

HIGHLIGHTS

- The state of emergency will not be extended in Georgia after 22 May
- Gradual lifting of restrictions is underway
- StopCov fund has accumulated GEL 132 027 117 as of 21 May

485
Total recovered

721
Confirmed cases

12
Total deaths

3,614
People in quarantine

Source: www.stopcov.ge 21 May 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 will not be extended after May 22. The Parliament passed a draft law allowing to impose restrictions on fundamental human rights without declaring the state of emergency. To date, Abkhazia reported 26 cases, with 3 recoveries and one death. A state of emergency was put in place on 28 March and was lifted as of 21 April. Despite this, restrictions on movement remain in place and the administrative boundary line (ABL) remains closed. South Ossetia has so far confirmed 34 cases.

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

- The strict quarantine measures were lifted in several villages of Bolnisi Municipality.
- Marneuli Municipality was reopened after 56-days of shutdown.
- Restrictions on regular flights in Georgia will remain effective through 30 June;
- University entry exams will be held in summer in compliance with public health recommendations.

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

- WHO supports the Ministry of IDPs from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs (MoH) in launching the Clinical Solidarity Trial in Georgia for COVID-19 treatment.
- Through WHO and UNICEF support the National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC) developed the National Strategy on Risk Communication and Community Engagement and Action Plan on COVID-19 Communication for the regions inhabited by ethnic minorities;

- COVID-19 Behavior Insights Study supported by WHO and UNICEF has been conducted countrywide with the next round to target the regions inhabited by ethnic minorities;
- UNICEF partner, Initiative for Social Change, developed guidelines on remote child protection case management for statutory social workers and conducted 30 online supervision meetings covering 205 statutory social workers;
- UNICEF supported the MoH to develop a framework for remote service provision for children with disabilities and their families.
- UNICEF partner, MAC Georgia, provided support to 400 frontline child protection staff to adjust to the distant working modality and provide required services to CWDs and their families during the pandemic.
- UNICEF in partnership with the CSO, Coalition for Education for All and Ministry Education, Science, Culture and Sport (MoESCS) developed new resources including comprehensive tasks and assignments in all core subjects.
- UNFPA and NCDC developed COVID-19 communication materials on HIV prevention and services for target populations. A total of 5,000 brochures were distributed to the centers providing HIV preventive services.
- UNHCR provided emergency cash assistance to 145 households/ 313 individuals, including asylum seekers, refugees, humanitarian status holders and stateless persons;
- UNHCR supported over 300 vulnerable households in Abkhazia to enable last opportunities for ploughing and sowing. 20 liters of fuel per family will be complemented by 50 kg of fertilizers to be distributed in June. The distribution of fuel continues and additional 300 families are expected to receive it before the end of May.
- IOM supported return of citizens of Iran stranded in Georgia due to COVID-19 via special charter flight.
- IOM provided humanitarian assistance to immigrants from Bangladesh stranded in Georgia due to pandemic.
- OHCHR delivered a training of trainers for judges on combatting discrimination and on minority rights as a part of the training series organized by the Appellate Court.
- OHCHR took part in the meeting organized by the Administration of the Government of Georgia for human rights actors to discuss the issue of proportionality of number of restrictions to remain in force after lifting the state of emergency.
- UNDP forged a partnership with the Georgia Red Cross Society (GRCS) to create a social safety net for 4,000 persons facing risks from the COVID-19 crisis. This UK Government funded initiative covers Tbilisi and 29 target locations and will provide professional home care to elderly people living alone, persons with chronic diseases and other high-risk groups, along with the dissemination communication materials in various languages.
- Through the EU, Switzerland and Austria funding, UNDP delivered 23,000 protective face shields to 23 municipalities in the Kvemo Kartli, Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti, Racha-Lechkhumi-Kvemo Svaneti and Guria regions, and another 3,000 to facilities in Kakheti region. The shields, produced by the local producer CaucasPack are made from recycled plastic bottles.
- UNDP worked with civil society partners to create an information platform for four high mountainous municipalities in Racha-Lechkhumi-Kvemo Svaneti region. The platform provides updates on COVID-19 prevention measures to local residents via text messages.
- UNDP commissioned the Charity Humanitarian Center Abkhazeti (CHCA) to provide psychosocial counselling to 300 women, girls and victims of gender-based and domestic violence in 100 high-risk IDP communities.
- UNDP engaged Georgian medical professionals to provide advice and training on COVID-19 to their Abkhaz counterparts. The Association Peaceful and Business Caucasus (APBC) organized a first online consultation for specialists from Kutaisi Infectious Hospital to advise Abkhaz colleagues on infectious diseases and intensive care. The CSO Society for Future Generation (SFG) facilitated two online consultation meetings between Georgian and Abkhaz specialists currently treating COVID-19 patients. To facilitate future exchange of expertise on testing and laboratory procedures, the Bacteriological Laboratory within the Sanitary and Epidemiology Service in Abkhazia was provided with furniture and ICT equipment for video conferences and online consultations. SFG also prepared information brochures for COVID-19 patients in Abkhazia. Funding for these initiatives was provided by USAID and UNDP core resources.
- At the request of the NCDC, UNDP is leading the development of a national risk communication strategy for public health emergencies in Georgia. The strategy will apply not only for the current crisis but also future health emergencies. This UK Government funded initiative also includes training for central and local front-line decision makers and a proactive communication campaign.

Response by international development partners

- The US Defense Threat Reduction Agency delivered personal protective equipment worth USD 500,000 during May to Georgian authorities, including the Border Police, Emergency Management Service, State Laboratory of Agriculture, and other subsidiaries of the Ministries of Health and Internal Affairs.

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- The US Embassy donated equipment and materials to conduct 4,000 gold-standard RT-PCR tests, as well as personal protective equipment worth USD 20,000 to the Ministry of Health of Georgia;
- Georgia procured 30,000 rapid antibody test kits manufactured in China within the framework of World Bank's aid program.
- The Council of the European Union adopted a decision to provide up to EUR 3 billion of macro-financial assistance to ten enlargement and neighborhood partners, including EUR 150 Million to Georgia.

Important links to follow

WHO concluded the virtual annual World Health Assembly adopting a [resolution](#) calling for the intensification of efforts to control the COVID-19 pandemic, and for equitable access to and fair distribution of all essential health technologies and products to combat the virus. [In closing remarks](#), the WHO Director-General highlighted the release of [the interim report](#) on WHO's response to COVID-19 by the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergences Programme.

UNEP factsheets on COVID - 19 on waste management, zoonotic and ecosystems, NDC and Nature based solutions, building back better: <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/working-environment-protect-people-unepe-covid-19-response>

UNICEF Georgia supported [TV programme on early childhood development](#) aired on Saturdays and Sundays on the Georgian Public Broadcaster's Education Channel.

UNICEF Georgia [newsletter](#) on response to COVID-19 pandemic.

UNICEF Georgia [Instagram page](#) for young people with COVID-19 related information.

UNICEF Georgia, Coalition for Education for All and Ministry of Education and Science, new resources in all core subjects at [MoESCS \(iSchool\)](#) platform for students and teachers.

UNICEF Georgia and the Georgian Institute for Debate and Education - A Facebook group page - [Debates for Education](#) - gathers 500 members, mainly school students from all over Georgia.

UNICEF Georgia supported challenge [show us your life-hacks](#) in a youth group on Facebook, for young people to share their experience of how to stay productive when staying at home and studying online.

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>

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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