

Assessing the Welfare Impact of Indonesia's Conditional Cash Transfer in Botungobungo Village, North Gorontalo

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ABSTRACT

Rural households in Indonesia experience persistent socioeconomic pressures that shape welfare through income, education, and health conditions. This study assesses whether Indonesia's conditional cash transfer, the Family Hope Program, is associated with improved welfare in Botungobungo Village, North Gorontalo, and identifies implementation factors that may enable or constrain such gains. A quantitative descriptive design was applied during January–May 2025, covering a census of 63 beneficiary households. Program performance and welfare improvement were measured using a structured questionnaire with a five-point scale, supported by observation, interviews, and document review. Instrument testing confirmed strong measurement quality (item correlations above the critical threshold; internal consistency above 0.95), and classical assumption testing indicated normally distributed residuals. Descriptive results show high beneficiary assessments of program performance (mean 4.27/5) and welfare improvement (mean 4.29/5), while still indicating gaps from the ideal. Simple linear regression demonstrates a positive association between program performance and welfare improvement (slope 0.689), with a statistically significant effect ($t = 7.574$ at the 5% level). The model explains 48.5% of the variance in welfare improvement, implying substantial program relevance alongside important influences beyond the transfer. Overall, the findings suggest that welfare gains are most likely when targeting accuracy, compliance with education and health conditions, and consistent monitoring support the intended human-capital pathway, and when complementary livelihood support addresses local economic constraints.

Keywords : Program Keluarga Harapan (PKH); conditional cash transfer; rural welfare; Botungobungo, North Gorontalo.

INTRODUCTION

Persistent social, economic, and cultural pressures continue to shape welfare in many Indonesian communities, where inequality and poverty remain salient determinants of lived well-being (E. D. Setiawan et al., 2024). In rural areas, vulnerability and volatile prices intensify these pressures, and welfare is therefore better understood as a multidimensional condition of functioning and life satisfaction that depends on households' capacity to meet needs and allocate resources effectively (Nartin & Musin, 2022).

Social protection is widely framed as a mechanism to secure basic needs, mitigate shocks, and reduce vulnerability, thereby strengthening resilience and longer-term welfare trajectories (Rahmah, 2022). Indonesia's poverty-reduction architecture is coordinated through the National Team for the Acceleration of Poverty Reduction (TNP2K) under BAPPENAS, mandated by Presidential Decree No. 15/2010 (Nurhanifa Karunia, 2024). Within this ecosystem, the Family Hope Program is a conditional cash transfer launched in 2006 and scaled nationally in 2007 to address poverty and human resource deficits (Wahyuni et al., 2023), linking transfers to education and health obligations to support human-capital gains.

However, conditional cash transfers depend strongly on local implementation quality, particularly in economically constrained settings (Herlina et al., 2020). The intended pathway from transfers to compliance, service utilization, and welfare improvement can weaken when targeting is inaccurate, monitoring is inadequate, or households face binding constraints. Prior studies emphasize that the program's benefits require continual monitoring and evaluation to ensure that assistance reaches intended households and yields measurable welfare improvements (Sulfadli et al., 2023), and local supervision is often highlighted as a governance mechanism to verify fund use against program objectives and conditions (Sosial, 2024).

This study focuses on Botungobungo Village, Kwandang Subdistrict, North Gorontalo Regency, where the program has operated continuously since 2016. North Gorontalo includes 123 villages across 12 subdistricts and began implementation in 2014; Botungobungo has approximately 1,112 residents (587 men and 525 women) and assistance has reached about 399 households (Kantor Desa Botungobungo, 2024). Yet welfare conditions remain fragile, with most households categorized as pre-prosperous (84.8%), reflecting multidimensional deprivation that includes education and health constraints alongside income limitations (Andriani & Asri, 2024; Sastrawan et al., 2024).

