



NATIONAL DISASTER COUNCIL

NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT OFFICE

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NATIONAL SITUATIONAL REPORT- 11

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NEXT UPDATE: Upon availability of new information

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1. HIGHLIGHTS

- Solomon Islands remain COVID-19 Free to date since WHO declaration of COVID-19 as a global pandemic earlier in 2020.
- Solomon Islands remains under a State of Public Emergency since 25th March 2020. His Excellency Governor General has made a new proclamation for an additional 4 months extension of the State of Public Emergency on 24th July 2020 as provided for on the powers conferred by Section 16(2) of the Constitution, and as per legal notice 103. The new emergency powers under the new declaration is known as the *Emergency Powers (COVID-19 (No.3) Regulations 2020*.
- Parliament approved the new State of Public Emergency following the Governor General proclamation. The Emergency Powers (COVID-19)(N0.3) Regulations 2020 dated 24th July 2020 came into effective as of Saturday 25th July 2020.
- The National Disaster Council (NDC) Arrangement remains the country's preparedness and response coordination mechanism for the pandemic. This is provided for under Part 2, section 17 of the new Emergency Powers (COVID-19) (No.3) Regulations 2020 dated 24th July 2020.
- National Disaster Operations Sector Committees (N-DOC Sectors) and Provincial Disaster Sector Committees (P-DOC) are the NDC operational arrangement and remains on Full-On Activation Mode. This is a multi-sectoral arrangement and approach
- Solomon Islands Government conducted a total of 8 approved repatriation flights using commercial airlines. The recent one was on 29th July 2020.

GLOBAL SITUATION IN NUMBERS

The numbers are based on WHO Situation Report 198 as at 5th August 2020 (total new cases in the last 24 hours)

Globally

18 354 342 confirmed positive cases (206 709)

696 147 deaths (5 116)

Western Pacific Region

341 165 confirmed positive cases (8 412)

8 549 deaths (35)

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

- Government has declared a total of 16 Quarantine Stations as stated in the Emergency Powers (COVID-19) (Declaration of Quarantine Stations) (Amendment No.5) Order 2020, legal notice number 101, dated Thursday 21st July 2020. The remaining Quarantine Stations are classified as Diplomatic Quarantine Stations and that includes the official residences of Forum Fisheries Agency, Australia, New Zealand and British High Commissions.
- A total of 1,666 cumulative samples collected and tested for COVID-19 since May 2020. All returned negative.

2. CURRENT SITUATION

Solomon Island remains COVID-19 FREE to date. The Government remains committed in implementing strict measures to prevent potential importation and spread of COVID-19.

Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) is the lead agency of the Government's fight against COVID-19. All Government agencies and stakeholders are providing the required support through the N-DOC and P-DOC Sectors.

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.

Total of eight (8) major repatriation of Solomon Islanders and other foreign nationals completed. The recent repatriation was on the 29th July 2020. All persons repatriated are subjected to undergo mandatory quarantine for 14 days and 21 days respectively depending on the country of origin. All will undergo three compulsory COVID-19 testing whilst in Quarantine Stations.

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 Qs 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.

On-going responses by N-DOC Sector Committees continue based on the Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19. These sector responses have been extended to provinces including coordination through the Provincial Disaster Management arrangements.

3. SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

3.1. OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE & NATIONAL DISASTER OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

- Oversight Committee established by Cabinet to provide strategic direction on a whole-of-government planning and response to COVID-19 maintains its role.
- Solomon Islands has extended the **State of Public Emergency (SOPE)** as proclaimed by His Excellency Governor General on Friday 24th July 2020. The SOPE came into effect on Saturday 25th replacing the previous SOPE that expired on the same date.
- N-DOC Sector Committees maintains and continuously stepping up COVID-19 Preparedness and Responses with the focus on broader 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 17 Talk Back Shows have been conducted with the most recent on Sunday 2nd August 2020.
- Prime Minister's week address now stands at 19 being conducted. The recent is on Monday 3rd August 2020. Significantly, the address is to inform the country of the current SIG responses on COVID-19 and other strategic decisions the country take as its continue it its COVID-19 preparedness and response.

