

# Accommodation update



Twenty-five-year-old Suzan and her husband Jowan, 27, had to flee Syria with their family in 2018. The family arrived in Greece in April 2018 and stayed in Lesbos island for three months. Today, they live with their two sons, Joud and Daniel, and the grandparents Jawher and Fidan, in an apartment in Nea Filadelfeia rented by UNHCR partner Public Benefit Organization of the Municipality of Nea Filadelfeia - Nea Chalkidona, as part of the EU co-funded ESTIA programme.

## Overview

By the end of October 2020, 15,000 places were under UNHCR and 13,602 places were under the Ministry of Migration and Asylum of Greece, in the context of the agreed gradual transition of the totality of the programme to the Greek authorities. In total, 28,602 places were created as part of the programme. These were in 4,625 apartments and 17 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.

**28,602**

Number of accommodation places

**4,642**

Number of units

**93.7%**

Occupancy rate<sup>2</sup>

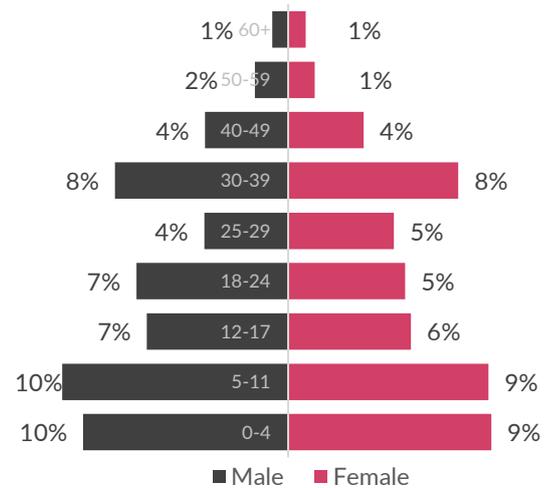
31 October 2020

<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.

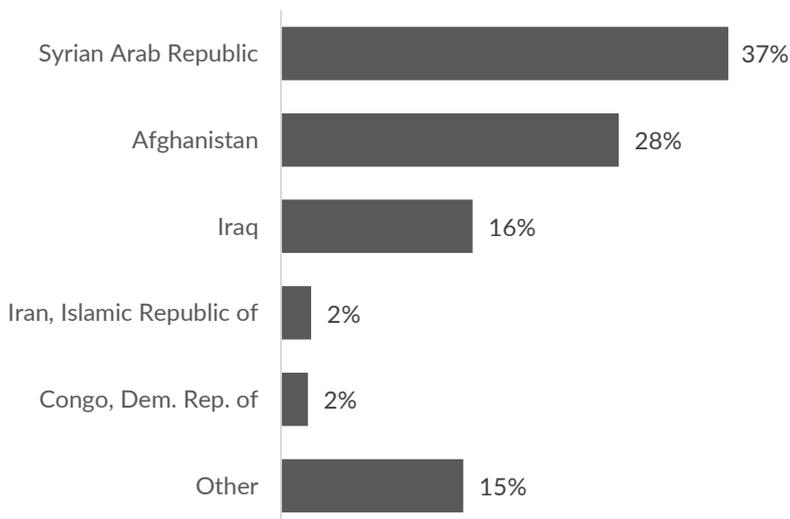
## Demographics

In total, since November 2015, 71,755 individuals have benefitted from the accommodation scheme. 21,731 people were accommodated as of the end of October 2020, 6,801 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:



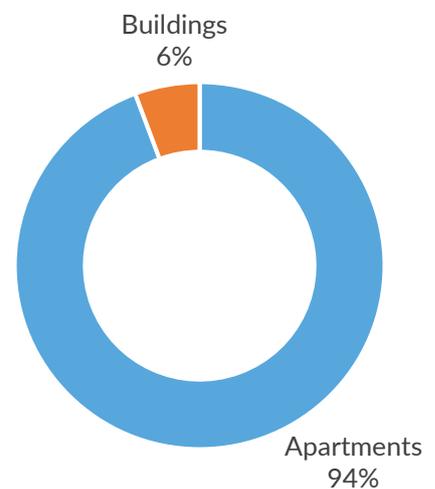
## Nationalities

The clear majority, 85% of individuals in the accommodation scheme are Syrians, Afghans, Iraqis, Iranians or Congolese (DRC). However, the individuals accommodated as of the end of October 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

