



NATIONAL DISASTER COUNCIL

NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology,
Post Office Box 21, Honiara, Solomon Islands

| Phone: (677) 27936/7, 27063 | Toll-free: 955 | Fax: (677) 24293 / 27060 |

E-mail : directorndc@solomon.com.sb



NATIONAL SITUATIONAL REPORT 03

Ref: NSR03_04/20

EVENT ID: **COVID-19**
EVENT: SIG Response to COVID-19
DATE OF ISSUE: **Thursday, 9 April 2020**
TIME OF ISSUE: 14:25
APPROVED BY: **Oversight Committee for COVID-19**
ISSUED BY: National Emergency Operations Centre
NEXT UPDATE: **Wednesday 15th April 2020**

Contents

A. HIGHLIGHTS	1
B. CURRENT SITUATION.....	1
C. SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS	2
D. SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	2
E. N-DOC SECTOR COMMITTEE.....	2
F. P-DOC SECTOR RESPONSE	6
G. OTHER NATIONAL SUPPORT	6
H. OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES AND GAPS	6
I. RECOMMENDATIONS	7
J. NEXT UPDATE	7
K. ANNEXE.....	8

A. HIGHLIGHTS

- Government established the Joint Oversight Committee (OSC) for COVID-19 under the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.
- Government approved SBD\$137 million to support the country’s response to COVID-19.
- National Disaster Operations Committee for Camp Management (N-DOC Camp Management) has taken over establishment and management of all SIG Institutional Quarantine Facilities (IQF) from N-DOC Health Sector Committee on Monday 23rd March 2020.
- Solomon Islands declared as in a “**State of Public Health Emergency**” (SOE) at 1400 hours on Wednesday 25th March 2020 by His Excellency the Governor General.
- National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) elevated activation from “Standby Activation to Full-On Activation mode” at 1400 hours on Wednesday 25th March 2020.
- National Disaster Operations Sector Committees (N-DOC Sectors) all activated to Full-On Activation Mode on the same date as the NEOC. Initially was only the N-DOC Health and Camp Management Sector Committees.
- Honiara (Alligator Creek to Poha) declared as the Emergency Zone by the Honourable Prime Minister on Friday 27th March 2020.
- Provincial Disaster Council (PDC)/Provincial Disaster Operations Committees (P-DOC) on all ten Provinces and Honiara Municipality has step up preparedness for response to COVID-19.

B. CURRENT SITUATION

The N-DOC Sector Committees are currently planning and implementing their operations based on the Preparedness and Response Plan that is informed by SIG’s COVID-19 graded response structure for case scenarios 1-3. The case scenarios specify actions to be taken for zero up to 5 confirmed cases of COVID-19.

C. SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

The rationales of the scenario choices are based on the following key factors:

- Flights to Australia, Fiji, PNG and Vanuatu continue, although these have been scaled down drastically to flights to and from Australia only (Passenger flights ceased on Friday 27th March 2020, but open on need basis for essential cargo service)
- Seaports (Honiara and Noro) continue to operate
- Sufferance wharves continue to operate
- Suspect cases in isolation awaiting test results
- Home based quarantining present's challenges in terms of adhering to advice/instructions provided by authorities
- Rapid increase in number of positive COVID-19 cases across 199 countries and territories

D. SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

- Oversight Committee was established by Cabinet to provide strategic direction on a whole-of-government planning and response to COVID-19
- Health Sector Committee initially led the response and now leading the health aspect of it with broader coordination through the National Disaster Operations Committee (N-DOC) as of 25th March 2020, following the declaration of a **State of Public Emergency** on 25th March 2020, Pursuant to Section 16(2) of the Constitution by the Governor General
- N-DOC Sector Committees are activated and committees are fully operational with Health and Camp Management being the initial priority committees. Other committees will be fully resourced to carry out their preparedness and response plans
- N-DOC Sector Committees consolidated a COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan (PRP) with combined budget of SBD\$137 million which was endorsed by the Oversight Committee including a budget of approximately SBD\$88 million for immediate priorities
- National Emergency Response Team (NERT) was activated to support Health Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), Honiara City Council EOC, Guadalcanal Province EOC and Camp Management EOC
- Government on-going talk back show and national two weeks of pray is underway
- Oversight Committee is working with development partners and multilateral banks to support SIG implement the PRP including an economic stimulus package

E. N-DOC SECTOR COMMITTEE

E1. CAMP MANAGEMENT SECTOR COMMITTEE (Institutional Quarantine Sites)

Partners: NERT, Solomon Islands Red Cross, World Vision International SI, Churches

