



IDENTIFYING THE KEY FACTORS OF POVERTY IN SOUTH BUTON REGENCY

Miming Lestari

Halu Oleo University, Kendari, Indonesia

Corresponding Author: miminglestari@uho.ac.id

<p>Info Article</p> <p>Received: 13 Maret 2025</p> <p>Revised: 06 April 2025</p> <p>Accepted: 10 Mei 2025</p> <p>Publication: 30 Mei 2025</p>	<p>Abstract: <i>Poverty in South Buton Regency reflects a complex multidimensional challenge, characterized by disparities in access to education, health, infrastructure, and economic opportunities. This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach to identify the main determinants of poverty in the region, by analyzing regional planning documents such as the 2025-2030 PRSP as well as secondary data from BPS and academic literature. The results show that poverty in South Buton is not just a matter of low income, but is closely related to geographical isolation, limited infrastructure, dependence on the informal sector, as well as institutional fragmentation in program implementation. By referring to Amartya Sen's capability approach and Alkire-Foster's multidimensional poverty index, this study emphasizes the importance of contextual, cross-sectoral, and area-based poverty reduction strategies. The findings are expected to strengthen policy planning that is more inclusive, responsive, and effective in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially the poverty alleviation target (Goal 1) at the local level.</i></p>
<p>Keywords: <i>Poverty, Socio-Economic Factors, Basic Infrastructure, Regional Disparity, Policy Intervention.</i></p>	
<p>Kata Kunci: Kemiskinan, Faktor Sosial Ekonomi, Infrastruktur Dasar, Ketimpangan Wilayah, Intervensi Kebijakan</p>	
<p>Licensed Under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License</p> 	<p>Abstrak: Kemiskinan di Kabupaten Buton Selatan mencerminkan tantangan multidimensi yang kompleks, ditandai oleh kesenjangan akses terhadap pendidikan, kesehatan, infrastruktur, dan kesempatan ekonomi. Studi ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif untuk mengidentifikasi determinan utama kemiskinan di wilayah ini, dengan menganalisis dokumen perencanaan daerah seperti RPKD 2025–2030 serta data sekunder dari BPS dan literatur akademik. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa kemiskinan di Buton Selatan bukan hanya masalah pendapatan rendah, tetapi terkait erat dengan isolasi geografis, infrastruktur yang terbatas, ketergantungan pada sektor informal, serta fragmentasi kelembagaan dalam pelaksanaan program. Dengan mengacu pada pendekatan kapabilitas Amartya Sen dan indeks kemiskinan multidimensi Alkire-Foster, studi ini menekankan pentingnya strategi penanggulangan kemiskinan yang kontekstual, lintas sektor, dan berbasis wilayah. Temuan ini diharapkan dapat memperkuat perencanaan kebijakan yang lebih inklusif, responsif, dan efektif guna mencapai Tujuan Pembangunan Berkelanjutan (TPB/SDGs) terutama target pengentasan kemiskinan (Goal 1) di tingkat lokal.</p>

INTRODUCTION

Poverty remains a fundamental and multidimensional challenge in many developing countries, including Indonesia. It is not merely defined by a lack of income but also encompasses deprivation in access to education, health services, proper housing, and other basic human needs. This multidimensionality is reflected in the first goal of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which calls for an end to poverty in all its forms everywhere. While Indonesia has made substantial progress in poverty reduction at the national level, significant regional disparities persist, particularly in eastern regions such as South Buton Regency in Southeast Sulawesi.

South Buton, a relatively young regency established in 2014, continues to face socio-economic challenges, including a persistent poverty rate that remains above the national average. According to regional development planning data and the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS), poverty in South Buton has shown signs of stagnation or even slight increases in recent years. Beyond income metrics, indicators such as the poverty depth index, access to education, health outcomes, and availability of basic infrastructure illustrate the complex nature of deprivation experienced by the population. This situation highlights the need to shift focus from income poverty alone to a broader analysis of the structural and systemic factors that maintain poverty conditions.

According to data from the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) and regional development planning documents, South Buton Regency recorded a poverty rate of 17.89% in 2023—significantly higher than the national average of 9.36%. The Human Development Index (HDI) in the region stood at 64.51, placing it among the lowest in Southeast Sulawesi Province. Access to basic services also remains limited: only 58% of households have access to clean drinking water, while approximately 35% of villages report limited or irregular access to health facilities. Education indicators reveal challenges as well, with net enrollment rates in secondary education lagging behind provincial averages. These figures underscore the severity and multidimensional nature of poverty in South Buton, justifying the need for localized and integrated poverty alleviation strategies.

The theoretical basis for understanding poverty as a capability deprivation is rooted in Amartya Sen's (1999) work, which emphasized that poverty should be seen as a failure to attain basic capabilities, not just low income. Building upon this, Alkire and Foster (2011) developed a multidimensional poverty index that combines different

indicators such as education, health, and living standards. This approach has increasingly been adopted by policymakers to capture the full spectrum of poverty and design more effective interventions. Furthermore, recent research underlines that spatial inequality, poor infrastructure, and weak human capital development are significant contributors to poverty in remote and rural areas.

