



# NATIONAL DISASTER COUNCIL

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## NATIONAL SITUATIONAL REPORT – 28

Ref: NSR28\_02/22

**EVENT ID:** COVID-19  
**EVENT:** SIG Response to COVID-19  
**PERIOD:** 28 January 2022 - 31 January 2022  
**DATE OF ISSUE:** Tuesday, 1 February 2022  
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**APPROVED BY:** Chairman, National Disaster Council  
**ISSUED BY:** National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC)  
**NEXT UPDATE:** 04 February 2022

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## 1. GENERAL UPDATES

- Total COVID-19 cumulative cases recorded so far in the country stands at **1,486**. This figure is several days out of date because of the backlog of swabs for testing.
- A total of **303** new cases have been recorded in Honiara in the past 24 hours.
- COVID-19 related deaths in the country stands at **12**.
- Seventeen (17) samples were tested resulting in one (1) returning a positive test in Tulagi, Central Province Capital.
- A total of 71 COVID positive patients have been hospitalized as of 30 January, 2022 at the NRH Isolation Wards.
- Eighteen (18) of the patients with critical conditions have been provided with oxygen since 30 January 2022.
- With the increase of Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) in the hospital, more patients were tested positive in the NRH Wards.
- Many asymptomatic COVID-19 patients are now recovering as expected.
- Statistics from NRH Emergency Medical Team have also shown all post-COVID 50 staffs have shown a recovery rate of 85% after day 10 of testing.
- The Honiara Emergency Zone continues to be in partial lockdown effective as of 30 January, 2022 with the new Lockdown Orders.

## GLOBAL SITUATION IN NUMBERS

The numbers are based on [WHO Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Dashboard](#) as of **4:57pm CET, 31 January 2022**

### Globally

**373,229,380** confirmed cases  
**5,658,702** deaths  
**9,854,237,363** vaccine doses administered  
as of **27 January 2022**

### Western Pacific Region

**15,767,915** confirmed cases  
**167,657** deaths

### Solomon Islands

**1,486** confirmed cases  
**12** deaths  
as of **31 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 localized hotspots confirmed for Western, Guadalcanal, Malaita and Isabel Provinces.
- Malaita Province is making preparations to declare its province as an Emergency Zone and is proposing a lockdown on Auki on 6pm Wednesday, 02 February 2022 to 6pm Friday, 04 February 2022 as part of its effort to allow MHMS carry out contact tracing.

## **2. CURRENT SITUATION**

- The country is now experiencing COVID-19 community transmission with localized hotspots in Western, Guadalcanal, Malaita, Isabel and Central Provinces.
- Official count of COVID-19 positive cases diagnosed in the country stands at 1,486 as announced by the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) this yesterday evening, 31 January 2022.
- Ontong Java remains on lockdown to this date.  
Localized lockdowns for Burns Creek and the Lord Howe Settlement remains enforced until revoked.
- The Honiara Emergency Zone is also on partial lockdown effective on Sunday 3pm, 30 January 2022 remains enforced until revoked.
- Malaita and Central Provinces have submitted to OSC for the Prime Minister to make orders for lockdowns of Auki (Wed 02 Feb 6pm – Fri 04 Feb 6am), Tulagi, Double Island and Hagalu village (Tue 01 Feb 6pm – Sat 05 Feb 6pm) to support health conduct contact tracing.
- 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 continues to meet regularly to monitor and address the current situation.
- OSC is working with Provincial Governments, Provincial Disaster Operation Committees (P-DOCs) to plan and despatch of essential cargoes to provinces in a safe manner.
- The National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) is working on a schedule plan to respond to provincial needs in accessing cargoes and other goods and services from Honiara. The plan once finalized, will allow cargo ships and vessels to travel to provinces to offload cargoes for provincial business to operate.

- NEOC together with RSIPF, N-DOC and the Attorney General’s Chamber is on ongoing discussions to locate and setup a SIG Joint Operation Command Centre that will bring together all relevant agencies to coordinate effectively and efficiently under one roof.

