

# Accommodation update



UNHCR/Achilleas Zavallis



Twelve-year-old Haidar sits on a bed between his sisters, Malak (left) and Zahraa (right) in the small apartment they share with their parents and another brother, Hussein, on Samos island. Political instability in their county and lack of proper medical treatment for Haidar, who suffers from leukaemia, forced the family to flee Iraq and seek asylum in Greece.

On Samos, UNHCR, in co-operation with its partner, the Association for the Social Support of Youth (ARSIS), offers 272 places in apartments for the most vulnerable asylum-seekers on the island through the EU-funded ESTIA Program. Samos is again experiencing overcrowding in and around its reception centers after a surge in arrivals since July 2019. Haidar and his family were transferred from Samos on mid-November and they are now living in Athens in an apartment provided by PRAKSIS under the ESTIA Program.

## Overview

By the end of November 2019, UNHCR had created 25,666 places in the accommodation scheme as part of the ESTIA programme. These were in 4,501 apartments and 14 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.

**25,666**

Number of accommodation places

**4,515**

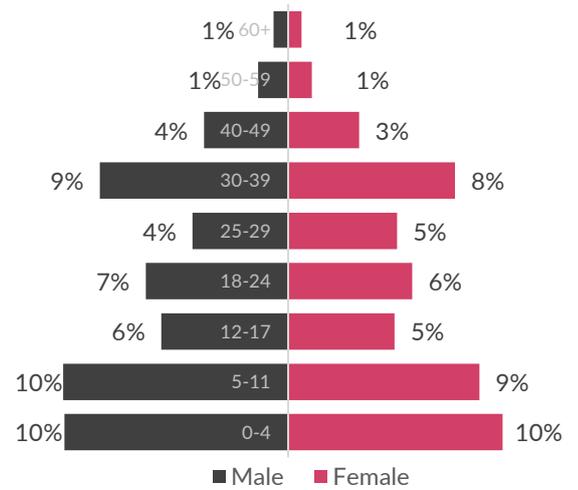
Number of units

**97.5%**

Occupancy rate<sup>2</sup>

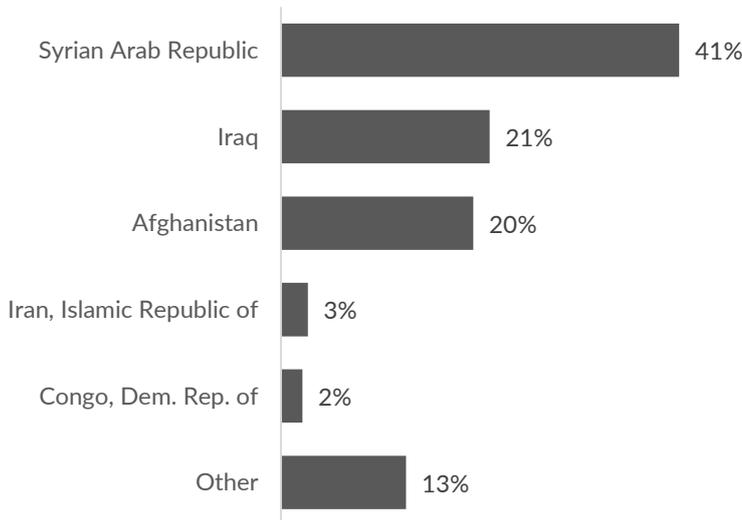
## Demographics

In total, since November 2015, 63,054 individuals have benefitted from the accommodation scheme. 21,639 people were accommodated as of the end of November 2019, 7,215 of whom are recognized refugees. 50% 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 three residents have at least one of the vulnerabilities that make them eligible for the accommodation scheme. The three most common vulnerabilities are:



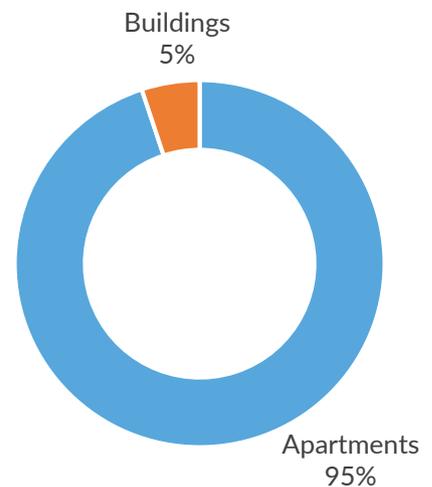
## Nationalities

The clear majority, 88% of individuals in the accommodation scheme are Syrians, Iraqis, Afghans, Iranians or Congolese (DRC). However, the individuals accommodated as of the end of October 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.

