

# Evaluating the effectiveness of social assistance programs for poverty reduction: Evidence from Baramamase Village, Indonesia

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## ABSTRAK

### Introduction

Indonesia continues to face the challenge of multidimensional poverty despite multiple government initiatives. Social assistance programs such as food aid, conditional cash transfers, health insurance subsidies, and direct village fund transfers have been implemented nationwide. However, concerns about mistargeting, weak management, and limited long-term impact persist. This study examines the implementation and effectiveness of social assistance in Baramamase Village to understand how these programs contribute to welfare improvement at the local level.

### Objectives

The study aims to evaluate whether the design and implementation of social assistance programs in the village achieve their intended goals, to identify the factors that influence their effectiveness, and to assess the extent to which they improve household welfare beyond short-term relief.

### Method

A qualitative descriptive method was employed using observation, interviews with program implementers and beneficiaries, and documentation. Data were analyzed using the Context, Input, Process, and Product (CIPP) framework to capture institutional settings, resources, implementation mechanisms, and welfare outcomes. NVivo software was used to organize and analyze interview data.

### Results

The findings reveal that program effectiveness depends heavily on local governance, accurate data, and active community

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participation. Health insurance subsidies show the most consistent positive impact on welfare protection and sustainability, while conditional cash transfers improve education and health outcomes for children. Food aid contributes to short-term consumption but offers limited long-term benefits, and village fund cash transfers are valued by recipients but face distributional challenges. Beneficiaries report immediate relief and satisfaction, yet also express concerns about adequacy and continuity.

### Implications

The results suggest that social assistance plays a vital role in protecting poor households from shocks and ensuring access to basic needs. Nevertheless, its transformative effect on long-term welfare is constrained without complementary empowerment strategies. Policy improvements are needed in data accuracy, transparency, inter-institutional coordination, and the integration of skill-building and livelihood support to reduce dependency.

### Originality/Novelty

This study provides a localized and comprehensive assessment of social assistance effectiveness using the CIPP evaluation framework. By highlighting the interplay between management quality, data integrity, and beneficiary participation, it contributes to policy discourse on how to transform social assistance from temporary relief into a sustainable path toward welfare enhancement.

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## INTRODUCTION

Indonesia has long faced structural poverty challenges despite consistent government interventions through social assistance programs such as the Family Hope Program (PKH), the Non-Cash Food Assistance (BPNT), the Health Insurance Program for the Poor (PBI), and Village Fund Cash Assistance (BLT-DD). These initiatives are integral to national efforts aimed at alleviating poverty and promoting inclusive welfare across diverse socio-economic strata. Yet, despite their expansive reach, questions remain regarding their efficacy in producing sustainable welfare outcomes. Scholars have noted that the persistence of poverty reflects not merely resource scarcity but systemic weaknesses in policy design, implementation, and accountability (Halim et al., 2023; Hartono et al., 2023). Consequently, Indonesia's social assistance system represents a paradox, robust in structure but constrained in results, underscoring the need for critical assessment of its effectiveness within specific local contexts.

The multifaceted nature of these challenges reveals interlinked economic, political, and socio-cultural dimensions. One pressing issue concerns the inadequacy of targeting mechanisms, which undermines distributional equity. Inaccurate or outdated

databases often fail to reflect real-time changes in households' socio-economic status, leading to the inclusion of ineligible recipients and the exclusion of those most in need (Hartono et al., 2023; Jara & Palacio Ludeña, 2024). Beyond technical deficiencies, issues of governance, ranging from corruption to bureaucratic inefficiency, compound these errors. As Halim et al. (2023) observed, during crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, weak oversight structures facilitated misappropriation of aid funds, eroding public trust. Moreover, the psychological and cultural dimensions of assistance must not be overlooked. Rasyid et al. (2023) documented that recipients often experience social stigma, which can diminish the perceived legitimacy and emotional benefits of government support. Such evidence indicates that Indonesia's welfare challenges are not merely administrative but deeply embedded in societal and institutional norms.

From a broader policy perspective, the success or failure of social assistance programs in developing contexts like Indonesia is largely determined by three interdependent factors: implementation quality, governance capacity, and data accuracy (Agustanta et al., 2024; DeLacey et al., 2022). Implementation quality reflects how effectively program objectives are translated into tangible results through coherent planning and community engagement. Governance capacity entails institutional competence, political commitment, and administrative coordination across multiple layers of government (Frongillo et al., 2025; Purnomo et al., 2023). Meanwhile, data accuracy functions as the cornerstone of program targeting, ensuring that aid reaches the intended beneficiaries (Lengkong et al., 2023). When any of these dimensions falter, the integrity of social protection mechanisms is jeopardized. For instance, Indonesia's decentralized administrative structure often results in fragmented coordination, where overlapping jurisdictions dilute program accountability (Rusliadi & Aina, 2024). Consequently, reforming social assistance requires an integrated approach that combines technical precision with institutional and human capacity strengthening.

International evidence provides valuable comparative insights into the transformative potential of well-designed social protection programs. Conditional cash transfers (CCTs), particularly in Latin American countries such as Brazil's *Bolsa Família* and Mexico's *Progres a Oportunidades*, have proven effective in breaking intergenerational poverty cycles through investments in education and health (Dartanto et al., 2021). These experiences illustrate how social transfers, when linked to human-capital development conditions, yield not only immediate poverty relief but also long-term social mobility. In the Indonesian context, PKH has shown promise in enhancing school attendance and maternal health outcomes (Tristanto et al., 2022). However, achieving results comparable to international benchmarks requires addressing structural limitations, especially in administrative capacity and inclusivity (Mahadi, 2024). As Jara & Palacio Ludeña (2024) argue, comprehensive registries and adaptive management are vital to ensuring equitable access and preventing exclusion errors that disproportionately affect transiently poor and marginalized populations.

The design and implementation of social assistance programs are further strengthened when they incorporate participatory governance and community

engagement. Experiences from Latin America, Africa, and Southeast Asia demonstrate that devolving certain decision-making powers to local communities enhances trust, accountability, and relevance ([Simangunsong & Sihotang, 2023](#)). Mahadi (2024) underscores that collaborative governance, linking local governments with civil-society organizations, creates an enabling environment for transparent fund management and improved service delivery. Additionally, integrating conditional assistance with complementary social services such as healthcare, education, and vocational training amplifies welfare gains ([Do Vale, 2021](#)). Yet, the Indonesian experience highlights persisting fragmentation, where parallel programs operate without sufficient synergy, reducing the cumulative impact on poverty reduction. Addressing this institutional misalignment is essential to moving from fragmented charity-based interventions toward coherent, empowerment-oriented social policy.

The theoretical lens adopted in evaluating such complex programs must be sufficiently comprehensive to capture contextual and procedural nuances. The Context, Input, Process, Product (CIPP) evaluation model developed by Stufflebeam has been widely applied in policy analysis due to its systematic, multi-phase structure ([Khairi et al., 2023](#)). Context evaluation enables analysts to understand the socio-economic environment and identify pressing needs. Input evaluation assesses resources and strategies, while process evaluation examines fidelity in implementation. Finally, product evaluation measures short- and long-term outcomes relative to stated goals ([Ruiz et al., 2023](#)). This holistic approach not only provides a multidimensional view of program performance but also fosters continuous improvement through iterative learning ([Kapoor et al., 2024](#); [Sari et al., 2024](#)). Its application in Indonesian welfare contexts allows researchers to map relationships between policy design, administrative processes, and real-world outcomes, thereby generating actionable insights for reform.

Nevertheless, the CIPP model's comprehensiveness introduces practical challenges. Its application demands significant data collection capacity, analytical rigor, and stakeholder coordination, resources often scarce at the local government level ([Siong, 2022](#)). Moreover, the model's reliance on evaluators' subjective judgments may introduce interpretive biases ([Bodur et al., 2022](#)). Despite these limitations, the CIPP framework remains among the most decision-oriented tools for evaluating social programs, balancing accountability with developmental learning. When integrated with participatory and data-driven methods, it provides a robust scaffold for understanding how local contexts shape program outcomes and for refining interventions toward sustained poverty alleviation ([Wedayanthi et al., 2024](#)).

While prior research has extensively examined short-term effectiveness and implementation quality, significant knowledge gaps persist regarding long-term welfare impacts, targeting precision, and empowerment outcomes. Most existing studies assess immediate outputs, such as increased household consumption or improved access to services, without exploring whether these gains endure over time. The lack of longitudinal data constrains understanding of whether beneficiaries sustain improved living conditions once assistance ceases ([Dartanto et al., 2021](#)). Moreover, the persistent inaccuracy of beneficiary databases, often reliant on outdated surveys,

undermines targeting efficiency, leading to misallocation of limited resources (Lengkong et al., 2023). These shortcomings highlight the urgent need for more dynamic and participatory data management systems capable of reflecting real-time socio-economic shifts.

