



# NATIONAL DISASTER COUNCIL

## NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT OFFICE

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## NATIONAL SITUATIONAL REPORT- 12

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## 1. HIGHLIGHTS

- Solomon Islands remain COVID-19 Free to date since WHO declaration of COVID-19 as a global pandemic earlier this year.
- Solomon Islands remains under a State of Public Emergency for an additional 4 months, which came into effect on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2020.
- The National Disaster Council (NDC) Arrangement remains the country's preparedness and response coordination mechanism for the pandemic.
- National Disaster Operations Sector Committees (N-DOC Sectors) and Provincial Disaster Sector Committees (P-DOC) are the NDC operational arrangements and remain on Full-On Activation Mode. This is a multi-sectoral arrangement and approach (*Refer to Annex for SIG Coordination Arrangement*).
- Solomon Islands Government conducted a total of 8 approved repatriation flights using commercial airlines. The recent one was on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020.
- Another repatriation flight is being scheduled for the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August 2020. This will bring in nationals stranded overseas and foreign nationals who will work on government projects.
- A total of 1,981 cumulative samples collected and tested for COVID-19 since May 2020. All returned negative.
- Joint NDMO and UNDP Team deployed to Western Province on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August 2020 to support Western Provincial Government and the P-DOC.

### GLOBAL SITUATION IN NUMBERS

The numbers are based on WHO Situation Report 206 as at 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020 (total new cases in the last 24 hours)

#### Globally

20 439 814 confirmed positive cases (276 398)

744 385 deaths (6 933)

#### Western Pacific Region

389 642 confirmed positive cases (5 903)

9 034 deaths (123)

#### Countries/territories/areas affected

213

#### Countries with no confirmed cases

12

North Korea, Turkmenistan, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Samoa, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Tonga, Marshall Islands, Palau, Tuvalu, Nauru

## 2. CURRENT SITUATION

Solomon Island remains COVID-19 FREE to date. The Government remains committed in implementing strict measures to prevent potential importation and spread of COVID-19.

Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) is the lead agency of the Government's fight against COVID-19. All Government agencies and stakeholders are providing the required support through the N-DOC and P-DOC Sectors.

Solomon Islands through RSIPF maintains safety and security on the Western border with Papua New Guinea given the potential high-risk area of importation of COVID-19 through this border.

Total of eight (8) major repatriation of Solomon Islanders and other foreign nationals completed. The recent repatriation was on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020. Another is scheduled for the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August 2020. All persons repatriated are subjected to mandatory COVID-19 testing and quarantine for 14 days and 21 days depending on the risk attributed to their country of flight origin.

The Government has a total of 16 Quarantine Stations in operational in the country. Fifteen (15) are in Honiara whilst one (1) is in Gizo, Western Province. The provision for the Qs are stated in Emergency Powers (COVID-19) (Declaration of Quarantine Stations) (Amendment) (No.3) (No.4) (No.5) Order 2020. New quarantine stations are being prepared in Nusatupe, Noro and Nila.

Essential cargo flights are also being done on need- basis to support COVID-19 operations. International trade continues with Honiara and Noro operating with strict measures in place for all incoming foreign vessels.

On-going responses by N-DOC Sector Committees continue based on the Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19. These sector responses have been extended to provinces including coordination through the Provincial Disaster Management arrangements.

## 3. SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### 3.1.OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE & NATIONAL DISASTER OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

- Oversight Committee established by Cabinet to provide strategic direction on a whole-of-government planning and response to COVID-19 maintains its role.
- Solomon Islands has extended the **State of Public Emergency (SOPE)** as proclaimed by His Excellency Governor General on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2020. The SOPE came into effect on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> replacing the previous SOPE that expired on the same date.
- N-DOC Sector Committees maintains and continuously stepping up COVID-19 Preparedness and Responses with the focus on broader socio-economic impacts.
- N-DOC Health Sector Committee is leading the health aspect of COVID-19 with broader coordination through the N-DOC arrangements.
- N-DOC Camp Management Sector Committee maintains and continue to manage all the SIG approved Quarantine Stations (QS).
- Restriction on movement of small crafts on the Solomon Islands-PNG border is still enforced as part of the Emergency Powers (COVID-19) Regulation 2020 still exist.
- **Government through the Oversight Committee continues with its weekly Sunday Radio Talk Back Show based on the messaging strategy of 'IUMI TUGETA AGAINST COVID 19'. To this date 18 Talk Back Shows have been conducted with the most recent on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2020.**

