

Accommodation update



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Five-year-old Mohamad plays on a tricycle in the house he lives with his parents, Almlihan Kanwan and Alghafor Isa, and his six siblings. The family of nine fled their village in Syria in 2018, when the eldest son was injured in a bombing. From Turkey they passed to the Greek island of Lesbos, where they stayed at Moria reception center before being settled in a rented apartment in Kallithea, provided by UNHCR's partner ARSIS as part of the EU funded ESTIA program.

Overview

By the end of October 2019, UNHCR had created 25,545 places in the accommodation scheme as part of the ESTIA programme. These were in 4,475 apartments and 14 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.

25,545

Number of accommodation places

4,489

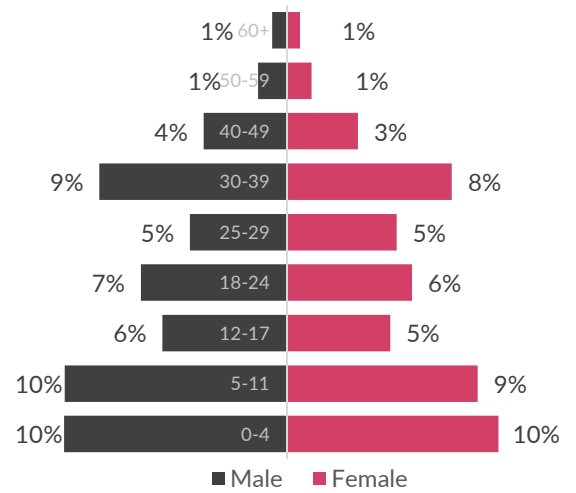
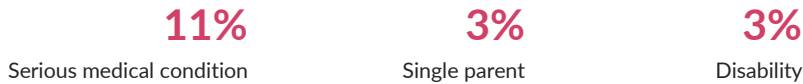
Number of units

97.1%

Occupancy rate²

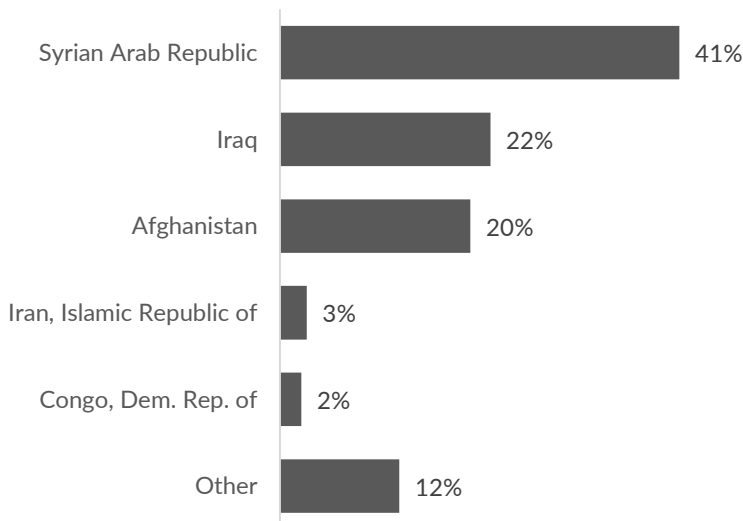
Demographics

In total, since November 2015, 61,895 individuals have benefitted from the accommodation scheme. 21,585 people were accommodated as of the end of October 2019, 7,295 of whom are recognized refugees. 50% 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:



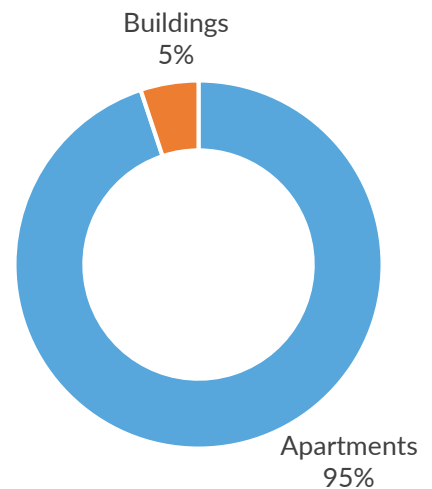
Nationalities

The clear majority, 88% of individuals in the accommodation scheme are Syrians, Iraqis, Afghans, Iranians or Congolese (DRC). However, the individuals accommodated as of the end of October 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.

