



# NATIONAL DISASTER COUNCIL

## NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT OFFICE

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### NATIONAL SITUATIONAL REPORT 04

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**EVENT ID:** COVID-19  
**EVENT:** SIG Response to COVID-19  
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**APPROVED BY:** Oversight Committee for COVID-19  
**ISSUED BY:** National Emergency Operations Centre  
**NEXT UPDATE:** Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020

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### A. HIGHLIGHTS

- Government established the Joint Oversight Committee (OSC) for COVID-19 under the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet continues to provide strategic direction
- Government approved SBD\$137 million to support the country’s response to COVID-19 made available to specific sectors.
- National Disaster Operations Committee for Camp Management (N-DOC Camp Management) has taken over establishment and management of all SIG Institutional Quarantine Facilities (IQFs) will extend support to provincial level.
- “State of Public Emergency” (SOE) declared by His Excellency, the Governor General has been extended to another four months starting from 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020.
- National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) remains on “Full-On Activation mode” to support coordination.

### GLOBAL SITUATION IN NUMBERS

The numbers are based on WHO Situation Report as of 14 April 2020 (total new cases in the last 24 hours)

#### Globally

1,844,863 confirmed (71,779)  
117,021 deaths (5,369)

#### Western Pacific Region

122,805 confirmed (1379)  
4,161 deaths (36)

#### Countries/territories/areas affected

213

#### Total Recovered

485,917

#### Countries with no Confirm Cases

North Korea, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Lesotho, Comoros, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Samoa, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Tonga, Marshall Islands, Palau, Tuvalu, Nauru

- National Disaster Operations Sector Committees (N-DOC Sectors) remains on Full-On Activation Mode.
- Standard Operating Procedures for lockdown under development by NEOC with support of specific sectors.
- “Honiara (Alligator Creek to Poha River) declared as the Emergency Zone” by the Honourable Prime Minister on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020.
- “Restriction of movement of small craft vessels declared for Solomon Islands Papua New Guinea Boarder” by the Honourable Prime Minister on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020 under Emergency Powers (COVID-19) Regulation 2020.

- Provincial Disaster Committees (PDCs’)/Provincial Disaster Operations Committees (P-DOCs’) on all ten Provinces and Honiara Municipality has step up preparedness for response to COVID-19.

## **B. CURRENT SITUATION**

As of 16<sup>th</sup> April 2020, there has been no confirmed case of COVID-19 in the Solomon Islands. A total of 13 cases have been investigated and out of the total, 11 results turned out negative as of 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020. Samples of the 2 most recent cases were also sent to the Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory (VIDRL) in Melbourne, Australia on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

The Solomon Islands Government continues to implement strict measures to prevent the importation and potential spread of COVID-19 within its borders to protect its people. All overseas passenger flights are currently on hold while essential cargo flights are done needs basis to support COVID-19 operations. Seaports Honiara and Noro continue to operate with strict measures in place to at the Points of Entry.

The declaration of State of Public Emergency on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020 was further extended on 8<sup>th</sup> March for an additional four months however, the start date of the four months remains as 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Measures put in place to limit mass gatherings including closure of schools mainly in Honiara city and Guadalcanal province, temporary halt on recreational activities, scaling down of non-essential public government services and repatriation of city dwellers to home provinces are still enforced. Curfew hours implemented over the Easter Weekend further displayed Solomon Islands Government’s commitment in protecting its citizens and residents from COVID-19.

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. The case scenarios specify actions to be taken for zero up to 5 confirmed cases of COVID-19. N-DOC Sector Committees consist of Health, Camp Management (for managing of Quarantine Sites), Infrastructure, Livelihood, Protection and Education. Similar planning process is now extended to cover Honiara City as well as Guadalcanal, Central, Choiseul and Western Provinces. Guadalcanal Province shares common land boundary with Honiara city with both having many interdependencies of basic services and commercial activities. Provincial planning process on COVID-19 Preparedness and Response also aims to address these issues.

