

Accommodation update



The al-Sarahi family, refugees from Iraq who arrived in Greece two years ago, pose for a group portrait in the central Athens apartment they live in. The premises were provided by the NGO, ARSIS, with support from UNHCR under the EU-funded ESTIA programme. The 42-year-old matriarch, Ahlam, holds her youngest daughter, Raef. Her sons both attend school. Moustafa wants to be a computer engineer, but his younger brother, Ali (in front of Ahlam) does not think about the future. Both speak Greek, while their older sister Aoura, aged 14, supports them with studying. Their brother Ibrahim, 21, is trying to find work so he can help with the household expenses. By the end of October 2018, ARSIS had provided 1,684 accommodation places under the EU programme. © UNHCR/Achilleas Zavallis

Overview

By the end of October 2018, UNHCR had created 25,898 places in the accommodation scheme as part of the ESTIA programme. These were in 4,306 apartments and 23 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.

25,898

Number of accommodation places

4,329

Number of units

97%

Occupancy rate ²

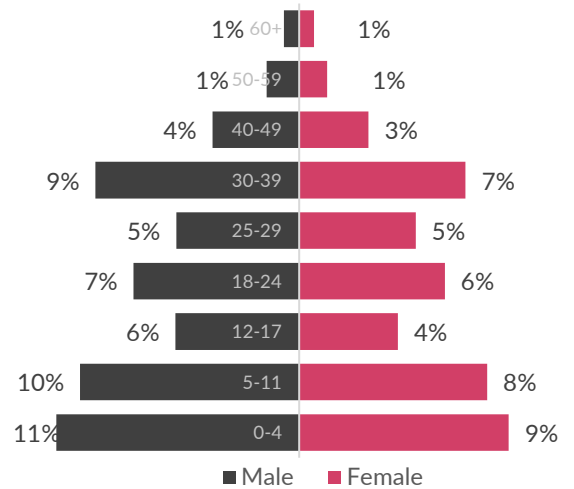
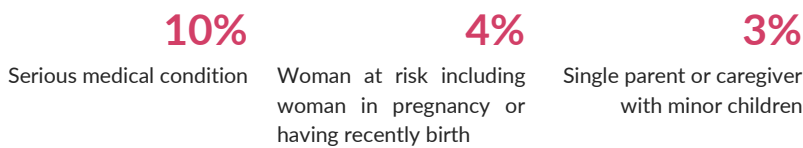
31 October 2018

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.

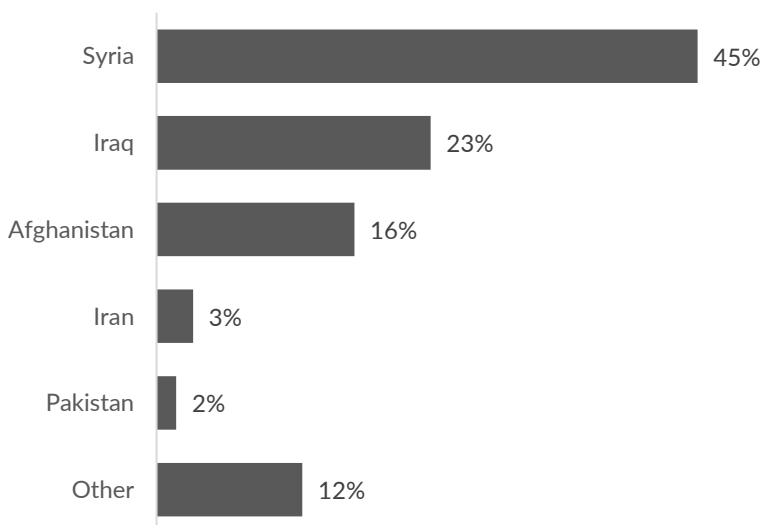
Demographics

In total, since November 2015, 53,443 individuals have benefitted from the accommodation scheme. 21,635 people were accommodated as of the end of October 2018, 5,071 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:



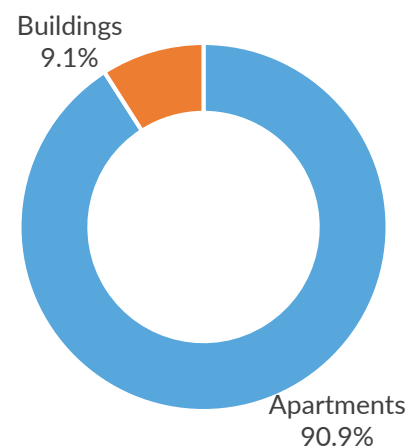
Demographics

The vast majority, 88% of individuals in the accommodation scheme are Syrian, Iraqi, Afghan, Iranian or Pakistani. However, the individuals accommodated as of the end of October 2018 speak over 30 different languages as a mother tongue.



