

# Accommodation update



Aland Fattah, 14, and his siblings Bilind, 13, Aya, 11, and Hunar, 10, play in front of a mural in Trikala, where they live with their 37-year-old mother, Ahlam Omar. Ahlam with her five children came to Greece from Iraq on October 2018. The family stayed in Diavata accommodation site for 7 months and then in Veroia site for 6 months. Since October 2019, they have been living in an apartment provided by UNHCR partner E-TRIKALA as part of the EU co-funded ESTIA programme.

## Overview

By the end of August 2020, UNHCR had created 25,759 places in the accommodation scheme as part of the ESTIA programme. These were in 4,650 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.

# 25,759

Number of accommodation places

# 4,658

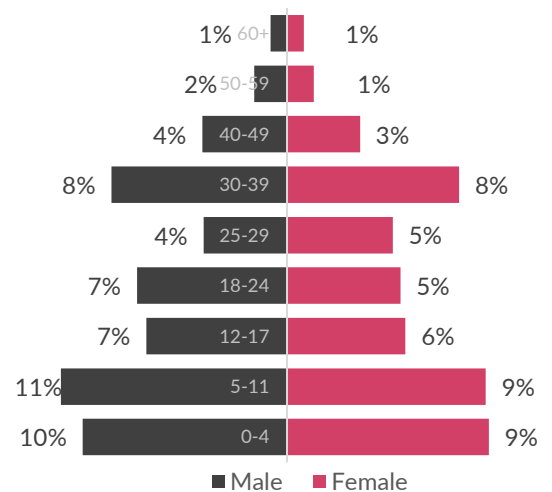
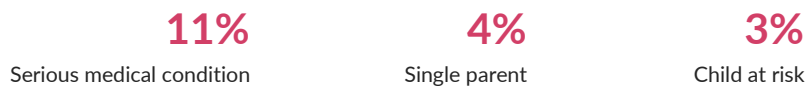
Number of units

# 97.1%

Occupancy rate<sup>2</sup>

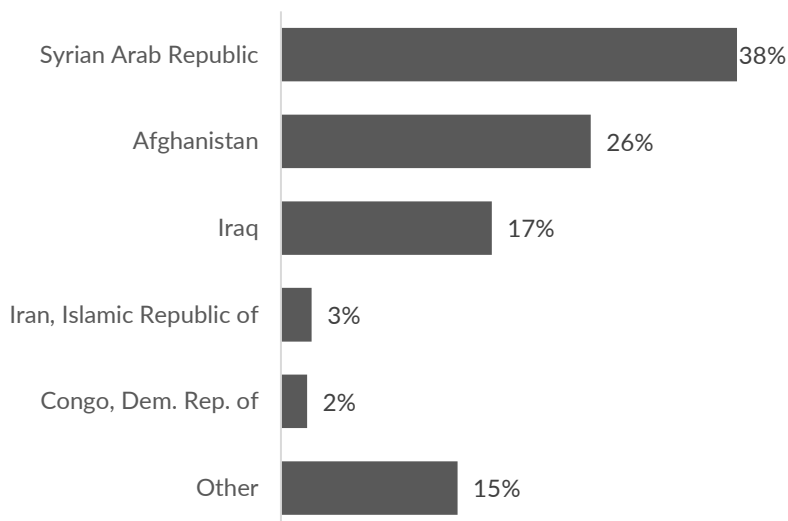
## Demographics

In total, since November 2015, 69,017 individuals have benefitted from the accommodation scheme. 22,074 people were accommodated as of the end of August 2020, 6,098 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:



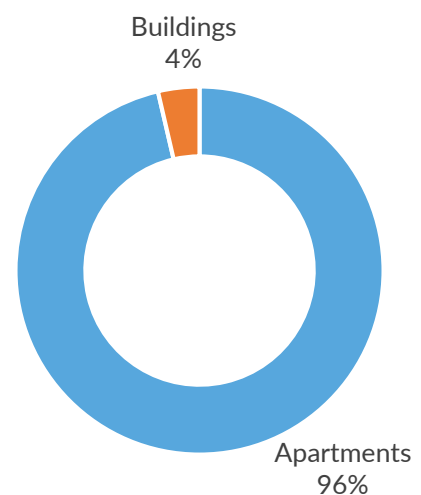
## Nationalities

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 August 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.

