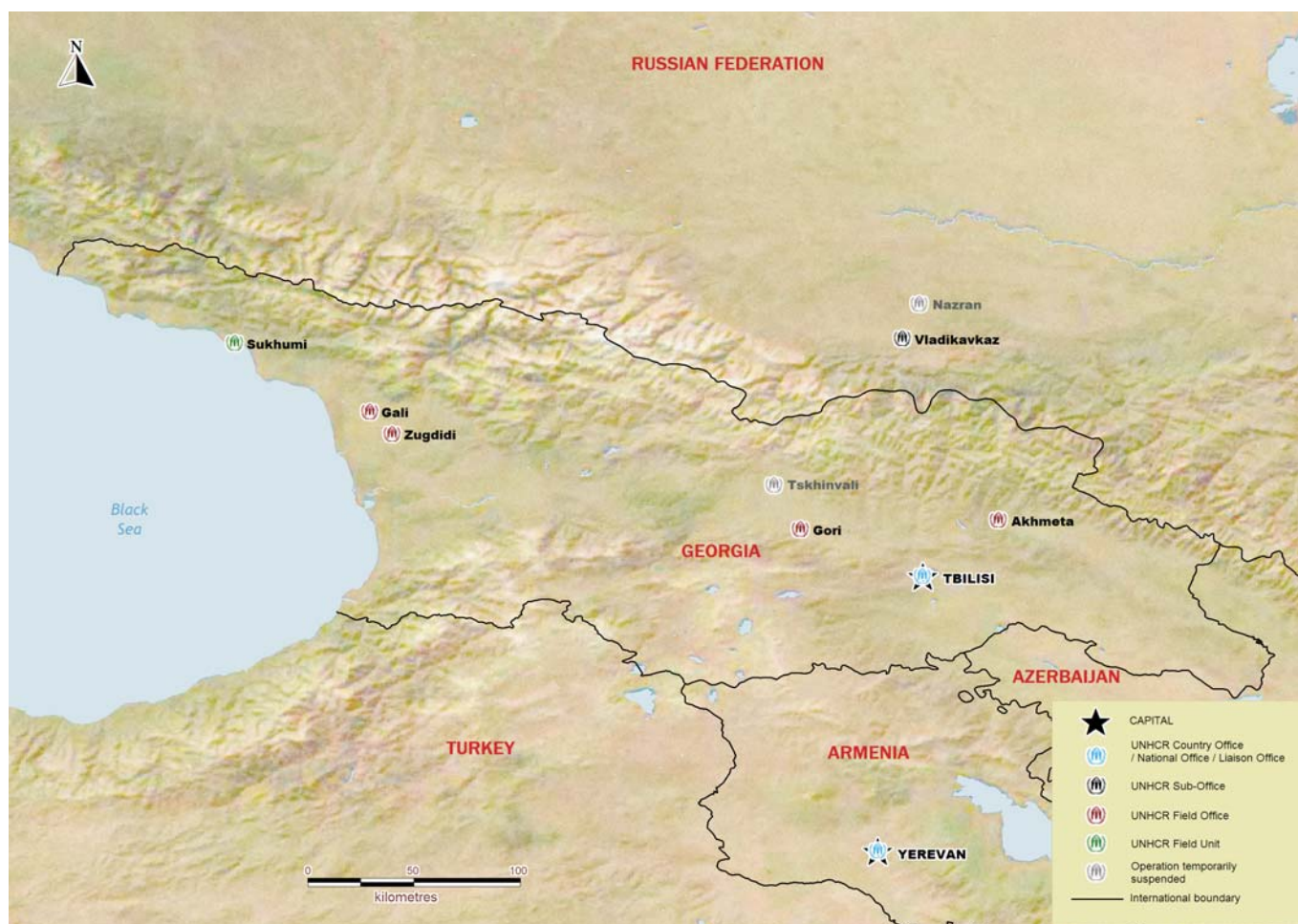


# GEORGIA



## Working environment

### The context

UNHCR addresses the protection and assistance needs of nearly 340,000 individuals in Georgia. As of September 2009, this number included around 230,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Georgia, including in South Ossetia and Abkhazia. The total number also includes some 106,000 people who have returned to Abkhazia, South Ossetia, and areas adjacent to South Ossetia, whose situation remains precarious.

