

HIGHLIGHTS

- 25 May - Land Borders Open, Indoor Food Facilities Allowed on Weekends Starting June 1
- 17 May - Georgia Shortens Nationwide Curfew
- 12 May - Georgia Opens Registration for Sinovac Covid 19 Vaccine
- 6 May - Georgia Receives 43,000 More Doses of AstraZeneca/Oxford Covid 19 vaccine

324,426
Total recovered

341,894
Confirmed cases

4,727
Total deaths

51
People in quarantine

Source: www.stopcov.ge 28 May 2021

Georgia situation overview

- 25 May - Georgia opens its land borders starting June 1. Visitors will have to present either proof of full vaccination and a negative PCR test result conducted in the last 72 hours, or two negative PCR test results, conducted 72 hours before and after entering. Food facilities will be allowed to serve customers indoors on weekends starting June 1 as well, as per the Inter-Agency Council's decision.
- 17 May - The nationwide night-time coronavirus curfew, previously enforced from 21:00 to 05:00, will now instead commence at 23:00, as per the decision of the Government's Inter-Agency Council. The curfew has been in effect since November 28.
- 12 May - The Georgian health authorities opened registration for the Chinese Sinovac vaccine for all age groups over 18. Vaccination with Sinovac is set to start on May 24. Georgia received a batch of 100,000 Sinovac (CoronaVac) COVID-19 vaccines from China as humanitarian aid on April 30.
- 6 May - A second batch of 43,000 more jabs of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine were delivered to Georgia via COVAX, the UN-backed COVID vaccine sharing scheme. According to NCDC Head Amiran Gamkrelidze, the shots will be used as second doses for those already vaccinated with the vaccine.

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

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

WHO

- WHO continues to support the Government of Georgia and specifically, National Center for Disease Control and Public Health in implementing communication campaign on COVID-19 vaccination. To present, 10 information videos, series of educational social media posts, 6 media webinars, live discussions, up to 30 programs in regional media were prepared to increase public awareness. The visuals for the communications are below in this report.
- WHO supported NCDC in implementing nation-wide activities for the European Immunization Week. Activities included awareness for media, social media campaign, visits of NCDC officials to the regions, including public healthcare centers and schools, production of various print materials.

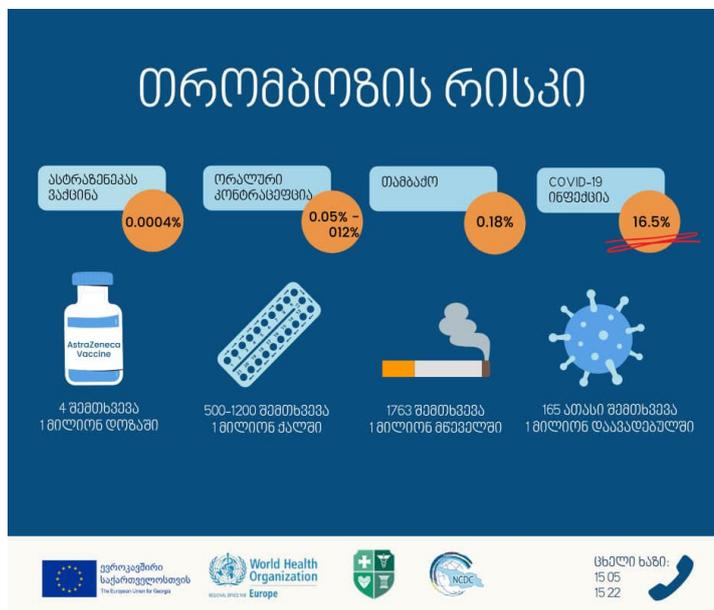


- WHO continues to support NCDC in training healthcare workers in Tbilisi as well as regions of Georgia. During the assistance will be provided communication tools for improved interaction with the public for the promotion of COVID-19 vaccination. NCDC team, with support from WHO is conducting the last round of communication trainings for public healthcare workers, to be completed mid-June.

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- WHO EURO regional WHE team provided EOC capacity building assessment in country. Draft of pandemic preparedness plan was developed and submitted to consultants for review.

- New contract was signed to continue the awareness raising of the religious leaders on COVID-19 and vaccination. New plan on mental health training for primary health care (PHC) personnel was developed with partners to scale up mental health for PHC - Kutaisi, Gori, Zugdidi, Telavi. Next round started on awareness-raising of Christian and Muslim leaders in Adjara and Samegrelo.



