



National Search and Rescue Plan (SARPLAN)

Fifth SIMA Workshop with Ship Operators
24 April 2025

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

SARPLAN PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES

SAR ORGANISATION

SAR FUNCTIONS

SAR SYSTEM

SAR CAPACITY

SAR OPERATION

SARPLAN

Purpose

- To define the responsibilities and make arrangements for distress communication and coordination and for search and rescue of persons in distress at sea in Solomon Islands Search and Rescue Region.

Objectives

- Save life at sea.
- Respond to international, regional, and national obligations.
- Contribute to respond to maritime emergencies.
- Provide an operational framework.

Scope

- Provision of SAR services and arrangements as required by SOLAS Chapter V Regulation 7 & 33 and the SAR Convention.

SAR ORGANISATION



NATIONAL LEVEL

- SARPLAN falls in the scope of the **disaster management framework of Solomon Islands**.
- SARPLAN is a **Hazard Specific Contingency Plans** under the National Disaster Management Plan 2018 (NDMO).
- SARPLAN is activated:
 - ✓ as standalone plan for SAR operations not requiring activation of other NDMP arrangements,
 - ✓ in coordination with other NDMP arrangements to respond to aviation and maritime disasters or non-declared events.

GLOBAL & REGIONAL LEVELS

- **Global SAR system:**
 - ✓ established by the IMO and the ICAO,
 - ✓ harmonisation of search and rescue services at the global level.
- **Regional SAR system:**
 - ✓ Solomon Islands is a signatory of the maritime search and rescue technical arrangement for cooperation among Pacific islands countries and territories that support international lifesaving in the Pacific Ocean (SAR TAfC),
 - ✓ Solomon Islands is responsible for the coordination of SAR within its Search and Rescue Region (SRR).

SARPLAN PARTICIPANTS

SOLOMON ISLANDS MARITIME AUTHORITY

- SAR international obligations on behalf of SIG (SIMA Act 2018)
- SAR organisation
- Coordination of SAR operations

ROYAL SOLOMON ISLANDS POLICE FORCE

- Government organisation responsible for SAR obligations on behalf of SIG
- Response to SAR operations under SARPLAN
- On-scene Coordinator during SAR operations

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

- Government organizations contributing to SAR obligations on behalf of SIG
- Response to SAR operations under SARPLAN
- NDMO, MHMS, etc.

SHIPPING OPERATORS

- Moral and legal obligation under SOLAS and SAR conventions for ship operators and masters of vessels
- Response to SAR operations (Plan for SAR cooperation with SIMA)

LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND PRIVATE STAKEHOLDERS

- Moral obligation for assistance at sea
- Response to SAR operations
- Private aircrafts, community boats, etc.

NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

- Legal obligation under SOLAS and SAR conventions to cooperate if adjacent SRR
- Assistance to SAR operations under MOUs, agreements or cooperation plans
- SAR Taft, MOU with Australia

SAR FUNCTIONS

Maritime Rescue
Coordination
Centre Honiara
(MRCCHON)

SAR roles

active
24/7

access to
SIMA
network,
system &
database

SAR
Coordinator
Director SIMA
Overall oversight
& organisation

SAR Mission
Coordinator
Staff of SIMA
Coordinate SAR
operation

SAR
Operator
Staff of SIMA
Manage SAR
operation

SAR
Responders
Police, air &
maritime
operators,
communities
On-the-ground
response

SAR SYSTEMS

SAR resources

Police network
& assets

Private assets
(industry &
communities)

SAR cooperation

MoUs with
neighbouring
countries

MoUs with
provinces

SAR communication

Land & mobile

GMDSS



SAR OPERATION

SAR AWARENESS

- Report SAR incident to MRCCHON
- MRCCHON collect all available and relevant information

SAR INITIAL ACTION as shortest as possible

- MRCCHON alerts the SAR Mission Coordinator
- MRCCHON alerts first responders

SAR PLANNING

- MRCCHON identifies SAR assets to be deployed
- MRCCHON and SAR Mission Coordinator develop/validate SARPLAN

SAR OPERATION

- Full activation of the SARPLAN and MRCCHON systems and procedure
- Deployment of SAR assets (including On-Scene Coordinator as needed)

TERMINATION OR SUSPENSION

- Termination if distressed persons safe or probability to find them too low
- Suspension or scale down waiting for more information

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

- incidents not involving danger or apprehension or doubt about safety of persons
- requester is responsible to bear the costs of actions
- include towing, provision of fuel, etc.

PLAN FOR SAR COOPERATION BETWEEN SIMA AND PASSENGER CARRYING SHIPS OPERATORS



What we agree for...

- commit to long-standing tradition & responsibilities of ship masters & government to render assistance to persons in distress at sea
- acknowledge our responsibilities and obligations over SAR under IMO and ICAO
- recognize our roles under the SARPLAN and the need for SAR cooperation
- agree to plan, cooperate, and coordinate our action under the SARPLAN

SIMA

- Activate the SAR system
- Inform shipping companies of Sar operation

Shipping company concerned by SAR incident

- use any distress and emergency signals, GMDSS radiocommunication and any means of communication to alert
- maintain tripartite communication with the MRCCHON and the shipping company,
- participate in the SAR operation or activate shipboard emergency procedures
- bear the costs agreed under this Plan of any private SAR asset providing SAR assistance decided by the MRCCHON

Shipping company provided assistance

- for a ship in the vicinity as per legal obligations:
 - ✓ relay any distress or emergency alert to the MRCCHON by using GMDSS radiocommunication and any other mean
 - ✓ maintain tripartite communication with the MRCCHON and the ship concerned by the incident
 - ✓ reroute and participate in the SAR operation upon request by MRCCHON at no cost
- for a ship not in the vicinity or in port requested to assist:
 - ✓ maintain tripartite communication with the MRCCHON and the ship concerned by the incident
 - ✓ participate in the SAR operation upon request by MRCCHON at the costs of the shipping company requesting assistance



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