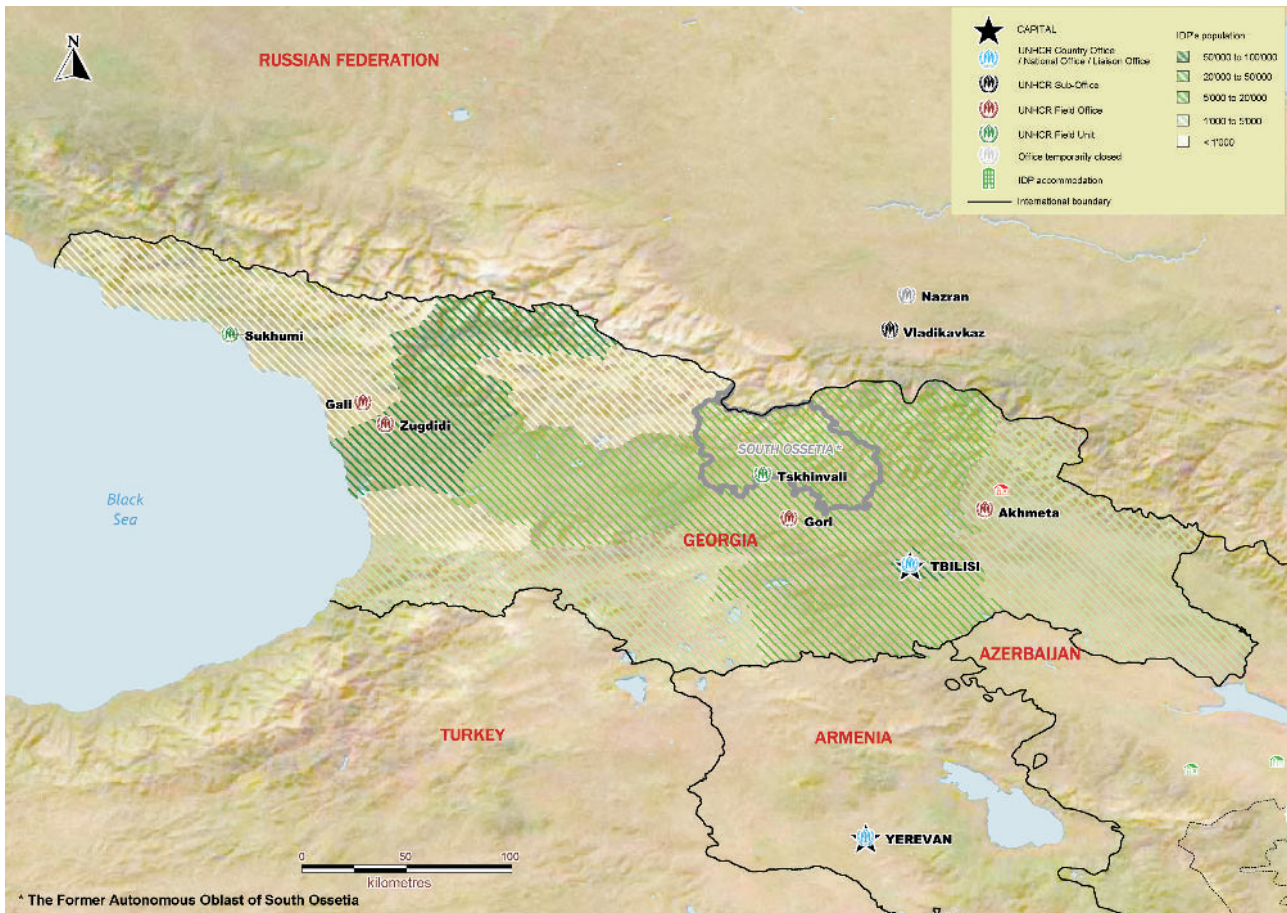


# GEORGIA



## Operational highlights

- Most of the 127,000 people displaced in August 2008 following the South Ossetia crisis have returned home or been integrated locally into new settlements. The Government of Georgia provided more than 20,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) with integration opportunities, including relocation or monetary compensation.
- With UNHCR's support, the Government developed a three-year action plan for IDPs. The plan aimed to provide housing for more than 246,000 IDPs and help with their socio-economic integration.
- Some 150,000 displaced people have returned to their homes in Georgia since the 1990s. UNHCR remained concerned about the situation of 85,000 of these returnees who still face security, protection and livelihood problems.
- More than 200 refugees received Convention Travel Documents, and the Government of Georgia initiated a naturalization process for refugees. UNHCR stepped up self-reliance projects and developed an exit strategy in cooperation with UNDP.
- The asylum reception centre near Tbilisi was rehabilitated and a new refugee law was drafted by the Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation (MRA) in close cooperation with UNHCR.

