

GEORGIA



Operational highlights

- The integration strategy for refugees in Georgia delivered significant results: some 380 refugees of Chechen ethnicity were naturalized, the remaining refugees as well as members of their host communities benefited from a joint UNHCR-UNDP programme contributing to sustainable livelihoods in the remote Pankisi Valley.
- A joint UNHCR-UNDP programme began in late 2011 to support the livelihoods of 70,000 displaced people in the Shida Kartli region.
- UNHCR's advocacy and shelter interventions helped improve conditions for a third of the 89,000 displaced families.
- A new Law on Refugees and Humanitarian Status drafted with UNHCR's help was adopted. It brings national legislation more in line with international standards and introduces the concept of complementary protection.

- Georgia acceded to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and amended its citizenship laws to comply with international standards. The requests of 75 Meshkhetians who applied to return to Georgia were approved, but they are still to return. The number of registered stateless people in the country decreased from 2,000 to less than 1,600.
- In its relations with the Government, NGOs and the donor community, UNHCR operated as the lead agency on protection, and enhanced the understanding among all stakeholders of its mandate, and of the need to shift the focus from humanitarian assistance to protection issues.

Working environment

By emphasizing the neutral and humanitarian nature of its work, and by firmly basing its advocacy and actions on recognized international standards, UNHCR had a positive

Persons of concern

Type of Population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Various	460	460	49	37
Asylum-seekers	Various	40	40	28	18
IDPs	Georgia	274,000	274,000	-	-
Stateless	Stateless people	1,600	-	54	1
Total		276,100	274,500		

impact on the protection policy of the Government and the well-being of persons of concern.

Indeed, in 2011 the advocacy and protection work of previous years yielded positive results. Government interlocutors responded favourably to UNHCR's recommendations and concerns, including on internally displaced persons (IDPs). UNHCR took the lead in coordinating inputs to update and extend the IDP Action Plan for 2012-14, in cooperation with the Government. The same applied to the revision of legislation on IDPs, although UNHCR maintained its concerns regarding the definition of an IDP.

The Geneva Discussions continued, but did not result in any breakthrough. However the process facilitated communication and action that helped displaced and other conflict-affected populations.

| Achievements and impact |

● Main objectives and targets

Favourable protection environment

- The drafting and adoption of the new Law on Refugees and Humanitarian Status has been a major development. Despite some shortcomings, the law introduced humanitarian status as a complementary form of protection. It also established efficient national asylum procedures with respect to the principle of *non-refoulement*. The law brought significant progress on issues related to the refugee definition, procedural guarantees, family unification and access to rights and services.
- Efforts to prevent statelessness were encouraged by Georgia's accession to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless People, and the Government's determination to make national citizenship legislation compliant with the standards set by the Convention. Relevant amendments to the legislation were expected in 2012.

Fair protection processes

- As a result of advocacy and legal advice, the number of *de jure* (registered with the Civil Registry Agency) stateless people decreased from 1,990 to 1,570. Individual meetings were held and counselling by phone conducted with 800 stateless persons, of whom 337 were naturalized in Georgia or granted citizenship by another country. Moreover, UNHCR supported a network to deal with undocumented persons in all regions of Georgia, resulting in 1,070 individuals being issued with documentation.

Security from violence and exploitation

- Preventing and responding to incidents of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) remained a challenge. UNHCR saw some developments with regard to establishing more effective response mechanisms. A countrywide project on SGBV prevention and response was implemented successfully, and reached more than 6,500 people.
- A council of elders was established to help Chechen women by providing them with information on the Georgian legal framework, as well as information on psychological traumas and medical problems deriving from SGBV. Psychological counselling was provided to 220 victims.

- In Abkhazia, efforts were directed to combating the widespread acceptance of SGBV within communities and by the authorities. Estimates put the number of women in the region who have suffered from SGBV at 70 per cent. After training on business start-ups designed for survivors of violence, four women's groups received small grants for income-generating activities. A temporary shelter for survivors of SGBV provided safety for 14 women.