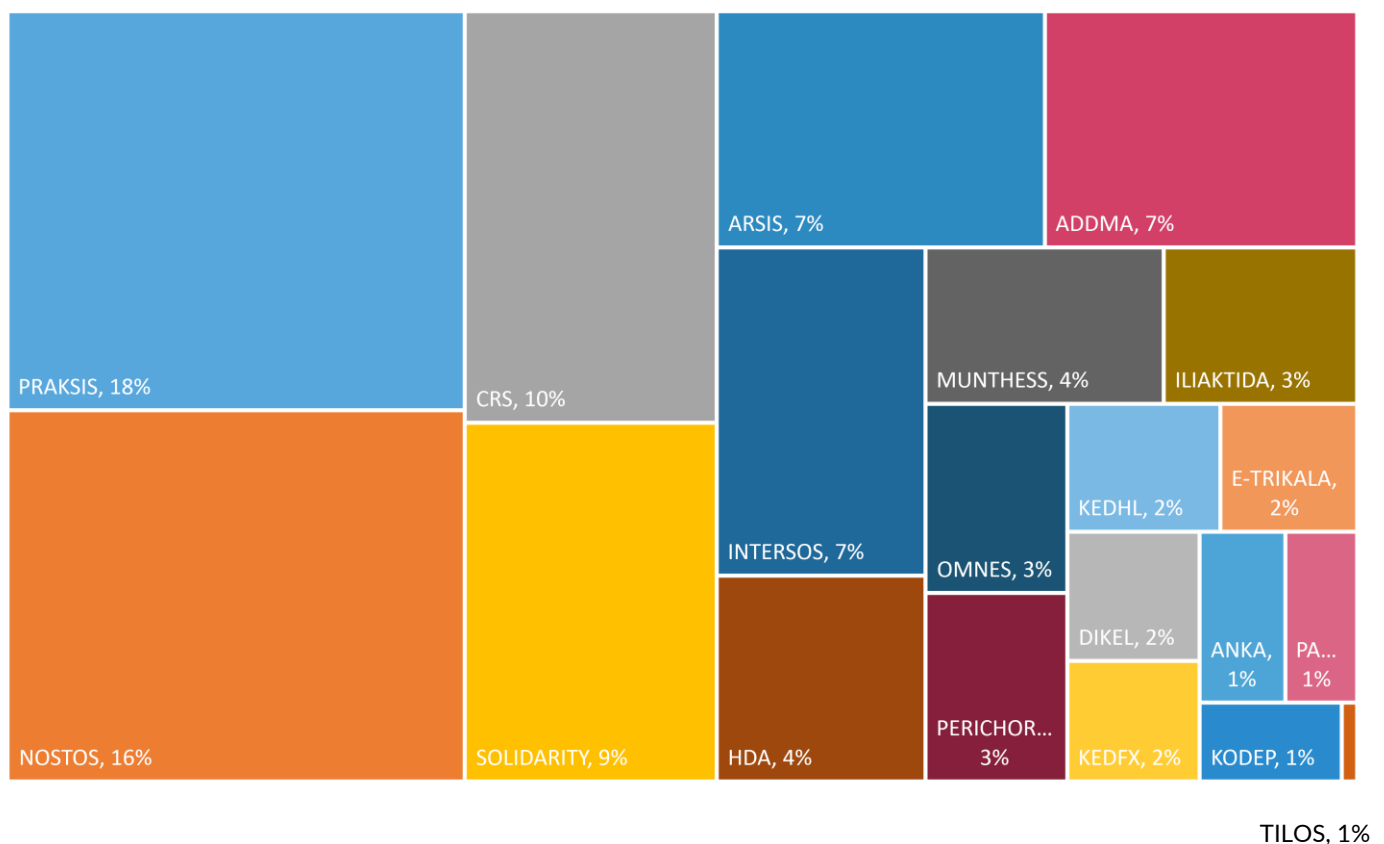


Partners

At the end of October 2019, 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).

