

JANUARY

GOVERNMENT NEWSLETTER

FOR THE DONOR COMMUNITY



**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY
THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF GEORGIA**

Prime Minister of Georgia held an Ad-Hoc Meeting of Coordination Group Members on Jeopardized Water Supply in Ski Resorts

January 6, 2020

Giorgi Gakharia, Prime Minister of Georgia held an ad-hoc meeting of the coordination group members on the immediate recovery of jeopardized water supply in ski resorts of the country.

Reasons leading to the problems of water supply and steps taken by relevant public institutions from the very first minutes of the issue have been discussed at a meeting with the Head of Government of Georgia.

Prime Minister of Georgia Met Elizabeth Rood, CDF of US Embassy to Georgia

January 8, 2020

Parties discussed achievements of US-Georgia bilateral relations in the past year and plans ahead.

Discussions were also related to the development of events in the Middle East and security issues stemming from it.

Meeting was attended by Liz Zentos, Chief of US Embassy Political/Economic Unit and Irakli Chikovani, Foreign Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister of Georgia.



Hourly Pay Rise Pledged from January 2020 to All Teachers of Vocational Education Centres

January 9, 2020

Monthly salaries of teachers at vocational education institutions if employed full time have been 1300 GEL so far. It is expected to rise to 1800 GEL in line with the announced adjustment.

Pay rise will apply to over 2500 teachers, who are employed at public institutions delivering vocational trainings or private education institutions admitting students with public funding.



Tuition of over 1600 students living in villages along the occupation line gets funding of 4 MLN GEL

Eligibility will cover 584 more students compared to the previous year

January 9, 2020

Students from Gori, Kaspi, Kareli, Khashuri, Dusheti, Oni, Sachkhere, Tsalenjikha and Zugdidi Municipalities will be financed as part of a program for crisis-affected villages situated along occupation line by the occupied territories of Georgia.

Funding earmarked in the State Budget of Georgia will be increased by 3 MLN GEL for students living along the occupation line compared to the budget allocations for the academic year of 2013-2014.

Funding allocated in 2013 covered 471 students, while their number will increase to over 1600 this year.



IDP Needs Scrutiny Commission Decided to Purchase Private Houses for 401 IDP Households According to Pre-Defined Criteria

January 10, 2020



Within the scope of a Project branded as a House in a Village, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and their families will choose a land plot with a house for themselves in any region of the country. IDP households are given 3 months to choose a house. Funding to purchase such houses will be allocated from the State Budget and based on the number of people in the household.

In total almost 4000 IDP families have been funded from the State Budget to purchase a house in a village.

2097 IDP households have received private houses in 2019:

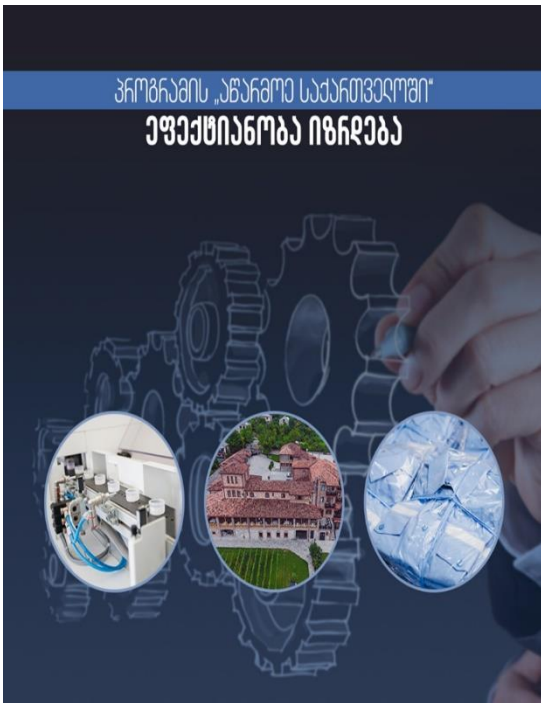
- 1047 apartments in newly built residential blocks;
- 1050 private houses in villages, within the scope of a Project branded as a House in a Village.

Since 2013 over 21 000 IDP households have benefited of housing through various programs of Georgia.

Federal Republic of Germany Purchased 1.5 Million Euro-Worth Vehicals for Defense Forces of Georgia

January 11, 2020

With an aim of upgrading a heavy vehicle pool of the Defence Forces of Georgia, Germany purchased trucks in the total value of 1.5 million Euros, which will significantly improve the logistic capacity of the beneficiary.



