



NATIONAL DISASTER COUNCIL

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NATIONAL SITUATIONAL REPORT – 27

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EVENT: SIG Response to COVID-19
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Contents

1. GENERAL UPDATES	1
2. CURRENT SITUATION	2
3. SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	2
4. N-DOC SECTOR COMMITTEE UPDATES	3
5. P-DOC SECTOR COMMITTEE UPDATES	5
6. OTHER NATIONAL SUPPORT.....	9
7. CHALLENGES	10
8. RECOMMENDATIONS	10
9. NEXT UPDATE AND APPROVAL .	11
10. ANNEX.....	12

1. GENERAL UPDATES

- Total COVID-19 cumulative cases recorded so far in the country stands at **755**. This figure is several days out of date because of the backlog of swabs for testing.
- 104 new cases have been recorded from the 652 cases recorded since Tuesday this week.
- The country has recorded 3 COVID-19 related deaths in the last 48 hours. This now brings the number of deaths to **5**.
- The Honiara Emergency Zone is now on lockdown as of 6pm Tuesday 25 January and is effective until 6pm Saturday, 29 January 2022.
- Lord Howe Settlement and Burns Creek Community localized lockdown remains effective with the new lockdown orders.
- The National Health Emergency Operations Centre (NHEOC) continues in its contract tracing and swabbing of individuals who are possible contacts of those tested positive for COVID-19.
- COVID-19 community transmission confirmed for Honiara, Ontong Java (Malaita Outer Islands) and reports of isolated outbreaks in Malaita, Makira and Western Provinces.
- Western Province will go into lockdown on five (5) sites with the province now declared as an Emergency Zone.

GLOBAL SITUATION IN NUMBERS

The numbers are based on [WHO Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Dashboard](#) as of **4:37pm CET, 27 January 2022**

Globally

360,578,392 confirmed cases
5,620,865 deaths
9,679,721,754 vaccine doses administered
as of **25 January 2022**

Western Pacific Region

14,752,477 confirmed cases
166,201 deaths

Solomon Islands

755 confirmed cases
5 deaths
as of **27 January 2022**

2. CURRENT SITUATION

- The country is now experiencing COVID-19 community transmission in Honiara, Ontong Java with reports of isolated outbreaks in Auki, Marovo Lagoon and Kirakira.
- Official count of COVID-19 positive cases diagnosed in the country stands at 755 as announced by the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) this evening, 27 January 2022.
- Ontong Java remains on lockdown to this date. Similarly, localized lockdowns for Burns Creek and the Lord Howe Settlement (Mataniko River mouth) identified as hot spots of COVID-19 cases continues.
- The Honiara Emergency Zone is also now on lockdown as of 6pm yesterday, Tuesday 25 January and is effective until Saturday 6pm, 29 January 2022 (four days). The lockdown is subject to extension if the need arises.
- Provinces are now also considering lockdown to restrict movement in and out of provinces.
- Solomon Islands through RSIPF maintains safety and security on the Western Border with Bougainville. Support is also being provided on Ontong Java.
- Incoming and outgoing passenger and cargo flights have been suspended. Essential cargo flights are now being conducted on needs-basis.
- International trade continues with strict measures in place for all incoming vessels through the country's international ports.

3. SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE & NATIONAL DISASTER OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

- The Oversight Committee (OSC) For COVID-19 established by Cabinet to provide strategic advice on a whole-of-government planning and response to COVID-19 maintains its role.
- OSC will develop new COVID policy objectives for the Cabinet consideration to guide this new phase where community transmission is rapidly increasing and the needs to focus on the most vulnerable, and to position the country towards economic recovery. Since March 2020, Government's COVID policy objectives were based on safeguarding the country from COVID-19 and keeping the country's economy afloat. The new policy objectives will provide guidance for the national response plan and measures taken thereafter by the Government to manage COVID-19.
- The National Disaster Council (NDC) Arrangement remains the country's preparedness and response coordination mechanism for the pandemic and has been tasked to prepare a 6-months National COVID -19 Response Plan through N-DOC.
- OSC has activated the National and Provincial Health Emergency Plans, National and Provincial Disaster Management Plans and the N-DOC Sectoral Plans.
- NDOC Sector Committees maintains its COVID-19 Responses with Health Sector Committee leading the health aspects and Camp Management Sector Committee on management of SIG approved Quarantine Stations. Broader coordination is through the N-DOC arrangements by the sector committees.
- The National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) continues to maintain coordination responses amongst all of the N-DOC Sector Committees to ensure infrastructure needs, logistics services and other humanitarian issues are provided for in the lockdown.

