

WORLD VISION'S RESPONSE ACTIONS AGAINST COVID-19 IN GEORGIA

Response plan implementation progress

April-May, 2020

Current status report on COVID 19 in Georgia:

- CONFIRMED CORONAVIRUS CASES - 879
- RECOVERED - 704
- FATAL OUTCOME - 4
- UNDER QUARANTINE - 2710
- UNDER HOSPITAL SUPERVISION - 267



Government has lifted number of restrictions and initiated steps to re-open the economy:

- Curfew lifted on May 23, 2020 - no more restriction on movement from 21:00 - 6:00;
- Cities are re-opened;
- No restriction on number of passengers in cars, except in Taxis;
- Economic activities are generally permitted, although there are some restrictions on number of businesses: shoes and clothes shops, malls, sport activities, cafes, restaurants, exchange offices, etc.
- Offices can re-open without restriction of 10 people at a time in the office;
- All education events are recommended to be held online;
- People above 70 years are recommended not to go outside;
- Bus and mini bus transportation restrictions has been lifted;
- International transportation (air, sea, land) is still restricted;
- Wearing a mask is mandatory in buildings.



WORLD VISION GEORGIA'S RESPONSE ACTIONS

More than 63 000 people have benefited from World Vision Georgia basic material, psychosocial and education support in response to COVID 19 pandemic

During the reporting period WVG completed the rapid household assessment process to measure the impact of COVID 19 crisis on children and their families.

World Vision Georgia (WVG) collected data about economic situation of 4868 households where 6983 children live.

April data shows that **1813 children (26%) live in families where income is lost or reduced during COVID 19 pandemic**; and there are **2070 children (30%), whose families have no guaranteed or projected income sources**.

Based on findings WVG developed a Response Plan with modified program activities to improve the well-being of vulnerable families.

WVG plans to repeat the assessment in July to understand if the economic and child wellbeing situation has further deteriorated in our targeted communities due to pandemic.



Food and Hygiene packages distribution to the most vulnerable households:

In response to the emergency situation, WVG continues to support the children living in extreme poverty and families with children with disabilities.

In April-May, WVG started the 2nd phase of distribution to reach out the vulnerable families according to the selection criteria developed at initial phase.

The process of distribution is highly coordinated between WVG NO and ADCs to ensure the accurate information flow and efficient decision-making.

World Vision Georgia's Response Program

during the COVID 19 pandemic in GEORGIA



Vulnerable groups

Children living in extreme poverty

Children with disabilities in target communities

Street connected children identified through mobile groups including day care beneficiaries

Vulnerable individuals (Refugees, Humanitarian Status Holders, Asylet Seekers and Stateless Persons)

17318 vulnerable people received food/hygiene packages in Georgia



12021 children (in 3596 households) received food/hygiene packages through WVG Response Program in all the Area Programmes, including Tbilisi (Gldani-Nadzaladevi district) and 8 target Municipalities (Telavi, Gurjaani, Kvareli, Kutaisi, Baghdati, Zestaponi, Akhaltsikhe and Adigeni).

4018 preschoolers and their families received food packages in Akhaltsikhe and Adigeni Municipalities through co-financing of WVG Response Program.

62 refugees living in Martkopi Shelter receive food/hygiene packages every week within the project financed by UNHCR.

Food and basic hygiene packages have been provided to Roma families in Imereti and Kakheti together with educational-developmental materials on safe handwashing, social distancing and stress coping to address the basic needs of Roma children. In total **130 Roma people** benefited.

A unique **food voucher programme** was launched by Tbilisi AP – an innovative and cost-effective alternative to existing emergency response actions for urban context.

Supporting Street connected children during the COVID 19 pandemic:

Due to the pandemic, the **day centers for street-connected children** still remain closed, however, 24-hour shelters for homeless children continue functioning in Tbilisi and Kutaisi. Regular safety materials are provided to the staff and caregivers.

WVG, in collaboration with the Agency of State Care and Assistance to Victims of Trafficking and other service providers, **manages and coordinates the quarantine area allocated by the state for street connected children.**

WVG **3 Day Care Centers provide 24-hours service** (shelter, food, hygiene, medical, education, incl. informal) to **117 beneficiaries** in Tbilisi and Kutaisi, and **60** registered street connected children and their families regularly receive food/hygiene packages at home with the support of mobile groups.

Various **art therapy activities** were conducted with the children living in Centers during isolation. With support of caregivers children painted the walls of Centers and made the environment even better. This activity demonstrated that keeping children entertained and letting them express their inner feelings and emotions, is very effective for their emotional wellbeing.

Through cooperation with the Tbilisi City Hall, WVG manages **the Day Center for Toddlers** and provides food and hygiene packages (twice a month) to socially vulnerable families with 6-30 months toddlers. The packages include baby food and hygiene items for toddlers, including wet wipes and diapers.



