

# Accommodation update



39-year-old Mohammed Al Khaled, came to Greece from Syria in October 2019 with his wife Asalah Al Sheikh, 31, and their three children. They arrived in Chios, where they stayed in Vial for two months. Since December 2019 they live in Larisa, in a rented apartment provided by UNHCR partner, the Public Benefit Organization of the Municipality of Larissa (DIKEL), as part of the EU co-funded ESTIA programme.

## Overview

By the end of July 2020, UNHCR had created 25,771 places in the accommodation scheme as part of the ESTIA programme. These were in 4,650 apartments and 8 buildings, in 14 cities and 7 islands across Greece.

The Accommodation Scheme<sup>1</sup> 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.

**25,771**

Number of accommodation places

**4,658**

Number of units

**97.1%**

Occupancy rate<sup>2</sup>

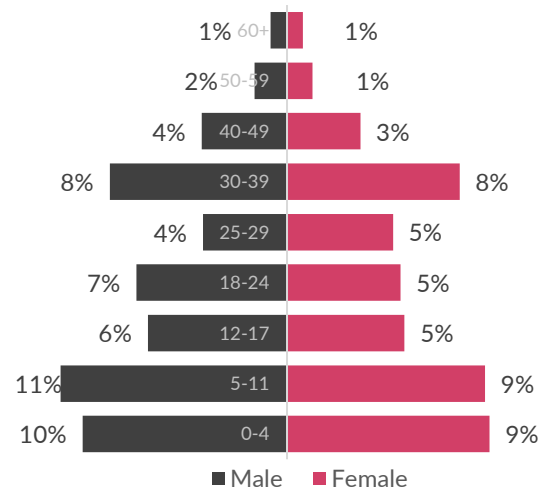
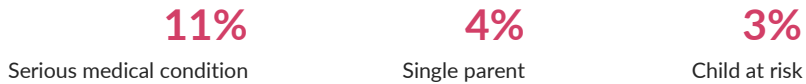
31 July 2020

<sup>1</sup>The scheme also facilitates the eventual integration of those who will remain in Greece, while the host population benefits from the renting of their apartments. UNHCR works with NGOs as well as several municipalities around Greece to provide rented accommodation in apartments and buildings. The accommodation scheme commenced in November 2015.

<sup>2</sup>The occupancy rate is calculated as the percentage of current population over actual capacity.

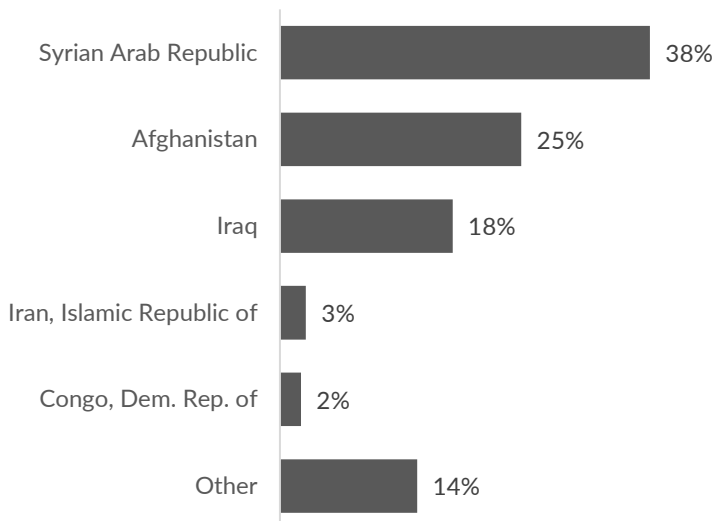
## Demographics

In total, since November 2015, 68,224 individuals have benefitted from the accommodation scheme. 22,071 people were accommodated as of the end of July 2020, 5,924 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:



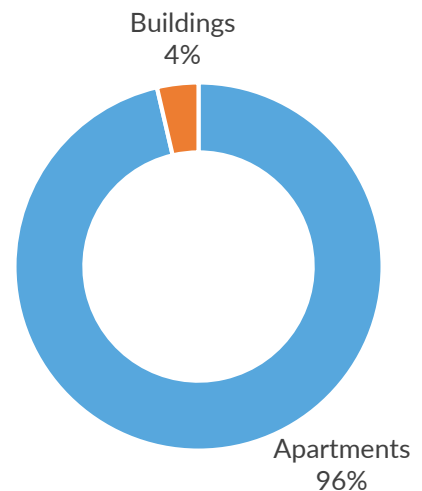
## Nationalities

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 July 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.

