



# Ms Lora Pullicino

## Malta

*Guaranteeing asylum seekers' right to care: the role of midwives and nurses*





# *Guaranteeing asylum seekers' right to care: the role of midwives and nurses*

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LORA PULLICINO

# Different Routes



# Central Mediterranean Route

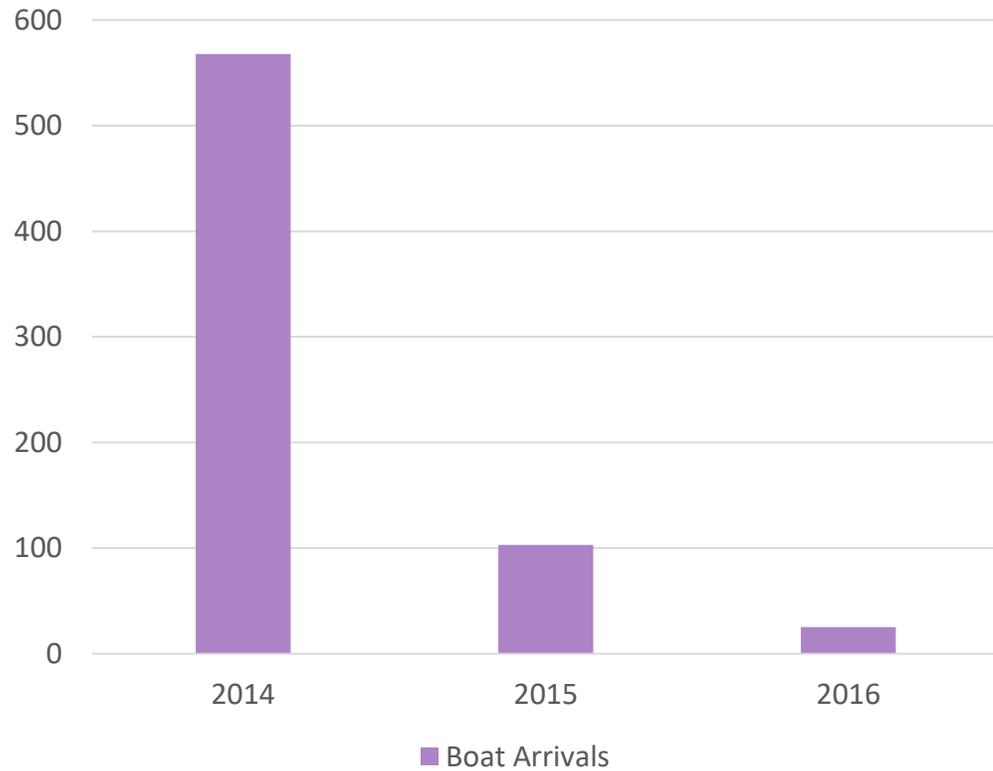
Between 2002-2013, Malta received an average of 1,700 annually through the irregular migration sea route from Libya (central Mediterranean route).



