

COVID – 19

Tajikistan Situation Report #18

12 November 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 8 October – 9 November 2020. The next report will be issued on or around December 11, 2020.

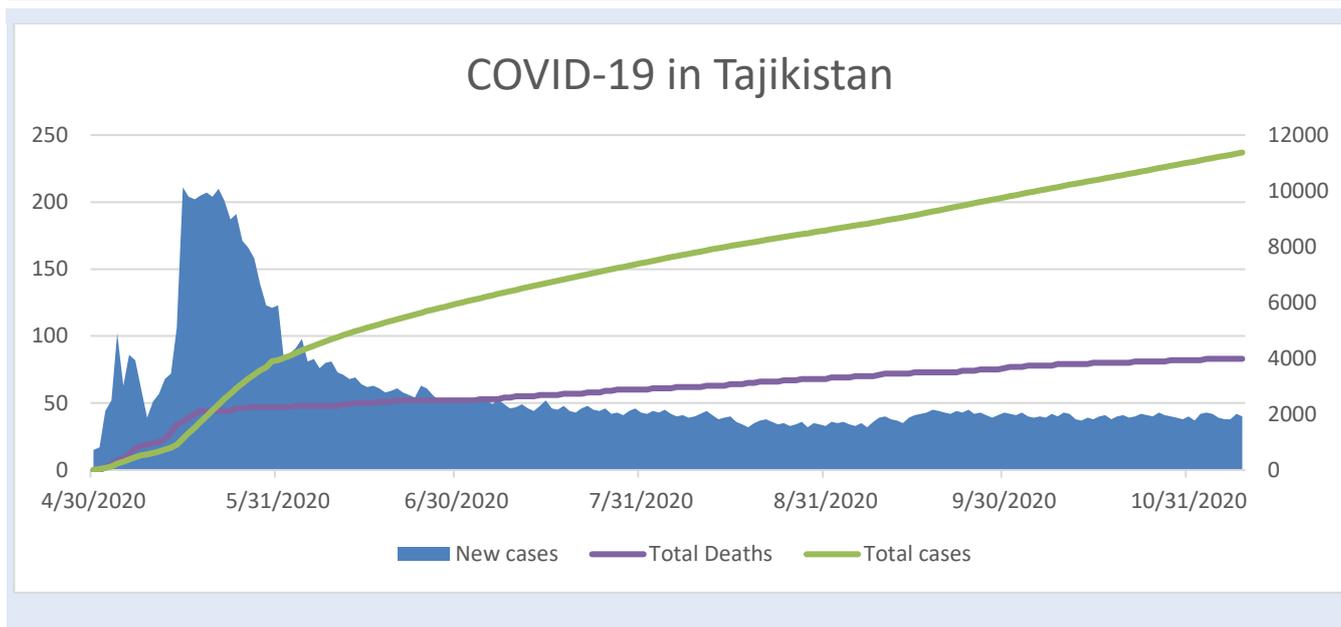
11417 (+1362)*
Confirmed cases of COVID 19

84 (+6)*
Deaths

10763 (+ 1887)*
Total recovered from COVID-19

*new cases since October 7, 2020 (Situation Report # 17)

Data as of 10 November 2020 (19:04 local time), Ministry of Health and Social protection of the Population, Tajikistan



Tajikistan situation overview

- As of 10 November 2020, the number of cumulative cases has increased to a total of 11,417. During the reporting period, 6 new deaths attributed to COVID-19 were reported, bringing the total number to 84. The Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoHSP) reports that 10,763 (94,2%) 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. The 30-day infection average is 40.0, a 1,1% decrease compared to the previous month's period (41.1). The effective reproduction number R_t is constant since late May and is estimated to be around 1.
- As of October 29, 2020 MoHSP revised COVID-19 ICD coding in-line with the WHO Emergency ICD codes use for COVID-19. Furthermore, MoHSP revised COVID-19 case definition protocols as of November 3, 2020.
- 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 introduced measures are not heavily enforced and are rarely observed by the public.
- Regular flights on the route Dubai-Dushanbe-Dubai and Istanbul-Dushanbe-Istanbul have been operational during the reporting period. Despite that, airports remain closed for all other regular flights and serve only repatriation charter flights. 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. Although, due to shrinking demand, there is no hand sanitizer (0.5ml) and decreased sales of masks have been reported in Bokhtar market. Prices for some commodities have been increasing, e.g., sugar (6-25 percent), vegetable oil (6-36 percent), in most monitored markets during the reporting weeks compared to previous weeks. This is due to the increase in import prices. For details, please refer to WFP Tajikistan-Market Situation Update: [5-16 October 2020](#) and [12-26 October 2020](#).

COVID-19 socio-economic update

Data from the Agency of Statistics (AoS) show that the economy grew by 4.2% from January to September 2020. There hasn't been any major recovery in the trade and services sector. The slowdown in this sector is mirrored in the movement of people visiting retail shops, restaurants, and other places of recreation in Tajikistan (Google Mobility Report). Compared to the baseline in January, visits to shops and places of recreation dropped by 17% in June. Dushanbe saw an even steeper decline (47%) in visits. However, by the end of September, the frequency of visits had almost returned to the January baseline. Agriculture sector grew by 8.1% in the nine-month period. Cereals, wheat, and vegetable production increased while fruit production fell by 3.7% (AoS).

The National Bank of Tajikistan revised the official exchange rate of the Tajik somoni. Somoni can now be exchanged at 11.3 to 1 USD. With a decline in financial flows including personal remittances and investments, there is pressure on somoni. This may have prompted the correction in the exchange rate. Media is reporting that people are finding it difficult to purchase USD.

Google's mobility data tracks the movement of people using cellphone data of users provided they activate their location tracking.

Response

- 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](#).
- Due to the closed borders, Tajik migrants are stranded at the border areas, exposed to extremely vulnerable conditions without access to water, food, shelter, sanitation, and healthcare service. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan is collaborating with the Governments to safely send Tajik migrants back to Tajikistan from Kazakhstan through the territory of Uzbekistan. As of 30 October, IOM Tajikistan assisted almost 2914 vulnerable migrants and victims of trafficking during the last six months (333 females and 2581 males). The assistance was made possible thanks to the partnership with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

COVID-19 and migration

The economic impacts of the outflow of migrant workers are recognized in both Tajikistan and Russia, the main host country of Tajik migrants. Due to the pandemic and travel restrictions, many Tajik migrants were forced to go back to Tajikistan, while others were left in Russia without work. A recent [survey conducted in Moscow](#) shows that 76% of migrants lost their jobs either through layoffs or unpaid leave.

In Tajikistan, the number of job seekers has increased, raising the unemployment rate of the country. A survey conducted by IOM found that there are high demands among returned migrants for jobs with sufficient salaries in Tajikistan.

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.

Coordination arrangements

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

Communication and information sharing:

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