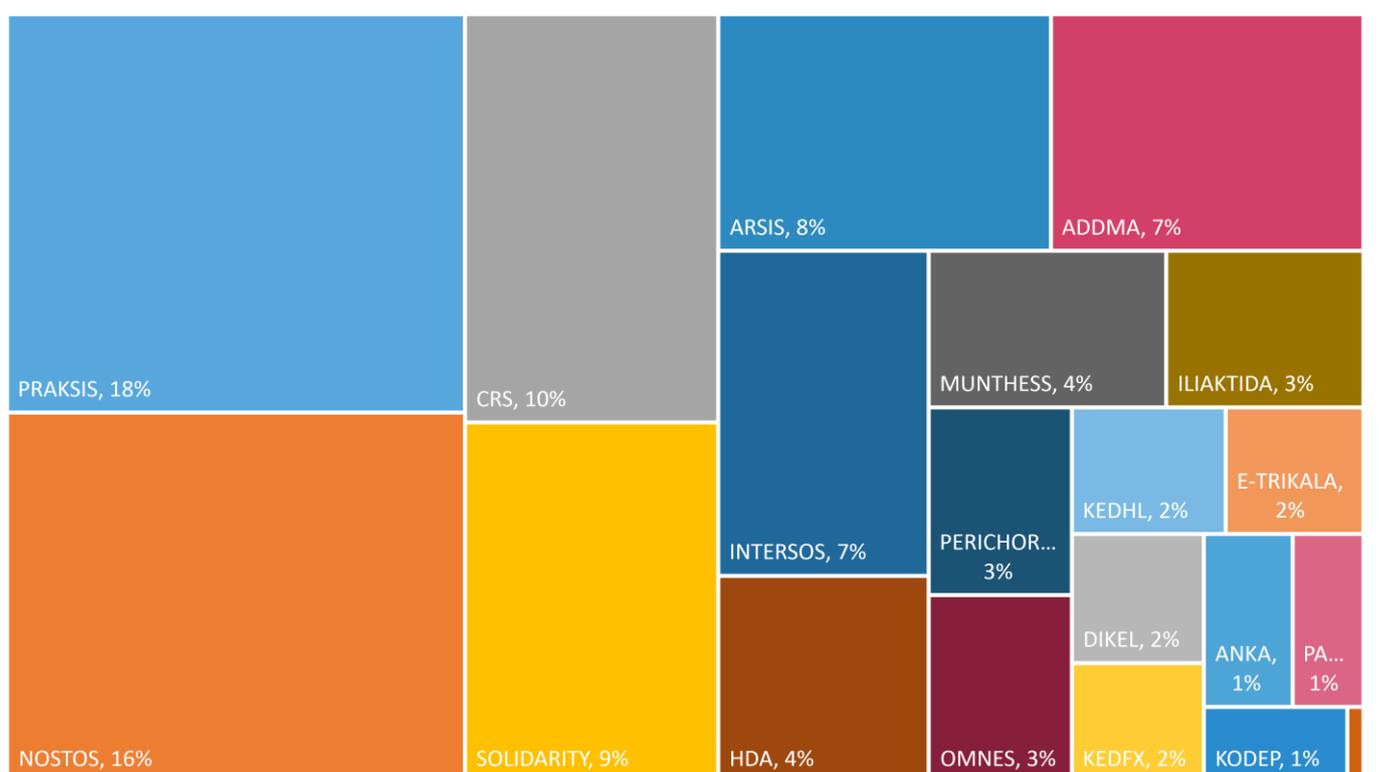


## Partners

At the end of November 2019, UNHCR is implementing the accommodation scheme through 23 partnerships with 12 national and international NGOs and 11 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, 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), Tilos (TILOS) and a consortium of municipalities in Crete (HDA).



