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Research Report:

**UN PBF Interim Survey 2017**

Public Perceptions in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville

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Prepared by

**Anglo Pacific**

- RESEARCH -

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## Background

The Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ARoB) is an autonomous region within the independent state of Papua New Guinea (PNG). Through the 1990's Bougainville endured a secessionist conflict known as the 'Bougainville Crisis'. The bloody conflict lasted for twelve years until a ceasefire was negotiated which gave birth to the signing of the Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) in 2001.

To implement the BPA, the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) was set up as an interim government to drive the peace process in accordance to the laws and strategies passed by the Bougainville House of Representatives. The United Nations has been one of the key international partners in peacebuilding efforts from the start, having played an active and important role in supporting the ABG and partners to implement the BPA.

The UN continues to support peacebuilding in ARoB via the UN Peacebuilding Fund (UN PBF) Programme. The UN Secretary-General declared PNG eligible for PBF support in 2013, leading to a Peacebuilding Priority Plan approved by the Government of PNG (GoPNG), ABG and the UN which includes:

- Relationship and trust between GoPNG and ABG are strengthened towards effective implementation of autonomy arrangements and of the Bougainville Peace Agreement;
- People of Bougainville are empowered to make informed choices at the Bougainville referendum and to have increased confidence in the BPA process through access to more objective and accurate information and to fora for dialogue and debate on key peacebuilding issues, both within communities and with their political leaders; and
- Community social cohesion and security in Bougainville are strengthened through opportunities to deal with conflict-related trauma effectively and resolution of local disputes peacefully as well as through better access to information to access appropriate post-conflict services/support.

To better implement and coordinate PBF activities, a PBF Secretariat was established in Buka, with its tasks including monitoring progress against Priority Plan indicators and providing ongoing support to the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) overseeing the implementation of the PBF. One of the Secretariat's tasks is to provide social surveying to enable evidence-based decision-making.

Following public tender processes in mid-2016, Anglo Pacific Research (APR) of Port Moresby was selected to conduct a Baseline survey to capture community level indicators, to form a baseline against which to compare future survey waves in longitudinal monitoring. APR was re-engaged in 2017 to conduct a second wave (Interim) survey, using almost identical methodology and materials, to measure changes over the intervening period. This report documents the findings of this 2017 Interim Survey of public perceptions in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

## Methodology

Sampling systems used must reflect the essential characteristics of the population whilst remaining realistic, practical and fool-proof in administration. Multi-strata quota sampling is by far the most useful in surveying in PNG and has been used and refined for over 20 years.

Many other systems used elsewhere in the world are often totally unsuitable for use in PNG for various reasons. For instance, whilst some pure probability-based sampling methods may be considered academically superior, they are generally deemed unsuitable for PNG, in part due to budgetary constraints but particularly due to the absence of detailed up-to-date demographic data (even the GoPNG admits accurate and reliable official data is scarce).

Residential / household sampling (while found to be useful in some projects, eg. canvassing primary carers of young children in malaria-prevention surveying) has been found to be usually impractical and unreliable in PNG for various reasons:

- Security considerations dictate only daytime interviewing, as PNG respondents do not welcome strangers into their compounds, especially after dark.
- All able-bodied workers (formal and informal, male and female) and students tend to be out of the home during the day, with the result that the sample that can be interviewed in the household in the daytime is significantly skewed towards elderly or infirm people, primary carers and pre-school age children (and away from the able-bodied majority).
- Call-backs to find a named respondent (or a Kish grid nominee, say) are very expensive and Papua New Guineans may be suspicious of strangers seeking a named respondent.

The multi-strata quota system proposed allows the security of daytime interviewing of total strangers in public places with random selection of respondents and easily managed systems and quality control; it is practical and fool-proof in administration.

### Multi-strata Design: Locational Stratification

The overall sample size for this ARB quantitative research was 820 interviews with members of the general public (over 15 years, who will be voters before long) in face to face interviews using a formal questionnaire.

The locational quotas were derived from official statistics; NRI's Provinces Handbook 2010 gave ARB population as ~175,000 (comprising North ~40%, South ~ 35%, and Central ~ 25%). With the preferred overall sample of 820, sampling was 328:288:204 respectively. Beyond the locational stratum, sampling was designed to be approximately equal in urban-dwellers and rural villagers; thereafter strata were based on age and gender profiles within the population.

## Gender and Age Group

To best suit the survey's requirements (and in common with prior studies), age and gender strata were based on the NSO national population pyramid across all sampling locations.

The gender stratum was 50:50; males marginally outnumber females in the population but gender is typically split equally across all sample units in social surveying.

Age group segmentation is usually drawn from the national population pyramid which is the most reliable data; under-15s (who make up 40% of the population) are usually discarded as being minors requiring parental presence to be interviewed. The population pyramid is markedly bottom-heavy as can be seen from this quota grid example of 15+ yrs groups:

Age group	Per 100 respondents in any given location	
	Male (50)	Female (50)
15-19 (18%)	9	9
20-29 (30%)	15	15
30-39 (22%)	11	11
40-49 (16%)	8	8
50+yrs (14%)	7	7
Total (100%)	50	50

## Implementation

Respondents were randomly selected on the basis of age and gender at a number of high traffic locations such as public buildings, markets and congregation areas. Primary sampling units (PSUs) were selected for each regional location; a maximum number of interviews per sampling unit was set at two per interviewer per location.

The overall effect of this approach is that target respondents (strangers selected only on the basis of age and gender) are quasi-randomly selected at a series of locations (PSUs) which are also randomly selected but within set geo-parameters.

The fieldwork team (typically eight interviewers overseen by two supervisors, travelling together as a team in a troop-carrier) turns up at the nominated location (PSU); it is standard practice for the team to obtain permission in village and community settings from a local elder or councillor to proceed before interviewing commences.

It is APR standard policy that interviewing is same-gender, males interviewing males and females interviewing females; it follows therefore that interviewing teams were made up of equal numbers of male and female interviewers.

Supervisors allocated interviewers their tasks in line with age group/gender quotas and the interviewers spread out looking for a respondent matching their task at this PSU (eg. find and interview a female 15-19 years old, or 20-29, say). Supervisors oversee interviews, collect and check completed questionnaires and keep tally against the designated quotas; they then allocate new tasks for the next location accordingly.

The ratio of one supervisor to four enumerators ensures that approximately 25% of surveys are overseen in process. Cluster size limits are usually 2 interviews per interviewer per location, though at less-populated locations the cluster may be limited to only one each.

PSUs are typically selected on the following basis: coverage (PSUs across North, South, East and West of the designated district/ward to ensure broad coverage of the local population); logistics (viability to get to the PSU given local conditions) and security (PSUs safe for the Field Team to travel to and operate within). Designated PSU lists are usually over-numerated to allow for conditions on the ground (landslips, floods, washed-out roads, civil insurrection, tribal fights, etc); they are drawn as 'primary target locations' and 'back-up locations', primary targets to be sampled unless problems arise, in which case go to back up list.

In line with standard exclusion screening at the start of the questionnaire, enumerators did not continue surveying any respondent who was: (i) not willing to take part, (ii) not local to the PSU area, (iii) works in media or journalism or (iv) under 15 years of age. Surveys were conducted in Pidgin; whilst ~98% of respondents can speak Pidgin, if a respondent could not, enumerators moved on to another respondent (to avoid the possibility that translators may 'edit' responses).

### **Overall Methodological Note**

The sampling system and all other methodological details (including PSU lists) used in this Interim Survey 2017 were identical to those used in the Baseline Survey 2016 to ensure comparability YoY. The only difference was in the questionnaire which again was 90+% unchanged to allow for direct comparisons, but included a short UN-specific section at the end which had not been present in the baseline survey; this section covered public perceptions surrounding key indicators of UN activities.

### **Standards and Ethics**

APR has long been an ESOMAR Corporate Member and all APR research projects are conducted to the world-class professional standards, codes and ethics formulated by the global industry peak body ESOMAR ([www.esomar.com](http://www.esomar.com)) and the ICC (International Chamber of Commerce). APR is also fully familiar with local cultural and societal norms which it always takes care to respect in conducting its research (eg. courtesy requests to community leaders before starting work in their locale and observing sensitive protocols in dealing with women and children).

## **Executive Summary**

In sampling, no distinctions were made between target and non-target zones or between direct and indirect project beneficiaries; the methodology was designed to cover a representative range of local community members from all demographic segments across all regions of ARB. It was assumed that PBF support would cover all Bougainvilleans and aim towards ensuring all ARB enjoys a transition towards its chosen destiny in as peaceful and orderly a manner as possible.

A previous survey supplied a 'snapshot' of the perceptions of the Bougainvillean public regarding conditions on the ground affecting their lives as at September 2016; that survey (Baseline 2016) formed a baseline against which to compare future survey waves in longitudinal monitoring.

This survey (named Interim Survey 2017) constitutes the second wave in longitudinal monitoring (measuring changes over time); it was conducted almost exactly one year on from Baseline 2016 and used exactly the same methodology and implementation procedures to ensure optimum comparability year-on-year (YoY). Likewise, the questionnaire was fundamentally unchanged with the only addition a short UN-specific section at the end; any changes are noted in Findings text.

As with Baseline 2016, this Interim survey 2017 by no means paints a picture of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville as a haven of peace and tranquillity but it does offer encouraging signs of improvement under the Peace Process and offers some pointers as to future directions.

## **Limitations**

It should be noted that the Peace Process in ARB has many stakeholders and many moving parts. Amongst the numerous stakeholders are the Governments of PNG and ARB and their development aid partners, Churches, NGOs, etc, with UN PBF facilitation and coordination in guiding the process towards the common goal of a peaceful future for Bougainville.

It is not the intention of these Bougainville Public Perception surveys (Baseline, Interim and future waves) to attribute praise or blame to any particular stakeholder(s) in the Peace Process – if any indicator has progressed or regressed, it is intended to be regarded in the light of a team effort with lessons learned accordingly.

It should also be noted that these Public Perception surveys are essentially quantitative in nature with a formal questionnaire covering a wide variety of aspects using mainly closed questions; it is designed to fit inside 'respondent fatigue' time limits with little scope for qualitative input (eg. exploring the thought process as to why a respondent has offered any particular response). Consequently, the reasons for some findings are unclear – possible contributory factors can be offered but not definitive reasons which would require further qualitative research.

### **General Direction – Daily lives**

The questionnaire proper opened with a few questions asking about people’s perceptions in terms of their daily lives. Firstly, did they think their lives had generally got better, were they unchanged or had they got worse? In this Interim survey, 51% of respondents felt their life had got better, 42% said much unchanged and only 7% felt it had got worse. This is quite similar to Baseline, where 54% of respondents felt their life had got better but 16% felt it had got worse.

Asked as to whether they personally feel safer and more secure over the last year, the findings in this Interim survey 2017 were generally positive, and slightly improved from Baseline. Now, 59% reported a feeling of somewhat greater security and 6% felt much safer (total 65% positive) against 34% feeling less safe. This was slightly better than Baseline (‘safes’ 59%, ‘unsafes’ 39%).

Asked to what extent they feel their community is more peaceful over the last year, in this Interim 2017 survey, 69% of respondents felt their communities were more peaceful and 31% felt slightly less peaceful. Again, these figures were marginally better than Baseline 2016 (where the figures were respectively 64% more peaceful, 35% less peaceful).

### **General Direction – Political**

In this Interim Survey 2017, the general impression is that the implementation of the BPA is proceeding in the right direction (57% expressing some degree of agreement with the direction of progress). Disagreement of some degree was expressed by 33% and over 10% said they did not know. These figures are not radically changed from Baseline, though slightly lower.

The overall impression is that politics generally in Bougainville are proceeding in the right direction (55% express some degree of agreement with the direction of progress). Disagreement of some degree was expressed by 36% and 9% said they did not know. Again, these figures are not radically changed from Baseline, though they are slightly lower.

The reasons for the slightly (<5%) lower figures on these more general political questions in this Interim survey 2017 are uncertain - they may reflect some genuine concerns or may be related to some degree on timing of the survey’s fieldwork.

Fieldwork for the two surveys (Baseline 2016 and Interim 2017) was conducted in September of each year, almost exactly a year apart. But this Interim Survey 2017 was conducted in September 2017 (a General Election year in PNG) following many months of nominations, electioneering, polling, counting, horse-trading, etc, amid much speculation as to the formation of a new PNG Government and what that might entail for the populace. It is probable that levels of confidence in political matters may be somewhat lower in such times of relative uncertainty and there may also be a degree of political ‘burnout’ present among the respondents.

### **Upper-Level Politics (PNG side)**

In this Interim Survey 2017, a lack of confidence in the commitment to BPA implementation by the PNG Government/Parliament appears to remain (though confidence has improved marginally from baseline). In this 2017 renewal, 40% felt some degree of positive commitment from GoPNG vs 49% who perceived poor or very poor commitment (in baseline, 36% reported some degree of positive commitment vs 56% poor or very poor commitment).

On the face of it, the above figures may look somewhat disappointing but probably need to be seen in a wider context; at the end of the Conflict less than 20 years ago, the Bougainville people's perception of any aspect of GoPNG performance would have been overwhelmingly negative. Rebuilding of confidence and trust take time; perceptions have improved steadily over time and continue on an upward curve from the evidence of 2016 and 2017.

