

COVID – 19 Tajikistan Situation Report # 7 18 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 12 – 17 May 2020. The next report will be issued on or around May 25, 2020.

- Total confirmed cases of COVID-19 exceeds 1500 people.
- WHO COVID-19 Technical Mission presented recommendations on strengthening COVID-19 response operation in Tajikistan.

1729 (+ 1068)*

Confirmed cases of COVID 19

41(+21)*

Deaths

407

Recovered (during last 24 hours)

4016

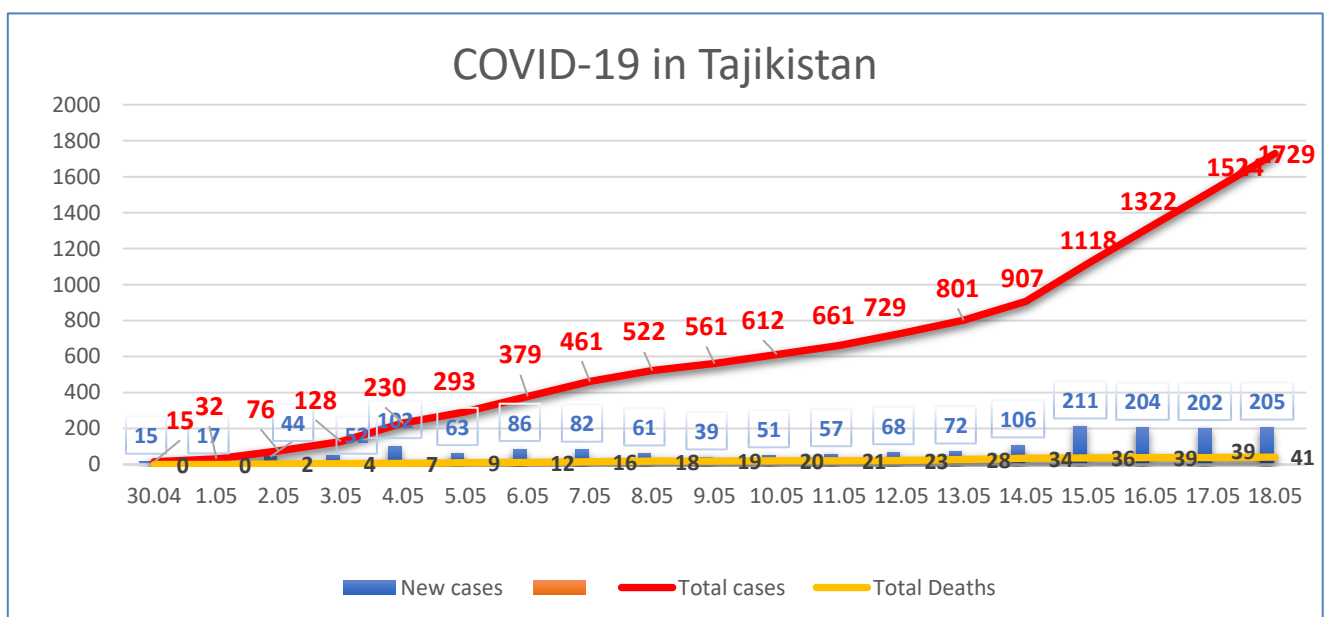
Patients are under medical supervision in hospitals

*new cases since May 11, 2020 (Situation Report # 6)

Data as of 18 May 2020 (17:30 local time), Ministry of Health and Social protection of the Population, Tajikistan

Tajikistan situation overview

- As of 17 May 2020 (17:30 local time) a total of 1729 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 41 deaths have been reported by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoHSP). On the same date MoHSP reported that 407 recovered patients during last 24 hours have been released from hospitals, while another 4016 patients remain in hospitals under medical supervision.



- WHO COVID-19 Technical Mission working in the country since May 1, confirmed that Tajikistan has entered a phase of community transmission and anticipated that case counts will continue to rise as the outbreak will evolve. Overview of the Mission activities, observations and recommendations have been presented to different groups, as well as to the general public through a Press Conference, which was held on 12 May 2020. The Press Statement of the Mission is provided in Annex 1.
- Although, there was no formal declaration of a “lockdown”, Dushanbe city authorities announced that around 512 000 citizens (out of total 863 000 people) are currently under quarantine measures. These include schoolchildren and students, employees of education facilities, employees and passengers of public transport (public transport decreased by 65%), as well as employees of civil services (decreased by 30%).