## **C. SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

- Oversight Committee established by Cabinet to provide strategic direction on a whole-of-government planning and response to COVID-19 continues to meet on a regular basis to discuss relevant measures.
- N-DOC Sector Committees are stepping up in their COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plans (PRP) with the focus on broader socio-economic impact at both the national and provincial levels.
- N-DOC Health Sector Committee is leading the health aspect of COVID-19 with broader coordination through the N-DOC.
- N-DOC Camp Management Sector Committee continues to manage all Institutional Quarantine Sites (IQFs).
- National Emergency Response Team (NERT) was activated to support the Health Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), Honiara City Council EOC, Guadalcanal Province EOC and Camp Management EOC. Second batch of NERT deployment has been extended to cover Makira Province as well.

- Oversight Committee is working with development partners and multilateral banks to support SIG implement the COVID-19 PRP including an economic stimulus package.
- The **State of Public Emergency** declared on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020 has extended to another four months as of Wednesday 08<sup>th</sup> April 2020.
- RSIPF carried out a curfew operation on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of April 2020 from 8pm to 5am.
- Budget (\$137.3 million) for implementation of the Preparedness and Response Plan has been allocated to the respective lead ministries of N-DOC Committees (MAL, MEHRD, MHMS, MWYCFA, MID, MPNSCS & MECDM).

## D. N-DOC SECTOR COMMITTEE

### D1. CAMP MANAGEMENT SECTOR COMMITTEE (Institutional Quarantine Sites)

- 15 people have completed their quarantine time at GBR on and three (3) from Pacific Casino on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2020.
- Institutional quarantine sites and Guadalcanal Beach Resort (GBR), VIMO and National Hosting Authority (NHA) are now empty, and decontamination completed
- Institutional Quarantine Facility Management Team are currently taking stock of available resources and supplies.

**Table 1: Summary details of IQF as of 11/04/2020**

<b>IQF</b>	<b>No. of Rooms</b>	<b>Bed Capacity</b>	<b>Current Occupancy</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Available Capacity</b>
Guadalcanal Beach Resort (GBR)	62	110	0	0	0	110
National Hosting Authority (NHA)	5	18	0	0	0	18
VIMO Apartments	8	11	0	0	0	11
Pacific Casino	7	7	4	4	0	3
King George VI	150	300	0	0	0	300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>442</b>

### D2. HEALTH SECTOR COMMITTEE

#### National Health Emergency Operations Centre (NHEOC)

- NHEOC continues to lead multi-sectoral coordination on all health aspects while an Information Management System has been established to receive and compile information.
- A technical working group was established to advise on the treatment guidelines as well as update all SOP and guidelines. Revision of SOPs and guidelines is ongoing to accommodate amendments and updates from WHO and other Competent Authorities
- Planning for MHMS COVID-19 Surge Capacity and Business Continuity Plan (BCP) commenced on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020.
- Two separate batches of COVID-19 medical supplies and equipment have been airlifted into the country.

## **Integration with Key Stakeholders**

- NHEOC continues to conduct trainings with RSIPF, Point of Entry (POE) Agencies and Correctional Services Solomon Islands (CSSI) on COVID-19 awareness and proper use of PPE
- Site assessment of CSSI Detention Centre has been completed.
- NHEOC has cleared a new update Guideline based on International Air Transport Association (IATA) recommendation for cargo and passenger handling at international airports. Updated guideline awaits final approval from relevant authorities.
- Civil Aviation Authority has approved a recommendation from NHEOC to stand up International Airport Command and Control Centre while similar request was also made to Ports Authority.
- Interim guideline for cargo clearance for vessels has been completed and currently in use.

## **Honiara City Health Services (HCHS)**

- HCHS has completed a plan to deploy a community surveillance officer for the next two weeks.
- As part of surge capacity and response, HCHS is collaborating with NHEOC to lead the plan and deployment of COVID-19 screening and treatment centres in Honiara city.
- Preliminary sites to establish COVID-19 screening and treatment has been identified. Consultation with owners and feasibility studies are now required to take place.
- NHEOC engaging with HCC to approve the use of Lawson Tama Stadium for COVID-19 treatment and screening centre feasibility assessment.

