

# Accommodation update



38-year-old Kibundi Matondo left Congo during her pregnancy. She arrived in Greece on August 2018 and lived in Vial Reception and Identification Centre in Chios. In November 2018 she gave birth to her daughter Emilka and they moved to an apartment in Chios rented by UNHCR partner ARSIS. On January 2019 they left Chios to live in Thessaloniki, in an apartment rented by UNHCR partner CRS/Caritas Hellas under the EU-funded ESTIA programme. Kibundi's husband Kalex Kalenga (39) has arrived on May 2019 in Lesvos, and on July 2019 the family was finally reunited.

## Overview

By the end of June 2020, UNHCR had created 25,792 places in the accommodation scheme as part of the ESTIA programme. These were in 4,646 apartments and 8 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.

# 25,792

Number of accommodation places

# 4,646

Number of units

# 98.2%

Occupancy rate <sup>2</sup>

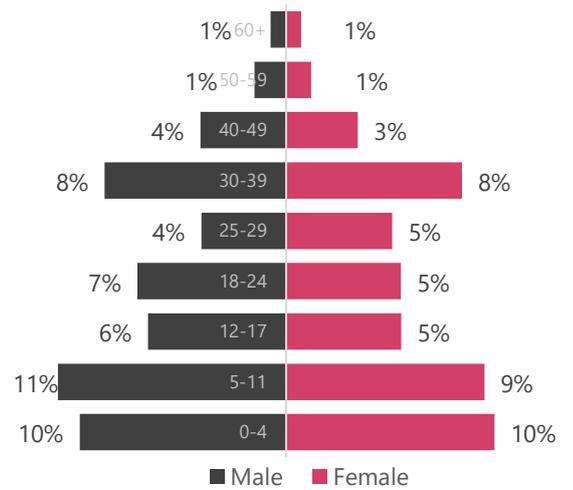
30 June 2020

<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 several 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.

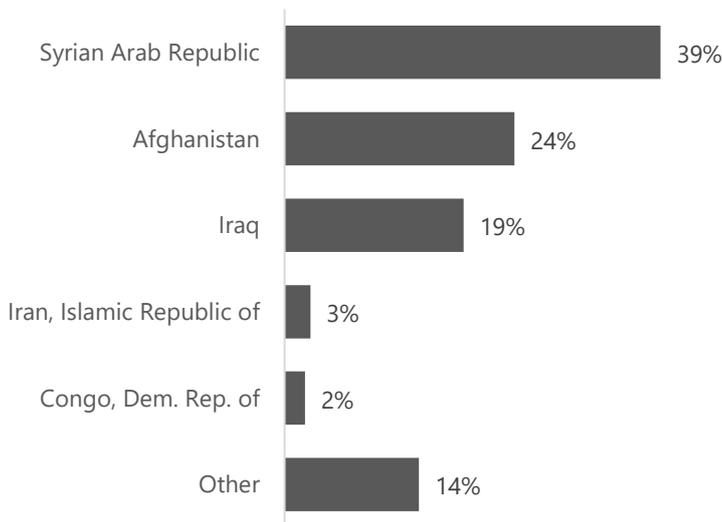
## Demographics

In total, since November 2015, 67,814 individuals have benefitted from the accommodation scheme. 22,578 people were accommodated as of the end of June 2020, 6,447 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:



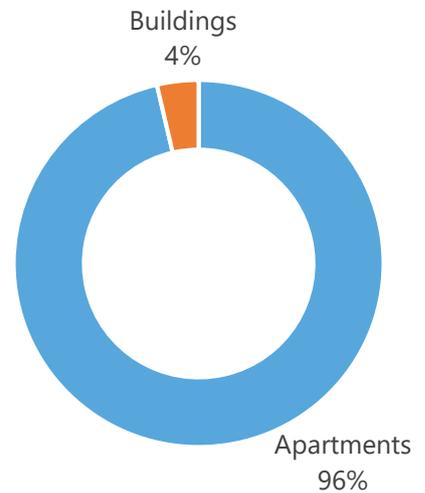
## Nationalities

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 June 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.

