



## Reaching migrants with integrated HIV and HCV testing offer

Partner Organisation(s):  
**Croce Rossa Italiana &**  
<http://www.cri.it>

**Fondazione Villa Maraini Onlus**  
<http://villamaraini.it>



### OVERVIEW

Limited uptake of HIV and STI testing outside of formal health care settings in Italy warranted the need to expand testing options to other settings, particularly among the most vulnerable populations such as migrants.

Although upon arrival to Italy migrants are screened for TB and other respiratory infections, no routine HIV/HCV/STI checks are done.

To explore the feasibility, and the need for integrated testing of migrants, a day long HIV/HCV information and testing event was held at a migrant centre managed by the Italian Red Cross in Rome.

### APPROACH



Two preparatory **meetings** with staff and half-day voluntary **information session** with migrants.



Information on communicable diseases and promotion of voluntary testing with **translated information materials**.



Informed consent and **risk behaviour questionnaire** provided.



Reactive **test results** sent for further testing at collaborative infectious disease clinic and treatment facility.

# Country Case Study: Italy



## HIGHLIGHTS

64

people tested for both HIV and HCV at the event

26

participants at the information session

76%

tested for the first time for HIV

89%

tested for the first time for HCV

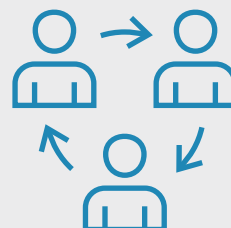
## LESSONS LEARNED



**High turnout for testing** despite low attendance at the information session pointed to the need and interest in using testing services despite associated taboos.



It is important to **adapt the questionnaire and other project documents** to reflect cultural specificities and translate into the main languages spoken by the participants.



**Close collaboration** with the migrant centre staff was essential to ensure sustainability of the intervention.



**Financial resources, staff training** and reflecting the testing needs of the target population must be taken into account when planning future interventions.