



NATIONAL DISASTER COUNCIL

NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT OFFICE

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NATIONAL SITUATIONAL REPORT – 15

Ref: NSR15_10/20

EVENT ID: COVID-19
EVENT: SIG Response to COVID-19
PERIOD: Friday 2nd Oct. 2020 – Friday 16th Oct. 2020
DATE OF ISSUE: Friday, 16 October 2020
TIME OF ISSUE: 17:00 HRS
APPROVED BY: Chairman, National Disaster Council
ISSUED BY: National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC)
NEXT UPDATE: Friday 23rd October 2020

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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, minimize the spread, reduce morbidity and mortality, and minimize and manage societal disruption, and psycho-social and economic impacts of COVID-19.

2. KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Solomon Islands recorded three confirmed COVID-19 cases.
- The Government remains committed to implementing appropriate and strict measures to prevent the further 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.

GLOBAL SITUATION IN NUMBERS

The numbers are based on WHO Situation Report (Dash Board) as of 3:53pm CEST, 15 October 2020

Globally

38, 394, 169 confirmed positive cases reported

1, 089, 047 deaths confirmed deaths

Western Pacific Region

667, 448 confirmed positive cases

14,527 confirmed deaths

Countries/territories/areas affected

214

Countries with no confirmed cases

11

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

- Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) remains the lead agency of the Government's fight against COVID-19.
- 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 Qs 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.
- 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*.
- To date, Solomon Islands Government have conducted a total of 12 approved repatriation flights. A total of 1,000 plus persons have been repatriated.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- Solomon Islands has recorded its first, second and third COVID-19 case on the 03rd, 11th and 15th of October 2020 respectively. All positive cases are from students repatriated from the Philippines. The three positive cases are asymptomatic and taken care of at the NRH Isolation Ward and monitored on a daily basis. The Government remains committed in implementing strict measures to prevent further 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.
- 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 (OSC) established by Cabinet to provide strategic advice on a whole-of-government planning and response to COVID-19 maintains its role.
- 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 OSC continues with its weekly Sunday Radio Talk Back Show based on the messaging strategy of 'IUMI TUGETA AGAINST COVID 19'. To this date 26 Talk Back Shows have been conducted. In addition, the OSC is also conducting "Meet the Press" sessions, and so far more than 4 sessions have been completed.
- Prime Minister's weekly address 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.
- Additional support has been provided to Camp Management Sector Committee with the inclusion of three additional NERT Members in managing the Quarantine Stations. 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 Island 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. For now, Cabinet has temporarily put on halt repatriation flights following our first positive case.

Table 1. SUMMARY – Approved Repatriation Flights Details

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

4.3. FISHING VESSELS ON-PORT DISEMBARKATIONS

Since the last SITREP issued on the 02nd of October 2020, 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.

Table 2. SUMMARY - Occupancy by Quarantine Stations for Honiara and Western (as of 15th Oct. 2020)**SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT PAID**

QUARANTINE STATION	BED CAPACITY	CURRENT OCCUPANCY	MALE	FEMALE
Guadalcanal Beach Resort (GBR)	82	17	0	17
Access Apartments	8	2	1	1
Airport Motel	16	0	0	0
VIMO Apartments	15	0	0	0
Chengs Accommodation	86	72	72	0
SA Apartments	30	0	0	0
Pacific Casino Hotel	78	0	0	0
King Solomon Hotel	30	0	0	0
Gizo Hotel	15	0	0	0
TOTAL OCCUPANTS	360	91	73	18

SELF PAID

QUARANTINE STATION	BED CAPACITY	CURRENT OCCUPANCY	MALE	FEMALE
King Solomon Hotel	19	0	0	0
Honiara Hotel	30	0	0	0
Heritage Park Hotel	35	3	3	0
TOTAL OCCUPANTS	84	3	3	0

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

Table 3. SUMMARY - Occupancy by Nationality and Gender

Nationality	Male	Female	Total
Solomon Islanders	73	18	91
Foreign Nationalities	3	0	3
TOTAL	76	18	94

Table 4. SUMMARY – SIG COVID-19 OPERATIONS PERSONNEL ACCOMODATION**SIG COVID-19 OPERATIONS PERSONNEL ACCOMODATION**

QUARANTINE STATION	CURRENT OCCUPANCY
Guadalcanal Beach Resort (GBR)	22
Access Apartments	2
Airport Motel	15
VIMO Apartments	0
Chengs Accommodation	4
SA Apartments	1
Heritage Park Hotel	2
FNU House (NRH)	13
NDC Warehouse (GBR)	13
Honiara Hotel	31
TOTAL OCCUPANCY	103

4.5.1. CARGO VESSELS**Table 4.2.** Ships position report received at 1500hours 15/10/2020.

Information supplied by Honiara Maritime Coast Radio Station (SIMSA)

No.	Vessel Name	Present Position & ETA
1	Ba Wise	Sikale Camp
2.	Bao Neng	Wairokai

3.	Harmony Ocean	Graciosa Bay
4.	Henry Well	Lever Harbour
5.	Loch Melfort	Innocent pass to Japan
6.	MTM Huson	Ranadi
7.	MV Vandon Sea	Graciosa Bay
8.	Sea Honor	Bubukuana Camp
9.	Sher E Punjab	Honiara Anchorage
10.	SI Hang Yun 19	Lungga
11.	Triton Swan	Innocent pass to China
12.	Victorious Ace	Innocent pass to Japan
13.	Warship Light	Bagharai
14.	Winca	Mankiki

