

Malta

February 2023

UNHCR opened its office in Malta in 2005 to monitor access to territory, whilst **promoting fair asylum procedures** in line with international law, and durable solutions for populations in such need.

Access to territory and asylum: UNHCR supports the reception of potential asylum-seekers rescued at sea and provides them with counselling and information on access to asylum.

Integration: UNHCR advocates for the integration of refugees, for their access to employment, education, health and citizenship.

UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS AS OF MID-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

*UNHCR 2022 Mid-Year Trends and UNHCR [data finder](#)

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of 28 February, some **1,700 refugees from Ukraine** had been registered in Malta.

Community-Based Protection: UNHCR maintained close contact with the Ukrainian community in Malta to provide up-to-date information and resources to holders of temporary protection.

UNHCR coordinated with relevant stakeholders to ensure that refugees from Ukraine in Malta had access to information on registration procedures, issuance of temporary protection status, psycho-social support, and facilitating admission to schools for refugee children.

UNHCR support: In December, UNHCR assisted the Ukrainian Community Foundation with the design of a survey aiming to capture information on the needs and living conditions of Ukrainian nationals in Malta.

HIGHLIGHTS

Improving Access to Legal Support

DLA Piper and Mamo TCV Advocates law firms have agreed to partake in a UNHCR pilot delivering tailored support to asylum-seekers and refugees with asylum, appeals, citizenship applications, and difficulties with employment. The pilot is expected to run from May to November 2023.

Participatory Planning with Refugees and Stakeholders

In the context of UNHCR's multi-year planning (2024-2026), UNHCR met with representatives from the Syrian, Sudanese, Somali and Libyan refugee communities and reached out to government agencies, refugee-led organisations, and NGOs. Progress achieved, challenges, and community needs were discussed to inform the planning exercise.

MAKING MALTA HOME



Created in collaboration with the island's leading digital media house LovinMalta, 'Making Malta Home' is a four-video series which highlights the diversity and resilience of the country's refugee population.

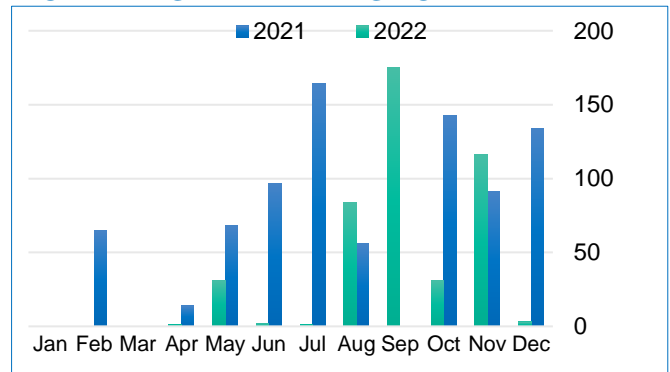
Launched on a weekly basis between January and February 2023, the series features participants from Sudan, Syria, Ukraine and the refugee-led youth NGO Spark 15.

Watch all four videos [here](#).

Key Priorities

- **Access to territory:** Search and rescue (SAR) monitoring activities aim at ensuring that potential asylum-seekers have access to territory and to asylum procedures. UNHCR is present at the time of disembarkation of new arrivals to Malta to provide information and support vulnerability screenings.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR supports authorities in developing fair and fast asylum procedures with legal remedies in line with international standards. UNHCR continues to offer protection counselling and drop-in asylum support at its premises (102 assisted including advice via phone and email from September 2022 to February 2023).
- **Integration:** UNHCR frequently meets with stakeholders and engages with national authorities to promote integration opportunities for beneficiaries of international protection in Malta and Gozo. UNHCR partner JRS provides individual integration support to interested persons in the fields of education and employment.
- **Advocacy** for access to territory and asylum, fair and fast asylum procedures, enhancement of reception conditions, asylum-seekers' access to the labour market regardless of their country of origin, child-friendly reception and asylum procedures is ongoing by UNHCR and partners.
- **Capacity-building for legal aid:** The University of Malta Law Clinic was added to the UNHCR-coordinated Judicial Engagement Working Group to strengthen legal assistance to asylum seekers.
- **Detention and reception monitoring:** Coordination with authorities and other actors for monitoring purposes. Regular visits to the detention and open facilities, and individual and group sessions therein for provision of asylum-related information to persons of concern.

MONTHLY SEA ARRIVALS TO MALTA



Source: [Mediterranean Situation Data Portal](#)

Working with Partners

- Legal information, psychosocial and integration support is provided by partner organisations JRS, aditus, Women Rights Foundation and Integra Foundation. Other stakeholders include the International Organisation for Migration and government entities (e.g. on employment). UNHCR reaches out to communities directly and to refugee-led organisations.
- **External engagement:** The office highlights stories of refugees and asylum-seekers in the community, amplifies the work of partners through social media, and presents advocacy points in mainstream media.

Statelessness

- Malta acceded to the 1954 Statelessness Convention in December 2019 but has yet to establish a statelessness determination procedure. UNHCR continues its advocacy and capacity-building with the Ministry for Home Affairs, Security and Law Enforcement.

UNHCR Presence in Malta

Staff:

8 National Staff
3 International Staff

Offices:

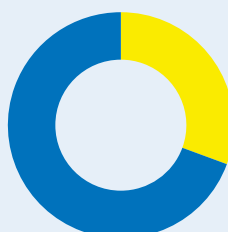
1 Branch Office in Ta' Xbiex

Financial information (February 2023)

Financial requirements

USD 2.1 M

Funding gap
85%
1.8 M



Funded
15%
0.3 M

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