- Prime Minister's weekly address now stands at 20 being conducted. The recent was on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020. The PM's weekly address is to inform the country of the current SIG responses on COVID-19 and other strategic decisions and actions the Government takes in response to COVID-19, and in support of recovery.
- Oversight Committee continues with its regular meetings which begun in February. To date, this will total up to 27 meetings.
- A joint NDMO and UNDP Team has been deployed to the Western Province to support the Western Provincial Government and the P-DOC. Key areas for support under this deployment are:
  - Canvass inputs from PDOC for National Exercise to be conducted at the Western Border
  - Capacity Building for Lockdown Plans for Western and Choiseul Provinces
  - Provincial Emergency Response Team (PERT) establishment
  - On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC) setup at the border. This will be a coordination hub for all SIG agencies who are responding to the Border Operations.
  - Check status of Quarantine Stations (Noro Lodge and Nusatupe)
  - Check status of Titiana Evacuation Centre
  - UNDP support to NDMO for PEOC landscape and storage area

### 3.2. REPATRIATION FLIGHTS

A total of eight (8) approved passenger repatriation flights has been conducted since May 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020. Since the start of the repatriation, more than 800 plus Solomon Islanders and other foreign nationals have entered the country (*See Table 1*).

**Table 1. SUMMARY - SIG approved repatriation flights and number of passengers**

#	Date	Aircraft Name	Flight Number	Flight Origin	Total Repatriated
1	26 May 2020	Solomon Airlines	IE663	Brisbane, Australia	74
2	27 May 2020	Solomon Airlines	IE665	Nadi, Fiji	104
3	30 June 2020	Solomon Airlines	IE676	Brisbane, Australia	124
4	1 July 2020	Solomon Airlines	IE678	Nadi, Fiji	133
5	8 July 2020	Solomon Airlines	IE684	Brisbane, Australia	52
6	21 July 2020	Solomon Airlines	IE690	Brisbane, Australia	125
7	23 July 2020	Solomon Airlines	IE692	Auckland, New Zealand	145
8	29 July 2020	Solomon Airlines	IE694	Brisbane, Australia	44
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>801</b>

**NOTE:**

This data does not include persons repatriated on other exempted flights (ie, Cargo and Military Flights, etc).

In addition to the above, 25 nationals from the fisheries sector have been repatriated through fishing vessels and private charter flight.

### 3.3. FISHING VESSELS ON-PORT DISEMBARKATIONS

Since the last SITREP issued on the 6<sup>th</sup> of August 2020, three (3) Solomon Islanders working as Fisheries Observers have been granted exemption by the Government to return and disembark at the Honiara International Sea Port. These observers were serving within the Pacific Region (*See Table 2*). All observers who are disembarking at Honiara are serving mandatory quarantine on identified Quarantine Stations based on the Health risk assessment recommendation.

**Table 2. SUMMARY - SI Observers Disembarking in Solomon Islands (Specific to Fisheries Observers)**

#	Date	Vessel Name	Vessel Type	Voyage Origin	Total Repatriated
1	05/08/2020	Naero Star	Purse Seiner	Christmas Island, Kiribati	3
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>3</b>

### 3.4. QUARANTINE STATIONS

The Government has declared 16 Quarantine Stations as per Emergency Powers (COVID-19) (Declaration of Quarantine Stations) (Amendment) (No.3) (No.4) (No.5) Order 2020. The Government through Camp

Managements Sector Committee is managing eleven (11) Quarantine Stations (QS), *See Table 3.1*. The remaining five QS are classified as Diplomatic QSs' hosted within the residences of the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Australian High Commission, New Zealand High Commission and the British High Commission respectively (*Refer to Map 1*).

Currently a total of 34 persons are held in the QSs' (*See Table 3.1 and Map 1*). Of the total 34 persons, 30 are Solomon Islands nationals whilst 4 are foreign nationals (*See Table 3.2*).

**Table 3.1 SUMMARY - Occupancy by Quarantine Stations for Honiara and Western (as @ 13/08/20)**

#	Name of Quarantine Stations	Bed Capacity	Current Occupancy	Male	Female
1	Guadalcanal Beach Resort	82	0	0	0
2	Access Apartment	9	3	3	0
3	Airport Motel	16	0	0	0
4	VIMO Apartment	15	0	0	0
5	Chengs Accommodation	86	0	0	0
6	National Hosting Authority	14	3	3	0
7	Pacific Casino Hotel	78	0	0	0
8	Honiara Hotel	32	1	1	0
9	Heritage Park Hotel	48	3	2	1
10	King Solomon Hotel	50	20	20	0
11	Gizo Hotel	15	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>445</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1</b>

**Table 3.2 SUMMARY - Occupancy by Nationality and Gender**

#	Nationality	Male	Female	Total
1	Solomon Islanders	29	1	<b>30</b>
2	Foreign Nationals	3	1	<b>4</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>32</b>	<b>2</b>	

**TOTAL NO. OF  
PERSONS IN QS** **34**

### 3.5. VESSELS MONITORING WITHIN SOLOMON ISLANDS EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE (EEZ)/WATERS

#### 3.5.1. FISHING VESSELS

The Solomon Islands Government through the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources is monitoring all fishing vessels within the Solomon Islands EEZ. For the period 5<sup>th</sup> August to 14<sup>th</sup> August 2020, two (2) fishing vessels in the SI EEZ were granted exemption to enter the Port of Honiara. *See Table 4.1*.

