

HIGHLIGHTS

- 29 Jan - Inter-Agency Coordination Council Led by the Prime Minister of Georgia Sets New Regime for Entry of Foreign National to Georgia by Air from February 1, 2021
- 28 Jan - Issuance of 1,200 GEL started to benefit those who lost jobs to the 2nd wave of the pandemic
- 25 Jan - The Prime Minister and the Minister of Health visited new COVID19 unit at Republican Hospital.
- 4 January - First Case of New COVID-19 'British Variant' Confirmed in Georgia

247,096
Total recovered

256,956
Confirmed cases

3,148
Total deaths

521
People in quarantine

Source: www.stopcov.ge 29 January 2021

Georgia Situation Overview

- 29 Jan - Requirements for the entry of Georgian and foreign nationals to the territory of Georgia by air are relaxing. New regulations to be imposed from February 1 will come into effect when regular flights get resumed. Initiative was approved today by the Inter-Agency Coordination Council held and led by Giorgi Gakharia, Prime Minister of Georgia. [Click for more info](#)
- 28 Jan - Targeted assistance issuance-1,200 GEL in installments of 200 GEL over a 6-month period-launches to benefit citizens who have lost their jobs to the 2nd wave of the pandemic and are no longer remunerated. As of today, compensations will be deposited into the bank accounts of 106,080 persons, to amount to 21,216,000 GEL. The 1st month's installment has already been deposited. [Click for more info](#)
- 28 Jan - Key Statements Made by PM at the Executive Government Meeting. [Click for detailed info](#)
- 25 Jan - Within the framework of the State Medical Holding, a new COVID19 unit for 400 patients opened at Republican Hospital. The 8-million-GEL project was financed by the state.
- 4 Jan - National Center for Disease Control & Public Health (NCDC) has confirmed the first case of a new more rapidly transmissible COVID-19 strain initially detected in the United Kingdom in September.

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)

UNICEF in partnership with the Emergency Situations Coordination and Urgent Assistance Centre contracted the telecommunication company “Skytel” to establish internet connections in 1,000 rural ambulatories to support the creation of a centralized communication platform. This platform will facilitate provision of updated protocols, recommendations and trainings for rural primary health care doctors.

UNICEF, in partnership with Caritas Czech Republic, is carrying out trainings for 1,300 rural primary healthcare professionals in the management of suspected or diagnosed COVID-19 cases. Rural doctors have been trained in conducting remote health consultations for mothers and caregivers on topics related to post-partum or childcare in order to ensure the continuity of basic mother and child health services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

UNICEF handed over 1,050 boxes of food and hygiene supplies to the State Ministry for Reconciliation and Civic Equality for further distribution to vulnerable families residing near the Administrative Boundary Line, reaching over 4,200 individuals.



UNICEF Representative, Ghassan Khalil and the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, Tea Akhvlediani visited the villages across the ABL - Sakorintlo (Kaspi Municipality) and Odzisi (Dusheti Municipality) to deliver Hygiene and non-perishable food supplies to the most vulnerable families. © SMRCEgeorgia

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A youth hotline, as part of the child hotline “111”, was established to address adolescent and young people’s mental health and psychosocial needs during the COVID-19 pandemic, with 120 adolescents receiving confidential support so far.



In Abkhazia, Georgia, 398 families, including 1,249 children, received food and hygiene parcels.

The “Learn more about “COVID-19” TV programme was broadcast on nine regional TV channels, airing over 100 programmes with the latest information about COVID-19, reaching approximately 900,000 viewers per week.

UNICEF trained 100 preschool managers and education specialists in Adjara on supporting early child learning and development remotely in low and high technology contexts.



All village doctors in Georgia will enhance their knowledge on COVID-19 prevention and management through a centralized online platform launched by the Emergency Situations Coordination and Urgent Assistance Centre of the Ministry of IDPs, Labor, Health, and Social Affairs and UNICEF, with financial support from USAID/Georgia. ©UNICEF/GEO-2020/JIBUTI

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UNDP continued regular deliveries of urgently needed medical supplies to Abkhazia. In January 2021, this included laboratory equipment for establishing a molecular diagnostics laboratory at the ASU university; materials needed for practical training in PCR testing for seven lab practitioners; spare parts for four oxygen concentrators at Gudauta Hospital, a designated COVID treatment facility; and 2,000 COVID quick tests. All supplies were delivered by UNDP through the EU-funded Dialogue Coordination Mechanism.