4. N-DOC SECTOR COMMITTEE UPDATES

4.1. HEALTH SECTOR COMMITTEE

- N-DOC Health through the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) maintains the leading role in the health aspects of SIG response to COVID-19.
- A total of 1,700 plus tests have been performed so far since the announcement of community transmission. However, it is important to note that actual testing of samples is several days behind swabbing because of limitations of the NRH molecular laboratory. Moreover, swabbing is also behind requests from the public who wanted to be tested for COVID.
- A total of 81 patients have been admitted at the hospital with 43 new admissions at National Referral Hospital (NRH) and 2 at the Central Field Hospital.
- Five (5) patients are under critical condition; 3 are being admitted at the NRH and 2 at the Central Field Hospital.
- A total of 101 staffs at the National Referral Hospital have tested positive for COVID-19. They have been withdrawn from patient care.
- Many staffs within the MHMS also tested positive for COVID-19 and continue to work from isolation.
- Guadalcanal Health Team have also reported 6 of its team members isolated at the Good Samaritan Hospital. Four have tested positive while the remaining 2 await test results.
- Twenty-four (24) Honiara City Council health officers have also tested positive for COVID-19.
- Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) measures for staffs and patients enhanced as much as possible with surge capacity bringing in additional man power and human resources.
- Additional testing kits have been deployed to Kilufi and Gizo Hospitals to enhance testing capabilities.
- Frontline and essential workers vaccination rollout in Honiara continue. Community rollout on vaccination is expected to commence soon in Honiara as well.
- Mass testing is expected to commence on high-risk zones identified in the Honiara Emergency Zone.
- MHMS is advising Provinces to continue with their vaccination rollout. For the Honiara Emergency Zone, vaccination rollout to continue at Mbaranamba, Lau Valley, Rove and Mbokonavera 3. The public is reminded to wear face masks at all times when getting their jabs.
- Families and relatives of COVID-19 positive cases are advised to self-isolate in their respective homes.
- The public is advised to report to health authorities and self-isolate if they feel they have come into close contact with positive cases.
- Those who are developing severe symptoms are also advised to immediately call St. John Ambulance Services on 115.
- MHMS also continue with its public messaging via SMS blasts and radio spots.

4.2. SAFETY AND SECURITY

Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF)

- The Police Operations Centre (POC) maintains the overall safety and security of the country with support from the National Emergency Management Special Events Planning (NEMSEP) to oversee and coordinate the COVID-19 Operation for the lockdown.
- High visibility patrol within the Honiara Emergency Zone conducted by patrol teams.
- SI-PNG Border Operations is still ongoing given the high threat of illegal crossing between Solomon Islanders and Papua New Guineans.

- RSIPF is also providing support to MHMS on contact tracing, community awareness and ensuring IPC measures are adhered.
- Provincial responses continue given the possibility of community transmission in some of the provinces.
- Central Islands Provinces has stepped up its responses given its close proximity to Honiara. RSIPF is monitoring movement of boats to and from Honiara.

Correctional Service Solomon Islands (CSSI)

- Current operational engagement continues as well as other normal duties performed.
- CSSI's Safety and Security Response Plan covers 3 objectives. These are to; Ensure Safe and Secure Environment for front liner agencies, maintaining Public Order during response and Ensuring continuity of Correctional Services.
- Temporary restriction to enter CSSI work environment has been enforced to officers who are residing at declared COVID-19 hotspots and might have been in close contact with a suspect.
- Correctional Service Solomon Islands, Honiara City Council Law Enforcement Agency and Private Security Firms are also supporting RSIPF on the overall safety and security on public and commercial and private properties including residences.
- Patrol and monitoring of Quarantine Stations continues to be undertaken by RSIPF and CSSI.

