



# NATIONAL DISASTER COUNCIL

## NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT OFFICE

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### NATIONAL SITUATIONAL REPORT - 13

Ref: NSR13\_09/20

**EVENT ID:** COVID-19  
**EVENT:** SIG Response to COVID-19  
**PERIOD:** Friday 14<sup>th</sup> Aug – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> Sept  
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**APPROVED BY:** Chairman, National Disaster Council  
**ISSUED BY:** National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC)  
**NEXT UPDATE:** Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020

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## 1. OVERALL STRATEGY

The overall strategy of the Solomon Islands Government on COVID-19 is to first, protect all Solomon Islanders and all people living in Solomon Islands, second, to keep the economic engine of the country going, and third, 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 in the country, minimizing the spread, reducing morbidity and mortality, and minimizing societal disruption, and psycho-social and economic impact of COVID-19.

## 2. KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Solomon Islands remain COVID-19 Free to date with the Government committed to implementing appropriate and strict measures to prevent the importation and spread of COVID-19.
- The second State of Public Emergency for the country is still in force since Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2020.
- The National Disaster Operations Sector Committees (N-DOC Sectors) and Provincial Disaster Sector Committees (P-DOC) Coordination Arrangements of the National Disaster Council (NDC) remains the country's preparedness and response coordination mechanism for the pandemic.
- Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) remains the lead agency of the Government's fight against COVID-19.
- Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) maintains the safety and security lead for the COVID-19 responses including on the Western border with Papua New Guinea.
- A total of 16 Government designated Quarantine Stations are operational in the country. Fifteen (15) are in Honiara whilst one (1) is in Gizo, Western Province. The provision for the QSs are stated in Emergency Powers (COVID-19) (Declaration of Quarantine Stations) (Amendment) (No.3) (No.4) (No.5) Order 2020. Additional Quarantine Stations are being prepared for Western and Choiseul Provinces.
- Essential cargo flights remains on going and on need-basis to support COVID-19 operations. International trade continue with Honiara and Noro operating with strict measures in place for all incoming foreign vessels.
- Solomon Islands Government had conducted a total of 10 approved repatriation flights.
- The *Emergency Powers (COVID-19) (Emergency Zone) (Solomon Islands Papua New Guinea Border) Order 2020* on the extension of the Emergency Zone on the Western Border *still in force. (Refer to Annex, Map 2)*
- A total of 2,249 cumulative samples collected and tested for COVID-19 since May 2020. All returned negative (MHMS, SITREP 20).
- A total of 106 individuals of Solomon Islands and foreign nationals were repatriated from China. First tests results of all since quarantining return as negative.
- American Yacht was exempted into the country on strict conditions.

### **GLOBAL SITUATION IN NUMBERS**

The numbers are based on WHO Situation Report (Dash Board) as of 7:08pm CEST, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

#### **Globally**

28, 040, 853 confirmed positive cases reported

906, 092 deaths confirmed deaths

#### **Western Pacific Region**

535, 413 confirmed positive cases

11,606 confirmed deaths

#### **Countries/territories/areas affected**

213

#### **Countries with no confirmed cases**

12

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

## 3. CURRENT SITUATION

- Solomon Islands remain COVID-19 Free to date since WHO declaration of COVID-19 as a global pandemic earlier in 2020. The Government remains committed in implementing strict measures to prevent potential importation and spread of COVID-19.
- Solomon Islands remains under a State of Public Emergency since Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July 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 potential high-risk area of importation of COVID-19 through this border.
- The Government has a total of 16 Quarantine Stations in operational in the country. Fifteen (15) are in Honiara whilst one (1) is in Gizo, Western Province. The provision for the QSSs' are stated in Emergency Powers (COVID-19) (Declaration of Quarantine Stations) (Amendment) (No.3) (No.4) (No.5) Order 2020.
- Essential cargo flights are also being done on need- basis to support COVID-19 operations. International trade continue with Honiara and Noro operating with strict measures in place for all incoming foreign vessels.
- Solomon Islands Government conducted a total of 10 approved repatriation flights using commercial airlines. The recent one was on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020.
- The Prime Minister has on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August 2020, signed off on a new Order cited as the *Emergency Powers (COVID-19) (Emergency Zone) (Solomon Islands Papua New Guinea Border) Order 2020* for the extension of the Emergency Zone on the Western Border (*Refer to Annex*).
- A total of 2,249 cumulative samples collected and tested for COVID-19 since May 2020. All returned negative.
- A total of 106 individuals of Solomon Islands and foreign nationals were repatriated from China on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020. All currently quarantine in various SIG designated Quarantine Stations in Honiara. The first COVID-19 test results of all returned as negative.
- Proposed flight to repatriate students and nationals in the Philippines has been postponed to a later date. The government is reviewing the proposed flight based on risk assessment of Philippines.
- An American couple was granted exemption with strict conditions by the Government after the couple's yacht has entered the Solomon Islands from PNG with mechanical problem. Yacht is now in Honiara with the couple quarantine on board.

