

Accommodation update



Abdolrahman Aboshear, 21, is living at the SolidarityNow Youth Shelter in central Athens. Abdo (to his friends) fled Aleppo for Greece in 2016 as an unaccompanied minor. He left his hometown after damaging a lung in a bomb blast. His injury still poses serious problems. He crossed into Turkey and on to the Greek island of Chios. Now in Athens, he studies computer science and dreams of working as a developer for a big company. Meanwhile he works part-time as an interpreter. The SolidarityNow Youth Shelter is part of the EU funded ESTIA program and provides a home for young male refugees and asylum-seekers who, as adults, are deprived of a living environment, and who previously lived in accommodation facilities for unaccompanied minors. The Shelter also offers support during this transitional period, including psychosocial therapy and educational activities.

Overview

By the end of September 2019, UNHCR had created 25,460 places in the accommodation scheme as part of the ESTIA programme. These were in 4,450 apartments and 15 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.

25,460

Number of accommodation places

4,450

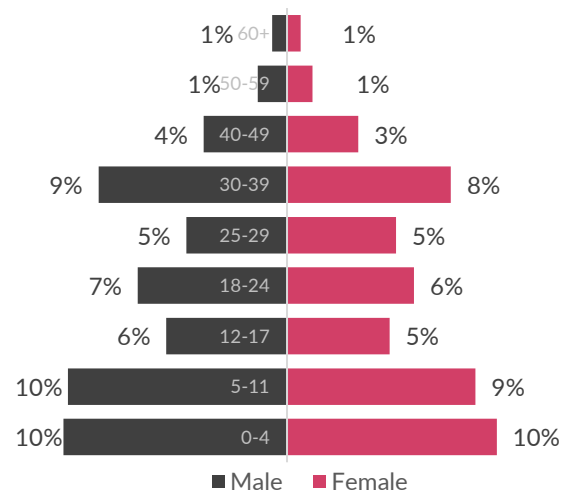
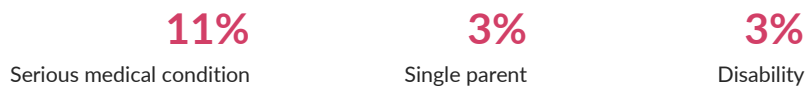
Number of units

98%

Occupancy rate ²

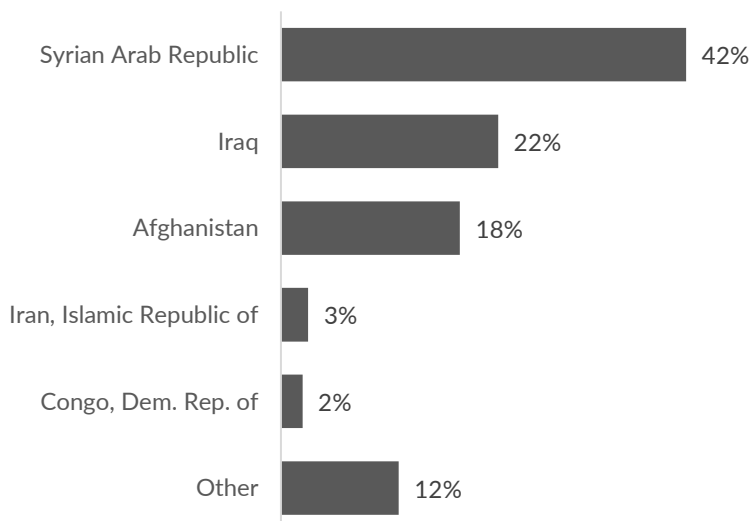
Demographics

In total, since November 2015, 61,007 individuals have benefitted from the accommodation scheme. 21,494 people were accommodated as of the end of September 2019, 7,357 of whom are recognized refugees. 50% of the residents are children. The clear majority of those accommodated are families, with the average family size of five people. More than one in three residents have at least one of the vulnerabilities that make them eligible for the accommodation scheme. The three most common vulnerabilities are:



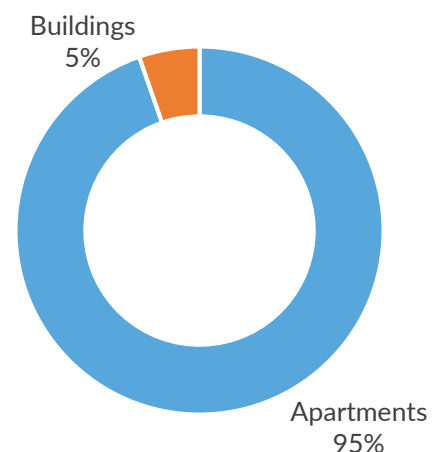
Nationalities

The clear majority, 88% of individuals in the accommodation scheme are Syrians, Iraqis, Afghans, Iranians or Congolese (DRC). However, the individuals accommodated as of the end of September 2019 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.

