

# DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY WATCH REPORT

12 MONTH REVIEW

JUNE 2025



**ACT NOW!** **DDA Watch**  
FOR GREATER TRANSPARENCY IN PNG

[www.ddawatch.org](http://www.ddawatch.org)

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# Introduction

The DDA Watch website, was launched by community advocacy organization ACT NOW! in June of 2023. It is an impartial and non-partisan information resource for the public, officials and academics.

This report is the second annual report that analyses the content available to the public on the DDA Watch website and provides recommendations based on those findings. The first annual report was published in July 2024 and can be accessed here - <https://www.ddawatch.org/resources>.

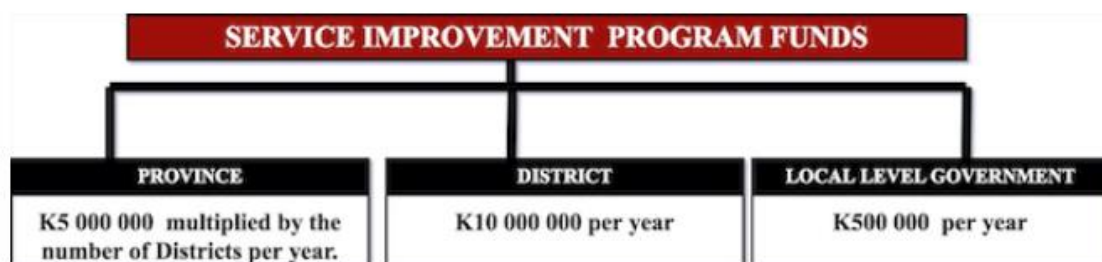
The website provides access to information on Papua New Guinea's ninety-six individual District Development Authorities (DDAs).

The website is completely politically neutral and is not associated with any political party, any elected official or any intending candidate.

The ninety-six DDAs are represented equally and the information about them is presented without any bias, favor or discrimination.

## What is a District Development Authority?

District Development Authorities (DDA) were established by Parliament in 2014 with the aim to improve local service infrastructure delivery. DDA's are responsible for the spending of District Service Improvement Program (DSIP) fund and District Infrastructure Fund (DIP). There are also Service Improvement Program (SIP) grants that are paid to the Provincial and Local Level government as shown in the diagram annually.



Each year, the DDAs are allocated funds to improve local service delivery and infrastructure. In 2023, each DDA was allocated a total of K20 million in DSIP and DIP funding in the National Budget.

DSIP and DIP funds are distributed to the DDA by the Department of Finance. The DSIP Funds are used by the DDA as follows:

- Infrastructure support services (30% / K3 million)
- Health support services (20% / K2 million)
- Education support services (20% / K2 million)
- Law and Justice services (10% / K1 million)
- Economic support services (10% / K1 million)
- Administration (10% / K1 million)

## **Why DDA Watch?**

Despite substantial funding through the DDA system, there has been a noticeable decline in critical services such as health and education across the country. This alarming trend prompted the creation of the DDA Watch website.

The website is designed to encourage public participation in the democratic process and social auditing.

## **The DDA Watch Scoring System: 70 points**

The DDA Watch website includes a rating score for each District Development Authority (DDA) and a ranking. The rating score assesses the performance of each DDA against a number of fixed criteria as listed below and also incorporates a public satisfaction element.

The rating score and ranking does NOT reflect a comprehensive evaluation of the performance and effectiveness of a DDA or the quality of the services in a particular District. The score and ranking are merely an indicator of how a DDA rates against a set list of transparency and good governance indicators.

The maximum rating score for each DDA is 100 points.

Up to 70 points are awarded based on the public availability of key documents from the DDA and contact information:

- Current five-year development plan - 10 points
- Current annual budget - 10 points
- Acquittal report (previous year) - 10 points
- DIRD Inspection report (max 2 years old) - 10 points
- Audit report (max 3 years old) - 10 points
- Functioning email address - 10 points
- Postal address - 5 points
- Contact phone number - 5 points

All DDAs are encouraged to submit their plans, budgets, acquittals, inspection reports and audits and to provide their contact details for inclusion on the website - [contact form](#).

## **Public satisfaction score: 30 points**

Up to 30 points are awarded to each DDA according to their average public satisfaction score.

Any member of the public can submit their satisfaction score for a DDA via this website, but they must first register by providing a name and mobile telephone number.

The users name and phone details are held on a secure server and are not released to any other person or used for any other purpose than in relation to the DDA Watch website.

Satisfaction scores submitted by members of the public are recorded as 30 (very good), 20 (good), 15 (okay), 10 (bad) or 0 (very bad).

One person cannot submit a rating for more than one DDA and can only have one vote recorded.

The satisfaction score used in the displayed DDA rating is the average of all the scores submitted by the public (total score divided by number of submissions).

Where no public satisfaction scores have been submitted for a particular DDA, the DDA is awarded 15 as its starting score.

The displayed rating score for each DDA is updated automatically and in real time as more documents are added to the DDA profile page and as more members of the public submit satisfaction scores.

The ranking list displayed on the Home Page is also updated automatically and in real time as the rating scores are updated.

### **Moderating Comments**

Users of the DDA Watch website are encouraged to upload comments about the performance of individual District Development Authorities for display on the relevant DDA page.

All user submitted comments are reviewed by an ACT NOW staff member before they are approved for publication.

Any comments that include sexist, racist or homophobic language or hate speech, or language that is rude, obscene, offensive, bullying, intolerant or intended to scare or intimidate, and any comments containing personal details may be edited or deleted.

This report covers the one-year period from June 2023 to June 2024, analyzing the performance of DDAs as documented on the DDA Watch website.

There are four parts in this report.

1. Availability of Key District Documents
2. District Contact Information
3. Public Interaction with the Website
4. Analysis of top performing DDA on DDA Watch

## **Part 1: District Key Documents**

District Key Documents are essential records that provide transparency and accountability for the activities and financial management of District Development Authorities (DDAs). These documents are;

1. 5-Year Development Plan (2022-2027)
2. Acquittal Report
3. Audit Report
4. Annual Budget
5. Inspection Report

Each document is worth 10 points on the DDA Watch scoring system, contributing to a maximum of 50 points.

### **1. 5-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN ANALYSIS**

DDA's are responsible for producing a district five-year development plan, a strategic document that outlines the goals, initiatives, and projects that a district aims to achieve over a five-year period. This plan is essential for guiding the district's development efforts and ensuring that resources are allocated effectively to improve local services and infrastructure. A district plan aims to ensure district's development efforts are well-coordinated, transparent, and aligned with the needs and priorities of the local community.

Plans are supposed to cover the five-year period from 2022 to 2027. We are now two-thirds of the way through that planning and implementation cycle.

## KEY FINDINGS:

As at June 2025:

1. Thirty-seven (37) DDA's have launched a District Development Plan. This is an increase of 16 plans since June 2024.
2. There are still fifty-nine (59) DDAs that have yet to publish a district plan - more than 60% of the total
3. Only 9 of the thirty-seven (37) district development plans are publicly available. An increase of 2 plans since June 2024.

### Highlands Region

There are thirty-six (36) DDAs across 7 provinces in the Highlands region.

- Only thirteen (13) have a 5-year district development plan. This is an increase of 4 plans since June 2024.
- From the thirteen (13) development plans, only 4 are publicly available and can be accessed on the DDA Watch website.
- Twenty-three (23) districts across the region have yet to launch their development plans. This represents approximately 64% of districts region-wide.
- Western Highlands Province stands out as the only province with no district development plans launched to date.

Figure 1 below shows the district with development plan in each province in the Highland's region.

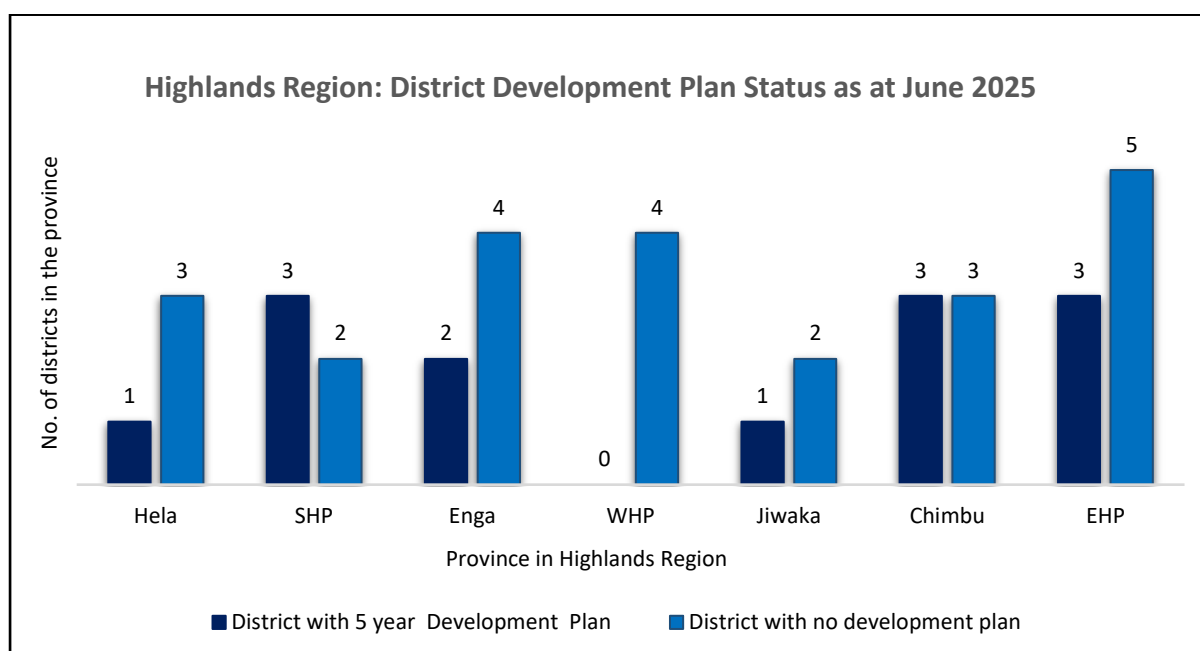


Figure 1. Development plan vs No Plan as at June 2025

The provincial breakdown:

Province	Total DDAs	With Plans	Without Plans
Chimbu	6	3	Chuave, Karimui Nomane, Sina Sina Yonggamugl
Eastern Highlands	8	3	Daulo, Goroka, Henganofi, Okapa, Unggai Bena
Enga	6	2	Kandep, Kompam Ambum, Lagaip, Pogera Pailea
Hela	4	1	Magarima, Komo Hulia, Tari Pori
Jiwaka	3	1	Anglimp South Waghi, Jimi
Southern Highlands	5	3	Imbonggu, Ialibu Pangia
Western Highlands	4	0	All districts without plans

Key Observations:

- Enga and Eastern Highlands: Have the highest number of districts yet to initiate plans.
- Hela, Chimbu, Southern Highlands, and Jiwaka: Each show partial progress with remaining gaps.

### ***Momase Region***

There are twenty-six (26) DDAs across 4 provinces in Momase region.

