

Accommodation update



Farhad, 12, plays guitar for his sister Farzaneh, 9, and younger brother, Sana, 2, in their bedroom in a rented apartment in Lesvos.

The children fled Afghanistan with their parents and brother, in search for safety. The family of six reached Lesvos island, where they stayed in Moria Reception and Identification Centre for seven months, in difficult conditions.

A sense of normalcy has returned in their everyday life since they were moved out of Moria camp and into an apartment provided by UNHCR and its partner, Iliaktida, under the ESTIA programme, funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Union.

Overview

By the end of January 2019, UNHCR had created 26,452 places in the accommodation scheme as part of the ESTIA programme. These were in 4,500 apartments and 19 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.

26,452

Number of accommodation places

4,519

Number of units

98%

Occupancy rate²

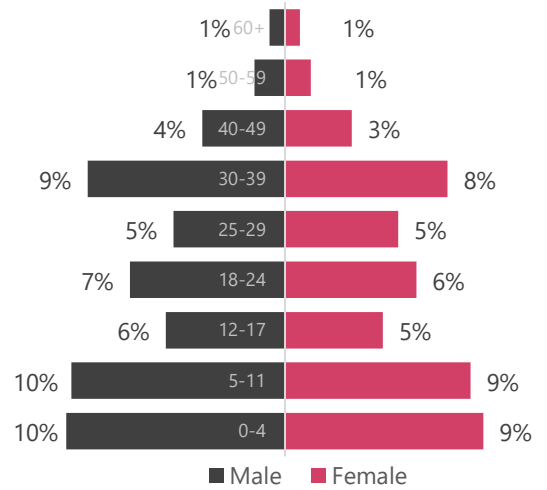
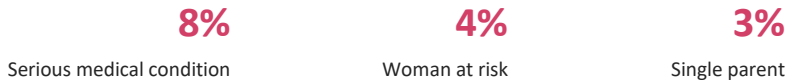
Demographics

31 January 2019

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

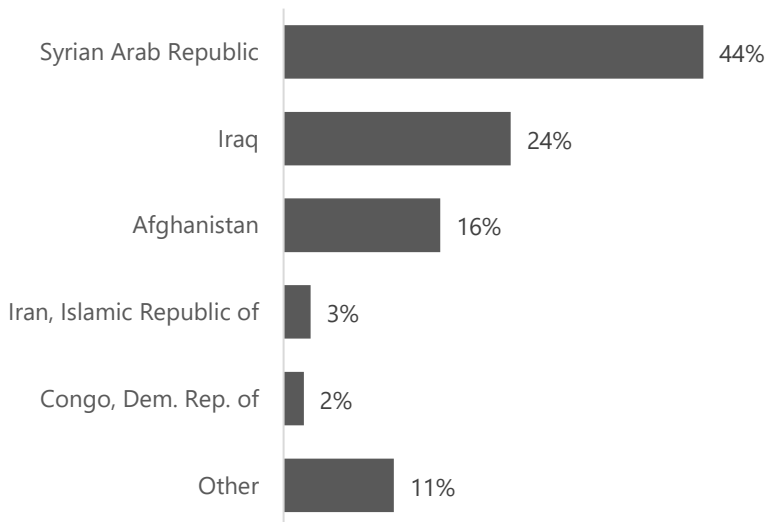
² The occupancy rate is calculated as the percentage of current population over actual capacity.

In total, since November 2015, 56,529 individuals have benefitted from the accommodation scheme. 22,750 people were accommodated as of the end of January 2019, 5,728 of whom are recognized refugees. 48% 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 five residents have at least one of the vulnerabilities that make them eligible for the accommodation scheme. The three most common vulnerabilities are:



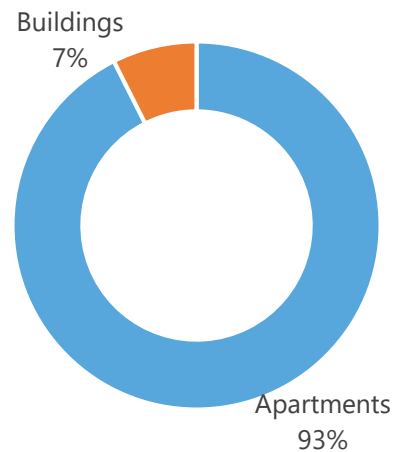
Nationalities

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 January 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.

