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SOLOMON ISLANDS
ACCESS TO JUSTICE STUDY
SURVEY SUMMARY REPORT



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

Acronym/ abbreviation	Description
EA	Enumeration Area
FSC	Family Support Centre
MHMS	Ministry of Health and Medical Services
MJLA	Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PSO	Public Solicitor's Office
PWDSI	People with a Disability Solomon Islands
SBD	Solomon Island Dollars
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
The Project	<i>Study on Access to Justice in the Solomon Islands</i>



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In recent years, much work has been undertaken to better understand needs and issues related to access to justice in the Solomon Islands. As part of this broader programme of work led by the Solomon Islands Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs (MJLA), the *Access to Justice in Solomon Islands Initiation Project Plan* is laying the foundation for future long-term support in Solomon Islands. It is doing so through providing insights into perceptions of justice, the factors shaping access to justice, and the costs embedded in current justice processes in Solomon Islands.

In 2019, Sustineo was engaged through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to deliver the *Access to Justice Solomon Islands Survey* with the **purpose** of better understanding justice needs in Solomon Islands. It **aimed** to do this through identifying and quantifying the challenges that affect people's access to justice services. This project was part of the broader Access to Justice Study, contributing an important insight into the perceptions and experience of Solomon Islanders relating to the justice system, and complementing the work of other UNDP Study Team Members.

Sustineo implemented a research activity that drew on multiple different data collection elements within the period of 13 February and 16 April 2019. These include:

- **Access to Justice Survey** – national survey of 2,633 randomly identified respondents across 30 locations in Honiara and all provinces of Solomon Islands to get a representative picture of the perceptions and experiences of people related to accessing justice
- **Cost of Seeking Justice Surveys** – three separate surveys with Survivors of Domestic Violence (20 respondents), Customary Land Rights Holders (n=28) and Defendants on Remand (n=25) investigating the costs related to their experience with the justice sector
- **Focus Group Discussions** – nine different validation discussions held with women, men, and people with disabilities across Honiara, Central, and Malaita.

This Summary Report presents the findings from the above data collection elements. The report should be viewed in light of the objective and structure of the broader Access to Justice Study. The interpretation of these findings in conjunction with the extensive justice-related work undertaken in the Solomon Islands in the past decade, and the implications of these findings for the work of MJLA and partners in 2019, is presented in the *Access to Justice Study Final Report*.

KEY FINDINGS

AWARENESS AND PERCEPTIONS OF JUSTICE INSTITUTIONS

- Solomon Islanders are mostly satisfied with justice services at the national level and, particularly, those available in the community. They were more likely to be positive than negative about changes to justice services over the last two years
- Within communities, the village chief was the most commonly identified available means of resolving disputes. The police were the justice service Solomon Islanders would most like to have in their communities
- Solomon Islanders were more aware of community leaders in their community than they were the role of formal justice institutions. Community leaders were considered to be the most, and the police the least, capable of performing dispute resolution within the community.

AWARENESS OF LEGAL RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS

- Awareness of legal rights were mixed amongst Solomon Islanders. Over half (54.8%) reported they had heard of their legal rights, with the majority (79.6%) confident that the law protected their rights. Conversely, just under half (43.4%) believed the police are allowed to use threats and violence to get people to cooperate
- The majority of Solomon Islanders thought that there were specific legal provisions that protected women (86.3%), children (81.1%), and people with disabilities (76.6%)
- Just over half (54.6%) thought that men used violence to resolve household issues with their wives, however the strong majority felt that it was not justified (92.1%) and should be punished (86.6%).

PERCEPTIONS OF LAND OWNERSHIP

- Tribes were the group most commonly identified as owning customary land and the resources on the land (such as forests), and in the land (such as minerals for mining). For customary land and resources like forests, tribes were by identified significantly more often than the next closest groups (individuals), however for mining resources tribes and individuals were identified in similar quantities, with Local Chiefs and the Government of Solomon Islanders also more frequently identified
- Tribes were most frequently identified as responsible for making decisions on whether land could be used for logging or mining, again followed by individuals
- The majority believe that private companies are legally required to mitigate the negative environmental impacts of logging or mining (77.1%) and that landowners can appeal government decisions to grant a logging or mining licence in their area (81.2%).

EXPERIENCE OF SEEKING ASSISTANCE AND RESOLVING DISPUTES

- A total of 15.6% of Solomon Islanders had previously sought information about a legal issue. The most common subjects of which were land disputes and domestic violence, and the most frequently identified useful sources of information were the police and PSO.
- The police and village chief were most frequently identified as the first places that Solomon Islanders would go if they, or a family member, were a victim of crime, victim of domestic violence, or involved in a land dispute. For domestic violence, family and church leaders were identified more frequently, while for land disputes House of Chiefs and Local Court were identified more often
- A total of 18.3% reported they had been involved in a dispute in the past two years, with the most commonly identified disputes relating to land dispute, family dispute/child support and fight/assault. The disputes identified as having greatest impact were in a different order: family dispute/child support, land disputes and domestic violence. The most common first action to resolve a dispute was to visit a village chief, consult family, or visit the police
- Of those had been involved with a dispute and were happy to discuss the costs (n=265) the average costs to resolve a dispute was SBD \$18,637. Within this:
 - Land disputes were the most costly
 - Men spent over six times as much as women
 - Those between 26-40 years old spent more than double other groups
 - Peri-urban dwellers spent more than double those from urban or rural areas
 - Those with a disability spent just over half as much as those without a disability.



TRENDS BY DIFFERENT DEMOGRAPHICS

GENDER

- Women reported lower levels of awareness of different justice institutions and were less confident in the ability of those institutions to assist with solving disputes
- The types of disputes that impacted Solomon Islanders the most differed by gender. For women it was family disputes/child support and domestic violence, while for men it was land disputes.
- The awareness of pathways for seeking justice, and those taken in practice, were different with men able to access a broader range of both informal and informal dispute resolution processes with greater confidence.

AGE

- While young Solomon Islanders were most positive about national level justice services and the improvements to services in the last two years, they reported lower awareness of key elements of the justice sector, including in relation to the role of certain formal justice institutions, their rights under the law, and legal protections for vulnerable groups. Those between 26-40 tended to report the highest levels of awareness
- Older Solomon Islanders were more likely to believe tribes and individuals were owners of customary land and resources, and tribes and local chiefs as decision makers for whether land could be used for logging or mining. Young Solomon Islanders (18-25) were more likely to think the Solomon Islands Government owned resources.
- Older Solomon Islanders (41+) were more likely to have sought information about, and been involved in, a land dispute, while those between 26-40 were more likely to have been involved in domestic violence
- Young Solomon Islanders were the least likely to visit the village chief in the case of a dispute, with older Solomon Islanders more likely to go to village chiefs and church leaders.

LOCATION

- Solomon Islanders who lived closer to urban areas were more likely to be aware of, and be able to access, formal justice institutions
- Urban dwellers had greater awareness of their rights under the law, and felt that those rights were protected. They were more likely to identify the availability of police and other formal justice institutions, and feel more positive about their performance and accessibility
- For those further away from urban areas, the importance of village chiefs and church leaders for assisting with solving disputes increased, as well as the relevance of community leaders to local dispute resolution

DISABILITY

- Solomon Islanders who identified as having a disability were more pessimistic about justice services overall and reported lower levels of awareness, confidence in, and accessibility to different justice institutions.
- Those with a disability were less positive with changes in the provision of national justice services, were less likely to be aware of certain justice services, and were more negative about the ability of

services such as community leaders, police and other formal institutions such as the courts to resolve disputes within communities

- Solomon Islanders with a disability were less likely to have heard of their rights under the law and were less aware of provisions in Solomon Islands law for protecting vulnerable groups, such as women, child, and those with a disability.

PROVINCE

Prominent differences emerged between provinces related the perceptions and awareness of, and experience with, the justice sector in Solomon Islands. The most noticeable changes for each province are listed below.

Central residents reported amongst the lowest levels of awareness for formal justice institutions but were amongst the most positive about the ability for formal justice institutions to solve community disputes. They were amongst the most positive with the ways available for resolving disputes available in the community, as well as with the changes in justice services at national and community levels. They were amongst the most likely to think police were allowed to threaten or hurt people to get them to cooperate, while also reporting lowest levels of awareness for legal protections for vulnerable group. They were more likely to identify village chiefs as the first place of assistance disputes.

Choiseul residents were amongst the most positive with available ways of solving disputes in community, as well as most likely to feel justice services at community and national levels had improved in the last two years. They were amongst the most likely to feel community leaders were accessible and able to solve disputes well. Those from Choiseul reported amongst the lowest levels of awareness of protections for vulnerable groups. They were amongst the most likely to identify village chiefs as owners and decision makers relating to logging and mining activities on the land but reported the lowest levels of awareness relating to private sector responsibility for mitigating environmental impacts of logging or mining or the ability of landowners to appeal government granted licences.

Guadalcanal residents were some of the least likely to have previously sought information about a legal problem or reported having been involved in a dispute over the last two years. They were also the most likely to have identified the PSO as providing useful legal information to them.

Honiara residents reported high levels of awareness of the role of different formal justice sector, access to those institutions, and were amongst the most positive about their ability to solve issues. They were some of the most likely to have heard of their rights and believe those rights are legally protected. While still identifying tribes as the main owners of customary land and resources, more of those from Honiara thought the Solomon Island Government were owners of land and resources. They were most likely to have previously sought information on legal issues.

Isabel residents reported amongst the lowest levels of awareness for the roles of formal justice sector institutions. They were also some of the most likely to think that men use violence to resolve issues with women in their community, least likely to feel that this could be justified, and most likely to think this action should be punished.

Malaita residents reported some of the highest levels of access to formal justice institutions, however were also amongst the most likely to think justice services had got worse in the last two years. Those from Malaita were amongst the most likely to have heard of their legal rights and the least likely to think those rights were protected by law. They were amongst the most likely to think that police were allowed to hurt or threatened people to get them to cooperate but also were some of the most likely to be aware of legal provisions protecting vulnerable groups.



Makira-Ulawa residents reported low levels of perceived access to formal justice institutions. They reported amongst the highest levels of awareness for legal provisions for children and people with disabilities, but lowest for protections for women. In relation to domestic violence, they were some of the least likely to think men in their communities used violence to resolve issues with women but were amongst the most likely to feel that such action could be justified and should not be punished.

Rennell and Bellona residents were some of those most likely to feel justice service provision had got worse in the last two years. They reported high levels of awareness of the role of formal justice institutions but were less likely to feel they were accessible and were by far the least confident in their ability to solve disputes. Church leaders were the most commonly identify means of solving disputes in the community and were identified more than elsewhere as the first point of contact for victims of crime and domestic violence. Those from Rennell and Bellona were amongst the least likely to think men in their communities used violence, but most likely but to feel it was not justifiable and should be punished, while also reporting high awareness of legal provisions protecting vulnerable groups. In terms of land, they were more likely to think individuals owned customary land and other resources and were responsible for logging and mining related decisions. They were also amongst the least likely think companies were legally required to mitigate environmental impacts of logging or mining activities, or that landowners could appeal government granted resources extraction licences.

Temotu residents were some of those most likely to think that men use violence to resolve issues with women and least likely to feel that this could be justified but were also less inclined to feel this action should be punished. They were amongst the most likely to believe a private company legally had to mitigate environmental impacts before starting logging or mining work, while also being amongst the most likely to think landowners could appeal a government decision to grant a logging or mining licence. Those from Temotu reported amongst the lowest rates of land ownership and lowest possession of supporting title or documentation. They were also some of the most likely to have previously sought information about a legal problem and to have been involved in a dispute over the last two years.

Western residents reported high levels of access to formal justice institutions. They were amongst the most likely to identify village chiefs as decision makers related to whether land can be used for logging or mining, while also being amongst the least likely to be aware of either private sector responsibility to mitigate environmental impacts or the ability of landowners to appeal. They were some of the least likely to have previously sought information about a legal problem or been involved in a dispute over the last two years.

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, much work has been undertaken to better understand needs and issues related to access to justice across the Pacific, including in the Solomon Islands. This study is part of a broader programme of work by the Solomon Islands Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs examining the justice needs in Solomon Islands. As part of this broader scope of work, the *Access to Justice in Solomon Islands Initiation Project Plan* is laying the foundation for future long-term support in Solomon Islands.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

In 2019, Sustineo was engaged through the United Nations Development Programme to deliver the *Access to Justice Solomon Islands Survey*. The Project's **purpose** was to contribute to better understanding justice needs within the Solomon Islands. It **aimed** to do this through identifying and quantifying the challenges that affect people's access to justice. The Project was designed to:

- Undertake a legal needs assessment
- Investigate the costs of access to justice services
- Understand the perceptions and factors that shape the experience of Solomon Islanders in accessing justice services.

Sustineo's contribution, and specifically this report, should be viewed in light of the work of other Study Team Members under the broader Access to Justice Study commissioned by the UNDP.

The **intent** of this report is to provide a summary of the data collected through the surveys, drawing on the detailed findings outlined in the *Technical Report* as the evidence base. This report does not include a detailed background of the past research and the extensive work that has been undertaken relating to Access to Justice in the Solomon Island in the past decades. This reflects the UNDP guidance that this responsibility was held by the Study Team Leader, with an analysis of the findings from the Summary Report, integration of this with other work undertaken as part of the Access to Justice Study, and recommendations future areas of focus for the Government of Solomon Islands, presented in the *Access to Justice Study Final Report*.

METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

Sustineo's approach to undertaking the *Access to Justice Survey* included multiple data collection elements. The main methods used in this project are outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: Purpose and detail of methods used in the *Access to Justice Solomon Islands Survey* project

Method	Detail
<i>Access to Justice Survey</i>	<p>Purpose: To understand the perceptions and experiences of Solomon Islanders relating to the justice system.</p> <p>Participants: 2,633</p> <p>Locations: Central, Choiseul, Guadalcanal, Honiara, Isabel, Malaita, Makira-Ulawa, Rennell and Bellona, Temotu, Western</p> <p>Approach and sampling: Randomised sampling include randomisation of site and participation selection. Tablet based data collection with all interviews undertaken face to face.</p>



<i>Cost of Justice Surveys</i>	<p>Purpose: To gain an indicative insight into the different costs incurred through the experience of different groups with elements of the justice system.</p> <p>Participants: 73 – 20x Domestic Violence Survivor; 28x Customary Land Rights Holders; 25x Defendants on Remand</p> <p>Locations: Honiara, Central, Guadalcanal, Malaita</p> <p>Approach and sampling: Purposeful identification of respondents with the support of institutions such as Family Support Centre (FSC), People with Disability Solomon Island (PWDSI), the Public Solicitor’s Office (PSO) and the Sustineo team network.</p>
<i>Focus Group Discussions</i>	<p>Purpose: To validate the survey-based findings.</p> <p>Number of focus groups: 9 – 3x general male only; 2x general female only; 1x general mixed group; 2x People with Disability (female only, male only); 1x Domestic Violence Survivors (female only)</p> <p>Locations: Honiara, Central, Guadalcanal, Malaita</p> <p>Approach: Participants identified through support of FSC, PWDSI, PSO, and snowballing.</p>

The overall research design, including the development, revision and validation of survey instruments, was undertaken in close collaboration with UNDP, Study Team Members, and Sustineo’s Solomon Island based research team. Survey protocols were translated into Solomon Islands Pidgin by experienced Solomon Island researchers and piloted by the research team through multiple iterations prior to finalisation and fieldwork conduct.

Sustineo’s approach to the *Access to Justice Survey* was approved by the Solomon Islands Health Research and Ethics Review Board (Research Project No. HRE001/19; 21 February 2019).

ANALYSIS

The findings are based on the outputs of the three methods outlined above. Further detail on the methodology and limitations is available at Annex A.

The **Access to Justice Survey** was designed to build a representative picture of the perceptions and experiences of Solomon Islanders. The survey employed a randomised sampling approach with the number of samples in each province sufficient to produce representative findings with a 95% confidence level and 2% margin of error at a national level. To account for different population sizes, ‘population weights’ were applied to the findings by province, informed by population distributions for the 2009 Census. Each question in the dataset was analysed by gender, age, location, disability, and province. All data presented by analytical variable were tested and found to be significant at the 95% confidence level.

The **Cost of Justice Surveys** was not designed to be representative of the groups that is surveyed. The data was analysed at a summary level to produce indicative, rather than representative, findings. Comparisons between the three surveys are qualitative. The **Focus Group Discussions** were analysed thematically and used to nuance or add depth to the discussion of the *Access to Justice Survey* by building in a qualitative narrative.

LIMITATIONS

There were a number of limitations to the design and conduct of the research which should be acknowledged:

- Selecting similar numbers of respondents from every province meant that some provinces were overrepresented in the data-set while others were under-represented. This was remedied through the use of population weights during the analysis stage.
- Survey responses could not be obtained in some of the randomly selected EAs (North Ulawa, Vulolo, Nusa Roviana) due to mitigating factors such as weather conditions, or villages no longer existing where they did according to the 2009 Census data. The teams instead visited back-up EAs which, by chance, tended to be less remote than the primary EA.
- Population weights were constructed using data from the 2009 Census data. This data is 10 years old and may no longer be fully representative of the population distribution in the Solomon Islands. If the population distribution among the provinces has significantly changed this will have flow on effects to the construction and application of the weights.
- Originally Criminal Defendants were included as a group in the Cost Surveys, however, due to the difficulty in identifying respondents this respondent group was not included.
- Due to the delay in scheduling local courts until after the election, respondents for Customary Land Disputes were sampled purely through a snow-balling approach. This led in most of these respondents being from Honiara.
- Data from the Cost Surveys is not designed to be representative and should not be used to make generalised comments on the cost of access to justice.
- Analysis of focus group discussions was focused on re-affirming or challenging the survey findings, rather than a more exploratory approach to qualitative analysis.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE SURVEY SITES

The Access to Justice Survey drew on data from all provinces in Solomon Islands. To emphasise rural inclusion, site selection was based on randomly identifying two rural and one urban EA in each province (except in Honiara where all EAs were urban, and Guadalcanal where all were rural). Using 2009 Census Data, a primary village was randomly selected from medium and large size villages in the EAs. The EAs that were visited as part of the Access to Justice Survey are outlined in Figure 1.



Figure 1: Map of EAs where data were collected for the Access to Justice Survey

REPORT STRUCTURE

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the data collected through the project. Reflecting this purpose, the *Summary Report* presents is structured as follows.

Section 1 – Key Research Findings. This section presents the high-level findings and messages from the project and significant findings by the analytical groups of gender, age, location, disability and province.

Section 2 – Summary Findings. This section provides additional detail and relevant raw numbers that underpin the data presented in Section 1.

Section 3 – Detailed Results. This section provides further detail on the findings, presented by the key thematic areas around which the Access to Justice Survey was designed:

- Perceptions of the justice system
- Awareness and perceptions of justice institutions
- Awareness of rights and laws
- Awareness of process of seeking justice
- Experience of seeking legal information and assistance
- Justice problems
- Costs related to seeking justice.

Annex A presents a detailed outline of the project methodology and limitations.

SECTION 1

KEY RESEARCH FINDINGS

This section provides an outline of the key research findings to emerge from the Project. It first presents the overall findings before outlining notable differences that emerged by gender, age, location, disability and province.

OVERALL

AWARENESS AND PERCEPTIONS OF JUSTICE INSTITUTIONS

Solomon Islanders were mostly satisfied with justice services at the national level (64.7%) and, particularly, those available in the community (80.6%). They were more positive than negative about the changes to the justice services at both levels over the last two years.

The most commonly identified available means of resolving disputes within communities were through the village chief, while police were the justice service most frequently identified as being desired in communities.

More Solomon Islanders were aware of community leaders in their community (89.8%) and the role of police (70.8%) than other formal institutions such as courts (39.5%) and lawyers (37.9%). Of those aware of these groups:

- Community leaders were perceived to be the most available and considered to best perform dispute resolution within the community
- Police were deemed the most accessible of all the formal institutions but were considered to perform least well in resolving disputes in communities.

AWARENESS OF LEGAL RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS

For certain issues, Solomon Islanders did not demonstrate a high awareness of their legal rights:

- Over half (54.8%) had heard of their legal rights (of which 79.6% felt confident that the law protected their rights)
- 43.4% believe the police are allowed to use threats and violence to get people to cooperate
- 11.0% believe that if a person is arrested, they can be held in jail for as long as the police say, while a further 7.8% believe it is until the court decides and 22.6% did not know.

In terms of legal protections for vulnerable groups, the majority of Solomon Islanders thought that there were specific provisions in law that protect women (86.3%), children (81.1%), and people with disabilities (76.6%).

In terms of domestic violence, while 54.6% felt that men used violence to resolve household issues with their wives, 92.1% did not think this was justified and the strong majority (86.6%) felt that such acts should be punished.



PERCEPTIONS OF LAND OWNERSHIP

While tribes were the group most commonly identified as owning land, perceptions of ownership varied by across different land and resource types:

- For customary land and resources on the land (such as forests), tribes were by far the most commonly identified owners, with individuals a distant second
- For resources in the ground (such as minerals for mining), tribes and individuals were identified in similar quantities, with Local Chiefs and the Government of Solomon Islanders also more frequently identified.

Solomon Islanders provided varied responses in relation to perceptions of land use decision-making and rights:

- For decisions on whether land could be used for logging or mining, tribes were most frequently identified as responsible, with individual again a distant second, consistent with perceptions of land and resource ownership
- 77.1% believe that private companies are legally required to mitigate the negative environmental impacts of logging or mining
- 81.2% believe that landowners can appeal government decisions to grant a logging or mining licence in their area.

The strong majority (91.3%) believe that a title or documentation is needed to demonstrate land ownership in Solomon Islands. However, of the 66.6% who identified as land owners only 71.9% reported having documentation to demonstrate their ownership.

EXPERIENCE OF SEEKING ASSISTANCE AND RESOLVING DISPUTES

Of the 15.6% of Solomon Islanders who reported they had previously sought information about a legal issue:

- Information was most commonly sought about land disputes and domestic violence
- The police and PSO identified most frequently as the most useful sources of information.

The police and village chief were most frequently identified as the first places that Solomon Islanders would go if they, or a family member, were a victim of crime, victim of domestic violence, or involved in a land dispute. Slight differences emerged between these disputes:

- Family and church leaders were more regularly identified for domestic violence disputes
- House of Chiefs and Local Court were more regularly identified for land disputes.

A total of 18.3% of Solomon Islanders reported they had been involved in a dispute in the past two years:

- The most commonly identified disputes were: land dispute (29.0%), family dispute/child support (28.2%) and fight/assault (16.7%)
- The disputes most commonly identified as having greatest impact on lives were: family dispute/child support (26.7%), land disputes (24.9%) and domestic violence
- Of those who had experienced and sought to resolve a dispute, the most common first action was to visit a village chief (22.4%), consult family (20.5%) or visit the police (16.9%).

Of those had been involved with a dispute in the last two years and were happy to discuss the costs relating to resolving a dispute (n=265) the average costs to resolve a dispute was SBD \$18,637:

- Land disputes costs were higher than those for other disputes
- Men spent over six times as much as women

- Those between 26-40 years old spent more than double those younger and older than them
- Peri-urban based Solomon Islanders spent more than double those from urban or rural areas
- Those with a disability spent just over half as much as those without a disability.

GENDER

AWARENESS AND PERCEPTIONS OF LEGAL ISSUES

While men were more satisfied with the justice services available within communities and slightly more satisfied at the national level, women were more likely to feel that the services had improved over the past two years, at both community level and national.

Men felt more justice services were available to them in their community, including the village chief, church leaders and police. The services that Solomon Islanders wished were in their community differed by gender:

- Men were more likely to identify formal justice institution such as the police
- More men want existing services to be improved.

Women were less aware of the role of the police, courts and lawyers and also less confident in the ability of these groups, in addition community leaders, to solve disputes in the community.

AWARENESS OF LEGAL RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS

There were clear differences between women and men regarding their awareness of legal rights:

- More men had heard of their legal rights but women were more likely to believe their rights were protected by the law
- Women more likely to think that police were allowed to hurt or threaten people to get their cooperation.

Men were more likely to think that men used violence to resolve disputes in their community, while more women felt they should be punished for such an act.

PERCEPTIONS OF LAND OWNERSHIP

Men and women differed in their perceptions of who owned land and resources in the land:

- More men felt tribes owned customary land, resources on the land (such as forests) and resources in the ground (such as minerals for mining)
- More women believed individuals owned customary land and resources like minerals.

Differences emerged by gender in perceptions of land related decisions making and rights:

- More men identified tribes and more women identified individuals as decision makers related to logging or mining
- More men believed private companies were required to minimise environmental impacts of logging or mining activities than women
- Men were more likely to believe that landowners could appeal against a decision by the government to grant a logging or mining licence in their area.



Land ownership differed by gender, with men both more likely to identify as a land owner and, of those who owned land, more likely to report having a title or documentation showing their ownership.

EXPERIENCE OF SEEKING ASSISTANCE AND RESOLVING DISPUTES

Men were more likely to have previously sought legal information more regularly than women (18.3% vs.13.1%):

- Women were five times more likely to have sought information on domestic violence and nearly twice as likely in relation to family disputes/child support
- Men were twice as likely to have sought information on land disputes
- Women were more likely to seek information from the police and village chiefs, while more men identified the PSO and private lawyers.

When asked about where they would go to seek justice related to being a victim of a crime, domestic violence and land disputes:

- More women said they would go to the police for each type of dispute
- More men said they would go to a broader range of places, including the village chief (victim of crime), House of Chiefs (land disputes), and family and church leaders (domestic violence)

In terms of the types of the most disputes Solomon Islanders had been involved in over the past two years, and the ones of greatest significance:

- Women were significantly more likely to identify family/child support and domestic violence
- Men were significantly more likely to identify land disputes.

Of those who had experienced a dispute in the last two years, men were most likely to go to the village chief as the first step to solve it, while women were more likely to go to family or the police.

YOUTH

AWARENESS AND PERCEPTIONS OF LEGAL ISSUES

Young Solomon Islanders held the most, and those over 41 the least, positive views of the national level justice services and the improvements to services in the last two years.

Young Solomon Islanders reported the lowest awareness for the police, courts, and lawyers compared to all other age groups.

AWARENESS OF LEGAL RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS

Older Solomon Islanders (41+) were less likely to believe that the police are allowed to hurt or threaten people to get them to cooperate.

Awareness of rights and the legal provision protecting vulnerable groups varied by age demographic:

- Young Solomon Islanders (18-25) were least likely to have heard of their rights under the law
- Those between 26-40 years old reported greatest levels of awareness, and young Solomon Islanders the lowest, of protections for women, children and people with disabilities.

PERCEPTIONS OF LAND OWNERSHIP

Perceptions of who own customary land and resources differed by age:

- Older Solomon Islanders were more likely to believe tribes owned customary land or mining resources, while young Solomon Islanders (18-25) were more likely to think the Solomon Islands Government owned these resources

Perceptions of land use decision-making and rights differed by age demographic:

- Those between 26-40 were the most likely to identify tribes or local chiefs as decision makers for whether land could be used for logging or mining
- Older Solomon Islanders (41+) were more likely to identify individuals as responsible for logging or mining decisions while young Solomon Islanders (18-25) were more likely to identify the Solomon Islands Government
- Older Solomon Islanders (41+) were least likely to believe that private companies were legally required to minimise environmental impacts from logging or mining activities.

Young Solomon Islanders were less likely to identify as a land owner but, if they did own land, were more likely to report having documentation demonstrating their ownership. Those over 41 years old were the most likely to identify as owning land and least likely to have documentation to prove it.

EXPERIENCE OF SEEKING ASSISTANCE AND RESOLVING DISPUTES

Young Solomon Islanders were least likely to have sought legal information in the past, with other differences emerging relating to the types and sources of information that had been sought:

- Older Solomon Islanders (41+) more likely to have sought information on land disputes
- Those between 26-40 more likely to have sought information about domestic violence.

Where Solomon Islanders would first go for help if they or their family were a victim of crime, or involved in a land dispute, differed by age:

- If a victim of a crime, young Solomon Islanders (18-25) were more likely to go to the police and less likely to go to the village chief, while older Solomon Islanders were more likely to go to family
- For a land dispute, young Solomon Islanders were least likely to go to the village chief.

Differences emerged by age relating to the types of disputes involved with and actions chosen to resolve these disputes:

- For the disputes that had occurred over the last two years, those over 41 years old were less likely to have been involved in a fight or assault, while those between 26-40 were most likely to have been involved in a domestic violence dispute
- For the dispute identified as having the greatest impact of people's lives, younger (18-25) and older (41+) Solomon Islanders were more likely to identify land disputes, while those between 26-40 were most likely to identify domestic violence as having the greatest impact on their lives
- Of those who had sought to resolve the dispute which had greatest impact on them, young Solomon Islanders (18-25) were the most likely to have consulted their family first and were least likely to have gone to the village chief, tried to reach an agreement with, or compensate the other party.



URBAN AND RURAL

AWARENESS AND PERCEPTIONS OF LEGAL ISSUES

Solomon Islanders from urban areas were more likely to feel national level justice services had improved over the last two years.

The types of justice services available within communities, what Solomon Islanders wished were available in communities, differed by location:

- Urban dwellers were more likely to identify that the police were available in their community, while those further away from urban centres were more likely to identify village chiefs and church leaders
- The police were the justice service most commonly desired as being available by those across all locations, but was identified more frequently by Solomon Islanders from rural areas.

Solomon Islanders from urban areas reported greatest levels of awareness for the roles of formal justice institutions such as the courts and lawyers, while reporting to lowest awareness of community leaders. Of those who were aware of these groups:

- Urban based Solomon Islanders were the most likely to feel the police and lawyers performed well at solving disputes, perception of performance more negative away from urban areas
- Rural based Solomon Islanders were more likely to feel that key justice institutions such as the police, courts and lawyers were not accessible to people within their communities.

AWARENESS OF LEGAL RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS

Rural based Solomon Islanders were least likely to have heard of their rights under the law, while those in urban areas were more likely to believe their rights were protected by the law

PERCEPTIONS OF LAND OWNERSHIP

While the main group identified as both own customary land and resources and making decisions relating to logging or mining activities were tribes, differences emerged between locations:

- Solomon Islanders outside of urban areas were more likely to identify tribes and individuals as owners of customary land and resources such as mineral in the land, and also identify individuals as owners of resources on the land, such as forests
- Those from urban areas were less likely to identify tribes as owners of resources on the land, such as forests, and were also more likely to identify Solomon Islands Government as owners of customary land and other resources
- Rural Solomon Islanders were more likely to identify local chiefs as owners of customary land and resources on the land
- In relation to logging and mining decisions, peri-urban dwellers were most likely to identify that tribes and least likely to identify local chiefs as responsible, while those from urban areas were most likely to identify government and least likely to identify individuals.

While land ownership did not differ by location, those from urban areas were least likely to report having documentation to show their land ownership.