4.3. LIVELIHOOD SECTOR COMMITTEE

- Livelihood Sector Committee (LSC) EOC is on activation and is liaising with its partners to support operations during the lockdown and further into the implementation of the National COVID-19 Response Plan.
- Food and water distribution to 'Isolation Households' within the Honiara Emergency Zone has kicked off yesterday, 26 January 2022. Deliveries continue today and will continue throughout the duration of the lockdown period.
- Food kits and water were also delivered to Lord Howe Settlement on 25 January 2022 for 71 households (an estimated 519 individuals).
- To date, a total of 707 individuals have been assisted since 23 January 2022.
- Mobile marketing efforts continue to operate in the lockdown zone. The subcommittee is currently working with 17 local farmers/vendors with mobile marketing vans selling vegetables, root crops and fruits.
- LSC liaised with RSIPF for the exemption of its committee members. Exemption was granted for market vendors and casuals who have been engaged to support the ongoing operations on food distribution.
- LSC has received donations from Solomon Islands Ports Authority, Peoples Republic of China and the Australian Government and is continuing food distributions targeting households in the Burns Creek Community.
- LSC continues to gather data from public requests for delivery of food supplies. Food delivery is also targeted towards persons in isolation at homes.
- Planning and data collection has commenced with Honiara City Council (HCC) for the Honiara-wide food relief distribution in lockdown areas.

4.4. PROTECTION SECTOR COMMITTEE

- The Protection Sector Committee (PSC) continues to coordinate with its partners on addressing Protection issues during the lockdown.

- The Team is liaising with other N-DOC Sectors and Media Service Providers on dissemination of Protection key messages.
- Distribution of face masks, gloves and hand sanitizers have been distributed to four GBV Service Providers in Honiara and Christian Care Centre at Tenaru as part of its response in ensuring GBV Service is provided at all.
- The team has reviewed its consolidated response and submitted for endorsement.
- The team continues to coordinate with P-DOC Protection Sector Committees in Malaita, Western and Guadalcanal Provinces on addressing some of its issues.

4.5. INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR COMMITTEE

- The Infrastructure Sector Committee (ISC) continues to provide support as a whole of Government response.
- The Committee with MHMS and NEOC is liaising with the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to facilitate arrangements for the use of Solomon Airlines aircraft to conduct health emergency/humanitarian assistance to Gizo and Taro. Objective of the flight is to:
 - Deliver essential health supplies including testing kits, PPEs' and medications needed to support Provincial responses including other Provinces
 - To airlift the MHMS logistics personal from Gizo back to Honiara
 - Delivery other humanitarian supplies for other P-DOC Sector Committees.
- Solomon Airlines has given approval for the flight pending advice from the Prime Minister's Office.
- ISC is supporting ongoing responses on fuel and other logistics issues.
- ISC liaised with Solomon Islands Maritime Authority (SIMA) to provide reports on maritime vessels recalled back to Honiara for contact tracing purposes. The report will give P-DOCs clarity on how they can carry out their responses and/or restrict movement of vessels.

4.6. SOLOMON ISLANDS RED CROSS SOCIETY

- Solomon Islands Red Cross Society (SIRCS) Operational Structure Communication is fully activated on response mode and is supporting SIG.
- SIRCS EOC has advised branches in Malaita and Western Provinces to fully activate its communication tree at the branch level in response to the confirmed cases in Auki and Marovo. EOC is communicating with volunteers on information gathering.
- Catering Services continues to be provided for Quarantine Stations.
- SIRCS has rendered its support to MHMS by providing three volunteers to provide support with contact tracing and on EOC support. Additional three volunteers have been identified to support contact tracing. Volunteers have undergone swabbing and awaiting test results before being deployed.
- SIRCS has also provided support with the enlistment of one of its officers to be on the deployment team to Ontong Java.
- Other Provincial branches have also been activated and contingency plans developed.
- SIRCS continues to support MHMS on COVID-19 key messaging and awareness on IPC measures and social distancing.

