

POLICY BRIEF

Lessons from Regsosek Utilization across Indonesia: Inputs to Strengthen DTSEN

 April 2025

Executive Summary

Presidential Instruction (Inpres) Number 4 of 2025 on the National Socio-Economic Single Data (DTSEN) marks an important step in improving data management and the data ecosystem in Indonesia. DTSEN builds on the architecture of the Socio-Economic Registry (Regsosek), the Integrated Social Welfare Data (DTKS), the Targeting Data for the Acceleration of Extreme Poverty Eradication (P3KE), and other data systems. DTSEN can benefit from lessons that have emerged from previous data systems. These include the need for (i) a tested and effective mechanism to update a unified data system, (ii) complete regulations on guidelines, governance, and coordination mechanisms across institutions responsible for updating, verifying, and validating data at national and regional levels, (iii) skilled human resources, and (iv) sufficient funding for data updating—especially in remote, underdeveloped, and island regions. This policy brief identifies key lessons from the Regsosek data updating pilot conducted by Bappenas and Statistics Indonesia (BPS), and provides recommendations for relevant policymakers to support and enhance future data updating processes.

Keywords: *DTSEN, data updating, Regsosek, mandatory responsibilities, incentives*

Background

Presidential Instruction Number 4 of 2025 on the National Socio-Economic Single Data (DTSEN) is an important milestone in improving data management in Indonesia. One of the main foundations of DTSEN is Regsosek, which was developed by Bappenas and Statistics Indonesia (BPS) and collected through a full population census in 2022. The data includes socio-economic and demographic information, asset ownership, sanitation and housing conditions, disability status, elderly and child-related data, and geospatial information. Regsosek data is standardised, disaggregated, and ranked. By early 2025, it had been accessed and used by at least 26 provinces and 153 districts/cities.

The experience of managing, using, and updating Regsosek data in the regions offers important insights for the implementation of DTSEN, particularly as some of the challenges encountered during Regsosek's rollout are likely to persist. Lessons drawn from the Australia–Indonesia Partnership Program – SKALA, which supports socio-economic data governance from the village to the national level, suggest that effective updating and use of Satu Data in Indonesia can be strengthened through coordination and collaboration among key stakeholders. This includes efforts to clarify data design, strengthen regulations on governance and cross-institutional coordination, ensure the availability of skilled human

resources, and align regional budget allocations with the division of responsibilities and priorities at various levels of government.

The quality and level of disaggregation in DTSEN data will influence the effectiveness and impact of government interventions aimed at achieving the national poverty reduction target of 0%, in line with the vision of Golden Indonesia 2045. By ensuring that socio-economic data in DTSEN is regularly and appropriately updated, both central and regional governments will be better positioned to analyse the root causes of poverty and socio-economic vulnerability, and to design more inclusive socio-economic development programs. Updating DTSEN is especially important given the micro-level and highly granular nature of the data, which is dynamic and changes quickly. Bappenas, through its work in updating and utilising Regsosek, has generated useful lessons that may be considered in strengthening the governance of DTSEN.

Lessons from Regsosek

First, when village, district/city, and provincial governments can easily access disaggregated data with complete welfare information, they are more likely to use it for verification, validation, planning, and budgeting. These are part of their mandatory responsibilities. When the data is useful and accessible, local governments are more willing to fund data updating activities. This includes linking the updating system with regional information systems (data portals) and village information systems (SID).

Second, the clearer the design of data governance, the more responsive the regulations, guidelines, and standard operating procedures (SOPs) will be to the needs and challenges of implementing data updates. Accurately identifying issues—including root causes—based on local conditions is key to ensuring that the data updating process is both effective and efficient.

Third, self-updating using online questionnaires is very difficult to implement without regulations that require all residents to complete the forms, supported by either incentives or sanctions. Manual data collection remains necessary, as not all residents can update their data independently. The use of enumerators and verification/validation officers could build on resources familiar with data collection activities—such as village officials, supported by village facilitators and PKH (conditional cash transfer) facilitators.

Fourth, the role of BPS within the subnational Satu Data Forums at both provincial and district/city levels is essential. Their presence helps ensure that these forums are able to manage data portals and serve as platforms for data updating training, including verification and validation processes. These forums require human resources with strong communication, coordination, and collaboration skills—particularly among key stakeholders such as the Communication and Information Agency (as data custodians), Bappeda, BPS (as data mentors), and local government agencies (as data producers).

Fifth, delays in providing data access to Regsosek operators in the regions—needed for verification, validation, and analysis—remain a major reason why many regional governments less motivated to carry out Regsosek updates as part of strengthening their local Satu Data Forums.

The strengths of Regsosek can be retained and further enhanced through the development of DTSEN. DTSEN can go beyond serving the needs of social assistance targeting for low-income populations. It also has the potential to support data analysts in identifying the underlying causes that lead vulnerable groups—including women, persons with disabilities, and the elderly—into poverty, as well as the decline of middle-income groups into vulnerability. This is particularly important given the varying drivers of poverty across Indonesia's diverse regions. Furthermore, DTSEN is expected to be able to record individuals who have moved out of poverty as a result of government social assistance programs.