EXPERIENCE OF SEEKING ASSISTANCE AND RESOLVING DISPUTES

Solomon Islanders from rural areas were the least likely to have previously sought information about a legal matter, with other differences emerging relating to the most useful information sources:

- Rural dwellers were most likely to feel that the village chief provided them with the most useful information, while those from peri-urban areas were most likely to identify the police and least likely to identify the PSO.

Where Solomon Islanders would first go for help if they, or their family, were involved in a dispute differed by location:

- More urban dwellers identified they would go to the police first if they were a victim of a crime or domestic violence
- Rural or peri-urban dwellers were the most likely to go to the village chief in relation to a victim of crime issue, domestic violence or land disputes.

The types of disputes Solomon Islanders had been involved with and actions chosen to resolve these disputes differed by location:

- Peri-urban based Solomon Islanders were the most likely to have been involved in a dispute in the last two years
- Of those involved in a dispute, urban dwellers were most likely to have been involved in a land dispute
- In relation to the dispute that had the greatest impact on people's lives, those from peri-urban areas were most likely to identify family disputes/child support and domestic violence, while being least likely to identify land disputes.

DISABILITY

AWARENESS AND PERCEPTIONS OF LEGAL ISSUES

Solomon Islanders with a disability were less satisfied with national level justice services and with the ways of resolving disputes available in their communities. Those with a disability were also twice as likely to think that national level justice services had got worse over the last two years.

Solomon Islanders with a disability reported lower levels of awareness of community leaders within their communities and of the role of lawyers, while also considering community less accessible to those in their community than Solomon Islanders without a disability. Those with a disability were significantly more pessimistic in how well community leaders and the police solve disputes in the community.

AWARENESS OF LEGAL RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS

Solomon Islanders with a disability were less aware of their legal rights or legal provisions protecting vulnerable groups:

- Solomon Islanders with a disability were significantly less likely to have heard of their rights under the law
- Solomon Islanders with a disability were also significantly less likely to be aware of legal provisions to protect women, children and people with disabilities.



Solomon Islanders who identified as having a disability were more likely to think that men used violence against women to resolve disputes within their community but were less likely to think men should be punished for doing so.

LAND OWNERSHIP

Solomon Islanders with a disability were more likely to believe that tribes were responsible for making decisions about whether land can be used for logging or mining and were less likely to identify individuals.

Solomon Islanders with a disability were less likely to believe there were legal requirements for private companies to mitigate the environmental impacts of extractive resource activities, as well as being less likely to think appeals could be made against government granted extractive licences.

EXPERIENCE OF SEEKING ASSISTANCE AND RESOLVING DISPUTES

Solomon Islanders with a disability were significantly more likely to have sought information previously about domestic violence (39.7% vs. 16.3%) and were also most likely to identify village chiefs as a source of information.

If they, or their family, were a victim of domestic violence, those with a disability were more likely to report they would go to the village chief and family, while being less likely to go to the police and church leaders.

Of those who had been involved in a dispute over the last two years and sought to resolve it, Solomon Islanders without a disability were more likely to consult family and report the problem to the police, while those with a disability were slightly more likely to go to the village chief.

PROVINCES

AWARENESS AND PERCEPTIONS OF JUSTICE INSTITUTIONS

Satisfaction with the available ways of solving disputes in the community and perceptions of change in the quality of justice services at national and community levels differed by province:

- Those from Central and Choiseul were some of the most positive about the available ways of solving disputes in the community and changes in national and community justice services
- Those from Rennell and Bellona and Malaita were among those most likely to feel justice service provision had got worse in the last two years.

Village chiefs were identified as the most available way of dealing with disputes in communities across all provinces, except in Honiara, where the police were most common, and Rennell and Bellona, where residents identified church leaders most frequently.

With the exception of Honiara, residents on all provinces reported high levels of awareness of community leaders in their communities. Of those aware of community leaders, those in Choiseul were most likely to feel they were both able to solve disputes and accessible.

Awareness of the roles of formal justice institutions such as the police, courts and lawyers, as well as perceptions of their availability and ability to resolve disputes, differed by province:

- Those from Honiara and Rennell and Bellona reported the greatest awareness of roles of formal justice sector, while those from Central and Isabel reported amongst the lowest levels of awareness

- Those from Honiara and Central were some of the most positive about the ability of formal justice institutions to solve disputes in their communities, while in contrast those from Rennell and Bellona were the least positive about their ability to solve disputes
- Those from Honiara, Western and, to a lesser extent, Malaita reported higher levels of access to formal justice sector institutions than elsewhere, with those in Rennell and Bellona and Makira-Ulawa reporting amongst the lowest levels of access to these services.

AWARENESS OF LEGAL RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS

Awareness of legal rights and the legal protections afforded to vulnerable groups differed by province:

- Those from Honiara were amongst the most likely to have heard of their rights and to believe they were protected by law. While those from Malaita reported high awareness of their rights they were amongst the least likely to believe their rights were protected by law
- Those from Central, Malaita and Western were most likely to think that police could hurt or threaten people to get them to cooperate, while those from Rennell and Bellona and Honiara were least likely
- Solomon Islanders from Rennell and Bellona and Malaita reported amongst the greatest levels of awareness of legal provisions protecting women, children and people with disabilities
- Those from Makira-Ulawa reported amongst the highest levels of awareness of provisions for children and people with disabilities, but lowest for protections for women.
- Those from Central and Choiseul reported some of the lowest levels of awareness for legal protections for these vulnerable groups.

In relation to domestic violence, Solomon Islanders from different provinces were mixed in their perceptions of the occurrence, justification and possible punishment for men using violence to resolve issues with women in their homes:

- Those from Isabel and Temotu were the most likely to think that men use violence to resolve issues with women and least likely to feel that this could be justified, but those from Isabel were amongst the most likely to feel this action should be punished, while Temotu was amongst the least likely.
- Those from Makira-Ulawa and Rennell and Bellona were amongst the least likely to think men in their communities used violence, but those from Makira-Ulawa were amongst the most likely to feel that such action could be justified and should not be punished, while those from Rennell and Bellona were strongly of the view it was not justifiable and should be punished.

LAND OWNERSHIP

Differences emerged by province in perceptions of who owned customary land and resources:

- Solomon Islanders from Temotu, Malaita and Makira-Ulawa tended to be most likely to identify tribes as the owners of customary land and resources on (such as forests) and in (such as minerals for mining) the land
- Those from Rennell and Bellona were significantly more to believe individuals owned the customary land and different resources.
- Residents of Western, as well as Makira-Ulawa and Choiseul, were those most likely to identify village chiefs as owners of customary land and resources
- Those from Western and Honiara were more likely to think the Solomon Islands Government owned land and resources more than elsewhere.



While tribes were most commonly identified in all provinces as the decision makers relating to whether land can be used for logging or mining, a number of other differences emerged between provinces:

- Those from Western and Choiseul were more likely to identify village chiefs
- Those from Rennell and Bellona identified individuals more than any other province
- Honiara residents were some of the most likely to think the Solomon Islands Government were the decision makers.

Perceptions of rights related to land use responsibilities and rights differed by province:

- Solomon Islanders from Temotu were amongst the most likely to report they believed a private company legally had to mitigate environmental impacts before starting logging or mining work, while also being amongst the most likely to report being aware that landowners could appeal a government decision to grant a logging or mining licence
- Those from Choiseul, Western Province and, to a less extent, Rennell and Bellona were amongst the least likely to be aware of either private sector responsibility to mitigate environmental impacts or the ability of landowners to appeal.

While reports of land ownership varied by province, those from Malaita were amongst the most likely to identify as land ownerships and report the highest levels of possessing documentation to demonstrate that ownership. In contrast, those from Temotu were amongst the lowest for reported rates of land ownership and possession of supporting title or documentation.

EXPERIENCE OF SEEKING ASSISTANCE AND RESOLVING DISPUTES

Solomon Islanders from Honiara and Temotu were some of the most likely, and those from Western and Guadalcanal least likely, to have previously sought information about a legal problem and to have been involved in a dispute over the last two years.

Who Solomon Islanders identified as the first point of help if they, or a family member, were a victim of crime, victim of domestic violence or involved in a land dispute changed by province:

- In relation to being victim of a crime:
 - Those from Choiseul, Guadalcanal, Honiara, Malaita, Rennell and Bellona and Western were most likely to identify the police, while those from Central, Temotu, Makira-Ulawa and Isabel nominated the village chief
 - Those from Rennell and Bellona were significantly more likely than anywhere else to identify church leaders.
- In relation to domestic violence:
 - Residents of Choiseul, Guadalcanal, Honiara, Isabel, Malaita and Western were most likely to identify the police, while those from Central and Makira-Ulawa identified the village chief, and those from Rennell and Bellona and Temotu identified family.
 - Those from Rennell and Bellona and Malaita were most likely to also identify church leaders.
- In relation to a land dispute, respondents from all provinces identified the village chief although those from Western, Honiara and Malaita were the least likely to identify them.

SECTION 2

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

This section expands on the presentation of results from Section 1, providing a more detail outline of project findings. It focuses on a distillation of statistically significant differences by the key analytical variables of gender, age, location, disability and province, with each section split between general awareness of legal issues and the experience of seeking assistance and resolving disputes.

OVERALL

AWARENESS AND PERCEPTIONS OF LEGAL ISSUES

Solomon Islanders expressed mostly positive higher-level views on the provision of justice services and changes over the last two years but were more positive with services at a community level than those at a national level.

- A strong majority (80.6%) were satisfied with the ways to resolve disputes available in their community
- A majority (64.7%) were satisfied with the provision of justice services at a national level
- One-third (32.6%) felt that justice services available in their communities have improved over the last two years, while 13.2% felt that the services had got worse
- Nearly one-quarter (23.2%) felt that the provision of justice services at a national level had improved in the last two years, and 17.8% felt they had got worse

At a community level, the most commonly identified available means of resolving disputes were through the village chief, while Solomon Islanders most frequently identified the police as the service they wished was available in their community.

- The most prominent way of dealing with disputes available in communities were through the village chief (66.5%), church leaders (35.5%), the police (29.5%) and family (11.5%)
- The justice service that Solomon Islanders most often wished was available in their community was the police (59.8%), followed by improvements to existing services (12.0%).

Solomon Islanders reported greater awareness of community leaders and the role of police, but less awareness of other formal institutions. Those aware of these groups were most likely to feel that community leaders performed dispute resolution well while were least likely to think the police fulfilled the role well. They considered community leaders the most accessible to those in the community.

- Solomon Islanders reported highest levels of awareness for the presence of community leaders in their communities (89.8%), followed by the roles of the police (70.8%), courts (39.5%) and lawyers (37.9%)



- Those who were aware of community leaders and the role of police, courts and lawyers were more likely to feel that community leaders performed the role of solving disputes in their communities well (81.4%), followed by courts (77.9%), lawyers (71.8%) and the police (67.3%)
- Of those who were aware of these different groups, community leaders were considered the most accessible (89.9%), followed by the police (75.8%), courts (66.2%) and lawyers (56.4%).

While only just over half Solomon Islanders had heard of their rights, the majority of those who had heard of their rights felt confident that the law protected those rights.

- Over half (54.8%) reported that they had heard of their rights under Solomon Island law
- Of those who had heard of their rights, the majority (79.6%) felt that the laws protected their rights.

Solomon Islanders have varied levels of awareness in terms of certain rights, with over two in five believing that police could use threats and violence to get people to cooperate, and relatively low levels of awareness relating to how long people could be held in jail without seeing a judge.

- Just over half (52.9%) believed that police were not allowed to hurt or threaten people to get them to cooperate, however this left a notable 43.4% who believed that the police could use threats and violence to foster cooperation
- Two in five (39.8%) believed that if a person was arrested they could be held for less than a week without seeing a judge. One in five Solomon Islands believed that people who were arrested could be held for as long as the police say (11.0%) or until the court decides (7.8%). Nearly a quarter (22.6%) reported they did not know.

While Solomon Islanders felt that men in their communities used violence to resolve household issues with their wives, the strong majority did not think this was justified and that such acts should be punished.

- More than half (54.6%) Solomon Islanders thought that, in their community, men used violence to resolve issues with women in their homes
- Almost all (92.1%) Solomon Islanders felt that use of violence to resolve a dispute was not justified
- A strong majority (86.6%) of Solomon Islanders felt that men should be punished if they used violence toward women to resolve a dispute.

The majority of Solomon Islanders thought that there were specific provisions in Solomon Islands law that protect women, children, and people with disabilities.

- Solomon Islanders were most likely to think there were provisions protecting women (86.3%), followed by provisions for the protection of children (81.1%) and people with disabilities (76.6%)
- A noticeable number did not know if provisions existed to protect women (6.1%), children (10.4%) or those with a disability (12.6%).

Tribes were by far the most commonly identified owners of customary land and resources (such as forests), with individuals a distant second. However, in relation to ownership of resources in the ground (such as minerals for mining) tribes and individuals were identified as the owners by similar numbers of Solomon Islanders, with other groups such as Local Chiefs and the Government of Solomon Islanders more frequently identified. Tribes were also most commonly identified as being responsible for decisions on whether land could be used for logging or mining.

- Tribes (60.8%) were most likely to be identified as the owners of customary land, followed by individuals (10.0%)

- Tribes (62.0%) were also most likely to be identified as the owners of resources on the land (such as forests), followed individuals (8.5%)
- While tribes were most likely to be identified (24.3%) as the owners of resources in land (such as minerals for mining), it was at a much lower percentage than for other resources with people more likely to identify individuals (21.6%), local chiefs (15.7%) and the Solomon Islands Government (14.1%)
- Nearly half (49.7%) thought that tribes decide on whether land can be used for logging or mining, followed by local chiefs (18.6%), individuals (14.3%) and the Solomon Islands Government (7.3%).

While nine out of ten Solomon Islanders believed that a title or documentation was needed to demonstrate land ownership, of the two-thirds of Solomon Islanders who identified as land owners only three-quarters reported having documentation to demonstrate their ownership.

- The vast majority (91.3%) of Solomon Islanders believed that people need a title or documentation to demonstrate land ownership
- Two thirds (66.6%) considered themselves to be land owners
- Of those who identified as land owners, 71.9% indicated they had documentation supporting their claim.

The majority believed that private companies were required by law to ensure logging and mining work would not have negative consequences on the environment and thought that landowners could appeal a government to grant a logging or mining licence in their area.

- Over three quarters (77.1%) believed that private companies were required by law to make sure that their work does not have negative impacts on the environment prior to start logging or mining
- Four in five (81.2%) believed that landowners could appeal a government decision to grant a logging or mining licence in their area
- A noticeable number did not know whether private companies were legally required mitigate negative environmental impacts (10.5%) or whether landowners could appeal against a decision by the government to extractive licences (8.9%).

EXPERIENCE OF SEEKING ASSISTANCE AND RESOLVING DISPUTES

Of the 15.6% of Solomon Islanders who reported they had previously sought information about a legal issue, the type of information most commonly sought related to land disputes and domestic violence, while the police and PSO were identified as the most frequently sought after, and most useful, sources of information.

- A total of 15.6% reported that they had previously sought information or assistance about the law or legal matters
- Of those who had previously sought information about the law (n=441), information was most commonly sought on issues related to: land disputes (29.8%), domestic violence (17.6%), family disputes or child support (16.9%), and fights or assaults (14.6%)
- The most frequently identified source of information was the police (39.9%), followed by the PSO (22.7%), village chiefs (15.5%), and private lawyers (13.4%)
- The source of information or assistance identified as most useful was also the police (29.4%), followed by the PSO (17.5%), village chiefs (10.8%) and private lawyer (10.8%).

While the police and village chief were frequently identified as the first places that Solomon Islanders would go if they, or a family member, were a victim of crime, victim of domestic violence, or involved



in a land dispute, those involved in domestic violence were more likely to identify family and church leaders, while those involved in land disputes were more likely to identify the House of Chiefs and Local Court.

- In relation to a dispute where they, or a family member, were a victim of crime then Solomon Islanders were most likely to first go to the police (47.3%) for help, followed by the village chief (35.6%) and church leaders (6.0%)
- If the dispute related to domestic violence they were most likely to first go to the police (36.4%), followed by the village chief (21.4%) and family (18.6%)
- If involved in land dispute, then Solomon Islanders were most likely to first go the village chief (41.0%) followed by the police (17.6%) and the House of Chiefs (9.3%)
- Family (18.6%) and church leaders (10.9%) were identified more often in relation to domestic violence related disputes, while village chiefs, the House of Chiefs and Local Court were identified more often for land disputes.

Of the one in five Solomon Islanders who reported they had been involved in a dispute in the past two years, most related to land disputes. The dispute identified as having the greatest impact on the respondent's life was most frequently noted as relating to family disputes or child support. The most common first action they took to resolve the dispute was to consult the village chief or family.

- A total of 18.3% reported having been involved in a dispute within the past two years
- Of those who had been involved in a dispute (n=484), the most common disputes were: land dispute (29.0%), family dispute/child support (28.2%), fight/assault (16.7%), and domestic violence (14.6%)
- The disputes most commonly identified as having the greatest impact on their lives were related to family dispute/child support (26.7%) and land disputes (24.9%), followed by domestic violence (12.8%) and fight/assault (12.0%)
- Of those who had experienced a dispute and had taken action to resolve it (n=404), the most common first action was to visit a village chief (22.4%), consult family (20.5%) and report the dispute to the police (16.9%).

Of those had been involved with a dispute in the last two years and were happy to discuss the costs relating to resolving a dispute (n=265), the average costs to resolve a dispute was SBD \$18,637, however these costs differed prominently by different demographics.

- Men spent over six times as much as women on resolving their disputes (SBD \$22,457, n=165 men; SBD \$3,373, n=100 women)
- Those between 26-40 years old spent more than double those younger and older than them on resolving their disputes (SBD \$24,992, n=103 of 26-40; SBD \$9,094, n=72 of 18-25; and SBD \$8,902, n=90 of 41+)
- Peri-urban based Solomon Islanders spent more than double those from urban or rural areas on resolving their disputes (SBD \$28,100, n=69 of peri-urban vs SBD \$11,259, n=161 of rural; and SBD \$10,730, n=35 of urban)
- Solomon Islanders with a disability spent just over half as much as those without a disability on resolving their disputes (SBD \$8,586, n=25 with a disability vs SBD \$15,602, n=240 without a disability).

The costs related to the four most commonly identified disputes that people had experience in the last two years with differed prominently, with land disputes the most expensive dispute to resolve.

- The average cost of land disputes (SBD \$38,152, n=139) were significantly higher than those related to fights/assaults (SBD \$1,561, n=65), family dispute/child support (SBD \$1,430, n=103) and domestic violence (SBD \$309, n=51).

Comparing three small scale surveys related to the costs for people with experience with domestic violence (n=20), customary land rights disputes (n=28) and being defendants on remand (n=25), anecdotally shows that the types of costs incurred for each experience different markedly.

- Customary Land Rights Holders (n=28) reported the highest overall costs (total SBD \$2,298,434), with the highest costs reported for going through both informal and formal justice systems (SBD \$2,252,734)
- Defendants on Remand (n=25) reported relatively high overall costs (total SDB \$1,775,400) while reporting much higher opportunity costs related to not being able to work and not being able to garden for either market sale or consumption at home (SBD \$1,524,100).

GENDER

AWARENESS AND PERCEPTIONS OF LEGAL ISSUES

Men reported greater levels of satisfaction with justice services and awareness of legal rights, but women were more positive about changes to justice services and the extent to which legal rights afford them protection.

- Men were more satisfied with the provision of justice services available within communities (83.5% vs. 77.9%).
- Women were more likely to feel that the services had improved over the past two years, particularly at the community level (24.6% vs. 21.8% national; 37.5% vs. 27.4% community).
- Men were more likely to report having heard of their legal rights than women (59.6% vs. 50.3%)
- Of those who had heard of their legal rights, women were more likely to believe their rights were protected by the law (84.4% vs. 75.2%).

Differences emerged by gender in relation to perceptions of land ownership and decisions over land use.

For ownership of customary land, resources on the land, and resources in the land:

- Men were more likely to believe that tribes owned customary land (75.4% vs. 47.0%), resources on the land (such as forests) (75.5% vs. 50.9%) and resources in the ground (such as minerals for mining) (27.9% vs. 19.4%)
- Women were more likely to believe ownership lay with individuals (13.0% vs. 6.8% customary land; 23.9% vs. 19.2% resources in the ground) or report they did not know (18.3% vs. 4.4% customary land; 14.1% vs. 0.4% resources on the land; resources in the ground 17.1% vs. 5.0%).

For land use decision making for logging or mining:

- Men were more likely to feel that the tribes were decision makers (59.4% vs. 40.5%)
- Women were more likely to think decisions were made by individuals (18.1% vs. 10.3%), or report they did not know (8.3% vs. 3.2%).

Men were more likely to be land owners and have documentation to demonstrate ownership.

- More men identified as land owners (71.6% vs. 61.8%) and, of those who owned land, reported higher levels of having documentation showing ownership (76.3% vs. 67.0%).
- Men were more likely to feel that people need documentation to show ownership of the land (92.6% vs. 89.9%).



Men were more likely to think that men used violence to resolve disputes in their community, while more women felt them should be punished for such an act.

- Men were more likely to think that men in their community use violence to resolve issues with women (58.6% vs. 50.9%)
- Women were more likely to feel that a man should be punished if he does use violence (91.2% vs. 81.9%).

Men were more likely to think that private companies were required to mitigate environmental impacts of resource extraction activities and were more likely to think landowners could appeal a government granted logging or mining licence.

- Men were more likely to think that private companies were required to ensure the work they do would not have bad effects on the environment (83.1% vs. 71.4%)
- Men were more likely to believe that landowners could appeal against a decision by the government to grant a logging or mining licence in their area (87.1% vs. 75.6%)
- Women were more likely not to know if private companies were meant to mitigate environmental impacts of their logging or mining work (13.5% vs. 7.3%)
- Women were more likely not to know whether landowners could appeal a government decision (12.4% vs. 5.1%).

Women were less aware of different justice institutions and less confident in their ability to solve disputes.

- Women reported lower levels of awareness in the roles of the police (68.0% vs. 73.8%), courts (49.3% vs. 71.1%) and lawyers (31.9% vs 44.3%)
- Women were less confident in the performance of these groups in solving disputes in their communities, including for community leaders (78.7% vs. 83.8%), the police (54.7% vs. 79.5%), courts (68.1% vs. 83.8%) and lawyers (64.1% vs. 77.7%).
- Of these groups, significantly more women felt that no help was provided by police (15.5% vs. 3.3%), courts (13.7% vs. 3.0%) and lawyers (12.3% vs. 4.0%).
- Women were also more likely to think that police were allowed to hurt or threaten people to get them to cooperate (46.5% vs, 40.0%).

Men reported greater perceived availability of justice services in their community across all services and were more likely to wish there were more police available in their communities.

- Men were more likely to feel that the village chief (69.3% vs.63.9%), church leaders (38.1% vs. 33.1%) and police (32.4% vs. 26.7%) were available in the community.

The services that Solomon Islanders wished were in their community differed by gender:

- Men more likely to wish that formal justice institution such as the police (69.4% vs. 50.7%) and local courts (9.7% vs 2.7%) were available in their community
- Women were more likely to want existing services to be improved (17.4% vs. 6.3%)
- More women did not know what services they wished were available (14.7% vs. 3.3%).

EXPERIENCE OF SEEKING ASSISTANCE AND RESOLVING DISPUTES

Men reported having sought legal information more regularly than women, with prominent differences in the types and sources of information between genders.

- More men had previously sought information about a legal matter (18.3% vs. 13.1%).
- Men were more likely to have sought information on land disputes (38.8% vs. 17.7%)

- Women were more likely to have sought information on domestic violence (32.4% vs. 6.4%) and family disputes/child support (23.1% vs. 12.3%)
- Women were more likely to seek information from the police (54.3% vs. 29.0%) and village chiefs (20.9% vs. 11.5%)
- Men more regularly identified the PSO (29.4% vs. 13.8%) and private lawyers (19.1% vs. 5.8%) as sources of information.

When asked about where they would go to seek justice related to being a victim of a crime, domestic violence and land disputes, women were more likely to say they would go to the police while men went through other informal justice systems.

- More women identified the police as where they would first go to help if they or their family were a victim of a crime (55.4% vs. 38.8%), victim of domestic violence (46.3% vs. 25.9%) or involved in a land dispute (22.4% vs. 12.5%)
- Men were more likely to go to the village chief in relation to a crime (45.0% vs. 26.3%), family (23.9% vs. 13.6%) and church leaders (15.9% vs. 6.2%) for domestic violence, and the House of Chiefs (16.2% vs. 2.7%) for land disputes.

When asked about the practical steps they had taken to resolve a dispute in the last two years, a similar trend emerged.

- More men identified that they went to the village chief (29.2% vs. 15.1%) or went to court (10.9% vs. 3.0%)
- Women were significantly more likely consult family (29.0% vs. 12.7%) and go to the police (19.7% vs. 14.2%).

In terms of the types of disputes Solomon Islanders had been involved in over the past two years, men were more likely to identify land disputes and women more likely to identify domestic violence or family disputes.

- More men reported having been involved in a land dispute (43.7% vs. 13.3%)
- Women were more likely to have been involved in family disputes/child support (45.3% vs. 12.2%) and domestic violence (24.7% vs. 5.7%).

The single dispute reported as having the greatest impact on lives followed the same structure, with men identifying land disputes and women identifying domestic violence or family disputes.

- Significantly more women consider family disputes/child support (42.1% vs. 12.1%) and domestic violence (21.7% vs. 4.4%) as having had the greatest impact
- Men considered land disputes as having the greatest impact (39.6% vs. 9.3%).

For those Solomon Islanders who had been involved in a dispute and sought to resolve it, men reported being able to solve their issues quick than women.

- Men were more likely to report that their problem was either resolved almost immediately (38.1% vs. 31.3%) or between one and six months (26.9% vs. 16.4%)
- Women were more likely to indicate it took more than two years (19.3% vs. 1.7%).



YOUTH

AWARENESS AND PERCEPTIONS OF LEGAL ISSUES

Young Solomon Islanders held more positive, and those over 41 years old the least, perceptions of the national level justice services and changes in those services.

- Young Solomon Islanders (18-25) were more satisfied with the provision of national level justice services (71.9% vs. 64.9% for 26-40 and 58.6% for 41+)
- Young Solomon Islanders (18-25) were more likely to think that services had improved in the last two years (29.0% vs. 22.6% for 26-40 and 18.9% for 41+).

Young Solomon Islanders reported lower levels of awareness of the role of the police, court and lawyers than older demographics.

- Those between 18-25 years old reported the lowest awareness for the police (65.0% vs. 73.8% for 26-40 and 72.8% for 41+), courts (31.8% vs. 43.1% for 26-40 and 42.5% for 41+) and lawyers (32.2% vs. 42.6% for 26-40 and 38.2% for 41+).

Solomon Islanders between 26-40 years old reported the highest level of awareness regarding legal provisions that protect vulnerable groups, while young Solomon Islanders expressed the lowest levels of awareness.

- Those between 26-40 reported greater awareness of protections for women (90.4 vs. 85.2% for 41+ and 82.8% for 18-25), children (85.6% vs. 79.2% for 41+ and 78.0% for 18-25) and people with disabilities (83.3% vs. 74.1% for 41+ and 71.8% for 18-25).

Young Solomon Islanders reported highest proportion of respondents not knowing whether legal protections for vulnerable groups exist.

- Those between 18-25 reported higher rates of not knowing about legal protections for women (11.1% vs. 3.8% for 26-40 and 7.1% for 41+), children (13.7% vs. 6.1% for 26-40 and 12.0% for 41+) and people with disabilities (16.5% vs. 8% for 26-40 and 15.1% for 41+).

Perceptions of what the police were allowed to do as part of their work differed by age.

- Older Solomon Islanders (41+) were the least likely to believe that the police are allowed to hurt or threaten people to get them to cooperate (37.8% vs. 44.2% the 18-25 and 48.3% for 26-40)
- Those over 41 years old were least likely to think that police could enter their home without permission to prevent violence (14.0% vs 18.2% for 18-25 and 17.5% for 26-40)
- Young Solomon Islanders (18-25) were least likely to think that police could never enter their house without their permission (19.6% vs. 22.8% for 26-40 and 27.6% for 41+).

Perceptions of land ownership as well as decision making related to mining and logging resources differed between young and old Solomon Islanders.

- Young Solomon Islanders (18-25) were least likely to think that tribes owned customary land (53.2% vs. 62.9% for 26-40 and 65.3% for 41+) or resources in the land (16.3% vs. 23.6% for 26-40 and 29.7% for 41+)
- Young Solomon Islanders (18-25) are the most likely to think the Solomon Islands Government owned both customary land (7.0% vs. 4.1% for 26-40 and 2.5% for 41+) and resources in the land (18.1% vs. 13.2% for 26-40 and 11.6% for 41+)

In relation to making decisions on whether land could be used for logging or mining:

- Those between 26-40 were the most likely to identify the decision makers as tribes (52.2% vs. 47.3% for 18-25 and 49.2% for 41+) or local chiefs (20.4% vs. 18.5% for 18-25 and 16.8% for 41+)
- Those over 41+ were most likely to identify individuals (17.2% vs. 12.3% for 18-25 and 12.9% for 26-40)
- Those between 18-25 were more likely to consider the Solomon Islands Government to be responsible (11.1% vs. 5.7% for 26-40 and 5.7% for 41+).

In relation to logging or mining activities, those over 41 years old were

- Least likely to believe that private companies were required to ensure no negative environmental impacts would result from their work (71.6% vs. 79.0% for 18-25 and 81.1% for 26-40), and most likely to not know (14.7% vs. 8.5% 18-25 and 7.9% 26-40).

Young Solomon Islanders were less likely to identify as a land owner but were more likely to indicate they had documentation demonstrating their ownership, if they did own land.

- Young Solomon Islanders (18-25) were the least likely group to consider themselves land owners (56.8% vs. 70.0% for 26-40 and 71.4% for 41+)
- Of those who were owners, those between 18-25 were marginally more likely than the others to have title or documentation demonstrating their ownership (74.9% vs. 73.2% for 26-40 and 68.5% for 41+).
- Those over 41 years old were the most likely to identify as owning land and least likely to have documentation to prove it.

EXPERIENCE OF SEEKING ASSISTANCE AND RESOLVING DISPUTES

Young Solomon Islanders were least likely to have sought legal information in the past, with other differences emerging relating to the types and sources of information that had been sought.

- Young Solomon Islanders (18-25) were least likely to have sought information on a legal issue (8.8% vs. 17.2% for 26-40 and 19.8% for 41+).
- Older Solomon Islanders (41+) were more likely to have sought information on land disputes (39.1% vs. 23.8% 26-40 and 18.4% 18-25)
- Those between 26-40 were more likely to have sought information about domestic violence (23.5% vs. 15.0% for 18-25 and 13.4% for 41+).

