Estimates from the Solomon Islands Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2012/13 indicate that 12.7 percent of Solomon Islanders live below the basic needs poverty line.[1] At the provincial level, the incidence of poverty varies from a low of 5.6 percent in Central Province and Rennell and Bellona Province (combined here for estimation purposes) to a high of 31.5 percent in Makira.

Poverty headcount rate by province
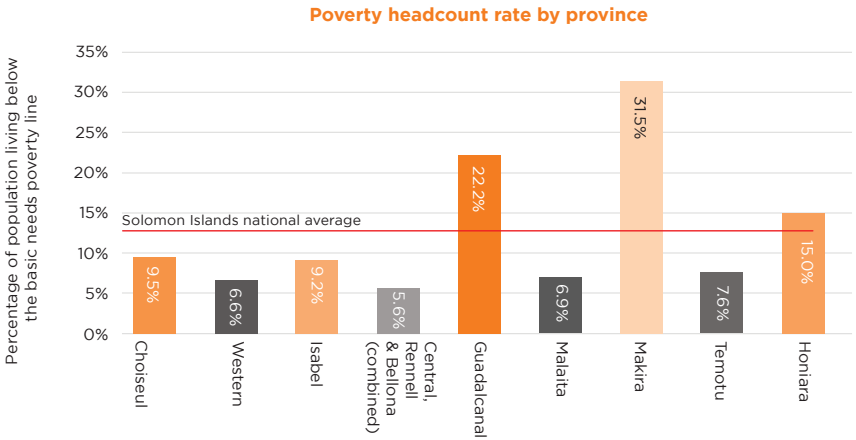
The greatest number of Solomon Islands' poor live in Guadalcanal Province (around 24,000 people), reflecting both its large population and relatively high poverty rate. Large numbers of poor people (around 16,700) also live in Makira, with its high incidence of poverty, Malaita (11,800 people), due to its large population, and in Honiara (10,300 people), reflecting a combination of a sizeable population and an above-average poverty rate.

Population of poor by province
Number of people* living below the basic needs poverty line (total = 78,500 people)

Guadalcanal 24,000	Malaita 11,800	Western 6,000	Temotu 2,200
Makira 16,700	Honiara 10,300	Choiseul 3,000	Central 1,700
		Isabel 2,500	Rennell and Bellona 300
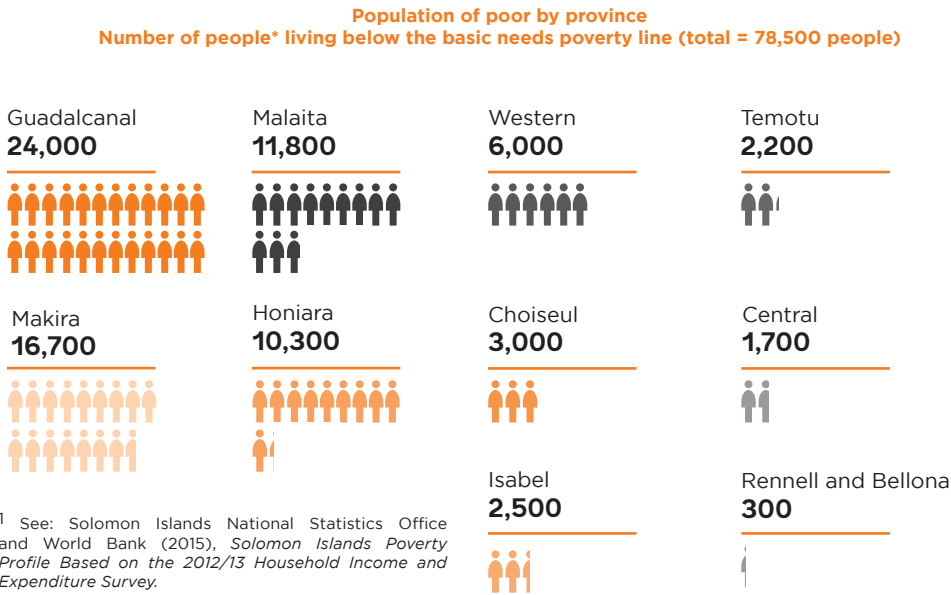
[1] See: Solomon Islands National Statistics Office and World Bank (2015), *Solomon Islands Poverty Profile Based on the 2012/13 Household Income and Expenditure Survey.*

POVERTY MAPPING METHODOLOGY

The Solomon Islands Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) is an extremely rich survey, including detailed questions on households' consumption and expenditure. However, HIES data are only collected for a limited sample of households, and so they cannot be used in isolation to construct a complete picture of poverty at the ward level. On the other hand, while the 2009 Solomon Islands Population & Housing Census covered all households across the country, censuses include insufficient detail for estimating consumption-based poverty directly.

