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HELIOS Project



3,531 refugees enrolled

Masumeh (41) and Gulnesah (42), single mothers from Afghanistan, with one and two children respectively, moved in a new apartment last May. 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, **3,531** recognized refugees enrolled in HELIOS project and **393** beneficiaries signed new lease agreements with apartment owners. The project is implemented with the support of the Greek government and the funding of [DG HOME](#).

This June, the Minister of Migration and Asylum, Notis Mitarachi, visited an Athens-based Integration Learning Center (ILC), which operates under HELIOS project. The Minister had the opportunity to meet recognized refugees who take Greek language courses. Staff working at the ILC also conduct employability support sessions and assist refugees towards independent accommodation.

Read more about [Helios project](#) Funded by [Directorate General Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission \(DG HOME\)](#)





PULLING TOGETHER IN GERMANY: 3,000 PROTECTIVE MASKS FOR UMC CHILDREN IN GREECE

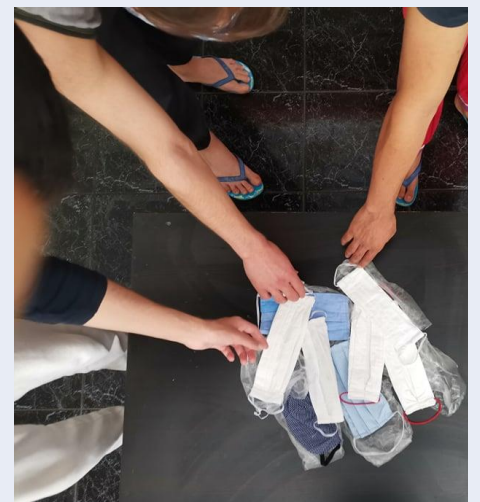


Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) delivered a donation of 3,000 reusable, protective face masks from Germany to unaccompanied migrant children in Greece.

The masks, which IOM distributed to unaccompanied children residing in shelters and temporary facilities on the Greek mainland, were donated by the German entities Planet Bamboo, The African Network in Germany and the Federal Association for Economic Development and Foreign Trade.

Read more [here](#).

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The President of the Hellenic Republic visits UMC shelter



The President of the Hellenic Republic, Ms. Katerina Sakellariopoulou, visited a shelter for unaccompanied migrant children (UMC) in Athens, run by IOM Greece. Ms. Sakellariopoulou had the opportunity to meet, discuss with the young girls residing at the shelter and exchange thoughts about future goals and challenges. The president expressed her gratitude, when young girls showed her pictures and paintings drawn exclusively for her. Special Secretary for the protection of UMC, Ms. Eirini Agapidaki, was also present at the shelter. During the reporting period, **138** unaccompanied migrant children have been accommodated in 6 shelters. IOM staff is present on an 24/7 basis, with **facility coordinators, interpreters, psychologists, legal counsellors, social workers and educators.** Shelters for unaccompanied children operate with the support from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Union.

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Supporting the Greek Authorities in Managing the National Reception System for Asylum Seekers and Vulnerable Migrants (SMS)

During June 2020, **28,461** asylum seekers were accommodated in **32** open sites in the mainland of Greece, **42%** were children, **35%** were men and **23%** were women. IOM supports the National authorities in the management of all long-term accommodation sites in mainland Greece and aims at ensuring dignified and harmonized reception standards for applicants of international protection. The project which foresees, site management support, protection services, interpretation, non – formal education, community support engagement and operation of Safe Zones for unaccompanied children is funded by [Directorate General Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission \(DG HOME\)](#)



The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Greece organized a unique Online Film Festival, under the framework of EU funded HELIOS project, on the occasion of World Refugee Day. HELIOS Film Festival, focused on migration and included 17 movies (short and feature-length films) from across the globe.

The festival was open and available to all audiences, refugees, migrants and local population, aiming at encouraging an open debate over the challenges, experiences and different aspects of migration, while creating bridges of communication between the host and hosted communities in Greece.

Read more and see the program [here](#).

Meeting of IOM with the Municipality of Megara under AVRR/OCAVRR project



Under the framework of the AVRR/OCAVRR project, IOM Greece staff visited the area of Megara with the aim to conduct an information campaign addressed to the migrant population residing in the region.

During the reporting period, **50** migrants returned voluntarily to their home countries, **32** from Iran and 18 from Afghanistan. At the same time, **77** reintegration cases were implemented, among them **46** in Georgia, **16** in Pakistan, **10** in Iraq and **5** in Morocco.

Read more about AVRR [here](#).

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