

ENDLINE SURVEY ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN CHOISEUL AND ISABEL PROVINCES, SOLOMON ISLANDS

OCTOBER 2023



BACKGROUND

The project “Enhancing the Response to Gender-Based Violence and Trafficking In Persons in the Solomon Islands” aims to support existing efforts to address gender-based violence (GBV) and trafficking in persons (TIP) in Solomon Islands, with a particular focus on upholding the rights of women and girls in communities affected by extractive industries.

Previous research undertaken in Solomon Islands, as well as anecdotal evidence, has underlined that communities affected by extractive industries face particular challenges in relation to community health and violence against women and girls, including increased risks of sexual exploitation, trafficking and abuse.

Funded by the IOM Development Fund, the project focuses on five communities in Choiseul Province (Kesa, Posarae, Ruruvai, Varunga and Vure) and five communities in Isabel Province (Jejevo, Kilokaka, Sigana, Susubona and Tatamba). These communities were identified by Solomon Islands’ Anti-Human Trafficking Advisory Committee (AHTAC).

In order to inform project interventions, IOM, in partnership with provincial government counterparts in Isabel and Choiseul, undertook an individual baseline survey in target communities to better understand attitudes and perceptions towards GBV and TIP. Following the conclusion of project activities, this endline survey was rolled out to see how attitudes and perceptions may have shifted as a result of programming interventions.

DATA LIMITATIONS

A snowball sampling method was used to identify a participant sample that would be representative with a 95 per cent confidence level and 6 per cent margin of error. However, due to the sampling method being non-randomized, external validity of the study is limited, and generalizations should be avoided. Nonetheless, the results of this assessment can provide insight into the attitudes and perceptions of respondents in Isabel and Choiseul on GBV and TIP.

Due to a technical issue with the data collection tool, 11 surveys conducted with women in Jejevo are missing responses for two questions pertaining to perception of women’s rights.

METHODOLOGY

The report analyzes data collected between 10-22 October 2023 across five communities in Choiseul Province (Kesa, Posarae, Ruruvai, Varunga and Vure) and five communities in Isabel Province (Jejevo, Kilokaka, Sigana, Susubona and Tatamba).

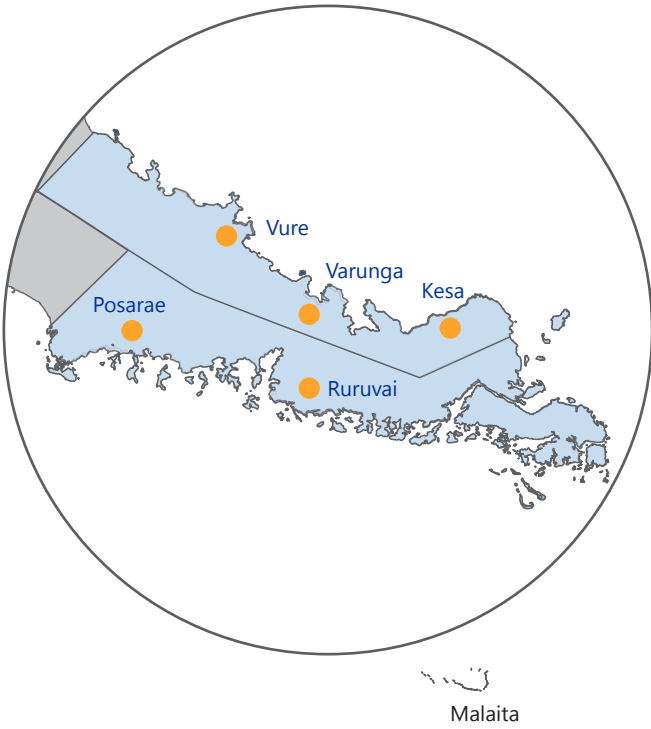
A total of 227 surveys were undertaken with 114 male respondents and 113 female respondents. All respondents were aged 18 and above.

A close-ended survey tool was used to better understand attitudes and perceptions on GBV and TIP and to better understand available support services for survivors of GBV and TIP. The survey focused on six thematic areas: 1) Demographic information; 2) Social norms and attitudes towards gender equality; 3) Perceptions of GBV; 4) Perceptions of TIP; 5) Support services for GBV and TIP; 6) Perceptions of women’s rights.

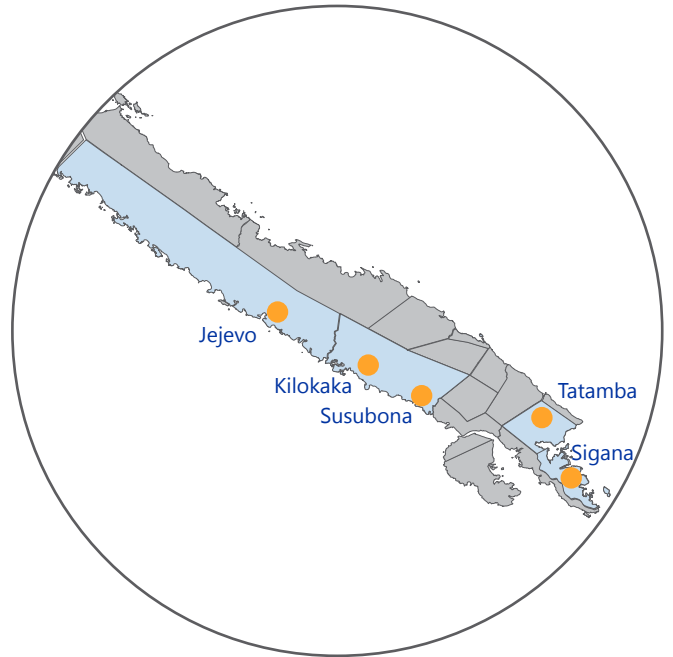
Data was collected in person by two female enumerators in Isabel and two female enumerators in Choiseul.

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Locations in Choiseul Province



Locations in Isabel Province



0 10 20 km

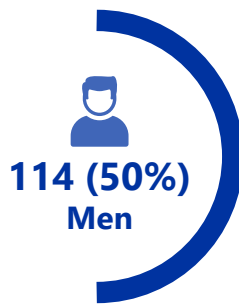


DATA ANALYSIS

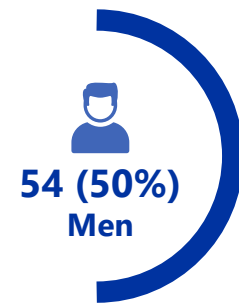
THEMATIC AREA 1 - PROFILES

Share of Respondents by Province

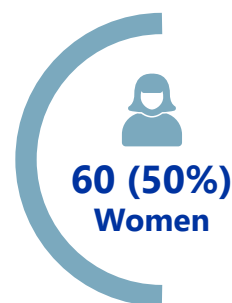
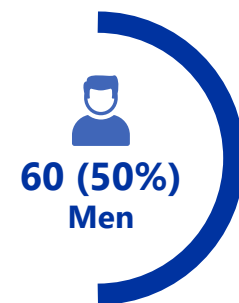
Total



Choiseul



Isabel

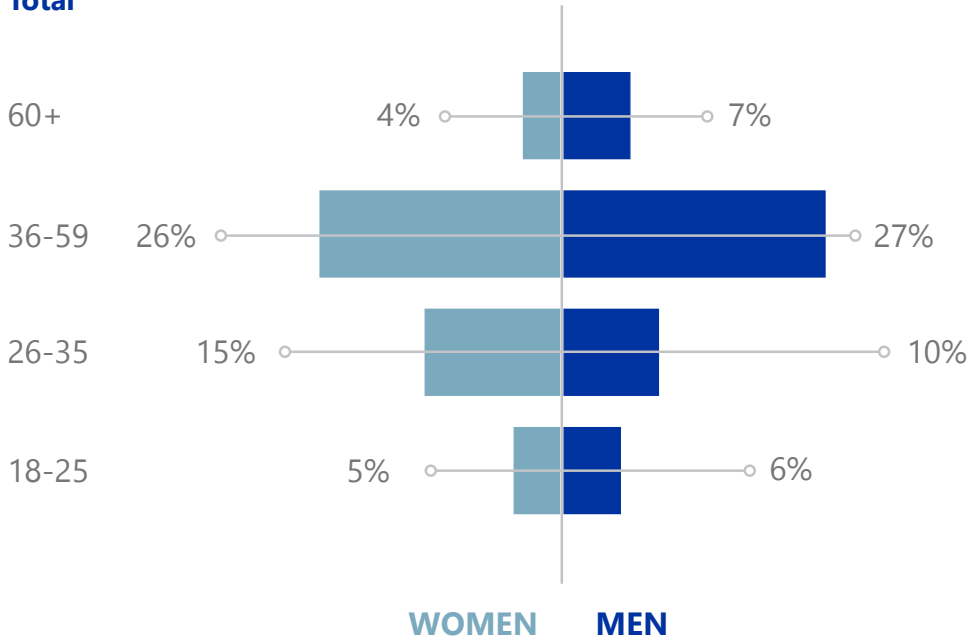


The respondent sample size consisted of 113 women (50%) and 114 men (50%). The gender distribution between male and female respondents in Choiseul and Isabel exhibits a near-perfect parity, as both genders represent 50 per cent of the respective provincial samples.

Forty-five per cent of respondents in Choiseul were aged between 36-59 years old and 61 per cent of respondents in Isabel were aged between 36-59 years old.

Population Pyramid

Total

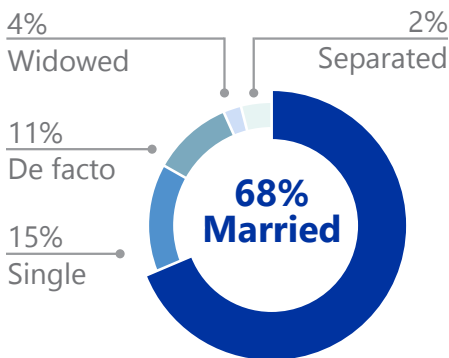


Overall, 89 per cent of respondents fell between the ages of 18-59 years old, and eleven per cent were aged 60 and above. In both provinces, a majority reported being married (Choiseul: 52%, Isabel: 83%).

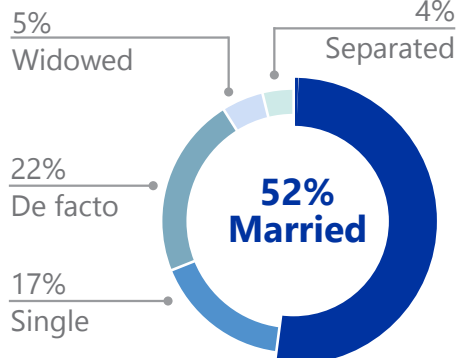
The highest level of education most commonly reported was secondary education (46%). Respondents in Isabel were more likely to have completed tertiary education than respondents in Choiseul (8% versus 5%).

Marital Status

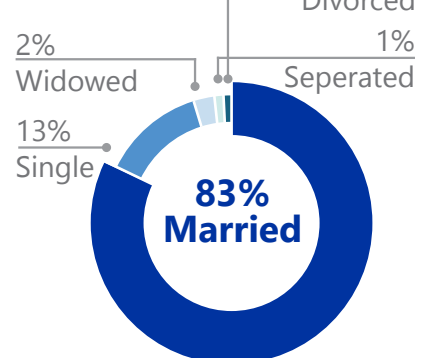
Total



Choiseul

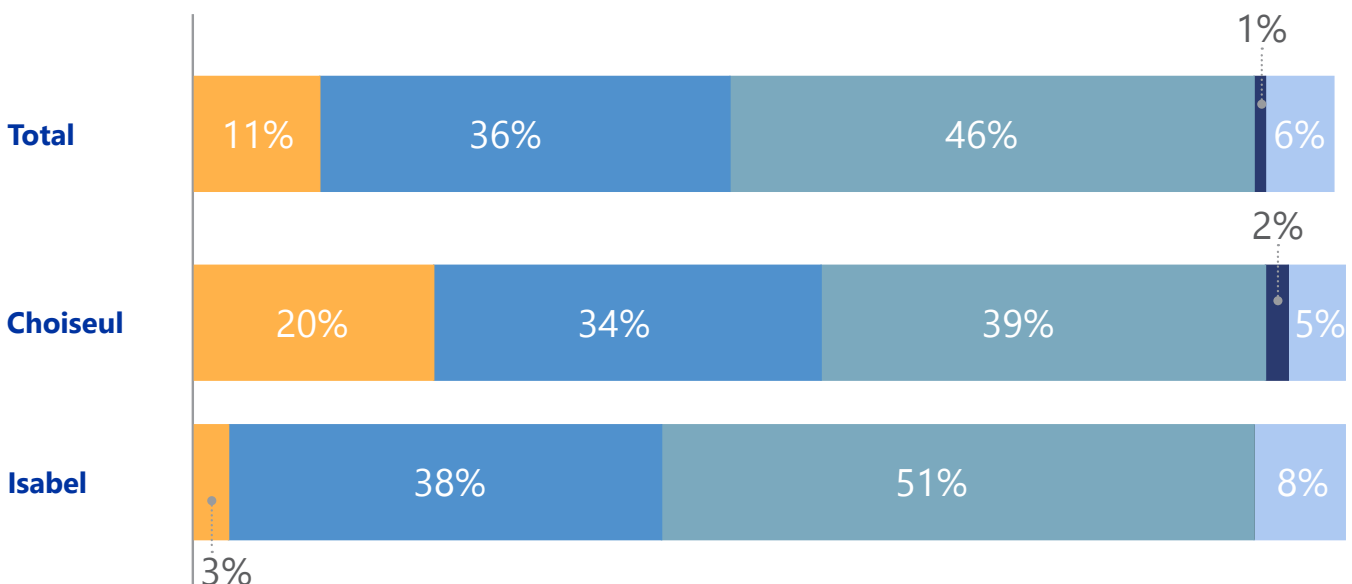


Isabel



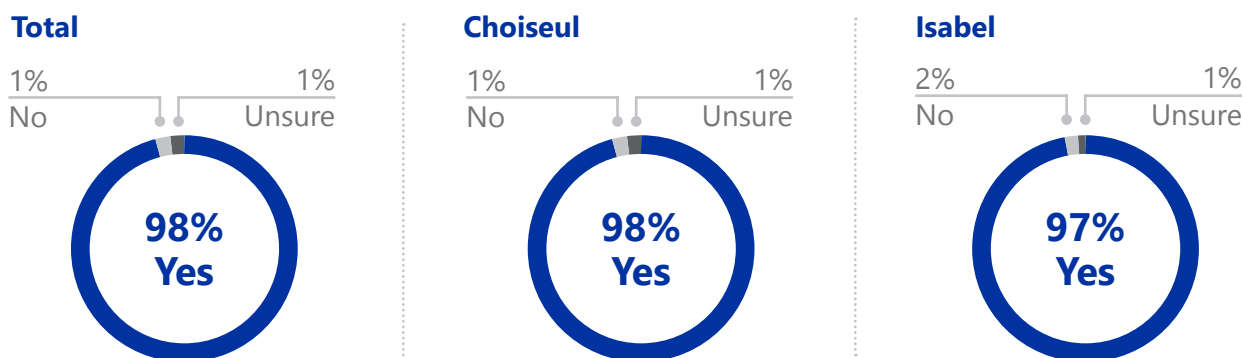
Education Level

● No education
 ● Primary
 ● Secondary
 ● Vocational
 ● Bachelor's degree or higher



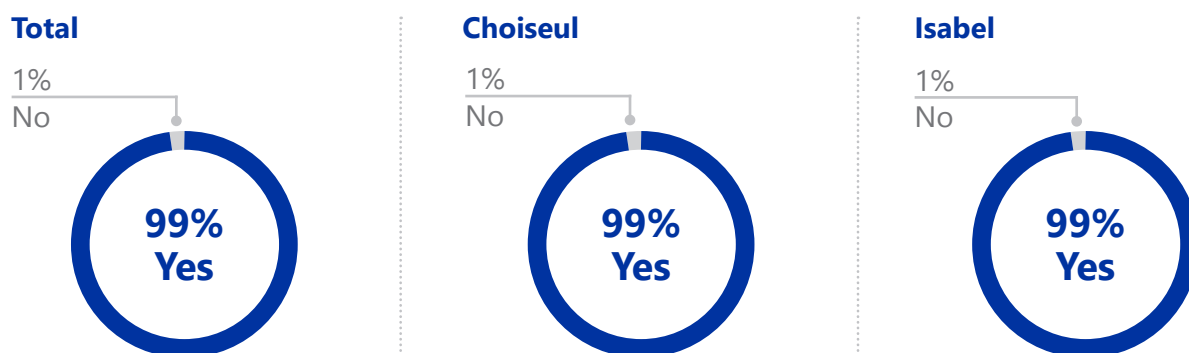
THEMATIC AREA 2 - SOCIAL NORMS AND ATTITUDES TOWARD GENDER EQUALITY

Do you think men and women should have equal rights?



