

From: [Jerry Markon](#)
To: [Jerry Markon](#)
Cc: [Jerry Markon](#)
Subject: Former Georgian Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili Donates \$30 million to Georgian Government Fund to Fight COVID-19
Date: Monday, April 20, 2020 3:22:42 PM

Good Afternoon,

The government of Georgia is pleased to announce that former Georgian Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili, along with his family, has donated \$30 million to help his native land fight the coronavirus.

The gift from Ivanishvili, a generous philanthropist and self-made businessman, is among the world's largest private donations aimed at stopping the spread of COVID-19. It is also the largest single healthcare-related private contribution in the history of Georgia. The UK's Sunday Express called it a "[staggering](#)" donation.

Ivanishvili's donation will supplement the #STOPCOV FUND, which the Georgian government established to facilitate philanthropic contributions from the private sector, foundations and individuals. Already at nearly \$7 million before Ivanishvili's gift, the fund will help support the Georgian healthcare system and those experiencing social and economic hardships because of the virus.

The infusion of funds is the latest step in Georgia's early success in battling the global pandemic. A nation of 3.7 million people, Georgia has reported only 266 COVID-19 cases to date, with three deaths. The Georgian government's response – which has included travel bans; a state of emergency; large-scale aid to businesses; and a nationwide lockdown – has earned praise from the World Health Organization.

Ivanishvili, who currently serves as chairman of the ruling Georgian Dream political party, is a longtime philanthropist. Through their family foundation, he and his family have provided more than \$3 billion in charitable contributions to various fields in Georgia, including \$500 million in the healthcare sector alone.

Please find below the text of a statement containing further details about Ivanishvili's gift and the #STOPCOV FUND.

Thanks,

Jerry

Statement:

Former Georgian Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili Donates \$30 million to Georgian Government Fund to Fight COVID-19

TBILISI, Georgia – This week, Bidzina Ivanishvili, former Prime Minister of Georgia, philanthropist, and businessman, contributed along with his family 100 million Georgian Lari, or about \$30 million USD, to the #STOPCOV FUND of the Government of Georgia to fight against COVID-19. Mr Ivanishvili currently serves as Chairman of the ruling Georgian Dream political party.

This gift – the largest single healthcare-related private contribution in the history of Georgia – will provide critical financial support to the Georgian government in its efforts to flatten the curve of the Coronavirus.

Georgi Gakharia, Prime Minister of Georgia, made the following statement:

“On behalf of the people of Georgia, I thank Mr Ivanishvili for his generous donation. This world-leading gift will save the lives of many Georgians, and will help our country overcome the coronavirus. I would like to thank all those Georgians who have contributed to the #STOPCOV FUND.

“These funds will be used for the benefit of our citizens, in the fight against COVID-19. We are fighting on two fronts – healthcare and the economy. All the resources that will be mobilized will be used to achieve this goal.

“The Cartu Fund and Bidzina Ivanishvili have been donating billions to good causes in Georgia for many years now. For me, as Prime Minister, this constitutes additional proof that we have a unique insurance in this country in the form of a person, a citizen of Georgia; this person and this fund provide assistance wherever systemic assistance is needed.

“Today, the Georgian public can see how this insurance works in real life. These monies will save countless lives, and will help all Georgians to recover from this crisis.”

The #STOPCOV FUND is a critical component of the Georgian government’s strategy to provide a safety net for people, businesses and civil society who are struggling during this unprecedented crisis. The Fund will prioritise support for the Georgian healthcare system and the medical needs of people across the nation, as well as those who are experiencing social and economic difficulties due to the virus.

About #STOPCOV FUND

The gift from Mr Ivanishvili and his family will be vital to ensuring the #STOPCOV FUND, which the Georgian government established to facilitate philanthropic contributions from investors and the private sector to fight COVID-19, is successful. The fund has already raised nearly \$7 million from private business and citizens. Mr Ivanishvili’s donation will scale up

the fund's resources by an order of magnitude.

The Office of the Business Ombudsman of Georgia, which set up the fund, is working with other public institutions to identify potential grant recipients. Priority will be given to supporting the Georgian health care system, the medical needs of people across the nation, and those who are experiencing social and economic hardships because of the virus.

All distributions of funds will be transparent and will strictly comply with Georgian law, with full democratic oversight.

About Bidzina Ivanishvili

Bidzina Ivanishvili is a self-made highly successful Georgian businessman. The youngest of five children and coming from very poor and humble means, Bidzina graduated high school in Sachkhere, continuing his education at Tbilisi State University, earning his degree in Engineering and Economics. Upon graduation, Bidzina pursued a postgraduate degree and worked as a Fellow Research Assistant at the Moscow Science and Research Institute of Labor. Bidzina then pursued a highly successful career in business, focused on the metals and banking sector.

Mr. Ivanishvili and his family, through their family foundation, the Cartu Fund, have provided more than \$3 billion in charitable contributions to various fields in Georgia, ranging from the construction of theatres and sports centres to the restoration of beloved cultural heritage monuments. Ivanishvili's charitable contributions to the field of healthcare alone amount to \$500 million.

In 2011, Mr. Ivanishvili founded the Georgian Dream political party, and has led the party to victories in Parliamentary elections in 2012 and 2016. In 2012-2013, he served as the Prime Minister of Georgia.

NOTE: These materials are distributed by DCI Group AZ, L.L.C. for Political Union of Citizens "Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia," and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