## 4. SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### 4.1 OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE & NATIONAL DISASTER OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

- Oversight Committee established by Cabinet to provide strategic advice on a whole-of-government planning and response to COVID-19 maintains its role.
- The Attorney General led a team from the Oversight Committee to meet with P-DOC Western and Choiseul Provinces in Gizo, to clarify the expansion of the Emergency Zone adjacent to the Western Border and obtain their views on preparedness and response work carried out in the two provinces.
- Solomon Islands has extended the **State of Public Emergency (SOPE)** as proclaimed by His Excellency Governor General on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2020. The SOPE came into effect on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> replacing the previous SOPE that expired on the same date.
- N-DOC Sector Committees maintain and continuously stepping up COVID-19 Preparedness and Responses including to address broader livelihood and socio-economic impacts.
- N-DOC Health Sector Committee is leading the health aspect of COVID-19 with broader coordination through the N-DOC arrangements.
- N-DOC Camp Management Sector Committee maintains and continue to manage all the SIG approved Quarantine Stations (QS).
- Restriction on movement of small crafts on the Solomon Islands-PNG border is still enforced as part of the Emergency Powers (COVID-19) Regulation 2020 still exist.

- Government through the Oversight Committee continues with its weekly Sunday Radio Talk Back Show based on the messaging strategy of ‘IUMI TUGETA AGAINST COVID 19’. To this date 21 Talk Back Shows have been conducted.
- Prime Minister’s week address being conducted now stands at 24. Oversight Committee and Steering Committee now stands at 31. Significantly, the address is to inform the country of the current SIG responses on COVID-19 and other strategic decisions the country take as it continues in its COVID-19 preparedness and response.
- The Prime Minister has on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August 2020, signed off on a new Order cited as the *Emergency Powers (COVID-19) (Emergency Zone) (Solomon Islands Papua New Guinea Border) Order 2020* for the extension of the Emergency Zone on the Western Border. This Order covers a strip on Shortland Islands including the tip of Choiseul and all the way up to the Malaita Outer Islands (MOI). Refer to Annex, Map 2.
- N-DOC Sector Committees were deployed to MOI to carry out work related to COVID-19 as well as work related to each Sector Committees. Activities also include food relief distribution to communities and villages on MOI. The relief and COVID-19 response preparedness operations was conducted from Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

## 4.2. REPATRIATION FLIGHTS

The 10<sup>th</sup> approved repatriation flight with 106 passengers was successfully conducted on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020. Since the start of the repatriation, more than 900 plus Solomon Islanders and other foreign nationals have entered the country (Refer to Tables 1 & 2). This excludes those who have been exempted on cargo flights, military flights and others. Additionally, Solomon Islands nationals working in the fisheries sector are also being repatriated through fishing vessels and private charter flight. The Government continue its plans to repatriate Solomon Island nationals, and other foreign nationals exempted to support humanitarian response and other key Government priorities.

**Table 1. SUMMARY – Approved repatriation flights details**

#	Date	Aircraft Name	Flight Number	Flight Origin	Total Repatriated
1	26-May-20	Solomon Airlines	IE663	Brisbane, Australia	74
2	27-May-20	Solomon Airlines	IE665	Nadi, Fiji	104
3	30-Jun-20	Solomon Airlines	IE676	Brisbane, Australia	124
4	1-Jul-20	Solomon Airlines	IE678	Nadi, Fiji	133
5	8-Jul-20	Solomon Airlines	IE684	Brisbane, Australia	52
6	21-Jul-20	Solomon Airlines	IE690	Brisbane, Australia	125
7	23-Jul-20	Solomon Airlines	IE692	Auckland, New Zealand	145
8	29-Jul-20	Solomon Airlines	IE694	Brisbane, Australia	44
9	23-Aug-20	Solomon Airlines	IE608	Apia, Samoa	21
10	2-Sep-20	Solomon Airlines	IE611	Guangzhou, China	106
<b>Total</b>					<b>928</b>

## 4.3. FISHING VESSELS ON-PORT DISEMBARKATIONS

Since the last SITREP issued on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August 2020, no Solomon Islands Observers have disembarked at the Honiara International Sea Port.