5. N-DOC SECTOR COMMITTEE UPDATES

5.1. CAMP MANAGEMENT SECTOR COMMITTEE (SIG Quarantine Stations)

- All Quarantine Station operations ongoing and have been stepped up with tight security measures in place for GBR and Chengs by the Camp Management Sector Committee (CMSC).
- The current occupancy status stands at 94 (*Refer to Table 2 and 3 for details*).
- 11 have graduated on the 15/10/2020 from Heritage Park QS.
- SIG operations personnel comprised of RSIPF, QS Managers, Isolation Team, Swabbing Team, QS Monitoring, Waste Management and Warehouse Team are also accommodated at designated Quarantine Stations. CMSC is looking after their welfare. (*Refer to Table 4*).
- Total of 27 Health Team members have occupied Honiara Hotel QS as of 12/10/2020 for contact tracing and isolation purposes. They have tested negative.
- SA Apartments has been gazette and included as a SIG designated Quarantine Station.
- Camp Management Team is coordinating with Health Team on its risk assessment and contact tracing inside the Quarantine Stations occupied.
- Health, RSIPF and Protection Sector Committee have deployed static teams to QSs'.
- 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.
- Triage and Isolation site in Nila, Shortland Islands were blessed and opened on 20th September 2020.
- Peoples Republic of China (PRC) Ambassador to Solomon Islands, His Excellency pain a courtesy visit to MHMS Health Minister, followed by donation of 15,000 face masks to support the Government in its fight against COVID-19.
- Health have beefed up pre-cautionary measures in relate to the positive cases. All positive cases have been isolated and continue to be monitored on a daily basis. Extra measures have also been taken

particularly on health frontline workers to ensure they and their families are safe and compliant to all PPE regulations.

- Additional spaces on existing Quarantine Stations have been allocated to Health and frontline workers for accommodation based on risk assessment to ensure they remain isolated from their families and the public.
- SOLMAT have completed their border operations on resourcing all health facilities and staffs at Shortland Islands and providing support on their preparedness and response plans. This is the 10th deployment in conjunction with Western Provincial Health Team.
- Extra coordination measure have also been stepped up with business houses in preparation for the National General Elections in November this year. Support is provided on precautionary measures in preparation for the event.
- The Public Health Emergency Bill have concluded its third consultations in Honiara, Western and Malaita Province. Acknowledgement us given to all who took part in the consultation workshops.
- Additional stock piles on testing kits have also been procured as of last week. Work is on progress and additional stock pile is expected to arrive in the coming weeks.

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 Qs to ensure public and persons under quarantine adhere to rules and regulations set. As of 30th September, Police have static presence in Qs 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.
- Australia through the Solomon Islands Police Development Program (SIPDP) funded two Quarantine Stations at Tetere Correctional Centre. This will be used by police officers for quarantine purposes. Official handover took place this morning, 16th October 2020.
- **RSIPF Maritime:**
 - 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)

- CSSI Medical Team continues to enforce strict preparatory measures to staff and inmates at Rove Correctional Centre (RCCC).
- All legal visits have been suspended on directives from the CSSI Commissioners Office. All legal assistance or advice for Rove Correctional Centre inmates can be done through phone contact on 7278045 or 7278638.
- CSSI COVID-19 Planning Team held a consultation meeting with NHEOC, RSIPF and CMSC on the proposed detention/quarantine centre on the 6th and 7th of October 2020. CSSI Infrastructure Team conducted an assessment on the temporary detention centre at GBR Quarantine Station.
- CSSI COVID-19 Planning Team continue to monitor and evaluate all SOPs throughout all Correctional Centres.

Solomon Islands Red Cross Society (SIRC)

- Facilitate arrangements between the Solomon Islands Government and Philippines Red Cross Society (PRCS) for Solomon Islands regarding pre-flight COVID-19 testing and quarantining in Philippines.
- Supporting the N-DOC Camp Management Committee on deploying trained volunteers to assist in managing the Government Quarantine Stations.

6. P-DOC SECTOR COMMITTEE UPDATES

- All Provincial Disaster Operation Committees (P-DOC) remain on activation to support respective Provinces in their preparedness and response plans.
- PEOCs/P-DOCs are leading the coordination work and collaborating with Health and other Sector Committees to undertake COVID-19 preparedness and response activities and awareness on COVID related issues.

7. 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.

8. 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. Spreading of False Information

- Spreading of false information and speculations are causing unnecessary panic, fear and anxiety amongst the public.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Coordination

- There needs to be an information session on the N-DOC and P-DOC arrangements with all SIG responding agencies
- Specific to the Western Border, an On-Site Operation Coordination Centre needs to be established promptly 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 NDOC 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. Spreading of False Information

- The public is advised and reminded once again that spreading of false information or rumours is an offence under the *Emergency Powers (COVID-19) (No.3) Regulations 2020*. The public is advised to listen to official updates from appropriate authorities, OSC weekly Radio Talkback Show and Meet the Press Sessions, and the weekly address by the Prime Minister.

10. 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,
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11. ANNEX

MAP 1: SIG Designated & Proposed Quarantine Stations in Honiara