- Only 7 DDAs have a district development plan. Six of those seven plans are from Morobe Province. This is an increase of 3 plans since June 2024.
- Of those 7 development plans, only 2 plans can be accessed on DDA Watch and are available to the public.
- Nineteen (19) DDAs are yet to develop or publish a plan. This means approximately 73% of DDAs in the region lack a development plan.

The provincial breakdown:

Province	Total DDAs	With Plans	Without Plans
Morobe	10	6	Finschafen, Kabwum, Lae, Tewae Siassi
East Sepik	6	1	Angoram, Maprik, Wewak, Wosera Gawi, Yangoru Saussia)
West Sepik	4	0	Aitape Lumi, Nuku, Telefomin, Vanimo Green
Madang	6	0	Bogia, Madang, Middle Ramu, Rai Coast, Sumkar, Usino Bundi

Key Observation:

- Only 2 provinces have districts that have launched district plans. Morobe and East Sepik.
- Morobe province has 6 development plans launched out of its ten (10) DDAs. Two of those plans can be access by the public and are available on DDA Watch website.

Table below shows the district with development plans in the Momase region.

Province	DDAs with plan	Plans that are public
Morobe	Bulolo, Wau Waria, Huon Gulf, Markham, Menyamya and Nawaeb.	Markham, and Nawaeb (Note: Bulolo's old plan is online)
East Sepik	Ambunti Dreikikir	–

### *Islands Region*

There are thirteen (13) DDAs across 5 provinces in the Islands region.

- Only 7 DDAs have launched their 2023–2027 district development plans. This is an increase of 2 plans since June 2024.
- Of the 7 launched only 1 is plan accessible to the public and available on DDA Watch website.
- 6 districts lack a development plan, representing approximately 46% of the districts in the region.
- Bougainville leads nationally with 100% coverage; all three districts have finalized development plans.

Provincial Breakdown:

Province	Total DDAs	DDAs with Plans	DDAs Without Plans
Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB)	3	3	–
East New Britain	4	1	Kokopo, Pomio, Rabaul
New Ireland	2	1	Kavieng
West New Britain	3	2	Kandrian Gloucester
Manus	1	0	Manus

Key observation:

- AROB is the only province in the region where all districts have a plan.
- East New Britain has the highest number of DDAs with no district plan

Table below shows districts with development plans in the Islands region.

Province	DDAs with plans	Plans that are public
Bougainville	Central Bougainville, North Bougainville and South Bougainville	-
East New Britain	Gazelle	-
New Ireland	Namatanai	-
West New Britain	Talasea and Nakanai	Talasea

### *Southern Region*

There are twenty-one (21) DDAs across 6 provinces in the Southern Region.

- Only 10 out of the 21 DDAs have launched their 2023–2027 district development plans. This is an increase of 4 plans since June 2024.
- Two of those plans are public.



- Eleven (11) districts lack a development plan, representing approximately 52% of the region without a plan.
- Western Province is a standout, with 100% coverage, all four districts have a plan.

Provincial breakdown:

Province	Total DDAs	With Plans	Without Plans
Central	5	2	Abau, Goilala, Rigo
Gulf	2	1	Kerema
Milne Bay	4	1	Esa'ala, Kiriwina Goodenough, Samarai Murua
NCD	3	1	Moresby Northwest, Moresby Northeast
Northern	3	1	Ijivitari, Sohe
Western	4	4	—

Key Observation:

- Western Province is the only province where all districts have a plan. From the remaining 5 provinces, only 1 province has 2 district plans. The rest have 1 plan each.

Table below shows districts with development plans in each province in the Southern region.

Province	DDAs with plans	Plans that are public
Gulf	Kikori	-
Milne Bay	Alotau	-
Central	Kairuku, Hiri Koiari	-
Western	Delta Fly, North Fly and Middle Fly and Delta Fly	-
National Capital	Moresby South	-
Northern	Popondetta	-

## Overall Summary: District Development Plan

There are 22 provinces in PNG (including the Autonomous Region of Bougainville).

- In 4 provinces there are no districts at all with a plan.
- In 2 provinces all the districts have a plan.
- 9 provinces have 1 district with a plan.
- 3 provinces have 2 districts with a plan.

1 province has 6 districts with a plan.

A total of fifty-nine (59) districts are yet to launch their 2023–2027 development plans, representing approximately 61% of all districts.

Figure 2 shows the map of districts with a 5-year district development plan (2023-2027) by province.

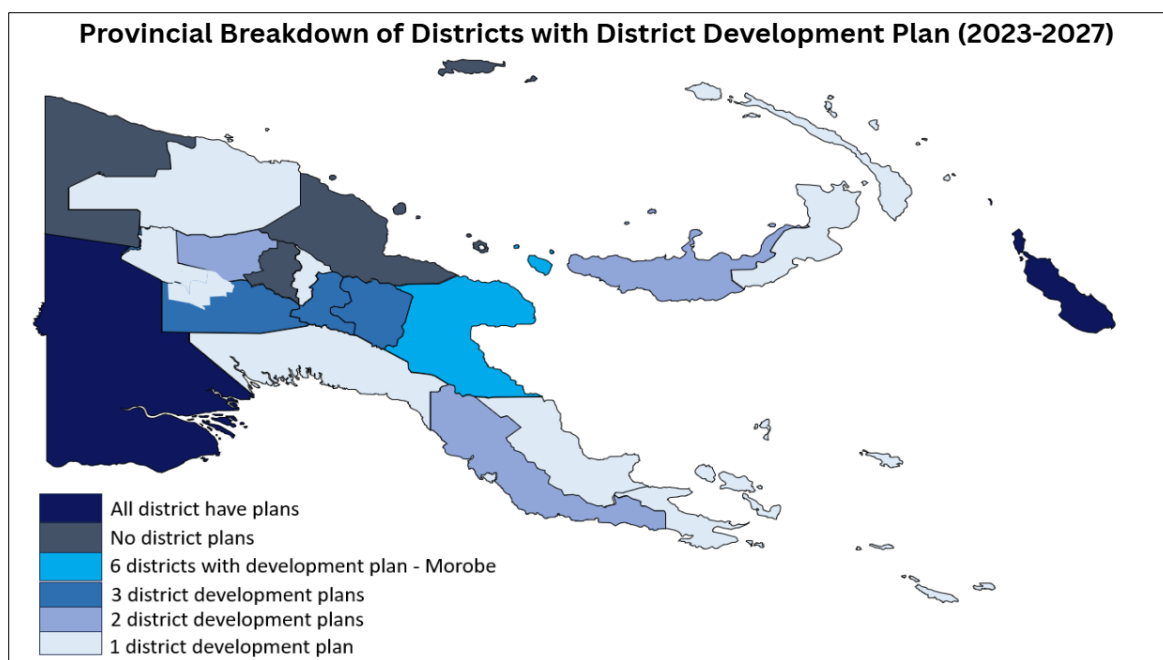


Figure 2. District development plan by province as at June 2025

Regional breakdown of district without plans:

- Highlands: 23 districts
- Momase: 19 districts
- Southern: 11 districts
- Islands: 6 districts

Provinces with no plans at all: Western Highlands, Madang, West Sepik and Manus.

Provinces will full district plans coverage are: Western and Autonomous Region of Bougainville

Among the remaining provinces:

- 9 provinces have 1 district plan
- 3 provinces have 2 district plans
- 1 province has 6 district plans

The 9 provinces with one district plan are:

1. Jiwaka (North Waghi) – Highland's region
2. Hela (Koroba Lake Kopiago) – Highlands Region
3. East Sepik (Ambunti Dreikikir) – Momase region
4. Gulf (Kikori) – Southern region
5. Milne Bay (Alotau) – Southern region
6. NCD (Moresby South) – Southern region
7. Northern (Popondetta) – Southern region
8. East New Britain (Gazelle) – Islands region
9. New Ireland (Namatanai) – Islands region

The 3 Provinces with only 2 district plans are:

1. West New Britain – Islands Region

2. Central Province - Southern Region
3. Enga Province. – Highlands Region

Provinces with only 3 district plans are all from the Highlands region:

1. Southern Highlands
2. Eastern Highlands
3. Chimbu

Morobe has 6 district development plans out of its 10 districts.

Figure 3 shows the breakdown of districts without a 5-year development plan (2023-2027) by province.

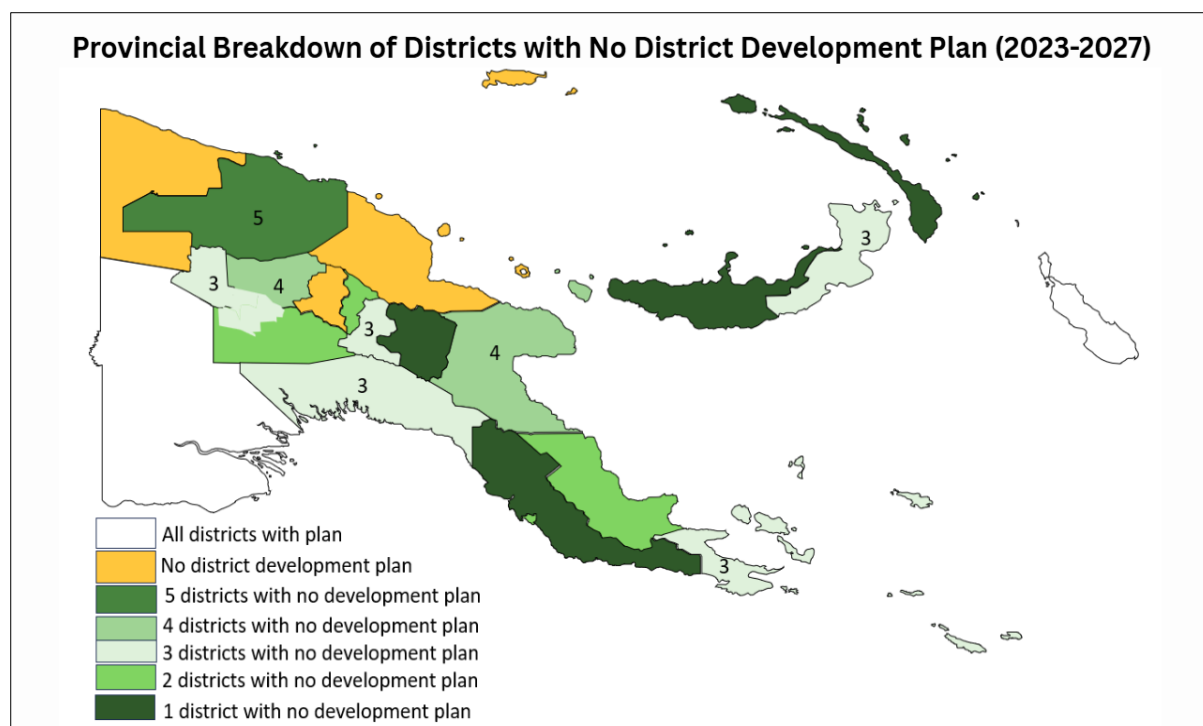


Figure 3. Provinces with no district development plans as at June 2025

### Analysis of 9 DDA's that have made their development plans public.

The 9 DDA's that have made their district plan public are;

Region	Province	DDA
Highlands	Chimbu	Gumine
Highlands	Chimbu	Kerowagi
Highlands	Eastern Highlands	Lufa
Highlands	Enga	Wabag
Momase	Morobe	Markham
Momase	Morobe	Nawaeb
Southern	Northern	Ijivitari
Southern	Northern	Popondetta
Islands	West New Britain	Talasea

By region:

- Highlands: 4 public plans and 2 are from the same province
- Momase: 2 public plans, all are from the same province
- Southern: 2 public plans and both are from the same province
- Islands: 1 public plan

Figure 4 shows the regional analysis of five year district development plan (2023-2027).

