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Story Booklet

SEPAKAT for Better-Targeted Development:

Stories of Data Use from Across the Regions



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Indonesia's pursuit of better-targeted development has been driving a growing demand for accurate, up-to-date and accessible data. Development programs can no longer be designed using broad assumptions – they must be grounded in a comprehensive understanding of communities, geographic areas and the most vulnerable cohorts.

Data is critical because it helps government and stakeholders to comprehend the issues: who requires support, their locations and socioeconomic circumstances; what basic services are available to them; and how to address their needs. Better use of data means that program planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation can be conducted with greater precision.

In this context, the Government of Indonesia is reinforcing use of the National Single Socio-Economic Data (DTSEN) system to support development planning. DTSEN delivers accurate, up-to-date and integrated data to underpin the execution and evaluation of development initiatives. Through the SEPAKAT platform[1], socioeconomic data can be translated into actionable insights for both national and subnational governments.

SEPAKAT helps planners to understand community conditions, identify vulnerable cohorts, determine programmatic priorities and design interventions that directly address genuine needs. As such, data is elevated from an administrative aid to being the foundation for inclusive and targeted development decision-making.

Accounts of SEPAKAT's deployment across various regions show how data has been translated into practical action. Data is helping to ensure that community interventions reach those who need them most. This is evident in diverse programs across Indonesia, including services for older people in Lombok Timur, Nusa Tenggara Barat (NTB), disability advocacy in Maluku, social assistance distribution in Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT) and nationwide housing and empowerment initiatives.



[1] SEPAKAT is an acronym to describe Indonesia's Integrated Poverty Planning, Budgeting, Analysis and Evaluation System (*Sistem Perencanaan, Penganggaran, Analisis dan Evaluasi Kemiskinan Terpadu*).

Data helps transform services for older people in Lombok Timur

At the Rumah Senja integrated health service post for older people (*Posyandu Lansia*) in Lombok Timur, NTB, the use of data to enhance services was initiated after the management team participated in a 2024 training workshop. Three Rumah Senja representatives – Saadah, Ella Laila Herawati and Kusyati – undertook the training to apply Socio-Economic Registration (Regsosek) data and SEPAKAT to their planning work. Initially they were overwhelmed by how much data was available for analysis.



> At first, we were confused by the sheer volume of data. However, after [how to manage] it was explained to us, we realised that data could genuinely help us understand the circumstances of older people,
>
> **Saadah**, Regsosek and SEPAKAT Training Participant from Rumah Senja, West Nusa Tenggara

Returning from the training, the three women expanded their primary identification records into a comprehensive dataset. They personally gathered information about the administrative, health and socioeconomic status of older people in the district, an initiative supported by the local health authorities. Armed with this comprehensive data, Rumah Senja has been able map the needs of older people in the community in precise detail.

“We now understand the specific conditions of each older person: some require home care, others just need monitoring, and still others simply require a visit,” Ms Herawati said.

This use of data prompted a significant shift in Rumah Senja’s service approach. It has moved away from uniform, sympathy-driven aid distribution to a needs-based and rights-fulfilment approach. “Now we consult the data first to determine who needs what,” Ms Saadah said.

Furthermore, the collected data can be used as an advocacy tool. Rumah Senja leverages this data when liaising with village and regional governments. “Previously, we only made verbal requests, but now we can present the data, making our case much stronger,” Ms Kusyati said.

This evidence-based advocacy is highly effective, for instance, to secure health insurance or administrative documents for older people. The field approach has also become more contextual, with volunteers not only identifying issues but actively seeking locally viable solutions.

Data use supports inclusive service delivery

In Maluku, SEPAKAT's analytical data has supported the Protestant Church of Maluku's advocacy and program planning. Reverend Yohanna Maitimu has championed data use to enhance the church's understanding of vulnerable cohorts, particularly people with disability.

