



United Nations

# National Perceptions Survey on Peacebuilding for Solomon Islands

Summary Report

Supported by the United Nations Development Programme and UN Women

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## **RESIDENT COORDINATOR’S INTRODUCTION**

It is with immense pleasure that I am herewith presenting the results of the United Nations peacebuilding perceptions survey for Solomon Islands.

Perception surveys are an exciting new way to integrate the April 2016 United Nations General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on “Sustaining Peace” into development policy and programmes. They are innovative ways to support preventative and peacebuilding actions. The findings outlined here provide a baseline of perceptions related to peacebuilding and can provide a sound means of measuring change over time in an easily understandable way. They can also contribute to assessing outcomes under UN Sustainable Development Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

These innovative surveys complement standard analysis, by gathering, interpreting and visualizing survey data on key conflict prevention issues identified in the recent provincial and national dialogues in Solomon Islands. We are learning about perceptions on human and economic security; the needs of men, women and youth; lingering tensions; and perceptions on reconciliation and reparation, among others.

The Solomon Islands peacebuilding perception survey was conducted through an experienced social science research company, Sustineo, specializing in quantitative and qualitative survey research. The survey was designed with technical excellence, learning lessons from similar surveys conducted through the United Nations. Sustineo’s experience in Solomon Islands and its enduring relationship with local researchers built over multiple projects ensured that the survey was developed and implemented to reflect the reality and needs on the ground.

The survey results give fresh insight into people’s perceptions of peacebuilding in Solomon Islands immediately after the withdrawal of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) and in the wake of dedicated peacebuilding support by the United Nations. They help to illustrate the mood of the country and deepen our understanding of perceptions in various regions within the country. In fact, survey findings have already been applied to the ongoing peacebuilding support programme of the United Nations, implemented by UNDP and UN Women.

We hope that the results of the survey will provide food for thought and generate productive discussions on how best to make use of the findings. We would like to invite Government, communities, civil society, academia, religious institutions, development partners and other stakeholders to join in the dialogue.

The United Nations remains committed to continue the journey of peace and development with the wonderful people of Solomon Islands – under the motto, “One Country, One People, One Future”.



**Osnat Lubrani**  
**United Nations Resident Coordinator**  
Honiara, May 2018

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Description</b>
RAMSI	Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands
MP	Member of Parliament
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since July 2016, the partnership between the Government of Solomon Islands, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Women has worked towards improving national capacity to maintain peace through a UN supported peacebuilding programme.

*The National Perceptions Survey on Peacebuilding for Solomon Islands* provides a fresh insight into people's perceptions of peacebuilding immediately after the withdrawal of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI), and in the wake of recent efforts through the UN supported peacebuilding programme.

The purpose of the survey is to obtain evidence on perceptions of different aspects of peacebuilding in Solomon Islands. The objective is to establish a credible baseline of information on community perceptions and attitudes across the key areas of peacebuilding, reconciliation and engagement of women and youth.

The main data collection activity was implemented by Sustineo in July and August 2017 and surveyed a total of 2,503 people, from 24 enumeration areas, across eight provinces. Respondents were from provincial centres and the surrounding areas. In October 2017, an additional 282 people were surveyed at three 'focus area' sites in North Malaita and the settlements surrounding Honiara. The findings presented in the *Executive Summary* focus on data from the main survey with some additions from the 'focus area' areas.

## METHODOLOGY

The overarching approach to the survey design and development was based on a close engagement with UNDP. A total of 2,503 surveys were conducted across eight provinces: Central, Choiseul, Guadalcanal, Isabel, Malaita, Makira-Ulawa, Western and the capital, Honiara. Local Solomon Islanders were employed and trained to conduct the survey, including interviewers who were local to the provinces surveyed. In each of the eight provinces, three survey sites were selected. This included the provincial capitals and two other location to the east and west. The specific survey sites were chosen by entering eligible enumeration area codes into a random number generator, with the sites re-cast if they were deemed to be unsafe or outside the logistical scope of this project. The sample was stratified by age and gender with target numbers divided equally among categories. This approach provided a high level of confidence for survey findings at both national and provincial levels within the bounds of the target sample (national: 95% confidence interval, 2% margin of error; provincial: 95% confidence interval, 6% margin of error). There were a number of limitations to the survey methodology. The geographic approach to sampling outlined above meant the target sample was from urban and peri-urban locations. The findings are not representative of populations from rural areas, who constitute up to 80% of Solomon Islanders, and the findings should be interpreted in that context. While steps were taken to mitigate clustering issues around survey sites, given the accessibility of surveyed areas to the provincial capital, it is likely all sites within a province were subject to similar experiences and social networks, thus influencing the range of responses seen in the survey results.

## 1.1 Key findings

The survey identified a range of findings relevant to peacebuilding programmes and policies. This section outlines the findings aligned with key thematic areas.

### Future directions and sustaining peace

- Solomon Islanders are uncertain and tend towards the pessimistic in their views on the direction Solomon Islands is heading. Respondents with higher levels of education were generally more optimistic.
- While perceptions of RAMSI's efforts were positive, confidence that peace would be sustained in the future was mixed, with only a slight majority confident (54.6%) and over a third not confident (36.5%).
- The two most important actions for ensuring lasting peace were identified as increased access to economic opportunities and employment (23.2% of respondents), and the provision of greater power to provincial assembly/authorities (20.6%).
- The most important problem to be addressed was identified as employment and job opportunities (40.5%), followed by corruption (20.6%).

### Government performance

- Levels of satisfaction were low for the performance of national government (51.5% satisfied) and for provincial government (42.0%). Choiseul and Isabel had the highest levels of satisfaction with national (71.7% for Choiseul, 62.2% for Isabel) and provincial governments (70.4% for Choiseul, 59.4% for Isabel), while Malaita, Guadalcanal and Makira-Ulawa had the lowest (national government: 34.0%, 36.7% and 48.9%, respectively; provincial government: 26.8%, 25.5% and 26.8%, respectively).
- Satisfaction levels were very low regarding the performance of Members of Parliament (MPs) (33.8%). Choiseul was the only province where over half of the respondents were satisfied with MPs, with the lowest levels of satisfaction recorded in Malaita, Makira-Ulawa and Guadalcanal.
- Satisfaction levels were over 60% for the national government's handling of key issues related to basic services and justice services. The lowest levels were recorded in relation to addressing the needs of women (48.3% satisfied) and youth (43.5%), and corruption (33.6%).
- National government handling of corruption recorded the lowest level of satisfaction, with noticeable differences between provinces. Consistent with the relative levels of satisfaction reported for government and MP performance, Choiseul and Isabel recorded the highest satisfaction levels (56.3% and 60.0% satisfied, respectively), while Makira-Ulawa reported the lowest (23.1%).
- Satisfaction with the national government's handling of issues from the Tensions (1998-2003) varied geographically based on areas that were affected by the Tensions. Guadalcanal reported the highest levels of unsatisfied responses (57.0%) while Malaita recorded the highest levels of positive responses (55.6% satisfied).
- Non-government institutions were trusted more than government institutions. The church (85.3% trusted) and non-government organisations (72.7%) were trusted the most, while provincial government (38.0%), the police (50.7%) and national government (53.6%) were trusted the least.

### Social cohesion

- Nearly all respondents (97.7%) indicated they were proud to be a Solomon Islander. As a proxy for the strength of national identity, this is a strong result but does not diminish the extent to which Solomon Islanders identify with their language groups and provinces.
- The strong majority of respondents (90.9%) believed that people in their community felt free to visit other communities within their province, while three-quarters (75.2%) felt that people from their province were free to visit other provinces.
- Of those who did not feel free to travel (19.2% of all respondents), nearly three-quarters (73.2%) identified Malaita as the location people would feel least free to travel. All respondents, except those from Malaita, identified Malaita as the top location where they felt people from their province were not free to travel.
- Almost three-quarters (74.0%) of all respondents felt that members of their community lived together in harmony and over two-thirds (67.9%) felt involved in decision-making in their community. However, women reported feeling less involved than men (60.1% compared to 75.7% of men) and youth less involved than older groups (56.3% of 15-24-year olds compared to 73.9% of older respondents).

### Women's leadership

- A large majority of respondents (90.7%) felt that women could be leaders in their community, with no significant difference between women and men respondents.
- Key areas in which women could make positive contributions as leaders in their community were in women's groups (75.5% of respondents) and in roles within the house (46.2%), rather than broader community roles such as in dispute resolution (32.2%) and as community chiefs (16.1%).
- Of the respondents who felt women *could not* be leaders in their community (9.3% of all respondents), the most common reason was that it was not allowed by culture (60.3% of respondents to this question), followed by the perception that women were not as good as men (29.9%).

### Occurrence and resolution of disputes

- Over three-quarters (76.2%) of all respondents said they knew of a dispute that had occurred in the last 12 months.
- The most common cause of disputes was alcohol and other substance abuse (71.9% of respondents), followed by land disputes (50.3%) and logging (20.5%). Alcohol and other substance abuse was identified as the primary cause of conflict in all provinces except Western, where it was a close second.
- Youths were identified as the group most likely to cause disputes (64.0% of respondents), followed by adult men (51.5%) and tribes or clans (36.4%). The most likely group to be victims of disputes were identified as children (70.4%), adult women (66.7%) and youths (51.7%).
- Approximately two-thirds of respondents were satisfied with the ways of resolving disputes (66.4%) and government justice services available to them (60.0%). In both these circumstances, Makira-Ulawa was the only province where over half the respondents were unsatisfied, with the highest levels of satisfaction recorded in Central, Choiseul and Isabel.
- Over half (55.8%) of all respondents were satisfied with how police protected their community. There were clear disparities between provinces, ranging from almost three-

quarters of respondents unsatisfied in Makira-Ulawa (73.8%), to over two-thirds satisfied in Honiara (65.9%), Central (71.2%) and Isabel (66.0%).

### Reconciliation and reparation

- Reconciliation was understood by the majority of respondents (71.3%) as meaning ‘making peace’. There was variation in understanding based on the level of education, with lower levels of education having a higher rate of respondents not knowing what the term meant.
- Reparation was not well understood by respondents, with almost two-thirds indicating they did not know what it meant. ‘Compensation’ was the second most common meaning given.
- Respondents in Choiseul (28.6%) and Central (20.3%) had the highest rate of understanding reparation to mean ‘compensation’, while Malaita (5.2) and Honiara (5.4%) had the lowest. Respondents in Honiara (25.2%), Guadalcanal (12.4%) and Malaita (10.8%) were the most likely to define reparation as ‘rebuilding and repairing’.
- Understanding of ‘reparation’ varied according to level of education, with respondents with lower levels of education more likely not to know what it meant (average of 83.9% of respondents with schooling at or under Primary 7, compared to average of 59.9% respondents with higher levels of education). Those with higher levels of education were more likely to identify ‘rebuilding and peace’ (average of 11.2% of respondents with schooling of Secondary 1 or higher, compared to average of 3.7% respondents with lower levels of education) and ‘compensation’ (average of 22.8% of respondents with schooling of Secondary 1 or higher, compared to average of 9.3% respondents with lower levels of education).

## 1.2 Conclusions and implications

The findings presented in this report provide insight into people’s perceptions of peacebuilding issues in Solomon Islands and an important baseline of these perceptions immediately after the withdrawal of the RAMSI. The following section outlines some high-level conclusions and implications based on this survey.

**1. Solomon Islanders are not uniformly positive about their future or the sustainment of peace in their country.** There is uncertainty in relation to sustaining peace beyond RAMSI and there is legitimate cause for the continuation of activities that support peacebuilding in Solomon Islands. Towards this end, the work of UNDP and UN Women and others will be important in partnership with the Solomon Islands government.

**2. There is evidence of lingering divisions between respondents in the areas geographically involved in the Tensions of 1998-2003.** Although the Tensions were not identified as outright issues of importance, there were clear disparities in the level of satisfaction with peacebuilding-related issues between respondents from Malaita and Guadalcanal. These on-going issues should be acknowledged but should not distract from the broader issues of social and economic development and governance that were emphasised by the majority of respondents.

**3. Many of the issues underlying the Tensions, specifically in relation to broader development issues and access to opportunities, remain.** Peacebuilding activities should be couched in the local

development context and acknowledge the historical social and cultural factors that still influence Solomon Islands today. Priority issues to address include those related to governance and economic opportunities.

**4. Inclusion of marginal groups remains important and is an area to improve upon.** Work should continue engaging with traditionally marginalised groups, specifically women and youth. In future work of peacebuilding and policy programmes, this could be through both engagement in decision making and opening opportunities for leadership and empowerment.

