The first patient with COVID-19 was diagnosed in Georgia on 26 February 2020. Despite early actions of the Government, the number of confirmed and suspected cases continued to grow. The Government declared 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. The state of emergency ended on 23 May, however, several restrictions remain in place.

The Parliament of Georgia passed a bill, which allows the Government to impose movement, labor, migration, economic and other restrictions without the declaration of a state of emergency. Travel restrictions remain in place until the end of July.

To date, Abkhazia, Georgia, reported 38 cases, with 36 recoveries and one death. A state of emergency was put in place on 28 March and was lifted as of 21 April. On 1 July, kindergartens were reopened, and the most social restrictions have eased. However, the Administrative Border Line and the border with Russia remain closed. The situation is to be re-assessed on 15 July.

**Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs**

The first patient with COVID-19 was diagnosed in Georgia on 26 February 2020. Despite early actions of the Government, the number of confirmed and suspected cases continued to grow. The Government declared 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. The state of emergency ended on 23 May however, several restrictions remain in place. The Parliament of Georgia passed a bill, which allows the Government to impose movement, labor, migration, economic and other restrictions without the declaration of a state of emergency. Travel restrictions remain in place until the end of July.

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**SITUATION IN NUMBERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed cases</td>
<td>1010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recovered cases</td>
<td>885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed deaths</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed cases among children (under 18 years)</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarantined</td>
<td>5,640</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**UNICEF funding needs**

US$ 4,415,399

**UNICEF funding gap**

US$ 1,841,399 (42%)

---

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- A new partnership “Preventing and Responding to COVID-19 in Georgia” was presented during a [video discussion with the USAID Mission Director and the UNICEF Representative](#) and shared on UNICEF and USAID social media platforms.
- NCDC, the Ministry of Health of Autonomous Republic of Adjara and UNICEF launched virtual antenatal consultations for pregnant women from Adjara.
- UNICEF, the National Youth Agency, and Helping Hand launched the project - Youth Volunteering Engagement in COVID-19 Pandemic Response in Georgia. Around 150 young volunteers actively engaged in the discussion.
- The UNICEF Representative held a meeting with the Ministry of Education of Adjara to advocate for the safe reopening of schools.
- In partnership with NCDC and Administration of All Muslims of Georgia, UNICEF organized a series of webinars on COVID-19 prevention measures. More than 50 religious leaders of the Kvemo Kartli region attended the first webinar.
- An additional 15 TV programmes on COVID-19 were broadcasted by Tok, Marneuli, and Parvana TV stations targeting minority language speakers.
- UNICEF’s [campaign to address the stigma](#) around disability was also used to raise awareness of COVID-19 prevention measures during a regional event in Mestia.
- The UNICEF-supported child hotline “111” launched a specialized service providing psychosocial support to adolescents addicted to gambling and drug abuse.
- UNICEF donated hygiene, recreation, and rehabilitation items to juvenile rehabilitation establishments including books, puzzles, art therapy materials, and recreational tools that will be utilized under the close supervision of psychologists and social workers within individual rehabilitation/treatment plans.

**SITATION IN NUMBERS**

1010
Confirmed cases

885
Recovered cases

15
Confirmed deaths

98
Confirmed cases among children (under 18 years)

5,640
Quarantined

**UNICEF funding needs**

US$ 4,415,399

**UNICEF funding gap**

US$ 1,841,399 (42%)
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 limiting human-to-human transmission and mitigating the impact of the outbreak on the health system and communities.

UNICEF’s mix of response and preparedness activities include:

1. Facilitating risk communication as well as learning, play, and positive parenting communications;
2. Provisioning critical hygiene and medical supplies for healthcare;
3. Ensuring children, pregnant, and lactating women are supported with adequate healthcare despite the outbreak;
4. Mitigating secondary effects of the outbreak by facilitating continued access to education, child protection needs, including prevention of violence against children, and advocating for continued access to social protection programmes.

UNICEF’s Response

UNICEF is supporting COVID-19 coordination mechanisms nationally, and in regions, with technical expertise, planning, and communications, including participating in UN coordination groups for health procurement and socio-economic/early recovery and chairing the social protection and education group.

