

# Local Government and Poverty Alleviation in Baubau City, Indonesia

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**Abstract:** Poverty remains a multifaceted issue with economic, social, political, and cultural dimensions that significantly hinder development, particularly in Baubau City, Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia. Despite slight fluctuations in poverty rates, persistent structural challenges limit progress in poverty alleviation efforts. This study investigates the local government's role in mitigating poverty through empowerment programs and targeted policies. Utilizing a descriptive qualitative approach, data were collected via interviews, observations, and literature reviews, analyzed thematically, and triangulated to ensure validity. The findings highlight the government's regulatory, dynamizing, and facilitative roles, supported by policies like Mayor Regulation (Perwali) of Bau-Bau City Number 13 of 2023. Strategies include reducing the economic burdens of the poor, empowering communities, and developing micro-enterprises. However, challenges such as inconsistent poverty data and infrastructural limitations persist. This study emphasizes the need for sustainable, inclusive approaches to poverty reduction and provides actionable recommendations for refining existing programs.

**Keywords:** Poverty Alleviation; Local Government; Community Empowerment; Policy Effectiveness; Baubau City.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Poverty cannot be understood merely as the absence or insufficiency of money and goods to meet life's necessities. Instead, its meaning has expanded alongside the increasing number of accompanying indicators (Deaton, 2016). Poverty does not only impact the economic dimension but also extends to social, health, education, and political dimensions (Brown & Long, 2018; Gupta & Vegelin, 2016). In the economic sphere, poverty is characterized by the inability to meet basic needs, while in the political dimension, it may take the form of the absence of organizational platforms supporting the poor or restrictions on political access. In the social realm, the poor may be excluded from existing social institutions, perpetuating a culture of poverty that worsens human resources and work principles (Thomas, 2017). According to Muhammad Yunus, as cited by Faza (2022), poverty is not created by the poor themselves but by systemic structures in society. Yet, if we disregard poverty, we indirectly become part of the system that perpetuates it.

This perspective aligns with the rights-based approach, recognizing that the poor possess basic rights equal to other community members. Another approach suggests that poverty is a condition in which individuals or families are unable to fulfill their functional roles in society. While perceptions of poverty evolve over time, it remains fundamentally tied to the inability to meet basic needs (Hagenaars, 2014; Olsson et al., 2014). Poverty reflects a condition of deprivation not because it is desired by those affected but because they cannot overcome it with their resources (Hanandita & Tampubolon, 2016).

The causes of poverty can be categorized into natural and economic factors, structural and social factors, and cultural conditions (Brown & Long, 2018; Merton, 2017; Watts, 2017). Natural and economic poverty arises from limited natural, human, and other resources, resulting in low production potential and minimal contribution to development. Structural and social poverty stems from unequal development outcomes, institutional structures, and policy frameworks. Cultural poverty is rooted in complacent attitudes and lifestyles that trap individuals in a cycle of poverty.

Poverty causes can be internal (Leonidou et al., 2017) (e.g., low human resources quality or individual attitudes) and external (e.g., limited natural resources, social systems, institutional barriers, development policies, limited job opportunities, and competition that marginalizes the poor) (Leonidou et al., 2017; Shackleton et al., 2015). Poverty can also be categorized by its temporal pattern (Liu et al., 2017): (1) Persistent poverty, chronic or intergenerational poverty found in resource-critical or isolated areas; (2) Cyclical poverty, following economic cycles; (3) Seasonal poverty, such as among fishermen or subsistence farmers; and (4) Accidental poverty, resulting from natural disasters or policy impacts.

Understanding local government roles in alleviating poverty through empowerment programs necessitates unified indicators to define poverty and empowerment. Shared reference indicators simplify determining whether individuals or groups are empowered or remain impoverished.