The Protestant Church of Maluku (GPM) learned about and began adopting SEPAKAT through an initiative by its Research and Development Agency (Balitbang Sinode GPM). Balitbang invited Bappenas to collaborate in September 2022 to strengthen the church's planning capacity. GPM utilised SEPAKAT to formulate its Master Service Pattern (PIP) and Master Service Development Plan (RIPP) for the 2025–2035 period, ensuring church programs are more measurable, transparent and well-targeted for the congregation. These documents serve as a sort of "church Bappeda" guiding ministry as GPM approaches its centenary.

Reverend Maitimu noted that before this data was available, the church was working in the dark, uncertain if vulnerable groups even existed or where they were located. With the data available, the church is starting to get a clearer picture of the number and condition of vulnerable groups.

> "Seeing the data made us realise where people with disability are located and what they need from us.
>
> **Yohanna Maitimu**, Reverend and Advocate for Data-Informed Planning, Protestant Church of Maluku



Reverend Maitimu said the use of data had driven a shift in the church's perspective on vulnerable groups – it no longer views them as aid recipients but people who actively engage and participate in church activities.

"They are no longer just objects of service, but subjects with a voice: we involve them in church activities, discussions and material preparation," Reverend Maitimu said.

The SEPAKAT analysis also informed the church's strategic documents for determining its long-term service directions. It has helped the church understand the numbers, categories and distribution of people with disability, leading to targeted programs and helping to destigmatise disability within the congregation.

“We also use this data to educate the congregation that disability is not a curse, but a social reality that must be met with inclusion,” Reverend Maitimu added.

Data supports evidence-based policymaking among regional governments

The experiences of Rumah Senja in NTB and the Protestant Church of Maluku show how data can transform the way organisations and communities understand the needs of vulnerable groups. However, the utilisation of SEPAKAT does not stop at the community level. Across various regions, this platform is also increasingly used by regional governments to support planning, program targeting and evidence-based policymaking.

Housing

In Maluku Province, SEPAKAT is utilised to support the implementation of the regional flagship program “Manggurebe Bikin Bae Rumah”. This mutual-cooperation (gotong royong) based program aims to rehabilitate uninhabitable houses while simultaneously helping to reduce poverty and unemployment.

Secretary of Maluku Province’s Office of Housing and Residential Areas, Wody Timisela, explained that SEPAKAT data serves as the primary reference in identifying impoverished people who do not yet own habitable housing.

This data complements information on the physical condition of houses previously collected through the electronic Uninhabitable Housing (Rumah Tidak Layak Huni, e-RTLH) data collection application. As a result, the government can not only identify houses requiring repairs, but also understand the socioeconomic conditions of the families living in them.

Using this data helps the government target the program more accurately. From an initial baseline of around 6,000 identified uninhabitable houses, the government prioritised cases based on family welfare levels and house or land ownership status, followed by direct field verification. This process resulted in the selection of 204 beneficiary households across five districts and municipalities in 2025.

Data use also extends to the program implementation monitoring stage. Through the Lawamena Satu Data Executive Dashboard, the government can monitor beneficiary locations, housing conditions before and after repairs, work progress, and budget

realisation. In doing so, data is used not only to target assistance, but also to track implementation progress and strengthen program accountability.



> Kami menggunakan data SEPAKAT sebagai rujukan utama untuk mengidentifikasi masyarakat miskin yang belum memiliki rumah layak huni. Datanya sudah tersedia sampai *by name by address* berdasarkan Tingkat.

Woody Timisela, Secretary of Maluku Province's Office of Housing and Residential Areas

This utilisation of data down to the individual level helps regional governments ensure that housing assistance is given to groups truly in need.

A similar story comes from Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT). Maria Vivi Proyanti Taboi, First Expert Social Welfare Officer at the NTT Provincial Social Office, who utilised SEPAKAT to improve the accuracy of data for social assistance beneficiaries among extreme poverty groups.

In 2024, the NTT Provincial Government received fiscal incentive funds amounting to IDR 5.5 billion. To ensure assistance was well-targeted, the regional government conducted an analysis using SEPAKAT.

