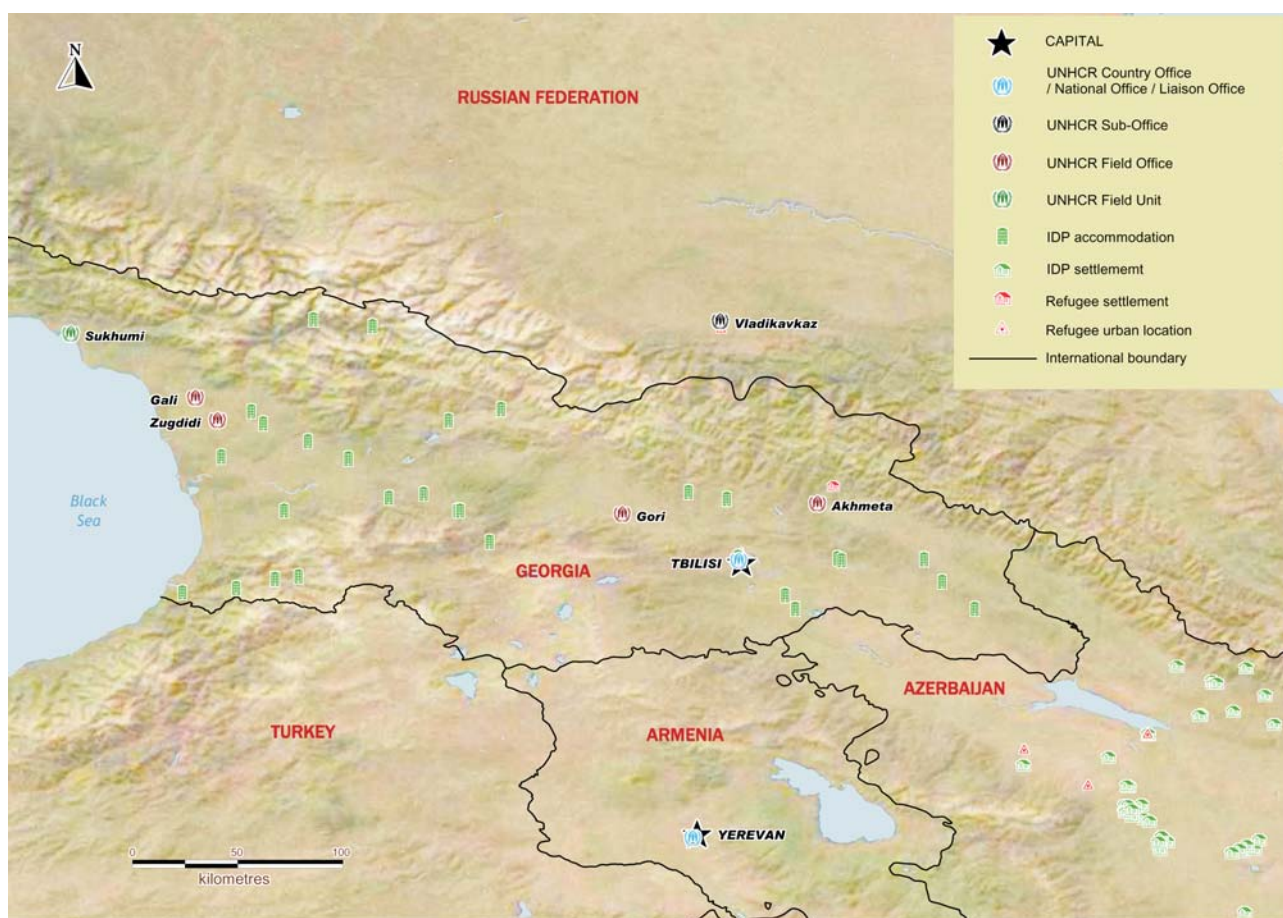


GEORGIA



Operational highlights

- UNHCR continued its advocacy for adherence to the *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*, with a focus on access to rights and livelihoods to support the integration of internally displaced persons (IDPs).
- The Government of Georgia naturalized 145 Chechen refugees during the course of the year.
- UNHCR and UNDP pledged to work together to address the economic concerns of refugees and their hosts in the Pankisi Valley.
- UNHCR helped to identify some 1,800 undocumented people of concern, and assisted the local authorities to register births. The Civil Registry Agency of Georgia (CRA) registered over 1,800 stateless people and is considering 40 applications by people who are *de jure* stateless for naturalization.
- The Government of Georgia, with the cooperation of UNHCR and its partners, opened a reception centre for asylum-seekers in June 2010. The centre has the capacity to house up to 60 residents. No cases of *refoulement* are known to have occurred in Georgia and new asylum legislation is under review.
- UNHCR provided improved housing to more than 400 IDP households in Shida Kartli and western Georgia, including Abkhazia. Three new social community centres were opened in three Abkhazian villages, bringing the total number of such centres to 21.

