

MALTA Factsheet

Overview

Between 1 January and 31 July 2021, there were 408 sea arrivals to Malta. This is a 79% decrease compared to the same period last year (1,966 sea arrivals to Malta from January to July 2020).

Of the 408 persons that arrived in Malta, 65 landed on Malta spontaneously in February. The AFM rescued 14 persons in April, 68 persons in May, 97 persons in June, and 164 people in July. There were no 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)

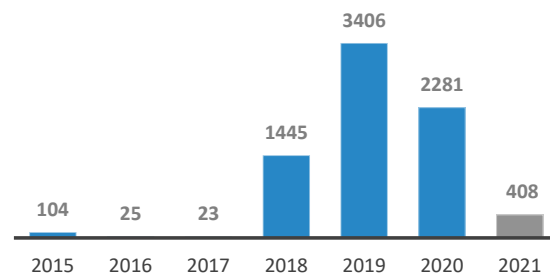
2,281

Sea arrivals in 2021
(as of 31 July 2021)

408

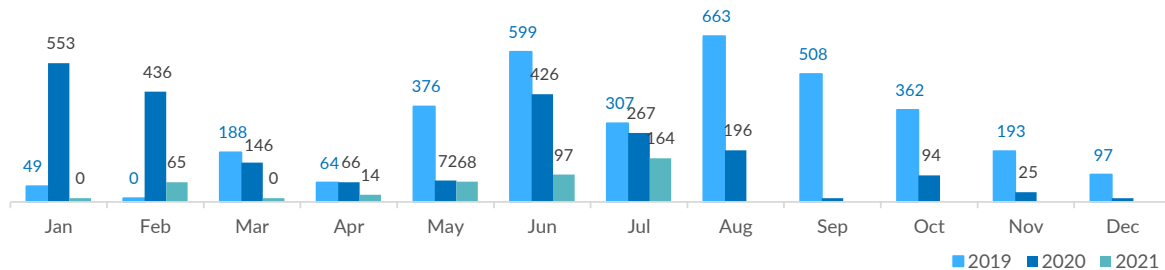
Yearly Sea Arrivals

2015 - 2021 (until end July)



Monthly Sea Arrivals

Jan 2019 - Jul 2021

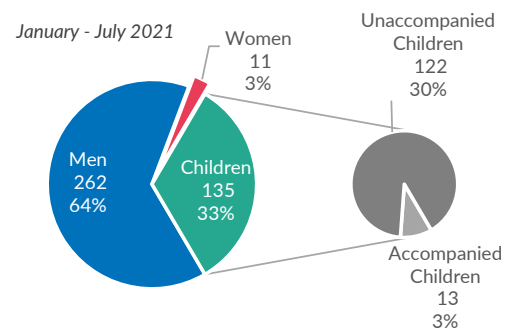


Age and Gender Demographics

Between 1 January and 31 July, most sea arrivals to Malta were adult men (64%), followed by unaccompanied and separated children (30%), adult women (3%) and accompanied children (3%).

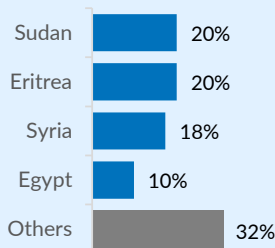
There have been 122 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC)* arrivals in 2021.

*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 - July 2021

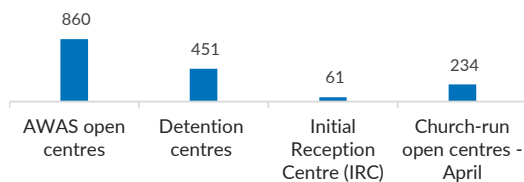


Demographics - Countries of origin

From January to July 2021, 83 persons, or 20% of sea arrivals originated from Sudan, with the same number arriving from Eritrea (20%), 72 persons from Syria (18%), and 41 from Egypt (10%), among other countries of origin.

Population in Reception Centres

July 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

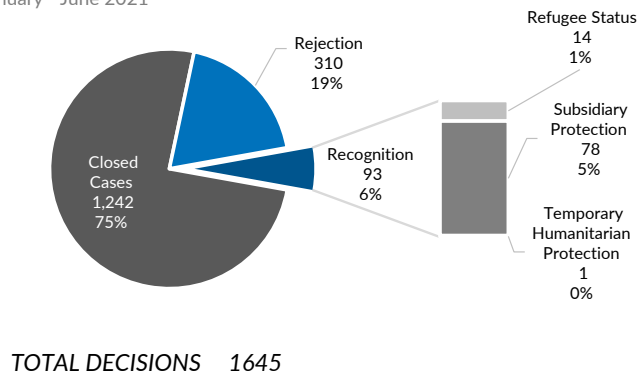
January - June 2021

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 6% 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

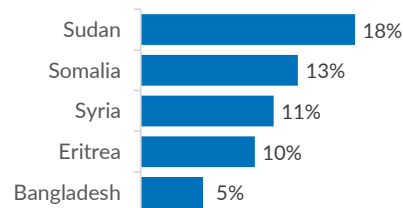
January - June 2021



First-time Asylum Applicants

Top 5 Nationalities

January - June 2021



TOTAL APPLICATIONS 685

International Protection Rates

Refugee Status and Subsidiary Protection

Top 6 nationalities; Jan - Jun 2021