3.2. REPATRIATION FLIGHTS

A total of eight (8) approved passenger repatriation flights has been conducted since May 26th to 26th July 2020. Since the start of the repatriation, more than 800 plus Solomon Islanders and other foreign nationals have entered into the country (*See Table 1*).

Table 1. SUMMARY - SIG approved repatriation flights and number of passengers

| # | Date | Aircraft Name | Flight Number | Flight Origin | Total Repatriated |
|-------|--------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 26 May 2020 | Solomon Airlines | IE663 | Brisbane, Australia | 74 |
| 2 | 27 May 2020 | Solomon Airlines | IE665 | Nadi, Fiji | 104 |
| 3 | 30 June 2020 | Solomon Airlines | IE676 | Brisbane, Australia | 124 |
| 4 | 1 July 2020 | Solomon Airlines | IE678 | Nadi, Fiji | 133 |
| 5 | 8 July 2020 | Solomon Airlines | IE684 | Brisbane, Australia | 52 |
| 6 | 21 July 2020 | Solomon Airlines | IE690 | Brisbane, Australia | 125 |
| 7 | 23 July 2020 | Solomon Airlines | IE692 | Auckland, New Zealand | 145 |
| 8 | 29 July 2020 | Solomon Airlines | IE694 | Brisbane, Australia | 44 |
| TOTAL | | | | | 801 |

NOTE:

This data does not include persons repatriated on other exempted flights (ie, Cargo and Military Flights, etc).

3.3. FISHING VESSELS ON-PORT DISEMBARKATIONS

In the month of July a total of seven (7) Solomon Islanders working as Fisheries Observers have been granted exemption by the Government to return and disembark at the Honiara International Sea Port. Six of the observers were serving within the Pacific Region whilst one observer has returned from South Korea (*See Table 2*). All observers are serving mandatory quarantine on identified Quarantine Station based on the Health risk assessment recommendation.

Table 2. SUMMARY - SI Observers Disembarking in Solomon Islands (Specific to Fisheries Observers)

| # | Date | Vessel Name | Vessel Type | Voyage Origin | Total Repatriated |
|--------------|------------|-------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 01/07/2020 | Ocean Ace | Fishing Vessel | Rabaul, PNG | 1 |
| 2 | 05/07/2020 | Fu Kuan 808 | Purse Seiner | Busan, Korea | 1 |
| 3 | 08/07/2020 | Serena 1 | Fishing Vessel | Funafuti, Tuvalu | 3 |
| 4 | 09/07/2020 | Segyero | Purse Seiner | Funafuti, Tuvalu | 1 |
| 5 | 12/07/2020 | Jang Bo Go | Purse Seiner | Rabaul, PNG | 1 |
| TOTAL | | | | | 7 |

3.4. 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), *See Table 3.1*. 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 (*Refer to Map 1*).

Currently a total of 301 persons are held in the QSs' of which 145 are males and 156 are females (*See Table 3.1 and Map 1*). On the total of 301 persons, 294 are Solomon Islands nationals whilst 12 are foreign nationals (*See Table 3.2*),

Table 3.1 SUMMARY - Occupancy by Quarantine Stations for Honiara and Western (as @ 06/08/20)

| # | Name of Quarantine Stations | Bed Capacity | Current Occupancy | Male | Female |
|--------------|----------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------|-----------|
| 1 | Guadalcanal Beach Resort (GBR) | 82 | 34 | 0 | 34 |
| 2 | Access Apartment | 9 | 8 | 4 | 4 |
| 3 | Airport Motel | 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | VIMO Apartment | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Chengs Accommodation | 86 | 53 | 53 | 0 |
| 6 | National Hosting Authority (NHA) | 14 | 14 | 14 | 0 |
| 7 | Pacific Casino Hotel (PCH) | 78 | 30 | 8 | 22 |
| 8 | Honiara Hotel (HH) | 32 | 18 | 18 | 0 |
| 9 | Heritage Park Hotel (HP) | 48 | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| 10 | King Solomon Hotel | 30 | 27 | 22 | 5 |
| 11 | Gizo Hotel | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | | 410 | 190 | 123 | 67 |

Table 3.2 SUMMARY - Occupancy by Nationality and Gender

| # | Nationality | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Solomon Islanders | 117 | 65 | 182 |
| 2 | Foreign Nationalities | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| TOTAL | | 119 | 71 | |

3.5. VESSELS MONITORING WITHIN SOLOMON ISLANDS EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE (EEZ)/WATERS

3.5.1. FISHING VESSELS

The Solomon Islands Government through the Ministry of Fisheries is monitoring all fishing vessels within the Solomon Islands EEZ. From the period 26th July to 5th August 2020, only three (3) fishing vessels in the SI EEZ were granted exemptions to enter the Port of Honiara. *See Table 4.1.*

Table 4.1 SUMMARY – Fishing Vessels monitored being operating in the SI EEZ.