Georgia also hosts some 1,000 refugees, mostly from the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation, and a small

number of asylum-seekers, as well as more than 1,600 stateless people. However, the precise number of stateless people is not known, as cumbersome procedures for obtaining identity documents complicate the assessment.

### The needs

Local integration is the preferred durable solution for refugees in Georgia. Therefore, their legal, economic, social and cultural concerns need to be addressed.

Reception standards in Georgia are poor, with asylum-seekers accommodated in an over-crowded temporary transit centre. It is expected that revised refugee legislation, now being drafted with

## Planning figures

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2010		DEC 2010 - JAN 2011		DEC 2011	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Refugees	Various	920	920	800	800	650	650
Asylum-seekers	Various	20	20	30	30	30	30
Internally displaced		223,000	223,000	143,000	143,000	100,000	100,000
People in IDP-like situations		113,100	113,100	76,000	76,000	72,000	72,000
Stateless		1,700	1,700	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>338,740</b>	<b>338,740</b>	<b>221,830</b>	<b>221,830</b>	<b>174,680</b>	<b>174,680</b>

the support of UNHCR, will strengthen the national asylum system. Refugees and asylum-seekers also need legal counselling to navigate the national asylum system. In addition, stateless people require assistance to obtain identity documents and resolve their situation.

Of the IDPs, around 212,000 have been displaced for more than 16 years, and live without proper shelter or the means to become self-sufficient. Over 106,000 IDPs have returned to the Gali and Shida Kartli regions or been resettled within the Shida Kartli, Kvemo Kartli and Metskheta-Mtianeti regions. However, they still need help with housing assistance, income generation and community mobilization.

No precise data on sexual and gender-based violence among people of concern to UNHCR is available. However, profiling exercises, participatory assessments and NGO reports indicate that such violence is rife in all parts of society, including among refugees and IDPs.

## | Main objectives |

### Favourable protection environment

- Support the Government to build an asylum system in line with international standards.

- Advocate for accession to international conventions on statelessness and related procedures.
- Build Government capacity to respond to the needs of IDPs, in line with the United Nations *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*.

### Fair protection processes

- Improve the legal status of refugees by helping them to obtain permanent resident status or naturalization, particularly for those refugees who are stateless.

### Community participation and self-management

- Promote self-reliance and advocate for the inclusion of persons of concern in national social support systems.
- Improve the level of IDP participation in protection, humanitarian assistance and self-reliance activities.
- In line with UNHCR's Strategic Directions for Abkhazia, support grassroots confidence-building measures that promote solutions for the displaced.

### Durable solutions

- Find durable solutions for refugees and IDPs, particularly local integration, and seek resettlement for a small number of refugees with specific protection needs.

## Key targets for 2010

- Refugees attain greater self-reliance, and receive counselling and assistance in applying for naturalization.
- On-the-job coaching and seminars are conducted for Government counterparts on the regularization of the status of stateless people.
- Some 80 per cent of children in minority communities have their births registered and receive documentation, reducing the risk of statelessness.
- Standards are set and implementation improved in housing and other assistance programmes for IDPs.
- Some 10 per cent of the IDP population is provided with adequate shelter, and their self-reliance is enhanced to facilitate their local integration.
- Some 140 women or girls-at-risk are provided a safe haven, and some 250 refugee and IDP women who are subjected to domestic violence, forced early marriage, bride-kidnapping or sexual violence receive counselling.



Many refugees from the recent conflict in Georgia still live in community centres in Georgia.

## UNHCR's presence in 2010

□ Number of offices	6
□ Total staff	65
International	18*
National	46
JPOs	1

\*Of which four posts will be discontinued in 2010.

