

HIGHLIGHTS

- Gradual lifting of restrictions was initiated
- Kutaisi and Batumi were reopened after 20 days of closure
- The Government launched the Tourism Recovery Plan
- StopCov fund has accumulated GEL 131 231 573 as of 7 May

275
Total recovered

615
Confirmed cases

9
Total deaths

4,948
People in quarantine

Source: www.stopcov.ge 7 May 2020

Georgia situation overview

The first case of COVID-19 was identified 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. While the several 'hot-spots' remain under strict quarantine throughout the country, a lockdown was imposed on the country's four largest cities on 15 April. In order to avoid further community spread, and the state of emergency was extended until May 22, including the ban on inter-city travel. The Government launched the Crisis Response Plan implying social support and economic recovery components, as well as the plan for gradually lifting of restrictions on 24 April.

Coordination arrangements

- The Prime Minister of Georgia has established and leads an Inter-Governmental Coordination Council to combat the COVID-19 crisis.
- The Prime Minister of Georgia signed a decree that the UN Disaster Management Country Team will be tasked to coordinate international humanitarian support in case international humanitarian support should be requested by the government.

Mitigation and response

Mitigation measures taken by the Government of Georgia

- Restrictions on construction business, car maintenance services and the lockdown of Batumi and Kutaisi were lifted on 5 May.
- Government held the presentation of the Crisis Recovery Plan with International Development Partners on 6 May;
- Government launched the Tourism Recovery Plan on 7 May;
- Restrictions on entering and leaving Tbilisi will be lifted starting 11 May. Restrictions will also be lifted for Rustavi and Gardabani from 14 May and Marneuli from 18 May.

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

- WHO is working on the consolidated procurement of supplies for the identified country needs through the global COVID-19 supply mechanism.
- With the USAID support, WHO initiated procurement of equipment for distance trainings at the designated hospitals and laboratories and mobilized international expert to facilitate sessions. Adaptation and production of communication materials is on-going.
- WHO mobilized journalists and producers of major media channels in Georgia to attend WHO webinars and briefings on COVID19.
- WHO takes part in the ongoing study to support global understanding of the epidemiology and spreading of COVID-19.
- Under the EU-funded ENPARD III rural development program, UNDP launched a USD 3 million grant program in partnership with the Agriculture and Rural Development Agency (ARDA) of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, to help rural regions with the socio-economic challenges posed by the COVID-19 crisis.
- With the support from the EU, Swiss and Austria and USAID, UNDP organized procurement of face-shields from CAUCASPACK, a Georgian producer, for distribution to medical personal and front-line civil servants all across Georgia.
- With funding from Denmark, Switzerland and Austria, UNDP helped municipalities to adjust their Municipal Development Documents and action plans to pandemic-era realities.
- With UNDP support, guidance on hospice and palliative care during the pandemic was defined and shared with hospices, hospital palliative care units and the Ministry of IDPs from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs.
- With EU support, UNDP launched a series of trainings for senior managers and other staff of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara with the aim of enhancing their working capacities in the face of social-distancing and stay-at-home restrictions.
- UNDP continues to organize regular deliveries of COVID-19-related supplies to Abkhazia through the joint UNDP-EU dialogue coordination mechanism. The latest shipment comprised the health equipment and supplies from a wide range of other international organizations. Through the support of the USAID, UNDP also transported anti-diabetic medication for and a test machine for biochemical analyses to Sukhumi. Another shipment with health supplies and equipment was provided to Rukhi Hospital in Zugdidi.
- The UNDP partner, Charity Humanitarian Centre Abkhazeti (CHCA) designed and printed flyers and posters with WHO messages on COVID-19. The CHCA also disinfected shared facilities and distributed hygiene and disinfection equipment at ten IDP collective centers.
- As part of a UNDP-funded project, "Healthy People-Healthy Relationships," the CSO Society for Future Generation (SFG) organized an online training session for doctors from Abkhazia on diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19. The training was led by Medical Director of the Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Center in Tbilisi.
- With USAID funding, UNDP contracted the Georgia-based CSO Association for Peaceful and Business Caucasus (APBC) to strengthen COVID-19 prevention and response in Abkhazia by organizing online training and consultations for medical professionals. Georgian doctors will provide instruction and advice on infection prevention measures, rules for the use of personal protective equipment, and COVID-19 case management.
- Through collaboration with CSOs, UNDP engaged people in the Tskhinvali region. Under the EU-UNDP COBERM confidence-building program, CSO Momavlis Tskhinvali, expanded the participation of women from both sides of the ABL in online trainings on how to start a business. The CSO Caucasian Mosaic, is making videos on COVID-19 for screening in South Ossetia and translating COVID-19 recommendations for persons with disabilities into Ossetian.
- To understand the socio-economic impact of the pandemic in Abkhazia, UNDP conducted a stocktaking exercise involving more than 60 project beneficiaries, partners and key vendors who participate in the joint EU-UNDP ENPARD program in five districts.
- In cooperation with IDPs, Eco-Migrants and Livelihood Agency of the Ministry of IDPs, Labour, Health and Social Affairs, UNHCR distributed food packages and hygiene items to 1,000 vulnerable IDP families throughout the country.
- UNHCR provided emergency cash assistance to 83 households, including asylum seekers, refugees, humanitarian status holders and stateless persons;
- In partnership with World Vision International, UNHCR supports asylum-seeker children at the Martkopi Reception Center, with catch-up classes and provides on-line psychological counselling.