Basic needs and services

- There was progress in meeting the housing needs of displaced families through governmental shelter programmes, complemented by a UNHCR project for IDPs residing in private accommodation. Some 28,400 IDP families benefited from housing programmes, including some 22,800 who were accommodated in rehabilitated buildings, and 5,520 who received housing cash grants. UNHCR's interventions targeted 50 families (200 persons) and constituted a model for governmental programmes. In addition, UNHCR contributed to the procurement of some 20 rural houses.

Community participation and self-management

- All naturalized refugees received an integration grant, while durable housing solutions were offered to 52 households. The joint programme with UNDP marking the transition from humanitarian response to regional development yielded positive results. The profits from a cheese factory set up under the joint programme were expected to fund livelihood projects in the region. Agricultural and other vocational training activities saw the involvement of the local population and former refugees. The Community Technology Access (CTA) project was implemented in two community centres to strengthen the skills of some 360 participants.
- Following participatory assessments in western Georgia, 38 self-management groups (more than 60 per cent of which are led by women) were established. They received management training and submitted business proposals, of which 25 were approved by the selection committee. In the Shida Kartli region, 11 community organizations were established in the new IDP settlements and were given assistance to foster local integration in the region.

Durable solutions

- Almost all refugees who opted for local integration (some 230 individuals) have been naturalized. The number of beneficiaries depending on UNHCR's cash assistance for refugees dropped significantly, from 460 to 170 individuals. In 2011, vocational training courses were offered to some 40 refugees, while 19 continued their academic studies thanks to DAFI scholarships. The joint UNHCR-UNDP area development programmes played a key role in providing sustainable local integration options for displaced and refugee families.

| Constraints |

While humanitarian access to the Tskhinvali Region / South Ossetia remains to be achieved, access to Abkhazia was

unhindered allowing operations in the region to proceed. However, political and donor considerations limited the opportunities to provide development and capacity-building support. As major actor in areas of return, UNHCR focused its activities on protection monitoring, shelter and livelihoods support.

The lack of awareness of their rights and of the importance of citizenship and documentation among some marginalized groups remained issues needing to be addressed.

Financial information

Budgetary requirements have decreased significantly since 2010. UNHCR has invested in intensive advocacy and projects that encourage the Government to address the needs of persons of concern, especially the shelter needs of IDPs.

Organization and implementation

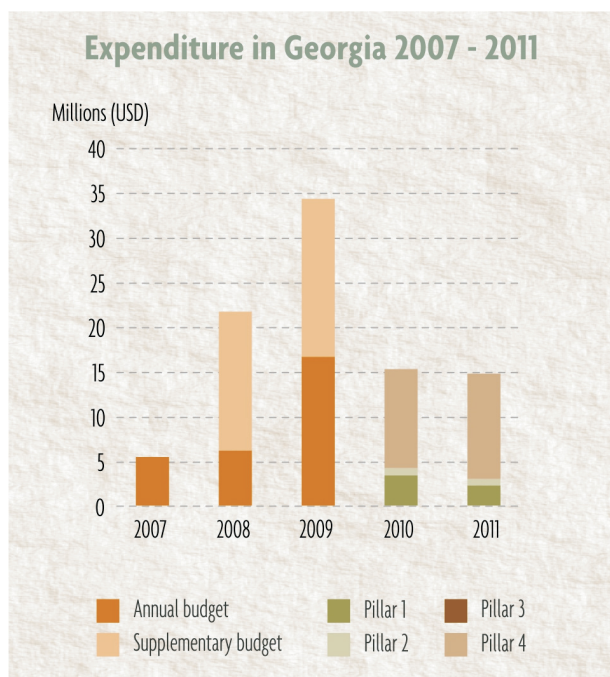
UNHCR employed 62 staff members in Georgia and maintained six offices throughout the country.

UNHCR's presence in 2011

□ Number of offices	6
□ Total staff	62
International	13
National	42
JPO	0
UNVs	3
Others	4

Working with others

UNHCR worked with 26 implementing and 14 operational partners. Advocacy with the main donors and other stakeholders resulted in UNHCR's priorities being reflected in the policies and action plans negotiated with the Government. UNHCR continued to act as co-chair of the working group II of the Geneva Discussions. It also participated in the UN Country Team (UNCT) within the scope of the UN



UNHCR provided relief items for families affected by heavy rains and landslides in Georgia

Development Assistance Framework 2011-2015, advocating for the inclusion of refugee and IDP issues in the development agenda, and in the Abkhazia Strategic Partnership Group negotiating humanitarian space and access.

