Cash Assistance Update

Overview

In March, 69,052 eligible refugees and asylum-seekers (33,835 families) received cash assistance in Greece, in 111 locations.

UNHCR provides cash assistance in Greece, as part of the ESTIA programme, funded by the European Commission. Cash assistance restores dignity and empowers asylum-seekers and refugees who can now choose how to cover their basic needs. It also contributes directly to the economy of the host community through the purchase of services and goods. UNHCR in Greece works with the Greece Cash Alliance partners the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS).

Demographics of Refugees and Asylum-Seekers Assisted with Cash

Since April 2017, 111,512 eligible individuals have received cash assistance in Greece at least once. Eligibility is assessed on the basis of one’s date of entry in the country, legal status and current location. Of the 69,052 individuals who received cash assistance this month, 12,805 have international protection in Greece. Out of 33,835 families, 23% were women, 38% men and 39% children. 32% of all who received cash assistance this month were families of five members or more and a further 31% were single adults.

The amount of cash assistance distributed to each household is proportionate to the family size. It ranges between 90 euros for an individual in catered accommodation, to 550 euros for a family of seven members or more in self-catered accommodation.

UNHCR provides cash assistance in Greece as part of the ESTIA programme.

Stefan (left) and Sumera from Pakistan receive their cash card and information on how to use it. Cash assistance will help them cover their family’s basic needs, giving them the dignity of choice. UNHCR provides cash assistance in Greece as part of the ESTIA programme.

69,052
Number of individuals assisted ¹

33,835
Number of cash cards ¹

6.9 M €
Cash distributed (Euros) ¹

¹ Source: Greek Cash Alliance during March 2019. Figures are subject to future adjustment and should not be considered final.
Demographics of Individuals Receiving Cash Assistance

76% of individuals in the cash assistance scheme are Syrian, Iraqi, Afghan or Iranian.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>% of Individuals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syrian Arab Republic</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran, Islamic Republic of</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem. Rep. of the Congo</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Palestine</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Location of Individuals Receiving Cash Assistance

Asylum-seekers and refugees receiving cash assistance reside in 111 locations in Greece. 40% of those receiving cash assistance are located in Attica, with 20% currently on the islands and a further 19% in Central Macedonia.

Partners

UNHCR
UNHCR International
Catholic Relief Services
Federation

More information

The Greece Cash Alliance: Meeting Basic Needs through Harmonized Cash Assistance

ESTIA cash assistance and accommodation is funded by the European Commission