**5. Prominent differences in levels of satisfaction between provinces are important to acknowledge and understand.** Future programmes of work should seek to explore the drivers of satisfaction across the different provinces, particularly with a view to identifying positive stories and experiences. Lessons from these examples could be refined and potentially applied elsewhere in Solomon Islands.

**6. Many of the issues in the ‘focus area’ sites echoed the main survey findings but emerged in a more acute way.** The need to consider the particular circumstances of ‘focus area’ sites was clear, as was the importance of acknowledging and understanding on-going development challenges, including access to services, as a key part of peacebuilding programmes.

**7. Survey data and findings should be integrated within broader monitoring and evaluation of peacebuilding activities and identify indicators and measures that are easily understandable and accessible to UNDP, UN Women and Government of the Solomon Islands stakeholders.** The findings outlined here provide a baseline of perceptions related to peacebuilding. Where aligned with priority areas of UNDP and partners, this can provide a sound means of measuring change over time in an easily understandable way. It can also contribute to assessing outcomes under UN Sustainable Development Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the *National Perceptions Survey on Peacebuilding for Solomon Islands* is to provide fresh insight into people’s perceptions of peacebuilding immediately after the withdrawal of the 14-year-long Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI).

This *Summary Report* presents highlights and findings of the survey and the implications for peacebuilding policy and programme in Solomon Islands. First, it presents findings related to thematic areas of interest to peacebuilding policy. These include: national mood, perceptions of institutions, social security, social cohesion, disputes and conflict, and reconciliation and reparations. Second, it presents an integrative discussion of cross-cutting issues which emerged through the research. These include issues such as: gender, youth, education, provincial diversity, decentralisation of power, current perspectives on the Tensions, economic issues and ‘focus area’ sites. Third, it outlines the implications of this work for peacebuilding in Solomon Islands and policy and programme monitoring and evaluation.

The *Summary Report* draws together the findings from the main survey and additional data collection at ‘focus area’ sites. The main survey was conducted in July and August 2017 and surveyed

a total of 2,503 people from 24 enumeration areas across eight provinces. Survey sites were identified in provincial centres and their surrounding areas. In October 2017, an additional 282 people were surveyed at three ‘focus area’ sites in North Malaita (Malu’u) and the settlements surrounding Honiara (Rock Valley and Burns Creek).

Data collection for the main survey and follow up ‘focus area’ sites used the same survey instrument and sample stratification. However, different approaches to sampling and site selection were employed, resulting in two distinct data sets. The implication is that the two sets of findings can be qualitatively compared but cannot be statistically analysed as a single dataset.

**Note:** The focus of the *Summary Report* is on the findings from the main survey. Breakout boxes, such as this one, will be used to compare and discuss relevant ‘focus area’ site findings only where they differ from the main survey.

## 2.1 Context

The survey findings presented in this report need to be viewed in the historical context of Solomon Islands and the factors that have influenced the country’s development. This section provides a brief overview of a number of important contextual issues.

Since independence, Solomon Islands has struggled to forge a unified national identity. The country is a geographically fragmented archipelago and this has had implications for its development. First, geographic fragmentation has presented challenges for developing effective national administrative systems, including service delivery. Second, it has led to certain isolation and has limited interaction between different communities and parts of the country, which has reinforced localism. The importance of local forms of social organisation and identity, including *kastom*, and the relative weakness of a larger sense of nation or shared political community, are reflected in the observation of a former Prime Minister, the late Solomon Mamaloni, that Solomon Islands was “a nation conceived but never born” (in Dinnen, 2008; 347).

A strong disconnect continues to exist between Honiara, the national capital, and the rural areas in the island provinces where most people live. Government, business and other formal institutions are concentrated in Honiara, while most of the rural population continues to rely on informal and highly localised institutions to meet their everyday needs (Braithwaite et al., 2013). While there has been significant effort to strengthen national institutions, most recently through RAMSI, the reach of these institutions beyond the urban centre can be limited and many rural inhabitants still rely on local and informal mechanisms of governance and dispute management (Allen et al., 2013). These mechanisms are fluid, adaptable and vary between communities within provinces, as well as between different provinces.

The Tensions of 1998-2003 occurred along ethnic and provincial fractures but were exacerbated by longstanding grievances over access to economic opportunities and resentment of settlers perceived as taking opportunities from the ‘indigenous’ inhabitants of Guadalcanal (Dinnen, 2014; Vella, 2014). These factors are part of a much longer history of ineffective service delivery by the National Government, inequitable distribution of development benefits and access to services between

locations, land issues and the unfulfilled development expectations of Solomon Islanders (Braithwaite et al., 2013; Dinnen, 2008).

Ongoing structural governance challenges remain, including the need to increase economic opportunities for a rapidly growing population; improving the quality and delivery of basic services such as health, education and infrastructure; and the need to ensure a more equitable approach to development that provides benefits and opportunities to all parts of the country (Dinnen, 2014). While significant improvements have occurred under RAMSI, Dinnen observes that “many of the underlying factors that contributed to the original tension remain unaddressed” (2014: 211). It is important to acknowledge these long-term factors in the interpretation of the survey findings.

The following sections present the key findings from the survey related to the thematic areas.

### 3 NATIONAL MOOD

#### 3.1 Future directions

**Solomon Islanders express uncertain (and tending towards pessimistic) views regarding the direction Solomon Islands is heading.** The largest share of respondents thought some things were going in the right direction and others in the wrong direction (45.9%). Only 18.0% thought Solomon Islands is going in the right direction compared to 27.0% for the wrong direction. Men appeared significantly more optimistic than women, with more than twice the number of men (26.0%) saying it was headed in the ‘right direction’ as compared to women (10.0%).

**Box 1. The views of respondents from ‘focus area’ sites were more in the undecided middle than those in the main survey.** Over half of respondents from ‘focus area’ sites said that some things were going in the right direction and others in the wrong direction (57.4%). Compared to the main survey, fewer respondents felt Solomon Islands were going in the right direction (10.6%) and slightly fewer felt the country was going in the wrong direction (22.7%).

**Respondents with higher levels of education were generally more optimistic about the direction Solomon Islands is heading in** (Table 1). Conversely, respondents with low to middle levels of education were more likely to perceive the country to be going in the wrong direction.

**Table 1 – Whether Solomon Islands is going in the right or wrong direction by education level**

	Right direction	Wrong direction
No School	12.2%	23.3%
Primary 1-3	10.3%	26.2%
Primary 4-7	18.7%	28.2%
Secondary 1-3	17.7%	30.1%
Secondary 4-7	18.4%	27.0%
Vocational	25.0%	19.4%
Diploma	15.6%	33.3%

University (Solomon Islands)	32.9%	11.4%
University (International)	24.3%	10.8%

### 3.2 Sustaining peace

**Perceptions of RAMSI remain positive since its withdrawal with 93.8% of respondents satisfied with its efforts.** Only 5.0% indicated they were *not* satisfied. This echoes findings from the 2013 *People’s Survey*, which identified strong support (86.0% support; 8.3% did not support) for the presence of RAMSI in Solomon Islands (ANU Edge, 2013).

**Box 2. Respondents from ‘focus area’ sites were slightly less satisfied with the efforts of RAMSI.** While the strong majority of respondents were satisfied (84.0%), this was a lower level of satisfaction compared to the main survey.

**Confidence that peace would be sustained in the future was mixed, with only a slight majority (54.6% of respondents) confident and over a third (36.5%) not confident.** Responses varied on a provincial basis (Figure 1). While all other provinces recorded marginally higher levels of confidence in peace being sustained than not, in Makira-Ulawa the majority of respondents were not confident.



**Figure 1 – Level of confidence in whether peace will be sustained in Solomon Islands by province.** The left-hand figure presents aggregate level of confident responses (including ‘very’ and ‘somewhat’); the right-hand figure presents aggregate level of unconfident responses (including ‘very’ and ‘somewhat’)

**Box 3. Respondents from ‘focus area’ sites appear to be more confident that peace would be sustained than the main survey.** As a group, nearly two-thirds (64.5%) of ‘focus area’ respondents were confident that peace would be sustained, compared to less than a third who were not confident (27.3%).

**However, comparing the responses from North Malaita and Honiara Settlements reveals that they simply parallel the broader findings for Malaita and Honiara from the main survey.** Respondents in North Malaita were much more confident that peace would be sustained (80.4% confident) compared to respondents in Honiara Settlements (44.4% confident). This is broadly consistent with the figures for Malaita and Honiara in Figure 1.

**Respondents identified increased access to economic opportunities and employment (23.2% of respondents) and greater power to provincial assembly/authorities (20.6%) as the two most important actions to take for ensuring lasting peace.** This was followed by increased access to basic services (including health and education) (13.9%), land reform to address land disputes and development (11.2%) and inclusion of women and youth in decision making (10.0%). Women were more than twice as likely as men to identify ‘including women and youth in decision making’ as the most important action. Only 3.8% identified addressing the needs of victims from the tension as the most important action to ensure lasting peace.

**Box 4. Respondents from ‘focus area’ sites identified similar actions as important for ensuring lasting peace to main survey respondents.** The two most common actions identified were greater provincial powers (24.8% of respondents) and increased access to economic opportunities and employment (24.5%). Only 3.2% of respondents identified addressing the needs of victims from the tension as the most important action.

**While the responses from North Malaita and Honiara Settlements were broadly similar, there were some noticeable differences.** Promoting access to economic opportunities and employment was commonly identified in both sites (21.0% in Honiara Settlements, 27.2% in North Malaita), as was undertaking land reform (17.7% in Honiara Settlements, 14.6% in North Malaita). The most prominent point of difference was in relation to giving more power to provincial assembly/authorities which was the *most* important action for respondents in North Malaita (40.5%), but did not rank highly for those in Honiara Settlements (4.8%). For North Malaita, this closely aligns with the response from Malaita in the main survey (Table 2).

**At a provincial level, the two most important actions for ensuring lasting peace were improved access to economic opportunities (in the top two responses for all provinces, except Choiseul) and giving more power to provincial assembly/authorities (in the top three responses for all provinces, except Central).** These two responses were identified as the most important actions in all provinces except Guadalcanal (Table 2). Giving power to the provincial assembly received two of the three strongest responses, with 39.5% in Choiseul and 38.3% in Malaita.

**Table 2 – The most commonly identified most important action to ensure lasting peace by province**

Province	Most Common Responses	No.	%
Central	Promote access to economic opportunities and employment	99	36.3%
Choiseul	Give more power to provincial assembly / authorities	115	39.5%
Guadalcanal	Promote access to basic services (including health and education)	46	22.7%
Honiara	Promote access to economic opportunities and employment	80	32.9%
Isabel	Promote access to economic opportunities and employment	113	38.3%
Makira-Ulawa	Give more power to provincial assembly / authorities	67	23.9%
Malaita	Give more power to provincial assembly / authorities	104	38.2%
Western	Promote access to economic opportunities and employment	56	26.8%

Debate around decentralisation of government in Solomon Islands is not a new phenomenon and reflects broader discontent from the provinces with the concentration of political power in Honiara. This re-emerged during the Tensions, when a number of provinces, such as Choiseul, Western, Makira-Ulawa and Temotu, declared their intent to sever ties with Honiara (Dinnen, 2008).

**The most important action for ensuring national peace varied by level of education.** Highly educated respondents (including vocational, diploma or university level) were less likely (16.7% or lower) to identify increased power to provincial assembly/authorities than respondents with lower levels of education (23.0% or higher). Respondents who had completed Primary 4 or higher were more likely (27.0% or above) to identify increased access to economic opportunity and employment than groups with lower levels of education (20.3% or lower).

### 3.3 National issues

**Respondents identified employment and job opportunities (40.5% of respondents) as the most important problem needing to be addressed in Solomon Islands,** followed by corruption (20.6%). Basic services such as health and education were third (13.1%) and less than 1% of respondents identified fixing issues from the Tensions as the most important problem.

**The most commonly identified issues in the Peacebuilding Survey are consistent with other research.** The 2013 *People's Survey* reported the main actions the government should take to improve Solomon Islands were: rural development (59.8%), economic improvements (58.8%), stopping corruption (36.2%), and education (23.8%) (ANU Edge, 2013). The 2017 survey reiterates the importance of these development issues within the context of Solomon Islands.

**Employment and job opportunities were the most common issue identified as needing to be addressed in all provinces, except Makira-Ulawa.** Isabel (64.8% of respondents), Choiseul (61.4%) and Central (57.7%) recorded the highest levels of response for employment and job opportunities. The most common issue identified in Makira-Ulawa was corruption (39.9%).