Differences emerged by age for where they would first go for help if they, or their family, were a victim of crime or domestic violence.

- Young Solomon Islanders (18-25) were more likely to go to the police if they, or their family, were a victim of a crime (40.3 vs. 36.9% for 26-40; 32.6% for 41+)
- Those aged 18-25 were least likely to go to the village chief for a victim of crime (19.0% vs. 24.1% for 26-40 and 20.7% for 41+) or land dispute (35.7% vs. 44.5% for 26-40 and 42.0% for 41+)
- Those over the age of 41 were most likely to go to family first if they were a victim of a crime (23.1% vs. 16.7% for 18-25 and 15.7% for 26-40).

Beyond the first point of help:

- Older Solomon Islanders were more likely, and young Solomon Islanders least likely, to identify church leaders as another place of assistance to help with disputes relating to victim of crime (34.8%



vs. 32.4% for 26-40 and 25.0% for 18-25) or domestic violence (40.0% vs. 31.7% for 26-40 and 25.5% for 18-25).

The types of disputes Solomon Islanders had been involved in during the last two years, as well as the disputes of greatest impact and first actions chosen to resolve these disputes, differed by age.

Over the last two years:

- Those over 41 years old were less likely to have been involved in a fight or assault (8.3% vs. 21.7% for 18-25 and 20.0% for 26-40)
- Those between 26-40 were most likely to have been involved in domestic violence (22.1% vs. 7.9% for 18-25 and 11.5% for 41+).

For the dispute identified as having the greatest impact of people's lives:

- Those between 18-25 (26.5%) and over 41 (28.7%) were more likely to identify land disputes (compared to 20.7% for 26-40)
- Those between 26-40 were most likely to identify domestic violence (19.3% vs. 9.8% for 18-25 and 7.7% for 41+).

For the dispute of greatest impact, the first action chosen varied by age:

- Young Solomon Islanders (18-25) were the least likely to identify the village chief (20.5% vs. 21.3% for 26-40 and 25.2% for 41+), to reach an agreement with or compensate the other party (3.8% vs. 11.6% for 26-40 and 13.3% for 41+), and were the most likely to consult their family (31.6% vs. 18.1% for 26-40 and 13.0% for 41+).

URBAN AND RURAL

AWARENESS AND PERCEPTIONS OF JUSTICE INSTITUTIONS

Solomon Islanders from urban areas were more likely to be positive about national level improvements in the provision of justice services. While satisfaction with services at national and community levels were broadly similar by location, urban dwellers were:

- Most likely to think that national level services had improved (29.6% vs. 22.4% peri-urban and 21.6% rural) over the last two years, and
- Least likely to feel they had got worse (12.6% vs. 19.9% peri-urban and 18.7% rural).

The types of justice services available within communities differed based on location, as did the types of services Solomon Islanders wished were available in their communities.

- Respondents from urban areas were more likely to identify the police as available (46.5% vs. 35.6% peri-urban and 23.3% rural)
- Those further away from urban centres were more likely to identify village chiefs (76.6% peri-urban and 75.1% rural vs. 27.9% urban) and church leaders (40.2% rural and 30.0% peri-urban vs. 23.4% urban).

In terms of services the Solomon Islanders wished were available to them, the most common response in all areas was the police.

- Police were identified in the highest frequency by those in rural areas (64.9% vs. 44.9% peri-urban and 53.9% urban)

- Peri-urban dwellers were more likely to identify improvements to existing services (24.0% vs. 9.5% urban and 9.8% rural)
- More urban dwellers felt they had all the services they needed (9.3% vs. 6.5% for peri-urban and 4.8% for rural).

Urban based Solomon Islanders reported the highest level of awareness for the roles of different justice institutions, while also reporting to lowest awareness of community leaders.

- Solomon Islanders from urban areas were least likely to have a community leader in their communities (61.7% vs. 95.8% rural and 98.1% peri-urban)
- Those from urban areas were the most likely to be aware of the roles of lawyers (57.0% vs 32.7% rural and 37.3% peri-urban) and courts (50.0% vs. 37.0% rural and 37.7% peri-urban).

How well the police and lawyers were perceived to help solve disputes in communities decreased further away from urban areas, as did perceptions of the accessibility of key justice institutions.

- Urban based Solomon Islanders were the most likely to feel the police (80.4% vs. 72.0% peri-urban and 62.2% rural) and lawyers (78.8% vs. 69.8% peri-urban and 69.1% rural) performed well at solving disputes
- Those from rural areas were more likely to feel that key justice institutions were not accessible to people within their communities, such as with the police (68.5% vs. 89.0% urban and 90.0% peri-urban), lawyers (48.1% compared to 69.8% urban and 63.2% peri-urban) and courts (59.4% vs. 78.6% urban and 74.7% peri-urban).

Those closer to urban areas were both more likely to have heard of their rights under the law and feel that those rights were protected by the law.

- Rural based Solomon Islanders were least likely to have heard of their rights (51.8% vs. 59.5% urban and 62.2% peri-urban)
- For those who had heard of their legal rights, those in urban areas were significantly more likely to believe their rights were protected (87.1% vs. 75.0% peri-urban and 78.4% rural)
- Solomon Islanders from rural areas were the most likely to not know if they had heard of their rights (36.9% vs. 27.5% urban and 30.9% peri-urban) or whether their rights were protected (2.8% vs. 11.8% peri-urban and 7.7% rural).

Perceptions of who owns customary land and resources both on the land (such as trees) and in the land (such as minerals for mining) were mixed across different locations.

- Those from rural and peri-urban areas were most likely to identify that tribes owned customary land (60.7% rural and 67.2% peri-urban vs. 56.1% urban) and resources in the land (24.3% rural and 28.7% peri-urban vs. 16.8% urban) and less likely to think tribes owned resources in the land (73.2% urban vs. 62.4% peri-urban and 58.8% rural)
- Those further from urban areas were more likely to identify individuals as owners of customary land (10.0% rural and 12.7% peri-urban vs. 9.3% urban), resources on the land (7.4% rural and 12.8% peri-urban vs. 5.4% urban) and resources in the land (22.8% rural and 26.1% peri-urban vs. 13.8% urban).
- Those in rural areas were more likely to identify local chiefs as owners of customary land (11.5% vs. 3.9% peri-urban and 9.3% urban) and resources on the land (11.4% vs. 4.2% peri-urban and 0.0% urban)
- Urban based Solomon Islanders were more likely to identify the Solomon Islands Government as owners of customary land (8.6% vs. 3.3% peri-urban and 3.5% rural) and, particularly, resources in the land (23.4% vs. 9.8% peri-urban 9.8% and 12.5% rural).



Perceptions of who Solomon Islanders believe make decisions relating to logging or mining activities also differed by location.

- Peri-urban based Solomon Islanders were most likely to identify that tribes (58.6% vs. 47.2% urban and 48.3% rural) and least likely to identify local chiefs (9.8% vs. 18.6% urban and 20.6% rural) as responsible for making these decisions
- Solomon Islanders in urban areas were least likely to identify individuals as decisions makers (12.7% vs. 15.8% peri-urban and 15.3% rural) and most likely to identify Government (12.7% vs. 9.0% peri-urban and 5.3% rural).

While levels of reported land ownership did not differ by location, those from urban areas were least likely to report have documentation to show their ownership.

- Of Solomon Islanders who owned land, those from peri-urban areas were more likely to have a title or documentation showing ownership (79.8% vs. 71.8% rural and 64.9% urban)
- Those from urban areas were least likely to report holding the land with their tribe (61.2% vs. 85.7% peri-urban and 76.9% rural), and most likely to indicate they held it jointly with other tribes (24.3% vs. 6.8% peri-urban and 15.4% rural) or by themselves (10.2% vs. 4.0% peri-urban and 5.7% rural).

EXPERIENCE OF SEEKING ASSISTANCE AND RESOLVING DISPUTES

Those in rural areas were less likely to have previously sought information about a legal matter, while the perceived usefulness of previous information sought differed by location.

- Rural dwellers were less likely to have sought assistance previously (13.3% vs. 19.5% peri-urban and 20.9% urban) and most likely to feel that the village chief had provided them with the most useful information (15.8% vs. 5.5% peri-urban and 3.6% urban).
- Peri-urban based Solomon Islanders were more likely to identify the police as useful (41.1% vs. 25.9% urban and 26.9% rural) and less likely to identify the PSO (11.0% vs. 20.7% urban and 18.3% rural).

Where Solomon Islanders would first go for help if they were involved in a dispute differed by location, with those in urban areas most likely to identify the police and least likely to go to the village chief.

- Urban dwellers were more likely to identify the police as the first point of help if they or their family were a victim of a crime (65.6% vs. 46.2% peri-urban and 42.2% rural) or domestic violence (45.6% vs. 41.0% peri-urban and 32.7% rural)
- Rural or peri-urban based Solomon Islanders were the most likely to go to the village chief in relation to a victim of crime issue (41.9% rural and 36.0% peri-urban vs. 11.8% urban), domestic violence (25.5% rural and 19.4% peri-urban vs. 8.4% urban) and land disputes (44.8% rural and 42.6% peri-urban vs. 25.9% urban).

Differences emerged in the other places people would go, beyond the first point of help, if they were involved in certain types of disputes.

- Urban Solomon Islanders were least likely to go to the village chief for help relating to victim of crime disputes (26.0% vs. 39.2% peri-urban and 39.4%) and domestic violence (25.4% vs. 42.3% peri-urban and 39.1% rural)
- Rural dwellers were most likely to identify the church leader if they were a victim of crime (34.7% vs. 19.4% peri-urban and 27.7% urban).

The number and types of disputes, as well as the dispute that had greatest impact on the respondent's life, differed across urban, peri-urban and rural locations.

- Solomon Islanders from peri-urban areas were the most likely to have been involved in a dispute in the last two years (28.8% vs. 20.5% urban and 15.2% rural)
- Of those involved in a dispute, land disputes were most prevalent for Solomon Islanders based in urban areas (40.4% vs. 30.3% rural and 16.9% peri-urban areas).

What was considered the dispute to have the greatest impact on people's lives differed by location:

- Those from peri-urban areas were most likely to identify being impacted by family disputes/child support (34.2% vs. 25.6% urban and 23.7% rural) and domestic violence (18.0% vs. 6.7% urban and 12.7% rural), and least likely to identify land disputes (17.4% vs. 30.8% urban and 26.2% rural).

DISABILITY

AWARENESS AND PERCEPTIONS OF JUSTICE INSTITUTIONS

Solomon Islanders who identified as having a disability were less positive with how provision of justice services and with the ways of resolving disputes available in their communities.

- Those with a disability were less satisfied relating to the provision of justice services (51.1% vs. 65.8%) and community level dispute resolution processes (69.8% vs. 81.5%)
- Those with a disability were twice as likely to think that national level justice services had got worse over the last two years (32.7% vs. 16.6%).

Solomon Islanders with a disability were less likely to be aware of certain justice services, while being more pessimistic with the ability of services to resolve disputes and be accessible within communities.

Those with a disability were:

- Less likely to be aware of community leaders (83.4% vs. 90.3%) and the role of lawyers (29.0% vs. 38.7%)
- Less likely to feel that community leaders were accessible to those in their community to assist with solving disputes (83.1% vs. 90.4%)
- More pessimistic in how well community leaders (67.2% vs. 82.2%) and the police (53.2% vs. 68.4%) perform in solving disputes in the community, with a much higher proportion considering that community leaders (9.6% vs. 3.6%) and the police (12.5% vs. 4.0%) provide not help at all.

Solomon Islanders with a disability were less aware of specific provisions in Solomon Islands law for protecting vulnerable groups, such as women, child, and those with a disability.

Those with a disability were:

- Less likely to be aware of provisions to protect women (71.3% vs. 87.5%), children (66.7% vs. 82.2%) and people with disabilities (62.9% vs. 77.8%)
- More likely to not to know whether there were specific provisions in the law protecting women (14.5% vs. 6.8%), children (disability 18.5% vs. 9.8%) and people with disabilities (20.7% vs. 12.0%), and
- Less likely to have heard of their rights under the law (42.8% vs. 55.8%).



Solomon Islanders with a disability were more likely to think that men used violence against women to resolve disputes but were less likely to think men should be punished for doing so.

Solomon Islanders with a disability were:

- More likely to think that, within their community, men use violence to resolve issues with women in their homes (60.0% vs. 54.2%)
- Less likely to think that men should be punished for using violence to resolve disputes (80.4% vs. 87.1%)
- More likely to not know if men use violence to resolve issues with women (6.0% vs. 1.9%) or whether it was justifiable (6.4% vs. 1.2%).

People with a disability were less likely to think there was a requirement to hold documentation demonstrating land ownership, with additional differences by disability relating to decision making for logging or mining.

- Solomon Islanders without a disability were more likely to think that a title or documentation was required to demonstrate land ownership (92.1% vs. 80.5%)
- In relation to decisions on whether land can be used for logging or mining, people without a disability were more likely to identify tribes as decisions makers (50.8% vs. 36.1%) and were less likely to identify individuals (13.8% vs. 20.2%)
- Those with a disability were more likely to indicate they did not know if documentation was required to show land ownership (15.1% vs. 4.6%) or who decides whether land can be used for logging or mining (12.3% vs. 5.3%).

Solomon Islanders with a disability were less likely to believe there were legal requirements for private companies to mitigate the environmental impacts of extractive resource activities, as well as being less likely to think appeals could be made against government granted extractive licences.

Those without a disability were:

- More likely to believe that private companies were required by law to make sure their logging or mining activity would have no negative impacts on the environment (78.5% vs. 60.2%).
- More likely to think that landowners could appeal against a decision by the government to grant a logging or mining licence in their area (82.2% vs. 68.6%)

Those with a disability were:

- Significantly more likely to not know if private company was legally required to minimise the environmental impacts of logging or mining (23.7% vs. 9.4%) or whether landowners could appeal a government granted logging or mining licence (20.6% vs. 7.9%).

EXPERIENCE OF SEEKING ASSISTANCE AND RESOLVING DISPUTES

While there was no difference by disability in relation to having previously sought legal information, differences emerged with the issues people had sought information about and the sources of information.

- Solomon Islanders with a disability were significantly more likely to have sought information about domestic violence (39.7% vs. 16.3%), and more likely to have sought information from village chiefs (36.5% vs. 14.3%).

Differences emerged between those with and without disabilities as to the places they would choose to go to get help if they, or their family, were a victim of a crime or domestic violence.

In relation to the first place they would go for help relating to domestic violence:

- Those with a disability were more likely to go to the village chief (24.7% vs. 21.1%) and family (24.9% vs. 18.1%), and less likely to go to the police (31.5% vs. 36.8%) and church leaders (6.4% vs. 11.3%).

Beyond the first point of assistance, people with a disability were:

- Less likely to identify the police (39.1% vs. 50.2%) and family (6.7% vs. 14.2%) for victim of crime dispute
- Less likely to identify family (7.3% vs. 21.5%) and friends (2.0% vs. 11.9%) for domestic violence disputes.

In terms of the experiences with disputes over the last two years, there was only one difference in terms of disability that related to the first step chosen to resolve a dispute.

- Solomon Islanders without a disability were more likely to consult family (22.4% vs. 0.2%) and report the problem to the police (17.2% vs. 12.9%), while
- Those with a disability were slightly more likely to go to the village chief (28.9% vs. 21.8%).

PROVINCES

AWARENESS AND PERCEPTIONS OF JUSTICE INSTITUTIONS

Those from Central and Choiseul were amongst the most satisfied in terms of the available ways of solving disputes in the community, as well as the most positive regarding changes in justice services at national and community levels. Those from Rennell and Bellona and Malaita were most likely to feel justice service provision had got worse recently.

- Those from Central (89.0%), Choiseul (85.0%) and Isabel (84.7%) were most likely to be satisfied with existing justice services within their communities, while those from Rennell (59.6%), and to a less extent Makira-Ulawa (74.7%) and Temotu (72.6%), were the least satisfied (all other provinces were between 78.0% and 83.3%)
- Solomon Islanders from Central (30.0%), Choiseul (29.3%), Honiara (27.7%) and Western (27.2%) were those most likely to feel that justice services in the Solomon Islands had improved in the last two years, while those from Malaita (15.7%) and Rennell and Bellona (10.9%) were the least likely (all other provinces between 22.0% and 25.8%)
- Those from Rennell and Bellona (44.1%), and to a less extent Malaita (28.0%) were the most likely to feel that services had got worse over the past two years, while those from Temotu (11.3%), Western (11.4%), Choiseul (11.2%) and Honiara (12.4%) were least likely (all other provinces between 13.5% and 21.8%)
- Solomon Islanders from Guadalcanal (36.6%), Central (35.5%) and Choiseul (33.6%) were most likely to feel that the justice services in their community had improved in the last two years, while those from Honiara (28.9%) and Rennell and Bellona (21.5%) were the least likely (all other provinces were between 31.0% and 32.7%)
- Those from Rennell and Bellona (23.1%), Malaita (20.3%) and Isabel (20.9%) were most likely to feel that the justice services in their community had got worse in the last two years, while those from Central (8.5%), Guadalcanal (8.2%) and Choiseul (7.9%) were least likely to think it had got worse (all other provinces were between 9.8% and 14.1%).



Village chiefs were identified as the most common way of dealing with disputes in communities across all provinces, except in Honiara and Rennell and Bellona. The police were most common in Honiara and church leaders in Rennell and Bellona.

- Those from Isabel (89.4%), Temotu (84.5%) and Central (84.1%) were the most likely to identify village chiefs as available to resolve disputes in their communities, while those from Western (49.0%), Rennell and Bellona (44.9%) and Honiara (30.1%) were least likely
- Those from Rennell and Bellona (57.5%), and to a lesser extent Choiseul (45.9%), Malaita (32.9%) and Makira-Ulawa (42.9%), were most likely to report church leaders being available to solve disputes in the community, while those from Central (16.1%) were the least likely
- Those from Western (48.0%), and to a lesser extent Honiara (36.1%) and Choiseul (33.6%) were most likely to report the police being available to solve disputes in the community, while those from Guadalcanal (21.8%), Central (21.6%) and Isabel (17.9%) were least likely.

Solomon Islanders reported high levels of awareness of community leaders in their communities in all provinces, except Honiara. Of those aware of community leaders, those in Choiseul were amongst the most likely to feel community leaders were both able to solve disputes and accessible.

- Those in Honiara (56.6%) and Western (84.2%) were least likely to be aware of a community leader (all other provinces between 92.7% and 99.1%)
- Those from Central (87.7%), Choiseul (85.0%) and Guadalcanal (84.1%) were most likely to feel that community leaders would be able to help solve disputes in communities, while those from Temotu (77.3%), Western (77.1%) and Makira-Ulawa (73.3%) were the least likely (all other provinces between 79.5% and 82.3%)
- Those from Choiseul (93.8%), Rennell and Bellona (93.0%), and Malaita (92.8%) were the most likely to feel that community leaders were accessible to people in the community, while Guadalcanal (86.7%), Isabel (87.1%) and Honiara (87.2%) were the least (all others between 88.5% and 90.7%)

Solomon Islanders from Honiara and Rennell and Bellona reported the highest level of awareness for the roles of formal justice sector institutions. Conversely, those from Central and Isabel reported amongst the lowest levels of awareness.

- Those in Rennell and Bellona (91.9%), and to a less extent Makira-Ulawa (77.1%) and Honiara (76.3%), were the most likely to be aware of the role of the police, while those in Isabel (55.7%), Temotu (55.0%) and Central (50.1%) were the least likely (all other provinces between 63.8% and 74.8%)
- Those from Rennell and Bellona (61.0%), Honiara (59.4%) and Western (41.1%) reported the greatest awareness of the role of the lawyers, while those from Choiseul (29.7%), Central (26.7%) and Makira-Ulawa (21.1%) were lowest (all other provinces between 31.1% and 37.0%).
- Those from Rennell and Bellona (64.0%), Honiara (52.2%) and Malaita (44.4%) were most likely to report being aware of the role of the courts, while those from Isabel (30.4%) and Central (25.1%) were the least likely.

Solomon Islanders from Honiara and Central were amongst the most positive about the ability of formal justice institutions to solve disputes in their communities. In contrast, those from Rennell and Bellona were clearly least positive.

- Those from Honiara (77.9%), Central (75.9%) and Western (73.5%) were most likely to feel the police would help solve disputes in communities, while those from Temotu (58.3%), Makira-Ulawa (47.8%) and, particularly, Rennell and Bellona (37.4%) were least likely (all other provinces between 61.9% and 74.3%)

- Those from Central (84.9%), Isabel (83.1%), Makira-Ulawa (81.9%) and Malaita (81.0%) were most likely to feel that courts would be able to help solve disputes in communities, while those from Rennell and Bellona (63.9%) were least likely (all other provinces between 74.7% and 76.9%)
- Those from Isabel (78.8%), Guadalcanal (77.8%) and Honiara (76.4%) were the most likely to feel that lawyers would do well in resolving disputes, while those from Makira-Ulawa (64.3%), Malaita (63.2%) and Rennell and Bellona (57.0%) were least likely.

Solomon Islanders from Honiara, Western and, to a lesser extent, Malaita reported higher levels of access to formal justice institutions than elsewhere. Those in Rennell and Bellona and Makira-Ulawa were consistently amongst the least likely to feel they had access to these services.

- Those from Honiara (77.9%) and Western (86.8%) were the most likely to feel that police were accessible to people in the community, while those from Rennell and Bellona (37.4%), and Makira-Ulawa (47.8%) were least likely (all other provinces between 63.8% and 78.8%)
- Those from Western (82.7%), Honiara (76.9%) and, to a lesser extent Malaita (67.2%) and Temotu (66.3%), were most likely to report the courts being accessible to people in the community, while those from Choiseul (48.8%), Makira-Ulawa (45.5%) and Rennell and Bellona (39.2%) were least likely
- Solomon Islanders in Western (74.7%), Honiara (70.9%) and, to a lesser extent, Malaita (58.9%) were the most likely feel lawyers were accessible to people in their community, while those in Rennell and Bellona (37.7%) and Makira-Ulawa (32.1%) were the least likely (all other provinces between 40.7% and 48.2%).

Solomon Islanders in Honiara were amongst the most likely to have heard of their rights and to believe they were protected by law. While those from Malaita reported relatively high levels of awareness of their rights, they were amongst the least likely to feel that those rights were protected.

- Those from Honiara (66.3%), Malaita (64.8%), Rennell and Bellona (61.1%) and Temotu (60.0%) were most likely to report having heard of their rights, while those from Isabel (41.4%), Choiseul (38.4%) and Central (36.6%) were least likely (all other provinces between 46.5% and 54.7%)
- Nearly one in five respondents from Choiseul (20.1%) and Western areas (21.3%) did not know if they had heard of their legal rights (compared to between 4.6% and 12.1%)
- Of those who had heard of their legal rights, those from Central (88.4%), Makira-Ulawa (86.9%), Honiara (86.7%), Western (86.2%), Isabel (85.8%) and Temotu (84.0%) were most likely to believe the law protected their rights, where as those from Guadalcanal (75.9%) and Malaita (71.0%) were least (all other provinces between 78.8% and 80.7%).

Understanding of legal rights varied across different provinces. Those from Rennell and Bellona and Malaita were amongst those reporting highest levels of believing that someone could be held for as long as the police wanted or until the police decided. Those from Malaita were also amongst the most likely to think that police could hurt or threaten people to get them to cooperate.

- Those from Central (49.9%), Malaita (48.5%) and Western (47.5%) were most likely to think that police were allowed to hurt or threaten people to get them to cooperate, while those from Rennell and Bellona (36.4%) and Honiara (36.1%) were least likely (all other provinces between 40.6% and 45.4%)
- Those from Western (59.9%), Temotu (50.5%), Choiseul (50.2%) and Isabel (49.1%) were the most likely to believe someone could be arrested and held in jail for up to seven days before having to see a judge, while those in Malaita (25.7%) and Rennell and Bellona (24.3%) were least likely



- Those from Rennell and Bellona (18.2%), Malaita (17.6%) and Honiara (13.7%) were most likely to think that people could be held for as long as police liked before seeing a judge (compared to between 0.4% and 11.4%)
- Those from Rennell and Bellona (15.8%), Makira-Ulawa (11.3%) and Malaita (10.3%) were the most likely to think that people could be held without seeing a judge until the court decides differently (all other provinces between 2.6% and 9.9%).

Solomon Islanders from difference provinces were mixed in their perceptions of the occurrence, justification and possible punishment from men using violence to resolve issues with women in their homes.

- Those in Isabel (81.3%), Temotu (76.3%), Central (65.7%) or Western (64.7%) were most likely to think that in their community men use violence to resolve issues with women in their homes, while those from Rennell and Bellona (59.9%), Makira-Ulawa (59.4%) and Honiara (58.2%) were least likely (all other provinces between 49.4% and 55.9%)
- Those in Malaita (10.0%), Guadalcanal (7.4%) and Makira-Ulawa (6.4%) were most likely to feel it can be justified for men to use violence to resolve issues with women in their home, while those in Rennell and Bellona (2.4%), Western (2.0%), Isabel (1.5%) and Temotu (1.3%) were least likely (all other provinces between 4.8% and 5.7%)
- Those in Western (91.1%), Rennell and Bellona (91.1%) Isabel (89.4%), and Malaita (88.9%) were most likely to feel that men should be punished for using violence against women to resolve a dispute, while those Makira-Ulawa (81.2%), Temotu (81.7%) and Central (79.9%), were least likely (all other provinces between 85.2% and 86.4%).

Consistent differences emerged by province in relation to perceptions of who owned customary land and resources in and on the land. Solomon Islanders from Temotu, Malaita and Makira-Ulawa tended to be most likely to identify tribes as the main land owner, while those from Rennell and Bellona stood out significantly with high rates of residents believing individuals owned the customary land and different resources. Residents of particularly Western, as well as Makira-Ulawa and Choiseul, were amongst those most likely to identify village chiefs as owners, while those from Western and Honiara were also more likely to think the Solomon Islands Government owned land and resources more than elsewhere.

For ownership of customary land:

- Those from Temotu (73.4%), Malaita (68.5%) and Makira-Ulawa were most likely to think tribes own customary land (all other provinces between 38.6% and 64.8%)
- Those from Rennell and Bellona (45.3%) were significantly more likely to think individuals own customary land (all other provinces between 6.9% and 11.9%).
- Those from Western (22.3%) and, to a lesser extent, Makira-Ulawa (15.4%) and Choiseul (14.4%) were the most likely to think local chiefs own customary land (all other provinces between 2.8% and 7.6%).
- Those in Western (8.4%) and Honiara (6.9%) were most likely to think the Solomon Islands Government own customary land (all other provinces between 0.8% and 5.5%)
- Those from Western (18.3%), Central (16.8%) and Isabel (16.1%) were most likely to not know who owned customary lands (all other provinces between 3.6% and 11.5%).

For resources on the land (such as forests):

- Those from Temotu (70.3%), Malaita (72.0%) and Makira-Ulawa (68.1%) were most likely to identify tribes as owners of resources on the land (all other provinces between 44.6% and 65.0%)
- Those from Rennell and Bellona (43.4%) were significantly more likely to think individuals owned resources on the land (all other provinces between 7.1% to 16.6%)
- Those from Western (17.3%), Choiseul (13.5%) and Makira-Ulawa (13.5%) were most likely to consider that local chiefs owned resources on the land (all other provinces between 0.8% and 6.9%).
- Those from Honiara (10.0%) and Western (7.4%) were most likely to think the Solomon Islands Government owned resources on the land (all other provinces between 1.9% and 6.1%)
- Those from Western (14.9%), Isabel (13.9%) and Central (11.8%) were most likely to report they did not know who owned resources on the land.

For resources in the land (such as minerals for mining):

- Those from Rennell and Bellona (54.7%) were significantly more likely to report individuals as owning the resources in the land, with those from Western (9.9%) the least likely (all other provinces between 15.9% and 31.3%)
- Those from Malaita (40.2%) and Makira-Ulawa (32.3%) were most likely to identify tribes as owning the resources in the land (all other provinces between 5.0% and 25.6%)
- Those from Western (36.6%) were by far the most likely to report local chiefs as owning the resources in the land, while those from Rennell and Bellona (2.8%) were least likely (all other provinces between 9.1% and 20.6%)
- Those in Central (24.1%), Honiara (20.7%) and Western (18.8%) were the most likely to identify the Solomon Islands Government as owning sources in the land (all other provinces between 2.3% and 16.6%).

There were a number of similarities by provinces between the groups identified as land owners and those identified as decisions on whether land can be used for logging or mining. Overall, tribes were still identified as the most commonly identified group but differences emerged between specific provinces.

- Those from Makira-Ulawa (60.9%), Isabel (59.0%), Honiara (55.8%) and Guadalcanal (52.7%) were most likely to think tribes made decisions on whether land can be used for logging or mining, while those from Choiseul (35.8%) and Western (24.8%) were least likely (all others between 41.4% and 47.1%)
- Those from Choiseul (42.4%) and Western (37.1%) were most likely to think local chiefs decided who whether land can be used for logging or mining, while those from Rennell and Bellona (4.0%) were least likely (all other provinces between 8.1% and 22.5%)
- Those from Rennell and Bellona (33.6%) were significantly more likely to believe that individuals could make these decisions (all other provinces between 3.3% and 16.0%).
- Those from Temotu (14.2%) and Honiara (11.6%) were the most likely to believe that decisions on logging and mining were made by the Solomon Islands Government (all other provinces between 5.2% and 9.9%)
- Those from Central (13.0%) and Western (12.4%) were most likely to not know who made these decisions (all other provinces between 2.6% and 6.2%).

While reports of land ownership varied by province, those from Malaita were amongst the most likely to identify as land owners and reported the highest levels of possessing documentation to



demonstrate that ownership, while those from Temotu reported amongst the lowest rates of land ownership and possession of supporting title or documentation.

- Those in Choiseul (75.5%), Malaita (71.3%) and Guadalcanal (70.0%) were most likely to consider themselves land owners, while those from Temotu (58.5%), Western (57.4%) and Isabel (56.8%) were least likely (all other provinces between 61.5% and 67.1%)
- Of those who owned land, those from Malaita (87.6%) were the most likely to have a title or documentation demonstrating ownership, while those from Temotu (56.0%) and Central (54.6%) were least likely (all other provinces between 62.3% and 70.6%)
- Those from Honiara (95.2%), Temotu (95.0%), Malaita (93.5%) and Guadalcanal (91.4%) were most likely to consider that this documentation was required to show ownership of the land, while those from Isabel (82.1%) were least likely (all other provinces between 88.6% and 89.5%).

Solomon Islanders from Temotu were amongst the most likely to report they believed a private company legally had to mitigate environmental impacts before starting logging or mining work, while also being amongst the most likely to report being aware that landowners could appeal a government decision to grant a logging or mining licence. In contrast, those from Choiseul, Western and, to a lesser extent, Rennell and Bellona were amongst the least likely to be aware of either private sector responsibility or the ability of landowners to appeal.