### Challenges & Gaps:

- Low stock of PPE with HCHS
- NGO deploying WASH community activities linkages to NHEOC needs strengthening
- White River Clinic is vulnerable to flooding and might not be suitable for health service provision

## **Other Provincial Health Services**

- Provincial HEOCs have been activated and continue setting up of their EOCs.
- Shortland and Choiseul border with Bougainville is considered as a high-risk region for COVID-19 transmission into the country.
- NHEOC, National Security Boarder, Points of Entry staff members to deploy an assessment team to Shortland and Choiseul on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020. Requested NDMO for multi-sector team assessment
- Provincial Response Team commenced site visit to Kilu'ufi Hospital on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020. Next visit will be to Gizo Hospital.
- Essential medical supplies are consolidated, and resource tracking mechanism established to identify potential gaps.

### Challenges & Gaps:

- COVID-19 testing equipment still not available in country with expected date of arrival still to be confirmed.
- PPE stock is still low with expected arrival still to be confirmed.

## **Surveillance and Response**

- Four persons are currently under home quarantine as of 09<sup>th</sup> April 2020.
- Public Health and Surveillance Unit (PHESU) has weekly regular contacts with 13 sentinel sites across seven out of the 10 provinces. The system captures weekly counts of Acute Fever and Rash, diarrhoea, influenza-like illness, prolonged fever, dengue-like illness and severe acute respiratory infection cases.
- Multi-sectoral team assessment for Noro Internal Seaport and Munda International Airport is scheduled to deploy next week. Assessment will be based on Joint SOP that was submitted for endorsement by relevant authorities.

#### Challenges & Gaps:

- Logging shipping vessels has been identified as a challenge for clearance.
- Emergency clearance of vessels continues to be a challenge with SOP now being developed to guide this process.

#### **Prevention and Containment of Outbreak**

- 10 isolation beds expected to be completed this week.
- NZ Government Representative has handed a 5-bed isolation ward facility after improvements on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020.
- Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) tools for safe and effective isolation care areas is almost completed.
- Installation of hand sanitizers and bracket installation at point of care are progressing.
- Quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction (qPCR) machine has arrived in Melbourne from Singapore for installation preparation. Expected data for arrival in Solomon Islands still to be confirmed.

#### **Risk Communications and Public Awareness**

- Risk Communications Team continues to deliver key health messages to the public with ongoing intensive awareness campaigns,
- Community awareness activities and distribution of IEC materials to provinces are ongoing.

#### Challenges & Gaps:

- Financial constraints for COVID-19 operational activities
- Remoteness of communities

#### **D3. INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR COMMITTEE**

- All activities are ongoing as reported in situation report no. 3.

#### **D4. LIVELIHOOD SECTOR COMMITTEE**

##### **1. Food stock assessments**

- Assessments conducted in West Guadalcanal so far identified that there is root crop supply available for 3 months and therefore planting needs to start in order for harvesting to take place within the next 4-6 months.
- Meat stock assessment in two main outlets in Honiara city identified that two months of supplies still remains Sullivan's while Meat Lovers has enough meat stock to last for three months. Other sites will be conducted soon
- Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industries (SICCI) still awaits response from Solrais and other companies on available food stock.
- Support for tools and seedlings is required to encourage farmers to plant more crops for the coming months to sustain the normal supply.

##### **2. Food distribution channels**

- A working group has been tasked to focus on Markets and how to continue to supply fresh products to Honiara in the case of a lockdown. Scenarios considered:
  1. Scenario one
    - Use the Kukum Market as a bulk buying venue and do mobile marketing to West and East Honiara

## 2. Scenario two

- Have bulk drop off venues at Alligator Creek and Poha Bridge. Mobile marketing will collect from there and do marketing within town boundary
- It has been proposed for Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock to do bulk buying and engage business houses to do mobile marketing.
- UNICEF is procuring disinfecting tools and installing hand washing basins at selected market venues.
- UNICEF will do a RAPIDPRO assessment to collect data on whether or not people are not accessing markets due to fear of COVID-19 or are simply out of job and cannot afford to buy. This will help the government to see how best to support its citizens
- Develop a marketing app for buying and selling fresh products
- Biosecurity division – need proper PPE equipment to do their work

## 3. **Rehabilitation and Renovation of Kukum Market**

- Livelihood Committee and HCC have agreed to jointly fund upgrade of Kukum Market. Only fresh root crops, vegetables and frozen fish products will be permitted to be sold in the renovated market
- White river and Naha have been identified as possible satellite market sites.