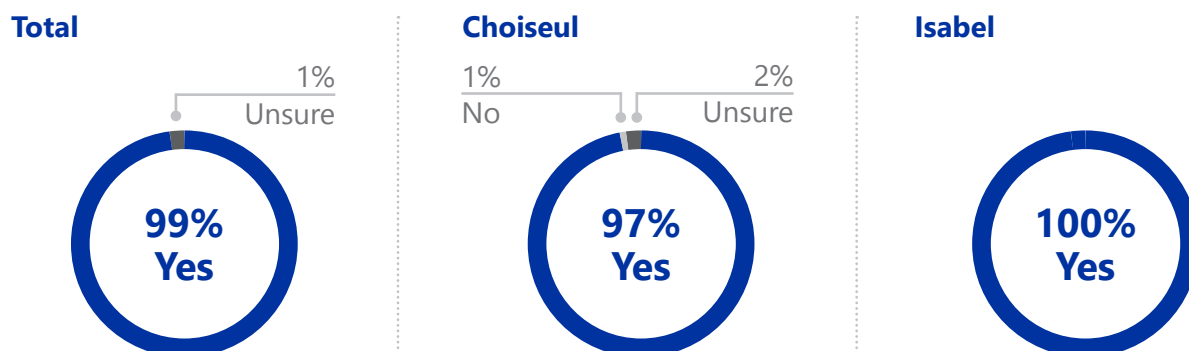
One per cent of respondents in Choiseul indicated that women should have fewer rights than men, citing the customary role of men as heads of the family and tribes. Two per cent of respondents in Isabel indicated that women should have fewer rights than men because a balance of rights might lead to conflicts and because women are less involved in implementing community activities. Another respondent in Isabel indicated that men should have fewer rights since women assume leadership roles within the family.

Should men and women have equal rights on access to education?



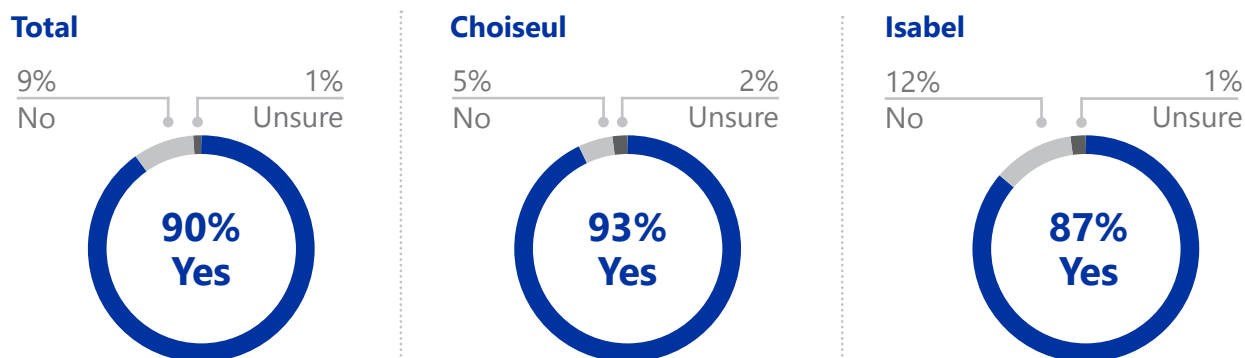
Findings indicate that 1 per cent of respondents in Choiseul believe that women should have fewer rights in access to education because they feel that when women become educated, they may no longer accept a subservient role and may wish to play a more active part in the community. One per cent of respondents in Isabel believe that men should have fewer rights in access to education because men do not actively contribute to family teaching.

Should men and women have equal rights on access to employment?



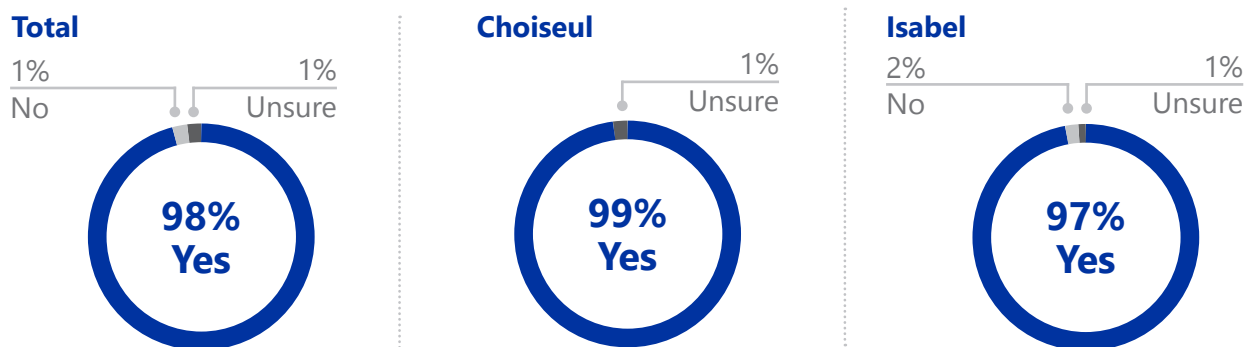
One per cent of respondents in Choiseul believe that women should have fewer rights in access to employment as women's engagement in seasonal work results in them leaving their families behind.

Should men and women have equal rights on ownership of land and property?



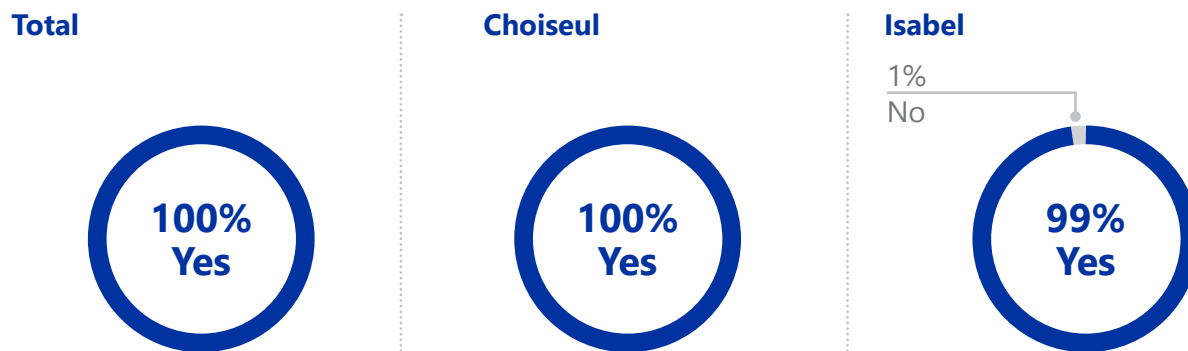
Seven per cent of respondents from Choiseul believe that women should have fewer rights than men since men are traditionally regarded as the heads of the family and have land ownership rights in accordance with the patrilineal land tenure system. Thirteen per cent of respondents from Isabel indicated that men should have fewer rights than women due to matrilineal land tenure in Isabel.

Should men and women have equal rights on financial decision-making?



One per cent of respondents in Isabel believe that men should have the dominant role in financial decision-making because men are the primary breadwinners. One per cent of respondents in Isabel believe that men should have fewer decision-making rights because they do not contribute significantly to household chores.

Should men and women have equal rights on engaging in community or leisure activities?

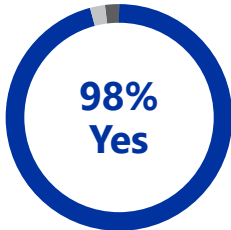


One per cent of respondents in Isabel believe that women should have fewer rights in engaging in community activities as most community planning and decisions are made by chiefs and other men, with limited involvement of women.

Should men and women have equal rights on access to contraception and sexual and reproductive health services?

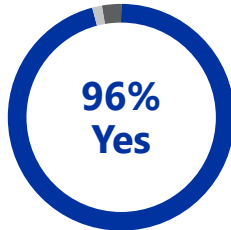
Total

1% No 1% Unsure



Choiseul

1% No 3% Unsure



Isabel



One per cent of respondents in Choiseul believe that women should have more rights in access to contraception and sexual and reproductive health services as most contraceptive devices are designed for women, so women are often the ones to access these services and relay information to their partners.

Should men and women have equal rights on deciding who to marry?

Total

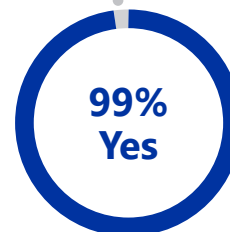


Choiseul



Isabel

1% No

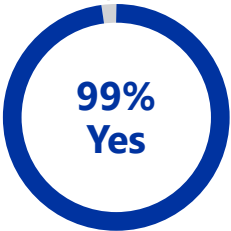


One per cent of respondents in Isabel indicated that women should have more rights in deciding who to marry than men because mothers play a guiding role in advising their children on marriage.

Should men and women have equal rights on deciding when to get married?

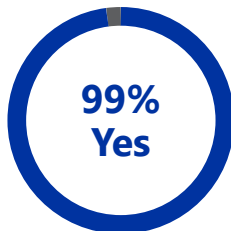
Total

1% No



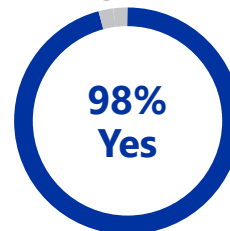
Choiseul

1% Unsure



Isabel

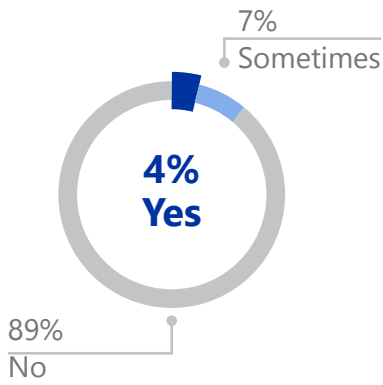
2% No



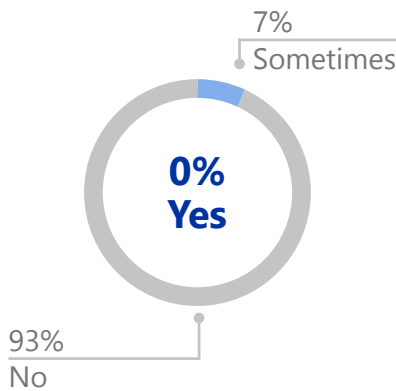
One per cent of respondents in Isabel believe that men should have more rights than women on deciding when to get married and one per cent of respondents believe that women should have more rights than men.

Do you think violence by a man against his partner or spouse is ever justified?

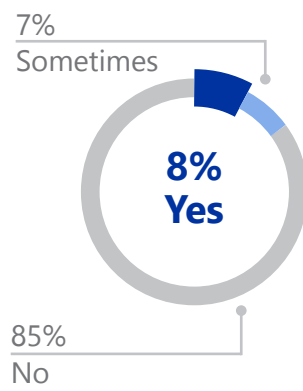
Total



Choiseul

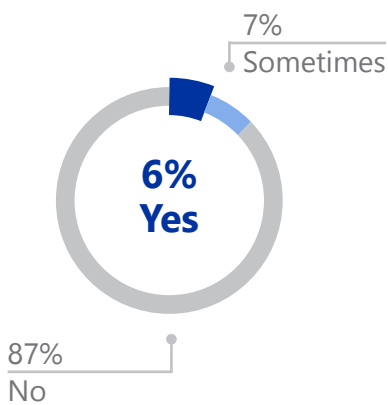


Isabel

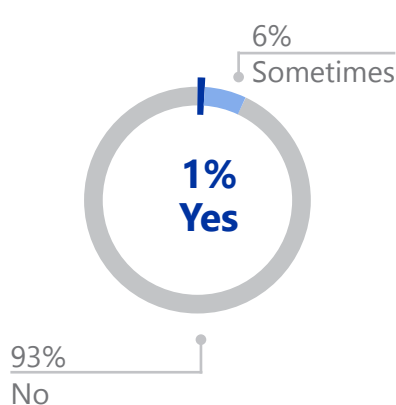


Do you think violence by a woman against her partner or spouse is ever justified?

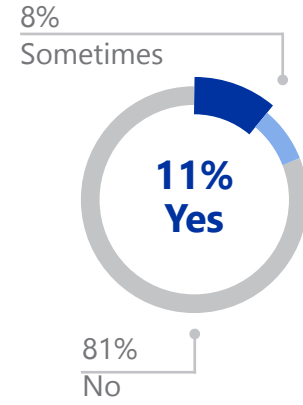
Total



Choiseul

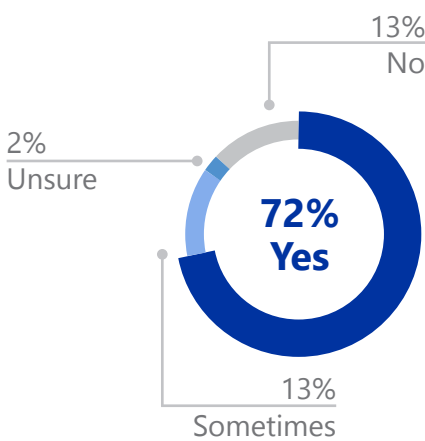


Isabel

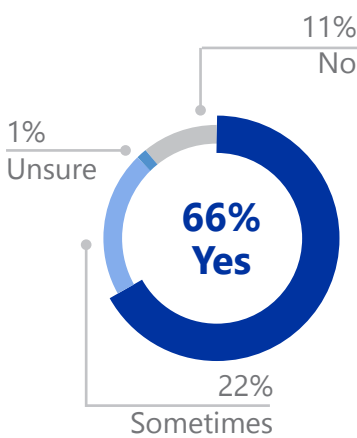


Do you think a woman should be able to refuse to have sex with her partner or spouse?