Empowerment outcomes represent another underexplored dimension. While the rhetoric of social assistance emphasizes self-reliance and inclusion, empirical evaluations rarely measure changes in beneficiaries' agency, self-efficacy, or decision-making capacity. As empowerment involves qualitative transformations in how individuals perceive and act upon their socio-economic opportunities, conventional quantitative metrics are inadequate (Rasyid et al., 2023). Integrating empowerment indicators into social program evaluation is therefore essential to ensure that welfare assistance transcends mere subsistence support. Similarly, the absence of interdisciplinary collaboration across economics, sociology, and public health limits the explanatory power of existing evaluations. Addressing poverty as a multidimensional phenomenon requires bridging disciplinary divides to capture the complex interplay between material deprivation, social exclusion, and psychological well-being.

Against this backdrop, the present study seeks to evaluate the effectiveness of Indonesia's principal social assistance programs, BPNT, PKH, PBI, and BLT-DD, using the CIPP framework within the context of Baramamase Village. The research examines not only program efficiency and satisfaction but also explores broader governance and empowerment implications. By adopting a holistic and locally grounded approach, this study contributes to filling critical gaps in the literature concerning how social assistance translates into sustainable welfare outcomes. The novelty of this study lies in its integrative evaluation that combines administrative, community, and beneficiary perspectives within a single analytic framework. Furthermore, it situates local findings within global discourses on conditional cash transfers and welfare-state development, thereby bridging empirical insight with theoretical advancement. The results are expected to inform both academic debate and policy formulation, offering evidence-based recommendations for enhancing transparency, accountability, and empowerment in Indonesia's evolving social protection landscape.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### Theoretical and Conceptual Foundations

The scholarly literature on social assistance programs in developing countries has evolved significantly over the past two decades, moving from a welfare-based paradigm toward a multidimensional approach that integrates human capital, empowerment, and resilience. The Human Capital Theory remains foundational, emphasizing investments in education, health, and skill-building as mechanisms for long-term poverty reduction (Duha, 2025; Nandini & Latif, 2024; Rahmadian & Badriyah, 2025; Tamsah & Nurung, 2024). Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) programs, such as Indonesia's *Program Keluarga Harapan* (PKH), embody this framework by linking financial support to educational attendance and maternal health care, encouraging

human development beyond immediate financial relief. This theoretical approach positions social assistance as both a protective and promotive instrument against intergenerational poverty traps.

The Capability Approach, developed by Amartya Sen (1985, 2001), extends the analysis of poverty beyond economic deprivation to encompass the expansion of individuals' freedoms and capabilities (Frediani, 2010; Jacobson, 2016; Walker, 2005). This framework has guided contemporary assessments of social protection policies by focusing on how welfare interventions enhance people's ability to pursue valued life outcomes (Souza et al., 2022). By evaluating beneficiaries' well-being through their capacity to make life-improving choices, the approach complements the economic orientation of human capital theory. Moreover, capability-based perspectives underline how empowerment, agency, and dignity are integral to sustainable welfare outcomes, key concerns in the current discourse on social assistance effectiveness.

The Social Safety Net framework conceptualizes cash transfers as essential mechanisms for supporting vulnerable populations in times of crisis (Paitoonpong et al., 2008; Ravallion et al., 1995; Tach & Edin, 2017). Over time, this concept has shifted from viewing aid as temporary relief toward a model emphasizing empowerment and resilience-building (Handa et al., 2022). Parallel to this transformation, Behavioral Economics has introduced insights into how cognitive biases, psychological factors, and decision contexts shape beneficiaries' responses to social assistance (Gennetian et al., 2021). These evolving frameworks highlight the necessity of designing welfare programs that address not only financial needs but also behavioral and structural barriers, thereby aligning social assistance with broader human development objectives.

### **Empirical Evidence from Indonesia**

Empirical investigations of Indonesia's principal welfare programs, PKH, BPNT, PBI, and BLT-DD, demonstrate measurable progress in poverty reduction while revealing persistent challenges in targeting accuracy, implementation quality, and long-term sustainability. Studies indicate that effective distribution mechanisms are crucial for ensuring impact; yet, delays in disbursement and limited administrative capacity have constrained program efficiency (Hartono et al., 2023). Continuous monitoring and evaluation systems, as emphasized by Agustanta et al. (2024), are essential for identifying inefficiencies and guiding evidence-based policy refinements. These findings suggest that strengthening institutional capacities and digital infrastructure is vital for sustaining implementation quality.

The issue of targeting accuracy remains one of the most critical weaknesses in Indonesia's social assistance framework. Inaccurate or outdated beneficiary databases have led to inclusion and exclusion errors, with resources sometimes diverted to ineligible recipients while genuinely poor households are overlooked (Munandar, 2021). Regional disparities exacerbate these inefficiencies, as local governance variations influence data reliability and eligibility enforcement (Arham et al., 2024). Recent innovations, such as data mining and machine-learning approaches



for eligibility verification, offer promising avenues to improve precision and accountability in beneficiary selection (Rusliadi & Aina, 2024). These developments mark an emerging effort to modernize welfare targeting mechanisms across Indonesia.

The socioeconomic impacts of these programs reveal both achievements and limitations. PKH has been found to raise household expenditures and improve access to health and education services, aligning with the goal of human capital formation (Dartanto et al., 2021). However, dependency effects and insufficient empowerment outcomes remain concerns (Haliim et al., 2024). During crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, social assistance programs acted as vital economic stabilizers, mitigating the surge in poverty and unemployment (Langi et al., 2023). The evidence underscores that while Indonesia's social assistance architecture performs well as a short-term buffer, enhancing its transformative capacity will require sustained investments in empowerment and capacity-building strategies.

### Global Comparative Perspectives

International experiences with Conditional Cash Transfers (CCTs) offer valuable benchmarks for improving Indonesia's welfare programs. Latin American models, particularly Brazil's *Bolsa Família* (Neves et al., 2022; Saad-Filho, 2015; Soares, 2011; Soares et al., 2010) and Mexico's *Oportunidades* (Alix-Garcia et al., 2013; Cortés et al., 2007; Leroy et al., 2008; Ulrichs & Roelen, 2012), demonstrate the potential of integrating conditionality with human development goals. These programs employ digital delivery mechanisms and robust monitoring systems to ensure efficiency and transparency (Pavão, 2016). In contrast, Indonesian programs continue to face bureaucratic obstacles and data inconsistencies that delay benefits and reduce public trust (Vargas-Faulbaum et al., 2025). Strengthening technological infrastructure and administrative coordination could therefore bridge the implementation gap between Indonesia and these international exemplars.

Comparative analyses also highlight the importance of community participation and decentralized decision-making. In Latin America, participatory approaches involving local communities in program design and oversight have improved trust and outcomes (Van Den Boogaard et al., 2023). Indonesian programs, by contrast, exhibit limited engagement with beneficiaries during planning and monitoring, which can weaken accountability and responsiveness. Adopting participatory governance models could enhance the adaptability and social legitimacy of Indonesia's welfare initiatives. Furthermore, successful international programs emphasize inclusivity, particularly targeting marginalized groups, whereas Indonesian frameworks sometimes remain constrained by rigid eligibility rules and limited outreach (Habibullah, 2019).

The socioeconomic impacts of global CCTs further emphasize Indonesia's need for long-term developmental integration. Latin American programs consistently document measurable gains in education, health, and gender empowerment (Kiss et al., 2022). In Indonesia, PKH's benefits are evident but often limited to short-term consumption improvements rather than sustained mobility (Dartanto et al., 2021).

Comparative findings suggest that embedding empowerment-oriented components, such as vocational training or microenterprise support, could extend welfare outcomes. Gender-sensitive policy design, which has proven effective in Latin American contexts (Qiu et al., 2018), remains underdeveloped in Indonesia and represents a promising reform direction.

### Evaluation Frameworks and Methodological Approaches

Program evaluation frameworks play a crucial role in assessing welfare policy effectiveness. Among these, the CIPP (Context, Input, Process, Product) model offers a comprehensive structure for evaluating all phases of program implementation (Rollins et al., 2019; Sopha & Nanni, 2019; Toosi et al., 2021; Zhang et al., 2011). Its holistic approach facilitates continuous feedback and iterative improvements, fostering stakeholder engagement and policy learning (Van Epp & Garside, 2019). However, its reliance on extensive data collection and qualitative interpretation makes it resource-intensive and potentially subjective (Crossen-White et al., 2022). Despite these challenges, the CIPP model remains particularly relevant for complex, multi-sectoral programs like social assistance schemes.

The Theory of Change (ToC) framework (Breuer et al., 2016; De Silva et al., 2014; Mackenzie & Blamey, 2005) complements CIPP by mapping causal pathways from inputs to outcomes, emphasizing the articulation of underlying assumptions (Botha et al., 2017). Its adaptability allows evaluators to visualize the logical sequence of activities and expected impacts, promoting clearer accountability and alignment of interventions (Haass & Guzman, 2020). However, ToC may oversimplify external contextual variables and demand extensive stakeholder consensus, limiting its applicability in fragmented governance environments (Ncube & Murray, 2024). In welfare contexts, combining ToC with mixed-method approaches enhances explanatory depth and contextual sensitivity.