In this Interim survey 2017, two-thirds of respondents (67%) felt their local MP to the PNG Parliament did not provide sufficient information to their communities concerning the BPA and upcoming referendum. Only 2% felt their MP provided plenty and 26% said they provided 'some'. These perceptions were cited fairly uniformly across the three Regions sampled.

These findings are similar in pattern to (but slightly worse than) Baseline 2016, where 60% felt their local MP to the PNG Parliament provided insufficient information on the BPA and referendum. In 2016, 4% felt their MP provided plenty of such information and 25% provided 'some'.

### **Upper-Level Politics (ABG side)**

In this Interim Survey 2017, almost half of respondents (49%) felt the ABG was 'very committed' or 'somewhat committed' to the implementation of the three pillars of the Bougainville Peace Agreement (against 44% perceiving ABG commitment as somewhat poor or very poor), with little significant variation across the 3 Regions sampled. These figures closely mirrored Baseline 2016 but again were slightly weaker (in Baseline, 53% felt the ABG was showing positive commitment and 36% that it was showing inadequate commitment).

In Baseline 2016, slightly more than half of respondents (53%) perceived that the Bougainville House of Representatives was working 'quite well' or 'very well' in performing its duties (against 40% who felt it was doing to some degree poorly).

In this 2017 renewal, perceptions of ABG House of Representatives' performance had slipped somewhat, with 3% saying 'working very well' and 39% 'working quite well' (total 42% positivity) against 41% saying 'somewhat poorly' and 12% 'very poorly' (total 53% negative ratings); there was little significant variation in ratings between the 3 Regions sampled. This finding was the first of only a few indicators in this Interim survey with a negative swing of >5% from Baseline 2016.

The reason for this turnaround from 53% positive in Baseline to 53% negative in Interim survey in respondents' rating of ABG House of Representatives' (HoR) performance is unclear (as with the previous ABG Commitment level question). On the face of it, the ABG HoR was not faced with any notable instability in 2017 (such as the turmoil of re-election in PNG generally) and there did not appear to be any particular ABG political controversies; however, it may have suffered from oxygen deprivation in the media and political fatigue/burnout surrounding the protracted PNG General Election 2017 which may have contributed to the generally unenthusiastic attitudes?

In this Interim Survey 2017, a good majority of respondents (70%) were aware of the identity of their local member of the Bougainville House of Representatives (and subsequently named them); awareness was considerably higher amongst male respondents (84%) than females (56%). These figures were very similar to Baseline 2016.

Perceived performance of Bougainville House of Representatives in consulting and engaging with the public in performing its duties was not ideal in Baseline 2016 where opinions were equally divided in assessing performance positively or negatively and most expressed their assessment in only moderate terms (quite well/somewhat poorly).

In this 2017 Interim Survey renewal, the picture is similar but with added slippage from positive ratings towards negative ratings. Now only 38% assess ABG HoR consultation and engagement with their public positively (2% very well, 36% quite well) and 58% offer negative ratings (13% very poor, 45% somewhat poor). There were no significant regional variations, but men (50:50) were less critical than women (67:33) on this issue. This finding was the second of the indicators in this Interim 2017 survey with a negative swing of >5% from Baseline 2016.

The reasons for this slippage are not entirely clear; as previously noted, a contributory factor may have been that ABG political activities and engagement over the preceding period may have been overshadowed or swallowed up amid the saturation coverage surrounding PNG National Elections. But it also appears that sharing of information and community discussion with their public by ABG Members (as in the next few questions) were not ideal.

In Baseline 2016 53% gave a negative rating, feeling that their ABG House of Representatives member was providing little or no information to their communities about the BPA and referendum (against which, 42% felt positively – that their member provided some or plenty of information).

In this 2017 renewal, these figures have slipped markedly – now 68% give a negative rating, that their ABG HoR member was providing little or no information about the BPA and referendum (and only 28% now feel positively – that their member provides some or plenty of information).

There was little significant variation across Regions or gender with the level of communication; clearly more than two thirds of people feel they are not being kept sufficiently informed.

## Community-Level Politics

Awareness on meetings held locally to discuss people's views on the BPA has improved since Baseline where only 27% of respondents were aware of any such meetings. In this 2017 renewal, awareness was somewhat higher at 34% overall. Male respondents (42%) were more aware than female respondents (27%); there was little significant variation across Regions. Though these figures are improved from Baseline, there is surely considerable room for improvement left.

Those who claimed awareness of local meetings to discuss views on the BPA (293 in total) were asked if they themselves had attended the meetings; as in baseline, the vast majority (78%) had personally attended these gatherings - more men (91%) had been involved than females (59%). The high rate of attendance among those claiming awareness suggests apathy is not a problem – if meetings are held and awareness is created, good attendance can be guaranteed.

Nearly two-thirds of attendees (65%) asserted their belief that the public's views as expressed in these meetings were indeed taken back to the House of Representatives for review purposes.

## Perceptions of the Three Pillars of the BPA

In Baseline 2016, respondents' comprehension of the three pillars of the BPA was seemingly quite low; only a third of respondents (33%) claimed a good command (7%) or some command (26%) of the three pillars (these being 46% in males against 20% in females). In this renewal 2017, these figures have slipped a little; now only 27% of respondents claim comprehension of the three pillars (good command 4%, some command 23%). There is little variation by region, but males are more confident in saying they understand the issues than females (37% in males against only 15% in females). Confidence may be an issue – eg. 24% of females 'don't know/can't say' and these 'don't know' figures were also quite high in Central and South Bougainville.

As in Baseline 2016, personal confidence in the implementation of the three pillars of the BPA is reasonable (in baseline, 53% of respondents expressed confidence of some degree). In this 2017 Interim survey, this confidence figure was up slightly to 57% (very confident 8%, quite confident 49%). Only 33% expressed some level of pessimism (and a further 11% of respondents did not know). Male respondents (70%) are more confident in BPA implementation than females (43%), who again reported a high 'don't know' figure (19%). Confidence is reportedly slightly higher in Central Bougainville (64%) than North Bougainville (55%) and South Bougainville (52%).

In Baseline 2016, a two-thirds majority of respondents (67%) expressed personal confidence in the success of the implementation of autonomy, with confidence among males (73%) being a good deal higher than among females (60%). In this 2017 renewal, figures were little changed; 68% expressed confidence (13% very confident, 55% somewhat confident). Again, males were more confident (81%) than females (55%). Central Bougainville (73%) was more confident than North & South, but variations were fairly minor.

Concerning confidence in the implementation of the planned referendum, the findings in this 2017 renewal of the survey almost exactly mirrored those of Baseline 2016 (69% confidence). In this 2017 Interim survey, 69% of respondents expressed personal confidence in the implementation of the referendum (17% very confident, 52% quite confident). Again, males (82%) expressed more confidence than females (56%). Confidence was slightly higher in Central (72%) and South (72%) than North Bougainville (66%).

In Baseline 2016, respondents' confidence in the implementation of weapons disposal was less than ideal with half of respondents (50%) stating some degree of confidence against 46% citing little or no confidence. Confidence in weapons disposal has actually weakened over the past year; in this 2017 renewal only 43% express confidence (12% very confident, 31% fairly confident) against which 55% express lack of confidence to some degree (31% poor confidence, 24% very little confidence). There was very little variation by gender or by Region in these figures.

### **BPA and Referendum Information Dissemination/Access**

In Baseline 2016, only 28% of respondents were aware of where to access Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) information and 72% were unaware of such sources. From this 2017 renewal, there appears to have been some progress (but arguably not enough); now 33% say that they do know where they can access such information but 67% still claim to be unaware.

Awareness was much lower among female respondents (20%) than male respondents (46%). North Bougainville (37%) was slightly more aware of BPA information sources than Central (32%) and South Bougainville (only 30%).

Among those 283 respondents who claimed to be aware of BPA public information sources, NBC Radio Bougainville, Bougainville News Bulletins, ABG District Office, Referendum Office and ABG Media Bureau were the top five sources cited – the other 15+ sources cited were all under 5%. Among those aware of the existence of these BPA information sources, utilization of the public information sources is high (86%).

Among those respondents aware of their existence, 90% had accessed BPA information centres at least once in the past six months while 20% claimed access once a month or more. Nearly all respondents (98%) who had accessed information sources for the Bougainville Peace Agreement professed enhanced knowledge of the BPA as a result.

As with BPA information sources, awareness of information sources pertaining to the Referendum on Bougainville's future political status is not ideal (32%); and again, it is much higher among males (46%) than female respondents (19%).

Among those 283 respondents who claimed to be aware of referendum information sources, NBC Radio Bougainville, Bougainville News Bulletins, ABG District Office, Referendum Office and ABG Media Bureau were the top five sources cited – the other 15+ sources cited were all under 5%.

Among those respondents who were aware of referendum information sources, utilization of information sources is high (84%).

Among those respondents who had accessed referendum information sources, more than half had accessed the information more than once in the 6 months prior to interview and 15% had accessed information at least once monthly in that period. Again, nearly all respondents declared enhanced capacity and knowledge about the referendum as a result.

Awareness of a Bougainville House of Representatives Website for access to information is poor. It was low in Baseline 2016 (6%); awareness has improved slightly in the last year but is still only 12% at this Interim Survey 2017. This is not a surprise as other questions (eg. communications) have shown internet to be in its infancy in Bougainville. Awareness is better among men (18%) than women (6%) and in North (18%) than in Central & South Bougainville (<9%). Although awareness of the BHoR Website was low and the respondent base of those who are aware consequently also very low, 56% of those aware claimed to have visited the website.

In Baseline 2016, a large majority of respondents (85%) were not aware of the relevant bodies that produce the public awareness information on the BPA and referendum. In this 2017 renewal, the figures have improved slightly but are still not ideal; now 26% of respondents claim awareness but 74% remain unaware of the relevant bodies. Awareness is better among men (36%) than women (15%) and better in North (29%) than Central (24%) and South Bougainville (23%).

Among those 177 respondents who claimed to be aware of the bodies responsible for BPA public information dissemination, the bodies thought to provide the clearest and truest information were Referendum Office (47%) followed by ABG Media Bureau, ABG Member, NBC Radio Bougainville, Constituency Member/MP, Women’s Groups and UNDP. At lower levels, another 10+ sources were cited, all under 3%.

## Communications

Effective communications appear to be vital to the success of the Peace Process and will no doubt continue to be a major challenge going forward. In previous sections, community interaction and intercommunication with their political leaders was noted as poor, self-rated knowledge of the Three Pillars was less than optimal and there were problems in access to public information sources; among those with access, however, enhanced capacity and knowledge ensued.

The challenge is exacerbated by comparatively low levels of mainstream media penetration in ARB. When asked about their favoured medium for news and information, of the mainstream media, only Press returned relatively respectable figures; thereafter, TV had improved in this 2017 Interim survey but was still behind Radio (which was much unchanged from Baseline 2016). Internet is still very much in its infancy in ARoB (‘ever used’ by 12% and ‘main source’ for 2%).

There were very few differences in media habits between baseline 2016 and this year's renewal; the more popular sources including newspapers and mobile phones remained reasonably steady. TV improved slightly as main source but any progress by internet was miniscule.

As might be expected in a society with strong oral traditions, nearly 90% of respondents claimed to 'ever use' Word of Mouth for receiving news and information; further, 40% asserted that 'word of mouth' was their 'main source' of news and information. In variations on the word of mouth theme, mobile phones also rated highly, as did Church announcements.

Word of mouth is a perfectly valid mode of communication, but open to subjective interpretation, mishearing, misinterpretation, misleading and 'Chinese whispers' syndrome; official and/or factual news and information may be understood substantially differently by the time they reach the end-recipient, not ideal in these circumstances.

There are various issues requiring careful and ongoing consideration in communications, firstly in pitching messages in layman's language so as to be widely understood while retaining technical accuracy. Standardisation is another challenge, particularly given the many stakeholders in the Peace process; it seems essential to avoid any perception among the public of mixed-messaging or conflicting messages. There is also a balance to be found between widest dissemination and possible over-saturation. Broadest communication of factual, objective and accurate information on the relevant issues (and of dialogue and debate flowing on from it) remains a challenge indeed.

### **Referendum Specifics**

In Baseline 2016, awareness around the forthcoming referendum was quite high (73%) though with room for improvement. The figure has indeed improved in this 2017 Interim survey renewal, with awareness now up to 85% overall. Again, awareness is higher among males (94%) than among females (77%) but the women have progressed markedly from their 57% in Baseline. There was almost negligible variation across Regions or age groups.

Respondents' self-rated level of awareness on issues relating to the referendum was not ideal in Baseline 2016 (55%:45%) and it is no better now. In this 2017 Interim Survey, respondents were almost exactly evenly split; 49% of respondents now claim adequate awareness and 50% felt they were not very well informed. Males (53%) claimed to be adequately informed slightly more than females (44%). Figures were fairly consistent across Regions (but slightly lower in South Bougainville). Under-30 age groups were slightly lower in their self-rating than their elders and confidence in awareness of being informed only passed the 50:50 tipping point in 40+ age groups.

In Baseline, only 16% were aware of the planned referendum date of June 15<sup>th</sup> 2019. This figure was much improved in this 2017 Interim survey, with 50% now claiming knowledge of the date; of those respondents who claimed to know the date, 54% gave the exact date, 19% just said June 2019 and 26% just said 2019.

