

Accommodation update



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Malak, a seven-year-old refugee from Syria, is doing her homework with help from her eight year old sister Aryam. The two sisters, their four siblings and their parents Ashraf Al Ali, 43, and his wife, Rana Alsalm, 37, fled Deir ez-Zor in Syria in 2017. From Turkey they passed to the Greek island of Lesbos, where they stayed at Kara Tepe accommodation site before being settled in an apartment in Tripoli, Peloponnese. There, the eldest children are now attending school. In 2018 the youngest member of the family, Rawan, was born in Tripoli.

UNHCR, in co-operation with the municipality of Tripoli and PARNONAS development company, offer 302 places in apartments for vulnerable asylum-seekers through the EU-funded ESTIA Program.

Overview

By the end of December 2019, UNHCR had created 25,766 places in the accommodation scheme as part of the ESTIA programme. These were in 4,523 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.

25,766

Number of accommodation places

4,523

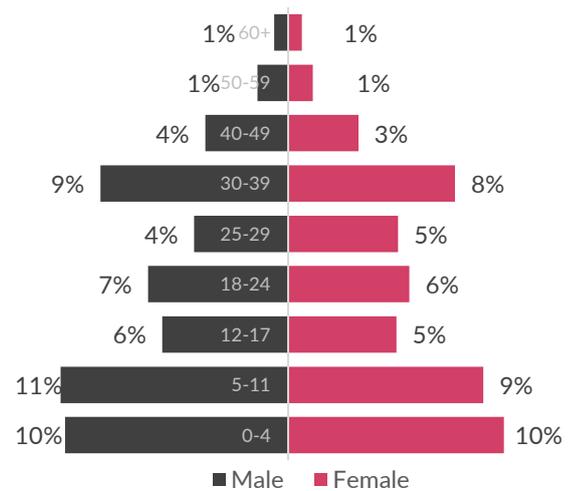
Number of units

98.0%

Occupancy rate²

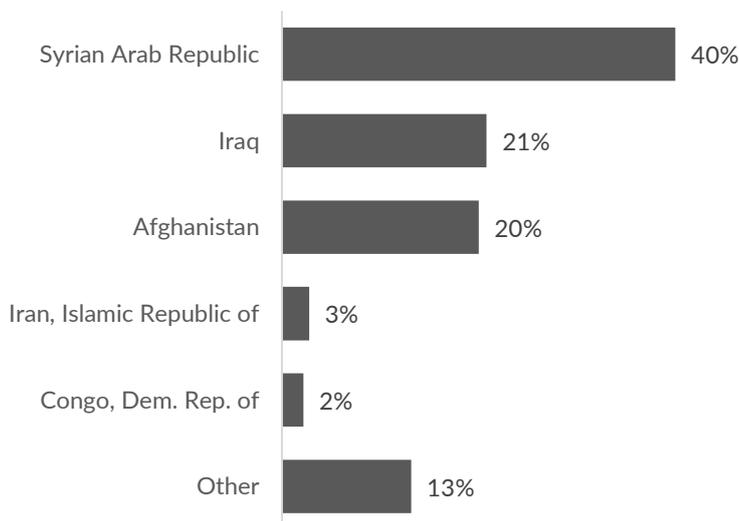
Demographics

In total, since November 2015, 63,940 individuals have benefitted from the accommodation scheme. 21,620 people were accommodated as of the end of December 2019, 6,822 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:



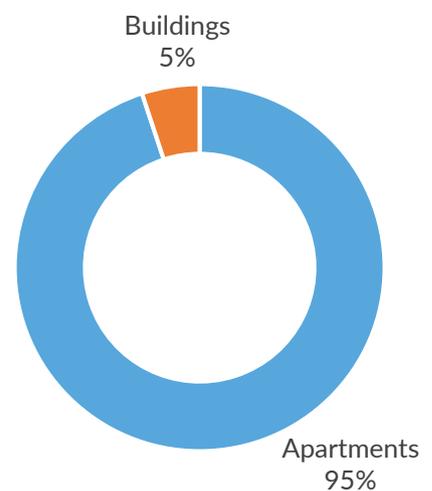
Nationalities

The clear majority, 87% of individuals in the accommodation scheme are Syrians, Iraqis, Afghans, Iranians or Congolese (DRC). However, the individuals accommodated as of the end of December 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.

