Through this project IOM is taking urgent actions to ensure that migrant/refugee children in need are immediately placed in a protective environment and receive tailored services, through the provision of direct assistance to beneficiaries at risk and the support of national authorities. Specifically targeted under the action are UMC currently placed under insecure conditions, who need emergency accommodation and protection, as well as school-age children that run the risk to be excluded from formal education, unless they are provided with the necessary means and resources. The project is in direct collaboration with UNICEF, MdM as well as local NGOs, Arsis and Iliaktida.

The two components of the project are UMC accommodation in hotel facilities and alternative care models and the facilitation of formal education through transportation services and provision of necessary school materials.

The project is funded by the Directorate General Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission (DG HOME).

During the reporting period, PEDIA project provided safe accommodation to 1377 unaccompanied migrant children while the total accommodation capacity is 657 places, in a total of 17 hotels.

According to IOM data base, the majority of the beneficiaries were from Afghanistan (401), followed by Pakistan (303), and Iraq (33). A total of 24 nationalities were hosted in the hotels, among them UMC from Togo, Sierra Leone and Myanmar.
IOM in coordination with NGOs “Arsis” and “Iliaktida” have deployed 17 multidisciplinary teams, providing protection services to beneficiaries on a 24/7 basis. The teams have been responsible for the provision of psychosocial and legal support, the conduction of educational and recreational activities, the accompaniment of children to public services as per needs, as well as the daily monitoring of the entry / exit of beneficiaries and other visitors, to ensure safety. Overall, the staff is responsible of caregiving, psychosocial support and case management, legal support, interpretation and cultural mediation and transportation services.

Complementing IOM, UNICEF has been directly supporting staff deployed in hotels through clinical supervision, to enhance quality of care. UNICEF conducted 145 clinical supervision sessions, reaching 334 professionals working in 15 hotels with a 75% attendance rate. Additionally, and as to support the development of a sustainable exit strategy from the hotel accommodation scheme, UNICEF continued its pilot Supported Independent Living (SIL) for children aged 16-17 years old. During the reporting period, the SIL pilot had 5 active apartments providing care and housing for a total of 20 children.
Transportation and school material to 4,200 children

IOM continues to provide support to the Ministry of Education during the current school year through transportation services and provision of necessary school materials to children living in sites and hotels. During the reporting period, IOM has provided transportation services to 4,274 children. The majority are from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.

IOM bus escorts

In the framework of PEDIA project, IOM provides transportation services with 150 bus escorts all over Greece. Children attend up to 223 classes, primary, junior high and high school.

Extracurricular activities

IOM staff has been constantly organizing extracurricular activities strengthening qualitatively and quantitatively UMCs’ everyday life, building in parallel strong bridges through their integration procedure.

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IOM MigApp responds to the need to help migrants make informed decisions throughout their migration process by providing a platform of relevant and up-to-date information. Read more

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