

# INTEGRATED SOCIOECONOMIC RESPONSE FRAMEWORK

The UN Response to the Impact of the COVID-19  
Pandemic in Tajikistan





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International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency



## Executive Summary

The outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic in Tajikistan has amplified its multi-faceted vulnerabilities and precariousness to shocks. After officially announcing the first 15 cases of Covid-19 on April 30, 2020, the number of confirmed cases has continued to rise and by July 9, 2020, the total number of cases had already reached 6,410 including 54 deaths.<sup>1</sup> Tajikistan's already weak healthcare system makes the task of containing Covid-19 even more challenging. There is limited testing capacity with only a few laboratories certified to conduct polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests in the country. There is also a limited supply of testing kits and reagents which is affecting the number of tests being carried out. The Covid-19 medical response is already stretching the entire health care system in Tajikistan. As a result, routine clinical services, hospitalization, and immunization programmes are getting affected.

Beyond its immediate public health impact, the protracted nature of this pandemic is drastically slowing down the economy, jobs are being lost, and the state faces a tight fiscal space. Tajikistan did not go for a complete lockdown but closed its borders and airport and briefly stopped mass gatherings. However, even these partial measures have significantly impacted this low-income and socio-economically fragile country. According to the latest estimate, Tajikistan's economy is likely to shrink by 2 percent in 2020.<sup>2</sup> It will be a major setback considering that the economy has recorded a growth rate of around 7 percent in the last five year. Due to economic slowdown and shortfall in revenues, fiscal gap will further widen to 7.7 percent of GDP.<sup>3</sup> Many Tajik workers are engaged in the informal economy and subsistence agriculture. Personal remittances from Tajik migrants which are an important source of household income has already seen a 20 percent decline in the first quarter of 2020.

Many households in Tajikistan are vulnerable to food insecurity. Around 17 percent of children under the age of 5 are stunted. The rate is as high as 31.6 percent in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast.<sup>4</sup> The early closure of schools and the fact that schools were not prepared to provide remote learning will affect children's education. A weak social protection system with a limited coverage further compounds the socioeconomic situation in the country. Moreover, there are concerns that lack of access to basic services, job lessness and declining household income may increase crime, domestic violence, gender inequalities and erode social cohesion. In short, the crisis threatens to undo decades of development gains and potentially derail Tajikistan's progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

While the virus is having a profoundly negative impact, in Tajikistan it has also created some new opportunities, although small but with a potential for scaling up. For example, some parts of the central government are increasingly using digital tools to administer and remain connected with sub-national authorities; business are trying to reach out to their customers through E-marketing

<sup>1</sup> <https://eng.khovar.tj/2020/07/urgent-number-of-covid-19-cases-increases-by-49/> (accessed on July 7, 2020)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.imf.org/~media/Files/Publications/CR/2020/English/1TJKEA2020001.ashx>

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> DHS, 2017

and other digital platforms; some schools have started developing programmes for online education; there is greater civic action to provide food to doctors and other affected families; civil society organizations (CSOs) and business associations are coming up with innovative solutions to support small businesses; government has started reforming its social assistance programme; and there is some progress to revise the tax code.

While the full impact of the virus is yet to be fully understood, considering the immediate impact, the UN Country Team (UNCT), led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and supported by the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO) has come together to articulate its immediate support to the Government of Tajikistan (GoTJ) to assist vulnerable people in an Integrated Socioeconomic Response Framework (ISEF). ISEF Tajikistan is anchored to the Prime Minister's Action Plan to combat the spread of Covid-19 and is linked to the "Tajikistan Covid-19 Country Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP)" and the Ministry of Economic Development & Trade (MEDT's) economic plan. ISEF Tajikistan is structured into five strategic pillars that are underpinned by "*building back better*" and help achieve SDGs.

It is important to note that ISEF is a living document which will be revised to reflect emerging needs. There are still gaps in information and data, several assessments are being conducted by UN Agencies which will help update the ISEF. Various short- and medium-term interventions have been identified which will be implemented over 18 months to support the national efforts. Responses under each pillar are aligned with the sector plans and strategies that have been formulated in collaboration with the respective line ministry and the relevant development partners that are part of the Development Coordination Council. The ISEF will draw upon the expertise and resources of the whole UN System which includes the resident and non-resident UN Agencies and will require robust partnership with development partners in implementation, leveraging resources and advocacy to support the national Covid-19 response led by the GoTJ.

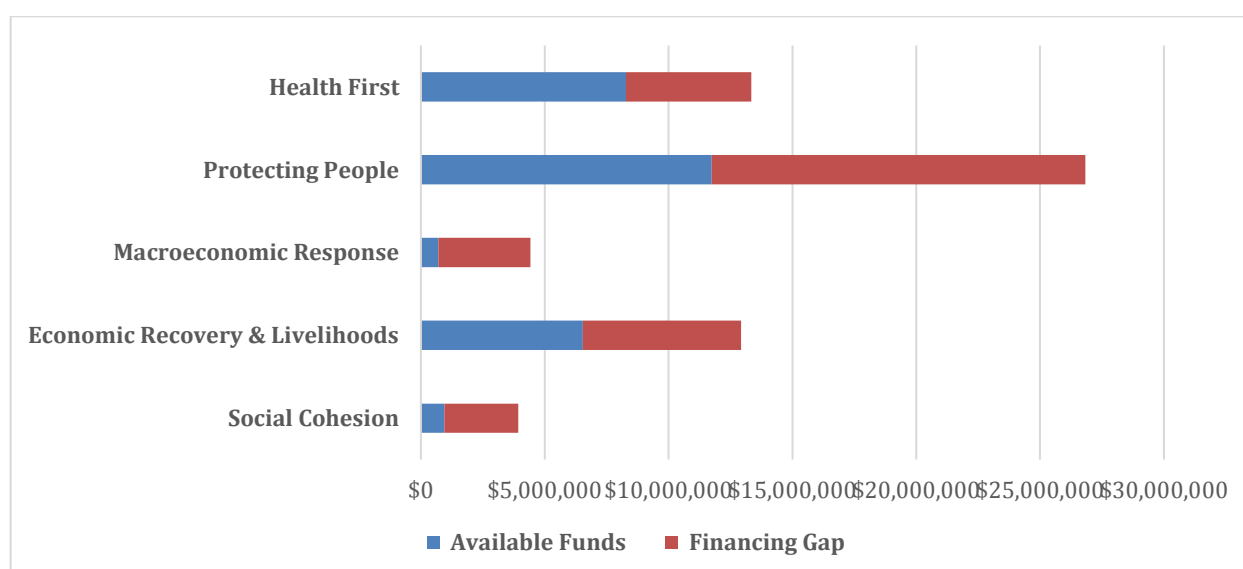
Globally, the United Nations has called for a Covid-19 socioeconomic response that is underpinned by "*building back better*" and "*leaving no one behind*". In Tajikistan, the twin imperatives of *building back better* and *leaving no one behind* will be realized through a mix of immediate assistance and service delivery to vulnerable people to cope with the crises along with capacity building and upstream policy advocacy for systemic change. This will address deficits and structural weaknesses that lead to inequalities and exclusion from services and social protection of the most vulnerable such as: poor households; informal workers; subsistence farmers; elderly, children, young men and women; people living with disabilities, etc. There are also geographical disparities that underscore vulnerabilities and exclusion in Tajikistan.

The structural problems of exclusion and differences will guide UN's response, GoTJ and UN joint "Resilience and Vulnerabilities Atlas" which was launched in 2019 will serve as an analytical tool for identifying vulnerabilities in the country. Strategically the response will focus on:

- Making essential health services available to those in need and strengthen health systems.
- Helping people cope through social protections and ensuring basic services and food security.
- Creating livelihoods for men and women in new demand areas; supporting farmers; micro businesses, small- and medium-sized enterprises through economic recovery programs.
- Strengthening multilateral and regional response for inclusive development and green economy.
- Promoting social cohesion, justice and investing in community and civic action for recovery.

Overall, the interventions will strive to make recovery people-centric, gender-sensitive, greener, and using technological solutions and innovations that can also accelerate progress towards the realization of the SDGs.

Through a broad coalition of partners, the UN will implement the ISEF not only to address immediate hardships faced by the people, but also lay building blocks for a future development that is more inclusive, equitable and sustainable. Several interventions in ISEF include repurposing of existing programs. A preliminary budget estimated for ISEF is over USD 61.4 million with USD 28.2 million secured through repurposing of current programmes and new projects. There is still a financing gap of USD 33.2 million. The figure below shows the breakdown by pillars and then a short narrative follows which summarizes expected outcome and strategy under each pillar.





**1. Health First**

***An effective response to the Covid-19 health crisis through improved surveillance, testing, and case management while building a more resilient national public health system***

<b>Total Budget</b> <b>USD 13,338,048</b>	<b>Available Funding</b> <b>USD 8,283,628</b>	<b>Financing Gap</b> <b>USD 5,054,420</b>
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The overall strategy is to support the national health system that can effectively respond to the Covid-19 health crisis by improving surveillance, testing, and case management while ensuring that general health services are not disrupted. In close collaboration with the national health authorities, provide technical expertise to strengthen health care management, and mobilize financing to support the health sector in the country.

UN Agencies will strengthen the role of the GoTJ in better management of Covid-19 health response while ensuring that essential public health services remain functional. The focus will be to improve early detection, testing capability, case management, and public awareness. An increase in health budget for 2020 provides a unique opportunity to contain the spread of the infection, but also to make strategic investments in critical public health across the different tiers, from universal health coverage and improve the provision of services, especially in those regions that are underserved.

**2. Protecting People**

***Essential social services scaled up to protect the vulnerable and affected communities to cope better with the negative socioeconomic consequences of Covid-19***

<b>Total Budget</b> <b>USD: 26,824,900</b>	<b>Available Funding</b> <b>USD 11,735,600</b>	<b>Financing Gap</b> <b>USD 15,089,300</b>
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UN's strategy under this pillar is to ensure the delivery of essential social services such as food and education while scaling up social protection measures to protect the vulnerable. UN will aim to strengthen existing national initiatives by providing technical expertise, knowledge, and facilitate access to financing for scaling up. Protecting People contains a set of measures to ensure food security through a robust system of tracking stocks, prices, and nutritional needs of vulnerable households, while promoting agricultural development.

Support in the education sector is aimed to embed remote learning in schools and other learning institutions while improving the quality of learning. UN Agencies will help the GoTJ to reform the current social assistance scheme to make it more inclusive and to increase the amount of cash payments to vulnerable families. It is important to recognize that social protection goes beyond cash transfers and, UN will, therefore, implement a range of interventions to build the capacity of relevant institutions to better serve the population and to protect their human rights.

### 3. Macroeconomic Response

***Stable macroeconomic situation that balances the need for expansionary fiscal policy for pro-poor growth and tapping into a diverse range of financing for national development and the SDGs while promoting cross-border collaboration***

<b>Total Budget</b> <b>USD 4,420,150</b>	<b>Available Funding</b> <b>USD 704,150</b>	<b>Financing Gap</b> <b>USD 3,716,000</b>
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UN Agencies will work in partnership with IFIs and donors to help GoTJ to effectively manage public sector spending to align it to pro-poor investments. This will require analytical support and collaboration with key national ministries with fiduciary responsibility for financing the national development plan. In partnership with the MoF and MEDT, the UN is in the process of supporting setting up an architecture for SDG Financing which will also serve as the platform for financing the socioeconomic response to Covid-19. Furthermore, the UN will support regional cooperation to promote trade.

As part of its Macroeconomic Response, UN Agencies will work with the IFIs to support the GoTJ to navigate through the economic and fiscal challenges without cutting back on essential services and investing in a low-carbon economy. Building analytical capacities and connecting policy-makers to knowledge will be an important part of the UN's technical assistance to the GoTJ. The UN will also support trade integration, and regional cooperation.

### 4. Economic Recovery & Livelihoods

***Policy measures developed to help national counterparts to design and implement initiatives to protect jobs, promote decent employment, and build the foundation for a sustainable economic transformation.***

<b>Total Budget</b> <b>USD 12,920,900</b>	<b>Available Funding</b> <b>USD 6,536,760</b>	<b>Financing Gap</b> <b>USD 6,384,140</b>
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UN response under this pillar is underpinned by policy measures to help national counterparts to design and implement initiatives to protect jobs, promote decent employment, and build the foundation for a sustainable economic transformation. UN will advocate for various employment retention schemes, investments in the care economy, support for SMEs, and promote formalization of informal economy, wage employment and livelihoods for those who have lost their jobs including returning migrants.

There will be focus on jobs and small businesses which are essential in restoring livelihoods for low-income individuals, young men and women, and returnees, and other socially disadvantaged groups. In the short-term, the aim is to offer a set of subsidies, incentives, and technical

assistance to small businesses so that they can weather the storm. Sectors such as trade and services which have taken a major hit will be prioritized for such short-term schemes. Enabling businesses to digitize their business processes and growth of digital platforms will be a medium-term priority to further modernize the economy and expand livelihoods.

<b>5. Social Cohesion</b>		
<i><b>Social dialogue and community engagement enhanced to promote a rights-based approach to Covid-19 response thereby strengthening social cohesion and resilience</b></i>		
<b>Total Budget</b> <b>USD 3,930,800</b>	<b>Available Funding</b> <b>USD 944,233</b>	<b>Financing Gap</b> <b>USD 2,986,567</b>

Community participation, respect for human rights, and social cohesion will be mainstreamed across all the pillars of the socioeconomic response to Covid-19 as a foundation for sustainable peace and resilience. The current pandemic is likely to exacerbate grievances and undermine protection of Human Right and exclusion of vulnerable population such as women, youth, and their aspirations.

Social Cohesion will, thus, run both as a standalone theme as well as a crosscutting theme across all the ISEF pillars. The UN Agencies will strengthen CSOs and promote community led socioeconomic response. A number of measures will be taken in partnership with the state institutions and civil society to promote social dialogue. UN will also support free legal aid including a 24-hour hotline. Moreover, support will be provided to CSOs and media to disseminate information and raise public awareness.

### **Partnerships & Monitoring**

ISEF is an ambitious undertaking and will require strong national leadership and partnerships with international development partners, CSOs, private sector, and media to leverage building back better and in changing the mindset and policies for the future. UN Agencies will be responsible for the implementation and quality of results under the five (5) pillar of ISEF. The Results and Resources Framework (RRF) will serve as basis for monitoring results.

A socioeconomic monitoring system has been developed to assess Covid-19 impact which includes a matrix of key indicators to help UN Agencies track evolving socioeconomic situation in Tajikistan and adjust the ISEF as well as monitor the results of the UN response.

More details are provided in the main body of the document which is divided into seven sections. In the background section, an overview of the socioeconomic situation is discussed along with national responses, and ISEF's guiding principles. Following that, there are individual sections for each of the five pillars which are further divided into two parts: current situation and UN's response. At the end there is a section on partnerships and a guidance note (annex) which explains the two levels of monitoring to track programme results and the socioeconomic impact.



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### Background

The Integrated Socioeconomic Response (ISEF) is a strategic framework of the UN Agencies to support socioeconomic recovery in Tajikistan. Apart from being a public health emergency of unprecedented magnitude, Covid-19 is having a far-reaching impact on human development. UN's response to Covid-19 will primarily support national efforts to respond to health crises; broaden social protection, formulate an inclusive macroeconomic response, rebuild livelihoods, and promote social cohesion and community resilience. The framework is guided by the principles laid out in the UN Secretary-General's "Shared Responsibility, Global Solidarity" Report, and the UN's global framework for the immediate socio-economic response to Covid-19.

ISEF articulates a set of short- and medium-term response to socio-economic impact of Covid-19 which will be implemented over a period of 18 months. The ISEF underlines the principle of strengthening national leadership and state capability to deliver a coherent response with the participation of the community and in collaboration with CSOs, private sector and development partners.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with support from the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO) is leading the socioeconomic response of the UN System in Tajikistan. ISEF will draw upon the expertise and resources of the whole UN System which includes not only the UN Agencies present in the country but also the non-resident agencies. ISEF is also a call to donors and development partners for collaboration and pooling of resources to support the national Covid-19 response led by the Government of Tajikistan (GoTJ).

#### ***Supporting national responses and augmenting capacities***

On March 22, 2020, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan launched an operational plan containing 84 action points to combat the spread of Covid-19. The Prime Minister's Plan covers a range of interventions across different sectors. The Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoHSP) then developed a "Tajikistan Covid-19 Country Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP)" which is operational in scope. CPRP includes various public health measures divided into different streams of work including surveillance, case detection, logistics, and communication. An estimated USD 111 million is needed to implement this plan.

One of the priorities identified in the CPRP is a "multi-sector action to mitigate social and economic consequences of Covid-19". In this regard, the Prime Minister has endorsed a detailed action plan presented by the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade (MEDT) for "prevention and reducing the national economy's exposure to potential risks of Covid-19". MEDT plan contains 23 actions to maintain economic stability, food stocks, investments, and initiatives to boost local production of essential goods and food items. To implement the plan, MEDT has requested financial and technical assistance from the UN Agencies and other development partners.

ISEF is anchored in the national plans to support in addressing impact of Covid-19 on people, business, public administration and will augment capacity of state institutions, CSOs and the private sector. UN Agencies are already engaged with all the relevant ministries and in coordination with development partners through the Development Coordination Council (DCC) Working Groups have also supported in formulating sector-specific response to Covid-19. ISEF is, thus, a reflection of extensive consultations at the sector-level, the comparative advantage of the UN System, and national priorities.

ISEF aims to contribute to the socioeconomic recovery while reinforcing the foundation for long-term development and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Tajikistan. Covid-19 is a multidimensional crisis impacting lives, livelihoods, and threatening to derail the SDGs. While globally coronavirus infection rates were rapidly increasing, for a while, Tajikistan remained one of the few countries without any reported cases. However, that changed when 15 cases of coronavirus were officially reported on April 30, 2020. Since then the number of infections has continued to increase.

Even before the first cases of coronavirus were officially announced, the UN Agencies in Tajikistan had already started supporting what is already a weak health system in the country. Responding to the requests from the government, UN Agencies procured and delivered life-saving medicines, personal protective equipment (PPE), Covid-19 testing kits, and provided training to the health personnel. UN Agencies continue to support the emergency health response by strengthening testing capability, surveillance, and training of health workers as well promote risk communication and provide food assistance and assistance to farmers and entrepreneurs.

### ***An integrated response underpinned by partnerships***

The UN System in Tajikistan is playing a key role in coordinating information sharing for an effective Covid-19 response. A Covid-19 Response Group comprised of international development partners was established which is chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator to promote information sharing between development partners on Covid-19 related interventions. The CRG works in partnership with the long - standing Development Coordination Council and its various working groups which are now also examining Covid-19 issues.

