

# Impact of Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) on Community Welfare in Pa'rappunganta Village, North Polongbangkeng District, Takalar Regency

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## Abstract

This study examines the impact of Direct Cash Assistance (Bantuan Langsung Tunai/BLT) on community welfare in Pa'rappunganta Village, Polongbangkeng Utara District, Takalar Regency, Indonesia. Despite the widespread implementation of BLT as a social protection instrument, empirical evidence on its effectiveness in improving long-term welfare at the village level remains limited. This research aims to analyze the extent to which BLT contributes to community welfare and to identify its practical limitations. A qualitative research approach was employed, using primary and secondary data collected through in-depth interviews, direct observation, and document analysis. Informants consisted of BLT recipients, village officials, and community representatives selected purposively based on their involvement in the program. Data were analyzed using thematic analysis with triangulation to ensure validity and reliability. The findings reveal that BLT provides short-term financial relief and helps households meet basic consumption needs, particularly during periods of economic vulnerability. However, the assistance does not significantly improve long-term welfare, income stability, or quality of life, nor does it effectively reduce poverty levels. This limitation is mainly due to the temporary nature of the program and the absence of complementary empowerment or income-generating initiatives. The study contributes to the literature on social assistance by highlighting the gap between short-term aid effectiveness and sustainable welfare improvement. Policy implications suggest that BLT should be integrated with productive economic programs to achieve more sustainable social welfare outcomes.

## 1. Introduction

Direct Cash Assistance (Bantuan Langsung Tunai/BLT) is a government social protection program implemented in response to rising global crude oil prices and their impact on domestic fuel subsidies. The sharp increase in global oil prices, which at certain periods reached approximately USD 120 per barrel, significantly increased the fiscal burden of fuel subsidies. As a result, the Indonesian government adjusted domestic fuel prices to maintain budgetary sustainability. However, these policy adjustments disproportionately affected low-income households, as higher fuel prices contributed to increased transportation costs, inflation, and rising prices of basic necessities. To mitigate these adverse effects, the government introduced BLT as a compensatory mechanism aimed at protecting poor households' basic consumption needs.

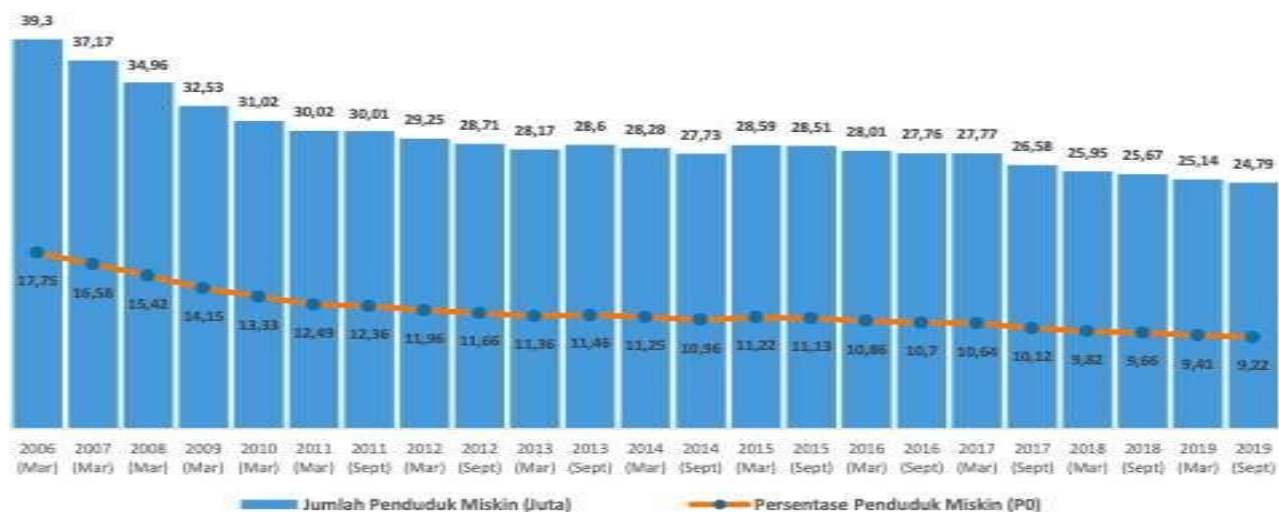
BLT is designed to provide direct cash transfers to households with low levels of

welfare, enabling them to meet essential living expenses. Although BLT does not directly increase income or long-term purchasing power, it plays an important role in supporting short-term consumption among poor households. Previous studies and policy evaluations indicate that cash assistance programs such as BLT can help households cope with economic shocks, particularly during periods of rising living costs. Therefore, BLT is considered a crucial component of Indonesia's social safety net.