"From the results of the SEPAKAT analysis, we then sorted the data based on age groups, welfare deciles, and vulnerable groups such as female-headed households, people with disability, and older people," recounted Yanti.

This approach proved effective. The audit results by the Supreme Audit Agency (BPK) regarding the 2024 social assistance distribution revealed no findings unlike what occurred in the previous year. This success encouraged the regional government to apply the same approach to the Habitable Housing Assistance Program, which is planned to receive a budget allocation of IDR 157 billion in the 2026 fiscal year.

Education and vocation training

In Kalimantan Utara (Kaltara), SEPAKAT assists the regional government in strengthening more inclusive development planning. Debby Delfiani, System and Information Technology Manager at the Regional Development Planning, Research and Innovation Agency (Bapperida) of Kaltara Province, revealed that limited data on vulnerable groups has long been one of the main challenges in policy formulation.

Following SEPAKAT training in 2024, the utilisation of the platform evolved from mere poverty analysis into a tool to formulate a Disability Action Plan and a Children Out-of-School Action Plan. The results of this analysis were subsequently integrated into North Kalimantan Governor's Regulation Number 38 of 2025 concerning the Regional Poverty Alleviation Plan.

North Kalimantan also utilised SEPAKAT to formulate the Vocational Regional Action Plan (RAD) to follow up on the 2025–2029 Regional Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMD). Cici Tri Yulita, First Expert Planner in the Social, Cultural and Governance Division of Bapperida Kaltara, stated that she used the data and analyses in SEPAKAT to search for vocational high school (SMK) graduates in Kaltara who had become self-employed.



> The data is complete: how many are self-employed, how many are absorbed by industry, what fields they work in, and even whether they are a person with disability or not.

Cici Tri Yulita, First Expert Planner in the Social, Cultural and Governance Division of Bapperida Kaltara

This data was then harmonised with tracer study data from the Education Office. The tracer study records which majors have high absorption rates in the labour market, which ones record high unemployment rates, the extent of vocational graduate quality according to the business and industrial world, and so on. Subsequently, within the RAD, the Education Office will recommend moratoriums or reskilling for those majors in fields more needed by the local market.

In addition to targeting social protection for palm oil workers, the Gorontalo Provincial Government also uses socioeconomic data through SEPAKAT to support education policy formulation, particularly its scholarship program for low-income communities.

Wahyudi Gobel, a policy analyst with the Gorontalo Provincial Government and lecturer at Universitas Bina Mandiri Gorontalo, explained that SKALA's support in strengthening capacity for policy brief drafting and policy advocacy has helped the government develop more evidence-based recommendations. Through SEPAKAT, the government can also access and analyse socioeconomic information in greater detail, from the regional down to the individual level, including location data (geotagging).

This data formed part of the basis for developing scholarship policy recommendations for low-income communities. Drawing on the recommendations presented in the policy brief, the Gorontalo Provincial Government developed a scholarship policy that prioritises people in the lowest welfare groups, specifically deciles 1 and 2. The National Single Social and

Economic Data (Data Tunggal Sosial dan Ekonomi Nasional, DTSEN) available through the SEPAKAT platform was used to help identify prospective beneficiaries meeting these criteria.

According to Wahyudi, the use of SEPAKAT continued beyond the capacity-building activities. The data and analysis available on the platform continue to be used to support his work as a policy analyst, while also serving as a reference for his academic research as a lecturer.

The use of SEPAKAT for social protection and scholarship policy in Gorontalo demonstrates how socioeconomic data can be applied to address development needs across multiple sectors. Supported by analytical capacity and policy recommendation drafting, regional governments have a stronger foundation to identify target groups and design programs tailored to community needs.

Social assistance

The utilisation of SEPAKAT has also fostered cross-sectoral collaboration in Gorontalo Province. Budi Susanto Yunus, Junior Expert Social Worker at the Gorontalo Provincial Social Office, revealed that the platform became a solution when decile information in the Integrated Social Welfare Data (DTKS) was no longer accessible.

