Overview

Between 1 January and 30 June 2021, there were 244 sea arrivals to Malta. This is a 86% decrease compared to the same period last year (1699 sea arrivals to Malta from 1 January to June 2020).

Of the 244 persons that arrived in Malta, 65 landed on Malta spontaneously in February. The AFM rescued 14 persons in April, 68 persons in May, and 97 persons in June. 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.

Monthly Sea Arrivals
Jan 2019 - Jun 2021

Age and Gender Demographics

Between 1 January and 30 June, most sea arrivals to Malta were adult men (67%), followed by unaccompanied and separated children (29%), adult women (2%) and accompanied children (2%).

There have been 71 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 - June 2021

- Sudan: 27%
- Syria: 22%
- Eritrea: 16%
- Egypt: 9%
- Others: 27%

Demographics - Countries of origin

From January to June 2021, 65 persons, or 27% of sea arrivals originated from Sudan, followed by 53 persons from Syria (22%), 38 persons from Eritrea (16%), and 22 from Egypt (9%), among other countries of origin.

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.

First-time Asylum Applicants
Top 5 Nationalities
January - May 2021

- Sudan: 17%
- Somalia: 14%
- Syria: 12%
- Eritrea: 10%
- Libya: 5%

First Instance Asylum Applications - Decision Rates
January - May 2021

- Rejection: 287 (20%)
- Recognition: 83 (6%)
- Temporary Humanitarian Protection: 1 (0%)
- Subsidiary Protection: 69 (5%)
- Refugee Status: 13 (1%)

TOTAL DECISIONS
1418

International Protection Rates
Refugee Status and Subsidiary Protection
Top 6 Nationalities; Jan - May 2021

- Libya: 41%; 34%
- Syria: 35%; 29%
- Sudan: 6%; 5
- Palestine: 5%; 4
- Eritrea: 4%; 3
- Somalia: 4%; 3
- Others: 5%; 4

TOTAL APPLICATIONS
630

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
data.unhcr.org/mediterranean

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 the Ministry for Home Affairs, Immigration Police, and the International Protection Agency. Some numbers may be rounded off.