
MAKIRA/ULAWA PROVINCE DEVELOPMENT PROFILE

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RURAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Ministry of Provincial Government and Rural Development

PREFACE

This profile is a component of the National Integrated Rural Development Programme (NIRDPP) that is currently being formulated under the guidance of the Ministry of Provincial Government and Rural Development. The Profile's objective is to provide information that can be used:

- To help improve coordination between development activities in the Province;
- To identify how these activities can best meet the needs of the population; and
- To identify rural development strategies and programme that will alleviate poverty and development disparity between Honiara and the provinces.

The National Integrated Rural Development Program (NIRDPP) aims to put into action the Government's policy on balanced and equitable development. It is important for all stakeholders in the development process to work together in promoting the improvement of the quality of life in the communities.

This profile is intended to serve as a resource for all stakeholders in the development process and reflects the Government's policy to focus increasing attention on the development of rural communities. The profile provides an outline of the Makira/Ulawa Province, its people and their culture, land and environment, and natural resources. It also looks at economic developments to date and discusses some of the possibilities for future development.

The profile process enables the Province to assess its development situation, identify its resource base and potential, determine its comparative socio-economic advantage in relation to other provinces, and formulate its own development strategies. These strategies must be seen within the national goal of enhancing the unity of Solomon Islands as a country.

Data collection for the profile has not been an easy process because of the non-availability of essential information. This problem is mostly attributed to the social crises that affected the country in 1999 and 2000. The crisis has severely affected the country and has had a huge negative impact on the economy and on the effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery in the provinces.

A consultation workshop for the Makira/Ulawa Province Executive and Heads of Divisions, and civil society representatives was held in May 2001. Unfortunately, the limited timeframe and financial constraints did not allow for consultation and data collection at the community level.

This document is the combined efforts of various people and organisations. The Ministry is grateful and indebted to all those that contributed. In particular the Solomon Islands Development Administration and Participatory Planning Programme (SIDAPP) funded by UNDP is acknowledged for providing the financial assistance needed to develop this profile.

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1 HISTORY, CULTURE & RELIGION

1.1. History

The first people to have settled on Makira were the Lapita people at around 140 to 670 AD. This was confirmed by archaeological findings with the excavation of red pottery shards on Santa Ana (*Makira Handbook, Government Information Dept, 1999*). The small cave people called Kakamora on the main island of Makira, and the Masi on Ugi, Pio and Ulawa are believed to still exist on the main island of Makira. Large sea-going canoes from as far as Temotu also sailed on long journeys to Makira.

Makira's past has been very violent with widespread fighting between coastal and bush dwellers. However, there were also peaceful periods during which people involved in pottery travelled between the islands looking for stone tools.

The islands in Makira/Ulawa province were first discovered by Europeans in May 1568 during Mendana's first expedition voyage. He traversed the Pacific and entered the Solomon waters at Shortlands and Choiseul. The Spaniards carried out exploratory visits on the islands but faced strong opposition from the islanders. Mendana's men named some of the islands (refer table 1 below). Whalers routinely entered the western-end of Makira in mid 1800s.

Table 1: Historical names of the Islands

Early names	Origin	Modern name	Year changed	Meaning
Santa Cristobal	Spanish	Makira		
La Tragueda	Spanish	Ulawa	1568	Treasure Island
Uki-ni-Masi	Local	Ugi and Pio	1970	Small People
Olu Malau	Local	Three Sisters	1970	Sisters
Owa Raha	Local	Santa Ana	1970	Big Island
Owa Riki	Local	San Catalina	1970	Small Island

Sources: **Makira/Ulawa Province Handbook**

1.2. Culture

Long before Christianity was introduced to the province the ceremonial ways by which the people lived had very close and sacred ties to fishing, and to this day that link between man and the sea is very much alive. The gods which people worship and believe in are mainly linked with the ocean; sharks, bonito, turtle and frigate birds. This linkage is evident from their appearance on many of the carvings from the province.

The province has a complex and very diverse culture with the adoption and the practises of both the patrilineal and matrilineal system. Despite this cultural diversity people of Makira/Ulawa province are united and enjoy a peaceful co-existence with each other. This has resulted in some common identities in their cultural beliefs and practises. Moreover, despite foreign influences due to developmental changes cultures are still in tact with the practises and beliefs still alive and prevalent in communities and societies.

Table 2: Cultural practises

Island	Cultural and Historical Sites	Traditional Materials Used
Ulawa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ancestors beliefs and tales - Weto custom dance - Crocodile hunting and tying - Soils bait fishing 	- Sticks carved like birds, fish and snake
Ugi & Pio	- Famous for Solomon's most attractive beach	
Three Sisters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small ornate craft wooden carving - Peaceful harbour - Friendly crocodiles - Best Fishing spots - Legends and tales of Islands 	
Santa Ana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Makomako dance - Traditional Custom House - Wood carving specialists 	- Red mat and face painting
Santa Catalina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wogasia, yam harvest dance - Traditional taboo sites/houses - Famous Aorigi fishing techniques 	Spear and shield
Makira Island	- Traditional shell moneymaking	

These cultural practices are known and passed down by the chiefs and elders. They include the 'Weto dance' of Ulawa, 'Wogasia' which originated from Santa Ana and Santa Catalina, the famous 'Makira Puddings', and arts and crafts, the use and cash exchange with shell money. However, some of the cultural practises and beliefs of the communities restrict women and young people from the use of certain resources as follows;

- Children are restricted from eating certain types of food and animals;
- Teaching of cultural norms and practices is done secretly to children;
- Females are not allowed to have a shower or wash in the upper areas of streams;
- Males are not allowed to enter women's areas, as this will bring bad luck;
- In some remote areas on the main island of Makira it is still practised that women go to separate huts for delivery;
- On Ulawa and Santa Ana the taking out of youth on first bonito fishing is believed that charm will be brought to those youths for everything in life.
- All tribal groups have their own sacred areas, shrines, and places of worship;
- Men and women have separate areas for convenience or relieving;

- Women and youth are not allowed to make decisions pertaining to community affairs; and
- It is very disrespectful for women to be served meals first, as opposed to the European culture of women first.

1.3. Language

The people of Makira/Ulawa province are connected in many ways with the people of Malaita and South Guadalcanal. The Santa Ana and Santa Catalina people speak closely related languages to the Eastern Oceanic. There are eleven separate languages spoken in the province (refer table 2 below).

Of the different language groups, the Arosi language speaking group has the highest portion of the province's population, 21.8 percent, while the Rawo speaking group is the smallest with 101 persons, or 0.3 percent of the population. Marmaregho and Fagani groups are the other small language groups in the province, with 1.7 percent and 2.9 percent of the population respectively.

Pidgin has become the common language used in the province, mainly by young people who have been through the formal education system outside the province. It is estimated that 18,754 persons, 78 percent of the province's population, speak or understand Pidgin.

Table 2: Language by region

Name	Region	Population	Percent
Arosi	Wango/West Makira	6,752	21.8%
Bauro	Bauro/Central Makira	3,420	11.0%
Fagani	North Makira	902	2.9%
Haununu	South Central Makira	930	3.0%
Kahua	South Makira	5,165	16.7%
Marmaregho	Central Makira	524	1.7%
Rawo	Ravo/South Central Makira	101	0.3%
Santa Ana	Santa Ana & Santa Catalina	3,069	9.9%
Tawarafa	Star Harbour	2,268	7.3%
Uki-ni-masi	Ugi	917	3.0%
Ulawa	Ulawa/Three Sisters	3,304	10.7%

Source: National Census, Honiara, 1999

1.4. Role of civil society

Religion

Christianity was introduced to the islands as early as 1700. The 1999 census reported that 3 dominant Churches; the Church of Melanesia (48.4 percent), South Seas Evangelical Church (24.7 percent) and the Roman Catholic Church (21.1 percent). The minor church

groups such as Seven Day Adventist, Rehma, Church of Christ, are very new with most being established in the mid and latter part of the 20th century.

