

people's survey 2010

summary

ANU Enterprise



People's Survey 2010 - Summary
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Cover photo:

Wilson Fationo (centre), a community leader from Solomon Islands' Western Province, shares his views during a RAMSI 'Wakabaot TokTok' meeting in December 2010. (Tom Perry, RAMSI Public Affairs)

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Finally, we wish to thank the 4,939 respondents in the communities and the focus group participants who generously gave up their time to express their views on these important community concerns.

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summary

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6

provinces (plus Honiara)

64

focus group discussions

66

interviewers

4939

questionnaires

‘The 2010 Solomon Islands Government-RAMSI People’s Survey is the fourth national survey of perceptions of economic conditions, machinery of government and law and order in Solomon Islands.’

12%

had asked the RSIPF for help in the previous year

31%

expected services to improve in the next two years

66%

said their main source of income was selling at markets

84%

support the presence of RAMSI in Solomon Islands

85%

said there should be women in Parliament

overview



Photo: Melina Mancuso

The *2010 Solomon Islands Government-RAMSI People's Survey* is the fourth national survey of perceptions of economic conditions, machinery of government and law and order in Solomon Islands. It was commissioned by the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) and RAMSI and carried out by an independent consultancy firm, ANU Enterprise.

The purpose of the *People's Survey* is to collect quantitative and qualitative monitoring data for SIG and RAMSI. Fieldworkers were all Solomon Islanders who were trained to ask questions in Solomon Islands Pijin without influencing respondents' answers in any way. The Survey covers a broad range of areas, with areas of RAMSI support covered from Section F onwards.

In 2010, the National Statistics Office drew a new representative sample of the Solomon Islands population based on the 2009 census.

A total of 4939 respondents from Central Province, Guadalcanal, Honiara, Honiara Settlements, Makira, Malaita, Rennell Bellona and Western Province were interviewed with questionnaires. They comprised approximately equal numbers of respondents from four age/gender groups: Men and Women (aged 30 and over) and Young Men and Young Women (aged 18-29 years).

The 2010 questionnaire comprised 81 questions about 10 topics:

- Section A: Background information
- Section B: Access to services and information
- Section C: Household and business finances
- Section D: Safety
- Section E: Most significant change
- Section F: RAMSI
- Section G: Leadership
- Section H: Accountability
- Section I: Experience of 2010 election
- Section J: Dispute resolution

In addition, around 380 people participated in focus group discussions in Malaita, Guadalcanal and Honiara Settlements. Focus group discussions were also conducted with representatives of civil society and donors, while public servants sent written responses.

The topics discussed in focus groups were:

- safety
- livelihoods
- work opportunities
- land disputes
- elections
- governance
- the law court system

‘The complete *Solomon Islands Government-RAMSI People’s Survey 2010* report can be found online at **www.ramsi.org**’

This report is a brief summary of the key findings. The detailed analysis from which this summary is drawn can be found online at **www.ramsi.org**. It includes detailed tables analysing the questionnaire data by province and age/gender group, graphs of key findings and, where possible, comparisons with previous *People’s Surveys* and the key points made in the focus groups.

Readers are reminded that while the percentages based on the questionnaire data can be considered as representative of the Solomon Islands as a whole, province and age/gender groups, the focus group comments are not intended to be statistically representative. Focus group discussions represent only a selection of opinions and comments from randomly selected people, and serve primarily as a way of providing further context and insight into quantitative survey data.

key findings



Living conditions and education

- Fifty-seven per cent of walls and 58% of roofs of respondents' homes were constructed from traditional materials. Modern materials were most common in Rennell Bellona, Honiara and Honiara Settlements (all around 80% or more).
- Nine per cent of respondents in Honiara Settlements lived in homes constructed from temporary materials.
- Ten per cent of respondents had no primary school education, 14% had from one to four years, and 76%, had five years or more. Fifty-four per cent of respondents had no secondary education, 31% had 1-4 years and 15% had 5 years or more.
- Only 10% of all respondents had post-secondary education. At all levels there were greater differences between older Men and Women than between Young Men and Young Women.
- The average years of education was 6.9 years (7.1 years for Men, 5.1 for Women, 8.0 for Young Men and 7.5 for Young Women).
- Eighty-five per cent of respondents said they could reach a primary school within an hour, and 14% in one or two hours. This compares with 83% in 2009. Respondents in Guadalcanal (27%) and Malaita (21%) were most likely to have long journeys to their nearest primary school.
- Twenty-seven per cent of respondents with children at school said the teacher attends 'every day', 26% said 'most days'. 31% per cent said 'some days' and 5% said not often. Respondents in Makira (11%) and Guadalcanal (8%) were most likely to say 'not often'.
- Sixty-two per cent of respondents said their most common outings were visits to family, wantoks and friends, 51% said visits to markets, 30% said gardening, fishing or hunting and 30% said shops outside their community.
- Thirty-nine per cent of respondents said they were engaged in some kind of business. Makira had the highest percentage (46%) followed by Guadalcanal (45%), Honiara Settlements (43%) and Honiara (41%). Women were a little more likely to engage in business than Men.