The Logical Framework Approach (LFA) and mixed-method evaluations provide additional rigor by linking objectives, activities, and outputs through a structured matrix (Casamitjana et al., 2022; Maxwell, 2022). LFA enhances transparency and performance tracking but risks rigidity and overemphasis on measurable outputs at the expense of contextual understanding (Santarsiero, 2023). Mixed-method designs integrate quantitative data on efficiency and reach with qualitative insights into beneficiary experiences, generating multidimensional perspectives (Scott et al., 2024). Together, these frameworks strengthen the analytical validity of welfare evaluations and ensure that program assessments remain evidence-based, inclusive, and policy-relevant.

### Emerging Directions

Despite substantial advancements, the literature reveals enduring gaps concerning long-term empowerment, sustainability, and adaptive governance. Most evaluations emphasize immediate poverty reduction indicators while overlooking how assistance fosters self-sufficiency or psychosocial empowerment. Longitudinal studies assessing how welfare programs influence beneficiaries' agency, confidence, and decision-



making power are scarce. Future research must integrate qualitative dimensions that capture empowerment dynamics, particularly among women and marginalized groups, to align program evaluation with broader development goals.

The sustainability of social assistance programs also remains underexamined. Few studies assess how programs adapt to economic shocks or environmental challenges, even though the COVID-19 pandemic exposed vulnerabilities in static welfare designs. Long-term program viability depends on institutional flexibility and consistent funding, which current evaluations often neglect ([Hodson et al., 2023](#)). Addressing sustainability therefore requires more robust longitudinal methodologies that link policy cycles with socio-economic resilience.

Finally, the literature underscores the limited attention to adaptive governance, the capacity of institutions to adjust programs in response to evolving needs. Evaluations rarely analyze intergovernmental coordination, stakeholder participation, or feedback loops that enable policy learning ([De Marchis et al., 2020](#); [Yona & Nadan, 2021](#)). Enhanced participatory governance and community co-management can improve responsiveness and accountability. Methodologically, the dominance of quantitative approaches restricts understanding of local dynamics; thus, integrating mixed-method and participatory evaluations will be crucial for capturing the complex realities of poverty and welfare in diverse Indonesian contexts.

### Research Gap and the Significance of the Study

Despite considerable research on Indonesia's social assistance programs, critical gaps persist in understanding their long-term empowerment effects, sustainability, and adaptive governance. Most existing evaluations emphasize short-term poverty alleviation rather than enduring welfare improvements or beneficiaries' psychosocial empowerment ([Churchill & Nuhu, 2016](#); [Essama-Nssah, 2004](#); [Lenhardt et al., 2024](#)). Moreover, limited longitudinal studies hinder assessment of whether increased access to education, health care, and income stability translates into self-reliance and social mobility ([Akhter & Chauhan, 2024](#); [McGonagle et al., 2012](#); [Roshan & Rahman, 2025](#)). These deficiencies constrain policy design, preventing social assistance from evolving into a transformative mechanism that addresses structural poverty and enhances human capabilities.

This study addresses these research gaps by employing the Context, Input, Process, Product (CIPP) evaluation model to assess Indonesia's core welfare programs, PKH, BPNT, PBI, and BLT-DD, within the local context of Baramamase Village. The significance of this study lies in its integration of administrative, community, and beneficiary perspectives to provide a holistic evaluation of program effectiveness and empowerment outcomes. By situating local findings within global welfare discourses, the study contributes empirically grounded insights to refine policy frameworks, strengthen adaptive governance, and enhance the long-term sustainability of Indonesia's social protection system ([De Marchis et al., 2020](#); [Hodson et al., 2023](#)).

## METHOD

### Research Design

This study employs a qualitative descriptive design based on the Context, Input, Process, Product (CIPP) evaluation model developed by Stufflebeam. The model was selected for its comprehensive framework, which facilitates a systematic assessment of program effectiveness from multiple dimensions. The context component evaluates the environmental and institutional conditions influencing program implementation, while input examines resources, policies, and administrative mechanisms. The process component focuses on program execution and stakeholder participation, and the product stage measures both immediate and long-term outcomes (Rollins et al., 2019; Van Epp & Garside, 2019). This design is particularly suited to complex social assistance systems like Indonesia's, where multiple actors, overlapping policies, and contextual diversity shape program results. The descriptive nature of this research allows for detailed interpretation of phenomena without experimental manipulation, aligning with the study's goal of understanding implementation realities rather than establishing causality.

### Research Setting and Context

The study was conducted in Baramamase Village, an area representing a microcosm of Indonesia's rural social assistance ecosystem. The village has been the recipient of several government programs, including the Family Hope Program (*Program Keluarga Harapan*, PKH), Non-Cash Food Assistance (*Bantuan Pangan Non-Tunai*, BPNT), Health Insurance for the Poor (*Penerima Bantuan Iuran Jaminan Kesehatan*, PBI-JK), and Village Fund Cash Assistance (*Bantuan Langsung Tunai Dana Desa*, BLT-DD). Baramamase was chosen because it reflects the typical socio-economic characteristics of rural communities, high dependency on agriculture, limited income diversification, and persistent poverty despite the presence of multiple welfare schemes. The setting also offers a relevant environment for analyzing how program coordination, data accuracy, and community engagement affect implementation. Understanding these localized dynamics provides empirical grounding for generalizing findings to broader national contexts.

### Population and Sampling Technique

The research population includes three key stakeholder groups: program administrators, village government officials, and beneficiary households. Participants were selected using purposive sampling, ensuring representation from actors directly involved in the implementation and receipt of social assistance. The inclusion criteria for administrators required at least one year of active involvement in PKH, BPNT, PBI-JK, or BLT-DD program management. Beneficiary participants were required to have received assistance for at least two consecutive years to ensure familiarity with program processes and outcomes. A total of 24 respondents participated in the study, comprising 8 administrators, 6 village officials, and 10 beneficiary households. This composition reflects a balanced distribution between policy implementers and

recipients, which is critical for obtaining a multi-perspective understanding of program performance ([Agustanta et al., 2024](#); [Mustaqim et al., 2024](#)).

### **Data Collection Methods**

Data collection employed three primary qualitative techniques: observation, semi-structured interviews, and document analysis.

First, observation was conducted to capture real-time interactions between administrators and beneficiaries, with particular attention to program coordination meetings, distribution processes, and data verification sessions. Field notes were used to record patterns of behavior, communication dynamics, and procedural bottlenecks.

Second, semi-structured interviews were the core method for gathering in-depth insights into the participants' experiences, perceptions, and evaluations. Interviews with administrators explored management challenges, data reliability, and inter-agency coordination, while those with beneficiaries investigated accessibility, satisfaction, and perceived program benefits. Interviews lasted between 45 and 90 minutes and were audio-recorded with informed consent.

Third, document analysis involved reviewing official reports, policy documents, and local implementation records related to PKH, BPNT, PBI-JK, and BLT-DD. These documents provided secondary evidence for triangulating findings and verifying information obtained through interviews and observations ([Dartanto et al., 2021](#); [Munandar, 2021](#)).

### **Data Analysis Procedures**

The data were analyzed inductively using the Miles and Huberman framework for qualitative analysis, consisting of three stages: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. During data reduction, interview transcripts and field notes were systematically coded using NVivo software to identify recurring themes aligned with the four CIPP dimensions. Codes were then grouped into categories such as "governance quality," "resource adequacy," "implementation barriers," and "beneficiary outcomes." In the data display stage, findings were organized into matrices and visual charts to facilitate pattern recognition and inter-variable comparison. Finally, during conclusion drawing, the relationships between contextual, procedural, and outcome factors were synthesized to construct an interpretive narrative explaining the programs' effectiveness and limitations ([Crossen-White et al., 2022](#); [Siong, 2022](#)). The iterative analytical approach allowed ongoing refinement of emerging themes as new data were integrated, ensuring analytical depth and reliability.

### **Evaluation Framework: Application of the CIPP Model**

The context evaluation examined socio-economic conditions, policy objectives, and institutional structures shaping program delivery in Baramamase Village. This involved assessing demographic profiles, poverty rates, and the alignment between national policies and local needs ([Khairi et al., 2023](#)).

The input evaluation analyzed available resources, financial, human, and technological, used to implement each program. Attention was given to staff

competency, training availability, and the adequacy of data infrastructure, particularly the Social Welfare Integrated Data System (*Sistem Informasi Kesejahteraan Sosial Next Generation*, SIKS-NG).

The process evaluation assessed the fidelity of program implementation against planned procedures, identifying deviations caused by administrative delays, coordination failures, or community disengagement (Wedayanthi et al., 2024). Finally, the product evaluation measured the extent to which the programs achieved intended outcomes, including poverty reduction, health insurance utilization, and beneficiary satisfaction (Ruiz et al., 2023). Applying all four CIPP components ensured a balanced assessment of both operational efficiency and social impact.