In Baseline 2016, two-thirds of respondents declared their intention to vote in the referendum. That figure was quite similar in this 2017 Interim survey renewal, where 64% expressed a positive intention to vote. As in Baseline, males returned a significantly higher (77%) intention to vote against only 50% of females. Among the Regions, North Bougainville returned the lowest figure at 59% and South Bougainville highest at 70%. Among age groups, it was a linear progression; the older the age group, the greater the intention to vote.

In Baseline 2016, a strong majority of respondents (87%) declared their intention to vote for the independence of Bougainville. In this 2017 Interim survey renewal, the figures have moderated somewhat, though the sentiment remains the same; now 73% intend to vote for independence. This intention to vote for independence was higher among male respondents (79%) than female respondents (64%). All Regions stated this intention fairly consistently, North (78%) returning slightly higher figures and South Bougainville (70%) being lowest. The age groups were also quite consistent, all returning 70% or more; the over-50s were most strident at 87%.

Various reasons were given for intending to vote for independence (a full list of responses is given in the main findings report). But it is apparent that many are related to the origins of the conflict – assertions of Bougainvilleans' rights to their resources and land and their rights to govern their economy and people with equity and harmony as Bougainvilleans see fit. There were also some references to respecting the cause of those who had lost their lives in the Conflict. This was an open question and some reasons given may have been worded differently, but the gist of the perceptions expressed were consistent across Baseline 2016 and Interim survey 2017.

### **Trauma-healing Services**

In Baseline 2016, only 25% of respondents claimed awareness of services for dealing with trauma caused by the conflict. In this 2017 Interim Survey renewal, that figure had risen to 40% who were aware of trauma healing services – a fair deal better but still with room for improvement. Awareness levels were slightly higher among males than females and markedly higher in North Bougainville (50%) than Central Bougainville (30%) and South Bougainville (35%).

Those respondents who were aware of trauma counselling services were asked to name them. Javai (Chabai) Trauma Healing Services, Buin Safe House, Hahela Counselling & Rehabilitation Centre, Sisters of Nazareth Rehabilitation Centre, Hospital Counselling Services, Patupatu Rehab Centre and Leitana Nehan were all well mentioned (over 6%). Another 12 or more services received lower-level mentions (3% or less).

In Baseline 2016, only 22% of respondents felt that these trauma-healing services were easy for them to access; in this 2017 survey, the figure improved to 30% reporting easy enough access. Men (33%) are slightly higher than women (27%) in reporting easy access to trauma services and residents of North Bougainville (39%) are reportedly considerably better off for easy access to trauma services than Central Bougainville (22%) and South Bougainville (26%).

Those respondents (549) who said they could not easily access trauma-healing services were asked what constraints they faced: 64% said they were not aware of the services' existence, 23% said they were unaffected (ie. not victims themselves) and 5% said they were unaware of the services' locations (another few lower-level responses concerned travelling distance).

In Baseline 2016, less than 8% of respondents had personally accessed the available trauma-healing services. In this 2017 renewal, the figure was marginally up - at 9%, with only minimal variation by gender and Region. The respondent base was small (73 persons), but of those who had accessed the trauma-healing services, a strong majority (84%) expressed satisfaction with the services received (and 42% were very satisfied). Only 10 (mainly men) out of 73 respondents voiced any level of dissatisfaction.

### **Re-integration and Reconciliation**

Exactly as in Baseline 2016, a strong majority of respondents (84%) claimed awareness of ex-combatants in the conflict in their communities. And again, awareness was significantly higher among male respondents (97%) in comparison to female respondents (72%); South (90%) and Central (87%) Bougainville returned higher figures than North Bougainville (78%).

A majority of almost three-quarters (72%) felt that ex-combatants had resettled peacefully back into the community; this figure was slightly better than the two-thirds (65%) in Baseline 2016. 26% felt they had settled back in 'somewhat poorly' but only 1% said 'very poorly'. Variations between genders and Regions were not great.

Respondents were asked for a general impression on the ex-combatant reintegration situation ARB-wide; similarly to Baseline 2016, respondents were almost equally divided. About half of the respondents (50%) felt that ex-combatant integration in ARB remained worrisome and the potential for conflict still remained; whereas 42% felt that the situation had settled down to some degree. 8% did not know or were not prepared to venture an opinion (mainly females).

### **Youth Issues in the Community**

Again, almost exactly mirroring Baseline 2016, a strong majority (82%) had experienced problems with threatening and peace-disturbing youths in the community. This general picture was across the board with only fairly minor variations by gender or by the three districts sampled.

Interestingly, this perceived miscreant youth problem is not just their elders disapproving of youth behaviour – the younger respondents were slightly more critical than the older age groups. It was a problem for 85% of 15-19s and 84% of 20-29 year olds but less than 80% of the 40-49s and over-50 groups. Given the level of disapproval by the younger age groups (who are youths themselves), Peer Education approaches to the issue may be worthy of exploration.

Overall, 42% of respondents reported that their communities faced issues with threatening and peace-disturbing youths at least every week (with 4% asserting almost daily incidences). 58% considered them as monthly or less frequently.

According to 63% of respondents, the majority of the peace-disturbing youths were solely male. However, over a third of respondents (37%) said the youths were both males and females. Respondents were asked if, in the last six months, problems had decreased and youth behaviour improved? 38% felt youth behaviour had improved in the past 6 months, 62% felt it had not.

In Baseline 2016, 25% of respondents were aware of any training in more peaceful and helpful social behaviour carried out with their local youths (75% were unaware). The figures were only fractionally better in this 2017 renewal – 28% aware of such youth training and 72% unaware. Interestingly, the younger age groups who might benefit from such services are less aware than their seniors (15-19s only 16%, 20s age group 26% whereas 30+yrs groups all return >30%).

### **Other social cohesion and reconciliation activities**

In Baseline 2016, 47% of respondents claimed knowledge of other local activities focusing on peace, security, social cohesion and reconciliation, the other half being unaware. In this 2017 survey, figures have improved markedly - from half: half to two-thirds: one-third (66% now claim awareness of such activities).

There was minimal variation by gender or Region but the younger groups were markedly less aware than their elders (15-19s 49%, 20-29s 63%, all over-30 groups 73% plus).

Those who were aware of local peace and reconciliation activities were asked for further details. As in Baseline 2016, Community Sport Activities (74%) were the most prominently cited local activity promoting peace, cohesion and reconciliation. Among ~15 others cited were reconciliation meetings, church activities, cultural, camps and festivals (as detailed in main findings section).

In Baseline 2016, 37% of respondents claimed to have personally participated in reconciliation activities. That figure was up in this 2017 renewal, where 56% of respondents claimed to have personally participated in the activities. Participation was reportedly higher among males (72%) than females (40%) and very even across the three Regions.

Again, though their figures were comfortably improved from Baseline, it seems that the younger age groups (42% of 15-19s and 56% of 20s age group) did not take part in these activities as much as their elders (60%+ in all the 30-year plus groups).

Among the 474 respondents who had personally attended peace and reconciliation activities, satisfaction levels were excellent (37% very satisfied, 60% quite satisfied and only 3% somewhat dissatisfied).

## UN-specific Questions

In this 2017 Interim Survey, a short section of UN-specific questions was inserted at the end of the questionnaire, to assess awareness of UN activities and attitudes surrounding them. This was kept to the end to avoid disturbing the flow of the main body of the questionnaire; it was the only significant change between the questionnaires used in Baseline 2016 and Interim 2017, questionnaires otherwise remaining consistent to enable direct comparisons.

Overall, nearly two-thirds of respondents (64%) in this survey claimed to be aware that UN is present and working on Bougainville. As an indicator of whether or not this is a respectable figure, this 64% was not far short of the 70% who claimed to know the name of their local ABG member.

Men (83%) were more aware of UN's presence than women (45%); districts were not radically dissimilar but North Bougainville (69%) was a little higher than Central (63%) and South (59%). The younger age groups (eg. 15-19s 50%) were less aware than their elders (64%-71%).

Those who claimed to be unaware of UN presence (305) were excused further questions and the UN-specific section proceeded with only those who were aware (548) responding. Overall, 88% of the respondents who were aware UN was present were also aware of their active presence in Peace Building. This comprised nearly all the men (97%) and 72% of the women. Figures were consistent across the districts and all age groups.

Those who were unaware of the UN Peace Building presence (67) were excused further questions and the UN-specific section proceeded with only those who were aware (482) responding. Those respondents aware of UN Peace Building work on Bougainville were asked about their level of awareness of the UN PBF's work; slightly less than half of respondents (46%) rated their level of awareness as good or very good; 54% of respondents felt they were not very well informed.

Males (55%) claimed to be adequately informed slightly more than females (25%); figures were fairly consistent across Regions (but slightly lower in South Bougainville). The younger age groups (under-30s, particularly the 15-19s) were lower in their self-rating than their elders.

Those who felt they were inadequately informed (259) were excused further questions and the UN-specific section proceeded with only those who felt adequately informed (234) responding. Amongst these informed respondents, there was almost universal confidence that UN Peace Building is helping the constructive dialogue to be maintained; 34% very much confidence, 65% some confidence (total 99%). Only 2 individuals (1%) expressed somewhat poor confidence.

There was also almost universal confidence that UN Peace Building will continue to ensure the two Governments follow through on their obligations: 39% very much confidence, 59% some confidence (total 98%). Only 4 individuals (2%) expressed somewhat poor confidence.

These respondents were asked if the agencies responsible for disseminating accurate joint key messages on the Peace Process are doing a good job of information dissemination to the people? 94% said Yes, the current information dissemination services are working well (though there must be some doubt about that from other previous questions on information sources).

There was universal confidence in UN Peacebuilding's ability to encourage the promotion of community security and social cohesion in Bougainville – 44% very much confidence, 56% some confidence, and not a single respondent expressing any lack of confidence.

There was almost universal satisfaction with UN Peace Building's work in peace and reconciliation on Bougainville so far – 45% said they were very satisfied and 53% quite satisfied (total 98%). Only 3 individuals (1%) expressed somewhat poor satisfaction.

Nearly three quarters of respondents (72%) feel that it is very important that UNPBF continues on Bougainville until the Peace Process is fully completed and a further 26% feel that it is quite important (total 98%). Only 5 individuals (2%) feel it is not really important.

### Summary table of Indicators

Indicator / Classification	Status in Interim Survey 2017 vs Baseline 2016
General Direction – Daily lives	Slightly improved (~5%)
General Direction – Political Direction	Marginally lower (<5%)
Upper-Level Politics (PNG side)	Stable, similar
Upper-Level Politics (ABG side)	Markedly lower (<5%)
Community-Level Politics	Somewhat improved (~7%)
Perceptions of the BPA - comprehension	Marginally lower (<5%)
Perceptions of the BPA - implementation	Marginally higher (~5%)
BPA confidence - autonomy	Stable, similar
BPA confidence - referendum	Stable, similar
BPA confidence – weapons disposal	Somewhat lower (~7%)
BPA Information Dissemination/Access	Somewhat improved (~5%)
Referendum Info Dissemination/Access	Stable, similar
Information sources awareness	Somewhat improved (~10%)
Referendum Awareness	Somewhat improved (~12%)
Referendum Issues Awareness	Stable, similar
Referendum Date Awareness	Substantially improved (>30%)
Referendum intention to vote	Stable, similar
Trauma-healing Services - awareness	Somewhat improved (~15%)
Trauma-healing Services - access	Somewhat improved (~8%)
Trauma-healing Services - satisfaction	Stable, good ratings
Re-integration and Reconciliation	Stable, similar
Youth Issues in the Community	Stable, similar
Social cohesion and reconciliation activities	Considerably improved (~20%)
UN Specific section	New section, not in baseline, very good ratings

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## 1. Section 1: Demographics

### 1.1. Survey locations

As Figure 1 below shows, 850 interviews were successfully conducted in; North Bougainville (39%), South Bougainville (35%) and Central Bougainville (26%). All 850 respondents affirmed that the place of interview was their usual place of residence.

Figure 1: Location by region

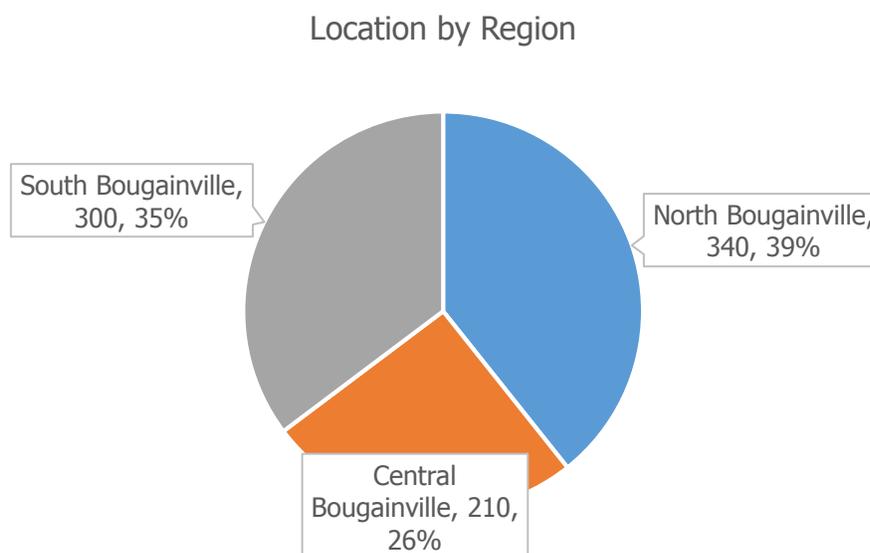


Table 1 further illustrates that equity was observed during urban /rural sampling; approximate distribution was 50% of interviews conducted in each of urban and rural locations across all 3 regions targeted.

