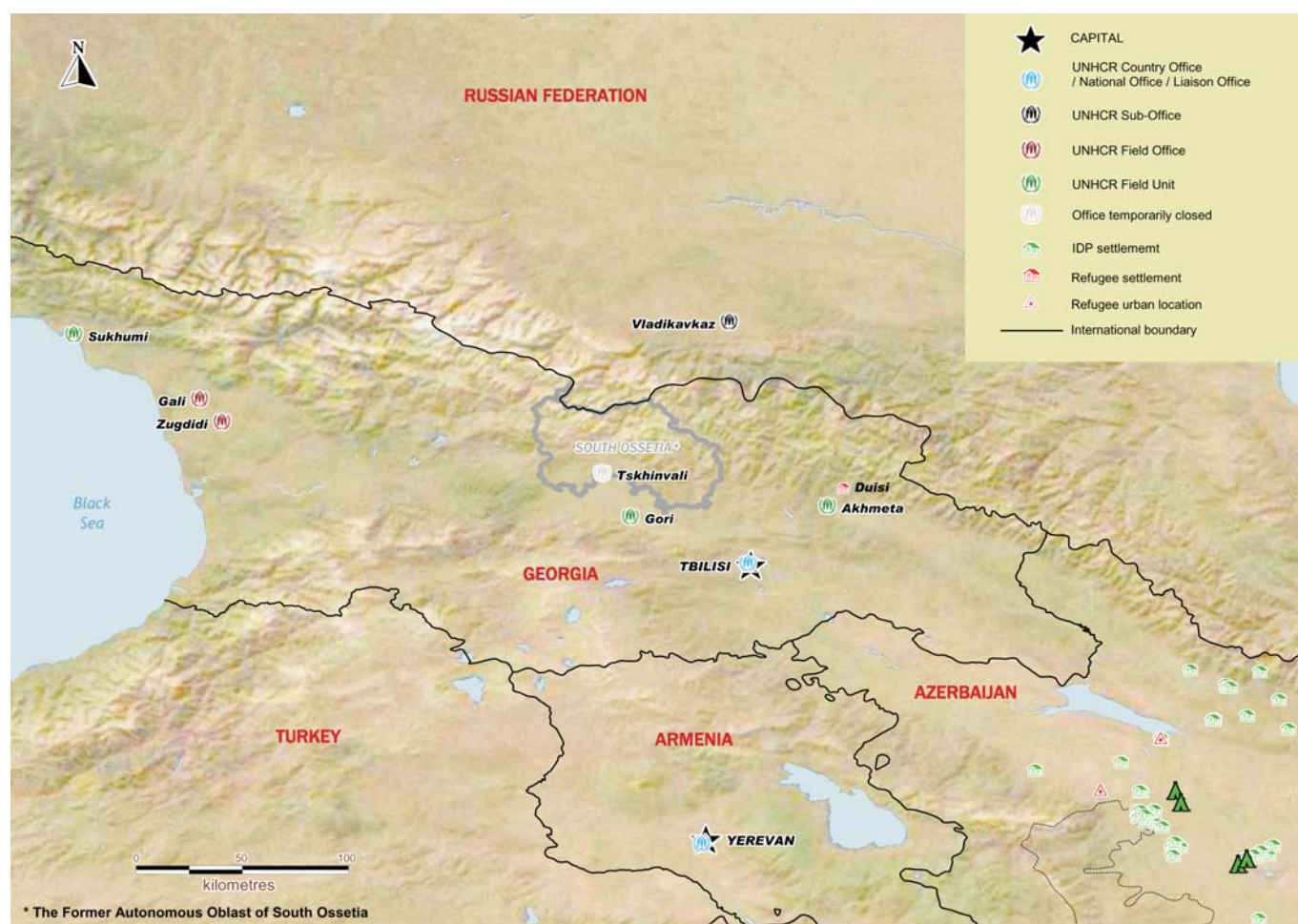


GEORGIA



Working environment

The context

UNHCR protects and assists some 355,000 people in Georgia, of whom the vast majority are internally displaced persons (IDPs). The situation of those who have returned to Abkhazia, South Ossetia and adjacent areas remains precarious. The same applies to those who have relocated to other parts of Georgia.

Georgia also hosts some 900 refugees, mainly from the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation, and a small number of asylum-seekers. In addition, there are more than 1,700 people identified as *de jure* stateless. However, the precise number of people who are stateless or at risk of becoming so may be higher.