Produce in Georgia Program Demonstrates Successful Progress

January 13, 2020

Priority directions of the country have been augmented with the following:

- ▶ Bath Therapy Resorts;
- ▶ Touristic Services and Advanture Tourism;
- ▶ Marine fishing;
- ▶ Ceramic crafts.

Government support will be provided to hotel constructions at 632 locations and specified settlements.

Kutaisi Garment Producer Contracted by Marks & Spencer under Government-Supported Program of Pruduce in Georgia

January 14, 2020

Within the scope of an industrial component of the program, Kutaisi Sewage Plant IMERI increased its production capacity from 2016, which resulted in the increased assortment and volume of output.

- ▶ Almost 400 people are employed at the enterprise;
- ▶ Concessional loan in the volume of 812 000 GEL has been used by the enterprise;
- ▶ IMERI is a vendor of various world-knoen brands. Soon it will also produce garment for Marks & Spencer.



Record-High Export Indicator Reached in 2019

January 14, 2020

According to the preliminary data, exports from Georgia reached 3 771.5 MLN USD in 2019, thus being by 12.4% higher than the previous year indicator.

Export increased by 18,7% in December of 2019 as compared to the respective month of the previous year and its total value amounted 390.4 MLN USD.

Trade Deficit was significantly – by 489 MLN USD reduced in 2019.



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Held at Community Centre of Chrebalo Village in Ambrolauri Municipality

January 14, 2020



75-ე საზოგადოებრივი ცენტრი

აშშ-ის დახმარებით აღდგენილი სოფელი ჩრებალოს საზოგადოებრივი ცენტრის გახსნის ცერემონია



Community Centre will render services to Chrebalo and adjacent villages: Khvanchkara, Kvishari, Chkviashi, Zhoshkha, Gendushi, Pirveli and Meore Tola, totaling to about 3000 residents. Local population will be able to benefit of over 200 efficient services of the public and private sectors.

Also, Community Centres will also have a library equipped with most advanced equipment, offering electronic books and printed media. Local residents may also gain access to wireless internet at the premises of the Community Centre round the clock.

There are 75 Community Centres all over Georgia already.

Fully Rehabilitated School under US Funding Opened in Kveshi Village of Gori Municipality

January 15, 2020

Public school in Kveshi Village that currently admits 247 pupils is situated in 1 kilometer from the occupation line. School building is fully compatible with modern standards. Full rehabilitation has been carried out in a 3 floor building. New furniture has been purchased. Staircases and roof have been restored. Exterior façade has been insulated. Toilets have been repaired. New water supply, sewage and heating systems have been installed, along with power supply cabling. Front yard has been arranged and rainfall collection system has been repaired.



Vehicle Pool for ER Renewed Throughout Georgia

January 15, 2020

Tbilisi Emergency Rescue (ER) has received 80 new vehicles. Project envisages further improvement of emergency rescue services to citizens and is oriented at the full protection of patient interests.

თბილისს
სახანძრო-სამედიცინო დახმარების
80 ახალი ავტომობილი გადაეცა



აღმოსავლეთ-დასავლეთის გზაზე
მშენებლობის დრო განახლებება

რიკოტის უღელტეხილზე 51.6 კმ გზას, 96 ხილს და 53 ბჰირაბს ვაშენებთ



Construction of Remaining Fragment of Rikoti Gorge Has Been Contracted

January 16, 2020

A four-lane road of cement and concrete with a length of 14.7 kilometers will be built at Rikoti Gorge, along with 14 bridges and 12 tunnels. Construction works will require 3 years and ultimately 51.6 kilometer-long road is planned to be built with 96 bridges and 53 tunnels altogether.

Road through Rikoti Gorge will shorten the East-West Highway with 30 kilometers.

