

# COVID – 19 Tajikistan Situation Report # 5 4 May 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 28 April - 4 May 2020. The next report will be issued on or around May 11, 2020.

- Government reported first laboratory confirmed COVID – 19 cases in Tajikistan.
- On May 1, 2020 WHO mission arrived in Tajikistan to support the Government in strengthening COVID-19 response operation.
- Lack of confidence in the COVID – 19 related data provided by the authorities is a major public concern.

230

Confirmed cases of COVID 19

3

Deaths

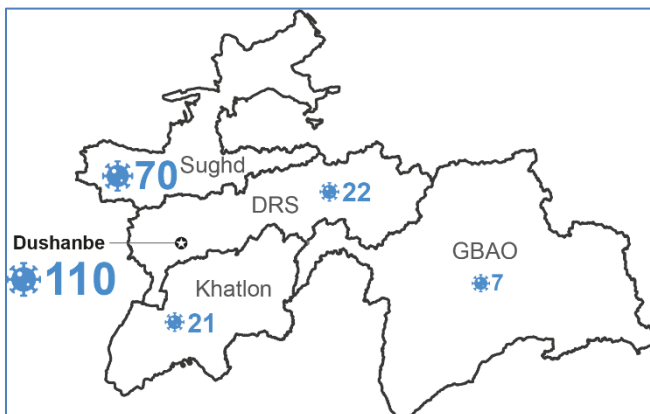
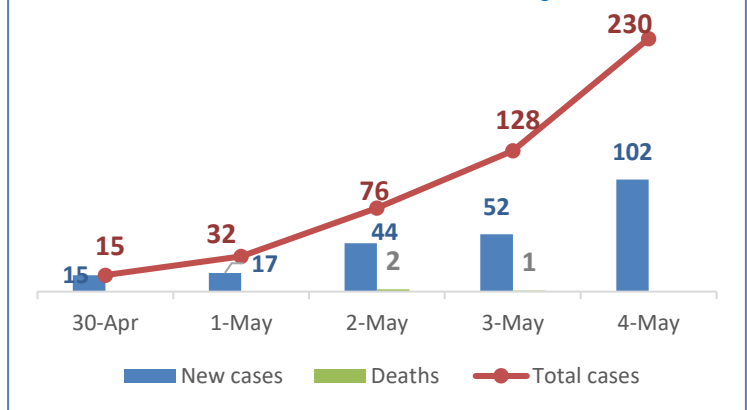
3,028

Patients admitted to hospitals

## Tajikistan situation overview

- Government of Tajikistan announced first 15 cases of laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 on 30 April 30, 2020.
- By 16.30 of 4 May, 2020, a total of 230 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 3 deaths have been announced by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoSHP).
- Another 3028 patients are admitted to hospitals throughout the country and remain under supervision of medical staff.
- WHO mission comprising of public health experts and epidemiologists arrived in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on 1 May 2020. The mission has been invited at the request of the Government to support the Tajik authorities in managing the response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The mission will meet high-level officials, public health counterparts in Dushanbe and regions, civil society and media to assess the risks and assist in strengthening response mechanisms.
- Major public concerns are observed through various social media outlets (e.g; Facebook, Instagram and etc) about large number of pneumonia caused deaths, heavily overstretched hospitals, patients being refused to be admitted to hospitals and released from hospitals prior to full recovery, drastic lack of PPE for medical staff, as well as shortage of medicines in the drugstores.

### COVID-19 cases in Tajikistan



Map sources: MoHSP, OCHA, UNCS. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created on 4 May 2020.

- All secondary schools, kindergartens, non-food markets and trade centers are closed until 10 May 2020. University students, except for graduates have been released for summer vacations as of 4 May 2020 and graduating students will be released on 15 May 2020. Other public services (food markets, public transport, banks and etc.) are functioning in regular mode. Public events, including sports events, public meetings, cinema showings and theatre performances, have been temporarily banned throughout the country.
- Although, there was no formal declaration of “lockdown” or “quarantine” measures, Government has launched a “door to door” communication campaign (involving staff of different civil services) advising population to self-isolate to the extent possible. Mass disinfection of the streets, bus stops,

park benches and apartment blocks with chlorine are on-going in major cities, including Dushanbe, Khujand, Bokhtar and others.

