



Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence

Rapid Emergency Management and Assessment Team (REACT)

27th May 2020

**COVID-19 HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY
RESPONSE STRATEGY**

*SUPPORTING THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH MEDICAL RESPONSE AND
ENABLING THE PROVISION OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE*



“I would like to recall a very important point that both due to the severe political, economic and financial crisis, and from the perspective of security and safety of each state and their citizens, the international situation is becoming more difficult and dangerous since the beginning of the new millennium and especially since the beginning of 2020 then it was during World War II.

In such conditions, we need stronger unity than ever, work faithfully, honestly and sincerely, prove our loyalty, courage and dedication to our Motherland, state and people, do not forget the human love and care for each other.

We need to help orphans and persons with disabilities, poor families and other vulnerable groups, and believe that these days will pass as we passed over even more difficult times in the past.”

“We will continue expanding our mutually beneficial cooperation with the countries of the world, first of all, with our close neighbors, strategic partners, and reputable international and regional organizations to tackle the challenges.”

President Emomali Rahmon

April 17, 2020



Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence

Humanitarian Emergency Response Strategic Plan

BACKGROUND:

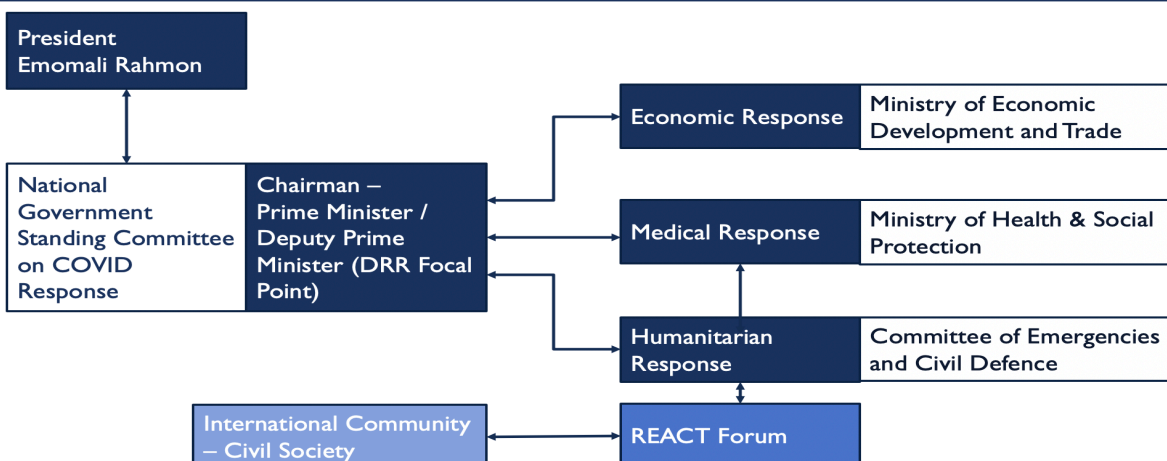
As of May, 2020 Tajikistan, continues to have increasing reported cases of COVID-19. The agencies of the Government of Tajikistan under the direction of the President have actively been responding to a medical emergency through the establishment of the Government Level Standing Committee established in February 2020 under the resolution of the President (AP-1365) and led operationally by the Ministry of Health.

During humanitarian emergencies in Tajikistan, the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence is called upon to utilize its extensive infrastructure to provide direct humanitarian inputs to areas impacted by disasters and engages in close coordination with the Rapid Emergency Management and Assessment Team (REACT) which is co-chaired by the Chairman of the Committee of Emergencies and Civil Defence along with the UN Resident Coordinator.

This forum provides the International community NGO and civil society partners from Tajikistan with an opportunity to participate meaningfully with an emergency response, to ensure that humanitarian interventions are aligned to the priorities of the Government of Tajikistan, to ensure that the appropriate levels of quality are maintained in interventions and to enable unified reporting to donors, partners and the Government of Tajikistan.

In preparation for a humanitarian emergency, the Committee of Emergencies and Civil Defence has activated the REACT platform and has identified the strategic priorities reflected in this document as areas of intervention that can be conducted with the International community to support the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and to prepare for the delivery of humanitarian assistance through a coordinated platform with key partners across Tajikistan.

