

# UNICEF Georgia COVID-19 Situation Report

21 July 2021

## HIGHLIGHTS

- UNICEF Georgia continues to support the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) in providing information on COVID-19 vaccination to medical personnel, teachers, media, religious leaders and municipal staff. – *please see MONTHLY FOCUS on page 3.*
- In partnership with NCDC, 516 PHC personnel were trained in interpersonal communication (IPC) for immunization across the regions of Georgia to address vaccine hesitancy and increase immunization coverage.
- The [arrival of more COVID-19 vaccines](#) through the COVAX facility was documented to [share information](#) about the availability of second doses of AstraZeneca vaccines for the population.
- A two-day workshop was organized by the Government of Georgia, with the support of UNICEF and the European Union, and the participation of civil society, religious organizations, and the Public Defender's Office, to identify next steps for deinstitutionalization of children and to strengthen family support services to prevent child separation.
- As part of its 75th anniversary commemorations, [UNICEF engaged young people in Pankisi](#) in a 4-week seminar on advocacy and digital tools.
- Around 400 adolescents in Adjara region were engaged in trainings on topics such as child rights, health promotion, prevention of COVID-19 infection, and other important adolescent development issues.
- The fieldwork of the third wave of the Real Time Monitoring survey, that aims to analyze the effect of COVID-19 pandemic on Georgian households, has been finished.
- A cold chain assessment was conducted for Abkhazia, identifying necessary equipment for both COVID-19 and regular immunization programmes.

## SITUATION IN NUMBERS

<b>393,360</b> Confirmed cases	<b>5,618</b> Confirmed deaths	<b>46,113</b> Child (<18 years) cases Boys: 23,678 and Girls: 22,435	<b>Abkhazia</b> Confirmed cases – 15,711 Confirmed deaths – 238	<b>UNICEF funding gap</b> US\$2,272,750
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## HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

- UNICEF continues to work closely with the Government, WHO, and other United Nations and humanitarian partners to provide technical guidance and support. In line with WHO's COVID-19 Strategic Response Plan, UNICEF is focusing on risk communication; provision of critical hygiene supplies and PPE for frontline workers; and mitigating the secondary effects of the outbreak by facilitating continued access to healthcare, education and child protection services, as well as social protection programmes for children, pregnant, and lactating women.

## COMMUNICATION FOR SOCIAL CHANGE (C4SC) & EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

- UNICEF continues to support the national COVID-19 vaccination process through multimedia storytelling, media meetings and by providing the regular social media analytics on vaccines to partners at NCDC and the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs (MoIDPOTLHSA).
- UNICEF continued COVID-19 vaccination advocacy in different regions and meeting with various groups to answer the questions and encourage vaccination. Video and [photo stories](#) about vaccination of [religious leaders in Adjara](#) were used to further promote vaccination among religious leaders and other groups.
- In partnership with the MoIDPOTLHSA, the [arrival of more vaccines](#) through the COVAX facility was documented to [share information](#) about the availability of second doses of AstraZeneca vaccines for the population.
- A special service centre for child victims of sexual violence, is being introduced in Georgia with support from UNICEF and the Government of Estonia, in cooperation with the State Care Agency. An [animated video](#) was published on social media channels to raise awareness about the service.

- As part of its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorations, [UNICEF engaged young people in Pankisi](#) in a 4-week seminar on advocacy and digital tools. The seminar culminated in a closing ceremony which involved presentations of 15 young girls from Pankisi to the local community leaders and UNICEF Representative. In [photo stories](#), the girls shared [their impressions](#) from the experience, stressing the [importance of participation](#), empowerment and engagement.



*“Reimagining Your Future” was the main theme of a month-long training led by UNICEF, in partnership w/ the DemLab, to empower young girls in Pankisi by building digital advocacy skills.*

- UNICEF, in partnership with the European Union, continues to support the Government in the deinstitutionalization process. A number of communication materials were produced to raise awareness about the issue and stress the importance of a child-focused approach in this process. Videos were produced about why are large institutions are [unsuitable living environment for children](#), and [UNICEF recommendations](#) in this process. Social media cards were also prepared and shared, generating over 10,000 views and reactions.
- UNICEF, in partnership with the European Union and “Parents for Education”, continued to support parents and children through the provision of informational videos about anger management among [parents](#) and [children](#), as well as practical tips for parents on how to support children in [managing their emotions](#).

## HEALTH, NUTRITION & WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

- In partnership with NCDC, a total of 516 PHC personnel were trained in interpersonal communication (IPC) for immunization through a combination of online and face-to-face trainings across the regions of Georgia to address vaccine hesitancy and increase immunization coverage.
- A series of events (online camps, face-to-face trainings, adolescents peer-to-peer trainings) were organized for school children in Adjara region. Around 400 adolescents were engaged in the trainings, with key topics such as the rights of the child, health promotion, prevention of COVID-19 infection, and other important adolescent development issues.
- A cold chain assessment was conducted for Abkhazia, identifying necessary equipment for both COVID-19 and regular immunization programmes. Information was shared with various stakeholders to support planning.