Persons of concern					
Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Russian Federation	900	900	50	46
	Various	10	10	60	50
Asylum-seekers	Various	30	20	19	4
IDPs	Georgia	246,900	246,900	-	-
People in IDP like situations	Georgia	105,700	105,700	-	-
Stateless	Stateless persons	1,700	-	56	1
Returned ex-IDPs including returned IDP-like	Georgia	5,300	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>360,540</b>	<b>353,530</b>		



- Some 9,000 people were identified as unable to prove their citizenship due to the lack of correct documentation. The Office helped more than half of them to avoid becoming stateless.

## | Working environment |

Areas near the administrative boundaries continued to be tense, with several reports of detention and security incidents. The United Nations and international NGOs remained concerned by the lack of humanitarian access to the regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. The monitoring missions in Georgia led by the UN and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe ended in June 2009. The European Union (EU) Monitoring Mission continued its work, but it too faced difficulties in gaining access to Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

## | Achievements and impact |

### • *Main objectives*

Georgia was one of the eight countries chosen to pilot the global needs assessment (GNA) in 2009. The exercise yielded concrete results in addressing the protection gaps facing refugees, the stateless and IDPs. UNHCR helped the Government to develop an asylum system in line with

international and European standards, ensuring access to territory and appropriate reception conditions.

UNHCR complemented the Government's efforts to promote the integration of IDPs and returnees. It also implemented "shelter plus" activities in the areas of sanitation, vocational training, community mobilization and income generation in order to promote durable solutions. More than 4,500 locally integrating IDPs benefited from these activities.

A key objective was to assist people at risk of statelessness. Close collaboration with the Civil Registry Agency within the Ministry of Justice helped identify gaps in documentation among some 9,000 people. Of these, some 5,000 have been assisted to resolve their documentation problems.

### • *Protection and solutions*

Georgia's asylum system and protection environment should improve with the rehabilitation of the reception centre near Tbilisi and the drafting of the new refugee law. Though the number of asylum claims was small (26 in 2009), UNHCR welcomed the Government's efforts to improve its legislation and procedures in line with international and EU standards.

UNHCR provided training on international refugee law to more than 600 law enforcement personnel. It also assisted six refugees to find resettlement opportunities and 15 to repatriate.



New settlement for IDPs  
in Gori, eastern Georgia.

The Government issued more than 200 Convention Travel Documents and naturalized 26 refugees. Nearly half the refugee households in the Pankisi Valley benefited from income-generation projects. UNHCR collaborated with UNDP to switch the focus of international aid from humanitarian assistance to integrated local development.

The Government's IDP Action Plan, adopted in April 2009, aimed to improve conditions for more than 246,000 IDPs. In accordance with the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, it seeks to guarantee that all IDPs will have adequate shelter and social protection within three years.

Considerable progress was made in preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence with the establishment of four special advice centres. These provided psycho-social therapy to nearly 1,400 women. Standard operating procedures to deal with sexual violence were accepted by the national authorities, while focal points to address sexual violence were nominated within the police force.

### ● *Activities and assistance*

**Community services:** Three women's clubs in the Pankisi Valley were funded to support the self-reliance of refugee women. Two round-table training sessions on how to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence among IDPs targeted medical staff, local authorities, teachers, lawyers, human rights activists and NGO staff in Abkhazia. Eighteen social community centres were constructed in IDP settlements in Shida Kartli and villages of returned IDPs in Abkhazia as part of a community mobilization project.

**Domestic needs and household support:** More than 300 refugee households and 20 asylum-seekers received monthly cash assistance and personal hygiene kits. Some 4,000 returnees and IDPs with special needs received assistance in Shida Kartli. More than 7,000 refugee and IDP families received firewood for the winter, and 350 were given stoves.

**Education:** UNHCR facilitated school enrolment for more than 200 adolescent refugees and awarded 10 DAFI education scholarships. One public secondary school in a refugee-hosting area was rehabilitated as part of the effort to mainstream refugee children into the regular Georgian system. Refugees were also helped to obtain government teaching accreditation.

Some 165 IDPs who were victims of sexual or gender-based violence received vocational training. Courses on computer literacy, business-plan writing and job hunting were taught to 525 IDPs.

**Health and nutrition:** UNHCR facilitated the participation of more than 115 refugee children in a national health and nutrition status determination campaign. Three primary health clinics helped more than 2,100 refugees.

In Abkhazia, outreach information sessions on HIV and AIDS prevention targeted 115 medical staff and 200 returnees and residents. A mobile medical unit visited villages in Abkhazia and treated nearly 400 women.

