

Cash Assistance Update



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“We use the cash assistance to buy grocery and clothes for the children, as well as provide them with the necessary for the school”, says Ahmad Zaki Bayat, 39-year-old asylum-seeker from Afghanistan. UNHCR provides monthly cash assistance to thousands of asylum-seekers and refugees in Greece, as part of the EU co-funded ESTIA programme, allowing them to live with dignity and encouraging self-reliance, while contributing to the local economy.

Overview

In August - September 34,072 eligible refugees and asylum-seekers (16,471 families) received cash assistance in Greece, in 93 locations.

UNHCR provides cash assistance in Greece, as part of the ESTIA programme, funded by the European Commission. Cash assistance restores dignity and empowers asylum-seekers and refugees who can now choose how to cover their basic needs. It also contributes directly to the economy of the host community through the purchase of services and goods. UNHCR in Greece works with the Greece Cash Alliance partners the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and METAdrasi.

34,072

Number of individuals assisted ¹

16,471

Number of cash cards ¹

6.9 M €

Cash distributed (Euros) ¹

Demographics of Refugees and Asylum-Seekers Assisted with Cash

Since April 2017, 205,241 eligible individuals have received cash assistance in Greece at least once. Eligibility is assessed on the basis of one's date of entry in the country, legal status and current location. As per the announcement of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum (MMA), as of 1st July 2021 cash assistance will no longer be provided to asylum seekers who are self-accommodated

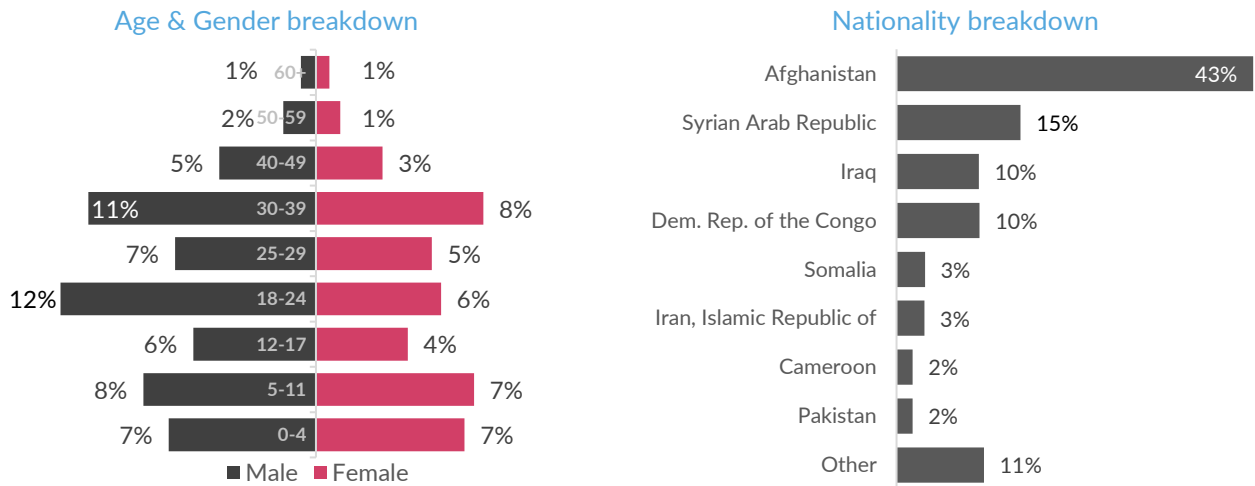
15 October 2021

¹ Source: Greek Cash Alliance during September 2021. The loading of prepaid cards of eligible beneficiaries has been conducted in one lump-sum payment covering both August and September, in light of the transition of the ESTIA cash programme to the Greek Authorities as of October 2021. Figures are subject to future adjustment and should not be considered final. Due to rounding, some totals may not correspond with the sum of the separate figures.

Of the 34,072 individuals who received cash assistance this month, 455 have international protection in Greece. Out of 16,471 families, 24% were women, 36% men and 40% children.

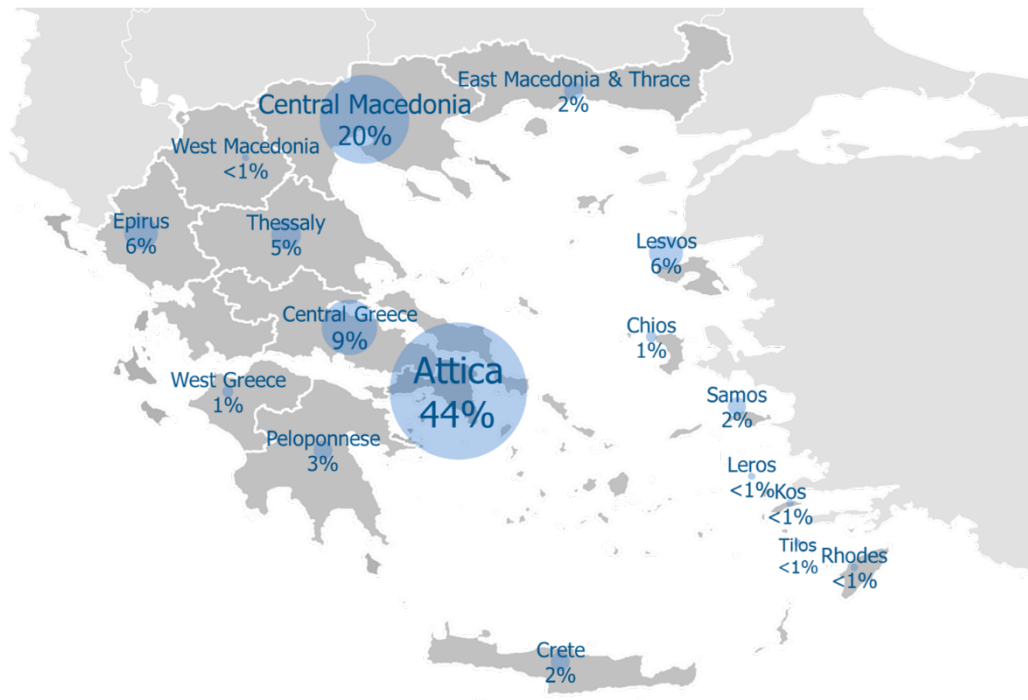
31% of all who received cash assistance this month were families of five members or more and a further 29% were single adults. 78% of individuals in the cash assistance scheme are from, Afghanistan, Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq and DRC.

The amount of cash assistance distributed to each household is proportionate to the family size. It ranges between 75 euros for an individual in catered accommodation, to 420 euros for a family of six members or more in self-catered accommodation.



Location of Individuals Receiving Cash Assistance

Asylum-seekers and refugees receiving cash assistance reside in 93 locations in Greece. 44% of those receiving cash assistance are located in Attica, with 12% currently on the islands and a further 20% in Central Macedonia.



Partners



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