

Accommodation update



28-year-old Delagha Maleki and his wife Sarah (25) left Afghanistan with their three children Setagesh, 8, Sana, 6, and Mohamed, 4. In January 2018 the family reached the island of Samos. They lived in Vathy Reception and Identification Centre until April 2018 when they moved to an apartment in Athens rented by UNHCR partner CRS/Caritas Hellas under the EU-funded ESTIA programme. Now Setagesh and Sana go to school and the family is building a new life in their new neighbourhood.

Overview

By the end of May 2020, UNHCR had created 25,508 places in the accommodation scheme as part of the ESTIA programme. These were in 4,589 apartments and 8 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.

25,508

Number of accommodation places

4,597

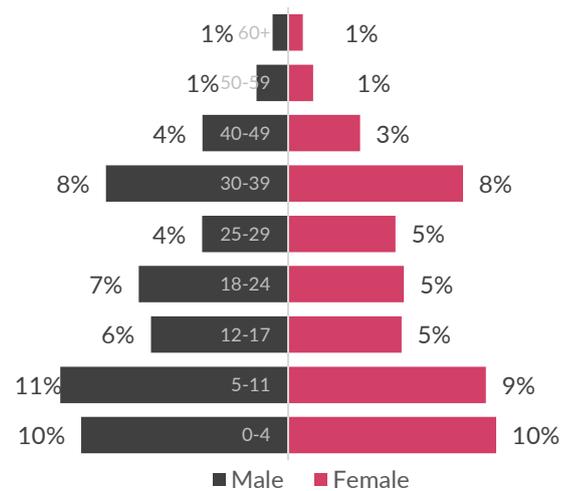
Number of units

98.3%

Occupancy rate²

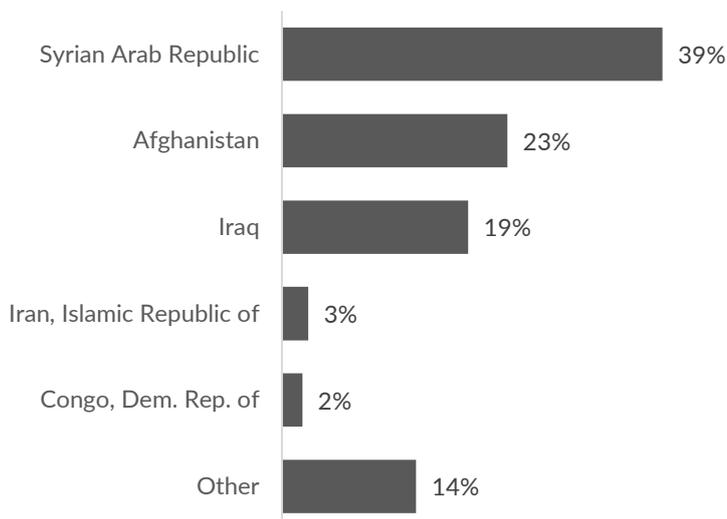
Demographics

In total, since November 2015, 67,436 individuals have benefitted from the accommodation scheme. 22,769 people were accommodated as of the end of May 2020, 6,580 of whom are recognized refugees. 51% of the residents are children. The clear majority of those accommodated are families, with the average family size of four people. More than 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:



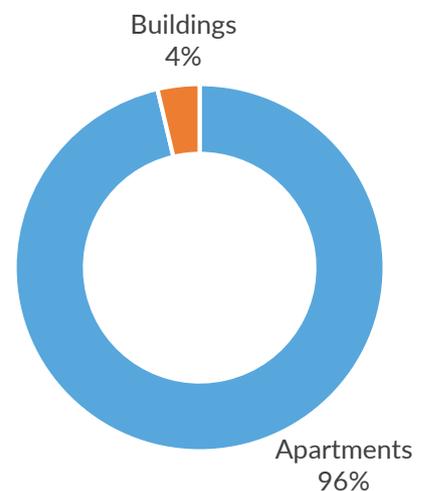
Nationalities

The clear majority, 86% of individuals in the accommodation scheme are Syrians, Iraqis, Afghans, Iranians or Congolese (DRC). However, the individuals accommodated as of the end of May 2020 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.