In South Buton, the spatial and socio-economic conditions reflect these theoretical perspectives. Challenges such as limited road access, inadequate healthcare facilities, low school enrollment in certain areas, and dependence on informal economic sectors create structural barriers that trap communities in chronic poverty. While government programs such as conditional cash transfers, village funds, and community empowerment initiatives have been introduced, their effectiveness is often hampered by issues of targeting accuracy, weak coordination, and insufficient data integration at the local level.

Given this context, it is crucial to conduct a systematic identification of the factors contributing to poverty in South Buton to support more informed, inclusive, and context-sensitive policy design. This study aims to explore the primary determinants of poverty in South Buton Regency using qualitative analysis of regional policy documents, complemented by a review of relevant literature and secondary data. Specifically, this article focuses on how socio-economic, infrastructural, and institutional factors intersect to shape poverty outcomes in the region. By doing so, the research contributes to the evidence base needed for effective regional poverty reduction planning and the achievement of SDG Goal 1 at the local level.

METHOD

This study adopts a qualitative descriptive approach aimed at comprehensively identifying and analyzing the underlying factors contributing to poverty in South Buton Regency. The nature of the research is exploratory and non-experimental, emphasizing a contextual and in-depth understanding of poverty dynamics rather than hypothesis testing or statistical generalization. This methodological choice is aligned with the study's primary objective—to develop a nuanced and evidence-based interpretation of poverty drivers grounded in local realities.

The core of the analysis is based on a content analysis method, focusing on reviewing and interpreting existing policy documents, primarily the *Regional Poverty Reduction Plan (RPKD) of South Buton 2025–2030*. This document was selected for its

comprehensive coverage of poverty-related issues in the region, including demographic patterns, socio-economic indicators, development priorities, and institutional strategies for poverty alleviation. In addition, supplementary documents such as statistical reports from the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS), national poverty reduction strategies, relevant regulations (e.g., Law No. 13/2011 on Poverty Alleviation), and scholarly publications were also examined to enrich the contextual analysis.

The data collection process relies entirely on secondary sources. These sources were selected through purposive sampling based on their relevance, reliability, and recency. Emphasis was placed on obtaining materials that provide detailed insights into poverty characteristics, regional disparities, sectoral vulnerabilities (e.g., agriculture, fisheries), public service delivery (education, health, water and sanitation), and institutional arrangements. The selection also includes development indicators such as the Human Development Index (HDI), Poverty Severity Index, and local fiscal capacity data.

To ensure credibility and analytical robustness, the study applies triangulation by comparing and contrasting the findings from regional planning documents with global theoretical frameworks and academic studies. Two key frameworks guide the theoretical lens: (1) the Capability Approach developed by Amartya Sen (1999), which conceptualizes poverty as the deprivation of fundamental freedoms and capabilities; and (2) the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) by Alkire and Foster (2011), which enables the analysis of poverty across several non-income dimensions, including health, education, and standard of living.

The data analysis technique is thematic, allowing the classification of poverty determinants into three major categories: (1) Socio-economic factors, such as educational attainment, employment patterns, income sources, and productivity levels; (2) Infrastructure and spatial access, including road networks, public utilities, school and health facility distribution, and digital connectivity; (3) Institutional and governance factors, such as program targeting, inter-agency coordination, budget allocation, and the use of data systems.

Each thematic category is explored in detail to uncover causal linkages, reinforcing cycles, and structural bottlenecks that sustain poverty in different sub-regions of South Buton. The analysis not only identifies the existing gaps in policy and service provision but also examines how these factors interact to perpetuate spatial and intergenerational poverty.

This methodological framework allows the study to go beyond surface-level diagnostics and generate context-sensitive and policy-relevant insights, which are vital for guiding more effective regional interventions. By focusing on qualitative depth, institutional context, and place-based analysis, the research provides a comprehensive understanding of poverty that can inform strategic planning, community-based interventions, and evidence-based policymaking.

The types of analysis employed in this study reflect a comprehensive and integrative analytical framework that draws on multiple, complementary perspectives to holistically understand the complexity of poverty in South Buton Regency. The selection of analytical dimensions is grounded in the recognition that poverty is not a singular phenomenon but a multidimensional and deeply rooted challenge shaped by interrelated structural, social, and institutional factors.