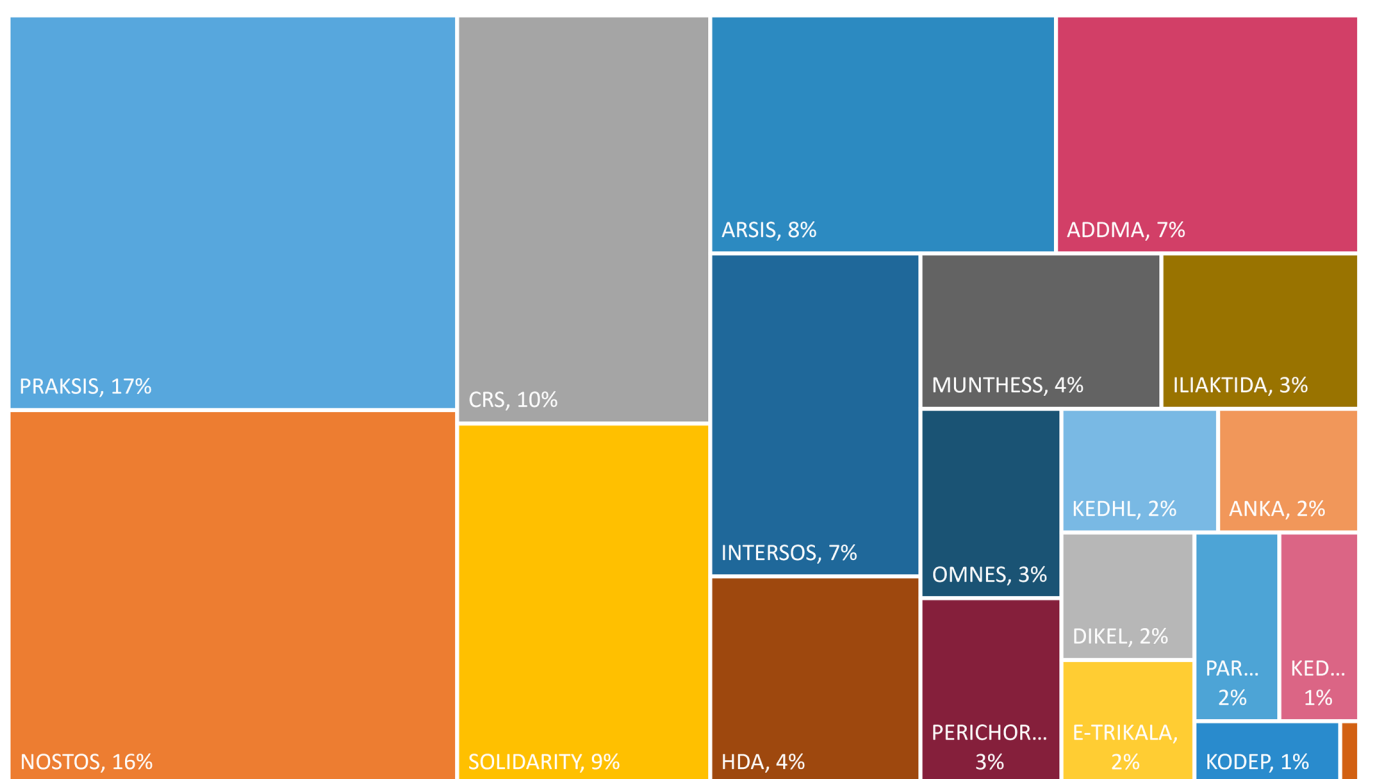


## Partners

At the end of July 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%

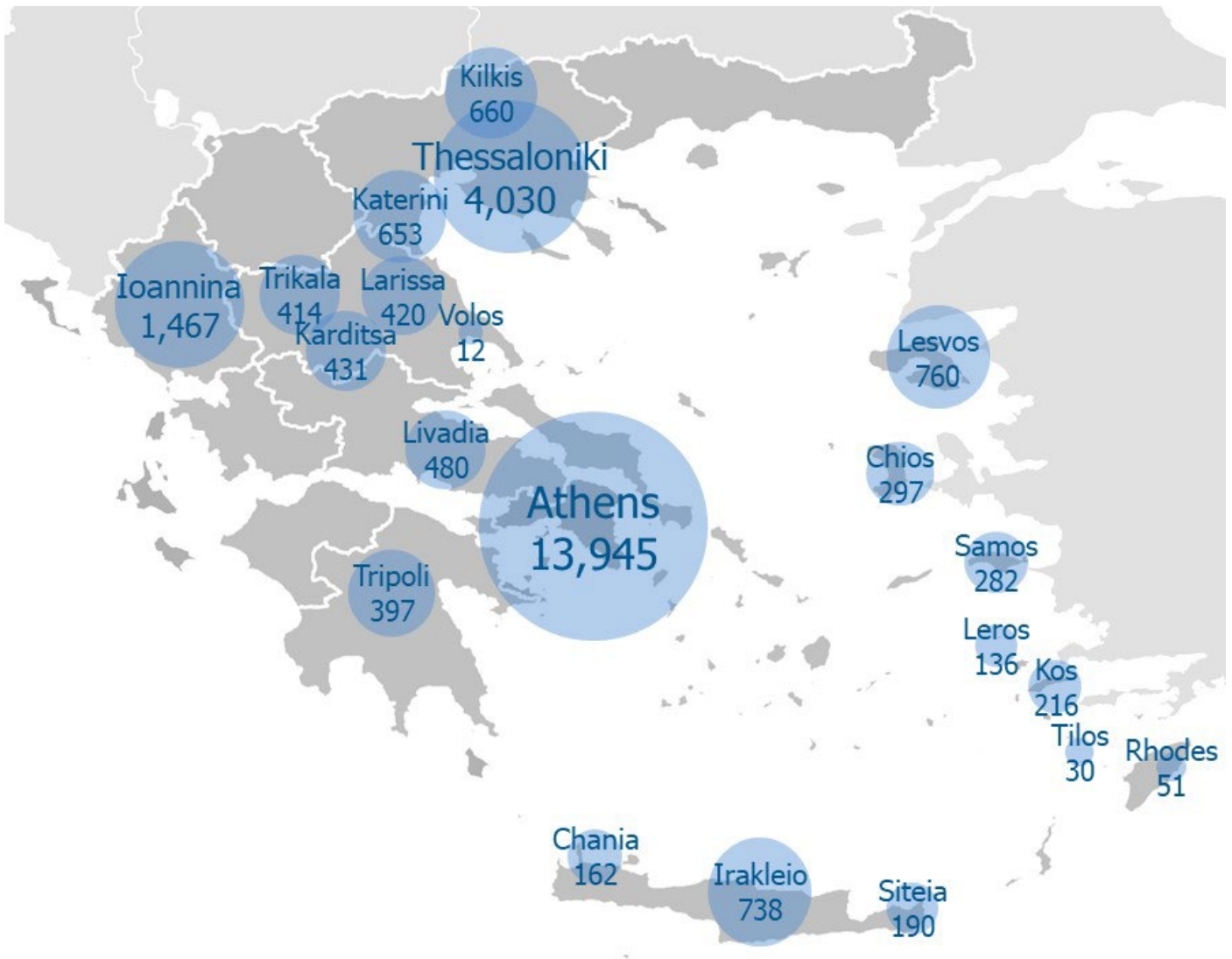
*“Our life in Syria was peaceful, since it is a beautiful country. I was a High School Teacher and my wife was about to graduate from the University. When the war started, we were forced to leave Syria, in order to protect our family from harm. No one leaves his or her homeland, unless there are serious reasons.*

*We faced difficulties in our adjustment to the local culture and lifestyle, but we face the future with optimism. We feel happy that our neighbors have welcomed us with lots of love. People in the neighborhood look after us. I want to find employment in Greece and try to help my children to make friends with Greek children, in order to integrate in the community. I hope they eventually study in a Greek University.*

39-year-old Mohammed Al Khaled from Syria with his wife and their three children live in an apartment in Larisa rented as part of the ESTIA Programme by UNHCR partner DIKEL.

## 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, 68,224 individuals have benefitted from the accommodation scheme.

UNHCR's Accommodation Scheme is part of the ESTIA programme (Emergency Support to Integration and Accommodation), co-funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Union.

# 68,224

Total number of individuals accommodated



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