MALTA Factsheet

Overview

Between 1 January and 28 February 2021, 65 persons disembarked in Malta. This is a 93% decrease compared to sea arrivals in the same period last year (there were 989 sea arrivals to Malta in January and February 2020).

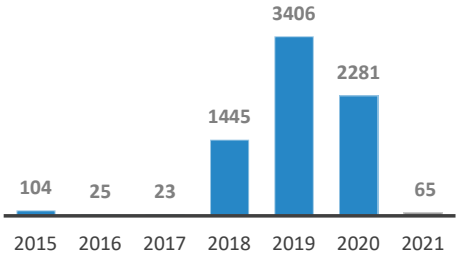
The UNHCR team monitors disembarkations, while providing interpretation support to the authorities and giving initial information on reception and asylum procedures to all new arrivals.

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

Sea arrivals in 2021
(as of 28 February 2021) **65**

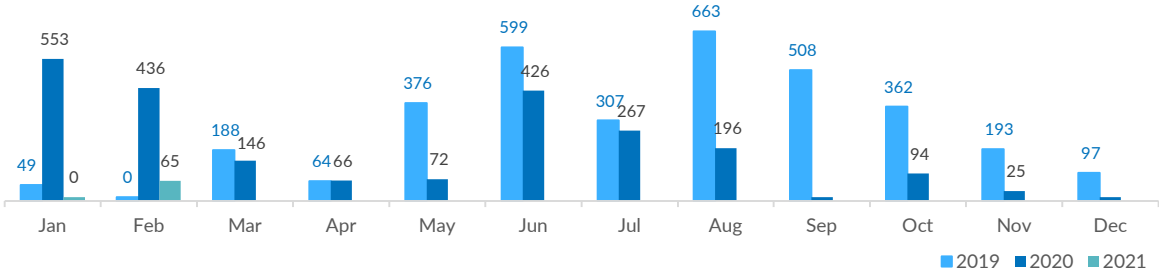
Sea Arrivals by Boat per Year

2015 - 2021 (until end of February)



Monthly Sea Arrivals

Jan 2019 - Feb 2021



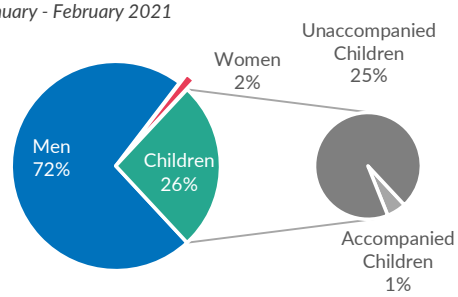
Age and Gender Demographics

Between 1 January and 28 February, 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 - February 2021



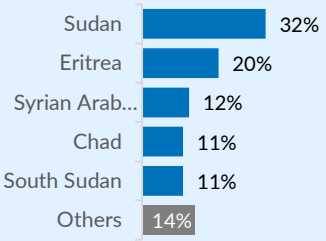
** Data updated to 28 Feb 2021*

Malta Factsheet

28 February 2021

Sea Arrivals by Top 5 Nationalities

January - February 2021



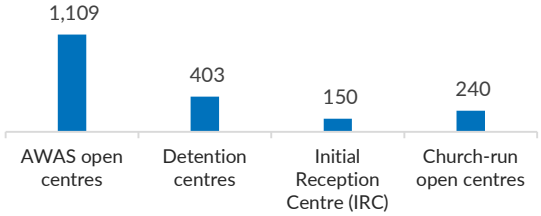
Demographics - Countries of origin

From January to February 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%)

In the same period last year, the most common nationalities of sea arrivals were Sudan (32%), Bangladesh (19%), Somalia (17%), Morocco (4%) and Guinea (4%).

Population in Reception Centres

February 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.

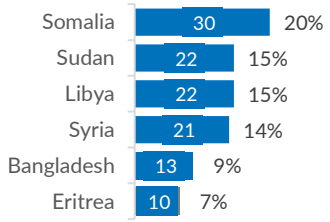
Asylum Applications and Decisions

January 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 1% of total decisions, based on January 2021 data. There are a high number of 'closed' cases (79%), which refers to applications that result in an administrative closure, Dublin closure, or applications that are explicitly withdrawn, implicitly withdrawn or inadmissible.

Top 6 Nationalities

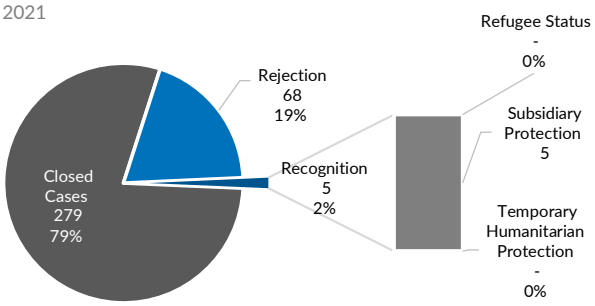
of first-instance asylum applicants
January 2021



TOTAL APPLICATIONS 149

First Instance Asylum Applications - Decision Rates

January 2021



TOTAL DECISIONS 352

International Protection - Demographics

In January 2021, five persons were granted Subsidiary Protection: 3 from Somalia, 1 from Libya and 1 from Syria.

While every effort has been made to ensure that all statistical information is accurately presented, for official statistics, please refer to the original sources (these include Immigration Police, the International Protection Agency and the Ministry for Home Affairs). Some numbers may be rounded off.