



## INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND PEACEBUILDING IN PAPUA: EXAMINING THE ROLE OF SDGS 9 AND 16

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### ABSTRAK

*Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis peran pembangunan infrastruktur dalam mendukung proses peacebuilding di Papua dengan mengacu pada Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 9 dan SDG 16. Pembangunan infrastruktur memiliki signifikansi strategis untuk menciptakan perdamaian yang berkelanjutan karena permasalahan Papua tidak hanya terkait dengan keamanan, tetapi juga dipengaruhi oleh ketimpangan pembangunan, kemiskinan struktural, keterbatasan akses layanan dasar, dan marginalisasi masyarakat adat. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif dengan pendekatan studi literatur dan analisis data sekunder. Kerangka teoritis peacebuilding Johan Galtung digunakan untuk memahami hubungan antara pembangunan infrastruktur dan konsep perdamaian positif. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa pembangunan infrastruktur berkontribusi terhadap peningkatan konektivitas wilayah dan aktivitas ekonomi masyarakat. Namun, dampaknya belum berbanding lurus dengan peningkatan kesejahteraan dan kohesi sosial masyarakat Papua. Oleh karena itu, integrasi SDG 9 dan 16 penting agar pembangunan infrastruktur tidak hanya berorientasi pada pertumbuhan ekonomi, tetapi juga memperkuat keadilan sosial, tata kelola yang inklusif, serta kepercayaan terhadap institusi negara sebagai fondasi peacebuilding yang berkelanjutan.*

*Kata kunci: Papua, Peacebuilding, SDG 9, SDG 16, Pembangunan Infrastruktur*

### ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the role of infrastructure development in supporting the peacebuilding process in Papua, with reference to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 9 and SDG 16. Infrastructure development is strategically important for fostering sustainable peace, as the issues in Papua are not only related to security but are also influenced by development disparities, structural poverty, limited access to basic services, and the marginalization of indigenous communities. This study employs a descriptive qualitative method, utilizing a literature review and secondary data analysis. Johan Galtung's theoretical framework of peacebuilding is used to understand the relationship between infrastructure development and the concept of positive peace. Research findings indicate that infrastructure development have contributed to improved regional connectivity and economic activity among local communities. However, the impact has not yet translated into corresponding improvements in the well-being and social cohesion of Papuan communities. Therefore, the integration of SDGs 9 and 16 is essential to ensure that infrastructure development is not solely focused on economic growth, but also strengthens social justice, inclusive governance, and trust in state institutions as the foundation for sustainable peacebuilding.

Keywords: Papua, Peacebuilding, SDG 9, SDG 16, Infrastructure Development

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## BACKGROUND

The socio-political dynamics in the Papua region are very complex, influenced by a controversial history of integration dating back to 1962 and 1969, which often causes tension between pro-liberation groups and movements such as the Free Papua Movement (*Organisasi Papua Merdeka/OPM*). This conflict is exacerbated by economic inequality, the marginalization of local indigenous communities, and limited access to basic services that are essential to the community. This could certainly trigger sentiments of disintegration and challenges to national stability (Rais et al., 2023). The reason is that the Indonesian government has also frequently implemented various policies, including the establishment of special autonomy and economic development programs, but once again, this approach has not been maximized, so it remains sectoral and has not fully resolved the root problems in Papua. Incentive-based economic development in Papua has emphasized the extraction of natural resources, which often poses environmental and social challenges that will be faced in the future, including the customary rights of indigenous peoples who are minorities and vulnerable.

Government responses have included special autonomy, infrastructure expansion, and the creation of new autonomous regions. Although these policies have altered the institutional and economic landscape, their benefits have often been distributed unevenly. Administrative expansion has opened new arenas of local political competition and access to public office, yet it has not automatically reduced inequality or strengthened public trust (Bakar et al., 2024). And then for the geographical diversity of Papua further complicates these challenges, as each region exhibits distinct characteristics that shape the dynamics of conflict and development. In the central highlands, particularly in areas such as the Baliem Valley, Puncak Jaya, and Lanny Jaya, geographical isolation remains a structural barrier to development. Communities in this region face severe limitations in accessing basic services such as education, healthcare, and clean water.

