

Bougainville Transition Dialogues 3



Community Dialogue Report 2023

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Table of contents

Table of contents	2
Introduction	4
Part 1: Answers to Q 1 and 2, commonly found across all or the large majority of constituencies	5
Question 1. How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?	5
Question 2. What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?	6
Law and order, and peace, as two intertwined concepts	6
Good governance	6
Economic activities	6
Education	7
Health and standards of living	7
Question 5: Facilitator reflections	7
Part 2: Individual reports per constituency	9
Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?	9
Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?	9
Constituencies in North: Atolls (Carterets), Hagogohe, Haku 1, Haku 2, Halia, Mahari, Nissan, Peit, Teua 1, Teua 2, Selau, Suir, Tonsu, Tsitalato	10
1. Atolls Carterets	10
2. Hagogohe	15
3. Haku 1	17
4. Haku 2	19
5. Halia	21
6. Mahari	22
7. Nissan	23
8. Peit	24
9. Selau	26
10. Suir	28
11. Teua 1	30
12. Teua 2	32
13. Tonsu	35
14. Tsitalato	38
Constituencies in Central: Eivo-Torau, Ioro, Kokoda, Kongara, North Nasioi Rural, North Nasioi Urban, South Nasioi, Rau, Taonita Teop, Taonita Tinputz, Terra	40
1. Eivo-Torau	40

2. Ioro	42
3. Kokoda	43
4. Kongara	45
5. North Nasioi Rural	46
6. North Nasioi Urban	49
7. South Nasioi	51
8. Rau	53
9. Taonita Teop	55
10. Taonita Tinputz	57
11. Terra	59
Constituencies in South: Baba, Baubake, Bolave, Konnou, Kopii, Lato, Lule, Makis, Motuna Huyuno Tukunutui, Ramu, Torokina.....	61
1. Baba.....	61
2. Baubake	63
3. Bolave	65
4. Konnou	66
4. Kopii.....	68
5. Lato.....	69
6. Lule	71
7. Makis	73
8. Motuna Huyono Tukunutui	75
8. Ramu	76
9. Torokina	78
Part 3: Additional reflections of the researcher	80
Head tax:	80
Connections between community development, the 6 benchmarks and cross-cutting issues:	80
Governance:	80
Community:	80
Additional suggestion:	81
Suggestions for new Wokabaut Senis videos.....	81

Introduction

The **Bougainville Transition Dialogues (BTD)** are a public dialogue project located in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville in Papua New Guinea. They are a partnership between the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG), the Bougainville Christian Churches Association (BCCA), Peace and Conflict Studies Institute Australia (PaCSIA), the UN and a group of Bougainvillean peacebuilders and civil society leaders – the BTD Facilitator Team. The BTD encourage constructive and informed discussions among Bougainvilleans about their political, economic, social and spiritual future and address some of their fears and concerns to ensure a peaceful transition process. They also provide a feedback loop to both governments where frequently raised questions and concerns are communicated to relevant authorities to assist. The dialogues are implemented through a network of local facilitators across Bougainville and are mostly conducted in Tok Ples (local language) and Tok Pisin.

In this report we present an overview of the data collected by the BTD Facilitator Team from March to December 2023. It is based on the facilitators' reports of visits to all 33 constituencies.

Part 1 of the report reviews the key themes that are common in all constituencies. Part 2 reviews the specific perceptions per constituency. Limitations of scope: This report is based exclusively on the facilitators' reports, and, as such, is framed by the facilitators' reporting styles. Verbatim quotations are in quotation marks.

Facilitators reported the following 5 questions:

1. Wanem kain ol niupela senis long B'ville i soim yu olsem toktok namel long tupela gavman i ron gut? (How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?)
2. Wanem ol wok ol komuniti bilong yu i mekim bilong inapim ol 6pela benchmark insait long komuniti long wok redi blong independence? (What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?)
3. Wanem kain ol niupela wok senis long 6pela benchmarks bai soim olsem komuniti bilong yu, i redi pinis lo independence? (How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?)
4. Yu lainim wanem long dailog blong tete? (What did you learn in this dialogue?)
5. Facilitator reflection

Part 1: Answers to Q 1 and 2, commonly found across all or the large majority of constituencies

Question 1. How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

- The perception of “visible” change at community or ward level is usually linked to the visit and the initiatives of the local member and authorities, but also to some local initiatives, perceived to be linked to the general atmosphere of “transition”.
- The perceptions of change also appear as linked to the dialogue circumstances and facilitators’ sharing of information on Bougainville political process and events.
- Commonly, across all constituencies and mostly after the facilitators’ sharing of information, elements identified as indicating progress in the transition consultation are the awareness of:
 - Work on the Bougainville constitution.
 - Ongoing discussions between the 2 governments, with keywords such as consultations, timeline, roadmap.
 - Concepts such as 6 Benchmarks, trident or three-prong approach. They are commonly understood to allow and invite individual and community initiatives on the country’s road to independence.
 - Agreements signed to date by the 2 governments, including mention of the names “Era Kone”, “Wabag”, “Kokopo”; acknowledgement in parliament.
 - ABG’s presence on the international scene, with the Solomons Islands and China cited as examples.
 - The perceived ongoing “draw down of power from PNG to ABG”, - quoted mostly without concrete examples, but perceived as a good sign of progress towards independence.
 - Some changes, like Council of Elders (COE) has become Community government (CG)
- PaCSIA’s visit is perceived as evidence and reassurance of the ongoing collaboration between the two governments.¹
- Some constituencies mention visible progress through local changes: road, hospital, village assembly building etc. This is detailed in the individual reports.²
- In all constituencies, even those that report seeing change, there are voices that mention little or no change. In this case, that part of the audience evaluates change from the information received during the dialogue.
- ALL participants wish for better circulation of the information from the top to the community level, and request more direct information from ABG, from their local members, or in the form of regular visits from PaCSIA.
- ALL remote communities, and some urban and rural ones, loudly voice their frustration at their lack of access to information.

¹ The data seems to indicate that PaCSIA’s actual visit is interpreted as enough credible evidence of successful consultation progress, as in: “If PaCSIA comes, that means there are things happening at higher level.”

² See in particular Mahari, Teua, Tsitalato, South Nasioi, Baubake, Bana, Lato, Lule, Motuna.

Question 2. What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

The accuracy of the knowledge of the 6 benchmarks varies for each community and is discussed individually in part 2 of this report.

However, the suggestions of community-based actions on the benchmarks for independence-readiness are clear for most constituencies. Working on the 6 benchmarks means working on the domestic prong, on community-based support for Bougainville. “The 6 benchmarks can and must be used as a guide, so that people must act”.

Law and order, and peace, as two intertwined concepts

Strong law and order are perceived as the necessary base for successful national and community foundation. Peace is associated with economic productivity and prosperity.

Additional suggestions for good law and order involve community collaboration; inclusivity (particularly women, youth, veterans, leaders); the influence of well-organised village courts; promotion of peacebuilding, including reconciliation, family wellbeing, and land mediation; ban of alcohol and drugs.

Support for youth is commonly suggested as a corollary to efforts for law and order, to help secure peace at the community level: include and educate the youth, keep them occupied with income-earning, sports, music and other activities. Individual constituency reports in part 2 detail the specific measures taken or envisaged by the communities.

Good governance

Good governance at community level is interpreted as supporting and relying on active steering committees; on peace and good order committees; on the general promotion of inclusion (particularly of youth, women, veterans) and collaboration; and on independence-ready plans at ward level (including collecting ward profiles, planning and prioritising).

“Strongim pasin bilong komiuniti”, to strengthen the sense of community, is mentioned in reference to trustworthy and comforting traditional Bougainville values. Audiences are repeatedly quoted to say that the most effective way is to get organised at clan level, for harmonious activity in clan groups to have a ripple effect at ward, then national level.

Fear of corruption and strong requests for governance transparency (particularly management of funds) are expressed throughout communities.

Economic activities

Income-generation at individual, family, clan and community level is the buzzword across all audiences. The acronym SME (small and medium enterprise) is echoed through all constituencies, often with the additional dimension of community cooperatives and village treasury, for the common goal of strengthening the national economy.

Cash crops including cocoa, copra, vanilla, balsa wood, fish pond projects and food gardens are commonly mentioned.

Note that the AusAID initiative of building permanent markets is repeatedly praised as invaluable support to help women market their garden produce.

Other initiatives may be walkabout sawmills for the building of permanent houses, community trucks for transport, small scale/alluvial gold mining and soap making. See individual constituency reports.

The reports reflect the perception of individual and community-based economic activity as a civil duty, to support the ABG through the 6 benchmarks.

Head tax, a novelty in concept and practice, is perceived as evidence of this common opportunity to participate in change – at the condition that it is well managed, and feeds back into the community.

Communities express that, realistically, their efforts are limited by their competencies, and must be complemented by support from ABG or from ward level. For example: education and training, creation of jobs (building), support for agriculture, such as development of (international) markets for cash crops, or expertise to fight pests such as the cocoa borer.

Education

Education is clearly at the forefront of audiences' concerns, linked to the strong perception of a "deficit at national level" in this regard. Acquiring education and skills is mentioned as central to independence sustainability. Whilst communities mention secondary, vocational and tertiary education as a wish, they mention their own responsibility in establishing and supporting early childhood learning centres; in parents actively supporting their children's attendance at school, and paying school fees (hence economic activities).

Health and standards of living

Through the perceived strong presence of programs such as WASH and Bougainville Healthy Community Programme (BHCP), audiences mention awareness, concern and the need for action on sanitation, clean water, toilets; generally beautifying the village and keeping it clean; improving standards of living with permanent houses and water tanks. Such initiatives go along with perceptions of pride in the community's appearance and wellbeing, and of reflections of its prosperity.

6 benchmarks, communities and ABG

There is a general association of the concept of the 6 benchmarks with that of opportunity and pride to practically contribute to Bougainville's journey towards independence. Complementary to this concept of collaboration is the concept of reciprocity: just as the grassroots level is expected to support the ABG, the ABG is expected to support the grassroot level: "no ken tok nating", Do not just speak empty words.

Question 5: Facilitator reflections

Part 2 of the report details the facilitators' individual reflections on each visited constituency. The following comments are however repeatedly heard throughout their reports:

- Regardless of the actual size of the audience, the facilitators are welcomed to the community.
- The audiences describe themselves as "information deficient", and warmly welcome the information dispensed during the dialogues. The overwhelming majority spontaneously declare having learned from the visit (97% of participants). Only in a couple of marginal visits (ex: visit to prison centre), do the participants appear keener to talk about their own living conditions than about the information dispensed by BTG.