Table 1: Location by urban/ rural entity

	Urban		Rural	
	n	%	n	%
Total	432	50.8%	418	49.2%
North Bougainville	177	52.0%	203	48.0%
Central Bougainville	105	50.0%	105	50.0%
South Bougainville	150	50.0%	150	50.0%

Note: The originally contracted overall sample was n=820 - actual survey sample was n=850. APR standard procedure is to slightly exceed contracted quotas in all locations/cells to allow for possible QC issues and ensure all cells are adequately covered.

## 1.2. Gender Composition of the Sample

Of the 850 respondents who were interviewed in the Survey, 50% each were male and female (as seen in Figure 2). Table 2 further displays that gender equity was observed in all 3 locations sampled.

Figure 2: Respondents' gender

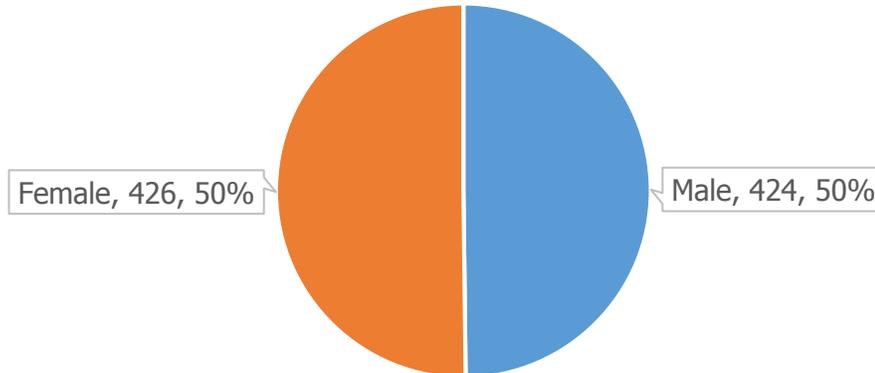


Table 2: Respondents' gender by location

	Male	Female
North Bougainville	50.3%	49.7%
Central Bougainville	49.6%	50.4%
South Bougainville	50.0%	50.0%

### 1.3. Age Composition of the Sample

Five main age groups were identified for sampling as highlighted in Table 3; the under-15s were purposely excluded, as being minors requiring parental presence to be interviewed. The 15-17 group are not yet eligible voters but will be by the time of the referendum and were therefore included in sampling with their elders who are currently eligible voters. The overall sampling system set quotas for age and gender based on the national population pyramid across all sampling locations.

Table 3: Respondents Age

	Age segment	n	Percent	Male (n)	Female (n)
1	15 - 19	153	18.0	76	77
2	20 - 29	255	30.0	127	128
3	30-39	185	22.0	93	92
4	40-49	136	16.0	68	68
5	50+ Years	121	14.0	60	61
	Total	850	100	424	426

### 1.4. Respondents' level of education

No quotas were set for educational attainment; this was taken as random in situ. As shown in Table 4, a majority of respondents (46%) had Secondary (Grade 7-10) education level. 10% had completed Grade 11-12 and a further 19% had received higher education at Technical/Vocational, Secretarial/Business College or University. Considerably more males (24%) than females (12%) had attained tertiary/college education.

Education to Secondary levels (Grade 7-10) was remarkably consistent across the three regions (46% +- 1%) but North Bougainville (20%) was slightly higher in tertiary/college education than South Bougainville (17%) or Central Bougainville (16%).

Table 4: Respondents' level of education

	Total	Gender		Location		
		Male	Female	North Bougainville	Central Bougainville	South Bougainville
No Schooling at all	0%	1%	0%	-	0%	1%
Tokples/Tokpisin skul	1%	0%	1%	1%	-	1%
Grade 1 to 6	24%	23%	26%	22%	26%	26%
Grade 7 to 10	46%	42%	50%	46%	45%	47%
Grade 11 to 12	10%	10%	11%	11%	13%	8%
Technical or Vocational school	8%	14%	1%	7%	9%	8%
College (eg. Secretarial or Business)	7%	7%	7%	9%	4%	6%
University (UPNG, DWU, etc.)	4%	3%	4%	4%	3%	3%

## 1.5. Respondents' Occupation

As listed in table 5, nearly two-thirds of the respondents surveyed were occupational, whether formally-employed (14%) or self-employed of various different types (own/family business 15%, gardening/farming/fishing for money 15%, artisanal mining 2%). 12% worked in subsistence gardening/farming/fishing while 19% were students and 8% were either unemployed or retired.

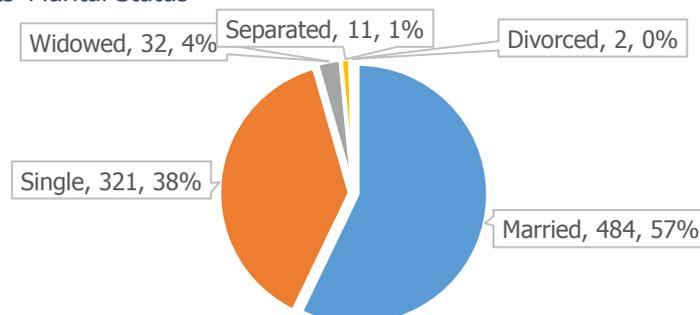
Table 5: Respondents Occupation

Occupation	Total		Gender		Age				
	n	%	Male	Female	15 - 19	20 - 29	30-39	40-49	50+
Wage job in private sector (non-mining)	37	4%	8%	1%	1%	4%	6%	7%	3%
Wage job in private sector (mining)	7	1%	1%	0%	-	1%	0.5%	1%	3%
Wage job government (Nat, Prov, Local)	76	9%	7%	11%	-	6%	13.5%	13%	15%
Self-employed/Own or family business	129	15%	19%	11%	5%	19%	15%	17%	18%
Artisanal/small scale mining	17	2%	4%	-	-	2%	3%	4%	2%
Gardening, farming or fishing for money	126	15%	13%	16%	3%	14%	22%	21%	14%
Gardening, farming or fishing for own consumption	100	12%	14%	10%	5%	13%	16%	9%	14%
Student	158	19%	23%	14%	71%	17%	3%	1%	-
Working in house/domestic duties	125	15%	3%	27%	7%	16%	13.5%	20%	18%
No work/looking for work/retired	71	8%	8%	9%	8%	9%	8%	6%	12%
Missionary/Pastor/Clergyman	4	0%	0%	1%	-	-	-	2%	1%
Total		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

## 1.6. Respondents' Marital status

More than half of respondents were married (57%); 39% were single and 5% were separated, widowed or divorced.

Figure 3: Respondents' Marital Status



## 1.7. Type of Household

Considerably over half of respondents lived in each of the descriptors Low-cost housing (44%) and High-cost housing (15%). A further 26% stated they were living in Traditional (bush material) homes; the majority of these were sampled in rural situations.

Table 6: Type of Household

Household type	Total		Topography		Location		
	n	%	Urban	Rural	North Bougainville	Central Bougainville	South Bougainville
Low cost house	372	44%	50%	38%	51%	43%	36%
High cost house	126	15%	20%	10%	19%	15%	10%
Traditional (bush material) home	225	26%	12%	41%	21%	18%	39%
Flat, duplex or unit	30	3.5%	5%	2%	1%	11%	1%
Domestic quarters	24	3%	5%	0%	1%	5%	3%
Self-help housing	47	5.5%	5%	7%	4%	3%	9%
Makeshift/ settlement home	16	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	1%
Guest House, Hotel or Hostel	10	1%	2%	0%	1%	1%	2%

## 1.8. H: Household size

Respondents were asked as to the number of people (including children) dwelling / living in their household [eating from the same pot]. As listed in table 7, over three-quarters of households (78%) contained less than 8 persons and the greatest proportion (48%) contained five to seven persons. The ratios were generally replicated across the three locations sampled; however, rural households tended towards marginally smaller households than urban setups.

Table 7: Household size

	Total		Topography		Location		
	n	%	Urban	Rural	North Bougainville	Central Bougainville	South Bougainville
1-4 persons	256	30%	30%	30%	29%	29%	32%
5-7 persons	409	48%	46%	51%	46%	47%	51%
8-10 persons	135	16%	16%	15%	20%	18%	12%
10+ persons	50	6%	8%	4%	6%	6%	5%

## 1.9. Household utilities

This was a multiple response question, yielding an average of 3.61 responses per respondent. As shown in table 8 below, 85% of households claimed to own a mobile phone, 79% had lantern/light and 47% had electricity.

Table 8: Household Utilities

Item	N	Percent of Cases
Mobile phone	721	85%
Lantern/Light	675	79%
Electricity	400	47%
Tap water	310	36%
Working Radio	258	30%
Working Television	280	33%
Computer	152	18%
Video or DVD player	141	17%
Internet link	71	8%
Generator	35	4%
Total	3070	361%

Note: there was little change from Baseline of one year ago in most of these utilities although access to tap water was >10% higher (reasons unknown) and ownership of TV was 6% up. However, possession of a computer or internet link were practically unchanged year on year.

## 1.10. Respondent status in local community

Majority (82%) of respondents described themselves as just 'normal' members of their local communities; 4% were church leaders, 4% youth group leaders, 3% women's group leaders and 2% elders in their community. Most of these results were unchanged from Baseline 2016, though more describe themselves as youth leaders (up 2% to 4%) or women's leaders (up 1% to 3%).

Table 9: Respondent status in local community

Title	n	Percent
Just a normal member of the community	692	82%
Church leader	31	4%
Youth leader	32	4%
Women's leader	24	3%
Elder	21	2%
COE Member/Councillor	14	2%
School board member	12	1%
Tribal or clan councillor/member	12	1%
Landowner representative	8	1%
Union representative	1	0%
Total	850	100

## 2. Section 2: Media Consumption

### 2.1. A: Sources of News

This was a two-part question; firstly, from which media do you ever source news/information (a multiple response question which yielded an average of 4.28 responses each from respondents). Following on from this, respondents were asked 'which is your main source of news and information?' (a single response question).

Nearly 90% of respondents claimed to rely on 'word of mouth' for news and information; further, 40% asserted that 'word of mouth' media was their preferred (mainly used) media vehicle.

Of the traditional (mainstream) media, only Press returned relatively respectable figures; radio beat TV comfortably as 'ever used' but both were equal as 'main source used'. Internet appears very much in its infancy in ARB.

There were very few differences in media habits between baseline 2016 and this year's renewal; the more popular sources including newspapers and mobile phones remained reasonably steady. TV improved slightly as main source but any progress by internet was miniscule.

Table 10: Media Consumption

Media Source used	EVER USE (raw N)	EVER USE Source (MR)	MAIN source (raw N)	MAIN source (SR) %
Word of Mouth	754	89%	339	40%
Newspaper	630	74%	146	17%
Mobile phone	611	72%	148	17%
Church Announcements	592	70%	53	6%
Radio	428	50%	78	9%
Television	283	33%	78	9%
Community Notice Board	207	24%	6	1%
Internet	103	12%	17	2%
CD or DVD	31	4%	0	0%
Total	3639	428%	850	100%

### 3. Section 3: Findings

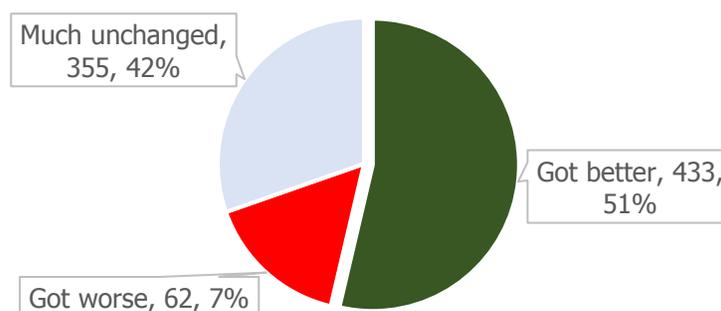
#### 3.1. Bougainville Peace Agreement Implementation

Q1: In the last few years, as the Conflict recedes into the past and the Bougainville Peace Agreement has been implemented, would you say your life has got better, got worse, or is unchanged?

In Baseline 2016, 54% of respondents felt that since the BPA was implemented, their life had got better. 30% felt it was much unchanged and only 16% felt it had worsened..

In this 2017 Interim survey, 51% felt their life had got better, 42% said much unchanged and only 7% felt it had got worse.

Figure 4: Perception - Bougainville Peace Agreement change to lives



Almost exactly reflecting findings in Baseline 2016, analysis by gender and location show some divergence of perceptions; 61% of men feel the BPA has led to improvements in their life in comparison to their female (41%) counterparts.

As further shown in table 11, post-BPA improvements in their lives appear more strongly appreciated in North Bougainville and in Central Bougainville than in South Bougainville.

Table 11: Perception - Bougainville Peace Agreement change to lives

	Total		Gender		Location		
	n	Percent	Male	Female	North Bougainville	Central Bougainville	South Bougainville
Got better	433	51%	61%	41%	52%	56%	46%
Got worse	62	7%	6%	9%	5%	6%	11%
Much unchanged	355	42%	33%	50%	43%	39%	43%
Total	850	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q2: What is the main way that your life has got better?