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Vessel name | FV NAERO STAR |
| Port of Registry | NAURU |
| Last Port of call | 26 th July 2020 – CHRISTMAS ISLAND, KIRIBATI |
| ETA Port | 05 th August 2020 - HONIARA |
| Purpose for Port Entry | Transshipment at Honiara and observer to disembark |
| Company/ Agent | Nauru Fisheries Development Cooperation |
| Comment | Vessel authorized to enter port. Health Team to assess whether to quarantine for further days or not. |
| Vessel name | FV SAN LIAN FA 1 |
| Port of Registry | KAOSHIUNG, TAIWAN |
| Last Port of call | HONIARA |
| ETA Port | 05 th August 2020 - HONIARA |
| Purpose for Port Entry | Transshipment at Honiara |
| Company/ Agent | Chi Tien I, Pingtung County, Taiwan |
| Comment | Vessel authorized to enter port. Health Team to assess whether to quarantine for further days or not. |
| Vessel name | FV ZHONG SHUI 777 |
| Port of Registry | YANTAI, CHINA |
| Last Port of call | 18 th July 2020 – ZHOUSHAN, CHINA |
| ETA Port | 05 th August 2020 - HONIARA |
| Purpose for Port Entry | Inspection at Honiara |
| Company/ Agent | CNFC Overseas Fisheries Co., Ltd. Beijing, China |
| Comment | Vessel authorized to enter port. Health Team to assess whether to quarantine for further days or not. |

3.5.1. Commercial Cargo Vessels

The Solomon Islands Maritime Safety Administration (SIMSA) is monitoring all commercial cargo vessels in the SI EEZ. *Table 4.2* shows the vessels position report received at 1500Hrs on Wednesday 5th August 2020.

Table 4.2. SUMMARY- Commercial Cargo Vessels within SI EEZ

| No | Vessel Name | Present Position & ETA |
|----|---------------------|--|
| 1 | BA Wise | Zazaki |
| 2 | Fujitrans World | Innocent pass to Auckland, New Zealand |
| 3 | Kota Pass | Innocent pass to Suva, Fiji |
| 4 | Lee Ling 88 | San George |
| 5 | MV Vandon Sea | Graciosa Bay |
| 6 | Quebec | Suavanao |
| 7 | Sea Brave | Noro Port |
| 8 | Sea Honor | Noro Port |
| 9 | Sher E Punjab | Lughughi Bay |
| 10 | Toncan Hunter | Innocent pass to Tokyo, Japan |
| 11 | Universe Allanyance | Noro Port |
| 12 | Winca | Kalena Bay |

4. N-DOC SECTOR COMMITTEE UPDATES

4.1. CAMP MANAGEMENT SECTOR COMMITTEE (SIG Quarantine Stations)

- Camp Management Sector Committee (CMSC) Team continues to implement its preparedness and response plan including rolling-out its SOPs.
- Maintain and manage the operations of the SIG approved Quarantine Stations. As of 2nd August 2020, there are 306 persons in the Qs (*Refer to Table 3.1 & 3.2*). Most graduated on Tuesday 4th August 2020.
- Tendering, selection and contracting of service providers to provide services for the Quarantine Stations. The services includes (1) catering, (2) Security, (3) cleaning and (4) minor works/repairs and maintenance.
- Participate in the OSC weekly radio talk back shows.

