

MALTA Factsheet

Overview

Between 1 January and 31 December 2021, there were 832 sea arrivals to Malta. This is a 63% decrease compared to the same period last year (2,281 sea arrivals to Malta from January to December 2020).

Of the 832 persons that arrived in Malta, 63 landed on Malta spontaneously in February and 49 in November. The AFM rescued 14 persons in April, 68 persons in May, 164 persons in July, 48 persons in August, 143 persons in October, 42 in November and 117 in December. Following NGO rescue, 2 persons were medically evacuated to Malta in February and 8 in August. In June, 97 persons were rescued by a private boat after which they were transboarded onto an AFM boat and brought to Malta. 17 persons were rescued by a merchant vessel and transboarded onto an AFM boat in December. There were no arrivals in January, March or September 2021.

The UNHCR team attends and monitors disembarkations, providing interpretation support to the authorities and

Sea arrivals in 2020
(as of end December 2020)

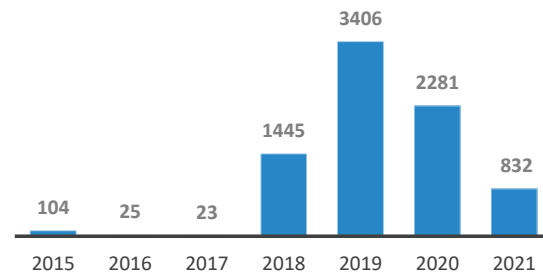
2,281

Sea arrivals in 2021
(as of 31 December 2021)

832

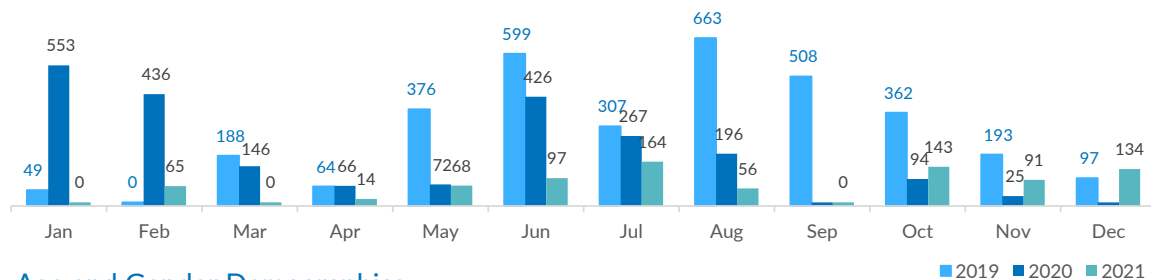
Yearly Sea Arrivals

2015 - 2021 (until end October)



Monthly Sea Arrivals

Jan 2019 - Dec 2021

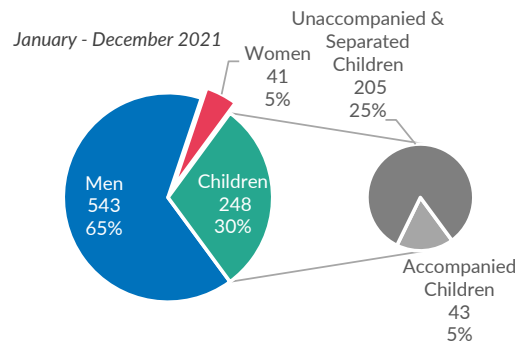


Age and Gender Demographics

Between 1 January and 31 December, most sea arrivals to Malta were adult men (65%), followed by unaccompanied and separated children (25%), accompanied children (5%) and adult women (5%).

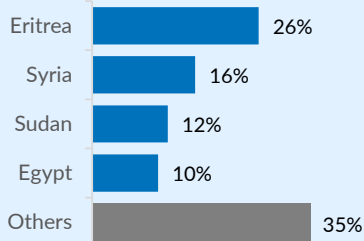
There have been 205 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC)* arrivals in 2021.

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



Sea Arrivals - Top 4 Nationalities

January - December 2021

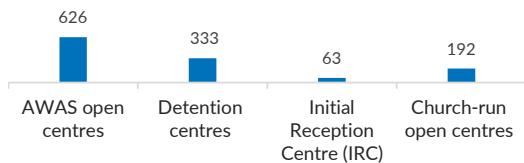


Demographics - Countries of origin

From January to December 2021, 220 persons (26%) arrived from Eritrea, 136 persons (16%) arrived from Syria and 100 persons (12%) arrived from Sudan. 87 persons (10%) arrived from Egypt, while 289 (35%) arrived from other countries of origin.

Population in Reception Centres

December 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.

Note: UNHCR does not have updated Detention Centre figures beyond 27/09/21.

Asylum Applications and Decisions

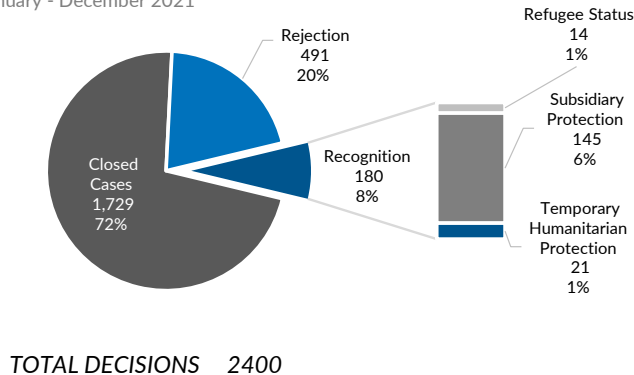
January - December 2021

In recent years the refugee population has been mainly composed of Libyan, Syrian and Somali refugees. Currently the rate of international protection (Refugee and Subsidiary Protection status) is 8% of total decisions.

There was a high number of 'Closed' cases, referring to applications that resulted in an administrative closure, Dublin closure, or applications that are explicitly withdrawn, implicitly withdrawn or inadmissible.

First Instance Asylum Applications - Decision Rates

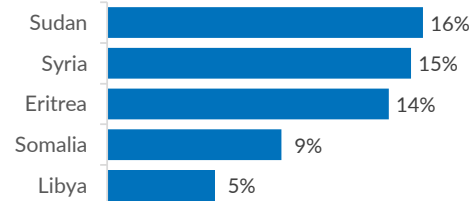
January - December 2021



First-time Asylum Applicants

Top 5 Nationalities

January - December 2021



TOTAL APPLICATIONS 1190

International Protection Rates

Refugee Status and Subsidiary Protection
Top 5 nationalities; Jan - Dec 2021