COVID RESPONSE STRUCTURE – CURRENT STATE





STRATEGIC FRAMING:

The Committee of Emergencies and Civil Defence Humanitarian Emergency Response Strategy has been developed as a supporting document to the Tajikistan COVID-19 Country Preparedness and Response Plan by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection. The Humanitarian Emergency Response Strategy is aligned with the pillars of the United Nations Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19 and the WHO global priorities for COVID-19 Response.

Strategic assumptions that underpin the Humanitarian Emergency Response Strategy include:

1. That the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic will require a humanitarian response in Tajikistan irrespective of the number of reported incidences of disease.
2. That the Committee of Emergencies and Civil Defence in Tajikistan has the approved mandate and resources to engage on behalf of the Government of Tajikistan in providing Humanitarian Assistance.

These assumptions have been validated by the Standing Committee of the Government of Tajikistan in the action plan presented by the Prime Minister.

The Strategic Directive that the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence will be delivering through the Humanitarian Emergency Response Strategy will be:

To support the Government of Tajikistan's Coordinated Emergency Response through the utilization of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence mobilization of human resources, emergency response assets and partnerships with the international community to support the health, humanitarian and economic response to the COVID 19 Emergency Situation.

To accomplish this strategic directive, the following four initial objectives have been set:

Objective 1: To support the Ministry of Health Medical Response in Medical and Quarantine Facilities in order to significantly enhance the reach and responsiveness of the Ministry of Health.

Objective 2: To utilize the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence logistical footprint to support disease surveillance and economic emergency reporting in order to enable rapid, accurate and actionable information on health and economic indicators.

Objective 3: To utilize the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence emergency food reserves and support from the international community to provide humanitarian assistance to impacted communities by enhancing the nutritional resilience of communities and stabilizing markets in order to increase the coping capacity of communities to a prolonged emergency.

Objective 4: To utilize the Committee of Emergency infrastructure and teams to support the Ministry of Interior and Regional Administration in supporting social distancing and lock down programmes once initiated. This will help support the flattening of the curve of a potential outbreak in order to enable an effective health response.





STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:

The Humanitarian Emergency Response Strategy has been organized around four primary objectives. These objectives reflect the current understood priorities but are intended to be dynamic and may change based on the needs on the ground as they develop.

OBJECTIVE 1: SUPPORTING THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH MEDICAL RESPONSE.

Strategic Intent – The Ministry of Health has a significant capacity to respond to public health emergencies in Tajikistan which has been successfully demonstrated across numerous health interventions over the past 25 years. In understanding the lessons from the rest of the world, the capacities of the Ministries of Health in more affluent countries have rapidly been overwhelmed by the impact of the disease.

The strategic intent of this objective is to mobilize the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence to provide an additional support to the Ministry of Health in order to enable greater access to at risk populations while lessening the burden on strained health infrastructure.

Anticipated Outcome – It is anticipated that through the engagement of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence (logistical capacity, manpower capacity, emergency systems capacity) the Ministry of Health will have a significantly enhanced reach and responsiveness to a potential COVID 19 Outbreak.

PRIORITY 1: PROTECTING EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

Ensuring that emergency responders from the Government and from Government partners are protected as they provide support to the Ministry of Health in the context of a Pandemic will require training, personal protective equipment and ready access to health monitoring equipment. In a large-scale outbreak, the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence would mobilize its specialized medical response teams as well as its regional deployment teams and would mobilize equipment and supplies from National and Regional Warehouses.

They would also work with the Tajikistan Red Crescent Society (TRCS) and the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH) to mobilize the thousands of emergency response volunteers that are trained for interoperability with the Committee of Emergencies and Civil Defence. Ensuring that these responders are trained in the specifics of providing support in a public health emergency and have the requisite equipment to keep them safe will be of critical importance. REACT will ensure that provisions are made for responders of both genders.