- Keywords referring to concepts like “benchmarks, roadmap, timeline, Joint Supervisory Body (JSB), update, independence-readiness, progress” are said to become clear and accessible, together with the concept of communities’ contributions to the Bougainville journey.
- The dialogue method and the videos are greatly appreciated by all audiences as excellent tools for sharing information. The videos invite communities to tell their stories. All communities who had the opportunity to watch the videos made spontaneous positive comments about them.³
- Communities request more information about the Bougainville journey, in any form.
- In many communities, the dialogue process appears to develop critical thinking. They help the audience perceive better what they judge as their leaders’ failures: failure to perform to their responsibilities, in sharing information, in visiting and contributing to their electorate; ABG’s failure to connect political plans with economic translations at rural level. The lack of communication is seen as a hindrance to development towards the 6 benchmarks. The dialogues sporadically remedy this deficiency.
- The BTDs give confidence that PaCSIA are reliable partners to dispense information.
- Indeed, they often are said to fulfil the ABG’s information role, which presents them as a conduit of choice for further information. Hence requests for repeated visits.
- Generally, the more remote the community, the more they express feelings of isolation and neglect from the ABG, translated into helplessness and frustration.
- Repeated visits by facilitators deepen the relationship. A second visit cements PaCSIA’s credibility.
- The facilitators express their deep satisfaction at running the dialogues and engaging with the communities: they feel part of the process of empowering their fellow Bougainvilleans with crucial information. They may describe themselves as “bringing hope”.

The following key phrases appear in the reports:

“Good update; Participants clearly understand that they need to achieve the benchmarks; participants understand their part, to work to help the government; all must participate; they understand their role and responsibilities.”

“Participants need more awareness on progress; they learned about progress, they need more info on timeline and independence-readiness; PaCSIA represents official information, they want more PaCSIA visits and info.”

³ Quotes from facilitators in Konnou: “More videos must be produced to educate people. They learned a lot by watching James Tanis’ video” (chief Monopo 2); “The video of James Tanis helped us a lot about the consultation” (Tokumogu 1); “it is the Wokabaut Senis videos, and particularly the one by particularly James Tanis that really matters to people” (Malaka 2) ; -“The participants understand more easily by seeing James Tanis’ presentation” -“We facilitators really need to produce more videos” (Malaka 1)

Part 2: Individual reports per constituency

This part of the report presents the responses to the questions 3 and 4 of the dialogue reporting form from each constituency. Where relevant, additional comments from questions 1, 2 and 5 are included. They are presented per region: North, Central, then South.

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

Note: this question may have been answered in two ways:

What has actually already been achieved in the community? vs *What should or could be done*, but has not happened yet?

Also: some answers just mention the keywords, without giving indications about the actual understanding of the concept, or practical translation at community level. All in all, the individual constituency reports below give the best possible interpretation of the facilitators' written answers.

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

Answers to this question are mostly clear. The audience say that, after participating in a dialogue they know more and/or understand better.

Constituencies in North: Atolls (Carterets), Hagogohe, Haku 1, Haku 2, Halia, Mahari, Nissan, Peit, Teua 1, Teua 2, Selau, Suir, Tonsu, Tsitalato

1. Atolls Carterets

Question 1: How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

- Don't know, no information, no update; questions, doubts, concerns, pessimism
- There is still peace, so the two governments must be working together
- It has been on the news: TV, radio
- Talk about B'Ville constitution, draw down of powers, timeline
- More information needed for informed opinion and action

No visible signs:

- Despite opportunity to develop local fishing, seaweed, beche de mer resources
- Old Korean ship still docked at Buka, no new ship
- Local aid post not functioning; no population control

Visible signs:

- Regular supply of bags of rice delivered to the islands
- Project of planting of seaweed (Piul); "ABG officers are forcing us to plant seaweed for money" (Han)
- More emphasis on the need for education and small businesses; EEC today for future tertiary education

Scepticism:

- People are told to plant seaweed, mangrove, do community work, but "doubt what good would come out of it" (Yalasa)⁴

Question 2: What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

- Not enough knowledge of 6 benchmarks
- Not clear/ no means to work on 6 benchmarks: subsistence farming, sea level rising are endangering the gardens^{5 6}; hunger; no services, no transport

Note: people resent living off handouts (of rice); not compatible with the idea of sustainability advocated by 6 benchmarks

- Talk of sea as resource: catching fish, planting seaweed for sale; officers encouraging to plant more seaweed (Piul island); efforts to establish cooperatives for beche de mer (Piul)
- Reality: most of the fish caught is for local consumption, local hunger conditions (Yesilla)
- Need to work on climate change resilience: planting mangrove

⁴ "Many were convinced to plant sea weed and mangrove to slow down the process of erosion and devastation" (Yesilla).

⁵ "Taro fields are rotting, coconuts getting smaller".

⁶ "They are helpless because they do not have land to plant garden food and sell them" (Hahela).

- Learn about the value of saving (but then being labelled selfish and greedy) ⁷
- Chiefs want the youth to attend the dialogues, but little interest
- Need for seed money support to start local business (trade store, catch fish to sell)

Note: Challenges mentioned as outside of community 'scope of action: health and education services

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

Economics:

- Seaweed and fishing projects⁸; price of seaweed going up; local buyers⁹; more income-generation from seaweed than fishing¹⁰
- Concerns about equal sharing of seaweed planting materials among families (Han); questions about ABG' support for beche de mer business (Han)
- Some people purchase their own banana boats with engine, for transport to Buka (Piul)
- Remoteness hinders local business initiatives; need to address transport problems (no boat, boat is expensive, piracy, weather events); ABG does not support transport to Atolls
- Leaders encourage youths to go to PNG to seek employment, to support their families" (Piul)
- "People of Han are beginning to realise the importance of saving money for families and community" (Han) ¹¹

Law and order: No progress/ breakdown of cultural values

- Problems with youths, homebrew, idleness; Boom boxes not allowed in public (Piul); "More should be done to engage young people"
- Youth leaders "strongly said that they are not given opportunity to be engaged in starting up small business" (Piul)

Health and living standards:

- Repeated mention of hunger conditions (Piul)
- No local health service
- Some houses with corrugated iron roof and sawn timber (Piul); more talk about keeping village tidy

Education:

- More focus on/talk of education; EEC to prepare for successful secondary and tertiary; parents more aware and support education; attempts at income-generation for school fees and health
- But: reality: scarcity of local schools, transport and school fees to (Nissan) secondary

Governance:

⁷ Transition from a system of community sharing and support to the western one of individual saving; "Emphasis is now on nuclear rather than extended family, as it was before" (Han)

⁸ "On Piul island, people are very busy planting seaweed and selling live seaweed to people of Nissan, Nuguria (Spelling?), and Mortlock islands" (Piul); "Only this year ABG officers have introduced the planting of seaweed and are serious about making money out of seaweed" (Han)

⁹ "People from Yangain are fortunate because a Chinese businessman is buying seaweed from them" (Yangain)

¹⁰ "People have only opportunity for fishing for own consumption, not for selling, but they could benefit from selling seaweed" (Yangain)

¹¹ See footnote 4

- “Leaders strongly encourage their people to be creative and proactive” (Yangain) Repeated concerns of corruption and budget management
- Ward members should get paid, but still aren’t

Note: Dilemma/conundrum: “Leaders are worried that islands (and garden ground) are becoming smaller, while the population is growing. The GoPNG cannot continue feeding the people” (Yangain); “Shortage of food and not enough land for increasing population. Resettlement” (Han)

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

- Learned A LOT; no information reaching the atolls, no or challenging transport
- Dialogues sharpen critical thinking; people are openly talking about ABG’s role and their own roles; people are asking questions, standing for their beliefs; ABG/local government not disappointing/doing their work of information nor support; gratitude for BTD; BTD fuels the wish for more info
- Learned about 6 benchmarks:
 - New and challenging concept, required time for explanation; realised the importance of information
 - Inspirational concept, makes people want to stand on their own; a requirement at family level; value of collaboration
 - But does not match local reality: doubts about feasibility, timeline; how to apply to local conditions? “Nothing to start with”(Han); “Economic spin offs like money only apply in Buka (Han); need for local investment/injection of cash; no good foundation (for health and education)
- Learned about roadmap and timeline, but sceptical about how it applies here
- In doubt: Draw on their island resilience: “We are still alive and could survive for some days to enjoy our lives” (Han) ¹²
- BTD as opportunity to express concern
- Youth are concerned about not completing education (school fees); adults are concerned youths are disengaged

Question 5: Facilitator reflections

- Audience appreciates BTD; BTD comes down to the level of people, in content and in method
- BTD promotes intra-community conversation and dialogue, including suggestions and criticism; inspires to action; inspires to communication and peacebuilding; empowerment through information

¹² Echo of the local resilience that has allowed them to successfully adapt to their environment throughout their past

- People learn about the process; need more information/support for the initiatives suggested in 6 benchmarks; still have doubts; feel helpless; compare with better conditions in Buka
- Young people are challenged to action by their parents/leaders; youth are demanding opportunities for income generation (Han)
- Shift of focus from clan to nuclear family
- To some, relocation and resettlement appears as inevitable; ABG expected to support relocation
- Most seaweed buyers are from outside PNG/are from China
- Facilitator comments on perceived “assisted mentality”: “These people do not think out of the box or believe in themselves or do something to sustain their own families” (Hahela); “These people who are employed face a huge problem trying to feed those not working, doing nothing to survive. Unemployment and vagrancy are a problem” (Sohano - spelling?)
- Facilitator judges the audience’s attitudes from a Western-tainted point of view: “Many of these people cannot speak their ideas because they do not worry about themselves. *They simply exist*” (Yolasa)¹³
- Facilitator recognises islander strength: “Resilience and be your own” (Han); “Even though people live in fear of king tides and rising sea and food shortages, they are happy and playful” (Han)

Researcher’s comments:

Interesting and complex constituency, with many contrasts:

- Ex: on the same island of Piul, we read of positive initiatives (seaweed) seemingly delivering results (people can afford to buy banana boats), in parallel to mentions of ongoing hunger conditions
- Ex: on Piul: repeated complaints of youth idleness and disruptive behaviour, in parallel to youth leaders complaining they are not getting opportunities to develop.
- Suggestion: future dialogue to focus on inter-generational dialogue
- Impact of climate change in real time: rising sea levels, diminishing garden ground, growing population; “hunger and handout” conditions.
- The advocated changes in economic focus shift from community to nuclear family. Focus in on CASH, that is largely absent at local level. Such changes arguably disrupt the traditional community structure that sustained the communities in their environment.
- Individual competition and greed are pushed forward, to displace the values of solidarity and sustainability that traditionally sustained the communities in their island environment.
- Comments contrast the attitude of the islanders who follow the Western discourse, (“We are helpless to achieve the model”) and the attitude of those who rely on their traditional view of their world (“We will survive, like we have in the past”).
- Facilitators pick up on this “Some parents encourage their children to go to school, some people do not believe in education” (Yalasa).