Poverty maps reflect the results of a statistical exercise designed to link HIES and census data in order to derive small-area estimates of poverty.[2] The exercise exploits a subset of variables common to both the census and the HIES (e.g. relating to household demographics and dwelling characteristics). It uses the parameter estimates from a consumption model derived using the HIES data to simulate consumption data for each census household. These simulated consumption data are then used to derive poverty rates at the ward level using the same poverty lines used for the official poverty estimates based on the HIES data.

The Solomon Islands poverty maps technical report[3] provides more detail on the methodology used to link the 2012/13 HIES with the 2009 census, as well as additional maps depicting geographical variation in select welfare-related indicators from the census.
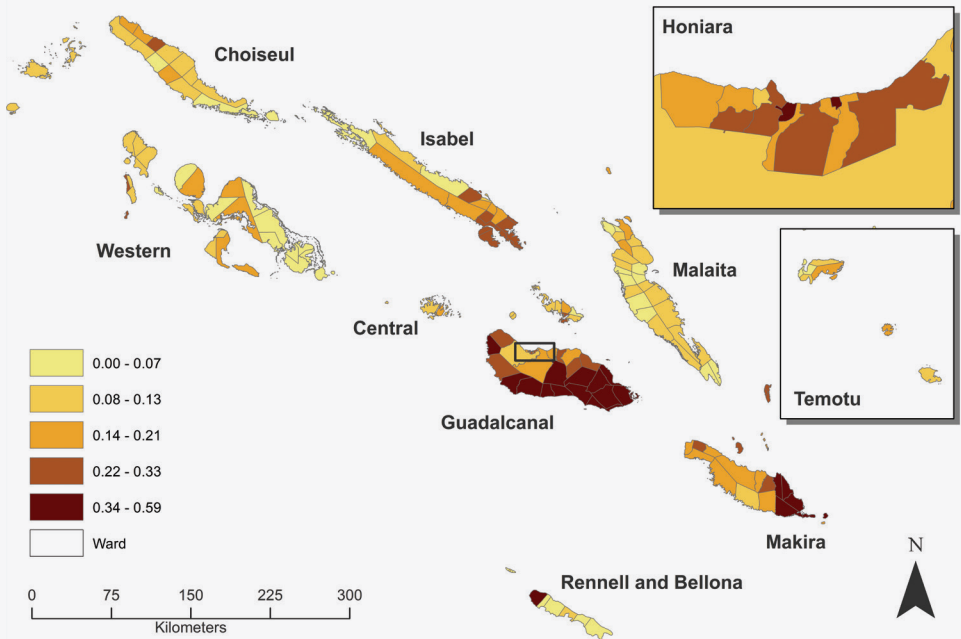
[2] Following the method of Elbers, C., J. Lanjouw, and P. Lanjouw (2003), 'Micro-level estimation of poverty and inequality', Econometrica 71(1): 355 – 364.

[3] Solomon Islands National Statistics Office and World Bank (2017), *Solomon Islands Poverty Maps Based on the 2012/13 Household Income and Expenditure Survey: Technical Report.*
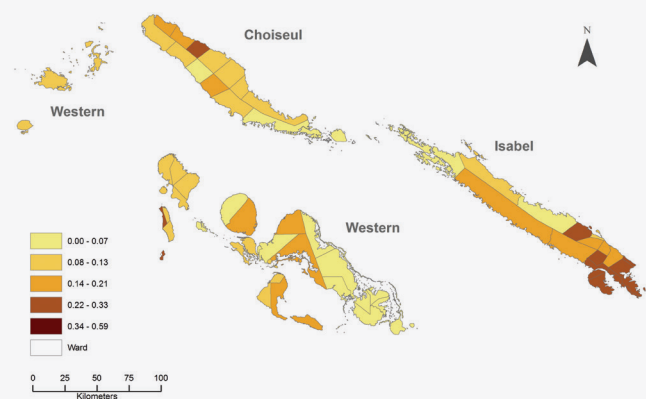
Solomon Islands Poverty Maps
based on the 2012/13 Household Income and Expenditure Survey