Access to services

- Sixty-seven per cent of respondents had a health facility in their community or could reach one within an hour, 32% could reach one in 1-2 hours, and less than 2% needed half a day to reach a health facility.
- Seventy-two per cent of respondents had visited a health facility in the preceding year.
- Fifty-three per cent of respondents who had visited a health centre in the preceding year said medical staff had the skills to help them, 40% said 'sometimes' and 6% said 'no'.
- Sixty-five per cent of those engaging in business used transport. Road transport was more common in urban areas (66%) than in rural areas while small boat transport was more common in rural areas (48%) than urban areas (33%).
- The most common use of transport in business activities was to take goods to market (52%), to receive equipment (33%) and to receive supplies (22%).

‘Sixty-six per cent of respondents said their main source of money was selling at markets.’

- Twenty-nine per cent of respondents who used transport in business said the transport system met their needs very well, 34% said ‘quite well’ and 29% said ‘not well’.
- Fifty-seven per cent of rural respondents and 47% of urban respondents said good public transport would improve the transport system, and 56% and 57% respectively recommended better roads or new roads (24% of rural respondents and 17% of urban respondents).
- Focus group participants reported that they could only access banks and postal services in the largest regional centres. They regretted that rural banking services were not operating at the time of the Survey. Most focus group participants did not have access to bank accounts and although some had good reports of savings clubs, some had experience of failed savings clubs.

Access to computers

- Seventy-two per cent of respondents had no access to a computer (84% in rural areas and 31% in urban areas). Internet cafés provided most access (9% followed by ‘public place in my community’ (8%).
- Twelve per cent of urban respondents said they had access to a computer at their own house, and 5% of urban residents were able to access a computer at work.
- Forty-eight per cent of computer users said their connection to the internet was always reliable, 20% said it was mostly reliable, 17% said there was no connection and 14% didn’t know.
- Seven per cent of all surveyed respondents said

they had a good knowledge of how to use the internet, 8% said they had some knowledge and 77% said they did not know how to use the internet. Men were most likely to have a good or some knowledge (19%) and Women least likely (9%).

- Public servants said computer technology, mobile phones and the internet have all made work faster, easier and more effective, but has reduced face-to-face communication and many officers abuse their access to the internet. Despite extensive use of computers in the Public Service, procedures are still said to be slow and complex, particularly recruitment, payroll, allowances, transfers and housing.

Access to clean water

- Fifty-three per cent of respondents used surface water from rivers, streams and springs as their main source of clean water (59% in rural areas and 34% in urban areas). Forty-three percent of urban respondents and 5% in rural areas used a community tap or standpipe, and 52% of rural respondents and 10% of urban respondents used a protected well.
- Less than 50% of all respondents had clean water available every day. The main reason why the clean water supply was unreliable was inadequate source (49%), followed by equipment problems (23%) and storage problems (10%). These results were supported by comments from focus group participants.

‘Thirty-one per cent of all respondents said their community was ‘safe and peaceful’ in 2010, the same as in 2009’.