**Income generation:** More than 4,500 IDPs and refugees were helped to improve their self-reliance through vocational training, income-generation projects, social grants and gifts of professional tool kits. Community-based organizations provided 430 IDP families with livelihood inputs, such as agricultural equipment. Nearly 2,500 IDP families benefited from large community projects, such as the rehabilitation of irrigation networks, roads and bridges.

**Legal assistance:** Counselling and legal assistance were provided to 1,100 returnees in Abkhazia, and 2,000 people received rights-based education. In addition to assistance with obtaining documentation, UNHCR also offered legal assistance to more than 2,000 minors who were at risk of statelessness.

**Livestock:** A total of 33 projects allowed vulnerable refugee families to procure livestock in order to improve their living conditions and nutritional status.

**Operational support (to agencies):** Following the 2008 emergency phase, UNHCR had 30 implementing partners in 2009. An implementing-partner selection committee was established during the last trimester of 2009 and tasked with reducing the number of partners by 50 per cent.

**Sanitation:** A total of six bath houses were constructed in four of the new settlements to improve hygiene and sanitary conditions of the newly displaced population. More than 100 hygiene promotion sessions were conducted in the new settlements and over 5,000 hygiene kits were distributed.

**Shelter and other infrastructure:** A total of 625 IDP or returned-IDP families were assisted to set up durable housing units in 2009.

**Transport and logistics:** UNHCR provided support and assistance to its implementing partners through rental of additional trucks for delivery of goods and material to the different locations and the renting of two warehouses, where NFIs and construction material could be stored, prior to distribution.

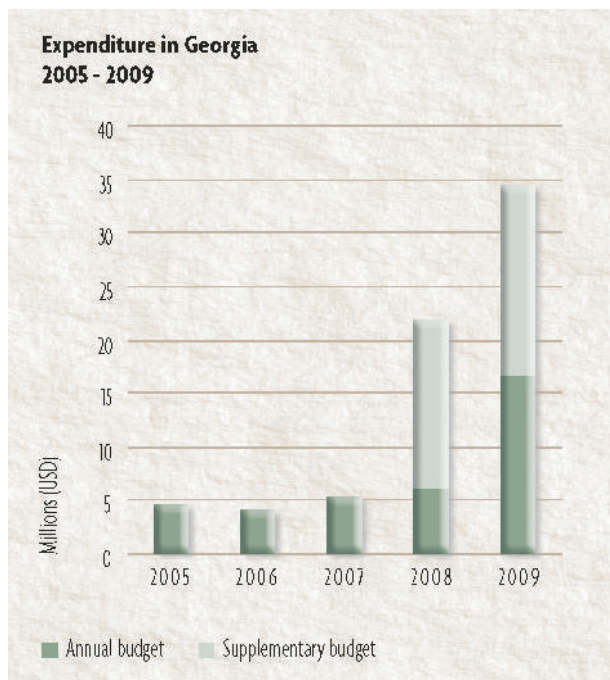
### ● *Constraints*

UNHCR remained concerned about the situation of 85,000 returnees who still face protection and self-reliance problems. Limited access to persons of concern in Abkhazia and South Ossetia was a major constraint, not only for UNHCR but for also other UN agencies and aid organizations.

## | Financial information |

Most of UNHCR's 2009 budget in Georgia was allocated for IDPs. The high level of international funding channelled directly to the Government to respond to internal displacement required improved coordination between stakeholders in order to keep activities cost-effective and efficient.





## Organization and implementation

UNHCR operations were managed by the country office in Tbilisi and five field offices in Akhmeta, Gori, Gali, Zugdidi and Kutaisi, the latter one being closed in December 2009. In addition, a field unit was based in Sukhumi. In total, UNHCR has more than 90 staff members, of whom 60 per cent are national employees.

Thanks to the high level of funding received by the Government for IDPs, UNHCR gave priority to advocating for responsible Government policy and planning dignified and sustainable integration solutions for IDPs. UNHCR closely monitored the implementation of State policies in this area, and sponsored pilot projects which could be replicated by the national authorities.

## Working with others

The Humanitarian Coordinator system in Georgia was terminated in June 2009. The cluster approach was mainstreamed into existing coordination mechanisms in November 2009 and responsibility handed over to Government-led working groups. UNHCR worked with the UN Country Team on finalizing the UN Development Assistance Framework for the period 2011-2015, with poverty reduction, democratic development and disaster risk reduction as the core themes.

UNHCR's main government counterpart is the Ministry for Refugees and Accommodation, which deals with refugee status determination and assistance to IDPs and refugees. Cooperation on statelessness prevention was also established with the Civil Registry Agency, which has had the authority to address citizenship and naturalization issues since January 2009. With UNHCR's support, it has become a smoothly functioning agency that has greatly improved its outreach, particularly to minority populations.

