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# **BOUGAINVILLE TRANSITION DIALOGUES ANNUAL REPORT 2019**

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## INTRODUCTION

In Bougainville, the political climax of 2019 came late in the year: On 11 December, Bertie Ahern, chairperson of the Bougainville Referendum Commission (BRC) announced the result of the referendum on the future political status of Bougainville: 181,067 people voted in November 2019 in the Bougainville Referendum. The final voter turnout was 87.4%. 176,928 votes were counted for independence and 3,043 supporting greater autonomy. This is a percentage of 97.7% for independence. The result could not be clearer, and the world has heard the voices of Bougainvilleans determining their future political ambitions.

International, national and local observers as well as the BRC reported that the conduct of the referendum was free and fair, transparent and peaceful. In comparison to other elections in Papua New Guinea or in the region (or, for that matter, in large parts of the world) the preparation and the conduct of the referendum were an outstanding success. The groundwork for that success had been laid in the previous years and, in particular, in the previous months of 2019, when all stakeholders involved in the process – the governments of Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Bougainville, the United Nations, international advisers, the members of the Bougainville House of Representatives, local level governing bodies, NGOs and civil society organisations, the BRC and, most importantly, the Bougainville people on the ground – had come together to make Bougainville ‘referendum-ready’. We at the Peace and Conflict Studies Institute Australia (PaCSIA) are incredibly proud that we were given the opportunity to make a modest contribution to the process and its success.

For some outside observers the overwhelming vote for independence came as a surprise. Looking back at the work that the Bougainville Transition Dialogues (BTD) facilitators have done in 2019 and before, the outcome is less surprising. Although the BTD project has never advocated for a particular option and BTD facilitators have worked hard to allow different voices from the community to be heard during the dialogues, the feedback collected from the villages has never shown any other outcome but an overwhelming vote for independence. A large number of people have stated that the blood shed during the Bougainville Crisis was lost in a struggle for political independence.

The BTD has unearthed a number of difficult questions and concerns from the people of Bougainville about their future. These questions include uncertainty about the future of the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) and the upcoming elections in 2020, questions about the provision of health and education services to the people of Bougainville if they separate from PNG, and questions about the ability to survive economically as an independent country. Many participants of the Dialogues have expressed fears that the situation in Bougainville might get worse after the referendum. However, they have also said that this would not deter them from voting for independence. They look to the two governments to now map a course through uncharted waters and to ensure the wellbeing of Bougainvilleans and Papua New Guineans. The people have spoken. And their decision must be listened to.

As the referendum, according to the Bougainville Peace Agreement, is non-binding, the governments of PNG and Bougainville will have to consult about result and negotiate about its implementation. According to the BPA, the parliament of PNG will have to ratify the outcome of these consultations and negotiations. Hence Bougainville after the referendum is in a transition period, and it is unclear, how long this period will last and what its final result will be. However, now that the people of Bougainville have spoken in the referendum, in the view of Bougainvilleans it has to be transition towards independence.

PaCSIA and the BTD are well prepared and eager to support Bougainvilleans in the upcoming transition period. The BTD facilitators will continue to work at the grassroots, making the voices of the people in the villages heard, providing space for the exchange of experiences, concerns, hopes, ideas and information, building a bridge between the local level and the 'higher' levels in the transition process (e.g. the consultation forum and the negotiation team that will be established at the political level), enabling vertical dialogue between the 'bottom' and the 'top' (and the other way round). In other words: in the multi-layered transition process ahead, BTD will cover the grassroots layer.

The PaCSIA team would like to thank our local facilitator colleagues whole-heartedly for the hard work they have done in 2019 (and before) and for giving PaCSIA the opportunity to learn and to grow together with them. We also like to thank Albert Punghau, Minister for Peace Agreement Implementation (now: Minister for Post-Referendum Dialogue and Consultation), his former DPAI Secretaries James Tanis and Dennis Kuiai, other members of the ABG and the ABG departments staff, as well as our partners from the UN and the Bougainville Christian Churches Association. At this point we also want to pay our respects to the late Bishop Bernard Unabali of the Catholic Diocese of Bougainville. His passing in August 2019 deeply saddened everybody at PaCSIA. Bishop Bernard was a wonderful partner of PaCSIA and a committed servant of his people. He will not be forgotten.

Finally, our thanks go to MISEREOR and the United Nations Development Programme PNG, which made the BTD possible through their funding and which will continue financial support for PaCSIA and BTD in 2020.

