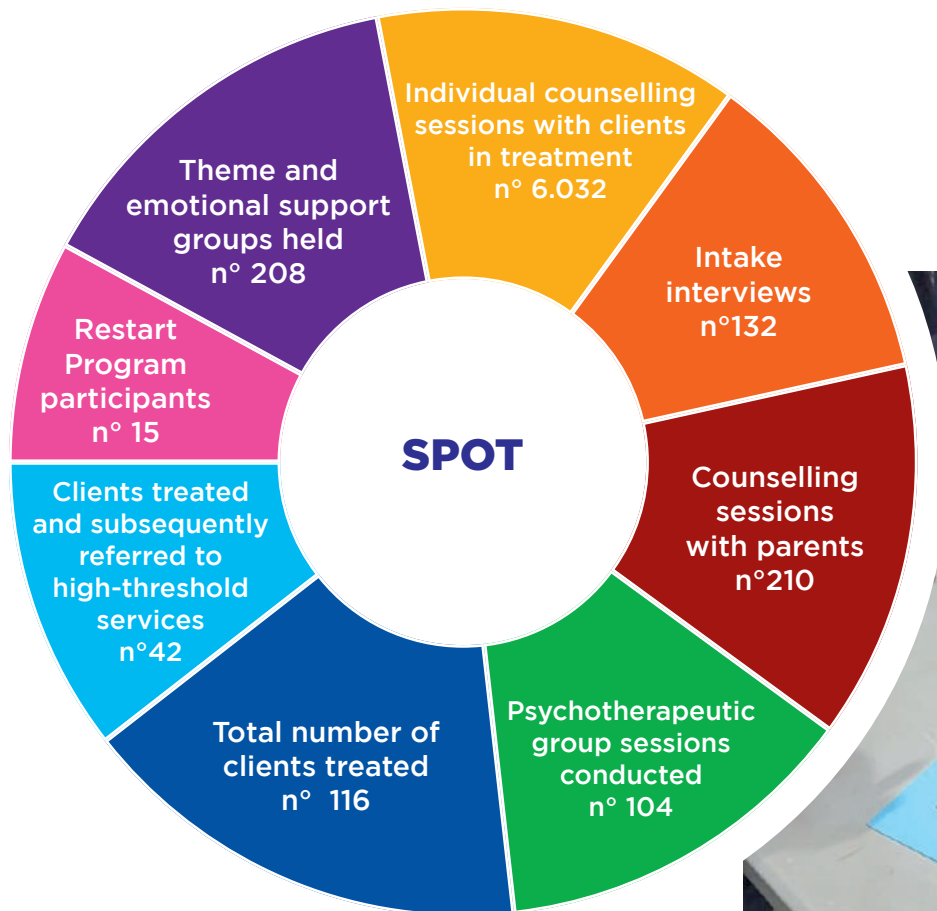
Saturday from 9:00 to 15:00

Email: [programmaspot@villamaraini.it](mailto:programmaspot@villamaraini.it)

Phone: +39 06 65753067

**Service Manager:** Carlo Attanasio

## • TOTAL ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED



### Info and Access Methods:

Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 19:00

Saturday from 9:00 to 15:00

Email: [programmaspot@villamaraini.it](mailto:programmaspot@villamaraini.it)

Phone: +39 06 65753067

**Service Manager:** Carlo Attanasio



## • RESIDENTIAL THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY formerly Alternative to Detention Centre

This high-threshold service provides 24-hour assistance to individuals with substance use disorders, as an alternative to incarceration. Individuals are referred to the Foundation by magistrates, in order to follow a community-based therapeutic program as alternative measure to detention.

Upon admission, clients undergo an initial individual interview where a preliminary diagnosis and treatment plan are established, subject to confirmation in subsequent phases.

The initial phase focuses on personal assessment, evaluating the client's motivation and observing relational dynamics. Group participation becomes central to daily life, integrating various ergo-therapeutic, recreational, and social activities, along with gradual assumption of responsibilities in managing tasks. Each client is assigned a dedicated psychologist who develops an individualized therapeutic plan tailored to their specific needs and resources. In the following months, clinical diagnosis is refined, and group interaction is increasingly utilized as both therapeutic and social transformative resource. Family involvement is also integral to supporting the client's programme.

The final phase aims at facilitating the client's social and job reintegration.

### WORK ACTIVITIES AS PART OF THE THERAPEUTIC PROGRAMME:

Restorative Justice-based projects in collaboration with our Street Unit in Rome's suburbs.

HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points) risk analysis and control course for clients working in kitchens. Participation in art therapy groups. Finance and economics course conducted by Findomestic Bank.

Experiential exchange with youth Scout from various parts of Italy.

Renovation and maintenance of internal and external spaces of the Foundation.

Gardening activities. Cultural visits, excursions, and sports activities.



