

## Research Article

# Analysis of Poverty Alleviation Strategy in the 2025-2029 RPJMD Document of Sorong City: Multidimensional Approach in the Context of Decentralization

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## Abstract.

This study aims to analyze poverty alleviation strategies in the 2025-2029 RPJMD of Sorong City using a multidimensional approach. Sorong City shows a decrease in poverty rates from 15.35% (2021) to 13.67% (2024), but still faces the challenges of increasing income inequality (Gini Ratio 0.283 to 0.347) and high unemployment (TPT 9.85%). Based on the analysis of regional planning documents and measurement of socio-economic indicators, this study identifies four main strategies in the RPJMD: strengthening adaptive social protection, economic transformation based on local potential, market-oriented vocational training, and digitalization of public services. Although planning and accountability show positive performance, implementation is hampered by regional fiscal limitations (independence level 27.42%). Poverty in Sorong City is multidimensional, involving aspects of education (average length of schooling 11.57 years), informality of work, unplanned urbanization, disparities in access to health services, and spatial inequality between the center and the periphery. The study recommends funding innovation through KPBU, digital-based tax optimization, and budgeting based on micro-social-economic data. Furthermore, cross-sector synergy and alignment between regions are key to addressing the complexity of structural poverty in Sorong City.

**Keywords:** multidimensional poverty, poverty alleviation strategy, fiscal decentralization

## 1. Introduction

Poverty is one of the most pressing and multidimensional development challenges in developing countries, including Indonesia. In the context of decentralization that has been implemented since the early 2000s, local governments play a strategic role in addressing poverty [1]. Sorong City, as a center of economic growth and the gateway to the Southwest Papua region, faces the complexity of poverty that is not only absolute but also structural. The efforts of the Sorong City Government to reduce poverty levels are reflected in various regional planning documents, especially the 2025–2029 Regional Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMD) which contains strategic directions

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for sustainable development with humans as its center. Statistically, based on the 2024 Sorong City LPPD report, the poverty rate has shown a downward trend in the last four years, from 15.35% in 2021 to 13.67% in 2024 (Table 1). This decline shows the effectiveness of the policy, although indicators of the depth and severity of poverty still show that some residents still live in extreme poverty[2]. This is exacerbated by income inequality reflected in the increase in the Gini Ratio from 0.283 to 0.347 within a period of one year (2023–2024). Therefore, the success of reducing poverty rates must be read more critically and holistically, considering the large gap in inequality between community groups.

TABLE 1: Poverty Indicator Trends in Sorong City (2021–2024).

Years	Percentage of Poor Pop- ulation (%)	Number of Poor People (in Thousand)	Depth Index	Severity Index
2021	15,35	41,75	3,64	1,29
2022	14,96	41,93	2,88	0,88
2023	14,41	41,61	3,98	1,53
2024	13,67	40,68	3,07	1,01

Source: BPS, Sorong City in Figures 2025

The 2025–2029 RPJMD of Sorong City explicitly states that the issue of poverty is one of the strategic regional issues that must be addressed with an intersectoral and evidence-based approach. The document emphasizes empowerment-based strategies, improving the quality of human resources, and inclusive local economic development[3]. This is in line with the latest approach in development literature, which emphasizes that poverty alleviation strategies can no longer be solely charitable, but must integrate a structural approach that strengthens poor people’s access to education, health, employment, and capital. One of the crucial challenges in poverty alleviation in Sorong City is the mismatch between labor availability and market demand. The 2024 LPPD report noted that the Open Unemployment Rate (TPT) stagnated at 9.85%, indicating that job opportunities are still unable to absorb the increasing workforce. This indicates that reducing poverty rates is not always in line with inclusive job creation. Moreover, the average length of schooling in Sorong City in 2024 is still at 11.57 years, which means that most of the population has not completed secondary education. This condition limits the socio-economic mobility of the poor and reduces regional competitiveness.