Poverty levels in Indonesia have been officially measured by Statistics Indonesia (BPS) since 1984 using a basic needs approach that includes food and non-food components categorized by urban and rural areas. According to Haboddin (2015), government functions include maintaining order and stability, defense and security, taxation, law enforcement, and administration. As the primary agent in poverty alleviation, the government is mandated by the preamble of Indonesia's 1945 Constitution. A pivotal regulation is Law Number 13 of 2011 on poverty management. Additionally, Presidential Regulation Number 15 of 2010 established the National Team for the Acceleration of Poverty Alleviation (TNP2K) and its regional counterparts.

Poverty remains a critical development issue in many regions in Indonesia, including Baubau City, Southeast Sulawesi. Poverty rates in a region reflect the population's quality of life and well-being. In Baubau, data indicates a slight increase in the poverty rate from 7.31% in 2022 to 7.53% in 2023, followed by a slight decline to 7.4% in 2024. While this is lower than the provincial average—11.17% (2022), 11.43% (2023), and 11.21% (2024)—such fluctuations underscore ongoing challenges in poverty reduction efforts (BPS, 2024).

As a strategic city reliant on trade, services, and marine industries, Baubau faces structural challenges in significantly reducing poverty. Limited access to quality education, decent employment, and healthcare services remain major contributors. Additionally, geographic and infrastructure constraints hinder economic redistribution efforts for the poor.

Baubau's potential lies in its strategic position in commerce, maritime activities, and services. Yet, persistent barriers—uneven access to quality education, limited job opportunities, and unequal infrastructure and public service distribution—remain. Local government initiatives include social assistance programs, community empowerment efforts, micro and small enterprise development, and infrastructure improvements. However, these require more targeted and sustainable approaches to yield direct impacts on the impoverished population.

This article explores how government roles in designing, implementing, and evaluating policies address poverty in Baubau. It also analyzes policy effectiveness and identifies improvement opportunities for fostering inclusive social and economic development in the city.

## 2. METHODS

This research adopts a descriptive qualitative approach to explore the role of the government in alleviating poverty in Baubau City. This method was chosen to gain a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the factors contributing to poverty and to assess the effectiveness of local government policies. Data were collected using a combination of in-depth interviews (Wilson et al., 2016), field observations (Lofland et al., 2022), and secondary literature reviews, each serving as a key pillar to enhance the study's depth and reliability.

Interviews were conducted with a range of stakeholders, including government officials, community leaders, operators of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and members of the community directly affected by poverty alleviation programs. These interviews aimed to capture diverse perspectives on the implementation of government policies and to uncover challenges faced during their execution. Complementing this, field observations were undertaken in strategic areas such as economic zones, social service hubs, and low-income communities in Baubau City. These observations provided a direct understanding of the living conditions and on-the-ground implementation of poverty-related policies. To supplement these primary sources, the study incorporated a review of secondary literature, including official reports, statistical data, policy documents, and program evaluations issued by relevant government institutions.

The collected data were analyzed qualitatively through thematic analysis. Key themes (Castleberry & Nolen, 2018), such as the effectiveness of government programs, the level of community participation, and the obstacles in policy implementation, were identified and examined. Secondary literature was utilized to validate and enrich the findings, ensuring a robust understanding of the issues. To enhance the validity of the research, triangulation was applied, comparing findings from interviews, observations, and secondary sources to minimize bias and ensure accuracy.

By synthesizing insights from these multiple data sources, this study aims to provide an in-depth portrayal of the efforts of the Baubau City government in addressing poverty. Furthermore, it seeks to highlight opportunities for refining existing policies and strategies, offering actionable recommendations for fostering sustainable and inclusive development in the future.

## 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### • The Role of the Local Government of Baubau City in Poverty Alleviation

Based on the findings of the research, the role of the Baubau City Government in poverty alleviation can be categorized into three main aspects: as a regulator, a dynamizer, and a facilitator. In the context of community empowerment, the government's function is to guide the community towards independence and development to achieve prosperity, without placing an excessive burden on them (Ledwith, 2020). Optimal government involvement is necessary to advance the community. The government's roles as a regulator, a dynamizer, and a facilitator serve as the foundation of these efforts.

