

BOUGAINVILLE AUDIENCE STUDY

NIUPELA WOKABAUT BILONG BOGENVIL

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Bougainville Audience Study - Niupela Wokabaut Bilong Bogenvil (2017)

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This report and the Executive Summary can be downloaded at:
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FOREWORD

Good decision-making requires good information. That was the basis for the production of this research report - to improve how government delivers information to people based on a good understanding of how Bougainvilleans, from Kessa to Siwai to Panguna and the islands, currently access media and other information sources. We also need to know what people understand of the three pillars of the Bougainville Peace Agreement as we prepare for the 2019 Referendum.

The community response to these two questions contained within this report provides decision-makers and our communications experts with the feedback to adapt and improve our current approaches. Because the report makes clear that large sections of our population still have very little understanding of the Bougainville Peace Agreement, the basis for our government today, and the future choices that they will soon be asked to make about our political status. It is critical that this be addressed if we are to have a fully informed Referendum vote.

The report demonstrates Bougainville is a challenging place to provide information and undertake awareness. Our geography of islands and mountain ranges means traditional media has limited penetration beyond the main urban areas. The cost of producing information materials and conducting face-to-face awareness is also high.

But we must overcome these challenges to provide people with the information they crave: what is autonomy, what is independence, what about weapons disposal, the economy, are we ready, what must we do to prepare ourselves, what will happen after and what will the consequences be to any choices we make? This report provides some guiding light to how we can begin to provide information on these many questions.

We must be more strategic and more creative. We must go to communities prepared with information that is clear, simple, visual and consistent. We must explore new ideas and new technology such as mobile and video to help overcome our geographical barriers and need to engage people where they live with information that is powerful, engaging, memorable and appropriate. We must provide opportunities for government to listen to our citizens and respond, and we must make a special effort to reach underrepresented populations such as women and youth.



Joseph Nobetau

Chief Secretary

Office of the President and Bougainville Executive Council

But overall, we must coordinate our efforts within government. The ABG's recent restructure to bring together all Bougainville Peace Agreement responsibilities under the one department, the Department of Peace Agreement Implementation, signals one such move to help drive a coordinated response to address the needs raised by this report.

It is my hope that this report will be the basis for good decision-making about the information, communication and awareness activities of the future - not just among government but among also our media, civil society and development partners - so that we can work together to provide access to information that is people's right to have.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the ongoing assistance of the four governments of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, Australia and New Zealand who supported the production of this valuable report on how people in Bougainville access information, and what they know of the Bougainville Peace Agreement.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Bougainville Audience Research Study was commissioned by the Bureau of Media and Communications of the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) and undertaken by the Centre for Social & Creative Media (CSCM) at the University of Goroka (UOG). The research was jointly funded by the governments of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, Australia and New Zealand.

Ethical approval for the study was received from the University of Goroka Ethics Committee and approval was obtained from the Councils of Elders (CoEs) for the research to be undertaken. We acknowledge the support of the School of Humanities at the University of Goroka and Queensland University of Technology during the final stages of the research.

This research would not have been possible without the commitment of the field researchers who participated in the design of the study, undertook the data collection and provided invaluable information for the analysis.

We thank the Bureau of Media and Communication staff that assisted in the coordination of the research: Michael Beniai, Olivia Benton-Guy and Moses Tekuau. Thank you also to Robert Anesia, former Director of the Bureau of Media and Communications and Jeremy Miller, Communication Advisor to ABG for their support and ongoing feedback during the research process. We wish to acknowledge the commitment to evidence-based decision making of the ABG Chief Secretary, Joseph Nobetau, and his assistance in finalising this report and ensuring that it reaches a wide audience. We acknowledge the ongoing support jointly provided by the governments of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, Australia and New Zealand.

We would like to thank the research respondents who agreed to participate in the study and shared their stories to provide information.

The information and opinions presented in this report represent those of the authors and research participants; and are not necessarily representative of the views of the ABG.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ABC	Australian Broadcasting Corporation
ABG	Autonomous Bougainville Government
AROB	Autonomous Region of Bougainville
BPA	Bougainville Peace Agreement
BRA	Bougainville Revolutionary Army
CoE	Council of Elders
CSCM	Centre for Social and Creative Media
GIF	Governance Implementation Fund
NBC	National Broadcasting Corporation
PGK	Papua New Guinea Kina (Currency)
UN	United Nations
UoG	University of Goroka

GLOSSARY

CD haus/haus piksa	Village cinema
Haus lain	Extended family
Tok Pisin	Pidgin English
Tok Ples	Local language

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INTRODUCTION

The Bougainville Audience Research Study seeks to increase understanding of the Information and Communication landscape in Bougainville for the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG). The research is designed to inform the development, implementation and evaluation of communication initiatives and awareness undertaken by ABG. The focus of the research is on understanding the access and use of media and communication channels by the people in communities, and to provide a voice for their understandings and concerns with regards to the Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) and the upcoming Referendum.

The study was undertaken by the Centre for Social and Creative Media (CSCM) at the University of Goroka. As part of the study

16 field researchers from Bougainville were trained in research design and data collection. The study used a mixed-methods approach combining quantitative and qualitative methods. It presents a baseline study that can be used to monitor changes in the media and communication landscape in the years to come.

As information and communication is key to most development and addressing social issues, it is hoped that this research study provides useful information to other government departments, non-government organisations, aid agencies and local groups and organisations. Above all, this reports aims to represent the voices of the audience, the people of Bougainville, as it captures their current situations and their aspirations.



BACKGROUND

The Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ABG), previously known as North Solomons, is an autonomous region in Papua New Guinea. The largest island is Bougainville Island, and the province also includes the island of Buka and outlying islands and atolls. The capital is Buka. The population of the province in 2011 was about a quarter of a million people (National Statistical Office 2013). Bougainville is divided into three regions: North, Central and South.

A 10-year civil conflict shaped the history and identity of Bougainville. Home to Panguna mine, established in 1972 and once the largest open-cut copper mine in the world, Bougainville was a striving province which generated a large amount of national export revenue for Papua New Guinea. Local landowners, however, were disturbed by the profits leaving the island, as well as the environmental damage caused by the mine. By late 1988, tensions over the mine led to violence, resulting in the Bougainville Civil War. The armed conflict was fought from 1988 to 1998 between the Papua New Guinea government and the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA), who were fighting for independence. The war has been described as the largest conflict in Oceania since the end of World War Two.

In response to the civil war, the Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) was created and signed in Arawa on the 30th of August 2001. The agreement is a joint creation of the Government of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea and of leaders representing the people of Bougainville, and it was designed to resolve the Bougainville conflict and secure lasting peace by non-violent means. The agreement has three pillars: Autonomy, Referendum, and Weapons Disposal (BPA, 2001).

The BPA allows for a referendum to be held between 2015 and 2020, to determine the political status of Bougainville. A tentative date for the referendum has been set for the 15th of June 2019.

With the configuration of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, the governance system was re-structured to include traditional leadership structures. This included the establishment of 42 Council of Elders within the various districts under the CoE Act. Most recently, however, this structure has been revoked and been replaced with the Community Government Act.

Since the establishment of the BPA, the ABG has focused on peace building and conflict prevention. In pursuit of this, the ABG now looks at peace through socio-economic means by significantly increasing its awareness, commitment, ownership and leadership on peace building through governance and development (UN, 2011).

The Bougainville crisis had left a gap in information systems and information dissemination. Due to the destruction of much of the infrastructure, rebuilding information systems and providing the population with access to information has been challenging for the government. Awareness among the population about key political processes was therefore one of the key strategies of the Joint Autonomy Review (2013) that guides the process of the Bougainville Government towards the Referendum. The challenge remains how that is best achieved, and uncertainty about the current knowledge levels and understandings of the BPA among the population is a potential challenge to the preparations for the referendum and a decision on the political status of Bougainville.

The Bureau of Media and Communications, Department of President and Bougainville Executive Council, was established in 2005 under the first House of Representatives. It plays a key role in ensuring that the Bougainville population is informed about government activities. The Bureau works closely with other ABG departments, such as the Office of the Electoral Commissioner and the Department of Peace Agreement Implementation, to improve the flow of information to the population, ensuring informed participation in public dialogue. Over the years the Bureau has undertaken its own internal research on media use and access to inform its work.

While an independent audience research study was undertaken by the ABC/NBC in PNG in 2012 and 2014 (ABC 2012, 2014), the study did not include Bougainville. There is a lack of comprehensive data available on the media and communication landscape in Bougainville and on the current knowledge levels of the population.

Ensuring populations have access to information and are informed about decision-making processes is key to further development, and forms the foundation of a functioning democratic society. With this background, this study presents a comprehensive and in-depth investigation, and serves as a baseline study in order to monitor program implementations and changes in the communication landscape in Bougainville.



METHODOLOGY & RESPONDENT PROFILE

The purpose of the Bougainville Audience Study was to obtain a comprehensive baseline study on the use and access of media channels and audience perception. Further, the study was interested in obtaining an in-depth understanding of perceptions, knowledge levels and narratives of the Bougainville population with regards to the Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA).

To obtain the best results in line with the ABG briefing, a mixed-methods approach was used applying three complementary research methods: individual in-depth interviews (203), quantitative surveys (1114) and observation field notes. The data collected from these three methods was collated and analysed for the present report.

The Bougainville Audience Study was conducted in May, June and October 2015. The research was conducted in all three regions of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville - North, Central and South Bougainville. Each of the regions is made up of Districts and Council of Elders. The research was conducted in 37 CoEs in all regions. People from Atolls District and Nissan District, which includes an additional 6 CoEs, were interviewed and surveyed in Buka due to logistical constraints.

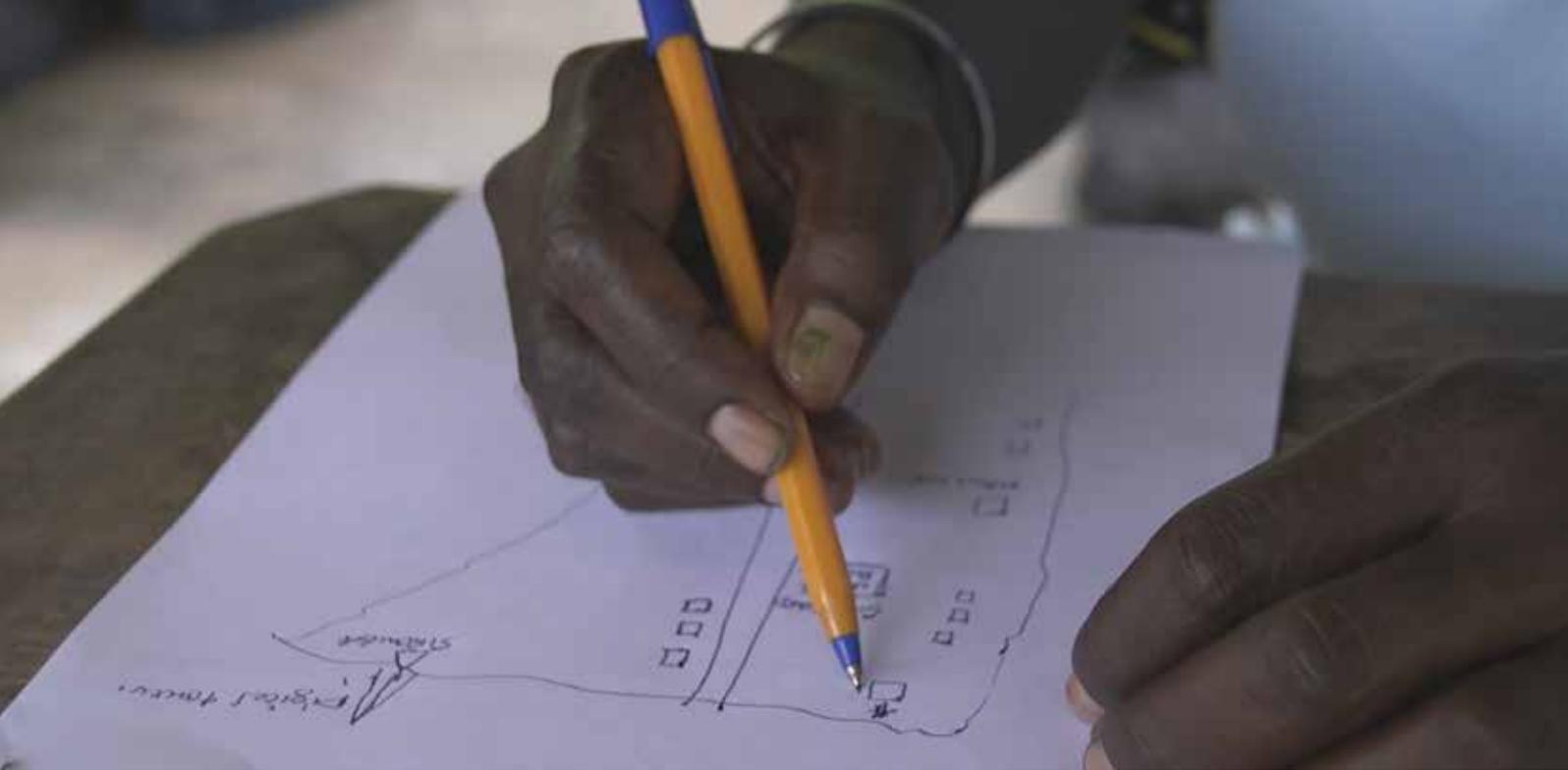
The project involved training and capacity building of 16 field researchers. Field researchers were involved in the participatory design of the research instruments to ensure

local appropriateness. The design process took into account the geography, population structure, audience segmentation, community relations and languages of various regions. A fieldwork guide was produced to guide researchers in the data collection. The establishment of a team of field researchers set up the capacity for ongoing research and monitoring of audiences and their knowledge levels in Bougainville.

The quantitative sample for the study was developed based on CoE numbers that roughly represent population numbers. Data collection included 1114 surveys with responses from participants from all CoEs. The surveys were done in English, Tok Pisin and Tok Ples (local language) where necessary. Where local language was used, the researchers translated on the spot to ensure the content was captured. Interviews were conducted in Tok Pisin.

The surveys were entered into SPSS statistics software in order to obtain percentages of results. Interviews were downloaded to the computer, transcribed and coded thematically. The triangulation of data from the survey and interviews, as well as the field notes and communication mapping, led to a comprehensive analysis on the media access and current perceptions and knowledge levels of the Bougainville population and informs the recommendations for information and communication strategies in Bougainville.





RESPONDENT PROFILE

The sample for the research was developed using the Bougainville census figures from 2011 and the Council of Elders system (which is largely based on population figures). Respondents of the quantitative survey were 55% male and 45% female (n=1114). As shown in Figure 1, there was a good representation of ages represented in the survey.

AGE GROUPS OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

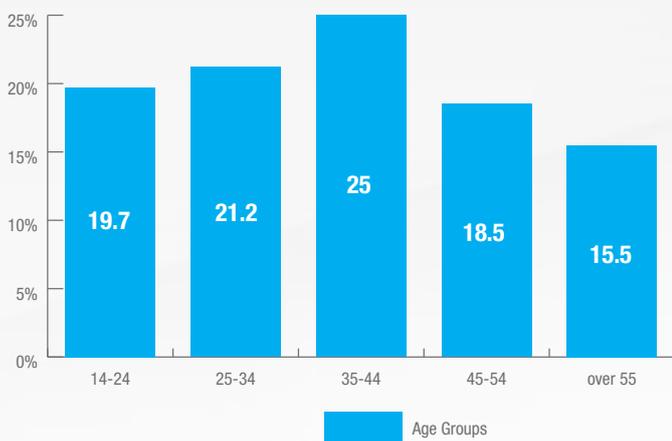


Figure 1. Age Groups of Survey Respondents

The majority of respondents were married (71%). The average number of people per household was five. Almost three quarters of respondents did not have access to electricity at home (72%). However, this varies per region (Figure 2) and was as high as 89% in the South region. Electricity access is important when understanding what type of media tools people are able to use.

ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY



Figure 2. Access to electricity according to region

Almost half of the respondents stated that they had no formal employment (45%). About a tenth of the respondents (9.2%) identified as ex-combatants. The majority of respondents speak Tok Pisin (93%) and a local language (Tok Ples) (92%). About two thirds said they speak English (62%). With regard to the education level of respondents, a third of participants stated that they attended primary school as their highest education (30%). About half completed Grade 10 (49%). While a good number (12%) stated that they have a college qualification, only a small number attended university (2.3%).

When quoting from interviews in this report, only respondents' gender, age and region is indicated to protect their identity.

MEDIA ACCESS AND USE



The following section firstly presents an overview of media ownership and access across Bougainville, and then specifically in the North, Central and South regions. This assists in understanding how and what population groups can be reached by mass media initiatives. The second part examines each medium in detail and looks at how audiences receive information through each medium, as well as which channels of information

they trust. Besides the use of media and technology, the study assessed the use of verbal and interpersonal communication, as these are key to receiving and sharing information, and in forming opinions. As a result, we can understand how media might be used most effectively in the various contexts, depending on content and target audiences in Bougainville.

OVERVIEW OF MEDIA OWNERSHIP AND ACCESS

Traditional mass media, such as radio, television and newspapers, communicate messages to a large group of people and have been commonly used to disseminate information from the government to the population. With the emergence of the internet and mobile phones, mass media have turned into personalised media, allowing audiences to select the information they want to receive, offering a multitude of potentially customised media channels and, in the case of the mobile phone, allowing portability. However, while smart phones have opened up possibilities of a two-way stream of receiving and sending audio-visual information, basic 2G phones mainly serve personal communication between two people or a text-based information channel with a limited number of charactersⁱ.

Across Bougainville, the mobile phone has become the most accessible tool for communication. When asked about access to media, about three quarters of respondents stated that they had access to a mobile phone (76%). With regards to traditional mass media, the radio was most commonly accessed. While only about one fifth of respondents owned a radio per se (22%), an additional quarter of all respondents had radio access even though they did not own a device (25%). All traditional mass media in this way are as much owned as shared, with television and the CD haus being media mostly used communally. The internet was accessed by less than a third of all respondents (27%). Computers, two-way radios and landline phones were accessed by fewer than 20% of respondents, and are mostly available to people outside of their home (Figure 3).

