

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

**United Nations Development Programme
Solomon Islands**

Enhancing Access to Justice Initiation Plan

January – 31 December 2019



Reporting Period	January – December 2019
Donor	Australian Government
Country	Solomon Islands
Project Title	<i>Access to Justice (A2J) -IP</i>
Project Period	June 2018 – July 31st 2019
Project ID (Atlas Award ID)	00107710
Project ID (Outputs)	00107936
2018+2019 Annual Work Plan Budget	2018 \$139,554 2019 \$462,458
Revenue Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular USD 152,738 • Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Donor USD 449,274 Total USD 602,012
Implementing Partner(s)	UNDP and Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs
Donor	Australian Government
Project Title	<i>Enhancing Access to Justice (A2J) through Paralegalism</i>
Project Period	15th September 2019 - 30th June 2021
Project ID (Atlas Award ID)	00107710
Project ID (Outputs)	00117811
Donor	Government of Australia
2019 AWP Budget	USD \$82,930
Revenue received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular nil • Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Donor USD 1,675,133 Total USD 1,675,133
Implementing Partner(s)	UNDP and Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs
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I. Executive summary

The Access to Justice (A2J) Initiation Plan undertook a comprehensive study on the needs and perceptions of Solomon Islands across all Provinces. Two thousand six hundred participants took place in a Survey. This was complemented with JIMS data, institutional data, key informant interviews and focus groups.

The Report and associated Recommendations contained therein provide a strong evidence base and pathway to reform for the Solomon Islands Government, the donor, development partners and NGOs to develop programmatic interventions in this area, particularly during this crucial review period of the Justice Sector Strategic Framework (2014-2020).

An area of particular concern that has been highlighted from this Study is the work that needs to be done to improve disability inclusion in this Sector. The Study's focus on GBV has also shown that awareness has substantially increased over time even if challenges remain in the implementation and roll out of justice sector remedies to the same.

Despite recruitment delays, election and weather related delay, delivery under the Project was strong with achievement of the key outputs of the Initiation Plan.

II. Background

In support of the Justice Sector Coordination Committee and the Access to Justice Technical Working Group UNDP was requested to support through a Comprehensive Access to Justice Study the justice needs of Solomon Islanders. The Initiation Plan consisted of three mutually enforcing Outputs; the A2J Study of justice perceptions and needs, Secretariat support to the reference group of the Study, the Access to Justice Technical Working Group (A2J TWG) as well as the formulation of a fully-fledged Project Document stemming from the evidence-based findings of the Study.

The Study built on work previously done including a Recommendations Report from Professor David McQuoid-Mason in 2017 and a Justice Sector Mapping Report "*A Mapping of Justice Sector Service Provision in the Solomon Islands*" launched during the Initiation Plan phase as well as existing evidence base consisting of numerous World Bank Reports as well as research undertaken by DFAT, SPC, UN Women and others working in this field.

The focus of the Study was devised by the A2J Technical Working Group to maximize its usefulness for the Solomon Islands Government in its planning, budgeting and future programme priority formulation. Based on these inputs, the A2J Study included population survey of legal knowledge and perceptions as well as justice service delivery needs. This survey took place in all provinces, incorporating 2,600 individual respondents 70% of whom were rurally based. The Study also incorporated qualitative data from focus groups, Justice

Information Management System (JIMS) data, financial and HR data and key informant interviews.

A survey firm, Sustineo, was contracted in November 2019 to undertake the fieldwork components across all provinces of the Solomon Islands. That particular component included multiple data collection elements, including the national level Perceptions Survey implementation, three cost surveys focussed on different target groups (remandees, DV victims, those in land disputes) and a limited number of focus group discussions to validate survey findings. These activities complemented the design and subject matter technical work undertaken by the broader Study team including the Study Team Leader and Costing Expert.

The A2J Study evidence and data generated will assist justice sector stakeholders to better understand justice sector needs and make evidence-based policy decisions. The study will also serve as a baseline for monitoring progress of reforms and improvements to the administration of justice and reach of the formal system. The results of the study will also support the current review of the Justice Sector Strategic Framework 2014-2020, reporting against the Sustainable Development Goals (particularly Goals 5 and 16) and the relevant corresponding goals under the Solomon Islands National Development Strategy. Finally, the results of the Study are informing UNDP programming in this area and will assist SIG, DFAT and other donors to identify their future programming priorities based on the validated Recommendations.