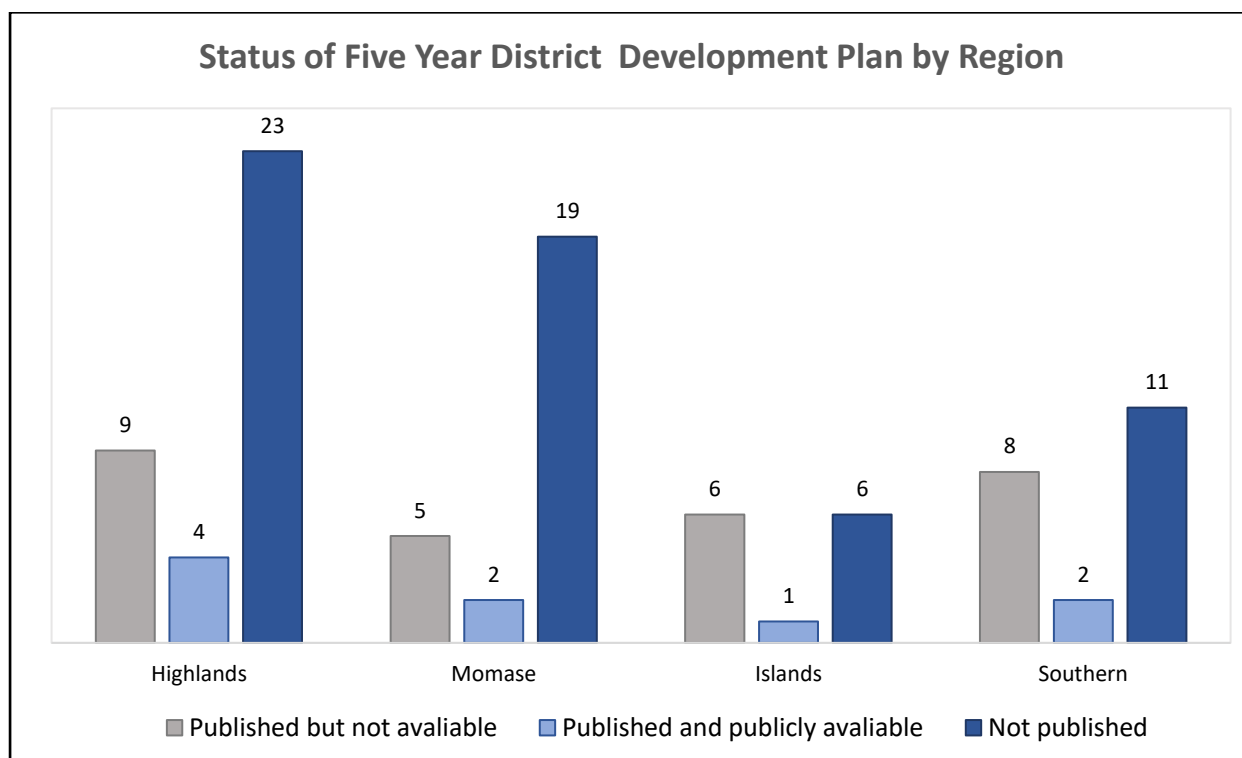


Figure 4. Status of district development plan as at June 2025.

## 2. ACQUITTAL REPORT

District Development Authorities in Papua New Guinea are required to submit financial acquittal reports to DIRD by March 31 each year. These reports are mandated under Section 102 of the Organic Law on Provincial and Local Level Government and the Public Finances (Management) Act 1995, which also require DDA Chief Executives to maintain accurate records of all financial transactions and project implementation.

### KEY FINDINGS:

As at June 2025;

- Seventy-two (72) DDAs publicly announced the submission of their district financial acquittal report for the year 2024.
- Only one district has made public its acquittal report public.
- Twenty-four (24) DDA's are yet to submit their 2024 financial acquittal report.

This is a great improvement from just 24 DDAs that have submitted their acquittals for 2022 or 2023 as at June 2025.

### ***Highlands Region***

Highlands Region has 7 provinces and 36 districts.

As at June 2025;

- Only 28 Districts have submitted 2024 district acquittals.
- 8 districts have yet to submit their districts acquittals.
- None of those acquittals are publicly available.

Provincial Breakdown:

Province	Total DDAs	With Acquittal	Without Acquittals
Chimbu	6	6	-
Eastern Highlands	8	5	Unggai Bena, Okapa and Kainantu
Enga	6	6	-
Hela	4	2	Komo Magarima, Koroba Lake Kopiago
Jiwaka	3	3	-
Southern Highlands	5	3	Nipa Kutubu, Ialibu Pangia
Western Highlands	4	3	Dei

Key Observations:

- Chimbu, Enga, and Jiwaka Provinces have 100% submission across all their districts. That is 3 provinces out of the 7 provinces in the region.
- Eastern Highlands has the highest number of pending submissions (3 districts), followed by Hela and Southern Highlands (2 districts each), and Western Highlands (1 district).
- Overall submission rate of the region stands at 77.8%.

### ***Momase Region***

Momase has 4 provinces and 26 districts.

As at June 2025;

- Only 14 DDAs have submitted their 2024 district financial acquittals.
- None of those financial acquittal reports are public.
- 12 DDA's are yet to submit their 2024 district acquittals.

Provincial Breakdown:

Province	Total DDAs	With Acquittal	Without Acquittals
Morobe	10	7	Wau-Waria, Kabwum, Tewae Siassi
East Sepik	6	4	Wosera Gawi, Ambunti Dreikikir
West Sepik	4	1	Aitape Lumi, Telefomin, Vanimo Green
Madang	6	2	Bogia, Madang, Rai Coast, Usino Bundi

Key Observations:

- Madang and West Sepik have the highest number of DDAs yet to submit an acquittal. 4 and 3 respectively, followed by Morobe and East Sepik at 2.
- The overall regional submission rate is 53.8 %.

- None of the submitted reports have been made publicly available.

### ***Islands Region***

Islands region has 5 provinces and thirteen (13) DDAs

As at June 2025;

- Only 11 DDA's out of the 13 submitted their 2024 acquittals.
- Only 1 report from the 11 is available to the public.
- 2 DDA's are yet to submit their district acquittals.

Provincial breakdown:

Province	Total DDAs	With Acquittal	Without Acquittals
Autonomous Region of Bougainville	3	2	Central Bougainville
Manus	1	1	–
New Ireland	2	1	Kavieng
East New Britain	4	4	–
West New Britain	3	3	–

Key Observations:

- West New Britain, New Ireland and Manus Provinces have achieved 100% submission across all their districts. That is 3 provinces out of the 5 provinces in the region.
- Islands region has the second highest submission rate across the region.
- Overall submission rate of the Islands region stands at 85%
- It is the only region with an acquittal report from one of its DDAs available to public.

### ***Southern Region***

Southern region has 6 provinces and twenty-one (21) DDAs

As at June 2025;

- 19 DDAs have submitted their 2024 district financial acquittals, giving the region a 90.5% submission rate.
- None of those reports are publicly available
- 2 DDAs have not yet submitted their acquittals.

Provincial breakdown:

Province	Total DDAs	With Acquittal	Without Acquittals
Central	5	5	-
Gulf	2	1	Kerema
Milne Bay	4	4	-
National Capital	3	2	Moresby Northeast
Northern	3	3	-
Western	4	4	–

Key observation:

- Central, Milne Bay, Northern (Oro) and Western Provinces have achieved 100% submission across all their districts. That is 4 provinces out of the 6 provinces in the region.
- Southern region has the highest submission rate across the 4 regions.
- Overall submission rate of the Southern Region stands at 91%

## Overall Summary: District Acquittal

Region	Provinces	Total DDAs	Submitted	Pending	Submission Rate	Public Availability
Highlands	7	36	28	8	78%	0
Momase	4	26	14	12	54%	0
Southern	6	21	19	2	91%	0
Islands	5	13	11	2	85%	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>1</b>

- Only 1 acquittal out of the 72 reports is publicly available.
- Southern Region leads submission performance with 91% compliance, followed by Islands (85%), while Highlands (78%) and Momase (54%) trail behind.
- A total of 24 districts across the country have yet to submit their acquittals.

Figure 5 shows the 2024 district acquittal reports submitted by districts in each province.