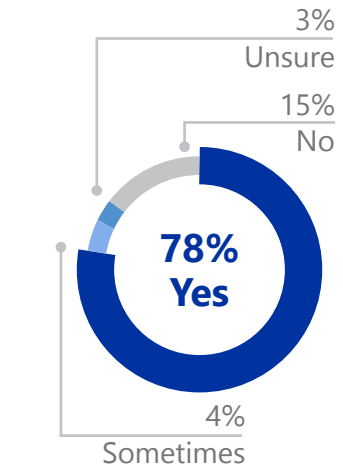
Total



Choiseul

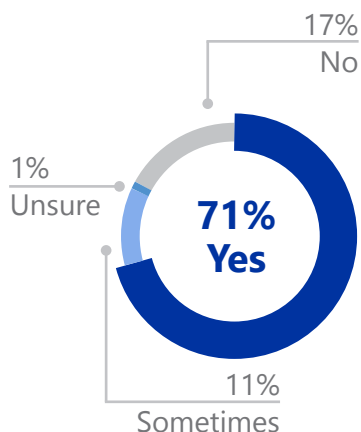


Isabel

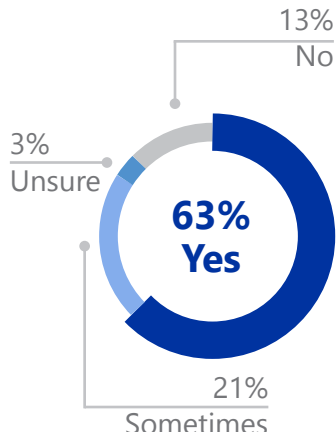


Do you think a man should be able to refuse to have sex with his partner or spouse?

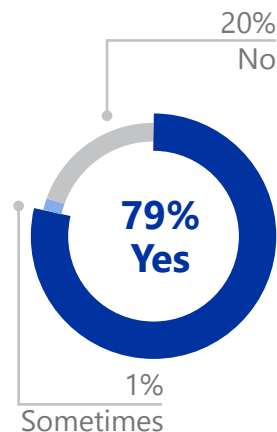
Total



Choiseul

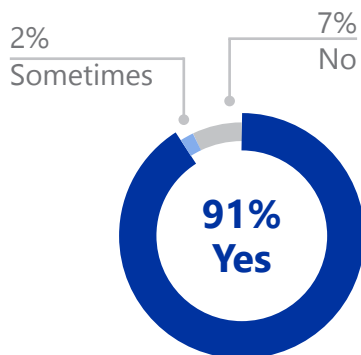


Isabel

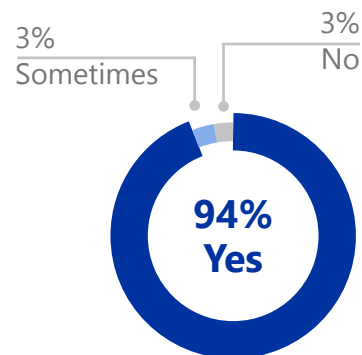


If parents want their child to get married before the age of 18, should children be able to refuse?

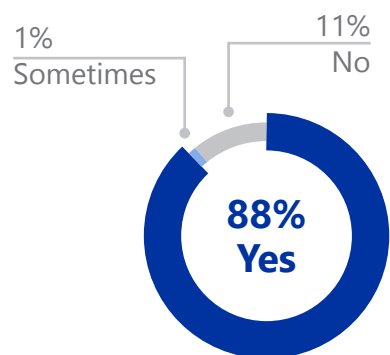
Total



Choiseul

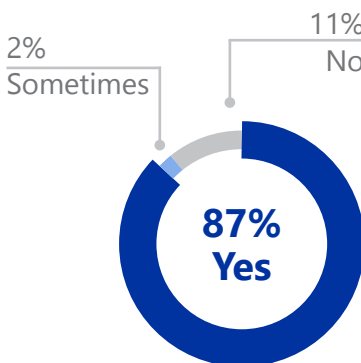


Isabel

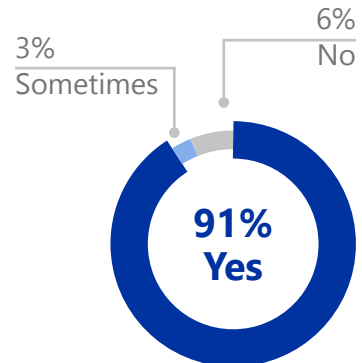


If parents want their child to drop out of school and start working before the age of 18, should children be able to refuse?

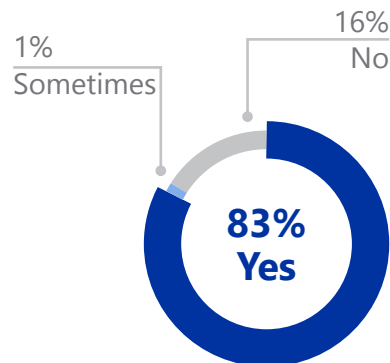
Total



Choiseul

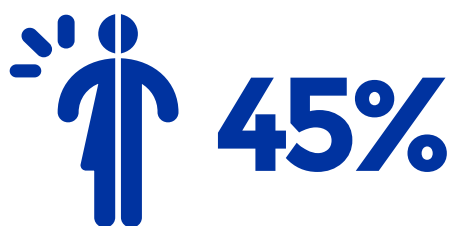


Isabel



THEMATIC AREA 3 - PERCEPTIONS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Awareness of Gender-Based Violence (GBV)



of respondents reported that they were aware of what gender-based violence is. Enumerators explained gender-based violence to respondents before continuing with the survey.

Prevalence of GBV in Communities

Total

87%



of the total population indicated that GBV occurs in their community. Six per cent indicated that GBV rarely happens, 70 per cent said it 'sometimes' happens, 6 per cent said it 'often' happens, while 5 per cent indicated that instances of GBV are always occurring.

Choiseul

78%



of the sample population in Choiseul indicated that GBV occurs in their community. Ten per cent indicated that GBV rarely happens, 62 per cent said it 'sometimes' happens, 4 per cent said it 'often' happens, while 2 per cent indicated that instances of GBV are always occurring.

Isabel

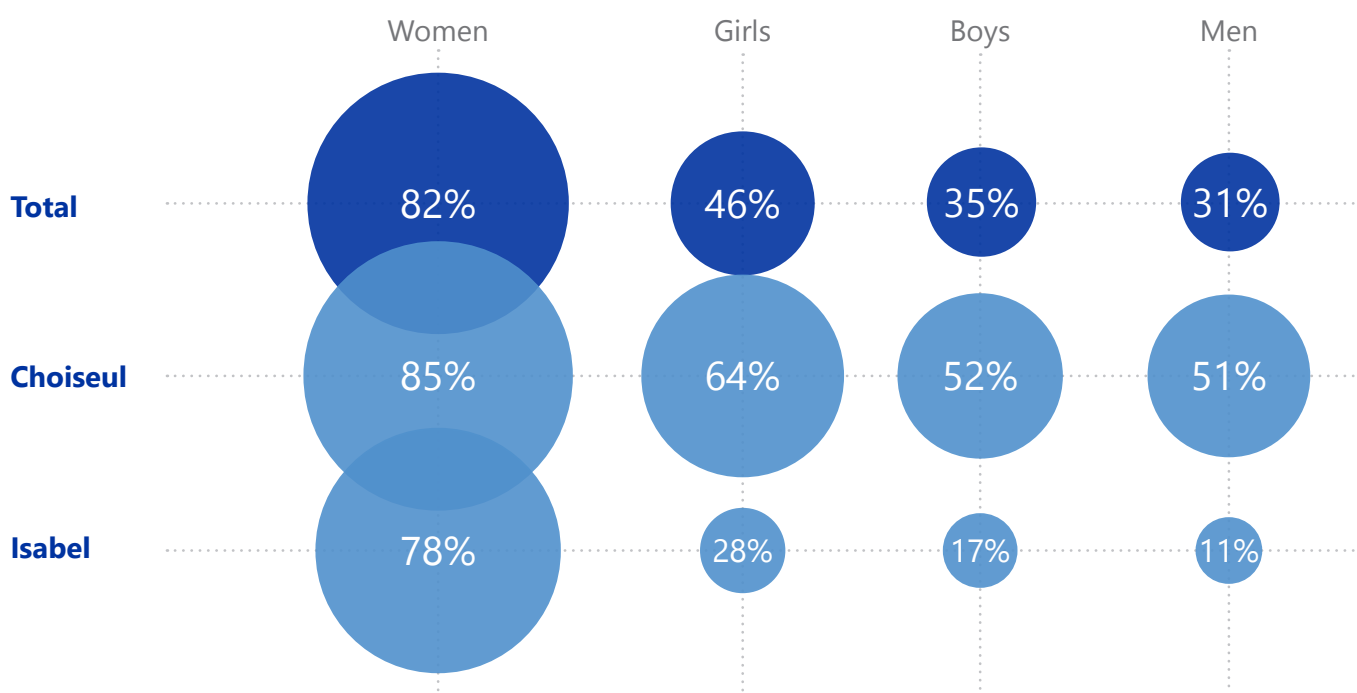
96%



of the sample population in Isabel indicated that GBV occurs in their community. Two per cent indicated that GBV rarely happens, 78 per cent said it 'sometimes' happens, 8 per cent said it 'often' happens, while 8 per cent indicated that instances of GBV are always occurring.

Primary Victims of GBV

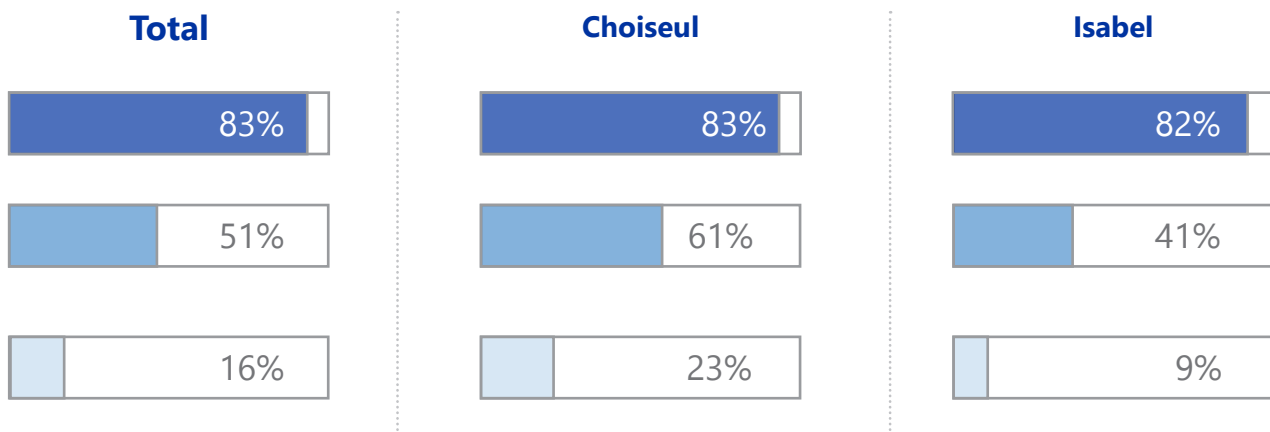
Note: Totals do not add up to 100% because this was a multiple answer question.



Primary Perpetrators of GBV

Note: Totals do not add up to 100% because this was a multiple answer question; top 3 answers only.

- Partners/spouses
- Other immediate family members
- Extended family members

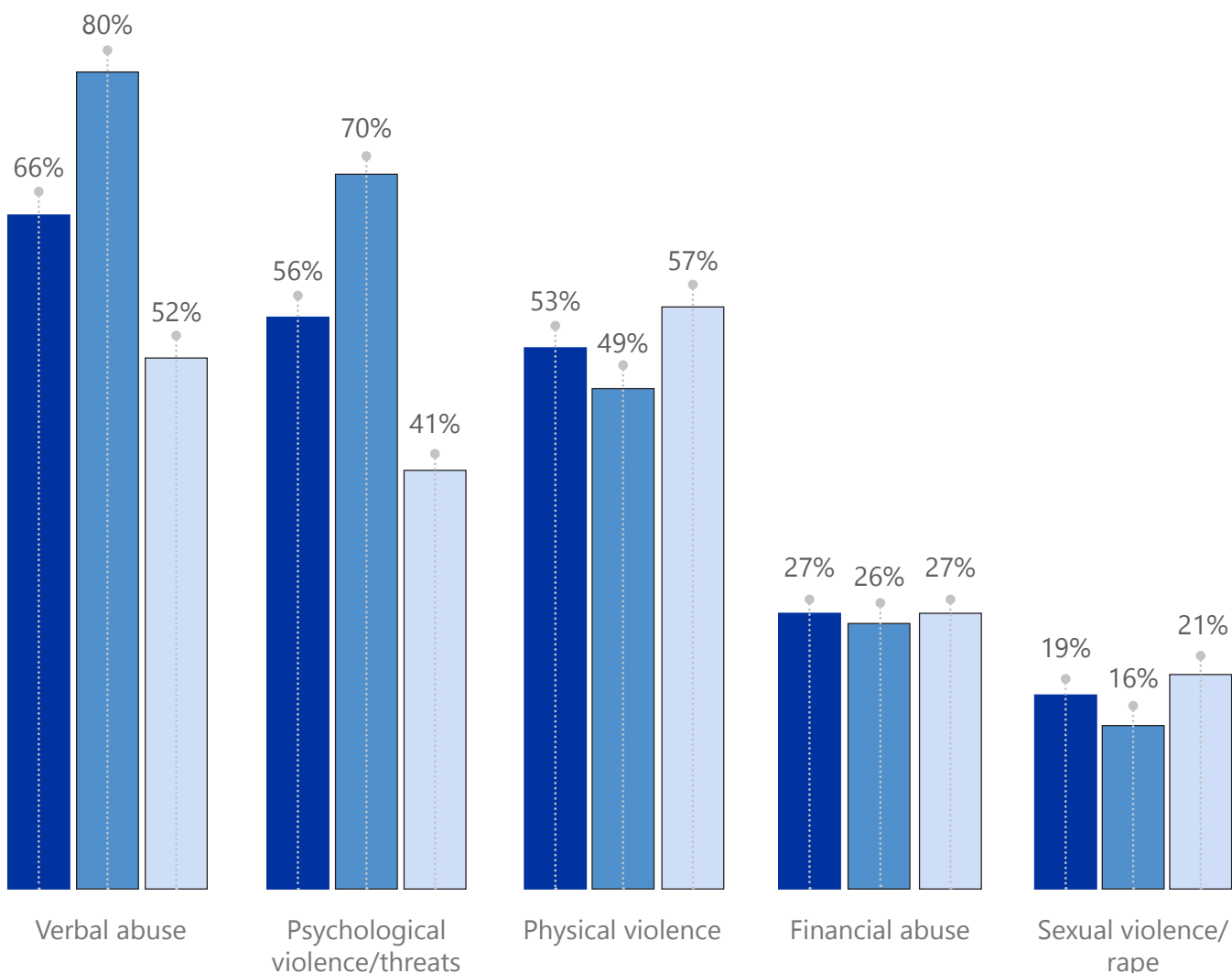


Primary Forms of GBV Identified

Note: Totals do not add up to 100% because this was a multiple answer question; top 5 answers only.

