

Accommodation update



@UNHCR / Elli Deliou

"In Greece, women are allowed to do everything that men do. Their religions may be different, but we are all humans and we can learn from each other. Khalida doesn't want to get married at a young age like me. She wants to study to become a lawyer. I've often been told by the school that my daughter is a very good student and learns easily. I feel proud that I managed to bring my children here so that they can live freely and build their future."

Farida, 28, from Afghanistan, with 13-year-old daughter Khalida. They told their stories as part of Face Forward ...into My Home, an interactive art project organized by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and the National Museum of Contemporary Art in Athens. The travelling exhibition focuses on the stories of people who have been forced to leave their homelands and are rebuilding their lives in Greece. Farida lives with her family in Thessaloniki, northern Greece, in accommodation provided by UNHCR and its partner, REACT, under the EU-funded ESTIA program.

Overview

By the end of November 2018, UNHCR had created 26,526 places in the accommodation scheme as part of the ESTIA programme. These were in 4,427 apartments and 23 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.

26,526

Number of accommodation places

4,450

Number of units

98%

Occupancy rate ²

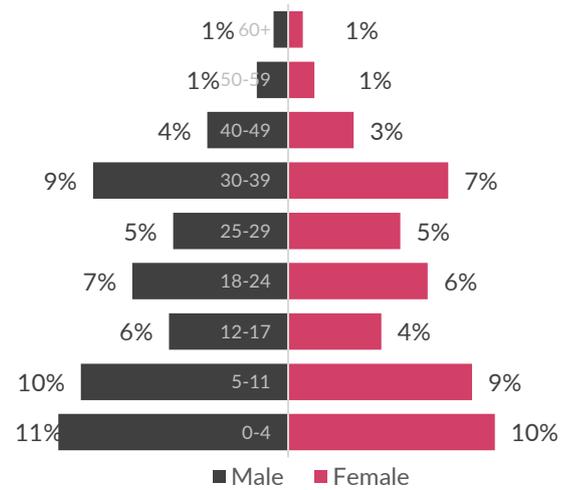
30 November 2018

¹ 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 a number of municipalities around Greece to provide rented accommodation in apartments and buildings. The accommodation scheme commenced in November 2015.

² The occupancy rate is calculated as the percentage of current population over actual capacity.

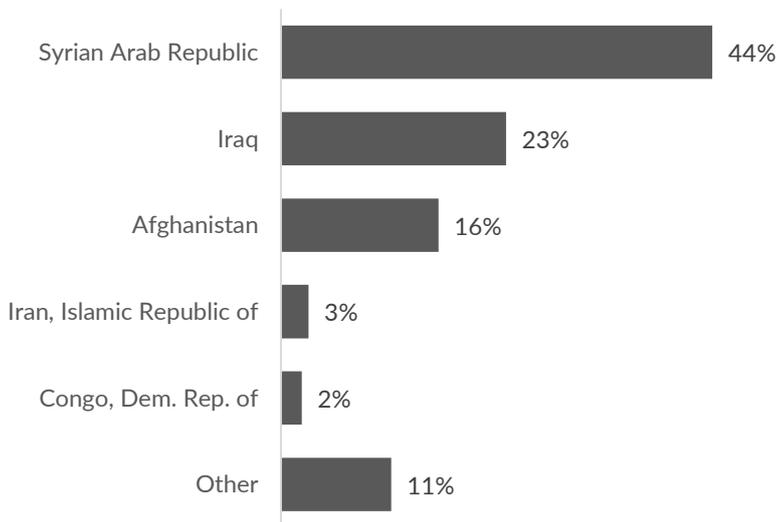
Demographics

In total, since November 2015, 54,781 individuals have benefitted from the accommodation scheme. 22,275 people were accommodated as of the end of November 2018, 5,246 of whom are recognized refugees. 48% of the residents are children. The vast majority of those accommodated are families, with the average family size of four people. 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:



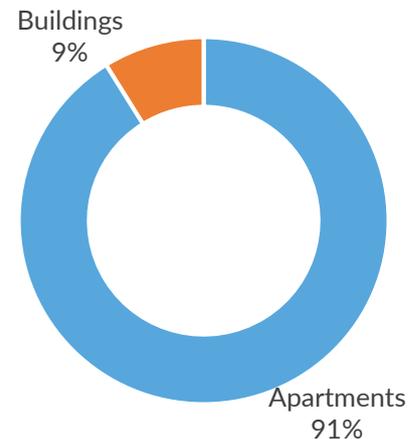
Nationalities

The clear majority, 89% of individuals in the accommodation scheme are Syrians, Iraqis, Afghans, Iranians or Congolese (DRC). However, the individuals accommodated as of the end of November 2018 speak over 30 different languages as a mother tongue.