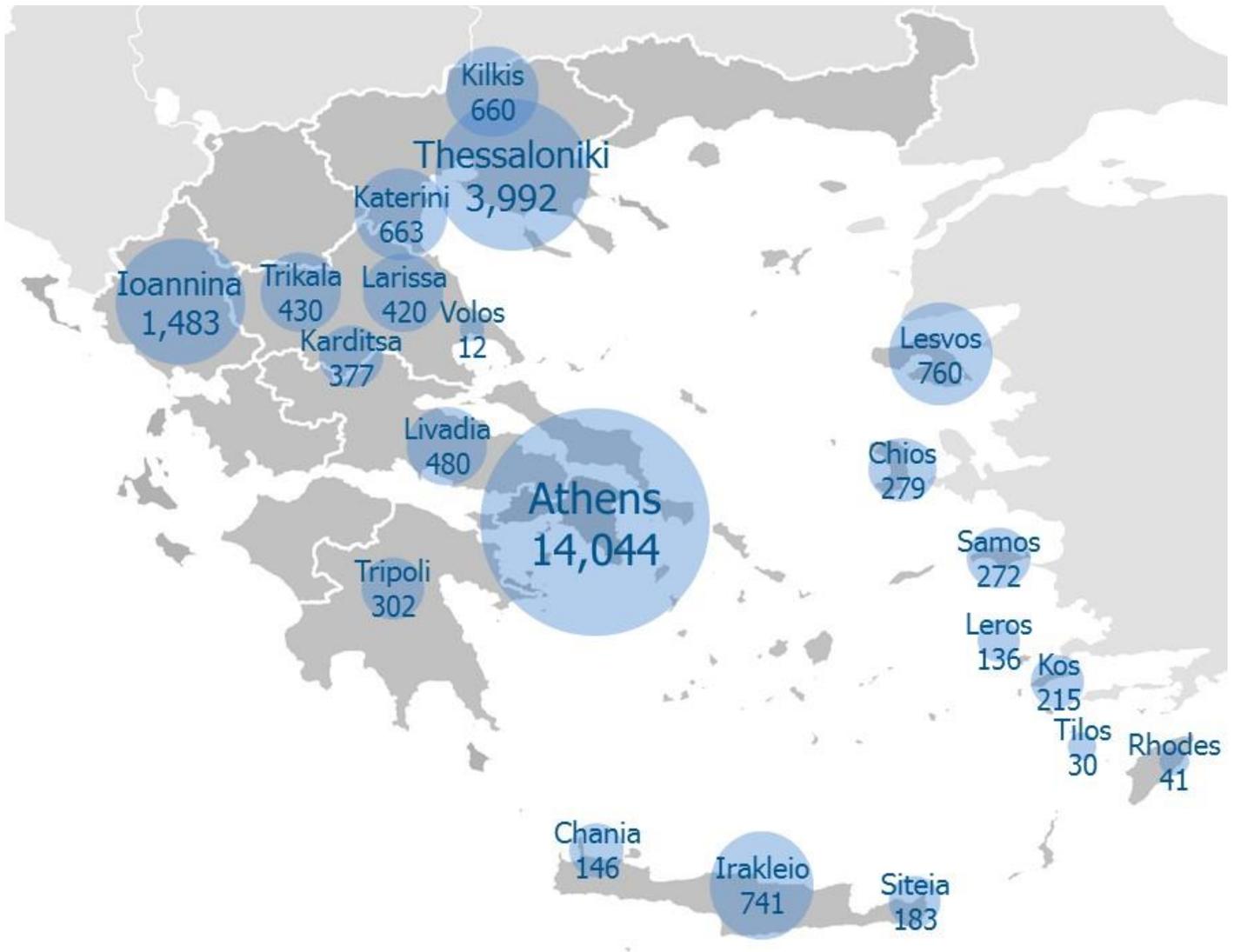
TILOS, 1%

*"Moria was cold, overcrowded and there was no school. Now I live in a house in Kilkis and we sleep safely. I go to school every day and have many Greek friends to play and study with. My siblings also go to school and my father attends evening school. The teachers help me a lot and love me. On Fridays, I have lessons at OMNES' Inclusion Centre. I like to go for walks with my mother to the park, the library, St. George's cave and the market. I want to stay in Greece, the schools are good, and the people are kind and beautiful. I'm happy here."*

ZEYNAP ASEFI, 12 years old student from Iran lives in an apartment in Kilkis under the ESTIA accommodation program implemented by OMNES.

## Location of accommodation

Accommodation for asylum seekers and recognized refugees is provided in 14 cities in mainland and 7 islands. Over half, 55% of the accommodation places are in Athens, 38% in the rest of mainland, and 7% on the islands.



## Total beneficiaries

In total, since November 2015, 63,054 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.

# 63,054

Total number of individuals accommodated



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