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Infrastructure projects like the Trans-Papua Highway are strategically vital for breaking this isolation. However, their implementation is often hampered by security disturbances from armed groups operating in these mountainous terrains. Consequently, the state's presence is perceived as minimal, fueling resentment and strengthening support for separatist movements. In contrast, the coastal and urban areas, including Jayapura, Merauke, and Sorong, have experienced relatively faster infrastructure development and economic growth. Yet, these areas exhibit a different form of inequality, characterized by intense competition between indigenous Papuans (*orang asli Papua/OAP*) and migrant communities over employment opportunities, business access, and strategic positions in bureaucracy.

The recent expansion of new autonomous regions has further intensified this dynamic, often triggering horizontal conflicts among local elites vying for political power and budget control. Meanwhile, in natural resource enclaves such as the Freeport mining area in Mimika and large-scale oil palm plantations in Merauke, conflicts frequently arise from disputes over customary land rights and the unequal distribution of resource benefits. For indigenous communities in these areas, development is often synonymous with dispossession and environmental degradation, reinforcing perceptions of marginalization and strengthening resistance against both corporations and state authorities. This regional variation underscores that a one-size-fits-all approach to development in Papua is inadequate. Instead, policies must be tailored to address the specific geographical, social, and political contexts of each region.

This will indirectly lead to separatist sentiment and dissatisfaction among the Papuan people. Therefore, a security-based approach alone cannot cover the whole issue, as it is limited to a sectoral level and does not sufficiently address the root causes of the problems in Papua. Therefore, there needs to be a shift towards inclusive economic development by empowering indigenous Papuan communities, recognizing

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their land and resources, and developing and strengthening the economy based on local wisdom and the active participation of the Papuan people (Sokoy, 2022). A holistic approach that integrates political, economic, human rights, and legal security aspects is believed to help create sustainable peace and stability in Papua. Thus, inclusive economic development that actively involves local communities and respects their rights is key to resolving conflicts in Papua sustainably and comprehensively.

In developing peacebuilding in Papua, we see that the economy is closely related to the framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 9 and SDG 16. SDG 9 emphasizes the role of infrastructure, such as the construction of the Trans-Papua Highway. This development not only promotes economic growth but also increases social engagement in local communities.

This is because good infrastructure can be a driving force for the economy, opening up important access to markets, education, and health services. In addition, SDG 16 also highlights that prosperity in an inclusive economy can contribute to the establishment of peace, justice, and strong institutions, aided by strengthening governance, transparency, and community participation in development (Fabre & Straub, 2023). Therefore, this research paper aims to analyze how infrastructure development can serve as a strategic instrument to encourage the creation of sustainable conflict resolution.

In this context, the SDGs provide a comprehensive framework for addressing economic inequality, institutional governance, and social stability. Specifically, SDG 9 focuses on developing resilient infrastructure and inclusive economic growth, while SDG 16 emphasizes peace, justice, and strong institutions. Both of these goals are highly relevant to the socio-economic and political conditions in Papua, where development disparities and governance challenges remain significant.

Therefore, this study aims to answer the following research question: “How do the implementation of SDG 9 and SDG 16 contribute to peacebuilding efforts in

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Papua?" By analyzing infrastructure development and institutional strengthening through the perspective of Johan Galtung's peacebuilding theory, this study aims to understand how economic and governance policies can support the establishment of sustainable peace in Papua. Although several studies have examined economic inequality and infrastructure development in Papua, research specifically analyzing how the integration of SDG 9 and SDG 16 can serve as a mechanism for peacebuilding in conflict-prone regions such as Papua remains limited.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

In analyzing peacebuilding based on the economy with a focus on infrastructure as the main instrument in sustainable conflict resolution, this study revolves around several theoretical and conceptual frameworks that are considered complementary. One of the main concepts used in this research is the concept of peacebuilding proposed by Johan Galtung, which distinguishes between negative peace and positive peace. Negative peace is seen here as the absence of violence or direct warfare. Positive peace, on the other hand, is seen as the creation of social justice, equal access to resources, and the elimination of structures of inequality that prolong conflict (Hansen, 2016). Peacebuilding, as defined by Galtung, is no longer positioned as a purely economic project but as part of a process of social transformation that aims to address the structural roots of conflict

This study is also enriched with theories related to infrastructure and economic development. In a journal article entitled "*Analysis of the Impact of the Development of the Wamena-Mulia-Sinak National Road*," written by Jontor Nababan et al., it is stated that increased accessibility in Papua, especially through the construction of road infrastructure such as that in Wamena, Mulia, and Sinak, has had a significant impact on opening up isolated areas by facilitating the distribution of goods and services, thereby making basic necessities more affordable and cheaper and reducing travel

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time (Nababan et al., 2022). These findings suggest that infrastructure development can improve accessibility. However, its contribution to long-term peacebuilding remains debatable if institutional governance and social inclusion are not strengthened simultaneously.