At the core of the analysis are three principal components:

- (1). **Analysis of Poverty Characteristics:** This involves mapping and interpreting the social, economic, and spatial patterns that define poverty across different districts within South Buton. It includes assessing variations in household income sources, educational attainment, housing conditions, and access to public services. Special attention is paid to geographic disparities between coastal, rural, and semi-urban areas to uncover territorial dimensions of deprivation.
- (2). **Analysis of Root Causes of Poverty:** Going beyond surface-level indicators, this component explores the underlying structural drivers that sustain chronic poverty. These include limited economic diversification, underinvestment in human capital, inadequate physical and digital infrastructure, and persistent marginalization of specific communities. The goal is to understand poverty not merely as an outcome but as a process perpetuated by institutional, historical, and spatial disadvantages.

Analysis of the Relationship Between Poverty and Key Development Dimensions: Poverty is examined in its interaction with critical sectors such as health, education, employment, basic infrastructure, and food security. These dimensions are analyzed through sector-specific indicators and policy targets found in planning documents such as the RPKD, RPJMD, and sectoral roadmaps. This allows the research to identify cross-sectoral vulnerabilities and how deprivation in one dimension reinforces poverty in others.

In addition to these core analyses, the study employs supporting analytical lenses to enhance contextual relevance:

(1). **Strategic Issues Related to Poverty:** This includes an assessment of strategic priorities, political commitment, and institutional alignment as articulated in regional development plans. It highlights implementation bottlenecks, misalignment between policy intent and field realities, and the extent to which poverty alleviation has been mainstreamed across development agendas.

Institutional Analysis: Recognizing that effective governance is key to poverty reduction, this component evaluates the capacity, coordination, and responsiveness of local institutions. It examines the roles of government agencies, community organizations, and social protection mechanisms in planning, targeting, and delivering poverty-related programs. Special focus is placed on data systems, monitoring frameworks, and feedback mechanisms that support evidence-based decision-making.

By employing this multi-layered analytical approach, the study provides a richer, more contextualized understanding of poverty in South Buton. It enables the identification of both systemic challenges and leverage points for strategic intervention, offering insights that are directly relevant to improving the design, implementation, and evaluation of poverty reduction policies at the local level.

To support the identification and analysis of poverty determinants in South Buton Regency, this study utilizes a range of data sources drawn from various development aspects. These aspects are categorized thematically to provide a structured understanding of the socio-economic, demographic, spatial, and institutional conditions that influence poverty in the region. Each aspect contains specific indicators that reflect both the manifestations and underlying drivers of poverty. These indicators, compiled from official documents such as the Regional Poverty Reduction Plan (RPKD), Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) reports, and sectoral development plans, are used to establish relationships between poverty and key development dimensions. The following table summarizes the aspects, selected data indicators, their relevance to poverty analysis, and the primary sources used for data collection and interpretation.

Table 1. Key Aspects and Data Supporting the Identification of Poverty Factors in South Buton Regency

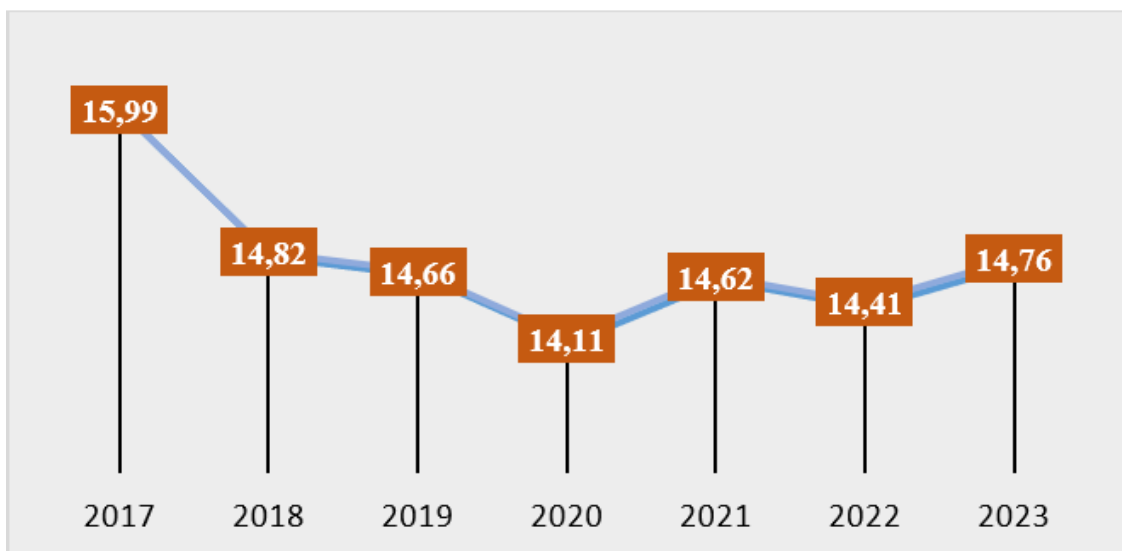
No.	Aspect	Indicators / Data Used	Relevance to Poverty	Data Source
1.	Geographic	– Administrative Map of South Buton Regency- Land Area by Subdistrict- Geographical Location and Conditions	Determines remoteness, accessibility to basic services, and the spatial distribution of poverty (e.g., coastal and remote areas often experience higher deprivation)	Bappeda, BPS, RPKD

