

Accommodation update



Forty-two-year-old Ahlam al Sarahi, an Iraqi refugee living in Athens, seen on the balcony of the apartment she shares with her five children. Ahlam's younger children attend school during the morning while their older brother is trying to find work in order to help their mother with the expenses of the household.

The family fled Iraq and reached Greece two years ago. They now live in the center of Athens in a rented apartment provided by NGO ARSIS and UNHCR as part of the EU – funded ESTIA program.

Overview

By the end of February 2019, UNHCR had created 26,186 places in the accommodation scheme as part of the ESTIA programme. These were in 4,457 apartments and 19 buildings, in 14 cities and 6 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.

26,186

Number of accommodation places

4,476

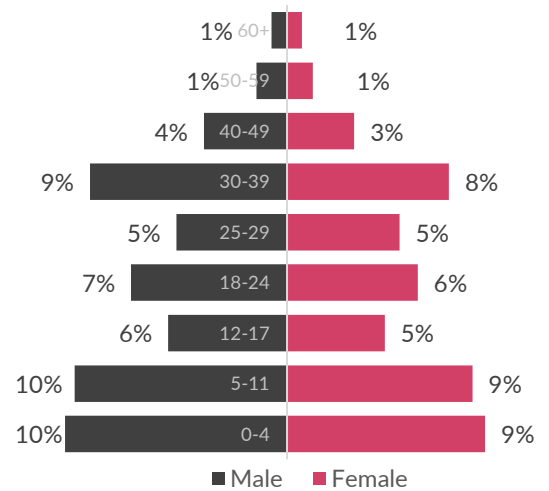
Number of units

99%

Occupancy rate²

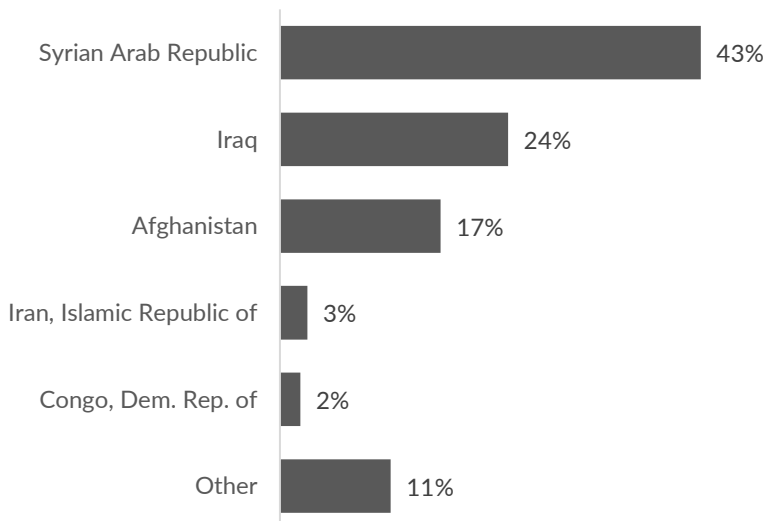
Demographics

In total, since November 2015, 57,145 individuals have benefitted from the accommodation scheme. 22,803 people were accommodated as of the end of February 2019, 6,314 of whom are recognized refugees. 48% of the residents are children. The clear majority of those accommodated are families, with the average family size of five people. More than one in five residents have at least one of the vulnerabilities that make them eligible for the accommodation scheme. The three most common vulnerabilities are:



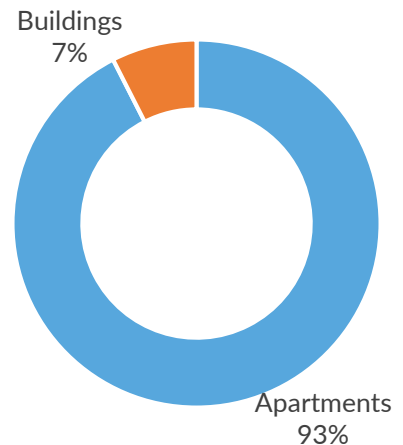
Nationalities

The clear majority, 89% of individuals in the accommodation scheme are Syrians, Iraqis, Afghans, Iranians or Congolese (DRC). However, the individuals accommodated as of the end of January 2019 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.