Overall assessment

The 2011 programme covering protection, shelter and livelihood interventions, was implemented successfully. Operational and implementing partners were actively involved in shaping UNHCR's policies and responses. The international community, the UNCT, NGOs and the media gave UNHCR strong support in its efforts to ensure respect for the rights of people of concern. Its presence on the ground was key to UNHCR's credibility and influence with policy makers, facilitating the transition from humanitarian action to development.

Unmet needs

- An estimated 50 per cent of the 3,000 households identified as living in an IDP-like situation in Abkhazia remained in dire need of assistance, especially housing and access to livelihoods.
- Some 500 extremely vulnerable households among this group remained unassisted.

Partners

Implementing partners

Government agencies: Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia, Civil Registry Agency

NGOs: *Abkhazintercont*, *Acción contra el Hambre*, Advice Centre for Women (*Sakhti*), Association (*Atinati*), Association (*Avangard*), Association of Women of Abkhazia, Association Rural Development for Future Georgia, CARE International, Charity Humanitarian Centre (*Abkhazeti*), Coordination Council of Chechen Refugees in Georgia, Danish Refugee Council, Grassroots Support Centre, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, Innovations and Reforms Centre, Institute for Regional Development - Shida Kartli, Kakheti Regional Development Foundation, Legal Development and Consultations Group, Norwegian Refugee Council, *Première Urgence*, Technical Assistance in Georgia, United Methodist Committee on Relief, United Nations Association of Georgia, World Vision International

Others: UNV, Office of the Public Defender of Georgia

Operational partners

Government agencies: Ministry of Economic Development, Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Office of the State Minister for Reintegration, Parliamentary Council on Gender Equality

Others: EU, European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM), OSCE, Representative of the Secretary General on the Human Rights of IDPs, UNDP, UNICEF

Budget, income and expenditure in Georgia | USD

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	Total
FINAL BUDGET	2,798,288	1,587,558	13,955,217	18,341,063
Income from contributions	209,202	0	1,979,663	2,188,865
Other funds available	2,051,070	703,977	9,830,803	12,585,850
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	2,260,272	703,977	11,810,466	14,774,715
EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN				
<i>Favourable protection environment</i>				
International and regional instruments	0	125,525	0	125,525
National legal framework	142,997	0	315,190	458,187
National administrative framework	273,060	0	520,741	793,801
Policies towards forced displacement	0	0	110,958	110,958
Prevention of displacement	0	0	158,382	158,382
Prevention of statelessness	0	167,771	0	167,771
Subtotal	416,057	293,296	1,105,271	1,814,624
<i>Fair protection processes and documentation</i>				
Civil status documentation	0	189,208	0	189,208
Subtotal	0	189,208	0	189,208
<i>Security from violence and exploitation</i>				
Gender-based violence	86,391	0	731,452	817,843
Subtotal	86,391	0	731,452	817,843
<i>Basic needs and essential services</i>				
Shelter and other infrastructure	0	0	2,672,538	2,672,538
Primary health care	204,083	0	0	204,083
Services for groups with specific needs	0	0	809,403	809,403
Subtotal	204,083	0	3,481,941	3,686,024
<i>Community participation and self-management</i>				
Community self-management	0	0	692,683	692,683
Self-reliance and livelihoods	0	0	2,378,680	2,378,680
Subtotal	0	0	3,071,363	3,071,363
<i>Durable solutions</i>				
Durable solutions strategy	127,061	0	0	127,061
Local integration	914,808	0	526,679	1,441,487
Subtotal	1,041,869	0	526,679	1,568,548
<i>Logistics and operations support</i>				
Programme management and coordination	220,335	117,987	576,873	915,195
Subtotal	220,335	117,987	576,873	915,195
Other objectives	228	0	0	228
Balance of instalments with implementing partners	291,310	103,486	2,316,888	2,711,684
Total	2,260,273	703,977	11,810,467	14,774,717