



GEORGIA

In recognition of Georgia's strategic importance as a net contributor to global security, Russia's ongoing occupation of Georgian territory, and the Georgian people's aspirations for continued democratic progress, Georgia -- a steadfast U.S. partner -- is among the top recipients of U.S. government (USG) foreign assistance in the broader Europe and Eurasia region. U.S. assistance helps Georgia counter Russian aggression, foster the rule of law and democratic development, develop standards to make it a strong economic partner for the United States, and strengthen its partnership with NATO. Georgia received visa-free travel status with the European Union (EU) in 2017 and signed an Association Agreement (AA) and a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) with the EU in 2014. Ongoing challenges reinforce the need for continued U.S. cooperation with Georgia's government and people to help the country move forward.

over \$5.7 billion

USG assistance since 1992

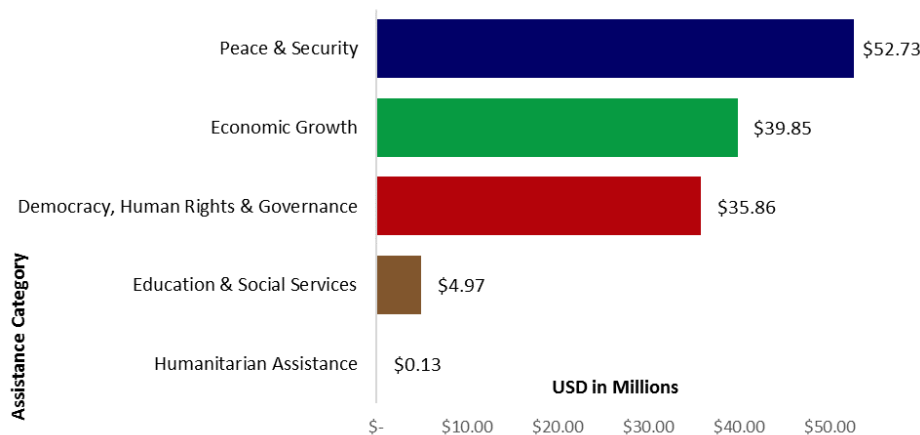
\$133.5 million

State/USAID assistance for FY 2020*

\$27.2 million

COVID-19 assistance**

FY 2020 ACE-Coordinated State/USAID Assistance to Georgia* (\$133.5m)



Source: ACE

*Does not include regional or centrally managed funds or \$3.34 million in FY 2020 COVID supplemental funds.

**COVID assistance includes reprogrammed, supplemental, and other USG funds.

NOTE: The assistance highlights below are examples of results achieved by funding in each category in the chart.

CIVIL SOCIETY & POLITICAL PROCESSES ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

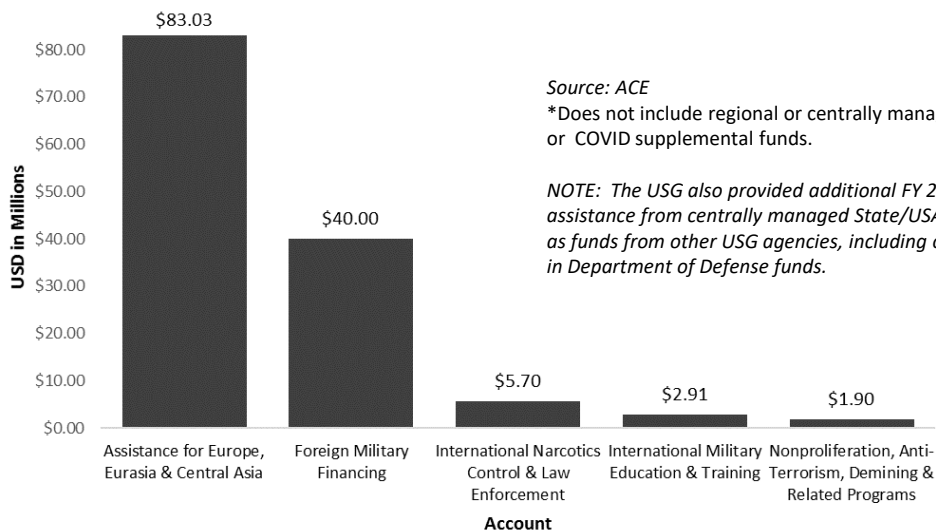
The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) supports civil society organizations (CSOs) in Georgia to advance public debate about key issues, conduct citizen oversight of government, give voice to underrepresented members of society, and ultimately contribute to more effective and responsive governance. During the fall 2020 parliamentary elections, USAID and State Department partners sent hundreds of observers to the 17 districts holding elections, contributing invaluable information on ways in which Georgians can strengthen election administration. U.S. Embassy Tbilisi's Public Diplomacy Section (PDS) in 2020 provided small grants to CSOs and advocacy groups, contributing to a culture of democracy in Georgia and empowering civil society to provide more effective public oversight of and engagement with the government. Efforts support helping Georgia make its political process more democratic.