## 4. N-DOC SECTOR COMMITTEE UPDATES

### 4.1. HEALTH SECTOR COMMITTEE

- As of 19 January, 2022, a total of 2,854 COVID-19 tests have been performed so far.
- NRH Control Infection System and practices have been stepped up with increasing decontamination ongoing as hospital workers and patients’ contract COVID-19. All Staffs are tested at the NRH entrance and Triage appropriately.
- Positive cases isolated in the zones inside NRH have been isolated from the negative cases.
- Transfer of patients from the NRH Isolation Wards to the Central Field Hospital is ongoing.
- Contact tracing and swabbing continues to be done by MHMS.
- MHMS is working closely with provinces to monitor flu-like illness and should need be, swabbing and testing will be conducted.
- MHMS is also supporting provincial laboratories to repurpose GeneXpert machines currently being used for testing of Tuberculosis’s for COVID-19 testing.
- Plans are underway to ship the Bio-Cabinet for the GeneXpert testing machine in Auki, Malaita Province.
- Seventy (70) plus nurses who recently graduated from the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) have responded to additional call for manpower and will be deployed to NRH and Honiara City Council Clinics. They will assist with the ongoing responses including vaccination rollout.
- 10,000 plus Rapid Antigen Test kits will be deployed to provinces as part of strengthening surveillance and monitoring of the spread of the virus across the country.
- Necessary shipment of medications and PPEs is also underway.
- Vaccination rollout in the communities continues.

### 4.2. SAFETY AND SECURITY

#### Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF)

- High visibility patrol within the Honiara Emergency Zone continues to be conducted by patrol teams.
- Checkpoints have been setup with RSIPF manning all checkpoints.
- 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.

### 4.3. LIVELIHOOD SECTOR COMMITTEE

- Livelihood Sector Committee (LSC) continues with food deliveries post-lockdown.
- As of 31 January 2022, a total of 13,081 households and an additional 1601 individuals (in isolation) have been assisted with food deliveries since 23 January, 2022.
- Six-hundred twenty-four (624) individuals in isolation were assisted with food rations.

- Food distributions for Vura Ward, Burns Creek Community and Panatina Ward have been completed.
- Nine (9) of the twelve (12) Wards within HCC have been completed, covering 60% of the targeted 22,000 households within Honiara.
- Distributions is now planned for Mburubu, Kola and Mataniko tomorrow (01 February 2022).
- Planned distribution for Communities outside the Honiara town boundary to commence in the coming days.
- LSC continues to receive donations from other organizations.

#### **4.4. INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR COMMITTEE**

- The Infrastructure Sector Committee (ISC) continues to provide support as a whole of Government response.
- ISC with Solomon Islands Maritime Authority (SIMA) and the NEOC is working on a planned schedule for shipment of cargoes to provinces.
- ISC is liaising with respective SIG Ministries to provide support on logistic challenges faced by MHMS by providing drivers.

#### **4.5. EDUCATION SECTOR COMMITTEE**

- Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development (MEHRD) advice on indefinite closure of schools remains enforced across the country.
- Learning Continuity Program is currently worked on by MEHRD and will be broadcasted and shared to all media outlets and broadcasting services once finalized.
- MEHRD is students under the ages 12-18 to get vaccinated given the community transmission.
- Teachers remaining in other provinces, schools, villages and communities are advised to remain at their respective locations and wait for further updates from MEHRD and other responsible authorities.

#### **4.6. CAMP MANAGEMENT SECTOR COMMITTEE**

- Camp Management Sector Committee (CMSC) continues with its operations on managing all SIG Quarantine Stations.
- CMSC is also providing food rations and meals for frontliners isolated in QS.
- CMSC provided assistance to MHMS and CSSI on setting up King George VI to be reused as a Quarantine Station/Isolation Ward for medical workers and correctional officers.
- A total of 136 plus foreign nationals entered the country on 30 January 2022 and are serving mandatory quarantine. Once graduated, they will provide additional workforce on the SPG2023 ongoing constructions.

