

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Everyone should immediately call 112 or a family doctor and get COVID-19 test in case of fever, cough, difficulty breathing or other respiratory symptoms, [more...](#)
- GOG published report on the measures it took against COVID-19, [more...](#)
- StopCov fund has accumulated GEL 133 639 011 as of 12 June 2020

**697**  
Total recovered

**843**  
Confirmed cases

**13**  
Total deaths

**3026**  
People in quarantine

Source: [www.stopcov.ge](http://www.stopcov.ge) 12 June 2020

## Georgia situation overview

The Georgian Government has presented a revised budget proposal reflecting negative economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia's Cabinet plans to step up fiscal spending in order to offset effects of virus-induced recession this year. The revised budget proposal will now be submitted to the Parliament for approval.

Starting from 8 June, restaurants, bars, cafes and eateries can reopen their indoor dining spaces for customers, provided that they observe all social distancing guidelines. Hotels certified by relevant health authorities that they comply with all public health requirements can resume operations too.

Israel asked Georgia to postpone resuming travel between two countries after it saw a surge in new COVID-19 infections, the Georgian government reported on June 10.

## 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

### Gradual reopening measures taken by the Government of Georgia

Detailed report on measure taken by the GoG is available at <https://stopcov.ge/Content/files/government--report.pdf>

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

- WHO shared the updated version of the Supply Forecasting Tool with the Ministry of Health and provided additional guidance;
- WHO has started the delivery of disinfection supplies to the COVID-19 designated health care facilities in Gori, Kutaisi, Zugdidi and Batumi;

- WHO and UNICEF continue supporting the development of the national risk communication strategy and disseminated the results of the 3 waves of the survey on population knowledge and behaviours related to COVID-19;
- Georgia became fully part of the WHO Solidarity Trial for effective COVID-19 treatment;
- WHO is working on equipping the Public Health Emergency Operations Center to enhance operational capacities of NCDC;
- WHO provided the third cargo of PPEs and laboratory reagents to the MoH for seroepidemiological studies;
- WHO is planning specific support to NCDC in launching seroepidemiological studies inl touristic regions of Georgia.
- With UNICEF support Georgia received 3,500 diagnostic tests for detection of the novel coronavirus;
- The new 1 million USD assistance of the USAID will be delivered in partnership with UNICEF and will provide hygiene and medical supplies to health facilities, support rapid response teams, case management, and infection control, and strengthen public health communications.
- In-line with the country needs, communicated by the Donor Coordination Unit of the Government of Georgia, the Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in Georgia handed-over humanitarian aid of 50 sets of protective clothing, helmets and goggles to UNICEF, to be further delivered to the small group homes and institutions for children with disabilities;
- As a part of UNICEF's plans to promote child rights and the core values, the Representative held a meeting with Apostolic Nuncio and the Dean of Ambassadors in Georgia. The meeting discussed the importance of promoting a value-based development and to uphold the Core Values of UNICEF, all the time, and especially in difficult times such as Covid-19 pandemic.
- UNICEF Representative held a webinar for students, rector and professors of East European Universities EEU on the importance of mainstreaming of child rights into the university programmes and maintaining juvenile justice standards during emergency.
- UNICEF launched a remote health service to ensure continued access to antenatal care in Georgia. The Intervention already reached 3,900 pregnant women. All of them have been invited for the virtual Shared Medical Consultations (SMC);
- UNICEF is supporting the partnership between national and international counterparts in promoting inter-active, high quality and customizable digital platforms for on-line education of children in Georgia. In this regard, the Georgian Coalition for Education for All and the International CK-12 Foundation signed a Memorandum of Cooperation aimed at supporting the MoESCS with the enhancement of on-line educational programmes and resources for childrens' improved performance and learning outcomes.
- UNICEF partnered with the Association of the Regional Media to carry out media campaign on COVID-19 safety and protection measures through regional TV broadcasters. COVID-19 related messages for ethnic minorities in Samtskhe Javakheti and Qvemo Kartli regions will be developed and distributed as news packages, talk shows and PSAs.
- The fourth wave of the Behavioral Insight Study conducted by UNICEF and WHO to monitor public knowledge, risk perceptions, behaviours and trust was carried out in Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti regions to

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understand public perceptions in these ethnic minority regions and to address existing myths and misconceptions in risk communication and community engagement activities.