**The PaCSIA Bougainville Transition Dialogues Team, January 2020**

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Bougainville Transition Dialogues (BTD) are a continuation of the Bougainville Referendum Dialogues and aim to assist with the next step in Bougainville's ongoing peacebuilding process and to encourage constructive and informed discussions among Bougainvilleans to quell some of their fears and to ensure a peaceful transition. Now that the outcome of the referendum has been announced a transition period in the relationship between Bougainville and PNG will start, and Bougainvilleans will have to negotiate their future relationship with the government of PNG. The project aims to inform people at the grassroots about the progress of these negotiations and to allow them to make their voices heard.

The aim of the project is to provide a space for Bougainvilleans to participate in peaceful dialogue about their political future. Through this, the project seeks to prevent old conflicts from breaking out again and to support Bougainville's leaders in building a more developed, peaceful and sustainable Bougainville together with, and according to the vision of the people of Bougainville.

## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The BTD draw on the idea of community dialogue, which is connected to Bougainvillean *kastom* in many areas. Bougainvilleans have always come together to tell stories, share experiences and deal with problems. Now this customary method is used to discuss the issue of political transition. The BTD is also an expansion of the dialogues that have occurred during the referendum preparation phase. Its method and activities are flexible and aim to expand from the previous project. The project started on 1 January 2019 and finishes on 31 December 2020. It is funded by Misereor e.V., the development agency of the Catholic Bishops' Conference in Germany and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Papua New Guinea. Activities are part of the Sustaining Peace programme of the UN Peacebuilding Fund for Bougainville.

## PROJECT PARTNERS

The Bougainville Transition Dialogues are a partnership between the Autonomous Bougainville Government through the Department of Peace Agreement Implementation (DPAI), the Department of District and Community Government (DCG), the Department of Community Development (DCD), the Bougainville Christian Churches Association (BCCA), PaCSIA and the United Nations. All project activities in Bougainville are carried out by local Bougainvillean facilitators who are supported by PaCSIA. Project partners meet in a steering group three times a year. The steering group is made up of the different representatives of the ABG, the Churches, PaCSIA and the UN. It reviews the project activities and makes recommendations to guide the next round of activities.

## TRANSITION COMMUNITY DIALOGUES

The core activities of the project are the ongoing transition community dialogues. Facilitator teams deliver two rounds of dialogues in each of the 33 constituencies, one round per year. During the first year they have conducted between 6 and 15 dialogues in each constituency, often one in each local ward, for a total of 400 dialogues. Facilitators document each dialogue with a report and also provide a participant list to document the number of people reached and the percentage of women and men who participate. When a constituency has been completed (or the activity budget is expended) the constituency coordinator provides a coordinator report including an overview on how the activity budget was spent and how many days each facilitator worked.

2019 was a difficult year for the project, because the referendum was coming closer, but the actual referendum date was deferred twice. Facilitators also noticed early on that community participants still had significant need for information on the referendum process itself. Therefore, the community dialogues engaged some people in discussion and questions about the referendum, while others wanted to talk about the transition period after the referendum. We applaud the more than 120 local facilitators for their flexibility and commitment to manage these challenging community conversations and to adapt the dialogue process according to the needs of the participants. BTD community dialogues also provided an opportunity for participants to develop collective visions of what they want their future to look like, including their village, region and for Bougainville as a whole. Many questions about the political, economic and social future of Bougainville were raised and important information was provided by the people of Bougainville to their leaders. The reports prepared by the facilitators were collected by PaCSIA and an information summary was shared with the other project stakeholders. Transition community dialogues are facilitated by local Bougainvillean facilitators and are mostly held in Tok Pisin (lingua franca of PNG/Bougainville) and Tok Ples (local language of the area). On average about 30-40 people from different village assemblies in the local area participated in a community dialogue for a total of over 15,000 people in 2019. Participation was nearly 50% women and 50% men.