**Table 4.1 SUMMARY – Fishing Vessels monitored being operating in the SI EEZ.**

<b>Vessel name</b>	<b>FV ZHONG SHUI 768</b>
<b>Port of Registry</b>	YANTAI, CHINA
<b>Last Port of call</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> June 2020 – HONIARA
<b>ETA Port</b>	08 <sup>th</sup> August 2020 - HONIARA
<b>Purpose for Port Entry</b>	Vessel inspection at Honiara Port
<b>Company/ Agent</b>	CNFC Overseas Fisheries Co. Ltd., Beijing, China
<b>Comment</b>	Vessel authorized to enter port. Health Team to assess whether to quarantine for further days or not.
<b>Vessel name</b>	<b>FV SAN SHENG FA 3</b>
<b>Port of Registry</b>	KAOSHIUNG, TAIWAN

<b>Last Port of call</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> May 2020 - HONIARA
<b>ETA Port</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> August 2020 – HONIARA
<b>Purpose for Port Entry</b>	Transshipment & Unloading at Honiara Port
<b>Company/ Agent</b>	San Sheng Ocean Ltd., Taiwan
<b>Comment</b>	Vessel authorized to enter port. Health Team to assess whether to quarantine for further days or not.

### 3.5.1. Commercial Cargo Vessels

The Solomon Islands Maritime Safety Administration (SIMSA) is monitoring all commercial cargo vessels in the SI EEZ. *Table 4.2* shows vessel position reports received at 1430HRS, Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

**Table 4.2.** SUMMARY- Commercial Cargo Vessels within SI EEZ

No	Vessel Name	Present Position & ETA
1	Tug Lee Ling 88	Ortega Channel
2	MV Sea Honor	Tuape
3	MV Quebec	Jajao
4	MV Ba Wise	Sikale
5	MV Universe Alliance	Putagita
6	MV Sea Brave	Nusahope
7	MV Oriental Hero	Vacho Island
8	MV Winca	Lavangu
9	MV Sher-E-Punjab	Lughughi
10	MV Run-Fu-6	Rarois
11	MV Pharo Star	Honiara Port
12	MV Microstep	Mankiki
13	MV Tunsin	Innocent pass to China
14	MV Sea Adelaide	Noro Port

## 4. N-DOC SECTOR COMMITTEE UPDATES

### 4.1. CAMP MANAGEMENT SECTOR COMMITTEE (SIG Quarantine Stations)

- Camp Management Sector Committee (CMSC) Team continues to implement its preparedness and response plan including rolling-out its SOPs.
- Maintain and manages the operations of the SIG approved Quarantine Stations. As of 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020, there are 34 persons in the QSs (*Refer to Table 3.1 & 3.2*).
- CMSC Team is undertaking decontamination of QS rooms, housekeeping works and stocktaking for procurement of new items for the next SIG repatriation flight.
- Tendering, selection and contracting of service providers to provide services for the Quarantine Stations.
- Participate in the OSC weekly radio talk back shows.

### 4.2. HEALTH SECTOR COMMITTEE

#### Health Response Coordination

- N-DOC Health maintains the leading role in the SIG response to COVID-19.
- Maintain and strengthen National to Provincial support.
- The National Health Emergency Operations Centre (NHEOC) maintains coordination functions amongst relevant health response agencies and with other sectors and EOCs.
- On-going review and updating of relevant specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). An on-going improvement to the Health Sector Integrated Management System.

- Conduct daily surveillance monitoring including Port of Entry/Repatriation.
- Ongoing integration with other stakeholders through:
  - Sports – conduct assessments for sporting events (rugby, soccer, and boxing) to ensure guidelines and appropriate recommended IPC, WASH and COVID-19 precautionary measures are undertaken
  - ICTSU, RSIPF and P-DOC – deployment of equipment to enhance virtual conferencing for the SI-PNG Border Operations. Immediate prioritized video conferencing linkages to Taro, and Gizo, is also planned along with Shortland Islands (Nila AHC).
- Joint discussions with SOLMAT, RSIPF and PHEOC to plan for deployment of a SOLMAT/NHEOC team to the SIG-PNG border for a period of 14 days. Proposed date of deployment was on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August 2020.