¹³ Addition to previous notes: “People are beginning to realise the importance of raising their own money and be independent, not parasites or dependent on others” (Piul). Such remarks mark the contrast between the islanders who follow the Western discourse, and those who rely on their traditional view of life

2. Hagogohe

Question 1: How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

- Info provided is reassuring; continuous contact between 2 governments
- Concern about trust: “Can GoPNG be trusted to uphold the process?”
- Some unease: Comments on MPs deaths/changes within government

Question 2: What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

- Community must support ABG/independence-readiness timeline¹⁴; 6 benchmarks as a guide
- Much work yet to be done; need for community to prioritise benchmarks to work on
- Community must take advantage of training opportunities for capacity building

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

Economics:

- More SMEs
- Plantation rehabilitation
- Need to do more in rural areas
- Sealing of Buka Highway (Sing)
- Digicel tower (Sing)

Law and order:

- Community/family reconciliations/weapon disposal; “constant” community meetings
- Promoting peace in daily activities; more peace, less arguments¹⁵; credible pathway to independence
- Women and youth groups embracing change and upholding law and order

Health and living standards:

- Promoting good living and health standards; water sanitation; BHCP
- Proper health centre in community; good medical facility in constituency
- Rural electrification to villages
- Improved social services (Suni, no details)

Education:

- More schools
- Better local school results (GPA)
- Parents involved, sending children to school; P and C meetings, fundraising

¹⁴ “Olgeta komiuniti i mas wok lo sapotim ABG long olgeta wok eria i ken kamapim 6 benchmark i karim kaikai (Kuskus)

¹⁵ “Pasin blo krosipait na kilim narapela i wok long daun “

Governance:

- Provide good governance in daily activities
- Strong community cooperation; women, youth, men working together
- Development of ward bylaws
- Ward sports competition

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

- Dialogue as update, clarification on process
- PaCSIA provides crucial info; “the *privilege*¹⁶ of attaining information”; “feeling more adequate”; PaCSIA doing ABG communication work
- Wokabaut Senis videos promote unity by sharing info among communities

Question 5: Facilitator reflections

- Dialogues give a more realistic view of the situation and process
- Participants want to create Wokabaut Senis videos, want to tell their stories

Researcher’s comments on data:

Quote 1 and 2: these reports briefly mention indicators to measure the community’s progress. More details about possible indicators could be elicited by the facilitator, then shared to help the communities that do not know how to measure change.

- 1: Community is not sure how to measure (Punluma)
- 2: “By seeing some of the benchmarks being implemented by stakeholders in rural communities” (Ward Kunwele Salasa)
- 3: Facilitator quotes the participants mentioning changes accomplished.

Again, collecting, then sharing more details on the nature of these changes could help other communities measure their own progress

- 3: “Mipela lukim ol liklik senis i wok long kamap isi isi “(Ward Holasanpeis)

¹⁶ The word “privilege” used in several communities (Malis, Sing)

3. Haku 1

Question 1: How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

- The Bougainville Constitutional Commissioner made awareness and consulted with our people.¹⁷
- Not seen much change.
- PaCSIA update testifies of government consultation progress, but we have no details.

Question 2: What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

- Promote population control.
- Pay head tax to help economic growth, through income-earning at community level.
- Submit applications for grants to NGOs and donors: education, health, economic support for SME.

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

Economic:

- Rehabilitated and planted cocoa and copra; set up piggery, poultry
- Received training to produce virgin coconut oil, white copra
- Set up SME; set up a registered ward cooperative
- Women are active: cocoa, with AusAID funding; market for garden vegetables
- Effort on head tax collection

Law and order:

- Peace and good order committee in place, resolve conflicts at family and community level
- Village courts and land mediation in place and ongoing
- Chiefs hold meetings and awareness on law and order, against drugs; they work together with women and youth

Health and living standards:

- Awareness on and promotion of healthy village, hygiene and clean up promotion of population control
- Need for better aid post

Education:

- Schools are operating
- More students in tertiary and vocational schools

Governance:

- Ward 7 data updated, Ward steering committee in place, operational, meet 6-monthly
- Haku community government now in place and have their office

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

¹⁷ Haku, Hanpan ward 3.

- 6 benchmarks for our roles and responsibilities for independence, all need/must participate; work hard for independence; no one sitting on the fence
- Must be independence-ready; independence starts at home; work as community
- Strengthen economy; all must active; work strong for cash-generating income
- ABG must have enough money to run the country

Question 5: Facilitator reflections

No additional comments.

4. Haku 2

Question 1: How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

- Trust in ABG: "Our political leaders are working around the clock to make sure that that PNG does not change the agreement"
- Trust in process: "Independence Ready" follows the familiar template of the previous "Referendum Ready"

Visible changes: - "Haku govt supports the 6 benchmarks"

Question 2: What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

- Educate communities on the 6 benchmarks, for full participation
- "Haku govt business arm should be supported by everyone, the way forward is to generate money"

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

Economics:

- SMEs; cooperatives; self-reliance, need for self-reliance and ownership; "We have the resources"
- More local, home-grown projects; roadside markets
- More support needed from ABG for local projects; for fishing projects; for downstream processing

Law and order:

- Community leaders should work with police; need for community cooperation
- Lots of work still needed on L and O; no visible change in our area, police not active
- Need for local police empowerment; need for local lock-up cells
- Need for reconciliations; at community/ family level;
- "Youths should be targeted; they are the threat now" (Lemanroa Primary School)

Health and living standards:

- BHCP/WaSH programmes
- Support group for young mothers
- Need better aid post, better school

Education:

- Send more children to school
- Need for higher institutions, of skilled people

Governance:

- Constituency and ward members must support village level
- ABG should support local governments to generate money
- Newly elected member supports and encourages (Haku)

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

- Good information, update; info reaches us; leads to a common understanding
- Timely, practical info; benchmarks as a priority; “Now I know what to do and how to support”; “no progress yet, but now we know how to do it”
- James Tanis video: a highlight; educational, trust, encouraging; we need him; “a great leader”
- Learned that community participation is key
- Still a lot of work to be done; target the school students for next dialogues
- Some fear: “As youth we are a bit frightened to break away from PNG” (Lemanroa Primary school)

Question 5: Facilitator reflections

- Dialogue is encouraging; community enthusiasm; facilitator proud to be part
- Video James Tanis very appreciated!

Researcher’s comments:

Haku 2 seem to prefer to express themselves with “should”, marking that they perceive work to be done rather than achieved.

5. Halia

Question 1. How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

Quote of keywords, no additional comments.

Question 2. What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

Law and order:

- Be tougher on law breakers; by-laws at family and clan level; chief system and traditional law for better law and order
- Support youth on self-help projects, for their own income
- Church activities for spiritual empowerment

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

The facilitator's report expresses the communities' sense of achievement as the following:

- Good leadership in community
- Drop in law-and-order issues; peace and harmony; freedom of movement; peace in families and homes
- Economic activities: More financial independence and stability; feelings of self-reliance;
- Education: Higher literacy rates
- Health and standards of living: Better, new homes; better standards; healthy communities
- General feeling: Cooperation and participation, oneness in achieving goals; more organised community groups; sense of belonging and self-reliance

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

- Understand what two governments are doing in transition, how they work together
- Understand better: Era Kone Covenant, Trident Strategy, roadmap, Independence-ready, roadmap, own constitution
- It helps us think on how to work towards independence-readiness¹⁸
- The 6 benchmarks are a guide/a reminder to progress to independence-readiness
- ABG is not informing us
- We need strong leadership

Question 5. Facilitators' reflections

- Suggestion that community type of leadership should be used in transition
- Audience didn't know about progressive reports
- Mental health issues are escalating, need for action through community policing and health

Researcher's comment on data:

This constituency's reports appear to express general feelings of strength and self-confidence, due to the community's own initiative rather than outside help.

¹⁸ "Kirapim tingting long mekim ol wok long rediim mipela long indipendens."

6. Mahari

Question 1. How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

Audience reports visible changes at community level:

- Road infrastructure/sealing in Bougainville by PNG govt
- Hospital in Kunuk/new aid post project
- Teachers' college in Buin¹⁹

Question 2. What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

- "Follow benchmarks" = quote of key word, but no clear interpretation
- "Progress is slow" = no additional details

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

Economy:

- Three new SME groups; economic development for "wok moni" (cash income); cocoa nursery and rehabilitation of cocoa blocks; families setting up treasury; house market project

Health and standards of living:

- Toilets, water supply and sanitation; aid post project/hospital set up; housing schemes; improving houses

Education:

- More students at FODE (Flexible Open Distance Education) centre; EC centre, classroom being built; school set-up

Good governance:

- Training; law and order awareness

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

- Better understanding of independence-readiness; 6 benchmarks; road map; trident strategy, domestic, national, international; Bougainville independence mission
- Consultation is continuing; tabling of referendum results in parliament
- Independence-ready committee must work in our constituency

Question 5. Facilitator reflections

- No independence-readiness committee; no update on ABG at ward level; thoughts of change rather than actual change, participants quote key words but don't elaborate
- Audience's wish: more training on governance; resource centre for social service; Community is working, ABG must help

¹⁹ The constituency is in the North, but mentions changes happening in South region as evidence of progress.

7. Nissan

Note: Of all communities interviewed, Nissan Remote express most strongly feeling remote and estranged from the independence process – consistent with the actual geographical location and the restricted access to services.

Question 1: How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

- No information, no update; poor communication, confusion; corruption; the reality is “no visible change”
- Timeline will bypass us; no recognition of remote communities
- Concern about MPs deaths; we haven’t had a constituency member for a long time; concerns about government human resources

Question 2: What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

What is needed:

- Create economic development opportunities; support from DPI and DoCommerce for development, down-streaming

What can be done at community level:

- Meet the requirements of 6 benchmarks; independence-readiness tasks
- Cooperation within community leaders/ members
- Lessen illegal activities, do positive activities;
- Comply with the traditional and judiciary law; resolve local issues

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

Overall: no measure of progress towards 6 benchmarks; no support to reach benchmarks

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

- Learned about transition consultation; about government progress
- 6 benchmarks: learn about our roles and responsibilities; about the work yet to be done
- Raise questions: are we independence-ready? How do we reach the benchmarks?

Question 5: Facilitator reflections

- Community grateful for BTD as a contact with outside world; educational
- After dialogue: participants appear to be left with feelings of inadequacy, of not playing their part (Kokopau)

8. Peit

Note: BTB visit to Bekut CIS elicited more comments about jail conditions than reflections on political process. Inmates and staff grateful for information.

Question 1: How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

Visible change: consultation with PNG power about hydro project, water supply, resource centre

All communities express satisfaction with the information process, through discussion about hydro project

Question 2: What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

- Spread awareness on 6 benchmarks
- No land disputes and all clan support for the hydro project; reconciliations
- Create ward treasuries
- Reduce home brew consumption
- Maintain houses, school, health centre

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

Economics:

- Signing the MoU for the hydro project will improve the benchmarks; giving land to government for high impact project
- Create ward treasuries, conduct fundraising
- Paying head tax

Law and order:

- Need to reconcile outstanding crisis issues
- Respect for leaders and law and order
- Uphold village courts; mediation and counselling in community

Health and living standards:

- BHCP and WaSH in constituency; good drinking water
- Permanent houses

Education:

- Building new teachers' houses

Governance:

- Awareness on good governance, on community cooperation

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

- Good update; educational
- Dialogue encouraged to make changes in community based on benchmarks
- Request for BTB team to be part of Independence-ready program

Question 5: Facilitator reflections

- People are accepting change (hydro project) in their community, by matching it with info on the benchmarks
- Peit Community government requests BTD to assist in Independence-readiness

Researcher's comment based on data:

These communities stand out, as they are facing large scale change with the hydro project. This involves reflection about giving customary land for development purposes, akin to a civil act.

