

MALTA Factsheet

Overview

Between 1 January and 30 April 2021, there were 79 sea arrivals to Malta. This is a 93% decrease compared to the same period last year (1201 sea arrivals to Malta from January to April 2020), and 74% less than the 301 sea arrivals in the same period in 2019.

Of the 79 persons that arrived in Malta, 65 landed on Malta spontaneously in February, while 14 persons were rescued by the AFM in April. There were no sea arrivals in January or March 2021.

The UNHCR team attends and monitors disembarkations, 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)

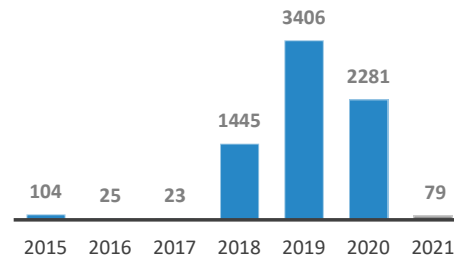
2,281

Sea arrivals in 2021
(as of 30 April 2021)

79

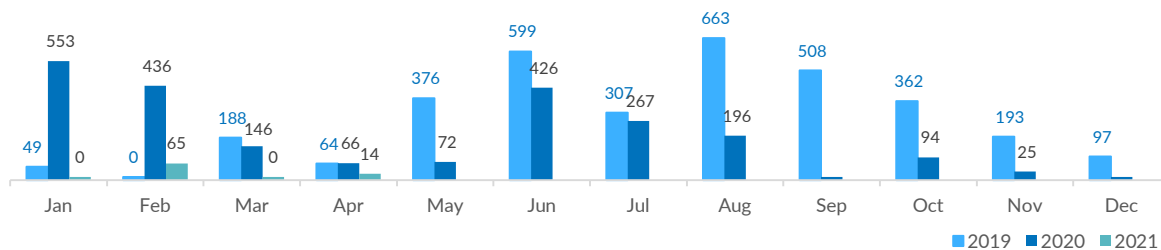
Yearly sea arrivals

2015 - 2021 (until end of April)



Monthly Sea Arrivals

Jan 2019 - Apr 2021



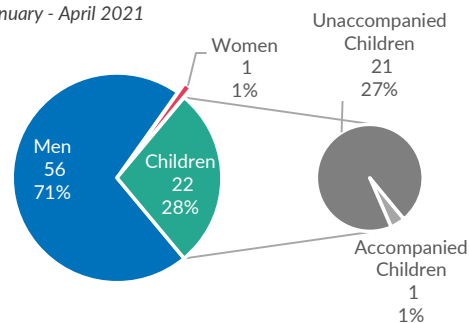
Age and Gender Demographics

Between 1 January and 30 April, most sea arrivals to Malta were adult men (71%), followed by unaccompanied and separated children (28%), adult women (1%) and accompanied children (1%).

There have been 21 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC)* arrivals in 2021.

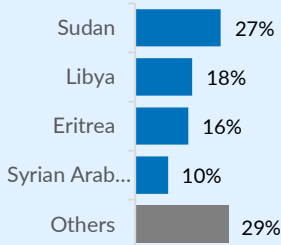
*Please note that this data is based on each individual's declared age on arrival, before any age assessment procedures have taken place.

January - April 2021



Sea Arrivals - Top 4 Nationalities

January - April 2021

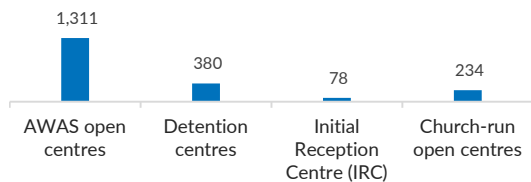


Demographics - Countries of origin

From January to April 2021, 21 persons, or 27% of sea arrivals originated from Sudan, followed by 14 persons from Libya (18%), 13 persons from Eritrea (16%), and 8 persons from Syria (10%). Other sea arrivals were from Chad (7%) and South Sudan (7%), among other countries.

Population in Reception Centres

April 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

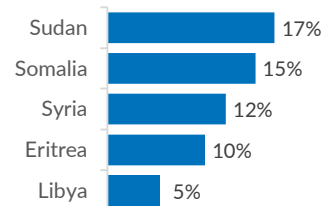
January - April 2021

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 8% of total decisions.

'Closed cases' make up 66% 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.

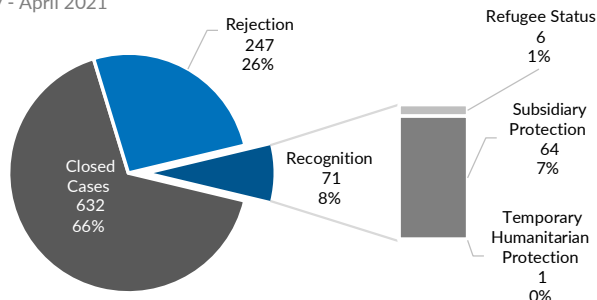
Top 5 Nationalities

of First-Time Asylum Applicants
January - April 2021



First Instance Asylum Applications - Decision Rates

January - April 2021



TOTAL DECISIONS 950

TOTAL APPLICATIONS 555

Top 5 Nationalities

Granted International Protection
Refugee Status and Subsidiary Protection