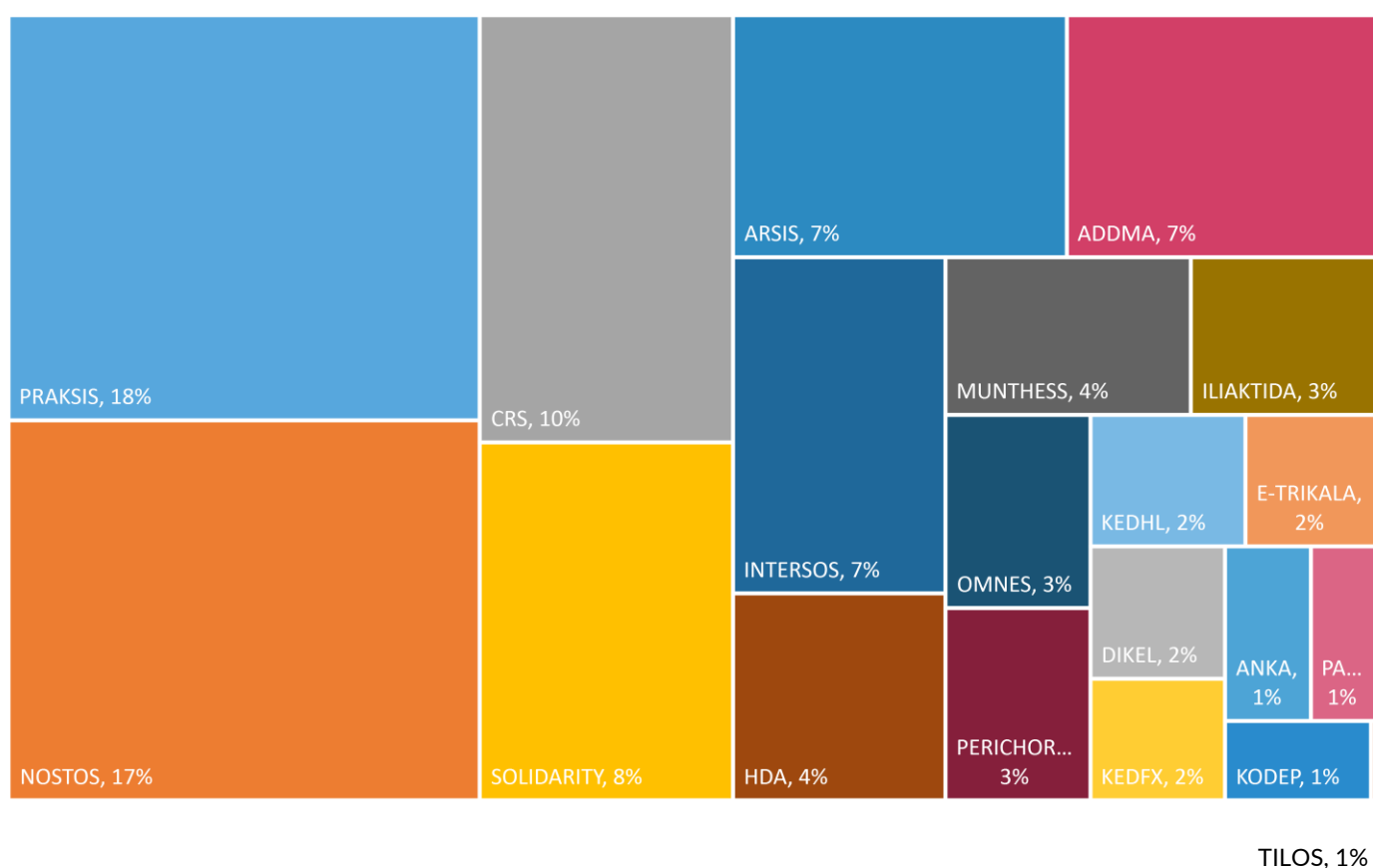


Partners

At the end of September 2019, 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).

