

Georgia

February 2022

In Georgia since 1993, UNHCR has assisted populations displaced by conflicts in the 1990s and in 2008. UNHCR supports the Government in implementing commitments to provide

international protection for refugees. UNHCR and the Government cooperate on the 2021-2030 Migration Strategy and on implementing the Government's Global Refugee Forum pledges. UNHCR,

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

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

Refugees	1,196
Asylum-seekers	1,290
Internally displaced persons	289,213
Stateless persons	534
Persons in refugee-like situation in Abkhazia	605
Total population of concern	292,838

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

	Refugees	Asylum-seekers
Iraq	404	Iran 489
Russian Federation	236	Turkey 105
Ukraine	236	Egypt 85

*Data source: UNHCR 2021 Mid-Year Statistical Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Inclusion: All persons of concern to UNHCR have access to health care, including COVID-19 vaccination. UNHCR conducted a mini vaccination campaign in the last quarter 2021. Asylum-seekers are most affected by the pandemic, as they are ineligible for COVID-19-related social protection assistance. UNHCR assisted about 700 of the most vulnerable with cash assistance in Tbilisi-Administered Territory (TAT). UNHCR redoubled efforts to help them find jobs and be more self-reliant.

Communication with Communities: UNHCR maintained regular communication with persons of concern via a 24/7 hotline, dedicated emails, the UNHCR help page, social media and Refugee Community Group Facilitators and an IDP Volunteer network. UNHCR kept an open-door policy and provided consultations on all protection-related issues.

HIGHLIGHTS

Around 10,000 crossings

supported in 2022 for vulnerable persons living in eastern Abkhazia, including elderly persons, using UNHCR's shuttle buses to cross the Enguri bridge to access health care services, pensions and disability benefits in TAT.

Over 1,000 beneficiaries

accessed various services supported by UNHCR. Legal consultations were provided to over 730 asylum-seekers, stateless persons and IDPs in TAT and Abkhazia. Over 270 persons were assisted through social counselling, referrals to relevant services, or with material assistance.

About 2,200 vulnerable persons

in TAT and Abkhazia were provided cash/food assistance to help meet basic needs. Continued support for jobs and livelihoods is helping over 400 people.

ALL STATELESS PEOPLE DESERVE THE CHANCE TO SAY #IBELONG



Meet Nargiz Jintcharadze, a school director from Kobuleti, a small seaside city in Georgia, who supported a generation of Roma children to overcome the difficulties of being stateless, enroll in school and enjoy their right to education. Given the chance, they not only enjoy being treated as equal members in society, but in some cases become role models! Watch the video [here](#).

Key Priorities

- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR works with the Government to maintain and strengthen fair and efficient asylum procedures. The Government launched the development of an integration policy framework, supported by UNHCR and IOM.
- **Improvement of reception conditions:** UNHCR supports Government efforts and inter-ministerial coordination to implement the Migration Strategy action plan, including the improvement of reception conditions for asylum-seekers with special needs.
- **Language and education:** UNHCR supports the GRF pledges of the Government to improve refugees' access to free general and vocational education. UNHCR is assessing the effectiveness of language learning for asylum-seekers and refugees in order to improve and complement current support.
- **Community empowerment:** UNHCR meets regularly with the Refugee Community Group Facilitators, some of whom participated in a regional conference for refugee leaders and facilitated discussions. The CGF network in Georgia is seen as a best practice in Europe. With the IDP Volunteer network, it mobilizes the capacities of communities and strengthens communication with the Government and partners.
- **Support for livelihoods and self-reliance:** UNHCR supports refugees and asylum-seekers in accessing employment and skills training. In Abkhazia, UNHCR partners with Action Against Hunger and the Danish Refugee Council to promote livelihoods for farming households and entrepreneurial families, and to implement community support projects. For the most vulnerable people left behind, UNHCR has a limited cash assistance programme.

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. UNHCR facilitated several meetings in 2021 to enable direct communication between refugees and authorities.

- **External Engagement:** UNHCR collaborates with UNCT and development partners in promoting the inclusion, protection and integration of persons of concern, including through the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), 2021-2025. UNHCR is now implementing some asylum capacity cooperation under the EU's Resilience Facility in a joint project with IOM.

Internally Displaced Persons

- **In Abkhazia,** UNHCR and partners support freedom of movement and access to rights for up to 50,000 IDPs, as well as self-reliance and livelihoods, and community-based protection. UNHCR cooperates with partners in the Abkhazia Strategic Partnership.
- **In Tbilisi-Administered Territory,** UNHCR is engaged in protection monitoring and advocacy with the Government. Policy discussions were revived with all key stakeholders, including a focus on housing programmes managed by the Government.

Statelessness

- The Government implemented two of the pledges made at UNHCR's High-Level Segment to improve both legislation and practice concerning statelessness in 2021: to halve the fee for the statelessness determination procedure, and to include statelessness applicants in emergency health care.

UNHCR Presence in Georgia

Staff:

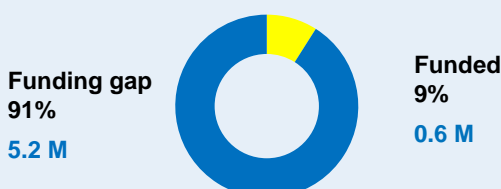
24 National Staff
6 International Staff

Offices:

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

Financial information (22 February 2022)

Financial requirements
USD 5.8 M



UNHCR is grateful to the donors of unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions to the 2022 global programmes. Donors of USD 10 million or more are:

Sweden | Norway | Netherlands | Denmark | Germany | Switzerland | Belgium | Ireland

Unearmarked contributions provides UNHCR with vital flexibility in determining how best to protect and assist persons of concern who are in the greatest needs or at the greatest risks.