For awareness of whether a private company is required by law to make sure that logging or mining work does not have negative impacts on the environment:

- Those from Makira-Ulawa (86.2%), Temotu (86.1%) and Malaita (85.4%) were most likely to believe that a private company were required by law to make sure that the work does not have negative impacts on the environment, while those from Choiseul (72.1%), Western (71.4%) and Rennell and Bellona (70.3%) were least likely (all other provinces between 76.5% and 80.3%)
- Those from Temotu (17.3%), Western (16.1%), Central (15.8%) and Choiseul (14.0%) were most likely to not know if private companies were responsible for minimising environmental impacts of resource extraction (all other provinces between 5.3% and 10.3%).

For the ability of landowners to appeal against a government decision to grant a logging or mining licence in their area:

- Those from Temotu (92.1%) and, to a lesser extent, Honiara (85.1%) and Guadalcanal (84.8%) were most likely to believe that landowners could appeal against a decision by the government to grant a logging or mining licence in their area, while those from Choiseul (76.0%) and Western (73.3%) were least likely (all other provinces between 77.7% and 82.5%)
- Those from Western (19.3%), Isabel (13.9%), Choiseul (11.8%), Central (11.6%) and Rennell and Bellona (10.1%) were more likely to not know if government decisions could be appealed by landowners (all other provinces between 2.5% and 6.9%)

Those from Rennell and Bellona and Malaita were amongst those who reported greatest levels of awareness of provisions in Solomon Islands laws protecting women, children and people with disabilities. Those from Makira-Ulawa reported amongst the highest levels for children and people with disabilities, but lowest for protections for women. Those from Central and Choiseul reported amongst the lowest levels of awareness for legal protections for these vulnerable groups.

For awareness of provisions in Solomon Islands laws protecting women:

- Those from Western (91.1%), Rennell and Bellona (91.1%), Malaita (88.9%) and Isabel (89.4%) were the most likely to be aware of provisions in Solomon Islands laws protecting women, while those from Temotu (81.7%), Makira-Ulawa (81.2%) and Central (79.9%) were the least (all other provinces were between 85.2% and 86.3%).

For awareness of provisions in Solomon Islands laws protecting children:

- Those from Rennell and Bellona (92.3%), Malaita (87.0%) and Makira-Ulawa (86.5%) were most likely to be aware of provisions in the Solomon Islands laws protecting children, while those from Isabel (74.7%), Central (71.2%) and Choiseul (66.4%) were least likely (all other provinces between 76.7% and 83.1%)
- Those from Western (18.8%) and Choiseul (22.7%) were most likely not to know whether protections of children existed (all other provinces between 1.3% and 11.8%).

For awareness of provisions in Solomon Islands laws protecting women people with disabilities:

- Those from Rennell and Bellona (94.7%), Makira-Ulawa (91.7%) and Malaita (91.2%) were most likely to believe there were provisions in the law protecting people with disabilities, while those from Isabel (77.7%), Central (76.1%) and Choiseul (74.7%) were least likely (all other provinces between 82.1% and 88.8%)
- Those from Choiseul (17.9%) and Western (12.9%) were most not to know if protections for people with disability existed (all other provinces between 2.4% and 8.7%).

EXPERIENCE OF SEEKING ASSISTANCE AND RESOLVING DISPUTES

Solomon Islanders from Honiara and Temotu were amongst the most, and those from Western and Guadalcanal least, likely to have previously sought information about a legal problem and to have been involved in a dispute over the last two years.

- Solomon Islanders from Temotu (24.2%), Honiara (23.7%) and Central (19.1%) were the most likely to reported having previously sought information about a legal problem, while those from Western (13.4%), Makira-Ulawa (13.2%), Guadalcanal (12.8%) and Isabel (12.8%) were least likely (all other provinces between 14.6% and 16.6%)
- Solomon Islanders from Rennell and Bellona (33.5%), Temotu (28.5%) and Honiara (24.7%) were the most likely to report having been involved in a dispute in the past two years, while those from Guadalcanal (12.9%), Choiseul (12.3%) and Western (11.7%) were the least likely (all other provinces between 14.1% and 22.3%).

For those who had sought previous legal information, the police were identified as the most useful information source in all provinces except Central, who identified village chiefs, and Guadalcanal, who nominated the PSO.

- Those from Choiseul (47.2%), Isabel (40.0%) and Western (37.0%) were most likely to identify the police, while those from Central (23.5%), Rennell and Bellona (17.1%) and Guadalcanal (16.1%) were the least likely (all other provinces between 25.7% and 31.6%)
- Those from Central (24.7%), Isabel (22.9%), Temotu (19.1%) and Rennell and Bellona (17.1%) were most likely to identify village chiefs, while those in Choiseul (8.3%), Guadalcanal (6.5%) and Honiara (1.7%) were least likely (all other provinces were between 13.2% and 19.1%)
- Those from Guadalcanal (25.8%) and Malaita (21.1%) and, to a lesser extent, Temotu (17.2%) and Honiara (16.9%) were most likely to identify the PSO as the most useful, while those from Central (8.6%) and Isabel (5.7%) were least likely (all others between 11.1% and 14.8%).

When asked the first point of help they would pursue if they or their family were a victim of a crime, those from Choiseul, Guadalcanal, Honiara, Malaita, Rennell and Bellona and Western were most likely to identify the police, while those from Central, Temotu, Makira-Ulawa and Isabel nominated the village chief.



- Those from Honiara (65.5%), Western (57.4%) and Malaita (52.9%) were most likely to identify the police as the first point of help if they or their family were a victim of a crime (all other provinces between 22.2% and 47.0%)
- Those from Central (64.3%), Isabel (59.7%) and Makira-Ulawa (53.8%) were the most likely to identify the village chief in relation to victim of crime disputes (all other provinces between 6.5% and 47.5%)
- Those from Rennell and Bellona (17.8%) were significantly more likely to identify church leaders compared to any other province (between 2.6% and 8.8%).

When asked the first point of help they would pursue if they or their family were a victim of domestic violence, residents of Choiseul, Guadalcanal, Honiara, Isabel, Malaita and Western were most likely to identify the police, while those from Central and Makira-Ulawa identified village chief, and Rennell and Bellona and Temotu residents identified family. Those from Rennell and Bellona and Malaita were most likely to identify church leaders.

- Those from Western (52.0%) and Honiara (43.8%) were most likely to identify the police as the first point of help if they or their family were a victim of domestic violence (all other provinces were between 19.9% and 39.7%)
- Those from Central (46.3%) were significantly more likely to identify village chiefs as the first point of help for domestic violence (all other provinces were between 6.1% and 25.9%)
- Those from Temotu (32.9%), Rennell and Bellona (27.9%) and Isabel (25.3%) were more likely to identify family as a first point of help for domestic violence (all other provinces were between 14.6% and 21.7%)
- Those Rennell and Bellona (25.1%) and Malaita (17.6%) were most likely to identify church leaders as a first point of help for domestic violence (all other provinces were between 2.5% and 12.5%).

When asked the first point of help they would pursue if they or their family were involved in a land dispute, respondents from all provinces identified the village chief although those from Western, Honiara and Malaita were less likely to identify them than those from other provinces. Beyond this, there was a diversity of other groups which were identified more frequently by different provinces.

- Those in Temotu (75.8%), Central (70.0%), Isabel (61.5%) and Makira-Ulawa (59.8%) were the most likely to identify the village chief as the first point of help for land disputes, while those in Western (33.5%), Honiara (30.1%) and Malaita (29.5%) were least likely (all other provinces were between 39.1% and 48.5%)
- Those in Malaita (26.1%), Honiara (20.9%) and Rennell and Bellona (19.4%) were more likely to identify the police as the first point of help for land disputes, while those from Central (10.9%), Choiseul (10.0%), Isabel (9.5%) and Makira-Ulawa (6.8%) were the least likely (all other provinces were between 11.7% and 17.8%)
- Those from Makira-Ulawa (14.3%), Choiseul (14.0%), Malaita (12.6%) and Guadalcanal (10.3%) were most likely to identify the House of Chiefs as the first point of contact for those involved in a land dispute, while those from Rennell and Bellona (4.5%), Western (4.0%), Temotu (2.5%) and Isabel (1.5%) were the least likely (all other provinces were between 5.9% and 8.8%).

SECTION 3

DETAILED RESULTS

PERCEPTIONS OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

A core element of this research was to obtain insight into Solomon Islander perceptions of the performance of the justice system. This section reports on these perceptions and the available ways of resolving disputes at national and community levels.

PERCEPTIONS OF JUSTICE SERVICES

PERCEPTIONS OF JUSTICE SERVICES AT NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY LEVELS

Solomon Islanders were broadly positive in their perceptions of justice services but were more satisfied with services available in their communities compared to the government provision of justice services at a national level (Figure 2). Within their communities, 80.6% of Solomon Islanders were satisfied with the available services, compared to 64.7% with justice services at a national level.

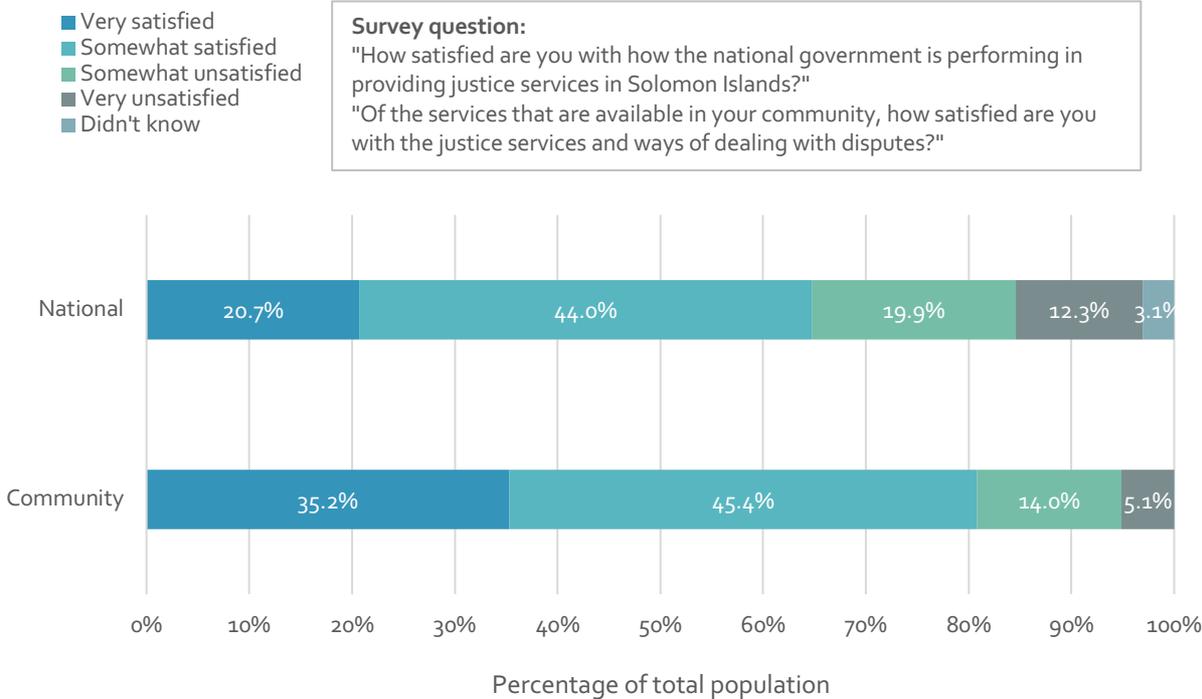


Figure 2: Satisfaction with justice services on a national and community level



GENDER

Perceptions of justice serves were similar by gender, with men tending to be slightly more positive.

While responses were similar at a national level, men were more satisfied with ways of resolving disputes in the community than women (83.5% compared to 77.9%). At national and community levels, women were more likely to be very satisfied, while men were more likely to be somewhat satisfied. At a community level, women were twice as likely to be very unsatisfied (6.9% compared to 3.2%).

AGE

Satisfaction with the provision of justice services by government in Solomon Islands decreased with age. Young Solomon Islanders (18-25 years old) were more satisfied with the provision of services (71.9%) compared to older demographics (64.9% for 26-40; 58.6% for 41+).

DISABILITY

Solomon Islanders with a disability were significantly less satisfied with justice services than those without a disability (Figure 3). This was reflected at community (69.8% compared to 81.5%) and national (51.1% compared to 65.8%) levels. Those with a disability were nearly twice as likely to be very unsatisfied as those without a disability (9.4% compared to 4.7% at community level; 20.7% compared to 11.6% at national level).

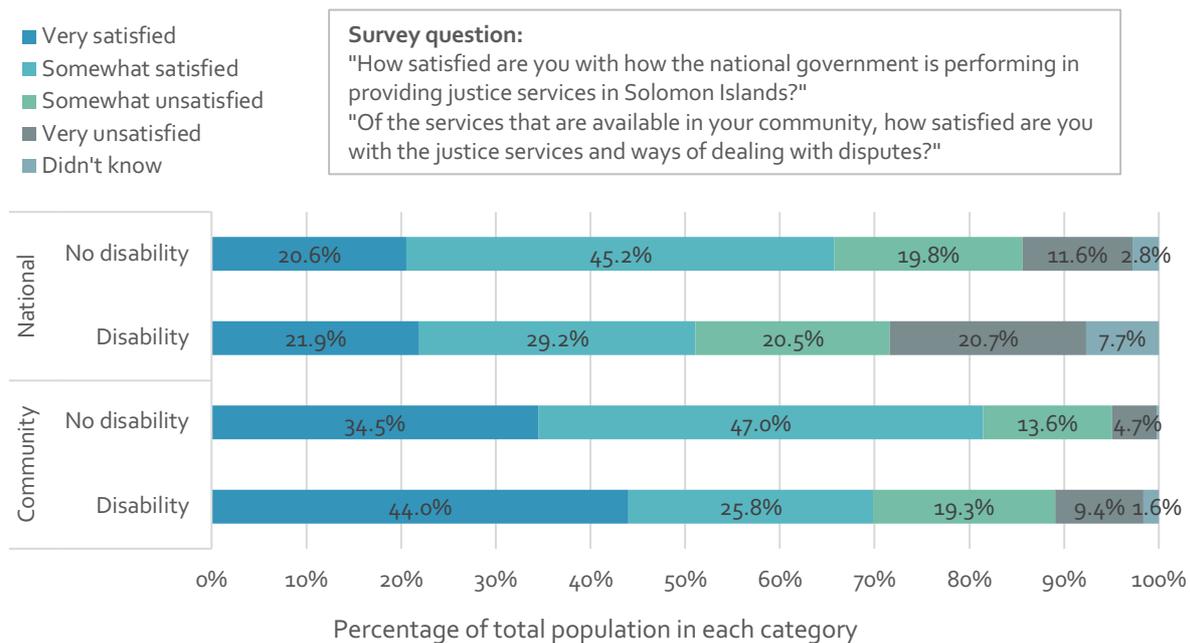


Figure 3: Satisfaction with justice services in the community by disability

CHANGES IN PERCEPTIONS OF JUSTICE SERVICES

Perceptions of changes in justice services over the last two years were similar at national and community levels (Figure 4). While more Solomon Islanders felt that improvements had been achieved with justice services available in their communities (32.6%) compared to a national level (23.2%), the majority felt that the quality of services had remained the same (52.4% at community level; 55.4% at national level). A

minority of Solomon Islanders felt that justice services and ways of dealing with disputes had got worse at community (13.2%) and national (17.8%) levels.

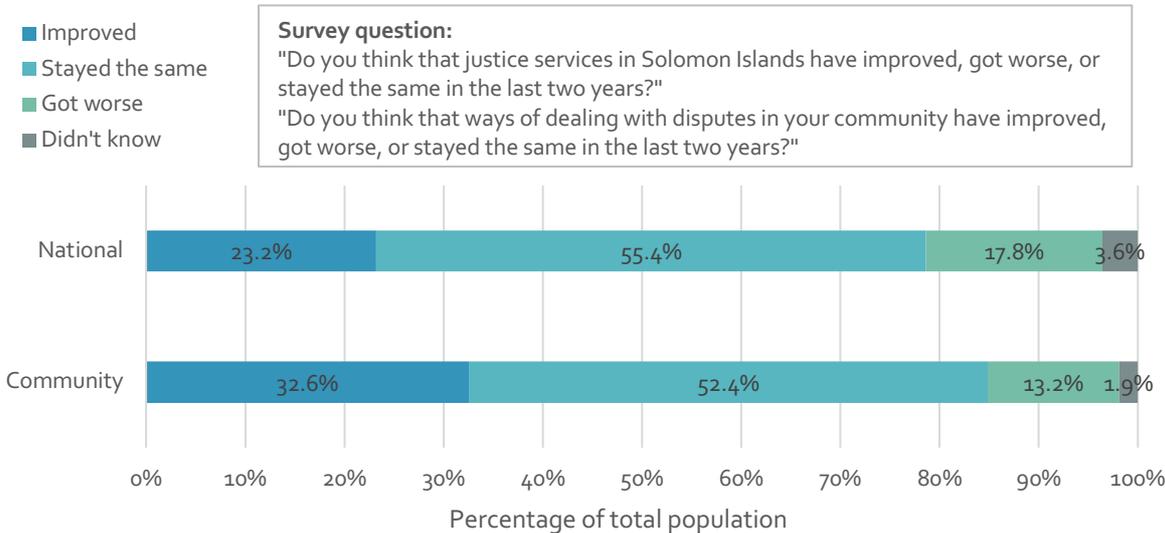


Figure 4: Change in quality of justice services over time nationally and locally

GENDER

Women were more positive in their perceptions of improvements in justice services. Women were more likely to feel that the ways of dealing with disputes in their community had improved (37.5% compared to 27.4%) as well as marginally more likely to feel justice services had improved at a national level (24.6% compared to 21.8%). Men were more likely to feel the services had stayed the same (59.0% compared to 46.1% community level; 58.8% compared to 52.2% national level).

AGE

At a national level, young Solomon Islanders (18-25) were more positive about changes in justice services than older demographics. They were more likely to think that services had improved (29.0% compared those older (22.6% for 26-40 and 18.9% for 41+). Conversely, at a national level those over 41 years old (20.2%) were most likely to feel that services had worsened (compared to 16.7% for 18-25 and 16.2% for 26-40).

LOCATION

At a national level, Solomon Islanders from urban areas were more positive about changes in justice services compared to elsewhere. Urban based Solomon Islanders were more likely to feel that justice services had improved (29.6%) in the last two years compared to the peri-urban (22.4%) and rural (21.6%) dwellers. They were least likely to feel they had got worse (12.6%) when compared to those in peri-urban (19.9%) and rural areas (18.7%).



DISABILITY

Solomon Islanders with a disability were significantly more negative about changes in justice services at a national level than those without disabilities. Solomon Islanders with a disability were twice as likely to think that justice services had got worse (32.7% compared to 16.6%).

JUSTICE SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY

AVAILABLE JUSTICE SERVICES

The most prominent justice service or way of dealing with disputes available within the community was through the village chief (identified by 66.5% of respondents). This was followed by church leaders (35.5%), the police (29.5%), family (11.5%) and other community leaders (8.7%). A small number (4.6%) reported that they felt no justice services were available.

DESIRED JUSTICE SERVICES

The justice service that Solomon Islanders most often wished was available in their community was the police (59.8%). The next most common response was that respondents wished that existing services would be improved (12.0%). In terms of other formal services, the most commonly identified were the House of Chiefs (9.9%) and Local Court (6.1%), but these were identified by relatively few. A smaller number of Solomon Islanders felt they had all the services they needed (5.9%) while 9.1% reported they did not know what services they wished were available.

GENDER

Men reported greater availability of justice services or ways of dealing with disputes within their communities than women. This was true of village chiefs (69.3% compared to 63.9%), church leaders (38.1% compared to 33.1%) and the police (32.4% compared to 26.7%).

The justice services Solomon Islanders wished were available in their communities also differed by gender. Men identified police (69.4% compared to 50.7%) and local courts (9.7% compared to 2.7%), while more women believed that existing services should be improved (17.4% compared to 6.3%). More women did not know what services they wished were available (14.7% compared to 3.3%).

LOCATION

The availability of various justice services and ways of dealing with disputes differed by location (Figure 5). Village chiefs were identified significantly more in peri-urban (76.6%) or rural (75.1%) areas compared to urban areas (27.9%), while church leaders were more available in rural areas (40.2%), than peri-urban (30.0%) and urban (23.4%) areas. Conversely, the police were reported as being more available in urban areas (46.5%) than peri-urban (35.6%) and rural (23.3%) areas.

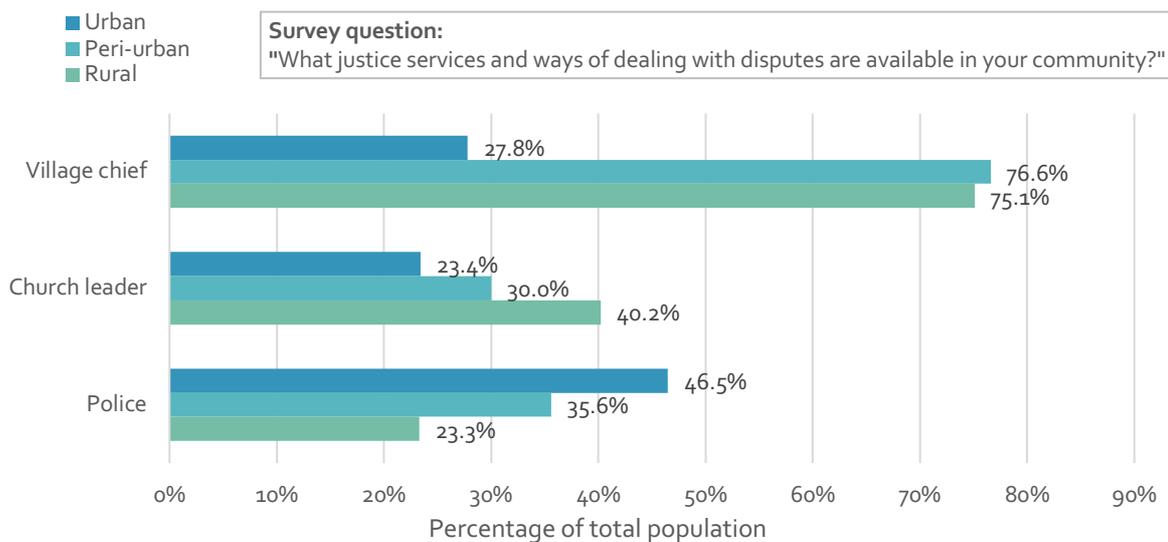


Figure 5: Most commonly available justice services by location type

The justice services and ways of dealing with disputes desired by Solomon Islanders differed across locations. Solomon Islanders from rural areas were more likely to wish that the police were available (64.9% compared to 44.9% peri-urban and 53.9% urban). Peri-urban dwellers were more likely to identify improvements to existing services (24.0%) and church leaders (3.7%) compared to those in urban (9.5% and 0.6%) and rural (9.8% and 1.2%) areas. Urban dwellers were most likely to feel they had all the services they needed (9.3% compared to 6.5% peri-urban and 4.8% rural).

AWARENESS AND PERCEPTIONS OF JUSTICE INSTITUTIONS

This research sought to better understand the awareness that Solomon Islanders had of different justice institutions. This section reports on awareness of community leaders, police, courts and lawyers, including their perceived contribution to resolving disputes and accessibility in communities.

AWARENESS AND USE OF DIFFERENT JUSTICE INSTITUTIONS

AWARENESS AND USE OF JUSTICE INSTITUTIONS

Solomon Islanders reported high levels of awareness in relation to community leaders and police but lower levels for other formal institutions (Figure 6). The majority reported being aware of the presence of community leaders in their communities (89.8%) and the role of the police (70.8%). Awareness of other formal justice institutions was low, with just over one-third reporting they were aware of the role of courts (39.5%) and lawyers (37.9%). The most commonly identified types of lawyers were the PSO (55.5%) followed by private lawyers (42.2%), while the most commonly identified courts were the Local Court (49.7%) and Magistrate's Court (43.1%).

In relation to use of lawyers and courts, more Solomon Islanders reported that someone from their household had sought assistance from lawyers (48.7% of the 970 who were aware of them) **than from the courts** (33.7% of 1,008) in the last three years. Reflecting the lawyers and courts which Solomon Islanders were most aware of, the lawyers most commonly identified as having been where people sought assistance



were the PSO (44.7%) and private lawyers (40.5%), while the courts were the Magistrate’s Court (38.6%) and Local Court (27.2%).

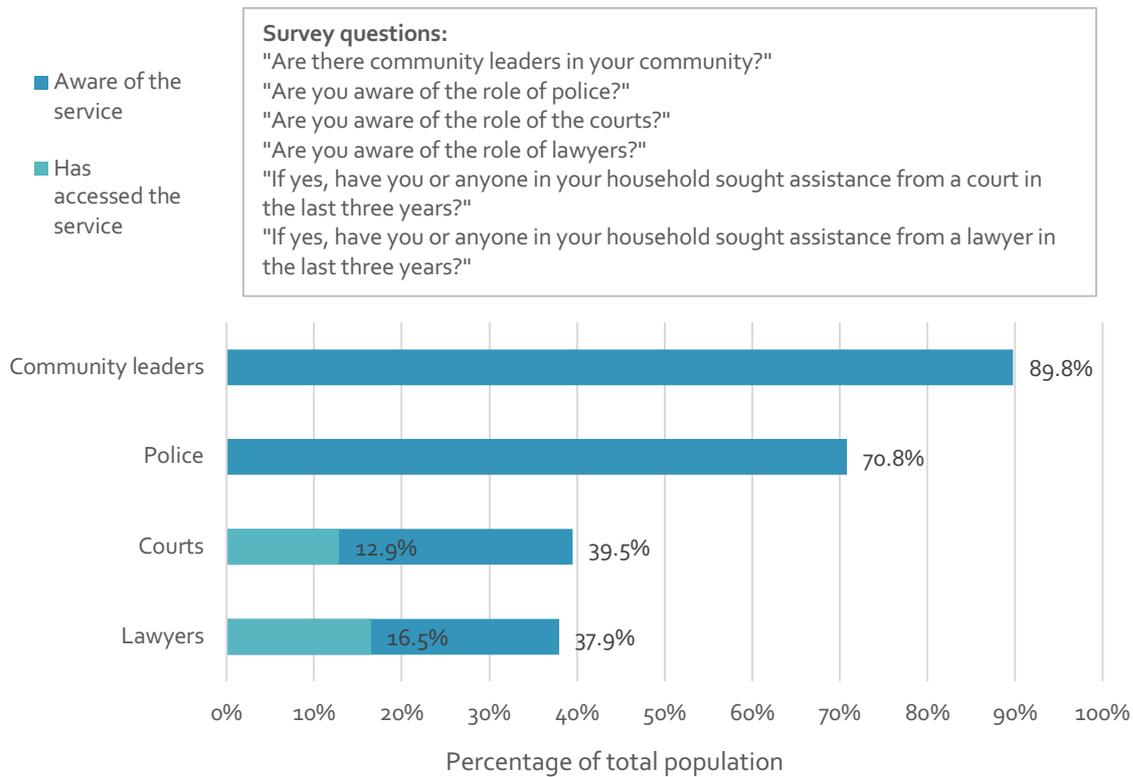


Figure 6: Bar chart comparing awareness of and use made of justice services

GENDER

Women were significantly less aware of the role of formal justice institutions than men. Women reported lower levels of awareness than men relating to the roles the police (68.0% compared to 73.8%), the courts (49.3% compared to 71.1%) and lawyers (31.9% compared to 44.3%). That women reported lower levels of formal justice institutions than men were confirmed through the focus group discussions (Box 1).

Box 1: Women were less aware of formal justice institutions

Through the focus group discussions, men consistently reported greater awareness of formal justice institutions than women. Overall, men consistently reported greater awareness of the different types of organisations that could be engaged, such as the PSO and private lawyers, as well as tending to more regularly identify specific forums available to resolve legal issues, such as the House of Chiefs, Local Courts and Magistrate’s Courts. Women were both less aware of the formal sector institutions and identified a much narrower range of places to seek assistance.

AGE

Young Solomon Islanders (18-25) were significantly less likely to report being aware of the role of formal justice institutions than older demographics. Those between 18-25 years reported the lowest levels of awareness for the police (65.0% compared to 73.8% for 26-40 and 72.8% for 41+), courts (31.8% compared to 43.1% and 42.5%), and lawyers (32.2% compared to 42.6% and 38.2%). Young Solomon Islanders were also less likely to be aware of the House of Chiefs (13.8% compared to 28.6% for 26-40 and 25.2% for 41+).

LOCATION

Awareness of the presence of community leaders and the roles of formal justice institutions differed between those in urban, peri-urban and rural areas. Urban based Solomon Islanders were more likely to be aware of the role of the courts (50.0% compared to 37.7% peri-urban and 37.0% rural) and lawyers (57.0% compared to 37.3% and 32.7%). Those from urban areas were significantly less likely to report being aware of a community leader in their community (61.7% compared to 98.1% and 95.8%).

Awareness of the different types of courts differed by location (Figure 7). Solomon Islanders from urban areas were more likely to be aware of the Magistrates' Court (56.9% compared to 41.9% peri-urban and 38.1% rural) and the High Court (32.8% compared to 19.5% and 20.9%) but less likely to be aware of Local Courts (40.1% compared to 48.6% and 53.6%). Rural Solomon Islanders were most likely to be aware of the House of Chiefs (27.2% compared to 19.2% urban and 16.4% peri-urban).

