

IOM responded to COVID-19 outbreak in the camps of Ritsona and Malakasa



Upon the confirmation of positive COVID-19 cases in Ritsona and Malakasa open accommodation facilities during March and April, IOM as the official site management support agency continued to work in the facilities under strict safety protocol. With the support of the [European Commission](#), IOM distributed food baskets and hygiene kits to all residents as an immediate response to the quarantine, which limited access to the supply of food from the outside. Cleansers and soaps were distributed to all residents. All working spaces and common areas were being disinfected. The Organization continued raising awareness about the virus by translating and disseminating guidance, informing refugee and migrant communities on how to protect themselves and lower the risk of infection. At the same time, IOM staff was provided with personal protective equipment to meet the needs of the people.

Read more [here](#).

For the latest insights visit the updated factsheet of the project [here](#).

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UN agencies welcome first relocation of unaccompanied children from Greece



In April, IOM implemented two separate movements of unaccompanied migrant children, who had been living in overcrowded reception and identification centers for several months on the Aegean islands of Lesbos, Samos and Chios. On 15 April, 12 unaccompanied children were relocated from Greece to Luxembourg and on 18 April 2020, 49 children were relocated to Germany. Children eligible for relocation were identified by Greek authorities in cooperation with UNHCR and EASO who were responsible for their best interest reports. IOM was responsible for providing temporary accommodation once the children arrived in Athens, as well as the pre-departure health assessments, which included also COVID-19 testing. IOM organized the flights and “predeparture orientation sessions” for each child. Children were provided with information on what to expect during their journey and on arrival. IOM escorts, including a medical escort, accompanied the children on the flights from Greece and ensured a safe handover to relevant authorities and partners. Read the IOM, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, UNICEF, UN Children’s – Joint Press Release – [here](#).

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IOM responded to 150 positive COVID-19 cases in a temporary accommodation facility



All 471 residents of the facility located in a Porto Heli hotel have been under quarantine since a single positive case was identified in the middle of April, in line with the protocols developed by the Greek authorities, and their movements restricted to the hotel grounds.

“It is very important for these people to receive continued support and assistance,” said **Gianluca Rocco**, IOM Chief of Mission in Greece. *“They should not feel at any moment that they are left alone or neglected, especially during this difficult period. Stigmatization and discrimination against migrants during the pandemic are not only harmful to migrants themselves, but also to the society as a whole, and may jeopardize efforts made to prevent or mitigate the spreading of the virus.”*

A team of IOM facility coordinators, psychologists and interpreters, a legal counsellor and social worker provided with personal protective equipment (PPEs), continued to meet the needs of the people with the support of the [European Commission](#). The hotel has been sanitized, its staff provided with PPEs and information disseminated about Greek National COVID-19 guidelines. Read more [here](#).



AVRR/OCAVRR IOM Greece responds with online information on Returns & Reintegration



IOM Greece has set up 30 phone helplines that operate in 14 different languages so that migrants who are interested or already registered for Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) can receive accurate and updated information about the project's procedures. In addition to telephone, migrants can also reach out through applications that allow phone calls and messages at no cost. Prior to their appointment, potential beneficiaries also receive face-to-face information and attend counseling meetings.



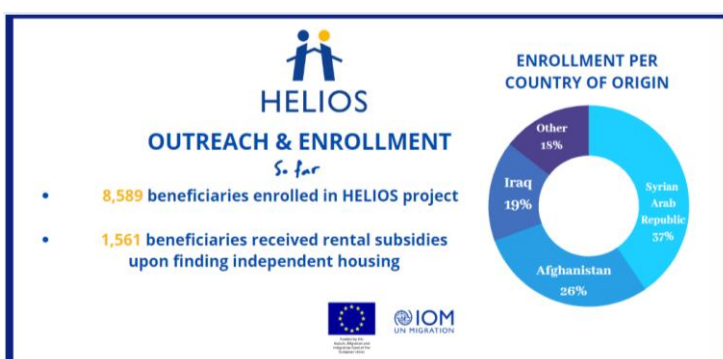
IOM Greece commits to the protection of frontline workers and beneficiaries, providing protective equipment

IOM Greece is engaged in the supply of critical medical supplies to protect frontline health-care workers as well as other necessary supplies and equipment for government stakeholders and beneficiaries.

IOM Greece has supported its staff operating in other UN agencies and relevant partners, with personal protective equipment such as 104,000 masks, 135,000 single-use gloves, 50 FFP2 masks, 965,000 ml of hand sanitizers, 700 isolation suits, 300 face shields and 37 laser thermometers.

Despite the lockdown, IOM has continued its operations and has been able to accompany beneficiaries in need of medical treatment to nearby hospitals and provided interpretation services.

HELIOS project



From the beginning of the project up to end of April, 1,465 refugees have received rental subsidies upon finding independent housing. HELIOS project aims at promoting eligible beneficiaries' integration into the Greek society and enhance their independent living through integration courses, accommodation and employability support. With the support of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Union.

Learn more about the project [here](#).

For the latest insights visit the updated factsheet of the project [here](#).

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TandEM Greece Provides support amid COVID-19 crisis



TandEM (Towards Empowered Migrant Youth in Southern Europe) aims to build a bridge between migrant and local youth in order to promote the dialogue, the mutual understanding and the cohesion in Greece, Cyprus, Spain, Italy, Malta and Croatia.

The project is grounded in a network of universities and wants to engage the active participation of young people in many activities. Amid the COVID-19 crisis, TandEm has taken up a role in encouraging youth to stay at home, while also sharing footage of activities they engage in, in a funny and playful way.

Learn more [here](#).



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