Poverty remains a fundamental challenge in developing countries, including Indonesia. Todaro (2002) defines poverty as a condition characterized by limited economic capacity that restricts individuals' ability to meet basic needs. In Indonesia, poverty is officially measured based on household expenditure, reflecting the inability to meet minimum food and non-food requirements (BPS, 2019). National poverty data show that between

September 2006 and 2019, Indonesia experienced a general decline in both the number and percentage of poor people, suggesting that government intervention programs have contributed positively to poverty reduction. However, this trend has not been linear. During the period between

September 2013 and March 2015, poverty levels increased due to rising prices of basic goods following fuel price adjustments (BPS, 2019). These fluctuations indicate the vulnerability of poor households to economic shocks and highlight the importance of effective social assistance programs.

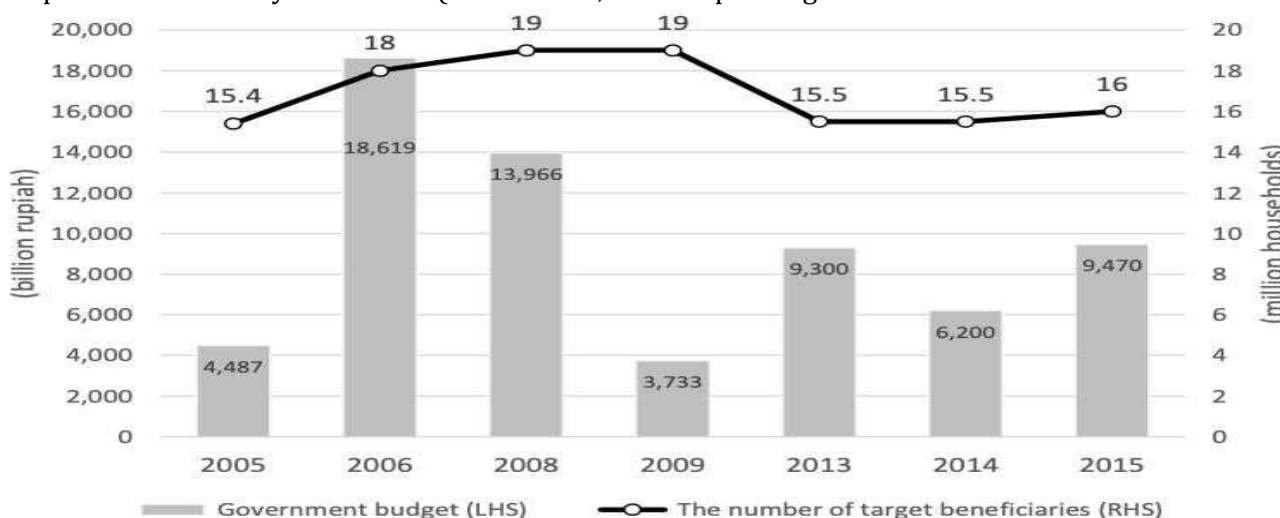


Source: BPS, 2019

**Picture 1.1 Chart Amount And Presentation Poor in Indonesia**

To address poverty and reduce its severity, the Indonesian government has implemented various social assistance programs, one of which is BLT. First introduced in 2005, BLT provides cash assistance of approximately IDR 1.2 million annually to poor households to offset the impact of fuel subsidy reductions (World Bank,

2017). The program targets the poorest 30 percent of households in Indonesia, covering an estimated 15–19 million households, making it one of the largest cash transfer programs globally. By directly transferring cash, the program aims to ensure timely assistance and flexibility in household decisions.



Source : Ezzati Et.al, 2020

**Picture 1.2. Graphics Amount Recipient Help Direct Cash (BLT) and the Budget Issued Each Year**

Figure 1.2 illustrates that while the BLT budget allocation has fluctuated over time, the

national poverty rate has generally shown a declining trend. This pattern suggests that BLT

has contributed to poverty reduction efforts at the macro level. Consequently, the implementation and effectiveness of BLT remain an important subject of analysis, particularly in understanding whether the program contributes only to short-term relief or also supports sustainable welfare improvement.