- **Current occupancy in all five IQFs is 22 persons** (16 males and 6 females)
- Guadalcanal Beach Resort (GBR) shoreline perimeter fencing damaged by Cyclone Harold on 03/04/2020
- VIMO is now empty and decontamination completed on 06/04/2020. Cleaning and tidying is in progress
- 9 people have completed their quarantine term from GBR on 06/04/2020
- 12 people have completed their quarantine term from National Hosting Authority on 08/04/2020
- 15 people from GBR and 3 people from Pacific Casino Hotel will complete their quarantine time on 10/04/2020
- 4 Solomon Airlines crew are being quarantined at Pacific Casino Hotel beginning today (08/04/2020)

Table 1: Summary of Quarantine Sites as of 08/04/2020

IQF	No. of Rooms	Bed Capacity	Current Occupancy	Male	Female	Available Capacity
Guadalcanal Beach Resort (GBR)	62	110	15	11	4	95
National Hosting Authority	5	18	0	0	0	18
VIMO Apartments	8	11	0	0	0	11
Pacific Casino	7	7	7	5	2	0
King George VI	150	300	0	0	0	300
TOTAL	232	446	22	16	6	424

E2. HEALTH SECTOR COMMITTEE

- Continues to strengthen relationship with other N-DOC Sectors, SIG agencies and external stakeholders and partners as a mechanism of resource pooling and coordinated response in supporting the N-DOC Health
- Required medical supplies are on pipeline and expected to be in country soon
- Work in progress in finalizing the triage and isolation arrangements with extended scope to support additional Institutional Quarantine Facilities (IQF)
- Work in progress in reviewing of Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) SOPs on ensuring IPC standards are maintained to approved global standards
- Work in progress on MHMS/N-DOC Health preparation for possible Honiara lockdown on COVID-19. Preparation in progress for a planned mock exercise for various N-DOC Health teams
- IPC and Infrastructure Team to visit Kilu’ufi and Gizo Hospital to assess MHMS/Provincial Health Authorities readiness for COVID-19
- N-DOC health currently planning to establish a joint assessment to review Point of Entry (POE) operations in both Honiara and Noro in light of immigration concerns on POEs. Assessment guideline and checklist development including implementation and monitoring and evaluation is under consideration
- Surveillance on IQFs and Home Based is ongoing
- 96 persons/individuals are on Home Based Quarantine (04/04/2020)
- Risk Communications continues to disseminate COVID-19 leaflets

E3. INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR COMMITTEE

- All activities are ongoing

E4. LIVELIHOOD SECTOR COMMITTEE

Partners: FAO, WFP, UNICEF, Oxfam, WVI, UNDP, UNWomen, HCC

- Livelihood Sector Committee and HCC to renovate Kukum Market and start mobile market initiative

- All other activities are ongoing at the planning phase (budget yet to be released)

E5. EDUCATION SECTOR COMMITTEE

Partners: UNICEF, Save the Children Australia

- All activities are ongoing at the planning stage

E6. PROTECTION SECTOR COMMITTEE

Partners: UNWomen, UNICEF, WVI, Oxfam (co-chair) Save the Children Australia, SIRCS

- Developed awareness materials with support by DFAT
- Save the Children to deliver support materials for children at IQFs
- Developed complaint mechanism checklist to disseminate at IQFs
- Oxfam to look at waste management at IQFs and support with dissemination of awareness materials (hard copies and media talk back shows)
- Live & Learn SI and SIRCS support P-DOC Health Sector Committee to disseminate protection awareness materials

E7. SAFETY AND SECURITY

E7.1. ROYAL SOLOMON ISLANDS POLICE FORCE (RSIPF)

- Police COVID-19 Operation Order endorsed by the Police Executive on 30th March 2020
- All Provincial Police Forward Command Posts (PFCP) have been fully activated in support of COVID-19 Operations
- RSIPF Human Resources Department together with MHMS continue to conduct health & safety awareness program to Police Officers in the Provinces
- Conduct close monitoring of the SOE orders announced by the Prime Minister and regular patrols to IQFs in Honiara City

E7.1.1. RSIPF PROVINCIAL RESPONSES

Western Province

- RSIPF continued with COVID-19 awareness programs at Seghe, Ringi, Munda and Noro area with support from P-DOC Health
- Deployed a team consisting of P-DOC Health, Livelihood and Camp Management to Shortland to identify potential sites to be used as IQFs. Nila High School identified as a potential IQF with the old Nila Clinic as Isolation Facility once renovated
- Team also deployed to Noro to identify potential IQFs and Isolation Facility Sites
- PS Western Province/Chair PDC has issued notice for the closure of Gizo market on Saturdays and Sundays

Isabel Province

- Five Joint awareness teams comprising of Health, Police and Disaster Management Office of Isabel Province commenced COVID-19 awareness to communities

Temotu Province

- Operation briefing has been conducted and activation of PFCP already commenced on the 29/03/2020
- Police are on surveillance in Lata to disperse gathering of people

