

**ANNEX A: CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST-ANNOUNCED BY UNHCR**

**CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

The purpose of this Call for Expression of Interest is for UNHCR to solicit the interest from prospective or existing partners that wish to participate in a UNHCR led operation and contribute complementary resources (human resources, knowledge funds, in-kind, and/or equipment) for achieving common and agreed objectives by undertaking a Project Partnership Agreement.

**Concept notes can be submitted for one or more sector activities as well as for one or multiple locations.**

UNHCR reserves the right to accept a proposal in whole or in part. Conclusion of a Project Partnership Agreement with UNHCR is subject to availability of funds. Selection of a partner through this Call for Expression of Interest does not constitute an obligation for UNHCR to conclude a Project Partnership Agreement with the selected partner.

**Project title and Identification**

**Project Locations**

Support to implementation of Hotspot and Relocation Scheme and to the Strengthening of the Asylum Reception Capacity: “Establishment of 20,000 reception places in support of the relocation scheme”

Greece countrywide, with a major concentration in Athens and additional attention to border islands of Lesbos, Kos, Samos, Chios, and Leros, and the main cities of Evros, Thessaloniki, Rhodes and Patras.

**Brief background of the project**

In 2015, Greece has seen a dramatic increase in the arrival of refugees and migrants, amounting to around 730,000 arrivals by end-November 2015, with over 90% coming from the top-10 refugee-producing countries as per UNHCR’s data. In view of this development, UNHCR, in cooperation and consultation with the Greek Authorities, has increased its operational engagement in the country, through the provision of assistance to new arrivals in order to enhance the humanitarian response.

In parallel, UNHCR has engaged in supporting the implementation of the “Hotspot” approach and the Relocation Scheme, as these have been decided upon by the EU Council in its respective Decisions of 14<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2015. More specifically, as per the EU Leaders’ Statement of 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2015, UNHCR has committed to support efforts for the increase of the reception capacity in Greece, implementing the operational modalities for the creation of 20,000 reception places for asylum seekers. This scheme is expected to support the relocation procedures so as to become a sustainable and preferred option by persons in need of international protection entering the EU. The overall support by UNHCR will also cover a small-scale support to the establishment of the “hotspots”, as well as support to information provision on asylum to new arrivals and to those who are eligible for relocation, in order to promote the relocation scheme. The overall support has been discussed and agreed with the Greek Government, the Greek Asylum Service and the European Commission, who will financially support UNHCR’s activities, and is based on the Greek Government’s needs assessment. Furthermore, UNHCR cooperates, under the leadership of the Greek Government, with FRONTEX and EASO, in their respective areas of responsibility for the implementation of the relocation scheme. It also liaises with IOM who is going to implement part

of the phases of the relocation scheme, namely support to increase the Asylum Service's capacity, as well as the undertaking of transfer to the receiving States.

UNHCR participation in the different aspects of the relocation scheme, both on the islands and on the mainland, will require supporting the different stages of the process with interventions to be implemented, at the moment, between December 2015 and December 2017.

With the aim to continue promoting partnership, collaboration and coordination, as well as incentivizing an effective and efficient use of the existing limited resources, UNHCR aims to work jointly with international and/or national partners for the implementation of the interventions.

### Goal of the project and Expected outcomes and activities

As per EU Council Decisions of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2015, 66,400 asylum seekers are to be relocated from Greece to EU MS until the 26<sup>th</sup> of September 2017 (art. 13 of EU Council Decision 2015/1601/22.9.2015), following respective pledges to be made by EU MS. The relocation scheme is adopted in application of Art. 78 (3) of TFEU, as Greece has been assessed as an EU MS confronted by an emergency situation characterized by a sudden inflow of nationals of third countries. The relocation scheme will be linked to the creation of "hotspots" on five border locations on the islands of North-Eastern Aegean Sea and the Dodecanese, namely on Lesbos, Samos, Chios, Kos and Leros. The "hotspots" are sites where registration of new arrivals is conducted, initial administrative procedures take place, and services, including information, are provided to the newly arriving third-country nationals.