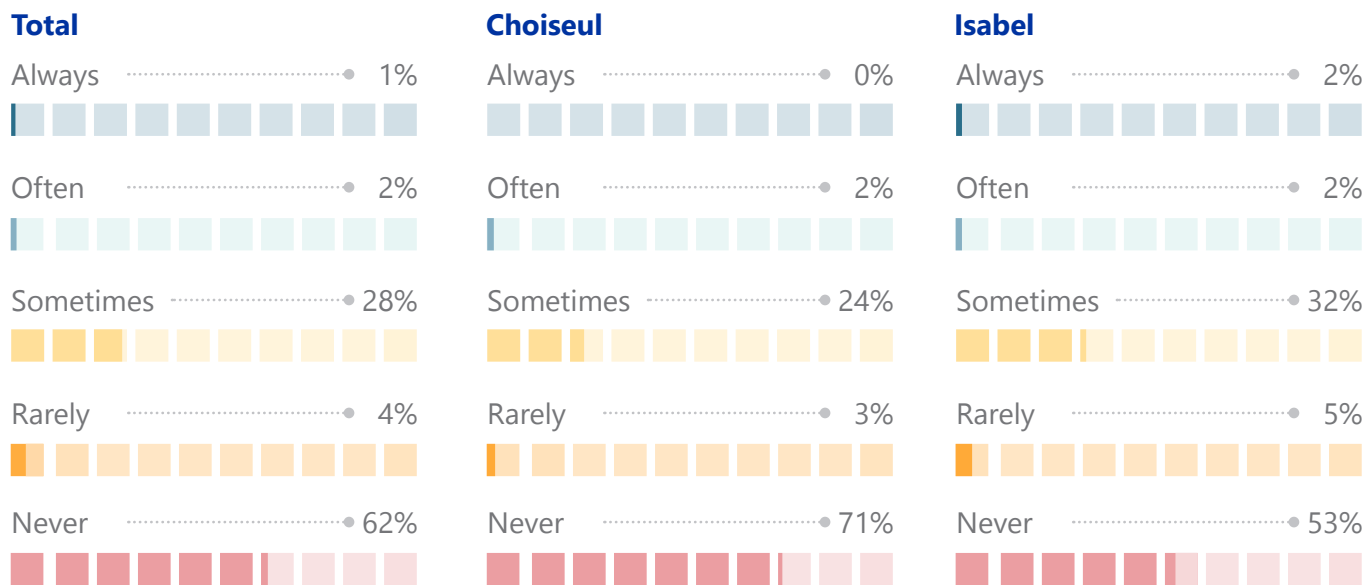
- Total
- Choiseul
- Isabel

Respondents who identified GBV in their communities were further asked to indicate what forms it took. Overall, the form of GBV most frequently identified was verbal abuse (66%), followed by psychological violence or threats (56%) and physical violence (53%). Findings indicate that psychological violence or threats were reported more frequently in Choiseul (70%) than in Isabel (41%).



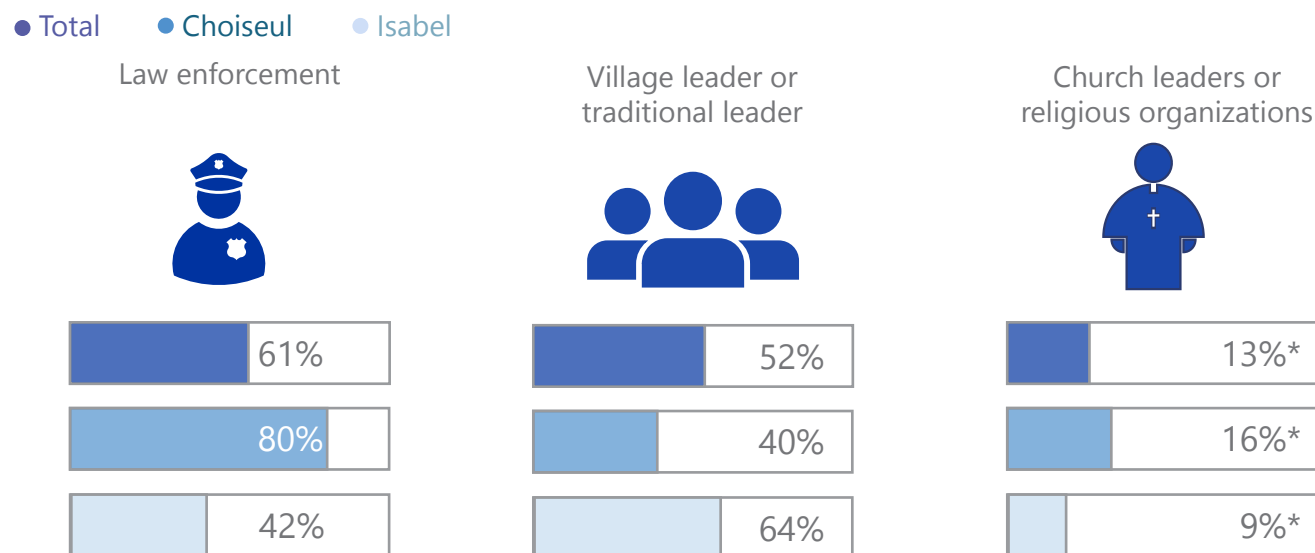
Frequency of GBV Cases Being Reported in Communities

Note: 6 per cent of respondents in Isabel responded unsure.



Primary Actors to Whom Cases Are Reported

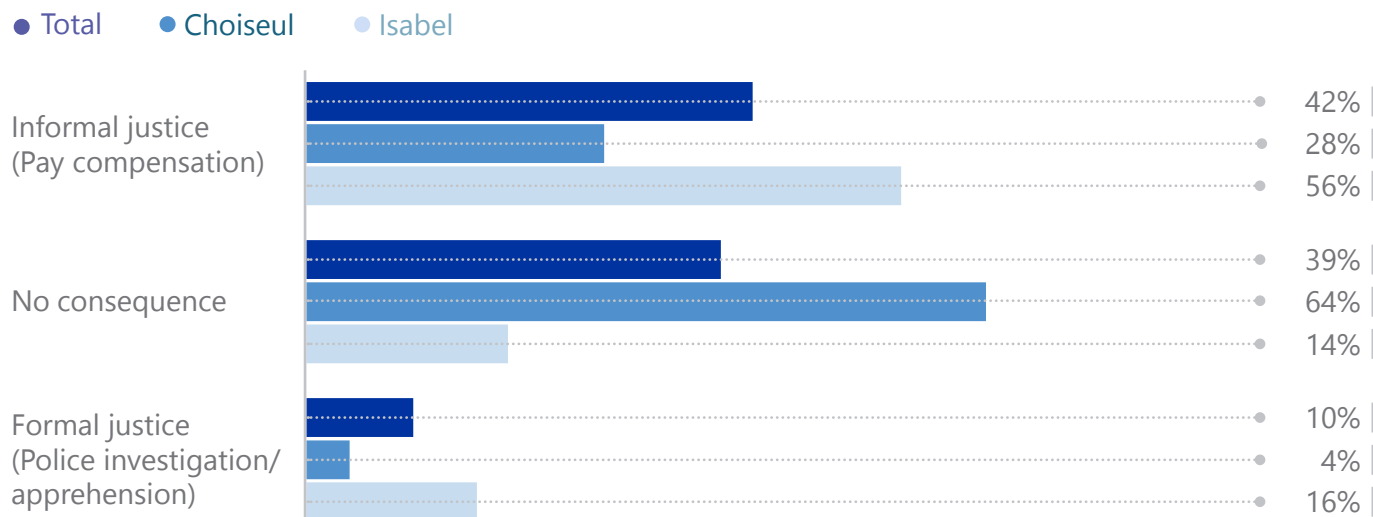
Note: Totals do not add up to 100% because this was a multiple answer question; top 3 answers only.



* The sample size for this percentage is lower than 10 respondents

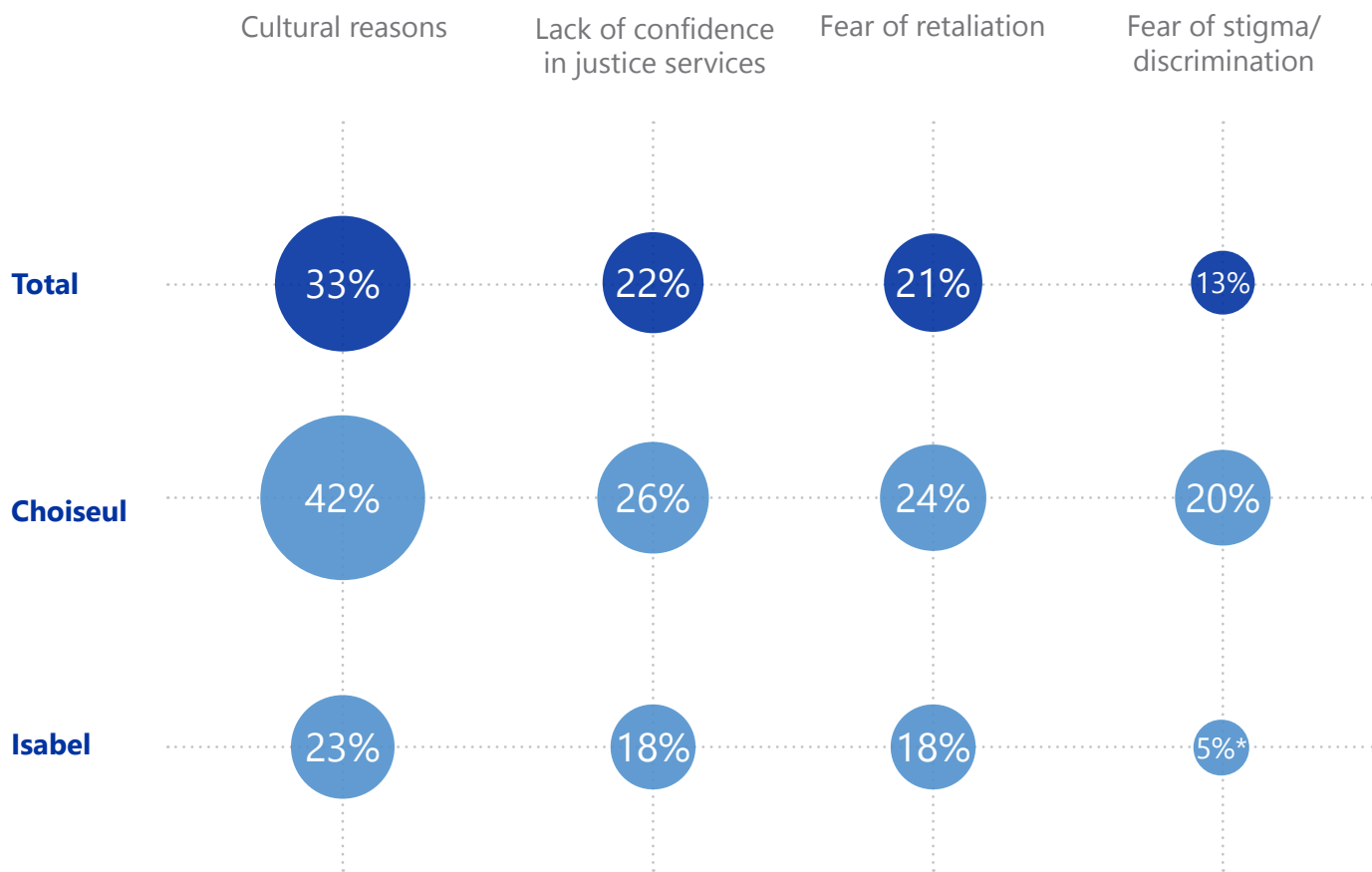
Consequence for Perpetrators After Cases Being Reported

Note: 8% of respondents in Isabel responded 'unsure', and 4% of respondents in Choiseul and 6% of respondents in Isabel said 'other'.



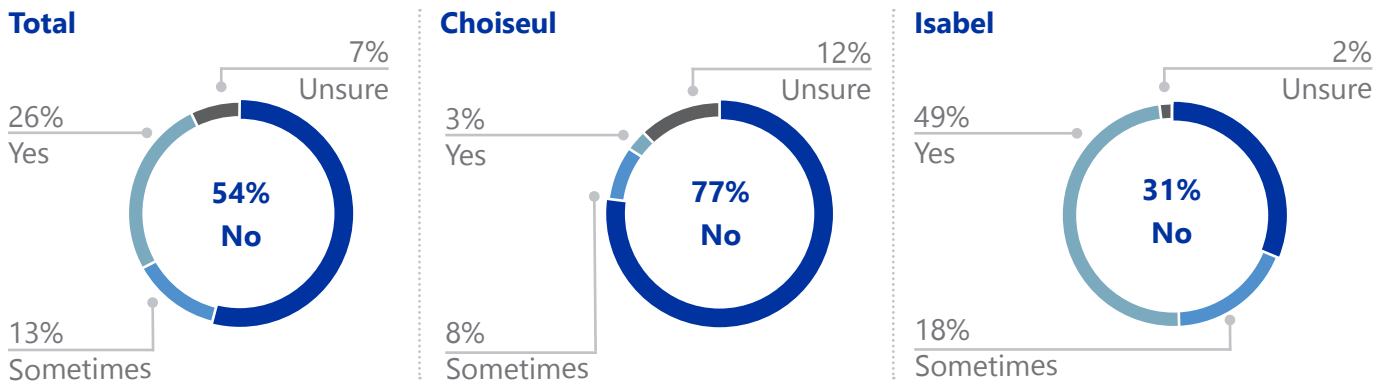
Main Reasons GBV Cases Are Not Being Reported

Note: Totals do not add up to 100% because this was a multiple answer question; top 4 answers only.

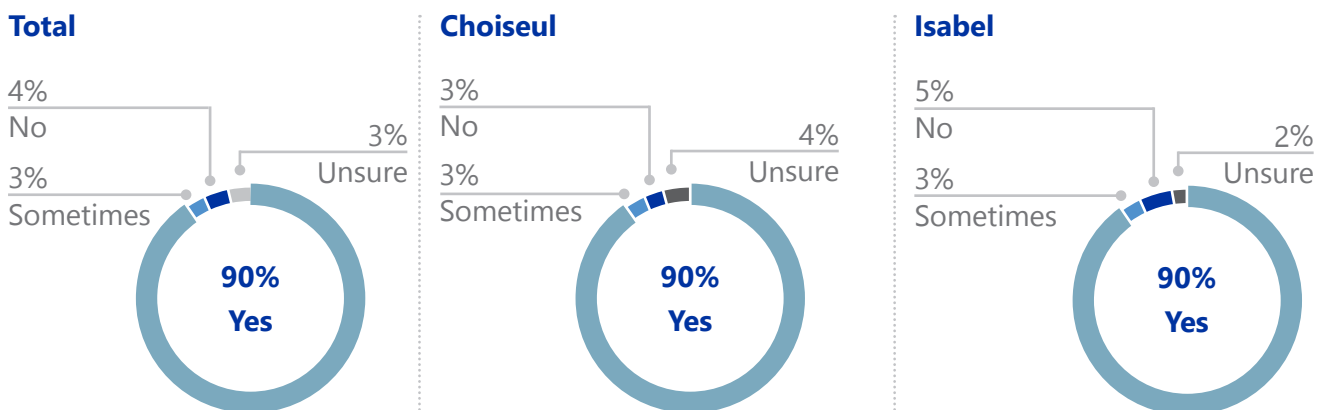


* The sample size for this percentage is lower than 10 respondents

If someone experiences GBV, do you think it is their fault?