- A multimedia package was prepared to document how children with disabilities and their parents have coped with the challenges related to COVID-19 and disruption of existing services. The video and the article also featured information about how UNICEF has helped parents through TV programmes and online platforms.
- voices of youth were heard through short stories and videos (video 1, video 2) from Imereti region. The children shared their insight on how despite all the stress of COVID-19, staying home had positively impacted their lives.
- UNICEF-supported Covid-19 hotline “111” aimed at providing assistance to children and their families responded to with over 551 cases, of which more than 50% have received assistance.
- UNICEF partner, Initiative for Social Change, conducted online supervision meetings with more than 80 statutory social workers from the child protection and justice system.
- On-line psychological support was provided to 171 children and 103 carers in small group homes and foster care by UNICEF partner Children of Georgia.
- UNICEF supported four-day remote training for 29 social workers in Abkhazia. The training covered various aspects of social work and the provision of psychosocial support to children and their families in the context of COVID-19.
- OHCHR is assisting the Georgian Government in developing the Government Report to the UN Expert Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (UN CESCR).
- Presentation of the Rapid Gender Assessment (RGA) of Covid-19 situation in Georgia conducted for UNCT and donor community on 10 June 2020. The RGA was conducted by UN Women in May 2020 and analyzed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and main challenges faced by women and men in Georgia, including effects on their livelihood and vulnerability. To deliver on leave no one left behind (LNB) – the central and transformative promise of the 2030 agenda, the Rapid Gender Assessment further focused on assessing the situation and needs of women and girls with disabilities and women caregivers of disabled persons. The full-fledged report of the RGA will be available by the end of June 2020.
- In order to support grassroots’ women’s initiatives and civil activism to show timely and adequate support to other women and girls’ needs in the COVID-19 crisis, UN Women has engaged in partnership with Women’s Fund in Georgia (WFG) – around Women’s COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund/Facility. The priority groups to be addressed by the Rapid Response Fund through small grants’ (ranging from USD 100 to USD 2,500) in the COVID-19 context will be women facing intersectional discrimination and at increased risk of being left behind during the crisis: disabled women, women mothers of disabled children, single mothers, single elderly women, transgender women, impoverished women, women victims/survivors of domestic violence or any other form of discrimination including Gender Based Violence. The Facility will be also used to encourage women’s social activism, partnership between central and local governments and women’s groups and innovative solutions by women (including through ICT) for addressing COVID-19 crisis.
- As a first step in implementing its USD 400,000 component of the joint UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund, UNDP provided the 144 emergency center with specialized GPS-equipped dashboards to handle large call volumes. The 144 center is the focal point for the COVID-19 emergency response, handling 4,500 calls per day and operating 330 ambulance crews. The new technology was designated by the Government as an urgent need to ensure the provision of effective emergency services nationwide and to prepare for a possible second wave of the pandemic. The dashboards will enable dispatchers to assess locations and emergency crew mobility and monitor call times, brigade responses, clinic locations and hospital capacity.