The poverty rate in Papua is closely related to the conflicts in the region, where economic inequality and feelings of social injustice trigger tension and violence. Although Papua is rich in natural resources, social poverty remains high due to the exploitation of natural resources by foreign companies and the marginalization of indigenous peoples, which can lead to feelings of deprivation. This has given rise to separatist sentiment and armed conflict in the region (Sihaloho et al., 2023). Funds from special autonomy in Papua have had an impact on poverty alleviation, but this is still not considered effective in overcoming the security threats arising from social and economic inequality. Furthermore, inequality in development and access to basic services such as education and health care are factors contributing to the instability of inequality in Papua.

The SDGs are a global development framework adopted by the United Nations in 2015 to address multidimensional challenges such as poverty, inequality, environmental degradation, and governance issues. SDGs consist of 17 interrelated goals, organized around four main pillars: social development, economic development, environmental sustainability, and governance and law. Within this framework, SDG 9 focuses on building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation. Infrastructure development plays a crucial role in improving connectivity, facilitating economic activity, and reducing regional disparities, especially in geographically remote areas such as Papua.

Meanwhile, SDG 16 emphasizes the importance of peace, justice, and strong institutions. This goal highlights the need for transparent governance, inclusive

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decision-making processes, and accountable institutions capable of maintaining social stability and justice. In regions experiencing prolonged social tensions or conflict dynamics, strengthening institutional capacity and public trust are essential components of sustainable peacebuilding.

## **METHODOLOGY**

This study uses a qualitative research method with a descriptive analytical approach. It is based on literature studies and secondary data analysis obtained from government reports, international institution publications, academic journals, and statistical data from BPS-Statistics Indonesia. The analysis focuses on the period between 2018 and 2023, which corresponds to the implementation phase of the SDGs at the global and national levels. During this period, the Indonesian government strengthened infrastructure development and governance reform programs in Papua as part of a broader development strategy to reduce regional disparities and promote stability. The collected data were analyzed using Galtung's theoretical framework of peacebuilding, which distinguishes between negative peace (the absence of direct violence) and positive peace (the presence of social justice, equality, and inclusive development).

## **DISCUSSION**

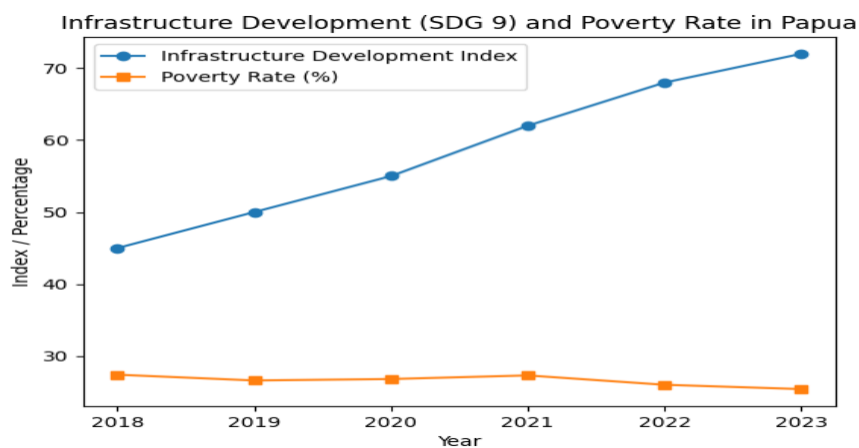
### **Existing Conditions of Development in Papua**

In recent years, Papua has shown significant changes in terms of economic development and infrastructure, particularly through national strategic projects. The Trans-Papua Highway is one of the main achievements aimed at opening up isolated inland areas and maintaining connectivity between districts. This infrastructure is expected to reduce logistics costs, which have been the main cause of high prices for basic commodities in Papua. In addition to roads, the government is also developing

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ports, especially in coastal and remote areas, to facilitate the distribution of goods, population mobility, and support local economic activities (Munawaroh & Haryanto, 2021).