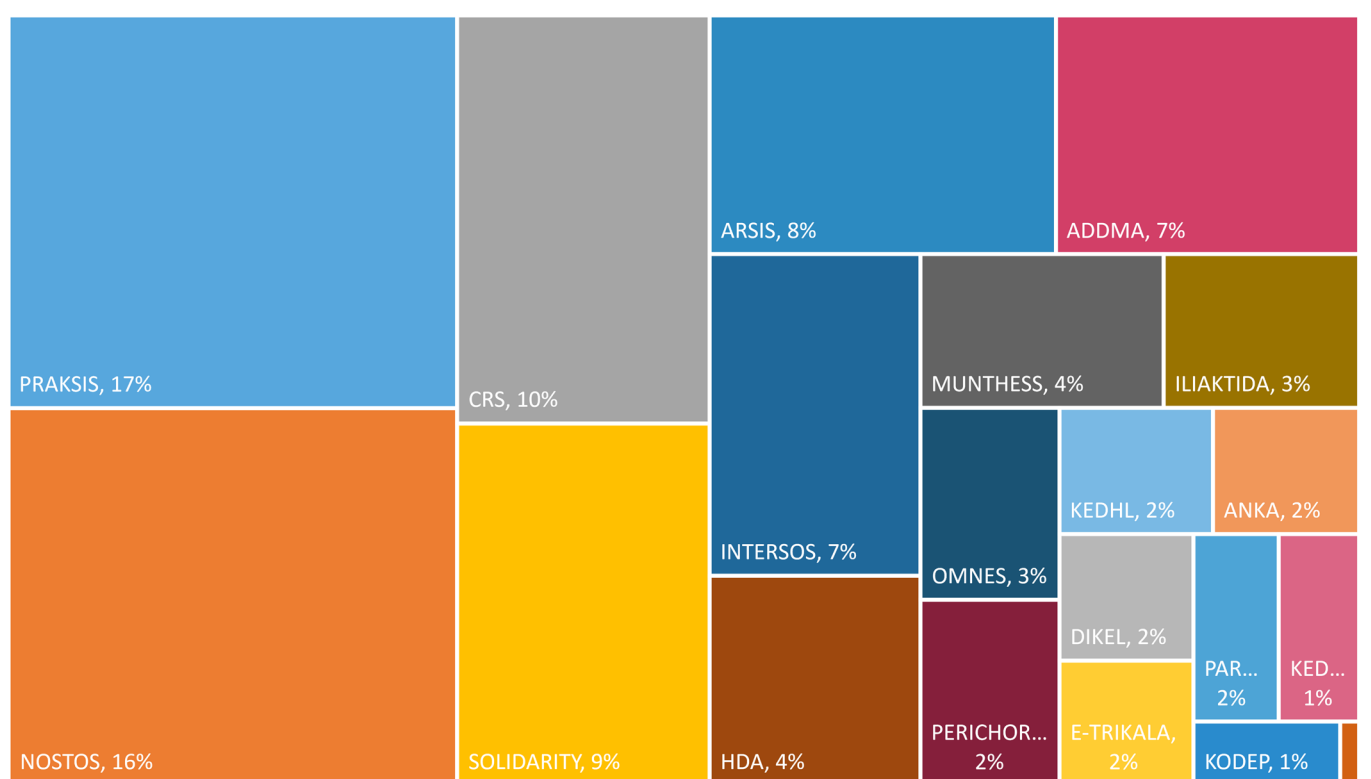


## Partners

At the end of August 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).



