

GREECE: ACCOMMODATION FOR RELOCATION PROJECT FACTSHEET

As part of the European Union funded project:
*“Support to Greece for the development of the hotspot/relocation
scheme as well as for developing asylum reception capacity”*



CURRENT ACHIEVEMENTS

6,294 accommodation places established for relocation candidates and asylum-seekers in Greece.

6,743 Beneficiaries

*Cumulative number of current and past places occupied, including persons relocated to Member States and irregular departures and/or abandons.

5,173 places pledged by EU Member States for relocation from Greece

2,621 persons accepted by the EU Member States for relocation from Greece

1,142 persons left Greece to other EU countries under the relocation scheme.

538 vulnerable asylum-seekers not eligible for relocation are currently benefitting from the accommodation scheme.

128 Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) accommodated.

What is the Accommodation for Relocation project?

At the EU Leaders' Summit on 25 October 2015, UNHCR committed to establish 20,000 private accommodation places for the relocation process, as there was a dramatic need for reception places in Greece. The reception capacity of Greece after 6 years of support plan was at that time below 1,200 places. UNHCR also committed to support the efforts of the Government of Greece to increase their reception capacity for asylum-seekers by 30,000 both on the mainland and on the islands designated as 'hotspots' and later renamed "registration & identification centres", yielding to a total of 50,000 reception places.

UNHCR is actively supporting the Greek Government on this objective both on the islands and on the mainland through site planning, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), provision of non-food items (NFIs) and core relief items (CRIs), and protection interventions, with a particular focus on persons with specific needs, and including the provision of information and counselling. Those activities amongst others are carried out in the 43 sites established by the authorities throughout the country. Since January 2016, UNHCR has provided over 2,000 shelter and WASH solutions, over 300,000 NFIs and CRIs in the mainland (in addition to the over 500,000 distributed on the islands), and daily group and individual information sessions on asylum, family reunification and relocation at the sites.

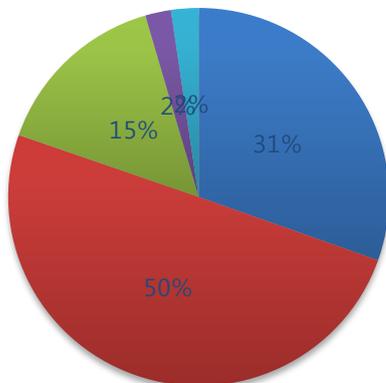
The Accommodation for Relocation project, funded by the EU, started on 1 January 2016 and aims for the gradual creation of 20,000 reception places in Greece for relocation candidates to other EU Member States. UNHCR has also expanded the programme to other people seeking asylum in Greece, prioritizing the most vulnerable, as the competent authorities could not quickly register asylum/relocation applications and there were not enough places pledged by EU Member States.

In order to achieve this goal UNHCR has made reception places available through various types of accommodation, including apartments, hotels, and placement with host families. Since May 2016 this also includes relocation sites (such as the one established in Lagkadikia which is the only one for the moment, there is an urgent need for at least a second one in Attica). The provision of this type of accommodation includes service delivery in compliance with applicable Greek laws and regulations.

Main Strategies and Challenges

- Adapt implementation modalities to increase accommodation capacity due to the escalated demands following the closure of the border between Greece and FYROM.
- Ensure adequate services are provided to asylum seekers with particular attention to the needs of the most vulnerable.
- Continue to involve national and local authorities and communities in the development of the programme.
- Ensure close coordination with the Asylum Service, and other actors.
- The identification and creation of accommodation places has encountered a number of critical challenges. In particular, the concerns expressed by local authorities and communities, difficulties in the identification of appropriate structures and

Types of Accommodation (as of 1 June, 2016)



■ Hotels/buildings

■ Apartments

■ Relocation sites (Lagadikia)

■ Host families

■ Places for unaccompanied and separated children

Photo Gallery



Photos of UNHCR's activities of supporting the Greek Government to establish reception capacities.

procedural obstacles. The further success of this project mostly depend on the active support by national and local authorities.

Coordination and Monitoring

- A stakeholder coordination meeting with all partners involved in the project is held every 2-3 weeks.
- Project control is undertaken in close coordination with all partners to ensure efficient reporting requirements, prevent fraud and costs control.
- UNHCR is closely liaising with local authorities to ensure understanding and acceptance by local communities.
- A data portal (<https://www.unhcr.gr/accomodation/database/login.php>) gives a snapshot of the current achievements.