The core problem addressed here is whether local implementation in Botungobungo effectively translates program inputs into welfare improvements given reported challenges in targeting accuracy, procedural compliance, and diversion of education-linked assistance. These issues are consequential because implementation requires verification obligations identifying candidates, validating eligibility, and confirming compliance so that assistance aligns with conditional

commitments (Umasugi & Adam, 2024). Strengthening governance typically entails accurate targeting, robust monitoring, and facilitation that supports adherence to education and health requirements; monitoring frameworks stress tracking participation in relevant social facilities to ensure conditional assistance results in human development behaviors (Ilham Fawwaz Samseno & Agus Riwanto, 2023). Credible evaluation also requires multidimensional outcome measurement, including income and consumption alongside education, housing, and health access (Andriani & Asri, 2024; Djako et al., 2022).

Existing evidence shows that program experiences and impacts vary across locations and depend on local execution and beneficiary behavior (Andika, 2021; Azwari, 2022). Prior work suggests the program can influence welfare-related indicators but may be constrained by targeting and compliance problems (Angraeni, 2019), while nearby studies report heterogeneous welfare effects, such as 22.75% in Lemito (Pohuwato) and 33.2% in Dusun Tihu (Bone Bolango) (Lapasau, 2023; Mahmud et al., 2023). Conceptually, welfare gains are expected to align with human development dimensions education and health in particular (Zikri & Yamin, 2023) yet welfare is also shaped by demographic and social factors (Djumura et al., 2022). Empowerment perspectives further suggest that quality of life depends on capability and participation within social conditions, implying that conditionality and facilitation may support resilience beyond material transfers (Alkire & Schuett, 2019), consistent with social welfare aims to improve quality of life and strengthen social functioning and resilience (Andika, 2021).

Despite the growing literature, gaps remain for Botungobungo. Prior studies are often considered insufficient to capture the local interplay of education, health, and social welfare outcomes under implementation constraints (Widya, 2022; Maimunah, 2020), and empirical assessments do not always connect governance elements such as monitoring and supervision to measured welfare outcomes in a single-village context (Sulfadli et al., 2023; Sosial, 2024). Accordingly, this study evaluates the relationship between the program and community welfare improvement among beneficiaries in Botungobungo during January–May 2025, testing the proposition that better-targeted and better-supervised implementation reflected in compliant use aligned with education and health conditions correlates with higher welfare, while misuse and non-compliance may weaken effectiveness (Umasugi & Adam, 2024; Sosial, 2024). By integrating implementation governance insights with multidimensional welfare measurement, the study contributes village-level evidence relevant to strengthening accountability and understanding how conditional social protection translates into welfare gains in rural Indonesia (E. D. Setiawan et al., 2024; Rahmah, 2022).

METHODOLOGY.

Research Site and Timeline

The study took place in Botungobungo Village, Kwandang Subdistrict, North Gorontalo Regency, Indonesia, where the Family Hope Program (Program Keluarga Harapan) has operated continuously since 2016 amid persistent rural welfare constraints. Data collection was conducted over five months (January–May 2025), enabling structured engagement with beneficiaries and cross-checking survey responses with field observations and documentation.

Research Approach and Design

A quantitative descriptive design was used to test the association between the program (X) and community welfare (Y) using simple linear regression. This approach supports systematic measurement and interpretable estimation of effect direction and magnitude, consistent with the view that regression provides a structured estimation framework (Ridwan, 2009) and formally represents program–outcome relationships (Sugiono, 2008).

Variables and Operational Definitions

Two variables were operationalized. The program (X) was treated as conditional cash support whose benefits depend on design and compliance mechanisms, while welfare (Y) was defined as the outcome that changes as a consequence of variation in X (Supratiknya, 2015). Operational definitions were used to translate constructs into measurable indicators (Sugiono, 2019). The program was measured through perceived contributions to education, health, economic conditions, and accessibility/service quality. Welfare was measured as a multidimensional condition using income, consumption/expenditure, education, housing conditions, and health indicators (Sumartan, 2023), consistent with welfare perspectives emphasizing satisfaction and resource allocation beyond income alone (Nartin & Musin, 2022).