## 4.4. QUARANTINE STATIONS

The Government has declared 16 Quarantine Stations as per Emergency Powers (COVID-19) (Declaration of Quarantine Stations) (Amendment) (No.3) (No.4) (No.5) Order 2020. The Government through Camp Managements Sector Committee is managing eleven (11) Quarantine Stations (QS), *Refer to Table 2 and Annex Map 1*. The remaining five QS are classified as Diplomatic QSs' hosted within the residences of the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Australian High Commission, New Zealand High Commission and the British High Commission respectively.

**Table 2 SUMMARY - Occupancy by Quarantine Stations for Honiara and Western (as of 12<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020)**

### SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT PAID

QUARANTINE STATION	BED CAPACITY	CURRENT OCCUPANCY	MALE	FEMALE
GUADALCANAL BEACH RESORT(GBR)	82	10	5	5
ACCESS APARTMENTS	9	8	6	2
AIRPORT MOTEL	16	0	0	0
VIMO APARTMENTS	15	0	0	0
CHENG'S ACCOMODATION	86	0	0	0
NATIONAL HOSTING AUTHORITY (NHA)	14	0	0	0
PACIFIC CASINO HOTEL	78	52	47	5
KING SOLOMON HOTEL	30	0	0	0
GIZO HOTEL	15	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL OCCUPANTS</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>12</b>

### SELF PAID

QUARANTINE STATION	BED CAPACITY	CURRENT OCCUPANCY	MALE	FEMALE
KING SOLOMON HOTEL	19	4	4	0
HONIARA HOTEL	30	18	16	2
HERITAGE PARK	47	14	11	3
<b>TOTAL OCCUPANTS</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>5</b>

*Note: Designated Diplomatic QSs' are not included in the above table.*

**Table 3. SUMMARY - Occupancy by Nationality and Gender**

#	Nationality	Male	Female	Total
1	Solomon Islanders	12	8	<b>20</b>
2	Foreign Nationalities	77	9	<b>86</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>17</b>	

## 5. N-DOC SECTOR COMMITTEE UPDATES

### 5.1. CAMP MANAGEMENT SECTOR COMMITTEE (SIG Quarantine Stations)

- All QS operations on-going as usual.
- The current occupancy status stands at 106 (*Refer to Table 2 and 3 for details*).
- Housekeeping to commence the cleaning of QS been vacated.
- Decontamination works been carried out last 2 days ago.
- Environmental Health Division of MHMS maintains monitoring of the QS standards including providing advice and recommendations for caterers to do regular hygiene cleanups on food processing facilities/kitchens.



- Facilitate requests for additional waste bins for King Solomon and Honiara Hotel, with other waste management items for daily use. The CMSC-EOC is now in pipeline and items to be distributed to the identified QSs' upon receiving it from the NEOC-Logistics Function Team/NDMO.
- Chair Camp Management Sector Committee was part of the team that visited the SI-PNG Border. Successful negotiations has enabled SIG to secure two new proposed Quarantine Stations. One is at Tuha (Shortland Islands), the other is at Supizae (Choiseul). Once operational, the QSs' will be the SIG frontline Quarantine Stations.

