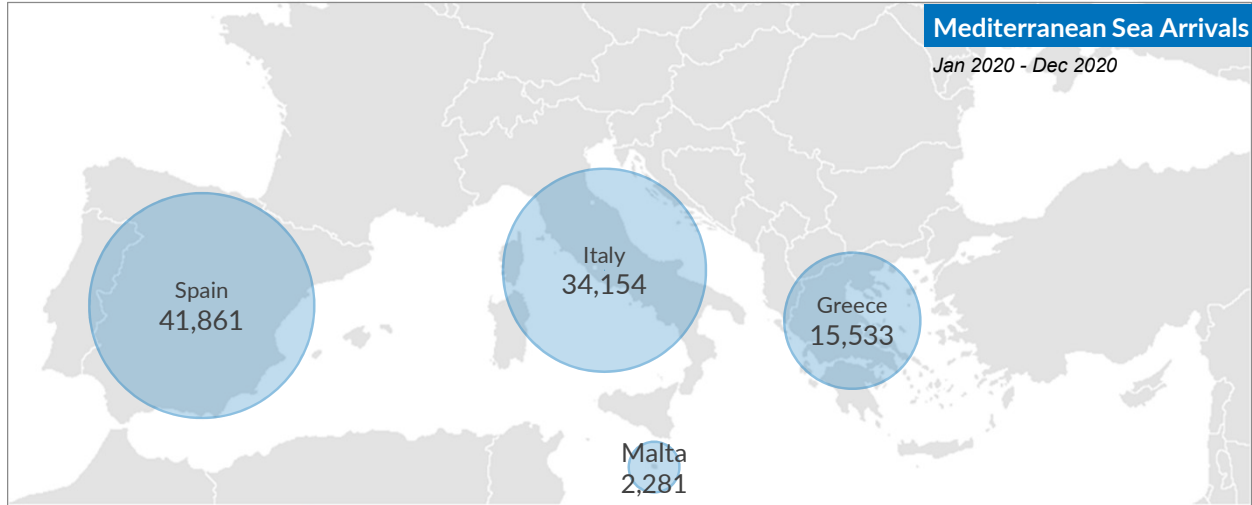


# MALTA Sea Arrivals

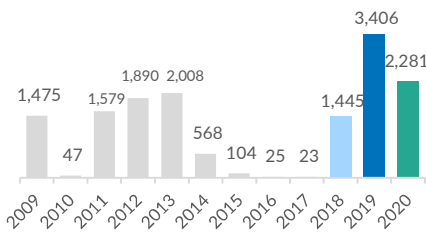


## Overview

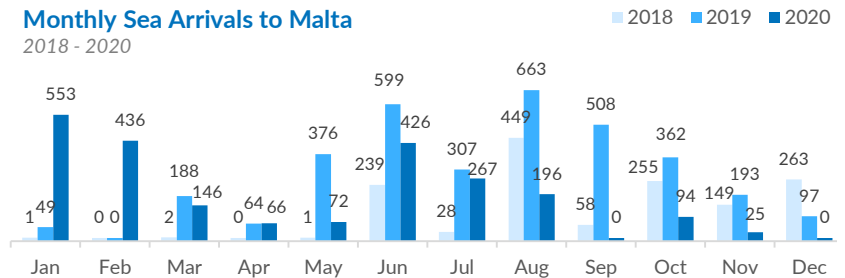
In 2020, some 94,000 refugees and migrants crossed the Mediterranean by sea and arrived in Europe. Refugees and migrants who were rescued at sea and disembarked in Malta mostly departed from Libyan shores, with a small number who departed from Tunisia. In 2020, Italy experienced a 197% rise in sea arrivals, while Malta received 33% fewer sea arrivals than in 2019. The estimated number of persons who died or went missing at sea is 1,064 people.

