

## Tajikistan Monthly Risk Monitoring & Warning Report January 2010



### RISK TRENDS

**WEATHER:** During the last two weeks of February the average weather temperature is expected to range from 11 to 16°C at lower elevations. Monthly precipitation is expected to be above norm by 20-24% at lower elevation, and 45% below norm at higher elevations.

**ELECTRICITY:** As the weather was unusually warm in January and is predicted to be even warmer in February 2010 (up to 11-16 °C), the risk of a severe energy crisis can be ruled out. However, if the temperature falls below zero for several days in a row, this could entail faster-than-expected declines in water levels at Nurek reservoir, and sharper constraints on electricity generation; under such circumstances, to the power shortages presently affecting many households and businesses, particularly in rural areas, could intensify.

**FOOD SECURITY:** Chronic food insecurity remains unchanged compared to 2008. Khatlon and Sughd provinces, where 65% of the population resides, report the highest unemployment rates and wage and pension arrears. Household incomes and purchasing power in these regions may continue to be depressed this winter, contributing to food and health insecurity. Also, the 20% increase in household electricity tariffs introduced in January will further reduce disposable incomes in vulnerable households, thus increasing the threat of food and health insecurity.

**HEALTH:** Pregnant women and patients with chronic diseases are more susceptible to serious complications from influenza, including H1N1. Eleven pregnant women who died in December were found to have had influenza; laboratory tests confirmed seven of the women had H1N1 type influenza.

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### I. WEATHER CONDITIONS

#### 1.1 Weather Forecast for February 2010

For February 2010, the State Hydro-meteorological Agency of Tajikistan forecasts average monthly temperature will be 1 to 1.5 °C above the climatic norm. During the first two weeks of the months, the average temperature at low elevations will be 5 to 6 °C and 0 to 1°C at higher elevations. During the last two weeks of the month, the average temperature is expected to reach 11 to 16°C at lower elevations.

The amount of monthly precipitation at lower altitudes is expected to be above the norm by 20-24%, whereas at higher altitudes, precipitation is expected to be 45% below the norm.<sup>1</sup> *(Further localized details on expected weather in February 2010 can be found in Annex A.)*

### II. ENERGY

#### 2.1 Electricity

In December 2009, the water in Nurek reservoir reached the predicted level, 16 meters higher than in 2008. This allowed for stable electricity generation at Nurek and other HEPS along the Vakhsh river cascade.

In December 2009 Tajikistan generated 1.4 billion kWh of electricity, with a daily average of 45.6 million kWh. Sangtuda – 1 produced 5.8 million kWh on average per day, representing a 51% increase over December 2008.

*Table# 1 Electricity production by each Hydro Electric Power Station in Tajikistan*

Main HEPS of Tajikistan	Daily average in million kWh	% of total generation	Total generation capacity (in MW)
Nurek	28.1	61.9	3,000
Baypaza	5.8	12.8	600
Sangtuda-1	5.8	12.8	670
Golovnaya	2.4	5.3	210
Perepadnaya	0.4	0.9	30
Central	0.2	0.5	18
Kayrakkum	2.5	5.6	126
Varzob Cascade	0.1	0.2	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4,679</b>

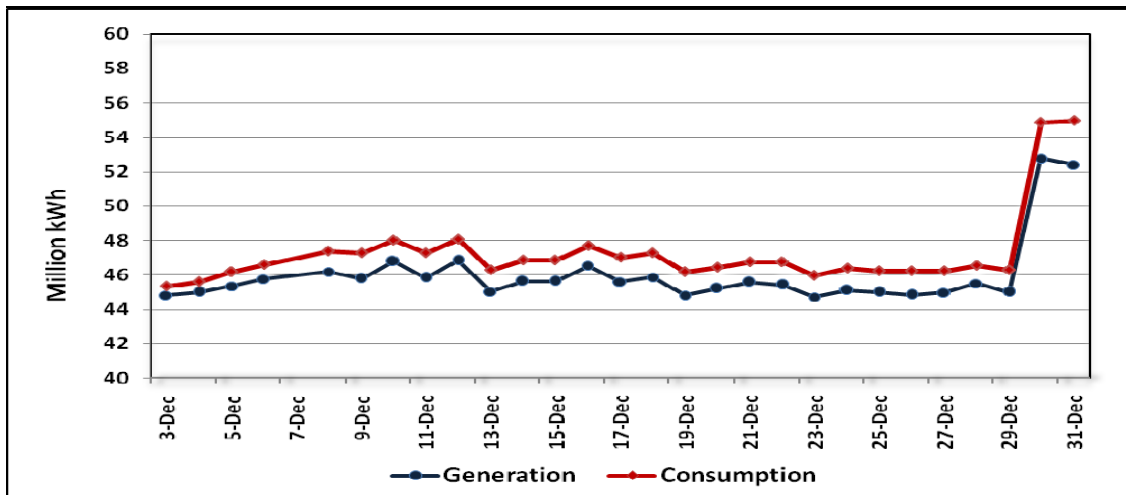
In spite of continuing political tensions and Uzbekistan’s withdrawal from Central Asia’s integrated electricity transmission network, Tajikistan has been importing 1-1.2 million kWh of electricity per day from Uzbekistan for consumption in the Zeravshan Valley (Penjikent and Ayni) in northern Tajikistan.

