

For media inquiries and other information, please contact the IOM Greece Media Department on iomathensmedia@iom.int



Voluntary relocation scheme from Greece to other European countries



Hussen Musawi from Iraq, with his wife Manal and their four children Ali, Sama, Rana and Ahmad, travelled safely to Germany under the [EU Relocation project](#) last August, with the support of IOM. Hussen and his family are among the **458** asylum seekers who were relocated up to the end of August 2020. During the reporting period **11** flights took place from **Greece to Portugal, Finland, Germany, France and Belgium**.

IOM provides transit accommodation and tailored direct assistance to beneficiaries in Transit Hubs, to ensure their inclusion under a protective environment and to facilitate the relocation process. Therefore, beneficiaries will reside in the Hubs until the necessary preparatory actions and/or pre-departure activities are completed. During their stay and based on their needs, **IOM provided psychological support, legal assistance, interpretation and medical assistance**, through specialized staff.

With the twin objectives to support vulnerable groups and enhance solidarity among European Union (EU) Member States and associated countries, IOM, in collaboration with EASO, UNHCR and UNICEF, is supporting the Greek Government, the Ministry of Migration and Asylum and the Special Secretary for the Protection of Unaccompanied Migrant Children in relocating asylum seekers from Greece to other EU Member States. The voluntary mechanism aims to prepare and relocate 1,600 Unaccompanied Migrant Children (UMC) in addition to single adults and families, including children with severe medical conditions or other vulnerabilities, who are accompanied by their family members.

Learn more from the project's [Factsheet](#).

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

Shared on   

MERIMNA PROJECT Protection services to 724 UMC



During the reporting period, July – August 2020, IOM provided accommodation and targeted services to **724** unaccompanied migrant children (UMC). At the same time, from the beginning of the project in March 2019, **1,187** children have received support on the islands of Lesbos, Samos, Chios, Kos and Leros. IOM Greece's [MERIMNA](#) project is implemented in collaboration with UNICEF, Metadrasi, Nethope, Iliaktida and Zeuxis. It foresees the provision of holistic child protection services and Non-Food Items for families and children, including UMC in close proximity of the RICs where the most heightened needs have been identified, through the operation of Child and Family Support Hubs. The project is funded by the [Directorate General Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission \(DG HOME\)](#).



HELIOS project – 1,836 new lease agreements signed



Thanks to IOM's [HELIOS Project](#), a family of four found their own place to rent in the city of Ioannina, where they were transferred recently. The family, that was staying until recently in Filippiada, is optimistic about the future and wants to start fresh. Through HELIOS project, they received rental subsidies and enrolled in Greek language and integration courses at an Integration Learning Center in Athens. During the reporting period between July and August **3,000** recognized refugees enrolled in HELIOS project and **1,836** beneficiaries signed new lease agreements with apartment owners. Learn more from the project's [Factsheet](#).

The project is implemented with the support of the Greek government and the funding of [Directorate General Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission \(DG HOME\)](#).

Shared on   

Provision of services to 28,500 asylum seekers

Up to August 2020, **28,536** asylum seekers were accommodated in [32 open sites in the mainland of Greece](#), coming mainly from Afghanistan, Syria and Iraq. IOM supports the National authorities in the management of all long-term accommodation sites in mainland Greece. The project foresees site management support, protection services, interpretation, non – formal education, community support engagement and operation of Safe Zones for unaccompanied children.

Learn more from the project's [Factsheets](#).

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



IOM Greece participated in #RealLifeHeroes Campaign on World Humanitarian Day 2020



Around the world, many people have grown up with local stories of fictional heroes, from folktales to fantasy epics. Humanitarians didn't appear in those stories, but this year IOM brought these unsung heroic stories to life. IOM Greece participated in the campaign, through Yannis story. When COVID-19 broke out, he couldn't stop thinking about unaccompanied children at the IOM center in Athens. Yannis began to organize recreational activities such as art, gym and language classes to lift their spirit up during the lockdown. He is one of many [#RealLifeHeroes](#) who are at the frontlines of the world's crises. Yannis works in one of the six shelters for unaccompanied migrant children (UMC), which operate with the support of AMIF. Since the beginning of 2019, IOM has accommodated **409** UMC in 6 shelters in Greece. The project is funded by [National Funds](#).

Shared on   

IOM, Government of Greece Assisted 412 Migrants with Voluntary Return



The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Greece and the Hellenic Authorities, in coordination with IOM Iraq and the Diplomatic Corps, organized the [voluntary return](#) of **134** Iraqi nationals who wished to return home from Greece. This was the first charter flight - large group of migrants to voluntarily return from Greece since the COVID-19 movement restrictions were imposed. Within the reporting period, a total of **412** migrants received assistance and returned voluntarily to their country of origin. The project is funded 75% by European funds and 25% by National Funds.

Shared on  