Population and Sampling

The population comprised all program beneficiaries in Botungobungo within the study scope (63 individuals). A census strategy was adopted by including the entire accessible beneficiary group, consistent with the notion that a sample represents population characteristics (Hardani, 2020).

2.5 Data Collection Techniques

Data were obtained through observation, a structured questionnaire, interviews, and documentation review to integrate standardized measurement with contextual understanding. The main instrument was a closed-ended questionnaire, appropriate for comparability when response options are predefined (Sugiyono, 2013), scored using a five-point Likert scale (Table 3.3). Interviews complemented the survey by clarifying implementation experiences and compliance constraints (Sugiyono, 2017), while documentation provided supporting administrative context.

Instrument Testing Procedures

Validity and reliability were assessed before hypothesis testing. Validity was treated as evidence that items measure intended constructs, consistent with requirements for an effective instrument (Sugiono, 2009). Item validity used item-total correlations with an r -table threshold at the 5% level, following the principle that valid items correlate sufficiently with total scores (Suigyo-no, 1999). Reliability was evaluated using Cronbach's alpha with $\alpha > 0.60$ as the acceptance criterion (Ghozali, 2007), using SPSS 17.00 for Windows.

Data Analysis Techniques and Statistical Hypotheses

Descriptive statistics summarized program and welfare indicators, followed by inferential testing via regression. Assumption checks included residual normality and heteroscedasticity; heteroscedasticity was assessed through residual scatterplots, where the absence of a clear pattern indicates no problem (Ghozali, 2006). The model $Y = a + bX$ estimated the program effect, with relationship strength and explained variance interpreted via correlation and the coefficient of determination (Vijaya, 2011). Hypotheses were tested as $H_0: \beta = 0$ and $H_1: \beta \neq 0$ using a t -test at the 5% level, consistent with arguments that conditional assistance outcomes depend on implementation integrity and monitoring mechanisms that connect program inputs to measurable welfare change (Sulfadli et al., 2023; Sosial, 2024).

RESULTS.

Descriptive Statistics

This section summarizes survey evidence from PKH beneficiary households in Botungbungo Village ($n = 63$) and the statistical tests used to evaluate the study hypothesis. Following the quantitative descriptive approach, results are presented sequentially: descriptive profiles of the PKH variable and welfare improvement, instrument quality tests, assumption checks, and the inferential model linking PKH (X) to community welfare improvement (Y). Likert-based scores were interpreted

using a scale-range criterion to categorize levels as high, medium, or low (Kuncoro, 2017).

Beneficiaries assessed PKH (X) positively. Based on three indicators aligned with the operational definition, the PKH mean was 4.27/5 (85.4% of the ideal), classified as high under the adopted criterion (Kuncoro, 2017). The remaining 14.6% gap indicates that, despite favorable perceptions, some aspects of delivery or conditionality are not fully realized, consistent with the broader view that conditional cash transfers depend on both disbursement and effective operational processes.

Community welfare improvement (Y) also scored highly. Measured through three indicators reflecting multidimensional welfare, the mean was 4.29/5 (85.8% of the ideal), similarly classified as high (Kuncoro, 2017). The 14.2% gap suggests that improvements remain incomplete and may be constrained by contextual livelihood conditions. Interpreted through a welfare lens emphasizing satisfaction and functioning derived from meeting needs and allocating resources effectively, these descriptive results indicate that respondents perceive PKH as supporting welfare improvements, while also signaling partial attainment of the program's intended outcomes (Nartin & Musin, 2022).

Instrument Testing

Instrument testing is reported to establish the psychometric adequacy of the questionnaire measuring PKH (X) and welfare improvement (Y), as inaccurate measurement would undermine regression interpretability. Procedures followed the methodological protocol, using Pearson Product–Moment correlations for item validity and Cronbach's alpha for internal consistency reliability.

Validity Test

A pilot test with 15 respondents used an r-table threshold of 0.412 at the 5% significance level. All items for PKH and welfare produced item–total correlations exceeding 0.412, indicating that all items met the minimum validity criterion. This supports the methodological requirement that instruments function effectively in capturing the intended constructs (Sugiono, 2009).