- Airports remain closed, while railway routes remain open for cargo. No changes on status of borders.
- Staple food commodities were available in all monitored markets during the reporting week.
- Prices have been moderated across the country, with some commodities prices increasing, such as cotton oil (5 percent), carrots (20 percent) and potatoes (6-14 percent), while onions prices decreased (20-40 percent) in some monitored markets during the reporting week compared to the previous week. This week's prices remained high against monthly averages of March 2020 and March 2019. 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>
- As reported previously numbers of migrants travelling to the Russian Federation for work have been stranded in Russian Federation unable to return, due to airport closures and travel restrictions. Although, Tajik diasporas in Russia rapidly reacted to this dire situation by providing housing, access to information and health services however their action can't cover all the needs.

## Decisions and measures undertaken by the Government

- On 30 April 2020 the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on COVID-19 chaired by the Prime-Minister of Republic of Tajikistan was informed about the first confirmed cases of COVID-19 and decided on an early release of University students for summer vacation. Also, all residents of the country are obliged to wear face-masks.
- On 1 May 2020, the President of Tajikistan has allocated 12.4 million somoni from the Presidential Reserve to supplement the salaries of health and social protection workers directly involved in COVID-19 response for three months.
- On 2 May 2020, Dushanbe Mayor has instructed the Health Department and other relevant city structures to prepare temporary hospitals with more than 3,000 beds for the treatment of COVID-19 infected patients.
- In the meantime, on 4 May 2020, Dushanbe Mayor visited one of the hospitals already under construction (at a completion stage), which intended to host COVID-19 infected patients. He instructed to complete the furnishing and equipment in 3 days. The hospital is expected to host 600 patients.
- Following President's action on donation of his monthly salary to the COVID – 19 Response Fund, senior staff of number of Ministries and Agencies donated part of their salaries to the same fund.

## Response

**Budgetary support** - On 13 April 2020, the IMF's Executive Board approved immediate debt service relief to 25 of the IMF's member countries, including Tajikistan, under the IMF's revamped Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust (CCRT) as part of the Fund's response to help address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Healthcare and medical supply** - The overview of assistance provided by International Partners (including bilateral assistance) prepared by DCC Working Group on Health can be found at: <https://untj.org/dcc/covid-19/>.

**Voluntary groups** – Volunteers and activists in Khujand have organized a collection of donations and provision of PPEs to medical staff along with ready meals to the hospitals most in need in Khujand and surrounding cities.

**Communication** - UNICEF along with a number of partners, including Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, UNFPA and others continue its support in ensuring Risk Communication and Community Engagement.

**Education** – UNICEF supported training of teachers and production of model TV lessons as part of the National Education Response Plan (NERP).

**Labor migration** - IOM supports the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan in finalizing an “Anti-crisis plan to address the impact of the Covid-19 in the labor market and migration”. It aims at covering labor migration and assistance to returned migrant, and at regulating labor relations (employment, unemployment and labor protection).

**Nutrition** - UNICEF supports the National Scaling- Up Nutrition Coordination committee to prepare the nutrition response plan in COVID-19 context.

**Social Protection** – UNICEF provides technical support to the MoHSP on finalization of its “COVID-19 Social Protection Preparedness and Response Plan”.

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## Needs

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- The Government of Tajikistan appealed to the Development Partners with the request to provide 2,500 pcs of lung ventilators.
- A 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

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- 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. Similarly 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:

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- To contribute to regular Situation Reports and to be included in the mailing lists, please contact: **Shahlo Rahimova, OCHA NDRA @ +992939999451; [rahimova@un.org](mailto: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](mailto:safarova@who.int)**
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