

# Georgia

September 2021

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 pledges made by the Government at the 2019 GRF. 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 in Abkhazia**.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN\*

Refugees	<b>1,800</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>1,282</b>
Internally displaced persons	<b>288,538</b>
Stateless persons	<b>531</b>
Refugee-like in Abkhazia	<b>602</b>
Total population of concern	<b>292,155</b>

## TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN\*

	Refugees		Asylum-seekers
Ukraine	493	Iran	499
Syria	437	Egypt	122
Iraq	406	Turkey	88

\*Data source: UNHCR 2020 Global Trends Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

## COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

**Inclusion:** All persons of concern have access to healthcare, including vaccination. The number of those willing to be vaccinated is increasing. Asylum-seekers are the most affected by the pandemic, as they are not eligible for COVID-19 social protection assistance. UNHCR assisted over 700 of the most vulnerable with CBI in TAT. UNHCR redoubled efforts to help them find jobs and be more self-reliant.

**Communication with Communities** was maintained between UNHCR and persons of concern via a 24/7 hotline, emails, webpage UNHCR.help.org, social media, through Refugee *Community* Group Facilitators and an IDP Volunteer network. UNHCR kept an open-door policy and provided consultations on all protection related issues. UNHCR's expanded social protection assistance during these periods were seen as an act of solidarity.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Over 50,000 vulnerable persons

living in eastern Abkhazia, including elderly, used UNHCR's shuttle buses as transportation support in 2021 to cross the Enguri bridge for access to healthcare services, pensions and disability benefits.

### 2,400 beneficiaries

accessed various services supported by UNHCR. Legal consultations were provided to over 900 asylum-seekers, stateless persons and IDPs in TAT and Abkhazia, while more people accessed state-run services. Over 1,500 persons were assisted through social counselling, referrals to relevant services, or with material assistance.

### 2,200 vulnerable families

in TAT and Abkhazia were provided cash/food assistance to help meet basic needs. Continued support for jobs and livelihoods is helping over 500 people.

## UNHCR GEORGIA WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2021



**#WorldRefugeeDay** is an occasion to express empathy and show solidarity for refugees and others forcibly displaced from home. A Solidarity Walk in the beautiful botanical garden of Tbilisi took place on June 19 to show that we stand **#WithRefugees**. Watch the video [here](#).

## Key Priorities

- **Reception conditions:** UNHCR supports Government efforts and inter-ministry coordination in the implementation of activities under the Migration Strategy action plan to improve reception conditions, including establishing referral mechanisms to relevant care providers for persons in the asylum procedures with specific needs.
- **Municipalities:** UNHCR is increasing engagement with municipalities to promote better access to services and inclusion of asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons in municipal level initiatives. The cities of Tbilisi and Batumi have both joined the Cities #WithRefugees campaign, a group of towns and cities committed to inclusive communities.
- **Language and education:** UNHCR supports the GRF pledges of the Government to improve refugees' access to free of charge general education and vocational education. Access to quality language learning for asylum-seekers and refugees is a priority.
- **Community Empowerment:** UNHCR met around twenty times with the network of Refugee Community Group Facilitators and IDP Volunteers to maintain two-way communication with communities and to better understand the existing challenges. These networks mobilise the capacities of communities and strengthen communication channels with Government and partners.
- **Support for livelihoods and self-reliance:** UNHCR supports refugees and asylum-seekers to access employment and skills training. In Abkhazia, UNHCR partners with Action Against Hunger and DRC to promote livelihoods for farming households and micro-businesses. For the very vulnerable 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 during spring to enable direct communication between refugees and authorities.
- **External Engagement:** UNHCR collaborates with UNCT and development partners to engage all relevant actors in promoting the inclusion, protection, and integration of persons of concern, including through the UN Sustainable 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, livelihoods, and community-based protection. UNHCR cooperates with partners in the Abkhazia Strategic Partnership.
- **In Tbilisi-administered territory,** UNHCR engages in protection monitoring and advocacy, and capacitates a IDP Volunteer network to extend communication between IDPs, Government entities and development partners, and joins efforts to advocate for support to the most vulnerable IDPs.

## Statelessness

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

## UNHCR Presence in Georgia

### Staff:

24 National Staff  
6 International Staff

### Offices:

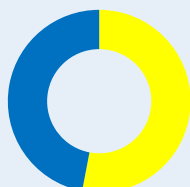
1 Country Office in Tbilisi  
1 Field Office in Gali  
1 Field Unit in Sukhumi

## Financial information (28 September 2021)

### Financial requirements

USD 6.4 M

**Funding gap**  
47%  
3 M



**Funded**  
53%  
3.4 M

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