

GREECE Accommodation update



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Eighteen-year-old Syrian refugee Numeir is reunited with his parents and three siblings at Hamburg-Fuhlsbüttel Airport in Germany after years of separation.

Terrified that he would be recruited into the army, Numeir fled his home in Syria when he was just 15 years old. He travelled through Turkey, Greece and the Balkans, before reaching an uncle in Germany a year later. Because he was an unaccompanied minor, Numeir was taken into protective custody and eventually ended up in a hostel in the small northern town of Lensahn, by the Baltic Sea. For three years he had just one wish: “I wanted to share the beauty here with the people who mean more to me than anyone else in the world – my family.”

His father Ismain, mother Fada and three siblings flew to Germany from Heraklion on Crete, where they lived in accommodation provided by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and its partner, the Heraklion Development Agency, under the EU-funded ESTIA programme. They spent months in Greece before hearing that their family reunification application had been approved. Their joyous reunion came in May 2018.

Overview

By the end of August 2018, UNHCR had created 25,492 places in the accommodation scheme as part of the ESTIA programme. These were in 4,235 apartments and 25 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.

25,492

Number of accommodation places

4,260

Number of units

97%

Occupancy rate²

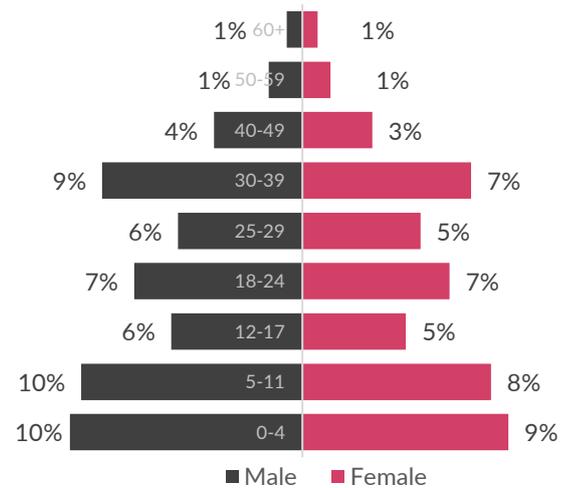
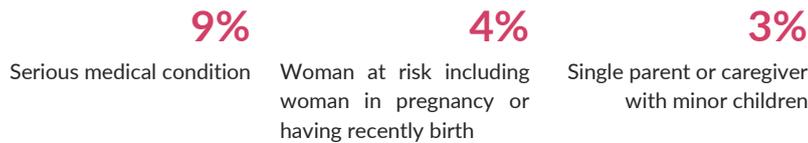
31 August 2018

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 and buildings. The accommodation scheme commenced in November 2015.

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

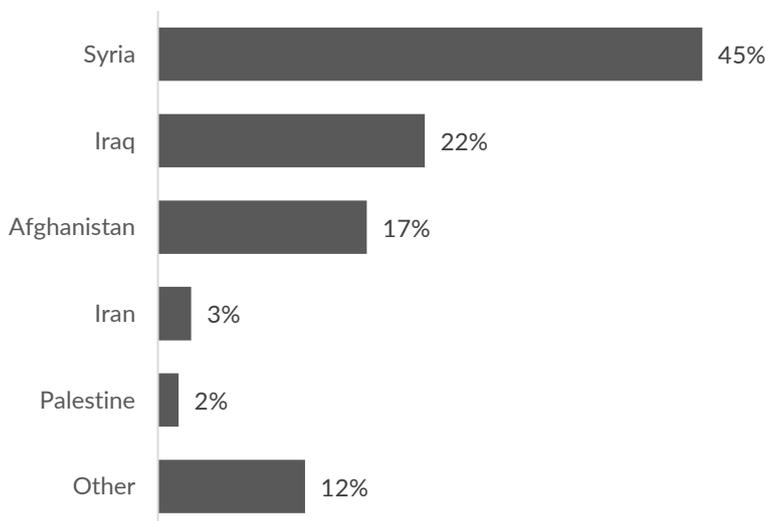
Demographics

In total, since November 2015, 51,462 individuals have benefitted from the accommodation scheme. 21,452 people were accommodated as of the end of August 2018, 4,734 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:



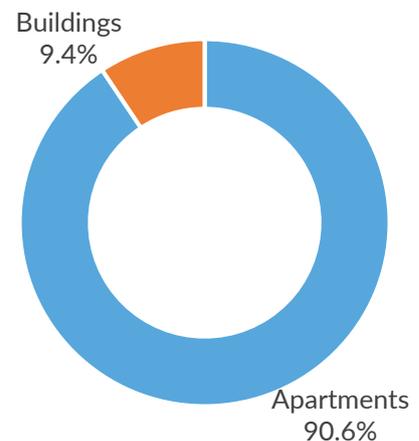
Demographics

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 August 2018 speak over 30 different languages as a mother tongue.