### **Trustworthiness and Validity**

To ensure the credibility and dependability of findings, several strategies were employed. Triangulation was used to cross-verify data from multiple sources, interviews, observations, and documents, thereby minimizing bias. Member checking was conducted by sharing synthesized findings with key informants for validation, ensuring interpretive accuracy. Peer debriefing sessions with academic advisors provided critical feedback on coding consistency and thematic coherence. Furthermore, an audit trail documenting all analytical steps enhanced transparency and replicability. To ensure transferability, detailed contextual descriptions were provided to allow readers to assess the applicability of results to other settings (Bodur et al., 2022; Rollins et al., 2019). This rigorous verification process strengthened the reliability of conclusions drawn from qualitative data.

### **Ethical Considerations**

Ethical integrity was prioritized throughout the research process. Informed consent was obtained from all participants after explaining the study's purpose, procedures, and confidentiality assurances. Participation was voluntary, and respondents were free to withdraw at any stage without penalty. Anonymity was maintained by replacing personal identifiers with coded references during transcription and analysis. Sensitive information related to household income, health status, or program eligibility was handled with strict confidentiality. The research adhered to the ethical standards for human subjects as outlined by institutional review protocols and the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki. This ensured that participants' rights and welfare were fully protected during all stages of data collection and reporting.

### **Limitations of the Method**

While the qualitative approach provides rich contextual understanding, several methodological limitations are acknowledged. The single-site focus on Baramamase Village restricts generalizability to other regions with different socio-economic or administrative characteristics. Additionally, reliance on self-reported data from participants introduces potential biases such as selective memory or social desirability effects. To mitigate these limitations, triangulation and document verification were rigorously applied. Time constraints limited longitudinal observation, making it difficult

to capture the programs' long-term outcomes. Nevertheless, the chosen approach offers valuable exploratory insights into the complex interplay between governance, resource management, and welfare outcomes within Indonesia's social assistance system.

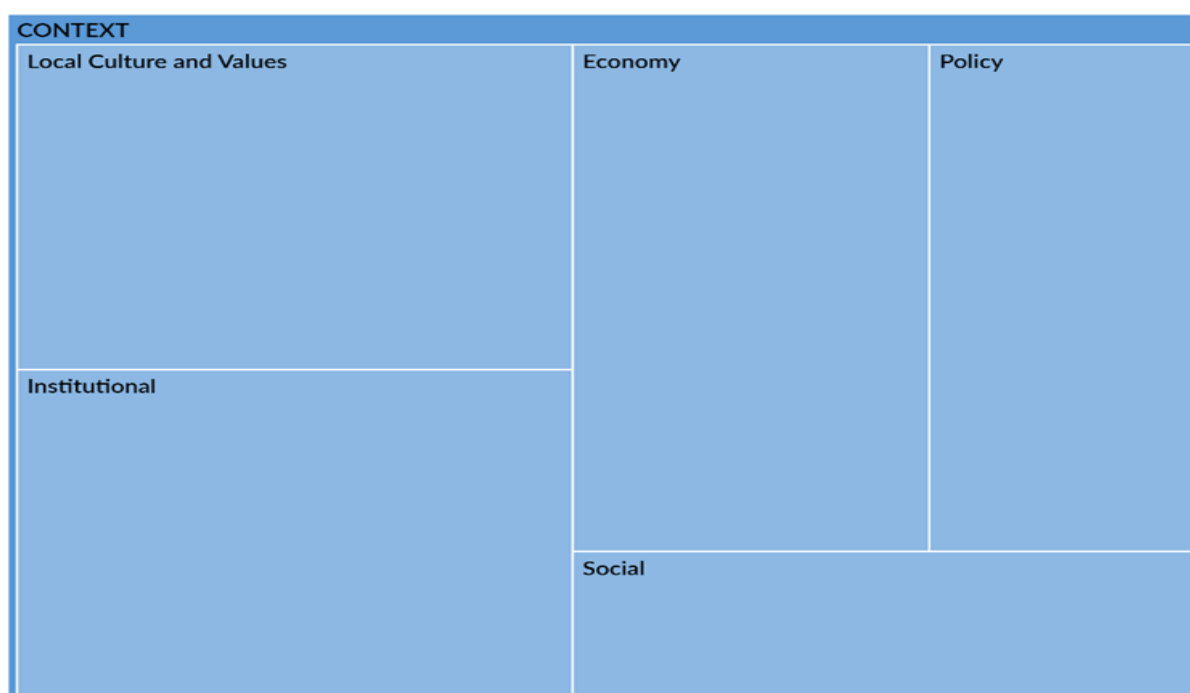
## RESULTS

### Context Evaluation

The context evaluation in Figure 1 examines the institutional, cultural, and socio-economic conditions that influence the implementation of social assistance programs in Baramamase Village. Findings indicate that institutional capacity constitutes the most critical determinant of program success. Village-level governance, particularly the leadership of the village head, social welfare staff, and administrative officers, plays a decisive role in ensuring equitable distribution, transparent reporting, and consistent monitoring of assistance activities. Effective institutions foster better accountability and responsiveness to community needs, while institutional weaknesses often manifest as delays in disbursement, incomplete documentation, and unclear coordination between village and higher administrative levels.

**Figure 1**

*Visualization of Results using Hierarchy Chart for Context*



Source: Primary data. Authors' analysis.

Cultural values also significantly shape implementation outcomes. The local norms of *gotong royong* (mutual cooperation), trust, and communal solidarity enhance public acceptance of assistance programs. When program mechanisms align with these shared values, beneficiaries demonstrate higher participation and compliance.

Conversely, when government procedures appear overly bureaucratic or inconsistent with local customs, the community tends to perceive programs as externally imposed rather than collectively owned. This cultural alignment therefore serves as both a facilitating and moderating factor in program success.

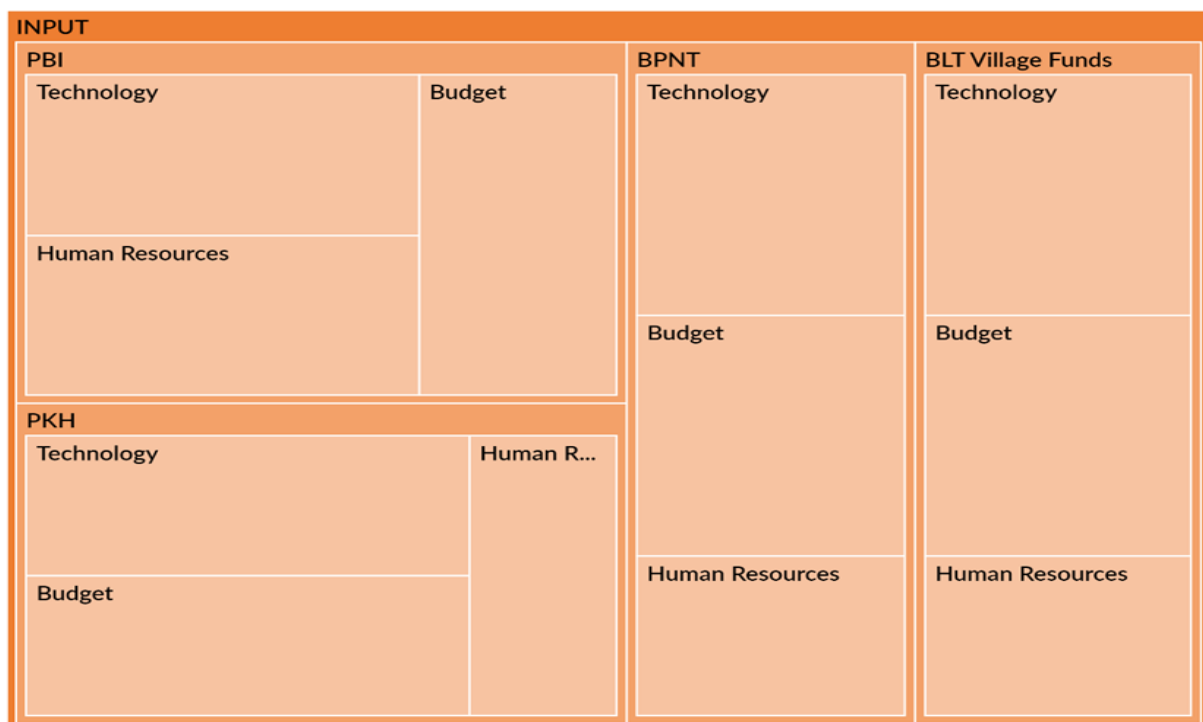
Socio-economic background conditions further contextualize program outcomes. Household income levels, employment structures, and access to basic infrastructure shape both the urgency of assistance and the perceived adequacy of benefits. Poorer households rely heavily on social transfers to meet subsistence needs, while more economically stable families view them as supplemental support. Although social and economic contexts influence perceptions of fairness and sufficiency, they do not undermine the overarching institutional and cultural determinants of program effectiveness. The integration of these dimensions underscores that social assistance success is multidimensional, requiring institutional integrity, cultural sensitivity, and socio-economic responsiveness.