## WOKABAUT SENIS PARTICIPATORY VIDEO DIALOGUE

The participatory video project, Wokabout Senis, acts as a complement to the face-to-face transition dialogues. It is another tool to promote reconciliation and shared understanding in Bougainville. This is particularly crucial in the upcoming transitional period as both a means to supplement dialogue work and also to serve as a living document of the time leading up to and after the referendum. In February 2019 a group of more than 40 BTD facilitators was trained in the use and equipped with small video cameras. They were asked to record short “video postcards” with participants from the BTD community dialogues. The facilitators invited communities to share their stories of successful projects and activities that support peace and sustainability in Bougainville. With the help of PaCSIA the collected videos were edited and shared between different facilitator teams and were screened as part of the transition community dialogues. They were also shared with the ABG Media Bureau and the Bougainville Healthy Communities Program (BHCP). More than 40 Wokabout Senis videos were recorded by the facilitator teams and are being shown all over Bougainville. They include stories about economic activities and innovations such as pineapple plantations, chicken farms or making fishing nets, as well communal planning processes, environmental conservation and family mediation and reconciliation processes. The people who have watched the videos have commented on how much they have learned and how inspiring it is to see how ordinary Bougainvilleans in every corner of the region work for peace and a better life.

## **BTD WORK CONDUCTED IN 2019**

The BTD facilitator teams conducted 400 dialogues in 2019. The majority of dialogues were conducted between March and August 2019. They covered all 33 constituencies of Bougainville, even though very remote constituencies such as Atolls or Torokina could not be covered in their entirety. The facilitators took on average two months to complete a constituency and often conducted one dialogue per ward in the constituency. When compared to the previous project, the BRD, facilitator teams worked faster in 2019 and conducted a similar number of dialogues with a similar number of participants than in the previous year.

We did notice that some facilitator teams found it difficult to complete their work due to many other obligations and requests for assistance associated with referendum preparations. A good example is the team from Peit that also assisted the local member of the House of Representatives (HoR) with referendum awareness activities and strongly supported the weapons disposal process in Peit. This left them with less time to conduct BTD dialogues. These other activities are often complementary to the BTD work and provide opportunities for similar discussion as occur in BTD dialogues. This shows that the BTD impacts the Bougainvillean peacebuilding process not just through the conduct of dialogues and the sharing of Wokabaut Senis videos. The BTD has helped to establish a network of highly skilled and committed facilitators who support the peace process through different activities. They can be considered a resource of “mediative capacity” (in the words of peacebuilder John Paul Lederach) that functions to strengthen Bougainvillean society as a whole.

Below are the complete figures for 2019:

CONSTITUENCY	NUMBER OF DIALOGUES	MALE PARTICIPANTS	FEMALE PARTICIPANTS	TOTAL PARTICIPANTS
ATOLLS (CARTERETS)	9	132	168	300
ATOLLS (URBAN)	6	53	66	119
BABA	10	480	338	818
BAUBAKE	7	148	151	299
BOLAVE	12	191	177	368
EIVO-TORAU	10	241	251	492
HAGOGOHE	12	160	150	310
HAKU	39	564	522	1086
HALIA	11	218	165	383
IORO	12	270	287	557
KOKODA	15	348	365	713
KONGARA	16	244	283	527
KONNOU	7	212	159	371
KOPII	10	73	114	187
LATO	10	259	261	520
LULE	8	148	74	222
MAHARI	11	338	359	697
MAKIS	9	333	296	629
MOTUNA HUYONO TOKUNUTUI	10	99	88	187
NISSAN (ISLAND)	15	224	252	476
NORTH NASIOI	16	366	346	712
PEIT	8	111	166	277
RAMU	13	101	118	219
RAU	10	163	112	275
SELAU	11	168	190	358
SOUTH NASIOI	16	241	258	499
SUIR	9	359	244	603
TAONITA TEOP	10	245	205	450
TAONITA TINPUTZ	10	181	167	348
TERRA	10	275	300	575
TEUA	10	287	290	577
TONSU	13	127	286	413
TOROKINA	20	198	187	385
TSITALATO	5	205	302	507
<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>7762</b>	<b>7697</b>	<b>15459</b>

## FEEDBACK FROM THE BTD COMMUNITY DIALOGUES

The BTd facilitators have submitted ca. 400 individual reports from the dialogues that were conducted. During the dialogues they have asked the participants for feedback on the referendum ballot paper and the referendum question. They have also asked them to discuss topics and questions that are important to create a strong and peaceful Bougainville and a good future for the coming generations. Then the communities were guided to discuss how they could support such a peaceful future in their own communities. Facilitators have also asked participants if they felt better informed about the transition process after the dialogue. The reports were submitted to PaCSIA and we have scanned, transcribed and analysed them.