Household and business finances

- Sixty-six per cent of respondents said their main source of money was selling at markets. Thirty-two per cent of rural respondents and 28% of male respondents earned their main income from production of cocoa, copra, or other agricultural commodities. Paid work was mentioned by 31% in urban areas but only 12% in rural areas, and by more than twice as many males as females.
- Focus group participants reported a wide range of informal economic activities but a shortage of formal employment. They said the problems associated with obtaining formal employment in Honiara included low pay, long hours, preferential allocation of jobs to *wantoks* and the high cost of housing and accommodation. Focus groups recommended that government should help to provide more formal employment opportunities and training programs.
- Nineteen per cent said their family’s financial situation was ‘no problem’, 55% said ‘a little hard’ and 27% said ‘very hard’. All focus group participants, including public servants, donors and civil society representatives, were concerned by problems of rising prices and growing poverty. Some also mentioned inflation, the declining value of the Solomon Islands dollar and the difficulty of paying for education.
- Fifty-two per cent of respondents thought the best way to increase their income was ‘sell more at the market’, followed by ‘start my own business’ (35%) and ‘get a new job’ (16% in urban areas, but only 7% in rural areas).
- Male respondents were more likely to say ‘start my own business’ (42%, compared with 28% for females) and ‘get a new job’ (12%, compared with 6% for females).
- When asked to name the three main ways they spend their income, 92% of respondents mentioned food, 36% mentioned fuel for lighting and electricity, 34% mentioned transport and 33% mentioned school-related expenses.
- Thirty-seven per cent of respondents said that the man or husband in the household makes spending decisions, 22% said the woman or wife makes spending decisions, and 36% said they were made jointly by men and women. Joint decisions were most common in Honiara Settlements (48%), followed by Honiara and Malaita (both 40%).

Safety

- Thirty-one per cent of all respondents said their community was ‘safe and peaceful’ (31% in 2009), 54% said there were sometimes problems (53% in 2009) while 12% said there were many problems (14% in 2009).
- Focus group participants in communities generally believed that serious crime has decreased, but *kwaso* brewing, drunkenness, petty theft and social disturbances have increased.
- Sixty-one per cent of all respondents said they always feel safe in their community, 35% said they feel safe sometimes and 4% said they hardly ever feel safe. Sixty-one per cent of Men said they always feel safe,

‘Thirty-eight per cent said the RSIPF treats people fairly and with respect, a seven per cent increase from 2009.’

while Women were least likely to always feel safe (49%). There was not much difference between Young Men and Young Women (69% and 66%).

- Fifty-four per cent of respondents said they feel safer during the day than at night, while 43% said there was no difference.
- Eight-five per cent of all respondents said they always felt safe in their household while 13% said sometimes and 1% said ‘hardly ever’.
- Of respondents who sometimes visit Honiara, 23% said they always felt safe there while 50% said ‘sometimes’ and 28% said they ‘hardly ever’ felt safe in Honiara.
- Most focus group participants said they feel safe within their communities, but less safe moving around outside their communities, preferring to travel in groups. They wanted more local police posts established near their communities and Young Men wanted law and order officials to work with communities.
- The main social problems reported was drunkenness especially by young men, but some Young Men from rural Malaita said strict elders in their village prevented social problems. Also mentioned were theft and civil disturbances. Most problems were said to be associated with youth unemployment and poor education.

Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF)

- Twelve per cent of respondents had asked the RSIPF for help in the preceding year. Most likely were Men (16%) and respondents in Honiara Settlements (26%), and least likely were Young Women (9%) and respondents in Guadalcanal (7%).
- Fifty-five per cent of those who had sought help were satisfied with the help received. Respondents in Malaita were most likely to be satisfied (67%) and younger age groups more than the older age groups.
- Thirty-eight per cent of all respondents said the RSIPF treats people fairly and with respect (31% in 2009), and a further 35% said ‘sometimes’ (32% in 2009). Respondents in Malaita were most likely to say ‘yes’ (52%), and those in Honiara Settlements most likely to say ‘sometimes’ (44%).
- Forty per cent of all respondents said they had trust and confidence in the RSIPF, 26% said ‘sometimes’ and 28% said ‘no’. Most likely to say ‘yes’ were respondents in Malaita (51%) while Men were more likely than other age/gender groups to say they did not have trust and confidence in the RSIPF (31%).
- Some focus group participants said they have renewed trust and confidence in the RSIPF, but the majority of people in all groups said that the RSIPF does not respond to calls for assistance. Most groups reported no improvement in local police services to communities in recent years.

‘Eighty-four per cent said they support RAMSI.’