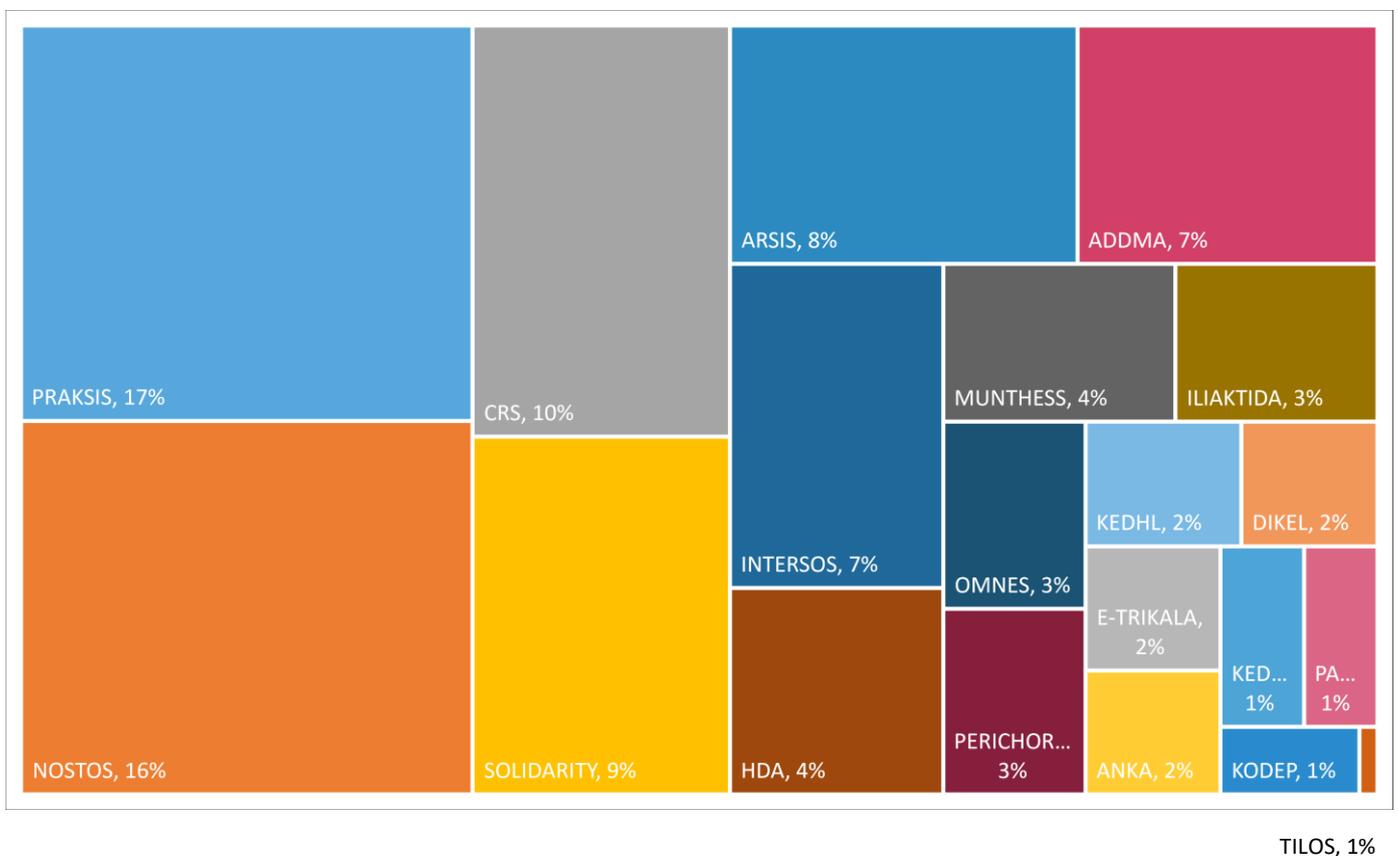


## Partners

At the end of June 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).

