Cash Assistance Update

Overview
In March, 64,553 eligible refugees and asylum-seekers (37,616 families) received cash assistance in Greece, in 113 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, 199,318 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 64,553 individuals who received cash assistance this month, 3,200 have international protection in Greece. Out of 37,616 families, 21% were women, 47% men and 32% children.

1 Source: Greek Cash Alliance during March 2021. Figures are subject to future adjustment and should not be considered final. Due to rounding, some totals may not correspond with the sum of the separate figures.

Larisse Gaelle Djomo, an asylum-seeker from Cameroon, and her four-month-old daughter Tianna, are at the Catholic Relief Services assistance centre in central Athens. Larisse receives monthly cash assistance as part of the EU co-funded ESTIA programme.
24% of all who received cash assistance this month were families of five members or more and a further 42% were single adults. 63% of individuals in the cash assistance scheme are from Afghanistan, Syrian Arab Republic, Pakistan and Iraq.

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 113 locations in Greece. 51% of those receiving cash assistance are located in Attica, with 16% currently on the islands and a further 16% in Central Macedonia.