### DATA ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

The reports were transcribed by the PaCSIA team and the data was entered into a summary table. This summary table was shared with all project partners and other stakeholders in quarterly updates. For this annual report we have then transferred the data into a qualitative analysis research software package and have coded the data for constituency, time period (when the feedback was collected) and major themes. This was a new process that allowed a more sophisticated analysis and understanding of the feedback gathered. We do need to acknowledge that this is a work in progress as the original transcription of the report data summarised a number of themes and did not record the true numbers of quotations for each theme. This is a limitation of the dataset that impacts on how accurately we can report the importance of each theme. While we acknowledge this limitation and are considering ways to address it in the 2020 dataset, it should be considered that further limitations already apply because dialogues are held in Tok Ples and Tok Pisin and facilitators have to translate the feedback that they receive and summarise it in English in the reports. Additionally the reporting is also coloured by the personal views of the facilitators and the topics that they have highlighted while facilitating the dialogues.

With these limitations in mind we still consider the data collected very valuable. It shows some clear trends in the thinking of Bougainvilleans from all constituencies and also priorities that they see important for their leaders to address. The data collected also shows some sophisticated ideas that are well worth discussing by the leadership of Bougainville and Papua New Guinea as they navigate the transition process. For example, it shows that Bougainvilleans consider their kastom and culture of significant importance and a resource to be drawn upon in the crafting of a new state. The major themes and ideas identified are presented in the following sections.

### SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN UNDERSTANDING OF THE REFERENDUM PROCESS AND THE REFERENDUM QUESTION

In comparison with previous data from the BRD it is clear that Bougainvilleans have been informed well about the referendum process and the referendum question. Even though some still prefer a simple yes/no to independence question, people from all over Bougainville said they understood the referendum question and had made up their mind on what option they would vote for. When we look at the number of comments indicating that participants have a good understanding of the referendum process and question, these comments clearly outnumber the comments asking for more information or indicating a lack of understanding. As is expected, knowledge and understanding are better in more accessible areas of Bougainville than in remote areas, although the example of Torokina shows that Bougainvilleans there felt well informed prior to the referendum. This shows that the various information and awareness activities including the public roadshows, fact-sheets and newsletters, awareness events and BTd dialogues have complemented each other and have provided a good level of awareness and understanding prior to the referendum.

## CLEAR COMMITMENT TO INDEPENDENCE

Our dataset for 2019 also clearly shows that the vast majority of Bougainvilleans who attended the BTB dialogues was going to vote for independence. We have not recorded a single comment indicating that a participant would vote for greater autonomy, even though a number of comments question the readiness of Bougainville for independence. The following comment expresses this sentiment clearly:

*“We fought for independence and not greater autonomy. Our leaders did not consider our point of view.”*  
(Comment from Konnou Constituency)

In light of comments like this the referendum outcome is totally consistent with the mood in the population prior to the referendum poll. Bougainvilleans have made up their mind and now it is the task of the two governments to implement their wishes through the transition negotiations.

## THE NEED FOR STRONG TRANSITION LEADERSHIP

With regards to these negotiations and the leadership for the transition period the most frequent comments called for strong leadership and people with knowledge (sometimes expressed through the attainment of university degrees) and experience to lead the transition process. Bougainvilleans also reminded their leaders to stay honest and to provide a transparent transition process. Some questioned the integrity of public servants and elected officials. There was also one comment suggesting that more women should be in leadership positions as they make good leaders.

There were many questions regarding the transition process as a whole and how it would be managed. People questioned whether the ABG has a post-transition plan and wanted more insight into the negotiation process. Connected to this was a question about what form of government Bougainville would have after the referendum and who would decide on that. People also wanted to know what name an independent Bougainville would have and if it would have its own currency. There were a number of questions on the length of the transition period and varying opinions on that. Some people suggested a short transition to independence period, some suggested 3-5 years and others favoured a long transition period of up to 10-15 years to allow time for the development of a strong economy and institutions of government.

In the meantime, there were also suggestions about more immediate concerns. It was suggested that the House of Representatives should include three reserved seats representing young people in the community (similar to the reserved seats for women and ex-combatants). It was also suggested several times that the ABG should provide more training and education in the areas of finance, business management, scientific farming methods, good governance and leadership to help build a more capable society.

To finance this, it was suggested that the ABG focus on opening up international markets for Bougainvillean agricultural products and on assisting with the establishment of downstream processing of local products such as cocoa, copra or fish through the development of factories and processing plants. It was also suggested that an abattoir be built and livestock farming be supported better. Additionally, some participants suggested that Bougainvilleans need to pay more taxes and that a head tax should be introduced to help fund government services. It was also stated that PNG should support Bougainville financially during the transition period.

