

# NATIONAL DISASTER COUNCIL

# NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT OFFICE

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Ref: NSR17\_11/20

# NATIONAL SITUATIONAL REPORT – 17

**EVENT ID:** COVID-19

**EVENT:** SIG Response to COVID-19

**PERIOD:** Friday 06<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2020 – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2020

DATE OF ISSUE: Tuesday, 24 November 2020

TIME OF ISSUE: 17:00 HRS

**APPROVED BY:** Chairman, National Disaster Council

**ISSUED BY:** National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC)

**NEXT UPDATE:** Upon availability of new info

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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 four COVID-19 cases bringing the accumulated total number of COVID recorded cases to 17.
- Out of the 17 COVID recorded cases, 6 have recovered (returned negative test results).
- The total number of active cases to date now stands at 11.
- 105 people undergone quarantine graduated on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2020 after serving the country's mandatory quarantine requirements.
- Additional of 54 people also graduated on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2020.
- Total persons remaining in SIG Quarantine Stations as of 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 remains at 172.
   This also includes the 16 who had tested positive.

#### **GLOBAL SITUATION IN NUMBERS**

The numbers are based on WHO Situation Report (Dash Board) as of 5:02pm CET, 23 November 2020

#### Globally

58, 425, 681 confirmed positive cases reported 1, 385, 218 deaths confirmed deaths

#### **Western Pacific Region**

839, 962 confirmed positive cases 16,875 confirmed deaths

# Countries/territories/areas affected 216

**Countries with no confirmed cases** 

9

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

- Total persons in isolation as of 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 stands at 11. The 7 persons held at Nila Isolation Ward have graduated on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2020.
- Three (3) Solomon Island citizens and 13 Indonesian engineers arrived on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2020 on a chartered airline for SPG 2023 from Indonesia. Returned flight also repatriated Indonesians back to Indonesia. All incoming passengers are undergoing mandatory quarantine.
- The latest SIG approved repatriation flight was on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020 with a total of 124 nationals and foreign nationals entering the country. All are undergoing mandatory quarantine.
- Proposed repatriation flight for Philippines scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020 has been postponed to another date after six (6) students in the Manila tested positive for COVID-19.
- To this date the MHMS have conducted a total of 4,500 COVID-19 tests since commencement of testing in May. There were 200 pre-departure tests also conducted for outgoing travellers. Testing machines remain operational.
- All schools in the country to have early closure this year, Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and begin early school break on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> 2020.
- King George Sixth School to implement early closure as of Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020 as dormitories will be turned into quarantine stations.
- Bye-elections for Central Honiara and North East Guadalcanal Constituencies successfully conducted on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November 2020, with strict COVID-19 measures in place.
- Four (4) proposed quarantine stations in the Choiseul and Western Provinces have now been declared quarantine stations and gazetted on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2020 under Gazette No.176. These are:
  - Supizae Bungalows Choiseul Province
  - Noro Lodge Western Province
  - Red Devil Transport, Nusatupe Western Province
  - Takuho Bungalows, Tuha Shortlands, Western Province

#### 3. CURRENT SITUATION

- The Government remains committed in implementing strict measures to prevent further potential importation and spread of COVID-19. Priority is to ensure a zero COVID-19 community transmission. The country is currently being successful in containing the disease in the Quarantine Stations.
- Solomon Islands recorded another three COVID-19 cases on the 09<sup>th</sup> of November 2020 and one (a national) from the flight from Indonesia. Six (6) have recovered after returning negative test results. Total number of active cases to date is 11. All positive cases are taken care of at the NRH Isolation Ward and monitored on a daily basis.
- 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.
- Western and Choiseul Provinces are managing the Government On Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC) at Nila, SI-PNG Border on a monthly roster.
- 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.
- To date, Solomon Islands Government conducted a total of 14 approved repatriation flights using commercial airlines with the recent one on 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2020. 124 Solomon Islanders and foreign nationals were repatriated. Other proposes repatriation flights is underway with risk assessments also being conducted.
- In anticipation of a potential for lockdown should there be community transmission or some other triggers assessed by MHMS that require a lockdown, a revised lockdown plan based on lessons learnt from previous lockdowns and new triggers identified by MHMS has been endorsed by the OSC on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