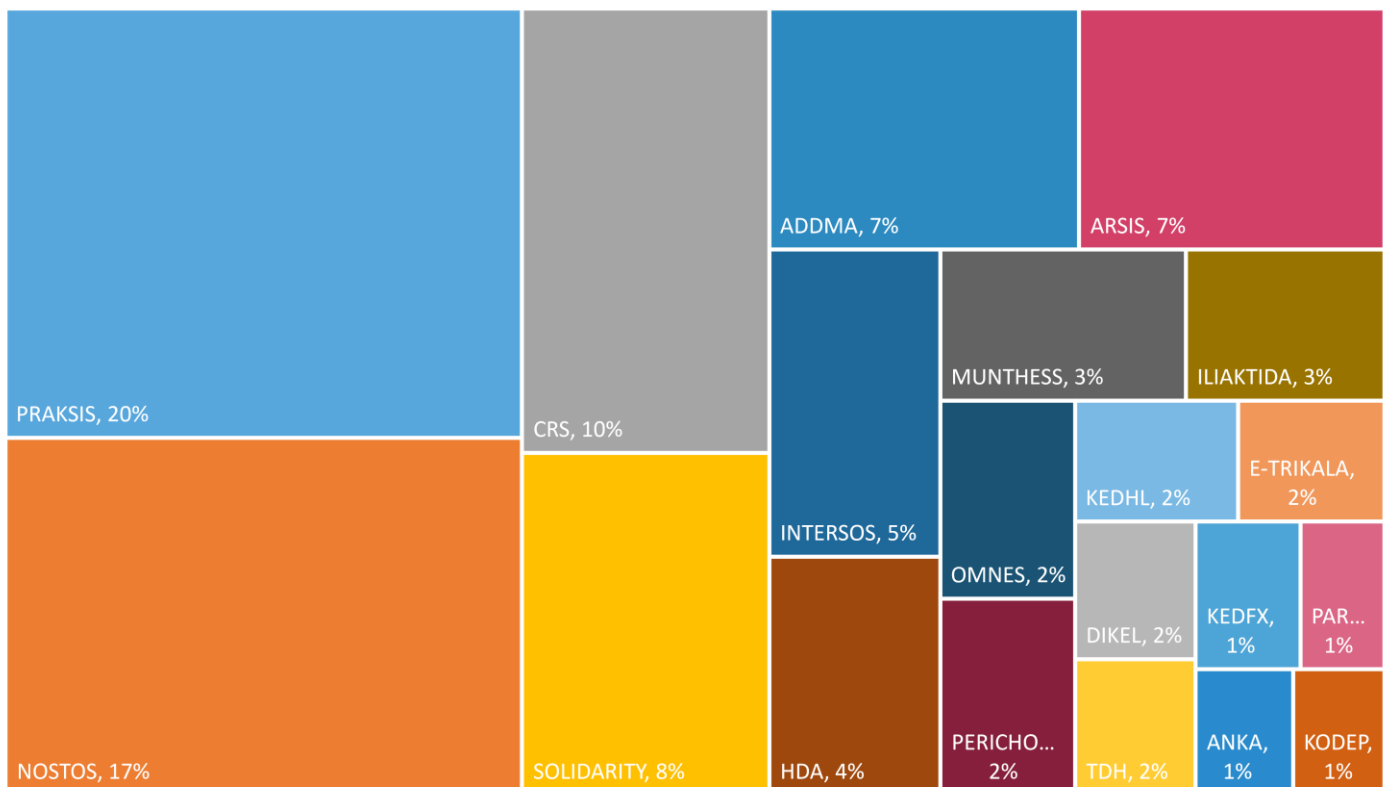


Partners

At the end of January 2019, UNHCR is implementing the accommodation scheme through 23 partnerships with 13 national and international NGOs and 10 municipalities. In total, partners managed by UNHCR provided 100% of the accommodation places in Greece.