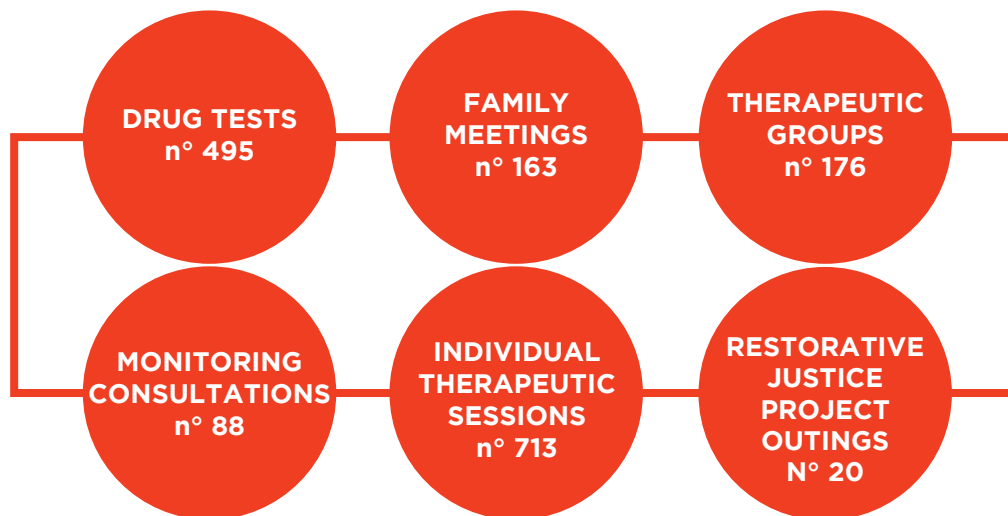
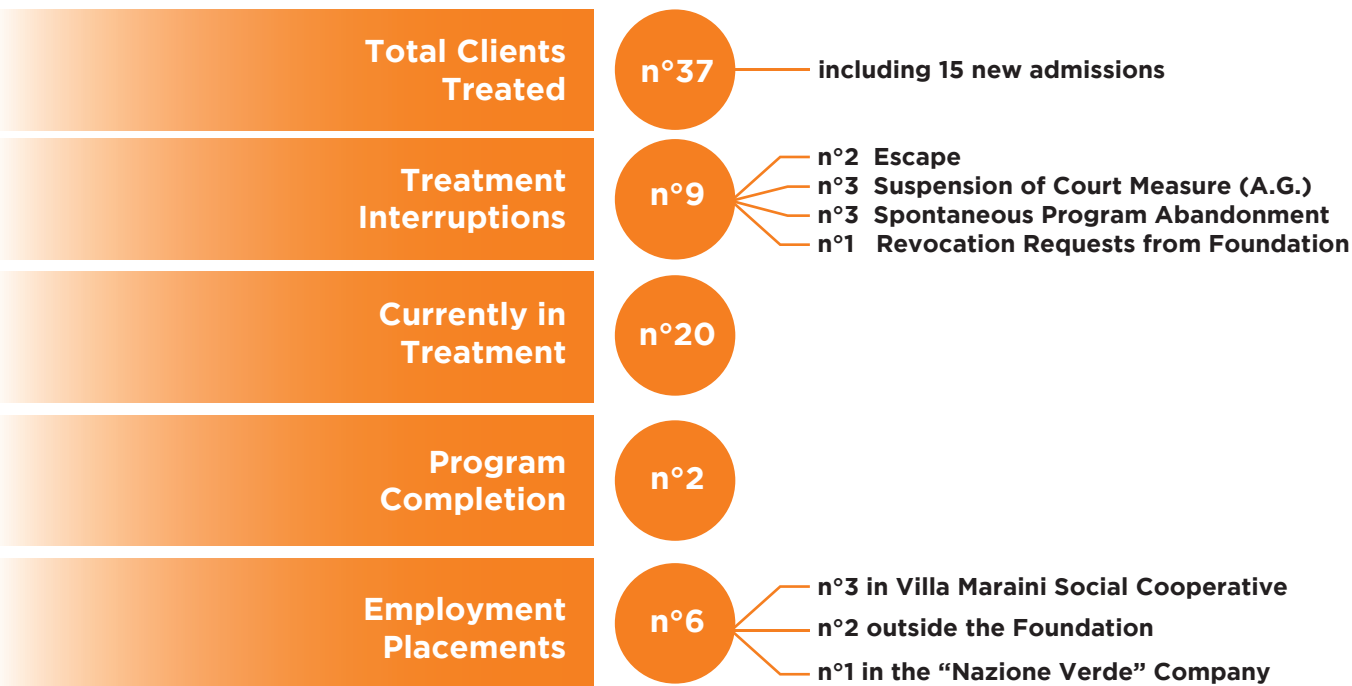
*Residential community already CAD*

### Info and Access Methods:

Phone: +39 06 65753054 - Email: cad@villamaraini.it

**Service Manager:** Valerio Gino Madeo

## • CLIENTS FROM PRISONS OR HOME DETENTION



## • INTEGRATED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT (TIA)

The service encompasses various levels of intervention with distinct objectives:

Consultation Service: Brief interactions via phone or in-person where the clients present their issues and receive appropriate information from a counsellor.

First Level Service: intake and orientation of clients to identify and understand their needs, evaluating motivation and resources to construct a personalized recovery plan. Therapy can be conducted outpatient at TIA or at one of Villa Maraini's existing services.

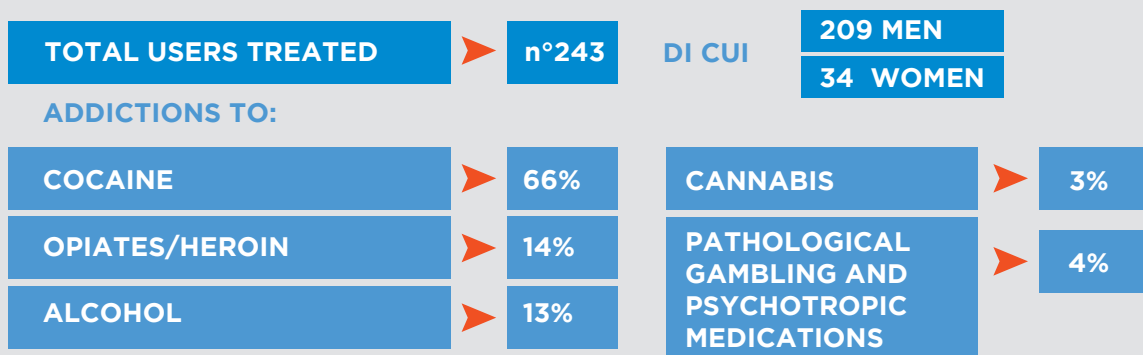
Specialized Second Level Service: structured therapeutic programme for individuals with work or study commitments who prefer or need to avoid residential facilities. This level aims to develop physical, psychological and social resources necessary for a therapeutic process.

