

# THE BOUGAINVILLE REFERENDUM DIALOGUES (BRD) & THE BOUGAINVILLE TRANSITION DIALOGUES (BTD)



# PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Partnership between Peace and Conflict Studies Institute Australia (PaCSIA), the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG), the Bougainville Churches and a group of more than 100 local facilitators from all 33 constituencies (electoral districts) of Bougainville.
- Funded by Misereor e.V., the development agency of the German Catholic Bishops' Conference (BRD) and Misereor e.V. and the United Nations Development Programme Papua New Guinea (BTD).
- 1 round of dialogue per constituency per year (BRD 2017-2018; BTD 2019-2020).
- Facilitators presented information from the ABG, the Bougainville Referendum Commission and from international stakeholders about the referendum and in the second project on the transition process, and gave participants the opportunity to ask questions and to give feedback to the government.
- Facilitators prepared reports after each dialogue and shared them with PaCSIA. PaCSIA collated and analysed the data and shared it back to the governments, international stakeholders, churches and NGOs.





DAILOG IN BOUGAINVILLE

HAKU - RARERE

HALIA - HARERE (RERE)

PEIT  
HAGOGOHE } HENARARANG

TONSU  
TSITALATO

NISSAN  
ATOLLS

SELAU → WARRE  
MAHARI

SUIR

TADNITA TINPUZ  
TADNITA TEOP - HIO (A-HIO)

TEVA  
RAU } REO (REORU)

TERRA }  
TOROKINA } → WAGOMANA → (SACE)

EIVO/TORAU

DAILOG IN BOUGAINVILLE

IORO

NORTH NASOI

SOUTH NASOI

KONGARA

KOKODA

BOAVE

LATO

BABA



# TOPICS, THEMES AND QUESTIONS

- Information about what is a referendum, the history of the Bougainville Peace Process and the requirements of the Bougainville Peace Agreement.
- Discussion of what question communities wanted on the ballot paper.
- Feedback for the government on what information Bougainvilleans needed to make an informed decision.
- Questions about the future of Bougainville, the transition process, the consequences of independence and the capacity of the government to deliver services.
- Views on the best strategies for economic, social and spiritual development.
- Priorities for the governments to include in their transition consultation process.







# STATISTICS

- BRD: 707 dialogues held over two years. 8-15 dialogues per constituency per year. 29,377 participants (14,336 women and 15,041 men) - ca. 8-10% of the total population of Bougainville.
- BTD (as of June 2020): 489 dialogues held, 6-15 dialogues per constituency. 18750 participants (9296 women and 9454 men) - ca. 30-40% young people.
- Wokabaut Senis (as of June 2020): 68 videos created, 41 videos edited, 27 videos shared between communities. 25-minute documentary finished.

# OUTCOMES

- Dialogue has been found to be the most appropriate tool to engage Bougainvilleans in political discussion and information sharing.
- The opportunity to provide feedback, ask clarifying questions and discuss different views in the community was found to be valuable to communities and helped to make them “referendum-ready”.
- Data from the project informed the negotiations between the two governments in the Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) meetings. It also was used by the ABG Media Bureau to draft key information messages.
- Data has been used by different ABG departments, the Bougainville Referendum Commission, the United Nations Referendum Support Project, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade.
- Dialogues have supported and inspired local reconciliation processes and the ongoing process of weapons disposal in Bougainville. Facilitator teams have made contact with the remaining rebel factions and have been allowed to do Referendum Dialogues in no-go-zones.
- Project is now in its second phase, focusing on the post-referendum future through the Bougainville Transition Dialogues.

“If the structure does not permit dialogue the structure must be changed.”

—PAULO FREIRE



THANK YOU FOR LISTENING



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