

COVID – 19

Tajikistan Situation Report # 4

27 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 17 – 27, 2020. The next report will be issued on or around May 4, 2020, 2020.

As of 27 April 2020 – no laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Tajikistan.

0

Laboratory Confirmed cases of
COVID 19

3,310

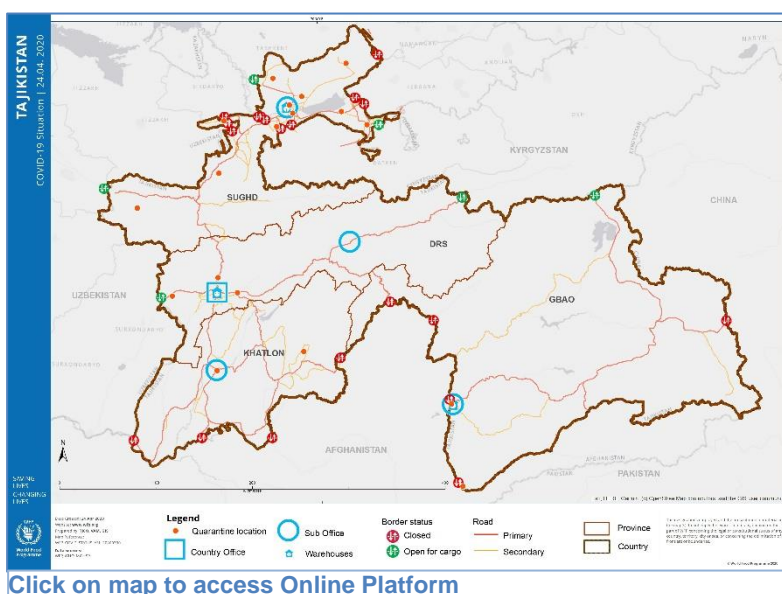
Specimen tested (negative)
as of April 23, 2020

2,144

People in quarantine across Tajikistan
as of April 26, 2020

Tajikistan situation overview

- All kindergartens and schools will be closed for an unscheduled vacation between 27 April and 10 May, 2020.
- All public events, including sports events, public meetings, cinema showings and theatre performances, have been temporarily banned throughout the country.
- Other public services (markets, public transport, banks and etc.) across the country are functioning in regular mode.
- Authorities of major cities, including Dushanbe and Khujand carry out the mass disinfection of the streets, bus stops, park benches and apartment blocks with chlorine. The work is mainly conducted during the evening and night.
- An increased public concern is observed linked to significant media attention on a number of recent pneumonia deaths in Tajikistan, sometimes accompanied by disturbing measures like burial at an undisclosed location or with a closed coffin and the quarantining of family members of the deceased.
- WHO expert mission to Tajikistan is being negotiated with the Government of Tajikistan, although dates are still not confirmed due to existing travel limitations.
- Airports remain closed, while railway routes remain open for cargo. Additional charter flights are being considered by Government to Germany, Turkey and Russia.
- The Chinese – Tajik border opened for humanitarian aid (especially cargo related to COVID19), while Tajik-Afghan border remain closed.
- Three border crossing points with Uzbekistan and another three 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 were available in all monitored markets during the reporting period.
- Price increases were observed for wheat flour (2 percent), vegetable oil (7percent), carrots (18 percent) and onions (11 percent) in some markets, and potatoes (7-68 percent) in all monitored markets during the reporting week compared to the previous week. Prices continued to fluctuate in the five monitored markets during the week and remained high against monthly averages of March 2020 and March 2019.
- In Khorog market, retailers reported that price control policies pursued by the government authorities leaves them with no choice but to decrease the supply of wheat flour to the market. During this reporting week, shortages were not observed but it was reported that the quality of wheat flour and potatoes currently available in the market is of lower quality when compared to the supplies of these commodities during previous weeks. More details can be found in Annex 1 - Tajikistan Weekly Market Situation Update.
- Status of food commodities: WFP Safety Nets Alert Platform: <https://snap.vam.wfp.org/index1.php>



Decisions and measures undertaken by the Government

- On 25 April 2020, Inter-Agency Standing Committee on COVID – 19 chaired by the Prime-Minister of Republic of Tajikistan decided to declare a break for schools from April 27 through May 10 in pre-school institutions, secondary schools and to ban the export of all cereals and legumes, such as flour, wheat, rice, lentils, peas, mung, poultry eggs, potatoes, and all types of meat as of April 25, 2020.

Response

- UNICEF along with number of partners, including Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, UNFPA and others continue its support in ensuring Risk Communication and Community Engagement. UNICEF has developed a set of messages and content ideas on COVID 19 together with 35 media agencies to go into production. RCST has reached over 60,000 community members and schoolchildren in 32 target areas of Tajikistan on COVID-19 prevention. UNFPA supports risk communication and community engagement campaigns on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) in the context of COVID-19 and capacity building to relevant authorities on psycho-social services and integration of guidance on COVID and Gender and GBV prevention.
- German Red Cross funded by the German Federal Foreign Office has launched regional project on COVID – 19 preparedness and response, which targets provision of hygiene and food parcels to 800 vulnerable families as well as 16 quarantine zones in Tajikistan. In later stage, project targets to assist 2000 families with multi-purpose cash/voucher assistance.
- Welthungerhilfe Tajikistan will support communities of Zeravshan and Rasht valley in improving handwashing systems in schools and medical points.
- 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 Nations 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. The full list can be found in Annex 2.
- Number of rapid sectoral analysis are on-going to assess the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on different sectors and groups, including the most important 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.
- 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.
- Ms. Shirin Ismatullozoda, the Deputy Prime Minister has been appointed to lead the coordination of Risk Communication and Community Engagement on COVID 19 in Tajikistan and supported by MoHSP and 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**