5. P-DOC SECTOR COMMITTEE UPDATES

Provincial Disaster Operation Committee (P-DOC) Arrangements of all provinces have been directed to go on full activation and operationalize all disaster management arrangements.

5.1 MALAITA PROVINCE

- Malaita P-DOC activated its response on 17 January 2022 following the confirmation of positive cases recorded on Ontong Java. A Team of 11 personnel were deployed to Honiara to be part of the deployment team to Ontong Java. Deployment is still on hold.
- Contact tracing and testing of COVID suspects have resulted in 7 cases returning positive results. Contract tracing and swabbing continues for all contacts of the positive cases.
- All doctors at Kilu'ufi Hospital are now being to conduct test using the RAT today. Training on how to use that RAT kit currently underway.
- Contact tracing is also planned for Southern Regions of Malaita and is yet to be finalized after concerns were raised by people living in the region due to MV. Awka's traveling history. Budget for team deployment is to be submitted by today 27 January 2022.
- Most communities in in and around Auki have activated their own lockdown and restrictive movements to assist health responses.
- Lab Tech personnel flew over to Auki to install GeneXpert machine at Kilu'ufi Hospital on 27 January 2022. Testing to be done in Auki as soon as installations are complete.
- Hug turnout at vaccination sites in Auki as more people turned up to get vaccinated.
- Aligegeo Secondary School has been assessed for temporary quarantine facility whilst schools are still closed. Preparations are now underway.
- Additional accommodation has also been identified by P-DOC to accommodate Clinical Team. Camp Management Sector Committee is working on finalizing all arrangements.
- Risk Communications continue on COVID-19 awareness.

5.2. CHOISEUL PROVINCE

- Awareness on COVID-19 continues to be conducted by the P-DOC.
- Additional measures have been put in place by the Choiseul Provincial Government to restrict movement. These are:
 - Restrict travel of Vessels (ship, OBM boats and canoes) from Honiara and other provinces from entering and leaving the province. All cargo vessels are to travel directly to Taro for risk assessment before travelling to other ports around Choiseul.
 - Closure of the Taro Market at every 5pm and open again at 6am the following day daily. No persons are also allowed to sleep in the market during the time prescribed.
 - No OBM Boats/Canoes are allowed to travel to Taro and other villages after 6:30pm, unless authorized or in an emergency.
 - All social gatherings, sport tournaments, fundraisings, card games, ludo and dart are suspended.
 - All COVID-19 IPC measures are to be strictly adhered to.
- P-DOC is liaising with relevant authorities to ensure livelihood of people are not compromised during any lockdown.
- P-DOC is liaising with provincial government to designate infrastructure for instalment of testing machine for COVID related cases.
- Contact tracing and swabbing for the people who contacted with MV Nusatupe has been conducted. Health team and police left Taro to Gizo for testing.
- P-DOC Education is activated and awaiting N-DOC Education on the Learning Continuity Program.
- Contact tracing have identified some villages as possible suspects who came into contact with MV. Nusatupe. P-DOC Health is following up on this.

5.3. CENTRAL PROVINCE

- P-DOC continues to conduct and ensure IPC measure are adhered to by the public with its awareness messaging.
- A total of 52 health including support services and 29 RSIPF Officers have undergone swabbing on 26 January 2022. Transportation of swab done on the same day to the NRH by sea transport. Upon return, 200 additional swabbing were collected.
- Contact tracing and testing to continue in the province.
- A sea mobility transport has been arranged and formalities are in place to engage OBM for transportation of test samples to Honiara.
- Household isolation still continue for some communities and including the Tulagi Township.
- Tulagi zones and communities around continue to enforce bylaws.

5.4 MAKIRA ULAWA PROVINCE

- Makira Ulawa PEOC together with Kirakira Police Operation Centre is supporting the Provincial Health Emergency Operation Centre (PHEOC) in keeping the general public updated on the situation and closely monitoring possible crossing of outboard motor boats through either South Malaita or Marau Sound on Guadalcanal.
- Huge numbers have turned up for vaccination resulting in additional vaccination centres being established by the P-DOC.
- P-DOC has also advised and encourage communities to consider self-quarantine/isolation should there be any suspected cases in the communities. All IPC measures are also to be adhered to by communities and individual households.
- PEOC continues to update all relevant authorities.