Most significant change

- Fifty-six per cent of respondents said there had been no change in their lives in the past year and 23% mentioned personal factors, such as a births, deaths and marriages. Family problems were mentioned by 4% and new appliances/improved living standard and business improvements by 3%.
- Seventy per cent of those who reported a change said it had improved their lives, while 28% said it had made their lives worse.
- Fifty-two per cent of respondents said there had been no change in their community, 13% mentioned a positive social or law and order development, 7% mentioned negative social developments and 6% mentioned improved facilities.
- Sixty-four per cent of those who reported a change in their community said it had made the community ‘better’ and 33% said ‘worse’.
- Seventy-three per cent of respondents said they always trust and have confidence in RAMSI military, 9% said ‘sometimes’, 13% said they do not and 6% did not know. In Central, Guadalcanal, Rennell Bellona and Western more than 80% said they always trust and have confidence, and between 60-66% in other provinces.
- Fifty per cent of respondents thought there would be a return to *the Tensions* if RAMSI military left now, 23% said ‘law and order would break down’, 14% said things would stay the same. Those in Honiara Settlements (27%), Honiara (25%) and Malaita (21%) were most likely to say ‘things would stay the same’.
- Some focus group participants in communities outside Honiara, especially women, said thought the main obstacle preventing trust of the military was the presence of guns. Generally, participants in communities were more prepared to have trust and confidence in the RAMSI police than the military.
- Some public servants said that the relationship between their department and RAMSI works well, but community groups had little knowledge of the role of RAMSI advisers in the Public Service.

Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI)

- Eighty-four per cent of respondents said they support RAMSI (88% in 2009), 10% said ‘no’(5% in 2009 and 6% said ‘don’t know’ (7% in 2009).
- Forty-nine per cent of respondents believed that law and order would break down if RAMSI left now, and 29% said *the Tensions* would return.
- Seventy-six per cent of respondents supported the presence of RAMSI military, 16% did not and 8% did not know. Support was highest in Guadalcanal (91%) and least in Honiara and Honiara Settlements (25% and 24%).

Leadership

- Eighty-four per cent of respondents said women make good leaders and 12% said they do not. Most likely to say ‘yes’ were respondents in Western (93%) and Honiara Settlements (90%). Most likely to say ‘no’ were respondents in Malaita (19%).
- The main reason given as to why women make good leaders was ‘women have an honest way of doing

‘Misuse of power and corruption were considered by most focus groups to be widespread in the Solomon Islands.’

things’ (66%), followed by ‘stronger focus on education, health and/or family’ (40% overall), and ‘good communicators’ (36%) and ‘more inclusive decision makers’ (21%).

- Forty-one per cent of respondents said they trusted their Member of Parliament (MP), 13% said ‘sometimes’. 32% said they did not trust their MP.
- Twelve per cent of respondents said their MP had visited their community ‘more than once’ in the past year, 16% said ‘once’, and 60% said the MP had not visited in the past year.
- Eighty-six per cent of respondents thought records of MPs’ expenditure should be made public. The main suggestions as to how this should be done were ‘an annual report to the community’ (62%) and ‘visits and talks’ (28%).
- Most focus group participants in communities outside Honiara thought that Provincial Governments were not highly respected. Some were critical of the low skills of public servants, but recognised the problems of low pay and poor conditions. They suggested a ‘bottom-up’ approach to local development in rural communities with more extension services to serve the people of rural areas.
- Eighty-five per cent of respondents said there should be women in Parliament and 11% said ‘no’. Most likely to ‘no’ were respondents in Rennell Bellona (19%) and in Malaita (18%), Men (18%) and Young Men (15%).
- Representatives of civil society and donors pointed out that no women were elected in 2010 and were critical of the 2010 election process.

- Eighty-five per cent of those who favoured women in Parliament supported reserved seats for women, while 10% did not. Men were most likely to say ‘no’ (21%).
- Forty-five per cent said they always trust National Government, 10% said ‘sometimes’ and 28% said ‘not much’ or ‘no’. Women were most likely to say ‘no’ (21%), while both Men and Women were much less likely to trust National Government as compared with younger people.

Accountability

- Sixty-six per cent of respondents had not heard of the Leadership Code Commission (LCC) (59% in 2009), 27% said ‘heard of it but don’t know what it does’ (29% in 2009) and 8% gave one or more correct answer (8% in 2009).
- Of those who knew the role of the LCC, 71% said they would report matters of concern, and 23% said they would not. Of 70 respondents who said they would not complain to the LCC, 58 could not give reasons as to why not, one respondent said they had no access, two each said they were afraid of or had no confidence in the LCC and seven said they didn’t know how to lodge a complaint.
- Sixty per cent said they had never heard of the Auditor General’s Office (AGO) (54% in 2009), 28% had heard of it but didn’t know what it does (29% in 2009) and 11% gave one or more correct answer (13% in 2009).

‘Many considered the 2010 election to be the worst ever in terms of bribery, intimidation, abuse of opponents and abuses of voter registration.’