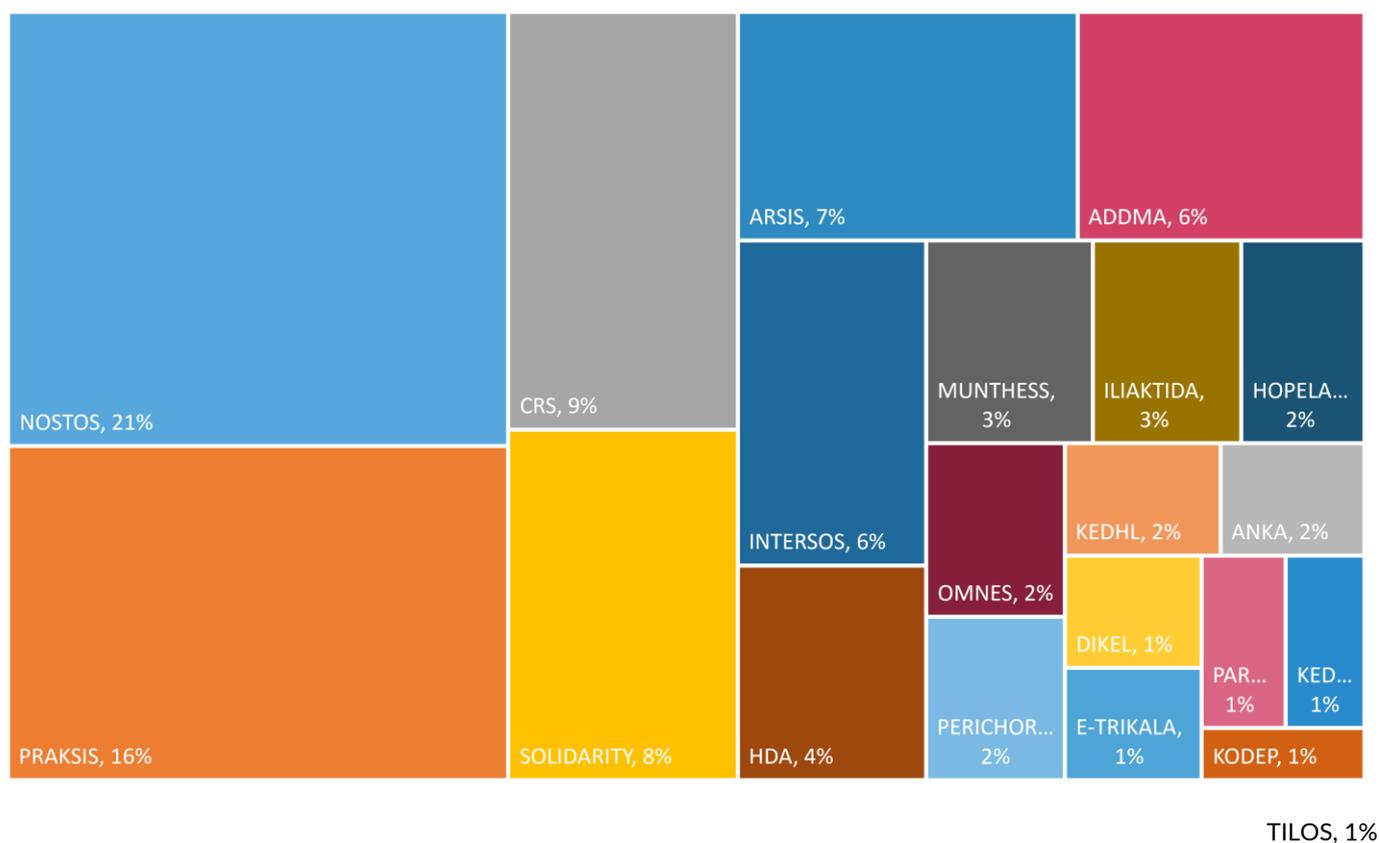
At the end of October 2020, UNHCR and MMA are implementing the accommodation scheme through 23 partnerships with 12 national and international NGOs and 11 municipalities. In total, partners managed by UNHCR provided 54% of the accommodation places in Greece and partners managed by MMA provided 46% of the accommodation places in Greece.

UNHCR 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, Arsis (Thessaloniki, Samos, Kos, Leros, Rhodes), Intersos, Omnes, Perichoresis, Solidarity Now, 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).

MMA's accommodation partners are NGOs Arsis (Athens, Chios), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Hopeland, Iliaktida and Nostos.

NGO Praksis has places under both UNHCR and MMA.



