



NATIONAL SITUATIONAL REPORT – 14

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ISSUED BY:	National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC)
NEXT UPDATE:	Thursday 08 th October 2020

Contonto

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1. OVERALL STRATEGY

Solomon Islands Government remains committed to its overall strategy on COVID-19 to protect all Solomon Islanders and all people living in Solomon Islands, to keep the economic engine of the country going, and to position the country to emerge from this challenge stronger and united. This strategy is the foundation of our COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan, and other measures implemented by the Government.

The National Disaster Council (NDC) Arrangement is employed as the country's whole of Government response approach in the coordination of COVID-19 through the National and Provincial Disaster Operations Committees (N-DOC and P-DOC). The N-DOC and P-DOC through its Sector Committees COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plans are contributing to the health, social and economic security of the people of Solomon Islands through approaches that minimise the risk of importation of COVID-19 in the country, minimizing the spread, reducing morbidity and mortality, and minimizing societal disruption, and psycho-social and economic impact of COVID-19.



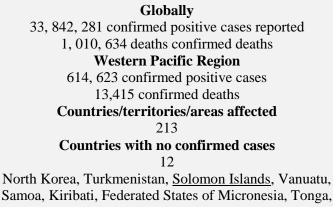
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2. KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Solomon Islands remain COVID-19 Free to date with the Government committed to implementing appropriate and strict measures to prevent the importation and spread of COVID-19.
- The second State of Public Emergency for the country is still in force since Saturday 25th July 2020.
- The National Disaster Operations Sector Committees (N-DOC Sectors) and Provincial Disaster Sector Committees (P-DOC) Coordination Arrangements of the National Disaster Council (NDC) remains the country's preparedness and response coordination mechanism for the pandemic.
- Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) remains the lead agency of the Government's fight against COVID-19.

GLOBAL SITUATION IN NUMBERS

The numbers are based on WHO Situation Report (Dash Board) as of 5:15pm CEST, 01 October 2020



Marshall Islands, Palau, Tuvalu, Nauru

- Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) maintains the safety and security lead for the COVID-19 responses including on the Western border with Papua New Guinea.
- A total of 16 Government designated Quarantine Stations are operational in the country. Fifteen (15) are in Honiara whilst one (1) is in Gizo, Western Province. The provision for the QSs are stated in Emergency Powers (COVID-19) (Declaration of Quarantine Stations) (Amendment) (No.3) (No.4) (No.5) Order 2020. Additional Quarantine Stations are being prepared for Western and Choiseul Provinces.
- Essential cargo flights remains on going and on need-basis to support COVID-19 operations. International trade continue with Honiara and Noro operating with strict measures in place for all incoming foreign vessels.
- Solomon Islands Government had conducted a total of 12 approved repatriation flights.
- The *Emergency Powers (COVID-19) (Emergency Zone) (Solomon Islands Papua New Guinea Border) Order 2020* on the extension of the Emergency Zone on the Western Border *still in force.*
- A recent joint exercise called "Opareisanol Eksasaes Aelan Chek 2020 (OPXAC20)" was conducted on the 20th -21st September 2020 by the NDMO, MHMS, Camp Management Sector Committee, Education Sector Committee and RSIPF to test/check the state of readiness of responding Sectors and Agencies.
- All 104 Solomon Islanders and foreign nationals from the Brisbane repatriation on the 15th of September 2020 have all graduated and released.
- A total of 96 Solomon Islands students were repatriated from Philippines on the 27th of September 2020. To date, a total of 1,128 persons have undergone quarantine.
- Three additional National Emergency Response Team (NERT) Members have been called in to provide support to Camp Management Sector Committee on the 29th of September 2020.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- Solomon Islands remain COVID-19 Free to date since WHO declaration of COVID-19 as a global pandemic earlier in 2020. The Government remains committed in implementing strict measures to prevent potential importation and spread of COVID-19.
- Solomon Islands remains under a State of Public Emergency since Saturday 25th July 2020.
- The National Disaster Council (NDC) Arrangement remains the country's preparedness and response coordination mechanism for the pandemic.
- 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.
- 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 QSs' are stated in Emergency Powers (COVID-19) (Declaration of Quarantine Stations) (Amendment) (No.3) (No.4) (No.5) Order 2020.
- Essential cargo flights are also being done on need- basis to support COVID-19 operations. International trade continue with Honiara and Noro operating with strict measures in place for all incoming foreign vessels.
- A joint exercise called "Opareisanol Eksasaes Aelan Chek 2020 (OPXAC20)" was conducted on the 20th 21st September 2020 by the NDMO, MHMS, Camp Management Sector Committee, Education Sector Committee and RSIPF to test/check the state of readiness of the Sectors/Agencies mentioned above.
- Solomon Islands Government conducted a total of 12 approved repatriation flights using commercial airlines. The recent one was on 27th of September 2020. 96 Solomon Island were repatriated.
- Second and third proposed flights to repatriate students and nationals in the Philippines is underway with risk assessments being conducted.

4. SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

4.1 OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE & NATIONAL DISASTER OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

- Oversight Committee established by Cabinet to provide strategic advice on a whole-of-government planning and response to COVID-19 maintains its role.
- Solomon Islands extended the **State of Public Emergency** (**SOPE**) as proclaimed by His Excellency Governor General on Friday 24th July 2020. The SOPE came into effect on Saturday 25th replacing the previous SOPE that expired on the same date.
- N-DOC Sector Committees maintain and continuously stepping up COVID-19 Preparedness and Responses including to address broader livelihood and 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 25 Talk Back Shows have been conducted.

- Prime Minister's week address being conducted now stands at 27. The address is to inform the country of the current SIG responses on COVID-19 and other strategic decisions and actions the Government takes in line with the overall strategy on COVID-19.
- Three additional NERT Members have been called in to provide support to Camp Management Sector Committee on the 29th of September 2020. These members will undergo a NERT pre-deployment briefing and a refresher IPC training before officially assigned to carry out duties on the 05th of October 2020. This will bring the total number of NERT Members responding to COVID-19 to seven.

4.2. REPATRIATION FLIGHTS

The 12th approved repatriation flight with 96 passengers was successfully conducted on 27th of September 2020. This brings the total of Solomon Islanders and other foreign nationals to 1000 plus who have entered the country *(Refer to Tables 1 & 2)*. This excludes those who have been exempted on cargo flights, military flights and others. Additionally, Solomon Islands nationals working in the fisheries sector are also being repatriated through fishing vessels and private charter flights. The Government continue its plans to repatriate Solomon Island nationals, and other foreign nationals exempted to support humanitarian response and other key Government priorities.

No.	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
9	23 August 2020	Solomon Airlines	IE608	Apia, Samoa	21
10	2 September 2020	Solomon Airlines	IE611	Guangzhou, China	106
11	15 September 2020	Solomon Airlines	IE616	Brisbane, Australia	104
12	27 September 2020	Solomon Airlines	IE621	Manila, Philippines	96
				TOTAL	1128

Table 1. SUMMARY – Approved Repatriation Flights Details

4.3. FISHING VESSELS ON-PORT DISEMBARKATIONS

Since the last SITREP issued on the 11th of September 2020, fishing vessel disembarkations continue. However, no Solomon Islands Observers have disembarked at the country's International Sea Ports.

4.4. 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), Refer to Table 2 and Annex Map 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.