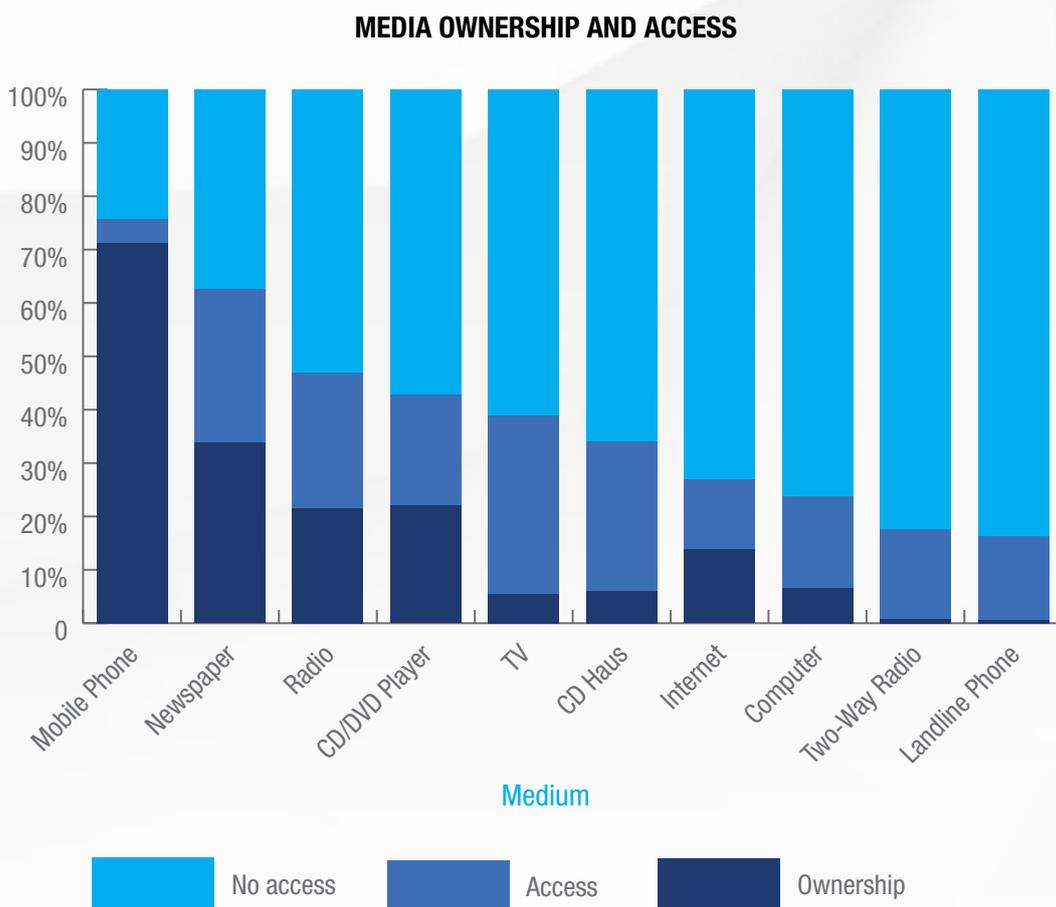


Figure 3. Ownership and access to media across Bougainville

ⁱ Mobile phones are also frequently used to listen to the radio.

Due to the strong regional differences between the North, Central and South regions, it is crucial to review media and access per region. Traditional mass media appeared to be much more accessible in the North, and somewhat in Central, but much less in the South, with under 20% access to radio or television among the population. There was however over 73% accessibility to mobile phones in each of the regions (see Figure 4).

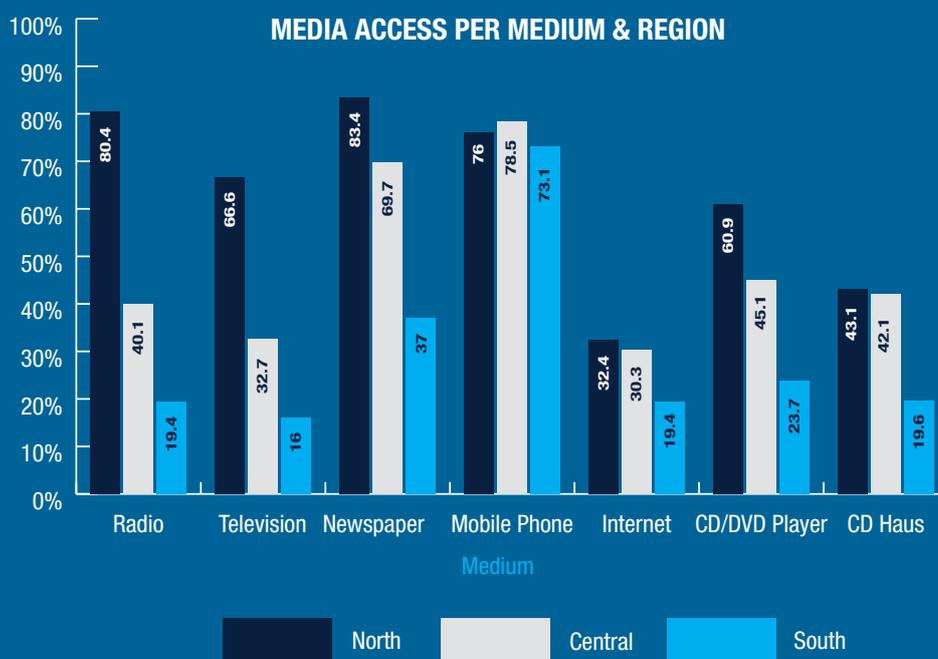


Figure 4. Media access per medium and region

A variety of challenges are experienced across all three regions, particularly in accessing electronic media.

Challenges with regards to radio (n=937) were primarily bad reception/bad signal (32%) or no coverage at all (12%), but also problems with batteries and power more generally (13%) and financial constraints (9%).

Challenges with regards to TV (n=462), were bad reception (29%) and no coverage (14%) and again power, battery or petrol issues (17%) and financial constraints (24%).

Mobile phones were much more widely available and used by many as the main communication tool (n=924). With regard to challenges, respondents mentioned no coverage (30%), with poor signal and reception (8%), power and battery problems (25%), and financial constraints (30%) due to the continuous cost of recharging.

With regards to internet use (n=343), a quarter of respondents (25%) stated that they simply do not know how to use it. Financial constraints are a major barrier (22%), together with no coverage (19%) and poor signal or reception (17%).

Due to the cost involved in accessing media and maintaining access to media, generally people with higher incomes have a better access to media. This is also confirmed for mobile and internet use, as expenses are higher for those with higher income levels. Female respondents' income levels on average were about one quarter lower than those of male respondents (by 26%).



MOST USED MEDIA AND CHANNELS

When asked what media and communication channels people used most to get informationⁱⁱ, respondents mentioned mobile phones as their main communication tool that transcends geographical boundaries. Radio and newspapers were also frequently accessed. Verbal communication was the main channel of communication, as both mobile phone usage and public face-to-face awareness rely on it. Internet was only used by a few (Figure 5).

When reviewing the most used media per region, findings were consistent with figures about access and ownership identifying differences in use in the North, Central and South regions. The North region was strong in using traditional mass media such as radio, TV and newspapers as well as mobile phones. The South relied much more on mobile phones and on verbal communication.

MOST USED MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS

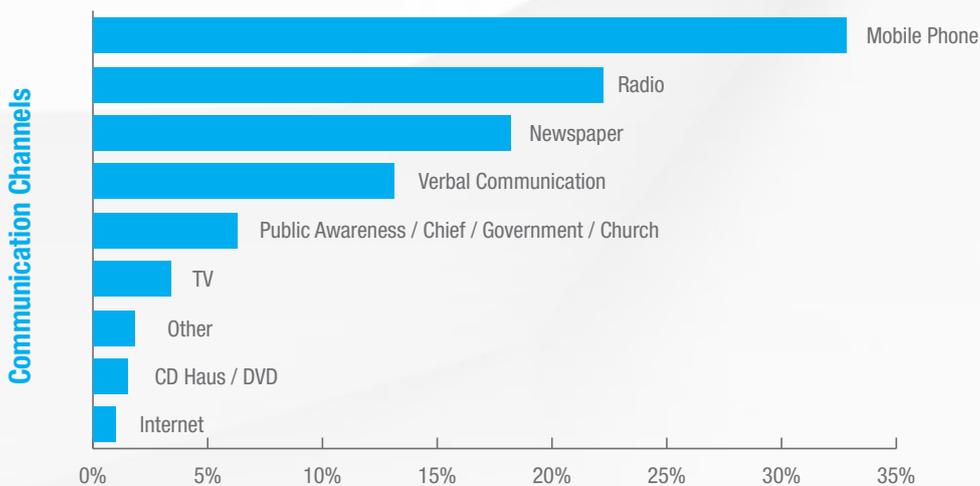


Figure 5. Most used media channels according to respondents

PREFERRED LANGUAGE

Almost half of the respondents said that they are comfortable consuming media in English (47% n=1101) however; the majority preferred the language to be Tok Pisin (87%)ⁱⁱⁱ. About a third expressed that they would like media to also be in local language, Tok Ples (34%)^{iv}.

ⁱⁱ Survey Respondents were asked to list their three most used communication channels.

ⁱⁱⁱ This includes 36% who prefer Tok Pisin only, 21% Tok Pisin & English, 13% Tok Pisin and Tok Ples, and 17% English, Tok Pisin and Tok Ples.

^{iv} Results about literacy levels from the quantitative survey were considered unreliable as it only recorded respondents' perceived literacy level. Qualitative interviews indicated a generally low level of literacy.

GENDER AND AGE GROUPS

Radio is the medium that showed the most significant gender disparity in terms of access, with 51% of men having access to radio compared to 42% of women. By contrast, men and women equally accessed mobile phones.

	ACCESS %	OWN %	ACCESS %	OWN %
	MEN		WOMEN	
Mobile	75.7	72.6	75.4	69.7
Radio	51.1	23.7	42.1	19.2
Newspaper	63.1	37.2	61.9	29.5
Television	40.6	6.2	36.5	4.6
Internet	31.2	17.5	22	9.4
CD/DVD Player	46.7	25	38.3	18.4

Table 1: Media access and ownership according to gender

There is higher access to radio for people under 34 years of age (54%), whereas the age group over 34 years has less access to the radio (43%). The age group of 14-24 years old have the highest access to television with 49% compared to 36% above 24. Mobile phone access is highest among 35-44 year olds with 82% access in that group.

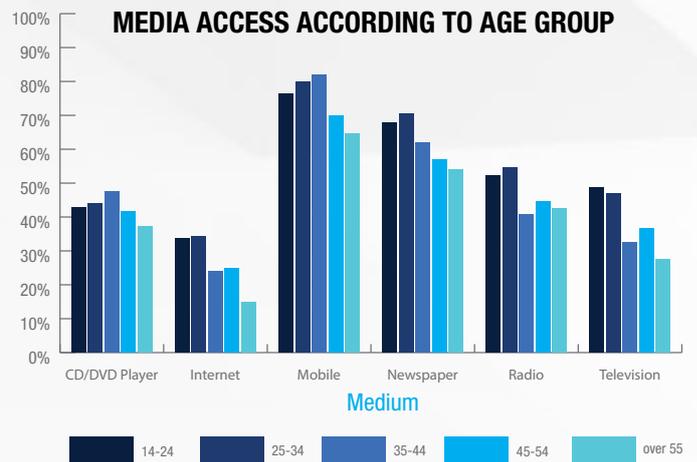


Figure 6. Media access and ownership according to age groups





WORD OF MOUTH INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION & TRUSTED SOURCES

In Bougainville, verbal communication and word of mouth can be considered a culturally traditional information medium that passes information across gender, age, geographical location and social strata. It relays information gathered through radio and printed press, and to a lesser extent, TV and internet, and it is now further sustained by the access to the ubiquitous mobile phone. What information precisely is passed on depends on how much people trust the information source and how important they consider this information. For many respondents, word of mouth is the only information source in the community.

For now, we don't have much choice, one way only to get information is through the CoEs [Council of Elders]. At the CoE meetings, when we go there we get all this information. All other ways, TV, radio, newspapers, we don't get it. (Male, 55, Central)¹

A drawback of word of mouth as a medium, repeatedly mentioned when referring to the CoEs' role in disseminating information, is the fact that the information conveyed may be incomplete and subjective, which impacts on its reliability. Problems of communication between the Bougainville government and the CoEs are also put forward.

There is no access to information inside the village, because there is no good communication between ABG and the CoEs. Indeed, they have been sending letters to them, letters came to the CoEs, but the letters didn't reach us, so there is no good awareness that circulates. (Female, Central, 31)²

People usually obtain information from common gathering places in the community such as market or church, and rely on those travelling out of the community to obtain updates.

On the side of information, sometimes we get it from the people who do market on the roadside. And sometimes we get information when people come to the aidpost. And sometimes, we get information from people who walk around and chat. (Male, 45, South)³

The community mapping by field researchers demonstrates the importance of the church as a key space in the community (Figure 7). It is confirmed by respondents that church gatherings are an important space to obtain information. This is particularly relevant to the South region where traditional mass media are not available. Women especially obtain much information through their church network.

COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION SPACES

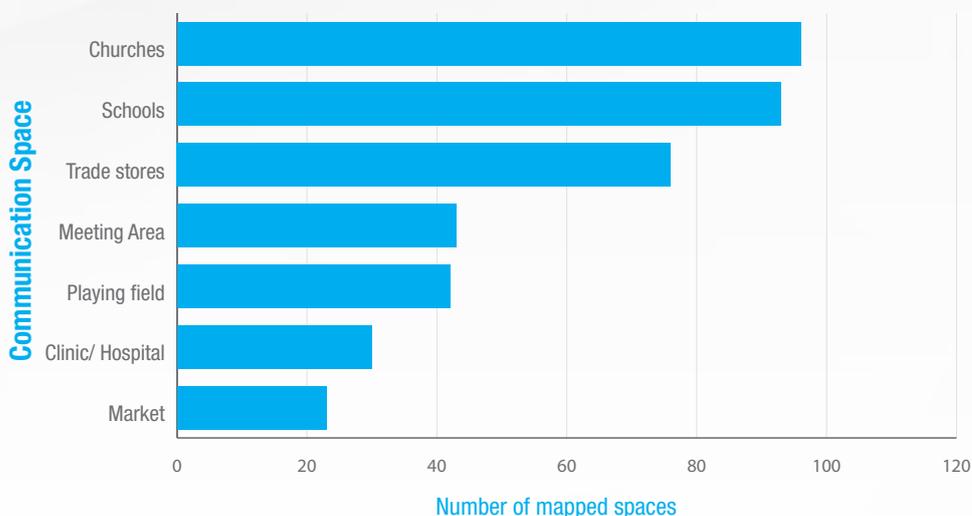


Figure 7. Mapping of communication spaces in the community

All the small pieces of information about the community, we hear them when we go to church on some Sundays. Like when the nurses will do their rounds of clinic, we hear that at church. (Female, 50, South)⁴

Respondents are aware that the oral information they receive informally might be subjective, incomplete and often outdated.

On the side of getting information, there are the big meetings, like at church or at school, where they pass on information and we get it. That is good, but we would like better ways, more proper ways to get information, like the towers, to disseminate information. (Female, 42, South)⁵

While respondents at times express doubt in the efficiency and reliability of the current media channels, there is general agreement that mass media are a better way to receive accurate information, as everyone can listen to or see the same information.

We are kept in the dark, we don't hear from the government. That is not good, because word of mouth is not good, verbal communication is not good. One will say something, another will add something, and tells somebody else. Much better and a good way is to hear updates from the radio. (Female, 38, South)⁶

When asked about what sources of information they trusted, people across age groups and gender rated family and the local chief as the most trustworthy. This is followed by the traditional mass media (TV, newspaper and radio) that were rated as trustworthy by over 50% of the respondents. Government officials, work colleagues and friends were generally considered less trustworthy. Internet and social media were less used and less known, and most respondents rated their assessment of social media as a trusted source as neutral (see Figure 8). There was no significant difference in the way men and women rated levels of trustworthiness across all information channels.

TRUST IN INFORMATION SOURCES

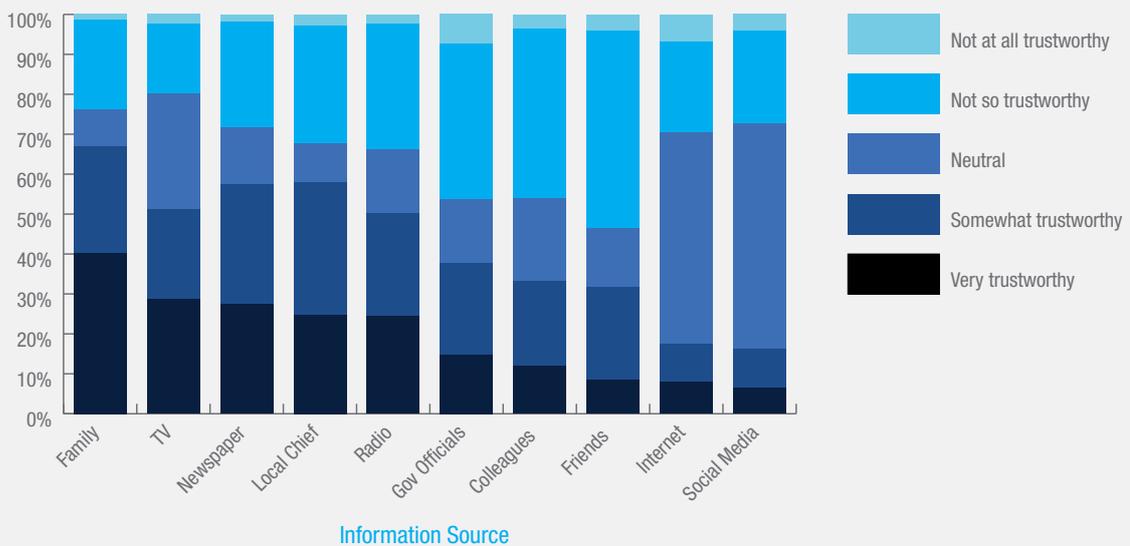


Figure 8. Trusted Sources of Information according to survey respondents



WORD OF MOUTH & TRUSTED SOURCES

- ▶ People receive much information through word of mouth and by communicating with people in popular gathering place in their community, such as at the market or at church.
- ▶ People are aware of the limitation of word of mouth as it is subjective, and information might be out-dated and unreliable.
- ▶ Respondents trust information received from their immediate community, especially family and their local chief, and generally from traditional mass media such as TV, radio and print.
- ▶ Respondents express less trust in information provided by government officials than by family or traditional mass media.
- ▶ Respondents have mixed reactions around the information that is provided through the CoE and express that CoE channels of communication do not always function well.



Community Mapping during field research



RADIO

Radio Listeners (n=468) mostly listened to FM radio (81%). They also had access to Shortwave (SW) (53%) and, to a lesser extent, AM radio (17%). However, reception remains an issue for many.

The most accessible radio station was NBC Radio Bougainville with 88% of radio listeners being able to access the station. The popularity of radio stations broadly matches radio access, with NBC Radio Bougainville being the preferred radio station among listeners. New Dawn FM was popular among audiences with over 20% of all respondents listening to it as one of their three favourite radio stations. The third most popular radio station was Yumi FM (Figure 9).