As the graph below suggests, the difference between electricity production and consumption was covered by imports from Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

<sup>1</sup> The precipitation norm at low altitudes, such as in Khatlon and the Districts of Regional Rule, is between 40 and 82 mm; in Sughd, it is between 15 and 38 mm; in mountain areas, the norm is about 6-40 mm. Source: State Hydro-Meteorological Agency of Tajikistan.

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Graph #1 Daily electricity generation and consumption in December 2009



Although the import of electricity dropped 92% in December in year-on-year terms, a corresponding 96% reduction in electricity exports helped keep electricity consumption at December 2008 levels. The launch of the Sangtuda-1 HEPS (670 MW generation capacity) and increased generation capacity at the Kayrakkum HEPS (127 MW) also helped in this respect. Perhaps more importantly, Tajikistan’s “Barqi Tojik” electricity company reports that the volume of technical losses in 2009 was reduced to 10.4% (885 million kWh) of total electricity production, compared to 14% in 2008. In monetary terms, these savings amounted to some 60 million Tajik Somoni (14 million USD).

From October 2007 through February 2009, households in Sughd (including Khujand and other cities) experienced strict electricity rationing. In 2010, with the increased capacity of Kayrakkum HEPS and launch of the 500 kWh North-South electric transmission lines, electricity supplies in the north of the country seem to have improved. “Barqi Tojik” reports that in December 2009 the Kayrakkum HEPS operated at full capacity, using all six turbines. On a daily basis, it produced 2.5-2.9 million kWh, 42% of northern Tajikistan’s total consumption. Another 40% of the region’s electricity is transmitted from the south via the 500 kWh North-South electric transmission line; the remaining 18% being imported from Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

On 10 December, the Dushanbe CHPP (Combined Heat and Power Plant) launched only one out of its four lines to heat part of Dushanbe city. The plant produces 700-720,000 kWh daily (20% of capacity and 0.1% of total electricity generation), and 1,100 Gcal of heat, which is being distributed only in main streets of the capital (250 houses for about 1 thousand population) as well as to 13 hospitals, 11 schools and 36 state agencies.

From the beginning of its operation until 25 January 2010, CHPP produced 32 million kWh of electricity and 55,777 Gcal of heat, and consumed an average 265 ton of mazut and 80,000 m<sup>3</sup> of gas daily. According its Chief Engineer, the CHPP will be operating until 15 February 2010.

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An additional six mini heating stations were launched in Dushanbe with total heat generating capacities of 28.5 Gcal/hour.<sup>2</sup>

### 2.2 Cuts and Restrictions

Despite increased generation capacity, reduced technical losses, and more efficient distribution, rural districts have been receiving electricity for only 12 hours a day and at times even less. Such restrictions were introduced individually by local electric departments of each region.

In Khatlon province, only the city of Kurgan-Tyube and the district of Nosiri Khusrav receive electricity 24/7, whereas other districts receive 7 to 9 hours of electricity per day.

In Sughd, the main cities such as Khujand, Kayrakkum and Chkalovsk receive 20 hours of electricity per day. Villages and rural areas have the same restriction schedule as in Khatlon. In both provinces, key administrative and socially vital buildings, such as hospitals, buildings of local authorities and banks, receive electricity 24/7.

Gorno Badakhshan continues to be better off in terms of electricity supply, as has been the case for the past two years. Thanks to efficient work of “Pamir Energy” Company, which operates Pamir-1 and Khorog HEPS, (with annual electricity generation of 30 MGW/hour—21 MGW from Pamir-1 and 9 MGW from Khorog), this province, including very remote areas such as Shughnan, Rushan, Roshtkala and Ishkashim, receive electricity 24 hours a day.<sup>3</sup>

In December 2009, 1.4 billion kWh<sup>4</sup> of electricity was consumed in Tajikistan. On a daily basis, users in southern Tajikistan consumed 47.2 million kWh; 45%<sup>5</sup> of this was used by the Tajik Aluminum Company (TALCO), while 23% was consumed by Dushanbe city. Users in the north consumed around 7.4 million kWh.

**Daily average of electricity consumption in December (in million kWh)**

<i>By Region</i>	<i>Daily distribution</i>	<i>Shortfall</i>
South <b>39.8</b>	TALCO                      17.7 (45%) Dushanbe                    9.2 (23%) Khatlon and DRD                            12.9 (32%)	0.08 1 0.61
North <b>7.4</b>		0.67
Total <b>47.2</b>		<b>2.36</b>

In total, just as in 2008, 15.9 billion kWh of electricity were consumed in Tajikistan in 2009—despite significant reductions in imports.

<sup>2</sup> Phone interview with chief engineer of CHPP “Dushanbe”, Mr. Kalandarov R.K.

<sup>3</sup> 86% of the population of GBAO is served by electricity produced by Pamir Energy

<sup>4</sup> As in November 2009 1.3 billion kWh of electricity was generated, the remaining 1 million was imported from Uzbekistan for the areas not connected to the 500 kWh South-North line, such as Ayni and Penjikent.