In the context of policy, the 2025–2029 RPJMD offers a number of main strategies to reduce poverty, including: (1) strengthening adaptive social protection through the expansion of conditional social assistance programs, (2) encouraging local economic

transformation based on superior commodities such as fisheries and agro-industry, (3) developing vocational training based on market needs, and (4) encouraging the digitalization of public services to accelerate socio-economic inclusion. These policies are in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially Goal 1: No Poverty. However, the effectiveness of the implementation of these strategies is highly dependent on regional fiscal capacity, cross-sector synergy, and the involvement of civil society in the planning and monitoring process[4].

The dynamics of development in Sorong City cannot be separated from its strategic geopolitical position. As a coastal city that is the main gateway to the Papua region, Sorong is experiencing demographic pressure due to urbanization and migration from hinterland areas. This urbanization creates economic dualism, where the informal sector is growing rapidly but is not accompanied by adequate social protection. As a result, the urban poor experience double vulnerability: low access to formal employment and limited access to basic services such as clean water, sanitation, and housing. Therefore, poverty alleviation strategies must pay more comprehensive attention to spatial aspects and regional vulnerability[5].

From a fiscal policy perspective, the Sorong City Government has shown increased planning and budgeting capabilities. In the 2024 Government Agency Performance Report (LKjIP), it was noted that the level of conformity of the annual plan with the medium-term plan reached 110.3%, and the accountability of the LPPD increased to 107.4%. However, the main challenge lies in the low level of regional fiscal independence which only reached 27.42%. This limitation limits the fiscal space for the expansion of transformative poverty alleviation programs. Therefore, strengthening local fiscal capacity is a strategic prerequisite for the implementation of the RPJMD which is oriented towards poverty reduction.

By considering the various dimensions above, this article aims to critically examine the regional government's strategy in reducing poverty through a policy analysis approach based on the 2025–2029 RPJMD document. This study is important because it can provide conceptual and practical contributions to the formulation of more effective and equitable policies. In addition, this study will also present a correlative analysis between regional macro policies and micro socio-economic indicators, in order to identify implementation gaps and opportunities for cross-sector interventions[6].

## 2. Methods

This study uses a qualitative approach with a document-based policy analysis method and secondary data. The main object of the study is the Sorong City RPJMD document 2025-2029, which is analyzed in depth to identify poverty alleviation strategies listed therein. Document analysis was carried out using the content analysis method with a focus on goals, targets, strategies, and programs related to poverty alleviation efforts. To enrich the analytical perspective, the study also triangulated data by integrating supporting documents in the form of the 2024 Regional Government Implementation Report (LPPD), the 2024 Government Agency Performance Report (LKjIP), and statistical data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) "Sorong City in Figures 2025". The integration of various data sources allows the study to produce a comprehensive and verifiable analysis. The operationalization of the study was carried out through three stages: first, collection and inventory of policy documents and statistical data related to poverty in Sorong City; second, data extraction on poverty alleviation programs, activities, and budgets; third, analysis of the suitability between macro policies in the RPJMD and empirical data on multidimensional poverty conditions. To map the factors that influence poverty, the study uses a multidimensional approach by building an analytical framework that integrates the dimensions of education, employment, basic services, urbanization, and spatial aspects. The analysis is carried out by identifying causal and correlational relationships between these dimensions, which are visualized through network diagrams..