5.5 GUADALCANAL PROVINCE

- Provincial Executive has approved two quarantine and two isolation facilities for Guadalcanal Province. The P-DOC has been tasked to follow up on the details.
- Guadalcanal Health Response Plan is being finalized with the Health Emergency Operations Centre to be setup.
- P-DOC has been tasked to arrange for possible locations to setup an EOC. Few locations have been identified and will be agreed upon by the team.
- Good Samaritan Hospital (GSH) Vaccination center has been overwhelmed with people coming to receive their jabs and requested additional manpower. Three additional staff were deployed to assist in vaccination.
- Decontamination Team now is working to decontaminate GSH.
- Vaccination rollout continues for Avu and Aola.

5.6 ISABEL PROVINCE

- As of 20 January 2022, P-DOC effectively implemented ten (10) COVID-19 Safety Measures to assist the National Government in assessing the extent of the community transmission.
- In line with these measures, PHEOC has implemented strict COVID-19 safety measures in Buala Hospital whilst encouraging the unvaccinated public to get vaccinated as soon as possible. Buala has seen a great influx of people coming forward to get their jabs.
- Three (3) quarantine centres have been established at Buala Station.
- COVID-19 vaccination is ongoing at Buala Station with 6 additional sites to be open by this week at Kia, Bolitei, Poro, Tatamba, Susubona and Samasodu Area Health Clinics. Distribution

team to deliver vaccines, face masks, hand sanitizers and other supplies to these vaccination sites today 27 January 2022.

- Swab kits have arrived on 25 January 2022 and contact tracing and swabbing will commence today, 27 January 2022 on suspect cases onboard MV. Utah Princess that traveled to the province on 19 January 2022.

5.7. TEMOTU PROVINCE

- A ship that was detained following information that possible suspects have boarded the ship on its journey to Temotu has been released after decisions were made by the P-DOC and Provincial Government. Passengers were released while some are still accommodated at Lata.
- Lata Fisheries vacant office space have been secured to accommodate the stranded passengers for three days.
- Donations of local foods from communities and dried goods in shops from business houses have poured in following P-DOC appeal.
- P-DOC is preparing for a mock lockdown at Lata Station on Friday 28 January 2022 from 6am to 6am Saturday 29 January 2022. This is part of its preparation for community transmission.
- Continuous influx of people to Lata to get their vaccination as community transmission increases.

5.8. HONIARA CITY COUNCIL

Leadership and Coordination

- HCC is currently activated and is supporting HCC sector teams who implementing activities such as HCC livelihood, waste management, works and Law enforcement.
- HCC EOC is supporting HCC teams to provide welfare for HCC personals involved during the lockdown.
- Provide coordination and reporting of activities conducted during in the lockdown.

Waste Management

- Normal collection of rubbish within the city boundary continues during the lockdown by HCC waste management team.
- Work focuses mainly on collection and disposal of skip pins, attending to complains and also other critical areas.

Livelihood

- Arrangement of food distribution with wards and community committees have been established as part of support provided to the Livelihood Sector Committee.
- HCC Livelihood Team is currently conducting food distribution for Lord Howe Settlement in collaboration with the Livelihood Sector Committee.
- Honiara wide food distribution to commence soon once all HCC ward household data is provided to HCC Livelihood by Councilors, ward and community committees.

Mobile marketing

- Mobile marketing are ongoing, coordination is done by HCC market masters office and Central Market Vendors Association.

5.9. WESTERN PROVINCE

P-DOC & Western Province Disaster Management Office

- The WPDMO has conducted meeting with Noro/Munda COVID-19 Committees to set up an Onsite-Operation Coordination Centre at Munda for coordinating the COVID-19 response.
- Provide coordination support to the overall provincial COVID-19 responses.

Swab Collection

- Swab Collection was carried out by Gizo Health team at Gizo Town, Western Province.
- Total of 18 samples was collected on the 26 January 2022 from LC Plus 1. Six (6) of returned positive test results.
- Two positive cases have also been recorded from Noro Town.
- This now brings number of positive cases to 8.

