

Malta

September 2022

UNHCR is providing support to the Maltese Authorities since 2005. UNHCR advocates for **access to territory and asylum**, integration opportunities and promotes fair and efficient asylum procedures.

Disembarkations: The UNHCR team attends to and monitors disembarkations, providing interpretation support to the authorities and giving initial information on reception and asylum procedures to new arrivals.

Integration: UNHCR advocates for the integration of persons of concern to access a wide range of services, including employment, education, health, and citizenship.

POPULATION OF CONCERN as of 30 June 2022*

Refugees	10,568
Asylum-seekers	3,262
Stateless persons	11

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Libya	2,853	Syrian Arab Rep.	417
Syrian Arab Rep.	1,920	Sudan	388
Somalia	1,773	Eritrea	254

*Source: UNHCR provisional mid-year 2022 data

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

1,420 applications for temporary protection were registered by the International Protection Agency between 24 February and 18 September 2022.

UNHCR coordinated with the authorities to provide the Ukrainian community in Malta with information on a wide range of issues including registration procedures, temporary protection, access to psycho-social support, and admission to schools for Ukrainian students.

Community-Based Protection: UNHCR co-ordinates with the Ukrainian community in Malta to provide up-to-date information and receive feedback on needs, challenges, and concerns.

HIGHLIGHTS

Fair and effective asylum procedures

UNHCR has been advocating with the Maltese authorities including the International Protection Agency to establish fair and fast asylum procedures that allow for the swift granting of protection to those in need and facilitate effective return. UNHCR has also advocated for expedited access to asylum procedures of unaccompanied children and continues to advocate for ending unlawful detention of asylum-seekers, especially unaccompanied children.

Monitor detention conditions

UNHCR regularly monitors detention conditions to ensure adequate access to material conditions in immigration detention centres, while continuing to advocate for alternatives to detention and stressing that detention should be considered only as a measure of last resort.

Better reception conditions

Regular advocacy with authorities in reception centres has seen expedited age assessment processes, while concerns related to a more culturally suitable and nutritionally diverse food provision, health and recreational facilities have been brought to the attention of the authorities for their follow-up.

CUSTODIANS OF A DIVERSE SOCIETY



Dursa and Livingstone, of youth migrant NGO Spark 15, speak about the organization's most ambitious event so far – a one-day festival commemorating World Refugee Day in their beloved public garden.

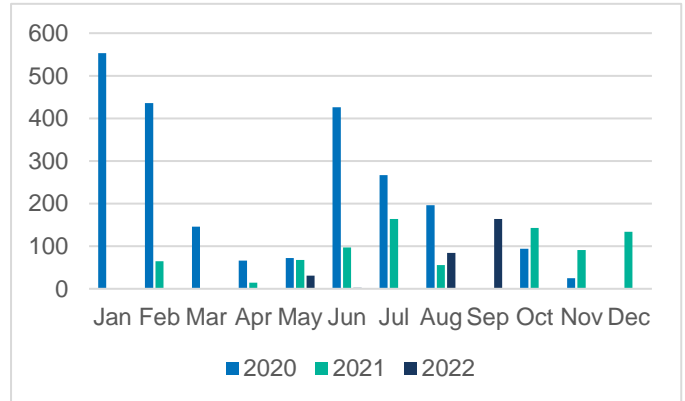
Key Priorities

- **Advocacy:** UNHCR continues its advocacy for access to territory and asylum, fair and fast asylum procedures, enhancement of reception conditions, child-friendly reception and ending of detention especially of unaccompanied children.
- **Access to territory and asylum:** UNHCR's search and rescue (SAR) monitoring activities aim at ensuring that potential asylum-seekers have access to the territory of Malta and to asylum procedures.
- **Detention visits:** UNHCR's liaison with national authorities and regular visits to the immigration detention centres allow for information provision and counselling purposes. UNHCR takes this opportunity to share some feedback on detention conditions for advocacy purposes.
- **Reception monitoring:** Through regular presence in the reception centres, UNHCR observes reception conditions and can provide information and counselling to persons of concern.
- **Community empowerment and self-reliance:** UNHCR is coaching and supporting refugee-led organisations (RLOs) for capacity-building purposes.
- **Promoting social cohesion:** Through active engagement with national authorities, UNHCR facilitates integration of beneficiaries of international protection in Malta and Gozo.
- **PI activities:** By Highlighting stories of refugees and asylum-seekers in the community, and amplifying the work of partners through social media, UNHCR shares its advocacy messages in the mainstream media.

Working with Partners

- **Legal assistance and judicial engagement:** UNHCR provides legal aid to asylum-seekers and refugees through partners; advises and assist lawyers in the provision of legal services; and monitors cases before courts and other adjudicatory bodies for potential intervention where there is strategic value in doing so.
- **Integration:** UNHCR regularly meets with different stakeholders aiming at promoting integration opportunities and providing support to persons of concern through implementing partners. UNHCR is also providing inputs to the drafting of the second National Integration Strategy.

MONTHLY SEA ARRIVALS TO MALTA



Source: [Mediterranean Situation Data Portal](#)

- **Other support activities:** UNHCR partner organisations: JRS, aditus, Women Rights Foundation and Integra Foundation provide legal information, psycho-social and integration support. UNHCR collaborates with UN Agencies such as IOM and with Government agencies and reaches out to communities directly and through RLOs.

Statelessness

- Malta acceded to the 1954 Statelessness Convention in December 2019 but is yet to establish a statelessness determination procedure (SDP). Efforts with the Ministry for Home Affairs, Security and Law Enforcement in this regard continue, with a meeting held in February 2022 where good practices were shared in setting up an SDP with the participation of Regional Bureau for Europe, UNHCR France and UNHCR Italy country offices.

UNHCR Presence in Malta

Staff:

14 National Staff
3 International Staff

Offices:

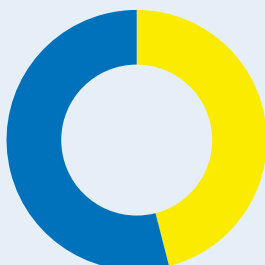
1 Country Office in Ta' Xbiex

Financial information (September 2022)

Financial requirements

USD 1.9 M

Funding gap
54%
1.04 M



Funded
46%
0.86 M

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As well as for the generous contributions from private individuals and the private sector.