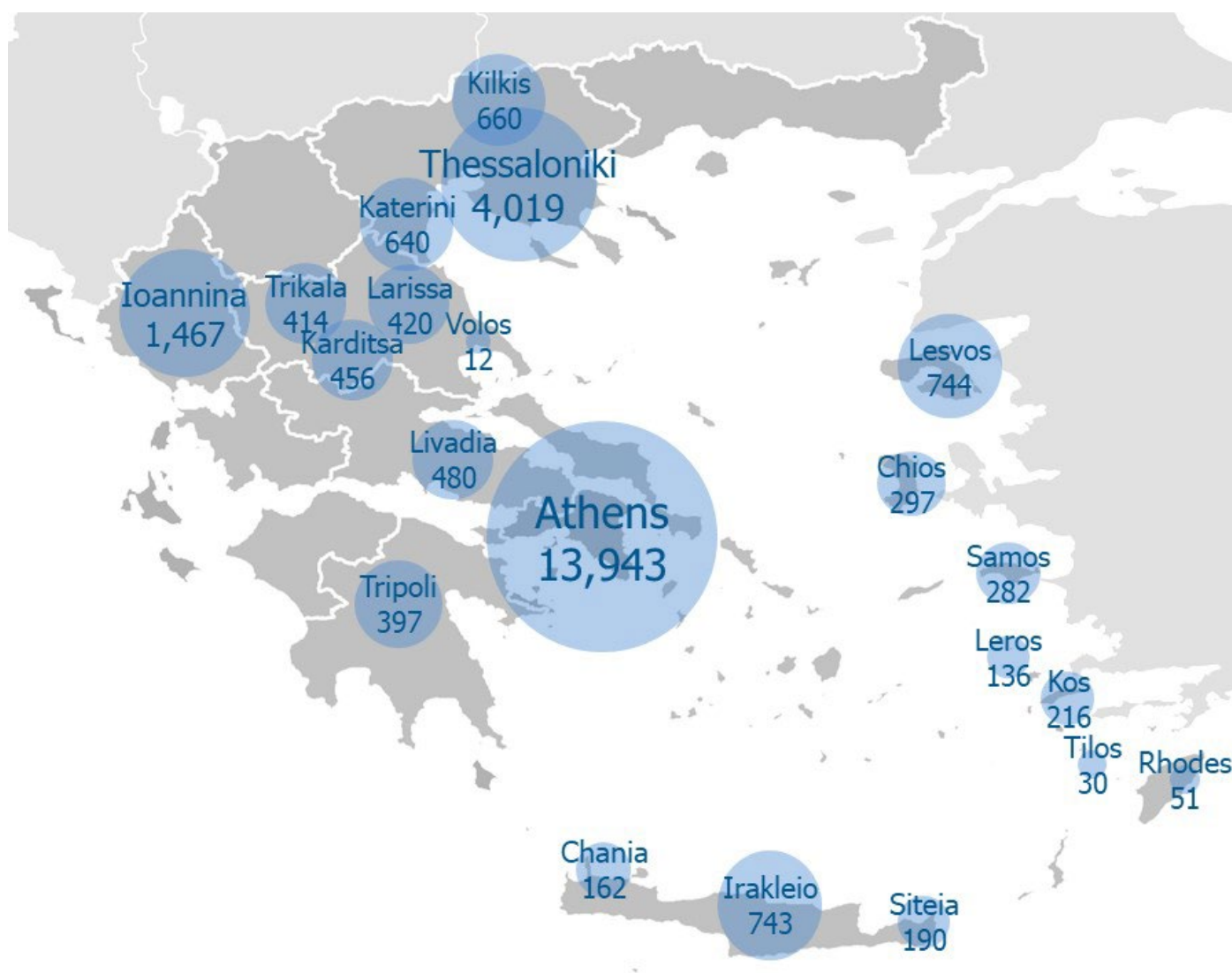
TILOS, 1%

*"I am 37 years old single mother from Iraq. I arrived in Greece on the 28th of October 2018. Since October 2019 we live in the city of Trikala under ESTIA program. Here we feel safe and more optimistic for our future. My children have enrolled in school. We are all trying to learn the Greek language and make new friends. The neighborhood has welcomed us in their homes and lives. This has given us hope for a better future."*

37-year-old Ahlam Omar from Iraq with her five children live in an apartment in Trikala rented as part of the ESTIA Programme by UNHCR partner E-TRIKALA.

## 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, 69,017 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.

# 69,017

Total number of individuals accommodated



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