



NATIONAL DISASTER COUNCIL

NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT OFFICE

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NATIONAL SITUATIONAL REPORT – 20

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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 recorded another 2 COVID-19 cases on the 28th of March and 09th of April, 2021. This brings the number of cases recorded to 20.
- Initial 18 cases recorded since last year were all cleared and patients discharged back into their communities.
- A total of 74 persons graduated and released on the 02nd and 06th of April, 2021 after completing all quarantine requirements.
- A series of flights were conducted on the 02nd – 11th of April, 2021.
- Total persons remaining in Solomon Islands Government (SIG) paid and self-paid Quarantine Stations as of 10th April, 2021 stands at **150**.
- Parliament has passed the motion to extend the current State of Public Emergency (SOPE) for another four months.
- SIG Joint Operations Team (SIG-JOT) deployed to the On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC) Nila, Shortland Islands on the 29th of March, 2021 to help out with the border responses.
- The official transfer certificate for the handing over and receiving of 50,000 Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines donated by the People’s Republic of China was signed on the 12th of April, 2021 at the Prime Minister’s Office by SIG and PRC.
- Total number of people in the country vaccinated in the National COVID Vaccination Rollout as of 11th April, 2021 stands at 3,085.

GLOBAL SITUATION IN NUMBERS

The numbers are based on [WHO Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Dashboard](#) as of 2:37pm CEST, 12 April 2021

Globally

135,646,617 confirmed cases

2,930,732 deaths

687,681,317 vaccine doses administered as of 10 April 2021

Western Pacific Region

2,095,750 confirmed cases

33,708 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.
- To date, approximately 3,000 plus persons have been repatriated and gone through quarantine process. This are persons who have entered the country through commercial, cargo and military flights.
- Solomon Islands has so far recorded 20 COVID-19 cases. Eighteen (18) cases recorded since last year have recovered (returned negative test results) and patients discharged back into their communities. Total number of active cases to date stands at 2. Positive cases are in isolation and taken care of and monitored on a daily basis.
- Formerly positive cases who have been released after meeting health requirements are being traced by the MHMS for routine follow-ups.
- Solomon Islands remains under a State of Public Emergency (SOPE) since the declaration of the first SOPE on the 25th 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 increase in cases and the potential of importation through this border.
- Essential cargo flights are also being done on need- basis. International trade continues with Honiara and Noro ports operating with strict measures in place for all incoming 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 with Health Sector Committee leading the health aspects and Camp Management Sector Committee maintains and continue to manage all the SIG approved Quarantine Stations (QS). Broader coordination is through the N-DOC arrangements.
- Restriction on movement of small crafts on the Solomon Islands-PNG border still enforced as part of the Emergency Powers (COVID-19) Regulation 2020.
- Government through the OSC continues with its weekly Radio Talk Back Show based on the messaging strategy of ‘IUMI TUGETA AGAINST COVID 19’.
- 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.
- The country’s SOPE has been extended to another four months after the previous one ended on the 24th of March, 2021. His Excellency, The Governor General made the declaration on the same date the SOPE expired.
- SIG Joint Operations Team (SIG-JOT) deployed to help with border operations left on the 29th of March, 2021 from Honiara to Kulitanai, Shortland Islands. Team composition comprised of eight personnel from the National and Provincial Health supported by the National Emergency Response Team (NERT). SIG-JOT are operating from the OSOCC at Nila, Shortland Islands. This is a step up in response to the increase in community transmission cases in Papua New Guinea and Bougainville.
- NEOC with all agencies who are engaged in responses on the Western Declared Emergency Zone have finalized a response plan called the ‘SIG Western Border COVID-19 Response Plan 2021’ for joint response at the Western Border. This plan also takes into account different scenarios involving cross-border activities (legal and illegal) that will trigger the appropriate responses to counter these activities.

4.2. REPATRIATION FLIGHTS

- A series of flights were conducted on the 02nd - 11th of April, 2021 respectively.
- A total of nine flights are scheduled for the month of April.
- SIG repatriation flights has stopped. Most entry into the Country are foreign nationals through chartered flights and cargo flights from Brisbane via Solomon Airlines.

4.3. QUARANTINE STATIONS & ISOLATION WARDS

- Total persons in SIG paid and self-paid Quarantine Stations as of 10th April 2021 stands at **150**.
- Quarantine Stations currently occupied are:
 - i. Pacific Casino Hotel – 27 occupants
 - ii. Honiara Hotel – 39 occupants
 - iii. Heritage Park Hotel – 40 occupants
 - iv. Guadalcanal Beach Resort (GBR) – 16 occupants
 - v. SA Apartments – 28 occupants
- 2 active cases remain in isolation at the National Referral Hospital Isolation Ward.