The relocation scheme will be implemented by the Greek Asylum Service under the overall supervision of the Alternate Minister of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction with the portfolio of migration policy (hereunder, "Alternate Minister of Migration Policy"). Significant and enhanced support to the Greek authorities for the successful implementation of the relocation scheme is considered a top priority. For this to happen, proper information and counselling on the relocation procedure addressed to new arrivals is considered as a necessary precondition, as well as the possibility of the candidate for relocation to be provided with accommodation and basic reception services while awaiting to be relocated. Hence, in order for relocation to be a preferred option for persons with international protection needs arriving in Greece, trust in the relocation scheme needs to be built through effectiveness and speediness of the process, but most importantly through the direct referral of the candidate to a reception place, until the actual transfer for relocation takes place.

In order to support this goal of the provision of reception places, UNHCR has offered to assist in the provision of at least 20,000 places (as per EU Leaders' Statement of the 25<sup>th</sup> of October), which are considered an important precondition to make the relocation scheme work.

### ESTABLISHMENT OF 20,000 RECEPTION CAPACITY

This activity will be implemented for asylum seekers according to the standards and obligations enshrined in the Greek legislation and regulatory acts and in close institutional and operational coordination with the competent State authorities with responsibilities in the reception field. These include the Alternate Minister of Migration Policy, the Directorate of Social Solidarity, the Ministry of Labor, competent for the proposal of policies on accommodation and reception of asylum seekers, the National Centre of Social Solidarity (EKKA), the responsible authority for the referral of asylum seekers to accommodation places,

the Asylum Service and the First Reception Service. UNHCR will also cooperate with local authorities, mainly the Municipalities and, in particular, the Municipality of Athens (urban center where relocation candidates will be accommodated for a more extended period of time).

The scheme will require the provision of reception places for 66,400 candidates for relocation. As per the EU Council Decisions, nationalities qualifying for relocation are those that have an average of 75% recognition rate EU-wide. Thus, for now, eligible countries of nationality for relocation are Syria, Iraq, the Central African Republic and Eritrea. Stateless persons who habitually resided in these countries are eligible for relocation as well. The 66,400 beneficiaries will be prioritized for accommodation during the relocation scheme. Moreover, if EU Council's decisions are not revised to include more beneficiaries for relocation, the 20,000 reception places to be put in place will also allow the provision of accommodation for asylum seekers not eligible for relocation at an estimated maximum capacity of 21,500 persons (on top of the relocation candidates) during the period up to the end of 2017.

The reception places for the 66,400 candidates for relocation are expected to be distributed mainly between the 5 (five) main islands where the "hotspots" will be operational (Lesvos, Samos, Leros, Chios and Kos) where beneficiaries will overnight for a couple of days until their application is processed, before being transferred to Athens where beneficiaries will be accommodated for an additional 8 (eight) weeks until their departure to one of the EU receiving countries. In addition, the up to 21,500<sup>1</sup> asylum seekers will be offered temporary accommodation for up to 6 (six) months<sup>2</sup>, while their applications are examined, in the main cities of Athens, Evros, Thessaloniki, Rhodes and Patra, where the Asylum Service has its Regional Asylum Offices.

In order to ensure implementation of the above, the Project requires a rapid set-up of an accommodation scheme to secure the required spaces through four different options (Rental of apartments, Hotel Vouchers, Hotel Leases and Host Families) to meet the needs of asylum seekers.

Depending on the availability, low to high touristic season, and market opportunity, the choice of these pre-selected types of accommodation may vary between the islands and the mainland. Additionally, the type of accommodation needs will vary as per the specific needs of beneficiaries (i.e. vulnerabilities, type of application and expected length of the stay, etc.).



In order for an individual to be considered for accommodation under the relocation scheme, the asylum seeker will be identified after having formally started the asylum application and then referred for

<sup>1</sup> 21,500 persons during a period 01.01.2016-31.12.2017 is the maximum capacity the reception scheme can support after prioritizing the 66,400 expected relocation beneficiaries. Accommodation will be prioritized for vulnerable asylum seekers first, follow by accommodation to other asylum seekers as per the availability of spaces / resources.