4.2. HEALTH SECTOR COMMITTEE

Health Response Coordination

- N-DOC Health maintains the leading role in the SIG response to COVID-19.
- Committee convened regular coordination meetings.
- Maintain and strengthen national to provincial support.
- The National Health Emergency Operations Centre (NHEOC) maintains coordination functions amongst relevant health response agencies and with other sectors and EOCs.
- On-going review and updating of relevant specific Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). An on-going improvement to the Health Sector Integrated Management System.
- Conduct daily surveillance monitoring including Port of Entry/Repatriation.
- Provide and coordinate personnel to assist during repatriation flights. Team consist of 28 officers and comprises of EOC, Health Quarantine, Surveillance, IPC and vector borne for decontamination.
- Facilitate training on ILI and SARI Surveillance for selected Western Province health workers.

Resources and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Resource tracking underwent recall of staff thus there is reshuffling of staff to continue with the role.
- Forecasting and quantification of PPEs based on the clinical SOPs completed and MHMS coordinating with development partners and donors to address the issue of PPE shortages.
 - N95 masks, face shields, Gowns (level 1, 2 and 3), shoe covers, and head covers remain in critical supply.
 - N95 Masks stock – remained the same since SIT REP 14. Face Shield stock – additional 10 supplied to stock
 - Level 1 gown stock – 89 pcs reduction since
 - Level 2 gown stock – 20 pcs reduction since
 - Level 3 gown stock – additional 112 pcs since
 - Shoe cover stock reduced by 70 pcs
 - Hair/head cover stock reduced by 50pcs
- Updated stock supply from NMS and NRH are outlined in *Table 5* – where **Green** indicates stock available for more than six months, **Yellow** stock available for more than three months and **Red** indicates stock only available for less than three weeks.

Table 5. Stoke-take of PPE as of 31st July. Source: NHEOC SITREP15

| TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION | UNIT | IN STOCK | | | | | On order | |
|---|--------------|-----------|-----------|---------|-------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| | | TOTAL | NMS | NRH | NIPC | Provinces | NMS | ETA |
| Sharps container | Each / Item | 14,884 | 12,659 | 2,225 | | | 6,000 | 30/08/20 |
| Total Nitrile | Total | - | | | | | | |
| Gloves Examination - Nitrile S | Each / Item | - | | | | | | |
| Gloves Examination - Nitrile M | Each / Item | 48,100 | 46,100 | 2,000 | | | | |
| Gloves Examination - Nitrile L | Each / Item | 176,900 | 173,300 | 2,600 | 1,000 | | | |
| Total Latex | Total | 404,000 | | 404,000 | | | | |
| Gloves Examination - Latex S | Each / Item | 245,400 | 154,400 | 91,000 | | | 2,700,000 | 11/21/2020 |
| Gloves Examination - Latex M | Each / Item | 1,611,000 | 1,459,400 | 149,000 | 2,600 | | 1,426,000 | 11/21/2020 |
| Gloves Examination - Latex L | Each / Item | 1,475,200 | 1,309,600 | 164,000 | 1,600 | | 1,410,000 | 11/21/2020 |
| Medical/Surgical Face Mask Disposable | Each / Item | 22,930 | 20,940 | 1,940 | 50 | | 102,000 | 7/30/2020 |
| Medical Resp N95 | Each / Item | 9,177 | 4,427 | 4,750 | | | 500 | 8/30/2020 |
| Face shields | Each / Item | 1,942 | 1,912 | 21 | 9 | | | |
| Apron Disposable Plastic - Medium | Each / Item | 13,715 | 13,715 | | | | 6,000 | 8/30/2020 |
| Apron Disposable Plastic - Large | Each / Item | 2,000 | 2,000 | | | | 4,000 | 8/30/2020 |
| Apron Heavy Duty | Each / Item | 2,807 | | 2,700 | 107 | | | |
| Single use, disposable, length mid-calf, Isolation Gown - level 1 | Each / Item | 26,421 | 26,040 | 381 | | | 8,000 | 8/21/2020 |
| Single Use - Overall zip - Level 2 | Each / Item | 1,270 | 1,133 | 117 | 20 | | 5,000 | 8/21/2020 |
| Single Use - Gown - Level 3 | Each / Item | 4,120 | 4,008 | 112 | | | | |
| Goggles protective | Each / Item | 1,593 | 1,584 | | 9 | | | |
| Chlorine | 1kg bucket | 2,016 | | 2,016 | | | | |
| Hand rub - alcohol | 1L | 6,994 | 6,948 | 40 | 6 | | 1,300 | 8/30/2020 |
| Antiseptic Soap | Each / Item | 11,153 | 11,139 | 14 | | | | |
| Shoe Cover - disposable | Each / Item | 5,529 | 4,770 | 759 | | | | |
| PVC Gum Boot | Each / Pair | 10 | 10 | | | | | |
| Hair / Head Cover | Each / Item | 6,257 | 6,077 | 180 | | | | |
| Infrared Thermomter | Each / Item | 110 | 110 | | | | | |
| VTM 3ml Flocked swabs | Unit | 16,400 | 16,400 | | | | | |
| COV Antibody Test Kit | each | 5,000 | 5,000 | | | | | |