III. Implementation Progress

The *Access to Justice (A2J) for the Solomon Islands Initiation Plan* commenced work on three mutually supporting initiatives from June 2018 onwards:

1. Comprehensive study of the A2J sector including an assessment of needs, analysis of justice sector service delivery and forward-looking policy options;
2. Secretariat support to the A2J Technical Working Group
3. Formulation of UNDP's multi-year A2J Project in close consultation with stakeholders;

1. *Comprehensive study of the A2J sector including an assessment of needs, analysis of justice sector service delivery and forward-looking policy options*

Indicator: National A2J Study available to stakeholders

Target: TWG to meet to Draft Policy Options December 2018

Due to some initial delays, caused by unfortunate personal circumstances of two prospective Team Leaders, the A2J Study Team and complete funding were only in place by October 2018. Fieldwork also experienced moderate delays due to poor weather, the scope of work across all provinces and election related activities and associated security risks.

On 15 May 2019, Findings from the Study were presented to 40+ justice sector stakeholders (see **Annex 4**). These were then prioritized in order of urgency. (see **Annex 3**). The Final Report was completed in July 2019 and now awaiting to be launched by the Solomon Islands Government in late 2019.

As agreed with the Donor, the study aimed to be comprehensive with a focus on those living outside of Honiara and sensitive to issues of gender and disability.

The A2J Study survey component reached 2,633 people, 50.3% men and 49.7% women in all provinces and 30 communities (see **Table 1**). 70% of respondents were in rural communities, 13% in peri-urban, 17% in urban. 29% were between 18-25 years old, 35% between 26-40, 36% were over 41 years old. 42% had a secondary level of education, 34% only primary class, and 8% no school.

Disability

The Study's approach to disability inclusion was informed by consultation with PWDSI, and Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS). This included going through the research ethics process with MHMS (Research Project No. HRE001/19; 21 February 2019).

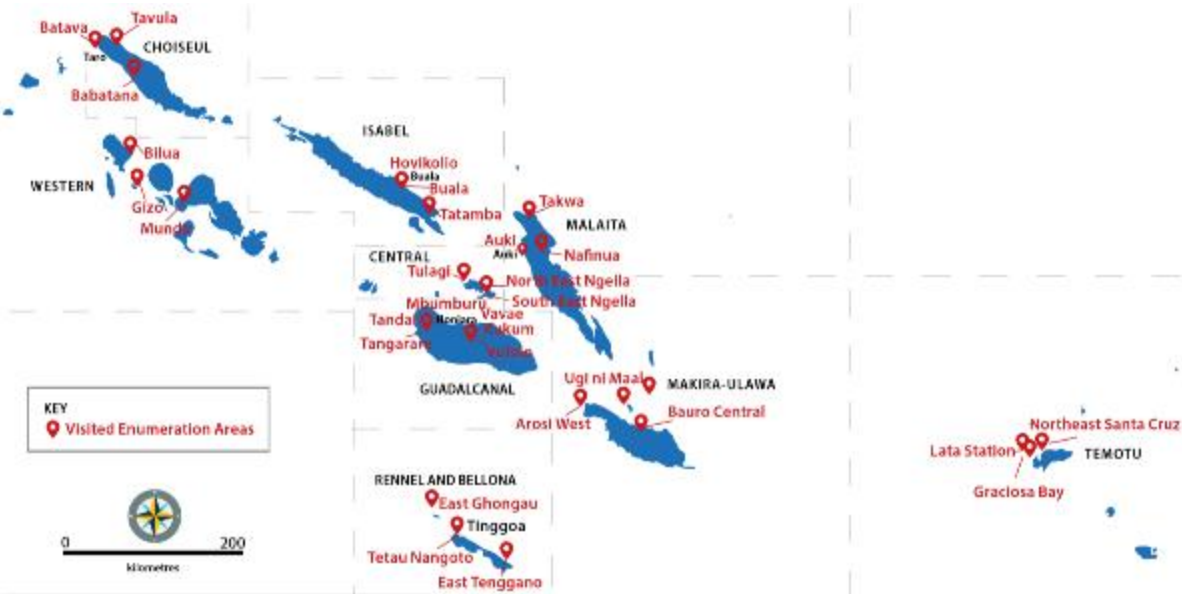
Within the Survey component of the Study, the “Washington Group Short Set of Disability Questions” was used to establish a robust measure of disability. This is considered to be best practice in identifying disability in respondents without using the term disability. The short set asks about six dimensions of disability:

- Sight
- Hearing
- Walking
- Memory or concentration
- Self-care
- Communication.

The overall disability variable was created by following the Washington Group recommendations. All respondents who reported at least “a lot of difficulty” in one of the 6 dimensions of disability were coded as disabled (See Table 6). Overall, this categorised **6.9% of respondents as having a disability.**

Two focus groups were also undertaken with people with disability, identifying qualitative issues that were picked up on in the ultimate A2J Study Recommendations.

Table 1. Survey Coverage



Province	# Interviews	Fieldwork locations
Honiara	249	Kukum
		Vavae
		Mbumburu
Central	423	North East Ngella
		South East Ngella
		Tulagi
Choiseul	229	Batava
		Tavula
		Babatana
Guadalcanal	243	Vulolo
		Tangarare
		Tandai
Isabel	273	Buala
		Tatamba
		Hovikolio
Malaita	261	Auki
		Nafinua
		Takwa
Makira-Ulawa	266	Bauro Central
		Arosi West
		West Bauro
Rennell and Bellona	247	East Tenggano
		Tetau Nangoto
		East Ghongau
Temotu	240	Lata Station
		Northeast Santa Cruz
		Graciosa Bay
Western	202	Gizo
		Bilua
		Nusa Roviana

Gender

The Study mainstreamed gender into its design, implementation and recommendations. (See *Summary Survey Report, Methodology* for more detail) At a design level, it sought to engage with victims of domestic violence, and women's NGOs and look at how women in particular have or

do not have access to justice. On an implementation level of the Study a number of steps were taken to mainstream gender equality. Firstly, quotas in place to ensure representation of women within the survey Training related to gender-sensitive and inclusive approaches to data collection was undertaken to ensure an appropriate and sensitive approach to women. A part of this consisted of having Survey teams that were gender balanced throughout, including at the leadership level. Another strategy that was undertaken was that female interviewers interviewed only female participants, while male interviewers interviewed only male participants.

2. Secretariat Support to A2J Technical Working Group

Indicator: Number of Meetings Held

Target: Four meetings held over IP

The Technical Working group has been an exemplar of the importance and utmost merit of national ownership in development work in this area.

The Group met regularly, seven times at the time of writing. It has provided direction and feedback including on the Draft Survey instruments. Further, thanks to the effectiveness of this grouping spearheaded by the PS MJLA, the government lent two of its officers (one from PSO, one from LRC) to assist in the study providing invaluable support and insights to the Study. While coverage of the Sector was not complete (e.g. Magistrates' Court refused to take part in the Study), the TWG served its purpose as reference group for the Study and associated future programming.

The A2J TWG also provided input as to the direction of the fully-fledged Project Document, including its endorsement for implementation.

3. Formulation of multi-year A2J project in close consultation with stakeholders

Indicator: Project Designed

Target: TWG reviews Draft ProDoc by December 2018

Due to the aforementioned delays, this has had flow on effects as to the timing of a fully fledged Project Document. A costed paralegals concept note was shared with donors in March 2019. The Fully Fledged Project has been designed and was informed by the Results and recommendations of the Study and SIG's priorities.

The Project: *Enhancing Access to Justice in Solomon Islands Through Paralegalism*

The project document was presented to the LPAC Committee in July 2019 and it received endorsement for implementation.

The cost sharing agreement for the Enhancing Access to Justice in Solomon Islands Project was signed between UNDP and DFAT in September 2019. Similarly, the ProDoc was signed between UNDP and the Government (Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs and Public Solicitor's Office) in October 2019.