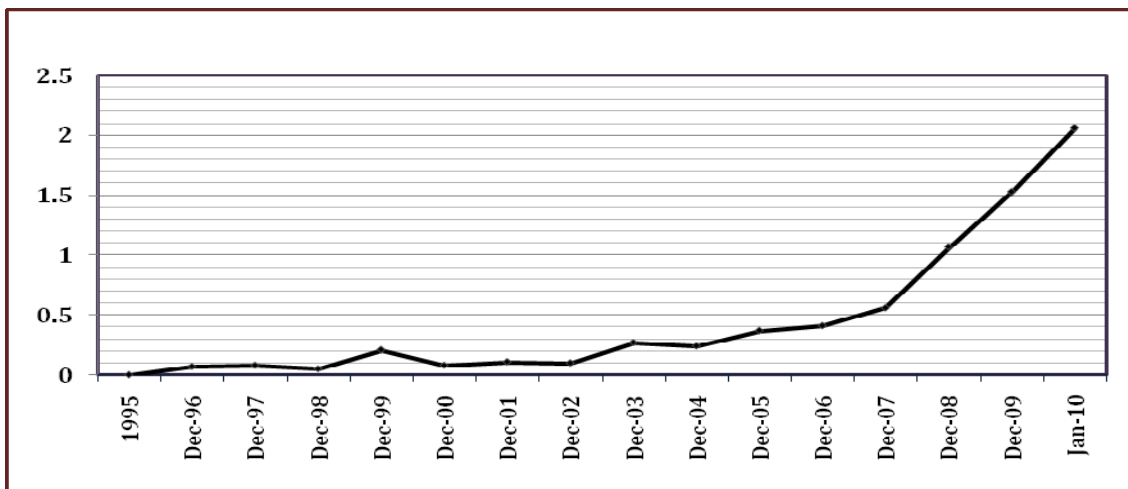
<sup>5</sup> At full capacity, TALCO consumes 19-20 million kWh of electricity per day, which is more than 50% of the total consumption of Southern Tajikistan. However, due to reduced production, TALCO’s electricity consumption also has decreased.

**Electricity tariffs**

As of 01 January 2010, tariffs for electricity were raised by 20% for all categories of consumers. Accordingly, for each consumed kWh, residential consumers now pay 0.09 TJS (0.02 USD), whereas industrial enterprises pay 0.21 TJS (0.48 USD). Governmental organizations and municipal branches pay 0.08 TJS (0.01USD) and water pumping stations pay 0.05 (less than 0.01 USD). TALCO, which benefits from special tariffs, pays 0.08 TJS (0.01 USD) per kWh.

It is worth mentioning that in 2009, tariffs for electricity were raised twice, in January and August, each time by 25%. The table below demonstrates the evolution of electricity tariffs for the past 15 years for residents of Tajikistan.

*Graph #2 Trends in electricity tariffs for the period 1996-2010 years (in US Cents)*



**2.4 Natural gas supply<sup>6</sup>**

Gas is mainly imported from Uzbekistan, which is now requiring advance payment. This requirement, in addition to price increases and the low purchasing power of commercial and residential consumers, has resulted in a highly variable supply of gas to Tajikistan.

In December 2009, Tajikistan imported 17-18 million m<sup>3</sup> of gas, which was 62% below the December 2008 level. Almost all of the gas imported from Uzbekistan is supplied to industrial companies; only 5-6% goes to households. Tajiktransgas must pre-pay 700-800,000 USD to the Uzbek national gas company Uztransgas every 10 days against future consumption, which puts pressure on commercial users who are facing liquidity issues. Already in January 2010, gas imports were reduced by 30%, as Tajikistan was unable to fully pre-pay for the desired imports. This could negatively affect some of Tajikistan’s largest companies, such as TALCO, the “Tajikcement” state enterprise, and the Dushanbe CHPP. With reduced gas supplies, they may be unable to operate at full capacity.

<sup>6</sup> Source: Shoimov Sh., First Deputy Director of State Unitary Enterprise “Tajiktransgas”

Tajiktransgas has already negotiated with the Uzbek national company Uztransgas for the import of 250 million m<sup>3</sup> of gas in 2010. Per each 1000 m<sup>3</sup> Tajikistan now pays 231 USD, which is 9 USD (4%) less than paid in 2009.

### 2.5 Energy outlook

#### Short-term risks:

As the weather was unusually warm in January and is predicted to be even warmer in February 2010 (up to 15-20 °C), the risk of a severe energy crisis can be ruled out. However, if the temperature falls below zero for several consecutive days, this could entail faster-than-expected declines in water at the Nurek reservoir and thus sharper constraints on electricity generation. In such circumstances, energy insecurities could intensify.

Fluctuations in Tajikistan's energy balance reflect the fact that operative planning of many HEPS remains unreliable, mainly due to a lack of precise data on actual water volume of Nurek reservoir. The utilizable volume of the reservoir is designed to be 4.5 million m<sup>3</sup>. However, over the years, sedimentation may have reduced Nurek's actual volume to 3.5m<sup>3</sup>. This difference is equivalent to about 1 billion kWh of electricity, which needs to be considered for strategic planning of power generation and distribution.