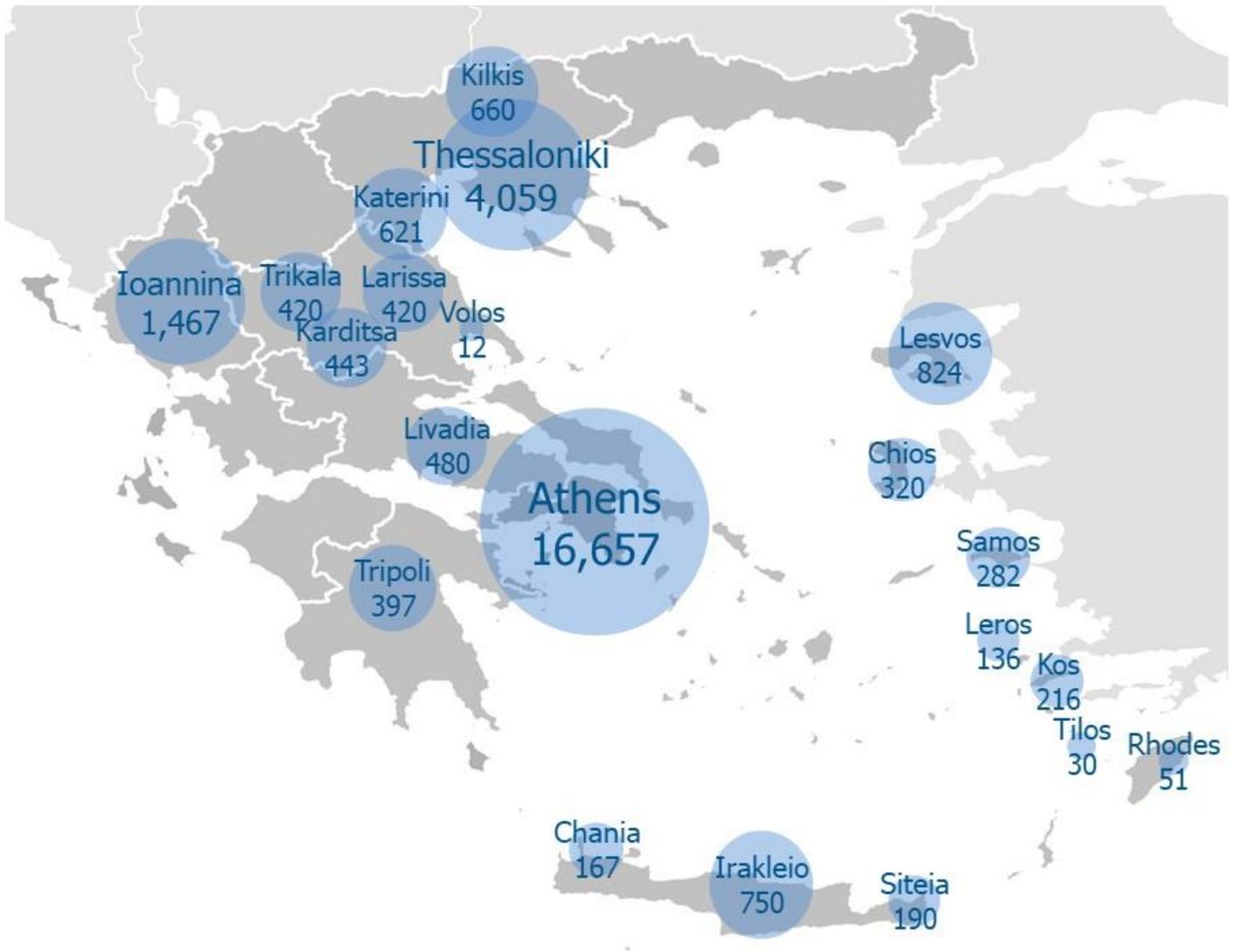
TILOS, 1%

*"We feel grateful for the safety and privacy that is offered to us. Due to a family member's medical condition, we are taking extra care regarding the protection measures for Covid-19. When the situation with the pandemic is over and things come back to normality, we are looking forward to finding a job and sending our children to school. In my free time, I love to make videos with my family in our DIY studio, which we upload them to our YouTube channel, covering topics such as the life of refugees, cooking recipes, etc." – Suzan Hassen*

*Suzan (25) and her husband Jowan (27), arrived in Greece from Syria in April 2018. Today, they live with their family in an apartment in Nea Filadelfeia rented as part of the ESTIA programme by UNHCR partner Public Benefit Organization of the Municipality of Nea Filadelfeia - Nea Chalkidona,.*

## 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 in Athens, 36% in the rest of mainland, and 6% on the islands.



## Total beneficiaries

In total, since November 2015, 71,755 individuals have benefitted from the accommodation scheme.

The Accommodation Scheme is part of the ESTIA II programme, co-funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Union.

# 71,755

Total number of individuals accommodated

