Policy Note

# Statistics on reception & refugee camps in Greece: first half of 2026

October 2026

Not a single euro in financial allowance for one and a half years, critical staff shortages



Malakasa camp. Photo: RSA

RSA REFUGEE SUPPORT AEGEAN

# Statistics on reception & refugee camps in Greece: first half of 2026

People seeking asylum in Greece face constant gaps in reception and dignified treatment, as confirmed by latest official figures on refugee camps supplied in response to parliamentary questions[1] and analysed in the present RSA (Refugee Support Aegean) note. Chronic, unresolved deficiencies involve shortages in staff of the Reception and Identification Service (RIS) camps and a complete absence of financial support to asylum seekers, at a time when Greece enters under stricter obligations and heavier responsibility to host asylum applicants after the entry into application of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum.[2]

## Capacity & residents

**15,273** people were residing at the end of the first half of the year in camps ("facilities") managed by the RIS throughout Greece. These include five Closed Controlled Access Centres (CCAC) on the islands, three Reception and Identification Centres (RIC) and 22 Controlled Temporary Reception Centres for asylum seekers (CTRC) on the mainland. These figures point to a drop in the population residing in the reception system, compared to 22,622 people at the end of 2025.

| Capacity & residents in camps: 30 Jun 2026 | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Capacity | | Residents | | |
| | Nominal | Actual | Eligible | Ineligible | Total |
| Closed Controlled Access Centres (CCAC) | | | | | |
| Lesvos | 3,881 | 3,522 | 252 | 4 | 256 |
| Samos | 3,664 | 3,214 | 1,249 | 2 | 1,251 |
| Leros | 2,152 | 2,037 | 1,028 | | 1,028 |
| Kos | 3,455 | 1,398 | 854 | 1 | 855 |
| Chios | 1,014 | 1,014 | 360 | | 360 |
| Reception and Identification Centres (RIC) | | | | | |
| Flyakio | 756 | 756 | 356 | | 356 |
| Malakasa | 3,471 | 2,020 | 1,611 | 32 | 1,643 |
| Diavata | 1,017 | 951 | 672 | 11 | 683 |
| Controlled Temporary Reception Centres for asylum seekers (CTRC) | | | | | |
| Koutsochero | 1,748 | 1,344 | 900 | 1 | 901 |
| Schisto | 1,551 | 999 | 471 | 27 | 498 |

1 Ministry of Migration and Asylum, Reply to parliamentary question, 154364/2026, 17 August 2026, available here.

2 RSA, 'A mother and her two children arrested upon seeking asylum, a couple arbitrarily detained for a month: Two stories from the first month of the implementation of the New Pact', 20 July 2026, available here; *Εφαρμοστικός νόμος του νέου Κοινού Ευρωπαϊκού Συστήματος Ασύλου*, May 2026, available here.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ritsona | 3,036 | 987 | 811 | 6 | 817 |
| Thiva | 1,014 | 811 | 483 | 12 | 495 |
| Corinth | 896 | 796 | 426 | 23 | 449 |
| Kyllini | 486 | 373 | 194 | 9 | 203 |
| Thermopyles | 381 | 311 | 29 | | 29 |
| Oinofyta | 412 | 296 | 208 | 7 | 215 |
| Pyrgos | 200 | 200 | 54 | 1 | 55 |
| Attiko Alsos | 100 | 100 | 90 | 6 | 96 |
| Polykastro | 1,660 | 1,660 | 823 | 7 | 830 |
| Serres | 1,650 | 1,511 | 616 | 2 | 618 |
| Katsikas | 1,606 | 1,162 | 504 | 13 | 517 |
| Kavala | 1,168 | 1,092 | 559 | 24 | 583 |
| Vagiochori | 822 | 708 | 380 | | 380 |
| Sintiki | 751 | 666 | 36 | 433 | 469 |
| Alexandria | 826 | 630 | 352 | 8 | 360 |
| Filippiada | 880 | 604 | 330 | 4 | 334 |
| Drama | 556 | 556 | 170 | | 170 |
| Agia Eleni | 516 | 495 | 204 | 3 | 207 |
| Veria | 519 | 470 | 270 | 7 | 277 |
| Lagadikia | 684 | 464 | 332 | 6 | 338 |
| **Total** | **40,872** | **31,147** | **14,624** | **649** | **15,273** |

Source: Ministry of Migration and Asylum, Reply to parliamentary question, 17 Aug 2026

Official statistics show that **96%** of people living in camps at the end of June 2026 were entitled to material reception conditions. This figure seems to corroborate the rigid application of domestic law rules on forcible departure of international protection holders from camps.[3]