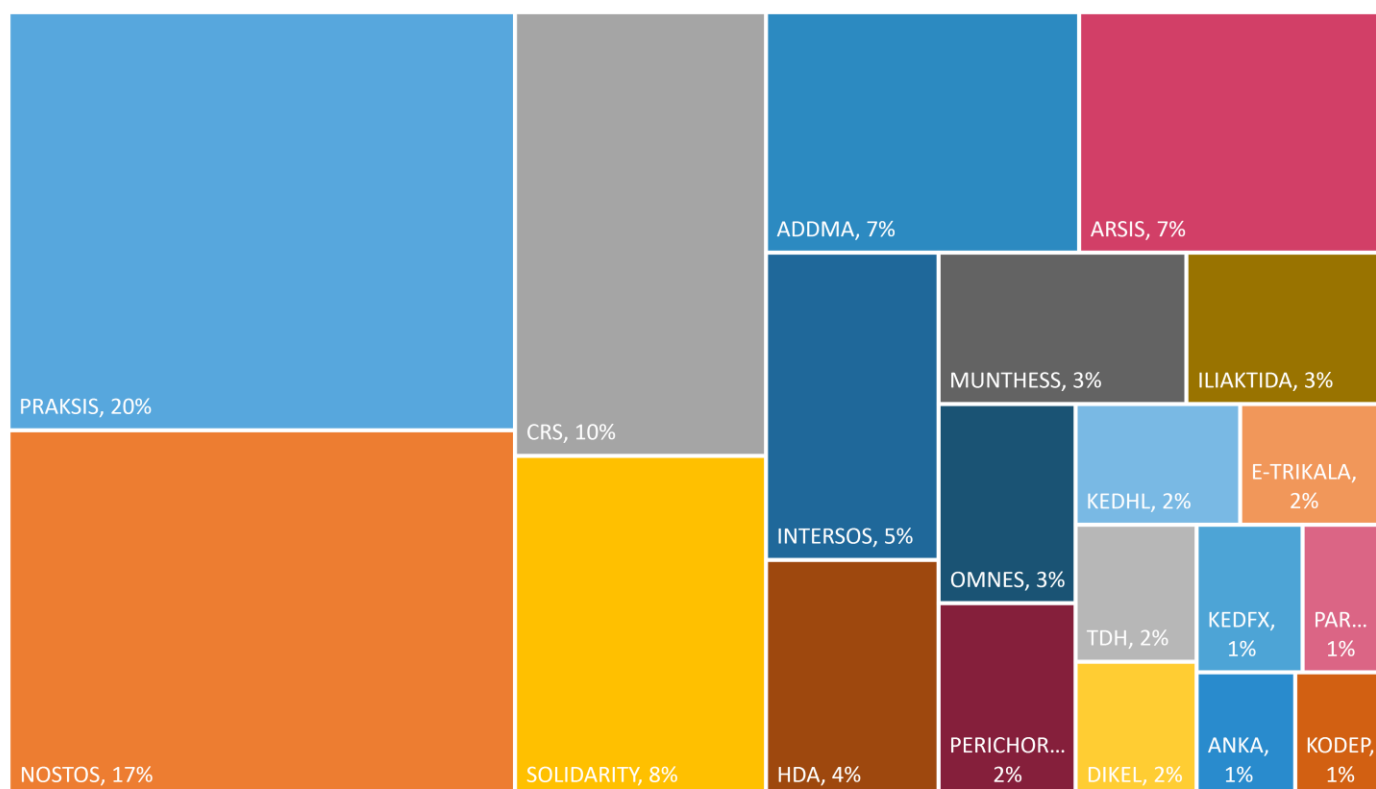


Partners

At the end of February 2019, UNHCR is implementing the accommodation scheme through 23 partnerships with 13 national and international NGOs and 10 municipalities. In total, partners managed by UNHCR provided 100% of the accommodation places in Greece.

