Evaluation of Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) Policy in Kota Baru Urban Village, Abepura District, Jayapura City

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to evaluate the implementation of the Direct Cash Assistance program in Kota Batu Urban Village. The type of research used is qualitative. Data collection was conducted through interviews, observation, and documentation. The data analysis process was carried out through three stages, namely data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. The results of this study indicate that the implementation of the direct cash assistance program policy in Kota Baru Urban Village, seen from the indicators of effectiveness, adequacy, implementation, responsiveness and accuracy, can overall be said to have run quite well. However, there are obstacles obtained, such as; lack of clarity regarding the Direct Cash Assistance program, and lack of communication between related parties. As a recommendation, evaluations must continue to be carried out on officers appointed in the field so that they work more effectively, the distribution of assistance is expected to be more evenly distributed to all communities, and build good communication between related parties so that the program can run according to procedures in order to get a good response from the community.
INTRODUCTION

The Direct Cash Assistance (BLT/Abbreviation in the Indonesian language) program itself was implemented in October 2005 in the context of social protection policy as a result of the reduction in fuel subsidies (BBM/Abbreviation in the Indonesian language). The mechanism used was social assistance aimed at helping the poor to continue to fulfill their basic needs, preventing a decline in the welfare of the poor due to economic hardship, and increasing collective social responsibility. This policy is also synergized with community empowerment policies through the National Program for Community Empowerment and Small and Medium Enterprise Credit, so that the social protection scheme for the poor continues to encourage community empowerment in accordance with their potential.

Through Direct Cash Assistance (BLT), a poverty reduction mechanism was reformulated that involved the community, starting from the planning, implementation, to monitoring and evaluation stages. Indonesia is a country that organizes BLT, with a mechanism in the form of providing cash compensation, food, health insurance, and education with targets at three levels: almost poor, poor, very poor. To protect the poor and to help ease the economic burden on the Indonesian people, the government issued the policy of the Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) programme for all Indonesian. Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) is a social assistance programme designed by the government to provide direct financial assistance to the poor. The purpose of this programme is to help people in need and experiencing economic difficulties by providing cash directly (Sitompul, 2024).

Through Direct Cash Assistance (BLT), a poverty reduction mechanism was formulated that involved the community, starting from the planning, implementation, to monitoring and evaluation stages. Indonesia is one of the countries that organizes BLT, with a mechanism in the form of providing cash compensation, food, health insurance, and education with targets at three levels: almost poor, poor, and very poor. To protect the poor and help ease the economic burden on the Indonesian people, the government issued a policy on the Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) program for all Indonesians. BLT is a social assistance program designed by the government to provide direct cash assistance to the poor. The purpose of this program is to help people in need and experiencing economic difficulties by providing cash directly (Sitompul, 2024).

Direct Cash Assistance sourced from the Village Fund as intended is given to Beneficiary Families who meet the criteria; Poor or underprivileged families who live in the village concerned and prioritized for poor families who fall into the category of extreme poverty, Loss of livelihood, Having family members who are vulnerable to chronic diseases, Poor families receiving other social safety nets that have stopped either sourced from the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget and or the State Revenue and Expenditure Budget, Households with single elderly household members. To Beneficiary Families who meet the requirements, namely; Indonesian Citizens (WNI), poor or vulnerable to poverty, active participants in the BPJS Employment social
security program (Social Security Organizing Agency), not state civil apparatus (ASN), TNI, or Polri, and registered as Beneficiary Families in the Integrated Social Welfare Data of the Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, and have never received the Pre-Employment Card program, the Family Hope Program, and micro business productive assistance.

The emergence of Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) is a government assistance program in the form of cash given to the poor to help meet their needs. The government introduced the Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) program to the community for the first time in 2005 (Izzati et al., 2020). In addition to receiving food commodity assistance in the form of rice and eggs, this BLT was still accompanied by a pre-existing poverty alleviation program, namely rice for the poor. The amount of government spending for BLT-Village Fund is Rp600,000 per month for each poor family that meets the criteria and is given for 3 (three) months and Rp300,000 per month for the following three months. BLT is tax-free, so the Direct Cash Assistance program provided by the government to the poor can be used to meet their needs. Because the Direct Cash Assistance program is temporary, it is only given under certain conditions, such as an increase in fuel oil (BBM) or a world economic crisis.