In addition, the medium- to long-term risk of energy crises remains the same as in previous months. (*Ref. Risk Monitoring and Warning report, December 2009*)

## III. FOOD SECURITY

### 3.1 Food and Fuel prices<sup>7</sup>

As Table #2 suggests, in December 2009 prices for some main staple foods such as rice, cotton oil and potatoes have increased, while prices for most other commodities remained stable. The price for cotton oil increased by 3-10% in central markets of Dushanbe, Gharm and Kurgan-Tyube. The price for rice rose by 10-14% in Gharm and Khorog. The price for potatoes increased by 20-28% in Dushanbe, Khorog and Kurgan-Tyube.

The price for petrol decreased by 3-8% in Kurgan-Tyube and Dushanbe, whereas diesel prices on local markets in Dushanbe and Khujand increased by 3-8% compared to the previous month.

The price for wheat flour on local markets decreased owing to a good harvest and a 59% increase in wheat imports in 2009 over 2008. Increased wheat imports were partly attributable to good harvests and favorable import prices in Kazakhstan, the main source of wheat imports. In December the price for imported wheat dropped by 38% on year-to-year comparison.

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<sup>7</sup> Food and Fuel prices were obtained from WFP Food Security Weekly Market Monitoring, Tajikistan

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Table #2 Percent Change in Food and Fuel Prices in December 2009

Commodity	Dushanbe	Gharm	Khorog	Khujand	Kurgan-Tyube
Rice	-7.69	10.00	14.29	0.00	0.00
Wheat Flour 1st grade	-5.26	-5.26	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vegetable Oil	7.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cotton oil	3.33	3.77	0.00	0.00	10.00
Beef	5.88	6.25	0.00	0.00	0.00
Potatoes	28.57	0.00	25.00	0.00	20.00
Pulses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Milk	6.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Eggs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Petrol	-7.90	0.00	0.00	3.00	-2.80
Diesel	3.40	0.00	0.00	8.30	-12.50

Decreasing prices for wheat flour and potatoes in September - November 2009 can be explained by a better harvest in 2009. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, for the first time Tajikistan produced 1,259,000 tons of grain, 90% of which consists of wheat. This is 175% (!) more than was collected in 2008. A total 215,656 tons of potatoes were collected in 2009, which exceeds the previous year's figure by 9%.

Although prices in winter normally rise, households benefiting from a good harvest should be able to compensate for this price increase. Likewise, the increased availability of food in local markets should help stabilize prices until the next harvest. It is also important to note that food prices still remain much higher than before the food crisis in 2007, while the purchasing power of households remains similar to 2007.

Table #3 Percent change in food and fuel prices from June 2007 (pre-food-crisis period) to December 2009

Commodity	Dushanbe	Gharm	Khorog	Khujand	Kurgan-Tyube
Rice	50.00	37.50	166.67	100.00	37.50
Wheat Flour 1st grade	38.46	50.00	5.00	80.00	58.33
Vegetable Oil	525.00	500.00	650.00	850.00	788.89
Cotton oil	55.00	51.72	150.00	85.71	37.50
Beef	38.46	41.67	30.00	45.45	41.67
Potatoes	80.00	-11.11	-10.71	94.81	38.46
Pulses	33.33	50.00	140.00	80.00	32.91
Milk	94.44	100.00	300.00	86.57	33.33
Eggs	40.00	100.00	33.33	85.71	50.00
Petrol	52.17	73.91	35.71	51.79	52.17
Diesel	36.36	30.77	36.00	36.84	27.27

### 3.2 Food Security outlook<sup>8</sup>

The food security situation has improved since the peak of the crisis in May, as many indicators show. However, chronic food insecurity remains unchanged since October 2008. The level of **severe food insecurity** in the country remains at around 9% of the

<sup>8</sup> Source: WFP Food Security Bulletin, September 2009, Tajikistan



rural population. The situation has not deteriorated since July 2009, mainly due to a good harvest of wheat and vegetables and to assistance provided to households affected by heavy rains, late frosts and high food prices/economic crisis in certain areas.