## 4 PERCEPTIONS OF INSTITUTIONS

### 4.1 Performance of government and members of parliament

**Respondents reported low levels of satisfaction with how national and provincial government, as well as national MPs were performing their duties** (Table 3). Slightly more than half (51.5%) of the respondents were satisfied with how the national government is performing its duties, while 40.0% were unsatisfied. In comparison, 42.0% of respondents were satisfied with provincial government, with more than half (51.8%) unsatisfied. Only 33.8% of respondents reported they were satisfied with the performance of their national MP, with nearly two-thirds (62.3%) indicating they were unsatisfied.

**Table 3 – Satisfaction with national and provincial government and MPs**

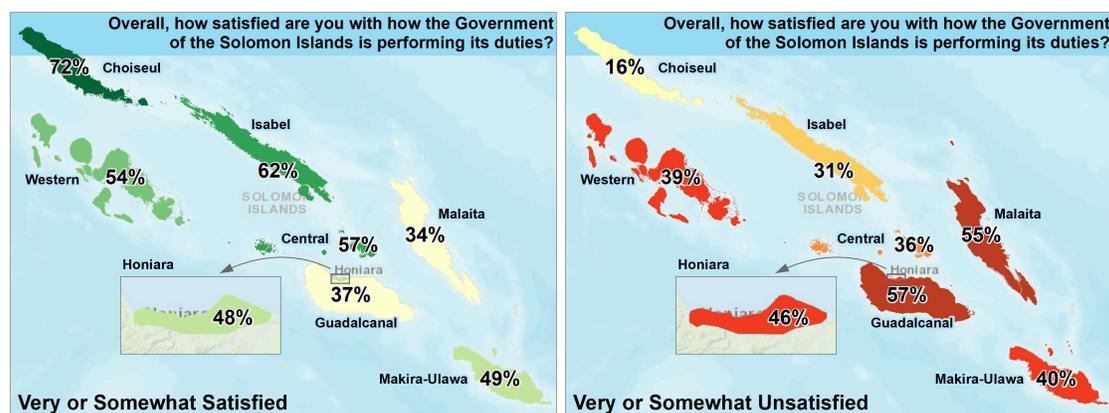
Response	National government		Provincial government		National MPs	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Very satisfied	304	12.2%	228	9.1%	271	10.8%
Somewhat satisfied	986	39.4%	823	32.9%	575	23.0%
<b>Total 'Satisfied'</b>	<b>1290</b>	<b>51.5%</b>	<b>1051</b>	<b>42.0%</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>33.8%</b>
Somewhat unsatisfied	531	21.2%	598	23.9%	457	18.3%
Very unsatisfied	470	18.8%	698	27.9%	1103	44.1%
<b>Total 'Unsatisfied'</b>	<b>1001</b>	<b>40.0%</b>	<b>1296</b>	<b>51.8%</b>	<b>1560</b>	<b>62.4%</b>

Other	212	8.4%	156	6.2%	97	3.8%
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The low levels of satisfaction for provincial government are worth noting when considering the second most common action identified for sustaining peace in Solomon Islands giving greater power to provincial assembly/authorities.

**Box 5. Respondents from ‘focus area’ sites reported lower levels of satisfaction with the performance of government than the main survey respondents.** The level of satisfaction with the performance of national government among ‘focus area’ respondents were much lower (35.5% satisfied; 59.6% unsatisfied) compared to the main survey (Table 3). Noting some variation between North Malaita and Honiara (see Box 6), satisfaction with the performance of provincial government (35.8% satisfied; 57.8% unsatisfied) was also lower in the ‘focus areas’ group compared to the main survey (Table 3). Performance of national MPs recorded similar levels of satisfaction to the main survey (32.3% satisfied; 61.7% unsatisfied).

**There was diversity among provinces in the level of satisfaction with the performance of national government.** The highest levels of satisfactions were recorded in Choiseul and Isabel (Figure 2). All provinces reported greater levels of satisfied responses than unsatisfied, with the exception of Malaita and Guadalcanal.



**Figure 2 – Satisfaction with how the Government of Solomon Islands is performing its duties by province.** The left-hand figure presents aggregate level of satisfied responses (including ‘very’ and ‘somewhat’); the right-hand figure presents aggregate level of unsatisfied responses (including ‘very’ and ‘somewhat’)

**There were differences between provinces in the level of satisfaction with the performance of provincial governments.** The highest levels of satisfaction were again recorded in Choiseul (70.4 % of respondents) and Isabel (59.3%), followed by Central (44.3%) (Figure 3). The lowest levels of satisfaction were recorded in in Guadalcanal (70.6% of respondents unsatisfied), Malaita (62.8%), and Makira-Ulawa (67.3%).



Figure 3 – Satisfaction with how the Provincial Government is performing its duties by province. The left-hand figure presents aggregate level of satisfied responses (including ‘very’ and ‘somewhat’); the right-hand figure presents aggregate level of unsatisfied responses (including ‘very’ and ‘somewhat’)

**Box 6. Respondents within the ‘focus areas’ group differed in relation to their levels of satisfaction with provincial government.** Satisfaction levels with their provincial government were higher in North Malaita (41.1%) than in Honiara Settlements (29.0%). The North Malaita figure is higher than other data collected in Malaita (26.8%), while the Honiara Settlement is lower than that collected in Honiara (42.3%), but comparable to Guadalcanal (24.5%).

There were also differences among provinces in satisfaction with national MPs. Choiseul was the only province where over 50% of respondents were satisfied (Figure 4). The lowest levels of satisfaction were recorded in Malaita, Makira-Ulawa and Guadalcanal.

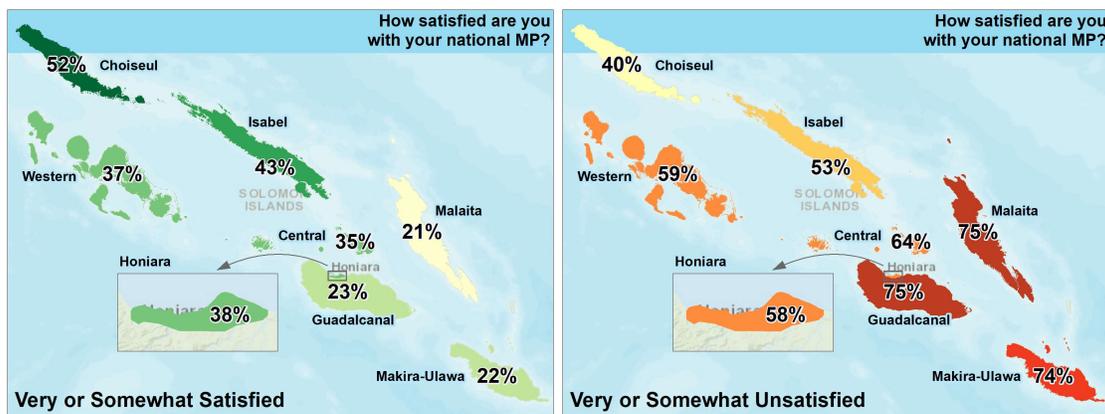


Figure 4 – Satisfaction with the national MPs. The left-hand figure presents aggregate level of satisfied responses (including ‘very’ and ‘somewhat’); the right-hand figure presents aggregate level of unsatisfied responses (including ‘very’ and ‘somewhat’)

The levels of satisfaction with national MPs recorded in this survey are consistent with other research. The 2013 *People’s Survey* reported the majority of respondents (56.3%) were not satisfied with their national MP (ANU Edge, 2013). In the present survey, only 18.4% indicated they were

satisfied, while 21.8% said they were sometimes satisfied. This highlights an on-going issue in Solomon Islands related to the performance of national MPs.

## 4.2 National government’s handling of key issues

**Respondents reported mixed levels of satisfaction with the national government’s handling of a number of key issues.** The highest levels of satisfaction were recorded for handling of basic services and justice services, with over 60% of respondents satisfied in each case. The highest levels of unsatisfied responses were reported for dealing with corruption (58.2% unsatisfied), addressing the needs of youth (50.7%) and employment and job opportunities (46.7%).

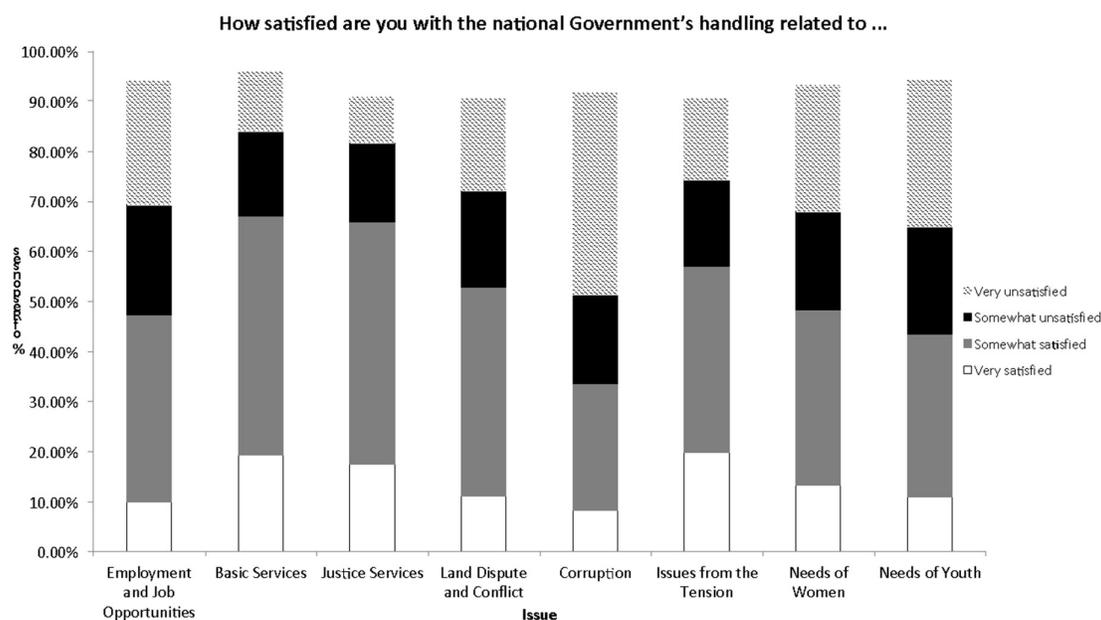


Figure 5 – Satisfaction with the national government’s handling of certain key issues

**Box 7. Respondents from ‘focus area’ sites ranked the national government’s handling of key issues in similar order to the main survey respondents. However, they reported slightly lower levels of satisfaction across all issues.** The highest levels of satisfaction were for basic services (56.0% satisfied) and justice services (45.7%). While highest levels of unsatisfied responses were reported for handling of corruption (77.0% unsatisfied), addressing the needs of youth (68.8%) and employment and job opportunities (66.3%).

This highlights that while the relative rank in importance of issues was similar, respondents from the ‘focus area’ sites were generally less positive about the Government’s handling of key issues.

**Satisfaction with the national government’s handling of key issues varied by province.** The highest levels of satisfaction were reported in Choiseul, Central and Isabel, while Makira-Ulawa and Guadalcanal recorded the lowest.

**There were noticeable differences in the perceptions of government handling of corruption among provinces.** The highest levels of satisfaction with handling of corruption were recorded in Choiseul and Isabel (Figure 6). This parallels the relatively high levels of satisfaction in these provinces with

national government, provincial government and MP performance. The highest levels of unsatisfied responses with the handling of corruption were recorded in Guadalcanal, Makira-Ulawa and Honiara.

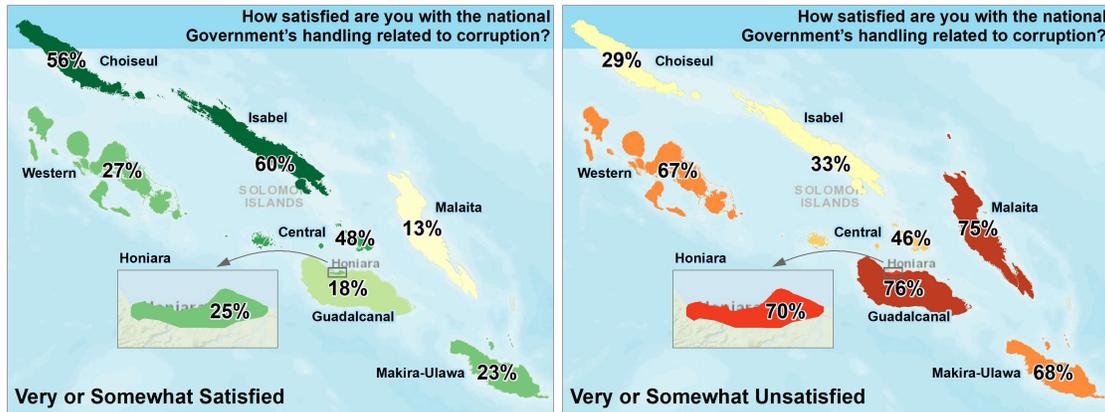


Figure 6 – Satisfaction with how the national government is handling corruption by province. The left-hand figure presents aggregate levels of satisfied responses (including ‘very’ and ‘somewhat’); the right-hand figure presents aggregate levels of unsatisfied responses (including ‘very’ and ‘somewhat’)

There were noticeable differences in perceptions of the government’s handling of fixing issues from the Tensions (Figure 7). Reflecting the broader trend, the highest levels of satisfaction were in Choiseul and Isabel, while Makira-Ulawa were among the lowest. Looking at the locations which were geographically affected by the events of 1998-2003, there is a clear difference in the level of satisfaction between respondents from Guadalcanal (highest levels of unsatisfied responses) and Malaita (third lowest level of unsatisfied responses; third highest levels of satisfied responses).