> SEPAKAT became the way out. Through the socioeconomic microdata within it, we could look back at who needs help the most. This greatly assists in determining priority scales.
>
> **Budi Susanto Yunus**, Junior Expert Social Worker at the Gorontalo Provincial Social Office



This data was then utilised alongside various regional apparatuses. One instance was through cooperation with the Agriculture Office to identify impoverished palm oil labourers who are the targets of the Palm Oil Revenue Sharing Fund (DBH). In addition, the data is used to support the informational needs of residential housing offices regarding impoverished older people living in uninhabitable houses.

In the DBH palm oil program, the Regional Development Planning Agency (Bappeda) of Gorontalo Province stated that the distribution of DBH had not previously touched social protection for impoverished palm oil farmers and labourers. “For the past two years, palm oil DBH was only used for infrastructure development,” said Max S. Moerad, Head of the Regional Development Planning, Control, and Evaluation Division at Bappeda Gorontalo.

In the 2026 planning, the government utilised palm oil DBH to support social protection for vulnerable palm oil labourers by allocating a portion of the palm oil DBH to pay for Social Security Administering Body (BPJS) Employment contributions. The program has entered the Regional Government Work Plan (RKPD) as well as the 2026 Provisional Budget Ceiling and Priorities (PPAS), with a planned budget of IDR 183 million.

To improve targeting accuracy, the Gorontalo Provincial Government used Socioeconomic Registration (Registrasi Sosial Ekonomi, Regsosek) data through the SEPAKAT platform to identify palm oil workers in need of social protection. This approach was important because previously available sectoral data largely recorded palm oil plantation owners, whereas social protection programs also need to reach more vulnerable worker groups, including labourers and casual agricultural workers.

Through SEPAKAT analysis, the government established the following beneficiary criteria: residing in palm oil-producing areas, falling within welfare deciles 1–4, working in the plantation sector as labourers or casual agricultural workers, and not yet having employment social security coverage. Based on these criteria, 2,056 individuals were identified as eligible prospective beneficiaries of the BPJS Ketenagakerjaan (Employment Social Security) program.

This number was then adjusted against available financing capacities. The final data subsequently narrowed down the number of vulnerable palm oil labourers targeted for provincial social protection to just 818 people, with BPJS Employment participation funds amounting to IDR 183 million.

Gorontalo's experience demonstrates how using socioeconomic data helps regional governments prioritise budget allocations more accurately. Data is used not only to identify communities in need of support, but also as a basis for targeting programs and strengthening cross-sector coordination to expand social protection coverage for vulnerable workers.

SEPAKAT is also being used to strengthen social protection in Papua Barat Daya. In Raja Ampat District, the regional government developed the ORISUN program (Orang Raja Ampat Hidup Sejahtera di Usia Senja — Raja Ampat Residents Living Prosperously in Their Senior Years) for Indigenous Papuans (Orang Asli Papua, OAP) aged 65 and over. This program builds on lessons from PAITUA, a social protection program for older people previously managed at the Southwest Papua provincial level. Seeing the benefits of that initiative, the Raja Ampat District Government established its own social protection scheme through ORISUN, with a planned allocation of IDR 3 billion from the 2026 Special Autonomy Fund (Dana Otonomi Khusus, Otsus) for around 1,444 prospective beneficiaries.

The ORISUN program was launched by the Regent of Raja Ampat, Orideko Iriano Burdam, in Waisai in May 2026. “Through the ORISUN Program, the Raja Ampat District Government aims to ensure that older Indigenous Papuans can feel the presence of the state through more tangible and well-targeted social protection,” Orideko said.

