



people's survey 2011

ANU Enterprise Pty Ltd

key results

6

provinces
(and Honiara)

74

interviewers & facilitators

4972

questionnaires

The 2011 People's Survey is the fifth national survey of perceptions of economic conditions, machinery of government and law and order in Solomon Islands. A representative random sample of 4,972 people from Choiseul, Guadalcanal, Isabel, Malaita, Temotu and Western Provinces and Honiara were interviewed with a questionnaire.

There were approximately equal numbers of Men and Women (aged 30 and over) and Young Men and Young Women (aged 18-29 years). More than 70 focus group discussions (FGDs) and large group discussions and more than 30 semi-structured

interviews were also conducted to gain additional insights. Some of the main findings are summarised below. The full report is available in hard copy and online at www.ramsi.org.

Access to Services

- Sixty-seven per cent of respondents could reach a health facility in less than one hour, and a further 29% could reach a health facility in one or two hours.
- Eighty-three per cent of respondents could reach a primary school within one hour.
- Eighty per cent of respondents had attended primary school for five years or more, 53% had never attended secondary school and less than 10% had any formal post-secondary education.

Transport

- Sixty-four per cent of respondents use small boats for transport, 41% use road transport, 26% use large boats and less than 1% use air transport.

Household

- The main source of drinking water for 59% of respondents was community tap or standpipe, while 31% rely on surface water such as river, spring or stream. Fifty-one per cent of respondent said they always had clean drinking water available and 16% did not.
- Twenty-eight per cent of respondents said their household financial situation had improved in the past two years, 37% said it was the same and 34% said it was worse.

Business Activities & Tax

- Seventy-eight per cent of respondents earn cash from informal selling (78%), while 16% of respondents have paid work and 1% of respondents receive income from royalties and/or logging.
- Sixteen per cent of respondents said they have paid income tax

at some time, and 22% said they had earned more than \$7,800 in one year, but there was much confusion and misunderstanding of the taxation system.

Access to communications

- Seventy-five per cent of respondents said they had access to a mobile phone, compared with 23% in 2009. Four per cent had access to a landline, 5% could only access two-way radios and 19% had no access to any form of communications.

Safety

- Thirty-one per cent of respondents said their community was safe and peaceful, 54% said there were some problems and 13% said there were many problems.
- Fifty-nine per cent of respondents said they always feel safe in their community, 36% said 'sometimes' and 5% said 'rarely'.
- Sixty-one per cent of respondents said one of the main cause of conflict and problems in Solomon Islands is 'land disputes', 40% mentioned 'alcohol and drugs' (40%) and 40% mentioned arguments outside or within the family. Notably, less than 10% mentioned tension between ethnic or provincial groups, migration or illegal settlement.

Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF)

- Thirteen per cent of respondents had asked the RSIPF for help in the past year (almost the same as in 2010). The help sought was for disturbances (38%), violence and assault (28%), theft (26%) and community disputes (14%).
- Thirty-one per cent of respondents said that the RSIPF treats people well, while 36% said 'sometimes' and 27% said 'no'. Twenty four per cent thought the RSIPF had improved in the past five years, while 24% said it had improved in some ways and 40% thought the RSIPF had not improved.

Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI)

- Eighty-six per cent of respondents supported the presence of RAMSI in Solomon Islands (slightly more than in 2010).
- Nineteen per cent of respondents thought Solomon Islands is ready for RAMSI to scale back its activities, 65% said 'no' and 15% were undecided.

Leadership and Elections

- Sixty-six per cent of respondents thought honesty is a key quality of a good leader, 36% mentioned community consultation, 17% said a good leader should focus on social issues and 17% mentioned equitable funds distribution.

- Thirty-two per cent of respondents were satisfied with their current representative in the national parliament, 14% were partially satisfied and 49% were not satisfied. Sixty per cent of respondents were not satisfied with their representative in provincial government or the Honiara Town Council.

- Ninety per cent of respondents said that women make good leaders.
- Thirty-four per cent of respondents voted for a candidate because they were a good or trusted person, 19% voted for the candidate who made good promises, 18% chose a candidate who had already done good work and 18% chose one who was a good leader.

Women in parliament

- More than 85% of respondents said there should be women in parliament and, of these, 91% thought there should be special reserved seats for women.

Performance of local and national government

- Eight per cent of respondents thought national government is performing very well in providing basic services to the community and improving the economy, 44% said 'satisfactory' and 37% said 'not well'. Three per cent of respondents said local government was performing very well, 29% said satisfactory, and 54% said performance was not good.

Resolution of disputes

- Fifteen per cent of respondents said they had been involved in a major argument (bigfala raoa) or dispute with another person in the past year.

The complete People's Survey 2011 report is available to download from www.ramsi.org