

At a Glance

SKALA in Tanah Papua

October 2024

Introduction

Papua, located in the easternmost region of Indonesia, comprises six provinces: Papua, Papua Barat, Papua Selatan, Papua Tengah, Papua Pegunungan, and Papua Barat Daya, established in stages from 1969 to 2022 as part of Indonesia's decentralisation efforts. Papua encompasses the island of New Guinea (shared with Papua New Guinea) and hundreds of surrounding small islands, including Biak, Yapen, Misool, Waigeo, Salawati, and Batanta. Administratively, the provinces are divided into 42 regencies and cities. The region boasts extraordinary biodiversity and is home to some of the world's most unique ecosystems, including vast rainforests, coral reefs, and diverse wildlife such as birds of paradise. Culturally, the region is equally rich, with over 250 indigenous ethnic groups, each with distinct languages, traditions, and ways of life. The region continues to work towards addressing human development challenges, reducing poverty, and expanding access to education and healthcare.

The Papuan provincial governments are working to improve basic service delivery through several key initiatives. By enhancing data and analytics, they are aligning with Indonesia's One Data policy to ensure better data governance and sharing to improve planning

for service delivery across sectors. Papuan provincial governments are also implementing strategies to integrate concerns around inclusion into regional plans and budgets so that vulnerable groups are better represented. Efforts to strengthen fiscal capacity and public financial management include optimising the use of Special Autonomy Funds (Otonomi Khusus or OTSUS Funds) and improving compliance with national fiscal regulations. Additionally, the provinces are focusing on implementing Minimum Service Standards (MSS) for basic services and using evidence-based planning and budgeting to meet central government requirements.

SKALA¹ works with the provincial governments in Papua, Papua Barat, Papua Selatan, and Papua Barat Daya to strengthen participation of vulnerable groups in development planning, data availability and use, regional fiscal capacity, and quality of public spending. SKALA's Papua office became operational in 2022.

Figure 1. Key Administrative Data



Population:

Papua
1,047,100
Papua Selatan
534,410
Papua Barat
561,403
Papua Barat Daya
591,069

(BPS-Statistics, 2022/2023)



Area:

Papua
82,688.37 km²
Papua Selatan
116,858.85 km²
Papua Barat
60,275.33 km²
Papua Barat Daya
38,820.49 km²

(Technocratic Draft of the RPJMD for Papua, Papua Selatan, Papua Barat, Papua Barat Daya, 2024)



Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget (IDR)

Papua
2.74 trillion
Papua Selatan
1.66 trillion
Papua Barat
4.53 trillion
Papua Barat Daya
1.95 trillion

(Governor's Regulation on APBD, 2024)