As a regulator, the government formulates policies and regulations affecting poverty alleviation efforts (Widjaja, 2024). As a dynamizer, the government acts as a driving force, coordinating various parties to actively participate in poverty alleviation programs (Fitri, 2024). As a facilitator, the government provides support for activities and resources needed by the community and stakeholders to achieve poverty alleviation goals (Panjaitan, 2017). By understanding and optimizing these roles, the Baubau City Government can effectively participate in efforts to alleviate poverty and ensure sustainable community development.

#### *The Government's Role as a Regulator*

As a regulator, the Local Government is responsible for creating policies and managing

development at the local level. The Baubau City Government plays a significant role in addressing poverty issues. Through a series of regulations and guidelines, the government seeks to establish a framework supporting effective and efficient poverty alleviation efforts. One key policy instrument guiding poverty alleviation efforts is Mayor Regulation (Perwali) of Bau-Bau City Number 13 of 2023. This regulation provides a strong legal foundation for implementing programs aimed at reducing poverty levels in the region.

In this context, the Social Services Office of Baubau City holds a crucial role in implementing poverty alleviation policies. As outlined in Baubau Mayoral Regulation No. 25 of 2016 on the Organizational Structure, Position, Duties, and Functions of the Social Services Office of Baubau City, this office is tasked with assisting the Mayor in carrying out government responsibilities in the social sector.

Therefore, the government's role as a regulator in tackling poverty in Baubau City encompasses various aspects, from policy formulation to implementing concrete programs that positively impact the community. Through hard work and synergistic collaboration, Baubau City is expected to become an inspiring example of poverty alleviation efforts in Indonesia.

### ***The Government's Role as a Dynamizer***

As a dynamizer, the Baubau City Government plays a pivotal role in advancing and maintaining the dynamics of regional development, particularly in addressing poverty issues. The dynamics of regional development involve not only physical aspects but also the social welfare of the community. In this context, the government serves as the main driver, mobilizing community participation in poverty alleviation efforts.

As a dynamizer, the government is expected to provide effective guidance and direction to the community, thereby enhancing their participation in the development process. This is essential to ensure that the policies and programs implemented by the government genuinely reflect the needs and aspirations of the community, particularly those living in underprivileged conditions.

One indicator of the government's success as a dynamizer in addressing poverty in Baubau City is ensuring consistent guidance and direction for vulnerable groups, such as the poor. The government's role goes beyond providing material assistance; it also involves comprehensive community empowerment. By supporting community independence and capacity, individuals are expected to escape the cycle of poverty and build better lives for themselves and their communities.

In addressing poverty in Baubau City, the government's role as a dynamizer is also reflected in strengthening institutions and providing guidance to the community. This is realized through various programs and activities aimed at improving the quality of life and independence of underprivileged groups. With strong collaboration between the government and the community, an inclusive and empowering environment can be created for all residents of Baubau City.

### ***The Government's Role as a Facilitator***

As a facilitator, the government – specifically the Social Services Office in the area of Social Empowerment and Poverty Alleviation – plays a critical role in creating conducive conditions for regional development. One example of this facilitation is through the provision of a "Talent House," a facility for nurturing various social groups in need, such as social victims, the elderly, the homeless, and children. The Social Services Office is responsible for designing and executing the government's facilitation functions, which include providing the necessary resources for poverty alleviation in Baubau City, such as training, education, skills development, and infrastructure support.

The government's role as a direct facilitator in addressing poverty in Baubau City involves

deploying significant human resources. This effort is necessitated by the relatively high poverty rate in the area. Periodic evaluations are essential for the Social Services Office to measure the success or shortcomings of poverty alleviation programs in the region. Such evaluations ensure that programs are effectively reducing poverty and improving the overall welfare of Baubau's residents. By involving extensive manpower and conducting regular assessments, the government can refine and optimize poverty alleviation initiatives to align with the community's real needs and conditions.