ANTI-CORRUPTION, RULE OF LAW & GOOD GOVERNANCE ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

Strengthening the rule of law by promoting justice-sector reform, judicial independence, and anti-corruption, will help Georgia hold lawbreakers to account, foster equal treatment under the law, and meet Georgian citizens' demands for public security, justice, and accountability. Through programs managed by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), U.S. Department of Justice Resident Legal Advisors (RLAs) provide criminal justice sector assistance and training to Parliament, the Ministry of Justice, the Prosecution Service, law enforcement investigators, and the judiciary. Skills training for Georgian prosecutors and investigators in cyber and child exploitation crimes, for example, enabled Georgia to cooperate with U.S. and international law enforcement to convict several members of a transnational cybercrime network that used malware to cause victims from multiple countries to suffer hundreds of millions of dollars in damage, and to successfully prosecute an international child pornography crime ring with 23 offenders from Georgia, the United States, and other foreign countries. USAID provides parallel support to the civil and administrative justice sector actors. USAID also works to improve the management of justice system institutions, strengthen the legal framework surrounding human rights protection including fair trial guarantees and improve access to justice for members of underrepresented groups. It strengthens institutional checks and balances by working with Georgia's legislative and executive branches to, improve institutional oversight and the quality of governance. USAID helps to advance government civil service reforms, local government decentralization, and increase transparency and accountability. The U.S. Department of Commerce's Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP) trains judges, attorneys, and court staff on intellectual property, alternative dispute resolution, insolvency, and other commercial-law topics. In February 2020, a two-day CLDP-sponsored workshop for the State Procurement Agency and national and regional procurement offices helped Georgia align its procurement system with EU directives.

LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

Training and technical assistance provided through INL helps Georgian law enforcement agencies enhance their skills and implement reforms to improve efficiency and effectiveness. INL assisted the Ministry of Internal Affairs' new Crime Laboratory in developing key policies, procedures, and manuals which allowed it to obtain accreditation in several forensic disciplines, improving the credibility of evidence the Ministry submits in criminal court. INL helped ensure a peaceful Parliamentary election through police training that helped the Georgian government gain a more professional crowd control capability that respects the rights of peaceful protesters. Georgian law enforcement officers learned international best practices, from building and delivering a public relations strategy to repelling and detaining attackers with minimal injuries. The Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) program invested in the development of an advanced targeting and risk management system for the Revenue Service and the Customs Department, and electronic licensing systems for the export control implementing authorities, the Ministry of Defense, and the Customs Department, which will greatly improve Georgia's capacity to counter illicit goods trafficking, transnational crime, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

**FY 2020 ACE-Coordinated State/USAID Assistance to Georgia by Account* (\$133.5m)**

Source: ACE

*Does not include regional or centrally managed funds or COVID supplemental funds.

NOTE: The USG also provided additional FY 2020 assistance from centrally managed State/USAID funds, as well as funds from other USG agencies, including over \$32 million in Department of Defense funds.

