

The Greece Cash Programme during COVID 19 Response

June 2020



UNHCR works with the Greek Authorities, local authorities and NGOs to provide cash assistance to asylum-seekers in Greece through:



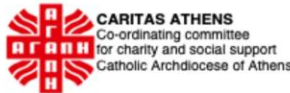
For providing cash assistance in Greece UNHCR works with partners



Co-funded by the
Asylum, Migration and
Integration Fund of the
European Union



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



Distributing Cash Assistance

A monthly allowance is provided to cover **basic needs** via multi purpose grants dispersed via **prepaid cards** that can be used in ATMs & PoS.

The **entitlement** has been calculated taking into account the **market prices** for covering basic needs. The MPGs DO NOT cover shelter/housing costs;

- Amounts vary based on the **number of household members**;
- Allows beneficiaries to cover their basic needs in a **dignified** manner;
- Supports the **local economy** and strengthens the potential for **social inclusion, acceptance and integration**;

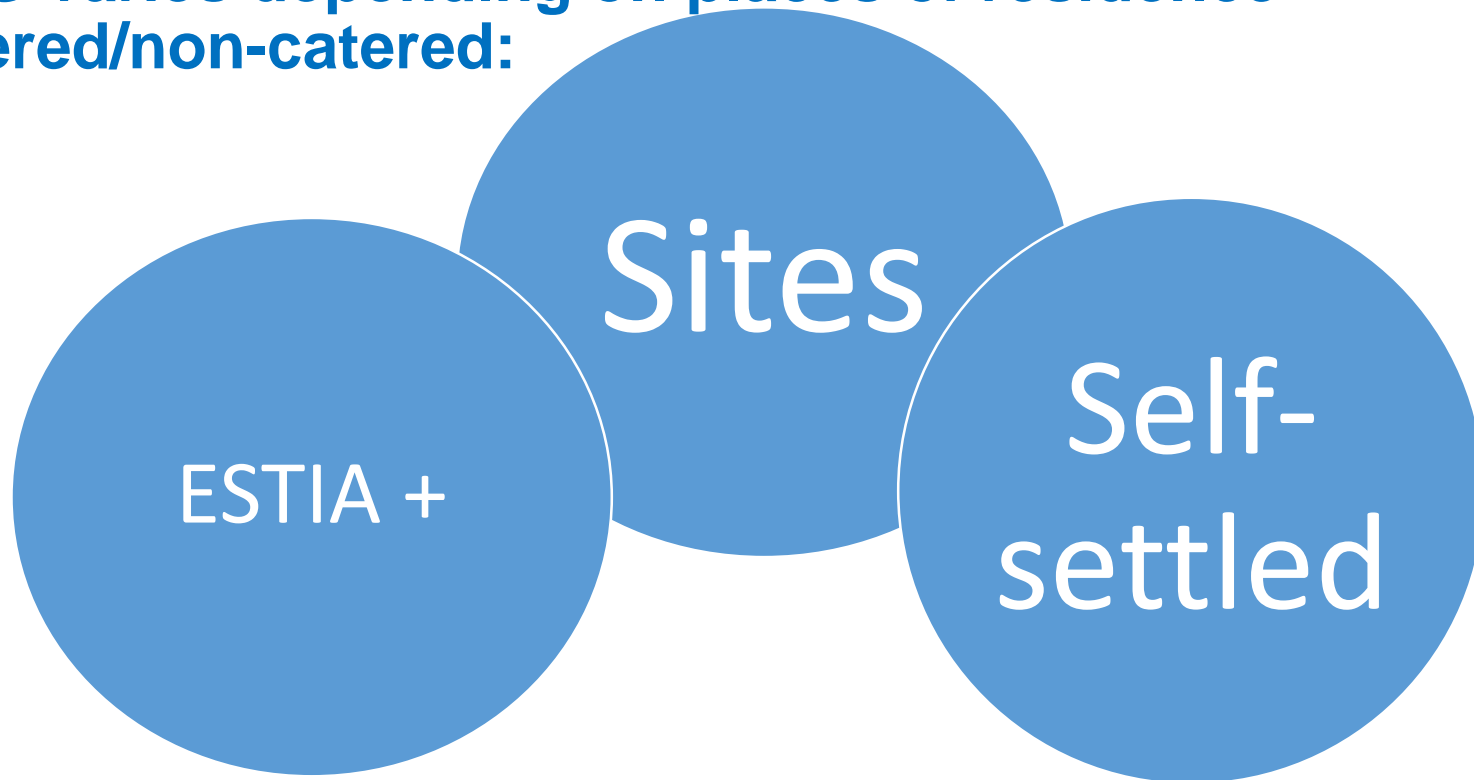
Implementing Cash Assistance in the EU

Cash Programme part of the humanitarian response to Third Country Nationals entering Greece

UNHCR and partners are supporting Greece to meet its obligations in line with the Reception Directive (2013/33EU)

- The reception directive has been transposed into national legislation (L 4540/2018).
- A ministerial decision (6282/2019) regulates the issuance of cash assistance, eligibility etc.