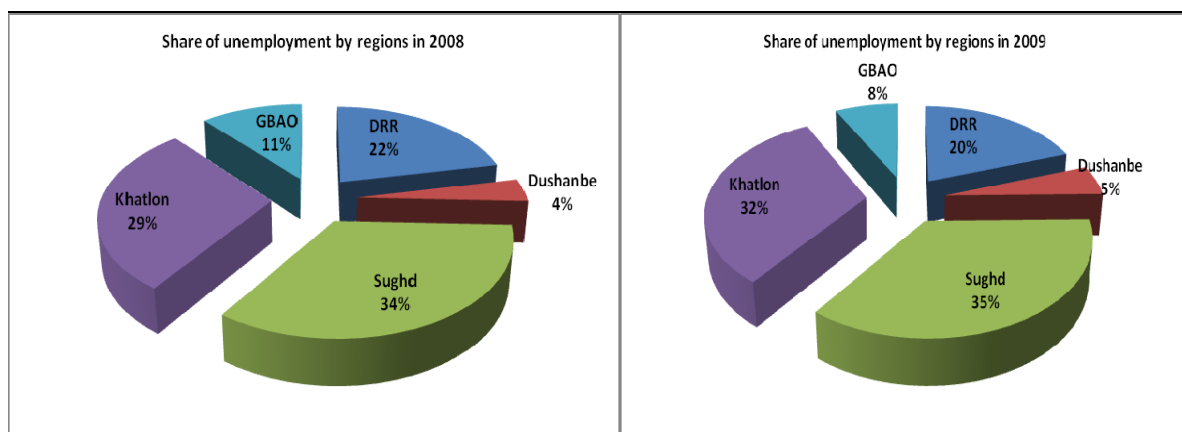
**Moderate food insecurity** also stands at levels similar to July 2009. The lack of reduction in moderate food insecurity at a time when better physical access to food should allow households to be more food secure is mainly due to external shocks (such as the global financial crisis) and local shocks (such as natural disasters). These create pockets of severe food insecurity due to decreases in remittances and lack of employment opportunities. Sughd and Khatlon are the most food insecure zones, due to economic shocks (especially the loss of employment and decrease in remittances).

**The outlook for the next three months is uncertain.** The good harvest and favorable weather conditions provide households who have land and livestock with good stocks and assets to get through the winter. But households normally dependent on remittances, begging and borrowing for food will continue to be in need of assistance. The food price and economic crisis still threaten the fragile progress made by some households that have managed to improve their livelihoods.

**3.3 Unemployment**

Unemployment data from the State Statistical Committee of Tajikistan shows that the number of officially registered unemployed people in December 2009 rose by 7% compared to 2008. The highest rates of unemployment are observed in Sughd (35%) and Khatlon (32%) provinces, where 65% of the country’s population resides. The data in Graph 4 below demonstrate how the share of unemployment by province has changed over a year.

*Graph#3 Share of unemployment by regions in 2008 and 2009*



The share of unemployment has grown by 3% in Khatlon and 1% in Sughd, whereas in GBAO it has decreased by 3% and in DRD by 2%.

During autumn and winter, seasonal labor migrants traditionally return home after working abroad, temporarily increasing unemployment figures. However, due to the impact of the financial crisis, with more people returning to Tajikistan, in 2009 unemployment increased by 7% compared to 2008.

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In 2009 the number of unemployed citizens in the capital Dushanbe grew by 32%. Also, a growth of unemployment, respectively by 11 and 19%, was observed in Sughd and Khatlon. In GBAO, unemployment decreased by 29%.

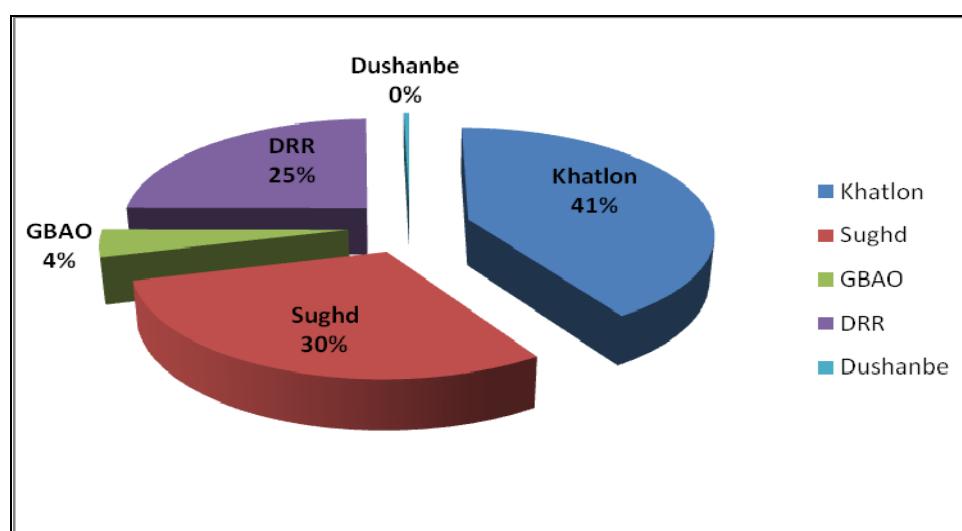
Returning migrants and the absence of real incomes further exacerbate the risks of food and health insecurities in the affected provinces and may create tensions on the labor market.

Pensions and government salaries are playing a central role in the total income of rural households. Delays and difficulties in receiving pensions have been noticed by key informants and will have a severe effect on households' ability to afford the basic food basket. The Ministry of Labor and Social Protection reports that the total public sector arrears for wages and pensions reached 75 million TJS (17.2 million USD) in December 2009, compared to only 21 million TJS in December 2008.<sup>9</sup> Of this total 25 million TJS (5.7 million USD) was for wages and 49.9 million TJS (11.4 million USD) was for pensions. The problem seems particularly acute in Khatlon and Sughd, mostly among the elderly, where pensions accounted for 67% of total arrears. This increase is mainly due to the global financial crisis. The demand for Tajikistan's industrial output on the world market has decreased, thus decreasing the volume of industrial output and tax revenues, including social taxes.