- On 15 May 2020, the Press Center of the MoHSP launched the Single National Information Portal on COVID-19: covid.tj. "covid.tj". The portal operates in Tajik and Russian and provides relevant information, including statistics, symptoms and prevention recommendations as well as hotline numbers.
- An Intellectual Medical Center has been established at MoHSP, where healthcare specialists from the regions can receive urgent on-line consultations on COVID-19 diagnosis and treatment from senior specialists of the Ministry, including resuscitators, pulmonologists, epidemiologists, and radiologists.
- Authorities of Sughd province introduced restriction for movement of private vehicles and public transport between districts and cities of the oblast. All travelers coming from Dushanbe to Khorog, GBAO are advised to stay at home for 14 days self-isolation.
- No changes have been reported on status of borders. Airports remain closed, while railway routes remain open for cargo. A number of charter flights occurred during the reporting period for repatriation of foreign citizens and for delivery of humanitarian aid.
- The lockdown in Russia and closure of the border led to sharp reduction in remittances. The President Emomali Rahmon declared that for the months of March and April 2020, remittances had decreased by 50%.
- Tajikistan citizens stranded in Russia are relying on individual compatriots, and families who transfer money from Tajikistan to Russia to cover their basic needs. Tajik civil society organizations wrote an official joint letter requesting the Tajikistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs to provide assistance to stranded migrants abroad.
- Staple food commodities were available in most monitored markets during the reporting week, though some concerning observations have been reported from regional markets:
 - Panjshanbe, the main food market in Khujand, was operational at half-capacity due to the pandemic with about 30 percent of retailers who sell staple commodities working;
 - In Khorog, GBAO, the situation with the food availability is improving due to intervention from Government, civil society and the community. In remote districts, however, the situation is less favorable due to the lean season and sharp decline in remittances, which has led to increased food purchases on credit with repayment delays, making it difficult for district retailers to deliver food to their local markets from Khorog central market.
 - In Bokhtar, it was reported that bakeries are no longer getting wheat flour on credit, which has forced them to manage all purchases with direct cash payment only while decreasing the size of bread produced.
- Prices remained high in comparison with April 2019, though this week's prices were the same or slightly lower against monthly averages of April 2020. More details can be found in Annex 2 - Tajikistan Weekly Market Situation Update.

Decisions and measures undertaken by the Government

- On 15 May 2020 the Committee on Religion, Regulation of Traditions, Celebrations and Ceremonies has issued a Procedure of safe handling of bodies of deceased persons infected by COVID-19.
- On 12 May 2020, Dushanbe Mayor's office has decided to temporarily close all beauty salons, barbershops, telephone sales outlets and car washes until May 31, 2020 in addition to the earlier closure of non-food markets and shopping malls.

Response

Bi – lateral assistance – Armed forces of the People's Republic of China delivered humanitarian aid to the National Army of Tajikistan. The aid consists of 13 items of medical equipment and supplies, the total amount of which is more than 2 million CNY (~ 280,000 USD).

Private donations – Private entrepreneurs and Tajikistan citizens continue to provide assistance directly or through charity funds to the health facilities throughout the country.

Private donations are also collected on the COVID-19 Fund accounts, which have been opened by the Central Treasury Department of the Ministry of Finance and the National Bank of Tajikistan. As of 14 May 2020, authorities report that overall 9,135,247 TJS (around 890 000 USD) and 35,247 USD have been donated to the account. All these funds will be spent on behalf of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee at the request of the MoHSP.

Healthcare and medical supply - The overview of 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/>.

On 17 May 2020, UNICEF delivered to Tajikistan first 12 MT of Personal Protective Equipment to be distributed to the healthcare institutions around the country. It is the first batch out of a total 64 MT of PPE, committed by

UNICEF in partnership with EU and SCO to be provided to the Government of Tajikistan, to be used in national healthcare facilities.

UNDP supported MoHSP in the establishment of Intellectual Medical Center through provision of necessary IT and Communication equipment. The Center is up and running since 16 May 2020.

Food security/Agriculture – UN FAO, with the support of European Union and Global Environmental Facility, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture imported 80 tons of high quality, elite varieties seed potatoes for distribution among small holder farmers cooperatives to strengthen the food security and production through increased yields and replenishment of country's seed stock.

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.

Needs

- While some of the urgent needs outlined in the Tajikistan COVID-19 Country Preparedness and Response Plan of MOHSP have been met, the need for medical supplies, especially medicines, consumable medical equipment and ventilators, remain acute.
- Tajik migrants stranded in Russia ask for support to cover the basic needs and housing, as well as reliable information and psychosocial support.
- Migrant families left without remittances are in need of livelihood support and/or agricultural inputs.
- 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

- 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 the frame of the COVID-19 Response Group.
- A Task Force to develop a monitoring system for delivery of humanitarian supplies is established under the leadership of UNICEF.
- 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**