

MALTA Factsheet

Overview

By the end of April 2020, a total of 1,201 people were rescued at sea and disembarked in Malta this year.

Of these arrivals, 1,121 were rescued by the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM), while 80 persons were rescued by a SAR NGO vessel. These 80 persons were disembarked in Malta on 25 January.

There were 553 arrivals in January and 436 in February, a record of arrivals for the first two months of the year. In March, 146 people disembarked in Malta. On 9 April, 66 people were rescued and disembarked in Malta by the AFM, and on the same day the Government announced that due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, it would not be guaranteeing a port of safety for persons rescued at sea.

When people are rescued and brought to Malta, UNHCR is present at disembarkation to monitor, give initial information on reception procedures, provide interpretation and any other support needed.

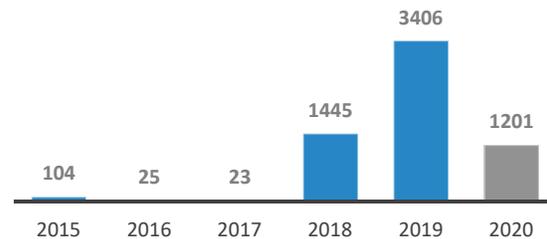
Sea arrivals in 2019
(as of end December 2019)

3,406

Sea arrivals in 2020
(as of 30 April 2020)

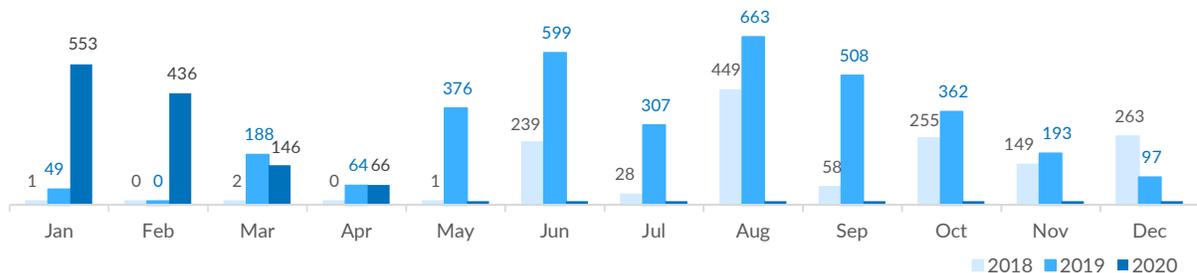
1,201

Yearly Sea Arrivals
Jan 2015 - Apr 2020



Monthly Sea Arrivals

January 2018 - April 2020



Age and Gender Demographics

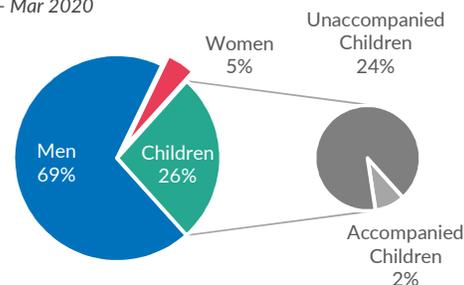
Between 1 January and 31 March 2020, most people who arrived by sea were adult men (69%), followed by unaccompanied and separated children (24%), adult women (5%) and accompanied children (2%).

275 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC)* have reached Maltese shores between 1 January and 31 March 2020.

*Please note that this data is recorded before any age assessment procedures have taken place.

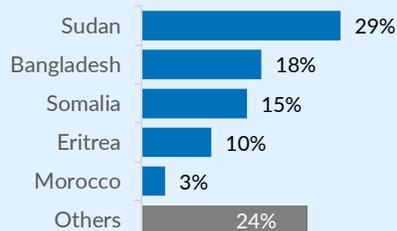
Sea Arrivals - Demographics

Jan - Mar 2020



Sea Arrivals by Top 5 Nationalities

Jan - Mar 2020

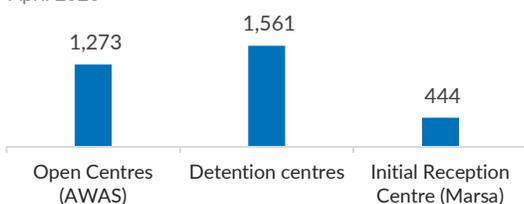


Demographics - Countries of origin

Between 1 January and 31 March 2020, 331 persons or 29% who arrived by sea originated from Sudan, followed by 199 persons from Bangladesh (18%), 175 persons from Somalia (15%), 116 persons from Eritrea (10%), and 39 persons from Morocco (3%).

Population in Open and Closed Centres

April 2020



Note: This does not include centres run by the Church

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 psychological support in centres.

Due to restrictions on public gathering to combat COVID-19, since March 2020 UNHCR has strengthened its digital communications to provide information on COVID-19 to persons of concern. UNHCR and partner organisations have also set up dedicated telephone helplines for refugees and asylum-seekers.

Asylum Applications and Decisions

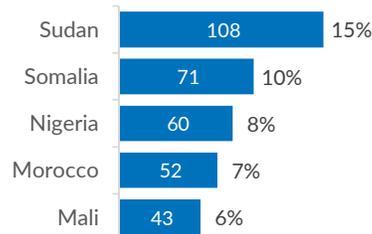
Jan - Mar 2020

In recent years the refugee population has been mainly composed of Libyan, Syrian and Somali refugees. In 2020 the rate of international protection (Refugee or Subsidiary Protection status) so far is 28% of total decisions by RefCom. There are a high number of 'Closed' cases, which refers to applications that result in an administrative closure, Dublin closure, or applications that are explicitly withdrawn, implicitly withdrawn or inadmissible.

Top 5 Nationalities

by First-Time Asylum Applications

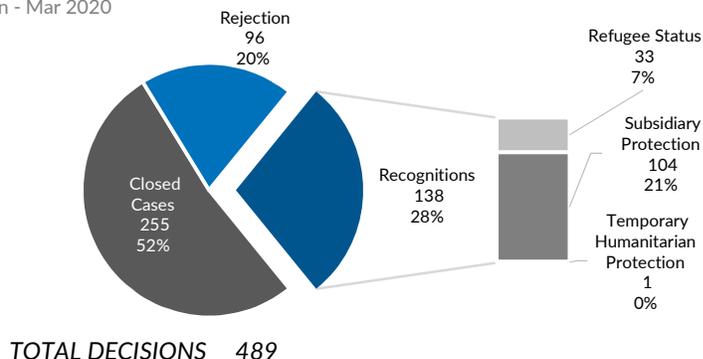
Jan - Mar 2020



TOTAL APPLICATIONS 737

First-Time Asylum Applications - Decision Rates

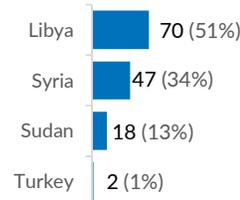
Jan - Mar 2020



Top 4 Nationalities

Granted International Protection - Jan-Mar 2020

Refugee Status and Subsidiary Protection



TOTAL GRANTED 137