

Accommodation update



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Ashraf Al Ali, a forty-three-year-old refugee from Syria, waves at his children as they enter school. “My future now is the future of my children. It is important that they have a good life and that they make their dreams come true. Tripoli is much better than Athens. It is a safe city for us and our children. School is near our home. The neighbors are kind and friendly. The children also made friends at school.”

The family fled Deir ez-Zor in Syria in 2017. From Turkey they passed to the Greek island of Lesbos, before being settled in an apartment in Tripoli, Peloponnese. 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 January 2020, UNHCR had created 25,664 places in the accommodation scheme as part of the ESTIA programme. These were in 4,606 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.

25,664

Number of accommodation places

4,614

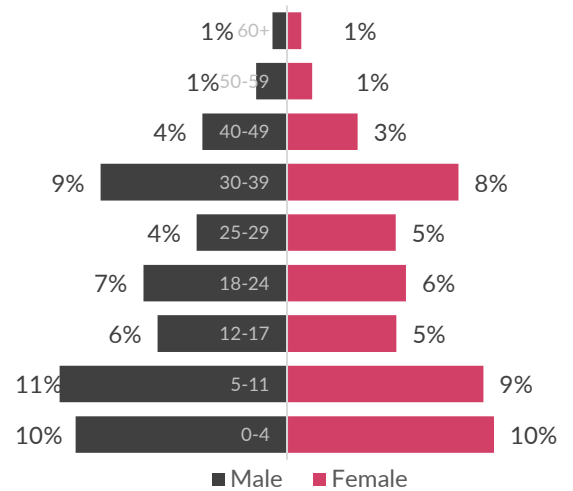
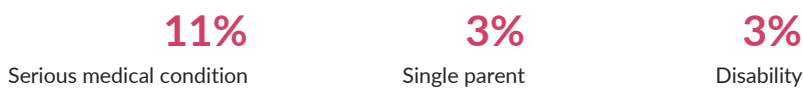
Number of units

97.4%

Occupancy rate ²

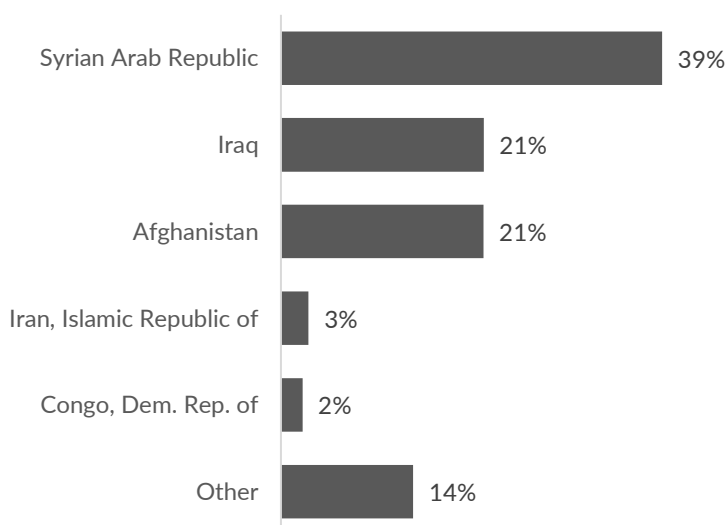
Demographics

In total, since November 2015, 64,577 individuals have benefitted from the accommodation scheme. 21,458 people were accommodated as of the end of January 2020, 6,448 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:



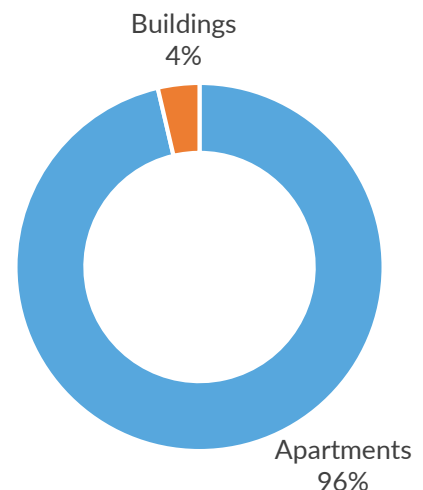
Nationalities

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 January 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.

