



# NATIONAL DISASTER COUNCIL

## NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT OFFICE

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## NATIONAL SITUATIONAL REPORT – 19

Ref: NSR19\_01/21

**EVENT ID:** COVID-19  
**EVENT:** SIG Response to COVID-19  
**PERIOD:** 02<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 – 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021  
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**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. GENERAL UPDATES

- Solomon Islands has so far recorded 17 COVID-19 cases.
- Out of the 17 COVID recorded cases, 15 have recovered (returned negative test results).
- The total number of active cases to date stands at 2.
- Total persons remaining in SIG Quarantine Stations and Isolation as of 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021 stands at **154**.
- 3 persons still remain in Isolation at the Central Field Hospital.
- 3 repatriation flights were conducted on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of December 2020 and 10<sup>th</sup> of January, 2021. These brought in nationals studying in various institutions in Fiji as well as other nationals and foreigners.
- A total of 289 returnees graduated and released on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of January, 2021.
- Other repatriation flights are also proposed for January and February of 2021.
- Application for vaccine through COVAX and GAVI has been submitted by the Ministry of Health and Medical Services. SI National Coordinating Committee (NCC) for COVAX has been established and TOR finalized.
- SIG agencies comprised of the National Emergency Response Team (NERT), Solomon Islands Medical Assistance Team (SOLMAT), St. John Ambulance Staffs and RSPIF were deployed to Pelau, Malaita Outer Islands (MOI) on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December, 2020 to detain four PNG nationals from Tasman Islands who illegally entered the country. All four are now undergoing quarantine while investigations are being carried out. Contact tracing carried by SOLMAT also resulted in the quarantining of 8 other locals who came into close contact with the foreigners.
- A recent food relief was conducted for Shortland Islands by the Sector Committee for Livelihood under the Provincial Disaster Operations Committee (P-DOC) for Western Province with support from the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December, 2020. This food relief covered both Inner and Outer Shortlands.
- A recent “on the job” training was successfully conducted for eight (8) Quarantine Stations Managers for Western and Choiseul Provinces on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December 2020 to 07<sup>th</sup> of January, 2021 at Honiara. The two weeks attachment was jointly hosted by the NEOC and the Camp Management Sector Committee to give first-hand experience, skills and knowledge on how to manage Quarantine Stations and work along the partners and stakeholders working under the National Disaster Council (NDC) Operational Arrangements. The NEOC is now working on expanding the training program to three other provinces.
- The Oversight Committee (OSC) decision to ban food and goods going into Quarantine Stations is still in force. Exemption remains for essential goods and services for special needs group (children and babies, special diet group with existing health conditions and those requiring clothing due to luggage offload).

### **GLOBAL SITUATION IN NUMBERS**

The numbers are based on [WHO Situation Report \(Dash Board\)](#) as of 11:49am CET, 14 January 2021

#### **Globally**

90, 759, 370 confirmed positive cases reported

1, 963, 169 deaths confirmed deaths

#### **Western Pacific Region**

1, 227, 622 confirmed positive cases

21, 756 confirmed deaths

### 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 has so far recorded 17 COVID-19 cases. Fifteen (15) have recovered (returned negative test results). Total number of active cases to date stands at 2. All positive cases are taken care of at the Central Field Hospital and monitored on a daily basis.
- Formerly positive cases who have been released after meeting health requirements are being traced by the MHMS; however, two have been noted to have gone off the reach of the contact tracing team from the MHMS.
- Solomon Islands remains under a State of Public Emergency (SOPE) since the declaration of the first SOPE on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 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.
- Essential cargo flights are also being done on need- basis to support COVID-19 operations. International trade continues with Honiara and Noro ports operating with strict measures in place for all incoming foreign vessels.

