

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Georgia ended the 63-day long state of emergency on 23 May
- Gradual lifting of restrictions is underway
- StopCov fund has accumulated GEL 132 618 954 as of 28 May

**573**  
Total recovered

**738**  
Confirmed cases

**12**  
Total deaths

**3,076**  
People in quarantine

Source: [www.stopcov.ge](http://www.stopcov.ge) 28 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 has ended on May 23. The Parliament passed a draft law allowing to impose restrictions on fundamental human rights without declaring the state of emergency. To date, Abkhazia reported 28 cases, with 15 recoveries and one death. A state of emergency was put in place on 28 March and was lifted as of 21 April. South Ossetia has so far confirmed 37 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

- Public municipal transport, including Tbilisi Metro will be resumed on 29 May.
- All kinds of stores, shopping malls, agricultural markets and restaurants with outdoor spaces will reopen on 1 June;
- Hotels will be allowed to reopen after their compliance with the regulations are checked and approved by labour inspectorate, restaurants will resume indoor table service and intercity transport services will resume on 8 June.

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

- In Partnership with the USAID, WHO delivers videoconferencing equipment and communication materials to the targeted facilities, including in Abkhazia, to enable training and coaching of healthcare and laboratory staff. WHO has also provided necessary equipment to the Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC) at the National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDCPH).

- UNICEF launched a remote health service to ensure continued access to antenatal care. The service reached 2,529 pregnant women in the districts under strict quarantine and in Tbilisi.
- UNICEF Representative together with the Deputy State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, the Advisor to the Prime Minister on Human Rights and Gender Equality Issues, and local authorities of Gori municipality delivered essential hygiene and food supplies to 200 vulnerable families in the villages of Tselubani and Nikozi.
- A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between UNICEF, Parliament and State Care Agency to add services through the COVID-19 hotline 111, for adolescents and young people addicted to gambling and drug abuse.
- UNICEF Representative delivered a virtual session to the students of the Kant's Academy on "Living the Values while Making the Change" to support adolescents in building their resilience to cope, with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and to actively engage as change agents.
- The Facebook group for young people - Debates for Education - hosted a webinar on COVID-19 and protection measures facilitated by UNICEF.
- UNICEF launched bi-weekly episodes of bedtime story readings in the Abkhazian shared on Instagram and Facebook.
- UNICEF shared Guidelines for religious leaders on the prevention of violence against children with the Armenian Apostolic Church and to priests in Tbilisi, Javakheti and Adjara, as well as educational centres.
- UNDP transported a fourth shipment of medical supplies to Abkhazia through the joint EU-UNDP coordination mechanism. Supplies were delivered to Gudauta Hospital, the designated treatment facility for COVID-19 in Abkhazia, and medical clinics and facilities in Sukhumi, Gali, Gagra, Ochamchire, Gulripshi, Pitsunda and Tkvarcheli. The shipment included 1,210 protective coveralls, 1,000 medical gowns, 3,500 pairs of nitrile gloves, 5,000 medical caps, 2,000 respirator masks, 1,000 shoe covers, 255 liters of hand sanitizer, 500 liters of disinfectant, 210 face shields and 12 infrared thermometers.
- UNDP transported to Abkhazia equipment needed to maintain preventive hygienic protocols on COVID-19. This included 25 doormats for disinfecting shoes, 30 wall-mounted dispensers for hand sanitizer and 50 wall-mounted dispensers for hand soap, along with supplies of 500 liters of chlorine-based disinfectant, 300 liters of hand sanitizer, 250 liters of liquid hand soap and 45 liters of anti-bacterial hand soap. The equipment will be installed in educational institutions, laboratories and healthcare facilities.
- With funding from USAID, UNDP installed videoconferencing equipment in six medical facilities in Abkhazia: Gudauta Hospital, the Republican Hospital, the Republican Tuberculosis Hospital, the Sanitary and Epidemiology Service (SES) and Gagra and Ochamchire district hospitals. A designated training room at SES was furnished with desks and chairs. The systems will enable medical staff to participate in online training and consult with local and foreign experts.
- At the request of Georgia's Agency for State Care and Assistance for the Victims of Human Trafficking, UNDP provided online psychosocial counselling and burnout prevention sessions for 215 psychologists and social workers at specialized institutions in Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Martkopi, Dusheti and Dzevri that have been under COVID-19 lockdown. UNDP's partner was the Global Initiative on Psychiatry in Tbilisi. In partnership with Center for Mental Health and Prevention of Addiction, UNDP also provided online psychological and psychiatric support services to more than 100 staff and persons with disabilities living in boarding houses in Martkopi and Dusheti.
- Working with seven partner CSOs, UNDP conducted a needs assessment survey in 23 target municipalities in four regions in May 2020. The results will be used to define a quick response strategy to assist small and medium-sized businesses affected by the COVID-19 crisis.
- UNDP supported the Ajara Autonomous Republic in adapting its new agriculture and rural development strategy for 2021-2027 to address COVID-19 challenges.
- With financial support from the Government of the Ajara Autonomous Republic, UNDP issued a call for grant applications for new and existing small businesses working in tourism, light industry and services as a way of building the resilience of rural areas during the COVID-19 crisis.
- UNHCR provides food assistance to 57 asylum-seekers living at the Martkopi Reception Center. With its partner "World Vision International" UNHCR supports asylum-seeker children in the centre with catch up classes and provides on-line psychological counselling.
- UNHCR supported almost 500 vulnerable households in Abkhazia, with fuel [20 litres per family] to enable last opportunities for ploughing and sowing. Distribution of fuel continues and will be complemented by distribution of fertilizers.
- With the support of UN Women, Academy of the Ministry of Finance has conducted a free masterclass in Strategies for Entrepreneurship. The masterclass was designed for women who wish to start their businesses or need strategic planning for business development.
- UN Women through its informal Facebook platform 'Women against Covid-19' hosted a session with the representative of the Agricultural and Rural Development Agency (ARDA) and Deputy Chair of Georgian Farmers

