

Effectiveness of social assistance distribution to the community in the Otomona Village, Mimika District Central Papua Province

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Abstract

Purpose: This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of social assistance distribution in Otomona Village, Mimika Regency, focusing on value accuracy, target accuracy, and timeliness. The research seeks to identify strengths and weaknesses of the program and provide recommendations for improvement.

Research/methodology: The study employed a descriptive qualitative approach using purposive sampling of 30 respondents who were recipients of Direct Cash Assistance (BLT). Data were collected through structured interviews, participatory observation, and documentation of official records. The analysis emphasized transparency, distribution mechanisms, and recipients' perspectives.

Results: Findings reveal that value accuracy has been achieved, as all respondents consistently received Rp 200,000 per month without deductions or administrative fees. However, challenges remain in targeting and timeliness. About 80% of respondents had incomes below the regional minimum wage, confirming appropriate targeting, yet variations in housing conditions highlight inconsistencies in eligibility criteria. Additionally, 44% of respondents reported delays in receiving assistance, showing weaknesses in timeliness.

Conclusions: The distribution of social assistance in Otomona Village has been effective in terms of value accuracy but requires improvement in targeting and timeliness to ensure fairness and consistency. Enhancing coordination, updating beneficiary data, and leveraging technology are key strategies to increase program effectiveness.

Limitations: The study was limited to 30 respondents in one village, which restricts generalizability. Broader and comparative studies are needed to capture diverse regional contexts.

Contribution: This research provides empirical evidence on the performance of social assistance programs at the village level and offers practical recommendations to strengthen policy implementation and improve social welfare outcomes.

Keywords: *Cash Social Assistance, Community, Otomona Village Community, Social Welfare*

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1. Introduction

The distribution of social assistance is one of the government's efforts to alleviate the living burden of the less fortunate, especially in facing various economic challenges (Mulyanto, Indrayani, Satriawan, Ngaliman, & Catrayasa, 2023; Qudus, Nurodin, & Nugroho, 2024). This social assistance is expected to significantly contribute to improving social welfare, reducing poverty, and helping communities survive difficult situations. Social assistance programs have become a priority in the social development

policies implemented by the government at the central, provincial, and district/city levels. However, in its implementation, there are various challenges faced by both the government and the community in the distribution of social assistance. In several areas, including Otomona Village, Mimika Regency, there are obstacles related to the effectiveness of social assistance distribution to the community. These challenges include technical issues in the distribution system, a lack of understanding among the community regarding the assistance mechanism, and the potential for misuse or discrepancies between the amount of assistance received and the amount that should have been given to eligible recipients.

Otomona Village, located in the Mimika Baru District, is one of the regions that has received attention related to the social assistance program. The community in this area, which mostly lives under difficult economic conditions, is heavily reliant on the social assistance provided by the government. Therefore, it is important to evaluate the effectiveness of the distribution of social assistance in Otomona Village in terms of target accuracy, timeliness, and amount received by each recipient. Given this background, this study aims to analyze the effectiveness of the distribution of social assistance in Otomona Village. This research is expected to provide a clear picture of the various factors influencing the success and obstacles in the process of distributing social assistance, as well as offer recommendations to improve the effectiveness of social assistance programs in the future.

2. Literature review

2.1 Theoretical Foundation of Social Assistance

2.1.1 Poverty Theory

According to Qulsum, Anggraini, and Putri (2024), poverty is defined as the inability of individuals or groups to earn sufficient income to meet basic needs such as food, shelter, education, and healthcare. They emphasized that poverty is a multidimensional issue that cannot be measured solely by income. Two main types of poverty: absolute poverty, which occurs when individuals or groups do not have enough resources to meet their basic needs, such as food, shelter, and health (Afriyani, Indrayani, Indrawan, Wibisono, & Ngaliman, 2023; Purwanti, 2024). They live below the poverty line set by the government or international agencies. Poverty in Indonesia is a complex and ongoing issue that is influenced by various social, economic, and political factors. Poverty in Indonesia is exacerbated by factors such as limited access to education, job opportunities, and economic inequality. Despite Indonesia's progress in reducing poverty over the past few decades, millions of people still live below the poverty line. Many poor families in Indonesia live in rural or densely populated urban areas with limited access to clean water, sanitation, and healthcare services (Kurbani, Novalia, & Nuarly, 2023; Simaremare et al., 2024). Children from poor families are often forced to drop out of school to help make ends meet, which further perpetuates the poverty cycle (Suhendar, Sari, Pangesti, Putra, & Santoso, 2024).

