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Operation Update Report

Georgia: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF n° MDRGE014 Operation update n° 1	GLIDE FL-2020-000175-GEO
Date of issue: 31 August 2020	Timeframe covered by this update: 12 August – 26 August 2020
Operation start date: 12 August 2020	Operation timeframe: 3 months Operation end date: 30 November 2020
Funding requirements (CHF): 366,799.62	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 316,264
N° of people being assisted: 4,557 (revised from the initially planned 3,170 people)	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: IFRC Country Cluster Support Team for the South Caucasus	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Emergency Management Service of Ministry of Interior, Local Municipalities	

Summary of major revisions made to emergency plan of action:

As a result of the heavy rains in the eastern and western parts of Georgia, new locations have been affected in the regions targeted by the MDRGE014 DREF operation. On 21 August, 55 households have been flooded in Lentekhi Municipality in Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti region. On 23 August, 57 families have been affected in Lagodekhi Municipality and 164 in Sagarejo Municipality in Kakheti Region. 50 families are affected in Batumi- Adjara Autonomous Republic. More than 400 families are affected in Kutaisi and Tskaltubo – Imereti Region ([see map in annex](#)).

Georgia Red Cross Society (GRCS) aims to support in total 4,557 people (1,274 affected households) with food and hygiene items and cash based assistance (CVA) who have been recently affected from the rains based on the official approach from the local authorities received on 22 August and the rapid needs assessment conducted by the Georgia Red Cross volunteers in a cooperation with the local authorities in all the targeted Municipalities.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

On 29 July 2020, heavy rains affected Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti, Guria and Imereti Regions of Georgia, mainly Oni Municipality, Lanchkhuti Municipality, and Kutaisi city. On 3 August, heavy rains affected Lagodekhi Municipality, Kakheti Region as well. As a result of the heavy rains, several villages in Oni Municipality were isolated from the outside world - infrastructure, such as roads and bridges connecting the villages, riverbank protections, as well as agricultural lands and fruit trees have been destroyed. The extensive amount of rain (approx. 125 mm fell in a short period) caused serious damages in the Municipalities. The flooded water destroyed the riverbank protections. People in the affected communities said the magnitude of flooding to be unprecedented.

Besides the damages mentioned above, yards, entrances, basements and first floors of many houses and buildings have been flooded in all Municipalities. Currently



Image 1 - Lentekhi Municipality Volunteers conducting situation assessment together with fire/rescue brigades. Photo: Mamia Kurasbediani

temporary bridges are built in Oni Municipality to connect the isolated communities with the outside world.

On 21 August, heavy rains caused flooding in Lentekhi Municipality, Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti Region. Five villages (Durashi, Esieri, Sakdari, Mutsdi and Tvibi), 55 families are isolated from the outside world. Flooded rivers - Mukhra and Cholshura, destroyed the bridges. Houses, agricultural lands are also flooded. This region is the same that is targeted by the already ongoing DREF operation, but the rain affected another Municipality this time.

On 23 August, heavy rain caused flooding in Imereti – Kutaisi and Tskaltubo Municipalities, Kakheti region-Lagodekhi and Sagarejo Municipalities and Adjara Autonomous Republic - Batumi. First floors and basements of the houses are flooded and roads are destroyed. The Government is currently evaluating and calculating the damage caused by the disaster. Currently no water contamination is reported in the communities as the government was actively working to repair the damaged water pipes. Currently there is no risk of disease spread in the affected communities.

The number of newly affected households GRCS aims to assist in addition to the people already targeted:

Affected Municipality	Affected Households	Affected people
Lagodekhi Municipality	57	228
Lentekhi Municipality	55	220
Sagarejo Municipality	164	636
Batumi	50	303
Total	326	1,387

The Emergency Management Service and all relevant ministries are involved in the liquidation works of the flooding in the affected Municipalities.

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

Georgia Red Cross Society (GRCS) Disaster Management (DM) Department deployed 88 GRCS volunteers in the affected areas (Oni - 18, Lanchkhuti – 23, Kutaisi -26; Lagodekhi – 20) who assessed the situation. Georgia Red Cross Society volunteers continue working with the affected population in the targeted locations. Volunteers have been mobilized by the local branches in the new affected areas for the rapid assessment of the situation, and provision of psychosocial support to the affected population, first aid, and debris cleaning activities. 20 volunteers have been mobilized in Lagodekhi, 14 volunteers in Sagarejo, 22 volunteers in Batumi, 25 volunteers in Kutaisi, and 19 volunteers in Lentekhi Municipality. Staff and volunteers of Kutaisi branch are also collecting information on affected people and their needs in the entire Imereti region.