MPG varies depending on places of residence – catered/non-catered:



Greece monthly cash assistance



98,139 people have received cash assistance for May 2020

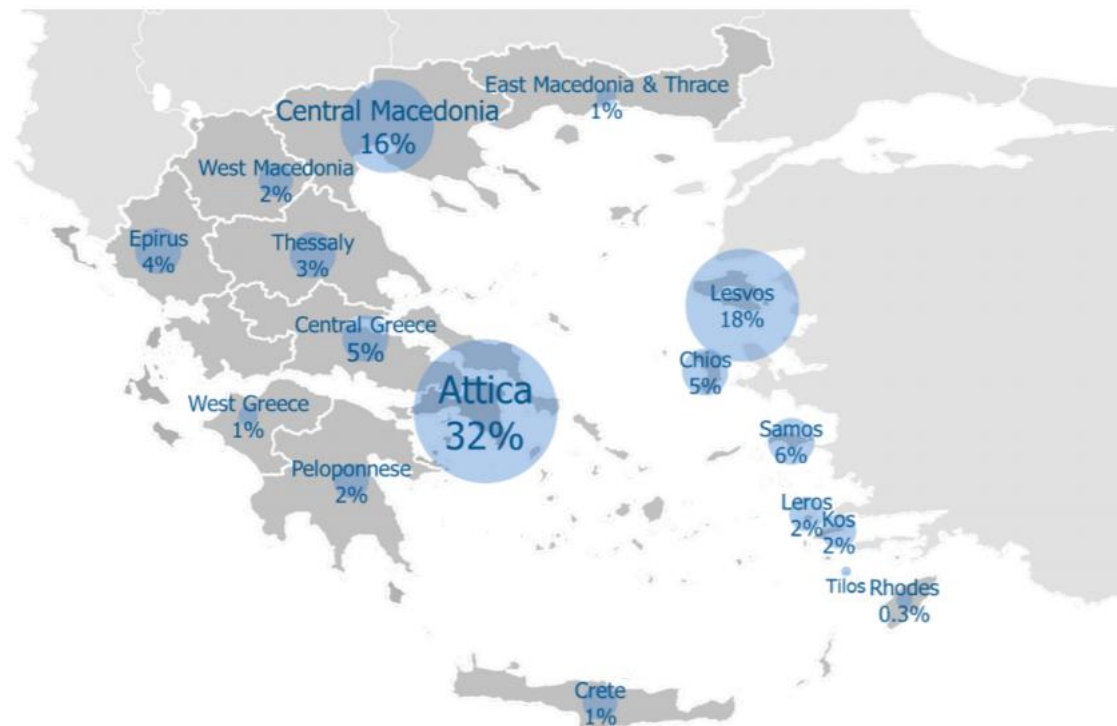


50,272 cards paid by UNHCR for May 2020

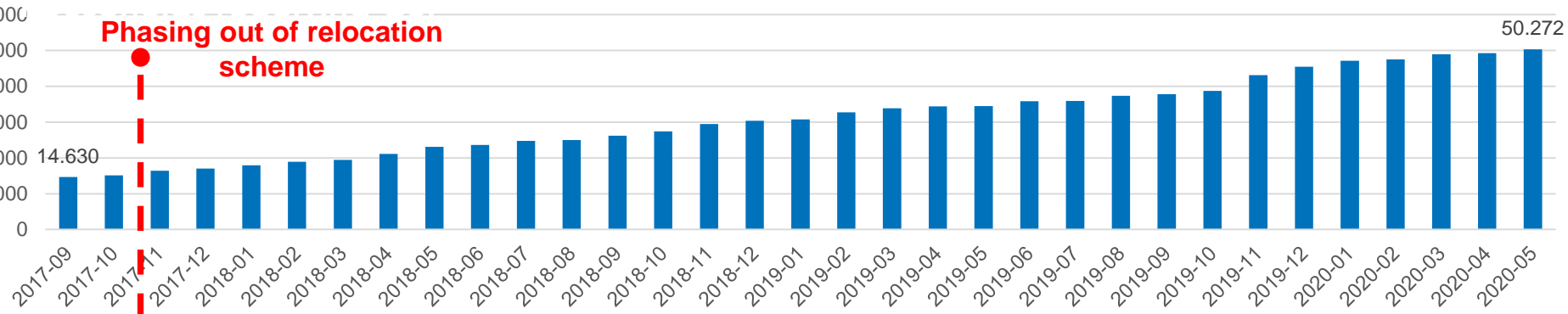


€9,62 million amount transferred by UNHCR for May 202

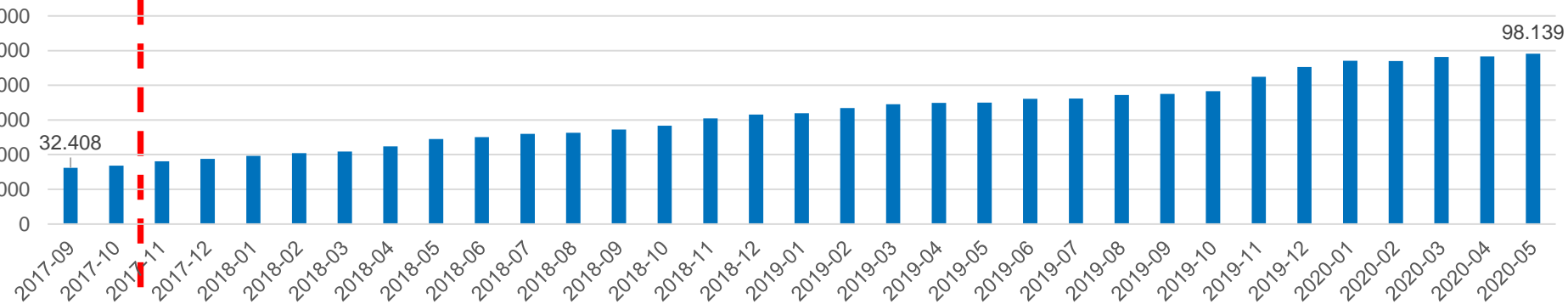
Geographical Distribution of CBI beneficiaries



Cards

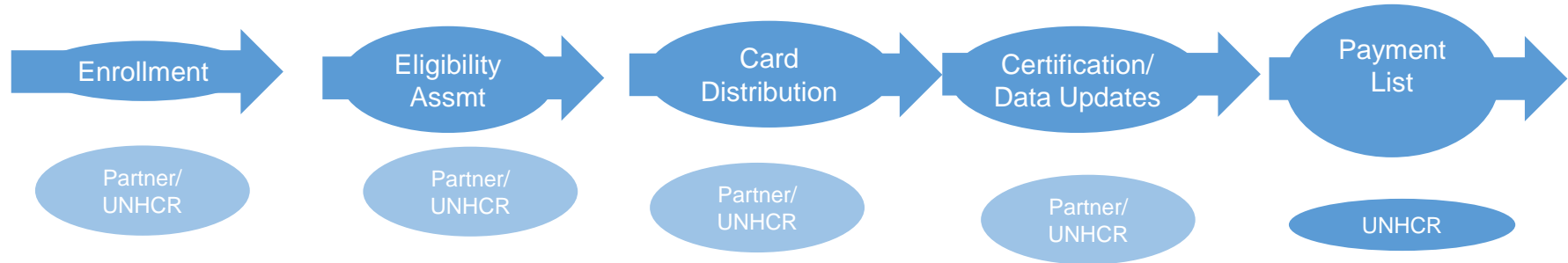


Individuals



Cash Programme: pre-payment activities

Who does What During the COVID 19 Response?



Remote enrolment:

interviews are taking place via Whatsapp, Viber. Photos of individuals and official documents are shared and stored online (OneDrive). Minimum data entry for enrolment to reduce duration of the process.

Grace period is granted due to the suspension of activities of the Asylum Service and the Administrative Courts,

Issuance of cards: 2 clerks with one on site and one working remotely.

