

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Georgia's Crisis Response Plan was launched**
- **Gradual lifting of restrictions was initiated**
- **World Bank allocated USD 80 million to Georgia's COVID-19 response**
- **Georgia received 40,000 PCR and 20,000 Antibody Tests from China**

**178**  
Total recovered

**539**  
Confirmed cases

**6**  
Total deaths

**5,223**  
People in quarantine

Source: [www.stopcov.ge](http://www.stopcov.ge) 30 April 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.
- On 4 May the government will brief development partners about the Crisis Response plan

## Mitigation and response

### Mitigation measures taken by the Government of Georgia

- The Government launched the six-month Crisis Response Plan (USD 1,2 billion budget), to tackle economic and social challenges amid the coronavirus fallout. The plan entails a social assistance package, as well as fiscal stimulus in the form of tax relief and exemptions for businesses.
- The step-by-step plan for resumption of economic activities and easing restrictions during the next three months was launched with initiating its first stage on 27 May.
- The Town of Tetrtskaro in Kvemo Kartli and Villages Khatisopeli, Vanati and Mushevani in Bolnisi Municipality and the Village Gvankiti in Imereti region remain under the lockdown, while the measures were eased in Lentekhi and Khashuri Municipalities.
- The ban for the four largest cities [Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Batumi and Rustavi] has been further extended until the end of the state of emergency on 22 May.

- Restrictions were eased for Tbilisi residents to allow 'essential' agricultural works out of the capital during 06:00-08:00 and return during 18:00-19:00, based on a special permit available online. Residents of Batumi, Rustavi and Kutaisi can also apply for permission.
- Nine designated hospitals serve COVID-19 patients at the moment, while a total of 29 health facilities are mobilized and capable to respond to the respective needs.
- 12,000 PCR tests and around 9 000 rapid tests were performed since 4 February reaching 0.6% of the population. The national testing algorithm is being expanded and health authorities plan to perform on average 1,500 tests a day from May onwards.
- StopCov fund has accumulated GEL 129 526 936 as of 30 April;
- Georgia's diplomatic missions provided assistance to 17,072 citizens abroad. 8,563 citizens have returned to the country via flights organized by the Government.

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

- WHO supported the Government in finalizing the internal clearance procedures for taking part of the solidarity trial for effective treatment of COVID-19, launched by the WHO and partners.
- Through the support from the USAID, WHO initiated a project aimed at capacity strengthening of the national laboratories.
- In collaboration with the National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC), WHO produced 38,000 flyers and 8,800 posters on COVID-19 in different languages for the general public.
- UNICEF signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the NCDC focused on the response to COVID-19;
- UNICEF handed-over NCDC early detection equipment for the lead contamination procured through the USAID and Estonia Development Cooperation support. UNICEF also donated a vehicle to the NCDC to serve the Covid-19 response;
- UNICEF operationalized the UN working group on education and social protection to lead and coordinate joint response of the UN Agencies to COVID-19 pandemics in Georgia in the involved fields.
- UNDP provides pandemic support to the most vulnerable IDP communities in Georgia: the CSO Charity Humanitarian Centre "Abkhazeti" conducted an initial screening of 400 IDP settlements and mapped the 100 most vulnerable ones.
- With support from the joint EU-UNDP COBERM Confidence Building Programme, medicines with a total value of GEL 9,000 were procured and delivered to 40 patients in Abkhazia. In addition, 15 online consultations were held by Georgian doctors to their patients in Abkhazia.
- As a part of the joint EU-UNDP Programme for Rural Development, UNDP launched a stocktaking exercise to understand the pandemic's impact on rural businesses and livelihoods in Abkhazia. This first round includes some 40 commercial grant recipients in four districts, along with partner entrepreneurs and vendors.
- Under the USAID funded Horizons Programme, UNDP printed 5,000 leaflets with WHO recommendations for circulation in rural and remote villages in Abkhazia. UNDP also contracted an international laboratory expert to provide on-demand advice and coaching to the staff running COVID-19 testing.
- Under the EU-funded ENPARD Rural Development Programme, UNDP launched a competitive grant program for CSOs with a total value of USD 120,000, to contribute to creating resilient "smart villages."
- With the EU funding, UNDP provided support to the Parliament in preparing information briefs on the state of emergency, its impact on parliamentary activities and the electronic/online communication tools available to citizens to address the Parliament during the crisis.
- UNDP launched the UK and Sweden funded series of training courses for 800 front-line service providers from Public Service Halls on COVID-19 safety and prevention measures, as well as psychological resilience;
- Under the Public Administration Reform Program funded by the UK and Sweden, UNDP helped the Civil Service Bureau in organization of the third National Forum for Civil Servants in the online format.
- Under the Public Administration Reform Program funded by the UK, UNDP in partnership with the Data Exchange Agency, the National Public Registry Agency and the Public Service Development Agency supported the integration of 36 new electronic services into the Unified Service Portal, my.gov.ge, enabling citizens to receive critical services without leaving their homes.
- Through the funding from the Government of Sweden, UNDP in cooperation with the Data Exchange Agency provided training courses to students from Georgian higher education Institutions on how to ensure data protection during the pandemic-driven distance learning;
- In partnership with Zugdidi municipality, UNDP launched a series of online workshops to train local producers of traditional crafts in skills. This initiative is funded by the Swiss and Austrian Governments.