Volunteers are supporting the people in cleaning their houses, yards, and gardens as well. PSS volunteers provided basic PSS to more than 300 affected persons in the affected communities. The volunteers will be actively involved in the humanitarian aid distribution process.

From 2010 GRCS is actively working in the affected communities and is implementing Disaster Risk Reduction projects. Within the framework of the DRR projects, Disaster Response Teams were established, equipped, and trained properly. Cooperation was strengthened with the local government and relevant structures. DM teams were part of the annual simulation exercises together with the Government. Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments were conducted. Additionally, GRCS was actively working with the local population and was conducting awareness raising activities regularly (trainings, workshops, distribution of booklets, leaflets, etc.). GRCS also implemented several small-scale mitigation projects in a cooperation with the local government outside the currently affected areas.

The National Society seeks to fulfil its auxiliary role to the government of Georgia and its role as the sole Georgian humanitarian organization being included in the Civil Safety National Plan of Georgia.

Close coordination and information sharing is maintained with the Emergency Management Service of Georgia during the whole DREF operation, which is responsible for the overall coordination of the response, and the Red Cross branches in the affected areas. Georgia Red Cross Society representatives are in the taskforce established by the Government of Georgia in the affected Municipalities. The Georgia Red Cross Society took the lead among NGOs and Movement partners in the response and already conducted the Non-State Actors meeting which was attended by the Governmental as well as the Non-Governmental organizations working in Disaster Management field. Georgia Red Cross Society and the Emergency Management Service provided detailed information on current response activities and the main needs of the affected population to them. Local Government is providing assistance to the affected families to cover their basic needs in Kutaisi and Tskaltubo.

Georgia Red Cross Society has started the process of purchasing food and hygiene items, the tender process is finalized, the agreement is signed, and the item delivery process has started.

As part of the Cash and Vouchers Assistance planned under the DREF operation, Georgia Red Cross Society staff and volunteers have finalized market assessment in the targeted Municipalities (the locations identified in the original DREF operation). As the biggest number of people in need will be covered in Oni Municipality, GRCS took this location as the model for all the targeted Municipalities. No chain markets are available in Oni, only small markets operating only on cash.

Georgia Red Cross Society identified a private bank as a financial service provider, as it has service centers in all the Municipalities of Georgia. It is a reliable, socially oriented bank. The technical arrangements of the contract are being discussed between the financial service provider and Georgia RC.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The GRCS maintains coordination with all partners in-country in sharing information. The Georgia Red Cross is working with the partner National Societies including Austrian, Danish, Icelandic, Italian Red Cross on different programmes, but no direct support is being provided for this emergency by partners.

Close cooperation and coordination are maintained with the IFRC Country Cluster Support Team for South Caucasus. Head of CCST for South Caucasus together with the Georgia Red Cross Society Deputy Secretary General and Disaster Management Team visited affected Oni Municipality. They met with the GRCS local staff and volunteers who were actively involved in response activities, met with the local authorities, as well as with the affected people to understand the general situation and the main needs of the people in the area.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The Georgia Red Cross Society Disaster Management Department is constantly sharing the information with the Non-State actors in Georgia working in the Disaster Management field NGOs (Bridge innovation, RDFG, Save the Children, ASB, CENN, People in Need, Caritas, Salvation Army and others) on the ongoing response activities conducted by the Government and the GRCS. GRCS organized a meeting which was attended by the Governmental and Non-Governmental organizations. GRCS updated attendants on the current situation, the GRCS response and the main needs of the people affected. So far, NGOs do not provide any assistance to the population and are not involved in the response activities.

Georgia Red Cross Society is actively working with the local authorities and central government, especially with Emergency Management Service of Georgia at local and central levels on coordination of the efforts for the supporting of the affected population. The assessments are conducted together with the local authorities and the methods and the types of the assistance are defined. It is important that the National Society is working with the local authorities on regular bases and is sharing all the relevant information.