P-DOC Livelihood Committee

- All market vendor to supply garden food during lockdown have already been identified.
- Sourcing of Market vendor to supply garden foods during lockdown period. All garden foods to be collected by 28 January 2022 ready for distribution on cash basis.

P-DOC Protection Committee

- Conducted meeting with Noro & Munda protection committee members regarding work plan during lockdown.
- Updates current situation in Western Province regarding COVID-19.
- Set up of temporary referral partway for protection committees (Help line).

P-DOC Camp Management

- Noro Camp Management Committee to open Noro Lodge for Quarantine station for Noro town by 28 January 2022.

6. OTHER NATIONAL SUPPORT

- SIG continues to receive support from bilateral partners and international organisations for its COVID-19 operations.
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through its Disaster Risk Management Project has supported NEOC with the purchase of three (3) new laptops and four (4) additional desktop computers as part of NEOC's coordination role.
- World Bank funding through the Project Management Unit (PMU) of MHMS has supported ongoing health responses by addressing urgent areas that needed financial support. This support provided was to meet logistics issues, procurement of essential equipment, food rations and other supplies.
- DFAT support was provided to MHMS on food rations and office supplies for frontline workers. Second load of medical equipment and supplies was also delivered on 25 January, 2022 which includes additional PPEs, oxygen concentrators and further UNICEF emergency water and sanitation and dignity kits.
- People's Republic of China received emergency humanitarian assistance supplies on 26 January 2022. Assistance received consisted of 50,000 Sinopharm vaccines, 20,000 Rapid Antigen Test Kits, 21,000 disposable syringes, 50 tent units and financial humanitarian assistance of USD320,000 to SIG through MHMS.
- Lee Shipping Agent and Szetu Enterprises supported MHMS with the provision of food rations for its frontline workers.
- Pacific Casino provided food rations for the Emergency Department at the NRH.
- Our Telekom continues to support MHMS on public messaging via text message blasts. Additional supported was also provided on setting up of phone lines at the NHEOC.
- Fangs Cooperation provided support on accommodation for frontline workers.

- Solomon Islands Football Federation provided assistance by lending 2 buses for logistics support.

7. CHALLENGES

- **Health Sector is overwhelmed** – Community transmission in Honiara is putting considerable stresses on the health system as a whole.
- **Wide Spread Community Transmission** – Curb and control community transmission
- **Fatigue and Stress** – it is noted that fatigue and stress is kicking in for all frontline agencies and other responsible authorities.
- **Financial Resources** – finance is now becoming a challenge with banks and other financial institutions implementing strict measures and resource at hand nearly exhausted.
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs)** – frontline agencies including provinces is facing shortage of PPEs.
- **Stigmatization** – it has been noted that there is high stigmatization experienced by families of those who are positive causing fear and panic amongst them.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- **National COVID-19 Response Plan** – N-DOC to finalise and submit to OSC by 30 January 2022.
- **Financial Resources** – Finance resources to be availed to the required level identified in the National COVID-19 Response Plan.
- **National Referral Hospital** – Put in alternative measures to ensure continuity of critical emergency services.
- **Curb and Control Community Transmission** -Implement proactive measures in Honiara and other up-coming hot spots in the country.
- **Fatigue and Stress** – frontline agencies and other responsible authorities to quickly come up with plans to help relieve this issue of stress and fatigue that is already experienced.
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs)** – Ministry of Health and Medical Services to provide update on PPE stock supplies and to look at restocking PPE stock levels for frontline agencies and the provinces.
- **Stigmatization** - the public is advised to refrain from stigmatizing those who are positive including their contacts. MHMS and responsible authorities are to provide messages to the public refraining them from stigmatization.
- **IPC Measures & Social Distancing** – the public is strongly advised to practice social distancing including safe IPC measures while the lockdown is being lifted.