Persons of concern

| Type of Population | Origin | Total | Of whom assisted by UNHCR | Per cent female | Per cent under 18 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Refugees | Russian Federation | 600 | 600 | 50 | 45 |
| | Various | 20 | 20 | 50 | 38 |
| Asylum-seekers | Various | 40 | 40 | 25 | 27 |
| IDPs | Georgia | 235,700 | 235,700 | - | - |
| People in IDP-like situations | Georgia | 124,000 | 124,000 | - | - |
| Stateless | Stateless | 1,800 | - | 55 | 1 |
| Total | | 362,160 | 360,360 | | |

| Working environment |

Two-and-a-half years after the August 2008 conflict, the security and political situation in Georgia has stabilized. Nonetheless, many thousands of people continue to be displaced. UNHCR continued its role as a co-moderator alongside the European Union, the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) within the framework of the Geneva Discussions. In a positive development, South Ossetian representatives resumed their participation in the incident-prevention and response mechanism.

The Government of Georgia ratified a new strategy and laws on occupied territories. These measures are expected to ensure greater respect for humanitarian principles and broaden the humanitarian space.

The eviction of some 5,000 IDPs from their collective centres in Tbilisi was followed by a number of demonstrations. UNHCR, with the support of the diplomatic community, worked with the Government to develop procedures in accordance with international standards and principles. Nonetheless, an estimated 4,000 IDPs living in collective centres in Tbilisi continue to be at risk of relocation and in need of alternative housing.

Progress was made in bringing the national asylum framework in line with international refugee law through strengthening the capacity of the national institutions and civil society to protect refugees and asylum-seekers. This was done through training programmes for government officials, the judiciary, border guards and NGOs; helping the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees (MRA) to draft a new law on refugees and humanitarian status; and issuing publications and conducting media campaigns.

| Achievements and impact |

● Main objectives and targets

Favourable protection environment

- UNHCR monitored the refugee status determination (RSD) procedure and trained reception centre staff. Personnel from the Ministry of Justice, the Public Defender's Office and three NGOs were given training in refugee law and practice. In addition, 15 judges were trained in international refugee and human rights law.
- In general, the Government's RSD procedures improved and UNHCR provided recommendations on individual cases prior to the final decision. Some 70 new asylum applications were registered by the MRA.
- UNHCR worked to strengthen national frameworks for the protection of IDPs. The Government's IDP Action Plan was ratified in May 2010. The MRA formed an expert group to develop eviction mechanisms and address shelter concerns, especially those related to IDPs in private accommodation.
- Legal counselling was provided to some 3,000 IDPs, usually in relation to the IDP Action Plan, durable housing, pensions and civil documentation. UNHCR also provided 800 IDPs with information related to the privatization of collective centres.
- Long-term permanent shelter was provided for some 200 families in western Georgia, 170 families in Abkhazia and 30 families in Shida Kartli, while 20 collective centres in Tbilisi were winterized. In Shida Kartli, particular attention was paid to nearly 870 extremely vulnerable individuals. In total, direct assistance was provided to more than 2,000 people of concern in the region.



UNHCR staff meet with a villager in Goleti, Georgia.

UNHCR / P. TAGGART

Fair protection processes and documentation

- Almost 1,800 people were found to be undocumented in 2010, adding up to a total of more than 5,200 in the country. More than 1,100 among this group were provided with legal counselling, assisted to obtain documentation and registered or documented.

Security from violence and exploitation

- Activities to raise awareness of sexual and gender-based violence included the running of crisis centres, which provided psychosocial, legal and medical assistance to more than 3,400 individuals. Some 50 people were provided with temporary shelter assistance, while 50 women and minors were offered long-term shelter assistance at a safe house in Tbilisi.

Basic needs and services

- Vocational training benefited up to 25 per cent of refugees. New sustainable livelihood schemes allowed UNHCR to reduce monthly assistance to individual refugees. Health-care services were provided by a national partner to more than 500 people, and steps are under way to integrate refugees into national health services.
- Refugee children were able to attend local schools and their integration was improved through UNHCR-supported educational activities. Day-care support was provided to a limited number of children with disabilities and DAFI scholarships were granted to some 20 refugee students for university education.