2.1.2 Welfare Theory

According to Kurniasih and Anjani (2025), social welfare is a condition in which communities have sufficient access to essential services, such as education, healthcare, decent employment, and safe housing. Social welfare is not only related to economic aspects but also to individuals' or communities' ability to reach their full potential within social and cultural contexts (Mardiyah, Tahjir, Parera, Mambraku, & Kilwouw, 2025). Welfare encompasses the fulfillment of material, spiritual, and social needs so that citizens can live decently and develop themselves, enabling them to perform their social functions (Anggalana, Baharudin, & Adam, 2022). Welfare covers various aspects of life, such as health, education, employment, housing, and a clean and healthy environment (Sukmasari, 2020).

Welfare can also be defined as a condition in which individuals or communities feel safe, comfortable, and happy, with the opportunity to develop their potential optimally (Sastrawan, Samsi, & Seran, 2024). Welfare is not just about having enough money or material wealth but also about having good social relationships, stable mental health, and meaningful life goals (Agrawal, Sharma, Dhayal, & Esposito, 2024). Improving welfare is one of the main objectives of a country's development. The government plays a crucial role in creating conditions that enable citizens to achieve welfare through policies in the economic, social, and environmental spheres. In addition, active community participation is needed to achieve collective welfare (Riyanto & Kovalenko, 2023).

2.1.3 Public Policy Theory

Public policy is a series of interconnected actions taken by institutions or government officials to achieve specific objectives in addressing issues that concern the public (Maharaksa et al., 2025). Public policy is not a single decision but a process consisting of various continuous and systematic steps designed to improve societal conditions (Manarat, Pangemanan, & Lengkong, 2017). Dunn highlights the importance of policy analysis as a scientific approach to understanding, designing, and evaluating public policies (Theletsane, 2016). Policies must be viewed as dynamic processes involving interactions between political actors, the bureaucracy, civil society, and available resources. Public policy is a series of actions undertaken by the government or public authorities to address problems or achieve specific objectives deemed important to society (Ferdaus & Zaimasuri, 2023). Public policies can take the form of laws, regulations, programs, or other actions designed to influence the behavior of individuals, organizations, or society as a whole to comply with existing standards and norms.

2.2 Objectives of Social Assistance Distribution

The objectives of social assistance (bansos) are diverse, but in general, they can be grouped into several main categories.

- **Reducing Poverty and Vulnerability:** The primary goal of social assistance is to reduce poverty and vulnerability, especially for the most vulnerable groups, such as poor families, the elderly, people with disabilities, and orphaned children (Ncube & Murray, 2024). Social assistance provides direct support to meet basic needs, such as food, clothing, and shelter.
- **Improving Social Welfare:** Social assistance aims to improve the overall social welfare of communities by providing access to essential services, such as healthcare, education, and adequate housing (Hakim et al., 2024; Heydari, Torabi, & Jahromi, 2023).
- **Increasing Capacity and Independence:** Social assistance not only provides direct support but also aims to enhance the capacity and independence of beneficiaries so that they can break free from poverty and improve their quality of life sustainably (Azhary, 2025). This can be achieved through skill training, business capital assistance, and community empowerment.
- **Reducing Social Inequality:** Social assistance seeks to reduce social inequality between the wealthy and the poor by providing support to disadvantaged groups and increasing their opportunities to participate in development.
- **Maintaining Social and Economic Stability:** Social assistance helps maintain social and economic stability, particularly during crises such as natural disasters, pandemics, or economic turmoil. It provides a safety net for those affected and helps to prevent social unrest (Saragih, Batubara, & Kurniaty, 2023).
- **Encouraging Economic Growth:** Social assistance can stimulate economic growth by increasing the purchasing power of low-income groups (Purba, Sinulingga, Togatorop, & Harahap, 2025). This increase in purchasing power can boost the demand for goods and services, which, in turn, can stimulate production and investment.

In summary, the goal of social assistance distribution is to create a more just, prosperous, and inclusive society in which all citizens have equal opportunities to develop their potential and improve their quality of life..

2.3 Concept of the Effectiveness of Social Assistance Distribution

The effectiveness of social assistance distribution refers to the extent to which the objectives of a social assistance program are achieved during implementation. Several factors influence the effectiveness of assistance distribution; however, this study focuses on three key aspects: value accuracy, target accuracy, and timeliness accuracy. Therefore, this study only discusses these three concepts. In the context of the effectiveness of social assistance distribution, value accuracy means that the amount of assistance promised to the recipient should be the same as the amount actually received. If Rp200,000 is promised, the recipient should receive Rp200,000, without any unauthorized deductions or hidden costs.

