

BACKGROUND

The Agency has been assisting Malta since 2017 to further enhance the quality of the national asylum system. As early as January 2020 the number of cumulative irregular arrivals to Malta surpassed those recorded in the same period of 2019 and, despite a ban on entry, showed a significant increase. Successively, the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as the exacerbation of conflict and fighting in Libya, affected the arrivals in the country and, irregular migration along the central Mediterranean route.

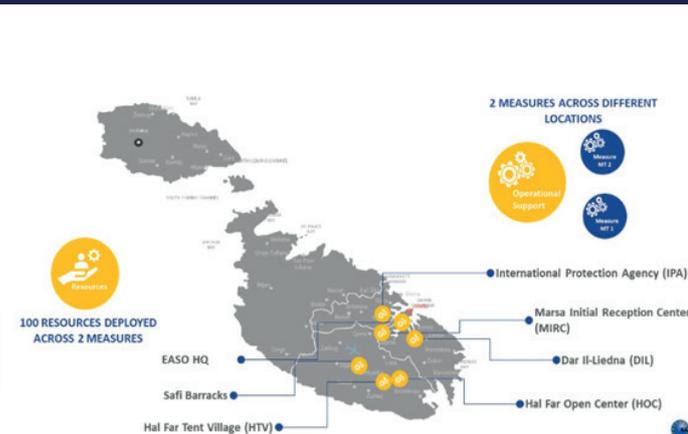
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PERSONNEL



** Numbers are expressed as full-time equivalents.

LOCATIONS



In 2021, EASO was present in **IPA, Safi Barracks, HTV, HOC and Marsa IRC** to support Maltese asylum and reception authorities.

SUPPORT



to ASYLUM

Almost **80 %** of the **1 220** asylum applications lodged.
900 evaluation reports on individual applications.
1 000 interviews conducted.
319 outgoing Dublin requests.
800 quality check on asylum decisions.
2 Country briefings and **16** COI query replies were delivered.



to RECEPTION

800 vulnerability assessment and identification of more than **600** victims of serious violence or torture, among others.
650 applicants attended individual and group information sessions organised by EASO and held in AWAS (Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers) reception centres.
 EASO supported AWAS in the review process of **AWAS Age Assessment Package** (SOPs and templates).
 Since June 2021, EASO supported the reception authorities with the deployment of **3** social workers, two working for adults and families and one working for Unaccompanied Minors.
 EASO social workers have assisted **147** clients until end of 2021.



to VOLUNTARY RELOCATION

EASO facilitated the relocation of **212** persons in the context of six voluntary relocation exercises related to ad hoc disembarkations which occurred in 2019 and 2020.

TRAININGS



Trainings under Reception Measure: **66** persons participated in **100** training sessions, of which **34** are part of the Maltese reception administration and **32** deployed EASO personnel.

OPERATIONAL PLAN 2022-2024

All other activities that were supported by EASO during the 2021 OP will continue into 2022 with the following outcomes:

- ◆ **Expected Outcome 1:** Enhanced capacity of the Maltese Authorities to ensure swift access to international protection procedure and reduce the backlog at first instance.
- ◆ **Expected Outcome 2:** Enhanced capacity of the Agency for Welfare of Asylum Seekers (AWAS) in identifying, prioritising, and supporting asylum applicants residing in Malta. Support with the quality assurance framework in Reception.

[Read the plan](#)