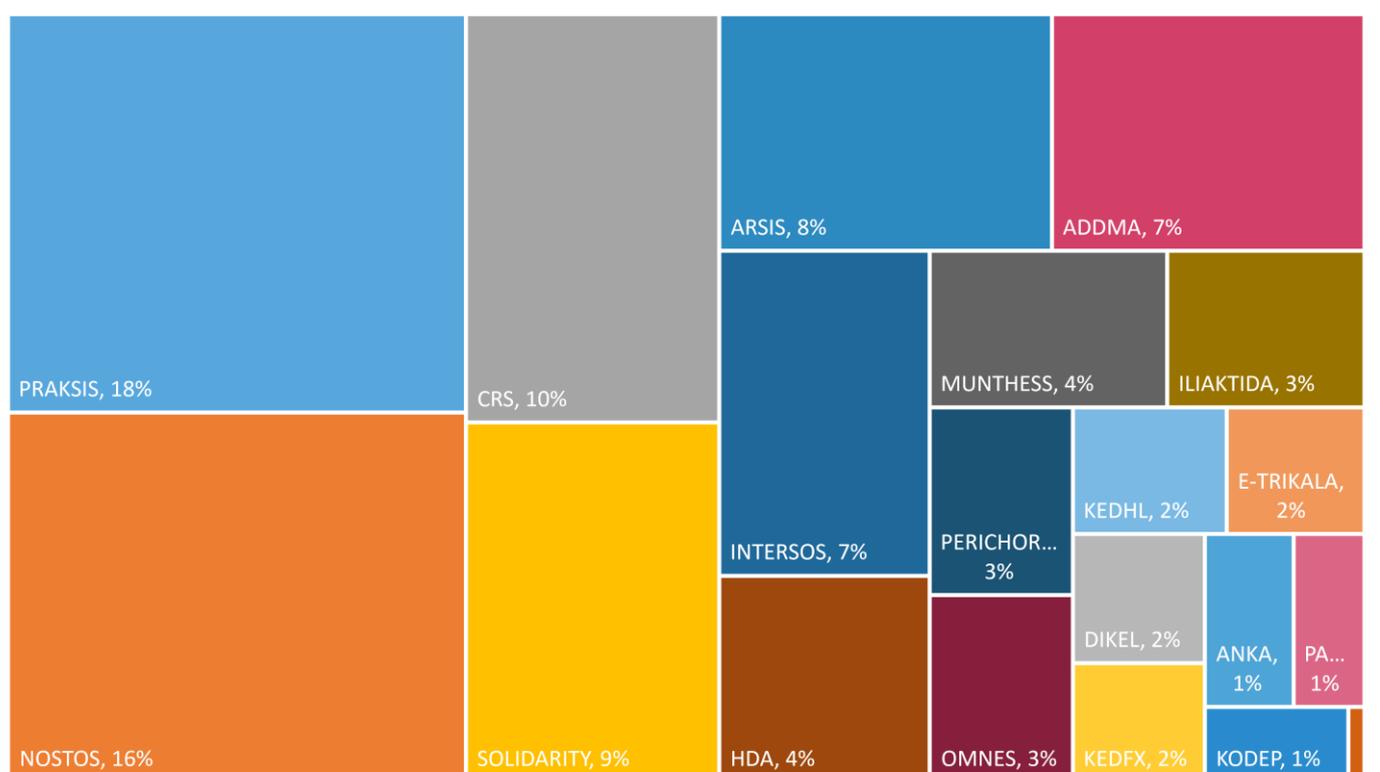


Partners

At the end of December 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).



