

At a Glance

SKALA in Maluku

October 2024

Introduction

Maluku, officially established as a province of Indonesia in 1945, includes the central and southern regions of the Maluku Islands. Maluku’s provincial capital and largest city, Ambon, is located on Ambon Island, with the province bordered by North Maluku, West Papua to the east, and the Banda Sea to the south. Administratively, Maluku is divided into nine regencies and two cities.

Maluku played a pivotal role in the global spice trade, particularly in the production of cloves and nutmeg. The province’s rich history has thus contributed to a diverse cultural heritage including important influences from indigenous traditions. The region is also home to unique flora and fauna, including several endemic species. Overall, Maluku’s economy is driven by agriculture,

fishing, and forestry. In recent years, the Maluku government has made a concerted effort to develop eco-tourism by leveraging Maluku’s natural beauty and biodiversity. The province has made strides in improving public services, though challenges remain, particularly in ensuring consistent service quality and accessibility in its more remote areas.

SKALA¹ works with the Maluku Provincial Government to strengthen the participation of vulnerable groups in development planning, as well as to improve the use of reliable data and analysis, increase regional financial capacity, and strengthen the quality of public spending. SKALA’s Maluku office became operational in September 2023.

Figure 1. Key Administrative Data (All sourced from BPS unless otherwise stated)



Population:
1,920,462
(2024)



Area:
46,150.9 km²



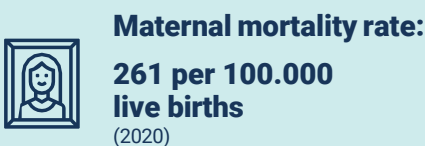
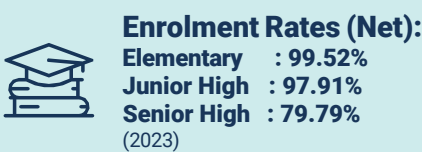
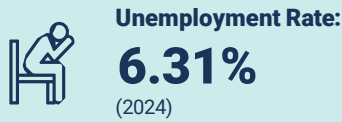
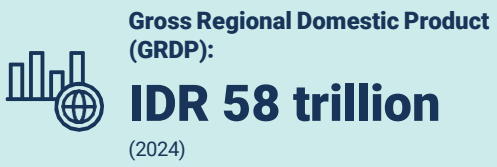
Administrative center and capital city:
Ambon



Regional Fiscal Capacity:
IDR 3.199 trillion, with 76.3% from regional fiscal transfers
(Maluku Regional Regulation No1/2024)

1. Sinergi dan Kolaborasi untuk Akselerasi Layanan Dasar (SKALA) is an Australia-Indonesia Partnership Program aimed at supporting the Government of Indonesia’s efforts to reduce poverty and inequality by improving basic-service provision to poor and vulnerable communities in less-developed regions.

Figure 2. Key Socioeconomic Data (All sourced from BPS unless otherwise stated)



Economic and Social Development

Driven by a focus on harnessing natural resources and improving basic services, Maluku has made steady progress in social and economic development. While agriculture, fisheries, and forestry form the backbone of Maluku's economy, emerging sectors like tourism and mining have added to its Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP). The Maluku government recognizes the need for a diversified economy and is actively promoting eco-tourism as well as small-scale industries to create broader employment opportunities, particularly for rural communities. Additionally, infrastructure improvements including better transportation networks, electricity availability and digital access across the province are a priority. These developments are helping to integrate remote communities into the provincial economy and fostering a more connected and resilient Maluku. To address social development, the Maluku Government is also working to meet minimum service standards in essential services such as education and healthcare. Overall, Maluku's approach combines economic growth with environmental stewardship and social inclusion for a sustainable and equitable future for all its residents.



SKALA's Support to Improve Inclusive Basic Services in Maluku

The provision of public services is a key responsibility of local governments, and SKALA actively supports these efforts. In Maluku, the provincial government plays a crucial role in facilitating the successful implementation of SKALA-supported initiatives. The establishment of a Provincial Program Committee, formalized by the Governor's Decree, aims to enhance coordination across regional agencies. SKALA aligns its Annual Work Plan with local government priorities so that its support is integrated with regional planning documents and initiatives. This approach strengthens the achievement of government priorities and promotes collaborative governance based on shared understanding, partnership, and synergy, ultimately enhancing the effectiveness of regional governance.



Promoting Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI)

The Maluku Government is actively advancing several initiatives to improve rights and services for women and people with disabilities. Regional Regulation No. 5 of 2024 demonstrates the government's commitment to disability rights, while Regional Regulation No. 7 of 2024 strengthens gender mainstreaming across the province. To support these initiatives, SKALA is collaborating with the Maluku Provincial Development Planning Agency (Bappeda), the Office of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (DP3A), the Provincial Social Service, and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), including disability advocacy groups. Together, representatives from government and non-government bodies have formed a technical team to draft the Regional Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities (RAD PD) to ensure disability inclusion in Maluku's Medium-Term Development Plan (2025-2029). SKALA is also fostering cooperation between DP3A, the Civil Society Network (JMS), and the local parliament to facilitate gender-responsive planning. The JMS is helping to advance gender mainstreaming (PUG) by fostering relationships with key decision-makers, ensuring the prioritisation of PUG Regional Regulation discussions and approvals, and streamlining the process by providing comprehensive input from experts and stakeholders. By building on these efforts, the Maluku government plans to develop a Regional Action Plan for Gender Mainstreaming.