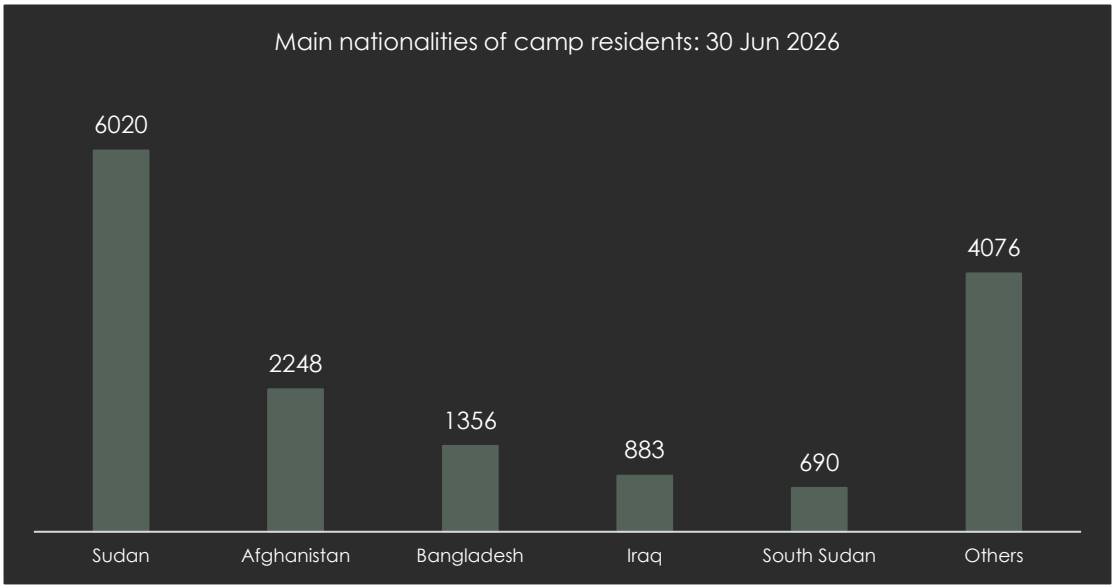
## Population features

Reception statistics clearly reflect the reality of arrivals from Libya to Crete and Gavdos, as well as onward transport of new arrivals not only to mainland RIC but also to CCAC on the Eastern Aegean islands throughout 2026.[4]

Sudan was by far the main country of origin of people residing in camps at the end of the first half of 2026. Countries such as Bangladesh and South Sudan were also among the main countries of origin.

3 Article 147(1) Pact Implementation Act, L 5307/2026, Gov. Gazette A' 90/11.06.2026.

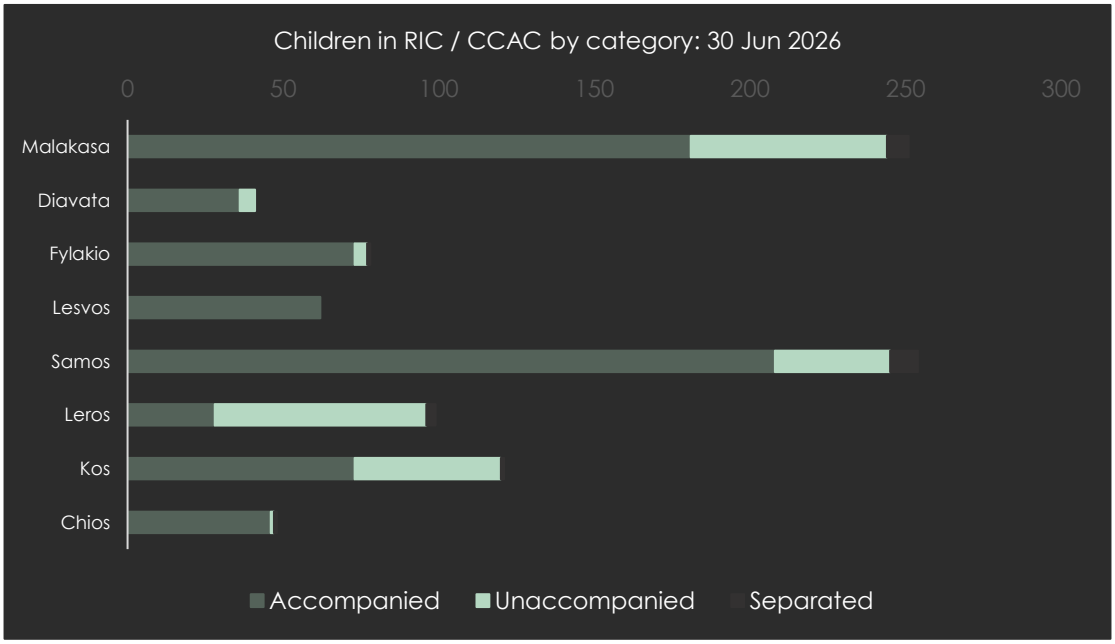
4 RSA, 'Crete - Gavdos: 8,552 refugee arrivals in the first half of 2026 – The issue of safe accommodation remains unresolved', 15 July 2026, available here.