### 4. SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

#### 4.1 OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE & NATIONAL DISASTER OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

- The 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 maintains its COVID-19 Preparedness and Responses including addressing 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 still enforced as part of the Emergency Powers (COVID-19) Regulation 2020 still exists.
- Government through the OSC continues with its weekly 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 his 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 has conducted a total of 17 approved repatriation flights using commercial airlines with the recent one on 10<sup>th</sup> of January 2021 in which 124 Solomon Islanders and foreign nationals were repatriated. Other proposed repatriation flights are underway with risk assessments also being conducted. All incoming travellers are requested to take heed and comply with the [Joint Travel Advisory No.4](#) which is still in force.

- Revised lockdown plan should there be a community transmission and based on lessons learnt from previous lockdowns and new triggers identified by MHMS was endorsed by the OSC. Roll out of the lockdown plan by NEOC and its media stakeholders is ongoing to ensure the county is aware.

## 4.2. REPATRIATION FLIGHTS

The 17<sup>th</sup> approved repatriation flight with 124 passengers was successfully conducted on 10<sup>th</sup> of January 2021. This brings the total of Solomon Islanders and other foreign nationals to 1,700 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-20	Solomon Airlines	IE663	Brisbane, Australia	74
2	27-May-20	Solomon Airlines	IE665	Nadi, Fiji	104
3	30-Jun-20	Solomon Airlines	IE676	Brisbane, Australia	124
4	01-Jul-20	Solomon Airlines	IE678	Nadi, Fiji	133
5	08-Jul-20	Solomon Airlines	IE684	Brisbane, Australia	52
6	21-Jul-20	Solomon Airlines	IE690	Brisbane, Australia	125
7	23-Jul-20	Solomon Airlines	IE692	Auckland, New Zealand	145
8	29-Jul-20	Solomon Airlines	IE694	Brisbane, Australia	44
9	23-Aug-20	Solomon Airlines	IE608	Apia, Samoa	21
10	02-Sep-20	Solomon Airlines	IE611	Guangzhou, China	106
11	15-Sep-20	Solomon Airlines	IE616	Brisbane, Australia	104
12	27-Sep-20	Solomon Airlines	IE621	Manila, Philippines	96
13	25-Oct-20	Solomon Airlines	IE622	Brisbane, Australia	128
14	19-Nov-20	Solomon Airlines	IE626/IE627	Tarawa, Kiribati	124
15	29-Dec-20	Solomon Airlines	IE638	Nadi, Fiji	140
16	30-Dec-20	Solomon Airlines	IE640	Nadi, Fiji	141
17	10-Jan-21	Solomon Airlines	IE642	Nadi, Fiji	124
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>1,785</b>

## 4.3. QUARANTINE STATIONS & ISOLATION WARDS

A total of 26 Quarantine Stations have been declared and established. The Government through Camp Managements Sector Committee is managing seventeen (16) Quarantine Stations (*Refer to Table 2*). The remaining 10 Quarantine Stations are classified as Diplomatic Quarantine Stations. There are also 3 Isolation Wards currently operating in the country.

**Table 2. SUMMARY** - Occupancy by Quarantine Stations & Isolation Wards (as of 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021)

<b>SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT PAID</b>				
QUARANTINE STATIONS	BED CAPACITY	CURRENT OCCUPANCY	MALE	FEMALE
Guadalcanal Beach Resort (GBR)	82	0	0	0

Access Apartments	8	4	4	0
Airport Motel	20	0	0	0
VIMO Apartments	15	0	0	0
Chengs Accommodation	82	0	0	0
SA Apartments	30	30	30	0
Pacific Casino Hotel	78	78	37	41
King Solomon Hotel	107	0	0	0
DIDDS Accommodation	30	0	0	0
Nusatupe	46	0	0	0
Noro Lodge	38	0	0	0
Supizae Bungalows	8	0	0	0
Tuha Takuho Bungalows	8	0	0	0
Gizo Hotel	15	0	0	0
Malaita Outer Islands (Pelau)	12	12	10	2
<b>ISOLATION WARDS</b>	<b>BED CAPACITY</b>	<b>CURRENT OCCUPANCY</b>	<b>MALE</b>	<b>FEMALE</b>
NRH Isolation Ward	11	0	0	0
Field Hospital	56	3	3	0
Nila Isolation Ward	8	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL OCCUPANCY</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>43</b>