<sup>2</sup> The 6 months represents the average time a review and rebuttal process takes. This 6 months support has been defined to support the asylum seekers to settle while the asylum request is processed and the Greek authorities do the necessary arrangements to accommodate those individuals who will need to stay longer in the country.

accommodation under the relocation scheme. The referral to the temporary accommodation follows strict procedures, and asylum seekers will be accepted for accommodation, only if they are referred by:

- Asylum Service;
- UNHCR, or,
- EKKA (National Centre for Social Solidarity)

### **Accommodation needs for the 66,400 beneficiaries of the Relocation Scheme**

#### **1. On the Islands**

After being registered with the Greek authorities (Greek Police – Frontex) and having started the asylum application, referred asylum seekers will be accommodated on the islands before being transferred to the mainland. The length of stay is estimated to be a maximum of two (2) nights of stay. In exceptional cases, the length could be extended, depending on the special needs of the individual and other delaying factors. The appropriate facilities for the accommodation, in order of priority, will be:

- 1) Hotel Vouchers;
- 2) Hotel Leases; and,
- 3) Rented Apartments.

As the estimation is that 55,000 persons<sup>3</sup> will be registered on the five islands during a period of two years, the plans described below aim to ensure 110,000 nights of accommodation are secured to meet these needs (55,000 individuals x max. 2 nights each). The number of accommodation places will be gradually increased in proportion to the accommodation referrals received (please refer to Appendix 1: Reception Scheme Explanatory Notes).

The beneficiaries' accommodation will need to be established in the vicinity of, or nearby urban area, of the islands of Lesbos, Samos, Chios, Kos and Leros. The hotels or buildings will need to comply with national construction rules and regulations and fulfill certain criteria related to accessibility, safety, cleanliness, proximity to public transport and accessibility to other public services.

#### **2. Athens/Mainland**

After the asylum application is filed at the Asylum Service on the islands, beneficiaries are expected to be transported to Athens by boat (or in strictly approved cases, due to extreme vulnerabilities, on planes). The length of stay on the mainland is estimated to be (eight) 8 weeks. In exceptional cases, the length could be extended, depending on the specificities of the person. The appropriate facilities for the accommodation, in order of priority, will be:

- 1) Rented Apartments;
- 2) Hotel Leases;
- 3) Hotel Vouchers; and,
- 4) Host Families

<sup>3</sup> It is estimated that 55,000 persons, out of the total 66,400, will submit the asylum applications in the hotspots. The remaining number is expected to approach/referred to Athens.

It is estimated that 3,072 beds will need to be established and allocated into private apartments or alternative safe and dignified accommodation during the first month of the scheme. This will be followed in the second month by an additional 3,072 beds in order to reach a total capacity of 6,144 beds per day, which will need to remain available up to the end of the project (please refer to Appendix 1: Reception Scheme Explanatory Notes). The beneficiaries' accommodation will be in the vicinity or nearby urban area of Athens.

The private apartments or other accommodation types will need to comply with national construction rules and regulations and fulfill certain criteria related to accessibility, safety, cleanliness, proximity to public transport, health and education facilities, supermarkets and accessibility to any other public services.

### **Accommodation needs for asylum seekers not qualified for the Relocation Scheme**

In parallel, and in complementarity with the registration process for the relocation candidates, applications for international protection are also lodged by asylum seekers of other nationalities than those eligible for relocation, at the six main Regional Asylum Offices (RAOs) located in the following cities: Athens, Thessaloniki, Lesbos, Rhodes, Patras and Evros.

According to Asylum Service data, on average 1,000 (one thousand) asylum seekers are registered each month out of which the distribution per Regional Asylum Office is the following:

<b>Regional Asylum Office</b>	<b>Registrations / month</b>
Athens	650
Evros	150
Thessaloniki	75
Lesbos	30
Rhodes	70
Patras	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>

This Call for Expression of Interest aims to ensure planning for accommodation for asylum seekers who are not eligible for relocation. The beneficiaries will be asylum seekers who lodged an asylum application after 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

The length of stay offered by this scheme until the end of 2017 will be a maximum of 6 (six) months and the accommodation is preferably to be provided in the region where the application has been lodged. As described above, the 6 months accommodation arrangement has been defined to support the asylum seekers to settle while the asylum request is processed and while the Greek authorities make the necessary arrangements to accommodate those individuals who will need to stay longer in the country.