UN Agencies have a dual imperative. Firstly, there is a need to support ongoing health and relief efforts to contain the spread of infection and “flatten the curve” and secondly to address emerging socioeconomic needs in the country. In this regard, a UN Task Force headed by UNDP and supported by RCO/Economist was established to assess the socioeconomic impact of Covid-19, formulate a response plan, and develop a mechanism to monitor the socioeconomic situation in the country. The Task Force comprising of Representatives of all the UN Agencies in the country and four non -resident Agencies was supported by a working group of thematic staff from the Agencies. The ISEF is the result of this collective effort and to achieve a common objective.

Globally, Covid-19 has resulted in huge loss of life, social disruptions, and a massive economic slowdown, the crisis has also revealed “structural fragilities” and exposed deep-rooted

inequalities in the population. Globally as well as in Tajikistan, poor and vulnerable face multiple hardships which are now compounded by Covid-19 risks. The ISEF uses an integrated and Human Rights based approach to addressing multi-dimensional needs to ensure that no one is left behind (LNOB). The focus of UN assistance will be to address inequalities of all forms and support vulnerable groups such as rural and urban poor, women, children, migrants, subsistence farmers, informal workers, small traders; etc.

### ***Building back better for sustainable development***

Covid-19 has also exposed weak state capabilities. Even rich countries were overwhelmed by the scale of the public health emergency, but for low-income countries, the crisis has shown the lack of preparedness and emergency response which has fallen way short of the needs. Poor countries have been confronted with a limited fiscal space which has meant that there was a tendency to move already limited financial resources from essential basic services to emergency health needs. A shortfall in tax revenue that will continue to widen will make it very difficult for poor countries to pay for public services. At a time when the developed world has instituted expansionary monetary and fiscal policies to stimulate demand, developing countries are struggling to pay for even basic social services.

With a per capita GDP of USD 874, Tajikistan is the poorest country in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Although there has been progress, 27.4% of the population still lives below the national poverty line.<sup>5</sup> A vast number of Tajik households depend on remittances. In 2019, more than USD 2.9 billion, equivalent to 35 percent of GDP, were sent as personal remittances from Russia.<sup>6</sup> It is estimated that remittances will fall by more than 28 percent in 2020 which for a country like Tajikistan will mean a significant loss of income.<sup>7</sup> As the infected cases continue to rise, weak structural capacities and fiscal constraints that Tajikistan faces are becoming more conspicuous. The government budget already faces a deficit of 7.7 percent of the GDP<sup>8</sup> which is further compounded by the fact that Tajikistan was already considered to be in debt-distress. The challenge for the government is not only to respond urgently to contain the spread of the infection and protect lives. But, also widen its social safety net to restore livelihoods and continuation of essential public services.

The crisis has made it imperative that "business as usual" will not secure the future development. The so-called "new normal" should be a beginning to charter a development path that addresses structural inequalities. However, rather than just accept a "new normal", governments can and should invest in a "*new but a better normal*" for the future which includes all population groups and provide them with equal opportunities and choices. UN's integrated response will promote innovative response and service delivery approaches which can help bridge inequalities; build

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<sup>5</sup> <http://president.tj/en/node/21995>

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.cbr.ru/vfs/eng/statistics/crossborder/personal\\_remittances\\_e.xlsx](http://www.cbr.ru/vfs/eng/statistics/crossborder/personal_remittances_e.xlsx)

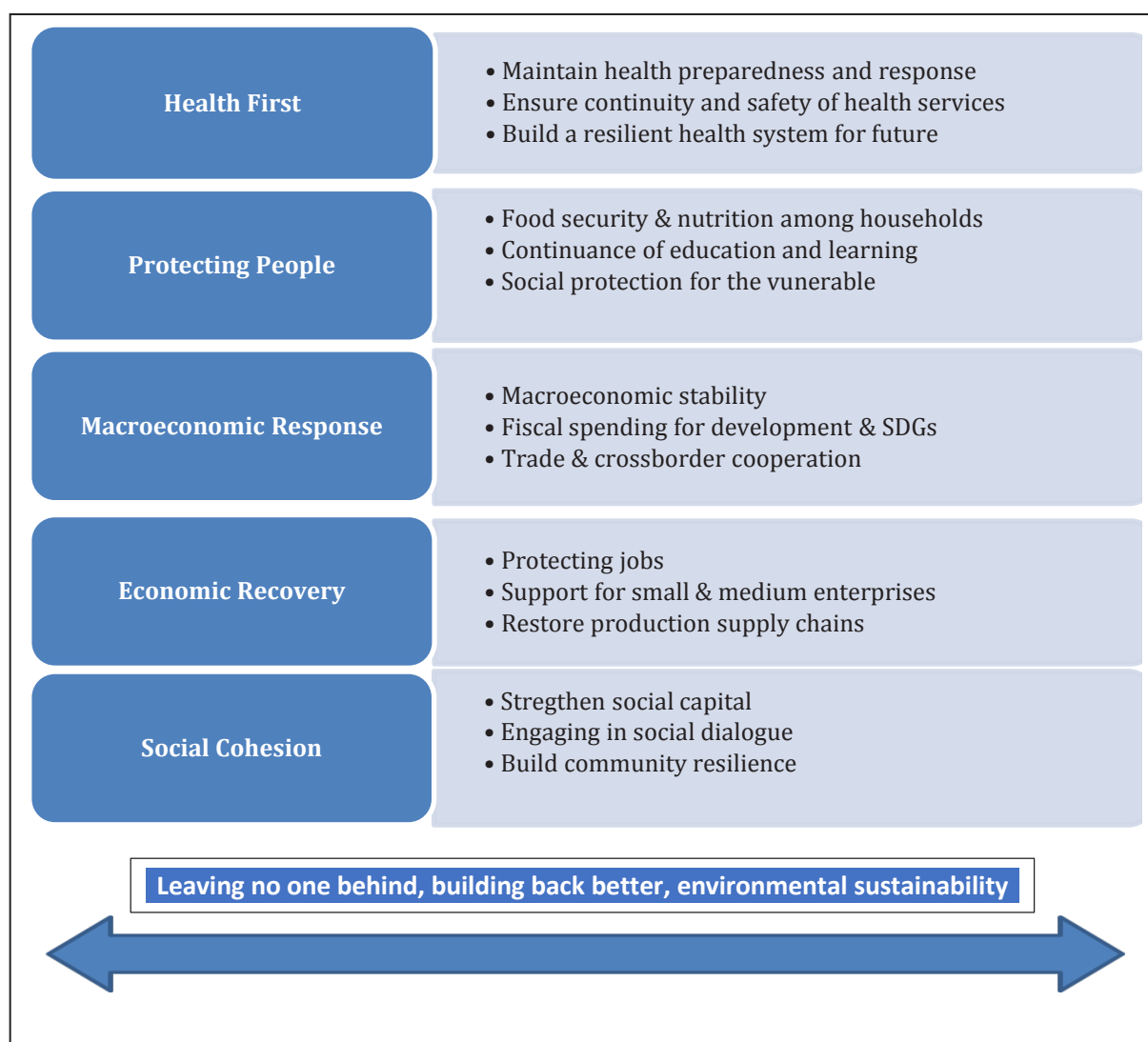
<sup>7</sup> <https://www.worldbank.org/en/region/eca/brief/covid19>

<sup>8</sup> <sup>8</sup> <https://www.imf.org/~media/Files/Publications/CR/2020/English/1TJKEA2020001.ashx>

strong social protection system to strengthen the coping capacity of the vulnerable population; align public expenditure policies to building human capabilities; mitigate effects of climate change, investment in science, and a greater push towards a greener economy to shape the "new normal" which also helps in achieving the SDGs.

A key principle will be to "build back better" and invest in building resilience to withstand future shocks and crises which will require whole of the government approach working in partnership with the private sector, civil society organizations (CSOs), and with support from the international development partners.

Specifically, ISEF is organized around five pillars that mirror the UN's global response to Covid-19 and key priorities in Tajikistan.





The themes represent the multidimensional nature as well as the possible “transmission channels” through which Covid-19 pandemic is manifesting and threatening long-term development, social cohesion, gender equality and overall achievement of SDGs.

### ***An evidence-based response to Covid-19***

The ISEF is underpinned by evidence from various recent rapid assessments of COVID19 impact and data from UN -Govt joint Resiliency and Vulnerability Atlas launched in 2019 to ensure that the most vulnerable are protected, there is accountability in the delivery of aid, and all the voices are heard. An evidence-based response is critical for coordination of development assistance, avoiding duplication, and building national capacities. In this regard, UN Agencies have developed a monitoring framework to track key Covid-19 related socioeconomic indicators in Tajikistan. The objective is to use the best available information and data to monitor the socioeconomic impact of Covid-19 as well as the effectiveness of the national response including UN programmes and partnerships. A Matrix of Socioeconomic Indicators has been developed in the form of an excel database which is being populated by UN Agencies on a regular basis. The indicators are broadly grouped under the five themes which are aligned to the five pillars of ISEF of Tajikistan. Below is a table of indicators for each pillar.

Health First
No of Covid tests conducted
Admitted to hospital
Positive cases of Covid-19
No of Covid-19 deaths
No of pneumonia cases
No of severe respiratory infections
Deaths related to above
Number (%) of the HCFs (district level, primary health care level) with access to safe drinking water
Number (%) of the HCFs (district level, primary health care level) with access to sanitation facilities
Number (%) of the HCFs (district level, primary health care level) with functional hygiene handwashing facilities.
Antenatal care coverage (%)
Contraceptive prevalence rate (%)
% of health facilities that have stock-outs of contraceptives (%);
Number of reproductive-age women using contraceptives;
% of pregnant women delivering in health facilities;
Fertility rate
Maternal mortality ratio per 100 000 lb
Number of women and girls who reported cases of violence
Number of women and girls who received services responding to gender-based violence, such as special hotlines, shelters, medical, psychosocial and legal services
Number of people including PLWHIV who receive available prevention information on covid19;
Number of CSO supported to ensure access to SRH services for key pop

<b>Food Security &amp; Nutrition</b>
Value of Food Imports
Value of Food Exports
Available stock of wheat
Available stock of rice
Key commodities price change
Price change agriculture inputs
% of SAM admission
% of children 6-23 months have Minimum Dietary Diversity
% of women have Minimum Dietary Diversity
<b>Education</b>
Percentage of school-age children and youth not currently attending school/learning space/residential institutions a)Preschool-age 3-6 y.o. (boys, girls) b)School-age 7 – 18 y.o. (boys, girls)
Number of teachers trained on delivery of distance learning
Percentage of children supported with distance/home-based learning a)Preschool age 3-6 y.o. (boys, girls) b)School -age 7-18 y.o (boys, girls)
Number (%) of schools/learning spaces with access to safe drinking water
Number (%) of the schools/learning spaces with access to sanitation facilities
Number (%) of the schools/learning spaces with functional hygiene handwashing facilities.
Percentage of existing school buildings a) functioning and b) not functioning c) used as shelters/quarantine places
Percentage of schools/learning space offering psychosocial support for a) children and youth and b) teachers c) education personnel
Percentage of teaching personnel unable to deliver classes as a result of emergency a)Preschools b)Schools
Percentage of school children who will be severely affected by the disruption of meals provision at schools (disaggregated by demographic profile and location)
<b>Social Protection</b>
No of poor households receiving cash support (Targeted Social Assistance)
No of unemployed registered receiving assistance
No of abandoned labour migrant families
No of women-headed households
Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, new-borns, work injury victims and poor and other vulnerable groups such as the refugees and undocumented persons

Macroeconomic Response
Exchange Rate
Inflation Rate
GDP
GDP Growth %
GDP Share % (Agriculture)
GDP Share % (Manufacturing)
GDP Share % (Services)
Current Account Balance (% GDP)
Trade Balance (% GDP)
Exports
Imports
Public Debt Amount (USD)
Public Debt (% GDP)
FDI (USD)
Remittances (USD)
Remittances (% GDP)
Outstanding Loan Amount of Banks
Non-Performing Loan Rate (Overall)

Economic Recovery & Livelihoods
Number of Migrants (Male)
Number of Migrants (Female)
Average Interest Rate (Loans)
Average Interest Rate (Deposits)
Outstanding Loan Amount (MSMEs)
Outstanding Loan Amount (Agriculture)
Outstanding Loan Amount (Manufacturing)
Outstanding Loan Amount (Trade & Services)
Non-Performing Loan Rate (Overall)
Non-Performing Loan Rate (MSMEs)
Non-Performing Loan Rate (Agriculture)
Non-Performing Loan Rate (Manufacturing)
Non-Performing Loan Rate (Trade & Services)
No of Own-Account Enterprises (Patent)
No of MSMEs (Certificate+Legal Entity)
# of registered SMEs (Male)
# of registered SMEs (Female)
# and % of SMEs by patent, certification and farmers
# of SMEs closed business (Male)
# of SMEs closed business (Female)

people employed by SMEs, % of total employment
# of SMEs reporting challenges due to COVID (Male)
# of SMEs reporting challenges due to COVID (Female)
Poverty Rate
HDI
Multidimensional Poverty Index
Unemployment Rate (%)
% Unemployment rate (Male)
% Unemployment rate (Female)
% Employed in Agriculture (Male)
% Employed in Industry (Male)
% Employed in Services (Male)
% Employed in Tourism (Male)
% Employed in Agriculture (Female)
% Employed in Industry (Female)
% Employed in Services (Female)
% Employed in Tourism (Female)
% Informal Employment (Male)
% Informal Employment (Female)
% youth unemployment rate (ages 15-24, Male)
% youth Unemployment Rate (ages 15-24, Female)
% Youth not in employment, education, training (NEET)
Waged or salaried workers, % of total labour force
Wage and salaried workers, male (% of male employment)
Wage and salaried workers, female (% of female employment)
Vulnerable employment, total (% of total labour force)
Vulnerable employment, male (% of male employment)
Vulnerable employment, female (% of female employment)
Self-employed, total (% of total employment)
Self-employed, male (% of male employment)
Self-employed, female (% of female employment)
Mobile Phone Usage
Movement of people (location on)- google: Retail & Recreation
Electricity use
Public transport

Social Cohesion
Community complaints about Covid-19 response in the social media (posts)
# of public protests against Covid-19 response
# of people participating in protests against Covid-19 response
# of reports crimes

# of cross-border incidents at the Tajik-Kyrgyz and Tajik-Afghan border
# of people participating in these cross-border incidents
# of protests / community actions against government (not COVID related)
Number of young women and men empowered with soft skills for COVID-19 recovery efforts
Number of women and girls who reported cases of violence
Number of women and girls who received integrated community based SGBV services
Number of people in rural communities who received SGBV prevention information in the context of COVID-19
Number of CSO supported in provision of SGBV/DV/COVID-19 services
Number of WLHIV who received available prevention information on covid19;
Number of WLHIV who received PPE on covid19;
Number of CSO consultations on COVID-19 supported by UN
Number of policy brief and guiding materials developed to support gender responsive GoT actions on COVID-19

A guidance note on socioeconomic monitoring (Please Refer to Annex 1) was developed to assist the UN Agencies in compiling data and assessing the trends. To address data gaps, UN Agencies are conducting several rapid surveys and participating in other data gathering exercises and assessments with other development partners in the country. Among others, UNDP is carrying out a survey targeting small businesses and households to measure the impact of Covid-19 on production, jobs, and household welfare. The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is undertaking an assessment of the tourism and textile sectors. The DCC Education Working Group is also conducting a rapid education needs assessment. The ISEF will be updated as and when there are changes or new evidence becomes available.



## 1. Health First

### 1.1 CURRENT SITUATION

On 30 April 2020, the Government of Tajikistan (GoTJ) reported the first 15 cases of COVID-19. By the end of June, the number of officially confirmed cases had almost reached 6,000, including an unknown number of severe cases and 52 deaths (CFR 0.9 percent). Tajikistan has a limited supply of test kits, reagents, and consumables, which means that few tests are currently being conducted. Based on unconfirmed media reports, there have been cases of essential medicines not being available in the pharmacies and an abnormal increase in prices. Due to a rapid increase in infections, the healthcare infrastructure is already being used to its full capacity. As Tajikistan has entered a phase of community transmission, the situation is concerning and warrants a blended strategy.<sup>9</sup> There is also concern of antimicrobial resistance through inappropriate use of antibiotics during the Covid-19 pandemic.<sup>10</sup> Antibiotics are widely used in Tajikistan for Covid-19 case management. There is lack of access to bacteriology laboratories performing AST to support case management due to resistant pathogens.

There are only 4.8 hospital beds for every 1,000 people in Tajikistan (OECD 2013). Lack of PPEs can seriously hinder medical workers to provide essential services and expose them to risks. Disrupted supply chains and breakdown in transport links make it difficult to procure diagnostics and other essential medicine and to bring in technical expertise from outside. There has been inadequate community engagement in Tajikistan. Public health messages explaining the risks and prevention of Covid-19 have not been actively used to raise awareness in the population. Moreover, the budget of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoHSP) is under great strain. Maintaining the trust of the population in the public health system to control infection is key for ensuring health-seeking behaviour and adherence to public health advice.

As the focus of the health system is on the management of Covid-19 cases, there is a disproportional distribution of health workers which creates an additional workload for medical personnel providing emergency and non-emergency care. In particular, the unequal distribution of work affects female health care workers. A majority of them are in the frontline in the hospital with little protection. It is equally important to maintain essential health services, especially for lifesaving interventions, immunization, communicable and non-communicable diseases, maternal and child health, care for older people, mental health as well as prevention and rehabilitation. Parents are hesitant to bring their children for vaccination due to concerns about the potential risk of Covid-19 infection and safety of vaccination. Moreover, lack of PPEs can influence medical workers who be hesitant to provide immunization services.

<sup>9</sup> WHO guidance: Critical preparedness, readiness and response actions for COVID-19 – dated 22 March 2020: <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/critical-preparedness-readiness-and-response-actions-for-covid-19> (accessed 16 May 2020)

<sup>10</sup> WHO News Release, 02 June 2020 Record number of countries contribute data revealing disturbing rates of antimicrobial resistance: <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/01-06-2020-record-number-of-countries-contribute-data-revealing-disturbing-rates-of-antimicrobial-resistance>

The added burden of a pandemic on an already weak health system means that many sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services are being affected. This can contribute to a rise in maternal and new-born mortality, further increase the unmet need for family planning, unsafe abortions, and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Lack of protective equipment and inadequate adherence to clinical protocols is affecting services, such as antenatal and family planning visits to the doctor. This, in turn, reduces screening for preeclampsia, monitoring heart rate and growth, vaccines and contraceptive services. Women who access SRH services are at a higher risk of exposure to Covid-19. The decline in supply can potentially increase unwanted pregnancies, lead to unsafe abortions, and the rise of HIV and STIs.

Covid-19 also threatens the most marginalized segments of society. An overburdened healthcare system in Tajikistan and growing disruptions in medical supply chains can have a devastating effect on HIV prevention and treatment, especially among the vulnerable population and those who face societal stigma and discrimination. Young people with HIV, who bear a disproportionate burden of the global HIV epidemic, are at greater risk due to weak immune systems and dependency on a regular supply of antiretroviral medication, and other services, which may not be prioritized.

