

# Accommodation update



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“My goal, for now is, to finish school. Anyone who does not go to school is not a complete person. I want to become a lawyer, to be able to help those in need. To be the voice of those who need help. I know that, to succeed, it will take a lot of studying and practicing the language.”

Idris, a 17-year-old refugee from Afghanistan, shares his story and has his picture taken as one of the participants in Face Forward ...into my home, an interactive art project by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and the National Museum of Contemporary Art, Athens (EMST), focusing on the stories of people who have been forced to leave their homelands and are rebuilding their life in Greece. Idris lives with his family in Heraklion, Crete, in accommodation provided by UNHCR and its partner, the Heraklion Development Agency, under the EU-funded ESTIA program.

## Overview

By the end of September 2018, UNHCR had created 25,669 places in the accommodation scheme as part of the ESTIA programme. These were in 4,265 apartments and 25 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.

**25,669**

Number of accommodation places

**4,290**

Number of units

**97%**

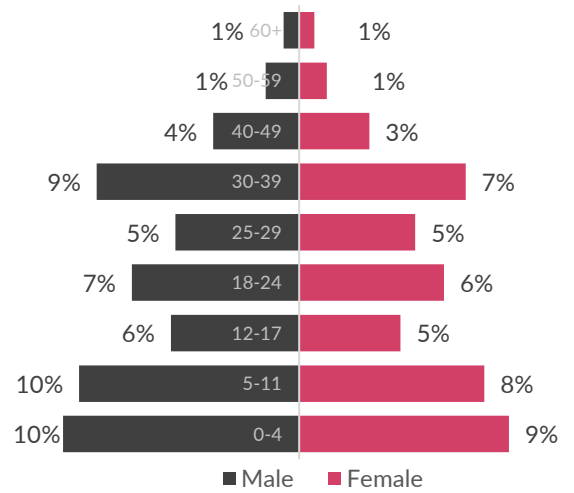
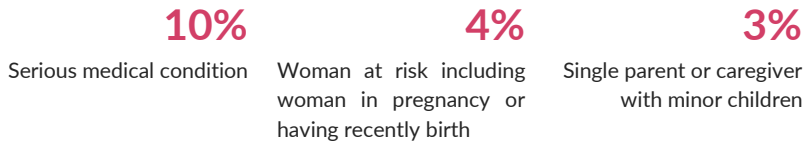
Occupancy rate<sup>2</sup>

<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.

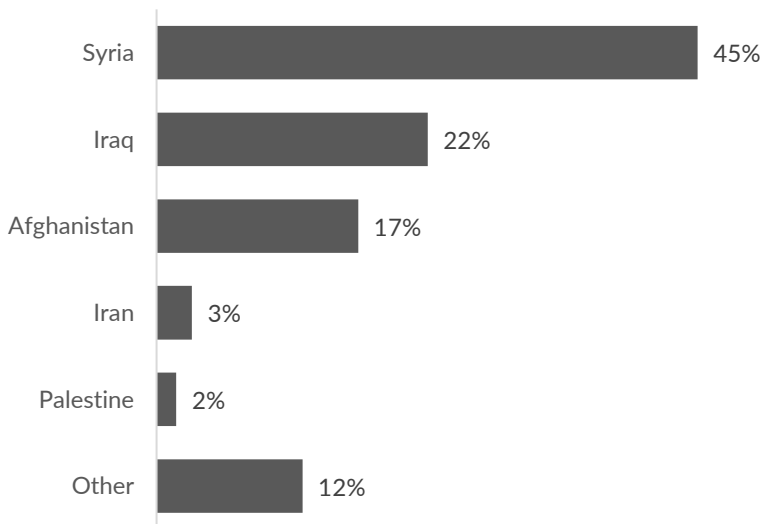
## Demographics

In total, since November 2015, 52,334 individuals have benefitted from the accommodation scheme. 21,427 people were accommodated as of the end of September 2018, 4,824 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:



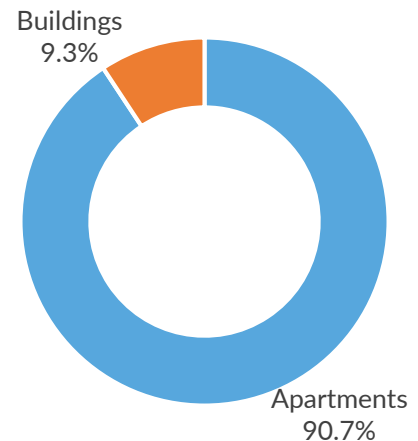
## Demographics

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



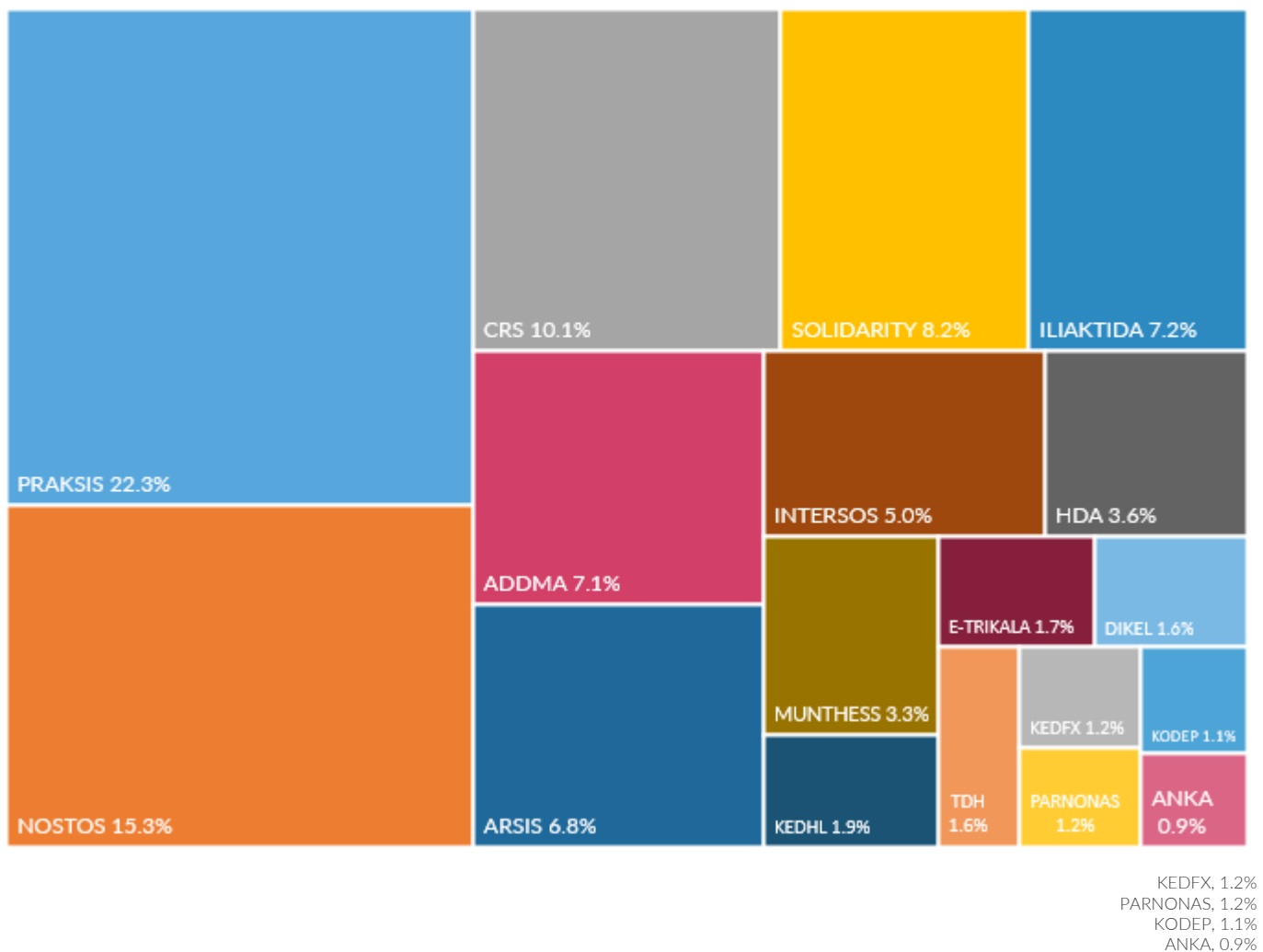
## Accommodation Type

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



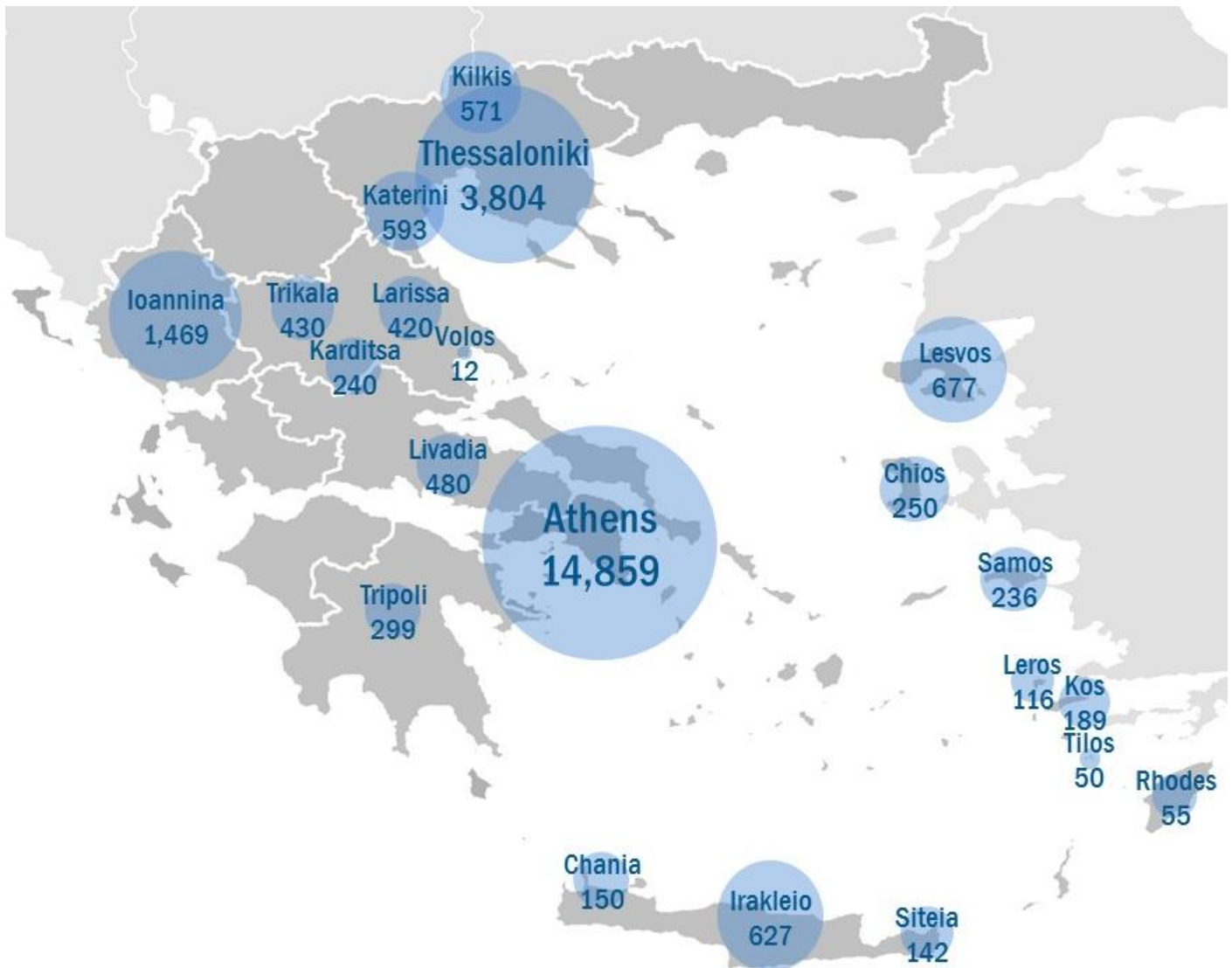
## Partners

At the end of September 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, 52,334 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).

# 52,334

Total number of individuals accommodated



Funded by  
European Union  
Civil Protection and  
Humanitarian Aid