

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Georgia is opening its airspace to international flights starting July 1
- Georgia is launching a large-scale study into the COVID-19 impact on social and political life, human rights, children's rights, and legal processes. [More...](#)
- StopCov fund has accumulated GEL 133 591 201 as of 5 June 2020

650  
Total recovered

805  
Confirmed cases

13  
Total deaths

2955  
People in quarantine

Source: [www.stopcov.ge](http://www.stopcov.ge) 5 June 2020

## Georgia situation overview

The first patient with COVID-19 was diagnosed in Georgia on 26 February 2020. Despite early decisive actions of the Government, the number of confirmed and suspected cases continued to grow triggering the Government to declare a state of emergency on 21 March, closing borders and airports, restricting movement inside the country, banning mass gatherings and maintaining closure of all schools, kindergartens and universities. A nationwide curfew was declared, and further restrictive measures were introduced on 31 March and a lockdown was imposed on the country's four largest cities on 15 April. In order to avoid further community spread, the state of emergency was extended until May 22, including the ban on inter-city travel. The Government gradually lifts restrictions based on epidemiological situation and state of emergency has ended on May 23. The Parliament passed a draft law allowing to impose restrictions on fundamental human rights without declaring the state of emergency. To date, Abkhazia reported 28 cases, with 15 recoveries and one death. A state of emergency was put in place on 28 March and was lifted as of 21 April.

## Coordination arrangements

- The Prime Minister of Georgia has established and leads an Inter-Governmental Coordination Council to combat the COVID-19 crisis.

## Mitigation and response

### Gradual reopening measures taken by the Government of Georgia

- Public municipal transport, including Tbilisi Metro resumed on 29 May.
- All kinds of stores, shopping malls, agricultural markets and restaurants with outdoor spaces reopened on 1 June;
- Hotels will be allowed to reopen after their compliance with the regulations are checked and approved by labour inspectorate, restaurants will resume indoor table service and intercity transport services will resume on 8 June.

### Response by the UN agencies, funds and programmes (AFPs)

- WHO, together with UNICEF has finalized the action plan for COVID-19 communication in minority regions of Georgia and prepared third version of the Risk Communication and Community Engagement Strategy presented for review to the national counterparts. WHO is continuing regular coordination with RCCE working group;

- WHO and UNICEF presented the third wave of the Behavior Change survey to the national counterparts that captures trends in public awareness and behavior;
- In close collaboration with NCDC, the process of equipping the public health emergency operation center (PHEOC) is in progress;
- WHO is preparing a batch of locally sourced infection prevention and control supplies (alcohol-based hand rub, antibacterial soap, chlorine-based cleaning solution) which has passed WHO quality assurance process to be distributed to the designated healthcare facilities;
- WHO is developing a targeted virtual training package for the designated laboratories in Georgia to ensure quality of COVID-19 detection;
- Delivery of videoconferencing equipment to the designated healthcare and laboratory facilities to enable virtual trainings and coaching is in process.
- On 1 June, the Parliament of Georgia announced the expansion of the 111 hotline to cover issues related to adolescents and young people's mental health and psychosocial wellbeing, with focus on substance abuse and gambling. Following the press conference, a roundtable discussion was held with participation of the Speaker of Parliament, Chairperson of the Human Rights and Civil Integration Committee, UNICEF Representative, ambassadors and young people to discuss the challenges that adolescents are facing during COVID-19.
- On 1 June, Child Protection Day, video addresses by the UNICEF Representative and the National Ambassador Nikoloz Rachveli highlighted the deprivations that children and families face during the COVID-19 pandemic including lack of access to clean water and basic hygiene conditions and lack of access to internet and educational resources.
- A webinar on upholding child rights, including in emergency times was delivered by UNICEF Representative for professors of Ilia State University, in addition to lawyers and judges.
- The Facebook group for young people - Debates for Education - hosted a webinar with the UNICEF Representative on the right to education during the COVID-19 pandemic. The webinar was streamed in the Facebook group with 500+ youth members.
- "Tips and tricks for studying while at home" – a video tutorial was prepared in partnership with UNICEF.
- UNICEF completed a Shock Responsive Social Protection Feasibility Assessment and will be presenting the findings to the Prime Minister's Office shortly.
- UNICEF is completing an assessment on the potential impact of the COVID-19 on the most vulnerable groups, with special attention given to children. Simulations of cash transfer programmes that could be implemented to alleviate the impact of COVID-19 are complete. Currently data verification and planning of the next steps is ongoing.
- UN Women conducted Rapid Gender Assessment (RGA) of the COVID-19 Situation in Georgia. The main objective of the initiative was to inform initial response planning to address main challenges and different dimensions of how men and women experience and cope with the pandemic. The RGA report is being finalized and will be shared with interested parties in the coming weeks.
- UN Women completed grant-giving cycle for women to start or up-grade their small businesses with the consideration of the COVID-19 context; In partnership with local women's NGOs Kakheti Regional Development Foundation and Taso Foundation some 48 women from Eastern regions of Georgia received financial support (total amount GEL 126,743) for their business initiatives. Further another UN Women partner Georgian Farmers' Association awarded GEL 91,500 to some 20 women from Western Georgia in agriculture and hospitality sectors to get prepared to post-pandemic period.