#### SELF PAID

<b>QUARANTINE STATION</b>	<b>BED CAPACITY</b>	<b>CURRENT OCCUPANCY</b>	<b>MALE</b>	<b>FEMALE</b>
King Solomon Hotel	25	0	0	0
Honiara Hotel	58	21	3	18
Heritage Park Hotel	35	6	6	0
Pacific Casino Hotel	20	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL OCCUPANCY</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>18</b>

*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	83	61	144
Foreign Nationalities	10	0	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>154</b>

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

QUARANTINE STATION	CURRENT OCCUPANCY
Guadalcanal Beach Resort (GBR)	15
Access Apartments	1
Airport Motel	1
VIMO Apartments	1
Chengs Accommodation	2
SA Apartments	2
Heritage Park Hotel	2
FNU House (NRH)	12
NDC Warehouse (GBR)	1
Honiara Hotel	0
King Solomon Hotel	2
Pacific Casino Hotel	2
Siriheti Accommodation	10
DIDDS Accommodation	0
KGVI Dormitory	3
<b>TOTAL OCCUPANCY</b>	<b>54</b>

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

##### 4.4.1. FISHING VESSELS

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

<b>Vessel name</b>	<b>FV ZHONGSHUI 811</b>
<b>Port of Registry</b>	YANTAI, CHINA
<b>Last Port of call</b>	
<b>ETA Port</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> Jan. 2021 - Honiara
<b>Purpose for Port Entry</b>	Unloading of frozen tuna
<b>Company/ Agent</b>	CNFC Overseas Fisheries CO., Ltd.
<b>Comment</b>	Vessel authorized to enter port. Health Team to assess whether to quarantine for further days or not.

<b>Vessel name</b>	<b>FV SS303</b>
<b>Port of Registry</b>	HONIARA, SOLOMON ISLANDS
<b>Last Port of call</b>	
<b>ETA Port</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> Jan. 2021 - Honiara
<b>Purpose for Port Entry</b>	Unloading of frozen tuna
<b>Company/ Agent</b>	Southern Seas Logistics Ltd.
<b>Comment</b>	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.
- The current occupancy status at SIG Quarantine Stations stands at **154** (*Refer to Table 2 and 3 for details*).
- A total of 289 returnees graduated and released on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of January, 2021.
- CMSC Team jointly conducted the on-the-Job Training for Western and Choiseul Camp Management Team (QS Managers) on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December, 2020 to 07<sup>th</sup> of January, 2021. A total of 8 QS Managers took part in the training.
- OSC decision to ban food and goods going into Quarantine Stations is still in force. Special exemption remains for essential goods for special needs group which includes children and babies, special diet group with existing health complications and those requiring clothing during repatriation due to luggage offloads.
- Decision made by OSC on the 08<sup>th</sup> of January, 2021 with recommendation for one delivery point. QS Managers and CMSC EOC Team will facilitate these goods. Request for exemptions is to be made through the CMSC EOC.
- KGVI has been released back to MEHRD and will not operate as a quarantine station unless otherwise directed by relevant authorities.
- CMSC Team consisting of NERT members deployed to Pelau, MOI facilitated the admission of the 4 foreigners and 8 locals who came into close contact with them on the 29<sup>th</sup> of December, 2020. All are serving their quarantine period based on risk assessment conducted by MHMS.
- Training was also conducted for Police officers posted at Pelau and local youths voluntarily engaged to look after those quarantined on Quarantine Station regulations and guidelines, protocols, food handlings and tips on waste management.