However, the concept of value accuracy extends beyond the correct amount. It also includes:

- **No unauthorized deductions:** Recipients should not be subject to deductions by unauthorized parties.
- **Reasonable and transparent administrative costs:** If there are administrative fees (e.g., bank transfer

- fees), they should be reasonable, transparent, and communicated to the recipient.
- Preserving real value: The value of assistance should be maintained so that it is not eroded by inflation. If the amount of assistance remains the same over time while the prices of goods and services continue to rise, the purchasing power of recipients will decrease. Therefore, indexing (adjusting the value of assistance for inflation) is important.
- Optimal purchasing power: The value of assistance should be carefully considered to ensure that it is sufficient to meet recipients' basic needs.

Thus, value accuracy is not only about matching the nominal amount but also ensuring that recipients truly receive the maximum benefit from the assistance provided to them.

Target accuracy in the distribution of social assistance means ensuring that aid is given to individuals or families who are most entitled and meet the criteria that have been set. It is not merely about providing assistance to "the poor" in general but about identifying and reaching those who are most vulnerable and in need based on clear and measurable indicators.

- Priority Based on Needs Level: In some cases, there may be more people who meet the criteria than available funds for assistance. In such cases, a priority system is required to determine who should receive assistance first. Priorities can be given to the following:
 - Families with Children: Families with children, especially school-aged children, often become a priority because assistance can help improve their access to education and health care.
 - Elderly individuals: Elderly individuals living alone or without a steady income are also a highly vulnerable group and should be prioritized.
 - People with Disabilities: People with disabilities, especially those unable to work, require assistance to meet their basic needs.
 - Disaster Victims: Victims of natural or social disasters often lose their homes and livelihoods and require immediate assistance.
- No Double Assistance: Recipients should not receive the same assistance from other programs. This ensures that assistance is distributed fairly and reaches more people in need of assistance. Data integration across social assistance programs can help prevent the duplication of recipients.
- Data Verification and Validation: Recipient data should be regularly verified and validated to ensure that they still meet the criteria and that assistance is provided to the correct individuals. Verification processes may involve home visits, interviews or cross-checking with data from other sources.
- Transparency and Accountability: The process of determining recipients must be transparent and accountable. The criteria and recipient list should be publicly available so that the community can provide feedback or raise objections if there are errors.
- Considering Justice Aspects: In addition to formal criteria, justice aspects should be considered when determining recipients. For example, if two families meet the criteria but one has a heavier burden, that family may be more deserving of receiving assistance.

By ensuring target accuracy, social assistance can have the maximum impact on those most in need and help reduce social inequality. Timeliness accuracy in the distribution of social assistance means that the aid should be received by the beneficiaries exactly at the time that it was scheduled and announced in advance. This is not just about meeting deadlines but also about providing certainty and enabling recipients to plan how to use assistance more effectively.

3. Research methodology

3.1 Research Location, Type and Data Sources

This study was conducted in the Otomona Village area of Mimika Regency on April 14, 2025. This study uses a qualitative research method, meaning that the data are not derived from numbers but from texts, interviews, field notes, personal documents, records, and official documents. According to Sugiyono (2017), qualitative methods understand phenomena in natural social contexts, emphasizing the deep interaction between the researcher and the phenomenon being studied. This study was descriptive and employed a qualitative approach. It presents data systematically, factually, and accurately, in relation to the facts observed in the field. This study aims to effectively describe the distribution of social assistance in Otomona Village.

Qualitative data are narrative and descriptive. Qualitative research data can come from various sources, such as oral sources, written documents, photos, and statistics. However, in this study, the data sources are related to the specific focus of the research, which are as follows:

a) **Primary Data**

Primary data are collected and processed directly by an organization or individual from the research object. Therefore, the researcher must collect the data personally to obtain primary data for the study. Examples of primary data include the following:

- Interview results
- Survey/questionnaire results
- Observation results

b) **Secondary Data**

Secondary data are additional data obtained from second or third parties. Secondary data sources include readings from various sources, such as personal letters, official documents from various government agencies, and libraries.

3.2 Population and Sample

The population refers to the entire research subject. The population in this study consists of all social assistance recipients in Otomona Village, totaling 1,600 families (KK), with 795 poor families, 105 recipients of direct cash assistance (BLT) in 2025, 97 recipients in 2024, and 126 recipients in 2023. The research population was selected considering several factors, including relevance to the research topic and accessibility of the research area. This study used a sampling method, meaning that only a portion of the total population was studied. The sampling process in This study used purposive sampling. The sample size of 30 respondents was determined based on a practical rule suggested by Sekaran and Bougie (2016), which states that in multivariate research (including multiple regression analysis), the sample size must be several times (preferably ten times or more) the number of variables used in the study. This study uses three research variables, so the minimum sample size is 30 respondents. Purposive sampling is a sampling technique based on specific criteria in the sample selection process.