### **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**

- Twenty-nine (29) cases have been recorded as COVID-19 positive using the Rapid Antigen Test Kit.
- As of 31 January 2022, there are two (2) deaths related to COVID-19.

- P-DOC is proposing a lockdown on Malaita Province on Wednesday 02 February 2022 to Friday 04 February 2022 as part of contact tracing.
- Malaita P-DOC Camp Management Committee continues to work on quarantine sites. As of 30 January 2022, four (4) medical staff went into isolation. Another mother and baby are also in isolation as part of contact tracing activities.
- Cases for COVID-19 continues to rise.
- P-DOC has identified Auki as a Point of Entry for all ingoing cargo and passenger vessels. Plans are underway to formalize all necessary arrangements.
- A team is being put together on standby for deployment to Small Malaita and East Are'Are as part of contact tracing.
- Other P-DOC Sector Committees are also on standby to provide assistance on responses conducted.

## 5.2. CHOISEUL PROVINCE

- Awareness on COVID-19 continues to be conducted by the P-DOC.
- Isolation and quarantine sites for health workers are still yet to be prepared. As an alternate, P-DOC has identified the Provincial Sport Centre and another identified rest house as an isolation centre for health workers. Works are now underway to refurbish identified centres.
- Ten (10) swabs were sent to Gizo for testing as part of contact tracing. Results returned negative.

## 5.3. CENTRAL PROVINCE

- P-DOC continues to conduct and ensure IPC measure are adhered to by the public with its awareness messaging.
- Police, health and medical team conducted survey risk assessment on three (3) sites identified as hotspots in the Tulagi township.
- Provincial Emergency Response Team (PERT) continue conduct surveys at Ward 2 to identify location for each community in and around Central Province and to meet with COVID-19 Village Committees for isolation setups in case of any community transmission.
- Expose risk remains high in Tulagi. Close contacts of positive cases are isolated at their own homes.
- Decontamination continues on offices and work places.

## 5.4. ISABEL PROVINCE

- Isabel Province has recorded additional COVID-19 cases as of 30 January, 2022. Total of positive cases recorded so far is ten (10).
- Buala Vaccination site continue to deliver 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> doses to public.
- Additional six (6) vaccination sites now established to continue with vaccinations. These are (Bolotei, Kia, Samasodu, Susubona, Tataba and Poro vaccination sites).

### **Isabel Provincial Government**

- The Isabel Provincial Government Executive has reviewed and approved a one-week prevention measures developed by the PHEOC/PDOC to assist the National Government in assessing the extent of the community transmission.
- The Isabel Province continue to assist PEOC/PDOC in its Covid-19 activities (sharing costs with PDOC Health).

### **PHEOC – Buala Provincial Hospital**

- PHEOC is On Full Activation and continues to conduct meetings with other sectors.

- Developed short- and long-term prevention measures.
- Deployed a team for contact tracing to Sepi and Babahaero on the 26 and 29 of January.
- Continues with contract tracing and tests in Buala Town.

#### **Camp Management**

- Additional sites have been established as Quarantine Stations in Buala.
- Continue with managing of Quarantine Stations.

#### **Safety & Security**

- Buala Police continue with its COVID-19 Operational Plan and assisting PHEOC and P-DOC on IPC public messaging and awareness.
- Continue to render logistics support to P-DOC.

#### **Churches**

- Church Authorities in the province continue to advice members on COVID-19 measures.
- Postponement of church festivities and gatherings.

#### **Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC)**

- PEOC continues to provide coordination and support on provincial responses.

### **5.5. WESTERN PROVINCE**

- As of 30 January 2022, total number of cases COVID-19 detected in Western is 35.
- The Provincial Health Response Team continues to carry out multiple contact tracing and swabbing on various locations.
- The current lock-down enforced for Gizo, Noro, Munda, Seghe and Rukutu has been lifted at 6am, 31 January 2022.
- Noro now has localized community transmission with new cases detected on 30 January 2022.