When asked in what way life has improved for them, over 60% cited development or improved service delivery (eg. education, health, utilities and infrastructure) and a further 9% cited easier access to services (generic). 13% cited better freedom of movement, 9% cited better peace and 7% cited improved Law and Order.

Table 12: How life has got better

<b>Improvement areas</b>	n	%
Better services - Education	70	17%
Better services - Health	53	13%
Increase in Development	62	15%
Infrastructure improvement	67	16%
More Freedom of Movement	55	13%
More Peaceful	40	9%
Improved Law and Order	28	7%
Job opportunities	12	3%
Others	-	2% or less

Q3: What is the main way that your life has got worse?

It was a minority of respondents who perceived the Bougainville Peace Agreement had not made appreciable improvement to their lives; two issues dominated their complaints; lack of Law & Order (36%) and lack of Basic Services (25%). Lower-level responses were 'lack of respect for others' 8%, alcohol & drugs 7% and 'still some guns about' 7%. Lack of community cohesion and ongoing trauma were each cited by 3%.

Table 13: How life has got worse

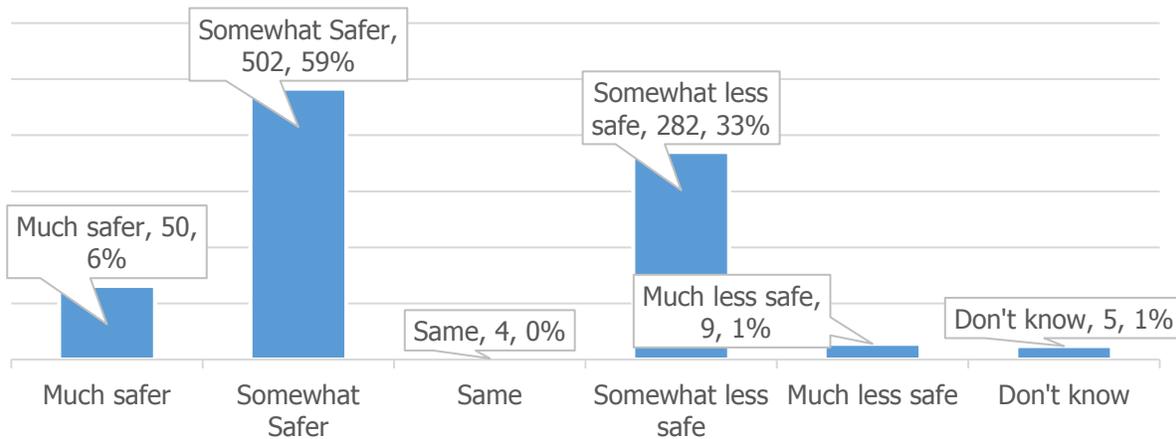
<b>Areas degenerated</b>	n	%
Lack of Law & Order	21	36%
Poor / No Basic Service delivery	15	25%
No respect for others	5	8%
Drug/alcohol abuse	4	7%
Some people still have guns	4	7%
Community not working together	2	3%
Some people still traumatised	2	3%
No employment	1	2%
Economic Instability	1	2%

**Q4: To what extent do you personally feel safer and more secure over the last year (12 months)?**

This Question was slightly different from Baseline 2016; in baseline, it asked about perceptions of security ‘over the last few years’. In this renewal, the question focussed on perceptions over the time since Baseline, ie. ‘over the past 12 months’.

The findings, however, were very similar; generally positive, though possibly lukewarm in degree. 59% reported a feeling of somewhat greater security and 6% felt much safer (total 65% positive) against 34% feeling less safe. This is slightly better than Baseline where ‘unsafes’ were 39%.

Figure 5: Perception on levels of security

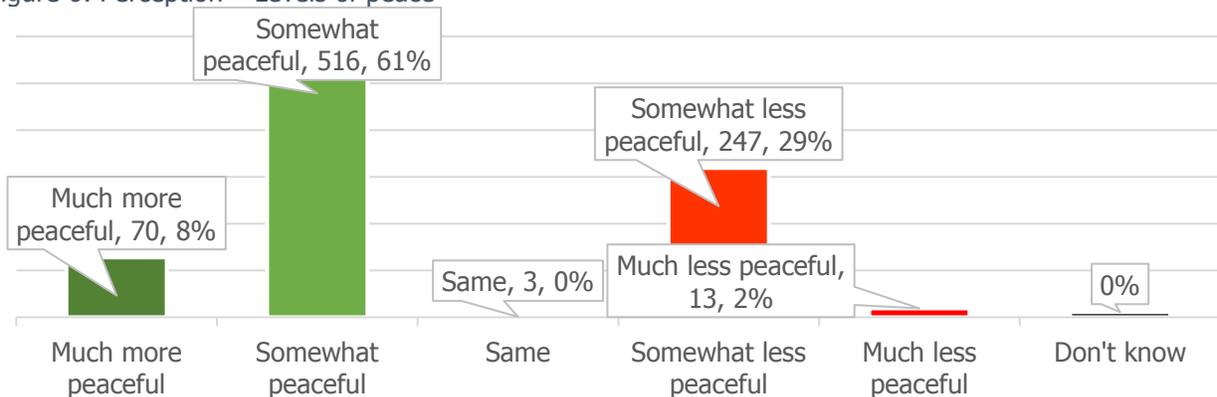


**Q5: To what extent do you feel your community is more peaceful over the last year (12 months)?**

Again, this Question was slightly different from Baseline; in baseline, it asked about perceptions of peace ‘over the last few years’. In this renewal, the question focussed on perceptions over the time since Baseline, ie. ‘over the past 12 months’.

Responses generally mirrored those to the previous question; the picture is generally positive but possibly slightly lukewarm in degree. Again, responses show increased peace since baseline.

Figure 6: Perception – Levels of peace

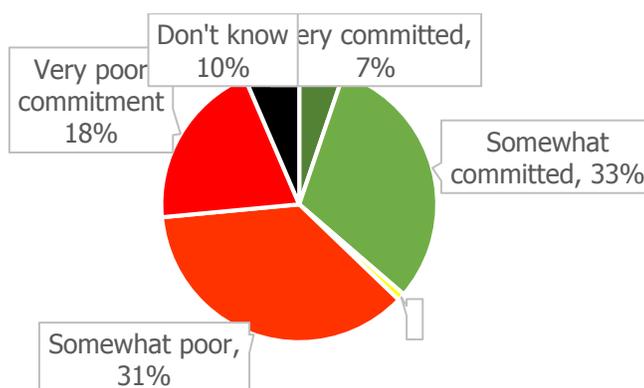


### 3.2. Community understanding of political processes

#### Q6: To what extent do you feel the PNG Parliament and PNG Government are committed to the implementation of the three pillars of the Bougainville Peace Agreement?

As in Baseline 2016, there is a lack of confidence in the commitment to BPA implementation by the PNG Parliament and Government (though it has improved marginally from baseline where 36% felt some degree of positive commitment vs 56% 'poor' or 'very poor' commitment. In this 2017 renewal, 40% felt some degree of positive commitment vs 49% poor or very poor.

Figure 7: GoPNG commitment levels towards implementation of three pillars of Bougainville Peace Agreement



#### Q7: Did your last MP to the National Parliament of PNG provide information to your community in support of the Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) and upcoming referendum?

Two-thirds of respondents (67%) felt their local Area MP provided little or no information to their communities in support of the Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) and upcoming referendum. Only 2% felt their MP provided plenty of such information and 26% said they provided 'some'. These perceptions were cited fairly uniformly across the three locations sampled.

Table 14: Perception on MP performance on information dissemination

	Total		Location		
	n	%	North Bougainville	Central Bougainville	South Bougainville
Plenty of information	15	2%	2%	1%	2%
Provide some information	224	26%	25%	25%	28%
Little information	378	44%	40%	50%	46%
No information	194	23%	28%	19%	20%
Don't Know	39	5%	4%	6%	4%
Total	850	100%	100%	100%	100%

### 3.3. Bougainville House of Representatives and Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG)

Q9: To what extent do you feel the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) is committed to the implementation of the three pillars of the Bougainville Peace Agreement?

Closely mirroring Baseline 2016 figures, almost half of respondents (49%) felt the ABG was very committed or somewhat committed to the implementation of the three pillars of the Bougainville Peace Agreement (against 44% perceiving ABG commitment was somewhat poor or very poor). There was little significant variation across the 3 districts sampled.

Table 15: Perception on ABG commitment to BPA

	Total		Location		
	n	%	North Bougainville	Central Bougainville	South Bougainville
Very committed	96	11%	13%	10%	10%
Somewhat committed	327	38%	36%	43%	38%
Somewhat poor commitment	240	28%	29%	28%	28%
Very poor commitment	133	16%	16%	14%	16%
Don't Know	53	6%	6%	3%	8%

Q10: How well do you feel the Bougainville House of Representatives is performing its duties?

In Baseline 2016, slightly more than half of respondents (53%) perceived that the Bougainville House of Representatives was working well in performing its duties (against 40% who felt it was doing to some degree poorly). In this 2017 renewal, perceptions of ABG performance had slipped slightly, with 3% saying 'very well' and 39% 'quite well' (total 42% positivity) against 41% 'somewhat poorly' and 12% 'very poorly' (total 53% negative ratings).

The reason for this turnaround from 53% positive to 53% negative rating is unclear; there was little significant variation in the ratings between the 3 districts sampled.

Table 16: Bougainville House of Representatives performance perception

	Total		Location		
	n	%	North Bougainville	Central Bougainville	South Bougainville
Very well	28	3%	4%	4%	2%
Quite well	335	39%	37%	41%	41%
Somewhat poorly	352	41%	42%	38%	43%
Very poorly	101	12%	13%	13%	10%
Don't Know	31	4%	4%	3%	4%

**Q11. Do you know who your local member of the Bougainville House of Representatives is?**

As in Baseline 2016, the majority of respondents (70%) were aware of the identity of their local member of the Bougainville House of Representatives (and named them). Also as in Baseline, awareness was considerably higher amongst male respondents (84%) than females (56%). South Bougainville was somewhat more aware (81%) and Central Bougainville less aware (61%).

Table 17: Awareness – Local Member of the Bougainville House of Representatives

	Total		Gender		Location		
	n	%	Male	Female	North Bougainville	Central Bougainville	South Bougainville
Yes	597	70%	84%	56%	67%	61%	81%
No	253	30%	16%	44%	33%	39%	19%
Total	850	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Q12: How well do you feel the Bougainville House of Representatives is doing in consulting and engaging with the public in performing its duties?**

Perceived performance of Bougainville House of Representatives in consulting and engaging with the public in performing its duties was not ideal in Baseline 2016 where opinions were equally divided in assessing performance positively or negatively and a large majority expressed their assessment in only moderate terms (quite well/somewhat poorly).

In this 2017 renewal, the overall picture is similar but with added slippage from positive ratings towards negative ratings. Now only 38% assess BHoR consultation and engagement with their public positively (2% very well, 36% quite well) and 58% offer negative ratings (13% very poor, 45% somewhat poor).

The reasons for the slippage are not entirely clear, but sharing of information and community discussion with their public (as in the next few questions) were not ideal. There were no significant variations across districts, but men (50:50) were less critical than women (67:33) on this issue.

Table 18: Perception - Bougainville House of Representatives performance in engaging with the public

	Total		Location		
	n	%	North Bougainville	Central Bougainville	South Bougainville
Very well	18	2%	3%	2%	1%
Quite well	303	36%	34%	32%	40%
Somewhat poorly	385	45%	45%	47%	45%
Very poorly	107	13%	15%	12%	10%
Don't Know	32	4%	3%	5%	4%

**Q14: Does your ABG House of Representatives member provide information to your community in support of the Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) and upcoming referendum?**

In Baseline 2016 53% gave a negative rating, feeling that their ABG House of Representatives member was providing little or no information to their communities about the BPA and referendum (against which, 42% felt positively – that their member provided some or plenty of information).

In this 2017 renewal, these figures have slipped markedly – now 68% give a negative rating, that their ABG HoR member was providing little or no information about the BPA and referendum (and only 28% now feel positively – that their member provides some or plenty of information).

There was little significant variation across districts or gender with the level of communication; clearly more than two thirds of people feel they are not being kept informed enough.

Table 19: Perception – Informational Performance of ABG House of Representatives Member

	Total		Location		
	n	%	North Bougainville	Central Bougainville	South Bougainville
Plenty of information	22	3%	3%	3%	2%
Provide some information	211	25%	27%	22%	25%
Little information	428	50%	46%	56%	52%
No information	157	18%	21%	15%	18%
Don't Know	31	4%	3%	5%	3%

**3.4. Community experiences with the Bougainville Peace Agreement****Q16: Are you aware of any meetings locally to discuss people's views on the BPA?**

Awareness on meetings held locally to discuss people's views on the BPA has improved since Baseline where only 27% of respondents were aware of any such meetings. In this 2017 renewal, awareness was somewhat higher at 34% overall. Male respondents (42%) were more aware than female respondents (27%); there was little significant variation across districts. Though these figures are improved from Baseline, there is surely considerable room for improvement left.