## 5.2. HEALTH SECTOR COMMITTEE

### Health Coordination and Responses

- N-DOC Health maintains the leading role in the 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.
- NHEOC continuous to provide strategic and operational leadership to the health teams in preparing systems for a possible COVID-19 outbreak – national and provincial level.
- SOLMAT still on deployment in Shortland, working to strengthen preparedness systems at the SIG-PNG border.
- NHEOC deployed two staff embed in the multi-agency team led by Malaita Provincial Disaster Operations Committee (P-DOC), and NERT to Malaita Outer Island (MOI) to strengthen COVID-19 Systems preparedness at the MOI SI-PNG Border on the 2nd September 2020. Team returned on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020.
- COVID-19 Isolation Ward at Gizo officially opened this week. The facility was funded by WHO under the Global Fund Financial Support.
- NHEOC on-going priorities includes the following;
  - Continuous review of SOPs for all teams
  - Specific development of the SOP for isolation and management of COVID-19 cases in Quarantine Stations.
  - Coordinating with WHO and SINU for the development of a COVID-19 training package for all front liners – a terms of reference has been developed and shared with WHO and SINU
  - Concept note for improve Human Resources for surge capacity, this was submitted to Chair of N-DOC Health Committee.
- Support to approved international repatriation flights (in-bound and outbound).
  - Maintains and execute the Health Sector Point of Entry (POE) responsibilities in both airport and seaports. A total of 8 flights were supported
  - Maintains and conduct passengers screened and transferred to quarantine sites, no red flags where identified.
  - Facilitated screening and transferring of aircrew for overnight quarantine and decontamination.
  - Support the medical evacuation to PNG on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 2020.
  - Pre-travel COVID-19 – facilitated the operations for swabbing of foreigners departing the country.
- Resource Tracking and PPE
  - Comprehensive stock management for Shortland being done as a senior pharmacy officer has been deployed as part of the SOLMAT team.
  - There has been a general increase in the number of PPEs available due to arrival of shipments from NMS and partners such as WHO, UNICEF and Alibaba Foundation. Distribution to the five clinics has been strengthened due to the positioning of a senior pharmacists on site
  - NMS is expecting the arrival of 2,000 disposal gowns and 20,000 surgical masks donated by PRC Government through Guangdong provincial government.

- A total of 1000 COVID-19 Nucleic Acid Detection Kits and 50 Forehead infrared thermometers have already been received by the NRH – donation from Guangdong provincial government.
- Table 4 provides the current medical supplies available in stock and in pipe-line as of Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

**Table 4. SUMMARY – Medical Supplies stock-up as of 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020.** *Source: NMS, 2020.*

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION	UNIT	IN STOCK				ON ORDER	
		TOTAL	NMS	NRH	NIPC	NMS	ETA
Sharps Container Boxes	Each / Item	11,759	11,759				
Gloves Examination - Nitrile S	Each / Item						
Gloves Examination - Nitrile M	Each / Item	44,100	44,100				
Gloves Examination - Nitrile L	Each / Item	171,300	171,300				
Gloves Examination - Latex S	Each / Item	152,400	152,400				
Gloves Examination - Latex M	Each / Item	1,313,600	1,313,600				
Gloves Examination - Latex L	Each / Item	1,121,800	1,121,800				
Medical/Surgical Face Mask Disposable	Each / Item	843,258	843,258				
Medical Resp N95	Each / Item	59,647	59,647				
Apron Disposable Plastic - Medium	Each / Item	11,715	11,715				
Apron Disposable Plastic - Large	Each / Item	850	850				
Apron Heavy Duty	Each / Item						
Single use, disposable, length mid-calf Isolation Gown - Level 1	Each / Item	29,420	29,420				
Single Use - Overall Zip - Level 2	Each / Item	5,796	5,796				
Single Use - Gown - Level 3	Each / Item	7,180	7,180				
Gowns Surgical sterile disposabe standard - Large	Each / Item	4,905	4,905				
Gowns Surgical sterile disposabe standard -Medium	Each / Item	1,800	1,800				
Goggles, Protective	Each / Item	2,287	2,287				
Face shield plastic , reusable/disposable		11,515	11,515				
Chlorine	1kg Bucket	5,155	5,155				
Alcoholic Hand Rub	1L	100	100			1,300	10/30/20
Antiseptic Soap	Each / Item	9,126	9,126				
Alcoholic 70%, solution in swab	Box/100	100	100				
Shoe Cover - disposable	Each / Item	3,996	3,996				
PVC Gum Boot	Each / Pair	10	10				
Hair / Head Cover	Each / Item	5,370	5,370				
Infrared Thermometr - Moniting Temo	Each / Item	151	151				
VTM 3ml Flocked Swabs + Specimen bags,2 5boxes of 400	Unit	14,600	14,600				
COVID19 - Antibody Test kit	each	5,000	5,000				