9. Selau

Question 1: How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

Visible change:

- B'ville MPS fund schools (Patuna)
- New roads (Kawex)
- Restrictions on homebrew
- Send children to school
- Consensus on weapon removal and peace; freedom of movement

Question 2: What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

- Increase awareness on 6 benchmarks; harness community potential ²⁰; set benchmarks indicators (Sorom)²¹
- Reconciliations/fix outstanding land issues; community laws for law and order
- Work on substance abuse
- Establish village treasuries; community-based management training
- Hold regular community meetings
- Training: rehabilitate plantations, create new plantations
- Info on education pathways for school leavers

Note: Chabai community says no visible progress

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

Note: "Insait long ol komiuniti, mipela putim ol indicators bilong 6 benchmarks" (Patuna)²²

Economics:

- Participation in festivals (chocolate, cocoa, MONA)²³
- More SMEs; farming copra, cocoa, vanilla; fishing; roadside markets

Law and order:

- Community laws
- Ongoing reconciliations
- Youth have their own projects; engage youths through sports and spiritual; away from homebrew (Munanga)

Health and living standards:

- Permanent houses; clean village; septic toilets; build aid post, school

²⁰ "Organising ourselves in working together and doing things meaningfully and peacefully. Initiating our own strategy plan in enforcing the 6 benchmarks" (Ton)

²¹ Sorom: mentions indicators: suggest more investigation, and possibly Wokabaut video to share ideas

²² Patuna: idem

²³ What is MONA?

- BHCP, WaSH

Education:

- More students in *DODI* and FODE centres ²⁴ (Bonus)

Governance:

- Community cultural activities
- Improved ward governance; scheduled ward visits by Independence-Ready committee (Ngalaswei)

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

- Important info about independence-readiness
- 6 benchmarks; all play a part; identify the work still to be done
- Inspirational info (Tabut)

Question 5: Facilitator reflections

No additional comments

²⁴ What is DODI?

10. Suir

Question 1: How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

- No visible change since referendum
- B'ville still depends on PNG: funding elections, public servants, education, tertiary, infrastructure, police
- Visible change: Digicel tower (Petsuk); Freedom of movement

Question 2: What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

Note: Expressed in terms of needs: human resources, law and order, economic development

- Need more awareness on 6 benchmarks
- Creation of cooperatives
- Community mobilisation
- Parents prioritise education (students Tsunpetz)

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

Economics:

- Increase in SME, family projects; cocoa, copra, vanilla, balsa, rice, livestock ; new developments
- Creation of cooperatives, of village treasuries
- Increased processing: cocoa powder, coconut oil

Law and order:

- Youths busy with social activities; decrease in home brew consumption
- Human rights defenders give peace building awareness; ongoing reconciliations
- Improvements in community policing; Veterans play a part in law-and-order issues

Health and living standards:

- New aid post
- Awareness of healthy environment, community

Education:

- New schools; Community schools; EEC
- Parents involved in school activities ²⁵

Governance:

- Perception of stronger leadership
- Increased community cooperation and participation
- Community mobilisation, creating space for dialogue and reconciliation

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

²⁵ Suggestion: investigate, maybe Wokabaut video Tsunpetz

- Good update on process, on government approaches
- Info on benchmarks; B'villeans contribute, play a big part; we need more info to play our part
- Need for stronger leadership (Votsbou)
- Independence process is not easy

Question 5: Facilitator reflections

Students are particularly grateful for BTD info

11. Teua 1

Question 1. How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

Audience mentions visible changes at community level:

- Road sealing
- Better health services (*no details*)
- Institutions built, training is taking place (*no details*)
- SMEs established; permanent houses, better clothes
- VSAT (satellite internet) installed, easier communication

Question 2. What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

Emphasize community work: cooperative work on Community Day, on the school, aid post

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

Education:

- Strong emphasis; people work on the school, take part in school-related activities; school has improved to new standards
- Promote education, all the children must attend; efforts, including fundraising, to pay for school fees

Community contribution:

- Community working on school, aid post, staff houses; on cutting grass on roadside; more visible community activity; helping and liking each other²⁶

Health and standards of living:

- BHCP helps improve standard of living, housing style and village setting; roofing iron; new aid post/health facilities improved; awareness of healthy community

Economic activity:

- Each family looks after/harvest their cocoa block; copra; the bags of cocoa testify of income; banana, peanut, cash crop for income and food security;
- Interest for cooperatives, for family SME; village treasury; canteens/trade stores; boat for transport; MP has given some help for fermentary and tools

Law and order:

- Decrease in law-and-order issues, linked to increased income and activity; ward members and chiefs enforce law and order in community;
- Obedience to rules and respect; talk to youth about early marriage, drugs

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

²⁶ "Helpim na laikim narapela."

- 6 benchmarks give ideas for change; “the change begins with me”; self-reliance and personal responsibility; we must be fully prepared at village level
- People must do their part while ABG do their part
- Recognise signs of affluence: “each family looks well after their place, manages their money and are united”²⁷
- PaCSIA’s second visit: Not new, deepening/repetition of message: “Don’t ask what the govt can do for us, ask what we can do for our govt”

Question 5. Facilitator reflections

- Remote area near the mountains
- Second dialogue, happy to get update; second visit establishes relationship, different from common awareness
- Teua, Apuro villages: Challenging group, lots of discussion; agree to village treasury

Researcher’s comment on data:

This constituency’s report gives off a strong sense of active and applied community values, as mention in the use of weekly Community Day for work.

“Each family looks after their area, their money, and is united as one.”

²⁷ “Wanwan famili I lukautim gut ples bilong ol, lukautim moni blo ol, na stap wan pipol.”

12. Teua 2

Question 1. How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

Change visible at local level:

- Several youth groups help the police and chiefs on law and order ²⁸; Law and order awareness in community and district
- Reconciliations facilitated in wards, communities and districts
- Some government departments came to visit at district level (mentioned by women in Bobasi village)

No sign of change:

- No contact / visit from MP; independence-ready committee does not share information, not active; no information; Consultation process going fast, implementation does not; particularly underlined by youth in Kapui village and women in Makekoe village
- No confidence in leaders because of their “non-steadiness” (women of Makekoe village)

Question 2. What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

- Respect government property, school and church
- Recognise that benchmarks differ in urban and rural area; prioritize 6 benchmarks according to available resources (say the women)
- Ubuiopei village: feel they miss out because remote
- Tosiavi village: need of better awareness to get people ready

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

Law and order:

- Must be a priority
- Need for awareness
- Reconciliation and peace building at community level

Progress

- Murders stop
- Respect grows stronger²⁹
- Freedom of movement to visit relatives in other wards (women)

Education:

- Need for more education
- Law and order issues are the result of lack of literacy
- Some work has started at the school, staff houses

²⁸ Youth in Kaekara ➔ possibility of Wokabout Senis video

²⁹ kilim man em I stop, pasin rispek kamap strong

Economy:

- Youth have their own cocoa block (say women)
- Youth must have their own coca block
- Set up of SMEs
- Stores
- Cooperative of cocoa farmers
- Economy through profit-making activities (say women in Makekoe village)

Youth involvement:

Positive:

- Youth are happy to get involved with other youth groups for peacebuilding
- Youths have received chiefs' permission to create a sports field

Not so positive:

- Youths feel left out of discussion and action
- Need for education, awareness (Ubuko village)
- Youths feel the need to rehabilitate
- Want to be part, to be involved (Kepui village)

Women involvement:

- Awareness on healthy living; each family must have a toilet, clean water (women in Bobasi village)
- Need for better, stronger structure (women in Makekoe village)

Specific notes from villages:

- Ubuiopei feel left behind in implementing 6 benchmarks due to communication breakdown; "lack of proper first-hand awareness, district admin and MP are failing us"
- Sipai (chiefs): no support from constituency level
- Mapisi: no progress, feeling of helplessness
- Keakapa (youth): restricted in implementing 6 benchmarks, need for financial assistance
- Kepui: youth need support

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

- Better understanding of timeline, transition and consultation; collaboration between ABG and PaCSIA
- Good first-hand info from PaCSIA; give us food for thought, new ideas
- We must build from bottom up
- The achievements of 6 benchmarks are in the hands of community
- Challenges of some benchmarks
- We must stand united, work together, including women and people with disabilities
- No Bougainvillean should be left behind (youth)
- Dialogue exposes failures of communication from leaders to the remote areas, not performing in their responsibilities (women of Makekoe village)
- Need for leadership training; need education to create equal opportunity for business

Question 5. Facilitator reflections

- Audience particularly vocal and eager to get involved: women (Tohei), youth (Kepui, Keakapa)
- Remote village, cry for more support and access to info (Ubuiopei, Mapisi, Matouharai)

Researcher's comment on data:

Longer report for this part of the constituency compared to Teua 1, particularly dense info. Mixed comments: in some villages, visible changes and achievements; in others, no sign of change and expressions of frustration.

13. Tonsu

Question 1: How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

- Perception of failure, uncertainty: “consultation failed, we don’t know how the government will cope now”³⁰
- Information stops at referendum: “Referendum went well” (Novah); “We haven’t heard anything since referendum”³¹ (Tsimanehan)
- Heard that Independence-ready Commission is doing rounds, spreading awareness (Nakit, Paru)

Visible changes:

- Upgrading/sealing of main/feeder roads
- New tertiary institutions
- Panguna mine negotiations
- Presence of NGOs

Question 2: What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

Note: Perception of no progress, no communication (Keavu)³²

- Train people towards 6 benchmarks (ward 4)
- Community/ task forces within community can/must work; organise community programme and calendar
- Self-reliance; identify, create, use local resources
- Strengthen leadership; proper leadership as example for youth; transparency, no corruption
- Bring trainings inside of community: leadership, literacy, financial, EEC; skill building; farming
- *As islanders: Need education on population growth control (Petats, Konitan, Kahule)*
Need to be mindful and wise of resources (Mabungan)

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

Economics:

- (more) SMEs for financial stability: Mangrove project, Mud Crab Farming Project (Harondo, Navuanek), marine farming; cooperatives; more women in business
- Road maintenance, upgrade
- Resource/ plantation rehabilitation; with World Bank support; reforestation
- Lots of trainings; learn to save money

Law and order:

- Good community cooperation, community well-being (gutpela sindaun)
- work needed for freedom of movement (Pipisu);

³⁰ Mipela i no save hau gavman inap we nau (Keavu, Harondo, Nova P/School)

³¹ Nogat wanpela gutpela toktok i kam pundaun long iau bilong mi

³² Nogat wok i kamap, nogat save long gavman olsem wanem” (Keavu)

- Decrease in drugs and alcohol; youth are behaving better (i harim tok liklik); people are tired of drug and alcohol issues; need to ban alcohol; sports tournaments
- Organisations cooperate: women, youth, men, church; women work hard against drugs and alcohol; Ministry camps and retreats
- Work needed on including youth; sports programme for youth rehab; youth participate in community programmes
- Veterans as peace builders

Health and living standards:

- Need to improve health services
- BHCP visit to community; cleanliness; proper household spacing; proper toilets
- New aid post building in progress (No name 3, Matsugan)
- Reforestation; seawall for shoreline protection (Petats)

Education:

- Creation of EEC; need for EEC training
- Need to support education
- More children going to school; more good students
- Calls for more trainings: farming, leadership, financial literacy

Governance:

- Leaders working hard, strengthened³³
- Community groups working closely with community government; holding their leaders into account “as a small nation”³⁴
- Youth in leadership positions (Pipisu, Petats)³⁵
- Much talk against corruption; people tired of corruption; want transparency and honesty, want good honest leaders
- New/recently launched community government office; community conference hall
- People aware of resource management, especially sea-resources (Mabungan)

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

- No info, no communication, no change (Keavu)
- Learned about 6 benchmarks: lessons to create individual change³⁶; everybody’s responsibility, not just ABG’s; self-reliance, not idleness
- Dialogue as clarification: recognise ABG work; recognise existing community cooperation
- Dialogue as a wake-up call to (more) action: Community needs to work together for the better” (Tsirih)³⁷
- Much work to be done yet (Nebu); “We have so little time left, and so much to do” (Novah)

Question 5 : Facilitator reflections

- Some areas need improvement, education, health, information (Keavu)

³³ “Lidasip i wok long kamap strong “(Paru)

³⁴ “Community i korektim ol lida husat i no wokim gut, community i sanap olsem liklik nation” (No name 1);

³⁵ “Ol yut i wok long kisim pasin lidasip” (Petats)

³⁶ “Gutpela rot bilong redim yumi wanwan” (Nakit); noken stasp nating (No name 3);

³⁷ mipela realisim olsem mipela slip tumas (Novah)

- People just need the right info to do things the right way (No name 2); there is potential in people, they just need inspiration (Koma)
- “Awakening” dialogue for the community

Researcher’s comments on data:

As in Hagogohe, facilitators report various perceptions towards independence-readiness: from uncertainty to idleness to concrete results.