3.3 Data Collection Methods

There are three main data collection techniques in qualitative research: observation, participant observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation. These data collection techniques increased the reliability of the research results. Several data collection techniques were used in this study to obtain relevant and comprehensive data. The techniques used in this study are as follows:

a) **Observation**

The observation used in this research employed a participatory observation method. This data collection technique involves exclusive observation, where data are collected by observing the implementation process of the social assistance distribution program. This data was recorded by the researcher based on what happens at the location of the object being studied or observed. In participatory observation, the researcher is actively involved in the daily activities of the people being observed or the subjects from whom data are gathered.

b) **Interviews**

The interview technique is a data collection method used in surveys to collect qualitative data. Interviews are a crucial part of research. Interviews are used to obtain information from respondents. The interview method used in this study was structured interviews, with an interview guide where respondents were presented with questions. The purpose of the interview in this study was to complement and reaffirm the data obtained from observations in Otomona Village. Interviews were conducted with research informants, asking various questions related to the research topic. In-depth interviews were conducted to obtain direct data through a series of questions and answers with stakeholders involved in the public service delivery process in Otomona Village.

c) Documentation

This method was used to collect data containing key points relevant to the research problem. It allows researchers to utilize available data in the form of documents, offering complete and valid non-inferential data. The documents used in this study include regulations and legislation regarding cash social assistance in Otomona Village.

3.4 Operational Definition of Social Assistance

Social assistance is operationally defined as a structured system that includes the identification, distribution, and monitoring of resource transfers (cash, goods, services, or combinations) to individuals, families, or groups identified as vulnerable, poor, or affected by crises. Its main purpose is to meet basic needs, reduce vulnerability, enhance well-being, empower beneficiaries, and contribute to inclusive socioeconomic development. The success of social assistance programs is not only measured by the distribution of assistance but also by their long-term impact on the lives of beneficiaries and society as a whole. Key dimensions in the operational definition of social assistance include the following:

a) Effectiveness of Social Assistance (Impact Assessment)

The effectiveness of social assistance extends beyond meeting short-term needs. It includes behavioral changes, capacity building, and sustainability of positive impacts after assistance ends. The assessment of effectiveness should consider immediate, intermediate, and long-term effects. The detailed indicators are as follows:

- Sustainable Consumption Increase: Not only increasing consumption during the period of receiving assistance but also maintaining that level of consumption after the program ends.
- Measured Health Improvement: Reduction in infectious disease rates, increased access to preventive healthcare, and greater awareness of healthy living practices.
- Significant Educational Participation Increase: Increased participation rates, decreased school dropout rates, improved academic performance, and enhanced skills relevant to the labor market.
- Multidimensional Poverty Reduction: Measuring poverty not only by income but also by access to education, healthcare, housing, clean water, sanitation, and information.
- Increased Economic Capacity: Improvement in skills, access to business capital, access to markets, and increased income from self-employment.

b) Impact on Society (Social Cohesion and Community Development)

The societal impacts include economic, social, psychological, and institutional effects.

1) Economic Impact:

- Income Increase: Social assistance can increase household income, especially for those with low incomes or no permanent employment.
- Consumption Increase: With increased income, families can purchase more goods and services, including food, clothing, and other household necessities.
- Local Economic Stimulation: Increased consumption can stimulate local economic activity, creating demand and job opportunities.
- Poverty Reduction: Social assistance helps reduce poverty levels by providing a safety net for vulnerable families.

2) Social Impact:

- a) Health Improvement: Social assistance can improve access to healthcare and nutrition services, which has a positive impact on public health.
- b) Education Improvement: Social assistance can help families finance their children's education, raising the community's educational levels and skills.
- c) Child Welfare Improvement: Social assistance can help meet children's basic needs, such as food, clothing, and education, positively impacting their well-being.
- d) Strengthening Social Capital: Social assistance can strengthen solidarity and mutual cooperation within a community, increasing participation in social and economic activities.

3) Psychological Impact:

- a) Increased Self-Confidence: Social assistance can help boost the self-esteem and confidence of beneficiaries, which impacts their motivation to work and participate in society.
- b) Stress Reduction: Social assistance can help reduce stress and anxiety related to poverty and vulnerability, positively affecting mental and emotional health.
- c) Increased Hope: Social assistance can provide hope for a better future, motivating beneficiaries to learn, work, and invest in their future.

4) Institutional Impact:

- a) Strengthening Social Protection Systems: Social assistance can help strengthen a country's social protection system, enhancing the government's capacity to provide aid to those in need.
- b) Increased Accountability: Transparent and accountable social assistance programs can improve public trust in the government and public institutions.
- c) Improved Coordination: Well-coordinated social assistance programs can enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of aid distribution by reducing duplication and overlap.