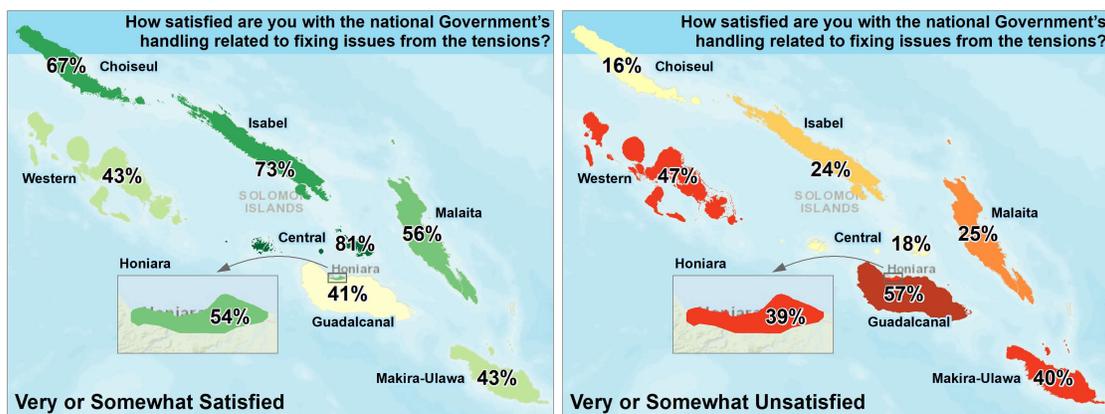


Figure 7 – Satisfaction with how the government is handling fixing issues from the Tensions by province. The left-hand figure presents aggregate level of satisfied responses (including ‘very’ and ‘somewhat’); the right-hand figure presents aggregate level of unsatisfied responses (including ‘very’ and ‘somewhat’)

The level of satisfaction with the handling the needs of women and youth also varied noticeably between provinces. The highest satisfaction levels were reported in Choiseul (63.3%) and Central (61.0%) while highest levels of unsatisfied responses were recorded in Makira-Ulawa (62.0%) and Guadalcanal (61.2%). In relation to handling of youth needs, the highest levels of satisfaction were

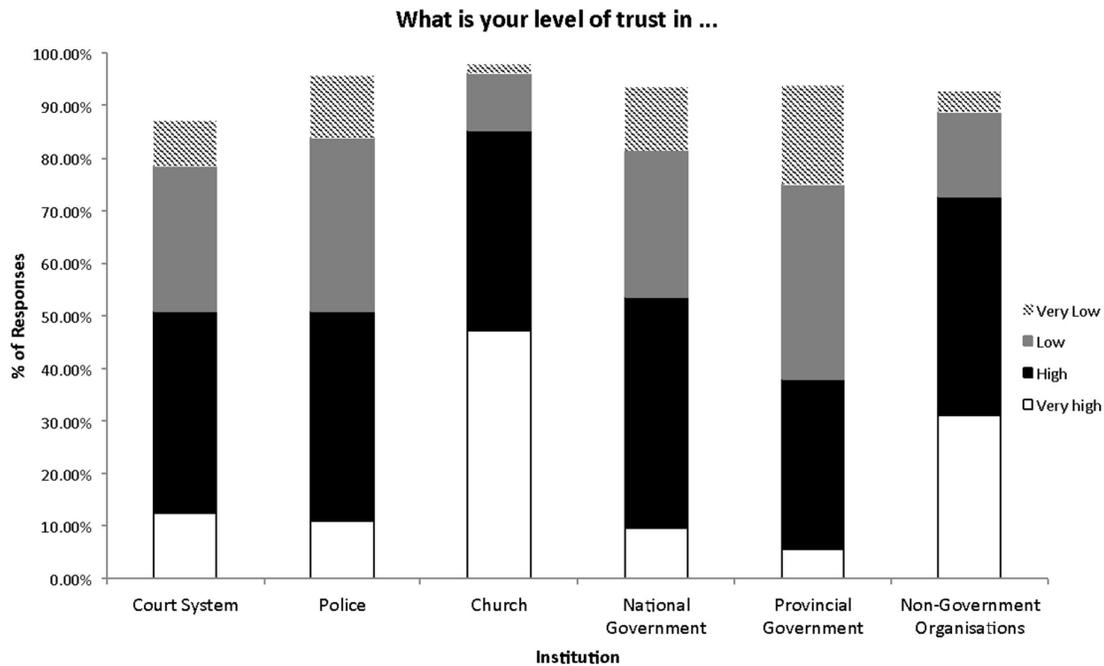
reported in Choiseul (61.1%) and Isabel (60.0%), and highest levels of unsatisfied responses in Guadalcanal (69.1%) and Makira-Ulawa (65.4%).

**The level of satisfaction with government handling of the needs of youths varied by age group.**

The youth (15-24 years old) demographic reported higher levels of satisfaction (45.4% of respondents) than older age groups (53.4%).

**4.3 Confidence in institutions**

**While respondents had mixed levels of trust in different institutions, they clearly trusted non-government institutions more than government ones.** The highest levels of trust were identified in the church (85.3% trusted), followed by non-government organisations (72.7%) (Figure 8). The lowest levels of trust were expressed for provincial government (38.0% trusted), the police (50.7%) and national government (53.6%).

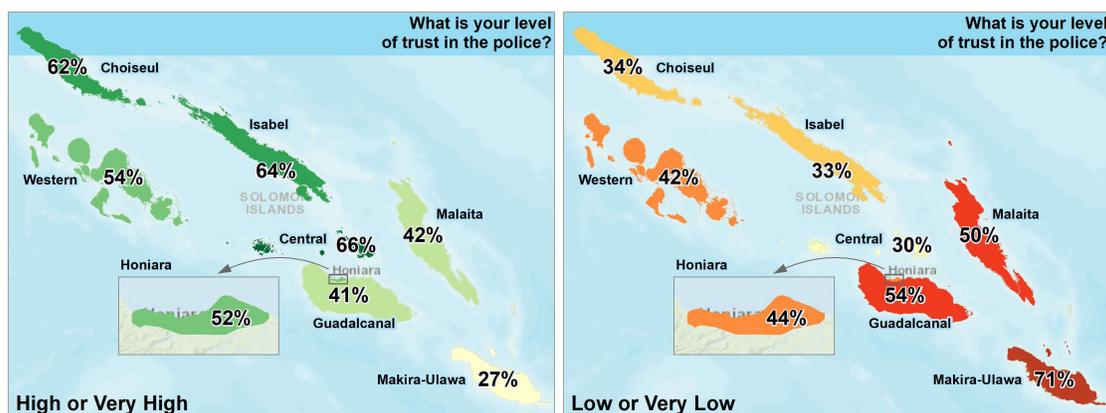


**Figure 8 – Trust in key institutions**

**Box 8.** As with the main survey, respondents from ‘focus areas’ expressed greater levels of trust in non-government institutions compared to government institutions. The highest levels of trust for ‘focus area’ respondents were recorded for the church (89.0% trusted) followed by non-government organisations (63.5%). In contrast, the lowest levels of trust were identified for provincial government (57.1% not trusted), followed by national government (53.2%), the court system (47.2%), and police (45.7%).

**Trust in the different institutions varied by province. Overall, Choiseul, Central and Isabel reported the highest levels of trust in different institutions, while Makira-Ulawa reported the lowest levels of trust.** The court system was trusted by more than 50% of respondents in all provinces except

Makira-Ulawa and Guadalcanal. The highest levels of trust were reported in Choiseul, Central, Isabel and Western. The **police** were trusted by more than 50% of respondents in all provinces, with the noticeable exception of Makira-Ulawa (Figure 9). The highest levels of trust were reported in Central, Choiseul and Isabel.



**Figure 9 – Trust in the police by province. The left-hand figure presents aggregate level of trust (including ‘very high’ and ‘high’); the right-hand figure presents aggregate level of trust (including ‘very low’ and ‘low’)**

The provincial variation in trust in the police is worth noting in relation to areas where the Tensions took place, the abuses committed by elements of the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force during that period, and the work of the Participating Police Force in taking control of policing responsibilities through the initial phase of RAMSI (Dinnen, 2014).

**The level of trust in the police also differed by gender.** Women were twice as likely to say they had very low trust in the police compared to men, while men were twice as likely to say they had high levels of trust in the police.

On a provincial basis, the **national government** was trusted least by respondents in Guadalcanal, Malaita and Honiara (56.7%), which parallels earlier findings related to satisfaction levels with national government performance. The **provincial government** was also not well trusted, with Choiseul and Isabel the only provinces which reported trust levels of over 50%. The lowest levels of trust for national government were reported in Guadalcanal and Makira-Ulawa.

The **church** recorded the highest levels of trust, with at least 87% of respondents in each province except Makira-Ulawa trusting this institution. **Non-government organisations** also reported high levels of trust, with at least 66% of respondents in each province reporting they trusted them.

## 5 SOCIAL SECURITY

### 5.1 Basic services

**Respondents reported high levels of satisfaction in the availability of basic services, including both health and education.** The level of satisfaction was slightly higher for education (73.4% satisfied) than for health services (68.6%) (Table 4).

**Table 4 – Overall level of satisfaction with available health and education services**

Response	Health services		Education services	
	No. of responses	% of responses	No. of responses	% of responses
Very satisfied	617	24.7%	693	27.7%
Somewhat satisfied	1,100	44.0%	1,145	45.8%
<b>Total 'Satisfied'</b>	<b>1,717</b>	<b>68.6%</b>	<b>1,838</b>	<b>73.4%</b>
Somewhat unsatisfied	484	19.3%	408	16.3%
Very unsatisfied	248	9.9%	198	7.9%
<b>Total 'Unsatisfied'</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>29.3%</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>24.2%</b>
Other	54	2.2%	63	2.3%

**In each province, more than 50% of respondents were satisfied with access to both health and education services.** The highest levels of satisfaction with health services were recorded in Western Province (72.8% satisfied) and Isabel (72.4%), while Makira-Ulawa reported the lowest (50.8% satisfied). The highest levels of satisfaction with education services were recorded in Central (83.0%) and Choiseul (82.6%), with lowest in Makira-Ulawa (58.9% satisfied) and Guadalcanal (61.5%). The levels of satisfaction reported here would likely be higher than expected for the whole of population because the survey sites focused on the provincial capitals and immediate surrounding areas where access to services is better.

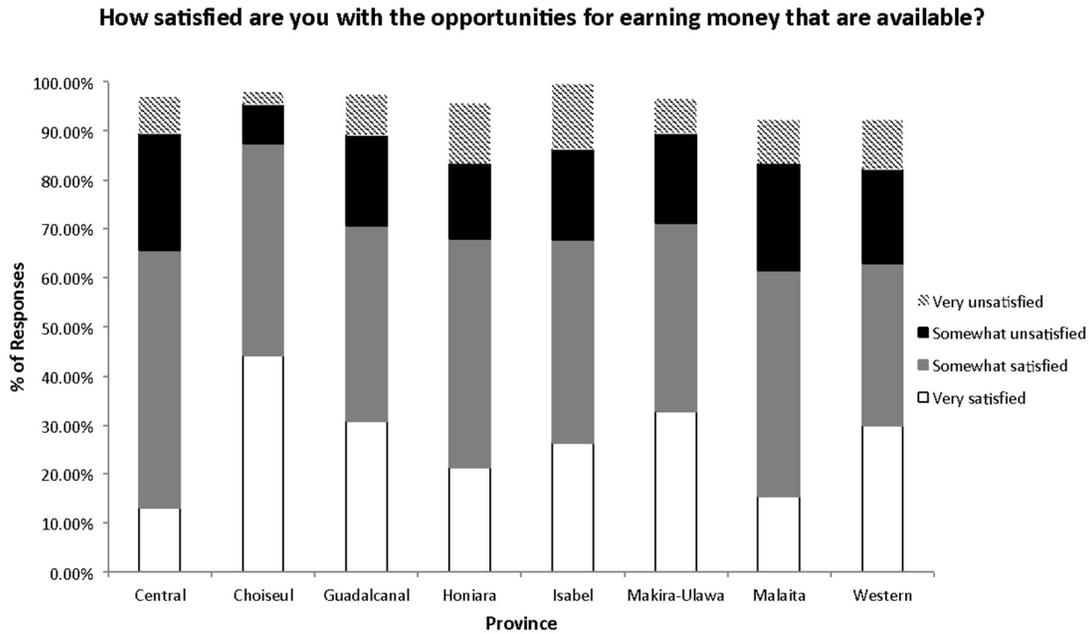
In interpreting results related to the provision of health and education services, it is worth noting that these are among the most visible services that government provides and likely to be of the highest salience to communities.