- Prevention and containment of COVID-19
  - Solomon Islands International Borders remains closed to human travel.
  - Repatriation flight on the on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 with a total of 104 PAX China-Honiara – no red flags
    - Four passengers were prohibited to board the flight in China due to their non- compliance to our country's pre-arrival mandatory testing requirements and protocols.
    - All passengers who arrived have had at least 2 COVID-19 tests prior to their departure and all have tested negative
    - All 104 passengers were thoroughly screened by health frontline workers upon arrival at the Henderson airport and were all cleared to proceed to their designated quarantine stations.
    - All will undergo 21 quarantine days and during this time, four COVID-19 tests will be administered. First test has already been conducted within 48 hours of their arrival in accordance with testing regimen the second test will be administered between 5-10 days, third between 12-15 days and the fourth between 19-21 days.
- Diagnostic Facilities (National Dengue Molecular Laboratory)
  - A total of 2249 samples being collected and tested since May 2020. All results have been negative.
  - Engaged in an External Quality Assessment Programme to ensure quality in COVID-19 molecular testing supported by WHO
  - So far have completed two assessments;

- i. 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020 – Received first batch of 5 samples from the Hong Kong EQAP laboratory. The panel was run with all the amplification assays that we currently have in country. This includes the BGI commercial kit, the taqman commercial assay and the TIB molbio Invitrogen superscript III assay. The later was validated by WHO. The assessment panel targeted the amplification process only lypholysed RNA that was rehydrated on site for testing. The result of this assessment has not yet returned.
  - ii. The second assessment batch was a panel consisting of 3 samples received from the Pacific Paramedical Training Center (PPTC), New Zealand on the 19 August 2020. These samples were heat-inactivated material from anonymized clinical material, which will require both the extraction and amplification processes. The conclusions of preliminary results agreed with reference testing results reassuring the quality of the local testing
- Diagnostic Facilities (Provinces) upgrading in progress.
    - Gizo Laboratory operational and Live – GeneXpert Testing, 3 tests/hour, maximum 21 tests per day
    - Choiseul province has a GeneXpert machine. Challenges with the infrastructure, there is a need for assessment and upgrading of the infrastructure.
    - For Malaita, all components of COVID-19 testing machine have also been deployed awaiting national lab team to complete their work at Gizo hospital before moving to Kilufi to do the same.
  - Environmental Health close monitoring of hygiene standards on all QSs' is ongoing.
    - New monitoring teams for quarantine EHD monitoring team developed; rostered from the 24th August – 10th September. This is the third group that has been rostered since EHD started monitoring the QSs' on the 27th July 2020. Table 5 provides the summary of the activities status by QS from end of August to early September. *Refer to Table 5.*

**Table 5. SUMMARY - EHD QS Monitoring from 31<sup>st</sup> August to 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

Quarantine station	Activities
Heritage Park	Completed Rapid Assessment and Q-site given "green" EHD will continue to monitor as Q-site continues to be filled with PAX 14 persons were booked
King Solomon Hotel	Sanitary certificate delivered to Hotel Management Rapid assessment completed; 27 rooms given "green". 3 rooms "yellow" low water pressure in the bathrooms. 1 room status "red" water services not functioning. EHD following up recommendation with Hotel Management – where low water pressure was addressed on the 4 <sup>th</sup> August. Confirmed 4 rooms currently being occupied
Honiara hotel	Rapid assessment completed; hotel management have actioned all corrective measures to be taken "green" Confirmed 23 rooms currently being occupied.
Access Apartment	Sanitary certificate delivered to Q-site; ready to host quarantine persons "green" Confirmed all 8 rooms are occupied.
Airport Motel	Water quality results received and recommendation to clean storage tanks issued. Food and water samples indicates acceptable levels. Person currently in quarantine will graduate on the 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2020. EHD will continue to monitor
VIMO	EHD following up on corrective measures with Waste Management. Water sample results came out and are acceptable for the Q-site. Caterers for this Q-site have been asked to improve food handling practices. EHD will continue to monitor and coordinate with Q-site owners and caterers to improve services. Person currently in site will graduate on 6 <sup>th</sup> September
GBR	Q-site closure notice extended as second water test still showed no improvement. EHD coordinating with Q-Site owner to consult experts. Will continue to follow up on water treatment, water quality to comply with national water quality stand Clearance certificate provided to caterer having taken corrective measures in accessing safe water for catering.
Pacific Casino	Rapid Assessment completed "Green" 58 rooms currently occupied.
AFP Q-Stations	Assessment for new Quarantine sites completed.



