

Malta

February 2025

UNHCR first established its presence in Malta in 2005 and monitors access to territory and reception, while promoting fair and efficient [asylum procedures](#) in line with international standards.

As of the end of December 2024, Malta had issued 2,953 [Temporary Protection](#) certificates since the full-scale war in Ukraine began in 2022, with 68 per cent of certificates issued to women and children.

As of the end of December 2024, Malta has recorded approximately 9,001 refugees and 510 asylum-seekers, primarily from Ukraine, Syria, and Libya.

POPULATION STATISTICS (as of mid-2024)

8,732

Refugees

Asylum-seekers **645**

Top three countries of origin*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	2,383	Syrian Arab Republic	189
Syrian Arab Republic	2,307	Ukraine	86
Libya	1,808	Sudan	62

*UNHCR Mid-Year Statistical Report 2024 and UNHCR [data finder](#)

PROTECTING FORCIBLY DISPLACED PEOPLE IN MALTA

Promoting social protection and inclusion in Malta

In late 2024, UNHCR organized a series of roundtables that brought together key state actors, refugee-led and civil society organizations, and FDSPs. These roundtables facilitated information sharing, problem-solving, and collaboration among stakeholders. Priority areas such as housing, employment, and protection for survivors of violence were discussed, providing a platform for asylum-seekers and refugees to voice their challenges and barriers in accessing services and to discuss potential solutions.

Building capacities

UNHCR works to identify capacity needs and provide its legal and technical expertise in collaboration with various stakeholders. Efforts are already underway to address these needs and build capacities where necessary. In 2024, training sessions were conducted for caseworkers from the International Protection Agency and the EU Agency for Asylum, detention officers from the Detention Services Agency, social workers in Gozo Island's mainstream services, and cultural mediation and law students at the University of Malta.

HIGHLIGHTS

Workshop on Mental Health and Psychosocial Well-being (MHPSS): In October 2024, UNHCR and the Agency for the Welfare of Asylum-seekers held a workshop to discuss sustainable solutions, and the challenges faced in supporting forcibly displaced and stateless persons (FDSPs). The event gathered various stakeholders, including MHPSS professionals, community members, national agencies, and concerned NGOs. The insights and strategies discussed, including building trust, ensuring follow-up care, and adopting a trauma-informed approach will play a crucial role in shaping future initiatives to creating a supportive environment for FDSPs in Malta.

Malta Launches a New Labour Migration Policy: The new policy aims to ensure retention and stability, protect employee rights and working conditions, and align labour migration with market needs. UNHCR underscores the importance of early access for forcibly displaced and stateless persons.

International Refugee Law Compliant Procedures at State Borders Seminar: UNHCR facilitated the participation of four judges at the European Court of Human Rights Seminar on the "European Convention on Human Rights and International Refugee Law Compliant Procedures at State Borders." The seminar focused on the relevant jurisprudence of the Court and measures taken to ensure the execution of judgements.



ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION ROUNDTABLE

In November 2024, UNHCR jointly with the Council of Europe organized a roundtable on detention practices. The SRSG on Migration and Refugees, David Best, along with CoE experts and key government entities, contributed to the fruitful and productive discussions that analysed the country's obligations to conduct individual assessments and explore alternatives to detention for migrants, asylum seekers, and persons in need of international protection.

Key Priorities

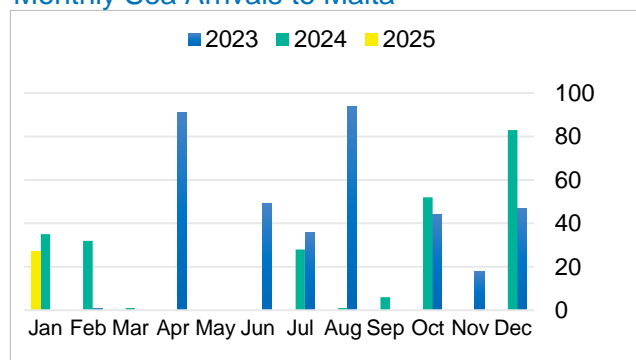
- **Access to territory and asylum procedures:** UNHCR supports the Government in strengthening fair and efficient asylum procedures, monitoring mixed movements in the Maltese Search and Rescue Region to ensure access to territory. In January, UNHCR trained staff from the International Protection Agency and the European Union Agency for Asylum on sexual violence as a ground for international protection.
- **Legal counselling and representation:** UNHCR provides legal counselling and representation through partner Jesuit Refugee Service. In 2024, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the University of Malta's Law Clinic, expanding legal assistance to forcibly displaced and stateless persons. UNHCR also collaborates with the State Legal Aid Service and the Parliamentary Ombudsman on strategic cases at the judicial level.
- **Information Provision:** UNHCR maintains a [HELP Website](#) that provides information to asylum-seekers, refugees, subsidiary and temporary protection status holders, and stateless persons on all aspects of asylum procedures, reception conditions, detention, as well as integration in Malta. Additionally, UNHCR, in collaboration with the Ministry for Home Affairs, Security, and Employment, developed an information leaflet to be distributed at all arrival points.
- **Refugee Integration:** UNHCR continues to support the Government in strengthening its integration framework and has provided recommendations for the 2024–2029 Integration Strategy. In February, UNHCR shared its recommendations for the Labour Migration Policy, emphasizing the importance of inclusion and self-reliance, including early access to employment for asylum-seekers, refugees, individuals with subsidiary or temporary protection status, and stateless persons. UNHCR continues to collaborate with local authorities, service providers, NGOs, refugee-led organizations, and international organizations to enhance integration prospects for forcibly displaced and stateless persons.
- **Community empowerment and self-reliance:** UNHCR fosters two-way communication with various refugee communities and refugee-led organizations (RLOs) to better understand and address the concerns and challenges. Building RLOs' capacity through grant agreements and other opportunities empowers refugees and promotes meaningful dialogue with various stakeholders.

Working with Partners

UNHCR collaborates with key government ministries, agencies, stakeholders, and the judiciary to promote the inclusion, protection, and integration of forcibly displaced and stateless persons.

External engagement: By working with non-government stakeholders, community-based organizations, and host communities, UNHCR helps foster peaceful coexistence and highlights refugee success stories, facilitating their inclusion in Maltese society.

Monthly Sea Arrivals to Malta



Source: [Mediterranean Situation Data Portal](#)

Statelessness

UNHCR supports the Government in establishing a Statelessness Determination Procedure to identify and protect stateless persons. In 2024, UNHCR held a high-level meeting with key government stakeholders and discussed the 2021 Census with the National Statistics Office to better understand the extent of statelessness in Malta and to offer legal and technical support. UNHCR held sessions to build the capacity of national stakeholders including NGOs and delivered lectures to graduate law students on statelessness in collaboration with the University of Malta Law Clinic.

UNHCR Presence in Malta

Staff:

11 National Staff
 3 International Staff
 5 Affiliated

Offices:

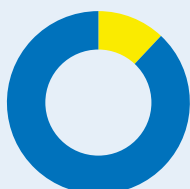
1 Branch Office in Ta' Xbiex

Financial information (as of 31 January 2025)

Financial requirements

\$ 2.5 M

Funding gap 88%
\$ 2.2 M



Funded 12%
\$ 300k

UNHCR is grateful for the support from our top government donors in 2024 and 2025:

Australia | Belgium | Denmark | France | Germany | Ireland | Japan | Netherlands | New Zealand | Norway | Republic of Korea | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | Sweden | Switzerland

UNHCR is also grateful for the generous contributions from the private sector and individuals.