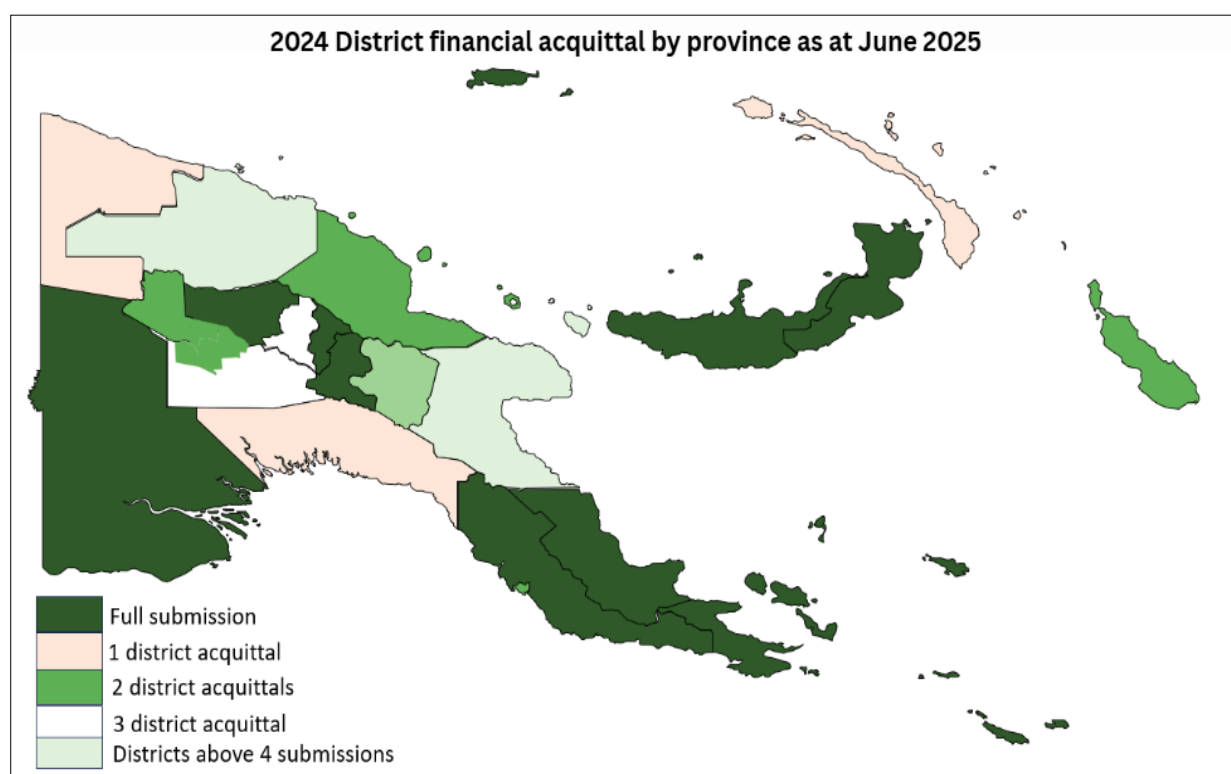


Figure 5. 2024 District financial acquittal report summary as at June 2025

### District Acquittal Submission Summary by Region and Province (2024 Submissions)

Submission by Province	Highlands (36 DDAs)	Momase (26 DDAs)	Islands (13 DDAs)	Southern (21 DDAs)	Total (Provinces)	Total DDAs
<b>All Districts</b>	Chimbu (6), Enga (6), Jiwaka (3)	<i>None</i>	ENB (4), WNB (3), Manus (1)	Central (5), Milne Bay (4), Northern (3), Western (4)	10	<b>39</b>
<b>1 District</b>	<i>None</i>	West Sepik (1/4)	New Ireland (1/2)	Gulf (1/2)	3	<b>3</b>
<b>2 Districts</b>	Hela (2/4)	Madang (2/6)	AROB (2/3)	NCD (2/3)	4	<b>8</b>
<b>3 Districts</b>	SHP (3/5) WHP (3/4)	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	2	<b>6</b>
<b>4+ Districts</b>	EHP (5/8)	Morobe (7/10) East Sepik (4/6)	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	3	<b>16</b>
<b>Total submitted</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>19</b>		
<b>Total outstanding</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>		

Regional breakdown of 2024 district acquittals:

- Highlands:
  - 28 out of 36 DDAs
  - 8 pending submission.
  - 3 out of 7 provinces with full district submission
- Momase:
  - 14 out of 26 DDAs
  - 12 pending submission
  - None of its 4 provinces has a full district acquittal
- Islands:
  - 11 out of 13 DDAs
  - 2 pending submission
  - 4 out of 6 provinces with full district acquittal
- Southern:
  - 19 out of 21 DDAs
  - 2 pending submission
  - 3 out of 5 districts with full district acquittal

Figure 6 shows the regional analysis of the 2024 DDA financial acquittal report.



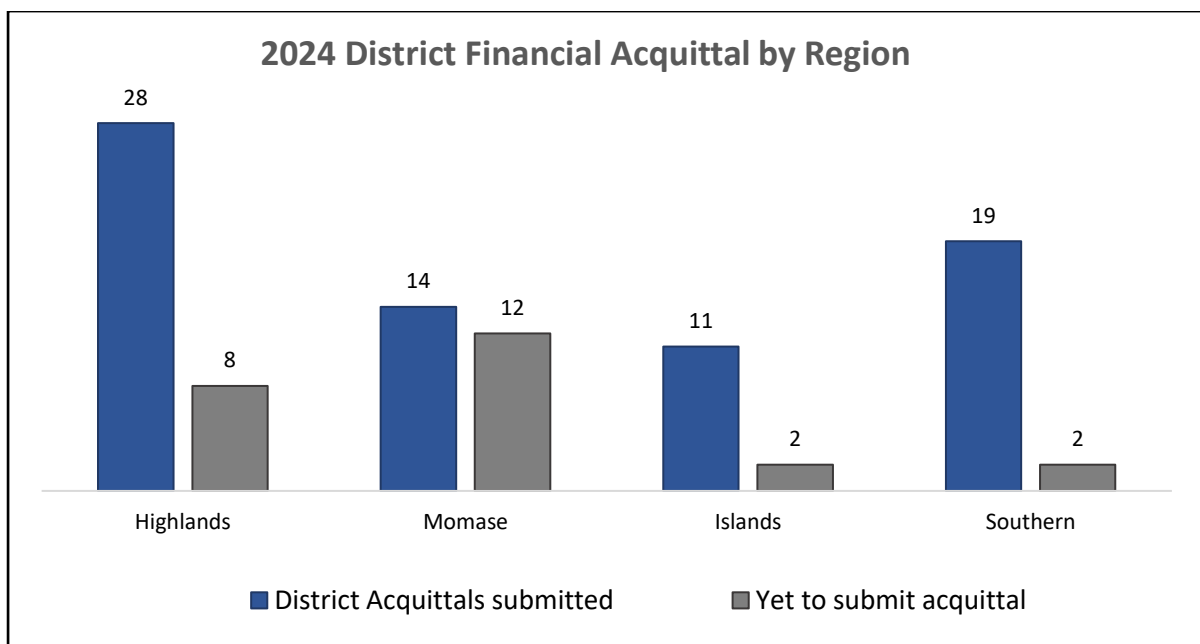


Figure 6. District financial acquittal by region as at June 2025

### 3. AUDIT REPORT

An audit is a thorough examination of the financial records and operations of a District Development Authority (DDA) to ensure accuracy, compliance with regulations, and proper use of funds.

All audits are conducted by the Auditor General's Office and involve reviewing the DDA's financial statements, transactions, and records. The purpose of the audit is to verify that the funds allocated to the district, such as those from the District Service Improvement Program (DSIP) and the District Infrastructure Program (DIP), are being used effectively and transparently.

#### KEY FINDINGS:

- There are zero (0) records of any financial audit reports for a District Development Authority being published between June 2024 and June 2025.
- This is a repetition of the same situation in 2023-24, when again zero audit reports were published

The Auditor General's Office (AGO) has reported having conducted only six audits of Service Improvement Program (SIP) funds for the period 2017-25. In total there are 492 institutions that receive SIP funds, twenty-two (22) provinces, ninety-six (96) districts and three hundred and seventy-four (374) local level governments. It is not known which were the six institutions that were audited or for what periods.

The local Level government service improvement fund (LLGSIP) has phased out in 2015.

One of the main reasons for the lack of audit reports is that the Office of the Auditor General lacks the capacity to do the audits.

## 4. DISTRICT ANNUAL BUDGET

A district annual budget is a financial plan that outlines the expected income and expenditure to guide the districts activities and priorities over a one-year period. This budget is crucial for managing the district's resources and ensuring that funds are allocated effectively to various projects and services.

### KEY FINDINGS:

Submission of district annual budget recorded by DDA Watch as of June 2025 shows;

- Only six out of ninety-six DDAs have announced an annual budget for their district for the year 2025.
- The other 94% of DDAs in the country have not announced and district budget for the 2025 financial year
- This mirrors a similar situation in 2024, when only 8 DDAs announced their annual budget.

*DDA Watch record of district annual budgets announced in the media between January – June 2025*

DDA	Province	Region
Sohe	Northern	Southern
Ijivitari	Northern	Southern
Alotau	Milne Bay	Southern
Yangoru Saussia	East Sepik	Momase
Bulolo	Morobe	Momase
Talasea	West New Britain	Island

### Overall Summary: District Annual Budget

Figure 8 shows a summary of districts in each region that have announced their 2025 district budgets.

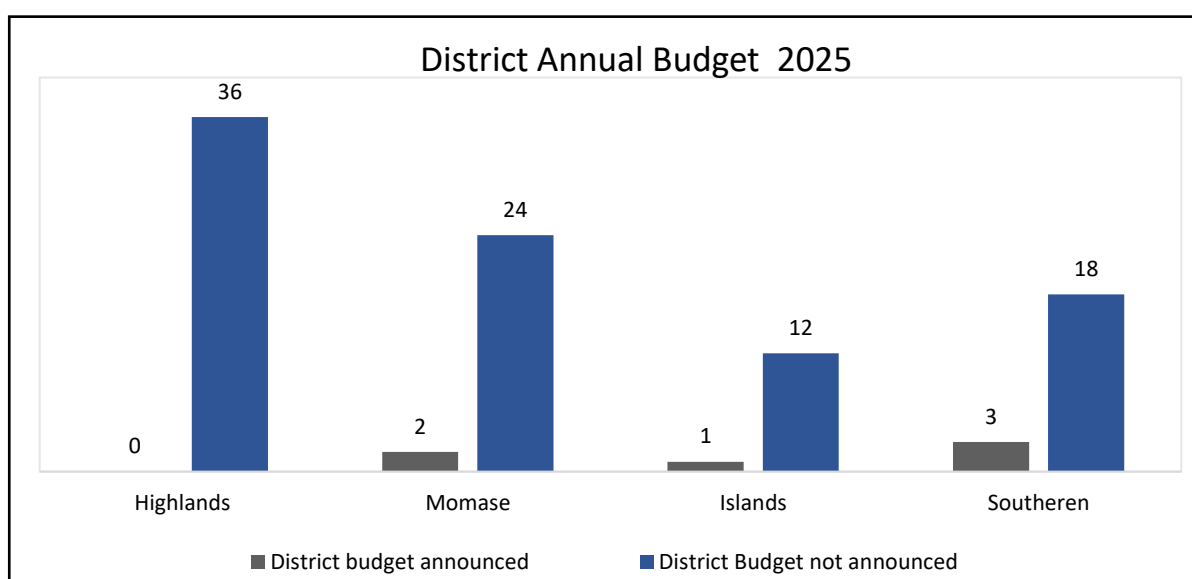


Figure 8. 2025 District annual budget as of June 2025

1. Highlands Region: No annual budget from all thirty-six (36) districts
2. Momase Region: Only 2 DDAs out of 26 districts have announced an annual budget.
3. Islands Region. Only 1 DDA out of the 13 districts announced an annual budget
4. Southern Region: Only 3 DDAs out of 21 districts have announced an annual budget

## 5. INSPECTION REPORT

An inspection report is a document that provides a detailed assessment of projects and services funded by the District Service Improvement Program (DSIP) and the District Infrastructure Program (DIP). These reports are produced by the Department of Implementation and Rural Development (DIRD) through its Monitoring Unit, which has regional offices to conduct physical inspections and verify the expenditure of funds. The DIRD consolidates these inspection reports into quarterly and annual management reports, which are then submitted to the Central Agencies Coordinating Committee and other government agencies

### KEY FINDINGS:

- As at June 2025, no inspection reports were publicly available on the use of District Service and Infrastructure Improvement Program Projects for any year since the programs were introduced.

ACT NOW! has written on numerous occasions to DIRD and visited their offices multiple times but has not received a response to its requests for access to any Inspection Reports.

According to the DSIP, PSIP, LLGSIP, and WSIP financial administrative guidelines, DIRD is responsible for reviewing Service Improvement Program (SIP) reports, monitoring project acquittals, and conducting physical inspections and verifications to ensure that the projects funded actually exist and represent value for money.

Media reports have highlighted the ongoing long standing failures in the effectiveness of DIRD's monitoring and inspection efforts. For example, it is reported in 2016, DIRD's project monitoring and inspection team visited only three (3) provinces and sixteen (16) districts, showing a lack of wide spread oversight.