TRADE & BUSINESS ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

U.S. economic assistance promotes Georgian economic development and diversity by supporting inclusive, sustainable growth and job creation and fostering a rules-based business environment. USAID's Zrda Program has helped more than 800 micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises located in vulnerable communities along the Administrative Boundary Line with the Russian-occupied territories of Abkhazia and South Ossetia acquire equipment and certifications to increase their productive capacity and meet international quality standards for goods and services. The program has improved incomes for 7,500 households, created 1,500 jobs, and generated over \$34 million in sales. Support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) focuses on the areas of agricultural statistics, agricultural extension and education, and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) regulatory systems. USDA and American experts helped Georgian officials set up a steering committee for SPS policies and created a roadmap for a national Integrated Pest Management policy, positioning Georgia to implement EU SPS rules effectively. USAID support has also helped farmers build resilience against pests such as the brown marmorated stink bug, which has caused close to \$200 million in damage to the economically important hazelnut sector since 2015. Assistance has helped mitigate the damage posed by pests in the future, putting the hazelnut sector on stronger footing and leading to bumper harvests in recent years. The Department of Treasury is working with the National Bank and the financial sector to develop the domestic capital market for both debt and equity instruments.

EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES HIGHLIGHT

In the education sector, USAID supports the implementation of sustainable, inclusive, and student-centered reforms in primary school through teacher training in interactive learning methods to help students develop skills in reading, mathematics, critical thinking, and problem-solving. USAID's Basic Education Program trained math and primary education teacher trainers, including 590 elementary-grade math teachers from Georgia's schools in Armenian and Azeri-minority communities – almost all of the math teachers from ethnic minority elementary schools in the country. In the area of health, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is working to expand the ability of the Lugar Center for Public Health Research to contribute to Georgia's public health system while training epidemiologists to improve information sharing and response coordination and minimize the spread of dangerous diseases throughout the country and the region.

INDEPENDENT MEDIA & COUNTERING DISINFORMATION ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

Enhancing access to independent, reliable, and balanced information; countering Russian disinformation; and meeting public demand for high-quality, independent reporting are top U.S. assistance goals. In addition to support for U.S.-Georgia exchanges focused on journalism, PDS assistance in 2020 provided media literacy training to 1,700 high school and university students and reached more than 120,000 with an online media-literacy quiz, giving Georgian citizens the tools to identify false or misleading information. USAID's media development program builds capacity for journalists and independent media outlets in web publishing, business operations, and content creation, including in multiple languages. Its Georgia Information Integrity Program helps Georgians build societal resilience against malign influence through manipulative, misleading, and false media. It is USAID's first long-term, stand-alone program devoted exclusively to addressing the threat of disinformation. In addition, the PDS Book Translation program is currently supporting translation into the Georgian language of 16 titles encompassing the latest research, analysis, and popular contemporary literature by American authors, increasing accessibility and affordability of such materials to Georgian students.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

U.S. energy assistance reduces Georgia's reliance on Russian energy, a tool of economic manipulation, by accelerating Georgia's integration with regional energy markets, boosting efficiency and regulatory reform, opening the country's electricity trading market, and diversifying and expanding Georgia's domestic renewable energy production. USAID's Energy Program, which ended in December 2020, brought together local and international experts to deliver technical and advisory assistance on competitive energy trading, market monitoring, wind power forecasting, energy security, and regulatory impact assessment. This helped Georgia enact significant legislation in the energy sector and mobilize more than \$300 million toward building new wind and solar power generation facilities. The upcoming Securing Georgia's Energy Future program will build on this work, expanding partnerships with the private sector and cooperation with the Georgian government to strengthen domestic energy security. Other USG-funded follow-on work in this sector will increase the focus on renewable energy in Georgia.

COVID-19 ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

The USG has provided more than \$27 million in COVID-19 assistance to Georgia, including \$7.8 million in USAID, State, and CDC COVID-19 supplemental resources assistance, more than \$1.7 million in Department of Defense assistance (DoD), and more than \$17 million in State and USAID existing resources. Supplemental assistance includes \$2.7 million to prepare laboratory systems, activate case-finding and event-based surveillance, support technical experts for response and preparedness, and bolster risk communication. With USAID support in partnership with UNICEF, Georgian television by November 2020 had broadcast COVID-19 information about protective measures, including over 250 news updates by minority language channels that have reached 31,000 viewers and received 13,500 views on social media. Additionally, \$4.5 million from the CDC is supporting laboratory capacity and development, surveillance, infection prevention and control, emergency operations, and border health; and \$685,000 from State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) is providing health and other services to vulnerable migrants. [NOTE: Supplemental and DoD funds are not reflected in the assistance totals or bar graphs above.]