Churches undertake community activities and have been instrumental in the development growth of Makira/Ulawa province. The churches have established educational institutions such as primary and secondary schools, as well as rural training centres. They have also established structures which enable people to participate more in rural development process. For example, the Church of Melanesia established parish councils, youth groups, and women's groups who have been very active in church activities in the province.

Political system (Appendix A; Provincial Government Chart)

Makira and Ulawa were once two separate local councils which formed part of the Eastern Governing Council, that covered Utupua, Vanikoro and Duff Islands Councils. Makira and Ulawa Local Councils were later amalgamated in 1978, a feature of the Reform Programme under the 1974-1977 Plan of Operation. The Plan of Operation was an attempt for councils to have greater autonomy from the Central Government in terms of finance, man-power, infrastructure and equipment to ensure that services were adequately and efficiently delivered to the people. Makira/Ulawa gained its provincial government status in August 1978.

Makira/Ulawa province has 4 constituencies; East Makira, Central Makira, West Makira and Ulawa/Ugi. Each constituency has a representative in the national Parliament, representing the link between people and the Central Government. The Provincial Government Assembly is the policy making body of the province. There is a 20 member Assembly (one member for each ward) with the Premier as the political head, assisted by a deputy. The Premier is elected by the Provincial Assembly who in-turn chooses the provincial executive. The province has a 15-member executive who assist with policy making.

The Makira/Ulawa Provincial Assembly is a replica of the structure of the National Government. Each of the 20 wards is represented by a Member of the Provincial Assembly (MPA) which is the link between the people and provincial government agencies with the objective to facilitate service delivery and assistance for community projects. Wards 1, 2, 3 and 4 are in the Ulawa/Ugi constituency. All the remaining wards are on the main island of Makira, except for Wards 15(Santa Ana) and 16(Santa Catalina) in the East Makira constituency. Provincial Assembly sessions are presided over by the Speaker to the Provincial Assembly.

There are 8 Houses of Chiefs in Makira/Ulawa and these are: Bauro, Haununu, Arosi, Wainoni, Star Harbour, Ugi-ni-masi, Rawo and Ulawa House of Chiefs. Each house of chiefs is headed by a president or chairman assisted by representatives from various communities or respective clusters. The main function of the House of Chiefs is to ensure traditional and cultural norms and values are upheld and maintained. It also plays an important role in the promotion of law and order in the communities and villages. Each House of Chiefs represents a particular cultural/language group and/or geographical region. On the main island of Makira, members to the House of Chiefs are elected while in Ulawa and Ugi the chieftainship right is inherited and usually passes from father to son.

Village Committees have been established to help co-ordinate the implementation of the House of Chiefs policies, and to work with the provincial government in facilitating

delivery of services, as well initiating development projects in the communities. The Village Committees comprised of elected members from different villages under each House of Chiefs and are headed by a Chairman. While the House of Chiefs restricts women membership, village committees do have provisions for inclusion of women as committee members.

Non-Government Organisations

Non Government Organisation (NGOs) have also contributed enormously to the development of Makira/Ulawa in areas like health, education, agriculture, logging and environmental conservation.

World Vision International is currently carrying-out 3 programmes in the province; Makira Community Based Development Programme, Makira Area Development Programme and Area Development Areas. The aims are: to promote local participatory as well as building capacity at the community level. The Organisation has been providing financial assistance for sanitation and rural water supply in communities, materials for the establishment of Aide Posts including drugs and equipment, and has been involved in establishing communication facilities to improve communications between the rural areas and urban centres. The Organisation also provides financial assistance to purchase materials for basic school materials. According to a report produced by the provincial branch at Kirakira, the organisation has already committed more than SBD\$700,000 for various community development projects in the province.

The Solomon Islands Development Trust (SIDT) has been playing vital role in promoting rural development by providing skills training for people in the rural communities. With its Community-based network, it helped to identify potential community development projects. SIDT has been very instrumental especially in encouraging conservation of the natural environment; through education awareness talks in schools, organising training workshops and through the mass media on issues like logging, pollution and sustainable development. Its Network of Village Demonstration Workers has been working in conjunction with the semi-government organisations and rural communities in a joint effort to bring development down to the grassroots.

SIDT has assisted a number of income generating projects in several rural communities and also provided portable sawmills to resources owners as a means of promoting sustainable harvesting of forest resources.

There are informal groups in villages who also play vital role in promoting rural development in the communities. Hallam Cultural Group and Pasiawa Panpipe on Ulawa are good examples of groups active in providing an avenue where co-operation can be maintained in the communities. The establishment of such informal groups helps to keep communities together and more importantly keep the youths away from engaging in criminal activities.

2 ENVIRONMENT, POPULATION & LAND

2.1 Environment

Makira/Ulawa Province comprises of seven islands. San Cristobol is the main island and is commonly known as Makira. Ulawa is located approximately 65 kilometres from Makira and further north are the “Three Sisters Islands”, Ugi, Pio, Santa Ana and Santa Catalina). The province has a total land area of 3,230 square kilometres. The interior of the main island of Makira is rugged and have steep ridges that vary from 400 to 1,000 metres in height. The ridges are surrounded by rolling hills, terraces and plateaus on the coast. There are several rivers of varying lengths and those that flow north having greater length. The central area of Ulawa island has dissected hills surrounded by terraces and coral reef platforms. The other smaller islands have low hills with height not more than 160 meters and coral reef platforms.

The province is rich in flora and fauna but are being disturbed by Asian logging companies operating in the province. There are many varieties of flowers, root crops, herbs, coniferous and deciduous trees as well as different kinds of wild life including monitor lizards, flying foxes, crocodiles, butterflies, birds, fish, whales and porpoises. It was found that 11 animal species are unique to Makira/Ulawa province and which are not found in other provinces or elsewhere in the world.

Generally, Makira/Ulawa province has similar weather patterns as provinces in the Solomon Islands. The annual average rainfall is 3,600mm, average maximum temperature is 30 degrees Celsius, and average relative humidity is 90.8 percent. The dry season is from August to January and wet season from May to October.

2.2 Natural disasters

Makira province has been affected by a total of 15 cyclones during the last 50 years and recorded a total of 56 potentially damaging earthquakes. There were five recorded deaths during this period, all caused by cyclones. Table 3 below provides a summary of disaster events and deaths by type of natural disasters for the last 50 years.

Makira is one of the most disaster prone provinces in the country. It is located on the hub of the active cyclone path between the eastern and southern regions exposing it to cyclones that form in these regions. Cyclone damage has been quite intensive especially to housing. Cyclone Becky in 1968, which affected Makira, Malaita, Guadalcanal, and Central provinces resulted in a decline in copra exports in 1968 due to heavy damage done to coconut plantations. Cyclone Kerry in 1979 left 12,000 homeless in Makira and a four-year old boy was drowned in the Hao River due to heavy flooding. Rebuilding of schools cost \$52,000 and donations for those seriously affected amounted to \$107,000. A survey conducted showed Ulawa, Ugi, Three Sisters, Arosi 1 and West Bauro were the worst affected.