Poverty legend	
0.00 - 0.07	
0.08 - 0.13	
0.14 - 0.21	
0.22 - 0.33	
0.34 - 0.59	
Ward	

Poverty headcount rate by ward: Share of population living below the basic needs poverty line

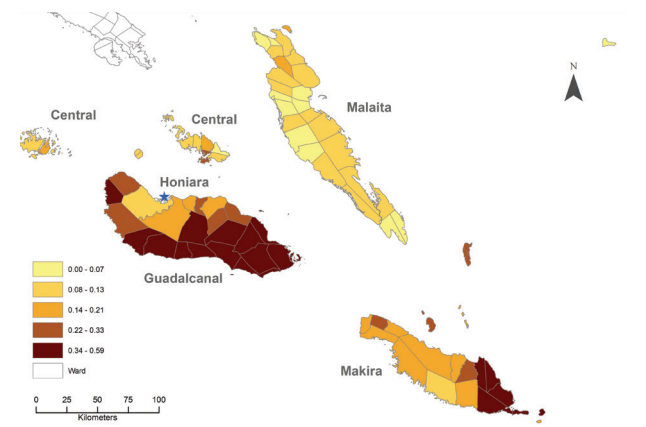## Poverty headcount rate by ward: Share of population living below the basic needs poverty line

0.00 - 0.07
0.08 - 0.13
0.14 - 0.21
0.22 - 0.33
0.34 - 0.59
Ward

Population of poor by ward: Number of people living below the basic needs poverty line
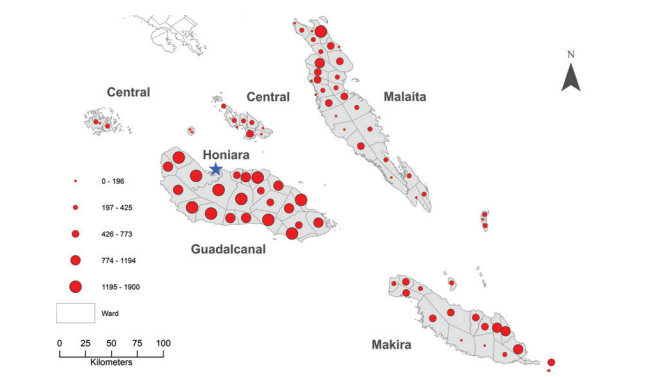

26 - 100
101 - 169
170 - 267
268 - 410
411 - 688
Ward
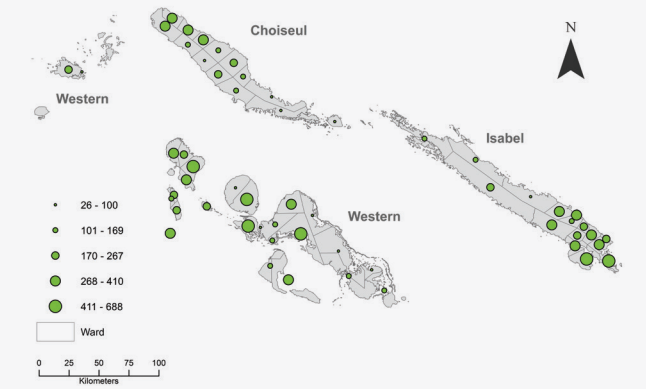
While there are not especially large numbers of poor people living in the west of the Solomon Islands, there are still some wards where the share of the population living in poverty is relatively high.

There is a concentration of wards with above average poverty rates (from 22 to 33 percent) in eastern **Isabel**.

For **Choiseul**, most wards with above-average poverty rates can be found in the northwest.

In **Western Province**, the highest poverty rate is on Ranongga Island, but this area has a relatively small population and so the largest number of poor people are located in wards of only average-to-below-average poverty rates, reflecting the larger populations on Ghizo, Kohinggo and Kolombangara islands.

