

Accommodation update



Safar Saado is an experienced tailor from Iraq, where he owned a shop for 25 years. Safar came with his wife and five children to Greece 1.5 years ago, in search of a safe and better life. For the past four months the family lives in an apartment in the city of Trikala, Central Greece, rented by UNHCR partner e-Trikala as part of the EU co-funded ESTIA program. From the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak in Greece, Safar expressed his wish to help in any way possible both the city's refugee population and the local community in this "battle". He voluntarily started sewing masks. His wife and his elder children, stand by his side. Photo: © e-Trikala

Overview

By the end of March 2020, UNHCR had created 25,533 places in the accommodation scheme as part of the ESTIA programme. These were in 4,592 apartments and 8 buildings, in 14 cities and 7 islands across Greece.

The Accommodation Scheme¹ 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.

25,533

Number of accommodation places

4,600

Number of units

97.3%

Occupancy rate²

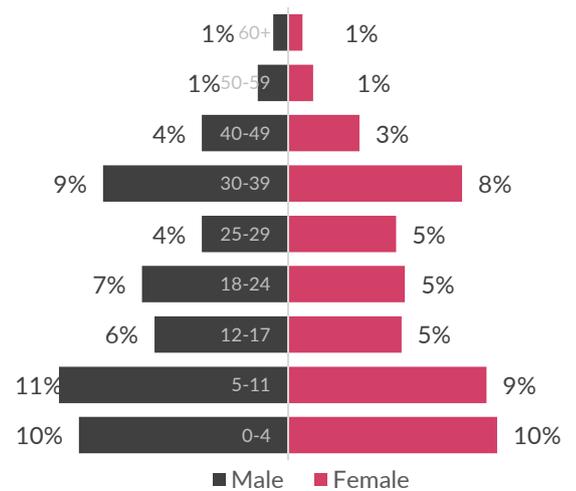
31 March 2020

¹The scheme also facilitates the eventual integration of those who will remain in Greece, while the host population benefits from the renting of their apartments. UNHCR works with NGOs as well as several municipalities around Greece to provide rented accommodation in apartments and buildings. The accommodation scheme commenced in November 2015.

²The occupancy rate is calculated as the percentage of current population over actual capacity.

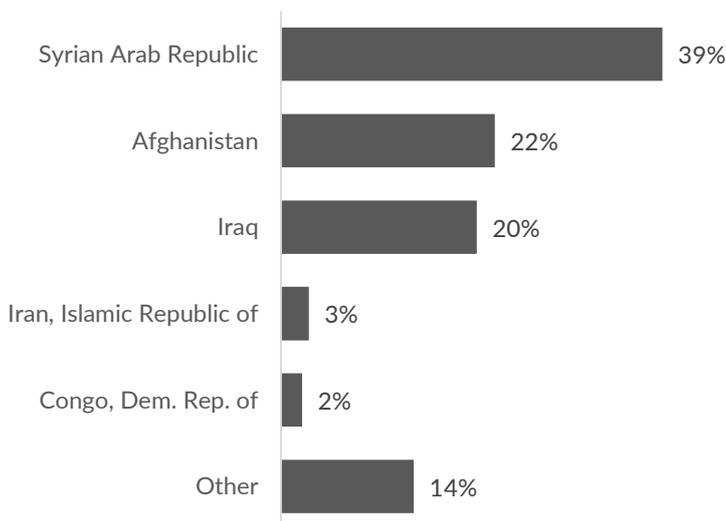
Demographics

In total, since November 2015, 66,308 individuals have benefitted from the accommodation scheme. 21,983 people were accommodated as of the end of March 2020, 6,571 of whom are recognized refugees. 51% of the residents are children. The clear majority of those accommodated are families, with the average family size of four people. More than one in four residents have at least one of the vulnerabilities that make them eligible for the accommodation scheme. The three most common vulnerabilities are:



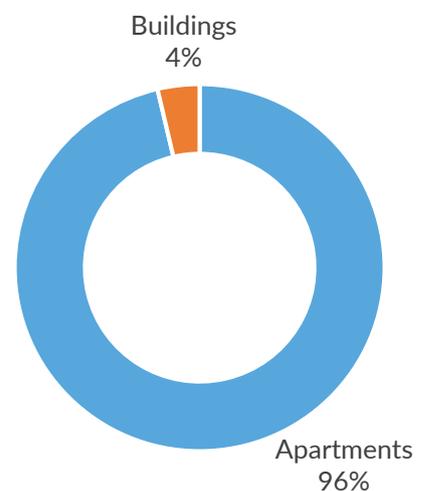
Nationalities

The clear majority, 86% of individuals in the accommodation scheme are Syrians, Iraqis, Afghans, Iranians or Congolese (DRC). However, the individuals accommodated as of the end of February 2020 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.