It is hoped that with this direct and cash assistance program, the community's economy can move again and the community's purchasing power will recover. The community is expected to be able to utilize this assistance to support their families by using the funds to buy basic family needs, especially basic necessities. Do not let the assistance provided by the government be misused by beneficiaries. For example, it is used to gamble, buy alcohol, buy cigarettes, and other things that are not in accordance with the expectations of the government as the provider of assistance. In its implementation, the Direct Cash Assistance program was considered a success by some, although controversy and criticism arose that the assistance could be misused, in the sense that it was not fully used to buy basic family needs, but was used for other things, such as buying cigarettes, buying alcohol or even gambling. This is also conveyed by Mandasari (2023) that direct cash assistance (BLT) are widely criticized because they are considered to cause a 'lazy' attitude from the recipients and have the potential to be misused, in the sense that they are not used to meet basic needs/food by the recipients. This is where the need for supervision, monitoring and evaluation of the policy.

Seeing the existing phenomenon, the provision of direct cash assistance has the potential to be misused by recipients of assistance, including in Jayapura City as one of the areas that also implements the Direct Cash Assistance policy, more precisely in Kota Baru Urban Village, Abepura District, the community receiving Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) receives assistance in the form of 10 kg of rice and money amounting to Rp. 600.00 which is channeled to help meet the living expenses of the community in Kota Baru Urban Village. Departing from the description above, this research aims to answer several problems, first; how is the policy evaluation of the Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) program in Kota Baru Urban Village, and second; what factors hinder the provision of Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) in Kota Baru Urban Village.
THEORETICAL REVIEW
Definition of Program Evaluation

Karding (2008) explains that a program can be defined as a unit or unit of activity that is the realization or implementation of a policy, takes place in a continuous process and occurs in an organization involving a group of people. Hasibuan (in Dheby et al., 2017) revealed that the definition of a program is as follows: "A program is a type of concrete plan because it includes goals, policies, procedures, budgets, and implementation times". Joan L. Herman quoted by Tayibnapis (2008: 9) suggests the definition of a program as, "everything that is done by someone in the hope that it will bring results or influence."

Evaluation is a tool or procedure used to find out and measure something in an atmosphere with predetermined methods and rules. Program evaluation, on the other hand, is a systematic investigation of the value and benefits of an object. Program evaluation is a process. Explicitly, evaluation refers to the achievement of objectives, while implicitly, evaluation must compare what has been achieved from the program with what should be achieved based on predetermined standards (Muryadi, 2017). The definition of evaluation involves the objective collection and analysis of data to make judgments or assessments about the value, success, or effectiveness of something (Elfianis, 2024).

A.D Rooijakkers explains that the definition of evaluation is an attempt to determine value, which is carried out specifically based on quantitative data measurement results for decision-making purposes (Kurnia, 2022). Meanwhile, William A. Mehrens and Irlin J. Lehmann cited by Kurnia (2022) explain that the definition of evaluation is a process of planning, obtaining, and providing information that is needed to make alternative decisions. The purpose of evaluation is to gain a better understanding of the quality and impact of what is being evaluated, and to identify related strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges (Elfianis, 2024).

Public Policy

Policies related to the public are called public policies (Sirajuddin, 2016). Public policy is born from the needs and problems faced by society. Public policy makers are called stakeholders. Stake holders in making public policy are the government with the aim of meeting the needs of the community with the principle of public interest. Public policy is interpreted as a relationship in achieving the goals and objectives of the final results of activities organized by the government (Coryanata, 2011).

Policy is a series of activities, actions, attitudes, program plans and decisions carried out by actors (related parties) as an effort to solve the problems faced (Herdiana, 2018). From this statement, it can be interpreted that policy is an effort to achieve predetermined goals and also as a form of solving problems using certain facilities and within a predetermined time. A policy is fundamental. This is because policies can be used as a guide in achieving goals that have been set together (Desrinelti et al., 2021).
According to Anderson, a policy is a purposeful action taken by an actor or a number of actors to solve a problem (Nurcholis, 2015). Quoting Wahab (2005), public policy is an action that has sanctions that lead to certain goals directed at certain interrelated problems that have an effect. Policy is a principle or way of acting that is chosen with the aim of directing decision making in overcoming a problem (Yunita, 2022). Public policy is a policy developed by the government sector, it is also stated that public policy is government action in allocating community values (Idris & Muttaqin, 2021: 14; Ilham, 2021). Where public policy is directed at improving the welfare of society, including improving the quality of services (Sapioper et al., 2021).