Poverty alleviation has become one of the key performance indicators for local governments in the era of regional autonomy. Programs addressing poverty must include efforts to empower the community, support entrepreneurial development, and improve access to economic resources. By providing greater opportunities for the community to participate in these programs, residents are expected to take ownership of the initiatives, fostering motivation to actively address poverty.

- **Policies, Programs, and Strategies of the Baubau City Government**

The Baubau City Government has shown a strong determination to improve the welfare of its people through serious poverty alleviation efforts. Over the past few years, they have implemented a number of programs aimed at reducing the poverty rate in their area. These efforts include providing social assistance to vulnerable groups as well as various initiatives to empower the local economy. Thus, regulations and programs or policies are increasingly being intensified by the Baubau City government as a form of commitment to create positive changes in the lives of its people through concrete steps in combating poverty.

#### ***Regional Regulations and Programs Related to Poverty Alleviation***

In the Minister of Home Affairs Regulation 53/2020, it is stated that poverty alleviation is a policy and program of the government and local governments that is carried out systematically, in a planned manner, and in synergy with the business world and the community to reduce the number of poor people in order to improve the welfare of the people. If observed closely, this Minister of Home Affairs Regulation emphasizes two things related to poverty alleviation, namely: (i) that poverty alleviation efforts require good planning; and (ii) that synergy and collaboration between stakeholders are very important to overcome poverty.

Furthermore, the Regulation of the Minister of Home Affairs states that poverty alleviation policies are carried out through strategies and programs. Strategy is a step containing programs as a priority for Regional/Regional Apparatus development to achieve poverty alleviation targets. Poverty alleviation strategies are carried out by:

1. Reducing the burden of production of the poor;
2. Increasing the ability and income of the poor;
3. Developing and ensuring the sustainability of micro and small economic businesses;  
and
4. Synergy of policies and Poverty Alleviation Programs.

Meanwhile, Poverty alleviation programs represent collaborative efforts undertaken by the government, regional authorities, businesses, and communities to enhance the welfare of impoverished populations. These initiatives aim to foster economic activity through various means, including social assistance, community empowerment, and the support of micro and small enterprises.

At the core of these programs is an integrated approach to social assistance and social security. These efforts, tailored to households, families, or individuals, are designed to fulfill basic needs, reduce financial burdens, and improve the overall quality of life for those living in poverty. By addressing immediate necessities, these programs lay the foundation for long-term stability and growth.

Community empowerment and the strengthening of micro and small enterprises form another critical pillar. These initiatives focus on building the capacity of marginalized groups, enabling them to actively participate in and benefit from the development process. By fostering self-reliance and entrepreneurial spirit, these programs aim to create sustainable economic opportunities.

Additionally, other programs play a complementary role in enhancing economic activity and the welfare of poor communities. These include initiatives funded by village or sub-district funds, which often target specific local needs. Whether directly or indirectly, these programs contribute to strengthening the economic resilience of underserved populations and improving their standard of living. Together, these efforts embody a holistic strategy to combat poverty and drive inclusive development.

The Baubau City Government has made several regulations related to poverty alleviation in Baubau City. The poverty alleviation policy in Baubau City fully refers to the Mayor Regulation (Perwali) of Bau-Bau City Number 13 of 2023 concerning the Regional Poverty Alleviation Plan for 2022-2027. This policy has been implemented in recent years. The poverty alleviation policy has been further elaborated in the form of poverty alleviation strategies and programs. For the current year (2022), the poverty alleviation strategy remains focused on 5 (five) main strategies, namely:

1. Accurate and integrated data collection of poor people;
2. Reducing the burden of expenditure on poor people;
3. Increasing the ability and income of poor people;
4. Developing and ensuring the sustainability of micro and small businesses; and
5. Synergizing poverty alleviation policies and programs.

The poverty alleviation program in Baubau City for 2022 is structured around four main initiatives, each targeting a specific aspect of poverty to create a comprehensive strategy for improving the lives of the poor.