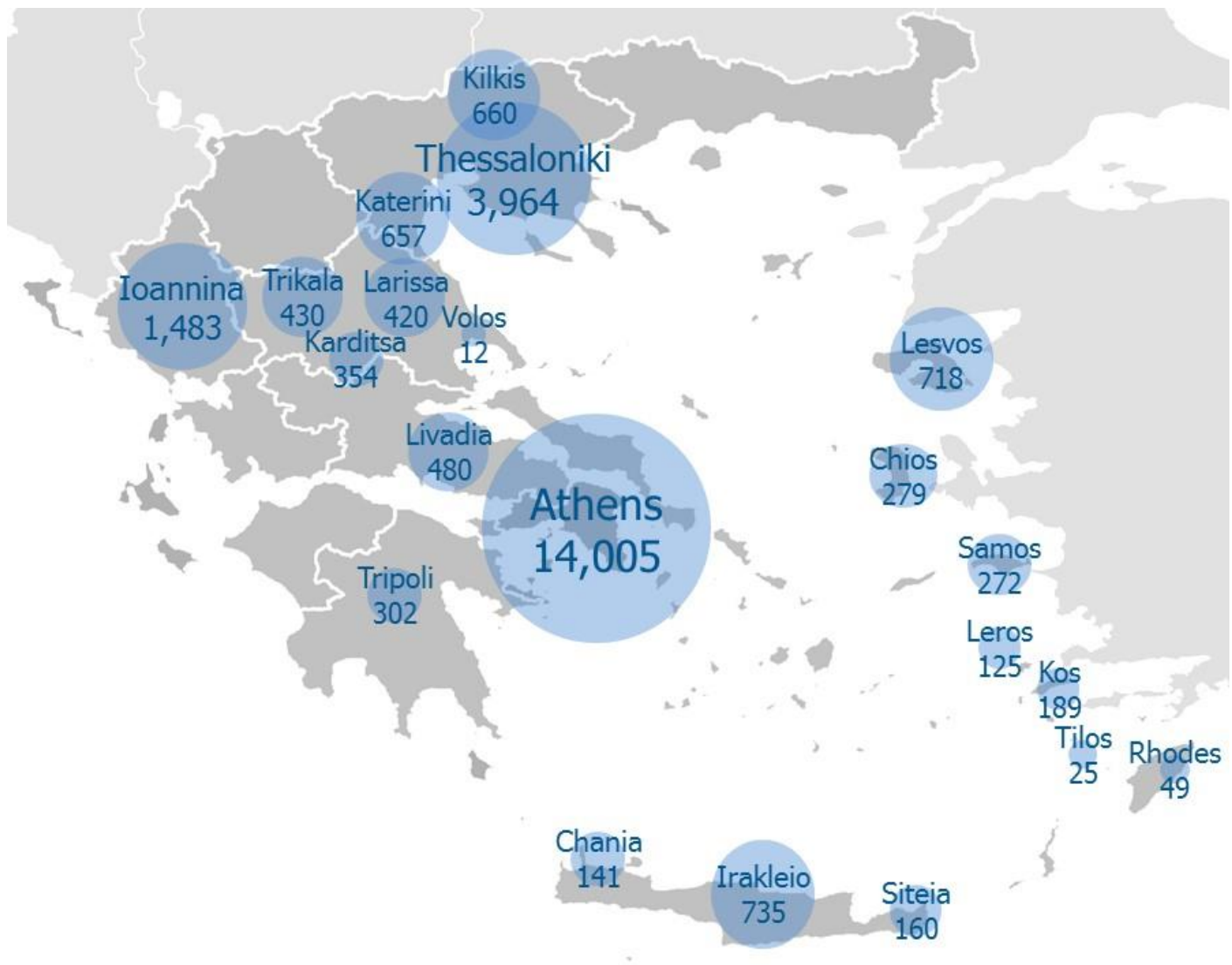


"I am here with my family, with my 6 children, and I feel responsible for them. We feel safe here in Greece. I am thankful for the support, respect and kindness of the social worker and the interpreter that are always by our side. Honestly, Greek people are kind and treat us as equals. Furthermore, Policemen are always around in order to provide us and the Greek citizens with safety."

HASAN DANDAL, 36 years old, Syrian, living in an apartment in Piraeus rented as part of the ESTIA program, implemented by KODEP.

Location of accommodation

Accommodation for asylum seekers and recognized refugees is provided in 14 cities in mainland and 7 islands. Over half, 55% of the accommodation places are in Athens, 38% in the rest of mainland, and 7% on the islands.



Total beneficiaries

In total, since November 2015, 61,007 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 Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Union.

61,007

Total number of individuals accommodated