Do you think survivors of GBV have rights?



THEMATIC AREA 4 - PERCEPTIONS OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Awareness of Trafficking in Persons (TIP)



of respondents reported that they were aware of what trafficking in persons is. Enumerators explained trafficking in persons to respondents before continuing with the survey.

Prevalence of TIP in Communities

Total

71%



of the total population indicated that TIP occurs in their community. Ten per cent indicated that TIP rarely happens, 52 per cent said it 'sometimes' happens, 4 per cent said it 'often' happens, while 5 per cent indicated that instances of TIP are always occurring.

Choiseul

63%



of the total population in Choiseul indicated that TIP occurs in their community. Seventeen per cent indicated that TIP rarely happens, 41 per cent said it 'sometimes' happens, 3 per cent said it 'often' happens, while 2 per cent indicated that instances of TIP are always occurring.

Isabel

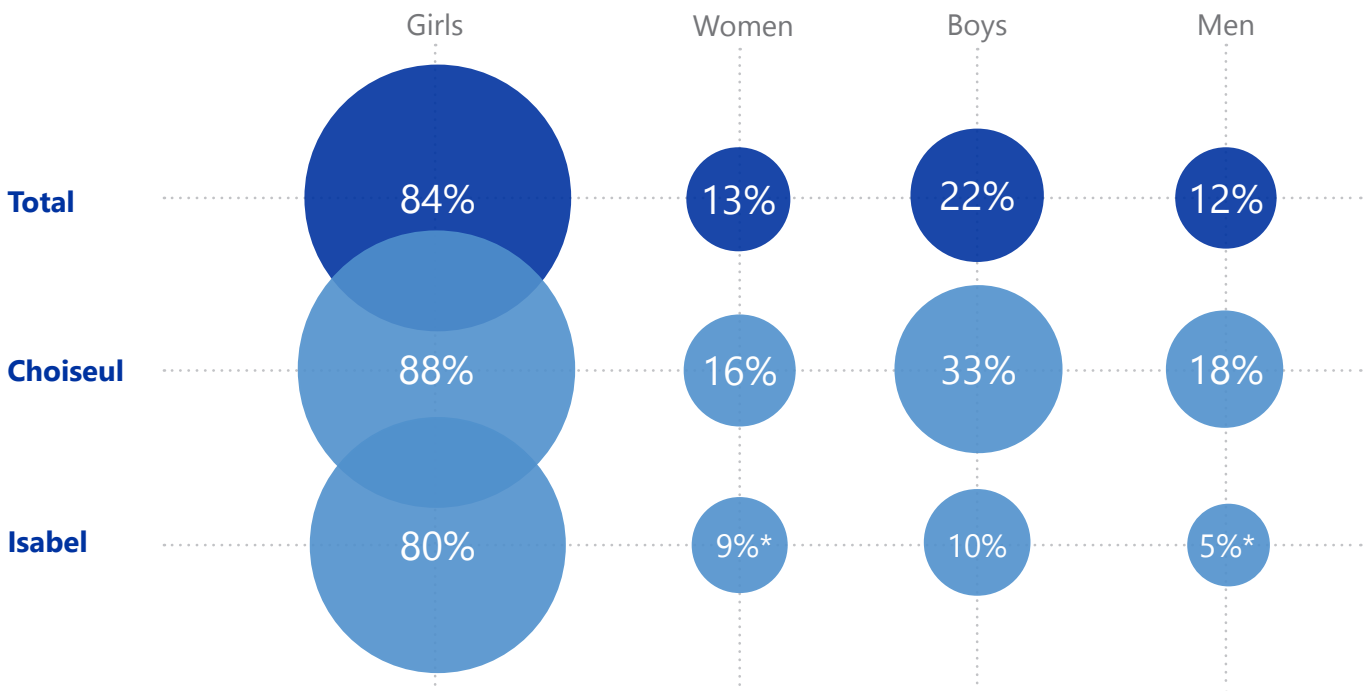
79%



of the total population in Choiseul indicated that TIP occurs in their community. Three per cent indicated that TIP rarely happens, 63 per cent said it 'sometimes' happens, 6 per cent said it 'often' happens, while 7 per cent indicated that instances of TIP are always occurring.

Primary Victims of TIP

Note: Totals do not add up to 100% because this was a multiple answer question.

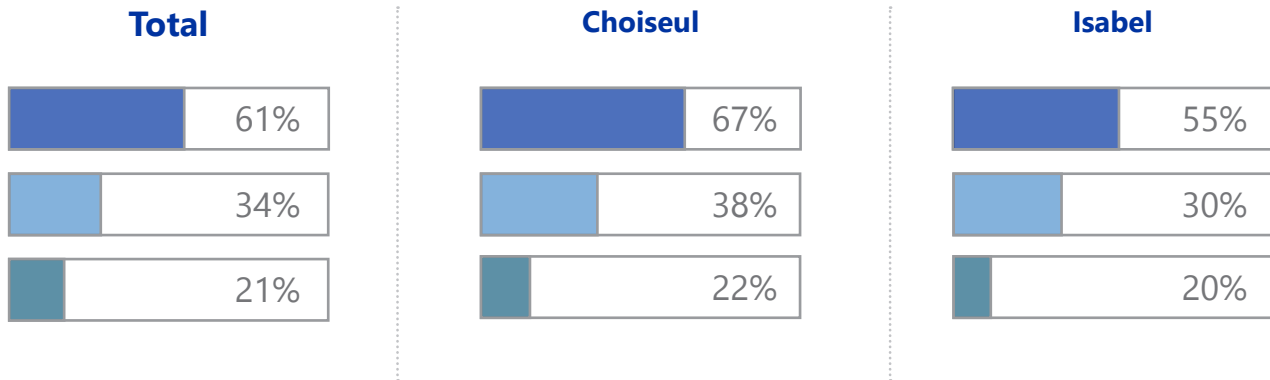


* The sample size for this percentage is lower than 10 respondents

Primary Perpetrators of TIP

Note: Totals do not add up to 100% because this was a multiple answer question; top 3 answers only.

- Parents
- Other family members
- Employers

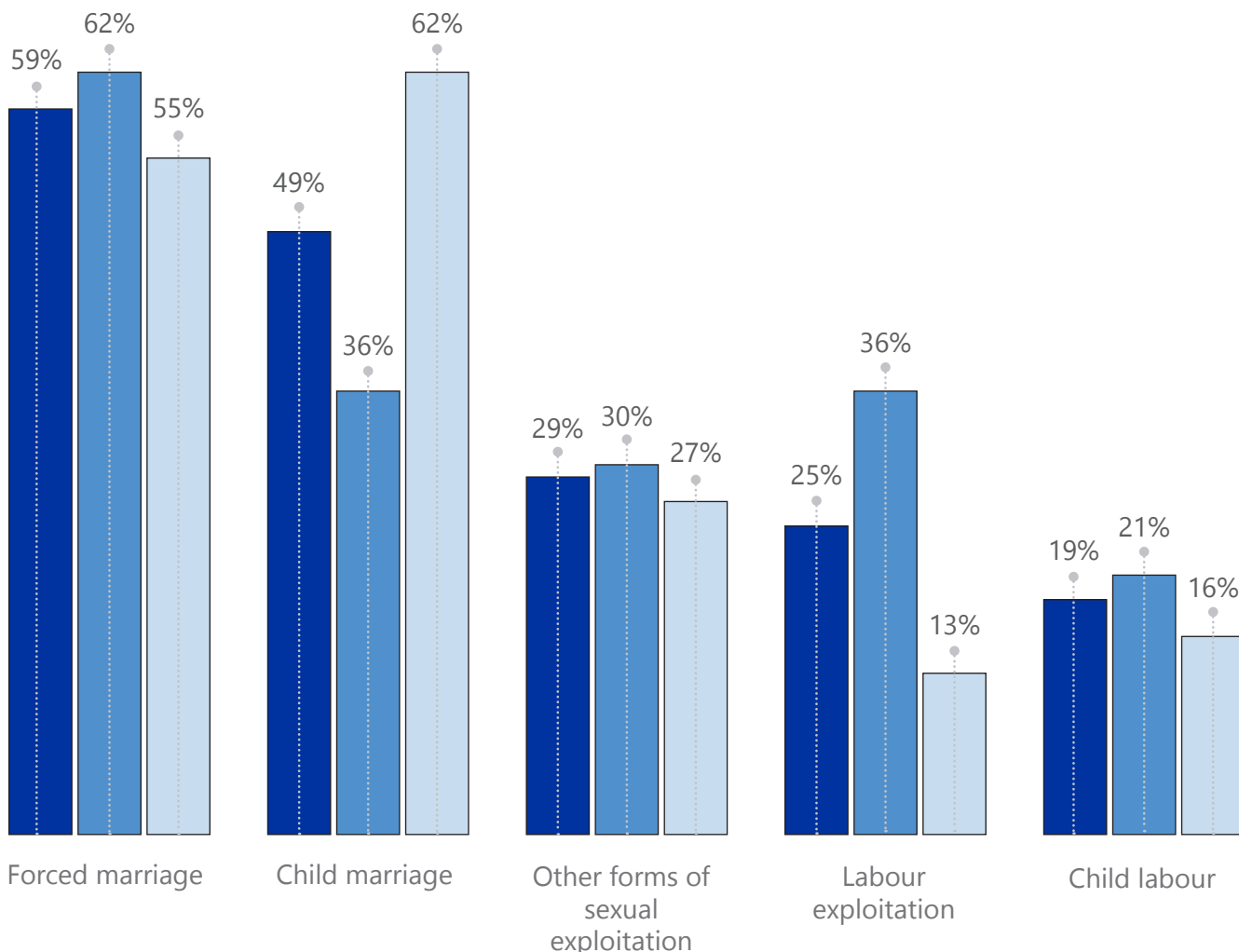


Primary Forms of TIP Identified

Note: Totals do not add up to 100% because this was a multiple answer question; top 5 answers only.

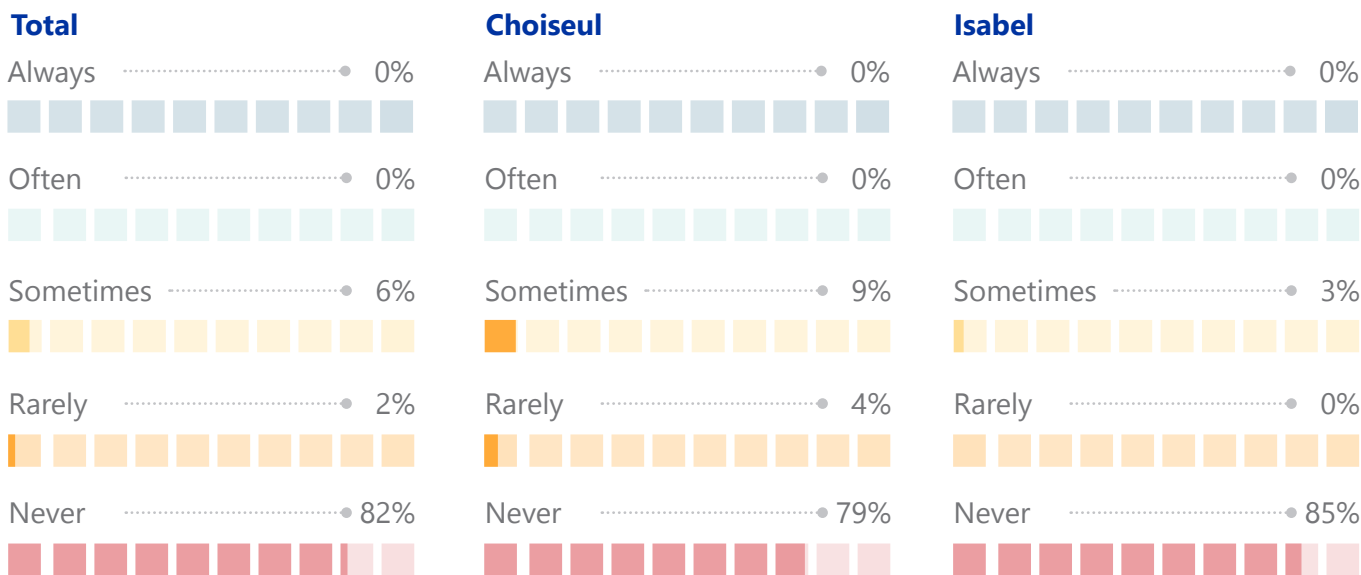
- Total
- Choiseul
- Isabel

Respondents who identified TIP in their communities were further asked to indicate what forms it took. Overall, the form of TIP most frequently identified was forced marriage (59%), followed by child marriage (49%) and other forms of sexual exploitation (29%). Findings indicate that child marriage was more frequently identified among respondents in Isabel (62%) than in Choiseul (36%).



Frequency of TIP Cases Being Reported in Communities

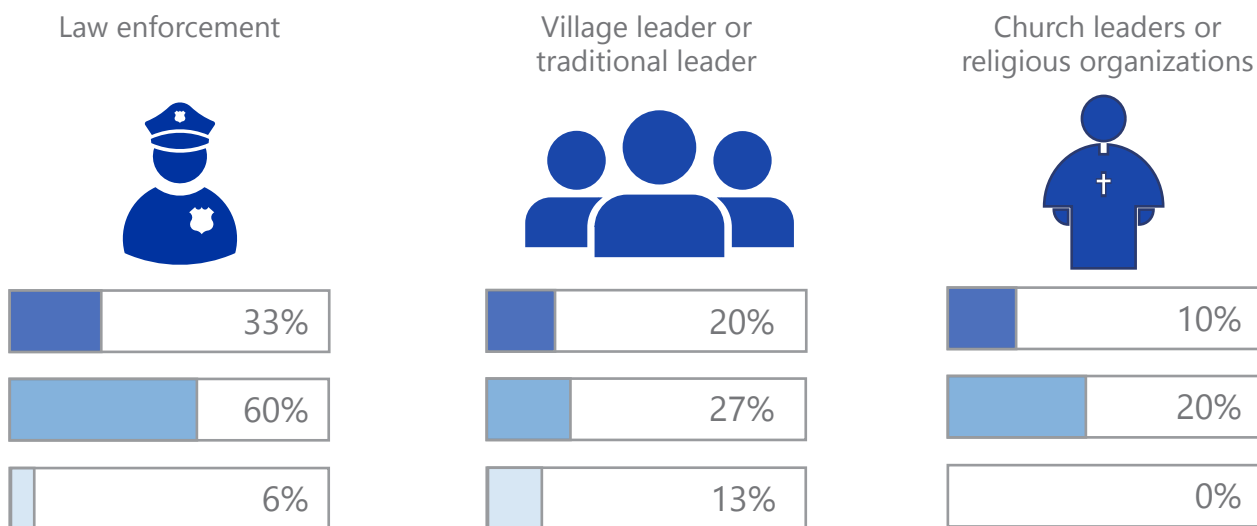
Note: 12% of respondents in Isabel and 8% of respondents in Choiseul responded 'unsure'.