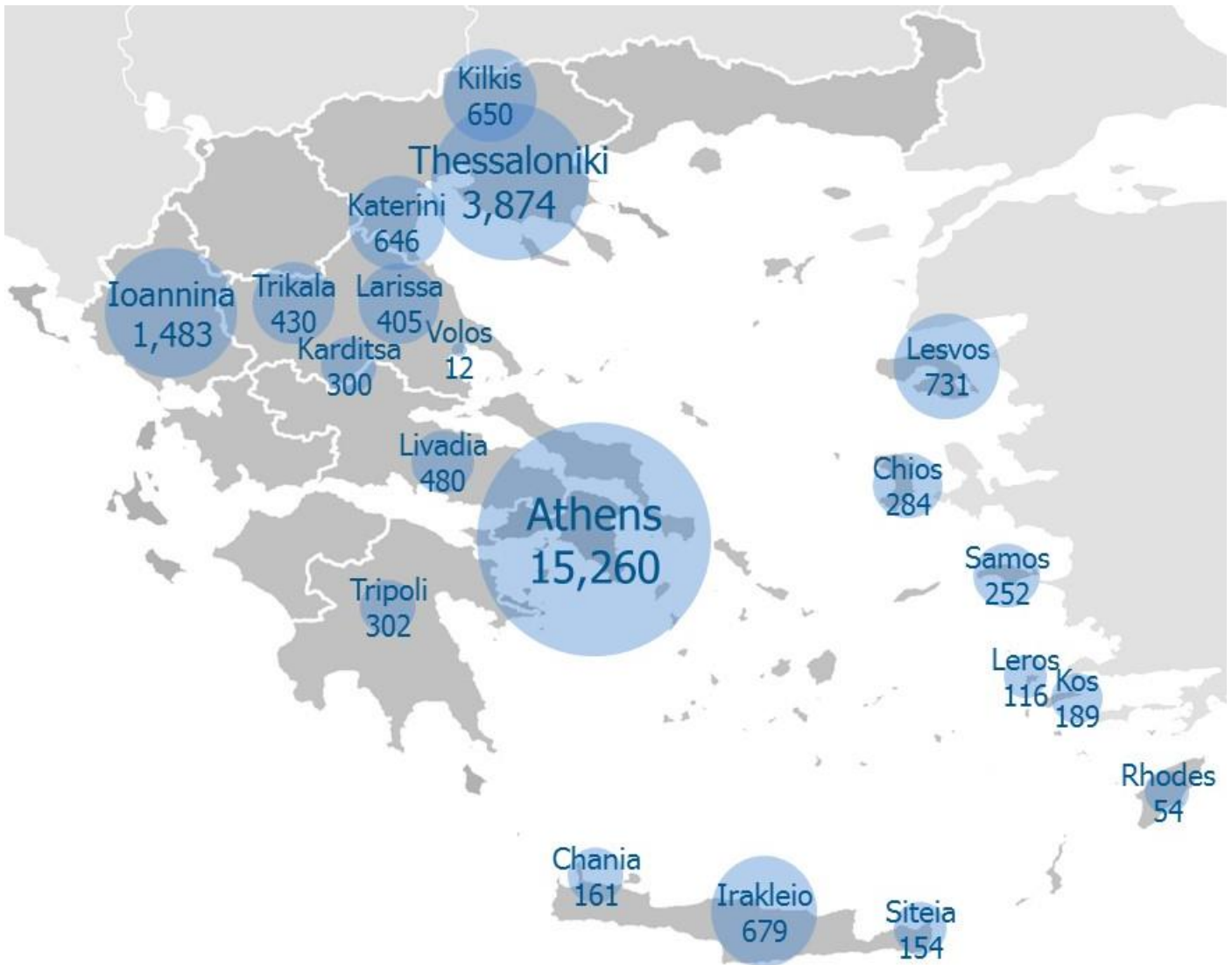
Partners GCR (Greek Council for Refugees) and METAdrasi provide social, legal and interpretation support. EPAPSY (Association for Regional Development and Mental Health) provides mental health services to refugees and asylum seekers with severe mental health conditions and disabilities.

UNHCR’s accommodation partners are NGOs Praksis, Nostos, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Iliaktida, Solidarity Now, Arsis, Intersos, Omnes, Perichoresis, 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 6 islands. Over half, 58% of the accommodation places are in Athens, 36% in the rest of mainland, and 6% on the islands.



Total beneficiaries

In total, since November 2015, 56,529 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.

56,529

Total number of individuals accommodated



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