

Accommodation update



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Mounir Haba, a 38-year-old asylum-seeker from Algeria, and his children Ali, 9, Salima, 6, and Liliana, 1, chat while his wife Aya Kahwaji, 29, prepares breakfast. Mounir and Aya live with their three children in Thessaloniki in an apartment rented by UNHCR partner INTERSOS under the ESTIA program. Nine-year-old Ali and six-year-old Salima both attended 3rd Primary School of Kalamaria before the COVID-19 outbreak. The five-member family are among more than 22,000 refugees and asylum-seekers currently benefitting from the EU-funded ESTIA program in Greece.

Overview

By the end of April 2020, UNHCR had created 25,496 places in the accommodation scheme as part of the ESTIA programme. These were in 4,588 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.

25,496

Number of accommodation places

4,596

Number of units

97.8%

 Occupancy rate ²

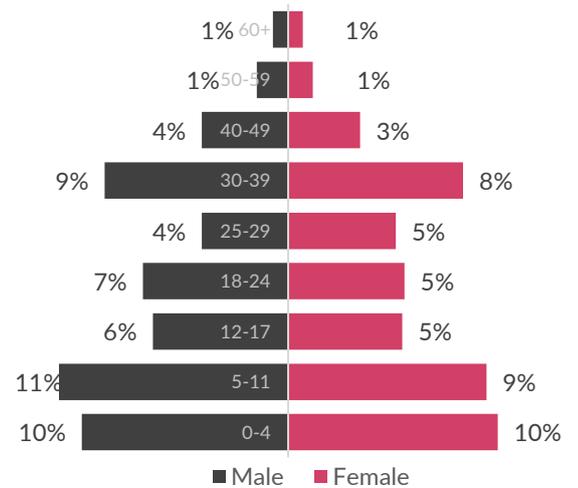
30 April 2020

¹The 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 several municipalities around Greece to provide rented accommodation in apartments and buildings. The accommodation scheme commenced in November 2015.

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

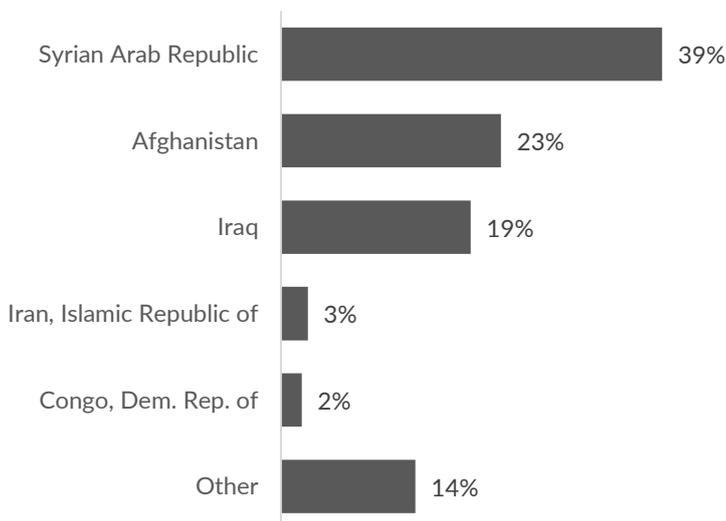
Demographics

In total, since November 2015, 66,941 individuals have benefitted from the accommodation scheme. 22,395 people were accommodated as of the end of April 2020, 6,534 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:



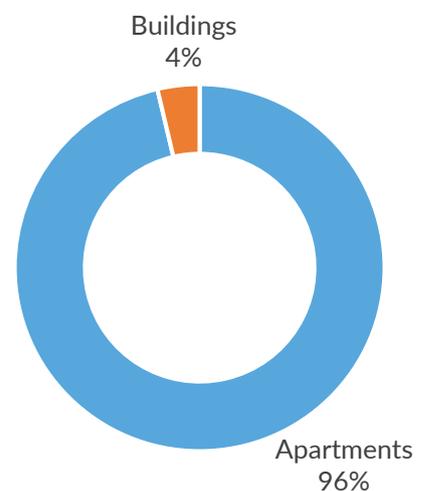
Nationalities

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 April 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.