Poverty headcount rate by ward: Share of population living below the basic needs poverty line

0.00 - 0.07
0.08 - 0.13
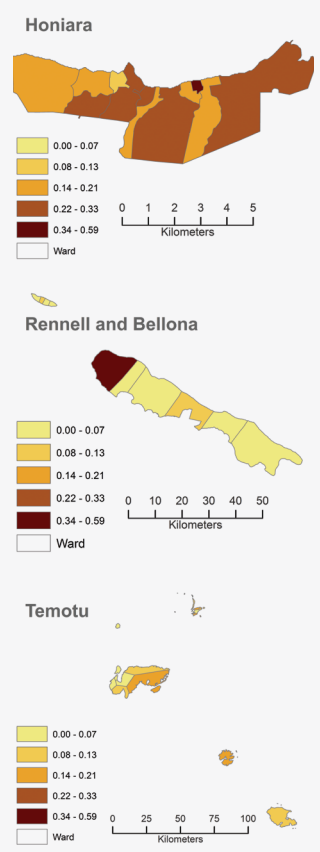0.14 - 0.21
0.22 - 0.33
0.34 - 0.59
Ward

Population of poor by ward: Number of people living below the basic needs poverty line
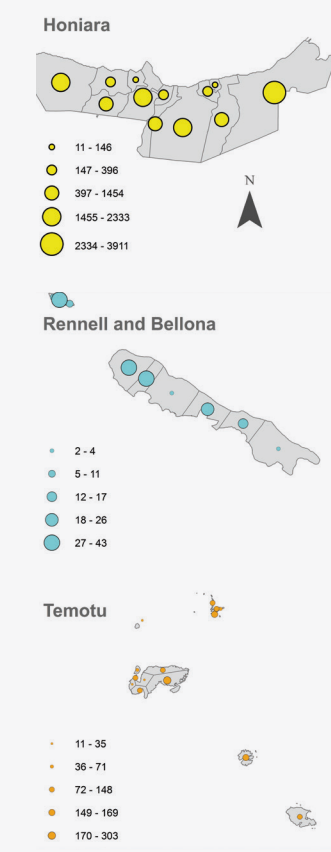

0 - 196
197 - 425
426 - 773
774 - 1194
1185 - 1900
Ward

In **Guadalcanal Province**, there are many wards, including a continuous belt along the Weather Coast, where estimated poverty rates are very high, above 34 percent. There are large numbers of people living throughout the province, and so also large numbers of poor.

There is another pocket of concentrated poverty in eastern **Makira**, where there are five wards with poverty rates above 34 percent and relatively large numbers of poor.

Poverty rates tend to be lower in wards of **Malaita**, consistent with the low incidence of poverty for the province as a whole. However, moderately higher rates of poverty, and larger numbers of poor people, are still apparent in some wards in the north of the province.

Estimates indicate relatively low levels of poverty in wards of **Central Province**.

Poverty headcount rate by ward: Share of population living below the basic needs poverty line

Population of poor by ward: Number of people living below the basic needs poverty line

Honiara

0.00 - 0.07
0.08 - 0.13
0.14 - 0.21
0.22 - 0.33
0.34 - 0.59
Ward

Honiara

11 - 146
147 - 396
397 - 1454
1455 - 2333
2334 - 3911

Rennell and Bellona

0.00 - 0.07
0.08 - 0.13
0.14 - 0.21
0.22 - 0.33
0.34 - 0.59
Ward

Rennell and Bellona

2 - 4
5 - 11
12 - 17
18 - 26
27 - 43

Temotu

0.00 - 0.07
0.08 - 0.13
0.14 - 0.21
0.22 - 0.33
0.34 - 0.59
Ward

Temotu

11 - 35
36 - 71
72 - 148
149 - 169
170 - 303

The small-area estimates suggest most wards in **Honiara City** have above-average rates of poverty. At the same time, the census data provide some favourable indicators of welfare for residents of Honiara City relative to residents nearby in Guadalcanal Province (e.g. greater access to wage employment, improved quality housing, higher rates of durable goods ownership).

The wards of **Rennell and Bellona** have very few people living in basic needs poverty (populations are small, and poverty rates relatively low due to a low cost of living). However, the small scale and relative isolation of this province may bring other disadvantages.

Estimated rates of poverty are also low across wards of **Temotu** (reflecting the low cost of basic needs), and there are relatively small populations of people living below the poverty line. Again, however, remoteness may bring other disadvantages not captured by these data.