Major Interventions:

- 1. Training for Emergency Responders:** The provision of Health Response Training for the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence responders, the TRCS and AKDN responders. The initial estimated cost for this training through International trainers is through leveraged support virtually and with trainers from the Ministry of Health and Social Protection.
- 2. Personal Protective Equipment:** The securing of Personal Protective Equipment such as masks, gloves, sanitizers, head coverings and gowns for utilization by Committee of Emergencies and Civil Defence responders as well as TRCS and AKDN teams.



3. **Humanitarian Corridor:** The engagement of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence with its counterparts in China, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia to establish routes of passage and preferred supplier access for critical medical equipment, PPE and other core response materials.
4. **Mass Casualty Management Planning:** Training, equipping and planning for Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence teams and the administrators of the Dushanbe and Regional Hospitals on managing mass casualties – addressing burial needs / internment during a health emergency.

PRIORITY 2: ENHANCED LOGISTICS TO SUPPORT A MEDICAL RESPONSE

Utilizing the Committee of Emergency and Civil Defence logistical capacity to support the movement of Ministry of Health medical teams, equipment, supplies and specialists across the country to address impacted areas as they are identified.

Major Interventions:

1. **Support to Quarantine Facilities:** The Committee of Emergency and Civil Defence has been providing fuel, food and Non-Food Item (NFI) support to quarantine facilities across the country. The Committee would look to formalize supply lines of critical materials to quarantine facilities and ensure that the operational support was in place to ensure that facilities continued to function at high levels of quality and meet the safety and access requirements of vulnerable groups.
2. **Fleet Readiness & Fuel:** The Committee of Emergency and Civil Defence would make available their specialized vehicles and large fleet capacity at the National and Regional levels to enable Ministry of Health and Committee of Emergency and Civil Defence teams to travel quickly to areas in need of medical or humanitarian support.
3. **Staging Areas:** The Oblast Governments and Committee of Emergency and Civil Defence have allocations of land across the country that could be outfitted to serve as staging areas for a medical or humanitarian response and as a space for information dissemination in remote areas of the country. Outfitting these spaces with temporary structures, generators and basic equipment would enable them to extend the reach of the Ministry of Health and the Committee of Emergency and Civil Defence to remote areas of the country.
4. **Supporting Response Operations:** Ensuring that the logistical and operational footprint of the Committee of Emergency and Civil Defence would continue to serve during the period of a potential emergency situation. Maintaining a reserve to support fuel replenishment, logistics costs, DSA's and compensation to responders would be included in this allocation.

PRIORITY 3: ENABLING COORDINATION WITH PARTNERS



The REACT platform has been the principle mechanism for coordination during emergencies in Tajikistan. Bringing together stakeholders from the international community, the Government of Tajikistan and civil society in a forum for dialogue and coordination has been of significant importance to enabling unified responses to humanitarian emergencies in the past. During the COVID-19 Emergency Response, it is anticipated that the REACT platform will continue to play an important role in aligning donors, partners and Government. To ensure that the REACT Platform is able to access and relay critical data points to the larger forum a series of interventions have been envisaged to enhance the capacity of REACT at the National and Oblast levels. To enable this coordination there will be a concentrated effort to include special needs and women representatives of Government, International Organizations and NGO's to ensure that priority needs are included in decision making.

Major Interventions:

1. **National & Regional COVID Liaison Officers:** The Committee of Emergency and Civil Defence would be supported in the recruitment of dedicated Liaison officers in each Oblast and at the National level which would be a primary interface with the Oblast and District Governments as well as the civil society organizations operating to support a COVID response.
2. **REACT Meetings – National & Regional:** The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Action (UNOCHA) in Tajikistan has a key role in convening and facilitating participation of partners within the context of the REACT platform. Enhancing the support to UNOCHA to enable engagement at the National and Oblast levels will be a priority engagement under this initiative.
3. **Support to Regional REACT teams:** REACT teams in the Oblasts will require basic connectivity and implements in each of the Government Facilities where they will be hosted as well as support costs for logistics and operations. Enabling them under this strategy will help to ensure that coordination is supported across the country.

