

Solomon Islands

Policy responses

Containment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 27, 2020: Border closure.¹ • April 8, 2020: State of emergency extended for another four months until July 25, 2020.² • April 10-11, 2020: Imposition of curfews.³ • April 16, 2020: Lockdown. • April 18, 2020: Port screening and travel bans.⁴ • May 8, 2020: Prime Minister orders the reopening of business entities except for night clubs within the emergency zone. • May 11, 2020: Solomon Airlines suspends international flights until 31 August, operates authorized cargo, repatriation, and charter flights. • May 20-22, 2020: Imposition of more curfews.⁵ • May 25, 2020: Reopening of all schools. • May 26-27, 2020: Nationals from Australia, New Zealand, Vanuatu and Fiji repatriated to their home countries from the Solomon Islands. • July 21-24: Repatriation flights for Solomon Islands nationals from Australia, New Zealand, Vanuatu and Fiji conducted. • July 29, 2020: Solomon Airlines suspends international flights until October 24, 2020.⁶ • July 30, 2020: State of public emergency extended until November.⁷ • August 14, 2020: Emergency Powers Order 2020 signed⁸, which declared an emergency zone along the western border running from Shortland through Choiseul to Ontong Java.⁹ • October 3, 2020: all repatriation flights put on hold • Government expected to replace current State of Emergency before expiration in November 27 with new Public Health Emergency Bill • Mar 19, 2021: ¹⁰ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Travellers Partially Allowed Masks are not required Quarantine for 14 days required for all countries. Anyone entering Solomon Islands must complete a Traveller's Public Health Declaration card. -No lockdown in effect -Events Allowed -Transport Operational -All shops open (Tourist attractions are closed)
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¹ www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/412792/covid-19-solomons-closes-borders-honiara-now-emergency-zone

² www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-04/09/c_138961225.htm

³ www.straitstimes.com/asia/australianz/pacific-nations-stay-vigilant-against-coronavirus-in-cyclones-aftermath

⁴ www.worldaware.com/covid-19-alert-papua-new-guinea-orders-restrictions-through-april-30

⁵ www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/417136/solomon-islands-pm-calls-on-public-to-take-lockdown-seriously

⁶ www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19

⁷ www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/422390/solomon-s-state-of-public-emergency-extended-to-november

⁸ www.solomontimes.com/news/govt-stepsup-border-security-pm/10118

⁹ www.solomontimes.com/news/govt-stepsup-border-security-pm/10118

¹⁰ <https://covidcontrols.co/restrictions/solomon-islands>

	-Restaurants and bars are fully open
Fiscal	<p>April 25, 2020: Covid-19 domestic development bond issue of SI\$120 million to finance economic stimulus package</p> <p>June 2020: Total stimulus: SBD 319 million (equivalent to 2.6% of GDP, to be financed by government and donors)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Households: provision of social assistance to vulnerable households and protection of incomes.¹¹ Employment: payroll support for non-essential public servants; employment support for youth and women. Businesses: capital grants to support investment in productive and resource sectors, tax and utility relief for affected businesses in specific sector; equity injection to government owned companies Infrastructure: advancing planned infrastructure investment.
Monetary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 15, 2020: The CBSI has reduced the cash reserve requirements from 7.5% to 5% to ensure additional liquidity support. (As of) August 13, 2020: Maintenance of expansionary monetary policy (As of) August 13, 2020 The Central Bank of Solomon Islands (CBSI) reduced its stock of Bokolo Bills and relaxed commercial banks' prudential guidelines.
Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (As of) August 13, 2020: The government is encouraging commercial banks to grant a three to six-month grace period for all loan repayments. (As of) August 13, 2020: CBSI is rolling out an export-import facility to assist businesses with opportunities for competitive financing. A Public Health Emergency Bill that was expected to pass in November 2020 has been deferred to March 2021.¹²
Trade measures ¹³	<p>Restrictive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All vessels departing the Solomon Islands may elect to clear formalities in Honiara or at Noro. All vessels arriving in the Solomon Islands may elect to clear formalities in Honiara or at Noro. <p>Liberalizing: N/A</p>
SME measures (last update 22 January 2021)	<p>Other fiscal support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tax relief was provided to affected businesses in specific sectors. <p>Employment support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On March 31, as part of the COVID-19 economic stimulus package of SBD 319 million, employment support for youth and women was provided. <p>Deferral on loan repayment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government is encouraging commercial banks to grant a three to six-month grace period for all loan repayments.

¹¹ www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2020/06/01/pr20229-solomon-islands-imf-executive-board-approves-disbursement-to-address-the-covid-19-pandemic

¹² <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19#K>

¹³ <https://www.macmap.org/covid19>

	<p>Other financial support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the COVID-19 economic stimulus package of SBD 319 million, capital grants to businesses to support investment in productive and resource sectors were provided. • Utility relief was provided to affected businesses in specific sectors. • The bank will be rolling out an export-import facility to assist businesses with opportunities for competitive financing. • 2 February 2021: The government, through its ESP initiative injected SBD1.2 million to restore life into an ailing noni local business registered as Solomon Noni Corporation to support its operations¹⁴. • 16 February 2021: After the Government injected SBD300,000 into Kokonut Pacific under its ESP last year, the government signed another agreement for a subsidy of SBD150,000 to Kokonut Pacific to support the industry.¹⁵
Other policy measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 30, 2020: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced more than \$13 million in grants to help Pacific countries finance COVID-19 responses, including USD \$1.5 million for the Solomon Islands.¹⁶ • August 6, 2020: USD0.347 Japanese government funding for covid-19 preparedness¹⁷ • August 20, 2020: Australia provided USD0.122 million to Ministry of Health for five new ventilators¹⁸ • August 31, 2020: EU and Government of Solomon Islands agreed on new Financing Agreement, EUR8 million to improve efficiency of covid-19 response¹⁹ • IMF provided debt service relief through Catastrophe and Containment and Relief Trust (CCRT) SRD59,428

Source: IMF, Policy Responses to COVID-19, if not specified.

¹⁴ <https://covid19policy.adb.org/policy-measures/SOL>

¹⁵ <https://covid19policy.adb.org/policy-measures/SOL>

¹⁶ www.adb.org/news/adb-announces-more-13-million-grants-help-pacific-combat-covid-19

¹⁷ <https://covid19policy.adb.org/policy-measures/SOL>

¹⁸ <https://covid19policy.adb.org/policy-measures/SOL>

¹⁹ <https://covid19policy.adb.org/policy-measures/SOL>