Another population segment needing attention are migrants. During different stages of their journey, migrants sometimes face conditions that can pose risks to their physical, mental and social wellbeing. Several migrants infected with Covid-19 were refused health services and hospitalization in the Russian Federation because they did not have health insurance. More effort is needed to address the health of migrants by developing strong cross-border mechanisms to promote better access to health services. Early detection and treatment of STIs, HIV, TB, and other communicable diseases should be agreed between the countries of the origin and the migrant recipient countries.

Another major challenge with serious consequences for public health is safe drinking water and hygiene. Access to drinking water and sanitation is essential for general health and well-being of people. Presently, inadequate water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH) facilities in hospitals and primary health care centres (PHCs) is an area of concern. Many healthcare facilities, especially in rural areas, lack proper water and sanitation. These can become a source of disease. In 2020, out of the 73 maternities in Tajikistan, 48 (66 percent) had no access to WASH facilities. Furthermore, there is a growing shortage of hygiene items which can affect the health of people.

### 1.2 UN's RESPONSE

1. Health First
<b><i>An effective response to the Covid-19 health crisis through improved surveillance, testing, and case management while building a more resilient national public health system</i></b>
The overall strategy is to support the national health system that can effectively respond to the Covid-19 health crisis by improving surveillance, testing, and case management while ensuring that general health services are not disrupted. In close collaboration with the national

health authorities, provide technical expertise to strengthen health care management, and mobilize financing to support the health sector in the country.		
<b>Total Budget</b> USD 13,338,048	<b>Available Funding</b> USD 8,283,628	<b>Financing Gap</b> USD 5,054,420
<b>Result area 1.1:</b> Emergency Coordination and Health Sector Governance enhanced		
<b>Result area 1.2:</b> Infection prevention and control (IPC) improved		
<b>Result area 1.3:</b> Sanitation and Environmental Protection enhanced in the Health Sector during and after crisis		
<b>Result area 1.4:</b> Health Services Sustained, with special Emphasis on Vulnerable and At-Risk Groups		

UN will support the health system in Tajikistan to contain the virus from spreading by reducing human-to-human transmission and to enable the health system to better cope with this public health emergency. Through an active "trace, test and treat" strategy, the UN will assist the GoTJ to mobilize public health personnel and increase "Covid-19 critical care" surge capacity. Reorganizing the work of medical staff, repurposing healthcare facilities, and training of healthcare workers are necessary steps to build surge capacity. There must be coordination in case management across all the levels of the health system: public and private, primary, secondary and tertiary and managing the caseload: quarantine in home settings, prioritized care and activated triage procedures, scaling up of surge plans, and designated referral hospitals.

It is equally important to protect the health workers, many of whom are women, from Covid-19 by improving infection control, prevention procedures, and ensuring an adequate supply of PPEs. Existing surveillance, epidemiology, and laboratory testing should focus on finding and testing suspected cases and isolating infected individuals and those who may have been in contact with them. This requires putting in place protocols and significantly increasing the number of laboratory testing. Patient care and infection prevention and control measures should be standardized across all the healthcare facilities. PPEs should be made available through stockpiling at national and regional (oblast) level. In addition, hospitals bacteriology laboratories must continue performing Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (AST) and track antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in Covid-19 patients with co-infections or in moderate and severe cases.

UN will support the MoHSP to conduct a rapid analysis of Covid-19 impact on essential health services and develop an action plan to address the gaps identified. UN will also provide support in developing community engagement strategies and communication campaigns. UN will support MoHSP to define a set of essential health services, establish a mechanism for monitoring the health of the most vulnerable population, and access to essential health services. Immunization, maternal, elderly care, mental health, and health services for migrants and refugees will be prioritized. There is also a need to establish specific health protocol for migrant workers, victims of domestic violence, and psychosocial support.

In the medium-term, key interventions that are currently being implemented as part of the Covid-19 preparedness and response plan should continue while considering different scenarios

depending on the evolution of the epidemic. As the risk for transmission will persist, with the possibility of local clusters or community transmission, there is a need to maintain adequate preparedness and response capacities. Experience from other countries shows that when public health measures are lifted, transmission can increase. It can often happen in the form of local clusters, sometimes linked to “super spreading events”. Provided that the surveillance and testing capacities are there, it is possible to contain such flare-ups. Otherwise, such episodes can overwhelm hospitals.

There should be an ongoing assessment to identify additional public health priorities and contingency plans should be put in place. A key strategy for recovery and building resilience in the health sector should be based on the dual and interdependent tracks of strengthening health security through emergency preparedness, response capacities, and making further progress on Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Furthermore, there should be stress testing of existing capabilities, resilience, and risk reduction, with a focus on public health capacities, which can then inform a broader strategic planning for risk reduction in an all-hazards approach. Such assessments can be conducted at the local level.

Response at the national and subnational level must also address the risks of an indirect increase in morbidity and mortality from other diseases. In this regard, the UN will provide support to maintain essential health services (EHS) during the Covid-19 pandemic. The UN has developed operational guidance on maintaining EHS during the Covid-19 pandemic. It provides guidance on a set of targeted actions that countries can implement at a national, regional, and local levels to reorganize and maintain access to essential health services for all. Many countries have experienced disruption in routine services. Further analysis of the effects of the epidemic and the public health measures on the continuity and utilization of routine services in Tajikistan needs to be further assessed.

A range of activities are already being implemented including investments in WASH and IPC in health facilities, as well as looking into adaptations of the platforms to deliver services, to reduce patient-provider contacts. While there is no doubt that treatment capacity for severe Covid-19 patients needs to be scaled up and supplies for IPC and PPE require a significant budget, GoTJ should not cut down funding for primary care services. If managed well, investments made now can make the health system more resilient to the current epidemic as well as any other type of emergency in the future.

UN will further gear its efforts to strengthen the leadership role of the national and local authorities, communities and beneficiaries in ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health services by rolling out updated international standards and protocols on Covid-19 related to maternal health, antenatal care, and family planning. The focus of the response will be to limit human-to-human transmission by application of the newly adopted technical brief of alternate SRH services including maternal and antenatal care through capacity building interventions. This will ensure that support services meet 1. compliance with WHO guidelines, good practices and expert advice based on the latest scientific evidence, and 2. alternate services that revert to WHO

specific recommendations on SRH during Covid-19. Technical expertise will be provided to the MoHSP through field monitoring combined with on-site mentoring.

UN Agencies will closely monitor the local supply chains to ensure that essential medical supplies including antiretroviral treatment continue to reach the people who need it. National efforts will be supported to secure the provision of ART for people living with HIV. To address stigma and discrimination faced by people affected by Covid-19, and foster and responsible health behaviour, UN will collaborate with national partners to cultivate compassion, raise awareness of and protection from the virus, promote clean hygiene, and sharing correct scientific information to promote prevention using a variety of online tools and channels. This will include translating vital resources into local languages, using digital technologies, and combating misinformation and xenophobia about the Covid-19 pandemic.

Campaigns will be organized to reduce the stigma and discrimination faced by people affected by Covid-19. Special attention will be given to segments of populations likely to face stigmas such as YKPs and LGBTI communities. In reaching communities, there must be engagement with youth organizations. Youth can play an effective role in the prevention and response, including their role as community workers. UN will ensure that measures are in place to prevent, protect and mitigate the consequences of all forms of violence, stigma and discrimination against adolescents and youth - especially girls and young women - during quarantine and self-isolation. There will be support for young people in risk communication and virtual community engagement.



## 2. Protecting People

### 2.1 CURRENT SITUATION

#### ***Food Security & Nutrition***<sup>11</sup>

Tajikistan is vulnerable to all the four dimensions of food security: availability, access, utilization, and stability. The food security situation in the country varies by geography and seasons. Rural and remote areas are significantly poorer than in urban areas. People living in rural areas have irregular income which is compounded by the seasonality of rural livelihoods. The national poverty rate rises as much as 8 percentage points during the winter and spring months<sup>12</sup>. Nutrition status of the population is a concern. Nationally, stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age stands at 17 percent and 6 percent respectively (DHS, 2017). The situation varies by region: Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) has the highest child stunting rate (31.6 percent), compared to other regions where the rates are between 15 and 18 percent.

Around 37 percent of children suffer from Vitamin A deficiency and 12 percent have Vitamin D deficiency (NMNS, 2016). More than 4 in 10 children and 42 percent of women of reproductive age are anaemic (DHS, 2017). According to the Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) analysis between 29 and 56 percent<sup>13</sup> of households cannot afford a nutritious diet. Individuals with a greater nutrient requirement such as pregnant and lactating women, adolescent girls are among the most affected due to their need for essential micronutrients.<sup>14</sup> An immediate impact from the public health emergency is that quality of treatment of acute malnutrition will be affected. Hospitals may become overloaded and health staff might be reassigned for Covid-19 response. There is also a risk that several nutrition programmes such as cooking demonstrations, and micronutrient powder distribution will be suspended owing to social-distancing measures.

Considering existing vulnerabilities of food insecurity and nutrition, the Covid-19 pandemic is a major threat to the nutritional status and overall wellbeing of people. Evidence from the 2008 food price crisis shows that the poorest households in Tajikistan, often female-headed and with a high dependency ratio as well as casual labourers and petty traders, suffered disproportionately. As remittances are one of the primary sources of income in the poorest regions of the country, job losses among migrants may force poor and food-insecure households resorting to selling productive assets and reducing expenditure on health and education. Tajik households spend more than half of their expenditure on food. Household wealth positively correlates with the consumption of more diversified and nutritious diets.

Rural farming households are prone to shocks as they are disproportionately poorer, food insecure, and undernourished in comparison to urban households. Women remain particularly

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<sup>11</sup> This section is largely sourced from the Food Security and Nutrition issues paper shared on 25 April 2020 by the DCC working group for food security and nutrition. The paper was drafted by USAID, FAO and WFP, with significant input from DCC working group members.

<sup>12</sup> Child Poverty in Tajikistan” UNICEF, WB and TajStat, 2018.

<sup>13</sup> Variation depends on the geographical location

<sup>14</sup> MoHSP and WFP, 2018

vulnerable as caregivers of the sick, elderly and children. Women are also major contributors to farm labour. Large-scale migration of Tajik men who are working overseas has had a profound impact on the status of women in Tajikistan. Most rural households typically have at least one male family member working abroad. Men are absent from the villages for months or years at a time, leaving their wives behind as the heads of the household. Undocumented citizens and refugees also face food insecurity.

Covid-19 has disrupted trade and supply chains which are affecting the availability and price of food. The retail price of several food items and commodities has risen significantly. In April, the average price of potatoes and onions rose by 133 percent and 65 percent respectively, while the average price for wheat flour (1<sup>st</sup> grade) saw a 17 percent increase. Prices of beef which has been rising gradually increased by 26 percent in April 2020 compared to the same month in 2019.<sup>15</sup> Tajikistan is heavily dependent on imports of staple food. Imports account for more than half of the domestic consumption needs of cereals.

Wheat represents more than 90 percent of the cereal imports. The import price of wheat has gone up by about 12 percent. According to the Agency of Statistics (AoS), wheat imports from January to April 2020 stood at 331,619 metric tons, 9 percent more than the average quantity imported during the same period in the past three years.<sup>16</sup> In March 2020, Kazakhstan imposed export restrictions and quotas<sup>17</sup> for selected food commodities including wheat flour, white sugar, sunflower seeds and oil, but the quota will be lifted soon.<sup>18</sup> Russian Federation also imposed a quota on exports which will remain in place until June 30, 2020.

To protect adequate food stocks in the country, the GoTJ also banned the export of wheat flour, wheat (grain), and vegetable oil. The Agency of State Materials Reserve keeps a strategic reserve of staple food commodities including wheat and wheat flour. Part of the stock is used for humanitarian assistance at the time of emergencies or is sold at local markets to stabilize prices. To stabilize prices, several regional markets received reserve commodities or applied government legislated controls on prices and quantity sold. Considering that Tajikistan has a surplus of fruits and vegetables, part of which it exports, no quotas were introduced. However, due to border restrictions and 14-day quarantine for truck drivers, the export of fresh produce, especially apricots and grapes is getting affected.

Agriculture accounts for 19 percent of GDP with nearly 66 percent of people dependent on subsistence agriculture. In Tajikistan, the agriculture production system is predominantly smallholder-based. There are over 176,000 *dehkan* (small) farms. Nearly 1.3 million households are engaged in agriculture. Besides livelihood, agriculture is an important source of food for households. A protracted pandemic crisis can put a strain on agriculture, notably what is a sector that involves a complex web of interactions among producers, processing plants, wholesalers,

<sup>15</sup> WFP & FAO: Food Security Update, June 2020

<sup>16</sup> Ibid

<sup>17</sup> Kazakhstan government order # 74 from 23.03.2020

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.fas.usda.gov/data/kazakhstan-kazakhstan-implements-covid-related-export-restrictions-staples>

and distribution channels. An in-depth analysis of bottlenecks created by COVID-19 along food supply chains is essential for a better understanding of the vulnerabilities in the food supply chains. Notably, a comprehensive assessment of agricultural enterprises and smallholder farms is *sine-qua-non* for designing an effective food security response.

Like food and a wide range of consumer goods, Tajikistan is dependent on imports of agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers and chemicals. The use of agricultural inputs is price sensitive. Farmers often use fewer fertilizers even with only slight increases in prices, leading to decreased yields and a consequent reduction of available food stocks. The price of agricultural inputs such as fertilizers and biological additives increased by 50-60 percent and 35-40 percent respectively. Although the transport of local cargo suffered minimal disruptions, transport cost went up by 25 percent.<sup>19</sup> Since the beginning of March 2020, Tajikistan has been experiencing a shortage of seeds for key commodities (cotton –28 percent, potato –40 percent, and rice –52 percent). Tajikistan is self-sufficient in wheat seeds, but the quality of local seeds is poor.

### ***Education & Learning***

Formal education and training have been severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Around 107 countries have implemented nationwide school closures, impacting over 861.7 million children and youth.<sup>20</sup> Young people in non-formal education are also affected by this closure. The closing of schools also deprives children and youth of social engagement with their peers and teachers. A prolonged period of closure and social restrictions may lead to emotional unrest and anxieties.

A few days before the first cases of Covid-19 were officially announced in the country, the GoTJ decided to close the schools earlier for summer break. In Tajikistan, Right to Education is a national imperative as enshrined in Article 41 of the Constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan. Yet there have been gaps in the enrolment of children in schools including disparities by income, sex, and social status. Fewer learning opportunities, quality of education, and to make education more inclusive including for those with special needs are some of the key concerns.

The current threat posed by the Covid-19 pandemic is likely to have a long-lasting impact on education and psychosocial wellbeing of children. Around two million children and youth between the age of 7 and 17 in Tajikistan are currently enrolled in schools. In the 2019-2020 academic year, more than two million children were enrolled in 3,884 general secondary educational institutions. A vast majority of students are attending double-shift schools (88.2 percent). Around 85 percent of full-time educational institutions (3,299) are in rural areas, with an enrolment of more than 1.4 million students. A total of 7,278 children with disabilities are also enrolled. Another 8,275 children are enrolled in state boarding schools. Moreover, there are 2,333 preschool educational institutions with total coverage of 143,938 children (aged 1.5 to 7).

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<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> UNESCO

To address the short-term and longer-term impact of Covid-19, a national education preparedness and response plan was finalized with the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES). As part of the plan, a Rapid Education Needs Assessment (RENA) is being conducted to identify the overall impact on the education sector, including budget implications. While the focus should be on the long-term, immediate interventions are needed to develop the capacity of teachers and instructors to design and implement alternative teaching methods such as remote and distance learning. A roadmap for reopening of schools is also needed with a focus on the most vulnerable children such as children with disabilities and those who are at risk of dropping out.

It is also important to reach as many children as possible with tailored public health messages and science-based facts on Covid-19 to promote handwashing and social distancing among children and their families. As part of an immediate response, the UN has actively disseminated information on coronavirus in schools. Posters, leaflets and other communication material were developed and distributed. Looking ahead, further action is needed to ensure continuous outreach. Teachers also need to play an active role in advocating and raising awareness of Covid-19. Preventive measures such as screening of children with illness are important. In the long-run, the lessons learned from the present crisis can and should guide future policies to transform the education system, build resilience, and improve the delivery and quality of education in the schools.

### ***Social Protection***

As the Covid-19 pandemic has vividly demonstrated, a well-functioning social protection system is essential in crises to protect the vulnerable. A well-designed and funded social protection system can help vulnerable people to access basic services thereby minimizing the risk of them falling into multi-dimensional poverty. Unfortunately, developing countries with weak social protection system have struggled to provide adequate social assistance to the neediest segments of the population. Tajikistan's social protection system is characterized by low capacity and limited financial resources. The present system is not fully responsive to shocks and past attempts to broaden its scope have not fully yielded results.

Covid-19 is further increasing and deepening vulnerabilities in Tajikistan. The number of people requiring social assistance will undoubtedly increase. Besides a gap in financing, there is no standard and unified approach in identifying vulnerability and mechanisms to respond. The identification and registration of new families or individuals who find themselves in a difficult life situation are extremely cumbersome. Moreover, there is no consolidated database of beneficiaries who are receiving social assistance under various schemes. There is very little data sharing among different institutions involved in the provision of social assistance.

Low-level awareness among vulnerable groups of entitlements and application procedures are also affecting coverage. There is fragmentation in policy-making and programme implementation in the absence of an overarching national policy. The present system is plagued by disjointed governance which makes the current schemes less effective. Social protection policymaking and programmes are delegated to three institutions at the national level: MoH, MoHSP, and the State

Agency on Social Protection of the Population which is under the MoHSP, Agency on Social Insurance and Pensions, and local governments at the province and district levels.

Through a Targeted Social Assistance (TSA) scheme, around half of the 27.5 percent of people who are living below the poverty line receive cash transfers. However, the amount of cash given is little with potentially no impact on the well-being of the people. Poor households used to get a cash payment of TJS 400 (USD 39) per year. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and the resultant economic hardships that many people are experiencing, the amount that each family receives was recently increased. Each household will now receive TJS 464 (USD 45) every quarter (3 months).

Although the amount was increased, it is still equivalent (in monthly terms) to less than 40 percent of the minimum (monthly) wage. The GoTJ has issued a decree for a national rollout of the TSA. All the 68 districts in Tajikistan will be covered, but now there are only 40 districts in the TSA database. It is not clear how many beneficiaries will be targeted in future and how long the revised scheme will continue.

A majority of people above statutory pensionable age- receiving both labour-based pension and social pensions are also disadvantaged. The pension amount is barely enough for them to meet their cost of living. The size of the average old-age pension was only 23.2 percent of previous earnings, making it the lowest replacement rate in the region. Many elderly live in the same households with their children and as such younger members are primarily supporting them. Given that the income and livelihoods of the working-age population are being affected, this puts the elderly in a difficult situation.