## 5.2. HEALTH SECTOR COMMITTEE

### Health Coordination and Responses

- N-DOC Health maintains the leading role in the health aspects of 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 as well as the provinces.
- NHEOC continue with IPC and PPE training.
- Total active cases to date stands at 2.
- 3 persons remain in isolation at the Central Field Hospital. This includes the 2 active cases and 1 recovered patient who is still being monitored.
- Quarantine monitoring for all persons in quarantine and swabbing as per quarantine testing protocol ongoing.
- Application for vaccine through COVAX and GAVI has been submitted by the Ministry of Health and Medical Services. SI National Coordinating Committee (NCC) for COVAX has been established and TOR finalized.
- COVID-19 testing capability (GeneXpert) have been established at the National Public Health Laboratory at the Solomon Islands National University. The machine that also came with a laptop was among a total of 14 GeneXpert machines initially funded by Global Fund through WHO program to support national TB initiatives. All of the GeneXpert machines have already been distributed across the provinces except for the one which has been repurposed to support with work of the National Public Health Laboratory.
- On 22 December over 3 GeneXpert cartridges and 600 GeneXpert calibration kits were received from WHO & Australia DFAT.
- Health quarantine continues with the monitoring/rapid assessment and maintenance of IPC and environmental health standards in all Quarantine Stations.
- Monitoring of food caterers and assessment of location/space for food preparation conducted with corrective measures undertaken to ensure food and water hygiene for all persons in quarantine stations.

## 5.3. 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 the coordination role on safety and security aspects of 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 and enhanced static presence with the deployment of 25 officers to Quarantine Stations.
- RSIPV AUKI and GIZO are supporting border operations.
- RSIPF continues with its awareness programs to communities in the Shortland Islands.
- RSIPV GIZO was deployed to Malaita Outer Islands with RSIPF Officers alongside SOLMAT and NERT on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December, 2020.

## 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, UNDP and ADB have greatly supported and assisted the Government's Response.

## **8. CHALLENGES AND GAPS**

### **1. Stigmatization**

- Continuous stigmatization of health workers, quarantine persons released and other frontline officers continues to be observed.

### **2. Fear of Community Transmission**

- There is fear among the general public that persons released from quarantine might later become positive again sparking community transmission.

### **3. Resourcing of Provinces**

- Testing capabilities and resources of provinces under the declared emergency zones is still lacking. With the recent illegal border entry at the Malaita Outer Islands, it has been noted that there is still lack of resources should these kinds of scenarios trigger positive cases.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **1. Stigmatization**

- MHMS and SIG to conduct continuous monitoring of both traditional and online media content to maintain trust among general public to reduce fear of stigmatization and health as the government lead agency in the COVID-19 operations.

### **2. Fear of Community Transmission**

- MHMS, NEOC and its media stakeholders to ensure roll-out of the lockdown plan continues to be rolled out to the Honiara municipality and surrounding communities so that the general public is fully aware of what to do should there be a community transmission.
- MHMS to step up the monitoring of formerly positive COVID persons who have tested negative and released from quarantine stations.

### **3. Resourcing of Provinces**

- Resourcing of provinces testing capabilities and existing health facilities must be stepped up to ensure the country is fully prepared for a possible COVID outbreak.



## 10. NEXT UPDATE AND APPROVAL

Next update upon available information.