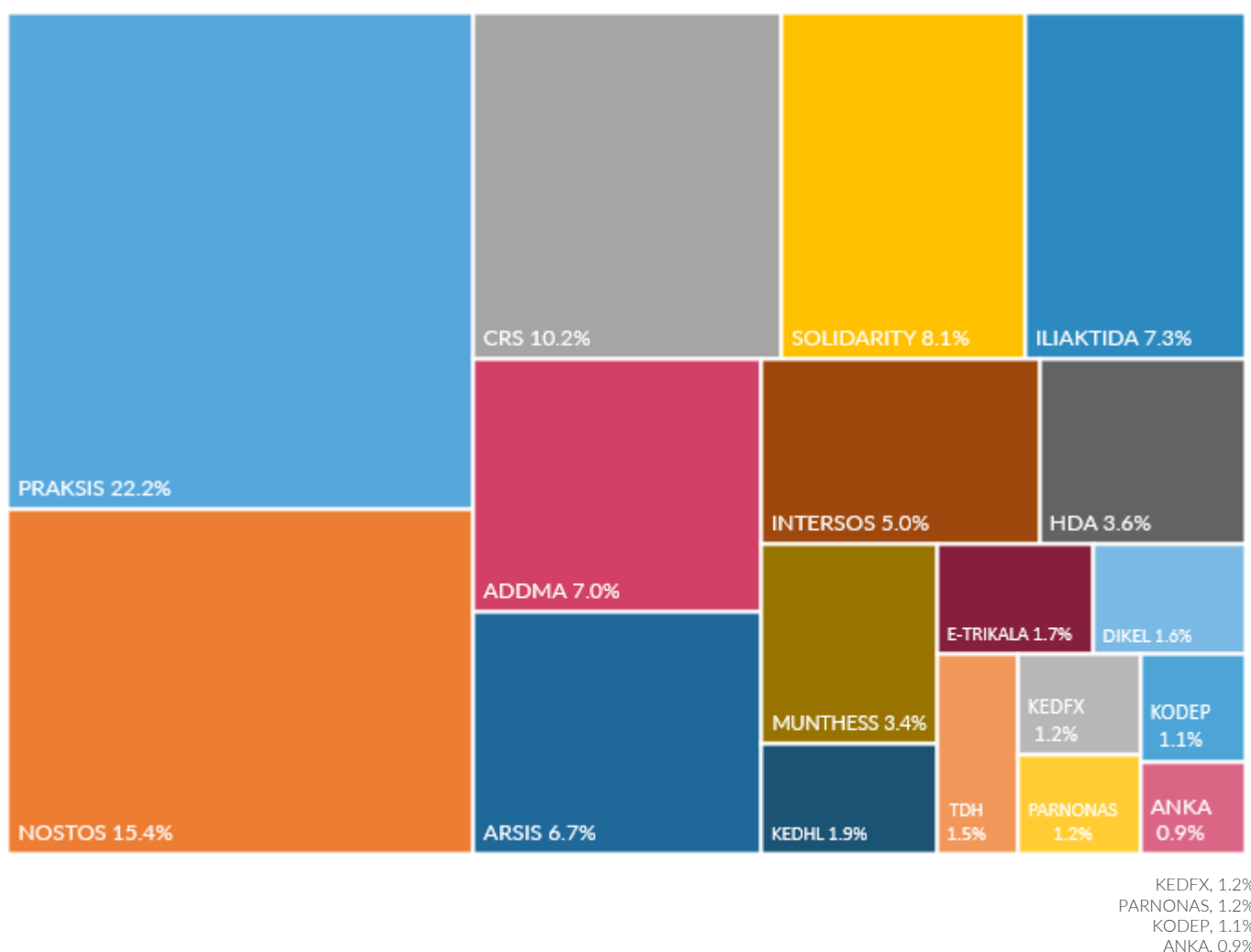
Accommodation Type

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



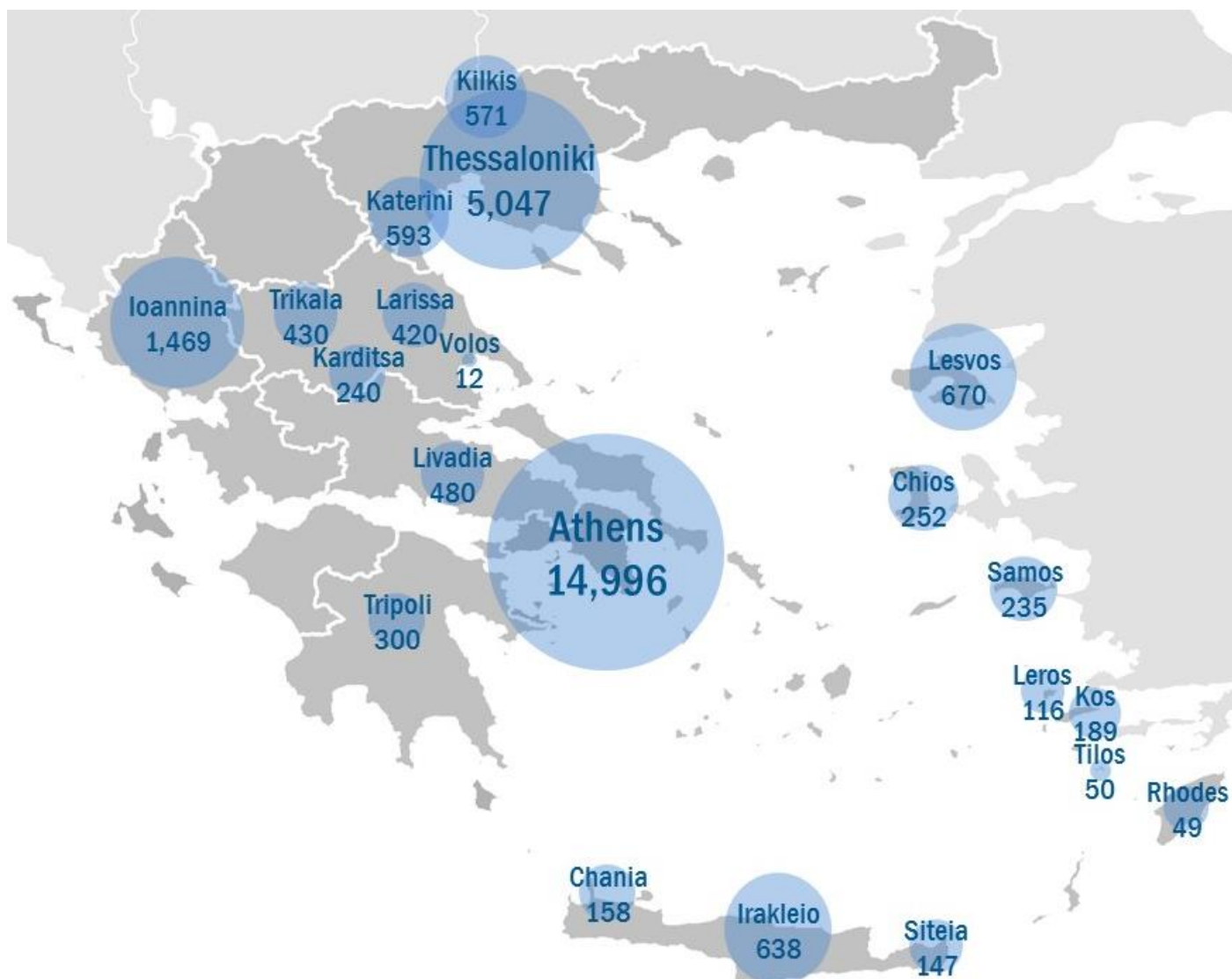
Partners

At the end of October 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, 53,443 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 E.U. Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO).

53,443

Total number of individuals accommodated



Funded by
European Union
Civil Protection and
Humanitarian Aid