

# Accommodation update



Amin Aryan Amir Ali, 27 years old asylum-seeker from Iraq, fled his country along with his family in October 2017, when their house was destroyed by bombs. In November 2018, they arrived in Samos, Greece, where they stayed for 14 months. By mid-2020, after having temporarily lived in two different camps on mainland Greece, they had arrived in Livadia and they currently live in an apartment rented by UNHCR partner Public Benefit Organization of the Municipality of Livadia (K.E.DH.L.), as part of the EU co-funded ESTIA programme.

## Overview

By the end of December 2020, 11,552 places were under UNHCR and 16,596 places were under the Ministry of Migration and Asylum of Greece, in the context of the agreed gradual transition of the totality of the programme to the Greek authorities. In total, 28,148 places were created as part of the programme. These were in 4,409 apartments and 21 buildings, in 16 cities and 7 islands across Greece.

The Accommodation Scheme<sup>1</sup> 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.

**28,148**

Number of accommodation places

**4,430**

Number of units

**96.2%**

Occupancy rate<sup>2</sup>

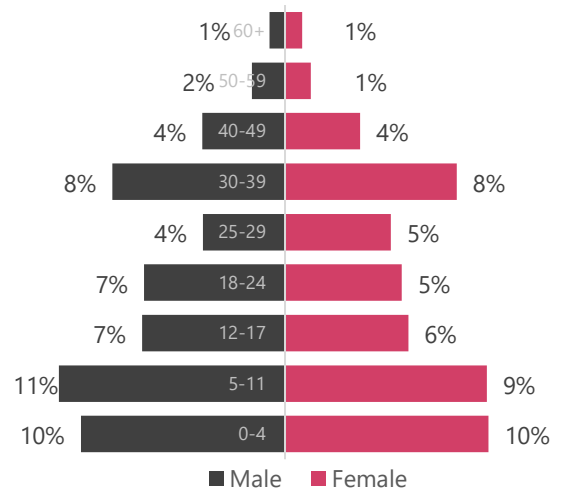
31 December 2020

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

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

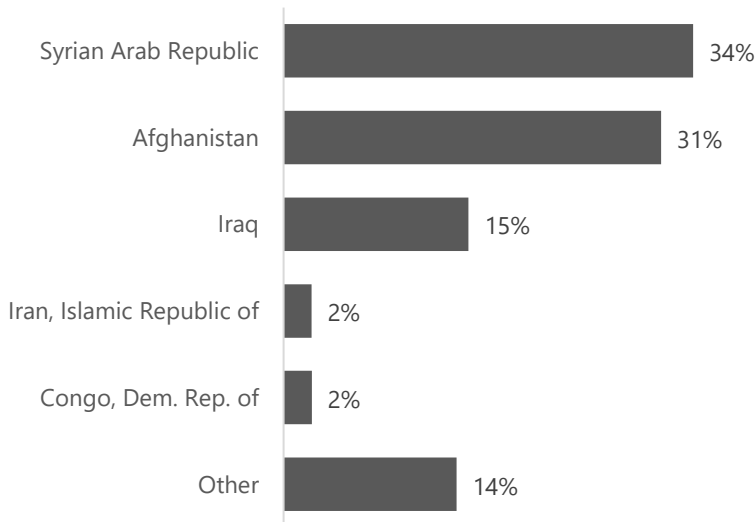
## Demographics

In total, since November 2015, around 73,000 individuals have benefitted from the accommodation scheme. 20,356 people were accommodated as of the end of December 2020, 6,199 of whom are recognized refugees. 52% 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:



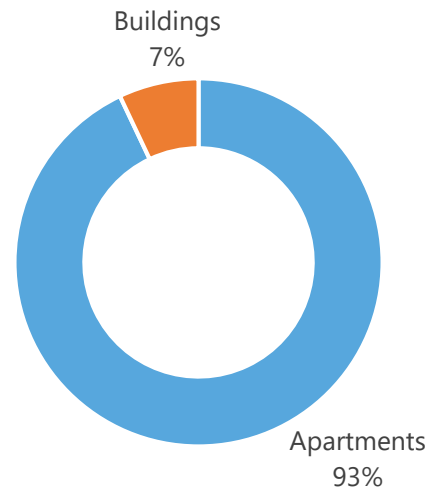
## Nationalities

The clear majority, 86% of individuals in the accommodation scheme are Syrians, Afghans, Iraqis, Iranians or Congolese (DRC). However, the individuals accommodated as of the end of December 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