Besides cash and in-kind assistance, one needs to take a broader view of social protection to encompass responsibilities of the state to protect its people against harm and ensure that human rights are respected. In this section, there is a brief discussion on gender-based violence (GBV) and migrants which will be further analyzed under the "Social Cohesion" pillar of this framework. That section includes a more in-depth analysis of the protection of freedoms as one of the key drivers of social cohesion and community resilience. With social-distancing and lockdowns, women and girls are at higher risk of sexual abuse and exploitation as well as other forms of domestic violence due to increased tensions in the household. As systems that protect women and girls, including community structures, may weaken or break down, specific measures will be needed to protect women and girls from the risk of all forms of violence, exploitation, trafficking and abuse.

Restrictions on cross-border movements, coupled with limited possibilities to return home voluntarily, may push migrants into pursuing unsafe and irregular migration. The situation may also lead governments to increase deportations, including mass deportations which without proper medical screening and quarantine procedures would pose risks. An increasing number of migrants may be forced to overstay where no provision has been made to regularize or extend visas. Also, migrant workers may find themselves stranded or no longer receive their wages with no means to return home. In the current crisis, the closure of borders further limits regular



migration options which can be exploited by smugglers, traffickers and opportunists who may seize the opportunity to exploit, rob, abuse and violate migrants.

## 2.1 UN's RESPONSE

2. Protecting People		
<i>Essential social services scaled up to protect the vulnerable and affected communities to cope better with the negative socioeconomic consequences of Covid-19</i>		
UN's strategy is to ensure the delivery of essential social services such as food and education while scaling up social protection measures to protect the vulnerable. UN will help affected communities to cope better with the negative socioeconomic consequences of Covid-19 and enable them to rebuild their lives and livelihoods. UN will aim to strengthen existing national initiatives by providing technical expertise, knowledge, and facilitate access to financing for scaling up.		
<b>Total Budget</b> USD: 26,824,900	<b>Available Funding</b> USD 11,735,600	<b>Financing Gap</b> USD 15,089,300
Food Security & Nutrition		
<b>Result area 2.1:</b> Food security monitored, and measures introduced to address food insecurity among vulnerable households		
<b>Result area 2.2:</b> Personal safety secured through improved sanitation at the household and workplace		
Education		
<b>Result area 2.3:</b> Education systems strengthened to address alternative education and learning needs including introduction of digital solutions		
Social Protection		
<b>Result area 2.4:</b> National social protection system improved, and relevant schemes put in place to ensure wider coverage of the vulnerable population		
<b>Result area 2.5:</b> Prevention and Response to GBV and protection of other vulnerable segments of the population strengthened		

### **Food Security & Nutrition**

Disruptions in food production systems must be addressed immediately. It will require concerted efforts to improve access to affordable inputs, value chains, and marketing channels. A key part of the strategy is to monitor food production and stocks. UN Agencies will continue to support the government institutions to conduct a joint analysis of prices and commodities. In this regard, the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) and Global Information, Early Warning System (GIEWS), the Crop and Food Security Assessment Missions (CFSAMs) will be used. Currently, the UN is collecting prices in the local markets every week. These include staple food and major non-food items, including PPEs.

Furthermore, the UN Agencies will support efforts to ensure that adequate food stocks are available across the country at stable and affordable prices. The key government partners include the Agency of State Materials Reserve, MoA, and the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence (COES). The national assessment of food stocks will be initiated as soon as possible with an objective to estimate current stocks and future harvests. UN is also managing a contingency stock for emergency responses and is positioning itself to scaling up.

One of the key priorities for ensuring food security is to supply quality inputs to ensure sustainable agricultural production season in 2020. In the short-term, there is a need to provide input support for farmers and agricultural-related small businesses. These can include subsidies for procurement of agricultural inputs, access to markets, and technical know-how. Besides, improved varieties of cereals and beans will be procured and distributed to smallholder farmers for second crop and fall planting seasons and refilling the seed banks in the country. Besides the distribution of agriculture inputs, technical assistance to farmers will be needed.

Among others, knowledge sharing with farmers on soil-conservation and water-saving practices in drought-prone areas will be promoted. UN will support the GoTJ in its efforts to increase planted areas by 60 percent for the second cropping season. Also, technical assistance will be provided to promote agricultural exports which will stimulate demand for agricultural investment. Besides on-farm support, assistance must be given to agro-processing businesses which can not only increase demand for agricultural products but also promote value-addition. In the short-term, capital injections in the agricultural sector should help small and medium agro-businesses to continue operations, improving storage, and reducing post-harvest losses.

UN is supporting food-insecure households through a cash for work programme to provide temporary cash and to build physical assets, such as restoration of land and irrigation systems, and flood mitigation work. Although the programme is primarily designed to fill immediate gap, opportunities will be explored to implement safety-nets, which allow households to invest and enhance resilience. Recently, 1,325 households of refugees and asylum seekers in four locations (Vahdat, Rudaki, Khujand and Dushanbe) were provided food ration. Further action will be taken based on the situation. Furthermore, innovative ways will be explored to continue School Feeding Programme of daily hot meal, which supports more than 420,000 primary schoolchildren. When the schools closed early, the UN provided a one-off take-home ration to the families of the most food-insecure children.

UN will promote supplementary feeding targeting pregnant and lactating women and children under 2 years old combined with Social Behavioural Change (SBCC) to promote healthy diets and hygiene. Furthermore, to protect the nutritional status of vulnerable populations, lifesaving nutrition interventions such as treatment of acute malnutrition (MAM/SAM) will be considered on needs basis. Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures as well as hygiene and sanitation measures will be taken at all nutrition program sites. Public awareness for maternal nutrition, breastfeeding and other IYCF practices in the Covid-19 context will be promoted.

UN will put in place contingency plans for in-kind food assistance in case food availability becomes an issue. Global reserves of non-perishable grains including wheat should, for the time being, suffice to meet any surge in demand. Preparedness measures to mitigate risks of supply chain disruptions will include: (i) sourcing alternatives, (ii) procure and prepare inventory in advance, especially for affected areas to have a buffer in case of disruption of the supply chain, (iii) securing land transportation of humanitarian cargos ahead of time, (iv) preparing for an increase of cost and lead-time throughout the supply chain, procurement and logistics.

If the food security situation further deteriorates, supply chains for the provision of specialized nutritious commodities will be secured. In Tajikistan, as per the IMAM protocol and with the support of the development partners, specialized nutritious foods will be provided to treat child malnutrition, and these commodities are all imported from abroad. Should there be a shortage of supply, alternative options like other nutritious foods like Acha Mum, or nutritious combinations of staple commodities (e.g., super cereal, sugar, and vegetable oil) will be explored.

### ***Education & Learning***

UN Agencies in Tajikistan are well-positioned to support the education system in the country. UN has been providing capacity development and technical assistance in the education sector for several years and have invested in evidence-based policy development, costing, and budget analysis and supported the formulation of the current national education development strategy was. The strategy underlines priorities in the education sector and measures needed to reach the education SDG targets by 2030.

UN will support formulation of new policies and school-based guidelines at the central and regional level regulating school closure and safety standards in all the schools and other educational institutions such as boarding schools and residential care institutions. The education assessment that is currently being undertaken will help to better understand the financing gap and budgetary support needed, impact on learning and school feeding, child protection and psychosocial wellbeing following the early closure of the schools.

A mapping of existing resources (digital, printed & video) is being carried out for compatibility with the national curriculum. TV lessons will be developed targeting core grades and subjects. Training needs of well-qualified teachers, including in use of ICT for teaching, will be identified and tailor-made courses will be offered for TV production of model lessons. As part of remote teaching, self-learning educational material will be developed to target vulnerable children in rural areas, including support to children with disabilities and special needs. Science-in based learning materials will be developed on Covid-19, and disseminated to teachers, parents and children.

UN will also provide support to boarding schools and other educational institutions to ensure that vulnerable children continue to receive education through distance learning as well to monitor child protection concerns. Off-line mobile applications will be developed to support home-based lessons including remote teacher support. Moreover, the digital version of School

Olympiads content and methodology will be made available. There is also a need to provide equipment and capacity development including e-seminars and remote technical support to MoES specialists and critical staff. A hotline and an SMS system will be set up targeting teachers and sending them updates of relevant information on Covid-19.

UN will also undertake an assessment of research institutions in Central Asia to identify their needs and capacities as well as identify possible strategies to respond to Covid-19 related challenges through science, technology and innovation (STI). The findings of the assessment will help shape policy recommendations on STI in the country. This will also pave the way for collaboration between different stakeholders involved in STI. Moreover, as part of the sub-regional response, UN will assist the ministries of education in Central Asia by convening online webinars on topics related to the current crises: e.g. online end-of-the-year assessment, how to safely reopen the schools etc.

Lastly, support will be provided to disseminate communication messages targeting students, parents and school communities ensuring awareness on Covid-19 and its preventive measures. As needed, school-household focused activities to promote safe and protective habits (handwashing, etc.), will be supported encouraging students and teaching staff to stay home when sick or when caring for sick family members. UN will continue to support risk communication campaigns using TV and other media thereby contributing directly to the Government's crisis communication measures. Also, psychosocial communication campaigns targeting children and families through TV and other media will continue.

### ***Social Protection***

UN Agencies will continue to support the GoTJ's Preparedness and Response Plan for Social Protection. Specifically, the UN will support data management, development of vulnerability assessment tools, and improving procedures for identification and registration of eligible recipients. UN will aim to strengthen the interface between the relevant state institutions and development partners in the country and invest in evidence-based policy development, costing and budget analysis.

The analyses will include looking at multiple scenarios to estimate investments needed for expanding the existing social assistance schemes. The analyses will consider the introduction of new schemes and options for providing coverage to vulnerable who are currently not included. This may include an assessment of workers in the informal economy who usually do not qualify for any social assistance. Also, integrated gender-sensitive employment policies and programmes will be promoted that incorporate social security dimensions.

To promote national ownership and outreach, through an inclusive process underpinned social dialogue, cash transfer programmes will be implemented through a common TSA window. Thus, complementary cash additions will not create any overlap and duplication. It will also allow for top-ups to those households who are already covered as well as targeting more families who are vulnerable but currently are not receiving any cash assistance. The latter can include elderly,

people living with disabilities (PLWD), people with terminal illness, female caregivers, women headed households, and families of migrant worker. Technical and policy support will also focus on harmonizing what at present is a set of fragmented schemes. In this regard, a clear advantage for the UN is that it has a presence at the local level and several networks across the country. It will help the UN to feed evidence into the design of social protection schemes, advocacy, and a data-driven approach in measuring results.

UN Agencies will continue to implement programmes against gender-based violence in the context of Covid-19. A key area of focus will be behavioural change for prevention of GBV and promoting positive masculinity and support capacity building of medical personnel in psychosocial support to the survivors of GBV, including survivors of rape. UN will also strengthen partnership with the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MOIA) on GBV awareness and improving protection services through training for inspectors.

Partnership with the Committee of Women and Family Affairs will be strengthened to advocate for distribution of domestic responsibilities between family members in a time when people are encouraged to stay home. Development of information for prevention of GBV will be supported and disseminated in partnership with communities and religious leaders at the community level. Moreover, UN will support integrated SGBV/DV referral system in partnership with the communities, CSOs, local branches of MOIA, courts, Office of HR Ombudsman, and rooms located at medical facilities for survivors of GBV and will continue to work with the local family and child protection services to address child labour and exploitation as a response to economic stress.

As authorities impose tighter restrictions to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and penalties for breach of these restrictions, additional police or security forces may be deployed to monitor the population and ensure compliance. UN will monitor access to returning migrant to health care and other protection services. The work will also focus on raising awareness in the communities to address marginalization, stigma, and xenophobia against migrants and returnees. Monitoring and recording cases will be strengthened to assist stranded migrants requesting assistance for assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) to identify alternative approaches.

UN will also support return of migrants currently in Russia, particularly those expressing willingness to return and awaiting the end of travel restrictions. Furthermore, the UN will monitor and assess the potential impact of irregular migration and criminal activity as a result of the crisis. UN will train and support local authorities and security forces—where appropriate—to help them to better understand their role and mandate and to advocate for proper codes of conduct and protection of vulnerable groups. Measures will also be taken for safe reporting channels on protection and for humanitarian actors to report abuses and seek punitive action, as well as remediation for victims. Moreover, the UN will provide capacity building support to law enforcement agencies to step up action against traffickers and smugglers.

### 3. Macroeconomic Response

#### 3.1 CURRENT SITUATION

The global economic outlook for 2020 is bleak with some recovery expected in 2021 which will largely depend on the effectiveness of the Covid-19 containment measures.<sup>21</sup> Even before the first cases of coronavirus were reported in Tajikistan, estimates suggested that the economy would grow anywhere between 1 and 1.7 percent in 2020.<sup>22</sup> It would be a significant drop compared to a period of relatively high growth between 2010 and 2019 when the economic output increased 7 percent annually.

According to the latest projection, the Tajik economy will shrink by 2 percent in 2020.<sup>23</sup> A contraction of 2 percent is based on what can be described as the “best-case scenario”. In 2019, industrial production (14 percent) was the main driver of growth, followed by agriculture (9 percent). On the demand side, household consumption was a key for sustaining a growth rate of over 7 percent. Tajikistan’s current account deficit was expected to fall to 2.3 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 2020.

However, with dampening external demand and fall in remittances, the current account deficit will further widen to 7.8 percent. In terms of value-added, the share of industry and agriculture in the GDP accounts for 27.4 percent and 19.2 percent respectively.<sup>24</sup> A decomposition of growth rate in 2019 shows that industry contributed 3.2 percent while services and agriculture contributed 2.3 and 1.4 percent to the total growth rate of 7.5 percent.<sup>25</sup> However, at 42.1 percent, services represent the largest share in the economy.

Some social distancing measures have been introduced in Tajikistan such as the closure of schools, clothing markets, and wearing of masks. However, the country has not imposed a strict lockdown which has meant that many businesses and public institutions are still operating, albeit at a reduced capacity. The latest economic figures for the first quarter of 2020 seem to indicate that without a lockdown, industrial and agriculture output has remained somewhat unaffected, but there is already a significant drop in trade and services.<sup>26</sup> Industrial production increased by 15 percent while agriculture output grew 9 percent between January and April in 2020 compared to the same period a year earlier. It appears that restricted trade and transportation has had a negative impact on economic activities.

<sup>21</sup> [https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/document\\_gem/global-economic-monitoring-unit/world-economic-situation-and-prospects-wesp-report/world-economic-situation-and-prospects-wesp-mid-year-update/](https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/document_gem/global-economic-monitoring-unit/world-economic-situation-and-prospects-wesp-report/world-economic-situation-and-prospects-wesp-mid-year-update/)

<sup>22</sup> <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/33476>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.imf.org/~media/Files/Publications/CR/2020/English/1TJKEA2020001.ashx>

<sup>24</sup> Based on data from 2018: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NV.IND.TOTL.ZS?locations=TJ>

<sup>25</sup> World Bank estimates: Presentation “Implications of Covid-19 on Tajik Economy and GoT Anti-Crisis Plan” DCC General Meeting, April 20, 2020

<sup>26</sup> The Agency on Statistics. Socioeconomic Situation in Tajikistan, January-April 2020

Owing to the nature of the sector which involves greater people-to-people interaction, it is likely that Covid-19 will hit the services sector the hardest. According to one estimate, services sector will contract by 4.3 percent in 2020.<sup>27</sup> In services, the hospitality and wholesale sub-sectors shrunk by 6 percent (y-o-y) for the period between January and April of 2020. It is important to note here that a vast majority of small enterprises and female workers are typically employed in hospitality and trade. The slowdown in services is consistent with reduced movement of people. Google's community mobility report on Tajikistan shows that, compared to the February-March period (-8 percent), visits to retail and recreational outlets dropped significantly (-47 percent) for the April-May period.<sup>28</sup>

While Google's data sample does not represent the population as a whole, it is consistent with a drop in the output of services. If people are spending less, it will further create a slump in demand. In such an environment, it will be difficult for many businesses such as restaurants, hotels, shops to weather the storm. Many businesses in the services sector are small enterprises with limited capital reserves or access to commercial sources of financing. It will be difficult for them to remain afloat in the absence of external financing which is offered on favourable terms.

It is important to note that the first 15 cases of infection were officially reported on April 30, 2020. Since then the accumulated cases have risen rapidly.<sup>29</sup> In case infection rate continues to rise and if additional social distancing measures, one can then expect to see further contraction in economic output starting from the second quarter (May-July) of the current year. The magnitude of economic contraction will depend on the level of community infection, containment measures, and business continuity plans of enterprises including agricultural farms.

Moreover, the pace of economic contraction will be determined by the purchasing power of households. As mentioned, household consumption was one of the major demand factors of growth in 2019. An important source of household consumption is remittances. There are more than a million Tajik migrants including many who are working in Russia. Personal remittances in 2019 were equivalent to 29 percent of the GDP.<sup>30</sup> Tajik households spend 76 percent of the remittances on basic family needs such as health and education<sup>31</sup> which further underlines its importance for household welfare.

An economic slowdown in Russia triggered by a decline in oil prices and widespread community infection further compounds the problems for Tajikistan. From a high of USD 60 in January 2020, oil price dropped to USD 30 at end of April 2020. Although a price fall is good news for an oil-importing country like Tajikistan, declining oil revenues for Russia affects Tajikistan indirectly through migration. With a drop in the oil revenue and the economy that will shrink by -5.5 percent<sup>32</sup>, one can expect redundancies and a much higher unemployment rate in Russia.

<sup>27</sup> World Bank estimates: Presentation "Implications of Covid-19 on Tajik Economy and GoT Anti-Crisis Plan" DCC General Meeting, April 20, 2020

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.google.com/covid19/mobility/>

<sup>29</sup> <http://eng.khovar.tj/2020/05/urgent-total-covid-19-cases-exceeds-2550/>

<sup>30</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/BX.TRF.PWKR.DT.GD.ZS?locations=TJ>

<sup>31</sup> PRISE: Migration, remittances and climate resilience in Tajikistan Working Paper Part II

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.imf.org/en/Countries/RUS>



Migrants in Russia will likely be the first ones who will lose their jobs. As mentioned, Russia hosts a vast majority of Tajik migrants. Job losses among migrants will not only deprive Tajikistan of much-needed income with a resultant widening of the current account gap, but it will also create more pressure on the domestic labour market. Return of Tajik migrants and those unable to go to Russia for work will significantly increase the unemployment rate in the country.

Global trade is already witnessing a major reversal and demand for commodities in large economies is already falling. Tajikistan is a net importer of goods. Balance in traded goods in 2018 amounted to -25.1 percent of the GDP. In terms of its global ranking in World Exports, Tajikistan is placed 149 which is the lowest rank in the CIS. Tajikistan's trade balance has remained negative for several years. Petroleum and petroleum products, consumer and capital goods, wheat and flour, seeds oils, sugar and rice are some of the key goods that Tajikistan imports.

