



# NATIONAL DISASTER COUNCIL

## NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT OFFICE

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## NATIONAL SITUATIONAL REPORT – 16

Ref: NSR16\_11/20

**EVENT ID:** COVID-19  
**EVENT:** SIG Response to COVID-19  
**PERIOD:** Friday 16<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2020 – Friday 06<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2020  
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**APPROVED BY:** Chairman, National Disaster Council  
**ISSUED BY:** National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC)  
**NEXT UPDATE:** Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 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 have recorded another five COVID-19 cases bringing the total number of COVID recorded cases to 13.
- Out of the 13 COVID recorded cases, 8 have been tested and returned negative COVID results.
- The total number of active cases to date now stands at 5.
- The Government remains committed to implementing appropriate and strict measures to prevent the further importation and spread of COVID-19 into our communities.
- 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.
- 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 are in Honiara whilst one 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 Honiara and Western and Choiseul Provinces.
- Essential cargo flights remain on going and 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.
- 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 total of 128 Solomon Islanders and foreign nationals have been repatriated on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2020.
- To date, Solomon Islands Government have conducted a total of 13 approved repatriation flights. A total of 1,300 plus persons have been repatriated.
- The first Provincial Emergency Response Team (PERT) Induction Training was conducted on the 25<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2020 at Nila, Shortland Islands by the National Disaster Management Office and UNDP for Choiseul and Western Province P-DOC sector members.
- The On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC) has been set up at Nila, Shortland Islands and is now operational as of the 01<sup>st</sup> of November 2020.
- Seven people from Harapa and Komaliae Villages are currently held at Nila Isolation Ward after apprehended by RSIPF for close contact and interaction with Bougainvilleans at the SI-PNG Border.

### **GLOBAL SITUATION IN NUMBERS**

The numbers are based on WHO Situation Report (Dash Board) as of 4:19pm CET, 5 November 2020

#### **Globally**

47, 930, 397 confirmed positive cases reported  
1, 221, 781 deaths confirmed deaths

#### **Western Pacific Region**

750, 712 confirmed positive cases  
15,785 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

### **3. CURRENT SITUATION**

- Solomon Islands has recorded another five COVID-19 cases on the 02<sup>nd</sup> of November 2020. Total number of active cases to date is 5. All positive cases are 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.
- The first four COVID cases have now returned negative test results for COVID-19.
- Solomon Islands remains under a State of Public Emergency since Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2020 with restrictions on all border crossings.
- 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.
- 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.

### **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'. In addition, the OSC is also conducting "Meet the Press" sessions.
- Prime Minister continues with its weekly address 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.
- Solomon Islands Government conducted a total of 13 approved repatriation flights using commercial airlines with the recent one on 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2020. 128 Solomon Islanders and foreign nationals were repatriated. Other proposes repatriation flights is underway with risk assessments also being conducted.
- The first joint PERT Induction Training was conducted on the 25<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2020 at Nila Shortland Islands by NDMO and UNDP with funding from DFAT for Western and Choiseul Province P-DOC sector members preparedness efforts towards COVID-19. A total of 22 participants attended the training and awarded PERT certificates at the end of the training.
- The OSOCC set up at Nila, Shortland Islands is now operational as of 01<sup>st</sup> November 2020. Management and coordination of the OSOCC will be overseen by Choiseul and Western PERT members and the P-DOC of both provinces with national support from NERT and N-DOC Sector Committees who will be deployed

as and when required by Western and Choiseul P-DOCs. N-DOC Sector Committees and other SIG agencies preparedness efforts at the SI-PNG border will also be directly coordinated through the OSOCC.

## 4.2. REPATRIATION FLIGHTS

The 13<sup>th</sup> approved repatriation flight with 128 passengers was successfully conducted on 25<sup>th</sup> of October 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.

**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
13	25 October 2020	Solomon Airlines	IE622	Brisbane, Australia	128
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>1256</b>

## 4.3. FISHING VESSELS ON-PORT DISEMBARKATIONS

Since the last SITREP issued on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2020, one Solomon Islands Observer have disembarked at the country's international sea port. Person has been admitted at Airport Motel QS on the 05<sup>th</sup> of November 2020 and is serving mandatory quarantine.