### Resources and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- UNICEF together with the Asian Development Bank and the Government of Japan handed over PPEs and other medical supplies to the MHMS on the 6<sup>th</sup> of August 2020 (*Refer to Table 4.3*)

**Table 5.1.** SUMMARY – PPE Donation by Development Partners (*Source: NHEOC SITREP 16*)

PPE/Supplies	QTY
Coverall, protection, CatIII,type 4b, L	1920
Coverall, protection, CatIII,type 4b, M	1342
Gown surgic, nonsterile,nonwoven, disp, L	785
Mask, surgic, typrellR, earloop, disp. Pack 50	170
Faceshield, gog-resistant, fullface disposable	580
Thermometer, clinical, IR, handheld set	59

- WHO, UNDP and DFAT have delivered 5xventilators to the NRH for both COVID-19 and normal operations. Hand over is proposed for 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> August 2020.
- MHMS through NMS is coordinating with Development Partners to procure additional PPEs and to ensure appropriate amounts are shipped to the Provinces. Special consideration of PPEs will be directed towards Western and Choiseul Provinces.
- Updated stock supply from NMS and NRH are outlined in **Table 5.2**

**Table 5.2.** Stock-take of PPE as of 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020. (*Source: NMS Update 12/08/2020*)

COMMODITY	TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION	UNIT	IN STOCK	ON ORDER		
			NMS	TOTAL	NMS	ETA
<b>Sharps container boxes</b>	Puncture resistant container for collection and disposing of used, disposable and auto-disable syringes, needles. 5 L capacity accommodating approximately 100 syringes. Boxes prominently marked.	Each / Item	12,314		6,000	30/08/20
<b>Gloves</b>	Gloves Examination - Nitrile S	Each / Item				
	Gloves Examination - Nitrile M	Each / Item	43,700			
	Gloves Examination - Nitrile L	Each / Item	171,300			
	<b>Total Latex</b>	<b>Total</b>				
	Gloves Examination - Latex S	Each / Item	154,400		2,700,000	21/11/2020
	Gloves Examination - Latex M	Each / Item	1,407,000		1,426,000	21/11/2020



	Gloves Examination - Latex L	Each / Item	1,242,300		1,410,000	21/11/2020
<b>Masks</b>	Medical/Surgical Face Mask Disposable	Each / Item	13,410		102,000	21/08/2020
	Medical Resp N95	Each / Item	4,297		500	30/08/2020
<b>Apron Disposable plastic -Med</b>	Apron Disposable Plastic - Medium	Each / Item	12,115		6,000	30/08/2020
<b>Apron Disposable plastic Large</b>	Apron Disposable Plastic - Large	Each / Item	1,350		4,000	30/08/2020
<b>Gown</b>	Single use, disposable, length mid-calf. Isolation Gown - level 1	Each / Item	20,510		8,000	21/08/2020
	Single Use - Overall zip - Level 2	Each / Item	883		5,000	21/08/2020
	Single Use - Gown - Level 3	Each / Item	7,210			
	Surgical sterile disposabe standard - Large	Each / Item	4,905			
	Surgical sterile disposabe standard - Medium	Each / Item	1,800			
<b>Goggles, protective</b>	Good seal with the skin of the face, Flexible PVC frame to easily fit with all face contours with even pressure, Enclose eyes and the surrounding areas, Accommodate wearers with prescription glasses, Clear plastic lens with fog and scratch resistant treatments, Adjustable band to secure firmly so as not to become loose during clinical activity, Indirect venting to avoid fogging, May be re-usable (provided appropriate arrangements for decontamination are in place) or disposable.	Each / Item	1,427			
<b>Face shield</b>	Face shield plastic , reusable/disposable		2,342			
<b>Hand rub</b>	Chlorohexidine Alcoholic Hand Rub - 70%	1L	5,659		1,300	30/08/2020
<b>Antiseptic Soap</b>	Antiseptic Soap	Each / Item	10,529			
<b>Shoe Cover - disposable</b>	Shoe Cover - disposable	Each / Item	4,670			
<b>PVC Gum Boot</b>	PVC Gum Boot	Each / Pair	10			
<b>Hair / Head Cover</b>	Hair / Head Cover	Each / Item	5,967			
<b>InFared Thermomter</b>	Infrared thermometr - moniting temo	Each / Item	162			
<b>VTM 3ml Flocked swabs</b>	VTM 3ml Flocked Swabs + Specimen bags, 2 5boxes of 400	Unit	14,600			
<b>COV Antibody Test Kit</b>	COVID19 - Antibody Test kit	each	5,000			

**Table 5.3.** Stock-take of PPE in the Provinces as of 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020. (Source: NHEOC SITREP 16)