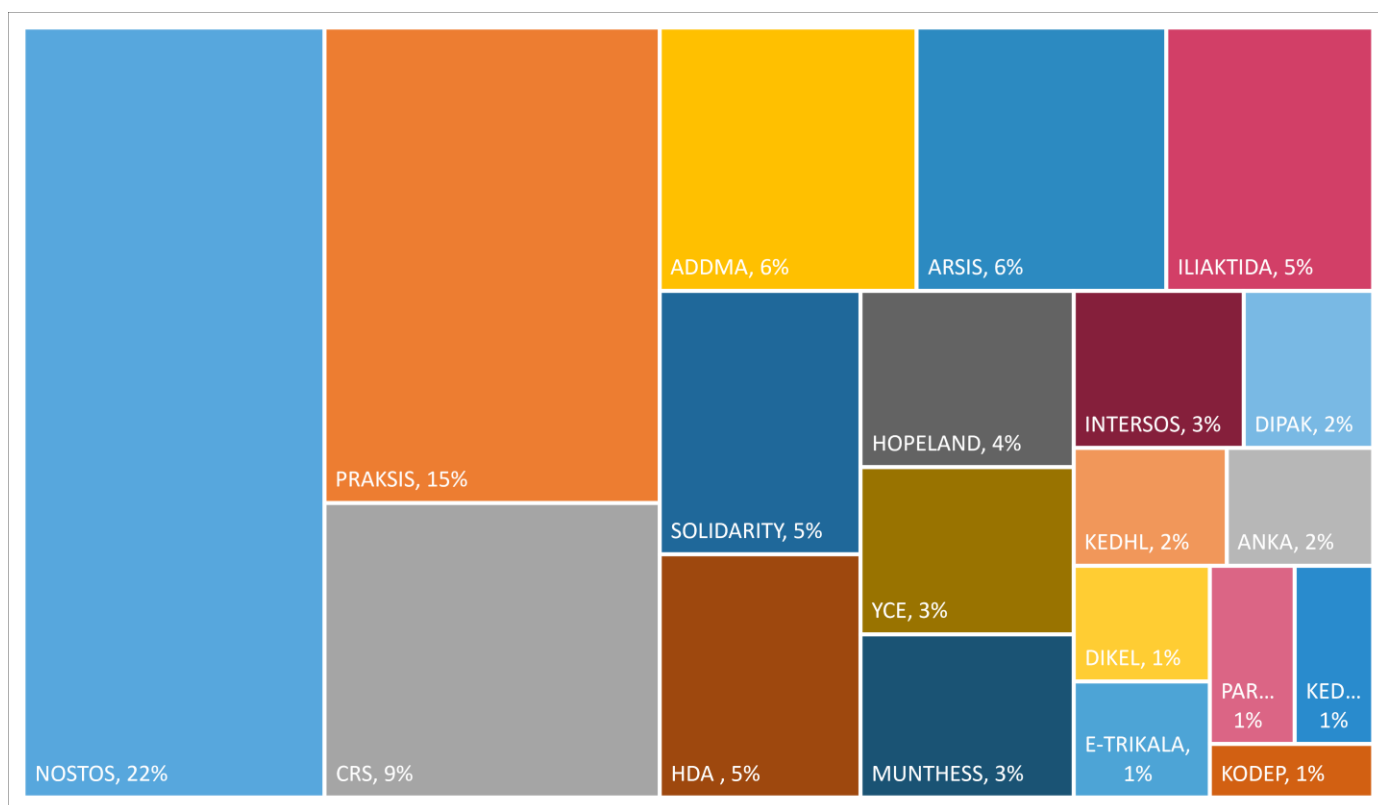
At the end of December 2020, UNHCR and MMA are implementing the accommodation scheme through 25 partnerships with 13 national and international NGOs and 12 municipalities. In total, partners managed by UNHCR provided 41% of the accommodation places in Greece and partners managed by MMA provided 59% of the accommodation places in Greece.

UNHCR 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, Arsis (Thessaloniki, Samos, Kos, Leros, Rhodes), Intersos, Omnes, Perichoresis, Solidarity Now, 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).

MMA’s accommodation partners are NGOs Arsis (Athens, Chios), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Hopeland, ICSD, Iliaktida, Nostos, SSA, YCE and the municipality of Katerini (DIPAK).

NGO Praksis (Athens, Thessaloniki) has places under both UNHCR and MMA.



