



Effectiveness of the 2020 Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance Program in West Kawangkoan District Minahasa Regency

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ABSTRACT

Direct Cash Assistance is a program issued by the government in the form of direct cash assistance or cash assistance. Direct Cash Assistance was created to ease the burden on people affected by the Covid 19 Pandemic. This study aims to analyse the effectiveness of the 2020 Village Fund Cash Assistance Program in West Kawangkoan District. This study uses the theory of effectiveness from Edy Sutrisno, which includes the following indicators: Programme Understanding, On Target, Timeliness, Goal Achievement, and Real Change. This research uses qualitative research methods with descriptive explanations, involving 13 informants consisting of 5 village heads, sub-district heads, and 7 community members. The results of this study show that the government has not optimised the data collection process. There are community members who fulfil the criteria as recipients of Direct Cash Assistance who are not recorded as recipients. The data collection process was not on target, as the government was still selective in data collection. In addition, the timing of the distribution of Direct Cash Assistance was ineffective. The distribution was delayed due to delays in the disbursement of the Village Fund. On the positive side, the Direct Cash Transfer had a favorable impact on people's lives during the Covid-19 Pandemic, helping to reduce the cost of living, although the impact was temporary.



INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic non-natural disaster has been confirmed by the Indonesian Government in March 2020. Since the beginning of the outbreak in this country, the Covid-19 virus has spread to almost every province (Panneer et al., 2022).

The existence of the Covid-19 outbreak in Indonesia has caused the government to be disrupted in carrying out its government duties as a driver of governance both in terms of physical development and human development (Brown et al., 2023). This also has an impact on public health and aspects of governance as a result of this issue. The Covid-19 pandemic has also resulted in changes in the allocation of funds for the country's development plan. The budget needs to fulfill the handling of Covid-19 in order to be adequate, the State Revenue and Expenditure Budget, the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget need to be readjusted (Regmi, 2022).

Covid-19 has a huge effect on the social and economic order of the community, especially related to population mobility and accessibility of public transportation and other facilities. The imposition of Restrictions on Community Activities and Large-Scale Social Restrictions in a number of provinces was a contributing factor (Chukwudi & Victor, 2022). As a result, the economy suffered and many people lost their jobs, leading to an increase in poverty. As a result of the policy, many people lost their jobs, where they would spend less time on outdoor activities and more time at home (Clemente-Suárez et al., 2021).

One of the government's efforts to mitigate the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak on rural communities is the launch of a new cash assistance program called Direct Cash Assistance whose funds are sourced from the Village Fund as stipulated through Minister of Finance Regulation Number 50/PMK.07/2020, which is the Second Amendment to Minister of Finance Regulation Number 205/PMK.07/2019 concerning Village Fund Management (Nemec & Špaček, 2020).

In addition, following the promulgation of a Ministerial Regulation, namely the Regulation of the Minister of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration Number 7 of 2020 concerning the Second Amendment to the Regulation of the Minister of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration Number 11 of 2019 concerning Priorities for the Use of Village Funds in 2020, so that through this regulation the Village Fund Cash Assistance is now a legally binding reference for the allocation of resources intended for village communities (Assefa et al., 2022). The rationale for the issuance of the regulation is that the pandemic has adversely affected the health, welfare, and happiness of the community (DeSalvo et al., 2021). Financial regulations related to the Handling and Spread of the Covid-19 Outbreak in Villages contained in Government Regulation in Lieu of Law Number 1 of 2020 explain that village funds through Direct Cash Assistance are used to be obtained by underprivileged village communities, so it is necessary to adjust some of the provisions of the Minister of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration Regulation Number 11 of 2019 (Assefa et al., 2022). As the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic continues to expand, Permendes Number 7 of 2020 is set as a new priority travel order for activity programs and budgets.

As stated in the Regulation of the Minister of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration Number 7 of 2020 and the Regulation of the Minister of Finance Number 35 of 2020, "Village Funds" are money taken from the State Budget that is channeled through the Regency / City through the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget to fund the management of village governance, community empowerment, and development (Asrofi et al., 2023).

Direct Cash Assistance in relation to the mechanism and method of implementation is regulated in Minister of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration Regulation Number 7 of 2020, which sets out the framework and establishes the procedures for doing so (Syah et al., 2024). What is meant by "Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance" is financial support for the poor taken directly from village funds, as stated in Article 1 Point 28 of the Ministerial Regulation. Each month, registered residents receive Rp300,000 in Direct Cash Assistance. From the above explanation, questions arise



about the procedures for implementing direct cash assistance and the utilization of cash assistance by the community.