PPE kit Specification and their levels	Isabel (buala)	Gizo Hospital	Nila SLMS	Kiluúfi Hospital	Tulaghi Hospital	Iata Hospital	Totals
Gown level 3	0	49	97	0	60	0	<b>206</b>
Gown level 2	17	40	15	24	0	35	<b>131</b>
Gown level 1	0	0	87	49	35	17	<b>188</b>
N95 mask	50	1130	10	39	0	50	<b>1279</b>
Surgical mask	8000	8600	5600	2000	9400	4000	<b>37600</b>
Face shield (reusable)	8	9	2	19		0	<b>38</b>
Goggles reusable	20	12	6	99	12	20	<b>169</b>
Shoe cover disposable	100	50	98	99		99	<b>446</b>
Head cover disposable	17	60	125	99	116	18	<b>435</b>
Apron	35	19	21	2000	400	0	<b>2475</b>
IR Thermometer	2	0	1	1		1	<b>5</b>
Alcohol-based hand rub	60	64	60	376	76	75	<b>711</b>
Sharps container	0	275	70	300	0	142	<b>787</b>
antiseptic soap	100	200	100	300	0	181	<b>881</b>

### Diagnostic Facilities (Laboratory & Equipment)

- The National Dengue Molecular laboratory is currently operational with 2x qPCR machines and GeneXpert Machines, and five staff.
- 315 samples have been tested since beginning of August 2020 bringing up the total cumulative samples received and tested since repatriation begun on May 2020 to 1981 (Refer to Table 6 for details).
- WHO continues to support in procuring test kits for COVID-19 testing on the qPCR and GeneXpert machines.
- WHO supported review for Automated RNA extraction equipment currently under procurement by MHMS– should help to lift laboratory capacity for 100 tests per day.
- Deployment of a bio safety cabinet sent to Gizo this week. This is an enclosed, ventilated laboratory equipment that protects laboratory workers and the surrounding environment from pathogens when handling biological samples.

**Table 6.** Number of Laboratory Tests Performed vs Test Kits Used

	May	June	July	Aug 3-7(wk1)	Total
Number of samples received	19	391	1256	315	1981
Clinical suspect	3	4	6	2	15
Quarantine	1	383	1205	310	1899
Contact Tracing	0	0	35	0	35
Others	15	4	10	3	32
Number of samples tested	19	391	1256	315	1981
No of tests done	19	405	1270	319	2013
GeneXpert cartridges used	19	201	210	11	441
qPCR Tests	0	190	1038	304	1532
Repeats	0	14	22	4	40

### Environmental Health

- Environmental health assessment and monitoring of Quarantine Stations and catering services are ongoing.
- Objectives are to monitor, report on, and enhance health and environmental compliance such as WASH, Waste Management, Food Safety, Cleanliness, Decontamination, Laundry services, vector prevention and control at the quarantine sites.
- Team is also providing ongoing training for the food handlers.
- New roster has been developed for the Environmental Health Officers on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August 2020.



- All Q-sites that are currently being occupied have been assessed for compliance and found to be 80% - 100% compliant.
- The teams provide instructions, training and liaise with the camp management team, the Quarantine Station owners and various service providers to address issues of non-compliance.

### **Clinical Management**

- No red flags during most recent repatriation flight.
- No person sick from Quarantine sites brought to COVID-19 Triage/Isolation.
- **Triage and Isolation Team continue to be on stand-by.**

### **Risk Communication and Public Awareness**

- A one-day COVID-19 review meeting was held on the 6<sup>th</sup> August 2020 with representatives from various Christian Denominations to commence planning for the risk communication activities in amongst the churches.
- A COVID-19 Community engagement tool first consultation meeting occurred on the 7th August 2020. Recommendation for a concept note of approach to be drafted and presented to the N-DOC health for endorsement.
- Information Education Communication materials have been provided to sporting bodies and churches.
- IEC materials for Repatriation Pre-arrival and for persons in quarantine sites are currently undergoing review prior to distributing to quarantine sites.
- Radio health program for COVID-19 still on-going.

## **4.3. EDUCATION SECTOR COMMITTEE**

- On-going implementation of the N-DOC Education COVID-19 preparedness and response plan.
- Weekly education awareness program continues.
- ISOP templates have been sent to N-DOC for review. ISOP template covers 5 types/categories for schools (ECE Stand Alone, ECE with Primary, ECE with Primary and Secondary, Boarding schools and TVET).
- Cabinet has approved the repatriation of students studying in the Philippines. MEHRD has established a task force consisting of staff from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to facilitate the flight. Solomon Islands Government and private sponsored students would be repatriated.