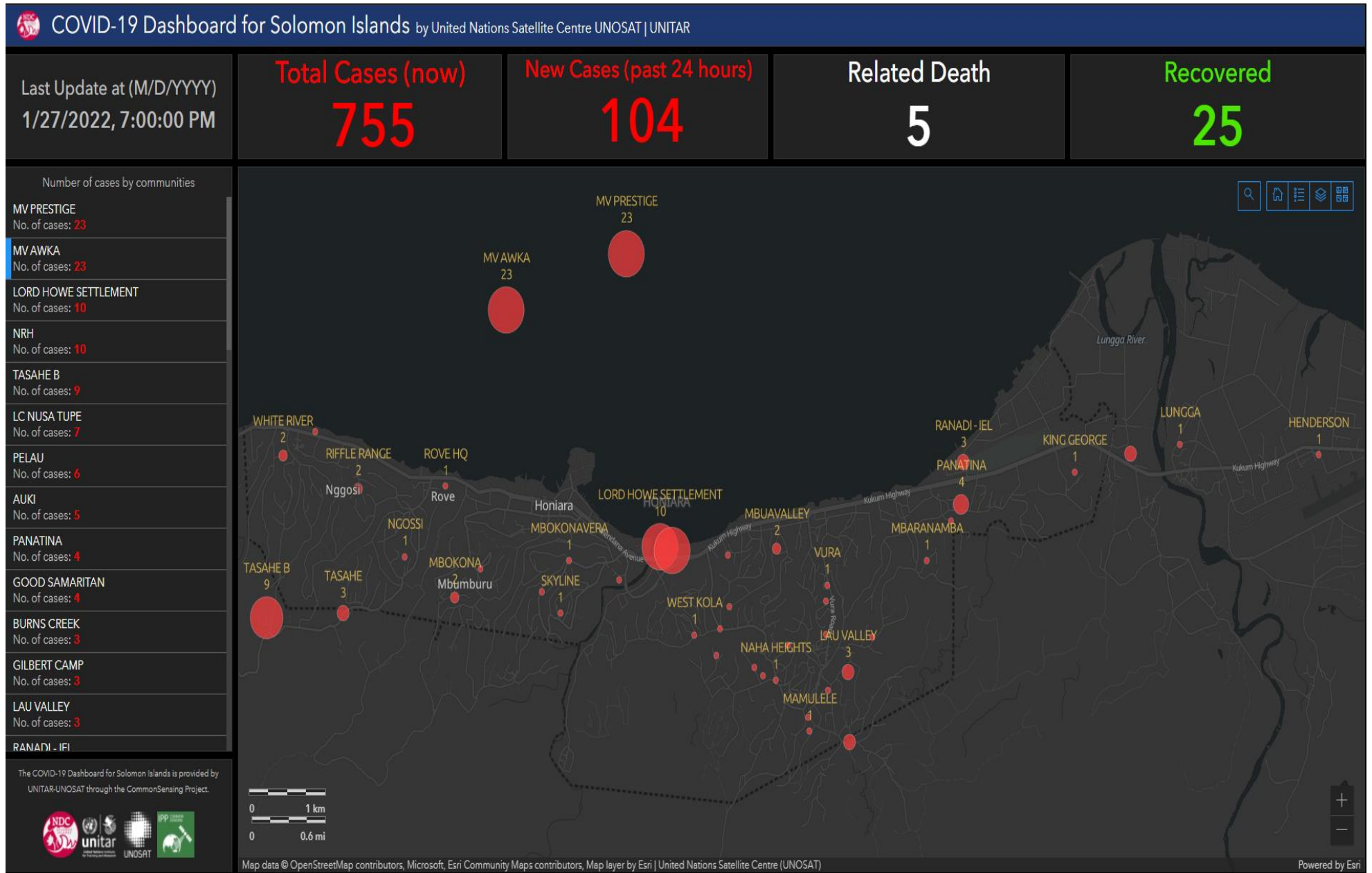
9. NEXT UPDATE AND APPROVAL

Next update **upon available information.**

APPROVED FOR DISSEMINATION BY

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PERMANENT SECRETARY MECDM/CHAIR NDC
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10. ANNEX



Additional Links

1. *COVID-19 Dashboard for Solomon Islands*

Link... <https://unosat.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/1972313591054cd2a2c7eaf3b61918df>

2. *Gaz No. 22 & Sup No. 20 Tuesday 25th January 2022*

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