## PARTNERS

### Implementing partners

#### Government agencies:

Ministry for Refugees and Accommodation  
Civil Registry Agency  
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

#### NGOs:

Norwegian Refugee Council  
Danish Refugee Council  
World Vision International  
*Action contre la Faim*  
Save the Children  
*Première Urgence*  
CARE International  
International Rescue Committee  
International Relief and Development  
United Nations Association of Georgia  
Technical Assistance in Georgia  
Advice Centre for Women (*Sakhli*)  
Legal Development and Consultations Group  
*Atinat*  
*Gaenati*  
Grassroots Support Centre  
Charity Humanitarian Centre  
*Abkhazeti*  
Coordination Council of Chechen Refugees in Georgia  
*Abkhazintercont*  
Kakheti Regional Development Foundation  
Georgian Women's Employment Supporting Association (*Amagdari*)

#### Others:

Beteli Humanitarian Association

### Operational partners

#### Government agencies:

Ministries of Justice; Foreign Affairs; Conflict Resolution; Internal Affairs; Economic Development Education; and Health, Labour and Social Affairs  
State Office of Reform Coordination  
National Agency for Public Registry  
Georgian Institute for Public Affairs  
Parliamentarian Council on Gender Equality

#### Others:

Authorities in Abkhazia  
Representative of the Secretary-General on the Human Rights of IDPs  
UN agencies and associated organizations  
Council of Europe  
European Commission  
IOM

## Strategy and activities

The Office is counting on stability in Georgia and the support of the Government and the international community in the search for durable solutions for IDPs, refugees and stateless people. It is expected that the Government will keep its commitment to permit refugees to integrate in the country. Legal obstacles to integration will be reduced and the issuance of temporary residence permits will allow refugees to avail themselves of their rights and public services. A new reception centre for asylum-seekers will open in 2010.

The Office will pursue local integration as the most viable solution for people of concern. In parallel, a reintegration strategy is being developed to support spontaneous returns, including of IDPs in Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

The integration strategy for Chechen refugees, mainly in the Pankisi Valley, focuses on income generation and legal advice to facilitate socio-economic and legal integration, culminating in naturalization. The potential for local integration will be improved through collaboration with the relevant authorities and improvements in the legal framework. If successful, this will allow UNHCR to phase out its integration programme in 2011.

The Office supports the passage of improved asylum legislation in line with international standards. UNHCR will provide technical assistance and help build capacity for the full implementation of the legislation.

The Office will pursue its strategy on statelessness with the understanding that the Government will adopt the necessary support measures and facilitate the registration of individuals lacking basic civil documentation. It will prevent and address statelessness among children in minority communities through a birth registration

project in cooperation with UNICEF and the Government. It will advocate for amendments to national citizenship legislation and promote Georgia's accession to the international statelessness conventions. In cooperation with the Council of Europe, the Office advises the Government on the implementation of the return programme for Meshketians, paying particular attention to the prevention of statelessness during return.

UNHCR's local integration strategy for IDPs addresses needs in areas such as shelter, income generation and vocational training. It also provides humanitarian assistance and protection to IDPs who have spontaneously returned to Gali, or who are in the process of returning, in order to contribute to their reintegration and prevent renewed displacement.

## Constraints

Humanitarian access to some 14,000 IDPs and returnees in South Ossetia remains impossible at present.

## Organization and implementation

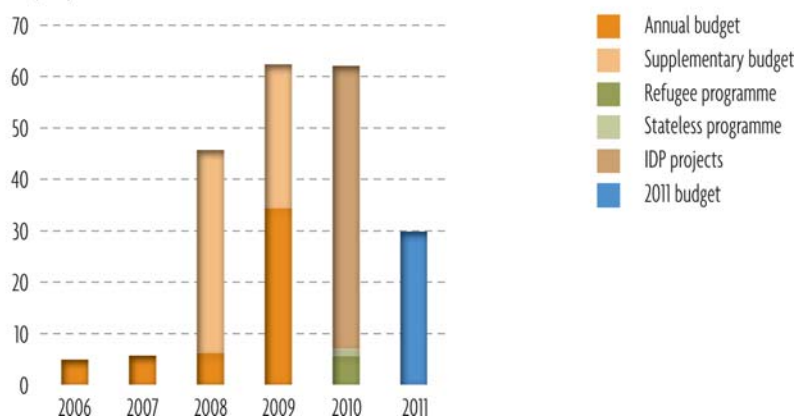
### Coordination

UNHCR will work with the UN Country Team, Government coordination bodies, civil society and other international and local partners, to bridge gaps and supplement the Government's efforts on behalf of people of concern.