**To contribute to regular Situation Reports and to be included in the mailing lists, please contact:  
David Mushkudiani, UN RC Office, [david.mushkudiani@un.org](mailto:david.mushkudiani@un.org)**

- On June 3, UN Women organized a Zoom meeting for women entrepreneurs from Armenia and Georgia who are working in the sewing business to exchange experience on how they are coping with the current situation and how they adapted their businesses to the COVID-19.
- FAO launched information campaign on the COVID-19 Emergency Response grants. Financed through EU/ENPARD.
- FAO experts and agronomists help Georgian farmers amid COVID-19 by sharing best agricultural practices of land preparation and production. Special attention is given to the women farmers. Financed through EU/ENPARD
- FAO reviews applications for small matching grants in Ateni, Phlevi, Tvishi and Sori communities. Funded by Austrian Development Cooperation.
- UNDP and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) are supporting the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport in resuming vocational education and training for farmers that was suspended during the COVID-19 lockdown. With USD 400,000 in SDC funding, two new activities have been added to help Georgia's rural economy overcome the pandemic shock. Up to 1,000 farmers will receive short-term training and retraining in 12 agricultural professions, including farming, bio-farming and farm management, tea production, cheese-making, horticulture, viticulture, winemaking, beekeeping, plant protection, cattle breeding and poultry farming. The assistance will cover ten agriculture VET (A-VET) colleges and training centres in nine regions and the Ajara Autonomous Republic.
- In addition, UNDP and SDC will help six vocational colleges and their branches in Batumi, Poti, Mestia, Jvari, Zugdidi and Mtskheta to prepare for the new academic year and accommodate double the normal number of students, since the spring term was cancelled owing to COVID-19. Vocational colleges will be provided with equipment and teaching supplies needed for vocational programmes in farming, beekeeping, vegetable and fruit production and forestry.
- With EU support through the ENPARD program, UNDP helped Borjomi Municipality to draft a Tourism Development Master Plan aimed at boosting spa and ski tourism and creating local jobs. The Plan addresses the challenges that COVID-19 poses to the local tourism industry. The new plan was consulted widely before it was approved by the Borjomi Local Council.
- With funding from Switzerland and Austria, the annual cycle of the international youth entrepreneurial program Social Impact Award 2020 streamed its online sessions with over 600 registered participants in six regions of Georgia and in Tbilisi. The winners will be named in October 2020. This ten-month program aims to inspire a network of youth role models.
- As part of its partnership with the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure to implement the Decentralization Strategy and Action Plan, UNDP collected data online from 64 municipalities on the obstacles they face in fully exercising their competencies. Analysis of the data will generate recommendations for policymakers on possible amendments to policies and legislation. Funding was provided by Denmark, Switzerland and Austria.
- With funding from Denmark to promote youth activism and citizen participation at the local level, UNDP awarded funding to 11 youth-led small-scale projects in Tchiatura and Tkibuli municipalities, with activities adjusted to include social distancing and preventive measures. The projects will be implemented by citizens themselves in close partnership with local authorities. An online launch on 4 June brought together youth, CSOs and the municipalities.
- With funding from Norway, UNDP issued grants to two well-established CSOs to respond to the immediate needs of members of the LGBTQI+ community in the COVID-19 crisis. Covering Tbilisi, Kutaisi and Batumi, the intervention will assist over 200 beneficiaries who face high socio-economic risk. Through its CSO

