This report is produced by the Office of UN Resident Coordinator and OCHA HAT in collaboration with international partners. It covers the period of 18 - 24 May 2020. The next report will be issued on or around June 1, 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>confirmed cases of COVID-19</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>total recovered from COVID-19</th>
<th>Patients are under medical supervision in hospitals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3100 (+ 1371)*</td>
<td>46(+5)*</td>
<td>1395</td>
<td>2773</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*new cases since May 18, 2020 (Situation Report # 7)

Data as of 25 May 2020 (19:00 local time). Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population, Tajikistan

Tajikistan situation overview

- As of 25 May 2020 (19:00 local time) a total of 3100 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 46 deaths have been reported by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoHSP). On the same date, MoHSP reported that in total 1395 patients have recovered from COVID-19, while another 2773 patients remain under medical supervision.

- On 20 May 2020, President and Prime Minister of Tajikistan accompanied by the Mayor of Dushanbe and a number of other officials inspected four temporary hospitals established through converting newly built state buildings into hospitals, as well as a mobile hospital. The mobile hospital was established on the stadium using 144 containers provided by the Government of Uzbekistan, along with other medical supplies to assist Tajikistan in COVID-19 response. Two temporary hospitals have ICUs and equipped with necessary medical equipment, including ventilators, and the mobile hospital is intended to be used as quarantine area and considered as contingency hospital.

- Group of doctors and experts form Uzbekistan, who were supporting Tajikistan healthcare staff in diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19, completed their mission and left the country on 21 May 2020. Meanwhile, on 24 May a group of medical experts from China's northwestern Shaanxi Province comprising of 14 experts and doctors arrived for nine days to share experience and train local doctors on identification, diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19.

- MoHSP has approved and launched protocols for treatment of COVID-19 patients at home.

- No mass prayer has been held on Eid-al-Fitr in the mosques on 24 May 2020. However, despite recommendations to avoid festive celebrations of Eid-al-Fitr, it is reported that food markets and shops were overcrowded, neglecting social distancing measures on the eve of Eid-al-Fitr.

- No changes have been reported on status of borders. Airports remain closed, while railway routes remain open for cargo. In efforts to implement a Plan of gradual and phased repatriation of Tajikistan citizens, a number of flights have been organized bringing citizens from Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine.

- As previously reported, large numbers of Tajikistan migrants in Russian Federation are significantly impacted by COVID-19 related measures imposed there, including having to pay fines despite a Presidential decree lifting
need of taxes and patent registration for migrant workers. Furthermore, it is reported that the anti-migrant sentiment is growing in Russia and contributes to difficult climate for stranded Tajik citizens.

- Staple food commodities were available in most monitored markets during the reporting week, though the variety and quantity of vegetables and fruits are reportedly limited. Observations include:
  - Due to increasing cases of COVID-19, only central markets are open and they operate on half-capacity to provide access to staple food for the population.
  - In three of the five monitored markets, to cover increased wheat flour prices, bakeries are reducing the supply and the size of regular bread and naan (locally made bread) without changing original prices.
  - Sale on credit is increasingly limited - in a small number of cases, retailers are selling food on credit to close friends and relatives only, while not accepting this for the general population due to the deteriorating economic situation.
  - 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 1 - Tajikistan Weekly Market Situation Update.

Decisions and measures undertaken by the Government

- On 20 May 2020, the Ulema Council of the Tajik Islamic Center determined the date of the holy holiday Eid al-Fitr and announced that no mass prayer will be held in the mosques.
- On 20 May 2020 President of Tajikistan had a meeting with the officials and healthcare workers. In his statement he mentioned measures undertaken by the Government in response to COVID-19 up to date. He also listed additional measures to be undertaken to eliminate existing shortcomings and to ensure prevention of further spreading the disease. Full statement in English can be found at: http://eng.khovar.tj/2020/05/president-emomali-rahmon-s-address-to-the-officials-and-healthcare-workers/.
- On 21 May 2020, and Inter-Agency Standing Committee on COVID-19 chaired by Prime Minister held a regular meeting, where MoHSP was instructed to improve the level and quality of services provided by healthcare facilities, as well as to tighten supervision over distribution of required PPE and medicines.

Response

**Bi-lateral assistance** – on 24 May 2020, a third batch of medical aid provided by Government of China arrived to Tajikistan. The aid included testing kits, personal protective equipment and ventilators that totaled 9.3 tons.

**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/.

Most recent deliveries/activities include the following:

- On 21 May 2020, UNICEF delivered to Tajikistan a second batch of Personal Protective Equipment from China that totaled 11.7 MT. Storing, distribution and monitoring of the delivered supplies will be undertaken by the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) in close coordination with the MoHSP. The first batch of the supplies (delivered on 17 May 2020) has been distributed across six COVID-19 designated hospitals in Dushanbe.

- On 23 May 2020, UNICEF delivered a first batch of 20 ventilators to Tajikistan from Turkey. Distribution of ventilators will be undertaken in line with the distribution plan provided by MoHSP.

- RCST with the financial assistance of the ICRC and German Red Cross undertakes disinfection measures in different social objects including house for elderlies, stadiums, bus-stops, shops and etc. In addition, the financial support of Kuwait Red Crescent will provide 1,000 hygiene sets to the healthcare facilities designated for treatment of COVID-19 infected patients.

**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.

RCST conducted educational trainings on COVID-19 prevention and establishment of epidemiological surveillance in prisons for the medical staff of the Department for Prisons Management.

RCST with the support of USAID continues Public Risk Communication campaigns around the country, including to flood affected communities in Khuroson district through vast networks of educated volunteers, as well as in cooperation with Traffic Police Main Department and has reached up to 40,000 people.
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.

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 the 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.
- To ensure that humanitarian medical supplies are delivered as intended a dedicated Task Force was set up comprising of development partners, UN Agencies, civil society and facilitated by UNICEF. The Task Force supports MoHSP to: i) ensure the health-related supplies reach the health personnel; ii) ensure there’s enough stock for coming weeks; iii) to prevent leakages. The third-party monitoring and media monitoring have been set up to support social accountability and feedback mechanism.
- 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