Educational Response in response to COVID 19

The process of remote learning has posed a particular challenge to the education system, which has had a significant impact on learning processes and deepening inequality in access to education.



WVG has developed a **social story “Niko and the Virus”** for 0-8-year-old children promoting safe handwashing and positive parenting reaching 16334 and engaging 7800 people with one video on social media. **More than 5000 brochures were distributed** among preschoolers along with food and hygiene packages.

WVG developed a **guide for parents with relevant recommendations** on how children react on COVID 19 pandemic, useful supportive mechanisms for parents, what parents should consider based on characteristics of different age categories. Document was shared through social media and webpage.

Up to 32000 children and parents received education support including online trainings/sessions/courses, informational/educational/communication materials and stationery supplies aimed at building skills relevant to the provision of homeschooling.

WVG provides **daily activities and innovative resources** for early age children and their caretakers to promote screen-free engagement and offline exercises during home confinement.

World Vision Georgia
May 1 · 🌐

როგორ რეაგირებენ ბავშვები COVID 19 კორონავირუსის პანდემიით გამოწვეულ მდგომარეობაზე?

მანდატურის სამსახურის ფსიქო-სოციალური მომსახურების ცენტრის ფსიქოლოგი და ქუთაისის "ბავშვთა დაცვის კვების" წევრი
მეგრამა თვა ფანჩულიძე

COVID-19-ით გამოწვეულია იროლიკამ შესაძლოა მიზილებინ/აღმრუნდელდებინ გამოინვიოს ემოციური დაბნელობა და არასტაბილურობის განცდა

- მიუხედავად ამისა, შევადგინო ბავშვებთან შეინარჩუნო მივიღო ურთიერთობა, ესაუბრეთ მათ შექმნილი სიტუაციის შესახებ და დარწმუნდით, რომ სწორ ინფორმაციას აწვდით მივიღო შესაძლებლობა, გამოსაჯონ საკუთარი განცდები და მოსაზრებები დაეხმარეთ დროის სწორად ორგანიზებაში და ამავე დროს, დაუთხოთ დრო საკუთარ თავს, დაკავდით თქვენი სავარაუდო საქმით
- ძალიან მნიშვნელოვანია ბავშვებთან: ვერიოლო, მუდმივ საუბარებში წვნიხებო სახის ძალიანობა, შესაძლოა, გახდეს ხელშეწყობილი ბავშვებთან/მზარდებში ემოციური პრობლემების განვითარების და საფრთხე შეუქმნას თქვენი და თქვენი შვილების ფსიქიკურ კანონიერობას

SJDC
საქართველოს იუსტიციის საბიურო

World Vision საქართველოს სამხრეთ-კავკასიის განვითარების ცენტრი ადრეულ ასაკში ბავშვის განვითარების პროგრამის ფარგლებში აგრძელებს ახალციხისა და აფხაზეთის მუნიციპალიტეტების პარტნიორი სკოლაში მდგომარეობის მხარდაჭერას.

სურს აღსანიშნავი, განდევნის სავალდებულო ტრენინგ-მოდულს თბილისში

ბაბინათა
საბავშვო საბავშვო

ტრენინგის მიზანია საქართველოს კანონის ადრეული და სკოლაშეღები აღზრდისა და განათლების შესახებ შესაბამისად დამკვიდრებული სტანდარტების გაზარება და ამ მხრივ, სკოლაშეღები დანესებულების მენეჯერების როლისა და კომპეტენციების გაძლიერება.

10-დღიანი ტრენინგ-მოდული ჩატარდება ონლაინ სესიების სახით.

WVG, within the frames of early childhood development program, launched the **free public online sessions for parents** on various child-oriented topics. The sessions provide parents with relevant recommendations and educational-developmental activities supporting children during the Covid 19 pandemic.

Online sessions for foster caregivers and foster children - In close collaboration with LEPL State Care and Trafficking Victims Aid Agency, WVG local ADCs provide regular professional support and assistance to foster caregivers to empower them with relevant skills on effectively dealing with COVID 19 related challenges and taking care of their foster children's emotional and physical wellbeing during isolation.

Children without computers are being left behind with schools closed by the coronavirus - WVG, in collaboration with the local foundation "PRODEMOS", **donated 40 computers to the partner public schools in Tbilisi (# 142 and #115)** to ensure that the students have necessary equipment to join the educational process at school.





ვადაცვლის სტრატეგია ფსიქოლოგი, ინველუტორი და ადრეული განათლების სპეციალისტი, World Vision საქართველოს ადრეული ასაკის ბავშვის განვითარების პროგრამის კოორდინატორი, ცირა ბარტია.