**To contribute to regular Situation Reports and to be included in the mailing lists, please contact:  
David Mushkudiani, UN RC Office, [david.mushkudiani@un.org](mailto:david.mushkudiani@un.org)**

partners, UNDP is providing shelter to victims of domestic violence, ensuring access to critical medical assistance, and providing essential food and material needs to vulnerable community members. Community-specific information on the pandemic and support services is also being distributed.

- With funding from Norway, UNDP issued grant to the Human Rights Education and Monitoring Center (EMC) to document the state of self-employed and informal labor in Georgia. The study will analyse the impact of COVID-19 on this large group, but longer-term challenges facing the self-employed, such as short-term contracts, lack of legal protections and inability to organize, will also be studied. A multi-media information campaign will also be conducted to inform the public about the self-employed and possible policy solutions.
- Under the UN joint program on disability, UNDP supported the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs in preparing and adopting protocols and guidelines for mental healthcare providers to protect patients and personnel from COVID-19. With this support, the Ministry adopted national standards on safe patient management in mental health in-patient and out-patient services during COVID-19, and mental health and COVID-19 national clinical practice guidelines.
- A facility to resolve labour disputes triggered by the COVID-19 crisis was launched on 1 June by UNDP with EU funding. Run by the Mediators Association of Georgia (MAG) in cooperation with Georgian universities and the Georgian Bar Association, the initiative offers individuals and companies mediation services to manage and resolve their employment disputes in a collaborative manner. The service will be subsidized for three months as a pilot and is also available online. The aim is to reduce tensions surrounding difficult employment situations and minimize the financial burdens on employees and employers.
- With EU support, UNDP is providing the Parliament of Georgia with annual access to the Cisco WebEx platform to enable parliamentary work to continue remotely on issues requiring broad consultation and participation by different stakeholders, including on electoral reform. Despite the lifting of the State of Emergency and related restrictions, the Parliament continues to collaborate with partners and stakeholders online to minimize COVID-19 risks. The online platform will also be used by the Parliament's Training Centre to facilitate distance learning and internship programs. The initiative is co-funded by USAID's Good Governance Initiative.
- Under the EU-funded ENPARD project in Abkhazia, UNDP selected six projects (half of them run by women) for up to USD 15,000 in funding aimed at protecting agricultural livelihoods threatened by the pandemic. The grant program is organized by the Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD). The six projects are located in Sukhumi, Gagra, Gulripshi and Ochamchire districts and cover activities including setting up greenhouses, flower cultivation, and dried fruit processing. A second call for applications has resulted in the pre-selection of five additional projects which will be visited during the coming week by the CARD staff.
- UNDP's COVID-19 support to conflict-affected communities continued with a visit on 25 May by the UNDP Head to the "Vector" collective center for IDPs in Zugdidi. With USD 80,000 in funding from UNDP, the Georgian Charity Humanitarian Centre "Abkhazeti" (CHCA) is providing support to 4,000 vulnerable people living in 100 collective centers in the regions of Shida Kartli, Imereti and Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti. Support includes regular disinfection of the premises; provision of COVID-19 information; and distribution of food parcels, cleaning supplies and protective equipment. In the past week, 12 collective centers were disinfected; COVID-19 safety coordination meetings were organized with female community leaders in 12 IDP settlements; and orientation training was conducted for 15 community leaders.
- UNDP also provided medical supplies, including pulse oximeters, digital thermometers and hand sanitizer, to Rukhi Hospital near Zugdidi. Rukhi is a designated COVID-19 treatment facility that was opened this year near the dividing line and is currently caring for 11 patients.