**Figure 1.**  
**Flow of Economic Development and Peacebuilding in Papua Based on SDGs 9 and SDG 16 (2018-2023)**



Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia Papua Province and Ministry of Public Works and Housing

Figure 1 illustrates the relationship between infrastructure development in Papua, SDG 9, and the decline in poverty rates between 2018 and 2023. The infrastructure development index shown is a project indicator that reflects improvements in community connectivity, the construction of the Trans-Papua Highway, and the development of airports and the pioneer airport.

Along with increased infrastructure investment, poverty rates in Papua have declined, but this decline has not been linear. This shows that physical development has had a positive impact on improving economic access and product distribution. However, fluctuations in poverty rates in recent years also show that infrastructure development is still not sufficient to significantly improve social cohesion (Wany et al., 2022). As a result, the current state of development in Papua still highlights an

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imbalance between physical capacity and socio-economic impact, which has the potential to affect social stability and conflict dynamics.

However, these physical development achievements are not fully proportional to the improvement in the welfare of the Papuan people. This can be seen from Papua's Human Development Index (HDI), which is still below the national average, as well as poverty rates that are relatively high compared to other provinces in Indonesia. This situation reflects the development paradox in Papua, where a region rich in natural resources such as mines, forests, and marine products still faces limited access to education, health care, and economic opportunities for the local community, especially the OAP. This inequality reinforces the perception of marginalization and has the potential to trigger ongoing social discontent (Said et al., 2025).

In addition to structural economic issues, development in Papua also faces complex geographical and socio-political obstacles. The harsh natural terrain, such as steep mountains and hard-to-reach areas, makes infrastructure development very costly and time-consuming. On the other hand, security factors and armed conflict dynamics in several regions also hamper the smooth running of development projects. Security disturbances not only increase the risk to project workers, but also slow down the distribution of development outcomes to the community. These conditions show that development in Papua cannot be separated from the context of security and peace, thus requiring a more comprehensive and sensitive approach to local conditions (Chasib, 2024).

From the perspective of Galtung's peacebuilding theory, conflict often stems from structural inequalities such as economic marginalization, unequal access to resources, and social injustice. These conditions create what Galtung refers to as structural violence, which does not always manifest as direct physical violence but can lead to long-term grievances and instability. In the context of Papua, economic inequality, limited access to infrastructure, and governance challenges can be

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interpreted as forms of structural inequality that contribute to the dynamics of conflict. Therefore, development policies that focus on improving infrastructure and strengthening institutions have the potential to reduce structural violence and promote positive peace, which is characterized by social justice, inclusive development, and institutional trust.

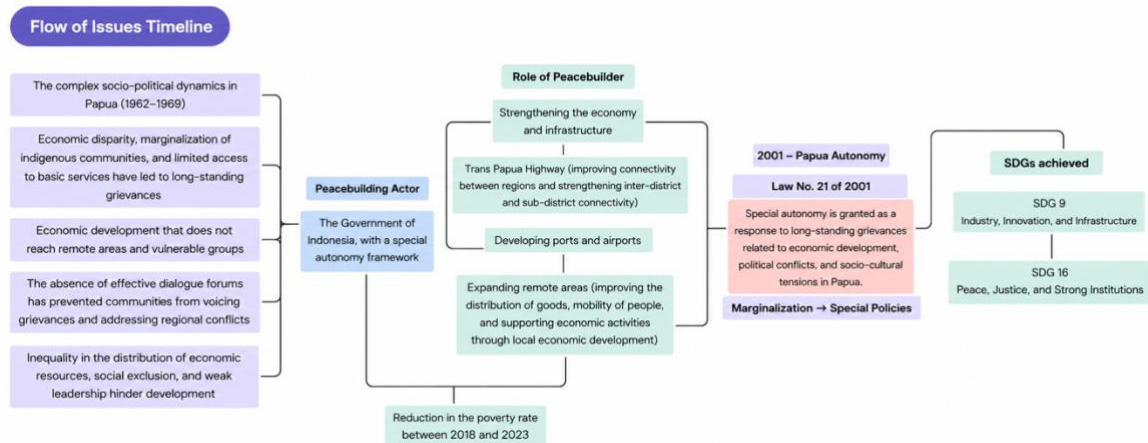
However, development policies in Papua are often evaluated differently by the OAP. For many indigenous groups, development is not only measured by economic indicators, but also by the extent to which it respects customary land rights, cultural identity, and community participation. Several studies highlight that large-scale infrastructure projects and investments risk neglecting local communities if implemented without meaningful consultation and participation. Therefore, incorporating the perspectives of indigenous peoples into development planning is essential to ensure that economic development does not exacerbate inequality, but rather supports the SDGs principle of “No One Left Behind.” This perspective highlights the importance of aligning infrastructure development with inclusive governance principles reflected in SDG 9 and SDG 16.