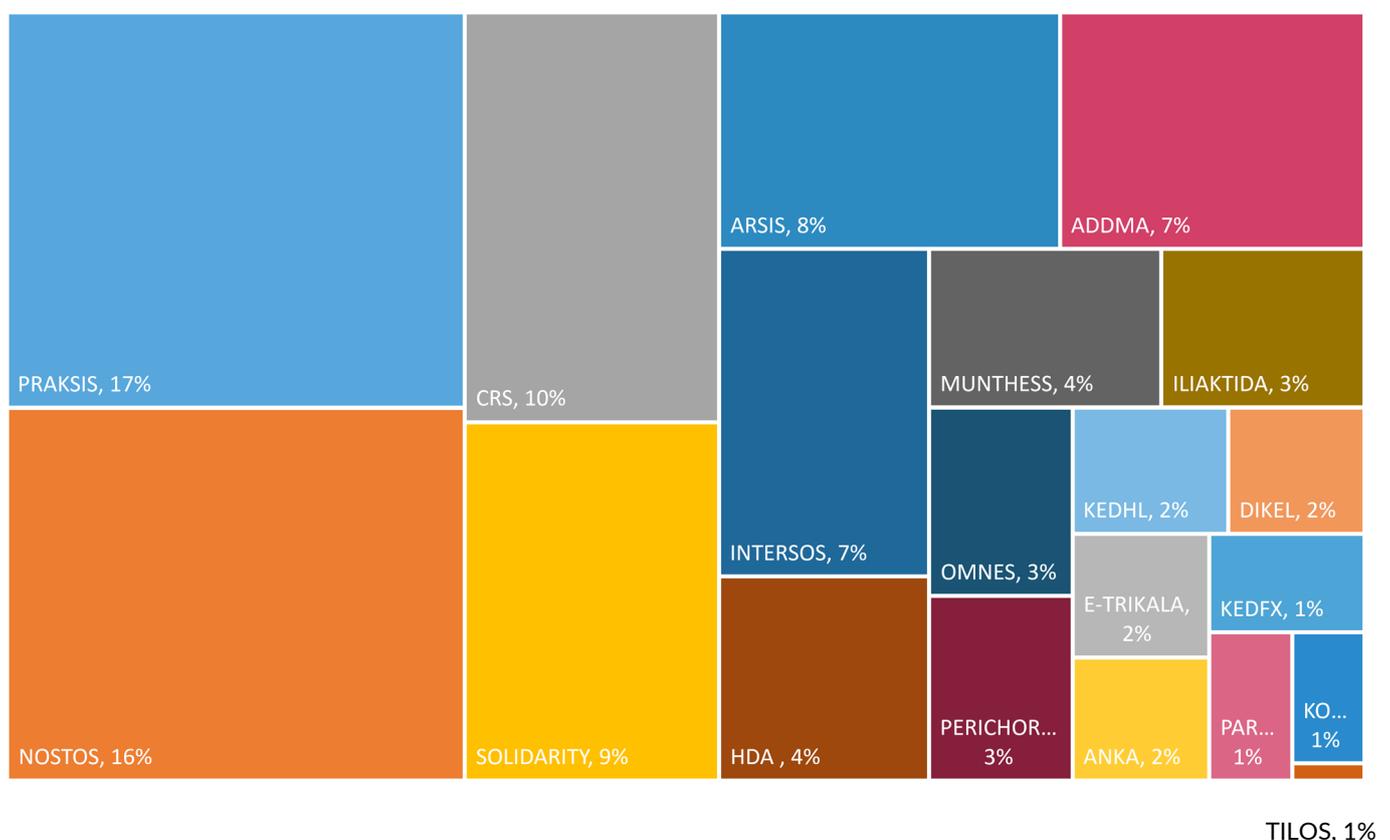


Partners

At the end of May 2020, 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).