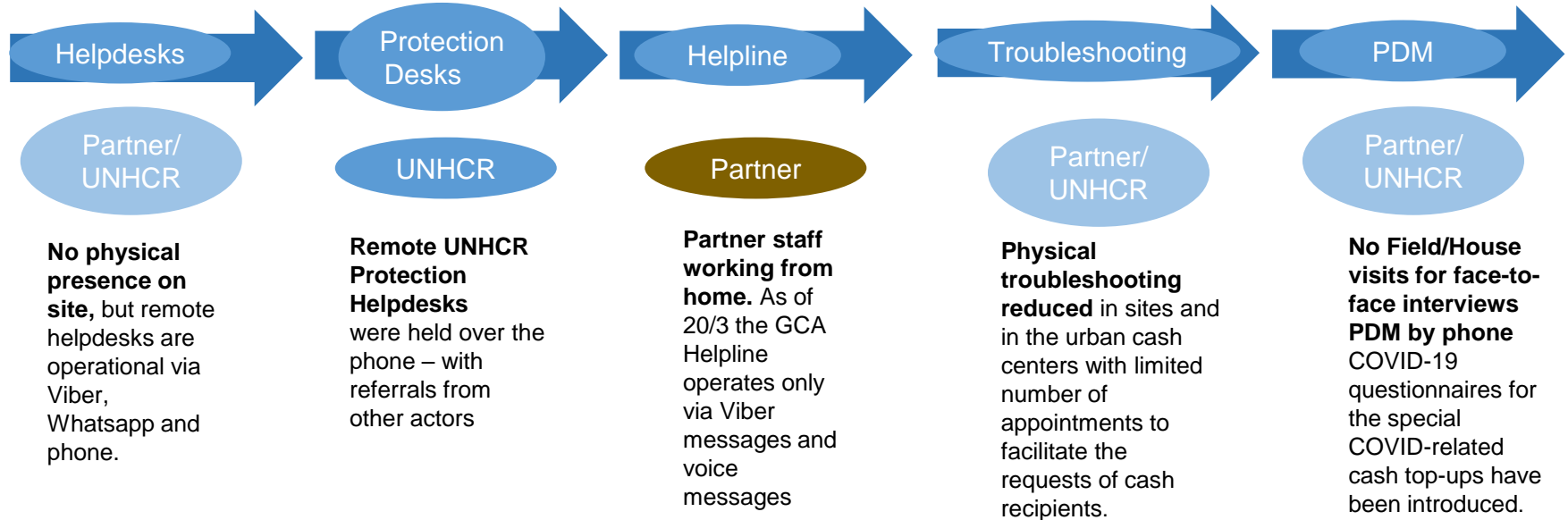
Certification modalities

Physical certification has been suspended; desk, virtual, and phone certification facilitate reduced physical appointments and avoid overcrowding at the cash centers.

No changes.

Cash Programme: pre-payment activities

Who does What During the COVID 19 Response?



Provision of COVID-19 related Cash March 2020

In March 2020, UNHCR provided in the form of a **one-off cash transfer**, a hygiene and connectivity supplement aiming to cover some of the COVID-19 related additional needs.

46,182

of households assisted
with Connectivity Top-Up

91,872

of beneficiaries assisted
with Connectivity Top-Up

17,834

of households assisted
with Hygiene Top-Up

31,557

of beneficiaries assisted
with Hygiene Top-Up



0.5 M

Euro distributed in
total

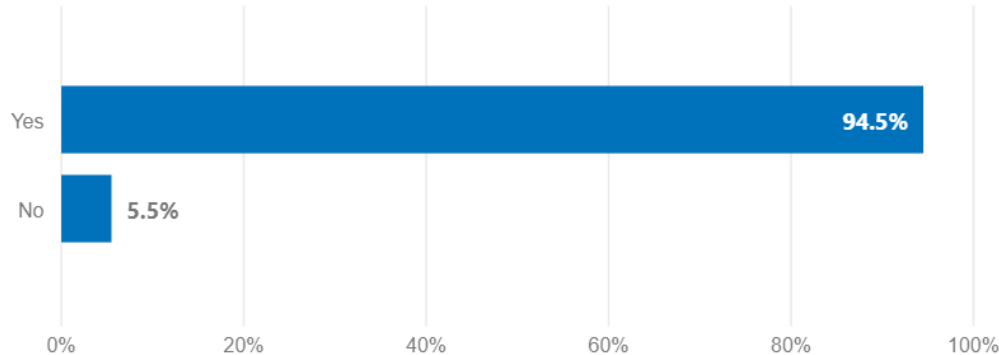
0.4 M

Euro distributed in Islands

UNHCR's cash assistance programme is funded by the European Commission

I. COVID-19 knowledge and own perception of risk

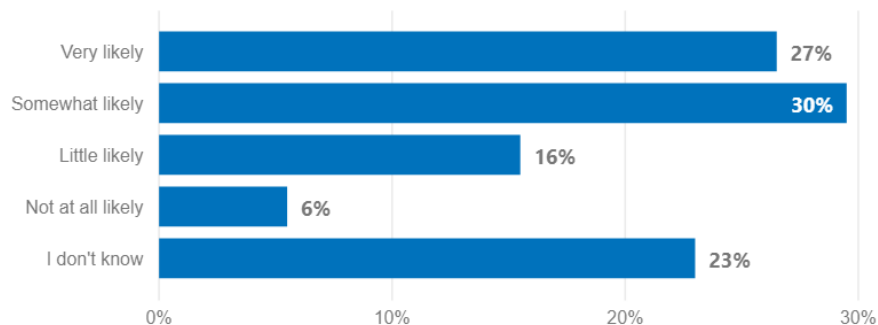
D2. Have you received information about how you and your family can protect from COVID-19? (i.e. preventive measures such as hand-washing)