Tajikistan's main exports are mineral ores, gold, cotton, aluminium and cement. Fruits and vegetables are the primary agricultural products exported. In Quarter 1 (Jan-Mar) of 2020, exports fell by 16 percent compared to the same period in 2019. But exports saw a sudden spike in the month of April 2020 which somewhat conceals the declining trend for the January-April period. Overall, foreign trade increased by 23 percent on the back of (possibly one-off) a spike in exports to countries outside the CIS in the month of April.<sup>33</sup> On the other hand, in the same month (y-o-y), imports fell by 16 percent.

Although the spread of infection has been contained in China, according to the latest UN report,<sup>34</sup> Chinese economy contracted by 6.8 percent in the first quarter of 2020. Compared to a 6.1 percent growth in 2019, China is projected to grow by just 1.7 percent in 2020. With such a large contraction, the demand for commodities that Tajikistan exports to China will fall. Also, there is every likelihood that Chinese overseas investments will decline. China is the major source of foreign direct investment (FDI) in Tajikistan. Chinese FDI in Tajikistan steadily increased from 0.9 percent of GDP in 2017 to 2.6 percent in 2018, but it may fall in 2020.

Tajikistan just came out of a major banking crisis that hit the country in 2016. In the first quarter of 2020, outstanding savings held by credit institutions increased by 7 percent compared to the same quarter a year earlier when it increased by only 3 percent.<sup>35</sup> Outstanding loans increased by 5 percent in the first quarter of 2020 which was much higher compared to the year earlier when outstanding loans increased by 1 percent. The portfolio of outstanding loans is spread across different sectors which can potentially minimize risks.

Almost 36 percent of the current bank loans are for industry, followed by foreign trade and consumption which account for 16 percent each. The share of agriculture loans is less than 12 percent of the total outstanding loan portfolio. Although banks are not reporting any noticeable

<sup>33</sup> Calculations based on data from the Agency of Statistics: <https://www.stat.tj/en/database-real-sector>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/publication/world-economic-situation-and-prospects-as-of-mid-2020/>

<sup>35</sup> National Bank of Tajikistan Banking Statistics Bulletin. [https://nbt.tj/en/statistics/statistical\\_bulletin.php](https://nbt.tj/en/statistics/statistical_bulletin.php)

increase in loan defaults or liquidity constraints yet, the proportion of non-performing loan (NPL) rate is already very high (28.6 percent).<sup>36</sup> NPL rate in Tajikistan is quite high by international standards which makes the financial industry quite vulnerable to business shocks. Also, high dollarization of outstanding loans poses risks to the financial industry.

A major challenge for the GoTJ is to manage public spending at a time of tightening fiscal space. With a revised growth rate that will see the economy shrinking by 2 percent, tax revenue which is the main source of domestic revenue will fall considerably.<sup>37</sup> In its budget for 2020, GoTJ had estimated to collect a little over USD 1.7 billion in taxes, an amount equivalent to 20.4 percent of the estimated GDP.

However, with a downward projection for GDP, the estimated tax collection will be around USD 1.48 billion which is equivalent to 19 percent of the revised GDP for 2020. On the other hand, expenditure is expected to rise, particularly as part of the response to the public health emergency. GoTJ is also planning to increase allocations for social assistance for vulnerable households in the country who are facing economic hardships.

A supplementary budget will be submitted to the national parliament in June with a revised outlay of revenue and expenditure for 2020. Priority spending such as health and social spending will be increased while non-essential capital investment will be reduced. One of the major capital investments is for the construction of Rogun Hydroelectric Power Plant. In the supplementary budget, the allocation for Rogun will be reduced by 14 percent. But with an envelope of USD 323 million for 2020, it will remain as one of the major expenditure items in the budget.

As part of its economic recovery plan, the government is trying to raise grant and grant-funded project investment. However, to plug the fiscal gap which is expected to increase to 7.7 percent, the government is considering concessional borrowing from international financial institutions (IFIs). The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has already approved a loan of USD 190 million for direct budget support as part of its rapid credit facility.

Tajikistan will also save USD 30 million in IMF debt relief which should reduce debt servicing burden. To cover the fiscal gap, the government is also consulting with the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development, and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. A key priority for the government is not only to plug the fiscal gap, but to ensure that funds are directed to essential public services, urgent needs of the most vulnerable in the community are met, and livelihoods are restored for those who have been affected.

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<sup>36</sup> <https://nbt.tj/upload/iblock/90e/%D0%90%D0%9D%D0%93.PDF>

<sup>37</sup> Unless otherwise mentioned, budget calculations are based on the IMF's estimates/analysis related to the Rapid Credit Facility.

### 3.1 UN'S RESPONSE

3. Macroeconomic Response		
<b><i>Stable macroeconomic situation that balances the need for expansionary fiscal policy for pro-poor growth and tapping into a diverse range of financing for national development and the SDGs while promoting cross-border collaboration</i></b>		
UN Agencies will work in partnership with IFIs and donors to help GoTJ to effectively manage public sector spending to align it to pro-poor investments. This will require analytical support and collaboration with key national ministries with fiduciary responsibility for financing the national development plan. In partnership with the MoF and MEDT, the UN is in the process of setting up an architecture for SDG Financing which will also serve as the platform for financing the socioeconomic response to Covid-19. Furthermore, the UN will support regional cooperation to promote trade.		
<b>Total Budget</b> <b>USD 4,420,150</b>	<b>Available Funding</b> <b>USD 704,150</b>	<b>Financing Gap</b> <b>USD 3,716,000</b>
<b>Result area 3.1:</b> Enabling policy environment created for sustainable and greener economic recovery, investments in jobs, and pro-poor public spending		
<b>Result area 3.2:</b> Regional cooperation including cross-border trade enhanced to promote inclusive growth and development		

In a time of great disruption and economic uncertainty, the state must play an even more active role to prevent the Covid-19 pandemic from turning into a full-fledged economic crisis. Navigating through this difficult time will require enacting enlightened policies to counter falling output, protecting jobs, and stimulating aggregate demand. The road ahead is going to be difficult and it will require the whole of the government to work together. To maintain aggregate demand and save businesses, several countries have launched large scale fiscal stimulus plans. Low-income countries were already facing fiscal constraints.

It will be, therefore, difficult for these countries to undertake expansionary fiscal measures without external financing. Low-income countries must have access to a range of public and private financing. An expansionary fiscal stance will be a departure from fiscal conservatism that many have pursued to gain investor confidence and access to international financial markets. Expansionary fiscal spending is of course not a silver bullet. It must be accompanied by stringent measures to improve efficiency in spending as well as allocating precious resources to national development priorities and pro-poor programmes.

UN System has an important role to play in supporting the national macroeconomic response which is articulated in the MEDT Plan. A key feature of UN's support to Tajikistan will be to help it maintain economic stability, and assist the government to mobilize financing, and craft policies

to pursue human-centric growth. SDGs must remain the development compass to guide emergency public health interventions as well as socioeconomic response that creates a pathway for pro-poor and inclusive growth.

It will be an opportune time for GoTJ to enact policies and programmes to further mainstream pro-poor and gender-sensitive analysis in budgeting, not only to address the immediate effects of the pandemic but also to further align financing to national development goals which, in turn, should be linked to the SDGs. In this regard, the UN will strengthen the SDGs financial architecture in Tajikistan. It will augment the analytical capacity of the government to consider a range of financing options. The capacity of the government will be strengthened to incorporate an integrated financing framework for a socioeconomic response and SDGs that can secure development gains and build on them.

UN in partnership with IFIs and national stakeholders will closely monitor the macroeconomic situation and help relevant national agencies to respond to the emerging needs. The analysis will focus on effective and accountable public spending for essential social services, and interventions to restore investor confidence and continuity of businesses. In the supplementary budget that will be submitted to the parliament, allocations have been made to significantly increase funding for health and social assistance.

Furthermore, to UN will provide technical assistance on analysing the variation in the economic lifecycle and the intergenerational economic systems, macroeconomic effects of population ageing, and improving policy related to pensions, health care, education, and fertility. In this regard, national transfer accounts (NTA) are widely used which constitute a complete, systematic, and coherent accounting of economic flows from one age group or generation to another. Given the importance of spending on education and health, an analysis of NTA will be important in policies and medium-term expenditure framework.

An increase in social spending for health and social assistance in the 2020 revised budget<sup>38</sup> is a welcome development. However, it is equally important that funds earmarked for the health sector must be deployed for essential services, medical supplies, and equipment rather than non-priority capital investments. Similarly, an increase in budget allocation for social spending should be used to broaden the scope of social transfers. The amount a family receives, and the number of households targeted should be increased significantly.

International trade has been negatively affected as a result of the current pandemic. A drop of 27 percent in global trade is expected in the second quarter of 2020.<sup>39</sup> Tajikistan is highly dependent on imports. As a response to the crisis, several countries have started to protect their domestic markets and somewhat retracted from regional and global cooperation. The only way both developed and low-income countries can come out of this crisis is through increased global cooperation and multilateralism.

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<sup>38</sup> A revised budget was submitted to the Parliament in June-July

<sup>39</sup> <https://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=2369>

The global footprint and relationship with the member states put UN Agencies in a unique position to help Tajikistan to be a key partner in regional cooperation in Central Asia and Europe. In this regard, the UN will support Tajikistan to strengthen its trade linkages to ensure the imports of essential goods, and its exports to boost demand for domestic enterprises. UN will build on its existing portfolio of Aid for Trade, South-South cooperation, and other cross-border programmes to strengthen regional economic partnerships. UN will also assess the impact of Covid-19 on trade patterns and costs and provide support on integrating environmental dimension into the economic response. Building a stronger and a more resilient economy requires addressing various environmental risks, including those of transboundary character. In this regard, UN will support Tajikistan in making use of multilateral agreements to respond to the environmental challenge.

The crisis has revealed structural fragilities in both industrial and developing countries. In building back better, SDGs will continue to serve as the goalposts for achieving higher levels of development. Tajikistan was one of the first few countries that adopted the SDGs and mainstreamed these global goals in national policy instruments. Reflecting its commitment, Tajikistan has participated in voluntary national review (VNR) of the SDGs.

The current momentum on SDGs must be maintained even amidst an unprecedented public health crisis. An important part of this will be the formulation of the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP) for 2021-2025. UN has already helped the GoT to review the implementation of the previous MTDP: 2016-2020. UN will continue to support the government in the formulation of the next MTDP. Lessons learned from the present crisis will be incorporated to devise future policies that address intersecting forms of vulnerabilities among the population and a structural transformation for greater prosperity.

## 4. Economic Recovery and Livelihoods

### 4.1 CURRENT SITUATION

Tajikistan is a low-income country but ranks “medium human development” on HDI index scoring of 0.65, which is “below average” in Europe and Central Asia. More than 27 percent of the population is below the national poverty line. Rural poverty rate is higher (30.2 percent) compared to the urban poverty rate.<sup>40</sup> Rate of extreme poverty has been falling steadily from 18 percent in 2013 to 12 percent in 2018, but the cascading effect of this crisis will probably reverse this trend. The crisis affecting low-income households, families with many children, unemployed youth, and other vulnerable groups. Losing livelihoods, facing rising food prices, and increasing health costs in the absence of a social safety net are putting millions of households at risk.

Economic recovery will mean protecting jobs and workers, ensuring decent work, building productive assets, and reviving production and supply networks. The functioning of small producers, informal workers, and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) across different economic sectors is crucial. Previous examples from countries that applied quarantine measures to tackle epidemic outbreaks (such as SARS, Ebola and now Covid-19) show that people in informal employment are the hardest hit. Informal employment lacks a formal labour relationship between the employers and the employees. As such, informal workers do not have access to any form of social protection such as unemployment benefits, annual and sick leave, or other benefits.

It is estimated that informal employment in Tajikistan is the highest in the region, with every third of the informal worker in the non-agriculture sector being employed in construction. Social distancing and lockdowns mean that informal workers tend to lose their livelihood almost immediately. Without any social insurance, informal workers are left with no income. Among others, informal workers in Tajikistan are typically unregistered individual private entrepreneurs, individuals providing informal paid services, e.g. taxi drivers, street vendors, maintenance and construction workers, housekeepers, homecare providers, unregistered laborers in agriculture, household members working on family farmlands or making livelihoods from farming on their homestead land.

Often women and youth (15-24 years) are at a higher risk of losing their jobs. A higher proportion (25 percent) of women are involved in unpaid employment in family businesses compared to men (13 percent).<sup>41</sup> The labour participation rate in Tajikistan is quite low (43 percent). It is even much lower among women (27 percent). It is likely that one of the reasons<sup>42</sup> that women are unable to join the labour force is that they often have additional burden of domestic household

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/infographic/2019/10/17/poverty-in-tajikistan-2019>

<sup>41</sup> <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/tajikistan/publication/tajikistan-addressing-challenges-to-create-more-and-better-jobs>

<sup>42</sup> Lack of data makes it difficult confirm this, but several labour force surveys in low-income countries have shown that additional household burned make it difficult for them to seek employment.

chores as well as caregivers. Around 73 percent of household income is earned from informal economic activities. Women account for 58 percent of people producing goods for own-use.<sup>43</sup>

Tajikistan ranked 123<sup>rd</sup> at the very bottom in the region- in the 2018 Global Report on Gender Gap. The gap measures economic participation, opportunity, wage differential, and position of women in a managerial role. In terms of its gender development index (GDI), Tajikistan scores lower (0.799) than Kazakhstan (0.999), Kyrgyzstan (0.959), and Uzbekistan (0.939). The GDI measures gender gaps in human development achievements by accounting for disparities between women and men in three basic dimensions of human development—health, knowledge and living standards. Moreover, on the gender inequality index (GII) Tajikistan also behind compared to its neighbouring countries. GII measures gender inequalities in reproductive health; empowerment; and economic status.

Since GII measures the human development costs of gender inequality, the higher the GII value the more disparities between females and males and the more loss to human development. In the region, Tajikistan (0.377) and Kyrgyzstan (0.381) have the highest level of gender disparities on the GII. Kazakhstan (0.203) has the lowest level of gender inequality, followed by Uzbekistan (0.303) in the region. Despite some progress in legislative reform, harmful social norms and practices continue to perpetuate gender inequality. Additional epidemic control measures, such as isolation and quarantine can further hit the service sector forcing employers to cut jobs. Closure of borders and restricted movement of people has already impacted the tourism industry and livelihoods of handicraft producers.

Tourism and hospitality sectors alone employ 232,000 people working in 161 tourist companies, 184 hotels, and 26 hostels. In the best-case scenario, around 300,000 to 400,000 will face temporary unemployment or reduced income. If the pandemic continues to spread and further social distancing measures are put in place between 500,000 and 1,160,000 face economic uncertainty in Tajikistan.

Whereas globally many formal employees and larger businesses have been able to continue working remotely, limited access to and high cost of the Internet means that a majority of workers in Tajikistan do not have that option. The structural gap in access to services between rural and urban citizens will further widen.<sup>44</sup> Tajikistan is ranked 106th among 190 countries on the “ease of doing business” index.<sup>45</sup> The tax burden is above the norm for transitional economies of Eastern Europe and Central Asia putting businesses in a very unfavourable situation.

Out of 323,279 business entities registered in Tajikistan, 90.3 percent are SMEs, incl. 50.4 percent farm units.<sup>46</sup> Around 1 million people are employed by SMEs, accounting for 48 percent of the total employment. If the informal sector is included, the share of SMEs in employment is even greater. SME development is, therefore, essential for economic diversification, employment and

<sup>43</sup> Labor Force Survey, 2016

<sup>44</sup> <https://eurasianet.org/tajikistan-and-its-terrible-horrible-no-good-very-bad-internet>

<sup>45</sup> <https://www.doingbusiness.org/content/dam/doingBusiness/country/t/tajikistan/TJK.pdf>

<sup>46</sup> As of August 1, 2019



livelihoods. The crisis triggered by the Covid-19 will make it difficult for SMEs, especially those run by women, to survive and maintain employment, because of cash flow issues, labour constraints, and supply or demand issues. Given their size and low capital bases, SMEs are not prepared for shocks of this magnitude. Targeted assistance to businesses can protect jobs and build the resilience of SMEs.

Policy measures introduced to support the private sector must be inclusive and forward-looking. A quick assessment is needed to understand the local production and supply chains and the impact on SMEs. There are already disruptions in business supply chains, and it will take time to rebuild them. Having limited stocks and inventory, SMEs are more vulnerable to such disruptions. Changes in demand pattern can also create additional challenges for the SMEs that are not able to quickly adapt their business strategies. It will be difficult for SMEs to maintain liquidity due to limited sales, savings, and limited access to bank financing.

Despite its positive impact on poverty reduction, Tajikistan is heavily dependent on remittances which expose the country to external risks and economic slowdown in countries that host Tajik migrants. Between 30 and 40 percent of households<sup>47</sup> have at least one family member working abroad.<sup>48</sup> Majority of Tajik migrants are men (83 percent).<sup>49</sup> Remittances amount to over 30 percent of GDP and a significant part of household consumption. Migrant households spend close to 70 percent of income from remittances on basic needs such as food, education, and health. A decrease in personal remittances will have a detrimental effect on household income, food security and nutrition.

Cash transfer companies are already reporting a 36 percent decrease in remittances from Russia to Tajikistan in the 1st quarter of 2020 compared with the same period in 2019. Moreover, transfers from Tajikistan to Russia increased by 47 percent, possibly as a result of financial support from families to migrants who are currently in Russia without a job. Money transfer companies project a further 50 percent decrease in cash transfers in the next 3-4 months. Covid-19 is already causing severe hardships for migrants and their families in Tajikistan. As incomes decrease and jobs are lost, competition for livelihoods will intensify which will lead to a further increase in the informal economy.

Official data report that 530,883 labour migrants departed Tajikistan in 2019. An estimated 1-1.5 million Tajik migrants are working in Russia. There are no available data yet on the number of would-be labour migrants who were not able to leave Tajikistan in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2020. There are anecdotal reports in media about labour migrants being locked in Russia and other recipient countries due to quarantine without a job and income. They are also at risk of facing legal issues as their visas may have expired, or they do not have work permits. Migrants may be excluded from or unable able to access public safety nets; they may become destitute and will need assistance.

<sup>47</sup> The latest figures estimate the number of Tajik labour migrants working in Russia is around 1,200,000 people, and remittances around 30 percent of the GDP

<sup>48</sup> <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/dependent-remittances-tajikistan-prospects-dim-economic-growth>

<sup>49</sup> National data on migration

### 4.2 UN RESPONSE

4. Economic Recovery & Livelihoods		
<i>Policy measures developed to help national counterparts to design and implement initiatives to protect jobs, promote decent employment, and build the foundation for a sustainable economic transformation.</i>		
UN response is underpinned by policy measures to help national counterparts to design and implement initiatives to protect jobs, promote decent employment, and build the foundation for a sustainable economic transformation. UN will advocate for various employment retention schemes, investments in the care economy, support for SMEs, and promote formalization of informal economy, wage employment and livelihoods for those who have lost their jobs including returning migrants.		
<b>Total Budget</b> USD 12,920,900	<b>Available Funding</b> USD 6,536,760	<b>Financing Gap</b> USD 6,384,140
<b>Result area 4.1:</b> Economic revitalization and livelihoods advanced through market development, improved business services and policies, and ecosystems for digitalization		
<b>Result area 4.2:</b> Skills development and employment services enhanced for jobseekers including migrants and returnees to engage in productive employment		

As part of short-term needs, the UN Agencies will support production sectors that are critical for frontline Covid-19 response (e.g., PPE production). It will assist the government to establish a national public-private digital platform linked to the Covid-19 response to conduct scenario planning for SMEs.

