

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19 AND ACCESS TO  
SERVICES FOR INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS IN SOUTH  
CAUCASUS**

**REGIONAL REPORT**

**Extract – Country Specific Highlights - Georgia**

**20 September 2022**



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## 1.5 COUNTRY-SPECIFIC HIGHLIGHTS

### Georgia

- The majority of the respondents (44%) come from the Islamic Republic of Iran, 9 per cent are from India, 6 per cent are from Iraq and 6 per cent are from Egypt. Women account for 42 per cent of the sample and almost half of the respondents have children. One out of six surveyed migrants live outside of Tbilisi.
- Study and work are the main reasons to move to Georgia, as reported by a total of 70 per cent of the respondents. The largest group (38%), however, does not have a job and is not looking for one. Nearly half of those employed do not have a formal contract. The top reported sectors of employment are construction (19%) and real estate (16%).
- External support was received by 35 per cent of the surveyed migrants, and significantly more women than men were dependent on support. Nearly all students from South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa stated that they were supported. Family from abroad is the most common source of support (for over three-quarters of the respondents).
- Only 14 per cent of interviewed respondents reported receiving assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic, two-thirds of whom were supported with cash. International organizations have been the source of COVID-19 relief in over half the cases.
- Doctors and health centres were indicated as preferred sources for seeking help. Slightly more than half kept contact with the embassy or a consulate of their country of origin, while one-third interacted with a community group.
- Serious health conditions affect 8 per cent of the surveyed migrants and as many of their family members. Nearly all the migrants (92%) consult a health professional or visit a medical institution when they need assistance. However, nearly three-quarters (74%) of the overall respondents and 88 per cent of those with serious health conditions are not covered by health insurance.
- Far fewer persons are concerned about the COVID-19 pandemic than in 2020, with only one-third of the respondents expressing moderate and 7 per cent expressing high levels of concern. Nevertheless, substantial shares of interviewed migrants report some form of psychological discomfort (40% felt stressed or anxious, while 30% have experienced depression or loneliness). The majority (60%) worried that they or their loved ones would get sick.
- A vast majority of the respondents (90%) and the majority (72%) of their family members staying with them have been vaccinated. As many as 91 per cent of those surveyed declared willingness to contact a doctor in case of developing COVID-19 symptoms.
- About two-thirds of employed respondents reported that COVID-19 had a negative impact on their employment status or work situation, 23 per cent of them (and 36% of those outside Tbilisi) lost their job during the pandemic. COVID-19 has affected housing conditions of around one-fifth of the sample, with most forced to move into more affordable accommodation.
- Antipathy, discrimination, or hostile behaviour continue to affect a considerable share of the respondents. About 26 per cent of respondents said that they had such an experience, two-thirds of whom experienced discrimination, and about half were verbally abused (49%).