Partners and Main activities

- In addition to accommodation, partners engaged in the accommodation for relocation project are providing food, personal hygiene items, and basic social support and transportation services.
- Medical, legal and psychosocial support is provided as required.
- These services are provided to both relocation candidates and asylum-seekers with specific needs in Greece.

Partner	Places planned to be available by end July	Available and/or in use 01/06/2016
Praksis	7,400	3,659
Municipality of Athens through Athens Development and Destination Management Agency (ADDMA)	1,200	60
Arsis	600	24
Solidarity Now	880	133
Nostos	350	352
Iliaktida	200	202
Municipality of Thessaloniki	660	0
UNHCR through hotels	2,000	967
UNHCR through relocation site (Lagadikia)	1,000	897
Additional modalities such as hotel rental in full capacity, rehabilitation of infrastructure, relocation sites, etc.	TBC	TBC
Total	14,290	6,294

Contact: Won-Na Cha, Associate External Relations Officer, chaw@unhcr.org

A beneficiary's story:

Saeed's long pursuit of a safe home.

'We used to have a life, a job. I owned a family business, a dye factory in Aleppo for more than 20 years. But when ISIS arrived, they bombed my building and neighbors died. Then they kidnapped my second son, Juma (22). They wanted 10,000 USD in ransom. I had to sell my factory to pay. He came back after 4 days. We left our houses and sought shelter within Syria for three years. Life became very difficult. We had to burn shoes to keep warm'

Saeed (50) is with his family, including 3 daughters and 2 sons in Greece. His first son, Shakir (26) has a family of his own including 2 children, aged 4 years and 6 months. Saeed's family is one of the more than 2,700 cases currently registered with the Relocation programme, and accommodated under the UNHCR Reception Scheme in Greece, funded by the European Commission. This scheme will provide relocation to eligible asylum-seekers from nationalities which have a recognition rate of 75% or above in the EU from Greece and Italy to other EU States and start their refugee application there. This plan is a solidarity and responsibility sharing mechanism with Greece, where 172,583 refugees have arrived by sea so far this year alone. Whilst they are waiting, UNHCR is providing accommodation in various housing programmes ranging from hotels, houses and host families throughout the country through seven partners: Praksis, Arsis, Nostos, Iliaktida, Solidarity Now and the Municipality of Athens through its Development Agency (ADDMA) and the Municipality of Thessaloniki. UNHCR is also providing accommodation directly through Hotels.

Saeed's family first sought refuge in various locations within Syria, however funds ran out rapidly. They crossed the border to Turkey, Istanbul where Shakir (26) and Juma (22) who used to work in the family dye business had to work more than 12 hours a day with whatever they could find in order to survive; waiting tables, ironing, construction and baking. They wanted to obtain legal residence in Turkey, send the children to schools and rebuild their family. However, the lack of information and resources on how to start this process left the family in despair.

After 3 years in Istanbul, they decided to move on to Greece. They sold everything they had and borrowed more to get hold

of the 4,000 USD they needed to pay the smugglers for the journey for the entire family. This year, on 2 January, 5 a.m., the family assembled with 50 others at the coast town of Izmir, in a 30 person capacity rubber boat.

'We set to sea for around 3 hours. Once we were on the Greek side, we were met by the Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). We were escorted to the Samos Island where we were warmly welcomed by the volunteers. There we registered for the Relocation programme. We were then taken to Lesbos Island, then to Piraeus, the mainland port of Greece, and finally to Athens. We now live in a furnished house in Athens. The neighbors had been kind and welcoming so far. The NGO Praksis are helping us with interpretation and monitoring any constraints. Finally, we feel safe and hopeful with a future to look towards.'