*Table #4 Governmental Debt to households for pensions and wages at the end of December 2009 (in million TJS)*

	Khatlon	Sughd	GBAO	DRD	Dushanbe	Total
<b>Wages</b>	7.4	4.7	0.2	9.4	0	21.7
<b>Pension</b>	10	9.2	0.1	0	0	19.2
<b>Total</b>	30.7	22.5	3.1	18.4	0.3	75

*Graph #4 Governmental arrears to households for pensions and wages by regions*



<sup>9</sup> Source: State Statistical Committee of Tajikistan.

As Khatlon and Sughd provinces also report the highest unemployment rates, household incomes and purchasing power in these regions seem likely to remain depressed this winter, contributing to food and health insecurity.

Household expenditures have shown some changes mainly due to seasonal factors, but also to the economic and high food price crisis. In the coming months, due to the higher electricity tariffs, food insecure households, who spend most of their income on food, will have to revise their expenditures accordingly.<sup>10</sup> Although the Government is planning to spend 1.06 billion TJS (0.2 billion US dollars or 16% of state budget) on social protection, the effectiveness of its social protection policies remain in question.

#### IV. MACROECONOMIC TRENDS <sup>11</sup>

The State Statistical Committee of Tajikistan reports that in 2009, the GDP of the country was around 4.7 billion USD, a 3.4% increase compared to 2008. While industrial production decreased by 6.3% in 2009 owing to the global financial crisis, the increase of the GDP can be explained by an increase in agricultural production by 10.5% and transportation (cargo services) by 22.5%.

Total spending continues to exceed GDP, which is a worrying trend. In September, spending exceeded GDP by some 27%; the gap being 33% in October and 34% in November. In December 2009, it narrowed to 22.4%,<sup>12</sup> mainly due to a 62% monthly increase in cotton exports.

Undoubtedly, the high total spending of the country should cause inflation and devalue the national currency. However, with the National Bank's currency regulation policy and the inflow of remittances through unofficial channels (friends and relatives), it is difficult to analyze the situation and explain the currency stabilization observed.

In the medium term, due to decreasing migrants' remittances and no adequate stimulus for industrial development or export, the national economy will lack drivers of growth. Besides, support from international financial institutions is mainly directed toward social expenditures, rather than development; thus, the situation of the national economy may deteriorate further.

Tajikistan's external trade amounted to 3.5 billion USD in 2009, which is 22.8% less than in 2008. In December 2009, the external trade balance was negative, with 147% more import than export. However increased borrowing from the IMF, China, and others helped offset the impact of the big decline in remittances on Tajikistan's external balance

The global financial crisis and the price drop for aluminum on the world market has negatively affected Tajikistan's main industrial company, TALCO. In 2009 the total volume of exported aluminum decreased by 12.8%. Owing to the decrease in

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<sup>10</sup> Electricity rates in Tajikistan are usually increased twice a year – on 01 January and on 01 May. The last increase occurred in January 2009 (25% for all consumers except for TALCO). In May 2009, tariffs were to be increased by another 15%. However, due to the impact of the global financial crisis, the authorities decided to postpone this increase.

<sup>11</sup> Source: State Statistical Committee of Tajikistan

<sup>12</sup> Annual growth of spending over the GDP: in 2004 – 11.9%, in 2005 – 13.8%, in 2006 – 14.6%, in 2007 – 18.4%, in 2008 -26.6%)

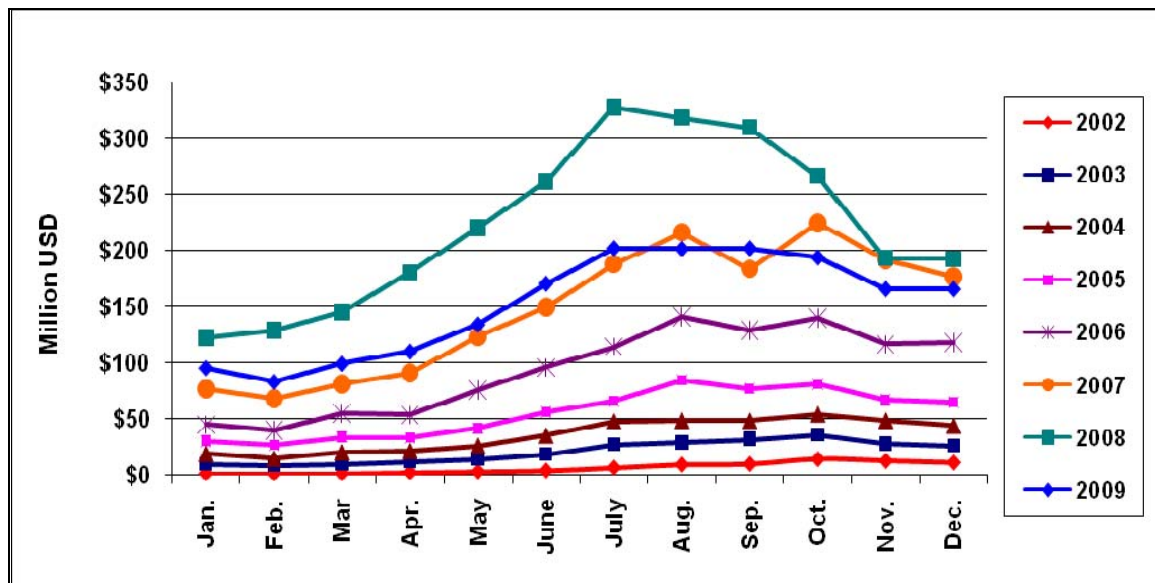
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production, coupled with the price drop for aluminum on the world market, TALCO's income in 2009 has decreased by 27.8% compared to 2008. On the other hand, similar price declines for key imports played a helpful role. For example, imported wheat prices dropped by 24% in 2009 compared to 2008.