| Main camps by nationality of residents: 30 Jun 2026 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nationality | Mainland | | | | Islands | |
| Sudan | Malakasa | 1,071 | Koutsochero | 813 | Leros | 240 |
| Afghanistan | Alexandria | 255 | Fylakio | 251 | Samos | 423 |
| Bangladesh | Sintiki | 222 | Diavata | 100 | Leros | 480 |
| Iraq | Polykastro | 159 | Vagiochori | 149 | Samos | 10 |
| South Sudan | Malakasa | 236 | Serres | 77 | Kos | 33 |

Source: Ministry of Migration and Asylum, Reply to parliamentary question, 17 Aug 2026

Out of a total of 15,273 people living in RIS camps at the end of the first half of 2026, **2,324** were children. Of those, **236** were unaccompanied and **88** were separated from their parents. The number of children per RIC / CCAC was as follows:




Source: Ministry of Migration and Asylum, Reply to parliamentary question, 17 Aug 2026

# Constant gaps in reception conditions

## Zero financial allowances for one and a half years

The Ministry of Migration and Asylum confirms yet again that no financial allowance for daily expenses is provided to asylum seekers, as an integral part of material reception conditions in accordance with the law. Cash assistance has been halted for one and a half years, from March 2025 to present, without any information or prospect of imminent reinstatement.

Statistics on the number of people requesting cash assistance are alarming in light of the above circumstances. According to the RIS, the financial allowance had been requested by no more than **5,286** out of the total of 14,624 camp residents eligible for reception conditions at the end of the first half of 2026.

## Staffing of medical services

A total of **58** doctors and **37** psychologists were deployed in RIS camps as of 30 June 2026. Doctors and other medical staff profiles are deployed in camps under the EU-funded "Hippocrates" programme.

| Doctors & psychologists in the 10 largest camps: 30 Jun 2026 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Camp | Residents | Vulnerable | GPs | Paediatricians | Gynaecologists | Psychologists |
| Malakasa | 1,643 | 678 | 2 | | | 3 |
| Samos | 1,251 | 289 | 2 | | | 1 |
| Leros | 1,028 | 315 | 1 | 1 | | 2 |
| Koutsochero | 901 | 359 | 2 | 1 | | 1 |
| Kos | 855 | 240 | 1 | | | 1 |
| Polykastro | 830 | 223 | 1 | 1 | | 2 |
| Ritsona | 817 | 336 | | | 1 | 2 |
| Diavata | 683 | 93 | 3 | 1 | | 2 |
| Serres | 618 | 265 | 2 | 1 | | |
| Kavala | 583 | 183 | 2 | | | |

Source: Ministry of Migration and Asylum, Reply to parliamentary question, 17 Aug 2026

Staffing of medical units remains extremely low in the ten RIS camps with the largest population of residents, with one doctor for over **800** people in Malakasa, Leros, Kos, Polykastro and Ritsona (gynaecologist no less).

Two RIS camps, Filippiada and Pyrgos, had no doctor at all at the end of the first half of 2026, while Ritsona, Vagiochori and Katsikas had no general practitioner. Camps with a high population of children such as Malakasa, Samos, Kos and Kavala had no paediatrician.

Critical gaps persist as regards mental health care as well. None of the camps has a psychiatrist. Six camps (Fylakio, Serres, Kavala, Thermopyles, Pyrgos, Filippiada) had no psychologist.

The number of interpreters deployed in RIS camps was **179** at the end of June 2026, compared to 168 at the end of 2025. Interpretation services are still provided exclusively via emergency staff deployment by the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA).

## No alternatives for vulnerable people

The RIS identified **8,322** people as vulnerable persons in reception and identification ("screening") procedures in the first half of 2026. At the end of the semester, there were **4,822** people identified as vulnerable living in the camps, i.e. almost $^1/_3$ of the population in the reception system. Main categories were victims of torture and other forms of violence (3,390), single-parent families (365) and seriously ill persons (273).

Living conditions of people identified as vulnerable still do not differ from those afforded to the remaining camp population, despite the Greek state's duty to grant them special reception conditions.[5] Encampment remains the sole form of housing provided to people seeking asylum in Greece, regardless of vulnerability.[6] In fact, the state now also pursues encampment as a solution for unaccompanied children channelled into accelerated and border procedures.[7]

The predicament of survivors of torture and violence merits special consideration. These persons are entitled to necessary treatment and rehabilitation under international, EU and domestic law.[8] At the end of June 2026, however, almost half of the 3,390 classified victims of torture and violence were residing in large camps such as Malakasa, Koutsochero, Ritsona, Leros and Serres, without any financial support and with extremely limited medical and psychological support services.

5 Article 38(5) Pact Implementation Act.

6 The "Stirixis" programme has yet to be set up, more than three years after the government's assurances for a programme restoring at least 500 accommodation places in apartments in urban settings for vulnerable asylum seekers after it terminated the ESTIA programme at the end of 2022.

7 Article 78(4) Pact Implementation Act.

8 Article 41(1) Pact Implementation Act; Article 14 Convention against Torture.

Iasonos Kalampoka 30,
82132, Chios, Greece
+30 22711 03721
info@rsaegean.org

**rsaegean.org**

RSA REFUGEE SUPPORT AEGEAN