

# COVID – 19

## Tajikistan Situation Report #19

### 22 December 2020



UNITED NATIONS  
TAJIKISTAN



COVID-19  
RESPONSE

This report is produced by the Office of UN Resident Coordinator and OCHA HAT in collaboration with international partners. It covers the period of 12 November – 21 December 2020.

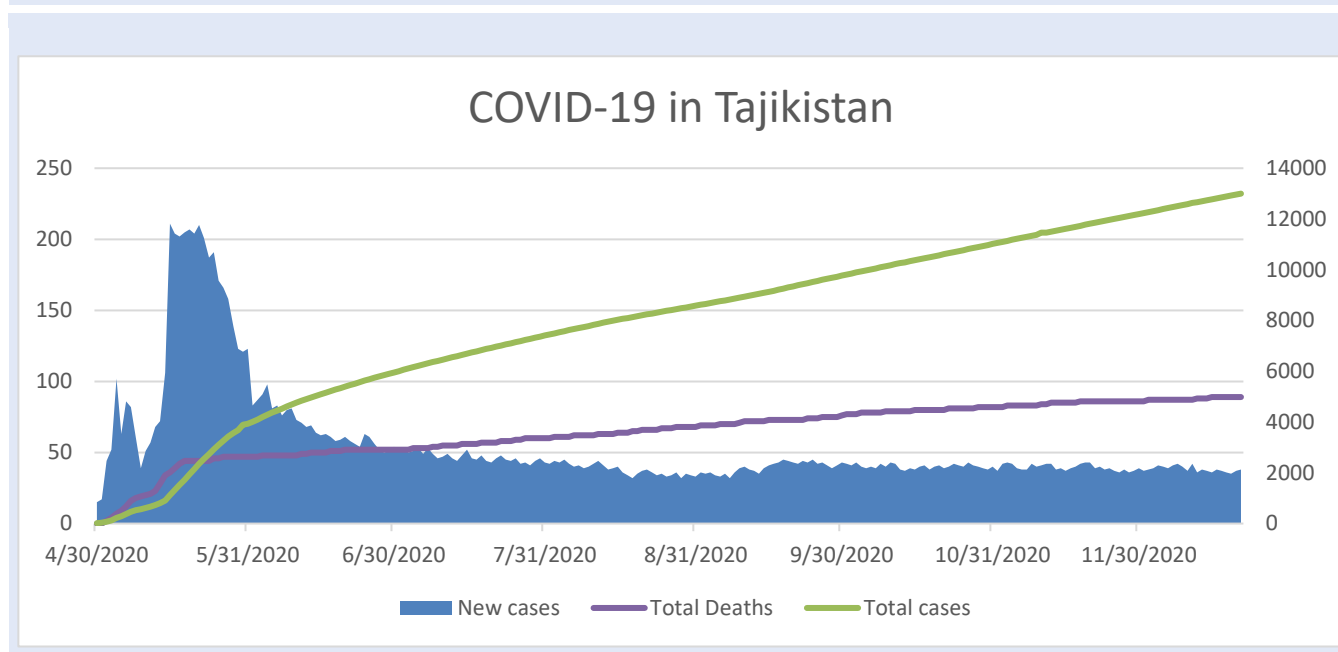
**12 998 (+1571)\***  
Confirmed cases of COVID-19

**89 (+5)\***  
Deaths

**12 455 (+ 1692)\***  
Total recovered from COVID-19

\*new cases since October November 12, 2020 (Situation Report # 18)

Data as of 21 December 2020 (19:40 local time), Ministry of Health and Social protection of the Population, Tajikistan



## Tajikistan situation overview

- As of 21 December 2020, the number of cumulative laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 has increased to a total of 12,998. During the reporting period, 5 new deaths attributed to COVID-19 were reported, bringing the total number to 89. The Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoHSP) reports that 12, 455 (95,8%) of infected people have recovered. Cases are being reported from all the regions of the country.
- The crude cumulative incidence rate is 121.2 per 100,000 population and 8.9 deaths per 1,000,000 population.
- As of November 3, 2020 MoHSP has aligned to WHO recommendations and revised the COVID-19 case definition protocols, which recognize “probable” cases of COVID-19 based on WHO guidance “Public health surveillance for COVID-19”, 7 August 2020. The government, with the support of WHO, is now in the process of strengthening capacity to report based on these new definitions. With treatment of cases increasingly happening in primary health centers in districts and not in regional hospitals, WHO is providing training and laptops for PHC staff in districts to report based on these new definitions. The new reporting protocols should be fully implemented by the end of January 2020 and aggregated daily at the national level. In the meantime, the testing capacity is a significant bottleneck to reporting. While important progress has been made by increasing laboratories from 1 to 10 over past months, based on population size WHO estimates that 20-25 laboratories, test systems, reagents, consumables and materials, including trainings are needed to reach full capacity and calls on support of international partners in this regard.
- The [WHO Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) Dashboard](#) provides aggregated (confirmed and probable) numbers of COVID -19 cases in Tajikistan since December 7, 2020 as per data available from the government.
- On 9 December the Republic of Tajikistan became an eligible member of the [COVAX Facility](#), and the government submitted a request for vaccine support. Currently a technical vaccine distribution plan is under development. MoHSP has established an inter-agency National Working Group on Country Preparedness for Introduction of Vaccine against COVID-19 within COVAX Facility. This Working Group has identified and

