

Greece

2,400 people arrived by sea and 1,100 by land this month. The **shortage of accommodation** countrywide has led to overcrowding in some mainland sites while in Lesbos, Chios and

Samos, 11,400 live in centres intended for 5,100. Many sleep in makeshift shelter while the high, summer temperatures increased hardship particularly for the vulnerable. Overcrowding and

limited services increase protection risks. [UNHCR's top official urged authorities](#) to find accommodation, ease overcrowding, boost services and improve living conditions.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN GREECE*

59,700

15,200 on the islands and **44,500** in the mainland

Arrivals in 2018



*UNHCR estimate as of 31 May 2018 of those who arrived and remained in Greece since the 2015 – 2016 flow

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

49,600

eligible asylum-seekers and refugees this month, and 76,100 since April 2017 received **cash assistance**.

1,000

people this month, and 28,300 since June 2016 from the islands **transferred** to the mainland with UNHCR support.

21,100

people this month, and 49,100 since November 2015 have benefitted from UNHCR's **accommodation in apartments**.

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

331 National Staff

43 International Staff

Offices:

1 Country Office in Athens

3 Mainland Offices in

Evros, Thessaloniki,
Ioannina

6 Island Offices in Lesbos,

Chios, Samos, Leros,
Kos, Rhodes



Refugee communities, UNHCR and partner organisations commemorated World Refugee Day in a festival in Technopolis of the Athens Municipality on 20 June.

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Working with Partners

- UNHCR supports the Government of Greece who leads the refugee response, working closely with other UN agencies, international and national NGOs, regional and State institutions, community-based organizations, refugee and host communities.

Main Activities

Accommodation and Cash Assistance

- UNHCR runs the EU-funded **ESTIA accommodation** and **cash assistance** programmes in cooperation with the government, municipalities and NGOs.
- Ultimately, the Government will be taking over the schemes. UNHCR works closely with staff from State agencies and helps build their expertise to prepare for this transition.
- Apartments in cities and towns offer asylum-seekers and refugees greater dignity and independence. Children can go to school, while access to healthcare and other services is easier. It also helps the inclusion of those who will remain in Greece. The host population benefits from the 4,172 apartments that the programme rents in 21 cities across Greece. UNHCR had 25,120 places in apartments in June.
- UNHCR gave cash in the form of pre-paid cards to 49,649 asylum-seekers and refugees in June. Cash preserves refugees' dignity and allows them to choose what they need most. Cash is spent on goods and services, and so it also contributes to the local community. In June, close to 5 million euros in cash assistance will be re-injected into the local economy across Greece.

Protection

- UNHCR supports the Ministry of Migration Policy transfer asylum-seekers from the islands to continue their applications in the mainland. This also helps ease overcrowding on islands' Reception and Identification Centres (RICs). The shortage of accommodation however has reduced the pace to 994 people this month, from Lesbos (608), Samos (223), Chios (76), Kos (39) and Leros (48).
- The transfers will soon be implemented by the Reception and Identification Service (RIS) and UNHCR teams worked side-by-side with RIS staff to prepare for the handover. As of July, RIS identifies and informs people eligible to depart and coordinates their transfer with authorities in Athens. UNHCR will implement the logistical aspects of the transfers until September 2018.
- UNHCR through its partners have helped over 5,150 asylum-seekers and beneficiaries of international protection with counselling and legal representation on asylum procedures, family reunification, child protection, protection of SGBV survivors and other issues related to accessing rights. Over 380 people were also assisted with legal aid at the appeal stage of the asylum procedure through UNHCR's funded partners.

- In Evros, UNHCR's protection team helps those who have newly arrived at the RIC of Fylakio, with a focus on the proper identification and referral of asylum-seekers, unaccompanied children and persons with specific needs.
- UNHCR's Experts advise the Asylum Service caseworkers upon request how to conduct interviews, draft decisions on asylum applications and provide on-the-job training. In 2018 UNHCR has assisted in over 12,800 instances.
- UNHCR with partners in Greece helped over 200 people with disabilities or serious mental health conditions with hospitalization, consultation, peer-counselling or dedicated carers and medical equipment.
- UNHCR [HELP website](#) answers refugees and asylum-seekers questions on [how to apply for asylum](#), on their [rights and obligations](#), and on accessing services when [living in Greece](#).