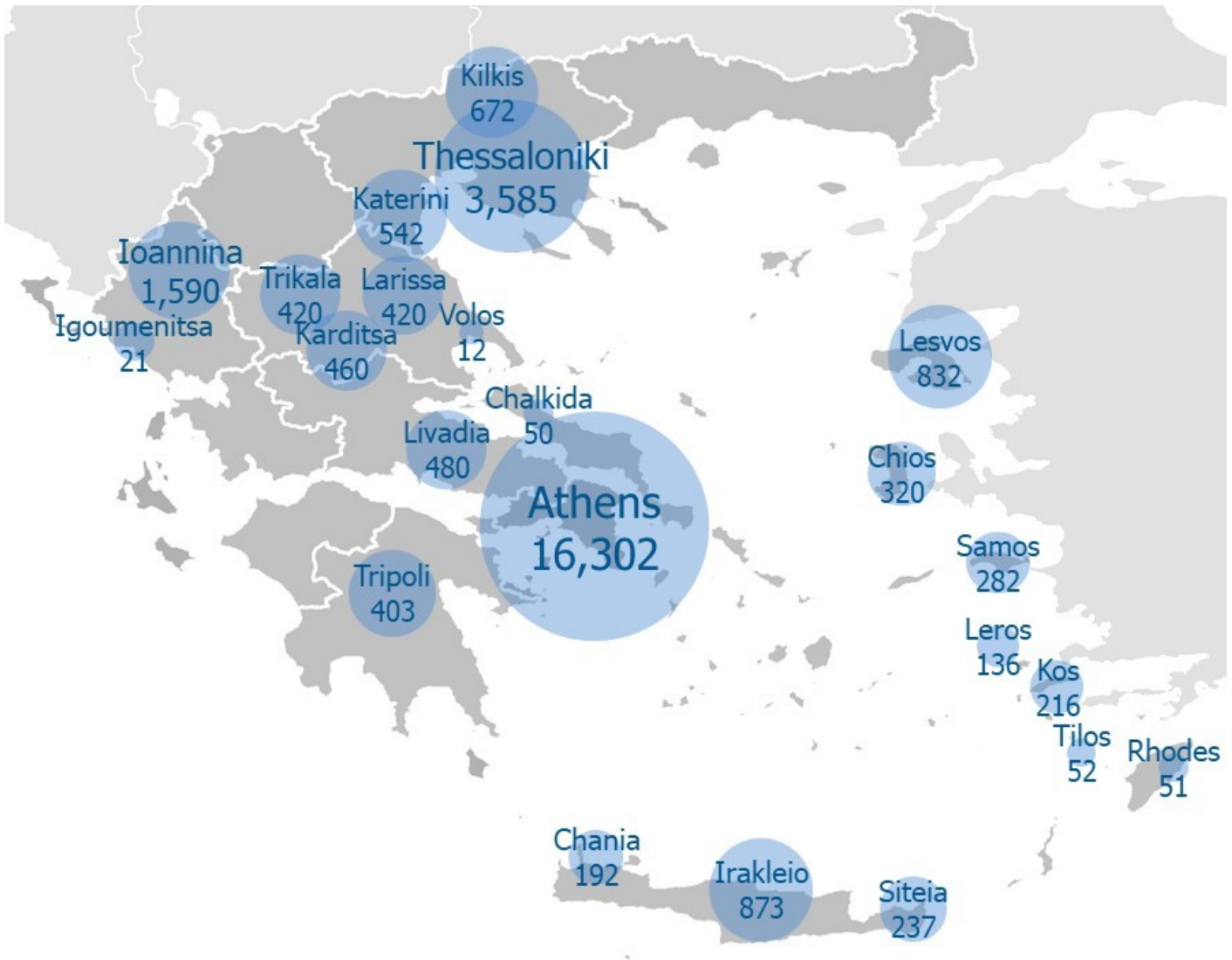
SSA 1%, ICSD 1%, OMNES, 1% PERICHORESIS, 1%, OMNES 1%, TILOS 1%

*“When I got into the apartment in Livadia, I left behind all the bad memories I had up to that moment. Our apartment offered us what we were deprived of during all these years staying in the camps. COVID-19 protective measures have definitely limited our daily life having no other choice but to stay at home and be connected via internet; even though until that time we used to go for walks in the city with our children and spend time in the area of Krya, which is very beautiful. We often upload photos and videos from the city on social media. The reason is to have beautiful memories of the place we live now. The people in the city are nice to us, especially, our neighbors. They take care of us and now, during holidays, they even bought presents for our children”.*

Amin Aryan Amir Ali, a 27-year-old asylum-seeker from Iraq, lives with his family in an apartment rented by UNHCR partner Public Benefit Organization of the Municipality of Livadia (K.E.DH.L.), as part of the EU co-funded ESTIA programme.

## Location of accommodation

Accommodation for asylum seekers and recognized refugees is provided in 16 cities in mainland and 7 islands. Over half, 58% of the accommodation places are in Athens, 35% in the rest of mainland, and 7% on the islands.



## Total beneficiaries

In total, since November 2015, around 73,000 individuals have benefitted from the accommodation scheme.

The Accommodation Scheme is part of the ESTIA II programme, co-funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Union.

# 73,000

Total number of individuals accommodated



Co-funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Union