The first initiative is the family-based poverty alleviation program, which focuses on helping poor families maintain a decent standard of living. This program includes providing social assistance such as food aid, alongside family-oriented social services like education, healthcare, housing, sanitation, and access to clean water. These services aim to address basic needs and create a stable foundation for families to thrive.

The second initiative is the community empowerment-based poverty alleviation program, which seeks to empower individuals and communities to improve their welfare and living standards. This program includes activities such as vocational training, the provision of business equipment, and the strengthening of community business institutions. By fostering skills and capacity, it enables the poor to achieve greater self-reliance and sustainable livelihoods.

The third initiative focuses on the empowerment of micro and small economic enterprises, aimed at developing and strengthening the economic activities of the poor. This program includes measures to improve access to financial resources, provide capital assistance, offer business coaching and facilitation, foster business partnerships, and expand market opportunities. By supporting small-scale entrepreneurs, this initiative promotes economic independence and resilience.

The fourth initiative encompasses other programs that directly or indirectly enhance economic activities and the welfare of the poor. These programs extend the scope of existing poverty alleviation efforts and include services such as population management and public services. By addressing broader systemic needs, this initiative supports the overall economic and social well-being of impoverished communities. These programs form an integrated approach to tackling poverty in Baubau City, focusing on immediate relief, empowerment, and sustainable economic development.

The implementation of poverty alleviation programs in Baubau City is overseen by the Regional Poverty Alleviation Coordination Team (TKPKD), an organization tasked with coordinating efforts to address poverty. TKPKD plays a pivotal role in ensuring that poverty alleviation initiatives are planned, implemented, and evaluated effectively across various governmental sectors.

The coordination process involves several key activities. One of these is the coordination of the preparation of the Regional Poverty Alleviation Plan (RPKD) and the Annual Activity Targets (RAT), which provide a framework for addressing poverty at the regional level. These plans outline objectives, strategies, and specific actions required to achieve poverty reduction goals.

Another significant task is the coordination of Regional Apparatus or inter-agency collaboration in the field of poverty alleviation, particularly in the development of the Regional Apparatus Strategic Plan. This ensures that all relevant agencies align their strategies and resources toward common poverty alleviation objectives. Similarly, TKPKD is responsible for coordinating Regional Apparatus or combined agencies in the preparation of the Regional Government Work Plan (RKPD). This ensures that poverty alleviation programs are included as a priority in the overall regional development agenda, with clear goals and resource allocation.

The team also facilitates coordination in the preparation of the Regional Apparatus Work Plan, which includes detailed operational plans for implementing poverty alleviation activities. This step translates strategic goals into actionable programs at the departmental level. Lastly, TKPKD oversees the evaluation of the implementation of regional development planning documents related to poverty alleviation. This involves assessing the effectiveness of plans and programs, identifying areas for improvement, and ensuring accountability in the use of resources.

Through these coordinated efforts, TKPKD ensures that poverty alleviation in Baubau City is approached systematically, with collaboration and integration across various sectors and levels of government.

### ***Regional Poverty Alleviation Strategy***

The Baubau City Regional Poverty Alleviation Strategy or what has now changed to the Regional Poverty Alleviation Plan (RPKD) is a guide for all Baubau City government apparatus in efforts to alleviate poverty in Baubau City. This RPKD forms an important framework in addressing poverty problems in this region. As an integral part of the RPJPD, RPJMD, and SKPD *Renstra* for the next five years, the focus is on improving the management of regional policies and finances. The goal is to divert inappropriate spending, while increasing the budget in sectors that have a direct impact on the community, especially those in poverty.

This approach requires integrated support from various parties, creating good governance based on participation, accountability, and transparency. Collaborating with all development actors, from the Regional Government, DPRD, universities, NGOs, to the private sector and international institutions, is the main key.

The RPKD provides guidance for all development actors in Baubau City. The involvement of all stakeholders and the possibility of adjustments to changing conditions both at the national and local levels remain open. Thus, the RPKD becomes a dynamic and responsive instrument, aiming to achieve real results in poverty alleviation and improving the welfare of the community in Baubau City.