Reliability Test

Reliability analysis (SPSS 20.0) indicated excellent internal consistency. PKH (X) showed $\alpha = 0.950$ (standardized $\alpha = 0.980$; 20 items), and welfare improvement (Y) showed $\alpha = 0.957$ (21 items), exceeding the conventional criterion $\alpha > 0.60$ (Ghozali, 2007). These results suggest coherent item sets and reduce concern that observed effects reflect measurement noise.

Classical Assumption Test

Assumption testing was conducted prior to regression inference. The reported results emphasize residual normality, complemented by graphical inspection.

Normality Test

Kolmogorov–Smirnov testing (SPSS 20.0) produced Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed) = 0.449 (> 0.05), supporting the normality assumption for regression residuals. The normal P–P plot similarly showed points tracking the diagonal, indicating no marked departures from normality.

Regression Analysis and Hypothesis Testing

After confirming residual normality, simple linear regression was used to estimate the effect of PKH (X) on welfare improvement (Y). Regression was selected as a structured estimation approach for quantifying expected outcome change attributable to an explanatory factor (Ridwan, 2009) and expressing the relationship in equation form (Sugiono, 2008).

Simple Linear Regression Model

The estimated model is $Y = 31.333 + 0.689X$, indicating a positive association in which a one-unit increase in PKH predicts a 0.689-unit increase in welfare improvement. The sign and magnitude suggest that stronger perceived program contributions grounded in education, health, economic conditions, and service accessibility coincide with higher perceived welfare improvement.

Partial Significance Test (t-test)

At $\alpha = 0.05$, the PKH coefficient was significant ($t = 7.574 > t\text{-table} = 1.670$), leading to rejection of $H_0 (\beta = 0)$ and supporting $H_1 (\beta \neq 0)$. This provides evidence that PKH is positively associated with welfare improvement within the beneficiary census.

Coefficient of Determination

The model yielded $R^2 = 0.485$, indicating that PKH explains 48.5% of the variance in welfare improvement, with the remaining 51.5% attributable to other determinants. Given welfare's multidimensional character, this residual variance is substantively plausible and suggests that complementary factors beyond PKH also shape welfare outcomes.

Overall, beneficiaries reported high perceived PKH performance and welfare improvement (Kuncoro, 2017), measurement properties were strong (Sugiono, 2009; Ghozali, 2007), and regression results indicated a positive, statistically significant association between PKH and welfare improvement with substantial explained variance.

DISCUSSION.

Context and Study Setting

The present findings should be interpreted against the socioeconomic context of rural Indonesia, where persistent social, economic, and cultural pressures particularly inequality and poverty remain key stressors shaping household welfare and community stability (E. D. Setiawan et al., 2024). In such settings, welfare is commonly understood as a multidimensional condition of life satisfaction and functioning that emerges when families can meet needs and allocate resources effectively (Nartin & Musin, 2022). This multidimensional understanding is especially relevant in Botungobungo Village, Kwandang District, North Gorontalo, where livelihoods are strongly tied to agriculture and other informal occupations, including farming, informal work, housework, and “bentor” transport services. Local government data indicate that Botungobungo has approximately 1,112 residents (587 men and 525 women) across about 399 houses, and the socioeconomic condition is described as largely below the poverty line, consistent with a high proportion of households categorized as Pra-Sejahtera and Sejahtera I. This baseline condition is important because it suggests a setting in which policy interventions must address both immediate economic constraints and longer-term human development deficits.

Within Indonesia’s broader poverty reduction architecture, conditional cash transfers are intended to function as social protection instruments that reduce vulnerability and secure basic needs, thereby strengthening household resilience and welfare trajectories (Rahmah, 2022). PKH, launched in 2006 through World Bank–Bappenas collaboration and adopted nationally in 2007, was explicitly framed as a response to persistent poverty and weak human resources, targeting both income deprivation and human-capital deficits (Wahyuni et al., 2023). The theoretical logic of PKH implies that welfare gains should accrue not only through increased consumption capacity but also through behavioral change and service utilization in education and health, consistent with human development perspectives that link welfare to education, health, and an adequate standard of living (Zikri & Yamin, 2023). In Botungobungo, where welfare constraints are embedded in livelihood vulnerability and limited economic capacity, this program logic is particularly salient but also particularly sensitive to implementation quality.