## Malta at a Glance

**Sea Arrivals to Malta**  
2009 - 2020

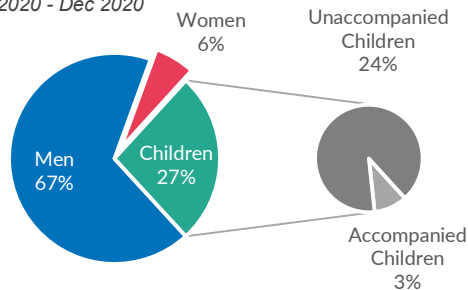


**Monthly Sea Arrivals to Malta**  
2018 - 2020



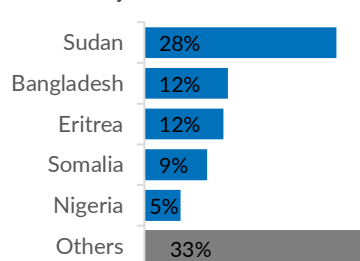
## Sea Arrivals by Demographics

Jan 2020 - Dec 2020

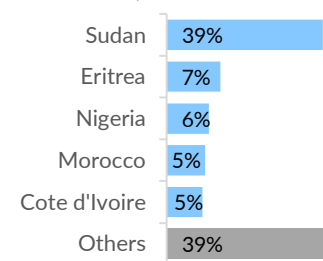


## Top 5 Nationalities of Sea Arrivals

1 January - 31 December 2020

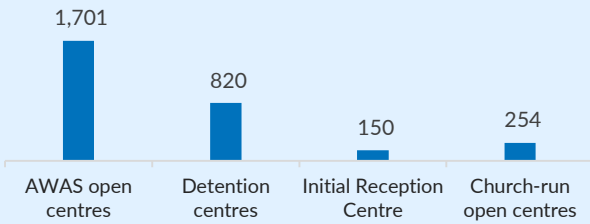


1 January - 31 December 2019



**Population in Reception Centres**

December 2020



**Reception**

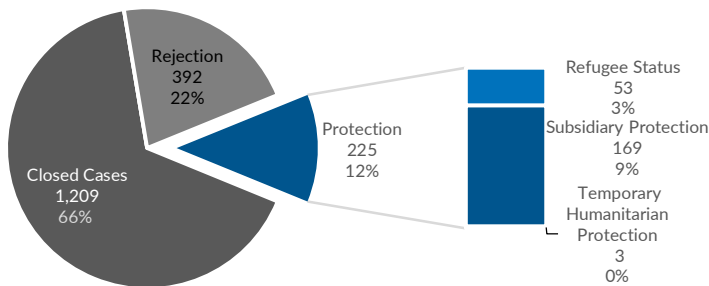
UNHCR Malta staff visit open and closed centres to provide information on the asylum system, Dublin regulation, rights and obligations of asylum-seekers and to refer persons of concern to appropriate services. UNHCR conducts child protection activities, detention monitoring and, through its implementing partners, psychological support in all centres. In 2020 UNHCR set up a helpline and digital resources for refugees, so that when COVID-19 restrictions on gathering prevented UNHCR outreach activities, refugees were still able to contact and receive information from UNHCR.

**Asylum Applications and Decisions**

In recent years the refugee population has been mainly composed of Libyan, Syrian and Somali refugees. In 2020 the rate of international protection (applicants granted Refugee or Subsidiary Protection status) was 13% of total decisions. There were a high number of 'closed' cases (66%), which refers to applications that resulted in an administrative closure or Dublin closure, or applications that were explicitly withdrawn, implicitly withdrawn or inadmissible.

**First-Time Asylum Applications Decision**

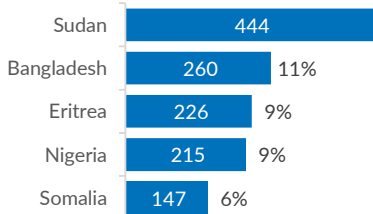
1 January - 31 December 2020



TOTAL DECISIONS 1826

**Most Common Nationalities**

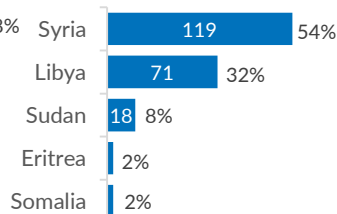
of First-Time Asylum Applicants  
Jan - Dec 2020



TOTAL APPLICATIONS 2412

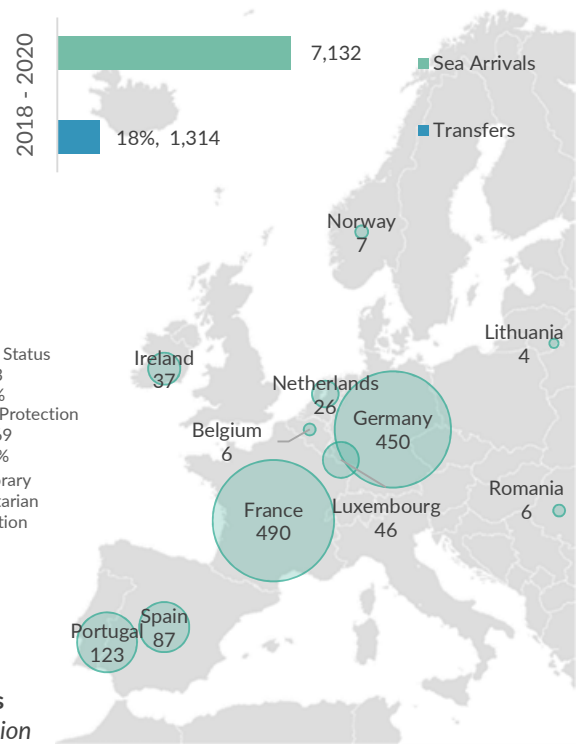
**Most Common Nationalities**

Granted International Protection  
Refugee Status and Subsidiary Protection



TOTAL GRANTED 222

**Relocations from Malta to EU Member States 2018 - 2020**



**Transfers to EU Member States after disembarkation in Malta**

From 2018 to 2020, 1,314 asylum-seekers have been relocated from Malta to other Member States. Most relocations have been to France, Germany, Portugal, and Spain.