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

4.4.1. FISHING VESSELS

Table 1. SUMMARY – Fishing Vessels Monitored Operating in the SI EEZ

Vessel name	FV JIN JINN YI NO.33
Port of Registry	KAOHSIUNG, TAIWAN
Last Port of call	08 th March, 2021 - Honiara
ETA Port	08 th April, 2021 - Honiara
Purpose for Port Entry	Unloading of frozen tuna & crew disembarking
Company/ Agent	Global Fishery Ltd., Solomon Islands
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)

- As of 19th March, 2021, the Camp Management Sector Committee (CMSC) has scaled down operations, released most officers and volunteers and retained limited number to manage QSSs.
- Five Quarantine Stations have been closed and are no longer operating as Quarantine Stations as of 01st April, 2021. To date, only two SIG Quarantine Stations and four Hotels are operating within the Honiara Declared Emergency Zone.
- The current occupancy status stands at **150**.
- A total of 74 persons graduated and released on the 02nd and 06th of April, 2021 after completing all quarantine requirements.
- SIG personnel deployed for security and health related components are accommodated at GBR Commanders Post, Siriheti Accommodation, FNU House and Kiwi House. RSIPF continue with providing overall security.
- Catering services is provided to Quarantine Stations by Women and Church Groups. Catering includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.
- Decontamination of Quarantine Stations and management of clinical waste is provided by Health while General waste management is looked after by the CMSC.

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. Active cases remain in isolation at the NRH Isolation Ward.
- Four National health personnel from NHEOC deployed with the SIG-JOT to support border operations.
- Total number of people vaccinated as of 11th April, 2021 stands at 3,085. NHEOC continues to support and enhance ongoing COVID vaccination operations, and promotion of other ongoing public health measures to prevent and protect all from COVID-19.
- The official transfer certificate for the handing over and receiving of 50,000 Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines donated by the People's Republic of China was signed on the 12th of April, 2021 by PRC Ambassador to Solomon Islands and the Health Minister witnessed by the Prime Minister.

5.3. SAFETY AND SECURITY

Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF)

- 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 to Quarantine Stations.
- Vaccination sensitization for Kulitanai officers and staff was conducted on the 04th of April, 2021. This serves as a chance to inform officers who are yet to be vaccinated as well as given the opportunity to discuss any issues regarding vaccination.
- RSIPF personnel at the border addressed the FAMOA Council of Chiefs on the 07th of April, 2021 and called for cooperation to support the joint operations team.
- RSIPF Team is also on standby to support risk communication roll out by health team in the coming days.

6. P-DOC SECTOR COMMITTEE UPDATES

On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC)

- Provincial Disaster Operations Committee (P-DOC) for Western and Choiseul are manning and supporting the OSOCC with the deployment of personnel and resources down to the border.
- Western P-DOC deployed four health personnel along with the SIG-JOT.
- P-DOC Choiseul provided 200 litres of diesel fuel to assist OSOCC fuel needs for operation use (fuelling of Genset).
- Scoping survey for Clinic Preparedness and Response completed for all clinics in Shortland Islands with report and recommendation to assist vaccination roll out planning as well as future deployments for health expected to be ready by 14th of April, 2021.
- FAMOA Council of Chiefs meeting successfully completed on the 07th of April, 2021. Attendees happy to get the message out to their communities and support the vaccination roll out.
- Public Perception of COVID-19 Vaccination Survey still continuing along the Shortland's and targeted sites for vaccination with almost 50% of the interviewed agreeing to get vaccinated while the other 50% awaiting better understanding of the vaccines before taking part.
- Reassessment of advanced triage Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) workflow carried out to reactivate the advanced triage bay for fever flu in Nila Area Health Centre. The setup takes in to account the limited nursing staff available.
- SIG-JOT visited all Western Border clinics on Shortland's and carried out assessments. Final reports will be compiled and submitted to relevant authorities for decision making.
- All Western Border clinics on Shortland's are now restocked with PPEs.
- Community Vaccination Sensitization was successfully completed for Tuha Community, St. Anne's Vocational School, Nuhu Community and Nila Community as of the 10th of April, 2021. Proposed risk communication is also scheduled for Toumoa Community.
- IPC refresher training was successfully conducted for RSIPF officers deployed on the 08th of April, 2021.
- Community Policing (COMPOL) continues with efforts on ground to ensure communities are safe and assisting with security efforts on ground.
- Logistics planning for vaccination roll out underway to help support the AEFI team. A formal report will be submitted to MHMS for actioning.

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. OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES AND GAPS

- Resources for the step-up in Western Border Operation including at Ontong Java yet to be disbursed.
- Resources to support OSOCC has been seen as a challenge with faulty genset and lack of fuel supply causing power outage and interruptions to daily workflow.
- Deteriorating infrastructures – ceiling and veneer walling at temporary Isolation and Triage buildings at Nila.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Resourcing of Western Border Operation including the OSOCC to be fast-tracked.
- Nila temporary Isolation and Triage buildings need to be repaired as soon as possible

10. NEXT UPDATE AND APPROVAL

Next update upon available information.

APPROVED FOR DISSEMINATION BY

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MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE,
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Additional Links

1. *National Health Emergency Operations Centre (NHEOC) SITREP38*
Link... <https://bit.ly/2PYwtuu>
2. *National Health Emergency Operations Centre (NHEOC) SITREP39*
Link... <https://bit.ly/3a6kKkJ>
3. *SIG Western Border COVID-19 Response Plan 2021*
Link... <https://bit.ly/2OGVRo0>
4. *SIG News Release*
Link... [Articles – My SIG Services Portal \(solomons.gov.sb\)](https://solomons.gov.sb/Articles-My-SIG-Services-Portal)