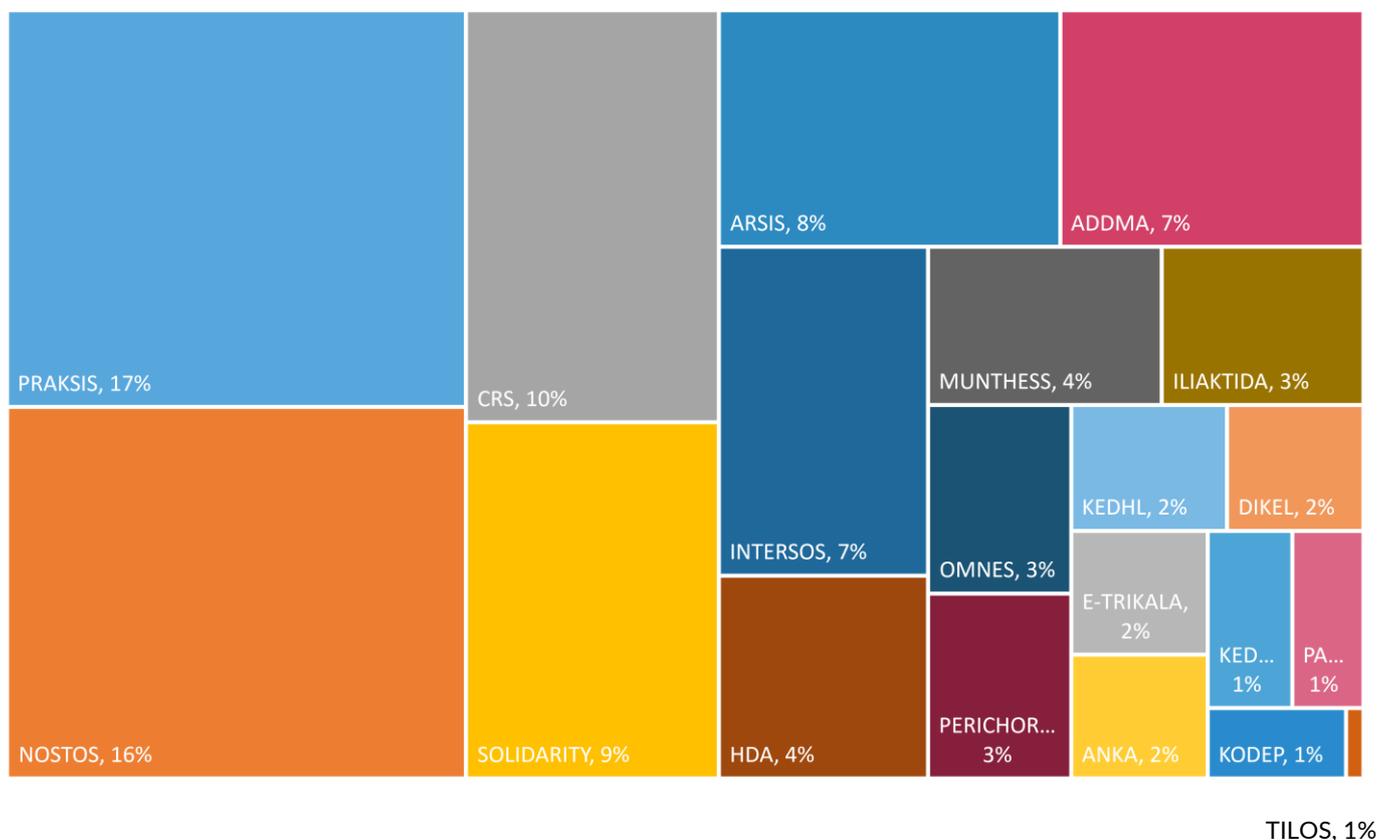


Partners

At the end of April 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).