The recruitment of the project team, mostly national staff (Deputy Project Manager, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer) was completed in 2019, but will come on board in early January 2020. Similarly, the Access to Justice Inclusion Officer (UNV) was recruited and was on board since the third quarter of 2019. The recruitment of the International Project Manager was delayed and is most likely to be finalized in early 2020.

The project inception workshop was held on 28th November 2019. The objective of the inception workshop was to enhance coordination across the Justice Sector for A2J projects by strengthening partnerships and identifying collaboration with existing programs implemented by other stakeholder partners and to enhance the knowledge and understanding of the participants in relation to the strategy behind the Paralegals Project

IV. Project Risks and Issues

a. Updated project risks and actions

Project Risk 1: Government data is not forthcoming

Actions taken:

UNDP closely monitored performance and implementation and provided support and political intervention as required to address bottlenecks. A number of delays were experienced. One major source of delay was due to poor record keeping in justice agencies. This necessitated a much more interventionist approach. Data collection was supported with the political backing of PS of MJLA and through the Government Officers from PSO and LRC respectively. The Permanent Secretary, supported by UNDP ensured government ownership of the whole process. She sent a number of letters (and made numerous personal phone calls) to Agencies to facilitate data sharing. The Programme Management Specialist worked closely with all Ministries to facilitate the sourcing of relevant data. TWG Members were integral in this process. While not all data was forthcoming, a critical mass was assembled from a variety of governmental, development partner non-government sources enabling a quality analysis to be written. The Technical Working Group was a useful body in mitigating this risk and providing direction and support.

Project Risk 2: Elections and poor weather delay research teams' work in Provinces

Actions taken:

Another source of delay was due to election related activities and poor weather leading to postponement of some field work. Poor weather and delay around elections were calculated into timelines and planning. UNDP monitored through external and internal channels the timing of elections and possible trouble areas in the Provinces that would need to be approach with extra caution. Three separate teams were mobilized simultaneously to ensure a flexible (and changeable) approach that took into account the Solomon Islands' notorious weather and transport to and within the Provinces. No work was planned to be carried out in close proximity to elections. Post-election rioting was however, not an expected outcome. This occurred during data collection in Honiara. Teams were instead sent out to work in other non-affected Provinces to ensure that timelines were as much as possible maintained.

Project Risk 3: JIMS Data is unavailable or incomplete

Actions taken:

The Project Team had a number of initial meetings with JIMS technical managers to scope the level and accuracy of data available through JIMS. Based on that approach a single JIMS request was formulated. Data not available from JIMS was triangulated through Agency and other sources. Solomon Islands Justice Program JIMS Officer Heinz Matti supported in generating relevant data based on permissions sought and gained through the political support of MJLA PS Ethel Sigimanu. DFAT also assisted in gaining buy-in in those institutions where it has Adviser presence (e.g. RSIPF, CSSI).

Project Risk 4: The political, weather and logistical situation on the ground may lead to a different methodology/approach having to be adopted

Actions taken

While the methodology of the Perceptions Survey was more or less implemented without major changes, the costs survey component required some tweaking. The methodology proposed by the Costing Expert assumed a high level of buy-in from partner institutions in sourcing respondents. While some institutions did have a high level of buy-in, others did not. In the case of those institutions that did not, snowballing through existing networks and NGOs was used to ensure sufficient numbers of respondents were sourced.

b. Updated project issues and actions

Project Issue 1: Retirement of key champion of the Project, PS Ethel Sigimanu

Actions taken:

The Project Document has been endorsed by the LPAC Committee which is also the TWG. The signing of the project document was delayed due to the retirement of the key champion of the Project and a subsequent delay in recruitment of the successor. UNDP will ensure the partnership continues and briefing Meetings have already been undertaken with the new Minister.

Project Issue 2: Study Report not seen as a SIG document

Actions taken:

UNDP has already undertaken the Validation pathway as agreed by the TWG. This has included the development of a Pamphlet to highlight important findings and a Priority Action Plan that is readily accessible to SIG decision makers. The report was submitted for Cabinet deliberation and was approved in November 2019.