## **4.4. SOLOMON ISLANDS RED CROSS SOCIETY**

- Solomon Islands Red Cross Society (SIRC) remains committed to support the Quarantine Stations through camp management and the national Protection Committee as of March 2020. 2 SIRC staff and 1 volunteer continue with the support of manning the Quarantine Stations.
- As part of the COVID-19 preparedness phase, 20 staff and 10 volunteers at SIRC HQ have completed a capacity building training on Protection, Gender and Inclusion in Emergency training. 5 staff are trained to do Psycho sociological First Aid training.
- Ongoing support in the Provincial branches is also provided to PEOCs. SIRC is liaising with MHMS, P-DOCs and NGO partners to promote awareness and key health messaging to communities and villages in the provinces.

## **4.5. SAFETY AND SECURITY**

### **Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF)**

- RSIPF continues to step up measures on the SI-PNG border given the increasing cases in PNG and a confirmed case in Bougainville. With the use of its stubby crafts and RSIPV GIZO and AUKI, it continues to conduct surveillance patrol along the red line (border).
- RSIPF is also liaising with communities, villages, churches and chiefs on the border on key health messages and to ensure what to do when a suspected case is at large.

- Police Commissioner's weekly press conference continues and remains an important avenue to inform the public on the current engagement of RSIPF regarding the whole of SIG response on COVID-19.
- RSIPF continue conduct routine patrols to all Quarantine Stations to ensure public and persons under quarantine adhere to rules and regulations set.

#### **Correctional Services Solomon Islands (CSSI)**

- CSSI Commissioner daily updates on COVID-19 response.
- Gizo Correctional Services are on high alert waiting any calls for assistance from GIZO RSIPF following the confirmed case at Bougainville.

### **5. OTHER NATIONAL SUPPORT**

- SIG continues to receive donor support from development partners through the Ministry of Finance and Treasury, and to the relevant N-DOC Sector Committees.
- International Organisations such as the WHO, UNICEF and UNDP, and the Private Sector continue to support the Government Response.

### **6. OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES AND GAPS**

#### **1. Coordination**

- This remains the major challenge amongst SIG response agencies. Almost 5 months on since the initial SOPE declared in March 2020, agencies are observed to be protective of their mandated areas of operations (operational space) even though the N-DOC Arrangement is being employed as the SIG COVID-19 response coordination mechanism. This limits coordination amongst response agencies.
- There is yet to be an established coordination mechanism and centre established at the Border to coordinate the Border operations. Currently, the various nationally deployed teams to the border employed multiple systems, limiting maximum participation of P-DOC Sector Committees and member agencies to the Border operations.

#### **2. Information sharing**

- Sector Committees are not providing situational updates to the NEOC except for two Sector Committees. It must be noted that Sectors implementation of the PRP is ongoing. It is observed that regular updates are being shared through radio and social media but not to the NEOC or the PEOCs. Thus, affecting the development of operational information management products for decision-makers.

#### **3. Fatigue**

- Five months into the whole of SIG Response COVID-19, daily de-briefing and observations have confirmed official of gradually experiencing fatigue. It must be noted that this is still the "Preparedness Phase" as the country has zero (0) case of COVID-19.

#### **4. Pressure on COVID-19 testing laboratory**

- Enormous Pressure to the NRH Laboratory staff and equipment regarding COVID-19 testing. This is attributed to the on-going repatriation flights and repeated testings on the Quarantine Stations. It must be noted that at least 3 tests for each person on QS and with on-going flights, staff are running the risk of fatigue, whilst equipment are at risk of technical malfunction.

#### **5. Disbursement of funds and sector support to the Provinces**

- Operationally the slow process in the disbursement of financial support especially to the Provincial Disaster Operations Committee and Sectors has resulted in minimal implementation at the Provincial level. The slow implementation of the completion of the Nusatupe and Noro Lodge Quarantine Stations are two examples.
- N-DOC Sector Committees are providing minimal support to the P-DOC counter-parts.

- Level of preparedness at the Provincial Level is very low. Personal, facilities and equipment readiness require urgent intervention by all relevant sectors.

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **1. Coordination**

- There needs to be an information session on the N-DOC and P-DOC Arrangement with all SIG responding agencies
- Specific to border, an On-Site Operation Coordination Centre (Joint Operation Centre) established at Kulitanai to coordinate the whole of SIG response.
- Established a contextualised coordination mechanism to cater for nationally deployed agencies to the Border to connect to the N-DOC and P-DOC Arrangement.
- Enhance collaboration with all other N-DOC and P-DOC Sector Committees.
- Decentralise implementation of programmes from N-DOC committees (National Level) to P-DOC (Provincial level) committees, with the latter to progressively take leadership and appropriately resourced from N-DOC committees at the national level

### **2. Information sharing**

- N-DOC and P-DOC Sector Committees and members are informed and reminded to continue providing to the NEOC or Sector EOCs situational updates. This will feed into the development of decision-making products for the N-DOC/P-DOC and OSC and for public information.
- NEOC in consultation with N-DOC Health with the support of United Nations Training and Research Centre (UNITAR) is developing a Dashboard. Thus, all sectors are encouraged to share information to the NEOC.