GRCS is coordinating with local Government in affected locations and all affected people in Tskaltubo and Kutaisi will be fully supported by the local authorities, These two locations will not be targeted by the GRCS this time.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

The GRCS representatives are in constant communication with the local authorities and Governor's offices of the targeted regions. Based on the information received from local authorities and from the GRCS assessment teams, the needs of people affected by the floods are basic food and hygiene items. Information is received from the affected population during the need's assessment process in the targeted communities in coordination with the local authorities. Currently no water contamination is reported in the communities as the government was actively working to repair the damaged water pipes, but due to the risks related to the COVID-19 situation in the country and general problems with the infrastructure it was decided to provide hygiene items to the affected population.

GRCS volunteers are in constant coordination with the affected population to understand their main needs. PSS teams are also mobilized to provide relevant support to the people in need. They are also sharing information on the GRCS hotline where people can call and receive information they need as well as the PSS support from the GRCS psychologist volunteers.

GRCS volunteers continue needs assessment process in the newly affected locations. They are using a needs assessment questionnaire elaborated by the Georgia Red Cross Society in coordination with Movement partners present in Georgia as well as the NGOs working in Disaster Management field.

GRCS volunteers, as part of the detailed needs assessment are cross-checking the final list of the people to be supported by the GRCS.

Based on the needs assessment conducted by GRCS volunteers in a coordination with the local authorities, GRCS aims to assist newly affected most vulnerable people who need cash support in Lentekhi, Lagodekhi, Sagarejo Municipalities and Batumi. In total, in the newly affected 326 additional households, 1,387 persons will receive cash assistance. CVA will be implemented to respond to the identified needs of the affected population, which is a modality where the NS has experience and knowledge in line with recommendation and lessons learned from past operations. GRCS will maintain active coordination and cooperation with the IFRC Cash Assistance focal point.

The recently affected 57 households in Lagodekhi Municipality will also receive food and hygiene items, as Lagodekhi Municipality was already targeted by the DREF and GRCS aims to provide the same package of support to all affected families in respective Municipality.

After coordination with the local authorities it was identified that affected people in Tskaltubo and Kutaisi will be fully supported by the local authorities, as Kutaisi is the second biggest city in Georgia and the Government is stronger financially. These two locations will not be targeted by the GRCS this time.

No health problems have been recorded due to the disaster by this time. However, GRCS First Aid (FA) volunteers are on a standby to deliver FA in case of need. PSS volunteers are also mobilized, as the people who lost their livelihood need PSS support.

While all the targeted Municipalities are a green zone (through the whole period zero COVID-19 cases were registered), the government with support of the Red Cross are nevertheless ensuring that protecting measures are observed in all public places such as banks, transports. GRCS is actively working with the local governments to mitigate COVID-19 risks in the affected communities. So far, no COVID-19 cases have been reported in the targeted communities, but the Georgia Red Cross Society, in coordination with the local stakeholders is regularly sharing information on COVID-19 safety and protection measures among the local population. Volunteers are properly equipped and are following all the necessary measures recommended by WHO, National Center for Disease Control, IFRC and the Georgia Red Cross. There is a need for additional personal equipment to the volunteers who responded to the disaster, the old equipment need replenishment.

The Government works on restoration of the infrastructure and water supply. Clean water is provided to the affected villages by the government. So far there is no danger of water borne diseases, however due to the risks related to the COVID-19 situation in the country, general problems with the infrastructure, and based on the needs assessment done by volunteers, it was decided to provide hygiene items to the affected population.

Targeting

Based on the request from the authorities, the needs assessment, and the current lack of support from other organisations, the Georgia Red Cross Society aims to target all affected population in the targeted communities (except Kutaisi and Tskaltubo Municipalities where local authorities are fully supporting the basic needs of 400 families affected).

All people in the mentioned areas need support from GRCS as no other organization is supporting them and the support provided by the government is enough only for several days. Houses are flooded, the harvest has been destroyed, poultry killed. All families that have been identified as needing food, hygiene items and other aid (i.e. clothing, kitchen sets). Families have lost their income as their agricultural lands and farms were destroyed.