## District Key Document Overall Analysis

*As at June 2025;*

- Thirty-seven (37) DDA's have launched a 2023-2027 Five-year development plan, but only nine (9) are publicly available.
- Seventy-two (72) acquittal reports were submitted to Department of Implementation and Rural Development (DIRD) as at June 2025, none of which are public. Only Talasea DDA made public summary of acquittal report which can be accessed on DDA Watch.
- There are no inspection reports available.
- There are no audit reports available.
- Six (6) DDA's published an annual budget but none are publicly available.

Figure 9 shows the summary of key district documents for each DDA as of June 2025.

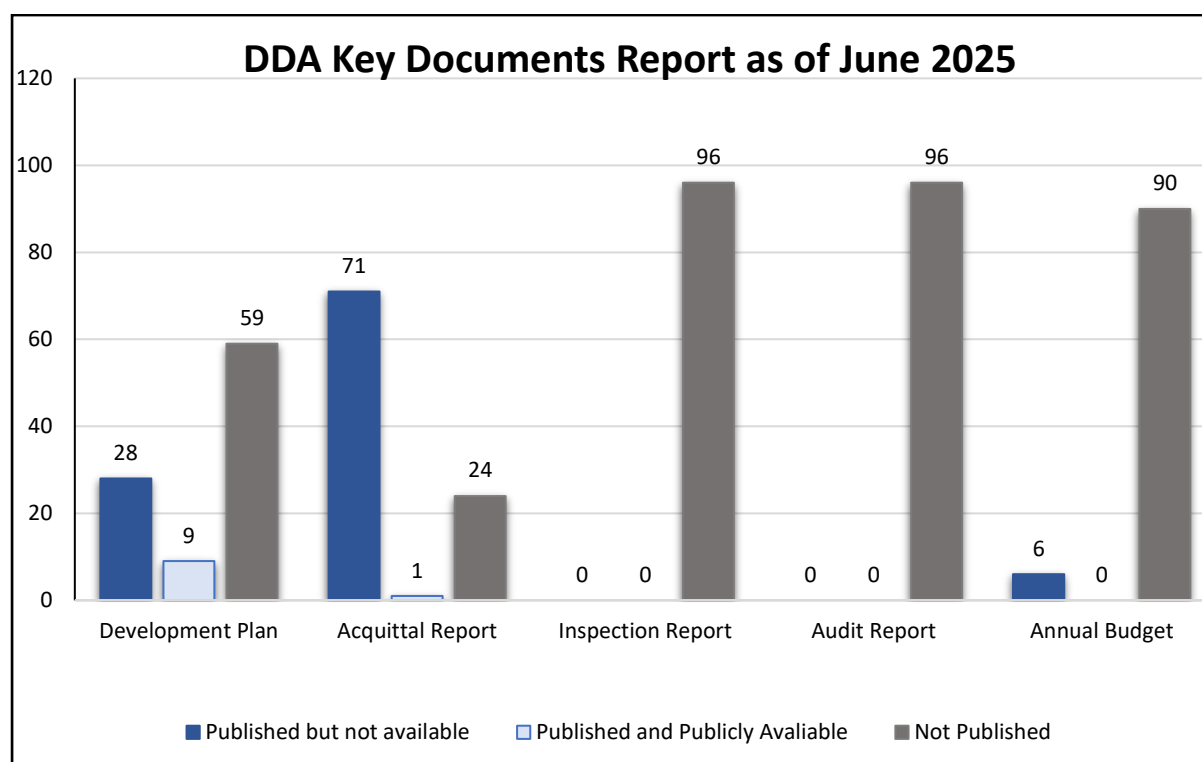


Figure 9. Availability of key district documents as at June 2025

Highland's Region:

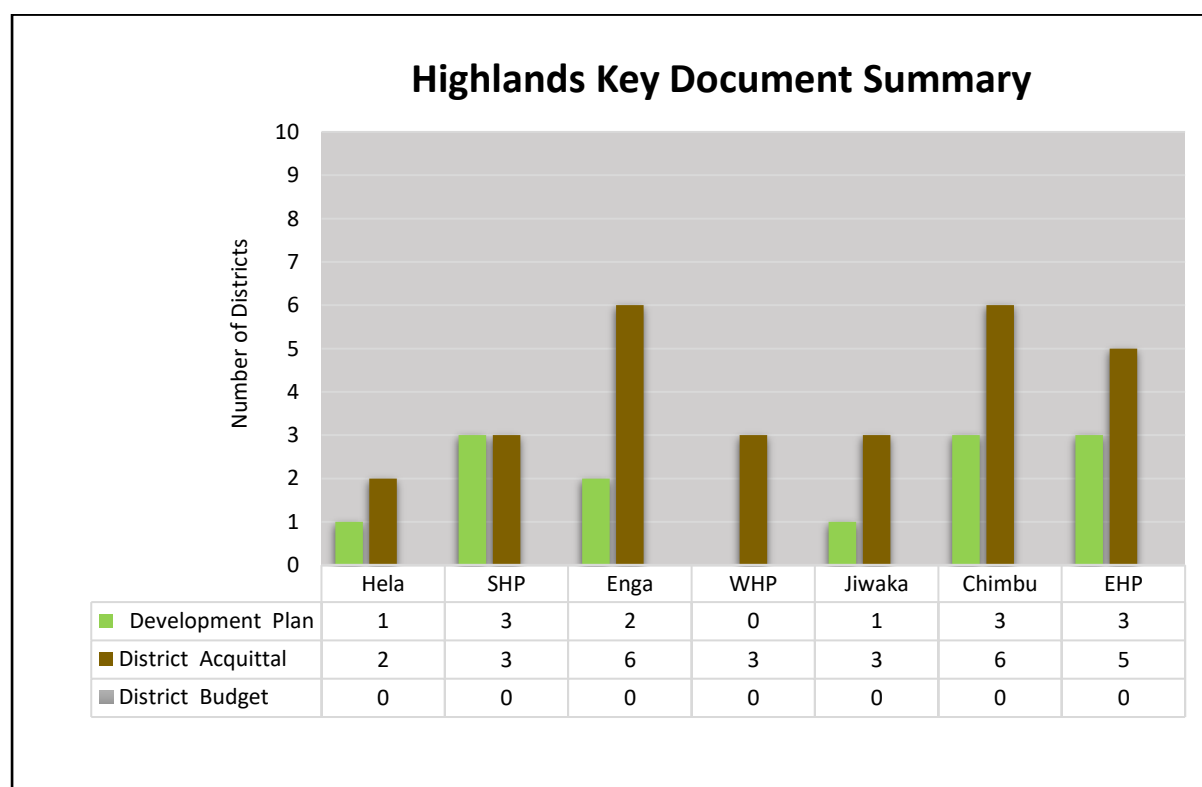


Figure 10. Highland's region key document summary as at June 2025

## Momase Region:

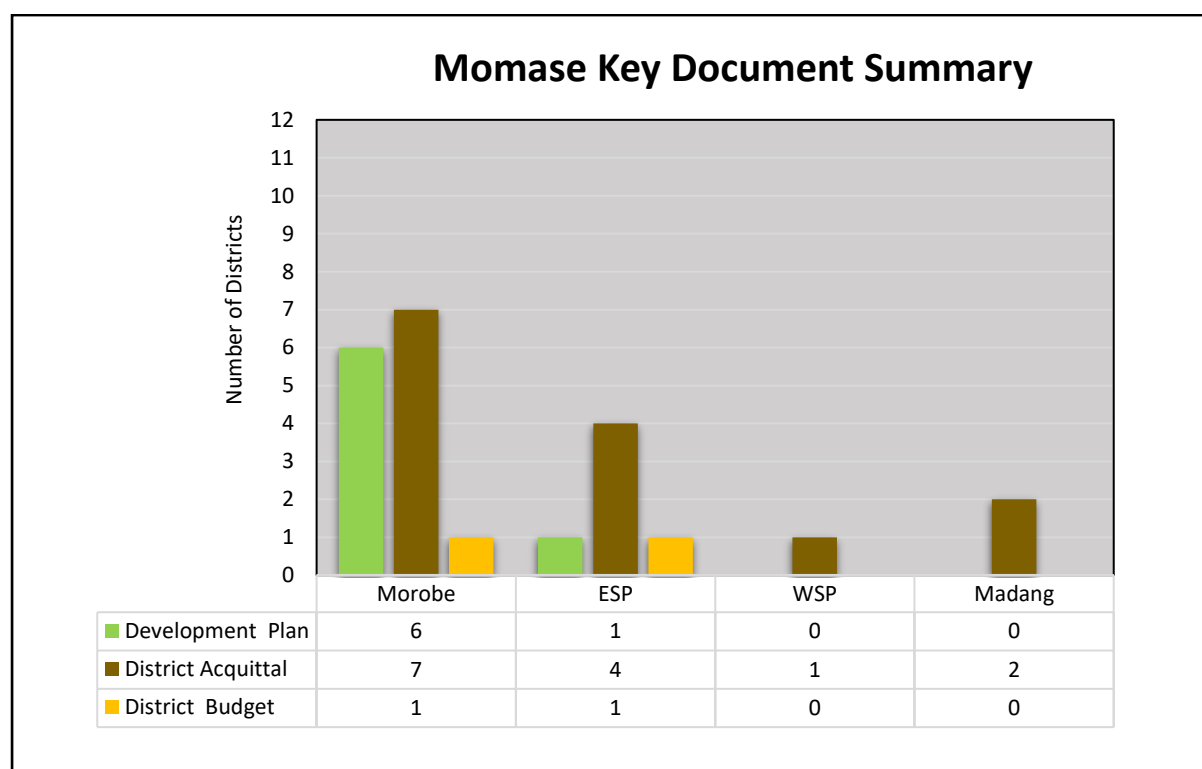


Figure 11. Momase region key document summary as at June 2025

## Islands Region:

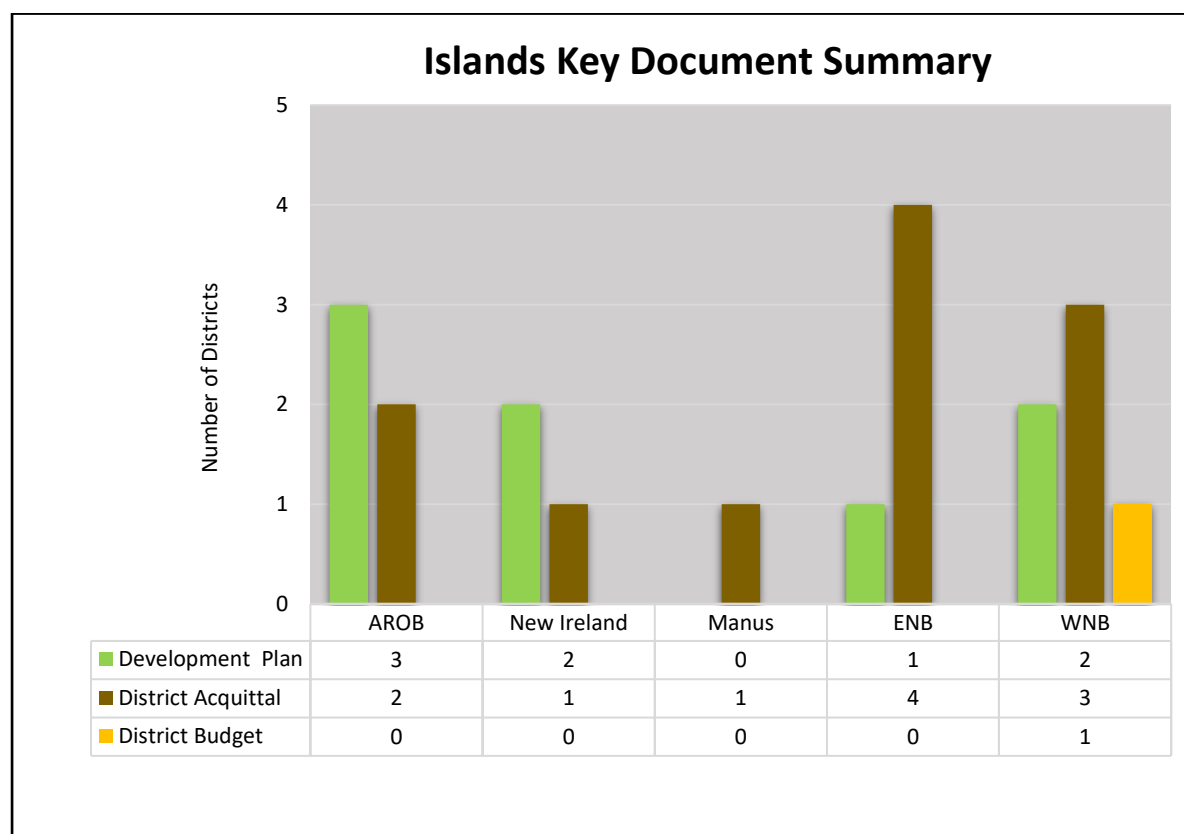


Figure 12. Islands region key document summary as at June 2025

## Southern Region:

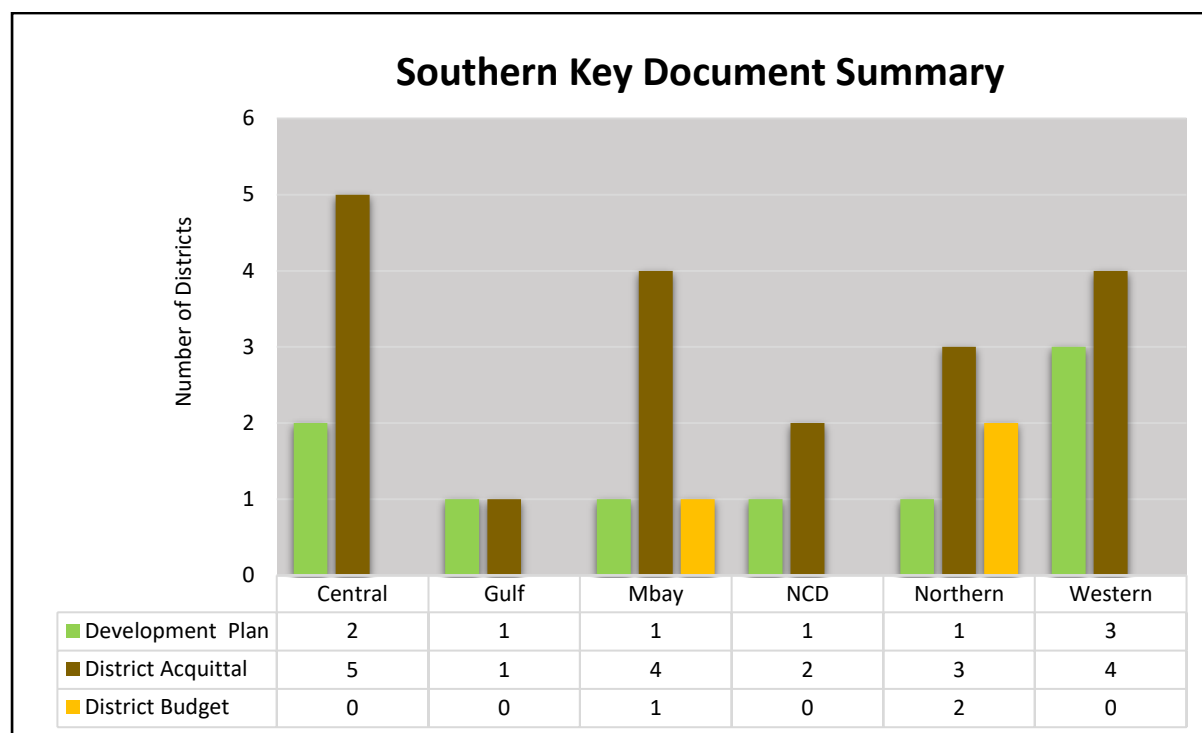


Figure 13. Southern Region key document summary as at June 2025

## Part 2: District Contact Details

DDA contact details are crucial information in promoting good governance, accountability, and service delivery. Having the names of district CEOs, active emails, phone numbers, and postal addresses helps governance institutions and citizens stay connected, ensuring better engagement and transparency in district operations.

Contact details for each DDA is an important part of DDA Watch website scoring system. It holds 20 points out of the possible 100 score.

- Functioning email address - 10 points
- Postal address - 5 points
- Contact phone number - 5 points

The DDA Watch website aims to provide the public with contact details for all individual ninety-six (96) DDAs. This information includes:

1. DDA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) name
2. Current DDA email address
3. Active office phone number
4. DDA postal address
5. District website link

## 1. DDA CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER NAMES

### KEY FINDINGS:

As at June 2025;

- 92 names of DDA CEO were recorded. Only 4 DDA's lack a CEO name.
- These four DDAs are:
  - North Bougainville,
  - Central Bougainville
  - Port Moresby North West
  - Port Moresby North East

This is a marked improvement from June 2024 when only 45 DDA CEO names were recorded on the DDA Watch website.

## 2. DDA EMAIL ADDRESS

### KEY FINDINGS:

As at June 2025;

- Only 7 DDAs have an active email address, up from 4 in June 2024
- Eighty-nine (89) DDA do not have an active email address.

Those with email address are;

DDA	Province	Region
Kerowagi	Chimbu	Highlands
Lufa	Eastern Highlands	Highlands
Rai Coast	Madang	Momase
Sumkar	Madang	Momase
Wau-Waria	Morobe	Momase
Markham	Morobe	Momase
Talasea	West New Britain	Islands

## 3. DDA ACTIVE OFFICE PHONE NUMBER

### KEY FINDINGS:

As at June 2025:

- Only twenty (20) DDAs have a recorded active DDA telephone number
- Seventy-nine (76) DDAs do not have record of reliable phone numbers.

Those with active phone numbers are;

DDA	Province	Region
Highlands	Chimbu	Kerowagi
Highlands	Lufa	Eastern Highlands
Highlands	Kompiani Ambum	Enga
Highlands	Lagaip	Enga
Highlands	Wabag	Enga
Momase	East Sepik	Wewak
Momase	Telefomin	West Sepik
Momase	Vanimo Green River	West Sepik
Momase	Bogia	Madang
Momase	Madang	Madang
Momase	Rai Coast	Madang
Momase	Sumkar	Madang
Momase	Wau-Waria	Morobe
Momase	Finschafen	Morobe
Momase	Huon Gulf	Morobe
Momase	Lae Open	Morobe
Momase	Markham	Morobe
Momase	Nawaeb	Morobe
Southern	North Fly	Western
Islands	Talasea	West New Britain

Twenty (20) Districts with an active phone number is a marked improvement on June 2024 when only 3 phone numbers were recorded.

## 4. DDA POSTAL ADDRESS

### KEY FINDINGS:

As at June 2025;

- Only fourteen (14) DDAs have a current postal address, up from 4 in June 2024.
- Eighty-two (82) DDAs do not have a known postal address.

Those with postal address are;

DDA	Province	Region
Kerowagi	Chimbu	Highlands
Kainantu	Eastern Highlands	Highlands
Lufa	Eastern Highlands	Highlands
Baiyer Mul	Western Highlands	Highlands
Madang	Madang	Momase
Middle Ramu	Madang	Momase
Rai Coast	Madang	Momase
Wau-Waria	Morobe	Momase
Markham	Morobe	Momase



Manus	Manus	Islands
Kavieng	New Ireland	Islands
Talasea	West New Britain	Islands
Middle Fly	Western	Southern
North Fly	Western	Southern

## 5. ACTIVE DISTRICT WEBSITE

### KEY FINDINGS:

As at June 2025;

- DDA Watch records 6 DDAs with an active website. There are also several district focused Facebook pages administered by individuals but not by the DDA, these are therefore not included.
- 90 DDAs do not have an active website.

The six are;

DDA	Province	Region
Kerowagi	Chimbu	Highlands
Rai Coast	Madang	Momase
Wau-Waria	Morobe	Momase
Markham	Morobe	Momase
Talasea	West New Britain	Islands
Goilala	Central	Southern

## District Contact Details Overall Analysis

Figure 14 shows the summary of DDA published contact details as at June 2025

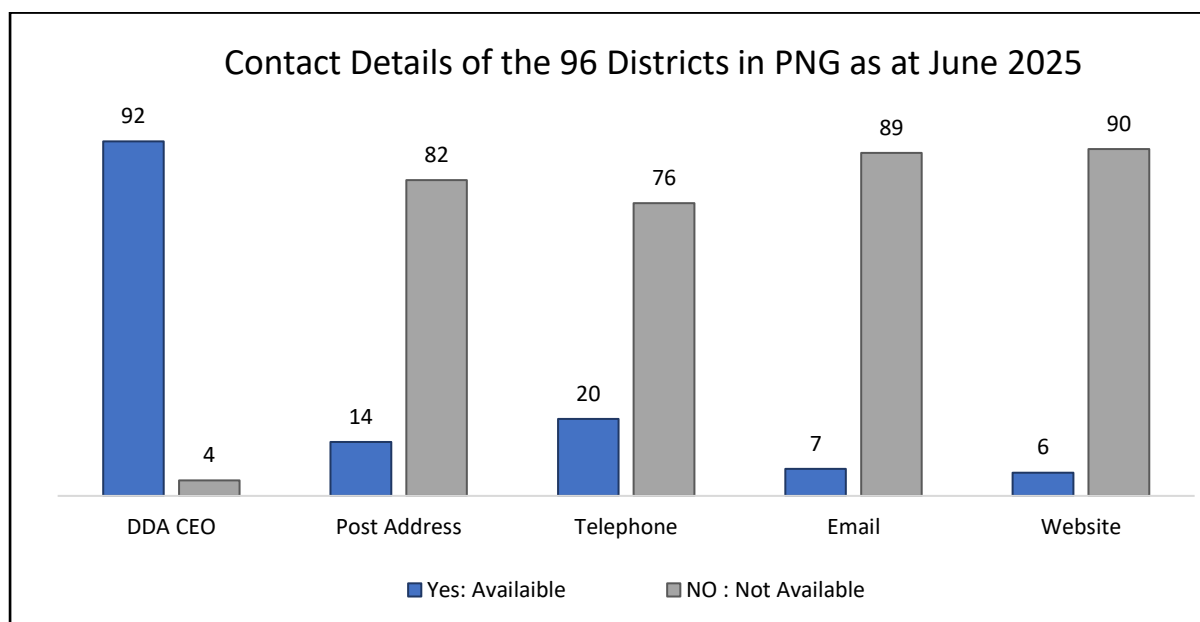


Figure 14. Overall summary of contact details as at June 2025

## PART 3: DDA Website Interaction

Visitors to the DDA Watch website can interact with the site in two different ways:

1. Vote on the performance of their DDA
2. Post public comments

Website users can also access links to media stories about each DDA.