Primary Actors to Whom Cases Are Reported

Note: Totals do not add up to 100% because this was a multiple answer question; top 3 answers only.

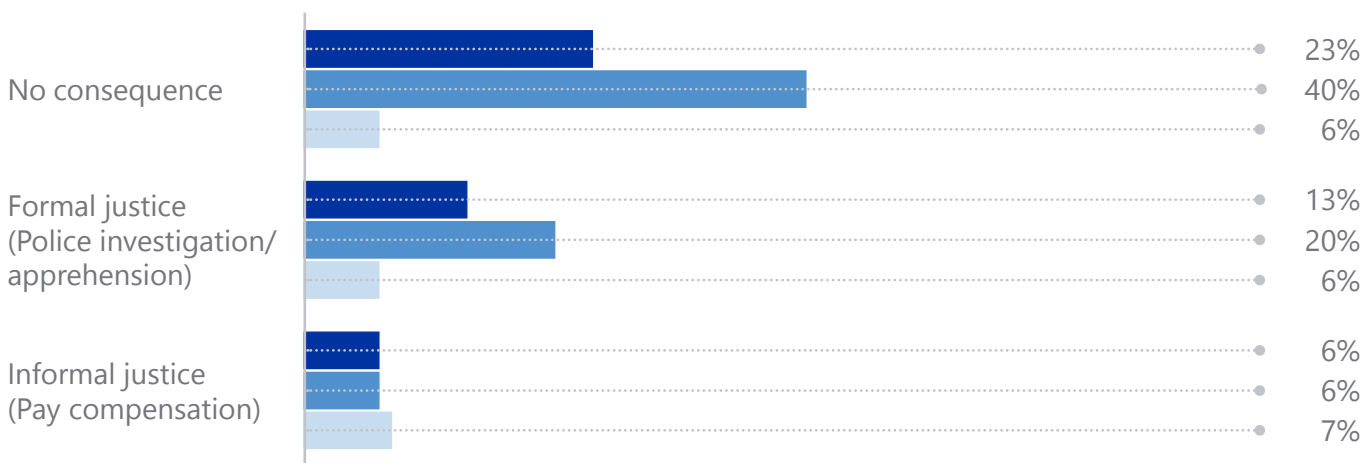
● Total ● Choiseul ● Isabel



Consequence For Perpetrators After Cases Are Reported

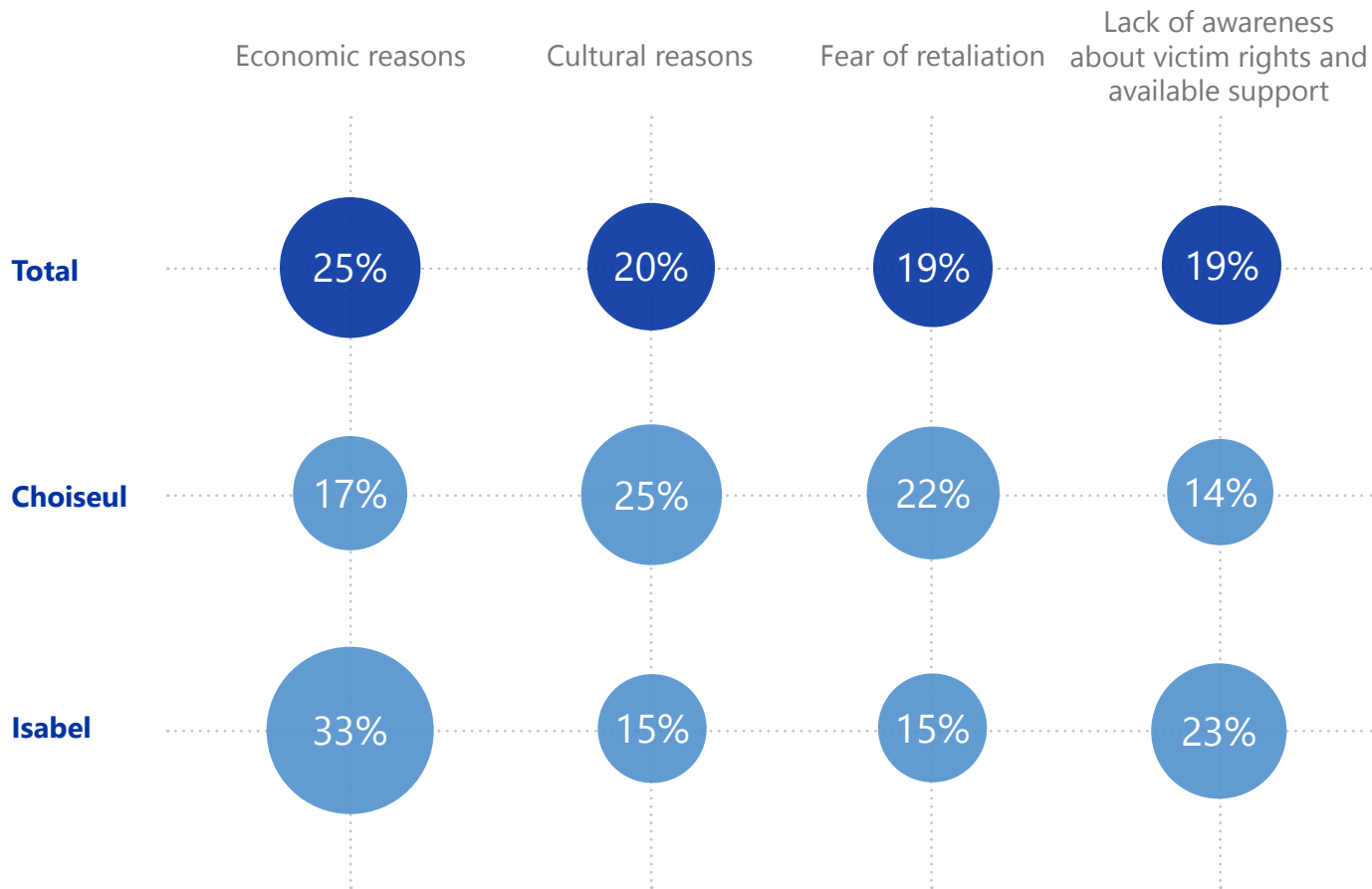
Note: 7% of respondents in Choiseul and 75% in Isabel responded 'unsure'. 27% of respondents in Choiseul and 6% in Isabel responded 'other'.

● Total ● Choiseul ● Isabel



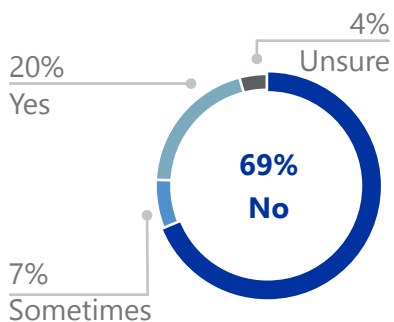
Main Reasons TIP Cases Are Not Being Reported

Note: Totals do not add up to 100% because this was a multiple answer question; top 4 answers only.

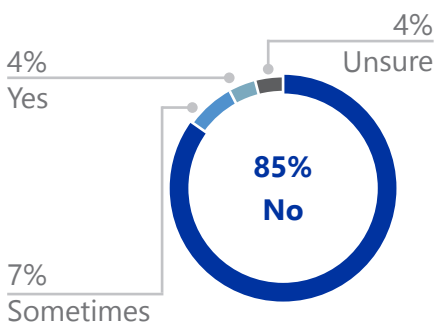


If someone experiences TIP, do you think it is their fault?

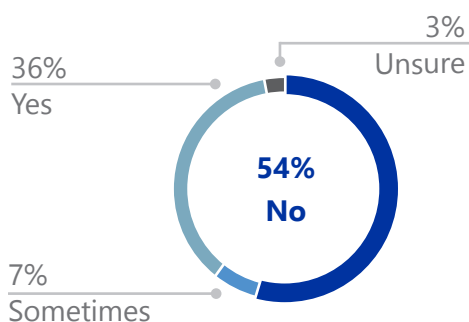
Total



Choiseul

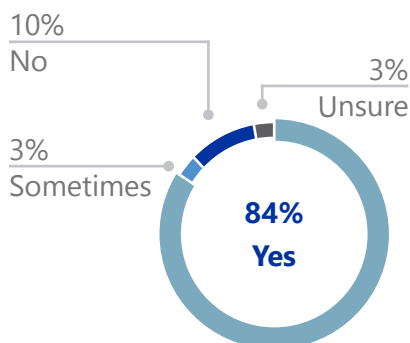


Isabel

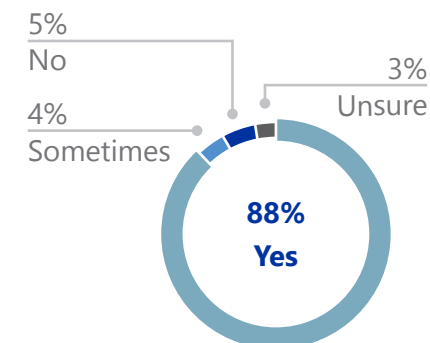


Do you think survivors of TIP have rights?

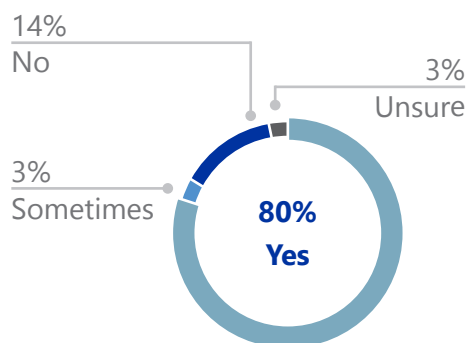
Total



Choiseul

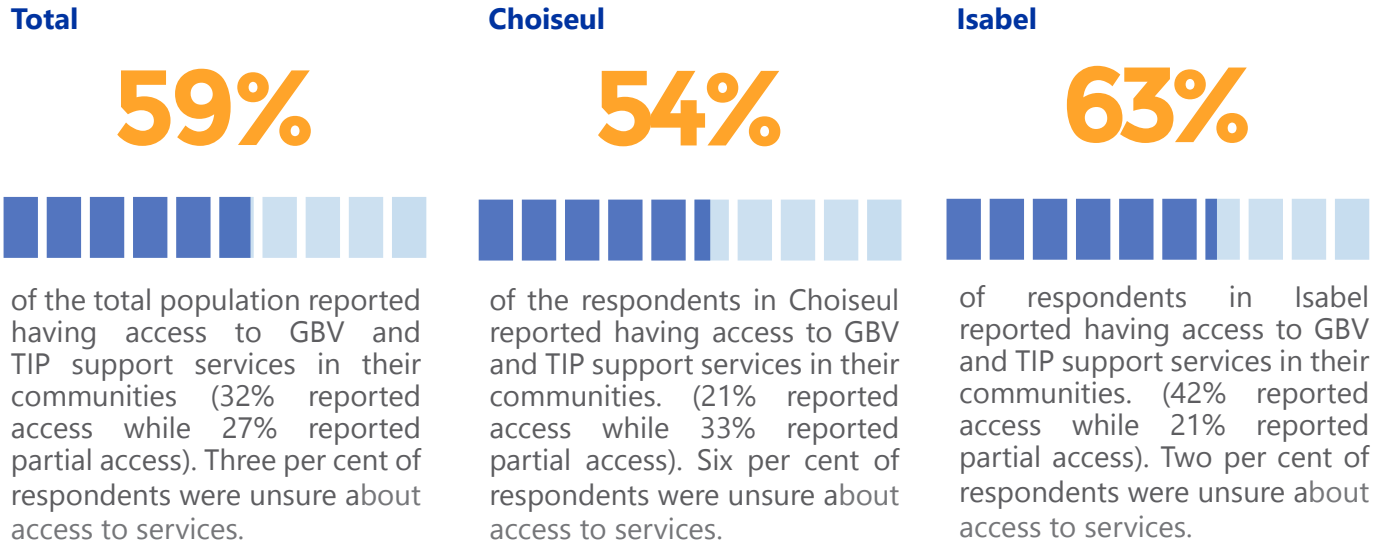


Isabel



THEMATIC AREA 5 - SUPPORT SERVICES FOR GBV AND TIP

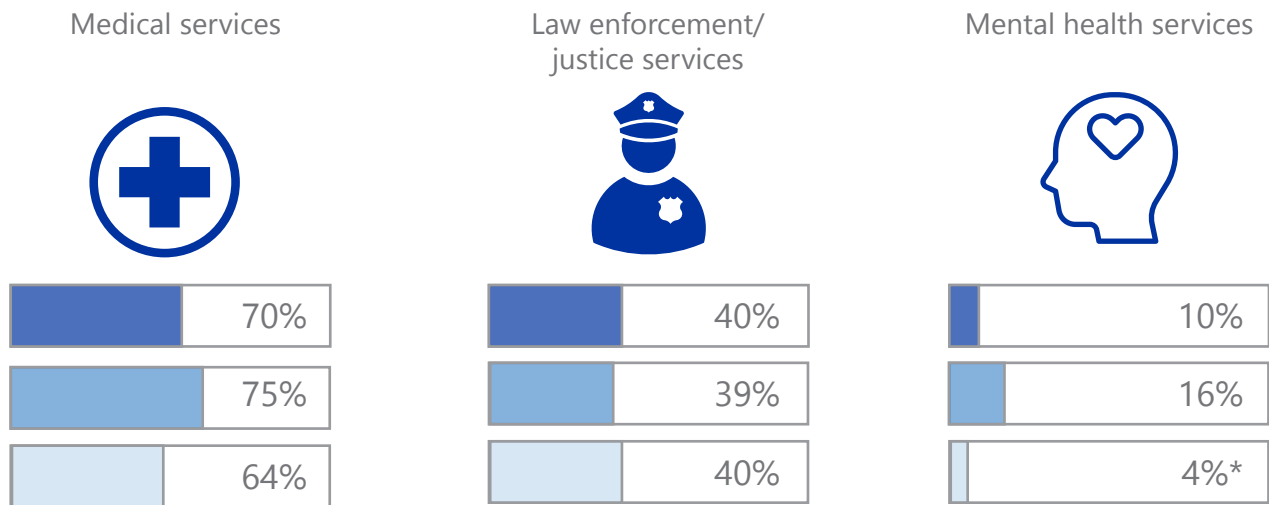
Access to GBV and TIP Support Services



Primary Services Available for GBV and TIP at Community Level

Note: Totals do not add up to 100% because this was a multiple answer question; this question was only asked to respondents who indicated having access to services.