Communication for Social Change (C4SC) and External Communications

- In partnership with NCDC and Administration of All Muslims of Georgia, UNICEF organized a series of webinars aimed at educating Muslim religious leaders on COVID-19 prevention measures. More than 50 religious leaders of the Kvemo Kartli region attended the first webinar.
- An additional 15 TV programmes on COVID-19 were broadcasted by Tok, Marneuli, and Parvana TV stations targeting minority language speakers. In total, 60 special editions have aired, raising awareness on COVID-19 protective measures in ethnic minority regions of Georgia. The TV programmes are part of UNICEF’s efforts to support NCDC in risk communication activities in Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti regions of Georgia.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Health and NCDC, and with the support of the European Union and the UK Government, WHO and UNICEF presented the results of the Behavior Insights Study at an online meeting attended by the Government, NGOs, research organizations, international agencies, and media. The study found that over 90% of Georgians are aware of COVID-19 symptoms and how it is transmitted, and over 90% use self-protection measures.
- A new partnership initiative, Preventing and Responding to COVID-19 in Georgia, was presented at a moderated video discussion with the participation of the USAID Mission Director and the UNICEF Representative. The video was shared via social media platforms of UNICEF and USAID to mark the launch of the new partnership.
- A demo version of the chatbot for young people was created. The chatbot is to be further populated with questions and answers on COVID-19, violence, and mental health issues before its actual launch in September 2020.
- Within the framework of advocating for continuous education for children during the pandemic, UNICEF Georgia released a human-interest story about a family with 6 children in Nikozi village on UNICEF’s global platforms. During the reporting week, the story reached more than 200,000 people in Georgia.
• UNICEF’s communication for social change campaign to address the stigma around disability was also used to raise awareness of COVID-19 prevention measures during a regional event in Mestia, Svaneti.
• During the reporting week, UNICEF Georgia reached 8,252 people and engaged 5,085 people on topics about COVID-19.

Health, Nutrition and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

• UNICEF’s virtual antenatal care programme is expanding, increasing its reach to 11,575 pregnant women, of which 30% participated in virtual medical consultations.
• Together with NCDC and the Ministry of Health of Autonomous Republic of Adjara and Medical Society, UNICEF launched the virtual antenatal consultations for pregnant women from Adjara.
• The UNICEF Representative and Chairperson of Government of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara held a meeting to discuss the safe reopening of schools during COVID-19, the joint response to lead pollution and future partnerships, as well as and challenges related to children in difficult circumstances in Batumi.

Adolescents/youth

• Through the cooperation between UNICEF, the National Youth Agency and NGO Helping Hand, the programme - Youth Volunteering Engagement in COVID-19 Pandemic Response in Georgia - officially launched. Around 150 young volunteers actively engaged in the discussion highlighting their gratitude towards the initiative.
• The first session on Active Citizenship and Volunteering has been organized for 26 selected volunteers by NGO Helping Hand. The interactive session enabled participants to ask questions and express their views. The development of the online Youth Volunteering Platform is in progress.
• The UNICEF-supported child hotline "111" launched a specialized service providing psychological support to adolescents and their parents on gambling and drug abuse with the participation of UNICEF Representative in Georgia, Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, and Chairperson of Human Rights and Civil Integration Committee.
• A group of 100 adolescents from various regions of Georgia were engaged in interactive meetings on various topics organized by UNICEF’s partner organization Kant’s Academy. During the reporting week, the following subjects were discussed: types of leadership, planning and implementing business companies, stress management, and relationships between parents and children.
• 90 additional adolescents participated in an international webinar led by the co-founder of #togetherpodemos Mr. Alvaro Daza, covering topics of global entrepreneurship and networking. To date, a total of 453 adolescents participated in webinars from all over Georgia, of which 50 were of ethnic minority communities, 14 were foreign refugees, and about 150 adolescents were appointed by different CSOs from regions.
• The online survey to explore adolescents’ wellbeing, sentiments, plans during and after pandemic run by Kant’s Academy is in progress.
• UNICEF’s partner, Global Initiative in Psychiatry, continues a series of online webinars for adolescents and their parents. During the reporting week, webinars covered the following topics: (1) the journey within your body - webinar for parents on how to help adolescents in developing and forming a positive body image, and (2) how to help children if they turn out to be in a bullying triangle - the webinar for parents on how to protect children from oppression.
Child Protection

- In partnership with the Parliament and State Care Agency, the UNICEF-supported child hotline “111” continues to provide assistance to children and their families, supporting around 619 cases to date, of which 457 already received assistance and were closed accordingly.
- UNICEF’s partner, Initiative for Social Change, conducted online supervision meetings with over 279 statutory social workers, including 231 from the social protection system and 48 from the justice system. Some of the covered topics included: effective remote communication, existing services and resources map, working at home, stress and time management, guidelines on child protection during the pandemic, and preventing professional burnout.
- A Facebook page to support parents of children with disabilities, run by UNICEF’s partner organization, MAC Georgia, continues to provide practical information, one-to-one counseling with specialists, and chats for parents and caregivers. During the reporting week, activities focused on supporting parents to deal with children’s physical development, the proper use of wheelchairs, and support to children with sensory impairments. 3, 333 people were engaged through various posts, lives, and focused interactions.
- Through group and individual sessions, UNICEF partner’s - Children of Georgia provided online psychological support to 193 children and 121 caregivers in small group homes and foster care, in all regions of Georgia.
- UNICEF donated hygiene, recreation, and rehabilitation items to the Special Penitentiary Service, which were distributed among the juvenile rehabilitation establishments of Tbilisi and Kutaisi. Among the donated items were books, puzzles, art therapy materials, and recreational tools that will be utilized under the close supervision of psychologists and social workers within individual rehabilitation/treatment plans.
- UNICEF conducted a training for social workers in Abkhazia to enhance their computer literacy skills and improve capacities to record and effectively use data on vulnerable families and the provision of social support in the context of COVID-19 response.

