
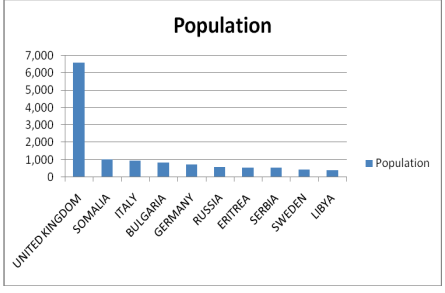
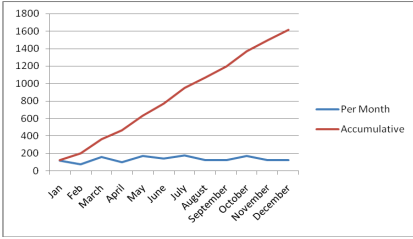
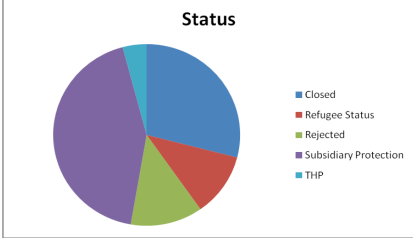


Malta Country Profile

Fact Sheet

<p>Country</p>	<p>MALTA</p>																							
<p>General Information on Migration</p>	<p>While there was a drastic increase in asylum seekers arriving in Malta as from 2002 (mainly Somalis fleeing their country during civil war), Libyans in 2011 during the height of the Libyan crisis and more recently Syrians, the majority of migrants are actually from within Europe. (See table right http://www.unhcr.org/mt/charts/)</p> <p>Generally, a person entering Malta without valid documentation (e.g. visa and/or passport) can be detained in accordance with the Maltese immigration law. However, since 2015, those entering irregularly are having their first processing procedures within an Initial Reception Centre in accordance with the latest EU directive on asylum procedures. When a person has been granted a form of protection status they can either temporarily be accommodated within an open center or choose to integrate into the host community. For trends in regards to numbers of asylum applications received over the last year (2017) and country of origin of asylum seekers kindly refer to tables. (See also http://www.unhcr.org/mt/charts/)</p> <p>The length of an asylum application process takes between 6 and 21 months. (See also http://www.asylumineurope.org/reports/country/malta/asylum-procedure/procedures/regular-procedure)</p> <p>Currently many of the new arrivals are part of the European Union (EU) temporary emergency relocation scheme.</p>	 <table border="1"> <caption>Population (Estimated from Chart)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Country</th> <th>Population</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>UNITED KINGDOM</td><td>6,500</td></tr> <tr><td>SOMALIA</td><td>1,000</td></tr> <tr><td>ITALY</td><td>1,000</td></tr> <tr><td>BULGARIA</td><td>1,000</td></tr> <tr><td>GERMANY</td><td>1,000</td></tr> <tr><td>RUSSIA</td><td>1,000</td></tr> <tr><td>ERTREA</td><td>1,000</td></tr> <tr><td>SERBIA</td><td>1,000</td></tr> <tr><td>SWEDEN</td><td>1,000</td></tr> <tr><td>LIBYA</td><td>1,000</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Country	Population	UNITED KINGDOM	6,500	SOMALIA	1,000	ITALY	1,000	BULGARIA	1,000	GERMANY	1,000	RUSSIA	1,000	ERTREA	1,000	SERBIA	1,000	SWEDEN	1,000	LIBYA	1,000
Country	Population																							
UNITED KINGDOM	6,500																							
SOMALIA	1,000																							
ITALY	1,000																							
BULGARIA	1,000																							
GERMANY	1,000																							
RUSSIA	1,000																							
ERTREA	1,000																							
SERBIA	1,000																							
SWEDEN	1,000																							
LIBYA	1,000																							