As earlier, eliciting then sharing practical information (chosen indicators, accomplished changes) would help the communities still struggling with action choices. Wokabaut Videos are a much appreciated medium for sharing info.

Quote 1: Uncertainty about indicators of progress: “We don’t know how to measure progress” (Keavu)

Quote 2: Observation of community inactivity: “Lots of people are idle, few people have projects, no proper community calendar” “Lots of places do not look ready” ³⁸ (Novah)

Quote 3: Visible activity: “People are doing lots of things to prepare for Independence-readiness” ³⁹ (Ward Karanes)

³⁸ “Planti man i stap nating” (Tsirih); Planti ples i no soim olsem I redi”

³⁹ “Ol pipol I wok long wokim planti samting long redim ol long Indipendens-redines”

14. Tsitalato

Question 1. How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

Audience mentions visible changes at community level:

- Building of community government administration office
- Women appointed and elected (Tsulike Resource Centre)

Question 2. What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

- Community mobilisation for community work
- Food markets for family livelihoods
- Cash crops buyers
- Fishing floaters (Tsulike Resource Centre)

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

It is unclear whether this is a wish or was achieved.

Governance:

- Ward assemblies
- Steering committee and cooperatives
- Ward profiling and development plan
- Set-up of ward assemblies

Health and standards of living:

- BHCP in ward/community
- Community beautification
- Need for health centre

Law and order:

- Ongoing mediations
- By-laws implementations
- Dispose of outstanding and new weapons
- Ban gambling and alcohol

Economy:

- Department of Primary Industries monitor rural projects
- Bougainville private businesses to export cash crops overseas; copra
- Achieved:
 - o More women on roadside market
 - o Small craft enterprises; florists

Education:

- Community involvement in school activities
- Tertiary education institutions
- Early Childhood (EC) learning

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

Dialogues were held in schools and students report having learned much (Lonahan grade 7 A and B).

- Understanding of PNG/ABG consultation, ratification, referendum results, road map
- Understanding of 6 benchmarks, and role and responsibilities on domestic prong
- Need of good leadership for “total, just, fair independence”
- Need for cooperation of all, including women; women to take leadership roles in community

Question 5. Facilitator reflections

Audience voices concerns:

- Human resources
- Economy
- Leadership ability and training for peace
- Both men and women leaders reflected that more women should be in leadership roles

Constituencies in Central: Eivo-Torau, Ioro, Kokoda, Kongara, North Nasioi Rural, North Nasioi Urban, South Nasioi, Rau, Taonita Teop, Taonita Tinputz, Terra

1. Eivo-Torau

Question 1: How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

- No visible change at local level, no service delivery (Baboku, Itaupa, Kaspeke)

Question 2: What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

- Through awareness, encourage people to be actors of the process
- Development plan in place (Borumai)
- Community commitment: "Though we are from remote area with no road access, we are implementing the 6 benchmarks at our level" (Kaspeke)

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

Economics:

- Village-based microfinances, local businesses; village/clan treasury
- Paying head tax is compulsory
- Cooperatives; office for cooperative groups
- Reforestation for timber and carbon credits (Simareii); rice (Siuema)
- Community road construction and maintenance
- Local businesses: carpentry company for buildings, PMV
- Local road construction by ABG (Borumai)

Law and order:

- Responsibility at clan level
- Rehabilitation of youths through sports

Health and living standards:

- Ward has been selected as a model ward in constituency (Baboku)
- Renovation of big church building (Kiraria)

Education:

- Building/Upgrading of primary school; self-funded and built EEC
- Special focus on human resource development
- Capacity building for volunteer EEC teachers

Governance:

- Mobilising at family/clan/community level; regular/monthly community meetings
- Monitoring progress on 6 benchmarks (Boira)

- “Volunteering is the way forward” = volunteering as embodiment of community spirit
- Development of 5-year plan, vision and goals

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

- Effective, reliable information/update; crucial for remote areas
- Progress of the independence road map; process safeguarding B’ville journey
- 6 benchmarks for individual participation; encouragement; taking ownership, being actors in process
- Dialogue made us look at/analyse ourselves; dialogue as a tool for the community
- Non-effectiveness, weakness of constituency member; limits the community’s progress⁴⁰ (youth)

Question 5: Facilitator reflections

- “Overwhelmed by the participation”; impressed by the community’s commitment (Bobaku, Kosia)/ despite remoteness (Kaspeke)
- Dialogue as reinforcement, encouragement; “We evaluated ourselves through dialogue”
- Local member requests BTD’s help

Researcher’s comments:

Note: facilitator’s comment to be clarified: “This community is in a confused state, because of the investor issue” (Siuema)

⁴⁰ “The progress of the communities ‘engagement to new developments is determined by the good leadership in the ward” (Simarei)

2. loro

Question 1: How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

- New tertiary institutions
- New BSP building at Arawa town
- Reshuffling of ABG cabinet
- Lack of update, of information
- The two governments are not in agreement yet

Question 2: What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

- Spread awareness of 6 benchmarks: workgroups inside community
- Governance: leaders and people must collaborate
- Law and Order: reconciliation brings us freedom
- Healthy community: community looks after village/ road
- Education: for future HR

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

Economics:

- Fisheries, chicken farming, agriculture; all families involved in farming
- We have a road

Law and order: No mention

Health and living standards: No mention

Education: We have experts; we support education

Governance: Ward assembly set up

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

- We have to work at family/clan level
- We learned about individual work, effort, responsibility

Question 5: Facilitator reflections

- Audience requested more time for dialogue
- Audience learn about ABG/GoPNG cooperation
- Audience take ownership of efforts towards 6 benchmarks

3. Kokoda

Question 1: How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

- Both govts work in the background; follow process, timeline
- No support for 6 benchmarks; no service delivery; no visible change; money going to political process only; only words and promises
- No update or awareness until BTM visit; BTM doing what should be the work of ward members; suggest using B'ville Bulletin for updates

Question 2: What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

- Ongoing mediation for land issues, sorcery accusation
- Encourage income-generating activities
- Watched Wokabaut Senis videos: inspiration/motivation for things possible in our community

Not sure if actual or suggested:

- Protect community assets
- Protect environment, reef (ban on reef fishing)

Expressions of grievances:

- Applied for fundings but no results
- Head tax not in place yet
- Encourage income-generation, cocoa, vanilla, balsa; but need support for roads, exports
- Encourage education, trainings; but need support for school, education
- Veterans, youth still make home-brew, contribute to law and order issues
- Need money to implement 6 benchmarks

ABG and reps are distant, absent, comfortable in Buka; we need to see ABG's presence; ABG fails us; "It should be a two-way thing" (now one way, with ABG not giving support at community level)

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

Economics:

- Vanilla, cocoa, copra, balsa;
- Blocks overgrown, abandoned, because of road conditions

Law and order:

- Support income-generation for law and order
- Decrease homebrew, destroy gas bottles

Health and living standards: Grievance: no toilets

Education:

- New classrooms
- Need for capacity building
- Deficient infrastructure jeopardises parents' income-generation
- Youth's need of education for income-generating is not met

Governance:

- "Women are a strength, in absence of men"; "government should create impact projects to generate income"

Note: Mention of MP's empty promises (20% support not allocated) makes people say "we are not independence-ready"

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

- Learned a lot; only BTD gives updates, nothing from ABG
- ABG working in the background; political process (only)
- ABG not doing enough on local level, to help implement 6 benchmarks (transport, markets)
- 6 benchmarks and community role and responsibility; inspirational; we must work together
- 6 benchmarks: "We are already doing it"
- We need education, HR
- We parents must support L and O, to prepare our children
- The price of commodities impacts the income, and the community's efforts

Question 5: Facilitator reflections

- Awareness on 6 benchmarks is welcomed as guidelines for community efforts
- Some govt input would boost the community's progress on the 6 benchmarks
- Need for financial literacy, how to budget and spend money
- Constituency administrator was present, admitted that funds were not available
- Active leadership; already leads towards 6 benchmarks; community well informed
- Wish for improvements, but no tangible support for change yet
- Two communities at the end of the road (Amoapong and Siorovi), no maintenance since 1988, impassable, blocks covered by bush.

Researcher's comments:

The reports for this constituency draw the picture of very diverse audiences (aware/not informed, active/not active).

It seems like these disparities may be linked to the location alongside the road. The communities at the end of the road (that has not been maintained since 1988 and is therefore impassable to transport of goods) expressed strong frustration and grievances.

4. Kongara

Question 1. How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

- No change because there is no good road system, government must help with road
- No change because member never visits

Question 2. What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

- SMEs: Small scale mini gold processing plant
- Proper burial for those killed during war

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

Education:

- As a priority
- Build new classroom
- Teachers are working hard
- Improved respect for teachers and leaders
- More children enrol at school

Law and order:

- Improved respect for leader
- Ongoing reconciliations

Governance:

- Building governance in community

Economy:

- SMEs
- Mini mines
- Mini gold processing plants
- Small scale fish projects
- Cocoa plots
- Pay head tax to community government

Health and living standards:

- New water and sanitation awareness through WASH

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

- Better understanding of timeline
- Trident strategy
- Progress of 2 governments, agreements signed
- 6 Benchmarks is the community's responsibility on the domestic prong

Question 5. Facilitator reflections

- Challenges due to weather and flooded river

- Suggestion expressed by audience: Member's office must be built in constituency, to guarantee stronger presence

5. North Nasioi Rural

Researcher comment: There are very negative comments in this report. The audience appears eager to express their frustration rather than answering the questions.

