

HIGHLIGHTS

- Restrictions on International Flights Prolonged till 31 July
- Georgia to Retain Mandatory Quarantine for all Arrivals
- StopCov fund has accumulated GEL 134 284 429 as of 3 July

821
Total recovered

943
Confirmed cases

15
Total deaths

3,080
People in quarantine

Source: www.stopcov.ge July 3 2020

Georgia Situation Overview

- On 25 June, Civil Aviation Agency of Georgia announced that the restrictions on international flights will be prolonged till 31 July. The decision on resuming flights will be made in accordance with the epidemiological situation in Georgia and the rest of the world.
- On 30 June, the mandatory isolation for all arrivals from different states was extended until further notice. All Georgian nationals and their family members (the only group allowed to enter the country) are required to undergo a two-week quarantine in government-designated facilities.
- Wearing face masks in public spaces and observing social distancing remain mandatory.

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

Mitigation measures taken by the Government of Georgia

Detailed report on measures 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

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

- Risk Communication and Community Engagement Strategy was developed by NCDC in close collaboration with WHO and UNICEF, and is now under discussion by the Government of Georgia.
- Communication plan for ethnic minority regions of Georgia, was developed with WHO and UNICEF support for more targeted intervention in the regions. It is also under discussion with the Government of Georgia, pending approval to start implementation process.

- On 22 June the WHO has officially handed over videoconferencing equipment (TV sets, web cameras, accessories) to MoH (as well as 7 healthcare facilities in Georgia), procured with USAID funding and to be used for distance trainings of medical personnel, covering topics of COVID-19 testing, infection prevention and control, and the latest guidance in the field of clinical management.
- On 26 June WHO initiated distance training for lab personnel in Abkhazia, under the USAID supported project. The first training was conducted and the system proved to be fully functional.
- As Georgia begins to ease restrictions, UNICEF is advocating for the reopening of schools to be prioritized. [Release Facebook Twitter](#)
- USAID and UNICEF launched their joint project - Preventing and Responding to COVID-2019 in Georgia - in a moderated video discussion with the USAID Georgia Mission Director and UNICEF Representative.
- A new [project to support psychosocial wellbeing of children and parents](#) during COVID-19 was launched and promoted through a web story, [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).
- In partnership with the Prime Minister's Office, State Ministry of Reconciliation and Equity and local authorities, UNICEF distributed essential food/hygiene boxes to 185 vulnerable households in Akhalkalaki and ABL villages in Samegrelo.
- The UNICEF Representative held meetings with religious leaders of Orthodox and Armenian Apostolic Churches in Samtskhe-Javakheti region to discuss the role of religious leaders in upholding children's rights during COVID-19.
- The UNICEF Representative met with the Public Defender's Office in Samtskhe-Javakheti region to define strategic directions of cooperation during the COVID-19 crisis, including support in identification and response to child rights violations.
- UNICEF initiated a partnership with the Administration of All Muslims to include religious leaders in risk communication and community engagement on COVID-19 in Kvemo Kartli region.
- UNICEF's virtual antenatal care programme is expanding, increasing its reach to 7,180 pregnant women, of which 41% participated in virtual medical consultations.
- Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) training was conducted for 38 primary healthcare nurses and assistants in the Tvarcheli district of Abkhazia.
- In partnership with the Parliament and State Care Agency, the UNICEF-supported child hotline "111" [continues to provide assistance to children and their families](#), supporting more than 600 cases to date, of which 408 already received assistance and were closed accordingly.
- UNICEF partner, Initiative for Social Change, conducted online supervision meetings with over 210 with statutory social workers from the child protection and justice system.
- Online psychological support through group and individual sessions was provided to 187 children and 117 caregivers in small group homes and foster care in Tbilisi and 7 regions of Georgia by UNICEF partner Children of Georgia. During the reporting week, the sessions covered the distress caused by COVID-19-related restrictions/isolation, the emotional state of children, altered daily routine contributing anxiety, conflict management, violence, and challenging behavior.
- A [Facebook page to support parents of children with disabilities](#) continues to provide practical information, one-to-one counseling with specialists, and chats for parents and caregivers. During the reporting weeks, a special focus of the activities was support to parents and education of children with language, speech and communication difficulties, and intellectual disabilities. Over 150,000 post engagements were reported.