Choiseul Province

- PRT Officers serving at Border Posts conduct regular patrols to restrict cross-border movements between Solomon Islands and Bougainville
- Provincial Emergency Operation Centre (PEOC) has been activated as of Thursday 2nd April 2020 with five (5) members, which includes PPC Choiseul (P-DOC Chair) and Provincial Secretary (PDC Chair)
- Working progress on Budget and Evacuation Plans with regards to events when the country identified positive case in the Province or in an event when the Province establishes a quarantine facility for COVID-19 suspects
- Working progress on identifying potential IQFs and Isolation Facilities for confirmed positive cases
- Food supply plans was also covered in preparations towards COVID-19
- RSIPF Choiseul deployed two teams on patrol purposes whilst also tasked to conduct COVID-19 awareness at Moli (Pimadara Village) and Lituni and Legavana, South Choiseul

Issues and Gaps

- **RSIPF Security Concern on Lockdown** as province is still on preparation mode and awaiting clear guidance

Rennell & Bellona Province

- No report received for today, 09th April, 2020

Malaita Province

- PDC Malaita have been briefed on the current situation
- Resources are now being pooled together for the operation

Honiara City PFCP

- 26 police officers of the Honiara City Response Unit (CRU) and the CPS Liquor Squad with the CPS admin wing undergo COVID-19 training as the first respondent with NRH Medical Staff
- Continue close monitoring of the SOE orders announced by Prime Minister

Makira Ulawa Province

- PDC and P-DOC conducted meeting and discussed action measures for Makira Ulawa Province to adhere as preparation for COVID-19
- P-DOC briefed the Provincial Government on the COVID-19 preparatory measures
- PPC briefed on the current situation in which influx of people from Honiara has started to raise concerns to community leaders relating to Law and Order. Concerns were raised in regard to livelihood (potential food shortage in the communities)

Central Province

- PDC and P-DOC met with Chair NDC, PS MPGIS and Health Team regarding issues surrounding COVID-19 Response and should the country have a confirmed case, what will be the measures in place for safety and security of frontline officers
- Crews of vessels berthing at Tulagi Harbour during TC Harold were advised to remain on board vessels

Guadalcanal Province

- No reports received for today, 09th April 2020

E.7.2. CORRECTIONAL SERVICES SOLOMON ISLANDS (CSSI)

- All activities are on going at preparation phase

E.8 SOLOMON ISLANDS RED CROSS SOCIETY (SIRCS)

- Deployment of volunteers to assist in management of IQFs
- Continuous engagement on COVID-19 community awareness and health promotion on Honiara, Guadalcanal and SIRCS branches in the Rennell and Bellona, Malaita, Western, and Temotu Provinces with MHMS

Challenges

- Remoteness of some provinces hindering community outreach programs
- Volunteers moved back to their home provinces as a result of the voluntary repatriation exercise and thus reducing man power in Honiara

E8. COORDINATION (N-DOC AND NEOC)

- TC Harold has placed a strain on manpower capability of NEOC
- National Emergency Response Team Activation
 - 2nd batch of NERT Members have been called upon on 04/04/2020 to provide additional support to NEOC on COVID-19 and TC Harold Response
- Re-allocation of MECDM recurrent budget of \$921,000 to meet initial needs of Camp Management Committee, Preparedness Work of Provincial Disaster Council and maintain coordination functions of the National Emergency Operation Centre (funds disbursed to NDC BSP Imprest Account on 27th March 2020).
- NEOC Activation
 - Support N-DOC, Sector Committees, Honiara City Council and Guadalcanal Province

F. P-DOC SECTOR RESPONSE

- All Provincial Governments continue to undertake preventative measures in alignment with the National Government measures to mitigate possible importation of COVID-19.
- Honiara City Council and Guadalcanal Province Emergency Operation Centres are operational with the Honiara Municipal Disaster Operations Committee (M-DOC)/Provincial Disaster Operations Committee (P-DOC) already convening several meetings.
- COVID-19 awareness is currently being conducted in all 10 Provinces including Honiara City Council.
- All 10 Provinces have identified potential Institutional Quarantine Facilities as part of their preparedness work should COVID-19 spreads to the Provinces.

G. OTHER NATIONAL SUPPORT

- Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce (SICCI) pledged their support to N-DOC Livelihood Committee, and their commitment to support SIG Response to COVID-19

H. OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES AND GAPS

- Budget for implementation of immediate priorities of the Preparedness and Response yet to be disbursed.

I. RECOMMENDATIONS

- All N-DOC Sector Committees to continue updating NEOC on the implementation of their Preparedness and Response Programmes.
- Continue of awareness and trainings to front liners and the public on issues surrounding COVID-19.
- Continue of awareness to the public on issues relating to Stigmatizing and how this can lead to discrimination.
- Public to cooperate with Health and other Government Ministries in preparing and responding to COVID-19.

J. NEXT UPDATE

Next update will be on Wednesday 15th April 2020.

APPROVED FOR DISSEMINATION BY

JAMES REMOBATU
SECRETARY TO CABINET/OCC CHAIR
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

