

# TAJIKISTAN



## Country disaster risk profile

Tajikistan ([World Bank, 2021](#)) is a mountainous country with diverse topography and is especially vulnerable to climate hazards. It is prone to earthquakes, floods, drought, avalanches, landslides and mudslides. The most vulnerable areas are the glacier-dependent river basins supplying hydropower and water resources for irrigation, fragile mountain ecosystems and isolated forest with mountainous and riverine terrain which makes it prone to landslides and land degradation. In addition, 26% of the population is living under the poverty line. The emergency management capacity has increased lately helping Tajikistan to better cope with new natural hazards. The country's worst drought was in the year 2000, which affected about 3 million people. About 36% of Tajikistan is at risk of landslides and mudslides; in 2006, about 13,000 people were affected by flooding and landslides. The poverty rate decreased from 34.3% in 2013 to 26.5% in 2020 but rising prices and food insecurity hamper a strong economic rebound. Given the water interdependence of countries in the Central Asia region, climate change is likely to aggravate conflicts over water resources.



## COVID-19 impact

The first confirmed COVID-19 cases in Tajikistan ([IMF, 2021](#)) were reported in April 2020. The authorities have taken a range of measures to contain its spread, including border closures, travel restrictions, and suspending prayers at mosques. On June 5, 2020, the Tajikistan President issued a decree on Countering the Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a severe human and economic impact in Tajikistan. Trade and transportation disruptions have led to a sharp drop in remittances and government revenues, and created urgent balance of payments and fiscal financing needs.

As of February 2022 ([georank 2022](#)), over 17,000 cases were confirmed (195/100k), with 12 cases active (0,1/100k), over 17,200 recovered (193/100k) and 124 deaths (1,4/100k).



## Fiscal and social protection measures

On May 6, 2020, the IMF Executive Board approved a disbursement of US\$ 189.5 million for budget support to help Tajikistan. At the same time, development partners, (World Bank and Asian Development Bank) also provided financial support to Tajikistan of around US\$ 150 million. The Government provided VAT exemptions on essential imports, and lump-sum assistance equivalent to minimum wage to vulnerable households and other socially disadvantaged groups.

On **social assistance**: cash transfers to poor households, extension of the targeted social assistance (TSA) programme from 40 to all 68 districts, utility waivers, with provision of household utilities subsidies and aid to families with children, including one-time payment to households with children under 3 years old. Most of the measures targeted the households affected by migration.

On **social insurance**: paid sick leave and disability certificates for those affected by COVID-19, while on **labour markets** the focus was on activation measures, with a focus on returning migrants.



## Structure of subnational governments

Tajikistan ([OECD/UCLG, 2019](#)) system of subnational governments is **asymmetric** and can be grouped into **three categories**: local state governments of national subordination, local state governments of regional subordination and local self-governments. The country is divided into **three regions** (viloyat), the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous region (Pamir Mountains), Gbao, and the capital city of Dushanbe. All three are subdivided into seven cities (shahr) and 45 rural districts (dehot). In addition, 13 cities and districts are under direct national subordination, without intermediation of state governments. The first level of local self-government bodies (Jamoat), is either urban or rural, and is defined in the Tajikistan Constitution of 1994 (Chapter VI) and the Law on Local Self-Government Bodies adopted in 2009.

# Documentation of how governments in Europe and Central Asia have responded to disasters and crises through subnational social protection systems

## Case study: Tajikistan

Towards a disaster response through subnational systems allowing for effective response to the economic and social needs of children and their families, including through social protection measures

Mihai MAGHERU, February 2022

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## 1. Introduction

Within the overall documentation of how governments in Europe and Central Asia (ECA) have responded to disasters and crises through subnational social protection systems, several stakes of the case study of Tajikistan have been identified:

- Recently graduating<sup>1</sup> from a low income country status, Tajikistan relies on a **remittance-financed, import-reliant economic model, where migration is critical**, all generating the grounds for severely deteriorating the social and economic wellbeing of the population following the COVID-19 outbreak.
- The mountainous terrain of the country severely limits the availability of arable land. Tajikistan is also considered the **most vulnerable country to climate change in the ECA region**. It is particularly prone to natural disasters, extreme temperatures and erratic rainfalls. These conditions significantly affect poor households, which are most affected by environmental degradation given that many depend on agricultural land for their livelihoods.
- Tajikistan has a relatively comprehensive social protection system, which includes elements of social insurance, social assistance and social services. Remittances, as a form of informal protection, play an important role. The country is **reforming its social assistance system**, with cash compensations being replaced by the **Targeted Social Assistance programme (TSA)** from the beginning of 2011. A key issue remains the **low coverage and adequacy of social assistance**. The government plans to gradually increase the share of the poor and vulnerable population covered by social assistance transfers.
- While Tajikistan has been significantly affected by **COVID-19**, not necessarily in terms of casualties but mainly economically, the **Governmental response in terms of social protection (SP)** included several social assistance measures, but, overall, not many SP measures were taken.

These specificities all have an important knowledge generation potential and sharing of good practices and lessons learnt, in a context where the **structure of the subnational governments** is characterised by a complex three-tiered configuration, with a significant role of the districts (tier 2) in managing the SP system and relatively articulated with the overall disaster risk management/reduction (DRM/R) processes.

## 2. Provision of social protection measures at subnational levels within a heavy and centralized SP system

Social assistance in Tajikistan is currently in transition. It has been based on two main programmes, a conditional cash transfer for children attending school and an electricity compensation benefit. Previously piloted in two districts in 2009, the TSA is since then gradually replacing the two previous transfers.

**Major decisions about social protection are made by several ministries and departments operating at the central level<sup>2</sup>.** The main government bodies involved in social protection policy design, implementation and monitoring are the **Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoHSP)**, the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment (MoLME) and the Agency of Social Insurance and Pensions (ASIP).

The **administration of social protection is divided by the State Agency for Social Protection (SASP)**, a specialized agency within the MOHSP and **the ASIP** (a direct subordinate agency of the central government). The former is responsible for the administration of social assistance schemes, the latter for social insurance programmes.

Among other responsibilities, **the MoHSP** develops and submits proposals to improve state social protection policy and programmes for the poor and oversees their implementation. Together with the government and local executive bodies, it is also responsible for the **creation and development of a network of integrated and specialized state, regional, local and other social services**.

The **State Agency for Social Protection (SASP)** implements state TSA policy, and manages the **database of TSA recipients, in addition to provision of social care services to adults and children with disabilities**. It also organizes and provides TSA to low-income families and citizens, and creates and manages a single databank to register individuals receiving TSA, including vulnerable families. ASIP manages data for people with disability, single elderly people, children and orphans without guardianship. It compiles quarterly budget estimates for TSA and reports on the use of funds.

**Other central level stakeholders play an important role in the area of social protection**, particularly in terms of provision of care services for vulnerable children:

The Ministry of Education and Science (MES) manages the special schools and boarding schools for children, including children with disability, children without parental care and children in conflict with the law who are taken care of in units that operate in the structure of the ministry. It is also responsible for the residential care of children without family care, including residential institutional care and foster care.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) is mainly responsible for refugees and repatriated children.

**At the regional and local levels, the management of the social protection system and the provision of social services are functionally distributed among several bodies that are either decentralized structures of central departments or local departments operating at different levels of the management system, in regions, districts and Jamoat.** Some government agencies operating at lower levels of government are involved in issuing cash benefits, whereas others are engaged in providing services.

The most important government bodies at the local level in social protection provision are the **Departments of Social Protection of the Population**, which process all applications for social assistance programmes.

