

Accommodation update



Mimi, 26, holds her two-year-old Power in their apartment on Chios island.

Originally from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mimi left her country in April 2018 together with her three children Clever, 6, Prayer, 4, and Power, 2 and arrived on Chios in September 2018 after crossing the sea from Turkey to Greece. She was in her sixth month of pregnancy. Upon arrival on the island, Mimi and her children were transferred to the island's government-run reception center where they stayed in overcrowded conditions for forty-five days.

Now Mimi and her family live in a rented apartment provided by UNHCR and its partner ARSIS, under the EU funded Emergency Support to Integration and Accommodation – ESTIA program.

Overview

By the end of December 2018, UNHCR had created 27,088 places in the accommodation scheme as part of the ESTIA programme. These were in 4,554 apartments and 22 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.

27,088

Number of accommodation places

4,576

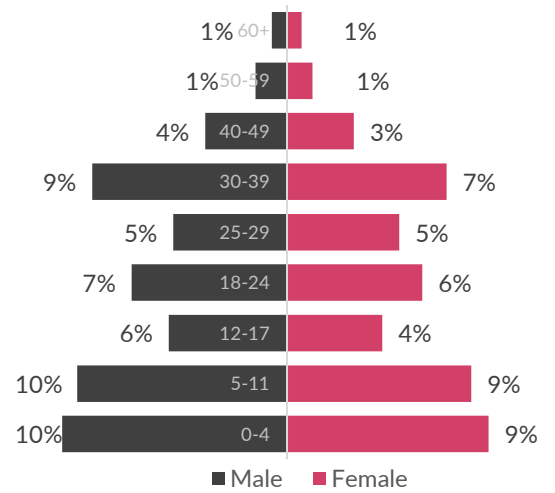
Number of units

98%

Occupancy rate ²

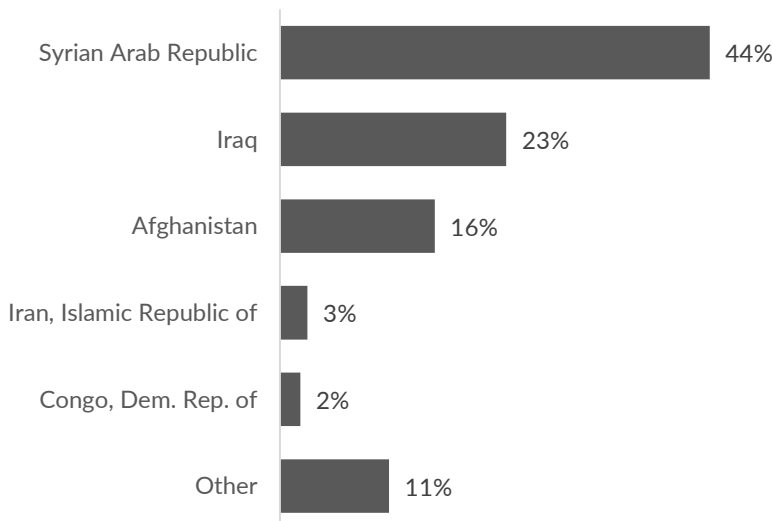
Demographics

In total, since November 2015, 55,755 individuals have benefitted from the accommodation scheme. 22,686 people were accommodated as of the end of December 2018, 5,649 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 four residents have at least one of the vulnerabilities that make them eligible for the accommodation scheme. The three most common vulnerabilities are:



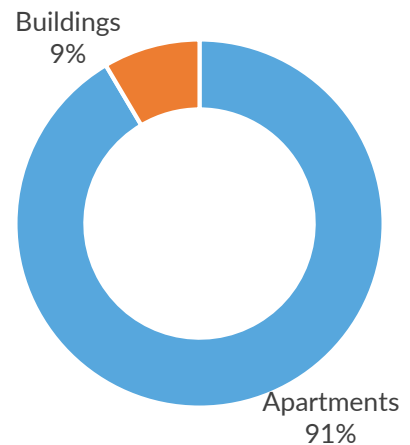
Nationalities

The clear majority, 89% of individuals in the accommodation scheme are Syrians, Iraqis, Afghans, Iranians or Congolese (DRC). However, the individuals accommodated as of the end of December 2018 speak over 30 different languages as a mother tongue.