The needs

The national asylum system needs strengthening. The relevant legislation, currently under revision, needs to ensure respect of the principle of *non-refoulement*, introduce a complementary form of protection, and include specific provisions to address the needs of the most vulnerable asylum-seekers, such as female heads of household, and unaccompanied or separated children. It is hoped that the new legislation will be adopted by the end of 2010, after which technical assistance and capacity building will be needed to ensure the legislation is fully implemented.

Planning figures for Georgia

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2011		DEC 2011	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Refugees	Various	700	700	500	500
Asylum-seekers	Various	30	30	40	40
IDPs	Georgia	247,000	247,000	247,000	247,000
People in an IDP-like situation	Georgia	96,000	96,000	86,000	86,000
Stateless	Stateless	1,800	1,800	1,900	1,900
Total		345,530	345,530	335,440	335,440

Refugees – mostly Chechens in the Pankisi Valley, who have been given the opportunity to be naturalized – will continue to need support so they can integrate in their host communities. In particular, they require sustainable housing, income-generating opportunities and social protection. Socio-economic interventions will be gradually covered under a UNDP local development programme, but UNHCR will continue to prioritize housing and discussions with the Government about access to social protection. Up to 200 vulnerable refugees will continue to need UNHCR's support during 2011.

Georgia is not a State Party to either the 1954 or the 1961 Statelessness Conventions. However, the Government has acknowledged deficits in its citizenship legislation, and it is anticipated that Georgia will accede to the UN Conventions on Statelessness and the European Convention on Nationality in 2011. Following accession, UNHCR will support the Government in drafting by-laws. The Government foresees the

voluntary return of some Meshkhetian Turks in 2011; UNHCR will advise the authorities on the implementation of a return programme, paying particular attention to the prevention of statelessness.

Nearly 247,000 IDPs (including those in South Ossetia) who have been displaced for more than 16 years continue to live without adequate shelter or the means to integrate into their communities. Approximately 100,000 people are either in the process of returning to Gali; have returned to their villages in the area adjacent to South Ossetia; or have been resettled within the Shida Kartli, Kvemo Kartli and Mtskheta-Mtianeti regions. However, many still face challenges, including lack of access to sustainable housing and a dearth of income-generating opportunities. Community mobilization is needed to support their reintegration.

While precise data on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) among people of concern to UNHCR is not available, profiling exercises, participatory assessments and NGO reports

Main objectives and targets

Favourable protection environment

- Improved policies on forced displacement provide better protection options.
 - ☞ *The Ministry for IDPs from Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees is provided with technical advice on restructuring and decentralization, and assisted to implement the IDP Action Plan.*
- Prevention of statelessness is strengthened.
 - ☞ *A study identifies the gaps in citizenship and civil status registration legislation, and assesses the situation of stateless, undocumented and unregistered persons.*
- The national legal framework is developed and strengthened.
 - ☞ *A revised refugee law is adopted, bringing national legislation into compliance with international standards.*

Fair protection processes

- Civil status documentation is strengthened.
 - ☞ *The Civil Registry Agency (CRA) is assisted to provide legal assistance to some 1,760 de jure stateless persons.*
 - ☞ *Four CRA offices are rehabilitated, and their staff trained to register births and other civil acts, including for stateless persons.*
 - ☞ *Up to 1,800 individuals, mainly children in minority communities, are documented, thereby removing the risk of statelessness.*

Security from violence and exploitation

- The risk of sexual and gender-based violence is reduced and the quality of the response to it improved.
 - ☞ *Up to 70 women and girls at risk are provided with a safe haven.*
 - ☞ *Some 1,300 refugee and IDP women have access to counselling if subjected to domestic violence, forced early marriage, bride kidnapping, and other types of gender-based violence.*

Basic needs and services

- Shelter and infrastructure are improved.
 - ☞ *Adequate shelter is provided for up to 450 vulnerable IDP or returning IDP families.*
 - ☞ *Up to 150 vulnerable refugee households receive monthly cash stipends.*

Community participation and self-management

- The level of self-reliance and livelihoods is improved.
 - ☞ *Some 50 refugee households receive income-generation support, and some 150 refugees benefit from vocational training, including Community Technology Access.*
 - ☞ *Livelihood programmes support the self-reliance of 1,300 IDP or returning IDP families.*
 - ☞ *Community mobilization activities assist up to 600 returned IDPs.*
- Community self-management and equal representation are strengthened.
 - ☞ *Up to 25 community self-management structures are identified, developed and assisted.*