**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)**

- UNDP produced an informational video on how COVID-19 affects persons with disabilities, including guidance on prevention.
- With UNDP support, Rustavi municipality launched “C Bot,” an artificial intelligence-powered “civil servant” that provides online information on municipal services round-the-clock to local citizens. The [Rustavi Chatbot for Municipal Services](#) was developed by the municipality and [Rustavi Innovations Hub](#) to respond to COVID-19 needs, including sharing updates; connecting volunteers with the vulnerable groups; and listing available delivery, medical and other services. Information on “normal” municipal services, now consolidated into a single database, is also provided.
- UNHCR provided COVID-19 emergency cash assistance to 25 households/70 individuals, including asylum seekers, refugees, humanitarian status holders and stateless persons.
- UNHCR and partners provide legal and social assistance and consultations to the refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs and stateless persons.
- UNHCR distributed cash assistance to 40 households from Syria and Ukraine, in refugee-like situation, whose livelihoods have been jeopardized by imposed restrictions in Abkhazia.
- IOM’s migrants survey confirmed high vulnerability and disproportional exposure of the third country migrant communities in Georgia to the COVID 19 related risks. The survey report will be available next week. IOM supported production of 10,000 face masks by IDP women, for further distribution at the IDP settlements in Zugdidi.
- UNFPA in collaboration with health authorities, provided locally procured PPEs to Kobuleti and Kutaisi Fever Centers [designated for COVID-19 infected pregnant women]. PPEs were donated to the Agency for State Care and Protection and Assistance of Victims of Human Trafficking for further distribution to elderly care homes (Tbilisi and Kutaisi), PWD institutions (Dusheti, Gardabani, Terjola) and Tbilisi Shelter for Victims of Domestic Violence. PPEs were also provided to Sukhumi Reproductive Health Center for further distribution to perinatal and antenatal care facilities. UNFPA supported local professionals in Abkhazia with technical briefs on SRH services in the context of COVID-19 in Russian language.
- UNFPA technical brief “Antenatal Care during COVID-19” and WHO resources on contraception/family planning in the context of COVID-19 were translated in Georgian and disseminated through the health authorities, professional associations and social media.
- UNODC procured PPEs for Container Control Programme (CCP) port control units (PCUs) in Georgia.
- With UN Women support six women producers of agricultural products were added to the electronic platform [soplidan.ge](#). A call for proposals for online vocational education grants for women from Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kvemo Kartli and Kakheti was announced.
- UN Women promotes Women’s Empowerment Principles: Equality Means Business (WEPs) for the private sector also in COVID-19 times. UN Women convened companies who signed the WEPs in Georgia in a meeting on gender and COVID-19. WEPs signees have been active in promoting women’s rights and supporting women during the crisis, i.e.: Microfinance Organization MBC, ordered face masks from a female entrepreneur from Imereti region. Mtavari TV produced a PSA on the negative impact of COVID-19 on the situation of the domestic violence and support services available for victims/survivors.

### Response by international development partners

- The World Bank allocated USD 80 million to strengthen Georgia’s response to COVID-19.
- The Turkish embassy and the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency distributed food in Khulo and Keda districts of Adjara;
- The EU, Sweden and Austria announced a EUR 1.16 million local development initiative for organic agriculture in Svaneti, Racha-Lechkhumi and Upper Imereti regions of Georgia;
- Georgia received 40,000 PCR tests and PPEs from China. Some 20,000 antibody tests were donated by the Government of China.

### Important links to follow

- IASC Interim Guidance: Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP) Approach to the COVID-19 Pandemic (developed by OCHA and UNICEF with WFP) <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/inter-agency-standing-committee/iasc-interim-guidance-covid-19-emergency-response-preparedness>
- All IASC-endorsed guidance for the COVID-19 outbreak at the IASC website: [interagencystandingcommittee.org](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org)

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- COVID-19 and children UNICEF Innocenti: [https://www.unicef-irc.org/covid19?utm\\_source=unicefinnocentihomepage&utm\\_campaign=covid19](https://www.unicef-irc.org/covid19?utm_source=unicefinnocentihomepage&utm_campaign=covid19)
- MenCare Campaign by UNFPA Georgia and media portal ON.ge - a weekly blog “Fathers and children – adventures from isolation”: <http://go.on.ge/1iqq>; <http://go.on.ge/1j7v>; <http://go.on.ge/1jri>
- UNFPA Georgia and its partners keep working to provide access to critical information and services to ensure that women and youth can make informed choices and enjoy their rights: hashtag #ContinuedSupport on social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter)

**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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