#### **P-DOC Health Sector Committee/Provincial Health Emergency Operation Centre**

- Provincial Health Response Team carried out multiple swabbing and contact tracing in Western Province.
- Provincial Health Team contact tracing and swabbing on 29 January 2022 using RDTs from Soltuna supply.
- Gizo Health Response Team yet to swab vessel crews, captains and passengers of LC Pacific Grace as part of contact tracing.
- Provincial Health Team have carried out decontamination to enable unloading of fuel and supplies from Landing Craft (LC) Plus 1, including other areas during various response mission.

#### **Safety and Security/Royal Solomon Islands Police Force**

- Royal Solomon Islands Police Force maintains safety and security during lockdown in Western Province Declared Emergency Zone.
- Police continues to enforce restrictions under the Lock-down order for 5 locations in Western Province identified as hotspot areas.
- RSIPF continues to enforce and ensure IPC measures are practiced by the public.

#### **P-DOC Livelihood Sector Committee**

- Provincial Livelihood Sector Committee supervised Purchasing and distribution of goods in locked down areas.

#### **P-DOC Camp Management Sector Committee**

- Solomon Power and Solomon Water responded to PDC Request and reconnect electricity and water supply for Noro Lodge QS.

- Camp Management is on full activation mode in response to community transmission in Noro Town.
- Camp Management from Gizo deployed two (2) Quarantine Managers on 30 January 2022 to set up and supervise the operationalization of Noro Quarantine Station.

#### **P-DOC Infrastructure Sector Committee**

- Support Provincial Camp Management Sector Committee in the installation of utilities for Noro Quarantine Stations.
- Personnel from the Provincial Works Division was deployed to Noro to install laundry facility for Noro QS.

#### **P-DOC Protection Sector Committee**

- Provided food including sugar, tea and biscuits to volunteers who assisted Police in providing safety and security during the Lock-down.
- Provide advisory to public to ensure that regulations under the Lock-down are not violated.
- Disseminated IPC messaging and awareness to the public.
- Provided support to Livelihood Sector Committee in carrying out their activities with exempted shops in Gizo.

#### **Save the Children**

- Update communities and schools on the current situation through phone calls.
- Continue to advise schools to stay calm and listen out for further notice.
- Disseminated SOP for COVID-19 to Maravai Village for the village to practice. Save the Children also received the updated list of Maravari Village Committees responsible for response to COVID-19.

#### **Solomon Islands Red Cross Society (SIRCS) Gizo Branch**

- SIRCS volunteers deployed to support livelihood sector Committee in Gizo in delivery of market produce during Lock-down in Gizo.
- Assisted Shop owners to control the movement of customers in and out of shops.

#### **On Site Operation Coordination Centre (OSOCC)**

- OSOCC was setup in Munda and has established communication and provides advisory to all Community Policing Committees in monitoring regulations and carrying out restrictions at the local level.
- Munda OSOCC has been resourced with the support of Provincial Government and stakeholders in Munda.

#### **Western Provincial Disaster Management Office/Provincial Emergency Operation Centre**

- Provides coordination support between P-DOC Sector Committees, service providers, business owners, public and communities in carrying the provincial response during the lock-down.
- Establish communication with PHEOC, SIRC EOC, Police Operations Desks, OSOCC and NEOC.
- Arranged accommodation to implement the PEOC/PDMO COVID-19 Contingency Plan.
- Inform public on lock-down regulations and clarifies public queries.
- Encourage public cooperation to comply with COVID-19 health and safety measures.

## **6. OTHER NATIONAL SUPPORT**

- Australian Medical Assistance Team (AUSMAT) have arrived in the country on 29 January, 2022 to provide MHMS clinical advisory support for the COVID-19 responses. The team is in the country for 14 days.

- Support is acknowledged by SIG on Chinese Association of Solomon Islands, State Owned Enterprises, and other business houses and private entities for the ongoing support provided to the Livelihood Sector Committee on food rations for delivery as well as addressing logistics issues faced by the team.