94.5% of recipients stated they received information about how to protect themselves from COVID-19

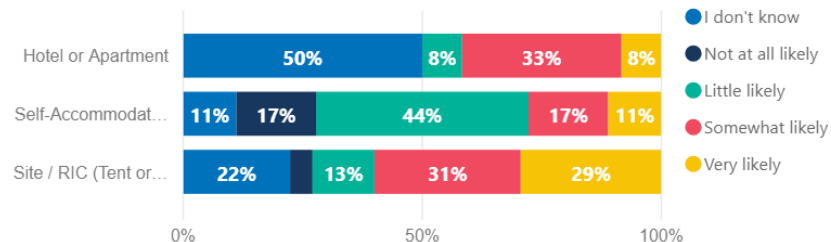
I. COVID-19 knowledge and own perception of risk

D3. How likely do you think it is that you or people in your family might become infected with COVID-19 in the near future?



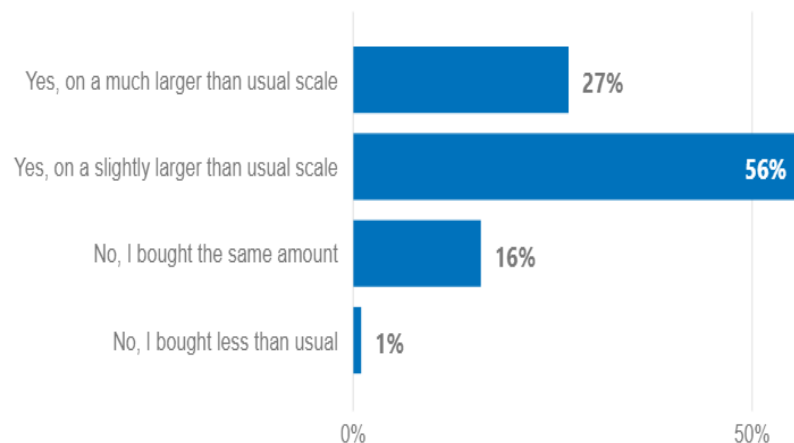
57% of recipients think that a COVID-19 infection in their family is **somewhat or very likely**, the rate is higher among those living at sites who are also the majority of those interviewed

D3. How likely do you think it is that you or people in your family might become infected with COVID-19 in the near future?

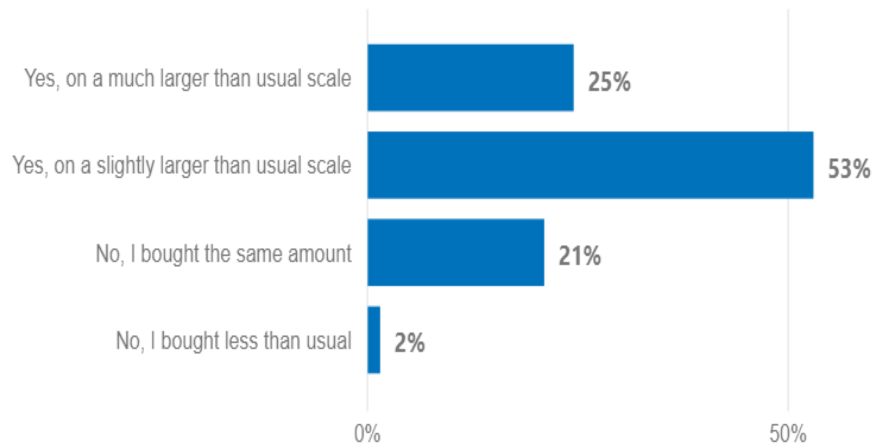


II. COVID-19 NFI Expenditure patterns, trends and unmet needs

E1. During the pandemic, have you bought personal hygiene supplies (soap, laundry soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, etc.) on a larger than usual scale?



E2. During the pandemic, have you bought cleaning supplies (bleach, etc.) on a larger than usual scale?