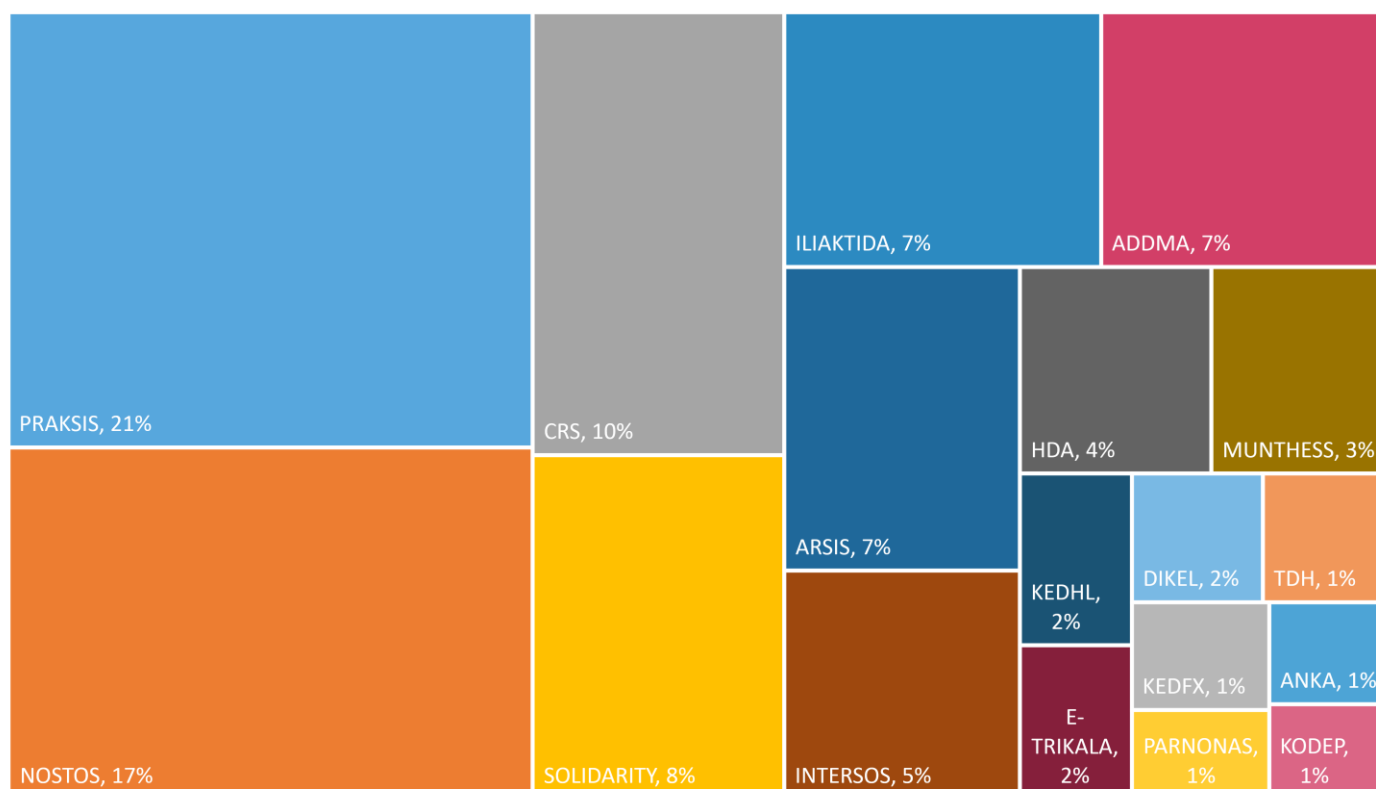
Accommodation Type

Over four in five accommodation places are in apartments, and the rest in buildings.