To ensure assistance reaches the intended target group, the regional government cross-matched initial prospective beneficiary data from the Population and Civil Registration Office (Dinas Kependudukan dan Pencatatan Sipil, Dukcapil) with the National Single Social and Economic Data (Data Tunggal Sosial dan Ekonomi Nasional, DTSEN) via the SEPAKAT platform, as well as data from the Southwest Papua People Information System (Sistem Informasi Orang Papua Barat Daya, SIOPADA). These three data sources complement one another: Dukcapil data serves as the initial reference for prospective beneficiaries' identity and age, DTSEN through SEPAKAT helps the government understand their socioeconomic conditions, and SIOPADA provides information on the identity and location of Indigenous Papuans down to the village (kampung) level.

Of the roughly 1,444 prospective beneficiaries identified, the data-matching results showed that around 1,200 people were recorded in DTSEN and about 600 were found in SIOPADA. These findings helped the government identify data gaps and formed the basis for reviewing and refining the list of prospective beneficiaries before program implementation. Through this approach, the regional government is working to ensure that ORISUN targeting is backed by more comprehensive and accountable information.

Other SEPAKAT applications across provinces

In Aceh Province, the Integrated Aceh Health Insurance (JKA) team used SEPAKAT to restructure health coverage. By mapping residents across welfare deciles, the team identified individuals eligible for regionally funded premiums, aiming to optimise an unsustainable IDR 850–900 billion annual budget. Although Governor’s Regulation No. 2 of 2026 was later revoked following public protests, Sayid Azhari from the Aceh Office of Communications, Informatics and Cryptography expressed confidence in SEPAKAT's future utility for precise targeting.

Meanwhile, in NTB, SEPAKAT has become one of the important instruments in formulating various regional strategic planning documents. According to Irsan Hadiyan, Junior Expert Planner at Bappeda of NTB Province, the platform's capability to present microdata down to the individual level constitutes a distinct value-add that greatly assists the planning process.



> This data-sorting feature is what is most relied upon. We can know by name by address in every village who falls into decile 1, 2, or 3, where their residence is, and the condition of their house.

Irsan Hadiyan, Junior Expert Planner at Bappeda of NTB Province

Aside from supporting the formulation of the Disability RAD and the Habitable Housing Program, SEPAKAT is currently utilised to support the implementation of NTB's flagship program, Desa Berdaya (Empowered Village). Table 1 provides a brief summary of SEPAKAT application across provinces.



Table 1. SEPAKAT application for data driven program delivery

Province	Program	Beneficiaries	Action
Maluku 	• Manggurebe Bikin Bae Rumah • Protestant Church of Maluku Advocacy & Planning	• Impoverished people • Unemployed individuals • People with disability	• Rehabilitating habitable housing • Actively involving people with disability in church activities
Nusa Tenggara Barat 	• Rumah Senja Older People's Post • Desa Berdaya Program	• Older people • Impoverished communities	• Mapping detailed conditions of older people (administrative, health, socioeconomic conditions) • Enabling people to exit poverty permanently: business capital/economic mentoring, banking access
Nusa Tenggara Timur 	• Habitable Housing Assistance Program	Extreme poor, poor, vulnerable cohorts, female-headed households	More accurate updating of social assistance / habitable housing assistance beneficiary data
Kalimantan Utara 	• Disability Action Plan • Children Out-of-School Action Plan	People with disability, out-of-school children	More inclusive planning
Gorontalo 	Palm Oil DBH	Vulnerable palm oil farmers	BPJS Employment social protection (perlinsos)

Establishing a sustainable data ecosystem



As the use of SEPAKAT widens across social services and regional planning, robust data governance – supported by apparatus capacity, system integration and sustained data updates – will become even more critical.

Head of NTT's Office of Communications and Informatics, Frederik Koenunu, identified cross-sectoral data integration as a persistent regional challenge. According to Mr Koenunu, unified systems to optimise decision-making were needed. He added that enhancing SEPAKAT's utilisation capacity would be a strategic measure to support the One Data (Satu Data) Indonesia initiative at the regional level.

Moving forward, integrating SEPAKAT with regional executive dashboards will further embed evidence-based decision-making into the culture of the civil service. As Ms Saadah from Lombok Timur concluded: "When we have data, we no longer work on assumptions; everything becomes clear".



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