- **83%** of recipients bought more **personal hygiene items** than usual scale
- **78%** of recipients bought more **cleaning items** than usual scale
- **78%** of recipients bought **disinfectants and sanitizers** as preventive measure for COVID-19
- **72%** of recipients bought **personal protection equipment**

II. COVID-19 NFI Expenditure patterns, trends and unmet needs (June 2020)

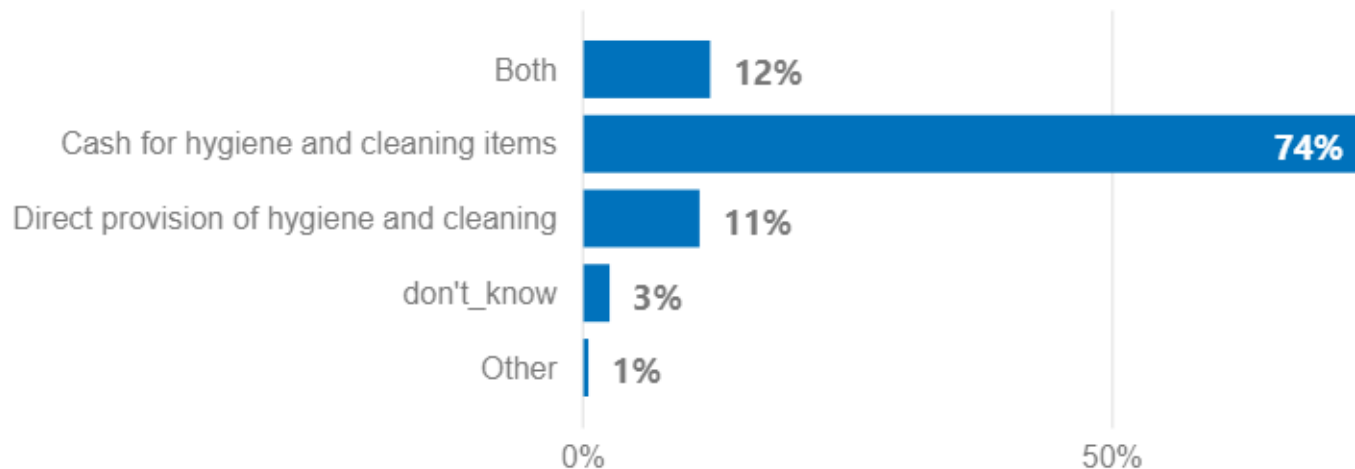
Household size	E6 How much have you spent in the past month (in Euros) on your standard selection of hygiene & cleaning items
1 (Single)	22.60
2-4 HH members (Smaller households)	27.14
5-8 HH members (Larger households)	43.50

Household size	E7. How much extra have you spent in the past month (in Euros) on your hygiene, cleaning
1 (Single)	17.53
2-4 HH members (Smaller households)	21.73
5-8 HH members (Larger households)	33.13

- Cash recipients state that their average expense for **hygiene & cleaning items** was **27 euros per month** for their standard selection, with an average **1.5x to two-fold increase** extra spending due to the COVID-19 situation
- Outcome PDM data also shows that **spending on hygiene and cleaning items**, as well as, **water**, became highly more common

IV. Beneficiary preference

G2. Given a choice, how would you prefer to receive assistance to help your household's hygiene and cleaning needs during the pandemic?



I. Outcome PDM Expenditure patterns (interviews during April 2020)

Expenditure category	No of respondents	% out of total of respondents
Food	394	97.8%
Hygiene items	118	29.3%
Medicine/Health services	102	25.3%
Baby products	94	23.3%
Water	91	22.6%
Rent/ Accommodation	73	18.1%
Mobile phone/communications	65	16.1%
Clothes	39	9.7%
Utilities (electricity, water bills etc.)	37	9.2%
Education – school, fees, uniform, books	5	1.2%
Transportation	5	1.2%
Debt repayment	3	0.7%
Shelter materials (plastic sheeting, mattresses, blankets, other)	1	0.2%

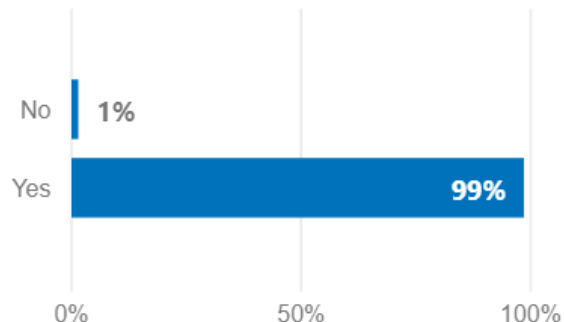
The **second** most commonly reported expenditure category is **hygiene items (29.3%)**, an **almost double increase from the 2019 average of 16%**.

There was also an **almost fourfold increase** in the percentage of households reporting **water** among their expenditure rising from **6% (2019 average) to 22.6%**.