No.	Aspect	Indicators / Data Used	Relevance to Poverty	Data Source
2.	Economic	– Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) Growth- Regional Original Revenue (PAD)- Fiscal Independence Index- Inflation Rate	Reflects the economic strength and fiscal capacity of the region to finance poverty reduction programs	BPS, RPJMD, RPKD
3.	Demographic	– - Population Size and Growth Rate- Population Density- Population by Age Group- Population Projections 2025– 2030- Number of Households- Human Development Index (HDI)	Explains demographic pressure, public service demand, and development needs; HDI provides insights into education, health, and income as multidimensional aspects of poverty	BPS, Bappeda, RPKD
4.	Governance	– Number of DPRD (local parliament) Members by Gender and Political Party- Civil Servants by Organizational Unit and Gender	Assesses bureaucratic capacity and gender representation in policymaking and program implementation	BKD, DPRD Secretariat, RPKD
5.	Employment	– Population Aged 15 and Above- Working and Non-Working Population (Productive Age)- Population by Educational Attainment	Demonstrates the relationship between unemployment, underemployment, education level, and poverty. Labor quality is central to income and social mobility	Labor Force Survey (Sakernas), BPS, RPKD
6.	Socio-Cultural	– Population by Ethnic and Religious Group- Main Livelihoods (e.g., fishermen, farmers)	Cultural norms and livelihood patterns affect economic behavior, access to services, and program acceptance. Essential for culturally sensitive poverty interventions	BPS, Local Socio-Cultural Studies
7.	Regional Potential	Fisheries Potential- Agricultural Land and Main Crops- Tourism Potential and Supporting Infrastructure- Other Economic Resources	Indicates the potential for local economic development and poverty reduction through resource-based empowerment and diversification	RPKD, RPJMD, Technical Agencies (Fisheries, Agriculture, Tourism Offices)
8.	Poverty Profile	Poverty Profile by Subdistrict- Poverty Line- Number of Poor Residents- Poverty Depth and Severity	Core data for identifying poverty characteristics and spatial distribution, designing targeted interventions, and	BPS, RPKD, RPD, RPJMD, Unified Poverty Database

No.	Aspect	Indicators / Data Used	Relevance to Poverty	Data Source
		Index- Local Poverty Policies in RPJP, RPJMD, RPD	measuring program effectiveness	(DTKS)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The trend of the poverty rate in South Buton Regency between 2017 and 2023 demonstrates a fluctuating pattern with only modest overall improvement. In 2017, the poverty rate stood at 15.99%, marking the highest point in the observed period. A steady decline occurred until 2020, where it reached its lowest value of 14.11%, potentially influenced by short-term policy interventions or data adjustments prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, rather than continuing downward, the poverty rate increased again to 14.62% in 2021, likely reflecting the socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic, particularly in rural and informal sectors. Although there was a slight decline in 2022 to 14.41%, the rate rebounded once more in 2023 to 14.76%, indicating persistent structural vulnerabilities and the limited effectiveness of poverty alleviation programs at the local level. This pattern underscores the importance of addressing not only income-based poverty but also the multidimensional factors—such as access to education, health services, and infrastructure—that influence long-term poverty trends in the region.



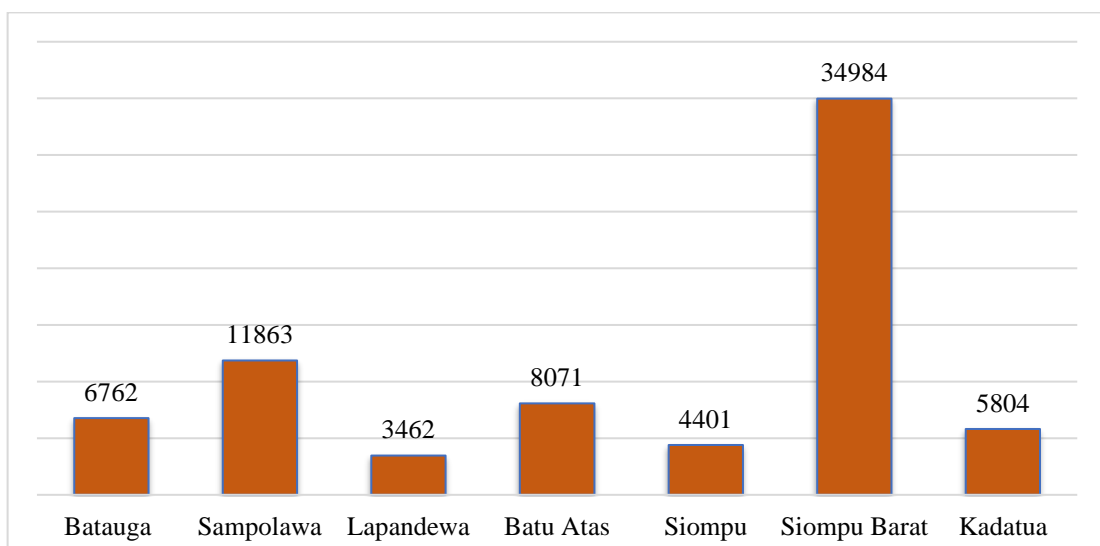
Source: Processed by BPS, South Buton Regency, 2024

Figure 1. Percentage of Poor Population in South Buton Regency, 2017–2023

The distribution of the population within deciles 1 to 4—which represent the lowest income groups—varies significantly across subdistricts in South Buton Regency.