### Input Evaluation

At the input stage, as shown in Figure 2, the study analyzes the resources utilized to implement four key social assistance programs: the Health Insurance Contribution Assistance (*Penerima Bantuan Iuran Jaminan Kesehatan* or PBI-JK), the Family Hope Program (*Program Keluarga Harapan* or PKH), Non-Cash Food Assistance (*Bantuan Pangan Non Tunai* or BPNT), and the Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance (*Bantuan Langsung Tunai Dana Desa* or BLT-DD).

**Figure 2**

*Visualization of Results using Hierarchy Chart for Input*



Source: Primary data. Authors' analysis.



The PBI-JK program demonstrates dominance in technology and human resource input. Its data collection, verification, and payment systems are fully integrated into national digital infrastructures such as BPJS (Social Security Agency), ensuring standardized administration and minimizing local discretionary errors. However, this centralized model also limits local flexibility in addressing emerging needs or data discrepancies.

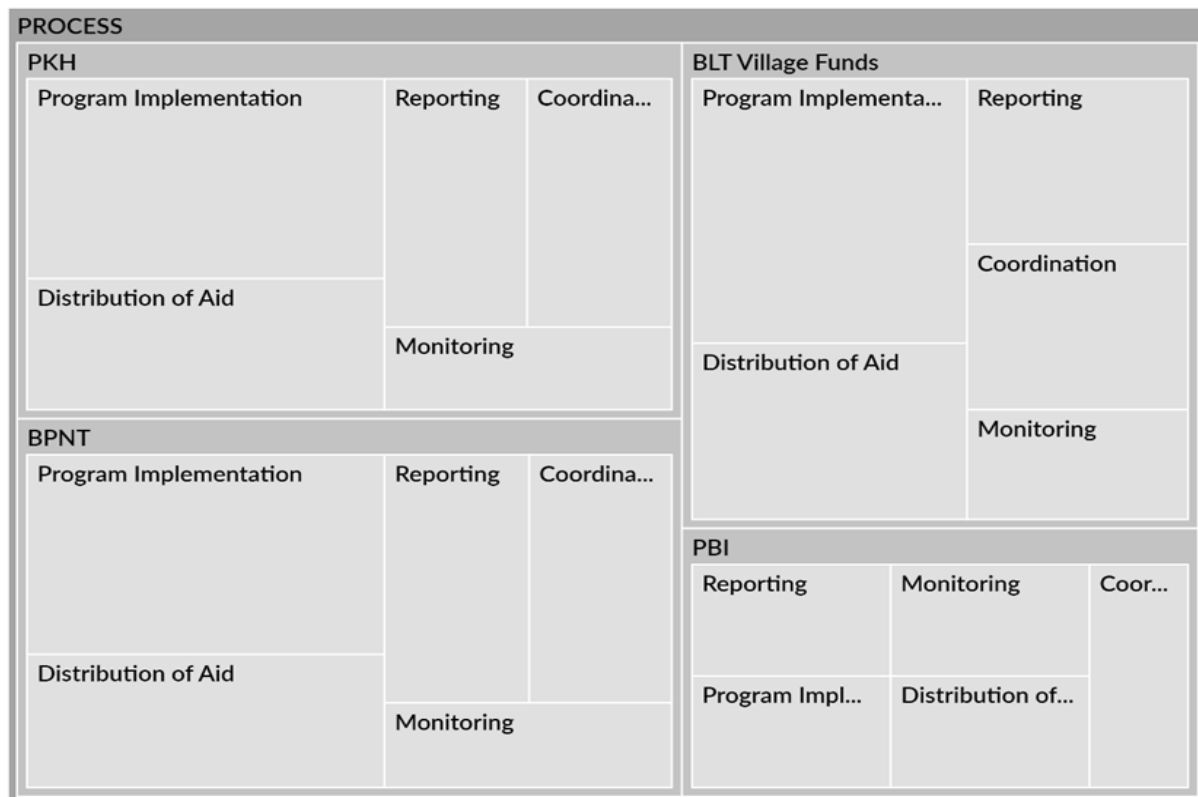
The PKH program requires a more balanced input structure, combining financial resources, trained facilitators, and technological support through the Integrated Social Welfare Data System (*Sistem Informasi Kesejahteraan Sosial Next Generation* or SIKS-NG). The quality and commitment of PKH assistants substantially influence targeting precision, beneficiary compliance, and case management efficiency. Moreover, budget adequacy remains a recurring challenge, as delays in fund transfers occasionally disrupt scheduled distributions.

The BPNT program heavily depends on technological infrastructure, particularly the *e-warung* network and digital transaction cards. This approach enhances transaction transparency but also introduces operational vulnerabilities, such as system downtime or card errors, which may delay food distribution. In contrast, the BLT-DD program primarily relies on human and financial inputs at the village level. Its decentralized structure enables flexibility and responsiveness, as village authorities directly identify recipients and disburse funds. Nonetheless, such autonomy requires strong oversight mechanisms to prevent misallocation or favoritism.

Overall, the evaluation reveals that each program's input design corresponds to its operational nature: centralized programs depend on national technology and budget systems, while localized programs rely more on human capacity and village governance. Harmonizing these resource allocations through cross-program coordination could improve efficiency and equity across implementation levels.

### **Process Evaluation**

The process evaluation in Figure 3 explores operational dynamics, coordination mechanisms, and procedural compliance across the four programs. Each program shares a similar implementation structure encompassing planning, distribution, reporting, coordination, and monitoring, yet variations in complexity and execution determine effectiveness.

**Figure 3***Visualization of Results using Hierarchy Chart for Process*

Source: Primary data. Authors' analysis.

The PKH and BPNT programs exhibit the most intricate procedural frameworks. These initiatives require continuous coordination between local governments, the Ministry of Social Affairs, banks, and private vendors. PKH's conditional cash transfers necessitate verification of beneficiaries' educational attendance and health visits, while BPNT's food distribution system relies on regular monitoring of digital transactions through *e-warung* vendors. This inter-agency interdependence increases administrative workload but ensures accountability and traceability of funds.

In contrast, BLT-DD operations follow a simpler process flow. Village governments are responsible for data validation, beneficiary selection, fund disbursement, and periodic reporting to district authorities. The proximity of implementers to recipients facilitates faster distribution and stronger social oversight. However, it also increases exposure to subjective decision-making and political interference. Meanwhile, PBI-JK processes are entirely administrative, contributions are paid directly to BPJS without requiring physical transactions, resulting in uniformity and minimal operational discrepancies across regions.

Process analysis reveals that implementation efficiency correlates strongly with program complexity. Locally administered cash transfers (like BLT-DD) demonstrate agility and responsiveness, while nationally coordinated conditional programs (like PKH and BPNT) ensure systematic but slower delivery. The findings highlight that the

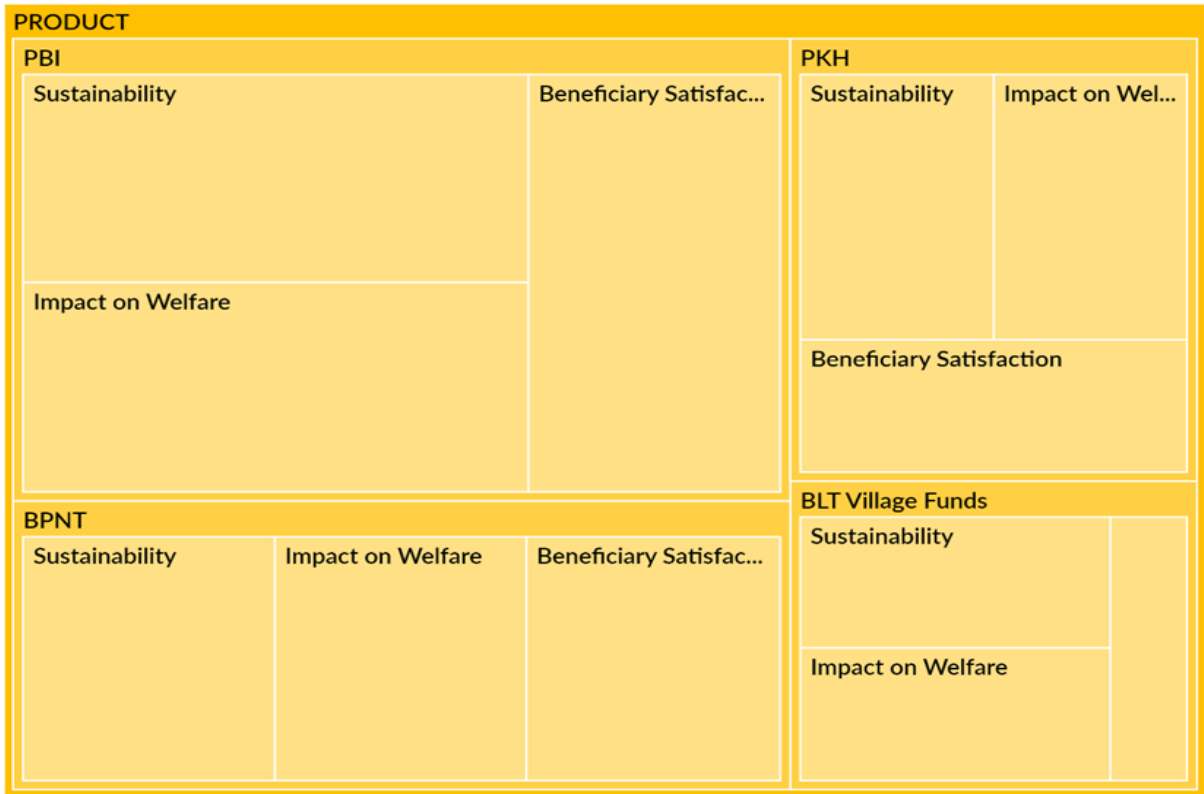
operational process must balance speed, accuracy, and accountability to achieve optimal welfare outcomes.