- The NEOC has developed a communication strategy with its media stakeholders to ensure the public is aware of the country's lockdown plan. At present it is specific for the Honiara Declared Emergency Zone but, it can be adapted by Provinces to suit their circumstances. Key objectives of the communication strategy include:
  - 1. Inform Solomon Islanders on the key aspects of a lockdown.
  - 2. Encourage individuals, families and communities to elevate state of preparedness for a lockdown
  - 3. To reduce the risks of people breaching the lockdown orders. This in turn reduces the stress on the Justice System during and post lockdown.
- Cabinet has approved the deferment of the Public Health Emergency Bill consultations and to complete the bill at a later date.
- Cabinet has recommended to His Excellency, the Governor General for a 3<sup>rd</sup> declaration of a State of Public Emergency (SOPE). The current SOPE will end today, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020. The new SOPE will be effective for another four (4) months.

#### 4.2. REPATRIATION FLIGHTS

The 14<sup>th</sup> approved repatriation flight with 124 passengers was successfully conducted on 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2020. This brings the total of Solomon Islanders and other foreign nationals to 1300 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
14	19 November 2020	Solomon Airlines	IE626/IE627	Tarawa, Kiribati	124
	•			TOTAL	1,380

#### 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 seaport. Person has been admitted at Airport Motel QS on the 05<sup>th</sup> of November 2020 and has graduated on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2020.

#### 4.4. QUARANTINE STATIONS

The Government has declared 20 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 (15) 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 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov. 2020)

QUARANTINE STATION	BED CAPACITY	CURRENT OCCUPANCY	N/1 A   16'   16'1		
Guadalcanal Beach Resort (GBR)	82	0	0	0	
Access Apartments	8	2	2	0	
Airport Motel	18	13	13	0	
VIMO Apartments	15	17	15	2	
Chengs Accommodation	86	0	0	0	
SA Apartments	30	20	0	20	
Pacific Casino Hotel	78	5	3	2	
King Solomon Hotel	72	84	49	35	
Gizo Hotel	15	0	0	0	
TOTAL OCCUPANTS	404	141	82	59	

**SELF PAID** 

QUARANTINE STATION	BED CAPACITY	CURRENT OCCUPANCY	MALE	FEMALE
King Solomon Hotel	25	4	4	0
Honiara Hotel	0	0	0	0
Heritage Park Hotel	35	14	7	7
Pacific Casino Hotel	20	13	11	2
TOTAL OCCUPANTS	80	31	22	9

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

Table 3. SUMMARY - Occupancy by Nationality and Gender

Nationality	Male	Female	Total
Solomon Islanders	82	59	141
Foreign Nationalities	22	9	31
TOTAL	104	68	172

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

CURRENT OCCUPANCY
26
1
0
0
2
2
1
10
1

Honiara Hotel	50
King Solomon Hotel	2
Pacific Casino Hotel	1
TOTAL OCCUPANCY	96

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

#### 4.5.1. FISHING VESSELS

Table 5. SUMMARY – Fishing Vessels Monitored Operating in the SI EEZ

Vessel name	TRINIDAD III				
Port of Registry	POHNPEI – FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA (FSM)				
Last Port of call	10 <sup>th</sup> October 2020 – POHNPEI				
ETA Port	21st November 2020 - HONIARA				
<b>Purpose for Port Entry</b>	Transhipment at Noro Port				
Company/ Agent	Caroline Fisheries Cooperation, Pohnpei, FSM				
Comment	Vessel authorized to enter port. Health Team to assess whether to				
	quarantine for further days or not.				

Vessel name	FV YI SIANG 6
Port of Registry	KAOHSIUNG, TAIWAN
Last Port of call	10 <sup>th</sup> November 2020 – HONIARA
ETA Port	22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2020 - HONIARA
<b>Purpose for Port Entry</b>	Transhipment at Noro Port
Company/ Agent	Global Fisheries Ltd., Honiara
Comment	Vessel authorized to enter port. Health Team to assess whether to
	quarantine for further days or not.

Vessel name	FV SAN SHENG FA NO. TEIN
Port of Registry	KAOHSIUNG, TAIWAN
Last Port of call	02 <sup>nd</sup> September 2020 – HONIARA
ETA Port	23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2020 - HONIARA
<b>Purpose for Port Entry</b>	Unloading at Honiara Port
Company/ Agent	Global Fisheries Ltd., Honiara
Comment	Vessel authorized to enter port. Health Team to assess whether to
	quarantine for further days or not.