As the income levels are moderate in the affected areas, and considering the significant loss, it is essential to provide support to all affected households apart from the families whose needs have been covered by local authorities.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

The overall operational objective is to provide relief assistance to 4,557 people (1,274 affected households) whose houses were flooded and/or harvest destroyed in 6 Municipalities, through the distribution of food parcels, hygiene kits and cash assistance.

GRCS aims to provide cash (CVA) assistance to the population in the newly affected areas. Only 228 persons will receive food and hygiene items together with the CVA support in Lagodekhi Municipality, as this is the same location which was affected and targeted during the initial DREF operation. These 228 persons in 57 families will receive the same content of food and hygiene items as the population targeted during the earlier phase of the DREF operation. Volunteers distributing food and hygiene items will be fully equipped and will take into consideration all safety measures.

In the affected communities targeted by the original DREF, infrastructure is severely damaged and there is a need of food and hygiene items to be delivered to the population. In the newly affected locations infrastructure is functioning. GRCS will also support the local economy with the CVA provided to the affected population.

There is no change foreseen on operational support services (HR, IT, logistics and communications), compared to the original DREF. 30 additional volunteers will be involved in the operation to cover the activities in the recently affected locations, bringing the total number of volunteers involved to 118.

Georgia Red Cross Society volunteers are in constant communication with the local authorities, as well as with the local community members. They are providing PSS support in case of need and collecting any additional information about their needs to advocate to the local authorities. Number of the GRCS hotline is also shared with the local population, people can call GRCS volunteers and receive appropriate information or support.

GRCS, as it has an auxiliary role to the public authorities in the humanitarian field and has functions in the Civil Safety National Plan, is the part of the taskforce established by the Government of Georgia. Close coordination and cooperation are maintained with the local Government as well as with the Emergency management Service.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

 <p>Water, sanitation and hygiene Previous target: 3,170 Revised target: 3,398 People reached: 0¹ Male: 0 Female: 0</p>		
Outcome1: The risk of water and sanitation related diseases, and COVID transmission have been reduced through provision of appropriate sanitation and hygiene items for affected population.		
Indicators:	Target²	Actual
<i>The risk of water- and sanitation related diseases are reduced for 3,398 people</i>	3,398	0
Output 1.1. Hygiene needs of the most affected population by the floods are improved.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Number of people provided with hygiene sets</i>	3,398	0
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>The main needs of the population are the hygiene items food and cash for the basic needs of the people (clothes, blankets, kitchen sets) which was identified by the needs assessment as well as COVID-19 situation in the country. GRCS volunteers conducted rapid and detailed needs assessment in a coordination with the local authorities. The GRCS is cross-checking the final list of people to be assisted with the hygiene items.</p> <p>The GRCS is finalizing the process of purchasing the hygiene items to be delivered to the affected people. The items will be delivered in the week of 31 August and then the distributions will take place.</p> <p>No challenges were met during the reporting period.</p>		

 <p>Livelihoods and basic needs Previous target: 3,170 Revised target: 4,557 (1,968 Male; 2,589 Female) People reached: 0 Male: 0 Female: 0</p>		
Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods		

¹ Georgia Red Cross finalized all the procedures related to the purchase of the food and non-food items, but the products are not delivered and distributed to the affected population as the DREF funds are not received by the GRCS yet. GRCS is working on finalization of the procedures of CVA to be provided to the affected population.

² Targets revised through this Operations update.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Number of people whose livelihood is restored and strengthened</i>	4,557 (1,331 HHs)	0
Output 1.2: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Number of people provided with emergency food parcels</i>	4,557 (1,331 HHs)	0
Output 1.5: Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of people reached with unconditional cash support</i>	4,557 (1,331 HHs)	0
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>The tender of the items has been completed, the agreements will be signed and the delivery of the items is planned for the week of 31 August. Then the distribution will take place, in parallel to the exercise of cross checking the list of targeted families.</p> <p>Market assessment has been finalized by the GRCS staff and volunteers in the originally targeted municipalities. The Financial Service Provider (FSP) for the CVA assistance has also been identified (one Private Bank who has network and service centres in the affected areas). Identified FSP is a reliable, socially oriented bank. The technical arrangements of the contract are being discussed between the financial service provider and Georgia RC.</p> <p>As the biggest number of people in need will be covered in Oni Municipality, GRCS took this location as the model for all the targeted Municipalities. No chain markets are available in Oni, only small markets operating only on cash.</p>		