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- UNICEF, in collaboration with the partner “Helping Hand”, initiated the development of a web-based platform to promote and encourage adolescent/youth volunteerism in Georgia.
- UNICEF is partnering with the “Global Initiative in Psychiatry” to provide online support to adolescents and their parents for managing the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic. The [online seminar for adolescents’ parents](#) on “How to Listen to be Understood and How to Talk to be Heard” was held and reached 719 views.
- UNICEF, in collaboration with WHO, is supporting NCDC in finalizing the Risk Communication and Community Engagement Plan of Action. The 12-month Plan of Action includes budgeted activities to be carried out by relevant agencies.
- UNICEF is supporting NCDC in carrying out risk communication and community engagement activities on COVID-19 in Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe Javakheti regions, targeting ethnic minority populations.
- Consultations and technical assistance were provided to service providers in daycare centres, (re)habilitation programmes, program to support children with hearing impairments, and home visitation services to gradually resume face-to-face service provision for children with disabilities.
- Simulations of cash transfer programmes for the alleviation of the COVID-19 impact are complete, and its findings were shared with the Office of the National Security Council for further review and actions.
- UNFPA facilitated thematic consultation on health, rights and protection of elderly persons in the context of COVID-19 with participation of UNRC, UNDP, WHO, ILO. The priorities and gaps have been identified to further integrate into the UNCT’s Socio-Economic Response Plan.
- UNFPA procured and distributed the critical PPEs to the healthcare care providers specifically designated by MoH to treat COVID-19 suspected/infected pregnant women with supportive and management therapies.
- The newest technical resources on SRH services in the context of COVID-19 provided by the UNFPA Regional Office, have been translated, adapted and approved by MoH, serving as a practical guidance on antenatal contacts undertaken remotely (phone/messaging application/telehealth).
- Within the frames of the COVID-19 MPTF funded project the assessment of the situation and needs of older people living alone under the poverty line in targeted municipalities has been initiated in order to better understand, mitigate and decrease barriers and inequalities caused and revealed by COVID-19.
- UNFPA is supporting MoH and the State Care Agency and providing technical assistance in adapting standards for care homes for elderly people funded by the government and monitoring their implementation.
- UNFPA designed and printed older-people-friendly brochures regarding prevention of COVID-19, based on WHO recommendations, in three local languages – Georgian, Armenian and Azeri. The publications will be delivered to more than 2,300 vulnerable older persons living in target municipalities and the beneficiaries of the state funded care institutions.
- With funding from Denmark, Switzerland and Austria, UNDP organized a workshop in Kachreti for media representatives as part of a public awareness campaign aimed at advancing decentralization, good governance at local level and fostering local economic development in Georgia. The campaign has been adapted to the new pandemic realities and restrictions at the local level. Participants discussed the importance of strengthening local self-governance, expanding the competencies of self-government, enhancing citizen engagement mechanisms as well as approaches and good practices in local economic development in the COVID-19 context.
- UNDP through the EU-funded project “Innovative Action for Private Sector Competitiveness” helped the Cluster Management Organization of the Georgian Packaging Sector to attain member candidate status in the World Packaging Organization. Full membership is expected by November 2020. This new status allows Georgian packaging companies to benefit from different services, including insight into pandemic response measures by packaging sectors worldwide.