Formally, the BLT program is regulated under Presidential Instruction No. 3 of 2008, which mandates the implementation of Direct Cash Assistance for Targeted Households (Rumah Tangga Sasaran/RTS) as compensation for fuel subsidy reductions. The program emphasizes direct delivery, accurate targeting, social responsibility, and public trust. The amount of assistance is calculated based on estimated increases in the cost of living resulting from inflation caused directly or indirectly by fuel price adjustments. From a policy perspective, BLT has received broad public support as an immediate response to economic hardship.

Nevertheless, despite its benefits, BLT has also faced several criticisms. While the

program can temporarily increase purchasing power and stimulate local economic activity, it does not necessarily improve long-term welfare or income sustainability. In practice, issues such as misuse of funds, non-productive spending, and inaccurate targeting have been reported. Moreover, weaknesses in poverty data collection and verification have raised concerns regarding the effectiveness and fairness of BLT distribution, as some non-poor households may receive assistance while eligible households are excluded.

At the regional level, poverty alleviation remains a priority for the Government of Takalar Regency. Various programs have been implemented, including the National Community Empowerment Program (PNPM Mandiri), National Health Insurance (Jamkesmas), School Operational Assistance, and Direct Cash Assistance (BLT). These initiatives aim to ensure the fulfillment of basic rights, enhance community participation, and improve coordination and integration in poverty reduction efforts.

**Table 1. 1**  
**Level Poverty in Regency Takalar from Year 2016-2020**

No	Year	Amount Resident Poor (Thousand)	Percentage Resident Poor (%)
1	2016	27.05	9.35
2	2017	26.99	9.24
3	2018	26.57	9.00
4	2019	25.93	8.70
5	2020	25.38	8.44

Source : Body Center Statistics Regency Takalar 2021

The data indicate a gradual decline in poverty in Takalar Regency over the five-year period. Despite this improvement, poverty persists, and the effectiveness of specific programs such as BLT at the community level remains uncertain. Therefore, it is essential to examine how BLT affects household welfare in specific local contexts. This study focuses on Pa'rappunganta Village, Polongbangkeng Utara District, Takalar Regency, with the objective of analyzing the impact of BLT on community welfare and identifying the limitations of the program in achieving sustainable poverty reduction.

## 2. Review of Literature

### 2.1. Review of Theories

#### 2.1.1. Concept of Direct Cash Assistance (BLT)

Direct Cash Assistance (Bantuan Langsung Tunai/BLT) is a government-provided social assistance program designed to reduce the economic vulnerability of low-income households, particularly during periods of macroeconomic shocks such as fuel price increases and inflation. As a component of Indonesia's social protection system, BLT aims to mitigate the short-term adverse impacts of

policy adjustments on poor and vulnerable populations.

According to Suharto (2013), BLT represents a social safety net mechanism intended to protect disadvantaged groups from sudden socioeconomic risks. Social protection policies are structured to reduce exposure to vulnerability, enhance resilience, and ensure minimum living standards for populations facing economic instability. Within this framework, BLT functions as a compensatory policy instrument rather than a long-term poverty eradication strategy.

The legal foundation of BLT is stipulated in Law No. 11 of 2009 on Social Welfare, which classifies cash assistance as a form of social protection aimed at preventing and addressing social risks experienced by individuals, families, and communities. The law emphasizes three key components of social assistance: improving access to basic services, providing direct support, and strengthening social institutions. In this context, BLT serves as a temporary intervention to stabilize household welfare during periods of economic pressure.

### **2.1.2. Objectives of the BLT Program**

The primary objective of the BLT program is to protect poor households from welfare deterioration caused by rising prices and economic crises. By providing direct cash transfers, BLT is expected to help beneficiaries maintain basic consumption levels and prevent further economic decline.

BLT is typically distributed on a periodic basis, with eligibility determined using national socio-economic data compiled and validated by Statistics Indonesia (BPS). Distribution mechanisms are managed by designated state institutions, such as PT Pos Indonesia, to ensure broad coverage and administrative efficiency. From a public policy perspective, Friedrich (1963) defines policy as a set of actions taken by authorities to address problems and achieve specific goals within a given social environment. BLT aligns with this definition as a short-term policy response

designed to address immediate economic shocks.