5) Adequacy and Efficiency of Assistance

The adequacy of assistance is not just about meeting basic needs but also about maximizing the positive impact with the available resources. This includes cost-benefit analysis and operational efficiencies. For example, if a program promises cash assistance of Rp 200,000 per month to poor families, then the adequacy of value means

- Recipients receive exactly Rp 200,000, with no deductions or hidden costs.
- Rp 200,000 is sufficient to meet a portion of the family's basic needs (this depends on the living costs in the area).
- Recipients know how assistance is calculated and what is expected of them, such as whether they need to attend training or submit reports on fund usage.
- Administrative costs are minimized, ensuring that funds reach the beneficiaries.
- Thus, the adequacy of value is not only about the amount of money but also about transparency, efficiency, relevance, and consistency. These are key to ensuring that social assistance is truly beneficial for both recipients and the community as a whole.

6) Targeting Accuracy of Assistance

Targeting accuracy is not just about reaching the poor but also about avoiding under-coverage (not reaching those who should be included) and leakage (reaching those who should not be included). This requires an accurate identification system and robust verification mechanisms. Targeting accuracy is critical to the success of social assistance programs in China. It requires clear definitions, accurate identification processes, minimization of inclusion and exclusion errors, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and ongoing adaptation and improvement. By focusing on targeting accuracy, we can ensure that assistance reaches those most in need and has a significant and positive impact on the well-being of society. This program focuses on families with low incomes below the minimum wage (UMK) and those living in inadequate housing.

According to Law No. 13 of 2011 on Poverty Handling, this law mandates the government to address poverty and provide assistance to the poor and those unable to support themselves. Although this law does not explicitly mention the minimum wage, it provides a legal basis for the government to set eligibility criteria for assistance recipients based on economic conditions, which may implicitly include income below the UMK. Based on Law No. 1 of 2011 on Housing and Settlements, Article 1, number 11 defines "Habitable House," which implicitly indicates that uninhabitable houses are a concern for the government.

a) Timeliness and Responsiveness of Assistance

Timeliness in social assistance programs refers to delivering aid or services to beneficiaries at the most critical time or according to a pre-determined schedule. This means that aid must be available

and accessible to beneficiaries at the right time to effectively address their problems or meet their needs.

Why is Timeliness Important?

- However, late assistance may lose its effectiveness. For instance, food aid arriving after a family has already experienced hunger may not fully restore their health to its previous state. Home repair assistance arriving after the rainy season may not prevent further damages.
- Assistance delivered on time can prevent problems from worsening and reduce the long-term handling costs.

b) Reducing the Negative Impact of

- Delayed assistance can worsen the condition of beneficiaries and lead to greater negative impacts. For example, delayed medical aid can lead to disease progression or even death. Delayed financial aid can result in families accumulating debt or losing their assets.

c) Building Trust:

- Timely delivery of assistance builds trust between beneficiaries and program administrators. This increases participation and support for the program.
- Delayed assistance can damage trust and cause frustration, thereby reducing the program's effectiveness.

d) Program Efficiency:

- Timely programs are more efficient because they reduce the need for expensive interventions later.
- Delays can lead to additional costs, such as storage fees, re-transportation fees, or administrative costs to address complaints

4. Results and discussion

4.1 Results

Before delving into the in-depth results of the research conducted, it is important to provide an overview of the characteristics of the respondents who have taken the time and effort to participate in this study. This section begins with the presentation of the respondents' profiles, followed by a discussion of the analysis of the obtained data. The main findings relevant to the research objectives are presented, along with the interpretation and implications of the results.

4.1.1 Respondent Profile

As an essential step in presenting the research results, we begin by providing a clear and structured description of the profiles of the respondents who participated in this study. The table below presents comprehensive information on the respondents' identities, including various aspects such as gender, age, education level, occupation, income and family dependents. This information will help readers understand the characteristics of the research sample, identify potential biases or limitations, and interpret the research results more carefully and contextually.