#### 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 at SIG Quarantine Stations stands at 172 (Refer to Table 2 and 3 for details).
- 105 Solomon Islanders and foreign nationals graduated and released on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2020, after completing all risk assessments and test results.
- 52 occupants graduated on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2020 from Chengs Quarantine Station.
- A total of 16 persons were admitted on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2020. 3 are Solomon Islanders and 13 are Indonesian engineers. All arrived on the chartered flight for the SPG 2023.
- 124 nationals and foreign nationals were repatriated on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2020. All were admitted at various Quarantine Stations and are undergoing mandatory quarantine.

- Proposed repatriation flight to bring in nationals and foreign nationals scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020 has been postponed to another date.
- 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 16.
- 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 in the provincial level.
- NHEOC continue with IPC and PPE training.
- Multi-purpose Hall in Honiara is undergoing works to repurpose it into a field hospital with staff deployment plans for this facility still underway.
- Logistics Team continues to provide and maintain logistical support to NHEOC, NRH EOC, Isolation Ward teams and ongoing disposal of clinical wastes.

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

• Updated stock supply form as of 16<sup>th</sup> November 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 6. SUMMARY - Stock take of PPE as of 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2020. (Source: NHEOC SITREP 23)

		STREET, STREET,	IM:	STOCK									ON ORDER			
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION	UNIT	TOTAL	NMS	NRH	NIPC	Previnces	NILA	HARAPA	GAOMAE	моно	TAUMAO	KARIKI	TOTAL	NMS	ETA	
Sharps container boxes	Each / Item	13,734	11,709	1,925		100	1	5		5	10	5		6,000	30/10/2	
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	163,300	2,600	1,000											
Gloves Examination - Latex S	Each / Item	236,400	150,400	86,000				100						2,700,000	21/11/202	
Gloves Examination - Latex M	Each / Item	1,387,800	1,311,600	51,000	5,000	10,200	200	200	400	300	300	300		1,426,000	21/11/202	
Gloves Examination - Latex L	Each / Item	1,198,400	1,113,700	72,000	1,300	10,800	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		100	300	100	200		102,000		
Medical Resp N95	Each / Item	64,583	59,647	4,670	26	240	80	20	20	20	20	20		500	30/10/202	
Face shield plastic , reusable/disposable	Each / Item	11,697	11,235	112	213	77	19	10	10	10	10	10				
Apron Disposable Plastic - Medium	Eachflem	11,659	11,615			44	55							6,000	30/10/202	
pron Disposable Plastic - Large	Eacheltom	850	850					1 3						4,000	30/10/202	
Apron. heave dute	Eash / Rom	1,230		1,200	30											
Single use, disposable, length mid-calf. Isolation Gown - lev	el Each Hom	29,519	29,000	149		370	165	10	10	10	10	10				
Single Use - Overall zip - Level 2	Eachilton	6,079	5,796	107	44	132	46	10	10	10	10	10				
Single Use - Gown - Level 3	Each#Itom	7,525	7,180	97	86	162	61	10	10	10	10	10			Lance Control	
Surgical sterile disposabe standard - Large	Eachilton	4,905	4,905													
Surgical sterile disposabe standard - Medium	Eachfiltem	1,800	1,800													
Goggles, Protective	Each filtern	2,338	2,275	33	10	14	7		-							
Bottle of 100ml & 500ml (isopropyl Alcohol - 15%)	Each / Rom	112				112	50	1	3	á	3	4				
Chlorine	1kq bucket	2,016		2,016												
Hand rub	1L	5,751	5,139	612		-								1,300	30/10/202	
Antiseptic Soap	Each / Item	9,340	3,066	57	19	198	92	3	4	5		5				
Alcohol (Spririt ))70% solution in swab - ALCOWIPE	box/100	1,000	1,000													
Shoe Cover - disposable	Each / Ihom	5,105	3,996	1,030	70	1,030	470	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													

#### **Diagnostics Facilities (Laboratory & Equipment)**

- COVID-19 testing capability remains intact. Currently in use at the NRH is the GeneXpert and qPRC machines.
- All test results validated with samples sent to WHO reference lab abroad and so far, all results remain in agreement with the county test results.
- Gizo Hospital laboratory remains operational and have been conducting tests with the recent 7 nationals who were isolated at Nila. All 7 isolated have graduated on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020.
- Kilufi Hospital testing capabilities are nearing completion with all components deployed. Awaiting calibration kit that is yet to arrive in country.