- National Referral Hospital COVID-19 clinical management preparedness is on-going
  - A three-day consultation was completed with all the department heads of the NRH to finalize the National COVID-19 Clinical Guidelines. A draft has been presented to the Under-Secretary Health Care during the closing ceremony yesterday. A finalized version to be released soon.
  - National COVID-19 Triage and Isolation have deployed two of their staff as part of SOLMAT to support Shortland, Western Province to develop SOPs, clinical management and workflows at the triage and isolation sites in Shortlands.
- Seven Provincial Health Sectors Committees (P-DOC Health Sector Committees) provided updates to the NHEOC at the time of this SITREP. Provinces include Honiara City Council, Western, Makira/Ulawa, Malaita, Choiseul, Isabel and Temotu Provinces. The on-going implementation of surveillance/social mobilization and awareness (risk communications) remains constant for all Provinces and forms majority of the preparedness work at this stage.
- Specific to Malaita Province, a whole of Malaita Provincial Government Health Team was deployed during the recent MOI relief and COVID-19 scoping/preparedness operations. Apart from delivering health services to the atoll islands (Luaniua, Pelau and Sikaiana), the team also conducted COVID-19 preparedness activities.
- Specific to Western and Choiseul, the Provincial teams are maintaining the health sector responses on the SI-PNG Western Border.
- Specific to Isabel Province, P-DOC Health was deployed by P-DOC Isabel in responding to the yacht that entered the Solomon Islands and seek shelter in Kia, Isabel. Team is lead by Police with the inclusion of other border agencies and health.

### 5.3. INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR COMMITTEE

- On-going implementation of the N-DOC Education COVID-19 preparedness and response plan.
- Providing technical and financial support in completing the SIG proposed Quarantine Stations in Tuha (Shortland Islands) and Supizae (near Taro, Choiseul). Constructions materials were already dispatched on MV Shortlands on Wednesday.
- Detailed technical assessment for major repair of Choiseul Province Rest house is in progress

### 5.4. EDUCATION SECTOR COMMITTEE

- On-going implementation of the N-DOC Education COVID-19 preparedness and response plan.
- Weekly education awareness program continues.
- Education Sector Committee has deployed a team to MOI to visit schools, conduct trainings and awareness etc. as part of its preparedness and response plan.
- Cabinet has approved the repatriation of 400 plus students studying in the Philippines. MEHRD has established a task force consisting of staff from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to facilitate the flight. Solomon Islands Government and private sponsored students would be repatriated.
  - Dates for repatriation flights are proposed for the 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September, and 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020
  - Pre-tests in the Philippines must be conducted before students will be repatriated
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> repatriation flight will make a stopover in Jakarta, Indonesia to also bring back students.

## 5.5. LIVELIHOOD SECTOR COMMITTEE

- On-going implementation of the N-DOC Education COVID-19 preparedness and response plan.
- Ongoing distribution of seedlings and gardening tools to residences within Honiara Municipality and the Provinces.
- Livelihood Sector Committee have deployed a team to MOI. Team comprised of staff from Ministry of Agriculture Livestock (MAL), Ministry of Mines Energy and Rural Electrification (MMERE). Tasks conducted:
  - Initiated community consultations for MOI Food Security Project
  - COVID-19 awareness for MOI
  - Conducted assessment on land use, feasibility and risks for proposed MOI Food Security Project
  - Conducted Groundwater Assessment of existing wells and lakes in Luaniua and Pelau.
- Specific to the Western Provincial Disaster Operations Committee for Livelihood, an agricultural assessment was conducted on Shortland Islands in relation to the consequences on the restrictions on the SI-PNG Border to livelihood and food security. The sector committee has identified a need for urgent food relief. Thus, a formal request and proposal has been sent to the N-DOC Livelihood and NDMO for consideration.

## 5.6. SAFETY AND SECURITY

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

- Police Operations Centre (POC) with the support of the National Emergency Management Special Events Planning (NEMSEP) maintains performing the coordination role regarding safety and security on SIG COVID-19 response.
- Commissioner's weekly press conference continues to stress the importance of engagement of RSIPF regarding the whole of SIG response on COVID-19.
- RSIPF resources and personnel at the Solomon Islands Border continue to provide logistical support as a whole of SIG response in its COVID-19 border operations.
- Provincial Responses includes overall responsibility of maintaining safety and security, joint awareness conducted with relevant P-DOC Sectors and distribution of pamphlets and posters.
- RSIPF has deployed Police Patrol Boat Auki 04 to the SI-PNG Border. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> RSIPF COVID-19 deployment to the SI-PNG Border in implementing the safety and security component of the whole of SIG response preparedness to COVID-19.