Geologically, fault lines are found to exist throughout the central part of the island of Makira and these areas are highly vulnerable to earthquakes. Earthquake damage has not been so intensive in the past as cyclones and there are no earthquake deaths recorded. Damages have been minimal due to low population density and scattered nature of buildings and houses. The earthquake that occurred on 4th November 1978 with a

magnitude of 7.1 created a crater of about 200 feet long and 9 feet wide near a school on Santa Catalina Island which forced people to leave their homes for fear of their safety. An earthquake in 1931 with a magnitude of 8.1 generated a local tsunami that killed 50 people in Wainoni district. The report described that people were swept from treetops where they were hiding from the tsunami caught with broken limbs eventually perished from exposure and starvation.

Table 3: Disaster events for Makira

	1950-1960	1961-1971	1972-1982	1983-1993	1994-2000	Total
Cyclone	0	7	2	3	3	15
Earthquake	2	16	38	N/A	N/A	56
Tsunami	2	0	1	1	0	4
Landslide	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flood	0	0	1	1	0	2
Drought	0	0	0	0	1	1
Volcano	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	4	23	42	5	4	78

Makira Province although considered to be highly vulnerable to cyclones, coastal and river flooding, and tsunamis has medium vulnerability to earthquakes and landslides and low vulnerability to droughts and volcanic eruptions.

The Province has a legally established Provincial Disaster Committee, comprising of the Provincial Secretary as the chairman and the members include the Provincial Police Commander, Director of Health and Medical Services, Director of Works and Utilities, Officer in-charge for Communications, Marine and a representative from the Churches and Communities. The Makira Provincial Disaster Committees are established under the National Disaster Council Act 1989 and the National Disaster Plan 1987.

2.3 Settlement pattern

Settlements in Makira/Ulawa province are generally concentrated along the coast. Only on the main island of Makira are there a few settlements in the inland regions mostly on the leeward side of the island where the geography only provides limited coastal platforms.

Christian Missions and Europeans encouraged the movement of people from the hinterlands to the coastal areas. De-population of the interior was hastened after World War II with the advent of the Ma'asina Rule, which spread across from Malaita. The development of coastal areas by the missionaries and early traders and merchants also encouraged movement to the coast.

Generally on Makira island, settlements are concentrated along the north coastal region; commencing from West Wainoni in the East to Arosi in the West. On the southern side of the island, settlements are sparsely distributed. On Ulawa, villages are concentrated on coastal platforms in the centre on both the Eastern and Western sides of the island, except

Haraina village, which is located about 3 kilometres inland. Settlements on Ugi-ni-masi island are evenly distributed with all villages located on the coast, whilst on Santa Ana, settlements are concentrated on the southern side of the island. The only village on Santa Catalina is located at the northern side of the islet.

2.4 Population.

The 1999 population census recorded 31,006 people in the Makira/Ulawa province, representing 7.7 percent of the country's overall population. In the period 1976-1986 the province experienced a high annual population growth rate of 3.6 percent. However, for the period 1986-1996 the average annual growth rate dropped to 2.7 percent, slightly below the national average of 2.8 percent.

Table 4 below provides a summary of population by broad age group and by gender. The table shows that Makira/Ulawa Province, as with other provinces, has a very young population with 42.4 percent of the population less than 15 years of age. The impact of this is that the province has a very high dependency ratio, measured as the proportion of young and old to the total population, of 46.2 percent. Thus 46.2 percent of the population is dependent on the remaining population for its economic needs. The data also shows that only a small proportion of the population lives beyond 65 years.

Table 4: Population by broad age group by sex

Age group	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
0 – 14	6,909	6,236	13,145	42.4%
15 – 34	5,450	5,597	11,047	35.6%
35 – 64	2,893	2,760	5,653	18.2%
65+	691	470	1,161	3.8%
Total province	15,943	15,063	31,006	100.0%

Source: 1999 Census, Census Office, Honiara

The population by sex in 1999 showed 15,943 males (51.4 percent) and 15,063 females (48.6 percent). Thus the sex ratio (male to females) is 105.8, slightly lower than the national sex ratio of 106.9 males for every 100 females. A point to note is the sex ratio for the 15-34 year olds is 97.4 meaning there are more females in this group than males. This probably reflects the migration of young males to Honiara in search of employment opportunities.

Bauro region has the highest population attributed to the concentration of development in the area and the existing education institutions of Waimapuru and Pamua Secondary Schools. Furthermore, Arosi district has some large settlements at Tawatana, Ubuna, Horataiara, Wahia and Tawarao. The least populated areas are Rawo and Haununu regions on the leeward side of Makira. The only large settlement in the area is at Marogu because of its close proximity to Tetera substation, and the SSEC Mission Centre at Hagaruhu.

Table 5 below shows the Central Ward has the highest population with 3,376 people (10.9 percent), followed by Bauro West with 2,695 (8.7 percent). Other Wards with over 2000 people are Arosi South, Wainoni East and Star Harbour North. The Weather Coast area at

Rawo has the lowest population with 652 people and 101 Households. Star Harbour South also has a very low population of 719 people. These two areas are relatively inaccessible and lack adequate social services, which may be a contributing factor for the low population.

Table 5: Population by ward & density

Wards	Population	Percent	Population Density
North Ulawa	960	3.1%	14.1
South Ulawa	1,057	3.4%	15.5
West Ulawa	797	2.6%	11.7
Ugi & Pio	1,223	3.9%	29.1
Arosi South	2,258	7.3%	0.7
Arosi West	1,400	4.5%	0.5
Arosi North	1,997	6.4%	0.7
Arosi East	1,368	4.4%	0.4
Bauro West	2,695	8.7%	0.9
Bauro Central	3,376	10.9%	63.7
Bauro East	1,163	3.8%	0.4
Wainoni West	1,398	4.5%	0.5
Wainoni East	2,086	6.7%	0.7
Star Harbour North	2,541	8.2%	0.8
Santa Ana	1,673	5.4%	119.5
Santa Catalina	727	2.3%	145.4
Star Harbour South	719	2.3%	0.2
Rawo	652	2.1%	0.2
Weather Coast	1,220	3.9%	0.4
Haununu	1,696	5.5%	0.6
Total	31,006	100.0%	10.0

(Source: National Census Report, Honiara, SI, 1999)

Of the total population of Makira/Ulawa province, only 979 people or 3.2 percent live in Kirakira the Provincial Headquarter. For the whole province, population density is 10 persons per square kilometre compared to the national average of 14.8 persons per square kilometre.

The Makira/Ulawa province population, like other provinces, is made up of people with different backgrounds and origins. Of the non-indigenous people many have taken permanent residence through inter-marriage while others are working people and students on temporary residency arrangements. Melanesians are the dominant race in the province with 97.2 percent of the population, followed by Polynesians (1.7 percent), which are mostly Tikopians re-settled at Waimasi in West Bauro, Central Makira constituency. Micronesians with only 9 people is the smallest ethnic group in the province.

Out migration from the province has been to Honiara mainly and the Western and Central provinces, specifically to Noro and the KFPL stations in Western Province and Tulagi because of high job opportunities from major companies in those areas.

The 1999 census recorded 4,926 households for the 20 wards in the province representing 15.9 percent of the total households recorded for the country. Of the 4,926 households 98.6 percent are family units and 67 households (1.3 percent) are extended family units. The census records showed that 86.9 percent of houses are built from bush materials, 10.3 percent are of permanent materials, 2.6 percent semi-permanent, and 0.2 percent are other dwellings.

2.5 Land use, ownership & security

Traditional landownership is vested in the clan or tribe and the custodian is the chief or his nominee. The pattern of landright varies between regions due to contrasting systems practised by different societies. On the main island of Makira the matrilineal system is practised while on the smaller islands the patrilineal system has been adopted.