Table 20: Awareness of local meetings to discuss people's views on the BPA

	Total		Gender		Location		
	n	%	Male	Female	North Bougainville	Central Bougainville	South Bougainville
Yes	293	34%	42%	27%	36%	32%	34%
No	557	66%	58%	73%	64%	68%	66%
Total	850	100	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

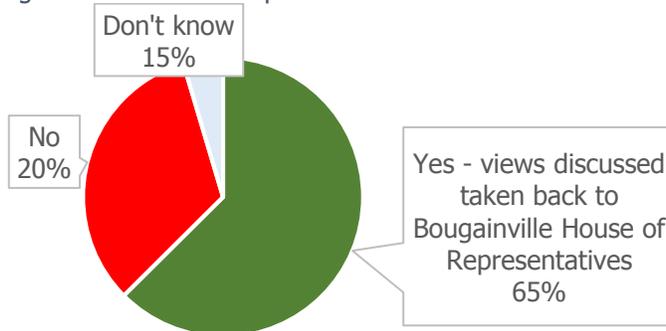
Those who claimed awareness of local meetings to discuss views on the BPA (293 in total) were asked if they themselves had attended the meetings; as in baseline, the vast majority (78%) had personally attended these gatherings - more men (91%) had been involved than females (59%). The high rate of attendance among those aware suggests apathy is not a problem – if meetings are held and awareness is created, good attendance can be guaranteed.

Table 21: Attended local meetings

	Total		Gender		Location		
	n	%	Male	Female	North Bougainville	Central Bougainville	South Bougainville
Yes	229	78%	91%	59%	81%	68%	82%
No	63	22%	9%	41%	19%	32%	18%
Total	293	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Nearly two-thirds of attendees (65%) asserted their belief that the public’s views as expressed in these meetings were indeed taken back to the House of Representatives for review purposes.

Figure 8: Views taken back to Bougainville House of Representatives



### 3.5. Personal experiences with BPA

Q22: How well do you yourself understand the three pillars of the BPA?

In Baseline 2016, respondents’ self-reported comprehension of the three pillars of the BPA was seemingly quite low, with only a third of respondents (33%) claiming a good command (7%) or some command (26%) of the three pillars (these being 46% in males against 20% in females).

In this renewal 2017, these figures have slipped somewhat; now only 27% of respondents claim comprehension of the three pillars - good command (4%) and some command (23%). Again, though there is little appreciable variation by district, males are more confident in saying they understand the issues than females (37% in males against only 15% in females). Confidence may be an issue – eg. 24% of females ‘don’t know/can’t say’ and these don’t know figures were also quite high in Central and South Bougainville.

Table 22: Respondents' personal understanding of the three pillars of the BPA

	Gender			Location		
	Total	Male	Female	North Bougainville	Central Bougainville	South Bougainville
Very well	4%	7%	0%	4%	3%	3%
Quite well	23%	30%	15%	25%	24%	19%
Somewhat poorly	42%	54%	30%	39%	46%	43%
Very poorly	18%	7%	30%	23%	12%	17%
Don't Know	13%	2%	24%	8%	14%	18%

Q23: How much confidence do you yourself have in the implementation of the three pillars of the Bougainville Peace Agreement?

As in Baseline 2016, personal confidence in the implementation of the three pillars of the BPA is reasonably good. In baseline, 53% of respondents expressed confidence of some degree – this was up slightly to 57% in this 2017 renewal (very confident 8%, quite confident 49%). Only 33% expressed some level of pessimism (and a further 11% of respondents did not know).

Male respondents (70%) are more confident in BPA implementation than females (43%), who again reported a high 'don't know' figure (19%). Confidence is reportedly slightly higher in Central Bougainville (64%) than North Bougainville (55%) and South Bougainville (52%).

Table 23: Respondents' personal confidence in the implementation of the three pillars of the Bougainville Peace Agreement

	Gender			Location		
	Total	Male	Female	North Bougainville	Central Bougainville	South Bougainville
Very much confidence	8%	9%	6%	9%	7%	7%
Somewhat confidence	49%	61%	37%	46%	57%	45%
Somewhat poor confidence	25%	27%	23%	26%	23%	25%
Very poor confidence	8%	1%	15%	11%	5%	6%
Don't Know	11%	3%	19%	9%	8%	17%

Q24: How much confidence do you yourself have in the implementation of autonomy?

In Baseline 2016, a two-thirds majority of respondents (67%) expressed personal confidence in the success of the implementation of autonomy (confidence among males (73%) being a good deal higher than among females (60%).

In this 2017 renewal, figures were little changed; 68% expressed confidence (13% very confident and 55% somewhat confident). Again males were more confident (81%) than females (55%). Central Bougainville (73%) was more confident than North & South, but variations were small.

Table 24: Respondents personal confidence in the implementation of autonomy

	Gender			Location		
	Total	Male	Female	North Bougainville	Central Bougainville	South Bougainville
Very much confidence	13%	17%	9%	13%	16%	12%
Somewhat confidence	55%	64%	46%	52%	57%	58%
Somewhat poor confidence	21%	16%	26%	22%	20%	20%
Very poor confidence	6%	0%	12%	9%	3%	5%
Don't Know	4%	1%	7%	4%	4%	5%

Q25: How much confidence do you yourself have in the implementation of the planned referendum?

The findings in this 2017 renewal of the survey almost exactly mirrored those of Baseline 2016, where 69% of respondents expressed personal confidence in the implementation of the planned referendum (males more so than females).

In this 2017 survey, 69% of respondents expressed personal confidence in the implementation of the referendum (17% very confident, 52% quite confident). Again, males (82%) expressed more confidence than females (56%). Confidence was slightly higher in Central (72%) and South (72%) than North Bougainville (66%).

Table 25: Respondents personal confidence in implementation of the planned referendum

	Gender			Location		
	Total	Male	Female	North Bougainville	Central Bougainville	South Bougainville
Very much confidence	17%	24%	10%	16%	17%	19%
Somewhat confidence	52%	58%	46%	50%	55%	53%
Somewhat poor confidence	21%	16%	27%	23%	22%	19%
Very poor confidence	5%	1%	9%	6%	2%	5%
Don't Know	4%	1%	8%	4%	4%	5%

Q26: How much confidence do you yourself have in the implementation of weapons disposal?

In Baseline 2016, respondents' confidence in the implementation of weapons disposal was less than ideal with half of respondents (50%) stating some degree of confidence against 46% citing little or no confidence.

Confidence in weapons disposal has actually weakened over the past year; in this 2017 renewal only 43% express some degree of confidence (12% very confident, 31% fairly confident) against which 55% express lack of confidence to some degree (31% poor confidence, 24% very little confidence). There was very little variation by gender or by district in these figures.

Table 26: Respondents' personal confidence in the implementation of weapons disposal

	Gender			Location		
	Total	Male	Female	North Bougainville	Central Bougainville	South Bougainville
Very much confidence	12%	11%	12%	11%	10%	13%
Somewhat confidence	31%	30%	31%	28%	33%	31%
Somewhat poor confidence	31%	35%	26%	32%	26%	32%
Very poor confidence	24%	22%	26%	25%	28%	21%
Don't Know	4%	1%	4%	3%	2%	5%

### 3.6. BPA Communications and Information

#### Q27: Do you know where to access public awareness information on the overall Bougainville Peace Agreement?

In Baseline 2016, 72% of respondents were unaware of where to access BPA information sources and only 28% were aware of such sources. From this 2017 renewal, there appears to have been some progress (but not nearly enough); now 33% say they do know where they can access such information but 67% still claim to be unaware.

Awareness was much lower among female respondents (20%) than male respondents (46%). North Bougainville (37%) was slightly more aware of BPA information sources than Central (32%) and South Bougainville (only 30%).

Table 27: Awareness of Bougainville Peace Agreement information sources

	Gender			Location		
	Total	Male	Female	North Bougainville	Central Bougainville	South Bougainville
Yes	33%	46%	20%	37%	32%	30%
No	67%	54%	80%	63%	68%	70%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Among those 283 respondents who claimed to be aware of BPA public information sources, NBC Radio Bougainville, Bougainville News Bulletins, ABG District Office, Referendum Office and ABG Media Bureau were the top five sources cited – the other 15+ sources cited were all under 5%.

Table 28: Information sources aware of

	n	%
Bougainville Bulletin	63	23
NBC Radio Bougainville	46	17
ABG District Office/Local Level Office	40	15
Referendum Office	34	12
ABG Media Bureau	17	6

Among those aware of the existence of these BPA information sources, utilization of the public information sources is high (86%).

Table 29: Utilization of information sources

	Total	Gender		Location		
		Male	Female	North Bougainville	Central Bougainville	South Bougainville
Yes	86%	89%	78%	81%	87%	92%
No	14%	11%	22%	19%	13%	8%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

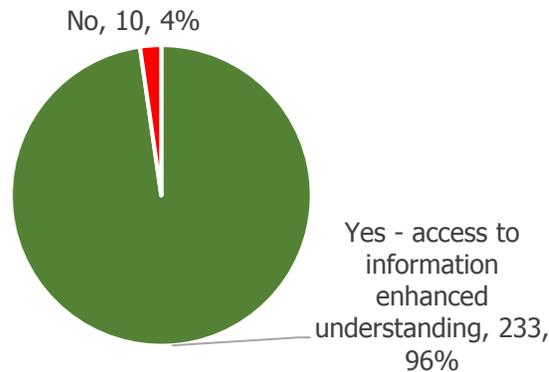
Among those respondents aware of their existence, a good number had accessed the information centres at least once in the past six months while some 5.7% claimed daily access.

Table 30: Frequency of information access

	N	%
Once a week or more	19	8%
Once or twice a month	30	12%
Three or more times in the past 6 months	42	17%
Twice in the past 6 months	69	28%
Once in the past 6 months	82	34%

Nearly all respondents (98%) who had accessed information sources for the Bougainville Peace Agreement professed enhanced knowledge in the Peace Agreement.

Figure 9: Impact of information access



Q28: Do you know where to access public awareness information on the referendum on Bougainville’s future political status?

Awareness of information access areas / sources pertaining to the referendum on Bougainville’s future political status is quite low (32%) especially among female respondents (19%)

Table 31: Awareness of information access areas / sources on the referendum on Bougainville’s future political status

	Gender			Location		
	Total	Male	Female	North Bougainville	Central Bougainville	South Bougainville
Yes	32%	46%	19%	34%	32%	31%
No	68%	54%	81%	66%	68%	69%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

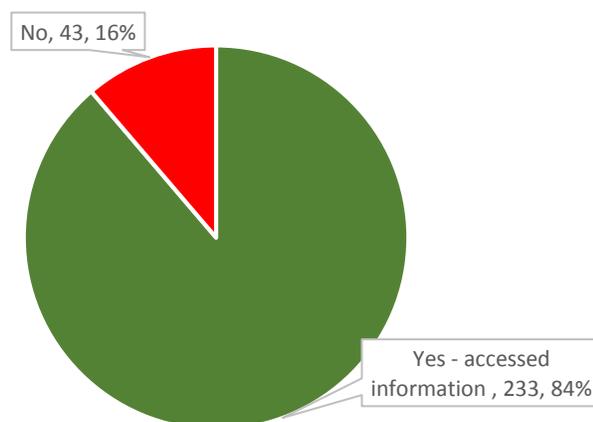
Among those 283 respondents who claimed to be aware of BPA public information sources, NBC Radio Bougainville, Bougainville News Bulletins, ABG District Office, Referendum Office and ABG Media Bureau were the top five sources cited – the other 15+ sources cited were all under 5%.

Table 32: Information sources aware of

	N	%
Bougainville Bulletin	59	22
Referendum Office	37	14
NBC Radio Bougainville	34	13
ABG District Office/Local Level Office	28	11
ABG Media Bureau	17	6

Among those respondents who were aware of referendum information sources, utilization of information sources is high (84%) as shown in Fig.10.

Figure 10: Utilization of information centres



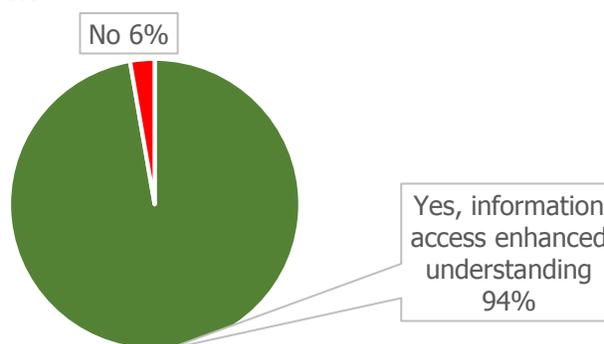
Among those respondents who had accessed referendum information sources, three quarters had accessed information sources once or twice in the 6 months prior to interview. Table 42 further displays that 15% had accessed information at least once monthly in that period.

Table 33: Frequency of information access

	Frequency	Percent
Once a week or more	10	5%
Once or twice a month	24	10%
Three or more times in the past 6 months	28	13%
Twice in the past 6 months	60	27%
Once in the past 6 months	103	46%

Again, nearly all respondents declared enhanced capacity and knowledge about the referendum on Bougainville's future political status.

Figure 11: Impact of information access



Q29: Do you know if there is a Bougainville House of Representatives Website people can go to for information?

Awareness of a Bougainville House of Representatives Website for access to information is poor. It was low in Baseline 2016 (6%); awareness has improved slightly in the last year but is still only 12% at this Interim Survey 2017. This is not a surprise as other questions (eg. communications) have shown internet to be very much in its infancy in Bougainville. Awareness is better among men (18%) than women (6%) and in North (18%) than Central & South Bougainville (<9%).