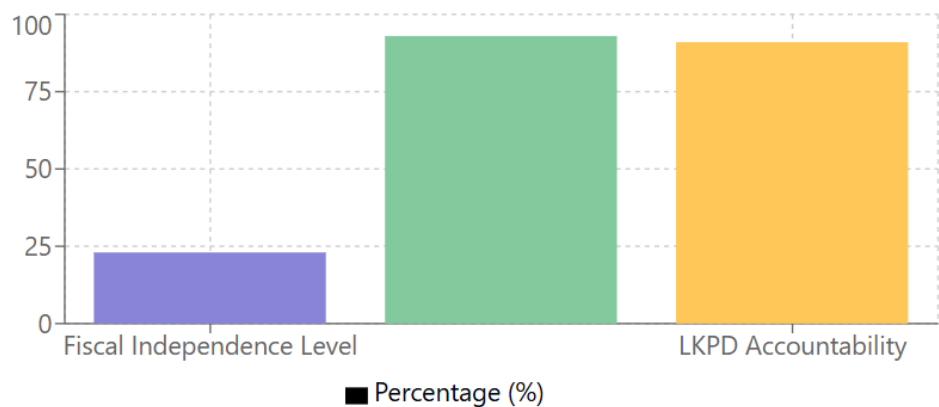
## 3. Result And Discussion

### 3.1. Evaluation of Poverty Alleviation Strategy in RPJMD 2025--2029

The 2025–2029 Sorong City RPJMD places the issue of poverty alleviation as a top strategic priority. The approach adopted is comprehensive, encompassing elements of community empowerment, social integration, and inclusive economic growth. There are four key strategies that form the basis of policy direction: (1) Strengthening adaptive social protection, such as conditional social assistance and direct cash assistance based on poverty data. (2) Economic transformation based on local resource potential, especially the fisheries and agro-industry sectors. (3) Vocational training based on labor

market needs, to improve workforce capabilities and reduce unemployment rates. And (4) Digitalization of public services, which aims to improve efficiency, transparency, and accessibility of social services.

However, the success of implementing these strategies is highly dependent on the fiscal capacity of the local government. Based on the RPJMD document, the level of fiscal independence of Sorong City was recorded at only 27.42%, which means that most of the regional budget still depends on central transfer funds. This condition is a major obstacle in the implementation of transformative programs that require long-term investment. However, institutional and planning indicators show positive performance as shown in the following Figure 1



**Figure 1:** RPJMD Sorong 2025-2029 Indicators.

These values indicate that despite low fiscal capacity, the quality of planning and accountability of governance is quite good. The conformity between the annual plan and the RPJMD document which reached 93.3% shows that regional apparatuses have awareness and alignment towards medium-term goals. Likewise, the accountability of LPPD of 91.4% is a reflection of the ongoing monitoring and evaluation system.

### 3.2. Multidimensional Analysis of Poverty: Education, Employment, and Basic Services

Sorong City has strengths in its planning structure, but the main challenge lies in the financing aspect. Without increasing fiscal capacity or spending efficiency, strategy implementation is potentially hampered. Funding innovation is needed through PPP, tax optimization with digital technology, and evidence-based budgeting. Cross-sector

synergy and alignment between regions are key to targeting the most vulnerable groups through an integrated and data-responsive approach.

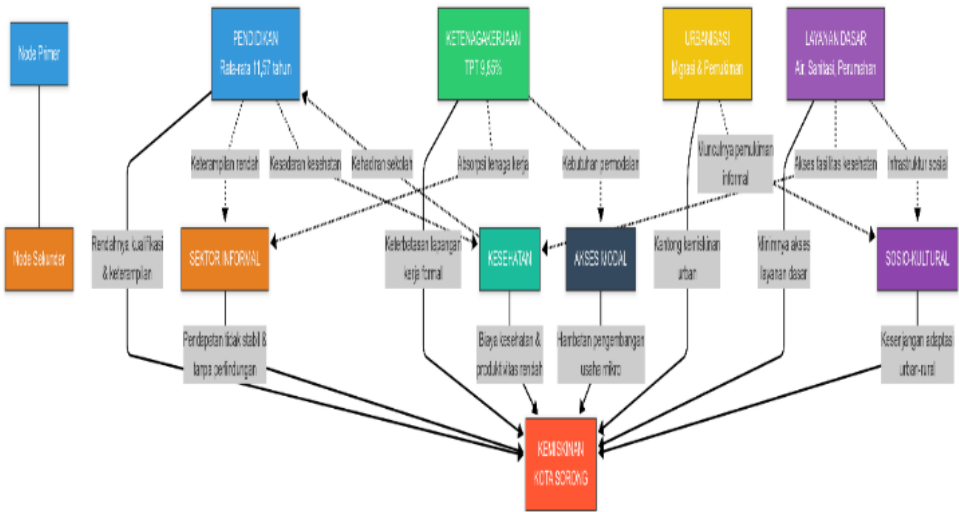
Poverty in Sorong City is multidimensional with interrelated factors. Education is a crucial dimension, with an average length of schooling of only 11.57 years (2024), indicating that the majority of the population has not completed high school. This correlates with the stagnant TPT of 9.85% which reflects the misalignment of skills with industry needs, pushing people into the informal sector with unstable incomes. Rapid urbanization without adequate infrastructure worsens the condition, creating spatial gaps in basic services between the city center and peripheral districts. Health factors, limited access to business capital, and rural-urban migration that is not balanced by adaptation readiness further exacerbate the cycle of poverty, creating pockets of urban poverty with low productivity and marginalization (Table 2).