### **3. Fatigue**

- All Sector Committees and members agencies are encouraged to develop individual fatigue and stress management plan.
- Sectors or agencies operating 24 hours are encouraged to developing roster and working in shifts.

### **4. Pressure on COVID-19 testing laboratory**

- A gap of at least one week between the repatriation flights and quarantine is highly recommended to maintain optimum operating conditions at quarantine stations and reduce the pressure on health teams conducting COVID-19 testing on persons quarantined.

### **5. Disbursement of funds and sector support to the Provinces**

- MOFT to prioritise disbursement of funds that are tagged for Provincial Preparedness in particular for the Western Border Provinces
- N-DOC Sector Committees are encouraged to schedule weekly communication/conversation to respective P-DOC counter-parts. This should assist in obtaining situation updates and provide operational guidance to Provincial counter-parts.
- N-DOC Sector Committees are informed and reminded of the obligation to provide national support directly to the P-DOC counter-part.

## **8. NEXT UPDATE AND APPROVAL**

Next update upon available information.

APPROVED FOR DISSEMINATION BY

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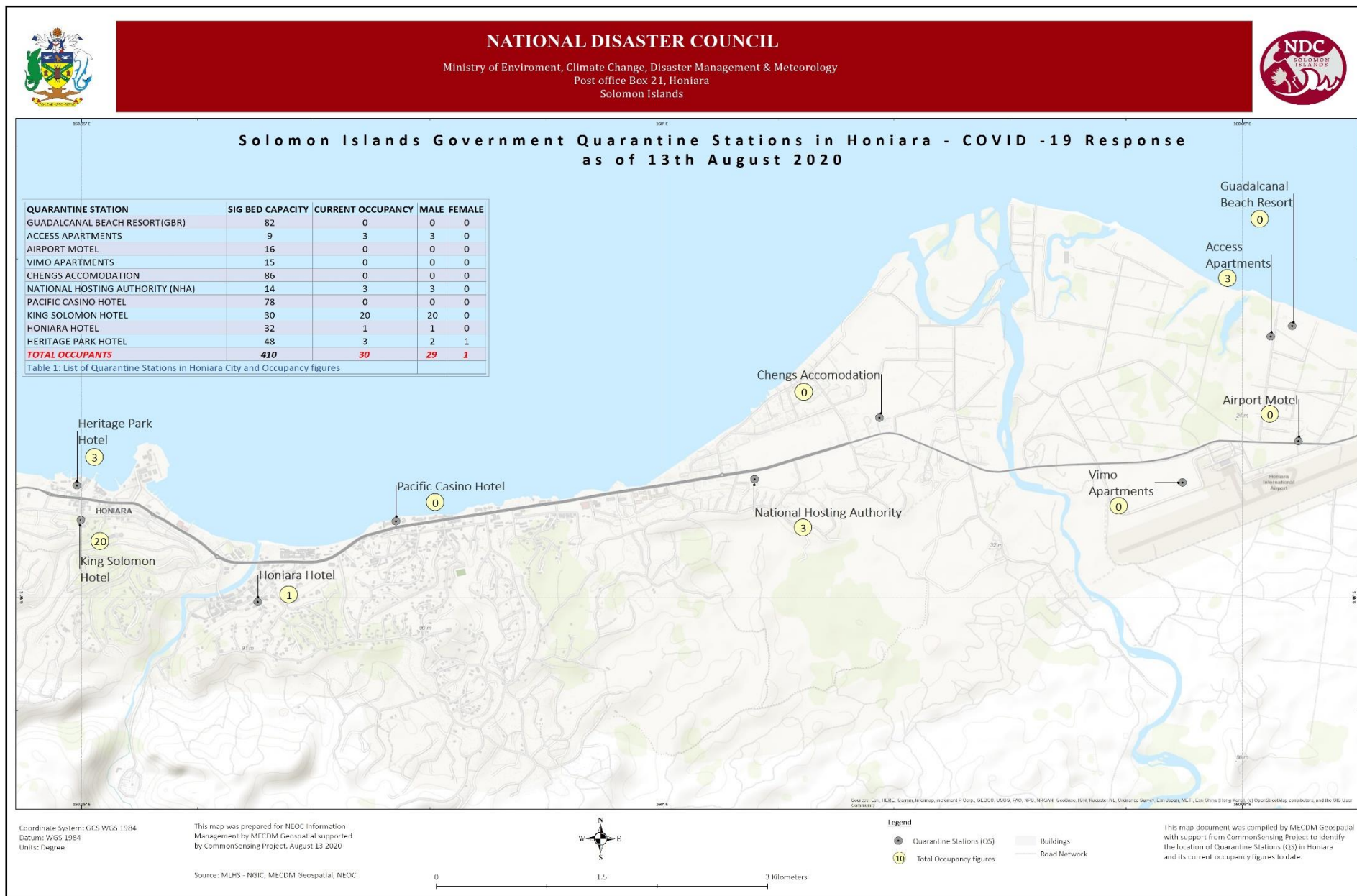
**DR. MELCHIOR MATAKI**