Administrative Center

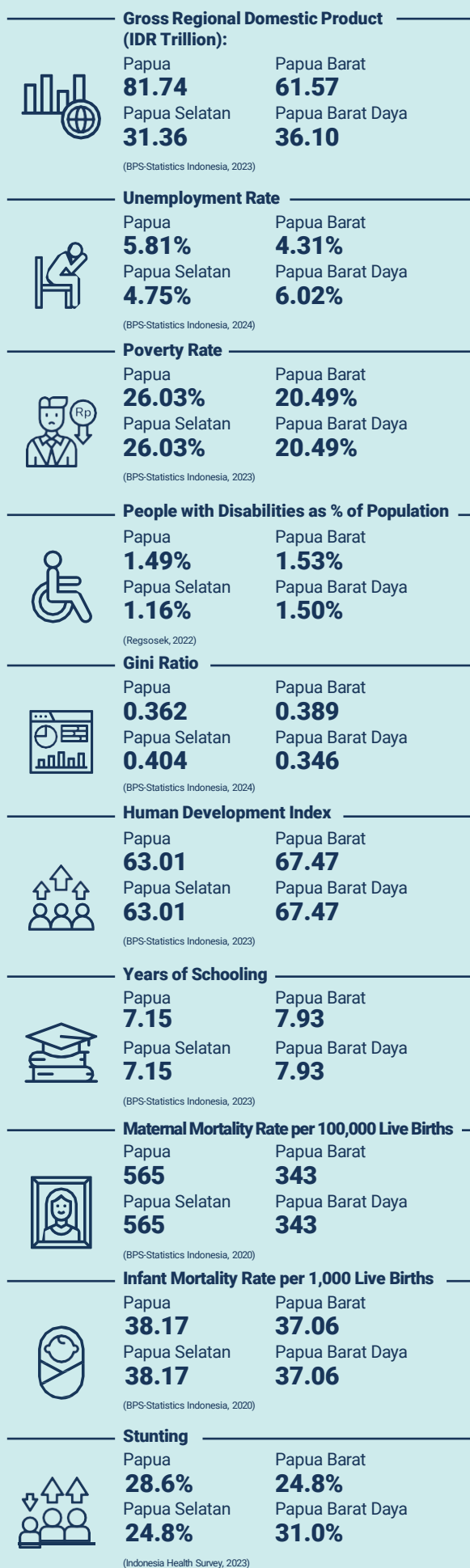
Papua
Jayapura
Papua Selatan
Merauke

(Law on the establishment of each province, 2006 - 2022)

Papua Barat
Manokwari
Papua Barat Daya
Kota Sorong

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



Economic and Social Development

Papua is a resource-rich region with significant potential for growth. The economy is primarily driven by natural resources such as mining, forestry, fisheries, and agriculture. Although challenges remain, particularly in rural areas, the region is making efforts to boost infrastructure development to improve connectivity and access to services. Recent infrastructure projects, including new roads, airports, and seaports are paving the way for better economic integration through enhanced trade opportunities and to facilitate the delivery of essential services. The Papuan government is working to address challenges in healthcare, education, and access to clean water. Indigenous Papuans, who form the majority of the population, are a key focus of these development efforts. By increasing access to education and healthcare, the government aims to reduce maternal and infant mortality, stunting, and malnutrition, and create greater opportunities for local communities.

With the support of Special Autonomy Funds, provincial governments in Papua are enhancing public financial management to develop infrastructure and implement Minimum Service Standards (MSS) for better basic services. These initiatives offer substantial opportunities for inclusive economic growth and social development in Papua.



Inclusive Basic Services in Papua

The provision of public services is a key responsibility of local governments, and SKALA actively supports these efforts. In Papua, the provincial government plays a crucial role in facilitating the successful implementation of SKALA-supported initiatives. The establishment of the Provincial Program Committee through a Governor's Decree enables coordination among regional government departments and SKALA aligns its Annual Work Plan 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.

Note: In the BPS publication, results for Papua are calculated based on 29 districts/cities, with data from Papua Selatan, Papua Pegunungan, and Papua Tengah combined under Papua as the parent province. Papua Barat's achievements are based on 13 districts/cities, including data from Papua Barat Daya under Papua Barat as the parent province. These figures are proxy estimates from analysis, as separate data for the new provinces are not yet available in the BPS publication.



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

Provincial governments in the Papua region are advancing Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) by embedding these priorities into their planning and budgeting processes. In Papua, Papua Selatan and Papua Barat, provincial governments have integrated gender-responsive planning into their long-term regional development plans (RPJPD) for 2025–2045 and the technocratic draft of the 2025-2029 regional medium-term development plan (RPJMD). By incorporating GEDSI considerations into their plans, these three provinces have created pathways for inclusive budgeting that addresses the needs of vulnerable communities, including women and people with disabilities.



Using Data and Analytics for Better Planning and Service Delivery

The use of data and analytics is critical for improving planning and service delivery across Indonesia, particularly in Papua. Indonesia's One Data initiative is helping to streamline data management and integrate systems at both national and subnational levels. Through the implementation of Village Information Systems, Papua Barat and Papua have enhanced their ability to collect and use disaggregated data, allowing for more precise targeting of services. Papua's integration of the socio-economic registry (REGSOSEK) data into village systems ensures that marginalised groups such as Indigenous Papuans, women, and persons with disabilities are better represented in planning processes.

