

Malta

January – December 2023

Overview

Between January and December 2023, there were 380 sea arrivals in Malta (including three medical evacuations). This compares to 444 in 2022, 832 in 2021 and 2,281 in 2020.

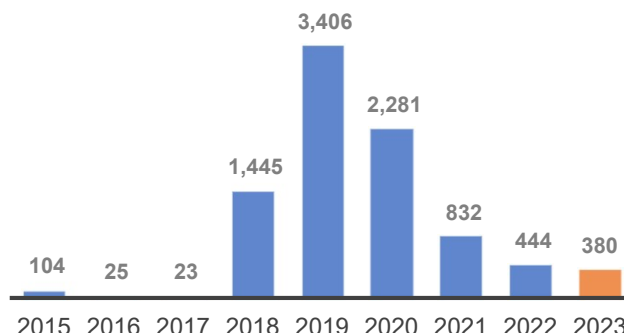
85% of arrivals departed from Libya, whilst the remaining 15% departed from Tunisia. Of the 2023 arrivals, 62% (234) were Bangladeshi, 9% (33) were Syrian, 7% (28) were Guinean, 3% (7) were Cameroonian, 3% (13) were Egyptian, 2% (7) were Sudanese, other nationalities comprised 3% (11) and the remaining were unknown to UNHCR, 12% (47).

The above marks a change in the composition of nationalities of arrivals in comparison to 2022, where 51% of arrivals were Bangladeshi, 28% were Syrian and 8% were Egyptian.

UNHCR's protection team attends and monitors disembarkations, providing support to the authorities and giving initial information on reception and asylum procedures to all new arrivals.

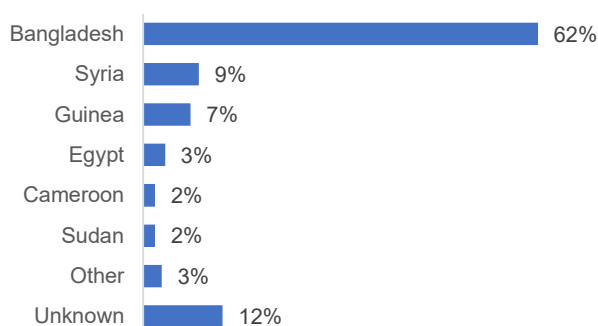
Sea Arrivals per Year

2015-2023



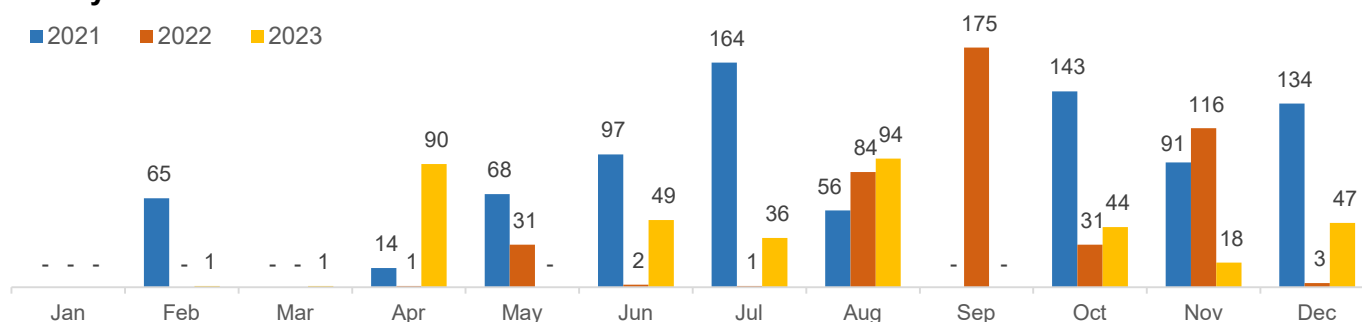
Sea Arrivals Nationalities

as of 31 December 2023



Monthly Sea Arrivals

■ 2021 ■ 2022 ■ 2023



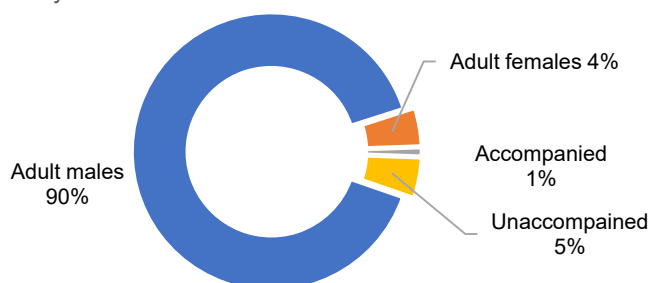
Arrivals Demographics

An increasing majority of arrivals in 2023 were adult males: 90% (342), compared to 80% in 2022 and 61% in 2021.

Additionally in 2023, 4% (17) of sea arrivals were adult females and 6% (22) were children 1% (4) were - accompanied and 5% (18) were alleged unaccompanied children at the time of disembarkation. Anyone claiming to be an unaccompanied child then underwent age assessment procedures at the Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers.