Using Data and Analytics for Better Planning and Service Delivery

Aligned with Presidential Decrees No. 39 of 2019 (Satu Data Indonesia) and No. 95 of 2018 (electronic-Based Government Systems, SPBE), the provincial Bappeda, Communication and Information Service, and the Statistics Agency in collaboration with SKALA are facilitating reliable, integrated development data for Maluku's government. The province is adopting the Satu Data Indonesia framework to compile sectoral data and conduct evaluations led

by BPS through the Evaluation of Sectoral Statistics Implementation. SKALA also promotes the use of the SEPAKAT² platform which leverages REGSOSEK³ data and includes individual welfare data for better targeting of government programs and policies. As of September 2024, Ambon and Southeast Maluku had access to the SEPAKAT platform. Further, as part of SPBE, the Maluku government is also mapping local government business processes to reduce redundancy, strengthen inter-departmental collaboration, and optimise administrative functions. Finally, the Maluku government is using REGSOSEK data to inform planning and policy, including the Development Planning Conference (Musrenbang) for the Long-Term Development Plan (RPJPD) (2025-2045) and RAD PD analysis.



Enhancing Fiscal Capacity

The Maluku provincial government is actively working to enhance local fiscal capacity by optimising management of regional transfers and by strengthening locally generated revenue (*Pendapatan Asli Daerah* or PAD) systems. Maluku enacted Regulation No. 2/2024 on Regional Taxes and Levies as an implementation regulation of Law No. 1/2022 on Financial Relations between Central and Local Governments (HKPD Law). This regulation provides clear procedures (set to launch in 2025) for tax and levy collection and enables agreements between the provinces and 11 districts and cities for joint tax collection. The collaborative approach allows for shared responsibilities and costs between the provincial and district governments to create a cohesive tax collection system. In 2024, Maluku's local governments, supported by the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) and SKALA developed technical regulations to implement the regional tax regulation, including directives from regional leaders. For the management of fiscal transfers, the Maluku government has strengthened oversight of General Allocation Funds (*Dana Alokasi Umum* or DAU), Special Allocation Funds (*Dana Alokasi Khusus* or DAK), and Revenue Sharing Funds (*Dana Bagi Hasil* or DBH) through improved coordination with the central government.

2. *Sistem Perencanaan Pembangunan Berbasis Data Regsosek Terpadu* or Integrated Regsosek Data Based Development Planning System.

3. *Socio-Economic Registry*



Improving Quality of Spending: Planning for Minimum Service Standards

Citizen welfare is a core objective of decentralisation in Indonesia, and achieving equitable welfare across regions is guided by MoHA Regulation No. 59 of 2021 on the Implementation of Minimum Service Standards (MSS). The Maluku government, specifically the MSS Secretariat, focuses on strengthening MSS data collection for provincial administrators and district/city stakeholders. Initial trainings have successfully raised Maluku's MSS reporting ranking to 21st out of 38 provinces in the Ministry of Home Affairs' eSPM system. SKALA also supports integration of MSS priorities into key planning documents like the medium

and long-term plans and the regional government workplan to align with national goals. In partnership with MoHA, SKALA provides capacity building for operators and planners across all provincial government departments (OPD) in Maluku to use MoHA's Regional Government Information System (Sistem Informasi Pemerintahan Daerah or SIPD) for planning. Additionally, administrative training for the Regional Financial and Asset Management Agency (BPKAD) and OPD treasurers strengthens the use of SIPD's administrative modules.

SKALA's 2024-2025 Work Plan:

THEME	FOCUS AREAS
Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen collaboration between the JMS and the Maluku Provincial Government for Inclusive Musrenbang. Build JMS capacity to advocate for vulnerable groups by developing policy briefs that address data, GEDSI issues, and MSS. Assist the Maluku Government to establish a participatory collaboration model with JMS to support inclusive planning and budgeting.
Strengthen Data and Analytics (D&A)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the institutionalisation of Regional One Data by strengthening technical implementation policies. Develop the Maluku One Data Portal to integrate data systems and improve service efficiency across the province. Promote the use of REGSOSEK data in planning and budgeting by enhancing data analysis and presentation skills at provincial and district levels. Strengthen consistent use of development data by expanding the SEPAKAT platform at the village level.
Improve Regional Fiscal Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the development of regulations and policies on regional taxes and levies (PDRD). Assist in creating and implementing business plans to increase locally generated revenue (PAD). Support inclusive budgeting through contributions to regulations and by building capacity at provincial and district levels.
Enhance Quality of Spending (MSS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the provincial coordination, guidance and supervision (Korbinwas) function to improve the MSS Achievement Index by enhancing capacity in the four MSS implementation stages. Collaborate with the Provincial MSS Implementation Team to assist districts/cities in drafting MSS regulations, action plans, and establishing their own MSS Implementation Teams. Facilitate the integration of the MSS Action Plans into regional planning documents.
Program Governance (PPC)	Support for SKALA program governance in Maluku Province