

# GREECE Accommodation update



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Adel al Ahmad (right), an Iraqi asylum seeker who came to Greece with his family ten months ago, prepares a soup dish during the 2018 Refugee Food Festival in Athens. Adel teamed up with Manolis Garnelis, head chef at Vassilenas restaurant, to create dishes blending tastes from Iraq and Greece for food lovers in the Greek capital.

Adel, who worked as a chef before fleeing conflict in Iraq, finds a lot of similarities between Iraqi and Greek people and smiles when talking about the warm welcome he and his family have received from neighbours. They live in housing offered by UNHCR and its partner, Solidarity Now, under the EU-funded ESTIA accommodation programme.

To mark World Refugee Day (20 June), UNHCR and Food Sweet Food worked together to ensure the success of the second Athens Refugee Food Festival. In support of the refugee cause, six restaurants in the city opened their kitchens to refugee chefs living in Greece in an effort to highlight the skills of refugees and how they can benefit society and integrate.

## Overview

By the end of June 2018, UNHCR had created 25,119 places in the accommodation scheme as part of the ESTIA programme. These were in 4,172 apartments and 27 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.

# 25,119

Number of accommodation places

# 4,172

Number of units

# 97%

Occupancy rate<sup>2</sup>

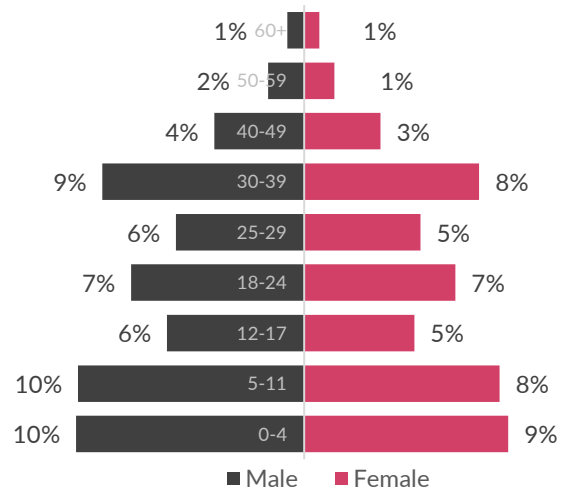
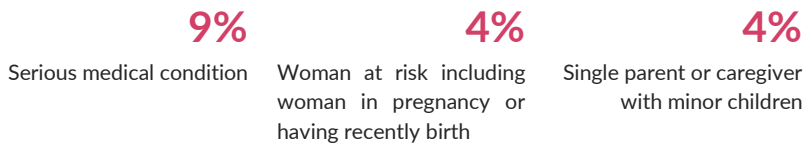
### 29 June 2018

<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 a number of 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.

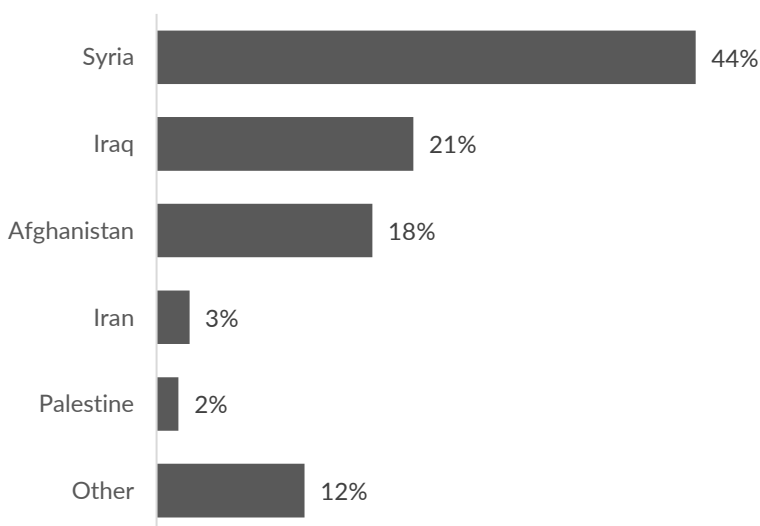
## Demographics

In total, since November 2015, 49,077 individuals have benefitted from the accommodation scheme. 21,048 people were accommodated as of the end of June 2018, 4,215 of whom are recognized refugees. 48% 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:



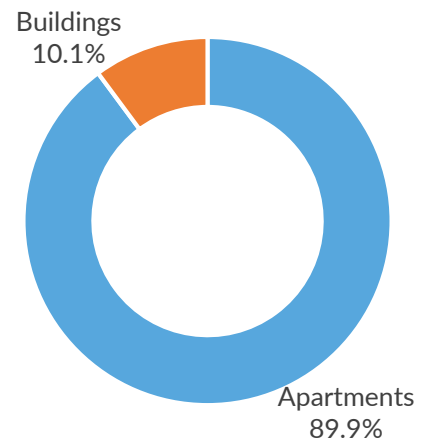
## Demographics

The vast majority, 88% of individuals in the accommodation scheme are Syrian, Iraqi, Afghan, Iranian or Palestinian. However, the individuals accommodated as of the end of May 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.

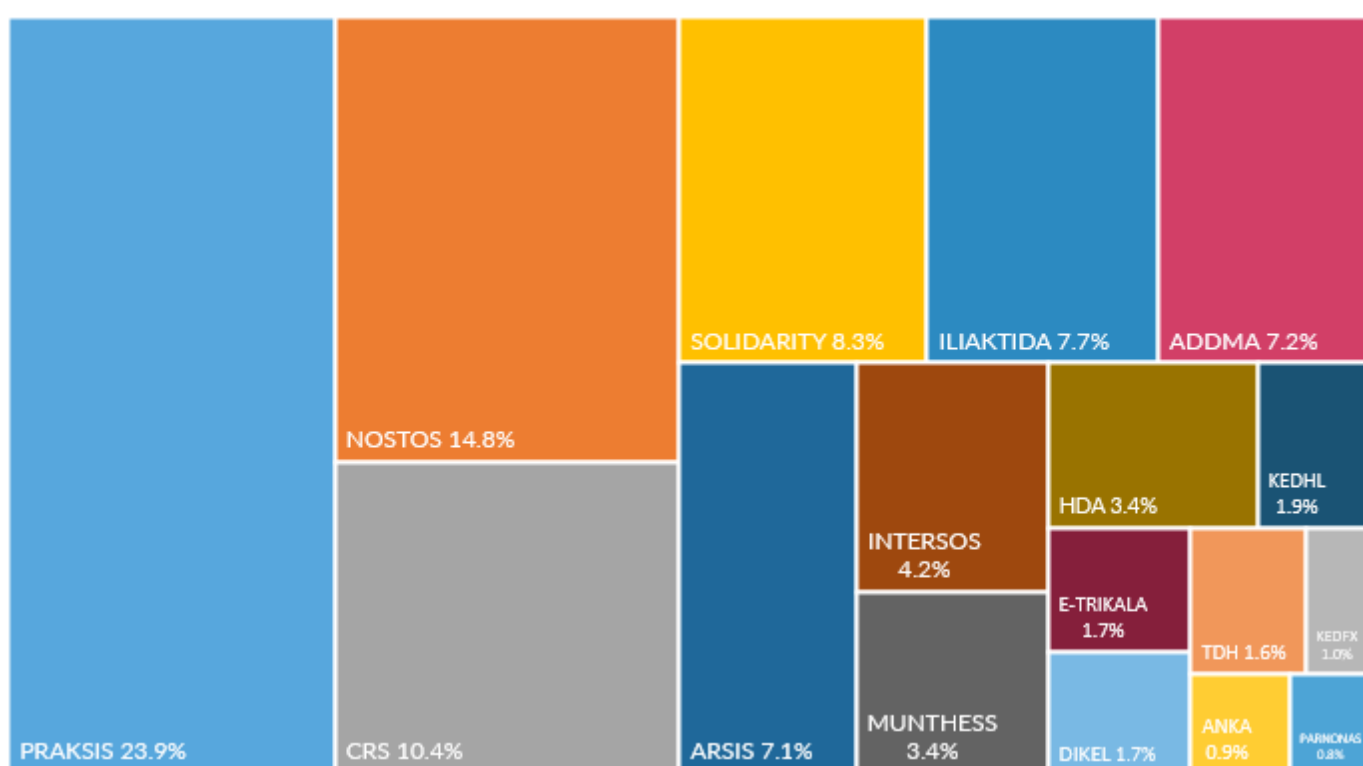


## Partners

At the end of June 2018, UNHCR is implementing the accommodation scheme through 17 partnerships with 8 national and international NGOs and 9 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) and a consortium of municipalities in Crete (HDA).

