

Effectiveness of Food Security Program Policy in Bone District, Bone Bolango Regency

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze the effectiveness of the Food Security Program policy funded by Village Funds in Bone District, Bone Bolango Regency. The main focus of the study is on the understanding of the program by stakeholders and beneficiary communities. The research approach used is descriptive qualitative with a case study method in three villages, namely Moodulio, Ilohuuwa, and Permata Villages. The assessment of program effectiveness refers to five main indicators according to Sutrisno's theory (2007): program understanding, target accuracy, timeliness, goal achievement, and real change. The results of the study indicate that the level of understanding of the program among village officials and implementers is relatively good, reflecting an understanding of the program's regulations and objectives. However, at the beneficiary community level, a significant gap in understanding was found. Many residents do not fully understand the program, some are even unaware that they are part of the program. This affects community participation in program implementation and hinders optimal achievement of goals. From these results, it is concluded that the effectiveness of the Food Security Program policy has not been fully achieved. It is necessary to strengthen the strategy of socialization, education, and more intensive and participatory assistance so that all parties have a harmonious understanding and involvement. Thus, the program can contribute more optimally in supporting food security and sustainable economic empowerment of rural communities.

Keywords: Policy Effectiveness, Village Funds, Food Security, Community Participation, Program Understanding

Introduction

Effectiveness in the general terminological sense is a measuring tool for achieving a process efficiently and optimally, which is achieved through the accessibility of available resources. Along with the development of time, the meaning of effectiveness has developed more broadly, not only limited to evaluating the usefulness of a program's output, but also including how a variable can be integrated holistically to the continuity of the program. Thus, understanding effectiveness now also involves the dimension of compiling a strategic framework for the program for the future.

In the context of food security program policies, effectiveness is an important instrument that not only assesses the success of the program at the evaluation stage, but also measures the program's ability to maintain its existence and its contribution to future development. A deep

understanding of the effectiveness of food security program policies must consider the dimension of inclusivity, especially related to village community empowerment, where village funds act as the main resource pioneer.

The urgency of program effectiveness in the context of village funds can be traced through three important aspects: (1) The principle of using village funds which includes justice, priority of needs, village authority, self-management, and based on village resources and typology; (2) Long-term and medium-term village planning as a master plan for development and community empowerment based on areas; (3) Involvement of active community roles in all stages, from planning to evaluation.

The effectiveness of the food security program policy through new village funds will only be achieved if there is consistency in planning, implementing, and supervising the use of village funds, especially in efforts to empower the community's economy (Ridha, 2019). Community participation as the main factor is a crucial factor in each stage. The effectiveness of this policy can be measured by the extent to which the allocation of funds is able to improve community welfare in a sustainable manner (Ismawati, 2024). The success of the food security program is not only assessed from the amount of funds disbursed, but also from the quality of fund management to achieve major goals, namely increasing food security and village economic empowerment.

In assessing this effectiveness, the author refers to the theory of effectiveness put forward by Belout & Gauvreau (2004), in Human Resource Management, which includes five dimensions: program understanding, target accuracy, timeliness, goal achievement, and real change. In addition, the theory of public policy effectiveness according to Rizaldy et al., (2024), emphasizes that a policy is said to be effective if it is able to achieve its goals by optimally using available resources and providing real benefits to the community.

The aspect of targeting accuracy is an important factor in achieving the effectiveness of village fund use (Elvina & Zebua, 2019). Targeting accuracy means that village funds must be directed to vulnerable groups, such as small business actors, farmers, and fishermen who need capital support and supporting infrastructure. Sofi's research (2020) shows that the effectiveness of village funds is often hampered by less participatory planning mechanisms, so that funded programs do not always match the real needs of the community. Therefore, a community-based approach is needed so that village communities are actively involved in program planning, implementation, and evaluation (Saragih & Agung, 2018).

However, even though village funds have been disbursed in large amounts, food security at the village level has not been fully guaranteed. According to Iriani et al. (2025), Many food security programs are not targeted or are not based on local needs, due to weak community participation and less than optimal implementation in the field. This shows that village fund management has not been fully effective in improving food security and the welfare of village communities (Sahlan et al., 2024).

Meirza & Bawono (2023), showed that although the allocation of village funds for the agricultural sector increased, the level of poverty and poor food security in villages was still quite high. This fact indicates a gap between policy objectives and realization in the field. Previous research, such

as that conducted by Ledjab et al. (2025), shows that the success of food security programs is greatly influenced by the level of community participation and management based on local potential. Conversely, low participation results in the failure of the program to maintain long-term results.