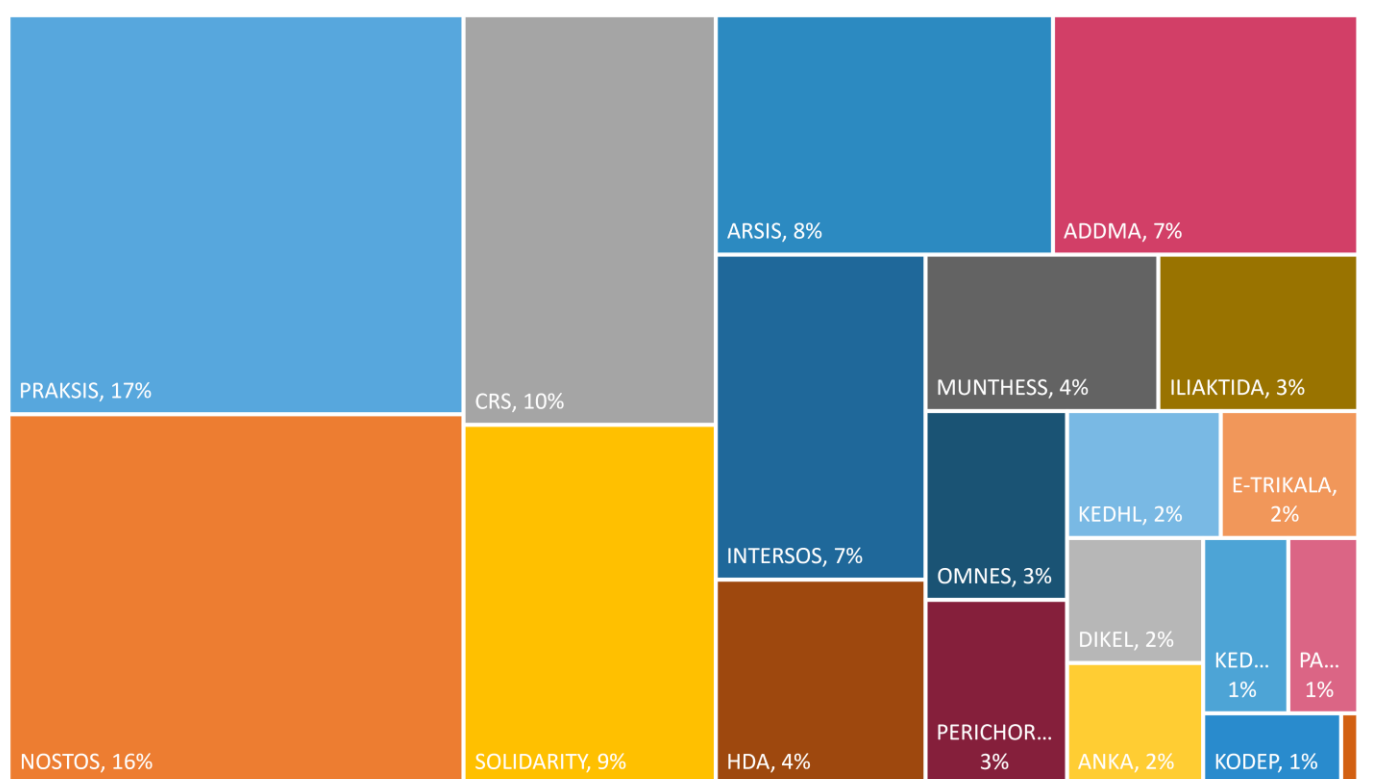


Partners

At the end of January 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).