### **Analysis of SDG 9 and SDG 16 Integration in Papua**

The integration of SDG 9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure) and SDG 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions) is a key to making economic development an instrument of peacebuilding in Papua. Within the framework of SDG 9, infrastructure development in Papua plays a strategic role in improving regional connectivity and breaking the chain of high logistics costs. Access to roads, ports, and airports enables more efficient distribution of goods, thereby reducing the prices of basic necessities and boosting the economic activities of local communities. Infrastructure also opens up opportunities for the development of non-extractive sectors, such as agriculture, fisheries, and local micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) (Musaád, 2025).

The analytical flow of economic development and peacebuilding in Papua based on SDG 9 and SDG 16 is illustrated in Figure 2 below.

**Figure 2.**  
**Flow of Economic Development and Peacebuilding in Papua Based on SDG 9 and SDG 16**



Source: Compiled by authors

Figure 2 illustrates how historical marginalization and development disparities in Papua led to special autonomy policies and infrastructure-focused economic development. The figure also shows how these policies are expected to support peacebuilding outcomes by integrating SDG 9 and SDG 16, emphasizing economic inclusion and institutional trust. However, physical infrastructure development must be combined with digital access to support indigenous Papuan MSMEs. Internet connectivity and transportation enable local business owners to reach wider markets, obtain information, and increase product prices. Therefore, SDG 9 focuses not only on physical development but also on a more innovative and inclusive economy (Haq et al., 2025).

Meanwhile, SDG 16 emphasizes the importance of peacebuilding through social justice, good governance, and strengthening public trust. In the context of Papua, infrastructure development can serve as a means of trust-building between the state and local communities if it is carried out in a transparent, participatory, and

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accountable manner. When communities feel the tangible benefits of development, such as improved access to healthcare, education, and public services, their trust in the government and state institutions will increase (Amil, 2025).

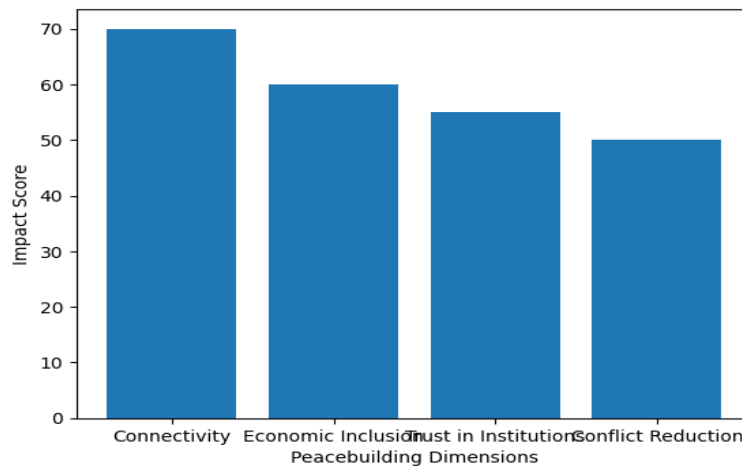
The synergy between SDG 9 and SDG 16 is evident when infrastructure development is not only interpreted as an economic project, but also as a socio-political instrument to reduce social jealousy and regional disparities (Theotama & Syahputra, 2024). Equitable economic development has the potential to strengthen a sense of justice and nationality, while reducing the potential for conflict arising from structural dissatisfaction. Thus, the integration of these two SDGs shows that inclusive and equitable infrastructure development can be the foundation for creating positive peace in Papua, as emphasized in the concept of peacebuilding.

