

COVID – 19

Tajikistan Situation Report # 3

17 April 2020



UNITED NATIONS
TAJIKISTAN



COVID-19
RESPONSE

This report is produced by the Office of UN Resident Coordinator and OCHA HAT in collaboration with international partners. It covers the period of April 11 – 17, 2020. The next report will be issued on or around April 24, 2020.

As of 17 April 2020 - no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Tajikistan.

0

Confirmed cases of COVID 19

2,262

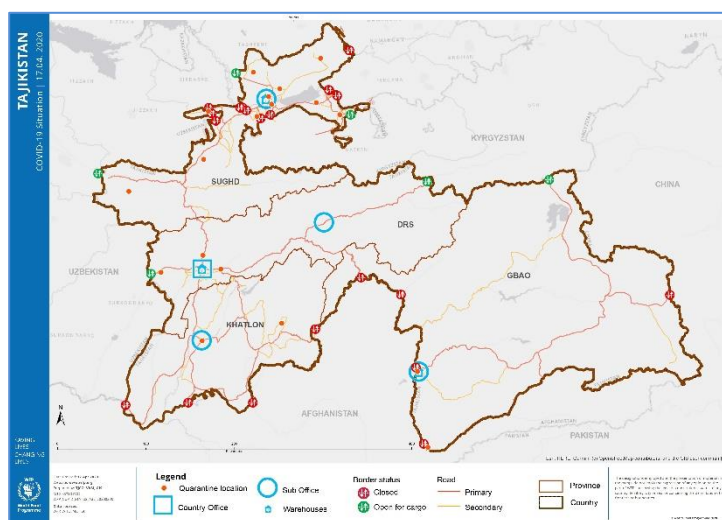
Specimen tested (negative) – as of April 14, 2020

1,533

People in quarantine across Tajikistan, as of April 17, 2020

Tajikistan situation overview

- Dushanbe Administration has cancelled all sports and cultural activities on the occasion of City Day (18 April 2020) for the purpose of preventing the spread of the COVID-19 and protecting public health.
- The Council of Ulema (Tajikistan's highest Islamic institution) advised mosques to suspend mass gatherings as of 18 April, including Friday prayers and Tarawih prayers during the month of Ramadan to prevent the spread of the COVID-19.
- All public services (markets, public transport, banks and etc.) across the country, including all education facilities are functioning in regular mode. Authorities report that appropriate disinfection works are being undertaken regularly in all the public facilities.
- Airports remain closed (up to 30 April 2020), while railway routes remain open for cargo. Additional charter flights are being considered by Government to Germany, Turkey and Russia.
- The Chinese – Tajik border was opened for humanitarian aid (especially cargo related to COVID19). Discussions on opening of border for commercial cargo are on-going among relevant authorities.
- Kazakhstan imposed a ban on the transit of foreign citizens and trucks through its territory, including those going to Tajikistan. Railway routes remain open for transit.
- Border crossing points Afghanistan remain closed, while 3 border crossing points with Uzbekistan and another 3 with Kyrgyzstan are open for international cargo. International trucks are unloaded in the terminal zone and goods are loaded onto local trucks. Drivers who enter Tajikistan are placed in 14-day quarantine in districts hospitals.
- Staple food commodities are reportedly available in all Tajik markets during the reporting week.
- Price increase was observed for wheat flour (4-9 percent), cotton oil (2-9 percent), carrots (18-36 percent) and onion (6-11 percent) in several markets, and potato (20-46 percent) in all the markets during the reporting week compared to the previous week. Prices continue to fluctuate in all five markets during the week and remained high against monthly averages of March 2020 and March 2019. More detailed can be found in Annex 1 - Tajikistan Weekly Market Situation Update.
- In Gharm market retailers reported an increased purchase on credit by clients which comprises of 15-20 percent from the total weekly purchases.
- Status of food commodities: WFP Safety Nets Alert Platform: <https://snap.vam.wfp.org/index1.php>



Click on map to access Online Platform

Decisions and measures undertaken by the Government

- On 16 April 2020, Government of Tajikistan held an extraordinary and operational meeting, chaired by the President of Tajikistan. Meeting discussed the risk of COVID-19 spread and socio-economic implications of the

pandemic. Responsible bodies were tasked on different actions, which related to general awareness raising of population, avoiding of artificial increase of prices in the local markets, food security situation and others.

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced extension of the visa validity and registration of foreign citizens and stateless persons who are temporarily in the Republic of Tajikistan due to the pandemic of the COVID-19 until stabilization of the epidemiological situation

Response

- On April 14, 2020 the EU announced about additional €48 million for Tajikistan for prevention and preparedness to face an eventual health crisis and resulting humanitarian needs, strengthening health, water and sanitation systems and mitigating the socioeconomic impact. The main areas of support will remain the ones in which the EU is already operating, strengthening of the health and education sectors, supporting SMEs especially in rural areas, improving the use of water with an additional focus on WASH.
- Kazakhstan provided 5,000 MT of Wheat Flour to Tajikistan to provide economic support to the country's neighbour amid the fight against the pandemic.
- The **overview of the assistance provided by International Partners** (including bi-lateral assistance) prepared by DCC Working Group on Health can be found at: <https://untj.org/dcc/covid-19/>

Needs

- The Ministry of Health and Social Protection appealed to the United Nation in Tajikistan with the request for assistance in obtaining the medical supplies in line with its COVID-19 Country Preparedness and Response Plan. Request included a comprehensive list of the most prioritized medical supplies, which was prepared with the support of WHO in Tajikistan.
- Number of rapid sectoral analysis are on-going to assess the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on different sectors and group, including the most emerging and longer-term needs.

Coordination arrangements

- The Inter-Agency Standing Committee on COVID-19 preparedness and response (Standing Committee) chaired by the Prime Minister continues to lead and coordinate state COVID-19 operation. Similar Standing Committees have been established at all administrative levels by local authorities, as well as within all Ministries and Agencies.
- MoHSP is the central operational body within the Government and Standing Committee, responsible for coordination and liaison with the international partners.
- Overall coordination of development partners in Tajikistan on COVID-19 preparedness and response is undertaken by the UN Resident Coordinator with the technical guidance of WHO, in frames of the COVID 19 Response Group.
- Coordination of Risk Communication and Community Engagement on COVID 19 in Tajikistan is led by MoHSP supported by UNICEF with active participation of Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan and other partners.

Communication and information sharing:

- To contribute to regular Situation Reports and to be included in the mailing lists, please contact: **Shahlo Rahimova, OCHA NDRA @ +992939999451; rahimova@un.org**
- For any urgent information related to COVID-19 (situation, needs, response etc.), please contact: **Dr.Safarov Abdulakhad, NPO WHO @ +992 98 515 23 32; safarova@who.int**