

Accommodation update



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5 years old Bahar with her father, Mohammad, and her 9 years old brother Elham chat in the balcony of their house in Thessaloniki. The five-member family of asylum-seekers from Afghanistan live in an apartment rented by UNHCR partner ARSIS, as part of the ESTIA programme. The programme is co-funded by the European Union.

Overview

By the end of February 2020, UNHCR had created 25,642 places in the accommodation scheme as part of the ESTIA programme. These were in 4,609 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.

25,642

Number of accommodation places

4,617

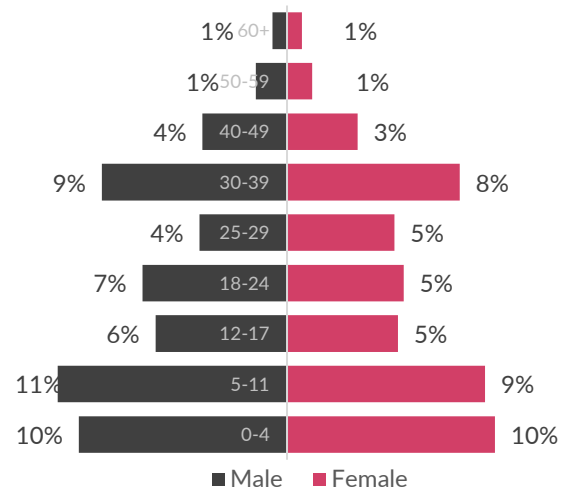
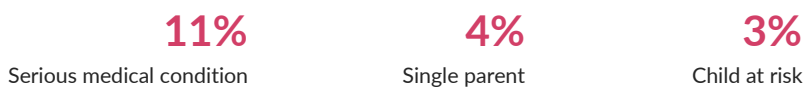
Number of units

97.3%

Occupancy rate ²

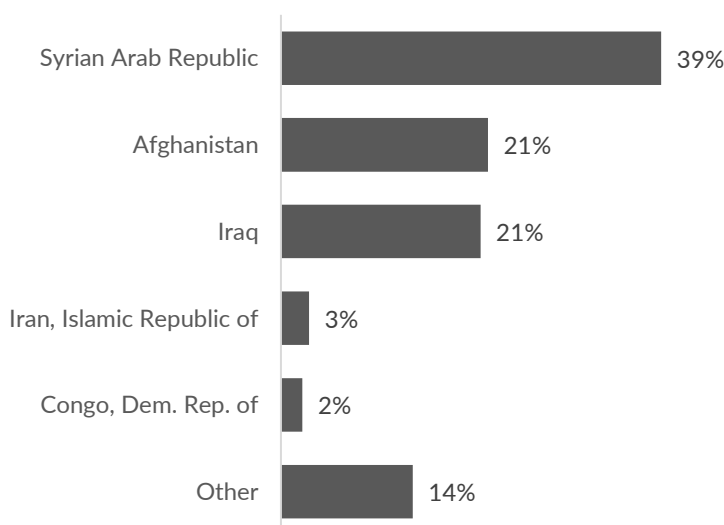
Demographics

In total, since November 2015, 65,477 individuals have benefitted from the accommodation scheme. 21,666 people were accommodated as of the end of February 2020, 6,536 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:



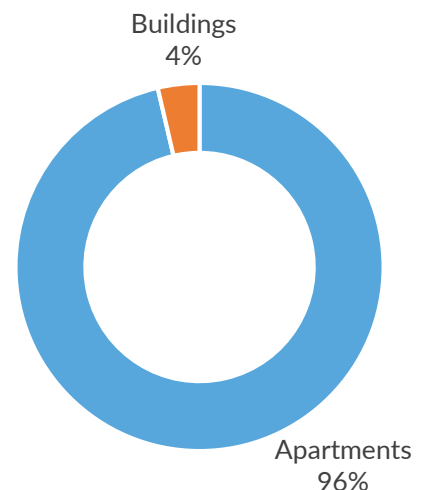
Nationalities

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.