Child Protection

- There are 3,800 unaccompanied children in Greece but only 1,140 places in shelters (Source: EKKA). As a result, many children spend lengthy periods in protective custody, in the RICs on the islands and Evros while others stay in informal housing or risk homelessness.
- On the islands and the land-border, UNHCR helps the authorities protect children from risk through child-friendly spaces, informal education as well as with case management, legal aid, and psychosocial support.
- UNHCR also identifies children at risk and provides advice, technical support and trainings to the authorities and actors.
- This year UNHCR's partner has transferred 449 unaccompanied children from the islands' detention centres and RICs to temporary facilities in the mainland, until their eventual transfer to designated shelters.
- UNHCR has also developed Supported Independent Living (SIL), now in its pilot phase in Crete, where guardians and dedicated teams support children over 16 years old.
- UNHCR also transfers children who turn eighteen to apartments in its Accommodation Scheme which helps free space in shelters for younger children.
- In 2018, 20 children have departed from Greece to the UK within the framework of the Dubs Scheme, with another seven to depart shortly. UNHCR has worked with the authorities to develop panels which identify children eligible to relocate under the scheme, by considering their needs and best interests.

Prevention and Response to Sexual and Gender-based Violence

- Overcrowding on the islands and some of the mainland sites compromises asylum-seekers' privacy and safety. Safe access to water, showers and toilets also becomes difficult, putting women, girls, boys and men at risk of falling victim to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).
- UNHCR refers women survivors and those at risk to State services and shelters or accommodation in apartments. Unfortunately, limited interpretation means that refugees cannot always access State services.
- On the islands UNHCR identifies survivors and people at risk, offers legal information and counselling and refers them to appropriate services also through partners.

However, the limited services in some of the RICs mean that survivors cannot always access them on time.

- In the mainland, UNHCR works to prevent and respond to gender-based violence through national NGOs in some of the mainland sites and urban locations in Athens and Thessaloniki.
- Finally, UNHCR raises awareness and trains NGOs and authorities on how to prevent and respond to SGBV.

Education

- Children living in UNHCR's accommodation scheme can attend school together with Greek nationals. In addition, students in primary and secondary education learn Greek as a foreign language in special reception classes called Zones of Educational Priority (ZEP). Children living in sites mostly attend afternoon classes whose purpose is to help them join the public school system the following year.
- On the islands, UNHCR supports non-formal education, where formal education is not available for most children.

Health

- UNHCR works with the Ministry of Health, KEELPNO and partners to help refugees' and asylum-seekers' access healthcare.
- The limited public mental health institutions in Greece are a particular problem and UNHCR with partners work on ways to link those affected by mental health conditions with public institutions.
- UNHCR collaborates with the Association for Regional Development and Mental Health, EPAPSY on a pilot project to provide long-term support to 30 people in accommodation and short hospitalization for those requiring intensive care.
- UNHCR funds primary and psychosocial support services in Lesbos and Chios, and mental health services in Attika. There psychiatrists and psychologists provide services at the polyclinic of the municipality of Athens.

Durable Solutions

- As of June 2018, 5,573 had received refugee status or subsidiary protection in Greece, and 10,357 in the entire 2017.
- There is a pressing need to support refugees lead a normal life, go to school, get healthcare and earn a living. This requires basic documents that allow access to services and national schemes, enable refugees to work and help their eventual integration in the host communities.
- UNHCR's partners support residents in the accommodation scheme access key documents such as a tax and a social insurance number, and with job matching or referral to develop skills, vocational trainings and language courses. Residents are also supported with translation to help them access healthcare and enrol in schools as well as psychosocial, education and legal support.
- In June 2018, some 4,200 beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection were accommodated in UNHCR's apartments, and 7,100 received cash assistance.