UN's support at the policy level, as well as direct support at the meso and micro level, will be critical to enable the government to formulate and implement programmes that are critical for restoring jobs and livelihoods. Careful consideration will be given to businesses and jobs that are contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Advisory services will be provided on financing facilities including grants, concessionary loans, and special credit lines for SMEs. There is a lot of potential to shift economic activities to online platforms for effective delivery of goods and services.

UN Agencies are well-positioned to support Tajikistan to implement initiatives that address structural inequalities that SMEs face to become part of digital ecosystems, especially promoting inclusion of women and youth. This will require support for digital skills development, in particular for women entrepreneurs, and supporting them in digitalization of business processes. While digitalization is reducing jobs in some sectors, there will be an increased demand for workers in the care economy. In Tajikistan, there is very little information on the care economy, partly because a lot of such work is carried out within the family. UN Agencies will undertake further research and help the GoTJ to formulate future policy on the care economy.

In addition to the above, UN Agencies will support the government in its efforts to restore livelihoods through cash-for-work programs by using tech platforms for food delivery and transportation. Institutional support will be provided to strengthen public employment service to modernize delivery model, improve outreach to the most vulnerable, and accountability in the delivery of services. The changes proposed will draw from international labour standards and respect for human rights.

An important feature in policy-making and measures will be to work in partnership with the national tripartite commission to ensure inclusive decisions and policies in consultation with the employers and workers organizations. Given the importance of migration and remittances to the economy of Tajikistan and the income needs of migrants who are unable to travel, UN will support programmes that provide alternative income and employment opportunities for migrants by leveraging skills learned abroad or re-skilling of migrants for the domestic labour market.

Furthermore, when the situation permits, the UN will support the early recovery of labour migration routes to the Russian Federation through engagement with foreign employers, strengthening of recruitment processes and preparatory work on post-Covid travel requirements. In the meantime, the UN will continue to support transfers and investment of migrants who are still sending remittances. Besides, existing procedures and support services for migrants will be improved through better pre-departure preparation and migration management processes.

### 5. Social Cohesion

#### 5.1 CURRENT SITUATION

Inclusive development is one of the most important pre-requisites for social cohesion. Inequality of opportunity and choice among any population group can create discord and mistrust. The Resiliency and Vulnerabilities Atlas of Tajikistan (2019) indicates various forms of vulnerabilities such as income, access to food, education, health, jobs, etc. and wide disparities among geographical areas. Covid-19 has amplified these vulnerabilities even more and given rise to new forms of vulnerabilities.

Tajikistan does not have many diverse ethnic or religious groups. However, it is worth noting that Tajikistan is building a national project based on strengthening the use of Tajik language, patriotism, and a shared history of key historical figures. GoTJ promotes unity and solidarity through centrally organized celebrations and national events, as well as education and cultural activities. Although quite effective in ensuring stability, these policies do not necessarily allow minority cultures to grow.

Under any circumstances access to information is important but in crises situations it becomes even more important when there is huge risk of rumours and fake news which can affect harmony. Covid-19 has also underlined that public want to have a voice. Use of social media increased. Public wanted to know the real situation about the disease, number of people infected and dead; who were benefitting from aid; they were concerned about health care workers and their protection. At times, lack of timely and right information generated anger in social media debates and trials. Strengthening risk communication, transparency and information to public should be an integral part of Covid-19 response. At this same time, public concern and desire to engage in mitigating the crises is an excellent opportunity to support civic action and include people in solution.

On its part, the Government has undertaken various steps to repair the trust after officially reporting the first 15 cases on April 30, 2020. Since then, infected cases, recovery and death rates have been regularly reported. Various social distancing measures were adopted to limit the spread of the virus (without a total lockdown). The outbreak has raised questions about government's ability to provide reliable health services, although it is not unusual and not specific to Tajikistan, as capacities of even developed countries were overstretched when the infection started to spread in the communities.

Government took some prompt actions. After borders were closed and some countries imposed temporary bans on the export of food, the government addressed panic buying and ameliorated concerns of food shortage and gave a strong signal that Tajikistan had adequate food stocks. Local governments organized fairs to sell agricultural products and proactively worked to prevent a serious food crisis in the country. The capability of the government to address socioeconomic impact and continuation of public services will be important for maintaining vertical (state-people) social cohesion.

If the state is not able to act sufficiently, community grievances are likely to accumulate and undermine social cohesion. It can lead to protests, crime or other types of violence, including an increased risk of violent extremism (as socioeconomic hardships can strengthen messaging of extremist groups). It is worth mentioning that some external vulnerabilities and risks to stability may be exacerbated due to Covid-19. For instance, conflict incidents in the border areas between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan may potentially pose risk as existing grievances may get exacerbated by the economic hardships of the population. Similarly, due to the increased economic impact of Covid, there can be greater insecurity along the Tajikistan-Afghanistan border.

In terms of horizontal social cohesion –solidarity among different groups of society – the current crisis shows that people are expressing more solidarity. It is fair to say that the pandemic has brought families together and ties with extended family members and friends have become even stronger. Various groups provided food and medication to vulnerable people, as well as organized support for the medical staff (e.g. purchasing PPEs). This act of generosity and the role of CSOs can be further harnessed. Presently, several coordination bodies for Covid-19 response do not include representatives of CSOs including trade unions and employer's organizations. There have not been any reported cases of COVID 19 stigmatization of certain groups. It has happened in some countries when minorities or migrants were accused of spreading coronavirus. There have been no reports of hate speech against any minority groups.

Available data indicate that young people face economic and social exclusion. Young people make 66 percent of Tajikistan's population. Around 150,000 young people enter the labour market every year, but labour underutilization (20.5 percent) and unemployment rate (10.6 percent) is high.<sup>50</sup> Furthermore, almost 30 percent of youth are not in employment, education or enrolled in training (NEET). Around 90 percent of the NEET youth are young women. Young people and adolescents, especially girls, have limited access to education, knowledge, and skills. The gap in what the education system is providing in terms of learning achievements and skills, and what children, young people, communities and the economy need is widening. These are some of the factors which are contributing to poverty and social exclusion among youth.

Children and young people in Tajikistan have limited access to health services, including mental health and psychological services that are tailored to their needs. Adolescent and youth, especially adolescent girls and young women, who already face a high level of domestic and intimate partner violence, experience even more violence during a long period of lockdowns and self-isolation. Most recent Demographic and Health Survey (2018) indicates that 67 percent of children of age up to 14 face violence. The Adolescent Baseline Study in 2018 showed that 47 percent of adolescents aged 10-19 face violence in schools.

Given large youth population, one of the most important target group for ISEF is young men and women. Young people – especially those without jobs during the pandemic – may be more susceptible to extremist narratives and more inclined to join contentious groups. Yet, young people should not be perceived as a risk, but a nation's asset and a positive force to overcome

<sup>50</sup> It should be noted that the registered unemployment in Tajikistan amounts to 0.5%.

the negative impact of the epidemic. The enthusiasm and willingness of youth to work as volunteers can and should be harnessed both during the crisis, as well in the future.

The “Global Report on the Gender Gap 2018” ranks Tajikistan 123<sup>th</sup> out of 149 countries assessed<sup>51</sup> (worst among Europe and CIS countries), and the country's position has been worsening over the years. There is a growing trend towards re-traditionalization i.e. reinforcing traditional gender roles that are detrimental to women's empowerment and gender equality. This creates new economic dependencies, exacerbates gender stereotypes, increases violence against women and excludes women from the political and socioeconomic sphere. Social norms and traditions contribute to women's vulnerability. Although there are no official data, most experts<sup>52</sup> agree that despite government's efforts early, unregistered, polygamous marriages (banned by law) in Tajikistan deprive women of legal protection, and contribute to their exclusion from education, and other life opportunities. There is also the worrying trend of Tajik migrants leaving behind their wives.

Women find it difficult to play a more active role in the political life of Tajikistan. Overall, women make only 22 percent of the parliament members. Women are also underrepresented in civil services (25 percent), especially in a managerial role (19 percent). Women make only 14.7 percent of high-ranking government officials. Women face exclusion in the economic sphere. In 2019, the female labour force participation rate was 31.3 percent, compared to 52.8 percent among males. Data from the World Bank (2017) shows that employed women are more likely to work in the public sector, but almost a quarter of women are involved in unpaid employment in family businesses compared to 13 percent of men. Tajikistan has the highest gender wage gap in the region: men earn almost 51 percent more than women. In 2016, women accounted for only 15 percent of managers. According to ILO, Tajikistan has the second lowest share (9.6 percent) of enterprises with a top female leader in the region (the share for Azerbaijan is 2.4 percent).

As discussed under the “economic recovery and livelihoods” pillar, women bear the burden of unpaid care work, which is a key factor in their low participation in the labour force. Tajikistan does not conduct regular labour force surveys which makes it difficult to assess recent trends. Past data show that women spend over 32 hours per week in domestic work and caring for family members. The share of inactive women who report domestic responsibilities as the primary reason for their inactivity is particularly high in Tajikistan (60.5 percent), compared to other countries in Central Asia. A 2020 study conducted by the ADB in two rural districts of Tajikistan shows that 84 percent of women's work is unpaid, while for men it constitutes 30 percent of their work. Moreover, unpaid work performed by men is mainly for final use (22 percent). Among women, unpaid work is mainly unpaid care and domestic work (70 percent). The time spent by

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<sup>51</sup> [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_GGGR\\_2018.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2018.pdf). The report notes: “Tajikistan takes this year's bottom spot in the region, slipping 28 places due to a widening Economic Participation and Opportunity gender gap, driven by updated data availability regarding women's share of legislators, senior officials, and managers as well as labour force participation and estimated earned income” (page 22)

<sup>52</sup> e.g. <https://www.bhr.tj/sites/default/files/articles/2018-01/ngo-report-iccpr-2013.pdf>; <http://www.notabene.tj/Doc/Kaz/compl/RU-Domestic-violence-in-Taj-March-2017.pdf>; recent press article: <https://news.tj/ru/node/269638>

women on unpaid work is 3.4 times compared to men. If restricted to unpaid care and domestic work, women do 10.6 times as much work as men.

As also discussed in “Protecting People” section, gender inequality fuels high levels of violence against women and girls, which remains one of the most widespread human rights abuses in Tajikistan. Nearly one-quarter of women between the age of 19 and 49 in Tajikistan reported experiencing physical or sexual violence.<sup>53</sup> However, the true scale of violence against women is likely to be higher, as violence is often underreported. Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is aggravated by high tolerance to violence, with a low number of victims seeking help.

Moreover, practice of polygamy and unregistered marriages are often linked to domestic violence. Forms of physical assault are the most common form of violence reported, with only 2 percent of women reporting that they ever experienced sexual violence. The most common perpetrators of violence for ever-married women are current or former husbands (97 percent)<sup>54</sup>. Almost a third of women who have ever been married report that their husbands have physically, sexually, or emotionally abused them, with a quarter reporting violence of this sort happening in the past year, indicating that frequent spousal violence is common.

Covid-19 can exacerbate gender disparity and contribute to greater risk and occurrence of domestic violence. In times of crisis such as an outbreak, women and girls may be at higher risk, for example, of intimate partner violence and other forms of domestic violence due to lockdown which can result in heightened tensions in the households, and general lack of support services for women. They also face increased risks of other forms of gender-based violence including sexual exploitation and abuse in these situations. Given greater engagement of women in care work including frontline healthcare workers, they also face a higher risk of exposure to Covid-19.

COVID-19 has also exposed other vulnerable groups, e.g. disabled people, people in correctional institutions etc. to greater risks. The Office of the Ombudsperson for Human Rights can support the protection of human rights of vulnerable groups. For example, by ensuring access to testing and treatment of prisoners and those in semi-closed institutions and monitor the situation.

Similarly, returning migrant workers from the Russian Federation face negative migration outcomes: health deterioration, including mental health, poverty and social exclusion. Some experience a strong disaffection linked to that exclusion and experiences at the hands of the law enforcement systems in the Russian Federation and Tajikistan.

Returning home, some Tajik migrants may not have access to health and social services, and limited job opportunities. Resulting desperation can contribute to tension in the family and community. In severe cases, individuals may be at increased risk of involvement in crime and potentially contribute to social instability. These risks can be exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis.

<sup>53</sup> DHS 2017

<sup>54</sup> DHS 2017



Many of those who remain in the Russian Federation without work maybe be left stranded without necessities. Despite an amnesty on patent costs in the Russian Federation, migrants are being asked to pay while still out of work. Some will receive lengthy re-entry bans for failing to do so, leaving returnees in poverty and disenfranchised.

### 5.2 UN's RESPONSE

5. Social Cohesion		
<b><i>Social dialogue and community engagement enhanced to promote a rights-based approach to Covid-19 response thereby strengthening social cohesion and resilience</i></b>		
Community participation, respect for human rights, and social cohesion will be mainstreamed across all the pillars of the socioeconomic response to Covid-19. Fundamental rights such as peaceful assembly, freedom of expression, press freedom, freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, and gender equality are crucial in addressing the medium-term needs as well as laying the foundation for future development that is fair and equitable.		
<b>Total Budget</b> USD 3,930,800	<b>Available Funding</b> USD 944,233	<b>Financing Gap</b> USD 2,986,567
<b>Result area 5.1:</b> Exclusion and violent extremism addressed through participatory governance and socioeconomic opportunities for all		
<b>Result area 5.2:</b> Domestic violence curbed through legal, policy, institutional reforms, and public awareness		
<b>Result area 5.3:</b> Youth and women are empowered to engage in addressing the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19		

UN can address the potential erosion of trust by strengthening both vertical (between people and the government), as well as horizontal (intra-societal) social cohesion. There is no template to achieve greater social cohesion and community resilience. However, key ingredients in trust-building which, in turn, can build social cohesion are inclusive governance, accountability, and transparency. Going forward, strengthening government-citizen linkages and information exchange should be prioritized.

Platforms should be created to promote a dialogue among multiple stakeholders and institutions such as the security forces, communities, service delivery institutions, workers and employers' organizations, and the CSOs. These platforms can be a good mechanism to discuss and improve Covid-19 response and service delivery in health, education, and economic recovery. Re-establishing trust in the health system through an improvement in health services, dissemination of information, and transparency of health statistics will build trust.

Socioeconomic assistance during and after the outbreak must be provided in an equitable and participatory manner, and dialogue is maintained on the country's recovery. The population

needs to feel that aid is being distributed fairly without any group or individuals enjoying special privileges. Addressing the needs and improving livelihoods of vulnerable people such as migrants, women, communities living in border areas, as well as youth will be important. Tajikistan needs to ensure that the emergency health response to Covid-19 builds on the best international standards. This should go alongside necessary reforms in the healthcare system that would gradually build confidence and trust of the people.

UN will support the government in information sharing on the current crisis including regular updates on coronavirus infections in the country. Data on the Covid-19 situation should be disaggregated and published regularly. The government can consider looking into alternative data collected by CSOs to get a fuller picture of the Covid-19 in the regions. Personal data, such as health and geolocation can be useful for mapping the location and spread of the disease. It can help to assess the impact of governments' measures to contain the virus and providing targeted information in high-risk areas. Yet, the use of personal data may infringe the right to privacy, and there is a need to find the right balance. Several international conventions, frameworks, and declarations recognize this dilemma and layout guidelines for dealing with data in situations of a public health crisis.

Another important step is to strengthen role of independent media. An open flow of information will minimize the spread of rumours and false information and generate more informed public discussion. The role of media needs to be further strengthened in Covid-19 crisis and recovery. Working with media should focus on prevention of misinformation. Training programmes can be organized for media on information literacy and quality of journalism. Media can play a critical role in raising awareness on prevention of Covid-19, GBV, stigma and discrimination related to Covid-19. In this regard, information from public health experts and psychologists can be published in the newspapers, internet, and through radio programmes that can be made interactive by involving the audience in question and answer.

Furthermore, the UN will promote open access to scientific knowledge and know-how, including information on Covid-19. The value and necessity of Open Solutions is crucial. Open Access to scientific information and open data can facilitate better and faster research towards a vaccine and inform public health measures essential to contain the spread of the virus. Open Educational Resources (OERs) keep citizens updated and educated about the virus, helping to ensure their compliance with public health advisories, and allow learning to continue at a distance.

UN will support strengthened role of civil society in the socioeconomic response to Covid-19 and encourage CSOs to promote community-based dialogue among various stakeholders: businesses, workers organizations, religious leaders, local authorities, youth leaders etc. on jobs, culture, behaviour and build capacity to promote social cohesion. Women Associations can play a very important role in ensuring women voice in the Covid-19 response.

Importantly, youth and women should be involved in the dialogue and the implementation of programmes. Youth should be engaged in community actions that can contribute to the

prevention of violent extremism. Digital platforms connecting youth, migrants and other interest groups can be established to provide space for advocacy and learning.

Tajikistan shares borders with Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and China, it is necessary to promote social cohesion among communities living near the border by creating job opportunities, skills development; creating desirable conditions for trade and exchange and reducing any potential risks to harmony.

It is worth underlining the importance of religious institutions and religious leaders in the community. They can play an important role in public awareness, as well as mitigating adverse effects of Covid-19, by maintaining a dialogue with various groups and contribute to preventing radicalization. UN can support national counterparts to undertake conflict-sensitivity and social cohesion assessments. These can assist in identifying triggers that can weaken social exclusion, grievances, discrimination, and stigmatization over access to resources and services.

Efforts should be made to improve the Access to Justice (A2J) during Covid-19 with a specific focus on women, youth and marginalized groups, inter alia, through alternative ways of free legal aid delivery and engagement with CSOs. Moreover, a hotline for reporting domestic violence should remain functional. Considering the epidemic, gender-based violence referral mechanisms must be updated to reflect changes in available care facilities. Further investments are needed for building shelters for victims of domestic violence. The capacity of the state institutions needs to be enhanced to respond effectively in the eventuality of an increase in domestic violence. UN can also facilitate training on community policing with a focus on GBV in target districts with an emphasis on human rights.

Furthermore, the UN can help raise awareness among security forces assigned to enforce Covid-19 specific measures in the communities. To ensure that marginalized groups are not exploited, especially those in a statelessness-like situation, the UN can work with the government in the issuance of identification documents. CSOs and human rights defenders can be supported to use national and international mechanisms of human rights protection to protect both themselves and those in need.