West Kawangkoan District is a sub-district whose villages are beneficiaries of Direct Cash Assistance (Qodarsasi et al., 2021). There are 10 villages in the West Kawangkoan District, namely Kanonang Satu, Kanonang Dua, Kanonang Empat, Kanonang Lima, Kayuuwi, Kayuuwi Satu, Tombasian Atas, Tombasian Atas Satu, Tombasian Bawah, and Ranolambot. At the distribution stage of the Direct Cash Transfer, each village through the village government regulates the timing of the distribution according to the time and schedule of the village fund disbursement (Latif, 2020). There are villages that carry out distribution once every three months, once every two months, and also distribution every month.

The Direct Cash Assistance program was intended to reduce the burden on the community affected by this non-natural disaster, how effective the BLT program was and also how the Direct Cash Assistance was actually used. The implementation of the BLT program is the responsibility of the village government to execute in the field (Faisal et al., 2024). However, there were obstacles and problems, even intentional or unintentional misuse of Direct Cash Assistance by implementers involved in the implementation of the Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance, both village governments as implementers need to be known, especially the implementation process whether it runs according to procedures and mechanisms including socialization, target beneficiaries, and implementation time, so that it becomes a reference for how the Direct Cash Assistance process is running (Caraka et al., 2020). Does it then produce a positive impact so that the objectives are achieved or vice versa. So based on the above understanding, the author raises the research title "Effectiveness of the 2020 Village Fund Cash Assistance Program in West Kawangkoan District, Minahasa Regency (Ichsan, 2022).

This study aims to conduct an in-depth analysis of the effectiveness of the implementation of the 2020 Village Fund Cash Assistance Program in West Kawangkoan Sub-district, Minahasa Regency. Through this research, it is hoped that a comprehensive understanding can be obtained regarding the extent to which the program is running in accordance with the predetermined objectives and the resulting impact on the beneficiary community.

METHOD

This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach with the aim of understanding and analyzing the effectiveness of the 2020 Village Fund Cash Assistance Program in West Kawangkoan Sub-district, Minahasa Regency. According to Bogdan and Taylor, as cited by Lexy Moleong (1993: 3), qualitative methodology is described as a study process in which data is obtained in the form of descriptive information, namely in the form of written or spoken words from people, as well as observed behavior.

The data used in this study used two types of data, namely primary data and secondary data. Primary data was obtained through observation, documentation, and interviews, while secondary data was obtained through literature studies, namely by reviewing books, scientific writings, and relevant regulations (Creswell, 2014; Sugiyono, 2017).

Researchers conducted data reduction as an effort to simplify, categorize, and eliminate irrelevant data, so that the data obtained can produce meaningful information and facilitate the process of drawing conclusions. This reduction stage aims to select data based on its relevance to the research objectives (Radjab & Fuady, 2021). Data presentation is done by arranging data systematically so that it is easy to understand and provides the possibility to draw conclusions. The form of presenting qualitative data can be in the form of narratives of field research results, graphs, and charts. The final stage of qualitative data analysis is conclusion drawing, which aims to find the meaning of the data through identifying relationships, differences, and similarities, so that answers to research problems can be formulated. The process of reduction, presentation, and conclusion drawing refers to the interactive analysis model proposed by Miles and Huberman (in Sugiyono, 2017).



Informants are individuals who understand the problem, have relevant data, and are willing to provide information. The informant selection technique uses purposive sampling, which is the determination of informants based on certain criteria (Sugiyono, 2017). The number of informants in this study was 13 informants, consisting of:

1. Village head 5 people (executor)
2. Sub-district head (supervision)
3. Community 7 people

The triangulation technique used in this research is theoretical triangulation, which combines theoretical data, primary and secondary data, and the author's perception (Moleong, 2012). This research uses Edy Sutrisno's theory of effectiveness to analyze the Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance Program. The effectiveness indicators used are: Program Understanding, On Target, On Time, Achievement of Goals, and Real Change (Sutrisno, 2010).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The focus in this research is to use Edy Sutrisno's theory of effectiveness to focus on examining the effectiveness of the 2020 Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance Program carried out in West Kawangkoan District, with indicators:

- a. Program Understanding
- b. On Target
- c. On Time
- d. Achievement of Goals
- e. Real Change

In this section the researcher will discuss the data that has been obtained from the informants adjusted to the theory that the researcher uses. This discussion is the author's argument regarding the effectiveness of the 2020 Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance Program in West Kawangkoan District.