UNHCR will continue to work closely with UNICEF, UNIFEM and WFP. Other partners include IOM, SDC, ICRC and organizations involved in the Strategic Partnership for Abkhazia. IDP activities will build on the findings of a joint needs assessment conducted in 2008 by the World Bank and the UN with the participation of the European Commission.

## UNHCR's budget in Georgia 2006 - 2011

Millions (USD)



## Financial information

UNHCR's budget in Georgia rose dramatically in 2008 in response to large-scale displacement in the aftermath of the August conflict. In 2009, Georgia was a pilot country for UNHCR's global needs assessment, which highlighted further

needs, particularly for shelter activities. In 2010-2011, nearly 50 per cent of the budget will go towards basic needs and services for IDPs and refugees. The Office aims to strengthen protection documentation to reduce the risk of statelessness. UNHCR plans to phase down assistance to IDPs in 2011.

### 2010 UNHCR Budget for Georgia (USD)

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	STATELESS PROGRAMME PILLAR 2	IDP PROJECTS PILLAR 4	TOTAL
<b>Favourable protection environment</b>				
International and regional instruments	0	152,126	0	152,126
National legal framework	154,891	46,381	0	201,272
National administrative framework	411,146	0	3,128,007	3,539,153
Prevention of statelessness	245,513	516,381	0	761,895
Non-refoulement	131,131	0	0	131,131
Subtotal	942,682	714,888	3,128,007	4,785,577
<b>Fair protection processes and documentation</b>				
Civil status documentation	0	500,654	0	500,654
Subtotal	0	500,654	0	500,654
<b>Security from violence and exploitation</b>				
Law enforcement	98,274	0	265,326	363,600
Gender-based violence	155,162	0	1,619,829	1,774,991
Protection of children	41,660	0	218,774	260,433
Access to legal remedies	86,590	0	382,915	469,505
Subtotal	381,686	0	2,486,844	2,868,529
<b>Basic needs and essential services</b>				
Shelter and other infrastructure	864,885	0	26,440,864	27,305,749
Primary health care	855,626	0	0	855,626
Services for groups with specific needs	341,861	0	0	341,861
Subtotal	2,062,372	0	26,440,864	28,503,236
<b>Community participation and self-management</b>				
Community self-management and equal representation	0	0	999,975	999,975
Self-reliance and livelihoods	0	0	15,173,883	15,173,883
Subtotal	0	0	16,173,858	16,173,858
<b>Durable solutions</b>				
Durable solutions strategy	144,557	0	0	144,557
Rehabilitation and reintegration support	0	0	536,147	536,147
Resettlement	0	0	1,565,764	1,565,764
Local integration support	1,595,123	0	2,926,166	4,521,289
Subtotal	1,739,680	0	5,028,077	6,767,757
<b>Logistics and operations support</b>				
Supply chain and logistics	192,530	0	0	192,530
Programme management, coordination and support	258,758	247,823	1,761,003	2,267,585
Subtotal	451,288	247,823	1,761,003	2,460,114
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,577,707</b>	<b>1,463,365</b>	<b>55,018,653</b>	<b>62,059,725</b>

**2011 Budget** 29,863,300

<b>2009 Revised budget</b>	
Annual budget	34,384,171
Supplementary budget	28,064,375
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>62,448,546</b>

## Consequences of a 20-40 per cent funding shortfall

- Training of border guards, NGOs and others will be reduced, increasing the possibility of *refoulement*.
- Among those at risk of statelessness, up to 45 per cent of birth registrations and 300 citizenship applications will be inadequately handled, increasing the risk of unregistered births and statelessness.
- Local integration will only be achieved for 50 per cent of refugees due to limited capacity to facilitate naturalization, support self-reliance, and provide housing. This may result in irregular movements.
- Up to 80 women will not have access to safe havens and some 200 survivors of gender-based violence will not receive counselling.
- A planned study on violence against IDP and refugee children will be postponed.
- Less shelter, income generation and community mobilization activities will be implemented.
- Profiling exercises and participatory assessments will not be carried out, limiting the involvement of IDPs in project development.