The programme lasts three years, featuring weekly psychotherapy sessions, weekly group therapy, and bi-weekly urine tests. This programme is suitable for behavioural dependencies (e.g., gambling, internet addiction, alcohol) as well;

### FAMILY SERVICE

This service supports family members (children, siblings, spouses) through tailored groups and meetings. It is useful also for families who have doubts about their loved ones' behaviours or who are struggling to convince them to seek help.

### TOTAL USERS AND SUBSTANCES ABUSED



#### Info and Access Methods:

Phone: +39 06 65753059

Email: telefonoinaiuto@villamaraini.it

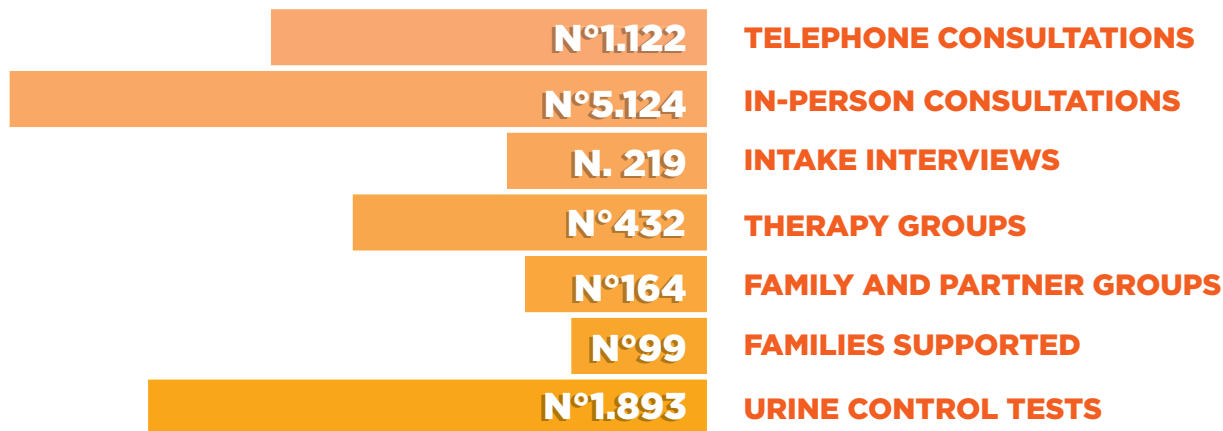
**Service manager:** Vincenzo Palmieri

**Family Service manager:** Anna Maria Ruggerini

Email: ruggerini@villamaraini.it



• **ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED**



<b>MARITAL STATUS</b>	Single 54%	Married 18%	With Partner 18%	Separated 9%	Widowed 1%
<b>EMPLOYMENT STATUS</b>	Permanent employment 88%	No stable employment 4%	Seeking employment 5%	Student 2%	Retired 1%
<b>EDUCATION</b>	Primary school 1%	Secondary school 29%	High School Diploma 54%	University degree 16%	
<b>AGE</b>	<=19 1%	20-24 6%	25-29 6%	30-40 30%	+40 57%

## • SEMI-RESIDENTIAL THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY

It is a setting where various therapeutic, educational, and rehabilitative activities unfold in dynamic and organized daily routines. Users have the opportunity to explore their strengths and confront their challenges within a supportive environment. The multidimensional therapeutic approach respects individuals in their uniqueness, acknowledging their personal narratives and relationships. Every activity engages users to activate their resources, aiming to address and modify problematic aspects of themselves. The group dynamic is pivotal: the intensity of relationships built among the clients, the emotional impact of daily exchanges, and the invaluable strength of mutual support foster a sense of belonging, often undermined by experiences of deviance and marginalization. The program features individualized projects structured into a 24-month semi-residential daily phase and a one-year outpatient phase aimed at social reintegration. Operators play a crucial role in facilitating this evolutionary process, supporting users to interact, value their strengths, and grow together. Our framework operates within a bio-psycho-social model that views substance dependence as part of a complex, multi-factorial developmental process. Our therapeutic programme integrates various clinical tools and approaches.

The service is open on weekdays from 8:30 AM to 7:30 PM and on Saturdays until 2:30 PM.