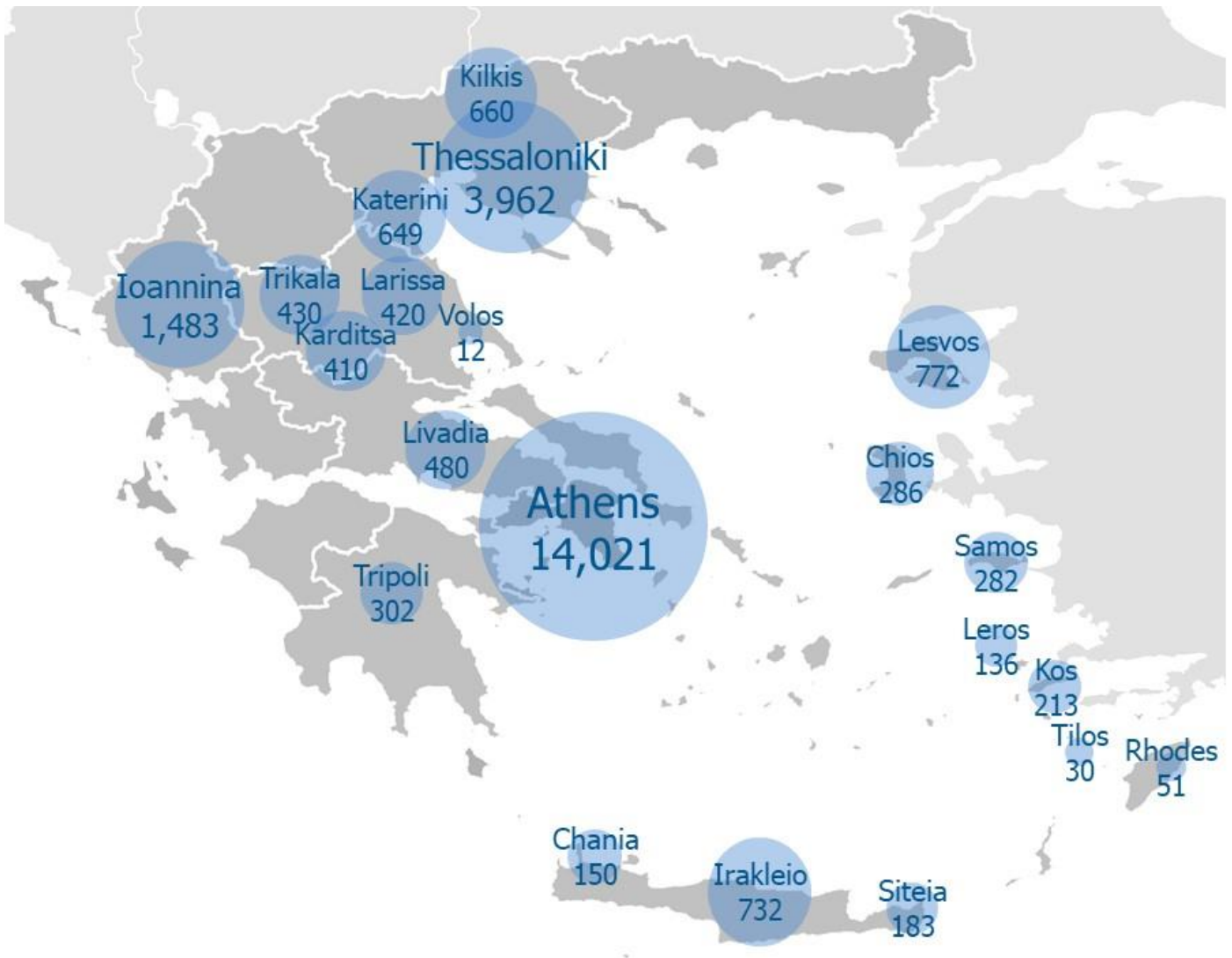
TILOS, 1%

"I live in Heraklion with my wife and our two children. Here, in Crete, we found equity! The locals are hospitable, they live in harmony with people from other countries and this gives us a nice sense of safety. I've made many friends and met respectable co-workers. My kids go to school and I too attend the Vocational Senior High School (EPAL). The program and the local community have supported us so far on everything, from our medical needs to our social interaction."

Pirot Omer Ahmed, 40 years old from Iraq, lives in an apartment in Heraklion under the ESTIA accommodation program implemented by Heraklion Development Agency.

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, 64,577 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.

64,577

Total number of individuals accommodated



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