Table 34: Awareness of Bougainville House of Representative Website

	Total	Gender		Location		
		Male	Female	North Bougainville	Central Bougainville	South Bougainville
Yes	12%	18%	6%	18%	9%	8%
No	88%	82%	94%	82%	91%	92%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Though awareness of the BHoR Website was low and the respondent base of those who are aware consequently also very low, 56% of those aware claimed to have visited the website.

**Q30: Do you know which bodies produce the public awareness information on the Bougainville Peace Agreement and referendum?**

In Baseline 2016, a large majority of respondents (85%) were not aware of any bodies that produce the public awareness information on the Bougainville Peace Agreement and referendum. In this 2017 renewal, the figures have improved slightly but are still less than ideal; now 26% of respondents claim awareness and 74% remain unaware of the disseminating bodies. Awareness is better among men (36%) than women (15%) and better in North (29%) than Central (24%) and South Bougainville (23%).

Table 35: Awareness of bodies that produce the public awareness information on the BPA and referendum

	Gender			Location		
	Total	Male	Female	North Bougainville	Central Bougainville	South Bougainville
Yes	26%	36%	15%	29%	24%	23%
No	74%	64%	85%	71%	76%	77%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Among those 177 respondents who claimed to be aware of BPA public information sources, the bodies thought to provide the clearest and truest information were the Referendum Office (47%) followed by ABG Media Bureau, ABG Member, NBC Radio Bougainville, Constituency Member/MP, Women’s Groups and UNDP. At lower levels, another 10+ sources were cited, all under 3%.

Table 36: stakeholder bodies

	N	%
Referendum Office	83	47%
ABG Media Bureau/Communications Bureau	20	11%
ABG Members	20	11%
NBC Radio Bougainville	12	7%
Constituency Member/MP	11	6%
Women’s Groups	10	6%
UNDP	9	5%

### 3.7. Peace and Reconciliation Services

#### Q31: Do you know of any services available for dealing with trauma caused by the conflict

In Baseline 2016, only 25% of respondents claimed awareness of services for dealing with trauma caused by the conflict. In this 2017 Interim Survey renewal, that figure had risen to 40% who were aware of trauma healing services – somewhat better but still with room for improvement.

Awareness levels were slightly higher among males than females and markedly higher in North Bougainville (50%) than Central Bougainville (30%) and South Bougainville (35%).

Table 37: Awareness - services available for dealing with trauma caused by the conflict

	Total	Gender		Location		
		Male	Female	North Bougainville	Central Bougainville	South Bougainville
Aware	40%	43%	36%	50%	30%	35%
Not Aware	60%	57%	64%	50%	70%	65%

Those respondents who were aware of trauma counselling services were asked to name them. As seen in table 47, Javai (Chabai) Trauma Healing Services, Buin Safe House, Hahela Counselling & Rehabilitation Centre, Sisters of Nazareth Rehabilitation Centre, Hospital Counselling Services, Patupatu Rehab Centre and Leitana Nehan were all well mentioned (over 6%). Another 12 or more services received lower-level mentions (3% or less).

Table 38: Organizations offering trauma-healing services

	n	%
Javai (Chabai) Trauma Healing Services	65	23%
Buin Safe house	45	16%
Hahela Rehabilitation/Counselling Centre	42	15%
Sisters of Nazareth Rehabilitation Centre	36	13%
Hospital Counselling Services (Buka, Arawa)	20	7%
Patupatu Rehabilitation Centre	20	7%
Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency	16	6%
Other mentions (12+)		<3%

#### Q32: Can you yourself easily access these trauma-healing services?

In Baseline 2016, only 22% of respondents felt that these trauma-healing services were easy for them to access. In this 2017 survey, the figure has improved to 30% who feel trauma services are easy enough to access, but this still leaves room for improvement.

Men (33%) are slightly higher than women (27%) in reporting easy access to trauma services and residents of North Bougainville (39%) are reportedly considerably better off for easy access to trauma services than Central Bougainville (22%) and South Bougainville (26%).

Table 39: Access to trauma-healing services

	Total	Gender		Location		
		Male	Female	North Bougainville	Central Bougainville	South Bougainville
Yes	30%	33%	27%	39%	22%	26%
No	70%	67%	73%	61%	78%	74%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Those respondents (549) who said they could not easily access trauma-healing services were asked what constraints they faced: 64% said they were not aware of the services' existence, 23% said they were unaffected (not victims themselves) and 5% said they were unaware of the services' locations (another few lower-level responses concerned travelling distance).

#### Q33: Have you yourself ever accessed these trauma- healing services?

In Baseline 2016, less than 8% of respondents had personally accessed the available trauma-healing services. In this 2017 renewal, the figure was marginally up - at 9%, with only minimal variation by gender and location.

Table 40: Personally accessed trauma-healing services

	Total	Gender		Location		
		Male	Female	North Bougainville	Central Bougainville	South Bougainville
Yes	9%	9%	9%	9%	7%	9%
No	91%	91%	91%	91%	93%	91%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

#### Q34. If so, thinking about the services supporting people's trauma healing and psychological wellbeing, how satisfied are you with those services provided at present?

The respondent base was small (73 persons), but of those who had accessed the trauma-healing services, a strong majority (84%) expressed satisfaction with the services received (and 42% were very satisfied). Only 10 (mainly men) out of 73 respondents voiced any dissatisfaction.

Table 41: Satisfaction levels with trauma-healing services

	Total		Gender		Location		
	n	%	Male	Female	North Bougainville	Central Bougainville	South Bougainville
Very satisfied	31	42%	19%	65%	41%	47%	41%
Quite satisfied	31	42%	56%	27%	41%	40%	45%
Somewhat dissatisfied	10	14%	22%	5%	17%	13%	10%

### 3.8. Community/ Society Level Conditions

#### Q35: Do you know of any ex-combatants in the conflict in your community?

Exactly as in Baseline 2016, a strong majority of respondents (84%) claimed awareness of ex-combatants in the conflict in their communities. And again, awareness was significantly higher among male respondents (97%) in comparison to female respondents (72%); South (90%) and Central (87%) Bougainville returned higher figures than North Bougainville (78%).

Table 42: Ex-combatants in the conflict in your community

	Total	Gender		Location		
		Male	Female	North Bougainville	Central Bougainville	South Bougainville
Yes	84%	97%	72%	78%	87%	90%
No	16%	3%	28%	22%	13%	10%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

#### Q35a. How well do you think they have settled back peacefully into the community?

A majority of almost three-quarters (72%) felt that ex-combatants had resettled peacefully back into the community; this figure was slightly better than the two-thirds (65%) in Baseline 2016. 26% felt they had settled back in 'somewhat poorly' but only 1% said 'very poorly'. Variations between genders and districts were not great.

Table 43: Perception on ex-combatants' resettlement in the community

	Total	Gender		Location		
		Male	Female	North Bougainville	Central Bougainville	South Bougainville
Very well	17%	16%	18%	20%	19%	13%
Quite well	55%	59%	50%	48%	54%	63%
Somewhat poorly	26%	23%	30%	30%	24%	24%
Very poorly	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q36. What is your impression of ex-combatant integration into the community in general – not thinking about your community in particular, but around the whole of ARB? Do you have an impression whether they are settling back in peacefully or not?

This question called for a general impression on the situation ARB-wide; similarly to Baseline 2016, respondents were almost equally divided. About half of the respondents (50%) felt that ex-combatant integration in ARB remained worrisome and the potential for conflict still remained; whereas 42% felt that the situation had settled down to some degree. 8% did not know or were not prepared to venture an opinion (mainly females).

Table 44: Perception on ex-combatant integration into the community

	Total	Gender		Location		
		Male	Female	North Bougainville	Central Bougainville	South Bougainville
Most peacefully	3%	4%	2%	4%	4%	2%
Somewhat peacefully	39%	41%	37%	33%	43%	43%
Some conflict still	48%	53%	42%	53%	43%	44%
Still plenty conflict	2%	0%	4%	2%	3%	2%
Don't Know	8%	1%	15%	8%	6%	9%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q37: Have your local community had problems with threatening and peace-disturbing youths?

Again, almost exactly mirroring Baseline 2016, a strong majority (82%) had experienced problems with threatening and peace-disturbing youths in the community. This general picture was across the board with only fairly minor variations by gender or by the three locations sampled.

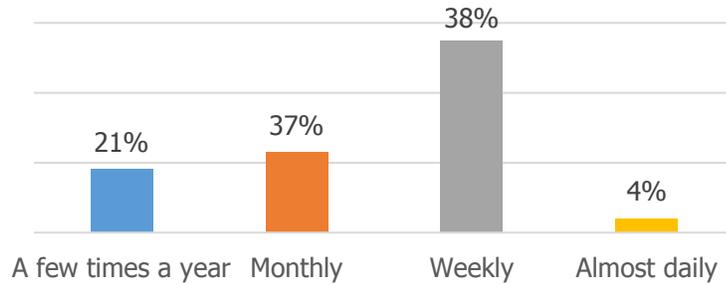
Interestingly, this perceived miscreant youth problem is not just their elders disapproving of youth behaviour – the younger respondents were slightly more critical than the older age groups. It was a problem for 85% of 15-19s and 84% of 20-29 year olds but less than 80% of the 40-49s and over-50 groups.

Table 45: Experienced problems with threatening and peace-disturbing youths?

	Total	Gender		Location		
		Male	Female	North Bougainville	Central Bougainville	South Bougainville
Yes	82%	86%	78%	84%	75%	85%
No	18%	14%	22%	16%	25%	15%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

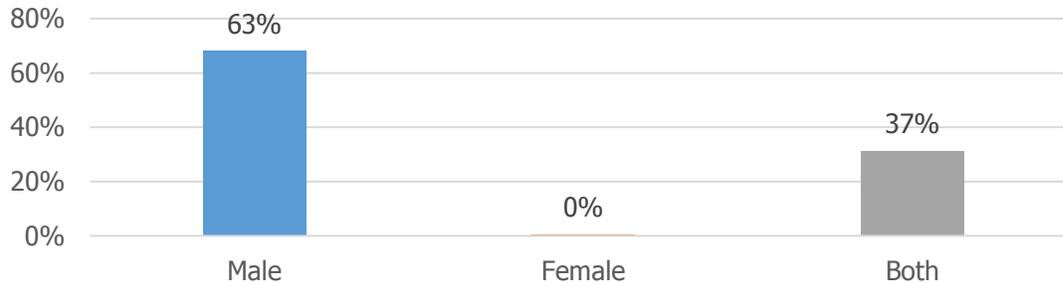
42% of respondents said their communities faced issues with threatening and peace-disturbing youths at least every week with 4% asserting daily incidences. 58% considered them as monthly or less frequently.

Figure 12: Frequency of insecurity incidences incited by peace disturbing youths



According to 63% of respondents, the majority of the peace-disturbing youths were solely male. However, over a third of respondents (37%) said the youths were both males and females.

Figure 13: Gender composition of threatening and peace- disturbing youths



Respondents were asked if, in the last six months, problems had decreased and youth behaviour improved? 38% felt youth behaviour had improved in the past 6 months, 62% felt it had not.

**Q38: Do you know if your local youths have received training in more peaceful and helpful social behaviour?**

In Baseline 2016, 25% of respondents were aware and 75% not aware of any training in more peaceful and helpful social behaviour carried out with their local youths. The figures were only fractionally better in this 2017 renewal – 28% aware of such youth training and 72% unaware. Interestingly, the younger age groups who might benefit from such services are less aware than their seniors (15-19s only 16%, 20s age group 26% whereas 30+yrs groups all return >30%)

Table 46: Aware of youths training in more peaceful and helpful social behaviour

	Total	Gender		Age				
		Male	Female	15 - 19	20 - 29	30-39	40-49	50+ Years
Yes	28%	27%	29%	16%	26%	31%	30%	40%
No	72%	73%	71%	84%	74%	69%	70%	60%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

The 235 respondents who said they were aware of youths receiving training in more peaceful and helpful social behaviour cited nearly 30 activities, the more prominent of which are listed in the table below.

Table 47: Youth training

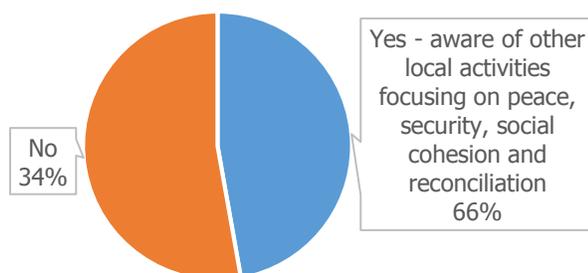
	n	%
Church Training – Studies, Conventions, Sports, Games	43	24%
Community Activities – Courses, Awareness, Sports, etc	30	17%
Halia Youth Centre – Carpentry Training for Youths	13	7%
Halia Youth Centre – Peace Building Training	7	5%
Leadership Courses	22	6%
Caritas Bougainville – Bricklaying and other vocational courses	9	5%
Youth Rehab Centre	9	5%
Didiman Agricultural Training	15	4%
Youth Training Workshop	6	3%
Public Health Training	6	3%
Life Skills Training	6	3%
Human Rights Awareness	6	3%
Police Campaign for Peace & Justice	5	3%
Other (various mentions)	-	1% or 2%

Q39: Do you know of any other local activities focusing on peace, security, social cohesion and reconciliation?

In Baseline 2016, 47% of respondents claimed knowledge of other local activities focusing on peace, security, social cohesion and reconciliation, the other half being unaware. In this 2017 survey, figures have improved from half: half to two-thirds: one-third – 66% now claim awareness of such activities.