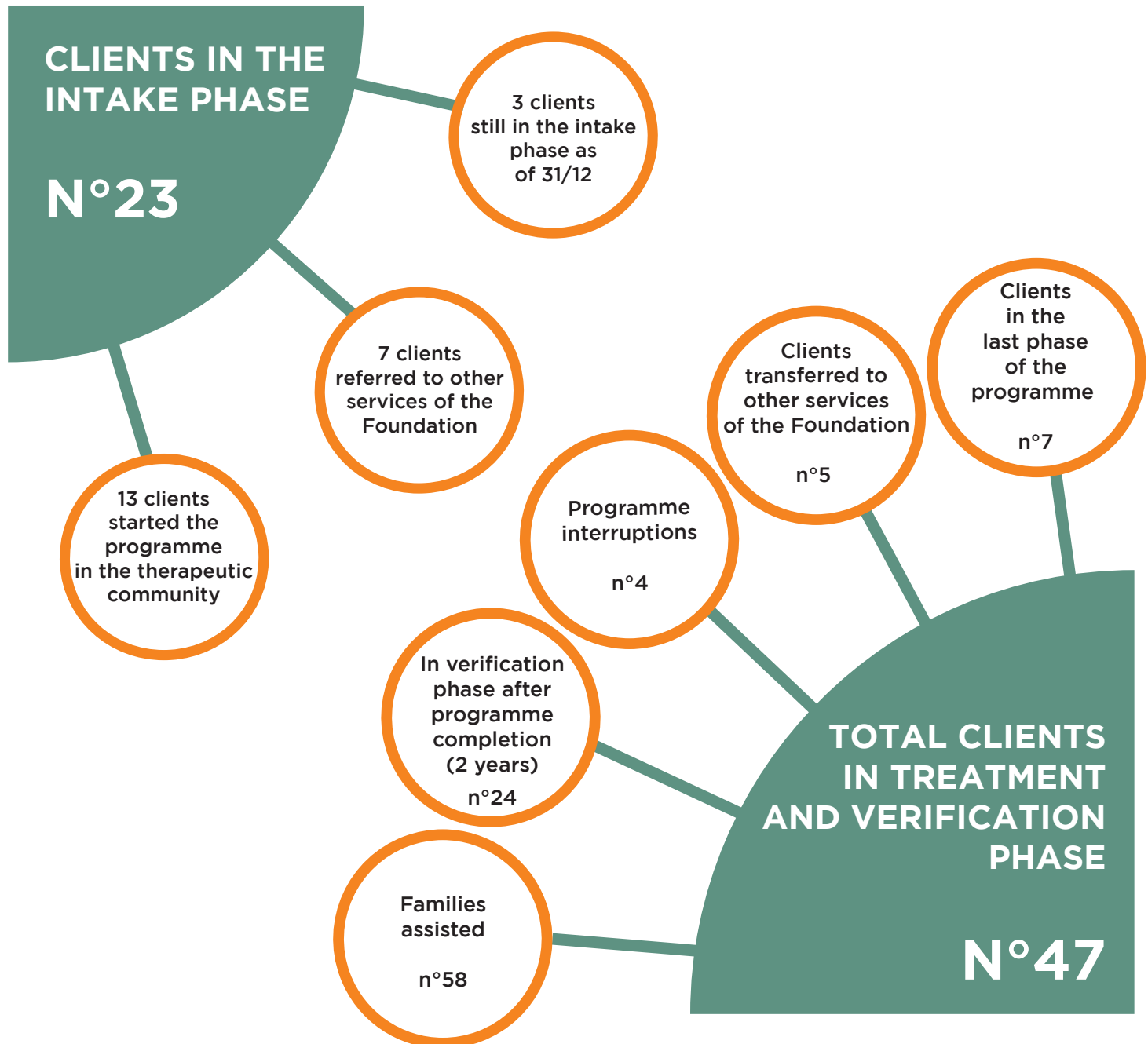


### **Info and Access Methods:**

Tel. 06 65.75.30.57; Email: [ctdiurna@villamaraini.it](mailto:ctdiurna@villamaraini.it)

**Service Manager:** Franca Riggi

**Coordinator:** Maria Elena Cocco



## • 24H MEDICAL CENTRE

The Centre is the only medical service for the treatment of substance users in Rome open 24-hour. It is open to all individuals without distinction of gender, religion, or nationality. The centre provides a first response to those asking for help at Villa Maraini, which often involves pharmacological intervention but can also include psychological support where necessary. The goal is to help individuals to better understand what kind of support is more suitable for their current condition and develop a first motivation for change.

In 2023, the centre conducted 302 psychological consultations with individuals accessing the service. In collaboration with the Lazio Region (ASL RM3), the centre is authorized to provide 24-hour methadone administration for emergency situations and as a supplement to public services, which in Rome are often inadequate due to limited opening hours, preventing substance users from accessing necessary care.

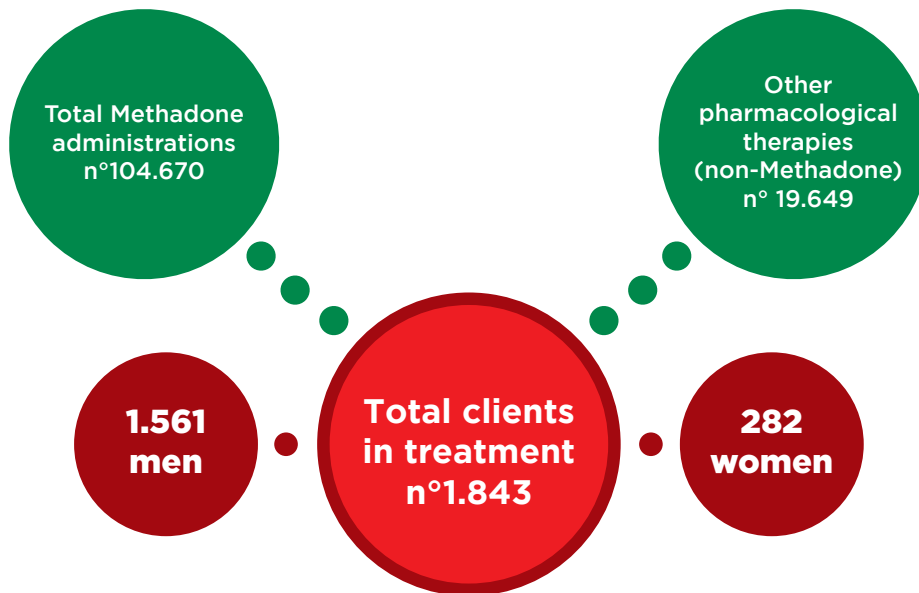
The clinic is open 24 hours a day, every day of the year.