On Makira, women have the primary right to hold custodianship over the tribal lands, however decisions on how tribal land is used and developed is vested in the males. This is in great contrast to custodianship of land on Ulawa and other smaller islands where the decisions on how land is used and developed is made by the chief or by male folks. Women have access to land, but like on Makira, they do not make decisions with regards to the use of land and types of development that take place on it.

There are some small plots of land owned by individuals acquired through appropriate customary and legal land acquisition procedures. In the customary way, title can be transferred either by way of compensation for some bad things that happened, or given as a token of appreciation for good deeds. The legal way is to get title from the ministry responsible for lands.

Like elsewhere in the Solomon's there are only two principle land tenure systems practised in Makira/Ulawa province, customary and alienated or Crown land. More than 80 percent of the land in Makira/Ulawa province is under customary ownership. The total alienated land for Makira province is 4,516 hectares with Ulawa having 67 hectares, Ugi 697 hectares, and Makira accounting for the remaining 3,752 hectares. Most of the alienated land in Makira/Ulawa province are used for plantations and institutions.

The different landownership systems have caused difficulties in rural development as the lack of consistency has created complexities and difficulties for those who wanted registered titles. This has resulted in an increase in the number of land disputes in the province.

Agriculture Opportunity Areas

Agriculture Opportunity Areas were identified in the Western, Central and Eastern Makira constituencies (refer table 6 below). These areas are very fertile and have the potential for commercial agriculture. The Agriculture Research Station at Dodo Creek did some experiments and operated demonstration centres in the province and found that environmental conditions are ideal for crop crafting and cross breeding of animals and furthermore has been confirmed to be disease free.

Table 6: Agriculture Opportunity Areas by region

Agriculture Regions	Agriculture Opportunity Areas.
Arosi (west Makira)	Heuru Plateau, Hada plateau, Arosi plateau, Wainaraha basin.
Bauro (Central Makira)	Aupare basin, Wairaha basin, Waihaoru basin, Maghoha basin, Ravo basin, Warihito basin.
Wainoni East & Star Harbour North (East Makira)	Wau basin, Nanuta basin, Harigha basin, Matangarighi basin, Wairaha basin.
Ulawa island	Haraina plateau.

(Source: Agriculture Division, MUP, 1980).

The Heuru and Arosi plateau are particularly suitable for onion farming and spices. The Dodo Creek Research Station confirmed this after it successfully operated a demonstration centre there where results showed high yields of very high quality onions. The model for beef production adopted by smallholder farmers in Vanuatu was also pilot tested on Makira and found to produce excellent results with top quality beef.

River basins in Central Bauro, Arosi West and Wainoni East are found to be suitable for growing a variety of agriculture crops. The coastal platforms of the river basins are particularly suitable for large-scale cattle, coconut and cocoa farming. According to the Agriculture reports, Haraina plateau on Ulawa is suitable for growing coffee.

3 PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

3.1 Transport & Communication

A total of 114 kilometres of road network has been constructed in the province from 1970 to date. The roads were constructed in-line with the province's programmes to facilitate delivery of goods and services and to stimulate development in villages. Of the 120kms of road network in the province, 67kms are on Makira mostly along the northern side of the island in the Wainoni and Central Makira constituencies, while 40kms are on Ulawa and 7kms on Ugi. Table 7 below shows that road networks are concentrated in the Northern side of the main island of Makira. The Ugi roads are currently unusable.

Table 7: Road networks

Project Name	Km	Donor	Year Built
North/West Road	12.0	PDU	1976-1978
North/East Road	7.0	PDU	1980
Feeder Road Improvement	48.0	Prov.	1983
Improvement & Extension	40.0	EU/CDF	1992-1998
Hakanipua-Pawa Road Proj.	7.0	Prov.	1970

Source: Provisional Data MTWU, Honiara, 2000.

Intermittent flash flooding is a common occurrence and this often put roads out of use. Lack of proper bridges have made it impossible to cross the Warihito, Rawo, Magoha, Hao, Maepua, Wairaha, Makarima, Tarihu rivers as well as some smaller ones on the West Road during heavy rains.

Besides the government built roads, logging companies have built roads to the interior regions. The Solma Company has built roads that link Arosi and West Makira constituency, but these roads need maintenance to keep them operational and especially to open-up the agriculture potential areas in the hinterland. The provincial government should take more responsibility to carry-out maintenance work of those roads.

Most parts of the province virtually Santa Ana and Santa Catalina islands, and the weather-coast area particularly Rawo and Haununu are still without roads. This restricts free movement of people and trade, and slows down socio-economic development in these areas, more particularly the weather-coast region. Transportation of goods and services to the region is mainly by sea.

Air Transport

The province currently has 3 airstrips; Ngorangora in Central Makira constituency built in the late 1950s, Santa Ana in East Makira constituency and Arona on Ulawa island which was constructed most recently in 1999. A new private airstrip is under construction at Nana in West Wainoni. These airfields are served by Solomon Airlines with twice weekly service. Except for other airfields, service to Ngorangora is said to be insufficient because of high demand by the province, the business sector at Kirakira and institutions; Pawa, Waimapuru and Pamua. Ngorangora also serves the Weather-Coast area.

Sea Transport

Since the breaking-down of the Government allocated vessel, the MV Bulawa, the problem of shipping service to the province has escalated over the past 4 years. This has negative impacts on development programmes in the province in terms of movement of people, products to major markets in Honiara and service delivery.

However, the Isabel Development Company (IDC) and WINGS Shipping are making unscheduled runs to the province on demand mainly to Wards 5 and 16. MV.Kaona does fortnight services to all the islands. The cost of travel is fairly reasonable.

There are 3 main wharves operational in Makira/Ulawa province; Namugga in East Makira constituency, Su'umoli on Ulawa and Kaonasugu in West Bauro, Central Makira constituency. Kirakira, the Headquarter of the province is served by a small jetty that require upgrading to better handle larger vessels and for easy on/off loading of passengers, cargoes and materials.

The major form of sea transport within the province is by outboard motor canoes. This is mostly used in the Weather-Coast region and for inter-island travel to Ulawa and the "Three Sisters".

3.2 Communication

Communication in the province is greatly hampered by the scattered nature of the islands and poor communication facilities. This is one of contributing factors to the slow growth of the province.

Solomon Telekom has an earth station at the provincial capital, Kirakira; providing fax and telephone services but only a minority uses those services because of the very high cost involved. Its major clients are; the province and few business entrepreneurs in and around Kirakira and institutions excluding Waimapuru National Secondary School that has direct telephone connection with Honiara. Radio wireless has been the most common communication facility linking urban centres and rural remote areas. A total of 56 HF Radios distributed widely throughout the province. Every sub-station has a radio and almost all clinics have a radio each. NGOs, Church organisations and few private business entrepreneurs also have their own private ones.

There are plans to set up two rural e-mail stations in Makira/Ulawa under the peoplefirst rural communication network. The first rural e-mail station will be set up at Pirupiru Community high on Ulawa. It is envisaged that the proposed rural e-mail station will boost development information flow between urban centres and villages. This will assist tourism development on Ulawa, and further enhance education and health services. Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation (SIBC) has been the provider of messages and news.

There is only one Post Office in the province at Kirakira. Agencies are located at Arona, Pawa, Tetere, Marou Bay, Tawatana, Namugga, Pamua and Hagaruhu SSEC Centre.