**To contribute to regular Situation Reports and to be included in the mailing lists, please contact: Nino Lortkipanidze, OCHA NDRA at +995599159910; [lortkipanidze@un.org](mailto:lortkipanidze@un.org)**

Association to inform women entrepreneurs and grassroots women on the programs of ARDA and the Covid-19 anti-crisis plan related initiatives for farmers. UN Women has launched a new initiative – experts from the region are providing online training sessions in marketing, branding and sustainable agriculture for women entrepreneurs in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia in the context of the COVID-19 crisis. In the past over 200 women have participated in 4 such meetings through Zoom.

- With the support of UNFPA, Antenatal Care (ANC) National Clinical Protocol amendment on providing phone-based antenatal care in the immediate clinical situation during COVID-19 was developed.
- In the frameworks of the agreement between UNFPA and the Body Shop Georgia, the campaign #IsolatedNotAlone has started to address the risks of increased violence against women during the COVID-19. The outdoor billboards and posters indicating the hot-line number have been placed in the streets of Tbilisi and pharmacies.
- IOM provides assistance to migrants stranded in Georgia due to COVID-19. Cash grants were disbursed to 4 migrants from Bangladesh before IOM can organize their voluntary return to their home countries.
- IOM announced a call for small grants for NGOs to respond to the COVID-19-related needs identified through the Rapid Needs Assessment.
- IOM launched a Facebook group “Migrants in Georgia” to reach out to foreigners residing in Georgia with COVID-19-related and other useful information on public health, legal and human rights issues and create a safe space for discussion.
- IOM started an online awareness raising activity titled “COVID-19 Faces of Migration” featuring migrant stories and portraits on the IOM Georgia website.
- OHCHR conducted a training for investigators of State Inspector Service (SIS) on international human rights standards, especially in the right to privacy in the context of secret surveillance and communication tapping by the State authorities. OHCHR also distributed materials compiled on relevant jurisprudence of the UN Human Rights Committee, reports of the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy, case law of the European Court of Human Rights;
- OHCHR contributed to a training of trainers organized by the Appellate Court and delivered a training on prohibition of discrimination, linguistic rights of minorities, rights of ethnic minorities with the focus on the rights of the Roma, LGBTI+ rights.

### Response by international development partners

- The French Development Agency (AFD) and the Ministry of Finance of Georgia signed two loan agreements for a total of EUR 190 mln.
- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the Ministry of Finance of Georgia signed a loan agreement that provides Georgia with EUR 91.3 bln

### Important links to follow

UNIDO position paper on COVID-19 response: [https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/files/2020-05/UNIDO\\_COVID19\\_External\\_Position\\_Paper.pdf](https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/files/2020-05/UNIDO_COVID19_External_Position_Paper.pdf)

#### 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>

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- 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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