### **Info and Access Methods:**

Tel. 06 65.75.30.24; [ambulatorio@villamaraini.it](mailto:ambulatorio@villamaraini.it)

**Service Manager:** Ettore Rossi



**AGE OF FIRST SUBSTANCE USE**

Up to 14 years	2%
15 to 19 years	26%
20 to 24 years	14%
25 to 30 years	7%
31 to 40 years	5%
Over 40 years	1%
Not indicated	45%

**PRIMARY SUBSTANCE OF ABUSE**

Heroin	83%
Cocaine	10%
Alcohol	3%
Cannabinoids	1%
Not indicated	3%

**SECONDARY SUBSTANCE OF ABUSE**

Heroin	7%
Cocaine	32%
Alcohol	6%
Cannabinoids	6%
Hallucinogens	1%
Other substances	2%
Not detected	49%



The HIV/Infectious Diseases Unit (HIV/ID) is dedicated to prevention and information about HIV and Viral Hepatitis, assistance to people living with HIV and other infectious diseases, with a special focus on people who use drugs (both injecting and non-injecting).

The HIV/ID Unit is integrated into the network of services active at local and national level (National Council, Rome Coordination Committee, AIDS Network, Regional AIDS Commission). Through collaboration with other Associations and public health institutions (hospitals, university research centres), it is involved in research projects for the prevention of infectious diseases in both the general population and subgroups at higher risk. The HIV/ID Unit offers: rapid testing and counselling for HIV, Hepatitis C and Syphilis (on-site at the Foundation's medical centre, and in outreach settings in collaboration with the Street Unit); distribution of informative materials; on-site and telephone consultations with peer-to-peer communication support.

Since 2021, in collaboration with the Infectious Diseases Unit of Policlinico Umberto I, a fast-track care pathway has been ensured for HIV and/or HCV-positive users, according to the continuum of care model "Test-Linkage to Care-Treatment", to enable the quickest possible initiation of treatment. Psychological support is available upon request.

Since 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Unit provides also information, prevention and testing for SARS-CoV-2 infection, both for clients and workers, in line with the preventive measures indicated in the Ministry of Health guidelines..

### **Activities conducted in 2023:**

Daily Activities:

-Rapid HIV/HCV testing service with pre- and post-test counselling: 24h everyday including holidays, at the Foundation's medical centre (Frascara Pavilion) and the Street Unit.

-Outpatient infectious diseases consultations with a physician always available on-site and 24h telephone consultations for sexually transmitted infections, prevention of blood-borne and airborne infections.

In 2023, over 90 psychological support sessions, and over a thousand consultations on HIV, HCV, and sexually transmitted infections were conducted.

### **Ongoing Projects in 2023:**

-Winner of the Gilead Italy Community Award 2023 with an extensive HIV screening project in the city of Rome.

-Implementation of the project "Continuum of Care during the pandemic: assistance to drug users in the Covid Hotels"

- Implementation of the International project "Integrated model of HIV/HCV and COVID-19 testing and linkage to care for hard-to-reach groups" funded by Gilead Sciences Europe.
- Project "Formare c HI V'informa" in collaboration with associations from the National Council.
- Project "Definition of a standardized methodology for monitoring the continuum of care for HIV in Italy - Neglected Populations?" conducted within the National Council

**N°853**

Person tested for  
HIV/HCV tests

on-site

N°302

Outreach

N°551

### OF WHICH:

- ▶ Preliminarily HIV positive **6**
- ▶ Preliminarily Hepatitis C positive **55**
- ▶ COVID-19 Test conducted **279**



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

Monthly webinars with volunteering and civil society organizations to define interventions for special populations affected by HIV/HCV during the COVID period.

Periodic webinars with "Rete AIDS" focusing on monitoring and coordination of the telephone counselling network on HIV, Hepatitis, and STIs.

ICAR 2023 (Italian Conference on AIDS and Antiviral Research), June 14-16.

Course on social work in the field of substance use disorders for volunteers of the Italian Red Cross.

Training sessions for volunteers/interns of the Foundation on the activities of the HIV/HCV/COVID Unit.

### ***International Recognition***

In 2023, Dr. Massimo Barra was selected from candidates across continents to receive the Gilead Community Award in the category of Individual Recognition, "for outstanding contribution to the community," recognized as a "pioneer of concrete solutions for reducing the impact of HIV and Hepatitis C among substance users."



### **Info and Access Methods:**

Tel. 06 65.75.30.29; Email: [hiv@villamaraini.it](mailto:hiv@villamaraini.it)

**Service Manager:** Daniela Masci

## • INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Since 2009, the Foundation has managed transnational projects co-financed by various programs of the European Commission and/or other international donors. These projects are implemented in partnership with National Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies, as well as other organizations active in the field of substance use disorders and social marginalization.

- **IRAN Project "Provision of harm reduction, treatment and care services for most vulnerable drug users"**, co-financed by the EuropeAid programme of the European Commission. The project aims to support the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) in implementing harm reduction programs for people with substance use disorders who are in conditions of particular vulnerability and social marginalization. In 2023, two significant training and capacity-building activities were conducted for IRCS staff and volunteers:

- "Training on Harm Reduction and Humanitarian Drug Policy" held at Villa Maraini from May 29th to June 1st, attended by 12 IRCS delegates from Tehran, Fars, and Kermanshah.

- "Training on Harm Reduction and Humanitarian Drug Policy" conducted by a Villa Maraini delegation led by Massimo Barra in Tehran from 18-21 December, attended by over 50 IRCS workers from Tehran, Fars, and Kermanshah. The course aimed to strengthen IRCS's skills in harm reduction and humanitarian approaches to substance use disorders, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and technical support from Villa Maraini.