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- As part of a broader commitment to conflict-affected communities, UNDP Resident Representative Louisa Vinton delivered 300 litres of disinfectant, 300 litres of hand sanitizer, 4,000 surgical masks and 1,200 medical gowns to the Governor of Shida Kartli during a visit to the region on 26 June 2020. The supplies will be distributed to healthcare facilities located along the conflict divide. UNDP also delivered hygienic and sanitary supplies to a collective centre for IDPs in Gori, a residential care home for the elderly in the village of Khurvaleti and a community clinic in the village of Nikozi. Households with limited financial resources also received food packages.
- With UNDP funding, the Charity Humanitarian Centre “Abkhazeti” (CHCA) continued to work to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and support vulnerable households in IDP collective centres in Shida Kartli, Imereti, and Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti regions. As part of this work, informational brochures and stickers were distributed to address the psychological impact of the crisis, provide recommendations on self-care and mental wellbeing, and inform about free psychosocial services. Also, information about myths about COVID-19 and instructions on using the “112” application were disseminated. In addition, CHCA organized 11 TV and radio broadcasts and 29 social media publications to raise public awareness about the challenges that IDP communities currently face.
- As part of its regular humanitarian shipments to Abkhazia to fight COVID-19, on 30 June 2020 UNDP transported 10,000 surgical masks to Sukhumi for distribution among medical facilities.
- Under the Joint EU-UNDP Programme for Rural Development (ENPARD Abkhazia), UNDP awarded four additional grants to support rural entrepreneurs whose livelihoods are threatened by COVID-19. The grants with total budget of USD 50,000 will be implemented in Gagra, Gudauta and Ochamchire districts. In collaboration with the local Chamber of Commerce, 54 entrepreneurs were surveyed to assess the impact of the COVID pandemic on their commercial activities. The results of the survey will be combined with the regular stocktaking exercise run by the programme in the second week of July 2020 to gain a better understanding of the trends affecting rural entrepreneurs, challenges and opportunities especially for agriculture-based livelihoods.
- UNDP continued to support regular consultations between Abkhaz and Georgian medical professionals to share information on COVID-19. This included an online discussion organized by the CSO Society for Future Generation (SFG) between specialists from the Tbilisi Infectious Disease Hospital’s COVID Center and medical staff of two hospitals in Sukhumi on treatment methodology of children affected by COVID-19. In total, ten Abkhaz specialists participated in the online event. With UNDP funding, the organization also delivered PPEs (including protective coveralls and medical gowns) and liquid disinfectant to Abkhazia. Also, a supply of different medicines that are in short supply due to COVID-19 crisis was shipped to one of the hospitals in Sukhumi.
- With USAID funding, UNDP completed the design of a training program for laboratory specialists in Abkhazia. The curriculum includes seven topics designed to improve theoretical and practical skills in COVID-19 diagnostics and testing: 1) Basics of molecular biology and molecular diagnostic methods; 2) PCR laboratory setup and good laboratory practices; 3) Nucleic acid extraction methods; 4) PCR methods; 5) PCR result analysis and troubleshooting; 6) PCR diagnostics of COVID-19; and 7) International guidelines for laboratory biosafety and biosecurity for COVID-19.
- The EU-UNDP VET Abkhazia Programme distributed plastic protection shields and information packages on WHO-recommended safety measures to teachers and managers at technical vocational education colleges to mitigate risks related to COVID-19. In June the protection shields were used during final exams and other graduation activities at TVET colleges across Abkhazia.
- IOM provided cash grants to respond to the basic needs of migrants from India and Bangladesh stranded in Georgia due to COVID-19.
- FAO together with the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA) and under the EU-funded ENPARD, awarded 35 matching grants, eight COVID-19 emergency response grants among them, with a total amount of more than GEL 2 million, covering 40 to 75 percent of farmers’ initial investments in agricultural initiatives. With a total budget of more than GEL 18 million, FAO and the EU provide grants for Georgian farmers and producers to strengthen the agricultural sector in Georgia.

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- FAO and EU, within the COVID-19 emergency response programme, support Georgian farmers in Kakheti region to produce wheat with no-till method. One hectare of wheat demonstration plot has been established in Dedoplistskharo with the necessary equipment for no-till and seeding. The methods that FAO agronomists showcase can bring more harvest with less costs to Georgian farmers, with less impact to the environment.
- FAO, within the COVID-19 emergency response programme, with financial support from ADC, arranged grapes demonstration plot and beekeeping farm in Oni and Tsageri municipalities, demonstrating good agricultural practices. Apiculture and horticulture training plan for the upcoming months.

Response by international development partners

- According to the 'Situation Report on COVID-19 Related Donor Aid to Georgia,' compiled and shared by the Donor Coordination Unit, Administration of the Government of Georgia, COVID-19 related donor assistance to Georgia as of 24 June equaled to GEL 3,942,586,130.

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>.
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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>