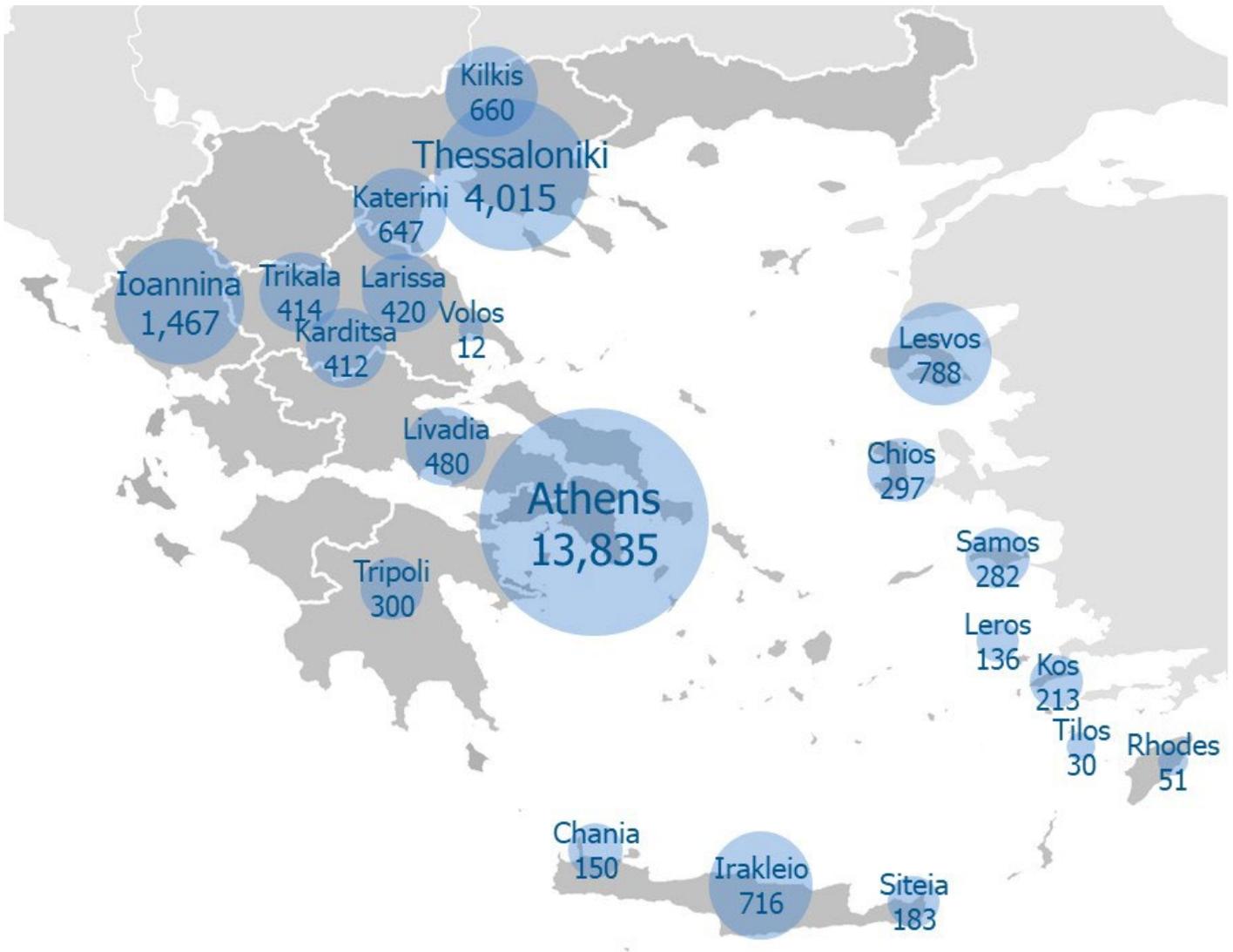


"In the beginning it was very difficult for us in Athens. We didn't know anyone, we didn't know the culture, the language. We were lost. When I arrived at Caritas, everything changed. They literally took me by the hand and showed me everything. I used every service they offered. They enrolled my children in school, they took me to Greek language classes, they helped me get all my legal papers".

25-year-old Sarah Beheshte from Afghanistan with her husband and 3 children live in an apartment in Athens rented as part of the ESTIA Program by UNHCR partner CRS/Caritas Hellas.

Location of accommodation

Accommodation for asylum seekers and recognized refugees is provided in 14 cities in mainland and 7 islands. Over half, 54% of the accommodation places are in Athens, 39% in the rest of mainland, and 7% on the islands.



Total beneficiaries

In total, since November 2015, 67,436 individuals have benefitted from the accommodation scheme.

UNHCR's Accommodation Scheme is part of the ESTIA programme (Emergency Support to Integration and Accommodation), co-funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Union.

67,436

Total number of individuals accommodated



Co-funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Union