3.3 Energy

Kirakira is the only urban centre with electricity provided by the Solomon Islands Electricity Authority (SIEA). Other institutions such as; Waimapuru, Pamua and Pawa are using own generators. There are few privately owned generators in some villages but are used occasionally mostly for church activities. More than 80% of the local population are using kerosene for lighting and fuel wood for cooking.

4 ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

4.1. Labour & employment

According to the 1999 National Population Census, the working age population of the province (14 years and over) totals 18,679. This represents 57.6 percent of the province's total population. This working age group is further broken down into the following categories:

- Unemployed and seeking paid work;
- Paid work – Those who are in formal employment and receive salaries or wages in cash or in-kind;
- Not working (unpaid work) – Those not working in paid activities but are active in unpaid work including subsistence farming, fishing and hunting, or community work or productive housework; and
- Not working – Those not active in either paid work or unpaid work. May include students still in school, retired, old age, disabled or are sick.

Of this working age group, only 12.5 percent are active in paid work, either earning cash income through formal employment or are being paid in-kind (refer table 8 below). This is one of the lowest employment rates in the country. Those who are unemployed but are seeking paid work make up 10.6 percent of the working age population in the Makira Province compared to the country average of 11.1 percent. Those doing only unpaid work (generally subsistence) account for the majority of the working age population (43.6 percent) while 33.3 percent are mostly high school children and retirees.

Table 8: Employment structure by sex (14 years & over)

Age group	Male	Female	Total	%
Unemployed (seeking work)	1,349	635	1,984	10.6%
Employed in paid work	1,638	704	2,342	12.5%
Not working (subsistence)	4,032	4,113	8,145	43.6%
Not working (school, retired, etc)	2,302	3,567	5,869	31.4%
Not stated	183	174	357	1.9%
Total	9,504	9,192	18,679	100.0%

Source: 1999 Census, Census Office, Honiara

Table 9 below outlines the industry of occupation for those in paid work. The table shows that the largest industry in the province is agriculture with 23.9 percent of employees, with a further 6.2 and 5.3 percent of employed persons working in the forestry and fishing industries respectively. In the services sector 17.2 percent of paid employees work in trade stores.

Table 9: Number of Employees by major industry group by gender

Industry	Male	Female	Total	%
Agriculture	330	224	554	23.9%
Forestry & logging	140	3	143	6.2%
Fishing	113	10	123	5.3%
Mining	-	-	-	0.0%
Manufacturing	99	37	136	5.9%
Electricity & water supply	20	-	20	0.9%
Construction	115	2	117	5.0%
Wholesale/Retail trade	234	166	400	17.2%
Restaurants & hotels	6	2	8	0.3%
Transport & communications	63	1	64	2.8%
Finance & insurance	4	2	6	0.3%
Real estate, business services	14	3	17	0.7%
Government administration	118	30	148	6.4%
Education	220	105	325	14.0%
Health	58	49	107	4.6%
Other services	73	21	94	4.1%
Private households	5	53	58	2.5%
Total	1,613	707	2,320	100.0%

Source: 1999 Census, Census Office, Honiara

The government sector has approximately 580 employees, with 6.4 percent of total paid employees working in government administration, 14.0 percent working in education, and 4.6 percent working in the health sector. Note that some of the education and health employees work in church schools and clinics. The only industry where female employment is dominant is in domestic households.

The province has a good pool of unskilled labour that can be utilised rural development initiatives. Makira/Ulawa also has a considerable number of skilled and experienced fishermen who use to work for Solomon Taiyo and National Fisheries Development (NFD) on pole, long line and pur seiners.

4.2. Subsistence

People of Makira/Ulawa province are mostly subsistence farmers and fishermen. The only major market in the province is at Kirakira, otherwise all produce have to be transported directly to the Honiara markets. Only surplus produce is sold for income. Approximately 80 percent of the province's population are engaged in subsistence farming. On the smaller islands subsistence activity is extensive and in some cases it has had a severe impact on the island's environments and its natural ecosystem.

Table 10 below shows the number of households in Makira/Ulawa producing different crops, raising livestock, and harvesting marine products for daily consumption.

Table 10: Subsistence activity by households

Activity	Number	% Of HH
Crops		
Coconut	3,968	80.6%
Chilies	122	2.5%
Betel nut	3,387	68.8%
Rice	637	12.9%
Yam	4,325	87.8%
Pana	4,393	89.0%
Cassava	4,523	91.8%
Taro	3,807	77.3%
Banana	4,678	95.0%
Pineapple	3,645	74.0%
Sweet potato	4,731	96.0%
Ngali nut	3,711	75.3%
Other fruit tree	4,218	86.9%
Livestock		
Pigs	2,749	55.8%
Other livestock	2,553	51.8%
Marine products		
Fish	4,032	81.9%
Shellfish	3,318	67.4%
Crab/lobster	3,283	66.6%
Turtle	640	13.0%
Beche de mer	82	1.7%

Source: 1999 Census, Census Office, Honiara

The table shows that the main crops grown by households in the province are: cassava (91.8 percent), banana (95.0 percent), and sweet potato (96.0 percent). Other popular crops grown by more than 70 percent of households are: coconut, yam, pana, taro, pineapple, ngali nut and other fruit trees.

Pigs is the common livestock (58.9 percent) of households feed pigs whilst 51.8 percent of households raise other livestock such as chickens and goats. Fishing for home consumption is an important activity in the Province. Of the total households, 81.9 percent are engaged in fishing, 67.4 percent harvest shellfish, and 66.6 percent of households gather crabs/lobsters for home consumption. Turtles are less popular with only 13.0 percent of households hunt them while only 1.7 percent of households use beche de mer for own consumption.

4.3. Agriculture

There are 2 major sub-components of the agriculture sector of the province. They are plantation estates and smallholder farmers. Table 9 below gives a summary of household market activity as reported in the 1999 population census.

Table 9: Market production by households

Activity	Number	% Of HH
Coconut	2,858	72.0%
Chillies	21	17.2%
Betel nut	1,752	51.7%
Rice	147	23.1%
Cocoa	1,447	29.4%

Source: 1999 Census, Census Office, Honiara

Coconut is an important source of food for the people of Makira/Ulawa as with other provinces. The table above shows that 72.0 percent of households harvest coconut for cash. Coconut plantations have been established along the coastal plateaus and platforms of the islands. Most cocoa plantations are grown under coconuts and thus, maximise the use of limited arable land available in the river basins and along the coast.

Table 1: CEMA Copra Buying Centre Productions.

	1997		1998		1999		2000	
	Mt	Values	Mt.	Values	Mt.	Values	Mt.	Values
Kaonasugu	896	550,562	864	601,288	507	386,080	352	313,663
Onebia	171	104,853	198	135,273	117	87,340	88	80,527
Namuga	310	213,468	302	209,227	288	216,656	338	321,858
Su'umoli	472	287,118	534	368,006	485	374,458	343	303,130
Maro'u Bay	239	152,256	207	141,736	109	81,695	85	74,045
Tawarodo	249	154,314	364	253,355	314	239,663	228	214,175
Narame	279	172,058	315	217,439	277	208,428	151	139,208
Rawo	272	167,165	345	231,098	144	107,977	148	140,729
Totals	2,938	1,801,793	3,129	2,157,429	2,241	1,702,297	1,733	1,587,729

Source: Provisional Data, National Census, 1999.

The province has some of the largest coconut plantations in the country, such as the plantations left behind by Levers Solomon's Plantations Limited (LPL) on Three Sister islands, and privately owned plantations at Waimamura. In 1999 Makira/Ulawa produced 2,240 tonnes (9.7 percent) of the national production, but this dropped to 1,733 metric tonnes in 2000 due to the affects of the ethnic tension.