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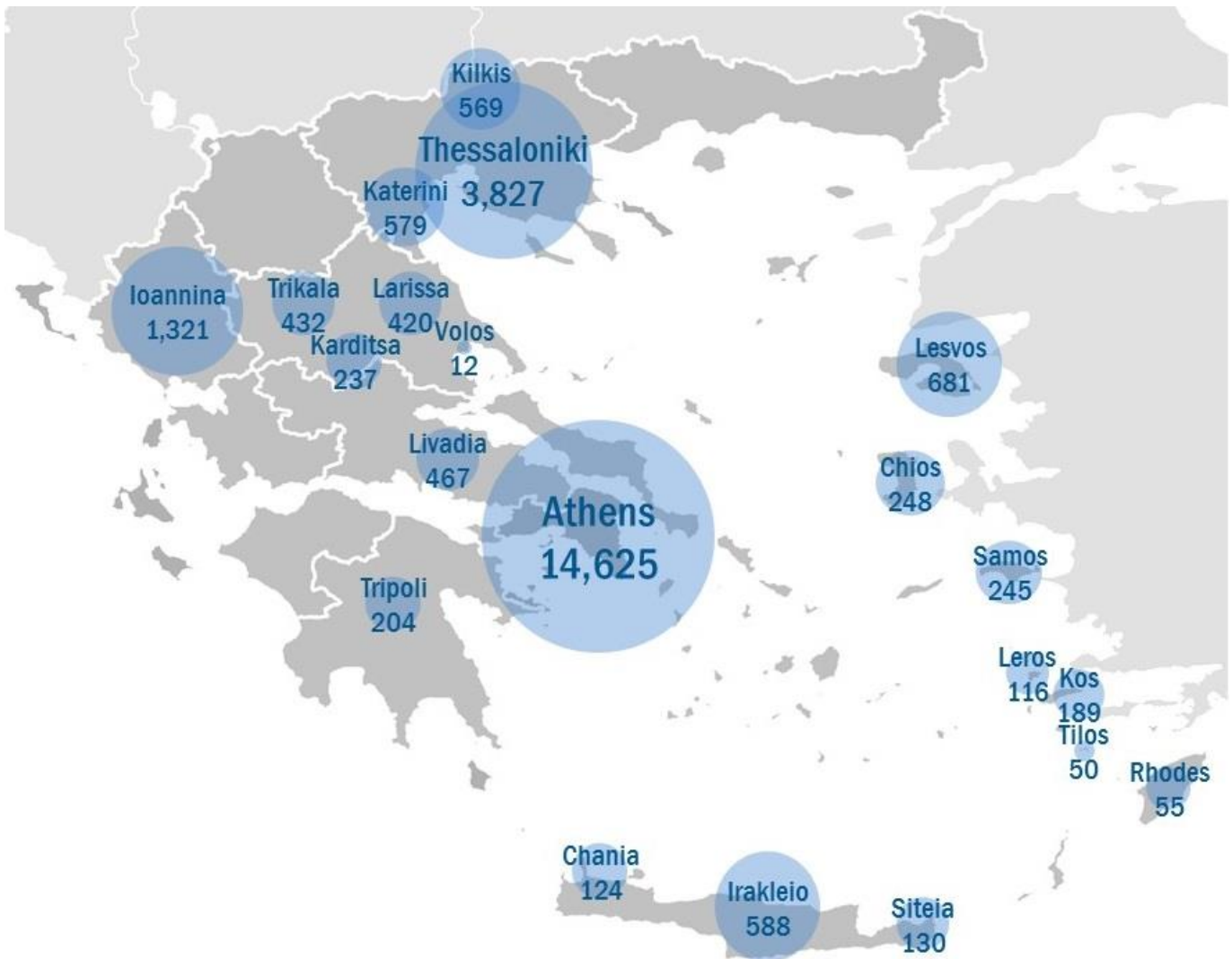
Partners GCR and METAdrasi also provide social, legal and interpretation support.



KEDFX, 1.0%  
ANKA, 0.9%  
PARNONAS, 0.8%

## 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 located in Athens, 36% in the rest of mainland, and 6% on the islands.



## Total beneficiaries

In total, since November 2015, 49,077 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).

**49,077**

Total number of individuals accommodated



Funded by  
European Union  
Civil Protection and  
Humanitarian Aid