1. Program Understanding

A program is a policy tool that includes one or more activities carried out by government agencies or institutions to achieve certain goals. Suwitri (2008) defines policy as a series of actions that have specific goals and are followed and implemented by individuals or groups to solve a problem. Programs exist as a tangible form of government action that contains certain values and aims to solve public problems, such as poverty, by utilizing available resources (Suhartono et al., 2020). In addition, the establishment of programs can also facilitate the achievement of organizational goals. Understanding the program is an important aspect to assess the extent to which the community can understand and accept the activities carried out in the program.

Based on the results of observations and interviews conducted by researchers, the efforts made by 5 village governments in West Kawangkoan Subdistrict, namely Kanonang Lima, Kayuuwi Satu, Tombasian Atas, Tombasian Bawah and Ranolambot Villages basically have the same concept but there are different concepts in efforts to socialize the Direct Cash Assistance program to the community with the aim that the government and the community both understand what is meant by the Village Fund Cash Assistance program (Danar et al., 2022). In Kanonang Lima Village, the village government conducts socialization through local village media, namely socialization through loudspeakers on a regular basis to ensure that the entire community knows and understands the Village Fund Cash Assistance program (Panneer et al., 2022). Based on the results of research conducted by the author through the interview process with the government and the community, the community has known and understood the purpose and objectives of the program.

Then in Kayuuwi Village, one socialization mechanism was carried out through local media loudspeakers, but the socialization process was not effective because the delivery process was not comprehensive so that the community did not understand some of the criteria and the amount of money



that the community would receive (Brown et al., 2023). The socialization process is an important part of the government's efforts to provide understanding for the community about a program so that it can be implemented based on the expected objectives.

Then in Tombasian Atas and Tombasian Bawah Villages, the method used by the government in addition to informing the Direct Cash Transfer program through loudspeakers, the village government held limited meetings with elements of community leaders such as religious leaders, traditional leaders, and youth leaders to provide program socialization so that it could be passed on to the surrounding community. The author considers this process to be very effective based on the results of interviews conducted with the Hukum Tua and the community.

Then in Ranolambot Village, the mechanism used by the government in an effort to provide information about the Village Fund Cash Assistance program to the community is through loudspeakers. Through the results of interviews conducted by the author, the community welcomed the program carried out by the government. The socialization process has been effective (Regmi, 2022). The community understands the program carried out by the government, a program intended during the pandemic.

Through the results of observations and interviews related to the effectiveness indicator, namely Program Understanding, the community understands the Direct Cash Assistance program carried out by the government. This is in line with research conducted by Zahrul Bawadi and Puput Ratnasari (2023) that the community has understood the Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance program.

2. On Target

Goals are an important part of an organization's strategic planning process. This goal setting focuses on the actions taken and the allocation of organizational resources. Target success indicators are used to measure the extent to which government agencies or institutions are able to realize the objectives of the programs being run. If the program succeeds in achieving the predetermined goals, it can be said that the program is running according to procedures. Conversely, if the organization's goals have not been achieved due to inaccuracy in determining targets, then the program is considered not to have run according to procedures and is still far from its success indicators.

Based on the results of observations and interviews conducted by the author, the Village Fund Cash Assistance Program in West Kawangkoan District in the data collection process is still not effectively carried out by the Village Government. In Kanonang Lima Village, although the data collection process for people who meet the criteria as beneficiaries has been carried out properly, but in the data collection process through the results of observations and interviews conducted by the author, there are people who are data as beneficiaries of Direct Cash Assistance who have been recorded as recipients of Cash Social Assistance from the Ministry of Social Affairs. This is not possible for the community to receive Direct Cash Assistance. Based on Article 8 Paragraph 3 of the Regulation of the Minister of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration Number 7 of 2020, people who have already received assistance such as the Ministry of Social Affairs Cash Social Assistance, Pre-Employment Card, Non-Cash Food Assistance, can no longer receive Cash Social Assistance. The people in the data have received Direct Cash Assistance delivered by the Government, so the money received has been used and the government is no longer taking it. The risk borne by the government is an ineffective process of implementing Direct Cash Assistance as measured by the effectiveness indicator of the Right Target. It can be said that the government is still not careful in the data collection process. The Integrated Social Welfare Data can be a reference for the government in collecting data, the recipients of Cash Social Assistance have basically been recorded in the Integrated Social Welfare Data, but the government is not careful when accessing the Integrated Social Welfare Data. The data collection that was carried out was also very wrong, there were families of village officials who were recorded and received assistance. Basically, village officials cannot be recorded as beneficiaries of Direct Cash Assistance. Based on Article 8 Paragraph 2 of the Minister of Finance Regulation Number 50/2020



concerning Village Fund Management, it confirms that the beneficiary families of the Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance are prioritized for poor or underprivileged families who live in the village concerned and do not include recipients of other social assistance sourced from the State Budget. From this article, village officials are not explicitly mentioned, but are implicitly ineligible because they have a fixed income from the Village Fund.