**Box 9. Respondents from 'focus area' sites reported lower levels of satisfaction with access to both health and education services.** A total of 59.6% of 'focus area' respondents were satisfied with the availability of health services, while 62.8% of 'focus area' respondents were satisfied with the availability of education services. Both these figures are lower than those found in the general survey (Table 4).

**However, much of this difference is explained by large differences between North Malaita and Honiara Settlements.** North Malaita respondents reported higher levels of satisfaction for both health (68.4% satisfied) and education services (69.0%), compared to Honiara Settlements (48.4% for health and 54.8% for education). The low satisfaction with access to these basic services is important to note for the Honiara Settlements given their proximity to Honiara, where many services are located.

## 5.2 Income and economic opportunity

**Over two-thirds (69.4%) of all respondents indicated they were satisfied with their opportunities for earning money.** The highest levels of satisfaction were recorded in Choiseul (87.5%), with residents from that province more than twice as likely to be 'very satisfied' as compared to those in Honiara, Malaita or Central (Figure 10).



**Figure 10 – Satisfaction with opportunities for earning money by province**

**Box 10. Respondents from ‘focus areas’ reported lower levels of satisfaction with opportunities for earning money than those in the main survey.** Just over half (54.6%) of ‘focus area’ respondents were satisfied with opportunities to earn money, and this was consistent between the Honiara Settlements (56.5%) and North Malaita (53.2%). These levels of satisfaction are lower than all provinces presented in Figure 10.

## 6 SOCIAL COHESION

### 6.1 National pride

Nearly all respondents (97.7%) indicated they were proud to be a Solomon Islander, with 90.6% indicating they were ‘very proud’. As a proxy for assessing the strength of national identity, this is a strong result, while noting that this does not diminish the strength of identification Solomon Islanders have with their language group and provinces. Responses were consistent across different demographics with the exception of the youth (15-24 years old), who were slightly less proud than other age groups sampled (87.2% compared to 92.5% of 25-39 year olds and 92.1% of over 40).

### 6.2 Freedom of movement (intra-provincial)

A large majority of respondents (90.9%) believed that people in their community felt free to visit other communities within their province. In all provinces, at least 86% of respondents indicated people were free to visit other communities. The only areas where more than 10% of respondents

*did not* think people were free to visit other communities in their province were Honiara (11.7%) and Makira-Ulawa (11.2%).

### 6.3 Freedom of movement (inter-provincial)

Three-quarters of respondents (75.2%) felt that people were free to visit other provinces. Only in Isabel did fewer than 70% of respondents agree. The highest levels of respondents who felt people were *not* free to visit other provinces were located in Isabel (34.6%), Makira-Ulawa (28.4%) and to a lesser extent Western (21.5%) and Guadalcanal (20.0%).

Of those who did not feel free to travel (19.2% of all respondents), nearly three-quarters (73.2%) identified Malaita as the location people would feel least free to travel to. This was followed by Guadalcanal (33.3%) and Honiara (23.3%). All provinces, except Malaita, identified Malaita as the location where they felt others were not free to travel. Honiara was the third highest response among Guadalcanal respondents, which is notable as the survey sites for Guadalcanal had good accessibility to Honiara. Malaita was the only province that did not have Honiara in the top three locations where they felt others were not free to travel.

### 6.4 Community harmony and decision making

Almost three-quarters (74.0%) of all respondents felt that members of their community lived together in harmony. All provinces except Makira-Ulawa recorded at least 60% of respondents who felt this way. In Makira-Ulawa over half (51.4%) felt their community *did not* live in harmony (Figure 11).

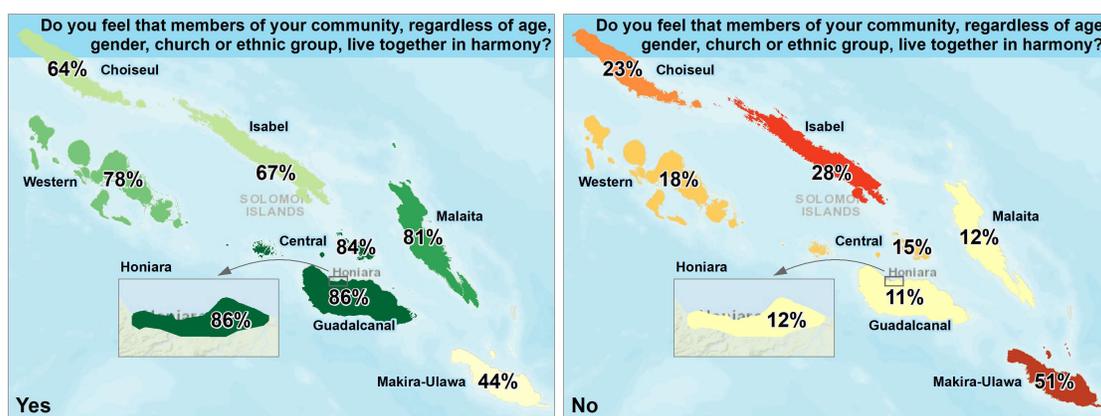


Figure 11 – Community harmony by province. The left-hand figure presents ‘yes’ responses; the right-hand figure presents ‘no’ responses

Over two-thirds (67.9%) of all respondents felt involved in decision-making in their community. The highest levels of perceived involvement were in Makira-Ulawa (75.1%), Central (72.1%) and Malaita (70.9%), while Honiara had the lowest level of involvement.

Perceived involvement in community decision-making varied by gender and age. Women felt less involved (60.1%) than men (75.7%) while the youth group (15-24-year olds) reported lower levels of engagement (56.3%) compared to 24-39 year olds (71.6%) and those aged 40 or over (76.2%).

## 6.5 Women’s community leadership

**A large majority of respondents (90.6%) felt that women could be leaders in their community, with no significant difference between women and men.** While there was no significant difference between age groups, youths (15-24 years old) were slightly more likely to think women could not be leaders in their community (12.8%) compared to 25-39 year olds (8.8%) and those aged 40 or over (6.3%).

**Box 11. Respondents from ‘focus areas’ had more negative perceptions of whether women could be leaders in their community.** While nearly three-quarters (74.1%) of respondents felt women could be leaders in their community, this is much lower than the average from the main survey.

**However, there were prominent differences between North Malaita and Honiara Settlements in their perceptions of women’s leadership.** Consistent with the main survey, in Honiara Settlements 89.5% of respondents believed that women could be leaders in their community. In contrast, only 62.0% felt they could be leaders in North Malaita.

**The perception of women in leadership in Solomon Islands is consistent with previous research.** The 2013 *People’s Survey* identified that 90.9% of respondents believed women made good leaders, with only 6.0% indicating that they did not (ANU Edge, 2013). Similarly, a UNDP-funded survey in 2015 found that 81.0% of respondents believed women are as skilled at being politicians as men. However, the reality is that these perceptions have not been reflected in practice, with only three women elected to national parliament since independence.

**Respondents identified women’s groups (75.5%) and roles within the house (46.2%) as the key areas where women could make positive contributions as leaders in their community.** Broader community roles such as dispute resolution (32.2%) and being community chiefs (16.1%) were less prominent. This did not differ significantly between genders or age groups.

**There were variations in perceptions of women as community chiefs between provinces.** The highest level responses indicating that women could be community leaders were recorded in Isabel (19.5%) and Western Province (12.5%), while the lowest were reported in Malaita (3.9%) and Central (0.3%).

**Of the respondents who felt women *could not* be leaders in their community (9.3%), the most common reason was that it was not allowed by culture (60.3%).** This was followed by the perception that women were not as good as men (51.2%) and that ‘it was not right’ (29.9%). These views were similar between genders, with youth respondents were more likely to think women could not be leaders because they were not as good as men (60.2%).

## 7 DISPUTES AND CONFLICT

### 7.1 Disputes

**Over three-quarters (76.2%) of all respondents said they knew of a dispute that had occurred in the last 12 months.** This varied between provinces, with the highest levels recorded in Makira-Ulawa and Guadalcanal while the lowest occurrence was in Isabel, Central and Malaita

**Box 12. Respondents from ‘focus areas’ were very likely to report knowing of a dispute occurring in the past 12 months (90.4%).** The level was much higher in the Honiara Settlements (96.0%) than North Malaita (86.1%).

**The most common cause of disputes in Solomon Islands, identified by over two-thirds of respondents (71.9%), was alcohol and other substance abuse (Table 5).** The next most common cause was land disputes (50.3%) and logging (20.5%). Tension between ethnic groups was one of the least common reasons identified as being behind disputes (10.4%).

**Table 5 – Main causes of disputes identified by respondents**

Cause of Dispute	No.	%
Alcohol and other substance abuse	1799	71.9%
Land disputes	1259	50.3%
Logging	512	20.5%
Crime (including theft)	479	19.1%
Different ethnic groups	260	10.4%
Business investments (development projects)	93	3.7%
Non-Solomon Island business taking job and economic opportunities	47	1.9%

**Box 13. Respondents from ‘focus areas’ identified broadly the same causes of disputes as the main survey.** The most common cause of dispute identified by ‘focus area’ respondents was alcohol and other substance abuse (83.0% of respondents), followed by land disputes (53.5%). This did not differ significantly between ‘focus area’ sites.

**At a provincial level, alcohol and other substance abuse was identified as the primary cause of conflict in all provinces except Western province, where it was a close second.** Land disputes were identified as the second most common cause of disputes in all provinces, except Western. In Central, Guadalcanal, Honiara, and Malaita, crime was the third most common response, while for Choiseul, Isabel, Makira-Ulawa and Western it was logging.

In interpreting findings related to disputes, it should be acknowledged that the dispute types are not mutually exclusive. There are interactions between the dispute types, such as between logging and land disputes, as well as between alcohol abuse and other socially disruptive behaviour and crime (Allen et al., 2013).

**The most common causes of disputes identified in the Peacebuilding Survey are broadly consistent with previous research related to law and justice.** The 2013 *People’s Survey* identified ‘alcohol /

drugs / *kwaso*' as the most common cause of conflict within communities (90.8% of respondents), followed by 'arguments/infidelity/domestic disputes' (49.3%), 'land disputes' (33.0%) and 'crime / violence / murder' (12.7%) (ANU Edge, 2013). Similarly, 'provincial / ethnic tension' was not identified as a main cause within the *People's Survey* (ANU Edge, 2013). This is further supported by qualitative research undertaken in rural areas of Solomon Islands with social problems resulting from substance abuse and development and land-related disputes as among the most prominent areas of concern (Allen et al., 2013).

**While issues related to domestic disputes did not emerge in the Peacebuilding Survey, this is not to say they do not exist.** The fact that it was not mentioned is likely a result of it not being a specified response category in the survey instrument, combined with the interrelated nature of the different types of disputes where domestic disputes are exacerbated by other issues such as substance abuse (Allen et al., 2013).

**Youths were identified as the group most likely to cause disputes (64.0%), followed by adult men (51.5%), tribes or clans (36.4%) and community leaders (22.3%), while the most likely groups to be victims of disputes were identified as children (70.4%), adult women (66.7%) and youths (51.7%).** Youths were identified as both the main cause of disputes as well as the third most common category of victim.

**Box 14. Respondents from 'focus areas' reported similar results to the main survey in relation to the instigators of disputes, with slight differences in relation to the victims.** As in the main survey, youths (69.5% of respondents) followed by adult men (46.5%) were considered most likely to cause a dispute. However, respondents from 'focus area' sites identified youths as also being the most likely victims of disputes (69.1% of respondents), followed by adult women (64.9%) and children (58.9%).

## 7.2 Dispute resolution, justice and police services

**Two-thirds (66.4%) of respondents were satisfied with the available ways of resolving disputes.**

There was variation between some provinces with Makira-Ulawa recording the lowest levels of satisfaction, with only 42.1% feeling satisfied with the available services. All other provinces had more than 50% satisfaction levels among respondents, with the highest levels recorded in Central, Choiseul and Isabel (Figure 12). It is probably the case that the satisfaction levels reported are likely higher than those of the whole of the population as survey respondents from provincial capitals and surrounding areas are likely to have better access to these types of services.