Methods

In selecting the research background, the researcher has conducted preliminary observations and based on the results of these observations, there are 3 villages in Bone District that are the focus of this research background, namely Moodulio Village, Ilohuuwa Village, and Permata Village. The research method used in this study is descriptive qualitative using a case study approach. The case study approach aims to explore the phenomenon in depth and gain a better understanding of the effectiveness of the Food Security Program funded by Village Funds at the village level. Nurrahma (2021) calls case studies an approach that allows researchers to understand a phenomenon as a whole in a particular context. In qualitative research, researchers act as the main instrument in data collection. Researchers not only play a role in identifying and exploring information but also in analyzing and interpreting data obtained from various sources. In addition to researchers as the main instrument, this study also uses supporting instruments such as interview guidelines, documentation, and voice recorders. However, this instrument only functions as an aid in supporting the accuracy and validity of the data collected, not as a substitute for the presence of researchers in the field. The presence of researchers in this study is described explicitly through direct interaction with village officials, beneficiary communities of village funds, and other stakeholders. I act as a participant observer, namely being involved in activities taking place in the village, but still maintaining my position as an observer in order to conduct objective analysis. In addition, in this study, my status as a researcher is known to the subjects or informants.

Data Analysis Techniques

Previously obtained data, Data obtained through interviews, observations, and documentation will be analyzed using thematic analysis. According to Miles, M. B., & Huberman, A. M. (2014), Data analysis techniques from three main stages, namely: (1) Data Collection: This initial stage involves collecting data from various sources that are relevant to the study. The data collected can be in the form of interviews, observations, or documentation; (2) Data Reduction: This stage includes the process of filtering, selecting, and focusing data to make it more organized. This process aims to eliminate irrelevant information and highlight important information; (3) Data Display: At this stage, the reduced data is presented in an easy-to-understand form, such as tables, graphs, or diagrams. This presentation helps researchers to draw clearer conclusions and understand research findings; (4) Conclusion and Verification: The final stage involves drawing temporary conclusions and verifying findings to ensure that the analysis and data collected are acceptable and relevant to the research objectives.

Results and Discussion

To find out to what extent the Food Security Program policy in Bone District, Bone Bolango Regency can be said to be effective, the researcher set the main focus of the research on the effectiveness of the Food Security Program policy. This study aims to analyze the success of the

program in responding to community needs related to food security, by referring to the implementation of the policy and its impact on the community. As a basis for analysis, the researcher used the theory of effectiveness from Mediana & Hwihanus (2024) in the book Resource Management, which states that effectiveness is the level of success in achieving predetermined goals.

In this context, policy effectiveness is measured based on five main indicators, namely: (1) Program Understanding is Assessing the extent to which stakeholders, including program implementers and beneficiary communities, understand the intent, objectives, and mechanisms of program implementation; (2) Target Accuracy is Measuring the extent to which the food security program targets community groups that really need intervention, especially the Poor; (3) Timeliness is Assessing the timeliness of program implementation, starting from the planning stage, distribution of aid, to monitoring and evaluation; (4) Achievement of Objectives, namely Measuring whether the objectives set in the food security program policy have been achieved, both in terms of output and outcome for the Community; (5) Real Change Assessing the impact of the program on real changes in the community, especially in increasing local food production, sustainability and availability of food, increasing community welfare and awareness of the importance of family food security.

These five indicators are sub-focuses of the research, each of which is analyzed based on field data, including the results of interviews with key informants (program stakeholders, village government, and beneficiary communities), direct observation of program implementation, and documentation of program activity implementation. The description of the results of this research is compiled systematically based on each indicator of effectiveness, in order to provide a comprehensive picture of the implementation of the food security policy. In addition, the description of the results is also supplemented with a critical analysis of the suitability between implementation in the field and policy objectives, and the extent to which the policy provides real benefits to the community.

Program Understanding in the Effectiveness of Food Security Program Policy

To see how program understanding contributes to the effectiveness of the Food Security Program policy in Bone District, Bone Bolango Regency, researchers analyzed the results of interviews with key informants, both from the village government, program implementers, and beneficiary communities.

Understanding the program is an important indicator in assessing the effectiveness of a policy, as emphasized by Daniarsyah (2020) that the success of a program is not only determined by its implementation, but also by the level of understanding of the actors regarding the goals, targets, and mechanisms of the program. If the implementers and beneficiaries understand the substance of the program well, then the implementation of the program will be more focused and have a positive impact.