## 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*. 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 06<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2020)**  
**SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT PAID**

QUARANTINE STATION	BED CAPACITY	CURRENT OCCUPANCY	MALE	FEMALE
Guadalcanal Beach Resort (GBR)	82	25	10	15
Access Apartments	8	6	6	0
Airport Motel	18	1	1	0
VIMO Apartments	15	15	15	0
Chengs Accommodation	86	54	54	0
SA Apartments	30	7	7	0
Pacific Casino Hotel	78	7	5	2
King Solomon Hotel	72	47	43	4
Gizo Hotel	15	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL OCCUPANTS</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>21</b>

**SELF PAID**

QUARANTINE STATION	BED CAPACITY	CURRENT OCCUPANCY	MALE	FEMALE
King Solomon Hotel	25	24	22	2
Honiara Hotel	30	0	0	0
Heritage Park Hotel	35	8	5	3
Pacific Casino Hotel	4	4	2	2
<b>TOTAL OCCUPANTS</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>7</b>

*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	141	21	162
Foreign Nationalities	29	7	36
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>198</b>

**Table 4. SUMMARY – SIG COVID-19 Operations Personnel Accommodation**

QUARANTINE STATION	CURRENT OCCUPANCY
Guadalcanal Beach Resort (GBR)	27
Access Apartments	1
Airport Motel	0
VIMO Apartments	1
Chengs Accommodation	2
SA Apartments	2
Heritage Park Hotel	1
FNU House (NRH)	10
NDC Warehouse (GBR)	1
Honiara Hotel	49
King Solomon Hotel	2
Pacific Casino Hotel	1
<b>TOTAL OCCUPANCY</b>	<b>97</b>

## 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 by the Camp Management Sector Committee (CMSC).
- The current occupancy status stands at 198 (*Refer to Table 2 and 3 for details*).
- 17 female students from the Philippines were released on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2020 following five rounds of testing with all test results returned negative.
- 18 nationals from the Philippines repatriation flight are expected to graduate this evening, 06<sup>th</sup> November 2020 from VIMO and GBR Quarantine Stations.
- SIG frontline operation personnel comprised of RSIPF, QS Managers, Isolation Team, Swabbing Team, QS Monitoring, Waste Management and Warehouse Team are also being quarantined and accommodated at designated Quarantine Stations. CMSC is looking after their welfare. (*Refer to Table 4*).
- Health, RSIPF and Protection Sector Committee have deployed static teams to QSs'.
- Vacated QSs' have been decontaminated awaiting next repatriation flights.

### 5.2. HEALTH SECTOR COMMITTEE

#### Health Coordination and Responses

- N-DOC Health maintains the leading role in the SIG response to COVID-19. The total number of COVID-19 cases recorded in Solomon Islands remains at 13.
- 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.
- Five new cases have been recorded on the 02<sup>nd</sup> of November 2020. Contact tracing for the current active cases is ongoing.
- Multi-purpose Hall in Honiara is undergoing works to repurpose it into a field hospital with staff deployment plans for this facility still underway.

#### Resources and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Updated stock supply form as of 9th October are outlined in **Table 6** – where **Green** indicates stock available for more than six months, **Yellow** stock available for more than three months and **Red** indicates stock only available for less than three weeks.

**Table 5.** Stock take of PPE as of 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020. (*Source: NHEOC SITREP 22*)



TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION	UNIT	TOTAL	IN STOCK					ON ORDER							
			NMS	NRH	NPC	Provincer	NILA	HARAPA	GAOMAE	MONO	TAUMAO	KARIKI	TOTAL	NMS	ETA
<b>Sharps container boxes</b>	Each / Item	<b>13,734</b>	11,709	1,925		100	1	5		5	10	5		6,000	30/10/2020
Sterile Gloves Examination 7	Each / Item	<b>8</b>					8								
Sterile Gloves Examination 8	Each / Item	<b>17</b>					17								
Gloves Examination - Nitrile M	Each / Item	<b>46,100</b>	44,100	2,000											
Gloves Examination - Nitrile L	Each / Item	<b>172,900</b>	169,300	2,600	1,000										
Gloves Examination - Latex S	Each / Item	<b>236,400</b>	150,400	86,000										2,700,000	21/11/2020
Gloves Examination - Latex M	Each / Item	<b>1,381,600</b>	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	<b>1,198,400</b>	1,119,700	72,000	1,900	10,200	200	200	600	300	300	400		1,410,000	21/11/2020
Medical/Surgical Face Mask Disposable	Each / Item	<b>853,778</b>	836,378	5,000	5,250	7,150	100	200	100	300	100	200		102,000	30/10/2020
Medical Resp N95	Each / Item	<b>64,583</b>	58,647	4,670	26	240	80	20	20	20	20	20		500	30/10/2020
Face shield plastic, reusable/disposable	Each / Item	<b>11,637</b>	11,295	112	215	77	13	10	10	10	10	10			
Apron Disposable Plastic - Medium	Each / Item	<b>11,659</b>	11,615			44	22							6,000	30/10/2020
Apron Disposable Plastic - Large	Each / Item	<b>850</b>	850											4,000	30/10/2020
<b>Apron, heavy duty</b>	Each / Item	<b>1,230</b>		1,200	30										
Single use, disposable, length mid-calf Isolation Gown - Level 1	Each / Item	<b>29,519</b>	29,000	149		370	165	10	10	10	10	10			
Single Use - Overall zip - Level 2	Each / Item	<b>6,079</b>	5,736	107	44	132	46	10	10	10	10	10			
Single Use - Gown - Level 3	Each / Item	<b>7,525</b>	7,180	97	86	162	61	10	10	10	10	10			
Surgical sterile disposable standard - Large	Each / Item	<b>4,305</b>	4,305												
Surgical sterile disposable standard - Medium	Each / Item	<b>1,800</b>	1,800												
Goggles, Protective	Each / Item	<b>2,398</b>	2,275	89	10	14	7								
Bottle of 100ml & 500ml (Isopropyl Alcohol - 70%)	Each / Item	<b>112</b>				112	50	1	1	4	3	4			
<b>Chlorine</b>	kg/bucket	<b>2,016</b>		2,016											
<b>Hand rub</b>	lit	<b>5,751</b>	5,139	612										1,300	30/10/2020
<b>Antiseptic Soap</b>	Each / Item	<b>9,340</b>	9,066	57	19	198	92	3	4	5		5			
Alcohol (Spirit) 70% solution in swab - ALCO/WIPE	box/100	<b>1,000</b>	1,000												
<b>Shoe Cover - disposable</b>	Each / Item	<b>6,186</b>	3,396	1,090	70	1,030	370	20	20	20	20	20			
PVC Gum Boot	Each / Pair	<b>10</b>	10												
Hair / Head Cover	Each / Item	<b>6,480</b>	5,370	569	47	494	202	20	20	20	20	20			
<b>Infrared Thermometer</b>	Each / Item	<b>216</b>	201			15	6								
<b>VTM 3ml Flocked swabs</b>	Unit	<b>14,600</b>	14,600												
<b>COV Antibody Test Kit</b>	each	<b>5,000</b>	5,000												

## Diagnostics Facilities (Laboratory & Equipment)

**Table 6.** Summary of COVID-19 testing at the National Referral Hospital Molecular Laboratory: This is updated to 24th October 2020.

	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct 1-9	Oct 10-16	Oct 17-23	Cummulative Total
<b>Number of samples received</b>	19	391	1256	400	1059	170	128	140	3563
<b>Clinical suspect</b>	3	4	6	3	0	1	1	0	18
<b>Quarantine</b>	1	383	1213	387	753	117	115	123	3092
<b>Contact Tracing</b>	0	0	35	0	2	0	0	0	37
<b>Immigration</b>		1	2	5	258	0	0	1	267
<b>Presented with ILI</b>	0	6	17	2	11	11	9	6	62
<b>Surveillance POE</b>						2	0	0	2
<b>Surveillance HW</b>						49	2	7	58
<b>Number of samples tested negative</b>	19	391	1256	400	1058	169	121	139	3553
<b>No of tests done</b>	19	405	1273	640	1079	170	1	1	3588
<b>GeneXpert used</b>	19	201	209	23	85	43	128	128	836
<b>qPCR</b>	0	190	1039	497	974	127	34	30	2891
<b>Repeats</b>	0	14	25	17	20	0	94	98	268
<b>EQAP qPCR</b>				163	0		0	0	163

## Environmental Health

- Environmental Health Team continue step up assessment of quarantine stations including enhancing infection, prevention and control measures within the stations.

- Continue conducting risk assessment on catering firms and services providing services to the quarantine stations.

### **Clinical Management**

- Total of 10 patients are in isolation at the NRH Isolation Ward.
- Work on redesigning Multi-Purpose Hall into a make shift hospital in preparations of a surge in COVID-19 mild cases is progressing. The makeshift hospital will have bed capacity of 56, and may expand to 80 beds if needed.
- National Infection, Prevention and Control (NIPC) conducted IPC training for 12 workers of GPPOL on 20<sup>th</sup> October and 24 RISPF officers on 22<sup>nd</sup> October as part of pre-deployment requirement.
- Daily distribution of PPE to public health team doing daily monitoring duty to the Q-station and to other ministries frontline officers is ongoing.