Regional and local level institutions and their roles are as follows:

- **Psychological-medical-pedagogical consultation centres.** Provide consultations as a mechanism for sending children with disabilities to specialists and provide short-term services for their rehabilitation, as well as social and legal assistance to their parents.
- **Social and Medical State Examination Services (SMSSES).** Carries out disability examinations and provides certifications necessary for disability benefits.
- **Departments of social protection of population (DSP).** Process all applications for social assistance in the form of cash benefits and refer to social care services.
- **Departments of At-Home Social Services (DSAHU).** Provide home-based care services. They are mainly targeted at older people who live in isolation, as well as people and children with disabilities.
- **Commissions on the Rights of the Child.** Monitor the district level implementation of child

protection measures. Several local authorities are involved in the work of the commissions. CRCs receive child protection cases from the child rights departments and coordinate their further management.

- **Child Rights Offices.** They serve as the main coordinating mechanism for the protection of children at the local level. Evaluate whether the child protection case meets the established criteria. Responsible for escorting specific cases.
- **Committees for Women and Family Affairs.** Provide services for the prevention of domestic violence and establish centres for assistance in critical situations.

Within this heavy institutional configuration at all levels of governance, the **application process for TSA by a family in need follows a quite complex process:**

- The family in need prepares the application documentation
- This is submitted to the **Department of housing and public utilities (DHPU)**, and assessed by Jamoat or mahalla committee (tier 3, local)
- DHPU notifies the family on acceptance of documentation and transfers the documents to the **Department of Social Protection – DSP** (tier 2, regional)
- DSP proceeds to data input into an integrated database at the level of the **SASP** – which is in charge of the Information system of TSA. Data is processed at central level (tier 1).
- If the application is approved, the **notification process** implies that SASP notifies DSP which, in turn, notifies the family.
- In parallel, the State Surveillance Service for Medical Activity and Social Protection (SSSMASP) of the MoHSP, carries out successive and/or parallel **quality and eligibility control processes** at the level of DSP, DHPU and family. (tier 1)

### 3. A DRM/R strategic framework requiring further operationalisation, though setting the grounds for further articulation between SP and DRM/R systems

The **Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence of Tajikistan** (CESCD) is the central structure in the executive system, authorized to implement state policy, legal regulation, provision of state service and management of emergency situations (**prevention and response to emergency situations**) and protection of population and national economy in emergency situations of natural and technogenic character and in armed conflicts.

Both CESCD and MoHSP have developed strategies **for the current decade**: “National Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan on Disaster Risk Reduction for 2019-2030” and “Strategy for the development of social protection of the population of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period until 2030”. The latter is still in draft version requiring further approval, while both strategies mainly require clear operationalisation with an action plan and proper budgeting.

Despite these limitations, the documents provide a strategic framework for articulation between the two sectors, by listing the core actions needed to **improve the social protection system in emergencies of natural and man-made disasters and in crisis situations**:

- immediate provision of specialized social services, including medical, psychiatric, affordable temporary housing, etc. for families and individuals affected by natural and man-made emergencies,
- training and preparation of a team of specialists to assess and provide medical, social and psychological assistance to victims of natural and man-made emergencies, especially children,
- preparation of tools for training the population on behaviour in emergencies of natural and man-made nature,
- improving inter-sectoral cooperation to increase the effectiveness of assistance to victims and the establishment of a single database in this area,
- consolidate international cooperation on social protection of vulnerable populations in emergencies.

The very nature of MoHSP, with a significant health component, makes it possible to incorporate a **Division on Emergency Situations and Urgent**

**Medical Assistance** (DESUMA), a strong institutional counterpart in the relationship with CESCD.

Disaster management in Tajikistan takes place through a formal **Unified State System on the Prevention and Liquidation of Emergency Situations (USSPLES)** coordinated by the **Commissions of Emergency Situations at the national, provincial, city, district, Jamoat and organizational levels**. These Commissions, chaired by the most senior official at each level, include all relevant government entities as members. The CESCD has a lead role in disaster preparedness and response. **It supports emergency commissions at the national, provincial, city and district levels ensuring coordination of primary response.**

The DRM/R system also benefits from the support of REACT<sup>3</sup>, the Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team, which is the Government-humanitarian community disaster risk management partnership for Tajikistan.

