

MALTA Factsheet

Overview

Between 1 January and 31 March 2021, 65 persons disembarked in Malta. This is a 94% decrease compared to sea arrivals in the same period last year (there were 1135 sea arrivals to Malta from January to March 2020), while it is 72% less than the 237 sea arrivals in the same period of 2019.

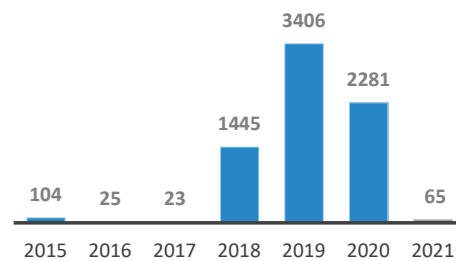
The last sea arrival to Malta was on 21 February. There were no arrivals in March.

The UNHCR team monitors disembarkations of persons rescued at sea, while providing interpretation support to the authorities and giving initial information on reception and asylum procedures to all new arrivals.

Sea arrivals in 2020
(as of end December 2020) **2,281**

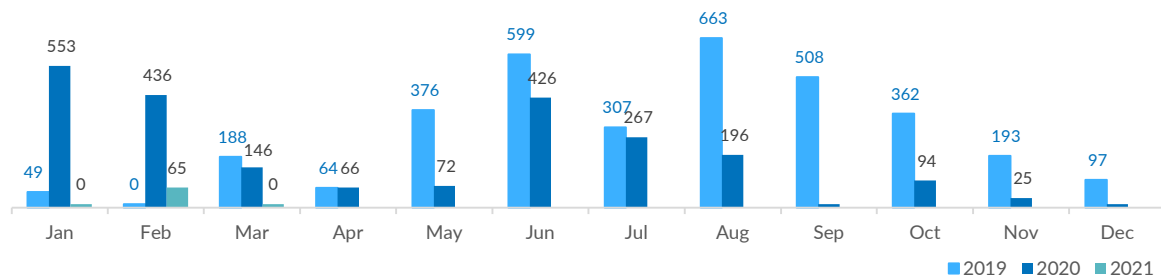
Sea arrivals in 2021
(as of 31 March 2021) **65**

Yearly sea arrivals
2015 - 2021 (until end of March)



Monthly Sea Arrivals

Jan 2019 - Mar 2021



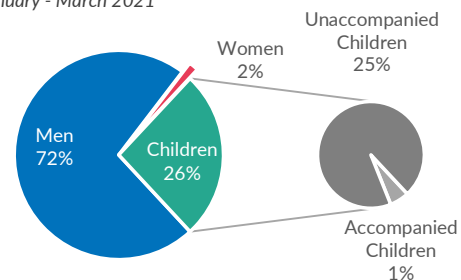
Age and Gender Demographics

Between 1 January and 31 March, most sea arrivals to Malta were adult men (72%), followed by unaccompanied and separated children (25%), adult women (2%) and accompanied children (1%).

There have been 16 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC)* arrivals in 2021.

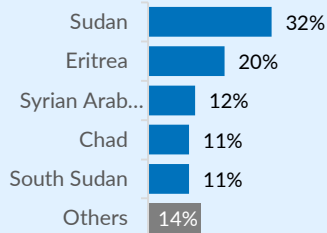
*Please note that this data is based on each individual's declared age on arrival, before any age assessment procedures have taken place.

January - March 2021



Sea Arrivals by Top 5 Nationalities

January - March 2021

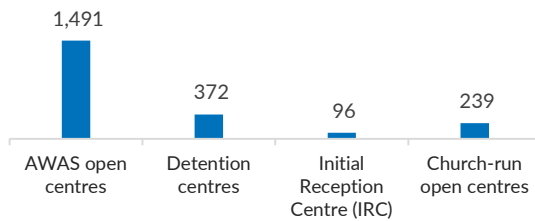


Demographics - Countries of origin

From January to March 2021, 21 persons, or 32% of sea arrivals originated from Sudan, followed by 13 persons from Eritrea (20%) and 8 persons from Syria (12%), 7 persons from Chad (11%) and 7 persons from South Sudan (11%).

Population in Reception Centres

March 2021



Note: The IRC has both 'open' and 'closed' sections.

UNHCR monitoring and activities

UNHCR visits open and closed centres to provide information on the asylum system, Dublin regulation, rights and obligations, and to refer persons of concern to appropriate services. UNHCR conducts child protection activities, detention monitoring and, through its implementing partners, provides legal aid and psycho-social support in centres.

Due to measures to combat COVID-19, since March 2020 UNHCR has strengthened its digital communications to provide information to persons of concern online and through Whatsapp. UNHCR and partner organisations have dedicated telephone helplines for refugees and asylum-seekers.

Asylum Applications and Decisions

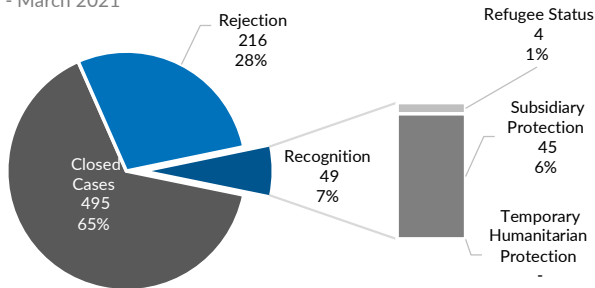
January - March 2021

In recent years the refugee population has been mainly composed of Libyan, Syrian and Somali refugees. Currently the rate of international protection (Refugee or Subsidiary Protection status) is 7% of total decisions.

'Closed cases' make up 65% of outcomes. Most of these relate to applications that were withdrawn, and applications that were closed because applicants were transferred to another EU country for relocation.

First Instance Asylum Applications - Decision Rates

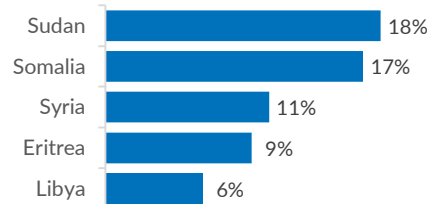
January - March 2021



TOTAL DECISIONS 760

Top 5 Nationalities

of First-Time Asylum Applicants
January - March 2021



TOTAL APPLICATIONS 447

Top 5 Nationalities

Granted International Protection
Refugee Status and Subsidiary Protection
Jan - Mar 2021