Additionally, systems integration, through tools like the Regional Government Information System (Sistem Informasi Pemerintahan Daerah or SIPD-RI)

further strengthens governance. This integration lets provincial governments coordinate planning, budgeting, and financial reporting more effectively. Relatedly, with support from SKALA, Papua Barat's SAIK+ (Village-Plus Administration and Information System) has received ISO (International Organization for Standardization) certification so that data is secure and to enhance the use of information for inclusive service delivery. SKALA's efforts in data analysis and use in Papua have also contributed to improved decision-making processes. By expanding village data systems and aligning them with national databases like REGSOSEK, provincial governments can more accurately assess the needs of their populations for better resource allocation and more efficient service delivery.



Enhancing Fiscal Capacity

Fiscal capacity in Papua is being enhanced through improved management of Special Autonomy (OTSUS) funds and Earmarked General Allocation Funds (DAU). In the Papua region, both provincial and regency governments have a clearer understanding of revisions to PMK 76/2022, which regulates the management of OTSUS funds, and are actively preparing the 2023 OTSUS report and distribution requirements for 2025. The provincial governments have also enhanced their capacity to manage OTSUS funds, while also focusing on strengthening their ability to calculate and plan for Earmarked DAU. Additionally, all of SKALA's partner provinces in Papua have benefited from training on preparing the 2025 Implementation Budget Plan and effectively using OTSUS funds.

SKALA has also supported training for over 150 local government staff in the region on budget planning, OTSUS reporting, and compliance with disbursement regulations. These efforts, alongside capacity-building initiatives and better coordination between local authorities are contributing to enhanced fiscal capacity across the region.



Improving Quality of Spending: Planning for Minimum Service Standards

In Papua, the implementation of Minimum Service Standards has been shaped by the unique political and socio-economic context across its provinces. The focus has been on aligning the provincial and district-level RPJPD with national objectives while incorporating MSS and GEDSI. The Papua SIO (Information System on Papuan People) has been a critical tool in evidence-based planning, and has received regulatory backing with Governor’s Regulation No. 61/2024 to enhance data management across villages.

In Papua Barat, efforts have centered on finalizing RPJPD documents that prioritize smart, healthy, and productive development. In Papua Barat Daya, the PAITUA (old age protection) program, which supports elderly Papuans using OTSUS funds, has expanded to cover 2,276 individuals. In Papua Selatan, the provincial government is preparing for gender-responsive planning and launching a social protection program for the elderly, funded by OTSUS. Overall, service delivery in Papua is expected to improve through better regional planning, budgeting, and data use, with SKALA’s ongoing support.

SKALA’s 2024-2025 Work Plan:

THEME	FOCUS AREAS
Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support provincial governments in developing inclusive plans and budgets that prioritize vulnerable groups. • Empower community groups to advocate for vulnerable communities in planning and budgeting. • Provide community groups with key data on indigenous peoples, gender equality, disability, and basic services to strengthen their advocacy efforts.
Strengthen Data and Analytics (D&A)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance provincial One Data in Papua by supporting the Governor’s Regulation on the Regional Action Plan and building the One Data Forum’s capacity to coordinate data integration. • Expand the gender, disability, and Indigenous Papuans (Orang Asli Papua/OAP)-disaggregated Village Information System by assisting district/city governments with planning, budgeting, and training village cadres for data collection. • Promote Regsosek data utilisation in planning by training Master Trainers to support microdata analysis and regional data use.
Improve Regional Fiscal Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in developing and implementing business plans to boost PAD. • Strengthen governance of the Special Autonomy Fund through improved planning, budgeting, and priority program implementation.
Enhance Quality of Spending (MSS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate data updates and action plan integration into annual plans via SIPD-RI. • Assist in calculating MSS activity costs and identifying resources for vulnerable group services.
Program Governance (PPC)	Support for SKALA program governance in Wilayah Papua