### 4. A social protection COVID-19 response mainly focused on social assistance, with few measures taken compared to other countries in ECA

At national level, according to the World Bank “living paper<sup>4</sup>” Tajikistan ranks low<sup>5</sup> in the region in terms of number and diversity of SP measures, with a total of four core groups of measures. The details of these measures are presented in the annex and could constantly be consulted in the regularly updated version of the living paper.

However, it is worth mentioning that in terms of generosity of cash transfer size relative to pre COVID-19 level, Tajikistan increased by 17% the TSA transfer size, and the planned and actual coverage rates, for both one time emergency aid and TSA are equal. Therefore, in terms of scale up of cash transfers Tajikistan is the only low income country that appears in the top 50 rank of countries by actual coverage rates<sup>6</sup>. Here below are listed the core measures by the three components of social protection:

**Social assistance: (i) cash transfers, (ii) utility waivers,**

**Social insurance: (i) paid sick leave,**

**Labour market: (i) activation**

## 5. Implementation approaches and theoretical and practical models of action during emergencies and crises

The government of Tajikistan is aware of the challenges the SP system is confronted with. According to the Strategy for the development of social protection of the population of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period until 2030, pending final approval, it is necessary to **reconsider the institutional, economic and administrative framework of the social protection system**, which will promote the activation of a sustainable, high-quality, inclusive and beneficial social protection system and ensure fair access to minimum income, decent and productive employment, minimum social security services and food security for vulnerable groups and poor families throughout the country.

As presented in section 2 of the report, the **SP measures taken at local level significantly depend on the administrative configuration**. The system of management and the three-stage administrative structure and management of the social protection of the population by DSP, SASP and MoHSP, may have a negative impact on the implementation of measures for social protection at the local level, because de-facto, all three stages communicate and coordinate with each other very little, which leads to fragmentation and/or duplication of efforts. Therefore, based on the Strategy, it is envisioned to **review the new structure of sectoral management and abandon the three-stage system of management in the field of social protection**.

A few reform initiatives have been identified in the review process, with UNICEF and the World Bank being the main development actors supporting the Government of Tajikistan in implementing them:

### Assessing the cash preparedness: identifying programme options and entry points for humanitarian cash transfer programmes

Based on Oxford Policy Management (OPM) options<sup>7</sup> for adapting social protection programmes to make them better at responding to shocks, UNICEF Tajikistan supported a **Cash preparedness assessment pilot**<sup>8</sup>, laying the grounds for programme options in **linking the TSA, as the flagship social protection programme, with the humanitarian cash transfer programmes**. The following proposals emerged:

- **Temporary 'top up' cash grants to TSA beneficiaries in areas affected by disaster ('vertical expansion')**. Considered as a priority to pilot in the short term, this option is a useful entry point for testing the feasibility of using national social protection systems in practice (for example to understand fully the accuracy of the TSA beneficiary lists, bottlenecks in systems, etc), and generating evidence to influence wider government on the potential.
- **Temporary support to additional, disaster affected households through the TSA programme ('horizontal expansion')**. This could be achieved through relaxation of the eligibility criteria during a disaster to allow others to receive assistance, or an extraordinary enrolment campaign to provide support to those that fit the criteria but who are currently excluded. Such an option should be considered in the medium term, once there is clarity on the draft social protection strategy and TSA programme proposal and (ideally) once some of the human resource capacities of the TSA are improved.
- **Making use of the underlying systems and processes of the programme, to implement a separate emergency response ('piggy backing')**. This can be an option for consideration in the medium to longer term, once decisions/progress are made on some of the system capacity building aspects. Could provide an opportunity to institutionalise a government owned, but separate, emergency cash transfer programme.

