

Accommodation update



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Aziza Ibish, a Syrian asylum-seeker living in Greece with her husband Mohammed Hassan and their five children, is photographed on the patio of their ESTIA-funded house on the outskirts of Karditsa. By the end of May 2019, UNHCR had created 25,213 places in the accommodation scheme, including 300 places in apartments in the city of Karditsa, central Greece, coordinated by the local municipality and the ANKA development agency.

Overview

By the end of May 2019, UNHCR had created 25,213 places in the accommodation scheme as part of the ESTIA programme. These were in 4,419 apartments and 14 buildings, in 14 cities and 6 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.

25,213

Number of accommodation places

4,433

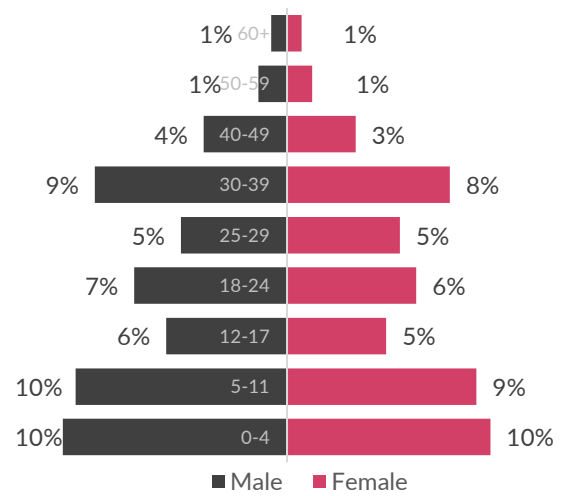
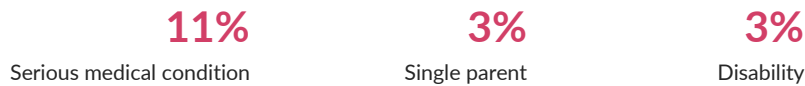
Number of units

98%

Occupancy rate²

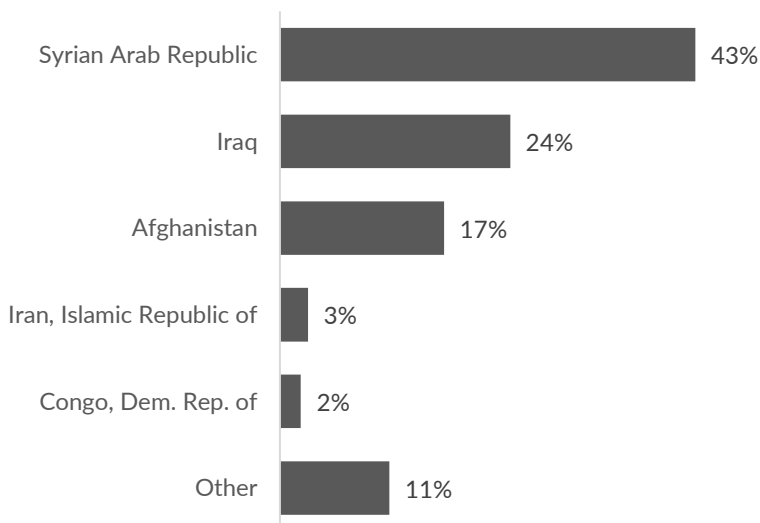
Demographics

In total, since November 2015, 58,422 individuals have benefitted from the accommodation scheme. 22,220 people were accommodated as of the end of May 2019, 7,272 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:



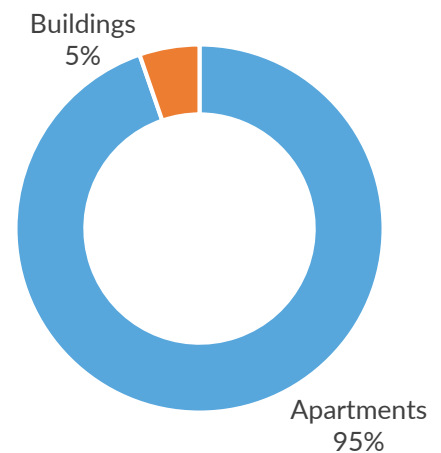
Nationalities

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 May 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.