**Table 7. SUMMARY** - COVID-19 testing at the National Referral Hospital Molecular Laboratory: May to 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

	May	June	July	August	September	October	Nov 1-4	Nov 8-	Total
Number of samples received	19	391	1256	400	1059	819	364	241	4549
Clinical suspect	3	4	6	3	0	3	0	I	20
Quarantine	1	383	1213	387	753	656	333	177	3903
Contact Tracing	0	0	35	О	2	o	6	0	43
Immigration		I	2	5	258	4	2	8	280
Presented with ILI	0	6	17	2	11	18	4	4	62
Surveillance POE						29	0	25	54
Surveillance HW						97	18	16	131
GeneXpert used	19	201	209	23	85	692	366	42	1637
qPCR	0	190	1039	497	974	241	70	209	3220

#### **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 other services providers providing services to the quarantine stations.
- Team conducted decontamination and washing of rooms recently vacated.

#### **Clinical Management**

- 3 new cases have been recorded on the 09<sup>th</sup> of November 2020 with an additional one recorded on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 2020. Contact tracing for the current active cases is ongoing.
- Total of 11 patients are in isolation at the NRH Isolation Ward. All are asymptomatic except for 2 persons with cough symptoms.
- 7 who were isolated at Nila Isolation Ward have graduated and released on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2020 after test results returned negative.
- As of 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2020, there are a total of 5 isolation wards in the country. 4 are government owned and 1 is privately owned (National Fisheries Development).
- 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.
- 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 Team continues to attend to reported incidence of stigmatization of health workers, providing information on health workers risk levels and precautionary measures undertaken when discharging duties to mitigate stigma.
- Weekly radio health program at SIBC ongoing providing weekly updates to public.
- 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.
- 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.

#### 5.3. EDUCATION SECTOR COMMITTEE

- N-DOC Education is facilitating the repatriation of students undertaking studies at universities regionally and internationally. Students finishing off their studies and graduating will be repatriated.
- Travelling allowances for teachers taking annual leave is ongoing with the first batch of payments being made on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2020. The remaining two payments are expected to be made on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of December 2020.
- Coordinate with UNICEF for the delivery of 27 (5000 litres) water tanks to 27 schools in the Shortland Islands. Accessories accompanied with the tanks include taps and fittings. Also delivered are soap, collapsible water containers, and buckets with taps and COVID 19 risk communication materials.
- N-DOC Education and MEHRD Assets Management Division (AMD) facilitated the transfer of funds to Western Provincial Education Authority, ensure the tanks have milled timbers to support the construction of water tank basement.
- Facilitated with assets management team for the signing of Agency Agreement (AA). This AA is for the delivery of stimulus package to schools in Honiara. The package is for the construction of group handwashing stations and rainwater harvesting. Facilitation of signing of Agency agreement with remaining emergency zone schools will soon follow.
- All provinces have been capacitated through the COVID 19 Standard Operating Procedures (COVID 19 safe school's operations) trainings except parts of South Malaita, and Eastern part of Choiseul Province. These will be covered before end of 2020.
- N-DOC team has been providing capacity building on COVID 19 school base Incidental Standard Operating
  Procedures (ISOPs) to schools in emergency zones in collaboration with P-DOCS. This ISOP trainings are
  vital to ensure schools do not panic in any given COVID 19 scenarios and avoid secondary disasters
  including injuries. Rolling out the ISOP and updated ISOPS (given that we now have positive cases of
  COVID 19) are ongoing.
- Learning continuity programmes for all year levels are ongoing, including new electronic resources uploaded in MEHRDs main website.
- Through the MEHRD Communications sub-committee, N-DOC education has engaged in national broadcasting interaction sessions in responding to questions about N-DOC education sector and the key tasks it implements in responding to the current COVID-19 emergency.
- N-DOC Education sector continues to advice schools to practice hygienic practices including regular handwashing and observe social and physical distancing rules through its Comms national radio broadcastings. N-DOC Education sector also continues to advise schools to be vigilant and be ready to

activate their ISOPS in COVID 19 incidences, and ensure 2020 national exams for years 9,11 and 12 are successfully administered and completed.