Siompu Barat stands out with an extremely high number of poor residents, totaling 34,984 individuals, which is far above other areas and suggests a high concentration of poverty. Sampolawa also reports a substantial figure at 11,863 people, followed by Batu Atas with 8,071 individuals. In contrast, Lapandewa shows the lowest number, with only 3,462 people in the bottom four income deciles. Other subdistricts such as Batauga (6,762), Siompu (4,401), and Kadatua (5,804) exhibit moderate levels. These disparities highlight the geographical unevenness of poverty within the region, suggesting that certain areas may face deeper structural constraints, such as limited economic opportunities, poor infrastructure, or geographic isolation. Such findings are critical for targeting poverty reduction programs more accurately and designing place-based interventions.

This study finds that poverty in South Buton Regency is a persistent and multidimensional issue shaped by a combination of structural, geographic, socio-economic, and institutional factors. Document analysis of the *Rencana Penanggulangan Kemiskinan Daerah (RPKD) Kabupaten Buton Selatan 2025–2030* reveals that poverty in this region is not only a condition of low income, but also deeply rooted in limited access to infrastructure, inadequate public services, weak human capital, and fragmented governance. These findings support the argument that poverty, particularly in rural and peripheral areas, is a complex phenomenon requiring systemic and context-specific interventions.



Source: Processed by BPS, South Buton Regency, 2024

Figure 2. Number of Population in Deciles 1–4 in South Buton Regency

1. The Multidimensional Profile of Poverty

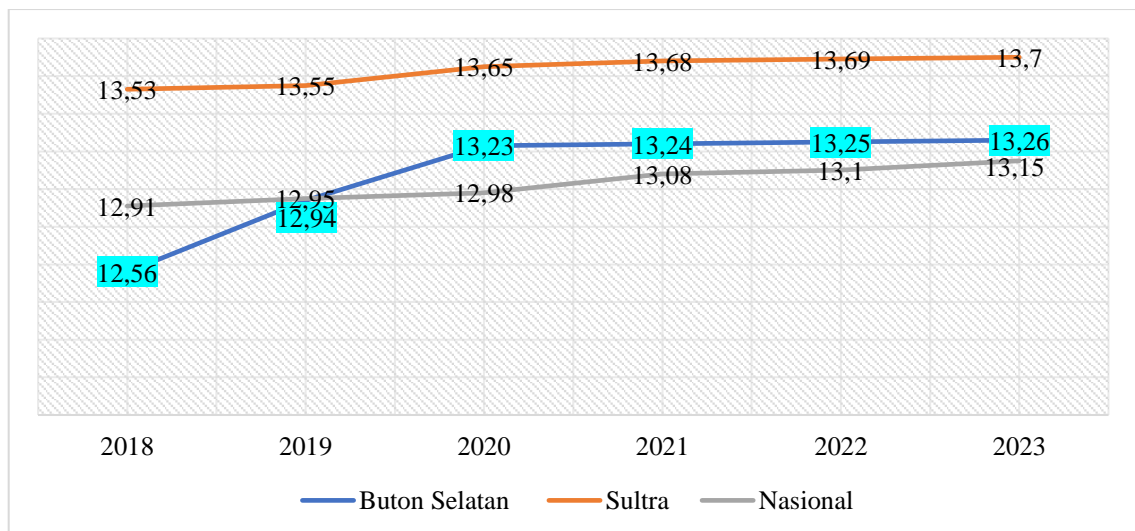
The poverty experienced by communities in South Buton cannot be captured by income metrics alone. It encompasses deprivations in education, health, nutrition, clean water access, electricity, and economic empowerment. As emphasized in the RPKD, many of the poorest districts—including Kadatua, Siompu Barat, and Batuatas—display high levels of marginalization characterized by low literacy rates, poor school attendance, limited access to qualified health personnel, and an economy dominated by subsistence-level activities.

This reflects Sen's (1999) assertion that poverty should be viewed as the deprivation of basic capabilities that enable individuals to lead lives they value. The Alkire and Foster (2011) multidimensional poverty framework reinforces this view by including education, health, and standard of living as key dimensions. In South Buton, the overlap of deprivations in these areas is evident and enduring.