### A Multiphase Programmatic Approach (MPA) for COVID-19 emergency project

Part of the World Bank COVID-19 Response financed under the Fast Track COVID-19 Facility<sup>9</sup>, the MPA project<sup>10</sup> is structured in three components:

- **Component 1.** Strengthening intensive care capacity (including a subcomponent on infection prevention and control and a subcomponent on improving and establishing intensive care units)
- **Component 2.** Multisectoral response planning and community preparedness
- **Component 3.** Temporary social support for vulnerable households, focused on nutrition-sensitive cash transfers to vulnerable households, particularly food insecure households with young children.

Within the component 3, **the transfers, using the TSA, are triggered at the oblast-level based on the spikes in the prices of key food groups** (wheat, milk and dairy, eggs). Food prices in each oblast are monitored through the routine market monitoring systems of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade. A specific price increase threshold is to be identified in consultation with the MOHSP, SASP, and key technical partners: WFP and UNICEF. Once triggered, the program was **targeting TSA beneficiary households with young children**. The proposed cash transfers are designed to provide an opportunity to use accompanying measures to promote optimal nutrition, appropriate hygiene, and preventive health services, as well as COVID-19 infection prevention messaging.

### **Tajikistan emergency social protection programme (TESPP) a cash and WASH shock responsive social protection pilot**

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According to the Standard Operating Procedures, (SOP), the design and development of the model and its pilot are part of a project that aims at contributing to developing the capabilities of key Government institutions and UNICEF in Tajikistan to undertake emergency cash transfer programming, and to documenting the experience for policy and programme decision making.

The objective of the TESPP is to provide **unconditional cash benefits and in-kind WASH Dignity Kits to the poorest and most vulnerable households and those affected by emergency situations and contribute to covering the cost of accessing basic needs with a child sensitive approach**. It is a joint Government initiative linking the Social Protection (SASP) and Humanitarian Response (CESCD) institutions, utilizing existing and tested national systems, instruments and business processes (TSA, SASS, Amonat Bank, CESCD, REACT), and preparing them to expand or adapt to respond to crisis situations and contract in normal times. The initiative aims at avoiding negative coping mechanisms amongst the poorest and most vulnerable population affected by emergencies and promoting positive and healthy behaviours with dignity and freedom of choice, complementing the current Government response.

## **6. Learning from experience and moving further towards an effective response to the economic and social needs of children and their families, including though social protection measures by subnational governments**

**The current asymmetric configuration of subnational governments in Tajikistan seems to play a critical role, both in generating the issues that require reform and in finding the appropriate solutions**, for a more effective and efficient SP system, with a strong(er) emergency component such as SRSP.

The **state governments** have representative bodies elected by the citizens for a five-year term. **Local state governments of regional subordination** (viloyat) appoint the chairperson of the local executive body. These are in turn divided into 7 cities (shahr) and 45 districts (dehot) of regional subordination. Moreover, the **Local state governments of national subordination** are headed by chairpersons of executive bodies (rais) appointed by the central government. With this regional governance configuration, **it is expected that DSP deliver in a uniform manner but further research is required in the area of public administration in order to identify the challenges to be addressed and also to build upon potential locally developed models of intervention**.

The **local self-governments** have elected councils directly by universal suffrage for a five-years term. The chairperson is elected by the council with the **approval of the corresponding district or city government**. The legal framework grants local self-governments with **limited political and administrative autonomy**. Furthermore, local self-government bodies are created within rural districts and play the role of deconcentrated territorial body. **Local self-government bodies do not have budgeting rights**. Their spending is reflected in the lines of the relevant district budget. Smaller villages (sub-municipal) are not self-governing. **There is no intermunicipal cooperation in Tajikistan**. With this local governance configuration, there is very little (inexistent) capacity of local self-governments to deliver locally-based social protection measures. Since they act rather as de-concentrated bodies than decentralised ones, their role need to be very clearly specified in the new reform **aiming to abandon the three-stage system of management in the field of social protection**.

