

GREECE Accommodation update



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Mojtaba, a refugee from Afghanistan, was forced to flee his country almost a year ago with his mother and sister. Today they live in Crete in an apartment provided through the ESTIA programme, which is implemented by UNHCR in cooperation with the local authorities. In the first seven months of 2018, almost 900 refugees and asylum-seekers have found safety and a home on Crete.

Mojtaba was a taxi driver in Afghanistan. As an asylum-seeker in Greece he has the right to work and has found employment on a farm. The money he earns harvesting oranges, mandarins and avocados provides a valuable source of income and the job takes his mind off the trauma of the past.

But Mojtaba misses the rest of his family. He was separated from his then pregnant wife during their flight. She made her way to Germany with Mojtaba's father and brothers, and later gave birth to a baby boy, who is now nine months old.

Mojtaba longs to meet his son for the first time and his dream should soon come true as he has been accepted for family reunification by Germany.

Overview

By the end of July 2018, UNHCR had created 25,406 places in the accommodation scheme as part of the ESTIA programme. These are in 4,198 apartments and 27 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.

25,406

Number of accommodation places

4,225

Number of units

97%

Occupancy rate ²

31 July 2018

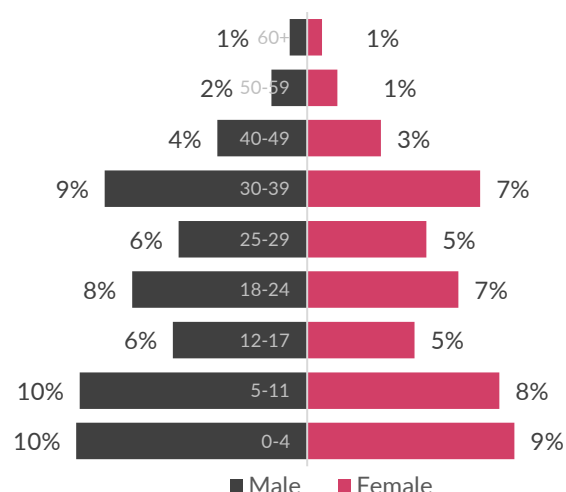
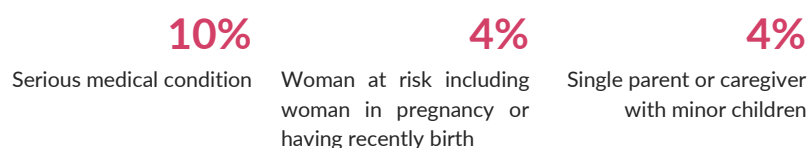
¹ The scheme also facilitates the eventual integration of those who will remain in Greece, while the host population benefits from the renting of their apartments. UNHCR works with NGOs as well as a number of municipalities around Greece to provide rented accommodation in apartments and buildings. The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

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

Demographics

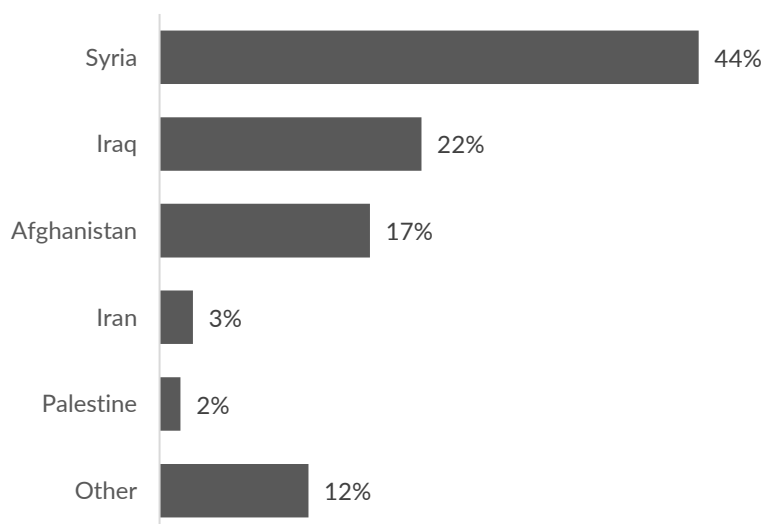
In total, since November 2015, 50,177 individuals have benefitted from the accommodation scheme. 21,242 people were accommodated as of the end of July 2018, 4,687 of whom are recognized refugees. 48% of the residents are children. The vast majority of those accommodated are families, with the average family size of four people. 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:



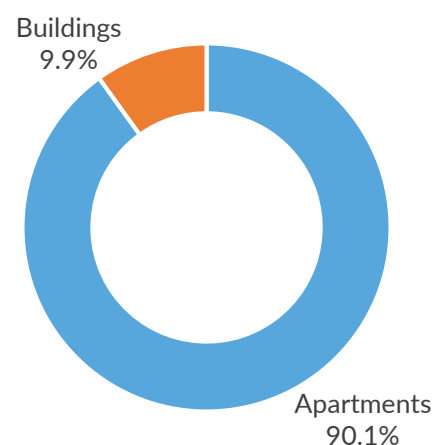
Demographics

The vast majority, 88% of individuals in the accommodation scheme are Syrian, Iraqi, Afghan, Iranian or Palestinian. However, there are people from 64 countries hosted in the programme. The individuals accommodated as of the end of July 2018 speak over 30 different languages as a mother tongue.