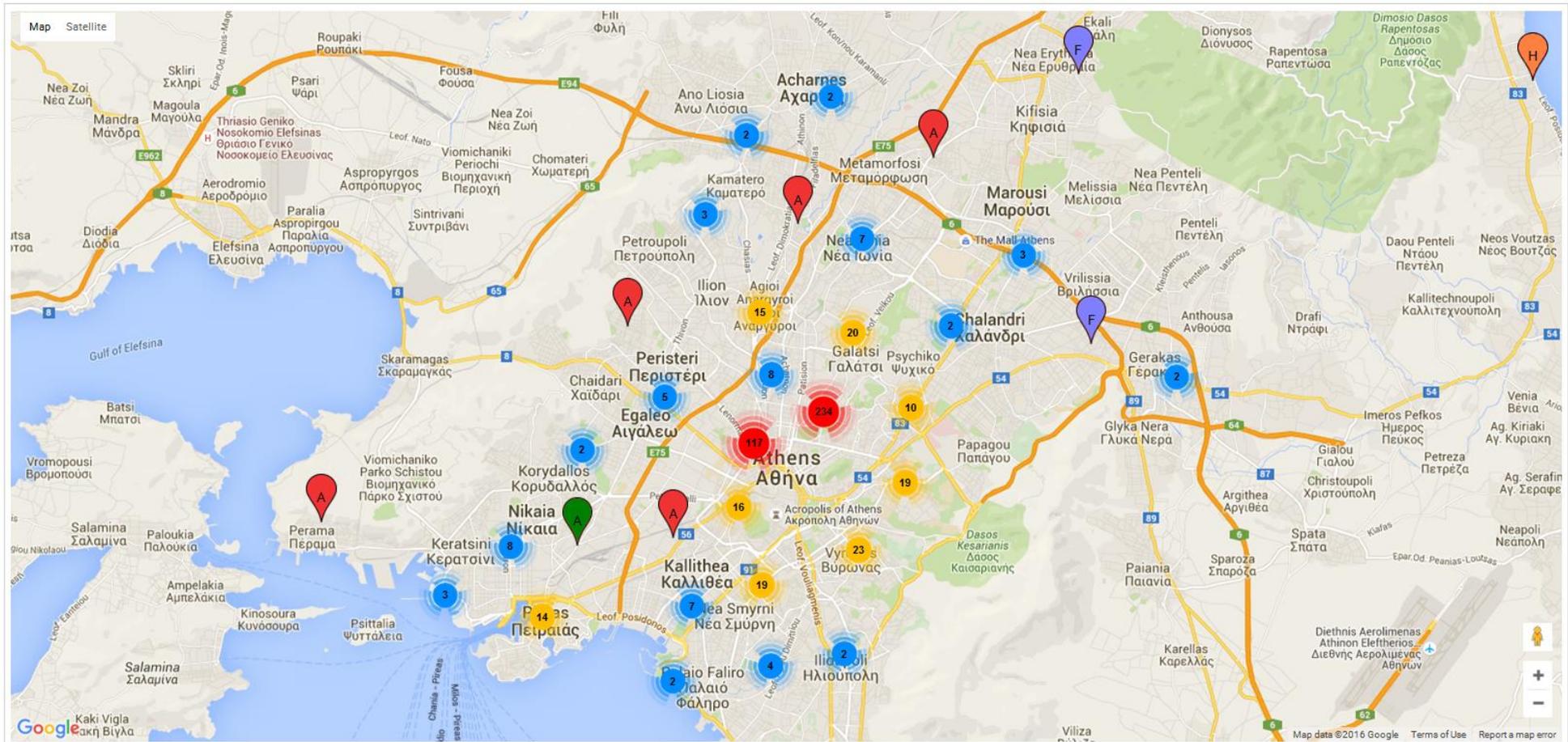
Saeed's family will be relocated to France in the near future where they will apply for refugee status. *'We want safety. We want education for our children. The young ones have never been to school yet. I would like to have a job so I can provide for my family. We used to have a house, cars, a life in Syria. Now we have nothing'*.

Shakir's phone rings during the interview process. *'We are scheduled for a medical screening this coming Tuesday as part of the pre-departure formalities'* he cries. The excitement in his voice is evident.

Photo: Saeed's family poses at their temporary home in central Athens as a part of the Relocation Scheme, with staff members from the implementing partner, Praksis.



MAP OF ACCOMMODATION– GREECE MAINLAND (I)



-  PRAXIS
-  ARSIS
-  ILIAKTIDA
-  SOLIDARITY
-  NOSTOS
-  UNHCR

MAP OF ACCOMMODATION -NORTHERN GREECE (II)

