

GREECE Accommodation update



The ESTIA programme offers the key to a new home for thousands of refugees and asylum seekers in twenty cities across Greece. ©Iliaktida AMKE / Marios Mitsellis

Overview

By the end of January 2018, UNHCR had created 22,039 places in the accommodation scheme as part of the ESTIA programme. These were in 3,622 separate buildings, in 20 cities 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.

22,039

Number of accommodation places²

3,622

Number of units²

95%

Occupancy rate³

Demographics

In total, since November 2015, 42,802 individuals have benefitted from the accommodation scheme. 17,993 people were accommodated as of the end of January 2018, 2,993 of whom are recognized refugees. Half of the residents are children. The vast majority of those accommodated are families, with the average family size of four people. 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:

9%

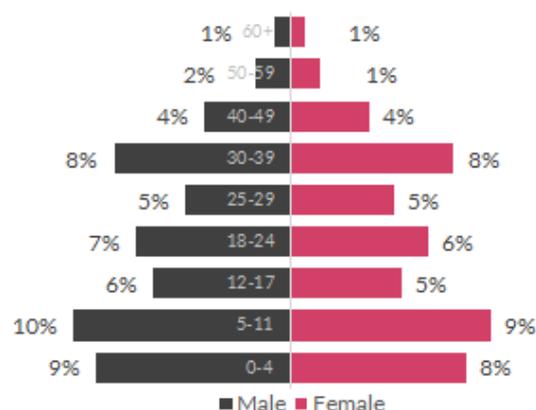
Serious medical condition

5%

Single parent or caregiver with minor children

4%

Woman at risk including woman in pregnancy or having recently birth



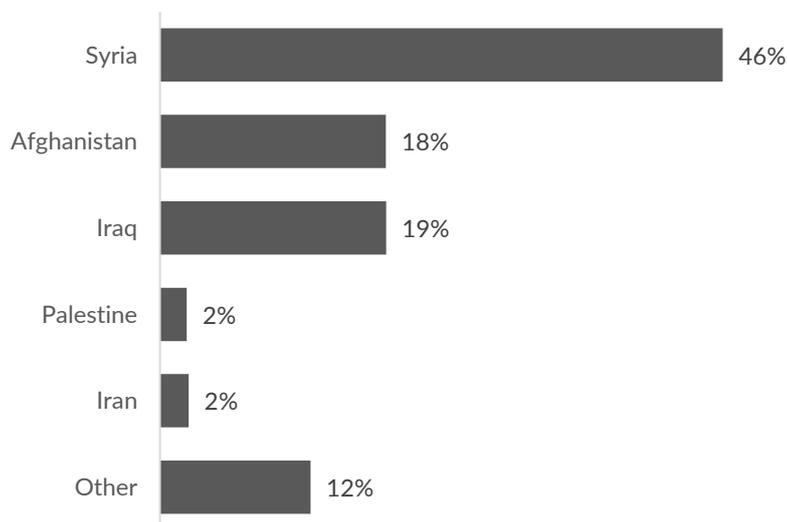
¹ The scheme also facilitates the eventual integration of those who will remain in Greece, while the host population benefits from the renting of their apartments. UNHCR works with NGOs as well as a number of municipalities around Greece to provide rented accommodation in apartments, buildings, host families and hotels. The accommodation scheme commenced in Nov. 2015.

² UNHCR implementing partners. Figures are subject to future adjustment and should not be considered final.

³ The occupancy rate is calculated as the percentage of places occupied at a given time.

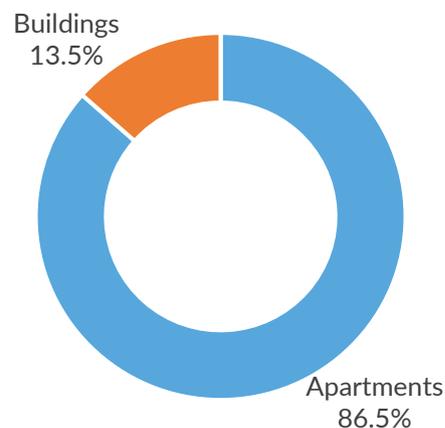
Demographics

The vast majority, 88% of individuals in the accommodation scheme are Syrian, Afghan, Iraqi, Palestinian or Iranian. However, the individuals accommodated as of the end of January 2018 speak 31 different languages as a mother tongue.