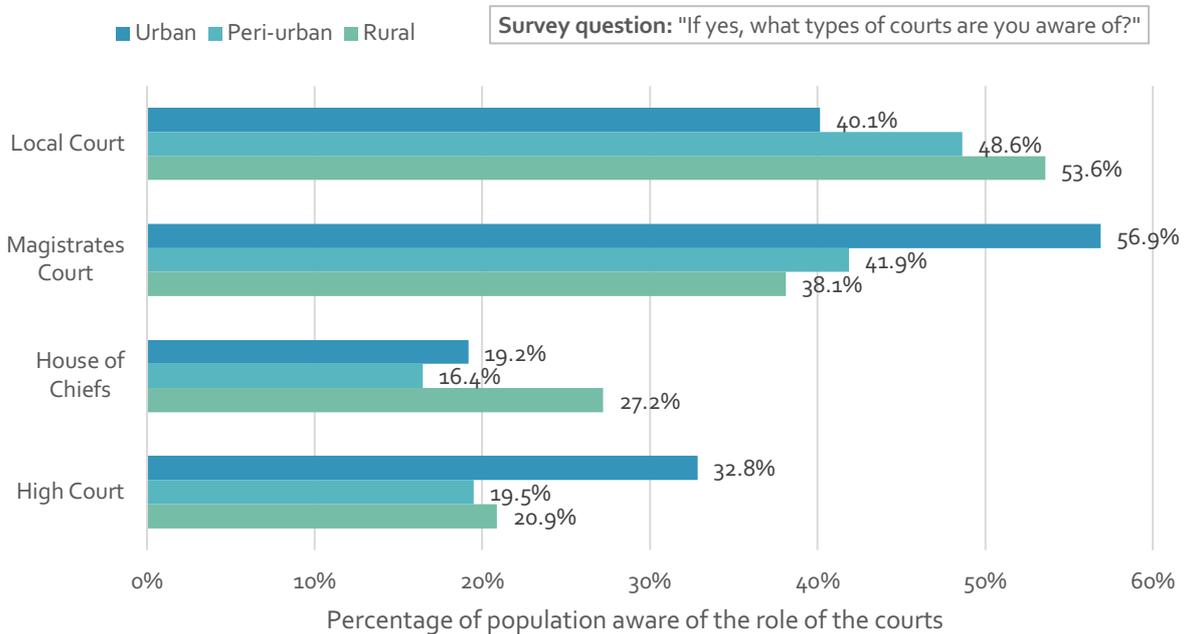


Figure 7: Awareness of the different types of courts in urban, peri-urban and rural areas



DISABILITY

Solomon Islanders with a disability were less likely to be aware of community leaders and lawyers.

Those with a disability were less likely to be aware of the presence of community leaders (83.4%) or the role of lawyers (29.0%) than those without a disability (90.3% and 38.7%).

PERFORMANCE IN RESOLVING DISPUTES

The Solomon Islanders that were aware of the presence of community leaders (n=2,430) and the role of police (n=1,781), courts (n=1,008) and lawyers (n=970) expressed varying levels of satisfaction with how well these groups help to solve disputes in their communities (Figure 8). **Solomon Islanders perceived that community leaders performed best in helping to solve disputes in their communities (81.4%).** This was followed by the courts (77.9%) and lawyers (71.8%), with the police identified as performing least well in helping to solve disputes (67.3%).

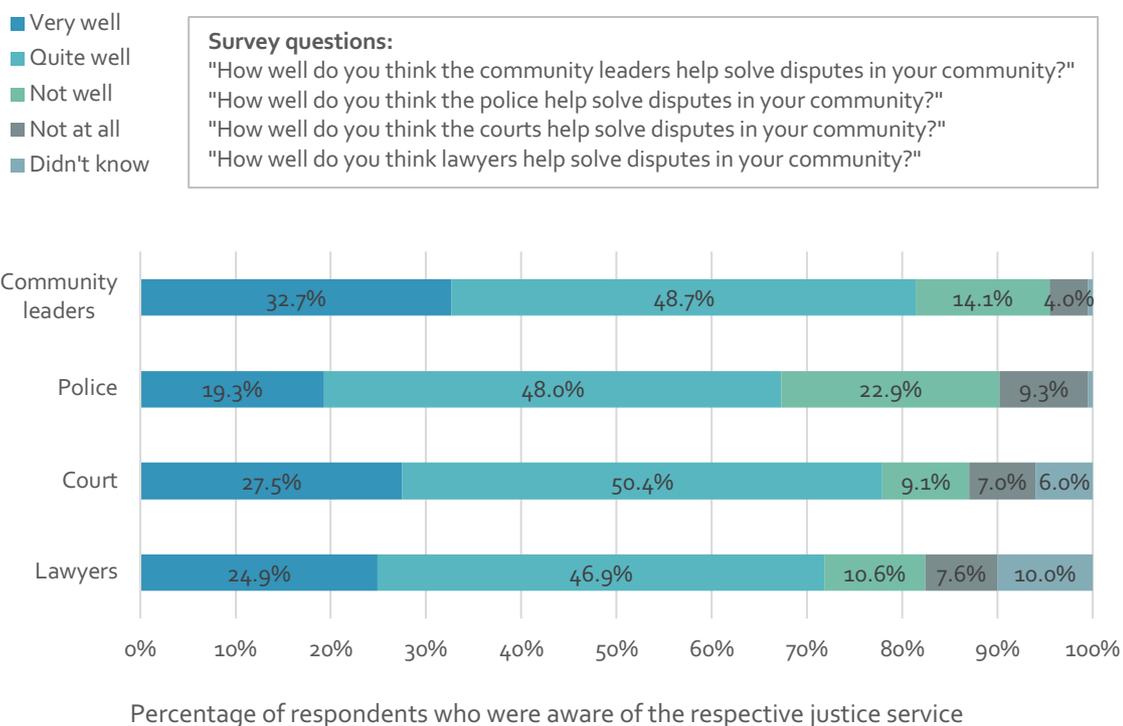


Figure 8: Satisfaction with the justice service in question as percentage of those aware of the service

Nearly one-third of those who were aware of the police felt they were not performing well in helping to solve disputes (32.2%), which was noticeably higher than for community leaders (14.1%), courts (16.1%) and lawyers (18.2%). Solomon Islanders were most likely to say that they did not know how well the courts (6.0%) or lawyers (9.7%) were helping to solve disputes in their community. Perceptions of poor police performance in solving disputes within communities were confirmed through the focus group discussions (Box 2).

Box 2: Questions were raised police performance in solving disputes within communities

A common theme amongst focus group discussion participants was that, while they might be aware of the police, they were often not confident in the police to assist with solving disputes in their community. The reasons for this were multi-faceted.

One theme was to question the impartiality of the police. This included where specific police officers were perceived as friends, or Wantok, with people in communities and were perceived not to investigate an issue as a result of their close connection with an alleged perpetrator. Conversely, others said they were aware of situations where the police had to a community to arrest someone at the bequest of someone who they knew well that was having a relatively minor dispute with the other person in the community.

Another more common story was that people would request the support of the police but considered that the police would “make up an excuse” not to come. While some noted that the police were not well resourced and faced significant challenges with servicing the areas they were commissioned to cover, others perceived this as disinterest of the police to actually fulfil their responsibilities.

Regardless, focus group discussion participants expressed a general view that while they might be aware of the police, they were not they would perform the role of solving community disputes.

GENDER

Men were significantly more likely to feel that community leaders, police, courts, and lawyers performed the task of solving disputes well when compared to women (Figure 9). While men were more likely to feel that community leaders solved disputes well (83.8% compared to 78.7%), they were substantially more likely to be positive about the performance of the police (79.5% compared to 54.7%), courts (83.8% compared to 68.1%) and lawyers (77.7% compared to 64.1%).

Women were significantly more likely to feel the police did not perform well (44.3% compared to 20.5%), as with courts (26.4% compared to 9.9%) and lawyers (25.9% compared to 12.4%). Of these, **women were at least three times as likely as men to report no help at all was provided by the police** (15.5% compared to 3.3%), **courts** (13.7% compared to 3.0%) **and lawyers** (12.3% compared to 4.0%).



- Very well
- Quite well
- Not well
- Not at all
- Didn't know

Survey questions:

"How well do you think the community leaders help solve disputes in your community?"
 "How well do you think the police help solve disputes in your community?"
 "How well do you think the courts help solve disputes in your community?"
 "How well do you think lawyers help solve disputes in your community?"

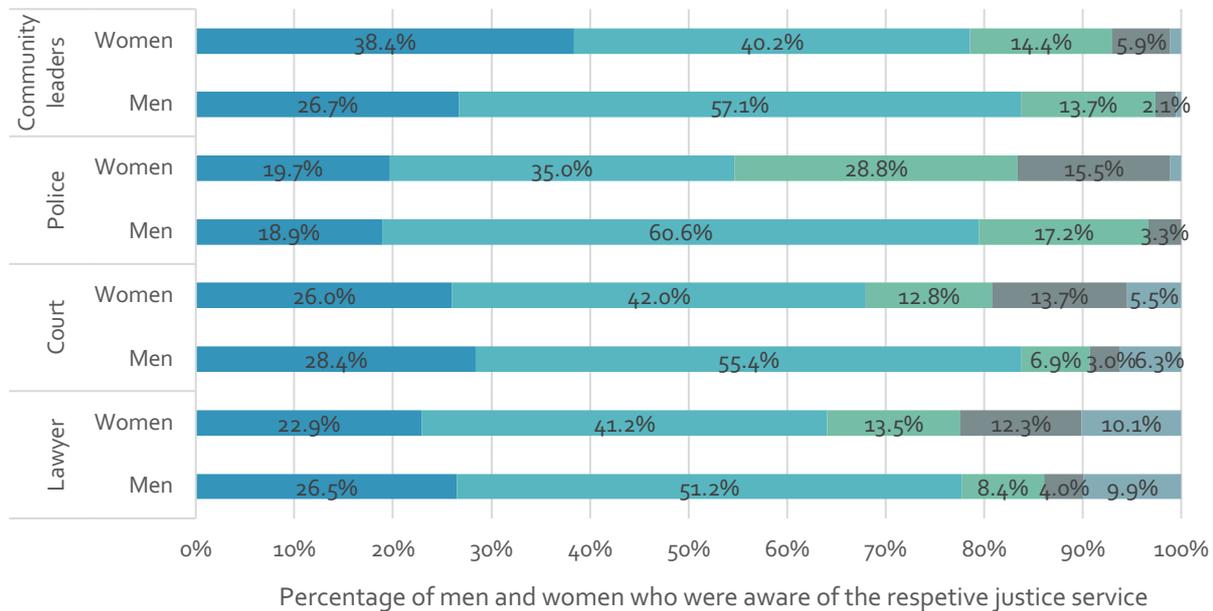


Figure 9: Satisfaction with justice services differentiated by gender

LOCATION

Urban based Solomon Islanders were more likely to feel that police and lawyers perform well in solving disputes in their communities than those in other locations. Those from urban areas were more likely to feel the police (80.4%) and lawyers (78.8%) performed well in solving disputes compared to in peri-urban (72.0% and 69.8%) and rural (62.2% and 69.1%) areas. Rural dwellers were more than twice as likely to feel that not help was provided by the police (12.5% compared to 2.7% urban and 4.0% peri-urban) or lawyers (10.2% compared to 5.0% urban and 2.5% peri-urban).

DISABILITY

Perceptions of performance differed between Solomon Islanders with and without disabilities. Those with a disability were less likely to feel that community leaders (67.2% compared to 82.2%) and the police (53.2% compared to 68.4%) performed well in solving disputes in the community. Those with a disability were slightly more likely to feel that the courts helped solve disputes (80.3% compared to 77.7%), with a much high likelihood of feeling the courts performed very well (48.9% compared to 26.1%).

ACCESSIBILITY TO PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY

PERCEPTIONS OF ACCESSIBILITY

Solomon Islanders held differing perceptions regarding the accessibility of community leaders, police, courts and lawyers to assist people with solving disputes in the community (Figure 10). Of those who

were aware of these different groups, community leaders were identified as being the most accessible (89.9%), followed by the police (75.8%). The perceived accessibility was relatively lower for courts (66.2%) and lawyers (56.4%).

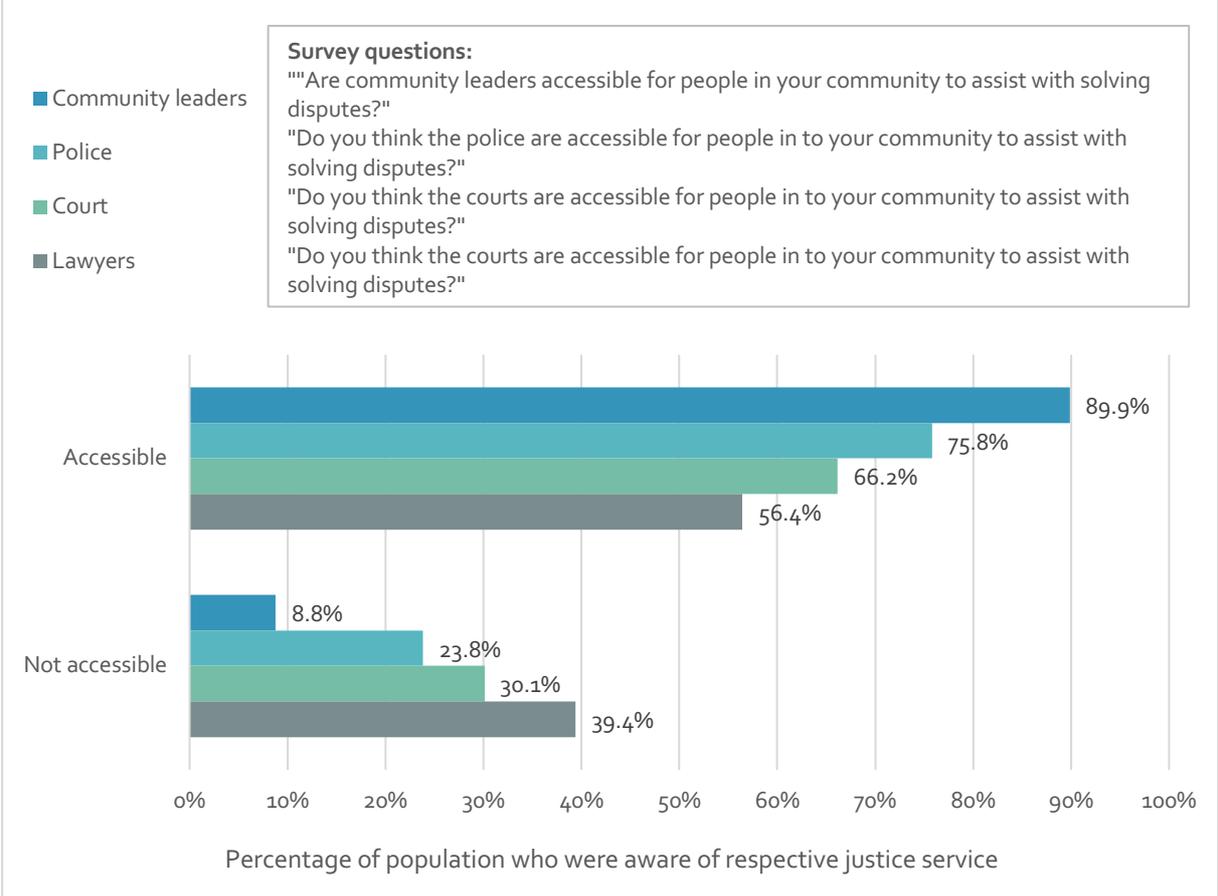


Figure 10: Relative accessibility of primary justice services

DISABILITY

While differences did not emerge in relation to disability within the Access to Justice Survey, focus group participants with a disability strongly emphasised the lack of places they could go for support (Box 3).

Box 3: Solomon Islanders with a disability felt less likely to access support services for legal issues

A common theme from focus group discussion from people with a disability was that they did not feel there were places where they could go to get assistance. In relation to where they would go to access legal information or to get help about an issue, common responses were that there was “nowhere”, or that “no one is willing to help them”. Similarly, when asked where they would go if they were involved in a major disagreement, respondents reported they “had no place they would go”, would “go to [their] room”, or “share problems with friends”.

An important distinction emerged between awareness of justice services and where people would go for assistance, if required. Although not all participants were aware of who might help resolve a dispute, some



in the group noted they were aware that that the police, church leaders and the PSO helped solve different types of disputes. Similarly, in the context of domestic violence cases, family were identified as a possible support, as well as the Family Support Centre, police, church leaders and the chief. However, while they might be aware of different places for support, a range of factors meant that these places were not perceived as welcoming or accessible.

PERCEIVED LIMITATIONS OF ACCESSIBILITY

The reason why Solomon Islanders felt the different groups were not accessible varied between community leaders, police, courts and lawyers (Table 2). For community leaders and police, being untrustworthy or biased and not being available when needed were commonly identified reasons. Limited access because of time required for travel emerged as common issues for police, courts and lawyers. Expenses for both service fees and travel were identified amongst the greatest perceived limiters to accessibility for courts and lawyers. Focus group discussions reiterated the different factors that were perceived to limit the accessibility of community leaders and different justice institutions (Box 4).

Table 2: Reason for why certain groups were not deemed accessible by Solomon Islanders

<i>Community leaders (n=214)</i>	Police (n=536)	Courts (n=379)	Lawyers (n=453)
<i>Not trustworthy (54.6%)</i>	Too far to travel (47.7%)	Too far to travel (28.6%)	Fees too expensive (30.9%)
<i>Not available (35.8%)</i>	Not available (39.0%)	Fees too expensive (23.6%)	Too far to travel (22.1%)
<i>Did not know how they could help (12.3%)</i>	Not trustworthy (32.1%)	Travel too expensive (20.3%)	Travel too expensive (21.7%)

Box 4: The reasons for a perceived lack of accessibility for those in the community differed between community leaders and different formal justice institutions.

Consistent with the findings from the *Access to Justice Survey*, focus group participants reflected different reasons for why community leaders, the police and courts or lawyers were not accessible.

At the community level, participants most often reported that perceived accessibility to community leaders was limited by issues with trust, and concerns that the decisions of certain leaders would be biased. For certain disputes, such as those relating to domestic violence and family matters, participants noted that they were aware community-based support – such as community leaders and church leaders – would often not be willing to engage with the issue.

For the police, issues related to trust and concerns of bias actions still remained, however a greater emphasis was placed on the lack of availability or presence of police within communities, and the time and financial costs related to travelling to a police post.

In relation to courts, the key limitations were the cost and time required to travel to seek advice or support. This was similar for lawyers, but also with the acknowledgement that private lawyers themselves were an additional cost with their fees and thus not accessible to the majority of Solomon Islanders.

LOCATION

Solomon Islanders from rural areas felt they were less able to access the formal justice institutions of police, courts and lawyers compared to those closer to urban areas. Those from rural locations reported lower levels of perceived accessibility to the police (68.5% compared to 89.0% urban and 90.0% peri-urban 90.0%), courts (59.4% compared to 78.6 urban and 74.7% peri-urban) and lawyers (48.1% compared to 69.8% urban and 63.2% peri-urban).

Reasons why courts and lawyers were deemed inaccessible also differed by location. Courts were considered inaccessible to those in rural areas more regularly based on distance to travel (35.1%) and cost of travel (22.6%) compared to those from urban or peri-urban locations, while expensive fees were identified as most commonly for those from peri-urban (37.9%) and urban (26.6%) areas. Perceptions around trust and fairness of the courts were identified as less of an access issue for those in rural locations (5.9%) than those in peri-urban (15.6%) or urban areas (17.0%). Similarly, lawyers were deemed inaccessible by those in urban areas as a result of fees being too expensive (47.3% compared to 29.7% in peri-urban and 26.6% in rural), while those in rural areas identified travel distance as the main factor (27.9% compared to 9.1% in urban and 10.1% in peri-urban).

DISABILITY

No significant differences emerged from the *Access to Justice Survey* on the reasons why Solomon Islanders with a disability felt that community leaders and other formal justice institutions were not accessible to them. However, focus group focus group participants identified a range of issues, particularly related to communication barriers and the physical design of formal justice institution buildings (Box 5).

Box 5: Solomon Islanders with a disability identified communication and the physical design of buildings as barriers to their ability to access to justice institutions.

A prominent barrier identified by those with certain disabilities was that sign language is not commonly understood. This is an issue both for their engagement with the community more broadly, and in resolving disputes or issues they may be involved in. Communication was identified as a particularly prominent problem especially when reporting matters. They reflected that sometimes they encounter problems they would like to report, but they cannot because of the communication barrier.

The barriers identified in the formal justice sector varied between those with different types of disability, but the consensus was that access was not inclusive. At a broad level, respondents did not feel satisfied with the availability of government justice services, with one noting that they “have no trust and confidence in the justice institutions”.

In addition to communication barriers and the lack of interpreters within the justice system, another major barrier was the physical design and location of formal justice institutions. Participants observed that the design of buildings where legal services are available are not disability accessible, for example the buildings of the courts and PSO noted as designed for fully able-bodied people. This presented a physical barrier to people with a disability to accessing justice services.



AWARENESS OF RIGHTS AND LAWS

This section reports on Solomon Islander awareness of their rights in relation to certain laws. Specifically, it focuses on general legal rights, the police, domestic violence, land disputes, and perceptions of how different people are treated by the law.

LEGAL RIGHTS

UNDERSTANDING OF LEGAL RIGHTS AND PERCEPTIONS OF PROTECTIONS

Slightly over half (54.8%) of Solomon Islanders reported that they had heard of their rights under the law in Solomon Islands. A third (34.2%) indicated they had not heard of their rights and a further 10.6% indicated that they did not know. Those who identified as having heard of their legal rights most commonly identified them as women’s rights or human rights (Box 6).

Box 6: What Solomon Islanders understand as their rights

Of the 1,342 Solomon Islanders who reported having heard of their rights under Solomon Islands law, the responses varied across category. The most commonly identified type of right was ‘Women’s Rights’ (21.1%), followed by ‘Human Rights’ (16.5%). Women were significantly more likely (38.1%) to identify ‘Women’s Rights’ (5.1%), but only half as likely (11.3%) as their male counterparts (21.4%) to name ‘Human Rights’.

“Before only men have rights nowadays women too have their rights” – Woman, 18-25, Malaita

“Human rights or personal rights to equality, land and children” – Male, 26-40, Temotu

Approximately half of all respondents to this question (47.3%) identified some form of civil or political right. Foremost of these were the right to political participation (9.8%), freedom of speech (5.7%), and the right to bodily integrity (3.4%), and to life (3.2%).

“The only right I know is my liberty to vote.” – Man, 18-25, Honiara

Of the Solomon Islanders who had heard of their rights (n=1,342), the majority (79.6%) felt that the laws protected their rights. Only a minority (13.0%) felt their rights were not protected by the law.

GENDER

Awareness of legal rights and perceptions of whether those rights afford protection differed by gender. Men were more likely to report having heard of their legal rights (59.6%) compared to women (50.3%). Of those who had heard of their legal rights, women were more likely to believe their rights were protected (84.4%) compared to men (75.2%). Men were twice as likely to believe that the law does not protect their rights (17.0%) compared to women (8.6%).

AGE

Relative awareness of legal rights differed by age with young people least like to have heard of them. Fewer young Solomon Islanders (18-25) reported heard about their rights (46.6%) compared to those

between 26-40 years old (58.8%) and 41+ (57.8%). Younger Solomon Islanders were also more likely to say they did not know (14.0% compared to 9.3% for 26-40 and 9.0% for 41+).

LOCATION

Rural based Solomon Islanders were less likely to report being aware of their legal rights and also less likely to feel protected by those rights. In rural areas just over half (51.8%) had heard of their rights compared more in urban (59.5%) and peri-urban (62.2%) areas. Of those who had heard of their rights (n=1352) those in urban areas were significantly more likely to believe their rights were protected (87.1%) compared to those from peri-urban (75.0%) and rural (78.4%) areas.

DISABILITY

Awareness of legal rights was lower amongst those Solomon Islanders with a disability. They were less likely to have heard of their rights (42.8%) than those without a disability (55.8%). Focus group discussions with Solomon Islanders with a disability confirmed a lack of awareness of their legal rights, and further revealed a broader feeling of their general rights being impinged in their communities (Box 7).

Box 7: Perceptions of those with disabilities regarding their general rights

Focus groups conducted with Solomon Islanders with disabilities highlighted that participants felt that their general rights were impinged upon by the way they were treated by family and community, and the way they were viewed by the public. This was in addition to lacking awareness of legal rights. Respondents reported they were constantly discouraged from 'normal' participation in the community and following their own aspirations. One female reflected that her parents would not agree for her to be married as they did not believe she would "be able to look after her husband and herself", and more generally discouraging her from what she wanted. Another reflected that the people within their community refused to let them fetch water from the community tanks and they had to source water from other wells. This broader marginalisation from their communities added to the perception that their rights were not protected.

POLICE

Solomon Islanders were asked about their perceptions of certain actions which the police could take during the course of their work, and whether these were allowed or not.

AWARENESS OF WHAT THE POLICE CAN DO

The most common response identified by Solomon Islanders when asked about the conditions under which the police can enter one's premises without permission was that the police can never come in (23.6%). This was followed by:

- To arrest someone (19.1%)
- To prevent violence from occurring in the house (16.5%)
- As part of an investigation (with a warrant) (10.6%)



A total of 10.6% reported that they did not know.

Over half (52.9%) of Solomon Islanders believed that police were not allowed to hurt or threaten people to get them to cooperate, however a notable minority (43.4%) believed that the police were allowed to use threats and violence to foster cooperation.

GENDER

Perceptions of the conditions under which police could enter a house differed by gender (Figure 11). Men were more likely to feel that police could never come in (25.9% compared to 21.4%) or that they could enter to arrest someone (29.1% compared to 9.5%). Women were significantly more likely to respond that they could come in to prevent violence from occurring in the house (22.7% compared to 9.9%).

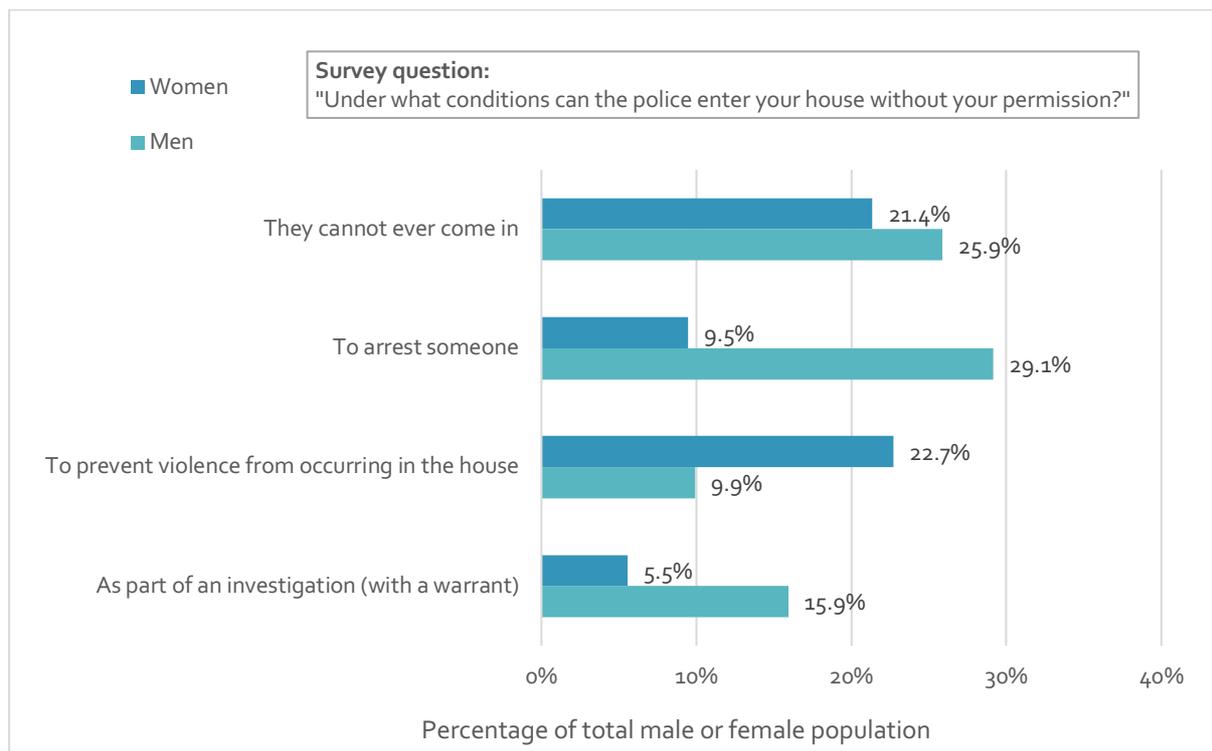


Figure 11: Reasons identified for which the police were allowed to enter the home by gender

Men were more likely to think that police were not allowed to hurt or threaten people to get them to cooperate (57.2% compared to 48.7%). Nearly half (46.5%) of women reported that they thought the police could use threats or hurt people to get them to cooperate.

AGE

Differences emerged in perceptions of what police actions were allowed by age. Younger Solomon Islanders were less likely to think that police could never enter their house without permission (19.6%) compared to those between 26-40 (22.8%) and 41+ (27.6%). Older Solomon Islanders (41+) were less likely to think that police were allowed to hurt or threaten people to get them to cooperate (37.8%) than younger Solomon Islanders (44.2% for 18-25 and 48.3% for 26-40).

LOCATION

Differences emerged between Solomon Islanders between urban and rural areas in their perceptions of the conditions under which police could enter a house without permission. Urban Solomon Islanders were less likely to think that police could never come in (17.2% compared to 28.5% peri-urban and 24.6% rural) and more likely to think police could enter at house to prevent violence from occurring (19.7% compared to 13.6% peri-urban and 16.2% rural) and as part of an investigation with a warrant (18.3% compared 8.4% peri-urban and 9.0% rural).

DISABILITY

Perceptions of the conditions under which police could enter a house differed for respondents with a disability. Solomon Islanders with a disability were more likely to think that police could enter their house without permission anytime they wanted (15.2% compared to 5.2%), while those without a disability were more likely to think that police could enter the house without permission to arrest someone (19.9% compared to 8.7%) or to prevent violence from occurring in the house (16.8% compared to 12.1%).

AWARENESS OF INCARCERATION WITHOUT CHARGE

How long Solomon Islanders thought someone could be held for in jail without seeing a judge varied. One in five Solomon Islanders (22.4%) believe that if a person is arrested they could be held for only 1-2 days without seeing a judge, with a total of 39.8% overall suggesting that they could be held for no more than a week. Nearly one in five respondents felt you could be held for as long as the police say (11.0%) or until the court decides (7.8%). A total of 22.6% said they did not know.

GENDER

Overall, women were slightly more likely to feel that people could be held in jail for less than seven days without seeing a judge (41.2% compared to 38.4%). Men were more likely to consider that people could be held for both as long as the police say (12.9% compared to 9.3%) and until the court decides (10.2% compared to 5.5%).

AGE

Solomon Islanders varied by age in their opinion of the length of time that a person who is arrested can be held in jail without seeing a judge. Solomon Islanders between 26-40 years old were the most likely to feel people could be held in jail for less than seven days without seeing a judge (43.6% compared to 36.8% for 18-25 and 38.5% for 41+). Younger Solomon Islanders were less likely to think people could be held for as long as the police say (8.4% compared to 11.2% and over), while those between 26-40 were the least likely to reported they did not know (16.5% compared to 26.5% for 18-25 and 25.4% for 41+)

LOCATION

The length of time that Solomon Islanders believe a person who is arrested can be held in jail without seeing a judge varied by location. Urban and peri-urban based Solomon Islanders were more likely to think people could be held for less than one week (44.1% urban and 46.3% peri-urban compared to 37.0% rural), while those in rural areas were more likely to report that they did not know how long someone could be held in jail without seeing a judge (24.3% compared to 19.1% urban and 19.9% peri-urban).