Question 1. How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

- No sign of progress, no development; political talk but no action, no visible result
- Good plan but action must happen
- No network for communication
- No update, in the dark
- Need awareness, need to know before measuring progress
- Roadmap is ongoing, so we must receive info
- Constituency member not visible, not active
- Lack of trust in ABG Departments
- Suspicion of corruption
- Roadmap is political, there is a need for economic roadmap
- Government's task on 6 benchmarks is not reasonable without (giving) support (to communities)

Question 2. What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

- Support education
- Involve the parents
- "Illiteracy breeds crime"

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

Achieved:

- Community supports ex-combatants who dealt with rascals
- Community is working with police task force
- We see police arrest criminals
- Community has built a meeting house/ VA
- Leaders talk to youth to discourage underage marriage
- Good school rules, they are obeyed (Maamung village)

Not achieved:

- Be inclusive
- Must involve "illiterates"⁴¹

Other comments:

⁴¹ The word "illiterates" typically refers to those who have missed out on education because of the crisis.

Law and order:

- We need more police power
- Police task force, both male and female
- Police must arrest rascals, more must happen
- Law-enforcing manpower must be trained and sent to Bougainville
- Ban homebrew
- Local by-laws to protect local community
- Cultural laws must be taught and implemented

Economy:

- Needed support for skills and finance, to start and sustain SMEs
- (International) market for cash crops, garden produce and for small-scale gold mining⁴²; add betel nut as international export (to Pacific countries)
- Advice for agriculture (crops fail, fight cocoa borer)
- Fish project: talk but no implementation
- Care for environment, clean up pollution from rivers

Access to grants (linked to economic development):

- Support for poor people to have access to grants (and not be elbowed out by rich, educated people)
- Experts to help apply for funds (private proposal writers charge much)

Governance:

- Suspicion of corruption
- Leaders should be visible, present, educated for performance and transparency
- Community government must benefit the whole community, not just their family
- Infrastructure: we need more roads; roads and schools date from pre-crisis, a need to renew for future generation

Education:

- We need higher education institutions
- We need more schools nearby

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

- Better understanding of roadmap, consultation, JSB, independence-readiness
- 6 benchmarks: Hear for the first time in meeting; a new concept, a guide for action; roles and responsibilities; why do we hear so late, we must start planning
- Equity: We need more funds for rural areas, they are larger, with more population
- Education:
 - o It is our community responsibility to act, we must reopen the school
 - o We must discuss 6 benchmarks with children
 - o To involve all (Women)

⁴² But audiences do not want large-scale mining.

- Failure of ABG to connect political plans with economic translation at rural level, to support rural communities
- Failure to communicate and share info
- Lack of communication is a hindrance to development towards 6 benchmarks
- Failure of constituency members to show up, contribute
- PaCSIA provides education, info, awareness; an eye-opener for community's responsibilities

Question 5. Facilitator reflections

- Rural community was not aware of 6 benchmarks; now that they are clear, they want to work, an active community
- Female ward member has good relations with leaders, she organised PaCSIA's welcome
- The audience wants all their people to access information and dialogues
- Strong request to cover all villages in constituency
- The dialogue triggers discussion and decision to action: community now wants to reopen the school

6. North Nasioi Urban

Question 1. How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

Audience mentions visible changes at local level:

- Through radio broadcast for info
- Arawa community government is working well, the differences have been put aside
- Questions about realistic timeline and feasibility of roadmap, in connection with challenging access to tertiary education in Bougainville/need to send students overseas (Women, Arawa Urban Lower Ward 3)

Question 2. What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

- Need for more income avenues
- Need more income avenues for youth (women)
- Need government to support for job creation
- Urban businesses must create employment opportunities, especially to occupy youth (say the women)

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

The answers here seem to be more "Should", than "Achieved".

- Business people should create employment opportunities
- Job creation in urban setting
- State land should be peacefully returned to government
- Government properties should be respected
- Unemployed people should peacefully return to the village
- There should be more work on law and order
- Veterans are causing issues
- Police service should become police force

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

- Update, good info, "light after dark"
- Better understanding of what PNG/ABG are doing; otherwise, no contact with them, no info, no consultation with population, perception of unilateral decisions
- 6 benchmarks; makes us realise the importance of our role; "we need to get working, we lag behind"
- Hear about progress, but implementation is slow; no change at community level
- Leaders' responsibility to educate community, to support community's work on 6 benchmarks (example: international markets)
- Dialogue as a good method to pass info, better than printed posters alone

Question 5. Facilitator reflections

- Urban setting means more population movement, hence need to repeat info for changing audience
- Dialogues in urban need to reach larger audience, organise night sessions for public servants
- Ward member and committee attended dialogue, show a connection with their people

7. South Nasioi

Question 1. How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

- We hear about it, but not enough to have own opinion
- Independence-ready mission is non-existent/non-operational; no funds

Question 2. What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

Law and order:

- Fight sorcery accusations
- Manage law breakers

Economy:

- Set up of SMEs, of local cooperative
- Alluvial mining; but no industrial mining

Community and youth:

- Education and parents' influence to tackle youth issues
- SMEs for income to pay school fees
- Population control to afford school fees for all children

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

Achieved:

Economy:

- SMEs set up and income school fees
- Farming and cash crops
- Local cooperative bought a truck, goes to town twice a day; partnership with Heli NiuGini
- A foot bridge has been built with members money and head tax
- Member helps with youth programs
- Higher standards: ice cream available in village (*Note: it means access to power etc*)
- Active church group brings people together, cultivates high interest in learning; new priest ordained last year, works with the youth
- Understanding that 6 benchmarks are the responsibility of family, clan, community

Additional: What should be done to achieve the 6 benchmarks:

Law and order:

- Sorcery accusations (linked to homebrew and drugs consumption) and murders;
- Issues with veterans' children; stop drugs and homebrew
- Keep youth busy with education, sports and income-earning

Education:

- Tertiary education in Bougainville;
- Income to pay for school fees;

- Mental health issues among students affect education

Economy:

- Use head tax for visible results; suspicion of corruption
- “Kina for kina” approach is not realistic for poor families
- Access to international markets for produce
- Investors to bring in money

Governance:

- Government land should be used for tertiary education and commercial development
- Leaders should be properly trained

Health and standards of living:

- Resolve alluvial gold mining pollution

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

- Updates, Consultation and process
- 6 benchmarks are our individual responsibility, must be used as a guide for action
- All must participate, churches must participate
- The 6 benchmarks are like an assignment from ABG, but they do not supervise nor support
- BTD has fed our desire for info; more visits and info
- Use the Bougainville Bulletin more often
- BTD highlights our member’s failure to do his job

Q5. Facilitator’s reflections

- Able to visit thanks to extra funds, thanks to PaCSIA
- More dialogues needed to cover hinterland
- President Toroama’s area, yet information does not reach us
- Ward chairlady had not had access to latest update (South Nasioi Waribi Primary School)
- BTD letter did not reach ward member, still meeting well attended; Healthy Community meeting next day, hence good crowd
- Village hard working, but youth are not included, they must be made contributors

8. Rau

Question 1: How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

- New drug laws in B'ville

Visible changes:

- Veterans collaborate with police on law and order (Rau, Sivavi, Rauvira, Tearaka, Asigoro, Kosai)
- Veterans start forming their own security companies (Kakarapaia)
- Chiefs working with constituency members
- Plantations rehabilitated; copra and cocoa factories
- Intercultural show for unity
- Improved facilities; Arawa and Buka hospitals; secondary and technical schools; police stations
- Perception of less law and order issues in main centres (Buin, Buka)
- Parish priests move about more again; more freedom of movement

Question 2: What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

- Reconciliations, solve land issues (Kakarapaia); veterans' collaboration on law and order (Teohiup)
- Cooperation between all leaders
- Inform/ involve the youths better
- Leaders to support students for tertiary education

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

Economics:

- More SMEs/income earning projects; more self-reliance for food
- Cooperatives; community treasury for support in school fees, health
- Improved agriculture by use of chemicals: Gramoxin, RoundUp (Teohiup)
- Youths' projects, farming
- Community and companies collaborate on road access

Law and order:

- Youths keep busy by running their own projects; run trainings (peace building, skills, literacy)
- Veterans "settle down" and support police for law and order
- Chiefs support police; chiefs implement traditional laws

Health and living standards:

- Permanent houses

Education:

- More students in higher institutions

Governance:

- Leaders collaborate well together; veterans work with chiefs; community cooperates
- Chiefs speak up/act for peace
- The community changed the old leaders (youth, women, chiefs), “New people are running the community”⁴³ (Rauvira, Lolovu)
- Chiefs mentor the youths for future leadership (Tearaka, Kakarapaia)
- Ward members support community for roads and water supply (Asigoro)
- Management and leadership training for all local leaders/ for all (Rateri, Kakarapaia)

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

- Learned about the 6 benchmarks for practical individual action
- Youths, women, veterans, church, all leaders learned a lot
- Chiefs, youths, women, veterans learn to communicate together
- Video James Tanis very well received

Question 5: Facilitator reflections

- Participants frustrated that there was no camera to make videos (Kakarapaia, Asigoro, Lolovu, Kosai, Toreraiva)
- Facilitator mentions seeing changes in the community (Rateri)

⁴³ Niupela lain i ronim komiuniti

9. Taonita Teop

Question 1: How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

- Ongoing communication/cooperation between the two governments/ collaborative work on B'ville constitution/ no blockage
- "Sessional order" = buzzword within this constituency
- Basic services are being maintained locally

Question 2: What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

- Much work to be done yet (Taurai)/ 6 benchmarks achieved (Teakoverau)
- Community awareness/effort on Law and Order; ban substances; community by-laws; reconciliation; church support
- Village/ward treasury
- Collaboration: churches, community
- Encourage family activities; piggery; vanilla; trade stores
- Renovate existing infrastructure; awareness of sanitation; water supply; community clean up
- New buildings; new ECC

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?⁴⁴

Economics:

- Individual/family enterprises; many new trade stores; vanilla, balsa, cocoa

Law and order:

- Ongoing reconciliations; Weapon disposal; Sports activities for youth
- Law and order improving alongside economic/sports activities

Health and living standards:

- Water supply; village-based cleanup; toilets
- New houses, semi/permanent; new church building, market, community hall

Education:

- New classroom
- New vocational school for ward and constituency ⁴⁵

Governance: Village treasury

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

- Need to implement 6 benchmarks strategically, need a guide to implement well from the start (Pereovi)

⁴⁴ Taurai: "We have achieved the 6 benchmarks" → ask for details?

⁴⁵ Yokoreri: investigate

- Learned about political process, roadmap, sessional order, timeline
- Learn from BTM, not/never from member nor ward; now understand the governments' work
- International community has a say in B'ville independence (Kosinamohina)
- Still much to be done with youth (Waropa)

Question 5: Facilitator reflections

- "Ward well developed, Infrastructure to be developed" (Naitatoa)⁴⁶
- Community happy to get BTM visit/info; no info delivered without BTM
- "Taurai ward is well up to date with 6 benchmarks"; "Pereovi well above the 6 benchmarks"⁴⁷

⁴⁶ Clarify meaning?