We have a radio at home, but when we want to tune it, we have to really search, we don't get FM radio, we have to go and find it somewhere where there is reception because we don't get it clearly where we live. (Female, 54, North)⁷

FAVOURITE RADIO STATIONS

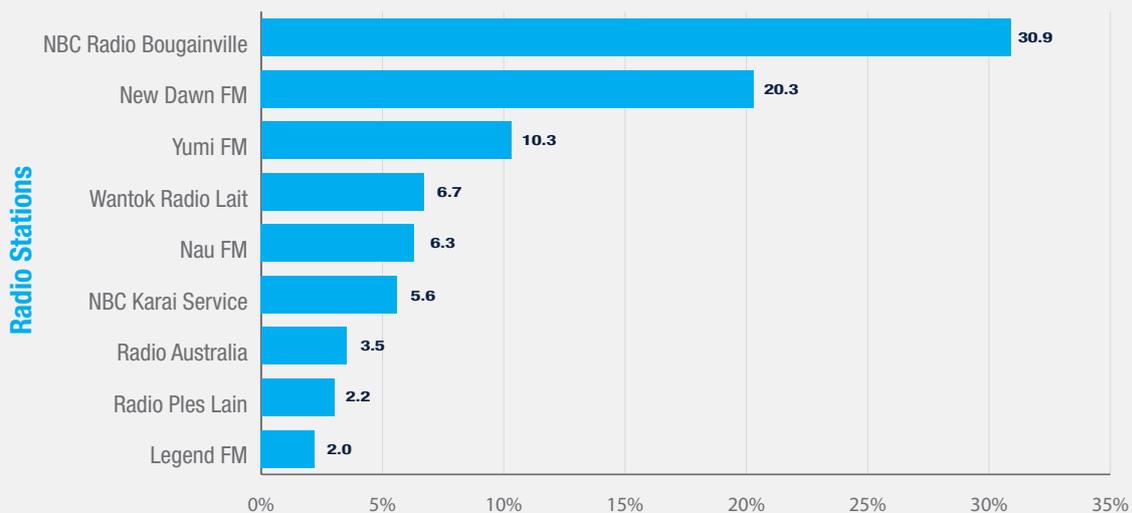


Figure 9. Favourite Radio Stations

Some mentioned that radio before the Bougainville crisis had better coverage, and from that past experience, suggested radio as a preferred medium to spread information, particularly in rural and remote communities:

Before the crisis, Radio Bougainville used to reach all corners of this province. If you listen to the radio today, there are some places the stations cannot reach. So it would be good to have some improvement on this, so information can really go down to all people in villages. (Male, 54, North)⁸

I don't listen to the radio anymore. We lost the radio, there are no more radio stations. We can't hear all these radio stations in our area of Toberaki and Bana. None at all, it is really hard on us, it is a major problem to listen to radio broadcasts. (Male, 50, South)⁹

Most regard NBC Radio Bougainville as the station that relays information from the government. While ABG Radio Ples Lain is appreciated for traveling to communities, the inconsistency of its availability presents a downside to some:

The government must fix Radio Bougainville, so it can give good awareness to all the population on our island of Bougainville. They have to have Radio Bougainville where it can reach all our population every day. Not like this Radio Ples Lain, that one day broadcasts from Buin, the next day from Buka, and then nothing the next day. (Male, 50, South)¹⁰

Many consider radio as the most important link between the people and the government as information can be clearly communicated:

Radio is a good way for all to get information. Radio must function, and all people can get information through it. Because lots of our CoEs do not access town, where they can get the information quickly. They stay in the village. So the government must develop the radio in such a way that all can access information quickly. (Female, 23, Central)¹¹

In my opinion, if they fix Radio Bougainville, we will be able to receive the information well. In my opinion, the government must circulate lots of awareness, and it must fix this Radio Bougainville to let us know about the peace agreement. (Female, 42, South)¹²

Two out of five listeners listened to the radio at least once a day (40%), and about three quarters listened to the radio at least a few times a week (78%). Most radio listeners listened to the radio in the morning and in the evening, being the two most popular times to listen (see Figure 10).

The most popular topics on the radio are news and current affairs, music and sports. Talk back shows are mentioned as the fourth most popular category. The most popular radio programs are the one that were mainly broadcast before the crisis, Laik Bilong Wanwan (music show) and Bougainville Talk Back by Peter Sohia, both on NBC radio. Radio is generally considered an educational medium, as is testified by the interest in education programs such as Inside Education.

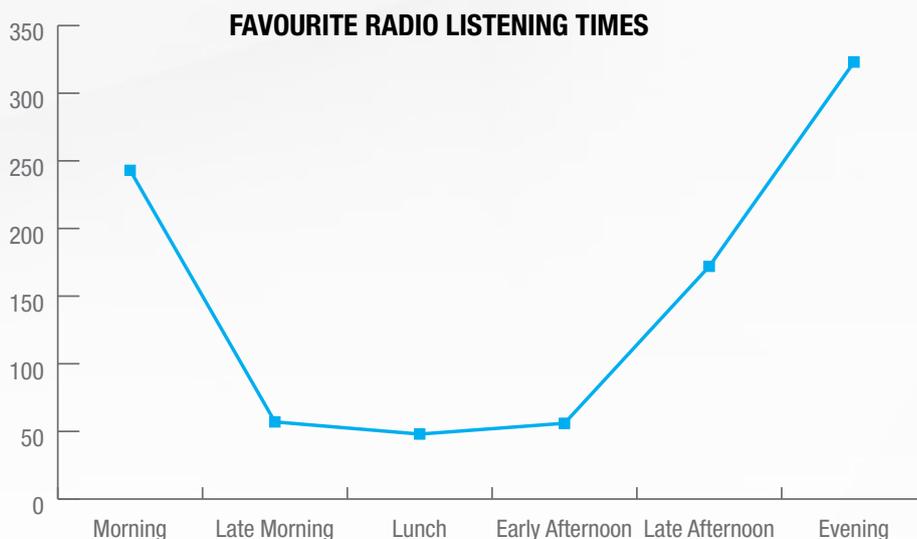


Figure 10. Radio Listening Times

A good way to disseminate information to go to all people to all communities, it would be through our radio system, it would be good for education, to create nice programs. (Female, 51, South)¹³

There is no radio, and we really need radio. People know that they have times on the radio, for programs like the voice of education or of the government. (Male, 63, Central)¹⁴

The large majority of listeners prefer radio programs in Tok Pisin (92%) and just over half are comfortable listening to programs in English (58%). Only a small percentage would like to listen to radio programs in local language (6%). Listeners enjoy the clarity and portability of the radio as medium.

I like the radio, because when I turn on the radio, the programs are clear. (Female, 59, North)¹⁵

I can listen to radio when I do my work, or when I travel out to Bougainville, and I can just listen to it. (Male, 29, North)¹⁶

Radio is also considered one of the most affordable media:

In regards to the radio service, I am so pleased with the radio, now I want to buy my own radio, because I feel it is the only way to get information, not much money, batteries too are cheap. (Female, 55, North)¹⁷

But for some still, the cost of batteries and their affordability impacts on their radio consumption:

All these radio stations come up, but there is still the thing with batteries; when you have money, then you buy batteries and you listen to the radio. (Female, 46, North)¹⁸

In summary, radio readily appears as the most popular medium. Its benefits are to give immediate information, readily understandable to all, in English but also in Tok Pisin. It is perceived as a “warm” medium, local and close also through the warmth of human voice and the familiarity of announcers, and in that way, bearing some similitude to the word of mouth.

More negative aspects are the cost associated with the necessary power - electricity or batteries - and the problem of radio coverage and its quality, described as highly variable depending on the location. Radio is mentioned as the preferred mass media channel, and numerous requests are heard about improving the coverage to better disseminate information throughout Bougainville.

- ▶ Radio is mostly accessed in the North Region (80% access) and to some extent in Central (40%) but little in the South region (19%).
- ▶ Radio is the most popular medium for information to be received from the government, and suggested as a regular information source to both literate and illiterate people.
- ▶ NBC Radio Bougainville is most accessible (88% of radio listeners), followed by New Dawn FM and Yumi FM.
- ▶ Most listen to the radio in the mornings and evenings.
- ▶ Most popular content areas are news & current affairs, music, sports and talk back shows.
- ▶ Radio programs are preferred to be in Tok Pisin by the majority of listeners (92%).



RADIO





NEWSPAPER

The two daily national newspapers, the Postcourier and the National, were the most accessed; the Postcourier was accessed by over half of the respondents (58%) and the National by just under half of all respondents (47%). This translates to 97% access to Postcourier and 78% access to the National for the respondents who state that they have access to newspapers. Weekly newspapers are less accessed, such as the Wantok Niuspepa (12% overall and 20% of those accessing newspapers), and the Sunday Chronicles (0.8% overall). The Bougainville Bulletin was accessed by about 16%. Also mentioned was the Arawa Bulletin (2.2% overall) and a few respondents mentioned Catholic newsletters (see Figure 11).

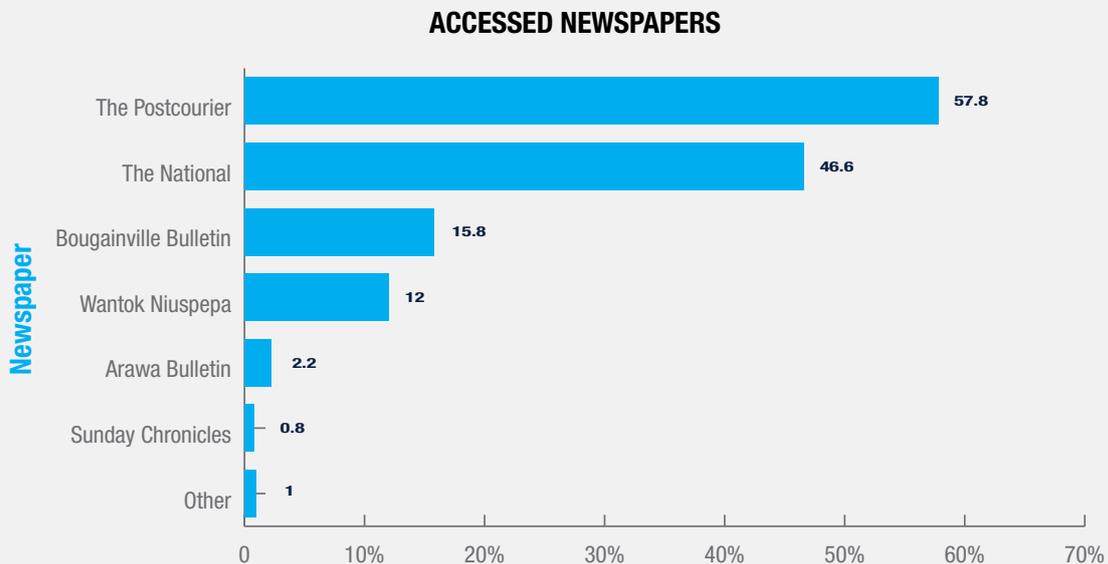


Figure 11. Accessed Newspapers

The Postcourier has a section dedicated to Bougainville news and has most recently increased information about the Bougainville Peace Agreement. Respondents consider newspapers to be providing thorough, in-depth and comprehensive information, with more analytical potential than any other medium.

I am someone who reads the newspaper...when I go to town, I won't forget the newspaper, every time I must buy the newspaper. Often I read it, all the articles; there is lots of information inside. (Male, 52, North)¹⁹

When I look at the newspaper, and when there are good things in it, I read it. (Male, 29, North)

Newspapers were predominantly accessed in the North and Central regions, with limited access to newspapers in the South Region. Three quarters of those who said they have access to newspaper usually buy it (77% n=654). Newspapers were bought mostly in the town centres Buka and Arawa, and to a lesser extent in Kieta (Central) and Buin (South). Newspapers were also accessed through family and friends, and through the school. Sharing of newspapers was common and with an average size of five people per household, it can be assumed that each paper was shared with at least five other people.

Respondents however readily mentioned drawbacks. Distribution is lacking outside the main centres, and newspapers may never arrive in remote locations. When reaching their readers, newspapers are often outdated. Due to flight schedules from Port Moresby, the newspapers, at the time this research was undertaken, were not accessed on a daily basis, and 59% of the respondents (n=629) stated that they did not receive the newspaper on the same day.

Not everyone has access to newspapers. It is a very powerful medium. Sometimes people will get them, but two or three days late, depending what time they reach Buka. So some information might be late, but still that is fine. (Male, 63, Central)²⁰

The delay in receiving newspapers is dependent on infrastructure and available transport. They are 1-2 days late in major town centres such as Buka and Arawa, and up to one month late when they reach remote areas (Tinuput, Siwai or Nissan Island for example).

Only when we go to town, only then we buy the newspaper and we read it. If we stay in the village, then no. (Female, 54, North)²¹

The newspapers, they are not very up to date. So, I suggest to find a way so they can reach the people with up to date information, so that people can read today's newspaper, not last week's. Maybe that would be a way to improve communication to us, so that we are better informed. (Female, 43, South)²²

On the side of information, I get lots of information from the Post Courier, the National, about the state of Bougainville, it all comes through the media like Post Courier and all. Only on the side of transport, it is hard, they arrive really late. (Male, 25, North (Atolls))²³

The problems of distribution are compounded with the prevalent low literacy level, making the reading difficult, and the language used - English - a further barrier .

Why would I buy a newspaper if I don't know how to read? (Male, 46, North)²⁴

Newspapers cannot reach all people, because lots of people here, half of Kongara is illiterate. They cannot read. (Male, 25, Central)²⁵

Costs are mentioned as an additional drawback:

I don't read the newspaper because I don't want to pay 2 Kina. I enjoy reading the newspaper, but the price is a problem. (Female, 55, North)²⁶

Only occasionally I get a newspaper, because they are expensive, 2 Kina, going on 2.50 Kina. I don't buy it and there is no other media. It is a big problem that newspapers do not reach us. And the Bougainville news only come in there occasionally, so not all of us can see them in the newspaper, only a few of us can read them. (Male, 50, South)²⁷

The most common price for the Postcourier and the National is PGK 2.50. While the Bougainville Bulletin is distributed for free, it was also recorded and observed by field researchers that newspapers are sold not only for the purpose of reading but also as paper for cigarettes. In such cases, the Bougainville Bulletin might be found for sale, even though it has initially been distributed for free.

As is the case for radio, people express that there is a need for regular and up-to-date information. There is some scepticism with regards to the content of newspapers, which some judge as not truthful. Due to the delays in distribution to remote areas, there is a feeling of disconnection between the medium and people in the rural communities.

Some news are not really true. Same for the Postcourier, we read it occasionally. They don't know much, then afterwards you hear about it again, and it was not true, it was all misinformation. (Female, 45, North)²⁸

Newspapers are not very effective, delivering information through newspaper is not effective. Newspapers are late, some weeks before they can reach the people in the village. (Male, 31, North)²⁹

Of those that read the newspaper, about a third (38%) accessed the newspaper a few times a week (see Figure 12). Not surprisingly, the majority of these respondents were based in urban centres. Respondents in rural and remote areas were more likely to access the newspaper infrequently and were dependent on 'when it is available'.

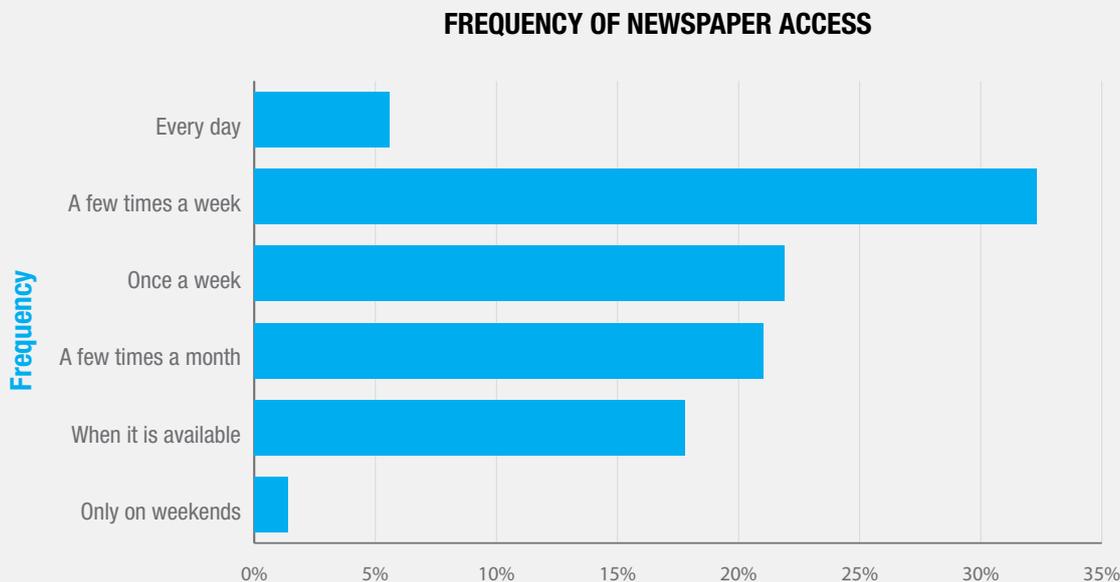


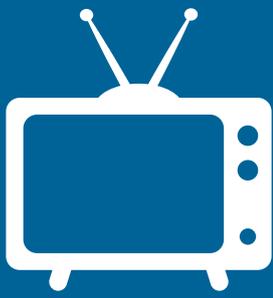
Figure 12. Frequency of Newspaper Access

With regards to content, readers are mostly interested in Bougainville News and political updates related to Bougainville as well as sports. There is also a keen interest in content related to education. The fourth most popular content area is National news.



- ▶ Newspapers are mostly accessed in the North and Central, via urban centres.
- ▶ The Postcourier and National are best established and were most accessed, the Bougainville Bulletin was the third most accessed newspaper.
- ▶ The advantage of newspapers is the possibility to obtain more in-depth and analytical information.
- ▶ Newspapers are an important medium for the educated population.
- ▶ The disadvantage is that information is often received late as well as costs of purchasing the paper. Illiteracy is a constraint.

NEWSPAPER



TELEVISION & CD HAUS

This section reports on both broadcast television and the use of a television set in connection with a DVD or CD player.

Television viewers in Bougainville accessed Broadcast TV mostly via antenna and satellite (antenna 47%; satellite 50%). A small percentage had current access to the most recent digital box system such as Digicel Play Box and Click TV (Digicel 9%, CLICK TV 1.4%). This is most likely associated with the availability of these new sets and the costs. For many in Bougainville, TV is not affordable:

TV requires an antenna, and a dish, all that costs money. These are not small costs. I guess if the price of copra goes up, then I will be able to buy all these things. (Male, 46, North) ³⁰

The majority of those who had access to television could view EM-TV (97%). Less viewers accessed NBC TV (22%). TVWan reaches about one in ten television viewers. Other channels include international channels, such as Australia Plus or CNN, for those who access TV via satellite.