- Misuse of power and corruption were considered by most focus group participants to be widespread in the Solomon Islands and all groups said it has increased in recent years, with most groups mentioning specific instances.
- Public Service participants also were uniformly of the opinion that corruption and misuse of power are common in the Solomon Islands, in both the public service and governments, and regard it as a major cause of public service inefficiency and poor performance. They said that the country needed strong, well-qualified leaders with a clean record who could get rid of corruption. Most had a good basic understanding of the nature and purpose of the recently-introduced Public Service Code of Conduct, but thought it had not made any difference to Public Service behaviour and standards.
- Focus group discussions with civil society and donor representatives agreed that corruption is endemic in the Solomon Islands and said that national and provincial governments need greater accountability. They also said that moral leadership and good governance were needed in the Solomon Islands, and civil society could play a part in reducing corruption.
- Donor and civil society participants thought the main obstacles to the delivery of development assistance were conflicts between donors and the national and the provincial governments. They thought the New Zealand Aid Programme model, where an aid coordinator works within the corresponding Government office to oversee projects, was the best way to deliver aid projects in Solomon Islands.

Experience of the 2010 election

- Seventy-five per cent of respondents registered for the 2010 election where the live, 8% returned to their village of origin to vote, 1% registered where they had previously resided and 1% registered in another constituency, while 15% did not register.
- The main reason for voting elsewhere was by the 480 respondents who registered in a place was ‘went home to vote’ (54%) followed by ‘went to previous home or workplace’ (8%). Fifteen per cent said they voted elsewhere in order to vote for a *wantok*, and 10% said they registered at the nearest polling place.
- Eighty-seven per cent of voters believed their vote was secret and 9% did not.
- Eighty-three per cent of voters said they made up their own minds who to vote for, with only small differences between rural and urban areas and between males and females. Eighteen per cent said their family had told them how to vote.
- Many focus group participants in communities considered the 2010 election to be the worst ever in terms of bribery, intimidation, abuse of opponents by supporters of other candidates and abuses of voter registration.
- Despite having a generally poor opinion of the national election, most focus group participants were prepared to give the current national government a chance to prove itself.

‘Forty-four per cent of those involved in a dispute said the main source of help was a chief or ‘big man’, and twenty-seven per cent said the police.’

Resolution of disputes

- Of 245 respondents who said they had been involved in a dispute in the preceding year, 43% said the dispute had occurred within a community, 35% said it had occurred within a family, 15% said between people from different communities and 3% said between people from different provinces.
- Thirty-seven per cent of disputes were about land, 34% were violence or assault, and 23% were concerned with a civil matter and 7% with stealing.
- Of the 76 reported cases of assault documented by respondents, Young Men were most likely to be involved in physical assault (67%) and Young Women most likely to be involved in domestic violence (56%).
- Almost all focus group discussions reported cases where land disputes had disturbed work and business opportunities or had created disharmony.
- Forty-one per cent of those involved in a dispute were a party or family, 23% were the accused and 16% were the victim (19%).
- Thirty-four per cent of reported disputes began up to 12 months prior to the Survey, and 31% up to two years (31%) while the remainder had lasted longer.
- Forty-four per cent of those involved in a dispute said the main source of help was a chief or ‘big man’, and 27% said the police. Respondents in Malaita (35%) and Guadalcanal (34%) were most likely to seek help from the police.
- Focus group participants said that most people prefer land disputes to be handled by chiefs and elders, including church elders, because they are respected and understand the land boundaries and local customs.
- Of five respondents who had sought help from a court, three had approached a court in Honiara and two a court in their home province. Four of the courts approached were magistrates’ courts and one was a local court.
- Only a few focus group participants knew of incidences that had been referred to courts. Nearly all those mentioned were referred for land dispute resolution and these had gone to magistrates courts. They said people usually prefer land disputes to be settled locally by community chiefs and elders, including church elders, rather than formal legal dispute resolution procedures.
- Of 100 who had sought a second source of help, 53 approached the RSIPF or RAMSI, 20 approached a chief or ‘big man’ and 10 each approached family/friends or the church.
- Of 100 respondents who had sought help from more than one source, 39 received most help from a chief or ‘big man’, 26 received most help from the RSIPF or RAMSI and 17 received most help from family or friends.
- The main reasons given for seeking help from a particular source were ‘respect this process’ (76%), ‘was available locally’ (36%), ‘only option available’ (12%) and ‘affordable’ (10%).
- Seventy-five per cent of disputes had been resolved, 14% were not resolved, and the resolution process was on-going in 11% of cases.

‘The main suggestions as to how justice and dispute resolution in Solomon Islands could be improved were ‘more respect for chiefs’, ‘kastom’ ‘elders’ and ‘church’.’

