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 August.

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. After several weeks with no cases, 7 new COVID-19 cases were identified during the reporting week.

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 August.

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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 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 second webinar aimed at educating Muslim religious leaders on COVID-19 prevention measures.
• TV programs for parents, televised in collaboration with the Georgian Public Broadcasting, which aired in the period of May-June, were adapted and translated in Azerbaijani and Armenian languages. 10 TV programs aired on Marneuli and Parvana TVs about the support of parents in childcare and home-based learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.
• Videos, social media posters, and graphic animations on COVID-19 have been produced for educating religious leaders in the Kvemo Kartli region and for further dissemination to the population.
• Various field experts contributed to developing a chatbot for young people, populated with questions and answers on COVID-19, violence, and mental health issues. The launch of a chatbot is planned for September 2020.
• "Stay Home Diaries" continued with the vlog from 13-year old Gio, sharing his experience on how to cope with quarantine and different ways to have fun and stay active. The vlog was released on UNICEF’s global platforms, reaching more than 2.9 million people.
• Meetings with the community-based and youth organizations in Duisi, Pankisi, contributed to identifying the challenges related to COVID-19 and defining the areas of risk communication and community engagement interventions.
• UNICEF’s campaign on communication for social change to address the stigma around disability was also used to raise awareness on COVID-19 prevention measures during the regional event in Ozurgeti, Guria.
• During the reporting week, UNICEF Georgia reached 42,102 people and engaged 4,048 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 12,758 pregnant women, of which 35% participated in virtual medical consultations.
• The UNICEF Representative met with the Majoritarian MP of Kakheti region and the Mayor of Akhmeta, Kakheti, to discuss the situation of children in the city and handed over essential hygiene and food supplies for further distribution to 115 of the most vulnerable families in the villages of Pankisi.

Adolescents/youth

• Online sessions were organized for a total of 52 selected volunteers by UNICEF partner the NGO Helping Hand, covering the topics of active citizenship and volunteering, individual and public benefits of volunteering, designing and planning volunteering projects, and youth engagement plan development. The interactive sessions enabled participants to ask questions and express their views.
• An animation on volunteering has been developed. This visually engaging animated advert will be aired through TV and social media to promote youth volunteering activities across Georgia.
• A total of 90 adolescents participated in a Lecture on Fake News led by a representative of the Atlantic Council in Georgia. Students were able to learn about Fake News and how it works, who uses it, and where it is spread.
• A group of 70 adolescents from various regions of Georgia was engaged in interactive zoom sessions organized by UNICEF’s partner organization Kant’s Academy. During the reporting week, the following topics were covered: types of leadership, planning and implementing business companies, stress management, and relationships between parents and children. To date, a total of 612 adolescents attended online sessions.
• An online survey to explore adolescents’ wellbeing, sentiments, plans during and after pandemic run by UNICEF partner Kant’s Academy is in progress.
• UNICEF’s partner, Global Initiative in Psychiatry (GIP), continues a series of online webinars for adolescents and their parents. During the reporting week, webinars covered the following topics: (1) Eating Disorders Among Adolescents by Ia Shekriladze, Ph.D. is Psychology, reaching 1,000 views within 24 hours, and (2) Sex Education: Who Bears Responsibility, webinar for parents conducted by invited guest psychologist.
• UNICEF’s Partner, GIP, continues online psycho-social consultations with adolescents and their caregivers, supporting 94 people to date (49 by Tbilisi center and 45 by Batumi Center) with support of Tbilisi and Batumi based psycho-social support center.
• The development of training modules on the subject of “Adolescents’ Positive Parenting in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic” is in progress.

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 634 cases to date, of which 480 already received assistance and were closed accordingly.
• UNICEF’s partner, Initiative for Social Change, conducted online supervision meetings with over 220 statutory social workers, including 175 from the social protection system and 45 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 behavior management, sensory integration, art therapy, and others, reaching more than 640,000 people.
• Through group and individual sessions, UNICEF partner - Children of Georgia provided online psychological support to 199 children and 128 caregivers in small group homes and foster care, in all regions of Georgia.
• UNICEF Representative held a meeting with religious leaders in Duisi, Pankisi, to highlight the role of religious leaders in upholding child rights, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Education

• The UNICEF Representative and the Education team held a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Education, Deputy Minister of Health, and the Director of the NCDC to discuss the required measures for the safe reopening of schools, including WASH facilities. The same was discussed with representatives of schools and kindergartens in Duisi, Pankisi.
• To support safe re-opening of school in September, guidance on “Building Resilient Education Systems beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic: Considerations for education decision-makers at national, local and school levels” was shared with the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia for further actions.
• The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport established a multi-disciplinary team to work on the safe re-opening of schools. UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education, 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.
• Early child development activities, 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.

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 MoIDPOTLHSA2 for further review and actions.
• UNICEF is starting the MICS+ real-time monitoring (RTM) survey which aims at monitoring 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.
• has 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.

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1 Education Management Information System
2 Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia
• 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></td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</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>3,060</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>
<tr>
<td>Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in infection prevention and control (IPC)</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support</td>
<td>5,350</td>
<td>7,346</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Development of resources for parents for early learning and school readiness</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<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>
<td></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>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Support continued programming for children with disabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Support social workers in Abkhazia to provide services to vulnerable families</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</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>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Support telemedicine to enable access to critical health services</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Training of health professionals through telehealth
• Development of regulations and standards in all health specialty areas for pregnant women, mothers, newborns and children
• Improving access to WASH in schools in Abkhazia
• Adolescent mental health and wellbeing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Policy</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Conduct shock-responsive feasibility assessment of the social protection system</td>
<td>400,000</td>
<td>241,950</td>
<td>158,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Conduct assessment of vulnerable and at-risk groups of children</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Conduct a Real Time Monitoring survey</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Communication and Community Engagement</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Carry out a risk communication campaign</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Carry out #LearningatHome campaign to help parents in care and early learning opportunities of their children</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| Grand Total                                                                  | 4,415,399 | 2,574,000 | 1,841,399 |
| (Fundraising efforts ongoing to bridge the funding gap)                      |       |       |       |

Due to UN official holiday in Georgia on Friday, 31 July, the next Situation Report issue date will be 07 August 2020

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