## 7. Leveraging Partnerships

ISEF is as an overarching instrument that articulates UNCT's response to Covid-19 in Tajikistan. It is UN Agencies collective offer to primarily support the national efforts, led by the GoTJ, to respond more effectively to the Covid-19 pandemic and the resultant socioeconomic impact. The interventions in the ISEF are aligned with the GoTJ's National Response Plan for COVID-19 which is coordinated under the leadership of the Prime Minister, and the operational plans for health and the economy which are being managed by the MoHSP and MEDT respectively. In the implementation of ISEF activities, UN Agencies will partner with national counterparts such as relevant government institutions, CSOs, private sector and international development partners.

Both resident and non-resident UN Agencies will work closely with the government to implement the ISEF. A Results and Resources Framework (RRF) has been developed which will be used as the main monitoring tool for accountability, tracking deliverables, and measuring results. Besides programme monitoring, the UN will also measure humanitarian and development trends in the country to adjust priorities and interventions. Thus, UN's monitoring is targeted at two levels. Firstly, at the programme level, UN will follow a results-based approach to track deliverables. Secondly, a set of development indicators have been identified which are being populated with data to track socioeconomic impact in the country (Annex 1)

UN Agencies will implement the framework priorities through their country programmes but where possible and necessary, the UN Agencies will also formulate joint initiatives for joint implementation and undertake joint resource mobilization particularly from UN pooled funds. The UN Agencies have already repurposed several existing programmes and projects to address immediate priorities. While many ISEF interventions are part of the repurposing for Covid-19, the scale of the crisis requires a wide range of partnership. UN Agencies will proactively engage in partnerships with donors and other development partners. The RRF is also being linked with the existing UNDAF to develop complementarities, synergies, and monitor the entire portfolio of UN programmes in Tajikistan.

Responding to the Covid-19 crisis requires collective action from all the relevant stakeholders. Building strong partnerships and linkages is a critical factor that will determine the success of ISEF. While the responsibility to deliver on the programmatic offer lies with the UN Agencies, they will forge partnership for delivering, monitoring and assessing the impact of the response. Besides service delivery, UN Agencies will promote advocacy, build networks to advance the policy and human rights agenda in the country considering lessons of experience of COVID19.

To ensure strong national buy-in and ownership at all levels, UN Agencies will proactively engage with partners both at the national and the sub-national level. Several UN Agencies have programme and partners on the ground. UN Agencies will continue to have an active engagement with national stakeholders to create platforms for dialogue and to influence the public discourse on Covid-19 and national development. The UN will strengthen the role of the GoTJ to lead the national Covid-19 response, coordinate international assistance, and direct funds from the national budget to priority needs.

Partnerships with key national stakeholders are critical for UN to deliver on its core mandate and normative function. An important feature of the relationship with the national stakeholders is capacity development and connecting them to knowledge, innovative practices, and financing. In this regard, CSOs will play a very important role in the implementation of programme activities and advocacy. They will provide a platform for communities to voice their concerns and guide programme implementation. Partnership with CSOs will be pivotal for UN Agencies to reach the communities across different regions of Tajikistan. They can help in identifying the most vulnerable population, ensure proper targeting, assist in monitoring and evaluation, and importantly be a partner in advocacy. UN Agencies will further strengthen partnerships with local CSOs and various associations of CSOs to ensure that rights and freedoms of the vulnerable are protected.

UN Agencies will continue to forge partnerships with the international development partners and IFIs to ensure that their efforts and funding are aligned to the national priorities. UN Agencies will also seek programme partnerships leverage existing interventions or develop joint programmes. The UN System in Tajikistan is already taking the lead in coordinating Covid-19 response through the CRG as well as various working groups that function under the DCC. Through these forums, UN Agencies are already coordinating work with the international organizations and IFIs providing immediate support in health, education, and social protection. Joint initiatives were also launched to improve communications and public awareness of Covid-19. UN Agencies are also coordinating with IFIs to leverage financing including direct budget support that can help the GoTJ to increase public spending for key social sectors as well as to invest in future jobs.

Besides the government and non-government institutions, UN Agencies will seek to collaborate with the private sector in Tajikistan. While the private sector in Tajikistan is not as developed, there is still a lot of potential to harness the contribution of the private sector so that they can become an agent of change. The private sector in Tajikistan has already made some useful contribution supporting the health sector and vulnerable groups with PPEs and food aid. The work of the private sector can be further supported not only through projects as part of their corporate social responsibility, but also through investments that they can make to pursue a triple bottom line: profit, development impact, and environmental sustainability. In this regard, UN Agencies will leverage its programmes to attract private investments in recovery and future development. Also, the private sector entities will be contracted to deliver programme outputs, conduct research, and assist in monitoring and evaluation.

## Annex 1. Guidance Note: COVID-19 Socioeconomic Impact Monitoring

The purpose of this note is to provide guidance on a general framework to monitor the socioeconomic impact of Covid-19 in Tajikistan. Covid-19 is a multidimensional crisis which will have a major socioeconomic impact. Social distancing measures in many countries is severely affecting economic activity and access to services. It is impacting jobs, increasing food insecurity, and further undermining an already weak social safety net in low-income countries. The socioeconomic impact of Covid-19 in Tajikistan should be seen in the context of its existing vulnerabilities.

UN Agencies have identified a set of socioeconomic indicators which will be populated with data on a regular basis. These are compiled in an excel sheet on a common drive so that all the UN Agencies have access, they can update data, and retrieve information. A common framework of indicators will help the UN Agencies to systematize data gathering, analysis, and guide programme interventions. Considering that the situation is rapidly evolving, a matrix of key development indicators chosen will be useful to identify gaps, avoid duplication, and forge partnerships among development partners in the country.

The compilation of a matrix of indicators and data is not intended as a one-off exercise. The matrix will be updated periodically to feed into policies and programmes. A well-coordinated and strong analytical base will ensure that that Covid-19. response is driven by evidence, programmes mirror strategic national priorities, expertise can be effectively deployed, and there is proper coordination among the development partners in Tajikistan. Moreover, as new data becomes available, the UN Agencies will produce short analytical reports and policy briefs on the socioeconomic impact of Covid-19.

There is a consensus that Covid1-9 pandemic is having a cascading socioeconomic effect which is altering the development landscape. With the spread of infection, the health system must cope with an abnormal increase in curative and preventive services. Under the “Health First” pillar, data on infection, recovery, and mortality rate will be updated regularly. Data will also be collected on designated health facilities and hospitals for Covid-19 patients. Moreover, several health indicators will be traced to assess the overall public health situation in the country. Moreover, data on medical supplies and equipment will be collected to assess the state of the health system.

In “Protecting People” data covers a range of indicators such as food security, schooling, and social protection of vulnerable groups. Being a food importer, one of the major challenges that Tajikistan faces is the supply of food and agricultural inputs. Prices, as well as the availability of food, is being monitored. With the spread of infection in Tajikistan, schools may remain closed for a long time. The Education Working Group under the Development Coordination Council (DCC) has conducted an "Education Rapid Needs Assessment (ERNA)". Data from ERNA will help

to understand challenges in remote learning, as well as the impact on the education budget in the new academic year 2020-2021.

At the macroeconomic level, the state of the economy is closely monitored. A key area of focus is to track local production and availability of goods and services, its impact on the economy and jobs, and the overall fiscal position of the government. With the tightening of the fiscal space, it is critical that essential social spending on health, education, and social protection is not only ringfenced, but it also increased to account for the impact Covid-19 is having on household welfare. In this regard, the UN System is collaborating with the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and other multilateral and bilateral agencies to collect vital statistics and assessing the state of the economy and fiscal space.

Social distancing has curtailed economic activities and deprived people of livelihoods especially among those who are in precarious employment. In the absence of a full-fledged labour force survey, the Agency of Statistics (AoS) collects data on a set of labour market indicators. These are already being tracked to see the effect of economic slowdown on jobs. However, there is a need to conduct supplementary surveys targeting businesses and the agriculture sector to better understand the immediate impact on livelihoods.

A set of indicators is being monitored to track the net effect on registered and non-registered businesses. Financial data from banks is also used to understand the difficulties that small businesses face in repaying loans or accessing additional capital. Besides the effect on small enterprises, data on jobs and livelihoods will be critical. In this regard, several direct and proxy indicators are being used to track development in the domestic labour market as well as the situation of the migrants.

A general principle is to use existing data, preferably from official sources and information from assessments that UN Agencies or other development partners are carrying out. At the household level, official statistics are regularly collected through the Household Budget Survey (HBS). This survey is conducted every quarter with a monthly collection of data on selected indicators that are included in the monthly statistics book "Socioeconomic situation in Tajikistan". HBS provides a range of social welfare statistics on poverty, health, food consumption etc. which is included in the "Poverty and Food Security" report published quarterly. It may not be possible to get HBS microdata which would allow flexibility in data analysis. Another possible challenge with HBS is the level of disaggregation (geographical and demographic) which may be limited and thus not allow analysis at the lowest level to understand vulnerabilities.

Recognizing that there is usually a lag in obtaining official household survey data, UN Agencies will try to obtain administrative data. Such data mainly covers the delivery of services and administrative records. These data may not represent the level of vulnerability, but it can be used as a proxy. For example, data on morbidity from hospitals can provide some indication on the health status. Also, people receiving unemployment allowance can be indicative of the unemployment rate.



Increasingly, data from non-conventional sources are being used in social science to understand specific trends, solicit feedback, or behavioural patterns. For example, anonymized aggregate client data from banks such as cash withdrawals and savings can provide some insights into household spending patterns. There are privacy and confidentiality issues that need to be carefully considered as well as the willingness of the financial industry to share such data.

Similarly, data on the consumption of public utilities such as (electricity and transportation) as well as personal consumption (e.g. cell phone use) can shed some light on the change in living conditions. Trawling data from social media can be an option, but again it will depend whether companies are willing to share anonymized data while ensuring full privacy.

Among others, below are some surveys and assessments that are either ongoing or expected to commence soon which will be a source of data that will help to update the matrix of indicators.

1. Food Prices and Stocks: DCC Food Security Working Group
2. Education Rapid Needs Assessment (ERNA): DCC Education Working Group
3. Survey of Lives, Livelihoods & Small and Medium Enterprises: UNDP
4. Assessment of Tourism and Textile Sectors: IFC
5. Telephone Survey: UN WOMEN
6. Listening to Tajikistan Survey: World Bank
7. Assessment Report of the State Strategy for Labour Market Development: ILO

A UN Working Group has been established which is responsible for recording updated data. A common folder on Share Point was created to allow access to all the members of this group. Besides the matrix of indicators, assessment reports and other relevant documents are being stored in the common folder.

No	Theme/ Sub-topics	Agency
1	Health First	WHO/UNFPA
2.1	Protecting People: Food Prices	WFP
2.2	Protecting People: Food & Agriculture	FAO
2.3	Protecting People: Education	UNICEF
2.4	Protecting People: Social Protection	UNICEF, ILO, UNHCR
3	Macroeconomic Response	UNRCO, ILO
4	Economic Recovery	UNDP, ILO
5	Social Cohesion	UNRCO, ILO

## Annex 2. Results &amp; Resource Framework

Health First		UN Agency	Total Budget	Available	Funding Gap
<b>Outcome 1: An effective response to the Covid-19 health crisis through improved surveillance, testing, and case management while building a more resilient national public health system</b>					
<b>Result area 1.1: Emergency Coordination and Health Sector Governance enhanced</b>					
1.1.1	Assist the MOHSP in providing quality Covid-19 clinical care, management of outbreaks and prevention based on WHO guidelines (PoE, Quality Oxygen Therapy supply and treatment, ICU preparedness, IPC, Lab enhancement )	WHO	160,000		160,000
1.1.2	Assist the country on timely and quality INFOSAN reporting in the context of Covid-19	WHO	20,000		20,000
1.1.3	Support implementation of the National Obesity prevention program: capacity building of health professionals in consultation on BF, healthy and safe diet and physical activities. Build health workforce capacity on treating all types of malnutrition	WHO	100,000	20,000	80,000
1.1.4	Conduct situation analysis: Mobilization of WHO technical expertise for intervention on identified gaps and key thematic areas for development of the national multisectoral action plan considered implications of COVID-19 and based on priorities suggested by the strategy and action plan for refugee and migrant health in the WHO European Region	WHO	60,000	10,000	50,000
1.1.5	Support relevant authorities in strengthening the food safety and public health measures through assessment and monitoring of the animal health services, including, respective infrastructure, and awareness campaigns to mitigate the COVID impact	FAO	240,000	95,000	145,000
		WHO			
1.1.6	Support Effective emergency coordination within healthcare system to respond to COVID outbreak	UNDP	85,000	85,000	-
1.1.7	Assessment of resilience of city of Dushanbe to disasters, development of local strategy for disaster risk reduction, with special focus on public health sector	UNDRR	60,800	60,800	-
1.1.8	Capacity building of medical staff of prisons and short-term detention centres addressing COVID-19 HIV Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support for People Who Use Drugs	UNODC	195,000		195,000
1.1.9	Establish and ensure the effective functioning of the National Risk Communication and Community Engagement National Task Force with the corresponding subcommittees	UNICEF	20,000		20,000
1.1.10	Establish solid public information and response mechanisms	UNICEF	80,000	20,000	60,000

	<b>Result area 1.2: Infection prevention and control (IPC) improved</b>					
1.2.1	Promotion of rational use of antimicrobials in management of COVID-19 cases: awareness campaign at all levels of health settings	WHO	50,000	10,000	40,000	
1.2.2	Monitor the spread of Covid-19, support government to mobilize financing, and as needed, assist it in the procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE), medical equipment, and supplies needed including for intensive health care units (ICUs)	UNFPA	260,000	100,000	160,000	
1.2.3	Monitor local supply chains to ensure that essential medical supplies are in place (No stockouts of anti-tuberculosis drugs or anti-retroviral drugs)	WHO			-	
1.2.4	Support Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), as prioritized in the Country Plan on Preparedness and Response to COVID-19	UNDP	500,000	500,000	-	
1.2.5	Strengthening the laboratory systems and capacity to address COVID-19	UNDP	613,000	613,000	-	
1.2.6	Ensure healthcare workers safety and health (PPEs etc.), they have effective grievance reporting mechanisms	ILO	50,000	10,000	40,000	
		WHO			-	
1.2.7	Support to printing of COVID guidelines and training of PHC health workers	UNICEF	72,000	72,000	-	
1.2.8	Provision of Personal Protective Equipment to healthcare providers.	UNICEF	2,329,200	2,329,200	-	
1.2.9	Procurement, distribution, installation and training of ventilators	UNICEF	2,992,500	2,992,500	-	
1.2.10	Procurement of medicines and medical items for COVID-19 management	UNICEF	930,000	93,000	837,000	
		UNHCR	32,000	32,000	-	
1.2.11	Addressing COVID-19 prevention and treatment among border guards through supporting the Medical Hospital of the Border Forces of Tajikistan and border crossing points	UNODC	233,473	8,268	225,205	
1.2.12	Conduct regular rapid assessments on the populations' Knowledge, Attitude and Behaviours related to COVID-19	UNICEF	60,000		60,000	
	<b>Result area 1.3: Sanitation and Environmental Protection enhanced in the Health Sector during and after crisis</b>					
1.3.1	Conduct WASH Rapid Needs Assessment in Health Care Facilities	UNICEF	10,000		10,000	
		WHO	170,000		170,000	

1.3.2	Addressing COVID-19 environmental hazards through improving medical waste management	UNDP	500,000	265,360	234,640
	<b>Result area 1.4: Health Services Sustained, with special Emphasis on Vulnerable and At Risk Groups</b>				
1.4.1	Support the MoH in maintaining high immunization coverage with childhood vaccines; preparing for potential importation of poliovirus; including strengthening AFP surveillance and conducting IPV catch-up immunization and OPV supplementary immunization campaign; responding to the ongoing measles outbreak; and advocating for raising domestic and external resources to ensure sustainable vaccines supply.	WHO	2,000,075	500,000	1,500,075
1.4.2	Ensure continuity of sexual and reproductive, child and adolescent health services and interventions in the COVID-19 response, including protection of the health workforce and implementation of the minimum initial service package for reproductive health in emergencies.	WHO	75,000	30,000	45,000
		UNFPA	98,000	48,000	50,000
1.4.3	TB, HIV, Hepatitis case detection , treatment initiation and completion rates are maintained	WHO			-
1.4.4	Assist in mental health support for health human resources and general population	WHO	70,000	10,000	60,000
1.4.5	Ensure continuity of NCD services (COPD care, cancer services, palliative care and heart attack and stroke rehabilitation services)	WHO	100,000	10,000	90,000
1.4.6	Carry out campaigns to reduce stigma faced by people affected by COVID-19 with a focus on segments of the population who may face greater discrimination	WFP	350,000	100,000	250,000
		UNFPA	75,000	25,000	50,000
1.4.7	SRH service providers able to maintain alternate delivery of SRH services in the context of COVID-19	UNFPA	45,000	15,000	30,000
1.4.8	Education materials and quality information for pregnant women/families on SRH and basic hygiene practices in the context of COVID-19	UNFPA	40,000	10,000	30,000
1.4.9	Assessment on key challenges and barriers to women's access to HIV treatment and COVID-19 impact on WLWH	UN WOMEN			-
1.4.10	Hotline points established at National and Regional RH facilities on provision of alternative SRH and GBV related services	UNFPA	85,000	60,900	24,100
1.4.11	Conduct assessment on key challenges and barriers to women's access to HIV treatment and COVID-19 impact on WLWH	UN WOMEN	18,000	18,000	-
1.4.12	Carry out the Generation equality campaign by involving youth to reduce stigma and discrimination against women and girls living with HIV affected by the pandemic	UN WOMEN	4,000	4,000	-
1.4.13	Building the capacity of health care providers on provision of quality health and psychosocial services to victims of GBV	UNFPA	20,000	10,000	10,000