Main Discussion on PKH’s Role and Mechanism

The results indicate that PKH is positively and significantly associated with community welfare improvement among beneficiaries in Botungobungo, supporting the study’s central hypothesis that better-performing program implementation correlates with higher perceived welfare gains. Descriptive findings showed high

mean scores for both PKH and welfare improvement, suggesting that beneficiaries generally perceive the program as functioning favorably and contributing to better welfare conditions. These patterns are consistent with the welfare conceptualization that emphasizes satisfaction and functioning derived from effective resource allocation and the ability to meet needs (Nartin & Musin, 2022). In a context where many households face economic stress and vulnerability, the infusion of predictable cash assistance can reduce immediate liquidity constraints and help households stabilize consumption, particularly for essential needs.

However, PKH is conceptually framed as more than material assistance. The conditional design aims to encourage investments in human capital through compliance requirements, such as children's school attendance and regular health checks for pregnant women and other eligible groups. This mechanism aligns with the argument that welfare improvement is linked to poverty reduction strategies that combine income support with education and health improvements, as reflected in the Human Development Index framework (Zikri & Yamin, 2023). The discussion literature further emphasizes empowerment as central to quality of life, proposing that individuals' capabilities and participation in social conditions shape welfare beyond income-based measures (Alkire & Schuett, 2019). Under this framing, conditionality and facilitation can promote behavioral change, strengthen household agency, and support resilience, enabling welfare gains that are both material and socio-cultural.

The positive effect observed in Botungobungo also resonates with empirical evidence from other localities that report measurable PKH-related welfare impacts, albeit with varied magnitudes. For example, prior work in Lemito (Pohuwato) reported an overall community welfare improvement of 22.75% attributed to PKH (Lapasau, 2023), while research in Dusun Tihu (Bone Bolango) reported a 33.2% impact among residents (Mahmud et al., 2023). The fact that impacts differ across settings reinforces the notion that PKH outcomes are not uniform and likely depend on local implementation conditions, beneficiary behavior, and contextual livelihood structures. The present study contributes to this comparative evidence by offering village-level statistical support for a positive relationship between PKH and welfare improvement in North Gorontalo, where agriculture-based livelihoods may intensify both needs and constraints.

Implementation, Targeting, and Accountability.

While the results support a positive PKH–welfare relationship, the study was also motivated by concerns that local implementation challenges might weaken program effectiveness, including diversion of education-related assistance to non-education uses, incomplete compliance with procedures, and targeting inaccuracies. These concerns are consistent with broader implementation literature arguing that

PKH faces persistent challenges in economically constrained areas, where limited local capacity complicates management and requires stronger supervision and beneficiary compliance for conditional mechanisms to work (Herlina et al., 2020). In such contexts, effective governance becomes a central mediator between program inputs and welfare outcomes.

A key implementation requirement is the verification and targeting process. PKH implementation includes obligations to identify candidate households, validate eligibility requirements, and confirm compliance with program conditions (Umasugi & Adam, 2024). When these processes are weak, inaccurate targeting may reduce the program's distributive efficiency by excluding needy households or including households that are less eligible, thereby diluting welfare impacts. The role of supervision is therefore critical. Monitoring is expected to verify whether disbursed cash is used according to targets and conditions, improving targeting accuracy and strengthening accountability (Sosial, 2024). In the Botungobungo context, where reported misuse may occur, supervision can act as a corrective mechanism to realign household behavior with program objectives.