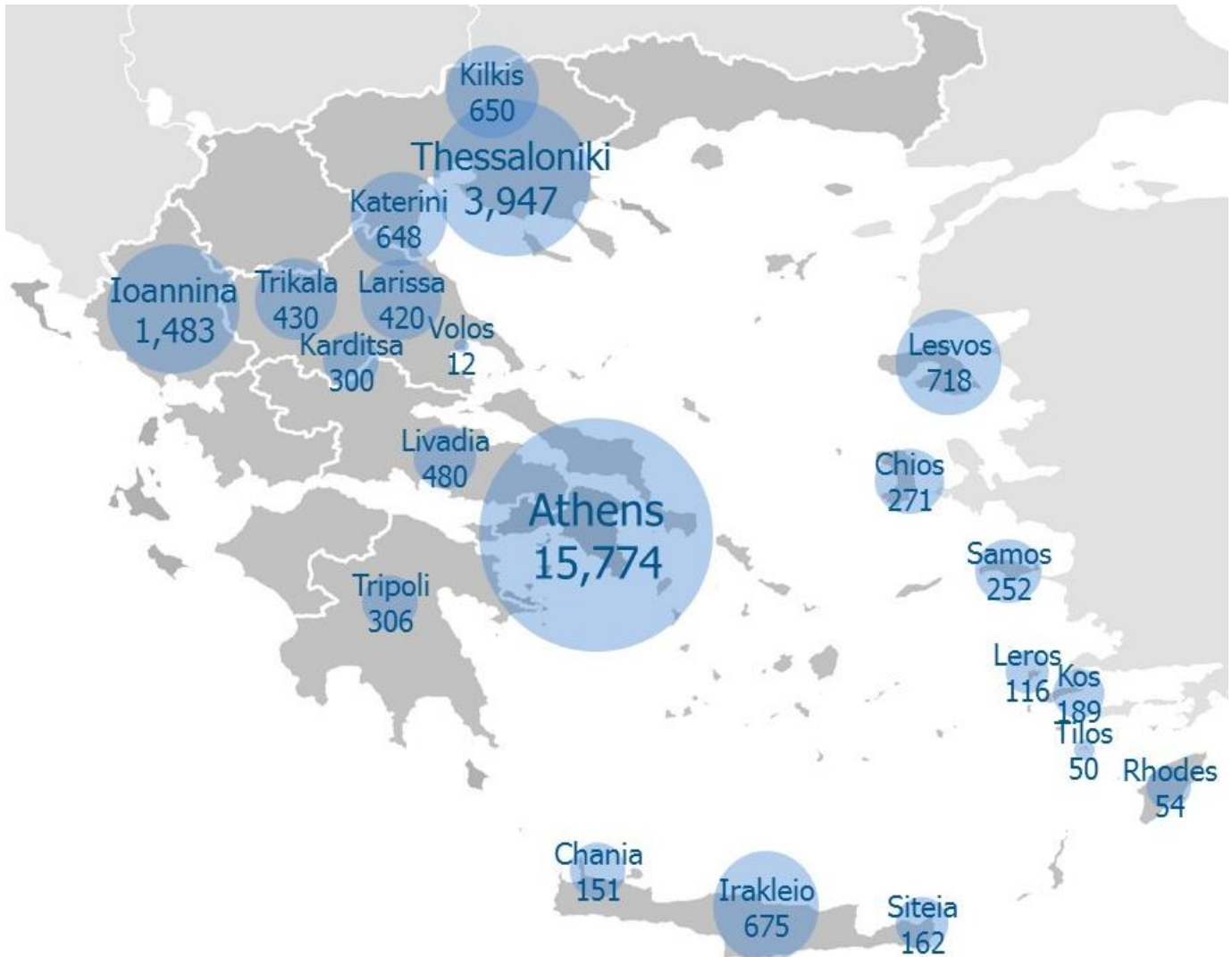
Partners

At the end of December 2018, UNHCR is implementing the accommodation scheme through 18 partnerships with 8 national and international NGOs and 10 municipalities. In total, partners managed by UNHCR provided 100% of the accommodation places in Greece. Partners Greek Council for Refugees (GRC) and METAdrasi also provide social, legal and interpretation support. UNHCR's partners are NGOs Praksis, Nostos, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Iliaktida, Solidarity Now, Arsis, Intersos, 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 7 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, 55,755 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 E.U. Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO).

55,755

Total number of individuals accommodated



Funded by
European Union
Civil Protection and
Humanitarian Aid