*Training course for Iranian Red Crescent, May 2023*

- **KENYA Project "Harm Reduction in Lamu"**, funded and managed by the Italian Red Cross. The project aims to support the Kenya Red Cross in establishing a rehabilitation centre for people with substance use disorders in the Lamu Island. The Foundation, as the National Agency for Addictions of the Italian Red Cross, provides technical assistance and expertise in planning and implementing the centre activities. In 2023, two representatives of Villa Maraini conducted a new mission to Lamu (February 4-11) to train the centre staff on community outreach activities and development of an Operational Management Plan. The training participants included also health professionals of the local methadone clinic and social workers of a local CSO managing harm reduction services in Lamu, for a total of 25 participants. The mission aimed to strengthen collaboration between the Kenya Red Cross and other health and social services to facilitate access to care and the continuum of care for people with substance use disorders

- **BOOST Project "Boost access and quality of community-based communicable disease services for PWUD in the EU and neighbouring countries"**, co-financed by the EU4Health programme of the European Commission. Villa Maraini participates as partner organization with the role of "Lighthouse", serving as a centre of excellence and national reference point on the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases (HIV and hepatitis) among people who use drugs. In 2023, the following activities took place:
  - 1st Project Meeting held at Villa Maraini on 13-14 February, with the participation of 45 representatives from more than 20 partner organizations and a representative from the European Commission. The meeting officially launched the project and served to plan activities for the next 3 years.
  - 1st Lighthouses Meeting held in Prague on 15-16 June, with the participation of the 4 organizations serving as Lighthouses in the project: Villa Maraini for Italy; Podane Ruce for the Czech Republic; Free Clinic for Belgium; A-Clinic Foundation for Finland.
- **ERASMUS Project "Practical Care for People with Addiction"**, funded by the European Commission and coordinated by the Secondary Education Institute Santa Lucia del Trampal in Cáceres, Spain. The project aims to enhance practical skills in health and social care for students from two Spanish institutes through an internship period at Villa Maraini. In 2023, the following activities were carried out:
  - Internship period at Villa Maraini for 5 students from the two Spanish institutes from March to June. The students were involved in all the Foundation services, actively participating in daily activities with the people in care.
  - Visit of two representatives of Villa Maraini to the two Spanish institutes from 17-21 May to meet students and teachers and present the Foundation's activities.
  - Visit of two teachers from the Institute to Villa Maraini on June 17 to plan future collaboration activities.

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**Administrative Manager:** Nadia Gasbarrini

**Financial Manager:** Philippe Garcia



*66<sup>th</sup> CND-UNODC, Vienna, March 2023*



## • RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT PARTNERSHIP ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE

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



The Red Cross and Red Crescent Partnership on Substance abuse between the Italian Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Villa Maraini, was established in 2012 to provide training, advocacy and specialized assistance to Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies, NGOs and governmental entities on harm reduction, substance use disorders and infectious diseases, leveraging the field experience of Villa Maraini. In 2023, the Partnership activities included

- **Organization of the event “Breaking barriers, building bridges: towards a humanitarian drug policy - Rome Consensus Summit & 10th Anniversary of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Partnership on Substance Abuse”** held in Rome from 2-5 May. The event aimed to commemorate the 10 years of the Partnership and re-launch the Rome Consensus 2.0, an initiative for the promotion of humanitarian drug policy. The Summit brought together over 100 experts, practitioners, civil society activists, Red Cross/Red Crescent societies, international organizations, public institutions, and law enforcement agencies from 29 countries, actively participating in debates, workshops, and working groups.

#### ADVOCACY AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS:

- **66th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)** at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 13-17 March, Vienna. The Partnership organized two side events:
  - 1) **“A Global Call for Deflection as the New Policy on Policing and Drugs”**: organized by PTACC, a co-founder of the Rome Consensus 2.0, aimed at promoting ‘deflection’, an integrated approach involving collaboration between law enforcement and treatment services to facilitate access to care for people who use drugs.
  - 2) **“Humanitarian drug policy: the Rome Consensus 2.0 as a pragmatic tool of advocacy to implement universal health coverage”**: organized by the Partnership in cooperation with all the founders of Rome Consensus 2.0, UNODC and other international networks. The objective was to promote the Rome Consensus 2.0 Manifesto as an effective tool for implementing drug policies based on a humanitarian approach.



*Rome Consensus Summit, May 2023.  
Speech of the Italian Ministry of Interior  
M. Piantedosi*

- **Central and Eastern European Summit on Hepatitis C, HIV and Other Infections Screening, Linkage to Care and Treatment**, 15-16 June, Prague: N. Gasbarrini was invited to present Villa Maraini's HIV and HCV testing activities for populations at higher risk, conducted through the Street Unit.
- **2023 Pre-Arrest, Deflection & Diversion Summit**, 3-6 October, Colorado and Chicago, USA: organized by PTACC, a police movement promoting the 'deflection', i.e. collaboration with health facilities to prevent arrests of people using substances and facilitate access to treatment. M. Patti represented Villa Maraini, sharing our good practices and experience in working with law enforcement agencies and learning operational strategies of deflection.
- **Plenary Annual Meeting of the Civil Society Forum on Drugs (CSFD)**, 14-15 November, Brussels: N. Gasbarrini participated at the meeting organized by the European Commission, representing Villa Maraini as a member of CSFD - a group of experts from civil society organizations working in the field of substance use disorders. The annual meeting aims at gathering feedback and suggestions from civil society on EC drug policies and strategies.
- **Intersessional Meeting of the CND - United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs**, 3-6 December, Vienna: M. Barra and M. Patti attended the meeting to promote the IFRC's position for a humanitarian drug policy and meet representatives of UNODC, UNAIDS, and various Member States. Barra highlighted the importance of facilitating access to treatment for people with substance use disorders, particularly for the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations. They also held bilateral meetings: one with the new Board of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (VNGOC), representing international NGOs at UNODC; and another with the new Italian Ambassador to the UN at the Permanent Mission in Vienna.
- **Coordination Meeting:**  
*Steering Committee Meeting*, held in Rome on July 10th with participation of all the Steering Committee members to update on the implementation of the Action Plan 2022-2023 and discuss the new strategy and action plan for 2024.



*Training Course in Lamu - Kenya, July 2023*

## • ITALIAN RED CROSS

Villa Maraini is recognized as the National Agency for addictions of the Italian Red Cross. It provides daily support to the National Committee and volunteers at all levels to promote and enhance activities related to the prevention, mitigation, and response to substance use disorders.