Table 1. Respondent Identity List

No	Respondent Name	Gender	Age (Years)	Education Level	Occupation	Family Dependents
1	Sukarni	M	42	Junior High	Laborer	3
2	Muntiasih	F	33	Elementary	Farmer	5
3	Lilis Mutoharoh	F	44	Junior High	Laborer	4
4	Elvina Tanwar	F	38	Junior High	Farmer	6
5	Marlin	F	39	Bachelor's	Civil Servant	2
6	Astuti	F	55	Junior High	Farmer	5
7	Ananda Hirnawati	F	43	High School	Laborer	3
8	Sarti	F	53	Elementary	Farmer	6
9	Muawanah	F	54	High School	Farmer	4
10	Aisyah	F	44	High School	Farmer	5

11	Ahmad Yani	M	39	High School	Laborer	6
12	Yanti Tamber	F	29	Bachelor's	Civil Servant	6
13	Sartiah	F	59	Junior High	Farmer	4
14	Nur Hayati	F	29	High School	Laborer	4
15	Anton J Gobay	M	39	Junior High	Motorcycle Driver	3
16	Laode Guani	M	36	Junior High	Laborer	2
17	Akbar B	M	40	Elementary	Laborer	4
18	Jasman	M	42	Junior High	Laborer	2
19	Budiman	M	47	High School	Motorcycle Driver	5
20	Kahar	M	36	High School	Farmer	4
21	La Umba	F	47	Bachelor's	Civil Servant	4
22	Marthen Rumaikew	M	51	Bachelor's	Teacher	3
23	Syaikuri	M	45	Elementary	Laborer	3
24	Asri	F	46	Junior High	Motorcycle Driver	4
25	Barensi Unaniona	M	37	High School	Laborer	4
26	Suparlin	M	38	Bachelor's	Civil Servant	5
27	Bayu Giwoto M	M	41	Bachelor's	Civil Servant	3
28	Nur Khaerul Adha	F	35	Elementary	Laborer	2
29	Yuilus Keiya	M	31	Junior High	Motorcycle Driver	4
30	Herman	M	28	High School	Motorcycle Driver	3

Source: Processed Data, 2025

4.1.2 Value Accuracy

Table 2. Value Accuracy

No	Question	Number of Respondents	Responses	
			Yes	No
1	A Do you receive an amount of Rp 200,000 each month as assistance?	30	30	-
2	When cashing the assistance, were you ever charged additional or administrative fees?	30	-	30

Source: Processed Data, 2025

Based on the fact that all respondents (30 people) receive Rp 200,000 per month, this demonstrates consistency and effectiveness in the assistance distribution. The survey results showing no administrative fees during the cashing process are very positive. Even small administrative charges can become an additional burden for recipients, who generally come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Additionally, such charges can raise suspicion and reduce trust in assistance programs. The absence of administrative fees indicates transparency and integrity in program management.

Program Effectiveness:

If the assistance provided is in line with the promised amount and without additional costs, the program can be considered effective in achieving its goals.

4.1.3 Targeting Accuracy

Table 3. Targeting Accuracy

No	Question	Number of Respondents	Responses	
			Yes	No
1	Is the floor of your house made of cement?30		17	13
2	Does your monthly income reach Rp 5,005,678, as per the minimum wage30 (UMK)?		6	24

Source: Processed Data, 2025

Based on the table above:

Seventeen respondents answered "Yes," indicating that the majority (17 out of 30) received the Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) on time, while 13 respondents answered "No," indicating that a significant portion (13 out of 30) did not receive the BLT on time. Although most respondents received the BLT on time, the fact that 43% (13/30) of respondents did not receive it on time highlights a problem with the distribution system. Overall, this suggests that the BLT distribution process is not entirely effective because delays exist for some recipients.

4.2 Discussion

The fixed amount of Rp 200,000 per month in the context of the Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) refers to a set amount determined by the government to be provided to beneficiaries every month. This fixed amount of Rp 200,000 serves as standard assistance for each recipient family, expected to help meet basic needs such as food and transportation. The amount is determined based on a minimum needs analysis required by households to survive under specific economic conditions, considering factors such as inflation and the cost of living. Although the amount may seem small, this assistance can provide financial relief for families in urgent need.

This fixed amount can enhance public trust if perceived as sufficient; however, it could also lead to dissatisfaction if deemed inadequate. However, Rp 200,000 may not be sufficient to meet the needs of all households, especially in areas with higher living costs. This value determination must be evaluated periodically to ensure its relevance to changing economic conditions. The government should conduct routine evaluations of the assistance amount to ensure that it is relevant. The table below presents the results of the interviews conducted, which cover various critical aspects obtained from respondents to provide valuable insights into their views and experiences. Based on interviews with 30 respondents, the results were as follows:

Table 4. Value Accuracy

Number of Respondents		Question	
30 orang	Do you receive an amount of Rp 200,000 each month?	When cashing the assistance, were you ever charged additional or administrative fees?	
	Yes No	Yes No	
Responses	30 Respondents -	-	30 Respondents
Percentage	100%		100

Source: Processed Data, 2025

The interview results show that all respondents (100%) confirmed receiving Rp 200,000 in Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) each month. This uniform response indicates consistency in the distribution of BLT funds, in line with the amount set by the government. This finding is important because it demonstrates that the BLT program has been implemented as planned in terms of the amount of assistance provided. The successful distribution of the promised amount can enhance public trust in the government program and the effectiveness of the BLT as a social assistance instrument. However, it is important to note that these data only reflect the experiences of 30 respondents. To obtain a more comprehensive picture, surveys with larger and more representative samples from various regions and social groups are necessary.

