

# MALTA 2022 Factsheet

## Overview

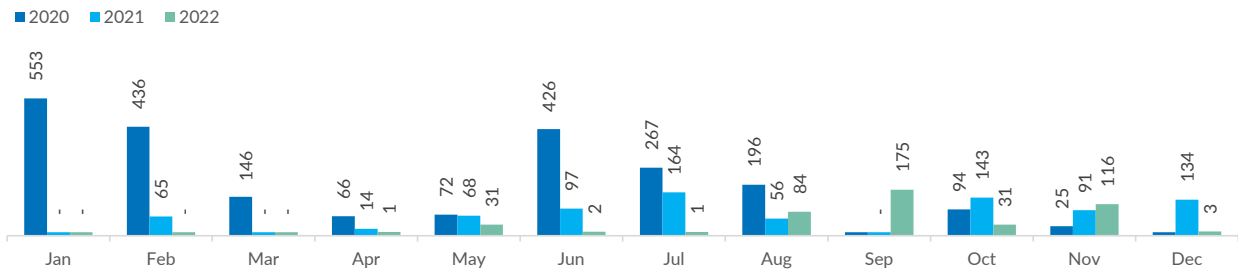
Between 1 January and 31 December 2022, there were 444 sea arrivals to Malta (12 persons were airlifted by AFM as medical evacuations, 23 persons arrived spontaneously, whilst 409 persons were rescued by AFM at sea). This represents a 47% decrease compared to 2021.

While boats departed mainly from Libya, two boats also departed from Lebanon and were rescued by AFM in the Maltese SRR and disembarked in Malta. In 2022, there were no sea arrivals from Eritrea and Sudan, which represented 26% and 12%, respectively, of arrivals in 2021. However, 2022 saw a much greater proportion of those rescued coming from Bangladesh (51%) and from the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria) (28% in 2022, as opposed to 16% in 2021).

The average age of those arriving by sea in 2022 was 26. As with previous years, arrivals are mostly adult males (80%). However, the two boats that departed from Lebanon brought more family units and, in particular, children, the majority of whom are accompanied by parents.

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

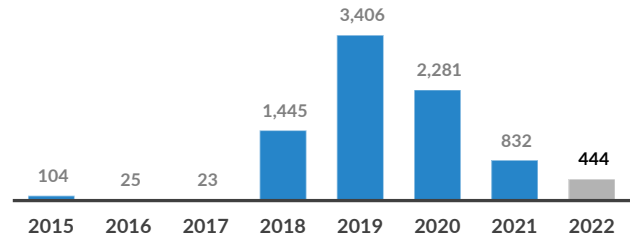


## Demographics

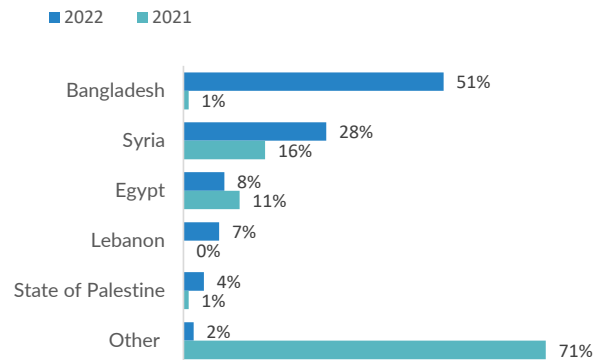
In 2022, 80% (357) of arrivals were adult males, 7% (29) adult females, and 13% (58) children (incl. unaccompanied and separated children). In comparison to 2021, although the number of adult females remains low (5% in 2021), there was a sharp increase in the arrival of adult males (65% in 2021).

According to AWAS, 17 persons were assessed as unaccompanied minors and 10 were separated children. Moreover, 33 persons changed their date of birth during their registration before IPA during 2022. Of those, nine have been age assessed as minors.