Diagnostic Facilities (Laboratory)

- The National Dengue Molecular laboratory is currently operational with 2x qPCR machines and GeneXpert Machines, and five staff.
- Since May 2020 total cumulative samples received and tested is 1666 (*Refer to Table 6 for details*).
- July has seen an increase in samples received, this is due to the increasing number of repatriations (7 flights in July alone compared to 3 in June) and the requirements in the legislation to do up to 4 tests for the quarantine period.
- WHO supported review for automated RNA extraction equipment currently under procurement by MHMS– should help to lift laboratory capacity for 100 tests per day.

Table 6. Number of Laboratory tests performed vs test kits used¹

| | May | June 1-6 | June 7-13 | June 14-20 | June 21-27 | June 28-Jul 4 | July 5-11 | Jul 12-18 | Jul 19-25 | Jul 26-31 | Cumulative Total |
|----------------------------|-----|----------|-----------|------------|------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------|
| Number of samples received | 19 | 40 | 148 | 175 | 13 | 15 | 248 | 346 | 338 | 324 | 1666 |
| Clinical suspect | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 13 |
| Quarantine | 1 | 40 | 146 | 172 | 12 | 13 | 245 | 324 | 320 | 316 | 1589 |
| Contact Tracing | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 7 | 7 | 35 |
| Others | 15 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 29 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of people tested | 19 | 40 | 148 | 175 | 13 | 15 | 248 | 346 | 338 | 324 | 1666 |
| GeneXpert used | 19 | 16 | 101 | 70 | 13 | 15 | 36 | 124 | 56 | 12 | 462 |
| qPCR | 0 | 24 | 47 | 105 | 0 | 0 | 211 | 222 | 275 | 312 | 1196 |

Environmental Health

- Environmental health teams started deployed to Quarantine sites on the 25th July 2020
- Objectives are to monitor, report on, and enhance health and environmental compliance such as WASH, Waste Management, Food Safety, Cleanliness, Decontamination, Laundry services, vector prevention and control at the quarantine sites
- A total of 10 teams of two environmental health staff are deployed daily
- All Q-sites that are currently being occupied have been assessed for compliance. Most Quarantine Stations are around 80-100% compliant
- The teams provide instructions, training and liaise with the camp management team, the Quarantine Station owners and various service providers to address issues of non-compliance.

Clinical Management

- NRH COVID-19 Triage, Isolation and Laboratory reviewing SOP
- No red flags during most recent repatriation flight
- No person sick from Quarantine sites brought to COVID-19 Triage/Isolation

Risk Communication and Public Awareness

- Risk Communication currently reviewing their COVID-19 SOPs, post six months of preparing and respond to the COVID-19 global pandemic
- A COVID-19 Community engagement tool is currently being drafted – this tool will be used to enable community empowerment and participation in the country's preparedness for the COVID-19
- A follow up consultation/workshop with churches is currently in planning phase: the aim is to follow up on consultation/workshop that was completed with 8 churches in early March and to identify areas that churches need more additional support

¹ Source: NRH Molecular Laboratory 15th July 2020 Report

- IEC materials for Repatriation Pre-arrival and for persons in quarantine sites are currently undergoing review prior to distributing to quarantine sites.
- Daily media monitoring update especially for the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) is also available through the MHMS Media Corporate Desk.
- Radio health program for COVID-19 still on-going
- Partnering with the Solomon Islands Network Action for climate change to develop COVID-19 billboards for 4 provinces - Choiseul, Isabel, western and Makira

4.3. INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR COMMITTEE

- On-going implementation of the preparedness and response plan
- Sector in collaboration with N-DOC Health and N-DOC Camp Management are addressing the issues regarding completion of the Nusatupe and Noro Lodge identified Quarantine Stations. Additionally exploring options for the OSOCC infrastructure setup at the Border.

