

# MALTA Sea Arrivals

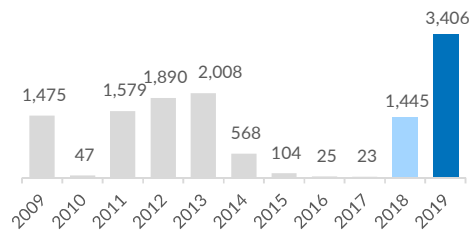


## Overview

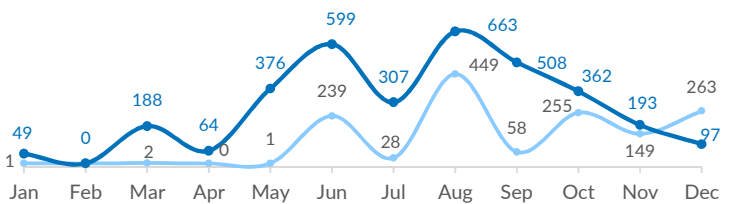
The main countries of arrival by sea of refugees and migrants in Europe, are Greece, Spain, Italy, Malta and Cyprus. Malta is located in the Central Mediterranean. In 2019, people who were rescued at sea and disembarked in Malta mostly departed from Libya. In 2019, the estimate numbers of persons who died or went missing at sea was 1,845 people.

## Malta at a Glance

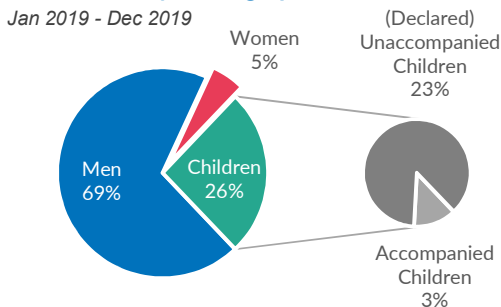
**Yearly Sea Arrivals by Boat**  
2009 - 2019



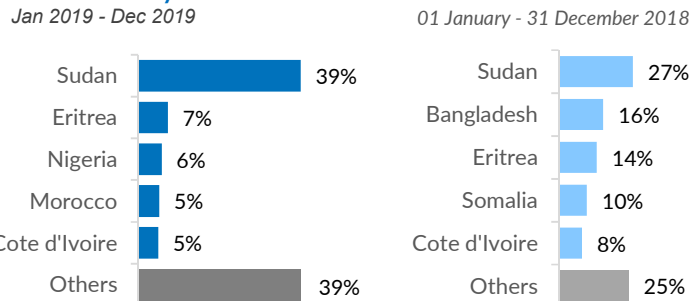
**Monthly Sea Arrivals by Boat**  
2018 - 2019