TABLE 2: Research Findings: Multidimensional Poverty in Sorong City.

Dimensions/Aspects	Research Findings
Planning and Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Planning structure is a major strength</li><li>• Fiscal capacity and efficiency of public spending are limited</li></ul>
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Average length of schooling is 11.57 years (2024)</li><li>• The majority of the population has not completed high school</li></ul>
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• TPT is stagnant at 9.85%</li><li>• Mismatch of skills with industry needs</li><li>• High dependence on the informal sector</li></ul>
Urbanization Infrastructure and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rapid urbanization without adequate infrastructure planning</li><li>• Disparity in basic services between city centers and peripheral districts</li></ul>
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Limited access to health services in peripheral districts</li><li>• High health costs lead to catastrophic spending</li></ul>
Access to Capital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unequal access to business capital and technology</li><li>• Structural barriers to accessing formal credit</li></ul>
Socio-Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rural-urban migration without adaptation readiness</li><li>• Formation of high-density informal settlements</li></ul>
Innovative Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• KPBU (Public-private investment cooperation)</li><li>• Optimization of regional taxes based on digital technology</li><li>• Evidence-based budgeting and micro-social economic data</li></ul>
Strategic Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cross-sector synergy (education, health, employment)</li><li>• Alignment between regions</li><li>• Data-responsive and region-based interventions</li></ul>

The diagram is a structural visualization of the factors that influence poverty in Sorong City in a multidimensional framework. Descriptively, the diagram (Fig 2) displays several main dimensions (marked with colored boxes) that are interconnected, including education (average 11.57 years), employment (TPT 9.85%), urbanization, basic services, and the informal sector as determinant factors. The connecting paths show the causal or correlational relationships between these dimensions, where each dimension has

sub-factors (in gray boxes) that act as intermediaries or specific manifestations, such as limited skills, informality of work, and disparities in access to services. All paths ultimately flow towards one point of convergence, namely poverty in Sorong City (red box at the bottom), illustrating that the phenomenon of poverty is a cumulative result of various interacting factors.



**Figure 2:** Multi-dimensional poverty linkage map in Sorong (Appendix 1).

From a theoretical perspective, this diagram reflects Sen’s capability approach that views poverty as a multidimensional deprivation, not just a lack of income. His analysis is in line with the concept of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) that measures deprivation in dimensions of health, education, and standard of living. The interactions between dimensions in the diagram illustrate Ravallion’s structural-individual perspective that integrates systemic factors (such as spatial inequality and accessibility of services) with individual factors (such as education level). The pattern of relationships in the diagram also indicates Chen’s “multiscalar poverty” framework that integrates micro (individual), meso (community), and macro (policy) elements in the dynamics of urban poverty. The presence of urbanization factors and spatial disparities reflects Anand & Kanbur’s findings on the emergence of new patterns of urban poverty characterized by economic vulnerability, informality of employment, and housing insecurity due to poorly planned urbanization.