It is estimated that in order to respond to the above described needs, 6,000 beds need to be secured in the form of 1,200 apartments (of 5 beds each) or alternative safe and dignified accommodation to be rented for the project implementation period (please refer to Appendix 1: Reception Scheme Explanatory Notes). The beneficiaries' accommodation will be in the vicinity or nearby urban area of the cities listed below:

Location	Number of apartments to be rented
Athens	780
Evros	180
Thessaloniki	90
Lesvos	36
Rhodes	84
Patras	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,200</b>

The private apartments or other accommodation types will comply with national construction rules and regulations and fulfill certain criteria related to accessibility, safety, cleanliness, proximity to public transport, health and education facilities, supermarkets and accessibility to any other public services.

#### **SPECIFIC CONDITIONS APPLYING TO ALL OF THE ABOVE**

##### **Minimal accommodation conditions**

The reception places will need to be provided ensuring the following minimal conditions, and in accordance with the related Greek legislation:

- Accommodation is provided as per the specificities of the beneficiary(ies): safe accommodation to host single individuals or groups/families of two or more individuals, ensuring the needs of extremely vulnerable individuals are met when needed (i.e. special attention to unaccompanied children, appropriate accommodation for individuals with special physical needs, etc.) as well as taking into consideration the prevention of SGBV and other protection risks. Special consideration for social/ethnic/cultural/religious needs of the beneficiaries must be taken into account when arranging the respective accommodation;
- Meals (minimum three/day) for all beneficiaries are provided during their stay at the reception facilities (i.e. restaurant vouchers, food vouchers, or any other form of food arrangement);
- If and when required, transportation arrangements are provided between the referral location and the reception facilities;
- Provision of interpretation services to facilitate the implementation of the Project;
- Provision of medical services, to the extent necessary for the facilitation of the placement of an asylum seeker in a reception facility;
- Provision of psycho-social support, legal aid and other supporting counselling needs to be available to all beneficiaries if and when required; and,
- Proposals are required to include a clear strategy to deal with reception and departure of beneficiaries from the respective accommodation once the maximum period of stay has been reached.

## **Coordination**

Considering the magnitude of the scheme, it is expected that the provision of the reception places will be established thanks to the participation of several organizations across the country. For this reason, it is important to highlight that a coordination mechanism will be established and all partners involved in the scheme will require to actively participate in it. UNHCR will aim to have the active participation of the municipal authorities where the respective reception capacity will need to be established.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

On a regular basis to be defined, all partners will be required to provide a progress report of the implementation of the scheme, evaluating the process indicators of the respective period. Challenges and problems will need to be clearly highlighted and will be analyzed with the purpose to find suitable solutions.

Additionally, all partners will be asked to facilitate regular visits, for monitoring, evaluation or protection/donor related purposes, following consultation with the partners for logistical purposes.

## **Housing type variations and estimated considerations**

In case partners face difficulty renting agreed private apartments during the period of the Project, alternative accommodations types (i.e. rental hotels and/or rental buildings) can be options to be considered.

Estimates stated throughout this document have been calculated to meet the necessary accommodation to cover with the needs of the beneficiaries during the whole period of implementation, taking into consideration the number of arrivals in Greece in the past, expected number of asylum applications to be submitted (for the relocation scheme and the rest of the asylum applications caseload of the Asylum Service). Moreover, it is indispensable to emphasize that estimates throughout the document are indicative and could be revised during the implementation of the Project. For clarification of estimates, please refer to Appendix 1: Reception Scheme Explanatory Notes.