Strengthen National Society

Outcome S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform

Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected

Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of local volunteers are mobilized and involved in the response activities.	50	118
% volunteers properly trained	100	118
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>Additional 30 volunteers identified to cover the new locations, so in total 118 volunteers will be involved in the operation. All 118 volunteers are well trained in safety measures as well as in needs assessment and proper distribution process by the Georgia Red Cross Society. No challenges have been identified.</p>		

International Disaster Response

Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured

Output S2.1.1: Effective response preparedness and NS surge capacity mechanism is maintained

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Number of IFRC monitoring visits	2	1
Lesson Learnt Workshop is conducted	yes	<i>Planned at the end of the operation</i>
Output S2.1.4: Supply chain and fleet services meet recognized quality and accountability standards		
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>Head of CCST for South Caucasus together with the Georgia Red Cross Society Deputy Secretary General and Disaster Management Team visited affected Oni Municipality. They met with the GRCS local staff and volunteers</p>		

who were actively involved in response activities, met with the local authorities, as well as with the affected people to understand the general situation and the main needs of the people in the area.

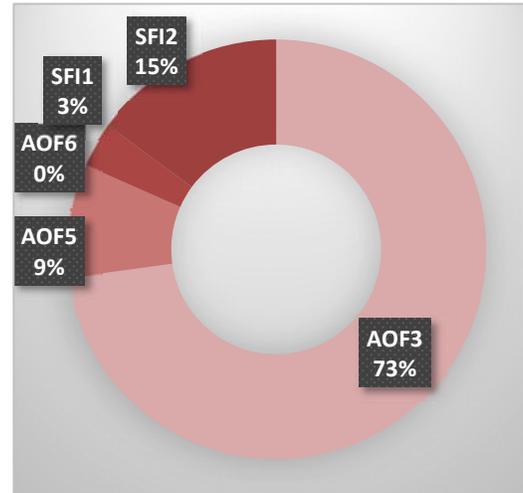
D. Budget and financial report

The original DREF budget was CHF 316,264, and with the 2nd allocation (CHF 50,535.62), the revised budget of this DREF operation is CHF 366,799.62.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies		<i>all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)</i>
DREF OPERATION		
MDRGE014 Georgia: Floods		31/08/2020
<u>Budget by Resource</u>		
Budget Group		Budget ▾
Shelter - Relief		0
Shelter - Transitional		0
Construction - Housing		0
Construction - Facilities		0
Construction Materials		0
Clothing & Textiles		0
Food		135,951
Seeds & Plants		0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene		30,318
Medical & First Aid		10,642
Teaching Materials		0
Utensils & Tools		0
Other Supplies & Services		0
Emergency Response Units		0
Cash Disbursement		114,893
Relief items, Construction, Supplies		291,803
Land & Buildings		0
Vehicles		0
Computers & Telecom		0
Office & Household Equipment		0
Medical Equipment		0
Other Machinery & Equipment		0
Land, vehicles & equipment		0
Storage		6,253
Distribution & Monitoring		700
Transport & Vehicles Costs		5,170
Logistics Services		0
Logistics, Transport & Storage		12,123
International Staff		0
National Staff		0
National Society Staff		902
Volunteers		19,155
Personnel		20,057
Consultants		0
Professional Fees		0
Consultants & Professional Fees		0
Workshops & Training		1,353
Workshops & Training		1,353
Travel		5,700
Information & Public Relations		3,607
Office Costs		6,764
Communications		2,255
Financial Charges		752
Other General Expenses		0
Shared Office and Services Costs		0
General Expenditure		19,077
Assets Depreciation		0
Depreciation		0
Cash Transfers National Societies		0
Cash Transfers to 3rd Parties		0
Contributions and Transfers		0
DIRECT COSTS		344,413
INDIRECT COSTS		22,387
TOTAL BUDGET		366,800

Budget by Area of Intervention

AOF1	Disaster Risk Reduction	
AOF2	Shelter	
AOF3	Livelihoods and Basic Needs	267,149
AOF4	Health	
AOF5	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	32,175
AOF6	Protection, Gender and Inclusion	113
AOF7	Migration	
SF11	Strengthen National Societies	12,774
	Effective International Disaster	
SF12	Management	54,588
	Influence others as leading	
SF13	strategic partners	
SF14	Ensure a strong IFRC	
TOTAL		366,800



