

# Accommodation update



The Jamal family (left to right) Sara, Diplak, Asti and Mohammad, fled war-torn Iraq and managed to reach Greece at the end of 2017. They live in an ESTIA-funded apartment on the outskirts of Thessaloniki, Northern Greece, provided by UNHCR's partner Solidarity Now, while waiting for their asylum application to be processed by the Greek authorities.

## Overview

By the end of June 2019, UNHCR had created 25,208 places in the accommodation scheme as part of the ESTIA programme. These were in 4,418 apartments and 14 buildings, in 14 cities and 6 islands across Greece.

The Accommodation Scheme<sup>1</sup> provides rented housing to vulnerable asylum-seekers and refugees in Greece. Urban accommodation helps restore a sense of normalcy and provides better access to services, including education and health. People are additionally supported by social workers and interpreters who help them access medical services, employment, language courses and recreational activities.

**25,208**

Number of accommodation places

**4,432**

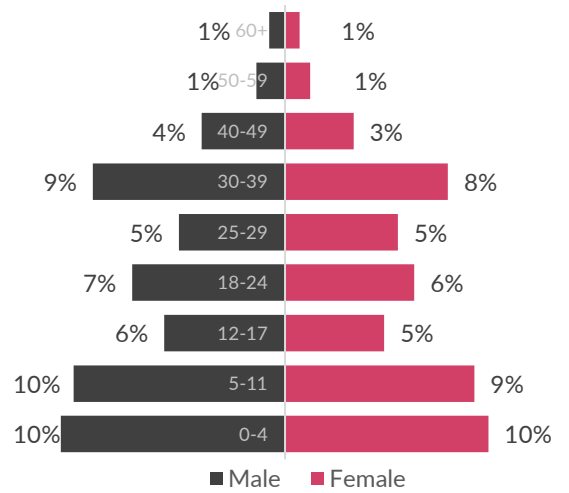
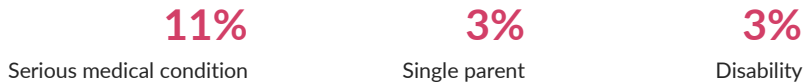
Number of units

**98%**

Occupancy rate<sup>2</sup>

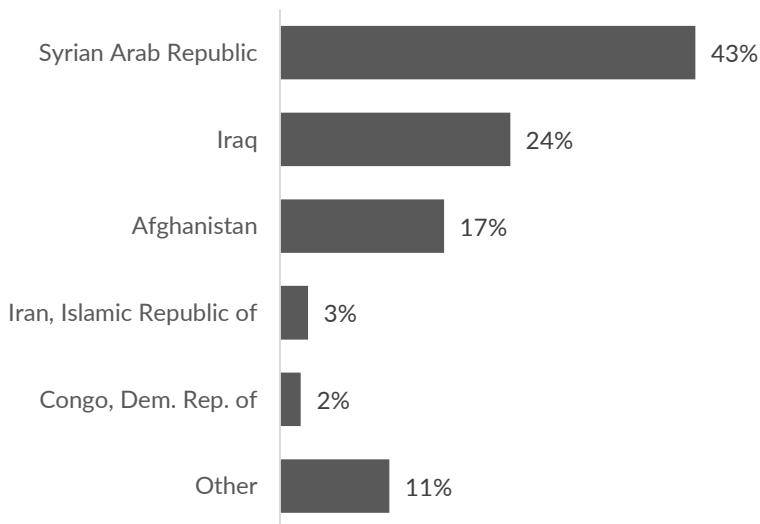
## Demographics

In total, since November 2015, 58,864 individuals have benefitted from the accommodation scheme. 22,009 people were accommodated as of the end of June 2019, 7,371 of whom are recognized refugees. 49% of the residents are children. The clear majority of those accommodated are families, with the average family size of five people. More than one in three residents have at least one of the vulnerabilities that make them eligible for the accommodation scheme. The three most common vulnerabilities are:



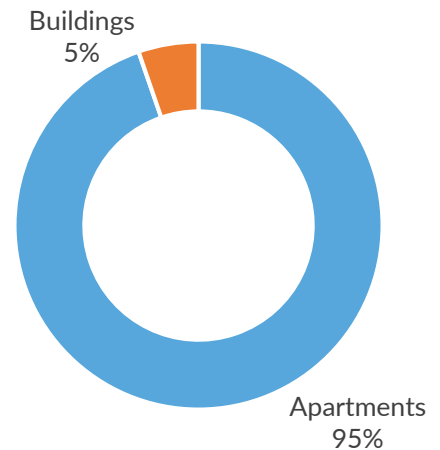
## Nationalities

The clear majority, 89% of individuals in the accommodation scheme are Syrians, Iraqis, Afghans, Iranians or Congolese (DRC). However, the individuals accommodated as of the end of June 2019 speak over 30 different languages as a mother tongue.