To this regards, the Italian RC supports the development and functioning of some therapeutic services of Villa Maraini through Operational Agreements, aiming to increase the number of people having access to care. The goal is to strengthen Villa Maraini's operational capacity while leveraging its expertise and professionalism. At the core of this strategic collaboration there is the development and implementation of thematic public campaigns. Villa Maraini actively participates in the capacity building and operational programmes of the Italian RC designed to enhance the engagement of volunteers in this sector.



*HIV-HCV testing in Piazza Bologna  
Rome, November 2023*



*Visit of IFRC Communications Director  
September 2023*

### ***VOLUNTEERING, TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING***

- **9 RC Regional Committees involved:** Veneto, Lombardia, Piemonte, Liguria, Toscana, Lazio, Abruzzo, Marche, Puglia.
- **25 Local Committees supported,** including 5 provincial ones.
- **47 volunteers from the Rome Metropolitan Area** trained and engaged in various services of Villa Maraini to support national and international public events, healthcare and social activities
- **36 volunteers from other regions** participated in practical internships at Villa Maraini
- **Over 2,300 hours** of volunteering were dedicated by to support vulnerable individuals assisted by Villa Maraini, both on the streets and within facilities
- + **than 350 hours** of training were provided to RCRC Volunteers onsite and offsite
- + **than 250 volunteers of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies were trained and sensitized**
- + **than 160 Italian Red Cross volunteers**
- + **than 80 volunteers** from other Local Committees were trained online and at their locations on OAT, STIs, Humanitarian Drug Policy, awareness raising and educational events on addictions.

+ **than 90 volunteers from RCRC National Societies** from:

Armenia, Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, El Salvador, Greece, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Iran.

+ **than 40 consultations** provided to Local, Regional, and National Committees of RC on capacity building, internships and activities related to harm reduction and behavioural addictions.

Thanks to the financial support of the Italian Red Cross, the following activities were carried out by the services of Villa Maraini in 2023:

### **SUPPORT TO THERAPEUTIC SERVICES**

#### • **Prison Project**

+ than 800 hours for correspondence with inmates, group sessions and consultations in prisons and at home

#### • **HIV/HCV Unit and COVID Emergency**

+ than 500 hours dedicated to infectious disease consultations, rapid testing, linkage to care, STIs prevention

#### • **Integrated Outpatient Treatment**

+ than 2,000 hours for individual and group therapy sessions, consultations and therapies

#### • **Daily Drop-in Center**

+ than 2,000 hours for clients intake, activities and extension of opening hours in the afternoon

#### • **Therapeutic Community**

+ than 1,000 hours for therapeutic activities, follow-up, psychological support for families

#### • **Alternative to Detention Center**

+ than 1,000 hours for night shifts, 1,000 hours for weekend shifts, consultations, supervision

#### • **Training and Advocacy**

+ than 2,000 hours for developing initiatives, data collection, training activities, advocacy, promotion of RC activities on substance abuse at national and international levels

+ than 100 telephone consultations and offline/online meetings.

#### • **Street Unit**

+ than 1,700 hours for harm reduction services during weekends and holidays

#### • **SPOT** (Psychotherapeutic Service, Observation, and Treatment)

+ than 2,000 hours for individual and group therapies, supervisions, follow-ups

#### • **Night Shelter**

+ than 2,500 hours of night assistance to hosted clients



*Testimony of a Villa Maraini client  
in La Spezia - Italy  
October 2023*

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## • INTERNSHIPS, VOLUNTEERING, TRAINING, PREVENTION AND SUPERVISION

These are essential services that enable the capacity building of volunteers and interns in substance abuse, alcoholism, gambling and all related areas of marginality. The trained individuals are subsequently integrated into the various services of the Foundation, working alongside professionals such as social workers, psychologists and physicians. Throughout the year, conferences, seminars and training courses are organized for sector operators, school staff, prison workers, and also at workplaces, involving Italy's most qualified experts in substance abuse, some of whom are external to the Foundation. Courses are tailored for specific professional categories (e.g., doctors, psychologists, nurses, etc.) and for former substance users. The training is not just about learning intervention theories, but also about practical application of the knowledge gained. The training follows the evolution of intervention strategies used by the Villa Maraini, progressively differentiating therapeutic programs based on changing user characteristics and substance abuse history.

### **INTERNSHIPS AND VOLUNTEERING:**

The Foundation Villa Maraini is accredited and recognized by the Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR) for conducting curricular and professional internships. Since its inception, it has welcomed volunteers who contribute in various capacities.

In 2023, **65 people** had worked as volunteers and/or internees in the various services, with the possibility to gain expertise in substance abuse, gambling, alcoholism, and related topics.

Most of them come from affiliated faculties of Psychology and Medicine (such as Sapienza, Lumsa, Pontifical Salesian University, European University, University of Chieti, Unicusano, Unimarconi) and from numerous psychotherapy schools. Some also come from faculties of Education Sciences. Besides their service-related activities, many interns actively participated in evening and nighttime outings of the Street Unit dedicated to HIV/HCV testing.

Volunteers, mainly from humanities backgrounds with prior volunteer experience, are intrigued by our intervention model and philosophical approach to addiction. In 2023, there was a consistent increase in requests for both volunteering and internships, underscoring the Foundation's commitment to accommodating individuals eager to undertake professional internships and contribute through volunteering



## TRAINING:

During the "Rome Consensus 2.0" Summit held in Rome from 2 -5 of May, training sessions were conducted for participants on the topics of access to care and treatment of substance users. Additionally, a training course on harm reduction and humanitarian drug policy was conducted from May 29th to June 1st for volunteers of the Iranian Red Crescent.

