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| |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | **COVID-19 Georgia**  **Situation Report # 11 as of 19 June 2020**  This report was produced by the Office of UN Resident Coordinator in collaboration with UN AFPs and international partners. It covers the period of 13-19 June, 2020. | |
| **HIGHLIGHTS**   * **Domestic services and train service resume on 15 June** * **Coronavirus test expended to new high risk groups on 15 June** * **Gov’t Relaxes Rules on Holding Educational, Sport and Outdoor event on 19 June** * **StopCov fund has accumulated GEL 133 716 766 as of 19 June 2020** |

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| **741**  **Total recovered** | **896**  **Confirmed cases** | **14**  **Total deaths** | **2891**  **People in quarantine** |
| ***Source:*** [***www.stopcov.ge***](http://www.stopcov.ge) ***19 June 2020*** | | | |

**Georgia situation overview**

* 15 June - Domestic tourism resumed upon the [decision](https://www.facebook.com/GeorgianGovernment/videos/3377590752253638/) of the Inter-Agency Coordination Council.

The Georgian Railway, a state-owned company, has resumed train services on the same day. All passengers are obliged to undergo a thermal screening and wear face masks.

The Government has [revised](https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/4896450?publication=0) a list of at-risk groups who are subject to mandatory, free-of-charge COVID-19 testing. The following high-risk professions are included in the updated testing protocol: patients who display COVID-19 symptoms outlined in Health Ministry guidelines; all traced contacts of infected patients; persons who were quarantined or have gone into self-isolation; healthcare workers;

personnel who run special quarantine spaces; screening authorities (customs officers, food security monitors);

laboratory personnel who carry out testing; freight truck drivers (except for transit freights); personnel of correctional facilities; public transportation drivers; conscripts.

* 19 June - The Georgian government has [allowed](https://www.facebook.com/GeorgianGovernment/photos/pcb.1715761538561743/1715760618561835/) holding educational events, such as conferences and seminars, as well as exercising some outdoor sporting activities – rafting, kayaking, canyoning, and other action sports – provided that all participants observe guidelines devised by the Health ministry.

**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**

Detailed report on measure taken by the GoG is translated in English and can be accessed at: [**http://gov.ge/index.php?lang\_id=ENG&sec\_id=41&info\_id=76497**](http://gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=ENG&sec_id=41&info_id=76497)