Importantly, BLT is not intended to replace long-term poverty reduction programs such as PNPM Mandiri, Program Keluarga Harapan (PKH), or JAMKESMAS. Instead, it complements these initiatives by providing short-term relief while longer-term development and empowerment programs operate concurrently. However, the effectiveness of BLT depends not only on government intervention but also on public awareness, appropriate utilization of funds, and community participation.

### **2.1.3. Public Welfare**

Public welfare refers to a condition in which individuals are able to meet their material, social, and spiritual needs, enabling them to live with dignity and fulfill their social roles. Welfare development is inherently multidimensional, involving social services, economic empowerment, and institutional support.

The 1945 Constitution of Indonesia mandates the state to promote general welfare and protect vulnerable populations. Article 34 explicitly assigns the state responsibility for caring for the poor and neglected children. This constitutional mandate reflects the principles of the welfare state, where government intervention is necessary to ensure access to basic services when market mechanisms fail.

From a sociological perspective, Kartono views poverty as a form of social pathology rooted in structural inequalities and limited individual capacity. Similarly, Soekanto defines poverty as the inability to maintain a standard of living consistent with societal norms. Law No. 11 of 2009 further defines social welfare as a condition in which citizens' basic needs are fulfilled, allowing them to function socially and develop their potential.

Factors contributing to impaired social functioning include individual limitations, environmental constraints, and the interaction between both. Consequently, welfare interventions may take the form of individual capacity building, environmental improvement,

or integrated approaches that address both dimensions simultaneously. Persistent poverty in Indonesia is often associated with low educational attainment and limited access to productive employment, reinforcing the need for integrated and sustainable welfare policies.

#### **2.1.4. Role of Social Workers in Enhancing Community Welfare**

Social workers play a critical role in addressing social problems, including poverty and welfare inequality. As professional practitioners, social workers are equipped with skills in assessment, intervention planning, and resource mobilization to support vulnerable individuals and communities.

According to Wibawa et al., social workers contribute by strengthening clients' capacities, facilitating access to social resources, and advocating for social justice. Skidmore further categorizes social work functions into restorative (rehabilitative), developmental (capacity enhancement), and preventive (risk reduction) roles. Zastrow expands this framework by identifying seven key professional roles: enabler, broker, expert, social planner, advocate, activist, and educator.

In the context of BLT, social workers are instrumental in supporting accurate targeting, educating beneficiaries on appropriate fund utilization, and facilitating linkages with complementary empowerment programs. Their involvement enhances the effectiveness of cash assistance by ensuring that short-term aid contributes to broader welfare improvement.

#### **2.1.5. Government's Role in Improving Public Welfare**

The government plays a central role as both policymaker and regulator in social welfare provision. Constitutional and legal frameworks mandate the state to ensure social protection, particularly for poor and marginalized groups. Suharto notes that a substantial proportion of Indonesia's population lacks formal social protection coverage, underscoring the importance of government-led interventions.

Government social protection strategies can be categorized into five main forms: labor market policies, social insurance, social assistance, community-based protection schemes, and child protection programs. Social assistance programs, including BLT, PKH, food assistance, and educational subsidies, are essential in reducing vulnerability and ensuring minimum living standards.

Effective welfare improvement requires coordination among government institutions, the private sector, and community-based organizations. Without such integration, social assistance risks becoming fragmented and less sustainable.

### **2.2. Conceptual Framework**

Based on the reviewed theories, Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) is expected to influence public welfare primarily through short-term consumption stabilization and economic relief for poor households. BLT reflects the government's responsibility in advancing social welfare but is inherently limited in generating long-term welfare improvements unless supported by empowerment-oriented programs. Therefore, this study conceptualizes BLT as a short-term intervention whose effectiveness in enhancing community welfare depends on program implementation, beneficiary behavior, and complementary social policies.

### **3. Method Study**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

This study employs a descriptive qualitative research design, which aims to explore and describe social phenomena in their natural context without manipulating variables or testing hypotheses. A qualitative descriptive approach allows researchers to observe real-life situations, interpret meanings, and present findings based on empirical data obtained directly from the field. The researcher acted as a non-participant observer, focusing on identifying, categorizing, and documenting behaviors and conditions as they naturally occurred. This design emphasizes naturalistic inquiry, where the researcher seeks to



minimize interference in order to preserve the authenticity of the data.