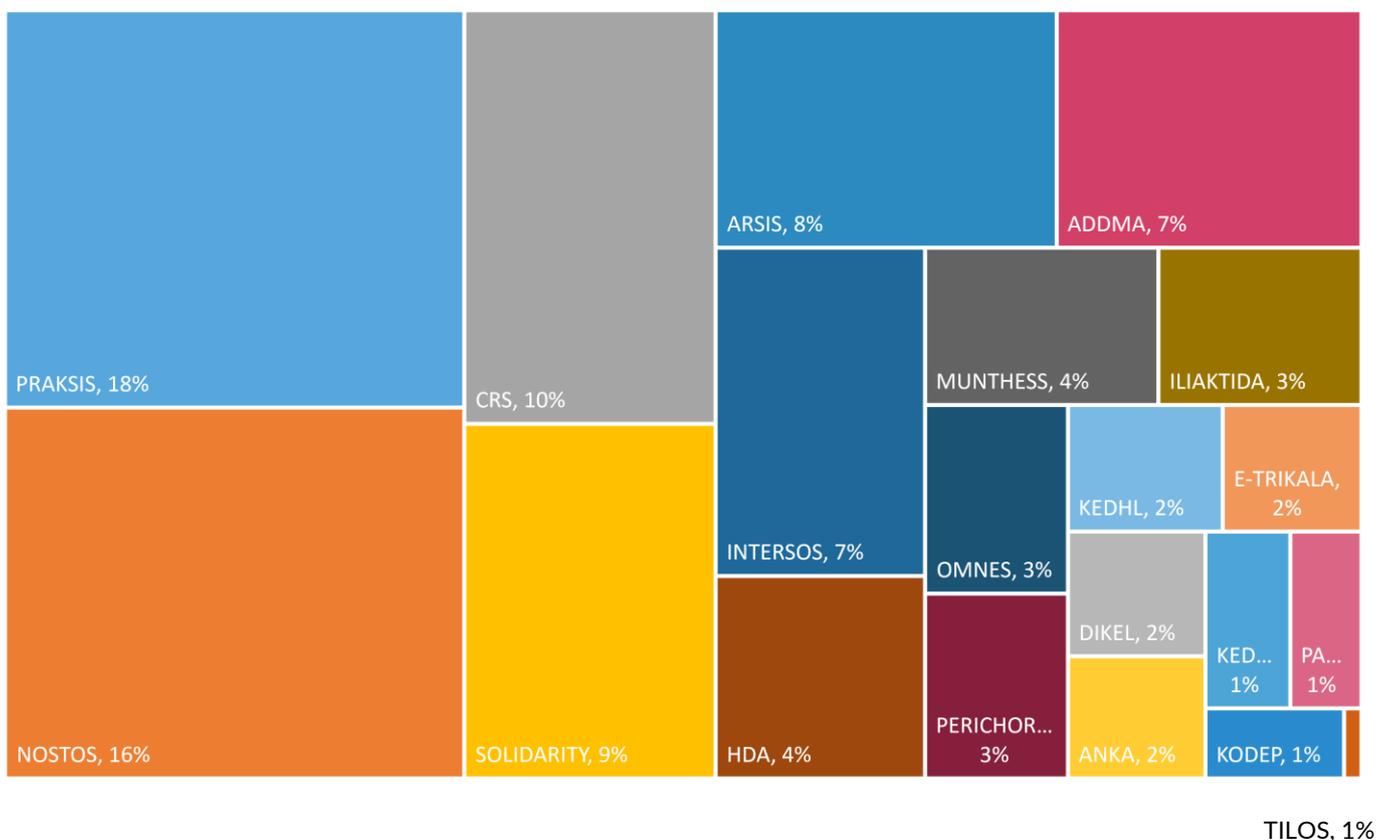


Partners

At the end of March 2020, UNHCR is implementing the accommodation scheme through 23 partnerships with 12 national and international NGOs and 11 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), Tilos (TILOS) and a consortium of municipalities in Crete (HDA).