“Georgia should become absolutely foreseeable partner of the EU and our neighbours towards power energy transit”

stated Giorgi Gakharia, Prime Minister of Georgia

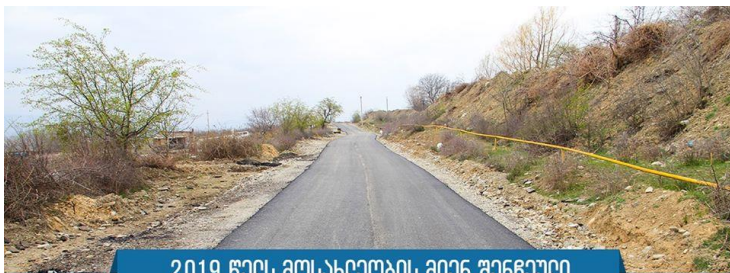
January 17, 2020

Giorgi Gakharia, Prime Minister of Georgia launched Gardabani 2 Thermal Power Plant (TPP) equipped with the most advanced technologies in Gardabani together with Natia Turnava, Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia. Established capacity of the TPP is 230 megawatts and its construction phase lasted from February 2018 through December 2019. It ensures full supply of energy in winter of the current year through its power generation.



Projects Implemented within the Rural Support Program will be financed with 40 MLN GEL in 2020

January 17, 2020



**2019 წელს მოსახლეობის მიერ შერჩეული
4800-მდე ინფრასტრუქტურული პროექტი დასრულდა**
სოფლის მხარდაჭერის პროგრამა გრძელდება



Over 3 0000 general meetings were held within the scope of the program in 2019 and rural population made a choice on almost 4800 projects.

Implemented projects:

- ▶ 1061 Projects in Samegreko-Zemo Svaneti;
- ▶ 1042 Projects in Imereti;
- ▶ 536 Projects in Mtskheta-Mtianeti;
- ▶ 447 Projects in Shida Kartli;
- ▶ 399 Projects in Kvemo Kartli;
- ▶ 376 Projects in Guria;
- ▶ 366 Projects in Kakheti;
- ▶ 309 Projects in Samtskhe-Javakheti;
- ▶ 275 Projects in Racha-Lechkhumi.

Projects Funded by German Government

January 18, 2020

- IDP families currently living in a dilapidated building of Marneuli Municipality will get 31 houses;
- Apart from Marneuli, over 200 houses will be built at land plots kept in the title ownership of IDP families throughout Georgia;
- Implementation of 10 projects, construction of 8 and rehabilitation of 2 kindergartens is planned in IDP settlements of Mtskheta, Gori, Poti and Tsalenjokha Municipalities within the project initiative in 2020;
- Vocational training centres will be built in West Georgia to facilitate vocational education in the country.



Georgia Has Been Named as a Water Tourism Destination Country by MATKA 2020

January 18, 2020

Largest Nordic Travel Fair MATKA 2020 held in Helsinki, Finland named Georgia as a Water Tourism Destination Country. International event was visited by almost 80 000 participants, while 22 500 tourism professionals were engaged in it from 86 countries.

Number of visitors from Finland to Georgia increased by 17.7% in 2019 as compared to the previous year.



Kutaisi Puppet Theatre Named After Iakob Gogebashvili Commences 73rd Season in a Rehabilitated Facility

January 18, 2020

Comprehensive reconstruction of the theatre building and its courtyard started in 2018 with funding provided by the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia.

Theatre building has been fully rehabilitated, foundation reinforced, heating and cooling systems installed and toilets fully reconstructed, along with power energy supply. Stage structure and hall has been equipped with new system of lighting and sound amplification.

Theatre has been fully adapted to the needs of people with disabilities.



Record-High Indicator of Export Reached in 2019

January 20, 2020

Volume of export from Georgia in total and towards EU was record-high in 2019.

Export volumes of following commodities have been increased and reached a record-high level in some cases:

- Export of wine: 223 MLN USD, increased by 13.2%;
- Export of mineral and fresh waters: 133.5 MLN USD, increased by 21.2%;
- Export of hazelnut: 67 MLN USD, increased by 10.6%;

- Export of garment: 56.9 MLN USD, increased by 53.2%;
- Export of citrus: 21 MLN USD, increased by 44.4%.



Prime Minister of Georgia Participated in WEF held in Davos on January 22-25, 2020

January 22-25, 2020

Giorgi Gakharia, Prime Minister of Georgia participated in the World Economic Forum (WEF) held in Davos.

Within the scope of his Working Visit to Switzerland, Head of Government of Georgia held almost 30 high-level meetings with political leaders and heads of international financial institutions (IFIs) and global corporations.



“Rich potential of cooperation exists between Georgia and Bulgaria, especially in the areas of transport and communications. Full deployment of this potential in the Black Sea neighborhood acquires great importance”. It was

noted at the meeting between the Prime Ministers of Georgia and Republic of Bulgaria held within the scope of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos.