Potential Challenges in updating DTSEN

- **Lack of a proven, locally grounded updating system design.** There is a need to establish a clear framework that defines the relationship between DTSEN and: (i) the Village Information System (SID); (ii) the data updating units across village, district/city, and provincial levels; and (iii) the data sharing mechanisms between these units.
- **Absence of comprehensive regulation.** Existing regulations do not yet provide clear guidance on: (i) the governance structure and procedures for DTSEN updating at the subnational level; (ii) the minimum competency requirements for designated data

operators; and (iii) the use of training modules that have been proven effective. One area of concern is the unclear role of urban local governments (*kelurahan*) in the updating process, despite the fact that in several provinces, the number of urban poor exceeds that of the rural poor.

- **High cost of conventional data updating.** The traditional approach, which relies on enumerators, is resource-intensive due to the need for both training and travel expenses to reach respondents. Meanwhile, self-updating using digital platforms—although feasible for middle- to upper-income residents with good internet access—is often disregarded.
- **Inefficiencies in previous updating mechanisms.** Prior have yet to demonstrate effectiveness in generating accurate data. This can be attributed to several factors: (i) the absence of regulations mandating compliance with data updating requests; (ii) the reality that not all residents are able to complete update forms without assistance; and (iii) the additional costs incurred if all data items at the village level are updated using only village funds.
- **Limited availability of qualified human resources.** In the absence of clear, detailed, and measurable guidelines, the selection of data updating assistants at the village level often prioritises personal connections over.
- **Restricted data access rights.** There is currently no guarantee that trained operators at the local level will receive immediate access to DTSEN for verification and validation purposes following training. Experience

from Regsosek highlights that lack of access to needed data can lead to two significant consequences: (i) the data is not used for local policymaking; and (ii) local governments show limited interest in supporting the financing of data updating activities.

- **The relevance of the data collected—particularly its alignment with performance or strategic indicators for regional heads and leaders of local government agencies—influences the willingness of subnational governments to allocate resources, including budgets, for updating socio-economic data.** This policy brief notes that the extent of socio-economic data updating conducted by local governments under Regsosek has reached, at most, around 47%. In practice, this suggests that subnational governments, including at the village level, may not require the full range of socio-economic data captured by Regsosek, and are generally reluctant to use their own resources to support comprehensive data collection—unless funding is specifically allocated by national ministries or by local government agencies at the provincial or district/city level.

Relevant Policies

This policy brief has been prepared with reference to the following regulations:

- Law Number 23 of 2014 on Regional Government
- Presidential Instruction Number 4 of 2025 on the National Socio-Economic Single Data (DTSEN)
- Minister of Home Affairs Regulation Number 5 of 2024 on One Data for Internal Government
- Bappenas Ministerial Decree Number 136 of 2023 on Regsosek Data

Policy Recommendations

1. **The design of the DTSEN updating system would benefit from being grounded in tested practices and a thorough analysis of constraints identified in the implementation of previous data systems.** A well-articulated design would clarify:
 - a. The positioning of DTSEN in relation to the Village Information System (SID) and the Subnational Satu Data Forum, including mechanisms for cross-sectoral data sharing through regional data portals.
 - b. The roles and responsibilities in data updating across administrative levels and service units—national agencies to villages—along with the associated sharing of resources.
 - c. The necessary steps to integrate DTSEN governance with the existing subnational Satu Data cycle.
 - d. Guidelines for updating data in villages with specific challenges, such as remote or island areas where high costs and limited internet access constrain the feasibility of village-funded data updates. In some cases, data must be updated from locations two to three hours away from the village office.

2. **Greater and alignment of regulations across ministries and agencies could enhance consistency and coordination in the implementation of DTSEN.** Areas for consideration include:
 - a. Operational guidelines or technical instructions for DTSEN updating, including governance arrangements, SOPs, and provisions for institutional and individual compliance.
 - b. Governance frameworks and the distribution of responsibilities between central and subnational governments. In this context, the Regulation Number 5 of 2024 could serve as a reference for joint policy development.
 - c. Given the significant cost of these activities, data updating may be flexibly scheduled at any point between January and September, prior to the finalisation of the following year's regional budget.
3. **Strengthening the capacity of human resources responsible for data updating is critical.** Variations in the completeness of data from the Regsosek updating trials in several regions highlight the need for clear standards on required competencies across all administrative levels. These standards should be supported by training modules tailored to local contexts, including the forms required at the village level as part of the Village Information System. The government may wish to consider adapting the capacity development framework and curriculum used for Regsosek to inform the development of DTSEN training and operational guidance at the subnational level.
4. **DTSEN Access Policy.** It is important for the government to develop and disseminate clear guidelines for subnational governments regarding access rights and procedures using DTSEN data. Provincial and district/city governments should be granted access to DTSEN aggregate data starting from the village level. Access should be provided to designated data operators who are scheduled to receive training, no later than one day before the commencement of any DTSEN updating or utilisation training activities. One of the key lessons from the Regsosek updating process was that local governments were often reluctant to update data they could not readily access—particularly when such data was urgently requested by regional leadership.
5. **Incentives for DTSEN Updating.** In practice, incentives significantly influence the willingness of assigned personnel to support data collection, updating, and verification/validation activities. Therefore, in addition to ensuring that appropriate budget classifications (nomenclature) are in place, there is a need for a comprehensive communication and outreach strategy to highlight the value of having timely and accurate data to support effective, efficient, and inclusive planning.
6. **Village-Level DTSEN Support Services.** Village governments may consider establishing help desks at village offices or other public facilities to assist residents who are unable to update their data independently. They can also recruit support staff for data collection and updating, with staffing levels adjusted based on the number of residents requiring assistance. In parallel, village governments can issue invitations to all residents to attend the support desk between January and September, except for those who can that they have already completed the self-update process.

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