OBJECTIVE 2: SUPPORTING DISEASE & ECONOMIC INDICATOR SURVEILLANCE AND REPORTING

Strategic Intent – The Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence has an extensive emergency response infrastructure composed of human resources, fleets of transport and specialized vehicles and emergency communications systems spanning remote communities across the country. Enhancing this capacity to provide consistent oversight and monitoring of health and economic indicators will streamline data collection and validation for the emergency.

Anticipated Outcome – It is anticipated that through the engagement of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence (logistical capacity, manpower capacity, emergency systems capacity) the Government of Tajikistan and the International Community will have increased access to rapid, accurate, accessible and actionable information upon which to base policy, resourcing and operational decisions.

PRIORITY 4: DISEASE & SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT SURVEILLANCE HUBS



During emergency situations or in periods of high risk, the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence activates their emergency communications network which extends to communities across the country and which relays back daily information on emergency incidents, resources available for deployment and on the status of plans that have been initiated. Extending the ability of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence to gather analyze and report information on health and socio-economic conditions would provide the basis for operational and policy decision making information.

Major Interventions:

1. **Data Collection & Online Integration:** The Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence teams would be supported with the rapid development of a data input and management system inclusive of field data collection, quality control, analytics and reporting. The teams would be provided with electronic field data input tools such as tablets or smart phones which would automate the data collection process and validate data against health and socio-economic indicators in close to real time. Special Emphasis will be placed on collecting gender, age and access disaggregated information.
2. **Micro Economic Assessment:** The United Nations Development Programme will be initiating an assessment of the economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the micro economic conditions in the country. This will support the identification of specific needs and the development of targeted interventions to enhance the socio-economic conditions in Tajikistan.
3. **Training for data collection and integration:** To ensure that the data that is collected in the field is accurately consolidated, analyzed and integrated into the various Government, UN and Civil Society Reporting frameworks, extensive training on data collection and integration protocols will be conducted by national and international data management experts.

PRIORITY 5: CONSOLIDATED REPORTING

During emergency situations or in periods of high risk, the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence activates their emergency communications network and Emergency Operations Center which provides them access to rapid information on humanitarian and health emergencies. Utilizing this network along with the enhanced capacities envisaged within Priority 4, the Committee will be able to provide consolidated reporting along with response objectives which can be used to organize support from within and outside of the Government.

Major Interventions:



1. **Expansion of the Open Centers:** The Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence, the Committee for Hydrometeorology and the Tajik Glav Geology Department share an integrated platform of data management referred to as the Open Center. This center utilizes a spacial data infrastructure which drives mapping and reporting, and which currently inform emergency response options and infrastructure investment options. This shared information base is intended to be extended to the Deputy Prime Minister as the Disaster Risk Reduction Focal Point and to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection as well as the Sate Epidemiological Service in order to facilitate information sharing and consolidated reporting.
2. **Establishing an Emergency Operations Center:** During simulation exercises for humanitarian responses conducted by UNOCHA and UNHCR over the previous two years, a facility which serves as an Emergency Operations Center / Emergency Coordination Center have been established and incorporate in various Governmental Agencies and National and Local partners. The Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence will activate a similar center with strong participation of the UN agencies, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Ministry of Agriculture and others in enabling the coordination of the emergency response.
3. **Data Integration into WFP:** The World Food Programme has developed a robust mapping capacity tied to an international system which monitors food prices, border access and key food security indicators. The Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence will identify resources that can streamline the flow of information from the Open Center into the WFP platform.

OBJECTIVE 3: PROVIDING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Strategic Intent – The Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence during emergency situations works with oblast leadership to identify communities hardest hit by a crisis and deploys food and other assistance alongside its search and rescue interventions. In the context of a large-scale health and economic emergency it is anticipated that the Committee of Emergency Situations will support, alongside the state reserve agency, the World Food Programme and other key partners the provision of immediate food support at the household level to impacted communities.

Anticipated Outcome – It is anticipated that through regular and sustained food and other humanitarian interventions the populations most impacted by the health and economic emergency will have the coping capacity to be able to avoid the worst impacts of the emergency. Special emphasis will be placed on supporting women headed households, persons with disabilities, etc.