## Overall assessment

UNHCR aims to complete its refugee programme in Georgia by 2011. To achieve this goal, it has strengthened its focus on self-reliance projects that support refugees who are working to obtain naturalization.

The "shelter plus" model implemented by UNHCR for the most vulnerable IDPs is slowly being replicated by government actors as they design and implement integration activities. Combined with the IDP Action Plan, this should provide the foundation for UNHCR's exit from shelter in 2011 and from other operational responsibilities thereafter.

Partners	
<b>Implementing partners</b>	
<b>Government:</b>	Ministry for Refugees and Accommodation, Civil Registry Agency, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
<b>NGOs:</b>	<i>Action contre la Faim</i> , Advice Centre for Women Sakhli, <i>Afkhazintercont</i> , <i>Avangard</i> , <i>Atinati</i> , CARE, Centre for Protection of Constitutional Rights, Charity Humanitarian Centre "ABKAZETI", Civil Initiative and Human Being of the Future, Coordination Council of Chechen Refugees, Danish Refugee Council, Gaenati, Georgian Centre for Rehabilitation of Torture Victims, Georgian Institute of Public Affairs, Georgian Women's Employment Supporting Association Amagdari, Grassroots Support Center, International Relief and Development, International Rescue Committee, Kakheti Regional Development Foundation, Legal Development and Consultations Group, Norwegian Refugee Council, <i>Première Urgence</i> , Save the Children, Technical Assistance to Georgia, United Nations Association of Georgia, World Vision International
<b>Others:</b>	Beteli Humanitarian Association
<b>Operational partners</b>	
<b>Government:</b>	Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry for Reintegration, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Education, State Office of Reform Coordination, Ministry of Labour, Health, and Social Affairs, National Agency for Public Registry, Parliamentary Advisory Council on Gender Equality Issues
<b>Others:</b>	Authorities in control in Abkhazia; Representative of the Secretary General on the Human Rights of IDPs; UN agencies and associated organizations; European Union, Council of Europe, OSCE and donors

### Budget, income and expenditure in Georgia (USD)

	Final budget	Income from contributions	Other funds available	Total funds available	Total expenditure
Annual budget	34,346,971	14,935,893	3,444,737	18,380,629	16,650,810
Caucasus Crisis SB	28,040,248	16,659,529	3,614,249	20,273,778	17,698,822
<b>Total</b>	<b>62,387,219</b>	<b>31,595,422</b>	<b>7,058,985</b>	<b>38,654,407</b>	<b>34,349,632</b>

Note: Supplementary programmes do not include seven per cent support costs that are recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR. Income from contributions includes contributions earmarked at the country level. Other funds available include transfers from unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

### Financial report for UNHCR's operations in Georgia (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current years' project			Previous years' project
	Annual budget	Supplementary budgets	Total	Annual and supplementary budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	1,457,047	2,742,565	4,199,612	0
Community services	339,108	351,324	690,432	244,771
Domestic needs and household support	978,997	1,945,732	2,924,729	936,936
Education	232,732	27,865	260,597	66,122
Health and nutrition	98,447	0	98,447	111,329
Income generation	515,796	207,158	722,953	59,923
Legal assistance	257,670	1,098,737	1,356,407	578,776
Livestock animal husbandry	31,622	0	31,622	0
Operational support (to agencies)	958,083	502,931	1,461,014	295,077
Sanitation	0	132,506	132,506	0
Shelter and infrastructure	1,632,292	2,078,344	3,710,635	5,139,831
Transport and logistics	8,368	85,118	93,486	12,755
Instalments to implementing partners	8,703,543	7,539,132	16,242,675	(7,445,520)
<b>Subtotal operational activities</b>	<b>15,213,704</b>	<b>16,711,412</b>	<b>31,925,115</b>	<b>0</b>
Programme support	1,437,106	987,410	2,424,517	0
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>16,650,810</b>	<b>17,698,822</b>	<b>34,349,632</b>	<b>0</b>

**Cancellation on previous years' expenditure** **0**

#### Instalments with implementing partners

Payments made	11,641,921	10,311,030	21,952,951
Reporting received	(2,938,378)	(2,771,898)	(5,710,276)
<b>Balance</b>	<b>8,703,543</b>	<b>7,539,132</b>	<b>16,242,675</b>

#### Previous year's report

Instalments with implementing partners:			
Outstanding 1st January			9,752,733
Reporting received			(7,445,520)
Refunded to UNHCR			(2,270,348)
Currency adjustment			0
<b>Outstanding 31st December</b>			<b>36,864</b>