0

97

0

79

0

18

Bed Capacity 82	Current Occupancy	Male	Female
82	17		
82	17		
	17	0	17
8	2	1	1
16	0	0	0
15	0	0	0
86	78	78	0
14	0	0	0
78	0	0	0
30	0	0	0
	15 86 14	15 0 86 78 14 0 78 0	15 0 0 86 78 78 14 0 0 78 0 0

Table 2 SUMMARY - Occupancy by Quarantine Stations for Honiara and Western (as of 01st Oct. 2020)
SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT PAID

SELF PAID	
O	

OTAL OCCUPANTS

Gizo Hotel

	Bed	Current		
Quarantine Station	Capacity	Occupancy	Male	Female
King Solomon Hotel	19	0	0	0
Honiara Hotel	30	3	2	1
Heritage Park	47	12	11	1
Total Occupants	96	15	<i>13</i>	2

15

344

Note: Designated Diplomatic QSs' are not included in the above table.

Table 3 SUMMARY - Occupancy by Nationality and Gender

Table 5. SUMMART	- Occupancy D	y manohality a	uu Genuel		
Nationality	Male	Female	Total		
Solomon Islanders	79	18	97		
Foreign Nationalities	13	2	15		
TOTAL	92	20	112		

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

4.5.1. FISHING VESSELS

Vessel name	FV ZHONG SHUI 738
Port of Registry	YANTAI, CHINA
Last Port of call	02 nd August 2020 – HONIARA
ETA Port	03 rd October 2020 - HONIARA
Purpose for Port Entry	Unloading
Company/ Agent	CNFC Overseas Fisheries CO. Ltd.
Comment	Vessel authorized to enter port. Health Team to assess whether to
	quarantine for further days or not.

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

4.5.2. CARGO VESSELS

Table 4.2. Ships position report received at 1500hours 01/10/2020. Information supplied by Honiara Maritime Coast Radio Station (SIMSA)

No.	Vessel Name	Present Position & ETA
1	African Quail	Innocent pass to China
2.	Angel 202	Noro
3.	Changsha	Innocent pass to PNG
4.	Coral Islander	Ranadi Anchorage
5.	Dream Angel	Innocent pass to New Zealand
6.	Harmony Ocean	Habadagi
7.	Henry Well	Noro
8.	Maple Portune	Innocent pass to New Caledonia
9.	MV Vandon Sea	ETA 02/10/20 Noro
10.	Ocean Great	Ruruma
11.	Sea Honor	Ranogga Island
12.	Serenity	Kurikuri
13.	Sher E Punjab	Honiara Anchorage
14.	Sofrana Surville	Pt. Cruz
15.	STI Magic	Pt. Cruz
16.	Tai Ho	Zazaki
17.	Van Don Ace	Kula Gulf
18.	Zircon	New Georgia Sound
19.	Winda	Putaghita

5. N-DOC SECTOR COMMITTEE UPDATES

5.1. CAMP MANAGEMENT SECTOR COMMITTEE (SIG Quarantine Stations)

- All QS operations on-going as usual.
- The current occupancy status stands at 112 (*Refer to Table 2 and 3 for details*).
- Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF Aircraft 1) arrived on 01st October 2020 for *Operation Kurukuru*. RAAF Team will be conducting aerial surveillance as part of its ongoing operations.
- Vacated QSs' have been decontaminated awaiting next repatriation flights.
- Housekeeping team have completed room cleaning and preparation on QSs' vacated for next flights.

 Environmental Health Division of MHMS maintains monitoring of the QS standards including providing advice and recommendations for caterers to do regular hygiene cleanups on food processing facilities/kitchens.

5.2. HEALTH SECTOR COMMITTEE

Health Coordination and Responses

- N-DOC Health maintains the leading role in the SIG response to COVID-19.
- The National Health Emergency Operations Centre (NHEOC) maintains coordination functions amongst relevant health response agencies and with other sectors and EOCs.
- NHEOC continuous to provide strategic and operational leadership to the health teams in preparing systems for a possible COVID-19 outbreak national and provincial level.
- NHEOC continue with IPC and PPE training for Quarantine Station staffs.
- Triage and Isolation site in Nila, Shortland Islands blessed and opened on 20th September 2020.

Resources and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- 2,000 disposal gowns and 20,000 surgical masks donated by the PRC Government through Guangdong
 provincial government have been received by the National Medical Stores (NMS).
- Distribution of PPEs to five clinics in Shortlands has been strengthened due to the positioning of a senior pharmacist on site.