- Of those in UNHCR's accommodation, 87% have an AMKA social security number, 49% have an AFM tax number, and 14% are registered with OAED agency for programmes and other assistance to help them find work. Additionally, 73% of children residing in accommodation were enrolled in schools (as of 10 July 2018).

Relocation and Returns

- The relocation programme of asylum-seekers from Greece to other EU Member States concluded in September 2017. In total 22,000 people departed.
- This month, 20 people [returned from Greece to Turkey](#) in the framework of the E.U. - Turkey Statement, with 1,650 people in total since 20 March 2016.

Logistics

- As many of the sites in the mainland are remote from services and public transportation UNHCR has facilitated people's access to the Asylum Service or other services by providing transportation to nearly 3,550 people around Greece in May.

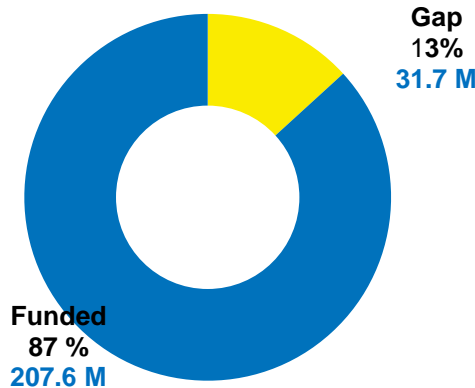
World Refugee Day

- UNHCR marked [World Refugee Day](#), June 20, in Greece with cultural and community events across the country in solidarity #WithRefugees alongside authorities, partners, and local communities. Athens and Mytilene joined thirteen cities worldwide for the second edition of the [Refugee Food Festival](#) with refugee and Greek chefs cooking together in six restaurants in Athens and one – Nan – on Lesbos. [Athens](#), Ioannina, [Chios](#), [Samos](#), [Kos](#), [Leros](#), and [Rhodes](#) marked the day with cultural, artistic, educational, and sports events.

Partners

In June, UNHCR worked through 33 partners. UNHCR worked on Accommodation with ARSIS, Iliaktida, Intersos, NOSTOS, Praksis, Solidarity Now, Catholic Relief Services, Terre des Hommes, and the Local Authorities of Athens, Piraeus, Thessaloniki, Livadia, Crete, Trikala, Nea Filadelfia – Nea Chalkidona, Karditsa, Larissa and Tripoli; on Cash Assistance with Catholic Relief Services, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; on Legal Aid with the Ecumenical Refugee Program, METAdrasi and the Greek Council for Refugees; on Child Protection with ARSIS, METAdrasi, Network for Children's Rights, and Praksis; on PwSN with ARSIS, Doctors of the World, the National Confederation of Disabled People and the Association for Regional Development and Mental Health (EPAPSY); on Prevention and Response to SGBV with Diotima; on Peaceful Coexistence and Integration with Solidarity Now, ARSIS, Faros, the Greek Council for Refugees, Intersos, and KEAN; on Site Management Support (SMS) with the International Rescue Committee; on Interpretation Services and Messaging with METAdrasi; on Awareness Raising with the Hellenic Theatre/Drama & Education Network (TENet); and on the Deployment of Affiliate Workforce with UNOPS and the International Catholic Migration Commission.

FUNDING (AS OF 27 JUNE 2018)

USD 239.3 M requested for the Greece Operation

Donors

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2018

Sweden 98.2 M | Norway 42.5 M | Netherlands 39.1 M | Private donors Spain 37.8 M | United Kingdom 31.7 M | Denmark 25.5 M | Private donors Republic of Korea 15.8 M | Switzerland 15.2 M | France 14 M | Italy 11.2 M

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2018

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Thanks to the major donors of situational, thematic, regional or sub-regional funds in 2018

United States of America 28.7 M | Private donors Australia 6.2 M | European Union | Italy | Norway | Sweden | Private donors

Thanks to the donors of the Greece Operation in 2018

European Union 195 M | Private donors Switzerland 0.5 M | Fondation BNP Paribas 0.3 M

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