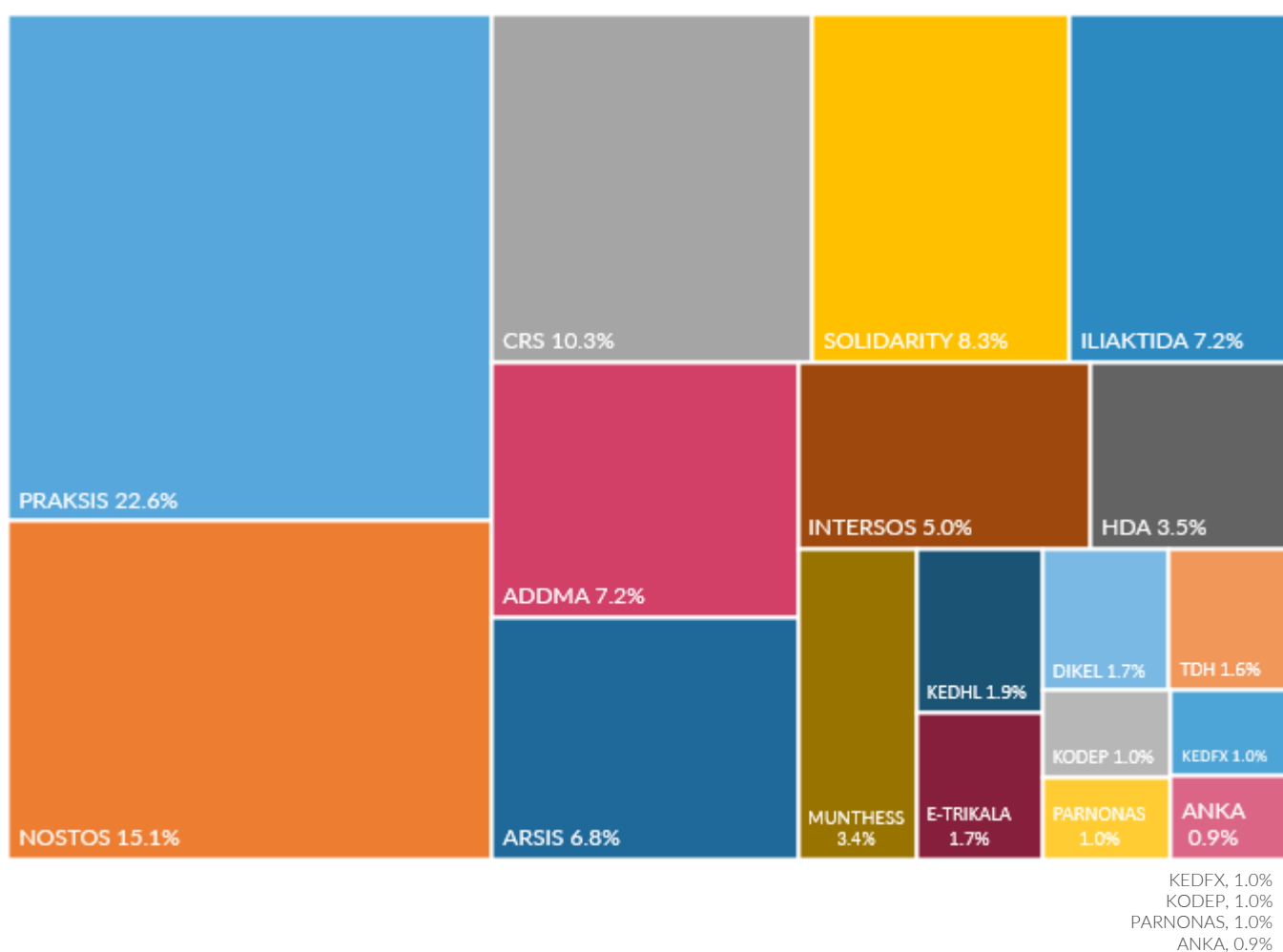
Accommodation Type

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



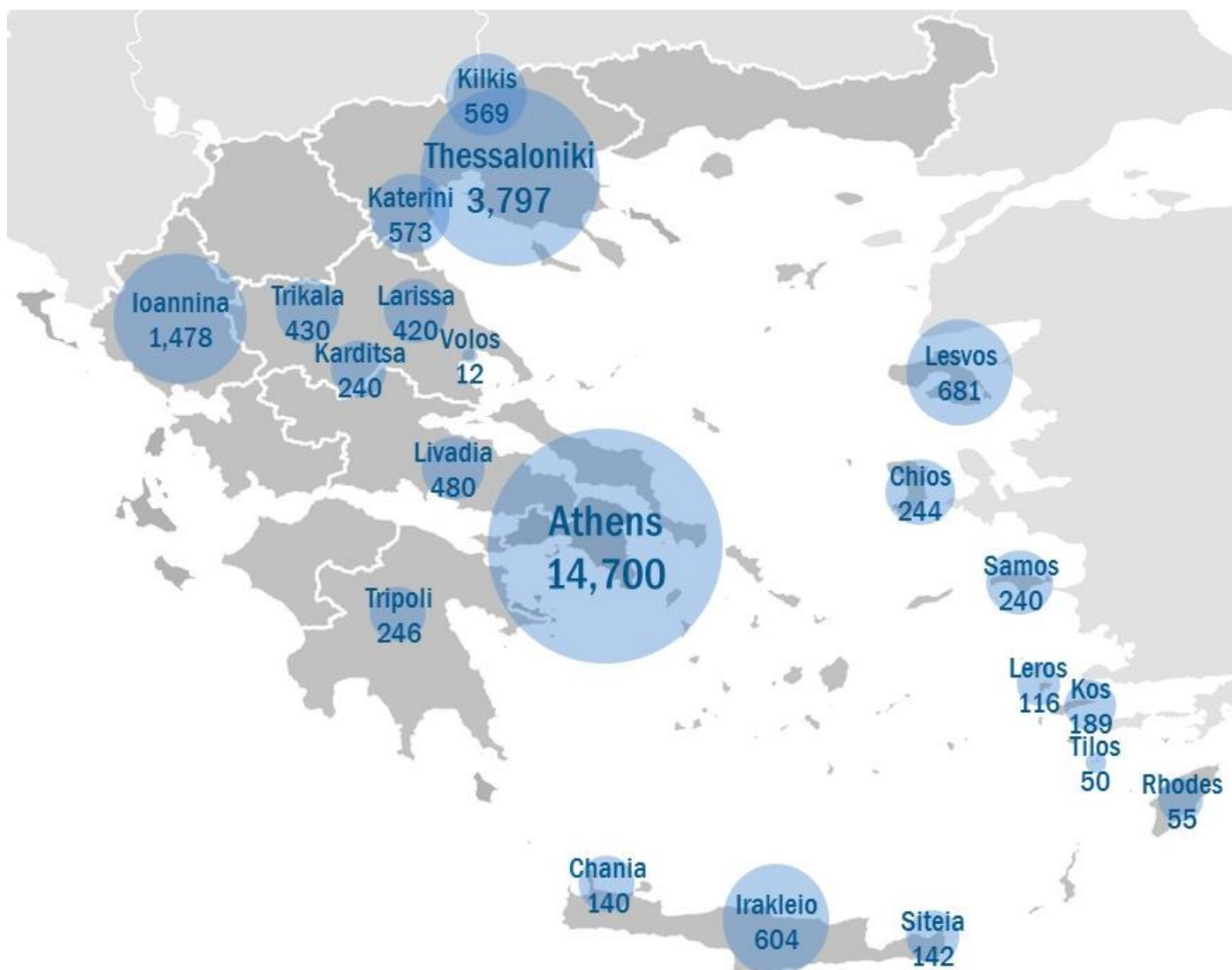
Partners

At the end of July 2018, UNHCR is implementing the accommodation scheme through 18 partnerships with 8 national and international NGOs and 10 municipalities. In total, partners managed by UNHCR provided 100% of the accommodation places in Greece. Partners Greek Council for Refugees (GRC) and METAdrasi also provide social, legal and interpretation support. UNHCR's partners are NGOs Praksis, Nostos, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Iliaktida, Solidarity Now, Arsis, Intersos, Terre des Hommes (TdH) 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 7 islands. Over half, 58% of the accommodation places are located in Athens, 36% in the rest of mainland, and 6% on the islands.



Total beneficiaries

In total, since November 2015, 50,177 individuals have benefitted from the accommodation scheme.

50,177

Total number of individuals accommodated

UNHCR's Accommodation Scheme is part of the ESTIA programme (Emergency Support to Integration and Accommodation) of the E.U. Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO).



Funded by
European Union
Civil Protection and
Humanitarian Aid