

3.4 Solomon Islands Telecommunications

Telecommunications is not strongly regulated in the Solomon's. The regulator is Telecommunications Commission of Solomon Islands (TCSI).

Our Telekom is the primary telecoms operator, owned by SINPF, BMobile beat Digicel in tendering to be the second operator in the duopoly since 2010 and has been operating as a secondary mobile carrier.

Independent ISPs exist – SatSOL and Hantek are the two operators who sell Internet bandwidth.

The RSIPF has their own radio network that is managed by themselves with aid from the AFP, and the NDMO recently had a CODAN HF system installed as part of a donor project from the World Bank.

For more information on telecoms contacts, please see the following link: [4.9 Solomon Islands Additional Service Provision Contact List](#)

Telephone Services	
Is there an existing landline telephone network?	Yes
Does it allow international calls?	Yes
Number and Length of Downtime Periods (on average)	Generally very reliable
Mobile Phone Providers	Our Telekom, BMobile
Approximate Percentage of National Coverage	40% by land mass-90% by population

Telecommunication Regulation

Telecommunications regulations in the Solomon Islands controlled by TCSI but very loosely enforced. Unlicensed radios are frequently in use but no action is taken by the authority to keep the spectrum well managed

Regulations on Usage and Import		
	Regulations in Place?	Regulating Authority
Satellite	No	TCSI
HF Radio	Yes	TCSI
UHF/VHF/HF Radio: Handheld, Base and Mobile	Yes	TCSI
UHF/VHF Repeaters	Yes	TCSI
GPS	No	TCSI
VSAT	No	TCSI
Individual Network Operator Licenses Required		
Yes		
Frequency Licenses Required		
Yes		

Existing Humanitarian Telecoms Systems

Satellite phones and cell phones are the only means of communication used by UN agencies in the Solomon Islands now.

	UNDP	UNDSS	UNFPA
VHF Frequencies	No	No	No
HF Frequencies	No	No	No
Locations of Repeaters	No	No	No
VSAT	No	No	No

Internet Service Providers (ISPs)

Internet is available but is extremely slow as the country is still not connected to the Pacific fibre network. This should happen later in 2017 but the connection is politicised and is likely to be a second-rate service. Currently the internet is via satellite – including the O3B network. Our Telekom offers broadband and Wireless data, SatSOL and Hantek offer mobile Wi-Fi AP and dedicated CPE connections.

Internet Service Providers		
Are there ISPs available?	Yes	
If yes, are they privately or government owned?	Private	
Dial-up only?	No	
Approximate Rates (<i>local currency and USD - \$</i>)	Dial-up	\$50 per month
	Broadband	\$100 per month
Max Leasable 'Dedicated' Bandwidth	Unknown	

Mobile Network Operators (MNOs)

The networks are more reliable these days but still would experience around six hours of outages in a week.

Coverage is good but the cost is high on both operators

For information on MNOs please visit the [GSM Association website](#).

Company	Number of Agent Outlets by Area	Network Strength by Area	Contracted for Humanitarian or Government Cash Transfer Programmes?	Services Offered (i.e. Merchant Payment, Bulk Disbursement, Receive & Make Payment)
Our Telekom	Many in Honiara	Good in Honiara and major cities	No (for all)	Unknown
BeMobile	A few in Honiara	Some in Honiara and outer villages	No	Unknown

Our Telekom coverage as at November 2016 shown below