The implementation of SDGs in Papua involves various stakeholders who contribute to the development and peace process. These stakeholders include the central government, local governments, the OAP, private sector actors, civil society organizations, and academic institutions. The central government plays a major role in policy making and infrastructure investment, while local governments are responsible for implementing development programs at the local level.

The OAPs are key stakeholders whose social, cultural, and economic rights must be taken into account in development planning. Meanwhile, private sector actors contribute through investment and economic activities, while civil society organizations play an important role in monitoring development programs and advocating for community interests. Cooperation among these stakeholders is essential to ensure that development policies support inclusive growth and sustainable peace in Papua.

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**Figure 3.**  
**Integration of SDG 9 and SDG 16 Dimensions in Peacebuilding Efforts in Papua**



Source: UN SDGs and Asia Development Alliance (compiled by authors)

Figure 3 illustrates that the lower scores on the institutional trust dimension indicate that infrastructure expansion alone does not automatically produce peace outcomes without inclusive governance mechanisms. Connectivity development received the highest score, indicating that infrastructure plays a crucial role in preventing the isolation of remote areas and improving the economic mobility of communities. The economic inclusion dimension also shows a significant contribution, particularly in the formation of new businesses and the development of non-extractive local economies.

However, the scores for the dimensions of trust in institutions and conflict reduction are relatively lower. This shows that the impact of infrastructure development on peace is not automatic. Without transparent, participatory, and community-sensitive governance, development can reinforce mistrust and social jealousy. Therefore, the integration of SDG 9 and SDG 16 requires an approach that is not only oriented towards economic output, but also towards strengthening institutions, advancing social justice, and building trust as key elements of peacebuilding in Papua.

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## **Economic-Based Peacebuilding Strategies**

Economic-based peacebuilding strategies in Papua are highly dependent on inclusive development that integrates the OAP into the infrastructure supply chain. Thus, infrastructure development becomes a key to economic peacebuilding. Through this approach, the OAPs are encouraged to transform from mere beneficiaries to active actors, such as service providers, entrepreneurs, skilled workers, and experts. This substantial involvement is crucial to increasing the legitimacy of projects, eliminating feelings of marginalization, and strengthening social cohesion for indigenous peoples who have been underrepresented in development planning (Hasan & Nugroho, 2022).

Development in Papua risks widening the gap if local communities are not directly involved in decision-making and implementation. The mismatch between infrastructure projects and the real needs of local communities can exacerbate social inequality in Papua. Therefore, the integration of the OAP into the supply chain through the provision of capital, technical training, and business opportunities is an absolute prerequisite. This inclusive measure is seen as capable of creating a more equitable development ecosystem while addressing the root causes of structural conflicts in the region (Titalessy & Situmeang, 2023).

Economic-based peacebuilding strategies in Papua require a cultural approach that prioritizes respect for customary rights. Placing customary rights as the main principle of development is the key to peace in Papua. For the OAP, customary land is not merely an asset of ownership, but a pillar of social, cultural, and spiritual identity. Ignoring this dimension in infrastructure projects and high-risk investments risks triggering agrarian disputes and strengthening community resistance to state authorities and developers (Hang & Ren, 2025). To build Papua peacefully, development must be in harmony with local wisdom, especially regarding customary land. For indigenous peoples, customary rights are the foundation of life that binds their cultural and spiritual aspects. If development only views land as a commodity

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and ignores these customary values, it will give rise to feelings of marginalization and resistance that will actually hinder progress itself. The existence and protection of customary rights must be made a key prerequisite in every stage of development. This is realized through customary deliberation mechanisms and the principle of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC). By integrating local wisdom into formal policies.

The potential for social tension can be minimized, given that development is in harmony with the norms and traditional governance that have long governed the relationship between society and nature (Mollet & Silo, 2024). This approach, which respects local wisdom, is an effective social risk mitigation strategy. When development respects customary governance, the relationship between the state, society, and natural resources will become more harmonious and less contentious. Development based on the recognition of customary rights gives dignity to the indigenous peoples of Papua, both economically and culturally. This approach effectively acts as a conflict buffer, and this policy serves as a crucial peacebuilding mechanism to mitigate structural conflicts and ensure the creation of sustainable social stability in the Papua region.