Sea Arrivals by Gender/Age

January - December 2023

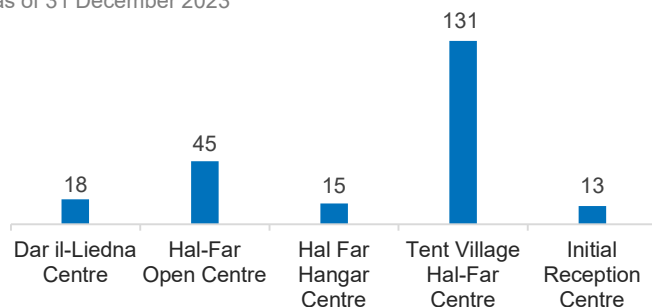


AWAS Population Demographics

On 31 December 2023, 222 individuals resided in open reception centres in Malta, meaning the occupancy rate stood at 7.5%. An additional 241 persons resided in the community and benefited from social assistance. Some 83% (185) of the population in the reception centres were adult males and the majority of the population (131) lived in Hal-Far Tent Village.

Population in Reception Centres

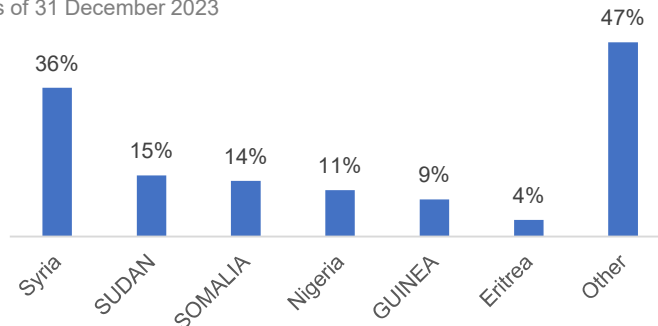
as of 31 December 2023



Population in reception facilities: **222** / Capacity: **2,964**

Nationalities in Open Centres

as of 31 December 2023



UNHCR has not received detention data since September 2021

Asylum Applications and Decisions

In 2023, the International Protection Agency issued 2,065 decisions. The recognition rate (grants of Refugee Status or Subsidiary Protection) stood at 15% (313), whilst the rejection rate stood at 35% (714). Temporary Humanitarian Protection (THP) was granted to 10 persons.

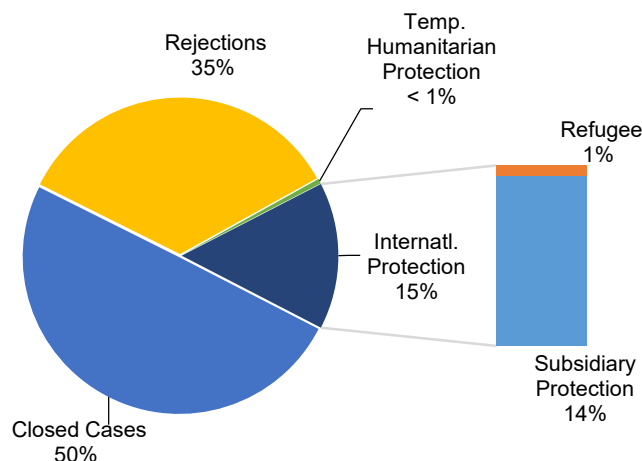
Otherwise 'closed' cases stood at 50% of the total (1,028), referring to decisions comprising of administrative closures (127), Dublin closures (204), applications that are explicitly (98) or implicitly withdrawn (530), and those deemed inadmissible (69).

Analysis shows that the average waiting time for a substantive first instance decision (grant or rejection) issued in 2023 was 2 years. International Protection was granted on average after 2 years for Syrians, 2.5 years for Eritreans, and 2.9 years for Somalis.

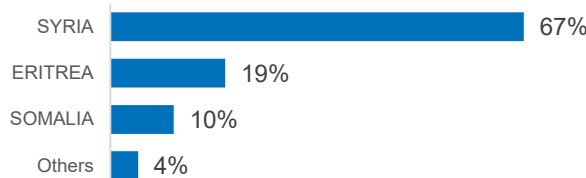
The average time for rejected cases stood at 2.8 years for Sudanese, 3 years for Syrians, 2.7 years for Somali, and almost 91 days for Bangladeshis.

Asylum Decision Statistics

January - December 2023



Nationalities granted international protection January – December 2023



Situation of Persons fleeing Ukraine

January - December 2023

The International Protection Agency granted 566 Temporary Protection Certificates in 2023 to eligible persons fleeing the war in Ukraine. Cumulatively, 2,451 certificates have been issued since February 2022.

Most of the beneficiaries in 2023 are Ukrainian nationals, except four, one adult female and one adult male from Russia and two adult males from Georgia. Women and children account for about 75% (422) of the certificates issued during 2023 with the rest (144) issued to adult men.

For more data, please see UNHCR's [Data Portal for the Ukraine Refugee Situation](#).