Durable solutions

- The potential for local integration is realized.
 - ☞ *Up to 120 refugee families opting for local integration are naturalized, become self-reliant and receive durable housing.*
 - ☞ *The transition from refugee-oriented assistance to local development that benefits all communities in the Pankisi Valley is completed, enabling UNHCR to close its refugee programme in that region in 2011.*

UNHCR's presence in 2011

□ Number of offices	6
□ Total staff	59
International	12
National	42
JPOs	1
UNVs	2
Others	2

PARTNERS

Implementing partners

Government agencies:

Ministry for IDPs from Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees (former MRA)
Civil Registry Agency, Ministry of Justice

NGOs:

Abkhazintercont
Advice Centre for Women (Sakhli)
Association Avangard
Atinati
CARE International
Charity Humanitarian Centre 'Abkhazeti'
Civil Initiative and Human Being of the Future
Coordination Council of Chechen Refugees in Georgia
Danish Refugee Council
Grassroots Support Centre
International Relief and Development
Kakheti Regional Development Foundation
Legal Development and Consultations Group
Norwegian Refugee Council
Technical Assistance to Georgia
United Nations Association of Georgia
WorldVision International

Others:

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

Operational partners

Government agencies:

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

Others:

Authorities in control in Abkhazia
Council of Europe
European Union
European Union Monitoring Mission
IOM
UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs

UNHCR distributes kitchen sets and jerry cans to 1,500 displaced people at a collective center in Tblisi.



UNHCR / Y. MECHITOV

have indicated that such violence is widespread, and that mechanisms to prevent and respond to it are necessary.

Strategy and activities in 2011

UNHCR will pursue local integration to resolve the long-standing Chechen refugee situation in Georgia, as the humanitarian effort moves from direct assistance to UNDP-led longer-term development activities that benefit refugees, former refugees, and their host communities. The Office will continue to monitor the situation of people of concern in the country, providing assistance to the most vulnerable, and advocating as appropriate for their access to naturalization and local integration, as well as to national health care and insurance systems.

Following the planned adoption by the end of 2010 of a revised refugee law, which will bring the national asylum framework into line with international standards, UNHCR will continue to provide technical assistance and help to build national capacity to implement this legislation.

UNHCR will pursue its strategy on statelessness, based on the understanding that the Government will facilitate the registration of individuals lacking basic civil documentation. In continued

cooperation with the Council of Europe, the Office will advise the Government on the implementation of the return programme for Meshkhetians, paying particular attention to the prevention of statelessness upon return. A thorough study is planned on the gaps with regard to citizenship and civil registration legislation, comparing the substance of legislation with practical implementation, and assessing the situation of stateless, undocumented and unregistered persons.

In its work on behalf of IDPs, UNHCR will shift from providing direct assistance, such as shelter construction and income-generating activities, to protection monitoring, advocacy and standard setting. The Office will encourage increased regional development programmes to cover the socio-economic needs of IDPs by both the Government and development actors. In line with UN Strategic Directions for Abkhazia, UNHCR will continue its Shelter Plus approach whereby persons in the process of return will be assisted with dignified durable housing together with support to become self-reliant through income-generating activities. This will be pursued through a community mobilization framework, which promote solutions for both displaced people in the process of returning and conflict-affected communities.

● **Constraints**

UNHCR's strategy is based on the assumption of stability in the region and the support of the Government and of the international community for efforts to provide durable solutions to IDPs, refugees and stateless people. The Office is concerned that the vast majority of IDPs lack access to adequate shelter and income-generating possibilities. There is a continuing need for programmes to address these and other socio-economic gaps. Humanitarian access to some 14,000 IDPs and returnees in South Ossetia remains impossible at present and it is becoming increasingly more difficult and complex to operate in Abkhazia, where around 50,000 IDPs are in the process of returning.

Organization and implementation

● **Coordination**

UNHCR will work closely 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 to aid persons of concern. UNHCR will also