There was minimal variation by gender or district but the younger groups were markedly less aware than their elders (15-19s 49%, 20-29s 63%, all over-30 groups 73% plus).

Figure 14: Aware of other activities focusing on peace, security, social cohesion and reconciliation



As in Baseline 2016, Community Sport Activities (74%) were the most prominent local activity promoting peace, security, social cohesion and reconciliation. Among ~15 others cited were reconciliation meetings, church activities, cultural, camps and festivals as listed in table 57 below

Table 48: Local activities focusing on peace, security, social cohesion and reconciliation

	n	%
Community Sporting Activities – Soccer, Volleyball, Touch rugby, etc	404	74%
Reconciliation Activities – Peace meetings, Clan meetings, Weapons disposal meets, etc	109	20%
Church Activities – Youth conventions, etc	23	4%
Community Services and gatherings	18	3%
Music Festivals	18	3%
Cultural shows	11	2%
Public Awareness Forums	11	2%
Various others	-	1%

Q40: Have you yourself ever taken part in these peace and reconciliation activities?

In Baseline 2016, 37% of respondents claimed to have personally participated in reconciliation activities. That figure was up in this 2017 renewal, where 56% of respondents claimed to have personally participated. Participation was reportedly higher among males (72%) than females (40%) and very even across the three districts.

Again, though their figures were comfortably improved from Baseline, it seems that the younger age groups (42% of 15-19s and 56% of 20s age group) did not take part in these activities as much as their elders (60%+ in all the 30-year plus groups).

Table 49: Participation in peace and reconciliation activities

	Total	Gender		Age				
		Male	Female	15 - 19	20 - 29	30-39	40-49	50+ Years
Yes	56%	72%	40%	42%	56%	62%	62%	60%
No	44%	28%	60%	58%	44%	38%	38%	40%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Among the 474 respondents who had personally attended peace and reconciliation activities, satisfaction levels were excellent (37% very satisfied, 60% quite satisfied and only 3% somewhat dissatisfied).

### 3.9. Referendum Specific

Q41: Are you yourself aware that as part of the peace process, a referendum is due to happen in a few years' time?

In Baseline 2016, awareness around the forthcoming referendum was quite high (73%) though with room for improvement. The figure has indeed improved in this 2017 renewal, with awareness now up to 85% overall.

Again, awareness is higher among males (94%) than among females (77%) but the women have progressed markedly from their 57% in Baseline. There was almost negligible variation across districts or age groups - the only exception was the 15-19 age group who were slightly lower at 79% (though some of these may feel such things are grown-ups'/voter age business).

Table 50: Aware of forthcoming referendum

	Total	Gender		Age				
		Male	Female	15 - 19	20 - 29	30-39	40-49	50+ Years
Yes	85%	94%	77%	79%	85%	88%	87%	88%
No	15%	6%	23%	21%	15%	12%	13%	12%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Respondents' level of awareness (self-rating) on issues relating to the referendum was not ideal in Baseline 2016 (55%:45%) and it is no better now. In this 2017 Interim Survey, respondents were almost exactly evenly split; 49% of respondents claimed adequate awareness and 50% felt they were not very well informed.

Males (53%) claimed to be adequately informed slightly more than females (44%); figures were fairly consistent across districts (but slightly lower in South Bougainville). The under-30 age groups were slightly lower in their self-rating than their elders and confidence in awareness of being informed only passed the 50:50 tipping point in 40+ age groups.

Table 51: Level of referendum awareness

	Total	Gender		Age				
		Male	Female	15-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+
Very well informed	5%	6%	4%	4%	3%	5%	8%	8%
Quite well informed	44%	47%	40%	36%	39%	46%	48%	55%
Somewhat poorly informed	44%	44%	43%	52%	49%	41%	39%	33%
Very poorly informed	6%	3%	9%	7%	8%	5%	4%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

In Baseline, only 16% were aware of the planned referendum date of June 15<sup>th</sup> 2019. In this 2017 survey, 50% claimed knowledge of the date; of these 360 respondents, 54% gave the exact date, 19% just said June 2019 and 26% just said 2019.

Q42: There are still a few years to go sorting out details before the referendum, but thinking of what you know now, do you yourself intend to vote in the referendum?

In Baseline 2016, two-thirds of respondents declared their intention to vote in the forthcoming referendum. That figure was quite similar to this 2017 survey renewal, where 64% expressed a positive intention to vote.

As in Baseline, males returned a significantly higher (77%) intention to vote against only 50% of females. Among the districts, North Bougainville returned the lowest figure at 59% and South Bougainville highest at 70%. Among age groups, it was a linear progression; the older the age group, the higher intention to vote.

Table 52: Intend to vote in the forthcoming referendum

	Total	Gender		Age				
		Male	Female	15 - 19	20 - 29	30-39	40-49	50+ Yrs
Yes	64%	77%	50%	51%	60%	65%	70%	76%
No	36%	23%	50%	49%	40%	35%	30%	24%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q42b: At this early stage, are you inclined to vote for independence for Bougainville?

In Baseline 2016, a strong majority of respondents (87%) declared their intention to vote for the independence of Bougainville. In this 2017 survey renewal, the figures have moderated somewhat, though the sentiment remains the same; now 73% intend to vote for independence.

This intention to vote for independence was higher among male respondents (79%) than female respondents (64%). All districts stated this intention fairly consistently, North (78%) returning slightly higher figures and South Bougainville (70%) being lowest. The age groups were also quite consistent, all returning 70% or more; the over-50s were most strident at 87%.

Table 53: Inclined to vote for independence of Bougainville

	Total	Gender		Location		
		Male	Female	North Boug.	Central Boug.	South Boug.
Yes	73%	79%	64%	78%	73%	70%
No	27%	21%	36%	22%	27%	30%

Reasons given for intending to vote for independence of Bougainville are as in table 63 below.

Table 54: Reasons for voting for independence of Bougainville

Reason	n	%
Want Bougainville to be self-reliant, manage its own affairs/resources	117	34%
Bougainville lost many lives during the crisis, we owe it to them who fought for us	56	16%
Bougainville has the resources – we must stand alone to benefit from them	49	14%
Bougainville must become independent of Papua New Guinea	36	10%
Independent Bougainville can provide us with better services and infrastructure	22	6%

Bougainville can use our resources to boost our economic growth and development	22	6%
Bougainville must benefit from its own resources, not share income with PNG	16	5%
Bougainvilleans to decide the future of Bougainville	13	4%
Various others	-	1%

### 3.10. BPA Implementation

Q43: What is your view on whether the implementation of the three pillars of the Bougainville Peace Agreement in general in Bougainville is proceeding in the right direction?

In Baseline 2016, the general impression was that the BPA was proceeding in the right direction, with 63% expressing some degree of agreement. In this 2017 Interim Survey, the sentiment was similar, though the figures were slightly weaker – 57% now feel BPA is proceeding in the right direction, against 31% expressing disagreement of some degree. 11% said they did not know.

Men seem much more confident of progress in the right direction (73% positive: 21% negative) but women appear to be quite concerned (42% positive: 40% negative, 16% don't know). The younger age groups are slightly less confident that things are going in the right direction than their elders, but the figures are quite consistent across the districts.

Table 55: Perception on direction of three pillars of Bougainville Peace Agreement

	Total	Gender		Age				
		Male	Female	15-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+
Feel strongly in agreement we're going in right direction	5%	7%	3%	2%	3%	5%	9%	11%
Somewhat agree we're going in right direction	52%	66%	39%	40%	55%	48%	52%	55%
Somewhat disagree going in right direction	27%	21%	32%	32%	29%	24%	25%	21%
Strongly disagree going in right direction	4%	0%	8%	6%	4%	5%	4%	2%
Don't Know	11%	5%	16%	19%	9%	7%	10%	12%

Q44: What is your view on whether politics in general in Bougainville is proceeding in the right direction?

In Baseline 2016, the sentiment was that politics in Bougainville were generally proceeding in the right direction (60% expressing some degree of agreement).

As in the previous question on the BPA, the sentiment was similar in this 2017 Interim Survey but the figures were slightly weaker – 55% now express agreement with the proposition that politics in general in Bougainville are proceeding in the right direction, against 36% expressing some degree of disagreement. 8% said they did not know.

Again, men take a more positive view of political progress (69% positive: 26% negative) whereas women take a more concerned perspective (41% positive: 47% negative and 11% don't know). Variations between districts and the older age groups are minimal but the 15-19s appear to have greater concerns than their elders.

Table 56: Perception on direction of politics in general in Bougainville

	Gender		Age					
	Total	Male	Female	15-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+
Feel strongly in agreement we're going in right direction	5%	9%	1%	1%	4%	5%	6%	11%
Somewhat agree we're going in right direction	50%	60%	40%	40%	51%	53%	52%	53%
Somewhat disagree going in right direction	30%	25%	36%	35%	30%	31%	30%	25%
Strongly disagree going in right direction	6%	1%	11%	10%	6%	5%	5%	3%
Don't Know	8%	6%	11%	14%	7%	5%	7%	8%

### 3.11. UN Specific Questions

In this 2017 Interim Survey, a short section of UN-specific questions was inserted at the end of the questionnaire, to assess awareness of UN activities and attitudes surrounding them. This was kept to the end to avoid disturbing the flow of the main body of the questionnaire; it was the only significant change between the questionnaires used in Baseline 2016 and Interim 2017, questionnaires otherwise remaining consistent to enable direct comparisons.

Q: Are you aware of the United Nations (UN) having a presence and working on Bougainville?

Overall, nearly two-thirds of respondents (64%) in this survey claimed to be aware that UN is present and working on Bougainville. As an indicator of whether or not this is a respectable figure, this 64% was not far short of the 70% who claimed to know the name of their local ABG member.

Men (83%) were more aware of UN's presence than women (45%); districts were not radically dissimilar but North Bougainville (69%) was a little higher than Central (63%) and South (59%). The younger age groups (eg. 15-19s 50%) were less aware than their elders (64%-71%).

Those who claimed to be unaware of UN presence (305) were excused further questions and the UN-specific section proceeded with only those who were aware (548) responding.

Q: Are you aware of the United Nations (UN) having a Peace-Building presence on Bougainville?

Overall, 88% of the respondents who were aware UN was present were also aware of their active presence in Peace Building. This comprised nearly all the men (97%) and 72% of the women. Figures were consistent across the districts and all age groups.

Those who were unaware of the UN Peace Building presence (67) were excused further questions and the UN-specific section proceeded with only those who were aware (482) responding.

Q: How well informed do you think you yourself are on UN Peace Building work on Bougainville?

In this self-rating question, slightly less than half of respondents (46%) rated their level of awareness as good or very good; 54% of respondents felt they were not very well informed.

Males (55%) claimed to be adequately informed slightly more than females (25%); figures were fairly consistent across districts (but slightly lower in South Bougainville). The younger age groups (under-30s, particularly the 15-19s) were lower in their self-rating than their elders.

	Gender			Age				
	Total	Male	Female	15-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+
Very well informed	7%	8%	4%	3%	6%	8%	8%	9%
Quite well informed	39%	47%	21%	27%	35%	45%	42%	46%
Somewhat poorly informed	50%	42%	69%	68%	53%	44%	43%	45%
Very poorly informed	4%	3%	7%	3%	6%	3%	7%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Those who felt they were inadequately informed (259) were excused further questions and the UN-specific section proceeded with only those who felt adequately informed (234) responding.

Q: How much confidence do you yourself have that UN Peacebuilding is helping to maintain a constructive political dialogue between the two governments, GoPNG and ABG?

Amongst these informed respondents, there was almost universal confidence that UN Peace Building is helping the constructive dialogue to be maintained; 34% very much confidence, 65% some confidence (total 99%). Only 2 individuals (1%) expressed somewhat poor confidence.

Q: How much confidence do you yourself have that UN Peacebuilding will continue to ensure the two governments (GoPNG and ABG) follow through their obligations under the Peace Process?

Again, there was almost universal confidence that UN Peace Building will continue to ensure the two Governments follow through on their obligations: 39% very much confidence, 59% some confidence (total 98%). Only 4 individuals (2%) expressed somewhat poor confidence.

Q: Currently, UN supports ABG's relevant agencies like the Media Bureau & BPA Implementation to disseminate accurate joint key messages on the Peace Process. Do you think these Depts are doing a good job of information dissemination to the people?

94% said Yes, the current information dissemination services are working well (though there must be some doubt about that from other previous questions on information sources).

Q: How much confidence do you yourself have in UN Peacebuilding's ability to encourage the promotion of community security and social cohesion in Bougainville?

There was universal confidence in UN Peacebuilding's ability to encourage the promotion of community security and social cohesion in Bougainville – 44% very much confidence, 56% some confidence, and zero expressing any lack of confidence.

Q: How satisfied are you with what you have seen so far of UN Peacebuilding's work in peace and reconciliation activities on Bougainville?

There was almost universal satisfaction with UN Peace Building's work in peace and reconciliation on Bougainville so far – 45% said they were very satisfied and 53% quite satisfied (total 98%). Only 3 individuals (1%) expressed somewhat poor satisfaction.

Q: How important do you think it is that UN Peacebuilding continues its work in Bougainville until the Peace Process is totally completed?

Nearly three quarters of respondents (72%) feel that it is very important that UNPBF continues on Bougainville until the Peace Process is fully completed and a further 26% feel that it is quite important (total 98%). Only 5 individuals (2%) feel it is not really important.