Targeting Accuracy refers to the groups of individuals identified as recipients of assistance. In the context of the BLT program, we consider two key factors: whether their homes are made of cement and whether their income is below the Minimum Wage (UMK). Homes with cement floors are typically considered better than homes with dirt floors, suggesting that homeowners can access better building materials for the former. BLT recipients earning below the UMK are the most in need of assistance. These individuals often struggle to meet basic needs, such as food and education. With low income, many are unable to afford daily necessities, making assistance vital in alleviating their burdens. The relationship between the two factors, that people living in homes with cement floors might have better

economic conditions, reveals that many still face difficulties, even if they live in decent housing. Assistance programs should not only provide money but also consider housing conditions. It is crucial to gather accurate data on both housing conditions and income to determine who truly needs assistance. The criteria for selecting beneficiaries should be adjusted to align more closely with actual conditions. The table below illustrates the targeting accuracy based on the housing conditions and income of BLT recipients:

Table 5. Targeting Accuracy

Number of Respondents		Question		
30 orang	Is the floor of the house you live in made of cement?	Does your monthly income reach Rp 5,005,678, as per the Minimum Wage (UMK)?		
Responses	Yes 17 Responden	No 13 Responden	Yes 6 Responden	No 24 Responden
Percentage	56%	44%	20%	80 %

Source: Processed Data, 2025

The interview results for the first question indicated that the majority of respondents (56% or 17 people) lived in houses with cement floors, while the remaining 44% (13 people) did not. These data provide insights into the living conditions of BLT recipients. The majority of respondents living in homes with cement floors can be interpreted as an indication of relatively adequate housing conditions, although this cannot be conclusively determined without additional information on the quality of the cement, overall condition of the house, and other factors. However, it is important to note that a significant proportion of respondents did not live in houses with cement floors, which may indicate inadequate living conditions. This discrepancy highlights the variation in housing conditions among the BLT recipients. Regarding the second question, the interview results show that the majority of respondents (80% or 24 people) have a monthly income below the Minimum Wage (UMK) of Rp 5,005,678. Only a small proportion of respondents (20% or 6 people) had an income at or above the UMK. These data suggest that the majority of BLT recipients are indeed within the low-income category, which is one of the primary criteria for social assistance beneficiaries. The high percentage of respondents with incomes below the UMK reinforces the justification for the BLT program as an effort to help alleviate the economic burdens of vulnerable communities in the region.

Timeliness of the Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) distribution every three months refers to a periodic assistance schedule provided quarterly. This implies that recipients will receive a set amount of funds at predetermined intervals. A quarterly distribution allows recipients to plan their spending for medium-term needs, such as children's education or basic necessities. The three-month cycle also reduces the administrative burden on program administrators, making budget management more efficient. However, for recipients in urgent need, receiving assistance every three months may feel too long. They may struggle if no other income sources are available during this period of time. If issues arise in the disbursement process, delays can significantly impact those dependent on assistance. However, it is important to evaluate how recipients feel about receiving assistance every three months. Do they find this interval sufficient, or would they prefer monthly distributions? This could serve as valuable feedback for improving the program in the future. The table below shows the survey results from 30 respondents regarding the alignment of the BLT distribution schedule with the set timetable.

Table 6. Timeliness Accuracy

Number of Respondents		Question
30	Is the distribution of the BLT you receive always on schedule as determined?	
Responses	Yes 17 Respondent	No 13 Respondent
Percentages	56%	44%

Source: Processed Data, 2025

The interview results shown in the table above indicate that the majority of respondents (56% or 17 people) stated that the BLT they received was always distributed on time as per the schedule. Meanwhile, a portion of the respondents (44% or 13 people) stated that the distribution of the BLT was not timely. These data provide a mixed view of the timeliness effectiveness of BLT distribution. Although most respondents were satisfied with the timeliness of the distribution, a significant portion experienced delays. This suggests that while the BLT distribution system is generally functioning well, there is room for improvement to ensure a more consistent and timely distribution for all beneficiaries. Delays in BLT distribution can negatively impact recipients, especially those who rely heavily on this assistance for their daily needs. Therefore, it is important to identify the causes of these delays and find solutions to address them. This can be achieved by evaluating the distribution system, improving coordination among the involved parties, and enhancing communication with the beneficiaries.