One informant from the Professional Companion Staff stated:

“Food security from a regulatory perspective does indeed cover three main sectors, namely agriculture, fisheries, and livestock. So far, the use of village funds for the Food

Security Program by villages in Bone District has also focused on these three sectors, as an effort to support food security comprehensively and sustainably, the Food Security Program is a national priority program that is regulated in several regulations, especially those related to the priority use of village funds each year. Examples are the Regulation of the Minister of Villages Number 8 of 2023 and the Regulation of the Minister of Villages Number 2 of 2024, which specifically regulate the implementation of this program. Information about this program is usually obtained through socialization carried out by the Ministry of Villages and from official documents related to the regulation, Not all people know or understand the mechanism of this program in its entirety. For most people, the most important thing is that they receive the assistance. Although socialization has been carried out, only a handful of people really understand the contents and objectives of this program in detail, while most people do not capture the information as a whole. " (FSL, May 08, 2025)

Furthermore, the Head of Moodulio Village said:

"This Food Security Program is one of the direct instructions from the President of the Republic of Indonesia which aims to reduce poverty rates in villages. The implementation of this program is adjusted to the topographic conditions of each village. For example, in Moodulio Village, there is a lot of idle land which is then used to plant productive crops that have high economic value to help farmers increase their income. This program is also supported by the village government through the provision of assistance in the form of seeds and fertilizers, so that farmers can more easily produce products related to food security. When socialization was carried out by extension workers, the community already understood the mechanism of this program well. However, obstacles arise at the planting stage, especially when plants are attacked by disease. Problems like this are often difficult for the community to overcome themselves. Although extension workers have provided solutions, sometimes these solutions are not effective enough to overcome the problems experienced. In addition, there are also some people who give up quickly, so that when their plants are affected by disease, they leave the plants without trying to realize the solutions that have been given. This is the main challenge in implementing the Food Security Program in Moodulio Village" (HL, May 10, 2025)

Relevant to that, the information conveyed by the Head of the BPD of Moodulio Village explained that:

"I got information about the Food Security Program through various social media, as well as through meetings held at the sub-district level. In addition, both the regional government and the village government also actively conveyed the importance of increasing food security in each village as part of the national priority program" (MJ, May 10, 2025)

The explanation from the Moodulio Village Government stated that:

"The purpose of this Food Security Program is to help the community, especially in improving the economy in the agricultural and maritime sectors." (JK, May 06, 2025)

Meanwhile, one informant from the Community as a Beneficiary said:

"I don't know what food security means. If asked about the food security program, I feel like I never received the assistance. The only assistance I received from the village was a boat, according to the proposal I submitted in a meeting at the village office." (PH, May 14, 2025)

Based on the results of the interviews conducted, it was found that the level of understanding of the Food Security Program varied between informants. Most village government officials and program implementers stated that they understood the intent and purpose of this policy, namely to increase the availability and access to food for village communities, especially for vulnerable groups. They also understood that this program was part of a national strategy to support local food security through strengthening the agricultural sector and community empowerment.

However, from the perspective of the beneficiary community, it was found that some informants did not fully understand the long-term goals of the program. Some residents only associated this program with direct assistance in the form of seeds, agricultural tools, or food ingredients, without understanding that there were efforts to encourage family food independence.

This finding shows a gap in understanding between program implementers and recipients. This has the potential to affect the effectiveness of the program's implementation as a whole, especially in terms of sustainability and achieving long-term goals.

In general, it can be concluded that although understanding of the program among implementers is quite good, it has not been fully conveyed optimally to the beneficiary community. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the socialization, education, and assistance strategies so that all parties involved have the same perception of the program's goals and mechanisms. This is important to ensure the effectiveness of the implementation of the Food Security Program policy at the village level runs as expected.

Conclusion

From the aspect of program understanding, it was found that there was still a gap in understanding between village officials and technical implementers in the field and beneficiary groups. Ignorance of the essence and objectives of the program caused the implementation to tend to be administrative and procedural, without considering the strategic impacts that should be achieved. The weak quality of human resources and the lack of substantive socialization activities are the main factors in the low effectiveness in this aspect.

Suggestions

Improving Technical and Administrative Understanding (Understanding Aspect). The regional government together with the village government and facilitators need to develop a structured and sustainable technical and administrative training program that targets not only village heads and secretaries, but is specifically aimed at Budget Activity Executors (PKA) and beneficiary groups. This training must use a participatory approach and inclusive modules, containing an in-depth understanding of the substance of the policy, strategic objectives of the program, indicators of success, and good practices from other villages as learning.

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