Cash Assistance Update

Overview
In November, 72,089 eligible refugees and asylum-seekers (39,395 families) received cash assistance in Greece, in 120 locations.

UNHCR provides cash assistance in Greece, as part of the ESTIA programme, funded by the European Commission. Cash assistance restores dignity and empowers asylum-seekers and refugees who can now choose how to cover their basic needs. It also contributes directly to the economy of the host community through the purchase of services and goods. UNHCR in Greece works with the Greece Cash Alliance partners the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and METAdrasi.

Demographics of Refugees and Asylum-Seekers Assisted with Cash
Since April 2017, 191,975 eligible individuals have received cash assistance in Greece at least once. Eligibility is assessed on the basis of one’s date of entry in the country, legal status and current location.

Of the 72,089 individuals who received cash assistance this month, 6,068 have international protection in Greece. Out of 39,395 families, 21% were women, 44% men and 35% children.

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Asna, a two-year-old asylum-seeker from Afghanistan, plays with the toys her parents bought her. Asna lives with her brother and parents in an apartment in Athens. To cover their basic needs, the family receives monthly cash assistance as part of the EU co-funded ESTIA programme.
27% of all who received cash assistance this month were families of five members or more and a further 38% were single adults. 68% of individuals in the cash assistance scheme are from Afghanistan, Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq and Pakistan.

The amount of cash assistance distributed to each household is proportionate to the family size. It ranges between 75 euros for an individual in catered accommodation, to 490 euros for a family of six members or more in self-catered accommodation.

Location of Individuals Receiving Cash Assistance

Asylum-seekers and refugees receiving cash assistance reside in 120 locations in Greece. 44% of those receiving cash assistance are located in Attica, with 21% currently on the islands and a further 18% in Central Macedonia.