Giorgi Gakharia and Boyko Borisov positively referred to the ferry transportation services between the marine ports of Georgia and Bulgaria, thereby stressing the need of extending the current transport links.

"Lietuva is a close friend and ally of Georgia. We particularly value your solid support towards our European and Euro-Atlantic integration". It was stated by Gitanas Nausėda, President of the Republic of Lietuva at a meeting with Giorgi Gakharia, Prime Minister of Georgia.

Focus at the meeting was made on the security, human rights and grave violations of humanitarian conditions at the occupied territories of Georgia.



Giorgi Gakharia, Prime Minister of Georgia met Jüri Ratas, Prime Minister of Estonia within the scope of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos.

Parties discussed grave violations of humanitarian conditions at the occupied territories of the country and Peace Policy of the Government of Georgia branded as a Step towards Better Future.

Giorgi Gakharia, Prime Minister of Georgia met Armen Sarkissian, President of the Republic of Armenia within the scope of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos.

It was noted at the meeting that current relations between Georgia and Armenia have acquired particularly positive dynamics on the background of high-level meetings.





Giorgi Gakharia, Prime Minister of Georgia participated in a Panel Discussion: New Vision for Europe and Asia - Partnership for Sustainable Development, held within the scope of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos.

Participants of the event included Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan; Sir Suma Chakrabarti, President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD); Khaltmaagiin Battulga, President of Mongolia; Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey and others.

Giorgi Gakharia, Prime Minister of Georgia met Andrej Plenković, Prime Minister of Croatia in Davos.

Discussion was related to the cooperation between the two countries in the process of European integration, upcoming Summit of Eastern Partnership (EaP) to develop a new vision on its future.



Giorgi Gakharia, Prime Minister of Georgia met Marjan Šarec, Prime Minister of Slovenia within the scope of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos. Meeting was focused on the grave conditions witnessed in the occupied territories of Georgia.

Head of Government of Georgia expressed gratitude to his Slovenian colleague for supporting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Georgia. Parties discussed the potential of developing bilateral relations and upcoming Summit of Eastern Partnership (EaP).

Giorgi Gakharia, Prime Minister of Georgia met Iham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan within the scope of World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos.

Second meeting of Georgian and Azeri leaders within a short timespan evidences high-level dynamism of bilateral relations.

Discussions at the meeting today were related to the strategic partnership of two countries, along with transport and energy projects of regional magnitude that are implemented jointly by Georgia and Azerbaijan.



Prime Minister of Georgia Attended Pitching by Georgian Start-Uppers in Davos



Vault Wines, being a Georgian start-up, pitched a smart contract technology for authentic wines and winery assets within the scope of the World Economic Forum (WEF). Company is a winner of the Crypto Valley Venture Capital (CV VC) incubator, being the next generation Venture Investment Fund in Switzerland.

Smart contract technology of Vault Wines, which envisages a Blockchain-based management of authentic wines and winery assets has been funded with 125 000 USD. It has been accelerating the product during 10 weeks under the mentorship of over 70 prominent

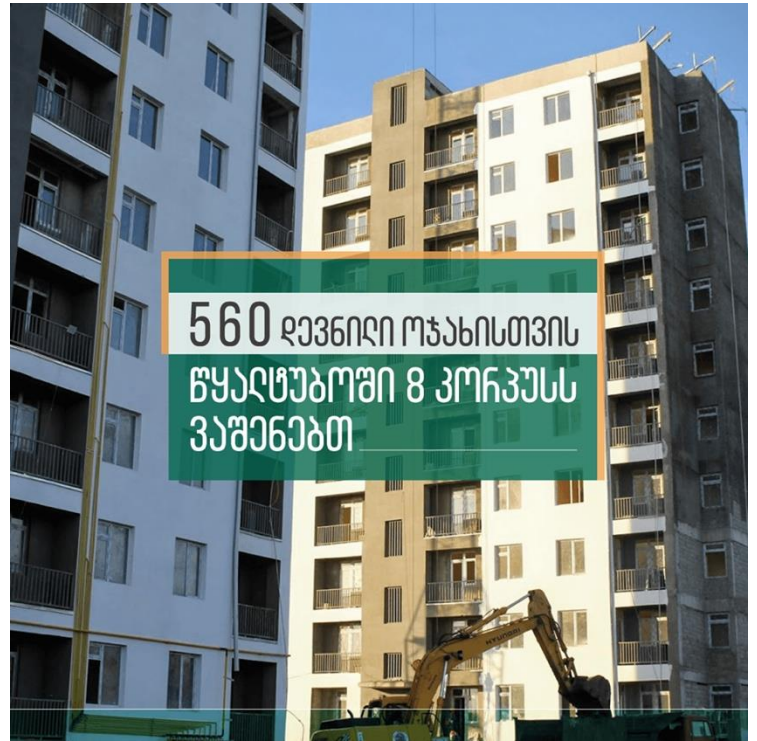
experts. As a result, project has been advanced and international connections have been made.