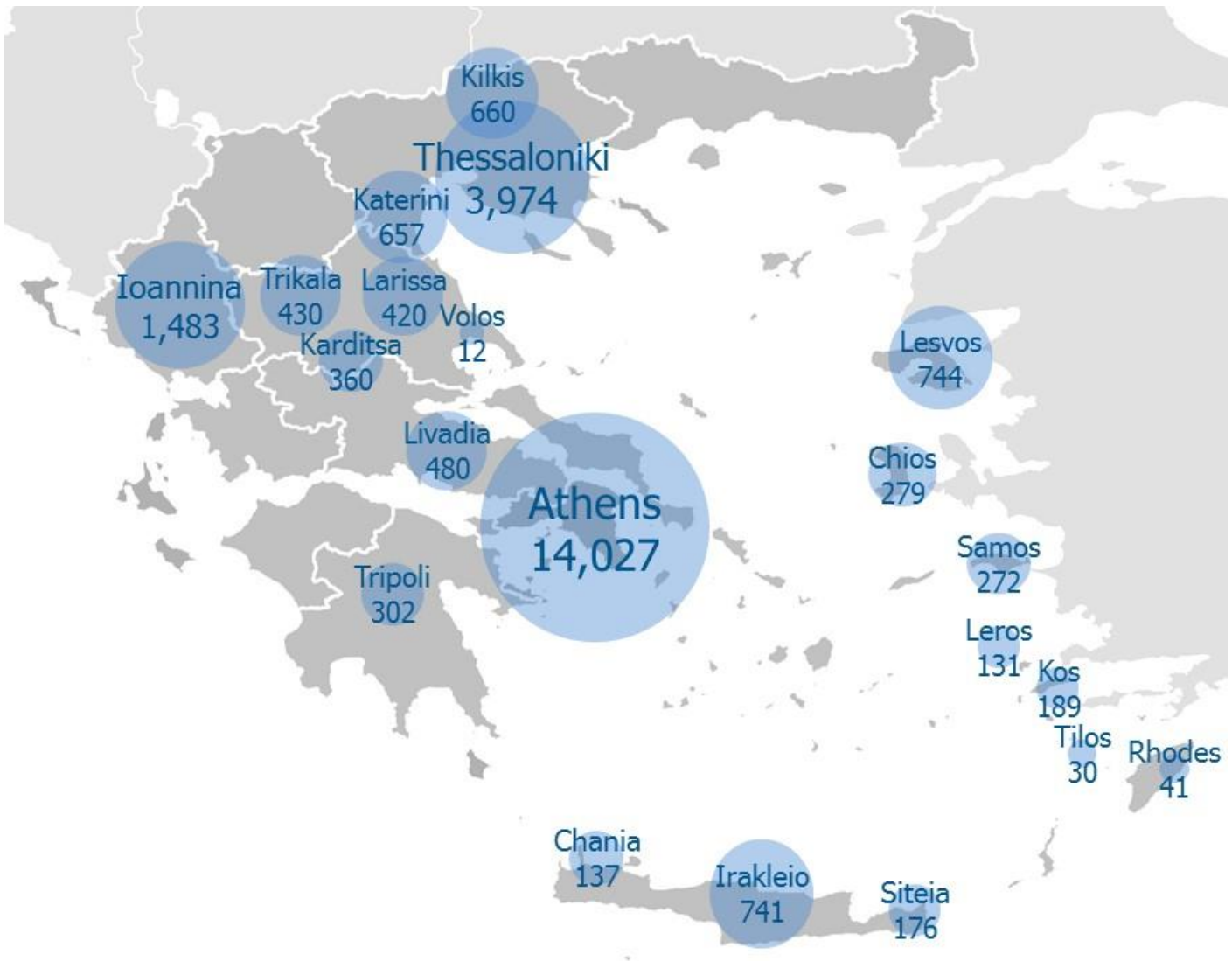


"When we first got into our apartment here in Livadia, it felt like we entered a castle. It felt like home again and even better if you think that our home in Syria was not safe anymore. In Livadia, we feel safe and free. Our children, Shero and Malak, attend school every day and Shero plays football in a local team. I hope that one day he'll be a great football player, like Lionel Messi. Livadia is now our home, a part of our lives. Even if we leave this place, we will definitely come back one day".

ALOUSH SALAH, 35 years old, Syrian, living in an apartment in Livadia rented as part of the ESTIA program, implemented by KEDHL.

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, 61,895 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.

61,895

Total number of individuals accommodated



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