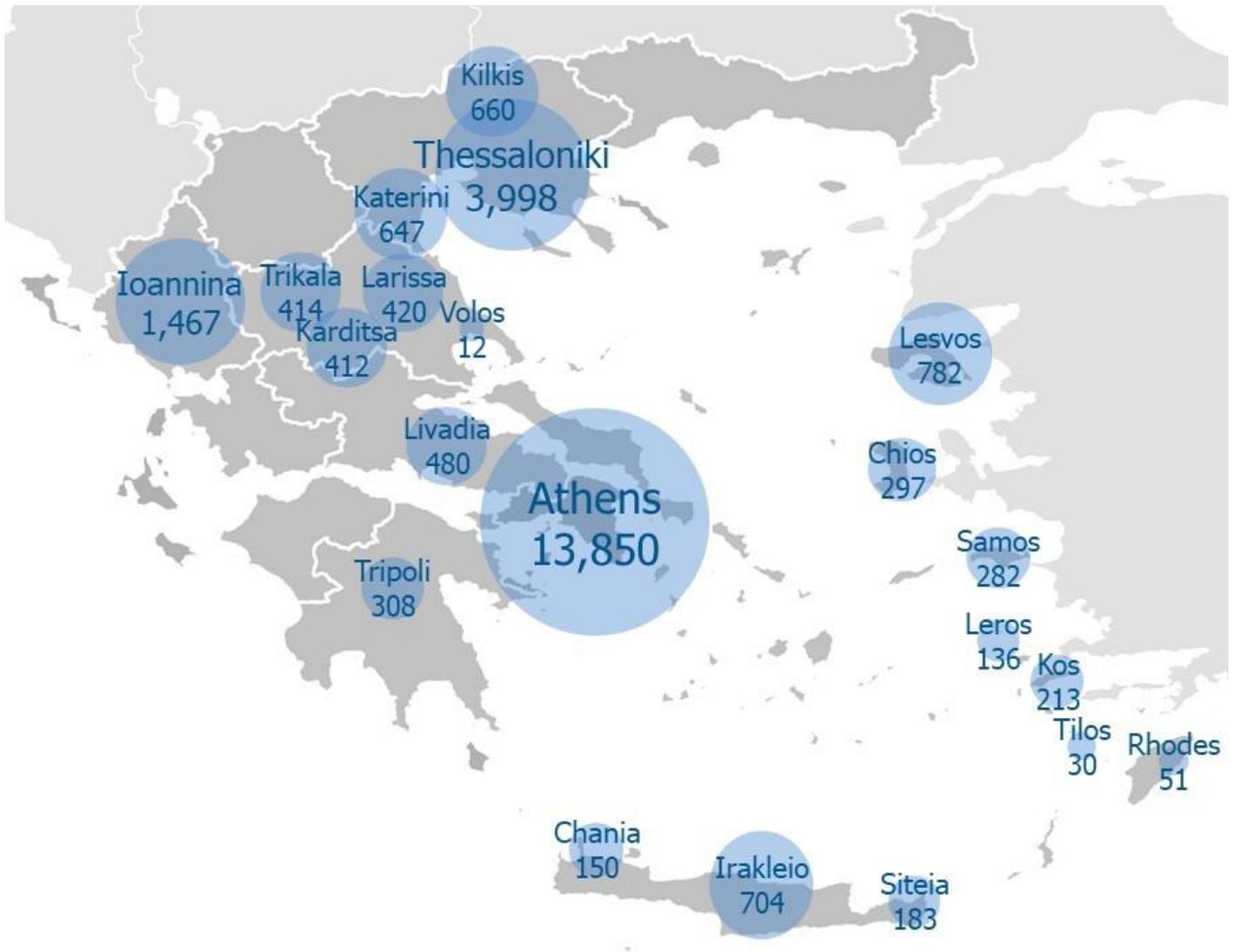


My name is Elbazi Ilham and I am 33 years old. I came from Morocco and on April 2019 I was transferred to the camp of Filippiada. After a month and while I was 8 months pregnant, I moved on ESTIA Program of ARSIS Thessaloniki. My social worker and her colleagues helped me with all the necessary medical examinations and a month later I gave birth a healthy and beautiful baby girl. I have great relationships with my neighbors, who love my daughter and gave us a baby stroller as a gift for her birth. Unfortunately, I didn't have the chance to learn Greek so far, but I would like to start lessons as soon as possible and find a job, in order to build a new life here for me and my daughter.

33-year-old Elbazi Ilham from Morocco with her new daughter, live in an apartment in Thessaloniki rented as part of the ESTIA Program by UNHCR partner ARSIS.

Location of accommodation

Accommodation for asylum seekers and recognized refugees is provided in 14 cities in mainland and 7 islands. Over half, 54% of the accommodation places are in Athens, 39% in the rest of mainland, and 7% on the islands.



Total beneficiaries

In total, since November 2015, 66,941 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.

66,941

Total number of individuals accommodated