1.4.14	Building access to quality people-centred SRH services for People Living with Disabilities at National and Regional levels	UNFPA	75,000	51,600	23,400
1.4.15	Support Prison Service with PPE related to COVID-19	UNODC	40,000	15,000	25,000
1.4.16	Conduct rapid assessment and response on drug use in prisons;	UNODC	20,000		20,000
1.4.17	Physical, media and digital community engagement mechanisms are in place to ensure communities, including most marginalized among them, understand and address misinformation, have knowledge, acceptance and intention about signs and symptoms, transmission models and preventive actions for COVID-19	UNICEF	400,000	60,000	340,000
		<b>Sub-total:</b>	<b>13,338,048</b>	<b>8,283,628</b>	<b>5,054,420</b>
<b>Protecting People</b>					
<b>Outcome 2: Essential social services scaled up to protect the vulnerable and affected communities to cope better with the negative socioeconomic consequences of Covid-19</b>					
<b>Result area 2.1: Food security monitored and measures introduced to address food insecurity among vulnerable households</b>					
2.1.1	Support government institutions to conduct joint analysis of price and availability of food commodities to inform national food security policy and programmes	FAO	95,000	95,000	-
2.1.2	Assist government to take necessary steps to ensure that adequate food stocks are available across the country at stable and affordable prices	WFP			-
2.1.3	Provide assistance in implementing schemes to supply agriculture inputs for the local planting season and ensure logistics for moving agricultural produce	FAO	2,356,000	356,000	2,000,000
2.1.4	Support food insecure households through cash for work programme to maintain purchasing power and to build physical assets for the community	WFP	3,200,000	700,000	2,500,000
2.1.5	Develop alternative delivery mechanism to continue the school feeding programme that provides meals to 420,000 primary schoolchildren in 2,000 schools in the country; develop contingency plans for in-kind food assistance and make provisions for specialized nutritious foods (SNF) for malnourished children	WFP	3,500,000		3,500,000
<b>Result area 2.2: Personal Safety Secured through improved sanitation at the household and workplace</b>					

2.2.1	State labour inspection to effectively monitor safety regulations introduced to resist Covid19 spread in the workplaces	ILO	50,000		50,000
2.2.2	Support to design and pilot innovative water supply and wastewater management initiatives in rural areas to help reduce the risks of COVID19 and other infectious diseases	UNDP	3,500,000	-	3,500,000
		<b>Sub-total:</b>	<b>12,701,000</b>	<b>1,151,000</b>	<b>11,550,000</b>
<b>Education</b>					
<b>Result area 2.3: Education systems strengthened to address alternative education and learning needs including introduction of digital solutions</b>					
2.3.1	Technical capacity development and coordination of education technical support including undertaking rapid education needs assessment to determine priority needs and inform short-term and long term response	UNICEF	250,000	250,000	-
		WFP			-
		UNFPA	20,000	5,000	15,000
2.3.2	Review and support the development of school-based guidelines at central and regional level regulating school closure and safety standards, including printing and distribution to all schools	UNICEF	150,000	150,000	-
		WFP			-
2.3.4	Conduct updating of WASH Needs Assessment in Schools	UNICEF	80,000		80,000
2.3.5	Support teachers with trainings on distance learning techniques and tools	UNESCO	10,000	10,000	-
2.3.6	Review and support the development of policies in ICT in education with the focus on ICT competencies of teachers	UNESCO	10,000	10,000	-
2.3.7	Establish Mechanisms for distance learning (TV education lessons development and digital platforms) including equipping MoES with devices for education technology	UNICEF	7,500,000	7,500,000	-
2.3.8	Support back-to-school campaign including SMS targeting teachers and education personnel and dissemination of communication messages on Covid-19 targeting students, parents, and school communities to raise awareness on preventive measures and learning support	UNICEF	600,000	600,000	-
2.3.9	Technical support to Early Childhood Development to enhance continued engagement with families and parents on children's learning and development at home	UNICEF	360,000	60,000	300,000
2.3.10	Hot line on provision of medical counselling for SW and MSM	UNFPA	10,000	2,000	8,000

2.3.11	Conduct an STI sector needs assessment and provide with recommendations on STI policies	UNESCO	40,000	5,000	35,000
		<b>Sub-total:</b>	<b>9,030,000</b>	<b>8,592,000</b>	<b>438,000</b>
	<b>Social Protection</b>				
	<b>Result area 2.4: National social protection system improved and relevant schemes put in place to ensure wider coverage of the vulnerable population</b>				
2.4.1	Support the GoT's preparedness and response plan for social protection; specifically, assist in data management, vulnerability assessment tools, and improving procedures for identification and registration of vulnerable families (including children released from boarding schools, children with disabilities, undocumented/unregistered children, ethnic minorities and street children)	UNICEF	200,000		200,000
		WFP			-
		UN WOMEN		-	-
2.4.1	Capacity development of GoTJ and social partners to design and implement measures to support transition from informal to formal employment and to extend social security to workers	ILO	83,300		83,300
2.4.3	Support MOL in developing gender-sensitive criteria for targeted support to families of abandoned labour migrants	UN WOMEN			-
2.4.4	Capacity development of social protection and labour market institutions for coordinated response to inclusion of social assistance recipients into labour market measures	ILO	50,000		50,000
2.4.5	Rapid costing of social protection measures responding to COVID-19; identification of priority social protection schemes for medium and long term extension to workers (including in informal economy) and actuarial assessment of these schemes	ILO	110,000	14,000	96,000
2.4.6	Provide technical support for improved delivery of social protection services; scope covers capacity development of social protection staff both at the national and local level in developing guidance on shocks with a focus on COVID-19 related vulnerabilities (including children released from boarding schools, children with disabilities, ethnic minorities and street children)	UNICEF	150,000		150,000
		WFP	-	-	-
2.4.7	Provide support in providing complementary cash assistance to the most vulnerable people	UNICEF	1,500,000		1,500,000
2.4.8	Provide in-kind support to the most vulnerable people, and as needed, a standard support package of food and non-food items (including PPEs and hygiene kits)	UNICEF	500,000		500,000
		WFP		-	-
		UN WOMEN			-



		UNFPA	30,000	8,000	22,000
2.4.9	Provide food packages to refugees as short-term intervention	UNHCR	38,000	38,000	-
2.4.10	Provide reintegration assistance to vulnerable returning migrants and their families	IOM	150,000		150,000
2.4.11	Train and support local authorities and security forces— where appropriate – to recognize their role and mandate and establish a dialogue to advocate for proper codes of conduct and protection of vulnerable groups	IOM	100,000	-	100,000
2.4.12	Work with local family and child protection services to address child labour and exploitation as a response to economic stress		-	-	-
2.4.13	Carry out assessment of situation of children returned to their biological/ extended families and children remained in RCIs and provide ongoing support and supervision to families where children returned	UNICEF	60,000		60,000
2.4.14	Supporting digital innovations for data management, vulnerability assessment tools, and improving procedures for identification and registration of vulnerable families through promotion of innovative solutions and social entrepreneurship	UNDP	100,000	10,000	90,000
2.4.15	Supporting the Tajik Border Forces in capacity building to be well prepared to better respond to many emerging and other challenges such while performing the first and foremost duty being in the frontline	UNODC	325,000	325,000	-
2.4.16	Strengthening the capacity of the Tajik Border Forces and other law enforcement agencies to provide qualitative services for by security the safety of individuals and the society at large	UNODC	700,000	700,000	-
2.4.17	Capacity building of the law enforcement agencies of Tajikistan through provision of technical assistance and professional trainings with specific reaction on emerging threats	UNODC	830,000	830,000	-
	<b>Result area 2.5: Prevention and Response to GBV and protection of other vulnerable segments of the population strengthened</b>				
2.5.1	Coordinate inter-agency efforts to address gender-based violence (GBV) in the context of COVID-19; promote tailored messages on GBV to promote behavioural change	UNFPA	60,000	10,000	50,000
2.5.2	Supporting women's shelters to ensure their appropriate function during and post-COVID-19 pandemic	UNDP	50,000		50,000
2.5.3	e-Dissemination of "Handbook on existing services for survivors of violence and those at-risk" among the NGOs, specialists and state agencies	UN WOMEN	-	-	-
2.5.4	Including COVID-19 considerations in formation of referral mechanism for SGBV victims: NGO-run victim support centres, state services, other key stakeholders in 6 target districts and Dushanbe will form integrated support scheme	UN WOMEN	3,000	3,000	-

2.5.5	Community outreach activities in 6 target districts on COVID-19 awareness prevention campaigns and identification of households with unhealthy and violent in-house environment for referral to the existing psychological, medical and legal aid services (via National Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan' 600 volunteers) - Re-profiling of messages in context of COVID-19 (development and production), info on service providers on SGBV cases; (TV/Radio/ dissemination of printed leaflets); identification of women and girls- survivors of violence, and referring of the identified survivors to relevant services.	UN WOMEN	30,000	30,000	-
2.5.6	Support of staff overtime of 6 crisis centres/shelters; Up-grading mobile/internet packages for staff of selected 6 shelters/ crisis centres, Sanitary items to service-providers (med. masks, gloves, spirit sprays) and shoe covers, thermoscanners, feminine hygiene packages for 10 crisis centres run by NGOs and the State	UN WOMEN	24,600	24,600	-
		<b>Sub-total:</b>	<b>5,093,900</b>	<b>1,992,600</b>	<b>3,101,300</b>
		<b>Macroeconomic Response</b>			
<b>Outcome 3: Stable macroeconomic situation that balances the need for expansionary fiscal policy for pro-poor growth and tapping into a diverse range of financing for national development and the SDGs</b>		<b>UN Agency</b>	<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>Available</b>	<b>Funding Gap</b>
<b>Result area 3.1: Enabling policy environment created for sustainable and greener economic recovery, investments in jobs, and pro-poor public spending</b>					
3.1.1	Monitor the macroeconomic outlook with a particular focus on financing and spending outlay for health, social protection, and livelihoods	UNDP	299,150	299,150	-
		ILO			-
3.1.2	Support regional and global efforts in trade facilitation to ensure uninterrupted import of essential food commodities, agricultural inputs, as well as exports to boost local production	FAO	2,000,000		2,000,000
		WFP			-
		UNDP	200,000	-	200,000
3.1.3	Promote national strategic planning and monitoring potential for diversification of national economy, export promotion and development of entrepreneurship with consideration of COVID lessons and integration of risk informed strategies.	UNDP	500,000	200,000	300,000
3.1.4	Provide advise to the government in its efforts to tap into additional sources of financing through various multilateral and bilateral mechanism and initiatives on debt incld freeing of payments, swaps, and debt relief	UNDP	400,000		400,000
		ILO			-

3.1.5	Provide technical assistance to the government in carrying out ongoing business reforms, formulating its medium-term development plan and integrated financing framework	UNDP	800,000	175,000	625,000
3.1.6	Provide technical assistance to the government on analysing and explaining variation in the economic lifecycle and the intergenerational economic systems, macroeconomic effects of population aging, and improve policy related to pensions, health care, education, and fertility.	UNFPA	200,000	30,000	170,000
3.1.7	Support in integration of environmental dimension into response to the covid19 (including integrating covid19 angle into technical assistance programmes under five Multilateral Environmental Agreements hosted by UNECE)	UNECE	15,000		15,000
	<b>Result area 3.2: Regional cooperation including cross-border trade enhanced to promote inclusive growth and development</b>				
3.2.1	An assessment of impact of covid19 on trade patterns and trade costs (within SPECA context)	UNECE	5,000		5,000
3.2.2	Technical assistance on trade facilitation (within SPECA context)	UNECE	1,000		1,000
	<b>Sub-total:</b>		<b>4,420,150</b>	<b>704,150</b>	<b>3,716,000</b>
	<b>Economic Recovery</b>				
	<b>Outcome 4: Policy measures developed to help national counterparts to design and implement initiatives to protect jobs, promote decent employment, and build the foundation for sustainable economic transformation</b>	<b>UN Agency</b>	<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>Available</b>	<b>Funding Gap</b>
	<b>Result area 4.1: Economic revitalization and livelihoods advanced through market development, improved business services and policies, and ecosystems for digitalization</b>				
4.1.1	Assist business sectors that are critical for frontline COVID-19 response and recovery (e.g., agriculture products, development of local value chains for import substitution).	UNDP	1,000,000	207,760	792,240
4.1.2	Support at all levels of the government to formulate and implement programmes to restore jobs, including green jobs and livelihoods; provide advisory services to the national government on financing facilities including grants, concessionary loans, and special credit lines for SMEs and private entrepreneurs.	UNDP	1,500,000	691,000	809,000
		IOM	150,000		150,000
		ILO	50,000	10,000	40,000
4.1.3	Support the constituents in developing a National Employment and Social Protection Strategy	ILO	35,000	35,000	-
4.1.4	Design and implement innovative package of integrated employment and social protection services	ILO	350,900		350,900
4.1.5	Support and strengthen analytical capacity of the Ministry of Labour, Migration, and Employment	ILO	60,000	20,000	40,000

4.1.6	Design and implement initiatives to address structural inequalities that SMEs face to become part of digital ecosystems; provide technical assistance including knowledge-sharing with national stakeholders	UNDP	1,000,000	160,000	840,000
4.1.7	Support programmes to provide alternative income and employment opportunities for migrants by leveraging skills learned abroad or re-skilling of migrants for the domestic labour market	FAO	1,200,000		1,200,000
		WFP			-
		IOM	350,000		350,000
4.1.8	Support programmes to provide alternative income and employment opportunities for returned migrants, vulnerable/jobless women and youth in rural and urban areas, by leveraging skills learned abroad or re-skilling of migrants and developing employable skills for the domestic labour market	UNDP	1,500,000	210,000	1,290,000
4.1.9	Design and implement initiatives to engage small-scale farmers into climate smart agriculture and sustainable land management (2020-2025)	UNDP	5,200,000	5,200,000	-
4.1.10	Support the country on environmental reconciliation through the principles of UNESCO scientific programmes and its designated sites	UNESCO	50,000	3,000	47,000
	<b>Result area 4.2: Skills development and employment services enhanced for jobseekers including migrants and returnees to engage in productive employment</b>				
4.2.1	Strengthen remittance transfers and investment, including digitization of remittances; build financial inclusion and investment behaviour amongst migrants and diaspora	IOM	150,000		150,000
4.2.2	Support the early recovery (if situation allows) of labour migration routes to the Russian Federation through engagement with foreign employers, strengthening of recruitment processes and preparatory work on post-COVID travel	WFP	150,000		150,000
		IOM	150,000		150,000
4.2.3	Promote social dialogue among employers and workers representative organizations to ensure occupational safety and health is protected, new work arrangements are agreed and necessary adjustments are applied (including teleworking) consistent with the law and international standards	ILO	10,000		10,000
4.2.4	Support to the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Tajikistan to implement a public campaign and raise awareness of the workers, including healthcare sector employees of their rights to safety and health at work to avoid contracting Covid19 and prevent its spread	ILO	15,000		15,000
<b>Sub-total:</b>			<b>12,920,900</b>	<b>6,536,760</b>	<b>6,384,140</b>
<b>Social Cohesion</b>					

<b>Outcome 5: Social dialogue and community engagement enhanced to promote a rights-based approach to Covid-19 response thereby strengthening social cohesion and resilience</b>		<b>UN Agency</b>	<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>Available</b>	<b>Funding Gap</b>
<b>Result area 5.1: Exclusion and violent extremism addressed through participatory governance and socioeconomic opportunities for all</b>					
5.1.1	Support dialogue platforms with the participation of all stakeholders to develop strategies and plans for addressing the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 epidemic	WFP			-
		UNESCO			-
		ILO			-
5.1.2	Support to the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Tajikistan to have high-speed internet connection to improved communication with the workers across the country and represent their interests during the restrictions on movement and mass events	ILO	3,000	3,000	-
5.1.3	Strengthen the role of media in addressing the COVID-19 crisis and recovery; working with media on prevention of misinformation and panic and promote responsible reporting	UNESCO	20,000	5,000	15,000
		UNFPA	8,000	4,000	4,000
		WHO	5,000	5,000	-
5.1.4	Support civil society organizations at a community level that built trust between various stakeholders in communities (business, workers organizations, religious leaders, local authorities, youth leaders etc.)	WFP			-
		UN WOMEN			-
5.1.5	Strengthen gender responsive PVE programming in the country; supporting tolerance, diversity, gender equality and youth participation	UN WOMEN			-
5.1.6	Strengthening Local Capacities for Prevention of Violent Extremism and promoting Social Cohesion	UNDP	200,000		200,000
5.1.7	Assessment on conflict-sensitivity, social cohesion and peacebuilding in COVID-19 socio-economic/labour market	UNDP	100,000		100,000
5.1.8	National virtual WRO/CSO consultations on COVID-19 implications and suggested measures	UN WOMEN	-	-	-
		IOM	350,000	-	350,000
5.1.9	Promote access to justice for vulnerable groups, including youth, women and migrant workers & people in statelessness like situation.	UNDP	100,000		100,000
		OHCHR	2,000	2,000	-

		UNHCR	300,000	300,000	-
5.1.10	Ensure Business Continuity of Public Administration and Sustain the Provision of Basic Services in times of COVID19, with specific focus on basic services and building on the civil registration work underway	UNDP	2,000,000	222,433	1,777,567
5.1.11	Support National Human Rights Institution to monitor human rights situation during Covid19 and promote the Rule of Law	UNDP	300,000		300,000
5.1.12	Capacity building of the law enforcement officers of Tajikistan through provision of trainings in intelligence analysis, gender issues, anticorruption, HIV/AIDS and human rights	UNODC	213,000	213,000	-
	<b>Result area 5.2: Domestic violence curbed through legal, policy, institutional reforms, and public awareness</b>				
5.2.1	Continue implementing programmes to address violence against women and girls with necessary adjustments taking into consideration implications arising out of the Covid-19 epidemic	UNFPA	93,800	93,800	-
5.2.2	Conducting informational campaigns on prevention of GBV through development of videos, informational-communications materials and organizing theatre-based campaigns among general population, youth, staff of the COWFA and religious leaders.	UNFPA	70,000	50,000	20,000
5.2.3	Building the capacity of police inspectors on domestic violence on provision of quality police services to victims of GBV	UNFPA	15,000	5,000	10,000
	<b>Result area 5.3: Youth and women are empowered to engage in addressing the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19</b>				
5.3.1	Promote engagement of youth in the response and recovery phases; strengthen role of women leaders and women-led organizations in the recovery efforts	UNESCO	10,000	10,000	-
5.3.2	Carry out the Generation equality campaign by involving youth to reduce stigma and discrimination against women and girls living with HIV affected by the pandemic	UN WOMEN			-
5.3.3	Promote engagement of youth in the response and recovery phases; strengthen role of women leaders and women-led organizations in the recovery efforts	WFP			-
5.3.4	Contribution to establishing, jointly with UNDP and UNICEF, COVID-19 Youth Information Centre at the Committee on youth and sport affairs of the RT. Committee volunteers will produce and disseminate targeted messages to various groups of youth. Messages will be disseminated via social media and other resources. (UN Women- support of access to Internet)	UN WOMEN	1,000	1,000	-
5.3.5	Provide support to the Committee of Youth and Tourism under the Government of Tajikistan to promote volunteerism and engage in civic action to build back better	UNDP	100,000	15,000	85,000
5.3.5	Youth networks (Ypeer, UNESCO club, Ysafe) actively involved in disseminating information on covid19 and provision of support to youth via social media, platforms, etc.	UNFPA	10,000		10,000

		UNESCO	15,000	10,000	5,000
5.3.6	Conduct online contest among children and youth to keep them connected and engaged mentally and physically	UNODC	15,000	5,000	10,000
		<b>Sub-total:</b>	<b>3,930,800</b>	<b>944,233</b>	<b>2,986,567</b>
		<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>61,434,798</b>	<b>28,204,371</b>	<b>33,230,427</b>