2011 Figures at a Glance

- 1,579 individuals, of 30 different nationalities, arrived in Malta by boat from Libya. 21% of the total arrivals are females. 26% of all arrivals are family units.
- The Office of the Refugee Commissioner processed 1,862 applications. 68 persons were granted refugee status while another 811 persons were granted Subsidiary Protection. 707 asylum applications were rejected.
- Two decisions were overturned by the Refugee Appeals Board from a total of 723 appeals.
- At the end of the year around 1,800 individuals were living in the open centres. An estimated 2,500 migrants and refugees from sub-Saharan countries are living in the community.
- At the end of 2011 around 600 individuals were held in detention, some pending appeal.
- 31 individuals returned voluntarily to their country of origin.

2002-2011 Asylum Trends

- 56% of all asylum seekers were granted international protection.
- 65% of all beneficiaries of protection hail from Somalia, followed by Eritrea (23%) and Sudan (4%).
- Over 1,400 beneficiaries of protection have been resettled to other countries since 2005.

UNHCR’s overall objective in Malta is to advocate for access to protection and promote durable solutions for all persons of concern:

- Monitoring the access to protection and conditions of asylum in Malta
- Promoting a protection sensitive asylum system and related policies
- Strengthening the capacities of government and partner agencies
- Improving the availability of durable solutions, including through local integration and resettlement
- Increasing the general awareness about asylum issues in the country

Malta is a signatory to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol since 1971. It officially lifted its geographical reservation on 13 December 2001. Malta is not yet a signatory to the UN Statelessness Conventions.