In Kayuuwi Satu Village, the process of data collection and distribution of Direct Cash Assistance has run effectively. Based on the results of observations and interviews conducted, the people who have received Direct Cash Assistance have met the regulated criteria. So that the Direct Cash Assistance program implemented by the Kayuuwi Satu Village government is running well.

In Tombasian Atas Village, the data collection process was less effective. There were families who met the criteria but were still categorized as new families. However, there are families who meet the criteria and have entered old age but are not recorded as beneficiaries of Village Fund Cash Assistance. This is considered ineffective because it is not measured thoroughly in the process of data collection of people who are entitled to receive assistance. The government is less effective in looking at the social conditions of the community before collecting data.

Then in Tombasian Bawah Village there are still people who are not recorded. Through observations and interviews conducted by the author, the data collection process was not good. Although people who have entered the category entitled to be assisted have been recorded, there is a jealousy factor that occurs in the community, the community complains that there should be a change of families assisted, not necessarily the same family. The community can take turns receiving assistance from the government as long as they meet the criteria for receiving Village Fund Cash Assistance. The families who receive assistance mostly have family ties to the government, this is based on the results of interviews the author conducted with the community.

Then in Ranolambot Village, through the results of observations and interviews conducted by researchers, the data collection process by the government is still ineffective. Through the research that the author conducted, the Ranolambot Village government was not fully on target in collecting data. There are people whose economic level is higher than the other communities recorded as recipients of Direct Cash Assistance. On the other hand, there are people who are included in the criteria for Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance beneficiaries who are hampered because their identity cards have not been made or not updated.

Overall, the community data collection process carried out by the government is still ineffective. This is in line with research conducted by Witri Rahayuni and Zaili Rusli (2021) in the aspect of Right Target, that there are still targets that should be data but are not data as beneficiaries of Direct Cash Assistance.

Then the author also considers that budget limitations trigger jealousy in people's social lives. There are still many people during the pandemic who need to be assisted by the government through the Direct Cash Transfer Program, but in its implementation not all people are recorded who meet the criteria as beneficiaries due to the limited budget available. This Direct Cash Assistance is very good and its impact will be felt in people's lives if the budget is sufficiently available.

3. On Time

The success of a program depends on the timeliness of its implementation. This timeliness is an indicator of effectiveness that determines the extent to which the program can achieve the stated goals. The time used in the program distribution process, both by the government and related institutions, must be in accordance with planning so that implementation runs optimally. This aspect is evaluated based on the suitability between the schedule that has been set and the realization in the field. Timeliness plays a crucial role in determining the success of a program, because effective use of time will increase the achievement of previously designed goals. Therefore, timeliness is very important so that the program can run according to expectations and provide maximum impact. The period and amount of providing Direct Village Fund Cash Assistance is regulated in the Regulation of the Minister



of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration of the Republic of Indonesia Number 7 of 2020, namely the distribution period for Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance is 6 months starting from April 2020 and the amount of money that will be received each month is IDR 600,000 per family for the first 3 months (April, May and June), and IDR 300,000 per family for the following 3 months (July, August and September) as well as Direct Village Fund Cash Assistance can be distributed as long as Village Funds for Fiscal Year 2020 are still available.

Based on the results of observations and interviews conducted by researchers, the distribution of the Direct Cash Assistance program to the community is still less effective. Several villages experienced delays in the distribution process. This was because the process of disbursing Village Funds was delayed, so that the process of distributing Direct Cash Assistance was hampered. Delays in distribution result in villages not distributing it every month, but some distributing it every two months to three months. This is in line with research conducted by Witri Rahayuni and Zaili Rusli (2021), research which states that the punctuality aspect is not yet effective.

4. Achievement of Goals

Objectives constitute a comprehensive effort to fulfill predetermined targets and should be regarded as an integral component of organizational processes to ensure program effectiveness. Within the framework of program effectiveness indicators, the achievement of objectives serves as a benchmark to assess the extent to which government or institutional programs achieve their expected outcomes. These general objectives are further translated into specific and measurable targets. In the context of the Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance program, the achievement of objectives can be evaluated based on the effectiveness of the distribution and disbursement processes. The success of this program can be measured by its compliance with established procedures and the accuracy in reaching the designated target groups.