V. Lessons Learned

Key Project successes and factors that supported these successes

- **A substantial, timely and rigorous dataset has been made available to the Justice Sector**
- The formation and maintenance of an active and engaged **Access to Justice Technical Working Group** was an essential ingredient to the success of the Study. This was supported by the Government Officers lent from PSO and Law Reform Commission to assist with the Study.
- **Strong leadership and political will** is an essential prerequisite for such as study. PS MJLA Ms Ethel Sigimanu was the driving force behind the study from initiation all the way to formulating programming based on the findings.
- **All provinces of Solomon Islands were surveyed.** This was due to the willingness of the donor and UNDP to invest significant resources in ensuring provincial coverage.
- **Disability Inclusion** was mainstreamed into the Study methodology.
During the project inception phase, UNDP engaged with PWDSI and MHMS to identify an approach to disability inclusion that was appropriate and practical to the Solomon Islands context for survey-based work
- **Use of PDLP Students as Enumerators**
As part of practical legal training PDLP Students must undertake practical work with a legal workplace. The opportunity for a number of these students to work as Enumerators helped to foster a deeper understanding of access to justice issues among law students. Further, it helped to emphasize the service aspect of a career in law, particularly the service of remote communities.

Key Difficulties encountered and measures taken to overcome these difficulties

- **Difficult timelines**
The Initiation Plan signed in May 2018 envisioned a large scale Study to be designed in conjunction with stakeholders, implemented and for reporting to be undertaken all within a number of months. Even with the strong institutional support provided by some parts of the Solomon Islands Government, to complete a Study of this size to a quality standard within 9 months including the Christmas shutdown and an election was overambitious. This was particularly so given that funding and human resourcing were not finalized until October 2019.

It is common for projects to take time to recruit and finalize initiation arrangements and this should be built into planning and design of new projects or at least be mitigated for in some way. Future work in this space should ensure that projects

are designed to realistically align with seasonable realities of undertaking remote work in the Solomon Islands and other nationally significant events in the country. For large scale projects such as this, which emphasized visiting remote communities, timelines should be designed to reflect the realities of undertaking such work in locations. This is particularly in reference to work planned for the cyclone season and the impact of bad weather on already sometimes limited transport options.

- **Disability Inclusion Implementation**

While in practice the constrained timelines and delays in finalising the disability inclusion process meant that it was not implemented as effectively as it could have been. UNDP will build upon this experience, and the approaches developed and submitted as part of the ethics application to the Ministry of Health and Medical Services and approval process, in future projects. This will be important to ensure that this typically marginalized and vulnerable social group is not excluded from the important work that UNDP and other development partners commission. As part of this process, it will be important that UNDP projects are structured and planned to allow disability inclusion to be embedded within their design. This includes time to go through the relevant MHMS processes to gain access to the supporting CBR Officers. To this end and based upon the challenges faced by people with disability in accessing justice, UNDP is in the process of recruiting a Access to Justice Disability Inclusion Support Officer

- **Partial Buy-In by some parts of Solomon Islands Government**

While overall government buy-in was positive as was leadership from within government, an unexpected result of this strong buy-in was active resistance by some in the Solomon Islands Government to engage in a process that was spearheaded by one particular Ministry. The Magistracy actively thwarted the carrying out of the Survey. Similar difficulties were also experienced with the National Statistics Office. While data and qualitative analysis of issues was eventually sourced through other channels, future work involving surveys should seek to harness relationships with the National Statistics Office and the Magistracy independent of intra-government issues.

Recommendations to improve future programming

UNDP and other development partners should consider liaising with MHMS personnel to establish a standard working arrangement (or MOU) to facilitate collaboration with MHMS personnel and CBR officers. Working through the CBR officers was identified as a core requirement by Solomon Islands institutions for undertaking a disability inclusive approach. A limitation of facilitating this is that gaining

such approval requires ethics approval and the Solomon Islands Health Research and Ethics Review Board only sits four times a year (and sometimes less), every three months.

Where possible the National Statistics Office should be better incorporated into design of any survey work.