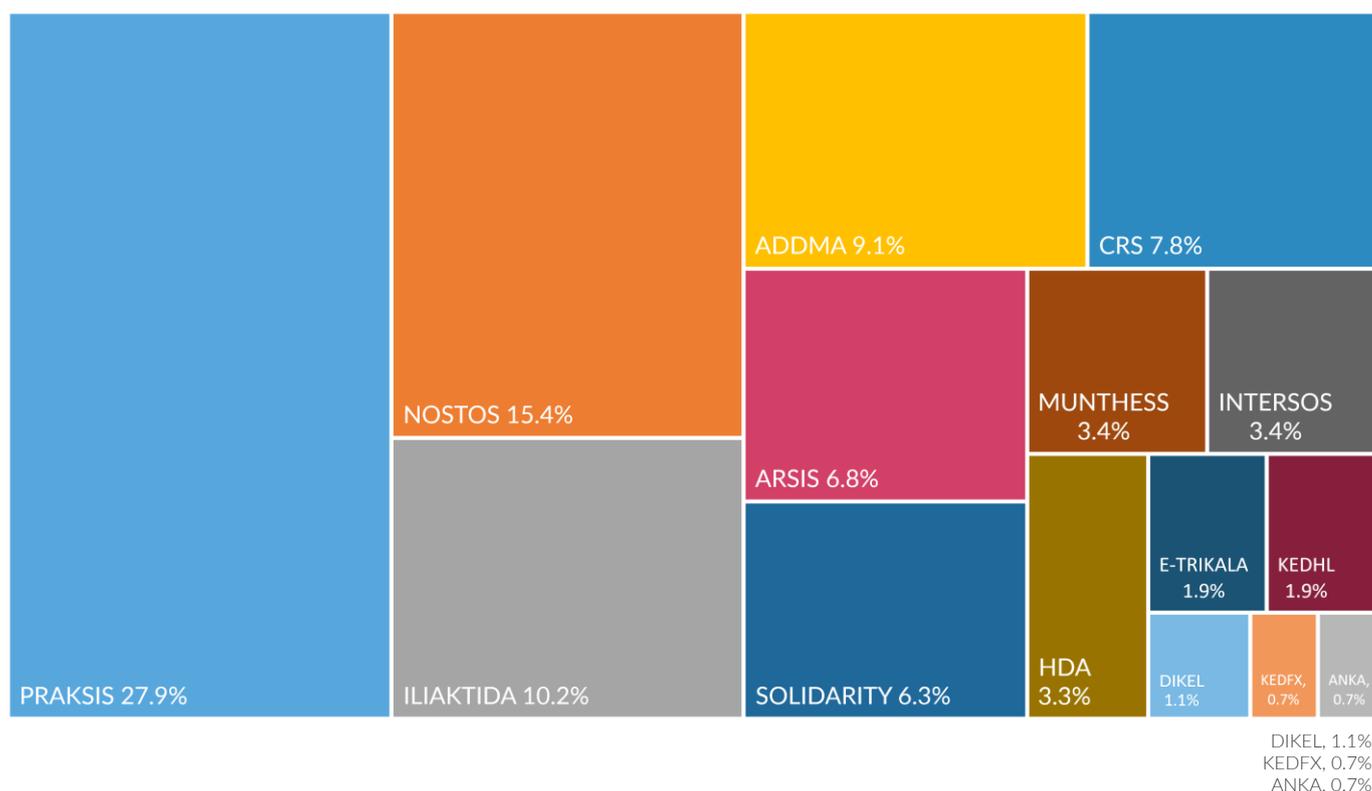
Accommodation Type

Over four in five accommodation units are apartments, followed by buildings.