- EURO WHE team mission carried out to support NCDC PHEOC capacity building and assess MoH Urgent Assistance Center needs.
- Training for ambulance doctors on home-based assessment and hospitalization decision making on COVID-19 cases to avoid over hospitalization - planned.
- WHO supported National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, with creation of a dedicated web-site www.vaccines.ncdc.ge. to host all information on COVID-19 vaccination. The site is to become “live” in few days.
- Continued distribution of supply/reagents to COVID-19 Health care facilities. PPE and case management delivered to Rukhi hospital. Coordinated arrival, custom clearance and delivery to MoH Warehouse of the following COVID19 equipment:

- OXYGEN MASK WITH RESERVOIR BAG, PEDIATRIC, 18850 each.
- GOGGLES PROTECTIVE - 9,920 pcs
- GOWN size L, case-100 - 74,000pcs
- GOWN size XL, case-100 - 74,000 pcs
- MASK, MEDICAL / SURGICAL, (n195 - Well Lead), type II, carton-2000 - 700,000 pcs - Price 234,500.000\$

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UNDP

- In April and May, UNDP's pandemic response focused on economic and social recovery and ongoing vaccination efforts. As before, UNDP continued to assist frontline medical personnel and to support vulnerable populations.

- Through its Accelerator Lab, UNDP rolled out a social media information campaign to counter vaccine disinformation and increase the number of Georgians willing to take a vaccine (currently only around 29 per cent). The campaign was conducted in partnership with the National Centre of Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC) and with Forset (a data visualization agency). The campaign is set to continue through September and will be followed by a series of events in Tbilisi and the regions.



- The UNDP Accelerator Lab also announced Solutions Safari, a call for inventions that can ease the pandemic's burden on citizens and businesses. The aim is to discover simple and effective solutions created 'by the people, for the people' to address everyday challenges brought on by the pandemic. The winners (to be selected in June) will receive funding and support.

- To help Georgia reopen after the lockdown, UNDP, with funding from the Swiss and Austrian governments, assisted eight municipalities (Ambrolauri, Bolnisi, Chokhtauri, Mestia, Ozurgeti, Rustavi, Tsageri and Zugdidi) in developing the tailored investment profiles. These documents will be presented at regional investment forums, organized in partnership with national and local governments. Taking place on 21 May in Ozurgeti, Guria region, the first forum showcased local entrepreneurs and created a platform for dialogue among local authorities, local businesses, civil society and investors.



Photo: Nino Zedginidze/UNDP

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- To address socially and economically vulnerable families' online schooling challenges, UNDP donated computers to 28 high-school students from twenty-four internally displaced families. Their Internet expenses will be covered throughout their schooling years – plus one year after graduation. Students will also receive free technical support and information about educational resources. UNDP partnered with the Charte.Ge civic project to implement this initiative.



UNDP donated a four-wheel-drive vehicle to the Nikozi outpatient clinic so it could reliably transport a portable X-ray machine donated earlier this year. Located in close vicinity to the administrative boundary line with the South Ossetia/Tskhinvali region, the Nikozi clinic is the only medical service provider for 3,000 people – including 1,100 older people from internally displaced and conflict-affected communities. UNDP support improves access to essential

healthcare services during the pandemic and beyond.

Photo: Leli Blagonarvova/UNDP

- UNDP continues to assist frontline medical personnel combat the pandemic outbreak in Abkhazia. Vehicles and ambulance teams were deployed in the Gali and Tkvarcheli districts to support testing and treatment. In April, 644 PCR test samples were transported to the primary COVID-19 laboratory in Sukhumi, and one COVID-19 patient was transported for treatment. The vehicles were also used to transport the COVID-19 intensive care unit's medical equipment and doctors. The US\$115,000 initiative was implemented in partnership with HALO Trust under the Responsive Resource Fund component of the Joint EU-UNDP COBERM programme.
- Vocational colleges received assistance in Abkhazia, where UNDP used EU funding to inform the staff about WHO-recommended COVID-19 safety measures. Training sessions for vocational education and training (VET) managers, teachers and trainers were conducted at the SSC college in Sukhumi. The training sessions provided clear instructions on social distancing, disinfection of examination venues and sanitary and hygienic measures at public events. In addition, UNDP will help the VET colleges disseminate trustworthy vaccination information through their social media channels.



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- UNDP is assisting vulnerable groups in Abkhazia who were left without a stable income. Food packages and medical aid were delivered to 2,090 vulnerable persons in the Gulripshi, Ochamchire, Sukhumi and Tkvarcheli districts. Beneficiaries were identified in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The \$149,920 initiative was implemented in partnership with the UK-based organization Conciliation Resources under the EU Responsive Resource Fund component of the Joint EU-UNDP COBERM programme.
- With \$70,000 made available by the COVID-19 complementary action to ENPARD III Abkhazia Component, UNDP is supporting small farmers affected by the pandemic crisis. Seven farmers, selected through a grant programme, received funding, agricultural inputs and services to engage in dairy and greenhouse farming, tung oil manufacturing and winemaking.
- As part of the same programme, UNDP is working with the Local Action Groups to assist medical facilities involved in COVID-19 testing and treatment. UNDP procured blood testing equipment for the Gagra district hospital and a vehicle suitable for transporting oxygen tanks for the COVID-19 hospital in Gudauta.



- UNDP and Swiss support extended to vocational colleges and training centres across Georgia, aiming to resume training for farmers that was suspended during the lockdown. In May, 110 farmers received short-term training in twelve agricultural professions (including beekeeping, cattle breeding, cheese-making, farming, horticulture, tea production, plant protection, poultry farming, viticulture, winemaking).