⁴⁷ Taurai, Pereovi: investigate claim of achieving 6 benchmarks; identify indicators

10. Taonita Tinputz

Question 1: How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

- Promotion of global trade and investment

Visible changes:

- Increased access to customary land for development (Hipuveve);
- Tertiary institutions are built; Arawa School of Nursing; technical colleges
- Better law and order
- More activity in plantations
- Provinces cooperate together

Question 2: What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

- Support education
- Support disability
- Support SME, farming; encourage self-reliance
- Support local law and order

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

Economics:

- Establish more SMEs; cocoa, vanilla, copra blocks; encourage self-reliance
- Permanent markets
- Pay head tax

Law and order:

- Ongoing reconciliations, weapon disposal
- Empower youth in training; youths have their own houses; youths' spiritual programs

Health and living standards:

- Emphasis on healthy environment
- Permanent houses

Governance:

- New leadership on community; promoting good governance
- Community spirit
- Emphasis on spiritual life

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

- Better understanding of process
- Info about benchmarks, for individual action
- Youth, chiefs learn a lot
- Dialogue as educational; learn to speak, to ask and answer questions

Question 5: Facilitator reflections

- Good community spirit and work (Hutahi)
- Noisy discussion, participants enjoy talking; community share opinions about how to achieve, be creative
- Youths and chiefs connect, learn to work together
- Community identify what they don't know

11. Terra

Question 1: How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

Note for Terra: facilitator has detailed each subgroup's contribution in their reports: women, youths, church, leaders

- Women, youths, churches, veterans recognise their own groups' stronger engagement and progress (B'ville youths participate in SP Games)
- Comments on MPs deaths

Visible changes: - Sealed roads in urban areas; request for services in rural areas

- Arawa Nursing School; cocoa factory; technical schools

Question 2: What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

- Women, youth recognising their own group's increased economic activities
- Veterans voice the need for "better settlement"(reconciliations) for law and order

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

Economics:

- Women benefit from the resource centre/have their own projects
- Youths have their own projects (cash crops, peanut, cabbage) / their own housing/would like support
- Need for better roads, to support business efforts

Law and order:

- Veterans strengthen law and order; work with youth on law and order, on substance abuse⁴⁸
- Reconciliations in all constituencies; chiefs work on reconciliations; church conduct reconciliations on own fundings

Health and living standards:

- Youth involved in BHCP

Education:

- Children must be sent to school, as future leaders (women)
- Relocation of school/ of government building

Governance:

- Leaders work on/need to improve community work plan to reach 6 benchmarks
- Church leaders reinforce good governance through their programmes
- Youth deplore no sports field/ involved in carpentry, community projects

⁴⁸ Suggestion of Wokabaut Senis video (Tarara)

- Women, youths deplore lack of good leadership

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

- Each group sees themselves better: Chiefs/women leaders/youths/veterans learned about their role and responsibilities/ needs/ cooperation/ potential
- Dialogue strengthens the community feeling; groups learn to speak together/cooperate
- Dialogue as encouragement towards more efforts
- Dialogue as eye-opener: “We must put more efforts in 6 benchmarks” (chiefs, women, youths, church in Tarara);
- Youth want more mentoring

Question 5: Facilitator reflections

No additional comments

Constituencies in South: Baba, Baubake, Bolave, Konnou, Kopii, Lato, Lule, Makis, Motuna Huyuno Tukunutui, Ramu, Torokina

1. Baba

Question 1. How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

Audience mentions visible changes at local level:

- Visit by the constitution planning committee
- Visit by the departments for policy review
- Police taskforce is active, set-up of lock up
- Upgrade of roads and bridges
- Built community government house, new classrooms, EC Centre, Digicel tower, coca buying depot
- Head tax as a novelty

Question 2. What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

Law and order:

- Ban homebrew
- Peace keeping at clan level
- Ward mediation team set up
- Youth engage in sports

Governance:

- Landowners to give ground to build VA building
- Ward steering committee set up

Economy:

- Earn income to pay head tax

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

Achieved:

Law and order:

- "Operation rausim homebrew", veterans contribute to law and order by taking away the gas cylinders for homebrew
- Peace keeping through community mobilisation and cooperation, at family and clan level
- Ward and clan by-laws

Education:

- Build EC centre, more children at school
- Classroom built without government help
- Volunteer teachers at EC

Other:

- Head tax, as a novelty, a sign of change, a potential source of income for economic benefits

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

- New information, eye opener (women)
- Good update for chiefs
- Dialogue as education, “skul” (youth)
- Need more information
- Better understanding of keywords: roadmap, trident, 6 benchmarks
- BTB is doing ABG’s work; need more info, ABG must support BTB
- Info must be spread to whole constituency (youth)
- Former ABG member request dialogues for the whole constituency (Solom hamlet)

Question 5. Facilitator reflections

- Active community, interactive dialogue exchange

2. Baubake

Question 1. How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

Audience mentions changes visible at local level:

- Police presence and action as task force
- Police work with the court system
- Government departments' visit and consultation: depts of education, health, justice
- Developments in Buin town: new government office, new guesthouses, new businesses
- Education: technical college, nursing college in Arawa⁴⁹

Question 2. What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

- Youth could start income-earning businesses

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

Note: not sure what of the following is Achieved or Should be done

Law and order:

- Ban homebrew and drugs
- Engage youth in sports

Economy:

- Set-up SMEs to make money; cash crops
- Set-up trade store
- Awareness on head tax
- Awareness on micro-finance

Education:

- Parents need to ensure that children attend school
- Build classrooms and staff houses

Health and standards of living:

- Build permanent houses, toilets
- Community collaboration on clean up, build toilets

Community spirit:

- Care, look after each other
- Respect leaders, people and properties

Good governance:

- Ward development plan

⁴⁹ *It is unclear whether these are institutions that are operating or being built.*

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

- New information, update, makes us think
- Better understanding of process, progress, the two governments work together
- The 6 benchmarks represent the common effort
- Independence is not just the work of ABG
- We must work on our own readiness
- Dialogue process reveals the failure of our member, of ABG, to do their job

Question 5. Facilitator reflections

- Audience asks to share the dialogue information within the whole constituency

3. Bolave

The dialogues in Bolave appear to have been used by the audience as an opportunity to express concerns and ask questions. Most of the facilitator reports do not answer the questions but list the audience's comments.

Question 1. How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

- No specific comments, rather a list of grievances towards government

Question 2. What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

- Tackle sorcery accusations and ensuing violence

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

- Head tax money should be used within the ward
- Suggestion: change homebrew into Bougainville beer

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

- Update from James Tanis

Q5. Facilitator's reflections

- Audience are happy to be able to ask questions, express their fears and doubts
- Dialogue gives the feeling to be part of Bougainville's journey
- Feeling of remoteness and neglect
- "Some disturbance, but dialogue went ahead"
- More than a day needed in each location

4. Konnou

Question 1: How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

- James Tanis video: assurance that ABG and GoPNG are collaborating
- Keywords: constitution, trident, consultations, three pillars, draw down of powers,

Visible change:

- Police service changed to police force; more strict
- Youths more under control
- Women feel safer in their movements
- Negotiations on overseas trade

Question 2: What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

- Implement 6 benchmarks at family level
- More economic activities (chiefs); more cocoa buyers; good quality cocoa
- More reconciliations; more trust and respect; more freedom of movement
- Upgrade roads, health centre, school, church (women)
- Support, improve education;(re)build classrooms, library
- Chiefs, ward members, elders to help control/support youth, ban homebrew
- Strong law to deal with arms (Monopo)
- More women to take leadership roles

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

Economics:

- More cash crops; more markets
- Youth cooperatives (Monopo 3)⁵⁰
- Upgrade of road Buin-Arawa-Buka; more community-made feeder roads (youths Malaka 2); protect environment against logging (Tukia)

Law and order:

- Chiefs and police/chiefs and church work together
- Police must give more awareness (youths Monopo2)
- Need for justice, reconciliation

Health and living standards:

- Solar system in place for health centre (Tokumogu 2, Kukabai)
- Model BHCP villages promoted; better sanitation

Education:

- More focus for children education; primary school
- Teachers' housing; restore classrooms

⁵⁰ Suggestion: Wokabaut Senis video on youth cooperative

Governance:

- Improve governance at family level (chiefs)
- Community government building (Tonolei)
- Good policies on land ownership, registration (Muguas)
- Community activities (health, school clean up)

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

- Learned a lot!
- Understand key words and process (students, women): consultation, ratification, roadmap, transition
- Videos are educational and convincing, trustworthy;⁵¹
- 6 benchmarks, for individual action; make us aware
- Dialogue as a tool for information, communication, unification

Question 5: Facilitator reflections

- By conducting dialogues, we are giving *hope* (Tokumogu 1, Kukabai)
- Dialogues inform, make aware: 6 benchmarks; bring back trust towards ABG, independence process; best tool for education; only tool for information (Kamekai); crucial for student info
- Dialogues as the best tools for people to express their feelings
- Regular updates/dialogues increase people's involvement, sense of ownership
- "The participants understand more easily by seeing James Tanis' presentation"
- "We facilitators really need to produce more videos" (Malaka 1)

Researcher's comments:

Youth appear particularly vocal and active in this constituency. Suggest to investigate and possibly create Wokabout Senis videos, to inspire other youths.

Facilitators give particularly good feedback on videos. Quotes have been included in report Part 1 Q 1,2 and 5.

⁵¹ "More videos must be produced to educate people. They learned a lot by watching James Tanis' video" (chief Monopo 2); "the video of James Tanis helped us a lot about the consultation" (Tokumogu 1); it is the Wokabout Senis videos, and particularly the one by particularly James Tanis that really matters to people (Malaka 2)

4. Kopii

Question 1. How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

- Good information disseminated to community, by leaders to stakeholders

Question 2. What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

- Weapons disposal
- Head tax must be used to support 6 benchmarks

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

- To see the head tax used to support the 6 benchmarks, as internal revenue

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

- Better understanding how the two governments work together; roadmap, timeline, three prongs
- 6 benchmarks to guide the work together

Question 5. Facilitator's reflections

- Community impressed to learn how the two governments work well together
- Audience would like the dialogues to continue until 2027

5. Lato

Question 1. How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

Audience mentions changes visible at community level:

- Set-up of Bana district lock-up; built by law and justice and police mobile squad
- Visit of Constitutional Planning Committee; visit of government departments for consultation

Question 2. What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

- No additional comments

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

It is unclear if the items below are "Achieved" or "Should be done".

Law and order:

- Mobilise in clan groups
- By-laws in clan
- Local people organised in peace mediation

Education:

- More students in school
- More in EC

Economy:

- More SMEs, cocoa, cash crops, poultry; canteens/trade stores; new market building
- More women in economic activities, women are more active economically
- Roads
- Pay head tax
- Need for more financial support (women)

Governance:

- About to build VA house; good VA set-up

Health and living standards:

- Better health care
- More permanent houses, look after/beautify village, proper set-up
- Safe, healthy environment

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

- Better understanding, good update: the two governments working together, roadmap, timeline, trident strategy
- 6 benchmarks: doing our part, domestic prong starts with family; community support and effort
- Good questions, eye opener; dialogue is good technique
- BTB is doing part of ABG's work; ABG must support BTB

Question 5. Facilitator's reflection

- "People are already working towards 6 benchmarks"
- More participation, eagerness in dialogue during second visit (Moirue village)
- Dialogue builds confidence, women and youth speak out more
- Concern that this information reaches all of the constituency (youth and chiefs)

6. Lule

Question 1. How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

Audience mentions change visible at community level:

Law and order:

- Police works well, prevent and detect offenses
- Community-based protection plan, preserves peaceful society
- Freedom of movement

Good governance:

- All public servants work on time
- High quality public and civil services
- Good governance and government services

Infrastructure:

- BSP bank
- PNG power, electricity
- Sealing of main road Arawa to Buin (this has not been achieved)

Education:

- ABG pays school fees (and not PNG government)⁵²

Good community collaboration

- Community assists those in need

Question 2. What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

Economy:

- Set up SMEs
- Soap making machine

Education:

- Build 2 Early Childhood Education centres

Law and order:

- Cooperate with youth

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

Law and order:

- Preserve peace for economic activities
- Protect life and property, through good behaviour, respect for law and government

⁵² This is not correct.