In an effort to create better future conditions and accelerate poverty alleviation in Baubau City, the Regional Development Program has been established with several strategic focuses. One of the primary goals is improving the quality of human resources, achieved through enhancing education and training to boost the competence and capacity of the community. This initiative aims to prepare future generations to face global challenges more effectively.

The government is also committed to fostering a bureaucratic civilization characterized by professionalism, aspiration, participation, and transparency. Through this approach,

governance is expected to become more efficient and responsive to the needs of the people. Environmental management is another key priority, with efforts directed toward sustainable practices to preserve natural resources and ensure environmental sustainability. This balance between development and conservation is seen as vital to securing a better future.

Equally important is regional and infrastructure development, aimed at enhancing connectivity and ensuring equitable progress across all areas of Baubau City. Supporting this is a focus on strengthening the regional economy by optimizing local resources and attracting equitable investment, particularly to improve the livelihoods of impoverished households. To ensure the sustainability of these programs, the government is enhancing financial governance with principles of effectiveness, efficiency, productivity, transparency, and accountability. Additionally, special attention is given to improving the quality of religious and cultural life, integrating these values into holistic development strategies.

The government is also prioritizing the enforcement of the rule of law and maintaining security to create a safe and conducive environment for regional development. These efforts aim to provide a sense of safety and stability, enabling communities to actively engage in development initiatives.

To achieve these objectives, four key policy steps have been outlined. First, the government, in collaboration with stakeholders, is creating employment and business opportunities for the poor. Second, community empowerment is being promoted to help marginalized groups reclaim their economic, social, and political rights, enabling them to make decisions about their own needs and aspirations. Third, the capacity of government officials is being enhanced to implement poverty alleviation programs more effectively, synergistically, and productively. Fourth, social protection and human rights enforcement are being strengthened, with special attention given to vulnerable groups such as the poor, the elderly, abandoned children, people with disabilities, and those affected by natural disasters, social conflicts, and the adverse impacts of economic crises. These comprehensive efforts are designed to build a more prosperous, equitable, and sustainable Baubau City.

These efforts are directed at providing a direct impact on improving the income and livelihoods of poor households, and are related to the progress of the agribusiness sector and the potential of the region in general. The objectives involve improving the performance of poor household livelihoods, developing local economic potential, and advancing local agropolitan areas. Efforts involve improving capital and means of production, technology and production processes, processing, and marketing of poor households, as well as utilizing local economic potential.

- **Determinants of Local Government in Poverty Alleviation in Baubau City**

Poor community groups are very vulnerable to shocks both internally and externally, to avoid these shocks, various policies and program activities are needed to reduce the risk of poverty alleviation, as well as improve the capabilities of poor groups, and create an effective social protection system. Poverty is often inherited from one generation to the next. Therefore, the chain of poverty inheritance must be broken, through improving education and opening up employment opportunities. on the issue of poverty, if the implementation of programs in poverty alleviation activities that are right on target can spur their initiative and creativity which can be valuable capital to escape the poverty trap. Initiatives and creativity of the criteria for poor communities combined with community empowerment programs in poverty alleviation activities require very accurate data and pay attention to factors that influence the determination of people who are truly below the poverty line. Poverty is caused by two factors, namely:



## Supporting Factors

Supporting factors are elements or conditions that positively influence or facilitate a process, activity, or goal. Supporting factors have the potential to improve performance, facilitate the achievement of goals, or provide positive support in a particular context. In this case, the inhibiting factors in the application of Good Governance principles in public services at the Population and Civil Registration Office of the City. The supporting factors for the role of local government in poverty alleviation in Baubau City are as follows:

Budget, is one of the main instruments used by local governments to realize poverty alleviation programs. By having an adequate budget, local governments can allocate resources effectively and efficiently to support various activities aimed at reducing poverty in the community. The budget allows local governments to implement programs that directly help people in poverty. For example, with a sufficient budget, local governments can provide social assistance to poor families in the form of basic food packages, education assistance, health, and other assistance that can help them meet their basic needs.