More than half of all responding television viewers said that they watched television regularly, at least a few times a week (58%), whereas the rest of the viewers (42%) only watched TV once a week or a few times per month.

Most people in Bougainville had irregular access to TV as they accessed it away from home, many through schools.

Here we have TV, it is at our school at Taetae in Gohohe. So sometimes, there are good programs on, if I am working in the garden or come back late from the beach, then I watch some TV, for example. (Male, 28, North) ³¹

When asked about favourite TV programs, the most popular were news & current affairs, sports and music programs. Some respondents only provided general categories when asked about programs but others mentioned programs by name, such as 60 Minutes or EM-TV News as their favourite programs.

Television is a very popular medium and there are many requests for information via television, and specifically a Bougainville TV station:

We have to start talking about a Bougainville TV station. Lots of people don't like to read newspapers, they want to sit down and watch TV, so there should be a Bougainville TV station. (Male, 55, North) ³²

In some places, while a television is available, people do not have access to a broadcast signal, and therefore use the television to view CDs and DVDs.

We can't access TV; we have a screen, but we use to watch CDs. (Female, 55, North) ³³

Popular in communities is the CD haus or haus piksa, a movie house or cinema in the community where, by paying an entry fee, you can view movies (Eby & Thomas 2016). This research study was interested in finding out what access people have to CD haus and how frequently they attend, as well as what their favourite programs are. As a village cinema, the CD haus is mainly used for entertainment, rather than an information medium. However, the space itself is a meeting place where information is passed on through word of mouth, and where audio-visual media might be distributed through available technology (see Thomas & Eby, 2016).

About a third of all respondents had access to a CD haus. Of those who accessed a CD haus, half say they used it a few times a week (53% n=287), whereas others used it more irregularly, once a week or a few times a month. Previous research identified that the CD haus is usually more frequently visited on the weekends (Eby & Thomas 2016). The most common entry fee, as stated by more than half of the respondents, is 1 Kina.

There is a fee to watch, 1 kina for adults, to help the school; at the times of games, like State of Origin, it can go up to 3 kina. All other programs are free, but they don't open often. (Male, 52, North) ³⁴



Due to limited local film productions in PNG, village cinemas mostly show foreign movies. When asked about their favourite movies and genres, the majority of viewers said they enjoy watching action and war movies (titles named prominently were Rambo, Delta Force and American Ninja). Romantic films from the Philippines and Nigeria are also popular; most popular is the Nigerian romance True Love. When it comes to PNG productions, the audiences' favourite film is Tukana, as stated by over a third of the respondents (36% n=215). Popular is also Mr Pip, and much liked are Kanage's comedy and music videos, in particular those from Bougainville. It is interesting to note that over half of respondents mentioned a Bougainville production when asked about their favourite PNG production. This suggests that viewers are highly receptive to local production values.

Television (both broadcast and DVD) is an extremely popular medium, combining entertaining audio and visual elements in the multiplicity of programs available (news, politics, films, shows), and the perception of reliability through immediacy and visual technology, together with a perception of access to the "outside world". TV may be available on a community basis, for instance at the school, which gives community members partial, intermittent access to it.

Drawbacks are of a mostly financial nature, combining the purchase cost of the TV set and the running costs of access to electricity. Moreover, quality coverage is perceived to be a problem in large parts of Bougainville; only the main centres appear to offer proper coverage, and even there, defective power supply impacts on the quality of the reception.

- ▶ TV ownership among survey respondents across Bougainville is 6%.
- ▶ TV is very much a shared medium with access being much larger than ownership (North 66%, Central 33%, South 16%).
- ▶ Preferred programs, as for radio, are news and current affairs, sports and music.
- ▶ Broadcast TV is often accessed via schools in the community.
- ▶ CD Houses have similar numbers with regards to access across Bougainville (North 43%, Central 42%, South 20%).
- ▶ Audience's tastes for foreign movies include action movies and romance. Bougainville productions are extremely popular and audiences strongly identify with local production values.
- ▶ The advantage of the medium is proximity through its visual, immediate character.
- ▶ The main constraints to TV ownership and access are costs and signal coverage.



**TELEVISION
& CD HAUS**



MOBILE PHONES & INTERNET

The mobile phone has made its place as the most accessible item of modern technology, both in terms of purchase and access to recharge the phones. It appears to have contributed to the self-confidence of Bougainville people in terms of their right to information, by allowing almost instantaneous dissemination of information. As such, it relays and magnifies the word of mouth. We include internet in this section as internet is mostly accessed through mobile phones. While use and ownership of mobile phones is about 76%, access to internet is significantly lower at around 27%.

The majority of people that own a mobile phone have a 2G mobile phone (81% n=844), and about a fifth own a 3G phone or a tablet (20%). Those with a 3G phone can connect to the internet whereas a 2G phone only has basic functions. As one interview respondents states:

I have a phone, but not the kind of phone whereby you can access internet. Also it doesn't have radio, so I can't access information through my phone. (Male, 52, North) ³⁵

Mobile phone users primarily used their phones to talk to and text family and friends (97%, 90%). About a third say they used their mobile phone to receive news (37%), and about half played games on their mobile phone (42%). A fifth of mobile phone users used their mobile phone to access Facebook or the internet (20%), suggesting that the majority of those owning a 3G phone are connecting to the internet. A good number of people, especially young respondents, use their phone for listening to music and taking photos. As a pastor from Central comments:

Mobile phones, all the young people have mobiles, but not to get lots of information, short enough to read, because young people have other interests, music, so they listen on their mobiles. (Male, 63, Central) ³⁶

INFORMATION VIA TEXT MESSAGE

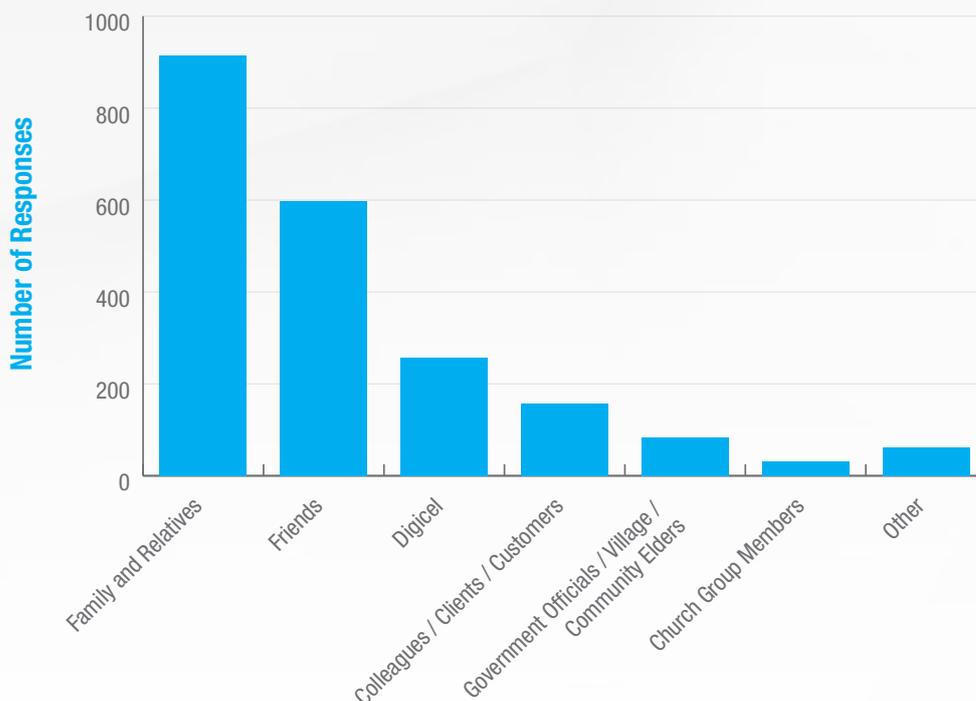


Figure 13. Information received via text message

Mobile phone users say they mainly receive text messages from family and friends (Figure 13).

I have a phone, it is just to get text messages, from the family, the friends. Not the kind to go to internet or stuff like that, just to text. (Male, 52, North) ³⁷

Only some mention receiving messages from work, elders, government officials or church groups.

Indeed passing on information is hard. There is no efficient way to pass on information. Sometimes, the COEs they send us texts on our mobiles. If there is a meeting, they text us on our mobiles. (Male, 50, South) ³⁸

People also mention that they regularly receive text messages from Digicel for advertising purposes.

Restrictions mentioned with regards to phone use are network problems, power source and cost.

I find it really hard with the network. I find Digicel most expensive, because there is no competition; here I find it very hard, so my mobile, I turn it on and off. Also it is hard when you don't have power to charge the battery. I try to charge with solar power now. (Female, 37, North) ³⁹

Two thirds of respondents reported charging their phone at home (66%) and about half of respondents also stated that they charged it at a friend or family's place (43%). It is common to charge mobile phones outside the home, such as at school, in a store or at the work place. Both solar and dry cell batteries are used to charge phones. Two thirds of mobile phone users spend up to 10 Kina per week on mobile communication (67% n=830).

Digicel may be praised for its presence in Bougainville, as well as criticised for its rates. It is recognised as potentially expanding the communication from the CoEs to the communities.

The Digicel towers are beneficial to educated people. It can be one source of mass media but from the perspective of the people in the village the Digicel towers are not necessarily filling a need, because they use the phone just to listen to music. It's only those of us that are educated that use the phone to convey messages to one another. But it could be one way of communication for the CoE. (Female, 54, South) ⁴⁰

There are also comments about variations in quality in relation with the solar-powered towers.

Now I see that Digicel service is not as before. They use solar now, and it doesn't cover as far away. I think radio is better. (Female, 38, South) ⁴¹

Due to the challenges in reception and the limitations in receiving information on 2G phones, people generally seem to prefer radio and television for receiving information.

They have erected all these Digicel towers; but one thing they didn't put for good communication, a TV antenna, a TV receiver on top of the tower. If they were to connect these TV receivers on top of the towers, it would be very easy for us to get good information. (Male, 50, South) ⁴²

Internet is mentioned only by some respondents, and used by even fewer respondents, mostly in the urban centres. For those who know about it, internet is a source of up-to-date, reliable, in-depth information in Bougainville, however to date its costs and download speeds limit its use.

The internet is great, of course, but is very very slow, I usually get the bundles but it is very slow; sometimes we try to get information from the internet, and it's off - no service. That's very difficult when you rely on the internet. (Female, 55, North) ⁴³

For most respondents, however, internet is not accessible. Financial hardship and unreliable power supply contribute to this limited accessibility.

There is little doubt that mobile technology will continue to expand in Bougainville and with it, the potential to disseminate information. Currently the use of mobile phones is predominantly as that of a basic communication tool that mainly facilitates communication with family and friends. Whilst there are limitations in terms of how much information can be transmitted through the mobile phone, it is definitely a tool that promotes the spread of information through word of mouth. As such, it might be used effectively in conjunction with other media.



MOBILE PHONES & INTERNET

- ▶ Access to mobile phones is over 73% in all the regions. The access to internet is significantly less with around 27% across.
- ▶ The majority of people who have access to a mobile phone own a 2G mobile phone (81%), and a fifth of the respondents own a 3G phone or a tablet (20%).
- ▶ Two thirds of mobile phone users spend up to 10 Kina per week on mobile communication (67%)
- ▶ Challenges according to respondents are coverage (30%) together with bad reception and signal (8%). Power and battery problems also present an issue (25%) and financial constraints are a significant challenge (30%).
- ▶ The mobile phone is the only communication tool that can reach three quarters of the population across all regions.
- ▶ Internet is used by mostly urban and educated populations but costs are a significant drawback.





Field researchers crossing a river in the Central region

BPA KEY FACTS

The Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) is a joint agreement signed in Arawa in 2011 by the Government of Papua New Guinea (PNG) and the leaders representing the people of Bougainville, to end conflict between PNG and Bougainville, and between different groups in Bougainville. It is a 'roadmap' for Bougainville covering peacebuilding, security, governance and development.

The three pillars of the BPA are autonomy, weapons disposal and referendum. The Joint Supervisory Body is a joint PNG-Bougainville mechanism under the BPA to oversee its implementation, co-chaired by the Prime Minister of PNG, and the President of Bougainville.

1. **Autonomy:** Autonomy is a change from provincial government status to one of greater decision-making, law making and governance at the Bougainville level, with its own constitution. Autonomy is supported by a funding arrangement from the National Government. A period of autonomy was meant to help resolve divisions and disagreement before a referendum was held.

2. **Weapons disposal:** The BPA includes a plan for disposal of weapons held by combatant groups in Bougainville. The weapons disposal plan is part of a wider process for demilitarization of Bougainville that required the withdrawal from Bougainville of all PNG security forces, and strong limitations on their future deployment to Bougainville. The aim was also to achieve reintegration and reconciliation of former combatants. Bougainvilleans need to be aware that the presence of weapons will be important when considering whether or not the conditions exist for a "free and fair" referendum. If international observers agree that the referendum is free and fair, then the result should be credible. Weapons disposal should also be important for ensuring there is a peaceful transition post-referendum.

3. **Referendum:** The BPA guarantees a referendum, to be held in any case no earlier than mid-June 2015 and no later than mid-June 2020. The question or questions asked in the referendum must include a choice of Independence for Bougainville. The BPA contains some key rules about conduct of the Referendum, such as making determinations about good governance and weapons disposal in Bougainville before the two governments consult as part of the process on agreeing the actual date for the referendum.

The rules for the Bougainville referendum are in four legal documents: the Bougainville Peace Agreement, Papua New Guinea Constitution, Bougainville Constitution and Organic Law on Peace-Building in Bougainville.

The outcome of the referendum is not binding on the governments, it will be up to the two governments to consult together.

UNDERSTANDINGS OF THE BPA & PEOPLE'S ASPIRATIONS

The study was interested in understanding the level of information and knowledge people have about Bougainville's political situation. This includes the Bougainville Peace Agreement and the Three Pillars of Autonomy, Weapons Disposal and Referendum.

THE BOUGAINVILLE PEACE AGREEMENT

When asked about what respondents know about the political situation in Bougainville today - the Three Pillars of the Bougainville Peace Agreement, namely Autonomy, the Weapons Disposal and the Referendum - the large majority of respondents are not sure what they know, or they feel they do not know how to talk about it. Expressions like "Mipela stap long tudak" ("We are in the dark") and "Mipela olsem aipas man" ("We are like blind people") are heard repeatedly.

Today we all seem like blind people. I would like all our leaders to come inside our communities and tell us clearly. They have to enlighten us about the true meaning of this Peace Agreement, the Referendum, all these things. (Female, 34, Central) ⁴⁴

Communication hasn't reached us on the ground, I don't know why, because communication is a tool for people to become aware of what the government is doing. If there is no communication, people will stay in the dark. (Male, 66, North) ⁴⁵

Most survey respondents (over 85%) said they had heard about the Bougainville Peace Agreement, including the terms Autonomy, Weapons Disposal and Referendum^v. However, when asked to assess their knowledge about these terms, more than two thirds of the respondents expressed that they did not know much or were unsure (Figure 14). For example, about three quarters of respondents (74%) were not sure, or indicated they did not know much about the Referendum. Only 6 out of 100 people say that they are clear about the Referendum and its processes. The figures around how knowledgeable people feel about the political situation in Bougainville are similar across the North, Central and South regions.

KNOWLEDGE OF THE BPA & ITS COMPONENTS

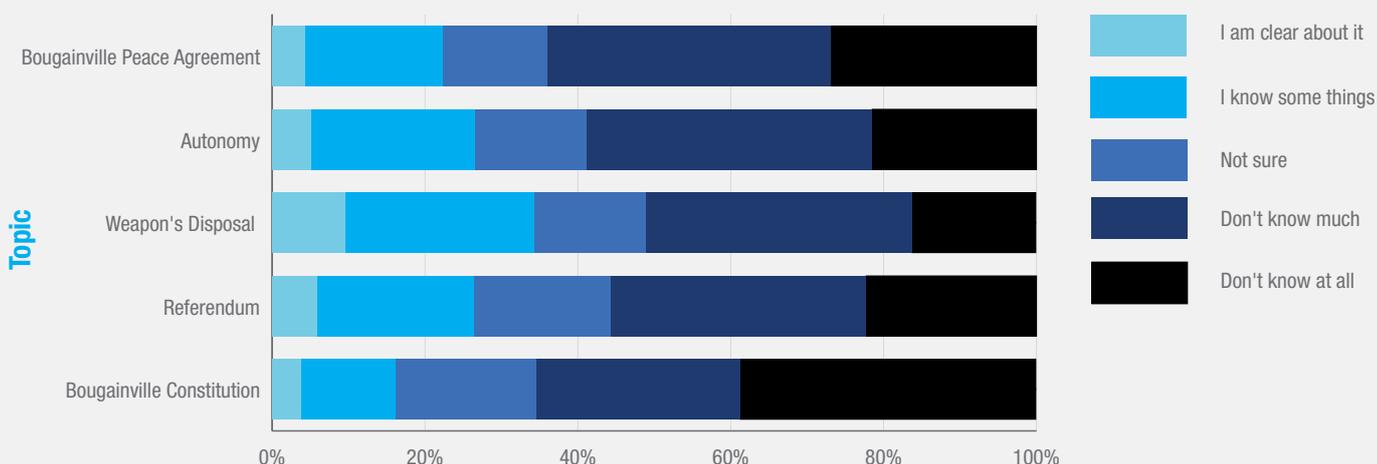
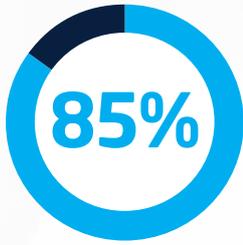
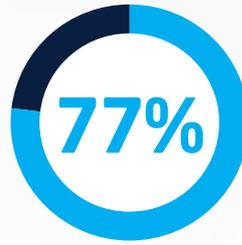


Figure 14. Respondents' assessment of their knowledge of the BPA and its components

^v Percentages of people that said they have heard about the following terms: Bougainville Peace Agreement (85.3%) including Autonomy (86.8%), Weapons Disposal (88.4%) and the Referendum (85.9%) (n=1107 across)



said they have heard about the Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA), including its pillars 'Autonomy', 'Weapons Disposal' and 'Referendum'



said they are not sure or do not know much about the BPA. Only 6 out of 100 people said that they are clear about the Referendum and its processes.