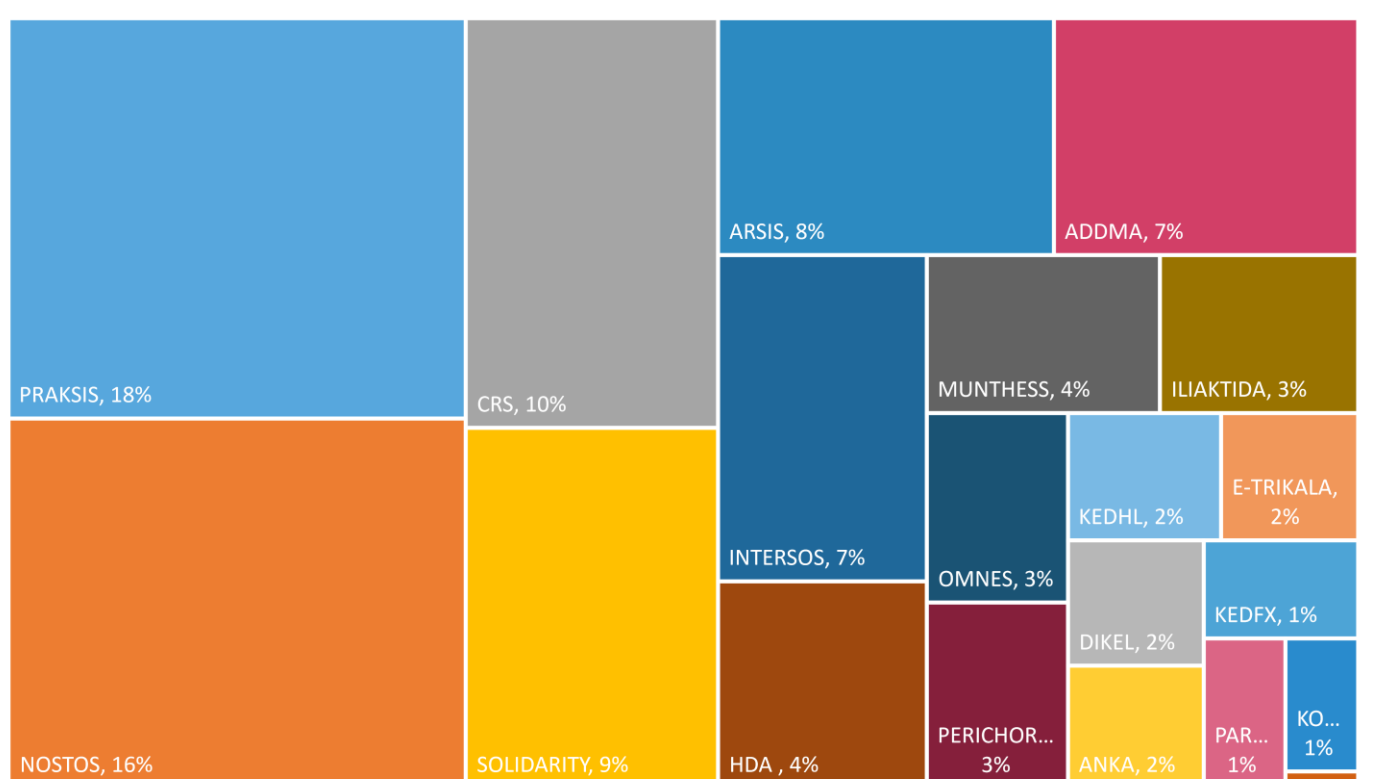


Partners

At the end of February 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).