			IŴ	STOCK									ON OR	DER	
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION	UNIT	TOTAL	NMS	NBH	NIPC	Provinces	NILA	HABAPA	GAOMAE	MONO	TAUMAO	KABIKI	TOTAL	NMS	ETA
Sharps container bozes	Each / Item	13,734	11,709	1,925		100	1	5		5	10	5		6,000	30/10/20
Sterile Gloves Examination 7	Each / Item	8				8									
Sterile Gloves Examination 8	Each / Item	17				17									
Gloves Examination - Nitrile M	Each / Item	46,100	44,100	2,000		-									
Gloves Examination - Nitrile L	Each / Item	172,900	169,300	2,600	1,000	-									
Gloves Examination - Latex 8	Each / Item	236,400	150,400	86,000		-								2,700,000	21/11/2020
Gloves Examination - Latex M	Each / Item	1,387,800	1,311,600	61,000	5,000	10,200	200	200	400	300	300	300		1,426,000	21/11/2020
Gloves Examination - Latex L	Each / Item	1,198,400	1,113,700	72,000	1,300	10,800	200	200	600	300	300	400		1,410,000	
Medical/Surgical Face Mask Disposable	Each / Item	853,778	836,378	5,000	5,250	7,150	100	200	100	300	100	200			30/10/2020
Medical Resp N95	Each / Item	64,583	59,647	4,670	26	240	80	20	20	20	20	20		500	30/10/2020
Face shield plastic , reusable/disposable	Each / Item	11,697	11,295	112	213	77	19	10	10	10	10	10			
Apron Disposable Plastic - Medium	Each/Itom	11,659	11,615			44	22							6,000	30/10/2020
pron Disposable Plastic - Large	EachFitom	850	850			-								4,000	30/10/2020
Apron.	Eachfiltom	1,230		1,200	30	-									
heavy duty		29,519	29,000	143		370	165	10	10	10	10	10			
Single use, disposable, length mid-calf.lsolation Gown - level Single Use - Overall zip - Level 2	Each / Itom	6,079	5,736	14-3	44		46					10			
Single Use - Gown - Level 3	Each/Itom	7,525	7,180	97	86	162	61		10	10	10	10			
Surgical sterile disposabe standard - Large	Each / Itom	4,905	4,305	01		102	01	10	10	10	10	10			
Surgical sterile disposabe standard -Medium	Each/Itom	1,800	1,800			-				<u> </u>					
Goggles,										·					
protective	Eachfitem	2,398	2,275	33	10	14	7								
Bottle of 100ml & 500ml (Isopropyl Alcohol - 75%)	Each/Item	112				112	50	1	3	4	3	4			
Chlorine	1kg bucket	2,016		2,016		-									
Hand rub	1L	5,751	5,139	612										1,300	30/10/2020
Antiseptic Soap	Each / Item	9,340	9,066	57	19	198	92	3	4	5		5			0011012020
Alcohol (Spririt))70% ,solution in swab - ALCOWIPE	box/100	1,000	1,000					Ť							
	Each / Item	6,186	-	1,090	70	1.030	470	20	20	20	20	20			
Shoe Cover - disposable		-	3,996	1,030	0	1,030	410	20	20	20	20	20			
PVC Gum Boot	Each / Pair	10	10												
Hair / Head Cover	Each / Item	6,480	5,370	569	47	494	202	20	20	20	20	20			
InFrared Thermomter	Each / Item	216	201			15	*								
VTM 3ml Flocked swabs	Unit	14,600	14,600			-									
COV Antibody Test Kit	each	5,000	5,000			-									

Table 5. Stock-take of PPE as of 17th September 2020. (Source: NHEOC SITREP 21)

Diagnostic Facilities (Laboratory & Equipment)

- The participation of the Solomon Islands laboratory with 181 countries in the global external quality assessment programme (EQAP) is testament to the quest for the laboratory to strive for excellence in the provision of quality service to its people.
- The Solomon laboratory scored 100% agreement to results of the 5 panels from the Hong Kong assessment and the 3 sub-regional panel sent from the Pacific Paramedical Training Centre (PPTC) in New Zealand.