## 4. **Proposed Honiara Shops to Remain Open during Lock Down**

- A list of Chinese and local shops was identified to be open in a lockdown. These shops are required to keep hygiene standards in receiving cash and giving food supplies to customers to minimize risk of spreading the virus.

5. **LSC Facebook Page content** has been launched to inform public about the livelihood response initiatives and means to reach the general public.

## 6. **UNDP is looking to support LSC in the following areas:**

- Coordinate with Ministry of Agriculture to identify certain areas in Guadalcanal for supply of seedlings and tools to sustain food cultivation. This includes tools such as ploughs to enable large scale farming to be procured within a shorter timeframe.
- Funds from UNDP's project on Markets for Change (M4C) tranche can be redirected to support this initiative.
- The option of supplying seedlings and tools to youths in rural areas in Guadalcanal to farm was also proposed for consideration.
- Other possible support can be through procurement of PPE gears for the livelihood sector committee, assistance to detailed food assessment in other parts of Guadalcanal and Ngella as well as installation of proper storage facilities at the markets for frozen products.

## **D5. EDUCATION SECTOR COMMITTEE**

- All activities previously reported are at the planning stage.

## **D6. PROTECTION SECTOR COMMITTEE**

- 5000 copies of awareness materials consisting of posters and brochures have been printed and handed over to Protection Sector Committee for distribution to Development Services Exchange (DSE) and for rollout to provinces
- Distribution of posters and brochures West Are'Are, Malaita Province targeting villages, schools and community leaders
- Posters and brochures have also been sent to National Council of Women and Vois Blo Mere for distribution to surrounding peri-urban communities
- Child Protection/ Family Awareness on COVID-19 materials from Plan international and World Vision Solomon Islands are in the review process with the N-DOC Protection Committee EOC team. Feedback of approval to be provided soon.
- Protection Sector Committee provincial responses are also ongoing for Guadalcanal, Western, Choiseul and Isabel Provinces

## **D7. SAFETY AND SECURITY**

### **D7.1. ROYAL SOLOMON ISLANDS POLICE FORCE (RSIPF)**

- Police Operations Centre (POC) activated to provide security on the curfew operations on the 10-11<sup>th</sup> April 2020.
- Apprehended 63 people who did not comply with the curfew rules imposed on 10 April 2020. The first five offenders pleaded guilty and were convicted. The first two remanded to this day 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020 for sentencing while the other three are remanded for 14 days.
- High visibility teams are conducting high patrols within the areas declared under emergency zones

#### **D7.1.1. RSIPF PROVINCIAL RESPONSES**

##### **Choiseul Province**

- PRT officers serving at the Border Posts continue to monitor border crossers between Bougainville and Choiseul  
Issues (ongoing)
  - Poor office internet services (SIG Net) and no telephone lines
  - No PPEs for office
  - Monitoring of International Border traditional crossing
  - Awareness/information networking for the whole Choiseul populace

##### **Makira & Ulawa Province**

- P-DOC and PHEOC continue working together to carry COVID-19 programs on communities and villages.
- Five teams consisting of eight people were deployed to 20 wards to carry out assessment on TC Harold impacts as well as COVID-19 awareness.

##### **Western Province**

- Team consist of Health Officers and Livelihood conducted awareness in Liangai Village following reports of a Bougainvillean who had just returned from Bougainville issuing threats to the village.

### **Central Province**

- Ships berthing at Tulagi harbour have been advised to remain on board after checking by responsible authorities as part of the COVID-19 exercise.