- Conducted meetings with stakeholders in an effort to map out current areas and regions of COVID 19 response activities:
  - World Vision confirmed working in 50 schools around Honiara.
  - Save the Children working in selected schools in Malaita, Western and Choiseul Provinces.
  - Areas of intervention/response are mainly in school WASH, both in software and hardware for selected schools in the stated provinces. Key components of hardware are rain water harvesting and construction of hand washing stations. Key components of software include training package on WASH in schools, which is supported by UNICEF.
  - MEHRD N-DOC ensures all software messages are unified. Engagement with donor partners is currently on-going to identify gaps and specific areas of need for the improvement and sustaining of WASH in schools in soft but more so on hardware nationally.

#### 5.4. 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.
- On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC) will also have the presence of a Liaison Officer stationed there to provide RSIPF support.
- RSIPF continue conduct routine patrols and enhanced static presence with the deployment of 24 officers to Quarantine Stations.
- RSIPV AUKI and GIZO are supporting border operations.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Border deployment has been completed. The 8<sup>th</sup> deployment is scheduled for today, Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020.
- Joint Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is being worked on by a working group comprising of Immigrations, Financial Intelligence Unit, RSIPF and Customs on trans-national organized crime in the SI-PNG Border.

#### **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.

#### 5.5. SOLOMON ISLANDS RED CROSS SOCIETY

• 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.

- Similar arrangements were utilise in the most recent repatriation for Solomon Islands Fiji based students.
- Supporting the N-DOC Camp Management Committee on deploying trained volunteers to assist in managing the Government Quarantine Stations. Four (4) additional volunteers have been engaged on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November 2020 to provide support.

#### 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.

# • P-DOC Western Updates:

- The SIG On-Site Operations Coordination Centre at Nila (Western Border) is operational and manned by both Western and Choiseul officers with the operational oversight of the RSIPF Forward Command at Kulitanai.
- OSOCC consisting of FAMOA Liaison Officer and members met with FAMOA Reigning Chiefs in Shortlands and informed of the operations of OSOCC. FAMOA Chiefs Council acknowledged presence of OSOCC.
- P-DOC Health Team at Nila and Gizo have overseen the quarantine of the 7 people isolated at Nila.
   All have graduated on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2020. Gizo Hospital Lab conducted a total of 18 COVID tests for the individuals quarantined.
- Environmental Health Department (EHD) currently conducting a two days training for catering teams at Nila Station on food and hygiene. Training started on 23<sup>rd</sup> and will end by today, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020. A total of 32 participants attended the training.
- EHD team currently deployed to support border operations and training for waste management and food hygiene.
- Risk communication against stigmatization for affected communities conducted at Nuhu, Laomana, Harapa and Nila with the help of on-ground Joint Operations Team.
- P-DOC Camp Management Sector Committee and Health deployed to support the ongoing responses in quarantine/isolation. On ground training and capacity building for on ground established and is now functional.
- Quarantine Stations for Western Province has now been gazetted and declared on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2020.

#### • Honiara City Council Updates:

- HCC Clinical Teams continue to support national surveillance with daily health surveillance along quarantine stations.
- Risk Communications Team continue with awareness for the general public and other government ministries.

#### • P-DOC Choiseul Updates:

- Supizae proposed QS works in Choiseul in progress with installation of barrier fencing and tank stands.
- Phase 2 of Taro Hospital fencing completed.
- Health Team to support conducting of pre-departure test before returning to PNG for 2 Bougainvilleans arrested in the middle of this year for illegal entry border entry.

# • P-DOC Malaita Updates:

- Fever clinic at Kilufi completed. Risk communications team is providing information to the public.
- Eye clinic has been upgraded to be used as a triage centre.
- Specific trainings continue to be conducted by health team for enhanced preparedness to deal with any COVID entry from Malaita Outer Islands and Honiara.
- Planning and selection of staff for COVID operations is underway.

 Proposed quarantine sites have been identified with support from the provincial government on the establishment of quarantine stations.