Based on the study of responses from 30 Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) recipients to five interview questions, it can be concluded that the program has generally achieved some of its primary objectives, but it still faces challenges that need to be addressed to improve its overall effectiveness and impact.

Program Success:

- 1) Consistent Distribution of Funds as Promised: Consistency in distributing BLT funds in line with the predetermined amount (Rp. 200,000 per month) was a positive indicator. This suggests that the fund distribution mechanism is functioning well and as planned. This success is crucial for building public trust in government programs and ensuring that the assistance provided aligns with what was promised.
- 2) Transparency and Accountability: The absence of additional or administrative fees when cashing out the BLT funds demonstrates transparency and accountability in managing the program. This is vital for preventing corruption and ensuring that assistance funds reach beneficiaries without distortion.

Challenges and Areas Requiring Improvement

- 1) Variation in Housing Conditions: Although respondents lived in houses with cement floors, some did not. This indicates disparities in housing conditions among the BLT recipients. Poor housing conditions can affect health, well-being, and productivity negatively. Therefore, it would be beneficial to integrate the BLT program with other housing improvement programs or housing assistance initiatives to improve the overall quality of life of recipients.
- 2) Income below UMK (Minimum Wage): The high percentage of respondents with incomes below the Minimum Wage (UMK) underscores that the BLT program targets low-income individuals. However, this also highlights the need for further efforts to increase income, such as skill training, business capital assistance, and access to better job opportunities. The BLT program should not only serve as a short-term solution but also act as a bridge to enhance the community's economic independence.
- 3) Timeliness of Distribution: Although most respondents stated that the BLT was distributed on schedule, some reported delays. Delays in distribution can significantly impact beneficiaries, especially those who rely on assistance to meet urgent needs. A thorough evaluation of the distribution system is necessary to identify the causes of delays and find effective solutions, such as improving coordination among stakeholders, utilizing information technology, and simplifying administrative procedures.

Recommendations:

- 1) Program Integration: Integrate the BLT program with other initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life for the community, such as housing improvement programs, skill training, and business capital assistance programs.
- 2) Distribution system evaluation: Regular evaluations of the BLT distribution system should be conducted to identify potential issues and find effective solutions.
- 3) Improved Coordination: Enhance coordination among relevant parties involved in BLT distribution, including the central and local governments, financial institutions, and local communities.
- 4) Utilizing Technology: Leverage information technology to improve the efficiency and transparency

of BLT distribution, such as using mobile applications and digital payment systems.

- 5) Effective Communication: Improve communication with beneficiaries regarding distribution schedules, cashing procedures, and their rights as assistance recipients.

By addressing these challenges and implementing the above recommendations, the BLT program can become more effective in helping low-income communities and enhancing their well-being. It is important to remember that the BLT program is only one component of a larger effort to combat poverty and social inequality. A comprehensive and integrated approach is required to achieve these goals in the future.

5. Conclusion

5.1 Conclusion

Based on this research, the following conclusions can be drawn: The effectiveness of social assistance distribution heavily depends on three main pillars: Value Accuracy, Target Accuracy, and Timeliness Accuracy. These pillars are interconnected and must be optimized simultaneously to achieve the maximum impact. Value accuracy ensures that the assistance provided meets recipients' basic needs. Target accuracy ensures that assistance reaches those who are most entitled and meet the criteria. Timeliness accuracy ensures that assistance is received on time, allowing it to be optimally utilized. The ineffective distribution of social assistance is caused by poor recipient data, unclear criteria, non-transparent processes, weak coordination, and a vulnerable system. Inaccurate and outdated data lead to the misallocation of assistance. Complicated procedures in the distribution of social assistance are a major obstacle to the program's effectiveness because of lengthy bureaucratic processes. This research shows that the distribution of Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) in Otomona Village has been effective in terms of value accuracy, but improvements are needed in terms of targeting accuracy and timeliness.

5.2 Recommendations

The government should regularly update recipient data, integrate them with other relevant data, and utilize technology for verification. This ensures that the assistance is accurately targeted. The system or procedure for distributing assistance should be streamlined, coordination among agencies should be enhanced, and digital technology should be used to expedite the distribution process. This ensures that assistance is provided in a timely manner. Continuous monitoring and evaluation are thus necessary. Regular evaluations should involve recipients and use the findings to continuously improve the program. This ensures long-term effectiveness of the model. Transparency and Accountability: Increase transparency at each stage of social assistance distribution, from identifying recipients to the distribution process, and ensure accountability of the officers and institutions involved. Empowerment of Beneficiaries: In addition to providing material assistance, the social assistance program should include components of empowerment, such as skill training or business mentorship, to enable beneficiaries to achieve economic independence in the long term.

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