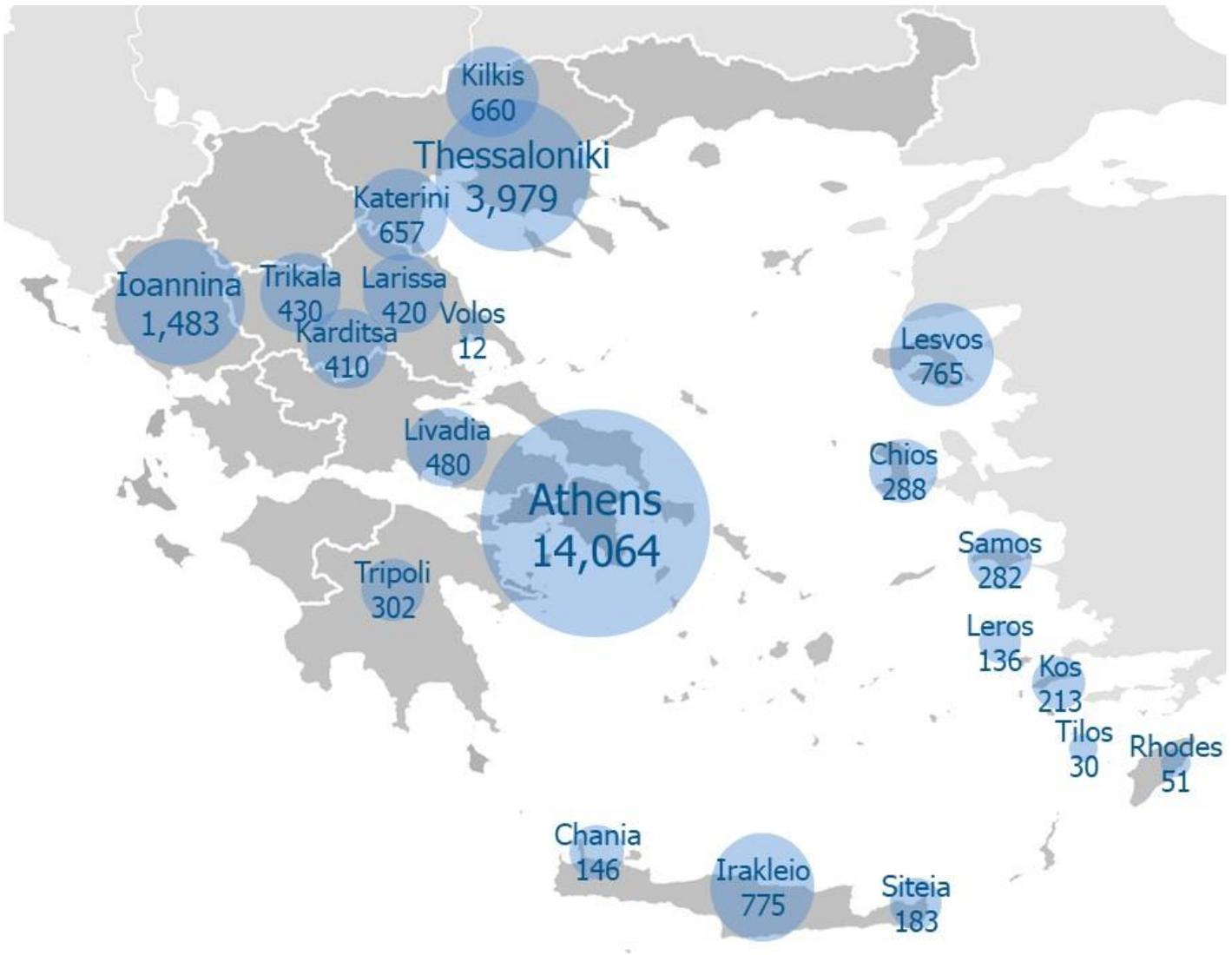
TILOS, 1%

"I came in Greece with my wife and our four children on February 2018 and we have settled in a rented apartment in Karditsa. I travelled from Iraq, via Turkey. We all feel safe and calm in Greece. I have learnt very well the Greek language and I am planning to stay permanently in Greece and have my own business here."

Ilhsan Rabeen, 40 years old, from Iraq lives with his family in an apartment in Karditsa, Thessaly, under the ESTIA accommodation program implemented by the Karditsa Development Company - ANKA.

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, 63,940 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.

63,940

Total number of individuals accommodated



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