### 4.1 Remittances

The volume of remittances received by Tajikistan in 2009 was 1.8 billion USD, which is 31% less than in 2008. In December 2009, Tajikistan received slightly over 166 million USD, a 14% drop in year-to-year terms.

*Graph #5 Remittances to Tajikistan for the Period 2002 – 2009 (in million USD)*



Traditionally, in the autumn-winter period labor migrants temporarily return home and bring remittances with them rather than transferring them through banks. However, according to the WFP Food Security Monitoring Survey, the contribution of remittances to household incomes has diminished. Among the surveyed households, remittances represented 20% of main income. 47% of those surveyed reported receiving fewer remittances since January 2009, thus reducing expenditures on food and health. In general, 70% of the total number of families who reported receiving remittances as their main and secondary sources of income reported receiving less than before.<sup>13</sup>

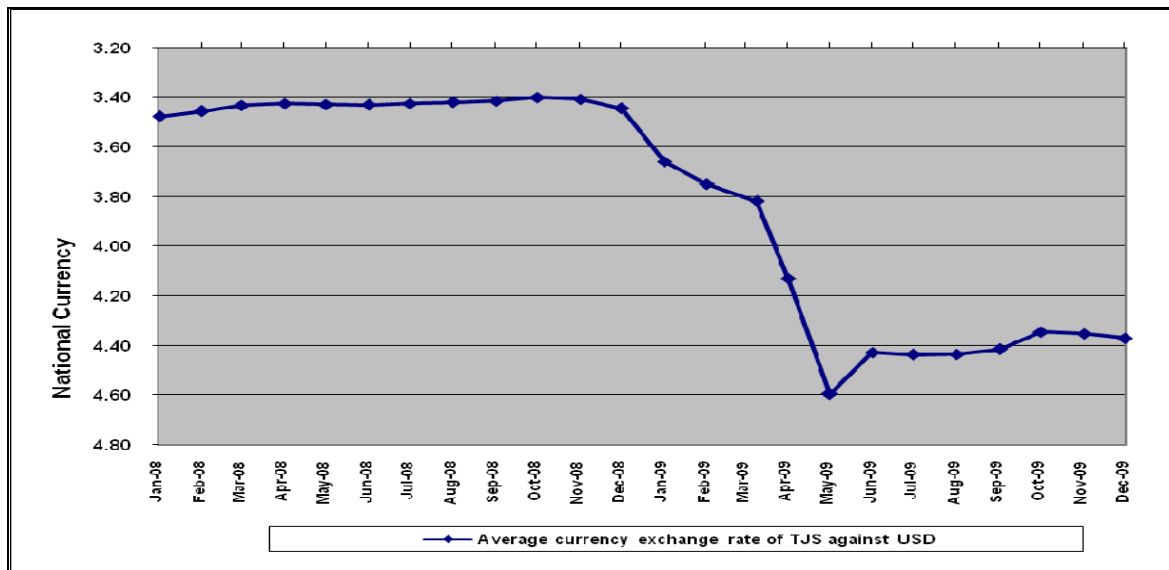
### 4.2 Exchange Rates<sup>14</sup>

The negative influence of the global financial crisis on the national economy has been continuous, as it reduced many macroeconomic aggregates. This mainly took the form of a 31% decrease in remittances and a 6.3% drop of the index of industrial output (mainly in aluminum production) compared to 2008. In December 2009, the average exchange rate per 1 USD was 4.38-4.40 TJS, which represents a 27% depreciation compared to December 2008, and a 19% depreciation from the beginning of the year.

<sup>13</sup> Source: WFP Food Security Monitoring Survey, September 2009, Tajikistan

<sup>14</sup> Source: National Bank of Tajikistan

Graph # 6 Exchange rate against USD for Jan.2008-Dec.2009



In December 2009, Government launched a national campaign to sell shares to finance construction of the Roghun HEPS. These share purchases by households may decrease expenditures on food and other basic necessities.