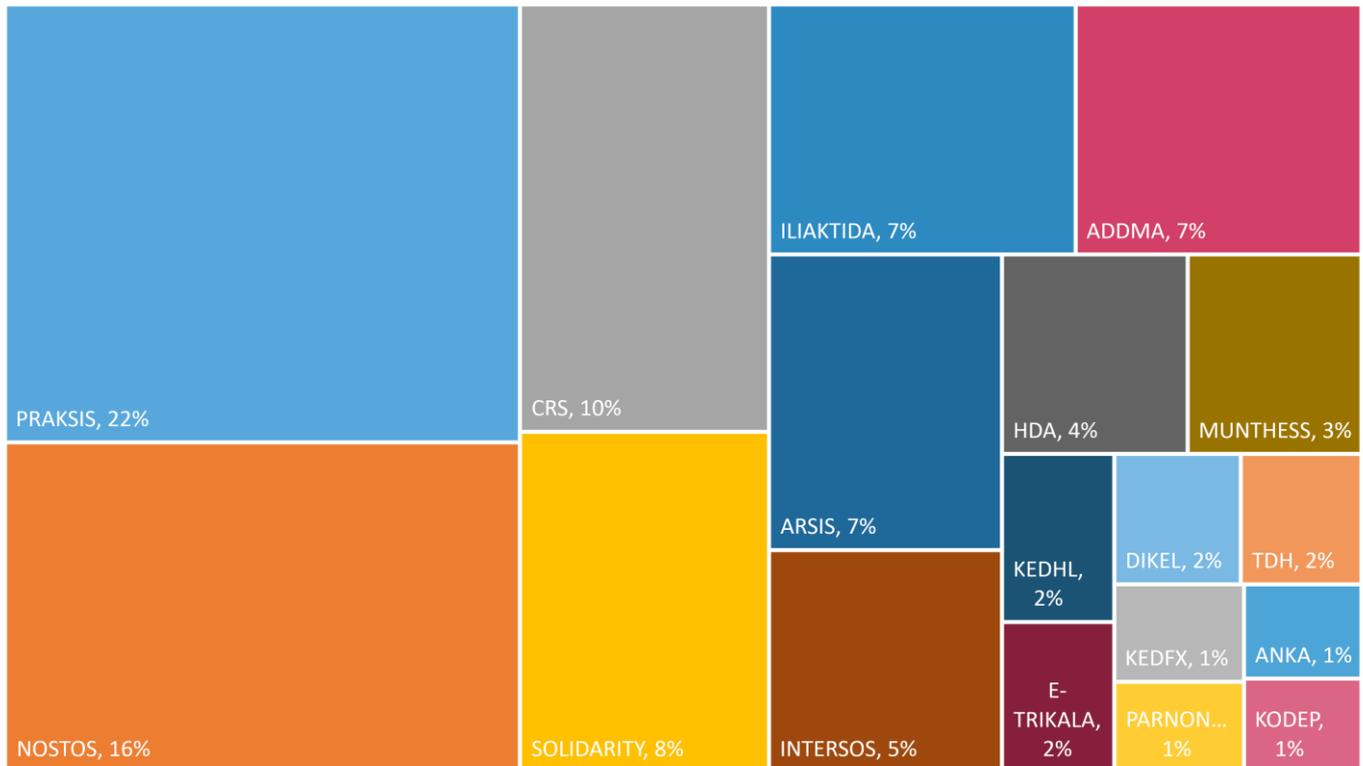
Accommodation Type

Over four in five accommodation places are in apartments, and the rest in buildings.