Fundamentally, the Direct Cash Assistance program is designed for impoverished communities and those affected by the non-natural disaster of the Covid-19 pandemic. The primary objective of this program is to ensure the basic living needs of the population over a short period. To support public health during the pandemic, the community was encouraged to remain at home and minimize outdoor or inter-village activities in order to reduce the risk of virus transmission. The provision of Direct Cash Assistance contributed to decreasing community mobility. The reduction in outdoor economic activities, especially those involving direct physical contact with others, was part of the government's strategy to mitigate the spread of the virus in rural areas during the pandemic period.

Based on the observations and interviews conducted by the author regarding the indicator of goal achievement, the program has been implemented quite effectively. The community benefited from the assistance provided by the government in alleviating the living costs experienced during difficult times. Furthermore, the achievement of the Direct Cash Assistance program's objectives can be observed from the reduction in the number of people engaging in outdoor activities to meet family needs. The Direct Cash Assistance program in Kawangkoan Barat Subdistrict can be considered fairly effective because the process of registering affected community members who met the criteria was conducted, and these individuals received the assistance. However, there were also errors in the registration process carried out by the government. Some individuals were registered both as beneficiaries of the Direct Cash Assistance and as recipients of the Social Cash Assistance from the Ministry of Social Affairs. The author assesses that the government still shows partiality in determining the priority of communities that require assistance.

5. Real Change

Significant change is one of the effectiveness indicators used to measure the extent to which a program generates impactful and meaningful improvements for the local community. This indicator functions as an evaluation tool to assess the program's influence on enhancing community welfare. According to Sunarti (2012), welfare encompasses social, material, and spiritual aspects of life,



characterized by a sense of security, morality, and inner peace. Welfare enables individuals to optimally fulfill their physical, spiritual, and social needs, both for themselves, their families, and the broader community.

In the context of the Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance program, effectiveness can be observed through the extent to which the program has successfully mitigated the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, alleviated poverty, and eased the economic burden on beneficiary households. Moreover, the program also contributes to improving the welfare and socio-economic conditions of rural communities, thereby fostering positive changes in their quality of life.

Based on the observations and interviews conducted by the author using the indicator of Significant Change, the government's program has been implemented effectively. According to beneficiary families, the Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance program has had a positive impact amid the challenges faced by the community during the Covid-19 pandemic. The assistance provided by the government has been helpful to the people. This program represents a concept that can be further developed by the government in response to both natural and non-natural disasters that are unpredictable, in order to sustain community empowerment functions. It has contributed to reducing poverty levels in the village and improving the standard of living of rural communities; however, attention must be given to budget availability.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings, the Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance program in Kawangkoan Barat Subdistrict demonstrated varying effectiveness across different indicators. The program's socialization was effective, enabling the community to understand its objectives and mechanisms. However, in terms of targeting accuracy, weaknesses were observed in the beneficiary registration process, influenced by inaccuracies and inequities in selection. Regarding timeliness, the aid distribution was relatively ineffective due to delays in fund disbursement. Meanwhile, the program's objectives were fairly achieved, as evidenced by the benefits experienced by the community in alleviating economic burdens and reducing mobility during the pandemic, although not all affected residents were covered. Overall, the program brought about significant positive changes in the socio-economic conditions of the beneficiary communities. The socialization of the Direct Cash Assistance program needs to be improved by disseminating information regarding the eligibility requirements and criteria for beneficiaries, in accordance with Ministry of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration Regulation Number 7 of 2020, at strategic locations within the village to facilitate easier access for the community. The beneficiary registration process should be facilitated by village officials with technological capabilities and supervised by the Village Head and Village Secretary to ensure the data collection is conducted accurately and without any discriminatory practices. Furthermore, intensive coordination among the village government, subdistrict authorities, and regional government is necessary to ensure the smooth absorption of Village Fund budgets, thereby preventing delays in the distribution of the Direct Cash Assistance. Budget evaluations should also be conducted periodically to adjust for funding limitations and to update beneficiary data monthly so that other eligible families can receive assistance. For beneficiary families, the received funds should be used wisely to meet essential household needs, such as food, children's education expenses, and can also be utilized as family business capital.

For future research, it is recommended to review the effectiveness of the Village Fund Cash Assistance Program by considering other variables that have not been discussed in this study, such as community participation, transparency of fund management, and program sustainability at the village



level. It is also important to conduct a long-term evaluation of the program's impact, especially in assessing its contribution to improving community welfare and economic resilience after the pandemic.

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Menghadapi Ancaman yang Membahayakan Perekonomian Nasional.
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