The RPKD also highlights that poverty tends to be intergenerational, with children in poor households having significantly lower chances of completing secondary education or accessing healthcare in time. Moreover, economic vulnerability is exacerbated by a lack of social protection coverage in informal employment sectors—where the majority of South Buton's population is employed.

Figure 3 illustrates the trend of the Expected Years of Schooling (EYS) in South Buton Regency from 2018 to 2023, compared with the provincial (Southeast Sulawesi) and national averages. In 2018, South Buton's EYS was 12.56 years, significantly below the provincial average (13.53) and the national average (12.91). Over the next five years, South Buton showed consistent improvement, reaching 13.26 years in 2023. Despite this positive trend, the region still lags behind Southeast Sulawesi (13.70) and only slightly exceeds the national average (13.15) by 2023.

The data highlights both progress and persistent gaps. While efforts to improve educational access and retention appear to be yielding results, the slower rate of increase compared to the provincial benchmark suggests ongoing challenges in educational infrastructure, teacher quality, or socio-economic barriers. Targeted interventions are still needed to bridge the gap and ensure more equitable educational opportunities in South Buton.



Source: Processed by BPS, South Buton Regency, 2024

Figure 3. Expected Years of Schooling in South Buton Regency, 2018–2023

2. Geographic Isolation and Infrastructure Deficits

South Buton's spatial characteristics intensify its poverty challenges. As an archipelagic regency with a rugged topography and several isolated islands, it suffers from extremely limited physical connectivity, both internally and to mainland markets and services. Roads in many rural areas are unpaved or impassable during the rainy season; transport to outer islands remains unreliable and costly; and access to electricity and digital connectivity remains minimal or absent in multiple subdistricts.

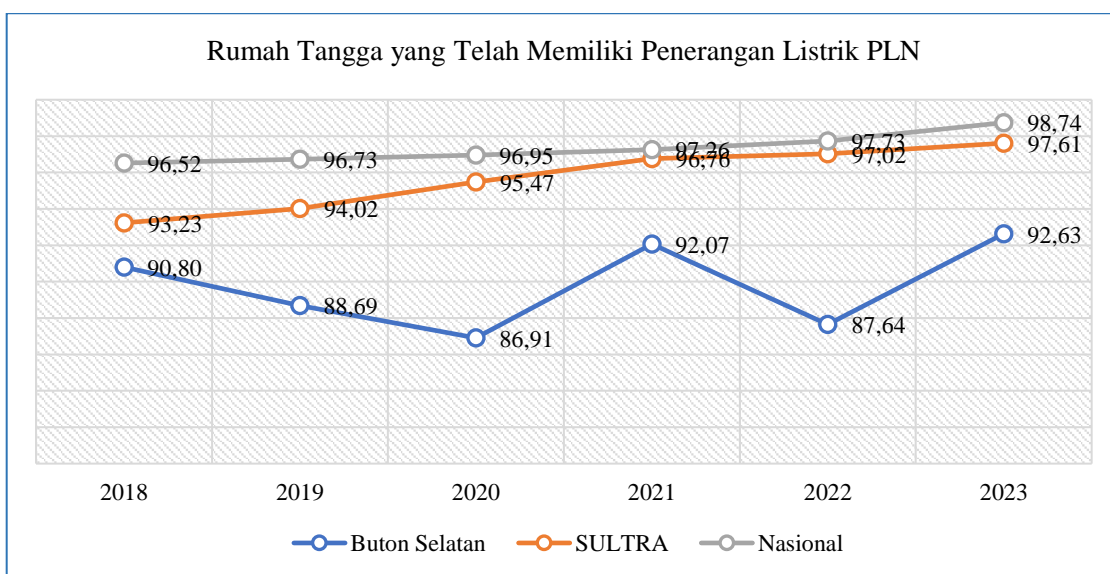
Such geographic disadvantage severely restricts people's access to schools, health facilities, and economic opportunities, and places a higher burden on women, children, and the elderly. This aligns with the World Bank's (2021) assertion that geographic exclusion remains a key obstacle to equitable development in Indonesia's outer regions.

The infrastructure gap also contributes to educational poverty, as students in remote areas must walk long distances or use unsafe water routes to reach schools. In some areas, such as Siompu Timur and Lapandewa, the RPKD notes that students frequently drop out due to the inaccessibility of school facilities, teacher absenteeism, or household income shocks.

The graph illustrates the percentage of households with access to electricity provided by PLN (Indonesia's state-owned electricity company) in South Buton Regency, Southeast Sulawesi Province (SULTRA), and at the national level between 2018 and 2023. While national access levels remained high and stable—rising slightly from 96.52% in 2018 to 98.74% in 2023—and Southeast Sulawesi showed steady

progress from 93.23% to 97.61%, South Buton exhibited a more fluctuating pattern and consistently lagged behind.