Respondents expressed hesitancy and a sense of confusion. This lack of confidence in their knowledge also translated in uncertainty, worry and doubts:

From what I see, I see that people don't know much about what is inside this agreement, all these agreements they have made (Male, 50, South).⁴⁶

Peace agreement, autonomy, I just heard the words, but I don't understand them. (Female, 43, North)⁴⁷

Terms like "The Three Pillars" are mentioned, but again, with hesitancy about what they refer to, or what they mean. Even where there has been exposure to public awareness or information through media, people are often unclear about the meaning of the terminology used:

These three pillars, I heard about it through awareness, when they came and explained. I heard it on the radio; all were talking about it, what exactly are these "three pillars"? Through these two, radio and awareness, I heard about it. But what these three pillars are, I am not sure. (Female, 24, North)⁴⁸

There is limited knowledge on the contents of the Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) and how it was agreed on. Four out of five respondents said that they did not know who the signatories to the BPA were (n=1103).

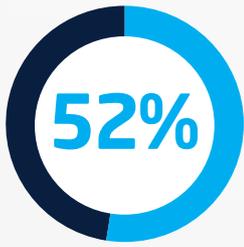
All those who signed the peace agreement, I think maybe the two parties were the original Bougainville army and the PNG government, these two signed. But I don't know if they agreed and on what they signed. (Male, 45, South)⁴⁹

When asked about the referendum, the majority of respondents were not confident about their own knowledge.

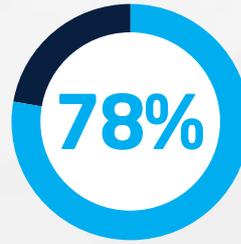
I know that lots of people here in Bougainville, they don't understand what they call referendum. What exactly are we going to do at the time of the referendum? Because there has been no awareness, no government update coming from ABC; and this peace agreement too, there has been no awareness given to the people. Today, I see that this referendum, if the people do not understand it well, we won't do this referendum well. (Male, 50, South).⁵⁰



WEAPONS DISPOSAL



said that weapons disposal had happened in their area, however this varies significantly depending on the CoE.



said they believe that weapons disposal increases personal safety.

The majority of survey respondents say they are aware of talk and action around weapons disposal, but do not understand the relationship between weapons disposal and referendum (79% n=1103):

I heard about the Bougainville peace agreement before, at the time of the crisis, but I don't know what it involves, nor the content of the agreement. But I know that weapon disposal is one of them. I know that at the time of the peace agreement, they have been asking Bougainvillans who were in possession of weapons. They sent in foreigners who were supervising all this. This I know. A lot else I don't know. (Female, 55, North) ⁵¹

So now, my question is, if we don't dispose of the guns, do we qualify for the referendum? If we don't get rid of them... That is my question. (Female, 43, South) ⁵²

But for quite a few there appears to be a logical link between weapons disposal and a successful referendum. Weapons disposal appears as the most accessible of these topics to be commented on; as it is directly visible and relevant to people's lives. Weapons are an immediate threat, and weapons disposal is perceived as a necessary step to move forward. It therefore appears logical that it would take place as a preliminary condition and as a precaution:

Weapons disposal, that I know, it is all these weapons the BRA were using. So to follow the Peace Agreement, they have to get rid of them. To get real, true peace in Bougainville. (Female, 38, South) ⁵³

Weapons disposal was perceived as having already taken place in some parts of Bougainville. More than half of the survey respondents said that weapons disposal had happened in their area (52% n=1105), however there are significant differences depending on the CoE.

A big weapon disposal, the first of its kind, came up in Konga ward, inside the Kopi constituency, where all veterans got out the guns; and also in some district office's reconciliations; they surrendered all the high powered weapons, they brought them out and shook hand over it. (Female, 51, South) ⁵⁴

Most respondents mentioned that there had been attempts at clearing the area of weapons, but they also felt that it had not always been followed through:

All that work, it is true that, at that time, when all these white people came and put all these containers in all villages, some of our young people brought these guns to these containers; at the time, they did it. But in my opinion, I know that some weapons are still around. (Male, 31, North) ⁵⁵

A large majority (78% n=1106) believed that weapons disposal increases personal safety. Young respondents particularly see it as a condition for both their own and the communities' future well-being. Women particularly see weapons disposal as a method of reducing their fear and anxiety:

Many of us women we have been scared of the weapons, the weapons that the BRA had. We were around during the time when they disposed of their weapons. We really felt free and we felt that our fear decreased. (Female, 38, South) ⁵⁶

A dominant opinion among respondents is that Bougainville must finish the weapons disposal for its own good, and possibly take initiative and responsibility for it:

Weapon disposal is in our hands now; so we must take all the guns, all our fighters, it is not finished, there are some guns left. So if all our good leaders could work on it, they could find a way to really finish this weapon disposal. (Male, 45, North) ⁵⁷

AUTONOMY

The study asked respondents about the relationship between autonomy and independence, as well as what respondents thought what the conditions for independence were. Many perceive autonomy as a “stepping stone”, an expression encountered several times:

Autonomy is a stepping stone, we are under PNG, the power and the functions are under PNG government. We are like their baby, they are looking after us. Autonomy prepares us for the referendum, to slowly take on the power and functions of a national government. (Female, 51, South)⁵⁸

The majority of survey respondents said they did not know the link between autonomy and independence (78% n=1110), and they did not understand the requirements for independence (76% n=1070). Half of those who commented on the requirements of independence, and 11% of the overall respondents, understood that the completion of weapons disposal was one of the main conditions for independence.

There was a gender gap with regards to the knowledge about the BPA. As shown in Figure 15, women had lower knowledge levels than men, and knowledge is higher among older people. Knowledge levels also related to education level; the higher the education levels, the higher the knowledge about the BPA and Bougainville’s political situation.

UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AUTONOMY & INDEPENDENCE

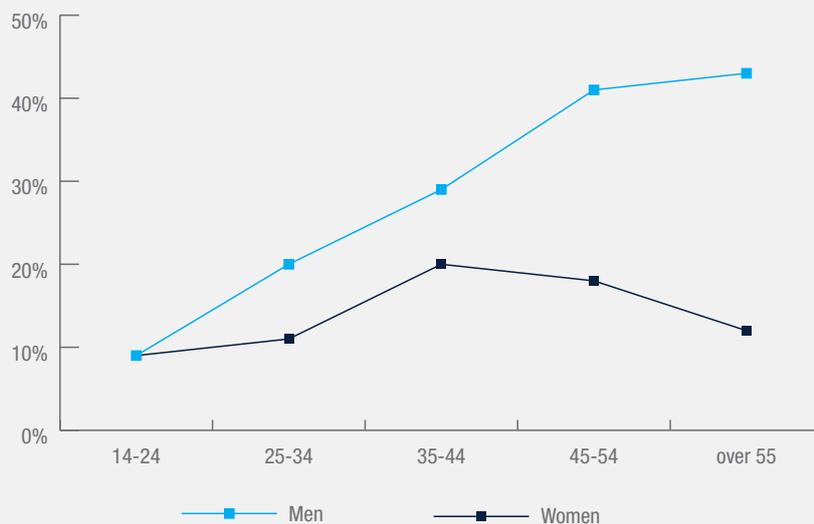
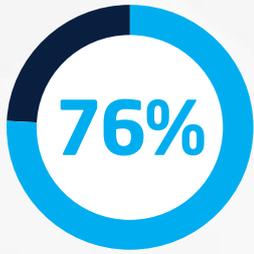


Figure 15. Understanding the difference between autonomy and independence according to gender

When asked about the difference between autonomy and independence, again, most respondents felt they could give basic explanations: Bougainville becomes a separate country and manage its own affairs:

We will look after ourselves. On the side of security, we will have our own Defence Force. And for Foreign Affairs too, we will create our own Foreign Affairs. And all in all, we will be on our own now, an independent country. (Male, 50, South)⁵⁹

Autonomy and independence, I am not sure. Independence, we stand up on our own, right? If we want independence, we separate from the country that is looking after us. (Female, 24, North)⁶⁰



said that they do not know the link between autonomy and independence, and that they do not understand the requirements for independence.



said that they do not understand the relationship between weapons disposal and referendum.

Three quarters of survey respondents did not know when the referendum would take place (76% n=1064):

They all said the referendum would take place in 2015. But now we are in 2015, so we don't know now. For me, I don't know what time we will have the referendum, so I ask the question. (Male, 31, North) ⁶¹

When asked what they thought would happen if Bougainville became independent, a third of all respondents said they did not know what changes independence might bring (36% n=1113). About 14% understood that this meant that Bougainville would govern itself and manage its own affairs. A similar number (13%) expressed that independence would result in improvements in services such as health, education, infrastructure and agriculture.

I think if Bougainville becomes an independent country, and a nation, all people will get more knowledgeable. I am thinking that we will all get a good education. (Male, 45, South) ⁶²

Smaller numbers of respondents articulated that Bougainville would be economically independent (8%); it would own its own resources (4%) and that independence would result in peace in communities (6%). Only a small number of respondents (2%) thought that there would be no change at all.

Independence is seen as a possibility for change, often described as a wish or a vision, and "idealistic" views appear to draw on Bougainville pride, sense of identity and potential, rather than a realistic view of what is achievable.

When Bougainville becomes independent, everything will be in our hands. So we will improve our schools, and the hospitals, and we will have our own currency, and all the big decisions. (Male, 54, Central) ⁶³

Rural respondents in particular appear to see independence as a way to fix the problems associated with their remoteness:

We in the rural areas struggle to have access to textbooks or library books, and Buin town is run down. If we become independent we will run things well, the town will look better and we will get a proper road. (Male, 19, South) ⁶⁴

Even when unsure about their knowledge and unable to give an answer with regards to specific contents of the agreement, respondents refer to the BPA as being symbolically important, as "niupela wokabout bilong Bougainville" (a new journey for Bougainville), through "gutpela sindaun" (a good way of life) and peaceful relations in communities:

From what I see today in Bougainville, it is like we start a new journey. After the fight, we walk towards this referendum. This journey of ours, it is important, we see that it must ensure our well-being; our communities must gather all their members and share some good thoughts as how to have a peaceful Bougainville. (Male, 45, North) ⁶⁵



NBC Radio Bougainville, Buka Studio

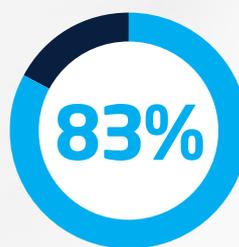
ACCESS TO INFORMATION ABOUT THE BPA

Overall, the large majority of respondents (83% n=1103) felt that they did not receive enough information on the topics related to the BPA.

I am not sure what the referendum will lead to? Autonomy also, I am not sure. So, my question is, all the COE's and their members, they must come and give us awareness. They must make this referendum and autonomy clear for us all in the villages. (Female, 38, South) ⁶⁶

Whilst most respondents said they lack information, some mentioned having had access to information at the time of the election campaign, through government-provided voting information. As such, it is noted that the government is perceived as having provided awareness on voting, but not on other aspects of the political situation:

For us, for getting information from the government, from last year until today, there has been awareness, but about the vote only, and there has not been any awareness about other information. (Male, 52, North) ⁶⁷



felt that they do not receive enough information on the topics related to the BPA.

When asked how they got the information, many respondents mentioned getting it on radio and many received information when attending church events. Generally, people felt they are not well informed about existing channels of information. The lack of information is observed by both older and younger generations. The government, seen as pivotal in spreading the necessary information, is perceived as distant and indifferent in this regard.

I would like to say, my own opinion, us the community in the villages, we would like to hear really what work the government is doing - we would like all radio stations to be opened, TV, all these channels whereby we will know, and we will know about the government; all this the government must put in place. (Female, 50, South) ⁶⁸

PEOPLE'S ASPIRATIONS FOR BOUGAINVILLE

This section captures people's voices with regards to their current situation and their aspirations for change.

A VOICE IN THE COMMUNITY

The research identified that two thirds of all survey respondents (66% n=1103) felt that they can freely express their opinion in their community. This is slightly higher for male respondents (70%) than for women (61%). Similarly, over two thirds of respondents (69% n=1094) felt that there is a way for them to raise a concern in their community. This was again higher for men (72%) than women (64%).

The pathways provided to people in the community are age relevant. The responses show that freely expressing your opinion in the community is impacted by age. The more mature the respondents, the more they felt they have a voice in the community. Conversely, younger people traditionally have less say, and they perceive that their opinions are less valued. This has been reflected in the interviewers' difficulties in finding young people to interview, and them feeling confident to talk to researchers.

FEEL FREE TO EXPRESS OPINION IN COMMUNITY

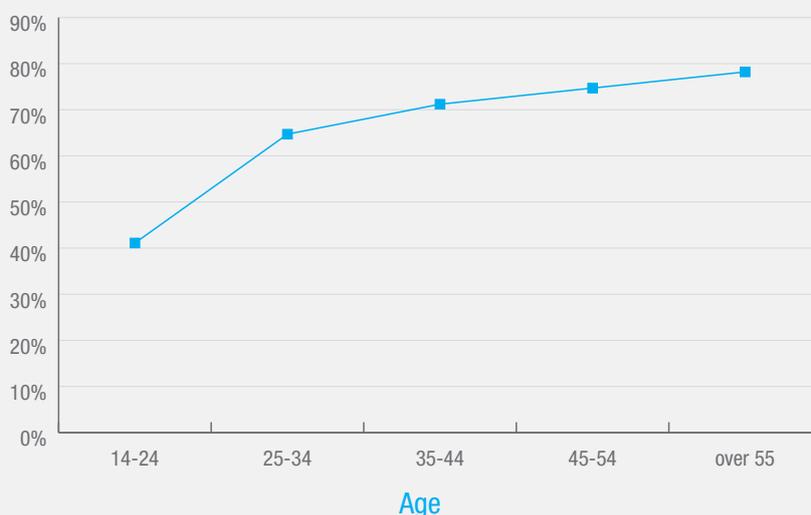


Figure 16. Respondents' confidence in expressing their opinion in their community

BOUGAINVILLE PRIDE

Questions about how respondents see themselves and the present situation reveal interesting contrasts. A very strong local identity and pride is overtly expressed. People feel that their future is in their hands; they just don't know how to go about it:

We should not rely on the Government. They have already signed the Peace Agreement, this Peace Agreement is real and it is in our hand now. No one else is going to do it for us. (Male, 70, Central) ⁶⁹

All respondents expressed their awareness of a heavy past, a heavy weight on the whole population. The unspoken, sometimes outspoken, cautious and weary thinking is "Let us not make the same mistakes again" or "Let us learn from the past". The various age groups appear to be aware of their own responsibility; the youth do not want to repeat the same mistakes, and the older population see themselves as responsible for the younger ones, as they have to provide now for their future leaders.

Teachers in particular feel a responsibility towards the present generation. Throughout the interviews, they are vocal about their role today, and demand, with a sense of urgency, to be able to do it well, namely by having access to enough quality resources.

I can't teach them properly, no resources on the peace agreement, we teachers and schools, we don't have access to information; we need to educate our children about what is taking place in Bougainville (Female, 54, South) ⁷⁰

VULNERABILITY

While people express a strong sense of pride in being Bougainvilleans, they also acknowledge the fact that they are struggling; they feel vulnerable on a political and social level, and experience an unsettling uncertainty, particularly through the perception of lack of information.

We are looking into the unknown; if you look at the way we are working at implementing autonomy, you will admit that we still have lots of problems to work on. (Male, 55, North) ⁷¹

Often, when asked, respondents choose to describe themselves as "Not Ready" because of the lack of information:

I think we are not ready, all of us, because I look at ABG, they don't make any noise; they are not ready for this referendum. We need to be ready and we need to hear well all the messages that come from ABG or the PNG government. (Female, 59, North) ⁷²

A clear gap appears between the self-confidence inside the community or village, and the powerlessness felt at regional or national levels, because of the perceived distance set by the government. This feeling of uncertainty is perceived as mainly due to the lack of effort and/or the breakdown in communication and the government's efforts. This is further reflected in the perception of the state of villages, where so much seems to need fixing: namely education, health and transport:

Have a look at our hospital - our new hospital: we don't know who is going to finish this building. So many of us are dying for nothing in the village, there is no health center here now. (Female, 43, North) ⁷³

REQUEST FOR BOTTOM UP APPROACH

Although somewhat doubtful, respondents refer to their future as being "guided" by the BPA document, and so feel reassured by it. "Following the process" is hoped to lead to a satisfactory ending:

The Bougainville Peace Agreement is the only way that we can follow and meet the conditions they agreed about inside this Peace Agreement, and then we'll go to the referendum. (Male, 50, South) ⁷⁴

Pursuing the reasoning on the topic, respondents are then asked how they see the part played by the government. It is fair to say here that the vast majority of respondents, young and old alike express little faith in the government's approach in the period up to the present. CoEs receive their share of doubts as to their efficiency:

Truly, lots of the information from the government does not reach well the people in the villages, and people don't get a clear view of this information from the government. I think the reason is that the CoEs don't forward the information down at village level (Male, 63, North) ⁷⁵

Underlying all the previously discussed concerns is a clearly expressed disappointment in the passing of 15 'idle' years since signing the BPA and the absence of government's action. There is a perception that time and money has been wasted, resulting in an overt lack of faith in ABGs and elected members' commitment to their people. The sense of pressing urgency is felt more acutely through the fragments of information that have reached the respondents, namely that the time of referendum is getting nearer. Occasionally, drastic action is asked for:

All the people in the CoEs, we are going to change them. In my opinion, we change them all and we choose new ones and we watch them, and they will perform well. (Male, 19, South) ⁷⁶

People unanimously express that ABG must show their commitment to their people and meet their people's rights, according to the "bottom up" approach. This can be done in various ways: for instance improving the government's presence at a village level, listening to their people, and working on "real issues" that will bring tangible benefits to their people's life. More than anything is seen the urgency of political deadlines and their consequences on Bougainville's future. ABG "must get people ready", through "aggressive awareness".

*I see how Bougainville politics are ignoring this principle that we have and that we have been fighting for during the Bougainville crisis, a bottom up approach, that all ideas must start from inside the community and go upwards. (Male, 55, Central)*⁷⁷

PEOPLE'S ASPIRATIONS IN SUMMARY

Respondents' perceived priorities are that they want change through progress, in a prepared and orderly fashion. They see unity and inclusion as a requisite for Bougainville to progress within its full potential. They wish work towards economic self-reliance, directing individual efforts beyond government's actions and support through education and training, with particular emphasis on the youth and on remote areas.



PEOPLE'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION

The overall request of access to information across age and gender can be seen as directly linked to the previously mentioned pride and sense of Bougainville identity. Respondents see access to information as a right that is not currently being met. It is expected as part of the government's "moral responsibility". This element seems representative of the Bougainville self-confidence that appears as a remarkable asset for Bougainville.