As at June 2025;

- DDA Watch records 6 DDAs with an active website, up from 4 in June 2024. There are also several district focused Facebook pages administered by individuals but not by the DDA, these are therefore not included.
- 90 DDAs do not have an active website.

### 1. USER VOTES

User votes are scores given by website users to rate an individual DDA. Up to 30 points are awarded to each DDA according to their average public satisfaction score. A guide on ‘*how to score*’ and rate a DDA is explained on the [about](#) section of DDA Watch.

#### KEY FINDINGS:

As at June 2025;

- 106 user votes recorded from 53 districts:
  - Twenty-nine (29) districts had 1 vote each
  - Twelve (12) districts had 2 votes each
  - 7 districts had 3 votes
  - 1 district has 4 votes
  - 1 district had 5 votes
  - 2 districts had 6 votes
  - 1 district had 11 votes
- The regional breakdown is:
  - Highland’s region has thirty (30) votes from 17 DDAs
  - Momase has forty-five (45) votes from 17 DDAs
  - Islands have fifteen (15) votes from 8 DDAs
  - Southern has sixteen (16) votes from 11 DDAs.
- 43 districts do not have any user votes.

The 106 user votes recorded by June 2025 was almost a doubling of the 56 user votes recorded to June 2024. The number of districts with a recorded vote increased from thirty-five (35) to fifty-three (53) over the same period.

**Highlands Region:** 17 DDAs out of the 36 have a vote.

*These 17 are;*

Region	Province	DDA	Vote
Highlands	Chimbu	Karimui Nomane	1
Highlands	Chimbu	Kundiawa	1
Highlands	Eastern Highlands	Goroka	1
Highlands	Eastern Highlands	Henganofi	1
Highlands	Eastern Highlands	Unggai Bena	1
Highlands	Enga	Wapenamanda	1
Highlands	Jiwaka	Jimi District	1
Highlands	Western Highlands	Baiyer Mul	1
Highlands	Western Highlands	Dei	1
Highlands	Chimbu	Chuave	2
Highlands	Chimbu	Kerowagi	2
Highlands	Eastern Highlands	Okapa	2
Highlands	Enga	Lagaip	2
Highlands	Jiwaka	North Waghi	2
Highlands	Eastern Highlands	Daulo	3
Highlands	Eastern Highlands	Kainantu	3
Highlands	Jiwaka	Anglimp South Waghi	5

*Highlands has a total of 30 votes.*

**Momase Region:** 17 DDA out of the 26 have a vote.

*These 17 are;*

Region	Province	DDA	Votes
Momase	Madang	Bogia	1
Momase	Madang	Middle Ramu	1
Momase	Madang	Sumkar	1
Momase	Morobe	Bulolo	1
Momase	Morobe	Finschafen	1
Momase	West Sepik	Aitape Lumi	1
Momase	West Sepik	Nuku	1
Momase	West Sepik	Telefomin	1
Momase	East Sepik	Angoram	2
Momase	Morobe	Markham	2
Momase	East Sepik	Wewak	3
Momase	East Sepik	Wosera Gaui	3
Momase	East Sepik	Yangoru Saussia	3
Momase	Madang	Rai Coast	3
Momase	Morobe	Huon Gulf	4
Momase	Morobe	Wau-Waria	6
Momase	Madang	Madang	11

*Momase has a total 45 votes.*

**Islands Region:** 8 DDA's out of the 13 have a vote.

These 8 are;

Region	Province	DDA	Votes
Islands	East New Britain	Kokopo	1
Islands	East New Britain	Gazelle	1
Islands	East New Britain	Pomio	1
Islands	Manus	Manus	1
Islands	West New Britain	Kandrian Gloucester	1
Islands	East New Britain	Rabaul	2
Islands	New Ireland	Namatanai	2
Islands	West New Britain	Talasea	6

Islands have a total 15 votes.

**Southern Region:** 11 DDA out of the 21 have a vote.

These 11 are:

Region	Province	DDA	Votes
Southern	Central	Abau	1
Southern	Central	Goilala	1
Southern	Central	Rigo	1
Southern	Milne Bay	Alotau	1
Southern	Milne Bay	Kiriwina Goodenough	1
Southern	National Capital	Moresby South	1
Southern	Western	Delta Fly	1
Southern	Milne Bay	Samarai Murua	2
Southern	Northern	Popondetta	2
Southern	Northern	Sohe	2
Southern	Northern	Ijivitari	3

Southern has a total 16 votes.

## 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

### KEY FINDINGS:

As at June 2025:

- Seventy-five (75) comments were posted on the DDA Watch website
- This is a 200% increase from the 24 comments at June 2024.
- The comments are in relation to thirty (30) districts from all four regions.

### ***Regional Breakdown***

1. Highlands: 15 comments from 10 out of 36 districts
2. Momase: 38 comments from 12 out of 26 districts
3. Southern: 12 comments from 5 out of 21 districts
4. Islands: 10 comments from 3 out of 13 districts.

### ***Highlands Region:***

Region	Province	DDA	Comments
Highlands	Jiwaka	Anglimp South Waghi	3
Highlands	Chimbu	Chuave	2
Highlands	Enga	Wabag	2
Highlands	Southern Highlands	Imbonggu	2
Highlands	Eastern Highlands	Goroka	1
Highlands	Eastern Highlands	Kainantu	1
Highlands	Eastern Highlands	Obura Wonenara	1
Highlands	Eastern Highlands	Okapa	1
Highlands	Enga	Kompam Ambum	1
Highlands	Southern Highlands	Kagua Erave	1
Total comments: 15			

### ***Momase Region:***

Region	Province	DDA	Comments
Momase	Madang	Bogia	8
Momase	Morobe	Wau-Waria	8
Momase	Madang	Madang	5
Momase	Morobe	Huon Gulf	4
Momase	Madang	Sumkar	3
Momase	Madang	Middle Ramu	2
Momase	Morobe	Bulolo	2
Momase	West Sepik	Aitape Lumi	2
Momase	East Sepik	Ambunti Dreikikir	1
Momase	Madang	Rai Coast	1
Momase	Morobe	Finschafen	1
Momase	West Sepik	Vanimo Green River	1
Total comments: 38			

**Islands Region:**

Region	Province	DDA	comments
Islands	West New Britain	Talasea	5
Islands	West New Britain	Kandrian Gloucester	4
Islands	New Ireland	Kavieng	1
Total Comments: 10			

**Southern Region:**

Region	Province	DDA	comments
Southern	Milne Bay	Samarai Murua	7
Southern	Northern	Popondetta	2
Southern	Central	Rigo	1
Southern	Western	North Fly	1
Southern	Western	South Fly	1
Total Comments: 12			

Figure 15 shows the overall website interaction updates by the four regions as of June 2025

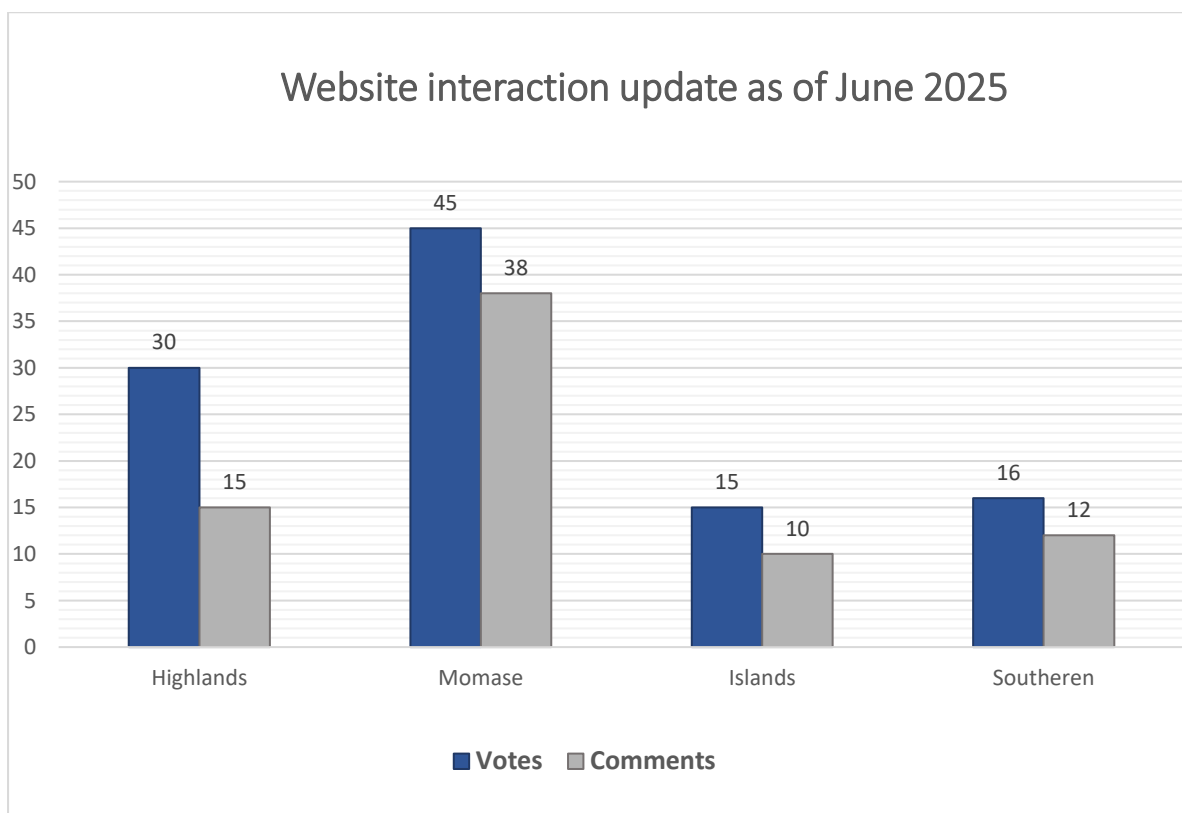


Figure 15. Website Interaction Summary by region as at June 2025

### 3. NEWS LINKS

DDA Watch provides news links for each of the ninety-six (96) DDAs for its users and visitors. Each DDA page has links to news stories of the DDA's activities for users to know and be informed.

Media monitoring over the period June 2023 to June 2025 identified 1909 news stories across the 96 District Development Authorities.

## KEY FINDINGS:

As at June 2025;

- 1,909 DDA news stories were recorded
- These stories related to all 96 DDAs

Figure 16 shows analysis of the number of DDA news stories.