PRIORITY 6: FOOD RESERVES FOR MEDICAL / ECONOMIC EMERGENCY

The Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence retain stockpiles of emergency food for use during emergencies. The reserves across the country are suitable for a moderate to large scale emergency which takes place in localized areas and is of a limited duration. Within the context of a COVID 19 Response the Committee and



its partners would look to enhance their stockpiles of food to enable rapid deployment to areas in need during a medical response, a response to areas impacted significantly by economic distortions and to address communities impacted by potential natural disasters which continue to occur with frequency across Tajikistan.

Major Interventions:

1. **Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence Food Reserves:** The Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence will significantly enhance its food stocks in the Capital and across the country to enable a rapid deployment of food assistance to areas in need. This food assistance will be deployed in concert with Ministry of Health and Social Protection and the various Oblast authorities.
2. **World Food Programme Food Reserves:** The WFP plays a critical role in enabling access to critical food stocks deployed from regional hubs. To support the strategy the procurement, delivery and deployment of humanitarian food reserves to impacted areas of Tajikistan in preparation for distribution during periods of crisis is incorporated in as a critical part of the intervention to support the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence Response.
3. **Red Crescent Society Food Reserves:** The procurement, delivery and deployment of humanitarian food reserves to impacted areas of Tajikistan in preparation for distribution by The Red Crescent through their emergency response teams and support delivery mechanism.
4. **AKDN Food Reserves:** The procurement, delivery and deployment of humanitarian food reserves to impacted areas of Tajikistan in preparation for distribution by The AKDN through their emergency response teams and support delivery mechanism.

PRIORITY 7: HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.

The Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence and its partners will initiate the provision of humanitarian assistance in the form of Food Baskets and through the repositioning of existing activities to include significant food for work provisions with a special emphasis on interventions that can enhance the productive use of land, the enhancement and access to medical facilities and interventions which enhance access to clean water for handwashing in homes, schools and public facilities.

Major Interventions:

1. **Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence Food Basket Provision:** The Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence will initiate a series of food support interventions alongside the State Reserve Agency to provide household level access to food baskets for families identified as most vulnerable to health and economic shocks.
2. **WFP Food / Cash / Assets for Work Interventions:** The World Food Programme will identify, support the development of projects and provide support to initiatives across Tajikistan that can rapidly provide food / asset injections into the most food insecure areas of the country.



3. **AKDN & Civil Society Productive Land, Health & Water System Resilience Food for Work Projects:** The AKDN will rapidly deploy with the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence and Civil Society partners targeted and specific interventions in areas of high food insecurity to rapidly engage with measures to enhance the quality of life of impacted areas.

OBJECTIVE 4: SOCIAL DISTANCING

Strategic Intent – in learning from the best practice of countries around the world who have been impacted The Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence during emergency situations will support the key security and law enforcement agencies in ensuring that people in isolation and lockdown continue to receive information and awareness on what is taking place and on the provision of core humanitarian services such as psycho social support during periods of potential extended seclusion

Anticipated Outcome – It is anticipated that through effective measures to enhance social distancing during the medical emergency there will be a reduction in the amount of cases and a reduced burden on the health system.

PRIORITY 8: AWARENESS RAISING CAMPAIGNS

The Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence and its partners will support the UNICEF initiative with the Government of Tajikistan on communications. The Committee will design and develop specific messages related to the humanitarian component of the emergency which will be incorporated into the larger messaging framework and rolled out through multiple channels including the Committee of Emergencies and Civil Defence.

Major Interventions:

1. **Materials Development & Printing:** The Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence will work with the Ministry of Education and other Government and International partners to develop Emergency response messaging for the COVID response such as dissemination of humanitarian assistance information, information on access points and emergency numbers etc.
2. **Awareness Campaigns:** As the emergency continues to shift from a medical response to a humanitarian and economic response the messaging on access to resources and social behavior requirements will also continue to change. The Committee and its partners will continue to be responsive to new needs and will develop and advocate through targeted campaigns on subjects such as burial practices and addressing gender based violence.

PRIORITY 9: SUPPORT DURING A LOCKDOWN

The Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence will utilize its staff and Civil Defence force to support the Security and Policing agencies in ensuring that isolation orders are observed and that individuals with special needs during a lockdown situation are provided with the inputs that they require.