VI. Conclusions and Way Forward

The Access to Justice Study undertaken by UNDP and supported by the Government of Australia provides a viable programmatic pathway and evidence base for future programming in the Justice Sector. Further, it presents an invaluable baseline for the upcoming Justice Sector Strategic Framework (2014-2020) review to be undertaken in Q2 2019 and future programming undertaken by a number of partners across the Justice Sector.

The results of the Report have been validated through a validation workshop with stakeholders and formulated into Recommendations (**See Study Report p 47**). A Priority Action Plan has been formulated by SIG and presented to Cabinet. Further, the Enhancing Access to Justice in Solomon Islands Project was signed by UNDP and the partners in Q3 2019 and will be fully implementation in 2020.



Posted on May 10, 2023

New Study Shines Light on Justice Sector



Government and society representatives discuss recent study findings at a consultation workshop in Lautoka on 13 May 2023. (Photo: UNODC/Meleisea Story)



VII. Annexes

Annex 1: Financial Status¹

United Nations Development Programme
Interim Financial Report to the Australian DFAT
As of 5 August 2019



Contributions reference no.
Country: Fiji
Project description: Access to Justice Initiation plan
Project: 00107710
Output description: AJI Initiation Plan
Output: 00107936
Output status: On Going
Fund: Programme Cost Sharing

(in United States dollars)

	Prior years (1)	2019 (2)	Cumulative to 2019 (3)
Income/Revenue			
Contributions ^a	348,944.99	99,668.58	448,613.57
Other Revenue ^b	-	-	-
Transfer to/from other funds	-	-	-
Refunds to donors	-	-	-
Total - Income/Revenue	348,944.99	99,668.58	448,613.57
Expenses			
Staff and other personnel costs	18,921.42	11,166.60	30,088.02
Supplies, commodities, materials	-	-	-
Equipment, vehicle and furniture including depreciation	2,254.50	-	2,254.50
Contractual services	93,120.85	256,739.50	349,860.35
Travel	1,741.50	-	1,741.50
Transfers and grants to counterparts	-	-	-
General operating and other direct costs	6,807.77	9,079.89	15,887.66
Subtotal	122,846.04	276,985.99	399,832.03
Programme support costs ^c	9,827.21	19,578.26	29,405.47
Total Expenses	132,673.25	296,564.25	429,237.50
Balance^d	216,271.74	19,376.07	19,376.07
Future Expenses^e			
Balance of un-depreciated assets & inventory purchased	-	-	-
Commitments	52,800.00	15,600.00	15,600.00
Subtotal	52,800.00	15,600.00	15,600.00
Receivable^f			
Less: Contributions receivable from donors	-	-	-
Available Resources^f	163,471.74	3,776.07	3,776.07

- a. Contributions represent recognized revenue from donors based on the payment schedule in signed agreements.
b. Other Revenue represents revenue resulting from miscellaneous activities.
c. Programme support (indirect) cost is calculated based on the expenses excluding amounts of foreign exchange gain/loss.
d. Balance in column (2) is inclusive of balance in column (1).
e. Future expenses and Receivable - amounts in column (2) are the balances outstanding as of the report date which are included in the available resources. Amounts in column (1) are shown for information purpose only.
f. Available resources - balance after future expenses, and contributions receivable from donors (i.e. amounts past due) have been accounted for.

This is to certify that the above statement of revenue, expenses and available resources is correct and that the expenses were incurred in connection with the approved projects for which funds have been received.

Name:
Title:

(Date)

¹ Disclaimer: Data contained in this financial report section is an extract of UNDP financial records. All financial provided above is provisional.

Disclaimer: UNDP adopted IPSAS (International Public Sector Accounting Standards) on 1 January 2012, cumulative totals that include data prior to that date are presented for illustration only.

Annex 2: Study Pamphlet



ACCESS TO JUSTICE STUDY REPORT SUMMARY

United Nations Development Programme

THE STUDY

The Solomon Islands Access to Justice Study aimed to "better understand the existing justice needs of the people of the Solomon Islands, challenges and issues that affect their access to services and the resources, systems and institutional setups that are needed to meet people's demands".

It was conceived and implemented through the Access to Justice Technical Working Group. It covered all provinces and included more than 3,000 people, mainly in rural communities. Justice Sector Agencies and NGOs shared their wealth of experience and data.

