

1. Research on Tajikistan and its measures against the spread of COVID-19

1.1 Background

As of 26 March, no confirmed cases of COVID-19 had been reported in Tajikistan. The Tajik government has developed an emergency response programme (“the Programme”) to deal with the spread of COVID-19. To implement this Programme, authorities have asked for assistance from international financial institutions.¹

A clinic has been set up specifically for corona patients in Dushanbe. This clinic, called Istiklol Clinic, is being equipped with materials necessary to maintain a quarantine at the hospital.²

1.2 Is there coordination between state and non-state actors, e.g. through a national emergency response mechanism?

According to the Commissioner of the World Health Organisation in Tajikistan, the Programme is implemented by a coordination of the actions of public authorities at state, regional and municipal levels.³

1.3 Is there mention of the role of Red Cross (RC) or humanitarian actors? In what areas/sectors? What responsibilities are ascribed to RC?

It is reported that Tajikistan has entered into negotiations with international financial institutions, including the World Bank, with the view to attract financing necessary for the implementation of the Programme.

This research has not found any references to the Red Cross.

1.4 Are there exceptions to travel restrictions that will facilitate the movement of RC/humanitarian relief teams and/or aid across borders? What (if any) quarantine requirements or other conditions are attached?

The government of Tajikistan has implemented measures to temporarily confine individuals arriving in Tajikistan. These measures apply to visitors from, or who have travelled through, Afghanistan, the People’s Republic of China, Iran, Italy, South Korea, Denmark, France, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom or the United States.⁴

¹ <https://rus.ozodi.org/a/30507095.html>

² <https://rus.ozodi.org/a/30500794.html>

³ <https://rus.ozodi.org/a/30510966.html>

⁴ <https://mfa.tj/en/main/view/5871/statement-by-the-foreign-ministry-of-tajikistan-regarding-the-new-coronavirus-pandemic>

Travellers arriving from these countries are currently being confined for 14 days. They are quarantined at the country's hospitals and sanatoriums.⁵ Further restrictions could be applied at short notice by the Tajik authorities.⁶

Land border crossings between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have been closed, and the land border with Kyrgyzstan was closed on 24 March.⁷

The Tajik Civil Aviation Authority announced the temporary suspension of all flights to and from Tajikistan starting from 20 March.⁸

This research has not found any special exceptions for humanitarian relief teams.

1.5 Are there exceptions to quarantines, curfews and other restrictions on movement that allow RC/humanitarian organizations access to vulnerable populations (including for psychosocial or non-medical aid)?

As of 26 March, the state has not imposed a quarantine on the general population, other than the 14 days quarantine on travellers returning from the countries listed above. Schools and universities operate in ordinary course and large public gatherings have not been cancelled.

1.6 Have any special legal facilities or exemptions been put in place for the importation of medical aid or other relief items or personnel (International Disaster Response Law)? What (if any) quarantine requirements or other conditions are attached?

This research has not found any legal facilities or exemptions put in place for the importation of medical aid or other relief items.

1.7 Is the RC (or humanitarian organizations) categorized as 'essential' or 'emergency' services, for the purposes of exemptions to restrictions on business operations and opening hours?

This research has not found any references to the Red Cross or other humanitarian organisations.

1.8 What other measures are provided in the emergency decrees? (for governmental actors, for communities, for health workers, etc).

The Programme includes provisions on informing the general public of the risks associated with COVID-19. Other provisions include:⁹

- implementing epidemiological control measures;
- introducing and enhancing controls at border checkpoints;
- investigating infection cases and promptly responding thereto;
- overseeing laboratories and diagnostic services in the country;

⁵ <http://moh.tj/coronavirus-prevention-measures-are-intensifying/?lang=en>

⁶ <https://mfa.tj/en/main/view/5871/statement-by-the-foreign-ministry-of-tajikistan-regarding-the-new-coronavirus-pandemic>

⁷ <https://mfa.ru/main/view/5890/soobshchenie-o-vremennom-zakrytii-gosudarstvennoi-granitsy-tadzhikistana-s-kyrgyzstanom>

⁸ <https://asiaplustj.info/en/news/tajikistan/society/20200320/tajikistan-closes-all-its-airports-due-to-coronavirus-concerns>

⁹ <https://rus.ozodi.org/a/30507095.html>

- registering COVID-19 infection cases; and
- mitigating the negative impact of COVID-19 on the country's economy.

Furthermore, a coronavirus hotline has been set up.¹⁰

Ministries and departments as well as local governmental bodies have been instructed to create intra-departmental and local operational staffs, to strengthen sanitary and preventive measures.¹¹

The country has also established a permanent Response Group headed by the Prime Minister that meets twice a day. This Response Group consists of heads of ministries and public agencies, Tajikistan's Chief Prosecutor and the secretary of Tajikistan's Security Council.

1.9 Have restrictions been adopted or put in place that ban the export of protective medical equipment?

Due to a sharp growth in the demand for protective medical masks, there has been an increase in the production of medical masks in the country.¹² There does not appear to be any ban on the exportation of such masks or other protective medical equipment.

¹⁰ <http://moh.tj/%d1%82%d0%b5%d0%bb%d0%b5%d1%84%d0%be%d0%bd%d0%b8-%d0%b1%d0%be%d0%b2%d0%b0%d1%80%d3%a3-%d0%be%d0%b8%d0%b4-%d0%b1%d0%b0-%d0%bc%d0%b0%d1%81%d1%8a%d0%b0%d0%bb%d0%b0%d2%b3%d0%be%d0%b8-%d0%ba%d0%be%d1%80/>

¹¹ <http://moh.tj/tajik-pm-kohir-rasulzoda-heads-the-republican-staff-to-strengthen-anti-epidemic-measures/?lang=en>

¹² <https://rus.ozodi.org/a/30515703.html>