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

- Risk Communications Teams continue to conduct risk level awareness to communities around Honiara.
- Community empowerment tool to engage communities to proactively take precautionary measures against Covid-19 has completed its field-testing and submitted for review. Pending approval, the risk communication team will commence with its implementation.
- Conducted IPC training for all risk communication staff at HCC and GP.
- All health risk communication staff completed training on community outreach SOPs.
- Development of concept note for COVID-19 kids quiz program. Work is ongoing.
- Development of concept note for possible Q and A with public via MHMS FB page.
- Completed distribution of COVID-19 information and its preventative measures to the quarantine stations.
- Contact COVID 19 Risk communication training with Solomon Island community development program and community policing program.
- Working closely with Solomon Islands Red Cross to engage their volunteers to support the Risk communication activities.
- Continue with radio health program.

## **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.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> Western Border Deployment of 82 officers from its divisions were deployed on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2020 on a 30 days rotation. The 8<sup>th</sup> deployment is expected to activate on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2020 with a 2 days pre-deployment training before being deployed.
- On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC) will also have the presence of a Liaison officer stationed there to provide RSIPF support.
- Police Infrastructure Division and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Development team had been deployed on the 28th October to the Western Border to support Border Operation Infrastructure.
- RSIPF continue conduct routine patrols and enhanced static presence with the deployment of 25 officers to Quarantine Stations.



- Four sets of training on Incident Command Control System (ICCS) was also conducted to its officers as part of its COVID-19 operations.
- RSIPV AUKI and GIZO are supporting border operations.
- **Provincial Reports:**
  - RSIPF is maintaining and providing logistical support to SIG frontline agencies on deployment at the SI-PNG Border. Apprehended 7 villagers from Harapa and Komaliae for close contact with Bougainvilleans.
  - 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.
  - Makira Provincial police officers supported the Makira Provincial Government to execute a lock down exercise on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020 as part of their provincial operations.

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

- CSSI Medical Team continues to enforce strict preparatory measures to staff and inmates at Rove Correctional Centre (RCCC) by putting in place hand washing measures and using thermo scan equipment at the front gate before entering the compound. Inmates are issued with face masks when attending court.
- CSSI COVID-19 Planning Team continue to monitor and evaluate all SOPs throughout all Correctional Centres.
- The office of the Commissioner (CSSI) continues to make follow up on COVID-19 tasking and CSSI business continuity plan within its headquarters and other 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.
- Supizae proposed QS works in Choiseul in progress with installation of barrier fencing and tank stands.
- **P-DOC Western Updates**
  - Newly established OSOCC at Nila, Shortland Islands will be jointly manned and coordinated by P-DOC of Western and Choiseul Provinces with both provinces taking turns in manning the OSOCC.
  - P-DOC Health Team at Nila and Gizo are overseeing the quarantine of the 7 people isolated at Nila.
  - First swab tests have been collected on 5<sup>th</sup> of November and flown to Honiara. Test results returned negative. All 7 will undergo 14 days quarantine period. Local catering groups at Nila are providing catering services to persons isolated.

## 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.
- Dorcas Women's Society from Aruligo and Kukum SDA Church donated supplies of fruits and vegetables for the Quarantine Stations in Honiara.

## 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.

### 4. Resources

- Of the approved COVID-19 budget allocation of \$191.7 million, 72% has been expended as at 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020
- Financial resources for some N-DOC committees and therefore P-DOCs are running low.

## 9. RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. Coordination

- 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. 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.

### 4. Additional Resources

- Additional financial resources to be availed to support up-coming repatriations and remaining COVID-19 programmes by N-DOC and P-DOCs.

## **10. 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**  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE,  
DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND METEOROLOGY



## 11. ANNEX



A total of 22 participants (Western – 14 and Choiseul – 8) were awarded their certificates upon completion of a week-long intensive training. *Source: NEOC*



NEOC/UNITAR liaison officer Joy Papao impart the expertise of reading maps and Kobo Online. *Source: NEOC*



Aruligo Women's Dorcas Society donating supplies of fruits and vegetables to Quarantine Stations. *Source: Adi Kokotaru*



## **Additional Links**

1. *National Health Emergency Operations Centre (NHEOC) SITREP 22*

Link... <https://bit.ly/3eudi3E>

2. *On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC) SITREP 01*

Link... <https://bit.ly/3jWukZq>