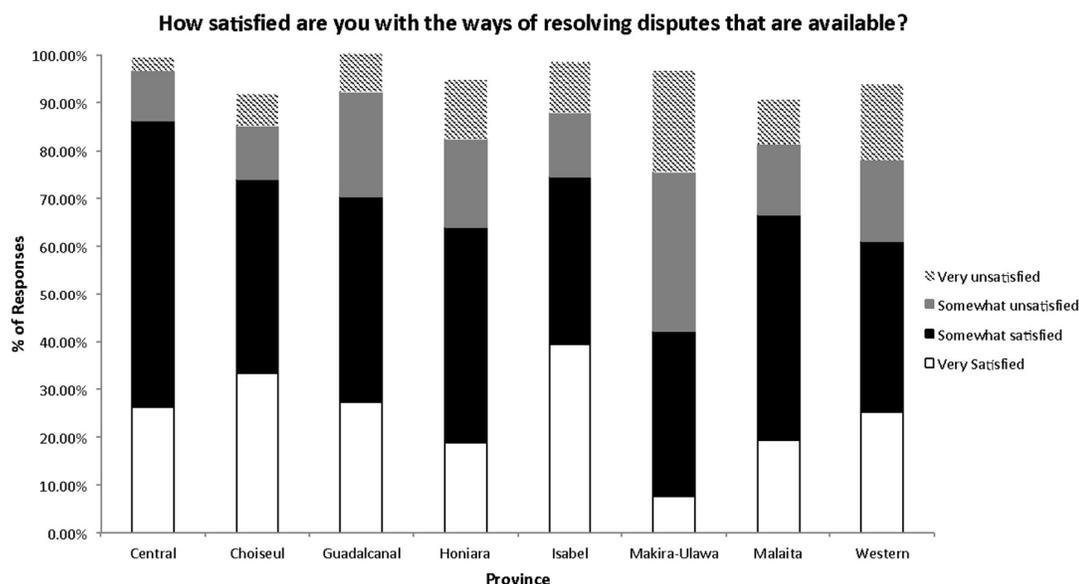


Figure 12 – Satisfaction with available dispute resolution services by province

**Box 15. Respondents from ‘focus areas’ reported lower levels of satisfaction with the available ways of resolving disputes than the main survey.** As a group, over half (55.3%) were satisfied with the available ways of resolving disputes, while 39.7% were unsatisfied. However, there was some variation between ‘focus area’ sites, with respondents more satisfied in North Malaita (63.9%) compared to Honiara Settlements (44.4%). These results are lower than the majority of provinces outlined in Figure 12, with the Honiara Settlements figure well below the equivalent figures for either Guadalcanal (70.3%) or Honiara (64.0%).

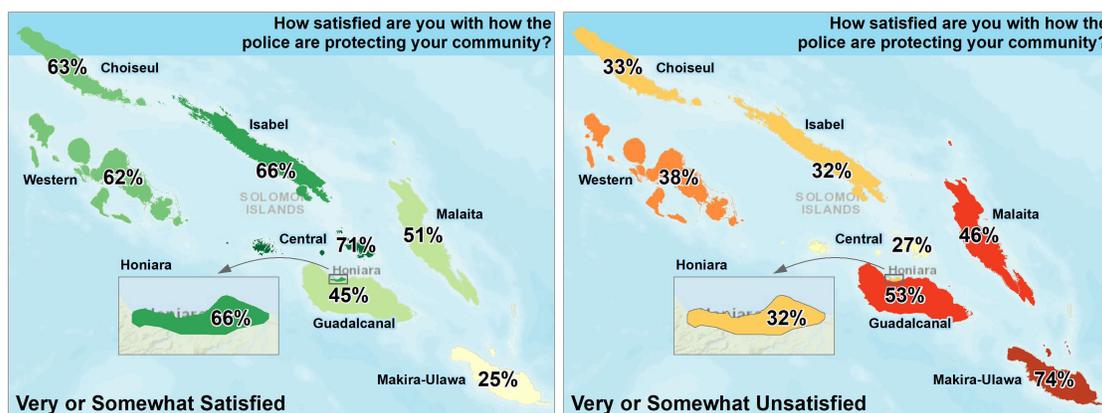
**Almost two-thirds (61.8%) of all respondents were satisfied with the government justice services available to them.** All provinces, except Makira-Ulawa, had over 50% of respondents indicating they were satisfied with justice services available to them. As with the satisfaction with dispute resolution services, the province with the lowest level of satisfaction was Makira-Ulawa, followed by Guadalcanal. The provinces with highest levels of satisfaction were Central, Choiseul and Isabel.

**Box 16. Respondents from ‘focus areas’ reported lower levels of satisfaction with government justice services compared to the main survey.** As a group, only 43.2% of ‘focus area’ respondents were satisfied with government justice services, with 47.9% unsatisfied. These responses were similar between ‘focus area’ sites.

**Satisfaction with how the police protect the community was moderate, with just over half (55.8%) of all respondents satisfied.** In comparison, 42.1% were unsatisfied with how the police were protecting their community.

**Box 17. Respondents from ‘focus areas’ reported lower levels of satisfaction with police services compared to the main survey.** Only 44.7% of respondents were satisfied with police services, with 52.1% unsatisfied. These responses were similar between ‘focus area’ sites.

**There were clear disparities in levels of satisfaction with how police protect the community between provinces.** All provinces except Makira-Ulawa and Guadalcanal had over 50% of respondents indicating they were satisfied with police protection. Makira-Ulawa recorded the lowest levels of satisfaction, with nearly three-quarters of respondents unsatisfied.



**Figure 13 – Satisfaction with how the police are protecting communities by province. The left-hand figure presents aggregate level of satisfied responses (including ‘very’ and ‘somewhat’); the right-hand figure presents aggregate level of unsatisfied responses (including ‘very’ and ‘somewhat’)**

**Satisfaction with police also varied slightly by education level.** Respondents who had achieved university education (international institution) were least likely to be unsatisfied with police (27.0%), compared to people with other levels of education (46.1%).

## 8 RECONCILIATION AND REPARATION

### 8.1 Reconciliation

The majority of respondents (71.3%) identified ‘reconciliation’ as meaning ‘making peace’. This was followed by ‘don’t know’ and a variety of responses that broadly captured aspects of reconciliation (Table 6). Only a very limited number of people (0.2%) identified the term as meaning compensation.

**Table 6 – Responses when asked what the word reconciliation meant**

Response	No.	%
Making peace	1,784	71.3%
Don't know	272	10.9%
Dispute settlement	194	7.8%
Unity	128	5.1%
Forgiveness	63	2.5%
Did not respond	36	1.4%
Other	21	0.8%
Compensation	5	0.2%

**Respondent understanding of ‘reconciliation’ varied by province.** The provinces of Isabel (56.8% of respondents), Makira-Ulawa (60.4%) and Guadalcanal (68.2%) were the least likely to associate reconciliation with ‘making peace’, as well as the most likely to define it as ‘dispute settlement’ (Isabel 12.1%, Makira-Ulawa 11.5% and Guadalcanal 12.4%). Isabel also had the highest level of people not knowing what the word reconciliation meant (21.6% compared to next highest at 13.1% in Makira-Ulawa). Central (82.6%) and Choiseul (82.6%) had the highest level of people equating reconciliation with ‘making peace’.

**Box 18. Respondents from ‘focus areas’ reported similar understandings of the term ‘reconciliation’ to the main survey.** As a group, ‘focus area’ respondents reported similar understandings for ‘reconciliation’ with slightly different strengths in response – the most common response was ‘making peace’ (59.3% of respondents), followed by ‘unity’ (12.8%) and ‘don’t know’ (10.6%).

However, there were slight differences in understanding between ‘focus area’ sites, with more respondents in Honiara Settlements identifying the meaning as ‘unity’ (16.9%) compared to those in North Malaita (9.5%), while respondents in North Malaita had a high rate of ‘don’t know’ responses (15.8%) compared to those in Honiara Settlements (4.0%).

**Respondents understanding of ‘reconciliation’ also varied based on their level of education.** The highest rate of not knowing what the term meant occurred among respondents with no school (20.6%), Primary 1-3 (27.0%) and Primary 4-7 (10.3%). The lowest levels of ‘don’t know’ responses were among respondents with high levels of education.

## 8.2 Reparation

**There was much lower understanding of the word ‘reparation’ among respondents, with almost two-thirds (65.7%) reporting they did not know what it meant.** This expanded to 67.8% if ‘never heard word before’ was included as part of the response. The second most common response was ‘compensation’, followed by ‘did not respond’ (Table 7).

**Table 7 – Responses when asked what the word reparation meant**

Response	No.	%
Don't know	1,645	65.7%
Compensation	298	11.9%
Did not respond	209	8.4%
Rebuilding and repairing	182	7.3%
Other	57	2.3%
Never heard word before	53	2.1%
Unity	37	1.5%
Making peace	23	0.9%

**Respondents understanding of reparation varied by province.** Respondents in Choiseul (28.6%) and Central (20.3%) had the highest level of understanding reparation to mean ‘compensation’, while Malaita (5.23%) and Honiara (5.4%) had the lowest. Respondents in Honiara (25.2%), Guadalcanal (12.4%) and Malaita (10.8%) were the most likely to define reparation as ‘rebuilding and repairing’

(next highest 2.2% was Isabel). The difference in findings on a provincial level appears to reflect those that were more directly involved in the Tensions, and those who were not.

**Box 19. As with the main survey, the majority of respondents from ‘focus areas’ did not know the meaning of the word ‘reparation’.** As a group, 69.1% of ‘focus area’ respondents reported they did not know what the term meant. The second most common response offered was ‘rebuilding and repairing’ (12.4%), followed by ‘did not respond’ (7.1%) and ‘never heard the word before’ (4.6%). Less than 1% of respondents understood ‘reparation’ to mean ‘compensation’.

**However, there were still clear differences between North Malaita and Honiara Settlements in the understanding of ‘reparation’.** Nearly all respondents (96.2%) in North Malaita reported they did not know compared to only 34.7% in Honiara Settlements. The North Malaita response was higher than Malaita where nearly three-quarters (74.2%) of respondents did not know what ‘reparation’ meant. The Honiara Settlements reported a lower level of ‘don’t know’ responses compared to Honiara (44.8%) and Guadalcanal (52.7%), and reported the highest response rate for understanding the term as ‘rebuilding and repairing’ (27.4%).

**Respondents’ understanding of reparation also varied based on their level of education.** In relation to ‘don’t know’ responses, this followed a very similar pattern to reconciliation with respondents from no school (78.3%), Primary 1-3 (77.0%) and Primary 4-7 (71.8%) most commonly not knowing what it meant. Respondents with higher levels of education were more likely to identify ‘rebuilding and peace’ and compensation as their understanding of reparation.

## 9 INTEGRATED ANALYSIS

This section presents an integrative discussion and analysis of cross-cutting issues that emerged throughout the synthesis report.

### 9.1 Gender

Gender is a cross-cutting developmental issue of significant interest to the UNDP. Taken together, the survey findings reveal women in Solomon Islands feeling less positive and less involved in decision making than men.

**Women were less positive about the direction in which Solomon Islands is heading.** Only 10.0% of women believed Solomon Islands was headed in the ‘right direction’, a figure less than half the corresponding response for men (26.0%). Women were second only to children as the group most likely to be victims of disputes, and the low levels of trust in the police reported by women respondents is likely to affect their perceptions about getting timely or satisfactory resolution of disputes through official means.

**Women perceived themselves to be less involved in community decision-making than men and were more likely to see this as being a significant issue to improve.** Women were more than twice as likely as men to be among the 10.0% of respondents who reported that ‘including women and youth in decision making’ was the most important action for ensuring lasting peace.

**Ongoing challenges remain for greater levels of women’s engagement in decision making and leadership.** While the majority of respondents felt that women could be leaders in their community, these were largely in domains such as housework and women’s groups. The low responses to broader community roles, and specifically leadership roles such as the community chiefs, highlights that women are not seen to have equal leadership potential within communities. The respondents who indicated women *could not* be leaders in their community (9.3% of all respondents) offered issues of culture and social norms within communities as the rationale for their answer.

These findings suggest that greater effort is needed to promote the inclusion and engagement of women in peacebuilding work, particularly emphasising their role as leaders in the community.

## 9.2 Youth

Youth were similar to other demographics in relation to their level of optimism in the future direction of Solomon Islands. However, there were a number of areas where issues emerged related to the position of the country’s young people.