DISABILITY

Perceptions of the length of time that a person who is arrested can be held in jail without seeing a judge also differed by disability. Solomon Islanders with a disability were more likely to consider they could be held for up to one week (44.6%) compared to those without a disability (39.4%). Those without a disability were more likely to say that people could be held as long as the police say (11.3% compared to 8.0%) or until the court decides (8.1% compared to 4.0%), while those with a disability were more likely to think people could be held forever (5.8% compared to 0.9%).

PERCEPTIONS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

While Solomon Islanders felt that men in their communities used violence to resolve household issues with their wives, the strong majority did not think this was justified and should be punished. In practice, over half the respondents (54.6%) thought that men did use violence to resolve issues with women in their homes. This is counter to the perception shared by 92.1% of the Solomon Islanders surveyed that this not justified and further than 86.6% felt that men should be punished if they used violence toward women to resolve a dispute. Of the small number (6.1%) who felt violence against women could be justified, they provided a variety of reasons (Box 8).

Box 8: Under what conditions people perceive violence against women to be justified

Of the 6.1% of Solomon Islanders (n=124) who reported that using violence was an acceptable way of resolving disputes, 75.3% identified specific situations in which this was acceptable while 24.7% provide a general justification for violence against women.

Situations in which violent dispute resolution is acceptable

Approximately 12.3% of those who felt violence was acceptable reported that it depended on the situation and violence should only be used when necessary or appropriate, while not specifying what these situations might be. Others felt that that it could be used to teach a lesson (19.7%), when women were considered to be in the wrong (11.1%), when they acted culturally inappropriately (6.6%) or were disobedient (5.1%).

“Not willing to obey her husband and did something wrong” – Man, 26-40, Choiseul

“When a woman does something that is traditionally or culturally wrong then it is ok for a man to hit a woman.” – Man, 26-40, Isabel

Reasons why violent dispute resolution is acceptable

The two main reasons why it was considered appropriate for men to use violence against women in the home were custom (17.4%) and men being traditional family leaders (7.3%).

“Because her wife did wrong thing so according to custom man can kill his wife” – Man 26-40, Central

GENDER

Perceptions of the occurrence and response to domestic violence differed by gender. Men were more likely to think that men in their community use violence to resolve issues with women (58.6% compared to 50.9%), however men were also less likely to feel that a man should be punished if he does use violence (81.9% compared to 91.2%).

DISABILITY

Solomon Islanders with a disability were more likely to think that men used violence to resolve issues with women in their communities, while also being less likely to feel this was not justified and less likely to feel that such violence should be punished. Solomon Islanders with a disability were more likely to think that men use violence to resolve issues with women in their communities (60.0% compared to 54.2%). Those with disabilities were less likely to feel that the use of violence was not justifiable (85.7% compared to 92.6) and less likely to feel that a man should be punished if he did use violence to solve a dispute (80.4% compared to 87.1%). Solomon Islanders with a disability were also more likely to say they did not know if men used violence to resolve disputes in their community (6.0% compared to 1.9%) or whether it could be justified (6.4% compared to 1.2%).

PERCEPTIONS WHO OWNS LAND AND RESOURCES

Perceptions varied relating to land ownership of customary land, resources on and resources in the ground. When asked about customary land and resources on the land, such as forests, by far the most common response was that they were owned by tribes (60.8% and 62.7% respectively), followed by individuals (10.0% and 12.0% respectively).

While tribes were still most frequently identified as owning resources in the land, such as minerals for mining, there was more variation in the types of responses (Figure 12). In relative terms, fewer identified tribes (24.3%) as the owners, while people were more likely to identify individuals (21.6%), local chiefs (15.7%) and the Solomon Islands Government (14.1%).

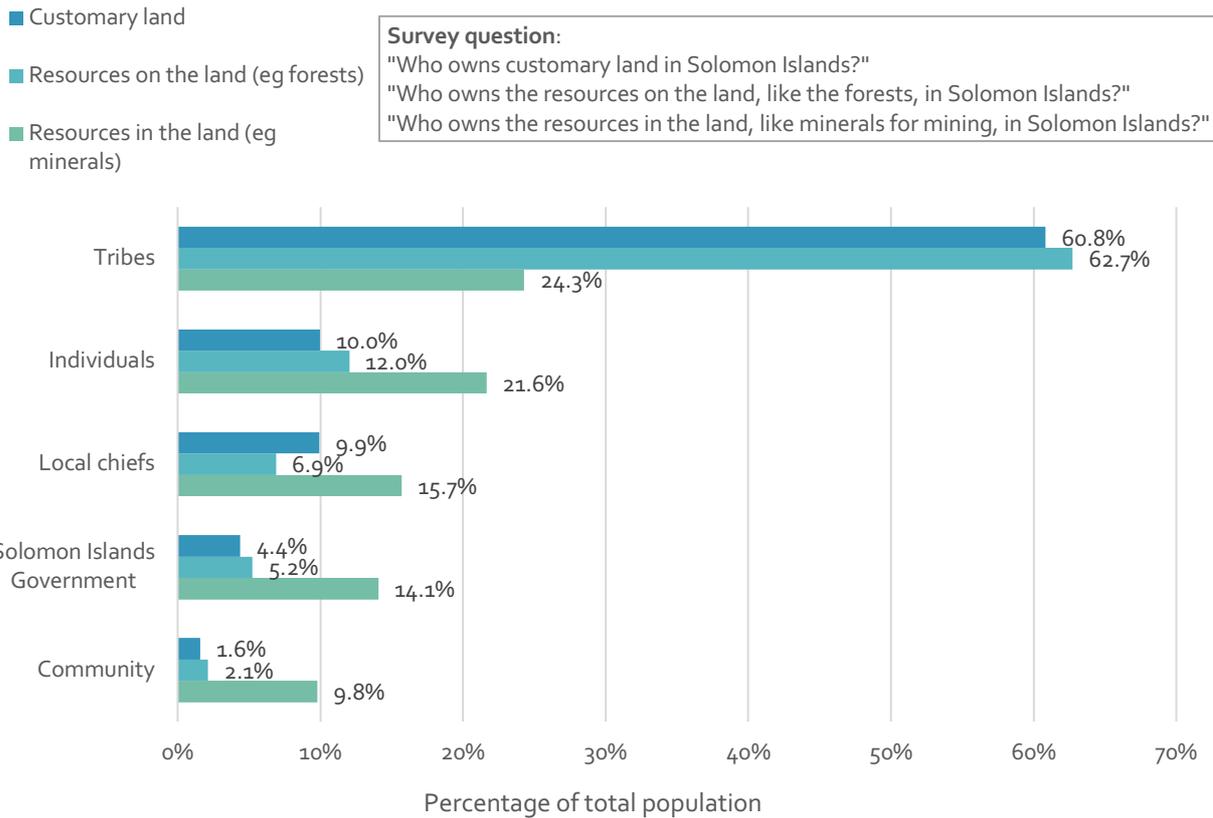


Figure 12: Perceptions of ownership of customary land, the resources on the land and in the land

A noticeable number of people reported not knowing who owned customary land or different resources. People most frequently reported not knowing who owned customary land (11.5%), followed by resources in the land (11.2%) and resources on the land (7.9%).

GENDER

Men and women differed in their perceptions of who owned land and resources in Solomon Islands.

While tribes were most commonly identified as the main ownership group, men were more likely to think that tribes were the owners of customary land (75.4% compared to 47.0%), resources on the land (73.4% compared to 52.7%), and resources in the ground (27.9% compared to 19.4%). Men were also more likely to identify that local chiefs owned resources on the land (7.9% compared to 6.0%) and resources in the land (21.0% compared to 10.6%), while women were more likely to identify individuals as the owners of customary land (13.0% compared to 6.8%) and resources in the land (23.9% compared to 19.2%).

Women were significantly less likely to know who own customary land and different resources.

Women were more likely to report that they did not know who owned customary land (18.3% compared to 4.4%) resources on the land (13.4% compared to 2.3%) or resources in the ground (17.1% compared to 5.0%).

AGE

Older Solomon Islanders differed from younger demographics in who they felt owned customary land and resources in Solomon Islands.

Older Solomon Islanders were more likely believe that tribes owned customary land (62.9% for 26-40 and 65.3% for 41+ compared to 53.2% for 18-25) and resources in the ground (23.6% for 26-40 and 29.7% for 41+ compared to 16.3% for 18-25). Young Solomon Islanders were

more likely to believe the Solomon Islands Government owned customary lands (7.0% compared to 4.1% for 26-40 and 2.5% for 41+) and resources in the ground (18.1% compared to 13.2% for 26-40 and 11.6% for 41+).

Young Solomon Islanders were less likely to feel like they knew who own customary land and resources in the ground. Young Solomon Islands (18-25) were more likely to indicate they did not know who owners customary land (17.9% compared to 10.3% for 26-40 and 7.3% for 41+) or resources in the ground (16.4% compared to 8.8% for 26-40 and 9.1% for 41+).

LOCATION

Perceptions of ownership of customary land, as well as different resources, differed across locations.

Solomon Islanders from urban areas were more likely to believe that the Solomon Islands Government owned customary land (8.6% compared to 3.3% peri-urban and 3.5% rural) and resources in the land (23.4% compared to 9.8% peri-urban and 12.5% rural). Peri-urban dwellers areas were more likely to feel that individuals owned customary land (12.7% compared to 10.0% rural and 9.3% urban), resources on the land (13.8% compared to 12.2% rural and 9.9% urban) and resources in the land (26.1% compared to 22.8% rural and 13.8% urban). Those from rural areas were more likely to feel that local chiefs owned customary lands (11.5% compared to 9.3% urban and 3.9% peri-urban) and resources on the land (7.7% compared to 7.2% urban and 3.1% peri-urban).

Perceptions of the ownership of tribes across customary land and different resources were less consistent by location.

Those from peri-urban areas were most likely to identify tribes as owners of customary land (67.2% compared to 60.7% rural and 56.1% urban) and resources in the land (28.7% compared to 24.3% rural and 16.8% urban), while for resources on the land tribes were most commonly identified by urban respondents (73.2% compared to 62.4% peri-urban and 58.8% rural).

LAND OWNERSHIP AND LAND TITLE

The majority of Solomon Islanders identified that they were land owners and, of those who identified as land owners, most owned that land jointly with their tribe. Two thirds of the Solomon Islanders (66.6%) considered themselves to be land owners. Of those who identified as land owners, 75.6% indicated they owned the land jointly with their tribe and 71.9% indicated they had documentation supporting their claim.

The vast majority of Solomon Islanders believed that people need a title or documentation to show ownership of the land. Overall, 91.3% believed that documentation was required to demonstrate ownership. Of the few who felt title was not needed to show ownership, they outlined a number of different ways to demonstrate land ownership (Box 9).

Box 9: How people can show land ownership other than through documentation or title

Among the 107 Solomon Islanders who did not believe a title was needed to show ownership of the land, there were differing opinions on how land ownership could be shown. Of these respondents, 13.8% reported not seeing a need to show land ownership. By far the most common way was by showing customary ownership through customary practices and story-telling about the land (27.2%), followed by those who said boundary markers were enough to show ownership (15.0%) and to show ownership is through genealogy (12.5%).



“Through custom stories passed down from generation to generation.” – Man, 41+, Choiseul

“Through genealogy, people can trace who owns the land” – Woman, 18-25, Malaita

GENDER

More men reported that they were land owners and were also more likely to report having documentation showing ownership. Men were more likely to consider they owned land (71.6%) than women (61.8%), while they were also more likely (76.3%) to have evidence of ownership.

Men were more likely to believe people needed to documentation to demonstrated land ownership. More men felt title was required (92.6% compared to 89.9%) to show ownership of the land. Women were more likely not to know (7.3%) than men (3.4%).

AGE

Young Solomon Islanders were less likely to identify themselves as land owners but, of those who were land owners, were more likely to have documentation showing ownership. Solomon Islanders between 18-25 years old reported being land owners less compared (56.8%) compared to those between 26-40 (70.0%) or over 41 years (71.4%). However, of those who identified as land owners, younger Solomon Islanders were most likely to have documentation (74.9% compared to 73.2% for 26-40 and 68.5% for 41+).

LOCATION

While level of land ownership did not differ by location, who the land was held with and levels of documentation for demonstrating ownership did differ. Those from peri-urban areas were most likely to report holding the land with their tribe (85.7% compared 76.9% rural and 61.2% urban), while those from urban areas were more likely to own the land jointly with other tribes (24.3% compared 15.4% rural and 6.8% peri-urban). Urban based Solomon Islanders were the most likely to report holding the land by themselves (10.2% compared to 5.7% rural and 4.0% peri-urban). Land owners in peri-urban areas were the most likely to have a title or documentation showing ownership (79.8% compared to 71.8% rural and 64.9% urban).

DISABILITY

Solomon Islanders with a disability were less likely to think people need a title or documentation to show ownership of the land. In addition to being less likely to consider that documentation was required to show ownership (80.5% compared to 92.1%), people with a disability were also more likely to say they did not know (15.1% compared to 4.6%).

RIGHTS RELATED TO LAND USE

Nearly half of Solomon Islanders (49.7%) thought that tribes decide on whether land can be used for logging or mining. This was followed by local chiefs (18.6%), individuals (14.3%) and the Solomon Islands Government (7.3%).

The majority of Solomon Islanders believed that private companies were required by law to ensure logging and mining work would not have negative consequences on the environment and thought landowners could appeal a government to grant a logging or mining licence in their area. Over three quarters (77.1%) believed that private companies were required by law to make sure that their work does not

have negative impacts on the environment prior to start logging or mining, while 81.2% believing that could appeal a government decision to grant a logging or mining licence. A noticeable number of Solomon Islanders did not know about private companies' responsibilities (10.5%) or whether landowners could appeal government decisions (8.9%).

GENDER

Perceptions of who decides whether land can be logged or mined varied by gender. Men were more likely to identify tribes as decision makers for land use decisions (59.4% compared to 40.5%), while women were more likely to identify individuals (18.1% compared to 10.3%). Women were also more likely to say they did not know (8.3% compared to 3.2%).

Men were more likely to believe that private companies were required by law to mitigate environmental impacts of logging and mining, as well as being more likely to think landowners could appeal a government extractive licencing decision. More men reported thinking private companies were legally required to mitigate environmental risk (83.1% compared to 71.4%) and that landowners could appeal government licencing decisions (87.1% compared to 75.6). Women were more likely to say they did not know about private company environmental impact assessment requirements (13.5% compared to 7.3%) or the ability of landowners to appeal a government granted licence (12.4% compared to 5.1%).

AGE

Perceptions of who decides whether land can be logged or mined differed by location. Those between the ages of 26-40 were more likely to identify tribes (52.2% compared to 47.3% for 18-25 and 49.2% for 41+) and local chiefs (20.4% compared to 18.5% for 18-25 and 16.8% for 41+) as decision makers. Those over the age of 41 were most likely to identify individuals (17.2% compared to 12.3% for 18-25 and 12.9% for 26-40), while young Solomon Islanders were more likely to identify government (11.1% compared to 5.7% for both 26-40 and 41+).

Older Solomon Islanders were least likely to believe that private companies are required to minimise environmental impacts of logging or mining. Solomon Islanders of 40 years and below were more likely to believe that private companies were required to ensure no negative environmental impacts (79.0% for 18-25 and 81.1% for 26-40 compared to 71.6% for 41+). Those over 41 years were also more likely not know (14.7% compared with 8.5% for 18-25 and 7.9% for 26-40).

LOCATION

Perceived decision makers related to logging or mining activities on the land differed by locations. Peri-urban dwellers were more likely to consider tribes responsible for making these decisions (58.6% compared to 47.2% urban and 48.3% rural) and less likely to consider local chiefs as responsible (9.8% compared to 18.6% urban and 20.6% rural). Those in urban areas were less likely identify individuals as decision makers (12.7% compared to 15.8% peri-urban and 15.3% rural). The likelihood of Solomon Islanders identifying the Solomon Islands Government as decision makers decreased further away from urban centres (12.7% urban compared to 9.0% for peri-urban and 5.3% rural).

DISABILITY

Who was perceived to decide whether land can be used for logging or mining differed by disability. Those without a disability were more likely to consider tribes to make these decisions (50.8% compared to



36.1%), while those with a disability were more likely to identify individuals (20.2% compared to 13.8%) and not to know (12.3% compared to 5.3%).

Solomon Islanders without a disability were both more likely to believe that private companies were legally require to mitigate the environmental impacts of logging and mining, and report believing landowners could appeal a government grants of logging and mining licences. Those without a disability were more likely to believe that private companies were required by law to take these actions (78.5% compared to 60.2%), while those with a disability were more likely to report they did not know (23.7% compared to 9.4%). Similarly, those without a disability were more likely to think that landowners could appeal against these decisions (82.2% compared to 68.6%), with Solomon Islands with a disability much more likely to not know (20.6% compared to 7.9%).

TREATMENT OF DIFFERENT GROUPS UNDER THE LAW

The majority thought that there are specific provisions in Solomon Islands law that protect women, children, and people with disabilities (Figure 13). Solomon Islanders were most likely to think there were provisions protecting women (86.3%), followed by provisions for the protection of children (81.1%) and people with disabilities (76.6%). A noticeable number of respondents did not know if provisions existed to protect women (6.1%), children (10.4%) or those with a disability (12.6%).

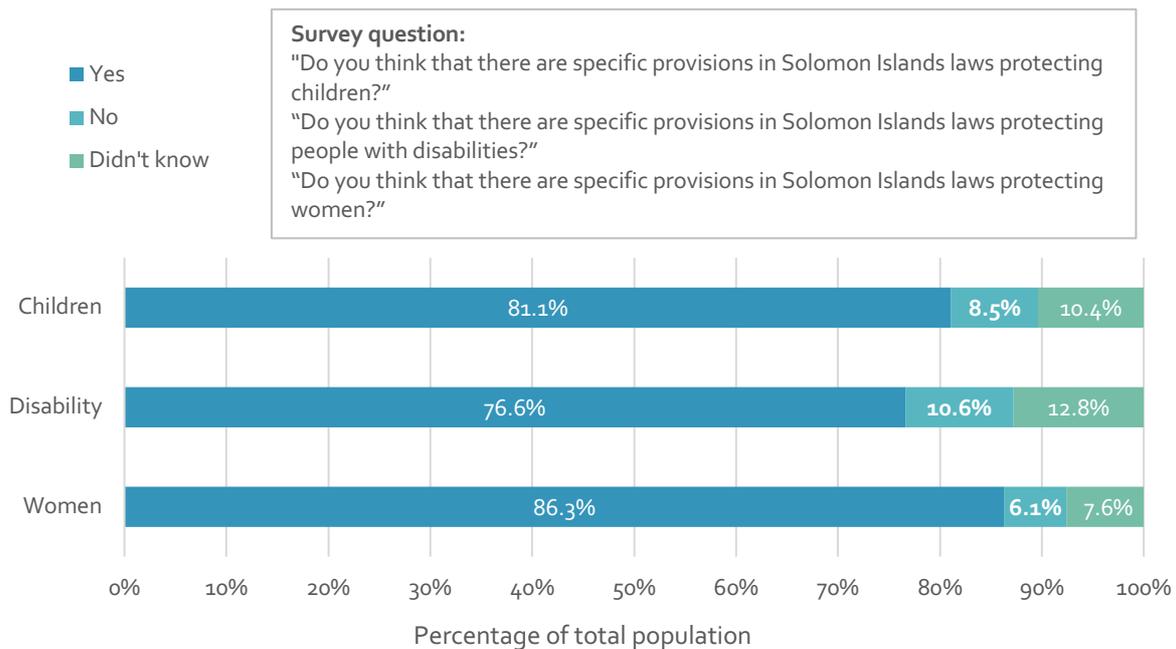


Figure 13: Awareness of legal protections for children, the disabled, and women

AGE

Solomon Islanders aged between 26-40 years old were more likely to report being aware of the legal provisions that protect women, children, and people with disabilities. Those between 26-40 reported higher levels of awareness for laws relating to women (90.4% compared to 82.8% for 18-25 and 85.2 for 41+), children (85.6% compared 78.0% for 18-25 and 79.2% for 41+) and people with disabilities (83.3% compared to 71.8% for 18-25 and 74.1% for 41+).

DISABILITY

Solomon Islanders with a disability were less likely to believe there were legal provisions laws protecting women, children and people with disabilities. Those with a disability were less likely than those without a disability to be aware of provisions for protecting women (71.3% compared to 87.5%), children (66.7% compared to 82.2%) and those with a disability (62.9% compared to 77.8%).

AWARENESS OF PROCESSES FOR SEEKING JUSTICE

This research investigated the places that Solomon Islanders would go to get help with certain disputes. This section reports on where Solomon Islands reported they would first go to for help, and alternative places of assistance, if they or a family member were involved a victim of crime, a victim of domestic violence, or involved in a land dispute.

FIRST POINT OF CONTACT FOR HELP WITH A DISPUTE

The police and village chief were the most frequently identified places that Solomon Islanders would first go to for help if they, or a family member, were a victim of crime, victim of domestic violence, or involved in a land dispute. While frequently identified groups were consistent, there were a number of important differences that emerged between the different disputes (Table 3).

Table 3: Five most frequently identified places Solomon Islanders would first go to for help to resolve different types of disputes

	Victims of crime	Domestic violence	Land disputes
	<i>Police (47.3%)</i>	Police (36.4%)	Village chief (41.0%)
	<i>Village chief (35.4%)</i>	Village chief (21.4%)	Police (17.6%)
	<i>Church leaders (6.0%)</i>	Family (18.6%)	House of Chiefs (9.3%)
	<i>Family (5.5%)</i>	Church leaders (10.9%).	Family (6.3%).
	<i>Other community leader (1.8%)</i>	Friends (2.5%)	Local courts (4.6%)

In victim of crime related disputes, there was a clear emphasis on police and village chiefs as being the primary forms of assistance. Collectively, these two groups were identified by 82.7% of Solomon Islands compared to 57.8% for domestic violence disputes and 58.6% for land disputes. Church leaders (6.0%) were identified third most frequently point of initial assistance for those dealing with an incident related to a victim of a crime.

While the police and the village chiefs were commonly identified with domestic violence related disputes, family (18.6%) and church leaders (10.9%) were identified more regularly than with the other types of disputes. In relation to land disputes, village chiefs were identified more regular than with other disputes, as was the House of Chiefs and Local Court.



GENDER

The first point of help for a dispute differed by gender with women more likely to identify the police (Figure 14). Women were more likely to go to the police for each of the disputes related to victims of crime (55.4% compared 38.8%), domestic violence (46.3% compared to 25.9%) and land disputes (22.4% compared 12.5%).

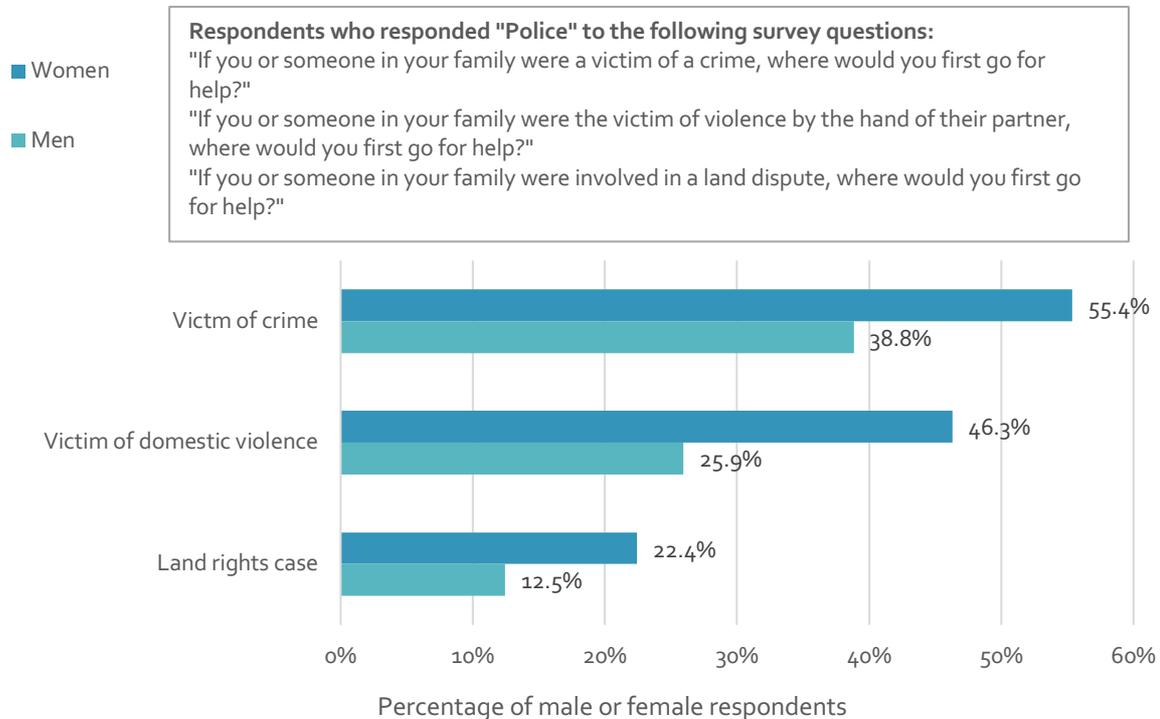


Figure 14: Respondents who reported they would go to the police first, in case they were the victim of a crime, domestic violence or were involved in a land rights case, by gender

Men were more likely to identify other informal and formal justice institutions relevant to the specific dispute. For victim of crime related disputes, men were more likely than women to go to the village chief (45.0% compared to 26.3%), while for land disputes were more likely to go to the House of Chiefs (16.2% compared to 2.7%). In relation to domestic violence, men were more likely than women to go to family (23.9% compared to 13.6%) and church leaders (15.9% compared to 6.2%). Focus group discussion participants reflected that, for women, there was a range of factors that limited their confidence in dealing with domestic violence through informal and community-based systems (Box 10).

Box 10: Culture and tradition were identified as influencing how domestic violence was resolved in communities

Female focus group participants reported feeling that culture and tradition presented barriers to their ability to address the issue. Access to formal justice services was reported as limited, with the informal systems – including family, church leaders and chiefs – noted as alternatives. However, participants reflected that informal systems were not well suited to dealing with issues that were traditionally seen as being best resolved within the home. As one Central participant noted, “sexual violence is an issue that there is no way to resolve at the community level”. Another reflected that relatives and family would also sometimes not provide any support. For those from Central Kwara’ae, domestic violence issues or disputes were linked to the result of bride price and ‘teaching’ or ‘disciplining’ women because they do not meet

the expectations of the husband or mother-in-law, thus support for resolving the issue from family was not likely to be forthcoming.

While informal systems of resolving domestic violence were noted as ineffective, they were still often followed in practice. In Central Kwara'ae, participants revealed that the church always played a role in bringing the two conflicting parties together for reconciliation and prayer, however this did not "take the problem or hate away". While noting that the limits on how much the village chief could help, participants from elsewhere noted that they still raised issues with the village chief but were told the chief was 'tired of hearing the same things', with no subsequent action taken. For those in Central Guadalcanal, they noted the "some women in the community are there to protect and accept women into their homes, those who experience domestic violence in the community", and this was one of the main forms of support for women in their area.

AGE

Differences by age emerged in the first point of help relating to domestic violence and land disputes.

For domestic violence, young Solomon Islanders (18-25) were more likely to identify the police than older demographics (36.9% for 26-40; 32.6% for 41+), while Solomon Islanders over the age of 41 were most likely to identify family (23.1% compared to 16.7% for 18-25 and 15.7% for 26-40). Those between 26-40 years old were most likely to identify the village chief in relation to domestic violence compared to other age groups (19.0% for 18-25 and 20.7% for 41+), while young Solomon Islanders (18-25) were least likely to identify the village chief in relation to land disputes (35.7% compared to 44.5% for 26-40; 42.0% for 41+).

LOCATION

Differences emerged for the first point of help for a dispute based on location. Solomon Islanders closer to urban areas were more likely to identify the police in relation to victim of crime (65.6% compared to 46.2% peri-urban and 42.2% rural) and domestic violence related disputes (45.6% urban and 41.0% peri-urban compared to 32.7% rural). Rural Solomon Islanders were more likely to go to village chiefs first for disputes related to victims of crime (41.9% compared to 36.3% peri-urban and 11.8% urban), domestic violence (25.5% compared to 19.4% peri-urban and 8.4% urban) and land disputes (44.8% and 42.6% peri-urban compared to 25.9% urban).

DISABILITY

The first point of help identified in relation to domestic violence differed with disability. Those with a disability were less likely to identify the police (31.5% compared to 36.8%) and church leaders (6.4% compared to 11.3%), but slightly more to identify the village chief (24.7% compared to 21.1%) and family (24.9% compared to 18.1%). That Solomon Islanders with a disability felt they had a more limited range of places where they could go for help was reiterated through the focus group discussions (Box 11).

Box 11: Solomon Islanders with disabilities felt limited in where they could go for help

Focus group participants with a disability reported that many of the otherwise available means of means of solving issues were not effective for them. This included for both formal and informal systems. For the informal systems, participants reflected that relationships between an offender and someone, such as a



chief, responsible for helping to resolve a dispute could limit the degree to which a victim might be comfortable following that resolution pathway.

For example, one female participant with a disability reflected on her experience with a domestic violence dispute. While she was aware of options to seek assistance from the police or the chief, she did not feel that she could do so because she lacked confidence and trust in the police and chiefs, felt the problem might be beyond the power of the chiefs, and was aware that the chiefs had a relationship with the offender.

Similar to responses from people without disabilities, participants with a disability reflected that even when they did pursue justice through the informal system, it often did not work (see Case Study Example 2). For example, one female participant with a disability shared her experience of trying to resolve her experience of sexual harassment:

“I was sexually harassed by a neighbour. He grabbed me by the breast and wanted to have sex with me but I was refused. He said some disrespectful words towards me in which it made me feel rejected and not part of the community. I told my parents to report the matter but the chiefs did not want to get involved and solve the matter as requested” (Women, Honiara).

Respondents also felt that culture and *kastom* limited their ability as people with disabilities to seek assistance, and for their requests for help to be taken seriously; one noted that “sometimes people just disregard our view... often people just treat us like we are amusing to them, a joker to them, because of our condition”.

ALTERNATIVE PLACES TO GO FOR HELP FOR A DISPUTE

It was assumed that the first point of help would be where people felt their dispute would be more likely to be solved. We sought to better understand the perceptions related to alternative places to resolve disputes, beyond their first preference. The following section provides the perceptions of these alternative places.

The alternative places to go for help were similar to the first point of help for each type of dispute, with the police and village chiefs most commonly identified. The top five most frequently identified alternative places for help were the same for disputes related to victims of crime and domestic violence (Table 4).

While the two most frequently identified places for help relating to land disputes were consistent, local courts and the House of Chiefs were identified more regularly than for other disputes. For help with land disputes, significantly higher proportions of Solomon Islanders identified local courts (27.0%) and the House of Chiefs (15.7%) compared to disputes relating to victims of crime (5.4% and 2.2%) and domestic violence (3.8% and 1.5%).