WVG Early Childhood Development technical program Coordinator was invited in various media channels to talk about the importance of child development and education at early ages, positive parenting, stress management, resilience among parents emphasizing the role of parents as the biggest influencers in shaping the child's personality as well as their wellbeing during pandemic.

Kids' clubs and School clubs follow distance learning with regular meetings with relevant speakers and providing trainings through Zoom or other platforms.

In order to increase engagement of the children and youth, Tbilisi and Kakheti APs launched “challenge campaigns” with 4 different direction – culinary, science, sport and art. More than 12 000 children and youth are engaged in challenges posted regularly on Facebook pages. Most active and successful participants are awarded with special prizes every week.



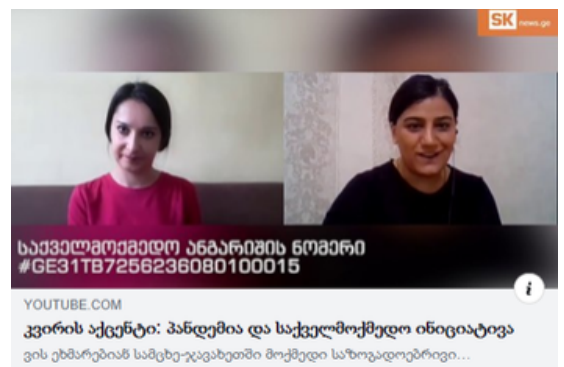
In total 170 youth (16-25 age) from 8 SKYE clubs participated in initiated activities, from which 25% (45) of young people received free internet megabytes to continue the distance learning process during the pandemic.

WVG reached out more than 420 000 people through social media on COVID-19 prevention, child safety and wellbeing, education and development generating more than 50 000 engagements within the reporting period.

WVG reached out more than 4 500 000 people through traditional media including TV, Radio and Online media. WVG closely worked with media both at local and central level to highlight the WVG response process and distribution in all regions of Georgia, disseminate information on COVID prevention, stress management, child development and positive parenting, child protection and safety.

Local fundraising during COVID 19:

Samtskhe-Javakheti Development Center launched a new charity initiative uniting the civil society members, business sector and individuals with the common goal - supporting families affected by COVID 19 pandemic. A separate bank account was opened and 2055 GEL raised which was fully spent for addressing the needs of 18 most vulnerable families living beyond the target locations.



With support of local entrepreneurs, Kakheti Area Development Center received In-kind donation and supported 10 vulnerable multiple children families with products and hygiene packages in Kakheti.

Cooperation with key stakeholders during COVID 19 outbreak in Georgia

The response actions are carried out by Area Development Centers (ADCs) in collaboration with the local authorities and educational institutions (preschools, schools). Joint efforts simplify the process of beneficiary identification and lead to the effective distribution process in regions.

Administration of the Government of Georgia

On May 11, WVG received **an official Thank you letter** from the Administration of the Government of Georgia for continuous support and humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable groups living in different regions of Georgia, as well as for consistent cooperation and coordination during the COVID 19 pandemic in Georgia.

Coordination Platform of Georgia Red Cross Society

WVG became **the member of the first Coordinating Platform for Mental Health and Psychosocial Assistance** initiated by Georgia Red Cross Society. The platform brings together non-governmental organizations and professional groups that offer free mental health and psychosocial assistance to the population during COVID 19 pandemic. The platform gathers information about services provided to children, adults, victims of domestic violence, refugees, people with mental health problems and other vulnerable groups. The platform members share ideas, approaches, experiences and psycho-educational materials and plan joint response actions. WVG relevant representatives regularly share expertise and participate in the coordination meeting held regularly.



Tbilisi City Hall

In Tbilisi, WVG closely works with Tbilisi City Hall, Gldani Municipality and partner public school administrations to reach the most vulnerable families and provide them with food/hygiene packages.

On April 15, **Tbilisi Mayor - Kakhi Kaladze met the representatives of WVG** and thanked for supporting vulnerable families during COVID 19 outbreak in Georgia.

Ensuring data privacy as we battle COVID 19

Protecting and processing personal data is especially important in technology based distance learning environment. In the best interest of the child, WVG promotes the **personal data protection of children involved in distance learning** through social media and shares the recommendations developed by the State Inspector's Office about personal data protection of children calling education institutions, their representatives, parents and family members of school children to take more responsibility while sharing child's personal data. **Online meetings on safety and security** issues were conducted with the representatives of Security Committees formed by school children and their parents. More online sessions on child protection, abuse, bullying, identification and referral procedures are planned to be conducted in next months.

WVG ONGOING ACTIVITIES WITHIN GRANT PROJECTS

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND MOBILISATION - Donor UNHCR

The project “**Community Mobilization and Participation**” is a joint project of UNHCR and WVG aimed to contribute to the realization for the fundamental rights Asylum Seekers, Persons Granted International Protection, Persons in Stateless Determination Procedure and Stateless Persons in Georgia, strengthen community-based protection, contribute to peaceful coexistence with the local population and integration process.