## **Inputs expected to be received in order to be considered for the Project**

Due to the urgent need to have the reception Project in place and running as early as January 2016, organizations interested in participating in the Project are requested to present a proposal in as much detail as possible, a comprehensive and clear description of:

- The organization, structure and resources available in Greece;
- Experience working with refugees, implementing this type of projects (existing know-how, etc.), and/or working in other related interventions;
- Activities the organization is capable of / desires to provide (type of activities, locations, etc.), number of expected beneficiaries expected to be included, and a description of the resources required for the activities to be provided (specify the type/quantity of resources the organization will contribute for the implementation of the project);

- Expected timeline for the implementation of activities (please specify preparation time if/when required for the actual provision of the services –i.e. if house families need to be identified / apartments need to be rented / locations need to be renovated, please specify the time required to complete this preparatory activity before the actual reception places can be provided by the organization-); and,
- Estimated budget including cost/type of reception place, cost of other services (i.e. cost of meals if not included as part of the reception place, counselling provision, etc). Please ensure physical as well as human resources needed for the implementation of the activities are clearly identified.

**Note:** If organizations are interested in working with other organizations under an umbrella figure, the lead agency should clearly describe the mechanism within the proposal, specifying the organizations to be involved and the time required for the figure to be fully in place. UNHCR encourages this cooperation and joint proposals.

**Population group/persons of concern**

The scheme will require the provision of reception places for:

- a) 66,400 candidates for relocation, who have started the asylum application process; and,
- b) Up to 21,500 asylum seekers (not eligible for the Relocation Scheme), who have submitted an asylum application after 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

**Project Period: Estimated start and end dates of project**

This Call for Expression of Interest covers the “Establishment of 20,000 reception places in support of the relocation scheme” for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2017, but is subject to adjustment to UNHCR standard project cycle. Thereby, UNHCR Project Partnership Agreements will be signed according to UNHCR standard project years as follows:

- Project year 1: January 1<sup>st</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup> 2016
- Project year 2: January 1<sup>st</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup> 2017

Estimated financial requirements shall be adjusted accordingly and separated for each Project year.

**Submission deadline**

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2015

**Date results to be communicated to applicants**

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2015

**Selection criteria**

**Criteria Description**

**Sector expertise and experience:** The required specific skills, sector(s) specialists, knowledge and human resources available with the organization in the project area. Innovative interventions that include collaboration with voluntary associations and in line with national system will be prioritized. Partners are encouraged, capacity allowing, to submit provide concept notes providing an integrated multi sectorial response.



<b>Project management:</b> Ability to deliver project objectives, accountability mechanisms and sound financial management and coordination with agencies working under the same sector. In addition the agency should have the capacity to deliver quality reporting and adhere to UNHCR reporting requirements.
<b>Local experience and presence:</b> Concept notes should clearly indicate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Geographic area the organization(s) is planning to intervene in;</li> <li>- Ongoing programme in the area of operation;</li> <li>- Engaging refugees and persons of concern;</li> <li>- Trust from local communities, self-organized groups of persons of concern is an asset;</li> <li>- Presence and/or established network and coordination mechanism with other actors in the area of operation</li> <li>- Previous experience relevant to proposed activities;</li> </ul>
<b>Contribution of resources:</b> Contribution of resources to the Project in cash or in-kind (e.g. human resources, supplies or equipment) to supplement UNHCR resources.
<b>Cost effectiveness:</b> Administrative and financial burden imposed on the Project in relation to project deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Total costs</li> <li>- Proportion of budgets Programme/Admin/HR</li> <li>- Contribution of organization and/or other donors</li> </ul>
<b>Experience working with UNHCR:</b> Knowledge of UNHCR policies, practices and programmes.
<b>Other:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Legally registered at the location of the NGO's Headquarters.</li> <li>- Legally registered in Greece.</li> <li>- Authority to operate a bank account in Greece.</li> </ul>

**Issuing UNHCR Office**

UNHCR National Office in Greece

**Contact e-mail for inquiries**

Implementing Partnership Management Committee  
([greatipmc@unhcr.org](mailto:greatipmc@unhcr.org))

**Contact Address for delivery of proposals**

12, Tagiapiera Street, GR 11525, Athens, Greece

**Full name and title, Head of Office**

Ms. Alessandra Morelli, Senior Operations Coordinator

**Date**

30<sup>th</sup> of November 2015