**Product Evaluation**

The product evaluation in Figure 4 assesses the tangible and perceived outcomes of each social assistance program based on three indicators: beneficiary satisfaction, welfare impact, and program sustainability.

**Figure 4**

*Visualization of Results using Hierarchy Chart for Product*



Source: Primary data. Authors’ analysis.

The PBI-JK program achieves the highest performance across all indicators. Beneficiaries consistently report satisfaction with access to free health services and the financial relief it provides. The program’s integration with the national healthcare system ensures continuity and sustainability. Importantly, its impact extends beyond individual recipients, contributing to household economic stability by reducing catastrophic health expenditures.

The PKH program demonstrates a significant positive effect on education and health-related behaviors. Households with school-age children and pregnant women show improved attendance rates and healthcare utilization. Beneficiary satisfaction is moderate to high, though implementation challenges, such as delays or incomplete verification, sometimes affect perceptions of fairness. Nevertheless, PKH’s design aligns

with long-term human capital objectives, making it a cornerstone of Indonesia's poverty alleviation strategy.

The BPNT program provides moderate yet essential support to households facing food insecurity. Beneficiaries appreciate the reliability of monthly distributions but express concerns about limited flexibility in choosing food items. Although BPNT reduces short-term hunger, its impact on broader welfare indicators remains modest due to its narrow consumption focus. The BLT-DD program records mixed results: recipients express strong preference for cash flexibility and hope for program continuity, yet satisfaction levels fluctuate depending on distribution regularity and perceived fairness. While its immediate financial relief is undisputed, its influence on sustainable welfare improvement is limited without complementary empowerment initiatives.

### Beneficiary Perceptions and Word Cloud Analysis

A Word Cloud analysis of interview transcripts was conducted to visualize beneficiaries' perceptions and recurring themes. The most frequent terms—"helpful," "very," "because," "needs," "children," and "eat"—reflect the direct association between social assistance and the fulfillment of basic daily needs such as food, education, and health. The prominence of "very helpful" illustrates widespread gratitude and positive recognition of program benefits. Respondents frequently expressed appreciation for assistance in covering essential household expenses and child-related costs.

**Figure 5**

*Visualization of Results using Word Cloud*



Source: Primary data. Authors' analysis.

Nevertheless, the appearance of terms like "not enough," "sometimes," and "hope" signals underlying concerns about the insufficiency and sustainability of aid. While beneficiaries acknowledge the material benefits, many emphasized that the amounts

provided remain inadequate to cover the full spectrum of living costs. The recurring words “hope” and “hopefully” capture expectations for continuity and improvement in assistance mechanisms—both in quantity and procedural efficiency. Words such as “good,” “beneficial,” and “great” underscore overall satisfaction, yet terms like “less” and “late” indicate sporadic challenges in distribution timing and administrative reliability.

Overall, the Word Cloud confirms that the majority of beneficiaries perceive social assistance as effective short-term support, particularly for food and health-related needs. However, their feedback also reveals aspirations for more comprehensive and sustainable welfare policies that combine financial aid with empowerment measures such as vocational training, entrepreneurship support, or access to microfinance.

### **Integrated Interpretation of Findings**

The synthesis of context, input, process, and product evaluations indicates that the effectiveness of social assistance programs in Baramamase Village depends on three primary determinants: management quality, targeting accuracy, and community participation. Strong local leadership and institutional coordination consistently correlate with higher beneficiary satisfaction and smoother implementation. Conversely, weak administrative oversight and limited inter-agency communication result in inefficiencies and mistargeting.

Furthermore, program success varies geographically due to differences in local governance capacity, technological readiness, and human resource competence. Villages with trained facilitators and functioning digital systems achieve better data validation and accountability. The participatory approach, where communities are involved in beneficiary selection and monitoring, proves especially effective in minimizing misallocation and enhancing transparency.

Despite notable progress in meeting immediate welfare needs, the programs have yet to achieve transformative impacts on economic independence. Current assistance structures primarily address consumption rather than production, leaving beneficiaries reliant on periodic transfers. To foster sustainable welfare improvement, social assistance must evolve from a protective mechanism into a productive empowerment system that integrates education, capacity building, and livelihood support.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Governance Quality, Data Accuracy, and Program Effectiveness**

The results of this study affirm that the effectiveness of social assistance programs in Indonesia, such as PKH, BPNT, PBI-JK, and BLT-DD, depends largely on the quality of local governance and the accuracy of beneficiary data. The implementation in Baramamase Village demonstrated that capable and responsive local administrations facilitate better targeting, efficient fund distribution, and improved welfare outcomes. Conversely, administrative weaknesses, delayed coordination, and outdated data systems reduce policy efficacy and accountability. These findings reinforce the premise that institutional capacity and governance integrity are foundational to achieving equitable welfare delivery across Indonesia’s decentralized administrative landscape.

Empirical evidence from prior studies corroborates these findings. Research by Haliim et al. (2024) and Arham et al. (2024) emphasizes that weak bureaucratic coordination and poor data validation significantly compromise the performance of national assistance schemes like PKH. Similarly, Vargas-Faulbaum et al. (2025) documented comparable challenges in the Philippines' 4Ps program, where data inaccuracies led to misallocation of benefits. These findings align with Rahmaddian (2024), who stressed the necessity of transparent and real-time data systems to ensure program credibility. Collectively, the literature underscores that program effectiveness relies on both administrative capacity and the institutionalization of reliable, evidence-based targeting mechanisms.

Theoretically, these findings affirm the assumptions of Grindle's framework regarding the centrality of contextual and institutional factors in policy implementation. In practical terms, they highlight that administrative competence and participatory data management directly shape social protection outcomes. For policymakers, this implies that reforming social welfare systems must focus on strengthening administrative infrastructure and data governance through digital integration and inter-agency collaboration. Theoretically, this also enriches implementation research by illustrating how contextual governance variables, such as leadership quality and bureaucratic adaptability, mediate between program design and tangible welfare outcomes.

### **Theoretical Integration and Evaluation Frameworks**

The present findings resonate with Stufflebeam's CIPP evaluation model, which emphasizes the interconnected roles of context, input, process, and product in program evaluation. The CIPP model's holistic approach allowed the study to assess not only resource adequacy and process efficiency but also how contextual variables shaped the eventual product, community welfare outcomes. Results indicate that adaptive governance and feedback loops significantly enhance program sustainability. Continuous monitoring and participatory assessment emerged as crucial components for improving transparency and accountability within Indonesia's multi-level welfare structure.

Comparatively, other empirical studies affirm the model's utility while also identifying its limits. Rasanjani et al. (2023) and Dartanto et al. (2021) confirm that effective process evaluation uncovers bottlenecks in delivery mechanisms, aligning with the CIPP model's emphasis on iterative learning. However, Haliim et al. (2024) and Agustanta et al. (2024) found that most local evaluations still focus on short-term outputs, such as the number of recipients or total funds disbursed, rather than long-term empowerment outcomes. This limitation highlights a divergence between the theoretical expectations of the CIPP framework and its real-world application within Indonesia's social welfare programs.

Theoretically, this research contributes to refining the CIPP model by demonstrating the value of incorporating adaptive governance and empowerment-oriented evaluation into welfare analysis. Practically, it calls for a paradigm shift from output-



oriented monitoring toward outcome- and empowerment-based evaluation. Policy implications include institutionalizing dynamic feedback mechanisms, promoting transparency through open data platforms, and training local evaluators to adopt participatory evaluation methods. Such innovations would not only strengthen program accountability but also align implementation with Indonesia's long-term human capital development goals.