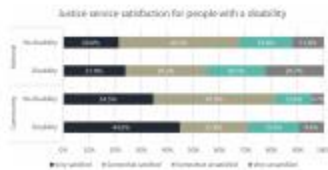


That was so despite the identified cost and accessibility barriers of reporting to the police and other formal justice sector providers. Men, on the other hand, showed a greater reliance on village chiefs in resolving all forms of disputes.

	Men	Women	Total
Police	34.4%	25.8%	36.4%
Village Chief	27%	22.9%	21.4%
Family	18.6%	23.8%	18.6%
Other Justice	8.2%	10.9%	10.9%

Inaccessibility for People with Disability

Solomon Islanders with a disability continue to face significant challenges in accessing justice both in formal and traditional systems. They also were twice as likely than other Solomon Islanders to believe that justice services had worsened in the past two years.



THE FINDINGS

Detailed findings and recommendations are contained in the full report and summarized on the reverse page. Three areas are highlighted for your humble consideration.

Gendered Access to Justice

Solomon Islands women reported a preference to use the formal justice system as their first point of help. That was so if they or their family faced domestic violence, crime or land rights issues.

The Cost of (In)Justice

Providing justice to a dispersed population proves a costly endeavour for Government. The study estimates that it costs Government SBD\$156,000 per prisoner per year to run the correctional facilities. This remains a concern as remandee numbers are at historical highs.

There are also significant costs involved for those who are seeking access to the justice system and not dissuaded altogether. The study found that the average cost of the hundreds of disputes surveyed was SBD\$18,637, with significant financial costs incurred in land disputes and substantial social, health and opportunity costs incurred on survivors of domestic violence.

Response option	No.	Average	Average (SD)	Max.
Family member/kin support	55	984	1,428	10,000
Land disputes	46	21,222	30,102	100,000
Domestic violence	14	474	989	3,000
Police/PPV	33	1,336	1,590	20,000

THE RECOMMENDATIONS

Develop a **decentralized administration justice services model** using provincial and local institutions and resources. It should be flexible enough to allow provinces input in locally appropriate design.

Reform the structure and operations of the **Local Courts** to make them more local, relevant and cost-effective.

A more **comprehensive approach to land disputes** that goes beyond judicial mechanisms.

Regular **case file analysis** by Courts, DPP and ODP to identify issues that lead to delay and adjournment requests. This should include the systemic collection of **JIMS data on adjournments**.

Reforms to courts to **address backlogs** by regulating adjournment, requiring inter alia continuous trials, pre-trial settlement and mandatory mediation.

Reform the **relationship between Police Prosecutors and the DPP** to increase coordination, capacity and efficiency.

Sustain the **reinvigorated Magistrates' court circuits**.

Expand **PSO provincial presence** and implement a tiered program of provincial and community **paralegals** to increase workforce, legal information and access.

Develop a **Legal Information and Outreach Justice Sector Plan**, including a referral network linked to existing initiatives, such as the Safelife expansion, the provincial CGGM, Authorized Justices and community policing initiatives.

Expand **police presence** into communities, building on the Crime Prevention Committee model.

18 July 2019 For more info visit: www.pacific.undp.org



Annex 3: Priority Action Plan

INFORMATION & OUTREACH

A consolidated legal information and referral network, including an expanded network for information on rights and resources under the FPA. Messaging and roll out should be coordinated to achieve greatest reach and effect.

TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES/LOCAL COURT REFORMS/LAND

There is a high level of use and trust in traditional authorities. Nevertheless, it is important to improve connections between formal and informal systems and support chiefly institutions to function more consistently, effectively and accountably.



DECENTRALIZATION OF JUSTICE SERVICES

Citizen-facing justice services should be rolled out into the Provinces with services provided more closely matching population distributions. Paralegalism offers one possibility to expand institutional presence in a cost-effective way.

DISABILITY INCLUSION

People with disability have a far lower level of satisfaction with the justice sector than any other group in Solomon Islands. Numerous outreach efforts could have been more successful. Additional research and programming should be undertaken to identify practical accommodations that can be taken to make service provision for people with disabilities more accessible and appropriate.

