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116 refugees travelled for the first time directly from Lesbos island, Greece to Germany under EU Relocation



During February through the [Voluntary relocation scheme from Greece to other European Countries](#) project, 116 refugees travelled from Lesbos island directly to Germany. This was the first direct relocation flight from a Greek island to another European country under the project. Up to date, 426 recognized refugees have been relocated from Lesbos – Greece to Germany.

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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### Every child has the right to education



2021 marked a very important beginning for the children living at the open facility in Korinthos.

Teachers in the local public school welcomed with big smiles the young children in the classroom. IOM would like to say a big thanks to the Refugee Education Coordinator and the Site Manager for their valuable contribution.

*Every child has the right to education.*

IOM operates in Korinthos as the official site management support SMS agency. 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.

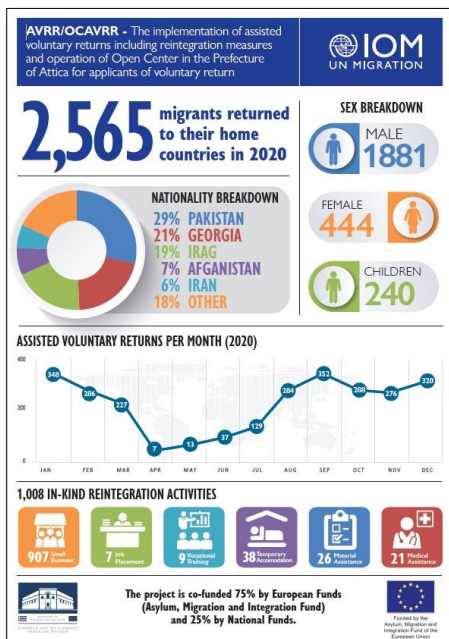
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## Amid 2020 Pandemic IOM Supported Over 2,500 migrants with Voluntary Return from Greece



IOM supported the voluntary return of some 2,565 people from Greece to their home countries in 2020, in coordination with the Greek authorities and respective countries' diplomatic representatives. Amid hardships and challenges induced by COVID-19 in the past year—including mobility restrictions and closed borders—many migrants living in Greece expressed interest in returning voluntarily to their home countries.



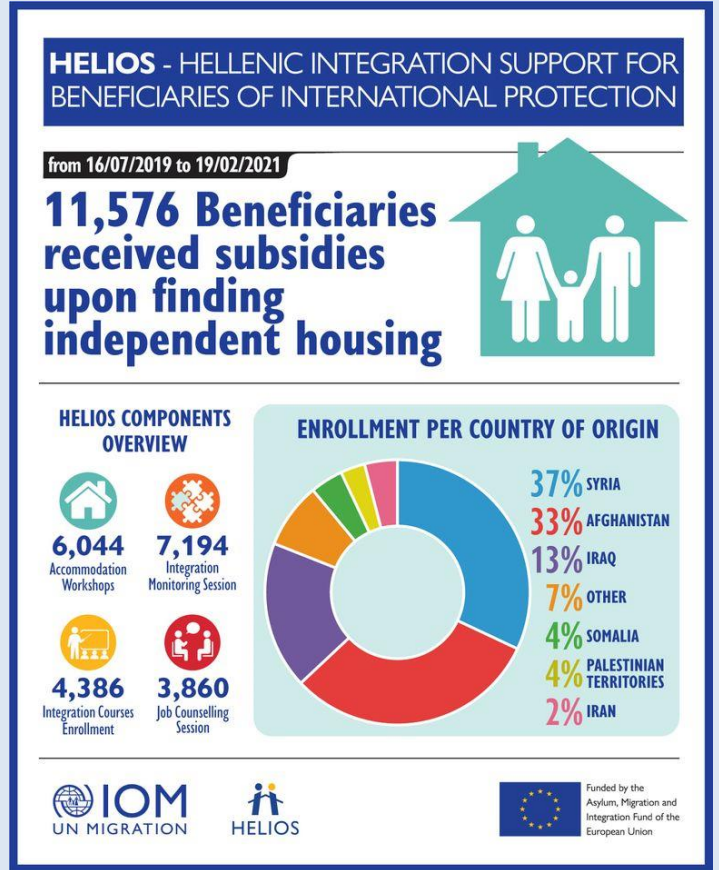
Read [more](#)

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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## HELIOS project

Since the beginning of the project and up to the 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2021, 11,576 beneficiaries have received rental subsidies, upon finding independent housing.



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.

Download [HELIOS factsheet](#).

Learn more about the [project](#).



## MERIMNA project



IOM organized painting activities for the children residing on the Safe Areas of Lesvos, Chios, Kos, Samos, range from the simplest painting with a brush or hands to more elaborate spin art.

In total 1,446 unaccompanied children are accommodated and receiving support in all 5 Safe Areas. More specifically, in Lesvos: 500, Chios: 443, Kos: 183, Leros: 105 and Samos: 215, where 4 IOM teams are operating on all islands (Lesvos, Chios, Kos and Samos). Among them, 1,157 are male and 289 are female.

The Safe Area teams operate under IOM's project [MERIMNA](#) with the support of European Commission – DG HOME.

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## IOM is responding to COVID – 19 for the benefit of children

Together with the support of the US Government and guidance by the Greek Authorities targeted medical services are provided to unaccompanied children in Greece.

Watch the video:



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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No one is safe, until everyone is