Contact information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



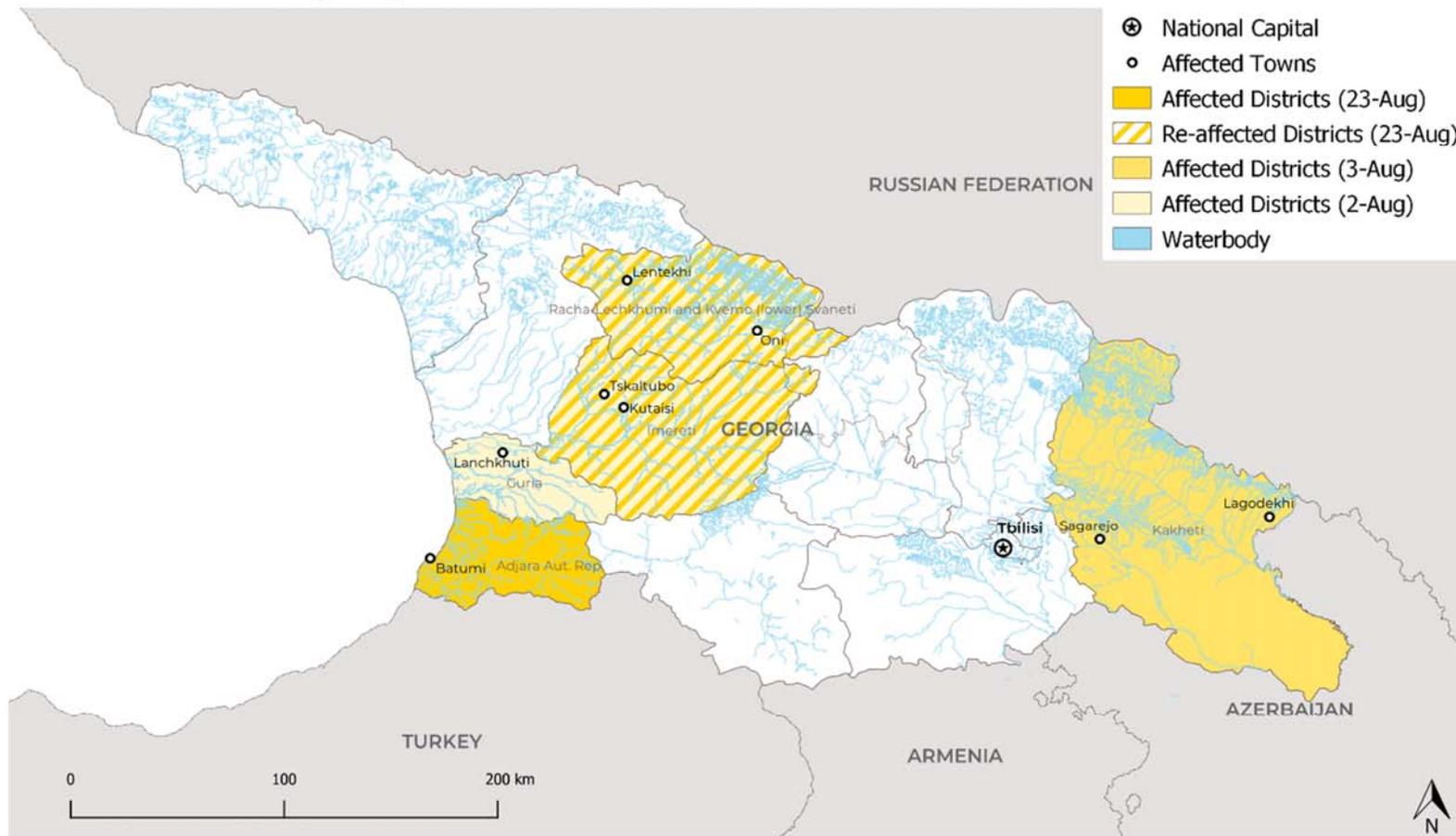
Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and peace.



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Georgia, Floods: Disaster Relief Emergency Fund

25 August 2020
FL-2020-000175-GEO
MDRGE014



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of any territory or its authorities.