The energy sector in Tajikistan is becoming the State’s main priority; both budget funds and household savings are expected to be increasingly directed towards the construction of hydro power stations. The international community is also supporting this sector: for example, the European Commission is allocating 60 million USD to finance the reconstruction of the Kayrakkum HEPS and the construction of several other small hydro-stations along the Surhob river. The Ministry of Energy and Industry has approved the Nurabad-1 HEPS project, with a generation capacity of 250 MW.

To improve the investment climate, the Government of Tajikistan is undertaking institutional reforms emphasizing trade facilitation and the automation of data transfer in export-import transactions. While such measures could help Tajikistan’s prospects for eventual accession to the World Trade Organization, they could also lead to increases in imports from neighboring countries (especially from China) that are not matched by export growth.

### 4.3 Inflation<sup>15</sup>

The overall Consumer Price Index rose by 5% in 2009 compared to 2008. Prices have increased by 2.3% for food items, 6.7% for non food items and 13.8% for services. Monthly inflation in 2009 was 0.4%. In December 2009, prices for food items decreased by 1 %, for non-food items by 0.4% and for services by 0.1%. Growth in consumer prices is driven mainly by increasing tariffs on services, such as gas and electricity. As mentioned above, in January 2010 electricity tariffs increased by 20% for residential consumers and by 25% for other consumers.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

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In January, due to an increase in electricity tariffs, prices overall are expected to increase by only 0.45%, while service prices could rise by up to 4.5%. These pressures could further impact negatively on food prices, thus increasing the threat of food and health insecurity.

### V. HEALTH<sup>16</sup>

#### Updates on H1N1

In December 2009, 11 pregnant women who died in Tajikistan were found to have had influenza; laboratory tests confirmed seven of the women had H1N1 type influenza. In all cases, the women had waited more than seven days to seek medical treatment; several had other medical problems.

This underscores how pregnant women and patients with chronic diseases are more susceptible to serious complications from influenza, including H1N1. Early detection and treatment are the most effective measures to stop the trend of impact of the disease and reduce excess morbidity and mortality. The overall number of those affected by influenza is unknown, and testing is only being done to monitor trends and in specific cases. The current focus should be on proper hygiene to limit the spread of the disease; those with symptoms should seek medical care as appropriate, within the first few days for pregnant women. Treatment with Tamiflu is safe and effective; in pregnancy as well.

*(The rapidly evolving influenza situation is also covered in periodic reports issued by the World Health Organization in Tajikistan.)*

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<sup>16</sup> Craig Hampton, Health Cluster Coordinator, Disaster Preparedness and Response, WHO Country Office, Tajikistan

## Tajikistan Monthly Risk Monitoring & Warning Report

*The aim of the Tajikistan Monthly Risk Monitoring Reports is to provide regular information and succinct analysis on the evolution of natural, economic, food-related, energy-related etc. risk factors in Tajikistan. Data and information in this report are provided by different sources and compiled by the RMWS Group of Experts and UN Agencies in Tajikistan. The United Nations in Tajikistan are not responsible for the quality of the data provided by external sources.*

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**Annex A: Localized Meteorological Forecast for February 2010**

**Khatlon and Districts of Regional Rule (DRD) (valleys)**

The monthly average temperature in Khatlon and DRD in February 2010 is forecasted to be 1 to 1.5 °C above the climatic norm. In the valleys, temperature is expected to be around 5-6 °C. Warm temperatures are expected almost throughout the month. During the second half of the month, the maximal temperatures in the valleys of Khatlon and DRD are expected to rise to 15-20 °C. The monthly amount of precipitation is expected to be 20-24% above the norm (the multiyear norm is 50-85 mm) in most parts of Khatlon and DRD provinces.

**Sughd**

In the valleys of Sughd province, the monthly average temperature in February 2010 is expected to rise above the norm by 1-3 °C, reaching about 3-4 °C, whereas in mountainous areas of the province temperatures will drop to 1 °C below the climatic norm (between -3 and -5 °C). During the second half of the month, temperatures may rise to 6-11°C.

The monthly amount of precipitation in the valleys of the province is expected to be above the norm by 38-68% (norm in the valleys: 13-15 mm), and 17% below the norm in the mountains (23 mm).

**Mountainous areas of DRD and Western GBAO**

In the mountainous areas of DRD and Western GBAO, the monthly average temperature in February 2010 is expected to rise to 1-2 °C above the norm, at -1 and -6°C.

The monthly amount of precipitation in the mountainous areas of DRD (such as Rasht, Jirgital and Tavildara) is expected to be above the norm by 25% (the norm in DRD is 80 mm), and 75% below the norm in Western GBAO (Khorog, Rushan, Darvoz) (norm: from 6 to 40 mm).

**Eastern GBAO**

In Eastern GBAO, the monthly average temperature in February 2010 is expected to be 2-3 °C above the climatic norm (-13 to -14°C), around -11 to -12 °C. Temperatures could drop to between -15 and -20 °C at night and -14 to -19 °C at day.

The monthly amount of precipitation in the valleys of the province is expected to be below the norm by 50% (norm is 5-10 mm).

**Note:** As this forecast bears a preliminary character, a more detailed analysis will be published every 10 days in February 2010 by the State Hydro Meteorological Agency of Tajikistan.