- prioritized target population for vaccination, which cover around 20% of population and includes health workers, elderly, persons with co morbidities and teachers with vaccine rollout planned tentatively sometime in Q1 2021.
- No changes have been introduced to existing public health measures, which are limited to compulsory “mask regime” and social distancing in public places, as well as a ban for mass gatherings. The ban on mass gatherings is enhanced by the decision of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on COVID-19 response taken on November 18, 2020 to cancel all mass celebrations of the New Year in public places.
  - In-country flights on the route Dushanbe-Khujand-Dushanbe have resumed as of November 29, 2020 and operated twice a week.
  - Outbound regular flights on the route Dubai-Dushanbe-Dubai and Istanbul-Dushanbe-Istanbul have been operational during the reporting period. Air connection with other countries, including Russian Federation is conducted through repatriation charter flights only. Railway routes remain open for cargo.
  - The border crossing points with neighboring countries remain closed for civilians and open for cargo import/export.
  - Markets have been fully operational and staple food commodities have been available in all monitored food markets during the reporting period. However, during the past reporting weeks prices for vegetable oil increased in most monitored market by a range of 6-16 percent. According to wholesale traders, this change in prices is partly due to depreciation of Tajik Somoni against US dollar and as a result of low supply of these commodities from exporting countries. For details, please refer to WFP Tajikistan-Market Situation Updates: [02-13 November 2020](#), [16-20 November 2020](#), and [23-27 November 2020](#)

### COVID-19 socio-economic update

Preliminary figures from September suggest that the GDP increased by 4.2% (year-on-year). Fall in personal remittances and the slowdown in economic activities with the resultant job losses and underemployment is forcing households to cut down on expenditure. On the production side, the latest data from October (yoy) show robust growth in industry (10.7%) and agriculture (7.5%). However, there are still no signs of a rebound in domestic trade and services even with lighter physical distancing measures that Tajikistan has imposed. Wholesale and retail trade fell 7.3% between January and October compared to the same period a year earlier. On November 20, the Lower House of the Parliament passed the Budget Law for 2021. In nominal terms, compared to 2020, planned expenditure shows an increase of 6%. Almost 20% of the state budget is allocated for education, followed by social transfers (14.9%) and the energy sector (13.6%). The total planned social spending for education, health, social transfers, and sports and youth is equivalent to 47% of the total budget. This is an increase of around 2% compared to the 2020 budget. Under the Targeted Social Assistance scheme, by November 2020 more than 48 million TJS had been disbursed.

### Response

- The Government of Tajikistan has introduced a one-time payment to poor families to cope with the socio-economic impact of Covid-19. As of November 16, 2020 a total of 118,810 households had received this one-time payment of 400 TJS. Furthermore, 42,002 households having young children of 3 years or less were given a one-time cash payment of 500 TJS.
- Healthcare and medical supply – The overview of assistance provided by International Partners (including bi-lateral assistance) prepared by the DCC Working Group on Health can be found at: <https://untj.org/dcc/covid-19/>
- Visualization of the 3W (Who, What, Where) database, which includes information on partners’ completed and on-going activities in response to the COVID-19 outbreak in Tajikistan, has been published on [UN Tajikistan website](#).

### Needs

- Tajikistan continues facing a shortage in laboratory reagents and consumables, pulse oximeters, oxygen masks with reservoir and tubes (for adult, child and infant), nasal oxygen cannula (for adult, child and infant), essential medicines and equipment.

### COVID-19 and migration

Closed borders due to COVID-19 pandemic is deteriorating not only the livelihood and wellbeing of migrant workers and families, but also the economic development of host countries that have relied on labour migration. To reduce the economic impacts, the Ministry of Construction Industry, Housing and Utilities of the Russian Federation have proposed the government in December to simplify the entry requirements for labour migrants from Central Asia. Following Russia, Kazakhstan also acknowledged a shortage of migrant workers, especially in construction. From June 2020, IOM Tajikistan has assisted more than 3,000 vulnerable Tajik migrants stranded at Zhibek-Zholy on the Kazakhstan-Uzbekistan border to safely return home. The assisted migrants were mostly labour migrants, but also included students, children, pregnant women, and elderlies. Recognizing the efforts and outcomes, IOM has awarded the Tajikistan operation a Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Contribution to Resettlement and Movement Management during the COVID-19 Lockdown.

## Coordination arrangements

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- The Inter-Agency Standing Committee on COVID-19 preparedness and response (Standing Committee) chaired by the Prime Minister continues to lead and coordinate the state COVID-19 operation. Similarly, Standing Committees have been established at all administrative levels by local authorities, as well as within all Ministries and Agencies.
- Overall coordination of development partners in Tajikistan on COVID-19 preparedness and response is undertaken by the UN Resident Coordinator with the technical guidance of WHO, in the frame of the COVID-19 Response Group.

## Communication and information sharing:

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- To contribute to regular Situation Reports and to be included in the mailing lists, please contact:  
**Shahlo Rahimova, OCHA NDRA @ +992939999451; [rahimova@un.org](mailto:rahimova@un.org)**
  - For any urgent information related to COVID-19 (situation, needs, response etc.), please contact:  
**Dr. Safarov Abdulakhad, NPO WHO @ +992 98 515 23 32; [safarova@who.int](mailto:safarova@who.int)**
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