3.3. Supporting and Inhibiting Factors of Poverty Alleviation Strategy in Sorong City

Several factors inhibiting the implementation of poverty alleviation strategies in Sorong City include in the Table 3 below:

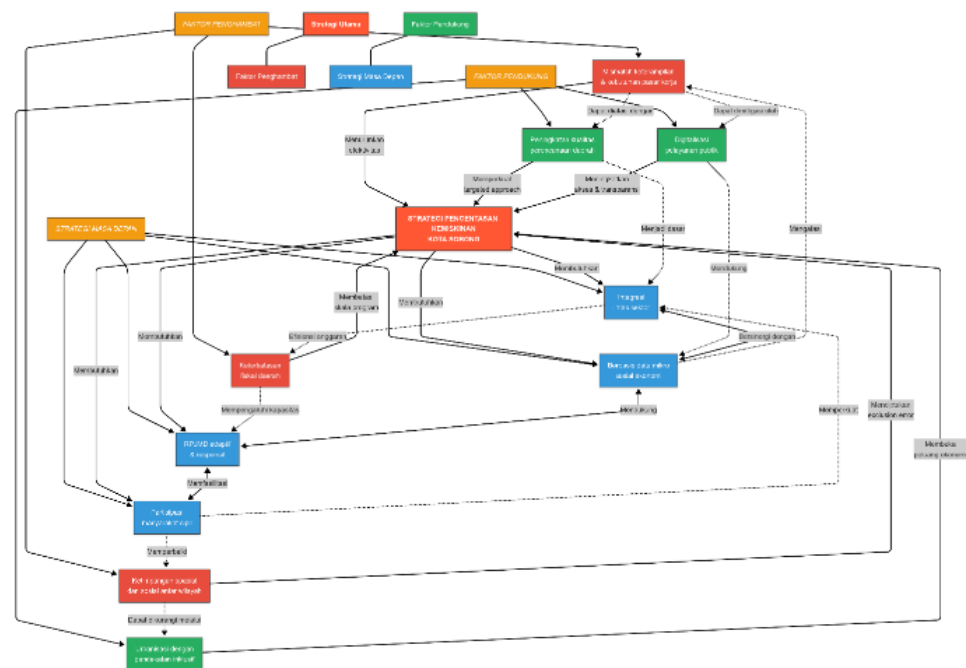
TABLE 3: Supporting and Inhibiting Factors of Poverty Alleviation Strategy in Sorong City.

Inhibiting Factors	Inhibiting Factors
1. Mismatch between workforce skills and labor market needs	1. Mismatch between workforce skills and labor market needs
2. Regional fiscal limitations	2. Regional fiscal limitations
3. Spatial and social disparities between regions	3. Spatial and social disparities between regions

- Mismatch of skills and labor market needs - Creates structural imbalances in the labor market and drives high levels of open unemployment
- Regional fiscal limitations - Limits the capacity of local governments to implement poverty alleviation programs comprehensively and sustainably
- Spatial and social inequality - Causes unequal access to basic services and economic opportunities between city centers and peripheral areas
- Improvement of the quality of regional planning - Enables identification of more precise targets and more efficient allocation of resources for poverty alleviation programs
- Digitalization of public services - Increases access, transparency, and inclusiveness of government services, reduces transaction costs and administrative barriers
- Urbanization with an inclusive approach - Potential to transform the challenges of urban growth into opportunities for economic development that can absorb labor.