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

* WHO has initiated distribution of disinfection supplies to the COVID-19 designated healthcare facilities under the USAID supported project;
* WHO is working on equipping Public Health Emergency Operations Center to enhance operational capacities for COVID-19 response coordination;
* Support is provided to NCDC in launching the seroepidemiological studies in several touristic regions of Georgia;
* Results of the fourth wave of the Behaviour Insight Study focusing on monitoring of education, risk perception, preventive behaviours and public trust in Ethnic Minorities during COVID-19 pandemic in Georgia conducted on 27-29 May, covering two regions of Georgia-Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti and four Municipalities (Bolnisi, Marneuli, Akhalkalaki, Ninotsminda), have become available.
* [A multimedia package](https://www.unicef.org/georgia/stories/when-some-questions-are-too-difficult-ask-chatbot-here-help) about young girls developing a chatbot for young people on COVID-19 UNICEF was released on UNICEF Georgia and UNICEF ECA digital platforms.
* The TV programmes on COVID-19 for ethnic minority groups in Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli regions are being aired in partnership with the Association of Regional Media, regional broadcasters Marneuli TV, Parvana TV, Tok TV and NCDC. The programmes include news, TV reports and interviews on safety measures and guidelines on COVID-19 in Azerbaijan, Armenian and Russian languages.
* The digital campaign for young people continued with renewed messaging – how to live with COVID-19 with multiple entertainment platforms and content. The Facebook group for young people – Debates for Education – hosted a live [movie screening](https://www.facebook.com/groups/unicefgeorgia/permalink/3500926009936032/) and post-screening discussion. The selected film provided room for thought about why facts and arguments matter and how knowledge empowers a person.
* Social media content about [Cyber Violence](https://www.facebook.com/unicefgeorgia/videos/271233673954849/?__xts__%5B0%5D=68.ARC2eCUnqxNdZpBK-9Tqb2pJQPcGBnE6qZRz12RmkNEo7C6e38ie3uSze_RghyXWvCGE_edRYMD9N-qPOR3aMDKI7OayTPxkgsSvdzuCoCarqsH1HG0kqa63-TUA4LjSLmYA41A3Stp1xLdNibsqAep6ZVGV8_fDIMzI7p6KQItWwpiuK9u0cimcq8tonb9WDxUa8DQ_YLzr1awYtFsYLs3RsbtdgTme_O5g_uKCYNeslfH0DPdOCCCYoHPqVnQnb4W9bNCzJhWxInkBDvFdxJBU0ysnEoQxEBxps4WXIfbrsVflEdtncXa8oW6F8lgQ__TBlOf6nOThyzDlBthxKe7uN19CkwoE8GY&__tn__=-R) and [Parenting of Children with Disabilities](https://www.unicef.org/georgia/stories/parenting-during-pandemic) during COVID-19 was created and shared.
* Around 50 adolescents participated in an online session organized by UNICEF’s partner organization Kant’s Academy. The interactive session was devoted to ‘Stress and Coaching’ to help participants cope with stress through the synergy of crisis and opportunities, widen their vision and manage to mobilize personal resources during times of COVID-19 pandemic.
* UNICEF in partnership with the NGO ‘Global Initiative on Psychiatry – GIP-T’ developed modules for online sessions for adolescents and their caregivers on the mental and psychosocial issues associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.  The initiative aims at addressing mental health and psychosocial consequences of the pandemic among adolescents living in Tbilisi, Adjara region and Gori.
* Online psychological support was provided to 182 children and 103 caregivers in small group homes and foster care by UNICEF partner Children of Georgia. The support covered distresses caused during and by COVID19 related restrictions/isolation; motional state of children; altered daily routine contributing anxiety; conflict management; violence; challenging behavior.  Consultations and technical assistance are provided to service providers in daycare centres, (re)habilitation programmes, and home visitation services to gradually resume service provision for children with disabilities.
* UNICEF distributed the donation from the Bulgarian Embassy of 50 sets of PPE to 2 small group homes for children with severe disabilities and 2 institutions for children with disabilities.
* UNICEF localized the UNICEF, UNESCO, the World Bank and the World Food Programme Framework for Reopening Schools and are distributing to local stakeholders.
* Preliminary findings of the studies commissioned by UNICEF: ‘Assessment of the potential impact of COVID- 19 on the most vulnerable groups, with a special focus on children’ and ‘Georgia Social Protection System Assessment’  were shared with the National Security Council.
* With UNDP funding, the Charity Humanitarian Centre “Abkhazeti” (CHCA) has been working to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection and to support vulnerable households in IDP collective centres in Shida Kartli, Imereti, and Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti regions. A comprehensive data collection effort has been completed to understand the COVID-related needs of IDPs, covering 500 families with vulnerabilities (elderly people over 65; people with psycho-social issues; pregnant women; and mothers of newborns).
* UNDP continued to organize periodic consultations between Abkhaz and Georgian medical professionals to share information on COVID-19. CSO Society for Future Generation (SFG) facilitated online discussions between specialists from the Tbilisi Infectious Disease Hospital and staff of Sukhumi and Tkvarcheli hospitals on COVID-19 treatment protocols, which have recently been renewed in Georgia. In addition, with USAID funding, the Association “Peaceful and Business Caucasus” (APBC) facilitated three online consultations between the medical personnel of Pitsunda City Hospital, Ochamchire District Hospital, the Sukhumi Sanitary-Epidemiological Station (SES), the Kutaisi Infectious Disease Hospital, NCDC’s Imereti branch office and Kutaisi Maternity Hospital #2. Doctors discussed epidemiology, preventive measures for COVID-19 and clinical detection of the virus.
* As part of the Joint EU-UNDP Programme for Rural Development in Abkhazia, the second round of a stocktaking exercise was completed with the participation of ENPARD beneficiaries and partners. The results, recently compiled, highlight worsening socio-economic conditions, as the effects of pandemic restrictions on trade and travel become more noticeable and market demand decreases. Priorities for support remain rural livelihoods, especially the provision of production inputs for rural businesses.
* In partnership with Rustavi City, UNDP organized a competition for schoolchildren to devise solutions to urban challenges in COVID-19 realities. The “Post-COVID City Solutions Generator” attracted 13 teams composed of 70 children who pitched ideas to the Rustavi Mayor; local representatives from Kutaisi, Khoni, Tkibuli and Gori; and local private sector and development organizations.
* FAO Representative in Georgia, Raimund Jehle covered FAO’s emergency response programmes and activities in his interview for 1st TV Channel of the Public Broadcaster, highlighting COVID-19 Emergency Response Grant Programme for farmers in 22 municipalities of Georgia. EU-funded.
* IOM supported 8 citizens of Iran stranded in Georgia during COVID-19 to return to their native country on a charter flight operated from Tbilisi to Tehran by Qeshm Airlines on 18 June 2020.
* IOM provided cash assistance to respond to the basic needs of migrants from Bangladesh, Moldova and India, stranded in Georgia due to COVID-19.

**Response by international development partners**

* On June 18, leaders of EU member states and six Eastern Partnership countries (Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine), held an online summit, [discussing](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-summit/2020/06/18/) the future of their strategic partnership, as well as the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis.

At the press conference following the discussion, President of the European Council Charles Michel [said](https://audiovisual.ec.europa.eu/en/video/I-192313) the leaders expressed political will “to continue building an area of shared democracy, prosperity and stability, anchored in our shared values, through a rules-based international order and international law.”

Michel stressed that the EU and its partners have demonstrated their solidarity in the times of the novel coronavirus, and that the EU reacted “very quickly” by providing support and means for its partners in the region.

**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>
* UNIDO COVID-19 Industrial Recovery Programme, <https://www.unido.org/news/unido-launches-covid-19-industrial-recovery-programme>
* UNIDO's publication "COVID-19: Digital Transformation and Industrial Recovery" [https://hub.unido.org/sites/default/files/publications/UNIDO-COVID-Digital%20Transformation.pdf](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fhub.unido.org%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fpublications%2FUNIDO-COVID-Digital%2520Transformation.pdf&data=02%7C01%7Cdavid.mushkudiani%40one.un.org%7Cc7195d029f8543e53f0408d8134971cf%7Cb3e5db5e2944483799f57488ace54319%7C0%7C1%7C637280553455506204&sdata=1QgXd0vrliGNiF%2BVE7aPWlH6rqm%2BfeGFQWpK8dnQpJU%3D&reserved=0).

***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](https://www.unicef.org/georgia/press-releases/more-sixty-families-supported-child-hotline-one-week-its-launch): **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>