<p>Key Statistics Reception Process, Asylum Applications and Outcomes</p>	<p>2015: Home Affairs ministry stated that around 1,100 people applied for asylum in Malta during 2015 - a 33% increase over the previous year.</p> <p>2016: Malta recorded 1,735 first-time asylum applicants in 2016, marking a 2% increase over the figures from the previous year, according to Eurostat data. The total included 655 asylum seekers from Libya, 285 from Syria, and 255 from Eritrea.</p> <p>2017 and beyond (see also the 3 tables on the right): Recently people are received from Greece or Italy through relocation. As of 24 April 2017, the total number of refugees relocated to Malta since February 2016 is 126 (including 18 families), mostly Syrian and Eritrean nationals. The Government of Malta has committed to relocate 189 persons over 2 years, until the beginning of 2018. (See for further information https://malta.iom.int/relocation-italy-and-greece-malta)</p> <p>Out of 1352 cases processed in 2017 out of 1830 registered (See Eurostat http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statisticsexplained/index.php/File:Asylum_applicants_(including_first_time_asylum_applicants),_Q4_2016_%E2%80%93_Q4_2017.png) 152 individuals received refugee status, while 169 cases were rejected and a good number of cases were closed. An even higher number of applicants received subsidiary protection or temporary protection. (See table on the right http://www.unhcr.org/mt/charts/)</p>	 
<p>Malta's intake of Asylum applicants compared to other EU countries</p>	<p>Compared with the population of each Member State, the highest rate of registered first time applicants during the third quarter of 2017 was recorded in Cyprus (1,577 first time applicants per million inhabitants) and Greece (1,361), followed by Malta (960) and Luxembourg (904). (See for more information http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Asylum_quarterly_report)</p>	
<p>Overall Challenges</p>	<p>Highly populated island with migrants not only seeking asylum, but economic migrants originating from Eastern European countries and from within the EU. The health system is particularly stretched due to the additional numbers to attend to.</p>	

<p>Legislation</p>	<p><i>The National Health System Strategy (NHSS) for Malta (2014-2020) states that: The public health care system provides a comprehensive package of health services to all persons residing in Malta who are covered by the Maltese social security legislation and also provides for all necessary care to special groups such as irregular immigrants or foreign workers who have valid work permits. Only a few services including elective dental services, optical services and coverage of certain formulary medicines are means-tested.</i></p> <p>(See for more information https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Documents/National-Health-Strategies/NHSS-EN.pdf)</p> <p>Core state medical care is being provided, especially in the case of vulnerable groups of persons. Dependant members of the family of a person granted subsidiary protection, if they are in Malta at the time of decision, enjoy the same rights.</p> <p>Currently the government is working on an official entitlement policy for irregular migrants to public health services. Currently irregular migrants are being given the health care required on a humanitarian basis. (http://www.unhcr.org.mt/who-we-help-in-malta/persons-of-concern/127-subsiary-protection)</p> <p>Current (April 2018) discussion: The Government has decided to reform the current Temporary Humanitarian Protection (THP) and Temporary Humanitarian Protection New (THPN) policy framework. THP granted to unaccompanied minors, on medical grounds, or on other humanitarian grounds will be regulated by law. In the coming months, the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security will be proposing amendments to the Refugees Act in order to include this form of protection in the law.</p>
<p>Priority Health Conditions</p>	<p>Anecdotal evidence suggests that generally migrant health status is similar to the rest of the population in Malta, while Mental health concerns rank higher. Refugees and asylum seekers suffering from mental health problems might lack appropriate services while some may not even be identified owing to the absence of a formal identification process or specialists within the Initial Reception Centers and Open Centres. No specialized services exist in Malta for victims of torture or trauma.</p> <p>Social determinants like, unemployment, social exclusion, stress regarding lack of legal status, can in addition lead to impairment of personal functioning and increase the risks in acquiring a mental illness in the long run.</p> <p>Communicable disease (e.g. skin disease, TB etc) were noted; migrants (including from European and Easter European Countries) presenting with chronic disease like diabetes, HIV/Aids will need long term supervision and care and potentially could become a burden for the already stretched health system.</p> <p>Communication between migrants and service providers, while improved, still needs further attention. Investment in expanding training of cultural mediators is needed as well as a joint strategy in funding and placing the same strategically throughout health centers and community centers in Malta.</p> <p>Lack of knowledge/information by professional service providers and migrants on entitlements can challenge access to health services for individuals and family members and needs to be adressed systematically.</p> <p>Gender/Age/Diversity While no detailed information is available on the elderly or migrants living with disability in Malta there seems to be a consensus that unaccompanied minors as well as single mothers and pregnant women would benefit from stronger attention and follow up by</p>

	Social Support Services.
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Health System Strategy (NHSS) for Malta (2014-2020) states service provision for migrants • The Maltese Ministry for Health set up the Migrant Health Unit in 2008, which is spearheading the training of cultural mediators and translators since 2009 to facilitate timely and culturally appropriate follow ups on health needs of migrants. The Ministry had also set up, shortly after, the Migrant Health Liaison Office (MHLO) which provides information on health care services available in the country. The office can be found in Floriana, 7, Harper Lane, FLR 1940 • The recently launched integration policy is a first step in focusing on integration holistically • A migration policy document to indicate way forward is available <i>online</i> (See https://meae.gov.mt/en/Public_Consultations/MHAS/Documents/Migration%20Policy.PDF)
Opportunities	Malta has a history of migration. Ensuring a strong focus on integration throughout all policy development will allow for the country to bridge gaps.