

GEORGIA

February 2021

Presence: In Georgia since 1993, UNHCR has assisted populations displaced by the Refugee Convention in 1999. A 2017 law regulates asylum procedures. UNHCR supports the Government in its commitment to protect persons of concern.

Legal framework: Georgia acceded to the 2021-2030 Migration Strategy.

Strategy: UNHCR, the Government and civil society work to ensure full access to rights and services for persons of concern. UNHCR supports IDP protection and self-reliance in Abkhazia.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Refugees	1,355
Asylum-seekers	1,344
Internally displaced people	287,141
Stateless people	541
Persons in refugee-like situation in Abkhazia	602

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

	Refugees		Asylum-seekers
Iraq	525	Iran	545
Russian Federation	240	Egypt	130
Ukraine	300	Iraq	86

Data source: UNHCR 2020 Mid-Year Statistical report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy for inclusion of persons of concern: With the support of partners, UNHCR advocated for the inclusion of asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons in the Government's anti-crisis plans and contributed to its "lessons learned" study on handling COVID-19, and the impact on vulnerable groups. UNHCR conducted a survey in November 2020 on the protection situation of persons of concern to UNHCR and the impact of COVID-19.

Communication with Communities: Regular communication was maintained between UNHCR and persons of concern through Refugee Community Group Facilitators and an IDP Volunteer network.

Health: All persons of concern have had access to the Universal Healthcare Programme, and will be included in vaccination rollout when it takes place.

HIGHLIGHTS

3,300

Elderly persons and other vulnerable individuals in Abkhazia were supported to access pensions and buy urgently needed medicines through the establishment of a "humanitarian corridor" at the Enguri bridge.

1,188

Refugees maintained access to essential services even during the strictest COVID-19 lockdown in Georgia. The asylum authority continued registering asylum claims, adapting well to restrictions with support from UNHCR.

4,070

Vulnerable families, including in Abkhazia, were provided cash or food assistance to meet basic needs and maintain a dignified standard of living during the period of COVID-19 restrictions.



The girl who slid through a needle hole

Tabarek from Iraq was a scared 13-year-old girl when she became a refugee in Georgia, and now she is translating Georgian literature and introducing it to Arabic readers. UNHCR supports refugee integration efforts in Georgia. Watch the video [here](#).

Key Priorities

- **Access to territory and asylum procedures:** UNHCR monitors access to territory and asylum procedure, working together with border and asylum authorities and the judiciary, through sharing international expertise and technical support.
- **Solutions:** UNHCR works with the Government to enhance the implementation of the refugee legislation, supports provision of legal assistance to all groups of concern (asylum-seekers, refugees, stateless persons, IDPs) and capacitates the judiciary in dealing with asylum cases.
- **Integration:** Through a recently concluded partnership with the IDPs, Eco-migrants and Livelihoods Agency under the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and civil society, UNHCR supports coordinated efforts to enhance refugee integration in the context of the development of a State Program for Integration of International Protection Holders and Asylum Seekers, as envisaged in the Migration Strategy for 2021-2030.
- **Language and education:** As a vital step for integration, UNHCR promotes increased opportunities for language learning for refugees and asylum-seekers, ensuring that everyone who commits to learning the Georgian language has a chance to do so. UNHCR also supports the GRF pledges of the Government to improve refugees' access to free of charge general education and vocational education.
- **Community Empowerment:** UNHCR has expanded outreach and community engagement through a network of Refugee Community Group Facilitators and IDP Volunteers, also working closely with social protection partner World Vision International. These networks mobilise the capacities of communities and strengthen communication channels with Government and partners.
- **Support livelihoods and self-reliance:** UNHCR supports refugees and asylum-seekers with starting own businesses or with vocational training. In Abkhazia, UNHCR partners with Action Against Hunger and the Danish Refugee Council to promote livelihoods for farming households and micro-businesses.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with key Government ministries, the judiciary, and several international and national NGOs engaged in legal and social protection as well as the Public Defender's Office.
- **External Engagement:** UNHCR collaborates with the UNCT and development partners to engage all relevant actors in promoting the inclusion, protection, and integration of persons of concern, including through the new Strategic Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), 2021-2025.

Internally Displaced Persons

- **In Abkhazia,** UNHCR and partners support freedom of movement and access to documentation for up to 50,000 IDPs, as well as self-reliance and livelihoods, and community-based protection. UNHCR provides legal and social assistance with international and local NGO partners. UNHCR pays particular attention to the large number of elderly people living alone and has assisted them to collect their pensions, to which they had no access for several months due to the long COVID-19 related closure of the Administrative Border Line (ABL).
- **In Tbilisi-administered territory,** UNHCR is engaged in protection monitoring and advocacy with Government and has established and capacitated the IDP Volunteer network to extend outreach and communication between IDPs, Government entities and development partners.

Statelessness

- Georgia has acceded to both Statelessness Conventions and has a Stateless Status Determination Procedure. UNHCR supports the implementation of pledges made at the High-Level Segment to improve both legislation and practice concerning statelessness.

UNHCR Presence in Georgia

Staff:

23 National Staff
6 International Staff

Offices:

1 Country Office in Tbilisi
1 Field Office in Gali
1 Field Unit in Sukhumi

Financial information (28 February)

Financial requirements
USD 6.4 M

Funding gap
94%
6.03 M



Funded
6%
0.37 M

UNHCR is grateful to the major donors of unearmarked contributions* to the 2021 global programmes (USD, as of 28 February):

Norway 80 M | Sweden 66.9 M | Netherlands 36.1 M | Denmark 34.6 M | Germany 22.1 M | Switzerland 16.4 M | Ireland 12.5 M | Belgium 11.9 M

*Unearmarked contributions allow UNHCR for critical flexibility in how best to reach populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Above are donors of USD 10 million or more