Hence, **the current legal, policy and institutional configuration regarding DRM/R and SP response by subnational governments in Tajikistan is significantly complex**, particularly in terms of social protection. At strategy level, there are good premises for the two sectors to operate in an articulated manner but further operationalisation is required.

Considering the highly complex emergency and humanitarian context of Tajikistan, doubled by several (envisioned) reform processes, it is important to **give a proper place and role to the subnational governments in deploying a part of the SP actions on the ground, in close coordination with the MoHSP** and within the national strategic framework in the area.

However, it should not be ignored that in 2013, social protection, which was part of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, was moved to the MHSP. This shift had consequences<sup>11</sup> at the central and local level for the design, management and implementation of social protection policies. After the move, the department heads are the most senior staff with expertise in social protection.

Since November 2018 one of the Deputy Ministers is solely in charge of Social Protection, hence the **social protection sector as such is not represented in the high-level management of the MoHSP**. This puts social protection in a somewhat peripheral position

within the ministry and makes it harder to advocate for policy reforms.

**Subnational governments should be considered reliable allies within the national strategic efforts**, mainly because of their thorough (and irreplaceable) knowledge of the needs on the ground, but also because of their rapidly adaptive capacity. However, financing of both DRM/R and SP actions at local level should be thoroughly thought out.

The reform processes in the SP area, regardless of their complexity, would need to consider a **systemic approach where the role and place of the public administration could not be neglected**.

At minima this approach should: (i) determine an **optimal distribution of powers** between levels of public administration and between institutions, (ii) determine an **optimal list of functions** necessary to ensure the provision of social assistance closest to the population in need. Moreover, whereas the role and place of SASP is already set, although apparently weaker in the configuration of MoHSP, a mechanism of coordination and cooperation, both vertical and horizontal, would be beneficial for making the SP system more effective and efficient.



## Annex: summary of COVID-19 related SP measures

### In terms of **social assistance**:

- Cash transfers:** A supplementary temporary cash benefit to certain categories of beneficiaries on the payroll of the Targeted Social Assistance program. Through the Decree 1544 June 5th 2020, the government decided to pay allowances to the official salaries of medical personnel directly involved in the diagnosis and treatment of patients infected with the infectious disease COVID-19. A Targeted Social Assistance Programme to provide poor households with cash assistance, which was introduced in 2011 was expanded in August 2020 from 40 districts to 68 and currently covers the entire country. Similarly, the amount per household has been increased from 35 US\$ to 41 US\$. A total of 215,538 households received cash assistance in the amount of 4.9 million US\$. To mitigate the impact of COVID-19 the Government introduced one-time emergency cash support to poor families, elderly, persons/children with disabilities, refugees and stateless persons, families left behind by labour migrants, persons living with TB, HIV/AIDS, and those recipients of social pensions. The amount of the cash assistance is equivalent to 35 US\$. A total of 22.1 million US\$ has been transferred to over 700,000 households. The Government made one-time payments to low-income households with children under 3 years old as a part of the COVID-19 response. Over 64,469 households received cash assistance of 500 TJS (approx. 44 US\$). Topped-up with the TSA this support helped to counter increased risks of deprivation and offset the potential negative impact of the pandemic. Over 3,000 households affected by migration received cash assistance in the amount of 35 US\$. Through the Decree 1544 June 5th 2020, the government established a one-time assistance in the amount of the minimum wage to vulnerable groups of the population, including participants in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945, citizens receiving social pensions, persons with disabilities, orphans, street children, low-income families and families of migrant workers without a breadwinner. In 2020 a total of 437,361 poor households received one-time cash grants in the amount of 168.558 million Tajik somoni. This included 151,080 persons with disabilities; 77,982 orphans and children deprived of parental care; 987 children up to 16 years old living with HIV/AIDS; 300 refugees; 163,781 poor households (TSA recipients) and 43,231 pensioners. Two types of one-time payment were provided in addition to the TSA: 1) one-time payment to families with children up to 3 years old (WB's support), and 2) one-time payment to poor families, refugees, persons/children with disabilities, affected by migration, elderly and lonely people (GoT's support).
- Utility waivers:** Tariff increases on electricity, water, and communal services were postponed until the end of 2020. Through the Decree 1544 June 5th 2020, the government implemented a regulation to prevent price increases in consumer and medical products and medicines. This included medicines, objects of medical appointment, masks, antiseptics, and also flour and flour products, sugar, vegetable oil, beans, potatoes, soap and fuel. Quarantined labour migrants in foreign countries were exempt from paying the patent fee during their quarantine. Through the Decree 1544 June 5th 2020, the government established tax exemptions for individuals on the payment of taxes on real estate.

