

# MALTA Factsheet

## Overview

Between 1 January and 30 June 2020, a total of 1,699 persons were rescued at sea and disembarked in Malta. This is a 33% increase compared to sea arrivals in the same period last year (1,276).

January and February 2020 saw a high number of sea arrivals (989 people in two months), with fewer in March (146). On 9 April, the Government announced that it would not be guaranteeing a port of safety for persons rescued at sea, due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, and there were only 66 arrivals in April. Throughout May, 425 persons rescued in four different SAR operations were held offshore on Government-chartered vessels, while 72 persons were allowed to disembark (families, children and medically evacuated persons). On 6 June, all persons held on offshore vessels were permitted to disembark in Malta.

UNHCR attends disembarkation of rescued persons for monitoring purposes, to give persons of concern initial information on reception and asylum procedures, to provide interpretation and any other support needed.

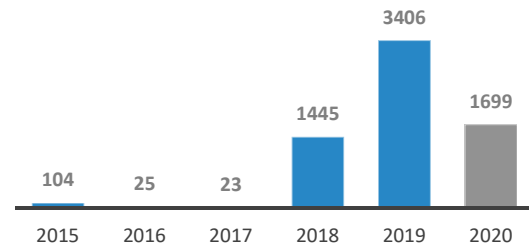
Sea arrivals in 2019  
(as of end December 2019)

**3,406**

Sea arrivals in 2020  
(as of 30 June 2020)

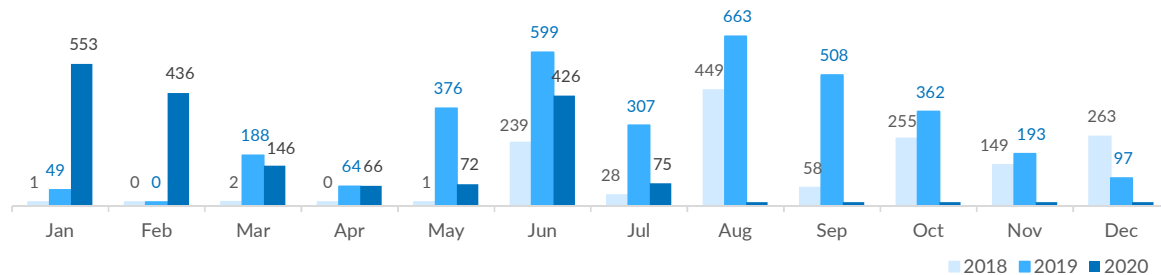
**1,699**

Yearly Sea Arrivals  
Jan 2015 - June 2020



## Monthly Sea Arrivals

January 2018 - June 2020



## Age and Gender Demographics

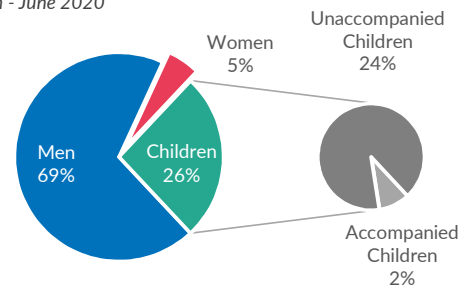
Between 1 January and 30 June 2020, most people who arrived by sea were adult men (69%), followed by unaccompanied and separated children (24%), adult women (5%) and accompanied children (2%).

395 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC)\* have reached Maltese shores between 1 January and 30 June 2020. This is a 35% increase compared to the arrivals of unaccompanied and separated children in the same period in 2019 (293). Between 1 January and 30 June 2020, unaccompanied children originated predominantly from Sudan (27%), Somalia (23%), Bangladesh (18%) and Cote d'Ivoire (7%).

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

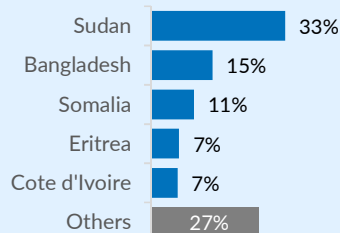
## Sea Arrivals - Demographics

Jan - June 2020



### Sea Arrivals by Top 5 Nationalities

Jan - June 2020

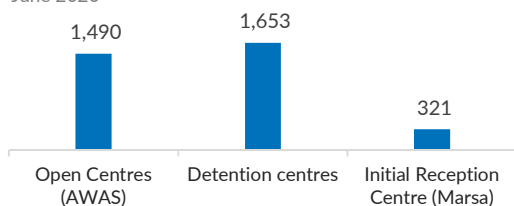


### Demographics - Countries of origin

Between 1 January and 30 June 2020, 33% of persons who arrive by sea originated from Sudan, followed by Bangladesh (15%), Somalia (11%), Eritrea (7%) and Cote d'Ivoire (7%). In the same period last year, the most common nationalities of sea arrivals were Sudan, Eritrea, Nigeria, Morocco and Bangladesh. The first half of 2020 saw an increase (805%) of nationals from Somalia, an increase (314%) of nationals from Bangladesh, and (113%) nationals from Guinea.

### Population in Open and Closed Centres

June 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

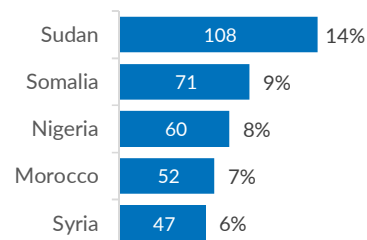
Jan - May 2020

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 21% 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 Instance Asylum Applications

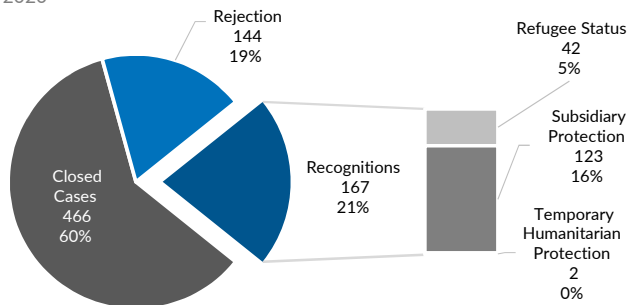
Jan - May 2020



TOTAL APPLICATIONS 759

### First Instance Asylum Applications - Decision Rates

Jan - May 2020

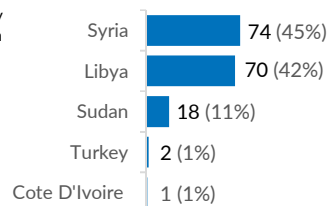


TOTAL DECISIONS 777

### Top 4 Nationalities

Granted International Protection - Jan-May 2020

Refugee Status and Subsidiary Protection



TOTAL GRANTED 165