### **Rennell & Bellona Province**

- Issues have been raised regarding continues entry of foreign mining vessels to the province. The situation continues to be monitored villages are likely to take matters into their own hands.

### **Temotu Province**

- Police officers from Lata in collaboration with CSSI personals conducted surveillance patrol at the Landing jetty area. This includes Health officers who conducted interviews on to identify sick passenger. So far, no passenger has been reported with illness.
- P-DOC awareness teams continues with the awareness programs in the province.
- The influx of people from Honiara has brought about uncertainty to the community.

### **Makira Province**

#### **Concern:**

- Prices of goods in Kirakira have drastically increased and now become public concern. This is seen as an impact of measures put in place for COVID-19.

#### **Needs:**

- Provincial authorities need to put in place rules to control the prices of goods in the whole province. Task force to reach out and aware people on the matter concern.

### **Isabel Province**

- Joint awareness team (Health, Police, P-DOC) have resumed awareness activities as of 13<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

## **D7.2 CORRECTIONAL SERVICES SOLOMON ISLANDS (CSSI)**

- All activities are ongoing at preparation phase

*Note: Reports received through POC and Provincial Disaster Management Offices*

## **D.8 SOLOMON ISLANDS RED CROSS SOCIETY (SIRC)**

- SIRC volunteers continue set up of information booths for community awareness and health promotion at selected communities with ongoing training for volunteers to conduct awareness in Honiara city and Guadalcanal Province.
- Ongoing support to four Provinces through the involvement of its branches on Malaita, Western, Temotu Rennell and Bellona and Honiara City.

### **1. Rennell & Bellona**

- Coordinated with provincial stakeholders to carry out community awareness. 14 communities have been reached with two schools visited



## **2. Malaita Province**

- SIRC Malaita Branch Team coordinated with provincial stakeholders and its partners (World Vision, NDMO and MHMS) with aim of conducting awareness in targeted regions in Malaita (East, West, North, South)
- Deployment of awareness teams began on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2020 with 43 communities being covered so far
- Remaining volunteers continue engaging in awareness around Auki Town with set up of information booths.

## **3. Western Province**

- SIRC continues to engage in conducting community awareness and health promotion in with 12 communities have been reached so far.

## **4. Temotu Province**

- Temotu Branch and provincial partners are planning roll out of awareness activities to communities around Lata Town.

## **D8. COORDINATION (N-DOC AND NEOC)**

- TC Harold has placed additional strain on manpower capability of NEOC.
- National Emergency Response Team Activation
  - Second batch of NERT members have been called upon on 4<sup>th</sup> April 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. The funds were disbursed to NDC BSP Imprest Account on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020.
- NEOC remains on Full Activation mode to support N-DOC, Sector Committees, Honiara City Council and Guadalcanal Province with respective COVID-19 and TC Harold response activities.
- NEOC is also supporting N-DOC Sectors with the development of SOPs for the planned lockdown in Honiara city. The SOP defines specific tasks for essential sectors and services to be carried out during the lockdown periods.

## **E. 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 regular 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.

## **F. 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.

## **G. OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES AND GAPS**

- Second batch of financial support to Provincial Disaster Committees (PDCs) and their Provincial Disaster Operations Committees (P-DOCs) yet to be disbursed subject to submission of acquittal of first batch of financial assistance.
- National testing capability not yet in place.

## **H. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- All N-DOC Sector Committees to continue updating NEOC on the implementation of their Preparedness and Response Programmes.
- A 3W (Who, What, Where) matrix to be circulated to all N-DOC Sectors to track activities to- date.
- A donor tracking matrix to be provided to development partners to document contributions in cash and kind.
- N-DOC Sector Committees to support respective provincial sector committees in planning, implementation and resourcing.
- Continuation 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.
- Progress with urgency the establishment of national testing capacity for COVID-19.
- Price control measure to be enforced.

## **I. NEXT UPDATE**

Next update will be on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

APPROVED FOR DISSEMINATION BY

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