### **Comparative Insights from International Social Protection Models**

The comparative findings from Brazil's *Bolsa Família* and the Philippines' *4Ps* programs underscore several lessons relevant to Indonesia's welfare policy design. Both programs demonstrate that well-enforced conditionalities and robust monitoring systems enhance long-term human capital outcomes. By linking cash assistance to education and healthcare compliance, they effectively integrate short-term relief with long-term development goals. Indonesia's PKH has achieved partial success in replicating this model, but weak enforcement of conditionalities and limited intersectoral coordination have constrained its overall transformative impact.

Supporting literature validates these comparisons. Studies by Soares et al. and Handa et al. reveal that *Bolsa Família* and *4Ps* achieved substantial improvements in educational attendance, nutritional outcomes, and child health indicators, owing to consistent conditionality enforcement and adaptive program design. Conversely, previous studies ([Simanjuntak et al., 2024](#); [Sutanto et al., 2020](#); [Taufik et al., 2025](#)) found that Indonesian programs often struggle with outdated targeting databases and insufficient beneficiary monitoring. These inconsistencies suggest that, while Indonesia's frameworks share structural similarities with international models, gaps in governance and compliance limit their potential for sustainable poverty reduction.

Theoretically, these comparative insights reinforce the concept of policy learning within welfare governance, illustrating that Indonesia's social assistance can benefit from adaptive borrowing of global best practices. Practically, this entails adopting evidence-driven conditionalities, enhancing inter-agency coordination, and ensuring consistent monitoring across localities. From a policy perspective, the integration of digital beneficiary databases and real-time verification systems could significantly improve targeting precision and transparency. These strategies align Indonesia's welfare programs with the global shift toward integrated, empowerment-based social protection frameworks.

### **Policy Reform, Governance, and Community Participation**

The findings of this study highlight the need for comprehensive governance reforms to enhance transparency, accountability, and community participation in social assistance programs. Strong local governance capacity, coupled with clear accountability mechanisms, is essential to minimizing corruption and improving targeting efficiency. The data from Baramamase Village confirm that active community participation in beneficiary selection and feedback mechanisms

strengthens program legitimacy and responsiveness, thereby increasing public trust in social welfare institutions.

This conclusion aligns with the broader literature emphasizing transparency and participatory governance. Cicatiello et al. (2018) and Shields et al. (2016) demonstrate that open data initiatives enhance citizen trust and oversight, while Elliott & Resnik (2019) show that public reporting mechanisms strengthen stakeholder engagement. Social audits, as successfully implemented in India's MGNREGA program (Dhaktode & Kumar, 2020; Vij, 2011), have proven effective in reducing misuse of funds and improving accountability (Rizal & Siskawati, 2022). Similarly, Islam & Bhuiyan (2023) stress the necessity of legal frameworks to institutionalize accountability within welfare systems, ensuring that transparency becomes a structural, not merely procedural, norm.

Theoretically, these findings reaffirm governance theories that prioritize participatory accountability and institutional trust as prerequisites for sustainable development. Practically, they call for Indonesia to adopt integrated transparency platforms, routine social audits, and grievance redressal systems to improve oversight. Policymakers should prioritize capacity-building for local implementers and promote cross-sector collaboration between governments, NGOs, and communities. Such reforms would institutionalize participatory governance as a permanent feature of Indonesia's social protection landscape, transforming public welfare into a more inclusive and accountable system.

### **Sustainability and Empowerment Dimensions**

This study's findings indicate that Indonesia's social assistance programs primarily function as short-term relief mechanisms, offering limited progress toward sustainable empowerment. The programs address immediate consumption needs but fall short of equipping beneficiaries with long-term economic resilience. Integrating human capital development, vocational training, and microenterprise support into social assistance frameworks could transform these schemes from protective to productive mechanisms. Empirical results from Baramamase Village support this transitional approach, highlighting beneficiaries' aspirations for financial independence and skill enhancement opportunities.

Empirical evidence from international contexts reinforces this argument. Evaluations of relevant programs in other countries, such as Brazil's *Bolsa Família* and Mexico's *Oportunidades*, show that conditional cash transfers tied to education and health commitments promote sustained improvements in welfare outcomes (Gaarder et al., 2010; Lagarde et al., 2009; Ranganathan & Lagarde, 2012). Similarly, the Philippines' 4Ps program and South Asian community-based models demonstrate that incorporating vocational training and microfinance initiatives fosters long-term empowerment (Balaji & Zama R., 2024; Diaz, 2025). These cases affirm that sustainable welfare transformation depends on integrating social assistance with broader human development and community engagement strategies.

Theoretically, these findings contribute to the discourse on sustainable welfare systems, merging social protection with capability expansion and empowerment.

Practically, this study advocates that Indonesia reorient its welfare design toward integrative approaches combining assistance, education, and entrepreneurship. Policy implications include embedding vocational training into PKH and BPNT frameworks, fostering microenterprise development through public-private partnerships, and enhancing adaptive governance capacities. Such reforms align with the global transition from static social aid toward dynamic, empowerment-oriented welfare paradigms that promote resilience, productivity, and social inclusion.

### **Further Discussion from Islamic Economic Perspectives**

#### ***Effectiveness of Social Assistance Programs in Baramamase Village***

This study assessed the effectiveness of social assistance programs in Baramamase Village, Indonesia, using the CIPP evaluation model. Findings revealed that programs such as PKH (Family Hope Program) and PBI (Health Insurance for the Poor) have had a positive impact, particularly in improving education and health outcomes. However, other programs, such as BPNT (Non-Cash Food Assistance) and BLT-DD (Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance), offered immediate relief but lacked long-term benefits. Programs like PBI-JK, which are integrated with national systems, showed more sustainability and welfare impact compared to the others. Despite these positive effects, the study also highlighted concerns over targeting accuracy, distribution inefficiencies, and the need for better coordination between government and community stakeholders.

In contrast, studies on similar welfare programs worldwide show both supportive and contrasting results. For instance, the Bolsa Família program in Brazil has been hailed as a model of conditional cash transfers that successfully linked education and health improvements with financial aid, providing a sustainable path for poverty alleviation (Soares et al., 2010). Similarly, the Oportunidades program in Mexico has demonstrated substantial positive effects on child health and school attendance by tying financial aid to specific conditions. On the other hand, programs in Indonesia, as noted by Haliim et al. (2024), face ongoing challenges with targeting accuracy and data management, which hampers their overall effectiveness in poverty alleviation. The discrepancies in these programs suggest that while conditional cash transfers can have a transformative impact, the quality of implementation and institutional governance remains a significant factor.

The implications of these findings are multifaceted. Theoretically, they emphasize the importance of integrating governance and data accuracy within the framework of social assistance. In practice, this study suggests that better coordination between various programs, alongside the adoption of more robust data management systems, is necessary to enhance program effectiveness. From a policy perspective, these results advocate for a more holistic approach that incorporates both immediate relief and long-term empowerment strategies, such as vocational training and microfinance, to break the cycle of dependency.



### ***The Role of Islamic Economics in Social Assistance Design***

Islamic economics offers valuable principles for improving the design and implementation of social assistance programs. Central to these principles is the concept of justice and equity, which aligns well with the goals of poverty reduction. By incorporating Islamic values such as *zakat* (charitable giving), *waqf* (endowment), and *sadaqah* (voluntary charity), social assistance programs could be better aligned with both social welfare objectives and ethical economic practices. These Islamic financial tools not only redistribute wealth but also ensure that aid reaches the most vulnerable, enhancing social justice and reducing inequalities.

The integration of *zakat* into social welfare systems, for example, provides a structured approach to wealth redistribution, as emphasized by Wahyuni & Wulandari (2024). By targeting the most disadvantaged, *zakat* can offer financial support that goes beyond mere charity, addressing the root causes of poverty while also fostering community solidarity. Studies like those by Habibi et al. (2023) underscore how *waqf* can be used to fund sustainable community projects, providing a long-term solution for poverty alleviation. Such integration offers a more sustainable alternative to government-run social assistance programs, which often face funding and coordination challenges. Moreover, *sadaqah* can complement these efforts by providing immediate relief to the underprivileged, helping them meet their basic needs while contributing to broader community welfare.

The practical implications of integrating Islamic economic principles into social assistance programs are substantial. By using *zakat*, *waqf*, and *sadaqah* in conjunction with government welfare systems, a more inclusive and equitable framework for poverty alleviation could be established. Furthermore, fostering greater community involvement through Islamic social finance tools would enhance the local ownership and sustainability of these initiatives. Policy-wise, the government could consider creating legal frameworks to support the integration of Islamic financial tools into the national social assistance architecture. This would not only align with Islamic values but also provide a robust mechanism for combating poverty and inequality.