**Sea Arrivals by Demographics**  
Jan 2019 - Dec 2019

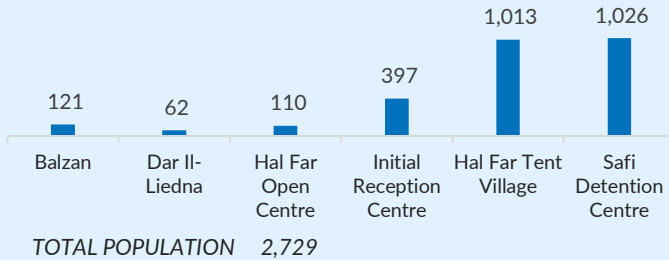


**Sea Arrivals by Most Common Nationalities**  
Jan 2019 - Dec 2019



**Population in Open and Closed Centres**

Jul 2019 - Aug 2019



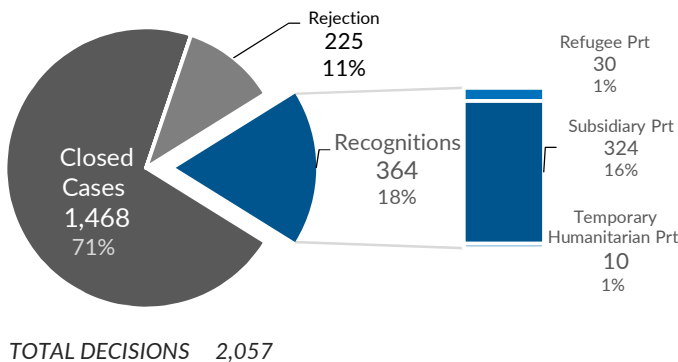
UNHCR protection staff visit open centres and the Initial Reception Centres to provide information on the asylum system, Dublin regulation, rights and obligations of asylum-seekers in Malta and to refer persons of concern to appropriate services. UNHCR also conducts child protection activities, detention monitoring and, through its implementing partners, provides psychological support in centres.

**Asylum Applications and Decisions**

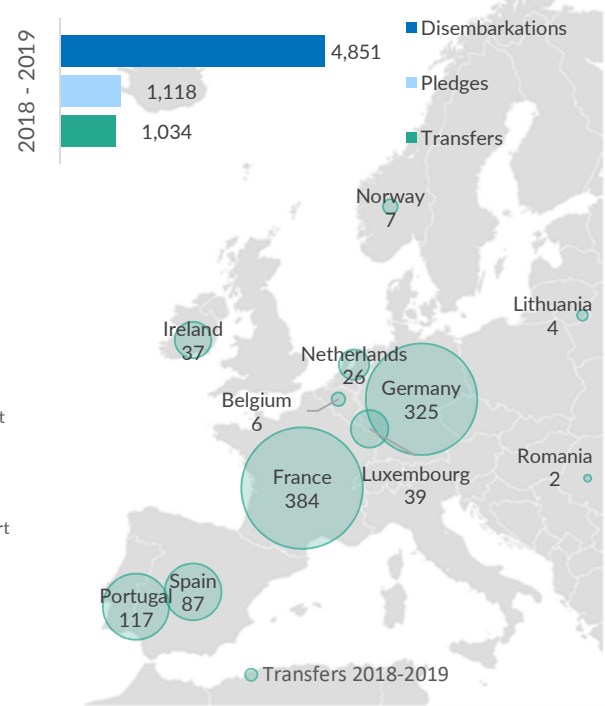
In recent years the refugee population has been mainly composed of Libyan, Syrian and Somali refugees. In 2019 the rate of international protection (Refugee or Subsidiary Protection status) was 17% of total decisions by RefCom. There was a high number of 'Closed' cases, referring to applications that resulted in an administrative closure, Dublin closure, or applications that are explicitly withdrawn, implicitly withdrawn or inadmissible.

**First-Time Asylum Applications Decision Statistics**

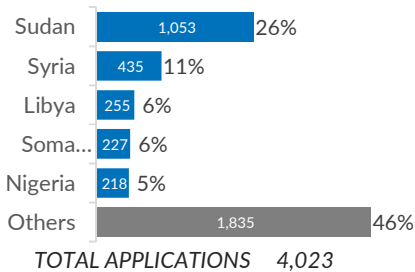
01 January - 31 December 2020



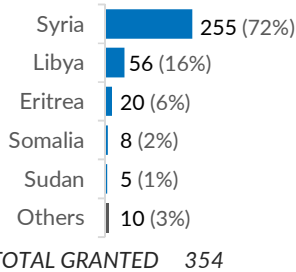
**EU Member States: Number of Pledges and Transfers of people who disembarked in Malta**



**Most Common Nationalities by First-Time Asylum Applications**



**Most Common Nationalities Granted International Protection (Refugee Status or Subsidiary Protection)**



**Ad hoc relocation agreements**

Since 2018, a number of ad hoc relocation agreements between Member States have resulted in around 1,000 persons rescued at sea being transferred from Malta to other EU countries, mostly France, Germany, Portugal, Spain, Luxembourg and Ireland. Malta has also been part of these ad hoc arrangements.