

# Georgia

February 2023

**In Georgia since 1993**, UNHCR has assisted populations displaced by conflicts in the 1990s, in 2008, and by the current war in Ukraine. 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 Georgia's Global Refugee Forum pledges.

UNHCR, the government and civil society work to ensure full access to rights and services for people in need. UNHCR supports **IDP protection and self-reliance in Abkhazia**.

## UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS AS OF MID-2022\*

Refugees	<b>23,428</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>1160</b>
Stateless persons	<b>530</b>
Internally displaced persons	<b>291,358</b>
Persons in refugee-like situation in Abkhazia	<b>596</b>

### Top three countries of origin\*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine (UKR)	<b>22,647</b>	Iran (Islamic Rep. of) (IRN)	<b>372</b>
Syrian Arab Rep. (SYR)	<b>448</b>	Türkiye (TUR)	<b>182</b>
Iraq (IRQ)	<b>377</b>	Ukraine (UKR)	<b>113</b>

\*UNHCR 2022 Mid-Year Trends and UNHCR [data finder](#)

## UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of mid-February, **25,101 refugees from Ukraine** were registered for temporary protection in Georgia.

**Coordination with the Government:** UNHCR continues advocacy with the government on legal stay, facilitated access to services and further integration support.

**Cash-Based Interventions:** UNHCR assisted over 2,400 vulnerable refugees from Ukraine with cash in the last six months, and coordinated the assistance of partners to some 6,500 people. This complemented the government's assistance to some 5,300 people.

**Needs assessment and intentions survey:** The joint report by UNHCR and World Vision, published in November 2022, captured key findings, analysed protections risks and made recommendations for further action.

**Protection monitoring:** UNHCR identifies refugees' needs, challenges and access to services through continued regular monitoring and community outreach.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Refugee response coordination

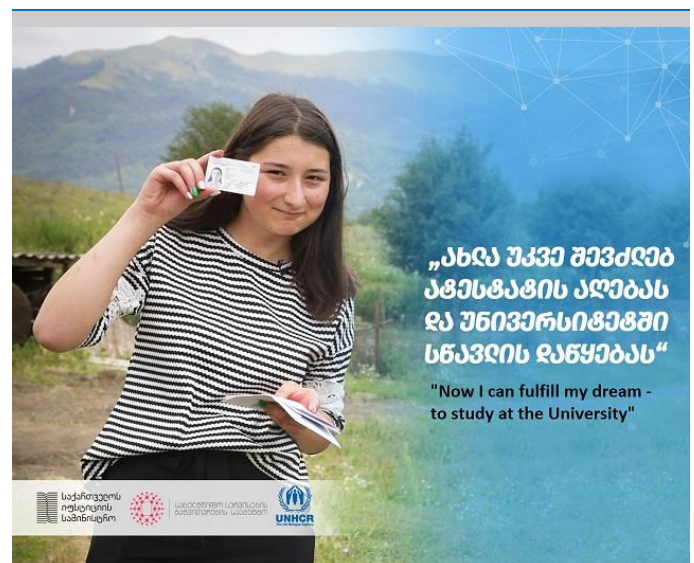
UNHCR convenes over 25 partners in the response to the needs of refugees from Ukraine. In addition to the broader inter-agency team, several sub-groups focus on coherence in cash-assistance, legal support, surveys and needs assessments, child protection and GBV, socio-economic inclusion and self-reliance.

### Over 2400 vulnerable persons

in Tbilisi-administered territory were provided with cash/food assistance to meet their basic needs in the last six months. The cash programme was scaled up to help refugees from Ukraine. Continued support for jobs and livelihoods is helping about 120 people.

### About 1000 vulnerable IDPs

living in eastern Abkhazia, were assisted through legal and social counselling and over 500 individuals received cash or food assistance.



## I AM NOT A STATELESS PERSON ANYMORE

17-year-old Maya Burduli has been granted Georgian citizenship and provided with the relevant document within the framework of the door-to-door campaign implemented by the Ministry of Justice and the Public Services Development Agency, with the support of UNHCR. Watch the video [here](#).

## Key Priorities

- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR works with the government to strengthen fair and efficient asylum procedures, and facilitates experience-sharing with other countries. In 2022, Georgia hosted two country visits for such exchange.
- **Judicial engagement:** UNHCR also works with the judiciary to improve the quality of asylum decision-making in the courts and promotes specialization in migration and refugee law.
- **Improvement of reception conditions:** UNHCR supports the government in the improvement of reception conditions for asylum-seekers with specific needs, and is coordinating partners responding to the needs of refugees from Ukraine, to complement the government's assistance.
- **Community empowerment:** UNHCR expanded its Community Group Facilitator programme to reach refugees from Ukraine, thus facilitating communication and information-sharing to inform the government response. UNHCR also maintained its IDP Volunteer network.
- **Support for livelihoods and self-reliance:** Support of refugees and asylum-seekers with accessing employment and skills training continues.

## Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with key Ministries, the judiciary, and several international and national NGOs engaged in legal and social protection as well as the Public Defender's Office. UNHCR aims to enable direct communication between refugees and authorities through community networks and meetings.
- **External engagement:** UNHCR collaborates with the UNCT and development partners in promoting the inclusion, protection, and integration of forcibly displaced and stateless people, including through the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation

Framework (UNSDCF) 2021-2025. UNHCR also continues to facilitate asylum cooperation under the EU's Resilience Facility in a joint project with IOM.

## Internally Displaced Persons

- **In Abkhazia,** UNHCR supports freedom of movement and access to rights for the IDP population in Gali of up to 50,000, as well as enhancing self-reliance, livelihoods, and community-based protection. UNHCR works with partners in the Abkhazia Strategic Partnership. UNHCR engages youth volunteers to support the most vulnerable and isolated older people through weekly visits and provision of hot meals.
- **In Tbilisi-Administered Territory,** UNHCR is engaged in protection monitoring and advocacy with the government. Policy discussions continue with all key stakeholders, focusing on identification of IDP needs and updating the government strategy.

## Statelessness

- UNHCR assisted the government in learning from the experience of Spain in eradicating stateless. The government implemented its '**door to door**' campaign, aimed at identifying undocumented persons, and one of Georgia's pledges at the Global Refugee Forum. Another implemented pledge was the endorsement of the National Action Plan to end statelessness within the #IBelong Campaign timeframe. Georgia is referenced as having good practices on statelessness, hosting other state authorities and contributing to multiple international fora.

## UNHCR Presence in Georgia

### Staff:

25 National Staff  
 6 International Staff

### Offices:

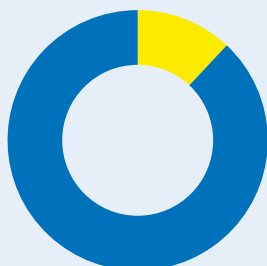
1 Country Office in Tbilisi  
 1 Field Office in Gali  
 1 Field Unit in Sokhumi

## Financial information (February 2023)

### Financial requirements

USD 6.9 M

Funding gap  
 84%  
 5.8 M



Funded  
 16%  
 1.1 M

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