### ***Improving Targeting and Fairness with Islamic Principles***

One of the major findings of this study was the need to improve the targeting accuracy and distribution fairness of social assistance programs. Islamic economics, with its emphasis on transparency and accountability, offers useful tools for addressing these challenges. The principles of *adl* (justice) and *ihsan* (benevolence) in Islamic economics mandate that resources be distributed equitably, ensuring that aid reaches those who need it the most. The implementation of transparent governance structures and the use of modern technology to track the distribution of aid can greatly enhance the fairness of these programs.

In comparison, previous research indicates that well-managed *zakat* systems improve targeting accuracy. Zakat organizations that use rigorous assessment processes for identifying beneficiaries, as discussed by Solihati et al. (2023), ensure that aid reaches the rightful recipients. This process could be mirrored in government-run

programs, where better data management systems and beneficiary tracking could reduce errors and ensure that resources are allocated fairly. Furthermore, the use of digital platforms to collect and distribute *zakat* and other Islamic financial resources can help improve efficiency and reduce the risks of misallocation, as highlighted by Muryanto et al. (2022).

From a theoretical perspective, integrating Islamic economic principles into welfare programs would align them with broader goals of social justice and equity. On a practical level, this means establishing more robust data systems that adhere to the values of transparency and accountability. For policymakers, this study underscores the importance of combining Islamic finance tools with conventional social assistance models to achieve a more equitable and efficient distribution of aid. The inclusion of *zakat*, *waqf*, and *sadaqah* could also contribute to fostering a greater sense of community ownership and responsibility, further strengthening the overall effectiveness of social assistance programs.

### **Islamic Values and Community Solidarity in Rural Areas**

In rural areas like Baramamase Village, the values of *ukhuwah* (community solidarity) and *gotong royong* (mutual cooperation) can significantly enhance the effectiveness of social welfare programs. These values, deeply embedded in Islamic culture, emphasize collective responsibility and mutual support, which are essential for addressing poverty at the local level. Community involvement in welfare initiatives not only increases participation but also ensures that aid reaches the most marginalized, fostering a sense of ownership and social cohesion.

In practice, *ukhuwah* and *gotong royong* can be integrated into social assistance programs to mobilize local resources and strengthen community ties. Previous studies, such as those by Kamakaula (2024), show that rural communities with strong social networks are more likely to succeed in welfare initiatives. This cooperative spirit can be harnessed to facilitate resource sharing, collective action, and even the implementation of local projects such as community health camps or education programs. By leveraging local expertise and resources, these programs become more adaptable and sustainable, meeting the specific needs of the community.

Theoretically, the integration of *ukhuwah* and *gotong royong* enhances the social fabric by reinforcing the sense of shared responsibility and collective action. In practical terms, these values can lead to more effective and sustainable social assistance programs. For policymakers, this study suggests that fostering community participation and engagement is crucial for the success of welfare programs. Encouraging local ownership of social welfare initiatives can significantly increase their impact, ensuring that the benefits are felt by all members of the community, especially the most vulnerable.

### **Implications for Policy and Future Research**

The findings of this study have significant implications for both policy and future research. From a policy perspective, this study suggests that social assistance programs must integrate both immediate relief mechanisms and long-term

empowerment strategies to be effective in reducing poverty. This could involve incorporating Islamic economic tools like *zakat*, *waqf*, and *sadaqah* into the national social assistance framework, providing a more sustainable and equitable approach to poverty alleviation. Additionally, improving governance structures and data accuracy will be essential to enhance targeting precision and reduce inefficiencies in resource distribution.

Future research could further explore the integration of Islamic financial tools with social assistance programs, examining how these tools can be used to enhance both the efficiency and sustainability of poverty alleviation efforts. Longitudinal studies could also assess the long-term impact of these integrated systems on economic mobility and social development. Moreover, examining the role of community solidarity in the success of social welfare programs in rural settings would provide valuable insights into how local cultural values can contribute to poverty alleviation.

In conclusion, integrating Islamic economic principles into social assistance programs offers a promising pathway for improving poverty reduction efforts in Indonesia. By combining traditional welfare tools with Islamic finance mechanisms and fostering community involvement, these programs can achieve greater long-term success and sustainability, contributing to a more equitable and resilient society.

## CONCLUSION

This study examined the implementation and effectiveness of Indonesia's four major social assistance programs, PKH, BPNT, PBI-JK, and BLT-DD, through the Context, Input, Process, and Product (CIPP) evaluation model. The findings reveal that program effectiveness is primarily determined by institutional capacity, data accuracy, and participatory governance. PBI-JK demonstrated the strongest sustainability and welfare impact, while PKH improved education and health outcomes. BPNT and BLT-DD provided short-term relief but lacked long-term empowerment effects. The study underscores that social assistance programs are effective in meeting immediate needs but remain limited in promoting sustainable, self-reliant welfare outcomes.

The results confirm that successful social protection depends on administrative integrity, community involvement, and adaptive governance. Comparative insights from international models such as *Bolsa Família* and *4Ps* highlight that long-term welfare improvement requires linking financial assistance to human capital investment. Theoretically, this research strengthens the application of the CIPP model by integrating empowerment and sustainability dimensions. Practically, it demonstrates the need for local-level reforms, data transparency, and empowerment-oriented policy design. Collectively, these findings provide actionable insights for enhancing Indonesia's social welfare governance in alignment with global best practices.

This study contributes to existing scholarship by bridging theoretical evaluation models with grounded empirical evidence from rural Indonesia. It extends the understanding of how contextual governance factors mediate between welfare policy



design and implementation outcomes. The study also offers a practical framework for evaluating complex welfare systems through multidimensional lenses of context, input, process, and product. Future research should expand this framework through comparative and longitudinal analyses to explore how digital governance, community participation, and empowerment-based innovations reshape the future of social protection in Indonesia and other developing economies.

### **Limitation of the Study**

Despite providing valuable insights, this study has several limitations. The research focuses on a single site, Baramamase Village, which may restrict the generalizability of its findings to other regions with different socio-economic and administrative characteristics. The qualitative approach, while useful for understanding contextual realities, depends heavily on self-reported data from beneficiaries and local officials, introducing potential biases such as selective recall or social desirability. Moreover, the study primarily captures short-term perspectives of implementation and impact, lacking longitudinal data to assess the durability of welfare outcomes and behavioral changes over time.

Another limitation concerns the absence of quantitative analysis to statistically validate the causal relationships between governance quality, targeting accuracy, and program outcomes. The study's reliance on document analysis and interviews, while rich in contextual depth, constrains its ability to measure broader policy impacts or cross-regional variations. Additionally, the study does not fully explore gender or intersectional dimensions of welfare access, which may influence program inclusivity and effectiveness. Recognizing these constraints, the results should be interpreted as context-specific but theoretically generalizable, serving as a foundation for future, larger-scale investigations.

### **Recommendations for Future Research**

Future research should expand beyond single-village analyses to include comparative studies across diverse regions and governance settings in Indonesia. Mixed-method approaches that combine qualitative insights with quantitative validation are essential to measure long-term outcomes such as empowerment, self-reliance, and intergenerational welfare mobility. Longitudinal designs would help evaluate whether welfare programs effectively transition households from dependency toward economic independence. Integrating digital data-tracking tools could also enhance precision in assessing program transparency and responsiveness over time.

Moreover, future studies should examine the intersectional dimensions of social assistance, particularly gender, disability, and indigenous identity, to ensure inclusive policy design. Exploring community-based participatory evaluation methods could strengthen local accountability and enhance adaptive governance mechanisms. Comparative analyses with international welfare systems may yield valuable lessons on policy innovation and social inclusion. Ultimately, future research should aim to develop a more dynamic, empowerment-oriented framework that connects welfare

assistance with human capital development, community resilience, and sustainable poverty alleviation.

### Author Contributions

Conceptualization	F.J., M.R.A., & I.	Resources	F.J., M.R.A., & I.
Data curation	F.J., M.R.A., & I.	Software	F.J., M.R.A., & I.
Formal analysis	F.J., M.R.A., & I.	Supervision	F.J., M.R.A., & I.
Funding acquisition	F.J., M.R.A., & I.	Validation	F.J., M.R.A., & I.
Investigation	F.J., M.R.A., & I.	Visualization	F.J., M.R.A., & I.
Methodology	F.J., M.R.A., & I.	Writing – original draft	F.J., M.R.A., & I.
Project administration	F.J., M.R.A., & I.	Writing – review & editing	F.J., M.R.A., & I.

All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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### Institutional Review Board Statement

The study was approved by Program Studi Ekonomi Syariah (S2), IAIN Palopo, Kota Palopo, Indonesia.

### Informed Consent Statement

Informed consent was not required for this study.

### Data Availability Statement

The data presented in this study are available on request from the corresponding author.

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### Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

### Declaration of Generative AI and AI-Assisted Technologies in the Writing Process

During the preparation of this work, the authors used ChatGPT, DeepL, Grammarly, and PaperPal to translate from Bahasa Indonesia into American English and improve the clarity of the language and readability of the article. After using these tools, the authors reviewed and edited the content as needed and took full responsibility for the content of the published article.

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