Makira/Ulawa Province is known to produce high quality copra. In particular, the copra from the Su'umoli Buying Point on Ulawa, and Tawaroto buying point on Ugi-ni-masi

Island are of high grade. There were 9 copra buying points serving the rural farmers in the province (refer table 10 below).

Livestock

Despite Makira having a high potential for quality beef production, poor technical support from authorities concerned had contributed to the failure of all cattle farms in Makira/Ulawa and further discouraged new farmers from venturing into cattle production.

Two large cattle farms were established by the Dodo Creek Agriculture Research Station (DCRS) at Warihito in West Wainoni and Maghoha in Bauro West under the auspices of the Makira Economic Development Authority (MEDA). These were abandoned after DCRS pulled out and MEDA did not have the resources and technical and management skills to continue with the programme. Just recently, Maghoha project started to operate but on a small scale by a private farmer who is the original landowner. There is a huge herd of cattle roaming the Three Sister Islands which poses great threat to peoples food gardens. The cattle were left behind by LPL after the company went into liquidation several years ago.

Rice

Rice was introduced into the province recently in 1998, and with the establishment of an extension office of ROC Demonstration Farm in Kirakira, rice farming is fast picking-up particularly in the Arosi and Haununu areas in the West Makira constituency and Ward 4; Uki-ni-masi island in Ulawa/Ugi constituency. According to Agriculture division in Kirakira, total production in the Weather-Coast area alone for year 2000 was valued at SBD\$40,000 while Ugi-ni-masi produced around SBD\$10,000 worth of rice. Most of the rice produced is consumed at home and only a small portion is traded for income.

There are 2 existing rice-milling machines on Makira, one at Kirakira and the other one is located at Manivovo. Local farmers take their harvests to either site for milling. High transport costs involved in getting to those 2 milling machines and the enthusiasm shown by farmers in Makira about the crop, a new rice machine was supplied by ROC recently to farmers in Ugi. There are also plans to install rice milling machines in the following areas; Ulawa, Asimanioha and Maruna. Once these machines are procured and installed it would further encourage more farmers to grow rice thus, increase local rice production.

Cocoa

Cocoa production in Makira/Ulawa is mainly by smallholders. This is mainly in the West and East Bauro, Arosi and Wainoni areas. In 1996 Makira/Ulawa produced 65.123 metric tons, 23% of the national total production, second to Guadalcanal. In 1999 a further 83.64 metric tons were produced, which accounted for 14% of the total national production for that year. The province's cocoa production dropped in 2000 to just over 3% of total national production or 7.338 tonnes. Irregular shipping, low prices and the social tension were the main reasons for the drop in production.

However, the province has now revitalised its economic arm now called the "Makira Ulawa Province Investment Corporation" which hopefully will address the problems faced by cocoa and other farmers such as shipping, low prices and markets.

Spices

In 1999 the Agriculture division recorded about 500 kilos of Tumaric produced by local farmers and marketed to Honiara markets. From agriculture field trials, it was also found that spices have high potential for commercial farming in Makira/Ulawa.

4.4 Forestry

The forestry inventory of Makira/Ulawa indicated that the province is not suitable for major commercial activity, but it has sufficient volume of forest resources to provide for its local needs. Unlike the smaller islands, Makira still has large areas of virgin forests, but this is slowly disappearing due to the operations by Solma and other logging companies in the Arosi, Bauro and Star Harbour areas. Small-scale sawmills operate in the lower forest areas on Makira. Large scale logging in Bauro, Arosi and Haununu is destroying the natural environment and have already resulted in streams being dried-up and the soils compacted by heavy machineries and contaminated with oil and fuel.

Table 11: Logs Exports by Makira

	Tonnes	Values (USD)
1997	11,541	1,605,657
1998	11,645	1,297,015
1999	23,111	1,993,849
2000	16,115	1,277,126

4.5. Fishing

The 1999 census shows that 22.9 percent of households produce fish for the market (refer table 12 below). People sell four main types of marine products, fish, shellfish, shark fin, and beche de mer. They either sell them to villagers, fisheries buying centres, or marine agents/buyers.

The province has a very rich marine resource base in terms of fish, seashells, crabs, lobsters, etc. Despite the introduction of new fishing techniques by some fishermen in the province, traditional fishing techniques are still commonly used. These methods promote conservation as well as the sustainable harvesting of the marine resources. The Fisheries Division has identified Three Sisters Islands and Star Harbour as fishery opportunity areas having the potential for commercial fisheries development. However, lack of markets in the province, especially for fish, has limited commercial development of these resources.

Table 12: Market production by households

Activity	Number	% Of HH
Fish	925	22.9%
Shellfish	257	7.7%
Crab/lobster	393	12.0%
Turtle	100	15.6%
Beche de mer	354	7.2%

Source: 1999 Census, Census Office, Honiara

4.6. Industry

There are no mineral prospecting being carried-out in Makira/Ulawa Province. Nevertheless, the province shares the same land systems and sits on the same ocean plate as Guadalcanal, and given the materials of the soil structure and land systems (*Tenaru, Kopiu, Koloula and Halahala land systems*), it is assumed there is potential that mineral deposits such as gold and copper exist.

A total of 548 village-based businesses were identified and recorded through out the province. The business activities were mainly retail shops including home canteens, petrol, fuel & kerosene depots and village bakeries. The break down is as follows; 303 trade stores, 118 petrol depots, 9 mini cinemas, 5 liquor outlets and 97 transport services.

Tourism

Makira/Ulawa province hosts several unique sites enlisted with the World Heritage that have tourism potential; the swamp area on a ridge in the Arosi region and the mangrove forest in the Star Harbour area are two such sites. The fringing reef at Su'uweusi on Ulawa is the only area identified in the country that produces rolling waves with potential to attract tourism.

According to reports by the SI Visitors Bureau, 2% of the nation's visitors go to Makira/Ulawa province each year. Makira/Ulawa province has no large hotels or motels. However, there are small establishments like guesthouses but mostly in Kirakira urban centre. The only guesthouse located in the rural area is the Sunrise Rest-house at Namugga in East Makira constituency. There are many potential sites in the province where eco-tourism can be encouraged. Unique sites on Ugi, Three Sisters Islands, Star Harbour, Arosi and the Haununu areas are good for eco-tourism.

4.7. Financial Institutions.

The Development Bank of Solomon Islands (DBSI) and the National Bank of Solomon Islands (NBSI) each have branch offices in Kirakira. Previously, NBSI operated several agencies in the province but most have been closed as a cost reduction measure by the bank. In 2001, the Hanuato'o Diocese of the Church of Melanesia has taken over the administration and management of the NBSI agency in Kirakira.

The NBSI Bank provides facilities such as lending, withdrawals, deposits and other bank transactions. The DBSI has been providing term facilities and administering the income generating component of Rural Community Development Fund (RCDF). More than \$2 million dollars have been used in the province under the RCDF to fund income generating projects in the rural communities.

Credit Unions

There are a total of 118 credit unions recorded for the whole province. Most of the credit unions were reported inactive. This was due to lack of good administration and management skills. Poor circulation of money in the communities is also identified as a major contributing factor affecting sustainable operations of the credit unions.

5 SOCIAL SERVICES.

5.1. Education

Support to education in Makira/Ulawa province come from the national and provincial governments, Churches including the Hanuato'o Diocese of the Church of Melanesia, the South Seas Evangelical Church, the Seventh Day Adventist and Wesley United Church. The Provincial Education Board administers primary education, whilst secondary education is administered by the National Government. The Church of Melanesia looks after Pamua Secondary School.