Maybe the first thing would be to bring awareness to the villages, because lots of people cannot read and write well, some can't understand English or Tok Pisin. All the people would understand well if someone were to come straight to their village and talk to them, or if they were to hear on the radio. (Male, 25, Central) ⁷⁹

Our right is that the government works out some way (to let us know) how Bougainville is going for the moment. A way so that we are well informed, where we know where Bougainville is going, and how it is going. (South, Bolave, Female, 38) ⁷⁸

In my opinion, whoever does awareness, must go to all the small villages and use their language, so they can hear and understand well. (Female, 38, South) ⁸⁰

We don't know what is the latest on what the government is doing for us; it's our right to know. (Male, 55, Central)

People articulated a clear request to receive information about the Referendum, the Bougainville Peace Agreement and the political situation of Bougainville. For example, over half of all respondents listed 'Referendum' as one of three topics to receive information about (see Figure 17)^{vi}. Respondents feel like the tools of good communication are present, but need to be made to work more effectively:

When the information that reaches people is fragmented and incomplete, it is often considered untrustworthy. Across their responses is the condition that information must be clear and easy to understand. As such, radio and face-to-face communications are the preferred channels. With regards to clarity, the choice of language is mentioned as important: preferably Tok Pisin, and/or Tok Ples.

Digicel is here, TV is here, radio is here, the newspapers are here, so the opportunities are here now, the question is: how can ABG tap into these opportunities? (Male, 55, North) ⁸¹

WHAT PEOPLE WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ABOUT

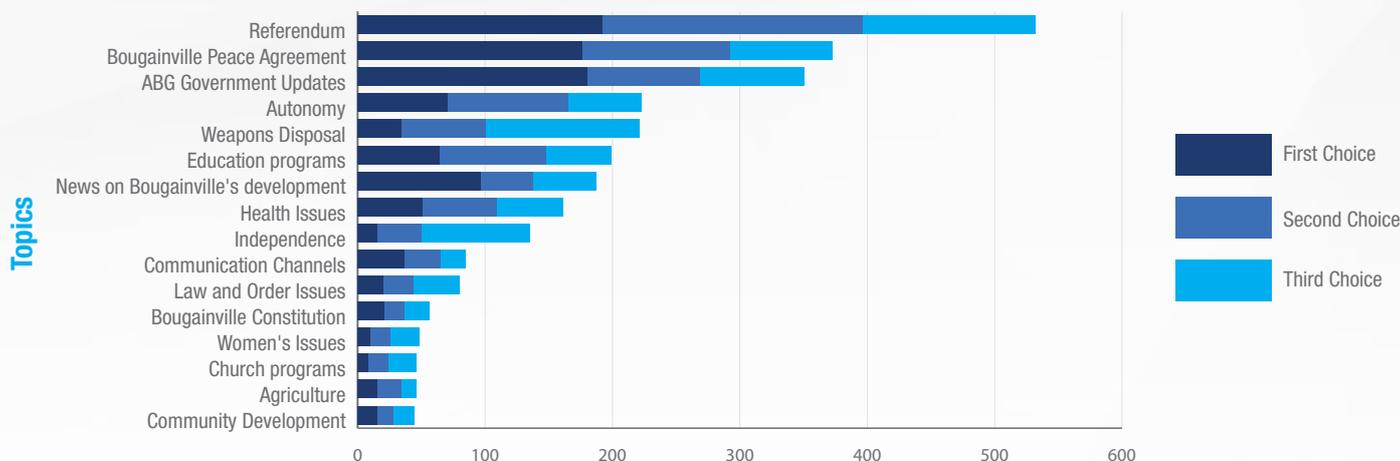


Figure 17. What people would like to receive information about

^{vi} This question was asked after having asked respondents about their knowledge of the BPA and its pillars which likely influenced their answer.

CHANNELS THROUGH WHICH PEOPLE LIKE TO RECEIVE THIS INFORMATION

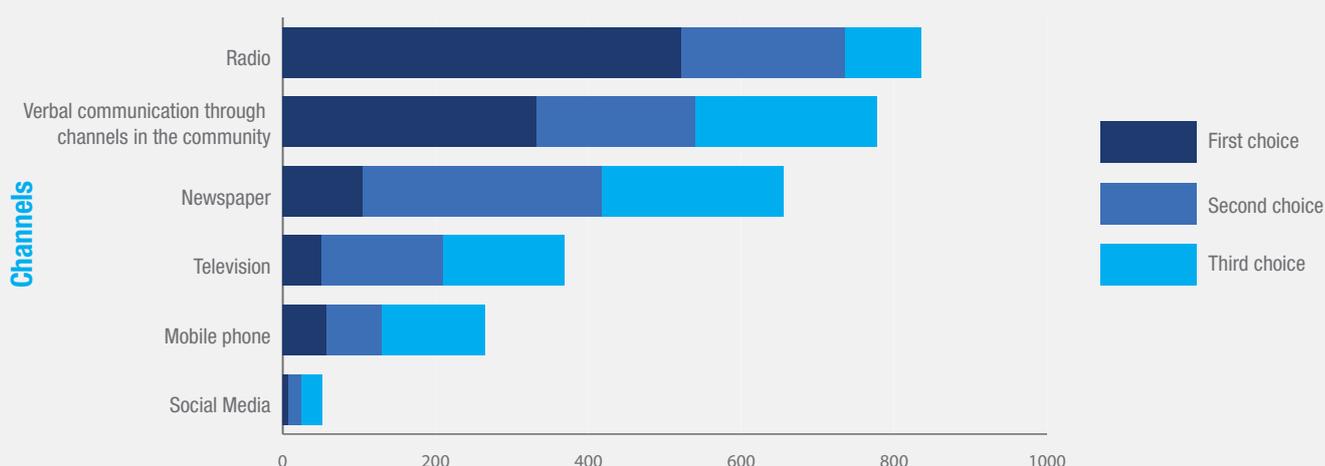


Figure 18. Respondents' suggested channels to receive information from government

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

RADIO

Radio is put forward as the medium "easy to improve", as work on better coverage would readily increase its impact. Radio is direct (as opposed to the delay and inaccuracy of outdated newspapers), and it offers the possibility of regular programs and updates at a relatively cheap cost. The challenge is improving radio reception. The respondents' reasoning is that "simply" installing more towers and repeaters would give the Bougainville population better access to a medium of already good quality.

I can tell the government to fix Radio Bougainville and we will be able to hear all the good real news on the radio. (Male, 45, South)⁸²

For communication, the government must improve these government radio stations. Through this radio, in every mountain, beach, in every little valley, we can all get information and updates from the government, because now we are in the dark. (Female, 51, South)⁸³

Radio information must be regular, well structured and easy to understand. For example, a regular radio program will convey continuity, reliability and show the government's commitment, which in turn, will make it credible.

Government officers must talk on the radio, there must be a program each week, twice a week, to give information to the people of Bougainville about where is the government at, where is Bougainville going, and what is happening with the government. (Male, 50, Central)⁸⁴

FACE TO FACE COMMUNICATION

The preferred channel by many, particularly in remote areas, is "face to face", in small groups, most often referred to as "awareness", to ensure that people at the village level are reached.

As far as information to the communities and the small groups is concerned, in my opinion, the best is to get the information to the communities, or to the small groups. So to enter all the villages in the ward, I think that is the best thing. (Male, 42, North)⁸⁵

Generally one of the preferred ways to receive reliable and thorough information would be the visit of government's representatives to the area. Such an initiative provides opportunities for listening and asking questions, at a level suitable for the audience, whilst testifying to the government's will to inform their people.

But inland there are no roads so that a car could come and do the work. The government should designate some people; they could come on foot and reach the villages and sit down with the villagers, all the villagers, and talk and discuss these issues. (Female, 45, Central)⁸⁶

Announcing impending visits and spending enough time in the community to ensure maximum village audience presence could maximize the impact of the visits. Women particularly are concerned about missing out because of their work in the garden.

Some times it doesn't work well, because we are in remote areas. So to bring information face to face, lots of us might miss out; sometimes we don't know (that they will come), these people come to pass on information, and we don't know they will come and they just turn around and go back. (Female, 35, Central)⁸⁷

Awareness is not much good, because often we the women, we are very busy, and we don't have time to sit down often and listen about what is happening. (Female, 38, South)⁸⁸

The information can reach respondents through existing networks such as church, women's groups (mama groups) and youth groups:

A good way to get information is on Sunday, at the time of mass, everyone can get information there. (Male, 33, Central)⁸⁹

Representatives of such groups argue that they are ideally placed to further disseminate the information.

We the mothers can pass on the information. The mother must be well informed, and she will pass on the information to the children, the brothers, the in-laws, all of them. She can explain well, she manages the house. Better for the women to know about it all. She can sit down with them all in the village, and talk to them, particularly the family. (Female, 45, Central)⁹⁰

The CoEs are expected to put in more intensive work through to the village assemblies, to make sure they pass on the information; repeated comments put pressure on them to "do their work". At the same time, the involvement and communication channels with MPs are crucial for the reliability of the information flow.

Another way to do it is that all MPs come down to the villages and give updates. This would help educate our people about changes occurring in the government of Bougainville. (Female, 44, Central)⁹¹

I would like that all news would come from the CoE, from ABG to CoE to village assembly, a good way to get information. Because some information we get, I look at it, and I can see that some is true and some is not. (Male, 45, South)⁹²

PRINT MEDIA

For written information, there are suggestions to increase the presence and the distribution of the Bulletin. Printed material is repeatedly requested for use as education and reference material in schools, village assemblies and community groups. There are numerous requests to have access to hard copies of the Bougainville Peace Agreement document as a reference; not just in English, but also in Tok Pisin, and possibly in Tok Ples. Teachers in particular see it as an essential teaching tool.

One way to make people understand would be to translate this peace agreement from English to Tok Pisin. That would make it easier for people to understand. (Male, 25, Central)⁹³

If they are not educated, people can't know about the things that the government man is talking about. So I would like the government to educate people about these documents they signed, the peace agreement, so just send a copy to the village, and we will understand. The teachers will use it to teach the students too. (Male, 42, South)⁹⁴

With regards to newspaper distribution, it is said that improving the impact of printed press is a longer-term project, requiring better roads or more airport access, together with improvement of the general literacy level.

TELEVISION

Television is popular and wished for by many. As is the case with radio, there is an expectation that TV could create more trusting links between the people and the government, together with providing visual evidence of the government's work.

If we got access to TV to come to us, we would be able to see how they work at the meetings at parliament. We have a big need to get this TV to see how our MP talks in parliament. We hear some rumours about how some MPs go there and only sleep. (Male, 50, South) ⁹⁵

However, respondents understand the restrictions in terms of access to electricity and high running costs associated with television. The improvement of power supply is considered a condition for regular TV access:

It would be good that power would come to our village. We have a hard time with our little generator, and often we waste lots of money on petrol and we can't watch for a long time, so it would be good if power could come to our village. That would make it easy for us to see and hear all the things that happen around us. (Female, 59, South) ⁹⁵

Respondents in areas where hydropower production is located argue that power supply is readily available in their area, and the government is asked to consider this opportunity to set up TV towers.

MOBILE COMMUNICATION

Digicel is perceived as instrumental in allowing information through contact from person to person. It is a tangible asset in allowing users to keep up-to-date to a certain extent. For many respondents, Digicel symbolises communication and access to the world. It is interesting to note that many respondents direct their requests to Digicel as strongly as they do to the government - and sometimes with more hope to be heard:

I would like Digicel to improve its internet coverage. We have it in the village, but some times, it goes off. So if Digicel wants to help people, they must improve. (Male, 32, Central) ⁹⁶

Respondents are familiar with bulk text messages sent by Digicel, and perceive further potential for this medium. For instance, it is suggested that the government could use the network to send information as text messages that could be read immediately by all phone users; examples mentioned are announcing radio and TV programs, or information in newspapers or newsletters. As in the case with radio, respondents suggest to capitalising on an already existing system of information.

Many respondents however, are wary of simplified improvement suggestions, given the complexity of the situation in Bougainville. Social media is much less mentioned as most people are not accessing the internet or using smart phones.

BEING INFORMED AND WORKING TOGETHER

Respondents generally, but more emphatically so in remote areas, would like to see a massive effort on the government's part to improve access to information, including better access to radio, TV and newspapers.

In my opinion, something we would all like, I can say with certainty, is that they would like our communities to get good information, so they can improve TV and radio and other media. (Male, 35, Central) ⁹⁸

Commitment to answering these problems is considered ABG's responsibility. Expectations from leaders at various levels are emphasized, time and again; in return of the evidence of commitment, Bougainville people will collaborate and support their efforts:

The one truly important thing is communication, that is the engine of the peace and reconciliation, only that will give light to all people about how Bougainville was, how it is today and how it will be tomorrow. (Male, 66, North) ⁹⁹

I would like to say to the government, they must do their work and fix their people. You want us to stand on our two feet? Do your work now, we will carry the weight and us together with you will solve the problem. Government of Bougainville, we support you. If you do your work well, you and me will achieve what we want to achieve. (Male, 46, North) ¹⁰⁰

Regularity and accuracy of information determines the level of trust in the media channels.



FINAL COMMENTS FROM RESPONDENTS

To conclude the interviews, respondents were asked what final comments they would like to make, and what they thought about the present research.

Answers here are quite poignant in the strength of their requests; respondents express worry at the urgency of the situation, of the time passing, and the imminence of crucial decisions. The word “appeal” happens repeatedly in these last remarks, with people appealing to the government to take action for their people:

I appeal to ABG as these three pillars, they need much work. ABG must make it so; communication is one thing, so that the people can become aware of where they go. All grassroots in the villages, they do not know much about these three pillars, what are they. (Male, 31, North) ¹⁰¹

Respondents across gender and age groups remind ABG of their responsibility, and of their own rights as voters, to express themselves and to be listened to. Quite a few voices reiterate the benefit of unity and cooperation between ABG and the population: “Come down to our level and we work together”.

I ask that something start to come down to us, the people in the village, as I said earlier, maybe that way we reach a good lifestyle in Bougainville. (Male, 42, South) ¹⁰²

When asked what they thought about the initiative of the present research, all respondents unanimously appreciated it; as a gesture from the government towards their people, a doorway to speak to the government, a hopeful sign of a possible stirring into action:

I just want to say thank you for listening to all our worries and to what kind of help we would like to get in our community. (Female, 42, South) ¹⁰³

It is good that the government came to our village and listened to our ideas. (Female, 32, South) ¹⁰⁴

There are quite a number of sceptical comments about this research being undertaken late, and that it represents ABG’s attempt at correcting negligence and carelessness. Respondents appreciated ABG made the effort to come to ask their views. Feedback of the research back to the population would consolidate the perception of the government’s budding commitment:

Send us some sign back to us, to show us that you have heard us. (Female, 23, South) ¹⁰⁵

In the quantitative survey, almost all respondents (98% n=1104) said that they would like to know the results from this research.



NISSAN AND ATOLLS

The districts of Nissan and Atolls, North of Buka, are composed of small coral islands, populated respectively by 6,820 and 2,900 inhabitants (Census 2011). Today, these islands are in contact with the Bougainville mainland through private banana boats only, as earlier ship and plane connections with Rabaul have ceased activity. Whilst respondents' answers mostly present similarities with those of mainland respondents, there are some distinctions.

Nissan and the Atolls have not known the crisis directly, as fighting took place on the mainland. Indeed, the crisis was the time where many came back home to Nissan and the Atolls as a refuge. The main tangible sign of the crisis appears to have been the more irregular supplies of cargo from Buka. Within this context, respondents here speak less of reconstruction than of development. Additionally, their concerns are specific to their environment: climate change and rising sea levels are relevant issues. The younger people appear to face similar challenges as their counterparts on the mainland, with low levels of political education.

When talking about independence, economic independence is mainly on their mind, for example through the local development of agriculture and fisheries programs.

Very little communication reaches them at present: added to their geographical remoteness, Digicel service at the time of research had been out since December 2013. Citifon service was irregular; there was essentially no TV and no reliable radio service. Newspapers are a "must-bring-back" for anyone travelling back from Buka or other provinces, and are then read and shared. The level of illiteracy is deemed high, with many inhabitants predominantly speaking Tok Ples (particularly in more remote areas like Carterets, Mortlock and Tasman). Paradoxically, respondents wish to access written information (newspapers, pamphlets) as they can be shared and, even delayed, are expected to reach them more surely than radio or TV. There is a general wish for development, in particular communication and transport, and people expressed that these had functioned better previously.

DEVELOPING COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

The Autonomy Review (2013) lists “awareness” among the population as a key component of the political and social situation in Bougainville, today, and in the next few years. However, “awareness” is not clearly defined, and there appears to have been a lack of engagement on awareness implementation to satisfactorily inform the population. The present research shows that the current approach to awareness and information dissemination has led to a poorly informed population. It is necessary to utilise this research to understand the various components of successful media and communication use in Bougainville. In the following section we highlight key components and opportunities to be integrated strategically to ensure that Bougainville has an informed population in light of a changing political situation.

When reviewing the media and communication landscape in Bougainville it is evident that whilst there are strong assets and systems functioning well at community level, there are several channels and links that appear to not deliver to their potential. Recognising these gaps while building on existing strengths provides an opportunity to improve the communication channels in the near future.

LINKING COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT

Within the community, specific groups engage together in activities with efficient and trusted communication systems. The extended family (haus lain) is the key group, together with their link to the local chiefs, and participation in local groups such as youth, women’s or ex-combatants’ groups. The majority of respondents feel that they do have a voice within their community and confirm that structures are in place there to communicate and work together.

However, the research shows that the link between the community and the government levels presents inadequacies. This confirms previous research highlighting a disconnection between the citizens of Bougainville and the ABG at large, and perceptions of mismanagement (UN 2014; Kent and Barrett, 2012). Respondents often express that the CoEs, a key link between community and government, are not passing on the information, and question how much of their own voices are heard at government level. The link that must also be examined (and possibly optimised) here is the information flow between ABG and the CoEs. A clear communication strategy for example, which outlines the content to be made public to CoEs and communities, and explains processes and timelines for this information sharing, could ensure that everyone understands the way information can be passed on and can thus adhere to it. Further building the capacity of CoE members to establish clear communication channels with the communities would strengthen their engagement.

YOUTH VOICES

The findings confirm that within the traditional structure of Bougainville society, status and responsibilities increase with age. The youth are clearly the population segment that has a lesser voice within their community setting. Indeed, this presented a challenge to the field researchers who experienced difficulties throughout the interviews, in extracting information and opinions from the youth segment. The younger respondents showed (through shyness and embarrassment) that they felt that they had neither authority to voice opinions about matters in their community, or knowledge of the situation in Bougainville. When people are not given a voice they may disengage from the process and not seek to expand their knowledge and understanding.