## PRIORITIES TO ENSURE A PEACEFUL AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR BOUGAINVILLE

The majority of comments and requests regarding a peaceful and good future for Bougainville focus on the three major government service areas of health, education and infrastructure. Bougainvilleans complain about the state of the education system and health system and demand better roads to take their goods to market. They bemoan the lack of a university and request significant investment in the education system at all levels, including early childhood education and care, better teachers and facilities for schools, more technical colleges and tertiary education. Some are worried about access to the PNG education system now that Bougainvilleans have voted for independence. But they clearly express their wish for a homegrown high-quality education system.

Similar comments are made about the health system. It is suggested that Bougainville needs more doctors and nurses and that there should be a hospital servicing every district of Bougainville. Health is also an area where communities recognise their own responsibility. There are frequent calls for better sanitation, hygiene and water management in the communities. People also want more graded and surfaced roads for easier travel. In particular the Buka to Buin road connection should be upgraded. Some Bougainvilleans request an international airport.

The most common request after education, health and road infrastructure was better access to international markets for Bougainvillean products. Bougainvilleans clearly see agriculture as one of their main assets and want to sell their products outside Bougainville. They also want to diversify their agriculture and develop alternative cash crops to cocoa and copra. These include vanilla and peanuts. They are asking for more training and support to develop these crops. Additionally, they want to further develop the livestock industry and build more piggeries and poultry farms.

Another focus should be to develop a tourism industry. Many areas identify opportunities for tourism including accommodation, crafts markets and cultural displays. Some people say that it would help to maintain cultural traditions if they could be shown to international and Bougainvillean tourists. Tourism is also an area where foreign investment is considered beneficial. There were a number of comments requesting that it should be made easier for foreign companies to invest in development in Bougainville. These were connected to tourism and agriculture, but not to mining. On the contrary, other comments clearly requested that the government keep out companies and individuals trying to gain control of Bougainville's natural resources.

Overall there seems to be a preference for a diversified economy including agriculture, fisheries, tourism and mining. There are a number of comments asking for the Panguna mine to be reopened or other mining licences to be granted. On the other hand, other people want to restrict mining to Panguna where the damage has already been done and not allow mining in other parts of Bougainville. Bougainvilleans clearly consider the local landowners the custodians of these natural resources and point out that they should receive the major benefits from resource exploitation. It is interesting to note that while mining definitely plays a role in the comments on how to develop Bougainville into the future, it is only seen as one part of the economic system.

With regards to economic development there was also a preference for small and medium enterprises. Quite a few comments also suggested the use of different economic models and the establishment of cooperatives and community-based economies instead of purely capitalist market economies. These community enterprises were also seen as a good opportunity for young people to earn money and learn new skills.

In Central people also suggested that bottled water could become a new commodity and source of income and could be exported. People there also thought that Bougainville could earn income through participation in a carbon trade. There were a few comments about the impacts of climate change and some people worried about food security. Climate change was considered a problem in the Atolls.

## IMPORTANCE OF CUSTOMARY GOVERNANCE

A significant number of comments called for the recognition of kastom and customary governance structures and better integration into the future governance structure of Bougainville. Chiefs and community leaders were seen as an important resource for peace and social order in the communities. There were calls for more integration of customary governance at all levels, including decision-making in the ABG, collaboration with the police to ensure safety and security in communities and the teaching of culture and kastom to young people in schools and communities. Clearly Bougainvilleans value their culture and want to maintain it. According to the number of comments made this should be considered an important priority for the transition period and the design of the transitional government and governance structure.

## STRENGTHENING OF LAW AND ORDER AND THE BOUGAINVILLE POLICE

Law and order is important for Bougainvilleans and there were frequent calls for a strengthening of law and order and the police. Some participants asked for a “police force” instead of a “police service”. They also suggested that more capable people be recruited to boost the numbers of police. Police powers still do not reach many remote villages. It is also clear that Bougainvilleans want a better integration of police and chiefly authorities to deal with law and order issues.

