

HIGHLIGHTS

- **24 June – PM Unveils Initiative to Waive COVID-Related Penalties**
- **22 June - PM Reviews Measures for Extended Vaccination with Principals of Healthcare Facilities**
- **15 June - Gov't Submits New Vaccination 'Operational Plan'**

348,267
Total recovered

362,183
Confirmed cases

5,237
Total deaths

35
People in quarantine

Source: www.stopcov.ge 25 June 2021

Georgia situation overview

- 24 June - Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili unveiled today an initiative to waive some GEL 76 million (USD 24 million) worth of accrued unpaid fines for violating COVID-19 related curbs. The proposal has been registered in the Parliament and will be adopted in the near future, the PM said. When endorsed, the law will release about 245,000 persons and 344 businesses from administrative or criminal liabilities for violating face mask, self-isolation, quarantine and curfew regulations.
- 22 June – Irakli Garibashvili shared new decisions made by the Inter-Agency Coordination Council with the Principals of Healthcare Facilities, according to which night mobility restriction is getting removed from July 1, while uniform wearing of facemasks will no longer be required outdoors from 22 June. The Head of Government of Georgia noted that it is intended to mobilize the Mass Vaccination Centers in large cities of the country and local authorities will also get engaged in the process. The Prime Minister noted that one million doses will arrive in a fortnight and over 3.6 million doses will be mobilized in the country in total.
- 15 June - The Government's Inter-Agency Council today introduced a new 'operational plan' for the vaccination program, which includes increasing the number of vaccination brigades and involving more medical institutions in the vaccination process, among others. Besides, the Government's Inter-Agency Council discussed the introduction of the massive vaccination centers which will be deployed in public spaces. As per the Council's new decision, the fully vaccinated persons will be exempt from the obligatory regular COVID-testing.

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

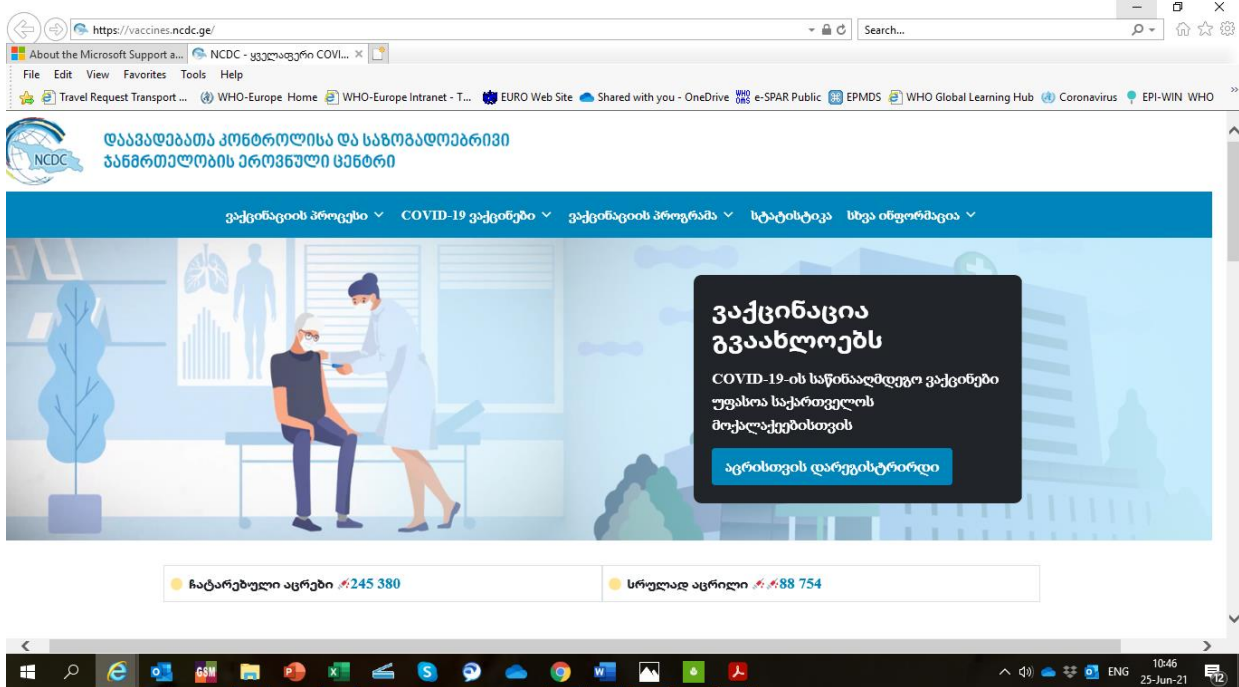
Detailed report on measure taken by the GoG is translated in English and can be accessed at:

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 supported awareness raising sessions for Muslim religious leaders in Adjara region-200 imams participated. Activity is ongoing with Christian priests - 40 participants. In Batumi meetings with city mayors and local municipality leadership, in Guria meeting took place with Governor of the region and local mayors to discuss ongoing vaccination process and future plans.
- Intersectoral platform established and supported by EU DG NEAR project at NCDC, has conducted site visits in Adjara and Guria region, to follow up on planning and implementation of COVID vaccination. 4 vaccination sites were visited in Batumi, 2 sites in Kobuleti and 2 in Ozurgeti. During the visits increased capacity and mass vaccination campaign was discussed.
- Up to 2000 healthcare workers and government representatives were trained in interpersonal and crisis communication across Georgia with support from WHO.
- With support from WHO, vaccines.ncdc.ge web-page was launched as a sub-page to the main page of the National Center for Disease Control, which contains the most comprehensive information on COVID-19 vaccination. The page is now being advertised using different channels.



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for clinical epidemiologists and found out that there is very high interest of epidemiologist in implementing the new tools and procedures for HH.

- Project for adaptation and implementation of the WHO Hand Hygiene Monitoring Tool (HHMT) in Medical Institutions during COVID-19 Pandemic has been now completed. 10 training sessions were conducted for 214 clinic epidemiologists responsible for IPC from different regions in Georgia. Implementation of the tool has been initiated at their respective sites. WHO CO observed trainings conducted

- Conducted site visits to monitor the implementation process of the HHMT in Gori, Kutaisi, Telavi and Batumi health care facilities.



- Received proposal of the project: "Development and piloting of an instrument for monitoring the infection prevention and control system in healthcare facilities providing outpatient services in Georgia" from Georgian Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology. The proposal is under review.
- 8th wave of the COVID19 Behavioral Insights study has been conducted last week. Data analysis and development of the report ongoing.
- Updated National Strategy and Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Non Communicable Diseases has been presented to the Health Promotion and Diseases Prevention Council of the Committee of Healthcare and Social Issues of the Parliament of Georgia. Strategy has been developed with support of the WHO and EU and is part of the European Union's response to the outbreak of COVID-19 in Georgia. Planning of measures to respond challenges of Post-Covid period is part of the strategy.
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- On June 23, WHO CO Georgia organized a coordination meeting of different agencies engaged in vaccination-related communication. As a result of the meeting, WHO and NCDC will elaborate an

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action plan to determine communication actions that need to be undertaken with different target groups, and that can be supported by WHO.

- WHO Georgia staff created a personal [video](#) message in support vaccination process, published through social media.



UNDP

- In May and June, UNDP’s pandemic response focused on promoting economic and social recovery, expanding assistance to vulnerable groups and developing innovative solutions to pandemic challenges.



- The UNDP Accelerator Lab continued supporting the National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health’s as it rolled out a social media vaccination campaign, provided citizens with trustworthy information and countered fast-spreading fake news. Social media content released in May and June reached over 400,000 people.

- The UNDP Accelerator Lab finalized the Solutions Safari, a people-focused call for inventions that can ease the pandemic’s burden on citizens and businesses. The call received over 60 individual and group submissions from all over Georgia. A qualified jury chaired by UNDP and comprised of the UNDP Accelerator Lab members and representatives of the private sector, civil society and academic institutions is currently evaluating the submissions and will announce the winners in July.

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- The European Union (EU) and UNDP invited local organizations in rural municipalities to take part in the Development of Smart Villages in Georgia grant competition. The initiative promotes the smart village concept and assists rural entrepreneurs through pandemic recovery.
- The EU and UNDP also launched a new initiative with the Georgian Parliament to carry out a thematic inquiry regarding the pandemic's impacts on small- and medium-sized enterprises; the investigation and analysis will inform policy recommendations to support recovery. Further, the inquiry will look into the ways to help small- and medium-sized enterprises make full use of the opportunities available to them under international trade agreements (e.g. the 'Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement' with the EU, the 'Generalized System of Preferences' with the United States and various country-level bilateral free trade agreements).