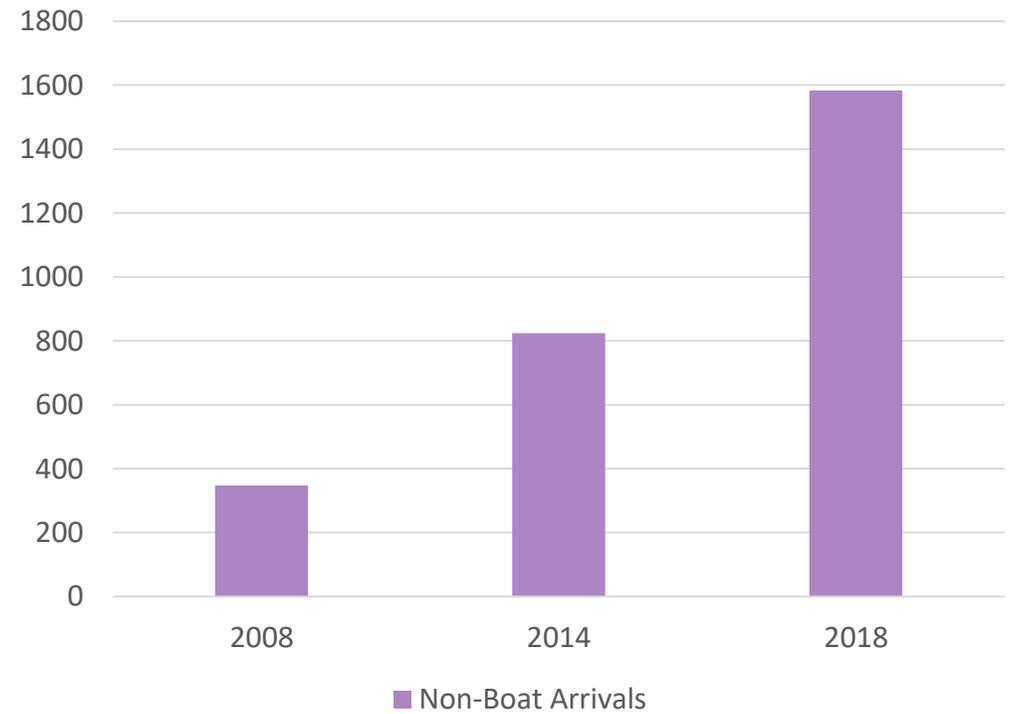
# Arrivals in Malta

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## Boat Arrivals

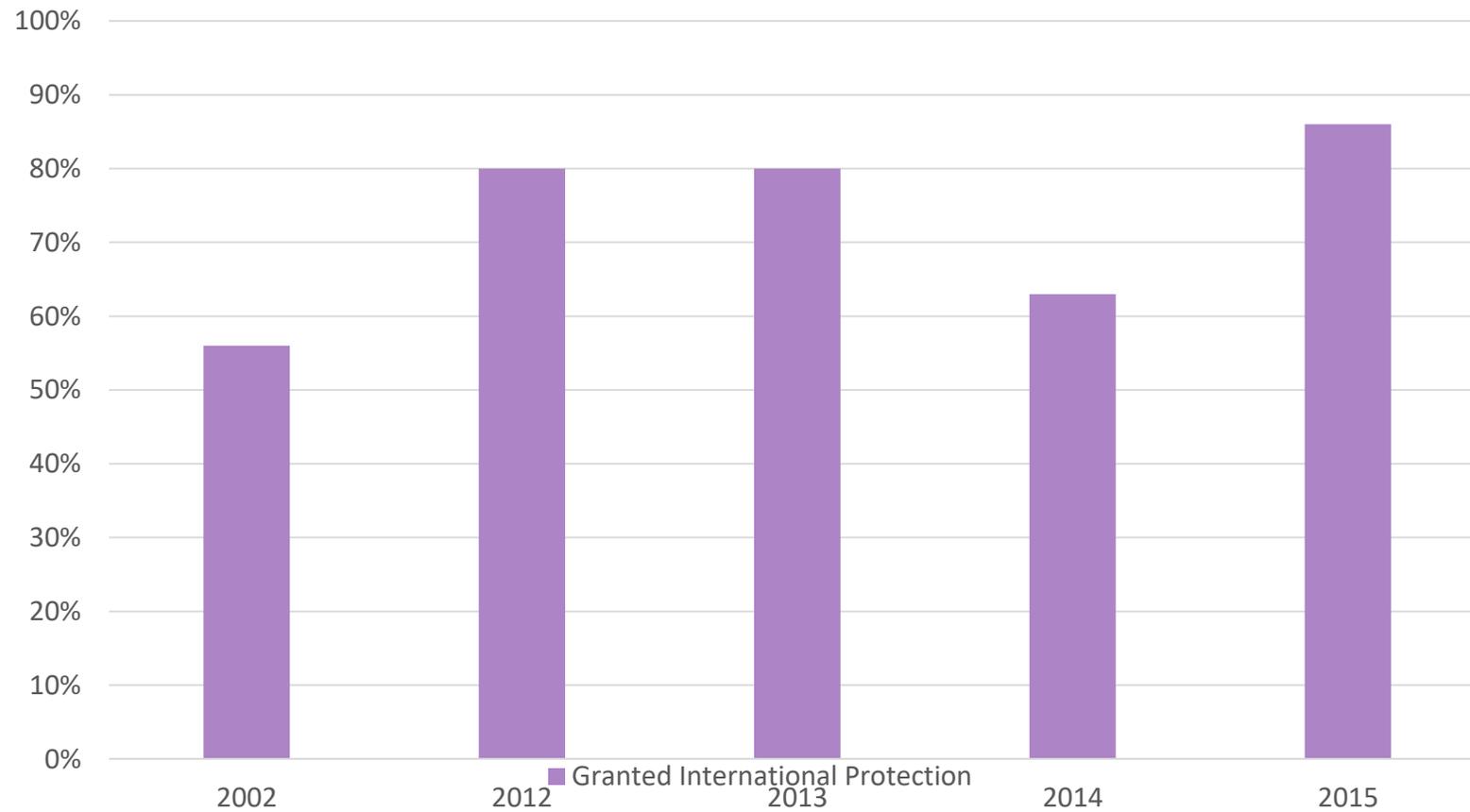


## Non-Boat Arrivals



# Granted International Protection

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# Who is an asylum seeker?

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*“We were working for health promotion and they said it’s not allowed because it is a European concept. I was physically attacked and one of my friends was killed. We were in a car together and my friend was shot. I was very scared, really, that day. I could not forget my friend. I could not. My psychological state was very bad really, so I couldn’t stay in that place.”*

*24 year old, nurse*

# The Journey

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*“A lot of guys were drinking and fighting. One night one Sudanese man and Somali, I don’t know, they started fighting and then the Libyan come, and he killed four of them in front of us. With the gun – ch, ch, ch [shot them]. One of my friends get bullet in here, he was injured. I gave him first aid, but with what? With nothing. Just boiled water with salt and a piece of cloth. That’s all....”*

*24 year old, Nurse*

# Trauma does not end here...

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*“Because there were many friends died in the sea. The boat sank- they cut the wire. 320 people they dead in the sea in front of us. And really, to tell you the truth, me also I scared. I said, ‘Why you are throwing yourself by the problem? If they are sinking you can’t do anything, you can’t save them.’*

*But still, when I sleep in the night I see them in my dreams, and I wake up crying, really. The people that you were eating together on place, you were talking which country you will go, I don’t know... they have a lot of dreams – he wants to go to study, he wants to go to work, he wants to go... I don’t know. Everyone have a dream to do. All of them are.... [dead] Yes. But god thanks, save me, save my friends, in the same boat.”*