## Accommodation Type

Over four in five accommodation places are in apartments, and the rest in buildings.

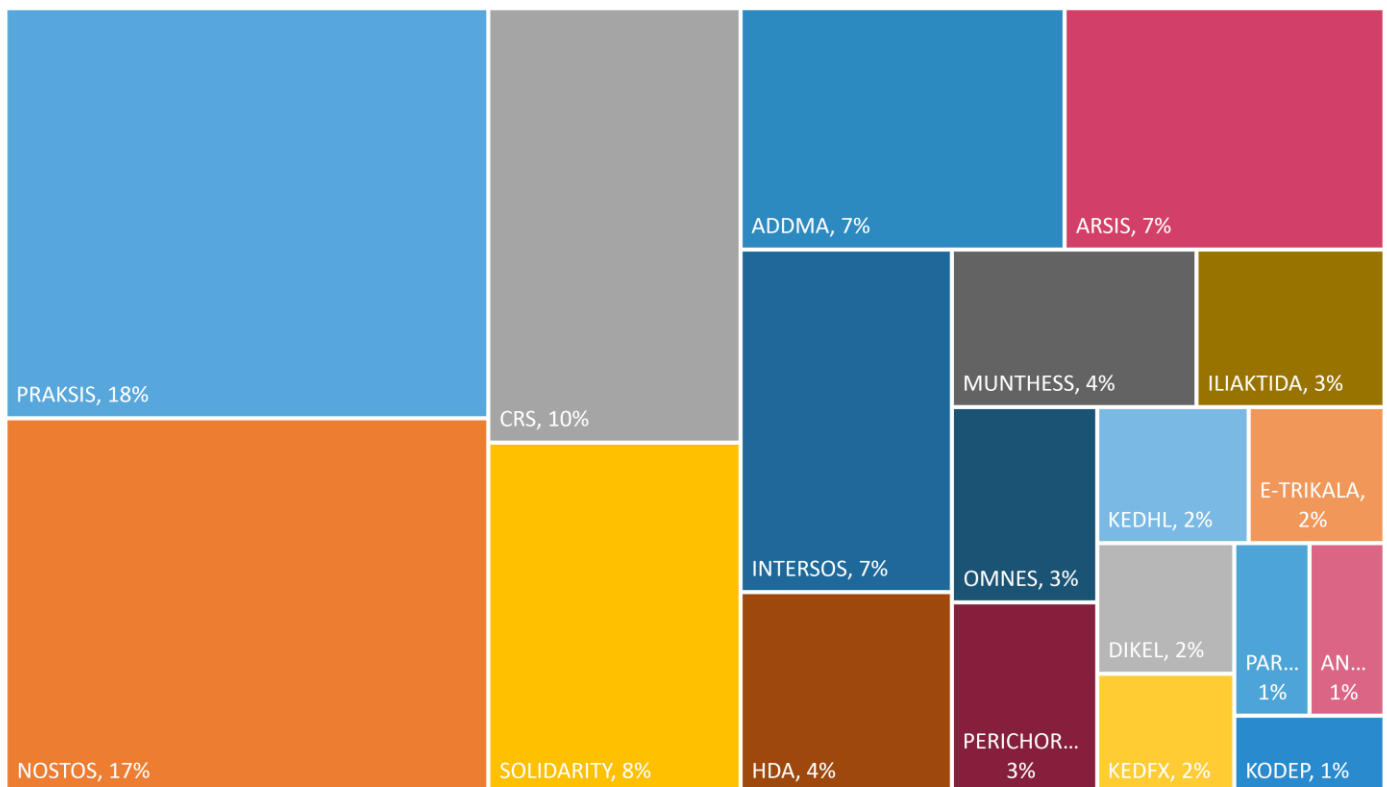


## Partners

At the end of June 2019, UNHCR is implementing the accommodation scheme through 22 partnerships with 12 national and international NGOs and 10 municipalities. In total, partners managed by UNHCR provided 100% of the accommodation places in Greece.