Older youth reminisce about childhood memories of the crisis, but apart from those whose parents were directly involved, they appear to not have updated their knowledge whilst they were growing up. They speak of the adults as “the ones that are responsible for the past and present situation”, and express helplessness towards depending on them, together with fear of re-awakening a conflict, the understanding of which remains beyond their control:

I have some questions, like this mine, will it open again? Because we the youth, we don't want this mine to open, because of the crisis that came out of the mine. That is why I ask, this mine, will it open again or what will happen? (Male, 19, South) ¹⁰⁶

Only a few exceptions were found amongst quite outspoken youth whose parents had played a direct part in the crisis, and who appeared to have benefitted from some political education.

Many of the youth in Bougainville today have missed out on formal education due to the crisis, and other research has underlined their precarious post-crisis status (Kent and Barrett, 2012). They are often referred to as the ‘lost generation’. However such a label only undermines their potential. Providing strategies to involve youth and ensuring their understanding of the Bougainville Peace Agreement and their active involvement in it, can not only prevent further conflict, but also realize their potential as key change agents. Their leadership will be required in Bougainville’s near future and therefore it is crucial that young people be specifically targeted, to ensure they do not miss out on receiving key information and participating in the shaping of Bougainville’s future. Strategies that create safe spaces for youth to express themselves and build their knowledge and confidence are necessary to mediate their increasing participation and voice in society.



WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION

Women commented that before the crisis, their role and contribution was more recognised than it is today, and that some of the traditional structures and understandings of the role of women are now being disregarded. Women have played a key role in the peace building process and have demonstrated their ability as a group to communicate and mobilise. However, their key role in the family and Bougainville society as a whole does not translate today into recognition at the political decision making level, of their potential as key agents in the shaping of Bougainville communities (Eves & Koredong 2015).

Moreover, they mention having to cope with situations brought about mainly by men's decisions and attitudes, with little latitude to counter them:

I speak on behalf of all the women, we women we really don't want this thing [fighting] to happen again. Really we women, we carry the biggest burden. (Female, 30, North)¹⁰⁷

Women's access to traditional mass media channels is lower than that of men, however women have equal access to mobile phones. Women are less likely to raise their concerns at a community level but feel very comfortable raising their points within their specific groups; for example at church or a women's group meeting. Women can be specifically targeted through these groups, but contribute to the education of all members of their families. At the same time, men must acknowledge the role of women as a key point for information and knowledge within family and community.

MEDIA ACCESS & KNOWLEDGE LEVELS OF THE BPA

Despite higher levels of mass media access and use in the North region, understandings around the Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) are considerably low across all regions, suggesting that the issue is not just access to communication channels, but how information is being communicated to the public.

Awareness by itself does not lead to an informed population. The research demonstrates that several gaps exist when it comes to strategies to inform people. There has been very little monitoring and evaluation of awareness strategies and of assessing people's knowledge after information has been provided. In terms of content, there is also a need for the testing and piloting of messages in order to ensure that both concepts and language are clear to the population. This might vary according to the region or the CoE. Testing and monitoring would allow people to ask questions, which in return can inform the way political concepts are presented, as the situation evolves.

Effort and care in the development of the messages is key to achieving a high level impact where people will assimilate the various components of the Bougainville Peace Agreement, including potential risks relating to the Referendum. Involving groups of people in the design of the messages through participatory methods (Thomas, Eggins & Papoutsaki, 2016) would ensure that the adequate language is used to convey such information and would create a higher level of ownership and collective engagement.

MEDIA CONVERGENCE & REGIONAL APPROACH

It is evident that the different regions (North, Central and South) face different challenges when it comes to media access and ownership. In addition, geographical characteristics such as urban, rural or remote areas, as well as access to broadcast signals and towers must be considered when designing media and communication strategies for the various regions in Bougainville.

The research identifies media characteristics that contribute to the design of specifically targeted strategies. It is clear all media complements and strengthens each other, rather than one medium reaching the whole population. As such, mobile phones are widely used by three quarters of the population across Bougainville, but present limitations in terms of how much information can be disseminated. While radio is considered the best medium to reach the people and disseminate information from the government, face to face communication will not only significantly contribute to establishing trusting relationships between the government and the people, but also ensure that the dissemination of information is undertaken within the specific context of the community and audience.

A convergent or multi-media approach is suggested where the same concepts, slogans, vocabulary, messages and stories are shared and repeated across various media to achieve maximum impact. Consistent and coherent materials on the Bougainville Peace Agreement and Bougainville's political situation along with a cohesive strategy to disseminate it can ensure that the various audiences assimilate the appropriate information.

MOVING FORWARD WITH THE PEOPLE OF BOUGAINVILLE

With the above in mind, results demonstrated that awareness has been mostly information given to people without consideration for their involvement in deepening their learning and understanding.

One of the strongest assets revealed by this research is the people of Bougainville themselves. Expressions of their pride and belief in Bougainville, in addition to their willingness and determination to work with and support the government, are key strengths that seem underutilised. People want to be informed and they are waiting for the information to reach them.

To maximise understanding around the Bougainville Peace Agreement, participatory communication approaches and strategies can help facilitate initial message development. To address challenges in dissemination, community advocates might then be trained in passing on information. Beyond providing wider dissemination, working with targeted groups within communities would ensure utilising existing communication structures as a foundation and building the necessary networks for incremental dissemination. Systems must be in place where people can receive regular information while participating in open dialogue and discussion about Bougainville's political situation.





CONCLUSION

The Bougainville Audience Research Study provides a comprehensive picture of the media and communication landscape in Bougainville from the perspective of the people of Bougainville. Apart from people's access and use of mass media, the report captures people's knowledge and understanding of the Bougainville Peace Agreement and people's recommendations how they would like to receive information from the government and other stakeholders.

The upcoming years leading up to Bougainville's referendum are crucial in terms of ABC's strategies in implementing successful media and communication tools. This report ensures that such strategies can be based on research on media access and levels of audience understanding. This research then significantly increases the opportunity for the Bougainville population to be informed about the Referendum if recommendations are implemented.

The field researchers trained as part of this study can contribute to the ongoing monitoring of the changes resulting from the coordinated implementation of information and communication strategies. As such, this study provides a baseline for the monitoring of the implementation the information and communication strategies by ABC and relevant stakeholders.

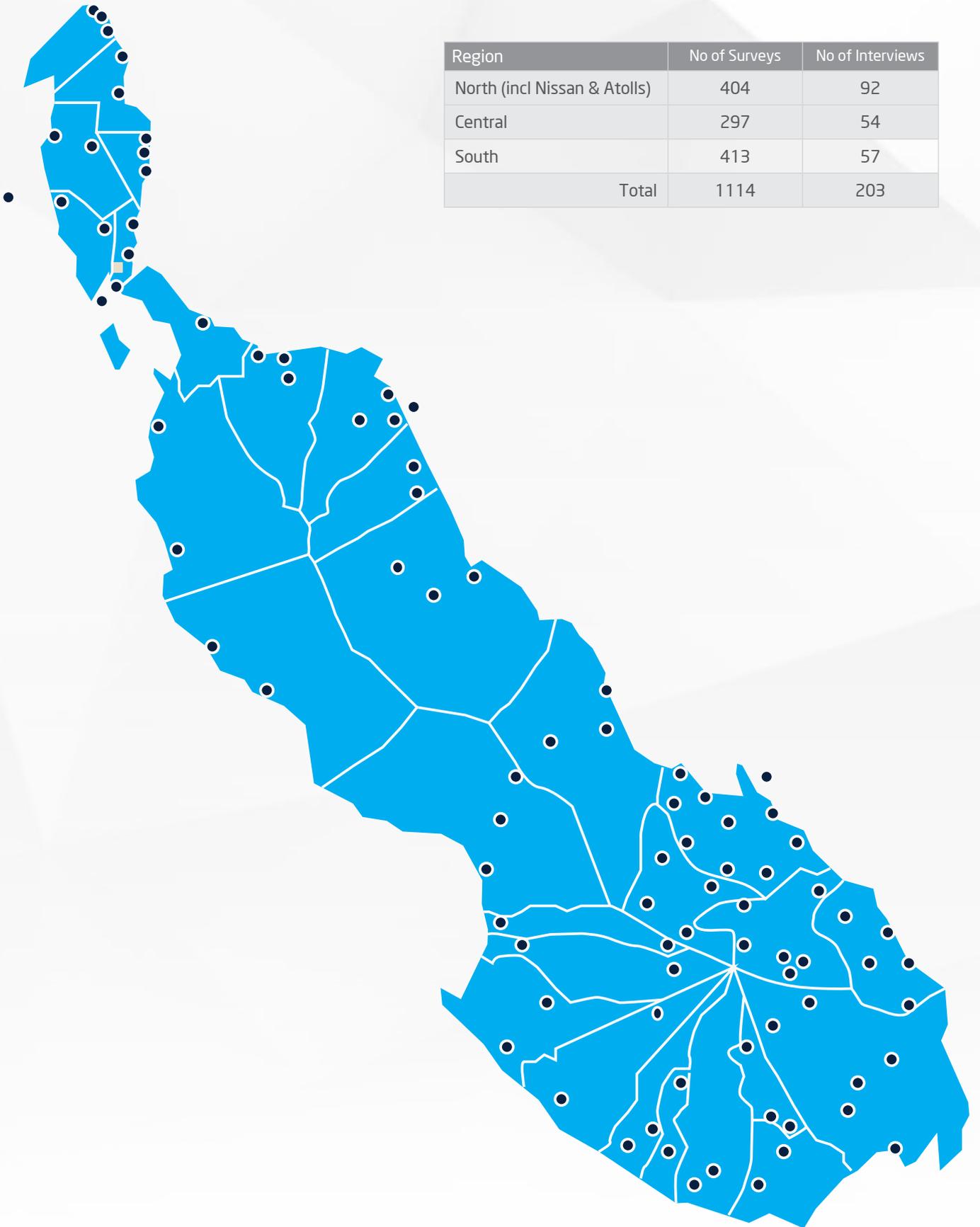
An inclusive participatory approach to media and communication is key to a peaceful and democratic society. The interest and willingness expressed by people to play an active role in the political and social changes in Bougainville must be seen as an asset on which communication strategies must be built.

APPENDIX



TABLE OF INTERVIEW AND SURVEYS & MAP

Region	No of Surveys	No of Interviews
North (incl Nissan & Atolls)	404	92
Central	297	54
South	413	57
Total	1114	203



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ENDNOTES - ORIGINAL TOK PISIN QUOTES

1 Long nau mipela I nogat planti, wanpela rot tasol mipela I wok long kisim infomesin long ol COE. Long COE bung, yumi kam long hap, mipela I wok long kisim ol dispela infomesin. Long ol narapela area, TV, redio, niuspepa, em mipela inogat.

2 Nogat akses long infomesen igo insait long ples olsem I nogat gutpela komunikesen namel long ABG na COE long hia. Tru, ol I bin salim pas I go long ol, I kam long ol COE lidas, tasol dispela ol pas I no kam long hia, olsem I no gat gutpela awareness em I wok long go nambaut.

3 Long dispela, sampela taim mipela save kisim long ol man I save maket long rot. Na sampela taim mipela save kisim ol infomesin long sampela taim ol man I save kam long liklik aid pos bilong yumi long Labalam. Na sampela taim, mipela I save kisim long ol man I save raun long rot na I save toktok.

4 Ol liklik toksave long ples long komuniti, mipela save kisim taim yumi go insait long wanwan Sande, taim mipela go long lotu. Liklik toksave mipela save harim, olsem sapos ol sista laik raun na wokim klinik, dispela bai yumi harim long lotu.

5 Long dispela hap long kisim ol infomesin, I gat ol bikpela bung, olsem long sios o skul, ol save givim ol infomesin na mipela I save kisim. Em gutpela, tasol mipela I laikim beta wei, proper wei bilong kisim informesin, like ol tawa nambaut long salim ol toksave.

6 Mipela I save stap long tudak. Mipela I no save tumas long hap bilong gavman. Em I no gutpela bikos long maus to maus em olsem wanem ya we verbal komunikesen em I no gutpela. Wanpela bai tok addim narapela toktok gen na bai tokim narapela. So moa beta gutpela wei em mipela inap harim update bilong mipela long redio tasol.

7 Mipela igat redio long haus tasol sapos mipela laik tunnim redio em mipela mas painim, no fm redio tasol mipela mas go painim long hap em save kisim long en bikos em ino save kisim klia tumas long hap where mipela stap long en.

8 Redio Bougainville before the kraisin em I save richim olgeta corner bilong dispela province, bipo province nau em region ah? Na sapos yu harim redio tete, sampela hap redio stesin ino richim, so em gutpela I mas sampela kain improvement long wokim dispela samting I go het na infomesin I ken go daun stret long ol pipol long ples.

9 Mi ino save harim redio nau. Redio i lus, inogat redio stesii. Mipela ino save harim ol redio liklik long eria bilong mi long Toberaki na Bana districts as a whole. Nogat tru na emi hat long yumi, em major problem long harim redio broadcast.

10 Radio Bougainville em gavman imas stretim bek na em mas givim gutpela awareness igo long ol lain manmeri insait long island bilong yumi long Bogenvil [...] long kiarapim radio Bougainville we emi save reachim whole population bilong dispela island bilong yumi long olgeta day, olgeta day. Ino olsem Radio Ples Lain wanpela day tasol igo broadcast long Buin, narapela day emi go long Buka, narapela day em nogat.

11 Redio, em I gutpela wei long ol man ken save long infomesin. Redio mas istap na olgeta man imas kisim informesin long em. Bikos planti bilong ol COE bilong mipela ol ino save stap long taun we ol iken kisim infomesin hariap. Planti ol isave stap long ples. Olsem na gavman mas putim redio olsem ol iken kisim infomesin hariap.

12 Mi ting olsem sapos oli stretim radio Bougainville em bai mipela inap kisim ol toksave gut. Tingting bilong mi em gavman imas ronim planti awareness na em imas stretim tu dispela radio Bougainville long givim toksave long dispela pis agrimen.

13 Gutpela rot long diseminatim infomesin ikam long ol pipol, bulk of people long komuniti planti, sapos redio system bilong yumi i orait laik education em isave wokim naispela program.

14 Redio em nogat, em redio its something we em really needed but, because planti time pawa em out, long TV tu pawa em i out. Ol i save, from the radio, ol i givim ol time, na dispela kain time ok igat vois bilong edukesin or bilong gavman.

15 Long redio, mi laikim redio tu bikos taim mi onim redio, em toktok long redio em klia.

16 Long redio, mi save harim nambaut long taim mi save mekim liklik wok bilong mi, long travel out long Bogenvil na harim dispela ol kain stori tasol.

17 Mi toktok long redio service ya, mi amamas wantaim redio, nao lm going to buy myself a radio tomorrow, bikos mi filim olsem thats the only way, a

cheaper way I can get the news from around the world and yes, radio now is the cheapest, bateri em orait, em cheap.

18 Ol redio stesin i kamap tasol, em long sait long bateri nao taim yu gat mani em you baim bateri na you harim redio

19 Mi man bilong ridim niuspepa...mi go long taun em mi no inap lus tingting long niuspepa, em olgeta taim mi mas baim niuspepa, em planti taim yes mi save ridim, ol longpela stori, planti infomesin I stap insait.

20 Taim mi lukim long niuspepa olsem sampela gutpela samting stap antap em olsem em save kamap gut taim mi save ridim

21 Niuspepa not every body i save i gat akses to niuspepas again, it's a very powerful medium ah. Or long ol man i must still get niuspepa na ridim, but it comes two or three days later, it depends on how ol i kisim i kam long Buka, so again sometimes the information is outdated, but still i orait.

22 Em sapos mipela go tasol long taim, em mipela save baim niuspepa na ridim na sapos mipela stap long ples em em bai nogat.

23 Na ol niuspepa em ino save up-to-date tumas. Olsem painim sampela wei bai em up-to-date long ol man iken, olsem ol igo kisim up-to-date niuspepa bilong tudei na em mas bilong tudei ah. Ino bilong narapela wik igo. Ating dispela samting nau bai so bai mipela iken impruvim komunikesen long sait bilong mipela long hia na mipela iken save.

24 Why bai mi baim niuspepa taim mi no save long rid?

25 Long niuspepa tu em bai ino nap richim olgeta man bikos planti long half bilong Kongara eria I illiteret. Ol ino inap long rit.

26 Mi no save aksesim niuspepa bikos mi les long baim K2.00. Mi meri bilong ridim niuspepa, sait long prais tasol

27 Ah wanwan taim mi save kisim niuspepa tasol bikos niuspepa tu emi go expensive tu antap, K2.00 igo antap K2.50 nambaut. Mi ino save kisim inogat ol narapela ol komunikesen. Samting bilong yumi long kisim nius nambaut em mi bin tok pinis em problem em bikpela tru inogat niuspepa tu save kamap long hia. Olsem Bogenvil nius tu em wanwan taim emi save kamap so ino yumi olgeta save lukim. Sampela tasol ol save lukim long ol niuspepa.

28 Sampela news ol no save trupela tumas, em ino save true. Em wankain tu long Post Courier em yumi save ridim nambaut ya. Nogat planti save, na bihain yumi go harim gen kain samting olsem em nogat, em ol giaman.

29 Pepa em ino effective tumas, delivering the infomesin through niuspepa em ino effective, em isave late tumas, em save weak, em ino save richim ol pipol, ol pipol long ples.

30 Long TV em needim gen entena na ol disk nambaut em bai needim, em kostim moni gen. That's why mi bin tokim yu ya, ol samting ya cost bilong em ino liklik. Sapos yu apim pei bilong kopra, em bai mi mitim ol dispela samting.

31 Long mipela long hia mipela gat TV tasol I stap nao long skul, skul bilong mipela yet long Taetae insait long Gohohe constituency. So sampela taim igat gutpela program kamap, olsem mi save wok long gaden o kam leit nambaut long nambis na em save kisim taim bilong mi long watsim TV kain olsem

32 Mi laik bai yumi mas start toktok long wanpela televisin stesin bilong Bogenvil bikos nao em planti man ino laik ridim niuspepa tumas, ol laik sindaun na watchim sampela kain program ah, so I strongly recommend that imas igat sampela TV stesin.

33 Em nogat TV, igat wanem screen but it's for only CD, or sorry mipela ino aksesim TV.

34 I gat fee long watchim TV: K1.00 long ol adults save baim long helpim bek skuls na long taim bilong game, olsem state of origin em save go olsem K3.00. so long ol narapa programs em save fri tasol ol no save openim tumas.

35 Mi gat fon, but em ino kain fon we bai mi go long em long internet long kisim infomesin na kain olsem so em nogat redio tu long em so mi no save kisim infomesin long fon.

36 Mobail em i, tude ol yangpela lain ol i wok long gat mobail ah, but not so much bikpela infomesin tumas, sampela taim sampela samting we em i short enough to read ah, because ol youngpela ol igat narapela inrest, music, that why ol igat mobail.