By far the biggest law and order issue identified was substance abuse. Communities want to abolish homebrew and marijuana consumption and want better policing of both. There are calls to ban alcohol in some areas, but also suggestions that beer should be sold cheaper to make it a more attractive alternative to homebrew. People from Nissan requested a police post to help with illegal drug smuggling to the island. They also, together with people from the Atolls, complained about piracy as a major law and order issue. Sorcery and poisoning accusations were also mentioned, although not as frequently as the substance abuse problems. It was suggested that these should be dealt with by the police. Domestic violence was mentioned as a problem in one comment.

Even though some comments suggest that the weapons disposal process preceding the referendum has been quite successful there are still questions about the remaining weapons. There are calls for registration of weapons or for the police to collect illegal weapons and take them out of communities.

## INCREASE THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE CHURCHES AND CONTINUATION OF RECONCILIATIONS

Similar to the importance of customary authorities, Bougainvilleans want to see more influence of the churches on the transition leadership and on government decision-making. The churches are seen as the moral authorities in Bougainville and people request that they take a more active role in society. They also request further unification of the churches and the resolution of previous conflict and differences. Churches play major roles in reconciliation and should also provide more opportunities for spiritual awareness and community activities. The process of reconciliation is considered a work in progress and many more reconciliations needs to be held. There were also calls for a national reconciliation with PNG and with Solomon Islands.

## INCREASED FOCUS ON YOUNG PEOPLE AND OPPORTUNITIES

The final theme that runs through the data is a call for more opportunities for young people. On the one hand a number of comments bemoan the disengagement and disrespect of young people for their elders and the high numbers of school dropouts. On the other hand, there are clear calls for more opportunities for young people, including participation in community enterprises, education, sports, church and community activities. Young people are seen as most at risk through substance abuse and communities want to focus on engaging young people more. They are seen as the future of Bougainville and need to be nurtured and protected.

...effective way to...  
...levels...  
...dialogues in their own tekples...  
...space to reach factions...

...community should be...  
\*What has not been...  
\*Referendum is...  
\*More explanation...  
Challenges  
\*No proper networking...

Bougainville Reconciliation Dialogue  
-Help communities...  
-Encourage people...  
-Unheard voice...  
-Main (Projector) very helpful - information...

...GIVING...  
...RIVER TO...  
...RECONCILING...  
...SHARE...  
...PROBLEMS...  
...MARCH...  
...MEMBERS...  
...DIFFER...  
...MINOR...  
...PLANS...

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE P1  
1. The BRD...  
2. BRD...  
3. BRD...  
4. BRD...

...progressing with Reconciliation...  
...March Role play...  
...1...  
...Experience...  
Dialogue helped to...  
...very different from...  
...up the minor of the...  
...plans...



## PROGRESS ON ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The BTD has four project objectives and the previous year has allowed us to make significant progress towards the achievement of these objectives.

**Objective 1:** Establishment of a partnership between government, church, civil society and international community to ensure a peaceful transition for Bougainville.

**Indicator:** Establishment of a project co-ordination hub through a signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) between PaCSIA, ABG, Bougainville Christian Churches Association and the local facilitator teams. The MoU will clearly express the commitment of the stakeholders to conduct transition dialogues, the constituencies where these dialogues will be conducted and the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders for design, intervention and monitoring and evaluation.

**Progress:** All local stakeholders have affirmed their support for the project and their willingness to sign an MoU. At the last steering group meeting in November 2019 PaCSIA representative Serge Loode signed on behalf of PaCSIA and left two copies of the MoU with BCCA and ABG for signing.

**Objective 2:** Village leaders, women leaders, youth leaders, church leaders and ex-combatant leaders from all 33 constituencies improve relationships with each other and with their elected leaders and implement a sustainable model of vertical and horizontal intra- and inter-community dialogue to discuss political, social and economic perspectives related to a peaceful future for Bougainville.

**Indicator 1:** Facilitators conduct 2 rounds of dialogue (with 6-10 dialogues in each round) in each of the 33 constituencies over 2 years. In each constituency at least 150 people participate in a dialogue round for a total minimum of 9900 participants. Local facilitator teams provide written reports which list the dates and locations of dialogues, questions raised, feedback for the ABG and other information from the dialogue participants. Facilitator teams also specifically report the number of women and men participating and document participation of special interest groups such as youth representatives, ex-combatants and Meekamui attending the dialogues.

**Progress:** At the end 2019 we have collected final reports for all 33 constituencies. More than 15,000 Bougainvilleans have participated in the dialogues in 2019 and participation of women is nearly 50%. Facilitators have also engaged hundreds of school children through dialogues in schools.