Youth:

- Focus on work and games

Economy:

- Develop more economic activities
- Road should be fixed

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

- New information: political process, constitution, Era Kone Covenant, timeline, trident
- 6 benchmarks to be prepared for independence; we must strengthen economy, find markets to sell produce
- We need more information at community level

Question 5. Facilitator's reflections

- BTDs are an opportunity for the communities to grow
- Government station was moved to Buin town to a new location

Researcher's comment on data:

From this report, this community appears to foster strong values of inclusion and inclusivity as community values. They emphasise change in behaviour towards acceptance of rights of others.⁵³

⁵³ "Senisim pasin."

7. Makis

Question 1: How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

Use of jargon:

- Implement one-line budget
- Establish B'ville Constitutional Planning Committee
- Report to 11th Parliament

Question 2: What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

- Educate about 6 benchmarks/process
- Enhance self-reliance, individual effort and responsibility
- Sustainable, revenue-creating livelihood
- Women's new status, because of their role in farming
- Encourage community to support Law and Order
- Permanent settlement/housing
- Lift standards to "international level"

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

Economics:

- Vanilla, cocoa; involvement in cash economy

Law and order:

- Encourage youth to their own income-generating business
- Community mediation

Health and living standards:

- Permanent houses

Education: No mention

Governance:

- Updates on political progress; VA provides updates

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

- Road map, referendum results, trident strategy, timeline, 6 benchmarks
- Learned about ABG's activity in background
- Individual responsibility/action

Question 5: Facilitator reflections

- Audience comments that BTB responds directly to the people's needs

- Opportunity for community discussion
- BTD provides opportunity for dialogue to secure sustainable peace and good governance

8. Motuna Huyono Tukunutui

Question 1. How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

Audience mentions changes visible at community level:

- Work on bridge and road
- New community government building
- School level improvement; new/change in education system
- Enforcement of services, President in good condition

Question 2. What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

Law and order:

- Community cooperation: the community mobilised together to get a rape offender to police

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

Law and order:

- Enforce no homebrew
- Good community understanding, no shouting

Economy:

- More trade stores; more cash crops
- Building new roads

Governance:

- Funding at VA level
- Set-up of community government structure

Education:

- Human resources, more skills to work
- More children at school; more educated children
- Economic initiatives to pay for school fees

Health and standards of living:

- Improve the housing; more permanent houses
- Awareness of healthy community

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

- Learned a lot, good update, peace process, roadmap, constitution, timeline, trident, independence-readiness, 6 benchmarks

Question 5. Facilitator reflections

- Audience learned a lot, becomes clear on ABG's roadmap
- Feeling of strong community work

8. Ramu

Question 1: How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

- Perception that law and order are better enforced; collaboration B'ville and PNG police
- Cocoa price has increased

Concerns:

- The local independence-ready committee is not functional (Surusu)
- We see progress on road maintenance in other areas, but not in our area

Question 2: What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

- Community cohesion; chiefs and elders encourage and push their communities, hold meetings to encourage and strengthen community (Maisua)⁵⁴
- The community has been maintaining their road "with bare hands"

Not clear if desired or observed:

- Community can participate in organised programs as offered: meetings, capacity building, spiritual programs

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

Economic:

- Need of a "proper fixed price" for cash crops to boost economy⁵⁵
- Community road project

Law and order:

- Better enforcement; chiefs' empowerment
- Youth have cut down on homebrew and organise sports events; Zero homebrew and marijuana consumption⁵⁶

Education:

- Children sent to school/to ECC for education as "our future human resources"
- Waiting for the government to put the teachers on payroll (still working on a volunteer basis)

Governance:

- Efforts of inclusivity and collaboration (chiefs, women, youths) to sustain law and order

⁵⁴ Suggestion: Wokabaut video on chiefs and elders' actions

⁵⁵ Suggestion: need for economic literacy, particularly explain fluctuations in cash crop prices

⁵⁶ Suggestion: Investigate, possibly Wokabaut video

- Perception of poor governance; independence-ready committee non functional, no progressive ward reports (Noronai, Keino)

Community Strength:

- “Community sees itself as independent-ready by spiritual and physical rehabilitation programme” (Morokino)⁵⁷

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

- Learned about independence-readiness and the three prongs
- Learned that ABG/ ABG and PNG are working hard to fulfil timeline
- About the power of collaboration and unity, and of respect of leadership
- Learned that the 6 benchmarks are being addressed / have been achieved in our community; that we are doing our part in achieving the 6 benchmarks
- We learned that time is needed for change

Question 5: Facilitator reflections

- Dialogue made participants realise that they already achieved some of the benchmarks
- Focus on cooperation and unity as tools for community progress; inclusive participation as a tool: chiefs, women, youths
- Dialogue helped the community realise that they “have to work better together (...) to achieve the 6 benchmarks”

⁵⁷ Suggestion: get more details on this “community-devised spiritual and physical rehabilitation programme”; possibly Wokabaut video?

9. Torokina

Question 1: How do you measure the progress of the two governments in the transition consultation?

- Ongoing collaboration between ABG and GoPNG/promoting peace/ quarterly factsheets⁵⁸
- Keywords: Draw down of power/timeline/B'ville constitution/B'ville engagement on int'l level

Visible changes:

- More police presence/ more police power
- Building of EEC/improvement of education, health, road
- ABG rep visits at district, ward level

Question 2: What can your community do to achieve the 6 benchmarks for independence-readiness?

Economics:

- Create more income generating activities
- Plant crops, inland fish farms; sell at local markets
- Make more land available to government for development⁵⁹
- Build access road; pay head tax

Law and Order:

- Ban homebrew, marijuana;
- Respect within community, reconciliations, solve disputes through village court Engage youths in sports, community activities

Health and living standards:

- Build better houses; respect property

Education:

- Send children to school

Governance:

- Improve social infrastructure⁶⁰

Question 3: How do you measure progress towards achieving the 6 benchmarks in your community?

Economics:

- More income-generating activities at family, clan level
- Cash crops, livestock, fish farms, alluvial mining
- Payment of head tax

⁵⁸ To verify: are there quaterly factsheets? (Papona, Pigu)

⁵⁹ Suggestion: topic may be worth a community discussion

⁶⁰ Meaning of "social infrastructure" to be investigated (repeated mentions in this constituency)

- Community road construction

Law and order:

- More care and unity in community
- Youth more respectful of L and O; more peaceful resolutions of issues

Health and living standards:

- More (semi) permanent buildings
- Improved water and sanitation
- Building aid post, church

Education:

- More children at school, in higher education/ technical schools;

Governance: No mention

Question 4: What did you learn in this dialogue?

- Good updates; reliable info
- Learned more about the road/process to independence, key messages, 6 benchmarks
- -Learned that independence is in our own hands; BTD inspires us to work harder
- -Learned how dialogue can solve issues in community; learned the difference between dialogue and normal awareness (Kakas)

Question 5: Facilitator reflections

- BTD is the only source of first-hand info; gives the community a better understanding of independence process, role of both governments
- More educational awareness needed/ at least two rounds per year; more on 6 benchmarks; dialogues help gained much needed info and knowledge
- Dialogues as a tool; community now feeling that they are part of the independence process
- More needs to be done to encourage attendance (Marowa)

Part 3: Additional reflections of the researcher

The comments in this section are building on the results of the 2022 evaluation, either because they are new, or because they further highlight elements uncovered in the 2022 analysis.

Head tax:

The implementation of head tax is greeted as a novelty, and specifically as one grass root component of the road towards economic independence. In this sense, it is regarded with hope and pride, on proviso that it be used for visible community benefit.

Connections between community development, the 6 benchmarks and cross-cutting issues:

- Law and order are dependent on solving youth issues
- Law and order are a pre-requisite for economic development
- Economic development requires education and skills acquisition
- Funding education (through school fees) is possible only through good law and order, and through population control

Governance:

The communities have a clear picture of their place in the bigger Bougainville structure: from national level to constituency, to ward, to village. Consequently, they repeatedly emphasise the need for the different levels to communicate information and share opportunities in terms of skills and funding.

Community:

Once they access information through BTDs, rural communities express their concern for solidarity with other remote communities, that the whole constituency gets the same opportunity. Such requests point to the perception of the community's greater strength and weight, if it can identify as a recognised part of the constituency.

Space for inter-generational dialogue: there are repeated reports from the Carterets of parallel complaints of, on the one hand, adults (leaders/parents) complaining about the young people's lack of engagement, and, on the other hand, of young people's complaints to be excluded and not be given opportunities for involvement. Dialogues focusing on giving a space to these two groups to effectively talk and listen might actively strengthen the community structure. This also applies to other parts of Bougainville.

Economic development:

In the Carteret Islands seaweed farming has become an important economic activity: there has been much talk worldwide about seaweed added to cattle food to reduce methane emissions. Seaweed farming has started to spread in the Pacific. Some Carteret Islanders appear to develop seaweed nurseries to sell seedlings to other islands. Their buyers are then Pacific islanders from neighbouring islands. There are also mention of foreign, possibly Chinese, buyers in some areas - possibly of larger quantities of seaweed from already established farms. This industry seems to be perceived as more promising in terms of income-generation than fishing for commercial purposes. It might also be more affordable to implement at community level. There is also mention of ABG reps, either giving the training or supervising the commercial seaweed ventures. Further investigation is suggested.

The focus on the access to the cash economy: When islanders talk about successful development, they seem to specifically refer to access to actual cash, which is virtually absent from daily island life. Much of the islands' economy involves minimal cash, and relies on more traditional methods like bartering, reciprocity etc. Cash is a rare and much coveted commodity, associated with access to school fees and health care.

Additional suggestion:

Possibly re-formulate questions 3 and 4 in the reporting template: To get a better sense of what the communities think they *could* or *should* do to progress towards the 6 benchmarks, and what they have actually already *achieved*, or are currently working on.

Suggestions for new Wokabaut Senis videos

The suggestions below are based on the information from the reports, and their relevance needs to be verified. At this stage, they appear to represent opportunities for success stories on shared community concerns regarding community agency on law and order and the positive results of cooperation.

- Kaekara village, North: Youth are said to collaborate with police on law and order
- Momarego village (Baba): "Operation rausim homebrew", by veterans
- Hiyai village (Motuna Huyono Tukunuitu): Community assist in arrest of rapist
- Keuru Primary school: Mention of veterans dealing with rascals
- Kungskiru village (Lule): Community-based protection plan
- Mokorino village (Lule): Enforced home brew ban
- Marai Parish Central: Cooperative bought a truck for transport; (ensuing commercial partnership with HeliNiugini)
- Wamenabela village (Baba): Community builds classroom
- Solon Hamlet (Baba): Volunteers teach at EC centre