 Training of NRH laboratory technicians/staff on COVID-19 testing is ongoing with two more lab staff being trained on COVID-19 testing. Additionally, 13 new recruits have signed their contract in this reporting period and are being earmarked for the molecular testing.

Environmental Health

- EHD monitoring of Quarantine Stations ongoing.
- Findings showed there is need for improvement on separation of general and clinical wastes, provision of disposal plastic bags, scheduling of collection of medical wastes and program for delivery of food to quarantine persons.

Clinical Management

- 1 person brought to Isolation, test returned negative. Person is still under isolation.
- Triage and Isolation team continue to be on stand-by.
- Following recent deployment of two of the staff from National COVID-19 triage and isolation to Shortland Island, SOPs for clinical management and workflow for triage and isolation in Shortland have been established.

Risk Communication and Public Awareness

- Conducting Field test of the COVID 19 community empowerment tools.
- Conducting Pretesting of "How to prevent COVID 19 during pregnancy" materials.
- Printed COVID 19 materials for MOI 100 copies of each sets (6 sets)
- Print and deliver COVID 19 information and preventive measures for 50 Members of Parliaments.
- Supported Solomon Islands Electoral Office by election preparations with COVID-19 information and its key preventative measures.
- Supported IPC and PPE training of staff of hotels (King Solomon, Honiara Hotel, Pacific Casino & Heritage Park Hotel).
- Ongoing radio health programme.
- Development of concept note for COVID-19 kids quiz program
- Development of concept note for possible Q and A with public via MHMS FB page.

5.6. SAFETY AND SECURITY

Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF

- Police Operations Centre (POC) with the support of the National Emergency Management Special Events Planning (NEMSEP) maintains performing the coordination role regarding safety and security on SIG COVID-19 response.
- 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 resources and personnel at the Solomon Islands Border continues to provide logistical support as a whole of SIG response in its COVID-19 border operations.
- RSIPF continue conduct routine patrols to all QSs to ensure public and persons under quarantine adhere to rules and regulations set. As of 30th September, Police have static presence in QSs accommodating our students from Philippines.
- Health awareness should be ongoing and conduct more awareness on COVID 19 especially on social distancing within the communities and more on Health Tips.

• <u>RSIPF Maritime:</u>

- RSIPV AUKI and GIZO are supporting border operations.
- Police Response Team (PRT continues to conduct high visibility patrols around Honiara Municipality and Quarantine Stations.

- PRT continues to assist and engage in border operations.
- PRT continues to ensure the public comply in practicing social distancing measures.

Provincial Reports:

- RSIPF maintain and providing logistical support to SIG frontline agencies on deployment at the SI-PNG Border.
- Support P-DOC Sector Committees in conducting COVID-19 awareness in all the Provinces.
- Police continues to provide the overall responsibility of maintaining safety and security for the SIG COVID-19 responses.

Correctional Services Solomon Islands (CSSI)

- Planning Team successfully conducted SOP presentation and mock exercise for low and high risk inmates at Rove Central Correctional Centre (RCCC). Mock exercise includes:
 - Prevention Procedures PPEs
 - Transfer/Escort of inmates SOP
 - Admission/Discharge of inmates SOP
 - Clinical/Waste Management SOP
- Planning Team continue to follow up on tasking business continuity plans within CSSI Headquarter and all Provincial Correctional Centres.
- CSSI Medical Team continues to enforce strict preparatory measures to staff and inmates at RCCC.

6. OTHER NATIONAL SUPPORT

- SIG continues to receive donor support through the relevant N-DOC Sector Committees. The Government of Australia, New Zealand and the People's Republic of China being the prominent donors since the SOPE.
- International Organisations such as the WHO, UNICEF and UNDP have greatly supported and assisted the Government Response.

7. OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES AND GAPS

1. Coordination

- This remains the major challenge amongst SIG response agencies. 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 tends to limit coordination amongst response agencies.
- There is yet to be an established coordination mechanism and centre established at the Border to coordinate the Border operations.

2. Information sharing and communication

• Some Sectors are not providing situational updates to the NEOC. It must be noted that Sectors implementation of the PRP is ongoing. Observations have seen that regular updates are being shared through other platforms but not to the NEOC or the PEOCs. Thus, affecting the development of operational information management products for decision-makers.

3. 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.
- N-DOC Sector Committees are providing minimal support to the P-DOC counter-parts.
- Level of preparedness at the provincial level is low.

8. 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 the Western Border, an On-Site Operation Coordination Centre will be established at Nila to coordinate the whole of SIG response.
- 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
- N-DOC Committee to have regular meetings to improve the overall coordination of the implementation of PRP.

2. Information sharing and communication

- 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.
- Health to provide COVID-19 information and its preventative measures to the quarantine stations.

3. Disbursement of funds and sector support to the Provinces

- Ministry of Finance and Treasury (MOFT) to prioritise disbursement of funds for Provincial Preparedness and Response work from respective N-DOC Committees.
- N-DOC Sector Committees are informed and reminded of their obligation to provide national support directly to the P-DOC counter-parts.

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.

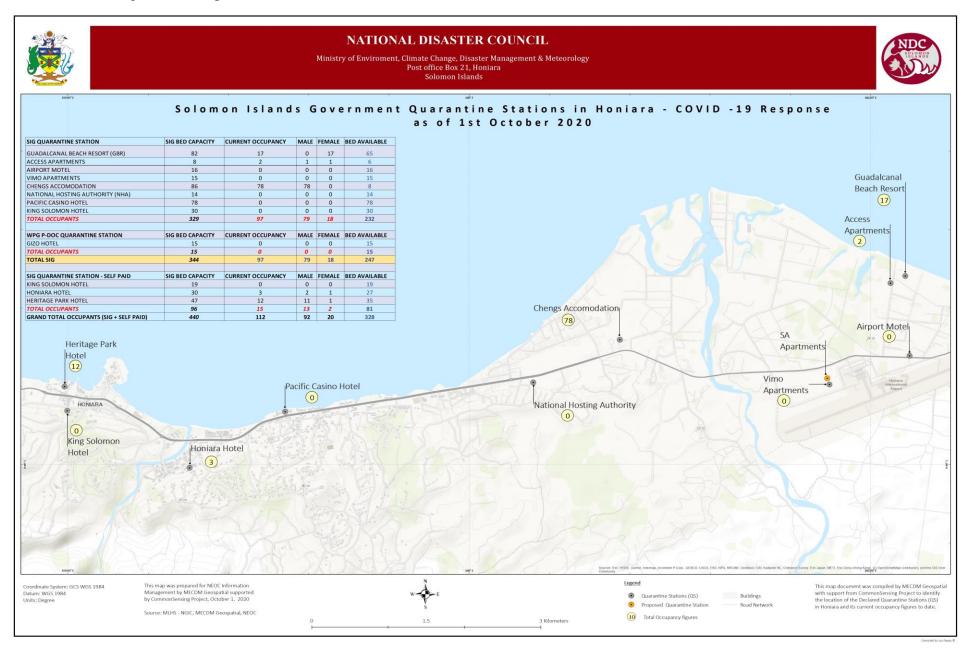
9. NEXT UPDATE AND APPROVAL

Next update upon available information.

APPROVED FOR DISSEMINATION BY

DR. MELCHIOR MATAKI PERMANENT SECRETARY MECDM/CHAIR NDC MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND METEOROLOGY

MAP 1: SIG Designated & Proposed Quarantine Stations in Honiara



MAP 2: SIG Designated & Proposed Quarantine Stations in Western Province