**To contribute to regular Situation Reports and to be included in the mailing lists, please contact:  
David Mushkudiani, UN RC Office, [david.mushkudiani@un.org](mailto:david.mushkudiani@un.org)**

- With funding from UNDP, the CSO Society for Future Generation (SFG) provided medical and hygienic supplies to healthcare providers across Abkhazia. The shipment included: respiratory masks, gloves, medical gowns and protective coveralls with a total value of GEL 28,000; medicines worth GEL 8,000 and 3,000 copies of COVID-19 information leaflets.
- Through the NGO “Association Peaceful and Business Caucasus” (APBC), UNDP organized three online consultations between 23 medical staff from Gali, Ochamchire and Tkvarcheli hospitals and specialists from the Kutaisi Infectious Disease Hospital and the Imereti office of NCDC. Topics discussed included preventive measures for COVID-19, symptoms and treatment of the disease. Funding was provided by USAID under the Horizons project.
- UNHCR Georgia provided COVID emergency cash assistance to 150 households/ 318 individuals, including asylum seekers, refugees, humanitarian status holders and stateless persons;
- UNHCR Georgia continues to provide food assistance to the 57 asylum-seekers living at the Martkopi Reception Center, at the request of the GoG. UNHCR Georgia with partner “World Vision International” also supports asylum- seeker children in the centre with extra educational support (catch up classes) and provides on-line psychological counselling.
- UNHCR Georgia with partners continues to provide legal and social assistance and consultations/counselling to the refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs and stateless persons
- In Abkhazia, UNHCR supported 579 vulnerable households with fuel to enable last opportunities for ploughing and sowing. Twenty liters of fuel per family will be complemented by 50 kg of fertilizers to be distributed in June. The support is needed due to the very stretched resources of the Gali population caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and to ensure that livelihoods and food security are not severely impacted later in the year.
- On 1-2-June and 3-4 June, OHCHR delivered two sets of trainings for lawyers of the Georgian Bar Association from outside the capital on human rights during emergency situations. Main topics dealt during the trainings were responsibilities of law enforcement officers, including proportionality of the use of force, as well as well human rights and business. 25 lawyers, 14 of whom are women participated in the first training; 23 lawyers, 13 of whom are women participated in the second training.

### Response by international development partners

- EU announces new projects supporting vulnerable groups in the Covid-19 crisis. [More...](#)
- The U.S. Government has committed \$1 million in new USAID funding to support Georgia’s response to COVID-19. The new assistance will be delivered in partnership with UNICEF. [More...](#)

### Important links to follow

#### General:

- <https://hr.un.org/page/coronavirus-disease-covid-19>
- <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>
- <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>
- <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>
- <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/covid-19-outbreak-readiness-and-response>
- <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/strategic-preparedness-and-response-plan-for-the-new-coronavirus>
- Disaster management and contingency planning: <https://www.preventionweb.net/publications/view/2527>
- WHO Whatsapp Thread for Q&A: <http://bit.ly/who-covid19-whatsapp>

**To contribute to regular Situation Reports and to be included in the mailing lists, please contact:  
David Mushkudiani, UN RC Office, [david.mushkudiani@un.org](mailto:david.mushkudiani@un.org)**

**Georgia:**

- Government of Georgia website on COVID-19 <https://stopcov.ge/en>
- National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health [COVID-19 related information, including epidemiology, education materials and regulations: <https://www.ncdc.ge/Pages/User/News.aspx?ID=66254a4e-6c23-49ef-9157-4fcc247db00c>
- Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia hotline: 1505 U
- UNICEF Georgia supported COVID-19 hotline to provide assistance to children and their families: **111**
- Government of Georgia hotline: **144**
- Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs, Emergency and Operative Response Centre: **112**
- COVID-19 Georgia live blog: <https://civil.ge/archives/342486>

To contribute to regular Situation Reports and to be included in the mailing lists, please contact:  
David Mushkudiani, UN RC Office, [david.mushkudiani@un.org](mailto:david.mushkudiani@un.org)