## 5.7 SOLOMON ISLANDS RED CROSS SOCIETY (SIRC)

- Conduct Remote (Zoom) Psychosocial First Aid training online for SIRC Western Branch staff and volunteers (21 participants)-29/8/20.
- Deployment of 1 SIRC Malaita branch volunteer to Malaita Outer Islands -02/09/20.
- Provide First Aid Training for Protection Committee frontliners- 02-03/09/20.
- Continuous support to the quarantine facility by 2 staff and 1 volunteer.
- Coordination meetings with MHMS.
- SIRCS is working on its activities for COVID 19 for the remaining months of 2020.

## 6. 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 and UNDP have greatly support and assisted the Government Response.
- UNDP with DFAT support has provided two 23 foot bray boats, two 60 horse-power engine with complete navigation and safety kits. The OBM's are to support the Western and Choiseul PDC/P-DOC operations.
- UNDP with the RESPAC support has provided 4 new laptops to the NDMO as part of NERT deployment capability.

## 7. OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES AND GAPS

### 1. Coordination

- This remains the major challenge amongst SIG response agencies. Almost 5 months on since the initial SOPE declared in March 2020, agencies are observed to be protective of their mandated areas of operations (operational space) even though the N-DOC Arrangement is being employed as the SIG COVID-19 response coordination mechanism. This tends to limit coordination amongst response agencies.
- There is yet to be an established coordination mechanism and centre established at the Border to coordinate the Border operations. Currently, the various nationally deployed teams to the border employed multiple systems, limiting maximum participation of P-DOC Sector Committees and member agencies to the Border operations.

### 2. Information sharing and communication

- Some Sectors are not providing situational updates to the NEOC. It must be noted that Sectors implementation of the PRP is ongoing. It was observed that regular updates are being shared through radio and social media but not to the NEOC or the PEOCs. Thus, affecting the development of operational information management products for decision-makers.

### 3. Disbursement of funds and sector support to the Provinces

- Operationally the slow process in the disbursement of financial support especially to the Provincial Disaster Operations Committee and Sectors has resulted in minimal implementation at the Provincial level.
- N-DOC Sector Committees are providing minimal support to the P-DOC counter-parts.
- Level of preparedness at the provincial level is low.

## 8. RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. Coordination

- There needs to be an information session on the N-DOC and P-DOC Arrangement with all SIG responding agencies
- Specific to the Western Border, an On-Site Operation Coordination Centre will be established at Nila to coordinate the whole of SIG response.
- Establish a contextualised coordination mechanism to cater for nationally deployed agencies to the Border to connect to the N-DOC and P-DOC Arrangement.
- Enhance collaboration with all other N-DOC and P-DOC Sector Committees.
- Decentralise implementation of programmes from N-DOC committees (National Level) to P-DOC (Provincial level) committees, with the latter to progressively take leadership and appropriately resourced from N-DOC committees at the national level
- N-DOC Committee to have regular meetings to improve the overall coordination of the implementation of PRP

### 2. Information sharing and communication

- N-DOC and P-DOC Sector Committees and members are informed and reminded to continue providing to the NEOC or Sector EOCs situational updates. This will feed into the development of decision-making products for the N-DOC/P-DOC and OSC and for public information.
- NEOC in consultation with N-DOC Health with the support of United Nations Training and Research Centre (UNITAR) is developing a Dashboard. Thus, all sectors are encouraged to share information to the NEOC.

### **3. Disbursement of funds and sector support to the Provinces**

- Ministry of Finance and Treasury (MOFT) to prioritise disbursement of funds that are tagged for Provincial Preparedness in particular for the Western Border Provinces from the respective N-DOC Committees.
- N-DOC Sector Committees are encouraged to schedule weekly communication/conversation to respective P-DOC counter-parts. This should assist in obtaining situation updates and provide operational guidance to Provincial counter-parts.
- N-DOC Sector Committees are informed and reminded of the obligation to provide national support directly to the P-DOC counter-parts.