A vehicle for transporting oxygen tanks delivered by UNDP to the Gudauta COVID-19 hospital. Photo: UNDP

- In Abkhazia, UNDP's pandemic support reached social workers, front-line medical personnel and farmers affected by the economic crisis. UNDP partnered with the International Committee of the Red Cross and other international non-governmental organizations, including World Vision International, Conciliation Resources and the HALO Trust. Aid was provided with funding from the EU (the EU-UNDP Dialogue Coordination Mechanism; the EU Responsive Resource Fund component of the EU-UNDP joint programme COBERM; and the COVID-19 complementary action to the Abkhazia component of the ENPARD-3 programme) and Sweden (the Sida-funded COVID-19 response initiative). Highlights of UNDP support include:
 - Fifty laptops were provided to social workers in the Gagra, Gali, Gudauta, Gulripshi Ochamchire, Sukhumi and Tkvarcheli districts to help social workers operate remotely during the pandemic.
 - Food packages and other humanitarian and medical aid worth US\$149,920 was delivered to 2,787 vulnerable persons in the Gagra, Gudauta, Ochamchire, Sukhumi and Tkvarcheli districts.
 - The deployment of ambulances and the transportation of COVID-19 patients continued in the Gali and Tkvarcheli districts. In June, two COVID-19 patients were moved to specialized medical facilities, and 615 PCR test samples were delivered to the primary COVID laboratory

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in Sukhumi. UNDP regularly assisted in the transportation of intensive care unit doctors and medical equipment.

- A vehicle for transporting oxygen tanks was delivered to the Gudauta COVID-19 hospital.
- 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.

IOM

- IOM provided pre-departure financial assistance to address the immediate needs of 11 vulnerable migrants from Algeria, Bangladesh, Haiti, Iran, Morocco and Thailand and mediated in obtaining consular services for 16 migrants from Haiti, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Thailand and Uzbekistan, all stranded in Georgia due to COVID-19.
- IOM assisted 10 migrants stranded in Georgia due to COVID-19 with voluntary return to Bangladesh, Cameroon, Iran and Morocco.



- During the pandemic IOM Georgia has launched a new project for migrants with health needs returning from France to Georgia and received 8 persons since 27 May, 2021.

IOM Georgia welcomed the first two returnees from France with the support of the French Office for Immigration and Integration. Photo: IOM

- IOM continues to work with local NGOs and [media](#) to raise awareness on the rights of migrants and counter xenophobia during COVID-19.
- IOM provided return and reintegration support to more than 50 persons, who returned from Belgium, Greece, Slovakia, Switzerland, Germany in the time of the pandemic. Further, IOM received first returnee from Croatia, who will receive return assistance and is eligible for reintegration support.

A returnee from Greece started a honey bee farm business with the support of IOM



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UNICEF



UNICEF Representative Dr Ghassan Khalil addressed the teachers and stressed the importance of keeping schools safely open for children.

“ Vaccination of key frontline workers, such as teachers and school administration, will ensure children and their families regain continued access to education and social life at schools, which has been severely disrupted.” – Dr Ghassan Khalil

- UNICEF Georgia is supporting the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) in providing information on COVID-19 vaccination to medical personnel, teachers, media, religious leaders and municipal staff.
- Four videos were produced with participation of prominent medical doctors (Dr. Bidzina Kulumbegov, Dr. Ivane Chkhaidze, Dr. Zviad Kipiani and Dr. Khatuna Zakhshvili) answering the emerging questions about COVID-19 vaccination reaching 154,000 people and engaging 12,063.
- During a visit to Ninostminda Boarding School, UNICEF, MoIDPOTLHSA, Patriarchate and World Vision established a cooperation with the aim of supporting desinstitutionalization of all children.
- UNICEF, in cooperation with local partners, provided 383 families, including 1,220 children and 929 adults from all districts of Abkhazia, with food and hygiene parcels. In addition, 177 vulnerable families living in rural areas received parcels including sets of vegetable seeds.
- With financial support from USAID, hygiene promotion interventions have been carried out in 23 districts of four regions of Georgia (Samtske-Javakheti, Guria, Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti and Kvemo Kartli regions) reaching 700 adolescents.
- UNICEF, in partnership with the European Union and “Parents for Education” organized a positive parenting week to commemorate Child Protection Day in Georgia and to highlight the impact of the pandemic on parents and children.
- The third wave of the Real Time Monitoring survey started, focusing on child physical and mental health, access to healthcare services and early childhood development.
- Eleven sets of computers and multifunctional printers were handed over to the Social Services Agency to support the increased case load caused by COVID-19.

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- UNICEF procured and delivered PPEs to the National Agency for Crime Prevention and Probation.

Response by international development partners

- 24 June 2021 - U.S. government has donated to Georgia oxygen generating equipment worth USD 155,000, which can provide highly concentrated oxygen to COVID-19 patients. The donation was made possible through the U.S. European Command's Humanitarian Assistance program with the support of Georgian National Guard, the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi reported.

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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