Educational programmes resumed in eighteen colleges and training centres in nine regions.

Photo: Vladimer Valishvili/UNDP

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UNHCR

- **'Humanitarian corridor' from Abkhazia to TAT:** UNHCR continues supporting the operation of the 'humanitarian corridor' to allow the most vulnerable groups of population to access their pensions and allowances, and buy essential medicines at mobile services across the bridge. Over 11,100 people were supported to cross in 2021.
- **Humanitarian assistance in Abkhazia:** UNHCR provided humanitarian assistance in the form of food and hygiene items to 200 individuals and cash assistance to 676 individuals affected by the pandemic. The provision of humanitarian assistance has been coordinated with other partners to ensure the complementarity of efforts and avoid duplication.

UNICEF

- In partnership with the Adjara Organization of Georgia Scouts' Movement, and with financial support from USAID, 300 adolescents in Adjara region, including from remote mountainous villages, received information on safe water, sanitation and hygiene, prevention of COVID-19 pandemic and importance of immunization.
- UNICEF, in cooperation with the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Child Rights, organized a 2-day workshop for 15 parliamentarians on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as major principles and concepts of child rights.
- UNICEF organized a two-day joint visit to Pankisi Gorge with a delegation of Ambassadors and representatives of 13 countries. The goal of the visit was to provide international development partners with an account of the current needs of children and their families in Pankisi Gorge including issues and challenges such as quality of education, lack of internet access, scarcity of social services and a lack of youth opportunities.

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UNICEF Representative in Georgia, Dr Ghassan Khalil; Ambassador of Japan, H.E. Imamura Akira; UNICEF Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, Ms. Afshan Khan; Deputy Head of Mission of SIDA, Mr. Erik Illes; and UN Resident Coordinator M, Dr Sabine Machl at a seminar on positive parenting in Pankisi

- In Abkhazia, 16 health professionals were trained on immunization-related issues. PPE, hand and surface disinfectant and infrared thermometers were provided to healthcare workers in all districts of Abkhazia.
- UNICEF, in cooperation with local partners, provided 370 vulnerable families, including 1,146 children from all districts of Abkhazia, with food parcels, hygiene sets and positive parenting booklets.



Meeting with media representatives of Akhaltsikhe hosted by NCDC and healthcare experts to discuss COVID-19 vaccination in Georgia



UNICEF Representative in Georgia, Dr Ghassan Khalil gets vaccinated in Akhaltsikhe, advocating for vaccination.

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- UNICEF, with financial support from USAID, supported information sessions in Samtskhe-Javakheti region about COVID-19 vaccination. During the visit, discussions were held with Orthodox religious leaders, representatives of the Armenian Apostolic Church in Georgia, local media, and local medical personnel in Akhalkalaki.
- In partnership with GeoStat and with financial support from USAID, the field work for the second wave of the Real Time Monitoring Survey was completed in April and analysis of the data is underway. Preparations for the third wave have started, with the field work planned for second part of May.
- 130 laptops were distributed to head teachers in schools in Abkhazia to support the delivery of online education.

IOM

- IOM provided pre-departure financial assistance to address the immediate needs of 5 vulnerable migrants from Algeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Iran, Morocco and Thailand and mediated in obtaining consular services for 11 migrants from Algeria, Bangladesh, Benin, Haiti, Morocco, Thailand and Uzbekistan, all stranded in Georgia due to COVID-19.
- IOM assisted 15 migrants stranded in Georgia due to COVID-19 with voluntary return to Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, India, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Pakistan and Uzbekistan.
- IOM organize an outdoor exhibition "COVID-19 & Faces of Migration" in [Kutaisi Central City Park \(14 - 24 May\)](#) and [Batumi Boulevard, in front of Summer Theatre \(24 May - 8 June\)](#). The exhibition that features photos and stories of migrants and their families in Georgia (both foreigners and Georgians), in the time of COVID-19, highlights individual stories, challenges and hopes that migrants share in this time of pandemic. The exhibition is implemented under IOM's [EMERGE](#) project, with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway and its aim is to raise public awareness on migration issues and migrants, promote diversity and fight xenophobia, exacerbated by the pandemic-related fears.

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Photo: IOM

- On May 14 IOM Georgia issued a new [brief](#) on the situation and needs of vulnerable foreign migrants in Georgia during a global pandemic.

Response by international development partners

- The German Embassy in Tbilisi stated on 18 May about granting the medical equipment worth of EUR 46,000 to the medical sector in Abkhazia to help fight COVID-19 virus. The equipment includes a generator, oxygen concentrators, UV lamps, pulse oximeters, rapid tests, protective masks, and disinfectants. “The virus is spreading across the world regardless of borders. The population in Abkhazia is also very much affected by the pandemic,” the Embassy said, adding that the goal was to improve the possibilities for diagnosis, treatment, and protection of the medical staff there.

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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>.

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>

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