**At national level, respondents reflected that the national government was not adequately addressing youth issues.** The perception of the national government’s performance in addressing the needs of youth was relatively negative, with corruption the only issue that it got a lower rating for. Youth respondents themselves were not as negative on the government’s performance in handling youth issues as other respondents (45.4% of youth respondents were unsatisfied compared to 53.4% for older age groups). However, it was not clear from the survey results why this was the case.

**At a community level, respondents saw youths as both disruptive and as victims.** Youths were simultaneously identified as the group most likely to cause disputes and the group third-most likely to be victims in a dispute. While it was beyond the scope of this survey to identify the exact reason for this, it could be that disputes are often between youths and, as a result, youths are both the instigators and victims. More broadly, these findings support the contention that youths are not engaged effectively in local processes, with youth respondents (15-24 year olds) feeling less involved in community decision-making (56.3% felt involved) compared to older age groups (25-39 year olds, 71.6%; and those aged 40 or above, 76.2%).

**Youths were slightly more negative in perceptions of women’s leadership compared to other age groups.** Youths (15-24 years old) were slightly more likely to think women could not be leaders in their community (12.8%) compared to 25-39 year olds (8.8%) and those aged 40 or above (6.3%). Respondents who felt women *could not* be leaders in their community were more likely to think this is the case because women are not as good as men rather than for reasons of culture or it not being ‘right’. Although requiring further research, these findings suggest that while perspectives on the potential for women to fill leadership roles are not changing among the younger generations, the reasons for why they think this way may be shifting.

These findings highlight the importance of continued work in promoting youth involvement in decision making and broader engagement. While it is beyond the scope of this report to be able to

comment authoritatively, lack of engagement and empowerment at a community level could be drivers for the relatively high levels of disputes involving youth.

### 9.3 Education

The level of education emerged as a factor that differentiated respondents' responses both in terms of perceptions of the future and satisfaction with certain existing services.

**Respondents with higher levels of education were generally more optimistic with the direction Solomon Islands is heading in.** Education also influenced what respondents perceived as the most important action for ensuring national peace, with respondents with high levels of education less likely than less educated groups to identify increased power to provincial assembly/authorities and more likely to identify increased access to economic opportunity and employment. This could be influenced by more highly educated respondents having greater awareness of and opportunities to access employment.

**Satisfaction with key services was influenced by level of education, with the clearest differences between those with university education and those without.** University-educated respondents were more likely to identifying business investments as a source of disputes and (along with respondents with diplomas) be less likely to be satisfied with health and education services. This could reflect those with higher levels of education having a stronger understanding of business as a driver of development and greater exposure to higher quality health and education services.

**University-educated respondents were also less negative in relation to certain dispute resolution and policing issues.** Respondents with international university experience were least likely to be unsatisfied with the police and reported low numbers of 'very unsatisfied' responses in relation to available ways of resolving conflict. This could be explained by those with higher levels of education coming from a more affluent part of society and thus being less exposed to shortcomings in dispute resolution and justice service provision.

### 9.4 Provincial diversity

**Consistent differences in perceptions emerged between respondents from different provinces.** At a general level, respondents in Choiseul and Isabel recorded higher levels of satisfaction. The levels of satisfaction in Central and Western province were mixed but tended towards positive. The lowest levels of satisfaction were in Makira-Ulawa, Honiara, Malaita and Guadalcanal; low levels of satisfaction were particularly acute in Makira-Ulawa.

To help visualise these differences, the following section provides a comparison of levels of satisfaction reported in the different provincial locations across the three groups: 1) Government performance (satisfaction in national government, provincial government and national MPs); 2) Social security performance (satisfaction with health services, education services and access to earning money); and 3) Dispute and justice service performance (satisfaction in resolving disputes, access to government justice services, and police performance).

The results for each province are presented as indicators, with the value presented as a proportion of 1. The tables only show positive – i.e. satisfied – responses for the relevant question. They do not factor-in the relative strengths of the ‘very satisfied’ and ‘somewhat satisfied’ categories, but instead aggregates them.

### Government performance

The government performance indicators provide an overall understanding of different levels of satisfaction by province related to how well national government, provincial government and national MPs are perceived to be performing (Table 8).

**Table 8 – Government performance indicators by province. Shaded boxes highlight the provinces with the highest (green) and lowest (red) levels of satisfaction per issue. The ‘focus area’ sites are presented in italics because they represent a separate data set from the main survey.**

Location	National government	Provincial government	MPs	Total
Choiseul	0.72	0.70	0.52	1.94
Isabel	0.62	0.59	0.43	1.64
Central	0.57	0.44	0.35	1.36
Western	0.54	0.42	0.37	1.33
Honiara	0.48	0.42	0.38	1.28
Makira-Ulawa	0.49	0.27	0.22	0.98
Guadalcanal	0.37	0.25	0.23	0.85
Malaita	0.34	0.27	0.21	0.82
<i>‘Focus area’ sites</i>				
<i>Honiara Settlements</i>	<i>0.40</i>	<i>0.29</i>	<i>0.33</i>	<i>1.02</i>
<i>North Malaita</i>	<i>0.32</i>	<i>0.41</i>	<i>0.32</i>	<i>1.05</i>

Across each indicator for perceived government performance, Choiseul recorded the highest levels of satisfaction, followed by Isabel. Conversely, Malaita and Guadalcanal reported the lowest levels of satisfaction. The relative ranking of provinces based on level of satisfaction was broadly consistent.

**Box 20. The ‘focus area’ sites reported relatively low levels of satisfaction compared to the provinces from the main survey.** The level of satisfaction reported in the Honiara Settlements was lower than in Honiara, but higher than Guadalcanal. In North Malaita, the level of satisfaction was higher in relation to provincial government and national MPs.

### Society security satisfaction

The social security indicators provide an overall understanding of different levels of satisfaction by province with the availability of health and education services and opportunities for earning money (Table 9).

**Table 9 – Social security indicators by province. Shaded boxes highlight the provinces with the highest (green) and lowest (red) levels of satisfaction per issue. The ‘focus area’ sites are presented in italics because they represent a separate data set from the main survey .**

Location	Health	Education	Income	Total
Choiseul	0.78	0.83	0.87	2.48
Central	0.75	0.83	0.66	2.24
Isabel	0.72	0.78	0.68	2.18
Honiara	0.70	0.77	0.68	2.15
Malaita	0.74	0.76	0.61	2.11
Western	0.73	0.72	0.63	2.08
Guadalcanal	0.58	0.62	0.71	1.91
Makira-Ulawa	0.51	0.59	0.71	1.81
<i>‘Focus area’ sites</i>				
<i>Honiara Settlements</i>	<i>0.48</i>	<i>0.55</i>	<i>0.56</i>	<i>1.60</i>
<i>North Malaita</i>	<i>0.68</i>	<i>0.69</i>	<i>0.53</i>	<i>1.91</i>

As the table shows, Choiseul recorded the highest level of satisfaction for each indicator for social security, with Central recording the equal highest level of satisfaction for education. Overall, respondents from Choiseul, followed by Central and Isabel, had the highest levels of satisfaction with social security related issues. Conversely, Western, Guadalcanal and Makira-Ulawa reported the lowest levels of satisfaction.

There were some differences in the relative performance of each province aligned with health, education and income indicators. In Guadalcanal and Makira-Ulawa, there were particularly low levels of satisfaction with access to education and health services. For Guadalcanal, this is notable given the survey sites were in close proximity to Honiara. However, Guadalcanal and Makira-Ulawa performed relatively better for the income indicator, particularly compared to the those from Malaita and Western.

**Box 21. The ‘focus area’ sites reported among the lowest levels of satisfaction compared to the provinces from the main survey.** Respondents in North Malaita rated their access to health and education marginally lower than other locations in the main survey, and their access to income significantly lower. As the only location which was not close to a provincial capital, it is not surprising that respondents had lower levels of satisfaction with access to income opportunities.

Overall, the Honiara Settlements recorded the lowest levels of satisfaction across the social security indicators. Of particular note was the very low levels of satisfaction reported for each

issue compared to Honiara and Guadalcanal. This highlights a perceived lack of access to social security in the Honiara Settlements, which is notable given their close geographic proximity to the capital.

### Disputes and justice satisfaction

The dispute and justice indicators provide a province-by-province understanding of satisfaction with the available ways of resolving disputes, available justice services and the performance of police in protecting communities (Table 10).

**Table 10 – Dispute and justice indicators by province. Shaded boxes highlight the provinces with the highest (green) and lowest (red) levels of satisfaction per issue. The ‘focus area’ sites are presented in italics because they represent a separate data set from the main survey.**

Location	Dispute resolution	Justice services	Police protection	Total
Central	0.86	0.72	0.71	2.29
Choiseul	0.74	0.73	0.63	2.10
Isabel	0.74	0.70	0.66	2.10
Honiara	0.64	0.63	0.66	1.93
Western	0.61	0.64	0.62	1.87
Malaita	0.66	0.58	0.51	1.75
Guadalcanal	0.70	0.54	0.49	1.73
Makira-Ulawa	0.42	0.46	0.25	1.13
<i>‘Focus area’ sites</i>				
<i>Honiara Settlements</i>	<i>0.44</i>	<i>0.44</i>	<i>0.55</i>	<i>1.44</i>
<i>North Malaita</i>	<i>0.64</i>	<i>0.42</i>	<i>0.50</i>	<i>1.56</i>

As the table indicates, Central, Choiseul and Isabel recorded the highest level of satisfaction for each indicator for dispute resolution and justice services. Conversely, Malaita and Guadalcanal reported low levels. Makira-Ulawa presented particularly acute concerns related to the dispute resolution and justice indicators, with satisfaction with police protection much lower than in any other location.

**Box 22. The ‘focus area’ sites reported the lowest levels of satisfaction of all locations, with the exception of Makira-Ulawa.** Respondents from North Malaita had similar levels of satisfaction with dispute resolution and police protection as respondents in Malaita, but much lower levels of satisfaction with government justice services.

Compared to the nearby locations of Honiara and Guadalcanal from the main survey, the Honiara Settlements reported lower levels of satisfaction with dispute resolution and justice indicators. In relation to police protection, respondents from Honiara Settlements were less satisfied than respondents from Honiara but more satisfied than those from Guadalcanal.

The tables above provide a comparison of levels of satisfaction in different locations aligned with key thematic issues. This is discussed further in the *Implications for the future* section at the end of this report.

**Responses differed among provinces in relation to perceptions of government institutions (including national and provincial governments and national MPs) in line with the performance of government in addressing corruption.** The provinces that recorded the highest satisfaction ratings for handling corruption, such as Choiseul and Isabel, were also those that had the highest levels of satisfaction with the performance of government institutions. Conversely, provinces that performed poorly on handling corruption, including Guadalcanal, Makira-Ulawa and Honiara, reported the highest levels of unsatisfied responses with the performance of, and trust in, government institutions.

Past research has emphasised the importance of acknowledging considerable diversity within and between provinces in Solomon Islands (Allen et al., 2013). While it was beyond the scope of this survey to identify the driving factors that underpin these differences, there are specific issues that are worth further exploration.

**On a provincial basis, Makira-Ulawa consistently stood out as the province with the highest levels of negative responses.** A number of factors could explain this. First, in December 2016, Makira-Ulawa suffered an earthquake that caused significant damage. The degree to which reconstructive work has been undertaken could influence the perceptions of government performance. Second, the Makira-Ulawa Cultural Platform, a group that is considered by many observers as a cult, has been reported as an active and disruptive force within the province. That Makira-Ulawa reported the highest levels of disputes and lowest satisfaction in the available ways of resolving disputes could augment the influence of the Cultural Platform. These factors combined could have shaped the respondents' perceptions of the government and also shaped their broader view of the other issues covered in the survey.

Makira-Ulawa also reported seemingly contradictory results with respect to high levels of involvement in decision making and low levels of community harmony. The level of involvement in decision-making is an outlier compared to other responses recorded in the province. Further research would need to be conducted to understand why.

## **9.5 Decentralisation of power to the provinces**

**Provision of greater powers to provincial assembly/authorities emerged as an important action for ensuring sustained peace in Solomon Islands.** At a national level, it was the second most common response, and was the most common response in Choiseul, Makira-Ulawa and Malaita, with particularly high response levels recorded in Choiseul and Malaita. In Western province, it was the second most common response by a very narrow margin.

**The move towards decentralisation of government in Solomon Islands is not new.** Provincial governments were established in 1981 to help promote better governance at a provincial level but the designation of responsibilities has never been clearly defined and appropriately resourced (Dinnen, 2014). Discontent with Honiara as the political centre of Solomon Islands re-emerged during the Tensions when a number of provinces, such as Choiseul, Western, Makira-Ulawa and Temotu, declared their intent to sever ties with Honiara (Dinnen, 2008).