### 3.2 Research Focus

To ensure analytical clarity, the scope of this study is limited to examining “The Impact of Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) on Community Welfare in Pa’rappunganta Village, Polongbangkeng Utara District, Takalar Regency.” The primary focus is the poor households residing in Pa’rappunganta Village who are registered as BLT recipients. This delimitation helps filter relevant information and ensures the depth of qualitative analysis.

### 3.3 Research Site and Duration

#### a. Research Site

The study was conducted in Pa’rappunganta Village, including its community environment and the Pa’rappunganta Village Office, Polongbangkeng Utara District, Takalar Regency.

#### b. Research Duration

Data collection was carried out over a period of two months, from July to August 2024.

### 3.4 Types and Sources of Data

Data sources play a critical role in ensuring the credibility and richness of qualitative research. This study uses two types of data:

1. **Primary Data**  
Primary data were obtained directly from respondents through in-depth interviews. Respondents consisted of BLT recipients and key informants who provided factual information regarding the impact of BLT on community welfare in Pa’rappunganta Village.
2. **Secondary Data**  
Secondary data were collected from books, official documents, previous research, village reports, and relevant literature related to BLT implementation and community welfare.

### 3.5 Data Collection Techniques

Three techniques were used to obtain comprehensive qualitative data:

1. **In-depth Interviews**  
Interviews were conducted with selected informants to explore their experiences, perceptions, and evaluations regarding BLT. A semi-structured interview guide was prepared to maintain focus while allowing flexibility for informants to elaborate.
2. **Observation**  
Direct observations were conducted in Pa’rappunganta Village to obtain contextual information and understand the actual living conditions of BLT recipients. Observations relied on sensory perception (visual and auditory) to capture real-time behaviors and environmental conditions.
3. **Documentation**  
Documentation techniques included collecting supporting documents such as BLT recipient lists, village records, photographs of activities, and transcripts. These materials served as supplementary data to strengthen the analysis.

### 3.6 Research Instruments

Research instruments refer to tools used to guide and support data collection processes. The instruments used in this study include:

1. **Interview Guide**  
A list of structured and semi-structured questions designed to help the researcher explore the impact of BLT on the welfare of recipient households.
2. **Observation Guide**  
A systematic checklist used to examine physical conditions, behavioral patterns, and social phenomena relevant to the research topic.
3. **Documentation Checklist**  
A tool for identifying and organizing documents such as photos, official records, and written evidence related to BLT implementation.

### 3.7 Data Analysis Technique

Data analysis was conducted using an inductive qualitative approach, allowing patterns and themes to emerge from the data. The analysis followed an interactive model, carried out simultaneously with data collection until data saturation was achieved. The stages include:

1. Data Reduction  
Selecting, simplifying, and organizing raw data obtained from interviews, observations, and documents to highlight key themes.
2. Data Display  
Presenting the organized data in narrative form, enabling clearer interpretation and facilitating further analysis.
3. Conclusion Drawing and Verification  
Identifying patterns, constructing interpretations, and formulating conclusions supported by evidence. Verification was performed continuously throughout the research process to ensure accuracy and credibility.

This analytical process continued iteratively until no new information emerged, indicating data saturation.

## 4. Results and Discussion

### 4.1 Results of the Study

This section presents the empirical findings derived from field observations, in-depth interviews, and document analysis conducted in Pa'rappunganta Village. The results are organized thematically to reflect the multidimensional conditions of the community, covering economic, religious-cultural, and social perspectives.

#### 4.1.1 Economic Conditions of the Community

From an economic perspective, the overall condition of the Pa'rappunganta Village community can be categorized as relatively prosperous compared to previous years. This improvement is evident in household income stability, asset ownership, and the declining number of poor households. According to village administrative data and corroborated

by key informants, the number of households classified as poor decreased significantly from 162 to 97 households, with a total village population of 3,057 people.

One village official, Abd. Razak Dg. Tangang, emphasized that welfare should be understood as the fulfillment of basic needs such as food, clothing, and housing. He noted that most households are now able to meet their daily needs without major difficulty. He further explained that government intervention, particularly the Direct Cash Assistance (Bantuan Langsung Tunai/BLT) program, has contributed to easing short-term economic pressures and, in some cases, has been used as initial capital for small-scale economic activities.