Community participation and self-management

- Income generation and vocational-training activities helped to increase IDPs' income. More than 1,500 people participated in vocational and business training. The most successful graduates, including 50 women, received a professional toolkit or small-business grants. In addition, nearly 2,000 IDPs and local community members took computer-literacy courses through the Computer Technology Access programme.
- Socio-economic support was given to conflict-affected households in Shida Kartli, western Georgia and Abkhazia. This included training and start-up grants for income-generating projects in areas such as poultry farming, greenhouses and animal husbandry, as well as the development of bakeries, welding shops and garages. Nearly 1,000 IDP families were able to engage in income-generating activities.

Durable solutions

- UNHCR set up more than 70 income-generating projects and provided some 40 social grants to aid the local integration process. It worked closely with UNDP on the transition from humanitarian assistance to integrated development in the Pankisi Valley. UNHCR assisted 15 voluntary repatriation cases and processed one person for resettlement.

Logistics and operations support

- Coordination meetings between offices were held regularly. Monthly meetings with implementing partners were also conducted. Coordination of a variety of initiatives was undertaken with governmental partners, UN agencies, NGOs, donors and other actors.
- In addition, three new vehicles were procured, renewing the existing fleet.

| Constraints |

The integration of refugee children into local schools and the provision of access to state health insurance schemes for all people of concern are issues still to be fully resolved. Prevention of statelessness will be possible only through changes to legislation that have not yet been ratified by Parliament.

| Financial information |

Funds available for activities in Georgia enabled the Office to promote protection and support solutions for refugees and IDPs. However, UNHCR was not able to support Government officials to undertake study visits to strengthen their understanding of appropriate reception conditions for asylum-seekers.

Increased investment in self-reliance would strengthen durable solutions, particularly local integration, for both refugees and IDPs. However, vocational courses and other income-generating activities could not be fully implemented due to lack of resources. Funding for UNHCR's operations in Georgia significantly increased following the 2008 conflict, but has declined since that time.

Thanks to the funding received by the Government for IDPs, UNHCR gave priority to advocate for responsible Government policy and to assist in the planning of dignified and sustainable integration solutions for IDPs. UNHCR monitored the implementation of the State's strategy and sponsored pilot projects which could be replicated.

| Organization and implementation |

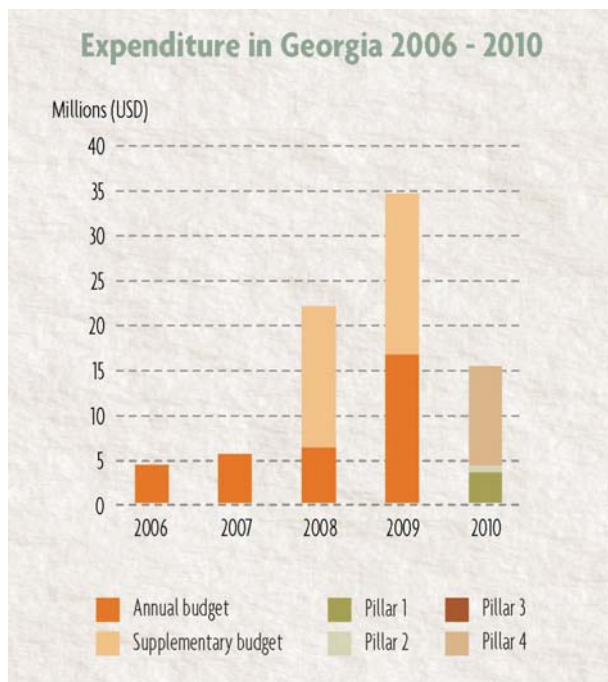
In 2010, UNHCR's six offices in Georgia complied with all UN security standards. The number of staff was reduced from 91 at the beginning of the year to 71 by December 2010.

| UNHCR's presence in 2010 |

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| □ Number of offices | 6 |
| □ Total staff | 71 |
| International | 13 |
| National | 51 |
| JPOs | 1 |
| UNVs | 2 |
| Others | 4 |

| Working with others |

The main Government counterpart of UNHCR is the MRA, which deals with RSD and assistance to IDPs and refugees. Cooperation on the prevention of statelessness was also established with the Civil Registration Agency within the Ministry of Justice. This agency has, with the support of UNHCR, improved its outreach in the regions, in particular to minority populations. Working relations with the Office of the Public Defender were strengthened with regard to monitoring the protection of IDPs.



| Overall assessment |

In 2010, UNHCR reinforced its community-mobilization approach with the handover of projects to local authorities or specific groups, such as farmers' associations and women's clubs.