**Indicator 2:** Local facilitators create at least 1 video postcard from each constituency in which participants speak about their progress towards a peaceful future for Bougainville and share this with the PaCSIA team.

**Progress:** So far we have collected a total of 40 Wokabout Senis videos from all three regions. Videos show great skill in storytelling and camera work and the feedback is very good. We have shared the majority of videos back to the teams and they are now using them in their dialogues instead of the videos developed during the training. The videos have also been shared with the Bougainville Healthy Communities Program and the ABG Media Bureau and will be used by them. While not every constituency has submitted a video we are well on the way of achieving the objective over the course of the project.

**Objective 3:** Peace and social order in Bougainville are maintained through an increase in knowledge about the transition process and the short- and long-term implications for communities among the civil society of Bougainville.

**Indicator 1:** Community dialogue participants express that after participation in the transition dialogues they have experienced an increase in knowledge about the transition process and the implications for their communities. Local facilitator teams include information about such feedback from community participants in their reports, in particular, about whether participants consider themselves better informed about the transition purpose, process and post-referendum future of Bougainville after having attended the dialogue.

**Progress:** Oral and written feedback from facilitators confirms that the BTD transition dialogues are highly valued by participants and that they feel better informed and less uncertain about the referendum and post-referendum transition. Questions from dialogue participants have clearly shifted from very basic questions about what is a referendum to questions about the length of the transition period, future governance models for an independent Bougainville and questions about potential foreign economic investment in Bougainville. This shows an increase in knowledge of Bougainvilleans about the referendum and the post-referendum transition.

**Indicator 2:** During the strategic planning and debriefing activities internal and external stakeholders report on feedback from communities derived from their activities about the extent that people in the villages feel informed about the transition process. This information will be collected and recorded by PaCSIA.

**Progress:** PaCSIA has held meetings with the BRC, UNDP, DPAI, Conciliation Resources (CR), New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFAT) and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES). All participating stakeholders have reiterated the usefulness of the BTD as the key link between the leadership of Bougainville and PNG and the grassroots in Bougainville. The Post-referendum Transition Taskforce (PRTT) draft framework suggests the need for a multi-layered dialogue process to support the consultation and negotiation between the two government. All stakeholders have agreed that the BTD plays a key role in this multi-layered dialogue process.

**Objective 4:** Information about the concerns, hopes, visions and questions of people in the villages about the political, economic and social future of Bougainville informs the ABG's and other stakeholders' actions and negotiation positions during the transition period and contributes to a peaceful transition.

**Indicator:** PaCSIA prepares quarterly updates of the issues raised, questions asked and feedback provided by participants. These quarterly updates are shared with the ABG, Catholic Diocese, United Church, UN and other stakeholders. PaCSIA collects information on how the information from these updates is used by the stakeholders.

**Progress:** In 2019 PaCSIA has provided three quarterly updates. These have been used by DPAI to prepare their regional post-referendum transition-focused dialogue processes and have also been used by participants in the PRTT.

## FOCUS OF THE BTD IN 2020

The BTD will continue in 2020 and facilitators will conduct another round of dialogues in all constituencies of Bougainville. Now that the referendum has been conducted successfully the focus of the BTD will further turn towards the transition period. It is our goal to refine the BTD community dialogue process and to further engage Bougainvilleans with the planning of their political, economic, spiritual and social future. This means that facilitators will continue to ask the participants in the coming year about their questions, ideas, preferences and concerns about the future of Bougainville. As more information becomes available from the political bodies working on the transition we will provide this information to the facilitators to take back to the communities for comment and further discussion.

It is the aim of the BTD to work as the link between the two governments and the majority of Bougainvilleans who live in the villages. The PaCSIA team is planning to visit Bougainville three to four times in 2020 to continue our work with our local facilitator colleagues and to provide information on the transition process so that it can be shared with the villages. The Bougainville Referendum Commission will wind up operations at the end of January once the petition period is over. Then the task of providing information and steering the discussion in Bougainville will fall once again to the Bougainville Government. We look forward to working with our project partners in the ABG, the Bougainville Churches and the United Nations to provide information, feedback and discussion in this next critical period of 2020 and beyond.

In 2020 we will also share more Wokabout Senis videos to highlight the successes of Bougainvillean communities in the ongoing peacebuilding process. These videos will also form the basis of a short video documentary which follows the work of the BTD facilitators and the PaCSIA team. This video documentary will be published in the middle of 2020.





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