**While there is support for providing greater power to provincial assembly/authorities, this is not driven by perceptions that provincial government performs better than the national government.** Respondents reported lower levels of satisfaction with the performance of and trust in provincial government than national government. This likely reflects two distinct issues: on the one hand, an overall dissatisfaction with the delivery of government services and on the other, a long-term desire to have greater levels of control and autonomy at the provincial level.

## 9.6 Current perspectives on the Tensions

The continuing influence of the Tensions experienced in Solomon Islands from 1998-2003 are a key area of interest to the UNDP and government partners. Although the survey findings did not identify ‘Tensions’ as a specific current issue, reinforcing similar findings in the most recent *People’s Survey* (ANU Edge, 2013), there are a number of issues related to historical development drivers, issues of political decentralisation and provincial differences that still exist.

**There are clear differences in perceptions between different provinces involved in the Tensions, with Malaita perceived by non-Malaitans as the least safe location to travel to.** Geographic areas most closely involved with the Tensions – Honiara, Guadalcanal and Malaita – were the locations to which respondents were most likely to not feel free to travel. Of the respondents who indicated safety concerns with inter-province travel (19.2% of respondents), Malaita was clearly where people felt least free to travel, followed by Guadalcanal and Honiara. Honiara was in the top three places where people felt least free to travel to, even among respondents from Guadalcanal (the province that makes up most of the island that the capital is located on). Malaitans were more comfortable travelling to Honiara than Guadalcanal respondents.

**Differences in perceptions of government handling of fixing issues from the Tensions was also divided along provincial lines, with respondents from Malaita far more positive than Guadalcanal.** When asked directly about the Tensions, Guadalcanal respondents had the highest levels of unsatisfied responses (57.0%). In contrast, respondents from Malaita recorded among the lowest levels of unsatisfied responses (25.5%) as well as relatively high levels of satisfaction (55.6%). This reiterates that dissatisfaction with issues related to the Tensions are more acute in Guadalcanal than Malaita, noting that many of these grievances relate to issues that pre-date the Tensions.

**Provincial differences related to the Tensions remain but should be considered in the broader Solomon Islands context, including the underlying development issues that led to the Tensions of 1998-2003.** For example, access to employment and economic opportunities was identified as the most important issues to address and the most important action to ensure sustained peace. Also generally low levels of satisfaction with government performance were all factors in the Tensions. The need to address social, economic and governance related issues remain and are of greater contemporary significance to Solomon Islanders. Concerns with the movement and settlement of people from different provinces are longstanding issues. This is not to suggest the Tensions, now almost a generation in the past, should be ignored but should be seen as a symptom of ongoing development challenges.

## 9.7 Economic issues

**Economic issues, including access to jobs and employment, emerged as a critical issue for Solomon Islanders.** Increased access to economic opportunities was identified as one of the two most important actions to take to ensure lasting peace in all provinces except Choiseul. Similarly, the most important problem needing to be addressed was employment and job opportunities, which was the most common response in all provinces.

**While respondents were generally satisfied with the availability of opportunities to earn money, they were broadly unsatisfied with government performance in supporting employment and job opportunities.** Over two-thirds of all respondents indicated they were satisfied with their opportunities for earning money but respondents were not satisfied with government handling of employment and job opportunities. Choiseul and Central were the only provinces where more than half of respondents were satisfied with what the government was doing.

**There was notable variation across provinces.** Despite being furthest away from Honiara, Choiseul recorded the highest levels of satisfaction with access to opportunities and government handling of employment issues. The relative importance of economic issues in ensuring sustained peace in Choiseul was lower than in all other provinces. In contrast, the highest levels of unsatisfied responses were reported in Western, Guadalcanal and Makira, with Western and Guadalcanal also reporting promotion of economic opportunities and employment as the most important action to ensure lasting peace.

There is scope for further research on specific economic opportunities in different provinces, as well as examining the implications of previous Household Income and Expenditure Surveys.

## 9.8 ‘Focus area’ site comparisons

This section provides a qualitative comparison of the main survey findings and those that emerged from the ‘focus area’ sites. This discussion raises possible areas of interest for further exploration, rather than definitive results that can be generalised across other possible ‘focus area’ sites. As presented in the summary boxes, there were notable differences between the Honiara Settlements and North Malaita sites.

**As a whole, responses from ‘focus area’ sites were broadly similar with responses from the main survey.** Specifically, the most important actions for ensuring lasting peace were consistent with the findings from the main survey, with the differences between ‘focus area’ sites broadly consistent with the rest of the province in which they are situated. For example, respondents from North Malaita identified giving more power to provincial assembly/authorities as a much more important issue (40.5% of respondents), than in Honiara Settlements (4.8%), which was consistent with responses from the main survey in Malaita (38.2%) and Honiara (18.5%).

**Respondents from ‘focus area’ sites reported more negative responses than those in the main survey.** This was consistent across the majority of issues covered in the survey, including government handling of key issues and levels of confidence in institutions. It was also shown in relation to perspectives on government performance (Table 8), social security (Table 9) and disputes and justice (Table 10).

**However, there were often clear differences between the Honiara Settlements and North Malaita.**

On a number of occasions, the aggregate total for the ‘focus area’ sites looked comparable to the main survey but disguised important differences between the two ‘focus area’ sites. For example, there were prominent differences in the level of confidence that peace would be sustained, with respondents from North Malaita much more likely to be confident (80.4%) than those in the Honiara Settlements (44.4%). Similarly, there were clear differences between North Malaita and Honiara Settlements in their perceptions of women’s leadership, with only 62.0% of respondents in North Malaita feeling women could be leaders in their community, compared to 89.5% in Honiara Settlements.

**The clear differences between the two ‘focus area’ sites highlight a number of issues worth considering.**

Although areas might be designated as ‘focus areas’ or areas of interest, either for their involvement in the Tensions or as areas of high disturbance, this does not mean there is a clear set of general issues which cut across all sites. The ‘focus area’ comparison data in the earlier sections of this report highlighted that, often, discrepancies between the two sites were consistent with the differences between Guadalcanal and Honiara, or Malaita. This observation highlights the risk of grouping ‘focus area’ sites and trying to identify a specific set of issues or solutions that cuts across these areas. As such, an approach that seeks to understand the issues that emerge in a particular context is preferable.

**Findings related to the presence and perceptions of disputes and dispute resolution are worth noting.**

Respondents in both ‘focus area’ sites were more likely to report knowing of dispute occurring in the past 12 months than respondents in the main survey. While the rate was marginally higher in North Malaita (86.1% of respondents), almost every respondent knew of a dispute having occurred in the Honiara Settlements (96.0%). Consistent with the main survey, alcohol and other substance abuse was identified as the most prominent cause of disputes (83.0% of respondents), followed by land (53.5%). While the occurrence of disputes was higher than in the main survey, the levels of satisfaction in ‘focus area’ sites with dispute resolution services were lower. In both sites, satisfaction with government justice services (43.2% satisfied) and police protection (44.7% satisfied) were much lower than in the main survey. Satisfaction with the available ways of resolving disputes were also lower (55.3% satisfied). However, this varied prominently between North Malaita (63.9%) and Honiara Settlements (44.4%). The implication of this is that the ‘focus area’ sites have higher levels of disputes but less perceived access to mechanisms to resolve these issues. This is important to note in the Honiara Settlements context given their relative proximity to Honiara and the presence of law and justice services there.

**An additional issue worth noting is the perceived lack of access to basic services in the Honiara Settlements.**

Respondents from the Honiara Settlements all lived within relative proximity to Honiara. However, they reported the lowest levels of satisfaction with access to health and education services, as well as second lowest to income opportunities (Table 9). Combined with other findings related to the occurrence of disputes, level of satisfaction in dispute and justice mechanisms, and low confidence in peace being sustained, this does not paint a positive picture of overall satisfaction with key peacebuilding issues in the Honiara Settlements.

**The comparison of the ‘focus area’ sites survey with the main survey highlights that while many of the issues of concern are similar, they are more acute in the ‘focus area’ sites, particular in the Honiara Settlements.** This reiterates the importance of acknowledging ongoing development challenges and access to services and a key part of peacebuilding policy and action.

## 10 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

The findings presented in this report provide insight into people's perceptions of peacebuilding issues in Solomon Islands, as well as an important baseline of these perceptions immediately after the withdrawal of RAMSI.

There are a number of implications from the analysis presented above for peacebuilding policy in Solomon Islands. This is both in terms of the key findings as well as future monitoring and evaluation.

### 10.1 Implications of key findings

This section briefly presents the key high-level implications of the survey findings.

**People in Solomon Islands are not uniformly positive about their future or sustaining peace.** There is uncertainty in relation to sustaining peace beyond RAMSI and there is legitimate cause for the continuation of activities that support peacebuilding in the country.

**There is evidence of lingering cleavages between respondents of the provinces geographically involved in the Tensions of 1998-2003.** Although the Tensions were not identified as outright issues of importance, there were clear disparities between respondents from Malaita and Guadalcanal. These ongoing issues should be acknowledged but should not distract from the broader issues of social and economic development and governance that were emphasised by the majority of respondents.

**Many of the issues underlying the Tensions, specifically in relation to broader development issues and access to opportunities, remain.** Peacebuilding activities should be couched in the wider development context and acknowledge the historical social and cultural factors that still influence Solomon Islands today. Priority issues to address include those related to good governance and economic opportunities. These might be systematic issues that need a "system-wide" response – a "whole of Government" approach to peacebuilding.

**Inclusion of marginal groups remains important and an area to improve.** Work should continue with engaging traditionally marginalised groups, specifically women and youth, through both empowerment for engaging in decision making and opening opportunities for leadership.

**Prominent differences in levels of satisfaction between provinces are important to understand and to learn from them.** Future programmes of work should explore further these differences, particularly with a view to identifying positive stories and lessons that could potentially be applied elsewhere.

**Many of the issues in the 'focus area' sites paralleled the main survey findings but have emerged in a more acute way.** The need to consider the particular circumstances of 'focus area' sites is clear, as is the importance of understanding and tackling ongoing development challenges, including access to services.

**Survey data and findings should be integrated within broader monitoring and evaluation of peacebuilding activities.** The findings outlined here provide a baseline of perceptions related to

peacebuilding and can provide a sound means of measuring change over time in an easily understandable way. They can also contribute to assessing outcomes under UN Sustainable Development Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Noting the limitations of this work, further work may need to be undertaken to gather information on these issues on the ground in rural communities. The findings of this survey should be taken as a baseline and should be regularly repeated to understand trajectories of developments.

## 10.2 Future monitoring and evaluation

This survey provides a strong foundation for future monitoring and evaluation. Given the breadth of the data collected, it can form a basis for assessing the ongoing influence and impact of peacebuilding work in the country. The value of this baseline will increase over time, as it is built upon by subsequent iterations of similar surveys.

Section 9.4 introduced a basic tool for visualising the levels of satisfaction across different sectors and between different provinces. It could be of future use to peacebuilding work, including the national government’s handling of other key issues, or trust in institutions.

The performance indicators aligned with specific areas could also be aggregated to depict a meta-level picture of overall perceptions of peacebuilding issues in Solomon Islands. As an example, Table 11 combines the totals for the three indicator groups introduced in Section 9.4. It paints the picture of which provinces have the overall highest levels of satisfaction (Choiseul, Isabel and Central), compared with the lowest (Makira-Ulawa, Guadalcanal and Malaita).

**Table 11 – Satisfaction across combined blocks by province. Shaded boxes highlight the provinces with the highest (green) and lowest (red) levels of satisfaction per issue. The ‘focus area’ sites are presented in italics because they represent a separate data set from the main survey.**

Location	Government performance	Social security	Dispute and justice	Grand total (/9)
1. Choiseul	1.94	2.48	2.1	6.52
2. Isabel	1.64	2.18	2.1	5.92
3. Central	1.36	2.24	2.29	5.89
4. Honiara	1.28	2.15	1.93	5.36
5. Western	1.33	2.08	1.87	5.28
6. Malaita	0.82	2.11	1.75	4.68
7. Guadalcanal	0.85	1.91	1.73	4.49
8. Makira-Ulawa	0.98	1.81	1.13	3.92
<i>Focus area sites</i>				
<i>Honiara Settlements</i>	1.02	1.60	1.44	4.05
<i>North Malaita</i>	1.05	1.91	1.56	4.52

The limitation of this approach is that it is not sensitive to the weighting of response as it treats ‘very satisfied’ and ‘satisfied’ as the same. Similarly, it does not include ‘very unsatisfied’ and ‘unsatisfied’ responses nor account for non-responses. A possible way around this would be to provide a weighted scoring scale for each response: very satisfied (4), satisfied (3), unsatisfied (2) and very unsatisfied (1). The total aggregate of these scores could be averaged and then compared across the variables.