Table 4: Top five most frequently identified alternative places to go for help

<i>Victims of crime</i>	<i>Domestic violence</i>	<i>Land disputes</i>
<i>Police (49.4%)</i>	Police (46.0%)	Police (37.3%)
<i>Village chiefs (36.9%)</i>	Village chief (37.1%)	Village chief (30.2%)
<i>Church leaders (31.1%)</i>	Church leader (32.8%)	Local courts (27.0%)
<i>Family (13.6%)</i>	Family (20.4%)	House of Chiefs (15.7%)

Friends (8.2%)	Friends (11.1%)	Family (10.9%)
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GENDER

Differences by gender emerged in the alternative places Solomon Islanders identified for seeking help for with disputes. While in general women were the most likely to go to the police as a first point of assistance, men were more likely to identify it as an alternative in disputes related to victims of crime (60.9% compared 38.3%) and domestic violence (52.1% compared to 40.1%). Women were still more likely to identify police as a point of assistance for land disputes (40.1% compared to 34.5%).

Men overall were more likely to identify a broader range of different places for assistance. Men were more likely to identify church leaders as an alternative point of support in disputes related to victims of crime (35.6% compared to 26.7%), domestic violence (38.9% compared to 26.9%) and land disputes (12.3% compared to 7.4%). Similarly, men were more likely to identify village chiefs (40.8% compared to 33.5%), and friends (13.4% compared to 9.0%) in relation to domestic violence, and in relation to land disputes they were more likely to identify local courts (36.3% compared to 17.7%) and the House of Chiefs (20.9% compared to 10.4%).

AGE

Young Solomon Islanders tended to be less likely than older demographics to identify alternative places for help. For victim of crime related disputes, Solomon Islanders between 18-25 years old were least likely to identify police (43.7% compared to 49.9% for 26-40 and 53.8% for 41+) and church leaders (25.0% compared to 32.4% for 26-40 and 34.8% for 41+). Similarly, for land disputes young Solomon Islanders were least likely to identify local courts (18.5% compared to 28.9% for 26-40 and 32.1% for 41+). In relation to domestic violence, those aged between 26-40 years old were more likely to identify police (51.2% compared to 43.2% for 18-25 and 41+) and friends (14.1% compared to 8.4% for 18-25 and 10.5% for 41+), while older Solomon Islands (41+) were the most likely to identify church leaders (40.0% compared to 31.7% for 26-40 and 25.5% for 18-25).

LOCATION

Differences based on location emerged in relation to the alternative places identified for helping with disputes. Solomon Islanders from urban areas were less likely to identify village chiefs for disputes relating to victims of crime (26.0% compared to 39.2% peri-urban and 39.4% rural) and domestic violence (25.4% compared to 42.3% peri-urban and 39.1% rural). For domestic violence, rural dwellers were the most likely to identify a church leader (34.7% compared to 19.4% peri-urban and 27.7% urban), while those closer to urban areas tended to be more likely to identify family for both domestic violence (24.0% urban and 23.7% peri-urban compared to 18.7% rural) and victims of crime disputes (23.2% compared to 14.3% peri-urban and 10.8% rural).

Differences emerged in relation to location for alternative places to help with land disputes. Rural based Solomon Islanders were more likely to identify the House of Chiefs (17.5% compared to 12.1% peri-urban and 12.4% urban), while urban dwellers were more likely to identify the Customary Land Appeal Court (11.9% compared to 6.3% peri-urban and rural) and private lawyers (5.8% compared to 3.4% peri-urban and



2.6% rural). Peri-urban dwellers were the most likely to identify the police as an alternative place for land disputes (45.3% compared 36.8% rural and 31.9% urban).

DISABILITY

Solomon Islanders with a disability were less likely to identify certain alternative places than those without a disability. Those with a disability were less likely to identify the police (39.1% compared to 50.2%) and family (6.7% compared to 14.2%) as an alternative support for victims of crime related disputes, while they were also less likely to identify family (7.3% compared to 21.5%), friends (2.0% compared to 11.9%) and NGOs (0.0% compared to 4.8%) for domestic violence related disputes.

PERCEIVED ABILITY OF ALTERNATIVE PLACES OF HELP IN SOLVING DISPUTES

In this section, further detail is presented on the perceptions of the top three most frequently identified alternative places for seeking help to solve disputes. The findings and percentages presented in this section refers to the subset of survey respondents who identified the police, village chiefs, church leaders and local courts in their top three (Table 5).

Table 5: Number of respondents who identified certain alternative places for support to different disputes

<i>Place of help</i>	Victims of crime	Domestic violence	Land disputes
<i>Police</i>	1,370	1,158	998
<i>Village chiefs</i>	999	986	825
<i>Church leaders</i>	881	879	–
<i>Local courts</i>	–	–	735

OVERALL

The differences in the alternative places Solomon Islanders would consider going for help, and the confidence they had in the help that could be provided, differed by the type of dispute. These differences are outlined at an overall level in Figure 15, with the following section discussing them in more detail.

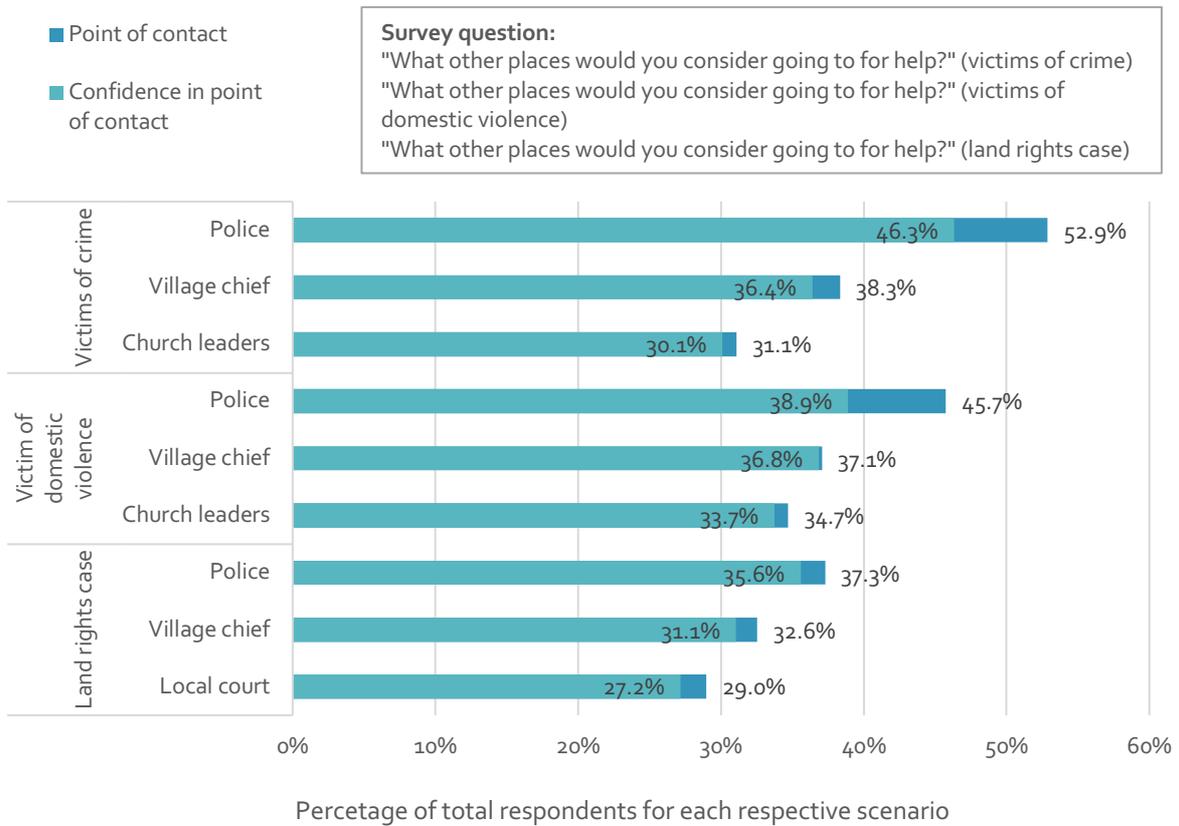


Figure 15: Most common "other places" of contact in each scenario



POLICE

The majority of Solomon Islanders who identified the police as an alternative place to get help with solving a dispute felt that they would be able to help solve the problem. This was the case for disputes related to victims of crime (89.5%), domestic violence (91.1%), and land disputes (89.5%).

For those who felt that the police would not be able to assist, there were some differences specific to each dispute but largely revolved around trust and availability. For victims of crime (n=155), the most common reasons were that the police were not available when needed (60.9%) or not in the community (34.8%), followed by not being trustworthy (34.1%). For domestic violence (n=94), the most common responses were a lack of trust (48.1%) or availability when needed (43.3%). For land dispute related problems (n=90), the most common reason was a lack of trustworthiness (65.4%).

GENDER

A number of small differences by gender emerged in the support police could provide across dispute types. In relation to victims for crime, women were more likely to feel that the police could solve their problem (92.2%) compared to men (87.7%). Women were more likely to feel that the police were not trustworthy in relation to both domestic violence (69.3% compared to 36.4%) and land disputes (80.8% compared to 38.0%).

AGE

While there were no differences by age for whether the police could help solve a problem or not, differences emerged in the reasons given why they might not be able to help for disputes involving victims of crimes and domestic violence. Older respondents (41+) were more likely suggest that the police were not available when needed for most victims of crime (76.4% compared to 48.8% for 18-25; and 44.3% for 26-40) and domestic violence (63.6% compared to than 33.3% for 18-25 and 21.0% 26-40). For victim of crime related disputes, those between 26-40 years old were more likely to feel that the police were not trustworthy (59.5% compared 17.5% for 18-25 and 23.0% for 41+).

VILLAGE CHIEFS

The large majority of Solomon Islanders who identified village chiefs as alternatives to get help with solving disputes felt that they would be able to help solve the problem. This was the case for both victims of crime (95.6%) and domestic violence (95.3%), with a slightly more positive response still for land disputes (97.2%).

CHURCH LEADERS

Nearly all Solomon Islanders who identified church leaders as an alternative for help related to victim of crime and domestic violence disputes felt that church leaders would be able to solve their problem. This was consistently positive about the ability of church leaders to help between both victims of crime (98.0%) and domestic violence (98.6%).

LOCAL COURTS

Of those that identified local courts as an alternative location for getting help related to a land dispute, the large majority (94.1%) felt that the local courts would be able to solve their problem.

EXPERIENCE SEEKING LEGAL INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

This section reports on the experience of Solomon Islanders in seeking information or assistance about the law or legal matter. It includes assessments on the most commonly identified subjects of information sought, as well as sources of information and perceptions of usefulness.

SEEKING INFORMATION ABOUT THE LAW OR LEGAL PROBLEMS

Only a minority of Solomon Islanders (15.6%) reported that they had previously sought information or assistance about the law or legal matters, with the vast majority (83.5%) indicating they had not sought information about the law in the past. Of those who had previously sought information about the law (n=441), information was most commonly sought on issues related to:

- Land disputes (29.8%)
- Domestic violence (17.6%)
- Family disputes or child support (16.9%)
- Fights or assaults (14.6%)
- Drug abuse (5.3%).

No other issue was identified by more than 5% of respondents.

GENDER

Men were more likely to have previously sought information about the law in the past, while differences based on gender also emerged in terms of the type of information most commonly sought (Figure 16). Men were significantly more likely than women to have sought information or assistance about a legal matter (18.3% compared to 13.1%). In relation to the subject of the information, men were more likely to have sought information on land disputes (38.8% compared to 17.7%) while women were more likely to have identified domestic violence (32.4% compared to 6.4%) and family disputes/child support (23.1% compared to 12.3%).

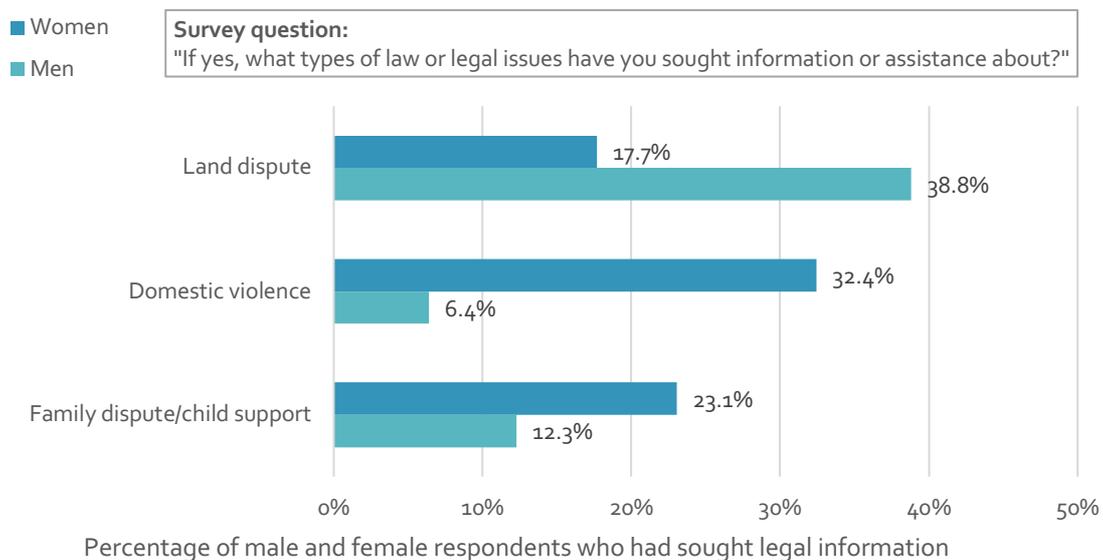


Figure 16: Differences in gender about types of cases people reported seeking legal information about



Focus group participants reflected that a lack of awareness of information relating to domestic violence and other family disputes was a prominent issue for women (Box 12).

Box 12: An overall lack of awareness of related to domestic violence and where to go for help was identified as an issue for women.

Focus group discussion participants reflected that they felt neither men nor women had a good understanding of relevant laws or the basic information for support services related to domestic violence. Specifically, across the focus groups there was a limited awareness of the Family Protection Act and the implications of this for women in abusive relationships. For a few participants, they felt that domestic violence would reduce as an issue if people were more aware of the law, what domestic violence was and the penalty for committing domestic violence. However, more broadly participants reflected that, for themselves, a lack of awareness of their rights under the law limited their confidence to go and seek justice for any abuse they suffered.

A lack of awareness of the potential actions to resolve domestic violence related issues was identified as a challenge. Participants noted that they do not know what the role of law is and how they can use it for the benefit of the family. For example, focus group participants from Central felt that, other than the Family Support Centre, they lacked the knowledge of the approaches they could take to resolve their issues. They felt disempowered by not knowing what action to take, noting, “so far I have done nothing” (Central) and “I do not know where to go” (Central).

AGE

Experience in seeking information, and types of information accessed, differed by age. Young Solomon Islanders (18-25) were significantly less likely to report having sought information (8.8%) compared to older demographics (17.2% for 26-40; 19.8% for 41+). The types of information sought also differed, with older Solomon Islanders (41+) most likely to identify land disputes (39.1% compared to 18.4% for 18-25 and 23.8% for 26-40,) while those between 26-40 years old were more likely to have sought about domestic violence (23.5% compared to 15.0% for 18-25 and 13.4% for 41+).

LOCATION

Rural based Solomon Islanders were less likely to have sought information than those from other locations. Rural Solomon Islanders reported significantly lower levels of having sought assistance (13.3% compared 19.5% peri-urban and 20.9% urban). The only prominent difference by location in the type of information sought related to land disputes which was identified more often by those from urban (37.8%) and rural (32.6%) areas compared to peri-urban (11.2%).

DISABILITY

Solomon Islanders who had a disability were significantly more likely to identify domestic violence (39.7%) as an issue they had sought information about compared to those without a disability (16.3%).

SOURCES AND USEFULNESS OF INFORMATION

Of those who had sought information (n=441), the most frequently identified source that Solomon Islanders had sought information from about a legal problem or the law was the police (39.9%). This was followed by the PSO (22.7%), village chiefs (15.5%), and private lawyers (13.4%). No other source was identified by more than 8% of respondents.

The most useful source of information or assistance was also the police. The police were followed by the PSO (17.5%), village chiefs (10.8%) and private lawyer (10.8%), with no other identified by more than 7% of respondents.

The most common reason identified for why a particular source of information had been deemed most used was that it had helped settle the problem (30.4%). This was followed by that the information was accessible (25.2%) and that it was explained in an understandable way (24.7%).

GENDER

Women were more likely to have sought information and found it of greatest use from the police and village chiefs, while men were more likely to have identified the PSO and private lawyers. In terms of past information sources about legal issues, women were more likely than men to identify the police (54.3% compared to 29.0%) and village chiefs (20.9% compared to 11.5%), while men were more likely to identify the PSO (29.4% compared to 13.8%) and private lawyers (19.1% compared to 5.8%). Women were more likely to identify the police (37.1% compared to 23.7%) and village chiefs (15.1% compared to 7.5%) provided the most useful information while men were more likely to identify the PSO (24.6% compared to 8.1%) and private lawyers (14.3% compared to 6.1%).

Reasons why sources were perceived as useful differed by gender. Women were more likely to indicate it helped to settle their problem (38.8% compared to 24.5%), while men were more likely to perceive it as useful because it was clearly explained (26.9% compared to 21.6%) or that the source had expert knowledge (18.6% compared to 10.1%).

AGE

While sources of information and perceived usefulness did not change by age, the reasons why did. Younger respondents (18-25) were most likely to identify that the information was accessible (42.9% compared to 17.1% for 26-40 and 25.9% for 41+) and were less likely to indicate it was presented clearly (8.7% compared to 30.3% for 26-40 and 25.6% for 41+). Those between 26-40 years old were most likely to identify that it helped them settle their problem (25.8% for 18-25; 29.1% for 41+).

LOCATION

What information sources were considered the most useful differed by location. Those from peri-urban areas were more likely to identify the police (41.1% compared to 25.9% urban and 26.9% rural) and less likely to identify the PSO (11.0% compared to 20.7% urban and 18.3% rural). Rural dwellers were the most likely to identify village chiefs (15.8% compared to 3.6% urban and 5.5% peri-urban).

JUSTICE PROBLEMS

This section reports on the types of disputes that Solomon Islanders reported having been involved with in the last two years and their experiences in resolving these disputes.



TYPES OF DISPUTES

Just under one in five Solomon Islanders (18.3%) reported they had been involved in at least one dispute in the past two years. Of those involved in a dispute (n=484), the most common were:

- Land dispute (29.0%)
- Family dispute/child support (28.2%)
- Fight/assault (16.7%)
- Domestic violence (14.6%)
- Drug abuse (7.2%).

GENDER

The types of disputes Solomon Islanders had been involved in over the past two years differed by gender (Figure 17). Men were more likely to report having been involved in a land dispute (43.7% compared to 13.3%), while women were more likely to have been involved in family disputes/child support (45.3% compared to 12.2%) and domestic violence (24.7% compared to 5.7%).

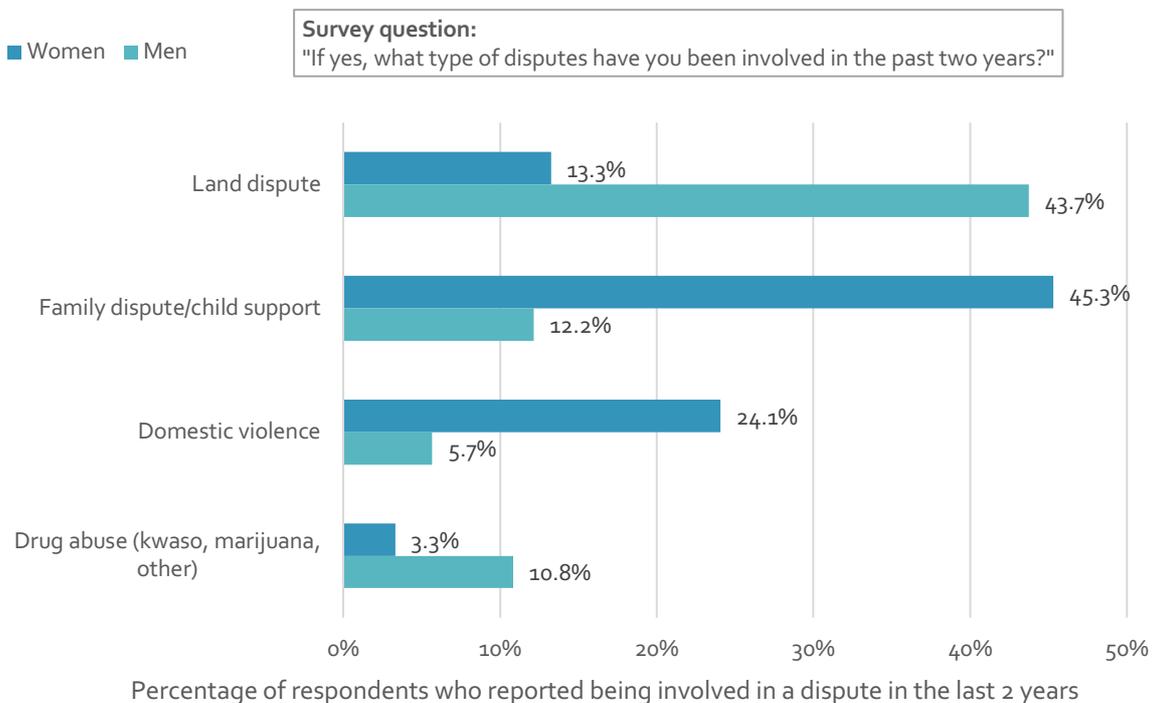


Figure 17: Differences by gender in the top four types of disputes reported by respondents

Female participants within focus group discussions revealed a number of barriers that they perceived as preventing them from accessing formal justice institution support relating to domestic violence (Box 13).

Box 13: Barriers to Solomon Island women accessing formal justice services related to domestic violence

For the support services and relevant formal justice institutions that focus group participants were aware of relating to domestic violence, there were significant barriers preventing them accessing these services. At one level, participants noted that they were aware of support services such as the Christian Care Centre,

Safe Ples and Family Support Centre, but were aware of the limited support those institutions could provide. In terms of access to the formal justice sector, participants perceived those institutions were not effective, particularly the police with whom they had most contact. All participants from outside of urban areas, where limited government services are available, noted that it was often too costly and time consuming to report a domestic violence case to the formal authorities. For those in the villages, they would have to travel into Honiara or Auki to report the issue. Particularly for those outside of Tulagi and other more distant areas, the remoteness of their location was prohibitive to making any formal reports. As one participant reflected, “who is responsible for our travel, accommodation and food while we go report?”

Even for those women who were aware of options for reporting their husbands and felt they could, another barrier was the lack of support for their family after their husband’s departure. One woman from Central Kwara’ae said, “if I report my husband who will be climbing the coconut or go fishing for my family while he is in prison”, while another from Central noted they “feared reporting her husband because he will leave me behind with the kids”. The lack of alternative means of livelihood support for these women was identified as limiting their ability to leave an abusive relationship.

AGE

Differences emerged in the types disputes Solomon Islanders had been involved with by age. Solomon Islanders over the age of 41 were less likely to have been involved in a fight/assault (8.3% compared to 21.7% for 18-25 and 20.0% for 26-40), while those between the age of 26-40 were most likely to report being involved in a domestic violence dispute (22.1% compared to 7.9% for 18-25 and 11.5% for 41+).

LOCATION

The number and types of disputes Solomon Islanders had been involved with varied depending on their location. Solomon Islanders based in peri-urban areas were most likely to have been involved in a dispute (28.8% compared to 20.4% urban and 15.2% rural). In terms of types of disputes, involvement in land disputes was most likely in urban areas (40.4%) and rural (30.3%) areas compared to peri-urban areas (16.9%).

DISPUTES OF GREATEST IMPACT ON LIVES

Of the of Solomon Islanders involved in a dispute over the past two years (n=484), the disputes most commonly identified as having the greatest impact on their lives were related to family dispute/child support (26.7%) and land disputes (24.9%). This was followed by domestic violence (12.8%) and fight/assault (12.0%).

GENDER

Gender based differences with disputes of greatest impact on Solomon Islanders lives broadly paralleled those for involvement in different types of disputes in general (Figure 18). Men were more likely to identify that land disputes had the greatest impact on their lives (39.6% compared to 9.3%), while women were more likely to identify family disputes/child support (42.1% compared to 12.1%) and domestic violence (21.7 compared to 4.4%).

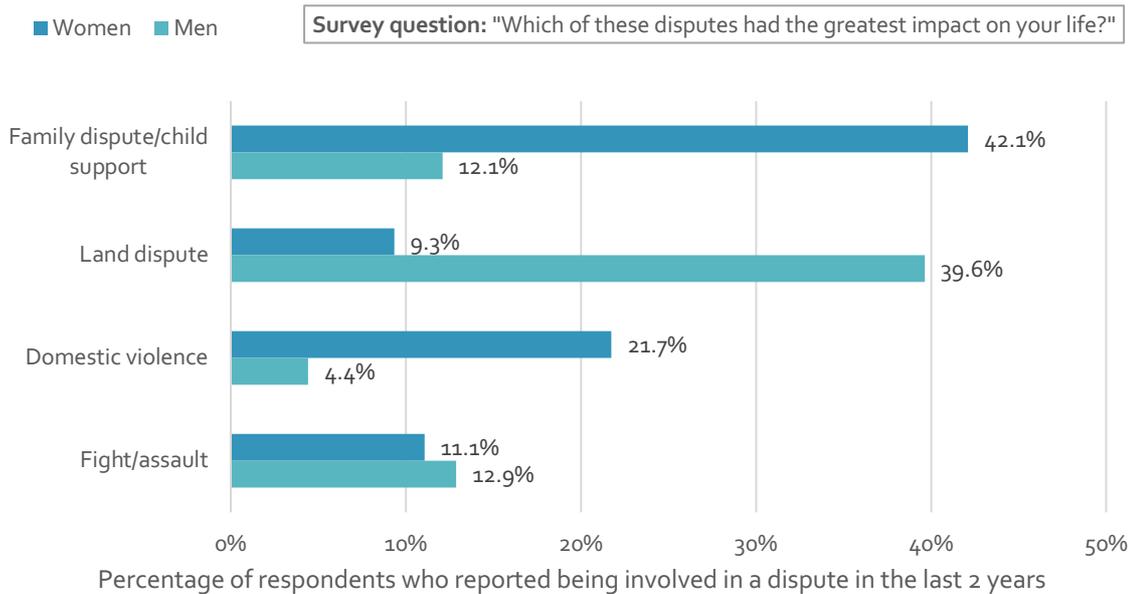


Figure 18: Differences by gender in reports of dispute that had the greatest impact on their life

AGE

Differences emerged by age in relation to the disputes deemed to have the greatest impact on lives.

Those between 26-40 years old were less likely to identify land disputes (20.7% compared to 26.5% for 18-25 and 28.7% for 41+) but were most likely to identify domestic violence (19.3% compared to 9.8% for 18-25 and 7.7% for 41+). Those over the age of 41 were least likely to identify a fight/assault (4.9% compared to 15.3% for 18-25 and 15.4% for 26-40).

LOCATION

Differences emerged regarding the disputes of greatest impact by location. Those in peri-urban areas were most likely to consider family disputes/child support to have the greatest impact (34.2% compared 25.6% urban and 23.7% rural) and were least likely to identify land disputes (17.4% compared to 30.8% urban and 26.2% rural). Those in urban areas were less likely to report domestic violence as the dispute that had greatest impact on their lives (6.7% compared to 18.0% peri-urban and 12.7% rural).

PROBLEM RESOLUTION AND TIME TAKEN TO RESOLVE

Nearly three-quarters (73.3%) of those who had been involved in a significant dispute in the last two years reported their issue had been completely (66.0%) or partially (9.6%) resolved (Figure 19).

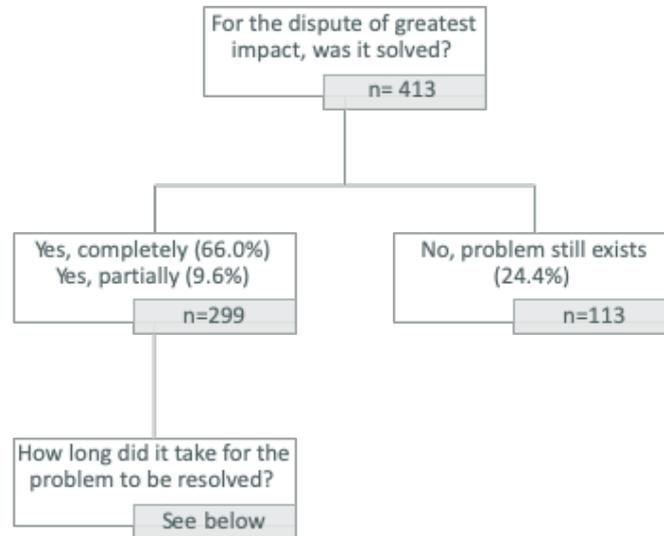


Figure 19 – Outlined of the number of respondents who had their dispute of greatest impact resolved

For those who report their problem either completely or partially resolved (n=299), one third (34.8%) reported it was resolved almost immediately, with the majority (69.0%) reporting that it had been resolved within six months (Figure 20). The remaining 28.6% reported it took more than six months, of which 11.0% indicated the problem had lasted for more than two years.

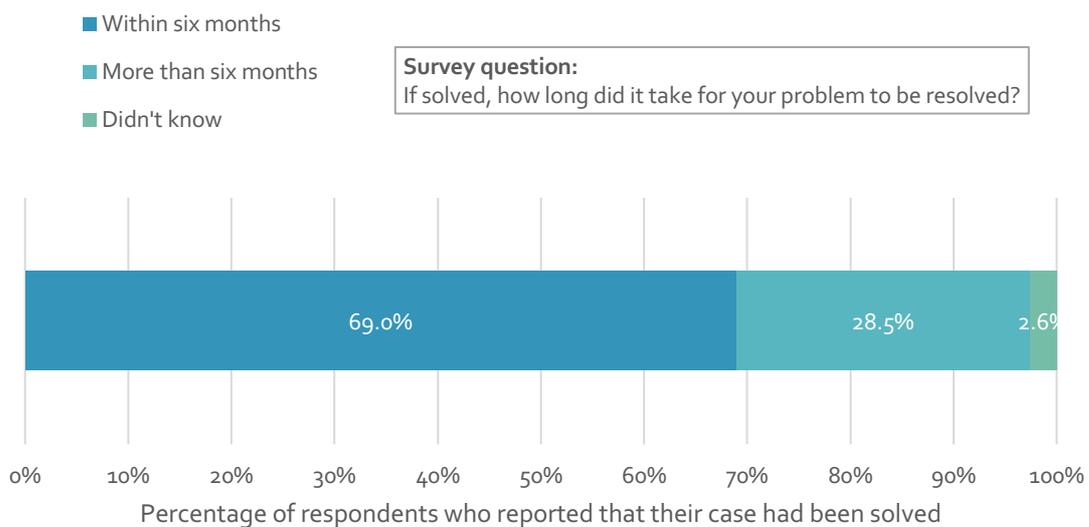


Figure 20: Length of time taken for case resolution



GENDER

It took longer for women to resolve the disputes they were involved in than it took men (Figure 21). Men were more likely to identify that their problem was resolved within six months (77.8% compared to 59.5%) with a higher proportion indicating the problem was solved almost immediately (38.1 compared to 31.3%). Women were more likely to report disputes taking more than six months (37.8% compared to 19.8%) and were significantly more likely to indicate disputes took more than 2 years to resolve (19.3% compared to 1.7%).