## Sea arrivals per year

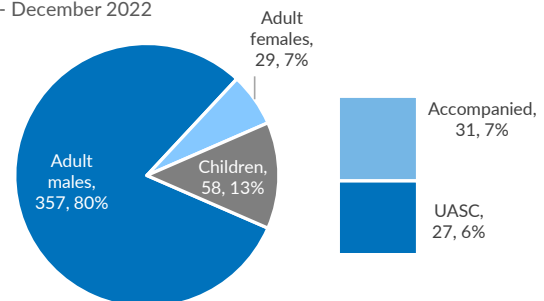


## Sea arrivals top countries of origin



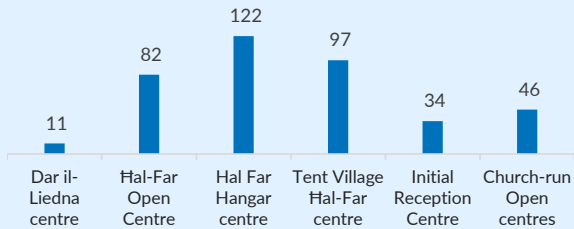
## Sea arrivals demographics breakdown

January - December 2022



### Population in open reception centres

(as of 2 December 2022)



Total reception population: **392** / Capacity: **2,964**

UNHCR has not received detention data since September 2021

### UNHCR 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 the appropriate services. UNHCR is present during disembarkations and works closely with persons of concern, partners and the authorities to strengthen their capacity and ensure access to international protection and durable solutions. UNHCR, through its partners, also provides legal aid and psycho-social support to persons of concern.

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. UNHCR has also resumed meeting persons of concern face-to-face at the Office premises in Ta' Xbiex.

In 2022, UNHCR met approximately 91 persons for information counselling sessions in detention centres.

### Asylum Applications and Decisions

January - December 2022

Nationals from Syria, Eritrea and Bangladesh were amongst the top three nationalities applying for international protection in Malta in 2022.

The refugee population is mainly composed of Syrian, Eritrean and Libyan nationals. As of 31 December 2022, the recognition rate (grants of Refugee Status or Subsidiary Protection status) stood at 6%, compared to 8% for 2021. In contrast, the rejection rate increased from 20% in 2021 to 34% of the decisions issued in 2022.

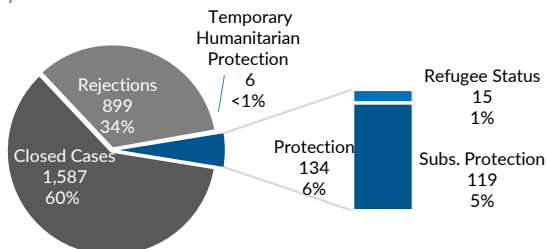
As in 2021, up to December 2022, there was a high number of 'Closed' cases (60%), referring to decisions comprising of administrative closures (288), Dublin closures (97), exclusions (1) or applications that are explicitly withdrawn (93), implicitly withdrawn (1,019) or deemed inadmissible (89). Temporary humanitarian protection was also granted to 6 individuals in 2022 in comparison to 21 in 2021.

In addition, access to asylum procedures for unaccompanied minors has greatly improved through 2022.

With regard to implementing the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) for those fleeing the war in Ukraine, Malta granted 1,635 Temporary Protection Certificates in 2022. 99% of those were granted to Ukrainian citizens with the remainder to qualifying third country nationals. For more data, please see UNHCR's data portal for the Ukraine Refugee Situation at: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location>

### Asylum applications' decision statistics

January - December 2022

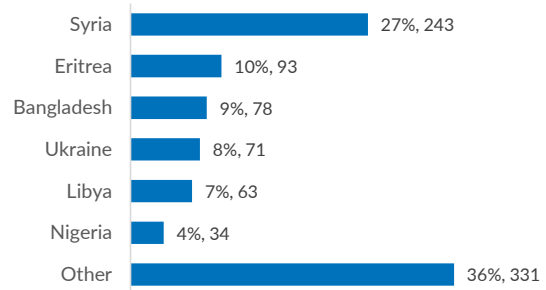


Total decisions issued\*: **2,626**

\*excluding 11 cases of withdrawal status

### First-time asylum applications

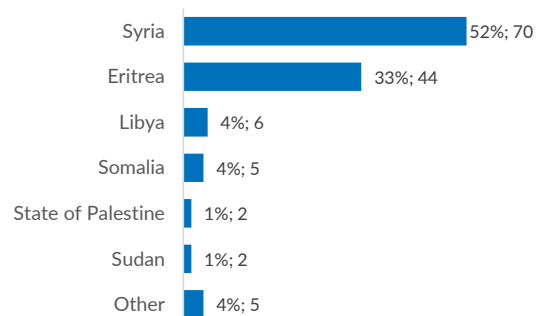
Top 6 nationalities in 2022



Total first-applications lodged: **913**

### Granted international protection (refugee and subsidiary protection)

Top 6 nationalities in 2022



Total grants of protection\*: **134**

\*excluding the Ukrainian cases under the TPD