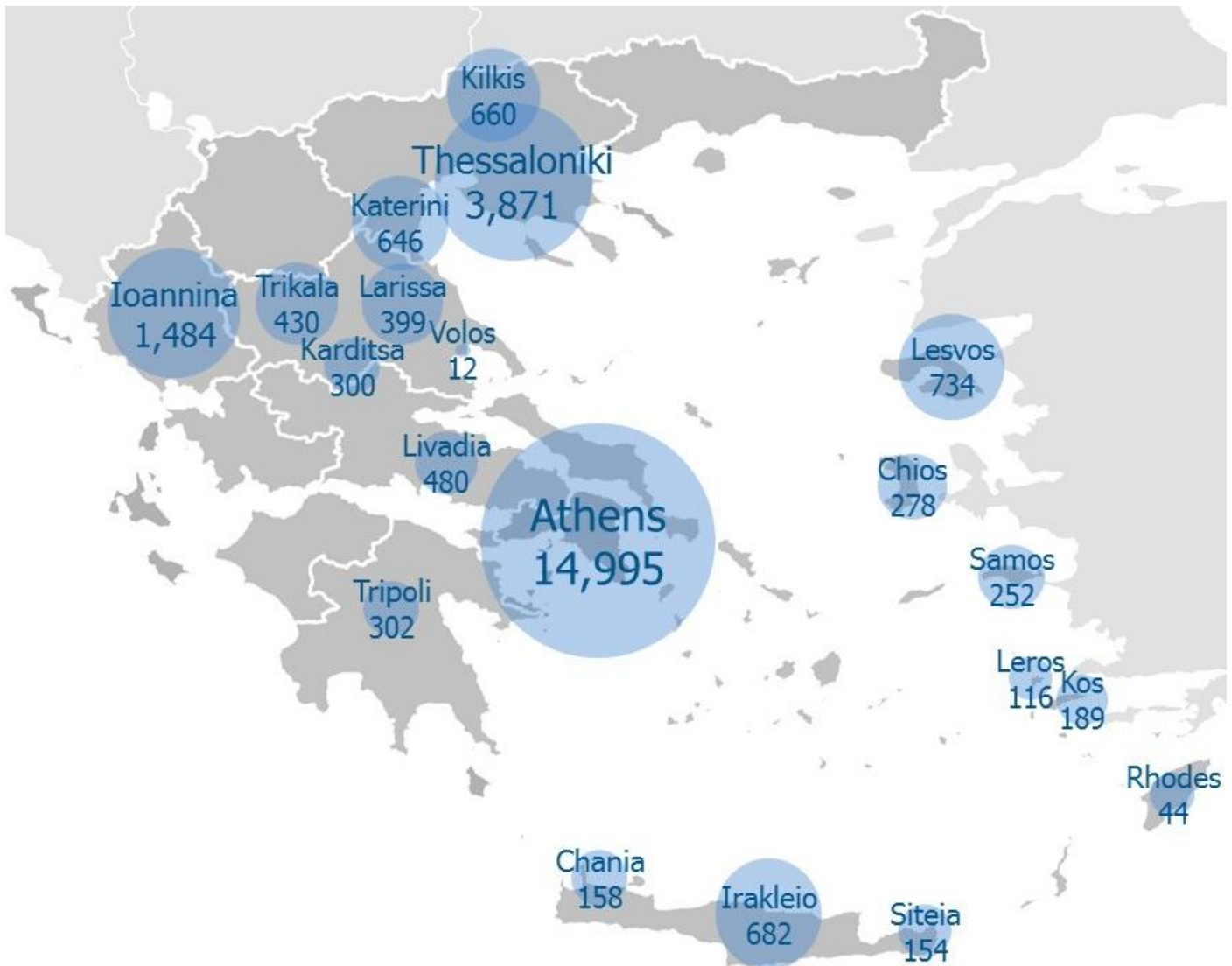
Partners GCR (Greek Council for Refugees) and METAdrasi provide social, legal and interpretation support. EPAPSY (Association for Regional Development and Mental Health) provides mental health services to refugees and asylum seekers with severe mental health conditions and disabilities.

UNHCR's accommodation partners are NGOs Praksis, Nostos, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Iliaktida, Solidarity Now, Arsis, Intersos, Omnes, Perichoresis, 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 6 islands. Over half, 57% of the accommodation places are in Athens, 37% in the rest of mainland, and 6% on the islands.



Total beneficiaries

In total, since November 2015, 57,145 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 Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Union.

57,145

Total number of individuals accommodated



Funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Union