Education

- The UNICEF Representative held a meeting with the Ministry of Education of Adjara to advocate for the safe reopening of schools. During the meeting, officials also discussed the innovative “Bees Project”, which considers sending teachers from 15 schools, who were part of the project supported by Estonia, to coach their colleagues in other schools.
- The UNICEF Representative held a meeting with the Deputy Mayor of Batumi and the Head of Batumi Kindergarten Union to discuss the implementation of the new national standards for preschool education, including COVID-19 requirements.
- UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia, EMIS¹ and Georgian Coalition for Education for All (EFA) with the development of essential teaching and learning resources for online education of children during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Interactive TV programmes for parents of young children, developed through the collaboration between UNICEF and Public Broadcasting TV Channel, continue to be shared on various web-platforms, including the educational resource web-page of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia.
- ECD activities and tips for parents, and picture book reading videos developed through the collaboration between UNICEF and Education Coalition for All, continue to be shared on various web-platforms, including the educational webpage of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia.
- UNICEF’s bi-weekly episodes of bedtime story-readings continue to be streamed on local media platforms in Abkhazia.

¹ Education Management Information System

Photo 7: UNICEF Representative in the Ministry of Education of Adjara advocating for the safe reopening of schools.

Photo 8: Deputy Mayor of Batumi receiving UNICEF Representative to discuss the implementation of the new national standards for preschool education, including COVID-19 requirements.
Social Protection

- Simulations of cash transfer programmes for the alleviation of the COVID-19 impact are complete, and its findings, together with the social protection system readiness assessment report, were shared with the National Security Council, Administration of the Government of Georgia, Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister, Advisor on Human Rights and Gender Equality, and Deputy Ministers for MoIDPOTLHSA for further review and actions.
- UNICEF is starting the MICS+ real-time monitoring (RTM) survey which aims to monitor the situation of families to understand how they are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. RTM is to be carried out through a high-frequency mobile phone based-survey using a sample of the population from MICS6.

Partnerships

UNICEF-

- is collaborating with the Prime Minister’s Office to provide needs-based support to the most vulnerable children and their families, including national minorities, and children with disabilities.
- developed and/or strengthened partnerships with public broadcasting and other TV and online channels to further amplify risk communication messages and enhance home-based learning and education.
- continues working with religious leaders to develop and implement COVID-19 response plans.
- continues its partnerships with the Education for All Coalition, an alliance of CSOs working on education, and a network of organizations working with children with disabilities and their families, contributing to distance learning efforts of the Government and provide needed support to families with children with disabilities.
- enhanced its partnership with the National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC) on responding to COVID-19 pandemic through a Memorandum of Cooperation.
- partnered with UNHCR to improve the access to safe water and adequate hygiene for children and teachers in six schools in the Abkhazia region.
- is partnering with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to reach selected schools in the Abkhazia region with hygiene materials.
- is discussing with the National Security Council areas for future cooperation.
- 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, UKAid, and USAID.

Human Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNICEF Personnel in Georgia CO</th>
<th>Tbilisi</th>
<th>Abkhazia</th>
<th>Total Staff Strength</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Staff</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Staff</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Staff</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultants</td>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

Results to Date

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>2,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of healthcare facilities staff and community health workers provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>550</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia
Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in infection prevention and control (IPC) | 1,200 | 580
---|---|---
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support | 5,350 | 6,789

**Funding**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme Areas</th>
<th>Funding Needs</th>
<th>Funds Identified</th>
<th>Funding Gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>282,100</td>
<td>17,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Development of teaching and learning resources for distance learning</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Development of resources for parents for early learning and school readiness</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>514,000</td>
<td>260,650</td>
<td>253,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Development of resources to prevent violence against children</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Support to service providers within the child protection and justice systems to respond to COVID-19 and enable continued service provision</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Support continued programming for children with disabilities</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Support social workers in Abkhazia to provide services to vulnerable families</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health, Nutrition and WASH</td>
<td>3,001,399</td>
<td>1,589,300</td>
<td>1,412,099</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Procure essential supplies and equipment including COVID-19 test kits</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Support telemedicine to enable access to critical health services</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Training of health professionals through telehealth</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Development of regulations and standards in all health specialty areas for pregnant women, mothers, newborns and children</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Improving access to WASH in schools in Abkhazia</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Adolescent mental health and wellbeing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Policy</td>
<td>400,000</td>
<td>241,950</td>
<td>158,050</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Conduct shock-responsive feasibility assessment of the social protection system</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Conduct assessment of vulnerable and at-risk groups of children</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Conduct a Real Time Monitoring survey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Risk Communication and Community Engagement</td>
<td>200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Carry out a risk communication campaign</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Carry out #LearningatHome campaign to help parents in care and early learning opportunities of their children</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>4,415,399</td>
<td>2,574,000</td>
<td>1,841,399</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grand Total (Fundraising efforts ongoing to bridge the funding gap)

Next Situation Report: 24 July 2020

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