Similar views were expressed by Hasan Dg. Rani, who highlighted the significant transformation in food consumption patterns. In the past, households often relied on corn or mixed rice-corn meals and could only afford one or two meals per day. Currently, most families are able to consume three meals per day using pure rice. This change is closely linked to improvements in agricultural infrastructure, particularly the development of irrigation systems that allow rice fields to be harvested up to three times per year. Increased access to productive farmland has also played a crucial role in improving household food security.

Usman Dg. Gassing further affirmed that access to basic necessities, especially food, is no longer a critical issue in the village. According to him, hunger is no longer a structural problem but is more closely associated with individual work motivation. This statement reflects the general perception that economic opportunities are available, particularly in the agricultural sector.

In addition, Anto Dg. Ewa explained that although not all villagers own rice fields, those without land can still earn income through wage labor or profit-sharing arrangements with landowners. This system enables broader access to agricultural benefits and prevents extreme economic marginalization among landless households.

Document analysis supports these narratives, showing that Pa'rappunganta Village has a diverse economic structure, with the majority of residents working as farmers due to the extensive availability of rice fields across village neighborhoods. Overall, these findings indicate that the village's economic condition has improved and is relatively stable, although disparities in asset ownership and income levels still exist.

#### **4.1.2 Religious and Cultural Conditions of the Community**

Religious and cultural life in Pa'rappunganta Village plays a central role in shaping community behavior and social cohesion. The village is predominantly Muslim, and religious values are deeply embedded in daily activities. This is reflected in the availability of religious infrastructure, including eight mosques and prayer rooms, as well as five Qur'anic Education Centers (TPA) that provide religious education for children.

The establishment of Islamic youth organizations, such as the Mosque Youth Association (Ikatan Remaja Masjid/IRM), further indicates the strengthening of religious life in the village. These organizations actively engage young people in religious activities and social services, contributing to moral development and community solidarity.

According to Abd. Razak Dg. Tangang, religion and local Makassar culture are closely intertwined and mutually reinforcing. Both emphasize values such as cooperation, mutual assistance, respect, and moral integrity. Religious education is delivered formally through schools and informally through community-based religious institutions, ensuring the transmission of values across generations.

The strong alignment between religious teachings and cultural traditions fosters social harmony and ethical conduct. Cultural practices rooted in Makassar traditions continue to be preserved, not in contradiction to religious norms, but rather as complementary frameworks guiding social life. This integration strengthens communal

identity and reinforces social order within the village.

#### **4.1.3 Social Conditions of the Community**

From a social perspective, Pa'rappunganta Village demonstrates a high level of social cohesion and collective responsibility. Islamic moral values strongly influence social interactions, emphasizing mutual assistance (gotong royong), solidarity, and equality. These values are evident in various communal activities, such as collective preparations for weddings, religious celebrations, and community service events. One notable practice is the routine communal activity of cleaning mosques every Friday, which involves participation from various segments of the community. This activity not only maintains religious facilities but also strengthens social bonds and reinforces shared responsibility.

According to Hj. Suryani Dg. Kembong, a sub-district official, social stratification is minimal in Pa'rappunganta Village. Community members do not prioritize social status or economic class in their interactions, which reduces social tension and promotes inclusivity. Such conditions contribute to a socially prosperous environment where cooperation and mutual respect prevail. Overall, the social life of the community reflects strong adherence to religious and cultural values, creating a supportive environment that enhances collective well-being and social resilience.

#### **4.2 Discussion**

This section discusses the findings in relation to the effectiveness of the Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) program and its implications for community welfare in Pa'rappunganta Village. The BLT program is primarily designed as a short-term social safety net to protect poor households from economic shocks, particularly during periods of crisis such as rising prices or the COVID-19 pandemic. The findings indicate that BLT has indeed played a significant role in helping poor households meet their immediate basic needs.



Several informants, including Nurfiani Mustika Dg. Ga'ga and Dg. Tonji, stated that BLT funds were mainly used to purchase daily necessities, particularly food. For households with limited and unstable income, the monthly assistance of Rp. 300,000 provided temporary relief and reduced daily economic pressure. These findings align with previous studies suggesting that cash transfer programs are effective in increasing short-term purchasing power among poor households.

However, other recipients reported using BLT funds as supplementary business capital. Ahmad Dg. Nangga and Dg. Senga, for example, utilized the assistance to support small trading and food production activities. Although the capital amount was limited, it helped sustain their micro-businesses and gradually contributed to meeting household needs. This finding supports Harwidiensyah (2011), who argued that cash assistance is often perceived as more flexible and beneficial than in-kind assistance because recipients can allocate funds according to their priorities.