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- UNDP, with UK Government support, installed contactless buttons in the elevators of the Public Service Hall (PSH) in Tbilisi to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19. The PSH is one of the most visited public spaces in the capital, serving on average more than 10,000 customers per day. The innovative sensors are produced by a local start-up, “sensor.ge,” which received initial funding for prototyping electronic services from the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development.
- UNDP, with support from the Government of Sweden, launched a distance-learning initiative to strengthen the capacity of the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC) to provide key health services in response to COVID-19 and beyond. Under the programme, 60 Public Health Centre specialists from NCDC regional representations and 4,000 medical personnel and administrative staff from 37 medical institutions across Georgia will be trained in identifying, controlling and preventing communicable diseases like COVID-19 and improving systemic approaches for rapid response to emerging needs. This will significantly improve the surveillance, prevention, and management capacity of the NCDC and other health institutions by creating a more flexible, multi-skilled and team-oriented workforce at the heart of the healthcare system.
- At the request of the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Health and Social Affairs, UNDP is enhancing the governance capacity of the state medical institutions countrywide to deliver quality healthcare services to citizens. Covering Tbilisi Republican Hospital, Batumi Republican Hospital, Rukhi Hospital, Tbilisi Oncology Center and Tbilisi Children’s Infectious Disease Hospital, the initiative aims to improve the management of publicly-owned hospitals. An organizational development strategy will be prepared for Georgia Medical Holding (GMH) and a clinical quality assurance mechanism will be established for the case management of patients, including those with COVID-19. The initiative is funded by the Government Sweden and executed through the Curatio International Foundation (CIF).
- With support from the Government of Sweden, UNDP launched an initiative in partnership with the Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia (CSRDG) to support rural women in Samegrelo, Kakheti and Guria in developing rural microbusinesses and increasing community resilience. Between June and December 2020, the USD 50,000 project will provide business micro-grants for establishing women-run enterprises that meet community needs and provide services that were identified as lacking during the COVID-19 restrictions. In addition, UNDP-supported Women Initiative Groups in the 27 target communities will alert women entrepreneurs to opportunities and provide assistance in applying for state-funded economic support programmes.
- As part of a joint UN programme for persons with disabilities (PwDs), UNDP prepared 3,500 informative brochures and 1,200 stickers on COVID-19 in Georgian, Armenian and Azerbaijani languages. The materials were developed in an easy-to-read format to inform PwDs about the risks of COVID-19 and how to prevent it. Brochures and stickers were delivered to the Agency for State Care for further distribution in the regional centers of the Agency (in every municipality of Georgia), and in five residential institutions and through 20 community organizations for PwDs.
- With EU support, UNDP is providing the Training Centre of the Parliament of Georgia with video recording equipment to support the production of distance training sessions for MPs and parliamentary staff and interns. While the need for such equipment is long-term, it is particularly helpful to ensure continuous learning while telecommuting and social distancing are in force.
- With EU support, UNDP partnered with the Georgian Innovations and Technology Agency (GITA) and the Agriculture and Rural Development Agency (ARDA) to organize a first hackathon to promote rural development in eight municipalities: Akhalkalaki, Borjomi, Dedoplistskaro, Kazbegi, Keda, Khulo, Lagodekhi and Tetrtskaro. The hackathon aimed to spur innovative digital solutions to economic and social challenges from the COVID-19 crisis, with a focus on local tourism and rural employment. After intensive teamwork with mentors, two prototypes were awarded: 1) “Digital Village,” which envisages the creation of an innovative rural platform combining video, audio and textual channels for communication; and 2) “Kazbegi Union,” which will create a digital platform to improve communication between rural residents and support employment. The winning teams each received GEL 20,000 to implement their projects before August 2020.
- With EU support, UNDP established Municipal Working Groups that bring together national and local authorities and civil society in eight target municipalities to elaborate Municipality Proposals: joint actions for rural development targeting economic, social and environmental issues and COVID challenges. The Inter-Agency

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Coordination Council on Rural Development (IACC) chaired by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture will coordinate national Government actors of Georgia in providing support for the implementation of the Municipality Proposals.

- The Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD) established under Joint EU-UNDP ENPARD programme in Abkhazia selected four projects to support agriculture-based livelihoods threatened by the COVID pandemic. Applicants will receive support from CARD experts to develop business plans and the necessary inputs and technical advice to make their projects successful.
- With rehabilitation work starting at vocational colleges in Abkhazia under an EU-funded programme, UNDP prepared and distributed protective gear and information packages with WHO-recommended safety measures to construction workers and managers. UNDP also trained VET teachers on adapting the WHO recommendations into management procedures and the learning environment at VET colleges to prevent the spread of COVID-19. UNDP also distributed sanitation and hygienic supplies (liquid soap, antiseptics, doormats and dispensers) to VET colleges; and provided advice on protecting students' health during the COVID-19 outbreak, especially in view of the imminent examination sessions at VET colleges in Abkhazia.
- With USAID funding, UNDP continued to organize consultations between Georgian and Abkhaz doctors. This time the Association "Peaceful and Business Caucasus" facilitated online consultations on COVID-19 and vaccinations between medical personnel of Pitsunda Town Hospital and specialists from the Imereti Branch Office of the National Center for Disease Control.
- FAO launched FAO Georgia Facebook page to enhance informational support to COVID-19 Emergency Response project activities.
- FAO marked World Food Safety Day with multiple communication activities to raise the awareness on food safety and hygiene measures amid COVID-19.
- IOM provided cash assistance to respond to the basic needs of migrants from Guinea and India, stranded in Georgia due to COVID-19.

### Response by international development partners

- In a bid to support to inmates and prison staff amid COVID-19 pandemic, the Council of Europe (CoE) has donated protective materials to five member States, including Georgia. The donations for Georgia included 6,500 masks, 2,500 face shields and 500 litres of sanitizer and antiseptic liquid, 20 pulse oximeters; 5,000 disposable plastic shoe covers; and 3,000 medical disposable headcovers.

### 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 launches COVID-19 Industrial Recovery Programme, <https://www.unido.org/news/unido-launches-covid-19-industrial-recovery-programme>

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**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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