Field facilitation is another mechanism linking implementation quality to welfare outcomes. Facilitators who engage directly with households can identify compliance barriers, provide counseling, and support problem solving at the household level. This approach is consistent with monitoring perspectives that emphasize the importance of tracking beneficiaries' participation in education, health, and elderly-support activities so conditional assistance translates into human development behavior (Ilham Fawwaz Samseno & Agus Riwanto, 2023). When facilitation is empathetic and continuous, it may strengthen compliance and reduce the likelihood of diversion by reinforcing program norms and clarifying obligations. Conversely, when facilitation and monitoring are inconsistent, households facing economic pressure may rationally reallocate funds to urgent needs, thereby weakening the human-capital pathway and potentially reducing long-term welfare gains.

The present findings particularly the substantial explanatory power of PKH ($R^2 = 0.485$) suggest that variation in the measured PKH construct captures meaningful differences in the program experience that are consequential for welfare improvement. Because the PKH variable in this study was operationalized through indicators such as education improvement, health improvement, economic condition improvement, and service accessibility, it likely reflects both the intensity of program benefits and the perceived quality of implementation. The significant slope in the regression model therefore implies that implementation quality and perceived program contribution are not peripheral but central to welfare outcomes. This result reinforces the argument that continuous monitoring and evaluation are necessary so that benefits reach intended households and program impacts are sustained (Sulfadli et al., 2023).

Statistical Evidence Interpreted in the Discussion

The inferential findings provide quantitative support for the study's proposition that PKH contributes to welfare improvement in Botungobungo. The regression coefficient was positive ($b = 0.689$), indicating that increases in PKH scores are associated with increases in welfare improvement scores. The t-test ($t = 7.574$, exceeding the critical value 1.670 at $\alpha = 0.05$) indicates statistical significance, supporting rejection of the null hypothesis that PKH has no effect on welfare. The coefficient of determination ($R^2 = 0.485$) further indicates that PKH explains nearly half of the variance in welfare improvement among beneficiaries.

This magnitude is substantively important because it suggests that PKH, as operationalized through education, health, economic, and service accessibility indicators, functions as a major determinant of perceived welfare improvement in the study area. Yet the remaining unexplained variance (51.5%) is also theoretically expected given welfare's multidimensional character and the presence of multiple contextual determinants. Welfare indicators are described as measures of community achievement and commonly include income levels and distribution along with other social and economic measures (Djako et al., 2022). Furthermore, welfare is affected by demographic and social factors, such as age composition and household structure, beyond income alone (Djumura et al., 2022). In a rural village context, other drivers of welfare likely include employment opportunities, business activities, agricultural productivity, and exposure to shocks, as well as participation in other government programs.

From a social policy perspective, these findings imply that PKH should be understood as a substantial but partial driver of welfare improvement. The significant effect supports the program's core rationale as a social protection instrument intended to reduce vulnerability and promote human capital, consistent with the general expectation that social protection strengthens household resilience and improves long-term well-being (Rahmah, 2022). At the same time, the unexplained variance suggests that policy effectiveness depends on complementary interventions and the broader welfare ecosystem, such as livelihood support and employment-oriented programs that can address structural constraints.

Respondent Profile and Implications for Interpretation

The respondent profile provides additional context for interpreting both the descriptive perceptions and the regression results. The sample was composed of 63 respondents, with the gender distribution heavily skewed toward men (57 respondents, 90.5%) compared to women (6 respondents, 9.5%). This pattern is plausibly linked to the local work structure, where men often serve as primary earners and may be more visible in community economic activities. This gender composition may shape the perspective captured in the questionnaire, potentially

emphasizing income stabilization and economic coping as central welfare improvements.

Age distribution was concentrated in productive and late-productive groups, with the largest group between 40–50 years (31.7%), followed by 51–60 years (25.4%), with smaller shares in 20–29 years (17.5%), 30–39 years (15.9%), and 61–70 years (9.5%). This profile suggests that many respondents are at life stages where household responsibilities such as children’s education costs and health expenditures may be pronounced. Under a welfare conceptualization that emphasizes meeting needs and allocating resources effectively (Nartin & Musin, 2022), cash assistance may be particularly salient for such households. Moreover, because welfare is affected by demographic composition beyond income alone (Djumura et al., 2022), the age structure implies that welfare improvement may be mediated by work capacity, caregiving obligations, and exposure to health-related financial risk.