The joint UNDP-EU initiative focusing on private sector competitiveness provided continued support to companies in the packaging value chain to overcome the impact of COVID-19. On 28 January UNDP launched a series of on-line workshops to promote cooperation among firms to stimulate sales, with 30 companies participating. The workshops are designed to build skills and promote joint efforts to address vulnerabilities in established sales channels exposed during the pandemic and shift to online sales and marketing. Building on participant feedback, UNDP will design an e-commerce concept for packaging supply chain companies and help develop an e-commerce platform aimed at expanding revenues in the post-pandemic world.

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With EU funding through the COBERM programme, UNDP launched a range of new activities to support local civil society organizations in preparing publications, online programs and podcasts to showcase the dramatic effects of COVID lockdowns on the educational process in Abkhazia. These revealed the absence of a systematic approach to online education and featured the views of parents and teachers on possible ways to overcome the crisis. In an effort to address those challenges, CSOs organized stress management training for 30 teachers from all districts of Abkhazia and selected 24 teachers to lead online English language courses; teachers were also equipped with teaching tools, technology and Internet access. These measures helped to ease interruptions in the educational process for a sizable number of Abkhaz students.

As part of an initiative to promote entrepreneurship among conflict-affected young people, in December 2020 UNDP organized a five-day online training course on the management of micro- and small enterprises for graduates of a dual vocational education programme from Shida Kartli and Samegrelo regions. Participants included service providers, such as hairstylists, beauticians, veterinarians and cooks, and all are keen to start their own small businesses. Among the 55 participants, 44 were young women.

Through partner organization “ATINATI”, UNDP launched an online training programme for conflict-affected youth in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region. The course has a dual focus: on the one hand, training in peace and human rights, including social skills, effective communication, cooperation and conflict resolution; and, on the other, entrepreneurship skills aimed at helping vulnerable young people find jobs. The training began on 20 January and will continue through April 2021, with eight training sessions scheduled for four groups of participants. A total of 45 participants will participate in the training.



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FAO signed 6 agricultural grant agreements for the total budget of \$ 101,719.06 (three are medium projects for the total budget of \$ 89,860.82 and three - small projects for the total budget of \$ 11,858.24), under the EU-funded ENPARD programme.



FAO also delivered 6 grants for the total value of \$ 95,278.80 (4 payments for the amount of \$ 89,748.11 were for medium projects and remaining 2 payments for the amount of \$5,530.70, for small projects).

The individual grants provided in support of cost-shared investments aim at improving productivity, increasing the quality and marketability of agricultural products, strengthening the linkages within the agricultural value chains, and leading to an economic improvement in 8 ENPARD municipalities and 14 adjacent municipalities.

New FAO initiative in Georgia will support the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia to tackle increasing locust outbreaks in the country. One-year project entitled ``Preparedness and Emergency Response to Locust Infestations in Georgia`` aims to secure livelihoods, feed and food security of the populations living in locust

infested areas in Georgia. FAO's new project will contribute to preparing for future threats and protect the environment and agricultural production from devastating locust invasions.

IOM provided direct humanitarian assistance – support with accommodation - to 8 vulnerable migrants



from Iran, Bangladesh, Jordan, Thailand, Nepal, Palestine, Syria to support them during the time of COVID-19.

IOM provided pre-departure cash assistance to 9 vulnerable migrants from Algeria, Guinee, Iraq, Morocco, Pakistan and Turkmenistan and mediated in obtaining consular services for 4 migrants from Haiti, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan and Moldova, all stranded in Georgia due to COVID-19.

IOM assisted 27 migrants stranded in Georgia due to COVID-19 with voluntary return to Guinee, India, Iran, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, South Africa and Uzbekistan.

IOM provided virtual counselling sessions to 58 citizens of Georgia in Germany, among them families and persons with health issues, who are thinking to return home mainly due to COVID-19-related difficulties.

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RESPONSE BY INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

- The German government support for Georgia during COVID-19 in 2020:
 - Approx. EUR 2.5 million (technical cooperation) and
 - Approx. EUR 201 million loans and grants (financial cooperation).

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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