



World Refugee Day. Nina a refugee from Cameroon shared her story

“I’ll always believe that no matter where you are born or what your choices and beliefs are, you deserve to live the life you want. After all, you only live once,” says Nina a refugee from Cameroon, who decided to rebuild her life in Greece.

Nina is a recognized refugee, who registered for the EU-funded HELIOS integration project, implemented by IOM. HELIOS staff guided her through the process of identifying and renting an apartment in her own name, and now she lives in a house located in the center of Athens. She is following Greek language courses and studies in Alba Graduate Business School, through a scholarship program that she found online; Nina has been receiving employability support by the HELIOS job counsellor with whom she has regular and substantive communication aiming to get empowered to achieve her educational and professional goals. In this frame, HELIOS employability supported Nina to get her English language diploma, which has already proven invaluable to her professionally. Up to the end of June, 14,914 recognized refugees have received rental subsidies. [Read more here](#)

UN agencies welcome relocation of 4,000 vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees from Greece

Thanks to collective action between Greece, European governments, UN, EU agencies and non-governmental partners 4,008 individuals – including vulnerable children and adults – have relocated from Greece since the start of the EU funded initiative in April 2020. Among them were 1,628 recognized refugees, 1,531 asylum seekers and 849 unaccompanied 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. [Read more here](#)

 [Download & Read the Relocation Factsheet.](#)





Let's play "Rush Goalie"

Boys and girls that are currently staying with their families at New Malakasa open accommodation facility, participated in the summer football tournament organized by Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center, in partnership with the "Regeneration & Progress" NGO. The tournament unites children from different backgrounds with one common... goal! The children exercised and had fun while learning about values such as collaboration, team spirit and respect. IOM operates in New Malakasa camp as the official Site Management Support Agency (SMS) with the support of the European Commission - DG HOME, under the "Supporting the Greek Authorities in Managing the National Reception System for Asylum Seekers and Vulnerable Migrants (SMS)" project.

[Read more here](#) 

Memorandum of Collaboration on Integration

A memorandum of collaboration was signed between the Greek Asylum & Migration Ministry and the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Office in Greece, under the framework of the National Refugees Integration Strategy. The two partners will cooperate on issues focused on accommodation of recognized refugees, skills empowerment, language learning and human rights. The main goal of the action is to work together towards the independent living of recognized refugees in Greece.

The MoC was signed by the Deputy Minister of Migration & Asylum, Sophia Voultepsi, and the Chief of IOM Mission in Greece, Gianluca Rocco.






An educational visit to an iconic monument!



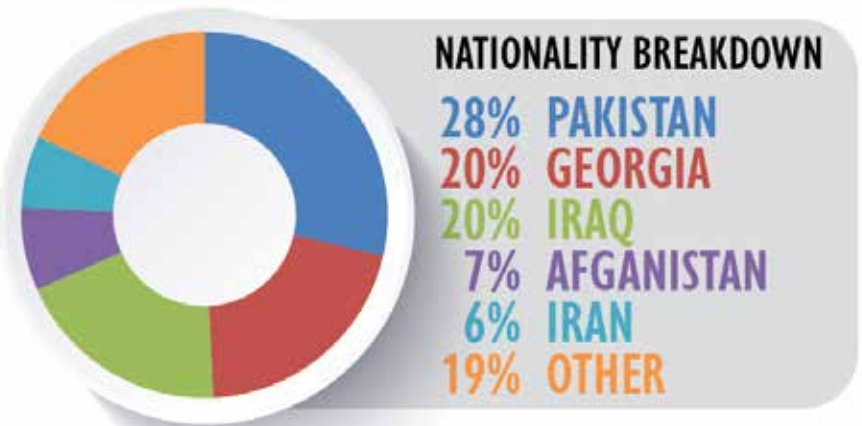
Under the [SMS](#) project and the Non - formal Education activities (NFE), families with children from New Malakasa site visited the archaeological site of Acropolis, accompanied by IOM educators' team. IOM provides quality learning opportunities to children and families, through homework support classes, educational visits and others. IOM operates in New Malakasa camp as the official Site Management Support Agency (SMS) with the support of the European Commission – DG HOME, under the “Supporting the Greek Authorities in Managing the National Reception System for Asylum Seekers and Vulnerable Migrants (SMS)” project. [Read more here](#)



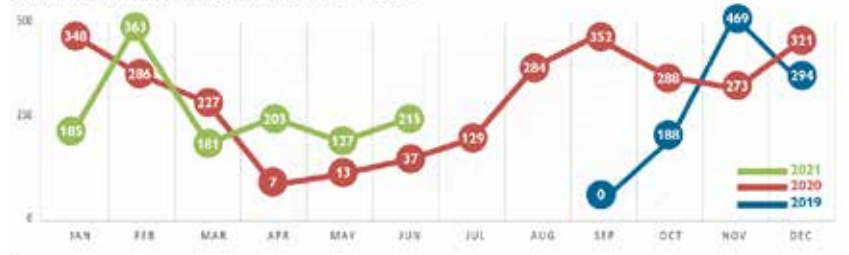
AVRR/OCAVRR - The implementation of assisted voluntary returns including reintegration measures and operation of Open Center in the Prefecture of Attica for applicants of voluntary return   

4,790

migrants returned to their home countries from September 2019 to June 2021



ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURNS PER MONTH



1,735 IN-KIND REINTEGRATION ACTIVITIES



The project is co-funded 75% by European Funds (Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund) and 25% by National Funds



Funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Union

During the reporting period – May / June 2021 - 215 migrants were assisted to return to their home countries. Meanwhile, the total number since the beginning of the project (September 2019 -June 2021) accounts to 4,790 voluntary returns. Amongst them, 28 % were from Pakistan, following 20% from Georgia, 20% from Iraq, 7% from Afghanistan, 6 % from Iran and 19% from various other countries. 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) is funded 75% by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Union (AMIF) and 25% by National Funds. [Read more here](#)



National Dialogue in the framework of the project U-CARE [f](#) [@](#) [t](#)

The International Organization for Migration together with ARSIS organized a National Stakeholder Meeting under the project Unaccompanied Children in Alternative Residence (U-CARE), and with subject

Foster Care and Unaccompanied Minors. Present were Domna Michailidou - Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Sophia Voultepsi - Deputy Minister of Migration and Asylum, Monika Ekström - Policy Officer of DG HOME at European Commission.

“Foster care is an important element of integration, especially for unaccompanied minors. It brings together different cultures and it is important for the two sides to embrace each other,” said Gianluca Rocco, Chief of IOM in Greece.



MERIMNA project - Plant a Seed [f](#) [@](#) [t](#)

IOM Greece team on Chios island organized the “Plant a Seed” project. The project inspires children to achieve their dreams and realize their full potential. The project is also designed to connect children to nature and encourages them to become caretakers of planet earth. IOM with the funding of the European Commission, 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.

[Read more here](#) 