## 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

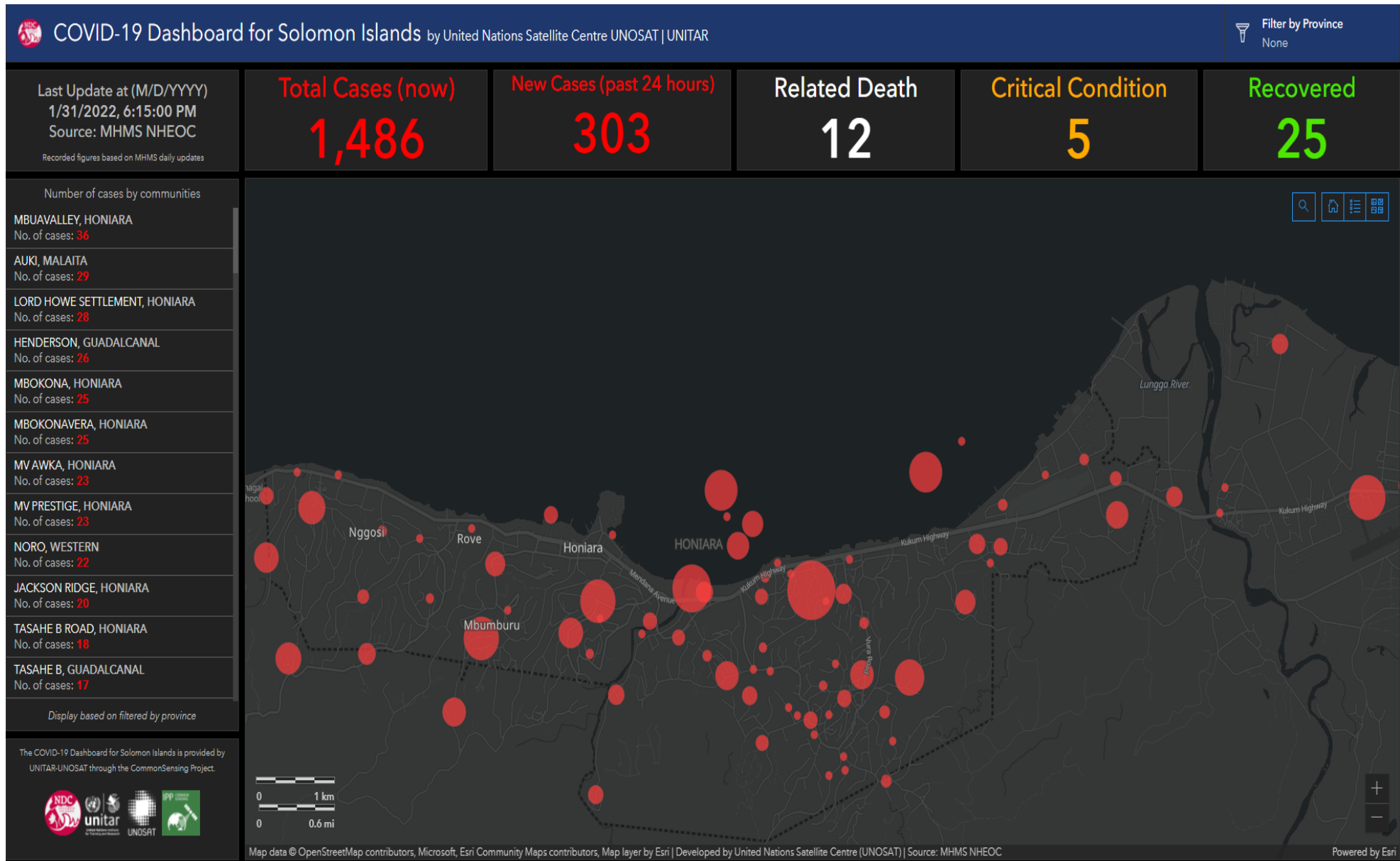
Next update **upon available information.**

APPROVED FOR DISSEMINATION BY



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## **Additional Links**

1. *COVID-19 Dashboard for Solomon Islands*

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