**PERMANENT SECRETARY MECDM/CHAIR NDC**

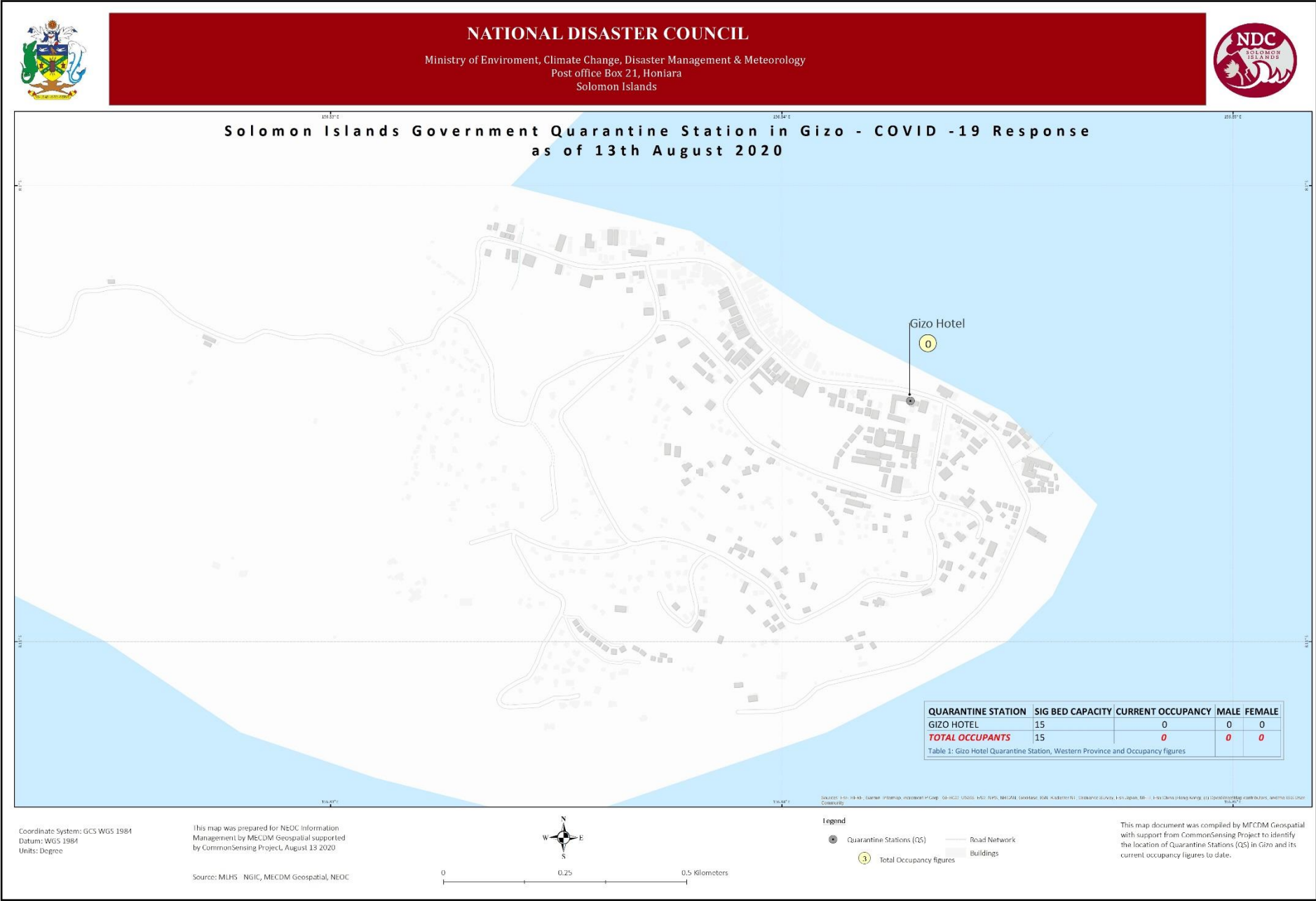
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## 9. ANNEX

**MAP 1: Honiara Quarantine Stations Location & Occupancy Status**



MAP 2: Gizo Quarantine Station Location & Occupancy Status





## SIG COVID-19 OVERALL RESPONSE COORDINATION ARRANGEMENT