The fig 2 shows the complex dynamics between inhibiting, supporting, and intervention strategies in poverty alleviation in Sorong City. There is a causative relationship where the mismatch of skills with labor market needs creates a structural imbalance that leads to informal work and economic vulnerability. Inhibiting factors in the form of regional fiscal limitations have a domino effect on service capacity, creating a cycle of dependency that is difficult to break without systemic intervention. A reciprocal relationship is seen between spatial inequality and poverty alleviation strategies, where disparities between regions are not only the result but also the cause of program ineffectiveness. Improving the quality of regional planning and digitalization of public services serve as catalysts that accelerate various programs, not just independent





**Figure 3:** analysis of dynamics between factors in poverty in Sorong City (Appendix 2).

variables. Adaptive RPJMD and civil society participation form a mutually reinforcing feedback system, where data becomes a bridge between aspirations and policy implementation. Urbanization with an inclusive approach acts as a moderating variable that can transform the challenges of urban growth into opportunities for poverty alleviation through equal access to the economy and basic services. From a theoretical perspective, the relationship between factors in the diagram reflects the collective capability approach developed by [16] as an extension of Sen's framework, where individual capabilities cannot be separated from community and institutional capabilities. The interdependence between improving the quality of regional planning and adaptive RPJMD illustrates the concept of "institutional complementarity" formulated by [22], [23], where the quality of institutions determines the effectiveness of public investment in reducing poverty. The relationship between micro socio-economic data and civil society participation reflects the "deliberative governance" approach to poverty alleviation advocated by [28], emphasizing the importance of local knowledge in policy formulation. The dynamics between regional fiscal constraints and future strategies are in line with the "escape path from poverty trap" which identifies the crucial role of threshold investment in breaking the cycle of poverty. The connection between the digitalization of public services and socio-economic micro data also reflects the concept of "precision anti-poverty" developed by [29], where technology and big data enable

real-time program adjustments based on spatial and temporal variations in the needs of poor communities.

## 4. Conclusion

The poverty alleviation strategy in the 2025-2029 RPJMD of Sorong City shows a multidimensional approach that reflects the evolution of the concept of poverty from an income-based paradigm to capability deprivation. The four main strategies—strengthening adaptive social protection, local potential-based economic transformation, market-oriented vocational training, and digitalization of public services—show alignment with global trends that emphasize integrated and transformative interventions. The decline in the poverty rate from 15.35% (2021) to 13.67% (2024) is a positive achievement, but the increase in inequality (Gini Ratio 0.347) shows that the benefits of development have not been evenly distributed. The stagnant TPT at 9.85% and the average length of schooling of 11.57 years indicate a structural mismatch between the education system and the needs of the labor market, which needs to be addressed through market-oriented vocational education reform. The challenges in implementing the poverty alleviation strategy lie primarily in regional fiscal limitations (fiscal independence 27.42%), which results in high dependence on central government transfers. To address this, funding innovations such as KPBU and optimization of regional taxes based on digital technology are imperative. In addition, rapid urbanization without adequate infrastructure planning creates new patterns of urban poverty that require an integrated spatial approach. The success of the RPJMD implementation will be determined by the ability of local governments to build cross-sector synergies, integrate socio-economic micro data in planning, and ensure active participation of civil society in the policy process. The “whole-of-government” approach needs to be operationalized through a strong coordination mechanism and responsive budgeting system. Although the planning structure shows adequate quality (93.3% alignment of the annual plan and RPJMD), institutional transformation that strengthens implementation capacity and accountability is still needed to ensure that the poverty alleviation strategy stated in the RPJMD can be implemented effectively and sustainably.

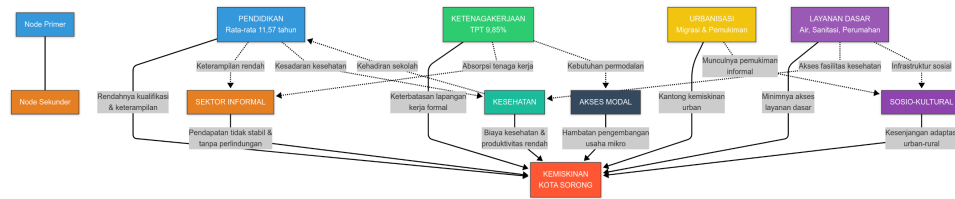
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## Appendix 1



## Appendix 2