*Training of the medical personnel on interpersonal communication for immunization (NCDC)*

## CHILD PROTECTION

- A two-day workshop was organized by the Government of Georgia, with the support of UNICEF and the European Union, and the participation of civil society, religious organizations, and the Public Defender’s Office, to identify next steps for deinstitutionalization of children and to strengthen family support services to prevent child separation.
- Under an initiative of the European Network of Ombudspersons of Children (ENOC), UNICEF has continued working on a project to provide technical assistance to the Public Defender's Office to undertake and complete a Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) related to COVID-19.
- UNICEF Representative to Georgia held a meeting with the President of the Supreme Court of Georgia, to discuss the concept of child judge, introduction of integrated services for child victims of sexual abuse and further specialization of criminal and administrative judges.
- UNICEF, with its partner, N(N)LE Democracy Development Agency (DDA), launched a project to support the implementation of the Code on the Rights of the Child including strengthening the coordination mechanism between the legislative and executive branches (including local municipalities).

## SOCIAL PROTECTION

- The fieldwork of the third wave of the Real Time Monitoring survey, that aims to analyze the effect of COVID-19 pandemic on Georgian households has been finished. This wave focused on child physical and mental health, access to healthcare services and early childhood development. Preparation of the fourth wave started, including development of the questionnaire, which focuses on water and sanitation, COVID-19 vaccination, attitudes on child development, gaming, functional difficulties, and attitudes towards people with disabilities.
- UNICEF has been supporting the municipalities of Tbilisi, Kutaisi and Batumi in the process of transforming into Child Friendly Cities. In this regard, UNICEF and Tbilisi Municipality conducted an online presentation of the Situation Analysis of Children's Rights and Welfare in the Tbilisi. Meetings of Kutaisi and Batumi municipal task forces were held to support the development of the draft municipal strategies and actions plans within the Child Friendly City Initiative.



*Training of the university representatives and academic staff on the teaching methodology of child rights.*

## EDUCATION

- UNICEF continues supporting universities in incorporating child rights into educational programmes. UNICEF organized seminars on the learning-teaching methodology of child rights for the academic staff of Akaki Tsereteli State University and Shota Meskhia State Teaching University of Zugdidi.

## MONTHLY FOCUS: UNICEF Continues to Support NCDC in COVID-19 Vaccination Demand Creation

UNICEF, in partnership with NCDC, organized information sessions with healthcare experts for Muslim religious leaders and representatives of culture and sports organizations of Adjara on 21 June. During these sessions, COVID-19 and immunization in Georgia were discussed. Following the sessions, participants had the opportunity to receive a COVID-19 vaccination.



*50 Muslim Imams and theologians from the Adjara region, including the Mufti of Western Georgia, participated in the information session on COVID-19.*

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*UNICEF has a strong partnership with Muslim religious leaders in Adjara and their support in spreading correct information about COVID-19 vaccination is crucial” - said Ghassan Khalil, UNICEF Representative in Georgia.*

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During the meeting organized in partnership with the Administration of All Muslims of Georgia, general immunization trends in Georgia and the situation with vaccine-preventable diseases; COVID-19 in Georgia and trends, risks and preventive measures; COVID-19 complications among children, and the importance of immunization, including

vaccination of the patients with chronic heart and respiratory system conditions were discussed. After the session, religious leaders were invited to get their COVID-19 vaccinations at a local clinic in Batumi.

“UNICEF has a strong partnership with Muslim religious leaders in Adjara and their support in spreading correct information about COVID-19 vaccination is crucial”, said Ghassan Khalil, UNICEF Representative in Georgia. “We organized similar sessions with Orthodox Christian leaders, teachers, doctors and media in different parts of Georgia and we were glad to see that after our sessions people were getting their vaccination.” - Khalil added.

As part of the visit to Adjara, a similar information session was also conducted for local community leaders and representatives from various culture and sports organizations.

UNICEF has been supporting the Government in shielding children and families from the immediate and long-term consequences of the COVID-19 outbreak. The work has combined the immediate response to the outbreak, including measures to prevent transmission, with long-term measures to safeguard the services that are crucial for the healthy and happy development of every child.



COVID-19 vaccination meeting with representatives of culture and sport organizations in Adjara.



An informational meeting on COVID-19 and vaccination was held with Muslim religious leaders.

## FUNDING 2021

Programme Areas	Funding Needs	Funds Identified	Funding Gap
Education	675,000	0	675,000
Child Protection	425,000	0	425,000
Health, Nutrition and WASH	800,000	100,000	700,000
Social Protection	170,000	0	170,000
Risk Communication and Community Engagement	402,750	100,000	302,750
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,472,750</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>2,272,750</b>

## PARTNERSHIPS

UNICEF wishes to express its gratitude to donors supporting its response to COVID-19: Bulgaria, Estonia, the European Union, Korea, Norway, SIDA, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and USAID.

The next Situation Report will be issued on 18 August 2021.

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