Hasbi et al., (2021) explain that public policy is a series of actions or activities proposed by an individual, group or government in a certain environment where there are obstacles and possibilities or opportunities where the policy is proposed to be useful in overcoming them to achieve the intended goals. Each individual, group and government each has a different policy, it happens because every activity or action taken will always have differences and has characteristics in each environment.

**Direct Cash Assistance**

The Direct Cash Assistance Program issued by the government in overcoming economic problems that hit communities throughout Indonesia, of course, this policy has a huge impact on every community life (Yendra, 2021). Direct Cash Assistance is a government assistance program in the form of cash, which is given to the poor to help them meet their needs. The government introduced the Direct Cash Assistance program to the community for the first time in 2005 (Izzati et al., 2020).

Direct Cash Assistance is a program of the Indonesian government as a result of the elimination of fuel subsidies and is transferred to the poor with the aim that poverty in Indonesia can be reduced (Astuti et al., 2008). In line with this, Akib and Risfaisal (2015) stated that Direct Cash Assistance can be understood as the provision of a sum of money (cash) to the poor after the government decided to increase the price of fuel oil (BBM) by reducing the subsidy, but the difference from the subsidy is given to the poor. Direct Cash Assistance is the implementation of Presidential Instruction No. 3/2008 on the implementation of a direct cash assistance program to targeted households as compensation for fuel subsidy reduction.

Refer to Agustin (2007), there are several steps that must be taken in the implementation of this direct cash transfer program includes the following as follows:

1. Coordinate the necessary steps in maintaining community security and order for the implementation of the cash transfer program to poor households;
2. Coordinate the preparation of economic conditions that support the implementation plan of the direct cash transfer program for poor households;
3. Coordinating the implementation of complaints handling related to the implementation of the assistance program to poor households;
4. Coordinating the provision of funding and controlling budget for the implementation of the direct cash transfer program program to poor households;
5. Coordinating the preparation of program plans and organization for the implementation of the direct cash assistance program to poor households;
6. Coordinating the implementation of the distribution of funds to poor households;
7. Coordinate the implementation and supervision of the direct cash transfer program to poor households;
8. Coordinating the implementation of socialization and public consultation on the direct cash transfer program to poor households;
9. Coordinate the implementation of safeguards for the direct cash transfer program to poor households;
10. Coordinate the implementation of data preparation, including preparing and distributing identification cards of poor households and providing access to data on poor households to identification cards and providing access to data on poor households to all government agencies;
11. Coordinating the implementation of strict legal action in accordance with the provisions of the applicable laws and regulations against any person, company, or legal entity who commit or should be suspected of committing irregularities and irregularities in the preparation and implementation of the cash transfer program to poor households;

METHODOLOGY

The research conducted is important for the methods used in order to achieve the predetermined goals, in this case the research objectives (Patmasari, 2022; Ilham et al., 2020). The type of research used in this research is qualitative research, which in this study intends to understand the phenomenon of what is experienced by the research subject holistically and by means of descriptions in the form of words and language in a special natural context and by utilizing various scientific methods (Moelong, 2004: 6). The type of research used in this research is evaluative.

According to Muhajir in Ningsih (2022), evaluative research is a research method that aims to find out whether the planning of a policy, the implementation of a policy program and the supervision of the implementation of the program can be implemented or not. In evaluative research, it is hoped that it can provide information about how far the storage carried out by the object and subject of a study can be used as a basis for directing and fostering the success of the object and subject of a study. This research also includes the type of expos facto research, which is research whose data is collected after all the activities in question.
Data collection is carried out through interviews, observation or observation, and documentation (Ilham, 2020). In addition, literature studies were also conducted to obtain data relevant to the topic of the research being conducted (Ilham et al., 2021). The data analysis process is carried out through three stages of activity, first reducing data, second presenting data and finally drawing conclusions (Miles & Huberman, in Ilham et al., 2020).

RESULTS
Policy Evaluation of the Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) Program in Kota Baru Urban Village, Abepura District, Jayapura City.

Effectiveness, from the results of interviews and observations that the author conducted related to Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) in Kota Baru Urban Village, the target of allocating BLT funds has not been effective as expected, this is due to the lack of socialization received by the community as recipients.