There are 63 primary schools serving the 367 communities in the province. Of the 63 primary schools, one is run by the Seventh Day Adventist Church. The 3 Secondary Schools are located at Waimapuru, Pawa and Pamua. In 1997-1998, 5 primary schools at Pirupiru, Ramah, FM Campbell, Santa Ana and Tawatana were upgraded to Junior High Schools. There are also Rural Training Centres which offer a variety of trade courses aimed at providing the necessary skills for community living.

The 1999 population census recorded a total of 7,972 people between the ages 4 and 30 years attending school (refer table 13 below). In 1999 there were 4,322 males and 3,650 females in Makira/Ulawa province attending school. The 10-14 group includes students in primary and junior secondary schools.

Table 13: Population by age group by sex attending school

Age	Population			Attending School					
	Total	M	F	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
05-09	3,906	2,081	1,825	1,951	49.9	1,022	52.4	929	46.6
10-14	4,241	2,217	2,024	3,520	83.0	1,857	52.8	1,663	47.2
15-19	3,736	1,917	1,819	2,178	58.3	1,213	55.7	965	44.3
20-24	2,915	1,411	1,504	288	09.9	208	72.2	80	27.8
25-29	2,583	1,223	1,360	35	01.4	22	62.9	13	37.1
Total	17,381	8,849	8,532	7,972	45.9	4,322	54.2	3,650	45.8

(Source: Provisional Data, Census, 1999).

The census indicates that 50.1 percent of the children between the ages of 5-9 year olds are not attending school. This reflects that parents do not send children to school at an early age. In the 10-14 years old age category, the number of females attending school is almost the same as males, but the attendance rate for females in older age groups (15-over) is substantially lower than that for males. Early marriage for girls has been assumed as a contributing factor on the lower number of females in the older age groups attending school.

A large number of displaced school children were enrolled in the province as a result of the social unrest on Guadalcanal. A survey carried-out by the Provincial Education Division in Kirakira recorded a total of 130 primary students and 182 secondary students fled schools in Honiara and Guadalcanal and enrolled at various schools in the province. Of the total primary school children displaced to Makira/Ulawa Province, Central Makira

constituency received a total of 52 displaced students. Ulawa/Ugi constituency received 36 displaced students, while East Makira and West Makira each received 21 students.

The survey indicated that both FM Campbell Junior High and Pawa Secondary each received 50 internally displaced students while Waimapuru National Secondary School received 47 students. Other secondary schools received lower numbers of internally displaced students. The additional number of students has implications on the schools facilities and infrastructure. Pawa for example had to build a temporary extension to the boys dormitory to cater for the additional students while Waimapuru required additional beds for students.

There are currently 345 teachers employed in the province. The data indicated that Student/teacher ratio is therefore 1:38, more than total average students per staff. Of the total teachers, 35 percent are untrained, which is significantly high compared to other provinces. This has negative impact on the children's education over the years and as a result Makira/Ulawa has a low level of secondary entrants.

Makira/Ulawa province has sufficient education infrastructure for its local population's education needs. According to a national survey carried-out in 2000 by the Inspectorate Section of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development, the current number of schools are sufficient and can cater for the education needs in Makira/Ulawa province for the next 10 years.

Churches have been playing a vital role in the establishment of rural training centres providing essential skills training courses to enhance man-power needs of the province. There are 7 Rural Training Centres established throughout the province by the churches; Church of Melanesia (3), SSEC (1) and Roman Catholic (3). The Centres are: Pamua, Bethel, Maniwowo, Nawote, Stavinburg, Su'utaluhia and Goromanu. All Training Centres are located on the main island of Makira, particularly in the Wainoni and Bauro regions, except for the Su'utaluhia Training Centre which is located on Ulawa island. Besides skills training, they also offer pastoral training to develop the spiritual aspect of human life. Technical skills training in the fields of motor mechanic, engineering, carpentry, joinery and, plumbing are provided. One of the main objectives for setting up such centres is to train youths who have left secondary school acquire the necessary skills so that they become useful assets for rural development in their societies or communities.

5.2. Health

There are 16 clinics, 12 Aid posts, 7 village posts and 28 Registered Aide Posts fairly distributed throughout the province with one Area Health Centre at Namugga in the East Makira constituency. Aide Posts and Registered Posts are established to serve a cluster of villages providing back-up support to existing clinics in terms of distributing medical drugs and minor general medical services. Most of the Aid posts are located in West Makira constituency particularly in the Weather-Coast

The services provided include general out-patient, labour/maternity, malaria programmes, parenthood and child-care services and health awareness programmes, Dental and eye services are offered at Kirakira Hospital. All serious cases are referred to the National Referral Hospital in Honiara. Most of the Aide and Registered Posts are located in the Rawo and Haununu areas where communities are isolated and far from the nearest clinic at Tetere Sub-station.

The common major health problems encountered in the province are malaria and diarrhea (dysentery due to poor consumption of unclean water. For example, in early 2001, the Church of Melanesia had to force the early closure of Pamua School and students had to be sent home due to diarrheal problems that hit the school as resulted of poor sanitation and contaminated water. One of the major factors contributing to the high number of malaria cases is that many families are not using mosquito nets although they have them.

Inefficient delivery health services is affected by the following factors; lack of finance, lack of unreliable water supply particularly the provincial referral hospital in Kirakira, poor shipping in the province and high cost of referrals. Health grants have been irregularly given which really affects delivery of health services.

5.3. Water Supply and Sanitation

Makira/Ulawa province has compared well with other larger provinces like Malaita in terms of water supply facilities. Of the 367 settlements in the province, 213 villages have easy access to proper water supply facilities or 58 percent of the total settlements. The remaining 154 settlements have natural water systems. However, sanitation has been a major problem in almost all communities in the Makira/Ulawa province. Most villages use the bush or sea for convenience causing environmental pollution. There is no data available on village sanitation but some families use improved sanitation facilities in some villages.

5.4. Law & Order

The police, chiefs and local courts played vital role in keeping law and order in the province. Currently, there are 2 Police Stations, one at the provincial Headquarter in Kirakira and the other at the Namugga, Star Harbour Sub-station. The police post at Tetera was closed in the 1980's due to financial constraints. There are plans to establish two more police stations, one to be at Teramo on Ulawa and the second to be located at Maro'u Bay, responsible for the area used to be looked after by the Tetera Police Station. There is a provincial prison service centre at Kirakira and is currently manned by 20 prison officers.

There is a Magistrate's Office in Kirakira who deals with cases from the whole province. In 1993 a full-time magistrate was allocated to Kirakira under the public service. There are 10 Local Courts in Makira/Ulawa province and a Customary Land Appeal Court who deals with matters pertaining to land disputes. The Local Courts deal with both civil and criminal cases, and if necessary forward cases to the magistrate's office for further action. The magistrate in Kirakira works closely with the Social Welfare officer of the province on matters relating to maintenance, defilement cases involving children, general juvenile cases and also divorce and adoption cases.

In comparison with other provinces, Makira/Ulawa is very peaceful. According to the Magistrate Register in Kirakira office, only 20 criminal cases were recorded for the whole province for the period 1998 to date. However, for the same period, it registered 108 land disputes cases.

6. PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

6.1. Revenue generation

Data on local revenue generated by the Province for recent years is not available. The major source of internal revenue comes from business licenses. There is limited capacity for the Province to increase local revenue with the current economic base which is mostly subsistence. As a result, there is low income, low savings and low capital which makes it difficult for the province to increase its revenue base.