During COVID 19 pandemic, World Vision Georgia and UNHCR provided food/hygiene packages, as well as different educational and psychosocial services to the residents of **Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers** operating under Ministry of Internal Affairs, and beneficiaries of **Martkopi Reception Center**.

62 individuals receive the food/hygiene packages weekly basis. 466 persons of Concern (PoC)/ 241 households were identified, assessed and consulted, as well as referred to the relevant service providers according to their needs. All families with more than 3 children were supported to apply to the Program for Families with Children in Crisis Situation. In addition, with WVG support Families are registered in emergency assistance services at municipal level. UNHCR cash assistance program assisted 259 households (524 individuals), those individuals who lost their jobs due to pandemic and were unable to pursue economic activities.

29 children from low socio-economic backgrounds who are deprived of possibilities to participate in the distant schooling process are getting education services via phone individually on a daily basis.

12 asylum seeker children in Martkopi Reception Center have been receiving educational services from childcare specialist on a daily basis online.

The psychologist has continued individual counselling as well as group sessions to the beneficiaries. 10 peer-to-peer meetings (for 124 Individuals/households) have been organized virtually about access to education.

Recommendations and governmental regulations regarding COVID 19 are posted regularly on different languages on the Facebook page of Multi-Service Center. The information is disseminated by Community Group facilitators via SMSs too.

The Multi-Service center is the space for the community mobilization of asylum-seekers, refugees, humanitarian status holders and stateless persons in Georgia. The Centre provides educational courses and various cultural and social activities. Centre service beneficiaries have the opportunity to take initiatives and run their activities and events.

During the pandemic the activities were temporarily suspended. Now the Multi-Service center remains open. The hotline number operates 24/7.



REINFORCING THE CHILD WELFARE AND PROTECTION SYSTEM IN GEORGIA – Donor Agency, EU



The Project "**Promoting the Child Welfare and Protection System**" aims to reinforce the child welfare reform in Georgia and ensure provision of quality alternative care for children.

It intends to identify and address the gaps in the existing policy and service provision in Georgia in order to **enable the government to strengthen the child protection system and provide quality alternative care services** with a focus on family and community based-care.

In the frame of the project "Promoting the Child Welfare and Protection System", **250 municipal social workers passed the Municipal Social Work Certificate Program** in the months of April and May. The certificate program was prepared by the World Vision Georgia and partner organizations - the Children's Welfare League, in close collaborating with the Human Rights and Civil Integration Committee of the Parliament of Georgia and the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia.

EY4YOUTH – Donor agency, EU

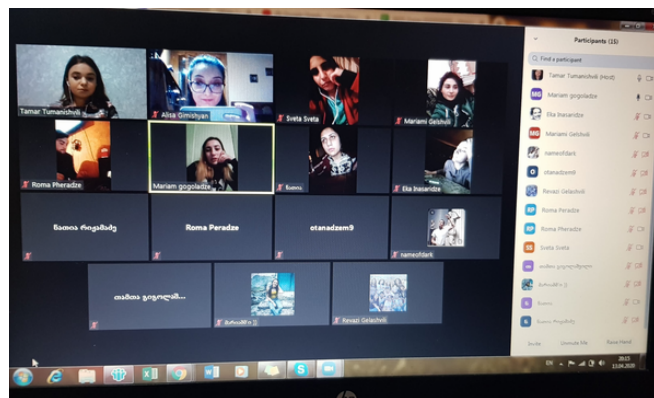
The project **EU4YOUTH** fosters the active participation of young people in society and their employability, by developing youth leadership and entrepreneurship through a variety of actions, including capacity building, fellowships, support to policy dialogue, as well as providing grants to organisations active in these areas.

EU4Youth clubs respond to lockdown with creative solutions for learning

In the first weeks, club leaders were challenged by the lockdown situation, but they soon found solutions to the problem, **restarting their meetings via zoom and other online platforms**. And although SKYE is very interactive and requires physical meetings, the leaders soon found alternatives. They have been asking members to watch movies, read books, and watch interesting talks, followed by group discussions online. They have also initiated interesting online challenges, which enabled many SKYE club members to demonstrate their talents in singing, prose, playing musical instruments, doing sports, etc.

The project team also initiated various **online trainings for the SKYE club leaders**: Internet Safety and Security, hygiene, stressors, stress management, effective time management; positive thinking.

Youth clubs set up under the EU4Youth Programme continue online meetings and learning during the COVID 19 pandemic and lockdown in the country. The SKYE (Skills and Knowledge for Youth Economic Empowerment) **clubs gather around 170 young people in Georgia**.



Teona Navdarashvili, Communications and Fundraising Manager