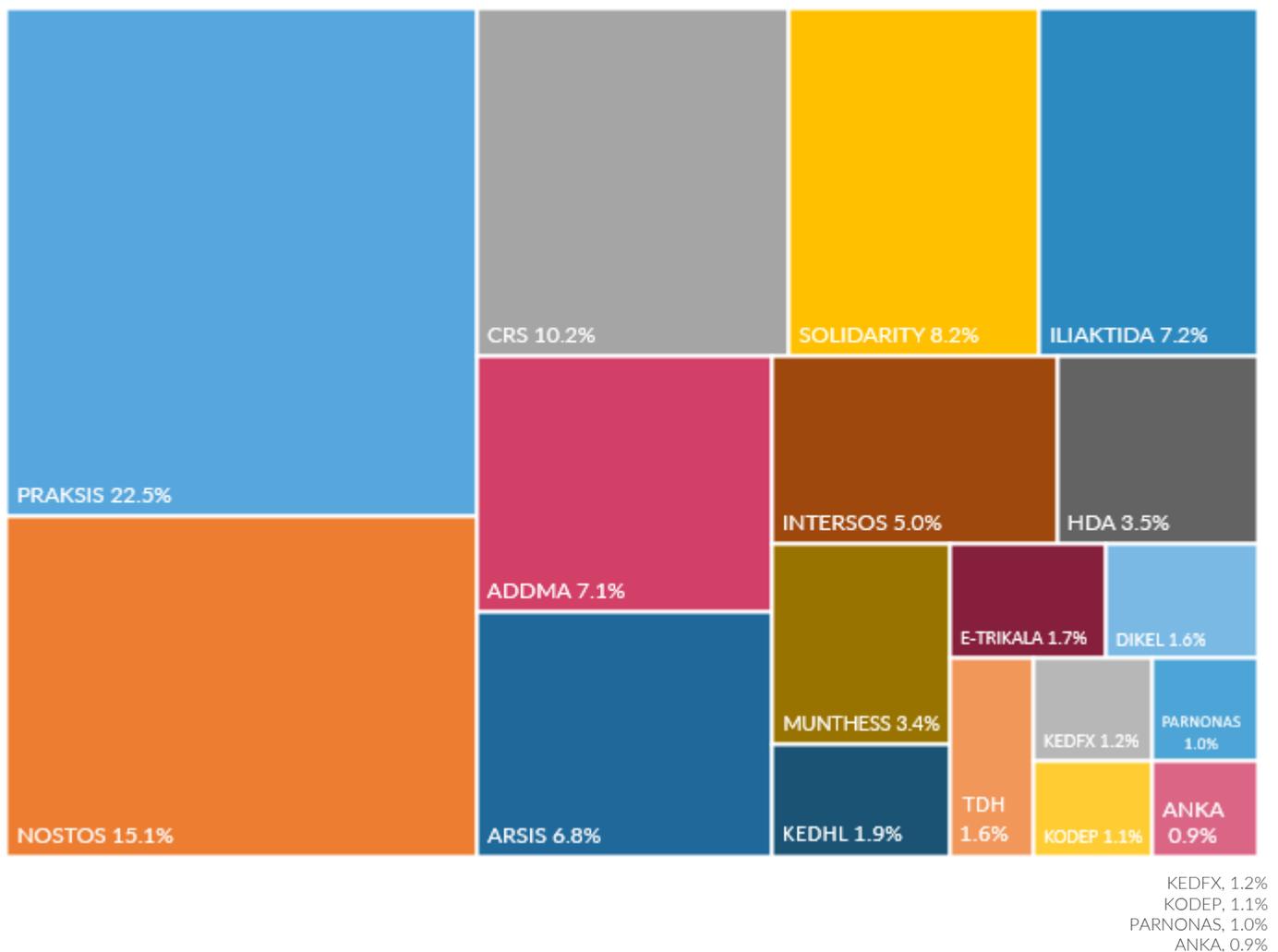
Accommodation Type

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



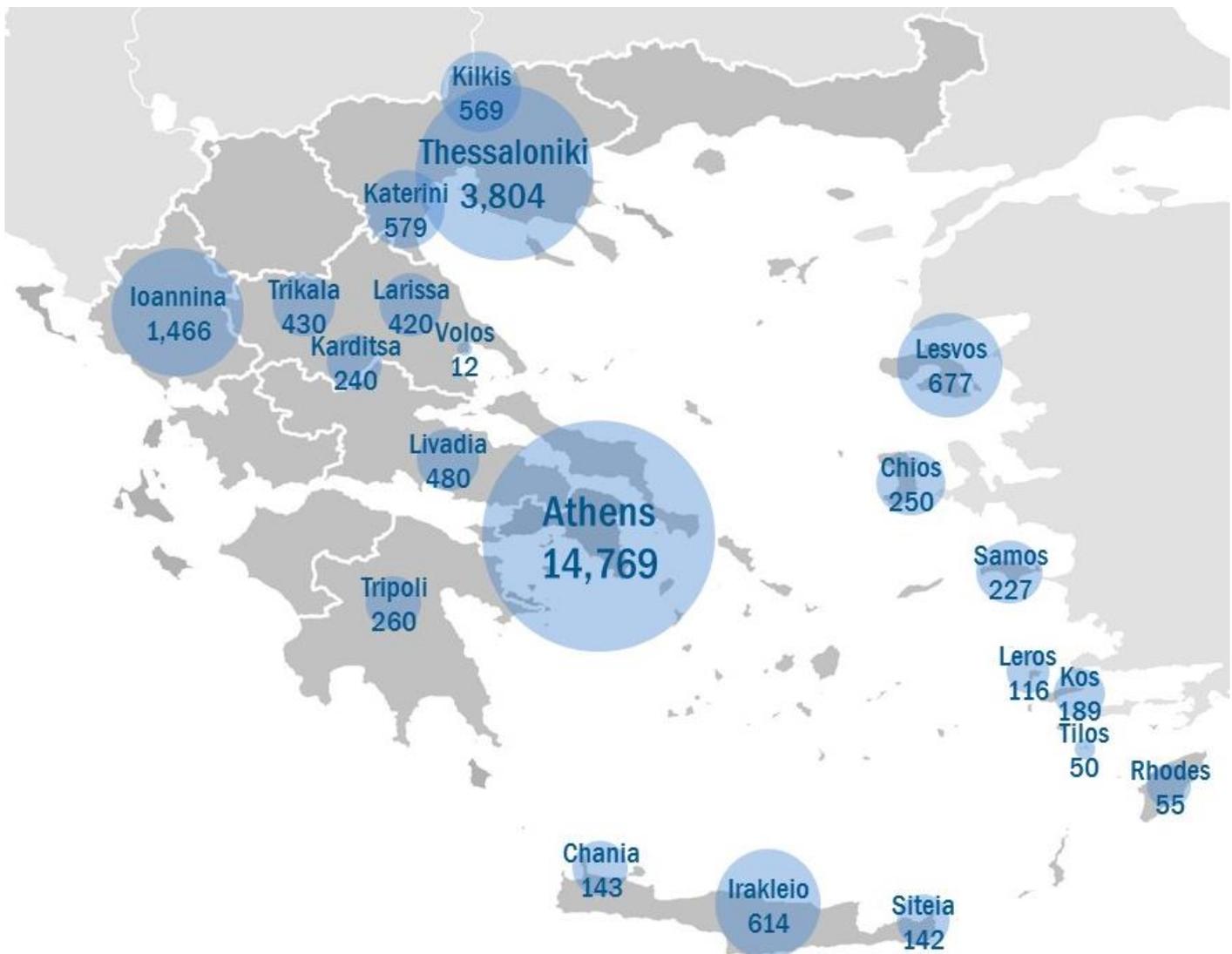
Partners

At the end of August 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 located in Athens, 36% in the rest of mainland, and 6% on the islands.



Total beneficiaries

In total, since November 2015, 51,462 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).

51,462

Total number of individuals accommodated



Funded by
European Union
Civil Protection and
Humanitarian Aid