APPROVED FOR DISSEMINATION BY

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**DR. MELCHIOR MATAKI**

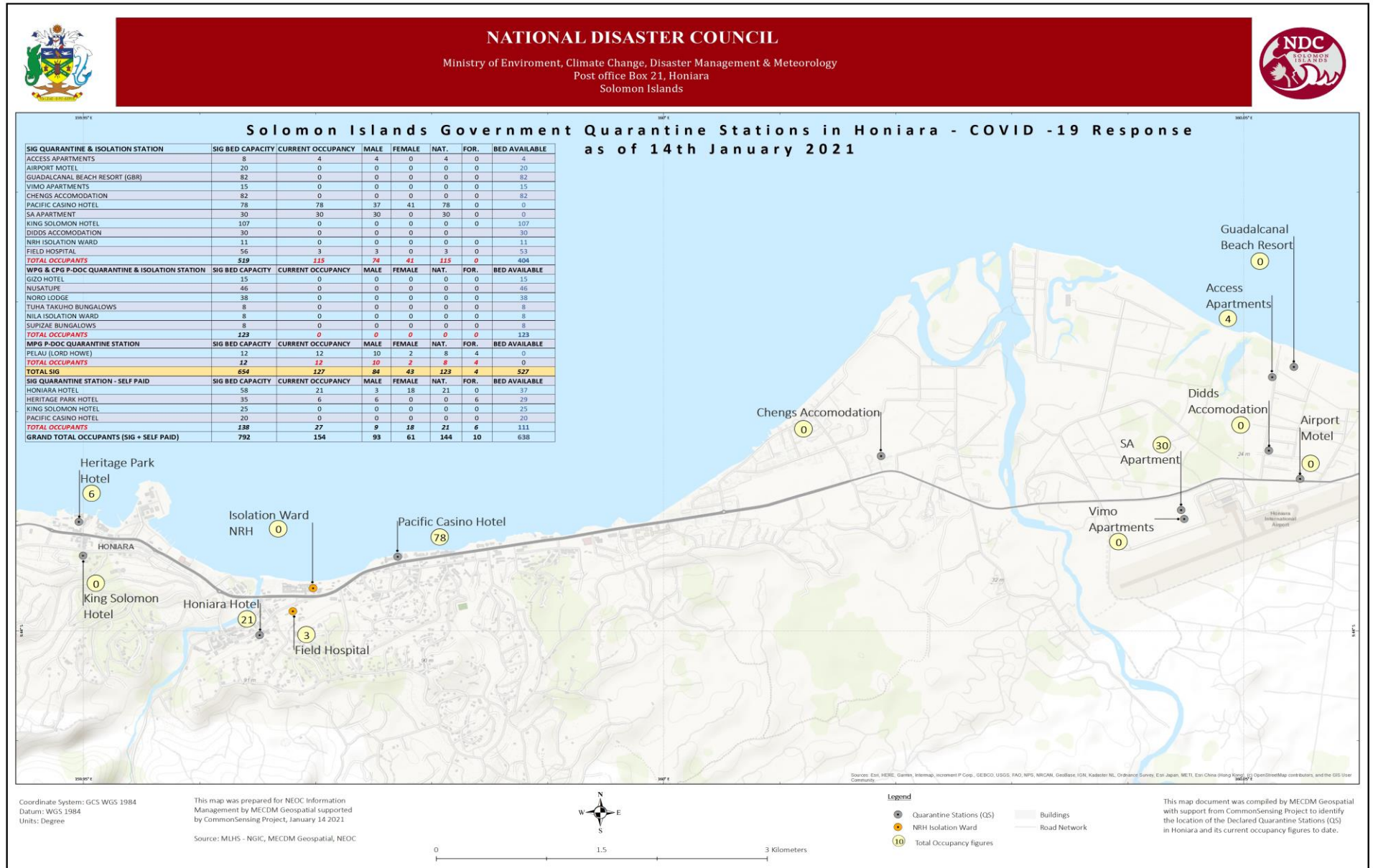
**PERMANENT SECRETARY MECDM/CHAIR NDC**

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE,**

**DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND METEOROLOGY**

## 11. ANNEX

**Map 1. SUMMARY – Total Persons in Quarantine and Isolation as of 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**



## **Additional Links**

1. *National Health Emergency Operations Centre (NHEOC) SITREP 26*

Link... <https://bit.ly/2XCWkbH>

2. *SIG Lockdown Guide*

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

3. *SIG Lockdown Plan*

Link... <https://bit.ly/2I0W2Y8>

4. *SIG News Release*

Link... [Articles – My SIG Services Portal \(solomons.gov.sb\)](#)