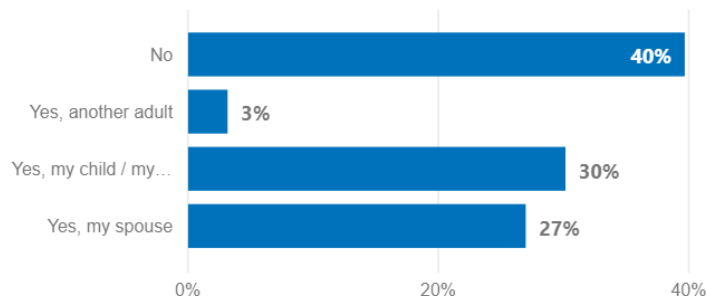
Both increases are even more prominent in sites and are likely to be linked with proactive measures of protection due to the **COVID-19 situation**. Average expense for **hygiene items** was **27 euros per month** and **4 euros per month** for **water**.

I. Phone ownership and usage (overall and during COVID-19)

D1 Is the phone you own a smartphone?



D2.1. [If not single] Do other members of your family that do not have access to a mobile phone borrow your phone for personal calls or to access the internet?ne in your household?

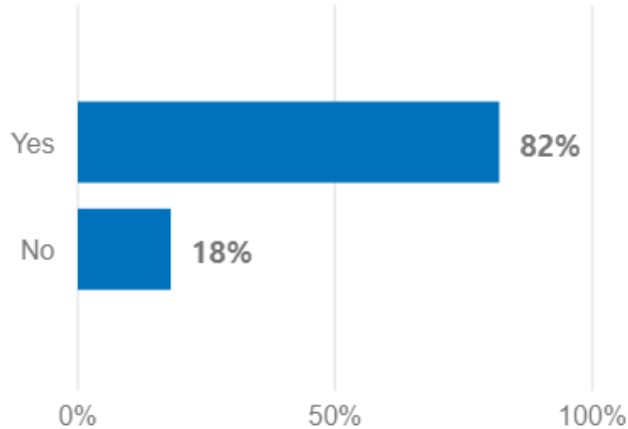


60% of beneficiaries state that there are other members of their family that do not have access to a mobile phone and borrow their phone, indicating **lower individual level access to communication, accessing info, etc. across the household.**

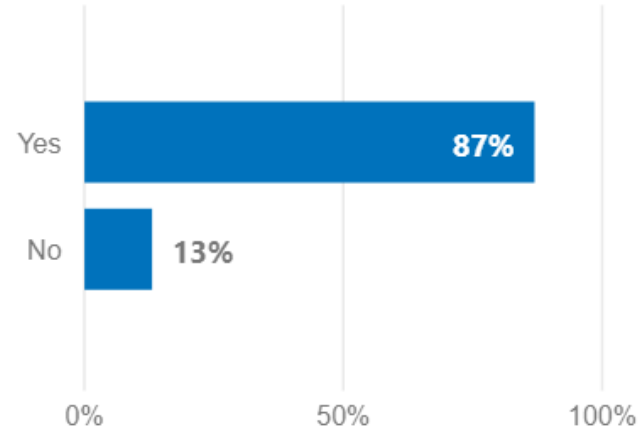
59% of beneficiaries have mentioned they access the internet via mobile data, only 9% through Wifi, and 34% both through wifi and mobile data. Those who mentioned wifi do so mostly in communal spaces.

I. Phone ownership and usage (overall and during COVID-19)

D4. During the COVID-19 pandemic, do you use your phone for communicating with family and friends more than you did...



D5. During the COVID-19 pandemic, do you spend more time online than you did before?



II. Use of COVID-19 related information sources

Where do you get information about the COVID-19 crisis?	No of respondents	% of respondents out of total (203 respondents)
Social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Whatsapp group)	148	73%
Via NGOs and other staff (ie social workers) that support me	77	38%
Websites from international media	67	33%
Websites from the country where I am from	44	22%
Via conversations with friends/family/neighbors	39	19%
Websites from Greece	26	13%
Television stations	21	10%

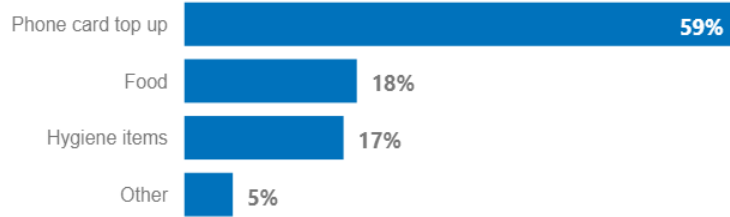
Most beneficiaries use a mix of sources to access information about the COVID-19 crisis.

Some pattern variation occurs among those in self-accommodation who rely very little on NGO and other staff as a source of information.