Adequacy, from the results of interviews and observations that the author has conducted related to Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) in Kota Baru Urban Village, that actually the amount of money received is not sufficient for the needs of recipients because of the increasing cost of living in the present, but it does help a little.

Implementation, from the results of interviews and observations conducted at the Kota Baru Urban Village office, data on direct cash assistance (BLT) was obtained, it was found that for recipients of stage 1 (one) in 2023 in Kota Baru Urban Village there were 29 assistance that were not distributed, while those distributed were 212 with a total of 241 Beneficiary Families (KPM) in stage 1 (one), then in stage 2 (two) in 2023 there were 37 assistance that were not distributed while those distributed were 196 with a total of 233 Beneficiary Families (KPM). In the case of basic food assistance for stage 1 (one) of 2022 in Kota Baru urban village, there were 17 aid packages that were not distributed while 141 were distributed with a total of 158 KPM. Furthermore, in stage 2 (two) of cooking oil assistance in 2022 in Kota Baru Urban Village, it was found that 55 were not distributed, while 175 were distributed with a total KPM of 230 KPM. In stage 1 (one) of fuel oil assistance in Kota Baru Urban Village, 46 were found to be undistributed, while 229 were distributed with a total of 275 KPM and stage 3 (three) of basic food assistance in Kota Baru Urban Village, 25 were found to be undistributed, while 210 were distributed with a total of 235 KPM.

In stage 4 (four) of the Fuel Oil and Basic Food Assistance of the Family Hope Program in Kota Baru Urban Village, there were 38 that were not distributed, while 294 were distributed with a total of 332 KPM Beneficiary Families. Based on the results of this analysis, it can be said that the total number of those who did not receive assistance was 247, while those distributed were around 1704 with a total of 1722 Beneficiary Families (KPM). Departing from this, it can be said that the implementation of direct cash assistance at the Kota Baru urban village office has been running quite well.

Responsiveness, based on the results of interviews and observations conducted by the author, the response of the community as recipients of Direct
Cash Assistance (BLT) is very enthusiastic and happy because it can help support the community’s living expenses, but what is very unfortunate from these recipients is that there are still many people who actually really need Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) but do not get it.

Accuracy, the following are the results of the author's interviews and observations related to accuracy, where the inaccuracy of the distribution of Direct Cash Assistance in Kota Baru Urban Village is due to the names listed as recipients are people who are not on target, ranging from economic status to the domicile of recipients who come from outside the Kota Baru Urban Village area, Abepura District, Jayapura City.

**DISCUSSION**

Based on the previous explanation, seen from several indicators such as; effectiveness, adequacy, equity, responsiveness and accuracy in the implementation of the Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) program in Kota Baru Urban Village, Abepura District, Jayapura City as a whole can be said to have run quite well. However, some of the factors that became obstacles in the provision of Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) in Kota Baru Urban Village, Abepura District, Jayapura City are as follows;

Communication that is not smooth, communication that is not smooth because the problem is that the social service office and the assistants ordered by the social service office do not communicate well with the Kota Baru Urban Village, so that if the process of providing Direct Cash Assistance takes place but there are some people who do not get direct cash assistance and want to protest to the Urban Village, this can cause a commotion because it is known by the community that they have participated in the recollection of data conducted by assistants sent by the social service office but without knowing that the data has not been updated.

Uneven Information, the lack of uneven information where we talk about information on direct cash assistance in the process is not known by all communities because the schedule or stages of the process of providing direct cash assistance are not appropriate, causing many misunderstandings.

**CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the results of the analysis, it can be concluded that the implementation of the direct cash assistance program policy in Kota Baru Urban Village, seen from the indicators of effectiveness, adequacy, equity, responsiveness and accuracy, as a whole, can be said to have run quite well. However, there are obstacles faced during the provision of direct cash assistance, such as; lack of clarity regarding the Direct Cash Assistance program from the Social Service, lack of good communication from the Social Service to the Urban Village which causes misunderstanding between the community and the Urban Village regarding the names of recipients.

As a recommendation, the government should conduct more evaluations of the officers appointed in the field so that they work more effectively in carrying out the distribution of Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) so that the distribution can be more evenly distributed to the entire community, and must be
able to build good communication between the Social Service, Urban Village and Post Office so that everything can run according to procedures so that it gets a good response from the community.

FURTHER STUDY
The research conducted was very limited, which only focused on one village in Jayapura City. Therefore, future research is expected to discuss the same issue with different research locations in the Jayapura City area.

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