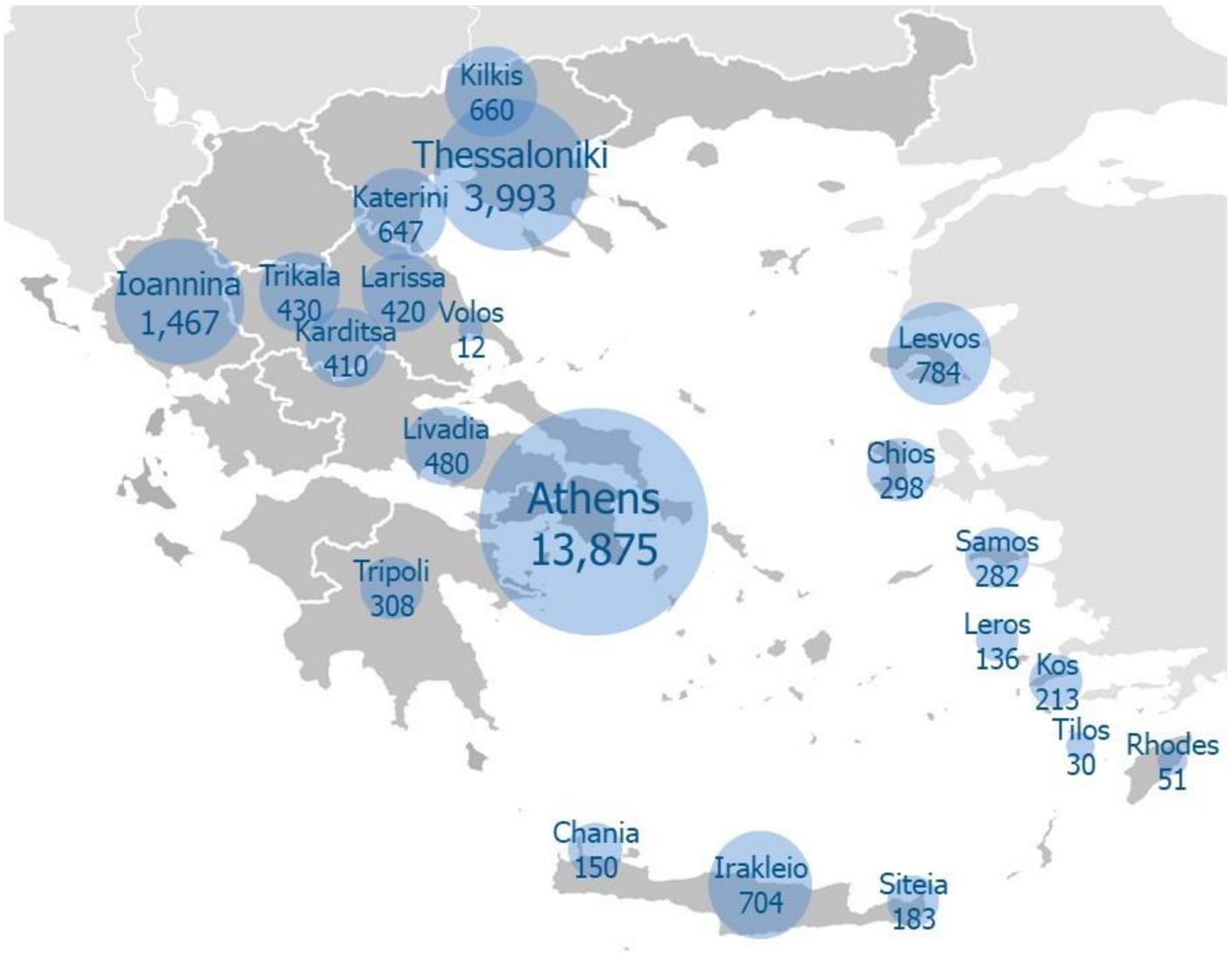


I came from Afghanistan with my wife and 2 kids. On November 2018 we were transferred to the ARSIS shelter ESTIA Prosfygon and after a few months, on February 2019 to an apartment in Athens. Our responsible social workers have helped us to understand all the necessary procedures. Recently, we have been granted asylum and we celebrated with a great meal. I am a volunteer teacher and, since I am fluent in English, I wish to work as an interpreter. My wife also attends Greek and English lessons. We have good relationships with our neighbors and our children are happy to play in the nearby park. We want to stay in Greece and be a part of the Greek society.

31-year-old Ahmady Ahmad Fareed from Afghanistan with his wife Hasiba, 25, his five-year-old son Mohammad Amin and his one-year-old daughter Iffat Mugadasa, live in an apartment in Athens rented as part of the ESTIA Program by UNHCR partner ARSIS

Location of accommodation

Accommodation for asylum seekers and recognized refugees is provided in 14 cities in mainland and 7 islands. Over half, 54% of the accommodation places are in Athens, 39% in the rest of mainland, and 7% on the islands.



Total beneficiaries

In total, since November 2015, 66,308 individuals have benefitted from the accommodation scheme.

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

66,308

Total number of individuals accommodated



Co-funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Union