## **9. NEXT UPDATE AND APPROVAL**

Next update upon available information.

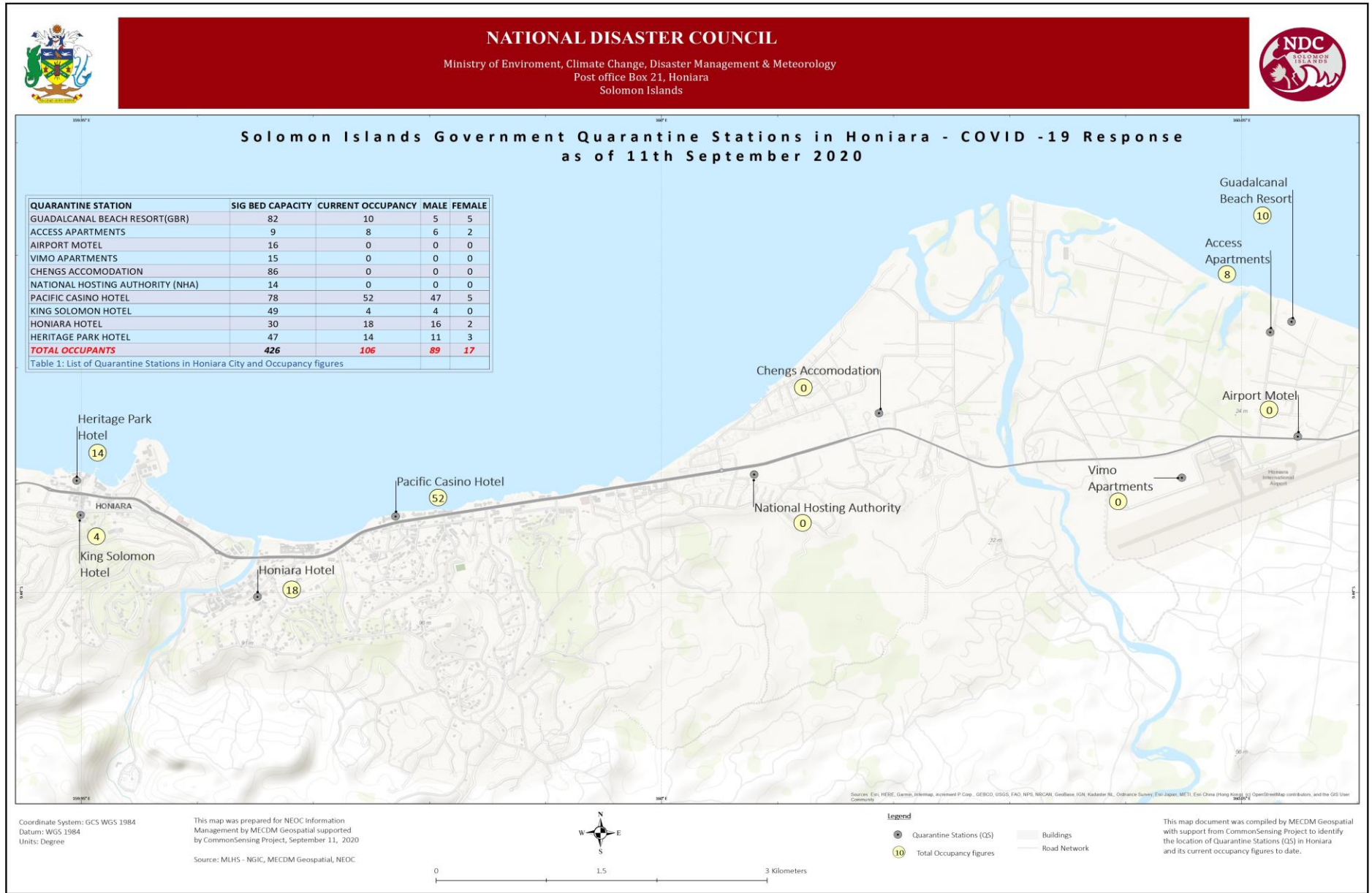
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 MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE,  
 DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND METEOROLOGY

## 10. ANNEXES

MAP 1: SIG Designated Quarantine Stations in Honiara.





**MAP 2: SI-PNG Border Map: Extension of the Declared Emergency Zone**