● Total ● Choiseul ● Isabel

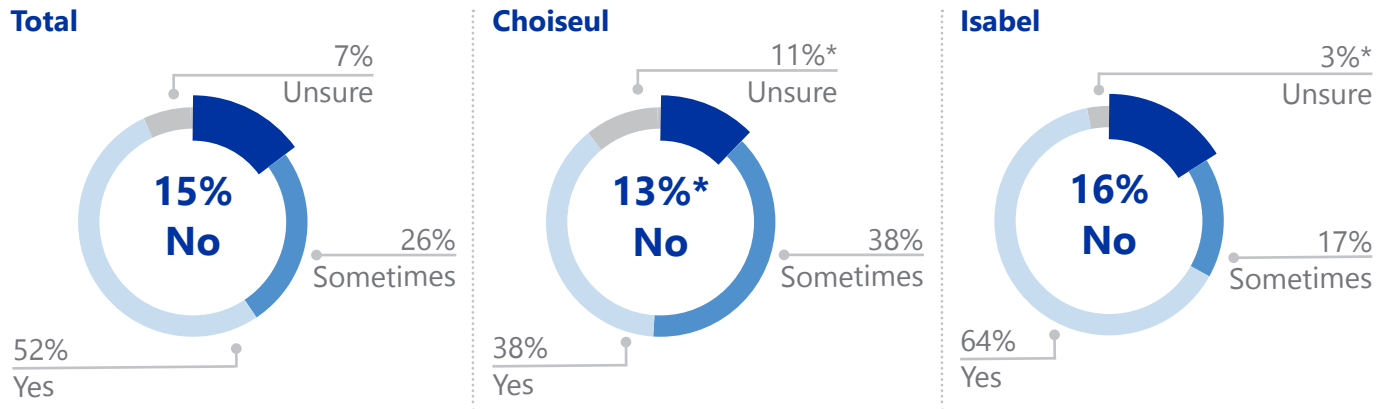


* The sample size for this percentage is lower than 10 respondents



Do you think survivors of GBV and TIP feel comfortable in accessing available services?

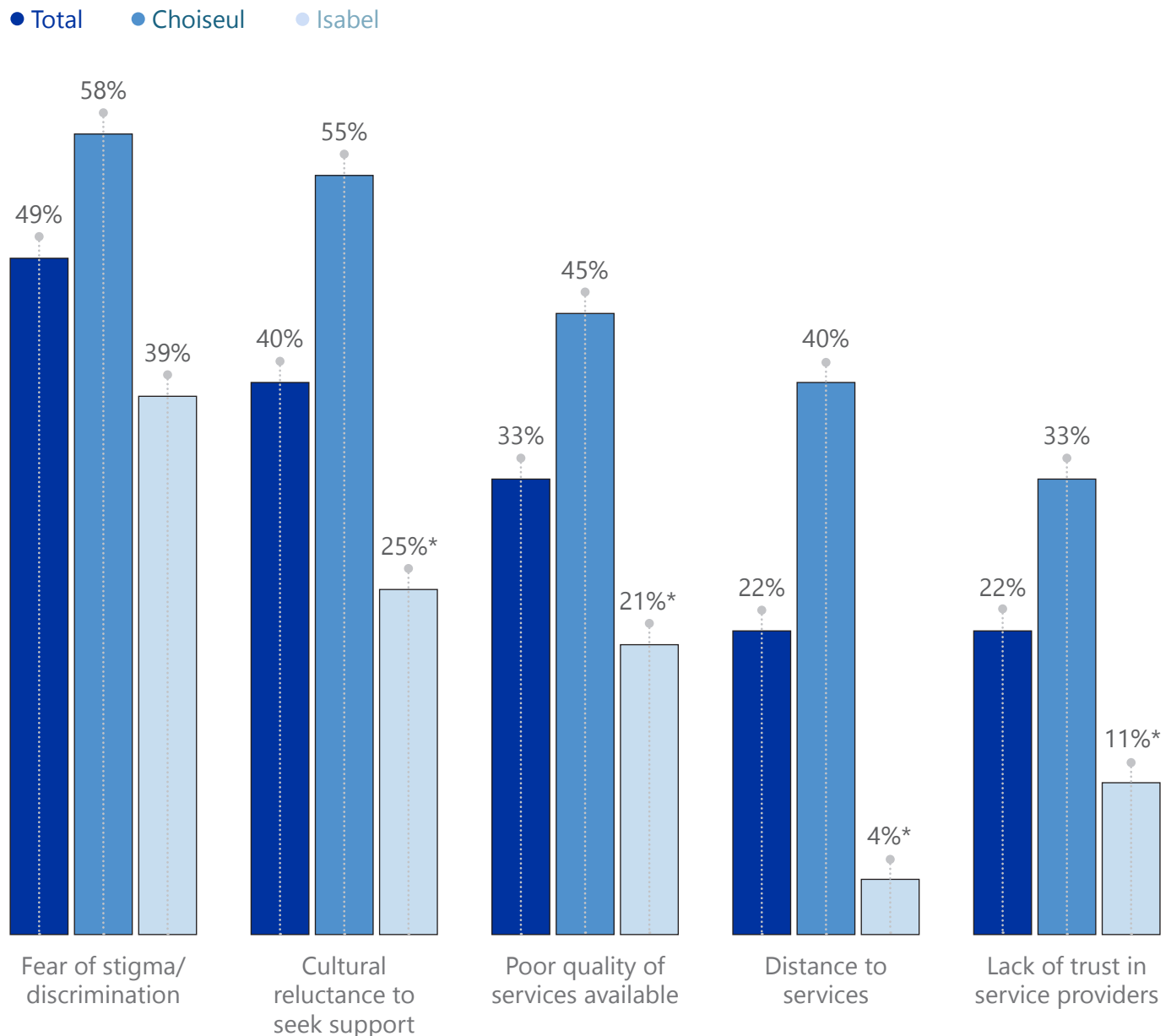
Note: This question was only asked to respondents who indicated having access to services.



* The sample size for this percentage is lower than 10 respondents

Main Barriers to Accessing Existing Services for Survivors of TIP and GBV

Note: Totals do not add up to 100% because this was a multiple answer question; top 5 answers only; this question was only asked to respondents who indicated having access to services.



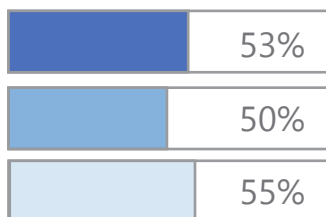
* The sample size for this percentage is lower than 10 respondents

Primary Type of Services Needed for GBV and TIP Survivors

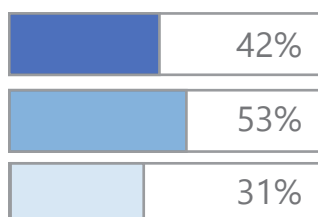
Note: Totals do not add up to 100% because this was a multiple answer question; top 5 answers only

● Total ● Choiseul ● Isabel

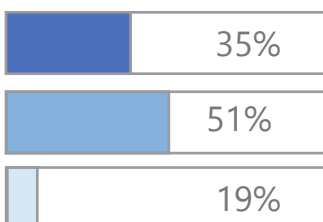
Police services



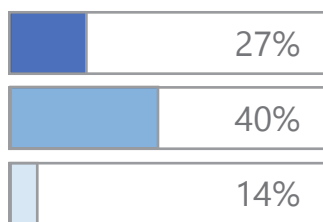
Trained counsellors and case managers



Communication services



Health services



Referral services

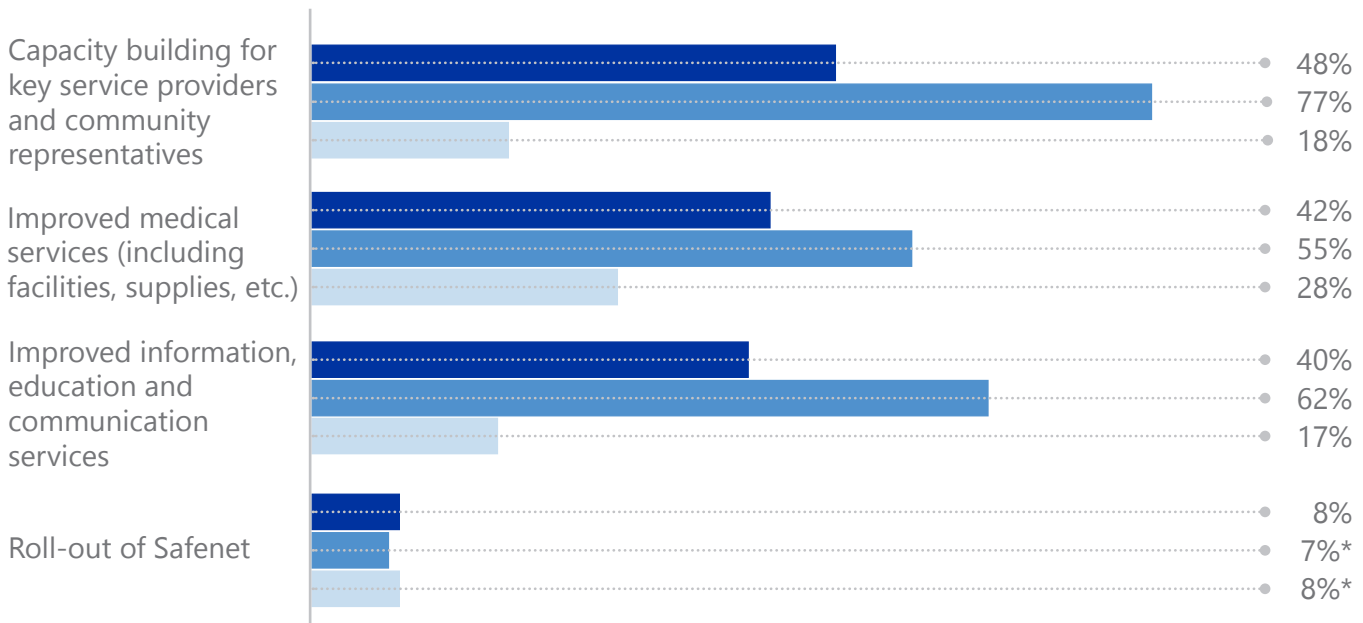
SAFENET



Improvements Needed to Existing Services for GBV and TIP Survivors

Note: Totals do not add up to 100% because this was a multiple answer question; top 4 answers only

● Total ● Choiseul ● Isabel

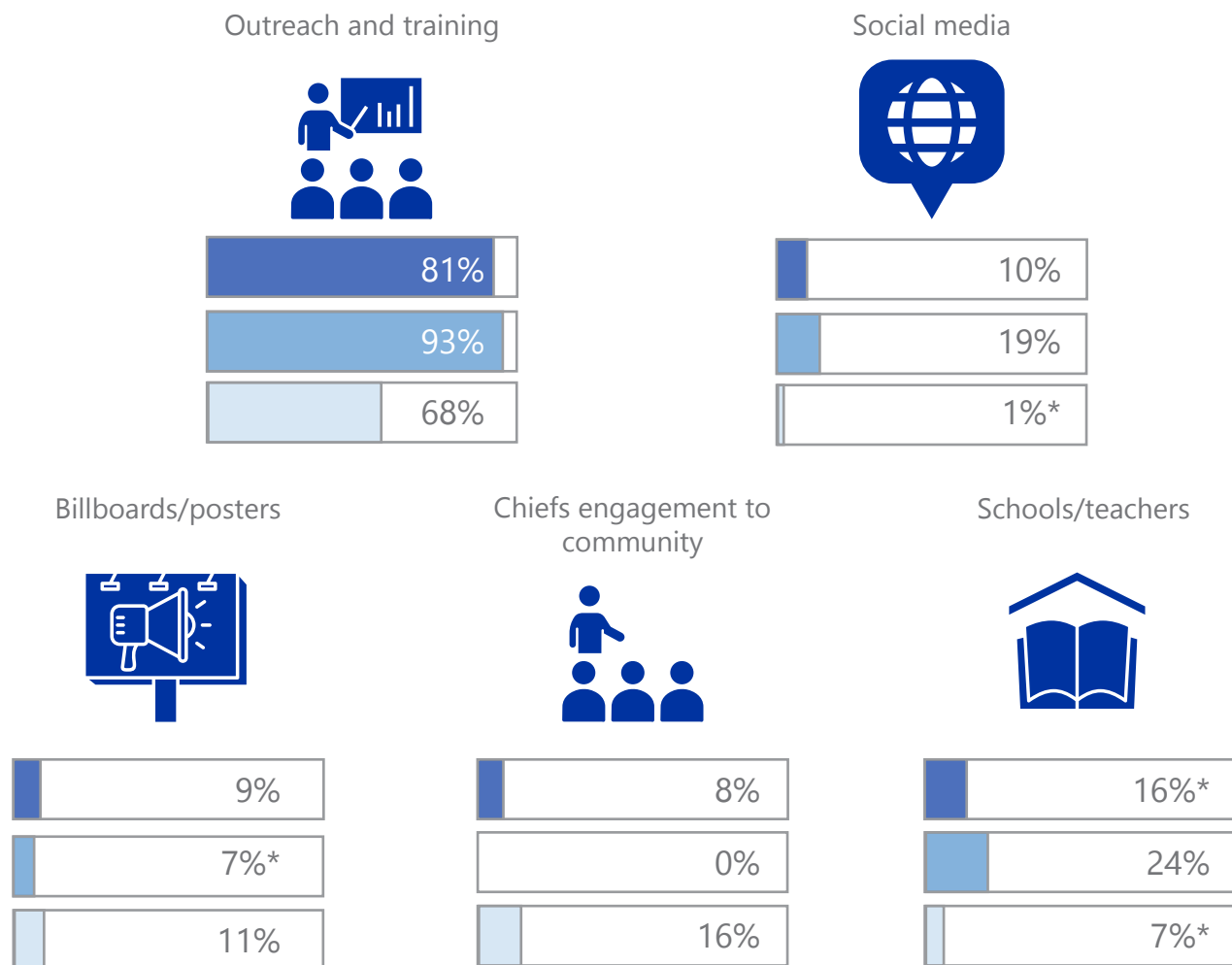


* The sample size for this percentage is lower than 10 respondents

Primary Ways to Raise Awareness About Services and Access to Services

Note: Totals do not add up to 100% because this was a multiple answer question; top 5 answers only