In addition to the direct aspects of poverty alleviation, the budget also allows local governments to carry out mapping activities and identify poverty problems more systematically. With adequate budget, local governments can conduct in-depth surveys and research to understand the root causes of poverty in their areas, so that they can design more targeted and sustainable policies and programs.

It can be said that the budget is a very important supporting factor for the role of the Baubau City local government in poverty alleviation. By having an adequate budget and using it wisely, local governments can make various effective and sustainable efforts to improve community welfare and reduce poverty levels in their areas.

## Inhibiting Factors

Inconsistency of Poverty Data, data up-to-dateness plays a very important role in poverty alleviation efforts. Accurate and up-to-date data is crucial because it can help the government and related organizations to identify precisely the areas or community groups that need the most assistance. By having a deep understanding of the actual conditions in the field, they can design more effective and targeted intervention policies and programs.

However, if the data used is not up-to-date or inaccurate, the risk of errors in decision-making will increase. This can result in inefficient resource allocation, where funds allocated for poverty alleviation do not reach the expected goals or are not on target. Therefore, it is important to make continuous efforts to ensure that the data used in designing poverty alleviation policies and programs are valid and up-to-date.

A journalist interview with former Baubau City Regent Iksan Iskandar confirmed this, he said that,

"So many of these poor people are actually made up, what is meant is poverty that is made up by the Village Head who deliberately includes all of his people so that they can get assistance (beneficiaries)."

Iksan Iskandar's statement was also supported by the Head of the Baubau City Service, H. M. Nasuhang, SE. in a direct interview with the researcher, he said that,

"I agree that the former regent once said that. Why are there so many poor people in Baubau because the government and the village government are impoverishing them. And I said that right. Why? Because for example. He is no longer worthy of having his health insurance paid by the government. But because. He came to take care of it and there was someone to back him up, there was a recommendation, so we could propose to get social assistance and health insurance payments even though he was not poor, but because the village head was close to them, he was definitely given it."

To avoid such things, the government's efforts to record poverty are a crucial step in

efforts to overcome this problem effectively. In order to conduct accurate and comprehensive data collection, the government has sent verification teams spread across all villages and sub-districts. The team is tasked with conducting direct field surveys to identify individuals or families in poverty. The verification process is carried out carefully and systematically, involving various factors that can be indicators of poverty, such as income, education level, availability of health facilities, and housing conditions. The verification team also conducted direct interviews with local communities to gain a deeper understanding of their economic and social situation. According to the results of the interview with H. M. Nasuhang Tangnga, SE. Head of the Baubau City Social Service, he said that,

"In addition, the government's efforts to record poverty must be clear and the government has sent teams to verify in all villages and sub-districts to find out who is actually poor. After there was data from 13 thousand poor and poor people's data that had been verified, there were more than a thousand left, so 0.9 percent of the percentage."

The results of this data collection provide the government with a deeper understanding of the characteristics of poverty at the local level. The information collected can be used as a basis for designing more targeted and effective poverty alleviation policies and programs. In addition, a transparent and measurable data collection process also strengthens the legitimacy and public trust in government efforts to overcome poverty problems.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

This study underscores the critical role of the Baubau City government in addressing poverty through well-defined regulatory frameworks, dynamic leadership, and facilitative support. Key strategies have focused on reducing the financial burdens of the poor, fostering community empowerment, and promoting micro and small enterprises to ensure long-term economic sustainability. Despite notable achievements, challenges remain, particularly in ensuring accurate poverty data and equitable access to essential services. Addressing these obstacles requires strengthening governance, enhancing collaboration among stakeholders, and adopting innovative approaches tailored to local contexts. The findings highlight the importance of a holistic, inclusive approach to poverty alleviation, where community participation and robust institutional frameworks play central roles. By refining current programs and fostering cross-sectoral synergy, Baubau City has the potential to serve as a model for effective poverty reduction in similar urban contexts across Indonesia and beyond.

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