## PREVENTION:

Online interventions were conducted on psychoactive substances, the risk of alcoholism, gambling addiction and other pathological dependencies. These sessions were organized by the "Johnson & Johnson Foundation" as part of the "Health4U Project" on April 19th and December 6th, involving students from **57 Italian schools**. **Over 1,400 students** participated in these sessions, receiving presentations and testimonials from our staff and users in care. Throughout 2023, approximately **75 adolescents** from **10 scout groups** visited various Foundation services and interacted with users in care.

## SUPERVISION:

All the Foundation's staff regularly undergo psychological supervision. In 2023, a total of **42 sessions were organized with 282 attendances**.



*Meeting of volunteers  
and internees at Villa Maraini*

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**Internships Manager:** Federica Gasperini; tirocini@villamaraini.it

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

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

## • VILLA MARAINI SOCIAL COOPERATIVE – CANTEEN SERVICE

Through the "Villa Maraini Social Cooperative Srl Onlus," the Foundation manages a canteen service open to both users and staff of all its services.

The canteen operates 7 days a week, offering breakfast, lunch, snacks, and dinner.

Meals are also provided to other organizations that take care of vulnerable individuals.

Since 2020, the Cooperative has won the tender for managing the Bar/Refreshment Point within the Health Campus - Italian Red Cross Association - Via Bernardino Ramazzini - Rome.

Meals provided for Villa Maraini Foundation (breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners)

n°191.256

Meals for elderly persons supported by Municipality X, XI, XII of Rome Capital

n°42.738

Meals for disabled people of the Social Cooperative "Al Parco"

n°7.038

Meals for users of the Homeless Reception Center "Francescane"

n°2.257

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**Service Manager:** Daniela Leonardi



Established in 2017 to enhance and promote the various activities of the Foundation to the public, the Communication Office works daily to convey accurate messages on issues related to substance use disorders. This is achieved through social media channels, press releases, articles on local and national newspapers, interviews on state and private television channels, promoting both the work carried out on-site with users and social campaigns, storytelling, and specially produced videos. Dr. Stefano Spada Menaglia, the service manager, also organizes major Foundation events, such as the successful visit by President Sergio Mattarella on June 24, 2022. Additionally, he coordinates the newly elected Honorary Committee established in 2023.

### 16 PRESS RELEASES

#### Main topics:

- Rome City Event
- Alternative to Imprisonment Conference
- UN Side Event on Humanitarian Drug Policy with the Italian Government
- International Summit "Rome Consensus 2.0" in Rome
- Minister Piantedosi's speech at "Rome Consensus 2.0"
- Presentation of the study on Overdose
- Free Street Testing for Sex Workers
- World HIV Day

### 47 PRESS AGENCY COVERAGE



### 203 PRESS ARTICLES - NATIONAL, LOCAL AND ONLINE

#### Main newspapers:

- 10 articles CORRIERE DELLA SERA
- 9 articles Il Messaggero
- 8 articles la Repubblica
- 4 articles Avvenire
- 3 articles TPI  
The Post Internazionale
- 3 articles IL GIORNO
- 3 articles il Resto del Carlino
- 3 articles Il Fatto Quotidiano
- 3 articles LA STAMPA
- 3 articles DAGOSPINA
- 2 articles IL FOGLIO
- 2 articles IL TEMPO  
MONTENAPOLI INDIPENDENTE

### 24 TV BROADCASTINGS INCLUDING:

- 5 on National and International Networks (Rai1; Rai2; Casa Italia; Canale 5)
- 8 on Regional Networks in Lazio (Rai3, Rete Oro)
- 11 on Online TV/Journalistic Platforms (Ansa Video, Il Fatto Quotidiano Video, La Presse, VD News, Roma Today, Cusano TV, Vita, Cusano News7)

## 31 VIDEOS PRODUCED



### Main Themes:

- Alternatives to Incarceration
- Prevention in Schools
- Overdose Day



**319** Tweets published  
on the official page



**Official Instagram Account**  
**319** posts, **247** stories, **1.743** followers



**239**  
Facebook Posts



**8.218** page followers  
as of December 31

**61.148** likes  
as of December 31



### POSTS WITH THE HIGHEST ENGAGEMENT:

- **5 OCTOBER** Cusano TV "Luca Battinelli's testimony and interview with Massimo Barra"  
84.230 people reached, 326 likes
- **19 AUGUST** "Marco's story" 7<sup>th</sup> episode of our video production  
61.805 people reached, 177 likes
- **11 AUGUST** "La storia di Marco" 3<sup>rd</sup> video episode our production  
60.596 people reached, 302 likes

**9 NEWS/STORYTELLING**  
su [www.villamaraini.it](http://www.villamaraini.it)



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**Service Manager:** Stefano Spada Menaglia

## • INDEX OF SERVICES OFFERED

The Foundation's services are differentiated by the **threshold level of access to the service**, which represents the level of motivation that the user should have to undergo the agreed therapy.

### Low Threshold Services

Street Unit	page 3
Mobile Unit	page 5
24-H Emergency Unit	page 7
Daily drop-in centre	page 8
Prison Project	page 10

### Medium Threshold Services

SPOT - Service for Psychotherapy, Observation and Treatment	page 12
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### High Threshold Services

Residential Therapeutic Community	page 14
Integrated Outpatient Treatment	page 16
Semi-Residential Therapeutic Community	page 18

### Medical Services

24-H Medical Centre	page 20
Infectious Diseases Unit	page 22

### Other Types of Services and Activities

International Activities	page 25
RCRC Partnership on Substance Abuse	page 27
Italian Red Cross	page 29
Internships, Volunteering, Training, Prevention and Supervision	page 31
Canteen Service	page 33
Communication Office	page 34



*Villa Maraini Foundation - Frascara Pavilion - Italian Red Cross compound - Rome*



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