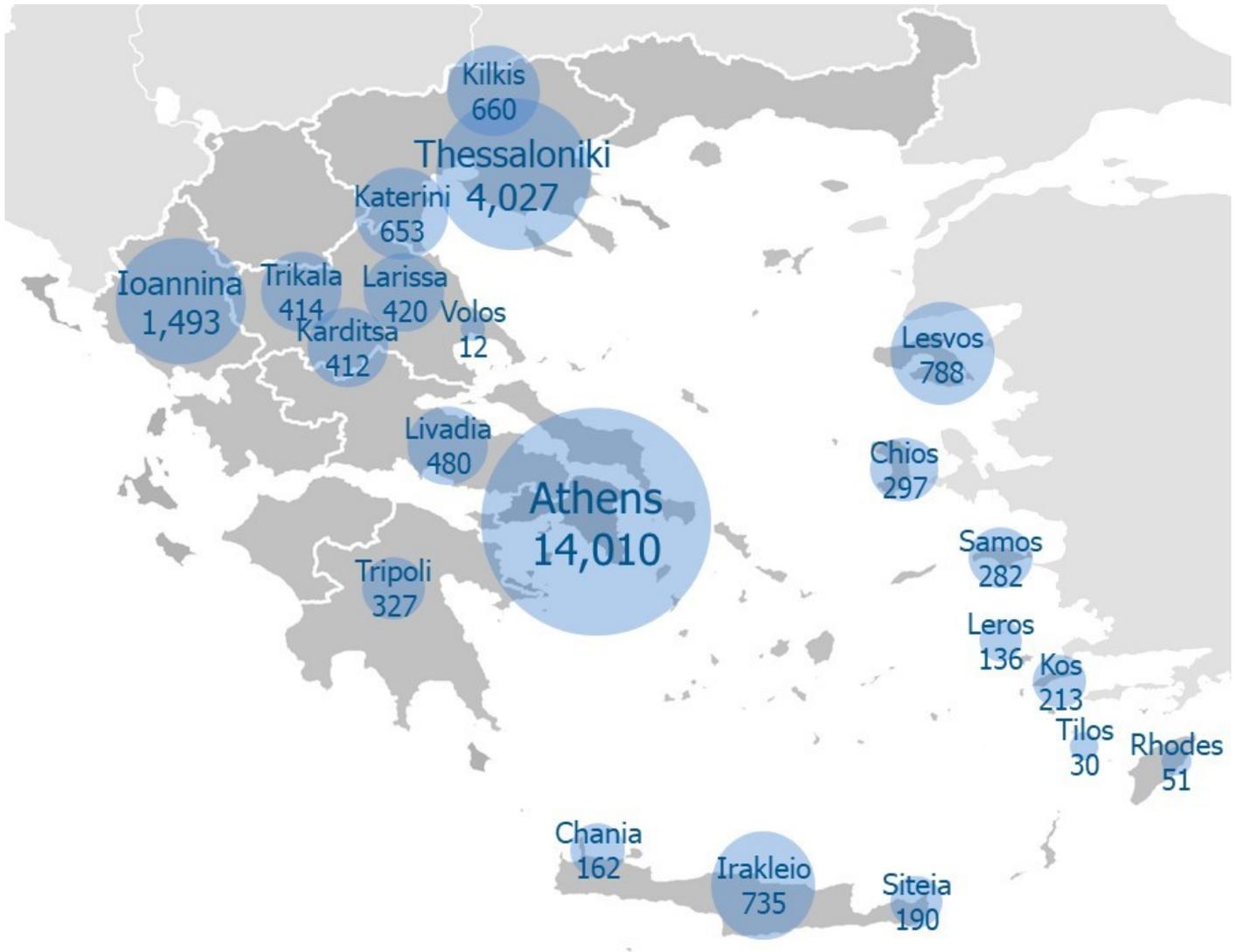


*“When I arrived in Thessaloniki, I felt relieved and lucky. The apartment is nice, in the center of the city, near to the hospital, which is helpful for me, as I must visit the hospital three times a week. We feel very safe and secure. I feel really blessed to have such a great support from Caritas, helping me with my health issues. I have a great time with my family and the quality of our life has been improved”*

39-year-old Kalex Kalenga from Congo with his wife and daughter live in an apartment in Thessaloniki rented as part of the ESTIA Programme 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, 67,814 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.

# 67,814

Total number of individuals accommodated



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