Makira/Ulawa Province, like the other provinces, depends on national government grants to fund services in the province (refer table 14 below). The education grant caters for the running cost of primary and secondary schools but does not include vocational schools. Salaries and wages of teachers are paid directly by the Treasury of the national government. The Health grant consists of three components, a wages grant, a health services grant, and an anti malaria grant. The Recurrent Service grant consist of revenue sharing, productive resource, library, fixed service, road maintenance, special supplementary, town and country planning and community grants.

Table 14: Recurrent grants by type

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Recurrent Service	1,630,310	1,926,160	1,431,510	1,674,000	1,430,418
Education	115,566	132,720	132,000	177,750	124,750
Health Grant	192,600	416,990	846,488	487,000	611,400
Total	1,938,476	2,475,870	2,409,998	2,338,750	2,166,568

Source: Ministry of Provincial Government & Rural Development, Honiara

As well as these direct grants, a significant amount of salaries and wages are paid directly by the National Government, e.g. teachers, health workers, police. A conservative estimate for this revenue was \$7,051,184 in 2000. This is the largest component of the provincial revenue, being three times as large as the direct grant.

6.2. Recurrent expenditure

Data on provincial expenditures were not available. As mentioned in the revenue section above \$7,051,184 in salaries and wages in the province was paid directly by the National Government to the employees. Thus payroll in the province is the major expenditure item.

There appears to be a lack of effective fiscal responsibility legislation to ensure transparency, accountability, and fiscal discipline at the provincial level. In line with the lack of legislation, there does not appear to be any reporting systems in place, or they are not being used, to ensure accountability of expenditures at the provincial government level.

It is important for provincial governments to articulate clear fiscal policies and strategies for their provinces, in areas such as; provincial government share of the local economy; proposed provincial expenditure by function; and proposed expenditure within functions (governance, policy advice, social services, private sector development). These policies

and strategies are the accountability tools that the villages/constituencies can use to measure the performance of the Provincial Government.

6.3. Development budget

The development budget of the Province is almost entirely supported by the national government and aid donor. Table 15 below shows the development budget from 1996–2000, including the source of funds. It should be noted that this is budget data and not in all cases have the projects gone ahead or the money been spent. The table shows that Makira/Ulawa had been allocated very few direct development projects in the periods shown. This development budget did not cover all sectors but focuses on physical infrastructure. It excluded national projects in such areas as health and education or where the breakdown of budget totals per province per project were not made in the budgets.

Table 15: Development budget (SBD)

Year	Particulars	Amount	Funds
1996	Kirakira Hospital rehabilitation	200,000	SIG
	Police Office & housing	300,000	SIG
	Arona Airport construction	300,000	SIG
1997	Upgrade Waimapuru NSS	200,000	SIG
	Upgrade Kirakira Hospital	800,000	SIG
1999	Staff housing	400,000	SIG
	Rehabilitation of Provincial schools	85,000	SIG

6.4. Service delivery

Provincial administration is headed by the Provincial Secretary who reports directly to the Premier and the Provincial Executive, as well as to the Ministry of Provincial Government and Rural Development. Non devolved functions such as Agriculture, Health and Works report directly to their respective national ministries.

Officers from the national government are on secondment to the provincial government in Health, Education, Works, Agriculture, Trade & Commerce, Physical and Economic Planning, Lands & Housing, Magistrate and Fisheries sectors. Field Officers under Agriculture/Fisheries are also posted out in the field residing in the sub-stations.

Both the legal and kastom systems are acceptable means of solving problems in the province. Kastom courts at the village level normally deals with very simple cases, while severe criminal and civil cases are dealt with by the local courts, the magistrate and if necessary the High Court. There is a Customary Land Appeal Court (CLAC) located within the Magistrate’s Office in Kirakira, dealing mainly with land matters. The office is made up of locals selected by the Magistrates Office in Kirakira and appointed by the High Court in Honiara.

There are a number of issues that are hindering effective service delivery at the provincial level. Many provincial staff are seconded officers from the national government and they rely on their parent ministries for information, advice and financial and logistical support. All too often, such support do not always come on time causing delays to programme implementation. Linked with this is that many seconded staff appear to be reporting to two bodies, the Provincial Government they work with and the National Ministry they work under which can cause misunderstanding and is very confusing at the same time.

6.5. Rural development stakeholders

Development corporations

The Makira/Ulawa Province Investment Corporation (MUPIC) formerly known as the Makira Economic Development Authority (MEDA) is the economic arm of the province. Its main aim is to encourage economic development in the province and to facilitate the delivery of services right down to the grassroots. At the moment, its involvement is in the provision of shipping services to the province and in the livestock sector. Records have shown that these development initiatives have performed very poorly.

The Star Harbour Investment Corporation is a privately owned corporation formed by communities in Star Harbour North. The main objective is to encourage socio-economic development in the region, especially in its member communities. The corporation owns one vessel, M.V Kaona providing cargo/passenger services between Honiara and the province and within the province as well.

Masi Association was first established in 1976 by the Tawaroto community as a market facility for copra farmers on Ugi-ni-masi island. Due to high demand in other parts of the province, the Association extended its services to include the Three Sisters Islands and Ward 5 in the Central Makira Constituency. Besides purchasing dried copra it has expanded to also purchase both dried and wet cocoa beans from local farmers in those areas. Average annual returns of the Association has been estimated at SBD\$300,000 or \$25,000 per month.

The Ulawa/Ugi Community Development Fund is a community association formed by the Ulawa and Ugi Council of Chiefs. It was formed in 1974 and was actively involved in providing transport services to all the islands in Makira/Ulawa province up until 1989 when all its operations were halted due to poor financial management. However, there are still plans for reactivating the Fund.

Development partners

The development partners of Solomon Islands have been playing huge roles in assisting and facilitating rural development in Makira/Ulawa province. Channelling of assistance provided by the partner agencies to the province is done through the Ministry of Development Planning in conjunction with the Ministry of Provincial Government & Rural Government and the respective local government units.

AusAid:

The Makira/Ulawa province received more than SBD\$200,000 in development assistance from the AUSAID Community Peace and Restoration Fund (CPRF). The assistance

received went towards rehabilitation of schools, rural water supplies and sanitation including small income generating projects aimed to assist displaced persons or families. This is in addition to any assistance given to the province through normal bi-lateral or multi-lateral arrangements.

European Union (EU):

European Union (EU) has been very instrumental in providing assistance especially in terms of physical infrastructure development eg roads, wharves and airports. EU has provided financial and technical assistance for the construction of the main road in the Central Makira constituency, Ngorangora airport, the 42 km gravel road on Ulawa and Arona airport.

Japanese Grassroots Development Initiative (JGDI):

Japanese Government has been providing assistance to various communities and institutions in the province. In 1998, the Grassroots Development Initiative Scheme provided funds for a tractor and a 1.5KVA generator for Pawa Secondary School while funds were also given for the construction of two dormitories at Pamua High School. It was estimated the total assistance to Pamua High School is valued close to SBD\$250,000. Four Volunteers (all teachers) were deployed to Waimapuru, Pawa and Pamua under the Japanese International Co-operation Agency (JICA) – Volunteer Scheme.

Canadian Small Grant Scheme:

The Canadian Small Grant Scheme had assisted many small income generating projects in the past. According to provisional data from the Planning Department of the province, more than SBD700,000 were given to small income generating projects in Makira/Ulawa province from 1997 to 1999. In 1999 alone, SBD131,030.97 were committed for small income generating projects. The small income generating projects are either family or group based and include; piggery, poultry, fishery, honey-bee, copra driers, etc.