Economic diversification through the development of non-mining sectors such as agriculture, tourism, and the creative economy is a strategic pillar of economy-based peacebuilding in Papua. Building a peaceful Papua means building an economy that reaches the grassroots, rather than relying solely on mining, the benefits of which are often unevenly distributed. Given that dependence on the extractive sector often triggers inequality and vulnerability to global market shocks, infrastructure such as transportation and communication networks must be reoriented. The main focus is to strengthen a more inclusive local economic base by utilizing Papua's natural and cultural wealth as capital for sustainable development (Cabui, 2025). By expanding the economic base beyond the extractive sector, we not only maintain economic stability but also build social justice for all Papuans.

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Empowering cultural and natural potential through the creative economy can open up new job opportunities for rural communities while reducing dependence on the mining sector. This approach is in line with the paradigm of inclusive development that prioritizes economic diversification based on local potential to reduce inequality (Titalessy et al., 2024). By creating new jobs outside the mining sector, this strategy is effective in mitigating the risk of structural conflict that is often triggered by economic marginalization.

### **Challenges and Solutions for Development in Papua**

The implementation of development in Papua faces steep challenges due to a combination of security issues, corrupt budget management, and low competitiveness of local human resources. Security disturbances to infrastructure projects not only create uncertainty in the investment climate, but also trigger social consequences that exacerbate existing structural conflicts (Sarjito, 2024). Poor management of special autonomy funds and corrupt practices have undermined the positive impact of development in Papua. Various findings regarding fund leakage by anti-corruption authorities not only hamper the effectiveness of development programs, but also systematically erode public trust in the legitimacy and benefits of projects carried out by the government.

The disparity in the quality of human resources in Papua, characterized by a low HDI and unequal access to education, is a structural obstacle to development. The striking difference in the quality of human resources between urban and rural areas, as well as the low HDI, creates obstacles for local residents to participate optimally. Therefore, physical development must be accompanied by equitable education and professional capacity building so that the community does not merely become spectators in the economic growth of their own region (Putri et al., 2024). The interconnection between these three challenges confirms that economic-based

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peacebuilding in Papua requires an approach that goes beyond mere physical investment.

To create peace, the government must implement sensitive security management, ensure a corruption-free budget, and seriously improve the quality of local human resources. Without these three non-physical elements, infrastructure investment will not achieve its objectives. Facing complex issues in Papua, we need an approach that focuses not only on numbers, but also on people and integrity. By ensuring that special autonomy funds are managed transparently, the government can curb corrupt practices that undermine public trust.

In addition, embracing community leaders and equipping young people with real skills will transform development to be more inclusive and gain the full support of local residents. Providing job training for young people will create a stronger foundation for development that is accepted by the community and minimizes conflict (Arkam & Widiatoro, 2025). The existence of dialogue forums involving traditional leaders, religious leaders, and youth organizations is a crucial instrument for de-escalating tensions and achieving consensus on development. By building mutual agreements, the resulting policies will have greater legitimacy. This method is a proven key to success in many parts of the world in restoring social bonds that have been broken by conflict.

Empowering young people through job training is the most concrete way to bridge the human resource quality gap. When they have skills in construction or creative enterprises, they gain the key to entering the growing economic cycle. By opening access to strategic sectors such as construction, services, and the creative economy, this program not only aims to improve technical competence but also catalyzes more equitable and sustainable economic participation in the region (Wanggai, 2022). By combining transparency, dialogue, and empowerment, we are building an ecosystem where development is no longer solely the domain of the

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government, but also belongs to the people of Papua. This sense of ownership is the key because development that is safeguarded by its own people is the brightest path to lasting peace.

## CONCLUSION

The findings of this study show that infrastructure development in Papua, particularly in line with SDG 9, plays an important role in improving regional connectivity and expanding economic opportunities. However, infrastructure development alone is not enough to overcome the fundamental structural challenges that contribute to the dynamics of conflict in the region. The integration between SDG 9 and SDG 16 highlights the importance of combining economic development with institutional strengthening, inclusive governance, and social justice. From Johan Galtung's perspective, such integration contributes to the formation of positive peace, where development not only reduces economic inequality but also strengthens trust between communities and state institutions. Therefore, future development strategies in Papua must emphasize the inclusive participation of the OAP, the protection of indigenous rights, and transparent governance mechanisms. By aligning infrastructure development with social justice and institutional accountability, development policies can contribute more effectively to sustainable peacebuilding in Papua.

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