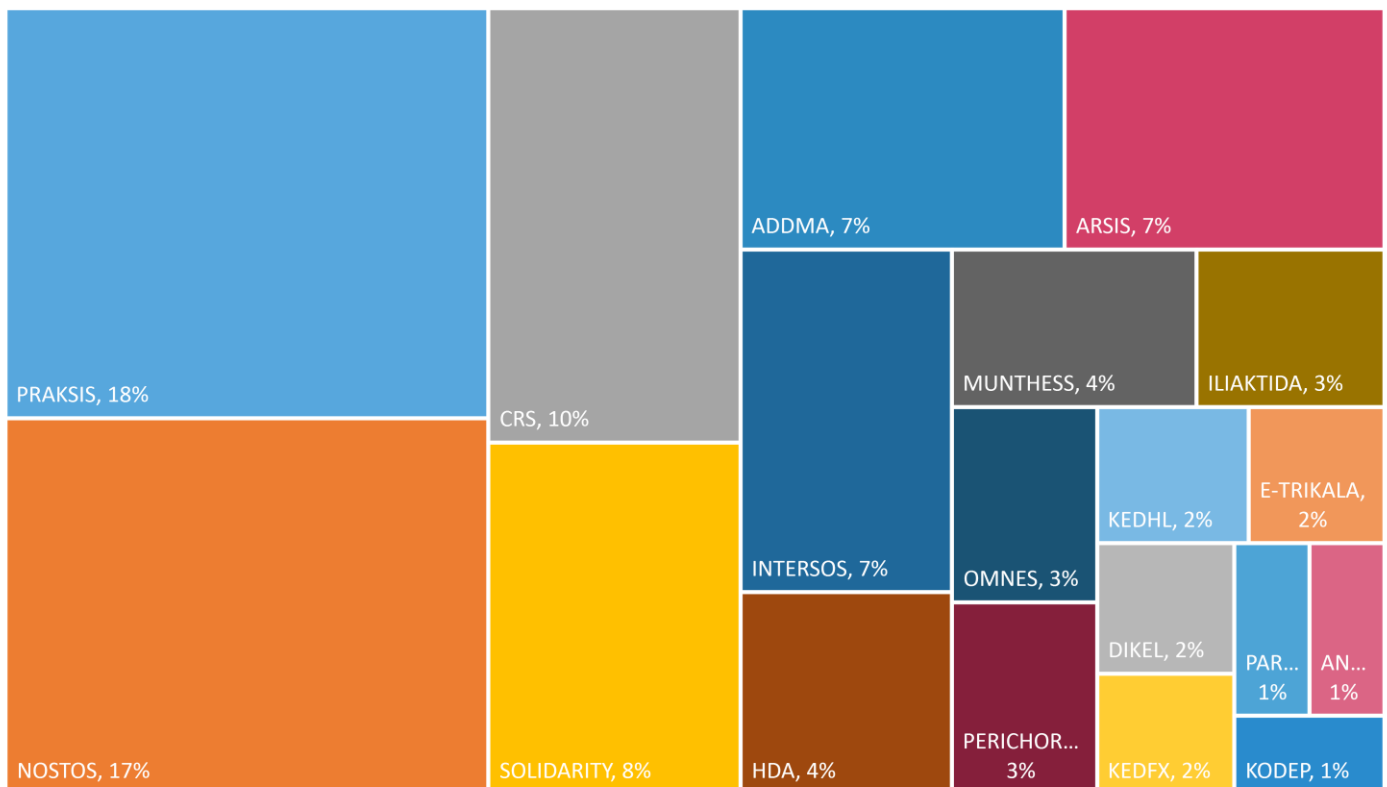


Partners

At the end of May 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.