Despite these benefits, the findings also reveal significant limitations of the BLT program in terms of long-term welfare improvement. Several informants, including Hasan Dg. Rani and Haerati Dg. Bau, emphasized that BLT funds are insufficient to significantly improve living standards or reduce poverty. The assistance only covers basic needs for a short period and does not address structural issues such as limited employment opportunities, low productivity, and unequal access to assets.

This perspective is consistent with Elinpiké (2010), who argued that while BLT is crucial for survival, it does not enhance the productive capacity of poor households if implemented without complementary empowerment programs. Similarly, community leaders in Pa'rappunganta Village noted that the BLT program does not lead to meaningful improvements in quality of life, as the assistance is temporary and conditional.

The findings suggest that BLT should not be viewed as a standalone solution for poverty alleviation. Instead, it should be

integrated with long-term development strategies, such as skills training, access to productive resources, agricultural support, and small business development. Without such complementary interventions, BLT remains a short-term coping mechanism rather than a transformative policy instrument.

In conclusion, the study demonstrates that while Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) provides essential short-term relief and helps poor households survive during economic hardship, it has limited impact on improving long-term welfare or reducing poverty levels in Pa'rappunganta Village. Sustainable poverty reduction requires a comprehensive approach that combines social protection with economic empowerment and structural development initiatives.

## **5. Closing**

### **5.1 Conclusion**

This study examined the impact of the Direct Cash Assistance (Bantuan Langsung Tunai/BLT) program on community welfare in Pa'rappunganta Village, Polongbangkeng Utara District, Takalar Regency. Based on qualitative findings derived from interviews, observations, and document analysis, several important conclusions can be drawn.

First, the BLT program plays a meaningful role as a short-term social safety net for poor households. The assistance helps beneficiaries meet their immediate basic needs, particularly food consumption, during periods of economic vulnerability. For some recipients, BLT also provides limited support as supplementary capital for small-scale economic activities.

Second, despite these short-term benefits, BLT has not been effective in significantly improving overall community welfare or reducing poverty levels in a sustainable manner. The amount of assistance received is relatively small and insufficient to support long-term economic improvement, especially for households with many dependents. As a result, BLT recipients cannot rely solely on government assistance to enhance their quality of life.

Third, the findings indicate that BLT is primarily consumptive rather than productive in nature. While it alleviates daily financial pressure, it does not address structural causes of poverty such as limited access to productive assets, skills development, and stable employment opportunities. Therefore, BLT should be understood as a temporary relief mechanism rather than a comprehensive poverty alleviation strategy.

Overall, the study concludes that Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) contributes to short-term survival but has limited impact on long-term welfare improvement in Pa'rappunganta Village.

## 5.2 Policy Implications

The findings of this study have several important implications for public policy, particularly in the design and implementation of social assistance programs. First, cash assistance programs such as BLT should be integrated with long-term empowerment strategies. Without complementary programs—such as vocational training, access to microfinance, agricultural support, and small business development—cash transfers alone are unlikely to reduce poverty sustainably.

Second, policymakers should reconsider the adequacy of the assistance amount. The current level of BLT funding does not sufficiently reflect household needs, especially in communities with large family sizes. A more context-sensitive approach, taking into account household composition and local economic conditions, may improve program effectiveness. Third, regular monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are essential to assess the real impact of BLT on beneficiaries' welfare. Evidence-based adjustments are necessary to ensure that social assistance programs remain relevant, efficient, and responsive to community needs.

## 5.3 Recommendations

Based on the conclusions and policy implications above, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. Program Re-evaluation  
The central and local governments are encouraged to re-evaluate the BLT program, particularly regarding the amount and duration of assistance. Adjustments should be made to enhance its effectiveness in supporting poor households beyond short-term consumption needs.
2. Integration with Empowerment Programs  
BLT should be combined with productive and empowerment-oriented programs, such as skills training, entrepreneurship support, and access to agricultural inputs, to enable beneficiaries to improve their economic capacity independently.
3. Further Research  
Future studies are recommended to conduct comparative analyses across different regions to examine variations in BLT effectiveness. Such research would provide broader empirical evidence to inform policy refinement and improve the design of cash transfer programs at the national level.

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