4.4. EDUCATION SECTOR COMMITTEE

- On-going implementation of the N-DOC Education COVID-19 preparedness and response plan.
- The weekly education awareness programme continues. To this date there were 35 programmes being broadcasted on radio with the recent being aired this week.
- In collaboration with National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) and N-DOC Health, the sector committee has conducted a workshop and a Table Top Exercise (TTX) for all school authority, leaders and teachers on Friday 24th July 2020. The activity aims in assisting schools in developing, reviewing, strengthening and operationalising COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).
- Schools are encouraged to develop a drill based on the TTX Scenarios to test their completed SOP.

4.5. LIVELIHOOD SECTOR COMMITTEE

- N-DOC Livelihood Sector Committee continue in its distribution of packet seeds, seedlings and gardening tools to communities and residences in Honiara and the Provinces. Distribution falls under three (3) components:
 1. Distribution of seedlings (20 seedlings x 3 veg. preference/Households)
 2. Distribution of vegetable packet seeds (3 x 1g/pkt veg. seed/Households)
 3. Distribution of tools.

4.6. SAFETY AND SECURITY

- 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.
- Police Commissioner's weekly press conference continues and remains an important avenue to inform the public on the current engagement of RSIPF regarding the whole of SIG response on COVID-19.
- RSIPF continue conduct routine patrols to all Quarantine Stations to ensure public and persons under quarantine adhere to rules and regulations set.
- 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 with the deployment of its Police Response Team (PRT) and the use of its RSIPV GIZO and AUKI and stubby crafts.
- RSIPF Provincial Operations continues with Provincial Police Officers distributing COVID-19 pamphlets and conducting awareness at villages and communities in the Provinces.

5. OTHER NATIONAL SUPPORT

- SIG continues to receive donor support through the relevant N-DOC Sector Committees. The Government of Australia, New Zealand and the Peoples 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.

6. 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 limits 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

- Sectors are not providing situational updates to the NEOC except for two sector committees. It must be noted that Sectors implementation of the PRP is ongoing. It is 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. Fatigue

- Five months into the whole of SIG Response COVID-19, daily de-briefing and observations have confirmed official of gradually experiencing fatigue. It must be noted that this is still the “Preparedness Phase” as the country has zero (0) case of COVID-19.

4. Pressure on COVID-19 testing laboratory

- Enormous Pressure to the NRH Laboratory staff and equipment regarding COVID-19 testing. This is attributed to the on-going repatriation flights and repeated testings on the Quarantine Stations. It must be noted that at least 3 tests for each person on QS and with on-going flights, staff are running the risk of fatigue, whilst equipment are at risk of technical malfunction.

5. 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. The slow implementation of the completion of the Nusatupe and Noro Lodge Quarantine Stations are two examples.
- N-DOC Sector Committees are providing minimal support to the P-DOC counter-parts.
- Level of preparedness at the Provincial Level is very low. Personal, facilities and equipment readiness require urgent intervention by all relevant sectors.

7. 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 border, an On-Site Operation Coordination Centre (Joint Operation Centre) established at Kulitanai to coordinate the whole of SIG response.
- Established 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

2. Information sharing

- 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. Fatigue

- All Sector Committees and members agencies are encouraged to develop individual fatigue and stress management plan.
- Sectors or agencies operating 24 hours are encouraged to developing roster and working in shifts.

4. Pressure on COVID-19 testing laboratory

- A gap of at least one week between the repatriation flights and quarantine is highly recommended to maintain optimum operating conditions at quarantine stations and reduce the pressure on health teams conducting COVID-19 testing on persons quarantined.

5. 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
- 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-part.