37 Mi gat fon, em I bilong kisim tekst tasol, ol lain, ol poro. Em ino kain fon we bai mi go long em long internet na kain olsem so em bilong text tasol.

ENDNOTES - ORIGINAL TOK PISIN QUOTES

38 Bikos nau toksave tu emi save hat. Inogat proper wei long givim toksave. sampela taim long COEs sampela taim ol save textim mipela long mobail. Long olsem bikman bilong COEs chairman o vice-chairman o sapos igat miting ol save textim yumi long mobail.

39 Mi save painim hat tru bikos long network. Network, mi painim Digicel i wanpela most expensive long mobail kampani [...] mi painim hat tru so mobail bilong mi, mi onim mi switchim off and its also difficult with the mobile in case you do not have enough akses long chargim ol bateri. Mi em nao tasol chargim long solarg ya.

40 Ol Digicel towers, long educated pipol emi gutpela. It can be one source of mass media but hau mi lukim ol pipol bek long ples ol Digicel tower ol ino lukim wanpela nid long en bikos ol fon ol kisim em long harim music tasol. It's only those of us who are educated mipela usim ol fon long conveyim ol message to one another but if COE employs people em it can be one mean of communication.

41 At the moment mi lukim olsem wanem ya sevis bilong Digicel ino olsem bifo. Bikos ol i wok long usim ol sola sistem na ino wok long go long we hap. [...] Na mi ting redio em moa gutpela.

42 Ol Digicel tower ol sanapim pinis tasol wanpela samting tasol ol ino putim long kisim gut ol komunikesin em dispela wanem ya TV antenna. Yea, TV receiver antap long tower. Sapos ol i conectim dispela TV receiver antap long dispela tower em isi tru mipela ken kisim gutpela infomesin.

43 Internet em i slow stret, slow, slow, mi save kisim ol bundles na em save slow stret; sampela taim mipela save traim long kisim infomesin long internet, na em I of, nogat sevis. Em I bikipela hevi taim yu depend long internet.

44 Tudei mipela I wok long stap olsem ol aipas man ya. Mi laikim bai olgeta lida bilong mipela, ol imas kam insait long komuniti na ol I mas tok klia, ol I mas kliarim tru wanem minim, minim bilong ol dispela pis agrimen, referendum nabaut.

45 Komunikesin em ino richim mipela ol lain long graun, mi no save why, bikos komunikesin em wanpela tool bilong pipol i aware long wanem samting ol gavman of the day ol i mekim. Nogat komunikesin, ol pipol bai istap long tudak.

46 Long lukluk bilong mi, mi bin lukim olsem pipol ino save tumas wanem samting em i stap insait long dispela pis agrimen, na ol agrimen ol I bin wokim.

47 Pis agrimen, otonomi, mi harim, tasol mi no klia em wanem.

48 Long tripela pillar, mi harim long awareness. Awareness, taim man I kam na tok klia long dispela tripela pillar, mi bin harim long redio, long ol man I wok long toktok na tok klia long dispela pillar, em olsem wanem na. Em ol dispela tupela redio na awareness, ol man I bin kam mekim, em dispela tasol mi bin harim. Tasol tripela pillar em wanem, dispela mi no klia tumas.

49 Ol dispela husait ibin sainim dispela pis agrimen, em aiting long tupela parties ol Bogenvil original army na Papua New Guinea gavman, em tupela I bin sainim dispela. But mi no save tupela I bin wanbel na tupela I bin sainim.

50 Mi save olsem ol pipol long hia long Bogenvil, ol I no wok long understandim wanem samting dispela ol i kolim referendum. Mipela bai wokim wanem samting stret long taim bilong referendum? Bikos I nogat awareness, nogat gavman update i kam long ABG. Na dispela pis agrimentu, I nogat awareness ol bin givim long ol pipol. Long tete mi lukim olsem dispela referendum, aiting ol pipol sapos ol no understand gut, em bai mipela I no inap long wokim wok gut long dispela referendum.

51 Mi harim Bogenvil pis agrimen long bifo yet, long kraisim, ol i bin wokim, mi save harim Bogenvil pis agrimen, tasol mi no save wanem samting was involve long em, and the content of the peace agreement na. Tasol mi save olsem weapons disposal is one of them. Mi save that during the time of peace agreement ol i bin askim ol long helpim ol lain Bogenvil husat i holim gan long rausim gan. They sent in Foreigners ya, long kam supavaisim dispela. Dispela mi bin save, olgeta planti samting mi no save long en.

52 Em nau, na em kwestin nau, em olsem wanem, sapos mipela I no rausim gun bai yumi I no inap long qualify long go long referendum? Sapos yumi I no rausim, em wanpela kwestin bilong mi .

53 Weapons disposal, em mi save olsem ol dispela em ol weapons we ol BRA I save yusim. So taim ol bihainim, ol dispela ol pis agrimen, ol I mas rausim ol dispela. Long kisim tru tru olsem pis, pis long Bogenvil.

54 Traipela weapons disposal, first of its kind, I bin kamap long Konga ward

insait long Kopi constituency we ol veterans ol i rausim masket, na tu insait long sampela rekonsiliesin long district office, ol high powered arms ol i surrenderim, ol kisim, ol bin shake han long em

55 Dispela ol wok, tru ol I bin wokim long taim ol dispela ol wait man ol I bin putim ol dispela ol kontaina long ol peles, so ol sampela yanpela mangi bilong mipela I bin kisim ol dispela gan I kam long ol dispela ol kontaina; so ol bin wok dispela wok long dispela taim. Tasol long mi yet, mi save olsem rast samtin I wok long stap.

56 Planti long mipela ol meri ibin save poretim ol dispela ol mi ken tok ol gan. Ol gan we ol man ol BRA isave holim, so taim ol ibin disposim ol dispela nau mipela bin stap. Mipela i bin filim olsem mipela i fri, poret ibin go daun.

57 Weapons disposal, em istap long han bilong yumi nao, olsem yumi yet I mas kisim ol gun, olsem ol pait man bilong yumi, em ino pinis, ol gan I stap yet. So sapos I gat gutpela lida man bilong yumi go, ol inap long wokim sampela rot bai yumi kisim tru ol dispela long pinisim.

58 Otonomi em olsem stepping stone, yumi stap yet ananit long Papua New Guinea, powers and functions I stap ananit long Papua New Guinea gavman. Em olsem yumi bebibilong ol na ol lukluk long yumi. Otonomi em rediim yumi go insait long referendum, isi isi powers na functions long nesenol gavman.

59 Bai mipela i lukautim mipela yet. Long sait bilong sekuriti tu, em bai mipela yet I gat own Defence Force bilong yumi yet, na tu ol Foreign Affairs tu bai mipela kamapim Foreign Affairs bilong mipela yet, na wantaim ol olsem mipela bai stap nau olsem wanpela independent kantri.

60 Mi no kilia tumas, otonomi na independens. Tasol independens em yumi yet I sanap ah? Sapos yumi laikim independens, yumi separatim yumi long kantri em i wok long lukautim yumi.

61 Ol tok olsem referendum bai em I kamap long 2015. Tasol nau yumi stap long 2015, so yumi no save nau. Long mi yet, mi no klia olsem wanem taim tru nau bai yumi kisim referendum, long mi yet, mi wok long kwestonim.

62 Mi i ting olsem sapos Bogenvil ikamap independent kantri. Ating em inap kamap olsem wanpela nesin na ol man inap kisim gutpela save. Na kisim education na skul em ol dispela ol samting mi save tingim.

63 Taim Bogenvil i kamap independent, olgeta samting em bai stap long han bilong mipela. Olsem bai mipela impruvim skul bilong mipela mipela yet, na hausik tu, na bai mipela gat karansi bilong mipela yet na ol narapela bikipela samting.

64 Yumi long rural eria long ol skul ya mi nogat ol, mipela save safa long kisim ol text buk na ol laibreri buk tu nogat na tamblo tu em Buin taun ya em bagarap. Sapos yumi kisim independent em yumi yet bai ronim gut, taun tu em bai luk gut na ol rot bilong mipela tu em bai yumi yet wokim gut.

65 Lukluk bilong mi tete long Bogenvil, em olsem yumi wok long statim nupela wokabaut. Bihain long pait, yumi wok long wokabaut long dispela referendum. Wokabaut bilong yumi, em i important, yumi lukim olsem em mas kamapim, ol komuniti bilong yumi mas bungim olgeta man na olsem sherim gutpela tingting we ol I ken givim yumi long kamapim gutpela Bogenvil.

66 Long tingting bilong mi, referendum em olsem em mekim redi long mipela long go tru long independens. Kwestin bilong mi long referendum, we mi I no klia tumas wanem referendum i karamapim? Otonomi tu, insait mi no klia tumas. Olsem, askim bilong mi olsem, ol lain bilong COE na ol COE membas ol I mas kam wokim awareness. Na ol mas kliarim referendum na otonomi long mipela ol lain long ples

67 Long mipela long kisim infomesin long ol gavman i kam daun, long last yia I kam inap tude, em bin I gat ol awareness, tasol bilong vote na I no bin igat wanpela kain awareness long toksave.

68 Em mi laik putim liklik toktok bilong mi olsem tasol, mipela komiuniti long ples mipela laik harim stret wanem samting, wanem wok stret gavman i save wokim so mipela laikim olsem ol redio stesin i mas op, ol TV ol kain samting we mipela bai kisim, ol inap save, na bai mipela save long gavamn, gavman mas wokim ol dispela samting.

69 Yumi ino inap sutim tok igo kam long gavman long wanpela samting. Pis agrimen ol I sainim pinis, em rialiti bilong dispela Pis agrimen em I stap long han bilong yumi. Ino inap narapela man bai wokim.

70 Mi no inap tisim ol gut olsem, nogat risos long pis agrimen, olsem mipela tisa na skul, mipela I nogat akses kong infomesin, mipela nid long eduketim ol pikinini bilong mipela tu long wanem samting kamap long Bogenvil.

71 We are looking into the unknown, its a question that mi no inap fully

ENDNOTES - ORIGINAL TOK PISIN QUOTES

understandim. But sapos yu lukim how yumi wok long implementing otonomi, yu bai know that we still have a lot of problem istap.

72 Mi ting olsem yumi no redi yet, yumi no redi bikos ABG tu mi wok long lukim tu em ino mekim nois, em ino redi long kisim dispela referendum. Yumi nid long redi gut na yumi nid long harim gut wanem toktok iwok long kam long ABG or long Papua New Guinea Government.

73 Yu lukim, long sait long hausik bilong mipela em nupela hausik tasol mipela nogat save, husait stret bai pinisim dispela hausik, em dispela nao mipela i, planti man long mipela ya ol isave dai dai nating long ples. Nogat health centre nambaut long hia.

74 Bikos Bogenvil pis agrimen em rot tasol we bai yumi bihainim na inapim wanem samting ol bin agri long em insait long dispela agrimen na bai yumi go insait long referendum.

75 Tru tumas. Long ol man long ples, planti ol informesin bilong gavman I no save kam klia, na pipol I no save kisim klia ol informesin bilong ol gavman. Mi ting, olsem ol COE ol no save salim daunbilo long ples ol informesin bilong ol gavman.

76 Ol lain ol i stap long COE, bai yumi mas senisim ol, olsem long tingting bilong mi, mi tingim olsem bai yumi senisim ol lain na bai yumi putim ol niupela man na bai yumi lukim ol olsem, ol man ol bai go gut.

77 Mi lukim olsem Bogenvil politics em i abrusim dispela prinsipol yumi igat na yumi i bin pait long dispela Bogenvil krais. Em "bottom up approach", rot olsem olgeta samting em I mas stap long insait long komuniti na igo antap.

78 Rait bilong mipela, gavman em mas wokim sampela gutpela rot, em hau Bogenvil em wok long go. We mipela inap save gut, we mipela inap we Bogenvil igo olsem wanem.

79 Aiting nambawan rot ol inap wokim awareness raun, olsem planti man tu ol ino save gut long rit na rait, sampela I no inap harim gut ol inglis o tokpisin. Ol man na pipol ol inap harim gut sapos man ikam daun stret long ples na toktok long ol o ol i harim long redio.

80 Mi ting olsem, aiting husait i wokim ol awareness, em mas igo long ol liklik ples bilong ol, na yusim tokples we ol I ken harim na ol klia gut.

81 Digicel I stap, TV I stap, redio I stap, ol niuspepa I stap, so the opportunities are here now, the question is: how can the ABG tap into these opportunities?

82 Mi ken tok gavman mas stretim dispela Radio Bougainville na bai yumi ken harim ol nius ikam tru long redio.

83 Komunikesin inap gavman i improvim dispela gavman redio stesin. Long dispela redio, olgeta hap mountain, nambis, olgeta liklik valley, mipela inap kisim informesin long updet bilong gavman, olsem nau mipela stap long tudak.

84 Gavman ofisa bai mas go toktok long redio, i mas igat progrem long wanwan wik, tupela taim insait long wik, long toksave long ol pipol bilong Bogenvil long gavman em inap we, Bogenvil wok long go we na wanem samting wok long kamap long gavman.

85 Long toksave long ol komuniti na ol liklik grup, mi ting olsem, em best tingting long yumi kisim informesin I kam long komuniti, or kisim I kam long ol liklik grup. Olsem yumi bin kurungutim ol ples long ward, aiting em i moa gutpla.

86 Tasol insait, em inogat rot bilong kar long ol I ken wok. Gavman I ken makim sampela lain. Ol I ken wokabaut long lek na kamap long ol ples na sindaun wantaim pipol, ol pipol long ples, na ol I ken toktok na diskasim dispela ol samting I kamap.

87 Sampela taim ino gutpela tumas, olsem mipela I stap long remote eria. Olsem na karim tok I kam long maus, planti man ol ino save kisim tok. Olsem mipela ino save na sampela taim, ol man ikam long wokim samting na mipela ino save na ol bai go bek tasol.

88 Awareness ino tumas. Olsem planti taim yumi ol mama save bisi bisi tumas, na yumi no save gat taim long sindaun klostu na harim wanem samting iwok long kamap.

89 Long kisim ol informesin, gutpela em long Sande. Sande taim bilong lotu ol iken kisim informesin long hap.

90 Mipela I ken salim toksave, olsem mipela ol mama save karim ol pikinini. Mama mas save gut na em bai tokim ol pikinini, ol brata, ol kandere, ol husait, husait. Em I ken expleninim gut, toktok long ol gut olsem mama yet em I save

bosim haus. Na aiting moa beta em mama igat moa save long dispela. Em I ken sindaunim ol na ol I ken toktok ol yet long ples especially ol femili.

91 Narapela rot tu em ol memba long parlemen, ol mas kam daun, wokim updet long ol ples. Dispela em bai helpim long eduketim ol pipol bilong yumi long wanem samting senis i wok long kamap long gavman bilong yumi long Bogenvil.

92 Mi laik olsem olgeta nius em mas kam tru long COE, ABG long COE, COE long VA [village assembly], em gutpela rot long kisim ol informesin. Olsem sampela tok mipela isave kisim, mi save lukim olsem sampela tru na sampela i giaman.

93 Wanpela rot long mekim pipol i kilia long em, em long tanim tok long dispela pis agrimen long tok inglis I go long tok pisin. Aiting em bai moa isi long ol pipol bai klia.

94 Ol man, sapos ol ino eduket, ol i ino inap long save long ol samting, olsem dispela ol man long gavman igo toktok long dispela. Olsem mi laikim gavman mas eduketim ol long ol pepa ol I bin sainim, Pis Agrimen, em tasol, salim kopi kam long ples, na mipela bai I klia. Ol tisa bai I yusim long tisim ol sumatin tu.

95 Sapos mipela gat ol dispela kain akses long TV I kam daun long dispela, mipela inap long lukim ol taim ol wok long stap long miting long parlemen. Mipela gat bikpela nid tru long kisim dispela TV, mipela ken lukim, hau memba bilong mipela em wok long toktok long antap long parlemen. Sampela rumors mipela save harim olsem sampela memba ol save go antap ol save slip slip tasol.

96 Em gutpela tru long pawa mas kam insait long ples, olsem mipela save hatwok tasol long ol liklik generator bilong mipela na planti taim mipela I weistim bikpela mani long hama petrol na mipela no inap lukim longpela taim tu so gutpela tru pawa I mas kam long ples bilong mipela. Olsem iken mekim isi long mipela long lukim na harim ol samtin I kam long mipla.

97 So mi laik bai Digicel i improvim internet coverage bilong em, mipela igat long ples tasol sampela taim em I go of long hia. Olsem sapos Digicel laik helpim ol manmeri, em mas improvim.

98 Tingting bilong mi em, sapos wanpela samting we ol i laik, mi ken tok klia, olsem ol i laikim yumi komuniti, yumi kisim gutpela informesin, olsem ol iken improvim ol dispela TV, redio na ol narapela.

99 Sapos mi wok insait long gavman, em tru tru bilong em tasol, em komunikesin, em engin bilong dispela peace na reconciliation, em tasol bai givim lait long ol pipol long hau Bogenvil asde, Bogenvil bilong nao, na Bogenvil bilong tumoro.

100 Mi laik toktok long gavman, em i mas mekim na stretim gut ol pipol bilong em. Sapos yupela laikim yumi sanap long tupela lek bilong yumi? Wokim wok nao, mipela bai karim na yumi solvim dispela problem. [...] Gavman bilong Bogenvil mi sapotim yu. Sapos yu wokim wok gut tru, em bai yumi kamap long achivim wanem samting yumi laik achivim.

101 Appeal bilong mi nao long ABG olsem dispela tripela pillars, em i needim bikpela wok. ABG mas mekim, komunikesin em wanpela samting olsem ol manmeri i ken klia long wanem hap ol go long em; Ol grassroot bilong ples, ol no save tumas long ol dispela tripela pillars, em i olsem wanem.

102 Askim bilong mi em go olsem, samting em mas stat kam daun long yumi ol lain long ples, olsem mi bin tok pinis ya, aiting olsem bai yumi kamapim gutpela sindaun bilong Bogenvil.

103 Mi ken tok olsem tenkyu long harim ol wanem kain hevi mipela gat na wanem kaim helpim mipela laikim insait long komuniti bilong mipela.

104 Gutpela gavman I kam long ples nau na kisim tingting bilong ples.

105 Salim sampela toktok I kam bek long mipela, olsem long soim mipela, yupela harim pinis.

106 Mi gat liklik askim long em olsem, dispela maining ya em bai op tu o nogat? Bikos yumi ol sampela lain, yumi no laikim dispela maining bai op bikos krais tu em bin kamap long dispela maining. Olsem na mi wok long tok, dispela maining ya em bai kamap tu o?

107 Mi toktok behalf long ol mama, olsem mipela ol mama I no laikim tumas dispela samtin mas kamap gen long kain taim. Bikos mipela ol mama em trutru mipela karim hevi.



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