In South Buton, electricity access dropped from 90.80% in 2018 to a low of 86.91% in 2020, then rebounded to 92.07% in 2021, fell again in 2022 to 87.64%, and increased to 92.63% in 2023. This irregular trend suggests persistent challenges in electrification, especially in remote or island communities. Limited and unreliable access to electricity contributes to the broader infrastructure gap, hindering educational attainment, healthcare delivery, and economic activities, particularly in underdeveloped subdistricts. Addressing these disparities is crucial for achieving inclusive development in South Buton.



Source: Processed by BPS, South Buton Regency, 2024

Figure 4. Relevance Analysis of Households with Access to PLN Electricity in South Buton Regency, Southeast Sulawesi Province, and Nationally, 2018–2023

3. Economic Vulnerability and Sectoral Dependence

Another key determinant of poverty in South Buton is the limited diversification and low productivity of the local economy. The region relies heavily on small-scale agriculture, traditional fisheries, and informal trading—sectors that are highly vulnerable to climate variability, price shocks, and lack of market access. Many households operate in a subsistence economy with minimal value addition or technological input, resulting in stagnant income levels.

Furthermore, South Buton’s limited industrial base and underdeveloped tourism potential have prevented significant employment generation, particularly for young

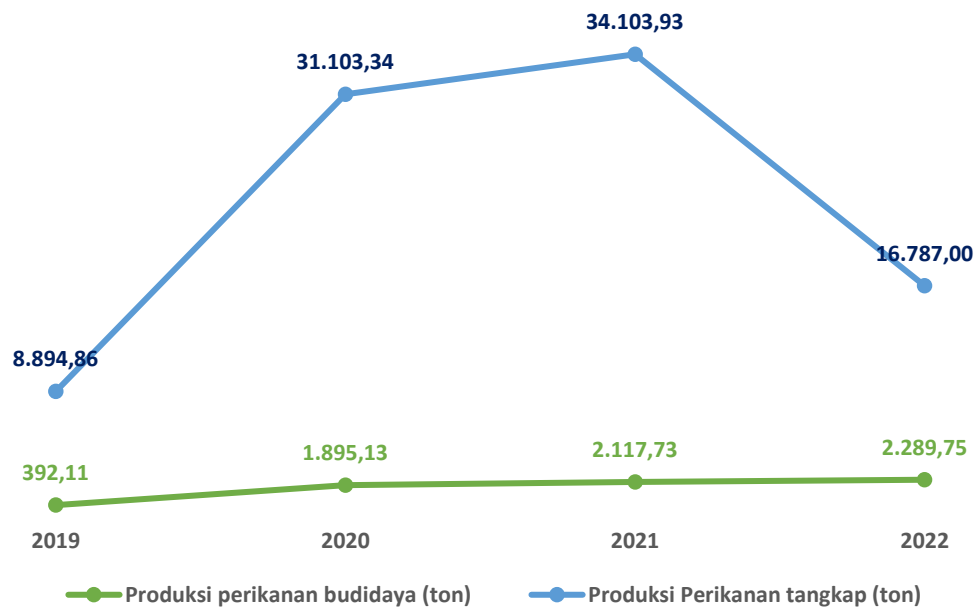
people and women. The mismatch between labor supply and demand is evident, and vocational training programs have not yet been effectively institutionalized or linked to actual labor market needs.

The lack of cooperatives, access to formal credit, and digital financial inclusion also restricts small-scale entrepreneurship. Micro and small enterprises in the region tend to operate without business licenses or registration, making them ineligible for government assistance during economic shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

The chart illustrates the time-series development of marine and fisheries production in South Buton Regency from 2019 to 2022. It highlights a sharp fluctuation in capture fisheries production, which increased significantly from 8,894.86 tons in 2019 to a peak of 34,103.93 tons in 2021, before dropping by more than 50% to 16,787.00 tons in 2022. Meanwhile, aquaculture production showed a more stable yet modest upward trend—from 392.11 tons in 2019 to 2,289.75 tons in 2022.

This volatility in capture fisheries production, coupled with the relatively stagnant growth in aquaculture, reflects the limited diversification and low productivity of South Buton's local economy as discussed earlier. The economy's heavy reliance on traditional, small-scale fishing practices makes it highly vulnerable to seasonal shifts, climate variability, and market access issues. Moreover, the aquaculture sector, which holds potential for stable year-round production and higher value addition, remains underdeveloped, indicating missed opportunities for economic expansion and job creation.

These patterns reinforce the argument that South Buton's subsistence-based economic structure lacks the resilience and innovation needed to drive sustainable income growth. The absence of technology adoption, limited investment in infrastructure, and lack of institutional support for capacity building and market integration further contribute to the stagnant or declining productivity observed in key sectors like fisheries. Thus, the data underscores the urgent need for economic diversification and modernization to address chronic poverty and underemployment in the region.