# • P-DOC Renbell Updates:

- Facilitation and coordination of the Tengano RHC fever clinic upgrading project with the National Infrastructure team transport and building materials is now underway.
- PHEOC office communication and administration support improved with presence of a manager, new office equipment, installation of internet and new phones.
- PHEOC conducted review of provincial COVID preparedness and response plans.
- Awareness with schools and communities ongoing.
- Ongoing risk assessment and monitoring conducted at the Lavangu Port area potential risks related to entry of foreign cargo ships.
- Designated location for health screening for all arrivals is in discussion with provincial government and Solomon Airlines.
- Clinic response plans for clinics established and distributed to all clinics.
- Designated staffs for COVID operations finalized and ready for training and formal engagement.
- Temporary isolation facility prepared at Tigoa AHC area while waiting for confirmation of the proposed isolation ward.

## • P-DOC Isabel Updates:

- Risk Communication of PHEOC continue to carry out demonstrations on hand washing.
- All schools visited by Education Officers and Covid-19 awareness conducted with distribution of Covid-19 IEC materials.
- All Head Teachers attended a Response Planning workshop organised by MEHRD in 3 zones and the draft Response Plan now available for reviewing by schools.
- The Camp Management Committee has identified 13 points of entries and have met with community leaders of their importance.
- Continue to deliver COVID-19 Awareness at Buala Market.

# 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's 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.

## 2. Information sharing and communication

• Some Sectors are not providing regular situational updates to the NEOC.

# 3. Spreading of False Information

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

#### 4. Procurement of Resources

• Procurement of some equipment and materials for COVID operations is slow. More specifically is the ongoing need for a generator set for the Area Health Center at Nila, Shortland Islands.

#### 9. RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 1. Coordination

 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 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.
- NEOC to lead public awareness on the revised lockdown plan.

# 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. Procurement of Resources

 Western Province P-DOC recommends to N-DOC Health for the prompt purchase of a generator set for Nila Area Health Centre.

#### 10. NEXT UPDATE AND APPROVAL

Next update upon available information.

APPROVED FOR DISSEMINATION BY

#### DR. MELCHIOR MATAKI

PERMANENT SECRETARY MECDM/CHAIR NDC

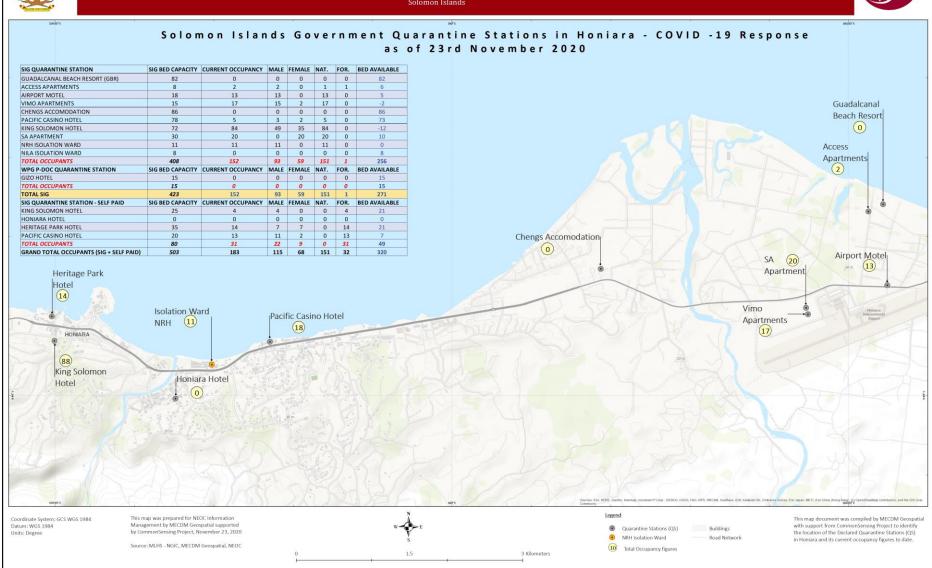
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND METEOROLOGY



#### NATIONAL DISASTER COUNCIL

Ministry of Enviroment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology Post office Box 21, Honiara Solomon Islanda





# **Additional Links**

- 1. National Health Emergency Operations Centre (NHEOC) SITREP 23
  Link... https://bit.ly/39c0VZA
- 2. Western Provincial Health Emergency Operations Centre SITREP 30 Link... https://bit.ly/398jHAP
- 3. Gazette for Declared Quarantine Stations for Western & Choiseul Provinces Link... <a href="https://bit.ly/398yvzo">https://bit.ly/398yvzo</a>