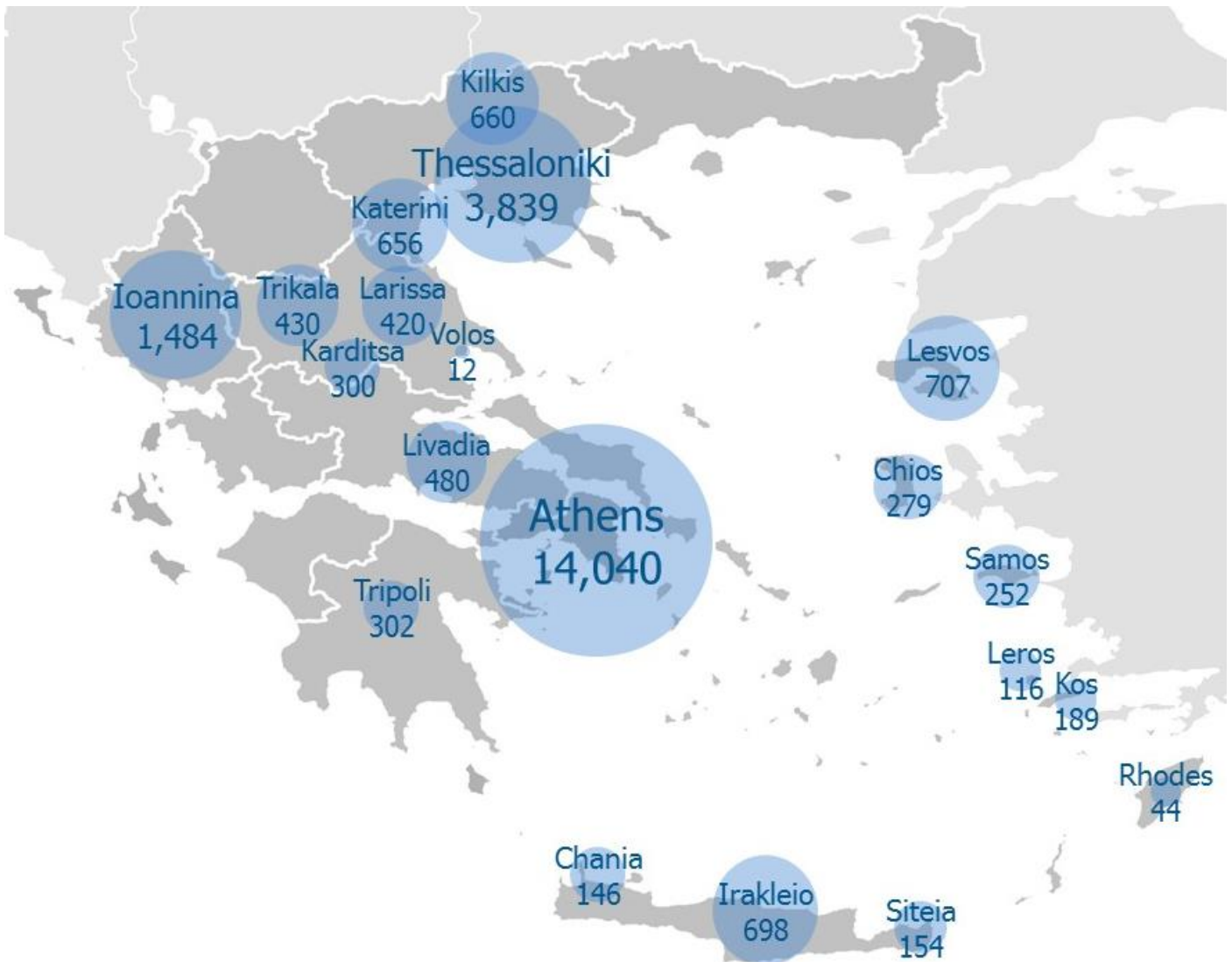
Partners GCR (Greek Council for Refugees) and METAdrasi provide social, legal and interpretation support. EPAPSY (Association for Regional Development and Mental Health) provides mental health services to refugees and asylum seekers with severe mental health conditions and disabilities.

UNHCR's accommodation partners are NGOs Praksis, Nostos, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Iliaktida, Solidarity Now, Arsis, Intersos, Omnes, Perichoresis, and the municipalities of Athens (ADDMA), Thessaloniki (MUNTHESS), Trikala (E-TRIKALA), Livadia (KEDHL), Larissa (DIKEL), Nea Philadelphia - Nea Chalkidona (KEDFX), Karditsa (ANKA), Tripoli (PARNONAS), Piraeus (KODEP) and a consortium of municipalities in Crete (HDA).



## Location of accommodation

Accommodation for asylum seekers and recognized refugees is provided in 14 cities in mainland and 6 islands. Over half, 56% of the accommodation places are in Athens, 38% in the rest of mainland, and 6% on the islands.



## Total beneficiaries

In total, since November 2015, 58,864 individuals have benefitted from the accommodation scheme.

UNHCR's Accommodation Scheme is part of the ESTIA programme (Emergency Support to Integration and Accommodation) of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Union.

# 58,864

Total number of individuals accommodated



Funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Union