● Total ● Choiseul ● Isabel

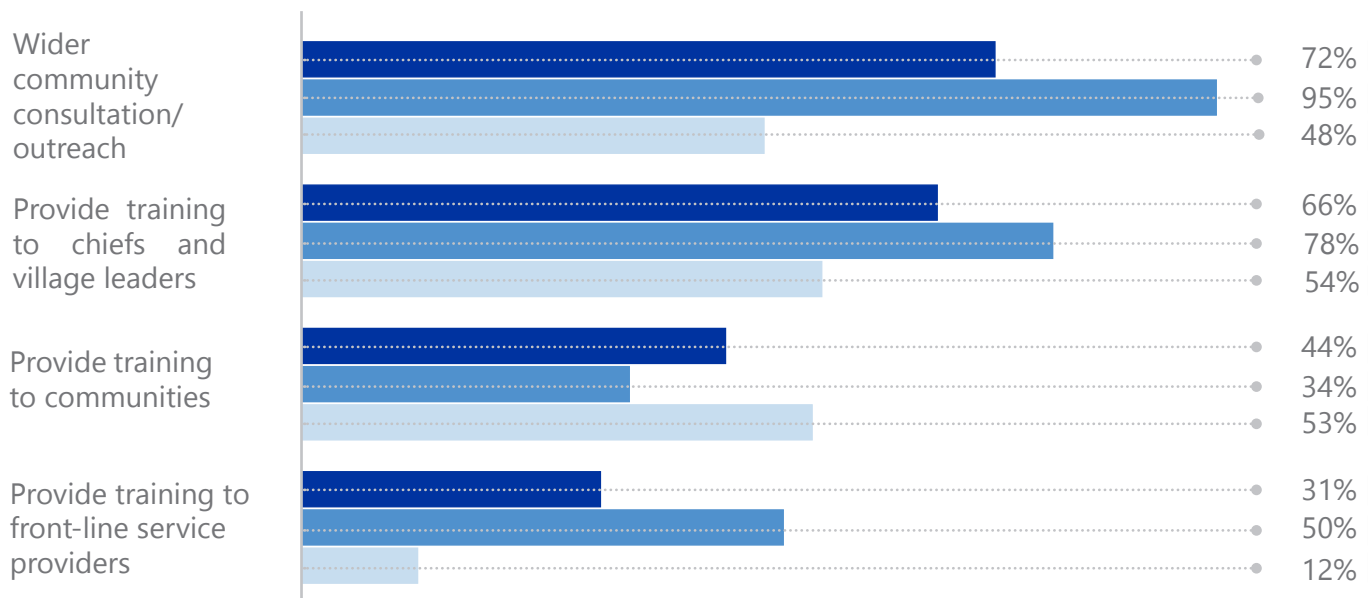


* The sample size for this percentage is lower than 10 respondents

Primary Ways to Raise Awareness About GBV, TIP and the Rights of Victims and Survivors

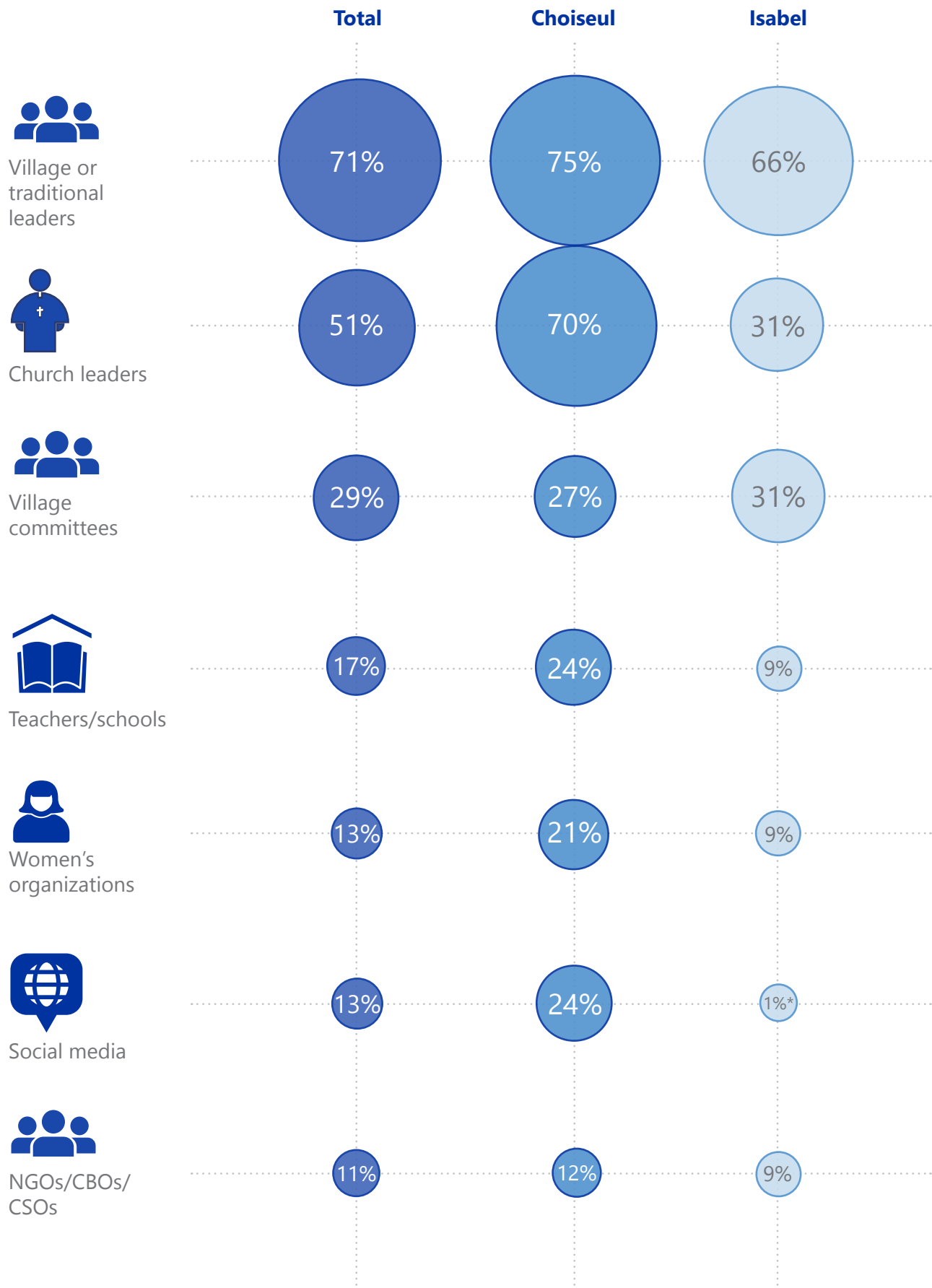
Note: Totals do not add up to 100% because this was a multiple answer question; top 4 answers only

● Total ● Choiseul ● Isabel



Most Effective Channels of Communication for Awareness Raising

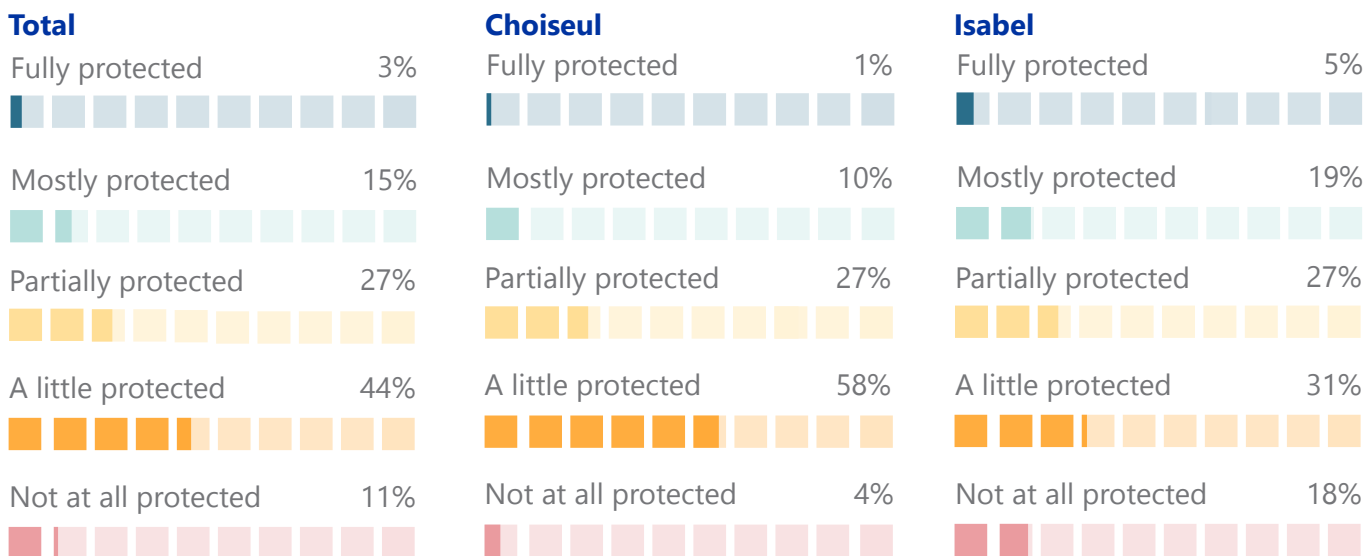
Note: Totals do not add up to 100% because this was a multiple answer question; top 7 answers only



* The sample size for this percentage is lower than 10 respondents

THEMATIC AREA 6 - PERCEPTIONS OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS

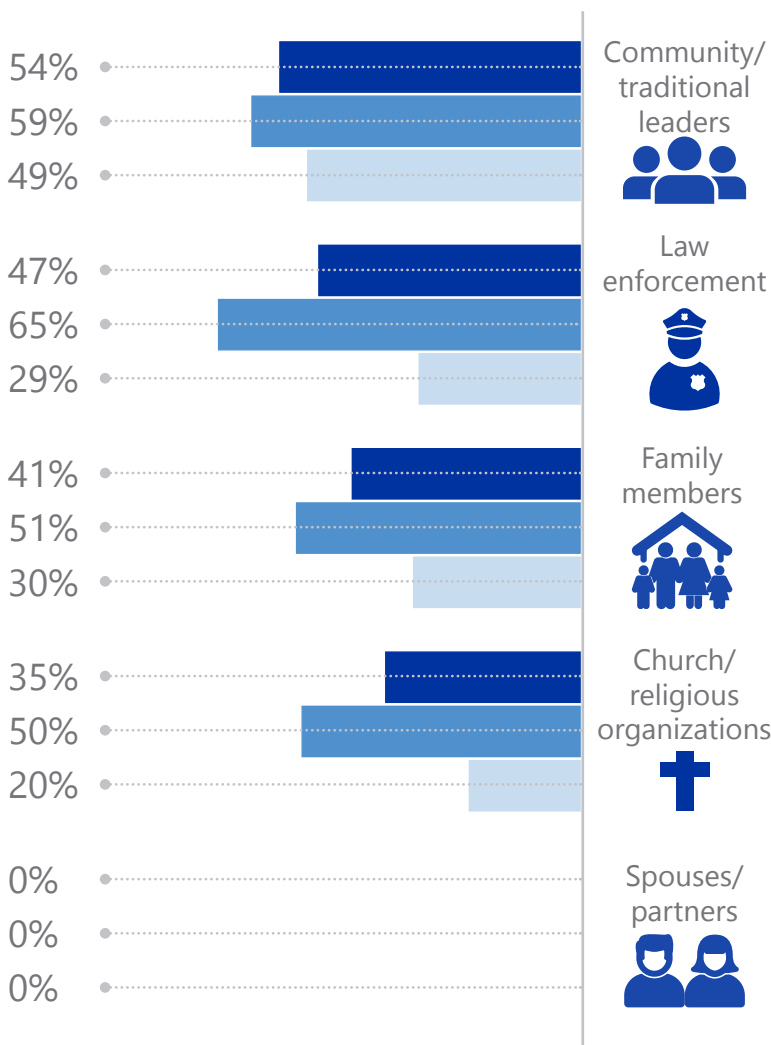
Share of Respondents Who Think the Rights of Women and Girls Are Being Protected



Who do you think could do more to protect the rights of women and girls?

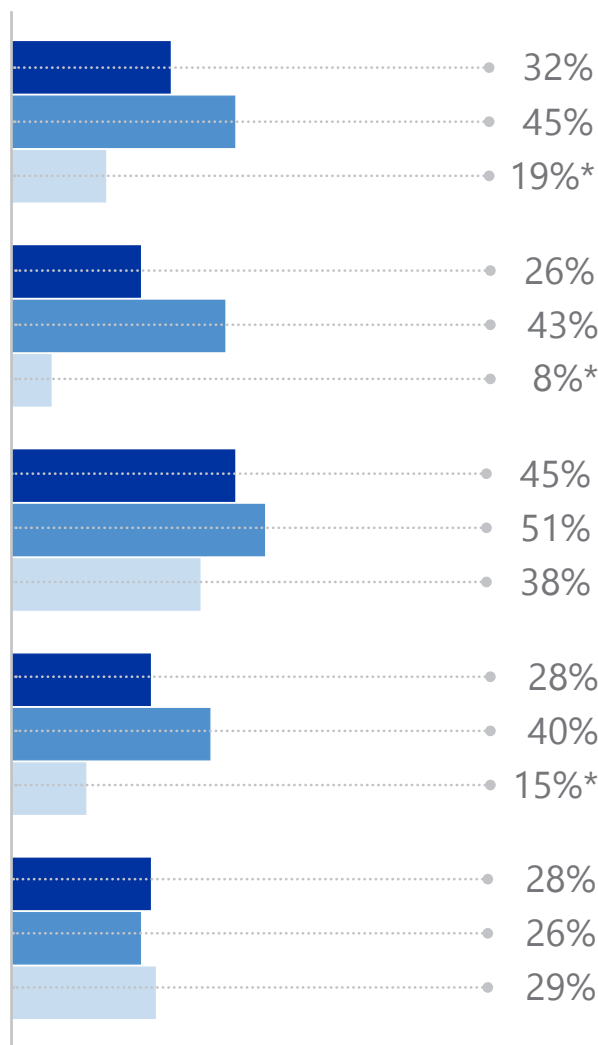
Note: Totals do not add up to 100% because this was a multiple answer question; top 5 answers only

● Total ● Choiseul ● Isabel



Who do you trust to protect your rights?

Note: This question was asked only to female respondents. Totals do not add up to 100% because this was a multiple answer question; top 5 answers only

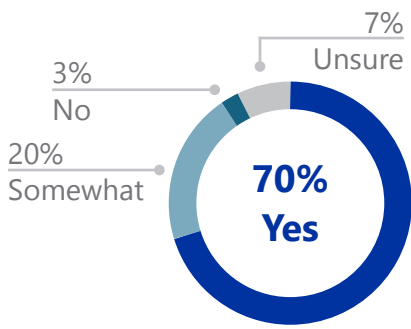


* The sample size for this percentage is lower than 10 respondents

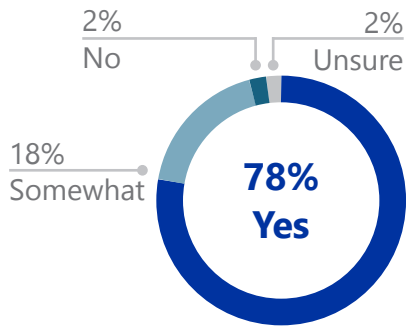
Do you feel that your rights are better protected as a result of IOM's outreach and programming in your community?

Note: This question was asked only to female respondents. 3 respondents declined to answer this question.

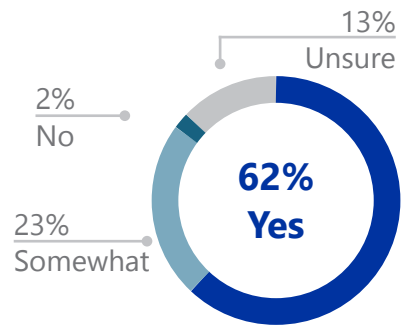
Total



Choiseul



Isabel



IOM conducting outreach activities in Choiseul © IOM Solomon Islands 2023



IOM Solomon Islands
UNJPO, ANZ Haus, Ranadi Highway
East Honiara, Solomon Islands



<http://www.iom.int>



(+677) 22536



iomhoniara@iom.int



@IOMSolomons



IOM Solomon Islands