Income profile results further reinforce why PKH is likely to matter in this context. The discussion notes that most respondents fall into low-income conditions, with dominant monthly income below Rp 1,500,000. This level suggests significant constraints in meeting basic needs, making conditional cash transfers an important liquidity and consumption-smoothing mechanism. Yet it also helps explain why diversion of education-linked funds might occur: when households face acute resource scarcity, reallocation to immediate necessities can be a coping strategy, even if it conflicts with program objectives. This interpretation is consistent with the argument that economically constrained contexts complicate implementation and require stronger supervision and compliance management (Herlina et al., 2020).

Overall Interpretation and Takeaways

Overall, the findings provide empirical support for the claim that PKH is associated with meaningful welfare improvements in Botungobungo, particularly when program targeting and administrative-technical functions are implemented consistently and accountably. The significant regression results, combined with high descriptive scores for both PKH and welfare improvement, suggest that beneficiaries perceive tangible benefits that align with the program’s social protection objectives. This outcome is consistent with the proposition that PKH expands access to education and health services and supports basic household needs, thereby contributing to poverty reduction in targeted families.

At the same time, the evidence underscores that welfare gains are mediated by implementation integrity. Continuous monitoring and evaluation are not optional complements but core requirements for conditional assistance to translate into human development outcomes (Sulfadli et al., 2023). Supervision that verifies fund use against targets and conditions supports accountability and improves targeting

accuracy (Sosial, 2024), while verification obligations in implementation help ensure that benefits reach eligible households and that conditions are followed (Umasugi & Adam, 2024). Facilitation that tracks participation in schools and health services can further strengthen the conditional pathway by translating program rules into sustained behavior (Ilham Fawwaz Samseno & Agus Riwanto, 2023).

Finally, the discussion supports interpreting PKH as an empowerment mechanism as well as an economic relief instrument. Empowerment perspectives emphasize that quality of life depends on individuals' capabilities and participation within social conditions (Alkire & Schuett, 2019), implying that conditionality and facilitation can contribute to resilience and social participation beyond immediate cash benefits. Social welfare aims similarly include improving quality of life and life expectancy, restoring social functioning, and strengthening social resilience to address social security problems (Andika, 2021). In Botungobungo, where livelihood vulnerability and low incomes constrain household choices, PKH's measurable association with welfare improvement suggests that conditional social protection can provide a substantial foundation for welfare gains. However, sustaining and deepening these gains likely requires complementary livelihood and employment supports and continued attention to governance and accountability so that program mechanisms remain aligned with human development objectives.

CONCLUSION

This study provides village-level evidence that Indonesia's conditional cash transfer, the Family Hope Program, is positively associated with welfare improvement among beneficiary households in Botungobungo, North Gorontalo. The regression analysis indicates a statistically significant positive relationship between the program variable and community welfare improvement ($t = 7.574$ at $\alpha = 0.05$), and the coefficient of determination ($R^2 = 0.485$) shows that the program explains 48.5% of the variance in welfare improvement. Beneficiaries also reported high mean scores for program performance (4.27/5) and welfare improvement (4.29/5), suggesting generally positive experiences while leaving measurable gaps from the ideal. These findings support the interpretation that conditional assistance can strengthen multidimensional welfare through education, health, and basic-needs pathways when implementation integrity is maintained. However, the sizable unexplained variance indicates that livelihood dynamics, employment opportunities, and other public programs also shape outcomes alongside the transfer. Policy implications include prioritizing accurate targeting, routine verification of compliance, and facilitation that helps households translate transfers into education and health investments, while complementing cash support with livelihood and skills interventions. The study advances the body of knowledge by linking local implementation quality to welfare outcomes using validated measures

and village-level regression evidence. Future research should incorporate comparison groups or longitudinal designs, disaggregate effects by gender and age, and test how monitoring intensity and local economic shocks moderate welfare gains.

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