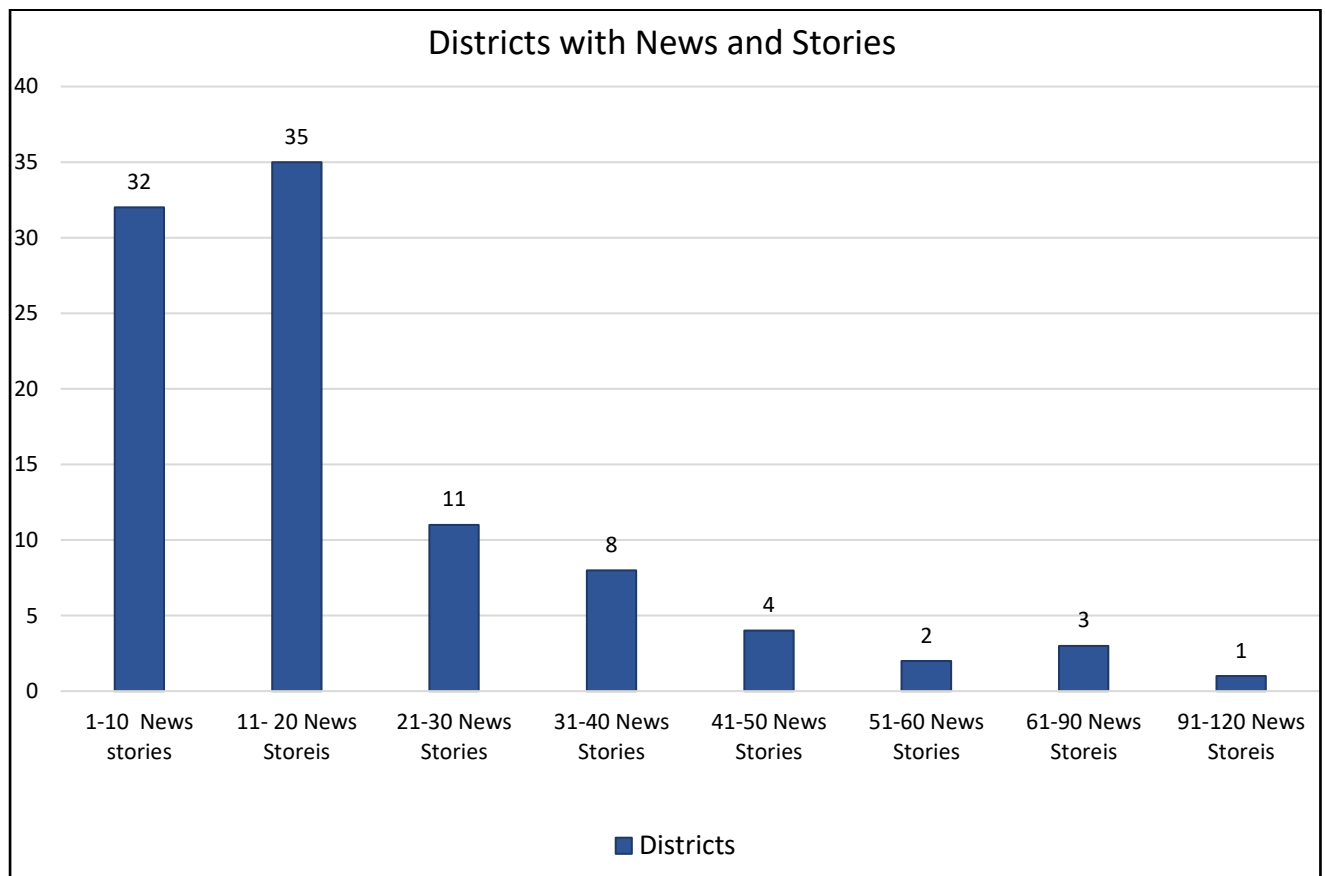


Figure 16. Number of DDA news stories recorded for each District June 2023 - June 2025

Here is the analysis;

- 32 DDA's had less than ten (10) news stories between 2023-2025
- 35 DDAs had more than ten (10) but fewer than twenty (20) news stories.
- 11 DDAs had more than twenty (20) but fewer than thirty (30) news stories.
- 8 DDAs had between thirty-one (31) and forty (40) news stories each
- 4 DDAs had more than forty (40) and fewer than fifty (50) news stories
- 3 DDA's had less than 90 (90) but more than 60 (60) news stories.
- The highest number of news stories for one district was 120 (recorded for Talasea in West New Britain)

### **Regional breakdown**

1. Highlands: The thirty-six (36) districts in the highland's region has a total of 580 links recorded.
2. Momase: The twenty-six (26) districts in Momase region a total of 660 news links recorded. The highest recorded from any regions.
3. Southern: The twenty-one (21) districts in Momase region recorded 413 news links.
4. Islands: The thirteen (13) districts in Islands region recorded 256 news links.

Below is a table highlighting the top ten (10) districts with the highest number of DDA news stories.

Top 10 DDAs in most reported news stories			
Region	Province	DDA	News Stories
Islands	West New Britain	Talasea	120
Momase	Morobe	Bulolo	90
Momase	Morobe	Nawaeb	80
Momase	East Sepik	Yangoru Saussia	76
Highlands	Chimbu	Kerowagi	66
Southern	Western	North Fly	63
Momase	Morobe	Wau- Wari	57
Southern	Gulf	Kerema	45
Highlands	Enga	Wabag	41
Momase	Morobe	Huon Gulf	41

## **PART 4: Top 5 Ranking DDAs on DDA Watch**

The top ranking DDAs on DDA Watch at June 2025 are;

1. Talasea – Scoring 66 /100 points
2. Kerowagi – Scoring 60/100 points
3. Markham – Scoring 50/100 points
4. Wau- Waria – scoring 48/100 points
5. Lufa – scoring 45/100 pints

### **KEY FINDINGS:**

#### **Key documents**

Key documents make up 50 points of the 100 points available in the DDA Watch scoring system. A DDA gets 10 points for each document that is publicly available. Documents are: 2023-2027 district 5-year development plan, Annual Budget, Acquittal report, Inspection Report and Audit report



Districts	District Plan	Annual Budget (2024)	Acquittal (2022-2023)	Score (50 Points)
Talasea	Yes	No (announced but not public)	Yes	20
Kerowagi	Yes	No (announced but not public)	No (announced but not public)	10
Markham	Yes	No (announced but not public)	No (announced but not public)	10
Wau- Waria	Yes	No (announced but not public)	No (announced but not public)	10
Lufa	Yes	No (announced but not public)	No (announced but not public)	10

**Note:**

1. Audit report: there are no audit reports for any districts in the country
2. Inspection Report: Department of Implementational and Rural development (DIRD) has not disclosed information on district inspection reports. There are none recorded on DDA Watch for any of the districts in the country.
3. Talasea DDA is the only DDA in all ninety-six (96) to produce a summary acquittal report and make it public.

**Contact details**

Contact details makes up 20 points in the DDA Watch scoring system.

Districts	CEO Named	Postal Address /Website	Current phone contact	Email Address	Score (20 points)
Talasea	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	20
Kerowagi	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	20
Markham	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	20
Wau- Waria	Yes	Yes	yes	yes	20
Lufa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	20

**Public scoring**

Up to 30 points are awarded to each DDA according to their average public satisfaction score. Satisfaction scores submitted by members of the public are recorded as 30 (very good), 20 (good), 15 (okay), 10 (bad) or 0 (very bad). The satisfaction score used in the displayed DDA rating is the average of all the scores submitted by the public (total score divided by number of submissions).

Where no public satisfaction scores have been submitted for a particular DDA, the DDA is awarded 15 as its starting score.

Districts	Public Votes	Average Satisfaction Score	Rank
Talasea	6	16	1
Kerowagi	2	30	2
Markham	2	20	3
Wau- Waria	6	18	4
Lufa	0	15	5

## Conclusion

The analysis of District Development Authorities (DDAs) according to the information recorded on the DDA Watch website highlights significant gaps in transparency, accountability, and public engagement across Papua New Guinea's ninety-six (96) districts.

There has been only very limited improvement in the number of publicly available documents over the past twelve-months compared to the situation in June 2023 and government agencies such as DIRD, AGO, OC and the Department of Finance continue to fail in fulfilling their critical governance oversight roles.

### Key Findings:

1. **Limited Availability of Key Documents:**
  - Only 9 DDAs have a publicly available 2022-2027 Five-Year Development Plan
  - Only 6 DDAs have announced their annual budget for 2025
  - No public records exist for district Inspection Reports or Audit Reports.
  - Only one DDA has a summary of its district acquittal report publicly available.
2. **Gaps in Contact Information:**
  - 92 DDAs have named CEOs, leaving 4 unidentified.
  - Active email addresses are available for just 7 DDAs.
  - Active phone numbers exist for just 20 DDAs
  - Only 6 DDAs have an active website.
3. **Public Engagement on DDA Watch:**
  - 109 total votes were recorded for 53 districts, meaning 43 districts received no public interaction.
4. **News Coverage Disparities:**
  - 1,909 DDA news stories were recorded for June 2023 - June 2025.
  - More than 70% of districts (sixty-seven, 67 DDAs) had fewer than 20 articles recorded,
  - Talasea district had the highest media coverage, with 120 recorded articles.

## Recommendations

- **Citizen Engagement:** We urge citizens to actively engage with their DDAs, demanding transparency, accountability, and adherence to good governance practices.
- **District Planning:** All DDAs must publish a 5-year development plan and make that plan available to the public
- **DSIP Accountability:** DDAs must promptly release detailed DSIP and DIP acquittal reports to restore public trust.

- **Audit Expansion:** Increase funding to the Auditor-General's Office (AGO) to enable it to conduct audits for all ninety-six (96) districts.
- **Budget, acquittals and district plans:** All Districts should publish their budgets, acquittals and district plans ensuring openness and fiscal responsibility. The lack of publicly available financial and planning documents raises concerns about transparency and governance.
- **Funding Restrictions:** The Department of Finance should stop distribution of further DSIP (District Services Improvement Program) and DIP (District Infrastructure Program) funds to districts with no plans, acquittals or contact details.
- **Leadership Code Enforcement:** The Ombudsman Commission (OC) should act under the Leadership Code against CEOs and DDA Board chairs who fail to publish plans, acquittals or contact details.
- **Leadership Action:** All DDAs should publish the names of their CEO, and contact phone, email and postal addresses. Improving communication channels is critical; ensuring that each DDA has a designated CEO, active email, phone number, and an official Postal address or website will strengthen public access to information.
- **Enhance Monitoring and Accountability:** Allocate additional funding to the Department of Implementation and Rural Development (DIRD) to strengthen monitoring and reporting frameworks. This will ensure comprehensive tracking and transparency of DDA activities, with a specific focus on inspection and audit reports.

Overall, while some districts have demonstrated limited attempts at public engagement, all DDAs still lack transparency and accountability in their operations. Strengthening information access, public engagement, and enforcement of governance frameworks are key to improving service delivery and ensuring that development funds are effectively utilized.