### In terms of **social insurance**:

- Paid sick leave:** Through the Decree 1544 June 5th 2020, the government announced the provision of disability certificates and paid leave for citizens undergoing a medical examination related to COVID-19.

### In terms of **labour market**:

- Activation measures:** Create employment opportunities and conditions for entrepreneurship for returning migrants through the organization of short-term courses in professions that are in demand in the labour market.

## References

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- <sup>1</sup> World Bank, 2021, [New World Bank country classifications by income level: 2021-2022](#)
- <sup>2</sup> WFP, 2018, Scoping Study on Social Protection and Safety Nets for Enhanced Food Security and Nutrition in Tajikistan, part of a larger series of scoping studies on Social Protection and Safety Nets for Enhanced Food Security and Nutrition in Tajikistan that was commissioned by the World Food Programme in partnership with the University of Maastricht in 2017.
- <sup>3</sup> REACT ([untj.org](http://untj.org)) was established in early 2001 by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) as the coordinating structure for international disaster response to Tajikistan. When OCHA ended activities in Tajikistan, Chairmanship of REACT was transferred to the Government of Tajikistan's Committee of Emergency Situations (CoES), with the UNDP Disaster Risk Management Programme (UNDP DRMP) serving as the REACT Secretariat on national level. Four "Regional" REACTs were also established in the following years.
- <sup>4</sup> Gentilini U., Almenfi M.B.A.; Blomquist J.D.; Dale P., De La Flor Giuffra L., Desai V., Tharmaratnam Fontenez M.B., Galicia Rabadan G.A., Lopez V., Marin Espinosa A.G., Natarajan H., Newhouse D.L., Palacios R.J., Quiroz A.P., Rodriguez Alas C.P., Sabharwal G., Weber M., Social Protection and Jobs Responses to COVID-19 : A Real-Time Review of Country Measures (May 14, 2021) COVID-19 Living Paper Washington, D.C. : World Bank Group.
- <sup>5</sup> During the inception phase the SP measures were mapped for all the 22 countries in the region. Three categories/groups of countries were identified, by the number of measures taken: seven countries with 3 to 5 measures, eight countries with 6 to 8 measures and another seven countries with 9 to 11 measures (none were taken all the 12 possible measures). Hence, Tajikistan is part of the first group of countries.
- <sup>6</sup> The assessment was made before the World Bank changed the classification criteria moving Tajikistan into lower middle-income countries category.
- <sup>7</sup> O'Brien C., Holmes R. and Scott Z., 2018, Shock-Responsive Social Protection Systems Toolkit Appraising the use of social protection in addressing large-scale shocks, OPM, January 2018
- <sup>8</sup> Smith G., 2017, Cash Preparedness Assessment: Tajikistan Pilot
- <sup>9</sup> A full list of World Bank Group operational response can be accessed at [World Bank COVID19 projects](#)
- <sup>10</sup> World Bank, 2020, Project appraisal document (PAD) on a proposed International Association Development Grant, in the amount of SDR 8.3 million (US\$ 11.3 million equivalent) to the Republic of Tajikistan, for a Tajikistan emergency covid-19 project, Approved by the board on April 2, 2020
- <sup>11</sup> WFP, 2018 Op. Cit.

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