Major Interventions:

1. **Training and Operational Support for Civil Defence Units:** The Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence will receive training on how to provide Civil Defence support during a medical emergency from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Interior. Resources will also be deployed to ensure that Civil Defence forces can be deployed to the appropriate areas and are able to operate effectively.
2. **Targeted Humanitarian Interventions during a lockdown:** The Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence will develop modalities to support the physical and psychological well-being of those in crisis during a lockdown situation. Support hotlines for counselling and psychosocial support will be initiated and teams trained to be able to address special needs cases will also be developed. Specialized support for gender based violence interventions will be developed.

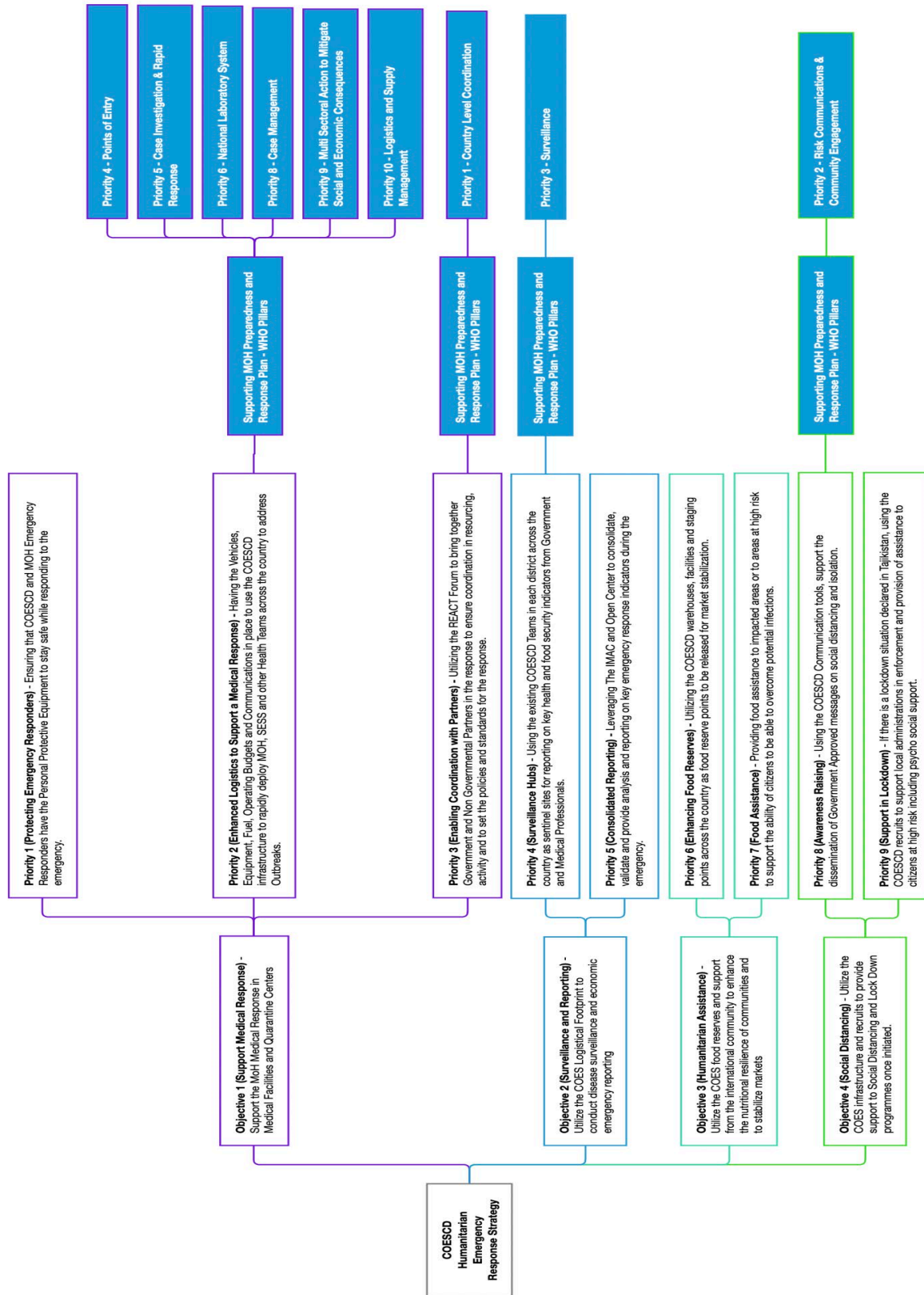
STRATEGY COMPONENTS:

The Humanitarian Emergency Response Strategy is intended to reflect the activities and resourcing provided to all of the partners operating in areas of support to this plan. Alongside this plan will be a partnership dashboard and allocation sheet as well as a quick reference presentation.

The REACT platform will remain the primary mechanism for coordination and updating of the plan and will be open to all of the participants from the Government, International Organizations, Diplomatic Community, Civil Society and National and International Non-Governmental Organizations.



Annex 1: Plan Components – Alignment to MOH Strategy





State Commission Structure on Emergency Situations

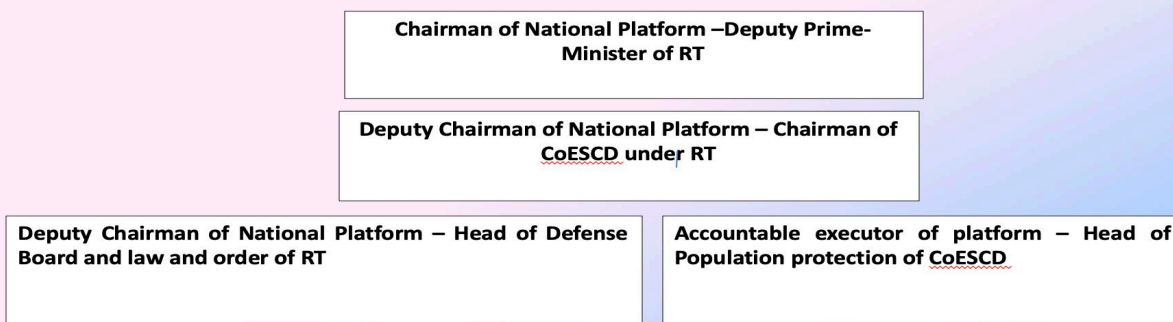


State Commission Members

1. Ministry of Justice of RT
2. Minister of agriculture of RT
3. Minister of home affairs of RT
4. Minister of foreign affairs
5. Minister of education and science of RT
6. Minister of labour, migration and population employment of RT
7. Minister of finance of RT
8. Minister of transportation of RT
9. Minister of economic development
10. Minister of industry of RT
11. Minister of health of RT
12. Minister of culture of RT
13. Minister of energy and water resources
14. Chairman of state security committee
15. Chairman of land management board
16. Chairman of investments and state properties management of RT

18. Chairman of law committee
19. Chairman of architecture and Construction Committee
20. Chairman of TV Committee
21. Chairman of environment protection committee
22. Head of communication services
23. Head of customs services
24. Head of state supervisory services and safe conduction of works
25. Director of land-reclamation and irrigation agency
26. Director of state material reserves agency
27. Director standardization agency
28. Director of forest management/forestry agency
29. Head of main board of geology
30. Director of finance and corruption control agency
31. Director of statistics agency
32. Head of forestry and environment of the executive device of RT President

NATIONAL PLATFORM STRUCTURE



NATIONAL PLATFORM MEMBERS

1. Deputy Minister of justice
2. Deputy Minister of agriculture
3. Deputy Minister of education and science
4. Deputy Minister of energy and water resources
5. Deputy Minister of finance
6. Deputy Minister of transportation
7. Deputy Minister of health
8. Deputy Chairman of land management and land-surveying/geodesy

9. Deputy Chairman of investment and property management committee
10. Deputy Chairman of environment Protection committee
11. Deputy Chairman of TV & Radio committee
12. Deputy Head of main geology board
13. Vice President of Academy of Science
14. Director of Geology Institute Earthquake Engineering and Seismology

OBSERVERS: REACT team, (donors and other int'l orgs)



REACT Structure