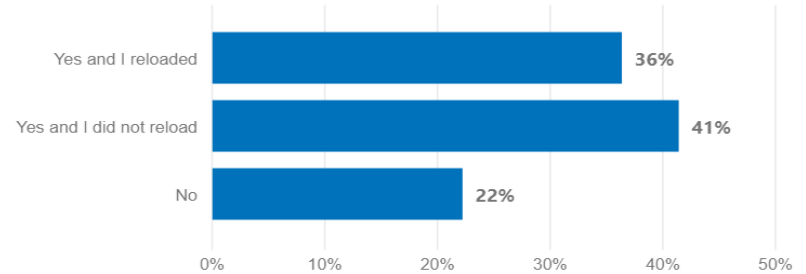
Negligible variation based on age & gender.

III. Outcome assessment

F1. Did the 5/10 Euro top up for connectivity contribute to your expenses for:

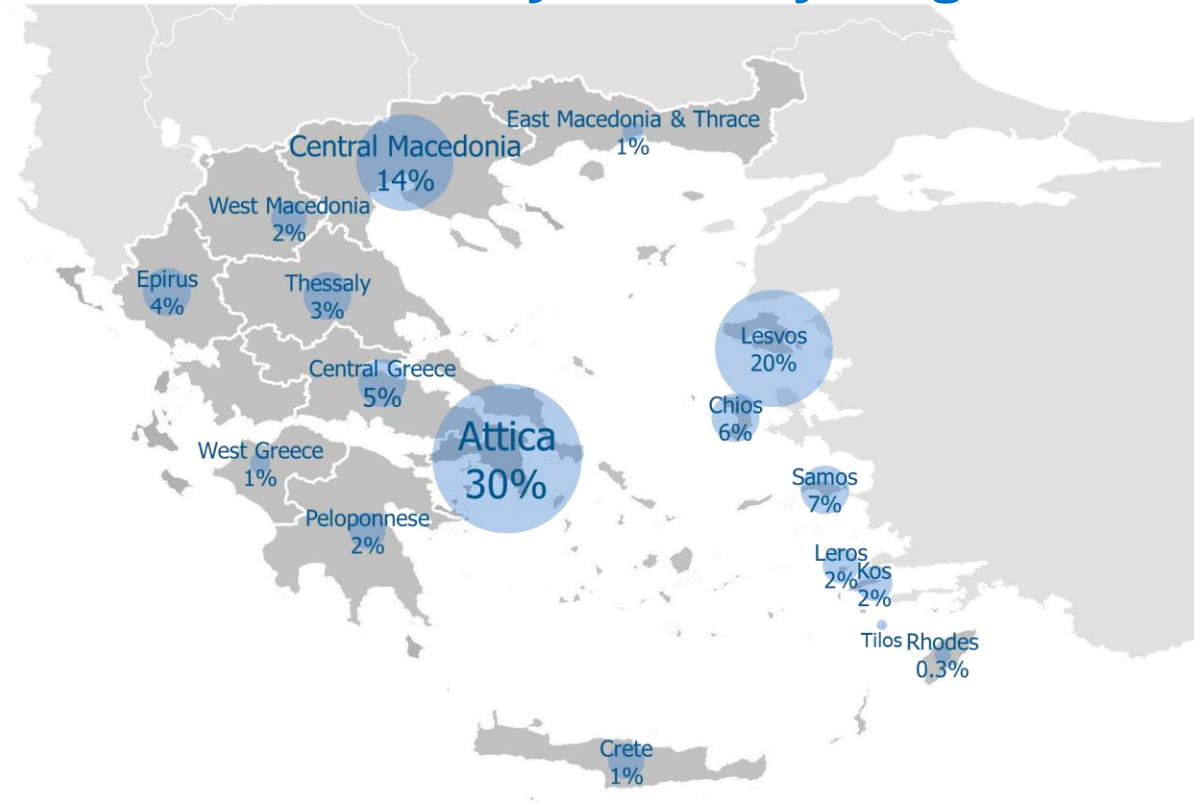


F6. Did you run out of mobile data on your phone within 30 days since your payment?



- **41% stated that their connectivity top up contributed towards expenses other than phone top up** as well, mainly towards food and hygiene items expenses.
- **78% ran out of mobile data** within a month's time, **almost half reloaded**
- **93%** of beneficiaries stated the connectivity top up contributed to meeting their needs for communicating with friends and family, **90%** mentioned it contributed to meeting their needs for seeking COVID-19 related information, in both cases most rated it as a slight to moderate contribution

Connectivity Cash by Region



Hygiene Cash by Region



Thank You!