Source: Processed by BPS, South Buton Regency, 2024

Figure 5. Time-Series Analysis of Marine and Fisheries Production in South Buton Regency, 2019–2022

4. Institutional Fragmentation and Policy Ineffectiveness

One of the most critical findings from the RPKD is the weakness of institutional coordination and the fragmentation of anti-poverty programs. Although multiple initiatives exist at the national and regional levels—such as PKH, BPNT, and Dana Desa—their implementation is often disconnected, overlapping, and inadequately targeted.

For instance, several village development plans (RKPDes) prioritize physical infrastructure but neglect essential services such as maternal health, child nutrition, or economic empowerment. Meanwhile, poverty reduction at the regency level remains hindered by the absence of integrated data systems, lack of real-time monitoring, and weak cross-sectoral collaboration among local government units (OPD).

The RPKD further notes that many social protection programs are dependent on outdated data (DTKS), leading to errors of inclusion and exclusion. This finding aligns with existing literature on decentralization and poverty governance in Indonesia (Bebbington, 2010; Smoke, 2015), which emphasizes that local governments often lack the institutional capacity, fiscal flexibility, and technical expertise to design and execute effective poverty strategies.

5. Environmental and Climate-Induced Poverty

The coastal and small-island characteristics of South Buton introduce additional dimensions to poverty. Many fishing households face seasonal income fluctuations, exposure to storms and tidal surges, and declining fish stocks due to overfishing and climate change. These vulnerabilities are often not accounted for in standard poverty metrics but are significant in determining household resilience.

The region's vulnerability to climate shocks, including prolonged dry seasons and coastal erosion, affects both food security and water availability. In response, the RPKD suggests integrating climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction into poverty programs, including through improved early warning systems, mangrove rehabilitation, and diversification of coastal livelihoods. This approach aligns with contemporary global frameworks that view climate vulnerability as both a cause and consequence of poverty, especially in low-capacity, rural coastal zones.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that poverty in South Buton Regency is a structural, multidimensional, and spatially embedded phenomenon. It is driven by a combination of low human capital, weak economic diversification, poor infrastructure, geographic isolation, and institutional fragmentation. The persistence of poverty in this region reflects a deep-rooted development gap that is not adequately captured by income-based indicators alone.

Using the capability approach and multidimensional poverty framework, the study identifies critical deprivations in education, health access, living standards, and economic opportunities. It also highlights that the regency's archipelagic geography and environmental vulnerabilities compound the complexity of poverty, particularly in coastal and remote areas.

Institutional challenges—such as the lack of integrated planning, insufficient data systems, and weak inter-agency coordination—further hinder the effectiveness of anti-poverty policies. These findings reinforce the need for context-sensitive, cross-sectoral, and spatially targeted strategies to reduce poverty sustainably

To move forward, local governments must adopt a territorial and multidimensional perspective on poverty, supported by accurate data, community participation, and integrated governance. The development of “poverty fingerprinting”

models (deteksi sidik jari wilayah) offers a promising approach for understanding and addressing localized poverty patterns in a more responsive and impactful way.

Ultimately, reducing poverty in South Buton requires more than expanding social assistance—it demands structural transformation, inclusive economic empowerment, and institutional strengthening, all of which are essential for achieving SDG Goal 1 at the regional level.

REFERENCES

- Alkire, S., & Foster, J. (2011). COUNTING AND MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY MEASUREMENT. *Journal of Public Economics*, 95(7–8), 476–487. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpubeco.2010.11.006>
- Badan Perencanaan dan Pembangunan Daerah Kabupaten Buton Selatan. (2016). RENCANA PENANGGULANGAN KEMISKINAN DAERAH (RPKD) KABUPATEN BUTON SELATAN 2016–2022. Pemerintah Kabupaten Buton Selatan.
- Badan Penelitian dan Pengembangan Daerah Kabupaten Buton Selatan. (2024). RENCANA PENANGGULANGAN KEMISKINAN DAERAH (RPKD) KABUPATEN BUTON SELATAN 2025–2030. Pemerintah Kabupaten Buton Selatan.
- Badan Pusat Statistik Kabupaten Buton Selatan. (2024). KABUPATEN BUTON SELATAN DALAM ANGKA 2024. BPS. <https://butonselatankab.bps.go.id/>
- Ball, A., & Bebbington, J. (2010). EDITORIAL: ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN PUBLIC SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS. *Public Money & Management*, 28(6), 323–326. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1467-9302.2008.00662.x>
- Sen, A. (1999). *DEVELOPMENT AS FREEDOM*. Oxford University Press.
- Smoke, P. (2015). Accountability and service delivery in decentralising environments: Understanding context and strategically advancing reform. In A. Whaites, E. Gonzalez, S. Fyson, & G. Teskey (Eds.), *A GOVERNANCE PRACTITIONER'S NOTEBOOK: ALTERNATIVE IDEAS AND APPROACHES* (pp. 219–232). Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. <https://www.oecd.org/dac/accountable-effectiveinstitutions/Governance%20Notebook%202.6%20Smoke.pdf>