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- UNHCR assisted over 100 vulnerable households in Abkhazia to cope with the consequences of COVID-19 restrictions.
- UNICEF delivered a personal protective equipment (PPEs) and hygiene items to the clinics in Tbilisi and Adjara region.
- UNICEF partnered with Sulakauri Publishing to translate a British illustrated book for children on COVID-19 in different languages. The book was shared through the UNICEF platforms and networks.
- UNICEF partner, Children of Georgia, provided psychological support to over 240 children and caregivers in alternative care;
- A Facebook page to support parents of children with disabilities on COVID-19-related prevention and care, as well as guidance on academic, emotional and behavioral support for children with disabilities and their families is operational.
- UNICEF established partnership with youth organizations to enhance engagement of young people in the COVID-19 response.
- UNFPA donated PPEs to the University Clinic #1 in Tbilisi;
- UNFPA supports online education platform in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Science and Public Broadcaster: lessons on reproductive health issues and videos on equality, early/child marriage and violence in different languages were developed and aired to support adolescents through distance learning;
- UNFPA facilitated youth participation in #YouthAgainstCOVID19 global campaign launched in partnership with Prezi;
- In partnership with UNFPA, the Liberty Bank printed 15,000 units of brochures on 'COVID-19 Guidance and Advice for Older People' for dissemination in the regions and rural areas of Georgia.
- FAO provides policy support to the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, conducts weekly data collection to assess the evolution and impact of COVID in agriculture and develops weekly factsheet for the stakeholders on mitigation measures in Agriculture and Food Sectors taken by Government;
- Through the EU funding, FAO conducts webinars to support nursery enterprises.
- FAO produced monthly edition of Global Food Price Index, analyzing global food prices amid COVID-19;
- Through the EU/ENPARD supported Market Information System FAO conducts analysis of price fluctuations on the main food commodities, an online platform for remote advice to farmers was established and GEL 2,2 mln grants were approved;
- UN Women launched a call for proposals for UN Women/SDC/ADA beneficiary women entrepreneurs, as well as hosted a training on how to start or improve their business during Covid-19 and distributed a brochure with respective guidelines and ideas.
- IOM hosted the live online consultation organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia to provide support to Georgian migrants stranded abroad due to COVID-19. The several foreign nationals stranded in Georgia due to flight restrictions, returned home through the IOM's support.
- 40 Georgian nationals returned to Georgia with the help of Swiss Migration Secretariat in coordination with the Government. IOM supports socio-economic reintegration of returnees, as well as provides medical support to those with chronic health conditions.
- OHCHR in cooperation with the Georgian Bar Association, delivered the online training sessions for lawyers on human rights in the context of State of Emergency;
- The RCO translated the book "My Hero is You" into Georgian. This book was a project developed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Reference Group on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings. A global survey was distributed to assess children's mental health and psychosocial needs during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- The RCO is supporting a project for Georgian artists. Currently during the lockdown their artworks are uploaded to the Art Guild 3D Gallery, repository of artworks, and later an exhibition will be organized.

Response by international development partners

- Embassy of the United Kingdom donated personal protective equipment worth USD 31,200 to the Armed Forces of Georgia.
- Slovak Republic allocated EU 44,198 to finance five projects run by Georgian CSOs in response to COVID-19.

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Important links to follow

- A link to the book “My Hero is You”: <http://www.ungeorgia.ge/docs/8070MyHerolsYou-georgia.pdf>
- The social media campaign by UNICEF Georgia #LearningAtHome. The challenge was supported by online media outlet on.ge, which published the activities of the challenge and a personal blog of UNICEF Education Officer on parenting challenges during COVID-19.
- UNICEF Georgia supported - [illustrated book for children on COVID-19](#) in Georgian, Armenian and Azerbaijani languages;
- UNIDO, Opinion piece on the Industrial Analytics Platform: Accounting for long-term climate impact and economic resilience after the pandemic - <https://iap.unido.org/articles/accounting-long-term-climate-impact-and-economic-resilience-after-pandemic>
- EU-funded ENPARD III rural development program by UNDP. Grants worth up to GEL 170,000 per project are being offered, with another GEL 30,000 available for projects making energy-efficiency improvements. Applications are due by 1 August 2020: www.arda.gov.ge.
- For information on transport mechanism to Abkhazia for use by international partners and NGOs, please contact Giorgi Vardishvili giorgi.vardishvili@undp.org or Bezhan Kozanashvili bezhan.kozanashvili@undp.org
- UNDP/COBERM partner, the CSO Accessible Environment for Everyone: an awareness-raising short video about inclusive social protection for the persons with disabilities during the COVID-19 crisis.: <http://library.dpo.ge/ge/news/32>.
- A video in Abkhaz language on COVID-19 awareness for persons with disabilities by UNDP: <https://youtu.be/ANccwTQt8og>.

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**
- 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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