UNHCR's agreement with UNDP for the transition from humanitarian assistance to development includes plans to strengthen local governance; support sustainable socio-economic integration; mitigate and reverse environmental degradation; improve access to health and education; and respond to issues related to gender-based violence.

| Partners | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Implementing partners | |
| Government: | Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees (MRA), Civil Registry Agency (CRA) |
| NGOs: | <i>Abkhazintercont</i> , Advice Centre for Women Sakhli, Association Atinati, Association Avangard, CARE International, Charity Humanitarian Centre Abkhazeti, Civil Initiative and Human Being of the Future, Coordination Council of Chechen Refugees in Georgia, Danish Refugee Council, Georgian Women's Employment Supporting Association Amagdari, Grassroots Support Centre, International Relief and Development, Kakheti Regional Development Foundation, Legal Development and Consultations Group, Norwegian Refugee Council, Technical Assistance in Georgia, United Nations Association of Georgia, World Vision International |
| Operational partners | |
| Government: | Ministries of Foreign Affairs; Justice; Conflict Resolution; Internal Affairs; Economic Development; Education and Science; Health, Labour and Social Affairs; the State Office of Reform Coordination, Parliamentarians' Council on Gender Equality |
| Others: | <i>De facto</i> authorities in Abkhazia, Representative of the Secretary-General on the Human Rights of IDPs, Office of Public Defender, UNDP, Council of Europe |

Budget, income and expenditure in Georgia | USD

| | PILLAR 1 Refugee programme | PILLAR 2 Stateless programme | PILLAR 4 IDP projects | Total |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| FINAL BUDGET | 7,035,775 | 810,000 | 52,953,822 | 60,799,597 |
| Income from contributions ¹ | 621,980 | 0 | 13,936,706 | 14,558,686 |
| Other funds available | 2,752,514 | 796,183 | 2,080,637 | 5,629,335 |
| TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE | 3,374,494 | 796,183 | 16,017,344 | 20,188,021 |
| EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN | | | | |
| <i>Favourable protection environment</i> | | | | |
| International and regional instruments | 0 | 111,730 | 0 | 111,730 |
| National legal framework | 201,719 | 0 | 0 | 201,719 |
| National administrative framework | 377,191 | 0 | 843,349 | 1,220,540 |
| Policies towards forced displacement | 0 | 0 | 779 | 779 |
| Prevention of statelessness | 0 | 140,335 | 0 | 140,335 |
| Subtotal | 578,909 | 252,065 | 844,128 | 1,675,103 |
| <i>Fair protection processes and documentation</i> | | | | |
| Civil status documentation | 5,899 | 254,820 | 0 | 260,719 |
| Subtotal | 5,899 | 254,820 | 0 | 260,719 |
| <i>Security from violence and exploitation</i> | | | | |
| Gender-based violence | 298,073 | 0 | 619,702 | 917,775 |
| Subtotal | 298,073 | 0 | 619,702 | 917,775 |
| <i>Basic needs and essential services</i> | | | | |
| Shelter and other infrastructure | 0 | 0 | 2,787,434 | 2,787,434 |
| Services for groups with specific needs | 0 | 0 | 489,484 | 489,484 |
| Subtotal | 0 | 0 | 3,276,918 | 3,276,918 |
| <i>Community participation and self-management</i> | | | | |
| Community self-management and equal representation | 0 | 0 | 400,029 | 400,029 |
| Self-reliance and livelihoods | (185) | 0 | 1,918,584 | 1,918,399 |
| Subtotal | (185) | 0 | 2,318,612 | 2,318,427 |
| <i>Durable solutions</i> | | | | |
| Durable solutions strategy | 137,177 | 0 | 0 | 137,177 |
| Resettlement | 0 | 0 | 374,758 | 374,758 |
| Local integration support | 997,378 | 0 | 452,714 | 1,450,092 |
| Subtotal | 1,134,556 | 0 | 827,472 | 1,962,027 |
| <i>Logistics and operations support</i> | | | | |
| Programme management, coordination and support | 356,096 | 194,282 | 565,643 | 1,116,021 |
| Subtotal | 356,096 | 194,282 | 565,643 | 1,116,021 |
| Instalments to implementing partners | 1,001,147 | 95,016 | 2,659,526 | 3,755,689 |
| Other objectives | (1) | 0 | 0 | (1) |
| Total | 3,374,494 | 796,183 | 11,112,001 | 15,282,678 |

¹ Income from contributions includes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions to Pillars 3 and 4, supplementary budgets and the "New or additional activities - mandate-related" (NAM) reserve. Contributions towards all pillars are included under Pillar 1.