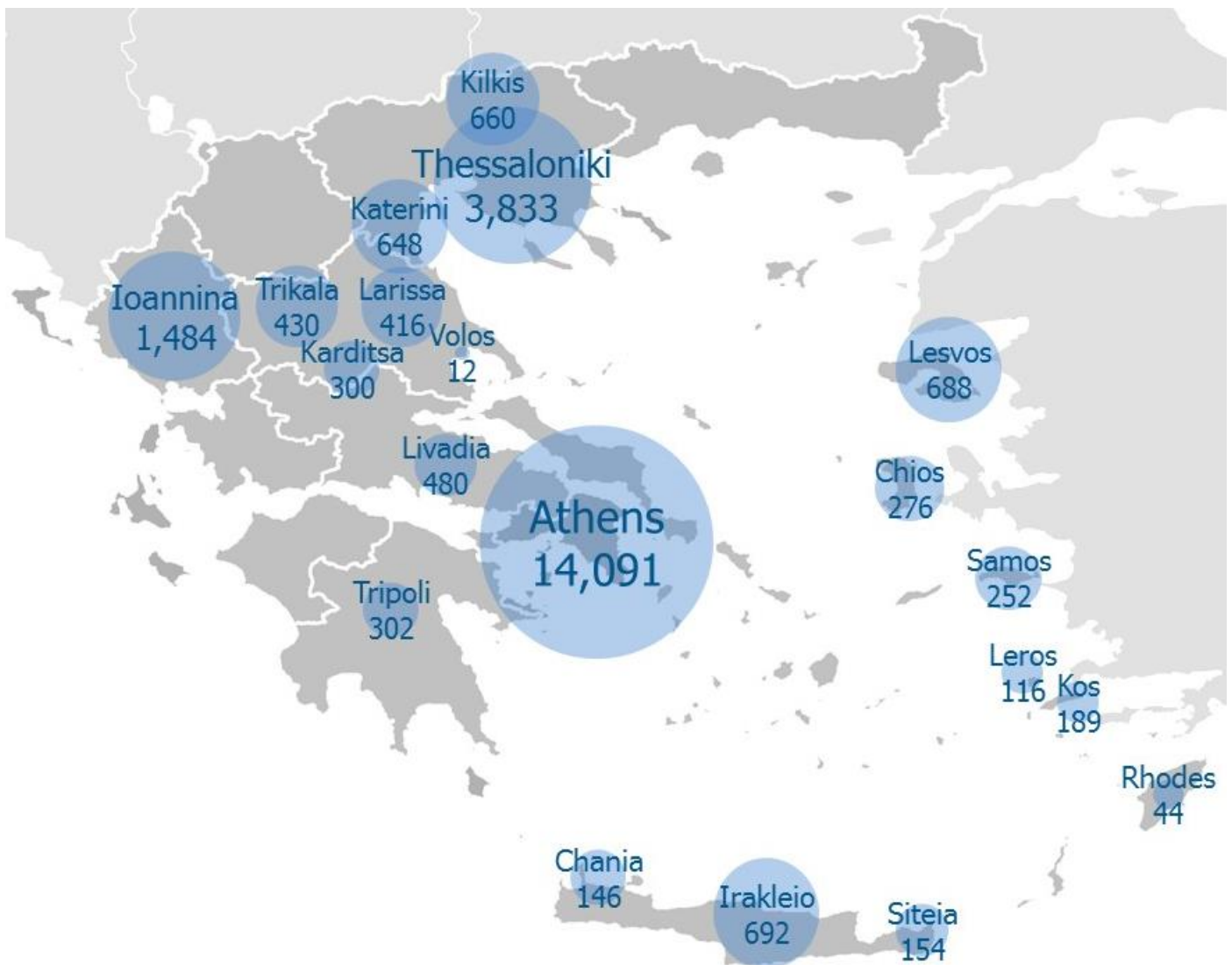
Partners GCR (Greek Council for Refugees) and METAdrasi provide social, legal and interpretation support. EPAPSY (Association for Regional Development and Mental Health) provides mental health services to refugees and asylum seekers with severe mental health conditions and disabilities.

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, 58,422 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.

58,422

Total number of individuals accommodated



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