

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



2,209 people relocated from Greece to other European states during 2020



Up to the of December 2020 and through [“Voluntary relocation scheme from Greece to other European Countries”](#) project, 2,209 people relocated to other European states, including 573 Unaccompanied Migrant Children.

The action is implemented by IOM with the funding of the European Commission & the support of the Greek Government, the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, the Special Secretary for the protection of UMC and the General Secretary of Migration Policy. In partnership with European Asylum Support Office - EASO, UNHCR and UNICEF.

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Pulling together: Donation of clothes for migrant community



[“Everyday Refugees Foundation”](#) with the support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) donated 600 high-quality outdoor pants from KEEN Europe to asylum seekers in open accommodation facilities located near Athens. This donation comes as part of foundation’s ongoing campaign [We are all in this together](#) which was launched last April to support and assist migrants in need throughout these challenging times.

“To see the happiness and gratitude of these people when receiving these clothes is the best reward. The ERF continues to be an example for all of us, this donation is just one of their many initiatives to support migrant and refugee communities in Greece”, said Gianluca Rocco, Chief of IOM Mission in Greece.

“Trying to make a difference amid these challenging times we are all passing through is our main priority”, said Muhammed Muheisen - Chairman and founder of Everyday Refugees Foundation

IOM implements the [“Supporting the Greek Authorities in Managing the National Reception System for Asylum Seekers and Vulnerable Migrants \(SMS\)”](#) project with the funding from the European Commission – DG HOME.

Read the Press Release [here](#).

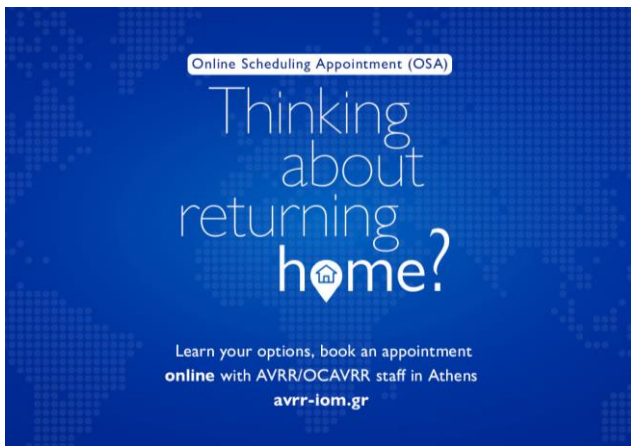
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153 Georgians returned voluntarily to their home country



In December, a charter flight was organized by IOM for 153 Georgians who wanted to return voluntarily to their home country. The beneficiaries were individuals and families. Among them, 78 women, 53 men and 22 children. Under the “AVRR/OCAVRR” project they were provided with counselling, COVID-19 tests, travel arrangements as well as administrative, logistical and financial support.

Also, under the framework of the project IOM has developed an Online Scheduling Appointment (OSA) platform for those who want to book their visit at IOM premises in Athens and learn more about the AVRR/OCAVRR project. OSA is available in 11 languages/dialects: Arabic, Greek, Bamla, Georgian, Urdu, Farsi, Dari, Russian, Sorani, Pashto and French.



Learn more: www.iom-avrr.gr

The “[The implementation of assisted voluntary returns including reintegration measures and operation of Open Center in the Prefecture of Attica for applicants of voluntary return \(AVRR/OCAVRR\)](#)” project is co-funded 75% by European Funds (Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund) and 25% by National Funds.

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Atta and his family build their life in Greece through HELIOS project

Atta Rasul with his wife, Farida, and their three children, Kardo, Heshw Atta and Tre Atta, thanks to HELIOS project, live in a house in Peristeri, one of the largest and more lively municipalities in Attica. The family members are refugees from Iraq who are trying to forget the challenges they faced and create a new life. Atta has already found a job in a small craft industry that makes metallic rolls for stores. All he wants is to be healthy, be able to work in Greece and provide for his family.

Since the beginning of the project and up to the end of 2020, 9,553 beneficiaries have received rental subsidies, upon finding independent housing.