8. NEXT UPDATE AND APPROVAL

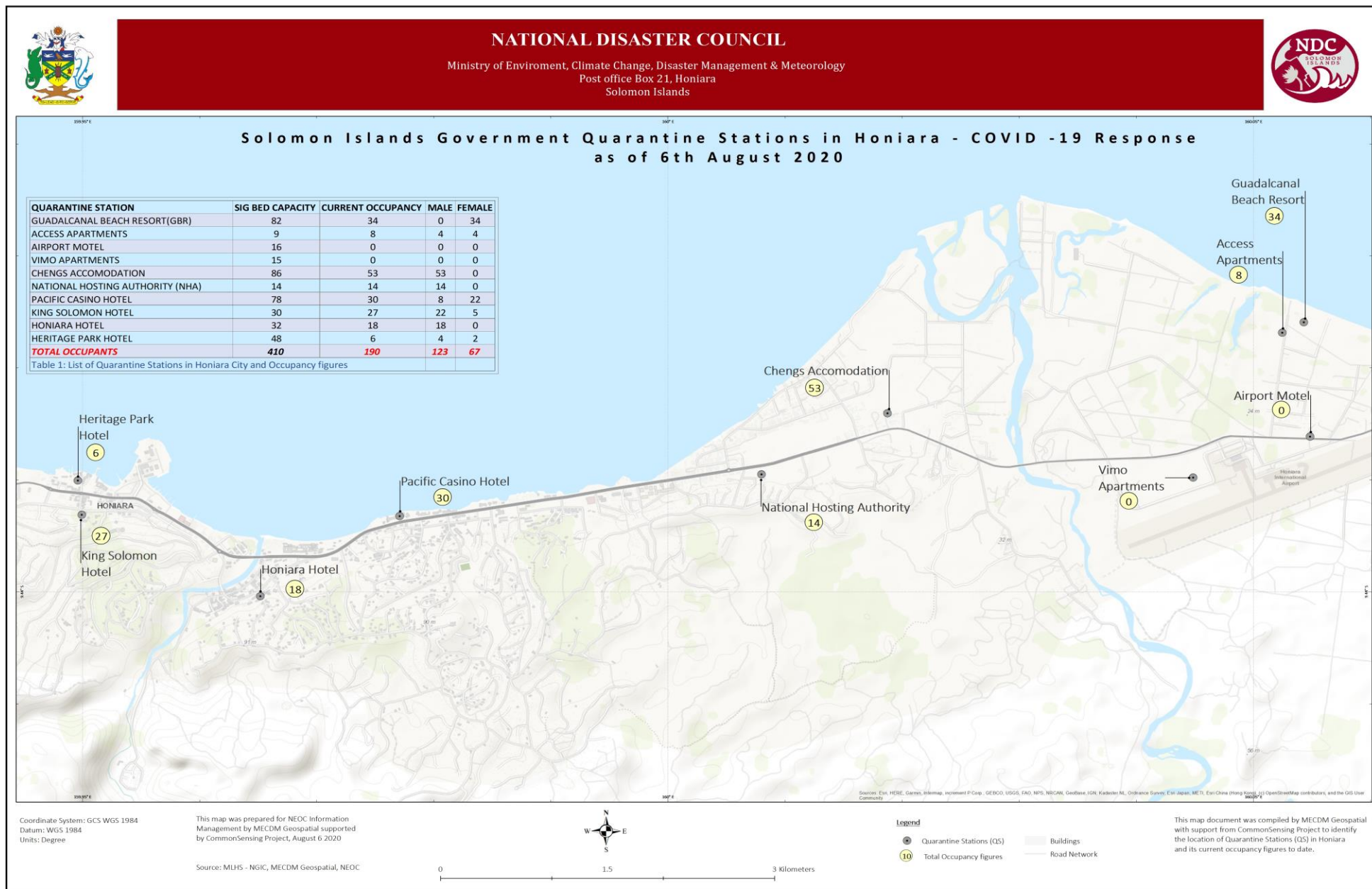
Next update upon available information.

APPROVED FOR DISSEMINATION BY

DR. MELCHIOR MATAKI
PERMANENT SECRETARY MECDM/CHAIR NDC
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE,
DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND METEOROLOGY

9. ANNEXE

MAP 1: Honiara Quarantine Stations Location & Occupancy Status



MAP 2: Gizo Quarantine Station Location & Occupancy Status