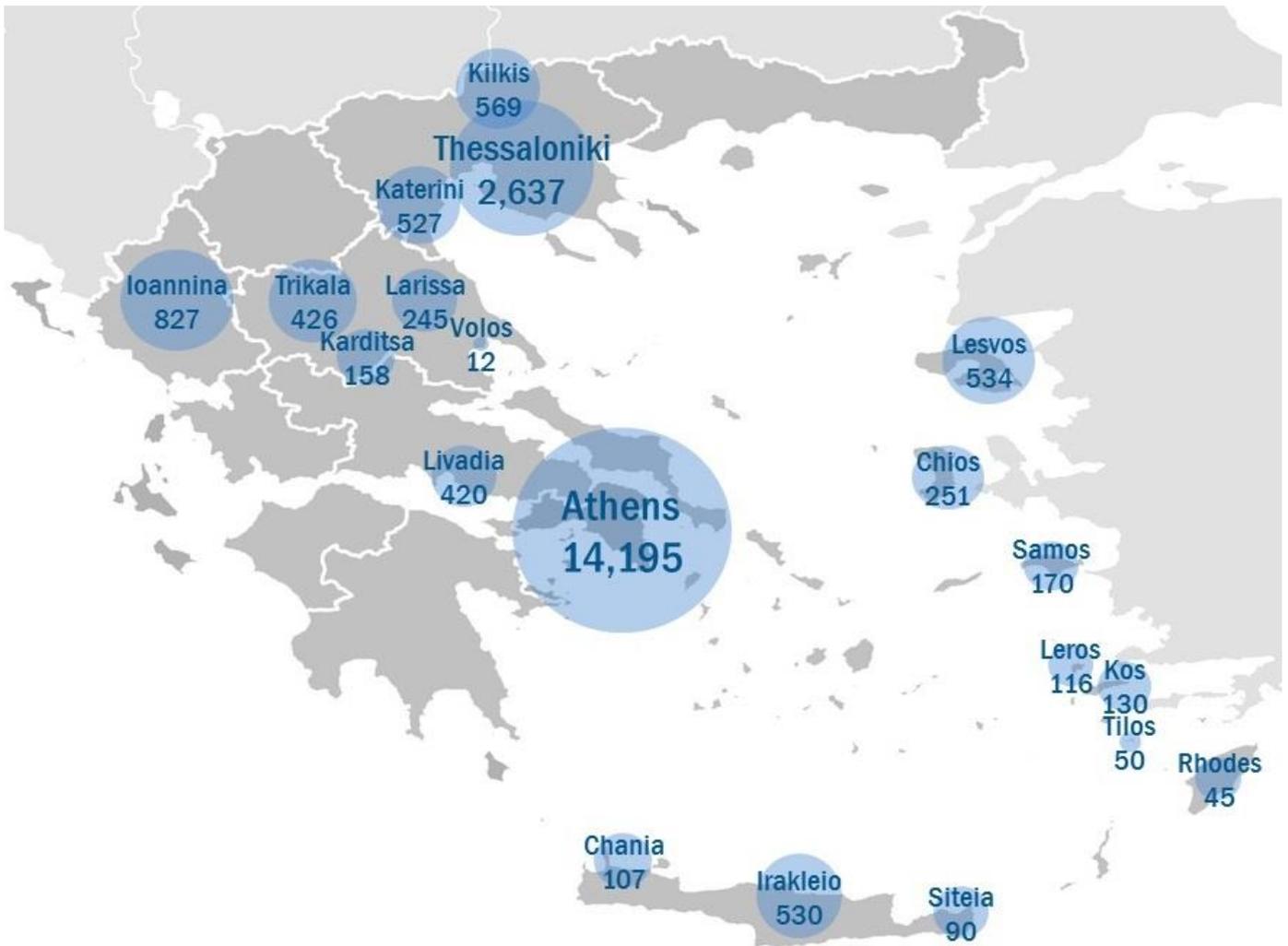
Partners

At the end of January 2018, UNHCR is implementing the accommodation scheme through 15 partnerships with seven NGOs Praksis, Iliaktida, CRS, Arsis, Solidarity Now, Nostos, Intersos, and the municipalities of Athens (ADDMA), Thessaloniki (MUNTHESS), Livadia (KEDHL), Trikala (E-TRIKALA), Karditsa (ANKA), Larissa (DIKEL), Nea Philadelphia - Nea Chalkidona (KEDFX), and a consortium of municipalities in Crete (HDA). In total, partners managed by UNHCR provided 94% of the accommodation places in Greece. Partners GCR and METAdrasi also provide social, legal and interpretation support.



Location of accommodation

Accommodation for asylum-seekers and refugees is provided in 20 cities in Greece. Over half, 64% of the accommodation places are located in Athens, with 6% currently on the islands.



Total beneficiaries

In total, since November 2015, 42,802 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).

42,802

Total number of individuals accommodated



Funded by
European Union
Civil Protection and
Humanitarian Aid