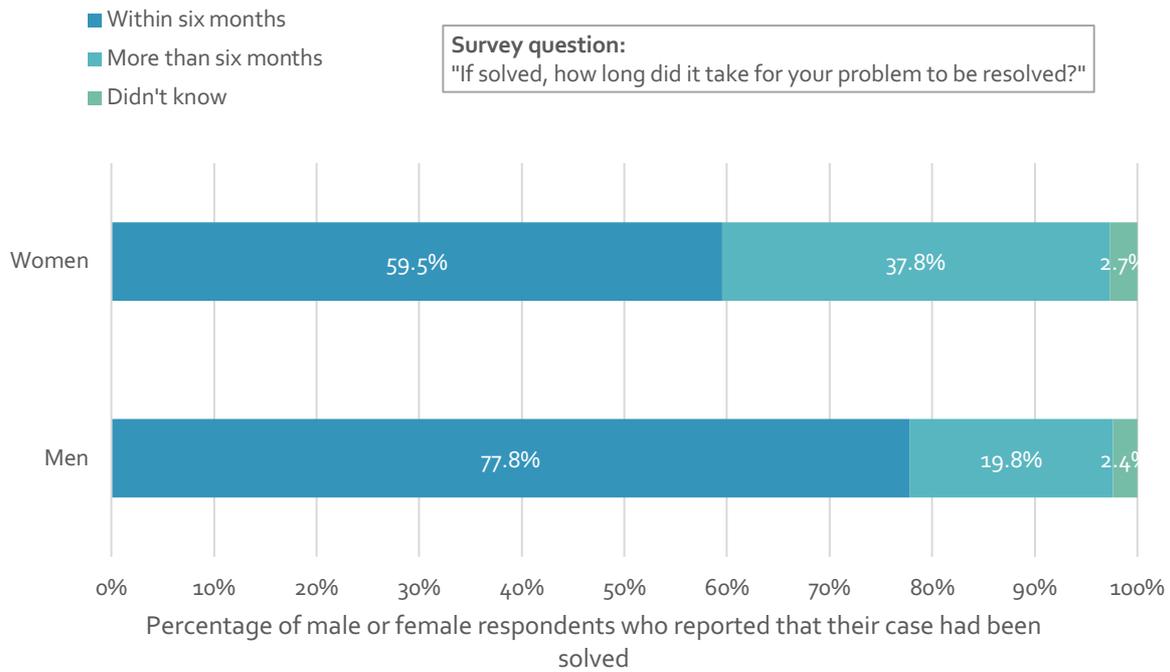


Figure 21: Differences by gender in length of time it took to resolve the dispute

DISPUTE RESOLUTION PATHWAY

Of the Solomon Islanders involved in a dispute that had a significant impact on their lives (n=484), the majority (80.0%) reported they had acted to solve the dispute. The overall pathway that was followed in terms of action taken and whether it solved the problem is outlined in Figure 22.

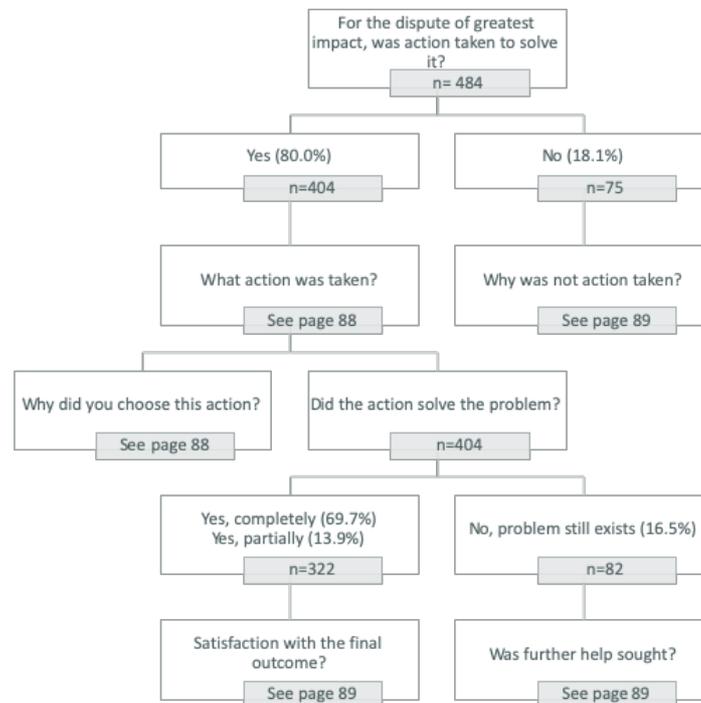


Figure 22: Dispute resolution pathway for those who identified a dispute which had a significant impact upon their lives in the last two years

TAKING ACTION TO RESOLVE A DISPUTE

Of those who had experienced a dispute and had taken action to resolve it (n=404), the most common first actions were to visit a village chief (22.4%) and consult family (20.5%). This was followed by reporting the dispute to the police (16.9%).

The reasons most frequently given for why the first action was chosen was that it would easily resolve the problem (27.8%) or problems were also solved that way in their community (21.1%).

GENDER

The first action taken to resolve a problem differed by gender. Men were more likely than women to go to the village chief (29.2% compared to 15.1%) and to take the issue to court (10.9% compared to 3.0%), while women were more likely consult family (29.0% compared to 12.7%).

The reasons why Solomon Islanders took a certain action first to solve their dispute varied by gender. Women were more likely to take the action because it was an easy resolution to the problem (42.5% compared to 33.4%).



AGE

The action chosen first to resolve a dispute varied according by age. Young Solomon Islanders (18-25) were more likely to consult family (31.6% compared to 18.1% for 26-40 and 13.0% for 41+) and were least likely to try and reach an agreement with or compensate the other party (3.8% compared to 11.6% for 26-40 and 13.3% for 41+).

LOCATION

Differences by location emerged for the reason why Solomon Islanders had chosen a particular first action. Urban based Solomon Islanders were more likely to choose their first action because it was the most trustworthy option (26.1% compared to 16.4% peri-urban and 16.2% rural) and were less likely to do so because it was an easy resolution to the problem (21.5% compared to 48.7% peri-urban and 37.9% rural). Peri-urban dwellers were less likely to take action because that was the way that problems were always solved (12.2% compared to 25.5% urban and 23.7% rural).

DISABILITY

The first action chosen to resolve a dispute varied by disability. Those with a disability were less likely to consult family (0.2% compared to 22.4%) and report the problem to the police (12.9% compared to 17.2%), while being slightly more likely to go to the village chief (28.9% compared to 21.8%).

OUTCOME OF ACTION TAKEN TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE

For those who had experienced a dispute over the past two years and had taken action to resolve it (n=404), the majority reported their issue was resolved. Overall, 83.6% reported their issue was resolved (69.7% completely; 13.9% partially) while 16.5% said it still existed.

Of those who had their issue either completely or partially resolved (n=322), the large majority were satisfied. Overall, 92.5% were satisfied (71.8% very; 20.7% somewhat) while only 7.5% were unsatisfied (3.6% somewhat; 2.9% very).

SEEKING ADDITIONAL HELP

For those who had experienced a dispute over the past two years and had taken action to resolve it which was unsuccessful (n=82), just under a third (30.0%) sought additional help. For those that sought additional help (n=25), the most common next step was to go to court (36.7%). Mixed levels of satisfaction were reported with the final outcome based on the additional help sought (40.7%, n=12 were satisfied; 42.9%, n=11 were not satisfied).

REASONS FOR NOT TAKING ACTION

Of the small number who had experienced a dispute in the last two years and had not taken any action (n=75), the main reasons for not taking action were that it would be expensive (13.4%), that they were afraid to do so (12.6%) and that it was not important (11.1%).

COSTS RELATED TO ACCESSING JUSTICE

Assessing the costs related to accessing justice was integrated into multiple components of the research. First, this section reports on the general costs incurred by those attempting to resolve a dispute that the greatest impact on them during the last two years. This is based in data from the Access to Justice Survey,

discussed in the previous section. Second, this section presents the findings from three surveys targeted at people who had specific experience with the justice sector as having survived domestic violence, been involved in a customary land rights dispute or currently a defendant on remand. This is based on a separate Cost Survey related data collection activity.

GENERAL COSTS OF ACCESSING JUSTICE

A subset of respondents to the *Access to Justice Survey* detailed their experience of resolving a dispute which had a significant impact on their life during the last two years. Of those who shared such experiences (n=484), 50.3% provided an insight into the monetary costs incurred in the process of trying to resolve their dispute. Women were less happy to discuss costs of the dispute (59.2%) than men (40.8%).

Of those who were happy to discuss costs, and excluding outliers, (n=265) **the average costs to resolve a dispute was SBD \$14,911**, with a range of no financial costs to a maximum of SBD \$500,000. While there was a broad range of costs provided, overall 77.7% of disputes were reported as resolved for a cost of less than SBD \$5,000.

AVERAGE COSTS OF ACCESSING JUSTICE BY ANALYTICAL VARIABLES

There average costs differed by the analytical variables:

- **Men spent over six times as much as women on** resolving their disputes (SBD \$22,457; n=165 men; SBD \$3,373; n=100 women)
- **Those between 26-40 years old spent more than double those younger and older than them** on resolving their disputes (SBD \$24,992, n=103 of 26-40; SBD \$9,094, n=72 for 18-25; SBD \$ 8,902, n=90 for 41+)
- **Peri-urban based Solomon Islanders spent more than double those from urban or rural areas** on resolving their disputes (SBD \$28,100 for n=69 from peri-urban; SBD \$11,259, n=161 from rural; SBD \$10,730 for n=35 from urban)
- **Solomon Islanders with a disability spent just over half as much as those without a disability** on resolving their disputes (SBD \$8,586, n=25 with a disability; SBD \$15,602, n=240 without a disability)

AVERAGE COSTS OF ACCESSING JUSTICE BY TYPE OF DISPUTE

The costs related to the four most commonly identified disputes that people had recent experience with attempting to resolve differed prominent. While the average costs varied, it was clear **that land disputes were the most expensive dispute to resolve** (Table 6). The average cost of land disputes (SBD \$38,152) were significantly higher than those related to fights/assaults (SBD \$1,561), family dispute/child support (SBD \$1,430) and domestic violence (SBD \$309).

Table 6: Average costs of justice problem across the top types of disputes identified

<i>Response option</i>	No.	Average	Average (W)	Maximum	Minimum
<i>Family dispute/child support</i>	53	984	1,430	10,000	-
<i>Land disputes</i>	96	21,222	38,152	500,000	-



<i>Domestic violence</i>	18	418	309	2,000	-
<i>Fight/assault</i>	33	1,391	1,561	20,000	-

COSTS OF ACCESSING JUSTICE FOR SPECIFIC ISSUES

Solomon Islanders with personal experience with different elements of the justice system were interviewed to provide a more detailed understanding of their pathway through the justice system and the costs associated with it. Surveys were undertaken with: Survivors of Domestic Violence, Customary Land Rights Holders, and Defendants on Remand. The findings in this section are not intended to be representative of these groups as a whole but indicative of the different experiences of those who had previous personal engagement with the justice sector.

FINANCIAL COSTS OF EXPERIENCE WITH JUSTICE SYSTEM

The pathways through which each of the three groups went in relation to their incident was different with varying costs being incurred throughout those processes. For the purpose of this section, costs were separated into three parts:

- Process costs – the costs incurred by going through both informal and formal justice systems, including court costs (where relevant), document preparation, transposition, food, board or lodgings, getting assistance, and producing a witness.
- Opportunity costs – the costs related to activities they could not do as a result of their involvement with the justice sector, including not being able to work and not being able to garden for either market sale or consumption at home
- Other cost – the other costs that emerged outside of process and opportunity costs.

The observations drawn from the data below should be considered in light of the very different pathways which responses took across the three different groups, with this acknowledged as placing limitations on direct and meaningful comparison across the groups.

While acknowledging these limitations, the summary presented in Table 7 provides an outline of the total costs reported by respondents through their experiences related to domestic violence, customary land disputes, and being charged with criminal offence. At a basic level, the table below shows that there are difference cost distributions between different elements of the justice sector. The starkest different is in relation to the high process costs for those involved in a land dispute (SBD \$2,252,734) as well as the high opportunity costs for defendants on remand (SBD \$1,524,100).

Table 7: Types and number of costs identified across the different cost surveys

<i>Survey (number of survey respondents)</i>	Process costs		Opportunity costs		Other costs		Grand Total
	No. of steps with reported	Total costs (SBD \$)	No. of costs reported	Total costs (SBD \$)	No. of costs reported	Total costs (SBD \$)	
<i>Survivors of Domestic Violence (n=20)</i>	18	40,270	9	43,500	4	17,300	101,070

<i>Customary Land Rights Holders (n=28)</i>	46	2,252,734	8	44,400	2	1,300	2,298,434
<i>Defendants on Remand (n=25)</i>	6	151,300	22	1,524,100	1	100,000	1,775,400

NON-FINANCIAL COSTS OF EXPERIENCE WITH JUSTICE SYSTEM

Cost survey respondents expressed a number of non-financial and non-quantifiable costs related to their experiences with the justice system. This included opportunity costs for their families in terms of what certain family members were prevented from doing as a result of the dispute, as well as other more general impacts they reflected resulted from the incident.

NON-QUANTIFIABLE OPPORTUNITY COST FOR FAMILY

Survey respondents from the Land Disputes survey were most likely to identify that there were activities which their family could not do because of the incident (21 of 28 respondents). This was a higher proportion of respondents than in the Defendant on Remand survey group (18 of 25) and noticeably higher than the Survivors of Domestic Violence group (8 of 20). For the respondents who indicated their family had been impacted in some way, the most common response across each survey was that their family was not long looked after, followed by going to the garden for the purpose of producing food to eat (Table 8).

Table 8: Opportunity costs identified for family members across the different cost surveys

<i>Impact</i>	Domestic Violence	Land disputes	Defendant on remand
	No. of responses	No. of responses	No. of responses
<i>Looking after family</i>	2	11	12
<i>Gardening for eating</i>	2	7	5
<i>Children going to school</i>	2	8	
<i>Fishing/farming</i>	1		5
<i>Going to work</i>	1	5	6
<i>Gardening for market</i>		4	3

OTHER IMPACTS RELATED TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Survivors of domestic violence respondents reported that they were forced to maintain a connection with the abusive partner because of finances and children support. As one female from Central reflected, “at the moment, I need his full support to help me with school fee and also basic needs”. While for some they were waiting upon other support, one respondent said they were returning to their husband for the “care for



the children” as there was no other way for her to provide for her family, noting a lack of government support for survivors of domestic violence.

Respondents identified the need for increased and improved services to support survivors of domestic violence. They had reported their husband to different legal institutions but to no effect. For some, this was a result of the process with one observing that “sometimes decisions made in the legal institutions are biased and unfair... the Wantok system is one of the reasons for this” (Female, Makira). For others, the lack of effectiveness in legal support was a result of service providers not understanding the problems facing rural women, or that the services are not sufficiently available in the provinces.

OTHER IMPACTS RELATED TO LAND DISPUTES

The majority of those involved in customary land disputes felt that elements of the Solomon Islands legal system needed to improve to deal with land disputes better. This stemmed from an overall dissatisfaction with the current process, and the perception that the “Ministry needs to improve their law how to deal with the land issues” (Male, Honiara).

The reasons provided for dissatisfaction were broad but largely related to a lack of trust in the process and perceptions of corruption. As outlined by one respondent, the “legal system is not fully trusted [and] there is a lot of favouritism in the legal system. Decisions are always biased and our right to use the land is being deprived” (Male, Makira-Ulawa). There was a general desire for improvements to be made with one reflecting the “great need for Ministry of Justice to find other ways to help us” in relation to land disputes (Female, Honiara).

Respondents involved in customary land disputes made observations on how improvements could be made, particularly in terms of promoting the accessibility and performance of legal services. This included improving the quality of legal services, reducing the time it takes to make decisions, reducing the costs of legal services, and promoting better access to formal justice institutions such as the Magistrate’s Court, the House of Chiefs and the police. There were specific suggestions recommending that local institutions, such as the House of Chiefs, “give decisions in paperwork, not verbally” (Male, Central).

OTHER IMPACTS RELATED TO BEING CHARGED WITH A CRIMINAL OFFENCE

In terms of other impacts, the most common feeling among the defendants on remand was that the period they had been held in remand was unreasonably long. Remandees did not feel it was fair that they were held without conviction for such a period, noting that they missed the opportunity to support their families during this time. As one remandee suggested, “some of us are now on remand for more than 5 years, some of us last attended court 2-3 years ago” (Male, Honiara). Respondents wished their case could come to a speedy conclusion, with one reflecting the perverse outcome that “staying long as a remandee makes some of us to want to plead guilty just to shorten the remand period” (Male, Honiara).

The length of time spent in remand had led to dissatisfaction among some of the remandees with the support provided by their lawyers. As one remandee explicitly noted, “I am not satisfied with how my lawyer deals with my case” (Male, Honiara). The dissatisfaction with their legal representation stemmed both from the availability of lawyers to represent them in court, and the observation that cases in the High Court take a significant period of time.

Other observations by defendants on remand touched on perceptions of being treated unfairly by those outside the formal legal system. As one remandee reflected, the “chief and church leaders already dealt with my case then law punished me, [this is] double punishment” (Male, Malaita). Another noted they felt aggrieved as “I am yet to be convicted but [my work] has ceased my salary” (Male, Honiara).

ANNEX A – METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

This section presents a detailed outline of the project methodology and limitations. It is structured to against the three different methods employed: Access to Justice Survey, Cost Surveys and Focus Group Discussions.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE SURVEY

SAMPLING APPROACH

The purpose of the Access to Justice Survey was to be representative of the Solomon Island population, including being sensitive to gender, age, province and urban and rural location. Population data from the Solomon Islands National Statistics Office were used to establish the estimated national population size, and population breakdown by both gender and those aged over 18 years. Table 9 outlines the parameters used for drawing a representative sample from across all provinces in Solomon Islands at a 95% confidence interval with low margin of error (MoE).

Table 9 – Population level sample

Population (2017 estimate)	Population (18 years and older)	Minimum target sample (95% confidence level; 2% MoE)	Total sample collected (95% confidence level; 1.9% MoE)
653,248	326,624	2,383	2,633

Given the provincial diversity within the Solomon Islands, it was decided that sampling should ensure a reasonable level of confidence in the provincial level findings. Table 10 presents the sample size for each province to be able to do analysis at a 95% level of confidence, with 7% margin of error.

Table 10 – Province level sample

Province	Population (2017 estimate) ¹	Population (18 years and older)	Minimum sample (95% CL; 7% MoE)	Total sample collected
Honiara	84,522	42,261	195	249
Guadalcanal	139,164	69,582	195	243
Malaita	156,787	78,394	196	261
Central	31,289	15,645	194	423
Choiseul	34,197	17,099	194	229
Isabel	33,139	16,570	194	273
Makira	51,755	25,878	195	266

¹ <http://www.statistics.gov.sb/statistics/social-statistics/population>



Rennell and Bellona	3,923	1,962	178	247
Temotu	24,520	12,260	193	240
Western Province	93,953	46,977	195	202
		TOTAL	1,900	2,633

Site selection

Data was collected in all nine provinces of Solomon Islands as well as Honiara. In each of the provinces and Honiara, three EAs were visited with a total of at least 30 visited across Solomon Islands. EAs were drawn from those used in the 2009 Census. The selection of specific survey sites was done through the process described below.

- **Within each province, three EAs were selected using a random number generator.** These were selected methodically, by generating one urban (identified by the provincial capital) and two rural locations for each province, except for Guadalcanal and Honiara. In Guadalcanal all sites were rural and in Honiara all sites were urban.
- **Within each selected EA, medium and large villages were identified and then, using a random number generator, sorted into primary and reserve survey sites.** Multiple villages were selected in this process within each EA, so that in case of safety or feasibility concerns, there are other randomly selected villages to fall back on.
- **Within each survey site (i.e. medium or large village), multiple primary sampling places (for example, churches, schools or markets) were visited.** The identification of the primary sampling places was led by the team leader, once the group was in the villages.
- **Within each primary sampling place location, interviewers followed a consistent routine for commencing the interviews.** This involved randomly selecting a direction and interviewing the first individuals found in this direction, aligned with the target participant group quotas.

RESPONDENT SELECTION

The overall target number of interviews in each province was 224 participants. This included approximately 75 interviews at each of the three sites. The respondent selection was guided by the quotas below to ensure a balance of interview participants across age and gender in each province (Table 11).

Table 11 – Target quotas for each province

Age	Female	Male	Total
15-25	37	37	74
26-40	38	38	76
41+	37	37	74
Total	112	112	224

Aligned with the quotas above, Team Leaders provided guidance to interviewers on the age groups they needed to focus on (noting that females interviewed females, and males interviewed males).

SURVEY DATA CLEANING AND CODING

Data cleaning and coding followed a standard validation process. Data was reviewed for any issues or inconsistencies to identify any potential issues with data quality. If issues emerged and could not be reasonably resolved, that data was removed. The process taken for data cleaning and coding are outlined in the Data Log and provided as an attachment to the finalised dataset. The free-text responses provided in 'Other' responses were reviewed and coded by a data analyst. If the response fell within a pre-defined response category, it was recoded accordingly. If sufficient similar responses were recorded that were outside the pre-defined response categories, a new category was established. The Data Log recorded the assumptions and types of responses that were coded into different categories. This includes the addition of new categories.

ANALYTICAL VARIABLES

Certain demographic details were collected for all respondents. This included by location, province, age, gender, education, disability, primary occupation, and several socio-economic variables. These demographic data were used as key variables for subsequent analysis (Table 12). The specific variables used for analysis were primarily gender, age, location, disability and province. A selected number of questions were analysed for a proxy of socio-economic standing.

Table 12: Analytical variables and categories

<i>Variable</i>	<i>Categories</i>
<i>Gender</i>	Women, Men
<i>Age</i>	18-25, 26-40, 41+
<i>Location</i>	Urban, Peri-Urban, Rural
<i>Disability</i>	No disability, Disability
<i>Province</i>	Central, Choiseul, Guadalcanal, Honiara, Isabel, Makira – Ulawa, Malaita Rennell and Bellona, Temotu, Western
<i>Socio-economic status</i>	High, Low

The following section provides a breakdown for the data that sits behind the different analytical variables including: gender (Table 13), age (Table 14), location (Table 15), disability (Table 16) province (Table 17), and socio-economic status (Table 18).

Table 13: Number of respondents by gender

	No.	%
<i>Women</i>	1,325	50.3%
<i>Men</i>	1,308	49.7%
<i>Total</i>	2,633	100.0%



Table 14: Number of respondents by age group

	No.	%
18-25	782	29.7%
26-40	915	34.8%
41+	936	35.5%
<i>Total</i>	2,633	100.0%

Table 15: Number of respondents by type of location

	No.	%
<i>Urban</i>	330	12.5%
<i>Peri-Urban</i>	472	17.9%
<i>Rural</i>	1,831	69.5%
<i>Total</i>	2,633	100.0%

In relation to disability, this variable was aggregated from the six questions with which disability was identified. This variable represents any respondents who reported having one or more disabilities across any of the six categories. Wherever respondents with a disability were found to have statistically valid differences in responses to questions to their non-disabled peers were presented in the report.

Table 16: Number of respondents who had at least “A lot of difficulty” to one of the six dimensions of disability

	No.	%
<i>Has a disability</i>	181	6.9%
<i>Does not have a disability</i>	2,452	93.1%
<i>Total</i>	2,633	100.0%

Table 17: Number of respondents per province

	No.	%
<i>Central</i>	423	16.1%

<i>Choiseul</i>	229	8.7%
<i>Guadalcanal</i>	243	9.2%
<i>Honiara</i>	249	9.5%
<i>Isabel</i>	273	10.4%
<i>Makira - Ulawa</i>	266	10.1%
<i>Malaita</i>	261	9.9%
<i>Rennell and Bellona</i>	247	9.4%
<i>Temotu</i>	240	9.1%
<i>Western</i>	202	7.7%
<i>Total</i>	2,633	100.0%

In relation to the socio-economic indicator, this indicator serves as a proxy for the level of socio-economic standing in the community and was constructed from comparing those respondents who had leaf housing with those who did not have an indoor toilet.

This variable was applied to a few select questions as identified by the Study Team Leader.

Table 18: Number of respondents per socio-economic status

	No.	%
<i>High socio-economic status</i>	1,581	60.0%
<i>Low socio-economic status</i>	1,052	40.0%
<i>Total</i>	2,633	100.0%

METHOD OF ANALYSIS

The data that was gathered during this survey was entirely categorical, meaning that the data splits into multiple categories which can be selected from for each given question. This particular type of data lends itself to a statistical significance test called the chi squared test of independence. A statistical significance test was run on the data to check for statistically meaningful relationships between variables, as opposed to differences due to chance.

The data presented in this report are statistically significant (unless otherwise indicated), meaning that there is a very high probability that this data is reproducible at a 95% confidence level.

COST SURVEY



RESPONDENT SELECTION

The purpose of the Justice Sector Cost Surveys was to provide an insight into the individual costs aligned with respondents who have experience with different elements of the justice sector. Originally, a distinct survey was designed for each of the four different groups. Table 19 outlines the respondents that were to be targeted and the Solomon Islands institutions who would provide support in accessing those groups.

Table 19 – Draft target populations, parameters and facilitating institutions for different cost surveys

Survey	Target populations	Interest groups (within the target population)	Target sample
<i>Cost for Victims</i>	Victims relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Violent crimes Theft and robbery Civil disputes Domestic violence. 	Domestic violence survivors Rural/urban respondents	20
<i>Criminal Defendant Costs</i>	Criminal defendants including those with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current cases Concluded cases 	Youth (18-30 years old) defendants Rural/urban respondents	20
<i>Defendant on Remand</i>	Defendants subject to different charges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Violent crimes Sexual crimes Theft and robbery. 	Youth (18-30 years old) defendants	20
<i>Customary Land Rights Holders</i>	Those involved in land disputes who feel aggrieved at land dispute processes or decisions	Rural/urban respondents	20

For respondent recruitment, three strategies were outlined for targeting potential respondents to the Cost Surveys. These were:

- **Access through facilitating institutions for face to face interview.** This would involve contacting consenting respondents provided by facilitating Solomon Islands institutions. These respondents would then be contacted, and interviews arranged.
- **Snowballing.** Paralleling the approach above, other Solomon Islands institutions and networks could be leveraged to potentially gain contacts of other consenting respondents.

Subsequent sections summarise how the above process worked in practice.

PARTNER ENGAGEMENT

In consultation with the UNDP, the most appropriate approach to identify respondents for the cost survey was to work through the facilitating Solomon Islands institutions. This included developing an agreed process with those partners for respondent selection and interview conduct.

SURVEY CONDUCT

Table 20 outlines the total number of respondents interviewed aligned with each of the four different surveys. Within the scope of the project, it was not possible to engage with the Criminal Defendant group. Table 21 outlines the number and types of surveys completed in different areas.

Table 20: Total number of respondents engaged across each of the Cost Surveys

Survey	Target (and minimum) respondents	Total respondents
<i>Cost for Victims</i>	40 (20)	20
<i>Criminal Defendant</i>	40 (20)	0
<i>Defendant on Remand</i>	40 (20)	25
<i>Customary Land Rights Holders</i>	40 (20)	28

Table 21: Number of respondents engaged by survey and province for the Cost Surveys

Province	DV Survivors	Criminal Defendants	Customary Land Rights Holders
Honiara / Guadalcanal	4	11	21
Malaita	3	9	1
Central	11	3	4
Other	2	2	2

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Focus group discussions were undertaken to validate the survey data. The purpose was to provide complementary narratives to the other data sources, rather than be a stand along piece of analysis. As such, the focus group discussion protocols were designed to replicate certain questions and issues of interest from the surveys.

Overall, nine focus group discussions were undertaken in April 2019 (Table 22). All surveys was undertaken by a lead Solomon Island facilitator with the support of a research assistant to scribe the discussion.

Table 22: Number, type and gender of respondents within the conducted Focus Group Discussions

Province	Type	Gender
Central Guadalcanal	Community	Female
Central Guadalcanal	Community	Male



Central Malaita	Community	Female
Central Malaita	Community	Male
Central Malaita	Community (Youth)	Male
Tulagi (Central)	Community	Mixed
Tulagi (Central)	Domestic Violence Survivors	Female
Honiara	People with disability	Male
Honiara	People with disability	Female

Focus group discussion data was analysed thematically based on discussion notes. These themes were informed by those that emerged from the survey, with the focus group discussion data integrated into the survey reports in the form of narrative boxes.

LIMITATIONS OF THE METHODS

Some limitations to the research project are outlined below with regard to each of the three methods.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE SURVEY

The following limitations to the study emerged:

- Selecting high and relatively similar numbers of respondents from every province means that some provinces were overrepresented in the data-set while others were under-represented. This was remedied through the use of population weights during the analysis stage.
- Survey responses could not be obtained in some of the randomly selected enumeration areas (North Ulawa, Vulolo, Nusa Roviana) due to mitigating factors such as weather conditions, or villages no longer existing where they did according to the 2009 Census data. The teams instead visited back-up EAs, which were usually less remote than the primary EA.
- Population weights were constructed using data from the 2009 Census data. This data is 10 years old and may no longer be fully representative of the population distribution in the Solomon Islands. If the population distribution among the provinces has significantly changed this will have flow on effects to the construction and application of the weights.

COST SURVEYS

The overall design of the Cost Survey activity meant that a number of elements were beyond the direct control of Sustineo. Some of the limitations with regard to the Cost survey are as follows:

- The original study design outlined four different respondent groups, however, due to the difficulty in identifying criminal defendants in the time frame available this respondent group was not targeted.
- Due to the delay of the scheduled local courts until after the election respondents were sampled purely through a snow-balling approach, rather than through accessing defendants. This led in most of these respondents being from Honiara rather than Tulagi and Auki as originally planned.

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

The following are the limitations to the FGD study

- Analysis of focus group discussions was focused on re-affirming or challenging the survey findings, rather than a more exploratory approach to qualitative analysis.



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