GENERAL UPDATES

23843 beneficiaries enrolled in HELIOS and receiving support for independent living

9553 beneficiaries received rental subsidies upon finding independent housing

More than **300** staff employed and **19**

Integration Learning Centers operational throughout Greece

Through the “[Hellenic Integration Support for Beneficiaries of International Protection \(HELIOS\)](#)” project, IOM aims to promote the integration of beneficiaries of international protection into the Greek society through integration courses, housing and employability support. IOM's HELIOS project is implemented with the support of the European Commission - DG HOME.

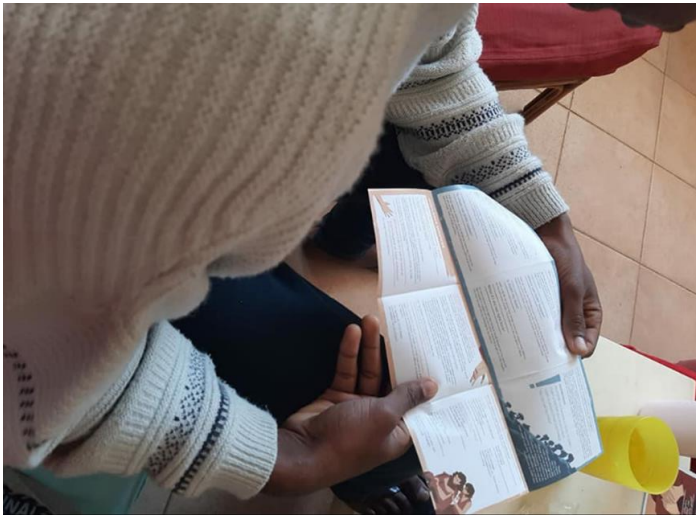
Read their story [here](#).

Download [HELIOS factsheet](#).

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MERIMNA project

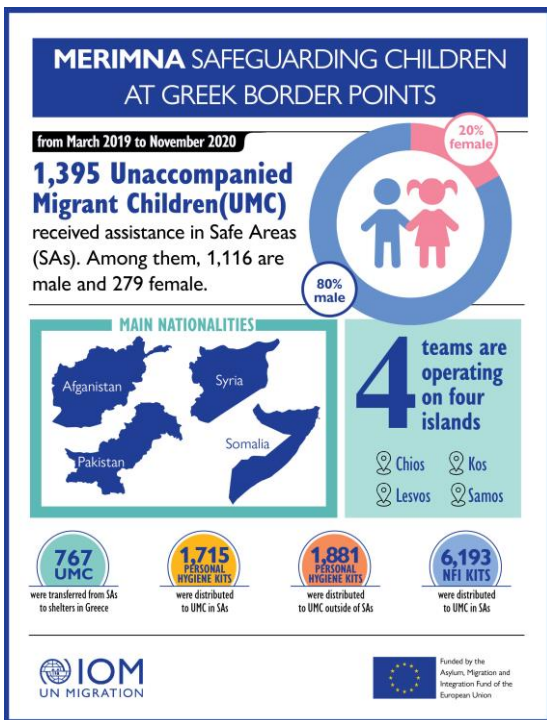


IOM Greece responding to the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and the devastating impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic organized in the Safe area of Lesbos several awareness raising activities. The staff distributed pamphlets and conducted information sessions on sexual and gender-based violence among refugees, migrants and asylum seekers.

IOM with the funding of the European Commission and in collaboration with NGO Iliaktida AMKE, through [“MERIMNA” project](#) is assisting the Greek Authorities through the improvement of living conditions of unaccompanied children hosted in the safe areas of RICs on the Greek islands.

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Project’s Infographic below.



Responding to health crisis for the protection of the most vulnerable

IOM Greece responding to World AIDS Day organized HIV/AIDS information sessions aiming at raising awareness against stigma and promoting testing, prevention, and treatment. Also, the IOM Greece medical unit shared pamphlets, condoms to the IOM staff and migrant population.



IOM is implementing the [“Global Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan Coronavirus Disease 2019” project](#) with the support of the U.S. Department of State: Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration and the U.S. EMBASSY ATHENS and in coordination with the Greek Authorities.

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Student contest on the 75th anniversary of the United Nations: “The UN turns 75. We shape today the future we imagine”



In the framework of the global dialogue the United Nations called on children and teenagers to reflect creatively and share their views. Concerns and dreams on what kind of future they want to create, whether the world is on track and what actions are needed to bridge the gap.