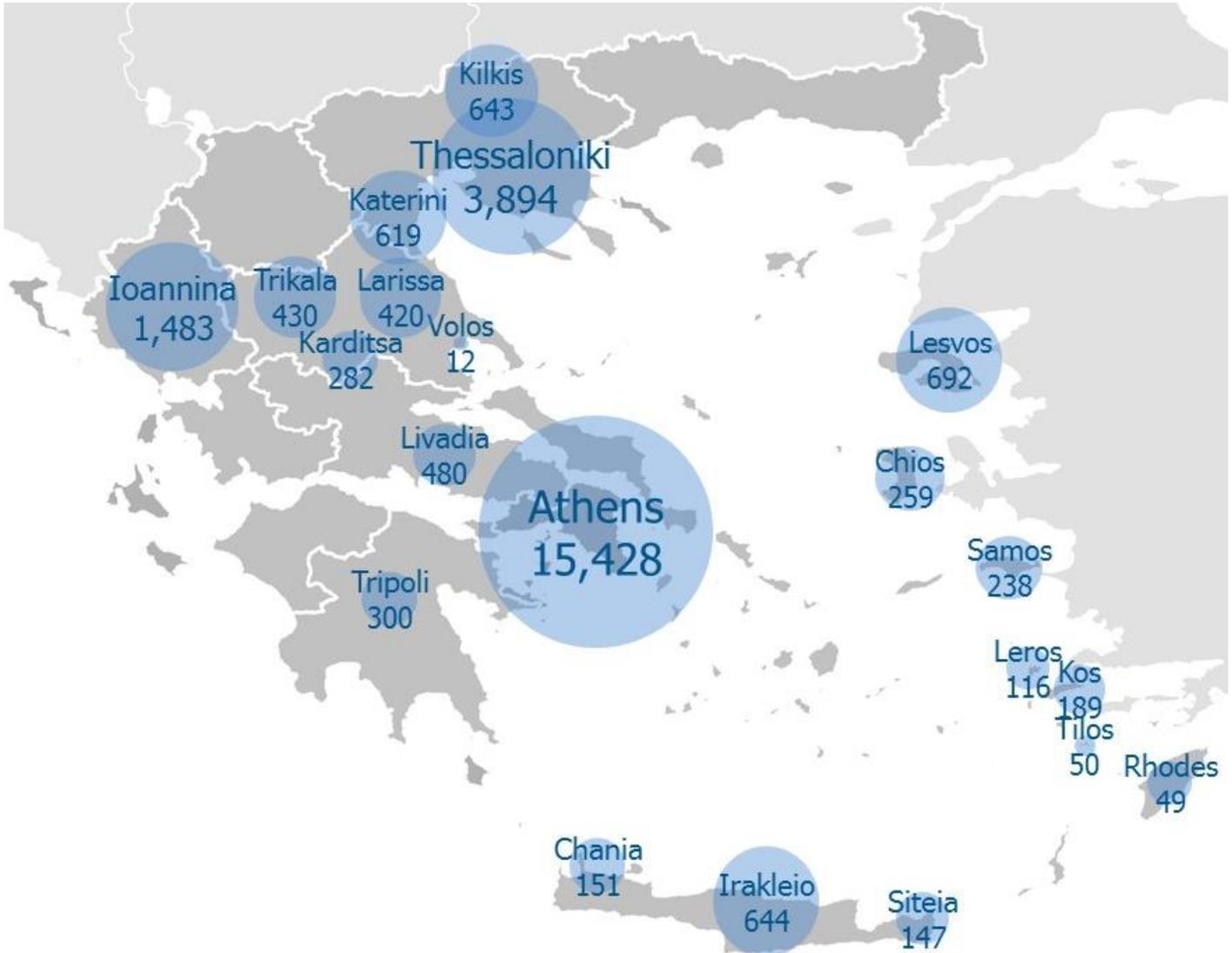
Partners

At the end of November 2018, UNHCR is implementing the accommodation scheme through 18 partnerships with 8 national and international NGOs and 10 municipalities. In total, partners managed by UNHCR provided 100% of the accommodation places in Greece. Partners Greek Council for Refugees (GRC) and METAdrasi also provide social, legal and interpretation support. UNHCR’s partners are NGOs Praksis, Nostos, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Iliaktida, Solidarity Now, Arsis, Intersos, Terre des Hommes (TdH) 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) and a consortium of municipalities in Crete (HDA).



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



Total beneficiaries

In total, since November 2015, 54,781 individuals have benefitted from the accommodation scheme.

UNHCR's Accommodation Scheme is part of the ESTIA programme (Emergency Support to Integration and Accommodation) of the E.U. Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO).

54,781

Total number of individuals accommodated



Funded by
European Union
Civil Protection and
Humanitarian Aid