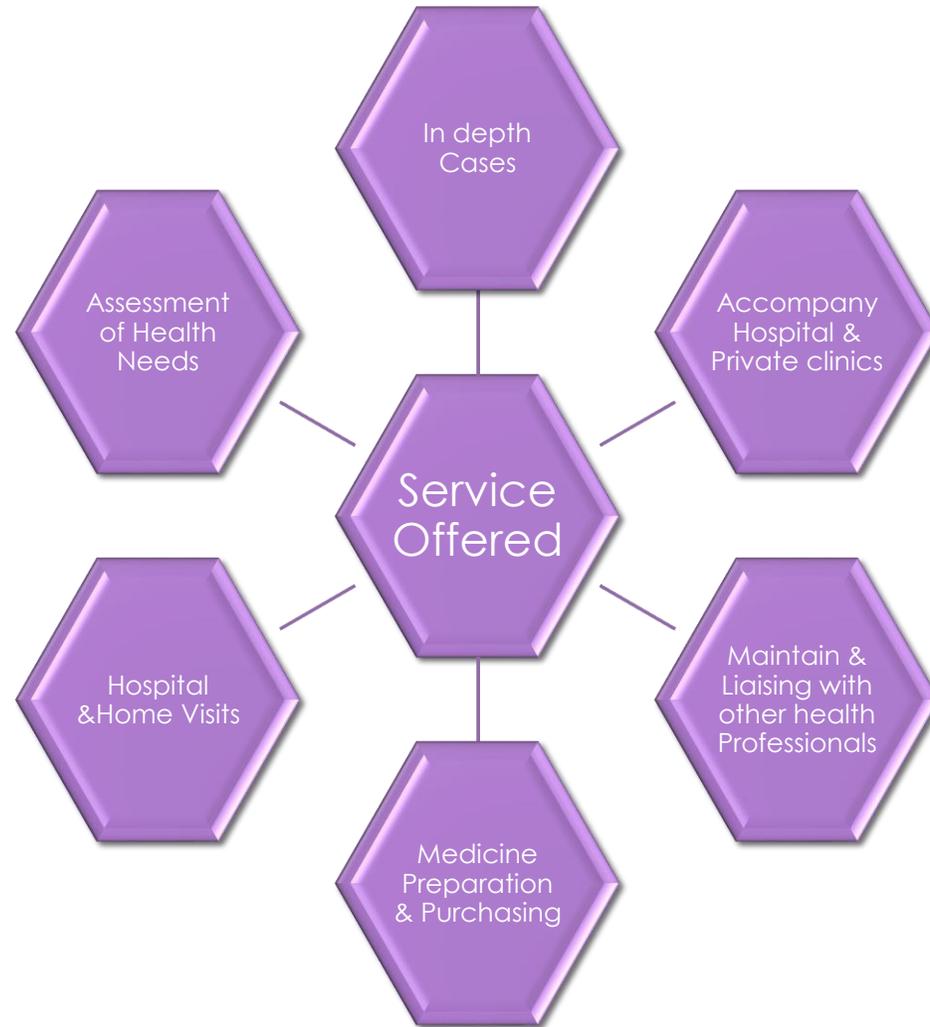
*24 year old, nurse*

# Access to health care

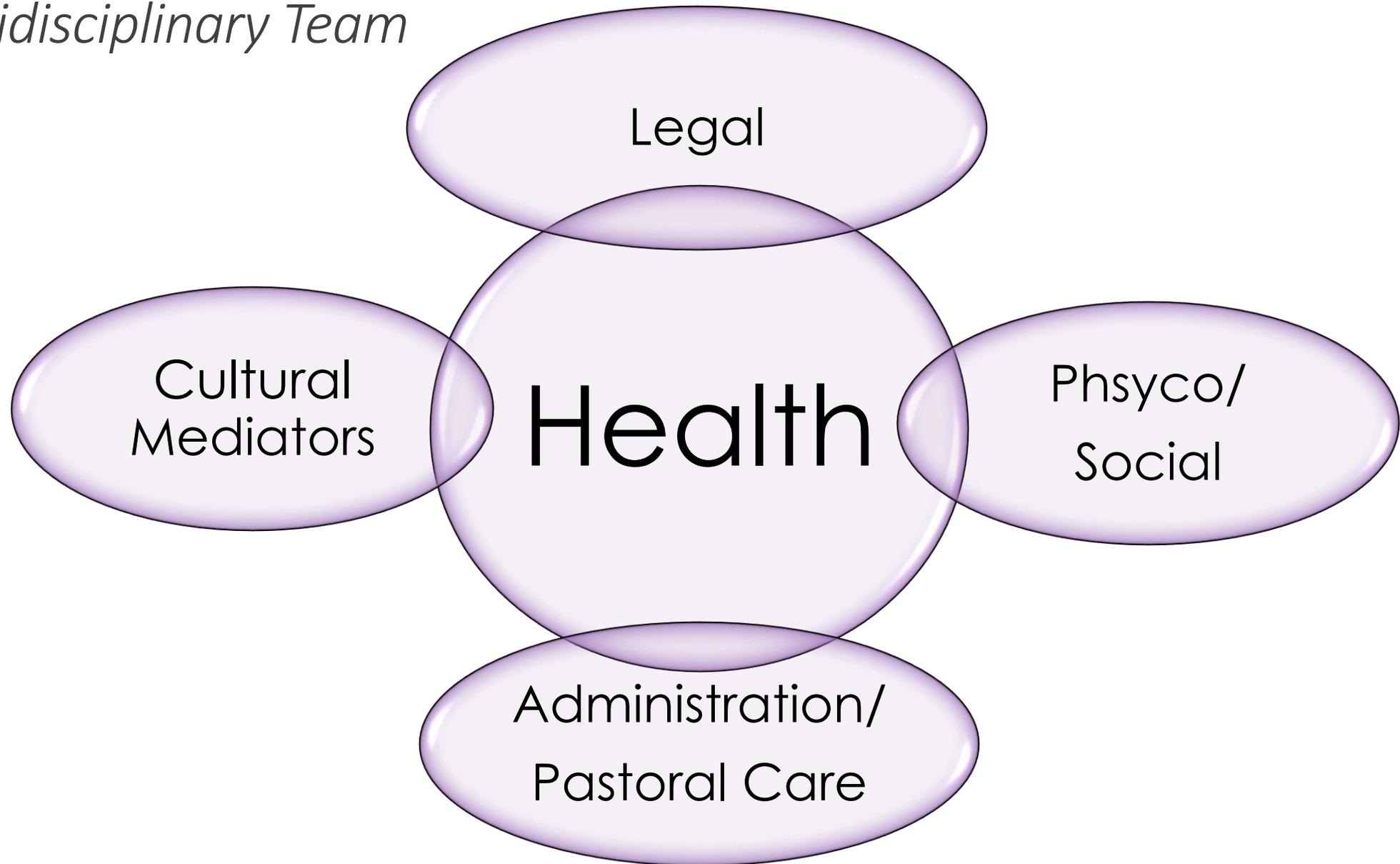
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- Restrictive rules on entitlement
- Unreasonable bureaucratic documentary requirements
- Lack of knowledge of asylum seekers' rights to access healthcare
- Negative attitudes from health professionals
- Language barriers

# Health Service



*Multidisciplinary Team*



# Lesson Learnt

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- Challenging Experience
- Advocate for the rights of vulnerable persons
- Addresses not as patients but human beings



# Recommendations

- Health Professionals – Advocate
- Dare to be a voice for the voiceless
- Work and liaise with NGO's
- Aware of the right to health for all

*“It’s a really difficult question. If they give me option that I now, if I go back to 2015, and I know that I will saw many troubles, many difficulties many sufferings in that way, really I will take a First Aid box and I will come again by that way.*

*When I finished the University, no one take me to swear. I took my sister and said just let me I want to swear on the Holy Koran, that I will do everything I can. And from the time that I swore I really tried my best. I have done everything to do my job.*

*Yes, I will come the same way. My only regret is that I didn’t take one Panadol with me. I am not angry that I stayed without food, water. No. I feel pain on my inside for people who dies for careless [carelessness?], who died without health promotion or prevention or help. I can’t forget it.*

*So I will come that way yes, but I will take some water and a First Aid box. Because everyone who is coming that way really has dreams, and he wants all of the dreams to come true. I will help them to stay alive to come true all their dreams, really.”*

*24 year old, Nurse*

*Should we not aspire to be like her?*



Statistics quoted from UNHCR - Malta

[info@ jrsmalta.org](mailto:info@jrsmalta.org)

<http://www.jrsmalta.org>