Annex 4: Validation Process

ACCESS TO JUSTICE STUDY

PRIORITIZATION ACTIVITY METHODOLOGY

Approximately 40 members of the Solomon Islands Justice Sector met on 15 May 2019 at Mendana Hotel. This included core agencies (RSIPF, CSSI, PSO, DPP, ODPP, MPNSCS, MJLA, Local Court, Law Reform), service providers, NGOs and Development Partners.

Mr Tiernan Mennen, UNDP A2J Study Team Leader presented the Initial Findings of the Study and tasked the Workshop with prioritizing and critiquing Ten Draft Recommendations. (Annex 1). The exercise revealed a high level of sophisticated engagement with the issues and a number of concrete ideas. The breakdown by Group can be found in Annex 2.

The Workshop strongly supported the development of an expanded and consolidated **legal information and referral network**, including expanded network for information on rights and resources under the FPA and referrals of GBV cases.

There was strong support for **expansion of citizen-facing justice services** to have a significant presence outside of Honiara. **Decentralization** of Justice services outside of Honiara was widely supported.

There was also strong support to make the most of local **traditional institutions** given their high level of trust noting that it will be essential important to formalize **connections** between formal and informal systems and the need for additional support to chiefly institutions.

Land continues to be a source of conflict and instability and permeates all problematic aspects of governance.

There has been significant investment and progress in awareness around GBV. There has been a significant shift in attitudes in the last decade but much remains to be done.

People with disability have a far lower level of satisfaction with the justice sector. There have been numerous outreach efforts that have not been as effective as they could have been. A number of egregious cases of forced adoptions of the children of people with disabilities were identified.

Warnings were also given noting that in the Solomon Islands “one size does not fit all”. Further coordination (and not duplication) with existing programmes will be crucial for any programme in this area.

PRIORITIZATION EXERCISE

DRAFT RESULTS

	Summary	Programmatic Ideas
Information and Outreach	The Workshop strongly supported the development of an expanded and consolidated legal information and referral network, including expanded network for information on rights and resources under the FPA and referrals of GBV cases.	<p><i>“Paralegal support is a good idea to support access to lawyers and legal information”</i></p> <p><i>“In the PSO there needs to be a Unit dealing with Community Information, Education and Awareness”</i></p> <p><i>“Educate people on their rights and legal services. Legal clinics and law weeks”</i></p>
PSO Expansion into Provinces/Decentralization of Services	There was strong support for expansion of citizen-facing justice services to have an expanded presence outside of Honiara. This will also require commensurate increase/decentralization of Justice services outside of Honiara	<p><i>Service provision based on population and need</i></p> <p><i>Rethinking of circuits model of justice</i></p> <p><i>Community paralegals</i></p>
Traditional Authorities/Local Court Reforms/Land	There was strong support to make the most of local traditional institutions which have a high level of trust. It is important to formalize connections between formal and informal and support chiefly institutions to function more effectively.	<p><i>“Guidelines and training for chiefs on their responsibilities, linkages to formal systems”</i></p> <p><i>Reform (and/or reinvigorate) Local Courts to make them more cost effective, evenly spread and effective</i></p> <p><i>Fund a programme of recording of customary land</i></p> <p><i>A more comprehensive approach to land disputes that goes beyond judicial mechanisms.</i></p>

	Land continues to be a source of conflict and instability and permeates all problematic aspects of governance.	
GBV	There has been significant investment and progress in awareness around GBV. There has been a significant shift in attitudes in the last decade.	<p><i>“There should be One-Stop Shops for victims of family violence in all provincial centres”</i></p> <p><i>“Include FPA into school curriculum”</i></p>
Inclusion	People with disability have a far lower level of satisfaction with the justice sector. There have been numerous outreach efforts that have not been as effective as they could have been. A number of egregious cases of forced adoptions of the children of people with disabilities were identified.	<p><i>“A Youth Caucus on Access to Justice”</i></p> <p>Disability Adoption Guidelines/Processes</p> <p>MoU/Guidelines on including PWD in research</p>
Misc	<p>“One size does not fit all”</p> <p>“Technical Working Group to consider all current initiatives and proposals”</p>	