8 Residential Blocks Are Being Built in Tskalturo for IDP

January 24, 2020

Project commenced in January 2019 and expected to gradually complete in 2020-2021 is currently implemented by the Municipal Development Fund (MDF) with funding allocated by the Government of Georgia in to total amount of over 33 MLN GEL.

Apart from Tskaltubo, MDF is constructing residential blocks for IDPs in Zugdidi and Kutaisi. Overall, 2440 families will get apartments in them.



"State is obliged to take a good care of its servicemen in the first instance of course, especially when its land is under occupation"

January 27, 2020

Rehabilitation Center of unprecedented significance in the region was commissioned in Tserovani on January 27, 2020 and it is named after Maro Makashvili, National Hero of Georgia. It is equipped with an ultra-modern rehabilitation and medical equipment to significantly improve the physical and psychic rehabilitation of

wounded servicemen.

Head of Government of Georgia noted that the healthcare facility has been made possible with a direct engagement of the USA - strategic partner of Georgia.



USAID Pledged to Carry out Another Wide-Scale Education Project in Georgia in the Total Value of 7 MLN USD within 5 Years

January 27, 2020

Project envisages the following:

- ▶ Literacy, arithmetic thinking, problem solving and critical thinking will be developed at every general school in Georgia, starting from the entry level;
- ▶ At a degree education level, new programs will be developed for teacher training to ensure a student-centered learning environment in future;

Also, project branded as an English Teaching Assistant (ETA) will be implemented with an initiative of the American side, aimed at the support of internationalization of higher regional education institutions. Project envisages support in teaching and practicing the English language, professional development of co-teachers and development of an English language curriculum for higher education institutions.



Citrus Season Was Particularly High-Yield in Adjara

January 28, 2020

According to the preliminary information, yield this year exceeded 50 000 tons, out of 32 000 tons of tangerines have been exported, thus exceeding the respective indicator of 2018 by 5%.

Export markets have been extended to now cover: Slovenia, Moldova, Lietuva, Poland, Qatar and Singapore.

High quality of of tangerines this year has been conditioned by measures carried out in the fight against the Black Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) by the authorities of the country.

“Government of Georgia singles out four key priorities in its routine and long-term plans: security, economic development and job creation; education and human capital development, open governance” Giorgi Gakharia, Prime Minister of Georgia

January 29, 2020

"We all understand it well that Georgia is a transition democracy. We have quite heavy post-soviet legacy and we also conceptualize that we may need years for reforms to get approximated and to comply with European standards that we ambitiously aspire" stated Giorgi Gakharia, Prime Minister of Georgia in his speech delivered at a Donor Coordination Conference.

In his welcoming remarks, Head of Government of Georgia focused on the four key priorities of the Government: security; economic development; infrastructure and trade; human capital development and open governance.



Prime Minister of Georgia Met Newly Appointed US Ambassador to Georgia



January 31, 2020

Giorgi Gakharia, Prime Minister of Georgia met Kelly Degnan, US Ambassador to Georgia spoke about priorities of the Government of Georgia, which were positively deemed by the diplomat. **“It was a very substantive discussion. We covered a number of topics, including the security cooperation, our economic cooperation and opportunities to increase our economic ties. We had a good discussion about the importance of education, including the recent program initiative for 7 MLN USD that the USAID has recently unveiled and that**

should work very well and compliment to the initiative that the Government of Georgia has also unveiled” stated the US Ambassador to Georgia. As noted by the newly arrived diplomat after a meeting, 2020 is a significant year for the USA and Georgia, as elections are scheduled in both countries.

"First meeting was held between Giorgi Gakharia, Prime Minister of Georgia and Kelly Degnan, US Ambassador to Georgia. It was very interesting and substantial. Head of Government and the newly appointed diplomat spoke about the opportunities stemming from strategic partnership and cooperation between the two countries” noted Irakli Chikovani, Foreign Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister of Georgia.

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