- Of the 56 respondents who said their dispute was still unresolved or on-going, 27 said the parties would not cooperate, 12 said the ‘police were ineffective’, 7 said resolution was still pending and 7 said the chiefs were still deciding, while the remainder did not provide any details.
- Of the 173 respondents whose dispute had been resolved 77% were very satisfied with the outcome, while 12% were partly satisfied and 12% dissatisfied.
- The main suggestions as to how justice and dispute resolution in Solomon Islands could be improved were ‘more respect for chiefs’ (46%), ‘*kastom*’ (26%), ‘elders’ (19%) and ‘church’ (19%). ‘More community policing’ was mentioned by 15% and ‘more access to RSIPF’ by 10%. Less than 10% mentioned courts and other modern sources of justice and dispute resolution.
- Almost all focus group participants thought that customary law needed to be formalised along with national law and most wanted the powers of the chiefs and elders to be officially recognised. Some Women’s focus groups wanted awareness training in which matters were best be handled internally by chiefs and elders and which were best referred to the police.
- Breakdown of traditional values was seen as a major social problem by church members, but participants from non-church organisations said the real power of the churches was declining. Church members said that the churches should be a strong voice against child abuse and domestic violence.

notable trends



Capacity

There have been small improvements in access to health centres and schools compared with previous *People's Surveys*. Areas where substantial capacity building is still needed include access to computers, water supply and access banking services. Small boat transport is generally considered satisfactory, but there is a strong demand for improvements in road transport, in terms of both roads and affordability. There is also a strong demand for employment opportunities, with many respondents suggesting that Government should be more involved in job creation.

More positive attitudes to the RSIPF compared with previous years suggest an improvement in their capacity. Some focus group participants suggested that capacity building is also needed in government to make some official procedures and interactions with the public more efficient. Survey results also point to a need for increased capacity for local courts to offer better services in relation to dispute resolution.

As in past years, more than 80% of respondents said they support RAMSI, and nearly as many support the RAMSI military, despite some reservations about their carrying weapons.

Gender

The tabulations of each question by respondent's age/gender group provide much information on differences by gender. In particular, Women aged 30 and older were more likely to have negative perceptions and limited experiences compared with the other age/gender groups.

There tended to be less difference between Young Women and Young Men, but of the two, Young Women were more likely to report negative perceptions and experiences.

Some key differences by gender include the following:

- Women mostly obtained money from market activities and retailing, while Men were more likely to be involved in commercial crop production and formal employment.
- Women were less likely to use transport in their business activities.
- Women were more likely to see selling more and working harder as their main way of increasing their income, while Men were more likely to think of other activities.
- Women were less likely to feel safe in their community and a little less likely to feel safe in their household.
- Women were much more likely to see significant changes in their lives and community as worse rather than better.
- Women and Young Women were more likely to support RAMSI.
- Despite remarks in focus groups that carrying of guns by the military frightened women and children, Women and Young Women were more likely to support the RAMSI military.

‘The 2010 *People’s Survey* found considerable evidence of lack of accountability and corruption.’

- Women and Young Women were more likely to believe that women make good leaders.
- Women and Young Women were a little more likely to say there should be women MPs in Parliament, and much more likely to say there should be reserved seats for women.
- Women and Young Women were much less likely to have knowledge of the Leadership Code Commission and the Auditor General’s Office.

Accountability

The 2010 *People’s Survey* found considerable evidence of lack of accountability and corruption, especially in the comments of focus group participants. The widespread nature of these problems was mentioned by respondents in all age/gender groups and by public servants and civil society.

At the same time, knowledge of the functions of two key agencies intended to fight corruption – the Leadership Code Commission and the Auditor General’s Office – has shown little improvement compared with previous surveys, while only a small percentage of respondents said they would be prepared to resort to them. Public servants also considered the Public Service Code of Conduct to be largely ignored.

A greater demand for accountability is reflected in substantial percentages that do not trust their National MP and also the RSIPF.

There was strong support for the concept of MPs reporting back to communities on how they spend public funds, and useful suggestions as to how this might be done.

Despite many criticisms of the 2010 election by focus group participants, more than 80% of respondents believed their vote was secret. Moreover, despite focus group comments about intimidation and pressure from candidates, family and others to vote in a particular way, more than 80% of both male and female respondents said they themselves decide how to vote.

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The complete *SIG-RAMSI People's Survey 2010* report can be downloaded from **www.ramsi.org**