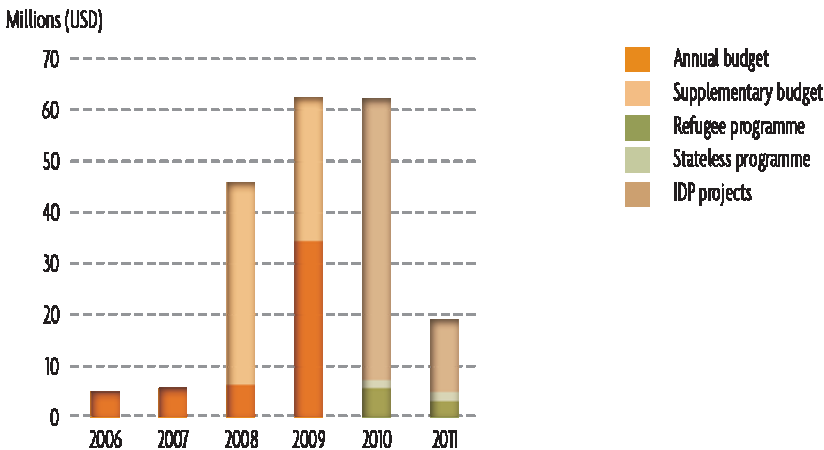
continue to promote joint UN activities with UNICEF, UNDP and UNIFEM, and also through the Strategic Partnership for Abkhazia which includes UNHCR, other UN agencies and international NGO partners. In 2011, UNHCR will sign an agreement with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Affairs to facilitate access to health services for refugees.

As part of phasing down and handing over activities to other organizations, UNHCR will focus on partnerships with local humanitarian organizations to ensure full integration and sustainability of activities.

Financial information

UNHCR's budgetary requirements for Georgia increased significantly following large-scale displacement in the aftermath of the August 2008 conflict. Since then, the Office has invested in projects which can be replicated by the Government of Georgia, to address the highest priority needs, including shelter. The 2011 budgetary requirements of USD 18.6 million have been significantly reduced, compared to the 2010 level, in order to keep them in line with the capacity of national partners.

UNHCR's budget in Georgia 2006 – 2011



Consequences of a 20-40 per cent funding shortfall

- National authorities will not receive enough support to ensure full implementation of new legislation which provides for the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers.
- Fewer than 70 refugee families will receive durable housing and income-generation support.
- The capacity-building project for four CRA branch offices will not be pursued.
- No support will be offered for the drafting of by-laws and decrees to ensure proper implementation of measures to prevent statelessness, and a detailed study of gaps in relation to citizenship will not be undertaken.
- Activities to monitor protection will be suspended, advocacy to set standards and shape policy will be curtailed, and projects to raise IDPs' awareness of their rights will not be conducted.
- Only 240 vulnerable IDP or returning IDP families will receive adequate shelter.
- Only 600 IDP or returning IDP families will receive help to improve their self-reliance.
- Only some 40 women and girls at risk of SGBV will have access to a safe haven; and fewer than 900 refugee and IDP survivors of SGBV will have access to counselling.

2011 UNHCR Budget for Georgia (USD)

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	STATELESS PROGRAMME PILLAR 2	IDP PROJECTS PILLAR 4	TOTAL
Favourable protection environment				
International and regional instruments	0	202,584	0	202,584
National legal framework	168,926	83,982	505,006	757,914
National administrative framework	383,561	0	689,402	1,072,962
Policies towards forced displacement	0	0	778,858	778,858
Prevention of displacement	0	0	156,990	156,990
Prevention of statelessness	0	434,634	0	434,634
Non-refoulement	71,234	0	0	71,234
Subtotal	623,721	721,200	2,130,255	3,475,177
Fair protection processes and documentation				
Civil status documentation	0	604,499	0	604,499
Subtotal	0	604,499	0	604,499
Security from violence and exploitation				
Law enforcement	49,776	0	142,818	192,594
Gender-based violence	75,861	0	542,683	618,544
Protection of children	60,656	0	128,181	188,837
Freedom of movement	0	0	82,210	82,210
Access to legal remedies	0	0	187,282	187,282
Subtotal	186,293	0	1,083,175	1,269,468
Basic needs and essential services				
Shelter and other infrastructure	1,049,215	0	4,066,866	5,116,081
Primary health care	165,421	0	0	165,421
Subtotal	1,214,636	0	4,066,866	5,281,502
Community participation and self-management				
Community self-management and equal representation	0	0	1,585,867	1,585,867
Self-reliance and livelihoods	0	0	2,997,145	2,997,145
Subtotal	0	0	4,583,012	4,583,012
Durable solutions				
Durable solutions strategy	141,722	0	0	141,722
Rehabilitation and reintegration support	0	0	432,257	432,257
Resettlement	0	0	315,386	315,386
Local integration support	610,775	0	695,148	1,305,924
Subtotal	752,497	0	1,442,791	2,195,289
Logistics and operations support				
Programme management, coordination and support	308,810	261,859	649,118	1,219,787
Subtotal	308,810	261,859	649,118	1,219,787
Total	3,085,958	1,587,559	13,955,218	18,628,734
2010 Revised budget	5,613,584	1,463,365	55,018,653	62,095,602