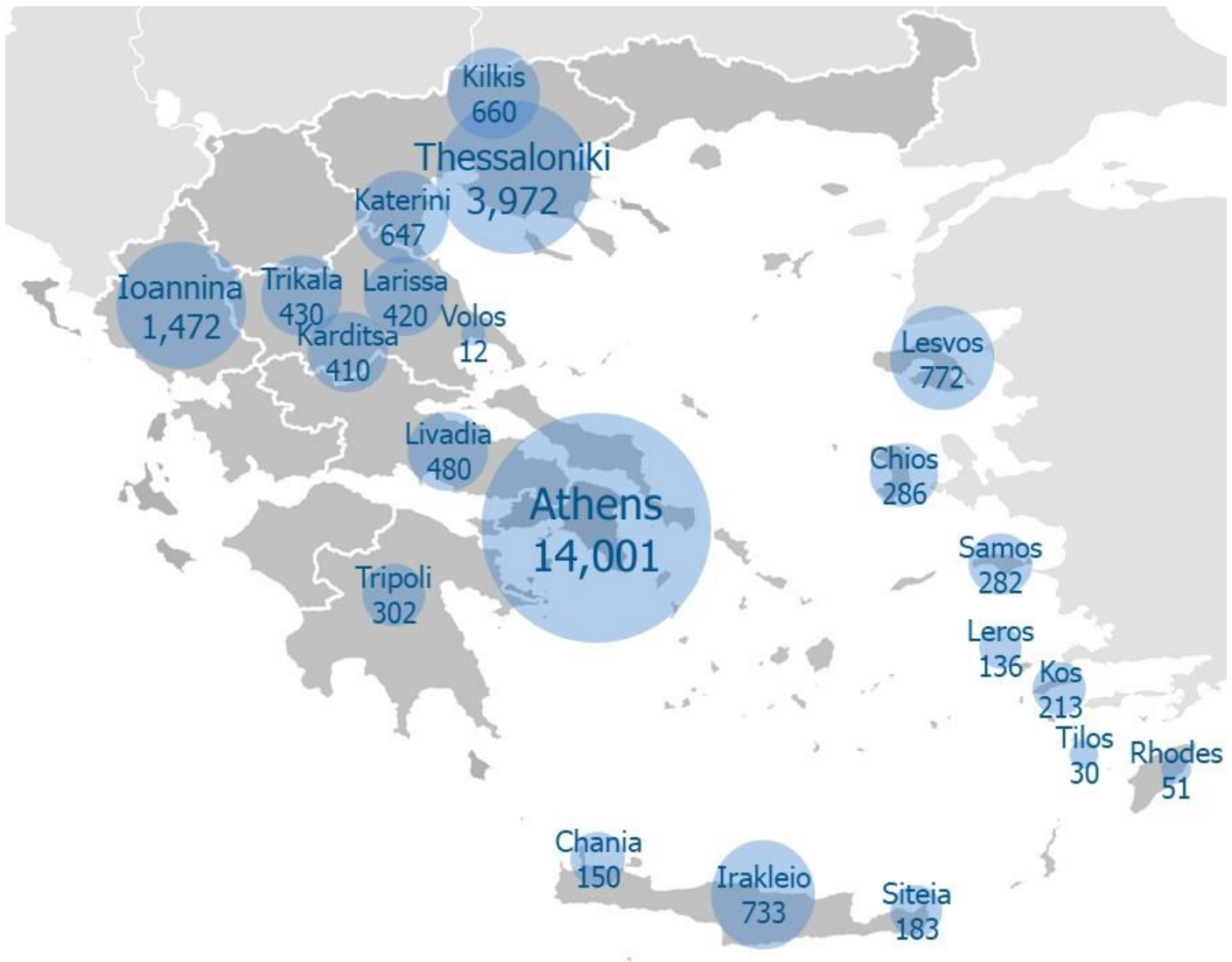
TILOS, 1%

"I arrived in Greece alone, as an unaccompanied minor, without any supporting network. In February 2019, I was transferred from the Shelter to an ADDMA apartment. I attend formal education (specialized in nursing) and speak fluent English and Greek. Under the guidance and constant encouragement of my Support Team and Counselors, I am determined to enter the labor market as I wish to live in Greece and become a doctor."

19-year-old Ashrat Nawab from Afghanistan, lives in a shared apartment with other young men of his age and country in Central Athens, rented as part of the the ESTIA Program by UNHCR partner Athens Development and Destination Management Agency (ADDMA) of the City of Athens.

Location of accommodation

Accommodation for asylum seekers and recognized refugees is provided in 14 cities in mainland and 7 islands. Over half, 55% of the accommodation places are in Athens, 38% in the rest of mainland, and 7% on the islands.



Total beneficiaries

In total, since November 2015, 65,477 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.

65,477

Total number of individuals accommodated

